

Media Release: 14/06/23

On Site with Restoration Worker Helen

Issue

Interview Helen Saunders from the Natural England, Life in the Ravines project; who was recently included in the Forestry Commission's recent campaign, 'Women in Forestry, The Lumberjills' Story'.

Women in Forestry

Launched in December 2022, this campaign was a first-of-its-kind celebration of women in forestry by the Forestry Commission, Forestry England and Forest Research, supported by Defra. As part of the campaign, The People's Picture, a mosaic image of a lumberjill made up of a mosaic of images of women across the forestry sector and general public to illustrate the connection today's women have with forests and woodlands, which Helen was featured in. Helen is a part time, woodland restoration worker who has been planting trees, completing survey work and helping with marking up areas ready for felling.

Comms Objectives

- To showcase NE's positive work in the local area to restore woodland via the introduction of ash dieback resistant trees.
- Highlight the modern techniques employed by Natural England including drones for tree planting
- Amplify locally Defra and the Forestry commissions Lumberjill's campaign at a regional level

Target Audiences

- Community - local media is the best way to reach those living in the area as well as wider East Midlands community who may be interested in the work happening in their region.

Strategic Approach

- This is a good local story which helps to bring to life Defra and the Forestry Commissions' Lumberjill project through a local lens
- Good opportunity to showcase the great work being done in the Life in the Ravines project

Key Messages

- Natural England is taking action to restore woodland through woodland management, tree planting and promoting trees with a natural tolerance to ash dieback
- The modern Natural England uses specialist techniques such as drones to aid planting on the steep slopes
- Women play a huge role in forestry work, as tree planting increases across the country, so too does the demand for a diverse, skilled forestry workforce.

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For comment and media opportunities, contact:

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Images and Video: Single use only

Natural England image: Helen interviewed on site by BBC Radio Derby



.....Additional Notes for Editor.....

LIFE in the Ravines – The Project

This £5m partnership project, led by Natural England, is restoring 876ha of ravine woodland within the Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This is 16% of the UK's ravine woodland, a European Priority Habitat. All the project sites are now heavily infected with ash dieback caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, which usually leads to tree death. Without intervention, in some areas the whole woodland would be lost. LIFE in the Ravines will replant trees historically found in the woods such as *Tilia cordata* (small leaved lime), *Tilia platyphyllos* (large leaved lime) and *Ulmus glabra* (wych elm), alongside others such as *Populus tremula* (aspen) and *Salix* (willow). The woods are too far from seed sources for these species to rely on natural regeneration. The project will also seek to retain ash in the woods.

Project Partners

Project partners are the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the National Trust and the Chatsworth Estate.

The project will also work with the Peak District National Park, Derbyshire Dales District Council, the Forestry Commission, and the Woodland Trust.

EU LIFE Funding



The EU's LIFE fund had agreed to support this £5 million project prior to the UK's exit from the EU. EU LIFE has given £3.6 million funding. The rest of the funding has come from project partners and supporters.

About Natural England

Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide.

Within England, Natural England is responsible for:

- Promoting nature conservation and protecting biodiversity
- Conserving and enhancing the landscape
- Securing the provision and improvement of facilities for the study, understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment
- Promoting access to the countryside and open spaces and encouraging open-air recreation
- Contributing in other ways to social and economic well-being through management of the natural environment
- Find out more on Natural England's website and follow us on Twitter: @NaturalEngland
- Natural England leads several other ambitious conservation projects that have benefitted from LIFE funding. These include Dynamic Dunescapes, working to restore sand dunes across the UK; and LIFE Recreation ReMEDIES, saving seagrass and other delicate underwater habitats around our coasts.

About Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, a Registered Charity, is the only organisation working to protect all wildlife across the county. We are one of 47 in The Wildlife Trusts Partnership, a nationwide network of local trusts. We manage 47 nature reserves throughout Derbyshire, advise local authorities and landowners on nature conservation issues and run a range of conservation and education projects. We are committed to The Wildlife Trusts' strategy of creating Living Landscapes – robust, connected landscapes that address the challenges facing our wildlife and countryside. Find out more at www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

About Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, a registered charity, is the leading nature conservation body in the County of Staffordshire. It protects and enhances our wildlife and wild places and promotes involvement, enjoyment and understanding of the natural



world. With the support of over 17,000 members, it manages 31 sites covering over 4,000 acres including sites of international, European and national importance. As part of The Wildlife Trusts, the Trust is the local face of the largest organisation in the UK concerned with the conservation of all forms of wildlife.

About Chatsworth Estate

Chatsworth is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and is located in the Peak District National Park. The house, many of its contents and much of the surrounding landscape are leased to a registered charity, the Chatsworth House Trust. The Duke and Duchess pay rent to the charity to live at Chatsworth and work with the charity and others to welcome Chatsworth's visitors. Every penny of visitor admission goes directly to the Chatsworth House Trust, which is dedicated to the long-term preservation of Chatsworth House, the collections, garden, woodlands and park for the long-term benefit of the public. The charity promotes the study and appreciation of Chatsworth as a place of historic, architectural, and artistic interest and of natural beauty, and encourages the use and enjoyment of Chatsworth by visitors for education and recreation.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people, Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. The Trust has committed to achieving carbon net zero emissions by 2030 and establish 20 million trees to help tackle climate change, creating green corridors for people and nature near towns and cities, running a year-long campaign to connect people with nature and continuing investment in arts and heritage. Ensuring everyone who visits feels welcome, and more people can access its places continues to be another key aspect of the charity's work. Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 780 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The National Trust receives more than 26.9 million visits each year to the places it cares for that have an entry fee, and an estimated 100 million visits to the outdoor places looked after by the charity. Together with 5.9 million members and more than 65,000 volunteers, they help to support the conservation charity in its work to care for nature, beauty, history. For everyone, for ever.

.....Additional Information.....

To find out more about LIFE in the Ravines:

- WWW.LIFEintheRavines/Storymap



- www.LIFEintheRavines.co.uk
- Twitter / Instagram / Facebook: @lifeinravines
- lifeintheravines@naturalengland.org.uk

