

Hazel Coppice and High Forest at Heath Farm, Swerford

The Oxfordshire Woodland Group presents an opportunity to visit recent high quality hazel copses and broadleaved woodland and to ask: Where is the conflict between production and biodiversity?

Courtesy, David Barbour Esq., Heath Farm Swerford Oxfordshire OX7 4BN

Saturday 8th October 2011

Morning session

10am-12.45pm

Visit the extensive pure hazel plots at Heath Farm. Managed for craft rods, nuts and biodiversity, visitors will be guided by professional coppice cutter, Mark Oakey and the owner. Cutting with a hook and the handling of coppice products will be demonstrated. Marketing, biodiversity, management, deer and squirrel issues will be covered.

Lunch will be provided in the marquee from 12.45pm, including local produce.

Afternoon session

2.00pm-4.30pm

Tour the substantial traditional broadleaved woodland which combines visual appeal, biodiversity and substantial timber potential. Visitors will observe the results of pruning and thinning and management for nut and oil production on a peri-commercial scale. There will be a charcoal ring kiln on site as well as firewood cordwood.

Visitors may attend either –or both –sessions. Pre-booking is essential. Sadly no dogs can be permitted. Access to Heath Farm is directly off the A361 Chipping Norton-Banbury road, west of South Newington.