



## Woodland Heritage Champions' Local Groups Initiative

**This interactive project is aimed at** local community groups and individuals who are interested in woodland wildlife, archaeology and history. It is being organised by the South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group (SYBRG) supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will begin in August 2006 with the setting up of the project team and recruitment of groups.

**SYBRG are looking for groups in different areas of England** to help us to produce a Woodland Heritage Manual. The manual will cover the ecology, archaeology, history and landscape aspects of Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands and working trees in parkland and former woodlands. Each chapter, covering specific topics, will contain background information, survey methods, checklists and worksheets to enable people to gather and interpret their own information from their local woodland.

**Background and training materials will be provided at workshops** in the groups' local area with field visits to their own woodland where practical. Workshops will be tailored to the types of woodland that occur locally and individuals or sub-groups will be asked to focus on specific topics covered by the manual. Participants will undertake their own research using the training information provided to gather information for their own woodland and to test out the information for the manual.

**The training will be supported via** an interactive website and an e-newsletter by the core project team. Individuals and groups will be able to exchange information about their own research, take part in an on-line forum and include information in the e-newsletter as well as receive guidance and support from the project team.

**Participants in the project will be asked to** test and give feedback on the material for each chapter. Groups involved will produce case studies for the manual based on their own work. They will be asked to take part in an end of project event which will celebrate their achievements and launch the manual they have helped to produce. SYBRG anticipate that on average each participant will undertake 6 days of work on the project including attending workshops and carrying out their own research.

**The aim is to give participants the knowledge, confidence and support** to become 'Champions' for woodland heritage around their local patch. The Champions work will increase the understanding of the value and future management of their local woodlands.

**The Woodland Heritage Manual** which the Champions will be helping to produce will be made widely available so that others can use the material to develop their own understanding and contribute to the future management of woodlands.

*We are looking to include around 10 woodland groups and already have 6 confirmed Woodland Heritage Champions! If you and/or your group are keen in taking part, please get in touch as soon as possible to ensure we can include you in the project.*

**If you would like to find out more, are interested in taking part, or have a woodland area you particularly want help with,** please contact Lindy Smith on Tel: 0114 272 4227 or email [lindy@ukeconet.co.uk](mailto:lindy@ukeconet.co.uk)

SYBRG will be producing a website specifically for the Woodland Heritage Champions project and we will inform you when this is going live. In the meantime you can visit the SYBRG website on [www.ukeconet.co.uk](http://www.ukeconet.co.uk).