Greenwood Community Forest

Forest Plan

2020 – 2050

Supported by

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England's Community Forests

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Greenwood is Nottinghamshire's Community Forest. It is a rich mosaic of land uses and wildlife habitats set in 246 square miles (896 square kilometres), stretching from Nottingham in the south, to the countryside beyond Mansfield in the north and to the river Trent in the east. It presently covers 41% of Nottinghamshire and over a million people live within or close to it.

Greenwood is hosted and supported by Nottinghamshire County Council and collaborates with a wide range of partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors, along with local communities, to plant trees and improve our natural environment.

Trees and woodland ecosystems are an important part of our landscape and our local identity. They contribute significantly to leisure and tourism, health and wellbeing, economic prosperity, nature recovery and environmental resilience.

The Greenwood Community Forest Vision is *'A thriving landscape, rich in trees and woodlands, benefiting people, nature and the planet'.*

Our mission is to *"Maintain and expand a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a healthy and resilient environment for people and wildlife to live in and benefit from".*

Greenwood is a part of England's Community Forests, the leading woodland creation force in the country. Each Community Forest has a Forest Plan which describes the proposals for developing that Forest over the next 25 years. The Greenwood Forest Plan, which updates the previous version published in 2000, builds on Greenwood's long-term experience and impact since being established in 1991, working with local communities, partner organisations and groups to plant more than 3.4 million trees and establish over 1,900 hectares of new woodland habitats.

Over the past five years (2020-2025) the Trees for Climate programme, part of the national, Government-led, Nature for Climate fund delivered by England's Community Forests, has enabled Greenwood to establish over 570 hectares of new woodland habitats in Nottinghamshire, increasing the many benefits they provide and bringing substantial investment into the local economy.

Whilst many of the reasons for forming Greenwood Community Forest remain relevant today, significant changes in the physical, social, environmental and political landscape provide new challenges and new opportunities, requiring an updated strategy and a reinvigorated partnership. As part of the process of writing the new Plan the community forest area has been expanded, placing Sherwood Forest at its heart and extending towards the east to include the large urban area of Newark- on Trent, bringing the many benefits to a larger part of the county and to more people.

The Forest Plan aligns with local, regional and national strategies and planning policies, advocating for collaborative action to maximise expertise, resources and impact. Tree and woodland planting, along with the management of existing habitats, is guided by robust data, opportunity mapping and on the ground knowledge, and managed in accordance with best practice in line with the principles set out in the UK Forestry Standard.

The Forest Plan is a call to action, marking the start of an exciting new chapter for Greenwood Community Forest.

1.2 Need and Opportunity

The value and importance of trees, woodlands and green spaces has become increasingly relevant in recent years. Growing recognition of environmental challenges has highlighted the need to strengthen ecological resilience, reduce environmental impacts, and reverse the historical loss of biodiversity. At the same time, Greenwood's trees and habitats are under significant threat, notably from urban expansion, competing pressures on land use, and shifting environmental conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic further illustrated the importance of trees, woodlands and green spaces to public health and wellbeing, whilst also highlighting inequity in urban areas, especially deprived ones, which often lack sufficient tree cover and accessible quality green spaces.

There is wide public and political support for tree planting and woodland creation. Ambitious national and local planting targets are in place and a broad range of funding sources and delivery mechanisms are available. Trees and woodlands contribute to the local economy, creating jobs, providing local timber and food resources, reducing public health costs and supporting leisure and tourism.

National, regional and local strategies support tree planting, woodland creation and increased public access to green spaces. Local authorities, organisations, groups and communities recognise the need to take a strategic and collaborative approach to make best use of available resources and capacity, sharing expertise and focusing efforts where the need, demand and opportunity is greatest.

Greenwood Community Forest has its roots in the regeneration of former coalfield sites and the revitalisation of mining communities, where it has demonstrated significant success in transforming landscapes and narratives. Building on this foundation, the community forest's expansion places the iconic Sherwood Forest at its heart, extending eastwards to the River Trent, encompassing the growing urban centre of Newark-on-Trent.

This enlarged area will allow the many social, environmental, and economic benefits of the community forest—such as improved green infrastructure, enhanced biodiversity, and stronger community engagement—to reach a broader population. As urban expansion and major infrastructure projects continue to shape the region, Greenwood Community Forest is poised to play a vital role in ensuring that development is balanced with sustainability and wellbeing for more people across the county.

1.3 The Benefits of Trees and Woodland Habitats

Research has shown how trees and woodland habitats provide a wide range of benefits to people, nature, and the environment.

Amongst the many benefits of trees and woodlands, they:

People

- Improve mental health, reducing stress levels and promoting wellbeing.
- Act as a barrier to the visual and noise impacts of the built environment, with the complexity and diversity of woodland promoting fascination and distraction from mental discomfort.
- Benefit physical health, with lower incidences of mortality, respiratory problems and health costs arising from air pollution in areas with a high proportion of woodland.
- Lower incidences of obesity and heart failure in areas with a high proportion of woodland and green spaces.
- Reduce harmful exposure to ultraviolet rays and heat-related illnesses.

- Positively impact on levels of physical activity in urban areas, particularly for active travel and children's play.
- Benefit children's cognitive and emotional learning through forest schools, with trees promoting a range of play-based behaviours.
- Bring more character, attract more visits and drive higher customer expenditure in shopping areas.
- Generally increase property values where street trees are present.
- Provide a range of cultural and aesthetic values, including archaeological and heritage features and inspiring artists.
- Support livestock welfare through agroforestry by providing shelter.
- Boost the economy by supporting forestry and timber businesses and creating forestry-related jobs.

Nature

- Support nature, with mature woodland and woodland remnants on farms shown to be particularly important for biodiversity.
- Benefit pollinators and natural predators in arable farms.
- Benefit aquatic *biodiversity* by reducing river temperatures.
- Lower the risks of surface water flooding and runoff in urban and rural areas, helping to prevent flooding and improve water quality.
- Improve soil health by reducing soil erosion and compaction.

Climate and environment

- Sequester substantial amounts of carbon in biomass and soils, and in urban trees.
- Reduce urban air pollution by absorbing gases, capturing particulates and altering ambient airflow.
- Mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- Reduce energy consumption for heating and cooling buildings by providing shade, reducing wind exposure, and through the cooling effects of water evaporation.

Source: 'The benefits of trees and woodlands for people, climate and environment: a review of recent evidence' (Feb 2025) produced by Forest Research, commissioned by England's Community Forests. This review of recent evidence captures insights from existing reviews and findings from investigative studies about the benefits of trees and woodlands.

2.0 Greenwood Community Forest

2.1 England's Community Forests

England's Community Forests is the leading woodland creation force in the country. We are a diverse and growing network of 15 unique Community Forests, each working in partnership with their local communities, landowners and businesses to help nature recover and regenerate the landscapes in and around our largest towns and cities. We work together to support each other and amplify our voice nationally.

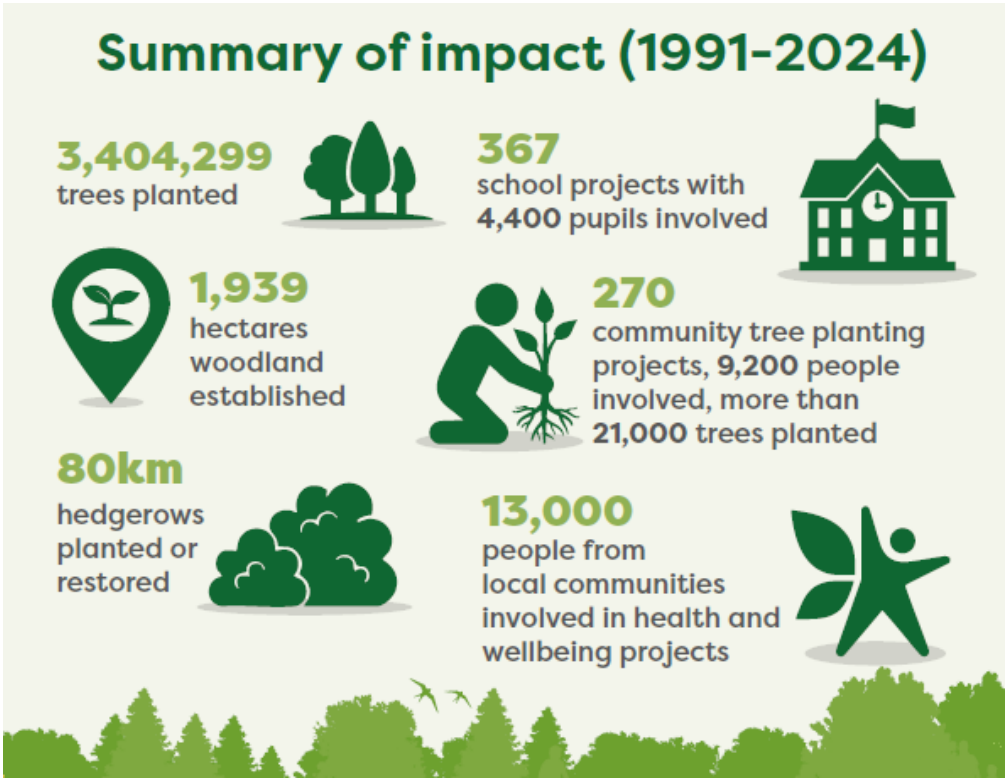
Our roots go back over 30 years, with Community Forests now forming the biggest environmental regeneration initiative in England. We're recognised in the Planning Policy Framework and are highlighted as part of the Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment, playing a key role in shaping woodland creation and nature recovery policy both nationally and locally.

We provide free advice and support to landowners and land managers to help plan, fund, and plant new woodland of all sizes in both rural and urban settings, drawing on local expertise and people power. Our long-term commitment to the areas in which we work is ensuring that trees and woodlands are at the very heart of communities up and down the country, unlocking countless benefits for people and planet.

Our aims

- **Supporting regeneration and growth:** Making towns and cities more attractive places in which to live, work and do business; attracting new investment and creating jobs.
- **Supporting local communities:** Harnessing the enthusiasm, commitment, and knowledge of local people; helping them improve their local area and enhancing health and wellbeing.
- **Creating better places:** Enriching and enhancing biodiversity and the environment, creating new facilities for recreation and leisure and making our towns and cities more sustainable and resilient to a changing climate.

2.2 Greenwood Community Forest



Growing the Greenwood Community Forest

Thank you to the many Friends, volunteers, supporters, funders and partners who have contributed up to this point

1991 Greenwood established

2025 - The third Greenwood Community Forest Plan is published, setting out the strategic direction for the Community Forest up to 2050.

2024 - Completion of the Miner2Major 'Trees and Hedges' project, collaborating with landowners and local communities to plant 20 heritage trees, 2.85 km of hedgerow, 120 hedgerow trees and organising 28 community tree planting projects.

2020 - Greenwood begins delivery of the Trees for Climate programme, part of the national, Government-led, Nature for Climate fund delivered by England's Community Forests. Since 2020 over 590 hectares of new woodland has been planted.

2018 - Greenwood's Community Tree Planting Grant scheme supports its 270th project. In all 9,200 residents have planted 21,000 trees with schools and groups

2017 - Greenwood joined fellow Community Forests to deliver the Defra funded 'Trees for Learning' project. Working with 74 schools, 4,490 trees have been planted in schools and green spaces in Nottinghamshire by 3,270 children and helpers.

2016 - Volunteers attend the 15th Greenwood Community Awards celebration. Since 2000 volunteers and others have nominated 248 individuals and 84 groups for awards leading to 195 Greenwood Awards presented

2014 - Greenwood plays a major role in preparing the first round bid for the Miner2Major project leading to £3.7m HLF funding being secured in 2018

2010 - 10th anniversary of the Friends of Greenwood. 120 volunteers gather to celebrate the Community Forum's milestone

2008 - Nottinghamshire Landscape Challenge Scheme creates 25 ha of woodland to improve the wildlife value and landscape appeal of the A614 corridor

2005 - Launch of the 3-year Parklife project involving 13,000 people in 167 activities to improve health and fitness

2002 - Break Free Greenwood Walks 2 is launched and receives the Heart of England Tourism Board's "Tourism for All" Gold Award

2000 - Inaugural meeting of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum to enable volunteers to share skills and knowledge. Over 250 volunteers from 58 groups have attended Forum meetings since then

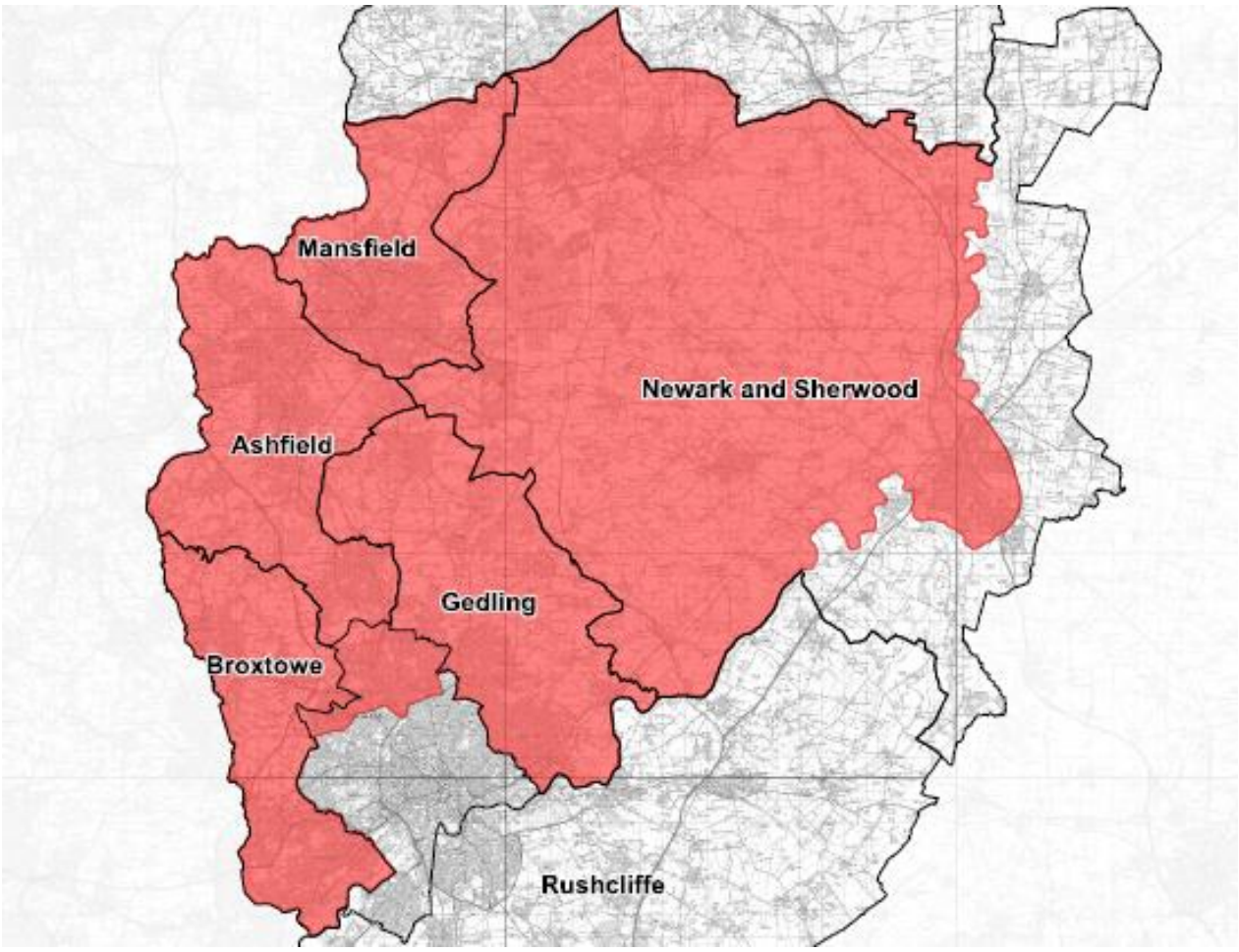
1997 - One millionth tree is planted in Greenwood

1994 - First Greenwood flagship site is opened at Brierley Forest Park, Huthwaite

1991 - The first tree is planted at Dob Park by Paddy Tipping MP. Since then partners have planted over 2 million trees creating over 1300 ha of new woodland

Greenwood Area

The map below shows the Greenwood area, highlighting the current district authority boundaries. A fuller version of the map, showing the community forest area context of the whole of Nottinghamshire, is included in *Appendix 1 : Maps*.



The original Greenwood area was identified through a process of stakeholder consultation and formally adopted in 1994 when the first Forest Plan was produced. It was extended in 2000 to include the northern part of Nottingham City.

As part of the development of this new Forest Plan the area has been expanded, putting Sherwood Forest at its heart and extending eastwards to the River Trent, incorporating the large urban area of Newark-on-Trent, bringing the many benefits of the community forest to a larger area of the county.

The great majority of Nottinghamshire's 1,030,600 population live within or adjacent to Greenwood. The area covers the vast majority of the former Nottinghamshire Coalfield and was originally designated to support its regeneration, including through restoration of colliery and opencast mining sites. Whilst settlements, highway corridors and development provide a strong urban influence, much of the area is farmed and significant parts have a distinctive rural character.

Greenwood covers the local authority areas of Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling, Mansfield, the majority of Newark and Sherwood, and the northern part of the City of Nottingham. It includes the urban areas of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Mansfield, Newark-on-Trent, Hucknall, Kimberley and Eastwood and has a varied

socio-economic profile with small pockets of significant deprivation (employment, education, health & disability, and household overcrowding) in some of the former mining communities and other, often rural areas, where deprivation can be under-recorded. Overall, employment within the active population is slightly lower than the Midlands average and unemployment slightly higher.

The community forest has significant nature conservation interest with 26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 4 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) which include ancient woodland, wetland and heathland habitats, as well as areas of exposed rock and species-rich limestone grassland. It has 332 km of registered rights of way, mainly in the west of the area, as well as numerous permissive routes, notably on Forestry England land. In addition, there are 88 km of mainly linear bridleways.

2.3 Landscape Character

Greenwood's landscape is characterised by its diversity, encompassing five Natural England National Character Areas (NCAs). Each NCA is recognised for its unique and identifiable character on a national level. These areas are defined by natural landscape features rather than county or district lines, providing an effective framework for decision-making and future planning. This approach helps set priorities for tree and woodland planting, management, and the broader development of Greenwood.

NCA 30 Southern Magnesian Limestone

Mainly defined by the underlying Permian Zechstein Group, formerly known as the Magnesian Limestone. It creates a very long and thin NCA that stretches from Thornborough in the north down through north Derbyshire to the outskirts of Nottingham further south. The limestone creates a ridge, or narrow belt of elevated land, running north-south through the NCA, forming a prominent landscape feature. The geology has influenced many aspects of the landscape, from use of its limestone resource as a local building material to the specialised limestone grasslands associated with limestone areas.

The NCA comprises of open, rolling arable farmland enclosed by hedgerows, with plantation woodlands, historic estate properties and parkland. The localised networks of grasslands and semi-natural habitats have become fragmented, and many species face challenges moving through the NCA. In places, rivers and dry valleys dissect the plateau from west to east, creating wetland habitats. Impacts on this agricultural landscape include limestone, coal and some sand and gravel extraction, associated infrastructure and tips; many of which have now been restored. The pace of settlement and industrial development expansion has been greater in the north than in the south, but the landscape still retains its essential rural character.

https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Southern-Magnesian-Limestone/

NCA 38 Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield

A generally low-lying area, with hills and escarpments above wide valleys. The landscape embraces major industrial towns and cities as well as villages and countryside. Over half of the NCA (64 per cent) is green belt, maintaining distinction between settlements. Green belt areas are often under pressure for development and changes in land use. Very little of the NCA is designated for geology or nature conservation. However, the landscape is dotted with many pockets of habitat where species find refuge. This is often on land that was once worked for minerals or occupied by major industry. Where these land uses once dominated, there are now options to create new landscapes. Links to past use will continue to provide a strong sense of place for local people. A large number of people live in the NCA. This means that there will be chances to engage people with the nature and history around them. Creating new access and open spaces can offer a better quality of life. At the same time, this will help people and wildlife adapt to climate change. The NCA is nationally important for industrial history, and its impact on the landscape. Historical features should be retained and restored. Once secure, these features can be used to educate and engage people with the landscape.

https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Nottinghamshire-Derbyshire-and-Yorkshire-Coalfield/

NCA 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales

Characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The southern and eastern edges of the Vales are defined by the adjoining escarpments of the Lincolnshire Edge and the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA. To the west, the escarpment of a broad ridge of rolling landscape defines the boundary with the neighbouring Sherwood and Humberhead Levels NCAs. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations. The NCA includes the Mercia Mudwoods area, a priority habitat for Greenwood.

https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Trent-and-Belvoir-Vales/

NCA 49 Sherwood

A long band of gently rolling hills located to the north of Nottingham that sits on an outcrop of sandstone rock. In the past the area was managed as woodland and it is still well wooded today. The oak and birch wood grazing land in the heartland of Sherwood Forest is important to the sense of place. More recent pine forestry also adds to the sense of place. Other key features are large estate parklands, heathland, open farmland (crops) and a strong mining history. The area contains the settlements of Mansfield, Worksop, Retford and Ollerton around its fringes. It sits on an aquifer that provides water to the area. Sherwood supports oak woodland and invertebrates which are of world-wide importance. The area also supports groups of farmland birds which are nationally important. Sherwood has strong cultural links with Robin Hood, which helps to attract around one million visitors per year to the forest. Recent change to the landscape includes forestry removal and an increase in areas of heathland. Work to protect historic features has been carried out, particularly on former industrial sites. Hedge size has increased, mainly through current agri-environment schemes. High recreation use in protected areas is a challenge. Other issues include soil erosion in farmed areas where there are crops and taking too much water from the aquifer. Opportunities include the restoration of run-down landscapes.

https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Sherwood/

NCA 69 Trent Valley Washlands

Comprises the river flood plain corridors of the middle reaches of the River Trent's catchment in the heart of England. It is a distinctly narrow, linear and low-lying landscape, often clearly delineated at its edges by higher ground, and it is largely comprised of the flat flood plains and gravel terraces of the rivers. The geology is dominated by superficial alluvium and gravel river terrace deposits underpins the contrast in arable and pastoral agricultural use, arable crops predominating on the free-draining soils of the river terraces, with grassland more commonly located along the alluvial river flood plains where soils are subject to frequent flooding or are naturally wet. There is limited tree cover, but local concentrations give the impression of a well-timbered landscape in many places. Riparian trees, especially willows, provide an important component.

https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/trent-valley-washlands/

Map 2 *in the Maps Appendix shows the NCAs in the Greenwood Community Forest boundary area.*

Map 3 *in the Maps Appendix shows the NCAs in Nottinghamshire.*

2.4 Tree and Woodland Character

Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands

Defined as woodlands that date back to at least 1600, Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are nationally important because of their rich and complex ecology developed over hundreds of years and held in undisturbed soil, as well as their wider landscape and cultural value. ASNW, which have had woodland cover for over 400 years, is an irreplaceable habitat and defined an Area of Particular Importance for Biodiversity on the Local Habitat Map. PAWS, whilst replanted with non-native species, have ecologically rich soils with a diversity of seed stored through the centuries that can, through careful and lengthy management, be restored.

Ancient Woodland comprises 14% of all woodland in Nottinghamshire. The most significant site in Greenwood is the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In all, there are almost 1,000 native sessile and pedunculate oaks which are each over 400 years old across this reserve and the wider landscape. Their presence makes Sherwood Forest one of the finest surviving examples of ancient oak woodland in the UK.

Across the rest of Greenwood ASNW tends to be small to medium sized, with a generally scattered distribution. Examples include small woodlands in the Meden Valley, south of Pleasley Park; Norwood and Dovedale Woods south of Hardwick Hall Country Park; Gunthorpe Hagg Wood, west of Ravenshead; Alder Carr Plantation, Little Oak Wood, High Park Wood, Kennel and associated woods west of Newstead; Eel Hole, Bulwell and New Farm Wood south-west of Hucknall; and Ploughman, Bulcote and Gedling Woods east of Arnold. PAWS are fewer and generally larger, examples including Morning Springs Wood west of Hucknall and Millington Springs Wood east of New Bagthorpe.

Woodland Types

Ash-dominated woodland occurs on neutral or calcareous soils and good examples include Oldmoor Wood near Strelley, Seller's Wood and Bulwell Wood west of Bulwell, Linby Quarries, Portland Park near Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Dovedale Wood near Hardwick Hall, Lord Stubbin's Wood near Warsop Vale, and Dyscarr Wood at Langold. The best ash-dominated woodlands have a varied structure and diverse ground-flora, but many are unmanaged or include conifers or broadleaves not locally native. Coppicing introduced for conservation purposes occurs in a small number of woods. Ash Dieback Disease (ADD) is a threat to character and biodiversity.

Oak-birch woodland is less widely distributed and occurs on acidic soils and good examples include Newstead Abbey Park, Strawberry Hill SSSI, Sherwood Golf Course SSSI and Rainworth Heath SSSI, fringing Mansfield. Elsewhere, smaller naturally regenerated or planted pockets can be found along disused railway lines or on former colliery land, as narrow strips around conifer plantations, or as copses on heathlands, or within parkland. Many woodlands include tree species which are not locally native, or areas of invasive rhododendron.

Wet woodland occurs in small pockets along watercourses and in other damp areas and is dominated by willow and alder. A similar habitat has developed on the old silt lagoons of the Delta at Attenborough Nature Reserve.

The three woodland types above are collectively described as Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat.

Other deciduous woodland is often dominated by sycamore or are plantations of poplar and beech. Recent restoration of colliery spoil heaps has seen new areas of deciduous woodland planted, although often with a non-native component.

Coniferous woodland has been planted as large plantations south and east of Mansfield and at Annesley following the Second World War. More recently, the restoration of colliery pit tips has seen new areas of conifer woodland planting. Within mature conifer plantations, Scots pine and Corsican pine are the dominant species, although many also include some a deciduous component through natural regeneration of birch and oak and/ or native and non-native planting for economic, biodiversity and amenity reasons. Plantations, rides and peripheral areas can be important for wildlife.

Scrub may be a component of larger woodlands or occur on its own, usually transitioning into woodland when unmanaged. The structure and character of scrub varies. In drier locations on neutral or calcareous soils it is often dominated by hawthorn or blackthorn. On more acid soils, birch, gorse and broom are the main species, whilst wetter sites are normally dominated by willow species. Bramble can also be a component of scrub habitats or form dense patches on its own. Although widespread, scrub tends to be small-scale. It is an important habitat but can reduce the value of species rich grassland if unmanaged.

Parkland is grazed grassland, with individual or groups of mature or veteran trees and often has a designed element including waterbodies and shelter belts. Larger examples include Newstead Abbey and Annesley Park, with frequent small areas of this Priority Habitat.

Orchards are scattered through the area and are usually very small. Traditional Orchards are a Priority Habitat and can be important for biodiversity, landscape and in conserving traditional varieties of fruit.

Ancient and veteran trees may occur as individual or groups of trees within historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, parks or other areas and are often found outside ancient woodlands. Ancient trees are exceptionally valuable, and few trees become ancient. Veteran trees may not be very old but have high biodiversity value. All ancient and veteran trees are irreplaceable habitats and defined as Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity on the Local Habitat Map. The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI)[1] is an expanding record of identified ancient and veteran trees, which are distributed throughout Greenwood.

Field trees are an important part of Greenwood's landscape even though there were significant losses due to Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Many ash trees are currently threatened by Ash Dieback Disease (ADD).

Street and Urban Trees bring the many benefits of trees directly to where people live and work and as such are a critical resource now and into the future. Nottingham City Council (NCityC) for example, manages around 100,000 individual trees, including a number in the Greenwood area.

Hedgerows with or without field trees are an important part of Greenwood's landscape, some reflecting historic field patterns, and many contribute to biodiversity and provide local wildlife corridors.

2.5 Greenwood's Trees

Tree Canopy Cover

The current tree cover in the Greenwood Community Forest area is 17.9%. This compares to 14.3% across the whole of Nottinghamshire (including the city). Tree cover has been calculated by combining The National Forest Inventory England 2023 Woodland Map dataset and the Forest Research Trees Outside of Woodland dataset (unpublished at the time of publication of the Forest Plan).

There is a significant variation in tree canopy cover across each local authority area. There is a broad correlation between lower tree canopy cover and higher indices of multiple deprivation (IMD), meaning that people in greatest need often have less access to the benefits of trees and quality green spaces.

Percentage tree cover by Local Authority area:

Local Authority Area	Percentage TCP
Ashfield District Council	21.1%
Broxtowe Borough Council	15.0%
Gedling Borough Council	20.8%
Mansfield District Council	19.6%
Newark & Sherwood District Council	14.8%
Nottingham City	14.3%

The Woodland Trust's Tree Equity scoring is an important resource which identifies inequalities and prioritises urban tree planting against these. The Woodland Trust and Centre for Sustainable Healthcare have partnered with American Forests, the US non-profit organisation that created Tree Equity Score, to bring Tree Equity Score to the UK. The tool calculates a Tree Equity Score out of 100 for urban neighbourhoods. The lower the score, the greater the need for trees – a score of 100 means tree equity has been achieved.

Woodland Trust Tree Equity web link: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/benefits-of-urban-trees/tree-equity/

The National Forest Inventory England 2023 woodland map covers all forest and woodland area over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 metres. This includes new planting, clearfell, windblow and restock.

The National Forest Inventory England 2023 woodland map web link: https://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/0682c7cb180e4abe9dee7e4d5cc35784_0/explore

Tree cover by 2050

We aim to reach 20% tree cover across the community forest area by 2050, exceeding this figure if conditions allow. 30% tree cover is our long-term ambition, but this is a multi-generational endeavour.

Tree cover across the Greenwood area is calculated at 17.9% in 2025, which is above the England tree cover of 14.9% and the England target of 16.5% tree cover by 2050.

We consider 20% tree cover by 2050 to be achievable based on previous levels of planting, and have developed three tree cover scenarios for 2050 to demonstrate this – with high, medium and low levels of confidence – which achieve between 20 to 22.1% tree cover. These reflect different factors that might influence our progress, such as funding, land availability, and national policy support.

Details of the three scenarios and the 30% rationale are provided in *Appendix 4: Long-term tree cover ambitions*

Woodland Planting

Since Greenwood's formation in 1991, the Greenwood team and partners have established over 1,900ha of new woodland, including 590ha in the past 5 years under the Trees for Climate programme. This is equivalent to a 2.1% land use change across the community forest area. Significant numbers of individual and groups of trees outside of woodland have also been planted by local authorities, community groups and other partners.

Woodland Ownership and Management

The Forestry Commission open dataset for its Headline Performance Indicator: Sustainably Managed Woodland England (data last updated October 2023) indicates the percentage of woodland that is sustainably managed in England (including the nation's forests managed by Forestry England). For the purposes of the

performance indicator, 'sustainably managed' woodland is currently defined using a range of administrative data sources detailed on the website. It is recognised that there are other woodlands that could be considered to be 'sustainably managed'.
The two managed status descriptions are:

- Managed private: any woodland where management is indicated by an administrative data source – see lineage on website for more information.
- Managed public: any of our nation's forests managed by Forestry England.

Using this dataset the total woodland in the Greenwood Community Forest area that is sustainably managed is calculated as 63.8%

Dataset description	Hectares	Percentage
Greenwood area	11,151	
Managed - Private	3,097	26.9%
Managed - Public	4,246	36.9%
Total managed (Private + Public)	7,342	63.8%
Unmanaged	4,168	36.2%

https://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/e1c1d7ead37d4feea303c1bf6f5a0369_0/about

Woodland Access

Significant areas of forestry owned by Forestry England and Country Parks owned by NCC and other local authorities are classified as Access Land[1]. Elsewhere, access to large areas of woodland is largely restricted to single public right of way, notably the Robin Hood Way which links many of these. Some woodlands have no public access.

The Woodland Access Standard states that: "No person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland at least 2ha in size. There should be a woodland of at least 20ha in size within 4km of people's homes." Using this as a baseline Natural Capital Assessment Data reporting conducted by Liverpool John Moores University for the first 4 years of the Trees for Climate programme calculated that "Around 19% of households in Greenwood meet this accessible woodland standard. We estimate that ca. 4,621 households that were previously failing the standard are now passing due to planting in Year 4. To date, this brings up to 16,884 the number of houses in the ECF that are meeting the access standard because of a Trees for Climate scheme. 7% of those gains occurred in the most deprived (1st decile) areas."

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-access-implementation-plan/woodland-access-implementation-plan
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2014/08/access-to-woodland-position-statement/

2.6 Principal Tree and Woodland Challenges

There are challenges to both protecting and managing our existing trees and woodland, and to establishing new ones, summarised below. *Appendix 2 : Principal Tree and Woodland Challenges* provides a detailed overview of the challenges, with responses and the key partners who can implement them. These responses have been used to inform the Five-Year Action Plan (2025-2030) and will also guide longer-term actions plans, and the design of projects and incentives for increasing tree and woodland cover.

Trees and Woodland

The challenges facing Greenwood's trees and woodlands are multifaceted and significant. Tree pests and diseases such as Ash Dieback Disease (ADD) and Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) are causing substantial tree loss and necessitating quicker thinning of pine plantations. This issue is exacerbated by climate change, which is also threatening common woodland species like silver birch, English oak, and Scots pine. Urban tree populations will need ongoing management and adaptation to continue providing essential services.

Ensuring the right tree is in the right place for the right reason is crucial for maintaining ecological balance. Past practices have sometimes led to inappropriate planting, affecting sensitive landscapes and habitats. Additionally, low levels of woodland management have left many small and medium-sized woodlands, as well as several woodland SSSIs, in poor condition, reducing their ecological and landscape value.

Other challenges include high levels of grey squirrel and deer damage, which harm young woodlands and reduce their long-term contributions to biodiversity. Vandalism of planted trees adds to costs and diminishes the impact of tree planting efforts. The long-term decline in hedgerow quality and the loss of field and hedgerow boundary trees due to diseases and ageing tree stocks further threaten the landscape. Addressing these issues requires ongoing collaboration with farmers and contractors to promote the benefits of trees within the landscape.

Strategic

Competing demands on land for tree planting versus other uses like solar farms, housing, and food production create a complex landscape for achieving climate and nature objectives. Ensuring that new trees and woodlands contribute to strategic objectives, such as the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham LNRS, is critical. Additionally, inequalities in access to the benefits of trees persist, with urban tree canopy cover often lower in areas of greatest deprivation, impacting quality of life.

Delivering green infrastructure networks to benefit both existing and new residents is another challenge, as access to greenspace and its associated health benefits is unevenly distributed. Developer plans may not always reflect the importance of informal greenspace, missing opportunities to enhance community well-being. Furthermore, there is a need for supportive policies in Local Development Frameworks to ensure Greenwood's objectives are met. Comprehensive knowledge of Greenwood's tree canopy cover and important trees is lacking, which hampers effective conservation and management efforts. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated approach, informed by robust data and supportive policies.

Greenwood

Greenwood faces several critical challenges in its efforts to manage and expand its tree and woodland resources. The Trees for Climate programme, which has been instrumental in promoting diverse tree planting, is set to end in 2025/26. Ensuring future grants retain the programme's flexibility is essential to continue maximising benefits for communities. Additionally, the lack of a formal partnership since 2014 has potentially impacted funding and the achievement of strategic objectives, highlighting the need for strong collaborative action to realise long-term ambitions.

Securing long-term funding for the Greenwood coordinating team is another significant challenge, as Nottinghamshire County Council has been the sole local funder since 2014. A well-funded core team is crucial for the effective delivery of the Greenwood Plan and raising its profile. Furthermore, expanding community engagement is vital for building long-term support, fostering local action, and enhancing health and wellbeing, ensuring that Greenwood's community dimension continues to thrive.

2.7. Tree and Woodland Priorities

To ensure that the right trees are established in the right places, and that the benefits of trees and woodlands are maximised in Greenwood, this Plan sets out a context in which landowners, delivery bodies, communities and individuals can work.

The Forest Plan will include delivery across urban, urban fringe and rural areas. The nature of this delivery will vary greatly, with different opportunities and challenges. Delivery in urban areas is essential to bring the most benefits for people, whilst delivery in urban fringe and rural locations can be at a scale needed to face the climate and nature crises.

The Forest Plan is intended to inspire and provide guidance. It does not place an obligation on landowners, delivery bodies or planning authorities. It is not a substitute for local knowledge and expertise and does not replace grant scheme conditions, statutory and/or legal obligations.

Determining Priorities

Woodland Creation, Expansion and Restoration priorities draw on an assessment of landscape character as set out in individual National Character Areas (NCAs), Biodiversity Opportunity and Nature Recovery Mapping, statutory and non-statutory designations, Priority Habitats and land within grants schemes set out on the government's Magic website; Natural England and local authority GIS mapping and the Agricultural Land Classification for the East Midlands.

Woodland Management priorities also reflect an assessment of mapping of Ancient and Semi-Natural and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (ASNW), prioritising ASNW without Forestry Commission approved Woodland Management Plans/Woodland Grant Scheme interventions and Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) within this. Secondary priorities are Unmanaged Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and thirdly unmanaged Deciduous Woodland Priority Habitat.

Urban Trees priorities including street trees are in the first instance determined by the tree management and replacement policies of individual Local Authorities, set out in Local Plans and/or Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). This Plan's priorities anticipate additional funding being secured and/or action on private land. Where this is the case, the Woodland Trust's Tree Equity mapping tool, which identifies Wards (and communities) with the greatest need for street/urban trees, would be used to help prioritise action.

Improved Access priorities reflect Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) to include permissive public access in new woodlands and as part of Planning Agreements providing new or enhanced public access to existing woodlands and/or the public access network which passes close to them.

General points applicable to all NCAs

- **Woodland Management Plans:** Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives and supporting their preparation and delivery.
- **Conserve Existing Trees:** Protect roadside, hedgerow, and field trees, planting new ones where absent.
- **Hedgerows:** Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries, especially those outside grant schemes, not low cut, and/or with hedgerow trees present.
- **Public Access:** Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- **Development:** Ensure any development conserves and plants trees, delivering off-site tree and woodland planting as well as public access.
- **Community Involvement:** Planting in urban areas should involve working closely with residents and encouraging garden planting.

Priorities for specific areas

- **Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW):** Buffer ASNWs by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- **Parkland Priority Habitat:** Conserve mature trees, enhance their setting within woodland, and implement long-term replacement programs.
- **Riparian Areas:** Plant native deciduous trees and woodland to consolidate and extend riparian woodland.

- **Urban Fringe:** Plant small native deciduous woodlands on the urban fringes.
- **Former Colliery Sites/Restored Land:** Extend native deciduous woodland on former colliery sites, while retaining open land and viewpoints.
- **Transport Corridors:** Plant native deciduous trees and woodlands to integrate the M1 and A38 into the wider landscape.
- **Specific Sites:** Implement specific measures for sites like Robin Hood Way, Sherwood Forest Golf Course SSSI, and others.

Advice and Guidance for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management

Advice and resources for developing proposals are available from a wide range of organisations including local authorities, the Greenwood team, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and The Sherwood Forest Trust.

There are also a wide range of on-line resources, including:

Principles for Sustainable Forestry Management and Planting

- The **UK Forestry Standard (UKFS**) provides detailed guidance on how biodiversity, climate change, historic environment, landscape, people, soil and water need to be addressed. All woodland proposals need to comply with this Standard [i].

Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Planting

- **The Woodland Trust** provides a range of guidance on native woodland planting[ii], the **Tree Council** has produced guidance on tree and hedgerow planting[iii] and **Forest Research** provides a range of related resources.

Biodiversity and Nature Recovery

- The **Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Map (2025)[iv]** details existing habitats and networks to consolidate and enhance these, drawing on **Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping[v]** for each local authority. The **MAGIC** website provides mapped details on resources including ASNWs, SSSIs and LNRs.

Climate Change and Disease Resilience

- **Forest Research** produces a wide range of technical guidance, including on the resilience of trees to climate change[vi], responding to Ash Dieback and other tree diseases[vii] and managing grey squirrels[viii].

Woodland Access

- **Natural England's Green Infrastructure Mapping Toolkit[ix]** provides detailed information on existing public access provision and priorities for extending this, something also reflected in local authority Blue Green Infrastructure Strategies.

Urban Tree Canopy Priorities

- The **Woodland Trust's Tree Equity Mapping**[x] sets out deficits in tree canopy cover in urban Wards, supporting the prioritisation of urban tree planting.

Woodland Management

The **Royal Forestry Society** produces a guide for woodland owners[xi].

Section 3: Vision, Mission, Delivery Themes and Principles

3.1 Vision and Mission

Our vison:

“A thriving landscape, rich in trees and woodlands, that benefits people, nature and the planet”

Our mission:

“Maintain and expand a multi-purpose forest with a rich mixture of woods, farmland, open spaces and settlements in Nottinghamshire, contributing towards sustainable development and providing a healthy and resilient environment for people and wildlife to live in and benefit from".

3.2 Strategic Aims

1	**Increase tree and woodland cover and improve habitat connectivity for wildlife** by working with partner organisations and local communities, taking need, opportunity and other land uses into account.
2	**Manage and protect existing trees, woodlands and green spaces** to improve ecological health and resilience, and their capacity to address the challenges posed by changing climate conditions.
3	**Encourage greater public participation** in the creation, management and use of woodlands and green spaces, fostering a deeper relationship with nature and the many benefits it provides.
4	**Promote the benefits of trees, woodlands and green spaces** for people, nature, and the planet, to increase engagement, learning and volunteering opportunities, celebrate achievements and demonstrate impact.
5	**Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Community Forest** by enhancing its profile, emphasising its significance and value, and fostering increased participation, collaborative partnerships, and investment.

3.3 Delivery Themes: People, Nature and Planet

PEOPLE Trees and woodlands are an important part of our landscape and local identity. They make valuable contributions to people's leisure, health and wellbeing, and economic prosperity. We will draw on Greenwood's strong roots of engaging with local communities, groups and organisations to maximise these benefits.	Plant trees where people live, work and enjoy leisure time, taking into account need and equity.
	Celebrate the benefits of trees, woodlands and wider green spaces, running activities to engage and grow participation.
	Provide educational and hands-on learning experiences for all ages, promoting a deeper understanding, appreciation and connection to nature.
	Support volunteer groups, volunteering and volunteer training.
	Improve health and wellbeing by promoting regular interaction with natural environments.
	Involve communities in the design, planting and management of trees and woodlands, and support community-led nature conservation schemes.
	Work with partners to identify skills shortages, promote forestry-related careers and create employment opportunities.

NATURE Nature is in crisis due to the loss and decline of suitable habitats, pollution and changing climate conditions, leading to an increasing loss of biodiversity. We will work to protect and restore habitats to enable species survival and maintain ecological balance, essential for nature and for human wellbeing.	Improve, expand and connect habitats across the community forest area and adjoining landscapes.
	Use an evidence-based approach to plant trees and woodland in areas of greatest benefit, integrating with other habitats and land uses, using the principle of 'right tree, in the right place, for the right reason'.
	Work with landowners and managers to improve the biodiversity of existing woodlands through active management.
	Safeguard areas of ecological importance and create new habitats that improve ecosystems and benefit wildlife.
	Protect ancient and veteran trees and create the right conditions for them to thrive, recognising their ecological, cultural and historical value.
	Manage existing woodlands in line with the principles set out in the UK Forestry Standard with the aim of improving species, structural and genetic diversity, increasing resilience, and supporting biodiversity.
	Integrate trees into nature recovery and green infrastructure planning, working with developers, planners, highways teams and other partners.

PLANET Changing climate conditions impact our lives, with unpredictable weather events becoming more commonplace, disrupting food and water supplies and damaging ecosystems. We will harness the positive impacts trees and woodlands make by absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing air pollution, providing shade and supporting biodiversity.	Plant more trees in neighbourhoods and the wider countryside, increasing tree canopy coverage across the community forest area.
	Support landowners and managers in the active management of existing trees and woodland, increasing their resilience.
	Raise awareness of the causes and impact of changing climate conditions and the role trees and woodlands have in mitigating them.
	Aim to use local suppliers, reduce waste and conserve resources, promoting a circular economy and strengthening both business and community resilience.
	Deliver and supporting initiatives that enhance local markets for timber, improve food security and support agroforestry practices.
	Contribute towards local and national action for reducing carbon emissions and meeting carbon neutral targets, including the Net Zero 2050 requirement.
	Increase ecosystem resilience by supporting and responding to research aimed at understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change.

3.4 Objectives for 2050

1. Increasing tree, woodland and hedgerow cover

Offer advice, support and financial assistance to enable Greenwood partners, landowners and communities to increase tree canopy cover across the community forest area from 17.9% to at least 20%.

How:

- Establish a minimum of 2,000 hectares of new woodland across the community forest area by 2050.
- Plant 250 medium-size individual trees in urban areas by 2050.
- Plant or restore 100km of hedgerow in the community forest area by 2050.

We will prioritise creation and planting that addresses opportunities and challenges including:

- giving greater equity of trees
- giving communities increased access to trees and woods
- improving habitat connectivity
- adding woodland, hedgerows and green spaces to the nature recovery network
- capturing and storing carbon
- providing natural flood management
- improving air purification, air cooling and noise reduction

2. Improving the quality of trees, woodlands and green spaces

Offer advice, support and financial assistance to landowners with the aim of seeing at least 70% of woodland habitats in the community forest area under sustainable management by 2050, delivering benefits for nature, climate, people and the economy.

How:

- Ensure that all new woodland habitats established by Greenwood, or through Greenwood funding, are sustainably managed.
- Work with Greenwood Community Forest partners to ensure that all trees and woodland habitats owned and managed by them are under sustainable management.
- Offer advice, support and funding opportunities to private landowners to encourage and enable sustainable management of woodland.

3. Enabling engagement, participation and collaboration

Create a culture of collaborative and inclusive ownership of the community forest and delivery of the Forest Plan, maintaining its relevance and sustainability for multiple generations.

How:

- Involve at least 2,000 people annually in the growth, maintenance and enjoyment of Greenwood Community Forest.
- Make the Greenwood partnership broader and more inclusive in terms of direct membership and those who advise and support its work, to include a wide range of stakeholders drawn from Government, Non-Government Organisations, local groups and communities, and business to support delivery of the Forest Plan.
- Embed structures that provide opportunities for the active participation of young people (16-25 years old) in the Greenwood partnership including involvement in decision making and delivery of community forest activities.

3.5 Key Principles

4.0 Policy Context

The Greenwood Forest Plan and its delivery is guided by national, regional, and local policies. These evolve over time, and we work to stay informed of the current context in which we operate and actively contribute to future developments.

Key national policies include:

Environmental Improvement Plan, which is the first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan. It sets out the target to "Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050".

National Planning Policy Framework, which sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It states that "an approved Community Forest Plan may be a material consideration in preparing development plans and in deciding planning applications".

Net Zero Strategy, which sets out policies for decarbonising the UK economy to meet net zero by 2050. A key commitment is to treble woodland creation rates in England, contributing to the UK's target of increasing planting to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025.

Regional and local climate, environment, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and Local Plans include targets and priorities for tree planting and woodland creation, and support protection and enhancement of existing trees, woodland and other green spaces.

Following revocation of the East Midlands Regional Plan and Regional Economic Strategy in 2013, there has been a growing sub-regional focus based on the Greater Nottingham area. The **East Midlands Combined Authority** (EMCA) is the first Combined County Authority and brings together Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Derby City Council and Nottingham City Council. Along with additional funding, it will have devolved powers including for the environment.

The **D2N2** Local Enterprise Partnership also brings these authorities together and is responsible for delivering the region's Recovery and Growth Strategy, which includes low carbon and connectivity/inclusion as key pillars. The **East Midlands Development Company (EM DevCo Ltd)**[1] is a Development Corporation with four major regeneration sites including Toton and Chetwynd, Attenborough Great Park, and East Midlands Parkway and the A453, which include areas of Greenwood, with opportunities for strategic green infrastructure and nature recovery network delivery.

More widely, the **Midlands Forest Network** (MFN) is an initiative that aims secure new opportunities and investment for the protection, restoration and creation of woods and trees in the Midlands. Led by a partnership of the Woodland Trust, National Forest Company and Midlands Engine the MFN aims to create a network of connected habitats threading through landscapes and communities, linking existing woodlands and green initiatives, engaging people in the natural world and delivering social, environmental and economic benefits for the whole of the Midlands.

Whilst there is a broadly supportive local planning and policy context for Greenwood community forest based around its role in delivering and safeguarding Green Infrastructure, the Greenwood Plan 2025-50 provides a key opportunity to draw on this and develop a range of supportive policies within Local Development Frameworks across its area, reflecting Greenwood's role in delivering national, regional and local policy objectives. In addition, there is a critical opportunity to highlight the existing and important potential contribution of Greenwood to the delivery of not only the BGIS, but also other policy commitments, including:

The Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is in preparation and will inform the delivery of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and guide public and private investment, including through the new Environmental Land Schemes (ELMS) and woodland planting funding. It will also help to guide

local planning policy for nature recovery. Greenwood has a key role in delivering woodland planting priorities within this.

The Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-2031[1] sets out a vision of a healthy, prosperous and greener future for everyone, with nine ambitions including: 1: Helping our people live healthier and more independent lives; 6: Making Nottinghamshire somewhere people love to live, work and visit; and 9: Protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. Greenwood has an important role in delivering against these and is already providing Trees for Climate funding and delivering the 4-year target of planting 0.25 million trees on NCC land.

Nottinghamshire County Council Net Zero Framework 2024 was produced following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2021 and sets out a framework aligned with the Nottinghamshire Plan, for achieving net zero working in partnership. It has five ambitions including: **Enhanced nature and heritage (p23)** with priorities of: establishing an agreed nature-based approach for carbon capture and offsetting with partners, landowners and other key stakeholders; continuing schemes such as tree planting and other viable nature-based solutions to support future carbon removal and offsetting; supporting the delivery of biodiversity net-gains in future developments; continuing to protect our wildlife habitats, green and blue spaces, and natural landscapes; providing more opportunities for engagement with nature and heritage assets; and continuing to develop and deliver flood adaptation schemes through nature-based solutions. Greenwood has a key role in helping to deliver these.

A detailed overview of the current policy context in which Greenwood operates is outlined in *Appendix 3 : Policy Context* and will be updated as part of each 5-Year Plan cycle.

5. Delivery

5.1. Greenwood team and partners

Greenwood Team

All Community Forests have a staff team which works with a broad-based partnership to deliver the agreed Community Forest Plan. The Greenwood team sits within Nottinghamshire County Council. The County Council provides an annual budget to support 1.6 core staff, with all other roles externally funded. Core staff co-ordinate activity and promotion, lead on joint funding bids and reporting, and provide expertise and support project delivery where required. It is critical for the continued success of the Community Forest that the Greenwood team is resourced to enable it to undertake this work into the long-term.

Partners

Collaboration and partnership working are central to our work. We work with a wide range of public, private, and community organisations, from local to national levels, and from delivery to strategy. This includes Defra, The Forestry Commission, Natural England, and the Environment Agency; the environment sector across Nottinghamshire, and across sectors to achieve shared outcomes, for example working with the health sector and with academics and researchers.

Important local partners include communities, landowners, managers and farmers, businesses, and schools and universities.

A priority within the 5-year Action Plan is to develop and grow collaborative working, both to enable the Greenwood area to continue to secure national funding and to maximise synergies through joint working, securing additional resources. Initially, a broad-based Advisory Group would be formed to support delivery of the 5-year Plan. Meeting quarterly, this action orientated group would bring together officers from local authorities, representatives from technical and funding organisations like the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission, and the community sector.

A key part of Greenwood's partnership approach will be to draw on and develop Greenwood's strong community links. There will be a particular focus on engaging and actively involving young people as future stakeholders.

Greenwood is one of England's Community Forests, working as a network to support each other and amplify our voice nationally.

Greenwood is an active member of the Midlands Forest Network, a strategic initiative led by The National Forest Company, the Midlands Engine and the Woodland Trust.

Communities

We work alongside people to help them to achieve what is needed in their local communities for different reasons, creating opportunities for communities to contribute and lead, and for mutual learning.

We will seek to provide a range of opportunities, routes and support for people to get involved. These will need to reflect the needs and different modes of engagement of the various communities we work with, taking into account differing life stages, motivations and interests, time availability, language, financial resources, etc.

We will involve and learn from local communities and groups, including tree and woodland and "friends of" groups, as well as reaching out to people whose voice is seldom heard. This includes young and older people, diverse ethnicities and faiths, and intersections of these communities.

Opportunities to get involved will have a particular focus on the 'five ways to wellbeing' and the 'five pathways to nature connection':

Five ways to wellbeing	Five pathways to nature connection
Connect: Build and nurture relationships with the people around you. **Be active:** Engage in physical activities that you enjoy and that suit your level of mobility. **Take notice:** Be mindful of the present moment, including your thoughts, feelings, and the world around you. **Keep learning:** Continuously seek out new experiences and knowledge to enhance your skills and understanding. **Give:** Offer your time, words, and actions to help others and contribute to your community. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/five-ways-to-mental-wellbeing	**Contact:** Explore, take a closer look and get in touch with the natural world. **Beauty:** Take time to appreciate the beauty of Mother Nature. **Meaning:** Consider what nature means to you. **Emotion:** Find an emotional bond with, and love, for nature. **Compassion**: Think about what you could do for nature. https://www.derby.ac.uk/blog/5-ways-closer-nature/

Landowners, managers, and farmers

We advise and support public and private landowners and managers, including farmers, to establish, look after, and grow a culture of trees, woods, and other habitats on their land.

We recognise that different landowners and managers have different needs and requirements from schemes, and we work alongside them to ensure that these are met.

We work with farmers to support food security and to help them to incorporate trees into farms and improve their management for the many benefits they can bring. This includes the potential for income diversification, sustaining healthy soils and livestock, and climate and flood resilience, alongside increased carbon storage and more abundant wildlife. Approaches are tailored for individual farms, and can include hedgerows and hedgerow trees, tree establishment on marginal or lower quality land, and agroforestry.

Businesses

We encourage businesses to support our work and bring benefits for people, nature, and climate as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental, Social and Governance frameworks, and embed a respect for tree, woods, and other habitats throughout their workplace culture.

We are keen to explore ways to get involved, including through private green finance, volunteering days, pro bono work, and other mechanisms. Businesses can also establish, look after, and grow a culture of trees, woods, and other habitats on their own land. This could help to attract and retain employees.

Schools and Colleges

We support schools to increase and look after trees, woods, and other habitats in their grounds. Even small spaces provide crucial opportunities for play and outdoor learning.

We seek to embed trees, woods, and other habitats into school culture; both in the curriculum and throughout school life, through spontaneous play and outdoor lessons. Schools also provide an opportunity to grow this culture in their wider communities.

Universities

We work with universities to provide industry-relevant learning, volunteering and work experience opportunities for students. We also seek to collaborate on joint research projects.

5.2 Funding

A range of funding sources are available to support the delivery of the Forest Plan and the sustainability of Greenwood. These include grants for woodland creation and planting, as well as funding for long-term management plans aimed at enhancing biodiversity and resilience to climate change. Additionally, there are financial aids to address tree health issues and support the restoration and improvement of affected woodlands.

Funding programs may also be integrated into broader environmental management schemes, which support various initiatives such as agroforestry, hedgerows, and the development of nature-rich areas within farmland. Developers are often required to deliver net gains in biodiversity for applicable projects, with gains secured for extended periods. Agreements and contributions from community infrastructure projects can provide opportunities for creating and enhancing greenspaces.

Other sources of funding include ecosystem services valuation, community grants, voluntary contributions, and business investments.

5.3 Measuring impact

Data collection and monitoring will be an essential mechanism for reporting on impact and informing future strategy and delivery. The data will also underpin grant applications, funding appeals, approaches for business sponsorship and wider public relations activity.

Initially the data collected will represent activity directly delivered or funded by Greenwood Community Forest. When the formal Greenwood partnership has been re-established a broader data collection and monitoring framework will be developed that will include delivery in the community forest area from partners, local groups and other organisations.

The output measures detailed below include a set of core metrics (highlighted by an asterix) that are consistent across England's Community Forests, enabling the network to demonstrate collective impact on a national scale.

People

Community Engagement	• Number of community engagement activities delivered (days) • Number of people participating in community engagement activities • Events attended (shows e.g. agricultural, career days, community festivals, with breakdown)
Volunteering and volunteer groups	• Number of people directly involved in the core work of the community forest (e.g. tree planting, woodland management)*

	• Number of Friends of Greenwood Community Forum (FOGCF) groups • Total volunteer hours contributed annually by FOGCF groups
Education and training	• Number of schools/colleges worked with • Number of pupils worked with • Number of training courses delivered • Number of participants attending training courses • Number of work experience opportunities provided
Health and wellbeing	• Number of health and wellbeing activities delivered (days) • Number of people participating in health and wellbeing activities
Tree equity	• Number of projects supported or delivered in wards with a Woodland Trust Tree Equity score of less than 60 • Number of trees planted • Canopy cover increase in wards with a Woodland Trust Tree Equity score of less than 60

Nature

Tree and woodland cover	• Total hectares* • Percentage of total land area*
Tree and woodland establishment	• Total hectares* • Total number of trees*
Woodland Management	• Percentage of woodland sustainably managed* • Hectares of woodland restoration*
Other green spaces	• Total hectares created • Total hectares improved/restored
Hedgerows	• Km of hedgerow created • Km hedgerow improved
Priority areas	• Hectares established or improved in LNRS linked priority areas • Hectares established or improved in BOM areas.

Planet

Climate change awareness	• Number of climate change related activities delivered (days) • Number of people participating in activities
Climate change projects	• Number of climate resilience projects delivered
Local economy	• Number of projects that enhance local markets for timber, improve food security or support agroforestry practices (with breakdown)

Organisational

Partnerships	• No of partnerships (active and new) delivering the forest plan activities
Funding	• Total funding (£)* • Percentage from non-public sectors*

Natural Capital

Natural capital*	• Headline overall figure (£) • Return on investment (£)

	• Natural Flood Management – hectares established in areas of high NFM potential. • Public access – households within 500m of an accessible woodland >0.1ha • Enhancing wildlife – hectares of ecological network for woodland species added • Contribution to net zero – increase in carbon sequestration capacity • Ecosystem service assessment – net change in ecosystem service capacity for air purification, flood mitigation, local cooling, noise regulation

i Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/651670336a423b0014f4c5c0/Revised_UK_Forestry_Standard_-_effective_October_2024.pdfUK Forestry

iihttps://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/

iii https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/National-Tree-Week-planting-guide.pdf

iv https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/local-nature-recovery-strategy

v https://nottsbag.org.uk/projects/biodiversity-opportunity-mapping/

vi https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/climate-change/adaptation-measures/

vii https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/

viii https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/controlling-grey-squirrels-in-forests-and-woodlands-in-the-uk/

ix https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx

x https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/press-centre/2023/12/new-tree-equity-map-shows-tree-cover-inequality/

xixi https://rfs.org.uk/learning/newtoforestry/so-you-own-a-woodland/