



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST

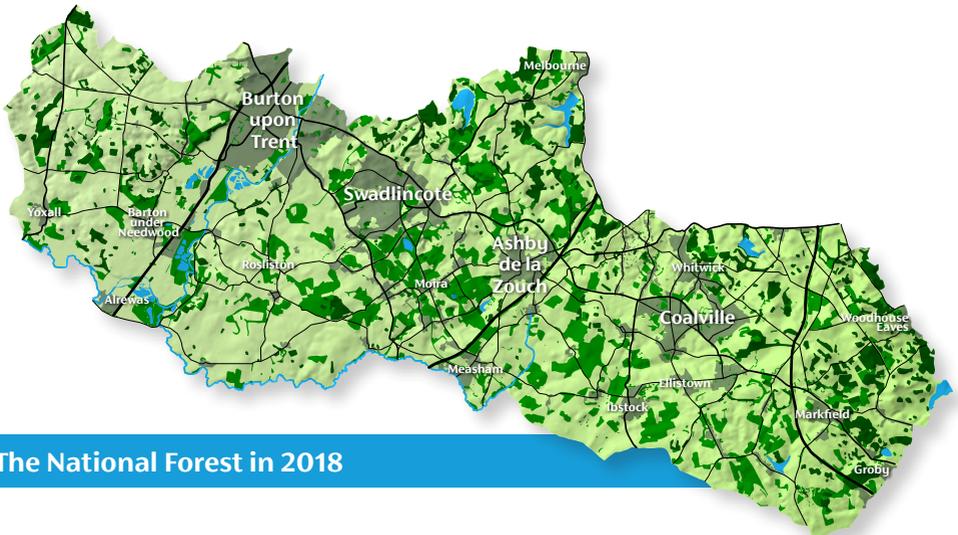
National Forest  
**Small Grants  
Fund 2018/19**

# The National Forest

The National Forest covers 200 square miles, spanning parts of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire. When the concept of the Forest was established in 1990, much of the land in this area had been heavily mined, woodland cover was very low and the landscape was littered with the scars of 20th century extractive industries. For more than 25 years, through the creation of woodlands and other habitats, a huge transformation has been taking place. So far more than 8.5 million trees have increased Forest cover from just 6% to over 20%, bringing with it fantastic benefits for people and wildlife.

The National Forest Company was formed to lead the creation of the Forest, but it relies on working in partnership with a wide range of passionate people and organisations to make this vision a reality. Over a quarter of a century, this partnership has created a national exemplar of what can be achieved through forest creation, demonstrating solutions to many of the key challenges we face as a nation including:

- restoring habitats across our landscape that can adapt to climate change;
- making spaces in which people can exercise, relax and enjoy being close to nature;
- establishing a great place to live and work;
- providing opportunities for walking, cycling, riding and other forms of outdoor physical activity;
- creating an emerging visitor destination that supports a thriving tourism sector; and
- developing a low carbon economy to provide sustainable growth and jobs.



# Small Grants Fund

To support the ongoing creation of the National Forest, the National Forest Company offers small grants to a range of landowners, community groups and other organisations. The grants are designed to provide funds to support projects that contribute to the aims and objectives of the National Forest. They were formerly delivered through the National Forest Company's Programme Development Fund (PDF). From 2018, this has been replaced by the Small Grant Fund.

Owners and managers of sites within the Forest, together with organisations, charities, local authorities, companies or individuals who operate within the Forest area, can apply for grants to support a range of projects and activities. These include works relating (but not limited) to: access and recreation; biodiversity; communities and education; heritage; tourism and awareness-raising; woodland economy, urban tree planting and the improvement of green spaces.

Projects must be delivered within the boundary of the National Forest. The map opposite shows the area covered by the Forest. In exceptional cases, we will consider projects that extend beyond the Forest boundary, but the majority of delivery must be within the Forest. We will not fund physical site works beyond the boundary of the Forest.



Small Grants are normally available up to a maximum of 50% of the total project costs. Applicants will be expected to match the grant with their own funds, grants from other bodies or volunteer time. Grants are not normally available for core-funding expenses such as staff wages, rents or existing maintenance costs.

# How to apply

Small Grants are available throughout the year (subject to funds). However, they are offered on a 'first come, first served' basis from the start of our financial year (1 April) and budgets are often fully committed within the first six months. Grants must also be applied for, offered and claimed within the same financial year. So we would recommend applying for a grant in the first part of the financial year to reduce the risk of budgets having been spent and to give yourself the maximum time to deliver your project in time.

Applications are made on a simple application form, which is available on request from the National Forest Company. However, before applying we recommend that you speak to one of our team to ensure that your project is eligible and that funds are available. For more information and to discuss how to apply for these grants, please contact:

<a href="#">Sue Anderson</a>	Communities, education and arts projects
<a href="#">Richard Drakeley</a>	Tourism and awareness-raising projects
<a href="#">Sam Lattaway</a>	Access, recreation, biodiversity and heritage projects
<a href="#">Philip Metcalfe</a>	Urban tree-planting and greenspace projects
<a href="#">Dan Small</a>	Woodland economy and forestry projects

The National Forest Company also offers a range of grants for the creation and management of woodlands. For more information on the full range of grants offered by the National Forest Company, visit our website.



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