



**Heartwoods West Midlands  
Woodfuel Project**

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**Our Mission:**

To significantly increase the use of wood for fuel in the West Midlands of England and facilitate the development of a sustainable woodfuel supply chain.

Heartwoods is a project of Small Woods  
Registered Charity No. 1081874

## Plant Health

As we move into the Spring and Summer months evidence of tree disease becomes more apparent. The following information has been published to help woodland managers manage this risk.

The tree health management plan has just been launched. This sets out government's approach to tree health in England which is in line with the Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

It includes updates on the management approaches to Chalara ash dieback, Phytophthora Ramorum, Phytophthora kernovia and Oak Processionary Moth. It also sets out how government and a wide range of other partners are managing new and future threats to our tree population in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-management-plan>

Multi-agency partners in Kent have published guidance on managing Ash Dieback in areas of infection.

[http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/uploads/documents/Ash\\_Dieback\\_Kent\\_Guidance\\_web\\_version.pdf](http://www.kentdowns.org.uk/uploads/documents/Ash_Dieback_Kent_Guidance_web_version.pdf)



HEARTWOODS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

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## New Programme Well Under Way

Welcome to the Spring 2014 Heartwoods newsletter.

The incessant rain and resulting flooding of the winter months now seem a fairly distant memory for most but there must be some households and businesses that are still counting the costs in terms of reparation and lost income. Spring is now firmly here with just the ash to really burst out and fill our woodlands with green again – it's always a great time of year to be out in the woods but often a tense time these days also as we keenly observe the emerging vigour and health of our trees. Chalara in ash and Phytophthora in larch are the headline grabbing tree health concerns but decline in oak is perhaps just as worrying for the West Midlands, and there are other threats too. See page 4 for details of the very latest tree health information and guidance.

We have enjoyed putting on our events programme so far this year and we have appreciated the strong turn out and support that you provide by attending. When we evaluate the feedback forms, and from my own observations and discussions with attendees, I am always encouraged by the value placed on the opportunity to network and met up with like-minded woodland owners, contractors, managers and all other hands-on practitioners. No matter what the theme or topic of the event there always appears to be plenty of mobile number and business card swapping. The official feedback on our most recent event 'Pheasants and Firewood' (see page 3) also drew particular praise for the quality of the cakes, so it's not all about the woods!

Finally I would like to remind you that we have a funded programme of advisory visits open to anyone in the West Midlands. Woodland related guidance relevant to tree health, pest, diseases, wood-fuel, timber production, grants and felling licences is available through an initial visit from a Heartwoods officer who can advise, point you in the right direction and put you in touch with further professional help where appropriate. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit.

Mike Bentley—Heartwoods Project Manager



## Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone Update

Heartwoods has been leading the development of the Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone by doing some ground truthing of the 'unmanaged' woods highlighted in the Marches Timber Study launched last June. This has involved visiting woods, speaking with the owner to assess their views on the wood, assessing the timber potential in the wood and producing a short report.

The results of this study will be reported at the upcoming conference in June and will be fed into developing a Marches Woodland Enterprise proposal for how to take forward the Woodland Enterprise Zone approach in the Marches. This proposal will also be highlighted at the conference and feedback and willingness to participate in implementing the proposal invited.

In the meantime, FC, Small Woods and others have been busy advising Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) of the role of trees, woods and forestry in delivering jobs and growth to secure opportunities for funding in the LEP strategies.



### New Heartwoods Advisor

Will Tomkins joined the Heartwoods Team in March. Will has a background in woodland contracting and management. He is available to provide support and advice to woodland owners throughout the West Midlands.

If you have woodland that you would like to bring back into management then please contact us on 01952 435860 or email [info@heartwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@heartwoods.co.uk).

## Biomass Suppliers List

The Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) was launched on 30 April, to applications from producers and traders of woodfuel and Short Rotation Coppice (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/register-your-biomass-fuel-as-sustainable>). Producers and traders who wish to access the growing RHI market are urged to apply. Producers and producer-traders should apply as early as possible. Traders may wish to encourage their producers to apply to the list and wait until they are authorised, as this will make it easier for traders to apply.

The BSL will provide a simple, light touch way for RHI participants to comply with biomass sustainability criteria. The BSL will be a publically available online list of suppliers selling fuels that meet the forthcoming RHI sustainability criteria. The public facing list will be made available to consumers once a sufficient proportion of traders have registered their fuels. We expect this to be later this Spring.

Those wishing to register as a producer or trader of woodfuel should go to <http://www.gov.uk/register-biomass-supplier>. For more information on the sustainability criteria and biomass suppliers list please visit the DECC RHI web page - [www.gov.uk/decc/rhi](http://www.gov.uk/decc/rhi).

## Upcoming Events

**Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone Conference in conjunction with Confor**  
This will include updates on Tree Health, Timber Markets and Grants.

**When?** - 24th June 2014

**Where?** - Worcester Racecourse, Grand Stand Rd, Worcester WR1 3EJ  
**Cost**—£15 for West Midlands delegates (£25 outside the region)

These events are targeted at woodland owners and managers within the West Midlands. To book your place, contact Harriet Wood at Heartwoods on 01952 435860 or email [harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk)

## Pheasants and Firewood Event

A big thank you to Alan Stephens of Countryside Training Ltd and Tom Follows of Inglewood Investment Company for allowing us to run this interesting event at Blackheath Covert in Staffordshire. Most of the woodlands that Heartwoods visit have a shoot and sometimes, the perception is that managing the woodland is in conflict with the shoot. At Blackheath Covert the woodland is managed for the benefit of the shoot and for timber production and by careful cooperation multiple objectives are achieved. Thanks also to James McKay for an interesting talk about small mammal control and Graham Riminton from the Deer Initiative.



Photo by James McKay