

Anglian
Woodland Project

In-Leaf

Special points of interest:

- 2011 Woodland Communication Day on the 11/11/11 is your chance to catch up with the latest woodland news.
- Suffolk County Council make Woodfuel Wizard freely available.
- Woodland Trust support new tree planting

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Issue 7

Autumn 2011

Independent Forestry Panel welcomed over 40,000 responses and will visit East Anglia



The Panel has welcomed the great response they have had so far on their call for views that closed on 31 July. Over 40,000 views have been received. The Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, who chairs the Panel, said: "There is no doubt that people care deeply about the forests and their future. This subject has touched a nerve with the public and part of the Panel's work is to understand why and that is why he

urged everyone to use this opportunity and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings with us." The Panel are delighted to announce that they will visit seven additional forest and woodland areas around England. The Panel are grateful for all the very many kind invitations to visit forests all over England, and would have liked to have accepted them all. However, it is just not practical for the the Panel already has confirmed visits to Northumberland (including Kielder Forest) on 26 July and Woods in Kent on 16 September and have recently returned from their very successful visit to the Forest of Dean. Following some very hard choices the Panel are now pleased to confirm their full programme of visits. They are likely to take place from the autumn onwards and details, including dates and visit content, will be available later in the summer. The locations are: Nottinghamshire, East Anglia, Yorkshire, Devon, Lake District, Wyre and The New Forest. More on page 2.



Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) fuels woodchip & pellet use by business

At long last the Renewable Heat Incentive is with us, but do you know how you can benefit? Suffolk County Council in partnership with the Anglian Woodland Project and other partners are running Woodland 2 Woodfuel Events across Suffolk and Norfolk. If you want to go on the biomass events e-mailing list please email:

gary.battell@suffolk.gov.uk

You will automatically be informed of any events.



**Talking about
tourism and
investment in
facilities, Kielder
Forest**

Independent Panel on Forestry: Advising government on forestry and woodland policy in England

The Independent Forestry Panel was established on 17 March 2011 by the Secretary of State, Caroline Spelman, to advise government on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England.

The Panel is chaired by the Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, and members have wide experience, knowledge and interests in the economic, social and environmental aspects of forestry and woodlands.

Independent Panel on Forestry Creates Terms of Reference

1. To advise the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England.
2. To advise on the role of the Forestry Commission in implementing policy on forestry and woodland in relation to England.
3. In formulating this advice, the Panel should consider:
 1. how woodland cover can be increased, given competing pressures on land use for food production, energy and development;
 2. options for enhancing public benefits from all woodland and forests, in the light of the Lawton Report and the Natural Environment White Paper, including;
 - public access for recreation and leisure;
 - biodiversity, wildlife protection and ecological resilience, including through restoration of open habitats and plantations on ancient woodland sites;
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - economic development, particularly to support a sustainable timber industry and a wide range of small and medium sized enterprises, including social enterprises; and
 - engagement and participation of civil society.
 - constraints and competing demands on public expenditure for this Spending Review period and beyond;
 - the role of Forest Enterprise England as the manager of productive forestry resources;
 - the value for money and cost-effectiveness of the public forest estate in England and options for its future ownership and management.

In formulating its advice to the Secretary of State, the Panel will be expected to engage and take evidence from the widest range of views and interest. The Panel will report to the Secretary of State in April 2012, with a progress report in the autumn of 2011.

Forestry Panel are building a consensus on the big issues

The Panel had a discussion about how they wished to frame their work and what the big issues and themes for this should be, using a Secretariat paper (3/3) as background. The Panel were keen that the multi-purposeness of forests and woodlands be fully reflected and recognised that afforestation was a second key issue that ran through a number of themes. The Panel agreed on five main themes to frame their work and the progress report. The working titles for the five issues are

- (a) climate change
- (b) landscape and biodiversity
- (c) access to woodland and other public benefits and community engagement
- (d) competitiveness of the forestry and timber use sectors
- (e) levers and interventions

Panel members reflected on what sub-topics could be included under the five broad themes. In addition to discussing the scope of the themes members also debated on the scope of their work – concluding to vary the depth to which some subjects were addressed in order to consider the widest range of interests related to forestry.

The Panel agreed for the Secretariat to use the five themes in preparing a draft framework for the Progress Report.

Action Planning

The Panel have agreed to maintain an ongoing dialogue on their work in future meetings and visits and not restrict themselves too narrowly, too early, to the themes already identified above. The Panel also endorsed the research that will be commissioned by the Secretariat.

The Panel also agreed that it was important to further engage national groups, such as those representing people using forests for different leisure activities or people working in the forest industry after the Progress Report is published. This would enable additional dialogue and creative thinking around the emerging themes of the Panel's work.

Action Planning

The "Call for Views" may lead to any of the following:

- National or local stakeholder workshops
- Focus groups
- Questions on possible options.

**Don't forget to book your place on the
Woodland Communication Day
Friday 11th November 2011**



Simon Hodgson,
Chief Executive
FC England

The Government has laid out new challenges for the Forestry Commission to meet growing public aspirations, to improve its efficiency, to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands, and to focus on those tasks which only government should do.



Caroline Harrison
ConFor
National Manager
for England

Forestry Commission England adapt to budget cut

FC England has been subject to deep cuts to its budget. Following an internal review and staff consultation, a new structure is being developed within the timeframe of the current financial settlement, up to 2014—2015.

Simon Hodgson, chief executive at Forestry Commission England says "The Government has laid out new challenges for the Forestry Commission to meet growing public aspirations, to improve its efficiency, to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands, and to focus on those tasks which only Government should do. Along with the reduction in our budget between now and 2014/15, the Forestry Commission is facing unprecedented change.

"To continue to operate with these budget reductions will inevitably mean change to current structures, activities and numbers of staff. An internal staff consultation for achieving this reform and making the savings closed on 1 April 2011 and initial management decisions were announced on 23 May 2011. These changes will be implemented over the coming four years.

"The Forestry Commission is committed to ensuring that the change process is handled fairly, sensitively and transparently - working with both our employees and trade unions. Every effort is being made to minimise redundancies, with any compulsory redundancies being considered as a very last resort. We remain committed to supporting all of our staff through this difficult time.

"We are in the very early stages of the process to fill posts in the new organisational structure. This is being completed on a grade by grade basis, commencing with senior staff. This ensures the senior team is in a position to progress with the change process to the new structure and support the newly formulated teams. We are engaged in a large scale and complex change process and that will take some time to complete."

Responding to the reorganisation, ConFor's Caroline Harrison said: "It is vital for forestry and wood-using businesses in England that there is an effective relationship between government and the private sector, and FC plays a key role in that.

"Faced with challenges, such as pests and diseases, and the opportunity to tackle undermanaged woodland through strengthening markets for wood, we need a body that contains relevant expertise and an understanding of sustainable forestry.

"Our sector is unique in the benefits it offers and in the challenges it faces, and a dedicated FC is important in working with that. Much of government intervention in industry sectors is narrowly focused on environmental controls. In forestry and wood products we deliver more environmental benefit through more activity. Indeed, the challenge is one of maintaining benefit.

"I hope that the outcomes of the Forestry Regulation Task Force and the Independent Panel will provide a strong and continuing role for the FC at the centre of forestry policy, advice and delivery."

Norfolk Wet Woodland Project

The Norfolk Wet Woodland Project is now coming to a close. The project has targeted wet woodland work in the valleys of the Upper Wensum, Upper Nar and Blackwater rivers.

Initial work by Patsy Dallas of UEA on the landscape history of the area demonstrated how wet woodlands in the area have expanded and contracted in response to economic and tenurial changes.

“Wet woodland combines elements of many other ecosystems and as such is important for many taxa”.



As the UK Biodiversity Action Plan says: “Wet woodland combines elements of many other ecosystems and as such is important for many taxa. The high humidity favours bryophyte growth. The number of invertebrates associated with alder, birch and willows, is very large.

Dead wood within the sites can be frequent, and its association with water provides specialised habitats not found in dry woodland types. Wet woodland also provides cover and breeding sites for otters *Lutra lutra*.”

The objectives of the project were to:

- Restore and create wet woodland as part of a mosaic of habitats
- Restore mineral extraction sites to wet woodland where appropriate
- Work to reduce habitat fragmentation in the landscape

Initial work was undertaken by Mary Russell, and this work has been continued by Rory Hart.

Hectares of wet woodland to be restored	32.27 ha
Hectares of wet woodland created	6.01 ha
Number of sites visited	30
Additional woodland options facilitated under HLS (hectares)	18.5 ha



Forestry Commission East of England Grant and regulation contacts May 2011

Website:
www.forestry.gov.uk/eastengland
Regional Woodland Strategy website:
www.woodlandforlife.net
emails: name.name@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Woodland Officer: Neil Jarvis
Norfolk (except South Norfolk),
Forest Heath & East Cambs
T: 01 223 773063
M: 07747 761296

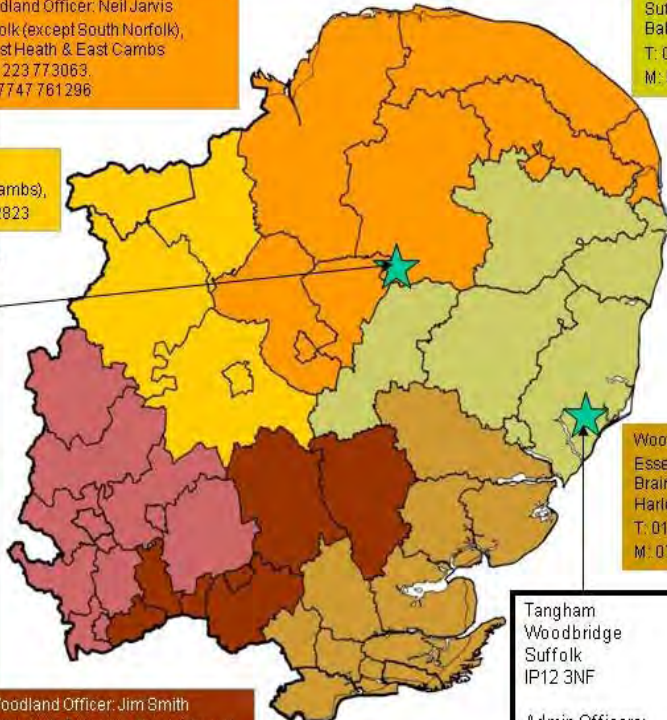
Woodland Officer: Trevor Wright
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M: 07884 234728

Woodland Officer: Anita Stone
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Grant Support for Wild Deer Management and Venison Supply

There is common agreement about the need to manage wild deer populations. There is also a common desire to see more wild venison presented for sale in local shops and catering outlets. The “**East of England Wild Venison Project**” has been set up to support and incentivise those working in deer management and the venison supply chain to achieve a sustainable cull and to ensure good quality venison reaches the customer. This is in addition to the support provided by Woodland Improvement Grants managed by the Forestry Commission.

The “East of England Wild Venison Project” aims to develop the wild venison supply chain through a suite of activities that will support the delivery of sustainable management of land and woodland, and simultaneously improve the stalking of, and the collection, storage, processing and distribution facilities for the venison generated. The project is supported by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), funded by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and the Forestry Commission, and managed by the Deer Initiative. The East of England in this case is defined as the counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk.



The project is made up of three major components. The first of these consists of facilitation, advice and training. The facilitation is to engage with the beneficiaries in the region, providing impartial support at the time of application for infrastructure. Advice could be in terms of deer management and cull planning. Training may be necessary in many different aspects along the required chain of activities from animal to plate; stalker skills and knowledge (DSC L1/L2, and all aspects of the Deer

Initiative’s “Best Practice Guide”), food and hygiene standards, and marketing plans (using the resources of Landskills East). The second component is capital

The Wild Venison Project is the outcome of a Deer Initiative commissioned feasibility study from 2008-9 that sought to discover whether there were sufficient producers in the region who would be willing and able to develop their infrastructure to meet the demand.

investment; to provide the resource of up to 50% matched RDPE funding for infrastructure to enable culling, the clean extraction of carcasses (e.g. extraction equipment), the provision to hold carcasses in good condition (chillers), where applicable the resources to process into prime cuts or processed products (butchering and packing equipment), and possibly the ability to deliver to final markets in chilled vehicles. The final component is to provide grant support to those who wish to develop their own market through, for example, website design, branding and innovative marketing materials.

The Wild Venison Project is the outcome of a Deer Initiative commissioned feasibility study from 2008-9 that sought to discover whether there were sufficient producers in the region who would be willing and able to develop their infrastructure to meet the demand. One of the recommendations was that it should not impose a new structure on the supply chain, but work constructively with existing people and organisations. That is, to expand and improve the existing operations and to bring new people into the process by supporting the establishment of new facilities where they are lacking. The feasibility study also revealed that the biggest failure

in the current system seems to be in the carcass supply side of the chain (rather than the venison marketing side) so the initial focus is directed toward improvements in that area.

The Project has been running since June 2010 and there are already eight applications up and running in the region with many more coming through the approval pipeline. In total the Project

has £800,000 available to be used in conjunction with match funding from applicants until the end of 2013. The current active projects show a range in terms of size and approach; from relatively large projects (with a total size of between £60K and £95K) where regional or county sized operations have either expanded or invested in brand new facilities, to much smaller initiatives where individual stalkers have, for example, converted garage space with the addition of a chiller and a small preparation area (costing as little as £2K).

In return for this support applicants must show some ‘additionality’ (doing more or better quality work than prior to the grant) and improvements in the criteria shown in the following list of Project goals:



- **Improving and stimulating the supply of wild venison to local markets**
- **Improving wild deer management**
- **Improving the Woodland SSSIs (or other wildlife designations) in the region**
- **Reducing the number of road accidents associated with wild deer**
- **Supporting landowners in the region to improve their agricultural yields through improved land management**

Those interested in applying for support should contact:

Graham Riminton - Venison Project Officer,

The Deer Initiative, C/O Woodfuels East,

Forestry Commission, Santon Downham, IP27 0TJ

Tel: 07966 966390 Email: vpoeastern@thedeerinitiative.co.uk

Forestry Regulation Task Force is looking to make things easier to manage and create woodland

The Task Force will look at areas of regulation affecting forestry in England, but will advise where issues relevant to devolved administrations are identified. The Task Force will advise on how best to achieve a proportionate, risk-based and targeted approach to regulations relevant to forestry-related businesses. The Chair of the Forestry

“...owners see the regulatory environment as a disincentive to active involvement.”

Regulation Task Force, Chris Starr said: “This is an exciting and timely initiative, designed to encourage woodland creation and promote sustainable management. Many woodlands in England are neglected, partly because the owners see the regulatory environment as a disincentive to active involvement.

“I am looking forward to working with a talented and highly experienced team, helping to develop an innovative and responsible approach to the implementation of forestry-related regulations.” The Task Force will report with recommendations in Summer 2011.

Econergy Ltd win Biomass Installer of the Year Award



Having been shortlisted, Econergy Ltd won the prestigious Biomass Boiler Installer of the Year Award at the Ricoh Arena. This awards ceremony attracts many UK applicants and is seen as a way of recognising the contribution that renewable companies have made to the industry.

Chris Miles, Chief Executive says "We are all delighted at Econergy with this award and we are also pleased that the RHI is due to be launched later this month. We expect that the publication of the final OFGEM RHI Guidance will clarify some of the areas of uncertainty around metering, which is still holding a few projects back. We see orders have more than doubled already since this time last year and expect further increase once the final RHI details are announced." www.econergy.ltd.uk

Suffolk CC make their Biomass Wizard freely available

These tools have been developed by Suffolk County Council. Many of the spreadsheets have been designed to address specific problems encountered while specifying and designing wood-fired heating installations in Suffolk County council owned buildings. Some of these spreadsheets have been reviewed by commercial boiler installers and heating engineers and all represent many years of practical experience of designing, procuring and using woodfuel boilers and woodfuel supply chains.

Subject areas covered include:

- Data conversion tables
- Calorific values or different fuel types
- Summaries of pollution control regimes and legislation
- District heating
- Boiler sizing
- Fuel storage costs
- Project management and responsibilities
- Fuels costs
- Heat sale tariffs
- Wood densities
- Wood chip production costs
- Regional and county forestry statistics

"The work you have put into the wizard is staggering and making it publicly available is a very generous act. Thanks for asking us to host it."

*Ian Tubby,
Biomass Energy Centre*

Suffolk County Council have generously made these tools publicly available and free of charge but encourage users to make a donation to the Ashden Awards.

These tools have been designed to run on Excel 2007 (or newer) and are *not* compatible with earlier versions. These tools may not cover all the parameters relating to wood-fuelled installations and projects, and as such are no substitute for project-specific expert advice. Suffolk County Council do not accept any liability for any loss or damage whatsoever arising from any use of or reliance on these tools and that the use of these tools does not constitute a contract wherein any conditions, warranties or other terms implied by statute or common law can be relied upon. They are produced as a guide only.

Type in Biomass Wizard into your search engine or email gary.battell@suffolk.gov.uk

Colin Hawes Helps Schools Save Stag Beetles



The Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership is supporting the Saving Suffolk Stag Beetles project, led by researcher Colin Hawes. They have worked alongside Suffolk Farming & Wildlife Group and the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley AONB Project to bring the project to schools in the south of the county. Colin has visited 22 primary schools this year. He took along a comprehensive 'schools' pack' containing model stag beetle kits that were made up by the children, buckets for filling with wood chips to encourage larvae to move in and leaflets generously supplied by the People's Trust for Endangered Species explaining *where*, *how* and *what* to do for stag beetle conservation. Each school was also shown they can make a log pile 'Dead wood nature reserves' with the all-weather yellow discs illustrated here.

Unchecked deer "harm woodlands" say researchers

Woodlands without effective, wide-scale management systems are more likely to be changed by the UK's growing deer population, a study has suggested.

Data from 80 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) showed that landowner partnerships over large areas was the best way to deter deer damage. The impact of overgrazing by deer has a knock-on effect that undermines woodland ecologies, said researchers who were reporting at the British Ecological Society's annual meeting. For advice on all aspects of deer management contact: The Deer Initiative — Tel 01842 890798 or email eastern@thedeerinitiative.co.uk



28/10/11 is Forest Health Day — East of England

What is the event? A single day seminar where Forest Research scientists will provide an update on the latest information about tree insect pests and diseases, including acute oak decline, red band needle blight, oak processionary moth, The seminar will involve a morning session with presentations, followed by an afternoon session outside where we will discuss biosecurity and hope to look at and discuss symptoms of insect pests and diseases.

The programme will run from 10.00 until about 16.00. A full programme will be available soon.

Refreshments: Participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch. Drinks will be available during the day.

Who is the event suitable for? Forestry and woodland managers and agents, forestry and woodland owners, and those working in forestry and woodlands.

Where does the event take place? The Santon Downham Centre, Santon Downham, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 0TG

Booking information: The seminar is offered free of charge on a first come, first serve basis and numbers will be limited to one person per company/organisation.

If you are interested in attending please contact the Forestry Commission on **01842 816 010** or email enquiries.eanglia@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Cobnuts and nutteries: Paul Read wants to know more about them

“Fylberds be profitable for them that have the olde cough yf they be bet with honey and eaten; yf they be stamped with the outwarde huskes and olde grece of a sow or a beare this will cause heere to come up in the balde places.”

Peter Trueris, AD 1526

Whether or not they are successful as a hair restorer, filberts were in England long before 1526. The Phoenecians are said to have brought them here, Danes and Normans certainly did, and they may have been in England for two millennia, perhaps supplanting our native hazels, with us since the last ice retreated, as a crop.

Hazel, *Corylus avellana*, is always regarded by writers of floras as separate from *Corylus maxima*, the filbert (i.e. long beard), a native of south eastern Europe. Yet the two species are genetically similar. In both male catkins and female flowers are borne on the same plant and are generally self-sterile. Cross and inter-breeding occurs between the “species”; at the same time there is also a degree of incompatibility between individuals.

In England the term **cobnut**, once a local name for hazel, has been adopted for cultivated nuts of whatever origin, many with long or wide spreading lobed or jagged nut involucre, colloquially called the husk, leaving the term hazel to our small native nut in a very short involucre. Since the 17th century other



“What we didn’t realize until our surveyors’ results began to drift in was just how common cobnut stools are in hundreds of old farm house orchards.”

Corylus species have entered the cultivated range adding to confusion. All this may might appear to be of interest only to a few gardeners or the small number of commercial cobnut growers in Kent, but two issues have changed all that.

The first was the addition to the UK Priority Habitat list, of Traditional Orchards in 2007. This was the first Priority Habitat (in the UK) that formally recognized the significance of the crop biodiversity, the traditional fruit varieties...and the nuts. Those of us that set up the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Survey to inventory the county’s traditional orchards know that cobnuts are found in old orchards. I own a small ancient orchard with two huge cobnut stools of two different long-husked varieties. What we didn’t realize until our surveyors’ results began to drift in was just how common cobnut stools are in hundreds of old farm house orchards. We now know they are as common as apples, and are often thought to be hazels, especially by more recent owners of old farm houses.

Squirrels, jackdaws and jays eat hazel and cobnuts in August before they are ripe, but it seems we may have forgotten when to harvest and eat them. George Lindley, a Norfolk nurseryman who clearly expected everyone to grow cobnuts, writing in 1831, states the harvest date to be the end of July when the nuts are still green. This is before they are eaten by the wildlife in my orchard, or the much larger nuttery beside Thornham Walled Garden.

We also know that until the 1930's green cobnuts were sold at street markets in Diss, Eye and Debenham for immediate eating when they are sweet, juicy but short lived. Or perhaps there was regular employment for tribes of small boys to scare off the birds for a couple of weeks before harvest, as they did in the south Suffolk cherry orchards!

Another reason that cobnuts and hazels have come to our attention is due to their unpredictable



...until the 1930's green cobnuts were sold at street markets in Diss, Eye and Debenham for immediate eating when they are sweet...

promiscuity. Cobnuts are now recognized to be widely pollinated by wild hazels in hedges. The reverse process results in a progressive "contamination" of our native hazels, especially where cobnuts are widely grown. Even more critically, for decades "hazels" sold for hedge planting have originated from continental grown plants, or are "English grown" from foreign seed. As everyone who has attempted to

collect ripe wild hazel nuts from a hedge knows, it is almost impossible to collect more than a handful, so cobnuts from commercial plantings have been sown instead! Even English sourced hazel can be suspect. In Kent (and now we know in Suffolk) cobnuts have been with us for centuries and the original English hedge hazel is bound to have been diluted. Until a few years ago the Kent Cob, a Kentish filbert variety, was supplied by at least one commercial Kent nut supplier as hazel seed, although the slightly flattened and elongated filbert nut is easily separated from our short little-finger-nail sized wild hazel.

This shouldn't stop us from planting cobnuts in our orchards, but there is the problem of what we buy and how we should grow them. In Kent, cobnuts are grown on short single trunks into something like a short half-standard tree, annually cutting out all suckers. This labour intensive local traditional method was first described in the 18th century and has been promoted since the early 19th century by gardening writers. The method allows for propagation of varieties by grafting onto hazel rootstock, a technique still used by some nurserymen for cobnuts. Very few cobnuts are grown this way in East Anglia today.



In Suffolk almost all productive cobnuts are either unmanaged, grown as large uncoppiced stools or as small number of large stems, with the mass of small re-growth and suckers cut out regularly. This method too is described in the literature, and suits the type of relaxed, low input farm orchard where apple trees were rarely pruned (and never pears or cherries!). A continual supply of the two year old (or older) wood that bears nuts was retained by a policy of not coppicing the trees. However, some coppicing must have taken place because we know that some nutteries were also sources of thatching broaches. The stool method does not work with grafted plants; the propagation method must be by rooted cutting or sucker. Unfortunately nurserymen do not, as a routine, tell their customers this (some don't know they should) and as a result most grafted plants have the selected variety pruned off within a few years! In Suffolk we are recommending Cobnuts grown in Suffolk.



On the left is a stool with 7 main stems. This *may* have developed from a plant like that on the Right is on a short “leg”. The jury is out as to whether many were grown on a single “leg” like those in Kent. This is the only “single-legged” tree we know of in Suffolk. Notice the heavy lichen cover, this seems to be characteristic of old branches of hazels and cobnuts, where winter light levels are high. Suffolk Traditional Orchard survey is planning a lichen survey of old cobnuts.

Paul Read, Suffolk Traditional Orchard Survey, Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership. *The Suffolk Traditional Orchard Survey is part of Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership. It issues a range of e-Advice Notes on Suffolk fruit varieties, planting and restoring old orchards etc. A new Advice Note on Cobnuts in Suffolk will be available shortly. This is a longer, more complete version of the above article. If you would like a copy please email Paul Read on readhf@aol.com*

Woodland for Water guide available



The Environment Agency has published a report outlining the role of **woodland creation and its influence on water management - Woodland for Water**. The review focuses on native woodland creation, but also looks at the impact of new conifer woodlands and bioenergy plantations in light of climate change and renewable energy policy. It provides an 'evidence-base' for addressing environmental pressures as a result of land management activities. It also considers how woodland measures can help meet Water Framework Directive objectives. It looks at the cost effectiveness of creating new woodland; identifies opportunities where woodland could be targeted within the landscape and the evidence gaps that require further research. The review is for application in England and Wales but is also very relevant to Scotland and Northern Ireland .

The summary report, a comprehensive science report (SEE LINK

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/SCHO0711BTYR-E-E.pdf>

setting out the evidence in detail and a document identifying where woodland creation could be targeted in the landscape to benefit the fresh water environment are attached.



Woodland for Water: Woodland measures for meeting Water Framework Directive objectives

Summary of final report from Forest Research to the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission (England)

Jubilee Woods: Can you plant a tree?

With HRH The Princess Royal as Patron, the Jubilee Woods Project is set to create hundreds of new woods, transforming our landscape in a generation and making a real and meaningful difference for many years to come.

Together, communities, schools, companies and landowners will plant a total of 6 million trees, creating hundreds of Jubilee Woods and copses.

What's more, 60 very special Diamond Woods of at least 60 acres will also be planted – each representing a year of Her Majesty's reign.

The Woodland Trust hope friends, neighbours and families will come together to plant thousands of individual trees in their gardens or backyards, too – each taking the chance to mark this moment in history in a way that will stay with them forever.

The Woodland Trust can offer landowners help and advice every step of the way.

Contact the woodland creation team on 0845 293 5689 email jubileewoods@woodlandtrust.org.uk

Funding Competition - Resource efficiency: supply chain innovation. The Technology Strategy Board is investing up to £4.5 million in this competition, aimed at encouraging industrial end-users to work with supply chains and innovators to create new products and services for a sustainable economy. These products will either have reduced environmental impact compared to current alternatives, and/or will be less dependent on the use of strategic materials. www.innovateuk.org/content/competition/resource-efficiency-supply-chain-innovation.ashx for further details. This is an open competition which opens on 3 October 2011, and applicants need to submit an EoI by 9 Nov, with the 2nd stage deadline of 11 Jan for successful first stage applicants. Up to £500K per project, over 2 years. Applications need to be led by an industrial company. **If of interest please contact Alison Melvin at Forest Research.** alison.melvin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

WOODLAND TRUST MORE TREES MORE GOOD

Home About Why plant Funding & advice Get involved Donate

More Trees More Good

Jubilee woods Free tree packs Plant for firewood

Good things come to those who plant trees

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe, with only 4% native woodland cover.

We need at least twice as many native trees and woods.

From farmers and communities to schools and companies, we all have a role to play.

See how you can help:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/moretrees-moregood/Pages/home.aspx

Free tree packs: Planting advice: Funding and grants: Jubilee Woods Project: Partnership:

Schools, community and youth groups

free tree packs

Do you own a County Wildlife Site (CWS) Woodland in Norfolk or Suffolk?

Norfolk and Suffolk are running a project to support CWS woodland owners to appropriately manage their woods. Gary Battell says "We are working in partnership with the private sector to maximise the potential for biodiversity and timber production. We have seen owners install biomass boilers and are now using their own wood; this woodland work has improved the biodiversity value of woods and reduced energy costs for owners." See contact details on back page.

BIG WildSpace for Big Society in Action

The Green Light Trust are celebrating 10 years of their successful *Community-owned WildSpace* scheme.

The Green Light Trust's *Community-owned WildSpace Scheme* was started in 2001 with a unique funding partnership from B&Q, Forestry Commission and Suffolk County Council. Over the last 10 years the Scheme has been a phenomenal success. Working in partnership with local communities, The Green Light Trust has helped to establish nearly 60 projects throughout the East of England.



Through our environmentally led approach, the Community-owned WildSpace Scheme has directly empowered at least 30,000 individuals in 58 communities to enhance, enjoy and value their local environment and encouraged social responsibility by enabling individuals and organisations to get involved in social action on their doorsteps.

Some of The Green Light Trust's major achievements of the Scheme to date include:

- **88% of projects have been successful** and are now sustainable;
- over **8,000 children from 59 schools** have taken part in a *Seed to Tree* programme, learning about the importance of natural resources and the environment;
- more than **3,000 local people annually** have come together to support the projects by contributing their time, energy and local knowledge;
- over **17,000 volunteer hours** are contributed to projects annually;
- more than **100,000 trees, shrubs** have been planted together with local native wildflowers;
- over **80 hectares** of green spaces are being managed by local communities
- **9 BAP** (Biodiversity Action Plan) of threatened species re-introduced.



In 2011, these principles are right at the heart of the Government's vision for the Big Society. During a visit to one of the Scheme's projects in December 2010, Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, commented:

"This is the Big Society in action and I am pleased to lend my support to this initiative."

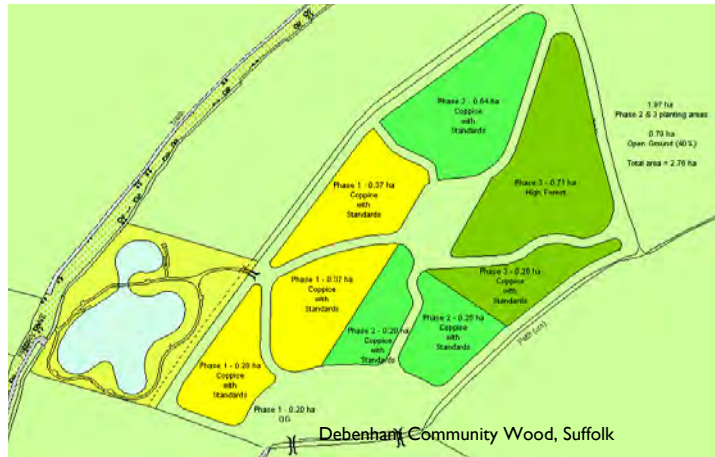
On 3 November 2011 at The House of Commons, The Green Light Trust are launching a new national initiative to challenge each constituency MP to have a WildSpace on their patch and Ian Cheshire of Kingfisher plc is the key note speaker.



The Green Light Trust sees the keys to these achievements are:

- The Green Light Trust's role as a facilitator and enabler, helping local communities to set up and run their projects;
- Providing a suite of tried and tested resources backed up by practical advice and training to ensure projects get off to a flying start;
- Creating partnerships between local people, schools, businesses, local and national government bodies and a range of funders working together to achieve benefits for local communities.

They are proposing a practical partnership solution to put the spotlight on how Community, Business and Government can work together for the benefit of the wider public for generations to come. This partnership will build upon excellent existing links The Green Light Trust has, such as with the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce who partner with the Trust in delivering the European funded Low Carbon Champions Project; and with Suffolk's *Creating the Greenest County* Partnership that supports Green Light Trust's work on biodiversity and Community WildSpace.



Proskills Wood Apprenticeship Framework

Proskills is carrying out a survey that they need to undertake for gathering the evidence in order to develop the Wood Apprenticeship Framework. This evidence is extremely important to how we move this forward as an industry and gives the Wood Sector the opportunity to present their views and needs on this.

Please complete the survey or pass on the link below to interested parties. The survey only takes 10 minutes.
www.surveymonkey.com/s/WoodApprenticeships2011

Woodland Management Courses

OCN Level 3 Sustainable Woodland Management £200

10, 11, 12 November 2011

Tutors: Andy Basham (www.coppicedesigns.co.uk) and Martin Hales

Venue: Hales Wood, Ashdon nr Saffron Walden

This is an intensive three day course designed to provide woodland owners and managers an understanding of managing woodlands sustainably. A wide range of woodland management aspects and will be covered through a combination of woodland visits, practical woodland and craft activities and evening tutorials.

OCN Level 2 Coppicing £190

21–25 November 2011

Tutor: Andy Basham

Venue: Hales Wood, Ashdon nr Saffron Walden

This is a four day practical course covering all aspects of coppice management. The course will be held within a working coppice woodland. Participants will undertake a coppice fall, undertake coppice restoration and process and sort rods for use.

To book / further information: richardthomas@smallwoods.org.uk

Tel: 01952 432769 or 07964 934556

The courses are open for people working within the land based sector, including farmers, woodland owners, managers and workers. The above prices have been subsidised by WoodFuel East working in association with the Small Woods Association.



Suffolk County Council



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

2011 Woodland Communication Day

Catch-up on latest industry news, partnership working, make new contacts & share knowledge

*Friday
11th
November*

2011

10:00 am

at

*Horringer
Community
Centre,
Horringer,
Nr*

*Bury St Edmunds
IP29 5RY*

**TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE/S
PLEASE EMAIL**

Suffolk County Council

Gary Battell

gary.battell@suffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 01473 264776



Topics include:

- **Forestry Industry Updates**
Independent Forestry Panel, Diseases, UK Forestry Standard, Deregulation Task Force, UKWAS revision & RDPE funding.
- **Biodiversity**
Woodland County Wildlife Woodland Sites Project, The Carbon Code and Biodiversity Off-setting.
- **Timber quality & training**
A view from Woodland Heritage
- **National Tree Safety Group**
Guidance explained
- **Q & A Sessions**



**Country Land &
Business Association**



Forestry Commission

Friday 11th November 2011
Horringer Community Centre, Horringer IP29 5RU

- 10:00 - 10:15 Introduction (Gary Battell - Suffolk CC & Justin Mumford – ConFor)
 10:15 - 10:50 Industry updates – CLA, ConFor and regional FC update
 (Caroline Harrison - ConFor, Mike Seville - CLA & Steve Scott - FC)
 10:50 – 11:15 Two minutes silence & refreshments
 11:15 - 11:45 Norfolk & Suffolk CWS woodland project (Rod Pass & Harry Barnett)
 11:45 - 12:20 The Woodland Carbon Task Force & The Woodland Carbon Code: Is it just hot air?
 (Chris Waterfield – (Woodland Carbon Code Implementation Officer)
 12:20 - 12:40 Q&A time
 12:40 - 13:00 Lunch **(PLEASE BRING A PACKED LUNCH)**
 13:10 - 13:30 ConFor AGM (Justin Mumford & Caroline Harrison - ConFor)
 13:30 - 14:05 Timber quality and training; a view from Woodland Heritage – (Peter Goodwin)
 14:05 - 14:40 England Biodiversity Strategy, Natural Environment White Paper &
 Biodiversity Off-Setting: Update, action and reward (Pete Brotherton – NE)
 14:40 – 15:15 National Tree Safety Group: Guidance explained – Mike Seville CLA
 15:15 – 15:30 Q&A time

Acute Oak Decline (AOD) is causing death of oak trees in woods

The future well-being of the UK's oak trees could be at a crossroads and oak deaths from pests and diseases in some areas is a cause for concern. In particular, a disease known as Acute Oak Decline has led experts to ask



Agrilus beetle exit hole



Stem bleeds

Dr Keith Kirby (NE) said “There has been a concern about increasing pest and diseases over a number of years.”

death of oaks in woodlands.

Tree professionals and conservation groups have also voiced concerns that if the disease got a foothold in the nation's woodlands, then the landscape would be changed forever.” AOD symptoms include "extensive stem bleeding" in which dark fluid seeps from small cracks in the bark and runs down the tree trunk. In early stages of the disease, the health of a tree's canopy does not appear to be affected, but it may become thinner as the tree succumbs to AOD.

Current research suggests that the disease becomes established in oak trees more than 50 years old. The UK's two native species of oak - sessile and pedunculate - are both susceptible to AOD.

"The risk of losing oaks could have a serious knock-on effect on woodland ecosystems. The oaks, as a genus, do seem to have a very large associated number of specialist insects, they provide a good habitat for a good range of lichen and fungi," said Dr Kirby. "Another thing is that it grows big and lasts a long time, so if it is given the time an oak tree will get big, have dead branches on it and start to rot on the inside but it will still live for a very long time. That means that you get an incredible range of different micro-habitats on a single tree - from the cracks in the bark to holes in the trunk. So old oaks are the most important of our veteran trees." He added "that although oaks' canopies provide shade, it was not as dense as some other species, such as beech; you will get quite a lot of shrub and ground flora surviving underneath it.

Perhaps another thing that contributes to the richness associated with oak is that has been in Britain for a very long time - it was one of the early colonizers, but it has also been abundant for a long time because people found it so valuable. It is the tree that almost everyone wants to encourage in their own woods."

What is the natural value of Norfolk worth?

Can you put a price on a walk through a deciduous wood at this time of year? The kaleidoscope of colours in the canopy, the crunch of leaves underfoot, the freshness of the first chill breeze carrying a faint smell of wood smoke. This is not only possible, but essential says Heidi Thompson, Countryside Manager at Norfolk County Council. *"I am mindful of not wanting to become the sort of person who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing, but valuing our environmental assets is a useful tool in arguing the case for continued investment in the natural environment"* she said.



Norfolk County Council has recently completed a study which tried to assess the contribution made to the Norfolk economy by the natural environment. The study looked at numerous reports which have been undertaken by various organisations, and tried to isolate the natural environment component specific to Norfolk. The study concluded that a reasonable estimate of the total contribution of the natural environment of Norfolk was £900 million per year.

"We are confident that this is a conservative figure" said Heidi. *"If anything it is likely to be a significant underestimate"*. This figure includes spending by visitors to the area, employment by nature conservation organisations, potential savings to the public purse from encouraging people to get out into the countryside and savings arising from taking action on invasive species. The results were presented at a recent conference organised by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership.

Delegates also heard a presentation on the Forestry Commission's Woodland Wealth Appraisal report, which has just been published. This groundbreaking piece of work utilised an ecosystem services approach and concluded that woodlands in the region are worth an impressive £1.276 billion per annum to the economy.

Copies of the Norfolk County Council report entitled "Green Shoots of Recovery", are available from the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership website www.norfolkbiodiversity.org



Concluding Thoughts

- It is easy to overlook the natural environment when times are difficult and priorities are conflicted.
- Its essential that we recognise that the natural environment is an important foundation for Norfolk's economic recovery.
- The wildlife and landscape of the county is our USP. It should not merely be seen as a constraint to growth.
- Total contribution per annum of the natural environment to the Norfolk economy is

£900,000,000

Trees do slow motorists down and they improve the landscape



Tree schemes slow down motorists and therefore trees could become a green weapon against speeding motorists following the success of an innovative planting scheme that challenges drivers' perceptions.

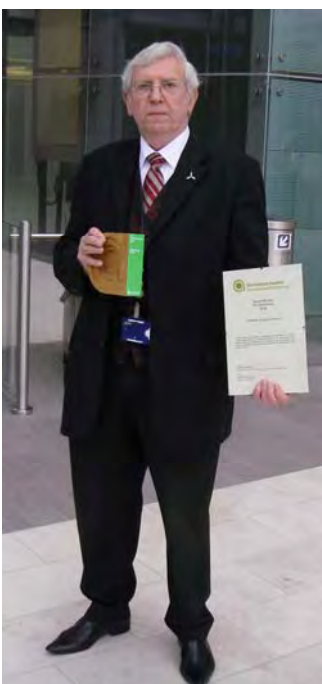
Provisional results from a road safety initiative in four Norfolk villages show strategic positioning of trees led drivers to reduce their speed by an average of two miles per hour.

Norfolk County Council planted 200 trees in four villages – Martham, Horstead, Mundesley and Overstrand – in an effort to reduce average speeds by two to three miles per hour and cut accidents by 20 per cent. There had been 20 crashes in the rural spots over a five-year period.

The initiative was about changing the environment to alter motorists' perspectives. The planting of trees and hedges is designed to reduce speed "by playing with the driver's peripheral vision". One technique involved placing trees – at decreasing distances apart – on the approach to a village, tricking drivers into thinking they were speeding. "If you are staying at a constant speed, your peripheral vision (which takes in the trees) is giving you the impression you are going faster".

Another method was to plant trees "so that it looks like the environment is closing in on the driver", he added. The road remains the same width but trees are planted on a "lazy diagonal" that gets narrower towards the entrance to the village.

Champion of biomass can be proud of his achievements



Peter Brown, along with the late Alan Tong both worked for Suffolk County Council for many years and were the driving force behind using woodfuel in schools to reduce the County's use of between 3 and 4 million litres of oil per year. It was Alan and Peter who produced the early feasibility studies that were to prove that with grant support biomass did make good sense. Peter project managed the installation of five boilers that were supplied by Econergy Ltd. Alan and Peter realised that fuel was the biggest issue and they soon involved Gary Battell and Paul Bonello to advise and manage fuel quality and procurement.

With a strong and dynamic team biomass was incorporated into Suffolk County Council strategies and the Environment Action Plan that includes a heating hierarchy. Peter has a wealth of practical experience that was needed in those pioneering days to make sure the boilers were reliable as there are no back-up boilers. By the time Peter retired, he had been involved with 21 installations and had helped Suffolk County Council win an internationally prestigious Ashden Award.



*Anglian
Woodland Project*

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Woodland Heritage Fund Ancient Tree Nursery



The Trustees of Woodland Heritage identified the urgent need to collect seed from the unique Staverton oaks following recent identification of Acute Oak Decline on the edge of Staverton Park, near Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Since acorn 'masts' only occur every five to six years it was vital that this Autumn's crop of acorns was secured and planted out and protected from deer and other pests.

The young saplings will be transplanted in the park in small numbers after they have been lined-out for two to three years.

Gary Battell said "I am so grateful to Woodland Heritage for their generous support. Although we know Acute Oak Decline is having an effect on the ancient trees of Staverton we are able to collect, sow and plant local genotype oaks for the future."

Although Staverton Park is private there is the opportunity to organise guided visits with a delicious afternoon tea for groups of more than 20 people. For more information please contact Gary Battell.

