

Community Woodland Network – Workshop

Agenda - 27th April 9.30am - 4pm

Morning - Indoors at Gledhow Sports and Social Club, Gledhow Lane LS8 1NQ

Afternoon – Outdoors – Walk around Gledhow Valley Woodland

9.30am - Arrival and registration

10:00am - Housekeeping, Introduction and Presentations

- Community Woodland Project – Paul Mosley – Woodland Trust
- Network Website and advice / support available
- Community Woodland grants
- PAWS restoration overview – Robin Ridley – Woodland Trust

11:15am - Tea / Coffee Break

11.30am - Sharing and Networking

- Knowledge sharing and experiences
- What are other groups already doing – case study examples
- What support do groups want or need.
- Benefits and challenges of Community Woodland Management

12:50 - Lunch (buffet lunch provided)

13.30 – 15:45 - Site visit and walk around Gledhow Valley Woodlands

(outdoor clothing and boots / wellies recommended)

- Walk & talk with Woodland Trust staff, Leeds CC staff and Friends of Gledhow
- Examples & explanation of restoration process
- Outdoor Learning / Nature Detectives Activities
- Interpretation in Community Woodlands
- General Question and Answers
- 15:45– 16:00 - Back to Gledhow Sports Association



THE WOODLANDERS

The social and economic impact of community woods.

Community woods can provide local solutions to local issues addressing:

- Improving air quality, a venue for physical exercise, improvement of mental health and wellbeing
- Amenity – improved perception of areas, creation of a local identity and community cohesion
- Supporting a low carbon economy – a supply of fuel, addressing the urban heat island effect and reducing flooding
- Education – forest schools show learning outdoors increases confidence and team building, increases concentration and enhances learning impacts
- Social Isolation – opportunities for people to come together, studies show a 50% reduction in crime rates in vegetated areas

Ensuring that communities value their woodland and protect it for the long term is essential

Increasing cuts in public spending is resulting in undermanaged woodland and reduced biodiversity. This limits the potential of communities to access the many benefits trees and woods provide.

There is a big opportunity to empower communities across the UK to take ownership of their local woods



Our challenge

- Only 15% of people have accessible woodland near to their homes
- Just 0.2% (4,711 hectares) of the UK's woodland is owned by communities
- Communities tell us they lack the skills, confidence, access to land and funding to get involved – together we can change this!

The time is now to create a UK wide community woodland movement!



Our shared vision is for every community in the UK to have the opportunity to own, plant and manage their local woods

NE Case Study Friends of Chopwell Wood



Chopwell Wood is designated as a Plantation on an Ancient Woodland Site (P.A.W.S.). It has been managed by the Forestry Commission since 1919 with full control commencing in 1923

The Friends voluntary community group was first formed in November 1991, when there was much concern about small public woodland areas being sold off by the government. Some were privatized or clear-felled for the land to be used for other purposes. The Friends supported a plan for “Woodland Park” status to give greater protection for the long-term continuation of Chopwell Wood.

This status was achieved towards the end of 1993, and the official opening ceremony of Chopwell Woodland Park took place in July 1994. In 2011 the group once again campaigned against plans to try and sell off public forests, and together with other groups across the country enough support was gathered to force the government to rethink and stop the sale.

Members of the group carry out our work on a voluntary basis – they have no paid employees. The group became a registered charity in 2010.

Chopwell Wood has been managed by the Forestry Commission for 90 years. The Friends aim to help develop the educational and recreational uses of the Wood, whilst still conserving the wildlife and their habitats

Items funded by FoCW over the years – Conservation Work; Footpaths Repairs and Improvements to Drainage; Trail for Less-Able; Picnic Tables; Seating Benches/Logs; Sculptures; Barriers; Litter Clearance and Clean up of Stream Valley areas; Forest Festivals and other events; Forest Classroom and surrounding area (Meadow, Pond & Nature Trail); Skills Training; Car Park Extension; Railway Trucks & Tubs; Bat Boxes; Red Squirrel Feed; Trapping of Grey Squirrels (done whilst there was still a viable Red Squirrel population); Information Board & Leaflets.



Website: www.friendsofchopwellwood.org.uk

NW Case Study: Silverdale and District Wood Bank

The Silverdale District Woodbank is a community group that is carrying out woodland management, producing wood fuel and aiming to help people in fuel poverty. The group was Set up 2014

The group works at a number of sites including:

Hynning Scout Wood Warton - Here the group help the Woodland Trust in the maintenance and management of the site. The aim of the project is to ensure that the paths through this peaceful and diverse woodland are kept clear, for the benefit of both visitors to the woodland and to the benefit of the ferns and forest fauna that grow there. This will, in turn, benefit and encourage more wildlife into the woodland, such as rare moths and butterflies, into the woodland.

Work parties are arranged throughout the year and consist of cutting, processing then movement of processed wood from the site to one of the groups holding areas for storage and seasoning for use in the Community Woodbank.

Yealand Allotments: Work at this site involves clearing timber that has primarily been felled by the Butterfly Conservation. Clearing woodland rides enables wild violets, cowslips and other flora to grow. This in turn helps our iconic butterflies to thrive.

The group also provides useful help and advice for other organisations interested in setting up a community wood bank.

Website: www.sdwoodbank.co.uk



Case Study: Waingroves Community Woodland Trust

Waingroves Community Woodland Trust purchased 12.75 acres of local woodland after a public meeting was held in Oct 2010 stating the woods were up for sale and could become development land.

Around 140 villagers and village groups donated £20,000 to save the woods. After a lengthy sales process we finally got the deeds for the land in June 2011.

Now the woods are managed by a group of local volunteers elected from all those who donated.

With the aim to conserve and promote wildlife while improving usability of the woodland for local people and schools.

The committee has successfully bid for and received funding from such organisations as the Big Lottery, Co-op and Derbyshire County Council to create a community glade for holding village events and improving paths and access for all people.

As the woods are located on the site of an old pit colliery the group have replaced the miners memorial statues as a mark of respect to the heritage of the site.

Website: www.waingroveswood.com



NW Case Study: Bill Hogarth Memorial Trust (BHMT).

The BHMAT was set up in February 2000 in order to ensure that the coppicing skills of Bill Hogarth are recognised for their full worth and their continuity secured by setting up a broad based apprenticeship scheme.

The group is made up of concerned individuals involved in various ways in the coppice industry. The focus is the North of England although the group have links to other regions. The group achieved charitable status in 2001.

In 2011 The Woodland Trust leased the management of Moss and Height Spring Wood a twenty-hectare ancient woodland in the south of the Lake District to the Bill Hogarth MBE Memorial Apprenticeship Trust.

The aim of the group is:-

- To train apprentice coppice workers in coppice skills.
- To promote the management of broadleaved woodland using environmentally sustainable methods which encourage bio-diversity.
- To support the coppice industry in its endeavour to provide an economically viable use for our native woodland resource.
- To raise public awareness of the coppice industry and provide enhanced opportunities for people to get involved.

The group run a three year apprenticeship that leads to the Bill Hogarth Coppice Diploma based in the North of England.

Website: www.coppiceapprentice.org.uk



Notts Case Study: Friends of Colwick Woods

Friends of Colwick Woods was formed by local residents in April 2004, and work closely with Nottingham City Council / Greenwood Community Forest.

The aim of the group is to protect, enhance and promote Colwick Woods as an important local resource for the benefit of the community and its natural habitat. The group run "hands on" days in the woods by way of litter-picks, bulb planting and woodland projects.

- Responded to planning applications affecting the area.
- Arranged the installation of more benches in the woods.
- Researched and compiled the rich history of the woods.
- Public Rights of Way established through the woods.
- Contributed to the Ecological and Estate Management Brief.
- Organised bi-annual litter pick.
- Organised "Celebration Day" during July of each year.
- Involved in prevention of access for fly tipping and stolen cars.

- Established the Catchment Pond project.

Recently the group has been *involved in the View from the East Project* - an exciting programme of heritage activity aimed at exploring the rich and fascinating history of Colwick Woods. The Friends of Colwick Woods, working with Ordinary Culture and Nottingham City Council is working to restore this historic view, first painted by Jan Siberechts in the 1700's in his famous "V. of Nottingham from the East" which hangs in the Castle Art Gallery. Part of the work is to cut back encroaching trees and branches that obscure the view to Clifton.

Website: www.friendsofcolwickwoods.co.uk



The background features a light beige color with faint, semi-transparent patterns of leaf veins and tree trunk growth rings. The text is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

There are over 700
community woodland
groups across the UK....

We think there should be
more!

In partnership with



£1.25m donation to deliver the pilot, the
Community Woodland Network and create new
community woods.

We want

**To create a movement of community
owned woodlands through grassroots
engagement in the management and
development of woodlands**

A Community Woodland network

www.communitywoodland.org

The Woodland Trust and Nationwide have set up the online Community Woodland Network website www.communitywoodland.org to:

- Build knowledge and enable the sharing of skills
- Share useful resources – advice, blog and discussion forums.....



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Community Woodland Network website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Why community woods?, Advice, Groups, Forums, and Blog. The main header features a large photograph of a group of people in outdoor gear, with the text "JOIN THE COMMUNITY WOODLAND NETWORK" and a sub-headline "Help and advice on funding, creating and managing your community woodland". A green button labeled "Get connected" is positioned over the photo. Below the header, the page is divided into three columns. The left column, titled "In partnership with", features the Nationwide logo and the text "On your side". The middle column, titled "Your Community Woodland network", contains a welcome message and a "To get started, read our guide to taking your first steps as a community woodland owner" link. The right column, titled "Member's login", includes input fields for Username and Password, a "Remember Me" checkbox, and "Log In" and "Register" buttons. A search bar is located at the bottom right of the page. The footer of the page features the Woodland Trust logo.

A Community Woodland network

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Community Woodland website. The header includes the logo for 'WOODLAND TRUST Community WOODLAND' and a navigation menu with links for Home, Why community woods?, Advice, Groups, Forums, and Blog. A search icon is also present.

member s iogin

Username
[input field]

Password
[input field]

Remember Me

Search
[input field]

In partnership with


On your side

Recent blog posts

- Woodland assets for sale, understanding Assets of Community Value
- There and back again, a Woodland Officer's tale

Recently active members

[Profile icons]

Advice

Taking on a community woodland is a rewarding and worthwhile venture. If you're starting from scratch or want to find out more, our advice is here to provide you with expert help and guidance.

From acquiring land to volunteer recruitment, our advice is compiled from expert sources to help you own and manage a successful community woodland.

Your Community Group



Financing Your Wood



Acquiring Your Wood



Planning Your Wood



www.communitywoodland.org

Community Woodland network



The Friends of Common Wood in Buckinghamshire (Photo: M Roberts/WTML)

The Community Woodland network, in partnership with Nationwide, is here to support communities like yours in their mission to own, manage and reconnect with local woods.



Owning and managing a community wood is an exciting opportunity to meet like minded people, create homes for wildlife and benefit from the many resources our trees offer us such as a place to play and a supply of wood fuel.

Our grants

If you are based in: Cumbria, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, GTR Manchester, Tyne and Wear, County Durham and Teeside you could be eligible for one of our community woodland grants*.

Start-up grant

Our start-up grant will support the initial costs of establishing new community groups working towards a long term community woodland project. This may include booking venues, purchasing equipment or printing leaflets and posters. You can apply for up to £500, to help get your project off the ground.

Woodland Support fund

Our woodland support fund can help already established community groups deliver woodland projects related to owning and managing their woodland. You can apply for a grant of up to £10,000 and can be used to cover costs such as legal fees for ownership agreements, training as well as a contribution towards the purchase of land. Communities who are successful to the grant will not only receive financial support but will be giving a guiding hand from Woodland Trust staff.

How to apply for a grant

**Community Woodland is currently operating as a northern pilot.*

Our grants and funds

Our grants support the initial costs of establishing new community groups.

Are you eligible?

Join the discussion

The Community Woodland network provides guidance for groups.

Go to communitywoodland.org



WOODLAND
TRUST

Free Community Woodland Workshop Event

Wednesday 27 April, 9.30am – 4pm:
Gledhow Valley Woodlands and
Gledhow Sports & Social Club, Leeds LS8 1NQ

Find out more about the Community Woodland network,
the grants and support available for communities and
developing groups, and our brand new website

www.communitywoodland.org

Join us for an Ancient Woodland Restoration Workshop and guided
walk around the glorious Gledhow Valley woodlands

This event is free but booking is essential

To book your place, please contact Community Woodland Officer, Paul Mosley at
paulmosley@woodlandtrust.org.uk, call 0343 770 5895
or find out more online www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/events

From Spud to Wood

The Making of Spud Wood – Lymm Cheshire



- Spud Wood Community Interest Group has owned and managed this 31Ha woodland since it was converted from potato fields and planted with native broadleaf trees.
- The volunteers at Spud Wood are seeing the many benefits of being part of community woodland including harvesting timber for wood fuel, training themselves on woodland management and holding local coppicing events.

Maybush Copse Community Woodland



Maybush Copse is an 8-acre community woodland at Cot Lane, Chidham. The site was purchased in 2009 by the Chichester Harbour Trust with support from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy, the Parish Councils of Southbourne and Chidham and Hambrook, and donations from over 180 local residents.

The site was purchased to safeguard the special landscape of the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and to create a nature reserve and open space for the community to enjoy.

Community Woodland Project

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www.communitywoodland.org

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