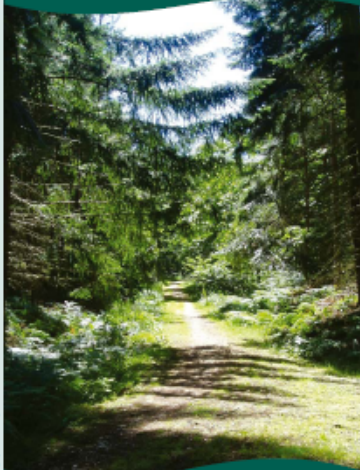




## Pretty Corner Woods



Whether you're walking your dog, bird watching or strolling along the woodland path, Pretty Corner Woods is always open for you to enjoy the changing seasons of the countryside.

## Welcome to Pretty Corner Woods

Pretty Corner Woods is situated on an unusually hilly area of Norfolk between the towns of Holt and Cromer, which helps to give it a unique character and an interesting place to walk and explore. Although the woodland is owned by three different landowners, the whole wood is open to the public to enjoy as an area of recreation.

Pretty Corner Woods rises to 96 metres (315 feet) above sea level at its southern edge, making it one of the highest points in Norfolk, supporting fine views towards the historic holiday town of Sheringham and out to the North sea.



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WTF&P. Photo: Graham's Nature



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## Geology and history

The slopes and valleys that Pretty Corner Woods lie on are part of a ridge that runs from Holt to Mundley (it is however called the Holt to Cromer ridge). Today it is widely believed that it formed approximately 12,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. As world temperatures rose the melt of water from the ice, carried and deposited vast quantities of sand and gravel in North Norfolk. These deposits and later erosion have created the landforms you see today.

Over the years after the formation of the ridge, the land was colonised by natural wildwood. Subsequently this was cleared to provide hunting grounds and land for the beginnings of agriculture. The land would have been grazed, maintaining the landscape as open heath until the Enclosure Awards of 1811.

Part of Pretty Corner Woods was then placed into wood pasture, which enabled the land to be grazed whilst pollarded trees could be grown for timber and firewood. Some of these oak pollards can still be seen today as you walk around the wood.

Since 1825, Pretty Corner Woods developed into an area of woodland through natural regeneration and planting. A large proportion of the wood was bought from a private estate in 1927 for the provision of public open space. Further acquisitions were made until 1974 when the management was passed to the newly formed North Norfolk District Council. In 1997, the Woodland Trust purchased a part of the wood from Forest Enterprise as an area of conservation and public access.

## Pretty Corner Woods today

Pretty Corner Woods is now a mixture of broadleaf and coniferous woodland of varying ages, developing open heathland and open woodland. This has produced a varied patchwork of habitats that provide wildlife conservation benefits and produce sustainable timber and provide informal countryside recreation for the people of North Norfolk.



Left: A close-up view of gnarled oak wood at Pretty Corner Woods.  
Right: View from Old Wood from open heathland at Pretty Corner Woods.

Image: WFTS (Woodland Trust)

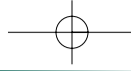
Image: WFTS (Woodland Trust)



## Nature and ecology

Each part of the woodland has its own distinct character, and is a great opportunity to view a variety of plants and trees, such as several varieties of orchid (early purple and twyblades), ling heath, herring, climbing corydalis, veteran oak pollards and imposing grass and Douglas fir. There are a wide variety of animals and birds that also nestle within Pretty Corner Woods, such as slow-worm and adder, mole bats, woodcock, nuthatch and greater spotted woodpecker. While close to the ground on sunny days you can see slow-worms sunning themselves within the heathland areas.





# Pretty Corner Woods



Nuthatch



**KEY**

-  Unit boundary
-  Woodland Trust boundary
-  Anglian Water boundary
-  North Norfolk District Council boundary
-  Blue waymarked route
-  Red waymarked route
-  Green waymarked route
-  Public Right of Way
-  Permissive footpath
-  Track
-  Viewpoint
-  Information board
-  Car park
-  Picnic bench



Photos: Jakob Sigurdsson/jakobs@decade.is

Great spotted woodpecker

