

EM0013

Access

*Norwood can be found just off the A514 half a mile out of Ticknall.*

*Please note that there is no parking at the site or at St. Brides Farm Houses.*

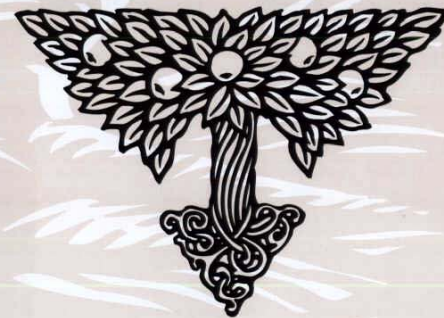
*It is open most days of the year between 9:00am and 5:00pm, (longer in the summer.)*

*If you are coming some distance, please ring to check that we are open.*

*We are happy for you to visit the wood. However, because there are ground nesting birds, please leave your dogs at home and keep to the paths and rides.*

*Norwood Tel No. 07711 699109*

# Norwood at St. Brides



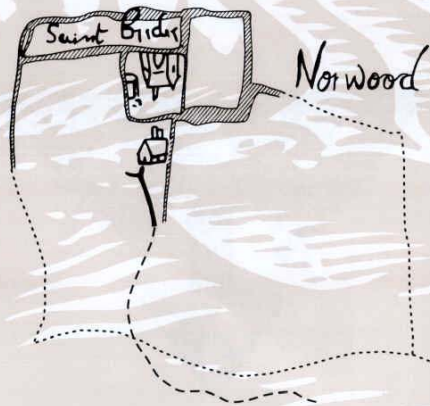
Local Heritage initiative

LHI is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency.

*Norwood is a newly planted wood in a beautiful part of South Derbyshire.  
It lies between the villages of Ticknall and Stanton-by-bridge by an isolated settlement called St. Brides.*

#### **The National Forest**

Norwood is a private wood. It is a National Forest Tender Scheme winner and has areas that are managed under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The landowner has invested in planting this wood to benefit the wildlife, to produce hardwood timber and to contribute to the local landscape. The tree planting consists of broadleaf native trees chosen for their ability to produce high quality and valuable veneer timber. The National Forest is a unique initiative that aims to create a forest across 200 square miles of central England and Norwood is just one of a network of woods that will one day link the two ancient forests of Charnwood and Needwood.



#### **The History of St. Brides**

Norwood is on part of the former farmstead called St. Brides. St. Brides has a fascinating and ancient history. In 1999 a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative helped fund a project to research and interpret its history. Education and information leaflets are available and can be obtained through the National Forest Company.

St. Brides was a working farmstead for over four centuries. In 1998 it was sold and developed for purposes other than farming, including the creation of Norwood. Changes of occupation and land use are not new to St. Brides; archaeological evidence suggests that before the Dissolution of the Monasteries an ecclesiastic building stood on the spot of the former farmhouse, which is now an attractive bed and breakfast.

#### **A newly created pasture wood**

The creation of Norwood saw the transformation of 16 acres of intensively farmed land into pasture woodland. This landscape has probably seen the continual coming and going of scrub, wood, moor, wetland, common and agricultural land and, as before, today's changes are being made for economic, social and environmental reasons.

#### *Landscape design*

"Norwood, with its high aspect, has been designed to contribute to the local landscape." Its scalloped edges benefit the wildlife and soften views into the wood. Its rides and open spaces retain the view out of the wood towards Breedon on the Hill. Although Norwood is on an exposed slope, it has the potential to be tranquil. Design pivots around this and its interesting ground contours. A meadow has been created in the central hollow and eventually the hedgerows and shrubbery around the edge of the scheme will help to block out the wind and road noise that rolls down the slope.

#### *Wildlife habitats*

As well as the trees, various other habitats for wildlife have been incorporated. The stream line has been partly cleared of brambles to allow through some light. A pond has been created and drains have been broken to recreate marshy areas. The hay meadow is being created using seeds collected from local species rich meadows. In the meadow area oak seedlings have been planted around the few remaining oak stands, (which bats are currently using as roosts.) Following the advice of the Barn Owl Trust, barn owls are being encouraged to visit the site. The grass around the oaks is roughly topped in a three year rotation to create a tussocky sward for barn owl prey.