

## Huge thanks to our amazing volunteers: 200 volunteers contributed over 6,000 hours of volunteer time!

- **2200** hours of time to welcoming people to the Forest at the Visitor Centre at High Beach
- **462** hours to our free guided walks programme
- **3043** hours to our hands on conservation activities
- **850** hours to our policy and planning work

### From partners and participants

*"This was the most fulfilling day I have had for a very long time. Helping with conservation at Epping Forest, nothing better! I would highly recommend it to anyone who likes being outdoors."*

*-Conservation volunteer*

*"Loved the hike, I live 10 minutes from Epping Forest & haven't ventured out on any of their trails so it was lovely to do it with Muslim Hikers & my friends :). I have now joined the Epping Forest Heritage Trust mailing list so look forward to joining them on their monthly walks & also venturing out alone :). Thank you for the inspiration & motivation!"*

*-Participant on walk with Muslim Hikers*

*"It was fun being with like-minded women and doing physical work"*

*-Womens\* Volunteer session*

*"As always, your support and kindness to James when he attends the Happy Loppers sessions is very much appreciated by both of us and the Loppers sessions mean so much to James. He says that it's his favourite activity in the week."*

*- Carer of a Happy Lopper*

### We are very grateful to our funding partners over the year:

*City Bridge Foundation, The Big Give, Aviva Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund, The Charles S French Trust, NLCF Awards for All and the Essex County Council Locality Fund*

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# Our impact 2023-2024



**Epping Forest  
Heritage Trust**

## A message from our Chair

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

- inspiring more people about the Forest through our new community engagement programme, guided walks and the Visitor Centre at High Beach;
- improving the Forest's biodiversity through our expanded conservation programmes
- and defending the Forest against damaging adjacent development through responding to planning proposals and raising awareness of the Forest with local politicians.

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



At the same time the Forest is still facing its biggest challenges in a generation – from climate change and high levels of pollution, to the high levels of adjacent development. There is a lot more we need to do.

However I am confident with the progress made so far, and the plans we have in place, that we, alongside our partners and supporters, will meet the challenges the Forest faces.

As I retire from leading EFHT I am hugely proud of the progress we have made over the last three years, and look forward to the Trust going from strength to strength in years to come.

**Thank you once again for your love and support for the Forest!**

Judy Adams

**The support of EFHT members, supporters, partners, funders 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 our achievements together over the last year.**

### Inspire

- Welcomed over **9,400** people to the Forest through the Visitor Centre at High Beach
- Guided over **341** people on our free monthly guided walks programme, sharing insight about the Forest's ecology, heritage and culture
- Led **150** people on the Epping Forest Big Walk, with support from the City of London Corporation, a range of local politicians and local organisations, and with talks about the Forest along the route
- Led successful partnership walks with Muslim Hikers, Black Girls Hike and 7 other **community organisations**, introducing **362** new people to the Forest

### Conserve

- Our **33** Green team members contributed **1,173** hours of volunteer conservation activity over **35** sessions
- Our team of people with learning disabilities, the Happy Loppers, undertook **36** conservation sessions involving **23** people and delivered **1,520** hours of volunteer time
- **67** new volunteers took part in **21** hands-on conservation sessions, supported by **City Bridge Foundation**, delivering **350** hours of conservation activity to improve the biodiversity of the Forest

### Protect

- Responded to **15** planning proposals, contributing to the refusal of **7** and changes to conditions on a further application
- **14** elected Councillors pledged to protect and preserve the Forest in the run up to the local elections in Epping Forest DC



*The Net Promotor Score (NPS) of our monthly guided walks programme is **88**.*