

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bryant, Marion** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, 14 Dec 2020, 5:26 pm
Subject: RE: [URGENT] - Ancient Woodland assessment at Owlthorpe, Sheffield
To: Tom Reed <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Jack Taylor <[REDACTED]>, Sarah Shorley
<[REDACTED]>, Sandra Fretwell-Smith
<[REDACTED]>, SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <[REDACTED]>

Dear Sandra and Tom,

Thank you for your timely email I was just about to reply. Apologies that I didn't get back to you last week as planned I was consulting with colleagues. Natural England has now examined the available evidence for Orchre Dyke (SK415827) and Hanging Lea (SK419825) woodlands at Owlthorpe, Sheffield and we have concluded that there is enough evidence to add these woodlands to the ancient woodland inventory. The ancient woodland inventory will be amended at the next update, which should show on the MAGIC website from mid-February. However, these woodlands should be treated as ancient woodland from the date of this email. Please feel free to use this email as evidence that Natural England considers these woodlands to be ancient and is adding them to the inventory. Whilst the evidence was sufficient to add these woodlands to the inventory, the case could be made stronger, by a full ecological and archaeological survey detailing the distributions of ancient woodland indicator species across the two sites, plus the presence of any archaeological features such as woodbanks, the tree canopy composition and form, including the locations of any ancient or veteran trees / coppice stools. We understand that such a survey may exist – it would be useful if we could see that and also understand the evidence used by the local authority in concluding that these sites were ancient woodland. As this is a change to the inventory I will set out the rationale behind the decision in a report, which I will send to you as soon as it is available this week. I wanted to give you the result of our decision as soon as possible given the imminent public enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Marion Bryant

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<http://www.gov.uk/natural-england>

- During the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are working remotely and from some offices to provide our services and support our customers and stakeholders. Although some offices and our Mail Hub are now open, please continue to send any documents by email or contact us by phone to let us know how we can help you. See the latest news on the coronavirus at <http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and Natural England's regularly updated operational update at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19>.
- Wash hands. Cover face. Make space.