cycle 12 17/5/05 12:44 pm Page 1

New Forest Cycle Code

Enjoy the New Forest

William the Conqueror set aside the forest for hunting over 900 years ago. Centuries of grazing by ponies, cattle and deer combined with forestry, have shaped the landscape into what you see today. The New Forest is a nature conservation area with many rare habitats and wildlife species.

The New Forest is a wonderful place to cycle. Over 100 miles of surfaced tracks, especially way-marked for cycling, guide you through mature woodlands or alongside the Open Forest. Enjoy the shade of the Inclosures or the lovely heathland vistas with copses of trees, yellow flowering gorse and sight of the famous forest ponies.

Whether you are out to take exercise and improve your fitness, or you simply want to potter along with your family and take in the sights, the New Forest has something for everyone.

Help us to keep the New Forest a special place.

Remember that local byelaws apply in the New Forest

Wheel Follow the Code

Each year, thousands of cyclists enjoy the beauty of the New Forest. We want to protect the landscape and ensure that it remains beautiful and safe for everyone who visits. By following this code, you will enjoy yourself and allow other people to enjoy their activities too.

YOU CAN ONLY CYCLE ON THE WAY-MARKED ROUTES.
It is against the byelaws to cycle off these approved routes.

Disturbance to wildlife - wild animals can be startled by the sudden appearance of bikes. Ground nesting birds may be frightened off their nests and not return.

Disturbance to commoners' stock - the ponies and cattle in the forest are owned by the local commoners but are wild, and should be left alone.

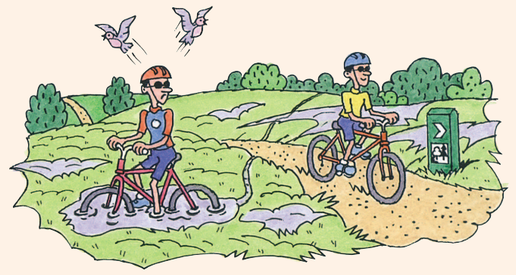
Disturbance to other users - walkers and horse riders have the legal right to go anywhere in the forest. They do not expect to meet cyclists off the way-marked routes.

Localised erosion - many wheels can churn up soft paths, create water channels and cause soil erosion.

Thousands of cyclists use the forest responsibly.
Do not be the one who gives them a bad name.

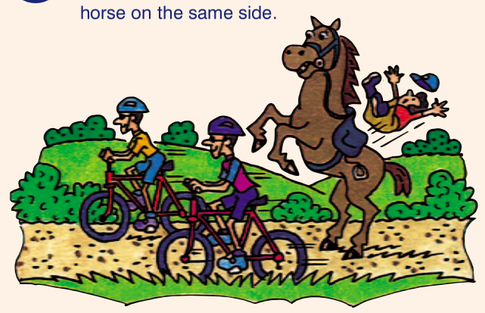
PLEASE FOLLOW THE CODE →

1. Keep to the way-marked gravel tracks when cycling in the forest.

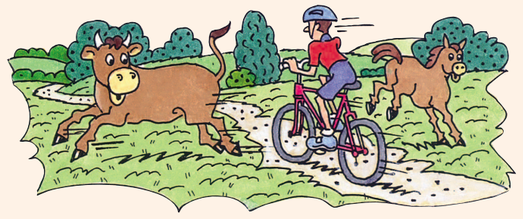


2. Slow down and call out a warning when approaching other forest users. Be courteous and friendly.

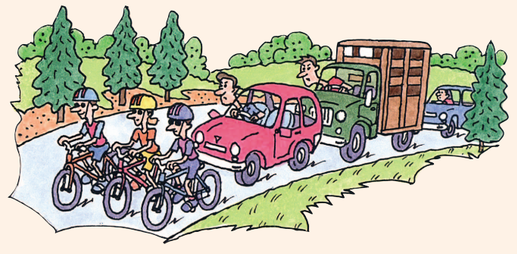
3. Take extra care when nearing horse riders. When in a group, all cyclists should pass the horse on the same side.



4. Do not startle ponies, cattle or wildlife. Go slowly and give them space.

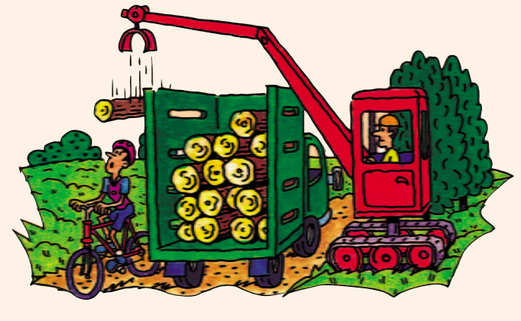


5. Avoid causing obstructions - do not ride more than two abreast. Always ride in single file on narrow roads.



6. Keep well away from any work going on in the forest.

7. Do not pass any vehicle loading timber until you have been told it is safe to do so.



8. Use the map, and plan to be out of the forest by dusk.

Be safe - always wear a helmet

Towns and Villages

BEAULIEU
A charming village, partly surrounded by woodland and set in the Beaulieu River valley. The famous Beaulieu Estate contains a ruined 13th Century Abbey, Palace House and the renowned National Motor Museum. The nearby ship building village of Bucklers Hard is also well worth a visit.

BROCKENHURST CYCLE HIRE
In the heart of the New Forest, this village is set amidst some of the loveliest scenery in the area. The forest ponies, donkeys and cattle often visit the main street and graze on the village green. New Park, to the north of the village, is the site of the annual New Forest Show and Brockenhurst churchyard contains what is believed to be the oldest tree in the forest, a 1000 year old yew. At the west end of Brookley Road, the main shopping street, there is a wide ford known as the Watersplash.

BURLEY CYCLE HIRE
An attractive and well-known New Forest village set in horse-riding country, with several stables. Outside the village, miles of open heathland provide good walking and riding. Burley was a famous centre for smuggling and is renowned for its association with witches, both ancient and modern.

LYNDHURST CYCLE HIRE
In the heart of the New Forest, surrounded by both heath and forest, Lyndhurst developed into a small rural village in the 19th Century. The 14th Century Verderers' Hall still stands in The Queen's House, a former Royal Hunting Lodge. Lyndhurst is home to the New Forest Museum and Visitor Information Centre (open all year).

FRITHAM
A small village in the north of the forest, with its famous Royal Oak inn where smugglers are reputed to have gathered in the 1700s. North west of the village is the beautiful Eyeworth Pond.

PONIES
The New Forest ponies are wild and should be left alone. They can bite or kick unexpectedly and feeding encourages them to come near people, roads and traffic. This can result in accidents and animal deaths.

CYCLING IN THE NEW FOREST
The New Forest cycle network has been developed by the Forestry Commission in partnership with Hampshire County Council and New Forest District Council. This forms part of a developing New Forest Transport Strategy. These routes are approved by the Verderers.

Recreation Sites

1. BOLDERWOOD BBQ
Bolderwood is easy to reach via the large marker posts from forest villages. It is a great place for a picnic during a day's cycling. A large viewing platform overlooks protected fields where wild herds of fallow deer can be seen. During the summer the deer are fed at 2pm each day, giving visitors the opportunity to observe these secretive mammals more closely. An information unit is located here during the school holidays and weekends from Easter until the end of October.

2. REPTILE CENTRE
The place to visit to discover more about British reptiles and amphibians, and their conservation in the New Forest. Open from Easter until October, special pens give you the chance to see these rare and reclusive creatures.

3. BLACKWATER BBQ
This area is located within the majestic Douglas firs and redwoods of the Rhinefield Ornamental Drive. Stroll through the nationally important collection of trees in the Blackwater Arboretum, walk along the Tall Trees Trail, or picnic in one of the lovely glades.

4. WHITEFIELD MOOR
If you are looking for somewhere to picnic or play games, this extensive sunny site is ideal. There are also easy walks along the nearby Ober Water. Please do not scare, touch or feed the ponies and cattle, which often graze this grassy lawn.

5. WILVERLEY PLAIN AND INCLOSURE BBQ HIRE
During World War II, Wilverley Plain was ploughed and sown with much needed crops. Today this extensive grassy lawn provides valuable grazing for ponies as well as offering an ideal area for having a picnic or playing games. There is easy access into the adjoining woodland with way-marked trails.

6. HATCHET POND
This is the largest body of water in the forest. Created in the 18th Century to provide power for an iron mill, today the pond provides valuable wildlife habitats as well as a scenic backdrop for a picnic or wildlife watching.

7. KNIGHTWOOD OAK
From this car park a way-marked trail leads you across the road to one of the most famous New Forest trees. Believed to have been planted before 1600, the Knightwood Oak is still going strong and is a spectacular example of the ancient practice of pollarding.

8. ANDERWOOD BBQ HIRE
Nestled in the trees, this shady car park is the perfect spot to enjoy a relaxing picnic whilst taking in the sights and sounds of the surrounding woodland.

Disposable barbecues can only be used at Blackwater and Bolderwood

There are secure wooden locking posts for cycles at Lyndhurst, Blackwater, Bolderwood, Wilverley and at Whitefield Moor.

Conserve • Protect • Enjoy

Cycling In The New Forest

A guide and **MAP** to help cyclists enjoy the New Forest

ONLY £1

Cycle Network

There are over 100 miles of approved cycle routes across the forest. These follow well-defined tracks, old railway lines, and minor roads. The network is easily accessible from the railway stations at Ashurst, Brockenhurst and Sway. All routes are clearly shown on the map overleaf.

Putting the Forest First

On your visit to the area please...

GUARD.....**against all risk of fire**
PROTECT...**trees, plants and wildlife**
LEAVE.....**things as you find them**
TAKE.....**nothing away except your litter**

Other codes that you may find useful:

- Out and About in the New Forest
- Horse Riding in the New Forest
- Dog Walking in the New Forest

For further information please contact:
The Rangers
Forestry Commission
The Queen's House
Lyndhurst
Hampshire SO43 7NH

Tel: 023 8028 3141
Fax: 023 8028 3929
Email: new.forest.rangers@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest

This code has been compiled by a forum of local people, representing both conservation and recreation interests, under EU Interreg IIIB funding.

Sustrans routes for people
New Forest District Council
Hampshire County Council
Forestry Commission England