

NEW FOREST WATERNEWS

NEW FOREST CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

The New Forest Catchment Partnership is coordinated by the New Forest National Park Authority and Freshwater Habitats Trust who are working alongside other organisations and communities to protect and improve the special freshwater habitats of the New Forest. This newsletter showcases the work of those who are committed to improving the freshwater environment of the New Forest

Sep 17 (Issue: 4)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Rare Triops Hatches	1
Reviving Hampshire Community Ponds	2
Catchment Sensitive Farming comes to New Forest	3
Meet the Land Advice Service	3
New Forest Water Wildlife Month	4/5
Introducing a New Catchment Coordinator	6
Volunteering Opportunities and Events	7

RARE TADPOLE SHRIMP HATCH THANKS TO WET SUMMER



Meet a crustacean that's been around since the dinosaurs

I'm not sure there are enough superlatives to adequately describe the Tadpole Shrimp (*Triops cancriformis*). Suffice to say, here at Freshwater Habitats Trust, we love it.

It's considered to be one of the oldest extant species on Earth. Fossils of almost identical creatures date back 200 million years! Not only is it capable of surviving long drought periods, it actually needs ponds to dry out in between years in order to trigger hatching. Populations of predators and competitors can't build up in temporary ponds the way they can in permanent ponds, and the fresh rainwater and turnover of nutrients in the traditionally grazed sites where they occur make just the right cocktail for them to thrive. To survive the droughts, Tadpole Shrimps lay eggs that can lie dormant in the sediment for years until the right conditions return – usually a warm, wet spell.

Tadpole shrimps are known from just two sites in the UK: Caerlaverock on the Solway Firth, and the New Forest. They are a protected species and require a licence from Natural England in order to net them, handle them or remove them or their eggs from the site.

The primary New Forest site is a part of the Flagship Pond Project, as one of 70 of the best of the best ponds across England and Wales. This primary site is

managed by the Forestry Commission and monitored by Kirsty, a local resident who visits the pond every week to check how things are going. She tracks water levels, measures water chemistry and temperature, looks for Tadpole Shrimps and Fairy Shrimps (yes, Fairy Shrimps too – it's an amazing place), and raises the alarm if she spots anything untoward, keeping a particularly close eye on any signs of pollution, and invasive non-native plants like New Zealand Pigmyweed *Crassula helmsii*. Kirsty is supported by New Forest pond expert, Dr Naomi Ewald, backed by Francesca Dunn, our regional officer for the Flagship Pond project. Kirsty has been watching the pond for several years, and was beside herself with joy when she spotted the Tadpole Shrimps this summer. It has been several years since they have last been seen. Although people have recorded Tadpole Shrimp at the pond over many years this was on a very ad-hoc basis. With Kirsty now on the case, we are getting some really good continuous data on the pond.

Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Flagship Pond project brings support and resources to people caring for these special places.

By Becca Williams
Freshwater Habitats Trust

www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Tadpole Shrimp are known by the latin name Triops cancriformis. The name Triops comes from the Greek τρία (tría) meaning "three" and ὤψ (ops) meaning "eye". It's name refers to it's naupliar ocellus, a 'simple eye' that sits just above two multi-lensed compound eyes.



© Neil Phillips

REVIVING HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY PONDS

News from a neighbour

The Reviving Hampshire's Community Ponds project run by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is championing community ponds across Hampshire. We're working to promote, improve and celebrate ponds in Hampshire.

Working with volunteers and communities we're creating an online map of ponds, an exhibition and project book to celebrating how important ponds are to people and communities as well as to wildlife. We're running lots of exciting events from pond dipping to (responsible) duck feeding, and inviting volunteers to get involved in surveying and recording their local ponds, and to making a practical difference through hands on volunteering sessions.

This Autumn and Winter we'll be renovating leaky ponds, replacing decaying access platforms and removing bucketloads of Parrot's Feather, as well as more routine habitat management work. We're also available to support landowners and community organisations that are managing ponds with advice, training and practical support.

For more information on how to get involved please see our website at www.tcv.org.uk/se/hampshire-ponds or



Volunteers undertaking pond clearance

contact Katy Roberts on 02380 402 593 or hampshire-ponds@tcv.org.uk

TCV's Reviving Hampshire's Community Ponds Project is funded through a grant of £83,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The project runs until April 2018.

By Katy Roberts
The Conservation Volunteers

Ponds in Hampshire are essential for wildlife and are very important to local communities



Two keen volunteers pond dipping at their local community pond

WHAT CAN THE CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING PROGRAMME OFFER YOU?

A free advice service available to help farms reduce their impact on the freshwater environment

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a free farming advice scheme set up 10 years ago by Natural England, to help reduce diffuse surface and ground water pollution from agriculture. Its goal is to assist in meeting the Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets of achieving “good” ecological and chemical status for all water bodies. CSF has steadily grown over time to address the increasing number of priority catchments. Last year the New Forest became the latest catchment added to CSF’s list of priorities. To achieve CSF water objectives in the New Forest, CSF are working collaboratively with partners to deliver our services and support to the agricultural community.

Catchment Sensitive Farming offers many free advice services:

CSF Officer (CSFO) visit:

You can organise a visit from your CSFO who can visit a farms and provide advice on how to improve current farm practices to reduce water pollution.

Assistance and support with Countryside Stewardship (CS) Water Capital grant scheme:

CFS provides support and advice to farms applying for mid-tier CS to improve water quality, biodiversity and to reduce flood risk. Your CSFO can provide reassurance and advice when applying to CS as well as the endorsement of mid-tier applications, which can help increase the chance of success for holdings targeted for water quality improvements.

Training opportunities and 1:1 specialist advice:

CSF can help provide specialist advice on various topics through the Farm Advice Framework (FAF), providing clear, accurate and targeted advice and information to farms on sustainable land management. Though 1:1 visits from experts, specialised advice tailored to a farm on how to improve efficiencies, how best to meet CS requirements for capital grants, as well as

training on machinery calibration. Topics include:

- ◆ Nutrient management
- ◆ Farm infrastructure audit
- ◆ Slurry/manure handling and storage
- ◆ Water management
- ◆ Machinery testing and calibration
- ◆ Soil husbandry and analysis
- ◆ Slurry/manure sampling

To attain more information and to organise a visit from your local CSF Officer Dean Mason, please contact:

Dean.Mason@naturalengland.org.uk
Or call 02082 247933

By Dean Mason
Natural England

MEET THE NEW FOREST LAND ADVICE SERVICE

An independent service for the land managing community

The New Forest Land Advice Service, a partnership between the New Forest National Park, Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust and the Verderers of the New Forest, offers free, independent advice to farmers, commoners, landowners and equine owners in and around the New Forest.

Julie, Rhys and Tracé are conservation biologists and land management advisors bringing together a range of skills and expertise and are able to carry out land management advice visits, help you apply for any grants available for enhancements on your land and help you understand and adhere to the land based regulations and paperwork eg Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and Cross Compliance. They also run a programme of rural skills training courses aimed at land managers.

The advisors are involved in advising on a wide range of topics, including working to improve the quality of the freshwater environment, and have assisted several New

Forest farmers and commoners to access grants for capital works through, for example Countryside Stewardship, which help to reduce pollution of rivers and streams. If you would like some advice from

the New Forest Land Advice Service please email them at

enquiries@nflandadvice.org.uk

or phone Julie on 01590 646696.

By Julie Melin-Stubbs
Land Advice Service



New Forest Land Advice Service Team

NEW FOREST WATER WILDLIFE MONTH

A month of events to celebrate the outstanding freshwater wildlife of the New Forest



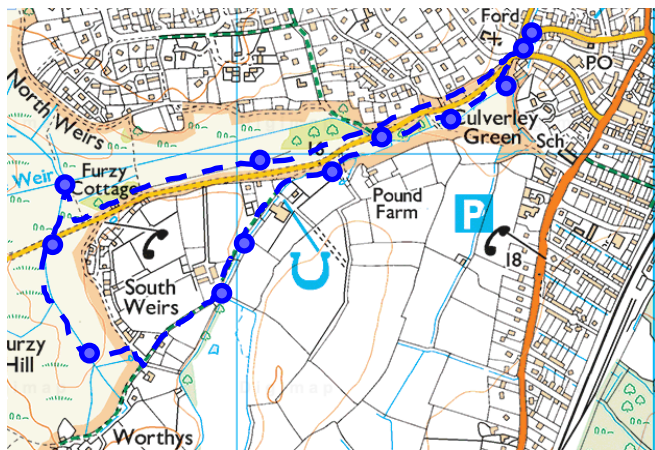
To celebrate the outstanding freshwater wildlife of the New Forest, the Freshwater Habitats Trust held a Water Wildlife Month. Events were held on weekends throughout the month, allowing people to learn about and interact with their local ponds, rivers & streams. The events also offered people the chance to take part in current scientific research on water quality and important conservation work to protect some of the Forest's rarest wetland plants and animals.



Avon Water Blitz

Above: Water samples collected from ponds, streams & ditches along the Avon Water.

Left: Clean water quick kits were then used on the collected water samples to measure the water quality, in particular nutrient pollution. Lots of lovely clean unpolluted water found! Great news for freshwater wildlife.



Brockenhurst Water Blitz

Above & right : Guided walk around Brockenhurst gathering and testing water samples of the many ponds, streams and ditches to find clean unpolluted water.

Bottom right: Clean Water quick kits all showed no evidence of nutrient pollution. A welcome and slightly unexpected results for freshwaters around an urban area.



THE NEW FOREST WATER WILDLIFE MONTH

Volunteers helped us to survey many of the New Forest's most vulnerable wetland plants and animals



Rare Species Surveys

Left: Searching for the rare plant Tubular Water-Dropwort (*below*), know at only one location in the New Forest.



Above: Project Officer, Francesca Dunn, and volunteers checking a very special pond for Triops, an incredibly rare and fascinating crustacean. Thanks to the wet summer Triops hatched and was found this year. Read article on page 3 for more information on this fascinating species.



Above: Volunteers undertook surveys for Pillwort, a rare aquatic fern. At first glance it appears more like a grass than a fern but it's uncurling fronds tell a different story. Due to land management and plentiful temporary ponds, the New Forest remains a stronghold for this plant.

Left: Volunteers searched for Coral Necklace, a rare creeping plant that gets its name from the light petals that grow along its stems like branches of coral. It is also a temporary pond specialist



NEW CATCHMENT COORDINATOR



Catherine Patel

Catherine Patel has been the Catchment Coordinator for many years. She helped the partnership achieve so much across the New Forest and will be sorely missed as she takes on a new position at the Environment Agency.

What was your favourite part of the job?

The people! Working with such lovely, dedicated and enthusiastic people.

Do you have a favourite freshwater place?

There's too much choice, but I do love the tranquillity, and particularly how even large

animals can wander relatively freely. When you work or live in the Forest it's easy to take it for granted, but when you move away you realise what a special area it is for many reasons.

Welcoming Sam to the team

The New Forest Catchment Partnership welcomes Sam Orchard to the team as he steps in as the new Catchment Coordinator.

A huge thank you to Catherine!

TUNE IN TO A NEW VIDEO BLOG

Monitoring river restorations



The New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme is restoring miles of straightened streams to their natural meanders. You can now tune into monitoring officer Gemma Stride's new VLOG (video blog) to find out how these large river restoration projects are monitored to ensure they are working well for wildlife.

W: www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/hls/news/article/29/vlog_monitoring_wetland_restoration



EVENTS

13/09/17 (9:30-15:00) - Nitrate Vulnerable Zone Cross Compliance Refresher (New Forest Land Advice Service)

A 1 day refresher course on Nitrate Vulnerable Zone & Cross Compliance

W: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nitrate-vulnerable-zone-cross-compliance-refresher-tickets-36480190231

28/09/17 (11:00-15:30) - Working Together for Water & Wildlife; New Forest Wildlife Forum

An event to celebrate the outstanding freshwater wildlife of the New Forest and to show the great work the New Forest Catchment Partnership have been doing to protect it.

W: www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/news/wildlife-forum-event/

W: www.newforestnpa.gov

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

New Forest Water Blitz (Freshwater Habitats Trust)

Use quick kits to measure the levels of nutrient pollution in your local freshwater habitats. Help to discover amazing freshwater habitats that are free from pollution and great for wildlife.

W: freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/new-forest-water-blitz

E: hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Stop the spread of non-native plants (Wildlife Trust)

Join a work party to help to stop the spread of Himalayan Balsam. For more information please contact Catherine Chatters.

E: Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk

Flagship site volunteer (Freshwater Habitats Trust)

Can you help to monitor rare freshwater plants or animals? To sign up or to find out more information please email Francesca Dunn

E: fdunn@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Our Past, Our Future (New Forest National Park Authority)

Volunteer for a variety of activities across the National Park, including wildlife surveys and practical conservation tasks.

W: <https://goo.gl/HWRxTS>

E: richard.austin@newforestnpa.gov.uk



© Louis Grant

Why not volunteer and discover more about the fantastic freshwaters of the New Forest

SUBSCRIBE

Why not subscribe to make sure you don't miss the latest news from the New Forest Catchment and to receive the quarterly newsletter.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS

Do you have some news we should know about? Is your work benefiting the freshwater landscape of the New Forest?

To subscribe or send in your news please email Hannah at hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

THE NEW FOREST CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

The partnership is a group of organisations that are working with local communities to protect and improve the outstanding freshwater environment of the New Forest.

W: freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/catchment-projects

E: hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Key partners include:



SUPPORTED BY

