

## Field Visit Programme

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| 16.30        | <b>Registration at Castle Green Hotel</b>  |
| 17.00        | <b>Departure from Castle Green Hotel</b>   |
| 18:00 -18:10 | <b>Welcome speech by David Hunter (NW Area Lead)</b>   |
| 18:10 -19:30 | <p><b>Rural presentations</b></p> <p><b>Livestock programme</b></p> <p><b>Louise Maguire</b> (Senior Rural Development Manager) from Defra Managing Authority: <i>Overview of Livestock programme</i></p> <p><b>Kath Lowe</b> (Rural Development – Myerscough College): <i>Livestock monitor farms and networks</i></p> <p><b>Ben Hartley</b> , <i>Dairy Farmer: Impact of Livestock programme</i></p> <p><b>Ken Pears</b> , <i>Beef and Sheep Farmer: Impact of Livestock programme</i></p> <p>The Northwest Livestock Programme ran from 2009 to 2013, supported through the Rural Development Programme for England, jointly funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It was designed to improve the competitiveness of livestock farms in the North West through a range of measures including on-farm planning, knowledge transfer and small capital grants.</p> <p>A leaflet and the evaluation report summarise the key outcomes and findings from the 7 projects that comprised the North West Livestock Programme, including feedback from the farmers that engaged with it.</p> <p><b>Cumbria Woodlands</b></p> <p>The Woodland Advisory Service (WAS) was a three-year programme of visits to woodland owners by qualified advisers.</p> <p>Available to any owner of unmanaged woodland of half a hectare or more in Cumbria, it was designed to increase the area of woodland under active management throughout the county and raise awareness of the potential of woodlands.</p> <p>An initial one-day visit and report (called a Silver Birch Day) was typically followed by up to a further three days (Oak Days) to provide tailored implementation advice</p> |

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|  | <p>to the woodland owner. In total, 439 woodland owners received either a Silver Birch Day and/or one or more Oak Days. The service had a significant impact on several of the adviser businesses. Some reported that in excess of 50% of their turnover during the duration of the programme was a result of WAS, while others reported that post-WAS, their business had rebalanced at 25% above previous level. This also positively reflects the number of new clients that advisers retained post-WAS.</p> <p>WAS interventions have also been shown to increase the likelihood of woodland owners looking for other forms of support, such as entering into an English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and/or applying for a felling licence. Cumbria Woodlands identified at least 185 woodland owners to which this applies.</p> <p><b>Neville Elstone</b>, <i>Cumbria Woodlands. The Woodlands Advisory Service</i></p>  |
|  | <p>For 21 years Cumbria Woodlands has been advising woodland owners on how to improve and increase sustainable woodland management, as well as increasing the amount of new woodland in targeted locations.</p> <p>It is often presumed that woods are wild places that can look after themselves. But this is rarely the case in the UK, and in fact many benefit greatly from active management, which can bring additional social, environmental and economic benefits. This report focusses on the third of these strands.</p> <p>Timber is a commodity with a monetary value. This can range from high value timber for veneers, to low value chip and pulp to feed the fibre and fuel markets. There is a massive range in between, not least the firewood market, which has been expanding rapidly in recent years as fossil fuels have increased in cost and incentives have been brought in to encourage conversion to renewable fuel.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>Kerry Cooper</b>, <i>Lakes Biomass. Impact of woodlands on businesses and area development</i></p>   |
|  | <p>After struggling to find high quality, locally grown woodchip to heat her domestic boiler, Kerry Cooper decided the best idea would be to produce her own.</p> <p>With the help of Cumbria Woodlands, Kerry set up Lakes Biomass, a business with ambitious plans to help develop a supply chain of local wood producers to support a range of woodchip, kindling, log and pellets.</p> <p>Supported by courses and grant applications managed by Cumbria Woodlands, the business has benefited from around £250,000 in capital grants from the LEADER programme. The programme also provided business development support to help towards essential equipment and machinery including a chipping machine and a wood drying system which itself is fuelled by a woodchip boiler.</p> <p>“The quality of wood fuel depends greatly on the moisture content,” explains Kerry, air dried is more variable than machine dried fuel. Our aim is to have drying facilities that ensure a better quality and more reliably dry product that burns more efficiently”; “almost as important as the financial support and advice has been the mentoring offered both informally and at courses run by the Cumbria Wood Fuel School”.</p> <p>A ‘Fuel for Wood’ package is now up and running. Lakes Biomass carries out felling and thinning as part of its woodland management services, and the timber is then delivered back as high quality dried wood fuel at a reduced price.</p> <p>Today, Lakes Biomass employs a team of eight – four men and four women – and has recently bought a new lorry and blowing unit to deliver wood fuel more quickly, quietly and efficiently.</p> |