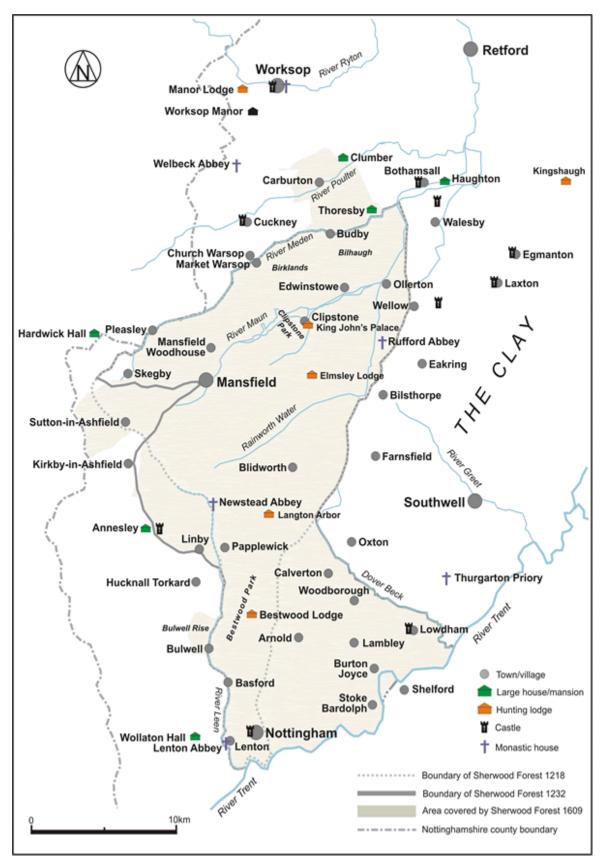
# Inspiration and guidance for Sherwood Forest competition entries

### **Sherwood Forest area**



The boundaries of Sherwood Forest changed over time so this map from 1609 gives a rough outline of the areas to work within. For example, images celebrating Mansfield town centre and its residents fulfil the brief. Images of Hardwick Hall do not, as is not geographically within the historic Sherwood Forest boundaries.

## Sherwood Forest sense of place statement

Sherwood Forest is a hugely diverse, yet understated, landscape. Its gently rolling hills are dotted with grand ducal houses, castles ruins and abbeys, a landscape carved up by politics and power. Windswept spoil heaps and mining remnants speak of intensive human impact on the land. Growing patches of health land and woodland show recent efforts to reinstate the important habitats of its past and provide a leisure space for all, places for walking, biking, discovering wildlife and appreciating evidence of historic life and industry. It is more than expected; woodland is a small part of the patchwork of urban areas, historic settlements, ex-mining communities, arable and heathland.

#### Geology

Its ancient Permo-Triassic Sherwood Sandstone base, formed over 200 million years ago, gives its porous and nutrient poor soils a distinctive sandy colour and beige outcrops, most visible in the National Nature Reserve and, outside of the scope of Miner2Major's funded area, Nottingham's famous Castle Rock and caves.

#### Form & design

The industrial geometry of iconic headstocks punctuate rough pillows of heather, staggering structures made miniature by the wide vista. Angular structures rust in nature reserves yet the difficult past of coal mining remains raw in many communities.

#### Materials and substance

Red bricks to the West give way to limestone in the East. Sandy paths wind through woodland floor littered with distinctive lobed oak leaves and thick carpets of pine needles.

#### Use & function

The scars of World War I training trenches, spoil heaps, pits and rail tracks reveal clues to Sherwood's past use. Its crisscrossing miles of footpaths map swathes of land saved from development by coal mining.

#### Location & setting

At the heart of the UK, Sherwood is culturally connected. Its varied viewed of open heaths, wooded skylines and enclosed spaces have inspired generations of global innovators, poets, inventors, writers and great thinkers.

#### Language & other forms of intangible heritage

Nottinghamshire's vast coalfields generated a great deal of the nation's energy, pit talk developed from close and dangerous working conditions. Elephant's tabs, powder monkeys, Monday hammer, gobbings and snap reveal the inner lives and creativity of mining communities.

#### Spirit & feeling

Internationally renowned home of the heroic Robin Hood, Sherwood Forest is the spirit of outlaws, of rebellion, of standing up for your rights, of fighting injustice. It is close communities, families united through mining with lines draw across a political battlefield; diverse peoples facing the world wars and adversity together, living and dying side by side.

Human dramas unfold, unnoticed by the connected flora communities we have only just begun to understand. Sherwood Forest's spirit is in the magic of the forest; of trees that speak through chemicals, warn each other of danger, tapped into the wood wide web through ancient mycelium networks.

## Sherwood Forest interpretation plan themes

These might provide some inspiration as they are the themes we are using to develop stories of Sherwood Forest.

A physical journey	Encouraging active participation in the landscape through walking, biking or using accessible paths	
A educational journey	Facilitating individuals to discover that Sherwood Forest is larger and more nuanced than they had realised	
Digital customer journey	Avoiding dead ends on digital platforms so that visitors can keep exploring, from surface level information into further engagement such as a call for action and deeper research on the topic	
A journey of self-discovery	Encouraging deeply personal engagement with the landscape and heritage thorough the 5 ways to wellbeing	

#### Sherwood Forest as a journey of discovery:

#### Sherwood Forest as a place of diverse stories – much more than just Robin Hood!

	Theme	Focus	Impact
1	The depth of time and space	Geology, geography &	A sense of awe
		astronomy	
2	Rich habitats	Biodiversity	Deeper interest
3	The land as resource	Land management for	Local distinctiveness
		resources	
4	Power, conflict and change	Political events	A sense of agency
5	Free thinking Sherwood	Creativity and innovation	Inspiration
6	A place called home	Lives of Sherwood residents	A sense of
			connectedness
7	Outstanding value	Global importance	Sustainability