



Seeing the Wood for the Trees

E News—December 2005

Forestry and Woodlands Partnership—Working for England's most wooded region

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

CONTENTS

- Biomass Task Force report promotes heat
- South East Biomass Champion appointed
- New Man for Deer in South East
- Trafalgar celebrated with new woodlands
- Special trees to be captured across the Chilterns
- New Forest Marque launched
- Funding Opportunities
- Policy Consultations Publications
- Publications
- Events
- Focus—Surrey Woodland Heritage Project

Introduction

Welcome to the second 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' Newsletter. This regular newsletter aims to efficiently signpost the things you need to know to make positive change happen in the South East's forestry and woodland sector. We hope this will help you join the effort to deliver 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' - the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework. To challenge, inspire and encourage involvement in delivering the regional priorities we will be holding a Regional Forestry and Woodland conference in Dorking on 23rd February 2006—for further details contact Jane Hull.

We have been encouraged by the response to the first newsletter. We have also just launched our website, hosted by the Forestry Commission. It can be found at <http://www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk>. It is designed to showcase activities which deliver the Framework outcomes, as well as listing events and resources. This newsletter is scheduled to come out quarterly, however if there are particular events or news that fall between editions, we will be sending out short 'newsflash' emails. We welcome your comments and contributions to this newsletter - please pass on information that you feel others should know about. Have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Jane Hull—Framework Development Officer - 01296 696543 or jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

News



Biomass Task Force Report promotes heat

The Biomass Task Force report was published at the end of October. This strongly advocates the unique role of biomass as a source of renewable heat - a welcome message for England's most wooded region. It has also proposed a 40% grant for boilers and CHP for 5 years. It also calls for the public sector to publish carbon targets for the use of renewable heat and energy. It examines some regulatory barriers such as revised Building Regulations. In regards to the supply chain, whilst noting that demand should lead supply, it notes a role for Regional Development Agencies (SEEDA here in the south east) in seeking to facilitate supply chain development. To view the report see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/acu/energy/biomass-taskforce/index.htm>

South East Biomass Champion appointed

Nick Sandford has been appointed as the South East's Biomass Champion by the Farming and Rural Industries Group. Nick starts work in January 2006 and will be promoting the role of biomass in renewable energy, particularly heat. This is a key role in England's most wooded region, as the development of this market will be significant in ensuring sustainable woodland management.

New Man for Deer in the South East

The Deer Initiative has appointed Jamie Cordery as Deer Liaison Officer for South East England. He is currently a lecturer in wildlife management at Sparsholt College, and managed the only full time deer management course in the UK. Whilst at Sparsholt he remained involved in practical deer management locally. Jamie's work will focus on the improvement of woodland SSSIs in the region. He can also give practical support to both individuals and collaborative deer management initiatives.

He will continue to advise in deer management training at National level and will be reviewing Best Practice advice during 2006. He can be contacted on 01962 715107, 07790 583867 or southeast@thedeerinitiative.co.uk. The South East Region office will be open from January 2006. Robert Underhill's work in the old Southern region will continue, with Robert working under both Norman Healy (South West) and Jamie.

Trafalgar celebrated with new woodlands

On Trafalgar Day, 21 October, tree planting occurred across the region to celebrate the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The Trafalgar Oaks 200 partnership planted 200 oaks overlooking Portsmouth Harbour. This creates a symbolic landmark linking the ancient Forest of Bere (where the trees for naval shipbuilding were grown) with Portsmouth Harbour (where the Navy used the trees). Other plantings include Neptune Wood at the Northmoor Trust near Didcot and Phoebes Wood at Millets Farm Centre near Abingdon. In Kent the Woodland Trust, who have led the Trafalgar Woods initiative are planting the flagship Victory Wood near Lamberhurst.

Special trees to be captured across the Chilterns

Heritage Lottery Fund has approved a grant of over £200 000, to the Chiltern Woodlands Project to run the Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns Project over the next 3.5 years. This will work with volunteers to capture the location, history and stories of the Chilterns most prized trees. For further details contact John Morris - 01844 355503 or woodlands@chilternsaonb.org

Bleeding Canker of Horse Chestnut

Forestry and arboricultural professionals in Oxfordshire gathered recently to hear the latest on this disease from Forest Research's Dr Joan Webber. She reported that it is no longer limited to southern England and that significant numbers of trees are now affected. Forest Research pathologists no longer consider this to be caused by *Phytophthora*, but rather caused by a bacterium. Both old and young trees are affected. Pictures of the symptoms can be found at <http://www.kastanjeziekte.wur.nl> If you would like to help in this research you can record the girth of affected trees and the level of canker - slight, moderate or severe. For a recording form please contact joan.webber@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

New Forest Marque launched

At the New Forest Show a marque was launched at the New Forest Show. This will be used by audited local producers, including a number of craft producers using wood, to show locally produced products. The Forest Friendly Farming project aims to develop practical ways of supporting farming, commoning and woodland management in the New Forest. This includes business and training grants. This project also supports an apprenticeship scheme for forest workers with the Forestry Commission. For more details see -

http://www.forestfriendlyfarming.org.uk/1/lx1x1oix349x1/0/0/230805/0/0//The_New_Forest_Marque.htm

Funding Opportunities



English Woodland Grant Scheme

The Woodland Improvement Grants and Woodland Management Grants opened for business on 21st November. For further details see <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs>

The Woodland Creation Grant scoring round closed on 30th September. It was oversubscribed and the scoring helped ensure that the 210ha accepted for grant aid across the South East were of high quality and will deliver the public benefits, particularly biodiversity and public access.

Funding Opportunities



English Woodland Grant Scheme...cont

Applications for Harvesting Processing and Marketing Grants closed in November. 6 applications were received in the pilot areas of the South East. These are now being considered and included tools for timber marketing and support for machinery purchases. A second round in the 2 pilot areas of North East and South East is anticipated. For further details contact Richard Everett - richard.everett@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 01580 211123.

GROW

This new fund is a €7.5 million Interreg IIC programme, launched in June 2005 and running to December 2007. It links 5 regions of Europe which are High Growth Areas, including South East England. It will be supporting projects in areas of Green Growth, Business Growth and Strategic Growth, which will contribute to the sustainable development of these regions. Specific themes include Sustainable Construction, Brownfield Regeneration and Resource Management. For more details see: <http://www.grow3c.com>

SITA Environmental Trust - Enriching Nature

This fund will support projects that contribute to biodiversity targets within 10 miles of registered landfill sites. It has two funding levels: Small - for projects up to £25,000 and Large - for projects up to £175,000. The next deadlines for applications are 21st March 2006 and 13th June 2005.

For more details see <http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/nature>

Big Lottery Fund -England Programmes 2006-2009

The Big Lottery Fund has decided its list of new programmes which improve communities and the lives of people most in need.

See http://www.biglotteryfund.org/assets/new_programme.pdf

Policy Consultations



Regional Economic Strategy

Following a series of regional discussion events, this is now out for consultation until 17th February 2006. The consultation documents notes the need to ensure growth in the region is based on a sustainable environment - recognising the importance of the environment to the SE's economy. This is an opportunity to put the case for the contribution of forestry to the region and to highlight potential markets for growth. Renewable energy is considered a key area for enterprise opportunity. Skills support for land based and rural businesses also recognised, as are the development of supply chains for farming, fishing, food and forestry. The consultation can be seen at <http://www.seeda.co.uk/res/index.asp>

Recent Publications and Resources



Woodland Management for Birds

This RSPB and FC England guide details the habitat requirements of woodland bird species most in decline, and gives practical advice on how to help them. Woodland bird populations are a headline indicator of sustainable development and quality of life. For further information see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/action/lifeline.asp> This publication is priced at £14.95.

Woodland Management for Bats

This guide aims to help foresters and landowners undertake woodland management activities in a way that integrates protection of bats. Copies are available, free, from: Forestry Commission Publications, PO Box 25, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7EW; 0870 121 4180;



Recent Publications and Resources



Recent Forestry Commission Information Notes

Those of particular interest to the South East include:

- Evaluating Biodiversity in Fragmented Landscapes: Principles (FCIN073)
- Woodland Owners' Attitudes to Public Access Provision in South-East England (FCIN074)

These Information Notes can be downloaded from the Forestry Commission's website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications>. Copies are available, free, from Forestry Commission Publications, P.O. Box 25, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7EW; telephone 0870 121 4180 forestry@twoten.press.net

Events



THE POWER TO CHANGE?
FREE workshops exploring bioenergy from wood and energy crops

9th Jan 2006 Friars Court, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire
17th Jan 2006 Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, Kent
27th Jan 2006 The Sustainability Centre, near East Meon, Hampshire
31st Jan 2006 The Woodland Enterprise Centre, near Flimwell, East Sussex.

2pm until 7.30pm and a buffet supper.
Book your place by calling 01635 817420
or by email: info@tvenergy.org

Delivered by TVE as part of the Defra Funded S.E. Regional Farm Demonstration Programme

Hadlow College TV Energy defra

TV Energy and Hadlow College have worked together funded by the Rural Development Service to produce a South East regional study into wood and biomass as an energy source. These events are demonstration workshops with an exhibition. Speakers will represent the whole supply chain from growers to manufacturers of boilers and small-scale combined heat and power systems. The study will collate all available bioenergy information, including guidelines, policy

9th January 2006 - Friars Court, near Faringdon, Oxfordshire

17th January 2006 - Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, Kent

27th January 2006 - The Sustainability Centre, near East Meon, Hampshire

31st January 2006 - The Woodland Enterprise Centre, near Flimwell, East Sussex

These events will all be from 2pm - 7.30pm and a buffet supper. To book phone 01635 817420 or info@tvenergy.org

27th January 2006 - Chilterns Woodland Conference - Green Park, Aston Clinton, Bucks. Topics include woodland access in the Chilterns, deer control and the launch of the Special Trees and Woods project. The conference costs £20 and includes a buffet lunch. For more details contact John Morris, 01844 355503 or woodlands@chilternsaonb.org

23rd February 2006 - Seeing the Wood for the Trees - Conference, Dorking. For more details contact Jane Hull, 01296 696543 or jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

2nd or 3rd March 2006 - Woodland Archaeology Training Day - Chilterns Woodland Project. Piggots Wood, North Dean near High Wycombe. £25 per person. For more details contact John Morris - 01844 355503 or woodlands@chilternsaonb.org

21st March 2006 - Grey Squirrel Control Training Day - Wendover Woods near Aylesbury. The day will include consideration of the Forestry Commission squirrel policy along with critical threat criterion and demonstrations of acceptable approved control methods

For more details see <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6HKHFJ> or contact Mike Habergham on 01296 696543 mike.habergham@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Focus



Surrey Heritage Trees Initiative

This initiative is aiming to reconnect the people of Surrey to their wooded heritage. The year's project planning phase has come to an end and proposals, supported by an evidence base, has been gathered to put forward to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Proposals include engaging with communities often disenfranchised from the countryside and cultural heritage, enthusing and training volunteers to map ancient woodland fragments (using the methodology developed by the Wealden Ancient Woodland Inventory) and veteran trees and producing a heritage atlas. The interaction with people is the centre of this - reconnecting them with their cultural heritage and giving them opportunities to get healthier both physically and mentally. For more details contact Helen Stanley at Surrey Wildlife Trust on 01483 795440 or helen.stanley@surreywt.org.uk