

New Forest Water Forum: Blue Horizons – Agenda for Wednesday 30th March 2022

Speaker	Presentation title and synopsis
1100 Jennifer Thomas Natural England	Opening remarks, introducing morning presentations.
1110 Alison Barnes Chief Executive New Forest National Park Authority	New Forest nature recovery: challenges and opportunities for the water environment The twin climate change and nature emergencies provide new impetus for action in the New Forest. These are exciting times with initiatives at national, regional and local level. National Parks will play a key role in forming the core of the nature recovery network and contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Water and water dependent habitats have important underpinning roles across all this work, and are increasingly valued in providing essential ecosystem services and natural capital. The public are also demanding higher standards in relation to water quality. The New Forest has a good track record of collaborative partnership working and delivery at a range of levels. We can build on this and ensure the scale of ambition, resourcing and that delivery meets the high standards merited by the value of the Forest and demands of our stakeholders.
1130 Dr Naomi Ewald Technical Director Freshwater Habitats Trust	New Forest Catchment: The Blue Horizon It has been 10 years since the publication of the New Forest Water Environment Improvement Plan for the New Forest Catchment and we have achieved a lot. In the context of national plans and policies, which have at their core the principles of bigger, better, connected; we consider what the vision for integrated freshwater management in the New Forest could look like over the next decade - recognising the critical value of high status freshwater landscapes, creating resilience through the creation of blue ecological networks which extend beyond The Forest boundary, and reducing external pressures on these fragile freshwater ecosystems through partnership working.
1150 Dr Sophie Lake Principle Ecologist Footprint Ecology (on behalf of the New Forest FWRP)	New Forest Freshwater and Wetlands Restoration Forum (FWRP) Sophie will talk about the recent activities of the New Forest Freshwater and Wetlands Restoration Forum, focusing on the Evidence and Monitoring Plan and the next steps required to develop a strategic restoration framework. The forum is a wide-ranging group of New Forest stakeholders including statutory bodies, organisations responsible managing the land, interest groups, and local councillors. A key task of the forum is to set the objectives of freshwater and Wetlands Restoration at a strategic level and scope.
1210 Gemma Stride Project Officer Freshwater Habitats Trust	Nature recovery: starting with a commitment towards change and new ways of working Through Catchment Partnership activities, our aims are to protect, improve and expand the freshwater network. Raising awareness of the special qualities of the New Forest waterscape is at the heart of our project delivery. Engaging key audiences; landowners, businesses and communities is the first step towards achieving the nature recovery agenda. This presentation provides an insight into project delivery over the past few years, showing how small innovative solutions can reduce pressures on the water environment and be beneficial for wildlife, climate and business.
1225 Ian Barker Ecologist New Forest National Park Authority	Acknowledgement of 10 years of the New Forest Catchment Partnership.
1230 Lunch	Bring your own or pop into Brockenhurst. Refreshments and cake provided.

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<p>1330 Jennifer Thomas</p>	<p>Opening remarks, introducing afternoon presentations.</p>
<p>1335 Nick Tomalin Conservation Officer, New Forest RSPB</p>	<p>RSPB Vision for the New Forest – it’s not just birds! The RSPB have for a long time acknowledged the important role of the New Forest’s habitats such as heathlands, woodlands, wetland and coastline in supporting species and providing opportunities for people to engage with nature. The presentation will outline how the acquisition of Franchises Lodge reserve has helped the RSPB start to become more involved in delivering opportunities to make the Forest bigger, better and well connected and allow Nick to introduce himself and his role. The organisation’s approach to developing strategies will be outlined and it’s links to water dependent habitats highlighted. Potential for nature recovery at Franchises will also be explored, whether it be public engagement with nature (e.g. Cameron’s cottage) or opportunities for managing water habitats such as a toad-breeding site.</p>
<p>1355 Dr Pascale Nicolet CEO Newt Conservation Partnership</p>	<p>Creating and restoring habitat for great crested newt as part of the NatureSpace District Licensing scheme This presentation will provide an overview of the great crested newt District Licensing scheme, with a focus on the work of the Newt Conservation Partnership (NCP). NCP is the delivery body for the NatureSpace scheme and we are likely to start operating in Hampshire in late 2022, once the District Licences for participating LPAs has been granted by Natural England. Our work includes providing new breeding habitat for great crested newt by creating or restoring ponds, and we also create or restore a range of terrestrial habitat. Our work is funded by the scheme, including 25 year of management payments to landowners. We follow best practice as set out by our partners Freshwater Habitats Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Trust, with a focus on clean water and good design that minimise the need for future management. At each of our sites, we assess the potential to benefit other species of conservation concern. We hope that our work can contribute to supporting freshwater conservation in the New Forest, one of the most important freshwater landscapes in the UK.</p>
<p>1415 Clive Chatters Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust</p>	<p>Wonderful wetland things: why we bother! A landscape highly protected by nature conservation designations, maintained by traditional grazing practices for centuries, and areas of clean, unpolluted freshwaters make the New Forest the perfect home for extraordinary species. Clive will present a brief celebration of a selection of fascinating species from the Forest's wetlands and look to the long-term changes of the future.</p>
<p>1435 Dominic Longley Senior Environmental Monitoring Officer Environment Agency Analysis & Reporting Team</p>	<p>Stone-suckers of the Forest streams The lampreys, Petromyzontidae, are a fascinating and ancient lineage of primitive fishes with neither jaws nor bony skeletons. Of the three species found in British rivers, only one, the brook lamprey (the smallest), has non-carnivorous adults and does not migrate between freshwater and the sea. The streams of the New Forest provide excellent habitat for this mysterious and seldom-seen creature – this presentation includes a range of photos, video, facts and figures shedding light on Forest lamprey and how to better appreciate and protect them.</p>
<p>1455 Ian Barker</p>	<p>Question and answer session</p>
<p>1525 Jennifer Thomas</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p>
<p>1530</p>	<p>End of event</p>