

North East England

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North East England

EWGS & Regional Update

Update No 16 (5 March 2010)

It is nearly a close run race as to which will end first – the winter or the financial year, with the first having a dramatic effect on the second. This EWGS update informs EWGS contract holders how to proceed where difficulties have been encountered.

Combating climate change and the role of trees continue to feature strongly with information on conference dates and publications also included in this issue.

EWGS Update

First a reminder to those contract holders with 09/10 claim years that we must have your claims with us by the 31 March, this includes claims for second year or later Woodland Improvement Grant work programmes (even where completed early)!

The National Email Alert attached to your email gives more detail on what to do if you can't complete your work in the specified claim year.

We are looking forward to publishing our next financial prospectus in spring which will give details of future funding available. We will be offering the full range of grants and with an increased budget. Several good news reasons for this, we now have EU approval for co-financing of the Woodland Regeneration Grant which means we can claim approximately half the cost back through the RDPE. Secondly we are expecting an increase in Woodland Creation applications as landowners can now claim both Single Farm Payment AND Farm Woodland annual payments where eligible.

Due to the increased budgets we are still OPEN for applications where work can be carried out and claimed in financial year 10/11 and will do so until funds are fully committed.

Timber Sales

The demand for timber as we enter the spring is very strong across all product ranges. FE saw good prices and keen competition for lots during the November 2009 and February 2010 electronic tenders. There seems some

concern with regards the volumes of private sector supplies within the timber trade and merchants, saw millers and processors would like to see more private sector material coming up for sale. Further to this, many timber users forecast a good level of demand for timber for the rest of this year.

NU Logs at Northwoods

Northwoods has recently been given funding from the Northumberland Uplands Leader Programme, to run a firewood supply chain support project. We have launched [NULogs](#) and have started the first phase of business support.

NULogs aims to give firewood users the best choice of log suppliers, and to give firewood businesses (or people wanting to get into the sector) benefit from training, advice and business support. This support is only available for businesses working within the NULeader area ([shown on map](#)). If you are a firewood supplier already or are thinking about getting into firewood supply, then we can offer technical advice, business support, funding advice, training, help sourcing timber and any other help your business should need.

As part of the NULogs project we have a suite of FREE training events aimed at improving a business's technical and marketing ability, and also to help those managing woodlands specifically for woodfuel.

In order to be eligible for the free training you need to be either based in or working in the Northumberland uplands and a woodland owner or a firewood supplier (or thinking about going into the market). For more details of the eligibility criteria go to <http://www.northwoods.org.uk/eligibility-criteria-nulogs-assistance>.

There are 3 courses on offer, for more information please go to <http://www.northwoods.org.uk/training-0>

ICF Conference Dalby 17 March 2010

This meeting has been arranged jointly with ConFor and ICF's north England region. The recent publication of the Read report, *Combating climate change - a role for UK forests*, which makes a strong case for large-scale woodland creation, has given renewed strength to the industry to seek new ways of delivering this aspiration. It is hoped that group discussion will assist in this process, leading to a real increase in new planting. ConFor's England manager, Caroline Harrison, will set the scene and facilitate the discussion. Non-members, friends and colleagues are welcome, but please note that for the main meeting, numbers are restricted, so please book as soon as possible.

Members are asked to pay £11.75 including VAT towards costs and non-members £15 including VAT. Bookings must be received by 10 March 2010. For more information and booking details please visit [ConFor's website](#).

RFS Conference, Stoneleigh - 21 April 2010

Forest Research scientists and the head of the Forestry Commission's Plant Health Service will address an important conference to raise awareness and understanding of tree diseases and pests, and their implications and management.

The event, organised by the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) and Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE), is a response to concerns about the number of diseases currently affecting trees and woodland in Britain and the potential severity of their impact.

Scientists from Forest Research, the scientific research and technical development arm of the Forestry Commission, will make presentations in the first session of the day. They are Dr Joan Webber, head of pathology, Dr Sandra Denman, senior pathologist and Dr Nigel Straw, senior entomologist. They will set the scene by describing current trends in tree diseases, health issues affecting native British oak and pests and diseases of horse chestnut. Roddie Burgess, Head of the Commission's Plant Health Service, will speak on bio-security issues and Tim Rollinson, Director-General of the Commission, will chair the session.

The conference will discuss the challenges that tree diseases pose in the context of conservation, economic and societal implications of epidemics and how they might be tackled. Speakers include Jonathan Hazel (Parkwood Holdings), Keith Kirby (Natural England), Colin Price (Bangor University), Susana Mourato (London School of Economics), Peter Savill (Oxford Forestry Institute) and Karen Russell (Lockhart Garratt).

It will also present brief case studies of tree disease management to highlight lessons that can be used to inform future good management. The case studies will include experience from the Forestry Commission (including one on red band needle blight management at Thetford Forest in East Anglia), the Irish Forest Service and The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The conference is suitable for woodland owners and managers, arboriculturists and others with an interest in tree and woodland health and management. It will be held on 21st April at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

For further details and booking see:

- www.rase.org.uk/events/conferences/trees-diseases-conference/index.asp; or
- contact the Royal Agricultural Society of England on 02476 858252; or
- the Royal Forestry Society, tel: 01442 822028; e-mail: rfshq@rfs.org.uk.

Further information on Forest Research's work on tree diseases and pests is available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/protectingtrees.

Combating Climate Change

The report 'Combating Climate Change - a role for UK forests' was launched on 25 November at an event in London. The independent assessment was commissioned by the Forestry Commission to examine the potential of the UK's trees and woodlands to mitigate and adapt to our changing climate. It forms part of the response to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report published in 2007.

The assessment aims to provide a better understanding of how UK forestry can adapt to and improve its contribution to mitigation of climate change. The study is considered to be the first national assessment of its kind in the world and is already attracting interest from other countries keen to form their own climate change plans and policies.

The [full report](#) costs £30.00 and can be ordered from TSO (The Stationery Office) at TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN. email: customer.services@tso.co.uk; Tel: 0870 600 5522; Fax: 0870 600 5533. The synthesis is free and can be ordered or downloaded from the [TSO website](#).

Podcasts

- [Introduction to the report - Professor Sir David Read \(mp3 | 15MB\)](#)
- [Government's response - Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(mp3 | 8MB\)](#)
- [Forestry Commission's view - Tim Rollinson, Director General \(mp3 | 3.5MB\)](#)

All podcasts were recorded at the assessment report launch in London, November 2009.

And to finish!

Britain's Most Beautiful Marathon Unveiled

Former Olympic athlete and world record holder Steve Cram has unveiled plans for a new international sports event – the Kielder Marathon.

Scheduled to take place on October 17, the marathon will follow an almost entirely off-road course around northern Europe's largest man-made lake, Kielder Water, in Northumberland, North East England. Steve Cram MBE, who came up with the idea for the event, has called it 'Britain's most beautiful marathon'.

The marathon will follow the newly completed Lakeside Way, a trail that stretches right around the shoreline of Kielder Water. For the inaugural event, the organisers are limiting the number of entrants to around 1,000, and expect to attract runners and

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outdoor adventure enthusiasts from around the world to the dramatic setting and unique course.

Steve Cram, has long wished for such an event to be staged in the area around Kielder Water, which is not far from where he now lives.

He said: "Kielder Water & Forest Park is my favourite place to run in the world and with the water's shoreline being 26 miles long it's an ideal venue for the ultimate running challenge, the marathon. Most of the course is off-road and it offers a wonderful test for trail runners, adventure racers and marathon enthusiasts alike. Add to that the stunning setting, with a wonderful new view at every twist and turn, and I think that this is quickly going to establish a reputation as the most beautiful marathon in Britain."

The Lakeside Way, a £3m project which forms the marathon course, is a multi-user trail suitable for walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and wheelchair and pushchair users. The trail offers visitors new views and the opportunity to interact with even more of the park's abundant wildlife and take in its scenic landscape.

The Kielder Marathon will measure the official marathon distance of 26 miles and 385 yards and event organisers estimate that the best athletes will complete the race in less than two and a half hours. The event will start and finish at Northumbrian Water's Leaplish Waterside Park and be part of a whole weekend of activities for all ages and abilities, with a big focus on attracting families to the site.

End