



Northumberland

County Council

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 APRIL 2021

GREAT NORTHUMBERLAND FOREST UPDATE

Report of: Mark Child, GNF Programme Manager

Cabinet Member: Councillor Glen Sanderson, Leader

The purpose of this report is to provide – via the short presentation set out below - an update on the progress being made to establish the Great Northumberland Forest.



Northumberland
County Council

Great Northumberland Forest

April 2022

www.northumberland.gov.uk

The Great Northumberland Forest was announced in Autumn 2019 with the first phase being the creation of 3 new forests covering 500ha, planting a million trees by 2024



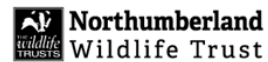
Rushy Knowe – Forestry England, 145ha

Monkridge – Forestry England, 100ha

Exploring opportunities with partners to deliver the rest

Since 2019 767ha of new woodland have been planted and over 240,000 trees planted in addition to the 767ha

The second phase has been the creation of the Northumberland Woodland Creation Partnership formed to facilitate a step change in the pace and extent of appropriate tree planting schemes across the County



Thank you...

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Northumberland Woodland Creation Partnership

Mission

The partnership will empower and support our communities, landowners and farmers to create and expand woodland areas across the County, enhancing and growing our natural capital through integrated land use management. This will create opportunities to:

- Reduce the impacts of climate change and support local climate action
- Enhance biodiversity, nature and landscapes
- Boost rural economic prosperity by growing our thriving forestry and wood processing sector
- Improve recreational amenities, supporting better mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Lead a post Covid 19 green recovery in Northumberland



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We formally launched the programme in November 2021 to start the third phase of wider engagement with landowners, farmers and communities



So what are we doing...?

We provide a free service to explore and discuss the opportunities; how they would work for and with farmers and landowners' businesses; and how they could be funded - no obligation to plant



Woodland
Creation Planning
Grant

England
Woodland
Creation Offer

Urban Tree
Challenge Fund



MOREwoods

MOREhedges

Trees for your
farm

Big Farm
Tree Planting



Forestry England

Lease Partnership



Local Authority
Treescape Fund

Others...

Options for BPS and/or Lump
Sum Exit scheme compatibility

We have also been...

- Exploring opportunities for future management of the Council's existing 1200ha of woodland
- Successful in securing funding through the Local Authority Treescape Fund to plant over 3000 trees across the county as a visible demonstration of community led planting, contributing to the Great Northumberland Forest
- Supporting communities and parish councils with the Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee celebrations
- Working in partnership with the recently launched North East Community Forest on schemes around the county boundary.

Additional funding

The pipeline for woodland creation in Northumberland is looking healthy with over 800ha being delivered this season and approx. 3000ha in planning*. However, this does have a focus on a smaller number of larger landowners and is subject to regulatory approval.

Maintaining momentum and generating more interest, especially with medium-smaller landowners, will need:

- Greater promotion of the offers available
- Improved support through the planning, regulatory and delivery process
- Providing opportunities at smaller scales to convince landowners of the benefits of trees on their land
- Identifying the links between BNG / LNRS / other policies

This is where the Great Northumberland Forest team is focusing its efforts and we have secured additional capital funding in the region of £1.6million over the next 3 years to support us to do more...



www.nland.uk/GNF