



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Tree planting event in Birkenhead Park

Birkenhead residents are being encouraged to help green their local area by mucking in at a community tree planting event.

The tree planting event will take place at Birkenhead Park on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Volunteers will be planting in the Upper Park along Park Drive, and just north of the central lake. Interested residents should meet the team along Park Drive, near Ashville Road, any time between 11am and 2:30pm on the day to get involved with the planting.

The event is being supported by Park Roots, Friends of Birkenhead Park, Wirral Council and The Mersey Forest.

It is part of a wider project, the £1.4m Wirral Green Streets scheme, which is set to plant more than a thousand trees over the next three years, and aims to green the transport routes leading to key employment areas.

The project is being funded by Merseytravel, through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund; Wirral Council; and by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) through the Forestry Commission's Newlands programme.

Ben Greenaway, Green Streets Coordinator at The Mersey Forest, said: "We'll be planting a variety of trees on the site, to both alleviate flooding and improve the site for wildlife.

"We're keen to see as many residents as possible on the day. It's a great opportunity for people to get involved with a project that is set to transform the area over the coming years."

More details can be found on the Facebook group '[Wirral Tree Planting Project](#)'.

# ENDS

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## Notes to editors:

### **Wirral Waters**

Wirral Waters is a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring about the regeneration of Inner Wirral, creating over 20,000 new jobs and 14,000 new homes over a 30 year delivery timeframe. The vision is to create a new international city waterfront destination centred upon East Float, part of the Birkenhead and Wallasey docks.

Since the initial launch of the proposals, Peel Holdings have been working with Wirral MBC and stakeholders to set in place a shared regeneration strategy for Inner Wirral. The East Float Outline Planning Application was approved in August 2010. Wirral Waters has recently been granted Enterprise Zones Status, demonstrating the governments support for the proposals.

Peel are now working with delivery partners to begin delivering the early stages of development. This includes the International Trade Centre at West Float.

[www.wirralwaters.co.uk](http://www.wirralwaters.co.uk)

### **Newlands**

Launched in the summer of 2003, Newlands is a unique scheme that has reclaimed large areas of derelict, underused and neglected (DUN) land across England's Northwest. Newlands responds to local and regional economic and social needs, tackling some of the worst areas of neglected land in the Northwest and transforming them into thriving, durable, community woodlands.

Newlands is a Forestry Commission scheme, previously funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and now funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) as part of a portfolio of ex-NWDA live projects transferred to BIS through regional development agency closure. Newlands also works with a wide partnership to make a real difference to local economies, communities and environments. Newlands is also helping to make the Northwest region an even more attractive place for investment; with projects based around key gateways to the region as well as close to major cities and conurbations.

[www.newlandsproject.co.uk](http://www.newlandsproject.co.uk)

**Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)** The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is making a difference by supporting sustained growth and higher skills across the economy. Almost everything that BIS does – from investing in skills to making markets more dynamic and reducing regulation, and from promoting trade to boosting innovation and helping people start and grow a business – helps drive growth. [www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

## **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' for 20 years.

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](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk)