

# Canklow Wood

10



## FUELLING A REVOLUTION

*the woods that founded the steel country*

### What to look for

Canklow Wood includes one of South Yorkshire's most important archaeological sites which has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), find out more from posts 1 and 6. Learn about the history of Canklow Wood and Rotherham from the timelines on posts 2 and 3. Post 15 looks at two historic features - Boston Castle and the ancient parish boundary between Whiston and Rotherham.



#### Boston Castle

Post 8 explains what makes Canklow Wood an ancient wood. Find out why it is special and how to identify other ancient woods. Rotherham MBC manages the wood in order to improve the area for both wildlife and people, posts 5, 7, 11, 12, 13 and 14 show how.

Post 4 tells you about Rotherham Red Rock on which the wood grows. Two areas have been designated as Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS). The best example is in Boston Park near the doorway of the old College of Jesus, this example is in one of the wood's quarries.



In the past people made a living by practising woodland crafts. It would have been common for charcoal makers and their families to live in the wood during the 'coaling' season, between April and November. There's more information about traditional crafts on post 9. Coal mining and iron and steel production are important to Rotherham's heritage. Post 10 tells the story of Rotherham's industrialisation.

### Management in the wood

Rotherham MBC bought Canklow Wood in 2000, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund programme 'Fuelling a Revolution - the woods that founded the steel country'.

The first management plan runs from 2002-07 and aims to improve and enhance the wood for people and wildlife. It includes selective thinning, maintaining the acid grassland, heathland and wet woodland, improving access and carrying out further archaeological research.

### General information

To find out more about the woodland's management and maintenance contact: the Woodlands Officer on 01709 822177; or look on [www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk) or [www.heritagewoodsonline.co.uk](http://www.heritagewoodsonline.co.uk).

Thanks to Mel and Joan Jones for their help in creating this leaflet. Mel's book 'Rotherham's Woodland Heritage' is available from Rotherham Arts Centre.



## Welcome to Canklow Wood

Canklow Wood was first recorded in a document in 1202 as Kankelawe. Canc meaning steep, rounded hill and Hlaw meaning a hill or mound in Old English. This is an ancient woodland, which means it has existed since at least 1600. We know from the archaeology that parts of the site were occupied by our ancestors as long ago as 3,000 years.

## Canklow Wood Heritage Trail



Find out more by following the Heritage Trail. If you wish to follow the trail enter the wood via Boston Castle Grove, off

Moorgate. In Boston Park turn left (at a small car park), continue past the bowling green and follow the path from the park into the wood. An interpretive panel marks the start of the trail.



Light emerald moth  
Mother shipton moth  
Swallow-tailed moth



To follow the trail look out for the waymarking posts with arrows.



There are two trails, the first, a short surfaced path takes about half an hour and is suitable for families with young children, people with limited mobility, wheelchair users and those wanting a gentle walk.

Follow the surfaced path until it forks, take the right fork to the viewpoint. Continue along the path which loops and will lead you back to your starting point.

The longer path takes about an hour at a gentle pace and can be muddy, uneven and is moderately steep in places.



Coppice stool of a gnarled old sessile oak tree

Again follow the surfaced path. Continue past post 3 (don't take the surfaced path which leads you back to the start). Instead follow the track until you're close to the wood's boundary, near West Bawtry Road. The trail slopes gently downhill here, bear right and you are now in the oldest part of the wood. Notice the gnarled old sessile oak trees, which are evidence of previous coppice work. The trail turns again and you will be heading back in the direction from which you came. Follow the narrow path until you join one of the wood's main paths. The trail climbs from this point until you reach a drystone wall where you will find post 15 and the trail's end. Your walk started 100 metres up the slope from here.

To return to Boston Park, climb through the gap in the wall and up the steep slope to your right and you will arrive within metres of the bowling green.



Fly agaric

