
Update on behalf of Forestry England (South District) December 2025

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Recreation Manager, New Forest





A busy year

- 40 bridges repaired
- Improved 42kms of forest tracks
- Maintenance work at 85 car parks using 650 tonnes of gravel
- Repaired 43kms of fencing
- Restoration work on 145 hectares of heathland
- Improved 15 hectares of wetland habitat
- Safety inspections along 1,183km of tracks and roads
- Over 5,000 hours of ranger patrols and activity



Ranger recruitment

- 4 seasonal ranger vacancies filled
- 2 posts have come from our shadow ranger scheme

Fly-tipping

- Continues to be a major issue. This year our staff have spent over 100 hours clearing 226 fly tips
- Working with NFDC enforcement team to provide evidence and support action



Animal & road safety

- Supported Operation Mountie exercises to promote animal safety on Forest roads
- Working with partners on continuing to raise public awareness of this issue
- New Forest Drive Safe campaign - please encourage businesses and local organisations to sign up
 - Visit the New Forest Commoners Defence Association website for more information



Community engagement

- Monthly walks in partnership - led by Forestry England and local police.
- Dog engagement events with NFDORG & supporting their dog fowling campaign.
- This year our volunteers have given 5,000+ hours to support our work
- Volunteer led conservation averaging 2 projects a week. Include managing ride edges to support butterflies and protecting heritage sites.
- Ranger team working with Oak Lodge School on student volunteering.



Heathland restoration

- North Sluifers clearance of mature Scots pine over on heathland and valley mire habitat
- Matley Bog clearance of mature Scots pine from important bog habitat
- Milkham restoration of heathland by removal of forestry drains and stumps
- Woodland restoration at Woosons Hill encouraging natural regeneration of native tree species
- Winter works planned at North Sluifers, Milkham, Highland Water & Ipley



Open Forest

- Bracken cut at 53 locations (65.4 hectares)
- Clearing self-sown trees from previously restored heathlands - targeting around 100 hectares with further works planned in the new year.
- Creating fire breaks at 197 locations - work will continue over the winter
- This winter we will continue our holly coppicing/pollarding work to improve the habitat for key lichen species.

Car Parking - work to date



Detailed discussions with statutory bodies to inform and consent

- Natural England
- Verderers - signage and verge protection works
- National Park Authority

Sessions to engage key landowners

- NT, HCC, NFDC, Parish Councils (Quadrants), Consultative Panel

Public announcement

- Details of the scheme and how it will work

Achieving minimal visual impact AND enforcement

Bespoke - major dispensation agreed with the British Parking Association

- Fewer numbers of signs
- Half the numbers usually applied
- Smaller dimensions & less prominent placement
- Less text

Limited footprint

- Pay by mobile reducing the need for pay machines & equipment
- Membership



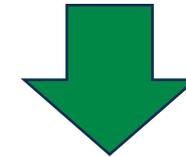
- 302 signs across 129 car parks
- An average of 2 signs per car park



- 151 using existing sign locations
- 150 new sign locations



- New signage locations
- 106 on gravel
 - 45 remaining



- All 45 replacing existing infrastructure

- 24 cashless pay machines in 16 car parks
- Can only be deployed where signal is strong enough
- All located on gravel
- Solar powered



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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bolderwood (3)• Bolton's Bench• Bolton's Queens• Bolton's Cricket• Brock Hill• Burley (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burley Cricket• Dibden Inclosure (2)• Horseshoe Bottom• Linford Bottom (2)• Moonhills (2)• Picket Post | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reptile Centre• Stoney Cross (2)• Whitemoor Pond• Wilverley Inclosure (2) |
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Enforceable approach to irresponsible parking

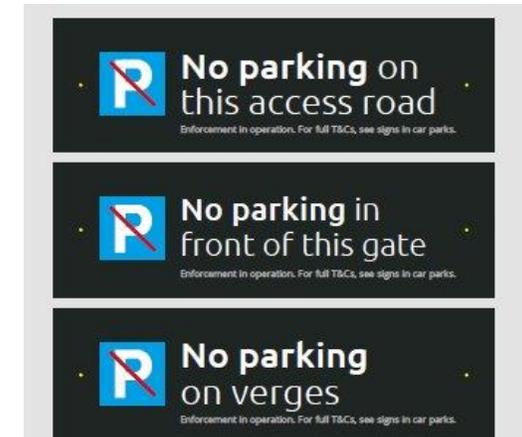
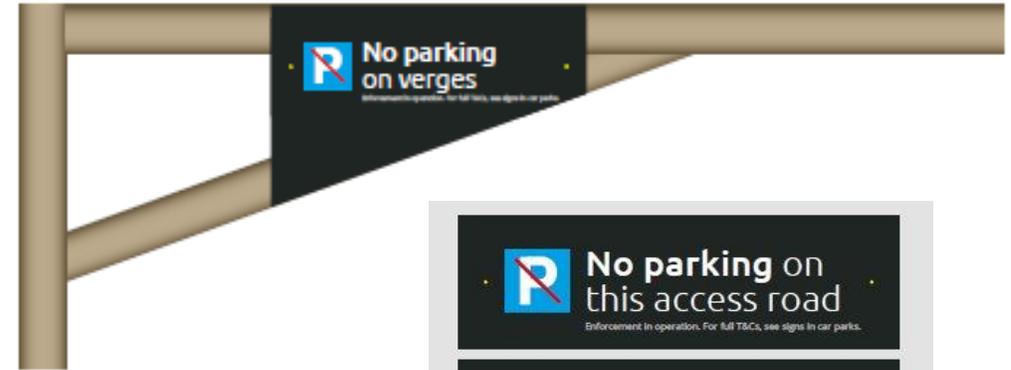
- Overnight parking
- Parking in bellmouths and gateways
- Access blocking
- **Signage is key to being able to enforce**

Greater verge protection

- Greater enforcement
- Gateway signage into the New Forest

A direct dialogue

- Membership creates a direct connection for education and engagement.



- Risk assessment - identified hot spots
- Works prior to the start of charging
- 16 kms of works - dragon's teeth or ditch & bank
- Works being carried out in collaboration with the Verderers



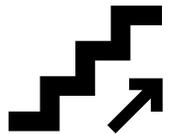
Substantive monitoring commitment



- Transects monitoring including on neighbouring designated land



- Identify areas for additional targeted mitigation based on monitoring data



- Clear escalation path for physical interventions within 12 weeks

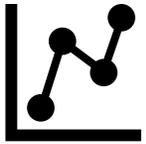


- Identify need for additional access points/access tracks needing no parking signage and enforcement

Verge protection - neighbouring land



- Parking Team to include monitoring verge parking on designated neighbouring land as a core responsibility



- Data will inform the escalation of designated locations for engagement with neighbouring landowners
- monthly reviews



- Providing support
 - Sharing resources - monitoring data, education & communications, advice on preventative measures & signage.
 - Support for owners of neighbouring designated land for targeted mitigation.



Forestry England

Thank you