

Working Together

Freshwater Habitats Trust and the New Forest Catchment Partnership are working alongside organisations, communities, businesses, landowners and visitors to protect, manage and enhance the unique freshwater and coastal habitats and species found in the New Forest.

The New Forest covers over 300 square kilometres of protected landscape, forestry, farmland, parkland and urban environments. It includes over a dozen individual rivers, streams and their tributaries flowing south, east and west to The Solent and Southampton Water and Hampshire Avon; some notable lakes (greater than 2ha in size); many hundreds of ponds (less than 2ha in size), and a continuous band of coastal and estuarine habitats.

On the Open Forest the exceptionally high quality of the headwater streams and ponds is reflected in the number of species they support and their importance for nature conservation. The coast is internationally important for some of the world's fastest declining species.

Conserving these habitats brings about its own set of challenges, but also huge opportunities for delivering real biodiversity gains which cannot be achieved elsewhere in a heavily modified and intensively managed lowland England.

The New Forest is one of the best and most Important Freshwater Areas and coastal landscapes in the UK.

To find out more visit

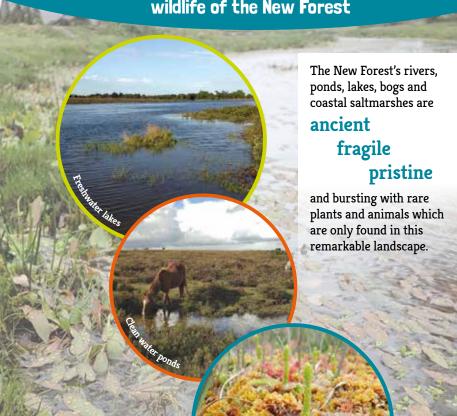
www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk





New Forest Water Code

Protecting the special freshwater wildlife of the New Forest



Love it, look after it, or lose it

Careless behaviour is putting the special wildlife of these unique wetlands at risk.

The New Forest Water Code





Clean Water for Wildlife

Freshwater and coastal wildlife in the New Forest is very sensitive to pollution.

Help protect valuable lakes, ponds, rivers and coastal areas by keeping the countryside clean.

Take advice about where you can go to enjoy water, without damaging nature.

over 05 % of the UKs wetland plants (approx 300 crecies)

Of all the lowland bogs and valley mires found in North West Europe

750
are found in the New Forest

Space for Nature

Special wetland birds and the free roaming livestock of the New Forest are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people and their dogs.

Be part of the conservation of the New Forest's wetlands and the wildlife found here by thinking about your surroundings.

PARK RESPONSIBLY, STAY AT A REGISTERED CAMPSITE AND KEEP YOU AND YOUR DOG TO THE PATH



PLAN AHEAD. CHECK WHAT FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE



USE LOCAL FACILITIES the countryside is not a public toilet or rubbish dump. Bag it bin it or take it home.



CHECK WHERE TO GO water sports including swimming, are not allowed everywhere – only enjoy these activities at permitted locations



KEEP DOGS UNDER
CONTROL and away from
wetland wildlife and livestock
- put dogs on a lead.



CAMP ONLY AT PERMITTED SITES WITH SUITABLE FACILITIES wild camping and overnight parking is not permitted.



USE SUITABLE FACILITIES for the disposal of washing up water or toilet waste - never on to vegetation, into ditches or other waterbodies.



KEEP YOUR DOGS OUT OF PONDS AND AWAY FROM THE WATER'S EDGE stick to the tracks to enjoy a wildlife friendly visit.



ACCESS THE FOREST IN A
RESPONSIBLE WAY keep to
the tracks, and away from
fragile freshwaters, whether
you are on foot, bicycle or riding.



PARK ONLY IN CAR PARKS there are over 130 places to park in the New Forest. Verge parking is not permitted, leave these spaces for nature. Photogography: Curlew