

## Worthy of the Queens' approval: Restoration of Wentwood

Wentwood forest, the largest area of ancient woodland in Wales, has been accredited under The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) initiative. The aim of the initiative is to establish a network of sustainable forest conservation projects across the Commonwealth.



Wentwood's location close to the city of Newport means it is an important community woodland that is enjoyed for recreation, as well as being a haven for wildlife and a sustainably managed source of timber.

The collaborative project involves the two main landowners, Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust. Both parties will work with stakeholders and the local community to explore opportunities that will generate more well-being benefits. For example, promoting recreational activities, improving access, and using Wentwood as an open space to improve people's health and well-being.

Wentwood has a long history of conifer planting dating back to the 1800's. The challenge now is to restore Wentwood to a more natural state, gradually removing the conifers and converting it back to native broadleaves.

Diane McCrea, Chair of Natural Resources Wales said:

*"We're delighted that our ancient woodland restoration project at Wentwood has been granted The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy accreditation. In partnership with the Woodland Trust, this is an excellent example of our collaborative approach to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources".*

Natalie Buttriss, Director of Wales for the Woodland Trust, said:

*"We're immensely proud to be the custodians of a significant part of Wales' largest remaining ancient forest, thanks to the generosity of our supporters. Since we bought the site it's been our aim to gradually restore it to its former, broad-leaved glory and to demonstrate the benefits of doing this. "That's why I'm so delighted that we're working with NRW on a landscape scale to restore Wentwood and that the project has been accredited to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. Together, we can achieve a lot more than either of us could do alone."*

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