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**Ten years of change: Woodland research at Monks Wood NNR, 1993-2003.  
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### ***Introduction***

Monks Wood celebrated its' 50th year as a National Nature Reserve in 2003. To mark the occasion, a symposium was held to review research carried out in and around the wood over the past 10 years. The event was held jointly with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology whose Monks Wood Research Station had its' 40th anniversary in the same year.

### ***Summary of the topics covered***

The keynote paper charts the origins of Monks Wood as a National Nature Reserve, and documents the personalities, organisational changes and policies which have shaped research and conservation activity at Monks Wood for the last 50 years.

Changes in the management of the wood are described, including changes in public access.

The site has become a valuable case study for the impact of increasing deer numbers on woodland vegetation, and evidence of recent trends is presented. Another key role of the reserve is as a test bed for new research, for example the use of LiDAR remote sensing technology to assess woodland structure. Weather records are also considered to assess evidence for climate change. The relationship of the reserve with its surroundings is explored, through comparisons with other local woods and with a secondary woodland developing on an abandoned field adjacent to the wood.

The fauna and flora of the wood and their changing fortunes are considered in a series of papers.

An extensive bibliography is appended

*continued >>>*

### ***English Nature's viewpoint***

The role of National Nature Reserves in conservation policy and practise has changed significantly since the 1950's, a trend which if anything has accelerated in the last 10 years. This report highlights some of these changes, but also details how NNRs can continue to contribute new ideas and experience to nature conservation research and management, and a better understanding of the natural world.

### ***Selected references***

MASSEY, M.E. & WELCH, R.C., eds. 1994. *Monks Wood National Nature Reserve: The Experience of 40 Years 1953-93*. Peterborough: English Nature.

STEELE, R.C. & WELCH, R.C. 1973. *Monks Wood: a nature reserve record*. Huntingdon: Nature Conservancy/NERC.

### ***Further information***

For the full report or other publications on this subject, please contact the Enquiry Service on 01733 455100/101/102 or email [enquiries@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@english-nature.org.uk)

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