

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT WOODFUEL WORKSHOP AND DEMONSTRATION DAY CATTON HALL ~ SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

Technical Development (Forest Management Division) recently organised a workshop to promote the use of woodfuel in the Midlands. This 2 day event, on the 23 and 24 June 2005, was one of a series being run during the course of the year in collaboration with Forestry Commission England and local woodfuel organisations.

The workshop format has been used successfully for a number of years by Technical Development as a means of directly engaging with the forest industry, on a local scale, and allowing information transfer to a broad audience. This event included delegates from local estates, local authorities, architects, and from Defra, the National Trust and English Nature.

The aim of the event was to discuss the issues surrounding woodfuel production from timber harvesting, through woodfuel production and finally burning. The morning included a series of indoor presentations from Technical Development, the Forestry Commission (FC), the National Forest, and local boiler manufacturers and woodfuel specialists, highlighting quality and supply chain issues as well as current development in boiler technology and installations.

In the afternoon delegates were taken into the Catton Hall estate woodlands and shown a number of practical demonstrations covering woodfuel felling and extraction, stacking and drying, chipping and finally burning.

Technical Development will be co-ordinating with FC staff to organise three other similar events later in 2005 at Keswick, Northants Forest District and Clocaenog, North Wales. Further details of these events will be posted on the Forest Research website (www.forestresearch.gov.uk/events) and included in the Forest Research Newsletter.



Discussing woodfuel harvesting, stacking and drying



Chipping demonstration with Heizohack and Farmi chippers



Woodfuel boiler demonstration