

18 Social Justice (Inclusion)



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The National Forest Company (NFC) promotes social inclusion to enable disadvantaged, minority, ethnic and disability groups to be involved in the Forest's creation and to enjoy the area's many recreation and visitor attractions.

- The National Forest's creation is contributing to social justice by involving¹:
 - **Unemployed people** – in midweek conservation projects and NVQ skills training courses run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.
 - **Inner city and urban communities** – through free trees schemes; environmental education visits; Tree for All schools work (run with the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission and other partners); and the NFC's Grow a Tree from Seed and Plant a Tree schemes.
 - **Black and minority ethnic (BME) communities** – through healthy walking; environmental education activity; inner city schools tree planting; and community events. BME communities account for 3% of the Forest's population, with significant concentrations in Burton upon Trent². The NFC also works increasingly with such communities from surrounding cities, in particular Leicester, which has a 52% BME population.
 - **People with disabilities** – through arts projects; healthy walking; and creation of 8 all abilities Forest trails.
 - **Single parent families** – involvement in healthy walking.
 - **Schools in areas of rural deprivation** – through the Forest Songs project (run with Children's Music Workshop and, more recently, Sinfonia ViVA).
- In 2010 around 25,000 people participated in Forest activities and over 41,000 children and adults attended environmental education sessions. Much of this work aims to engage hard to reach groups. In 2007, it was estimated that 13% of those taking part were from socially excluded groups; this has risen to over 16% in 2010³.

* ACTION:

- 1) Continue to work with partners to involve socially excluded groups in the Forest's creation.
- 2) Work with partner organisations to more effectively measure and monitor social inclusion.

DATA SOURCES:

- 1) Much More Than Trees 3: The socio-economic impact of The National Forest - DC Research for the NFC [2010].
- 2) Much More Than Trees 2 – Staffordshire University [2004].
- 3) NFC monitoring [2010].

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