

# NORTH WEST UPDATE 2010 PROGRAMME

## Biodiversity – An Understanding of Soils and Planning Policy (Half Day)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Wigan Oak Hotel, Wigan

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published the '**Soil Strategy for England – Safeguarding our Soils**', in September, 2009. **The planning system was recognised as an important mechanism for its implementation.**

Natural England (NE), in their recent **Draft Policy on Soil**, recognise that the low level of awareness and understanding of the issues that affect soils is a serious concern that could make delivery difficult. **Land use planning should play a more significant role in protecting soil and its many functions, including agriculture, carbon storage, habitats, landscapes and the historic environment.**

In order to assist planners, Defra are currently working on proposals for a **Toolkit for Planners**, which while still very much in its early stages, should **assist planners to increase their awareness and understanding of soils.**

The event has **two key purposes** – to encourage in planners a **greater understanding of the importance and value of soils**, including the Code of Conduct for Soils in the Development Industry, and **to participate in developing the national soils toolkit for planners.** It should appeal to policy planners involved with LDFs and links to landscapes, biodiversity, agriculture, carbon storage and climate change; development managers engaged in applications requiring soil protection, removal, storage and reuse, and both private and public sector planners involved with Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) and Environmental Appraisal(EA)

The North West region wishes to be at the forefront of this issue and is encouraging planners to book early and support this innovative CPD event.



## PROGRAMME

- 12.00 pm    **Registration**
- 12.30 pm    **Lunch**
- 1.30 pm    **Welcome and Introduction by the Chair**  
*David Alexander, Freelance Planner specialising in rural and environmental issues*
- 1.40 pm    **The Soil Strategy for England – Safeguarding our Soils/Code of Conduct for Soils in the Development Industry**  
*Jenny McClelland, Head of Soils Policy, Defra*
- 2.20 pm    **Natural England Draft Policy on Soil**  
*Stuart Pasley, Partnerships Team Leader, Natural England North West*
- 3.00 pm    **Break**
- 3.15 pm    **Developing a Toolkit for Planners – thoughts and discussion**  
*Jenny McClelland, Head of Soils Policy, Defra*
- 4.15 pm    **Feedback and concluding remarks**
- 4.30 pm    **Close**

## BOOKING PROCEDURE

Please fill in the form below, indicating payment method preferred. (Cost **£45** per person +17½% VAT = **£52.87**).

**Cancellations** must be received at least 7 days before the event or may be subject to a £20 cancellation fee. No refund will be given for non-attendance but substitutions are acceptable at any time.

To book places or seek further information:

-  Ring Beverley Watson on 0161 969 3815
-  Fax the form to 0161 969 3815 or post it to the address below
-  Email [beverley.watson@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:beverley.watson@rtpi.org.uk) or go on-line to <http://northwest.rtpi.org.uk/>

**Beverley Watson**, RTPI NW Branch Administrator, Friars Court, Sibson Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 7SF



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I / We would like to book for this event. Please indicate the number of places you require: <input type="checkbox"/>		
DELEGATE NAME.....CONTACT NAME (if different).....		
ORGANISATION.....		
ADDRESS.....		
.....POSTCODE.....		
TEL.....FAX.....		
EMAIL.....		
TICK IF ELIGIBLE FOR A SUBSIDISED PLACE <input type="checkbox"/>		
PAYMENT METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> Please invoice <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed (payable to RTPI North West Branch)		