

Item 6.8.1

Lost Woods Project – Request from the Woodland Trust

Here are the emails received from the Woodland Trust

Dear Parish Councils

Further to my previous email regarding ancient woodlands in your ownership I wanted to bring to you attention another branch of our project, the Veteran Tree Recorder initiative. We aim to record, by parish, every ancient and veteran tree across the project area, over a 5-year period; this will be the first time that this has been attempted and will ultimately be rolled out nationally.

In order to achieve this we will be looking for volunteers, who will be trained and equipped to carry out the work. Therefore, If you know of anyone who might be interested in participating, please do let us know.

Kindest regards

Previous email

I am writing to let you know of our project, which is located across the low weald and incorporates your parish or some part of it. Together with our partners – Action in Rural Sussex, Sussex Wildlife Trust and the Small Woods Association – we will be bringing to the project area some wonderful opportunities for restoring ancient woodland and for connecting communities to their woodland heritage. We are already working with Hurstpierpoint PC on restoring two blocks of ancient woodland in their ownership and are hoping that you might also have woodland that might be applicable. To qualify the woodland needs to be ancient, or plantation on an ancient woodland site (PAWS) and be of an area of no more than 3ha. However, for the purposes of community engagement we would welcome the inclusion of woodland of any type or size.

We are currently in the development phase of the project, testing a number of delivery techniques and trialling different ways of working which will help us pull together our second-round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) next year. This will, if successful, unlock a 5-year delivery phase and £2.8M of funding and crucially provide us with more resources to provide opportunities for people to join in and help save our ancient woods.

The project has 2 main focuses; to restore and conserve small ancient woodlands and to engage communities in their local wooded areas. We will work with smaller ancient woodland owners to survey and create a plan for the restoration of their woods. Many ancient woods are in poor condition and sufferer from fragmentation, a lack of management, invasive species or pressure from high deer numbers. Whatever is having the biggest impact on the woodland biodiversity, we will

work with owners to tackle it and allow nature to thrive in these special places once more. We also know that many people are not visiting their local woodlands and unlocking all of the health and wellbeing benefits of doing so, so we are engaging communities and developing opportunities to introduce a diverse audience of people to spending time amongst the trees. We are also developing a detailed training program for woodland owners and managers, engaging schools and creating a Forest School network, and recording ancient and veteran trees.

If you have woodland that could benefit from our project, then I would be very interested to hear from you. I attach a project leaflet and a map of the newly **proposed** project area; however, the boundary is as yet unconfirmed and may be subject to change pending a decision by NHLF. If you do not have woodland that you feel is applicable to the project but know of woodland owners within your parish that do, I would be extremely grateful if you could forward these details on to them.

Very best wishes for the festive season

Nicky

Nicky Scott

Project Manager - Lost Woods of Low Weald & Downs

Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL



See associated project leaflet under 6.8.2