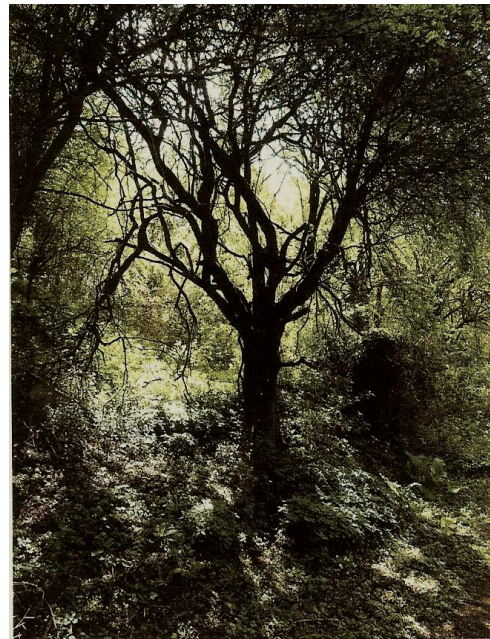




Dear

Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust (TCHT) was formed in 2006 by a group of enthusiasts who wanted to conserve and enhance the rich landscape of Titterstone Clee Hill. This 2000 plus acre landscape, rich in cultural history spanning some 4000 years of human occupation, and equally rich in natural history lies at the extreme south-eastern corner of the Shropshire Hills AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Titterstone's wind blasted summit stands prominent, visible over a range of some 70 miles and has been throughout history a significant landmark which appeared on the 14th century Mappa Mundi as the only named hill in England. The aims of the group have been over the last four years to raise awareness of the importance of this landscape, to give a voice to the hill and to seek to protect the rich diversity of the Clee Hill area for future generations.

In 2006 a catalyst to the foundation of TCHT was the coming onto the open property market of a unique piece of historic landscape, **The Novers Limestone Quarry**. The slopes of Titterstone Hill was once all forested but charcoal burning for the early iron industry, limestone, coal and stone extraction over a period of some 400 years removed all but tiny pockets of the early forest. The Novers comprising some 28 acres at Knowlegate on the Tenbury road is a unique example of the early lime quarrying industry which flourished from the 17th century to the early 20th century. The site is one of Titterstone's secret places, an important historic site but perhaps more importantly one of the few pockets of relic woodland left on the hill. When the quarrying ceased the site was abandoned and slowly the native woodland came back, regenerated from the ancient forest seed bank. Hidden within the woodland lie ancient quarry working, remains of buildings, a mine and lime kilns, it is also home to a wealth of wildlife and **a truly magical place which captures the imagination of all who visit it.**



Ancient thorn tree deep in the Novers forest

TCHT recognized the importance of this landscape and launched a project in 2006 to protect the site and to secure it as a community access woodland. TCHT approached the owner who agreed to allow the Trust time for the purchase price to be raised. They also lobbied English Heritage and convinced them that the site was of such value that English Heritage agreed to give 90% of the site protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a designation which gives the Novers the same national importance as sites such as Ludlow or Stokesay Castles.

What are the plans

Once purchased TCHT plan to make the site accessible as a community access woodland for local people and visitors to the area to enjoy the tranquility of this secret place. The first stages once acquired will be the provision of a circular walk to allow people safe access to this truly fascinating landscape. Information will be gathered and on-site interpretation will allow the history of the area to come alive for



visitors to enjoy. It will also be available as an educational facility for local and ultimately more distant schools, to bring children of all ages to enjoy access to this unique landscape.

TCHT plan to manage the woodland to increase its biodiversity setting aside areas for wildlife, they will work with Shropshire Wildlife Trust in this respect. TCHT will also organize and deliver various activities for people to become practically involved in. Environmental courses including coppicing, processing coppiced products, fence construction, wildlife watching. The archaeological elements of the site will be used to explain the history of Clee Hill and to allow people experience of recording and conserving our local heritage. And in the longer term there will be the creation of a forest garden, which will be managed to promote the native and traditional forest plants, that were once gathered as food by our ancestors. Children and adults will be able to experience how difficult or how rich life was in the distant past with a series of experience based events.

TCHT has worked towards this vision for the last three years, putting together a series of grant applications to funding bodies. Some have failed but some have been successful so that now the acquisition and start of the project is very close. The project has been generously supported by a grant from the now abolished Shropshire District Council and more recently by Natural England's Natural Assets grant programme. TCHT has raised most of the funding for the land purchase and the initial development of the site but this must be started by the end of September and the project is still £8,000 short. This is 10% of the money already raised by TCHT but without this additional sum the project cannot progress.

How can YOU help?

TCHT are holding an emergency meeting on the 12th August at Knowbury Village Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to find out more details of the Novers Project, to view a film on how a forest garden works and to discuss the project.

The Novers urgently needs your support, a small donation will help towards the purchase of the Novers. (cheques to the Novers Project TCHT). Your support will help to ensure that this forest jewel will be preserved for future generations to enjoy. TCHT can be contacted by post at:

The TCHT Office
The Recreation Rooms
Clee Hill
Ludlow
Shropshire

OR by visiting our website <http://www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk/>
(a paypal account allows on line donations)

COME TO THE OPEN MEETING and free film AT KNOWBURY VILLAGE HALL ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 12th AT 7.30 pm. Alf Jenkins & Glynn Barratt will describe the Novers and there will be an opportunity to discuss the project.

We hope you are able to help with this fascinating project today and in the future!

Many thanks,
TCHT