

2025 New Forest Biodiversity Conference

04-05 March 2025 @ Careys Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst

Indicative timings only; most talks are 15 minutes, but asterisks indicate 5-minute flash talks; panel Q&A will follow each session.

Tuesday 04 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

0930-0935: Welcome from the Chair and Sponsors (Russell Wynn and Kate James)

0935-1000: Update on New Forest Biodiversity Forum activities (Russell Wynn)

1000-1030: Keynote

- The challenges of campaigning for clean rivers: creating a national eNGO from the heart of the New Forest.
Charles Watson (River Action)

1030-1110: Habitats session 1

- *Environment improvement plans in the New Forest
Dr Nick Mills (Southern Water)
- *Assessing the impact of pollution management on freshwater biodiversity
Gemma Stride (Freshwater Habitats Trust)
- The fish of the New Forest rivers: how we monitor them and the pressures they face
Dominic Longley (Environment Agency)

1110-1140: Refreshments

1140-1235: Habitats session 2

- Introduction to the New Forest Net Zero with Nature Programme
John Stride (New Forest National Park Authority)
- Current and recent climate change impacts on New Forest habitats and species
Russell Wynn (Wild New Forest)
- Climate change projections and associated risks and opportunities in the New Forest National Park
Christine Sams (Wild New Forest)

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1235-1300: Habitats session 3

- Habitat restoration monitoring update
Suzi Eglestone (Forestry England)
- *What New Forest plant species might have smoke stimulated germination and why does it matter?
Green Smith (University of Exeter)

1300-1400: Lunch

1400-1500: Workshop 1 - climate change and the New Forest

1500-1530: Refreshments

1530-1640: Habitats session 4

- Introduction to the Species Survival Fund
John Stride (New Forest National Park Authority)
- Species Survival Fund - ecological survey results
Russell Wynn (Wild New Forest)
- A programme of targeted works to expand the New Forest Freshwater Network
Gemma Stride (Freshwater Habitats Trust)
- *Species Survival Fund - creating pollinator habitats
Trace Cooper-Williams (HIWWT)
- *Species Survival Fund - ARC sites
Eryn McDonald (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

1640-1715: Habitats session 5

- *Northern New Forest and Southeast Wilts Deer Management Project
Jane Nordstrom (ELM Consultancy)
- A socio-ecological study of large herbivores in the New Forest
Alex Theodorou (University of Reading)
- 2024 review of commoning and farming in the New Forest
Andrew Parry-Norton (Commoners Defence Association)

1715-1830: Networking reception with drinks and nibbles

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Wednesday 05 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

0930-0935: Welcome from the Chair (Russell Wynn)

0935-1030: Keynote Session on Insects

- The dragonflies of the New Forest - 40 years on
Steve Cham (British Dragonfly Society - Dragonfly Conservation Group)
- The changing fortunes of New Forest butterflies
Andy Barker (Butterfly Conservation)

1030-1110: Species session 1

- Should there be any sand lizards in the New Forest?
Paul Edgar (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)
- Invasive Non-Native Species - Pitcher Plants in the New Forest
Catherine Chatters (HIWWT)

1110-1140: Refreshments

1140-1300: Species session 2

- Coastal birds at Lymington-Hurst Nature Reserve
Pete Durnell (Hampshire County Council)
- *Hurst and Keyhaven coastal engagement project
Trace Cooper-Williams (HIWWT)
- Using DNA barcoding as an additional tool for recording fungi
Eric Janke (HFRG)
- *Field Gentian survey update
Dominic Price pre-recorded (Species Recovery Trust)
- *Green Forest Hoverfly project update
Colin Easton (Independent)
- *Speckled Footman project update
Sophie Lake (Footprint Ecology)
- New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme
Andy Page and Tommy Saunders (NFRMP)

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1300-1400: Lunch

1400-1445: Workshop 2 - biodiversity and conservation volunteering

1445-1510: Refreshments

1510-1625: Species session 3

- Bechstein's Bats (and other bat work) at RSPB Franchises Lodge
Chris Dieck (RSPB)
- 2024 New Forest Woodlark survey
Nigel Matthews (Hampshire Ornithological Society)
- Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers in the New Forest
Ken Smith (Woodpecker Network)
- *Passive Acoustic Monitoring - a useful bird monitoring tool
Ken Smith (Woodpecker Network)
- *Assessing recreational disturbance impacts on birds in the New Forest
Orestis Aslanidis (University of Reading)
- Insights into New Forest coastal fish species using underwater video
Dom Longley (Environment Agency)

1625-1630: Closing remarks from the Chair and Sponsors (Russell Wynn and Hans Bishop)

1630: Meeting close

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

New Forest Biodiversity Forum Steering Group

Prof Russell Wynn

NFBF Chair and Director, Wild New Forest

Ian Barker

Ecologist, New Forest National Park Authority

Clive Chatters

Author, Naturalist, and Nature Conservationist

Tracé Cooper-Williams

Senior Nature Recovery Manager, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT)

Nicky Court

Manager, Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC)

Pete Durnell

Team Manager, Hampshire County Council Countryside Service (HCC)

Dr Tony Hockley

Director, Policy Analysis Centre, and former Chair of New Forest Commoners Defence Association

Prof Adrian Newton

Professor in Conservation Science, Bournemouth University

Andy Page

Head of Wildlife Management, Forestry England

Leanne Sargeant

Senior Ecologist, Forestry England

Gemma Stride

Senior Project Manager, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Julie Stubbs

Head of Land Use, Butterfly Conservation

Jenny Thomas

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Nick Tomalin

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Marcus Ward

Director, Wild New Forest Guided Tours