

New Forest Living Labs

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New Forest Living Labs



- A coordinated program of student-led research projects in the **New Forest National Park**, delivered by undergraduate and MSc students.
- **Students will conduct policy-relevant projects** that have been co-developed with local partner organisations and aligned to the strategic research priorities
- Funded by NFBF Strategic Grant and Small Grant – THANK YOU





Supervision by
university
academic

Networking

Policy-relevant projects aligned
with strategic priorities

Career development

Equipment

Opportunity to work in a
beautiful landscape

Long-term partnerships and
long-term data

Student time

Streamlining and efficiency

Local expertise and advice

Meaningful projects that contribute to tackling the nature crisis

Does sheep wool deter deer from browsing young, regenerating saplings?



Aim: To test the effectiveness of raw sheep wool as a deer browsing deterrent on naturally regenerating tree saplings in New Forest woodlands, comparing browsing rates and sapling growth between wool-treated and control saplings.

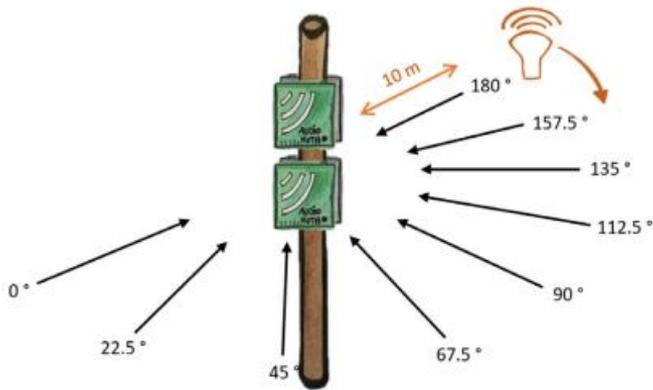
Project partners: Forestry England;
Forest Research





The importance of AudioMoth set-up on bird and bat detectability

Aim: To assess the effect of set-up parameters, e.g., device height, angle and wind direction on species' detectability with passive acoustic monitoring devices.



[Wild New Forest;](#)

[Hampshire Bat Group](#)



How do deadwood characteristics structure fungal communities across ancient woodlands in the New Forest?



Aim: To quantify how deadwood characteristics (type, size, decay stage, and abundance) structure saprotrophic fungal community composition across ancient woodland sites in the New Forest.

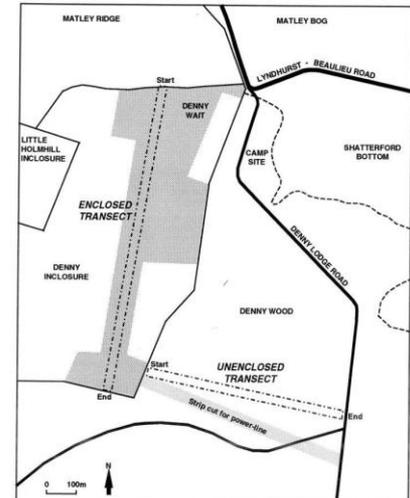
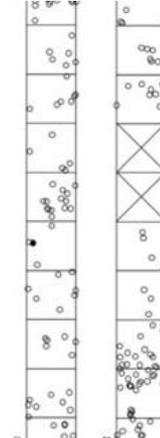
Project partners: [Wild New Forest](#);
[Hampshire Fungus Recording Group](#)



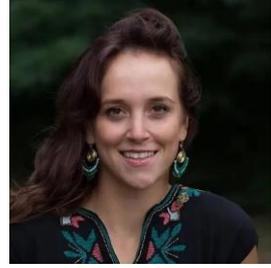


Long-term forest and disturbance dynamics in the Ancient Woodland Denny Wood

Aim: To assess long-term change in growth, mortality and regeneration of trees in Denny Wood, an old-growth wood-pasture in the New Forest (UK) using the [Mountford \(1999\) transect methodology](#)



Unearthing Woodland Carbon: Impacts of Woodland Management on Carbon Pools in the Roydon Woods HIWWT Reserve

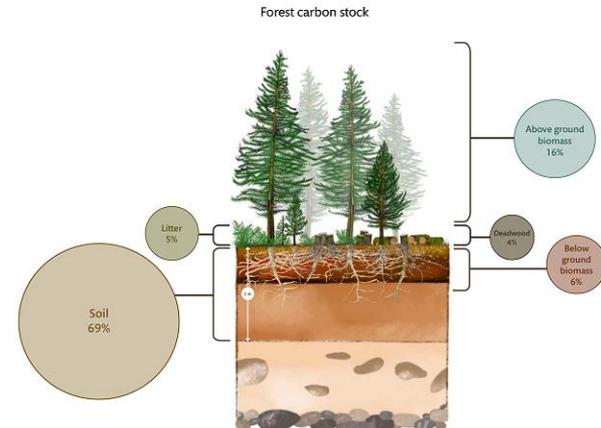


Aim

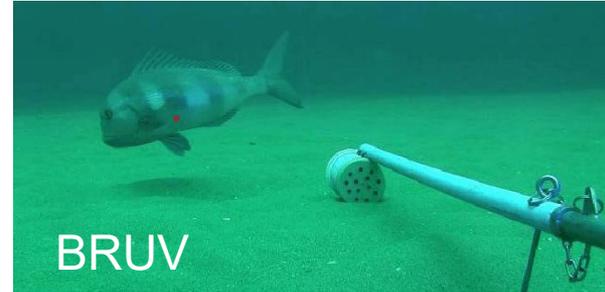
Assess carbon storage across the Roydon Woods HIWWT reserve, an ecologically important Ancient Woodland reserve North of Lymington.



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust



Baseline mapping of native and invasive crayfish in the New Forest



Aim: To map the distribution of native and invasive crayfish across New Forest freshwater systems using baited remote underwater video (BRUV), environmental DNA (eDNA) and GIS analysis, generating baseline evidence to support conservation and biosecurity decision-making.



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust



**Bristol Zoological
Society**



**Forestry
England**

How do Odonata communities in ponds vary in response to dog disturbance?

Aim: To assess whether dog activity in New Forest ponds impacts adult odonata (dragonfly and mayfly) communities, comparing abundance, diversity, and community composition between ponds with high and low dog activity.

Forestry England; VESPA project



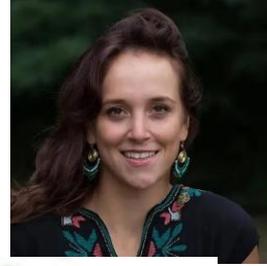
Developing a method to monitor changes in deadwood across New Forest habitats

Aim: To develop and evaluate a practical method for monitoring deadwood in New Forest woodlands.

Forestry England



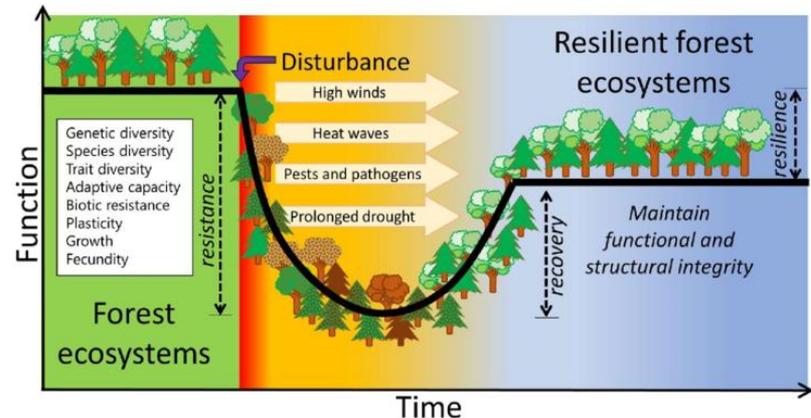
Woodland management impacts on biodiversity and functional resilience of Roydon Woods



Aim: Assess the plant biodiversity and its functional diversity across several management interventions (fencing, coppicing, natural regeneration) in Roydon Wood, and Ancient Woodland.

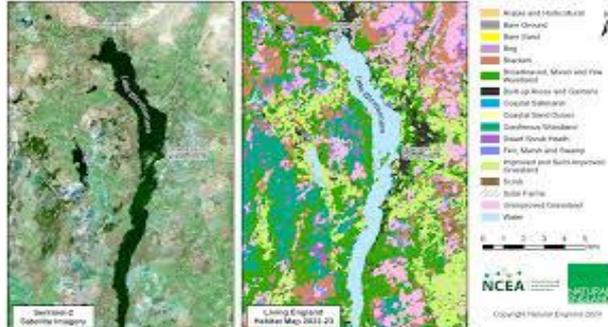


**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
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Mapping New Forest habitat and their dynamics using Earth Observation data

Aim: To map New Forest habitats using Earth Observation(EO) data, evaluate their dynamics and drivers of change from ~ 1990 to 2025.



Next steps

- Student training
- A website: blogposts, YouTube Channel
- Policy briefs summarising project findings

NEXT YEAR...

- New project ideas – please get in touch!
- New topics and methods are welcome
- Make use of our human geograohy, remote sensing and and social scientists

Thank you!

- New Forest Biodiversity Forum
 - Strategic Grant & Small Grant
- Partner organisations
- Russell Wynn, Leanne Sargeant, Suzi Egleston

