

Welcome

The New Forest National Park is truly unique.

It's a 'world capital' for wildlife with a huge diversity of rare plants and animals – one of the reasons why it was made a National Park in 2005.

A place of outstanding natural beauty, the unique landscape is shaped by the grazing of ponies, cattle and pigs that roam freely. These animals may appear wild, but they are owned by people called commoners. This active, working Forest has been managed by people for centuries.

One of the last places in southern England to offer a sense of wildness and tranquillity, it's a wonderful area to explore on foot, horseback, or by bike.

Indeed William the Conqueror, who set aside the 'New Forest' for hunting more than 900 years ago, would probably recognise much of it today.



The famous New Forest ponies

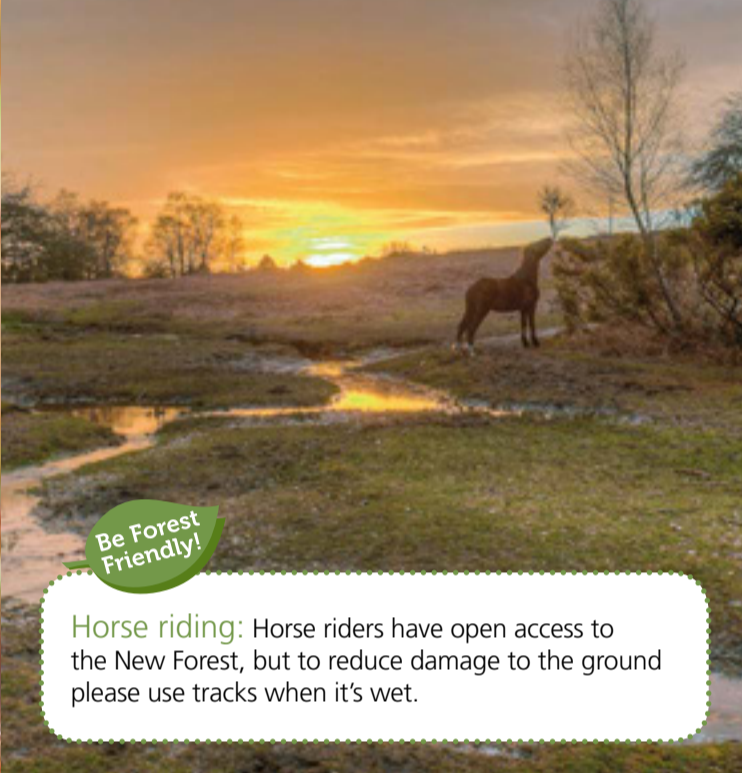
Over **5,000** ponies roam free throughout the open area of the Forest and even in the main streets of some villages such as Brockenhurst and Burley.

Spot the brand marks that show who owns the pony or different tail-clippings indicating in which part of the Forest they belong.

The ponies are known as 'the architects of the Forest' because it is their grazing

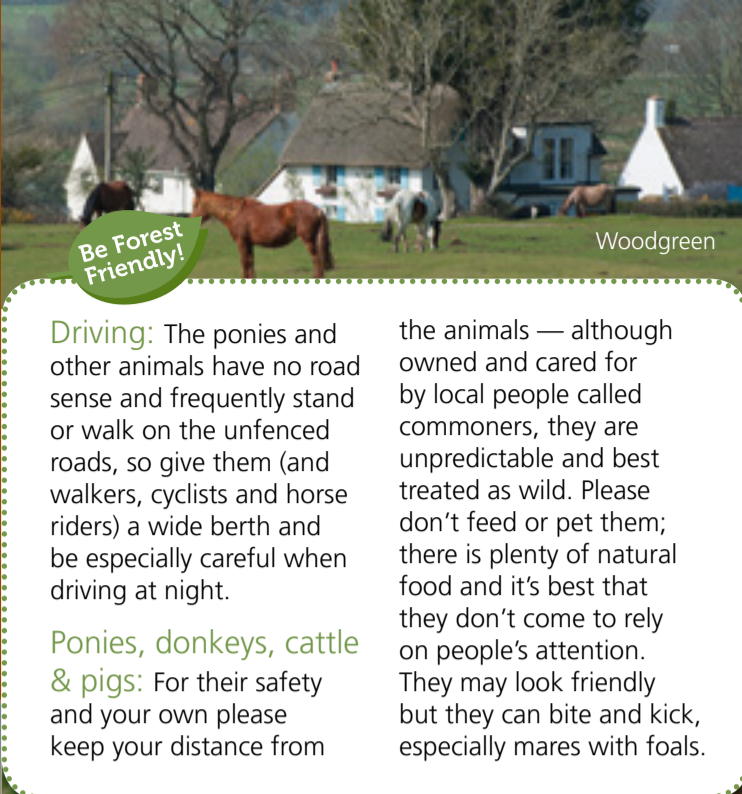
that creates the accessible landscape we all enjoy. Ponies are owned by local people called commoners, who take great pride in their animals – often owning several generations of the same families.

Pony at Rockford Common ©Martin Dolan



Be Forest Friendly!

Horse riding: Horse riders have open access to the New Forest, but to reduce damage to the ground please use tracks when it's wet.



Be Forest Friendly!

Woodgreen

Driving: The ponies and other animals have no road sense and frequently stand or walk on the unfenced roads, so give them (and walkers, cyclists and horse riders) a wide berth and be especially careful when driving at night.

the animals — although owned and cared for by local people called commoners, they are unpredictable and best treated as wild. Please don't feed or pet them; there is plenty of natural food and it's best that they don't come to rely on people's attention. They may look friendly but they can bite and kick, especially mares with foals.

Ponies, donkeys, cattle & pigs: For their safety and your own please keep your distance from



Animals on the road in the New Forest ©Natasha Weyers

The New Forest is one of **15 National Parks** in the UK, each providing precious habitat for wildlife and breathing space for millions of visitors each year.



New Forest National Park Authority

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New Forest National Park

Pocket Guide

FREE MAP!

Find out more newforestnpa.gov.uk



Front cover image ©Stu Meach

Be Forest Friendly!

Follow these simple ways to help keep the New Forest special for future generations to enjoy.

DID YOU KNOW?

Over **700 commoners** turn out thousands of **ponies, cattle, donkeys, sheep and pigs** as part of their traditional 'common rights'

Cycling on Hampton Ridge



Cycling

There are more than 100 miles of waymarked family friendly cycle routes to explore, many of them off-road and traffic free.

The network, managed by the Forestry Commission, is easily accessible from railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Sway and links the main New Forest villages. There are plenty of places to hire bikes during your stay and more than 20 easy-to-follow cycle routes at newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling

Cycling: Cycling is allowed only on the waymarked tracks and other designated routes. When approaching people and animals, call out a warning and pass slowly and wide. Try to leave gaps for overtaking vehicles and never ride more than two abreast. Keep to a safe speed, wear bright colours to be visible and always use lights in the dark.

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Cycling at Keyhaven



Walking

Explore the woods, heathland and coast of the New Forest on 30 easy-to-follow routes.

The online routes finder allows you to search by distance, location or even whether there is a pub near the route! Once you have chosen your preferred route just print off the directions or download the trails to your smartphone for free. newforestnpa.gov.uk/walks

After your walk check your dog and yourself for ticks as they can lead to Lyme Disease.

Join the **New Forest Walking Festival** for over 100 behind the scenes wildlife walks, history hikes and family strolls with local experts. 13 to 28 October, 2018. newforestnpa.gov.uk/walkingfestival

Dog walking near Ashurst



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Birds: To help ground nesting birds rear their young safely, keep yourself, dogs and ridden horses on the main tracks from the beginning of March to the end of July.

Dogs: To minimise disturbance to wildlife, livestock and other people, please keep your dogs close by you and visible at all times – if necessary use

a lead. Pick up after your dog, especially around car parks, on paths and where people play or picnic, and take bagged waste home if there is no litter bin.

Forest management: Take notice of any warning signs and keep a safe distance from work sites. Only pass a vehicle loading timber when told it is safe to do so.

New Forest culture and events

Start your visit at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst.

Find out about Forest life and history in the fascinating museum, enjoy the changing exhibitions, discover all the best things to see and do and buy unusual New Forest gifts in the shop. newforestcentre.org.uk

There are hundreds of exciting events and activities taking place in the New Forest this year, including the three-day New Forest Show in July. For details pick up the Essential Guide visitor newspaper, speak to the rangers, or visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/events

Wild play at Lepe Country Park



FREE ENTRY!



Highland cattle

A taste of the New Forest

Try delicious local produce or handmade crafts bearing the New Forest Marque from local shops, cafés and markets.

newforestmarque.co.uk



Be Forest Friendly!

BBQs and fire: To reduce the risk of damaging wildfires, campfires are not permitted without the landowner's permission. Disposable BBQs are welcome at Bolderwood, Blackwater and Wilverley where stands and water are available. Raised non-disposable BBQs are allowed on the hard-standing areas of car parks,

providing water is available. You can hire fixed-stand party-sized BBQs from the Forestry Commission (**0300 067 4601**) and from Hampshire County Council at Lepe Country Park at www.hants.gov.uk/lepe

Litter: Your food and litter could harm the ponies and donkeys. Please take your litter home if bins are full.

Your New Forest adventure awaits...

Every year, tens of thousands of people choose the best way to get around the National Park – with car-free trips on the New Forest Tour. There are great-value day tickets to ride all day, with discounts at attractions, tempting treats, and audio commentaries revealing secrets of the Forest on some services. Check the map for routes.

Travel Concierge

Meet the New Forest Travel Concierge for advice about exploring the National Park without a car. The service is available at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst railway station from 7 July to 9 September. newforestnpa.gov.uk/travel_concierge

RINGWOOD BREWERY

Come and visit the Ringwood Brewery Shop

(Open: Monday - Saturday 9.30-5pm)

Tours are also available, booking compulsory. Call our Brewery Store on 01425 470303

138 Christchurch Rd, Ringwood BH24 3AP
WWW.RINGWOODBREWERY.CO.UK

New Forest Tour

Enjoy grandstand views from the open-top Tour. Discover three scenic routes around magical landscapes, picture postcard villages and popular attractions, with a commentary to guide you. Hop on and off and switch routes – all on the same ticket. Hourly, every day, 7 July to 9 September. thenewforesttour.info

Hop on the New Forest Tour



Be Forest Friendly!

Fungi: Please leave fungi for other people to enjoy. Fungi are essential to the New Forest's internationally protected ecosystem. Foray leaders must apply for permission for educational excursions from the Forestry Commission in advance. If you suspect or see commercial picking please call the Forestry Commission on **0300 067 4600** or the National Trust on **01425 650035**.

Unidentified objects: Areas of the New Forest were used to test bombs in World War I and II. Please keep away from objects that might be dangerous and notify the police immediately on 999.

DID YOU KNOW?
The New Forest National Park is home to **all six** of the UK's native reptile species

Map Key

- blue route
- green route
- red route

New Forest TOUR
7 July – 9 September

- New Forest National Park
- i Information
- i Railway station
- P Car parking
- M Museum
- A Campsite
- C Caravan site
- P Waymarked footpath

DID YOU KNOW?
Every purebred New Forest pony has a **passport** and a **registered name**

Map for illustrative purposes only. Crown Copyright and Database Right 2018. Ordnance Survey 1000114703.

Parking: To avoid damage and obstruction, please park only in designated car parks, not on a verge or in gateways. Lock your car, taking any valuables with you and leave Forestry Commission car parks by dusk.

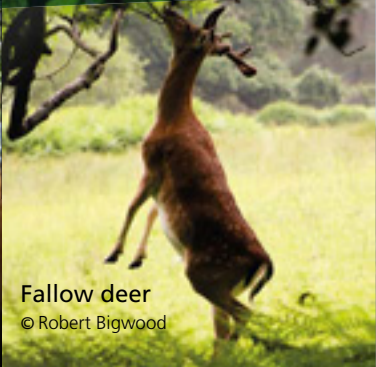
Camping: Please note that camping in the wild and overnight parking is not allowed. There are 10 campsites in the New Forest run by Camping in the Forest, and a number of private sites.

Be Forest Friendly!



DID YOU KNOW?
The New Forest was established by **William the Conqueror** in **1079** as **'Nova Foresta'** ('new hunting ground')

Need somewhere to stay?
Visit thenewforest.co.uk for luxurious spas, family hotels, quaint B&Bs and friendly campsites.



DID YOU KNOW?
The New Forest has the **highest concentration of ancient trees** in Western Europe, with some yew trees believed to be over 1,000 years old

DID YOU KNOW?
Over **2,600** species of fungi have been recorded here



Spectacular seasonal sights

- May: Newborn foals and bluebell carpets
- July: Sun-drenched coastal views from Lepe Country Park
- August: Purple heather in bloom
- November: Free-roaming pigs and autumn colours

