



### **Autumn Woodland Exploration and Observation**

The Woodland Trust is urging everyone to make some time to visit their local woods, and, to ensure that you get the best experience from your day out, it suggests you go to the VisitWoods website ([www.visitwoods.org.uk](http://www.visitwoods.org.uk)), which will not only show you the total number of accessible woods in your area (by country), but also allows you to browse by selecting options such as ‘autumn colour’, ‘café or kiosk’ and ‘wheelchair access’. In searching for the best woods to visit at this time of year, you will be adding to the 483,000 visits to the website. Then, if you take some photos of the wood(s) you visit, you could add them to the 9640 photos and 1643 comments and wood descriptions already uploaded.

If you would like to formally record what you see when you are out and about in woodlands, you can register for a free starter pack at the Nature’s Calendar website ([www.naturescalendar.org.uk](http://www.naturescalendar.org.uk)) and record what you saw in the woods; for example, although the green tones on some trees have already been replaced with browns, the trees are not yet in their full autumn colours. On the website, there is an option to record either the first autumn tinting or the full autumn colouring – with instructions on how to identify each. You can also record the departure of swallows and swifts and the arrival of fieldfares and lapwings; and the scarcity or abundance of holly berries. The site provides you with a downloadable recording guide and a recording form on which to record your sightings. All these recordings add to the scientific study of the times of recurring natural phenomena, which is called phenology, and which plays a very important role in estimating climate change and demonstrating how it is affecting our wildlife habitats and ancient woodland.

A good wood for autumn colour in the Runcorn area is Clinton Wood, Widnes.

**- Ends -**

For media enquiries, please contact: Ms Debra Williams, Woodland Trust media volunteer for Cheshire and Merseyside, on 07783 997129 or email: [debra@wordsanddeeds.co.uk](mailto:debra@wordsanddeeds.co.uk). Or contact the Woodland Trust national press office on 01476 581111.

IMAGES: To download images of trees and woodland please follow the hyperlink <https://www.woodlandtrust.presscentre.com/imagelibrary/>

**The Woodland Trust** is the UK’s leading charity championing native woods and trees. It has 300,000 members and supporters.

The Trust has three key aims: i) to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees ii) to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future iii) to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees.

Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,000 sites in its care, covering approximately 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres). Access to its sites is free.

## **More about VisitWoods**

VisitWoods is an online woodland database of the UK's woods where you are welcome to visit. You can find woods using your postcode, town name or the wood name.

Over 10,000 woods include woods and forests owned by the Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, local authorities and private owners across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## **Funders**

We are funded by Natural England through their Access to Nature programme, part of the Big Lottery Fund Changing Spaces Programme and:

- Forestry Commission England
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- People's Postcode Lottery

## **Partners**

We work in partnership with other organisations to help promote visiting woods for all. Our partners include Mind, The Stroke Association, Dementia Adventure, The Scout Association and DisabledGo. VisitWoods is a partnership project led by the Woodland Trust which was inspired by the Space for People report.

## **Sponsors**

DoubleTree by Hilton, IKEA Family and Yell all support VisitWoods.