



OUR IMPACT

2019  
/20

With your support the Forest continues to grow. Look at what we achieved together.

# A message from our chair

Over the past 12 months the challenges we face creating and conserving a huge new woodland for the country in a climate crisis have become ever more apparent, and this was compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our dedicated team and army of volunteers achieved our tree planting target and we have now planted nearly 1.9 million trees since the charity began. As important as they are, the Forest is about more than trees. It comprises a mosaic of habitats including heathland, grassland, wetland and farmland, that enable wildlife to thrive.

The Forest is also here to benefit people. Our events programme attracted nearly 2,400 attendees, and the launch of the first accessible trail in the Forest has made woodland visits possible for more people.



I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported our work and helped to grow the Forest. I hope you are as excited as I am about what we can achieve together over the coming year.

*Jon Snow, Chair,  
Heart of England Forest*

## Our vision

To create 30,000 acres of contiguous forest in the Heart of England to benefit the environment, wildlife and people for hundreds of years to come. The mosaic of habitats we are creating will help mitigate climate change, enable wildlife to thrive, and provide a haven for people to visit which benefits their health, happiness and wellbeing.



## The year in numbers



**1** forestry apprentice



**3** public consultations held, engaging with local communities

**5** ponds in which great crested newts were found, an internationally important species of conservation concern

**11** new corporate supporters



**13** Red List bird species of conservation concern recorded in our first winter bird survey

**300**

hours a week spent maintaining public access during the summer months

**595**

acres added to the Forest

**2,397**

event attendees



**2,609**

school pupil visits  
during the year



**8,583**

volunteer hours  
given by over  
**1,753** individuals



**136,977** trees  
planted

Launched in May, our Young Foresters club for teenagers has already attracted a core group of 10 young people who come back month after month.



Ed

*“I’ve benefitted from Young Foresters in several ways, including socialising, learning new skills in the outdoors, and knowing that I’ve helped the Forest. As well as coming to the monthly club, I’m now volunteering in the Forest too.”*

Our first accessible wildlife trail launched in Morgrove Coppice, enabling more people to benefit from time spent in the Forest.



Paul

*"I had the pleasure of exploring Morgrove Coppice, one of my first trips out due to shielding for weeks because of my severe disability. A smooth, flat route that I felt very safe using. I wish more places could be as accessible and pleasurable for all. It made me feel like anybody else with my wheelchair being no problem"*

We were proud to be one of the first organisations in the country to employ a new forestry apprentice.



Phoebe

*“I’ve done a lot of voluntary work in the past but being paid whilst I train means I can really progress my career now. I am looking forward to building on my skills over the next two years and am excited about the variety of tasks I’ll be undertaking during my time here.”*

34,264 trees were planted by volunteers – an incredible achievement.



Connor & Anne

*“Connor has learning difficulties and is not able to work, but tree planting gave him a real sense of purpose and his confidence has really grown. By the end of the season Connor was happy to work alongside some of the other volunteers, which gave him some independence. It’s been fantastic seeing such positive changes in Connor.”*



## The story so far...

- A Forest 7,000 acres strong – that's 23% of the journey towards our 30,000 acre goal
- Nearly 1.9 million trees planted across 4,052 acres since the charity began
- These newly created woodlands join a mosaic of habitats in the Forest including mature and ancient woodland, grassland, heathland, farmland and wetland, which benefit the environment, wildlife and people

There are many ways to support our work and help us grow the Forest. Visit [www.heartofenglandforest.com](http://www.heartofenglandforest.com)