



**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

## Funded Traditional Rural Skills Training

Small Woods are pleased to announce that funding has been secured, through the Rural Development Programme for England and Lantra, to provide subsidised training in traditional rural skills. This will provide cheap training for people working in rural areas. You don't have to be employed in the land based sector to qualify as long as you work for a small or medium sized business in a rural postcode. Of course, if you are not eligible for funding you will still be able to come on the course at the standard price. Full details are available on the Small Woods website – [www.smallwoods.org.uk](http://www.smallwoods.org.uk). For more information contact Harriet on 01952 435860 or email [harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk](mailto:harrietwood@smallwoods.org.uk)

- 9–10 August Trug Making – subsidised price £90
- 15–16 August Introduction to Green Woodworking - subsidised price £78
- 16–17 August Cleft Fencing — Herefordshire - subsidised price £135
- 11–12 September Charcoal Making — Stafford - subsidised price £96
- 13–14 September Charcoal Making — Northampton - subsidised price £96
- 18–19 October Pole Lathe Turning - subsidised price £90
- 22–23 November Coppice Management — Northampton - subsidised price £58.50



HEARTWOODS NEWSLETTER

JUNE / JULY 2014

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**Welcome to our latest newsletter** which contains plenty of interesting information about what we've been up to, what's in the pipeline and updates on some wider issues.

We've been busy with the final site visits gathering information on the undermanaged woodland resource in the Marches. The resultant Ground Truthing Report was presented at our most recent event and set the scene for discussions on the Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone (MWEZ), and the activities it should pursue. The event saw us join forces with Confor again for a conference at Worcester racecourse on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Further information and a link to the final report is on page 2.

In the run up to the start of the next RDP in 2015 we have been engaged in various meetings with Defra, FC, local Leader Groups and Local Enterprise Partnerships in order to make sure the forestry sector is represented. We hope this early-stage input at both national and local level will ensure that practical and effective measures will result. We will keep you informed as things emerge and we plan to provide a more detailed update of the four RDP schemes (NELMS, FFPS, Leader and Growth Fund) in the next Heartwoods Newsletter.

Grown in Britain (GiB) is set to announce its eagerly anticipated licencing scheme which will allow UK woodland owners and timber businesses access to an affordable means of promoting the superb credentials of home grown timber. The scheme, which will be free to owners of small woodlands, sees retailers, trade suppliers, processors, and woodland owners come together under a single logo which is proof of the timber's origin and sustainability. It is a major step towards harnessing the strong desire to support well managed local woods. More details in the next newsletter but in the meantime keep an eye on [www.growninbritain.org](http://www.growninbritain.org) for news of how to be one of the first to apply for a licence.

A quick reminder - we have a funded programme of advisory visits available. Woodland related guidance relevant to tree health, wood-fuel, timber production, grants and licences is available through an initial visit from a Heartwoods officer. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a free visit.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our next event on 18<sup>th</sup> July, a practical day out in the woods with Toby Allen and Aly May of Say It With Wood – see page 3.

Mike Bentley—Heartwoods Project Manager



## Marches Timber Study Ground Truthing Report

The [Marches Timber Study Ground Truthing Report](#) provides confirmation of the extent and nature of the undermanaged woodland resource in the Marches and provides further information highlighting the potential for the creation of a Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone (MWEZ).

There are an estimated 28,000ha of undermanaged woodlands in the Marches, they consist of mostly mature and over-mature broadleaved trees. The volume of standing timber contained in these woods is estimated to be in excess of five million cubic metres and most of it is ideally suited to meet the growing demand for woodfuel – the renewable, locally sourced, low carbon alternative to fossil fuel.

An annual target to thin 5% of the undermanaged area amounts to 1400ha per year being brought into active management and this will produce an additional 77,700 cubic meters of timber per year.

Barriers exist which prevent this potential being delivered. Most of the barriers are associated with the awareness, knowledge and objectives of woodland owners. The other main barriers are access related, and the current capacity of the woodland management and timber harvesting sector to mobilise this additional quantity of timber.

## Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone Conference

The Marches Woodland Enterprise Zone conference was held at Worcester Racecourse on 24th June and was well attended by forestry agents, contractors and owners. Presentations by Mike Bentley, Simon West and Graham Taylor updated participants on the development of the Woodland Enterprise Zone to date. The workshops enabled the forestry sector to provide their input and influence the development of future projects, contributing ideas around overcoming the barriers of bringing under managed woodland back into management and increasing sector capacity.

In the afternoon, the audience was updated on Plant Heath by Barnaby Wylder of the Forestry Commission, on Timber Markets by Graham Taylor of Pryor and Rickett and on Grown in Britain by Stuart Goodall of Confor. Presentations are available on the Heartwoods website.



## Confor Rolls Back Bureaucracy

As a new group of lawmakers were elected to the European Parliament, Confor succeeded in rolling back bureaucracy caused by the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). In future, applicants for felling licences will not have to provide additional detail to demonstrate compliance with EU legislation. “It is very pleasing that common sense has prevailed”, said Confor chief executive Stuart Goodall. “Confor met with Defra, Forestry Commission England and the National Measurement Office to press for further simplification, but I didn’t expect that we would see all the changes rolled back”.

The Forestry Commission had sought to assist woodland owners and managers meet the requirements of the EUTR by providing for additional detail in felling licence applications to record species and volumes. At the request of Confor, Defra spoke with the European Commission and secured their agreement that the additional detail would not be required in future. In England, the Forestry Commission is now changing its guidance and forms, and will be updating field managers. Confor has asked Forestry Commission Scotland and Natural Resources Wales to take similar action as appropriate.

A simple pro-forma which was developed by Confor with the Forestry Commission will still be distributed and made available as before as a means of demonstrating compliance with the legislation.

## Upcoming Events

### Managing Woodland for Added Value—with Say it With Wood Ltd.

This event will show how the conversion of timber into marketable products can add value to the raw material. Ranging from firewood to high end fencing and milled timber. Hosted by Toby and Aly at Say it With Wood.

**When? - Friday 18th July 2014— 10.00am - 15.00pm**

**Where? - Say It With Wood, Leighton Court Farm, Herefordshire, HR8 2UN**

The event costs £10.00 which includes refreshments and lunch and is targeted at woodland owners, managers and contractors 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)

### West Midlands Woodfuel Open Day—Thursday 17th July—Telford

See the industrial wood chipper in action. Stock management Quality Control Sampling and Testing Security of Supply. Advice on any aspect of wood fuel use. Demonstrations of various delivery vehicles. Meet the staff and tour the site.

Come any time between 10 am and 3 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

The address is: MWF, Woodgreen, Redhill, Telford, TF2 9NZ (see reverse for a map)

There is no need to bring PPE, but boots might be a good idea if it has been raining.

### Fuelwood Pre-Launch Preview - Saturday 26th July - Beausale nr Warwick

Fuelwood invite you to the world's first ever pre-launch live demonstration of the all new Woodcutta 400 and the new Fuelwood Factory configurations.

For more information or to book a place contact Fuelwood (Warwick) on 01926 484673 or email [sales@fuelwood.co.uk](mailto:sales@fuelwood.co.uk)