

WELCOME HOME!



10 things to do if you've moved to the New Forest



Welcome to the New Forest National Park.

Living here is a privilege. It's an amazing place with lots of wildlife, thousands of free-roaming animals, spectacular landscapes and thriving local communities.

The New Forest is a stronghold for the Dartford warbler



For everything you need to know about living in the New Forest National Park, visit www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/residents

☐ The ponies, cattle, donkeys, sheep and pigs that roam the Forest are fundamental to the history and future of the area – their grazing shapes the open Forest lawns, heaths, mires and woods. They are all owned by local people, called commoners, whose long history is part of the cultural heritage of the New Forest. **Visit the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst** to find out more about the Forest's culture and heritage.

☐ **Leave the animals alone** - they can be unpredictable and best treated as wild. **Please don't feed or pet them**; there is plenty of natural food and it's best that they don't come to rely on people's attention.



☐ **Carry a card with animal emergency hotline numbers** to call and **put an 'I Go Slow for Ponies' sticker in your car**. The animals have no road sense and frequently stand or walk on the unfenced roads, so give them a wide berth and be especially careful when driving at night. If you do see an accident, or a sick animal, you'll want to know who to phone.



☒ Here are our top tips to help you quickly feel at home, make the most of living here, and keep the New Forest National Park special.



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☐ In the summer **try at least one of the New Forest Tour's three routes.** The commentary makes learning about the National Park easy, the views from the top deck are superb and you can hop on and off at a range of villages and visitor attractions.

☐ **Try some delicious local produce bearing the New Forest Marque** from local shops, cafes and markets – you'll be supporting local businesses and the Forest landscape.



☐ **Visit the New Forest coast at different times of year.** As well as popular beaches just south of the National Park, you'll find wildlife reserves near Lymington and amazing views of the Isle of Wight from Lepe and Calshot.

View of Hurst Castle and the Isle of Wight



☐ **Find out which is your planning authority** if you want to make any alterations or if tree works are necessary. This will be the National Park Authority if you're inside the National Park boundary. Elsewhere, it could be New Forest District Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Wiltshire Council or Christchurch Borough Council. The Tree Service at the National Park Authority covers both National Park and New Forest District Council areas.

☐ Explore the seasons with walks in the Forest, remembering to **stay on the main tracks between March and July.** Many rare birds nest on the ground, but if people or dogs disturb them, their eggs or chicks will be at risk from predators.

☐ **Check out the links from our new residents' webpage.** You'll find more information about each of our top tips, events, discounts, competitions, and lots more.

☐ **Sign up to receive regular e-newsletters** from the National Park Authority, via our website. It's the best way to learn about new events, projects, volunteering opportunities and seasonal information.



Highland cattle



Rare birds like the Dartford warbler and this curlew try to nest in the heathlands – near or on the ground.



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