

2025 New Forest Biodiversity Conference

04-05 March 2025 @ Careys Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst

Tuesday 04 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

0930: Welcome from the Chair and Sponsors (Russell Wynn and Kate James / Hans Bishop)

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)

1030-1055: Habitats session 1 (1 x 15 min talk and 2 x 5 min flash talks*) Chair: Russell Wynn

- *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)

1055-1110: Panel Q&A

1110-1140: Refreshments

1140-1225: Habitats session 2 (3 x 15 min talks) Chair: **TBC**

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

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

1225-1240: Panel Q&A

1240-1300: Habitats session 3 (1 x 15 min talk and 1 x 5 min flash talk*) Chair: **TBC**

- A socio-ecological study of large herbivores in the New Forest
Alex Theodorou (University of Reading)
- *What New Forest plant species might have smoke stimulated germination and why does it matter?
Green Smith (University of Exeter)

1300-1310: Panel Q&A

1310-1400: Lunch

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

1500-1530: Refreshments

1530-1625: Habitats session 3 (5 x 15 min talks and 2 x 5 min flash talk*) Chair: **TBC**

- 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 - HIWWT sites
Trace Cooper-Williams (HIWWT)
- *Species Survival Fund - ARC sites
Eryn Macdonald (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

1625-1640: Panel Q&A

1640-1700: Habitats session 4 (1 x 15 min talk + 5 mins Q&A) Chair: Russell Wynn

- 2024 review of commoning and farming in the New Forest
Andrew Parry-Norton (Commoners Defence Association)

1700-1830: Networking reception with drinks and nibbles

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Wednesday 05 March

0915-0945: Arrival and refreshments

0945-0950: Welcome from the Chair (Russell Wynn)

0950-1030: Keynote Session on Insects

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

1030-1040: Panel Q&A

1040-1100: Species session 1 (1 x 15 min talk + 5 mins Q&A) Chair: Russell Wynn

- Should there be any sand lizards in the New Forest?
Paul Edgar

1100-1130: Refreshments

1130-1235: Species session 2 (3 x 15 min talks and 4 x 5 min *flash talks) Chair: **TBC**

- Coastal birds at Lymington-Hurst Nature Reserve
Pete Durnell (Hampshire County Council)
- *Keyhaven-Hurst volunteer scheme update
Trace Cooper-Williams (HIWWT)
- New Forest fungi recording in 2024
Eric Janke (HFRG)
- *Field Gentian survey update
Dominic Price pre-recorded (Species Recovery Trust)
- *Green Forest Hoverfly project update
Andy Murdock (Maploom)
- *Speckled Footman project update
Sophie Lake (Footprint Ecology)
- New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme
Andy Page and Tommy Saunders (NFRMP)

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1235-1250: Panel Q&A

1250-1350: Lunch

1350-1440: Workshop 2 - biodiversity and conservation volunteering

1440-1500: Refreshments

1500-1610: Species session 3 (4 x 15 min talks and 2 x 5 min *flash talks) Chair: Russell Wynn

- 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)

1610-1625: Panel Q&A

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

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

New Forest Nature Recovery Senior Adviser, Natural England

Nick Tomalin

New Forest and Purbeck Conservation Officer, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Marcus Ward

Director, Wild New Forest Guided Tours