

# High Level Grants now available for the Surrey Hills

20 September 2010 Last Updated on 20 September 2010 Adam Owen

The Forestry Commission is offering higher levels of grants for woodlands that are within AONBs in the South East of England, the most wooded of which is the Surrey Hills. Over 38% of the Surrey Hills land area is woodland, which is well above the national figure of 8.4% woodland cover.

The increased grant rates are available to woodland owners with areas of ancient or semi-natural woodlands. In many cases this means that if you have a broadleaf woodland (e.g. oak, ash, hazel etc.) then you could be eligible for the improved grant rate. The grants are available to pay for work that will improve the conservation value of the woodlands; this could include re-introducing a coppice cycle, opening up overgrown tracks or removing invasive species such as rhododendron within the woodlands.

Grant aid is also available for planting new areas of woodland, producing a management plan for your woodland and improving the management access within woodlands.

Come along and meet the Forestry Commission team at the Wood Fair on Saturday 9th October (see calendar of events) or contact your local Forestry Commission

Woodland Officer Richard Edwards on Tel; 01420 23337.

## A farm for a future

04 September 2010 Adam Owen

Last year there was a fantastic programme on the BBC about forest farming. The film by Rebecca Hoskin has not been repeated on the BBC but has recently been posted on You tube. The link to follow is [here](#).

Forest farming is not new but has been re-discovered in western society and adapted to our local environment. It offers opportunities for ecologically sound principles of farming. Enjoy.

## Forestry Commission to publish guide to managing native broadleaved woodlands

01 September 2010 Adam Owen

HortWeek.com

05 July 2010

**The Forestry Commission is to publish a new book - *Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland*, by Ralph Harmer, Gary Kerr and Richard Thompson.**

The aim of the handbook is to provide advice that will help managers understand their woodland and improve their management.

A variety of subjects are included, from use of grazing animals, identification of woodland communities and management for nature conservation, to uneven aged silviculture, vegetation management and management planning. The background and principles of each topic are explained and case studies are used throughout. Interactions between inherent characteristics of the site and historic management are also considered in relation to future management options. The handbook also includes answers to questions that managers should be asking about their woodlands when different management styles are adopted depending on woodland ownership, location, objectives and characteristics.

Ralph Harmer has worked for Forest Research at Alice Holt for almost 25 years. He initially studied the vegetative propagation and improvement on oak, but since 1992 has been investigating the management of lowland native woodlands. His recent work has concentrated on the relationships between the ground flora, tree seedling regeneration and browsing, and the restoration of PAWS.

Gary Kerr is a silviculturist working for Forest Research at Alice Holt. His research career started with work on broadleaved silviculture and his PhD focussed on the silviculture of ash. Since then his work has focussed on continuous cover silviculture. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Forestry: an International journal of Forest Research*, a scientific journal published by Oxford University Press.

Richard Thompson is a native woodland ecologist working for Forest Enterprise Scotland. Starting with the Forestry Commission as a conservation and planning forester, he then worked for Forest Research investigating the ecology of upland native woodlands. He currently provides site based advice and national guidance on the management of native woods and ancient woodland sites.

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## **Hedgerow Harvest update**

01 September 2010 Adam Owen

Hi

I just wanted to give you a bit of background about the Hedgerow Harvest project – see below *extract from our project plan*

Hedgerow Harvest is a new Tree Council project funded by the Big Lottery Local Food programme; it will build on exiting work being carried out by The Tree Council as part of its Hedge Tree Campaign. The project will encourage local people to access food for free on their doorstep, it will build a network of hedgerow foragers across the South East region who can inspire their neighbours and undertake projects in their communities.

The Project will:

- Promote the use of hedgerow produce by providing advice and information on a hedgerow harvest website
- Produce a collection of recipes collected from Tree Wardens and Tree Council members to inspire more people to collect hedgerow produce
- Develop demonstration hedge projects that can be accessed by interested local community and school groups
- Provide advice about what to grow and how to plant and maintain a productive hedge.
- Enable community groups to plant productive hedges
- Produce a hedgerow harvest teachers pack with lesson plans that meet the need of key stage 3

We are well on the way with the new website, the recipes from Tree Wardens and the schools pack and the next step is to identify the sites for the demonstration hedges.

We want the demonstration hedges to be planted by Tree Warden Groups

The demonstration hedges will need to be around 200m long with 40 trees; the sites will need to be assessable - in local parks, in community gardens, around allotment etc. We also want to have some say in the choice of hedging material and trees as we want a range of different types of hedge planted across the region.

We are also looking for sites for shorter hedges 100m or less with the same ration of trees.

We can either provide the hedging material (we have done a very good deal with a fruit tree nursery) or the funding if you want to purchases hedging locally.

If you are interested in planting a hedge please give me or Jon a ring so we can discuss

All the best

Margaret

Margaret Lipscombe

Programme Director – Hedgerow Harvest

The Tree Council

The Tree Council's goal is to make trees matter to everyone. It works towards

- More trees, of the right kind, in the right places
- Better care for all trees, of all ages
- Inspiring effective action for trees

71 Newcomen Street

London SE1 1YT

tel:[+44] 20 7407 9992

fax:[+44] 20 7407 9908

[www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 279000

## **80% Woodland biodiversity grants within Surrey Hills AONB**

01 September 2010 Adam Owen

Within the south east of England the majority of our woodland lies within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or the two recently created National Parks. The woods themselves are important as a very high percentage of them have been growing in these landscapes since the 1600s, or consist of predominantly native species.

They form an important part of the south east, providing a long heritage of woodland management unlike many other regions of the country, where other land uses replaced the woodland. To reflect the importance of these landscapes, the Forestry Commission offers targeted woodland improvement grants to help with the management of the ancient and native woodland areas. This includes;

- Improvements to rides within the woods to facilitate future management,
- The control of invasive non-native species,

- Restoration work in ancient woods and
- Reintroduction of traditional management such as cleaning, thinning and regular coppice cutting.

The enhanced **80% Woodland Improvement Grant** is available in the following areas: Isle of Wight, Kent Downs, High Weald, Chilterns, **Surrey Hills**, New Forest, North Wessex Downs, Cranbourne Chase & the Cotswolds AONBs and the South Downs and New Forest National Parks.

**If you would like any further information please contact Richard Edwards.**

[richard.edwards@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richard.edwards@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) T. 01420 23337

## Tree Warden Update - summer

01 September 2010 Adam Owen

As Tree Wardens you can receive the summer issue of *Tree Warden Update*. This is how you can obtain it electronically.

1. Sign up online to receive it direct by going to <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=UpdateSignUp>
2. Go to the Tree Council website at <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/?q=node/852> and click on the 'Summer 2010' link.
3. Download or view the update from our resources page for [Surrey Tree Wardens](#)

Enjoy!