

How many of these have you spotted in the forest?

SPECIES



Throughout the year, the New Forest becomes awash with vibrant colour as 40 of the 60 or so resident species of butterfly found in Britain, occur here. From the Brimstone, to the Common Blue, Marbled White, Painted Lady, Red Admiral and Purple Emperor, treat your eyes to a rainbow of colour. Look out for silver-studded blues in the heathlands and for Brimstones in the thicker woodland areas.

Best time to see Brimstone Butterflies: April - June

Best time to see Silver Studded Butterflies: July - August



Deer are one of the creatures which the New Forest is best known for. Roe deer, red deer and sika deer are all present in good numbers, but it's Fallow deer which are most commonly seen. Spot Fallow deer early or late in the day when disturbance is at a minimum. If you're lucky you will even glimpse them lying or feeding in secluded clearings!

Best time to see Fallow deer: September - October



Both species of the British lizard, the sand lizard and the common lizard, can be seen in the New Forest, although you need to have sharp eyes! The unmistakable sand lizard is one of Britain's rarest reptiles and only survives in the New Forest thanks to a successful breeding and release programme.

Best time to see the Sand Lizard: March - June



The New Forest is a great place for birds which nest on the ground, especially those that breed in the open heathland and mires. Easily spotted by its black and white appearance and round-winged shape, the Lapwing is amongst the most vulnerable species of breeding birds that can be found in the New Forest.

Best time to see Lapwings: All year round



The dung beetle is an important part of the New Forest ecosystem and can be found during the summer months amongst grassy woodland areas. You can spot them by their large, dark blue, shiny armoured bodies.

Best time to see Dung Beetles: June - August



The New Forest is one of the best places in the UK to spot dragonflies. Of the 36 species which exist in this country, a whopping 75% of them can be found in the New Forest. With their beautiful colours ranging from very pale blue, through shades of red to black, and all with very varied behaviour, they are fascinating to watch.

Best time to spot Dragonflies: April - September



When you visit the New Forest there are a group of approx. 3000 locals that you can't help but notice... Ponies! Prevalant throughout the New Forest, Ponies can be spotted all year round. What many people don't know is that although owned, they are left as if wild in the forest, so its important to remember that ponies are best admired from a distance...

Best time to see ponies: All year round



Each year for a couple of months, the famous New Forest ponies, cattle and donkeys are joined by another group of animals – pigs! You can usually find the pigs roaming the forest floors from September for the annual 'pannage' season. This age-old traditon sees domestic pigs released in the forest so they can feed on fallen acorns, beechmasts, chesnuts and any other nut they can find (they are greedy after all!) that could potentially be poisonous to other animals.

Best time to spot pigs in the New Forest: September - October



Honeysuckle has considerable importance to the ecology of the New Forest, as it is the sole caterpillar food plant of the White Admiral butterfly and the plants bright red berries are avidly taken by a range of birds.

Best time to see Honeysuckle: May - September