



Expression of Interest (EOI)

Learning Partner Opportunity at Salcey Forest

Introduction

Forestry England invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations or individuals interested in becoming the Learning Partner at Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire, delivering learning focused activities on site.

There is currently an established Learning Partner at the site. As this agreement approaches the end of its current term, and in line with Forestry England's commitment to fair and transparent processes, this opportunity is being advertised through an Expression of Interest process. The current provider is welcome to respond, and all responses will be considered equally. This EOI will inform the development of a future Invitation to Quote (ITQ).

Submission of an EOI does not guarantee progression to tender or appointment.

About Forestry England

Forestry England is the largest land manager in England and custodian of the nation's public forests. Our mission is to connect everyone with the nation's forests by creating and caring for forests for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and businesses to grow.

Learning and education play an important role in helping people understand forests, sustainable forestry, and the role woodlands play for people, wildlife, timber and the climate.

Further information is available at:

www.forestryengland.uk

About Salcey Forest

Salcey Forest is a Forestry England site located in Northamptonshire, positioned 6 miles from the town of Northampton and 9 miles from Milton Keynes. It is a well-established forest and day out destination, welcoming families, schools, community groups and other organised visits throughout the year.

The forest covers approximately 495 hectares of ancient woodland and is a remnant of a medieval royal hunting forest including incredible veteran oak trees (some of the oldest trees in Northamptonshire!) with over a third of the site designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSi), providing invaluable habitat for wildlife including some of the rarest species.

Salcey Forest offers a varied outdoor environment which provides a strong setting for learning activities delivered within the context of a working forest managed sustainably for people, wildlife, timber and the climate.

In addition to the beautiful landscape, the commercial offer at Salcey Forest is a drawing factor for the 150,000+ visitors that chose Salcey Forest as their day out destination each year - with activities such as Disc Golf, bike hire, Go Ape, and miles of waymarked trails for walking, running, horse riding and cycling, and of course play - there is a breadth of adventure on offer in the forest. The unique environment of the forest offers the perfect location for outdoor led learning and education with so much potential to broaden the knowledge and experiences around sustainable land management for this generation and the next.

The Learning Partner Opportunity

Background information

The vision of the Forestry England national learning strategy is that every child in England benefits from the nation's forests and understands how Forestry England looks after them for people, wildlife, timber, and the climate.

Our aim is that:

- By 2028, Forestry England will be seen as a professional, trusted educational provider.
- By 2043, every child in England benefits from the nation's forests and understands how Forestry England looks after them.

To help reach these visions we wish to work collaboratively with more organisations and individuals to provide and facilitate a wide range of learning offers and opportunities in the nation's forests. Our learning offer consists of self-led learning activities for schools, groups and general visitors, activities led by partners and third-party Learning Providers, and specialised sessions led by Forestry England staff and volunteers (applicable where practical).

What we need

Forestry England is seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations or individuals interested in delivering learning activities in an outdoor setting at Salcey Forest.

Curriculum-linked learning for school groups is expected to form a core part of the learning offer. However, Forestry England is also interested in hearing from providers who may wish to deliver a broader range of learning activities, such as early years provision, forest school sessions, holiday activities, adult training and team building, or other educational opportunities appropriate to a forest setting. Ideally the learning offer should be suitable for a range of audiences.

The Learning Partner will be expected to:

- Deliver high-quality learning experiences at the site all year round
- Incorporate and actively share Forestry England learning messages within all learning provision
- Hold Public Liability Insurance with a minimum cover of £10 million
- Provide agreed quarterly monitoring and evaluation data
- Operate under a Forestry England Learning Agreement, which will include financial terms and expected levels of delivery

Detailed requirements around financial expectation, volumes of delivery and commercial arrangements will be confirmed if the opportunity proceeds to a formal Invitation to Quote.



Responding to this Expression of Interest

To submit an expression of interest in this opportunity, please write a brief description of the learning activities you are interested in providing, as well as your qualifications and experience in relation to the opportunity, and your contact details.

Those who have submitted an expression of interest will receive an Invitation to Quote via email w|c **Monday 6 July 2026**.

Deadline for Return of EOI

Friday 19 June 2026, 4pm.

Submission details

Please return to:

Hannah Darcel
Learning Manager
Sherwood Pines Forest Park
Kings Clipstone
Mansfield
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Hannah.darcel@forestryengland.uk

If you have any questions or queries about this opportunity, please contact Hannah Darcel at Hannah.darcel@forestryengland.uk