



UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00:01 THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2020

The Sherwood Forest Trust receives grant of £182,500 from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund

- 68 projects have been awarded grants between £62k and £3.8 million to kick-start a pipeline of nature-based projects while creating and retaining jobs
- First funding round sees £40 million pot allocated, second round of funding to open in early 2021

The Sherwood Forest Trust is one of the first environmental projects awarded a grant from the government's £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Defra announced grants between £62,000 and £3.8 million today, to help create and retain thousands of green jobs. The projects, spread across England, will see trees planted - 800,000 in total - and protected landscapes and damaged habitats such as moorlands, wetlands and forests restored, alongside wider conservation work. The projects will also support environmental education and connecting people with green spaces.

The Sherwood Forest Trust is the only charity whose work is solely focussed on the protection, preservation and promotion of Sherwood Forest – throughout its wider cultural and conservation area. Our project is titled 'Sherwood Forest's Truths – Woods, Heathlands and People' and is focussed on the restoration of lowland heathlands, the creation of a new afforestation toolkit, planting new trees and creating woodlands plus increased community engagement with nature.

Dr Patrick Candler, CEO, says:

‘Being awarded this grant is a fantastic achievement in what has been a challenging year. It is all the sweeter as it comes at the time of our 25th anniversary. The funding will allow us to increase our capacity to do more important conservation work across Sherwood and get more people involved in helping to support the wonderful nature of Sherwood.’

The Green Recovery Challenge Fund is a key part of Prime Minister’s 10 Point Plan to kick-start nature recovery and tackle climate change. The fund is being delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, said:

“These projects will drive forward work across England to restore and transform our landscapes, boost nature and create green jobs, and will be a vital part of helping us to build back greener from coronavirus.

“I look forward to working with environmental organisations as these projects help address the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, while creating and retaining jobs as part of the green recovery.”

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

“Supporting our natural environment is one of the most valuable things we can do right now. All these projects are of huge benefit to our beautiful countryside and wildlife, but will also support jobs, health and wellbeing, which are vitally important as we begin to emerge from the coronavirus crisis.”

The government’s forthcoming [Environment Bill](#) puts the environment at the centre of policy making to ensure that we have a cleaner, greener and more resilient country for the next generation. The fund is supporting a range of nature conservation and recovery and nature-based solutions projects, which will contribute towards government’s wider [25 Year Environment Plan](#) commitments, including commitments to increase tree-planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025.

ENDS

Notes to editors

- 21 projects will receive the larger grants (over £250k - £5m) and 47 projects awarded funding for the smaller grants (£50 - £250k)

Background Information – The Sherwood Forest Trust

- For further information about the work of the Trust please contact Patrick Candler:
- Mobile 07876 806646
- E-mail: patrick.candler@sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk
- Visit our website, become a 'Sherwood Supporter' and make a donation to support our mission.
- www.sherwoodforest.org.uk
- [facebook.com/SherwoodForestTrust](https://www.facebook.com/SherwoodForestTrust)
- Sherwood Forest Trust Video Links
- SFT Explainer Video
- <https://vimeo.com/454671152>
- Sherwood Forest Trust (with subtitles)
- <https://vimeo.com/457723396>



- Children from Berry Hill School planting trees with the Sherwood Forest Trust