

# WOODLAND INITIATIVES UPDATE

**JULY 2008**

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The woodland initiatives network is hosted by the Small Woods Association and supported by the Forestry Commission, Natural England and a partnership of initiatives.

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## Planning in Ancient Woodlands - Landmark Victory

An article by Sussex Wildlife Trust highlights a landmark planning decision following a three year campaign. A company was set to develop an area near Haywards Heath, which included a site listed as ancient woodland. The site had been cleared of trees 20 years ago but is still considered to be a valuable site for woodland species. New national precedents were set out in the Inspectors Report.

<http://www.sussexwt.org.uk/news/page00066.htm>

## Timber laptop launch

Technology developer Fujitsu has developed a concept laptop made of wood. The WoodShell features cedar housing derived from forest thinnings coupled with parts and external housing manufactured in bio-based plastics. It was developed for a show, Japan Design 2008.

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## Green Tree Schools Award Scheme

A new initiative by the Woodland Trust will offer schools the opportunity to bring green issues, the great outdoors and the world of wildlife into the classroom with a range of resources and a new award scheme. The Green Tree Schools Award scheme rewards schools every time they participate in inspirational learning events, projects or initiatives provided by the Woodland Trust.

<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/award>.

## Heritage at Risk

Based on the success of English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register, the new Heritage At Risk Register includes Grade II buildings, scheduled monuments, archaeology, historic landscapes, parks and gardens, places of worship, conservation areas, battlefields and even designated maritime wrecks.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.19074>

## Practice, Science and Policy in Forestry

The T10Q project is being led by a research group based in the University of Oxford looking at ways in which we can build links between practice, science and policy in forestry. They want to engage with people who are thinking about forestry and woodland policy and research and who have an interest in the challenges of woodland management. They want to hear your views about what you feel are the most pressing issues and where scientists and policy makers should be focussing their efforts and resources.

<http://dps4.plants.ox.ac.uk/survey/index.php?lang=en&sid=49896&token=5cbhr56ewvw9ay4>

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## Abolition of Obligatory Set-Aside

The EU Council has concluded that the vast majority of Member States will agree to abolish set-aside as proposed by the Commission in its CAP Health Check proposals. The change comes in response to the increasingly tight situation on the cereals market. Under these circumstances, farmers can already benefit from their autumn 2008 and spring 2009 sowings. The EU says that the end of the set-aside scheme will allow farmers to adjust their planting decisions and respond in advance to new market circumstances.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1069&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Set Aside and the Environment:** Sir Don Curry's High Level Group's preferred option requires arable farmers to manage a small percentage of their land primarily for environmental purposes. Defra and its agencies will ask farmers to choose from a range of common practices such as permanent grass buffers, winter stubble, or reduced-input cereal crops. Farmers would also be encouraged to make the most of this land for wildlife through proposed new 'top-up' options within the Environmental Stewardship scheme.

Defra needs to successfully negotiate changes in the CAP 'Health Check', which is not expected to conclude before late 2008. This means that implementation will not be possible until the 2009/10 cropping year. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/deliverygroup/index.htm>

## 2008 Green Energy Awards - Scotland

Nominations are now open, the awards are sponsored by N-power renewables and organised by Scottish Renewables the green energy trade body. There are nine categories including Best Community Initiative and for the first time a Best Student Project award. <http://www.greenenergyawards.co.uk> for more information on how to nominate. Deadline 1st October 2008.

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## Woodland Trust's Native Forest

The Trust is trying to buy 850 acres of land in Sandridge near St. Albans, Hertfordshire to create a continuous native forest. They want to do it within 12 years. "It is an ambitious tree planting opportunity to create the largest new native forest for millions of people to enjoy for free, forever."

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/appeals/index.htm>

## Commission to recover € 410.3 million

A total of € 410.3 million of EU farm money unduly spent by Member States is claimed back as a result of a decision adopted by the European Commission. The money returns to the Community budget because of inadequate control procedures or non-compliance with EU rules on agricultural expenditure. Member States are responsible for paying out and checking expenditure under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the Commission is required to ensure that Member States have made correct use of the funds. Under this latest decision, funds will be recovered from Germany, Spain, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. For GB that means € 69.4 million for inappropriate timing of the follow-up field visits and for the inaccurate determination of the area eligible for payments.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1123&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## Unrecorded rights of way

A new working group will look at issues around recording old routes for walkers, horse-riders and other countryside users. These routes exist legally, but have not been captured on the official maps.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/news2008/150708.htm>

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## National Business Support Evaluation

In July the Office of the Third Sector was looking for expressions of interest for a three-year evaluation project. The project is to measure the impact of funding OTS is making available to Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to improve business support for social enterprises. It will assess both the quality of the customer experience through Business Link and the impact of the OTS funding on the business support environment. OTS is leading on the project in partnership with all 9 English RDAs. SEEDA will lead on overall enterprise policy on behalf of the RDAs and will play a key role in helping steer the project, as well as acting as a conduit in seeking consensus and feed back from the other RDAs.

## Forestry Investments

Forestry investments outperformed all asset classes in 2007, returning 31.6%, according to the UK Forestry Index. Forestry's returns in 2007 were well above those of commercial property, equities and bonds, which returned -3.4%, 5.3% and 6.4% respectively. Timber prices helped push forestry's returns up.

Source: TTJ

## Forest Research on-line

FR Eye, is the new online newsletter from Forest Research that gives details of recent projects and developments. <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/freye>

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## REPORTS, POLICIES, STRATEGIES, RESEARCH

### Rural Advocate highlights potential of rural firms

Stuart Burgess, the Rural Advocate, has released a report which looks at how rural economics could be strengthened "England's rural areas: steps to release their economic potential" sets out a package of practical proposals to improve support for people and enterprises in the rural business sector to help them realise their potential. Rural areas host around 30% of England's businesses. In 2005 these earned at least £325 billion. The report suggests unfulfilled potential from rural firms might be around £236-£347 billion per annum.

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/events/ruraladvocatehighlightspotentialofruralfirmstodoubletheircontributiontonationaleco>

### The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

A preliminary report on the global value of biodiversity, commissioned by the German Government as part of their G8 presidency. The study will help to focus global biodiversity policies and priorities, and help countries, companies and individuals to understand the real cost of using the world's resources.

Two Defra studies are currently underway using existing research to look at what global biodiversity means to people in Britain, and how the importance of biodiversity to people in developing countries can be measured. [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/teeb\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/teeb_report.pdf)

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### LAAs and the Historic Environment

Guidance on how the historic environment can contribute to the development of local area agreements.

<http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/LAA.pdf>

### Woodland Establishment on Landfill Sites

This report provides information from a ten-year research programme on the establishment of woodland growth on modern engineered landfill sites. It covers the monitoring of woodland growth performance and the impact of tree planting and rooting at landfill sites. The fastest growing species were poplar, alder, cherry, whitebeam, ash and Corsican pine. Full Report:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/woodlandestablishment>

Summary: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/woodlandsummary>

### North East Voluntary and Community

VONNE is the North East's regional infrastructure body for the voluntary and community sector. They have produced the UK's first Regional Third Sector Leadership Strategy, which is designed to give voluntary and community organisations a clear idea of how leadership can help them to be more effective; and to set out what needs to be done to develop the skills of future leaders in the sector.

<http://www.vonne.org.uk>

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### Wild Bird Population 1994-2006

A statistical release providing updated figures for bird populations in the English Government Office Regions, covering farmland, woodland and all native birds. The largest increase in woodland bird populations between 1994 and 2006 was in the North West, which saw a rise of 32%. There was also an increase of 19% in the Yorkshire and the Humber region. There was a decrease of 19% in the South East and 10% in the South West, but little change in the remaining regions.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/wildlife/research/rwbi.htm>

### State of the Natural Environment

Natural England's first report into the state of the natural environment, which calls for a new approach to management and conservation, if it is to stand any chance of adapting to the next 50 years of unavoidable climate change and the modern pressures of development.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/sone/default.htm>

## Woodland Actions for Biodiversity and Water Management

Report from the Woodland Trust [http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/pdf/woodswater26\\_03-08.pdf](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/pdf/woodswater26_03-08.pdf)

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### Regional Biomass – East Midlands

The Regional Biomass Active Demand Mapping Project was undertaken to identify current and future biomass demand. In the East Midlands over 100 farms grow biomass crops, covering around 5,500 hectares and yielding between 60,000 - 70,000 Oven Dried Tonnes Per Annum (ODTPA). Power station co-firing targets are set to increase six fold by 2010, from 300,000 to 1,988,000 ODTPA.

Together with increasing targets for local authorities to increase their use of biomass energy, and a growing interest in home biomass boiler systems, this will be welcome news for existing energy crop farmers and those considering diversifying their businesses. A copy of the full report can be found at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/eastmidlands/biomass.htm>

### Rural Proofing Review

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/Final%20040408.pdf>

### Sustainable Products and Materials Progress Report

A progress report, which includes a number of suggestions on the way forward, as well as questions for discussion. Views are being sought – responses to <mailto:products.policy@defra.gsi.gov.uk> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/consumerprod/index.htm>

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### Waste Strategy Annual Progress Report 2007-8

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/index.htm>

### English Partnerships Annual Report 2007-08

<http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/annualreport08.htm>

### Forest Visitors - Scotland

A survey by FC Scotland estimates that around 8.7 million visits are made to the national forest estate each year and almost £40 million is being pumped into the Scottish economy by people who have travelled to an area specifically to visit a forest. The All Forests Visitor Monitoring Survey.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7d9fn7>.

### Woodland Challenges: Growing Our Regional Futures

The document calls for recognition and policy action over the next five years on a range of issues from protecting and enhancing ancient woods and trees, to woodland creation, provision of green infrastructure, quality of life issues and acknowledgement of the economic value of woodland. Regional Economic Strategies should fully recognise the economic contribution of woods to well-being, acknowledging recreation benefits, timber and wood fuel opportunities – and attracting RDA investment in woodland projects. <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/campaigns/england>

### Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives

An update six months on from the publication of Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A cross-Government strategy for England in January 2008.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_08646](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_08646)

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## **Living Working Countryside: Taylor Review**

The Prime Minister asked Matthew Taylor, MP for Truro and St Austell, to conduct a review on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/livingworkingcountryside>

## **West Midlands Economic Strategy**

The WMES Delivery Framework for Connecting to Success provides details of the role regional and local organisations and partnerships will have in the delivery. A rolling three-year framework, with implementation commencing from April 2008, to be updated on an annual basis. (This document was released in June 2008) Current Government guidance, as set out in the RDA Act 1998, requires each English Region to produce a Regional Economic Strategy every three years.

<http://www.advantagem.co.uk/what-we-do/connecting-to-success/default.aspx>

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## **Natural England Annual Report**

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about/default.htm>

## **BERR Annual Report and Accounts**

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/about/strategy-objectives/annual-spending/page47093.html>

## **English Heritage Annual Report**

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.14180>

## **UK - Environmental Observation Framework**

Current activities and a vision for the future have been published as part of a new, five-year UK-Environmental Observation Framework (UK-EOF). UK-EOF is a partnership between Government departments, Research Councils and agencies. Working together to make the best of the resources available to take the measurements, and to make better use of information once it has been collected.

More information: <http://www.erff.org.uk>

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## **Ofsted Report on Apprenticeships**

The report finds that programme-led apprenticeships produce learners that are better prepared for the workforce and achieve their full apprenticeship in a shorter time. However despite this, participation has declined, raising concern that more needs to be done to promote and understand the benefits of the programme. 'The impact of programme-led apprenticeships', evaluated programme-led apprenticeships in terms of improving participation and achievement by learners. Ofsted have provided a number of recommendations aimed at the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills; The Learning and Skills Council, Sector Skills Councils and providers.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/070232>

## **The North East Plan**

A new vision to deliver jobs, homes and infrastructure to the region up to 2021 has been unveiled in the North East of England Plan, the revised Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).

[http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/planning/regional\\_planning/](http://www.gos.gov.uk/gone/planning/regional_planning/)

## **Woodlands for Wales – What next?**

Woodlands for Wales the strategy for trees and woodlands in Wales is being revised and everyone with an interest is being urged to get involved and have their say. A public consultation to revise the strategy runs until 14 October 2008. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wwstrategy>

e.mail: <mailto:wwstrategy@forestry.gsi.gov.uk> Tel: 0845 604 0845

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## Forestry in Europe

A blueprint for the future of forestry across Europe has been presented to the European Union's Agriculture and Rural Affairs department by an international delegation from Wales. The Robinwood project played a key role in drawing up recommendations for the sector in its final five-nation report. Project partners are Wales, Italy, Germany, Slovakia and Spain. They studied key issues on forest management, wood energy and hydrology, identifying measures that can help Europe's forests play an even greater role in the rural economy. A full copy of the final report is available on the Robinwood website: <http://www.robin-wood.it> or by contacting Robinwood, Wales: Kim Burnham – Tel: 08456 040845, [kim.burnham@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kim.burnham@forestry.gsi.gov.uk). Have to admit I had difficulty locating the report on the website. I have asked Kim for a copy for the library.

## Restoration of Open Habitats from Woods and Forests

A document designed for developing policy which is for the purposes of information sharing at this stage and will be opened out to a public consultation in October this year. If you would like to comment at this early stage or be involved in the process please contact Dominic Driver <mailto:dominic.driver@forestry.gsi.gov.uk> or tel: 0117 906 6003. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-openhabitats>

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## New Land Registration Rules

New land registration rules which amend the Land Registration Rules 2003 come into force on 10 November 2008. All the forms will change, but the old ones can be used until 10th February 2009. An amended version of the Rules is unlikely to appear on the website until the middle of September. <http://www1.landregistry.gov.uk/>

## CONSULTATIONS

### The Sustainable Management and Conservation of Wildlife

A consultation seeking views on the development of a wildlife management strategy for England that will clarify the protection of all species in England. "Ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of wildlife - towards a Wildlife Management Strategy for England" is making sure that wildlife management policies reflect Defra's key objectives and the integrated approach to biodiversity that Defra now embraces. This consultation represents the first phase of the project. Responses needed by 22 September 2008. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wildlife-manage-strategy/index.htm>

### Volunteering Strategy for Health & Social Care

A consultation to improve support for volunteers in the NHS, social care and third sector, and to encourage more volunteering opportunities. 'Towards a strategy to support volunteering in health and social care' will lead to a national volunteering strategy next year. Deadline : 30 September 2008 [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/OrganisationsthatworkwithDH/Workingwithstakeholders/DH\\_085190](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/OrganisationsthatworkwithDH/Workingwithstakeholders/DH_085190)

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### Managing Ancient and Native Woodland

A consultation on the Forestry Commission's draft new practice guide 'Managing Ancient and Native Woodland', which will inform the development of the final practice guide to be published later this year. Deadline for responses 22nd August 2008.

They want to know whether the guidance will help woodland owners manage their woods to deliver the outcomes the Commission wants to see e.g.: improving and maintaining 'ecological condition' including protecting, conserving and enhancing rare, or threatened wildlife, securing the woodland's cultural heritage and providing opportunities for enterprise and employment.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-7f3ben>

### English World Heritage Sites

The Government is taking action to protect all 17 English World Heritage Sites, for the first time they will be put on the same national footing as conservation areas, national parks and areas of outstanding beauty by including them in national planning protection rules. A Communities and Local Government consultation document on the protection of World Heritage Sites is seeking views on proposed measures

designed to enhance the protection of World Heritage Sites in England. Deadline for responses: 22 August 2008

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/worldheritagesitesconsultation>

## **National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement**

A consultation seeking views on a proposed framework for greater citizen engagement, using innovative methods such as citizens' summits and juries to inform national policy-making. Deadline for responses 1st October 2008. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/citizen-engagement.htm>

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## **Empowerment Fund**

A consultation from DCLG. The Empowerment Fund is a £7.5m grant programme that will provide support for existing national third sector organisations operating across England to help local communities turn key proposals into practical action on the ground. £1.5m of funding will be specifically for organisations focusing on getting communities involved in planning. CLG are consulting on the design and operation of the fund. The Consultation closes on 30 September 2008.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/empowermentfund>

## **Natural England's Draft Enforcement Policy**

This consultation seeks views on Natural England's approach to enforcement, the principles that it applies to its enforcement work and whether its draft enforcement policy will achieve its aims.

Natural England is responsible for the regulatory stewardship and enforcement of offences relating to: Sites of Special Scientific Interest, illegal burning of heathland and grassland, agricultural work which affects uncultivated land or semi-natural areas and breaches of licences and notices relating to wildlife management and protected species. The closing date for responses is 18 October 2008.

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/consultations/enforcement-policy/default.htm>

## **Towards a Nuclear National Policy Statement**

A consultation which is seeking views on the environmental and sustainability effects of constructing new nuclear power stations on sites in the UK that have been identified through the application of proposed strategic siting assessment criteria. Deadline for responses 11 November 2008

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47136.pdf>

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## **Communities in control: Real people, real power**

Improving local accountability consultation the first in a series of Communities in Control consultations following on from the recent white paper (July 2008). The consultation covers implementation of the overview and scrutiny provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Views are sought on proposals for developing and strengthening overview and scrutiny, new powers to hold local officers to account and facilitating the work of councillors. Deadline 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localaccountability>

## **INITIATIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE UK**

### **Yorkshire and The Humber**

#### **White Rose Forest**

The White Rose Forest partnership has succeeded in securing a contract with Yorkshire Forward for a co-ordinated programme of economically related green infrastructure projects in West Yorkshire.

£900,000 over 3 years contributes to a programme worth £2.4 million pounds that includes developing multi-functional woodlands and greenspace development in key economic priority areas, woodland management planning activity with local authorities and a development plan for the regionally significant Lower Aire Valley project run by the RSPB. The key challenge for the White Rose Forest is to build its partnership base from the sub-regional to the Leeds City Region to reflect the changing make up of economic partnerships and investment planning processes.

Contact: Guy Thompson <mailto:Guy.Thompson@kirklees.gov.uk>

Yorkshire Post article: <http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/localnews/Green-link-for-mill-and.4349195.jp> (this took ages to load!). Yorkshire Forward press release: [http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/www/view.asp?content\\_id=8978&parent\\_id=8828](http://www.yorkshire-forward.com/www/view.asp?content_id=8978&parent_id=8828)

## North East

### Northwoods Newsletter

It gives info on their projects...NEWHeat – biomass acceleration programme, NEWFuels – woodfuel. Ignite – woodfuel training and the Northumberland fire group  
<http://www.northwoods.org.uk/media/imagelibrary/NNSummer08.pdf>.

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### Groundwork Community Forests

The North East Community Forests, a partnership between the Great North Forest and Tees Forest, has now joined forces with Groundwork North East to become Groundwork Community Forests.

## South West

### How Much Wood in the South West

How much timber will the conifer woodlands of the South West produce over the next 20 years? South West Woodland Renaissance (SWWR), a partnership of forest owners and timber processors, have contracted Forest Research to answer the question. Jez Ralph, SWWR Project Officer says that it is vital for the timber industry to know how much timber, and of what species, size and stand assortment, the woodlands can produce over the next 20 years. SWWR are also researching timber properties of south west grown Douglas Fir that will give sawmillers and other potential users essential information they need to invest time and money in developing markets and new processing capacity.

## South East

### Special Trees and Woods

A Heritage Lottery funded project which is part of the Chiltern Woodlands Project. Volunteers research and record special trees. Their newsletter and more information about the project can be found at:  
[http://www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/stwp\\_news.html](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/stwp_news.html)

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## West Midlands

### Wood White Project

Over the next three years, the Forestry Commission will team up with Butterfly Conservation to manage the 'Wood White Project' across eight FC woods in Herefordshire. This work is being carried out with a grant of more than £88,000 from the SITA Trust to help safeguard the future of the rare Wood White butterfly in the county which is one of the few remaining strongholds for the species in Britain. Coppicing and cutting back vegetation on forest rides gives the Wood White caterpillar's main food plants, bird's foot trefoil and meadow vetchling, a chance to flourish.

### The Forest of Mercia Education Project

This project has been running successfully for about four years helping young people from around South Staffordshire to gain skills, develop as individuals and successfully move on into a variety of careers or further training opportunities. The project works with young people from Key Stage 4, who are excluded or are at risk of exclusion from school, providing an alternative to classroom based learning, encouraging young people to gain forestry, carpentry and horticulture skills through site based work. Liaising closely with Staffordshire County Council's Children and Lifelong Learning team, the project ensures that the young people develop socially and emotionally, increasing in confidence and self esteem. Contact:  
[rebecca.banks@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.banks@staffordshire.gov.uk)

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## East Midlands

### IKEA and the Greenwood Community Forest

IKEA in Nottingham have helped to fund the Greenwood Community Forest's work and their employees are getting involved in tree planting. The funding paid for 1000 native trees to be planted at a new multi-faith cemetery and for their long term maintenance costs.

## **Forest Experience – 11 to 18 year olds**

A 'Forest Experience' course, aimed at 11 to 18 year-olds, has been launched by the Forestry Commission in Sherwood Pines Forest Park, Nottinghamshire. The scheme offers hands-on tuition in survival skills, fire making, animal tracking, shelter building and open air cooking. Six-day courses, taster sessions and day-long programmes are being offered to schools and youth groups, but the initiative will also target pupils with challenging behaviour. These could include those at risk of offending or truanting, or youngsters who struggle in formal education or training. The FC has worked with the Open College Network (OCN) to design a set of three OCN accredited local modules, which youngsters can earn through their time in the wood. A copy of the full programme and further information is available on request. Contact Joanne Broadhead for more information on 01623 822447.

Email: <mailto:joanne.broadhead@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

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## **Scotland**

### **Woodland Crofts - Scotland**

A development of the National Forest Land Scheme, which gives communities the opportunity of buying national forest land. A new fourth category has been added - land for woodland crofts. This sits alongside the options of community acquisition, land for affordable housing and sale of surplus land.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls>

## **Wales**

### **Adding Value to Welsh Wood**

The Welsh Assembly government is investing £250,000 in a project to turn poor quality timber from Wales into high-value joinery grade material. A heat treatment kiln will form the heart of the scheme. The initiative is part of the Assembly's Heads of the Valley programme. A 15 year regeneration strategy developed in partnership with five local authorities and other local stakeholders to tackle the root causes of economic inactivity and other key issues in the area within the context of the Wales Spatial Plan. Potential production sites are being investigated near Caerphilly, with the new factory expected to be operational by Christmas. Email: <mailto:headsofthevalleys@wales.gsi.gov.uk>

Source: TTJ Magazine

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## **WOOD FUEL/WOODWASTE/ENERGY/RECYCLING**

### **Drax Biomass Power Project**

Yorkshire-based Drax has signed a £50m deal allowing the power station to burn 1.5 million tonnes of biomass per year at its Selby power station. The facility will rely mainly on imported woodchips to begin with. Completion in late 2009 is expected to make this the largest biomass co-firing project in the world, generating 400MW of power.

Source: TTJ Magazine

### **Biomass power station - Lincolnshire**

Helius Energy plc is to construct a 65 MW biomass power station near Stallingborough in North East Lincolnshire. The plant could produce enough green energy to power the equivalent of about 100,000 homes. The power station will initially be fuelled by waste wood, specially grown crops and the leftovers from timber processing activities sourced from the UK and Europe. Planning permission has also been granted to build an additional biomass processing facility and bioethanol and biodiesel refinery. The intention is that spent grains from the bioethanol plant and glycerol from the biodiesel plant will eventually be used as the fuel feedstock for the power station. The development will also include an area of approximately 20 hectares specifically set aside for birds and water voles.

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### **UK Renewable Energy Strategy**

This consultation seeks views on how to drive up the use of renewable energy in the UK as part of the overall strategy for tackling climate change and in order to meet the UK's share of the EU target to source 20 per cent of the EU's energy from renewable sources by 2020. Deadline for responses 26 September 2008 <http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page46797.html>

Natural England has responded to the strategy:

**Woodland Initiatives UPDATE July 2008**

“ We recognise that biomass driven heat and electricity generation could have a positive impact on the management, and replanting, of England’s woodlands and provide an effective market for agricultural and wood waste. It will also provide farmers with a valuable market for biomass materials..... We note that scaling up of biomass will require the sourcing of a vast amount of organic matter. We are concerned that, without robust environmental safeguards, this could lead to an exporting of environmental degradation overseas..... We note that the massive scaling up of biomass crop production could potentially see 1 million hectares taken out of food production, or more marginal land currently high in biodiversity forced into production.” <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/releases2008/260608.htm>

## **UK energy sector indicators 2008**

A range of indicators that show the progress made in implementing the four goals of energy policy.  
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/indicators/page46000.html>

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## **Britain - Renewable Heat Map**

La Tene Maps together with REA are producing a new map which will show the Major Renewable Heat Projects in the UK regardless of source. It will be funded via industry advertising so they are looking for advertisers. They have already produced a British Bioenergy - Biomass, Biogas and Biofuels map with REA. <http://www.latene.com> Closing date for advertising on the new map 18th September 2008.  
Contact: Susan Pelmore email: <mailto:SPelmore@r-e-a.net> Tel: 0207 747 1830

## **Woodfuel Magazine**

<http://woodfuelmagazine.com>. Includes a Wood Fuel Forum.

## **EU Woodfuel Project**

FC have won funding to work collaboratively with other European nations in various stages of implementing woodfuel boilers as a strategic part of their national energy supply. The aim is for recent entrants into the arena to learn from those with established systems, sharing experiences and information.  
Source: South East Forestry and Woodland Partnership

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## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Regional Climate Change Partnerships**

The partnerships will receive a cash boost of £450,000 this year with a further two year commitment to boost projects that help England’s regions deliver adaptation projects. Each Climate Change Partnership will be able to bid for up to £50,000 this year, £30,000 next year and £20,000 in 2010/11 under five key themes: Development and updating of regional strategies; Landscape scale natural environment issues and biodiversity; Economic development; Multi-area agreements; Innovation/specific regional opportunities. The funding will be available to support existing projects or new projects. You will need to link into your own regional partnerships to find out when they are open for funding bids.

### **Schools and sustainability: A climate for change**

Inspectors visited a selection of primary and secondary schools to assess teaching about sustainability, which can help bring the significance of climate change to life and show children that that they each have an important part to play in helping to protect the environment. Some schools are already leading the way in encouraging pupils to be green, but most have limited knowledge of sustainability and place little emphasis on teaching or promoting it, according to the latest report by Ofsted. The Government wants all schools to become ‘sustainable schools’ by 2020. <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/070173>

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## **Rising to the Climate Challenge**

A booklet designed to help people cut through the fog of confusion and mixed messages about climate change and to be a useful resource for community groups and individuals all over Scotland. Download from <http://www.sead.org.uk> (Scottish Education and Action for Development).

Email: <mailto:lorraine@sead.org.uk>

## **New Vision of Climate Change**

Climate Change in Our World, is a collaboration between Google, the UK Government, the Met Office Hadley Centre and the British Antarctic Survey to provide two new 'layers', or animations, available to all users of Google Earth. One animation uses world leading climate science from the UK's Met Office to show world temperatures throughout the next hundred years under medium projections of greenhouse gas emissions, along with stories of how people in the UK and in some of the world's poorest countries are already being affected by changing weather patterns. Users can also access information on action that can be taken by individuals, communities, businesses and governments to tackle climate change, and highlights good work already underway.

<http://earth.google.com/outreach>.

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## **Adapting to Climate Change in England**

A framework for action. Bringing together the work already being led by Government and the wider public sector on adaptation in England.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/pdf/adapting-to-climate-change.pdf>

## **Climate Change One Stop Shop**

A new one-stop-shop website to help businesses, planners and organisations deal with the impacts of climate change. <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/index.htm>

## **Opportunities for Forest Industries**

A ConFor commissioned report that identifies opportunities and challenges presented by climate change and associated legislation, government policies and targets. Produced by Catriona Prebble, the report identifies 42 opportunities and 30 challenges for the sector, which need to be prioritised.

Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenges for the Forest and Wood-using Industry, hard copies on request from ConFor 0131 240 1410 or download from their site:

[http://www.confor.org.uk/Upload/Documents/22\\_Climatechangebooklet.pdf](http://www.confor.org.uk/Upload/Documents/22_Climatechangebooklet.pdf)

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## **UK Climate Change Annual Report**

Alongside the Annual Report, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has published its fifth annual report on progress on the 2003 Energy White Paper.

A full copy of the Climate Change Programme Annual Report is available at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/index.htm>

The Energy White Paper Annual Report is available at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46645.pdf>.

## **Public attitudes to climate change**

The most up-to-date research shows that awareness of climate change is increasing across the UK.

Research also shows that concern about the impact of climate change is also growing.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/individual/attitudes/>

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## **BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS/WEBSITES**

### **Cultural Heritage of Woodlands in the SE**

A book which focuses on woodland heritage and has been produced by the SE AONBs Woodlands Programme (High Weald, Kent Downs and Surrey Hills). It examines the cultural heritage of woodlands across the region. The book can be downloaded from <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d7dlcjj>. For more information contact: Patrick McKernan <mailto:patrick.mckernan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

## Rainforest Website

The Prince of Wales has launched the website for his Rainforests Project, a campaign designed to prevent deforestation in tropical countries. Three films will be featured on the website, as well as the findings of some new research. The Prince is calling on international governments, businesses and consumers to contribute £30bn a year in the fight against climate change through a mechanism enabling poorer countries to value their trees. <http://www.princesrainforestsproject.org>

## Ancient Tree Guide; Trees and Development

A guide to tackle housing and commercial development demolition of Britain's ancient trees. Prompted by increasing tree losses in the face of development demands, Ancient Tree Guide; Trees and Development argues for the inclusion of trees into design and building proposals – in contrast to the increasingly frequent pre-emptive felling of trees to clear sites. Third in a series produced to promote awareness of ancient trees, the guide is aimed at builders, developers, architects, arborists, landscape designers and contractors. It cites British Standard 5837: 2005 'Trees in relation to construction' whereby the value of trees should be initially assessed independently of layout and design – with design taking account of their long term setting. Important trees should then be protected during the construction phase. A handbook 'Veteran Trees; A Guide to Good Management' is also available from Natural England for tree work appropriate to ancient and veteran trees.

<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancienttreeguide/atg3.pdf>

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## Exploring Woodland

A series of 'best of' guides from the Woodland Trust, featuring woods to visit in different regions and countries throughout Britain. The latest three titles covering The North West & The Lakes, East Anglia & North Thames and The North East & Yorkshire bring the titles available in the series to eight. Each guide features woods to visit in both private and public ownership. Ranging from busy urban settings to countryside locations. Available from high street bookshops or from the Woodland Trust at

<http://www.wt-store>

## Celebrity Endorsement?

Will a celebrity make or break your charity? Celebrity endorsement can dramatically increase a charity's profile, inspire enviable public support and boost campaign activities. But, be warned, choose the wrong celebrity and your charity could suffer. The Directory for Social Change have published a book to help you recruit and manage a successful relationship with the right celebrity. Patrons, Presidents and Personalities £18.95 <http://www.dsc.org.uk/Publications/@14768>

## UPM Tilhill Timber Bulletin

The 2008 UPM Tilhill Timber Bulletin: 'Trends and influences on the UK standing coniferous timber sales market', records a 'dramatic peak' in the market during 2007 which saw record timber sales against recent years with demand for energy wood a significant factor in driving up both demand and prices for small roundwood. [http://www.upm-tilhill.com/documents/1/ZZ\\_1211372519\\_Timber%20Bulletin%202008.pdf](http://www.upm-tilhill.com/documents/1/ZZ_1211372519_Timber%20Bulletin%202008.pdf)

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## Statistics on Timber Price Indices

The latest National Statistics on Timber Price Indices, produced by the Forestry Commission.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/tpi200803.pdf/\\$FILE/tpi200803.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/tpi200803.pdf/$FILE/tpi200803.pdf)

Statistics on UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional results) include data on production, imports and exports of roundwood and wood products for the UK for the calendar years 2003 to 2007. From the data for UK roundwood deliveries to industries and others in 2007: integrated pulp and paper mills - 0.5 million green tonnes (a 12% fall); and other uses including round fencing, woodfuel, shavings and exports of roundwood: 1.7 million green tonnes (a 16% increase). The National Statistics First Release, UK Wood Production and Trade (provisional results), is available at

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/trprod08.pdf/\\$FILE/trprod08.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/trprod08.pdf/$FILE/trprod08.pdf)

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## Estimating Deer Populations

New guidance has been published on estimating the numbers of deer in woodlands, in Bulletin 128: Estimating deer abundance in woodlands: the combination plot technique, which is a variation of the faecal pellet group count method. The technique has been developed and refined using data from more than 10 years of monitoring and research. FC Bulletin 128 is priced £17.50 and can be ordered from Forestry Commission Publications, tel: 0870 121 4180; quoting stock code FCBU128.

## Timber information sheets

TRADA and wood for.good have joined forces to produce a series of timber information sheets for general builders. The Choose & Use documents cover treated timber, wood-based sheet materials, timber species and storing timber and wood-based products on building sites. They can be customised with a company's contact details before being printed out and handed to customers over the counter. Pre-printed versions are also available. A further nine sheets are being developed and will be released throughout the year, looking at decking, engineered wood products, fire doors and components, external wood cladding, using timber for structural work – roofing, doors and windows, fixings for wood, timber strengths and spans and sourcing sustainable timber.

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## National Student Database

Based on Lantra's Online Competence Framework (OCF), the Database enables skills and qualifications to be recorded, career options evaluated and skills gaps identified. The system includes information on all Lantra's sector approved job role profiles. Allowing students to search careers and desired qualifications. More information on the National Student Database call 0845 707 8007 or email

<mailto:connect@lantra.co.uk>.

Source: Lantra Connect

## Cultural Heritage of Woodlands in the SE

A book which focuses on woodland heritage and produced by the SE AONBs Woodlands Programme (High Weald, Kent Downs and Surrey Hills). It examines the cultural heritage of woodlands across the region. The book can be downloaded from <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-7dlcjj>.

For more information contact: Patrick McKernan <mailto:patrick.mckernan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

## Reclaimed building products guide

BioRegional Consulting have produced a new guide for the government's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to provide architects, designers and contractors with opportunities to specify and procure reclaimed building materials and products.

[http://rcproducts.wrap.org.uk/construction/reclaimed\\_building.html](http://rcproducts.wrap.org.uk/construction/reclaimed_building.html)

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## Red Band Needle Blight

Research Note from the Forestry Commission providing an update on red band needle blight. It provides information on the causal agents, the pathogen lifecycle, and the disease's symptoms, distribution and impact. It also discusses the options for control and management, and considers the likely future of the disease in Britain. A .pdf is available on line or hard copies are available free from Forestry Commission Publications e-mail: <mailto:forestry@twoten.press.net>, quoting stock code FCRN002.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/WebPubsByISBN/45FBB85E66BA39888025748D0043633E>

## Social Issues in Public Procurement

Buy and Make a Difference - How to address Social Issues in Public Procurement, is a new guide that draws on real-life examples to show public procurers how they can help address social concerns both in what they buy and in the way they should expect suppliers to cater for social needs.

[http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social\\_Issues\\_in\\_Public\\_Procurement.pdf](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Social_Issues_in_Public_Procurement.pdf)

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## The Environmental Change Network (ECN)

This is a Research Note reviewing data collected at the Alice Holt site over 14 years of operation from 1992–2006. Evidence of the impacts of climate change, pollution and their interaction with land management are explored.

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/searchpub/?SearchView&Query=\(The+and+Environment+and+Change+and+Network+an](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/searchpub/?SearchView&Query=(The+and+Environment+and+Change+and+Network+an)

## Healthy Hedgerows

An alliance of organisations have got together to promote essential hedgerow management with a new film, called Cut Above The Rest. The film has been created in partnership with the National Hedgelaying Society, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), the RSPB, the Tree Council and Defra. Cut Above the Rest is available as a DVD free from Natural England's Enquiry Service 0845 600 3078;

<mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk>

## Planting and Restocking Statistics

The FCs figures on woodland area, planting and restocking (replanting after harvesting) for the year to March 2008. [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/area08.pdf/\\$FILE/area08.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/area08.pdf/$FILE/area08.pdf)

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## The Work-related Learning Guide

The primary focus of this guide is work-related learning for 14-19 year-olds in England. Bringing together the information people need in order to understand what work-related learning is and how they can get involved.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-0048-2008&>

## COURSES, TRAINING AND EVENTS

### Take a Bough: Furniture from the Urban Forest

An exhibition organised by the Mersey Forest which demonstrates that local choices exist without the need to purchase fine furniture from a superstore and that purchasing from local producers creates a local sustainable solution for wood. The exhibition has been running since the beginning of July with the last one 2nd August to 6th September at Castle Park Arts Centre, Frodsham, Cheshire.

<http://www.castleparkarts.co.uk/exhibitions.html>

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### Train to Gain

A free service to help UK businesses improve competitiveness and profitability through training, and they will advise on any Government funding available. The Train to Gain service is funded by the Learning and Skills Council. I contacted Train to Gain to find out the situation for charities and not for profit organisations. I was told that the arrangements for charities (according to the West Midlands office) were put in place 21st May and relate to a first NVQ2 qualification. Worth contacting your regional office to find out what might be available for your own staff as well as any businesses you might be helping.

<http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>

### Participation in Education, Training and Employment

The latest national statistics on participation of 16-18 year olds in education, training and employment in England. A record 1.6 million young people aged 16 to 18 – the highest number ever – are now taking part in education, work based learning or training. The Government's plans to raise the participation age which will ensure that all young people participate to age 17 from 2013 and to 18 from 2015. Figures also show the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) has fallen for the second year running to 9.4 per cent <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml>

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## Online Apprenticeship Tool

The Woodworking Industry Training Forum (WITForum), run by the British Woodworking Federation, has launched a service that will identify apprentices and work placements. The online facility is in response to comments that there are not enough skilled workers to satisfy demand. School leavers and young people will be able to search jobs listed by employers on the site. <http://www.bwf.org.uk/wit-forum>

Source: TTJ

## Apprenticeships

Over the next three years Lantra is reviewing all of its apprenticeship frameworks across the UK. Phase one of the review will focus on agriculture, horticulture and animal care. Phase two will focus on fencing, floristry, environmental conservation, dry stone walling, trees and timber, game and wildlife management. Questionnaires for employers and training providers, they say, will be available on Lantra's website during July 2008 – couldn't find the questionnaire at the time of writing this.

<http://www.lantra.co.uk/businesses/apprenticeship-reviews> For further information about

Apprenticeships <http://www.lantra.co.uk/youngpeople-and-parents/education>

Source: Lantra Connect

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## The National Apprenticeship Service

The service is set to deliver an expanded apprenticeship programme and will provide a single point of contact for employers who want to offer apprenticeships. More information on apprenticeships:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk> The press release includes regional figures:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=373697&NewsAreaID=2>

## Women and Work Project

The Women and Work: Sector Pathways Initiative has new funding enabling a 2008/2009 programme. The initiative is for the environmental and land-based sector and targets those who wish to progress in occupations where it is widely recognised that few females have highly skilled or managerial roles.

<http://www.lantra.co.uk/womenandwork>

Source: Lantra Connect

## London Greenskills

This involves working closely with the Olympic Development Authority, the five Olympic boroughs, the Learning and Skills Council, providers and employers to ensure that there will be a skilled workforce to both develop and maintain the green elements of the Olympic site and the Olympic Park afterwards.

Source: Lantra Connect

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## The Wales Woodland Celebration 2008

An on-line searchable database of woodland events across Wales – searchable by date, region, county and type of event. <http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/Celebration.php>

## National Forest Wood Fair

25th August 2008, Beacon Hill Country park, Leicestershire.

<http://www.nationalforest.org/>

## Urban Forestry Conferences

Conference opportunities seem to abound but you have to travel a long way, I have found events in Colombia, China, and USA. I've selected some of the European ones.....see <http://unri.org/iufro/> for the others.

COST Action E39 'Forests, Trees and Human Health and Wellbeing'. Hamar, Norway, 28-30 August 2008.

A research network that has focused on the contributions of forests and trees to human health and wellbeing. This is their final conference. [http://www.e39.ee/?News:Conference\\_in\\_Norway](http://www.e39.ee/?News:Conference_in_Norway).

The 12th European Forum on Urban Forestry – 'Changing city, changing forest' Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 27-30 May 2009. Focussing on the Amsterdamse Bos (Amsterdam Forest), one of Europe's best-known city forest landscapes. <http://www.efuf.org>.

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## Forest Bioenergy Fuel Supply Chains 2008

International Conference and Exhibition, 28th - 30th August, Finland. The Conference topics are purchasing of forest fuels and trade, timber felling wood residues as fuel, fuels from early thinning, machine entrepreneurship. <http://www.bioforest.finbioenergy.fi/>

## Social Enterprise World Forum

Edinburgh from September 2nd – 5th 2008. <http://www.ceis.org.uk/events/sewf> or 0141 425 2907.  
Source CWA

## Form>Wood Conference

The form>wood conference was unfortunately postponed, due to a small fire at the venue but it has been rearranged for Tuesday 2nd September 2008, 4pm - 8pm (with optional lunchtime master classes beforehand). It will be at the Bluecoat Centre in Liverpool, with the keynote speaker Ted Cullinan, RIBA gold medal winner, 2008. For more information email: <mailto:info@formwood.org.uk>

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## Forest Health Seminars

FC Wales and Forest Research are holding two one-day Forest Health seminars looking at some of the pests and diseases affecting trees and woodlands in Wales. The first seminar will be held near Ruthin, on Wednesday, 3 September, with the second taking place the following day in Talybont on Usk, in south Wales. More info contact Lyn Ackroyd, Forest Research, Cefn Gethiniog, Talybont on Usk, Brecon, tel: 01874 676444, email <mailto:lyn.ackroyd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

## Permaculture Convergence 2008

Nell Bank Centre, Ilkley West Yorkshire 5-7 September. With Roberto Perez from Cuba sharing his experience of urban food growing. <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/mm.asp?mmfile=convergence2008>

## Orchards and Groves

A conference at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) 8th - 10th September 2008 entitled Orchards and Groves: Their History, Ecology, Culture and Archaeology. The conference will cover issues from archaeology to modern-day emergence of organic products, of added value, and of the tourism plate. For more information and to be added to the mailing list contact: Christine Handley, c/o Hallam Environmental Consultants Ltd, Venture House, 105 Arundel Street, Sheffield, S1 2NT.  
Tel: 0114 272 4227

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## Scottish Woodfair 2008

12th to 14th September 08, Perth. <http://www.scottishwoodfair.co.uk/default.aspx>

## Woodfuel Supply Chain - Sharing Experience

University of Warwick 14th - 19th September. Jointly organised by the Biomass Energy Centre and IEA Bioenergy to share experience and knowledge among practitioners and stakeholders across the industry and from around the world. It will include workshop technical sessions, field trips and an "industry day" at the APF International Machinery Exhibition at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, where the woodfuel industry is expected to have a significant presence. <http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk>

## APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition

Thursday 18th to Saturday 20th September 2008 at Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.  
For further information visit <http://www.apfexhibition.co.uk>.

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## Bio-Energy Workshops

Friday 19th September 2008 at the APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition. Hosted by IEA Bioenergy in association with the UK Biomass Energy Centre, the workshops will explore the following themes:

- the politics and plans for wood energy – how does the UK situation compare internationally?
- Are the UK's woodfuel strategies working?
- future opportunities, with an emphasis on systems ideal for forest contractors.

- latest technology – logs, chips, pellets, combined heat and power.  
For further information contact Dr Hugh Williams of Forest Research,  
<mailto:hugh.williams@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>, telephone 01420 526188.

## **Small Woods Association AGM**

The SWA AGM will be held at the APF Forestry Show in Staffordshire on 20th September 2008.  
email: <mailto:philtidey@smallwoods.org.uk> <http://www.smallwoods.org.uk>

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## **A Week in the Woods : Coppice Apprenticeship**

A Week in the Woods An Introduction to Coppicing and Woodland Crafts. 22nd – 26th September 2008.  
The Sustainability Centre, Droxford, East Meon, Petersfield GU13 1HR. The Green Wood Centre and the National Coppice Apprenticeship Group have been working with the Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust (BHMAT) to take the Bill Hogarth Apprenticeship Scheme national. The apprenticeship training is for 3 years and is accredited by the Open College North West. When a Week in the Woods course has been completed there will be an opportunity to apply for the full 3-year apprenticeship with a bursary towards living expenses. The Week in the Woods course costs: £120 - £220 <http://www.greenwoodcentre.org.uk>  
Contact: Fran Fowkes at the Green Wood Centre on 01952 432769 or email  
<mailto:courses@greenwoodcentre.org.uk>

## **FSC Friday - 26th September 2008**

FSC UK will be holding the inaugural “FSC Friday” in September this year. The day will provide a focus for FSC promotions and activities, in the same way as Fairtrade Fortnight highlighted the work of the The Fairtrade Foundation, leading in to a weekend of FSC related activities. They are keen to promote the importance of UK forests and woodlands and encourage people to visit their local FSC certified site. FSC hope that various NGOs and local organisations will help by holding FSC related events over the weekend. This is being organised by FSC UK’s Marketing Officer, Rosie Teasdale. 01686 413916  
<mailto:rosie@fsc-uk.org>

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## **Reforestation Scotland Gathering**

26th to 28th September 08 in the Borders with the main venue being Glen House near Inverleithen, including a Ceilidh at Traquair Village Hall. The theme is Borders forestry- recreation and re-creation. An eclectic mix of buildings tour, soapbox, talks, workshops, site visits.  
[www.reforestingscotland.org](http://www.reforestingscotland.org)

## **Future Communities Now**

29 September – 1 October 2008, Latimer Place, Buckinghamshire: £700 + VAT! BRE is hosting a three-day, CPD certified, residential conference, to present practical solutions to sustainable community issues and provide explanatory policy updates. For more information see <http://www.futurecommunitiesnow.com>

## **What’s up with Oak?**

A Forest Research Seminar on Oak and the Pests and Diseases attacking it. Tuesday 30th September, 10am - 3pm, at the Dean Management Training Centre in the Forest of Dean. Numbers are limited. Deadline for registration is 15th September. Contact: Dr Hugh Williams, email  
<mailto:hugh.williams@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

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## **Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Geneva, Switzerland, 30 September – 01 October 2008. An inaugural conference jointly organised by the WWF and Green Power Conferences focussing on the practical challenges and opportunities cities and communities will face in order to tackle rising greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and congestion.  
[http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/renewablemarkets/sustainable\\_cities.html#intro](http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/renewablemarkets/sustainable_cities.html#intro)

## **International Forests Conference - Russia**

The Role of Forests in Climate Management: Research – Innovations – Investments – Capacity Building is to take place in St Petersburg on October 4-7. It will look at developing the global role of the forestry sector in mitigating climate change, and what is being done on a national and international level to drive this. This includes technological innovations and financial mechanisms/investment partnerships.

[http://www.rosleshoz.gov.ru/english/media/actions/conference/forest\\_and\\_climate/](http://www.rosleshoz.gov.ru/english/media/actions/conference/forest_and_climate/)

Source: TTJ

## **South Yorkshire Wood Fair**

Endcliffe Park, Sheffield – Saturday 4th October 2008. For further information please contact Maria Wilding or Kerry Bennett on 0114 2571199, email <mailto:maria.wilding@syforest.co.uk> or <mailto:kerry.bennett@syforest.co.uk> Stalls can be booked through David Ryan on 0114 2500500 or email <mailto:david.ryan2@sheffield.gov.uk> Stall fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for relevant demonstrations that make a significant contribute to the ethos of Wood Fair.

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## **Bioenergy 2008**

Aston Villa, Birmingham, 7 – 8 October. The Renewable Energy Directive, Sustainability, Communications and PR will be the main themes of the event. Contact <mailto:lsleeper@r-e-a.net>

<http://www.r-e-a.net/events/rea-events/bioenergy-conference/bioenergy-2008-1>

## **Subsidence and Trees: A Collaborative Approach**

Wednesday 8th October 2008. 9.50am – 4.00pm; Council Chamber, Essex County Council, Chelmsford. Joint ICF East England Region & Arboricultural Association East Anglia Branch Conference hosted by Essex County Council. Programme and booking form <http://www.charteredforesters.org> or email <mailto:matt.searle@essex.gov.uk>

## **The European Biofuels Expo & Conference**

Nottingham, 15 – 16th October 2008, focusing on Wood Energy along with Biodiesel, Bio-home heating oil and Bio-Gas. <http://www.biofuels-expo.co.uk>

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## **Expobioenergy**

3rd Edition International Bioenergy Fair, Spain, 16, 17 and 18 October 2008. This event is a drive to encourage the collaboration between the UK and Spain in the field of renewable energy.

<http://www.nodoindustrialmaule.cl/english/detalle.php?id=37>

## **Ignition 09**

11th & 12th March 2009, Sage, Gateshead. Ignition 09 is the UK's first dedicated woodfuel expo, providing a Europe-wide showcase for this rapidly growing industry.

<http://www.ignition09.co.uk>

## **Collaborative Working Conference 2008**

Achieving together the practice and potential of collaborative working. Wednesday 22 October 2008. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in London. <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=9854>

## **Community Woodlands Scotland Annual Conference 2008**

7th November, Seminar - 8th to 9th November, Conference, Rothes Halls, Glenrothes Fife. More details will be available by September 2008. <http://www.communitywoods.org/>

## **FEI GB National Networking Day**

Forest Education Initiative's National Networking Day: THE POWER OF WOOD! 25th November 2008 at the Pioneer Centre, Wyre Forest. Wood as a fuel and a sustainable resource and how to enjoy and experience the power of wood and woodlands! Chris Beardshaw, garden designer and TV presenter will welcome delegates. <http://www.foresteducation.org/country.php?ctry=u>

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## The Regeneration Summit

27th November 2008, Barbican Conference Centre, London. In areas of heightened deprivation, regeneration strategy is central to improving the lives and environment of local people. The Regeneration Summit 'Delivering Homes, Creating Communities', will discuss strategies whereby local authorities can succeed and excel in their renewal endeavours. Entrance is complimentary to the public sector. Contact: Matthew Warrilow 0161 8327 387 <mailto:mwarrilow@publicservantevents.org.uk>  
<http://www.publicserviceevents.co.uk/main/overview.asp?ID=65>

## Voice 09 - Social Enterprise Conference

International Conference Centre (ICC) in Birmingham from February 10-11, 2009. Voice09 is hosted by the Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC), the national body for social enterprise, with support from Advantage West Midlands and Birmingham City Council. More than 1,000 conference delegates and 80 exhibitors are expected in Birmingham.  
<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/>

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## SUREC 2009

The Southern Urban Regeneration Exhibition and Conference 2009. London, February 2009. The website is currently under development but for advance information contact <mailto:info@surec.co.uk>

## Delivering the Code for Sustainable Homes & GreenPrint

15 October 2008 - WMCCE, Birmingham. BRE/WMCCE Sustainability Series: one day interactive seminar. <http://www.bre.co.uk/eventdetails.jsp?id=2078>

## SITUATIONS VACANT AND NEW APPOINTMENTS

### ConFor appoints England manager

Caroline Harrison, a chartered forester, has been appointed as ConFor's England manager. She gained an HND from Newton Rigg in environmental land management, then went on to the University of Plymouth and graduated with a BSc (Hons) in rural resource management. For ten years, Caroline was project administrator/manager for the Working Woodlands project in the South West, she was also project administrator for the Woodheat project in the southwest. Caroline joins ConFor from Payne Timber Solutions Ltd. [caroline.harrison@confor.org.uk](mailto:caroline.harrison@confor.org.uk)

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### EFIP appoints partnership manager

ConFor, on behalf of the England Forest Industries Partnership, has appointed Dr Gesa Reiss as partnership manager for EFIP. Gesa has a degree in commercial horticulture from the University of Strathclyde and a doctorate from the University of Bristol. Over the past 15 years, she has worked in science, education and overseas development, liaising with farmers and landowners, retailers, environmental non-governmental organisations, urban planners, developers and policy-makers. Most recently, Gesa was director of the Great Western Community Forest. Working with partners in EFIP, Gesa's role will be to co-ordinate implementation of the EFIP action plan. The main actions that have been identified so far are:

- Skills for the sector at all levels
- Developing the market for timber and wood products
- Information hub for the industry

Temporary email address: <mailto:gesareiss66@yahoo.co.uk>

### News from Weald Woodnet

Changes have been taking place down in East Sussex. Jenny Martin who edited Woodlots for 7 years and co-ordinated training courses for Weald Woodnet has moved to Australia. Dan Cope is the new editor of Woodlots (<mailto:woodlots@woodnet.org.uk>) and Tracy Pepler is looking after the training courses (<mailto:info@woodnet.org.uk>). Tracy also works for <http://www.woodlands.co.uk> managing their Small Woodland Owners group.

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## Northwoods (North East)

There is a new member of staff to replace Marc Barendrecht who has returned to Western Australia, he has been replaced by Ethan Bigelow who has made the trans-atlantic voyage from the USA. He is bringing a wealth of experience in wildfire management, Ethan was an incident commander in Oregon and Arizona. There is a Northumberland Wildfire DVD on You Tube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjvIRhDFRAk>

## West Mids RAC – new Chair

Graham Hunt has been appointed Chair of the Forestry Commission's Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). Graham was Project Director at the Forest of Mercia Community Forest from its inception in 1989 until 2007. He is now a Community Partnership Officer for Staffordshire County Council working on Community Strategies and Local Strategic Partnerships for the Cannock Chase and Tamworth areas.

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## Chief Planner

A new Chief Planner has been appointed by the Government to drive forward their plans to make the planning system faster and fairer with people and councils engaged in shaping their communities. Steve Quartermain will ensure the planning system supports the delivery of housing growth, climate change, sustainable economic development and works to protect and enhance the natural environment. Mr. Quartermain is currently Executive Director of Hambleton District Council. He brings 29 years of planning experience to the role and is President of the Planning Officers Society.

## FC East Midlands

Austin Brady has left the Forestry Commission to take up a new post at Government Office East Midlands. For Regional Policy, Strategy or Partnership working at FC East Midlands contact David Bole on 01623 821433 or email <mailto:david.bole@forestry.gsi.gov.uk>

## FC Health and Well-Being Ranger

Hannah Darcel has been appointed as health and well-being ranger by the Forestry Commission . So far she seems to be covering the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. Hannah's job will be to co-ordinate healthy living events organised by the Forestry Commission as part of its Active Woods health campaign. The first of these is "buggyfit" fitness sessions where parents or guardians take part in stretching exercises, power walking, strengthening and toning and a cool down, with youngsters going along for the ride in buggies.

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## Biomass and Woodlands Manager

BioRegional, is seeking a Biomass and Woodlands Manager. An opportunity for a business minded, implementation focussed environmentalist to play a key role in driving forward the delivery of renewable energy and managed woodland. Salary: £28,000 - £31,000 (depending on skills and experience) Based at: BedZED Centre, Surrey. Contract: Permanent, 37.5 hours per week. For more information and to apply for this post, please see: <http://www.bioregional.com/jobs/Biomass&WoodlandsMgr.htm> Closing date for applications, 25th August 2008.

## Project Network Officer

The Small Woods Associations National Coppice Restoration Project is looking for a Project Network Officer in the South of England. Salary £19,000 (pro rata) 3 days per week (initial 7 month contract - leading to 3 year contract dependent on funding success). Closing date for applications is 12.00 - 22nd August 2008. Tel: 01952 432769 [http://www.smallwoods.org.uk/225\\_Job-Opportunities.asp](http://www.smallwoods.org.uk/225_Job-Opportunities.asp)

## Trees and Timber Partnership Manager

Lantra has appointed Ros Burnley as the trees and timber partnership manager for the UK. Ros joined Lantra a year ago as the trees and timber industry lead in England, she will be taking over the UK lead from Claire Glaister of Rural Development Initiatives.

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## **Project Coordinator – Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns**

Salary in range £25,000 - £27,000 per annum, 37.5 hours per week. Some weekend work required. One year maternity cover. The Chiltern Woodlands Project is looking for an enthusiastic, flexible and self-motivated person to manage this exciting project, coordinating a team of volunteers to record and research the stories behind the trees and woods in the Chilterns. The full job description and further information can be downloaded from <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/conservation/vacancies.html>  
Closing date: Monday 18th August Interview date: Wednesday 10th September

## **Rural Development Initiatives – Project Management posts**

RDI have been awarded a number of new contracts so they are creating a number of new posts at varying levels including: Project Managers, Project Officers and Assistant Project Officers based in either Northumberland or North Yorkshire. <http://www.ruraldevelopment.org.uk/news/do-you-want-join-us> or write to [vacancies@ruraldevelopment.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@ruraldevelopment.org.uk).

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## **Advertising Jobs through RFS**

Every other Friday, the Royal Forestry Society e-news goes out directly to over 1,000 of their 4000 members. Each RFS e-news carries a selection of job announcements. The cost for advertising is £50 plus VAT. Contact Linda Clements on <mailto:rfsHQ@rfs.org.uk>.

## **Advertising Jobs through ICF**

ICF has a flier service. They are able to customise a mailing list from the member database to specifically target individuals in separate regions. You need to provide the ICF with the appropriate number of copies (bearing a strapline with the ICF logo that indicates to members that the solicitation comes from ICF) and they do the rest. The cost is £200 plus postage, plus VAT and they offer same day distribution as standard. Contact: Betsy Andrews, Marketing & Administration Officer, Institute of Chartered Foresters. 0131 240 1425 email: <mailto:betsy.andrews@charteredforesters.org>

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