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5G Connected Forest - Enhancing visitor experience and forest management

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Part of the government's 5G Testbed and Trials programme, 5G Connected Forest is a world-first project designed to assess the potential for 5G applications in Nottinghamshire.

Nottinghamshire is right at the heart of the UK and home to some of the country's most-treasured natural heritage sites, including the iconic Sherwood Forest, home to the legendary Robin Hood.

By delivering 5G connectivity to Sherwood Forest and the surrounding area, the 5G Connected Forest will be an opportunity to explore the potential role of the technology in:

- Delivering visitor attractions for all ages
- Protecting the sensitive forest environment through robotic environmental management and live monitoring

The Connected Forest will also provide the base for an innovation accelerator programme to allow 5G applications to be tested and commercialised.

This £10 million pound project is led by Nottinghamshire County Council. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport has contributed £5 million to the project as part of the Rural Connected Communities Project, with consortium partners matching to help spark rollout of next generation 5G in rural areas to help the countryside capitalise on a tech revolution.

The consortium includes a range of partners from local and national backgrounds, including technology partners Netmore and Gooii, and academic partners from Birmingham City and Nottingham Trent universities.

The project's focus on the potential of 5G as an enabler for business development and growth is reflected in the fact that most of the partners (Harworth Group, Parkwood Outdoors, Stagecoach East Midlands and ISPB) are Nottinghamshire-based 'end-user' organisations with little or no prior experience of 5G. All partners involved share a common interest in exploring



how technology can be used to help develop and build businesses, improve consumer experience and enhance local communities.

Councillor Kay Cutts, Former Leader of Nottinghamshire County Council:

"This project will be front and centre of retelling the story of Robin Hood to future generations. It will be situated in the ancient royal forest of Sherwood, which has been wooded since the end of the last Glacial Period. There is no better opportunity to trial 5G in a forest setting anywhere else in the UK - not just for the area's geography, but for its rich and fascinating history.

"I see this project as the start of a journey that will truly see Nottinghamshire on the regional, national and international tourism and environment management maps; as well as providing us with the opportunity to build the digital skills and opportunities of our residents and businesses."

Read more on the 5G Connected Forest website.

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