



# NEWS DETECTIVES

## TODAY'S NEWS STORY

### Surprise! Scientists find more ancient woods

#### KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Ancient:** Something from a long time ago
- ☐ **Habitat:** The home of a plant or animal
- ☐ **Biodiverse:** Variety of animal and plant life
- ☐ **Development:** Changing a natural landscape



#### BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Woodland is land where lots of trees can be found. It helps the environment by providing a variety of animal habitats and absorbing carbon dioxide from the air, which helps to reduce climate change. Some trees in these areas are hundreds of years old!

Nature is full of wonders! Scientific researchers have just discovered that a large area of woodland in Cambridgeshire is over 400 years old — and full of life!

#### Teeming with life

These woods are classed as **ancient** because they have existed since at least 1600. They are full of nature, including plant life, fungi and insects.

Around 2.5% of all the land in Britain is classed as ancient woodland.

#### A pleasant surprise

Experts are surprised that ancient woodlands exist so close to cities. **Habitat** survey officer Katharine Flach said she was surprised that “ancient woodland can be all around us”.

Katharine identified the woodlands by using centuries-old maps of Cambridgeshire. She then used modern technology to update the maps for the present day.

#### Advantages of age

Ancient woodlands are

good for nature. They are home to species that don't live anywhere else. Newer woodlands are not as **biodiverse** because it takes time for plant and animal life to develop.

Ancient woodlands also receive extra protections against **development**, making Katharine optimistic about their future. “Knowing where those really valuable biodiverse areas are means you can try and join up these landscapes,” she explains.





# INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

## HOW CAN WE PROTECT VITAL HABITATS?

**WHAT**  
percentage of  
British land  
counts as ancient  
woodland?

**WHO**  
is optimistic  
about the future  
of Britain's  
woodland?

**WHERE**  
were the ancient  
woodlands  
found?

**WHEN**  
were the ancient  
woodlands  
born?

**WHY**  
do ancient  
woodlands have  
more biodiversity  
than forests?

**HOW**  
did Katharine  
identify the  
ancient  
woodlands?

### 1 TAKE ACTION

Did you know that ancient woodland areas can often be identified by the plants that grow in them? One of the special things about ancient woodlands is that they are covered in spring wildflowers like bluebells and woodruff. Why not discover the marvels of nature by learning what these flowers look like and going exploring with your parents?



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### 2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that describes the plants and animals you saw. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to [editorial@theday.co.uk](mailto:editorial@theday.co.uk).

### 3 Build THE Change



#### CREATE YOUR DESIGN

How can ancient woodland areas near to cities be protected from too much human influence? Create a poster that tells people why ancient woodlands are so important for nature and the environment.

##### STEP 1:

Think about your design! What is the key information that people need to know? And how can you attract their attention? Make sure your poster is eye-catching!

##### STEP 2:

Build the change! Create your poster and share it with friends and family. If you have time, why not use LEGO® bricks to build a model woodland to show with it?

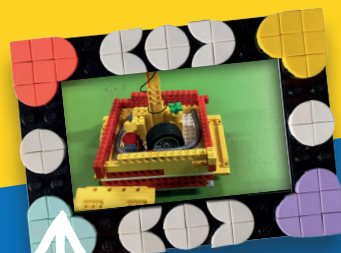
**Share your genius**  
Show your work  
to your class!



Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

### 4 BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown-up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have a floating house to cope with higher sea levels.

**"GREAT WORK!"**



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.  
For any feedback or help please contact [buildthechange@theday.co.uk](mailto:buildthechange@theday.co.uk). Thank you.

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