

4 YEARS
AND STILL
GROWING



WOODLAND
TRUST

40

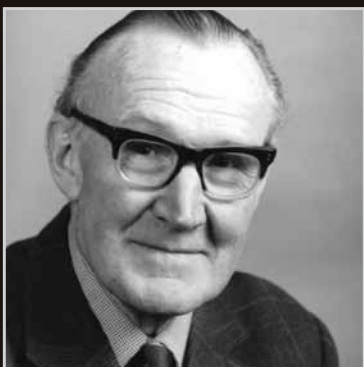
YEARS
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GROWING



Thank you

Together, we have restored landscapes, breathed life into communities and inspired millions of people with a love of nature and a determination to act on its behalf.

Thank you so much for everything you've helped us achieve in the past 40 years – we simply couldn't do it without you.



The Woodland Trust is founded by **Kenneth Watkins** to acquire and care for threatened woods for the public to enjoy, and to plant trees.

4
1972



The first of many – **Avon Wood**, a threatened ancient woodland in Devon is purchased, saving it from almost certain clear-felling and replanting with conifers.

1973



Hedgerow beech trees near Okehampton in Devon are saved, and with the purchase of a neighbouring field become our first woodland creation site, **Dishcombe Wood**.

1974

Our story

40



I can hardly believe I've worked at the Woodland Trust for almost half its existence!

In this time I've had the privilege of meeting an incredible range of passionate people; volunteers, supporters

and colleagues, who really care about making a difference for our woods and trees.

As we mark our 40th year and consider our journey so far, we want to recognise those people who have made it possible. People like you.

From the moment we acquired our first wood in Devon's Avon Valley back in 1973, to today when our estate totals more than 1,200 woods, our founding principle – to look after woodland for people and wildlife – has held true.

But while our foundations remain solid, our approach has evolved. When I joined the Trust we'd just piloted the Cambridgeshire Woodland Community Fund, which was about planting woods close to people's homes and proved a great success. That led to our Millennium Woods on your Doorstep project, which saw 250 woods planted across the UK by local people. That taught us the importance of enabling children to plant,

leading to our firm belief that every child should have the chance to plant a tree. Today, more than 4 million children have planted with us.

In 2005 we launched Trafalgar Woods, teaming up with landowners to plant larger scale woods. We continue to work with all kinds of partners – most recently through our Jubilee Woods project – as we work to double native woodland cover; a crucial and ambitious target we can't meet alone.

But while creation is necessary, we must also protect and restore the irreplaceable and established woodland we already have.

Over the years, we've restored 10,000 hectares of precious ancient woodland, including Wentwood in Wales, which now teems with wildlife after careful intervention to remove stifling conifers. And we've bought ancient woodland sites like Penn Wood, a magnificent 176-hectare mosaic of habitats saved from becoming a golf course.

However, none of our achievements would have been possible without your help and support.

Thank you for making a real and lasting difference.

Karl Mitchell
Director of Fundraising

Left: Coed Nant Gwernol – WTPL/Richard Becker

After five years,
the Trust owns

22
WOODS

covering
189 hectares (467 acres)
in six counties.



The first licensed planting scheme agreement was signed, helping landowners to create small woods, copses and hedges.

1977

1979



Coed Lletywalter, 38 hectares of ancient woodland and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Snowdonia National Park, becomes the Trust's first Welsh wood.

The Trust purchases **Wormley Wood** in Hertfordshire, part of the Broxbourne Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest. These woods were given National Nature Reserve status in 1996.



Create and plant 40

We are at the forefront of woodland creation in the UK, working to double the number of native trees for wildlife and people. With only 4% native woodland, planting more will help combat climate change, improve resilience and enhance the environment for future generations.

“ This little wood, even though the trees are still small, has given me a place to walk to, where I can sit and think over the past week and have some inner stillness. Thank you. ”

Mr Druiland, Monks Wood

Left: Victory Wood tree planting day – WTPL/Nick Cobbing

Celebrating 10 years,
the Trust now owns

80
WOODS

covering **1,012 hectares**
(2,500 acres) in
23 counties, and has
20,000 members.



Following the public appeal to raise £100,000, **Balmacaan**, near Loch Ness in the Highlands, became the first site we acquired in Scotland.

1982

10

1984

4 Create and plant

Over the last 40 years, with tremendous help from our supporters and landowners across the UK, we've helped create 13,500 hectares of new native woodland and plant 20 million trees – many planted by local communities.

“...in about 80 years' time this tree will be a lot bigger and I'll have loads of grandchildren and I'll be able to take them down to Westfield Wood and say: 'This is the tree that I planted.'”

Aron Robinson, age 11

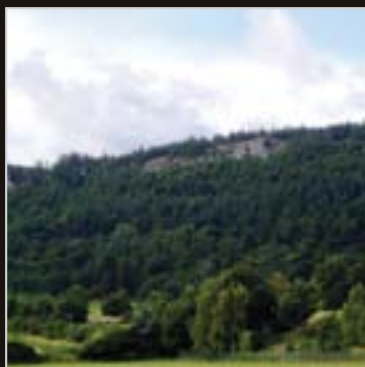
Right: Wembury Primary School community tree planting – Paul Glendell



The government launches its **'Broadleaf Policy'** which introduces a presumption against the conversion of broadleaved woodland to conifer plantations.



The worst storms for over **250 years** rage across the south and east of England. Supporters pledge **more than £250,000** to help restore our storm-damaged woods.



The Trust acquires its largest Scottish site at the time, **Moncreiffe Hill** in Perth and Kinross. It is officially opened by Lord Sanderson of Bowden, Minister of State for the Scottish Office.

1989



Staff numbers now reach 50 people.

1990



Hedley Hall in Tyne and Wear was the Trust's first purchase in a Community Forest and the start of a beneficial relationship with the Forests for the Community initiative. The Trust now cares for sites in all 12 Community Forests across England.



Trenant Wood, near Looe in Cornwall becomes the Trust's 500th wood.

Protect and restore **40**

Forests, woods and trees are crucial to life on our planet.

Today the UK can boast barely a quarter of the woodland cover enjoyed by the average European state and our ancient woodland is slowly disappearing, now covering less than 2 per cent of the UK's land area. In the last 12 years our *Woods under Threat* team, supported by a network of volunteers, have helped save 484 ancient woods.

“Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism.”

Sir David Attenborough

Left: Brede High Woods – WTPL/Colin Varndell



The Trust purchases its largest ever site, 711 hectare **Ledmore & Migdale** in the Highlands.

The Trust receives its largest gift of land to date from the Glenrothes Development Corporation; **25 urban woods** and open land for planting covering 324 hectares in Glenrothes, Fife.



1993

1994

4 Protect and restore

Since our first purchase of Avon Wood in 1973, the Woodland Trust has gone on to buy and protect 1,276 woods which cover 23,580 hectares. We have also restored an incredible 10,000 hectares of ancient woodland buried under conifer plantations.

“...those grey, gnarled, low browed, knock-kneed, bent, huge, strange, long armed, deformed, hunchbacked, misshapen oak men that stand awaiting and watching century after century biding God’s time with both feet in the grave and yet tiring down and seeing out generation after generation.”

The ancient trees in Moccas Park
by Rev Francis Kilvert (19th Century diarist)

Right: Cwm Mynach – WTPL/Rory Francis
Inset: Wentwood – WTPL/Jane Corey



Glen Finglas Estate near Callendar, in the heart of Scotland’s first National Park, becomes the Trust’s largest site at over 4,000 hectares.



John James, the Trust’s first employee and chief executive, retires after 20 years service.



The first site in Northern Ireland is acquired – the 5 hectare **Kilcooley Wood** in Bangor, County Down.



Following a year-long nationwide campaign, **Penn Wood**, the largest beech wood in the Chilterns, is acquired and saved from being turned into a golf course.

1998

1999



The **'Woods on your Doorstep'** project is completed to mark the Millennium, which sees the creation of 250 new community woods.



All the Trust's woods now achieve FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification for woodland management, the first major landowner to secure this in the UK.



Glen Quey (385 hectares) in the Ochils is acquired.

The Trust in Wales (Coed Cadw) starts a major £650,000 project to restore seven of our ancient woodland sites damaged by planting with non-native conifers.

Inspire and engage **40**

People as well as trees have always been at the heart of the Woodland Trust, whether through the estimated 12 million visits each year to our woods, the sterling contribution from our 1,700 volunteers, the tremendous support from our 400,000 members and supporters, or through involvement in our inspirational activity programmes, from *Nature's Calendar* to the *Ancient Tree Hunt*.

“ It made me feel very good that I'd planted a tree and it would grow and be part of a big forest one day. ”

Rhianna Smith, age 11.
Grindleton Primary School, Lancashire

Left: Barney, an 8.3m London Plane in central London – WTPL/Edward Parker

The Trust now cares for
1,135
WOODS
covering **19,112 hectares**
(47,220 acres), and has planted over
5 million trees.



The future of a rare piece of ancient woodland, **Prehen Wood** in County Londonderry, Northern Ireland, is secured in Trust ownership. The wood is rich in both history and wildlife, including the endangered red squirrel.

4 Inspire and engage

We're particularly keen to inspire and engage children in our work, as we know that early experiences of woodland are a foundation for a lifelong commitment to keeping woodland alive.

In 2004 the Woodland Trust set out on a journey to make planting trees a part of growing up for every child. Inspired by the short story *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Giono, which describes the power of individual actions against apparently overwhelming odds, the *Tree For All* campaign set out to give every child the chance to plant a tree, and a staggering 4 million children have taken this opportunity.

“I would love to do it again; planting a tree gave me a great feeling inside, a real feeling of happiness.”

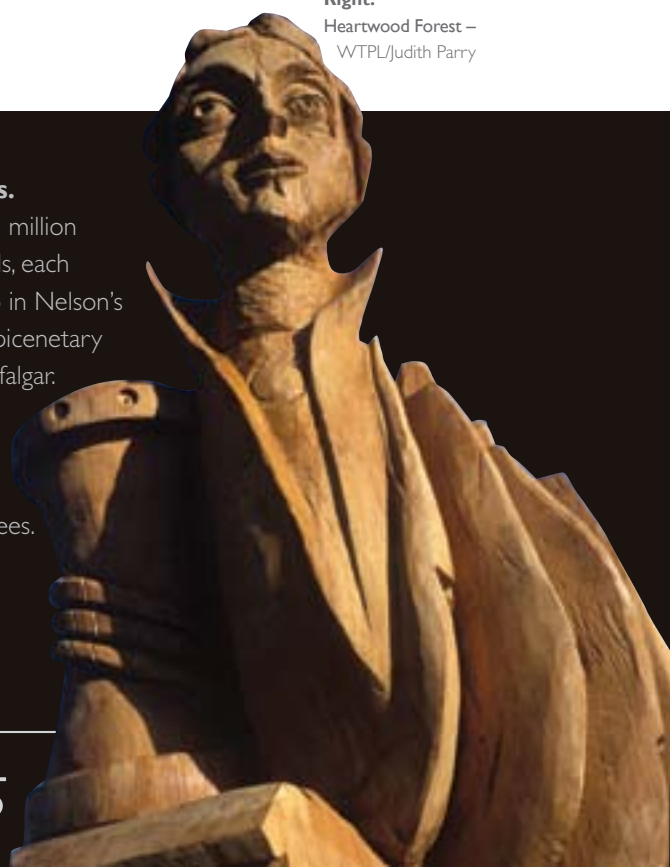
Lucy Beech, aged 10, Fleckney Primary School

Right:
Heartwood Forest –
WTPL/Judith Parry



Tree For All, the Trust's most ambitious campaign to date is launched – with the vision that every child should have the chance to plant trees.

Trafalgar Woods. We raised over £3 million to create 33 woods, each representing a ship in Nelson's fleet, to mark the bicenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. In total, more than 80,000 children helped plant around 450,000 trees.





The Trust produces the first ever **Ancient Woodland Inventory** for Northern Ireland, a vital first step towards safeguarding the future of Northern Ireland's ancient woodland.



The Trust launches the **Ancient Tree Hunt**, which aimed to record 100,000 ancient trees over the following 12 years. We achieved this in just 5 years!

2006

2007



The Trust acquires **Heartwood Forest** near Sandridge, St Albans and begin to plant 600,000 trees to create England's largest new native forest.



Work begins on **VisitWoods**, our website to promote and facilitate the use of local, publicly-accessible woodland for health, recreation and enjoyment.

Government plans to sell off Forestry Commission land pushes the protection of ancient woodland to the very top of the political agenda. We worked to ensure decision makers were clear on the vital importance of protecting and restoring England's ancient woods and campaigned for stronger safeguards.

The future

40

With your help we've come a long way in 40 years but we're still one of the least-wooded countries in Europe with just 4 per cent native woodland cover – an appalling statistic. It hasn't helped that since the 1930s over half of the little ancient woodland that remained has been lost or damaged. And while we fight to protect what's left our woodland faces other challenges, such as competing land use, tree disease and climate change.

Meanwhile, more and more evidence surfaces to demonstrate the many benefits our woods and trees provide to our environment, economy, health and wellbeing. We hope we can continue to work with you to protect, restore and create woodland for the benefit of both people and wildlife, in keeping with our founder's vision.

Thank you for all your support. Together we are making a real difference.

Clockwise from top left:

Duke of Burgundy, a threatened fritillary butterfly, now found in only 20 sites in the UK – UK Butterflies/Peter Eeles

Cutteridge Wood, a Woods on your Doorstep wood now 12 years old – WTPL/Adam Burton

Tullynagardy Wood, Northern Ireland: deemed suitable for housing development, now saved following objections from local people and the Trust – WTPL

Hermitage Quarry, damaging quarrying next to ancient woodland, Oaken Wood, Kent – WTPL/Christine Byrne

Trees in the farmscape help reduce the damaging effects of surface water run-off as crops, soils and nutrients are washed away – Environment Agency

Tree planting at Wembury Primary School, Plymouth – WTPL/Paul Glendell

Ancient woodland, Monmouthshire – WTPL/Jane Corey

Jubilee Woods is launched.

The Trust aims to plant 6 million trees and involve 3 million people through Jubilee Woods, in celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, planting 60 Diamond Woods, each of at least 60 acres, and more than 200 Jubilee Woods.

**After 40 years,
the Trust cares for**

**1,276
WOODS**

**covering 23,580 hectares
(58,267 acres) and has helped plant
more than 16 million trees.**



2011

2012

40

Thank you



WOODLAND
TRUST

woodlandtrust.org.uk

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