

Thursday 4 March 2010

## **Ancient Ash Pollards – to prune or not to prune?**

Cotswolds, near Broadway, Gloucestershire

The Cotswolds are rich in ancient ash pollards. Mans influence on these trees has modified and extended their life span. As a result niche habitats have developed and may be lived in by many interesting and increasingly rare flora and fauna. The tree tells a story of mans influence from a time when these trees were harvested for wood or fodder.



What are the risks involved in managing these trees? Should we intervene and retrenchment prune or leave alone? The aim of this workshop is to discuss the dynamics of managing long-lapsed, ancient ash pollards. We will look at the tree in its own right, as an important habitat for fungi, bats, invertebrates and lichens and as part of our historic past. How can we best promote their natural and living heritage values? Our living time capsules that are also important nature reserves all rolled into one. We will also consider whether and how to create new pollards to continue these important heritage and landscape values into the future.

Come and discover with us some lovely old pollards on the edge of National Trust fields. Tree surgeons will demonstrate reduction work on two lapsed ash pollards.

We will meet at Broadway Tower Country Park and walk down the Cotswold Way. This means a 15 minute walk to the site. Please note if you walk down then you will have to walk back up again. There will be no cafe facilities at the Tower at this time of the year.

Broadway Tower is situated off the A44 Evesham - Moreton-in-Marsh, one mile south-east of the village of Broadway, Grid ref SP 1116 3611