

NEW FOREST ADDRESS BOOK

Photography by Mike read

The New Forest National Park was created in 2005 and is one of England's newest as well as smallest national parks at 57,000 ha. Famous for its Open Forest, where Forest animals – especially the famous New Forest ponies and red deer – are free to roam, there is also a coast, the Avon Valley and an ancient landscape of field and woods. Within striking distance lie large urban conurbations, yet the Forest is an oasis of peace and calm. Although the Open Forest is the most complete heathland in Britain, with an exceptional wildlife, the landscape and its wildlife is the result of hundreds of years of management by man, a living tradition that continues today.

Chasing the light across this precious landscape can be very rewarding, but it also poses a considerable challenge. The best photographic conditions are often around dawn and dusk, when the light can be a revelation, transforming a mundane landscape into something quite sublime. Patience to simply sit and wait for the ideal moment is essential – and that is what master photographer Mike Read demonstrates again and again in the collection of superb images reproduced here.

Address books tend to be well used and have a long life. Along with important contact details, they keep track of the user's friends and acquaintances, tracing their lives over time and from place to place. And, if properly attended to, an address book eventually becomes a journal in itself, and an attractive and permanent keepsake. Whether bought as a gift or for personal use, this New Forest Address Book, with its superb pictorial reminders of the national park, will provide years of pleasure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Read is an established professional wildlife and landscape photographer, writer, lecturer, and tour guide, living on the edge of the New Forest. His previous books for Halsgrove include the acclaimed *New Forest Moods*, *Discover the New Forest* and *The Spirit of New Forest Ponies*.

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