The Birchgrove Woodland Grove

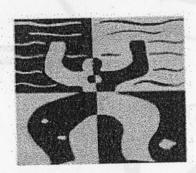
In 1996, The Birchgrove Group sponsored the planting of 1200 trees at the Woodland Trust's woodland creation site at Stratton St. Margaret, near Swindon, Wiltshire, as a living and lasting tribute to the lives of people with Haemophilia who were infected with HIV via contaminated blood products. It was intended, by Birchgrove, that this woodland should become a peaceful place for people to visit and remember those who had their lives so profoundly affected by HIV. These 1200 trees cover approximately 2 of the 135-acre Stratton Wood, and the wood itself forms part of the group of woodlands freely open to the public, collectively known as The Great Western Community Forest.

The purchase and planting of the 1200 trees was financed by donations from people with Haemophilia and HIV, and their affected families, and by contributions from Birchgrove Wales and Birchgrove London and South East. The money donated covered both the cost of planting, and also provided for the long-term maintenance

of the wood.

This grove of trees will not only be a memorial to those who have sadly died, but will also show the resilience and strength of those who are still affected and living with HIV/AIDS.

Birchgrove is a user led self-help support group for people with Haemophilia who have been infected with HIV and HIV/HCV co-infection.



Birchgrove PO Box 9755 Solihull B92 9WA Email- birchgrove1@hotmail.com

For further information about The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL www.woodland-trust.org.uk Tel:01476 581111

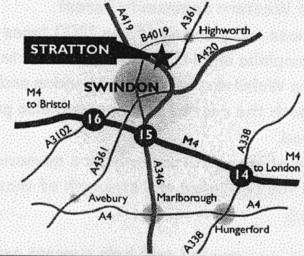


How to find the Birchgrove Woodland Grove at Stratton

The Birchgrove Woodland is set within the land at Stratton which is part of the Great Western Community Forest. To the south can be seen the conurbation of Swindon and to the north is fairly flat arable land with the Lambourn Downs visible in the distance. The Woodland Creation Site is situated on the north eastern edge of Swindon immediately adjoining the A419 Swindon by-pass.



Approaching from the motorway (M4), exit at junction 15 and drive north along the A419 Swindon by-pass. Continue straight over the first roundabout and proceed along the bypass until you come to the A361 turn off for Highworth. Take this road, and at the third roundabout turn left towards the crematorium and continue for approximately half a mile. The site is now located on the right past the entrance to the crematorium and the Kingsdown Mobile Home Park. The car park is accessed directly from the public road and leads into the south east corner of the site.



The Birchgrove
Woodland of 1200
trees is situated in
a triangle shaped
plot close to the
car park and
marked by a
plaque.

