

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



Pillwort amongst bog pondweed



Cotton-grass

The New Forest supports:
30%
of England's
threatened
freshwater
species

The New Forest supports:
over
30%
of the UK's freshwater
invertebrate species
(approx 400
species)



New Forest stream

New Forest Water Code

Protecting the special freshwater
wildlife of the New Forest

The New Forest's rivers,
ponds, lakes, bogs and
coastal saltmarshes are
ancient
fragile
pristine

and bursting with rare
plants and animals which
are only found in this
remarkable landscape.



Freshwater lakes



Clean water ponds



New Forest bogs

Be part of the solution follow the New Forest Water Code
**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



Southern damselfly

The New Forest supports
over
65%
of the UK's
wetland plants
(approx 300
species)

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.

Of all the
lowland bogs and
valley mires found in
North West Europe
75%
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.



Curlew

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



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.

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



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.



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.

LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND AND TAKE NOTHING AWAY EXCEPT FOR A LOVE OF THE FOREST