



PRESS RELEASE & PHOTO

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New Culcheth woodland visited by MP

A new Culcheth woodland the size of five football pitches planted by local couple Tony and Rebecca Unsworth has been visited by Helen Jones MP. The new trees at Ratcliffe House Farm will not only provide excellent habitats for wildlife, but as they grow will also become a source of renewable wood fuel for the farm house.

To make their woodland plans a reality, the Unsworths received support from The Mersey Forest, the growing network of woodlands being created across North Cheshire and Merseyside, who advised on the choice of tree species and helped the couple secure a Forestry Commission grant.

Helen Jones said: "This is another example of how Warrington benefits from being part of The Mersey Forest, and is great long-term thinking from the owners to provide a fuel for their farmhouse in the future."

Rebecca Unsworth explains: "The woodland will be harvested using a technique known as coppicing every 10 to 12 years to provide a continual supply of wood for the fire. It's great to be able to plan ahead, and the support we've received to make it happen has been excellent."

To find out more about The Mersey Forest, visit www.merseyforest.org.uk or call 01925 816217.

Photo caption: L-R: Helen Jones MP, landowners Rebecca Murrell and Tony Unsworth, and Chris Gibbard from The Mersey Forest.

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Notes to editors:

The Mersey Forest

The Mersey Forest is a growing network of woodlands and green spaces spread across Cheshire and Merseyside, which has been creating 'woodlands on your doorstep' since 1994.

The Forest is one of the leading environmental regeneration initiatives in the North West. Through community and partnership working, we have planted more than 8 million trees - equivalent to five new trees for every person living within the Forest area.

The Forest helps our towns and cities adapt to climate change and has won the Brian Redhead Award for Environmental Sustainability, creates woodlands that 20% of local people visit at least once a week, and by improving the image of our towns and cities sets the scene for growth within the region's £98 billion economy.

We achieve all of this and more through our partnership of local authorities, landowners, the Forestry Commission, Natural England and businesses including United Utilities.

www.merseyforest.org.uk