

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

2026 New Forest Biodiversity Conference

03-04 March 2026 @ Careys Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst

Indicative timings only; note talk durations vary from 5 to 15 mins (with exception of keynotes)

Tuesday 03 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

0930-0935: Welcome from the Chair and Sponsors

0935-1000: New Forest Biodiversity Forum update (Russell Wynn)

1000-1115: Session 1 - Delivering nature recovery at landscape scale

- 1000-1005: Heathland restoration video
 - *Matt Roseveare (New Forest Biodiversity Forum Associate)*
- 1005-1030: Keynote discussion - Delivering nature recovery in England's forests
 - *Andrew Stringer (Forestry England) and Kate James (Kairos)*
- 1030-1045: HLS habitat restoration work on the New Forest Crown Lands in 2025-26
 - *Suzi Egleston and Rebekah Bisset (Forestry England)*
- 1045-1100: HLS 2025 breeding wader survey
 - *Nigel Matthews (Hampshire Ornithological Society)*
- 1100-1110: HLS 2025 rare invertebrates survey
 - *Russell Wynn (Wild New Forest)*
- 1110-1115: Audience Q&A

1115-1145: Refreshments

1145-1300: Session 2 - Delivering nature recovery through the charity and volunteer sector

- 1145-1215: Keynote speaker: Delivering nature recovery across Hampshire and IoW
 - *Debbie Tann (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)*
- 1215-1225: Hurst & Keyhaven Coastal Nature Reserve Forum
 - *Tracé Cooper-Williams (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)*
- 1225-1235: RSPB Franchises Lodge - 2025 update and 2026 plans
 - *Izzy Williamson (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)*

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

- 1235-1250: Introducing the Purbeck Natural History Forum
 - *Jasper Iepema (Purbeck Ecology) and David Brown (National Trust)*
- 1250-1300: Audience Q&A

1300-1400: Lunch

1400-1500: Session 3 - New Forest Biodiversity Audit

- 1400-1410: Introduction to the New Forest Biodiversity Audit
 - *Chris Panter (Footprint Ecology)*
- 1410-1415: Introduction to the New Forest Biodiversity Audit workshop
 - *Sarah Lewis (Kairos)*
- 1415-1500: New Forest Biodiversity Audit - community engagement workshop

1500-1530: Refreshments

1530-1630: Session 4 - Freshwater species and aquatic pollution

- 1530-1545: New Forest freshwater fish surveys in 2025
 - *Dom Longley (Environment Agency)*
- 1545-1550: Video update on pollution in ponds project
 - *Naomi Ewald (Freshwater Habitats Trust)*
- 1550-1600: Assessing the impact of pollution management on freshwater biodiversity
 - *Gemma Stride (Freshwater Habitats Trust)*
- 1600-1610: Tackling aquatic pollution in the New Forest
 - *Joff Edevane / Alex Finch (Southern Water)*
- 1610-1625: Community engagement around aquatic pollution
 - *Erica Popplewell (River Action)*
- 1625-1630: Audience Q&A on aquatic pollution

1630-1700: Session 5 - Commoning, farming, and equestrian activities

- 1630-1700: Panel Q&A on commoning/farming/equestrian activities
 - *Andrew Parry-Norton (Commoners Defence Association), Lyndsey Stride (Foundation for Common Land), and Amanda Barton (Tilefield Nature CIC), chaired by Hans Bishop (Kairos)*

1700-1800: Networking reception with drinks and nibbles

1800 - 1930: Evening workshop for the VESPA community (by invitation only - details to follow soon)

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

Wednesday 04 March

0900-0930: Arrival and refreshments

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

0935-1115: Session 1 - Delivering nature recovery on private land in the New Forest

- 0935-1005: Keynote speaker - Delivering nature recovery on Bisterne Estate
 - *Rupert Brewer (Bisterne Estate)*
- 1005-1020: New Forest Species Survival Fund - 2025 survey results
 - *Russell Wynn (Wild New Forest)*
- 1020-1030: SSF wetland creation/restoration
 - *Anna-Marie Dennis / Angela Peters (Freshwater Habitats Trust)*
- 1030-1040: SSF herptile habitat creation/restoration
 - *Eryn McDonald (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)*
- 1040-1050: SSF wildflower meadow creation
 - *Tracé Cooper-Williams (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)*
- 1050-1100: Audience Q&A

1100-1140: Refreshments

1140-1300: Session 2 - Updates from NFBF grant-funded projects

- 1140-1150: Introduction to the New Forest Living Lab programme
 - *Becks Spake (University of Southampton)*
- 1150-1205: Smoke stimulation in UK heathland plants
 - *Green Smith (University of Exeter)*
- 1205-1225: The enigmatic Mole - results of Mole-cricket surveys in the New Forest
 - *Paul Brock, Colin Easton, and Howard Inns (Independent)*
- 1225-1235: Bechstein's Bat surveys at RSPB Franchises Lodge in 2025
 - *Chris Dieck (RSPB)*
- 1235-1245: Green Forest Hoverfly Hunt - survey results in 2025
 - *Andy Murdock (Maploom)*
- 1245-1255: Scarlet Malachite Beetle translocation trial
 - *Ian Hughes (Independent)*

New Forest Biodiversity Forum

- 1255-1300: Audience Q&A

1300-1400: Lunch

1400-1500: Session 3 - Managing large herbivores in the New Forest

- 1400-1405: Nurse planting to protect saplings from large herbivores
 - *Alex Theodorou (University of Southampton)*
- 1405-1420: Collaborative Deer Management in the Northern New Forest and Deer impacts in Langley Wood NNR
 - *Jane Nordstrom (ELM Consultancy) and Stuart Hales (NE)*
- 1420-1500: Panel Q&A on deer management
 - *Jane Nordstrom (ELM Consultancy), Stuart Hales (NE), Andy Page (NFBF), Jonathan Spencer (Independent), and Alison Field (Royal Forestry Society)*

1500-1515: Refreshments

1515-1615: Session 4 - Vertebrate surveys and research in the New Forest

- 1515-1530: Tracking Greater Horseshoe Bats in the western New Forest
 - *Colleen Hope (Hampshire Bat Group and Ecological Consultancy Services)*
- 1530-1545: Is the Common Frog likely to remain 'Common' in the New Forest?
 - *Paul Edgar (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)*
- 1545-1555: New Forest Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers - 2025 results update
 - *Paul Bellamy (RSPB) and Ken Smith (Woodpecker Network)*
- 1555-1610: New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme 2025
 - *Andy Page (New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme)*
- 1610-1620: New Forest Raptor Monitoring Programme video
 - *Matt Roseveare (New Forest Biodiversity Forum Associate)*
- 1620-1625: Audience Q&A

1625-1630: Closing remarks from the Chair and Sponsors

1630: Meeting close