

Woodland Management and Woodfuel Supply Chain Events

Tuesday 21st June 2011 and Tuesday 5th July 2011

South Yorkshire Forest Partnership (SYFP) has been working closely with local woodland owners over several years. Recently this work, supported by the European Union with the Activating Forest Owner (AFO) project, has produced opportunities such as:

- a series of targeted workshops and seminars on woodland management and supply chains
- site visits to managed woodlands and woodland harvesting demonstration sites
- undertaking needs assessments for Private Forest Owners (PFOs) on their woodlands
- registering woodland holdings with Rural Payments Agency and applying for grant funding support from the Forestry Commission on behalf of PFOs
- producing woodland management plans for individual woodland owners

Support and interest from South Yorkshire PFOs is gaining ground, the majority of who recognise the need for sustainable woodland management as a means to ensure the longevity and health of their woodlands. There is also a mounting interest from PFOs in either supplying their own woodfuel requirements and/or directing any surplus low value timber into the growing woodfuel supply network be that firewood or woodchip.

The AFO project continues to engage with Private Forest Owners and offer support, helping to bring woodlands into sustainable management. As part of this approach we are again fortunate to be able to host two further seminar/workshop events with forestry experts from the Finnish Technical Research Centre - VTT.

These seminars/workshops are the prelude to the **free*** woodfuel supply chain training week in Austria during October. Successful delegates will need to show they support the idea of the AFO project, and have an interest in seeing whether their woodlands can provide any material for the local woodfuel supply chain.

SYFP will continue to help facilitate discussion and developments toward sustainable local woodland management and the emergence of local woodfuel supply clusters. The following events are part of this ongoing information sharing and progressive support SYFP is able to offer to both PFOs and to the local woodfuel supply chain in South Yorkshire.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT AND WOODFUEL SUPPLY CHAIN EVENT 1

Tuesday 21/6/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm (Lunch included) with:

Matti Virkkunen, Research Scientist, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

Vince Cater – Forestry Commission

Robin Ridley – South Yorkshire Forest Partnership

The Source, 300 Meadowhall Way, Meadowhall, Sheffield, S9 1EA

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT AND WOODFUEL SUPPLY CHAIN EVENT 2

Tuesday 5/7/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm (Lunch included) with:

Jyrki Raitila, Research Scientist, Biomass Fuel Production, VTT, Technical Research Centre of Finland

Vince Cater – Forestry Commission

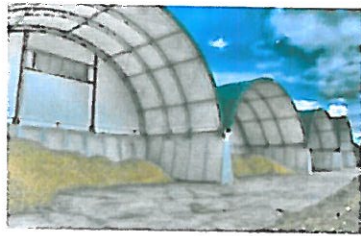
Robin Ridley – South Yorkshire Forest Partnership

Wentworth Castle Gardens, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ET

The seminar events are **FREE** and aim to help Private Forest Owners explore the sustainable future of their woodland, be it for recreational or pleasure purposes, supplying your own timber needs or developing a managed supply of timber to market.

As part of the facilitation process SYFP would like to encourage discussion and networking between the local forestry contractors and with the organisations providing advice on forestry management and woodfuel procurement so that ideas for the development of a South Yorkshire woodfuel supply cluster can be openly explored.

The two events will cover similar topics so attendance is required at only one of the seminars/workshops. If you would like to attend either of the events, or are interested in the Austrian Training week, please reply using the return slip section attached and the envelope provided.



ACTIVATING FOREST OWNERS

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT AND WOODFUEL SUPPLY CHAIN EVENTS

Event 1

Tuesday 21/6/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm - Seminar and Study Tour (Lunch included)

Speakers include:

Matti Virkkunen, Research Scientist, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

Vince Carter - Forestry Commission

Robin Ridley - South Yorkshire Forest Partnership

The Source, 300 Meadowhall Way, Meadowhall, Sheffield, S9 1EA

Event 2

Tuesday 5/7/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm - Seminar and Study Tour (Lunch included)

Speakers include:

Matti Virkkunen, Research Scientist, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

Vince Carter - Forestry Commission

Robin Ridley - South Yorkshire Forest Partnership

Wentworth Castle Gardens, Wentworth Castle, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ET

Event 3

Training week in Austria 3rd – 7th October 2011

Establishing Local Woodfuel Supply Chains – (see enclosed leaflet)

Please indicate which events you would like to attend
Please note that the format for Events 1 and 2 are the same so you need only attend one

Event 1 – [] Tuesday 21/6/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm - The Source, Meadowhall

Event 2 - [] Tuesday 5/7/11 - 9.30 to 3.30pm - Wentworth Castle Gardens

Event 3 - [] Austria 3rd – 7th October 2011

Dietary requirements:

Please complete the section below:

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....





The training, including travel to Austria, accommodation, meals and transport will be free of charge for a selected number of participants based on eligibility criteria. There are 6 funded places available plus a number of non-funded places.

Eligibility criteria will include assessing whether:

- the candidate has shown support for the AFO project in the past either by attending events, completing questionnaires or by other means
- the candidate is based in, or has "interests" in, woodland management or woodfuel business in South Yorkshire
- the candidate is willing to sign a Letter of Commitment in support of the AFO Aims and Objectives - (non-legally binding)
- the candidate can demonstrate support for sustainable woodland management or the woodfuel supply chain
- the candidate is in a position to further development the woodfuel supply chain agenda in South Yorkshire

Candidates will need to provide a £100 deposit, refundable following attendance on the training week

If you are a Private Woodland Owner (PFO), a potential woodfuel supplier, a woodfuel user, a facilitator for woodfuel supply, key actor from woodfuel service companies, supporting local authorities, investor for local woodfuel supply or similar then this event may be of interest to you – if so please contact Robin Ridley at SYFP – 0114 2571199 or robin.ridley@syforest.co.uk - More information about the AFO project can be found here: www.afo.eu.com

Announcing a Free Training Week Establishing Local Woodfuel Supply Chains

**3rd to 7th October 2011
Wieselburg, Austria**

This is your chance to take part in a fully funded demonstration and knowledge transfer training event. As part of the EU supported Activating Forest Owners project, a training week to encourage the development of local woodfuel supply chains will be staged from 3rd – 7th October 2011 in Lower Austria.

Austria has a history of decentralised woodfuel utilisation with more than 8000 biomass heating plants in operation, the majority of which are supplied by local woodland owners or businesses.

Demonstrating and transferring some of these 'best practice' examples and skills to interested UK delegates is an excellent opportunity to provide practical guidance in organising the woodfuel supply chain from forest management techniques and harvesting methods, through to the operation of small and medium-scale heating plants.



With the launch of the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), demand for woodfuel is likely to increase significantly over the next few years. The Forestry Commission are to introduce a new Woodfuel WIG along with the existing financial grant support for woodland management through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

This training week is an opportunity for you to learn more about the possibilities for bringing your own woodland into active management and generating additional income through sales of timber into the woodfuel market.

A woodfuel heating cluster has been progressing since 2005, incorporating over 24 established medium sized installations totalling around 7MW installed heat generating capacity. A further 30 installations totalling 12MW are under development.

This means that there is a current and increasing requirement for locally sourced, sustainable feedstock to help these installations off-set the carbon emissions from the fossil fuelled boilers that they are replacing.

The fragmented nature of South Yorkshire's woodlands - their relative modest sizes and being spread over a wide area - makes sustainable management seem difficult.

There are also hundreds of woodland owners with a wide range of reasons for ownership - however one thing is clear - the need for regular and sustainable management - to ensure the longevity and health of these woodland for future generations.

Managing smaller woodlands individually can be difficult and/or expensive which is why some form of co-operation between woodland owners has shown to be one of the most effective ways of sustainably managing our valuable natural resource which is where SYFP can help.

The training week is an opportunity to learn and to understand what can be achieved

The following topics will be covered during the week:

- The Biomass Production Chain including:
 - harvesting technologies
 - conversion technologies
 - storage issues
 - quality standards
- Business Concepts including:
 - Successful business models such as forest owner groups, co-ops etc
 - Ideas, drivers and co-operation agreements
 - Finance models
- Workshops for the establishment of regional woodfuel supply chains
- Profitability check and calculation of woodfuel procurement costs
- Face-to-face meetings with Austrian experts and practitioners
- Study tours to demonstrate different woodfuel harvesting sites, biomass logistics, quality management and local heating plants will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

Transport, accommodation and meals are included in the training week and are funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe – Activating Forest Owners programme which runs from 2009 to 2012