

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

Welcome to the 2025 New Forest Biodiversity Conference



New Forest Biodiversity Forum

Introduction

- **Facilities**
- **Fire exits**
- **Schedule**
- **Conference support**
- **Talks and Q&A**
- **Slides and abstracts**
- **Feedback**
- **Kate James (Kairos) welcome**



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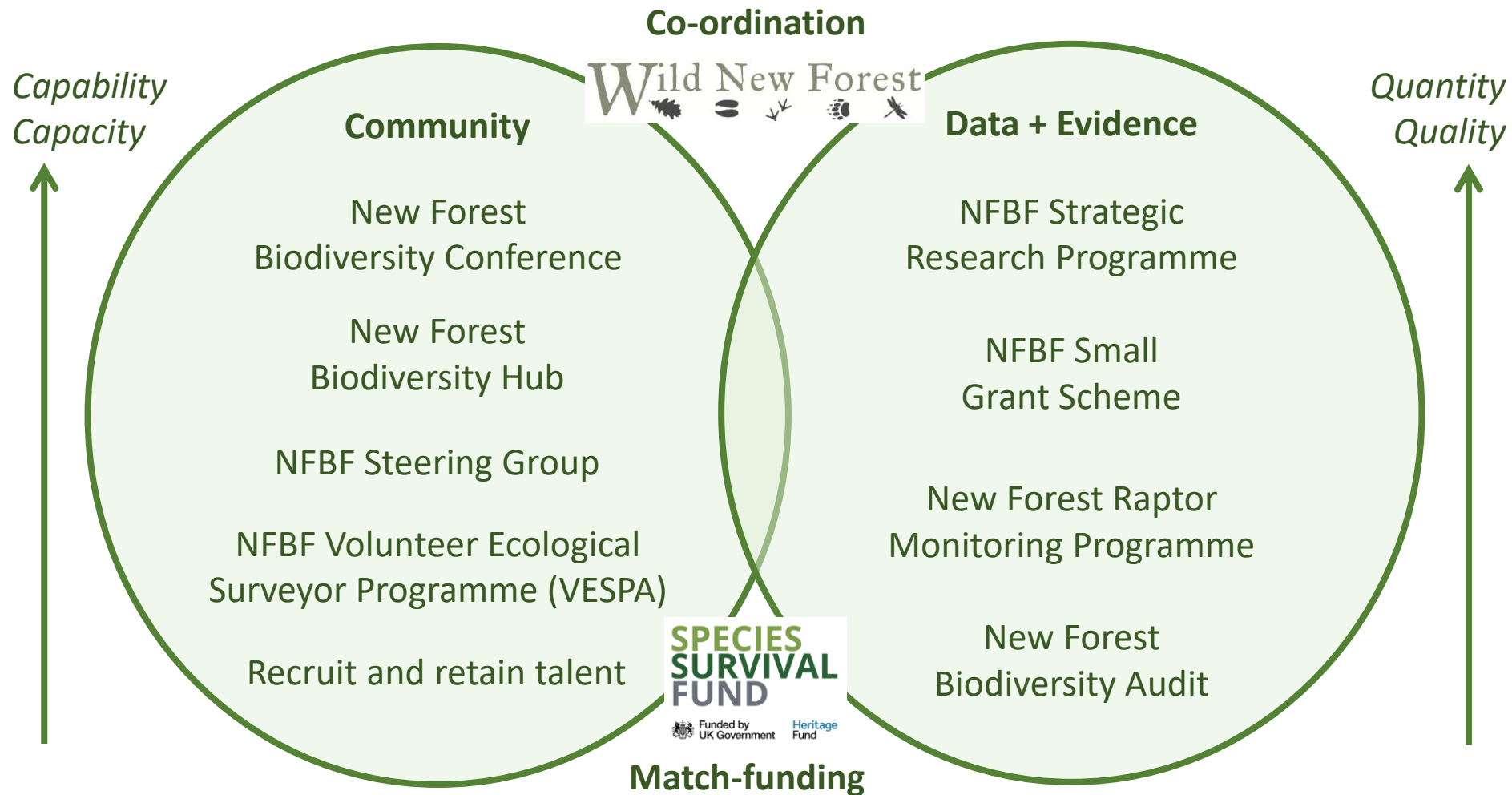
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Introduction to the New Forest Biodiversity Forum **Prof Russell Wynn (Chair)**



New Forest Biodiversity Forum

The NFBF supports and promotes biodiversity survey, monitoring, recording, and research in the New Forest National Park, generating data and evidence for land-owners, land-managers, and policy-makers engaged in conservation action



Sponsor is Kairos Philanthropy Fund - £1M commitment from 2024-28

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2024 New Forest Biodiversity Conference



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Home

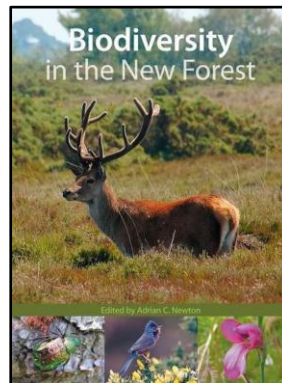
About

Funding

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www.newforestbiohub.org



New Forest Biodiversity Forum

New Forest Biodiversity Forum Steering Group

- **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, New Forest Commoners Defence Association*
- **Prof Adrian Newton** - *Professor of Conservation Ecology, Bournemouth University*
- **Leanne Sargeant** - *Senior Ecologist, Forestry England*
- **Gemma Stride** - *Senior Project Manager, Freshwater Habitats Trust*
- **Julie Stubbs** - *Head of Land Use, Butterfly Conservation*
- **Jenny Thomas** - *New Forest Nature Recovery Senior Adviser, Natural England*
- **Nick Tomalin** - *Conservation Officer - Purbeck to New Forest, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)*
- **Marcus Ward** - *Director, Wild New Forest Guided Tours*

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NFBF Strategic Research Programme

Four proposals received and assessed in the 2024 call, with two taken forward for funding:

- *Assessing the impact of dog veterinary flea treatments on aquatic invertebrates in New Forest ponds*

£38k allocated - to be delivered by Freshwater Habitats Trust in summer 2025

- *New Forest heathland plants and the role of fire in their germination*

£33.5k allocated - match-funding for University of Exeter MRes student (Green Smith)

2025 funding call will open in late March 2025



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NFBF Small Grant Scheme

- Eric Janke / Hampshire Fungus Recording Group (£4500 = £1500k pa in 2024-26)
DNA analysis of New Forest fungi samples
- Dominic Price / Species Recovery Trust (£8000 = £2000k pa in 2024-27)
Field Gentian monitoring and translocation trials
- Marcus Ward / New Forest Ringing Group (£2500)
Combined GPS and radio tracking of juvenile Hawfinch
- Andy Murdock / Maploom (£3000)
Green Forest Hoverfly survey
- Durwyn Liley / Footprint Ecology (£5000)
Speckled Footman habitat mapping and field surveys
- Trace Cooper-Williams / Hurst & Keyhaven Coastal Nature Reserve Forum (£9100 in 2024-25)
Volunteer equipment, signage, and breeding wader nest protection
- Chris Dieck / RSPB (£5000)
Bechstein's Bat radio-tracking at RSPB Franchises Lodge

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NFBF Small Grant Scheme



- Rolling application window
- Individual grants up to £5000
- Rapid turnaround (hours to days)
- Application details on the Hub

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Matt Roseveare - wildlife photographer and filmmaker



Natural History Showreel 2024

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New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme



£5k additional funding secured from New Forest Trust 'Love the Forest' scheme to support purchase of 2x additional tags for deployment on juvenile Goshawks in summer 2025.

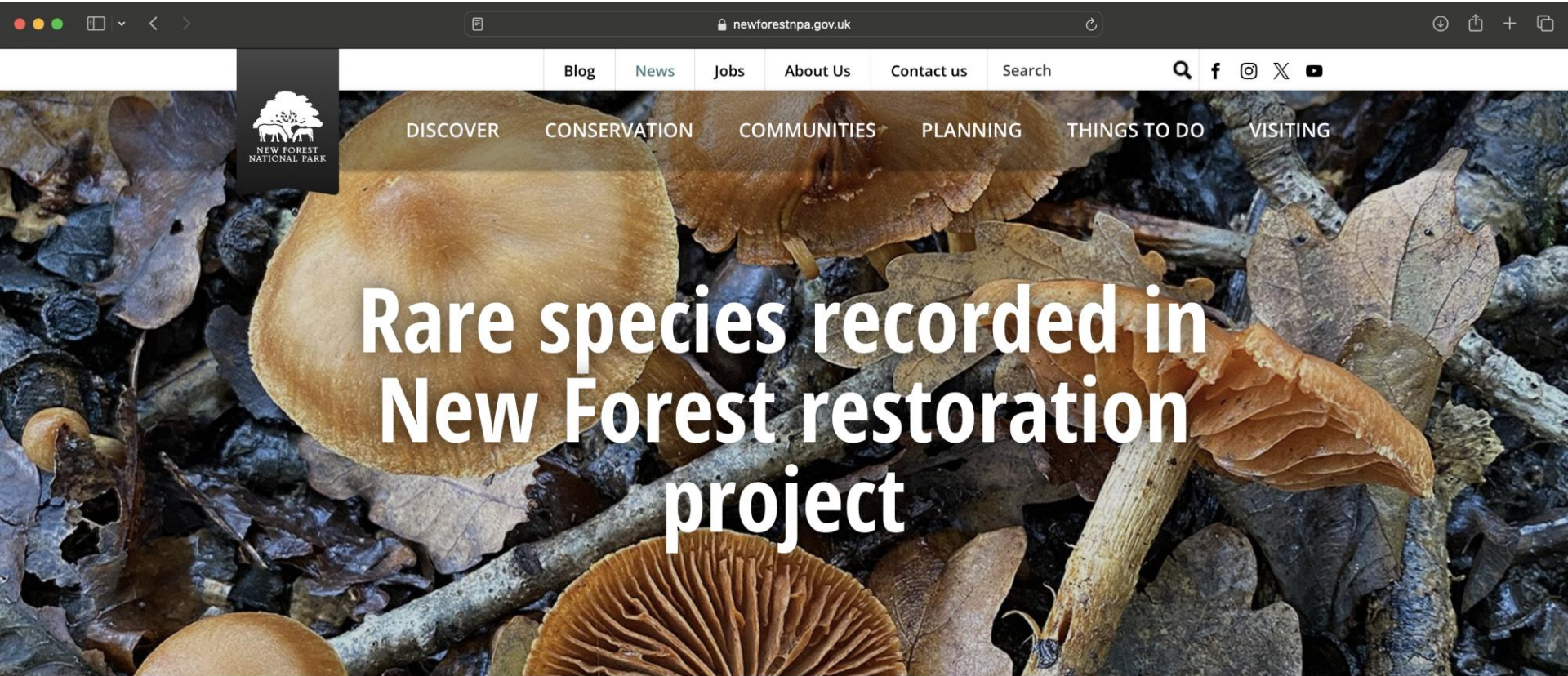
funded by...



lovetheforest

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£42k match-funding for New Forest Species Survival Fund



HOME

RARE SPECIES RECORDED IN NEW FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT

Rare species recorded in New Forest restoration project

PUBLISHED ON: 3 FEBRUARY 2025

Nearly 40 rare species have been recorded in the New Forest during a project to restore areas for nature.



Record numbers of

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New Forest Biodiversity Audit

- Area to be covered = New Forest National Park
- Animals, plants, fungi, and lichens/bryophytes in scope (>20,000 species)
- Footprint Ecology are being commissioned to co-ordinate the project
- Important roles for HBIC and local expert ecologists
- Oversight from NFBF Steering Group
- Output will include species list with identification of priority / flagship species
- Output will also include ecological requirements of species assemblages
- Audit due to commence in summer 2025 with delivery within one year
- Current plan is to provide an annual update to the audit from 2026 onwards

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New Forest Volunteer Ecological Surveyor Programme (VESPA)



- Due to be launched in early April 2025, with an initial focus on the Crown Lands
- VESPA will provide training, guidance, and insurance cover for registered volunteers
- Strategic priorities and Forestry England bioblitz on 26 May 2025 provide initial focus



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Purbeck Natural History Forum



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The Nature of the New Forest - available to purchase here tomorrow!

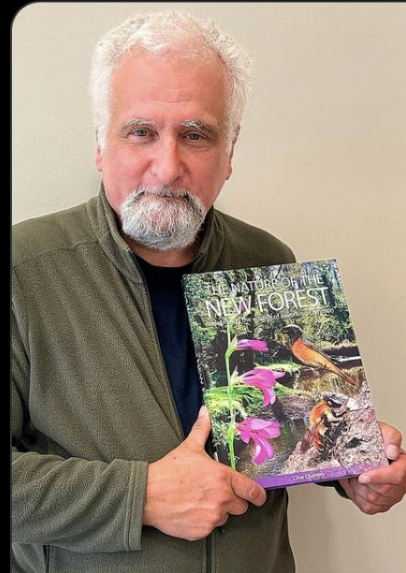
"There is nothing intrinsically special about the New Forest, other than it has survived into the modern age. The wildlife of the Forest which we regard as special was once common-place, today's Forest is a reminder of the potential of lowland landscapes to support extraordinary habitats and species."

Chatters, C. (2024) *The Nature of the New Forest*. Pisces Publications, 312 pp.



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We're excited to have just taken delivery of our new book *The Nature of the New Forest* by Clive Chatters. The author was delighted with the finished book. And It's still on special offer til 31 October - order here bit.ly/3xfrmHcM @HantsIWWildlife @BSBIbotany @amentsoc



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Thanks to...

Sponsors
Steering Group
Conference Support Team
Steve Laycock
Speakers

