

The Woodland Trust in Yorkshire and Humber

Yorkshire and Humber has a population of more than five million people and includes the major cities of Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, Hull and York but 86% of the region is rural. Despite this, many people live in urban and intensively farmed arable areas with poor access to their natural environment. The region also has a relatively poor record on issues such as obesity and life expectancy.

There was once extensive tree cover, but the development of industry and agriculture has reduced this considerably, especially in South and West Yorkshire. Recreating woodland is a priority for the Trust in order to benefit biodiversity and to provide recreation opportunities for people. There are also major concentrations of planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS – ancient woodland which has been replanted with conifers) and restoring these is vital to ensure that the remaining ancient woodland is not lost forever.

In Yorkshire and Humber, the Trust has:

- 76 sites covering over 667ha and containing more than 320ha of ancient woodland
- more than 11,000 members

The region has:

- over 90,000ha of woodland and over two million individual trees
- woodland cover of 5.8%, ranging from 13.6% in Ryedale district to only 0.3% in Hull city.
- more than 23,000ha of ancient woodland, only 9% of which has statutory (SSSI) protection
- more than 13,000ha of planted ancient woodland sites (PAWS)

Only 16% 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 Yorkshire and Humber

Woodland creation

WTP/L



Birdwell Woods, South Yorkshire

Creation of new native woodland will help improve the environment and quality of life in urban areas and in more rural areas it can help improve water quality and alleviate certain types of flooding. We promote and

fund tree planting in partnership with other landowners and work closely with regional partners such as Natural England and the Forestry Commission on a number of projects. We also lobby for trees and woodland to feature in local and sub-regional 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 conifers, are planted on these sites. In Yorkshire and Humber we aim to restore these sites on our own land and assist others to do likewise.

WTP/L David Rodway



Hackfall, North Yorkshire

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.



Scar & Castlebeck Woods, North Yorks

WTP/L James Simpson

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

WTP/L Stuart Handley

What we are doing in the

Woodland creation

The NHS Forest

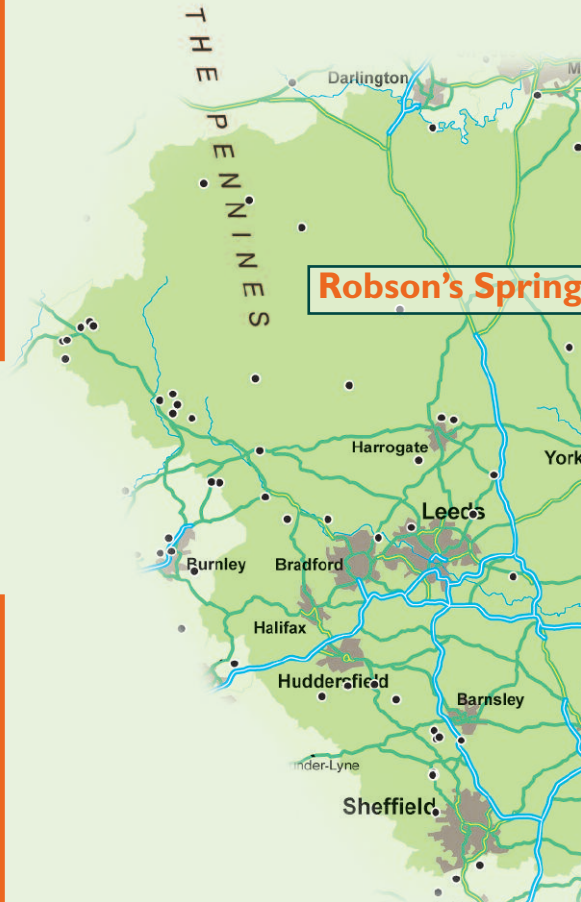
We are a key partner in the NHS Forest project which aims to plant 1.3 million trees on NHS land and engage patients, staff and the wider community in the benefits of trees and woodland for health and well-being. Yorkshire and Humber NHS and the Woodland Trust have been leading the way with this project on five pilot sites. Our experienced woodland officers have spent time on each site helping devise a planting plan and providing support for people engagement plans that will ensure the trees benefit as many people as possible. We are now extending this work nationwide and expect more woodland creation partnerships with other landowners to emerge in the near future.

Other woodland creation projects include MOREwoods tree planting on scores of sites in the Yorkshire Dales (woodlandtrust.org.uk/MOREwoods); Birdwell Wood, South Yorkshire and Westfield Wood, York



Tree planting at Airedale NHS Trust

WTP/David Lund



KEY:

- Woodland Trust sites in Yorkshire and Humber

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Landscape-scale conservation

Harry's Folly, Yorkshire

Less than two miles from the coastal town of Robin Hood's



Harry's Folly

WTP/Alistair Nash

Bay, Harry's Folly is a 14ha semi-natural ancient woodland which is part of a larger chain of ancient woodland in the North York Moors National Park. Relatively undisturbed, it is particularly vibrant during spring and early summer, with successive displays of snowdrops, primroses, bluebells and daffodils. With the backing of the local community, adjacent land was acquired, planted, and named 'Boggle Top' in 2001 as part of our successful 'Woods On Your Doorstep' campaign to create 200 new woods to celebrate the Millennium. Two additional pieces of land were subsequently purchased and planted to buffer and extend this valuable habitat. Also within the National Park are the significant sites Scar & Castlebeck Woods (52ha) and Stray Head Banks (21ha).

Other landscape-scale projects: several woods owned by the Trust in Nidd Gorge, North Yorkshire, and Birdwell, Bagger, Lower Lee and Nabs Woods – forming part of the South Yorkshire Community Forest



Nidd Gorge

WTP/Jean Edwards

WTPL/Mark Feather



Robson's Spring Wood

Planted ancient woodland site (PAWS) restoration

Robson's Spring Wood, North Yorkshire

Purchased in 2008, most of this 43ha woodland was planted in the 1960s with a variety of non-native conifers for a timber crop. Unfortunately, these have shaded the original ancient woodland species to the point where their survival had reached a critical stage. Restoration work was urgently needed to prevent their total loss and started in 2009, but recovery will be

gradual and work will continue over many years. The wood is within a concentration of similar sites and shares their characteristics so it is useful as a demonstration site to persuade other landowners to take similar action.

Other PAWS restoration projects: Bagger Wood, South Yorkshire; Skipton Woods, Bilton Beck & Rudding Bottoms, both in North Yorkshire; New Covert and Park Wood, East Yorkshire



Bagger Wood

WTPL/Simon Clark



People engagement

Hull City Green, Hull

Over a three year period, the Hull City Green project planted 100,000 trees in Hull – England's least wooded city. The project created 20ha of new woodland, with groups of trees and woods close to homes, schools and roads. A total of 6,300 local people, including local community groups, youth groups and schools, took part in identifying areas for new woodland, planting the trees at schools and community tree planting events. The project was part funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the Forestry Commission and involved the Woodland Trust working in partnership with Hull City Council and BTCV.



Hull planting

WTPL/Mark Feather

WTPL/Paul Moseley



Hackfall

Other people engagement sites: Nidd Gorge and Hackfall, North Yorkshire; Wantley Dragon, Firth and Bitholmes Woods, South Yorkshire



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.

naturescalendar.org.uk



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

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

woodlandtrust.org.uk

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