



Find an 'undiscovered wood' near you...

The Woodland Trust is encouraging people to explore their nearest 'undiscovered wood' – find yours at VisitWoods.org.uk. The online woodland database contains over 10,000 woods open to the public across the UK, but many woods listed contain no further information or photos and it is these sites that the Trust is encouraging nature lovers to visit, take some photographs and upload them to the VisitWoods database. Visitors can even write about the woods, to help inform future visitors.

Woods in need of 'discovery' and promotion in the Merseyside area include: Hale Road Woods, in Speke, Rabbit Wood, in Huyton with Roby, Otterspool woodland, and Windsor Road wood, off West Derby Road.

The VisitWoods website is the UK's largest online woodland database and contains woods managed by a range of landowners including the Woodland Trust, National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts and Forestry Commission.

Gail Graham, VisitWoods Project Manager, said: "The beauty of VisitWoods.org.uk is that most of the information is added by people who have visited each individual wood. By adding photos, blogs and access information it informs others who may be planning a visit of what to expect. We're hoping people will be keen to take up the challenge of exploring our 'undiscovered woods' and tell others about what they discover."

The VisitWoods website aims to encourage people to visit their nearest wood for health and recreation. By providing information about each wood's attractions, location and accessibility it makes visiting a wood as straightforward as possible for all ages and abilities. To find your nearest undiscovered wood go to **VisitWoods.org.uk**

The creation of the VisitWoods website has been made possible by funding of £1.2 million from Natural England's Access to Nature scheme, which is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, with further support coming from Yell and DoubleTree by Hilton.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

For further information please contact the Woodland Trust press office on: 01476 581 121 or email chrishickman@woodlandtrust.org.uk

VisitWoods:

VisitWoods is a partnership project, led by the Woodland Trust which receives funding from Natural England (through their Access to Nature programme, part of the Big Lottery Fund Changing Spaces Programme), Yell, People's Postcode Lottery, the Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The project has also been made possible with the support of the Forestry Commission England, National Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Action for Children, Walking for Health, Age UK, EcoMinds, The Scout Association, DoubleTree by Hilton and DisabledGo.

Access to Nature:

1. Access to Nature is run by Natural England and is part of the The Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces programme launched in November 2005 to help communities enjoy and improve their local environments.
2. Natural England manages this £28.75 million Lottery-funded programme on behalf of a consortium of twelve national environmental organisations comprising BTCV, British Waterways, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Greenspace, Groundwork UK, Land Restoration Trust, The National Trust, Natural England, RSPB, the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust.
3. Through this programme, it is Natural England's ambition to create opportunities for people from all backgrounds to have greater access to our natural environment and bring a lasting change to their awareness and understanding as well as improved links to the natural world, which many of us can take for granted.
4. Access to Nature closed to applications in May 2010 but for further information about the programme visit www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature
5. The Big Lottery Fund is the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. For further information about the Big Lottery Fund, its programmes and awards visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

About Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity championing native woods and trees. It has more than 300,000 members and supporters and its three key aims are: 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.

