

# New Forest Catchment Partnership

## Highlights 2020



© Dr Naomi Ewald



# New Forest Catchment Partnership



© R. Stride

The Catchment Partnership, co-hosted by the New Forest National Park Authority and Freshwater Habitats Trust, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, continues to protect the best freshwater habitats and raise awareness of the outstanding New Forest freshwater landscape.



# New Forest Species - Tadpole Shrimp

A prehistoric crustacean, unchanged for hundreds of millions of years, is only known from two locations in the UK, the New Forest and Solway Coast.



© Neil Phillips  
[www.uk-wildlife.co.uk](http://www.uk-wildlife.co.uk)

This rare and extraordinary species is monitored in its main grazed temporary clean water pond by a local resident and volunteer, with support from Freshwater Habitats Trust. 2020 was a good year for them and saw a good number of adults being observed, who will have laid eggs ready for the next generation.

# New Forest Species - Wasp Discovery



© Steven Falk

One of the top UK bee and fly specialists Steven Falk, discovered a new species of British wasp this year in a New Forest wetland - they nest in 'galls' on common reed growing in valley mires.



# New Forest Species - Marsh Clubmoss



© Gemma Stride

Survey work by volunteers in 2020 has identified new populations of marsh clubmoss, an ancient plant that indicates wonderful clean wetlands. This species thrives in seasonally saturated habitats, grazed by free roaming livestock.



# New Forest Projects - Bartley Catchment



© Gemma Stride

We are working closely with the New Forest Land Advice Service and landowners in the Bartley Catchment to create better habitats for freshwater life through water resource management, thanks to the Water Environment Improvement Fund and match funding from stakeholders.



# New Forest Projects - Hatchet Pond



© Dr Naomi Ewald

...And similarly through the Water Environment Grant, we continue to support the restoration work at one of the most outstanding, yet fragile freshwater habitats, Hatchet Pond, to prevent deteriorations from over-use.



# New Forest Projects - Horticulture Industry



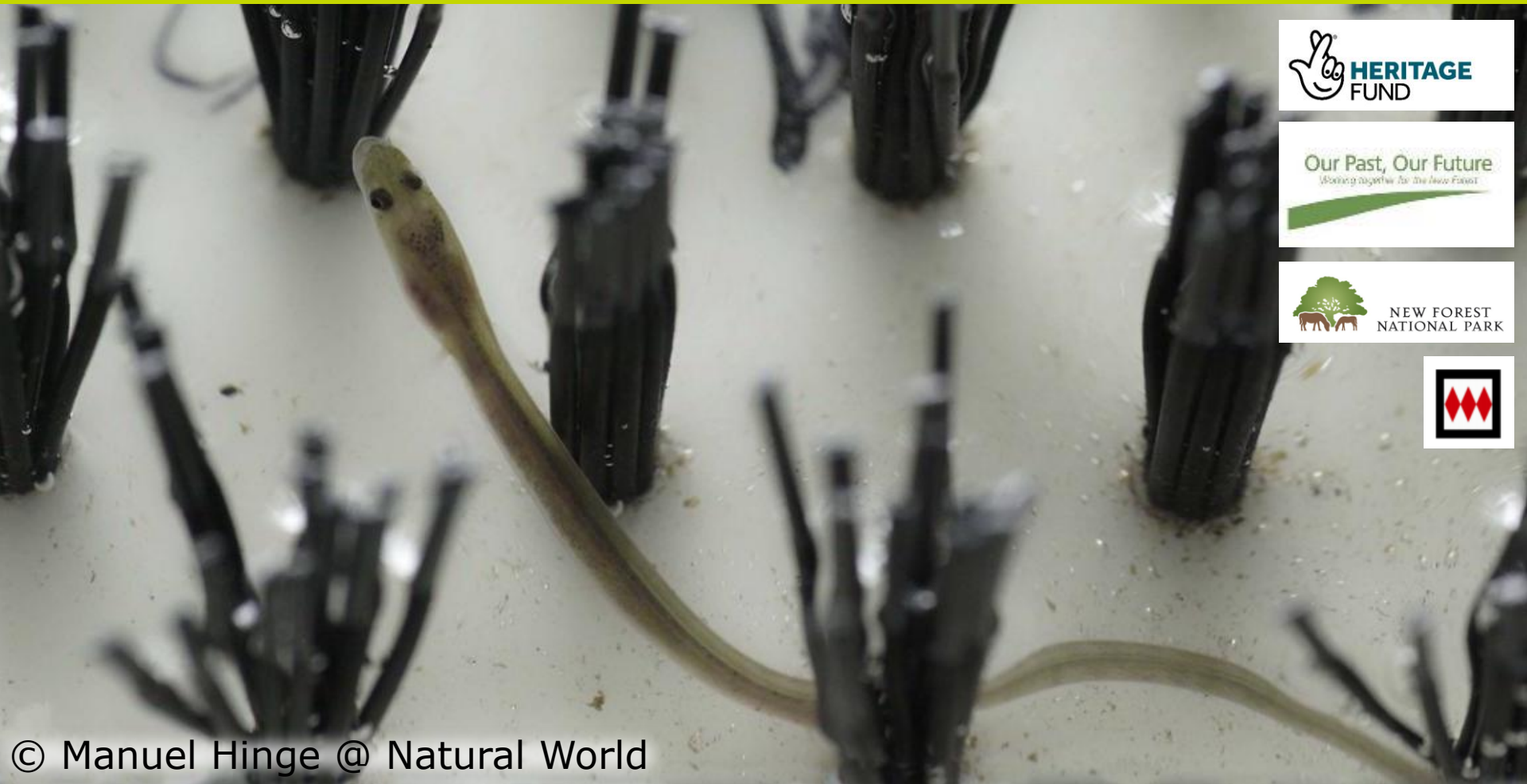
Another example of a project funded through the Water Environment Improvement Fund

© R. Stride

Another example of collaboration with local business is our work with a new sector, the horticultural industry, to showcase best practice in water resource management - not only good for business but great for the freshwater environment.



# New Forest Projects - Living Waters

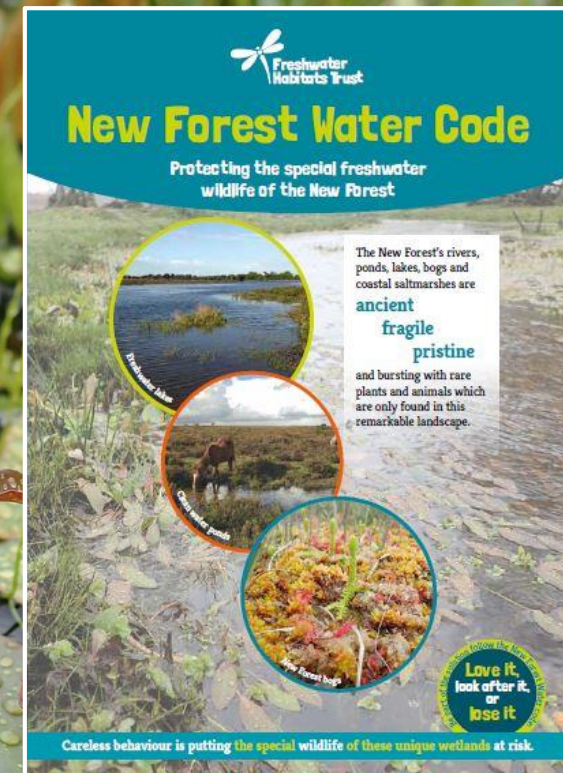


© Manuel Hinge @ Natural World

Now in its final year, Living Waters, funded through National Heritage Lottery Fund, Our Past, Our Future, has seen the return of the European eel after the installation of several bristle brush fish passes to allow connectivity through the catchment of the Beaulieu Abbey Stream. This species can finally return home.



# Freshwater Policy and Advocacy - Water Code



© Gemma Stride

This year, for the first time, we have produced a 'Water Code' with a focus on increasing understanding of the unique freshwater landscape and promoting positive actions to protect the New Forest's outstanding qualities.



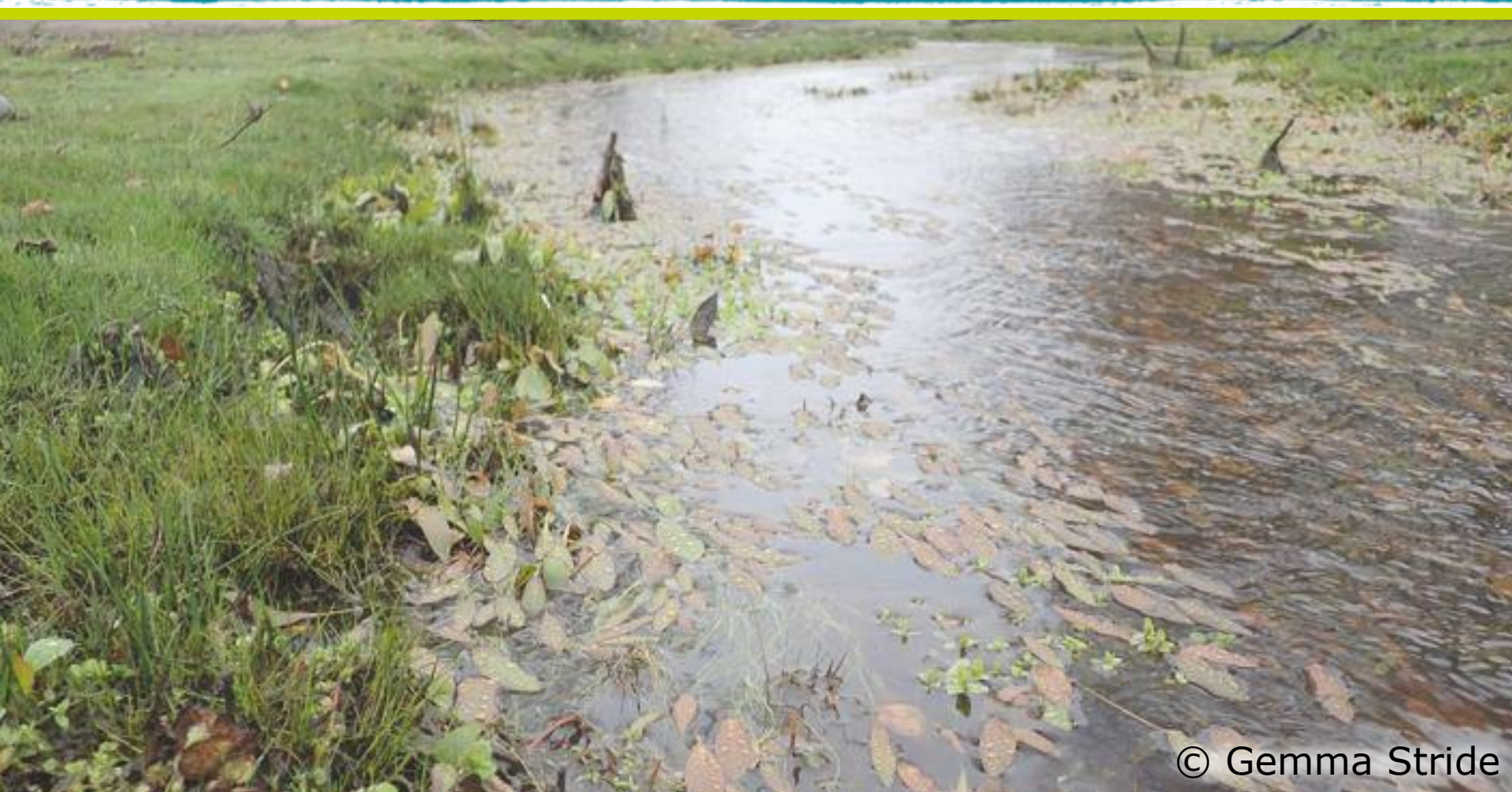
# Freshwater Policy and Advocacy - Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP)



We are feeding the partnership's local knowledge into Southern Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans to help shape their long-term strategy for the future management of their resources in the New Forest as part of a two-year consultation process.



# Freshwater Policy and Advocacy - Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum



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This year, Freshwater Habitats Trust, have been involved in providing knowledge and advice to the two sub-groups of the Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum - Evidence and Monitoring, and Communication. This work is helping to shape a monitoring strategy, implementation scheme as well as an effective communication plan.

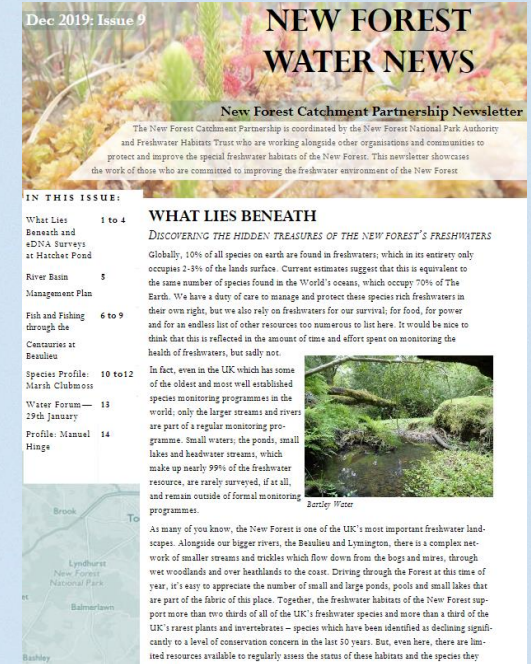


# Engagement - Water Forum 2020



The 2020 Water Forum, nearly 100 attendees were inspired by our vital work in the catchment . . . from curlew to amphibians to the rare tadpole shrimp!





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In its 4<sup>th</sup> year, Waternews has grown in popularity locally and nationally. With plenty of content, there are now over 60 articles contributed from multiple partners covering a wide range of activities and expertise from across the catchment.





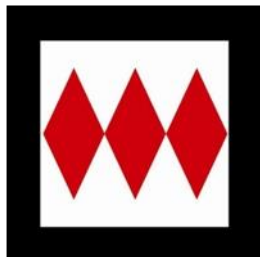
© Gemma Stride

As a way of linking up with interests groups, academics, organisations, individuals and professionals, July was the start of a new form of dissemination for the Catchment Partnership through social media - a knowledge hub for those interested or working in the freshwater environment. Visit us at [@gemmafreshwater](https://twitter.com/gemmafreshwater).



# Thank You

These are just some of the highlights of 2020. We are aware of a range of partners, organisations and individuals that have been working hard to conserve the freshwater and coastal environment of the New Forest during the year and would like to thank everyone for their work.



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