

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.

Issue 3.1

A special edition

Take part to discover, learn about, protect and celebrate the extraordinary freshwaters of the New Forest

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NEW FOREST WATER WILDLIFE MONTH

A month of events celebrating the extraordinary ponds, rivers and streams of the New Forest



The New Forest is an iconic landscape; the heather, the great oaks and the ponies - but did you know that it's a stand out place for freshwater plants and animals too?

This July the Freshwater Habitats Trust are holding a month of events to celebrate the outstanding ponds, rivers and streams of the New Forest and the amazing plants and animals they contain. Join in to explore some of the best freshwater habitats in the country.

Come and explore the Flagship ponds. These are some of the best of the best ponds in England and Wales, known to support rare plants and animals. This includes animals such as the elusive Fairy Shrimp, crustaceans that burst to life as the ponds fill with water, or the vibrant aquatic fern, Pillwort.

These species along with so many more are what make these ponds truly extraordinary.

Throughout the month you can also take part in current scientific research by using quick kits to test local ponds, ditches and streams to find clean water gems, places that are free from pollution and fantastic for freshwater life. You will also have the opportunity to learn new surveying skills and immediately put them to use by surveying rare plants and animals as part of the national PondNet project.

Events are running every weekend throughout July and are open to all. Find more information within this special edition of Water News or visit the Freshwater Habitat Trust website to find out more information.

2nd July - 5th August



#NewForest WaterMonth

A month of events exploring the freshwater wildlife of the New Forest

Volunteers surveying for Pillwort, a small aquatic fern. Pillwort is a remarkable fern that thrives along muddy pond margins where animals graze and come to drink. It has remained almost unchanged in the fossil record and it is also a useful indicator of the health of waterbodies as it is very sensitive to water pollution.

THE NEW FOREST WATER WILDLIFE MONTH

Find out what events are happening this July



You must book if you want to attend any of these **free** events. To book please email Jo at info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk or call **01865 595505**

Sunday 16th July

Avon Waters Blitz (10am - 12pm)

Blashford

Tag along on a two hour walk to test many of the ponds, streams and ditches along the Avon Water, using quick and simple clean water test kits. Clean, unpolluted, water is vital for freshwater life and supports rich and diverse communities of plants and animals. Come along and help to find clean water gems, while learning about the importance of good water quality for freshwater life.

Brockenhurst Water Blitz (2pm - 4pm)

Brockenhurst

Join a two hour circuit walk around some very special local ponds to Brockenhurst. Help to gather information about the ponds and streams in the area using quick and simple test kits to measure water pollution. Bring lunch for a picnic on the way or make use of the shortcuts back to Brockenhurst for a shorter walk, and a quicker route to a pub lunch.



The New Forest is one of the last remaining strongholds for Pond Mud Snail

Saturday 22nd July

PondNet Pond Mud Snail Survey (10am - 12pm)

Beaulieu

Learn how to identify this rare wetland snail, then head out and undertake surveys at some of the last remaining ponds known to be home to Pond Mud Snail. The New Forest is one of the remaining strongholds for this snail. In 2014 ten new sites were found. Come along and let's see if we can find anymore.



Volunteer surveying for Pond Mud Snail, a rare wetland snail. Once widespread, this snail is now restricted to just a few ponds across the country, many of which in the New Forest.



Queen's Meadow: Do you think this is a clean water gem? Why not join a Water Blitz to find out how clean the Forest's ponds are.

Sunday 23rd July

PondNet: Rare Plant Survey (10am - 4pm)

Beaulieu

Use your plant survey skills to help us find rare plants such as Pillwort, Coral Necklace and Pennyroyal. First learn how to identify rare wetland plants and then spread out to visit other ponds to undertake your own surveys. At the end of the day coming back together, to collectively share the findings.



Coral Necklace. Can you help survey for this rare wetland plant.

Sunday 30th July

Burley Water Blitz (10am - 2pm)

Burley

Use quick kits to find clean water gems, places that are free from pollution, around Burley and learn about the importance of good water quality for wildlife. Through the blitz you can gather scientific data on water quality and to fill in some of the gaps in the national Clean Water for Wildlife survey.

Hyde Commons Water Blitz (2pm - 4pm)

Frogham

Using quick kits to test many of the ponds, streams and ditches on the west of the Forest to find clean water gems, places that are free from pollution. Contribute to the national survey.

Wednesday 2nd August

New Forest Reptile Centre Day (all day)

Lyndhurst

Come and say hello to the Freshwater Habitats Trust's Team. See some of the New Forest's most elusive freshwater plants and animals, find out how you can help to map the clean water of the Forest, and find out what step you can take to ensure your local ponds, ditches and streams are protected in the future.

Saturday 5th August

New Forest Water Month Closing Event (10am - 1pm)

Lyndhurst

Join us to hear what the Freshwater Habitats Trust has been doing through the Clean Water for Wildlife, Flagship Ponds and PondNet Projects to protect freshwater life for everyone to enjoy.



To book please email
info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
 Or call **01865 595505**
 For more information see
[www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/
 new-forest-water-wildlife-month](http://www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/new-forest-water-wildlife-month)

SUBSCRIBE

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

SEND IN YOUR NEWS

Do you have 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.

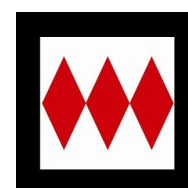
W: freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/catchment-projects

E: hworker@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

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