



Why are UK woodlands important?

Recreation and Well-being

Woodlands are great places for people to visit for walking, cycling, and enjoying nature. Spending time in woodlands can reduce stress and improve mental health. They are important for tourism, bringing visitors to rural areas.

Helping the Environment

Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas, and release oxygen. This helps fight climate change and improves air quality.

Woodlands prevent soil erosion by holding soil in place with their roots and help reduce flooding by soaking up rainwater.

Cultural and Historical Value

Woodlands are part of the UK's history and culture. Many ancient woods are linked to historical events, folklore, or traditional crafts.

Home for Wildlife

Woodlands are habitats for many plants and animals, including deer, foxes, owls, and insects. Some species, like the red squirrel, rely on woodlands to survive.

Ancient woodlands, which have been around for hundreds of years, are especially rich in biodiversity.

How is Charcoal made?

- A successful and healthy woodland requires maintenance. Charcoal is made from logs from Hazel, Sweet Chestnut, Birch, Oak and other native trees of the UK.
- Harvesting of timber -Coppicing is a strategy of removing the timber and allowing the trees to regrow to be harvested in future years. This is the most common strategy for harvesting timber for traditional charcoal
- Charcoal Kiln - The timber is stacked tightly in rings around the kiln, the wood is then lit at the bottom and allowed to spread slowly through the kiln. As there is very little oxygen the wood does not burn completely. The process of carbonisation takes 24-48 hours

What are the uses for charcoal?

- **Fuel:** Used for cooking, grilling, and heating due to its high heat output and low smoke production.
- **Industry:** Used in metalworking, such as smelting and forging, as a heat source.
- **Water Filtration:** Activated charcoal removes impurities and toxins from water.
- **Medicine:** Used to treat poisoning and detoxify the digestive system.
- **Agriculture:** Enhances soil fertility and retains nutrients when used as biochar.
- **Art:** Charcoal sticks and powders are used for drawing and sketching.
- **Cosmetics:** Found in skincare products for cleansing and exfoliation.