

The Woodland Trust

in the West Midlands

The West Midlands contains 11% of England's remaining ancient woodland in a landlocked region, three quarters of which is agricultural land. Although the region is the fourth most densely wooded in England, 86% of all individual woods are under 2ha in size. New woodland creation can play an important role in reducing this fragmentation to help make native woodland more robust in the face of climate change.

New woodland will also contribute greatly in other areas – for example, despite the plethora of very small woods, the value of woods and trees to health in the West Midlands has been estimated at £4.5 million.

As well as saving what we already have and creating new native broadleaf woodland to buffer and extend existing ancient woodland, we also want to ensure that people everywhere can get the benefits of woods and trees.

In the West Midlands, the Trust has:

- 52 sites covering nearly 700ha and containing more than 420ha of ancient woodland
- more than 13,000 members

The region has:

- nearly 100,000ha of woods covering 8% of the land area – a 1.5% increase in cover over the past 20 years
- more than 39,000ha of ancient woodland, only 16% of which has statutory (SSSI) protection
- more than 20,000ha of planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS)
- the value of woodlands and trees to health in the West Midlands is estimated at £4.5m

Only 15% of people can access a wood of at least 2ha within 500m of their home and 64% are able to visit a wood that is 20ha or more within 4km of their home.

What we want to achieve in the West Midlands

Woodland creation



Easters Wood, Herefordshire

Despite woodland covering nearly 8% of the West Midlands, many people still live a long way from an accessible woodland. Plus, there are areas where trees and woods can bring great

benefits, such as improved air and water quality. So we promote and fund tree planting in partnership with other landowners, and we lobby for trees and woodland to feature in the region's green infrastructure strategies.

Restoration of planted ancient woodland sites

The rich diversity of plants, animals and fungi found in ancient woodlands suffers greatly when non-native trees, such as



PAWS restoration work

conifers, are planted on these sites. In the West Midlands there are thousands of hectares which have met this fate, so we aim to restore these sites on our own land and assist others to do likewise.

Ancient woodland protection

Ancient woodland is irreplaceable and home to more rare and threatened species than any other UK habitat, so we strive to protect it. We lobby for it to have explicit protection in planning documents; we encourage local authorities to update their ancient woodland inventories; and we fight threats from new developments.



Little Doward Woods, Herefordshire

Adapting to climate change

Climate change poses a massive threat to species and habitats in the region but we are working with others to help the natural world adapt by reconnecting fragmented woods.

People engagement

Visiting woods provides many physical and mental health benefits, so we work with schools, youth groups, health organisations and others in the region to give people the chance to get out and about in woods.



Outdoor learning

What we are doing i

Woodland creation

Pipe Hall Farm, Staffordshire

Well positioned between Burntwood and Lichfield, this young wood is very popular with visitors – not least because of its flat and easy walking. Set in a predominantly arable area within the Mercia Community Forest, carefully planted native broadleaves are designed to compliment the two established woods and the raised viewpoint across adjoining historic parkland to Lichfield Cathedral beyond. Visitors are well served by an extensive network of paths, and the recent purchase of an extension to the site will see a further 13,000 trees planted along with many wild flowers.



Pipe Hall Farm

W/TPL/Robin Weaver

Other woodland creation sites: Kingstree Wood, Warwickshire and Duddas Wood, Staffordshire

KEY:

- Woodland Trust sites in the West Midlands

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Shropshire Hills
Ancient Woodland
Project

Credenhill F

W/TPL/Ron Batten



Flowers Wood

Landscape-scale partnerships

Shropshire Hills Ancient Woodland Project, Shropshire Hills AONB

In partnership with the Shropshire Hills AONB and the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust has contributed to this exciting project with a landscape-scale vision focusing on ancient semi-natural woodland and planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS). With a dedicated project officer in post, the aim is to restore ancient woodland and improve management for biodiversity, landscape and heritage through landowner engagement, targeted advice, and help with grant aid and support for woodfuel and wood product supply chains within the AONB.

Another landscape-scale partnership:
Woolhope to Malvern project



W/TPL/Steven Kind

n the West Midlands

WTPL/Katherine Jatech



Credenhill Park Wood

Planted ancient woodland site (PAWS) restoration

Credenhill Park Wood, Hereford

Credenhill Park Wood is a high profile 91 ha ancient woodland site, forming an imposing landscape feature situated close to the city of Hereford. It also contains a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the form of a prehistoric hill fort. The site provides an impressive example of multi-purpose woodland management: as

well as enhancing biodiversity by broadleaf restoration of PAWS, management activity has also seen sensitive tree cover management to protect the archaeological integrity of the hill fort, together with establishment of a local community volunteer group to aid public understanding and enjoyment of the site, whilst also contributing practical maintenance.

Another PAWS restoration project: Woodbury Hill/Moccas Park restoration partnership with Natural England



Credenhill Park Wood

WTPL/Jeremy Evans



People engagement

Pepper Wood, Worcestershire

Pepper Wood is an important ancient woodland remnant of the historic Forest of Feckenham and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific

Interest. Dominated by oak and birch, the wood boasts an exceptional diversity of tree, shrub and plant species including the wild service tree and violet helleborine, and its easy access and inviting network of paths make it popular with both the local community and visitors alike. The wood is enthusiastically supported by the Pepper Wood Community Group, who are primarily involved in biodiversity management, with up to 25 volunteers meeting twice a month for approximately 120 hours of volunteer time.

Another site for people engagement: Uffmoor Wood, Worcestershire



WTPL/Georgina Smith



Pepper Wood

WTPL/Paul Bunton

About the Woodland Trust

**The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity
It owns over 1,000 woods and has more than 190,000 members in the UK**

Our vision is for the UK to be rich in native woods and trees that are enjoyed and valued by everyone and we have the following core beliefs:

- There should be at least twice as much native tree cover in the UK
- There should be no further loss of any ancient woodland
- Every child should have a chance to plant a tree
- There should be a wood with open access close to everyone's house
- Everyone should recognise that trees and woods are an essential part of a healthy environment

In order to achieve these, we use our own sites as well as working with other landowners such as farmers and local authorities. We lobby politicians and policy makers, undertake research, form partnerships with corporate bodies and others, and help people who are keen to do their bit to champion woods and trees.

These are some of our recent projects:

Woodland Carbon

Establishing new native woodland is a cost effective way to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide. The Trust's Woodland Carbon project is available to businesses and individuals, as well as via our award-winning payroll giving scheme, and enables us to plant trees that will benefit people and wildlife for generations to come.

woodlandtrust.org.uk/carbon

Ancient Tree Hunt



Thousands of people are helping create a map of the 100,000 oldest, fattest trees across the UK. This will be used by the Woodland Trust, the Tree Register of the British Isles and the Ancient Tree Forum to help secure their future.

AncientTreeHunt.org.uk

Nature Detectives

Our online children's activity club has been visited by over a million people and is helping inspire the tree lovers of the future. There are over 26,000 members including schools and youth groups and the website has more than 1,000 downloads featuring games and activity sheets.

naturedetectives.org.uk



Plant woods and trees

We want to see a doubling of native tree cover in the UK and so we are helping landowners, such as the NHS, farmers, local authorities and community groups create places rich in native woods and trees. We run schemes such as MOREwoods, which provides support to people planting at least one hectare of new woodland. We also provide tree planting packs for schools and community groups to plant in their local area. For guidance on planting trees, take a look at our website.

woodlandtrust.org.uk/planting

WoodWatch

Ancient woods across the country are threatened by development – we have recorded threats to at least 800 of them over the last ten years. WoodWatch encourages people to keep an eye on their local woodland and provides campaigning tips to help fight any threats.

WoodWatch.org.uk

Nature's Calendar

Volunteers are recording seasonal changes using our interactive website which is providing us with a crucial source of evidence as to how our wildlife is responding to climate change.

naturecalendar.org.uk



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

For further details of these and other areas of our work visit

woodlandtrust.org.uk

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