

Wilder for Water: New Forest Water Forum 2020

1030 – 1130 Registration, tea and coffee.

1130 – 1135 **Jenny Thomas (*Natural England*)**

Opening remarks from the Chair

The theme of this year's New Forest Water Forum is share our view of the New Forest's wetlands in their entirety; their connectedness to one another - springs to mires, streams to rivers, estuaries to the coast, all interspersed with ancient ponds and the seasonal rise and fall of floodplain pools – blue ecological networks which extend across this landscape. Nature has the ability to respond to changes between the seasons and over decades; but only if we maintain these blue ecological networks.

1135 – 1155 **Debbie Tann (*Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*)**

A Wilder Future

Space for wildlife on our land and in our seas is being constantly squeezed. We need to have more people on nature's side, more space for nature to thrive, and reduced pressure on the environment. Nowhere is this more true than the New Forest – with miles of stunning coastline and a complex of some of the largest and most wildlife rich wetlands in Europe. Debbie will introduce the ethos of HIWWWT's Wilder mission; taking action over the next 10 years, we need to work together to create a wilder Hampshire.

1155 – 1215 **Naomi Ewald (*Freshwater Habitats Trust*)**

The New Forest's wetland wonderland

Naomi takes us on a species eye tour of the New Forest's wetland and coastal habitats. We will delve into the characteristics which make these habitats invaluable for the New Forest's special wildlife; and consider the reasons why these habitats remain some of the most outstanding examples of freshwater and coastal habitats in the UK and Europe.

1215 – 1235 **Ian Barker (*New Forest National Park Authority*)**

Working with nature to support nature

Since 2014 a range partners, local communities and landowners have been working alongside each other as a catchment partnership. This presentation reviews the objectives and actions previously identified for the Partnership by local stakeholders in the light of the Wilder agenda, and outlines Partnership activity over the last year that has sought to protect key wild areas, extend their benefits and engage people in valuing a wilder catchment.

1235 – 1255 **Sam Orchard (*Environment Agency*)**

Breaking barriers and connecting catchments for resilient rivers

Many of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Waterbodies in the New Forest are identified as Heavily Modified. This presentation will introduce the concept of *Heavily Modified Water Bodies*, highlight the impact these can have on ecology and how this can be exacerbated by climate change. We will see how impacts have been reduced through

working in partnership to deliver *Mitigation Measures* and consider the future role of the Catchment Partnership in addressing barriers to fish passage, connecting catchments from source to sea and ensuring our water environment is resilient to the impacts of climate change.

1255 – 1400 **Lunch (provided)**

1400 – 1405 **Jenny Thomas – Afternoon Session: New Forest Species Focus.**

1405 – 1420 **Georgina Samoluk (*Environment Agency*)**

The Stingray Shore

The ecology of the common stingray in the UK and why the New Forest shore is a stronghold.

1420 – 1435 **Kirsty Staunton (*Local resident*)**

Monitoring the New Forest's secret pond celebritiesCatchmnet

Kirsty highlights the changes over the seasons and the habitats of Chirocephalus and Triops, including personal experiences of monitoring over the past 6 years.

1435 – 1450 **Paul Edgar (*Natural England*)**

It's Not Just About Ponds

Long term monitoring in the New Forest demonstrates the importance of a well-connected blue network of diverse water bodies to amphibian populations.

1450 – 1505 **Russell Wynn (*Wild New Forest*)**

The New Forest Curlew Project: Conservation of a wild icon

The wet habitats of the New Forest now hold 10% of the lowland England Curlew breeding population, with adjacent pasture and coastal habitats being utilised throughout the year. This talk will discuss likely drivers behind recent population declines, connectivity between habitats, and new and proposed mitigation measures to help ensure this wild icon remains as a New Forest breeding species.

1505 – 1525 **Q&A**

1525 – 1530 **Jenny Thomas - Closing Remarks**

We would be very grateful for your feedback to inspire future events. Please fill in your feedback forms and return to the registration table. Thank you