

Ecclesall Woods are situated in the south west of Sheffield within close proximity of the Peak District National Park. They have been in existence since before the 1600s and are therefore defined as ancient woodlands. At over 130 hectares (320 acres) they are one of the largest ancient woodlands in South Yorkshire, and are of regional importance for recreation, wildlife and archaeology.

These woods have seen much industrial activity over the centuries, producing charcoal, white coal for lead smelting, and probably coke for iron smelting and early steel making. There is also evidence that ganister, a stone used in refractory production, has been quarried in several areas of the woodland. Further archaeological evidence suggests that the area has been inhabited from at least late prehistoric times.

There are many other historical and archaeological features throughout the woods including a hill top enclosure and prehistoric rock art. Further study is needed to provide more precise information about their origins and to increase our knowledge of the woods' history. We hope that this leaflet will help you to understand and enjoy some of the archaeology of this important site.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Ecclesall Woods are owned and managed by Sheffield City Council, in partnership with the Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW) and other interested groups and organisations.

This leaflet has been produced by a partnership of FEW, Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Hallam University and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, thanks to generous funding via the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Millennium Festival Awards for All'.



FEW



Sheffield Hallam University



For information on Ecclesall Woods or other green spaces in Sheffield, please contact Parks, Woodlands & Countryside on 0114 2500500.

For information on Friends of Ecclesall Woods, please contact 0114 2366640, 2492936 or 2365126.

For information on the Ecclesall Woods Research Project, please contact the Centre for Environmental Conservation and Outdoor Leisure on 0114 2252874 or www.shu.ac.uk/sybio.net

For information on all aspects of archaeology in South Yorkshire, please contact South Yorkshire Archaeology Service on 0114 2736428 or 2736354.

Ecclesall Woods Sheffield

Archaeological Trail

Bomb Crater

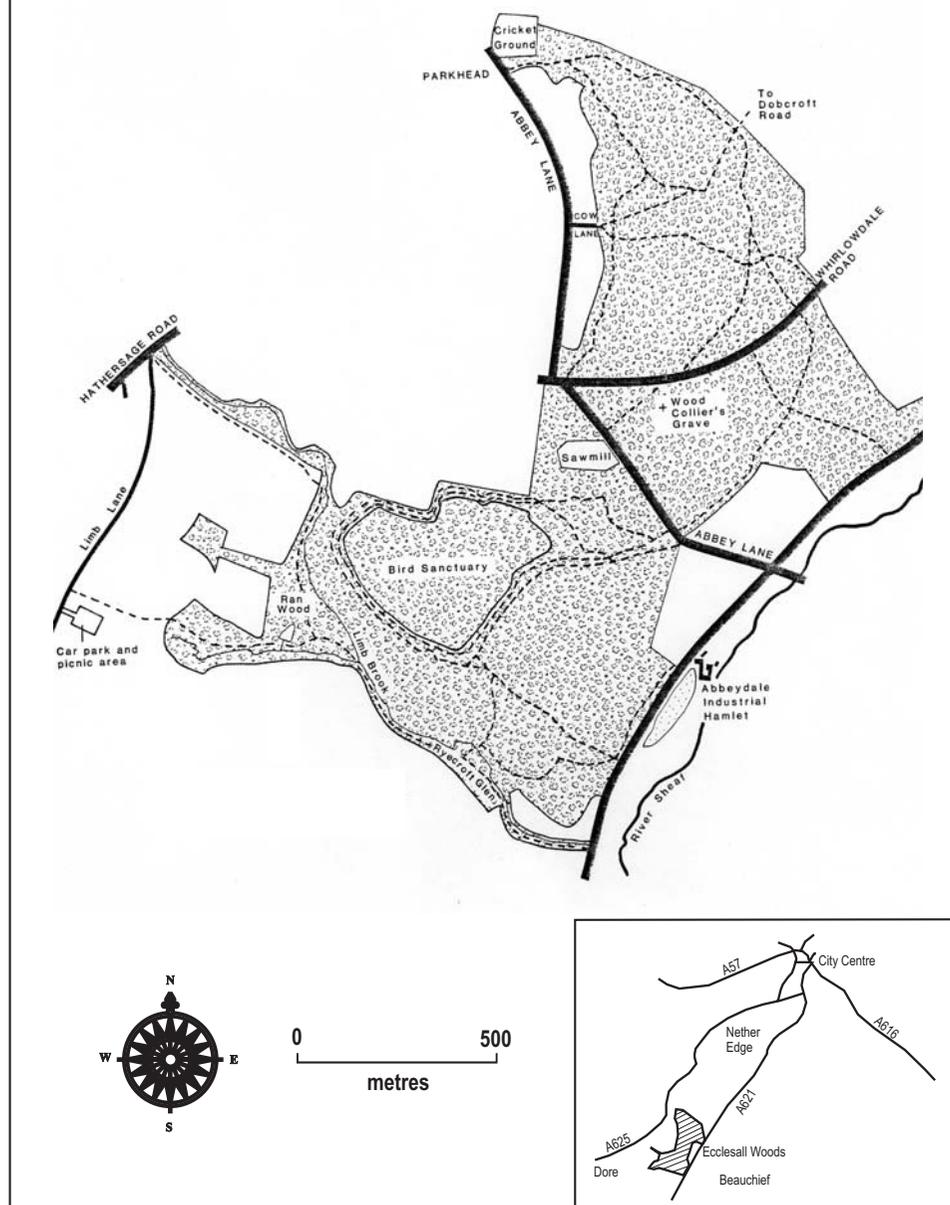
There are many holes, pits and crater-like features in the woods, but only one has been positively identified as a World War Two bomb crater. The bomb landed near the bridleway in Wood 1 during the night between 12th and 13th December 1940, and yellow clay was thrown on the roofs of houses in Dobcroft Road.

The crater is now nearly filled in after 60 years of weathering and build-up of leaf litter. It only shows as a shallow saucer-shaped feature (see main map).

Sawpits

Evidence of rectangular sawpits approximately 1.5 x 2 metres has also been found in the woods. The sides of these were lined with stone for stability. When in use two men operated a long saw which was probably pulled upwards by the top man and then downwards by the bottom man who stood in the pit. Felled trees would be sawn into planks in this way.

Location maps of Ecclesall Woods



The Archaeological Trail starts at the bridleway entering Wood 2 on Whirlowdale Road. Numbers on small posts in the wood indicate the features marked on the map. The trail follows surfaced tracks, and there is a short (optional) section which may not be suitable for wheelchairs. The distance is approximately 2 kilometres (1.4 miles).

Features to be observed are: 1. Q-pit; 2. & 3. Holloway; 4. Raised tramway track (from a ganister quarry); 5. Old oak tree (more than 200 years old); 6. Q-pit; 7a. Charcoal hearth; 7b. Woodcollier's grave; 8. & 9. Ditch and banks; 10. The ganister quarry can be seen by walking some 60 metres along Whirlowdale Road from the bridleway exit.

Acknowledgement

Friends of Ecclesall Woods wish to acknowledge with thanks permission to reproduce the illustrations on these centre pages from Prof. Melvyn Jones and Bob Warburton, author and illustrator of *Sheffield's Woodland Heritage* - Green Tree Publications, 1993.