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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

Woodland and Trees Specialist  
Specialist Services and Programmes Team  
**Natural England**

[REDACTED]

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

**From:** Tom Reed [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** 14 December 2020 16:57  
**To:** Bryant, Marion < [REDACTED] >  
**Cc:** Jack Taylor < [REDACTED] >; Sarah Shorley < [REDACTED] >; Sandra Fretwell-Smith < [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Re: [URGENT] - Ancient Woodland assessment at Owlthorpe, Sheffield

Hello Marion

many thanks for getting back to me about this and for looking in to the case.

Sandra has been in touch earlier today as the Owlthorpe Action Group intended on submitting evidence to the public inquiry tomorrow (tuesday).

I was wondering whether it had been possible to reach an outcome about the ancient woodland classification of Ochre Dyke and if so please would you be able to 'reply all' so that our campaigns team and the Owlthorpe Action Group can be advised on whether it is possible for them to include ancient woodland classification in their response via the public inquiry?

Many thanks again for your help with this.

Tom

Tom Reed  
Citizen Science Officer - Ancient Tree Inventory

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**From:** Bryant, Marion < [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** 04 December 2020 17:11:07  
**To:** Tom Reed  
**Cc:** Jack Taylor; Sarah Shorley; Sandra Fretwell-Smith; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [URGENT] - Ancient Woodland assessment at Owlthorpe, Sheffield

Hello Tom,  
Thank you for your email and clarification on the timeline of this case. I am aware of the urgency of this case. Unfortunately I have been away from work recently and not able to examine cases as planned. I have just emailed Sandra to confirm that I have received her evidence and that I will be examining the case next week and will get back to all concerned as soon as I have reached a decision. In future please send any ancient woodland casework correspondence to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk) to ensure it is properly tracked and dealt with in a timely manner.  
Yours sincerely,

Dr Marion Bryant

Woodland and Trees Specialist  
Specialist Services and Programmes Team  
Natural England

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From: Tom Reed [redacted]  
Sent: 04 December 2020 16:43  
To: Bryant, Marion <[redacted]>  
Cc: Jack Taylor <[redacted]>; Sarah Shorley  
<[redacted]>; Sandra Fretwell-Smith  
<[redacted]>;  
Subject: [URGENT] - Ancient Woodland assessment at Owlthorpe, Sheffield

Hello Marion

Hope you are well.

We have been in discussion with Owlthorpe Action Group regarding a planning application that threatens an area of woodland that is potentially ancient, but that has not yet been recorded to the AWI.

Sandra (cc'd) who is part of the group had recently sent across some evidence/maps in the hope that these could provide evidence for this area to be formally identified as ancient woodland on the AWI.

There is a very tight deadline of the 12th December for an appeal to be submitted (next saturday), and identification of this wood as being ancient would be important to establish in advance of this.

I was wondering whether you might be able to confirm a.) that you have received all the information from Sandra or if you are in need of extra information? and b.) whether it is likely that the evidence can be assessed with an outcome by, say, the 9th December?

Any advice you are able to give on this would be greatly received and if you could reply all so that the Owlthorpe Action Group can be informed too then that would be hugely appreciated.

many thanks in advance

Tom

Tom Reed  
Citizen Science Officer - Ancient Tree Inventory

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----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Sandra Fretwell-Smith** <[redacted]>

Date: Sun, 29 Nov 2020 at 17:11  
Subject: Ancient Woodland Designation Ochre Dyke, Owlthorpe Sheffield Urgent  
To: Bryant, Marion <[REDACTED]>

Dear Marion,

I submitted AWI amendment forms for Ochre Dyke and Hanging Lea Woodland in Owlthorpe, Sheffield on the 10th November and supporting evidence. Although there was mention of a survey I was unable to locate it at the time of submitting the evidence to Natural England. I have almost tracked the survey results down but as these are several years old I thought it might be more useful to supply up to date observations. Myself and others from Owlthorpe Fields Action Group have been observing and recording data in Owlthorpe and the surrounding woodlands for several years now. The observations we have recorded have been uploaded to the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trusts Nature Counts database, which in turn is fed in to the National Biodiversity Network's database (NBN Atlas). So, all the observations we have made are verifiable in the NBN Atlas.

I attach the list of observations of indicator species in a spreadsheet; this includes data for both Ochre Dyke and Hanging Lea woodland. Whilst making these observations we were concentrating more on the surrounding grasslands than the woodlands so it is quite likely there may be more indicator species in both woodlands, in particular Hanging Lea wood. We record all our observations on iNaturalist initially before uploading to SRWT's database, so we have easily accessible up to date records of our observations. As such, in addition to the spreadsheet, I have provided photos in a word document specific to the reported observations in the spreadsheet with species common name, date observed and grid reference included for ease of cross referencing.

I hope this evidence is adequate. We are requiring the amendment of the AWI with respect to Ochre Dyke Woodland prioritising as it really needs to be done before December 15th as the woodland is impacted by a planning application which is subject to a public inquiry to be held early January.

I look forward to hearing from you. Hopefully, in addition to the AWI amendment forms for the two woodlands you should have the evidence in the form of current and ancient maps and aerial photos that I sent on the 10th November. Please can you advise me ASAP if you have not received this evidence.

I look forward to hearing from you

Sandra Fretwell-Smith  
[REDACTED]

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----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Sandra Fretwell-Smith** <[REDACTED]>  
Date: Tue, 10 Nov 2020 at 15:26  
Subject: Woodland Inventory Amendment Request  
To: <[consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)>

Dear sir/madam,

Please find attached two AWI amendment request forms for Ochre Dyke and Hanging Lea woodland in Owlthorpe, Sheffield South Yorkshire. I have provided some of the evidence as attachments but could you advise whether you require physical or digital copies of the maps I have quoted or merely the reference and dates of the maps as per the information I have included in the form. The attached maps and additional data relate to both the areas of woodland included in the forms, i.e. Ochre Dyke and Hanging Lea. I am in the process of trying to locate the original survey data.

Kind regards,

Sandra Fretwell-Smith

