In This Issue:
- Boughton planting information and sign installation.
- Corporate offer – What we can do for you.
- Landowner Offer – What we can do for you.
- Future projects looking to be completed.
Boughton planting information and sign installation

Since the last newsletter was issued two large plantings have taken place in the Rockingham Forest. Both of these have occurred on the Boughton Estate and together created a total of 12.6ha of woodland. The first planting event took place in 2013 on two sites close to Weekley Hall wood and the second event in March of this year occurred just west of the previous planting area.

In 2013 two areas of woodland were joined together by a planting project which saw 15,000 native broadleaf trees planted in 6.6ha of land. This has now created a 160ha block of woodland in Weekley Hall wood. The planting included Oak, Beech and Hazel trees. The River Nene Regional Park administered a £10,000 grant towards this scheme.
The planting event in March of this year took place on the Boughton Estate West of Weekley and the previous planting sites. An area of 6ha was planted with 14,000 trees (2,250 per hectare). Groundwork Northamptonshire, with the help of 35 volunteers of a range of ages and a team of volunteers from a local business Cummins assisted in this planting.

The volunteers were made up of people who had seen the promotions and attended the event whereas others were encouraged to join in whilst passing through the public footpath. Each volunteer was issued a certificate about the event and what they had contributed too.

This event was a further successful promotion for Forest for Life – Rockingham project and will hopefully lead to more community involvement in planting events.

Kathryn Hardcastle, Chief Executive for RNRP said:

“This planting event marked the beginning of the next phase of activity for Forests for Life project, which is now in its third year. We formed a partnership for the delivery of the project with both the Woodland Trust and Groundwork Northamptonshire which, as well as increasing the potential sites for woodland creation, allows us to open the project to a higher level of community involvement.”

More photographs are available on our Facebook page: facebook.com/RiverNeneRegionalPark
A sign has been installed at the most recent Boughton Estate planting site alongside the public footpath with a beautiful view of the planting area behind it. The sign provides an outline of the planting and acknowledges and thanks the numerous parties and volunteers involved.

This woodland has been created under the Forests for Life Project funded by a development contribution from Lloyds Banking Group. Over the next few decades, this woodland will grow to be a fundamental part of the Rockingham Forest contributing to local biodiversity and enhancing the amenity of this area.

For further information on the Forests for Life Project and to find out how you can become involved please contact:

E: rnrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk  T: 01604 367648  W: www.riverneneregionalpark.org

Thanks go to our project partners, the Boughton Estate & to the many community volunteers who assisted with tree planting.
Corporate offer – What we can do for you

We offer the opportunity for the business to deliver on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Continual Improvement Process (CIP). Rather than provide fixed sponsorship options we can tailor a package to suit your company. 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.

These events could inspire your staff to become more involved with similar local events and projects in their personal time.

You will be delivering a local response to environmental change and climate change through woodland creation.

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 natural environment, build social capital and contribute to local economies through the promotion of traditional woodland crafts and local food networks.

You will also be recognised as a precedent setting business in the area. You will be acknowledged as one of the first businesses to become a sponsor of the Forests for Life – Rockingham and will help contribute to the Low Carbon Transition Plan within Northamptonshire.

An investment of £10,000 - £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. This reinforces the ancient landscape character and enhances wildlife habitats. Your investments will also get you signage at the woodland, a series of press releases to local media and recognition as a project partner.
Landowner Offer – What we can do for you

If you have land in the Rockingham Forest area (as outlined in the map) and you are interested in becoming involved with the Forest for Life – Rockingham project by providing land for tree planting, then we can support you in the process from start to finish.

We will provide expert advice on planning and design. Financial support is available with grants between £6000 - £8000 per hectare. This will aid with purchasing, planting and initial maintenance fees. Organisation and overseeing of community planting projects for your site.

We can help check the suitability of your land for planting. Planting should not occur on wetlands, chalk grassland, grassland that has never been ploughed or heathland.

Your site will ideally either increase the connectivity of ancient woodland or buffer it from agricultural or development activity.

You must intend to plant a minimum density of 1,200 native trees per hectare.
Future projects looking to be completed

Discussions are underway regarding a possible planting site in Oundle which has potential to create up to 7ha of woodland. The landowner is very keen to become involved with the Forest for Life - Rockingham and wishes to commence planting the land as soon as possible. This project has the potential to inspire other local land owners to become involved with the Forest for Life – Rockingham project and create planting sites on their land.

Recently the Forest for Life – Rockingham project has been sponsored by a local business. A corporate event is currently being organised to take place in the next few months.

We are currently working with East Northamptonshire Council and the Northamptonshire Leader Program on a ‘Foods from the Forest’ branding idea. In June there will be a number of workshops held to establish the scheme and commence detailed planning. Please contact us if you are interested in becoming involved in this initiative.