

Environment Matters

A series of talks from Holy Trinity
Headington Quarry

Extraordinary Shotover

**History, Flora, Fauna &
Climate Change**

Jim Woods

Shotover Preservation Society



Wednesday 11 October

7.30pm at the Coach House, Quarry Road,
OX3 8NU

www.hthq.uk



Extraordinary Shotover

History, Flora, Fauna & Climate Change

*Jim Woods,
Shotover Preservation Society*

Shotover is an extraordinary place. It's a vital public resource on the edge of a city, where people can walk with friends, run or bike or just enjoy being in unspoiled nature. Many find it essential to their wellbeing, offering tranquillity and hope in a complex world. But how did it come to be and what is its future?

It has a long history of contributing to human life, from its Roman pottery kilns to being a Royal hunting Forest for over 500 years. It's hard to imagine, but the dusty old road that goes up the hill was one of the most important roads in Britain in the 18th Century, until its vulnerability to highwaymen sealed its fate and it subsequently became a magnet for local artists like Turner of Oxford and Malchair. Throughout this time, the flora and fauna was constantly changing, with periods of being denuded for fuel or mining.

What we see today is a success story for conservation, culminating in its SSSI status in the 1980s. But it is always under threat, and will continue to rely on passionate supporters for its future. How will it respond to climate change? Both in terms of the impact on flora and fauna, and how it continues to offer a sanctuary for wellbeing. We welcome your views. Do join us.

The image overleaf is Oxford from Shotover Hill by Turner of Oxford, around 1810