



how to find your dedicated tree

Watkins Wood

by Avon Valley Woods, Woodleigh, Devon

75.65ha (186.93 acres)
 OS Landranger 202
 Grid Reference: SX743493
 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (South Devon)

The Avon Valley Woods are a combination of steep, valley-side ancient woodlands and significant areas of new woodland creation on former arable land. Together with private woodlands to the north, they form an important woodland complex in the South Hams, significant for their value in terms of wildlife conservation, scenic beauty and public access. There are four Woodland Trust owned woods in close proximity: Aveton Wood, Watkins Wood, Centry Wood and Avon Woods.

The Avon River cuts through the valley and criss-crossing the river are the remnants of an old railway that was known as the 'Primrose Line'. Above this and to the east are the Avon Woods. This was the first site acquired by the Woodland Trust and runs for nearly 3km along the east bank of the Avon Valley. Semi-natural and ancient in origin, the woods epitomise Devonian woodlands. They are predominately oak based, hanging on a steep sided valley with open farmland above on the highest ground.

Watkins Wood and Centry Woods are being created on ex-arable farmland running eastwards from the edge of Woodleigh Wood, crossing the plateau near Woodleigh and descending into the Torr Brook Valley. These fields, surrounded by high Devon banks and hedges, will become significant new native woodland in memory of Kenneth Watkins OBE, Founder of the Woodland

Trust. They will extend and buffer the first acquisition and link two valleys together. Some of the site has already been planted with young trees and some is still under an arable farming tenancy. As the land comes out of the farm tenancy, new woodland will be created by planting and, where possible, natural regeneration. Existing woodland in this area consists of a small copse, isolated trees and the lightly wooded Torr Brook.

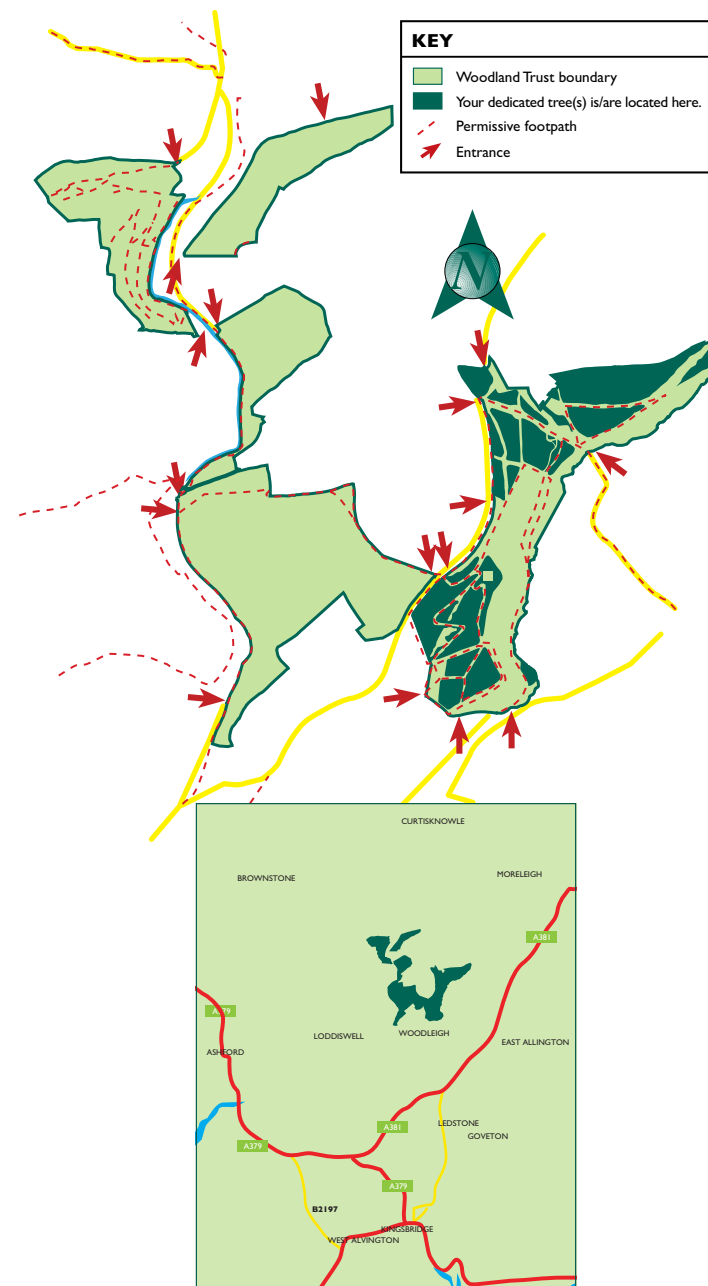
Access to Watkins Wood is via the lane running north from Woodleigh village. Several entrances allow access to these sites with either field and hunting gates on the permissive and public bridleway routes, or kissing gates on the footpath route. Loddiswell Village is 1.5km away.

There is one public bridleway on the site crossing the northern section of Watkins Wood. This route follows a sunken farm lane with an uneven, sometimes rocky surface through the site. Other permissive bridleways now exist around the boundaries of this compartment although wet ground can sometimes make access difficult along the Torr Brook Valley.

For advice on travel by public transport, contact the national helpline on 0871 200 2233.

More information about this wood can be found on the Woodland Trust website: woodlandtrust.org.uk/ourwoods

Call us on our Freephone Number 0800 026 9650 for further information about tree and woodland dedications, or for membership details and general information on the work of the Woodland Trust.



WHEN VISITING THE WOOD PLEASE NOTE

in order to keep our woods as natural as possible, individual trees are not marked in any way.

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