

## How you can help keep woodland alive



Peter Nash

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. In over 30 years we have grown from a tiny organisation into one that now manages over 1,000 woods and has planted over 5 million native trees.

If you want to help us in our work here at Prehen Wood or just want to find out more about what we do, please telephone **028 9127 5787** or visit our website at [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk)

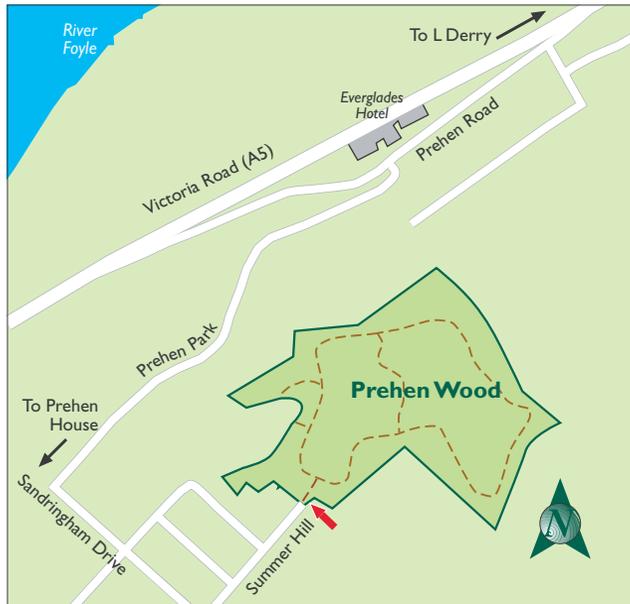
Our work at Prehen Wood is supported by:



## How to find Prehen Wood

### From L'Derry City

Prehen Wood sits on the east bank of the River Foyle, approximately two miles from L'Derry's city centre. Take the A5 Victoria Road from L'Derry to Strabane, along the bank of the River Foyle. Approaching the Everglades Hotel, turn left onto a slip road, Prehen Road. Shortly after, on your right hand side, you will see the main entrance of the Everglades Hotel, from here, Prehen Wood can be accessed via Prehen Park.



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### The Woodland Trust

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Registered Charity Number 294344

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# Prehen Wood

*Sense the past  
Enjoy the present  
Ensure the future*

## Sense the past



The Londonderry Plantation' by T.W.Moody published in 1939 by William Mullan and Son, Belfast.

Prehen Wood is a remnant of the extensive woodland that once covered much of the east bank of the River Foyle from the Craigavon Bridge into County Tyrone. When English planters came to Derry in 1600, Sir Henry Docwra, the then Governor, wrote in his memoirs that he sent men daily from the city over to these woods to bring back timber and that they had to fight for it daily.

Prehen Wood was once part of the Prehen House Estate, which in 1876 totalled 358 hectares (885 acres). The land was once owned by the Goldsmith's Company of London from 1619. The estate was occupied from 1622, firstly by the Elvin and Tomkins families and finally by the Knox family. At the outbreak of the First World War the estate was sequestered by the government, because the last of the Knox family married a German National. After the War the estate was sold off in pieces, including the remaining woods, which were sold in 1929 for timber production. A local outcry ensued about the imminent destruction of the woodland and the editor of the local paper took up the cause, calling for some timber to be left standing. Prehen Wood was spared.

## Enjoy the present

In 2003, with a lot of support from Prehen Historical and Environmental Society, the Woodland Trust acquired the wood at Prehen to ensure this wonderful ancient woodland site would be conserved for the benefit of future generations.

As new keepers of the wood, we are restoring the ancient woodland and creating new habitats for our native wildlife.

It is a wood for all seasons providing year round enjoyment for thousands of visitors. Spring brings an amazing array of woodland flowers, only matched by autumn's stunning colour. Privileged visitors may even catch a glimpse of some special wild inhabitants. There are several walking routes waiting to show you the way, as shown on the map inside this leaflet.

### Ecotrail

Throughout the woodland there are a series of numbered waymarkers. These relate to the Ecotrail. The environmental trail encourages young people to develop an awareness and appreciation of the natural and built environment. It is also linked to the sport of orienteering. For further information go to [www.ecotrails.co.uk](http://www.ecotrails.co.uk)



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## Ensure the future

The Hill is a green lung for the people of Derry. It provides a fantastic recreational and educational resource for both local people and visitors, and is a living legacy for our future generations. It provides a vital wildlife habitat in the middle of an otherwise urban landscape. As more and more people visit Prehen Wood they are already witnessing vital changes. Yet there is much more to do.



WTP/LSteven Kind

# Prehen Wood

## Walking routes



Gregor Fulton



Gregor Fulton

 20 minutes

A 20 minute circular walk taking you through ancient woodland. This is a gentle walk; stout footwear needed.

 40 minutes

A 40 minute circular walk taking you through ancient woodland to a viewpoint overlooking L'Derry City. It also brings you past a disused quarry that is naturally regenerating. This is a gentle walk; stout footwear needed.

**KEY**

-  Woodland Trust boundary
-  20 mins walk
-  40 mins walk
-  Entrance
-  Viewpoint



Sparrowhawk



Red squirrel



Bluebell

Ancient woodland, such as Prehen Wood is a rarity in Northern Ireland and provides a particularly rich and important habitat for wildlife of conservation concern. Prehen Wood provides valuable habitats for a number of animals and birds protected under the Wildlife Order (NI). These include the red squirrel, badger, sparrowhawk and long-eared owl.

A survey carried out in 1997 by Environment and Heritage Service concluded that: "Prehen Wood represents a significant block of semi-natural woodland which is a scarce resource in Northern Ireland. In terms of its habitat, species diversity and mammal interest, it is already of Local Nature Reserve Status." Sixty plant species have been recorded to-date including bluebells, anemones and orchids. The wood is a mixed deciduous woodland of primarily beech, oak, ash and birch. It is surrounded by farmland, housing and a golf course.