What is Our Past, Our Future?

Our Past, Our Future is a £4.5m Landscape Partnership Scheme for the New Forest which, supported by Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF), will undertake around 20 projects to benefit the Forest.

The seven-year scheme is being led by the New Forest National Park Authority working with more than 10 partners.

The Landscape Partnership has been awarded a development grant from the HLF to employ a project team, based at the New Forest National Park Authority which is now working with the partners to develop and refine the initial bid for final submission in May 2015. If this is successful, the partner organisations will take collective responsibility to deliver a range of projects from 2016 – 2020.

The full initial HLF bid can be found on our website.
Restoring lost landscapes

It is not about recreating the past, but ensuring lessons are learnt to manage the Forest for the future.

Focus on: practical work and management of the land surrounding the Open Forest to improve and protect the natural environment.

Aims: to restore habitats and decrease fragmentation, increase responsible access, sustain historic land management practices and discover and restore the archaeology and built heritage of the Forest.

Projects focus on:
- Managing woodlands
- Improving water quality
- Establishing hedgerows
- Archaeology and heritage
- Tackling non-native plants
- Sustaining commoning
- Responsible land management
- Footpath improvements

Developing Forest skills

Investing in our local knowledge and future skills

Focus on: the people and communities living and working in the New Forest.

Aims: to retain, develop and share knowledge and skills required for sustainable management of the New Forest habitats and built heritage.

Projects focus on:
- Apprenticeships
- Traditional building skills
- Training for landowners, land managers and Commoners

Discovering Forest heritage and inspiring a new generation

When we understand the importance of such a unique landscape we become ambassadors in protecting its future.

Focus on: encouraging, enthusing and inspiring a new generation of people to be more involved in learning about, championing and caring for the New Forest.

Aims: to promote an understanding of the New Forest’s unique heritage and its common story among residents, communities and visitors.

Projects focus on:
- Involving communities
- Encouraging wild play
- Volunteering
- Sharing the Forest story
- Educational campaigns
- Promoting respect for the Forest
- Information exchange and sharing

Sign up for email newsletters at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk select Our Past Our Future