



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pack up your troubles, and your summer picnic, and smile: *Brackfield Wood, Saturday 19 August*

A visit to Brackfield Wood this summer is an absolute must. And if you go down to the woods on Saturday 19 August, you're in for an added surprise.

The Woodland Trust's Centenary Wood, in the heart of the north west's beautiful Faughan Valley, is the venue for a Saturday brimming with activities – from mindfulness to storytelling, and all free of charge.

Simply book your place in advance, don walking boots, and pack a picnic and rug to really make a day of it.

Brackfield Wood is one of just four flagship woods taking shape across the UK to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War. In total, the Trust's ambitious *Centenary Woods project*¹ will see millions of trees planted in recognition of the millions of lives lost.

Over 23,000 flourishing saplings, out of an ambitious 40,000 target, are already springing to life at Brackfield. The trees will be a unique and lasting tribute to the people from Ireland who played a part in the war – the soldiers, their families, and loved ones.

In complete contrast to the sadness and destruction, Brackfield Wood is an uplifting sight. It's right by the banks of the stunning River Faughan and is currently showing off swathes of glorious wildflowers. The colourful mix is a feast for precious pollinators, as well as being easy on the eye.

The charity wants everyone to experience the beauty of Brackfield first-hand, and is offering a range of activities:

11am: Mindfulness walk. Pack up your troubles and take in the calming woodland sights and sounds. This one is for grown-ups only.

12 midday: Storytelling walk. Enjoy tree tales and tall tales for all the family.

1pm: Tree-themed fun and games. A fun way for children to really get to grips with nature.

The activities are free, but booking in advance is essential. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Book online and get all the detail at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events ; or call 0330 333 5302

The Centenary Woods project is supported by the Trust's lead partner Sainsbury's.

Ends

Notes to editors

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¹ The First World War Centenary Woods Project

The Woodland Trust's First World War Centenary Woods project will see four flagship woods created, many smaller community woods and millions of trees planted across the UK to honour all those involved in the First World War. The project will connect people to the natural world, whilst reminding them of the historical significance of the war.

The First World War Centenary Woods are located at Langley Vale, Surrey, Dregghorn Woods, near Edinburgh, Coed Ffos Las in Carmarthenshire and Brackfield Wood in County Londonderry. The First World War Centenary Woods project is supported by lead partner Sainsbury's, helping the Woodland Trust to plant millions of native trees to commemorate the First World War.

Sainsbury's has supported the Woodland Trust since 2004 with the launch of free range Woodland eggs. Since then donations through product sales have expanded to chicken, turkey, apples and honey. The partnership has helped the Woodland Trust to plant two million trees, including establishing a special Sainsbury's Wood at The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood in Leicestershire. The partnership has also enabled the Woodland Trust to provide support and advice to Sainsbury's on tree planting and maintenance to deliver to their farmers across the UK. Most recently, Sainsbury's is supporting the Woodland Trust's First World War Centenary Woods project.

The Woodland Trust is the largest woodland conservation charity in the UK. It has over 500,000 supporters.

The Trust has three key aims:

- i) to protect ancient woodland, which is rare, unique and irreplaceable
- ii) to restore damaged ancient woodland, bringing precious pieces of our natural history back to life
- iii) to plant native trees and woods with the aim of creating resilient landscapes for people and wildlife.

Established in 1972, the Woodland Trust now has over 1,000 sites in its care covering over 22,500 hectares. Access to its woods is free. Further news can be found at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Here in Northern Ireland the Woodland Trust cares for 50 woods. These woods contain a mix of recently planted woodland, mature woodland and ancient woodland. The Trust has produced the first-ever comprehensive record of Northern Ireland's ancient woodland; find out more at www.backonthemap.org.uk