

Huge thanks to our volunteers

who contributed:

- **2200** hours of time to welcoming people to the Forest at the Visitor Centre at High Beach
- **200** hours to our free guided walks programme
- **2136** hours to our hands on conservation activities

From partners and participants

"Guided walks in Epping Forest are superb. We are learning about the Forest, its trees and wildlife from expert guides."

- Sarah, Guided Walk Attendee

"It was an absolutely inspiring talk from a great environmentalist who inspired us for the best part of an hour, without a single note and with absolute passion."

- Attendee to Tony Juniper Talk

"Loved the event! It was great to have a space where I could walk with other Black women and families, and bring my own family."

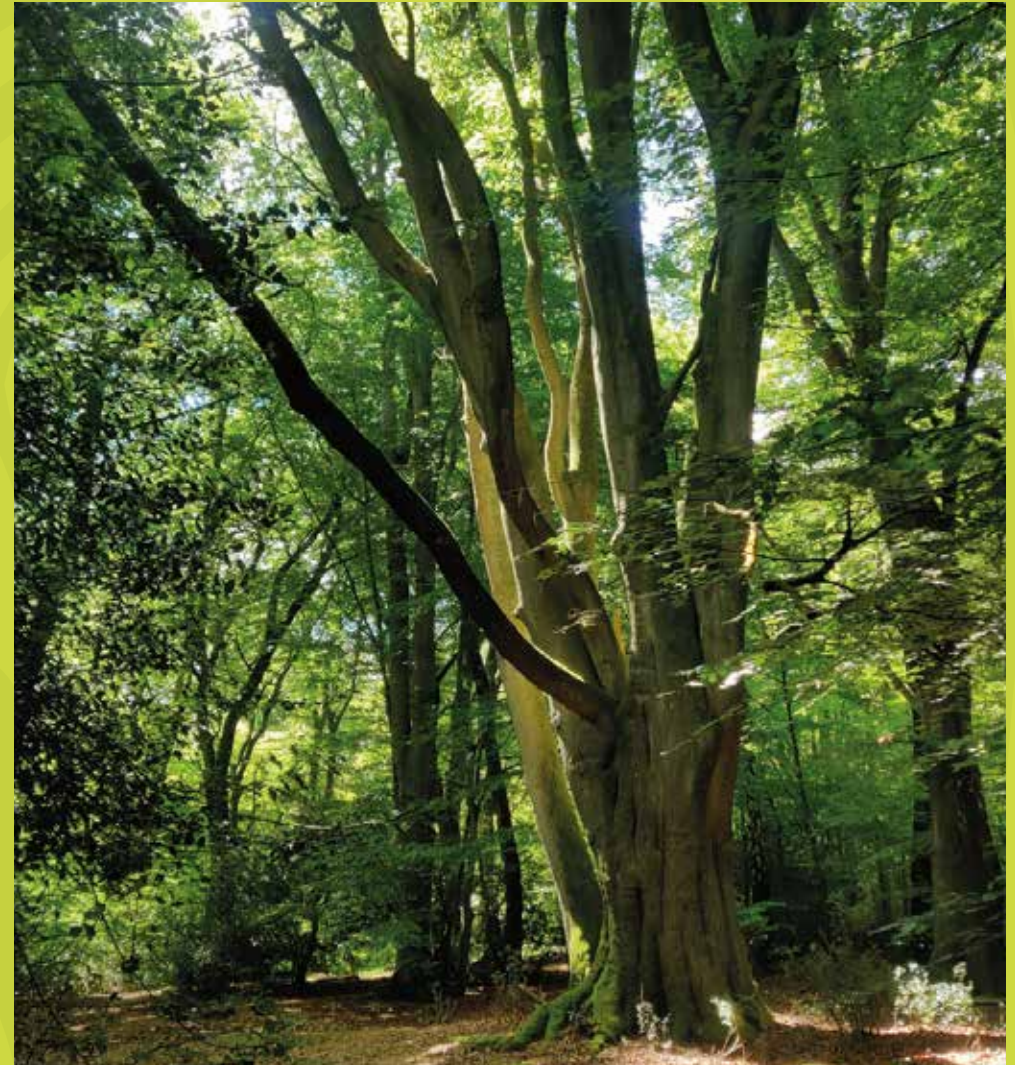
- Black Girls Hike Event Attendee

"The volunteer works program at Epping Forest is very much over and above the core work that City of London Epping Forest team would undertake. The volunteer delivered works allow greater focus on some tasks than we would normally undertake and allows for a much higher standard of delivery than we would normally achieve."

- Geoff Sinclair, then Head of Operations in the City of London's Epping Forest team

"A lovely visitor centre. The staff are very welcoming and helpful."

- Visitor to High Beach



Our impact 2022-2023

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Epping Forest
Heritage Trust

A message from our Chair

I would first like to thank all of our members, donors and volunteers for your huge commitment to protecting and preserving this very special ancient Forest over the last year. Together we have done so much to protect and preserve it for generations to come:

- inspiring people about the Forest through our walks and events programme, and the Visitor Centre at High Beach;
- improving its biodiversity through our conservation programmes
- and defending it against damaging adjacent development.

All this has only been possible because of you. Thank you!

Yet the Forest is facing its biggest challenges in a generation including climate change, adjacent development and increased pollution levels.

Last year I promised we would start to inspire more people from more diverse



communities about the Forest, and I am proud to say that we have started to do just that, especially through our partnerships with Black Girls Hike and Muslim Hikers. I promised we would expand our conservation activities, and with the support of City Bridge Trust we are doubling the number of conservation activities we carry out each week. And I am proud of the awareness raising and advocacy work we have done, securing the support of local councillors for the Forest, becoming a part of the More Natural Capital Coalition and feeding in to the new Local Plan for Epping Forest District Council.

There is a lot more to do, but I am sure that together we can meet those challenges, so that Epping Forest is protected and preserved for people to enjoy for generations to come.

Thank you once again for your love and support for the Forest.

Judy Adams, Chair

The support of EFHT members, supporters and volunteers is vital in protecting and preserving Epping Forest. We'd like to say a big thank you for your love of the Forest and share some of the highlights of what we have achieved together over the last year.

Inspire

- Welcomed over **9,000** people to the Forest through the Visitor Centre at High Beach
- Staged our first post-pandemic **Epping Forest Big Walk**, attended by over **200** people. Published a new Big Walk leaflet, distributed to over **5,000** people interested in walking in the Forest
- Introduced new **Forest Talks** with expert speakers sharing their knowledge of the Forest with over **120** people
- Guided over **380** people on our free walks programme, educating and inspiring them about the Forest and sharing with them the beauty it has to offer
- Staged **new partnership** walks and activities with refugee charity Fences and Frontiers, Black Girls Hike, Muslim Hikers and the Hive (formerly Suntrap) directly engaging new people and communities to the Forest

Conserve

- Improved biodiversity in the Forest through hands-on conservation sessions on **7** different sites all delivered by our amazing **24** Green Team volunteers and **18** Happy Lopper participants

Protect

- Developed the Epping Forest For Everyone To Love campaign securing the support of **40 local councillors**, and engagement with senior local politicians and officials **#LoveEppingForest**
- Successfully **opposed** the planned NEXT Distribution centre in the north of the Forest, protecting it from a potential 1,000 extra vehicle journeys a day through feeding into and attending and presenting at their planning appeal; and fed in views on the Latton priory development