

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders for information only.

An update on progress. In newsletter #52 I explained the effect the Covid-19 lockdown was having on flying models at Beaulieu. All flying operations and new permit applications are temporarily halted. We still don't know when full flying will resume, but we think it will be soon, and you will be the first to hear it when it happens. **The current lockdown restrictions** by the government are at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and the New Forest National Park [here](#).

In the meantime you will be interested to hear that we have had several conversations with the Forestry on resuming our normal activities at the airfield. This has involved the Administrative staff, the Rangers, the local keeper and the Ecology scientists, as there are different pressures and points of view. I am pleased to report that all are supportive of our activity.

The general view from the Forestry is that car parks closed in March are mostly open again, barring a few still closed for specific reasons. The gate we use, Beaulieu Heath (Lymington Road), is however still closed with a notice on it to deter parking in the entrance (see picture, taken by Robbie).

The Forestry Ecologists are doing monthly surveys of wildlife generally, and birdlife specifically. Surveys in April and May were very encouraging with a significant increase in bird species diversity. Larks, Curlews and other threatened species seemed to be doing well. Redshanks, which had been reduced to only a couple of sites in the forest, have now been observed nesting in a number of other places, including Beaulieu Heath. Initial surveys in June seem to show significant degradation due to much greater impact of people since the lockdown restrictions are relaxed. The end of June report is expected to show significant bird losses again.

Dogs are acknowledged to be the main threat to birdlife. Forest Rangers and wildlife officers have been putting more notices up and have been engaging the public, e.g. at Hatchet Pond, over the holiday weekend with limited success. While most people are willing to keep dogs on leads, and avoid barbecues, a significant minority is highly resistant to change. Hatchet Pond is a known area of poor public behaviour, pollution, and diversity loss. The Forestry is considering introducing on the spot fixed penalty fines for contraventions of certain activities. There is clearly a range of opinions within the Forestry on this.

Until we know more I can only ask for your continued patience. Please do not go to the airfield on the offchance you could "get away with it" as the FC and the local police are monitoring these areas. At present it looks like we will be flying again sometime in July, but you will be informed as soon as we know for sure.

Building project news: Thank you to all those who sent in notes and comments about various non-flying activities. There's not enough space to mention them all but here is a contribution from Pete Marsden on the renovation of his Bucker Jungmeister complete with Laser 150 engine- we certainly want to see this one in action sometime ! Now would be a good time to check all those models, batteries, connections etc ! If you have news or pictures to share, please send them in.

