



Epping Forest, which will be one of the beneficiaries of this year's Lord Mayor's Appeal



GIFFORD WOOD APPEAL

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The Appeal will fund the planting of 4,500 trees on a five-acre site recently acquired by the City of London. This will extend Epping Forest and will be planted mainly with native oak and hornbeam, to reflect the mix of veteran trees for which Epping Forest is the most important site in the UK, and one of just a few in Europe.

The project will also provide an opportunity to plant some pioneer species more tolerant of projected changes in climate, and potentially create a seed bank to secure these species for the future. Future proofing will not only safeguard habitats for the diverse species in Epping Forest's woodland, but will provide valuable insight for those visiting The View, Epping Forest's new visitor centre, into the need for planning ahead to conserve our countryside heritage.

- The UK is one of Europe's least forested nations. By the beginning of this century, its woodland cover was reduced to just five per cent – with half of its ancient woodland lost since the 1930s.
- Historically, woodland habitats would have covered much of the country. However, over the past 5,000 years, 90 per cent of this cover has been lost, due mainly to human activity: cutting for firewood and clearance for agriculture.
- In 1980, native species accounted for only five per cent of the new trees planted in the UK. Thanks to conservation organisations, this has now risen to around 40 per cent.
- Epping Forest is made up mainly of beech, oak and hornbeam trees. There are over 15,000 beech pollards in Epping Forest, which is 85 per cent of all of the pollards in the UK. Each tree is more than 300 years old and home to many different rare animals and plants.



The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress say: "We hope that you will join us in our mission to preserve for future generations some of the most inspirational, precious and fundamental things we all take for granted – music, woodland, paintings – and to broaden horizons by providing opportunities for young people from all walks of life to develop their enthusiasms and pursue their ambitions."

To get involved with fundraising events or to find out how you or your organisation can donate to the Appeal, please visit www.thelordmayorsappeal.org.