

Trees

Trees are important

- Provide oxygen
- Store carbon
- Improve air quality
- Conserve water
- Preserve soil
- Support wildlife
- Key solution to climate change
- Make our communities more beautiful
- Improve our wellbeing



*Source: www.treecouncil.org.uk

Trees are at risk

- Woodland covers just 12% of the UK and around half of this is coniferous plantation. The area of semi-natural woodland is just 1.2% of the UK.
- Britain remains one of the least-wooded countries in Europe and the tiny area of surviving ancient woodland is still under threat. Woodland birds and butterflies continue their long-term declines.
- Traditional ways of managing woodlands, such as coppicing have declined and many woodlands have been left unmanaged or managed for timber. This has led to structural change within the wood, a lack of trees at different stages of growth and a lack of opportunities for animals to thrive.
- Woodland species are often not very mobile and the fragmentation of their habitat means isolated wildlife populations can be at risk of local extinctions.
- The arrival of new diseases like ash dieback may also have far reaching consequences.
- Climate change may increase vulnerability through changes in temperature, in rainfall and in the frequency and severity of storm events.
- Development pressure remains a problem, particularly in the south-east of England where homes and roads threaten woodland, or trees are removed to make way for development.

How Wildlife Trusts help

- The Wildlife Trusts care for hundreds of woodland nature reserves, managing them sympathetically for wildlife, and encourage others to do so, too.
- A mix of coppicing, scrub-cutting, maintaining rides and glades, and non-intervention all help woodland wildlife to thrive.

How people can help

- By becoming a member of the Wildlife Trust in your area you can help to protect woodland nature reserves.
- Planting trees is a great way to enhance your garden – trees offer shade, a natural windbreak and a little more privacy. It is also a great way to attract wildlife into your garden. www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-plant-tree
- You can also volunteer with your local Wildlife Trust and get involved in everything from traditional forest crafts to raising awareness about woodland animals.
- Adopt a tree www.wildlifetrusts.org/adopt-species/adopt-tree-or-habitat

Helpful links

www.wildlifetrusts.org/adopt-species/adopt-tree-or-habitat

www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-plant-tree

www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/trees-and-shrubs

www.wildlifetrusts.org/habitats/woodland

www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-advice/how-manage-woodland-wildlife

www.wildlifetrusts.org/where-see-ancient-and-unusual-trees

www.treecouncil.org.uk



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