

# Bramble in woodland – bane or benefit

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006

The Great Oak Hall, Westonbirt National Arboretum

## Background

Bramble is a widely distributed native species that occurs within the ground flora of many woodland communities. Foresters often regard the species as a problem weed that can cause significant difficulties for tree establishment, but it is important for wildlife providing nectar, berries and habitat . . . This one day meeting aims to bring together both forest managers and ecologists to discuss the role of bramble in woodland. It will comprise a series of short talks in the morning and an afternoon field visit.

This meeting is being organised by Forest Research and hosted by Forest Enterprise on the behalf of the Forest Ecology Group of the British Ecological Society

This meeting is a general meeting that is aimed at a wide audience including foresters, ecologists, and woodland and nature reserve managers.

## The meeting will take place at:

Westonbirt National Arboretum

Tetbury

Gloucestershire

GL8 8QS

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5y4f5k>

## Programme

(All times are approximate, but lunch is at **12.30**)

**10.00 - 10.30:** Registration, coffee . . .

**10.30 - 10.40:** Introduction

**10.40 - 11.00:** General overview, distribution, ecology . . . – Keith Kirby, English Nature.

**11.00 - 1.20:** Growth, flowering and fruiting – Andrea Kiewitt, Forest Research.

**11.20 - 12.00:** Identification, reproduction, microspecies . . . – Professor Clive Stace

**12.00 - 12.20:** Birds and other wildlife . . . – Chris Hewson / Rob Fuller, BTO

**12.30 - 13.30:** Lunch break that will include the time needed to walk to the field site.

**13.30 - 15.30:** Field visit to experimental site within woodland to discuss management issues with Gary Kerr, Victoria Stokes and Ralph Harmer who are responsible for the experiment which has treatments to manipulate both overstorey cover and bramble. Rik Pakenham (Forestry Consultant) will talk about practical aspects of managing woodlands with bramble.

**16.00** Tea, then either depart or take opportunity to have a guided tour of the Arboretum

**Booking:** The meeting will cost £15.00 per person which includes lunch. To book a place please complete and return the attached form.

## For further information contact:

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For enquiries about the meeting please contact Ralph Harmer on 01420 22255 or email [ralph.harmer@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ralph.harmer@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

**Booking form** (Please complete and return a separate booking form for each delegate)

**Name:** .....

**Organisation:** .....

**Address:** .....

.....

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**Postcode:** .....

**Tel. No:** .....

**Email:** .....

**NB:** Please include email address. Booking confirmation and further details will be sent by email.

**Any special dietary requirements:** .....

**Fee enclosed (total amount):** £ ..... (Please make cheques payable to **Forest Research**)

**Please return to:** Shirley Stephens  
Ecology Division  
Forest Research  
Wrecclesham  
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