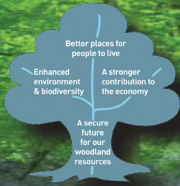


# Seeing the Wood for the Trees

## E News



August 2008

South East Forestry and Woodlands Partnership - Working together for England's most wooded region  
[www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk](http://www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk) email: [melanie.wallis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.wallis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## INTRODUCTION

The year is marching by and the weather seems undecided.

Various documents are out for consultation.

This newsletter contains articles on:

- Our Focus topic, the woodland workforce
- The definition of a garden for felling licence purposes
- The Rural Development Programme England (RDPE)
- The South East Woodland and Timber Fund (SEWTF)
- The Leader Local Action Groups update

This and previous editions of the newsletter can be downloaded from the [RFF E-News page](#) of the Regional Forestry Framework section of the South East England FC website. If you have any comments on the topics or would like to submit any articles, please send them to [melanie.wallis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.wallis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

## CONTENTS

- Garden or Woodland?
- Funding awarded under the South East Woodland Timber Fund (SEWTF) June 2008
- Leader Local Action Groups
- Coppice Survey
- Funding Opportunities
- Publications and Resources
- Events
- Focus - Woodland Workforce



## NEWS

### When is a Garden not a Garden?

A recent unlicensed felling case has, after several appeals, created case law and determined that a garden no longer conforms to the Oxford English Dictionary definition of "an enclosed piece of ground devoted to the cultivation of flowers, fruit or vegetables". Lord Justice Moses, in giving judgment that the definition was out of date, said there was a fashion for wild gardens. "No description will categorically establish whether a piece of land is a garden or not. It is important to look at the relationship between the owner and the land and the history and character of the land and space." The ruling suggests that once a garden, always a garden and that the natural regeneration of trees over an unmanaged part of a garden does not require a felling licence.

This will add to the complexity of determining what is and is not an unlicensed felling in areas adjoining housing, as this ruling could strengthen the arguments that claim land as garden.

Further information can be found at on the [Times](#) website.

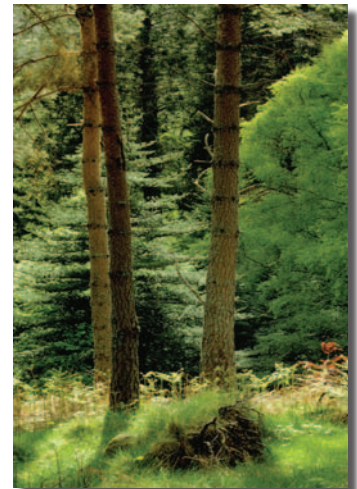
### Funding awarded under the first round of the South East Woodland and Timber Fund (SEWTF) for 08/09

Out of the eleven applications that were assessed by the Panel, five projects were approved. The total grant awarded was circa £31k leaving another £80k to be awarded during this financial year.

The projects approved for award of grant included:

- Purchase of a peeler-pointer
- Purchase of a kindling machine
- Purchase of a chipper and trailer

We wish these ventures well and look forward to seeing the benefits to the wider industry, from the SEWTF's investment, over the years to come.



## Woodfuel

There are now 57 biomass facilities installed in the SE with an installed capacity of 13.1MWth, (excluding Slough Heat and Power) with a number of other installations at various stages of project development.

There are a number of woodland owners considering installing woodfuel boilers for their personal use or entering the woodfuel market as an outlet for their pulp grade timber. In order to support the need for chipping this timber, a Google map has been created showing the [location of chippers](#), and optionally their operators, available for hire that are specifically set up to produce woodchip of suitable quality for woodfuel boilers. The grade of chip and contact information are given on the map. If you have a chipper that produces woodfuel grade chip and would like to be added to the map, please contact [gillian.alker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.alker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) for a chipper specification form.



An [International Bioenergy Association](#) has been established.

## Coppice Survey

A survey of worked coppice in the South East is being undertaken. The project is part of an ongoing program to raise awareness of the importance of coppice management. If you are aware of woodland that contains coppice which has been worked between 1st September 2007 and 31st August 2008, please download and complete the survey form from our [RFF news](#) page. Completed forms should be returned to [d.bartlett@gre.ac.uk](mailto:d.bartlett@gre.ac.uk).

## LEADER

Thirteen Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs) were approved in the first round of Leader submissions. Information on Leader, the areas covered by, and a contact name for, each LAG is held on the new [Leader page](#) of the SEEDA website. Further information on RDPE is available on the [SEEDA](#) website. For forestry related projects in excess of £100,000 or outside Leader areas, see RDPE in the Funding Opportunities section below.

## RDPE

The Rural Development Programme for England has received over 113 Expressions of Interest. So far 7 project applications have been approved to a value in excess of £7million. The forestry sector has benefited from the purchase of a harvester under this source of funding. For further information see RDPE in the Funding Opportunities section below.

## European Protected Species

There are currently no plans to hold further workshops specifically on EPS but the FC are happy to consider requests for additional talks. Woodland, owners, managers, agents and contractors are reminded that all woodland operations should be designed to work within the guidelines provided by the FC. Please see our website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-protectedspecies> for the latest guidance.

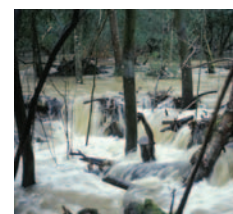
## Carbon Accounting for Land Managers

The CLA have produced a free on-line carbon calculator. CALM, [Carbon Accounting for Land Managers](#), is the first, fully-free, business based calculator showing the balance between annual emissions and carbon sequestration, of the key Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) associated with the activities of land-based businesses.

# Policy

## The Climate Change Bill

The UK, for the first time anywhere in the world, is introducing a long term legally binding framework to tackle the dangers of climate change. The Bill was introduced in Parliament on 14 November 2007 and completed its passage through the House of Lords on 31 March 2008 and has now been considered by the House of Commons. The aim is for it to have received Royal Assent by autumn 2008.



One of Defra's Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets is to lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change. Part of the vision for this PSA is to "develop a robust approach to domestic adaptation to climate change, shared across government, and encourage adaptation to climate change internationally." Defra is currently drafting the Framework which will be published once the provisions of the Climate Change Bill are approved.

Information on the bill can be found on the Adapting to climate change pages of the [Defra](#) website.

## UK Renewable Energy Strategy

The UK Renewable Energy Strategy went out to consultation in June. [A statement has been made by Mr. John Hutton](#), The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform relating to the publication of the consultation document. The document can be viewed at the [Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform \(BERR\)](#) website; this page gives details of how to respond with your views. The consultation closes on 26 September 2008.

## Managing Ancient Woodland

The Forestry Commission has held a workshop in the South East to launch its publication 'Managing Ancient and Native Woodland - England Practice Guide', which is now out for public consultation. The aim of the document is to provide guidelines which embrace its Keepers of Time policy document in combination with other documents including the UK Forestry Standard, A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests and reference to Climate Change and the European Habitats Regulations. The FC is keen to receive feedback on the [consultation document](#), via the website or to the FC Bristol office (0117 906 6000). Comments should be submitted by 22 August 2008.

## Funding Opportunities

### Horse logging apprenticeships

The [British Horse Loggers Charitable Trust](#) is seeking candidates for a funded, three-year apprenticeship in horse logging.

### England Woodland Grant Scheme

The Forestry Commission's budget for 2009/2010 has now been allocated. The final grant budgets for each grant type available in 2009/2010 will soon be announced on our website [Regional Grant availability](#).

### Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Project Funding

The SEEDA managed [forestry element](#) of the Rural Development Programme for England continues to receive applications. For an informal discussion on possible forestry projects please contact the fund manager, Chris Jankiewicz: email - [chris.jankiewicz@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.jankiewicz@forestry.gsi.gov.uk); office - 01296 696543 or his mobile on 07770 598020.

### Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Training Subsidies

Information on the RDPE funding for training will be issued by SEEDA once the Lantra/rbat Consortium contract has been signed. A Programme Manager has been appointed and will take up their post from the middle of August. The details of the courses and the associated training providers that attract RDPE subsidy are in the process of being added to the [Lantra CourseFinder](#) website. The information is searchable by keyword and postcode.

### South East Woodland and Timber Fund (SEWTF)

This fund is available to secure the management of the South East's woodland through funding training and strengthening the supply chain and the range of products available from the region's woodland. It aims to support projects not eligible for funding under RDPE. Applications are encouraged for the next round of submissions which has a deadline of 17th October 2008. For further information on suitable projects for this funding and application forms, please see the [SEWTF website](#).

### Woodfuel

For other funding available for boiler installations and woodfuel related projects please contact the region's Woodfuel Development Officer [Gillian.Alker@forestry.gi.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.Alker@forestry.gi.gov.uk) or visit the [Biomass Energy Centre Website](#).

## Publications and Resources

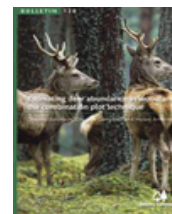
### Forestry Commission Publications

The FC has renamed its' Information Notes series as Research Notes. Published material can be accessed from the searchable directory [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications).

The [latest publications](#) include:

'Red band needle blight of conifers in Britain' (FCRN002) by Anna Brown and Joan Webber which explains that this disease is not just confined to Corsican Pine. This is downloadable from the website.

Another publication is the Forestry Commission Bulletin 128: Estimating Deer Abundance in Woodlands: The Combination Plot Technique, which can be purchased from FC.



## Events

### **Bentley Weald WoodFair 2008 12-14 September**

This is regarded as the leading woodland, wood-use and woodcraft event in the south east. This is a very popular event and the place to visit for anyone with an interest in trees and woodland, whether looking at them, climbing them, felling them or making things from them. The site is 7 miles north of Lewes in East Sussex. For further information and admission prices see the [Bentley WoodFair website](#).

The Forestry Commission will be hosting [drop-in clinics](#) at the WoodFair at their stand on **Friday the 12th** to give expert advice on woodfuel development and forestry related RDPE funding applications.

### **APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition 2008 Cannock Chase, Staffordshire 18-20 September 2008**

The [APF](#) already has a record number of exhibitor bookings and is having to revise its ground plan to accommodate its success. There will be over 2 ½ miles of demonstration frontage where every type of forestry, woodland and arboricultural machinery working in a realistic woodland setting, will be on display.

### **The Woodfuel Supply chain - Sharing experience, 15-19 September 2008 University of Warwick Campus, Coventry**

This [event](#) is being organised by the Biomass Energy Centre and IEA Bioenergy. The event will consist of two days of field tours (15th & 16th September), followed by two days of the Conference, and finally an Industry Day, integrated with the Association of Professional Foresters Exhibition APF 2008.

At the APF there will be two Question and Answer sessions with a panel of international and national experts and practitioners. The first session will be chaired by Tim Rollinson (Director General, Forestry Commission). This session (10-11am) focuses on the woodfuel supply chain. Angela Duignan, (Head of Woodfuel Implementation, Forestry Commission England), chairs the afternoon session (2-3pm) on woodfuel quality and standards. All are welcome to attend these free sessions - the emphasis is on questioning the panel.

### **An Introduction to Coppicing and Woodland Crafts, 22-26 September 2008 The Sustainability Centre, East Meon**

This year the [Green Wood Centre](#) holds its Week in the Woods at the Sustainability Centre where they will be running the course, [An Introduction to Coppicing and Woodland Crafts](#). This is a great opportunity to try your hand at a range of woodland activities with the added incentive that you may be able to apply for a place on their three year Apprenticeship Scheme. For further details please see the Focus article below.

## Focus

### **Woodsmen - the Rarest Species in our Woodlands**

When talking to people about woodland management, a recurring theme is the decline in numbers of our woodland workforce. As in agriculture, fewer people seem to want to work on the land and as older workers retire, fewer new recruits are coming forward. However many of the initiatives to get woodland better managed will falter without the skills and experience of trained woodsmen.

For those who would like to try their hand at coppicing and other woodland skills, a one week introductory course is being held in Hampshire in September. (22nd-26th Sustainability Centre at East Meon). The idea is that the course will lead on to full time apprenticeships for those with a desire and aptitude to become woodsmen with a particular interest in coppicing. For further details and to book a place on this course see the [Green Wood Centre](#) courses and download the Week in the Woods flyer from the course details or contact Fran Fowkes on 01952 432769.

Whilst accepting that there are complex reasons for the decline in our woodland workforce, the Forestry Commission and others are keen to do all they can to support training initiatives.

If you have comments or suggestions on this topic, we would be interested to hear from you at [southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) - please use the subject title: RFF Training.

