

arb:north:2004



arb:north - back by popular demand

Following the huge success of arb:north:2003 we are running a similar event in November this year, imaginatively titled arb:north:2004! The 2003 event was the first of its kind in the North of England and focused on the important issues facing arboriculture and forestry businesses. As such, bookings for arb:north:2003 far outstripped our expectations and many requests were made to make arb:north a regular event on the arboriculture calendar.

Northwoods are pleased to announce that arb:north will be returning this autumn to ensure that up-to-date and relevant information continues to be passed on to those working in the industry. In response to delegate feedback, this year's event will have a slightly different focus. Working at Height regulations as well as new options for waste management and tree care and conservation issues will be covered. Equipment displays and climbing demonstrations will offer a practical element to compliment the series of presentations & seminars. Arb:north:2004 also provides a

unique opportunity to have your questions answered by the industry's experts and network within the North East's arboriculture industry.

Sponsorship for the event has been secured from Stihl, Petzl, Gustharts and Timberwolf - helping to cover some of the costs involved with running the event. Our advice is to register early with the Northwoods office to avoid disappointment - places are limited!

19th November 2004: Kirkley Hall, Ponteland

For more information and bookings, please contact Jo at the Northwoods office.

t: 01669 621489

jo@northwoods.org.uk

northwoods.org.uk/arbnorth

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STIHL

PETZL

gustharts
Cutting is our specialty



Timberwolf

www.northwoods.org.uk/arbnorth



Delegates at arb:north:2003

What can Northwoods do for you?



Business Support

Mark Turnbull, of Mark Turnbull Horse Logging and Forestry Services, benefited from Northwoods' support this July. Mark asked us to help promote a new strand to his specialist horse logging business - rolling bracken to control its growth on sensitive sites. Northwoods set up a demonstration of Mark's business to staff from Durham County Council, DEFRA and the National Trust. A week later, we also gave Mark the opportunity to demonstrate the same technique at an international bracken conference in Northumberland.



BenchmarkIndex

How successful is your business and where does it stand against the competition? Benchmark Index is a process which compares the performance of any business to other similar businesses, and identifies areas of strength and weakness, thus allowing the business to gain an insight into how they are performing in relation to their competition. To complete a benchmarking process with an independent financial advisor could cost over £2,000. For a limited period, Northwoods is offering free and confidential Benchmark Index assessments for your business with trained Benchmark Index advisers.

Investors in People

Investors in People (commonly known as IIP) is a national standard which sets out a level of good practice for the development and training of people. What would it mean to you? Achieving IIP status means that as a business you have recognised the need to invest in your most precious asset - you and your employees. IIP demonstrates a commitment to achieving success through planning and taking positive steps towards achieving a nationally recognised standard.

To find out more about achieving the IIP Standard please contact Northwoods.

Free local seminars to help businesses comply with strict new oil storage regulations.

From the 1 September 2005, The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations sets minimum standards when storing oil at commercial, industrial and institutional sites. This aims to prevent pollution and provide better environmental protection.

The *Environment Agency* has organised a series of seminars across England throughout September to help businesses that store oil to understand how the new rules will affect them. All types of oil, with the exception of waste mineral oil, are covered by the regulations, including petrol, diesel, vegetable, synthetic and mineral oils.

Liz Hobday, technical advisor at the Environment Agency, said: "Failure to comply with the new rules is not only bad news

for the environment, but could also mean a criminal record and a fine up to £20,000. These free seminars will help people understand what they need to do to ensure their site will be legal after 1 September 2005."

Seminars are being held across the UK:

September Seminars 2004

Anyone interested in attending should email:

oil.regulations@environment-agency.gov.uk with the subject: September Seminars. Include the name, company details, contact information and preferred venue to reserve a place. Alternatively write to Joanne Taylor at:

Environment Agency
Olton Court, 10 Warwick Road,
Olton, Solihull,
West Midlands, B92 7HX

News In Brief

- The latest edition of the UK Forestry Standard published by the Forestry Commission Specifically recognises the potential for low-grade timber and forest residues in biomass markets for heat and energy. To see the publication, go to the 'publications' page of the Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk
- Northwoods appointed Jo Pringle as the new Assistant Project Officer in June 2004. Her role is to support the development and delivery of Northwoods training events. Her immediate responsibilities include assisting the delivery of ignite (see p.3), the development of arb.north.2004 (see p.1) and the production & distribution of Northwoods News.
- The APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition 2004 will be held 23-25th September at Ragley Estate, Alcester, Warwickshire. For more information call 01737 245081 or visit www.apfexhibition.co.uk
- Forestry Specific First Aid courses - we're looking for people to take part in an enjoyable and very useful course. Please contact Ben at Northwoods.



Safety in arboriculture

Health & Safety Executive published their latest report in June confirming three-way karabiners are still the best form of rope-to-harness connector for tree surgery and arboriculture. The report, *Karabiner Safety in the Arboriculture Industry*, is available on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/research/hs1/engineer.htm.

Recommendations are given of careful maintenance, lubrication and regular replacement of your three-way karabiners as well as improvements to the attachment of ropes and prussic loops to help prevent accidents.

Turning woodfuel up to 11

The work of the North East's Biomass Implementation Group is starting to yield real results for the Regions' woodfuel industry, with a large number of projects taking the agenda forward.

Woodfuel Installation Map

The Regions' existing biomass installations have been mapped for the first time, enabling those making investment decisions to see the complete picture. This map will be a key tool for those deciding whether or not to install a woodfuel boiler of their own, or for anyone wanting to branch out into woodfuel supply. View the map online at : www.eif.org.uk.

Biomass Funding Sources

A database of the latest funding sources is now available for anyone thinking of installing a woodfuel heating system, and can be found on the Environmental Industries Website. Grants and other funding sources are a vital part of encouraging the installation of more small and medium scale heating systems in the Region - creating more markets for timber and arborisings.



Government Policy Drives Demand for Woodfuel

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister recently issued a planning policy that gives planners the ability to specify the amount of energy that comes renewable sources in any new developments. Everyone needs heat, so through approaches like this, we should start to see large public buildings and new housing estates heated with woodfuel.

DEFRA Bio-Energy Infrastructure Grant Scheme

On Friday 20th August, 30 people gathered in the centre of Newcastle to discuss DEFRA's imminent Bio-Energy Infrastructure Grant Scheme, and how we in the North East can make the most of the £3.5m available for wood fuel infrastructure. The 30 people were from a wide variety of backgrounds - arborists, forestry contractors, timber growers and processors, and a scattering of interested public bodies.

By the end of the meeting, Northwoods had secured the commitment of those present to form a woodfuel producer group. This group will bid to DEFRA for the funds to set up a new company dealing with large and small woodfuel consumers across the Region. Promoting wood as an energy source will be a key function of this group, as well as matching growers and processors with new woodfuel installations as they appear across the Region. To find out more about this exciting new development and how you can get involved as a member, contact Northwoods or visit www.northwoods.org.uk/producergroup



Ignite Training Diary

Woodland Management

29th September

Small-woodland management, planning forest operations, environmental considerations, maximising output and the safety implications of carrying out woodland management operations.

Marketing Woodfuel

19th October

Identifying wood fuel markets, researching your market, basic and comprehensive marketing techniques plus a leaflet & web page design session.

Sourcing Woodfuel (core unit)

4th & 18th November

The practical issues of sourcing and harvesting. These will include some international harvesting systems, available sources of woodfuel, logistics and specifications.

Business Management

13th December

Making the woodfuel decision - the financial essentials of starting out in log, chip pellet supply.

Launching Wood Fuel



The Kielder District Heating Scheme was launched in June with its first official delivery of woodchip and a ceremony performed by Margaret Fay (second left), Chairman of One North-East. The 300kw boiler supplies heat on demand to the castle, local school, hostel, 6 workshops and new houses and uses about 600m³ of woodchips from Kielder Forest per year.

The Northwoods team pictured left to right, Neil Harrison, Ben Tansey and Jo Pringle marked the occasion with the official launch of **ignite**, the wood fuel training programme. Both wood fuel schemes launched on the day represent positive steps towards Margaret Fay's aspirations of making the North East the "leading biomass region in the UK".

Still not convinced? Give us a call to discuss how you can profit from the emerging biomassmarket.

www.northwoods.org.uk

The new-look Northwoods website is live!

With a new, modern and refreshing look, the Northwoods website has been developed to offer a new level of service to anyone involved in forestry or wood businesses across the North East of England.

The main purpose of the new website is to streamline the way in which we pass news and information around the Region. You can use the site to find the latest on business support, grant schemes, training and skills, health and safety, all specifically geared towards forestry and woodland businesses. The Northwoods website hosts all of this information and is constantly changing and updating to keep you up to date with the latest developments in forestry, arboriculture, and other sections of the industry.

In addition, the website is here to help you to keep in touch with Northwoods. As we offer an increasingly full calendar of events, training, and business skills courses, the website will help you keep one step ahead of what's coming up.

Don't forget, the Northwoods website is constantly changing, with regular news updates it's a really convenient way to stay in touch with developments in the Region. To find out when new grants become available or changes in legislation are launched, make sure you check the website as part of your on-line routine.

Northwoods' Steering Group

Their names and logo's appear on everything we do, from letterheads and fliers to our website and emails, but who are the Northwoods Steering Group and what do they do?

Our Steering Group is essentially the same as a board of directors for a company - they set the direction of the initiative, provide guidance and support for our staff and review our activities. Several members of the steering group also provide funding for Northwoods' core activities and for the specific projects which we undertake.

The Steering Group meets once every four months, usually at the Countryside Agency offices in Newcastle. At these meetings we discuss the previous four months, issues relating to the management of Northwoods and our work programme for the future. More information on the Steering Group can be found at : www.northwoods.org.uk/steering

The Northwoods Steering Group consists of:

Business Link County Durham, Forestry Commission England, Northumberland National Park, Durham County Council, North East Community Forests, Northumberland County Council, English Nature, DEFRA, Forestry Contracting Association, The Countryside Agency, Forestry and Timber Association, Tynedale Council and Northumberland Strategic Partnership.



Dates for your diary

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept	Oil Regulation Seminar	Tyneside House, Newcastle	Joanne Taylor Env. Agency
Sept 23-25	APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition 2004	Ragley Estate, Alcester Warwickshire	Tickets: 01737 245081
Sept 28	Ignite Woodland Management	Minsteracres Co Durham	Northwoods
Oct 10-13	Woodmex 2004 www.woodmex.com	Halls 17-20, NEC Birmingham	Tickets: 0870 4295302
Oct 13	Dales Woodland Training & Woodfuel Info Day	Scargill House Kettlewell	Yorwoods 01765 609355
Oct 19	<i>Ignite</i> Woodfuel Marketing	St Mary's College Durham University	Northwoods
Nov 4 & 18	<i>Ignite</i> Sourcing Woodfuel	Coxhoe (4th) or Alnwick (18th)	Northwoods
Nov 19	arb:north:2004	Kirkley Hall Northumberland College	Northwoods
Dec 13	<i>Ignite</i> Business Management	The Hexham Royal Hotel	Northwoods

Advertise in Northwoods News and reach over 1000 people working in the forestry, timber processing and arboriculture industries of the North East. Our rates start from just £30 for an eighth page advert in full colour. Contact Jo at the Northwoods office to discuss inclusion in the next edition of Northwoods News or visit www.northwoods.org.uk/northwoodsnews



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*Supporting the North East's
forestry and woodland businesses*

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