



Rockingham Forest for Life



## PRESS RELEASE

### ROCKINGHAM FOREST FOR LIFE – CORPORATE BUSINESS EVENT

**LOCAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE: 8.00AM – 10.30AM,  
15 JULY 2011, BOUGHTON HOUSE, KETTERING**

DATE 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011

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Proposals to work in partnership with the private sector to plant 80 ha a year of new woodland through the Rockingham Forest for Life initiative will be presented to leaders of local businesses at a workshop taking place next week. The project, supported by the Forestry Commission, is being developed as a local response to the global issue of climate change.

This regeneration of the Rockingham Forest will offer significant benefits to health and well being, wildlife and carbon mitigation, and offers an innovative and purposeful means of bringing together both communities and businesses around a common cause. It will make the area more resilient to climate change, provide a wide range of opportunities for leisure, recreation, and education, invigorate the local economy and contribute to Northamptonshire being one of the most attractive landscapes in England in which to live, work and visit. This initial phase of the project aims to engage with local communities, landowners and businesses to ensure that the Rockingham Forest for Life works for them. As such, the River Nene Regional Park has organised a corporate business event to be staged at Boughton House near Kettering on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

The event will offer the local business community the opportunity to involve themselves in developing this exciting and innovative project, which will deliver a local response to climate change through woodland creation. More information can be found on [www.rockinghamforestforlife.org](http://www.rockinghamforestforlife.org). Businesses wishing to attend can book either through the website or by contacting the River Nene Regional Park on 01604 236764.

Christopher Davidge, Chair of the River Nene Regional Park said “We are delighted to be able to develop our initial proposals with business leaders so that we can work in partnership to increase the woodland cover of Northamptonshire. Although we have the benefit of the Rockingham Forest, a former Royal Hunting Forest and Ancient Woodland, Northamptonshire has only two thirds the national average of woodland cover of 9%. By increasing this with the Rockingham Forest for Life initiative, we will be acting locally, achieving associated social and economic benefits, and helping to address the global challenge of climate change.”

Rob Purdie, Executive Director of Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership Ltd (NEP) said “Working in partnership with the private sector to tackle major issues such as these is the way forward, and its



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value should not be under-estimated. Green and environmentally aware businesses are important to Northamptonshire; we are delighted to be supporting this event, encouraging Northamptonshire businesses to make a positive contribution to our local environment and at the same time providing tangible benefits to our local economy.”

**Supported by: Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership** Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership

**- End-**

**- Notes to Editors -**

**The River Nene Regional Park CIC - A Community Interest Company**

1. The River Nene Regional Park (RNRP) is the implementation body for Green Infrastructure, supporting the growth areas in Northamptonshire. Since its inception in 2004, the RNRP has secured more than £20 million of Government funding to support the delivery of green infrastructure projects in Northamptonshire. Its strategic framework for the delivery of green infrastructure has been adopted throughout the county and supports both the North Northamptonshire and emerging West Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategies.
2. The River Nene Regional Park:
  - Champions the provision of green infrastructure – a network of multi-functional green spaces across Northamptonshire
  - Secures funding – enabling partners to develop and deliver innovative projects that contribute to and enhance the green Infrastructure network
  - Co-ordinates the delivery of green infrastructure through partnership collaboration – ensuring that there is a strategic and joined-up approach among partner organisations involved in delivering green infrastructure. Partners include Regional Government Agencies, Local Authorities, the private and third or voluntary sectors
3. For more information, please see [www.rnnp.org](http://www.rnnp.org)