

EuroCoppice Event: People and Coppice

at the University of Greenwich, Medway, 3rd -5th November 2014

The aim of COST Action FP1301 (Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests - an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector) is to influence European policy on coppice woodland management and will run until 2017. See http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/fps/Actions/FP1301 for details.

This event aims to give an overview of the coppice industry in the South East, with the focus on value-added production, particularly chestnut. It will bring together academics and practitioners to explore the issues for different stakeholders. The intention is that this will stimulate discussion of the differences and similarities between different countries. Views will be gathered and a summary produced.

Outline of the three days: Working Groups are integral to COST Actions and these will meet several times, beginning on the afternoon on Monday 3rd November. The working group topics are:

- 1 Definitions, history, typology
- 2 Ecology and silvicultural management
- 3 Utilization and products
- 4 Services, protection and nature conservation
- 5 Coppice forests ownership and governance

There will be a fieldtrip on Tuesday 4th November followed by a formal dinner, sponsored by STIHL.

Wednesday 5th November will begin with more Working Group meetings. At 10am each will provide an update on progress, beginning the programme in the Pilkington Lecture theatre, on the Medway campus. Presentations on the coppice woodland resource, access to it and the people involved, including landowners, woodland workers and product buyers will follow. For the last hour we will be joined by Faculty members for a research presentation on the origin of chestnut in the UK.

Members of the COST Action from across Europe and beyond are already booked on this event so we can now open participation to those in the UK. If you would like to join us for the dinner on Tuesday evening or on Wednesday please contact Dr Debbie Bartlett d.bartlett@gre.ac.uk Please note there is a charge for meals.

