



## Press Release

### Future Guardians of Cannock Chase

A new award and challenge badge has been launched in Staffordshire for members of Scouting and Girlguiding to get outdoors and explore Cannock Chase's landscape, nature and heritage.

The Future Guardians of Cannock Chase programme aims to boost awareness and appreciation amongst children and young people about the Chase, the wonderful national landscape they have on their doorstep and to encourage them to care for the environment. The hope is that today's youngsters will be the Future Guardians of Cannock Chase tomorrow.

The Future Guardians programme has 3 different activity packs. Scouts and Girlguiding have their own activities where they can work towards earning a Future Guardians of Cannock Chase Challenge badge; there is a pack to support young people who plan to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award; Staffordshire Libraries have a full pack of Activity Sheets on their own website to download.

The resource content of the packs has been developed by environment education expert Amy Johnston. It informs, explains and inspires about the special qualities that define the area and create its unique sense of place (natural heritage, cultural heritage, landscape character and scenic qualities, tranquillity and wildness), its vulnerabilities, and how we can all get involved to look after it. This includes the core of the Chase designated as a Special Area of Conservation and of international importance for wildlife.

Councillor Victoria Wilson of the AONB partnership, advised "we need all our youngsters at every age to help us to keep this special place available for future generations. By working for this badge, sections will explore some of Cannock Chase's wonderful landscapes and find out lots of amazing facts. They will also learn how to guard this precious place so it stays safe for us all to enjoy in the future. "

Kinga Niedzinska, Engagement Officer for Cannock Chase SAC, works with partners to protect areas of heath and ancient woodland on Cannock Chase 'It has been great to be able to put together something for children and young people to help them understand how special Cannock Chase is and how to enjoy it whilst protecting its fragile habitats. We hope that the activities available will help encourage them to help protect the Chase now and in the future."

Notes: The programme has been jointly funded by the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnerships, a series of interactive materials, activity sheets and resources have been developed in partnership with Staffordshire Libraries, Duke of Edinburgh, Staffordshire Scouts and Girlguiding Staffordshire.

All details of the programme can be found on the Future Guardians web page - [Future Guardians of Cannock Chase - Cannock Chase \(cannock-chase.co.uk\)](http://cannock-chase.co.uk)

**Images attached:** from the launch event at Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre.

Large group includes representatives from the AONB and SAC Partnerships, Duke of Edinburgh Award with Scout and Girlguide leaders, local councillors including Cllr Victoria Wilson and Cllr Phil Hewitt with children from all sections.

2<sup>nd</sup> image of children from girlguiding and scouts enjoying themselves in the activities on the night.

## ENDS

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### Notes to Editors:

#### **Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

The AONB Partnership is the body that exists to protect this special place. This partnership is made up of local authorities, interest groups, national agencies and local communities, all of which are committed to ensuring that Cannock Chase remains a healthy, living landscape for future generations.

For further information about Cannock Chase AONB visit [www.cannock-chase.co.uk](http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk)

For further information about the AONB Family visit [www.landscapesforlife.org.uk](http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk)

#### **Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

This makes up almost 20% of the AONB. It is legally designated, and protected for its internationally important landscape of European dry heath, the most extensive in the Midlands region. The Special Area of Conservation includes: Sherbrook Valley, Brindley Heath, Moors Gorse and areas surrounding the Whitehouse and Penkridge Bank. The Cannock Chase SAC Partnership works to protect the fragile habitats and educate and engage with communities on how to enjoy them.

For more information please visit [www.cannockchase.org.uk](http://www.cannockchase.org.uk)

