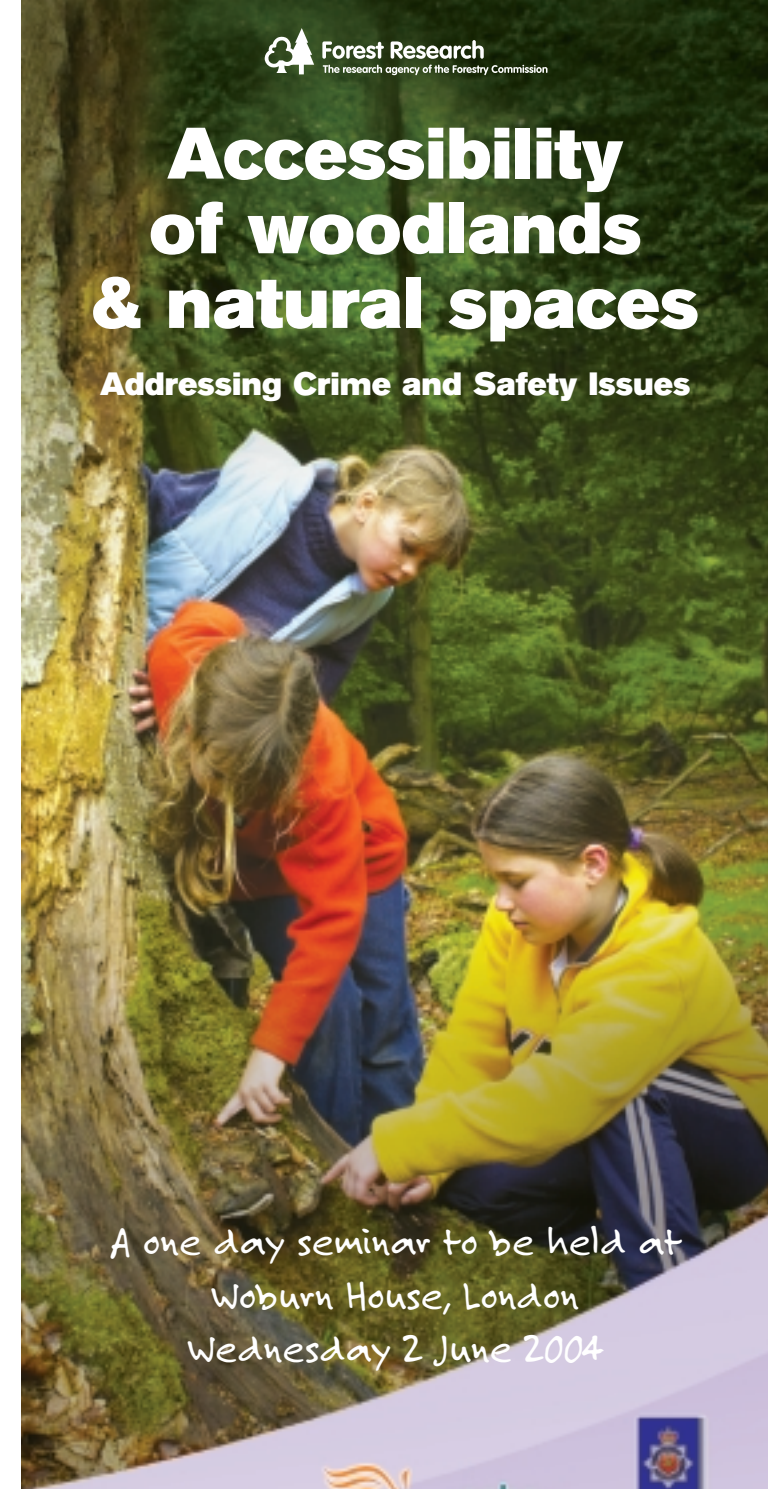


# Accessibility of woodlands & natural spaces

**Addressing Crime and Safety Issues**

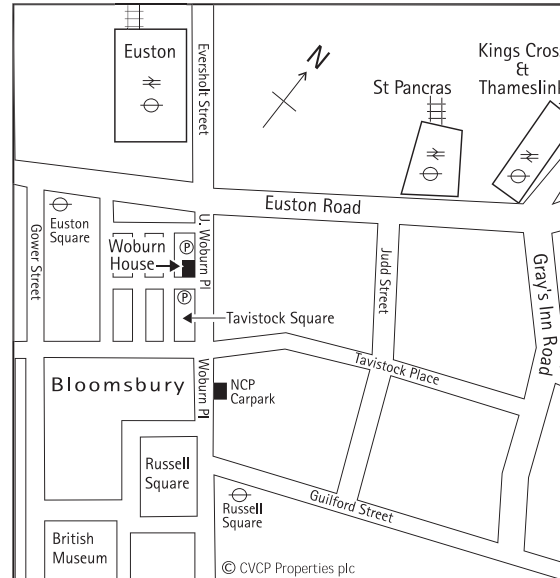





A one day seminar to be held at  
Woburn House, London  
Wednesday 2 June 2004

## Presenters

We are aiming to involve speakers from a wide range of organisations such as Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise, English Nature, Universities and Colleges and local authorities.

## Location



-  Underground station
-  Metered parking
-  Train station

Woburn House,  
20 Tavistock Square,  
London WC1H 9HQ  
Tel 020 7419 4111  
Fax 020 7419 5511



**Alice Holt Lodge**  
**Farnham**  
**Surrey GU10 4LH**  
**Tel: 01420 22255**  
**Fax: 01420 23653**

For enquiries related to the content of the seminar contact Liz O'Brien: [liz.o'brien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:liz.o'brien@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## Who should attend this seminar?

- Planners
- Housing Associations
- Regeneration and community development practitioners
- Environmental groups
- Land managers
- Land owners
- Natural space staff
- Policy makers
- Researchers
- Police and crime reduction units
- Youth offender and probation services

Numbers for the conference are limited and places will be given on a first come, first served basis.

We hope you will take this opportunity to contribute to this important subject area and help identify good practice, future work and research needed.



Enjoying a  
woodland walk

## Seminar background

Improving the accessibility of woodlands and natural spaces is seen as a key issue for organisations such as the Forestry Commission as these places can provide a wide range of benefits, and people value them for a variety of different reasons. In order to do this we need to address issues such as anti-social behaviour, people's perceptions of risk and safety, and concerns about landowner's liability relating to public access.

In making woodlands and natural spaces accessible to all, there are recognised and emerging ways of dealing with current problems, using innovative approaches which might involve education, community involvement, design and rehabilitation.

## Our key objectives

- Discuss and explore the issues as outlined opposite and the relationships between them.
- Explore the potential for developing future networks and partnerships to share good practice.
- Assess and define research needs to address the questions raised.
- Publish a seminar report which outlines the main areas of discussion and identifies future research.

## Structure of the day

**Morning:** setting the scene, with examples of current practical work and research.

**Afternoon:** workshops to allow participants to debate current issues of importance in this subject area.

## Topics for discussion

### Anti-social behaviour

Managers have to deal with anti-social and criminal behaviour in woodlands and natural spaces. These range from rubbish dumping and rowdy behaviour through to drug taking and car crime. Such spaces can be used positively to rehabilitate young offenders through training. Education, community involvement and appropriate design can be used to win back local spaces that have been neglected or are becoming run down.



Involvement in a clean up operation

### Perceptions of risk and safety

**Growing in Confidence** by Burgess outlines publics' worries and fears about using woods and natural spaces. People's perceptions have real impacts on how and where they use these spaces. Parents are increasingly reluctant to allow their children the freedom to explore woods and natural space without their direct supervision. Are there specific issues that influence our perceptions and therefore our ability to access these places? These may include childhood experiences and media accounts of crime.

### Challenge and liability

Positive risk can provide adventure and challenge particularly for young people. This can be an important part of a child's development as they learn to become more independent and rely on their own judgement. Conversely the issue of risk raises concerns about liability. How can we address landowner's worries about the legal and insurance implications of opening their land for public access?

## Accessibility of woodlands & natural spaces

### Booking form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(please supply for booking confirmation)

Number of places @ £25 each \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to Centrevents)

Please invoice me \_\_\_\_\_

Invoice address if different from above \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Special access requirements \_\_\_\_\_

### To book a place:

**email:** [liz@centrevents.co.uk](mailto:liz@centrevents.co.uk) or [geoff@centrevents.co.uk](mailto:geoff@centrevents.co.uk)

**fax:** 020 8922 1135

**post:** Liz Preter, Centrevents, PO Box 42334,  
London N12 0WF

Community engagement