

The Woodland Trust and local authorities: maximising the benefits of woods and trees



WOODLAND
TRUST

As the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, the Woodland Trust can help local authorities harness the potential of trees and woods.

We have more than half a million members and supporters and around 1,000 woods, covering over 26,000 hectares in our care across the UK.

Since 2010 we have planted nearly 500,000 trees in partnership with local authorities.

We are a key partner, offering a range of solutions that will enable local government to achieve its environmental ambitions for woodland and green space protection and management, despite tight budgetary constraints.

Woodland and green space management for people and wildlife

A shared ambition:

Well-managed and protected tree-rich green spaces at the heart of communities, delivering multiple benefits for people and wildlife.

Our offer

- Our report 'Trees or Turf' demonstrates how green space management costs can be significantly reduced by planting trees.
- Our unique MOREwoods offer can provide trees for planting on local authority and/or private land.
- A co-ordinated network of community woodland management groups can help with the upkeep of existing and newly planted trees and woods.
- We can provide volunteers and offer advice in this area.
- Best practice advice on woodland management and expertise on ancient woodland restoration.
- We can help you interpret Forestry Commission data to identify where to plant trees for flood alleviation.
- Through our urban work we can help you plant the right tree in the right place for maximum benefit.
- We can help you get communities inspired by urban planting and trees.
- Help publicise best practice by local authorities in the media.
- We provide free tree packs for schools and community groups in your area.



Working with local authorities to secure effective policies for woods and trees

A shared ambition:

Robust policies which secure the many benefits of woods and trees, halting loss of ancient woodland and creating more canopy cover for everyone to enjoy.

Our offer

- Help to prepare robust planning policies that better protect ancient woodland and veteran trees, identified as a priority by central government, without compromising your development needs.
- We can supply model wording and a template supplementary planning document on ancient woodland and ancient/veteran tree protection.
- A body of guidance in the 'Evidence, Policy and Practice' section of our website to aid policy and strategy development.
- Following a nationwide survey of planners we have identified key areas of confusion regarding planning and ancient woodland. We can offer free CPD sessions with your planners to work through these.
- We support neighbourhood planning through model wording, information resources and sharing best practice.

Development that connects people with trees

A shared ambition:

Opportunities arising from new developments are maximised to ensure people benefit from trees; respecting existing valued trees and delivering ambitious levels of new planting.

Our offer

- Support for you to negotiate extensive green infrastructure as part of new development, in particular increasing tree canopy cover, to make home and work environments more desirable, healthier places.
- Our 'Residential Developments' report will inspire developers about the benefits trees will deliver.
- Advice on design where the scheme is genuinely ambitious about the use of trees and green space.



Local authorities helping to tackle tree disease

A shared ambition:

Local authorities are on the front line of tree disease. We want to see an approach that is sympathetic and which plans for future loss and replacement of trees.

Our offer

- Tree packs to fight the impact of tree diseases on our landscapes.
- Tailored advice for local authority staff.
- Our expertise on Woodland Trust procurement standards.
- We will help voice your concerns in our contact with senior central government officials working on tree disease.
- We will collaborate to develop and share a bolder partnership offer to the most affected local authorities.

Harnessing the health and wellbeing potential of trees for communities



A shared ambition:

Maximise the public health benefits of woods and trees by promoting access for recreation, exercise, community engagement and wellbeing. Protecting and expanding the street tree population.

Our offer

- Champion evidence that informs local authority strategies and the work of health and wellbeing boards.
- Help you encourage the use of woods for physical exercise.
- Promote the need to keep existing woods and trees for the health benefits they provide; such as reducing childhood asthma.
- Link up with healthy living initiatives and promote the 'green prescription' approach to health and the natural environment.
- Help make the economic case for why investment in woods and trees will provide long-term benefits that far outweigh any short-term savings from cuts.
- Invest in our children's future – helping connect schoolchildren with woods and trees. We have planted almost five million trees with schools since 2004.

Celebrating and sharing good practice



A shared ambition:

Promoting good practice to demonstrate what can be achieved and to drive up standards on tree protection and planting rates.

Our offer

- Promote, support, and endorse good practice wherever we find it, and provide an online framework for creating a tree strategy.
- Regularly share the latest good practice from around the UK to help local authorities keep up to date, learn from the best and avoid duplication.
- A targeted approach to partnership opportunities in key areas.
- Support a network of councillor tree champions to promote good practice.
- Champion ambitious green infrastructure strategies and tree health policies.
- Draw upon the knowledge and expertise gained through our programmes on working at a landscape scale for biodiversity and continue to share the learnings.
- Work with our members and supporters and the wider public to increase engagement on protecting and planting trees and woods.
- Promote the great innovation that we see local authorities doing and showcase their achievements with central government and business.



To find out more please contact us at
governmentaffairs@woodlandtrust.org.uk,
on **0330 333 3300** or see **woodlandtrust.org.uk.**



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