

Verderers of the New Forest
 THE KINGS'S HOUSE
 LYNDHURST
 HAMPSHIRE
 SO43 7NH

Telephone: 023 8028 3134
 Fax: 023 8028 3101

Official Verderer
 Edward Heron

30th October 2024

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 30th October 2024

Voting Members		
Edward Heron	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Craig Harrison	DS	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry England
Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Thomas	JT	New Forest Nature Recovery Senior Adviser – Natural England
In Attendance		
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator
Suzi Egleston	SE	HLS Project Manager – Forestry England

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESUME

Andrew Parry-Norton - CDA Representative
 Mike Pittock - Head of Planning & Environment – Forestry England

RESUME

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OV is Chairman of the VGS Management Committee.
 AB declared an interest in all Wetland Restoration projects because of the NPA's responsibilities as local planning authority.
 APN is a member of the VGS and a committee member of the CDA and a member of both the FFG and the FFG Sub Steering Group.

RESUME

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Forest Signage

AB still discussing ongoing high-tech options for signage with the NF App Team.

Action AB

Bramble Clearance

JT requested the bramble clearance be left on the Agenda to discuss before next summer. RESUME

Capital Works Projects

SE due to meet this week with NE to discuss options to include as capital works grants. Action SE

2025 HLS Board Dates

Dates for 2025 have now been agreed.

DISCHARGE

PROGRAMME AND SUMMARY

RESUME

The board studied the latest Programme Register of spend to the end of September 24 (QTR 2).

TW to contact NPA Finance Officer to discuss bank accounts as Lloyds Commercial Banking are introducing bank charges to the HLS account from December. Also to investigate options on earning interest on the HLS reserves.

Action TW

See programme register and actual spend to date attached below.

FE UPDATE

RESUME

See report attached below

VGS UPDATE

TW gave a verbal update as the VGS committee meeting is on November 13th
TW to contact Rachel Bowen (NPA) to discuss IT options for online form submissions.

Action TW

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

See report attached below

HIWWT WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

Board agreed to confirm continued funding of this project for 2025-2026 £37,000.
TW to inform CC.

Action TW

See report attached below

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

RESUME

See report attached below

NFLAS WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

See report attached below

FUTURE NEW FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME UPDATE

RESUME

The new Government are taking stock of their options and we are awaiting further information. No timescales at the moment

Defra is developing LR, learning from the first two rounds. We expect further rounds calling for bids during 2024. Two previous Landscape Recovery schemes 2022 and 2023. We don't know what the details of the new scheme will be but some key learning points from the previous schemes are:

- A very short period of only 18 weeks between scheme launch and application deadline
- Governance - best to be thought through and decided before project development phase

AOB

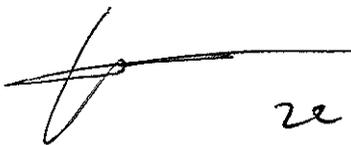
RESUME

Meeting closed 11.59 a.m.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS 2025

Wednesday January 22nd – 14.00 Kings House
 Wednesday April 23rd – 9.30 Kings House
 Monday July 21st - 9.30 Kings House
 Wednesday October 29^h - 9.30 Kings House

Delegated Actions to		
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive - NFNPA
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator
Suzi Egleston	SE	HLS Project Manager – Forestry England



22/1/2025

Edward Heron
 Official Verderer

Spend profile 2024-2025																
Register Serial No.	Project Title	Budget	Revised Forecast	Actual Spend year to date	Actual spend April	Actual spend May	Actual spend June	Actual spend July	Actual spend August	Actual spend September	Actual spend October	Actual spend November	Actual spend December	Actual spend January	Actual spend February	Actual spend March
HLS Overheads - STAFF COSTS																
22	FE Supporting Staff & Admin costs	26,430.00	26,430.00	12,883.44	0.00	0.00	6,725.25	0.00	0.00	6,158.19	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
60	Project Manager Pb4	51,414.00	51,414.00	6,983.98	0.00	0.00	6,983.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
61	Terrestrial Restoration Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	20,690.04	0.00	0.00	10,345.02	0.00	0.00	10,345.02	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
57	Works Supervisor Terrestrial Pb6a	37,908.00	37,908.00	12,782.99	0.00	0.00	3,221.18	0.00	0.00	9,561.81	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
62	Wetland Restoration Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	20,690.04	0.00	0.00	10,345.02	0.00	0.00	10,345.02	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
622	Monitoring Project Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	21,081.82	0.00	0.00	9,659.04	0.00	0.00	11,422.78	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
623	Verge Restoration Officer Pb6a	37,908.00	37,908.00	20,004.06	0.00	0.00	10,345.02	0.00	0.00	9,659.04	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
2206	Works Supervisor Wetland Pb6a (0.5 FTE)	18,954.00	18,954.00	9,683.88	0.00	0.00	4,843.92	0.00	0.00	4,839.96	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
		294,519.00	294,519.00	124,800.25	0.00	0.00	62,468.43	0.00	0.00	62,331.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HLS Overheads - Other																
23	Communications - phones and trackers	1,000.00	2,000.00	740.30	0.00	0.00	307.49	0.00	0.00	432.81	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
24	Forestry England - Office Overheads	2,046.00	2,046.00	1,023.00	0.00	0.00	511.50	0.00	0.00	511.50	0.00	0.00	511.50	0.00	0.00	511.50
93	Forestry England - Vehicle Leasing & Business related mileage	20,000.00	22,854.14	11,427.07	0.00	0.00	4,510.50	0.00	0.00	6,916.57	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
21	FE Staff Overheads	5,000.00	10,000.00	5,310.47	0.00	0.00	1,433.57	0.00	0.00	3,876.90	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
		28,046.00	36,900.14	18,500.84	0.00	0.00	6,763.06	0.00	0.00	11,737.78	0.00	0.00	511.50	0.00	0.00	511.50
	Sub-total Overhead Expenditure	322,565.00	331,419.14	143,301.09	Overheads Quarter 1		69,231.49	Overheads Quarter 2		74,069.60	Overheads Quarter 3		511.50	Overheads Quarter 4		511.50
Historic Environment																
32	No project planned	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		0.00	Quarter 2		0.00	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
Option HO2 Restoration of Lowland Heath																
63	Open Habitat Restoration	231,648.00	231,648.00	10,434.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,434.00						
1903	Ridge & Furrow	107,640.00	107,640.00	4,014.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,014.02	0.00	0.00						
65	Rhododendron	41,360.00	41,360.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
66	Bracken Control	21,600.00	21,600.00	6,534.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,534.00						
2301	Holly Holm Management	21,600.00	21,600.00	3,700.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,700.92						
		423,848.00	423,848.00	24,682.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,014.02	0.00	20,668.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		0.00	Quarter 2		24,682.94	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
Option HC13 Restoration of Wood Pasture & Parkland																
68	Coppicing/Pollarding	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2201	Restoration of A&O Woodlands	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00						
2202	Thinning A&O plots	10,824.00	10,824.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
		32,624.00	32,624.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		0.00	Quarter 2		1,800.00	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
Option HK7 Restoration of Species Rich Grassland																
69	Lost Lawns	38,352.00	38,352.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
70	Verge Restoration	53,700.00	53,700.00	3,621.60	0.00	1,260.00	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	201.60						
		92,052.00	92,052.00	3,621.60	0.00	1,260.00	0.00	2,160.00	0.00	201.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		1,260.00	Quarter 2		2,361.60	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
Survey and Monitoring																
1902	Woodlark (repeat)	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2101	Botanical Survey - R&F sites	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
102	Bats	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
25	Botanical Survey	12,780.00	12,780.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2303	Wetland monitoring reports - North Slufers, Harvestslade	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2404	Wetland monitoring surveys	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
104	Fixed point photography	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
103	Water Hydrology	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
105	Riverfly Partnership	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
		49,680.00	49,680.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		0.00	Quarter 2		0.00	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
Wetland Restoration																
48	Repair and Maintenance	105,360.00	105,360.00	9,408.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	840.00	8,568.64	0.00						
33	Penny Moor	153,600.00	153,600.00	3,888.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,888.00	0.00						
42	Hawkhill Mire	32,880.00	32,880.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
1801	Anses Wood	37,440.00	46,331.54	46,331.54	0.00	0.00	46,331.54	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2401	Furzey Lodge Mire	34,500.00	34,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
2402	Furzey Lodge Mire & Rans Wood	96,600.00	63,668.81	63,668.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,668.81						
2403	Ravensnest	54,720.00	54,720.00	21,482.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,482.40						
100	Heather Baling	3,120.00	3,120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
		518,220.00	494,180.35	144,779.39	0.00	0.00	46,331.54	840.00	12,456.64	85,151.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
					Quarter 1		46,331.54	Quarter 2		98,447.85	Quarter 3		0.00	Quarter 4		0.00
	Sub-total Operational Expenditure	£1,116,424.00	1,092,384.35	174,883.93	£0.00		£1,260.00	46,331.54	£7,014.02	£12,456.64	107,821.73	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	0.00
	Sub-total Operational Expenditure Quarterly				Operational Quarter 1		47,591.54	Operational Quarter 2		127,292.39	Operational Quarter 3		0.00	Operational Quarter 4		0.00
	TOTAL Expenditure	£1,438,989.00	1,423,803.49	318,185.02			£116,823.03			£201,361.99			£511.50			£511.50

Claim 38

£116,823.03

Claim 39

£201,361.99

Claim 40

£511.50

Claim 41

£511.50

Spend profile 2024-25 2nd Quarter

Register Serial number	Task Mgr	Project Title	Budget 2024-2025	Revised Forecast 2024/25	Actual spend to 30.09.2024	Updated by	Comments
Verderers Grazing Scheme STAFF							
1	TW	VGS Project Staff	£39,757.00		£8,981.55	TW	
2	TW	Administration	£10,000.00		£4,023.54	TW	
			£49,757.00		£13,005.09		
Verderers Grazing Scheme							
3	TW	VGS Grazing payments	£792,957.00		£195,402.25	TW	2023 Cattle Supplement
4	TW	Sponsorship of Land Advice Service	£53,905.22		£53,905.22	TW	
5	TW	Small Grant fund	£15,000.00		£5,900.00	TW	
6	TW	Microchipping at Beaulieu Road Sales	£5,000.00		£0.00	TW	
7	TW	Reflective collars	£24,000.00		£6,950.00	TW	
8	TW	Agister Salary contribution	£57,000.00		£57,000.00	TW	
9	TW	Stallion Scheme	£17,737.00		£24,246.21	TW	
10	TW	Bloodline Scheme	£0.00		£330.00	TW	
11	TW	Futurity Scheme	£8,000.00		£8,000.00	TW	
13	TW	NF Livestock Society (Marketing + £1,000 Foal Shows)	£9,000.00		£9,000.00	TW	
14	TW	NF Trust (Beaulieu Road Maintenance)	£6,500.00		£6,500.00	TW	
15	TW	NF Pony Enthusiasts Club	£1,500.00		£1,500.00	TW	
16	TW	Pony Welfare & Fallen Stock Programme	£25,000.00		£9,347.20	TW	
17	TW	Young Commoner training	£3,500.00		£3,500.00	TW	
18	TW	Drift Fencing	£19,000.00		£9,051.00	TW	
19	TW	Pound rebuild programme	£5,000.00		£6,169.12	TW	
91	TW	Agister Animal Handling Equipment & GWCT Curlew Grant	£41,206.00	£130,546.00	£93,483.36	TW	
			VGS Sub Total		£490,284.36		
			VGS Grand Total		£503,289.45		
Higher Level Stewardship Overheads - STAFF COSTS							
20	TW	HLS Secretarial Support from Verderers	£15,812.00		£15,812.00	TW	
21	NPA	NPA Staff Costs	£27,594.00		£0.00	TW	
22	NH	FC Supporting Staff & Admin costs	£26,430.00		£12,883.44		
			£69,836.00		£28,695.44		
Higher Level Stewardship Overheads - Other							
			NPA				
23	NH	Communications - Support	£32,086.00		£0.00	TW	
24	NH	Communications - Phones & Trackers	£1,000.00	£2,000.00	£740.30	JK	
21	NH	FC Office Overheads	£2,046.00		£1,023.00	JK	
93	NH	FC Staff Overheads	£5,000.00	£10,000.00	£5,310.47	JK	
33	NH	FC Vehicle Leasing	£20,000.00	£22,854.14	£11,427.07	JK	
			Non Native and Invasive Plant Control		£18,500.84		
33	TW	Non Native plants Project	£37,000.00		£37,000.00	TW	
			£37,000.00		£37,000.00		
Scheduled Ancient Monument							
32	NH	no projects planned	£0.00		£0.00	NH	
			£0.00		£0.00		
National Park Authority							
71	NPA	Lidar Analyst	£44,571.00			TW	
73	NPA	Lidar Non-Staff	£9,423.00			TW	
			£53,994.00		£0.00		
Redundancy Contingency							
60	TW	Project Staff	£4,524.57		£0.00	TW	
			£4,524.57		£0.00		
Forestry England TERRESTRIAL RESTORATION							
63	NH	Open Habitat Restoration	£231,648.00		£10,434.00	JK	
1903	NH	Ridge & Furrow removal	£107,640.00		£4,014.02	JK	
65	NH	Rhododendron Control	£41,360.00		£0.00	JK	
66	NH	Bracken Control	£21,600.00		£6,534.00	JK	
2301	NH	Holly Holm Management	£21,600.00		£3,700.92	JK	
68	NH	Coppicing/Pollarding	£20,000.00			JK	
2201	NH	Conifer removal from A&O woodland	£1,800.00		£1,800.00		
2202	NH	Thinning A & O plots	£10,824.00		£0.00		
69	NH	Lost Lawns	£38,352.00		£0.00	JK	
70	NH	Verge Restoration	£53,700.00		£3,621.60	JK	
100	NH	Heather Baling	£3,120.00		£0.00	NH	
			£551,644.00		£30,104.54		
Monitoring (Terrestrial)							
2101	NH	Botanical Survey - R&F sites	£10,500.00		£0.00	JK	
2404	NH	Wetland monitoring surveys	£6,000.00		£0.00		
1902	NH	Woodlark (Repeat)	£11,000.00		£0.00		
			£27,500.00		£0.00		
Monitoring (Wetland)							
2303	NH	Wetland Monitoring reports - Wootton, Harvestslade	£5,400.00		£0.00	JK	
102	NH	Bats	£2,000.00		£0.00	JK	
25	NH	Botanical Survey	£12,780.00		£0.00	JK	
104	NH	Fixed point photography	£500.00		£0.00	NH	
103	NH	Water Hydrology	£1,000.00		£0.00	NH	
105	NH	Riverfly Partnership	£500.00		£0.00	NH	
			£22,180.00		£0.00		
WETLAND							
Project Staff Costs							
57	NH	Terrestrial Works Supervisor Pb6a	£37,908.00		£12,782.99	JK	
60	NH	Contract Manager Pb4	£51,414.00		£6,983.98	JK	
61	NH	Terrestrial Restoration Works Officer Pb5	£40,635.00		£20,690.04	JK	
62	NH	Wetland Restoration Officer Pb5	£40,635.00		£20,690.04	JK	
622	NH	Monitoring Officer Pb6a	£40,635.00		£21,081.82	JK	
623	NH	Verge Restoration Officer Pb6a	£37,908.00		£20,004.06	JK	
2204	NH	Senior Wetland Restoration Officer Pb4	£29,500.00		£0.00	JK	
2206	NH	Works Supervisor Wetland Pb6a	18,954.00		9,683.88	JK	
			£297,589.00		£111,916.81		
Wetland Restoration							
48	NH	Repair and Maintenance	£105,360.00		£9,408.64	JK	
33	NH	Penny Moor	£153,600.00		£3,888.00		
2401	NH	Furzey Lodge Mire	£34,500.00		£0.00		
2402	NH	Furzey Lodge Mire & Rans Wood	£96,600.00	£63,668.81	£63,668.81		
42	NH	Hawkhill Mire	£32,880.00		£0.00		
2403	NH	Ravensnest	£54,720.00		£21,482.40		
1801	NH	Anses Wood	£37,440.00	£46,331.54	£46,331.54		
			£515,100.00		£144,779.39		0.00
T&C Planning Costs							
51	NH	Wetland Restoration Planning	£0.00		£0.00	NH	
			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00		
Total Habitat Restoration			£834,869.00	£0.00	£256,696.20		
Total FE spend all serials			£1,468,489.00	£34,854.14	£318,185.02		Claims 38 & 39

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	Planned Spend Estimate	Actual Spend to Date
Total VGS Spend	£1,129,856.22	£540,289.45
HLS Overheads Staff Costs	£69,836.00	£28,695.44
Non Native plants & SAMS	£37,000.00	£37,000.00
Monitoring	£49,680.00	£0.00
Project Staff Costs	£302,113.57	£111,916.81
Terrestrial & Wetland Restoration	£1,066,744.00	£174,883.93
T & C Planning costs	£0.00	£0.00
NPA	£53,994.00	£0.00
TOTAL Planned Spend	£2,709,223.79	TOTAL Actual Spend
		£892,785.63

Income from NE		Actual Income from NE	£2,033,229.35
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End of year payment	£2,033,229.35	End of year payment	£2,033,229.35
Budgeted in-year Reserve 2024	-£675,994.44	In-year Reserve	£1,140,443.72
B/fwd Reserve from 2023	£2,415,149.95	B/fwd Reserve 2023	£2,415,149.95
Budgeted accumulated Reserve	£1,739,155.51	Accumulated Reserve	£3,555,593.67

Education Payment - Annual payment

NPA	Educational Access - payment per visit	£5,190.00	£5,190.00
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Spend profile: 2024-25					
Register Serial No.	Project Title	Budget Apr24-Mar25	Revised Forecast	Actual spend to 30.09.24	Comments / Proposed restoration sites
HLS Overheads - STAFF COSTS					
22	FE Supporting Staff & Admin costs	26,430.00	26,430.00	12,883.44	
60	Project Manager Pb4	51,414.00	51,414.00	6,983.98	
61	Terrestrial Restoration Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	20,690.04	
57	Works Supervisor Pb6a	37,908.00	37,908.00	12,782.99	Vacant since end of Feb, new Supervisor started 8th July
62	Wetland Restoration Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	20,690.04	
622	Monitoring Project Officer Pb5	40,635.00	40,635.00	21,081.82	Includes TRA costs for Project Manager role
623	Verge Restoration Officer Pb6a	37,908.00	37,908.00	20,004.06	
2206	Works Supervisor Pb6a (0.5 FTE)	18,954.00	18,954.00	9,683.88	
Sub-total		294,519.00	294,519.00	124,800.25	
HLS Overheads - Other					
23	Communications - phones and trackers	1,000.00	2,000.00	740.30	
24	Forestry England - Office Overheads	2,046.00	2,046.00	1,023.00	
93	Forestry England - Vehicle Leasing & Business related mileage	20,000.00	22,854.14	11,427.07	
21	FE Staff Overheads	5,000.00	10,000.00	5,310.47	
Sub-total		28,046.00	36,900.14	18,500.84	
Sub-total Overheads		322,565.00	331,419.14	143,301.09	Overhead Expenditure
Historic Environment					
32	No projects planned	0.00	0.00	0.00	No projects planned
Sub-total		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Option HO2 Restoration of Lowland Heath					
63	Open Habitat Restoration	231,648.00	231,648.00	10,434.00	Natural regen removal: Markway, Dur Hill, Knightwood, Longdown, Ipley, Wooson's Hill Mature conifer removal: Ober Heath. Other sites are also be considered for inclusion in this programme.
1903	Ridge & Furrow	107,640.00	107,640.00	4,014.02	Stump shearing and/or removal of ridges and furrows after harvesting: Highland Water, Ipley, North Sluffers,
65	Rhododendron	41,360.00	41,360.00	0.00	Summer spraying programme: Acres Down, Allum Green, Black Knowl, Broomy Lodge, Dunces Arch, Highland Water Inclosure, Hinchelsea Bog, James Hill, Knightwood Inclosure, Little Wootton, Matley, Milkham, Pilmore Heath, Shave Wood, Studley Wood – Claypitts Bottom, Swan Green, Turf Hill/Millersford and Wooson's Hill /Barrow Moor. Winter cut & burn programme: Sites planned into the programme so far include Allum Green, Dur Hill, Fritham, Hawkhill, Shobley, Swan Green and Foulford.
66	Bracken Control	21,600.00	21,600.00	6,534.00	Forage harvesting: rolling programme. Rytec: Dunces Arch, Turf Hill/Millersford, Highland Water, Anderwood
2301	Holly Holm Management	21,600.00	21,600.00	3,700.92	Deer-proof fencing for regeneration pens around holly holm sites: Freeworms Hill (south of Fritham Plain), west side of Ocknell Wood, Seven Holms (west of Sluffers), Withybeds Bottom, Bolderwood Hollies, Berry Beeches.
Sub-total		423,848.00	423,848.00	24,682.94	
Option HC13 Restoration of Wood Pasture & Parkland					
68	Coppicing/Pollarding	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	Holly management programme to benefit lichens: rolling programme (sites TBC, selected from N. Sanderson report)
2201	Restoration of A&O woodlands	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	Removal of conifer and natural regen from A&O woodlands: sites TBC Timber clearance: Woodcrates
2202	Thinning A&O plots	10,824.00	10,824.00	0.00	Programme to thin regeneration plots in A&O woodlands: Bramshaw Wood Timber clearance: Brook Wood
Sub-total		32,624.00	32,624.00	1,800.00	
Option HK7 Restoration of Species Rich Grassland					

69	Lost Lawns	38,352.00	38,352.00	0.00	Removal of scrub and natural regeneration from sites identified in the Lost Lawns Report (N. Sanderson): Balmer Lawn phase 2 Timber clearance: Tantany, Balmer Lawn, Stricknage
70	Verge Restoration	53,700.00	53,700.00	3,621.60	Verge restoration project
	Sub-total	92,052.00	92,052.00	3,621.60	
	Survey and Monitoring				
1902	Woodlark (repeat)	11,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	Repeat bird survey (last done 2019)
2101	Botanical Survey - R&F sites	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.00	Post-restoration surveys at Matley, Dunces Arch and Turfhill/Millersford
102	Bats	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	Budget line to cover the cost of bat surveys if they are required before tree felling
25	Botanical Survey	12,780.00	12,780.00	0.00	Post-restoration surveys (quadrat data): Wootton, Pondhead Pre-restoration survey: Penny Moor
2303	Wetland monitoring reports - North Slufters, Harvestslade	5,400.00	5,400.00	0.00	Site-based monitoring case studies: North Slufters, Harvestslade
2404	Wetland monitoring surveys	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	Budget line to cover the cost of additional monitoring surveys if required
104	Fixed point photography	500.00	500.00	0.00	Budget line to cover consumables for camera equipment
103	Water Hydrology	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	Budget line to cover consumables for monitoring equipment
105	Riverfly Partnership	500.00	500.00	0.00	Budget line to cover costs for Riverfly surveys
	Sub-total	49,680.00	49,680.00	0.00	
	Wetland Restoration				
48	Repair and Maintenance	105,360.00	105,360.00	9,408.64	Small-scale repairs: Shirley Holms Mire, Islands Thorns, Ober Water
33	Wetland restoration sites	153,600.00	153,600.00	3,888.00	Penny Moor
42	Wetland restoration sites	32,880.00	32,880.00	0.00	Hawkhill Mire
1801	Wetland restoration sites	37,440.00	46,331.54	46,331.54	Anses Wood
2401	Wetland restoration sites	34,500.00	34,500.00	0.00	Furzey Lodge Mire
2402	Wetland restoration sites	96,600.00	63,668.81	63,668.81	Furzey Lodge Mire-Rans Wood
2403	Wetland restoration sites	54,720.00	54,720.00	21,482.40	Ravens Nest Inclosure
100	Heather Baling	3,120.00	3,120.00	0.00	Heather bales for future wetland restorations.
	Sub-total	518,220.00	494,180.35	144,779.39	
	Operational Expenditure	£1,116,424.00	£1,092,384.35	£174,883.93	Operational Expenditure
	TOTAL Expenditure	£1,438,989.00	£1,423,803.49	£318,185.02	TOTAL Expenditure



Actions from HLS Board Meeting held on 16/09/2024

- None required

Overview of habitat restoration delivered Apr to Aug 2024:

HLS project	Habitat restoration work delivered Apr to Sep 2024
Open habitat restoration	Mature conifer clearance at Ober Heath (5.8 ha). Removal of non-native conifer and western hemlock from Woosons Hill (13 ha) and Markway Lawn (9 ha). Birch and pine seedling regeneration removal from Longdown (29 ha).
A&O (Ancient and Ornamental) woodland restoration	Timber cleared from Woodcrates.
Ridge & furrow	None (work planned for winter)
Rhododendron	Spraying programme completed. Sites included: Acres Down, Alum Green, Black Knowl, Hinchelsea Bog, James Hill, Knightwood Inclosure, Milkham, Highland Water Inclosure, Fritham, Turf Hill, Matley, Shave Wood, Woosons Hill and Markash Wood, Little Wootton and Dunces Arch.
Bracken control	Cut and collect from Highland water (three areas), Turf Hill and Millersford and Dunces Arch (12 ha total).
Holly coppicing/pollarding	None (work planned for late winter)
Lost lawns project	None (work planned for winter)
Verge restoration	Minor works completed at Canterton Lane, Broomy, Rufus Stone, Emery down, Bull Hill, Furzey Lane, Blissford Hill track, Harthill house, Hincheslea, South Weirs.
Wetland restoration and repairs/maintenance	Restoration work completed at Anses Wood, Pennymoor, Furzey Lodge/Rans Wood, Furzey Lodge Mire, Hawkhill Mire, Island Thorns and Ravensnest Inclosure. Repair work completed at Shirley Holms, Island Thorns and Ober Water.

HLS Forestry England Progress Report

Updates should be read in conjunction with the FE HLS Budget Forecast (Annex A).

Budget Update

Claim 39 was issued in October. An updated FE HLS budget forecast is attached (Annex A) summarising Forestry England actual spend for Q1 and Q2 (01 April to 30 September 2024) and project spend forecasts to end of March 2025.

Project spend forecasts currently include estimated costs for many of the sites planned for restoration this winter, these will be updated as quotes are agreed with contractors. All forecasts will be reviewed and updated for the January Board meeting.

Staff Update

The new HLS Project Manager will start in January. In the meantime, the HLS monitoring project officer is covering the role.

Restoration of Lowland Heath: Option H02

This option aims to encourage the restoration of lowland heathland, including both dry and wet heathland, and mire habitats on the Open Forest. Such sites are likely to have become degraded by scrub, bracken, secondary woodland encroachment or inappropriate drainage. Management will help to restore and strengthen the vegetation mosaics characteristic of lowland heathland, and thus enhance the integrity of the historic landscape character of the area.

Open habitat restoration: PR serial no. 63

The HLS Scheme is funding the restoration of lowland heath on sites that have been used for plantation forestry. This programme of works includes removal of mature conifer, clearance of felled conifer and removal of natural regeneration, on areas of wet and dry heathland open to grazing livestock.

The following projects are ongoing or in preparation for 2024/25:

- **Natural regeneration removal:** Rolling programme of work to remove natural regeneration from 'thrown open' Inclosures will continue in Sep 2024-Feb 2025.
 - Removal of non-native conifer and western hemlock has already been completed at Woosons Hill (13 ha) and Markway Lawn (9 ha), and birch and pine seedling regeneration removed at Longdown (29 ha).
 - Further work will target pine and birch regeneration at Markway, Dur Hill, Ipley and Knightwood. Pine/conifer regeneration will be removed from Highland Water.

- **Mature conifer removal:** Mature conifer has been removed from 5.8 ha at Ober Heath, helping restore this area back to open heathland. Rake and burn of brash will commence once the deer have finished rutting. Conifer removal is also planned for Puckpits Inclosure and North Sluffers.

Ridge & furrow removal and stump shearing: PR serial no. 1903

The HLS Scheme is funding the restoration of lowland heath on sites that have been used for plantation forestry. This programme of work includes the removal of ridges and furrows, and shearing of stumps to restore areas of wet or dry heathland, currently open to grazing.

Planning is underway for the work programme for winter 2024/25:

- Sites at Highland Water Inclosure, Ipley Inclosure and North Sluffers are being prepared for restoration work to be done this winter.

Rhododendron management: PR serial no. 65

The HLS Scheme funds a rolling programme of work to control non-native rhododendron that is encroaching on open habitats. Different methods are used, depending on the size of the plant; smaller plants are targeted through foliar spray, while larger bushes (>1.2 m in height) are cut down and arisings burnt.

- This year's spraying programme has now finished. All sites were completed: Acres Down, Alum Green, Black Knowl, Hinchelsea Bog, James Hill, Knightwood Inclosure, Milkham, Highland Water Inclosure, Fritham, Turf Hill, Matley, Shave Wood, Woosons Hill and Markash Wood, Little Wootton and Dunces Arch.
- Planning is underway for the winter cut & burn programme, which is due to start over the next few weeks. Sites planned into the programme so far include Alum Green, Dur Hill Railway and Inclosure, Markash Wood, Fritham, Shobley, Dibden.

Bracken management: PR serial no. 66

The HLS Scheme funds a rolling programme of work on areas that have been restored to open habitat where bracken is becoming over-dominant and outcompeting other native species, thus reducing species diversity.

This year bracken was cut and collected from three areas of Highland water, Turf Hill and Millersford and Dunces Arch (12 ha total). Anderwood has been deferred to 2025 due to wet ground conditions.

Holly holm management: PR serial 2301

This is a one-off project following on from a successful trial to encourage holly holm regeneration by removing grazing pressure via temporary exclosures. Deer-proof fencing will be erected around selected holly holms where regeneration has been in decline. The pens will be in place for at least 5 years to allow time for holly to regenerate around the base and trunk.

Fencing work was due to start in late summer/early autumn 2023 but was postponed to 2024 due to difficulties sourcing chestnut stakes and posts. A fence has already been erected around Seven Holms (west of Slufers). Other sites to be done over the next few weeks include Freeworms Hill (south of Fritham Plain), Ocknell Wood (west side), Withybed Bottom, Bolderwood Hollies and Berry Beeches.

Restoration of Wood Pasture & Parkland: Option HC13

The aim of this option is to restore wood pasture (including the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) habitats of pasture woodland, riverine woodland and bog woodland in the Open Forest) to favourable condition. This applies where land has been planted with conifers or where Scots pine has spread and trees or other non-natives need to be removed.

Holly pollarding: PR serial no. 68

HLS is funding the restoration of A&O woodlands through a programme of work that aims to reduce the shade from dense holly to benefit epiphytic lichens. This is critical work as the old growth pasture woodlands support an internationally important lichen assemblage.

A rolling programme of work is targeting sites highlighted in a 2018/19 Holly Management and Epiphytic Lichen Conservation Survey Report conducted by Neil Sanderson as 'urgent priority' and 'priority' areas, encompassing 29 woodland areas. Over the last four years 51 sites have been worked on in 21 of the woodland areas. Once the programme has achieved its targets, a review will evaluate the completed work and identify next steps. Planning is currently in progress to select sites for treatment in winter 2024/25.

Restoration of A&O woodlands: PR serial no. 2201

HLS is funding the restoration of ancient and ornamental (A&O) oak and beech woodlands by removing conifer trees and other non-natives. Forestry England applies the following principles put forward by Natural England: fell any conifers shading veteran trees; fell regenerating conifer; fell conifer growing amongst young oak and beech; and restore glades or edges of lawns and heathland where conifer have colonised open areas. This will also allow the woodland to naturally expand in future.

The small amount of remaining felled conifer in Woodcrates has been cleared.

Other A&O woodland sites will be assessed for inclusion in future work programmes. Possible future sites include Bramshaw Inclosure.

Thinning A&O Plots: PR serial no. 2202

HLS is funding a programme of work which aims to restore a more natural woodland structure in old planting areas and regeneration pens in A&O woodlands. Felled timber at Brook Wood will be cleared when ground conditions are suitable.

Other A&O woodland thinning sites are being assessed for inclusion in future work programmes.

Restoration of species-rich grassland: Option HK7

This option is targeted at dry and wet grasslands, and associated permanent and temporary ponds in the Open Forest that are potentially rich in plant and associated animal life. They are sometimes on difficult ground and may have suffered from issues such as drainage, invasive species (including bracken, scrub and non-native species), eutrophication and under/overgrazing.

Lost lawns: PR serial no. 69

HLS is funding the restoration of species-rich grassland that has been encroached by scrub and invasive species. This involves a rolling programme of work targeting sites identified in the Lost Lawns Report (N. Sanderson) to restore glades or edges of lawns and heathland.

The following work is ongoing or in preparation for 2024/25:

- Felled timber at Tantany, Stricknage and Balmer Lawn has been cleared.
- The second phase of agreed works at Balmer Lawn and removal of remaining birch at Anderwood Lawn have been planned for this winter.

Verge Restoration: PR serial no. 70

HLS funds a Verge Restoration Officer (VRO) to raise awareness of the importance of the verges which are a designated feature of the New Forest's SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The VRO actively engages with local communities and visitors, patrols and assesses SSSI verges across the HLS agreement area, and plans and oversees practical measures to protect and restore the verges from the damaging impacts of vehicles.

Work was carried out over the summer at the following sites:

- Rufus stone: two newly created lay-bys have been closed off.
- Hinchelsea: A barrier was installed to close access onto open forest and ground nesting bird area and dragon's teeth were installed to protect the eroded verge.
- Canterton Lane: Improvement measures (wooden dragon's teeth) and barrier replacement.

- Emery Down Culvert: Dragon's teeth installed.
 - Repair work at Broomy, Brockenhurst and Emery Down.
 - Furzey Lane: parking area closed off.
 - Bull Hill: Bell mouth reduced in size.
 - Barrier installation to prevent further erosion to large area used for unauthorised parking.
- Boltons Bench to Denny Campsite: Forestry England has developed a proposal to protect and restore the verge between Bolton's Bench car park and Denny Campsite from unauthorised parking. The proposed work includes car-free ditching, bringing forward old measures closer to the road where possible and installing new dragon's teeth in areas not suitable for ditching.
 - Other sites are in the planning stages including Longcross plain, Long Beech, Bramshaw Wood, Sluffers Inclosure, Ivy Wood, Ladycross Lodge, Cott Lane, Shirley Holmes, Setley Pond, Mogshade-Bolderwood.

Wetland Restoration

Where habitats are unfavourable as a result of drainage operations (such as in riverine and bog woodland, heathland and mire habitats), restoration of a more natural physical, geomorphological and hydrological regime by agreed management is required. This might include removal of structures which prevent seasonal inundation, raising of (over-deepened) stream bed levels, restoration of braided channels (watercourses with many small channels) and reinstatement of natural meanders. Such works are undertaken as part of the ongoing programme of wetland restoration projects and are guided by the restoration plan agreed by the Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum (FWRF).

Repair and maintenance: PR serial no. 48

Previously restored wetland sites may need further interventions to help restore natural processes. Forestry England carries out an ongoing programme of work to monitor restored sites, identify any issues and implement works to address them.

Repairs and maintenance was completed at the following sites:

- **Shirley Holms Mire** - minor nick point repairs (postponed from 2023 due to unsuitable weather conditions).
- **Ober Water (at Markway)** - cut off exposed stakes, bed level raise and reprofile short section of bankside.
- **Islands Thorns** - repair nick point and raise bed level for a short stretch.

Other wetland sites: PR serial numbers 33, 1801, 42, 2401, 2402, 2403

A programme of mire and stream restoration work that aims to restore the natural hydrology of an area, improve the condition of wet habitats, protect streams and mires from further erosion, help to manage flood risk and increase resilience to drought.

The following sites were completed this summer. Sites requiring consultation plans were submitted to Verderer's and approved Dec 2023.

- **Anses Wood** - Infilled eroding section of channel, repaired nick points and restored remnant meanders.
- **Penny Moor** - Infilled artificial drain, removed infrastructure (2 bridges), added in replacement ford crossing where needed, put up temporary fencing to protect livestock from, stabilised breach in scheduled ancient monument (Bishop's Dyke) to protect it from future vehicle damage.
- **Furzey Lodge Mire/Rans Wood** - Removed spoil, reinstated meanders and bed level raised the channel.
- **Furzey Lodge Mire** - Repaired nick points in channel feeding into Inclosure.
- **Hawkhill Mire** - Repaired nick points in channel, replaced culvert with gravel ford, pressed in stakes and removed temporary fence from previous restoration work.
- **Ravensnest Inclosure** - Infilled drains using spoil from banks.

Update: Forest Freshwater & Wetland Restoration Forum (FWRF)

The Forest Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum (FWRF) was set up as an independent and advisory body focused on strategic and long-term freshwater and wetland restoration priorities in the New Forest National Park. Some example objectives include:

- To assist member bodies planning restoration by sharing information, experience and advice,
- help facilitate communication between all stakeholders,
- set strategic level objectives and
- review the Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Plan which creates a framework for delivery of restoration projects.

Work is ongoing to finalise the draft Restoration Plan and develop the Communications and Engagement Strategy. A workshop looking at wetland restoration techniques was undertaken with forum members involved in restoration delivery on 16th October. Footprint Ecology will now synthesise the information collected during this into a manual of techniques which will form a section of the final Restoration Plan.

Heather Baling: PR serial no. 100

Two hundred heather bales were produced in 2023/24 Q4 for future wetland restoration projects.

Survey and Monitoring

This includes a programme of specialist species surveys - as directed by Natural England - and a monitoring programme to support our restoration work. Examples of previous specialist species surveys undertaken include those conducted for large marsh grasshopper, brown diving beetle, New Forest cicada and various New Forest spiders. Previous reports can be found [here](#).

Woodlark (repeat): PR serial no. 1902

A repeat bird survey for Woodlark has been completed this summer and the results are being analysed.

Bat: PR serial no. 102

Bat surveys are conducted to detect the presence of bats where work is planned in areas likely to disturb bat roosting sites. These surveys ensure that appropriate measures can be taken to minimise disturbance and protect crucial bat habitats. No bat surveys have taken place over the last quarter.

Botanical survey: PR serial no. 25

Botanical surveys are being conducted on our wetland restoration sites to assess the vegetative response to the restoration of a more naturally functioning watercourse. A new vegetation survey protocol has been developed to ensure it is practical, but provides useful data. This has trialled on four sites where restoration has already taken place (North Sluffers, Harvestslade, Wootton and Pondhead) and one where restoration has been carried out this year (Penny Moor).

The vegetation survey reports for North Sluffers and Harvestslade have been finalised with information about the pre-restoration condition of these sites. The surveys found that at 5+ years after restoration, both sites support a wide range of quintessential habitats.

The same protocol was used to carry out meso-habitat mapping at Pondhead and Wootton in 2023, The remaining vegetative survey work was carried out this summer and the report is in progress.

A pre-restoration survey of the habitats present at Penny moor was also completed before the restoration took place this summer. Follow up surveys will be commissioned to assess how the restoration work has impacted the habitats and vegetation.

Botanical surveys - ridge & furrow sites: PR serial no. 2101

Following the same survey protocol as that developed for the wetland sites, botanical surveys are being conducted on our heathland restoration sites to assess the vegetative response to conifer removal. Four sites have been selected (Matley Ridge, Turf Hill, Millersford and Dunces Arch).

Post-restoration survey work has been completed this summer and the reports are being written.

Wetland monitoring reports: PR serial no. 2303

Case studies on site-based monitoring will be commissioned for a couple of wetland sites. These will combine data from various monitoring streams (e.g., botanical surveys, geomorphological surveys and fixed point photography surveys) to create a succinct narrative of change report for each site. They will build on the suggestions presented in the Freshwater and Wetland Restoration Forum Restoration Plan. Their aim will be to describe the site at 5+ years after restoration in the context of habitats present and relevant measures of success, in a way that's accessible to the general public.

Fixed point photography: PR serial no. 104

A fixed-point photography programme is run by the HLS Monitoring Project Officer to document visible habitat changes following restoration.

This year the programme has been updated and improved by creating an app that allows photos to be taken in the field and automatically uploaded to a geographical information system (GIS). This makes it easier and more efficient to take repeat photos.

Water Hydrology: PR serial no. 103

Monitoring water hydrology helps document changes in flow regime and, the impact of river restorations on flow levels and rates.

Previously, various water level monitoring methods have been trialled, including the use of water level gauges connected to IoT (Internet of Things) devices to continuously capture and stream water level data to a database. Unfortunately, poor signal in The Forest limited their success.

The HLS monitoring project officer is currently liaising with the Environment Agency (EA) who have agreed to assist with monitoring water levels when needed.

Riverfly Partnership: PR serial no. 105

Over the last nine years, the HLS scheme has supported the citizen science Riverfly Partnership Project. Volunteers are trained to identify and survey specific groups of freshwater invertebrates, whose diversity and numbers can tell us about the overall health and characteristics of our streams. More information and recent updates can be found [here](#).

This year, our citizen science volunteers have surveyed 2 Riverfly sites (Pondhead and Millersford) from April to October. The volunteers have finished their sampling for the year and the data is being analysed and reviewed.

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Report to HLS Board: October 2024

Jonathan Low, Communications Assistant / HLS engagement officer

Media coverage

Press release issued to remind drivers about the importance of not parking on grass verges in the Forest

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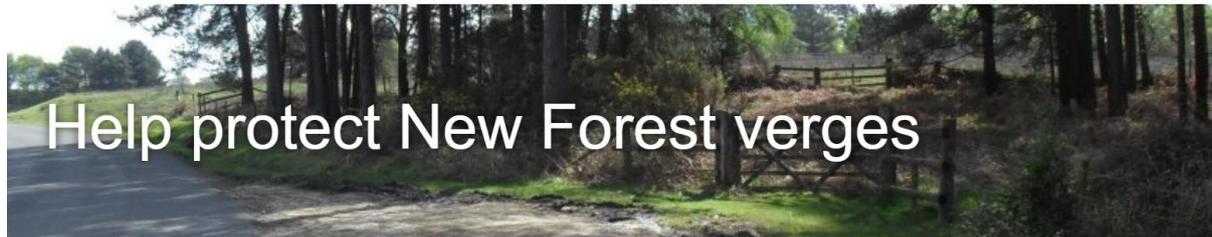
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Drivers are being reminded about the importance of not parking on verges in the New Forest.

The verges can look like muddy or grassy areas but are incredibly important habitats which support many different animals and rare plant species.

They're a separate designated feature of the New Forest's Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs) so are legally protected against damage.

Web updates

Update given on the HLS website regarding wetland restoration work at Penny Moor

[HOME](#) » [NEWS AND UPDATES](#) » [PENNY MOOR WETLAND RESTORATION – UPDATE](#)



In 2013, Forestry England (FE) began work to restore this key wetland that provides vital habitats for important species of plants and wildlife including ground-nesting birds, amphibians and many insects.

During the summer of 2024, we carried out the next phase of the work to ensure that water can flow naturally across the land.

What has been done and why

1. How has the area been managed historically?

Artificial drainage was created across Penny Moor in the 1960s to dry out the ground and improve it for grazing. This

Pony collars

Jonathan Low has written an article to promote awareness of reflective collars put on ponies during drifts.

This will be uploaded to the HLS website and promoted over social media to highlight safer driving across the Forest and to coincide with the changing of the clocks, when accidents tend to rise.

Social media posts and engagement

Eleven social media posts were published from the start of September until time of writing (mid October), showcasing various New Forest wildlife.

This includes one of the HLS species, Dartford Warbler.

Overall, there were 16,841 impressions, 809 engagements (likes, views, comments or shares) = an engagement rate of 4.8%.

Platform	Post Content	Total Engagements	Other Metrics
Instagram (newforestnpa)	If you've seen a herd (or even just one) deer in the New Forest, they are probably Fallow deer. These are the... 	205	Likes: 200
Facebook (New Forest National ...)	If you see a tiny bird with a long tail, it could well be the Dartford Warbler. It is a true heathland speciality and... 	125	Reactions: 69
Instagram (newforestnpa)	There are lots of intriguing ground nesting birds in the #NewForest, just like the ringed plover. You can quite... 	120	Likes: 115

FE ecologist Leanne has been profiled as part of the NPA's Behind the Scenes campaign, talking about wetland restoration. This was first promoted on FE Instagram and then shared on NPA channels.



engnewforest

engnewforest We have a team of ecologists working #BehindTheScenes to help care for the very special range of plants and wildlife here in the #NewForest

Leanne is one of this dedicated group who monitor many different species and ensure there is enough of the right types of habitats they need to thrive.

We asked her why the New Forest is such an important and special haven for nature.

"We've got some of the biggest areas of wetlands in all of western Europe. They are vital for this really wide range of species that live in them and we need to make sure that they stay wet. We've been working on wetland restoration for more than 30 years now in the New Forest to really restore those habitats and make sure that they're robust and can function in a natural way."

"Often people think they can't see any of that rare wildlife because it's hidden away or is small or it's not easy to identify. But actually there's loads of wildlife here. We've got more than 20,000 species."

"If there was just one thing that people could do to help wildlife in the New Forest, it would be to stay on the tracks and keep your

Liked by louise_jayne88 and 51 others

The post shared by the NFNPA received 158 engagements (likes, views, comments or shares).

Site visit

Jonathan Low and Suzannah Egleston have been out to visit volunteers who have been conducting Riverfly monitoring.

They gathered various information, including photos, videos and interviews with the volunteers to help promote and show the importance of the work to a wider audience.



Meetings

Susan Smith, Suzannah Egleston (both FE), Tina Woodley (Verderers), Jonathan Low and Maria Court (NPA) met up to discuss a comms strategy and plans for HLS moving forward.

Agreement to make only small updates and tweaks for short term, as opposed to a big refresh of comms strategy.

Jonathan to look at updating and refreshing HLS website.

HLS staff to identify any photo / video opportunities to provide 'quick wins' from a comms perspective. Talk of possibly getting some drone footage to help highlight before and after work.

Jonathan Low, Dylan Everett, Helen Potts (both National Trust) and Tina Woodley met up to discuss stallions at Mottisfont and how best to publicise this.

A press release is being written. Jonathan to potentially go out and get some pics and video footage.

Coming up

Maria Court has interviewed Catherine Chatters about the New Forest Non Native Plants Project; this is part of the NPA's Behind the Scenes campaign which has ties with HLS.

New Forest Wetland Restoration Vegetation Monitoring: Harvestslade and Sluffers, 2022 report to be added onto HLS website on Botanical Surveys page under Monitoring Wetland Restorations.

Ongoing projects including:

- Rhododendron survey (Gareth Owen can create new online survey to drop onto the HLS site)
- Woodlark survey results
- Wetlands works

Next HLS comms meeting organised for **Thursday, 16th January**

HLS AGM agreed for **Friday, 31 January** in Verderers Hall

NEW FOREST NON-NATIVE PLANTS PROJECT REPORT TO THE NEW FOREST HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2024

This report outlines relevant activities of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project since the previous report dated 1 August 2024 which was submitted for the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS) Board meeting held on 14 August 2024.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (which hosts the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project) is very grateful for the funding provided by the New Forest HLS scheme for the control of invasive non-native plants within the Open Forest on the Crown Land.

Work by contractors on Crown Land on Open Forest in 2024

As stated in the previous Steering Group report, Purchase Orders have been issued by the Project Officer on behalf of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for work to be undertaken by professional contractors to control invasive non-native plants on the Open Forest on Crown Land during 2024.

The Purchase Orders were issued to the contractors with covering letters and site risk assessments which had been prepared by the Project Officer, together with relevant 'constraints and hazards' maps which had been prepared by Forestry England. Where available, detailed maps prepared by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust were sent to the contractors to help them find the target species when undertaking the herbicide treatment.

Control of Japanese knotweed

- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor adjacent to Hillview, Linwood. £85 + VAT. Work undertaken on 17 September 2024. 3 x very small plants found and treated along fence line. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor between Burley and Bransgore. £125 + VAT. Work undertaken on 17 September 2024. 8 x 20-30cm stems found and treated. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor off Cott Lane, Burley. £165 + VAT. Work undertaken on 16 September 2024. 5 x 20-30cm stems found and treated. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.

Control of American skunk cabbage

- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken along Mill Lawn Brook downstream of Rooks Bridge. £160 + VAT. Work undertaken on 26 June 2024. Invoice submitted on 3 July 2024.
- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken upstream of A337 (downstream of Harcourt Wood). £160 + VAT. Work undertaken on 3 July 2024. Invoice submitted on 3 July 2024.

Control of Yellow Azalea

- Herbicide treatment and cutting to be undertaken by contractor on Open Forest in vicinity of Old House, near Burley. £90 + VAT. Work undertaken on 17 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- Herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor on Open Forest at South Oakley. £70 + VAT. Work undertaken on 18 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- Herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor on Open Forest in Busketts area. £65 + VAT. Work undertaken on 17 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.

Control of Cotoneaster and Berberis

- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of former WWI Airfield at East Boldre. £160 + VAT. Work undertaken on 12 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of former WWII Airfield at Beaulieu Heath. £3,150 + VAT. Work undertaken on 4, 10, 11, 12, 17 and 18 July 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of the former WWII Airfield at Stoney Cross. £2,950 + VAT. Work undertaken on 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor at Eastern side of Lyndhurst. £95 + VAT. Work undertaken on 9 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor near Bramble Hill Hotel. £280 + VAT. Work undertaken on 11 July 2024. Invoice submitted on 7 August 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor to north of Hatchet Pond. £120 + VAT. Work undertaken on 12 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of Hatchet Moor car park and Little Hatchet Pond. £165 + VAT. Work undertaken on 12 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor at Hatchet Triangle. £270 + VAT. Work undertaken on 12 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor to west of Hatchet Gate. £200 + VAT. Work undertaken on 12 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.

- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of Rans Wood car park. £480 + VAT. Work undertaken on 16 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster and Berberis to be undertaken by contractor in vicinity of Setley Pond. £165 + VAT. Work undertaken on 9 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor on Setley Plain. £165 + VAT. Work undertaken on 9 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor to north of A31 near Minstead. £265.40 + VAT. Work undertaken on 18 July 2024. Invoice submitted on 19 July 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor at Pilmore Gate Heath and Acres Down. £280 + VAT. Work undertaken on 20 June 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor at Boundway Hill. £120 + VAT. Work undertaken on 9 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor near Piper's Wait car park £65 + VAT. Work undertaken on 11 July 2024. Invoice submitted on 7 August 2024. Contractor also treated one Cotoneaster plant that he discovered on the edge of the car park.
- One herbicide treatment of Cotoneaster to be undertaken by contractor near Wilverley Lodge £430 + VAT. Work undertaken on 11 September 2024. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.

Control of Parrot's Feather

Early summer herbicide treatments, late summer herbicide treatments and interim herbicide treatments to be undertaken by contractor at East End and Hinchleslea Bog.

- Early summer treatment £573.30 + VAT
- Late summer treatment and interim treatments £573.30 + VAT

Kevin Ackerman of Food & Environmental Ltd emailed the Project Officer on 6 June 2024 to say that when he and his colleague were in the vicinity of Hinchleslea Bog on 5 June 2024 they took the opportunity to do a monitoring visit and, although they 'didn't probe too far', they found no Parrot's Feather which was very encouraging. Kevin intends to check the sites thoroughly and undertake the first round of herbicide treatment 'in the next couple of weeks'.

The early summer herbicide treatment was undertaken on 21 June 2024. Kevin emailed the Project Officer later that day to report as follows:

Hinchleslea Bog

"Good news from Hinchleslea. Very little Parrot's Feather - a small, not very dense, patch near

the small willow island south of the causeway and approx 10-15 stems in the channel beyond the open water. A few small patches on the wet ground to the east of the bog itself, nothing to the north of the causeway. Very pleasing!”

East End

“...a few small patches in under the trees as expected but less than this time last year”. Whilst on site the contractors were approached by one of the New Forest Keepers (Ben) with whom they had a really good chat; Kevin reported that Ben provided “very positive feed-back”.

The invoice was submitted on 24 June 2024.

The interim treatment was undertaken on 4 September 2024. Kevin emailed the Project Officer on 5 September 2024 to report:

“East End Pond - Looking good. Eight stems of Parrot’s Feather found in the area to the east of the pond under the trees. These were spot sprayed as they were in livestock footprints and difficult to remove by hand. The area was heavily poached but the water level in the pond was low giving us good access. We will check again in early October.

Hincheslea Bog - Water levels are very high on site, and it is very soft under foot. No Parrot’s Feather spotted to the north of the causeway, which is good. We found small fragments freely floating in the water to the south of the causeway (hand removed). There were two small plants growing in the bank to the extreme east of the water close to the causeway (spot sprayed) otherwise very little Parrot’s Feather visible from the causeway; however, on walking/wading around the rear of the open water we did find three distinct areas of Parrot’s Feather (all sprayed). Whilst [Parrot’s Feather is] still there, this is still a very encouraging result as it is hugely reduced this year compared to previous seasons. We didn’t find any Parrot’s Feather further down through the willow carr. There were some patches to the south-east of the water body on the open wet ground; these seems to move around as we could see previous evidence of our control and, apart from the odd very small plant, these areas were clear and this part of the bog is very heavily poached by stock. One disappointing area of Parrot’s Feather we found was to the east of the water body on the far side of the soft channel coming down the slope. This area has been clear for several years but we did find a sparse patch of Parrot’s Feather approx. 1 x 2m (area sprayed). In summary very good progress at Hincheslea this year, but still needs monitoring”.

The late summer treatment was undertaken on 15 October 2024. Kevin emailed the Project Officer on 16 October 2024 to report:

“East End Pond - Clear of Parrot’s Feather. I was really pleased with this as it has been very frustrating to have the little patches popping up. Again, I don’t think we are quite there yet, but a positive end to this year’s treatments.

Hincheslea Bog - No Parrot’s Feather to the north of the causeway which is really good as it has been clear all year. Again (as per last visit) a few free-floating fragments hand removed from the main body of water. These must be being broken off by livestock or dogs swimming, and I am more inclined to think livestock, as there is very limited Parrot’s Feather present now and not where the dogs generally go. The only rooted Parrot’s Feather found was to the rear of the small willow island (a patch approx. 0.5m²) and odd single stems through the reeds at the rear of the water at it flows towards the willow carr. Approx 20 stems. Checking the wet area to the

east of the main body, again heavy poaching by livestock, but much less Parrot's Feather than during our last visit with just odd stems in previously treated areas. approx. 10 small stems in total. I think there has been really positive progress on this challenging site again this year, with the main body of water clear and just small areas around the perimeter. Still the big challenge is the physical spread of the plant by livestock and dogs. We had some good engagement with the public who were interested and gave really positive responses, which is always encouraging".

The invoice was submitted on 16 October 2024.

Control of Evening Primrose and Purple Toadflax

- One herbicide treatment on Open Forest at Shepard's Gutter car park. £65 + VAT. Contractor visited on 3 separate occasions but did not find any Evening Primrose or Purple Toadflax. Invoice submitted on 23 September 2024.

Control of Gaultheria

- One herbicide treatment to be undertaken by contractor south of Fletcher's Hill in May or June 2024. £565 + VAT. Work undertaken on 20 June 2024. Invoice submitted on 3 July 2024.
- Two herbicide treatments to be undertaken by contractor on island in pond on Broomy Plain (one treatment in April 2024 and one treatment in May or June 2024). £1,195.39 + VAT. First treatment undertaken on 8 May 2024; invoice submitted on 9 May 2024. Second treatment undertaken on 21 June 2024; invoice submitted on 24 June 2024.

Wet, unsettled weather during April 2024 resulted in the first treatment having to be delayed until early May. Kevin Ackerman of Food & Environmental Ltd emailed the Project Officer on 8 May 2024 to confirm that the first herbicide treatment of the Gaultheria had been undertaken that day on the island in the pond on Broomy Plain. Kevin reported as follows:

"Dear Catherine

Perfect weather! The first treatment is all completed, we were surprised how much was actually on the island, I would guesstimate 40% coverage and quite a few small plants. We treated at the recommended rate of 10l/Ha-1 and used Topfilm at the highest rate rather than the Mixture B. We were as careful as possible to limit control to just the Gaultheria, but also very thorough, spraying all leaves. I think there will be a notable impact to the Gaultheria on the island. I will put a note in the diary to revisit in 4-5 weeks, I will also forward the spray records."

Kevin emailed the Project Officer on 21 June 2024 after he had undertaken the second treatment of the Gaultheria on the island in the pond on Broomy Plain; he reported as follows:

"...the first Gaultheria treatment looks to have worked very well with just a few leaves near the base of a few plants needing re-treatment."

Planning the work to be undertaken by contractors during 2025

On 6 and 8 October 2024 the Project Officer requested quotes from contractors for control work to be undertaken on behalf of the New Forest Non-Native Plants Project at relevant sites on the Open Forest during 2025.

Recording invasive non-native plants

Species recorded in vicinity of North Gate car park on 18 August 2024

On 18 August 2024 Clive Chatters (volunteer) discovered Cotoneaster, Montbretia and Variegated Yellow Archangel growing in a bramble patch near North Gate car park. GPS readings and photographs were taken by the Project Officer.



Cotoneaster and Montbretia growing in bramble patch at SU 38510 04814 near North Gate car park on 18 August 2024



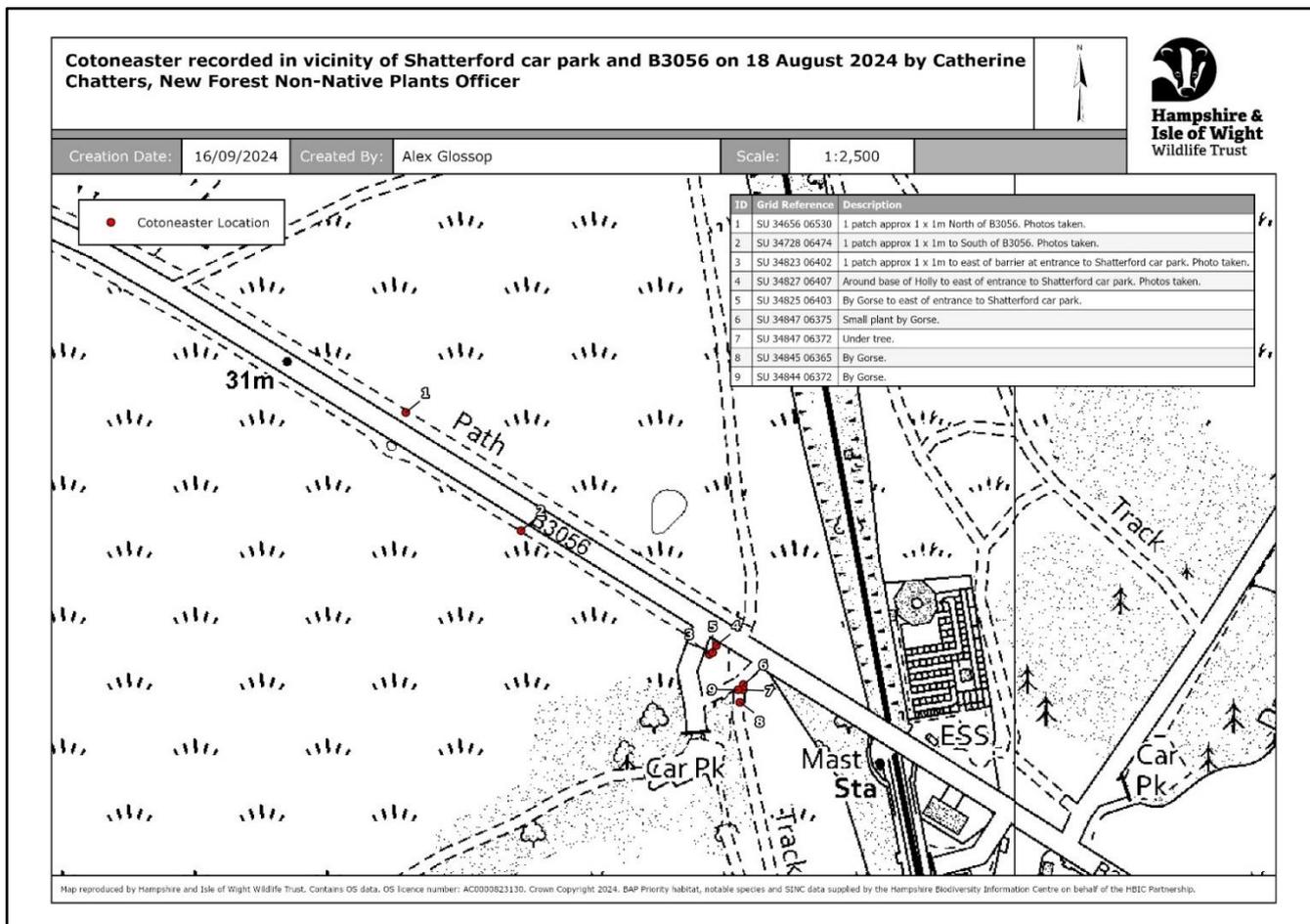
Variegated Yellow Archangel growing on edge of brambles at SU 38511 04816 near North Gate car park on 18 August 2024

Recording Cotoneaster in vicinity of B3056 and Shatterford car park

On 18 August 2024 Clive Chatters (volunteer) and the Project Officer recorded Cotoneaster at nine locations in the vicinity of the B3056 and Shatterford car park.



Cotoneaster horizontalis recorded on 18 August 2024 amongst heather at SU 34656 06530 to north of B3056

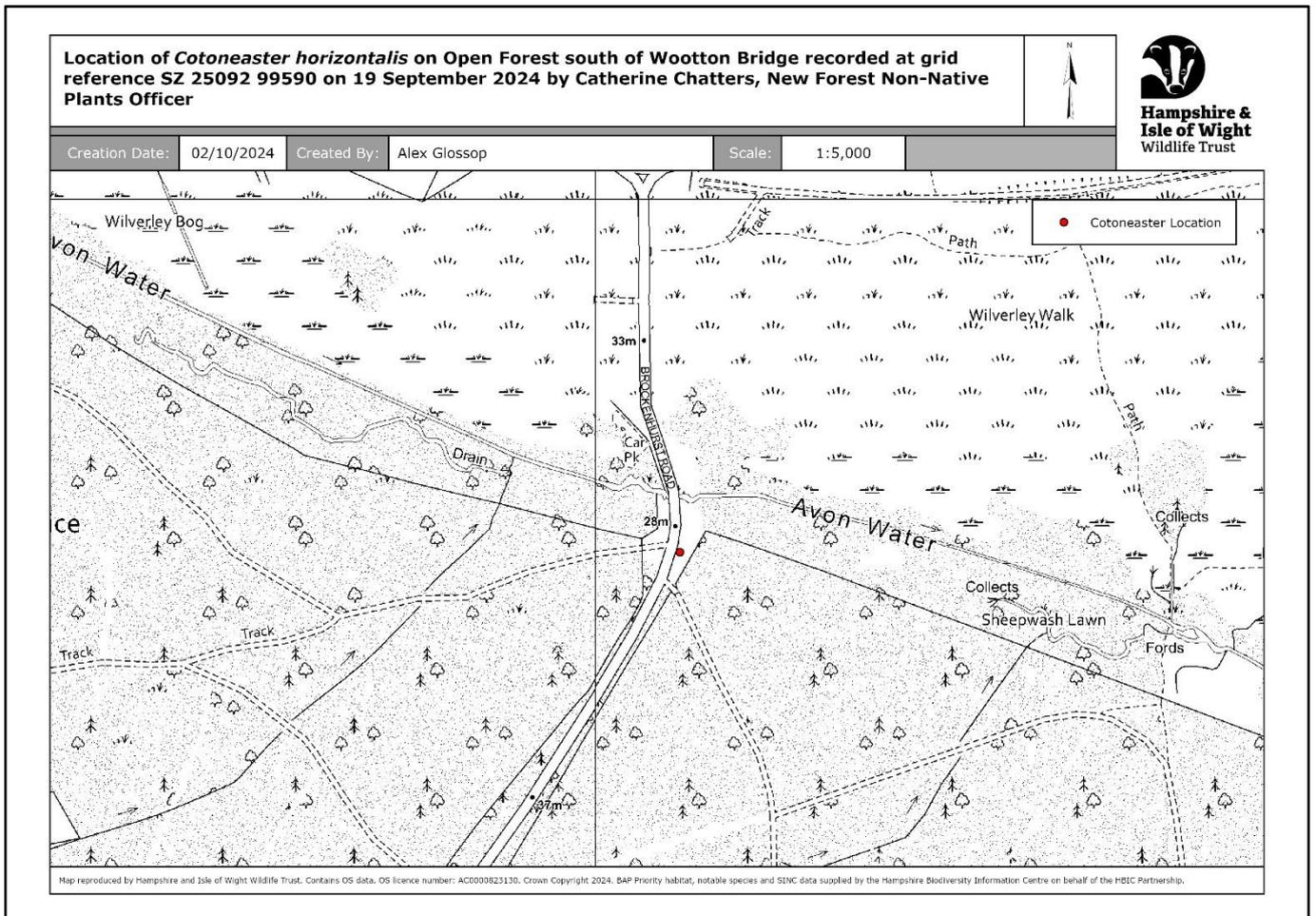


Recording Cotoneaster south of Wootton Bridge

Clive Chatters had alerted the Project Officer to a Cotoneaster plant growing on the Open Forest in the vicinity of Wootton Bridge. On 19 September 2024 the Project Officer recorded the single plant of *Cotoneaster horizontalis* growing to the east of the road (south of Wootton Bridge) at SZ 25092 99590.

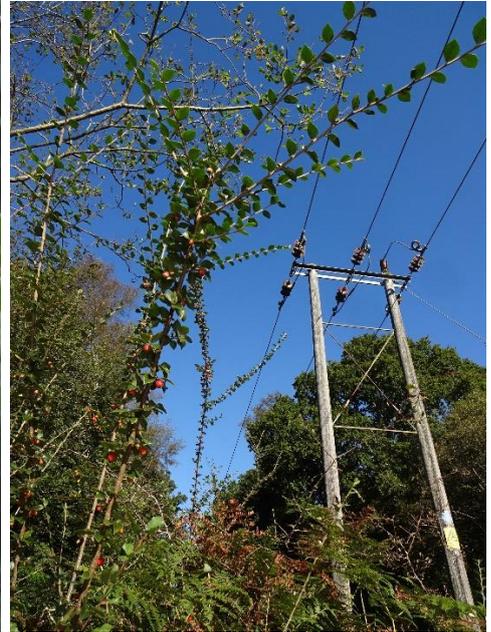


The *Cotoneaster horizontalis* plant recorded at SZ 25092 99590 on 19 September 2024

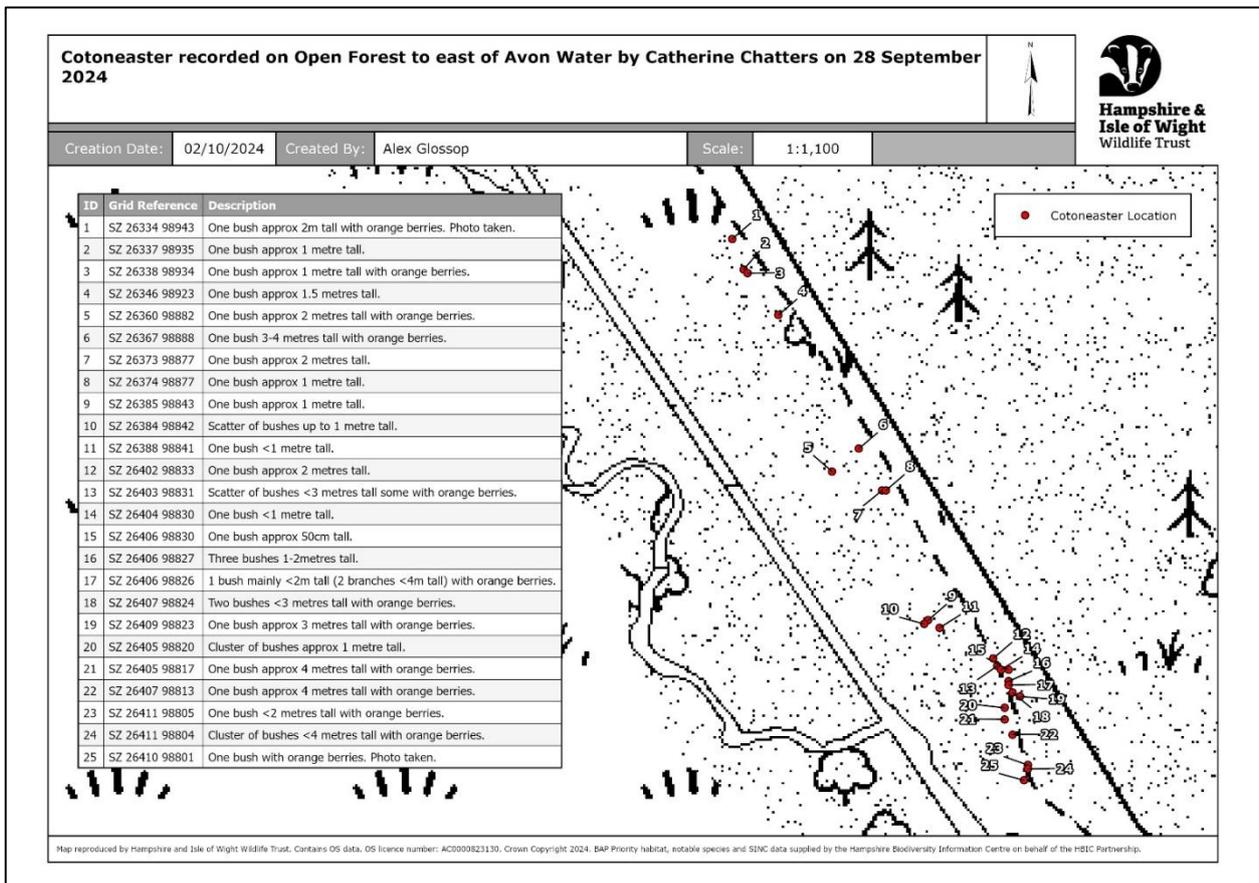


Recording Cotoneaster to east of Avon Water

Clive Chatters had alerted the Project Officer to Cotoneaster plants growing on the Open Forest below overhead wires to the east of the Avon Water. The Project Officer visited this area on 28 September 2024 and recorded Cotoneaster growing between SZ 26334 98943 and SZ 26410 98801.

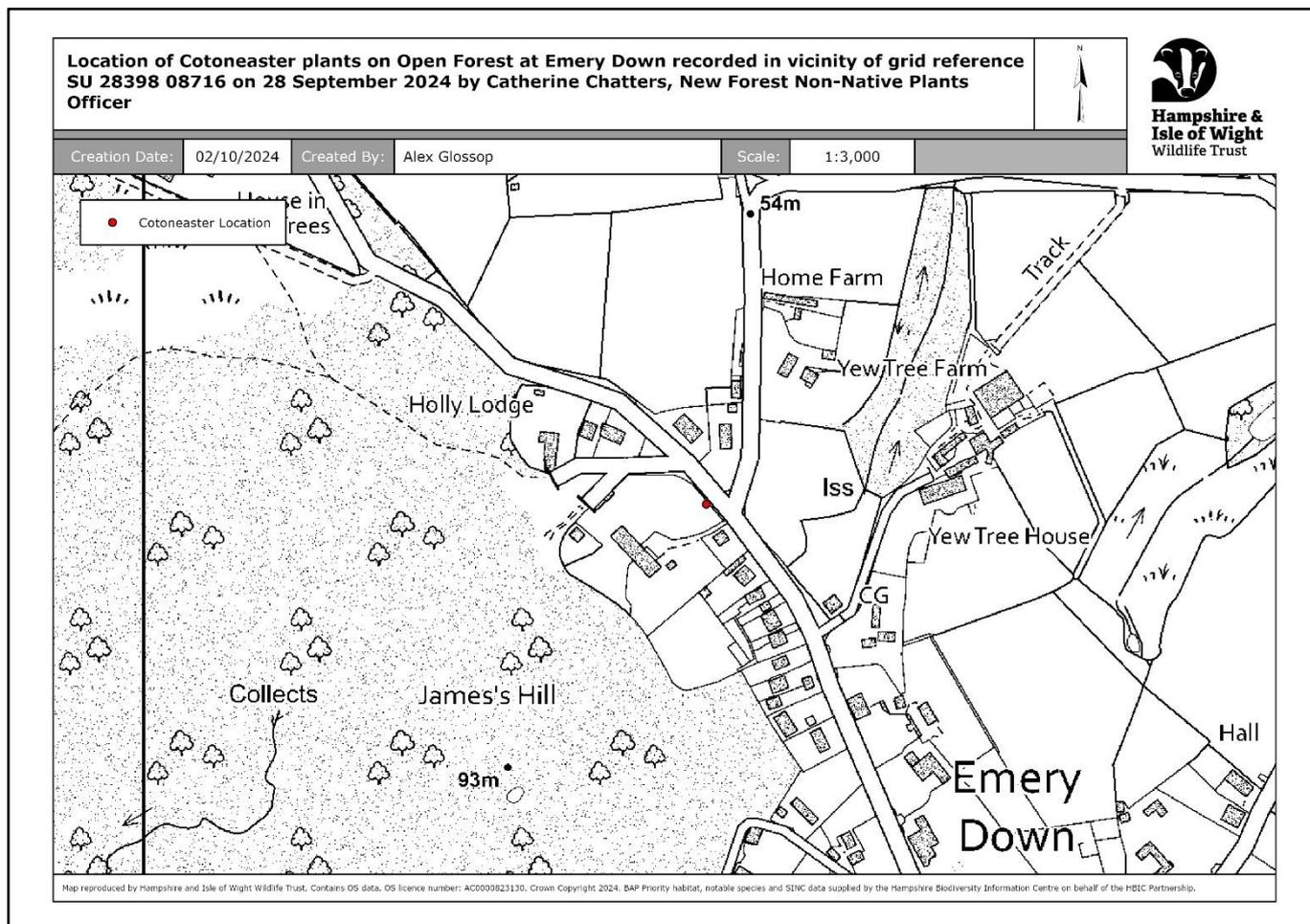


Cotoneaster plants were recorded beneath the overhead wires to east of Avon Water on 28 September 2024.



Recording Cotoneaster at Emery Down

On 28 September 2024 the Project Officer recorded *Cotoneaster simonsii* growing on the Open Forest near the post box at Emery Down.



Recording Berberis

On 11 October 2024, whilst monitoring the control of Cotoneaster, the Project Officer recorded Berberis growing on a former runway that was part of the WWII Airfield at Beaulieu Heath.



The Berberis growing in a patch of heather, recorded at Beaulieu Heath on 11 October 2024

Control of invasive non-native plants

Control of Pitcher Plants at Shatterford

Following the visits to Shatterford Bog to control Pitcher Plants on 12 June and 23 June 2024 (as mentioned in the previous report) the Project Officer returned to Shatterford on 12 August 2024 with Jane Smith (volunteer) to dig up the remaining Pitcher Plants:

- Large Pitcher Plant dug up at SU 33835 06628
- Four Pitcher Plants dug up at SU 33836 06630
- Pitcher Plant dug up at SU 34107 06316 (not previously recorded)
- Pitcher Plant dug up at SU 34120 06321



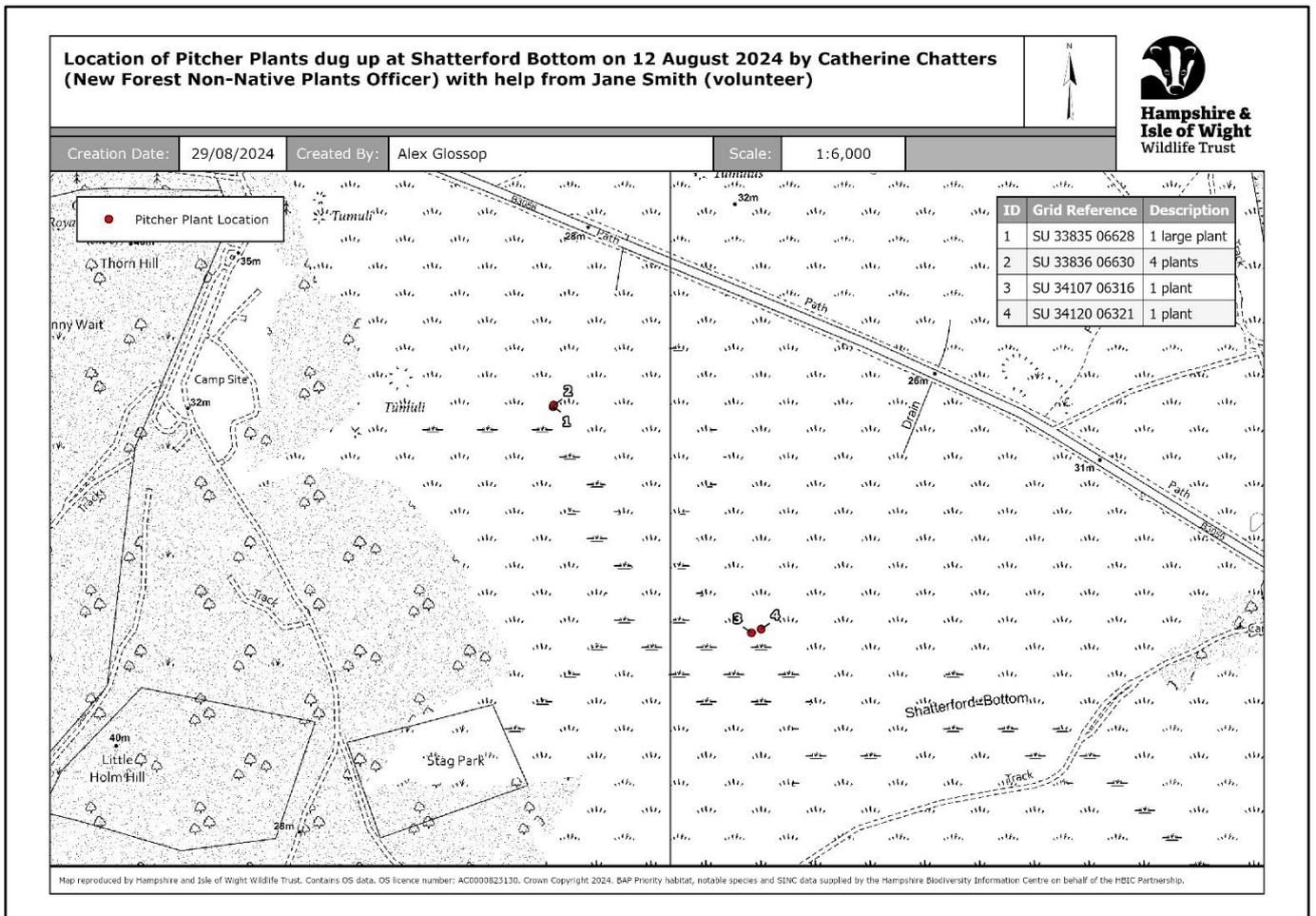
Jane Smith digging up Pitcher Plants at SU 33835 06628 and at SU 33836 06630 on 12 August 2024



The Project Officer dug up the Pitcher Plant in Shatterford Bog at SU 34120 06321 on 12 August 2024 (photos taken by Jane Smith)



Pitcher Plant being dug up by Jane Smith at Shatterford on 12 August 2024

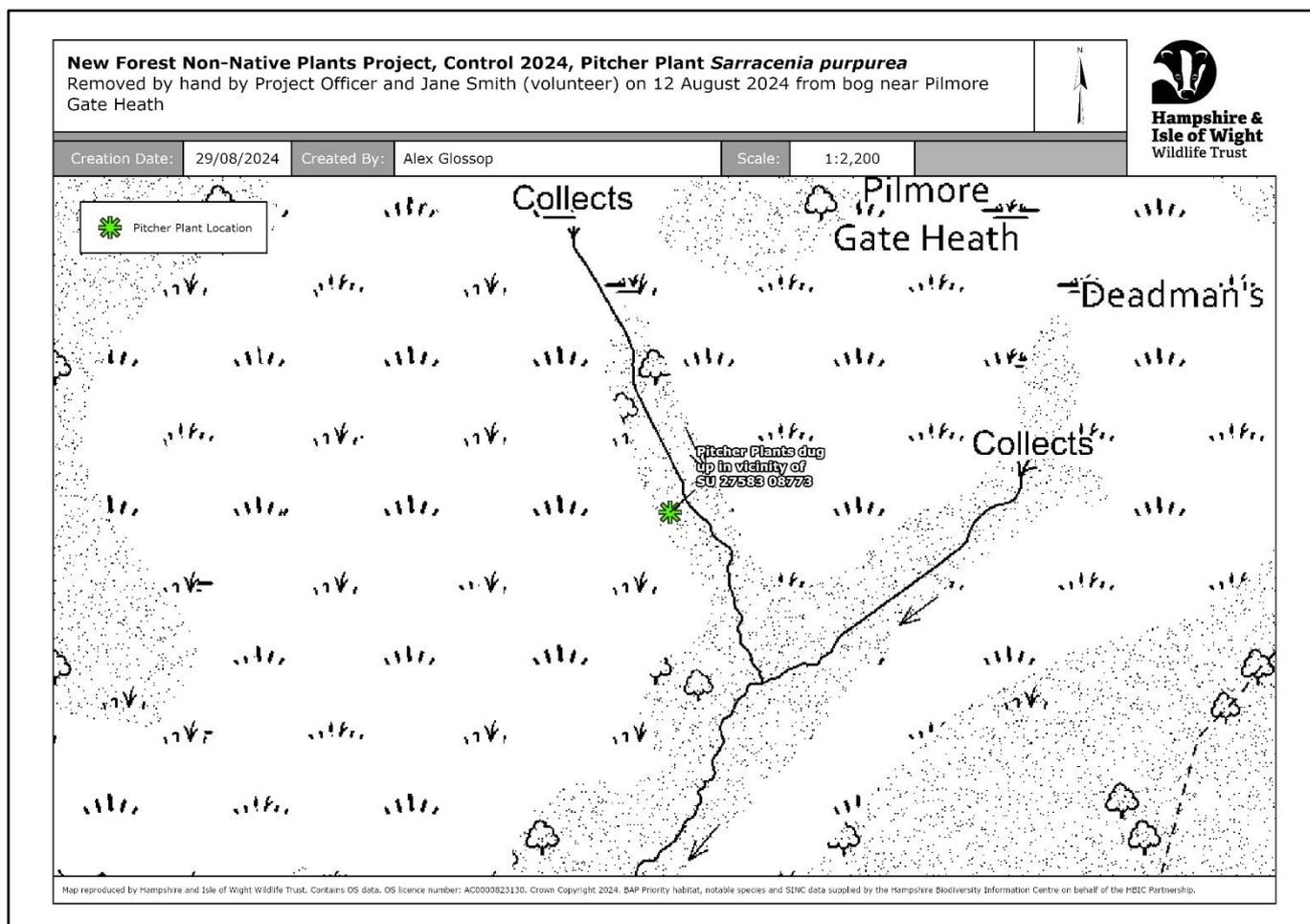


Control of Pitcher Plants near Pilmore Gate Heath

On 12 August 2024 Jane Smith helped the Project Officer to monitor the bog near Pilmore Gate Heath following removal of Pitcher Plants during March 2024. A total of 66 Pitcher Plants including 35 seedlings and 29 small plants, together with 2 medium-sized plants, were dug up here on 12 August 2024.



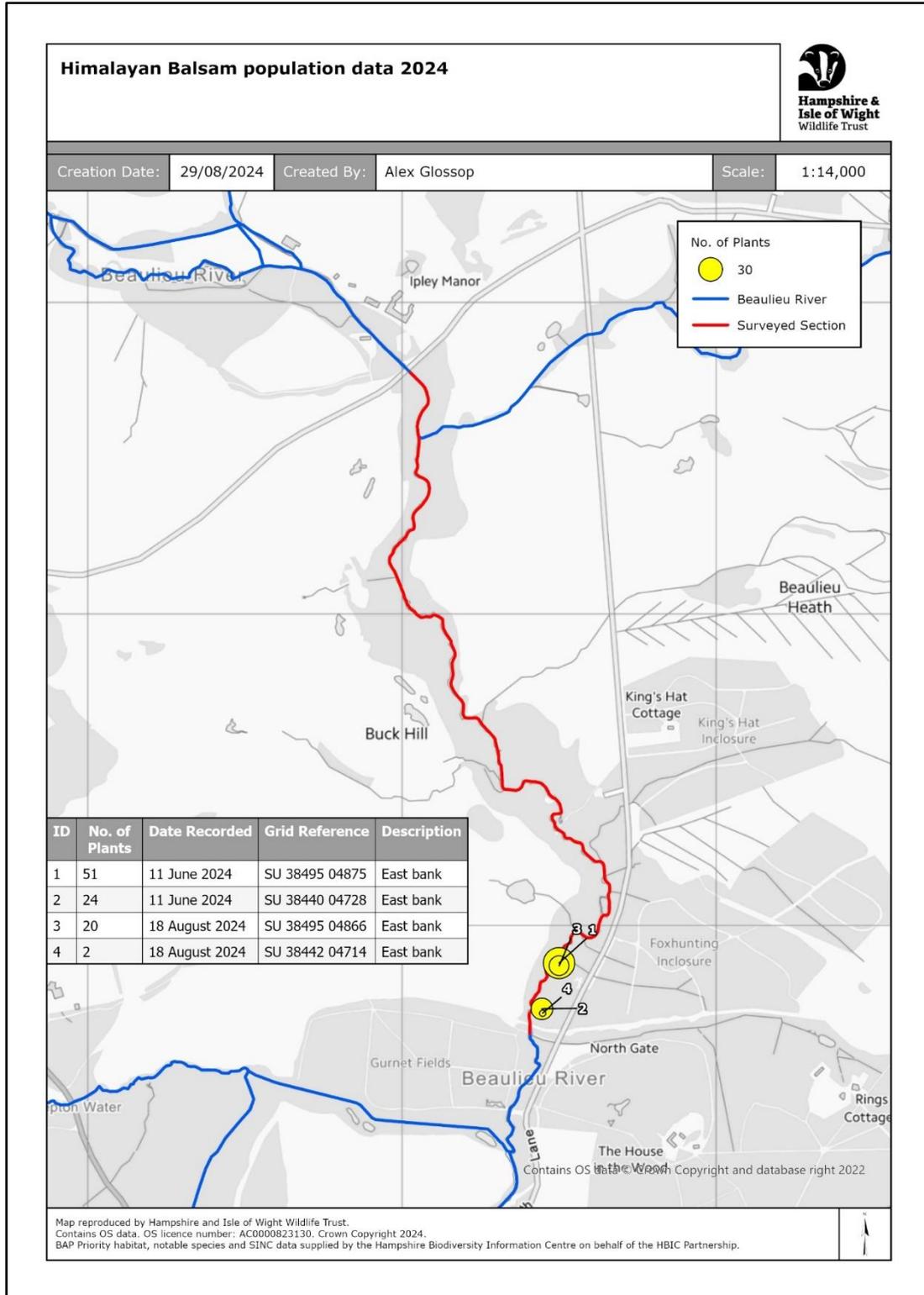
Left: typical Pitcher Plant seedling and small Pitcher Plant dug up from bog near Pilmore Gate Heath on 12 August 2024. Right: the 66 Pitcher Plants dug up at this location on 12 August 2024.



Control of Himalayan balsam along the Beaulieu River

On Sunday 18 August 2024 Clive Chatters (volunteer) helped the Project Officer to control Himalayan balsam near the Beaulieu River in the vicinity of North Gate car park. Himalayan balsam plants were found and pulled at the following locations to the east of the Beaulieu River:

- 20 plants pulled in vicinity of SU 38495 04866
- 2 plants pulled in vicinity of SU 38442 04714



Control of Himalayan balsam adjacent to site of former Holmsley Lodge

On 5 September 2024 the Project Officer controlled the Himalayan balsam in the vicinity of the former Holmsley Lodge. Only 7 Himalayan balsam plants were found growing on the Open Forest (and relatively few plants were growing on the adjacent privately-owned land). All balsam plants found were pulled up. The work undertaken by the NFNNPP during the past few years has made a significant difference to the amount of balsam growing at this location. However, the Project Officer is concerned that there is a risk that other invasive non-native plants (particularly Bamboo) growing on the privately-owned land will, in time, colonise the Open Forest unless measures are taken to control them.

Control of Himalayan balsam in vicinity of tributary of the Passford Water

Volunteers David Smart and Brian Matthews helped the Project Officer to search for Himalayan balsam on the Open Forest at Shirley Holms. A few balsam plants were found growing amongst bracken and pulled up at SZ 29807 98290.



Volunteers David Smart and Brian Matthews helped to control Himalayan balsam at Shirley Holms on 27 September 2024

Monitoring the control of invasive non-native plants

Monitoring control of Cotoneaster

On 19 September 2024 the Project Officer monitored the control of *Cotoneaster horizontalis* on the Open Forest at SU 30255 02650 in Brockenhurst. The herbicide treatment undertaken during 2023 has been successful.



The *Cotoneaster horizontalis* plant at SU 30255 02650 in Brockenhurst has been controlled successfully

On 28 September 2024 the Project Officer monitored the control of Cotoneaster at the following locations:

- Boundway Hill
- Piper's Wait
- In vicinity of Bramble Hill Hotel
- North of the A31
- Pilmore Gate Heath and Acres Down



Successfully treated *Cotoneaster horizontalis* near Piper's Wait car park

On 29 September 2024 the Project Officer monitored the control of Cotoneaster at the following locations:

- North of Hatchet Pond
- West of Hatchet Gate
- Hatchet Triangle
- Hatchet Moor
- East Boldre
- Setley Plain
- Setley Pond
- Near Wilverley Lodge
- Lyndhurst

On 1 October 2024 the Project Officer monitored the control of Cotoneaster at the following location:

- Land in vicinity of Rans Wood

On 1, 11, 15, 17 and 18 October 2024 (with help from volunteer Clive Chatters on 17 October) the Project Officer monitored the control of Cotoneaster at:

- Former WWII Airfield at Beaulieu Heath



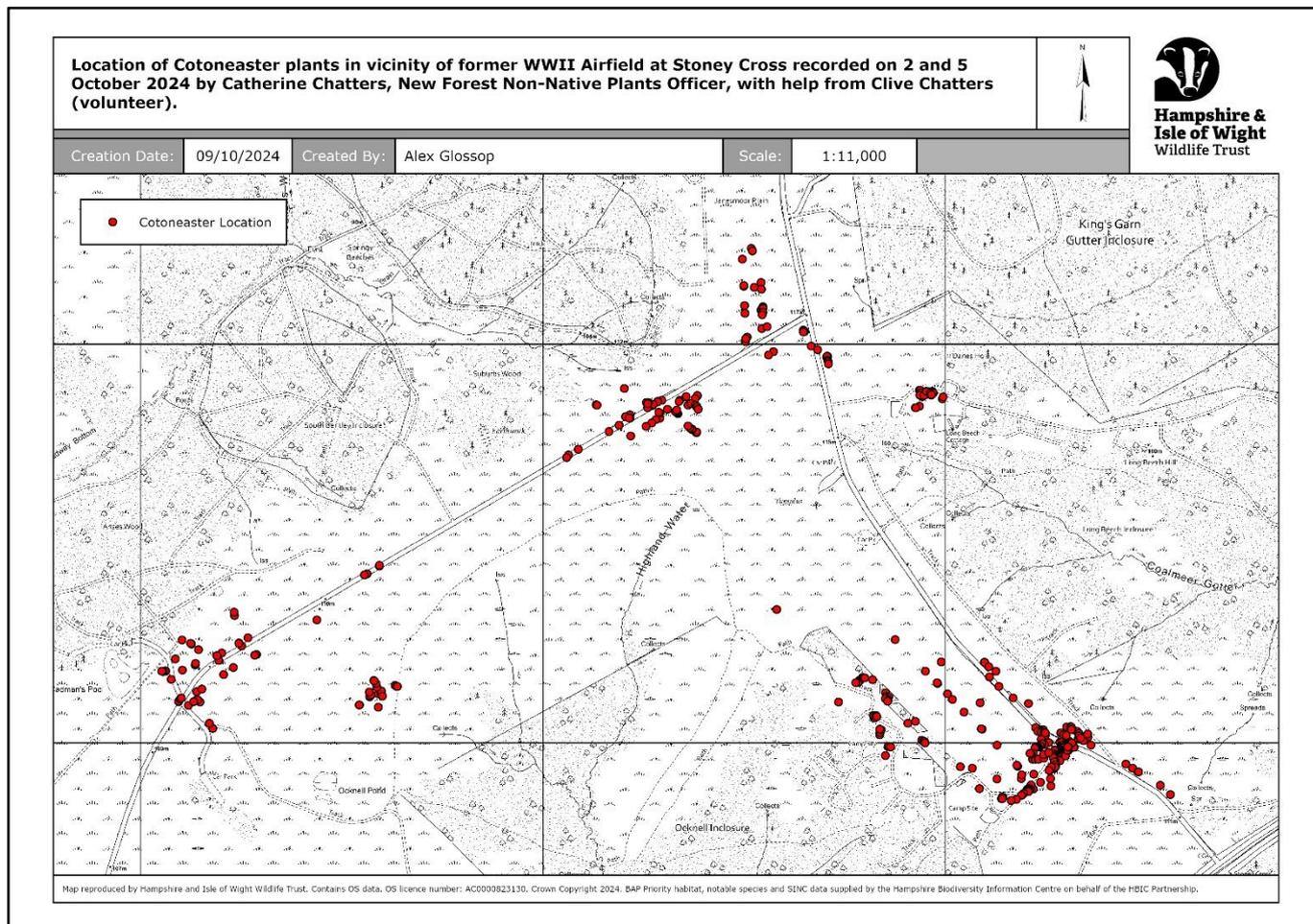
Clive Chatters helped with Cotoneaster monitoring at Beaulieu Heath on 17 October 2024

On 2 and 5 October 2024 (with help from volunteer Clive Chatters on 5 October) the Project Officer monitored the control of Cotoneaster at:

- Former WWII Airfield at Stoney Cross



Photographs taken during visit to Stoney Cross on 2 October 2024 to monitor control of Cotoneaster





Clive Chatters monitoring the control of Cotoneaster at Stoney Cross on 5 October 2024

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Aleksandra Piekarska (former Planning and Environment Officer, Forestry England) and Elina Vainio (Environment GIS Technician, Forestry England) for preparing maps relating to work undertaken on the Open Forest by contractors on behalf of the NFNNPP during 2024. Thanks to Alexander Glossop (Assistant GIS and Data Officer, HIWWT) for preparing the maps on pages 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 18 of this report.



The New Forest Non-Native Plants Project, hosted by Hampshire & Isle of Wildlife Trust, is very grateful to The Verderers and the New Forest HLS Board for the continued financial support given by the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Report prepared by Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-Native Plants Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Mobile 07770 923315
e-mail: Catherine.Chatters@hiwwt.org.uk
18 October 2024

LiDAR and Archaeology Report

October 2024 Board Meeting

Report by: Gareth Owen

HLS Archaeology and Heritage Team:

Since the August 2024 Board meeting the team has been continuing with ongoing works and responding to new requests from FE HLS. The team received Six new requests, concluded four of these (nine in total during this period) and progressed ongoing request for advice, Data Packs (Heritage Impact Assessments) and site mark-ups ahead of ground works for Verge Protection/Restoration, Trees & Scrub Clearance and Stream/Wetland Restoration. Presented here for the Board's consideration is a summary of works undertaken and ongoing from April 2024 to Aug 2024.

A review of work undertaken since the previous report:

For most requests received the team conduct an initial Desk Based Assessments followed by, in most cases, a site visit prior to submitting the Data Pack. Where appropriate the team will then conduct Watching Briefs and/or Monitoring Visits as work progresses.

Stream/Wetland Restoration:

Two new requests received for Long Down and Ipley Inclosure. Advice given for another site.

Verge Protection/Restoration

Data Pack delivered for Bolton's Bench to Denny Campsite.

Trees & Scrub Clearance including Bracken harvesting

Data Packs and advice delivered ahead of Bracken harvesting at Millersford/Turf Hill, Dunces Arch and Highland Water, and works at Dur Hill, Highland Water, Brook Wood and Wooson's Hill/Markash and Markway lawn. Walkover survey and Mark Up also conducted at Ipley Inclosure.

Lost Lawns

No requests/enquiries during this period.

Ongoing Work:

Finish processing winter 2019-2020 survey data & Concluding the Heritage Mapping Surveys:

The processing of the old survey data has now been completed, with over 600 feature records submitted* to the Hampshire Historic Environment Records for addition to the HER. We are now looking at progressing the Gap Filling surveys this winter.

*Two data sets (approx. 150 feature records) will have additional processing prior to submission.

HLS Projects:

New Forest Heritage Map – Data Consolidation and The Legacy of War on the Forest.

HLS survey data* has now need consolidated with both point data and feature outlines forming the start of our new New Forest Heritage Map (Fig 1 & 2). This data alone holds over 4,000 feature records and will benefit from additional editing which will be done, on a case-by-case basis, as we use the data and staff time allows. During the processing of the old survey data additional site data was found. This will be processed and added to the New Forest Heritage Map as we use the data and staff time allows.

*Two data sets (approx. 150 feature records) will have additional processing prior to addition to the New Forest Heritage Map.

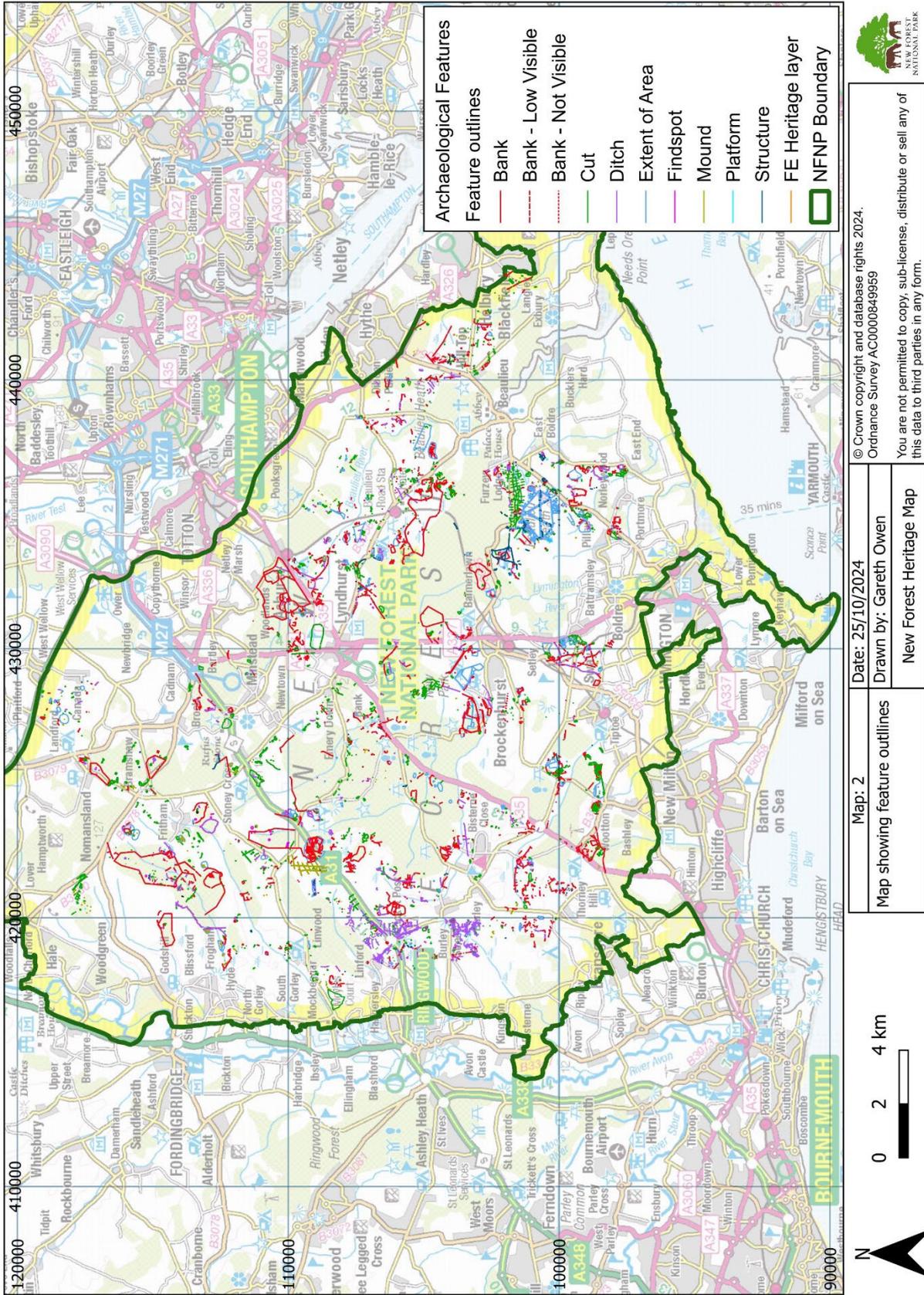


Figure 1: Map showing the New Forest Heritage Map - Feature Outlines

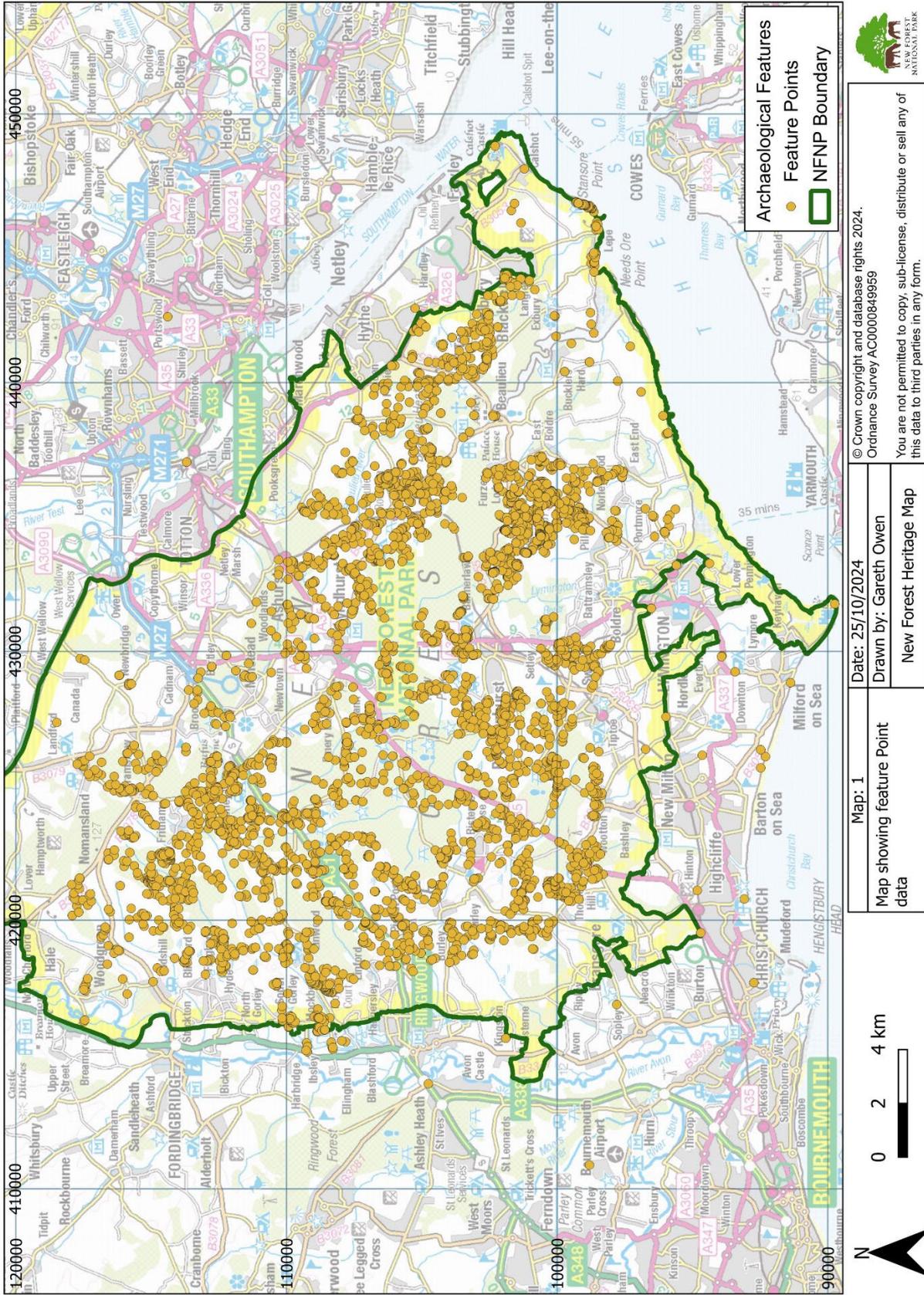


Figure 2: Map showing the New Forest Heritage Map - Feature Points

NEW FOREST LAND ADVICE SERVICE

Report to HLS Board meeting Oct 2024

Progress and Work Programme 1st July to 30th September 2024

Report by: Rhys Morgan / Sam Loades

This report summarises the work completed by the New Forest Land Advice Service to support commoning in the New Forest from 1st July to 30th September 2024

- **Proactive work with commoners** to deliver land management advice and support to understand and comply with relevant practices such as Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and HLS related objectives.

10 Commoners

- **Advice to commoners** where HLS land adjacent to their holdings is being affected by inappropriate operations or management, to advise and promote best practice land management.

5 Commoners

- **NFLAS attendance at commoner related meetings**

- 1- Attended course run by CSF – NFLAS on hand to talk with various commoners about their concerns / issues for their own holdings.

5 commoners talked with individually.

- 2- Evening meeting at Lyndhurst 09/09/24: Opportunity to talk to commoners. Remind people about NFLAS and deal with any new enquiries.

20 commoners talked with individually.

- **Backup grazing:**

- 1- Grazing opportunity supported – Lyndhurst

- 2- Opportunity to educate new landowner on commoning needs for backup grazing hopefully in 2025. Through first contact with NFLAS about land mgt.

- 3- Meeting with RSPB to discuss grazing for commoners

- **HLS Commoner Training**

Rhys has been in discussions with a suitable trainer on a selection of events we will be delivering over the course of the winter and spring.

These are all related to the open forest and commoner grazing livestock.

Currently in the organising stage of the venues and dates for the first 2 evening events to avoid clashes with other forest related meetings.

We will be advertising soon and setting the numbers who book on to 75 village hall or 35 for a farm visit. If the events prove popular while booking, we will look to repeat later down the line in 2025/26. Set numbers are still flexible at this stage but we have discussed a plan of action.

- **Non-HLS funded time but linked to commoners within the overall NFLAS project.**

- **New forest Southern cluster**

Currently has 9 commoners within the cluster group. I will be looking for more commoners to build on the land hectare we have within the portfolio soon. This item is separate to the HLS funding but have included to represent the cross over NFLAS has with projects supporting commoners across the forest.

- **FIPL**

I am including a few words to acknowledge several commoners have been successful via NFLAS with livestock handling equipment/ farm machinery/ diversification and supporting backup grazing needs that fit with the FIPL criteria and scoring process. Rainwater harvesting has also supported the commoning community.

- **WEIF**

Two Commoners holdings will benefit from the grant scheme this winter via FHT and NFLAS . Both these holdings are associated with open forest boundaries and will support water quality improvements for the area tributaries and SSSI'S