



Media release

27 August 2013

Volunteers for Footpaths Project

Are you interested in finding out more about the footpaths in the Overseal area of South Derbyshire? Do you want to help create the National Forest Way long distance walk? Would you like to know more about places to walk? Do you want to help get the rights of way up to a high standard and improve the walking in your area? Volunteers are needed to help with a new project to improve the network of footpaths and bridleways around Overseal. This project will involve helping to prioritise which routes in the area are most in need. We will need volunteers to help with the practical work such as installing wicket gates, waymarking posts and discs. These action days will take place during the week and also on the odd weekend. The project starts in September and will run through to April 2014. No special skills or knowledge are required, just a flexible and friendly attitude to make a difference. Action days will take place in and around the Overseal area and in The National Forest.

Marion Farrell from Groundwork said, *"This is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and make a difference to the rights of way network in Overseal. You will be joining a group of like-minded volunteers where you will learn new skills, make new friends and know that you are helping to ensure that the rights of way are easy to find and fun to follow."*

This project is funded by Derbyshire County Council and the National Forest Company. Year on year, The National Forest has been steadily turning what was once one of the least wooded areas of England into a multi-purpose, sustainable forest. The National Forest provides environmental, social and economic benefits, including landscape enhancement, creation of new wildlife habitats and major new access and leisure opportunities. It is an excellent example of sustainable development – with environmental improvement providing a stimulus both to economic regeneration and to community pride and activity.

For more information, contact Marion Farrell Farrell at Groundwork on 01773 841483 or 07801 122 494 or email mfarrell@groundwork.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The National Forest area covers 200 square miles of the counties of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Its objective is to increase woodland cover within its boundaries from an initial six per cent to about a third. No multi-purpose forest on this scale

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has been created in the UK for one thousand years. To date the proportion of woodland cover in the Forest has more than trebled to 19.5 per cent and in 2012 HRH the Duke of Cambridge planted the eight millionth tree in the Forest.

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To achieve these objectives, the National Forest Company leads the creation of The National Forest, working in partnership with landowners, local authorities, private business, voluntary organisations and local communities and has strong support from Government, politicians and the public. The Company receives grant in aid from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The Independent Panel on Forestry, in its final report published in July 2012, stated: ‘The National Forest exemplifies how a long term, resourced and focused agenda can increase publicly accessible woodland in an area alongside other environmental and economic benefits.’ In 2008, the National Forest Company and partners won the inaugural Sustainable Development UK Award, for their work in Ashby Wolds, at the heart of The National Forest.

2. Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield is part of a federation of 40 local Trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland each working with their partners in deprived areas to improve the quality of the local environment, the lives of local people and the success of local businesses. It works on community regeneration projects in South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire. Groundwork Creswell Ashfield & Mansfield has offices at Amber Valley Borough Council, Town Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3BT, telephone 01773 841 483.

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