

## *New Forest Biodiversity Forum*

# 2025 New Forest Biodiversity Conference

## 04-05 March 2025 @ Careys Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst

### Tuesday 04 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

0930-0935: 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)

1225-1240: Panel Q&A

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

- 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)

1300-1310: 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 – creating pollinator habitats  
Trace Cooper-Williams (HIWWT)
- \*Species Survival Fund - ARC sites  
Eryn Macdonald (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)

1625-1640: Panel Q&A

1640-1710: Habitats session 4 (2 x 15 min talks + 5 mins Q&A) Chair: Russell Wynn

- 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)

1710-1715: Panel Q&A

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)

0935-1015: 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)

1015-1030: Panel Q&A

1030-1100: Species session 1 (2 x 15 min talks) Chair: Russell Wynn

- 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)

1100-1110: Panel Q&A

1110-1140: Refreshments

1140-1245: 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)
- \*Hurst and Keyhaven coastal engagement project 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)

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- New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme  
Andy Page and Tommy Saunders (NFRMP)

1245-1300: Panel Q&A

1300-1350: 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*