

Haldon Forest Park

(Fact Sheet for Sport England)

General Facts

- ❑ Haldon Forest area = 3,500 acres (1,400 ha)
- ❑ Resident population within 15 miles radius of site – 457,410
- ❑ 40% of the above resident population are over 50 yrs old (a key Sport England target group)
- ❑ 64% of the wards within a 15 mile radius are above the national average levels of deprivation
- ❑ Haldon Forest lies approx 5.5 miles South of Exeter bisected by two major arterial roads the A38 Devon Expressway and the A380.
- ❑ The majority of the forest is designated as a SSSI (for its nationally important assemblage of breeding birds of prey, butterflies and fragments of heathland).
- ❑ A site with huge potential however the infrastructure for physical activity has historically been very limited.

Project Facts

- ✓ With support from Active England Haldon Forest Park will create a total of **42km** of new trails including: All Ability Trail, Play Trail, Family Cycling and Adventure Cycling Trails, Mountain Biking Trails, Sensory Trail, Menu of Walking / Running Trails, Horse Riding Trails.
- ✓ The site has been designed to provide opportunities for enjoyable physical activity for all ages and to encourage progression as their confidence and ability increases.
- ✓ Additional features include: Dedicated Events and Training Area, Large Car Park with Facilities, First UK All-ability Exercise Trail (Wistlandpound), Specially Adapted Mini-bus for the less mobile.
- ✓ Outreach Ranger funded for 3 years to develop a major programme of events and activities particularly to attract target groups.
- ✓ Target groups: Over 45s, Women & Girls, People with Disabilities, Young People, Socio-economic Groups D/E (known areas of deprivation), Ethnic Minorities, Those with Sedentary Lifestyle (not currently involved in regular physical activity or sport).
- ✓ Consultation with representatives from these target groups highlighted key local barriers to participation: access barriers, lack of welcome, lack of confidence (fear of getting lost), fears of safety (vandalism & crime), lack of information, transport, lack of facilities, lack of activities for excluded groups. Haldon Forest Park has been developed to address all of these barriers.
- ✓ Within 3 years we aim to triple the total number of people using the forest for physical activity – up to 300,000 people.
- ✓ In addition to the Forestry Commission project partners include: Teignbridge District Council, Calvert Trust Exmoor, Teignbridge / Mid Devon / Exeter Primary Care Trusts, Exeter Mountain Bike Club, Devon County Council, Exeter Racecourse – Devon & Exeter Steeplechases Ltd, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, Regional Public Health Group - GOSW.
- ✓ Trails and infrastructure will be completed before the end of February 2006 Haldon Forest Park will be formally opened on **Saturday 15th April 2006**.
- ✓ A comprehensive visitor monitoring and evaluation programme has been developed.

Project Aims

- To create a high quality outdoor 'multi-activity hub' – Haldon Forest Park - with an extensive network of all ability, play, cycling, mountain biking, walking, running and horseriding trails accompanied by visitor facilities.
- By delivering a diverse programme of fun and enjoyable events and activities attract large numbers of visitors from the target groups of Over 45s, Women & Girls, People with Disabilities, Young People, Socio-economic Groups D/E (known areas of deprivation), Ethnic Minorities, and those with Sedentary Lifestyles (not currently involved in regular physical activity or sport). To introduce these visitor groups to enjoyable physical activity in the forest environment.
- To develop the first UK all-ability exercise trail in partnership with the Calvert Trust and promote the outdoor equipment design across the country.

Project Outcomes

- Increased participation in physical activity for local people of all ages within the catchment area of Haldon Forest Park and among visitors to the area with a particular emphasis on under-represented target groups within the community.
- The development of Haldon Forest Park as a popular venue for local, regional and national sporting events, training courses, introductory activities for cycling / walking / horse riding / running / orienteering / mountain biking and for hosting local outdoor sports clubs.
- Ongoing involvement of partners and volunteers in the running and future development of the trails and facilities at Haldon Forest Park to ensure a sustainable future.

Quotes

'Haldon Forest is a special place. For a long time we have believed that this forest could deliver so much more particularly in terms of benefits for local people and the grant from Active England has turned this dream into a reality. We have been most impressed by the efficient and professional way in which this grant scheme has been administered and the support received from Sport England staff'

Chris Marrow Forest District Manager Forestry Commission (Peninsula District)

'As a local resident I am proud to be involved in delivering the exciting new Haldon Forest Park. With a beautiful forest setting and great views it will be a place where everyone can enjoy a wide variety of sports and physical activities. Haldon Forest Park is for everyone and we want to embrace the philosophy that 'activity is easier to do than you think'. Without the grant from Active England the development of Haldon Forest Park would never have been possible.'

Ian Lynch Project Manager Haldon Forest Park

'Today I visited Haldon Forest for the first time and had a bit of a cycle around with my husband and my son - we were really impressed and can't wait for your work to finish and the facilities to be open. I was particularly interested in your play trail as I am part of a small working group to improve play areas in our local village and your play equipment seems to be exactly what we want (although I haven't seen anything quite like it in any of the dozens of brochures that we've looked at !)'

A recent visitor to Haldon Forest Park (before it opened)