



Community Wood Project

Launch February 25 2016

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WOODLAND
TRUST

The social and economic impact of community woods.

Community woods can provide local solutions to local issues addressing:

- Improving air quality, a venue for physical exercise, improvement of mental health and wellbeing
- Amenity – improved perception of areas, creation of a local identity and community cohesion
- Supporting a low carbon economy – a supply of fuel, addressing the urban heat island effect and reducing flooding
- Education – forest schools show learning outdoors increases confidence and team building, increases concentration and enhances learning impacts
- Social Isolation – opportunities for people to come together, studies show a 50% reduction in crime rates in vegetated areas

Ensuring that communities value their woodland and protect it for the long term is essential

Increasing cuts in public spending is resulting in undermanaged woodland and reduced biodiversity. This limits the potential of communities to access the many benefits trees and woods provide.

There is a big opportunity to empower communities across the UK to take ownership of their local woods



Our challenge

- Only 15% of people have accessible woodland near to their homes
- Just 0.2% of the UK's woodland is owned by communities
- Communities tell us they lack the skills, confidence, access to land and funding to get involved – together we can change this!

The time is now to create a UK wide community woodland movement!



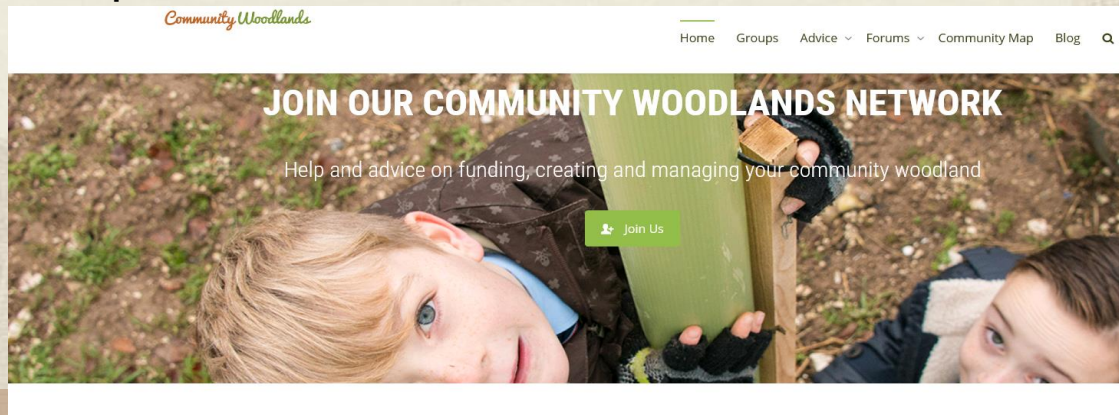
Our shared vision is for every community in the UK to have the opportunity to own, plant and manage their local woods

A Community Woodland network

www.communitywoodland.org

The Woodland Trust and Nationwide have set up the online Community Woodland Network website www.communitywoodland.org to:

- Build knowledge and enable the sharing of skills, delivered through an online matching tool.
- Share useful resources – advice, templates and discussion forum
- Create an online map of community projects across the UK
- Run bespoke award schemes such as Nationwide Community Wood of the Year

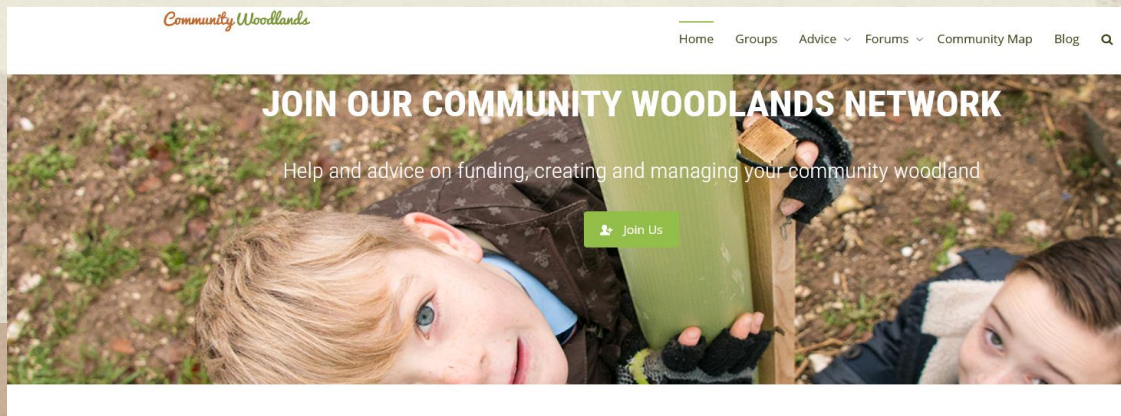


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There are many ways in which you could help bring this to life before the official launch on 25th February.

- Plotting your group on the map or encouraging groups you are associated with to do so.
- Kick starting the conversation on our discussion forums.
- Starting to explore the advice on offer
- Contacting us if you are interested in writing a blog – it could tell your community woodland story or focus on an area of interest such as coppicing, managing woodland in urban areas or tree dressing (blog templates available).



Kindly supported by:



Community Woodlands Pilot

Community Woodland Grants and Support – Northern England

Reaching Cumbria, Northumberland, Yorkshire (South, East, West, North) Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Tyne & Wear, Co Durham and Teeside we will:

- Offer start-up grants of £500 (40 available). The start-up grant could help cover the costs involved with establishing new woodland groups including hiring equipment and venues, travel, training, fundraising activities, publicity and costs of formal incorporation.
Application for start up grants open 29th Feb 2016 (grants available over 2 years).
- Provide project support grants of £10,000 for at least 10 communities
Our woodland support fund is for communities looking to take on greater responsibility for their local woods or even buying woodland as a community asset.
- Support grants applications open 29th Feb and close 16th May 2016 (Grant to be spent over 2 years).
- Run community training workshops as part of a knowledge share partnership.
- Offer advice and support via the online hub and Community Woodland Officer.

Community Woodland Project

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