



Woodfuel Market Update

After seemingly years of just talking about it, the north east's woodfuel market is finally beginning to take off, with systems ranging from 50kw to 6MW on our woodfuel "radar". Obviously turning interest into an installation is a lengthy process, particularly when the customer is in the public sector, but there is now some genuine momentum in the North East and we're aware of over 20 systems at the proposal or planning stage. The first of these will be at the Wentworth Leisure Centre in Hexham, where a 550kw boiler requiring several hundred tonnes of G50 / W35 woodchip each year will be installed by the end of 2007.



Any old woodchip will do? Think again!
Find out more on our **Woodfuel Quality Standards** course on 10 May 2007.

Recent installations include an upgrading of the Veto boiler at Lee Moor Farm near Alnwick to a modern KWB boiler system, and new Fröling boiler at Park End near Wark. Both Nick Ridley and Ian Brown have established Econergy franchises in the region, and our own Ben Tansey has moved on to work full-time for Wood Energy Ltd. as their Business Development Manager for the north of England and Scotland.

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NEWFuels - The North East's Woodfuel Producer Group

Start the New Year with a membership to North East Wood Fuels (NEWFuels for short), the woodfuel producer group created at the request of forestry businesses that attended the award winning Ignite course in 2004/05. We've been up and running for 12 months now, and in that time have appointed a highly experienced board of Directors drawn from the farming and forestry businesses of the north east. We've also been providing supply chain advice for those looking to install wood fuel systems. Our low-end estimate for 2007 is to issue 10 supply contracts ranging from 50 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes of woodfuel, totalling in excess of 20,000 tonnes of material per year. However, you've "got to be in it to win it", and at just £50 per year, it could be the best money you spend this winter.

To join contact John on :

01670 790 446

NEWFuels
supplying natural energy

North East Bio-energy Development Service

Catchy name, huh? Well, it may not be ideal, but the principle behind it is a sound one, and good news for the tree and timber businesses of the north east. Rural Development Initiatives, Northwoods' managing agent, has recently secured a contract to deliver this service on behalf of One NorthEast, the regional development agency.

The Service will bring the good news of wood fuel to businesses across the region. Showing them how they can not only save money on their energy bills, but cut their carbon emissions and contribute to the growth of the north east's forestry sector too.

The Service will market the savings that wood energy can bring to a business, and then offer free and subsidised advice and technical support to interested private companies - enough to take them through to the point of installation. We'll be featuring the Service in coming issues, and you can find out more on www.northwoods.org.uk.

Passionate about forestry

WoodsWork...

make your woods work for you!



Woodwork will help you get maximum benefits from your woodlands, whether that's generating income or creating a wildlife haven. Importantly, the size and quality of your woodland doesn't matter - maybe it hasn't been managed in years! WoodsWork is offering a wide range of heavily subsidised training courses as well as advice and support.

Often woodland owners can't justify the time and resources needed to manage their woodland as they can't see any way to make a return. Think again! There are lots of ways you can make some money from your woodlands: Making the most of traditional products, entering into new or

expanding markets or adding value to your timber. Come to our next **Economic Options course** to find out more!

We've found that lots of owners are really keen to manage their woodlands but feel they don't have all the skills they need to do it. Based on this need we are running a series of different practical skills courses for managing farm woodlands. The first course is **managing coniferous woodlands**, it's a three day course but it's spread out over several weeks. This course takes a practical, realistic approach to managing farm coniferous woodlands. It will be running in the spring.

Would you know what to do if someone on the farm had a serious accident? Come along to our excellent one day **first aid course**. It is written specifically for the land-based sector and is approved by the Health and Safety Executive. The February course is now fully booked, so call now to secure a place running in April.

The project is funded by Defra so all of the courses are heavily subsidised. To be eligible you have to work in farming, forestry or farm diversification activities but please give us ring to confirm.

Economic Options:

- Economic Options for your Woodlands
- Introducing Woodfuel
- Ignite Woodfuel Training
- Mobile Sawmilling
- Marketing Woodland Products
- Non-timber Forest Products
- Grants and Licenses Surgery

Woodland Management

- Managing Coniferous Woodlands
- Managing Broadleaves for Quality Timber
- Managing Woodlands for Wildlife
- Coppice Establishment and Management
- Pests and Pest Control

Technical Qualifications:

- Chainsaw Use and Maintenance
- Felling Small Trees
- Processing Individual Windblown Trees
- Appointed Persons First Aid

To register for your interest in WoodsWork or to book a place on a course call Kate on 01670 790 444



Wood fuel supply business models



As biomass, and wood fuel in particular, takes off, there are a large number of businesses in the forestry sector (and some in other sectors) looking at the possibility of branching into wood fuel supply, especially as premium quality chip can pay up to £70 per tonne delivered. However, the question is always "what are the economics of wood fuel supply?"

To answer this I've been working on the production of business models for many of the possible wood fuel supply systems for the last month. Ranging from terrain chipping with £350,000 machines to supply power stations; through to one man with a 6 inch chipper supplying a primary school. The models are

based on current quotes and prices from the North East (Involving contacting over fifty businesses for over one hundred quotes). Therefore they will be as representative of real prices and costs as is possible, also including details of suppliers and services.

We will be running a course on this on Wednesday 23rd May 2007. If you are interested please contact John on: 01670 790 444



Northumberland Fire Group

With multiple wildfires across the North of England last summer and predictions that they will be a more frequent occurrence in the future, members of Northumberland Fire Group are working together to tackle this threat.

The Fire Group is made up of land managers, game keepers, land owners and farmers, as well as organisations such as the National Trust and the Forestry Commission. Most importantly, Northumberland Fire and Rescue service are very actively involved and are very keen to improve how they work with the rural community.

In the event of a wildfire, a fast response with the right equipment and plenty of trained people is essential to minimise damage. The aim of the fire group is to enable this type of response, key activities at the moment include:

Fire plans: An essential document for a fast response, it contains important contacts, access points, equipment lists, water supplies, hazards and maps. We aim to have a simple, standard fire plan for all areas at risk of wildfire.

Equipment lists: Having enough of the right equipment is vital. The only way to achieve this is through sharing equipment and the fire group are collecting equipment lists and working on solving issues such as insurance and costs.



Upcoming Training courses:

Fire Plans: This evening session is aimed at private estates and land owners throughout rural Northumberland. Come along to find out how to complete your fire plan, including support from the Fire Service. Courses are on the 14th and 21st March and cost £10 + VAT per eligible person.

Basic Wildfire Training: Aimed at anyone who may assist at a wildfire or wants to work more effectively with the Fire Service. The course aims to combine international best practice in wildfire fighting with the expertise of land managers, as well as covering mechanisms for joint working between land managers and the fire service. This course will also be essential for those wanting to complete the advanced course later in the year. Courses will be run in February 2007 and are £45 + VAT per eligible person.

To book your place or for more information call Marc on 01670 790 444

If you are interested in joining the group, have equipment to share or would just like more info or to join the mailing list call Kate on 01670 790 444



Dräger safety



Ignite wood fuel training course wins prestigious national award!

Before she left for pastures new, Jo filled in the application form for the UK National Training Awards - the country's most prestigious awards for training and development. Little did we know that 6 months later we'd be sharing a stage with Nissan and BT to collect an award at the Hilton in Gateshead! Recognising the high quality and innovative nature of the training, as well as the contribution that it has made to the development of the Regions' wood fuel sector, the judges at the National Training Awards presented us with a UK Award - the highest standard available.

It was great to receive this recognition for a course that we struggled to deliver during our painful transition from the FCA, and has been a real shot in the arm for the training course. Ignite is currently undergoing a major re-write in the face of increased demand for the course from across the UK and the rapidly changing nature of the woodfuel sector.

Thanks are due to Jo, and to the 200+ enthusiastic trainees who have made the course such a pleasure to write and deliver. The next Ignite North East is in September 2007.



National Training Awards
UK 2006



northwoods notices.....

Northwoods have moved!

Update your address book!

New address:

Cockle Park, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 3EB

t: 01670 790 444

f: 01670 790 001

First Aid Training

Do you have a first aid qualification?

Is it more than 3 years old?

We are planning to run an additional first aid course in the near future.

Call us to book your place.

All change!

As many of you know both Ben and Jo moved on to pastures new this summer, and we'd like to say a big thank you for all their hard work and contribution to Northwoods and the tree and timber industry of the North East.

We would like to welcome John Farquhar and Marc Barendrecht to the team! John has joined us as the new Projects Officer working mainly on Woodfuel projects. Marc has joined us as the new Assistant Projects Officer working on varied projects including the Northumberland Fire Group.

Take the Next Step at Northumberland College!

Northumberland College are offering a foundation degree in Arboriculture. Designed to be more work-related than traditional degrees, this degree will equip you with the skills and knowledge employers need both now and in the future. Please read the enclosed course flyer for more information.



Training.....

What?	When?	Who?
Economic Options for Small Woodlands	TBC	Call Northwoods
Managing Coniferous Woodlands (3 day course)	Spring,	Call Northwoods
Fist aid, 1 day HSE approved courses	April	Call Northwoods.
Fire Plan Workshop, 2 evenings	14th & 21st Mar '07	Call Northwoods.
Basic Wildfire Training	Several dates in Feb '07	Call Marc at Northwoods
RDPE Course- Engaging With Forestry Businesses	Mar & Apr '07	Call Northwoods
Wildfire 2007	5th & 6th June	Call 0845 226 2890
Wood Quality Standards Course	10th May '07	Call Northwoods
Woodfuel Supply Business Models	23rd May '07	Call Northwoods
Ignite North East	10th-12th Sept '07	Call Northwoods

Need any other agricultural training?



Established over 30 years ago NNATA provides training courses tailored to meet current legislation & HSE Regulations.

Courses on offer include:-

FORKLIFT, CHERRY PICKER, DIGGER/HGV, CHAINSAW, BRUSHCUTTER & STRIMMER, ATV, PESTICIDE, BASIS, MANUAL HANDLING, WORKING FROM HEIGHTS, FIRST AID, DRYSTONE WALLING, VERMIN CONTROL, TRACTOR DRIVING.

To find out more about NNATA and the courses provided contact

Ann Lauder on 01890 882517, E-mail: mail@nnata.co.uk or visit our website: www.nnata.co.uk



northwoods
The North East's Woodland Initiative