

Seeing the Wood for the Trees

E News - February 2007

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

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



Contents

- Rising Opportunities and Olympic Challenges
- Woodland punch above their weight in providing accessible greenspace!
- £2.7 billion contribution to the South East Economy
- Understanding the processing sector
- Climate Change & Forestry experts gather in the region
- International Status for Alice Holt Forest
- Policy
- Funding opportunities
- Publications and Resources
- Events
- Focus - South East well recognised at Wood Awards

Introduction

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter of the South East's 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. Two years since the launch of the RFF we have published a 4 page summary document of the Framework. If you need some copies to help promote the key regional issues for woodlands in your work, please contact me - jane.hull@forestry.gsi.gov.uk 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 - See our top story below.

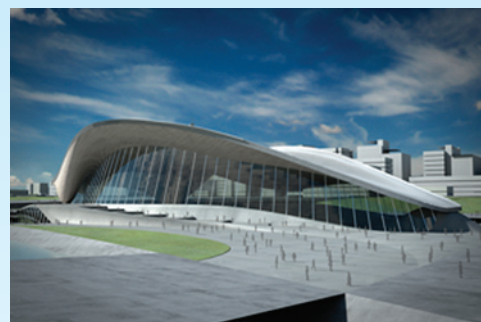
Our website www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk is updated more regularly than this newsletter, so take a look every week or two.

Jane Hull Framework Development Officer

News

Rising Opportunities, Olympic Challenges

On 12th December, around 30 people gathered for a focused regional workshop considering the opportunities of markets including the Olympics and Growth areas. It was held at the award winning Savill Building, Windsor (see Focus) and supported by the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership and ConFor. The workshop heard from a wide range of speakers, including David Crichton, Chief Executive Confor, on the Industry's Wood for Gold Campaign, Ron Melville, Forestry Commission on the Olympic agencies and Bruce Inker, Arnold Laver Timberworld with regard to procurement. It was agreed that wood products should be promoted using consistent messages which demonstrate the benefits of woodland management to society. Architects are a key audience and to simplify procurement of woodland products from the region, a clearer 'hub' / directory approach would be helpful, with better information on availability of wood products. Information on the products needs to be accessible to the whole supply chain. The presentations and report are on the Regional Forestry Framework Website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6WMKKP>



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Woodlands punch above their weight in providing accessible greenspace!

A ground breaking study into accessible green space will be published by the Forestry Commission and Natural England in mid February. Based upon Natural England's Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGST), Accessible Natural Greenspace has been mapped across the whole of the South East. It shows that two thirds of accessible natural greenspace is provided by woodlands. This work will be key in helping target provision for accessible greenspace. It also has information on how each local authority reaches the standard, which should help plan for accessible greenspace in future. Keep an eye on www.forestry.gov.uk/southeastengland where it will be available to download.

NEWS

£2.7 billion contribution to the South East Economy

The English Forest Industries Partnership (EFIP) has published a study that maps forest industries in England and their contribution to the economy. It can be found at <http://www.efip.org.uk> Forest Industries are defined in their widest sense, from the forest to secondary processing. EFIP and the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership are preparing a 4 page summary looking at the regional contribution. This will soon be available at www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk. This shows that the industries in the South East have a £10 billion turnover with £2.7 billion going to the regional GDP. This is the most wooded region, with a large secondary processing sector and the largest market. However there are weak links between these parts of the supply chain, with a small primary processing sector and relatively little return to forest owners. We hope this will be a useful evidence base for your work.

Understanding the processing sector

The EFIP Mapping Study demonstrated that the South East is the most wooded region, with the largest market, yet with a very small primary processing. This is a significant limiting factor to promoting and developing local products. Therefore the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership is supporting a survey of sawmills across the region, to better understand the processing capacity we have, and the aspirations for the sector in future.

Climate Change & Forestry experts gather in the region

More than 40 leading forestry scientists and policymakers took part in "Forestry: a sectoral response to climate change", at Wilton Park in West Sussex, organised by Forestry Commission and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The conference noted that deforestation was a highly significant cause of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. It also considered the extent to which the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems can be predicted, and the contribution of carbon sequestration from forest ecosystems to the mitigation of climate change.



Full details are at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange> This site will become the focus for all Forestry Commission activity on climate change.

International Status for Alice Holt Forest

Alice Holt Forest on the Hampshire - Surrey border has been granted "Research Forest" status. This brings it into an international network of Research Forests. It has been used by Forest Research since the 1950s for a wide range of scientific studies. This knowledge will now be made available to external researchers. See <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V6FEX>

Policy

New Regional Economic Strategy launched

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) was launched by SEEDA on the 31st October 2006. It can be found at: <http://www.seeda.co.uk/RES> The Regional Forestry Framework is noted in the Rural section of the RES (p31). RES priorities include the development of supply chains for the forestry sector (p115), strong support for renewable energy including woodfuel (Action 11.4 & 11.5). There is recognition of the role of the land based sector in managing the high quality landscapes of the region (p115)- a competitive advantage in ensuring the attractiveness of the region, as well as green infrastructure (Action 13.1). There is also support for sustainable construction (Action 12.8).

English Forestry Strategy

The analysis of consultation responses can be found at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/forestry-strategy/index.htm>

Policy

South East Plan - Examination in Public

The South East Plan Examination in Public is currently occurring with discussion on a range of issues. See <http://www.eipsoutheast.co.uk/home>

Funding opportunities

English Woodland Grant Scheme - The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), which part funds EWGS, has not yet been approved. Therefore, whilst applications received continue to be processed, final contracts will not be signed until the RDPE is agreed. For further details on how this is being managed see



<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6VDLN3> or contact your local Woodland Officer.

We remain open to applications for Woodland Planning Grant and Woodland Assessment Grant. In addition the deadline for Woodland Management Grant (WMG) applications has been extended to 31st March 2007 (superceding the deadline of 31st Dec 2006 stated in the Prospectus), due to the substantial proportion of the WMG budget which remains uncommitted. As outlined in the 2006 Prospectus Woodland Creation Grant, Woodland Regeneration Grant and Woodland Improvement Grant for Biodiversity and access are now closed to new applications. The Forestry Commission will be holding Clinics in early February at each of its offices for those who have queries they wish to discuss with a Woodland Officer. See Events for dates.

(Rural Development Programme for England) RDPE Axis 1&3 - Socio-economic projects

SEEDA has taken over management of these grants and will not enter into new commitments before the RDPE is agreed. However they will work with rural businesses to discuss potential future projects. Priorities include renewable energy, adding value to primary products and skills training. For more information see:

http://www.seeda.co.uk/Work_in_the_Region/Rural_Issues/Rural_Development_Programme_for_England

Email terrybradfield@seeda.co.uk if you would like to be added to the regular update circulation

Publications and Resources



'A marvellous opportunity for children to learn: a participatory evaluation of Forest School in England and Wales'. Liz O'Brien and Richard Murray.

This Forest Research publication examines the impact of Forest Schools on children, both personal characteristics such as confidence, self esteem and motivation as well as understanding of the environment and physical skills. It can be downloaded at

<http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6XCHVV>



Forestry Commission Practice Guide - Managing and Controlling Invasive Rhododendron Colin Edwards, Forest Research)

This sets out the planning and manage the control of Rhododendron ponticum, including a decision support flowchart. It presents a number of approved control techniques - chemical and mechanical to manage and eradicate invasive rhododendron bushes on any infested site. It is £6.50 and can be ordered from Forestry Commission Publications, PO Box 25, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7EW; 0870 121 4180; quoting

stock code FCTG002. It can also be downloaded free from:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-44VXJ5B>

The conservation and restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites - A guide for woodland owners and managers. Woodland Trust

This Woodland Trust guide gives advice on how to conserve and restore these valuable sites. It is based on research commissioned by the Trust, and the Trust's own experience of putting its recommendations into practice. You can download it from:

<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/publications/publicationsmore/pawsguide.pdf>

Or to obtain a free copy, phone 01476 581135.

Publications and Resources cont.....

Monitoring Muntjac deer and their impacts in Monks Wood National Nature Reserve. Arnold Cooke. English Nature Research Report 681.

This looks at the history of Muntjac in the wood and their impacts. ISBN 0967-876X, 2006. It can be downloaded from <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/PDF/681.pdf>

Conserving the Past - Ensuring the Future

The Woodland Trust have just published a short booklet for planners highlighting how planners can implement the provisions in PPS9 to protect ancient woodland and aged and veteran trees. This also links to the broader guidance produced last year by the Forestry and Woodlands Partnership on implementing the Woodland Policy in the draft South East Plan (NRM5), as well as highlighting the Wealden Ancient Woodland Inventory.

It can be found at <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk>

Wide Span Wood Structures

Ahead of the Olympics, Wood for Good and TRADA have published this book which presents case studies of 15 key public buildings built using wide span wood structures across Europe. It can be downloaded from <http://www.woodforgood.com/publications/bwwpublications.html> or for a hard copy contact Wood for Good on info@woodforgood.com

Events

13th February 2007 - EWGS - Woodland Management Grant Clinic - Berks, Bucks & Oxon Area Office, Upper Icknield Way, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury. For further details phone 01296 696543.

14th February 2007 - EWGS - Woodland Management Grant Clinic - Kent Area Office, Park Lane, Goudhurst, Cranbrook Kent TN17 2SL. For further details phone 01580 211123.

20th February 2007 - Woodfuel Training, South East Wood Fuels Ltd Laughton Community, East Sussex, This event will cover European woodchip fuel standards, quality assessment and measurement of woodchip for the woodfuel industry. £50 for members, £70 for non-members. For further details contact Bruce Norgrove - 01869 349737 or bruce@sewf.co.uk or see <http://www.sewf.co.uk> This will also be repeated in March at Bedgebury Pinetum, Kent - dates to be confirmed.

28th February 2007 Woodland Archaeology Training - The Chilterns Woodlands Project. For details, phone 01844 355503, or e-mail: woodlands@chilternsaonb.org

16th March 2007 - Woodland Archaeology Training - The Chilterns Woodlands Project. For details, phone 01844 355503, or e-mail: woodlands@chilternsaonb.org

1st May 2007 - In Touch With Timber, London. TRADA are hosting this event which will inspire construction industry professionals to make the most of timber, both structurally and aesthetically. Glenn Howells, architect of the Savill Building, is the keynote speaker.

For information see <http://www.trada.co.uk/itwt07/>

FOCUS

South East well recognised at Wood Awards

The Savill Building - the visitors centre for the Savill Gardens at the Crown Estate, Windsor, won the Commercial & Public Access Category and the Structural Category at The Wood Awards in October. It then took the top Gold award!

It was built using wood from the Crown Estate, Windsor, which was milled by English Woodland Timber (South Downs) and finger jointed by InWood Development (East Sussex). The Best Use of British Timber Award was given to The Green Oak Carpentry Company from Hampshire (key players in the Savill Building) for consistent high quality work in British wood. This includes the Weald & Downland Gridshell and Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. Katy Walker, a furniture designer from West Sussex won the Furniture and Innovation categories, and the Restoration award given to the restoration of the spire at St Mary's Dunsfold, Surrey. These are great showcases for the South East forestry and timber industry! For details see <http://www.woodawards.com> Entries for 2007 are open from 1st March to 20th May.

