



New Forest Northern Commons

Local Newsletter



National Trust

New Forest Ranger Blog**Jake White—Community Ranger**

Tree planting, tree planting and tree planting! What a successful month for our tree planting effort in Foxbury this season.



With **80 individual volunteers over 3 days**, we have **completed planting 2000 trees**. With only a few left to finish.

So thank you to all those that came out for our **community planting days** and helped us during volunteer tasks to do so much in such a small amount of time!

We also welcomed a **tutor group of 30 year 8's from Thornden School** to come and plant trees with us. This tutor group won this opportunity by raising the most money for the NT during their summer fundraising.

Jake and Catherine also gave an interview to a reporter from **Hampshire Life** magazine about our winter lowland heathland conservation work. The article should appear in February 2018, so keep a look out!

Dave and I attended the annual New Forest Ranger meet-up—this includes rangers from the National Park, Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council, and others. It's a great piece of partnership working to discuss how 2017 has gone, and update one another on any future projects.



Lee helps a young volunteer to plant a tree.

Bramshaw Commons

By New Year the bulk of the forestry work will have been completed on duck hill part of **Half Moon Common**. An excavator is due on site mid December to commence tidy up and making good of extraction routes. Current works **due for completion in early New Year**. We will be returning with volunteers to commence a pine pull.

We will have contractors and staff working on additional trees, to achieve maximum conservation gain, throughout the winter. This may take in cadnam, furzley and half moon, with holly pollards to let light into the woods and provide livestock with winter forage.

Foxbury Update

Our Past, Our Future

Working together for the New Forest

LOTTERY FUNDED

Our volunteers continue to hack and burn the persistent **rhododendron**, however they are making amazing progress, and have also enlisted the help from Forestry Commission and Pond Head volunteers.

The **HLF project** is progressing nicely, and we even had a visit to Foxbury by one of their evaluators. The visit ended with the words “...**We are very proud to see our money being spent in this way...**” which is a fantastic response!

We have appointed contractors to create some **wildlife wooden carvings and some benches for the basecamp**. Jake has been meeting with wild play contractors to look at getting some natural play installation too.



All the HLF OPOF project leaders meeting for a team day.

Click the links to find out more about [Lowland Heathland](#) and why our work is focused on conserving this special habitat and it's wildlife within the [New Forest](#).

Hale Purlieu

Our tree works on the East of the common are complete, with the tidy up work due to finish by 8/12/17.

There is still extra work to the west of the common, focusing on the outlying pine and birch which we will complete this winter.

Weather allowing, gorse and heather burning will commence on the Purlieu this winter as part of our annual scrub management. Please look out for our orange "controlled burning" cautionary signage informing you where we are working. As this is weather dependant work we cannot give you a firm date.

Rockford and Ibsley Commons

Catherine and her volunteers have been out on Newlands Bog and around Dorridge Hill, Ibsley Common, removing pine and birch saplings from the open habitats with their tree poppers, as well as cutting away degenerate gorse stands.

This work is vital to ensure tree saplings do not grow on to encroach and dominate the adjacent wetland heathland plants that benefit the rare wildlife. As well as coppicing the gorse to promote fresh new growth.

Thorden School pupils from Year 8 plant trees in Foxbury. Links with school groups are so important to this project, and its future legacy.



Focus on...Heathland Management–Trees

We hope that it is due to our thorough communication plan prior to commencing our programme of tree felling and thinning on our commons, that we have received very few complaints from the local community.

However, we would like to explain more about our long term goals concerning this work.

We have explained previously that open lowland heathland is a rare and protected habitat type, and a priority when it comes to our management. Trees, primarily pine and birch, can seed out, encroach and over-dominate this precious habitat, in favour for species poor pine woods or scrub. We therefore have a duty to reduce the number of trees, and encourage the establishment of the rare open habitat.

Due to the way we are funded, we have to do a lot of work, in a short amount of time. This can often result in very intensive and intrusive works, with lots of trees being felled and large bonfires, with high visual impact. We would prefer for this not to be the case, but it's the way we have to work.

On some areas, like half moon common, high grazing levels have curtailed the spread of trees. However, we must take a long term view, and sadly with the forecast decline in commoning, and therefore grazing pressure, we must prepare the common for a future with less grazing, whereby trees would have a more favourable environment to spread, and reduce the rare, priority habitat.



Events at Foxbury meet at Half Moon car park SO51 6AQ—Call 01794344020 to book

Foxbury Forest School Xmas Special

A special Xmas themed day – make wooden reindeer, bird feeders and natural gifts! Start Christmas off outdoors.

Thursday 21st December
£10p/child, £5 per extra sibling
Ages 0-5
10:30am–1:30pm

Foxbury Forest School

Nature-inspired learning through play. Take part in fun activities, including den building, wild art, green woodwork skills, outdoor cookery and more.

Every Thursday (check dates) £8 p/child, £4 p/ extras sibling Ages 0–5
10:00am–12:00pm



Contact Information



@NT_NewForest

To book or enquire about events at Foxbury please call 01794344020

If you see any anti social behaviour across the commons—please call the police on 101

To write into the newsletter and all other enquiries, including volunteering

please contact us on

info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01425650035