

Combating Climate Change

12 January 2010 Last Updated on 12 January 2010 Adam Owen

A Role for UK Forests

The Forestry Commission report was recently launched entitled Combating Climate Change - A Role for UK Forests (see the [full report.](#))

It is a call (supported by Hilary Benn who was at the launch) for 25,000ha per year of new forest creation in UK for next 40 years to help combat climate change. The report makes for interesting reading especially for those of us interested in biodiversity.

- We can no longer just follow native only approach when considering new planting
- There needs to be significant experimental planting of non-native species in UK
- In terms of the cost/benefits then report finds that evergreen plantations cost about £12 per tonne of carbon sequestered, mixed woodlands costs about £25 per tonne and biodiversity rich woodland about £41 per tonne i.e. biodiversity rich appears most expensive

This is important reading for those of you who may be planting community woodland and trying to decide on species to plant. Inform yourself and read the report.

Tradition orchard inventory

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The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is producing the traditional orchard inventory on behalf of Natural England to support the traditional orchard Habitat Action Plan. The inventory will complement other habitat inventories available through the Natural England website. It is being produced to national inventory standards agreed with Natural England and is now available to download for free via the Natural England [publications](#) download page and via [MAGIC](#) from December 2nd.

This digital inventory is based on combining existing survey data with aerial photograph interpretation mapping together with ground-truthing survey work by local volunteers. As well as the GIS data set and an excel spreadsheet, the background documents outlining how the data is gathered and displayed are also available to download.

Whilst aerial photograph interpretation has been shown to be one of the most useful sources of information for identifying traditional orchards, inaccuracies and omissions will still occur.

Consequently local knowledge and ground-truthing are vital components in making this inventory an accurate and robust data set.

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The ground truthing work is ongoing. Volunteer surveyors not only confirm the presence of a traditional orchard but collect additional survey data that is entered into the database and used to produce a condition category for each orchard. The survey methodology is being used across the country to ensure consistency so if you are currently running or planning an orchard project in your area or know of a volunteer group who would be interested in participating in the ground-truthing work, then please let me know as I would be happy to discuss how we can work together to maximise efficiency and reduce duplication of effort.

I must stress that the inventory is still in progress and is yet to be completed for all counties of England. If you have any local knowledge that you could share with us to improve the accuracy of the inventory in your local area, we would be very grateful to receive it.

The data set will continue to be updated regularly as new information comes to us from volunteers, orchard owners, orchard groups, record centres etc. The project will continue until March 2011.

Please visit the [orchard pages](#) on our website and for further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

Anita

Anita Burrough

Orchard Project Officer

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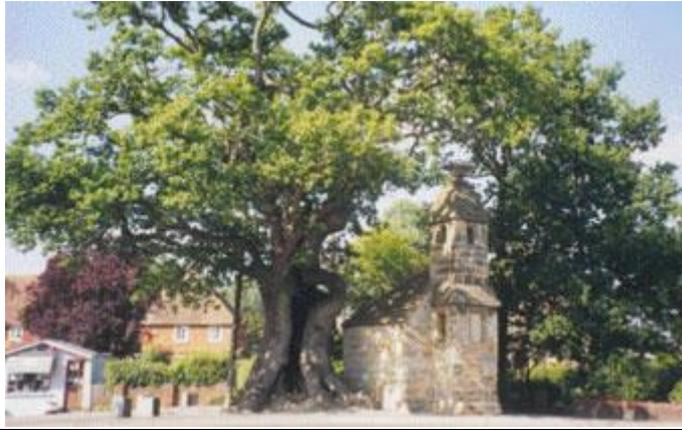
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Age to Age walk

03 January 2010 Last Updated on 03 January 2010 Adam Owen



Lingfield oak © Lingfield Nature Reserve



Crowhurst yew © Dave Pope

Now that Christmas is past put your New Year resolutions to get fitter and meet friends to the fore and join the Surrey Tree Warden Network on the Age to Age walk.

The Lingfield and Crowhurst Age to Age Walk was launched in September 1995. It was devised by Heather and Peter Francis, who are both local Tree Wardens.

The walk takes you on a seven-mile circuit around two of the most notable old trees on the area.

The First age

The starting point - the first "age" - is the 400-year-old hollow Oak in the centre of Lingfield, at the junction of Vicarage Road and High Street.

The Second Age

This is for the Crowhurst Yew. This stands in the grounds of the 12th century St George's Church, Crowhurst. (Note that this is Crowhurst in Surrey. Crowhurst in East Sussex also has an old Yew tree but that's a very long walk away!)

This huge tree is the other "age" of the walk and whilst there is no certainty about how old the tree is, claims range between 1,000 and 4,000 years. If the latter is correct, you will 'age' by a millennium a mile on your way there.

For more information on the walk visit the [Lingfield Reserves website](#)

The Surrey Tree Warden Network is a group of volunteers who organise events, training, 3 newsletters per annum (new for 2010) and an up to date website for all Tree Wardens, especially those in Surrey. There are 130 Tree Wardens registered with the STWN.

Annual costs in 2010 of £3000 are anticipated by STWN for the following: Website upkeep £1200, 3 Newsletters £1000, Events, Admin, Advice/Assistance, Affiliation to the Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme £250 and £650 sundry expenses. Funds are raised from grants from local authorities and some events. The Network must continue to fundraise to ensure it's activities can continue.

Monies raised will support the administration of the Surrey Tree Warden Network and a reprint of the Age to Age brochure which is now out of print.

Please bring your friends and neighbours, they do not need to be Tree Wardens. If 50 people raise £20 each then a fantastic contribution to the SWTN and the Age to Age walk will have been met.

Sponsorship forms are available from the Surrey Tree Wardens Network website under the [Resources](#) page.

When: Sunday 24th January

Meet: 10.00hrs at the Lingfield Oak.

Depart: 10.30hrs

Bring a packed lunch to enjoy at the Crowhurst Yew where there will be hot drinks and cakes available.

Finish: 15.00 - 15.30hrs

After the walk there will be an opportunity to retire to a choice of pubs in Lingfield for either an evening meal before your journey home, or a reviving drink.

For more details please contact:

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Trees record clean air

15 November 2009 Last Updated on 15 November 2009 Adam Owen

The Open University's iSpot programme www.ispot.org.uk aims to encourage more people to get involved with nature.

As part of the OPAL scheme people are invited to take part in a Clean Air survey, based on looking at trees and the lichens associated with them. We can learn much about air quality from the species that live nearby. The OPAL air survey is studying lichens found on trees and also looking for tar spot fungus on sycamore leaves, both which indicate local air quality.



As Tree Wardens this is valuable work and given the importance of climate change and air pollution from burning fossil fuels an exceptionally important issue. Get your local scout group, school or church group, local countryside volunteers and one man and his dog out there spotting nature and letting the world know how clean the air is on your patch.

You can download a pack from the [Opal explore website](#). Hope you're interested!

Elsewhere in the news

16 October 2009 Last Updated on 16 October 2009 Adam Owen

The Golden Great Nut Hunt

The People's Trust for Endangered Species, along with Natural England, is launching the third Great Nut Hunt to find out more about where dormice are across the country. Hazel nuts, where available, are a favourite food of the dormouse. Luckily for us dormice leave distinctive tooth marks when they gnaw into the green hazel nuts, before eating the kernel and discarding the shell to fall to the forest floor. Thousands of volunteers took part in the first two nut hunts of 1993 and 2001, sending in hazel nuts from over



2,000 sites and helping to identify almost 500 woodlands that had dormice present across England and Wales. Now PTES would like you to get out into the woods again and help find more nibbled nuts this autumn and winter. [Read more](#)

Fruit full schools

You can eat a different English apple every day for more than six whole years, yet the UK imports 69% of our apples - an 11% increase in a decade. Two thirds of orchards have been lost from England since the 1950s.



The national charity Learning through Landscapes (LTL) has developed an exciting new national project enabling thousands of children to establish heritage fruit orchards within their school grounds and in partnership with their local communities. Our project, Fruit-full Schools, has recently been awarded a National Lottery Local Food grant and is due to start in January 2010. This project will help counteract this massive loss by engaging pupils of 50 secondary schools and an army of apple volunteers to research local varieties, graft 2,000 new trees and establish sustainable orchards in 200 schools throughout England. For more information view the leaflet about [Fruit full schools](#) at the Resources page and Miscellaneous folder

Massive survey probes Britain's forest secrets

Forestry Commission surveyors are working on the most comprehensive record of information about Britain's woods and forests ever compiled. They will visit 15,000 woodland sites across England, Scotland and Wales over five years and their results will be fed into the next National Forest Inventory. [Read more](#)

Small Woods opens information source

The new Woodland Initiatives Network is an open source information system accessed via the Small Woods Association website which will be developed over the next few months. [Register now](#)

Woodland Trust launches advice scheme

The Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) has developed MOREwoods, a simple scheme to help landowners create native woodland with advice and practical help from WTS with minimal paperwork and no bureaucracy. [Read more](#)

RFS give kids virtual woodland

The Royal Forestry Society has developed a multi-level interactive virtual woodland as a teaching resource for primary school teachers and their pupils. The Pancake Woodland Challenge is available in the Discovery Zone on the RFS website. [Read more](#)

New director at Westonbirt

Simon Toomer has been appointed as the new director of The National Arboretum at Westonbirt. He has worked at the Forestry Commission arboretum for the last ten years, most recently as its curator.



Fungus find phenomenal

A new type of "tooth fungus" has been found in The New Forest near Lyndhurst but it already has an uncertain future. It belongs to the group of stipitate hydroid fungi which are in a rapid and worrying decline across the UK. [Read more](#)

Another tallest tree

A Douglas fir on the Lake Vyrnwy Estate, managed by Forestry Commission Wales, has matched the height of the tallest tree in the UK. It shares the joint record with another Douglas fir near Dunas Castle, Argyll. [Read more](#)

In the news



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Threat from lappet moth

Forestry Commission investigators and amateur moth recorders have discovered pine-tree lappet moths in woodlands west of Inverness.

Many trees can die during severe outbreaks as the defoliated trees become susceptible to diseases, bark beetles and wood-boring insects. [Read More](#)

Work begins to map ancient trees

A three year survey of more than 40,000 ancient trees, including Newton's apple tree and the yew tree which overlooked the signing of the Magna Carta, will reveal the full extent and condition of the ancient trees cared for by the National Trust. The research will be carried out by their newly appointed Ancient Tree Advisor and the records will also be added to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Hunt. [Read More](#)

Eco diploma for teens

The Diploma in Environmental & Land Based Studies, designed for 14 to 19 year olds, will be launched in September. The Forestry Commission, Natural England and other partners have developed the diploma. [Read More](#)

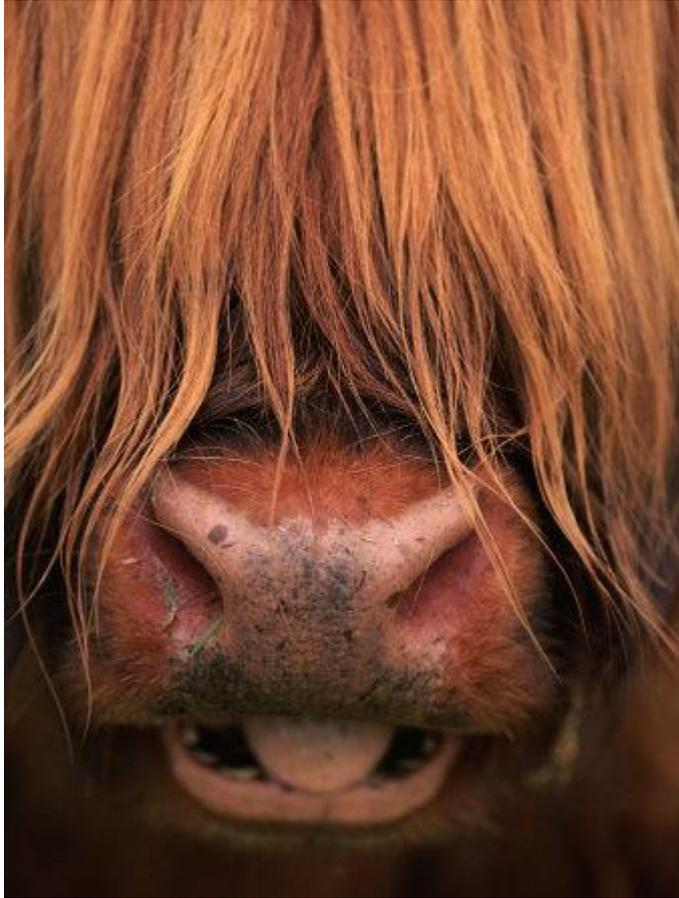
Plastic forestry?

Plastic forests could provide the solution to the future for Welsh woodlands as the country faces up to rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. This does not mean Welsh hillsides will be covered with man-made trees. Plastic forestry is a new concept revealed to a team of Aberystwyth based researchers whilst on a study visit to Brandenburg. [Read More](#)



[Search online for woodlands across the UK](#)

There are a number of new websites that allow you to search online for information on your nearest woodland or forest. The Sylva Foundation's site [myForest.org](#) is a research and development project to advance and promote sustainable woodland management. [OpenWoodlands.co.uk](#) is a service that lets woodland-goers find their nearest publicly accessible open woodland. The Woodland Trust is set to launch [VisitWoods](#), a searchable online database of 24,000 woodlands across the UK, next year as a "gateway" to site-based information, searchable maps, free downloadable resources, comments and pictures.



Forest project moo-ving in Scotland

Highland cattle are taking part in a unique forest management project at Loch Katrine in Scotland that is reviving low-impact forestry techniques from the distant past to tackle a range of land use issues. Introducing the 60 cattle will provide a return to the traditional land management of past centuries. Scottish Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham said "We all try to keep up with the fast pace of progress and that can mean we lose sight of traditional ways of doing things. Sometimes this is no bad thing but occasionally we miss a trick."

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