



Credit: New Forest National Park

ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS

Southampton Common is a good alternative for walking, dog walking and picnicking. The park consists of 365 acres of woodland, ponds, wetlands, lakes and parkland. The park has an abundance of wildlife and has been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre is located in the centre of the site, providing information about Southampton's wildlife and how the city is managed to increase biodiversity.

A map of local greenspaces can be found at:
<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/products/os-open-greenspace#get>



Credit: New Forest National Park



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Credit: www.anadventurousworld.com



NEW FOREST SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

Help us keep it special!

NEW FOREST SAC

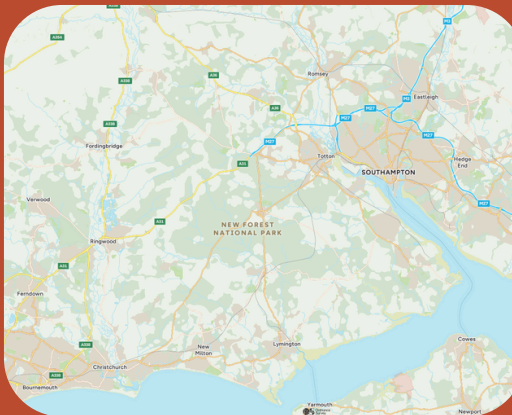
The New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is designated for a range of habitats including broad-leaved woodlands, heath and scrub habitats. Thirteen habitats of European interest are represented here, with two priority habitat types – bog and riverine woodland.

The new forest is the largest area of mature, semi-natural beech woodland in Britain. The mosaic with other woodland and heath habitats has allowed unique assemblages of lichens and invertebrates to be sustained here.

The new forest is also designated for protected species such as great crested newts.

NEW FOREST SPA AND RAMSAR SITE

The SAC is approximately 29213 ha in size and is also represented as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a RAMSAR site for the conservation of birds. These sites are designated for the protection of species such as nightjar, woodlark, dartford warbler and curlew, globally threatened species which come to breed here in significant numbers, making this site of great importance to vulnerable bird species.



Credit: OS Maps

CURRENT PRESSURES

The New Forest National Park is the busiest national park in England and receives an estimated 15 million visitors each year, it is a popular destination for dog walking, picnicking and watching wildlife.



Credit: Sarah Kelliher

The protected areas are sensitive to damage by increased levels of human disturbance, which can have negative effects on the habitats and flora that are found here. Recreational visits to these protected areas can contribute to damage to soils by trampling, soil compaction and erosion. Contamination of the site can occur through dog fouling and littering.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

There are a number of ways in which you can help to reduce the damage caused to these protected sites:

Other spaces – utilise of outdoor spaces in your area for recreational activities.

Using existing footpaths and cycle paths – to reduce the impact of erosion and compaction on soil, use pathways that have already been established to avoid walking through sensitive habitats.

Reduce the impact caused by dogs – when dog walking, keep your dog on a leash and pick up after them. Additional nutrients can negatively effect the plants and soil, and dog activity can impact other protected species using the habitats within these sites.



Credit: Kate Atkin