

Forestry England update

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Ground-nesting bird surveys - working with over 100 volunteers from Hampshire Ornithological Society to carry out a new survey looking at Woodlark numbers across 291 one-kilometer squares across the New Forest, including in those areas that are being restored from conifer plantations back to heathland.



We planted almost 10,000 native trees in the New Forest this planting season, including 6,000 young oak trees.

These species have been specifically chosen to support wildlife including butterflies, invertebrates and bird species.

This planting is part of a long-term plan to restore 4,500 hectares of native woodlands here in the New Forest, which can thrive despite changes in climate and provide vital homes for wildlife.



Pine Marten survey – beginning our fourth year of this work with Wild New Forest. Collecting DNA samples to help understand the size and origins of the population.



Our Open Forest team have worked in 11 different woodlands this spring to cut back dense holly growing alongside ancient trees to ensure lichens have enough light to thrive. These are key indicators of clean air, provide a home for insects and nesting materials for birds.

Bracken removal - over 32 cubic tonnes of bracken has been cut and removed over recent months - ensuring enough space and light for other species and to support habitats for rare ground-nesting birds and reptiles. The cut bracken is composted and sold to a local garden centre and horticulture organisations to use on their splendid gardens.



Despite an incredibly wet winter and spring we have now been able to start in earnest car park and trail repairs. We have completed over 30 of our 130 car parks and used 190 tonnes of gravel so far - it's a big job.

We have also been improving tracks including the one at the Tall Tree Trail to make this accessible for all users. At a cost of £50k for just one trail this is a significant call on our limited resources, and we've sought additional funding to support this work.



Our keeper and ranger teams have been busy inspecting vital fencelines and our team of craftspeople are making good progress with essential repairs and improvements. This includes 2 miles of fencing and gates recently upgraded along an Inclosure fence line in Burley, with more to come. This work support commoners in managing their livestock.

Bridges - with over 284 bridges to look after this is a major demand on resources and our team is systematically approaching this. We recently rebuilt the longest bridge in the Forest at Puttles Bridge using 33m of timber and 540 screws!



Growing the Future

Higher Level Stewardship

An important agreement with Natural England, held by the Verderers and managed by them in partnership with Forestry England and the New Forest National Park Authority.





57.1 hectares of birch and pine regrowth has been removed from thrown-open Inclosures at Knightwood, Woossons Hill, Fawley, Marchwood and Dunces Arch

26.6 hectares of heathland restored at Dunces Arch, Ravensnest, Turf Hill/Millersford and Dur Hill.



17.94 hectares of Rhododendron treated and removed across 12 sites at Burley (South Oakley, Cranes Moor, Dur Hill, Old House, Vales Moor, Vereley, Common Moor) and Brockenhurst (Aldridgehill, Ober Heath, Black Knowl, Ferny Knapp, Fletchers Thorns)

Winter cut and burn programme treated 11.87 hectares across four sites: Vereley, Turf Croft/Common Moor, Mouses Cupboard/Old House, Dur Hill.



4.81 hectares of lost lawns restored at Balmer Lawn, Tantany Wood, and Stricknage.

The HLS wetland restoration programme continues - over the next two - three months contractors will be returning to sites that were previously worked, to repair small parts of forest streams and mires.

This work aims to maintain the watercourses and help to make sure streams and the surrounding habitats are more resilient in both winter floods and summer droughts.

Sites include, Shirley Holms, Penny Moor, Anses Wood, Hawkhill mire, Rans Wood/Furzey Lodge mire and Ravensnest Inclosure.

