



WOODLAND
TRUST

Our Millennium year

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woodland /ˈwɒdlənd/ n. wooded country, woods (often attrib.: woodland scenery). □ **woodlander** n.
Woodland Trust /ˈwɒdlənd trʌst/ n. The UK's leading woodland conservation charity, est.1972.
woodlark /ˈwɒdlɑːk/ n. a lark, *Lullula arborea*.
woodlouse /ˈwɒdləʊz/ n. (pl. **-lice** /-laɪs/) any small crustacean of the genus *Oniscus* etc.

Priorities

In the year 2000, we continued to focus on four priority areas.

● No further loss of ancient woodland

Notes: Ancient woodland remains the UK's richest natural habitat. It is irreplaceable.



● Restoring and improving the biodiversity of woods

Notes: It is important to ensure that wildlife is conserved to maintain and enhance the delicate balance of the woodland environment.



● Increasing the area of new native woodland

Notes: Less than 12% of UK is covered by woodland. European average is 33%. Planting new native trees and woods will improve our quality of life, beautifying the landscape and giving nature a helping hand. A crucial future investment.



● Increasing people's enjoyment and awareness of woodland

Notes: Many people already adore trees and woods. The Woodland Trust can help to nurture this enthusiasm through education, interpretation and promoting access to woods.



Woodland Trust chairman, Peter Oliver, and chief executive, Mike Townsend take an overview of another extraordinary year where two contrasting projects, focused on new and ancient woods, captured the poignancy of the millennium.

"**Woods on your Doorstep** was welcomed by Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, as one of the Millennium Commission's most successful and effective projects. By the end of the year we had achieved our target of 200 sites throughout England and Wales and acquired 40 of 50 sites in Northern Ireland, creating new native woods for use by people for many years to come."

"Our **Wild about Woods millennium project** made use of the latest modern technology to bring the wonder of ancient woodland to a hugely diverse audience. We used events, interpretation and multimedia to introduce the UK's richest wildlife habitat to people who would not otherwise have discovered it."

"Once again, we worked tirelessly to save **woodland under threat**, and were instrumental in saving an ancient wood at Brands Hatch from development."

"Our **acquisition** of woodland continued with a focus on ancient woodland sites which have previously been felled, mostly for the planting of conifers. We will restore them before it is too late."

"The Trust's contribution to conservation thinking continues to demonstrate our pragmatic approach. The publishing of **Woodland Biodiversity - Expanding our horizons** will help us - and others - to conserve the widest variety of threatened native wildlife in the most effective way we can."

"**Woodland creation** is set to take place on a massive scale thanks to a £10 million partnership, the Scottish Forest Alliance. The Woodland Trust is a key player along with the RSPB and Forest Enterprise in this innovative project funded by BP."

Overview from the chairman and chief executive



"People are greatly valued by the Trust. **Membership** increased to 77,000 and is growing by over 20% per annum. This year we also launched our **Volunteer of the Year** awards."

"As a result of two extremely generous **legacies** we started a pilot scheme working with other landowners in the Yorkshire Dales."

"We reached our largest audience yet with the **Why the UK's Ancient Woodland is Still Under Threat** report."

"Perhaps the most **fundamental challenge for the future** is that people regard themselves as separate from 'nature' and therefore unaffected by the natural world. This lack of recognition that humanity is one small (albeit hugely destructive) part of the ecosystem is perhaps why neither governments nor individuals are prepared to take action to combat the effects of climate change, if that action comes with immediate cost."

We know that the effects of **climate change** are so far reaching that our approach must be outward looking, with efforts focused not just on a site level but on the whole countryside. As well as continuing to acquire, restore and plant woodland, we will encourage others to join us in caring for this world in which we live."



David Mansfield, Sussex, North East Essex - the 1,000th wood acquired by the National Trust in 2021

millennium calendar

FACTFILE

- 1,112 woods owned nationwide
- 77,000 members
- Offices in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
- 3,600,000 trees planted in last ten years

Conservation

Richard Smithers,
UK conservation adviser,
The Woodland Trust

“In the new millennium we expect accelerating awareness of the far reaching effects of climate change. Conservation thinking is at a pivotal point, leading us to challenge traditional views.”

Woodland Trust Conservation filenote

Re: Casehill and surrounding woods, Dinas Powys

Total woodland area: 85 hectares (210 acres)
Location: Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales
Purchase date: 22 December 2000
Typical species: Bluebell, early purple orchid, primrose, otter, brown hare, skylark, kingfisher, ringed plover, 25 species of butterfly inc. white letter hairstreak and silver washed fritillary
Other funders: The Heritage Lottery Fund, Innogy (through landfill tax funding), Restore UK and members of the community

Woodland Officer's notes:

The purchase of the extension to Casehill Woods is a perfect example of how the Woodland Trust's conservation principles are being put into practice to combat threats to ancient woodland.

When I visited the area recently I was struck, not only by the landscape beauty of the moist, rocky valley where our woods are sited, but by the potential that now exists to make this a uniquely rich wildlife haven. We already own Cwm George and Casehill Woods and had acquired and planted a new wood 'Pen y Turmpike' nearby. Our latest purchase has enabled us to link the two ancient woods and means that we now care for a total of 85 hectares.

Because of the size of the area we now own, the species that depend upon the remnants of ancient woodland that remain will be more able to cope with outside threats for years to come, potential problems from modern farming and climate change. Our management work has already began and we will plant a further 24,000 trees on the new extension as well as opening up sunny rides for butterflies and removing the non-native conifers in the existing woods.

We are fortunate that the local community has been very supportive. They have helped us to raise the money for all four sites. Being only ten minute's drive from Cardiff, the land would have been rich pickings for developers. Trust member, Philip Atkin, 79, summed up local feeling when he said "We have a duty to preserve the countryside for the enjoyment, health and well-being of generations of people now and into the future."



38% of ancient woodland has been felled and replanted since the 1930s, mostly with conifers.



Casehill, where the Trust policy of acquiring and extending ancient woods is put into practice. Creation of new woodland and other wildlife habitats will help to conserve the adjoining woods. Photograph: Steven Kind

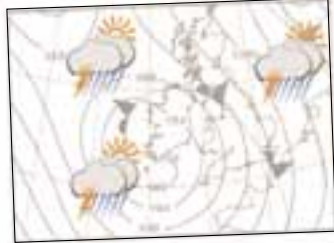
Conservation

The Woodland Trust joined forces with the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in 2000 to promote the UK Phenology Network. Phenology, the study of seasonal events can demonstrate how climate change is affecting our wildlife. By involving people far and wide in recording, the Trust hopes to improve the accuracy of predictions.

The weather forecast

Outlook for this century

The UK temperature is expected to increase by up to 6°C this century. Weather patterns are likely to continue to become more extreme and unpredictable.



Outlook for UK woods

Our native woods are at risk from changes in the seasons, increased temperatures, droughts and water shortages, extreme weather events and exotic pests and diseases.

Summary

Woods, as we know them today, may have changed irreversibly by the end of the century and rare plants, animals, birds and insects that live in woodland may be in danger of becoming extinct.

The UK's native woodland is at particular risk because it is already a highly fragmented and diminished resource as a result of clearance for agriculture and development, overgrazing and conversion to conifer plantations. Urgent action is therefore needed to put our woods onto a more sustainable footing.

Action list for 2001 and beyond

1 Restoring ancient woods

Continue to restore more than 100 ancient woods in our care that have been damaged by the commercial planting of conifers. Undertake major research programme into the most effective way of restoring such woods. The seedbank of an ancient wood, which gives it the potential to maintain its wealth of wildlife, will only last for 50 years - **time is running out.**

2 Making woods more robust

Targeting action to areas of the country with most ancient woodland cover. Helping to make ancient woods robust in the face of climate change and development by increasing their size, restoring and protecting them from external threats. Acquire more sites as well as working with others to spread the word and tackle problems on a landscape scale.

3 Grasping the opportunity

With the twentieth century behind us, it is hoped that people in the new millennium will wish to curtail the rapid development that has led to the loss of so much of our countryside. The serious nature of climate change is likely to focus more attention on the natural world than ever before. The Woodland Trust will grasp the opportunity to raise awareness of the plight of the UK's threatened woodland heritage and harness a new enthusiasm for action.

4 Nature's calendar

Continue to develop the UK Phenology Network with the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology. Collate information gathered by thousands of recorders, professional and amateur, and use it to demonstrate how climate change is affecting our wildlife. In the next year aim to have people recording from 90% of 10 kilometre squares across the UK. Reach six million people with the message.



Oak trees are now coming into leaf **ten days earlier** than in the 1980s.

Woodland Trust library

Publication overview: *Expanding our horizons*

24 pages, A4 softback

Published June 2000, Distribution: 1250 copies

Content

How can we simply measure improvements in woodland biodiversity? And if we don't know, how can we target future activity to best effect?

Expanding our horizons is a timely document which aims to answer these questions. It also examines the challenges brought about by the onset of climate change and suggests a new way of thinking that recognises that the problem needs to be tackled on a landscape scale, rather than site by site. This gives us much of the background we need to effectively help our threatened native woods back onto a more sustainable footing.

"...a useful addition...strikes a good balance between being factual and yet accessible to a wide readership."
Roger Crofts CBE, Chief Executive, Scottish Natural Heritage

"...a useful collation of information borne out by research."

Huw Davies, Policy Officer, Forestry Commission National Office for Wales

"...an excellent precis, bringing together all of those ecological factors that we struggle with every day."
Dr Alastair Sommerville, Scottish Wildlife Trust



Houndtor Wood, Devon, an ancient wood planted with conifers, acquired in 2000. Once restored it will link wildlife habitats across more than 1,600 hectares.

Woods on your Doorstep

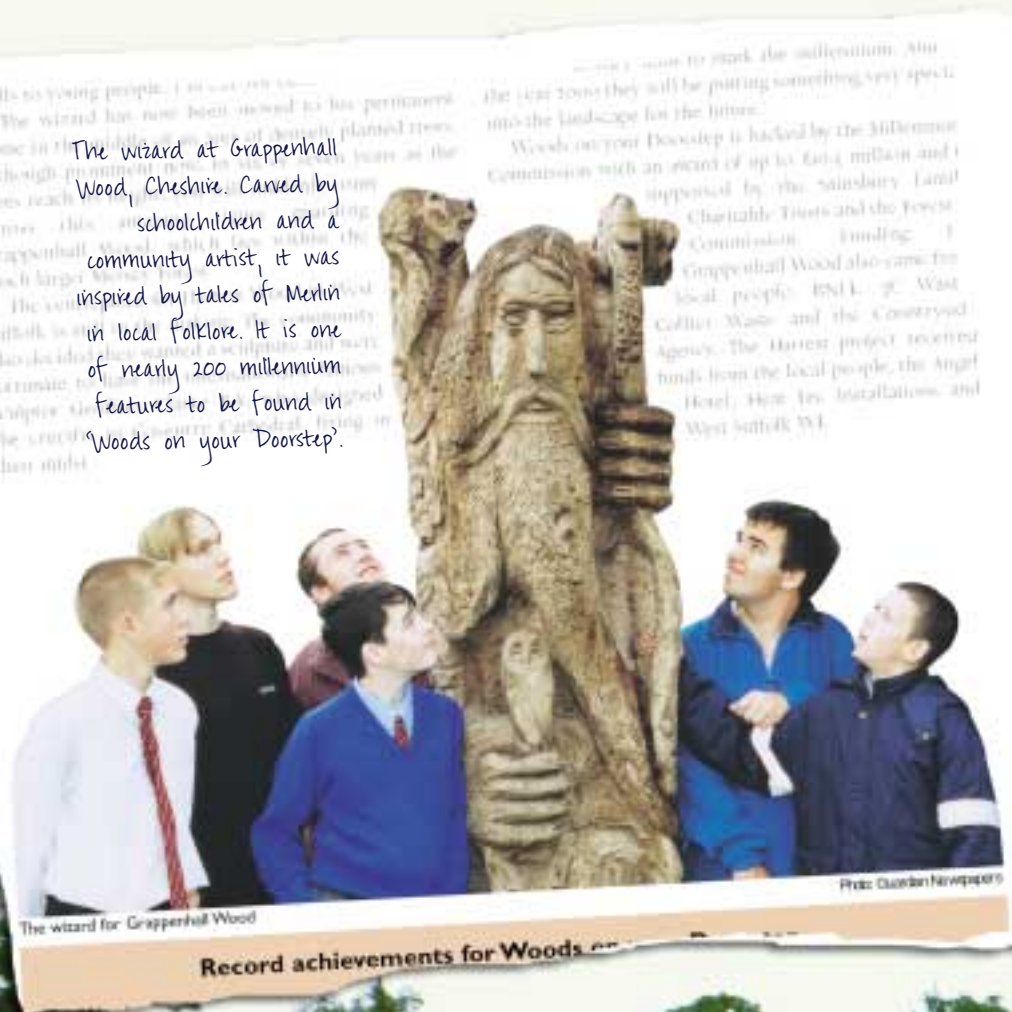
“Woods on your Doorstep has captured public imagination as a fitting and lasting way of marking the millennium.”

Chris Smith, Culture Secretary,
November 2000

The wizard at Grappenhall Wood, Cheshire. Carved by schoolchildren and a community artist, it was inspired by tales of Merlin in local folklore. It is one of nearly 200 millennium features to be found in 'Woods on your Doorstep'.

When it was conceived in 1995, it was considered to be the most ambitious project the Woodland Trust had ever undertaken. The aim was to mark the millennium by planting 250 new woods throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each would be planted close to a local community and residents would be involved at every stage. Although there was an enormous amount of enthusiasm for the project, some had doubts over whether it was practically possible.

Five years on, Woods on your Doorstep has been an unprecedented success. By the end of 2000, the target of completion by spring 2001 was well within reach. The project involved over a quarter of a million people, reconnecting them with woodland habitats, providing a greater understanding of the importance and value of our native woods. The new woods that have come into being at the beginning of the new millennium will now mature and thrive, providing a gift and focus for future generations to enjoy.



Photograph: Muchwood, before planting began

Woods on your Doorstep would not have been possible without the help of its funders. These included Sainsbury's Homebase, the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, the European Community, and the Millennium Commission's crucial £10 million contribution which kick started the project. Local authorities, businesses, charitable trusts and lots of individuals throughout the country all contributed.

Woods on your Doorstep

“When it’s a real wood, I can look back and say, ‘I helped to create that’ and take pride in the pleasure people get from it during

- and after - my lifetime.” Chris Peck, local resident who helped plant Hollinwood near Nottingham

Heroes and champions

Oppy Wood, Hull

Like so many of the Woodland Trust’s Woods on your Doorstep sites, the community surrounding Oppy Wood near Hull have ensured that it stands as a tribute to the past as well as an investment for the future. Every one of the 18,000 trees planted there is a living reminder of the 200 heroic local soldiers who died at the battle of Oppy Wood, France in 1917.

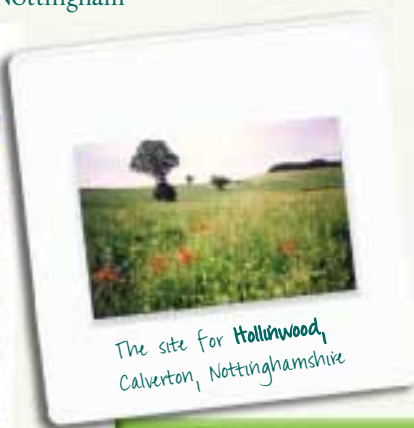


John Nash, Oppy Wood, 1917. Evening, oil on canvas, 182.8 x 213.3 cm, Imperial War Museum, London.

The wood is sandwiched between two communities – a densely populated housing estate and the picturesque village of Cottingham. Predictably, it suffers from some unwanted attention. Many of the tree guards have been ripped down and used as motorcycle ramps. But others are keen to put it back together again and school children from the estate visit regularly and like to ‘save the trees’ by replacing the guards. Such a feeling of ownership is created by the involvement they have had in raising funds, planning, planting and naming the wood. They have also chosen the millennium feature, common to most Woods on your Doorstep, in this case an impressive, engraved boulder.

The public participation was boosted by the Hull Daily Mail who ran a year long campaign in support of the wood, involving as many people as possible in its development and raising a total of £25,000 towards its purchase. Stan Szczowka, of The Mail said, “It appealed to every generation, from environmentally conscious schoolchildren to the elderly relatives of the soldiers who died at the battle of Oppy Wood.”

Today, visitors to the wood will find a pleasant, peaceful haven frequented by a plethora of wild species including skylarks, water voles, the ladies smock flower and the meadow brown butterfly. For the Woodland Trust, it is yet another success story which perfectly marries the needs of people with the often neglected needs of nature.



The site for Hollinwood, Calverton, Nottinghamshire

Woods on your Doorstep attracted extensive media coverage, including in The Times, Daily Telegraph, on BBC’s Country File and even Radio 4’s The Archers featured their own Wood on your Doorstep in the fictional village of Ambridge.

FACTFILE

- 250 new woods created
- 1.8 million trees planted
- 1,130 hectares (2,790 acres) of land acquired
- 260,000 people involved
- 1,250 community meetings held
- 300 schools took part

As well as benefitting people, the woods were planted with native trees and sited next to an existing wood wherever possible to ensure that nature reaped maximum rewards.

The magnitude of the project has been recognised at the very highest level. In January 2000, Sue Roe, project manager, was awarded an OBE for her work.



Public affairs “We feel we have won the battle but not the war.” Hilary Allison, policy director of the Woodland Trust on the Brands Hatch case

2000 saw the Trust fighting its highest profile campaign yet. The expansion of the motor racing circuit at Brands Hatch in Kent was set to destroy 14 hectares (nearly 35 acres) of ancient woodland. Following months of campaigning, on the eve of the public inquiry the developers withdrew their application.

This was considered a victory by those who had opposed the plans. But the case was a stark illustration of a planning system still failing to protect ancient woodland.



The partnership forged with the Ancient Tree Forum in 2000 highlighted two things. The Trust sees collaborative working as one vital way to get results. And ancient trees are of tremendous conservation and historical interest. In the UK we have one of the highest concentrations of these trees in Europe. The older and bigger the specimen, the greater its wildlife value. The Trust will help to raise awareness of the need to pay special attention to conserving them.

In this year, a guide to **Ancient Woods and Planning Applications** is distributed by the Trust. It is so popular that three reprints are required with local authorities and other organisations keen to learn how to better protect these habitats. 4,000 copies are circulated.

In May, the Trust is called to appear before the Environment Select Committee to give evidence on their inquiry into UK biodiversity. Our contribution reaffirms the Trust's credibility and authority in the eyes of key decision makers.

In July, 170 MPs endorse the importance of trees in urban areas by signing an Early Day Motion. We encouraged MPs to sign up, making this one of the ten most popular of a year which saw hundreds of such Motions.

Garth R Thomas MP for Harrow West, a keen supporter of our work, secures an adjournment debate on ancient woodland in Westminster Hall. He makes a powerful and persuasive case for more Government action to protect ancient woods saying:

WESTMINSTER HALL DEBATE - 9 MAY 2000

Ancient Woodlands - Extract

Mr. Gareth R. Thomas (Harrow, West): ...Brands Hatch is the highest profile case of such misuse of ancient woodland. I have consulted Woodland Trust, which says that at least 35 other ancient woods are under serious threat. Ancient woods are one of the great irreplaceable and unsung glories of Britain's natural heritage. They are nature's cathedrals—timeless places of great beauty and tranquillity. A wood can be somewhere to head for, a place to stop for reflection on an evening's stroll and an indicator of the changing seasons. The bluebell-carpeted wood remains a timeless image advertising the beauty of our countryside...

...As the habitat most representative of our original, natural, stable conditions, ancient woodland is home to more threatened species, such as the bluebell, than any other habitat in the United Kingdom. At least 45 woodland species became extinct during the past 100 years. Many remaining species, such as the wood anemone or Solomon's seal, which are found only in ancient woodland and have limited powers of dispersal, are struggling to survive...

The Minister with responsibility for trees and woods at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Chris Mullin MP, responds on the Government's behalf.

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A royal seal of approval

On 1st January, Woods on your Doorstep project manager, Sue Roe, is awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List in recognition of her key role in the creation of 200 new woods in England and Wales to mark the millennium.

The centuries old management system of **coppicing** takes place at Hammond's Copse, The Prestige Wood, Surrey and at many other Woodland Trust sites during the winter months.



Once again, the Trust's **Christmas card recycling scheme** is launched aimed at preventing tonnes of waste going to landfill (see page 18).

Lewis Carroll Wood is planted at Daresbury, Cheshire, where the author of Alice in Wonderland was born.

Amy declares war on litter

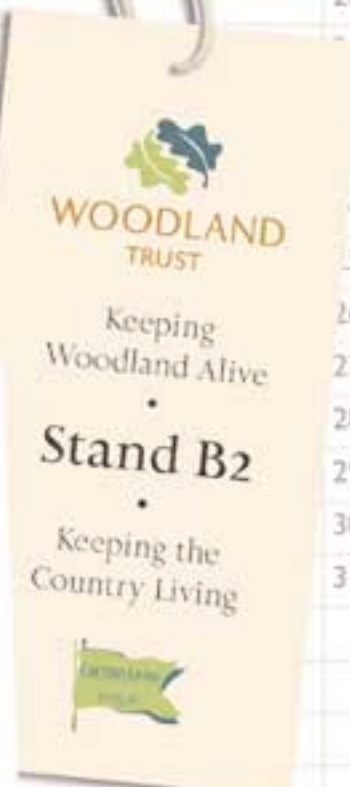
On 11th March, the Trust gets a boost from an unusual source. Twenty army recruits from Glencorse Barracks launch an offensive on litter at Beeslack Wood, Penicuik. Like many urban woods, this wonderful site suffers from the rubbish which accumulates, ranging from shopping trolleys to sweet wrappers. Cleaning it up can be an expensive business.

The Trust officially acquires its first **ancient woodland** in Northern Ireland with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Drumlaph at Maghera is home to many special inhabitants including the endangered red squirrel. A new adjacent Woods on your Doorstep site will significantly extend the area and benefit wildlife.



Drumlaph, Maghera - the Trust's first ancient woodland in Northern Ireland.
Photograph: Paul Haigney

The Woodland Trust is the flagship charity supported at **The Country Living Fair in London**.



The **Countryside and Rights of Way Bill** is published and the Trust along with other conservation organisations begins to lobby for further improvements. The Trust in particular manages to secure assurances that the new voluntary power to dedicate land for public access does not create complications for charities.

Notes from the

April	May	June
 <p>For the part at Lewis Carroll Wood, Cheshire Photograph: Emma Williams/Space Press</p>	<p>The forward thinking conservation report, Expanding our horizons, is published (see page 5).</p> <p>A half hour debate on ancient woodland is held in The House of Commons at Westminster (see page 8).</p>	<p>Loxley Wood, a historic 21 hectare (53-acre) site near Glastonbury is acquired for restoration.</p> <p>Why the UK's Ancient Woodland is Still Under Threat, a report aimed at the media and Key opinion formers is launched, attracting widespread press coverage (see page 13).</p> <p>The Scottish Forest Alliance agreement is sealed, marking the beginning of a massive woodland creation scheme in Scotland. The first new Woodland Trust site identified is Glen Quey (see page 18)</p>
 <p>The Trust launches its new Welsh name Coed Cadw, a medieval term literally meaning 'protected woodland'.</p>	<p>The Trust launches its new Welsh name Coed Cadw, a medieval term literally meaning 'protected woodland'.</p>	
<p>A major visitor survey is started in Scotland (supported by Scottish Natural Heritage) to establish visitor numbers and determine how people can get the most from Trust woods without disturbing wildlife.</p> <p>The Woodland Trust on the map First appearance of Woodland Trust sites on the Ordnance Survey Explorer series of maps.</p>	<p>Dealing with devolution A new post is created in the Woodland Trust Welsh office to focus on bringing woodland issues to the top of the agendas of both the country's press and the Welsh Assembly.</p>	<p>Trust to the rescue In late June, the Woodland Trust releases around 30 dommice into a secret nature reserve location in Suffolk. The site is one of several suitable locations chosen by English Nature. The dormouse has become extinct in half its range in Britain and it is hoped that this initiative, run with the help of the University of London, will help to re-establish this shy woodland mammal.</p> <p>The Trust is presented with an award by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society in recognition of its sustainable forestry practices undertaken at Ledmore and Migdale Woods, Spinningdale in the Highlands.</p>
		



The year 2000

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October

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National Parks come to Scotland

Before now, Scotland was one of only three countries in the world without designated national parks. In August 2000, a 50 year campaign came to fruition and a **National Parks Act** was passed in the Scottish Parliament. Loch Lomond and the Trossachs was scheduled to become the first National Park, at the heart of which lies the Trust's largest woodland, Glen Finglas.



Welsh Show was



Children enjoying the Royal Welsh Show
Photograph: Steven Kind

was a marquee at the Show, one of the most important events on the calendar.

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Nature's Calendar, the **phenology** research project begins (see page 5).

The Trust's marquee at the **Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Fair** attracts thousands of visitors.

Planning application for the upgrading of **Brands Hatch**, which would destroy an ancient woodland goes to Public Inquiry. Later, the wood is saved (see page 8).

Woods on the move

On 12th September, following unusually sustained wet weather, part of **Cadora Woods** in the Wye Valley slips onto a neighbouring road which has to be closed for months. It is possible that the incident is a practical example of how climate change is creating extreme weather patterns which will have a far reaching effect on our environment.

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Supporters join the **Walk for Woodland**, raising vital funds for our most treasured habitats.

The acquisition of the 200th Woods on your Doorstep site is announced.

The wood in question is **Wantley Dragon** near Sheffield. Ideally sited next to an ancient wood, the site is named by the local community after a 17th century folk song.

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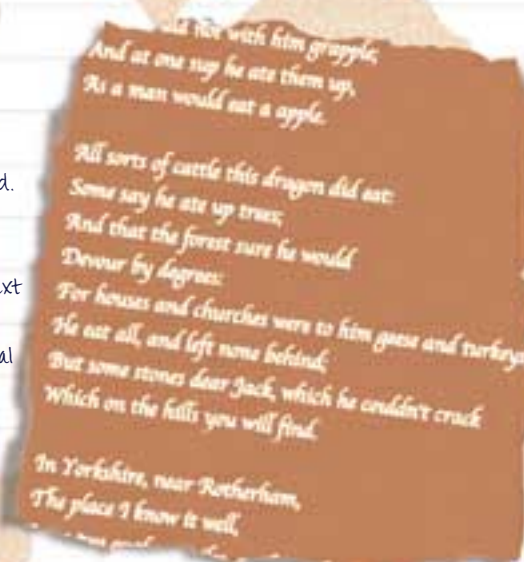
Juniper at Thwastestones Wood North Yorkshire produces its sea fruit. One of only three conifers native to the UK, this declining species given a boost by a Forestry Commission grant which will help the Woodland Trust to ensure its survival at Thwastestones Wood.

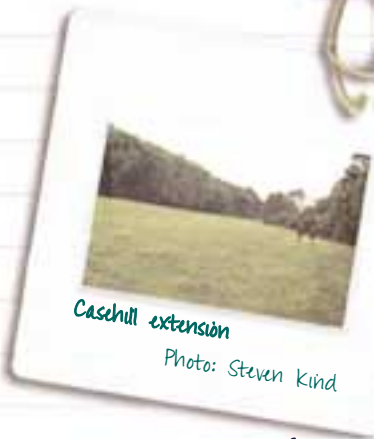
A new experience

Over 70 **Wild about Woods** events were held this autumn, mainly reaching out to people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit ancient woodlands. Participants include children, young people, the elderly and those with learning disabilities (see pages 10-11).

We begin to roll out our **Yorkshire Dales Project** — a pilot for ways of working with other landowners.

Volunteers of the Year are awarded the **Watkins memorial medal** (see page 15).





Caschill extension

Photo: Steven Kind

An extension to **Caschill Wood** in Dinas Powys is acquired. This is the fourth wood now managed by the Trust in the area, making it possible to link them together to create the maximum benefit for wildlife (see page 4).

A reception is held at the **House of Commons** to celebrate the achievement of the Woods on your Doorstep target for England and Wales (see pages 6-7).

The results of a **bug survey** at **Hainault Forest** are published. They show the wood to be in the top ten most internationally important invertebrate sites in the UK.



Houndtor and Wray Woods

Photo: Stuart Handley/FOTD45



Houndtor and Wray Woods

Photo: Stuart Handley/FOTD45

Keeping Woodland Alive in Northern Ireland
On 22nd November, the Woodland Trust launches 'Keeping Woodland Alive in Northern Ireland' at the Stormont parliament building. Minister for the Environment, Sam Foster, opens the event. Over 100 people attend and the profile of the Trust and its work is greatly increased.

Christmas presents

On 22nd December, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust buys **Houndtor and Wray Woods** on the edge of Dartmoor, Devon. The woods are surrounded by many valuable nature sites including Pullabrook Wood, another Trust site. The two new acquisitions are ancient woodland sites but they were previously converted to conifer plantations. The Trust will begin to restore them, creating a robust environment where a host of species can thrive.



Launching Keeping Woodland Alive in Northern Ireland at Stormont

LEGACIES

We are very grateful to our many generous donors including the following who bequeathed £1,000 or more to the Trust during 2000:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
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| Mr P R J Allen | Mr G Jones-Walters |
| Mrs P E Allen | Mr K C Kearns |
| Miss J S Allt | Mrs M Keeling |
| Mrs J A Avery | Miss E E Keens |
| Mr P Bassingthwaite | Dr J A Kennedy |
| Mr M J Berriman | Mrs J M Kimberley |
| Mrs I Bickerton | Miss J E Knight |
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| Mrs I E C Clear | Ms J P Ramage |
| Mr G Clegg | Miss A A Ramsey |
| Ms E M Cole | Mr L V Ratliffe |
| Mr J O Cooling | Mr P Rawlings |
| Mr D R Corley | Miss M L Reeves |
| Mr W A A Cox | Mr R A Rider |
| Dr O E Crawshaw | Ms M Savory |
| Dr V M David | Mr B R Selley |
| Miss O M L Davies | Miss R T Seymour |
| Miss M K Davies | Mrs A A Shorter |
| Mrs J T J Dealtry | Mr A Smallwood |
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DONATIONS

With thanks to many generous donors to the Trust during 2000. The following gave £5,000 or more:

- Christine Bulmer family and friends
- Mr Brian Dickens
- Mr Paul Jordan
- The Probert Family

MEDIA release

Raising awareness

Monday 19 June 2000

BRITAIN'S RAINFORESTS NEED PROTECTING NOW

A report published today by the Woodland Trust — the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, warns of new and accelerating threats which could destroy the UK's remaining ancient woodlands unless urgent action is taken now.

Broadleaved woodland contains more globally threatened and rapidly declining species than any other UK habitat. 50% of the UK's ancient woodland has been lost since the 1830s and today, only two percent of total land area is covered by ancient woodland. The report warns that its survival still hangs in the balance.

Looking ahead, changes in environmental conditions, including higher temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, drought and storm frequency will have a dramatic impact on the plants, animals and insects that live in ancient woodlands. It is vital to respond now to the predicted climate changes and may become scarce or even extinct in the wild. For example, plants such as bluebells, Solomon's seal and wood anemones are particularly at risk. Milder winters may also lead to increasing numbers and varieties of insect pests from at home and abroad, while summer droughts can create intolerable stresses and vulnerability to disease.

The Woodland Trust warns that loopholes in the law and poor planning regulations

continued overleaf

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In June 2000, the Woodland Trust launched a **hard-hitting report**, spelling out the threats faced by the UK's richest wildlife habitat. 'Ancient Woodland Under Threat' attracted extensive media coverage reaching an estimated 11 million people. This crucial issue was brought to the attention of key decision-makers and many new audiences, previously unaware of the problem.



2000 saw a sharp increase in **membership**, rising from 63,000 to 77,000 by the end of the year. As well as helping to fund essential woodland conservation work, our members add to our voice helping us to become more effective than ever.



We continued to develop our interactive state-of-the-art **website**. This was rewarded by a rapid rise in interest with over 80,000 visits made during 2000.

Our extensive site is complemented by a family of sites covering phenology, ancient trees, Wild about Woods (see pages 14-15) and Woodlands for the Millennium.



During the year the Woodland Trust assumed the assets of the **Forestry Trust**, taking their seat on the Forest Education Initiative and continuing to develop a series of regional woodland guides. We also welcomed a valuable new trustee in Rachel Thomas.



In this year, for the first time, we awarded the **Watkins Memorial Medal** to two dedicated volunteers, Alan Archer and Ian Hammerton. The medal is named after our founder, the first ever Trust volunteer. Volunteer of the Year will continue into the future as we aim to pay tribute to all of our volunteers, numbering over 3,000, whose varied skills help us tremendously. Production of the medals was generously supported by Mrs Mary Watkins and Mr Richard Skinner.

Wild about Woods

“The idea was to bring woods alive to a new cross-section of the community... and to help them build a stronger connection between themselves and our wonderful woodland heritage.”

Jill Attenborough,
Wild about Woods
project manager



In contrast with Woods on your Doorstep (pages 6 to 7), Wild about Woods was very much about the ancient. But it was still tuned in to the future. The project's challenge was to bring the wonders of ancient woods to the attention of people who would not otherwise have the chance to experience them.

Described as 'nature's cathedrals', ancient woods are our country's richest type of wildlife habitat, home to more threatened species than any other. Sadly, there are many people who, through lack of awareness, funds, transport or physical ability are unlikely ever to see one. Wild about Woods set out to take the first step in remedying this. A fitting way to celebrate woods in the new millennium.

Fourteen Woodland Trust woods throughout the UK were selected as **showcase** examples for the project. Waymarked trails were created and a programme of **events** scheduled for autumn 2000. The very best in modern **multimedia technology** was used to create a means for those of all ages and abilities who couldn't make it to a wood to interactively explore it. Audio cassettes were recorded, a CD-ROM was produced, a video was made featuring TV's Howie Watkins, a website was launched and interactive kiosks were placed at various tourist attractions nationwide.

FACTFILE

- 6,000,000 people reached through Wild about Woods
- Access and information improved at 14 ancient woods
- 1,300 attended events
- 750,000 used interactive kiosks
- 5,500 visits made to the website
- 600 free multimedia packs distributed

Wild about Woods is one of the Woodland Trust's most innovative projects. Although the winning of hearts and minds is hard to measure, it is hoped that more and more people will appreciate the value of the UK's irreplaceable ancient woods.



Hainault Forest, Essex. One of the 14 ancient woods inspiring people to become Wild about Woods.
Photograph: Brian Aldrich

Photograph: Crinan Woods, Argyll & Bute, Scotland by Alex von Kottwitz

Wild about Woods was supported through the Millennium Festival Fund by the Heritage Lottery Fund, without which a project of this scale would not have been possible.

Wild about Woods



Abnâchan Woods, Loch Ness in the Fore Woodland Trust Picture Lib



Green Castle Woods, Llanaain, Carmarthenshire— one of the five Wild about Woods sites in Wales
Photograph: Steven Kind



Eye witness account – A wet afternoon in Cumbria

Six year old Rachel Holden knows that each of her fingertips has thousands of sensors. She says she can see them. She also knows that she can sniff out over 9,000 different smells. And that wild creatures love dead trees.

Rachel learnt this at Miltonrigg, one of Cumbria's most spectacular ancient woods. She went because she was attending an Earth Walk. A Wild about Woods event organised by the Woodland Trust and environmental education experts, WildWise, it was staged to help people discover ancient woods.

"The key to an Earthwalk is getting people involved," said Chris Salisbury of WildWise, "Nobody wants to be dragged through a wood and lectured at – it's much better to find ways to get people to taste, smell – experience the place for themselves."

Miltonrigg is full of things to experience. Its older trees are truly magnificent – some were used to rebuild the roof of York Minster after the great fire. There's a pond, over 200 flowering plants including orchids, and enough different habitats to encourage a stunning range of wildlife.

So where does a newcomer start? Chris Salisbury didn't hesitate. "By touching the place." He gave out Touch Boxes – small segmented plastic trays. Everyone had to fill them with something from the wood that matched a one word description.

Listening to Robbie Holden, 8, and Toby Granger, 6, trying to guess each other's words was an experience for everyone else.

"Sticky."

"No."

"Slimey."

"No"

"It's tricky."

"No."

This was just one of four activities that Chris laid on to tune people in to the countless sensations the wood had to offer.

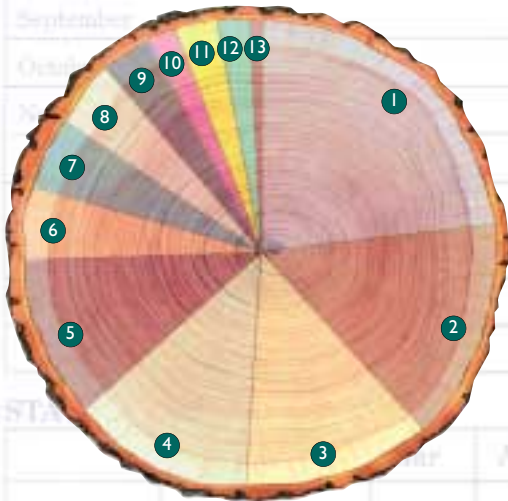
The day ended on a perfect note – a campfire, hot tea, chocolate biscuits and a centuries old woodland folk story told to the beat of a Russian drum. Not a single person moved as darkness and rain began to fall – not till the last drumbeat faded into the woods. On leaving, everyone agreed that Wild about Woods and Miltonrigg were an unbeatable combination.

Finance

Once again, hard work and the generosity of our supporters have led to a record income for the Woodland Trust in the year 2000. Individuals have made a major contribution to this achievement. Membership has increased from 63,000 to 77,000 and legacy income was the highest in the Trust's history at £2.6 million.

But this is no time to be complacent. We have no shortage of opportunities to help the UK's native woodland stand up to the very serious threats it faces today. Money is still the major factor that prevents us from turning these opportunities into action.

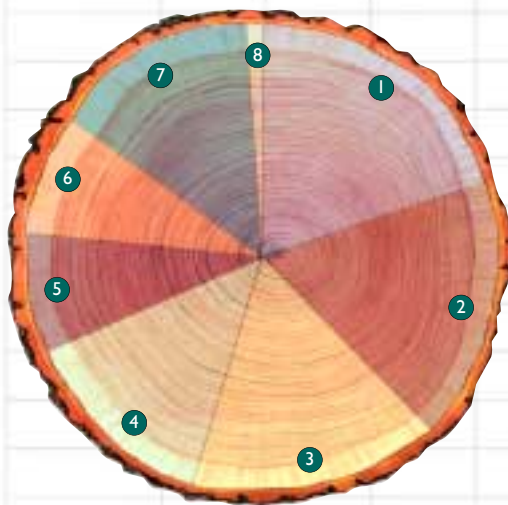
Income



	£000s	
Lottery grants	3,980	1
Legacies	2,619	2
Other grants	2,236	3
Public donations	2,109	4
Membership	1,879	5
Donated land	870	6
Companies	864	7
Woodland management income	760	8
Landfill tax credits	597	9
Trusts	472	10
Merchandise & lotteries	386	11
Investments	324	12
Other income	155	13
	17,251	

From April 2000 new legislation meant we were able to recover tax from many more of the donations from our supporters. Tax recovered contributed £577,000 towards our vital work. Thanks are due to those supporters who signed a Gift Aid declaration to make this possible. Others are urged to do the same as there are no additional costs to the supporter and the benefits to woodland are great.

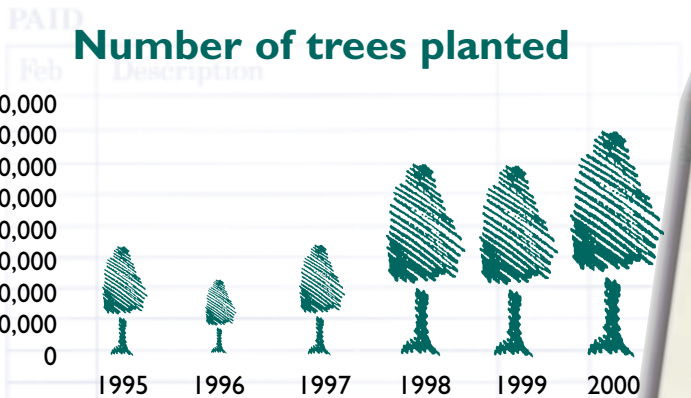
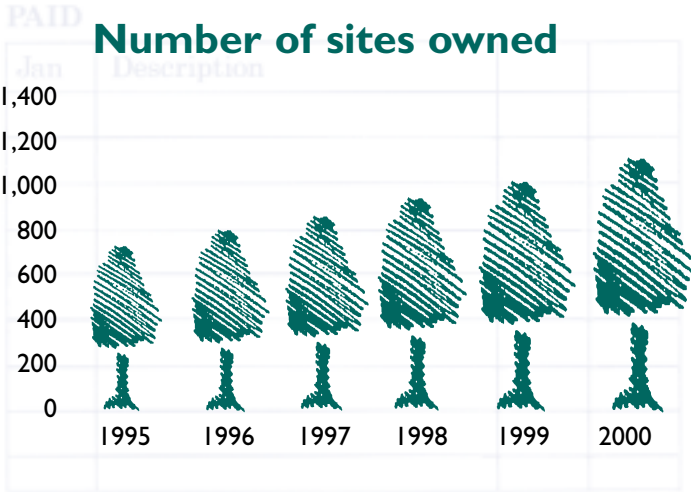
Expenditure



	£000s	
Acquisition of woodland and land	2,631	1
Tree planting & associated work	2,906	2
Other woodland management	2,481	3
Woodland access work	1,994	4
Education & information	1,230	5
Operational support costs	1,203	6
Fundraising & publicity	2,049	7
Management & administration	151	8
	14,645	
Total income less expenditure	2,606	
Restricted income set aside to meet future project costs:		
Woods on your Doorstep	1,735	
Other	357	
Increase in unrestricted funds from operations	514	

85p in every pound goes on direct charitable expenditure

The importance of donations from individuals cannot be overemphasised (see page 12). For every new member, we can protect another half acre of woodland. Funds from companies and trusts are also vital and these are further acknowledged on page 19.



Hone Wood, Yorkshire

Dr Asser's bequest

Mrs Lida Newman, daughter of Dr Elizabeth Asser, explains why her mother decided to leave a legacy to the Woodland Trust.

Dr Elizabeth Asser had two great passions - trees and Yorkshire. To see bluebells growing under trees just coming into leaf, or dew glinting on autumn leaves, was bliss.

In the 1970s, she became a supporter and left the Woodland Trust a legacy in her Will. To her, trees, whether they were growing singly, in a small copse or a great forest, were a sight of wonderment, important for the health of every living creature and the planet's future. She would say that, without the benefit of trees, everything would die from pollution, lack of resources or disasters.

Elizabeth Asser loved Yorkshire. When she died in January this year, donations were sent to the Trust which, added to her legacy, have made it possible to create a living memorial to her and her two great passions.

For the most up to date news of what's happening in Yorkshire, visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk/yorkshiredales

The Hone Wood legacy

Dr Asser's bequest contributed to the creation of a brand new wood near the village of Boggle Hole, North Yorkshire. Christened 'Boggle Top' by the local villagers, the wood will extend the ancient Hone Wood. 10,530 trees are being planted there this spring - mostly oak and ash.

Dr Elizabeth Asser (second from right) on her 70th birthday surrounded by her three sisters and her daughter.



- Living Heritage, the Trust's legacy newsletter

Our millennium projects, Wild about Woods and Woods on your Doorstep, have made a major impact on our finances this year. Woods on your Doorstep in particular has led to an income of over £6 million in the year 2000. It is important that we can continue to successfully raise funds for these projects in the new millennium to ensure that the benefits to people and wildlife can also be reaped in future years.

In the year 2000, legacies were extremely important to the Woodland Trust, enabling us to lay strong foundations for the future and achieve real results on the ground. Dr Elizabeth Asser's bequest is one such example.

Corporate Partnerships

In 2000 the Woodland Trust raised £7.6 million from companies, charitable trusts and through grants. Apart from the obvious direct benefits to woodland, this activity led to thousands of people supporting the Trust who hadn't done so before. Here are just a few examples.



The ever popular Christmas card recycling project was run for a second year on a larger scale than ever before. With the help of Boots The Chemists, Nottinghamshire County Council, local authorities, the DETR and Cleanaway, 400 tonnes of cards were collected, releasing landfill tax funds to help create 12 new Trust woods. Later in the year, Boots also promoted our **Plant a Tree** scheme in store and in their Christmas catalogue, helping us to raise a further £32,000.



Soft drinks company, Calypso, teamed up with the Trust to help UK schools to go green. Education packs were distributed to schools wanting to learn more about trees and woodland. To receive environmental teaching resources for the school, children collected special straws from the drinks cartons.

In 2000, the Royal Bank of Scotland increased its donation for each new Woodland Trust MasterCard from £5 to £10. Promotion of the card is extended to also reach non-members.



In February, the Post Office chooses the Woodland Trust as its millennium staff project. 320,000 current and retired employees learn about our work and were encouraged to Plant a Tree.

The Woodland Trust Scotland Corporate partnerships filenote



Subject:
Scottish Forest Alliance and Glen Quey

Background:
£10 million over ten years is probably the largest company sponsorship made available to a UK environment project.

The Scottish Forest Alliance is a collaboration between the Woodland Trust, RSPB, Forest Enterprise and BP. Working together, the ambitious target of creating between 5,000 and 10,000 hectares (12,500 to 25,000 acres) of woodland will be achieved.

The first wood to be planted will be Glen Quey, a new Woodland Trust site in Perth and Kinross, Scotland. At 382 hectares (944 acres), this will be the Trust's third largest wood. In this glen, we expect to plant 450,000 native broadleaf trees, creating predominantly upland oak woodland.

During the life of the project, many new native woods will be regenerated to restore the landscape, increase the variety of wildlife and provide community benefits. There is also an opportunity for research into how trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere to offset the causes of climate change.

It is not inappropriate to bill a project of this scale

Acknowledgements

CHARITABLE TRUSTS

We are grateful to the many charitable trusts that supported our work during 2000. The following donated £1,000 or more:

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 Alan Evans Memorial Trust
 Animal Charity Trust
 Ballinger Trust
 Becket Bulmer Charitable Trust
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Words: Sallyanne Fleming

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Cover picture: Easters Wood, a Wood on your Doorstep at Leominster. Photograph by Robin Weaver

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