

National Park Access Updates September 2024

Dilton Farm bridleway improvement works

Andy Aitkin from HCC is leading on these works. The contract has been selected and works are due to start in August, slightly delayed due to the contractor's timetable. The NPA is contributing towards these costs using the DEFRA Access For All Fund.

DEFRA Access For All Fund

The surfacing work on the Knightwood Oak trail is complete. The work has included creating a second accessible parking bay and resurfacing the entire track from the accessible parking bays up to the tree and the circular path around the tree. The next phase is to renew the two interpretation boards on the palling fence by the oak itself.

Volunteering

We have appointed a new Volunteer Coordinator as part of the New Routes To Nature project, funded through Heritage Lottery. They will be in post for two years and we will look to extend their post through a larger and longer heritage lottery bid in the coming years.

National Grid Landscape Enhancement Project

We have installed fifteen oak signposts along the Landford and Hamptworth walking route. Further nature recovery work on the Cadland estate is planned for the Autumn Months.

There is no news yet on the Breamore Railway bid but we are still very hopeful of an offer. The plan is to upgrade the route into a public bridleway and create an access and wildlife corridor at the edge of the National Park. This is a three-year project, and the funding will employ a part time officer to co-ordinate the project and seek other potential projects.

England Coast Path

Discussions continue with Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and other access authorities about establishing a Trail Partnership. The working title is the Solent to Sussex Trail Partnership and will cover an area from Dorset to Brighton. By forming a trail partnership, we are eligible for a larger maintenance grant from Natural England.

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