National Park Access Updates June 2024

**New Forest Access Forum**

We have recruited three new members to the forum and have reappointed the remaining thirteen members. Appointments are for three years, or until 2027 depending on future appointments.

**Dilton Farm bridleway improvement works**

Andy Aitkin from HCC is leading on these works. The contract has been selected and works are due to start in July. The NPA is contributing towards these costs using the DEFRA Access For All Fund.

**DEFRA Access For All Fund**

We are starting the third year of this scheme and will be using the funds to support pedal, re-surface the Knightwood Oak trail.

**National Grid Landscape Enhancement Project**

Sixteen oak signposts have been installed along the new Franchises Lodge walking route and a further 15 signposts are in production and are due to be installed over the next month along the Landford and Hamptworth walking route. Wildlife & Conservation work on the Cadland estate is planned for the Autumn Months.

We have submitted a funding bid to improve the permitted footpath running along the old Breamore Railway line. The plan is to upgrade the route into a public bridleway and create an access and wildlife corridor at the edge of the National Park.

**England Coast Path**

Discussions continue with Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and other access authorities about establishing a Trail Partnership. The working title is the Solent to Sussex Trail Partnership and will cover an area from Dorset to Brighton. By forming a trail partnership, we are eligible for a larger maintenance grant from Natural England.

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