



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

18<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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### **INTERACTIVE ARBORETUM MAP IS A UK FIRST**

An interactive map of the Yorkshire Arboretum's landscape and trees, enabling visitors and researchers to plan a visit or study the collection remotely, is believed to be the first of its kind in a botanic garden in the UK.

The map is accessible via the arboretum's website ([www.yorkshirearboretum.org/the-collection](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org/the-collection)) and enables users to locate and learn about any tree among the 6,000 specimens growing on the 128 acre site adjacent to Castle Howard. The system's features combine to create a really dynamic research resource as historical and source information is linked to each tree record, multiple search options are available, and the map's background features are changeable by the user.

Yorkshire Arboretum Director, Dr John Grimshaw said "Our amazing volunteers donated more than 2,000 hours to verify tree locations, helping to create this incredibly detailed interactive map and make our trees and their stories accessible worldwide. We're very proud to be the first botanic garden in the UK to offer such a fascinating and detailed tool to the public and specialist researchers alike."

The map and underlying Geographic Information System, which will underpin the Yorkshire Arboretum's future development plans, was created by the Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York. Dr Steven Cinderby, who led the project, said: "It has been great to help the arboretum make their collection accessible to a wider audience, enabling a deeper, more detailed understanding of the importance of the tree collection there."

The project was generously funded by the Peter Sowerby Foundation and Yorkshire Arboretum funds from the Tom Sherwood Bequest.

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM**

The Yorkshire Arboretum and Ray Wood are gardens of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, an independent charity (registration number 1044931) established to maintain and protect these unique collections. Founded in 1997 as a partnership between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Castle Howard, the Trust's patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.

Located opposite the entrance to Castle Howard, the arboretum is open from 10am – 4pm every day from March – November, with extended opening at weekends from May – October. In addition to the 120 acre garden of trees there's a children's woodland playground, a café offering delicious home-cooked seasonal food and drink and a gift shop. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Admission is £6 for adults, £3 for juniors (12-16) and £15 for families. Under 12s are admitted free. The annual event programme includes a wide range of family and outdoor activities, botanical and horticultural education, and arts and crafts workshops. Full details are available at [www.yorkshirearboretum.org](http://www.yorkshirearboretum.org)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE**

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an independent, international research institute, which has specialised in environment and development research for over 25 years. The organisation was recently assessed as being one of the top five environmental policy think tanks in the world. It regularly advises governments and UN agencies at the highest levels. SEI's overall mission is to support decision-making and induce change towards sustainable development, by providing integrative knowledge that bridges science and policy. It has a strong action-oriented research profile, interacting closely with decision makers in the different projects it undertakes. The Institute has seven research centres across the world in Europe, the US, Asia and Africa, employing over 200 people, with the second largest Centre being that in York.

SEI York undertakes research on topics of global importance within multidisciplinary teams. It has a strong atmospheric research profile in areas such as deposition and impacts of air pollutants, assessing the options and benefits for reducing short-lived climate pollutants and climate change mitigation, including managing carbon along supply chains and at urban scales. It also undertakes extensive research into improving agricultural resilience in parts of Africa and Asia and has strong linkages to the SEI centres in these regions. It has also established an international reputation in areas of work including sustainable consumption and production, resource use and scarcity. All SEI research has a policy focus and SEI York staff regularly interact both with inter-governmental agencies, national governments, and engage with stakeholders at local levels, using novel techniques to understand stakeholder perceptions. More information is available at <http://www.sei-international.org/>

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