

Join us

ON THE JOURNEY TO

2025



WOODLAND
TRUST

Pull on your boots, take a deep breath of fresh air and get ready...



As a child, I climbed a tree in the middle of my Dorset village with friends to get a great (and secret!) view of life. Now, I want to share the Trust's exciting view of how trees and woods can change all of our lives for the better.

Our plans for the next 10 years are ambitious, focused and achievable, with great opportunities to work with partners. Whether protecting our most precious trees and woods; restoring landscapes; planting more trees for the future; engaging more people in our cause; giving us a stronger voice; or helping raise money - partners will be at the heart of our plans.

However, we're not being ambitious for ambition's sake. Threats to woodland, wildlife and the wider environment are growing, and this has an impact on all our lives. We need to act fast and effectively against these threats and realise the opportunities we have to make the UK a better place.

Over the next 10 years we want to focus on the role of trees in our landscapes, inside and outside woods and in urban settings too. We also want to rekindle people's relationship with trees and woods, making them integral to our lives.

These plans may be ambitious but our vision remains the same - a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

Come and join us on the journey.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beccy Speight".

Beccy Speight
Chief executive

A large, leafy tree stands in a field, with the sun shining through its branches, creating a silhouette effect. In the foreground, a line of sheep is grazing in a field.

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Pests and diseases

The increasing number of pests and diseases attacking trees in the UK is having a real impact on our woodland and wildlife. Chalara ash dieback alone could claim millions of the UK's ash trees, particularly affecting our landscape outside of woods, while oak trees are suffering the impact of acute oak decline.

Loss of natural benefits

Trees provide many benefits we often take for granted such as cleaning air and water, soil stability, reducing traffic noise and reducing flood risk - so losing woods and trees could affect every area of our lives. An opportunity in this area is the emerging concept of 'natural capital' - a way of valuing these benefits in economic terms.



Weak protection

There are weak levels of legislative protection for our most precious woods. Dwindling grant funding is adding to the pressure.



Time running out

The clock is ticking to save the surviving patches of native species in the many ancient woods felled and over-planted with conifers in the last century. These plantations are ready for harvesting and without appropriate management and restoration, the remnant wildlife and plants, their unique soils and hidden heritage features, may never recover.



Leaving the EU

The UK's exit from the EU offers a big opportunity to re-think land use policy so landowners are much better incentivised to plant trees. This needs to be accompanied by ensuring that environmental protection from the EU is fully incorporated into domestic law and not watered down. Real protection for ancient woodland and veteran trees is something that badly needs to happen anyway and must not be side-tracked.



Find out more about the challenges faced by our woodland and wildlife at woodlandtrust.org.uk/threats

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The challenges



Our trees and woods face a challenging combination of pressures: climate change, inappropriate development, pollution, a growing population in a predominantly urban environment and attack from deadly tree diseases and pests.

Land use change

Changes in land use have led to woodland and hedgerow destruction and fragmentation, with:

- » 319 irreplaceable ancient woods lost or damaged in the last decade alone.
- » Over 700 ancient woods currently under threat
- » 100,000 miles of hedgerow destroyed.

We are currently one of the least wooded countries in Europe.



Wildlife habitats lost

Many wildlife species are at risk as habitats shrink and ecosystems are compromised. Hundreds of animal and plant species have declined in the past 50 years; with many now endangered and some facing extinction.



90%

fewer hedgehogs are around today than in the 1950s, with over a third lost in the last 10 years alone



76%

of the UK's butterfly species have declined over the past four decades



44 million

breeding birds have been lost since the 1960s

Welcome to 2025

Here's what the future looks like:



» A tree planted for everyone in the UK - that's 64 million.



» More engagement with people in urban areas to help them appreciate the value and benefits of trees where they live, work and relax.



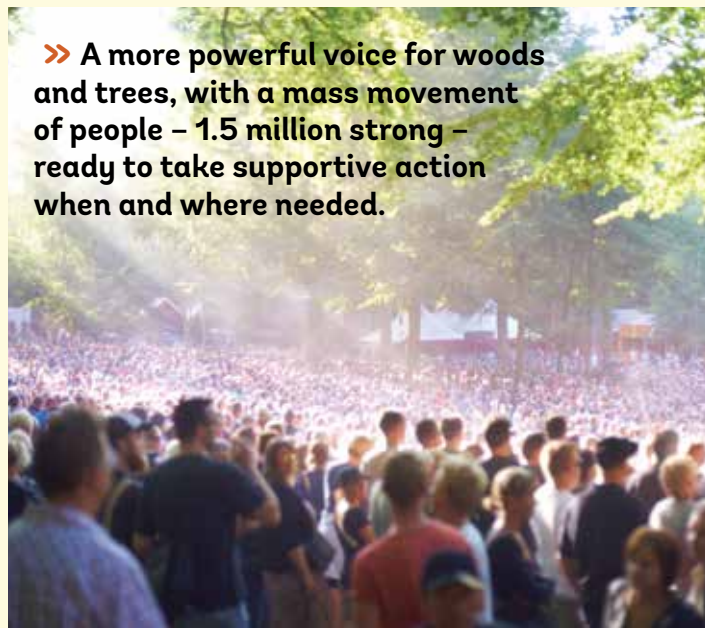
» 10 selected showcase woodlands that really demonstrate the importance of trees and woods.



» More visitors and an improved visitor experience at our estate's top 250 sites, delivered with the help of more volunteers – growing everyone's understanding of the value of woods and trees.



» 20 million new trees planted outside woods – in hedgerows, by streams, across the wider countryside, on farms, in towns and cities and on community land.



» A more powerful voice for woods and trees, with a mass movement of people – 1.5 million strong – ready to take supportive action when and where needed.

» Virtual experiences available for our more remote, hard-to-reach sites to provide the 'next best thing' to inspire supporters.



» An increase in the woodland we manage to make it more resilient to external pressures and provide more engagement opportunities with visitors.



» Real landscape change in focus areas through protection, restoration and creation of woodland to demonstrate how we can make our landscapes more resilient for people and wildlife. This will mean increasing our work with farmers and landowners beyond our own estate.



» Improved protection for our precious ancient woods, and plans in place to protect other woodland valued by communities.



» The role of trees and woods in our landscapes and communities being actively championed, and their benefits recognised and valued more widely.



» Two million trees planted each year by the community through school, urban and orchard tree packs.



» Many more active volunteers to help us where they're needed.

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We need you!

To help us meet these challenges we are looking for partners to work with us on exciting projects:

- » connecting with urban audiences
- » helping raise funds
- » engaging with potential supporters
- » planting more trees in places that make a difference
- » protecting ancient woodland and restoring whole landscapes

With such wide and varied challenges, these partners will also be many and varied. We hope they'll include:

- » companies
- » farmers
- » local authorities
- » communities
- » landowners
- » volunteers
- » funders
- » philanthropists/donors
- » and others inspired by our vision

We've got bold plans for the future and we need you to be part of them.



Find out how you could get involved.
Full contact details on back page


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Inspired? Don't get left behind!


Find out how to join us on our journey:

- » **Companies:** corporatepartnerships@woodlandtrust.org.uk
- » **Volunteering:** volunteering@woodlandtrust.org.uk
- » **Community tree packs:** communitytrees@woodlandtrust.org.uk
- » **Farmers/local authorities/landowners:** plant@woodlandtrust.org.uk
- » **Government affairs and policy makers:** governmentaffairs@woodlandtrust.org.uk

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