

5 WOODLAND & TREES



WILD WOODLANDS

Woodlands cover 13.2% (3.2 million ha) of the UK's land surface. Half of this is native tree species, the other half is mainly non-native commercial conifer plantation. Native woodlands provide rich

habitats for numerous species of plants and animals, they **capture and store carbon**, they **protect soils** and help to **reduce flooding** and they **provide health benefits** to us all.

Woodlands in Britain hold 213 million tonnes of carbon of which ancient and long-established woodlands hold 77 million tonnes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR WOODLANDS?

Our native woodlands are becoming increasingly threatened and fragmented because of changes in farming practices, increased building and infrastructure development and the spread of tree diseases such as ash dieback. **Only 7% are currently in good ecological condition.**

A mature oak tree will support over 280 different species of insects.



One of the longest-lived native trees in Europe is the yew. You can find an ancient specimen next to the church tower.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTIONS

There is a national drive to plant trees to sequester carbon and benefit wildlife – but **we must ensure the right trees are planted in the right place** and then looked after properly.

We will be planting trees in and around Watlington as part of the Green Plan, aiming to create new and better connected habitats.

Woodland trees are connected to each other and the soil through complex networks of roots and fungi - called the **WOOD WIDE WEB**

Support Green Plan actions!



Donate here

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Plant trees – choose native species of the right size for the space you have available. Plant in the dormant season; water them in dry periods and make sure they have space to grow.

Stop before you chop! Sometimes trees grow too large and need cutting back; this should only be done in the winter to avoid disturbing nesting birds and other wildlife. Only use reputable contractors.

Plant native young trees seeded naturally in your garden in a pot and care for them as they could be used elsewhere in and around Watlington.

Photo credit: Nicola Schäfer

GREEN PLAN ART TRAIL

CREATED / SUPPORTED BY:  **dp** architects
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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GREEN PLAN GO TO:

www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/green-plans