



The Sherwood Forest Trust

# STRATEGIC PLAN

2026 - 2028

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Registered Charity: 1119614

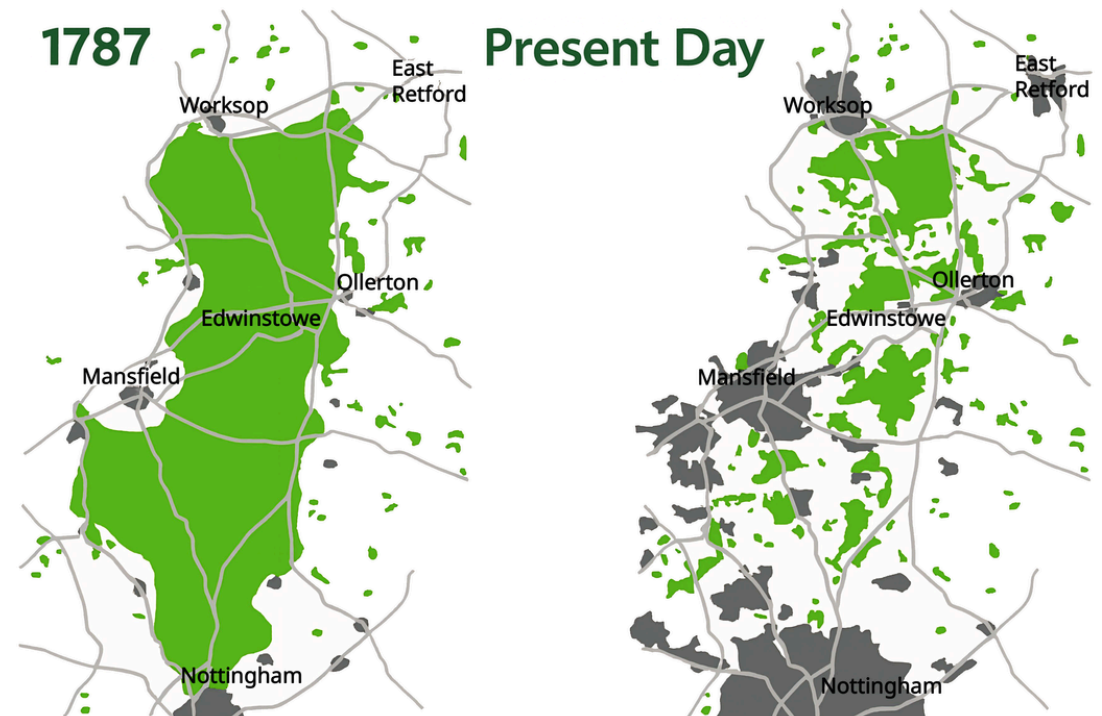
# Background

Sherwood Forest is internationally renowned for its legendary heritage and remarkable natural beauty, boasting within its National Nature Reserve a uniquely rich collection of ancient and veteran oaks—many more than 400 years old, with some exceeding 800 years. Yet, unlike many forests, Sherwood exists as a fragmented patchwork shaped over centuries by human influence, making its borders and ecological importance difficult for many to recognise. The Sherwood Forest Trust was founded to reconnect these fragments and help communities and visitors appreciate the true scope and value of this extraordinary landscape.

**Since 1995, beginning with The Sherwood Initiative,** the Trust has worked to restore habitats, improve public access, and engage people with Sherwood’s unique character. This heritage-led approach has revived everything from heathlands and wetlands to ancient woodland and archaeology.

**Today,** The Trust leads efforts to restore and expand Sherwood’s internationally important heathlands, working collaboratively with partners to boost biodiversity and protect threatened species. Nurturing Sherwood’s trees for the future is at the heart of our mission. Our community tree nursery grows native trees from locally collected seed, securing Sherwood’s living legacy. We actively engage schools, businesses, and residents in hands-on tree planting and habitat enhancement, inspiring our community to care for ‘their patch’ of Sherwood’s natural heritage.

By putting **people at the heart of our work,** the Trust forges strong bonds to Sherwood, helping communities reconnect with nature for greater wellbeing and resilience. Through hands-on conservation, inclusive programmes, and community events, we not only protect the forest, but also inspire a deeper sense of care, ensuring Sherwood thrives for generations to come.



# Who We Are

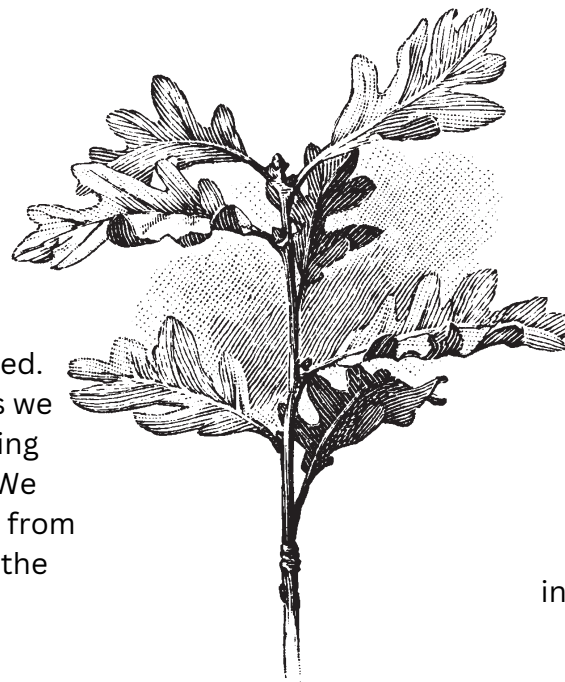


The Sherwood Forest Trust is a charity dedicated to protecting, restoring, and celebrating the landscape, wildlife, and heritage of the legendary Sherwood Forest. Through collaborative action and partnership, we aim to create a nature rich, and more connected environment - empowering local communities to steward this iconic landscape for future generations.

## Our Vision

***Our vision is for a thriving, nature-rich and well-connected Sherwood Forest***

A living mosaic of ancient woodlands, heathlands, and grasslands where nature thrives and heritage is cherished. Through our work, tackling habitat and biodiversity loss we are fighting back against climate change, while supporting the region's recreation and rich archaeological legacy. We want a landscape where people feel rooted—benefiting from deeper connections to both the nature and heritage of the legendary Sherwood Forest.



## Our Values

Our staff team brings wide-ranging conservation, heritage and project management experience, all grounded in a **passion and love for the forest**. Our trustees and associates contribute expertise from across the archeology, conservation, woodland and forestry sectors, including hands-on land management experience from farming, and a deep understanding of funding and the political landscape.

Together, we operate with values that prioritise partnership, community focus, best practice, and inclusion - championing collaboration and long-term stewardship in everything we do.



# 2026 - 2028 PROJECTS



# Nature Recovery: Growing Sherwood Native Trees

Guided by evidence that locally sourced and grown trees thrive best, we've created a community tree nursery where volunteers nurture Sherwood's future - collecting seed and growing strong, healthy native trees for this landscape.



## Our activities and plans for the future

We will...

- Collect local seed and grow **high-quality, hyper-local trees** in our community nursery, involving staff and volunteers to build local skills.
- Achieve Plant Healthy certification and expand nursery capacity to meet increasing demand for local planting projects.
- Work with partners to develop a strategy ensuring the principle of “right tree, right place, right reason,” creating resilient, ecologically valuable habitats across ancient Sherwood.
- We will scale up the Community Tree Nursery and include an Education Centre in line with community need.

## Outcomes & Impacts

- A secure pipeline of healthy, locally grown trees to **strengthen local provenance**.
- At least **50 volunteers** involved each year.
- **Plant 20,000+ trees** across the county sourced and grown from our Community Nursery.



# Nature Recovery: Sherwood's Heathlands

We will continue to champion Sherwood's heathlands, an internationally important habitat where around 90% has been lost (State of Nature in Sherwood Report 2023).

Working alongside our partners in the Sherwood Habitat Strategy Group, we are protecting, restoring, and expanding lowland heathland to safeguard biodiversity, strengthen the area's distinctive landscape, and provide a home for key species.



## Outcomes & Impacts

- We will deliver heathland creation, restoration, and maintenance across at least **150 hectares**.
- We will provide stewardship of **priority heathlands** at designated SSSIs, including Oak Tree Heath and Sherwood Heath.
- Launch an impactful fire prevention programme **reaching 2000+ young people**.

# Strengthening wellbeing and resilience through greater connection with Sherwood's nature and heritage

We will put Sherwood people's voices at the heart of our work — designing locally-led projects focused on underserved communities, and ensuring residents shape priorities at every stage. Through co-design and ongoing dialogue, we will bring together Sherwood's history, heritage, and nature in ways that respond to real community needs and aspirations.



## Projects & Campaigns:

- **Bringing life back to Oak Tree Heath** by working with partners and the community to co-create projects and nature-based wellbeing activities that inspire involvement.
- **Care for your patch of Sherwood:** Inspired by the annual Sherwood Forest Day on 20 February, we will spark local pride and equip people with the knowledge, skills and motivation to plant native trees, care for nature and celebrate heritage across the whole ancient Sherwood Forest boundary.
- Annual, family-focused **Woodland Festival:** co-designed with local residents - as a focal point for public engagement and a springboard for year-round involvement.

# Partnership Working

**Contribute to the regional nature recovery strategy and action groups:**  
Help deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and State of Nature Sherwood Report 2028 with the Sherwood Habitat Strategy Group and Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group.

**Develop a Tree Strategy** with partners at Greenwood Community Forest to guide which species we grow and plant across Sherwood, ensuring our choices reflect local ecology and future climate resilience.

WE WILL

**Build close links** with local tourism businesses, Destination Management Organisations, and visitor economy networks.

**Work closely with health, wellbeing and heritage partners** to deliver joined-up programmes that reduce stress, boost mood, encourage physical activity, and strengthen community ties—by connecting people with nature and local heritage.



# Support Our Vision

**It takes £300,000 each year** to keep our nursery growing, our restoration teams working, and our doors open to the volunteers who help protect and preserve Sherwood Forest. That money means we can hire local people, buy tools and equipment, keep our sites safe and accessible, and answer every call for advice from landowners and community groups. It means we can actually deliver - not just make plans.

**If you're a funder, partner, or donor who wants to see tangible outcomes on the ground, this is your chance to make a direct difference.**

## Help us:

- Grow and plant tens of thousands of hyper-local native trees every year
- Restore ancient habitats and keep rare wildlife safe
- Run hands-on sessions for schools, volunteers, and community groups that improve their wellbeing
- Support local jobs, training and lifelong nature skills
- Protect the living history and stories of Sherwood for the future

**To get involved as a major supporter, corporate partner, or donor, get in touch and book a meeting with our CEO at**

[helens@sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk](mailto:helens@sherwoodforesttrust.org.uk)

<https://sherwoodforest.org.uk/donate>

