

# Socio-economic Aspects of the Coppice Industry in South East England

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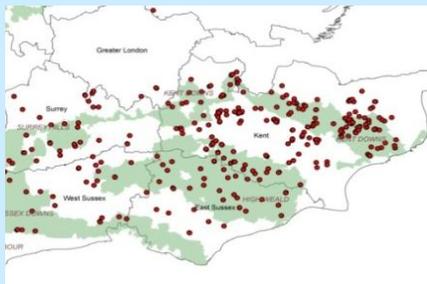
Coppice as a management technique has almost disappeared across most of England, except the South East. Past demands led to hazel (*Corylus avellana*) being planted to supply demand for sheep hurdles and thatching material in the west, while chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) has more easterly distribution. Formerly it was used to provide hop poles whereas now fencing is the principle value added product.



**The ‘coppice problem’** In the 1990s there was increasing concern that coppicing was declining affecting wildlife and the landscape<sup>1</sup>. Research, focused on the chestnut industry, began to find out how much coppicing was taking place, who the workers were and to identify issues that were affecting the coppice businesses.

## HOW MUCH ?

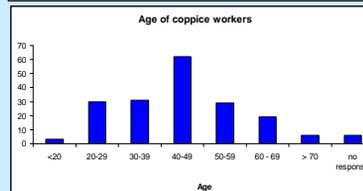
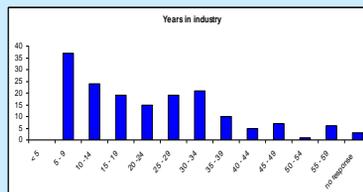
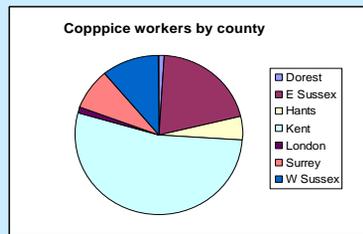
A simple survey form was used to obtain information about coppice was cut each year<sup>2</sup>



This has been repeated, each time run for three years, and has clearly demonstrated that significant areas, particularly of chestnut, are in rotation.

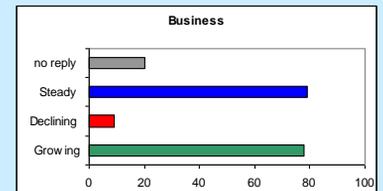
## THE WORKERS

Questionnaire surveys and focus group discussions led to the creation of a database of over 300 coppice workers<sup>3</sup>.



## THE ISSUES

In October 2010 a conference was held to raise awareness of the specialist hazel and chestnut industries and to identify the issues facing them<sup>4</sup>.



### REFERENCES

- 1 Betts A & Claridge J (1994) New Markets for Old Woods. HMSO
- 2 Bartlett, D. M. F. & Rossney, D. (2007) *Socio-economic Analysis of the Coppice Industry in South East England*. Quarterly Journal of Forestry 101 (4) p285-290
- 3 Bartlett D M F (2011) In pursuit of the truth about the coppice woodland management in the South East. In Practice 73 pages 20-21
- 4 Bartlett D M F (2011) Identifying Issues for the Coppice Industry Quarterly. Journal of Forestry 105 (2) pages 131-134