



National Coppice
Federation
www.ncfed.org.uk

Supporting the Coppice Industry

Coppice, Conservation and Commerce

At the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum.

9th and 10th May 2016



**A conference focusing on integrating the values of
coppicing for biodiversity and the role of the professional
coppice worker**

The National Coppice Federation is pleased to thank the following sponsors:



**SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK**

‘Coppice, conservation and commerce.’

*A two day conference 9th & 10th May 2016
Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, W. Sussex*

The decline of coppicing over the last century has caused the most profound change to our countryside. Large areas of woodland experienced either major changes to their management or fell out of management altogether.

Many generations of people have grown up believing that unmanaged woods are desirable. The reality has been the catastrophic declines (and sometimes extinctions) of many species.

The renewed interest in coppicing in recent years has been driven both by the conservation sector and coppice workers who are striving to make a living in the woods. The area of woodland owned by conservation groups has grown over this time but we feel that insufficient emphasis has been put on the conservation and commercial potential of coppice.

All too often coppicing has been funded through the public purse via membership subscription or public grants. The grant support for woodland conservation has changed radically with the advent Countryside Stewardship, with grants for coppicing being slashed and smaller woodlands no longer eligible for support. We are concerned that the effect will be a further decline in coppice management.

We are told by DEFRA that coppicing is now ‘economic’ and we consider the time is right to have a dialogue between the key conservation woodland owners and the coppice sector to see how the needs of conservation can be balanced with the needs of the coppice workers who are trying to make it pay, to the advantage of all.

Coppicing ticks many boxes in our modern world – wildlife benefits; sustainability; rural employment; carbon neutrality; amenity; local provenance and more. In spite of this, coppice workers across the country struggle to access woodlands suitable for their work.

This conference will demonstrate the tangible benefits to woodland wildlife of coppice management; will examine and dispel perceived concerns about the effects of coppicing and will work to develop a strategy that will bring together woodland nature reserves and coppice workers to the benefit of both.

This conference is essential for

- Policy making organisations such as FC, DEFRA, Natural England, etc
- Major land owners and organisations able to influence land use for example NT, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, Woodland Trust, large estates, Land Agents and many others
- National Park and Local Government officers focused on the environment and conservation and able to influence local land owners
- Conservation organisations in the voluntary sector
- Coppice organisations and workers

Why should you attend

The countryside has declined in terms of biodiversity over the last century and more rapidly over the last 50 years. Many species, once common, are in decline or endangered and only surviving because of focused efforts by a few. This conference aims to influence the opening up of unmanaged coppice land to help species regenerate, re-invigorate heritage crafts and help enable dedicated coppice workers make a living in today's challenging environment. If you have the ability to influence policy, influence government or influence land owners and care about our nations heritage you need to attend. If you represent coppice workers or are a coppice worker you need to share your views and need to attend.

Speakers include:

Ian White, PTES

In the UK almost two-thirds of mammal species have declined in the last 50 years. People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) is an International Conservation charity that exists to stop this loss of wildlife. PTES have been the lead UK Charity involved in Hazel dormouse conservation for the past 20 years and manage the National Dormouse Monitoring programme (NDMP), the National Dormouse Database(NDD) and the Dormouse Reintroduction Programme.

Emma Goldberg, Natural England

Emma Goldberg is Natural England's Senior Forestry and Woodland Specialist and leads on management of SSSI woodlands, ancient woodland, tree diseases and deer.

Kevin May MICFor, National Team Manager – Sustainable Forest Management – Forestry Commission England

Kevin leads within the FC on Regulation and Incentives and is also head of administration. Kevin's role includes responsibility for the EWGS scheme, supporting the design and implementation of Countryside Stewardship and management of the administration teams that administer grant and regulatory cover across England.

Neil Hulme, Butterfly Conservation

Neil is a lifelong butterfly enthusiast and now Project Officer for the 'Fritillaries for the Future' project. The project plans to restore a healthy population of the regionally endangered Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly to extensive parts of the Sussex landscape. It is hoped this can be achieved by improving woodland habitats and re-introducing captive-bred butterflies to suitable areas, which include the hazel and chestnut coppice upon which this species has always heavily relied.

Conference costs and booking

Space is limited so early booking is strongly recommended. Refreshments and buffet lunch will be provided.

Costs....

- For those not affiliated with the NCFed the cost is **£90**
- For those who are members of affiliated NCFed organisations the cost is **£50**

Bookings can be made...

1. on-line by visiting www.ncfed.org.uk/springconference and completing the web-form and paying using the secure payment buttons, or
2. by printing and completing the below form and posting to:

NCFed Spring Conference,
c/o Dave Jackson
90 Belmont Road
Malvern
Worcestershire, WR14 1PB

Payment methods....

1. Use the secure payment buttons at the bottom of every web page at www.ncfed.org.uk
2. By cheque (payable to 'National Coppice Federation') and post to the above address.
3. Direct bank transfer can be made to 'National Coppice Federation'
sort code: 08-92-99
account number: 65716928.
Please email bookings@ncfed.org.uk if paying by BACS

Location

The conference will be held in the beautiful location of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Near Chichester, West Sussex. Our base will be the Gridshell, a marvel of wood engineering from coppiced materials. Follow the link for information about the site: www.wealddown.co.uk

Further Information

Should you require any additional information regarding the conference, please contact the event organiser, Chris Letchford chris.letchford@btinternet.com

Booking Form

Coppice, Conservation and Commerce Spring Conference

9th & 10th May 2016

Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton, W. Sussex

Name : Fee £.....
(A name for each participant please)

Additional Name : Fee £.....

Additional Name : Fee £.....

Additional Name : Fee £.....

Total due £.....

Organisation:

Address:

Contact number:

Email:

Please note, we must have the above contact details for the person responsible for these bookings. Booking confirmation will be sent by email to this appointed person only.

Method of payment (please tick)

via website payment buttons

by cheque

bacs transfer

Special dietary requirements....

(please specify name if booking for more than one person)

Please check for availability prior to booking your places. If you have any enquiries regarding your booking please email bookings@ncfed.org.uk. Please note that accommodation is not included in the cost. This must be booked separately. Suggestions are available on the website.

We look forward to seeing you there.