

### The Forest of Marston Vale

The largest environmental regeneration project in Bedfordshire



BELTON  
WETTER







### Rectory Farm, Cranfield

- 174 acres (70 hectares)
- £450,000 raised to purchase by March 2003
  - £220,000 English Nature (ALSF)
  - £68,000 Heritage Lottery Fund
  - £65,000 Shanks First (Landfill tax)
  - £55,000 ODPM
  - £22,000 Countryside Agency
  - £10,000 Cranfield Parish Council
  - £10,000 Charitable Trusts
- Direct freehold purchase by Marston Vale Trust through fundraising
- **With partners help will create the largest wood in Bedfordshire**



### Forest of Marston Vale A Social Enterprise

- The Forest Team
  - Identify opportunities (Forest Plan)
  - Secure project funding
  - Fully-costed project delivery
- Funded by
  - Business income
  - Delivery grants
  - Developers
  - Partnerships
  - Volunteer time
- Delivering
  - Public access greenspace
  - Community ownership from design to delivery
  - The Forest Plan
  - No shareholders, all profit invested in the vision



## Achievements

- Marston Vale Trust Forest Centre and Millennium Country Park (£6m)
- £5.2m Growth Area Funding
- Over 100 Businesses and organisations engaged
- 500 hectares now owned by Trust
- Engaged with thousands of local people
  - 2,000 people and 50 organisations for Forest Plan
  - 140,000 visitors to Forest Centre per year
  - 7,000 hours of volunteers time 2009
  - Around 1,000 people planting trees with us every year
  - Schools, “Springwatch”, Woodworks!”, children’s events
- £2.5m brought in last year



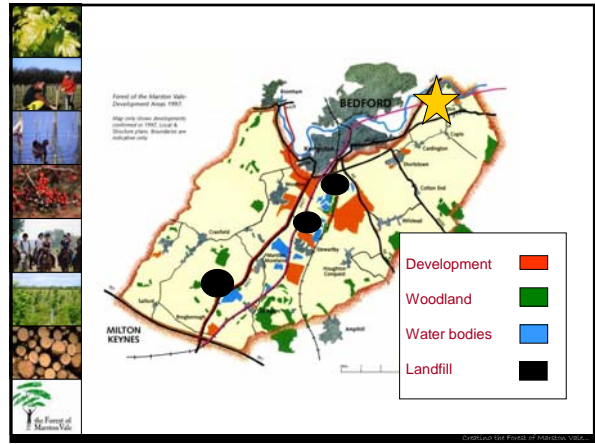
© Marston Vale Forest of Marston Vale



© Marston Vale Forest of Marston Vale







Bedford River Valley Park



Bedford River Valley Park

