

# Critical Issues for Ancient Woodlands

## Major Event for 2006!

SYBRG – The South Yorkshire ECONET – are holding their annual ancient woodland conference in May 2006. This will also be the launch of the current year's programme of woodland archaeology workshops and there will be important information on the Woodland Archaeology Manual and the associated project. The conference this year will focus on issues of archaeology and ecology, on indicators and assessments, and on the relationships between the resource and its management. There will be something for everyone who is interested in ancient woodlands and their history. We welcome back Dr Richard Muir as our national keynote speaker and an internationally renowned researcher and writer. Richard has just had his new book '*Ancient Trees, Living Landscapes*' published and his talk will make reference to this readable and authoritative account. Other speakers include Professor Melvyn Jones of Sheffield Hallam University who will talk about the special nature of urban ancient woodlands, Susan Bell, the former Director of the National Forest, speaking on the development and impacts of this landmark project, and Barry Wright addressing issues on ancient woodland indicator plants. Dr Ian Rotherham will present an overview of the Ecclesall Woods Research projects, and he and Dr Paul Ardron will discuss the emerging 'new' ecologies and archaeologies of our ancient woods. There will be a presentation by John Booth (Vice President of the Arboricultural Association) on the issues of street trees in urban areas. Other speakers include Dr James Littlemore on woodland recreation and Dr Alan Simson on the NeighbourWoods project.

Held at Whirlow Grange in the leafy suburbs of western Sheffield right on the edge of the Peak District National Park, this will be a packed and exciting event. There will be a locally-based field visit with Sheffield City Council's woodland officers and other experts to help guide the way.

Please see back page of this newsletter for more information and a booking form.

### All enquiries and booking forms to:

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We can provide information on locally available accommodation on request.

**Posters and other displays, materials to hand out, advertising and inserts in delegate packs all welcomed by prior arrangement.**

## Conference Programme

### Friday 5th May

#### 9.30 to 10.00 Registration

10.00 to 10.15 *Introduction & Welcome*

Dr Ian Rotherham, Sheffield Hallam University

10.15 to 10.55 *The Importance of Urban Ancient Woodlands*

Professor Melvyn Jones, Sheffield Hallam University

#### 11.00 to 11.15 Break

11.15 to 11.45 *The Landshapes Project*

Rhiannon Harte, National Forest

11.50 to 12.20 *The National Forest: trees bridging the past and future*

Susan Bell, National Forest

12.25 to 12.55 *Ecclesall & Ladies Spring Woods: ancient woodland in urban Sheffield*

Dr Ian Rotherham, Sheffield Hallam University

#### 13.00 to 13.50 Lunch

14.00 *Coach*

14.20 to 15.45 *Ladies Spring and Ecclesall Woods Field Visit*

Prof Mel Jones, Dan Lewis, Nick Sellwood, John Gilpin, Dr Ian Rotherham

#### 16.10 to 16.30 Break

16.30 to 16.50 *Discussion led by Ian Rotherham*

16.50 **Close**

### Saturday 6th May

#### 9.30 to 10.00 Registration

10.00 to 10.10 *Introduction & Welcome*

10.10 to 10.55 *Ancient Woodlands in the Landscape*

Dr Richard Muir

11.00 to 11.35 *Exotic Plants and Cultural Archaeology: the emerging ecologies and archaeologies of urban ancient woods*

Dr Ian Rotherham & Dr Paul Ardron

#### 11.40 to 11.55 Break

12.00 to 12.30 *Ancient Woodland Indicators*

Barry Wright, ADAS

12.35 to 13.05 *Surveying the Woodland Archaeology of two Sheffield Valleys*

Dr Paul Ardron

#### 13.10 to 14.10 Lunch

14.10 to 14.45 *The NeighbourWoods Project*

Dr Alan Simson, Leeds Metropolitan University

14.50 to 15.25 *Managing public access and recreation in urban woodlands of wildlife value: problems and solutions*

Dr James Littlemore, Moulton College

#### 15.30 to 15.45 Break

15.45 to 16.15 *Sheffield's Woodland Heritage*

Nick Sellwood, Sheffield City Council

16.15 to 16.30 *Discussion and summing up*

Dr Ian Rotherham

16.30 **Close**