

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Fuelling *a revolution*



heritage conserved and protected

Project Summary

A 5-year programme to restore and enhance 35 heritage woods.

Background

In South Yorkshire there are remnants of once extensive woodlands, the same woodlands which provided much of the raw material for the early days of the Industrial Revolution. However, as other materials came to take the place of timber, the management of these woodlands became increasingly neglected; and so the South Yorkshire Forest co-ordinated a restoration bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, using the title, 'Fuelling a Revolution' to emphasise the contribution of the woodlands to the formative years of South Yorkshire's iron and steel industry.

The Project

The project aims to:

- Introduce sustainable management practices which will enhance the landscape of the woodlands, protect their historical value and improve their wildlife.
- Improve access for visitors of all abilities through the construction and maintenance of paths, way marking and seating.
- Interpret the landscape, history and wildlife through events, talks and leaflets.
- Support the educational use of the woodlands by running guided visits, producing education packs, creating a website and staging theatrical productions.

What has been achieved?

Progress in the first two years of the project has included:

- Preparation of management and interpretive plans, including archaeological and ecological surveys.

- Woodland management and access work, including boundary control, rubbish removal & control of invasive species.
- Interpretative signs, leaflets, a website and an education pack.
- 6 pieces of environmental art, and a theatre production on Heritage Woodlands and their restoration.
- 390 schools events and 295 other interpretation events.

KEY FACTS

DATES	2000-2005
Partners	South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, Sheffield CC, Rotherham MBC, Barnsley MBC, Wickersley Parish Council
Costs	£2 million
Funders	Heritage Lottery Fund, Countryside Agency, Sheffield CC, Rotherham MBC, Barnsley MBC, Wickersley Parish Council, Barnsley Education-Business Partnership
Size/scale	545 ha of existing woodland in Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield