

CONGRESO LIFE IN COMMON LAND

Preservar a biodiversidade nunha terra pouco común con xente pouco común



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Biography

I work for Natural England who are the UK Government's advisor on the natural environment. I have worked in the New Forest Natura 2000 site for the past 11 years.

My role is to collaborate with partners in the New Forest to achieve Nature Recovery which is a key Government aim.

This includes promoting better management such as re-introducing grazing, restoring damaged bogs and streams, restoring heathland from forestry plantations and agricultural land.



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Working in Partnership with Local Communities to Restore Streams and Mires in The New Forest Natura 2000 site

The New Forest Natura 2000 site is an exceptional landscape which is known and loved for its unique culture and wildlife. The habitats include lowland heath, mire, ancient pasture woodland and grassland. These habitats support an exceptionally rich diversity of fauna and flora which are dependent on traditional management practices of grazing through Rights of Common complemented by annual heathland burning and cutting programmes. The New Forest has the potential to play a significant role in responding to both climate and nature emergencies through careful management and restoration of its grazed habitats. The New Forest can evoke strong emotions in local people and restoration project proposals are subject to a high level of scrutiny and challenge. There are also a number of interested groups and organisations, all with different objectives and expectations. This can make even the smallest project challenging. This presentation will illustrate some examples of stream and bog restoration projects undertaken in the New Forest and the steps taken to try and overcome these challenges.

