

# Making Woods Work



THE NATIONAL  
FOREST

## What is Making Woods Work?

The overarching aim of Making Woods Work is to develop the woodland economy in and around The National Forest. The National Forest has developed impressively over the past 15 years. Woodland cover in the area has increased from around 6% to over 18%, twice the national average for England. More than seven million trees have been planted and the intention is to continue woodland creation by planting more than 400,000 trees annually.



On site processing of timber in The National Forest

As these woodlands grow, the potential for their economic use increases; there is a need to support both landowners with existing mature woodland and new woodland owners with the education, training and awareness required to ultimately produce sustainable, high quality timber.

The objectives are to foster the creation and management of productive woodlands, to encourage woodland-related economic activity and business opportunities and to enable high-quality settings for biodiversity, landscape, tourism and access.

Making Woods Work is being run by Rural Development Initiatives on behalf of the National Forest Company and *emda*

## This is to be achieved by:

- Providing advice and support for any woodland or woodland-related business (including appropriate tourism businesses) operating in and around the Forest.
- Stimulating the wood fuel supply chain and market which will make financially viable the practical management operations in young woodlands.
- Raising awareness amongst landowners and the general public of the benefits of and need for proactive management of woodland in The National Forest.
- Linking woodland management and the development of the woodland economy, with the tourism and recreation opportunities of the Forest.
- Focusing on employment, skills, training and opportunities for businesses located in and around The National Forest.
- Helping businesses and landowners to access grant funding and business advice.



"Sussex" cleft chestnut fencing at The National Forest Youth Hostel

# The National Forest Company

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## Who can Making Woods Work advise?

Making Woods Work is looking to advise those who:

- Own or manage woodland, whether old or newly planted, and who are looking to exploit business opportunities.
- Are considering starting up a business which will help stimulate the woodland economy through using forest produce or forest infrastructure.
- Have an existing business which could exploit new opportunities being offered by the expanding and growing National Forest.
- Would like to use wood as a fuel for heat, hot water or power generation to help reduce their carbon footprint and/or provide a selling point.
- Have a business proposition which may benefit the woodland economy of The National Forest.



Woodland-based charcoal burning

## What can Making Woods Work do?

Making Woods Work aims to help facilitate business opportunities and, by doing so, strengthen the woodland economy of the National Forest. We will:

- Visit new or prospective businesses who wish to diversify, expand or start, and refer them to Business Link as appropriate.
- Offer advice about the range of grant opportunities available from the agencies working in and around The National Forest.
- Provide training through a series of events, seminars and bespoke educational courses.



Firewood and log store for sale in the Forest

### For more information contact Ben Scotting on:

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