



## FOREST OF DEAN BIOSPHERE

A UNESCO Biosphere –  
protecting nature and  
empowering people

People and nature thriving together



# Did you know the Forest of Dean is applying to become a UNESCO Biosphere?

## What is a UNESCO Biosphere?

An internationally recognised place where **people and nature thrive together**.

## Why are we applying?

We **love** our forest and every corner of the district, and we want to **celebrate** its uniqueness, **preserve** it for future generations, and create **new opportunities** for communities, businesses, and residents, all while **protecting** our natural environment.

## How could it benefit the Forest of Dean?

Becoming a **UNESCO Biosphere** can create a wide range of **opportunities and benefits** for local residents including:

- growing and enhancing **strong, thriving** local communities
- future-proofing the local economy** by attracting new streams of funding and investment through sustainable and green business
- helping to protect our **heritage, culture, and unique identity**
- supporting **sustainable** education, skills, and creating new opportunities for all ages
- protecting nature** and our local wildlife, both now and in the future
- making us more **resilient** in response to climate change
- creating a **lasting legacy** that is internationally recognised.

## UNESCO Biosphere status will:

- create **more** opportunities for local residents
- not** create new laws, rules and regulations
- not** add additional planning restrictions, enforcements and red tape
- not** block development
- protect** the ancient traditions and rights of Freeminers, Verderers, and Commoners.

## How will it work?

Biospheres are run through **partnerships** made up of **local** people, businesses, councils, and national organisations such as Forestry England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency.

## Want to know more?

Scan the **QR code** or go to our **website** [www.fdean.gov.uk/biosphere](http://www.fdean.gov.uk/biosphere) to find out more and join us on this **exciting adventure** towards becoming a **UNESCO Biosphere**.

