

Take a walk on the wild side...

BIFFAWARD WOODLAND WALKS CELEBRATING £100 MILLION IN FUNDING

This autumn, Biffaward is celebrating the distribution of £100 million in grant funding awarded through the Landfill Communities Fund. This is a significant achievement and one worth commemorating in style. To mark this milestone, Biffaward is funding an extensive project in partnership with the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. The project is called Biffaward Woodland Walks and will aim to engage local communities with nature through woodland walks across the UK.

Since Biffaward awarded its first grant in 1997, a staggering £100 million of Biffaward funding has benefited more than 1,800 different environmental and community projects throughout the UK. Biffaward is committed to continuing this rewarding work and ensuring that funding continues to be allocated most effectively, reaching those projects that most need supporting.

Gillian French, Biffaward Programme Manager says *"This landmark is a major success for all associated with Biffaward. Such an achievement would not be possible without the dedication and hard work from the Biffaward team, Biffa Waste Services and the hundreds of projects."*

By acquiring sites, campaigning for ancient woodland and planting new native woodland, the Woodland Trust aims to conserve, restore and re-establish native woodland. Biffaward has been exceptionally supportive of the Woodland Trust and continues to strengthen this partnership with the announcement of the Biffaward Woodland Walks project.

The project aims, through a variety of inspirational activities, to promote access to woods and inspire people to enjoy the natural world for recreation, enjoyment and exercise. In addition, the project will improve understanding of the natural environment and its relationship to human activities through:

- Undertaking access improvements at a number of Woodland Trust sites.
- Installing integrated and innovative interpretation to increase public awareness.
- Restoring habitats for wildlife, so that people can understand the importance of woodland.
- Increasing the health benefits for local communities by informing people about the benefits of woodland for recreation and involving them in volunteer projects.

Biffaward Woodland Walks has been awarded £120,000 of funding, enabling the Woodland Trust to undertake a variety of improvements at 12 woodland sites across the UK. One site will be located in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and each English region. Work is currently underway and all improvements will take place within 12 months.

Please see overleaf for a look at the Woodland Walk sites.



...and enjoy the outdoor life



photo by Michael Cooper

Northern Ireland Carnmoney Hill

Carnmoney Hill is a 72 hectare nature reserve full of a wonderful mosaic of different habitat types. As part of the Biffaward celebration project, Carnmoney Hill will undertake a series of improvements providing greater access provision, recreational facilities and community involvement.



photo by WTPL

Scotland

Beeslack Wood, Penicuik

Beeslack Wood is a beautiful ancient woodland set in a river gorge near the heart of Penicuik, Midlothian. Sadly the wood has suffered in recent years from an excess of littering and dumping. The Biffaward funded project aims to engage the local community into improving Beeslack Wood, rekindling their respect and ownership.



photo by WTPL

West Midlands Piles Coppice

Piles Coppice is ancient semi-natural woodland, located on the urban fringe of Binley Woods and loved by the local community. Repeated vandalism to public and management access estate works has been a long-term problem. Biffaward funding will enable the Woodland Trust to effectively secure and improve the woodlands, and repair and maintain the public access entrances and footpaths.

North West Woodhouse Hill

North East Hedley Hall

Yorkshire & Humber Bitholmes Wood

East Midlands Nor Wood



photo by WTPL/Steven Kind

Wales Wentwood Forest

Wentwood Forest is home to a rich diversity of important habitats and wildlife. It is the largest planted ancient woodland site in Wales.

The Woodland Trust area of heathland by stock fencing and grazing compartments identified as areas of developing heathland, encouraging diminishing fauna to flourish once again.

East of England Merry Hill

London Blackbush Shaw

South West Greyfield Wood



photo by WTPL

South East Views Wood

Views Wood is an ancient semi-natural woodland that historically once formed part of Buxted Park Estate. The woodland is a wonderful setting for quiet recreational activities. The Biffaward grant is allowing the Woodland Trust to create a new, safer all-access track, enabling a wider range of users to explore. The new track will be called the Biffaward Woodland Walk.



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