

January 2012

Dear All

It has been a long time since a news update was sent to you. There has been a lot going on and we will be doing more to keep you up to date.

The Web pages are up to date and linked web sites should prove of interest. <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-wctf>

I hope this style of keeping you up to date works for you. I aim to publish every two months. Please do feedback comments to me

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(John Weir is Adviser, Woodland Expansion and Resilience, based in Bristol. John is ex-Director of Westonbirt and has deep knowledge of how climate change adaptation looks on the ground).

Here are some highlights from the work in the last few months.

Woodland Carbon Code December 2011

Since its launch in July 2011, 28 projects have registered on the Forestry Commission website, this equates to over 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) registered to be sequestered by 2111. There has been a steady interest in registering projects for the Woodland Carbon Code and over the next 6 months we will further raise the profile of the Code through the media. Across the UK there have been two country launches in Scotland (Milton of Mathers, near St Cyrus) and Wales (Cwm Fagor, near Devauden). We are working with Scottish Food Quality Certification (SFQC) to draw up the rules for a group scheme for the Code, which will be trialled in the New Year amongst project managers that have expressed an interest in taking part. This should enable more and smaller projects to register with the Code. The National Forest in England is also investigating a group scheme.

English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) December 2011

Revisions have been made to the English Woodland Grant Scheme Operations Note 20 on co-funding of woodland creation through EWGS and carbon finance, to reflect the introduction of the Woodland Carbon Code and changes made (over the summer) to Defra's guidance to businesses on the reporting of Greenhouse Gas Reporting emissions.

Financing woodland creation December 2011

A bi-lateral meeting has been held with Markit Financial, the UK Carbon reporting framework, MyForest, BP Tridos Bank and Enviromarket which looked at different aspects of how UK carbon offset projects could be financed and the mechanisms that could be put in place to bring funders and landowners together. BP is particularly interested in seeing detailed proposals of work that they could fund.

North Kent Downs Woodfuel Pathfinder January 2012

The initiative aims to stimulate demand for and supply of woodfuel, matching potential heat users with woodland owners and contractors who may be able to put wood into the supply chain, particularly where self-supply is a possibility. Interest has been high and events to generate interest have been well attended. Significant heat-use developments are in the offing, and the local Beat Forester has been successfully promoting management of privately owned woodlands, as part of a European-funded partnership project linked to this initiative. Anecdotally, there is a danger of potential demand for woodfuel not being met because of a shortfall in the local contractor harvesting base.

Land availability January 2012

The study of land ownership and opportunities for woodland creation by Exeter University is nearing conclusion. A reporting seminar was held in Exeter attended by both the Woodland Carbon Task Force and University staff. Jonathan Spencer is now drafting an action plan aimed at exploiting the opportunities that this study has exposed. The Exeter study should be available to all at the end of this financial year; the draft actions are planned to be available much earlier and will be circulated for comments and suggestions.

Woodland Resilience December 2011

Our new web resource "[England's woodlands and climate change](#)" has been published. These new pages specific advice specific to England's woodlands and will work alongside the expert advice available from the [Great Britain](#) and [Forest Research](#) web pages to support the implementation of the revised '[UK Forestry Standard](#)' and new '[Forests and Climate Change Guidelines](#)'. Please make people aware of this resource and provide John Weir with any feedback and relevant links you would like published. The '[Climate Change Action Plan](#)' for the Public Forest Estate (PFE). Published alongside the climate change action plan, Forest Research has provided specific guidance '[species and provenance pages](#)' and [Guidance given to FEE staff](#).

Contact

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