

In a nutshell, wetland wildlife depends on clean unpolluted water

Find out more about how you can help take positive steps to protect internationally important wetlands and freshwater habitats in the New Forest

Plants have adapted over thousands of years within soils that are naturally low in nutrients. The New Forest today still boasts areas of these ancient soils, which host an incredible array of plant and wildlife biodiversity, now lost from many other landscapes in the UK.



Damselfly Larvae

An incredibly ancient species that dates back to prehistoric times, when giant versions roamed the skies.



Pillwort
(*Pilularia globulifera*)

Historically it occurred in about 250 ten km squares in the UK, but is now restricted to just a handful of locations.



Medicinal leech
(*Hirudo medicinalis*)

Once a widespread species they have dramatically declined over the past centuries.



Marsh clubmoss
(*Lycopodiella inundata*)

It is classified as Endangered in the Red Data list for Great Britain.

Unlike other landscapes, the New Forest is famous for the free roaming grazing livestock, especially the ponies and the cows. These animals play an important role in providing the perfect conditions for rare and endangered plants to exist. The depressions created from the movement of these animals, the particular way they graze and even the organic dung the ponies and cows produce are all-important ingredients for laying the foundations for a thriving ecosystem of wildlife large and small.

Clean unpolluted water is also key to the plant and animal communities that exist in the Forest. There are still areas at the core of the Forest where freshwater is un-impacted by pollution. These freshwater habitats are some of the best in Europe and deserve the very best protection and recognition.

The New Forest has become a popular destination over the years, particularly with the increase of UK based holidays during the pandemic. A trip here, whether for the day or a holiday retreat, is worth planning well to ensure that your visit minimises impact. The fragile nature of the Forest means that our activities should remain tranquil and thoughtful and leaving no trace is the golden rule.

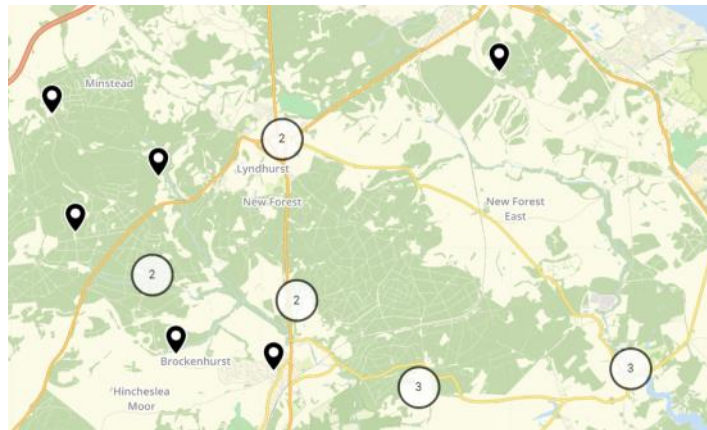
As a freshwater conservation charity, water quality is at the top of our agenda. Over the years, we have seen species disappear due to human influence, which has changed water quality for the worse. Thinking ahead about your visit means, you can plan for a toilet stop, know where the nearest bin is for pet waste (which is harmful to soil and water) and litter, and remembering that BBQs and fires are banned in the National Park. All these activities cause harm and endanger wildlife that is dependent on a clean unpolluted environment.

Wild spaces are a tonic for our body and mind. Studies reveal the incredible benefits of spending time in the natural environment. Increasing our wellbeing and keeping us healthy is just one benefit nature provides. Ensuring we don't leave a scar on the landscape will keep the Forest in its natural state and will continue to be a living, breathing ecosystem, supporting biodiverse wildlife communities, storing carbon, contributing to clean air and water and a space where people can visit and be in harmony with the natural surroundings.

The next time you visits the Forest, plan ahead,
leave nothing behind and take nothing away except for a love of the Forest.

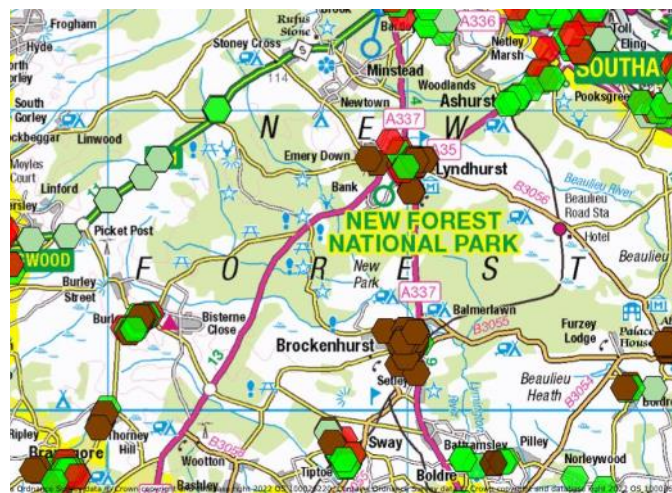
Thinking ahead - top tips for a day visit:

- Did you know there is a dedicated website called [Pee Place Location](#) that provides an interactive map for your convenience.
- You can also find locations of waste bins thanks to an interactive map produced by the [New Forest District Council waste disposal locations](#). Click on the three lines in the top left corner, go to Map Features and choose Waste and Recycling. You can also find play areas, skate parks and leisure centres under Leisure!
- Many visitors come to the Forest in a camper or motor home – always use suitable facilities for the disposal of waste water – never tip washing up water, toilet waste or even tap/drinking water onto vegetation or into ditches – this is pollution and will cause harm to wildlife.
- If staying overnight, plan a great camping trip at a [New Forest Campsites](#) – wild camping and overnight parking are not permitted.



Pee Place map ©OpenStreetMap contributors

The website helps you find a public toilet, there is a localization function to the website/app so that you can find the fastest way to the nearest WC.



New Forest District council Public waste bins map

©Ordnance Survey data

The website shows all the New Forest District Council mappable information, including public bins, so you can find your nearest bin.

Our project, Wilder for Water in partnership with the New Forest National Park Authority funding by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and Environment Agency, is working with visitors, organisations and businesses to raise awareness of the special qualities of the New Forest waterscape & to champion a best practice 'clean water standard' for camping and recreation across the National Park and beyond

To find out more click here: [Wilder for Water](#)

