

# Van Dieman's Land

## Project Summary

Creation of both a community woodland, providing a high quality setting for a new retail development and a new community resource.

## Background

The local planning authorities have designated much of the Forest of Marston Vale a 'Strategic Development Corridor'. Van Dieman's Land is 8 hectares of formerly arable land within this Corridor that has been developed as a major retail distribution centre.

Under a S106 planning agreement, the developers allocated part of the site for community woodland and provided the funding for its creation.

## The Project

The Forest of Marston Vale worked closely with the planners, the developers and the local residents to get the new community woodland established. To secure the new wood's future, a 125-year lease was agreed in the name of the Marston Vale Trust, and the Trust also holds the financial contributions from the developer for the maintenance of the new woodland.

## What has been achieved?

- The creation of a multi-purpose community woodland that forms an attractive and ecologically diverse setting for the new development.
- Over 6 hectares of new woodland, with full public access, and which also provides shade for the adjacent Milton Keyes to Bedford cycle route.
- A successful 'Adopt-a-Tree' scheme with local people buying and managing the newly planted trees.
- The creation of a wet woodland, a local BAP target habitat, on part of the site.
- The planting of cricket bat willow which, within 30 years, will provide an income for the Trust's woodland management works.



KEY FACTS	
DATES	2001-2125
Partners	Forestry Commission (FC), Dept Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), The Marston Vale Trust, developer contributions
Costs	£113,400 (over 25 years) plus subsequent woodland management costs
Funders	Woodland Grant Scheme (FC), Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (DEFRA), Internal Drainage Board
Size/scale	8 ha land