



## 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

## Woodfuel Guidance—Feedback

As you may be aware, heat and electricity generators under the RO, RHI and CfD schemes are required to meet the land and sustainable forest management criteria for wood, as set out in the [Timber Standard for Heat and Electricity](#). The requirement for evidence can be met either through the use of wood that is suitably certified (known as **Timber Standard Category A** evidence) or through the use of bespoke evidence known as **Timber Standard Category B** evidence.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), working with the [Central Point of Expertise on Timber](#), have prepared three guidance documents to advise how suppliers under RO, RHI and CfD are able to meet the land and sustainable forest management criteria for wood:

- The **Woodfuel Advice Note** provides an overview of the Timber Standard and where to find further information.
- The **Mass Balance Guidance** sets out how suppliers may operate a mass balance system which complies with the sustainability requirements.
- The **Checklist for Regional Supply Base Evaluation** suggests the kinds of bespoke evidence that would be acceptable in meeting sustainability requirements.

These documents can be downloaded at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/woodfuel-guidance-for-providing-bespoke-evidence>

Please send your feedback on these documents, which will be aligned with the Biomass Suppliers List (BSL) requirements, to: Matthew Ford, Senior Policy Advisor, Office for Renewable Energy Deployment, E: [Matthew.Ford@decc.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Ford@decc.gov.uk) T: 0300 068 8360



HEARTWOODS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

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**Welcome to the September Newsletter** and I hope that this run of favourable weather carries on well into the autumn, allowing unhindered work in the woods for as long as possible. A bit of dust is always preferable to mud!

Timber prices and strong demand are holding up, and in some cases continue to rise. Hardwood firewood lengths suitable for firewood processors are now being advertised nationally at £60/tonne at roadside. Standing conifer crops with good sawlog content are regularly fetching well over £30/tonne.

I think timber prices, the good weather and a general upsurge in activity explains the positive and buoyant mood evident amongst the majority of exhibitors and attendees at the recent APF demo event held at Ragley Estate in Warwickshire. The Small Woods Association had a stand at the show, in conjunction with the Deer Initiative, promoting the benefits of consuming more wild venison as a measure to help encourage deer control.

As an aside, if you hear of a life-size willow sculpture of a deer being offered for sale please let us know – someone stole it from our stand on the Friday evening, with witnesses even reporting they saw site staff helping to carry it on the understanding it had been purchased! Equally, if you hear anyone offering a second hand IW tipping trailer with cage sides please get in touch – we had one of these stolen from the Greenwood Centre a few weeks ago.

As a reaction to the growing risk of equipment theft the Arbtalk website has launched the industry's first asset management and stolen equipment register. An intuitive user interface makes it possible for anyone to register and add any manner of equipment within minutes. The secure new website allows provision for managing business assets privately, as well as displaying your stolen assets publicly. Check it out: [www.arbtalk.co.uk](http://www.arbtalk.co.uk)

I look forward to meeting many of you at our next event on October 24<sup>th</sup> or at the Wyre forest event on 17<sup>th</sup> October (see page 3). Please also remember we still have capacity to conduct woodland advisory visits so do get in touch with Will Tomkins or Harriet Wood on 01952 435860 if you would like to arrange a free visit.

Mike Bentley  
Heartwoods Project Manager



## Support for Forestry Businesses

Forestry Commission England are promoting free support to forestry businesses in relation to new grants within the new Rural Development Programme, set to start in 2015.

Details of future schemes are yet to be decided or announced but if arrangements are similar to the last programme, the most obvious interest for grant support might include kit (timber harvesting, extraction and primary processing equipment), but potentially also storage, tracks and hard standing, specialist timber and woodfuel haulage, venison processing, training, business support, and advisory services.

The Forestry Commission is offering free support to a limited number of forestry businesses with an idea to expand their business but which struggle to pull the necessary paperwork together. This support, provided by a consortium of forestry initiatives, including Heartwoods, and specialists, throughout England, who will help with business planning, financial forecasting, legal agreements, identifying the right technical solutions and the best fit grant.

Experience from previous rounds of these European Rural Development Grants shows that it will be important for forestry businesses to have good quality “oven ready” applications in time for the official opening.

FCE are encouraging businesses to register their interest in receiving this support as soon as possible. Contact Keith Jones on 01524 565803 or email [Keith.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Keith.jones@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)



## Upcoming Events

### Woodland Grant and Plant Health Update

Grants for forestry in England (including the English Woodland Grant Scheme) are undergoing major restructuring, the details of which are yet to be announced. The aim of this event is to ensure that the forestry sector in the West Midlands is aware of recent developments and ready to make the most of new opportunities.

**YFC Centre, Shires Farm, Worcester WR3 7SG**  
**Friday 24th October 2014**  
**10.00am—3.00pm**

The event costs £10.00 which includes refreshments and lunch and is targeted at woodland owners, contractors and managers within the West Midlands.

For more information or to book your place please contact the Heartwoods office on **01952 435860** or alternatively email [info@heartwoods.co.uk](mailto:info@heartwoods.co.uk)

### Wyre Forest Open Day

An event for woodland owners which will talk about new local and national funding opportunities for woodlands, new work that is happening in the Wyre to revitalise the forest landscape, and some practical demonstrations about tools, techniques and potential markets for our broad-leaved timber. The event will be mostly based around a walking tour with an indoor introduction. Lunch will be provided. The event is hosted by the Wyre Community Land Trust and Heartwoods and sponsored by the Forestry Commission and Natural England.

**Uncllys Farm, St George's Farm, Bewdley**  
**Friday 17th October 2014**

Book your place at <http://www.lantern.uk.com/#!events/cmpy> or contact Ellie Hooper on 01299 405516 for more information.

## Managing Woodlands for Added Value Event

The previous Heartwoods event at Say It With Wood's new yard in Much Cowarne, Herefordshire, proved so popular that we had to split up into two groups. In the morning, the first group went to see the woodland that Toby and Aly have been working in and saw horse logging and mechanical extraction in progress. The second group had a tour of the yard, where Toby and Aly process their chestnut into fencing, paling and firewood. After a lunch of hearty local fair at CJ's Café, the groups swapped, so that they could see the other side of the process. Thank you to Toby and Aly for hosting this very informative and enjoyable event.

