Kirkley Hall has long been known as an agricultural college which has trained thousands of young guardians of the British countryside. In recent years it has expanded its Animal Management programme to encompass more exotic species in its zoological garden. It now has a range of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and aquatics, and runs events designed to introduce the public at close quarters to a variety of species.

We will meet at 10.00 in the Orangery Tearoom, within the Kirkley Hall quadrangle. Morning coffee will be available at that point, after which, at 10.30, we shall have a talk on the zoo’s conservation policy in Kirkley Hall’s elegant conference room. In the discovery room, and with the expertise of a Kirkley guide, we will be introduced to some of the zoo’s reptiles, and will have a chance to see them at close quarters. From about 11.30 onwards, we shall be able to explore the zoo for ourselves, and at 12.30, we’ll have lunch in the conference room. To follow in the afternoon (13.30-14.30), we shall have an optional woodland walk (of approximately 1 hour), led by the President and Secretary, after which you can visit the walled garden, and/or return, if you wish, to the Orangery Tea Room for afternoon tea.

The Hall itself stands on the site of a manor house of 1764, belonging to the Ogle family, which was rebuilt in 1832 by Ignatius Bonomi. This was destroyed by fire in 1928, following which it was once again rebuilt. The stables date from 1764 and the South Lodge from 1832.

We have negotiated a group price for the package (morning coffee, the conservation talk and reptile session, admission to the zoo, and lunch of soup, sandwich and drink) of £20 per person. Please complete the attached booking form and return it [TO ARRIVE BY Wednesday, April 8, PLEASE] either electronically or by post to the Secretary: Dr Andrena Telford, Ladywell Cottage, 24 West Road, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9SX. Tel.: 01661-825437 Email: aandwr.telford@btinternet.com

Payment can be by cheque (made out to Northumbrian Cambridge Association) or by BACS to sort code 40-34-18 and account number 60618446. Please identify your payment by KIRKLEY/YOUR SURNAME.
If you would like postal confirmation, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.