

New Forest Water Code

The New Forest is one of the best and most important
Freshwater Areas and coastal landscapes in the UK



The New Forest supports:
30%
of England's
threatened
freshwater
species



The New Forest
wetland landscape
from source to sea is
ancient, fragile and
pristine and bursting
with rare wildlife

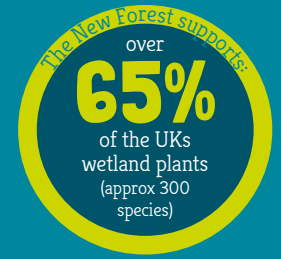
Follow the Water Code to help protect the special wildlife that lives here

The New Forest Water Code

When visiting or staying in the New Forest, please follow the code for a water and wildlife friendly visit.



The New Forest is world famous for its wetland wildlife, from source to sea, the ponds and bogs, rivers and streams, mudflats and saltmarshes - are all extremely special. Many are designated under the Ramsar convention as 'Wetlands of International Importance' due to their biodiversity and uniqueness.



Clean Water for Wildlife

New Forest wetland wildlife relies on clean unpolluted water. Litter, plastic pollution, human and pet excrement and waste water of any kind can change soil and water quality for the worse as well as pose a serious risk to human health. Follow the simple code to help keep waters clean:

LEAVE NO TRACE

Use local toilet facilities, take pet waste home or find the nearest suitable bin for all your waste needs.

USE SUITABLE FACILITIES

Use suitable facilities for the disposal of waste water - never tip washing up water or other waste water (even tap water) on to vegetation, or into ditches or other water bodies.

CHECK, CLEAN AND DRY

Tents, fishing kit, SUPs, canoes and footwear are just some of the equipment that can carry invasive species, pests and diseases from the last place you visited. Clean kit is essential - follow the check, clean and dry method to prevent the spread.

Of all the lowland bogs and valley mires found in North West Europe **75%** are found in the New Forest

Space for Nature

New Forest wetland wildlife, inland and along the coast, relies on space to breed, nest and feed undisturbed. Follow the simple code to prevent disturbance and give wildlife a chance to thrive:



RIGHT ACTIVITY, RIGHT PLACE

Paddle sports and swimming are not allowed everywhere - check where to go and enjoy these activities at designated locations and outdoor activity centres. Please follow instructions on signs and posters.

STICK TO THE PITCH

Wild camping and overnight parking are not permitted in the New Forest. Camp and caravan only at a permitted site with suitable facilities to meet your needs.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Access the Forest and coast in a responsible way - keep your dog under effective control - if necessary use a lead. Stick to the tracks and designated routes whether you're on foot, bike or horse.

The New Forest supports over **30%** of the UK's freshwater invertebrate species (approx 400 species)

LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND AND TAKE NOTHING AWAY EXCEPT FOR A LOVE OF THE FOREST

Wonderful Wetlands

The New Forest wetlands are living breathing ecosystems, supporting biodiverse plant and wildlife communities, storing carbon, a vital part of the water cycle and contributing to clean air and water.

What special wetland plants live here in the New Forest?

The New Forest is famous for its collection of very rare wetland plants. With all three native carnivorous plants, the only native aquatic fern - pilwort and the ancient marsh clubmoss, these species are some of the UK's rarest and most beautiful plants. Along the coast, plants are specially adapted to the rising and falling tides and contain species only found in a few locations across the UK.

What important birds use the inland and coastal wetland areas of the New Forest?

Curlew, lapwing, oystercatcher, ringed plover, redshank, gulls and terns are some of the very important populations of wading and ground nesting birds supported by the wet habitats of the New Forest. These birds feed in shallow waters and nest on the ground in a variety of habitats from single beaches to heathlands. Organisations in the New Forest are working hard to protect these birds, restoring habitats, monitoring populations and ensuring that disturbance to these sensitive birds are limited.

What other unique wildlife depends upon the New Forest wetlands:

Tadpole shrimps an ancient crustacean, medicinal leeches, the elusive southern damselfly, brook lamprey, European eel, and great crested newts, are among some of the wildlife that is dependent on clean unpolluted water. Organisations monitoring water quality have found that an amazing 74% of freshwaters sampled in the New Forest had no evidence of pollution.

Freshwater Habitats Trust are dedicated to protecting the internationally important wetlands of the New Forest. With our Water Code, visitors can learn how to become water and wildlife friendly by ensuring their actions are safeguarding clean water for wildlife, and space for nature.

To find out more visit www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

