

The National Forest Company, UK

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- **Scale of activity:** local, regional, national
- **Actor/s:** Government funded agency, now also a charity
- **State of the activity:** The National Forest started in 1991, The National Forest Company started in 1995
- **Keywords.** woodland management, voluntary work, added value, services for the public, significant woodland creation, demonstration, regeneration



Summary

The National Forest is one of the biggest and boldest environmental initiatives in the UK. It is transforming the landscape of 200 square miles of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. Since 1995, forest cover has trebled from 6% to over 20%, through the creation of over 7000ha of new woods. Management of these and older woodlands to develop a woodland economy is being encouraged.

Setting

Location. 200 square miles of East Staffordshire, South Derbyshire and North west Leicestershire covering former coal mining and gravel extraction areas

People/ institutions involved. National Forest Company (non-departmental public body, now with charity status) oversees delivery of the Forest, Local Authorities, private landowners, local residents and businesses, NGOs etc

Description of activities

The National Forest Company funds landowners (mainly private) to create and manage woodlands and associated habitats (meadows, parkland etc). We work with businesses to develop the wood supply chain and tourism destinations in the Forest.

The National Forest Company:

Attracts and uses resources for ambitious and imaginative Forest creation that is sensitive to the landscape and environment.

Provides the setting for new businesses, recreation, tourism and an improved quality of life

Enhances wildlife and biodiversity.

Creation of new woods. 7048ha.

Management of woodlands. 2733ha (49%) in management.

Woodland economy. 49 businesses advised.

Outlook

Challenges. Continuing to expand the Forest, engage with landowners and visitors and develop the destination

Next steps. Move focus more onto managing the Forest, developing a woodland and visitor economy

Source and contact

Information gathered at: the 1st workshop on Sustainable Forest Management (17-20 March 2016)

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