

England's community forests

PRESS RELEASE

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Panel's report recognises the power of trees and woods

England's Community Forests welcome the Independent Panel on Forestry's [final report](#), and look forward to the government's response to its recommendations, due in January 2013.

As part of its information gathering, the Panel sought and received positive input from the Community Forests, drawing on two decades of experience in using trees to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits to society. The head of the Panel, the Bishop of Liverpool, also joined The Mersey Forest and partners last summer to see the impact of community forestry first hand on a visit to [Mab Lane](#), a new community woodland created in urban Liverpool which has been proclaimed "a brilliant idea" by local residents who say it has "really changed the area".

It is heartening to see this ability to benefit communities reflected in the report's recommendation that more trees and woodlands should be planted near where people live, and in its recognition that community forestry "transforms people's lives".

Equally positive is the Panel's conviction that the wide array of benefits delivered by our green infrastructure - from boosting people's health to fighting climate change to improving the image of our towns and cities - warrants increased public investment in trees and woods.

England's Community Forests are ready and willing to implement the community forestry outcomes recommended in the report.

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Editor's Notes:

Final report by the Independent Panel on Forestry

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/reports>

England's Community Forests

The Community Forest programme was established in 1990. Each Community Forest is a partnership between local authorities and local, regional and national partners including the Forestry Commission and Natural England. The founding basis for each Forest is a government-approved Forest Plan, a 30-year vision of landscape-scale improvement. There are now 15 partners working together around the country, developing community forestry.

Find out more at www.communityforest.org.uk.