



## Notes on completion

### Summary

**Name of your organisation**

National Forest Company

**Project title**

**In no more than 15 words, please choose a title which you think best describes your project. This will be seen externally, on our website and by our decision makers so please ensure that you choose a title that you are happy for a wide range of people to see.**

The Chronicles of Charnia

**Reference number**

LP-16-02021

**Project summary**

**In no more than 150 words, summarise your project. We will use this text to tell people about your project, including our decision takers.**

600 million years ago, the volcano that is now Charnwood Forest erupted from the ocean near the South Pole. Since then, rich layers of heritage have created a landscape full of wildlife and history. Today much of this is hidden from all but the most inquisitive. What makes Charnwood special has diminished to the point that it risks being forgotten and ultimately, lost.

The Chronicles of Charnia will celebrate the area's internationally important volcanic legacy. It will enable and encourage people to explore its rich landscape and diverse heritage. It will provide deeper engagement for residents and visitors, while contributing to the local economy. It will coordinate management at a landscape-scale to make Charnwood's heritage more resilient to growing pressures. Most importantly, it will create a greater sense of local pride, inspiring communities to restore the character of this special place: 'Made by volcanoes, shaped by people'.

**Have you received any advice from us before making your application?**

Yes

**Please tell us who you received advice from.**

Amanda Turner

**Is this your first application to the Heritage Lottery Fund?**

No

**Please tell us the reference number and project title of your most recent application.**

HG-12-00017 Black to Green: From Coalpits to Treetops

## Section one: Your organisation

### 1a Address of your organisation:

<b>Address line 1</b>	Enterprise Glade
<b>Address line 2</b>	Bath Lane
<b>Address line 3</b>	Moira
<b>Town / city</b>	Swadlincote
<b>County</b>	Derbyshire
<b>Postcode</b>	DE12 6BD

### 1b Is the address of your project the same as the address in 1a?

Yes

### Local Authority within which the project will take place

North West Leicestershire

### Constituency within which the project will take place

North West Leicestershire

### 1c Details of main contact person

#### **Name**

Matt Croney

#### **Position**

Charnwood Forest Development Officer

### Is the address of the main contact person the same as the address in 1a?

Yes

**Daytime phone number, including area code**

01283 551211

**Alternative phone number**

07976 865450

**Email address**

mcroney@nationalforest.org

**1d Describe your organisation's main purpose and regular activities**

The National Forest Company leads the creation of The National Forest, a new, wooded landscape for the nation across 200 square miles of central England.

The National Forest Company:

# Attracts and uses resources for ambitious and imaginative Forest creation that is sensitive to the landscape and environment.

# Provides the setting for new businesses, recreation, tourism and an improved quality of life

# Enhances wildlife and biodiversity.

The National Forest Company leads through working partnerships with landowners, businesses, public, private and voluntary organisations and local communities to fulfill the shared vision for the Forest. It promotes the widest possible participation in and enjoyment of the Forest.

**How many people does your organisation employ?**

23

**1e The legal status of your organisation**

**Please select one of the following:**

Other public sector organisation

**If your organisation is any of the following, please provide the details shown:**

**Company - give registration number**

**Registered Charity in England, Scotland or Wales - give registration number**

1166563

**Charity recognised by HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland - give reference number**

**1f Has your organisation undertaken a similar project in size and scope in the last 5 years?**

Yes

**Please provide brief details**

Black to Green Heritage Grant Project, £1.1million 3 year project (2015-18), to connect people and engage land managers in restoring the Heart of the Forest landscape.

**1g Will your project be delivered by a partnership?**

Yes

**Who are your partners? Please provide a named contact from each organisation**

Charnwood Forest Regional Park Partners:

Bradgate Park Trust – Peter Tyldesley

Charnwood Borough Council – Matt Bradford

Charnwood Roots project (University of Leicester/Leicestershire Victoria History Trust) – Julie Attard

National Farmers Union - Paul Tame

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council – Samuel Hatfield

Leicestershire County Council – Anna Lowe

Leicestershire Local Access Forum – Roy Denney

Leicestershire Promotions – Martin Peters

Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society – Peter Williams

Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust – Michael Jeeves

National Forest Company – Sam Lattaway

Natural England – Neil Rudge

North West Leicestershire District Council – Ian Nelson

Tarmac/Mineral Products Association – Tim Deal

New members:

Charnia Research Group – Gill Weightman

British Geological Survey – Mike Howe

Charnwood Arts – Kevin Ryan

Voluntary Action Leicestershire – Abdul Ashgar

Environment Agency – David Newborough

**1h Are you VAT registered?**

Yes

**Please provide your VAT number**

737 7448 93

## Section two: The heritage

In this section tell us about the heritage your project focuses on and why it is valued.

### 2a What is the heritage your project focuses upon?

Charnwood Forest in north western Leicestershire is a unique landscape, marked out by its volcanic geology. The rugged, granite outcrops on its hilltops rise up steeply as the first area of 'upland' when travelling from south-east Britain, with far-reaching views over Coalville, Leicester, Loughborough and beyond. Its upland character is in stark contrast to the surrounding areas of Leicestershire, which are characterised by a rolling landscape dominated by farmland. It is an island rich in biodiversity, geodiversity, historic and cultural interest, forming distinct layers of heritage:

#### Geology & Fossils:

The Ediacaran and Precambrian rocks of Charnwood are some of the oldest in England, formed 600 million years ago in a chain of volcanic islands. The volcanic debris settled in layers in the surrounding seas, preserving any organisms trapped in them as fossils. In 1957, schoolboy Roger Mason found a fossil which was the first example of a complex lifeform ever found in Precambrian rock, changing our understanding of the evolution of life on earth. Named *Charnia masoni* (after Charnwood and Mason), it is of international importance, subsequently found in only a handful of locations on Earth.

#### Landscape and wildlife:

The volcanic geology created steep, rocky ground and thin soils difficult to build on or improve for agriculture. As such, Charnwood still contains a wealth of nationally and internationally important biodiversity and geodiversity:

	Leicestershire	Charnwood Forest
Area	207,700ha	15,810ha (8%)
SSSIs	2,736ha	1,388ha (51%)
Ancient Woodlands	1,744ha	750ha (43%)
Local Wildlife Sites	2,985ha	951ha (32%)
RIGS	1,961ha	1,315ha (67%)

It is recognised in Landscape and Historic Character Assessments as a special place in the East Midlands and is a Wildlife Trust 'Living Landscape'. 68% of Charnwood Forest lies within The National Forest, where it has always been recognised as a distinct landscape.

#### The key habitats are:

- regionally important heathland/acid grassland on exposed areas of rock, different to northern moorland as it has developed on granite and has a wider variety of plant species
- woodlands form a strong part of local character;
- neutral grasslands where extensive grazing has led to species-rich swards;
- freshwater streams, often at the foot of narrow valleys, and reservoirs

#### Important species distinctive to the area include:

- Charnwood Spider
- Adder, Common Lizard and other reptiles
- a range of lichen species

#### Human activity and influence:

Recent archaeological investigations at Bradgate Park have identified evidence of probably the oldest domestic structure in the UK, dating back to Palaeolithic hunter gatherers 15,000 years ago.

Beacon Hill's Iron Age hill fort is one of the last surviving visible features in the landscape known to the Coritani tribe. A millennium later, the Domesday Book recorded one settlement in Charnwood Forest: the village of Charley. Most of the area was regarded as "waste" and handed over to religious priories such as Ulverscroft and Grace Dieu, seeking isolation to pursue their devotion. Dissolved in the 1530s, their legacy remains in their ruins and the woodlands, grasslands and local institutions that still bear their names.

Quarrying in Charnwood dates back to mining for Neolithic axe heads, while the Romans exploited local rock and slate to build Leicester. This increased greatly from the 16th century and by the late 1800s, Charnwood granite had become the main source of aggregates for southern England, used in many of London's grand buildings, including the stone setts in Buckingham Palace's driveway. The use of local stone and slate led to development of a characteristic local built vernacular (e.g. Swithland Slate roofs). Granite was also used to build the distinctive dry stone walls and historic bridges such as King William's Bridge, built in 1696 to

accommodate the King's wide carriage.

Social history, stories and folklore:

With so much happening in such a small area, there is a rich social history to Charnwood. Even the *Charnia* fossil's discovery has a little-known layer of social commentary. One had actually been found the previous year by 15-year-old Tina Negus, whose teacher unfortunately dismissed its significance. Later, another 1950s schoolboy was inspired to explore Charnwood Forest by the *Charnia* discovery: David Attenborough. His passion for the environment has arguably had greater impact on the appreciation and understanding of the natural world than anyone else alive today.

Charnwood has had other impacts on history:

- Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England for just 9 days in 1553, was born at Bradgate House. It is said that, in sympathy with her beheading, the trees of Bradgate Park were symbolically pollarded to remove their crowns.
- Ned Ludd, who inspired the Luddite movement, was from Anstey.
- Beaumanor Hall was a WWII Signals Intelligence collection site, gathering enemy communications traffic to pass to Bletchley Park for processing.

Charnwood had been a place for the wealthy to escape the grime of industrial Leicester but during the early part of the 20th century Bradgate Park, the Outwoods and Beacon Hill were all opened to the public. These remain 'honeypot' sites for recreation, drawing visitors from across Leicestershire and beyond.

Charnwood Forest has importance and significance to a wide range of people and communities. Residents value its communities and the countryside on their doorsteps. For farmers and landowners, it is a source of income, a source of pride and something to pass on to future generations. To historians, it is a place where there is still much to be learnt about our ancient and more recent pasts. For geologists, the rocks and fossils continue to yield new information and discoveries. To naturalists, it is a jewel of biodiversity in the East Midlands, and visitors from near and far find a beautiful landscape with much more to offer than they may have first realised.

The Charnwood Forest Regional Park (CFRP) was established in 2012. Its 158 square kilometre boundary was identified by independent consultants using consultation informed by landscape character and is proposed as the boundary for the Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS). The CFRP has a wide membership bringing together key delivery bodies with those who use or value Charnwood Forest (Appendix 7).

Socially and economically, there is great variation within and around Charnwood. Deprivation data show that it contains communities among the most deprived and least deprived in England, with more significant areas of deprivation just outside the area, especially in parts of Leicester and Loughborough. The surrounding populations are famously diverse, with large populations of South Asian heritage and increasing numbers from Eastern Europe. Census data shows the population of Leicester rising by over 47,000 (16%) since 2001. Public Health England profiles state that the health of people in Leicestershire is generally better than the England average but in Leicester it is generally worse and there are significant health deprivation issues in Coalville and Loughborough. Nearly 50% of residents in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were considered sedentary in a recent study.

Public transport in the area radiates from the urban centres of Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville. Although bus routes link villages to these towns, they tend to follow the main road network only serving the margins and do not operate on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

The rural tourism economy is underdeveloped, with a particular lack of high quality accommodation to encourage overnight and longer stays. Consultation has highlighted the importance of careful visitor management to ensure that increased visitor numbers do not spoil the qualities that make Charnwood Forest special.

**2b Is your heritage considered to be at risk? If so, please tell us in what way.**

Many of the features and habitats that make up the character of Charnwood Forest face growing threats which are eroding its landscape value. A lack of management of some key habitats is leading to a decline in the characteristic mosaic of woodland, pasture and heathland, their value for biodiversity, their role within the landscape and value for public engagement. Alongside this, the loss of roadside trees and trees in the countryside is eroding character. Dry stone walls, which are so characteristic of Charnwood, have been lost as a result of field enlargement, lack of maintenance and the growing scarcity of skilled wallers. While much of the acid grassland and heathland is managed, smaller areas in the wider countryside risk being overrun by bracken or scrub.

In 1975, a Nature Conservancy Council report reflected on the losses of habitats and species in Charnwood over the previous century and the threats that were then arising from quarrying, agricultural change, recreation, air pollution and road improvements. In 2009, the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust's 'Charnwood Forest – A Living Landscape' found that the conservation interest had declined yet further: key sites had lost plant species; streams and reservoirs had become eutrophic; habitats had been lost to development; farmland bird species had dwindled; and wildflower grasslands had been lost to poor management or neglect.

The LRWT report recognised landscape-scale problems of habitat fragmentation, which isolates populations of species and weakens the resilience of ecological networks. Information on the whereabouts and condition of important habitats is limited and often out of date. Without this, it is difficult to identify habitats at risk and to engage with landowners to remedy the situation.

While many of the distinctive vernacular buildings are included in Conservation Areas or are listed for their heritage importance, they and many others that aren't listed are at risk from loss due to unsympathetic alteration or neglect, including five Listed Buildings on the Heritage at Risk Register.

The construction of the M1 in the 1960s created a significant scar through the landscape, effectively splitting Charnwood Forest in two, causing habitat fragmentation and creating noise pollution.

There is considerable development pressure in settlements at Charnwood's edges or in the surrounding towns and city. It is currently proposed to build 117,900 homes in Leicester and Leicestershire between 2011 and 2036 to meet the demands of a growing population. This equates to 4,716 homes per year. There is continuing high demand for aggregates from Charnwood and, if not managed sensitively, this has the potential to create further visual intrusion.

Indirect pressures arise from growth through the increase in visitors, particularly to 'honeypot' sites. Bradgate Park is now estimated to receive 500,000 visitors per year, while Beacon Hill Country Park receives at least 130,000. The pressures on these sites have impacted their habitats and character: high footfall leads to overuse of certain footpaths and erosion of the ground; and internationally important fossils have been damaged both accidentally and deliberately.

At peak times, parking can spill out onto rural roads or local villages, exacerbating a problem where traffic has increased in volume and speed. The lack of a joined up and promoted network of paths, together with a scarcity of public transport, limits options for visitors to move between sites without using their cars.

**2c Does your project involve work to physical heritage, such as buildings, collections, landscapes or habitats?**

Yes

**Tell us the name of the building(s), collections, landscape or habitat area**

Landscapes: The third party grant schemes extend to the whole area and specific partnership projects confirmed so far are at: Bradgate Park, The Outwoods, Broombriggs Farm and Beacon Hill.

**Does your organisation have the freehold of the building or land, or own outright the heritage items that your project focuses on?**

Yes

**Are there any legal conditions, restrictions or covenants associated with the heritage asset which may affect your project?**

No

**Has a condition survey been undertaken for the heritage asset in the last five years?**

Yes

**Does your organisation have, or are you planning to take out, a mortgage or other loans secured on the building or land, or heritage items?**

No

**Does a project partner have, or are planning to take out, a mortgage or other loans secured on the building or land, or heritage items?**

No

**For landscape projects, please provide an Ordnance Survey grid reference for your landscape.**

SK506 122

**2d Does your project involve the acquisition of a building, land or heritage items?**

No

**Please tick any of the following that apply to your heritage:**

**Accredited Museum, Gallery  
or Archive**

**Designated or Significant  
(Scotland) Collection**

**DCMS funded Museum,  
Library, Gallery or Archive**

**World Heritage Site**

**Grade I or Grade A listed  
building**                     

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

1 (of 4 in total, we do not plan to work on the other 3 at present but it is possible some projects may come forward in the development phase)



**Grade II\* or Grade B listed building** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

To be specified during the development phase. We will be targeting at risk, publicly accessible or visible buildings through our 'Built from volcanoes' and third party grants projects. There are 20 in the area in total.

**Grade II, Grade C or Grade C(S) listed building** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

As above. There are 333 in the area in total.

**Local list** ×

**How many buildings of this type are included in your project?**

As above

**Scheduled Ancient Monument** ×

**How many monuments of this type are included in your project?**

2

**Registered historic ship**

**Conservation Area** ×

**Registered Battlefield**

**Area of Outstanding Natural  
Beauty (AONB) or National  
Scenic Area (NSA)**

**National Park**

**National Nature Reserve** ×

**Ramsar site**

**Regionally Important  
Geological and  
Geomorphological Site  
(RIGS)** ×

**Special Area of Conservation  
(SAC) or e-SAC**

**Special Protection Areas  
(SPA)**

**Registered Park or Garden**

## Section three: Your project

**In this section, tell us about your project. Make sure you include all your planned activities, and capital works if applicable.**

### 3a Describe what your project will do.

We will engage people with Charnwood Forest, creating more widespread recognition of its importance, enthralling visitors, generating local pride and enabling communities to play an active role in enhancing and celebrating its special qualities. We will compile and tell “The Chronicles of Charnia”, focussing on the volcanic legacy, which is the area’s most distinctive feature, underpinning and shaping so much of what makes the area so special. We want to restore the landscape’s value to its communities, its economy and its landscape through a suite of projects delivered under three themes:

#### Explore Charnwood:

We will create a ‘sense of place’ through signage, access and welcoming features so that diverse audiences can get there, get around, enjoy the heritage, benefit their health and well-being, travel more sustainably and stay longer to contribute more to the local economy:

‘Charnwood Trails’: Improving priority rights of way and creating links to provide a joined up network of clear, themed, guided and self-guided walks and cycle routes from urban centres and honey-pot sites. We will create or improve at least 3 miles of more accessible trails from Leicester and Loughborough into the heart of Charnwood Forest and link in with the wider network of routes. This will enable more people from different backgrounds to access heritage sites and features by sustainable means. There will also be a ‘Charnwood for All’ guide, mapping the accessibility of key routes, opening Charnwood up to a wider range of mobility.

‘Choose how you travel’: Guides and support for getting to and around Charnwood by rail, bus, cycling and walking. We will explore the potential for new sustainable public transport options to fill serious gaps in bus service provision and joint ticketing.

‘The Volcano on your Doorstep’: A community outreach project will excite and engage people within and around Charnwood, especially those who don’t currently visit. These will include specific outreach to communities with high deprivation and BAME communities, particularly in Coalville (such as Greenhill and Agar Nook), Loughborough and Leicester and disabled people and older people.

‘A warm welcome’: Providing a high quality experience for visitors by: offering advice and support for small-scale tourism facilities (e.g. increasing overnight accommodation capacity) and cycle hire; improving the quality and welcoming nature of sites (e.g. improving signage to Hill Hole Quarry, Markfield); and resolving conflicting uses, such as mountain biking on footpaths and dogs versus grazing livestock. We will also pilot approaches to generating income to reinvest in the management of the area’s heritage.

#### Understand Charnwood:

We will bring Charnwood’s heritage to life by engaging people to unearth its stories and make sure they are researched, developed, understood and catalogued. We will then interpret them in accessible and innovative ways to a range of audiences, engendering greater appreciation of the importance of Charnwood Forest, creating a greater sense of community pride and bringing new audiences and visitors:

‘Unearthing what’s special about Charnwood’: Encouraging and enabling people to explore and research the layers of heritage. Engaging universities and local history groups to explore its archaeology. Building on the HLF-funded Charnwood Roots project to enthuse, train and support local communities to research their buildings, wildlife, stories and traditions together with industrial, farming and military heritage.

‘Celebrating Charnwood’: Engaging people through a variety of different art forms and events to record and celebrate local heritage, stories and traditions. Building local pride, sense of place and creating a brand identity. Establishing links to share good practice with similar geological areas around the world, including the Ediacaran Hills of Australia and Mistaken Point in Canada. Exploring the feasibility and positioning for future GeoPark status.

‘Fire your imagination’: Engaging communities in developing an exciting range of interpretive media across all types of heritage for a broad audience. This is central to co-ordinating the Charnwood ‘offer’ to the public. We will focus on Charnwood’s volcanic past and seek to develop an innovative “wow factor” piece of animated

interpretation, which allows people to see how Charnwood may have looked at this and other points in its history (such as its management by priories). We will use appropriate technology, with displays in key visitor centres and using mobile devices. We will also create a new “one-stop shop” website for heritage throughout Charnwood Forest.

‘Charnwood foods and products’: We will bring together suppliers, agree appropriate branding, support marketing strategies and business plans. This will allow customers to identify with Charnwood, build pride and support the local economy.

‘Learning landscape’: A landscape heritage education programme including linking schools with local heritage sites and using school grounds for habitat improvements and as a teaching resource. Consideration will also be given to the ‘alternative curriculum’, building on successful initiatives elsewhere in Leicestershire by the Sustainable Land Trust.

Care for Charnwood:

We will provide a step change in the restoration of Charnwood’s heritage and put more sustainable management practices into place through organisations working together, use of community enterprise and volunteering, income generation and improved training and skills. This will help make the landscape more resilient in the face of growth pressures, providing more and enhanced green infrastructure, better management of heritage and people to prevent loss and deterioration and more local buy-in to help protect the area in the long-term:

‘Restoring a volcanic legacy’: Through these projects we will actively restore and enhance representative heritage features on key sites. (See Appendix 2 for more detailed examples).

a) ‘A coherent wildlife network’: A “bigger, better, more joined up” approach, linking up and extending out from the central area where the best wildlife habitats remain. We will target key habitats for the area: ancient woodland (including veteran trees), unimproved grasslands, heath grassland and freshwater habitats (including reviewing opportunities for natural flood management projects); and key species, such as the Charnwood Spider, Adder, Common Lizard, other reptiles and lichens.

b) ‘Built from volcanoes’: Focusing on Charnwood’s distinctive built heritage, prioritising those buildings at risk that are publicly accessible/visible. We will help owners explore sustainable uses for derelict buildings and find other funding sources to restore them. As demonstration projects, we will fund limited repairs of a representative nature, such as at Swithland Hall and Spring Barrow Farm, Thringstone.

c) ‘Charnwood Rocks’: Interpreting important fossil sites, such as the Memorial Crag in Bradgate Park and protecting them by means which prevent vandalism but are sensitive to their setting. We will clear views of and from rocky outcrops, such as at Swannymote Wood, so that people can see and access more of the geological evidence of the volcanic past. This will protect important geological features and improve conditions for ground flora and rare lichens. We will work with aggregate companies to enhance access, interpretation and community engagement in quarries.

‘Resilient honey-pot sites’: Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and the Outwoods are the most visited sites in Charnwood Forest. We will enhance their welcome, improve facilities and support co-ordinated management and interpretation. Using an ‘attract and disperse’ model, visitors will then be encouraged to explore more of Charnwood through sustainable means of travel. (See Appendix 2).

‘Charnwood Forest Volunteers’: A co-ordinated volunteer initiative linking new and existing volunteering opportunities in the area. This will enable all types of visitors and communities to play an active role in research, interpretation and physical restoration of a range of heritage sites and features. This would include green gym and other health/wellbeing initiatives.

‘Heritage Skills Training Programme’: Creating a co-ordinated programme of heritage skills training, linking in with current provision. To include dry-stone walling, traditional building techniques, hedge laying, woodland management, grassland and wetland habitat management, geology, wildlife recording, leading guided walks and making Gimson-style furniture (for which the National Trust’s Stoneywell Cottage is famous).

‘Friends of the Volcano’: Co-ordinating the development of a network of local community interest/friends of groups, providing and signposting them to advice, training and grants to improve skills and build capacity.

'Community heritage advice and grants scheme': Offering third party small grants (up to £5,000), for communities to restore, research, celebrate, access and interpret their local heritage. Grants will be based on, and match funded by, the National Forest Company's Programme Development Fund, which has operated successfully for 25 years.

'Managing the landscape': A grant scheme (up to £10,000), for farmers and landowners to fund enhancement of boundaries, habitats, buildings, archaeology and access, while supporting diversification options. These will complement existing grants, such as Countryside Stewardship, and also be based on National Forest Company's (NFC) existing grant mechanisms.

### **3b Explain what need and opportunity your project will address**

"No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced." Sir David Attenborough.

Charnwood Forest is a fascinating and valuable landscape, but this is not recognised. In 2017, Charnwood Borough was named the most average place in Britain. This perception is exemplified by the RSA Heritage Index: of 325 local authority areas in England, the three overlapping Charnwood Forest perform poorly, coming 260th (North West Leicestershire), 284th (Hinckley & Bosworth) and 299th (Charnwood).

There is a need to draw together the many disparate parts of the story of Charnwood Forest and make it relevant to residents and visitors. Without this, we will not engage them in exploring and learning about Charnwood. The CFRP has brought together many of the stakeholders in the area and provides an opportunity for strategic co-ordination of the story of Charnwood. Also, the Charnwood Roots project will reach its end this year and its legacy will be built into the LPS. Never before has there been a better opportunity to agree a narrative for Charnwood and express it in a way that is relevant to people and communities in the 21st century.

Substantial funds are required to maintain and enhance the condition of Charnwood's SSSIs (only 18% of which are in favourable condition). The features of biodiversity, geodiversity and historic interest that make Charnwood so valuable are owned or controlled by different landowners. There is a need to co-ordinate management on a landscape scale, else partners risk missing the benefits that working more closely with other organisations and, more importantly, local communities can bring.

Another challenge is the lack of up-to-date information on the heritage resource. A wealth of information is held in and around Charnwood, but much of it is becoming dated. There is a need to consolidate and update heritage information to inform and prioritise the management of the heritage resource and to help interpret the stories of Charnwood.

Charnwood Forest lacks a joined-up network of paths and bridleways that allow users to move within it. It also lacks promoted routes to get users from surrounding settlements into Charnwood. Combined with poor public transport, this is a disincentive to sustainable transport choices, increasing traffic in the area and limiting people's ability to move beyond the 'honeypot' sites.

While there are local tourism businesses in Charnwood, there is a need to grow the tourism economy and an opportunity to increase its sustainability. With greater collaboration and co-ordination, the CFRP and local businesses could: grow and diversify the tourism offer; cross-promote attractions and businesses through a shared brand; increase and improve accommodation to support overnight and short stay visits; and develop approaches to visitor payback that contribute to the sustainable management and co-ordination of the CFRP. All of this would be supported by a year-round, high quality visitor experience which, while not seeking to significantly increase the number of visitors, would even out peaks and troughs of visitor numbers that lead to overcrowding and slack periods.

The range of heritage interests lends itself to a varied programme of skills training which supports their future protection. Dry stone walling skills are in short supply in the area and vernacular building styles, such as Swithland slate offer potential to develop skills in the local community and also in local businesses.

Management of key habitats offers opportunities to get 'hands on' with the environment. Engagement in interpretation and promotion of local history benefits those delivering the interpretation and those receiving it. Many of the partners operating in the area already provide volunteering activities, but these are organised separately and opportunities exist to create a more co-ordinated and cohesive offer for those wishing to volunteer. There is a need to reach out to fledgling community groups, provide them with the support they need to get going, and build their capacity.

In 2013, the CFRP submitted an unsuccessful LPS bid. At the time, feedback was that the bid lacked cohesion and a clear vision. Building upon this feedback, the partnership has altered its structure to better facilitate collaboration and focus on key priorities. In working towards this new bid, we have strived to develop

a strong narrative for Charnwood Forest, using that to develop a clear vision for the bid and then identify projects that contribute to its delivery.

### **3c Why is it essential for the project to go ahead now?**

Given the lack of widespread understanding of the heritage interest within Charnwood, there is a danger that this heritage is lost because of a lack of proper investment and because it is not made relevant to people and communities in the 21st century. The geology is lost because the internationally important fossils remain unrecognised and unprotected; the natural environment is lost because it is not appreciated and managed; the man-made heritage is lost because it deteriorates through lack of investment; and the stories of its people are lost because they are not celebrated and retold. Without a clear focus, this 'hidden' Charnwood will be gradually lost by attrition until all that is left is its name.

In the 60th anniversary year of the discovery of the fossil that gives them their name, now is the time to tell 'The Chronicles of Charnia'. The CFRP partnership has worked to improve its governance and structure. It has a clear vision for the Regional Park, political support and a broad base of stakeholders. It has created a sense of momentum among partners and stakeholders; but, without action now, we risk this momentum dissipating.

More significantly, at a time of dwindling resources, the ability of partners to provide match-funding towards a project of this scale is threatened. The CFRP overlaps The National Forest but the need to restore the more damaged landscapes of the Coalfield has drawn much of the focus. The NFC has recognised that there is a need for significant intervention in Charnwood and, as a result, led the development of this bid. It has only been through the NFC taking a leading role and sharing the costs with the County Council and three District/Borough Councils that we have been able to appoint a dedicated officer to develop the bid. But this might be the last time that partners are able to do so.

Partners have been aligning projects to the bid, many of which have time-limited budgets as match. If we are unsuccessful in this bid, these projects will have to be delivered in a piecemeal fashion (or not at all). In addition, the timetable for the LPS is aligned to the development of the emerging Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire, being able to influence its direction and benefit from its work on green infrastructure. In short, if we are unsuccessful in this bid, there is a real risk that positive momentum is lost, secured funding is put at risk and that the partnership stagnates due to an inability to deliver change in a challenging financial climate.

### **3d Why do you need Lottery funding?**

The scale of ambition for Charnwood Forest is such that only a significant investment of external funds can trigger the step-change in delivery needed to move forwards. We have explored other potential funding sources such as Rural Development Programme for England and Local Enterprise Partnership support but these have required levels of job creation that are not appropriate for Charnwood Forest. A LPS is the best option to deliver what we want to achieve. The alternative would be to raise funds for each element of the project which would inevitably result in a piecemeal, disjointed and uncoordinated approach to landscape-scale challenges, which to date has failed to prevent decline. An LPS would provide the boost needed to set Charnwood on a sustainable footing, 'pump priming' local activity and supporting outcomes that are financially, socially and environmentally sustainable. We want the legacy of the Charnwood Forest LPS to be a long-term change in activity and outputs. A significant co-ordinated effort is needed to achieve this. Other parts of the world with similarly important geology are receiving protection: Mistaken Point in Canada has recently been designated as a World Heritage Site. CFRP partners have an ambition for Charnwood to be designated as a GeoPark but considerable investment is needed to reach that point.

### **3e What work and/or consultation have you undertaken to prepare for this project and why?**

This bid has been developed on behalf of the CFRP partnership, building on its pre-existing engagement structure. The development process was agreed at the outset (see Appendix 7). Partners have been consulted and engaged throughout, through formal meetings as part of that process, site visits and informal meetings. A "Development Delivery Board" has driven the project forward, agreed the name, strapline and themes and assessed and prioritised project ideas. Three other themed working groups have also contributed. The public has been engaged through a survey, dedicated web page, Facebook and Twitter. The stakeholder group expanded significantly during the process to include a wider range of 215 potentially interested parties. A stakeholder forum in November 2016 was a key meeting to generate and prioritise project ideas.

In addition, individual meetings have engaged: Charnia Research Group and BGS, heritage projects (e.g. Mountsorrel Community Heritage Group, Charnwood Roots and Great Central Railway); urban community

organisations (e.g. Voluntary Action Leicestershire and Charnwood Arts); museums in Loughborough and Leicester; Greenhill and Agar Nook neighbourhood action group; parish councils; interest groups (e.g. Friends of Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire & Rutland Bridleway Association); organisations like the National Trust, Severn Trent Water, Woodland Trust, Leicester City Council; tourism businesses; farmers and landowners (via a focus group and survey of local wildlife sites owners by LRWT); and training and care centre managers. We have also gained significant press coverage locally to encourage thoughts and ideas and consulted at events like Leicestershire Countryside Show.

**3f How are you planning to promote and acknowledge National Lottery players' contribution to your project through HLF funding?**

In all of our public-facing projects and press releases, publications and social media (using #NationalLottery), we will credit and thank National Lottery players for having played their part in supporting our work.

We will also fully credit HLF in all our communications, banners, interpretation, on-line presence etc. according to the guidance.

We will offer reduced price entry, early viewings and other rewards for people carrying a lottery ticket and seek to advertise volunteering opportunities and community grants in newsagents and other venues where lottery tickets are for sale.

## Section four: Project outcomes

**In this section, tell us about the difference that your project will make for heritage, people and communities.**

### 4a What difference will your project make for heritage?

Better managed:

Building on the CFRP partnership to include more organisations from more sectors of society, especially from communities within and surrounding the area, to provide joined-up management and a coherent 'offer' to the visiting public.

Habitat management projects will support the management of 515ha of SSSI in the three honey-pot sites together with up to 300ha of mature woodland, 50ha of heath grassland and 100ha of unimproved grassland. More people will be engaged to actively care for Charnwood's heritage. There will be a more highly skilled and enthused network of volunteer groups, community interest and 'Friends of' groups with the confidence and capacity to take on responsibility for their local places and features of interest.

Landowners and farmers will be engaged in looking after Charnwood's heritage through grants and advice. We will resolve some of the conflicts of use, such as providing formal routes for off-road cycling to reduce the impact of illegal use of paths.

A resilient landscape-scale habitat network will be created to halt the decline in the condition and spread of key habitats and species.

By supporting the provision of more tourism facilities, marketing local products and enabling visitors to experience more sites, they will stay longer, see more and contribute more to the local tourism economy, to reinvest in its management.

The CFRP will be better placed to achieve its potential aim of GeoPark designation.

Better condition:

We will restore priority sites and features: habitats and species; uncovering and protecting important geological sites, such as rocky outcrops and fossil sites; securing protection for key traditional buildings; discovering, researching and protecting important archaeological sites; restoring dry stone walls and hedges as distinctive boundary features; planting more trees in appropriate locations and managing important ancient woodlands.

The condition of sites and features in the wider landscape will be improved through grants to communities, farmers and other landowners.

Identified and recorded:

Projects will engage the public in discovering, researching, recording and portraying the many aspects of Charnwood's heritage. We believe that there are many features of high importance yet to be discovered and recorded. A LiDAR survey will fill a gap in current coverage, identifying new features of archaeological interest. The findings will be recorded, interpreted and celebrated using a variety of media and art forms. Habitats and species will be better recorded through biodiversity opportunity mapping (in the development phase), then by training and encouraging people to record and report their findings as part of the 'What's Special...' and heritage skills training projects. Species-specific projects such as veteran trees, Adder, Charnwood Spider and other invertebrates will add significantly to our understanding of those particular species in the area.

This will be compiled into the LCAP to provide a comprehensive understanding of local heritage for Charnwood Forest.

### 4b What difference will your project make for people?

Developed skills:

More people from a wider diversity of backgrounds will have learnt new skills in heritage restoration techniques and recording.

People will learn research and recording techniques as well as arts, interpretation and events organising to portray what they have found.

The volunteering project will give training and experience in these techniques but also signpost to other volunteering opportunities in the area.

People will learn management skills such as resolving conflicts of use, action planning with partners and forming, developing and managing community interest/Friends of groups.

The partnership will learn from best practice in other landscape partnerships and international links with other areas of geological importance.



#### Learnt about heritage:

People will discover, research, record and celebrate a whole range of heritage features through art, interpretation and events.

Having accessed Charnwood's heritage features, visitors will have learnt more about a wider range of heritage by reading more exciting interpretation, seeing inspiring artwork and attending guided walks, cycles and events.

By volunteering, carrying out grant-funded projects and joining Friends of Groups, people will learn more about heritage and what is required to protect and restore it.

#### Volunteered time:

We will attract new volunteers and provide opportunities for existing volunteers to get involved with a wider range of heritage sites and features.

There will be more 'Friends of' and community interest groups with more members, actively helping to look after, record and interpret their local heritage.

More partner organisations and community representatives will volunteer more time to the management of the area through the CFRP partnership and project management structure.

### **4c What difference will your project make for communities?**

#### Negative environmental impacts reduced:

Providing an attractive place to visit for residents of nearby urban areas and communities within the Forest to stay and explore will reduce the amount of leisure travel.

We will address traffic and parking problems by: providing trails and cycle routes from surrounding settlements; investigating opportunities for increased links by rail and bus; and encouraging those visitors that drive to the area to leave their cars at honey-pot sites and then explore Charnwood on foot.

People will have more opportunities to experience traffic-free routes and sites away from road traffic fumes.

Natural flood management projects will provide habitat enhancements and cleaner water as well as addressing flood risk downstream.

Tree planting, woodland management and wetland restoration will have some, albeit limited, impact on air quality.

Helping to brand and market local products in local outlets will reduce the food miles.

#### More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage:

We will engage people from under-represented groups in the surrounding urban areas of Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville.

Accessible transport and trails from gateway sites will provide people more opportunities to visit and experience Charnwood.

People's health and well-being will be improved by experiencing the natural environment through guided and self-guided walks (including health walks), cycle rides and other active forms of recreation.

We will engage people from a wide range of backgrounds in researching and understanding and in active protection and restoration of the range of heritage sites and features.

#### A better place to live, work or visit:

There will be more guided trails on off-road footpaths and bridleways and more sites open to visit.

There will be more and higher quality facilities to cater for visitors and sites will have a more welcoming feel.

Pressures will be relieved by resolving conflicts of use and dispersing visitors to other nearby sites.

The natural environment will be enhanced with more wildlife-rich habitats to enjoy.

There will be vibrant community groups organising interesting events and celebrations.

There will be a variety of interpretation and arts media to engage and inspire people.

People will know more about the why Charnwood is so special and residents will feel a greater sense of pride in their area and community.

There will be evidence that people are proud to associate with and identify Charnwood as special. It will be clearer that you are in Charnwood Forest, with local branding and artworks. We will explore designation of the area as a GeoPark.

We will have restored more of the area's heritage features making it a more attractive place.

**4d What are the main groups of people that will benefit from your project?**

Communities within Charnwood Forest  
Communities in Leicester, Loughborough Coalville and Shepshed, including those of high deprivation and BAME communities  
Farmers and landowners  
Tourism business operators  
Special interest groups: e.g. wildlife, historic and archaeological  
Visitors, including walkers, cyclists, climbers  
Families  
School children  
NEETS  
Parish councils  
Local Government  
Artists  
Universities  
Professionals  
Other partnerships

**4e Does your project involve heritage that attracts visitors?**

Yes

**How many visitors did you receive in the last financial year?**

750000

**How many visitors a year do you expect on completion of your project?**

850000

**4f How many people will be trained as part of your project, if applicable?**

800

**4g How many volunteers do you expect will contribute personally to your project?**

1250

**4h How many full-time equivalent posts will you create to deliver your project?**

3.5

**Section five: Project management**

In this section, tell us how you will develop and deliver your project.

## Development phase

### 5a What work will you do during the development phase of your project?

There will be 3 broad tasks to complete during the development phase:

1. Gathering information, filling gaps in knowledge and producing Part 1 of the LCAP
2. Partnership building and ongoing community engagement
3. Detailed project development for the stage 2 application and completion of the LCAP

The main requirements to enable us to successfully complete those 3 tasks are:

- Review existing landscape character assessments covering the area and update
- Review partnership vision for the landscape
- Biodiversity audit and opportunity mapping: to prioritise key habitat sites and species to target
- Scoping study for natural flood management project
- Further community engagement and development of outreach projects
- Confirmation of delivery sites – habitats, quarries, buildings, access, tourism development
- Interpretation plan for the whole area
- Arts project development
- Research into potential GeoPark designation
- Structured survey of visitors regarding their experience and suggestions
- Surveys of farmers, landowners and community groups as potential recipients of third-party grants
- Consultation with schools and training centres to develop programmes which complement and add to current provision, the national curriculum and any appropriate accreditation schemes
- Establish evaluation framework and compile key baseline data

### 5b Who are the main people responsible for the work during the development phase of your project?

The CFRP's Development Delivery Board (see Appendix 7) with the NFC as lead partner.

The NFC will employ a full-time Development Manager (DM) and a part-time Finance & Admin Officer (F&AO). The manager will co-ordinate all work, including writing the LCAP, overseeing the work of consultants/contractors, development of the partnership and engagement of all stakeholders.

Consultants will be appointed by competitive tender to deliver the following: interpretation plan, fossil site protection plan, natural flood management scoping study, community arts, training & education programme development and evaluation framework. Biodiversity audit and opportunity mapping will be undertaken by NFC/ LRWT. Community outreach programme development will be led by VAL, using their expertise and unique position to co-ordinate the voluntary community sector throughout the area. (See briefs in Appendix 3).

### 5c Complete a detailed timetable for the development phase of your project. Use the 'add activity' button to enter additional rows.

<b>Development activities</b>					
<b>Task</b>	<b>Start month</b>	<b>Start year</b>	<b>End month</b>	<b>End year</b>	<b>Who will lead this task</b>
Gain permission to start from HLF	October	2017	December	2017	NFC
Formally establish project board and management structure (based on existing CFRP partnership) reviewing membership	November	2017	December	2017	LCC & NFC
Recruit and appoint staff	December	2017	March	2018	NFC
Review LCAs and identify, allocate and fill any gaps	March	2018	June	2018	DM & Partners
Let all contracts (see above) (evaluation will continue – see below)	April	2018	April	2019	DM & Partners
Community engagement to inspire interest, review vision, themes and projects widely	March	2018	May	2019	DM, Consultants & Partners
Conduct visitor and potential recipient surveys	April	2018	September	2018	DM & Partners
Review partnership vision and new members to join board and working groups	April	2018	July	2018	Board
Complete LCAP Part 1	April	2018	November	2018	DM & Partners
Refine delivery project plans and costings, including identifying sites and gaining necessary consents	October	2018	June	2019	DM & Project leads
Gain state aid advice and confirmation	April	2019	June	2019	DM
Complete Evaluation framework	June	2019	July	2019	DM & Consultants
Apply for match funding and confirm for year 1 delivery	January	2019	June	2019	DM & Partners
Complete LCAP, including formal adoption	December	2018	July	2019	DM & Board
Complete and submit application	August	2019	September	2019	DM

### Development risks

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Who will lead this</b>
Loss of support from partners	Low	Medium	We will broaden and strengthen the partnership during the development phase.	NFC & LCC
Declining local authority budgets	High	Medium	We will add more non-governmental representatives to the partnership and seek match funding commitments from a wide range of sources	NFC & Partners
Lack of buy-in from site and heritage feature owners	Low	Medium	We have consulted widely and have a range and depth of potential sites and features which we will expand through consultation during the development phase	NFC & Partners
Local community concern about attracting more people leading to traffic problems and ruining the area	Medium	Medium	We have sought to balance attracting new audiences and not increasing visitor numbers unsustainably, focussing on sustainable transport and access without the car.	Board
Failure to secure sufficient match funding	Low	Medium	Most of the match is from partners and has been formally committed. We will also pursue a range of match-funding sources through an expanded partnership of organisations.	NFC & Partners
Lack of interest by urban communities we seek to reach out to	Low	Medium	Exploratory consultation through experienced organisations, such as VAL and Charnwood Arts indicates otherwise. We will engage specialist organisations to fully involve the voluntary community sector and test approaches further through the development phase.	NFC & Partners
Delays to appointment of staff and consultants	Low	High	Job descriptions and briefs prepared. Market research shows interest for HLF project jobs and contracts at present.	NFC
Lack of specialist input at key times	Low	Medium	Identifying potential consultants leading up to Development Phase	NFC & Partners

**Delivery phase****5e Who are the main people responsible for the work during the delivery phase of your project?**

NFC will employ on behalf of the partnership:

- Full-time Project Manager
- Full-time Community Engagement Officer to lead on engagement, interpretation, website, social media, arts projects and events, volunteers, Friends of groups and the community grant scheme.
- Part-time Caring for Charnwood Officer to oversee site works and manage the farmer/landowner grant scheme
- Part-time Education and Training Officer
- Part-time Finance & Admin Officer

The Project Manager (PM) will be line-managed by senior staff in NFC and the PM will line manage the other staff.

The partnership board will provide overall guidance for the work programs.

Staff in partner organisations will be involved in direct delivery of project elements and managing contractors.

**5f Complete a summary timetable for the delivery phase of your project. Use the 'add activity' button to enter additional rows.****Delivery activities**

Task	Start month	Start year	End month	End year	Who will lead this task
Reconvene partnership board, making changes to structure and representation identified during the development phase	April	2020	April	2020	NFC & LCC
Recruit delivery staff team	April	2020	June	2020	NFC
Regular partnership and working group meetings	July	2020	March	2025	PM & LCC
Appoint consultants for specific project delivery	July	2020	August	2024	PM & Partners
Establish and agree budget and project claims and monitoring process and templates	July	2020	August	2020	PM
Main period for delivery of the LCAP projects	September	2020	September	2024	NFC & Partners
Interim evaluation report	October	2022	December	2022	Pm & Consultants
Final evaluation and report	September	2024	December	2024	PM & Consultants
Complete legacy plan	January	2024	January	2025	PM & Board
End of scheme celebration events & launch of legacy work programmes	January	2025	March	2025	Board

**5g Tell us about the risks to the delivery phase of your project and how they will be managed. Use the 'add risk' button to enter additional rows.**

<b>Delivery risks</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Who will lead this</b>
Failure of partnership and management structure	Low	High	Longstanding CFRP partnership. Will broaden the range during the development phase and review during the delivery phase.	NFC & LCC
Failure to meet match funding requirements	Low	High	Broad range of partners who have committed in principle to providing the vast majority of the match and they are experienced in fundraising from a wide range of sources.	NFC & Partners
Staff team ineffective or changes in personnel during delivery	Low	High	Attractive job roles should attract high level of interest and good quality staff. Competitive salary and end of contract bonus for PM to improve chances of retention.	NFC
Disinterest or opposition from local communities	Low	High	Communities have been centrally involved from the start and will continue to be engaged and take lead roles in delivery. The conflict resolution element of the 'Improving the welcome' project will be flexible to help address any specific conflicts of opinion that arise during the delivery phase.	PM & Board
Partners failure to deliver projects on target	Low	Medium	Partners have been fully engaged in developing projects. Establish monitoring, claims and budget templates and process at the outset. Regular partnership and working group meetings to monitor progress and address any concerns.	PM & Partners
Lack of technical/ specialist input	Low	Low	Partnership has access to a wide range of specialist advice and support	PM & Partners
Significant changes to economic or social environment, e.g. Brexit	Medium	Low	The projects have been planned at a time of economic austerity measures and expectations of change in the European funding landscape	PM & Partners

#### **5h When do you expect the delivery phase of your project to start and finish?**

##### **Project start date**

**Month** April | **Year** 2020

##### **Project finish date**

**Month** March | **Year** 2025

#### **5i Are there any fixed deadlines or key milestones that will restrict your project's timetable?**

No

## **Section six: After the project ends**

**In this section, tell us about what will happen once your project has been completed.**

### **6a How will you maintain the outcomes of your project after the grant ends and meet any additional running costs?**

The CFRP partnership has expanded to include wider representation, is working more closely together and will be buoyed by delivering real change on a landscape scale. It would continue to grow and attract resources to effectively co-ordinate management after the end of this project.

During the Delivery Phase, partners will seek to identify funding to support the ongoing employment of a project officer to co-ordinate implementation of the legacy from this project.

Digital resources will be maintained and made publicly available for at least 5 years after the project.

All third party farmer/landowner grants will be awarded on condition of maintenance for at least 20 years.

Legacy planning has been incorporated within each project which have been designed to make a lasting difference through the work itself and consideration of ongoing management and maintenance requirements.

There will be a more highly-trained and skilled volunteer workforce (placed with partner organisations), with a healthy network of community interest groups with greater capacity to manage Charnwood's heritage.

The project will engender more local pride and there will be structures in place which demonstrate and maintain that. These will include local branding of products, art installations, interpretation and structures which identify places as being part of Charnwood Forest. It will lead to a wider and deeper recognition of Charnwood as a special area and may lead to a further formal designation, such as GeoPark. It will be quoted as such in Local Plans and other relevant documentation.

The Scheme will provide opportunities for the NFC and its partners to pilot innovative approaches to funding for the natural environment, delivering long-term financial sustainability and buy-in of partners under a common banner. Activities include:

- Testing visitor contribution models for visitor facilities, events and businesses as part of the new National Forest Tourism Growth Plan
- Demonstrating use of Charnwood as a branded place within The National Forest and alongside partners' identities, particularly in relation to branded products and activities
- Piloting heritage tourism short breaks packages for visitors

Management will be much more joined up at strategic and delivery levels, enabling sharing of resources and expertise. Conflicts of use will be resolved, enabling easier management of sites and a more unified and welcoming offer for visitors.

We will have engaged more people from a wider range of communities inside and outside of the boundary. Charnwood Forest will matter more to more people from more sectors of society. This people-power will ultimately protect it from further erosion of its great heritage interest.

Our ultimate ambition is that: people will have experienced more of Charnwood, will care more about it and will want to (and be better able to) protect it.

### **6b Tell us about the main risks facing the project after it has been completed and how they will be managed.**

<b>After project risks</b>				
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Risk Owner</b>
Loss of project team leading to loss of momentum, contacts and knowledge	High	Low	The CFRP partnership will use the project activities to generate funds for ongoing project officer support. Contacts and knowledge built up will be shared widely through the partnership and communities, so there is less dependence on individuals	NFC & Partners
Lack of funding after the project ends to continue initiatives and maintain restored heritage	Medium	Low	Management and maintenance obligations will be explicitly stipulated in project grants and resources built in to projects wherever appropriate. The project will be used as a catalyst to start a number of initiatives. It is expected that, in carefully opening up some new parts of the Forest and resolving real and perceived conflicts of interest, this will lead to more areas being opened up to the public in the future and more tourism businesses to provide for them, attracting more funding to build on what we have achieved.	Board
Decline of the partnership	Low	High	The CFRP partnership will continue after the project and will be strengthened by new members representing a wider range of interests and having worked together in an integrated way on this project, cementing delivery relationships.	Regional Park Steering Group
Declining interest from communities post HLF funding	Low	High	Having been centrally involved in the project, the whole purpose is to enthuse, engage, train and get people active in looking after the area. Combined with a strengthened partnership, we expect that funding and volunteer effort will be forthcoming to build on our work and continue to engage those communities in the future. Their confidence and capacity will also have been increased to do more for themselves without the need for organisational support. Potential GeoPark or similar designation could also provide new impetus and protection.	PM & Partners

### **6c How will you evaluate the success of your project from the beginning and share the learning?**

As projects have been developed, we have encouraged project leads to consider outputs, long-term outcomes and how they will be evaluated. The partnership holds baseline data but this will be reviewed and gaps identified and filled during the development phase.

We will design an evaluation framework from the outset and ensure that there is a regular feedback loop, so that the project can learn and adapt as it is developed and delivered. We have provided for specialist input during the development phase and again during the delivery phase, to set up and initiate the evaluation process, compile interim review and final evaluation reports.

Evaluation will include structured interviews with lead partners, the Board and recipients and surveys of stakeholders and the public. Each project will have monitoring and evaluation built in, with quarterly templates including a simple traffic light monitoring system, to be regularly reviewed at partnership meetings throughout delivery. These will be used to address concerns and pull out good practice, drawing out lessons learnt along the way with a feedback loop into ongoing project planning.

Evaluation will involve the community and encourage the use of arts, social media, photography and videos to help capture changes in the landscape and people's attitudes as the project develops.

Evaluation reports will be publicly available. We will be drawing on and sharing lessons learned with other landscape-scale and HLF funded initiatives in the area and linking with international partners, such as Mistaken Point World Heritage Site in Canada to learn, adopt and share best practice.

The final evaluation report will be disseminated widely, inform legacy planning and be used as the basis for end of scheme celebratory events out in the communities that we will have engaged.



## Section seven: Project costs

In this section, tell us how much it will cost to develop and deliver your project.

There is a limit of 20 words per 'description' section when completing the cost tables. A more detailed explanation and breakdown of your costs should be provided as part of your supporting documentation. Please see Section nine: Supporting documents within the programme application guidance for further information.

### 7a Development-phase costs

#### Development costs

Cost heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
Professional Fees	See detailed budget in Appendix 5 for all details	63916	7793	71709
New staff costs		93885		93885
Recruitment		870	130	1000
Other costs (development-phase)		6283	717	7000
Full Cost Recovery		27349		27349
Contingency		1730	260	1990
Non-cash contributions		30042		30042
Volunteer time		4000		4000
Total		228075	8900	236975

#### Development income

Source of funding	Description	Secured?	Value
Local Authority		Yes	29533
Other public sector			
Central government		Yes	2000
European Union			
Private donation - Individual			
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations			
Private donation - corporate			
Commercial/business			
Own reserves			
Other fundraising			
Non-cash contributions		Yes	30042
Volunteer time		Yes	4000
HLF grant request			171400
Total			236975

Total development costs	236975
Total development income	65575
HLF development grant request	171400
HLF development grant %	72

## Section seven: Project costs

### 7d Delivery-phase capital costs

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
Purchase price of items or property				
Repair and conservation work		910652	136598	1047250
New building work		108696	16304	125000
Other capital work		175652	26348	202000
Equipment and materials (capital)				
Other costs (capital)				
Professional fees relating to any of the above (capital)		56522	8478	65000
Total		1251522	187728	1439250

## Section seven: Project costs

### 7e Delivery-phase activity costs

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
New staff costs		701772		701772
Training for staff		4348	652	5000
Paid training placements				
Training for volunteers		20870	3130	24000
Travel for staff		5000		5000
Travel and expenses for volunteers		18700		18700
Equipment and materials (activity)		34783	5217	40000
Other costs (activity)		104174	15626	119800
Professional fees relating to any of the above (activity)		349565	52435	402000
Total		1239212	77060	1316272

### 7f Delivery-phase - other costs

Cost Heading	Description	Cost	VAT	Total
Recruitment		1304	196	1500
Publicity and promotion		8696	1304	10000
Evaluation		21739	3261	25000
Other costs				
Full Cost Recovery		220222		220222
Contingency		78223	11733	89956
Inflation		13043	1957	15000
Increased management and maintenance costs (maximum five years)		65217	9783	75000
Non-cash contributions		300222		300222
Volunteer time		18750		18750
Total		727416	28234	755650

## Section seven: Project costs

### 7g Delivery Phase income

**Please note that HLF rounds all grant requests down to the nearest £100. With this in mind, please make sure that the total Delivery-phase income exactly matches the total of your Delivery-phase costs or the system will not allow you to proceed.**

Source of funding	Description	Secured?	Value
Local authority		Yes	207250
Other public sector			
Central government		Yes	50000
European Union			
Private donation - Individual		No	25000
Private donation - Trusts/Charities/Foundations		No	117500
Private donation - corporate		No	21500
Commercial/business		No	10000
Own reserves			
Other fundraising		No	40750
Increased management and maintenance Costs (maximum five years)		No	75000
Non-cash contributions		Yes	300222
Volunteer time		No	18750
HLF grant request			2645200
Total			3511172

### 7h Delivery-phase financial summary

Total delivery costs	3511172
Total delivery income	865972
HLF delivery grant request	2645200
HLF delivery grant %	75

### 7i If cash contributions from other sources are not yet secured, how do you expect to secure these and by when?

The majority of cash contributions have been committed to in principle by the partner organisations to either source or provide. The detailed budget, together with match amounts and sources was formally accepted and approved by the Development Board and the Regional Park Steering Group on 10th May 2017 (see Appendix 7). These will be finally confirmed and committed to in writing, for at least the first year of delivery, during the development phase.

There are a small number of cash match amounts where we have identified modest funding from other grant sources, such as Heritage England and other historic buildings/archaeological funders and Landfill Tax. We are confident these relatively small amounts will also be confirmed from those or other similar sources during the development phase. There have been major structural changes in the aggregates industry during the past year but the partnership representative from Tarmac/Minerals Products Association, has confirmed a desire to become more involved in the project during the development phase, which we are confident will bring further match funding (see Appendix 8).

### 7j If you have included Full Cost Recovery, how have you worked out the share that relates to your project?

These have been allocated on a % basis according to the pay scale of posts to be employed, based on figures for 2016/17. See Appendix 6 for details. In practice, they will be allocated in each claim period based on actual expenditure incurred during the relevant period, as we do for our Black to Green Heritage Grant project.

## Section eight: Additional information and declaration

**This part of the form aims to collect the information we need to report on the range of organisations we fund. We will not use this information to assess your application. We encourage you to be as specific as possible about the people your organisation represents.**

**If your organisation represents the interests of a particular group, such as young people or disabled people, tell us which by filling in the tables below.**

**If you are based in Northern Ireland, where legislation requires us to report in detail on the organisations we fund, please complete the tables in full, as applicable.**

If you are based outside Northern Ireland and your organisation represents the interests of a wide range of people and not any particular group, mark this box only.

Age

Disabled people

Ethnicity

Marital or civil partnership status

People with dependants (for example, children or elderly relatives)

People living in households with incomes below the national average, or people living in the most deprived local-authority wards in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Community background (Northern Ireland only)

Religious belief

Gender

Sexual orientation

## **Declaration**

### **a) Terms of Grant**

You must read the standard terms of grant for this programme on our website.

By completing this Declaration, you are confirming that your organisation accepts these terms. For partnership projects, all partners must confirm that they accept the standard terms of grant by adding a contact at the end of the declaration.

### **b) Freedom of Information and Data Protection**

We are committed to being as open as possible. This includes being clear about how we assess and make decisions on our grants and how we will use your application form and other documents you give us. As a public organisation we have to follow the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When you complete the Declaration at the end of the application form, you are confirming that you understand the Heritage Lottery Fund's legal responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and have no objection to us releasing sections 2, 3 and 4 of the application form to anyone who asks to see them. If there is any information in these sections of the form that you don't want made publicly available, please explain your reasons below:

We will take these into account when we respond to any request for access to those sections. We may also be asked to release other information contained elsewhere in the form and we will respond to these requests after taking account of your rights and expectations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998. In those cases, we will always consult you first. The Heritage Lottery Fund will not be responsible for any loss or damage you suffer as a result of HLF meeting these responsibilities.

When you complete the Declaration you also agree that we will use this application form and the other information you give us, including any personal information covered by the Data Protection Act 1998, for the following purposes:

- To decide whether to give you a grant.
- To provide copies to other individuals or organisations who are helping us to assess, monitor and evaluate grants.
- To share information with organisations and individuals working with us with a legitimate interest in Lottery applications and grants or specific funding programmes.
- To hold in a database and use for statistical purposes.
- If we offer you a grant, we will publish information about you relating to the activity we have funded, including the amount of the grant and the activity it was for. This information may appear in our press releases, in our print and online publications, and in the publications or websites of relevant Government departments and any partner organisations who have funded the activity with us.
- If we offer you a grant, you will support our work to demonstrate the value of heritage by contributing (when asked) to publicity activities during the period we provide funding for and participating in activities to share learning, for which we may put other grantees in contact with you.

**We may contact you from time to time to keep you informed about the work of the Heritage Lottery Fund**

Tick this box if you do not wish to be kept informed of our work

**I confirm that the organisation named on this application has given me the authority to complete this application on its behalf.**

**I confirm that the activity in the application falls within the purposes and legal powers of the organisation.**

**I confirm that the organisation has the power to accept and pay back the grant.**

**I confirm that if the organisation receives a grant, we will keep to the standard terms of grant, and any further terms or conditions as set out in the grant notification letter, or in any contract prepared specifically for the project.**

**I confirm that, as far as I know, the information in this application is true and correct.**

**I confirm that I agree with the above statements.**

**Name** Matthew Croney  
**Organisation** National Forest Company  
**Position** Charnwood Forest Development Officer  
**Date** 26/05/2017

**Are you applying on behalf of a partnership?**

Yes

**Please add the details of additional contacts below:**

Sam Lattaway	National Forest Company	Head of Landscape, Biodiversity & Recreation	26/05/2017
Anna Low	Leicestershire County Council	Team Manager – Strategic Partnering	26/05/2017
Chris Traill	Charnwood Borough Council	Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing	26/05/2017
Ian Nelson	N W Leicestershire District Council	Planning Policy Team Manager	26/03/2017
Kirstie Rea	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Planning Manager (Policy)	26/05/2017

## Section nine: Supporting documents

Please provide all of the documents listed at each round, unless they are not applicable to your project. You will be asked to indicate how you are sending these documents to us - as hard copy or electronically.

In addition to numbers 1-8 below, you may also be required to submit further supporting documents that are specific to the programme that you are applying under. For further guidance, please refer to the application guidance Part four: Application form help notes. We will not be able to assess your application if we do not receive all the required information.

### First round

**1. Copy of your organisation's constitution (formal rules), unless you are a public organisation. If your application is on behalf of a partnership or consortium, please refer to the programme application guidance for more information on what you need to provide.**

If you have sent a copy of your constitution with a previous grant application (since April 2008) and no changes have been made to it, you do not need to send it again. Tell us the reference number of the previous application.

N/A

**2. Copies of your agreements with project partners, signed by everyone involved, setting out how the project will be managed (if applicable);**

Electronic

**3. Copy of your organisation's accounts for the last financial year. This does not apply to public organisations;**

Not applicable

**4. Spreadsheet detailing the cost breakdown in Section seven: project costs;**

Electronic

**5. Calculation of Full Cost Recovery included in your development phases costs (if applicable);**

Electronic

**6. Briefs for development work for internal and externally commissioned work;**

Electronic

**7. Job descriptions for new posts to be filled during the development phase;**

Electronic

**8. A small selection of images that help illustrate your project. If your project involves physical heritage, please provide a selection of photographs, a location map and, if applicable, a simple site map or plan. It would be helpful if these are in digital format (either as an attachment or on disk). We will use these images to present your project to decision-makers.**

Electronic

**If applicable, please attach any additional documents as required for the programme that you are applying under. Use the box below to confirm in what format the additional documentation will be submitted.**

Electronic

**Please now attach any supporting documents.**

**When you have completed the form click the submit button to submit the form to the server. You can view what you have entered by clicking the draft print button above.**