The New Forest Essential Guide

Your Essential Guide to the National Park 2013

The essential...

- Events guide
- Maps
- Places to visit

Pull out walking & cycling guide

A ‘Wild’ Year in the New Forest

The New Forest Essential Guide is brought to you by the Forestry Commission and the New Forest National Park Authority.
Welcome

Welcome to the 2013 edition of ‘The New Forest Essential Guide’. There is something for everyone throughout these pages, with ideas of what to do, where to go and things to see whether you’re a first time visitor or you live within the New Forest National Park.

Get the forest in your pocket!

Download our free apps and carry the forest in your pocket at all times…

With an easy tree identifier and information on trails and holidays throughout England, the Forestry Commission’s ForestXplorer app is essential both when out and about or planning a visit.

Follow all the latest news from the New Forest by downloading the free New Forest app. Now for iPhone and Android.

Find out more at forestry.gov.uk/mobileapp

Art in the Park

The New Forest is world-renowned for its stunning landscapes, picture postcard views and magnificent wildlife.

To celebrate this unique landscape, the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst has learned up with the National Trust to host a free two-month long exhibition from Saturday 20 July to Saturday 7 September.

The exhibition is sponsored by ExxonMobil and is supported by ExonMobil.

For more information on opening times visit newforestcentre.org.uk

Am I able to pick mushrooms?

Only pick fungi from plentiful sources and only take enough for personal consumption. Be a guide, the mushrooms that no one touches live within the New Forest National Park and many are rare and of national importance.

Can I walk my dog in the New Forest?

The New Forest is great for dogs but we ask that you keep your dog on a lead and ensure they are under control at all times. This applies to small and large breeds – we can guarantee that you’ll find something different every time.

The New Forest is 10% of the national park and extends across Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Please read Dog部分 of the imposition instructions in the dog section of the New Forest Essential Guide to find out more about this (including dog-friendly campsites and dog walk suggestions).

From walking to cycling, wildlife watching to art exhibitions, children’s events to longer guided rambles, you’ll find plenty of information and inspiration to make your time here extra special.

Throughout this issue, we’ve included check boxes so that you can record what you’ve seen in the New Forest national Park. You might like to visit in different seasons, at different times of day, along with friends or alone – we can guarantee that you’ll find something different every time.

The New Forest Essential Guide is a part publication with the New Forest National Park Authority and the Forestry Commission. We welcome comments about this publication and about issues affecting the New Forest. You can produce this newspaper in Braille or as a talking book. Write to Libby Burke, Editor, New Forest Essential Guide, Forestry Commission, The Quaker’s House, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7HT

Tel 023 8028 3141, Fax 023 8089 3329
Email enquiries.southern@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Postcards from the forest

Can I leave my car at home?

The perfect way to explore the forest is to go on board the New Forest bus, a hop-on, hop-off, open-top bus, that stops at willages and key attractions. It is linked to both mainline in Bournemouth and Southampton which means you can really know when car at home.

If you prefer to explore the forest in a more active way, there are over 100 miles of off-road cycle trails and you can take your bike on the Hur Box bus too (see pages 8 & 9 for tour routes).
Coastal Tour

The blue route Tour offers spectacular views of the Isle of Wight and the south west corner of the New Forest. It will be stopping at New Milton, Barton on Sea, Milford on Sea, the wildlife hotspot Keyhaven and Lyndhurst Pier. It will also stop at key town centers: Holborne Bashley, Holborne Naishe, Shawfield Country Park, Downing Park, Totton Lower campsite and New Forest Cottages – perfect if you are camping in the forest!

How to get to the forest
Two customers can enjoy free bus travel to and from Sidbury, Southampton, Beaulieu and Hille. Simply buy your Tour ticket at a scheduled bus service leaving these areas.

A website overflowing with fantastic things to do and places to stay, promises to make your visit to the New Forest truly original.

Terms and conditions
This site contains further information and advice on visits to New Forest National Park products and services.
Exploring forests by bike is the ideal way to discover the magnificent beauty and fascinating wildlife that can easily be missed by car. On this page, you’ll get a flavour of the easier, family-friendly cycling opportunities in the New Forest to the more adventurous mountain biking and skills areas offered in our forests and woodlands in neighbouring Dorset.

The New Forest
Family Cycling

To help protect the unique and sensitive environment of the New Forest and to ensure visitor enjoyment, an off-road and road-based cycle network has been created. The waymarked network covers over 100 miles and links the main New Forest villages and the railway at Brockenhurst, by the safest and most attractive routes. These routes are particularly suited to families with small children and can also be used by people in mobility scooters.

Inclusive cycling

Specially adapted cycles for young people with disabilities are available to hire from Cycle Experience in Brockenhurst. There are eight different types of bikes to choose from and expert staff will be able to advise on the most suitable type of bike.

Dorset
Adventure Cycling

For more adventurous cyclists, there are purpose-built mountain bike skills circuits at Whitecross Bike Park near Moors Valley Country Park, designed by downhillers, at UK.Bikepark near Blandford with its technical tracks capable of testing even the finest riders! Avon Valley Outdoor Activity Centre in the New Forest has easy routes at its Nightjar Park Experience and Moors Valley Country Park, near Ringwood, has a network of forest road graded tracks, as well as a singletrack. ‘Through the Forest!’ A cycle map is available from its Visitor Centre.

Near Wareham, the Sika Cycle Trail runs for 7 miles around Wareham Forest and the adjacent heaths. Suitable for all ages and abilities, the waymarked trails follow tracked routes and links into the Northport Greenway cycle route, providing a safe off-road route into Wareham town.

Cycle Hire
from the New Forest’s premier cycling venues

Why hire from us?

• Cycle centres located close to the trails
• Detailed, local route knowledge
• Correct fit for you and your bike
• Cycle delivered to approved locations
• Top branded cycle fleet

Burley

Brockenhurst


cycleexpericence

Island Shop, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR
01590 624204 / 625404
www.cycleex.co.uk

www.forestrycyclecycling.com

Bike hire
in the New Forest

All Bike Hire Gosport Lane, Lyndhurst Tel: 01590 629882
abishinhinewforest.co.uk

New Forest Activities
Booking Centre

The Old forge, Beaulieu, SO42 7TA
Tel: 01590 612377
newforestactivities.co.uk

Cycle Experience
Brookley Road, Brockenhurst and Bassett Road, Christchurch
Tel: 01590 624204
cycle.co.uk

Forest Leisure Cycling
The Cross, Village Centre, Burley
Tel: 01425 431084
forestleisurecycling.co.uk

Sopley Cycle Centre
Godshill, Fordingbridge, SP6 3JL
Tel: 01425 673700
sopleycyclecentre.co.uk

in Dorset

Cycle Experience
Wareham
Tel: 01983 209256

Why the code?

Disruption to wildlife: this maps subject to change by the sudden appearance of animals. ‘Disruption to wildlife’ as defined in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. An incorrect interpretation of these rules will result in immediate eviction from the forest and prohibition from return. Upon return the vehicle will be returned to the authorised vehicle locking facilities. The vehicle will be checked by the police liaison officer and returned to the locking facilities. The vehicle will be returned to the locking facilities.

• Keep the road marked green trails
• Keep a good lookout when approaching other forest users; be courteous and friendly
• Take extra care near horse riders
• When a group, all cyclists should be at home on the same path
• Do not approach or wildlife; ponies, cattle or wildlife. Pass slowly and give them space
• Quiet causing obstructions. Do not ride more than two abreast and always pass single file like on homeroads
• The New Forest is working to limit bicycle traffic and off road traffic; please look out for and obey road signs
• On rural roads any vehicle loading takeover and a new takeover the driver turns left your path. Takeover the path to the right and the vehicle will return

Localised erosion caused by water running down channels and cause soil erosion. Disturbances to ground users. Tres passers and cattle in the forest become the local commentaries. Be kind and local should be left alone.

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in the New Forest

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Tel: 01983 209256

Be a responsible cyclist

Follow the Forest Cycle Code

Off-road cycling in the New Forest is only permitted on the approved network tracks. Please help us to care for the forest by keeping to the waymarked routes and following the code.

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A fifth cycle map is now available, showing both off-road and road-based cycle networks across the National Park, plus details of bike hire outlets across the New Forest.

On your bike
The New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry Commission and New Forest District Council have created a number of different ways for you to learn more about this special area.

Make sure you visit...

- New Forest Centre: Set in the heart of the National Park in Lyndhurst, the Centre provides an opportunity to discover the history of the New Forest, enjoy some of the local produce, and buy souvenirs.
- Anderwood: Located on the eastern edge of the New Forest, Anderwood offers a perfect place for a woodland picnic.
- Bolderwood: This site is home to a unique visitor information point, offering an insight into the New Forest's history and ecology.

More to discover...

- Woodland picnic area: A perfect spot for a picnic or wildlife watching. Its summer flowers and birds are a delight.
- New Forest Reptile Centre: Discover more about British reptiles and amphibians at this fascinating centre.
- Walks and trails: The New Forest offers numerous walking trails, from short strolls to long-distance hikes.
- Visitor Information Centre: Located throughout the New Forest, these centres provide information about local events, wildlife, and other attractions.

Toilets
Picnic area
Cafe
Barbecue
Walking trails
Cycle hire
Fishing
Visitor Information Centre
New Forest Reptile Centre
Map

For more information visit thenewforest.co.uk/events
www.newforest-reptilecentre.co.uk
www.newforest.gov.uk

Key to map

- Information
- Local information
- Cycle hire
- Anderwood
- Cafe
- New Forest Reptile Centre
- Map
- Walking trails
- Cycle hire
- Fishing
- Visitor Information Centre

Local Information Points

- Local shops, businesses and restaurants: Throughout the New Forest, you will find a variety of shops, restaurants, and cafes.
- Local authority: The New Forest District Council offers information on local events and services.
- Forestry Commission: Provides information on forest trails and guided walks.
- New Forest Reptile Centre: Offers information on reptiles and amphibians.

For a map of all Forestry Commission car parks, click here or visit thenewforest.co.uk/newforest

Gazetteer

- West Willow
- Bartley
- Minstead
- South Lee
- West Wittering
- Eastleigh
- Newbridge
- New Forest Centre
- Bolderwood
- Anderwood
- New Forest Reptile Centre
- Setthorns
- Minstead North Gorley
- Denford
- Sway
- Christchurch
- Setley
- Lyndhurst
- New Forest Centre
- Bolderwood
- Anderwood
- New Forest Reptile Centre
- Setthorns
- Minstead North Gorley
- Denford
- Sway
- Christchurch
The following trails are marked on the ground by wooden marker posts with coloured bands. An overview map of each route is displayed at the start point in the car park. All routes are circular and will bring you back to your starting point.

- **Deer Watch Trail**
  Easy: 0.7km (0.5 miles)
  A short stroll leading you to a deer viewing platform overlooking fields where herds of deer are fed daily. The trail is on a moderately smooth gravelled surface with gentle slopes and benches along the way. The path is accessed via a gate which has a low catch.

- **Jubilee Grove Trail**
  Easy: 1.5km (1 mile)
  Including the deer fields, this meandering route leads you past some majestic trees, including the deer fields, this meandering route leads you past some majestic trees, including mighty Douglas firs and redwoods that have been planted before 1600, this tree is still standing. The path is on a cycle route.

- **Whitefield Moor or Puttles Bridge car parks**
  - **Ober Water Trails**
    Easy: 1.5km (1 mile) red trail
    Moderate: 2.9km (1.5 miles) yellow trail
  Two circular routes follow the Ober Water meanders between the source and the sea. Close to this meandering stream is the open grassy expanse of Whitefield Moor.
  - **Radnor Trail**
    Moderate: 3km (2 miles)
  A longer route which takes you into the heart of the forest and across the Bratley Water stream. Benches and picnic benches are located throughout. The path is on a cycle route.

- **Blackwater Arboretum Trail**
  Easy: 1.5km (1 mile)
  A circular route which leads you past free spaces from around the world. By following paths and directions on the unique panels you can use your senses to discover the secrets that these trees hold.
  - **Blackwater Arboretum Trail**
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- **Reptile Centre car park**
  - **Reptile Trail**
    Easy: 0.7km (0.5 miles)
    April–September only
  Enjoy a circular walk through the woods. The trail mainly follows a fairly smooth gravelled surface although the final section is a grassy path that can become muddy during wet weather.
  Please note that part of this trail is on a cycle route.

- **Wiveler car parks**
  - **Wiveler Woods car parks**
    Easy: 1.5km (1 mile)
    Moderate: 2.9km (1.5 miles)
  A shorter and more informal trail which winds through this diverse and working woodland. The paths are on a cycle route.
  Please note that part of this trail is on a cycle route.

- **Knightwood car parks**
  - **Knightwood car parks**
    Easy: 2km (1.5 miles)
    Moderate: 4.2km (2.5 miles)
  Enjoy a circular walk through the woods. The path has a fairly smooth gravelled surface.

The city of Winchester became England’s capital, and the long hunt for a nearby hunting ground. In 1079, the New Forest was created. The New Forest Commission and Natural England to protect the forest and the commoners’ rights. The Court of Verderers, established by the 1677 New Forest Act, meets in public ten times a year in The Queen’s House, Lyndhurst. The Court is presided over by ten Verderers, five of whom are elected and five appointed.

The Verderers employ five Agisters who ride across the forest. In the winter months, the Verderers use the pony, cow, sheep to the Police as a means of transport. The Agisters use ponies to patrol the forest, and any to be sold or over-wintered on the roads.

The New Forest Verderers regulate commoning and development on the forest. They work with the Forestry Commission and Natural England to protect the forest and the commoners’ rights. The Court of Verderers, established by the 1677 New Forest Act, meets in public ten times a year in The Queen’s House, Lyndhurst. The Court is presided over by ten Verderers, five of whom are elected and five appointed.

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There is always something to see in the New Forest, whether your visit is on a warm summer’s day or in the fading light of a crisp winter’s afternoon.

Reptiles and Raptors

Did you know that the New Forest is home to six cold-blooded UK native reptile species and you can see them all at the Forestry Commission’s Reptile Centre near Lyndhurst?

Walk around the ‘pods’ and see if you can spot the elusive adder or the bright colours of a male sand lizard (on the cover). Can spot the elusive adder or the bright colours of a male sand lizard (on the cover) and there is always something to see in the New Forest, whether your visit is on a warm summer’s day or in the fading light of a crisp winter’s afternoon.

While you are there find out more about the day to day challenges that face these birds and rearing their chicks as they prepare to leave the nest.


Heaven with the Gates Open

Buckler’s Hard

Midforest

Evidence Gardens & Steam Railway

New Forest Association

New Forest National Park Society.

www.newforestassociation.org

www.newforestnationalpark.org

www.gatesopen.co.uk

www.newforestnw.co.uk

www.npseventpark.com

www.newforestnatsociety.org

www.newforestassoc.org

FOR A REAL TASTE OF THE FOREST

BUTTERFLY WORLD

OPEN EASTER TO 30th SEPTEMBER

Visitor Information Centre

Museum Complex

Exhibitions & Events

Exhibitions & Events

Pick up leaflet or visit our website to find out about daily activities and for purchase tickets.

Gift Shop

First the perfect present is a day out at Bluebell!

Open Daily

While you are there find out more about the day to day challenges that face these birds and their struggle for existence.

While away the day on the banks of the Beaulieu River. Maritime Museum and The Buckler’s Hard Story including new displays from 2014 – Riverside and Woodland Walk. Cruise the Beaulieu River (additional charge). Cream teas at the Captain’s Cabin Tea Rooms.

BUCKLER’S HARD

A unique, atmospheric village museum offering unique views across the New Forest.

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Events 2013

Spring March/April

Open Forest guided walks
New Forest National Park
Join our knowledgeable rangers on a guided walk of the New Forest. This is a great opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna of this special area. Suitable for all ages. Booking is required.

Family Discovery Days: Spring
New Forest National Park
Join our rangers on a family-friendly guided walk. The walk is suitable for all ages and families. No booking required.

Family Discovery: Spring
New Forest National Park
Join our rangers on a family-friendly guided walk. The walk is suitable for all ages. No booking required.

Summer

New Forest National Park
Join our rangers on a guided walk of the New Forest. This is a great opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna of this special area. Suitable for all ages. Booking is required.

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Family Discovery: Autumn
New Forest National Park
Join our rangers on a family-friendly guided walk. The walk is suitable for all ages. No booking required.

Winter

New Forest National Park
Join our rangers on a guided walk of the New Forest. This is a great opportunity to learn about the flora and fauna of this special area. Suitable for all ages. Booking is required.

Family Discovery Days: Winter
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Lepe into Action
New Forest National Park
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Family Discovery Days: Lepe
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The New Forest National Park
More information can be found in the National Park Centre, New Forest National Park, Lyndhurst, or on our website (www.newforestnpa.gov.uk).
Join us on a short walk at dusk to see the secretive world of grapevines. Ridge Vineyard, takes a look at how grapevines came to this area and joint winemaker at Setley Ridge Vineyard, will be walking about 5 miles stopping regularly. We will be photographing many contemporary photographs of the forest and combining HD video with interactive technologies to allow you to walk though the forest using your own phone. The imagery draws on footage of the forest using their own camera. The imagery draws on footage of the forest using their own camera and combines HD video with interactive technologies to allow you to walk through the forest using your own phone.

Grid ref: SU302003
Sat 22 Jun  2pm-3.30pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
£10 non-members, £8 members
Ages 16+. Booking required:
T. 023 8028 8440
All ages.

New Forest Centre's Annual Lecture
Time
New Forest Centre Lyndhurst Community Centre
Mon 17 Jun  7.30pm-9pm
Lecture by Dan Snow, historian and TV presenter. His appearance includes Battlefields Britain, presented with his father Peter Snow and The One Show

Free entry. All ages.
No booking required.

Autumn Sept-Nov
Lymington-Leyknayden Nature reserve open sun
September 2013
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Experience the fall’s arrival at this local nature reserve. This walk is suitable for all ages. Booking required: T. 023 8028 8440

Special Exhibition: Forest
Sat 20 Oct to Sun 22 Oct
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
John Wright's Fungi Walk

John Wright’s Fungi Walk
Wed 20 Oct 2pm-3pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
£10 pp. 12 years +. Booking
required. T. 023 8028 8440
Less than 2miles

New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Catherine Owens is passionate about fungi and is bringing new technologies to support fungal conservation and fungal therapy. This event is supported by Catherine’s very own personal quest and her research.

Free entry. All ages.

Special Exhibition: Forest Marquetry Crafts for Children
Sat 20 Apr  10am-4pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Forest Marquetry crafts in our crafts cabinet at the Christmas. 

Free entry. All ages.

Christmas Fun Day at the Centre
Sat 29 Dec  10am-4pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081

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Illustrated talk by Roger Marchbank, former chairman of the United Kingdom Woodpigeon Association and joint winner at the Salley Ridge Vineyard, takes a look at how grapevines came to this area and joint winemaker at Setley Ridge Vineyard, will be walking about 5 miles stopping regularly. We will be photographing many contemporary photographs of the forest and combining HD video with interactive technologies to allow you to walk through the forest using your own phone. The imagery draws on footage of the forest using their own camera and combines HD video with interactive technologies to allow you to walk through the forest using your own phone.

Grid ref: SU300081
Sat 22 Jun  2pm-3.30pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
£10 non-members, £8 members
Ages 16+. Booking required:
T. 023 8028 8440
All ages.

Family Discovery Days: Autumn at the Forest

A walk across the site of the New Forest Centre will be available in 1902 and the second flying school in the UK. The BCW was founded here from 1911. We will look at the sites of the WVS hangars and buildings including the Officers’ Mess which is still used as the village hall. A midday walk will be supported by picnic lunches.

£10pp. 12 + Booking required: T. 023 8028 8440
3 miles.

Family Discovery Days: Autumn at the Forest
Time
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Stoney Cross Airfield
Sat 20 Oct  1am-2pm
Stoney Cross Plane car park
Grid ref: SU374174
This year we intend to explore more of this WVI airfield including the original access road where planes used to taxi during the evenings to watch enemy air attacks on the New Forest. We will walk across many airport dispersals and talk about the people who flew from there. We will uncover the secret world of fun, with short tours at 10.30am and 130pm each day. For more information, please contact: HPR@hampshirefunghi.org.uk

This event closes at 2.30pm on Sunday. Booking not required.

Weekend workshop
Sat 2 Nov  10am-3pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Explore the experimental techniques used by Julian Kanter and learn about amazing fungi as part 3 of a range of camera talks to make your own timelapse video.

Free event. All ages.
Booking required: T. 023 8028 8440

NEW! Seasonal Sunday
Winter Lights
Sat 2 Nov  10am-4pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Seasonal activities for all ages.
Drop-in. All ages.

Birds of Prey
Mon 19 Nov  7.30pm-9pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
Illustrated talk from Libeary’s Owl presenter clay and Ringwood. An insight into native birds of prey their daily life. Refreshments available from 7pm.

£10 non-members, £8 members. Ages 16+. Booking required:
T. 023 8028 8440
1pm-3pm

FREE event. All ages.
Booking required: T. 023 8028 8440

Tree cover is important for biodiversity in many areas. It is also a way of conserving water and improving air quality.

No booking required.

Dr John Wright’s Fungi Walk

John Wright’s Fungi Walk
Thu 25 Oct  2pm-3pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
£10 pp. 12 years +. Booking
required. T. 023 8028 8440
Less than 2miles

New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
Grid ref: SU300081
A unique event offering you a rare opportunity to visit the finalists of the Centre’s open art competition and combine this with the Centre’s own talks and guided tours. See the Centre’s own very personal set of memories, artefacts and finds spanning a 20-year period. The imagery draws on footage of the forest using their own camera and combines HD video with interactive technologies to allow you to walk through the forest using your own phone.

Grid ref: SU300081
Fri 16 Aug  10am-4pm
New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst
£10 pp. 12 years +. Booking
required. T. 023 8028 8440
Less than 2miles

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