

Northern Forest

A 25-year vision to plant 50 million trees across the North of England, stretching from Liverpool to Hull.

If you want to shape a stronger and more resilient future, then the challenge is to think beyond the horizon and to connect causes, effects and powerful solutions. This is where the Northern Forest comes in. As an urgent idea of our time it addresses a number of the key challenges of today and tomorrow, deploying a natural solution that's much, much older than we are, but has the most contemporary relevance.

Why?

The Northern Forest area...

has just
7.6% 
woodland cover
(below UK average of 13%
and EU average of 44%)

has a population of
13m
which is expected
to rise by 9% over
the next 20 years

is expected to see
650k 
new houses built in
the next 20 years

and
£75bn 
investment in housing
and transport over
the next 25 years

Despite this huge projected growth, **there is no plan or strategy for the natural environment** to complement these changes.

A Northern Forest will...

-  deliver up to £2.2bn GVA
-  provide economic benefits through the production of biomass and timber
-  bring new skills and employment opportunities
-  improve health in multiple ways, such as the major impact of street trees on childhood asthma and respiratory disease
-  reduce flood risk for over 190,000 households

-  tackle climate change by locking up an estimated 8m tonnes of carbon
-  improve water quality
-  provide opportunities for recreation, tourism and leisure
-  create attractive places to live, work and invest
-  deliver wider economic benefits worth up to £2.3bn through improved access to new woodlands increasing physical activity

How?

Community Forests in the north – Mersey Forest, White Rose Forest, City of Trees and HEYwoods – are working with the Woodland Trust to take the Northern Forest from concept to reality. The Woodland Trust and Community Forests have a long and successful history of working together. They will combine over a century of environmental regeneration and green infrastructure experience, and build on their current projects and programmes to spearhead a wider collaboration to restore and maintain woodlands and plant 50 million more trees.

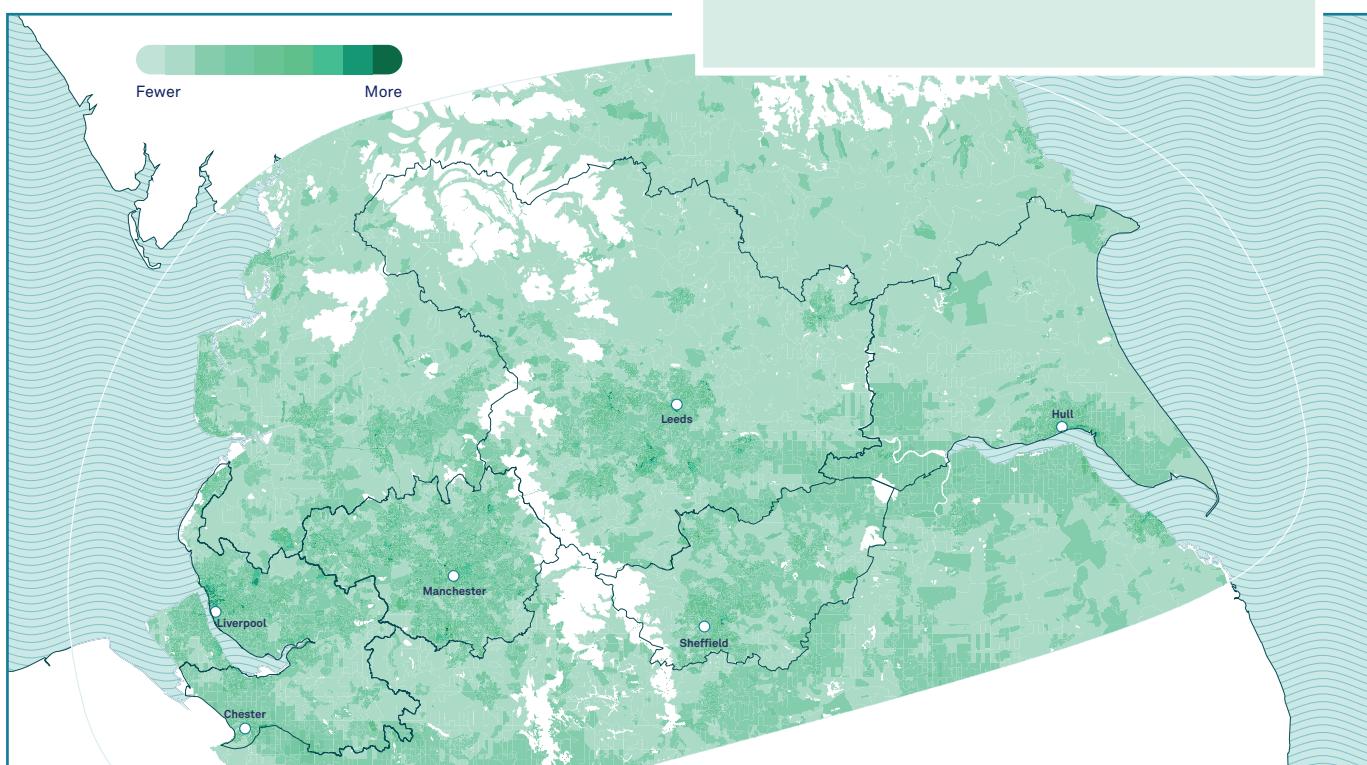
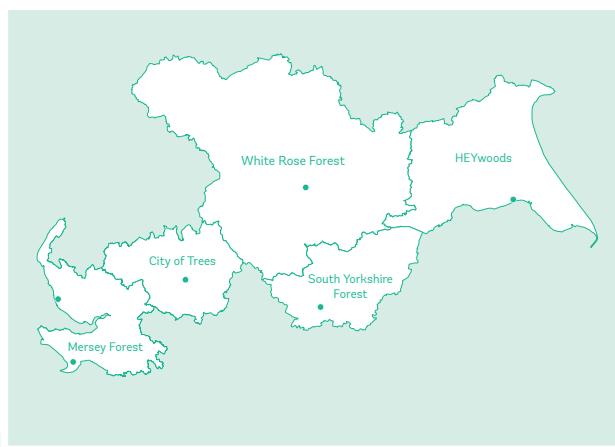
To ensure resilience and durability of the project throughout the 25-year period, funding and support will come from a range of sources. The Community Forests and Woodland Trust will lead an approach to combine existing and novel

funding mechanisms, bringing public and private sector funding together. Working with a growing range of partners, the Northern Forest will secure funding not only through traditional methods such as charitable trusts, sponsorship and grants, but also by contributing to carbon reduction schemes, creating natural capital bonds and aligning to the planned investment in housing and transport.

The Northern Forest will ensure the predicted economic growth across the north is as sustainable as possible. It will work with local councils and the government, with private organisations, house builders and transport planners, with Natural England, Wildlife Trusts and conservation organisations, all to deliver a forest that will benefit our health, happiness, economy and future.

Where?

Delivering a better quality of life is a central aim of the Northern Forest mission. As such, tree planting will target areas where it will have the biggest impact on health and wellbeing. The Northern Forest partners have used advanced mapping techniques to assess where trees can deliver the maximum benefits for air quality, water, recreation and biodiversity.



The best time to plant a tree was a generation ago,
the second best time is now.