

# Seeing the Wood for the Trees

## E News—October 2006

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

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



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### Introduction

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter of the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework. This newsletter highlights the information you need to know to make positive change happen in the South East's forestry and woodland sector.

In the last quarter the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership, which oversee Framework delivery, responded to the England Forestry Strategy Review and the South East Plan's consultation before the Examination in Public. Our comments to the England Forestry Strategy Review highlighted the importance of the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework and its role in bringing together stronger support for woodlands at a regional level. It challenged the lack of vision in the review and promoted the role of private woodland owners and their need for reward from the market. It also put forward the view that the artificial division between woodland management and woodland creation is better considered as part of a suite of tools to deliver sustainable forest management.

Under our priority topic 'Regional Spatial Planning', we have been working with planners across the region and the South East Regional Assembly (SEERA) to produce concise guidance on how planners can implement the woodland policy in the draft South East Plan - see our news item below.

We are also considering how to best support efforts to ensure entry points for South East woodland products into markets such as the Growth Areas and the Olympics. Part of this process is a joint event with ConFor in December - see events below. The RFF process is working to further support the timber industry in the South East and is preparing a project proposal. To find out more contact Jane Hull - [jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### News

#### Promoting Woodlands to Planners

South East England's Planners will soon be better equipped to protect and support the rich woodland heritage of South East England, through concise guidance issued by the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership. The draft South East Plan includes a Woodland Policy (NRM5), highlighting priorities for the region's woodland from the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework. This guidance takes each aspect of the draft South East Plan Woodland Policy, explains why it is important and suggests how both Planning Policy and Development Control Planners can implement the policy. We hope this will help the overworked planner with the ever-widening brief! The SE Plan is still draft, however it is being considered by many Local Development Framework processes. Therefore the guidance has been produced in electronic format and will be updated as necessary during the process of finalising the South East Plan. It can be downloaded from <http://www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk>



### Promoting Planning to Foresters

The Forestry and Woodlands Partnership has also produced RFF Information Note 4 - a note highlighting what is in the South East Plan for the woodland sector, to ensure we use it to push our work forward with other partners. It can be downloaded from <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infid-6ggh73> - Under RFF Information Notes

The Forestry Commission is also submitting responses to Local Development Framework consultations of the most wooded local authorities and Growth Areas, to encourage local authorities to better protect ancient woodlands, set targets for Green Infrastructure and stimulate markets through promotion of renewable energy and sustainable construction.

### Mid Sussex Revised Ancient Woodland Inventory Launched

Mid Sussex District Council, with the High Weald AONB and Forestry Commission have revised the ancient woodland inventory in this highly wooded district. It now includes woodlands under 2ha. The Inventory has become a key part of the evidence base in the preparation of the Local Development Framework. For more detail on the possibility of undertaking this in your local authority, contact [patrick.mckernan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.mckernan@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### Stoking up for Woodfuel

The Government's Response to Biomass Task Force Report (April 2006) charged the Forestry Commission with preparing a woodfuel strategy and implementation plan. The plan has to stimulate a viable and sustainable woodfuel industry that will progressively utilise an additional 2 Million tonnes per annum of woodland material by 2020. In the South East the Forestry Commission and SEEDA have been working on this with renewable energy organisations and the private sector, as a substantial proportion of the volume is likely to come from this region. Engagement with government continues at national level. For further details see: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-woodfuel>. Also the Biomass Energy Centre can be visited at <http://www.biomassenergycentre.org.uk>

### Deer Initiative gets busy

The Deer Initiative has been meeting landowners and stalkers in the South East Priority Areas - the Bernwood cluster northeast of Oxford and Leith Hill in Surrey. These areas have woodland SSSIs that are "unfavourable" or "unfavourable declining" because of deer pressure. They will receive additional support from the South East Deer Liaison Officer (Jamie Cordery), to attain at least improving status by 2010. The Deer Initiative has also obtained a thermal imaging camera and will make it available to provide baseline data for deer managers across the region. This project is supported under ERDP, by DEFRA and EAGGF. For further details and to receive the South East Deer Initiative email news contact Jamie Cordery on [southeast@thedeerinitiative.co.uk](mailto:southeast@thedeerinitiative.co.uk).

### Revised UK Woodland Assurance Scheme Standard completed

The UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) is the Standard against which forests are measured to demonstrate that they are sustainably managed. UKWAS has been revised and will be launched formally on November 1st 2006. From this date, existing Forest Stewardship Council certificate holders will have one year to comply with the revised requirements of the standard. All new certificates issued will be assessed against the requirements of the revised standard. It will also be incorporated into the PEFC Certification Scheme for Sustainable Forest Management with effect from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2006. It is at <http://www.ukwas.org.uk/standard/review/index.html> alongside a summary of the main changes.

### Riverine Restoration Project completed

The successful New Forest Riverine Restoration Project, LIFE 3, has just ended. It restored 261 hectares of riverine woodland and 184 hectares of mire. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newforest>

### Are you exercising enough?

A new social research project is investigating how active we are, what limits our exercise and propose possible solutions. It is part of Sport England's Active England programme and will be carried out by Forest Research and Brighton University. It will monitor and evaluate the habits of users and non-users at five sites including Bedgebury (Kent).

## BIHIP look for good quality sweet chestnut trees

The British and Irish Hardwoods Improvement Programme (BIHIP) is seeking the best quality sweet chestnut trees to enhance the quality of planting material. If you know trees of at least 30cm in diameter at breast height with a straight, clean, cylindrical stem and healthy crown with light branching, as either maidens or coppice stems, consider advising BIHIP. See <http://www.bihip.com>

## Recent Publications and Resources



### Exploring your woodlands history

This is a practical guide for those undertaking their own woodland archaeology projects. It covers the whole process including desk study, field investigation, reporting and management implications. It is based upon the experiences of the Clowes Wood Archaeology Project, which involved local community under the guidance of a professional landscape archaeologist. For a copy send an A4 stamped addressed envelope for 87p to: the Blean Initiative, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT11YW.

### Woodfuel - Frequently Asked Questions :

a non technical factsheet. Part of the Woodfuel Information Pack.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-66SHAG>

### England Forestry Strategy Review - Implementation Progress Report (1998-2006)

This Forestry Commission England report highlights changes since the launch of the England Forestry Strategy in 1998. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4ucf8j>

### The Doorway

This site highlights the variety of jobs in this industry, with maps of career pathways.

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

### RFF Work Plan

The plan for this current year will soon be on our website - <http://www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk> It outlines what partners are doing to deliver the key priority topics of the RFF. If you have actions that would contribute to this, please let Jane Hull know - 01296 696543 or [jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## Events



### 17 October 2006: 'Diseases and decay of trees – implications for hazard assessment'

Farnham, Surrey. Introduces the processes of disease and decay in trees, and covers the basic principles of investigation and diagnosis. <http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6RCBNT>

### 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006, New Woods, New Lives, New Landscapes. Manchester

This Woodland Trust event will explore the rationale for woodland expansion, how much more woodland do we need and how might we achieve this. For further details see <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/wcc/>

### 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2006 - South East Renewable Energy Conference, Brighton Racecourse.

This event will consider finance and investment, community involvement, spatial planning and technical issues. See <http://www.serenewables.org.uk>

### 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006 - Chilterns Special Trees and Woodlands Project Annual Conference

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College, High Wycombe. Veteran tree expert, Ted Green, is the guest speaker. Open to all. For more details contact Liz Manley 01844 355525, [lmanley@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:lmanley@chilternsaonb.org) or [http://www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/stwp\\_volunteering\\_events.html](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/stwp_volunteering_events.html)

**Royal Forestry Society** events are happening across the region

See <http://www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk> under Events.

## Events



**12/14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 - Rising Opportunities, Olympic Challenges**  
Savill Gardens Visitor Centre. A joint Forestry and Woodlands Partnership / ConFor event. The Olympics and Growth Areas are key markets for South East woodland products. This is an opportunity to meet those from ConFor who are promoting wood products to the Olympics other businesses to consider how the forest industry can work together in the Region to realise these opportunities. There will also be update on other regional activity of interest to the industry, including woodfuel. For more information contact Jane Hull, [jane.hull@forestry.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:jane.hull@forestry.qsi.gov.uk) or 01296 696543.

## Funding Opportunities



### BBC Breathing Places

The BBC's Breathing Places project has Big Lottery Funding available for creating, maintaining or enhancing woodlands and other wildlife havens. You need to be part of a constituted group with a bank account with 2 signatories. Closing date 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/> or [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_breathingplaces](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces).

### AONB Sustainable Development Funds 2006-07

Open in the South East's AONB's for projects which bring environmental, social and economic benefits. The proposal must have the support of the community and/or environmental interests. A link to all AONB websites - <http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Regions/southEast/activities/landscape/finestcountryside/index.asp>

### SITA Environmental Trust - Enriching Nature

This funds projects contributing to biodiversity targets within 10 miles of registered landfill sites. It supports small projects up to £25,000 and large projects up to £175,000. The next deadline for applications is 29<sup>th</sup> December 2006. See <http://www.sitatrust.org.uk/apply/nature>

## Policy Consultations



### England Woodland Grant Scheme

The Woodland Creation Grant application period for 2007-08 has closed. All other grants are open for business at present. The South East England Prospectus can be found at:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6PTEDU#southeastengland>

### Deer and Game

Two consultations on deer management are presently open, one also considers wider game licensing. Proposed changes to the Deer Act 1991 can be found at :

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/deer-management/index.htm> (Closing date 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006).

A proposed regulatory reform order to amend the Game Act 1831, Game Licences Act 1860 and the Deer Act 1991 can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/game-licensing/index.htm> (Closing date 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006)

### South East Plan Examination in Public (EiP)

The EiP in late 2006-early 2007 will test the Plan in public before a Panel -

see <http://www.eipsoutheast.co.uk/home>. The woodland policy remains (NRM5) and the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership and Forestry Commission submitted responses to support this.

## Focus



### Focus - Low Embodied Energy from Sweet Chestnut Glulam Beams

The Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment (University of Brighton) Inwood Developments and Woodnet calculated the embodied energy of Sweet Chestnut glulam beams from the South East at 1.53MJ/kg. This compares very well with steel, quoted as 27MJ/kg and concrete 2MJ/kg, so it must be noted that different authors may use different calculations methodologies. This research is essential in building the evidence base on products required by specifiers in the construction industry. It opens the door to market opportunities. The research report is at <http://www.durabuild.org> click on Publications, then Case Study Summaries and Reports, at the bottom of the page along with a report on Sussex's woodlands. For further information contact Professor Andrew Miller, [csbe@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:csbe@brighton.ac.uk)