



Media Release – Immediate

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Volunteers get their hands dirty at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood

Energetic volunteers from a Corby-based company have been tackling an area of overgrown land at Fineshade Wood, with the aim of transforming it into a working garden for local children with learning disabilities.

Since July last year, members of staff from RS Components have been regularly getting their hands dirty digging, weeding, removing stones and clearing out a pond in an area which will be divided up into individual plots for the children to grow vegetables and flowers. In addition to growing produce, the garden area will be used by local schools wanting to participate in activities which will enhance pupils' understanding of nature and the environment.

Barbara Algeo, Internal Communications Advisor at RS Components, said: 'As one of the largest employers in the Corby area, we are keen to give something back to the local community. Our work with the Forestry Commission represents a fantastic opportunity to do this and we are really pleased with how it is going. A number of departments have already been involved, and more people are expressing an interest now that the project has gained momentum.'

Barbara, who was responsible for setting up the project, added: 'I would highly recommend this kind of voluntary activity to other companies. Our work has brought together people from all areas of the business, enabling them to get to know each other and acting as an extremely effective team-building exercise. As well as benefiting from some hearty exercise in the great outdoors, our volunteers feel hugely satisfied knowing that their efforts will make such a big difference to local children with learning difficulties.'

Volunteers get their hands dirty at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood (cont.)

To boost the progress of the Fineshade Wood schools project, RS Components invested in gardening equipment for the site and visited weekly between July and October. During the cold, unsettled weather, gardening work has slowed down, however, RS fully understands that the garden needs to be maintained by continuous digging and weeding, and is fully committed to carrying out these tasks on an ongoing basis.

Sarah Walker, Visitor and Communities Services Manager at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood, said: 'The volunteers' efforts are paying off now as the garden area is really starting to take shape. It looks so much better than it did before RS Components began working with us. We're tremendously grateful for all the hard work everyone has been putting into the project.'

Sarah continued: 'There are various Forestry Commission projects which would benefit from the support of volunteers, so if you or your company is interested in volunteering in this way, please get in touch.'

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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. For more information contact Sarah Walker on 01780 444920 or email sarah.walker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

About the Forestry Commission

2. The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible in England for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woods and forests, and increasing their value to society and the environment. Forestry makes a real contribution to sustainable development, providing social and environmental benefits arising from planting and managing attractive, as well as productive woodlands. Further information about the Commission can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/>
3. Northants Forest District runs from Grantham in Lincolnshire right down to Ampthill in Bedfordshire, taking in many beautiful and varied woodlands.

Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood, north Northamptonshire

4. Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood is part of Rockingham Forest. Corby and Stamford are the nearest towns. Fineshade is signposted from the A43, 9 miles northeast of Corby, and 6 miles southwest of Stamford. www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge.

About RS Components

RS Components is a catalogue and web-based distributor of Electronic, Electrical, Electromechanical and Industrial Components. Founded in 1937, RS is part of the holding company Electrocomponents plc, a global business serving nearly 1.6 million customers in over 80 countries worldwide. Through operations in 27 countries and 16 warehouses, RS distributes 450,000 products from over 2,500 suppliers.

Since it began, RS has had the simple objective of providing a part for every job, from research and development through pre-production to maintenance and repair. As those jobs have diversified and become even more complex, RS has developed its offering and services accordingly.

New technology also plays an important part. When RS launched <http://rswww.com>, it was the first UK plc in its marketplace with a fully integrated transactional web site. Operating in every market, its e-Commerce capabilities now see over 50% of sales achieved via the Internet.

Based in Corby, Northamptonshire, RS employs over 2000 employees nationwide.

For more information please visit rswww.com/presscentre.