



**Forests for Life  
Rockingham**

**Fulfilling your corporate social responsibility**

## What is the Forests for Life Rockingham Project?

The Forests for Life Project is currently focussed in the Rockingham Forest area with a longer term view of seeking opportunities to extend the project to other ancient forest areas within our region.

The Rockingham Forest was originally established as a Royal hunting forest by William the Conqueror in the 11th century and initially covered much of Northamptonshire. However, pressure from agriculture and development resulted in much of the ancient forest being felled, leading to widespread habitat destruction and fragmentation. This had a disastrous impact upon a variety of species including butterflies, such as the rare (now locally extinct) Chequered Skipper, birds and mammals.

To address the issue of woodland fragmentation across Northamptonshire, two years ago the River Nene Regional Park CIC (RNRP) undertook a project on behalf of central government to investigate the potential of achieving woodland creation and management with the support of private investors rather than the public purse.

The original vision for the pilot project was to develop the historical Royal Hunting Forest as a carbon sink, utilising the potential for carbon trading as a way of generating ongoing income to support the management and expansion of the forest.



Alongside our original vision we also recognise that the ongoing management of ancient woodland in Northamptonshire is dependent on the woods having meaning within the local landscape and to the people that work and live in that landscape. Consequently, we are now looking at creating opportunities for local landowners, businesses and communities to re-engage with the ancient woods in the county through woodland planting schemes and a reinvigoration of traditional woodland activities, such as woodland craft schools and harvesting of game and other wild foods.

This approach is enabling the establishment of strong partnerships between government agencies and third sector organisations working around environmental management and improvement which is resulting in more efficient use of resources through effective partnership working.



Courtesy of Wildlife Trust

## How can you get involved with this exciting Forests for Life Project?

As well as working with farmers and landowners across Northamptonshire we are looking for corporate partners to engage with this project as part of their corporate social responsibility investments.

For example an investment of £10,000 to £13,000 will enable a hectare of woodland to be planted in a location that protects, buffers, or links the remaining ancient woodland in the Rockingham Forest, reinforcing the ancient landscape character and enhancing wildlife habitats. Your investment will also get you signage at the woodland, a series of press releases to local media and recognition as a project partner on project materials and via the River Nene Regional Park Website.

Additionally, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your investment will be contributing to other elements of the project designed to re-connect local communities with their woodlands, build social capital and contribute to local economies through the promotion of traditional woodland crafts and local food networks.

Rather than provide a series of sponsorship options that are fixed we can tailor a package for your company that best meets with your CSR or sustainability needs and aspirations. This may include services such as team building/activity days, community group planting and access to RNRP expertise in a consulting capacity to support business development and improve sustainability across the board.

**Contact Kathryn Hardcastle for more information.**

**E:** [rnrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:rnrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk) **T:** 01604 367648 **W:** [www.rnrp.org](http://www.rnrp.org)



RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK  
INSPIRED SPACES



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using vegetable based inks.

