

Notes on amalgamated workshop-‘Making a Living from Woodlands’ & ‘Owning a Woodland- Responsibilities and Opportunities’

Led by Phillip Swain, Rod Waterfield, and David Petty. Notes by David Petty. This workshop became an extension of the Friday one on ‘Planning Woodlands for the Future’

Workshop started by Phillip describing how timber sales from ‘Longwoods’ support ‘Forest School’ activities.

Interjection from Dave to say workshops had been amalgamated and was there anyone there who had signed up for ‘Owning a woodland...’ workshop. One group said they had. Dave asked what people wanted to get from this part of discussion as it is a broad subject. Discussion on making a living from woods was then brought round to include responsibilities and opportunities.

Discussion from group on making a living covered – craft courses, coppice work, sawn wood inc.using and hiring sawmills. Need for FSC certification was brought up, and need for it was questioned in relation to local timber sales where purchaser was aware of woodland management as opposed to timber imports, though it is required by many buyers.

Insurance was brought up (group reminded of insurance event on Jan ?th in Welshpool) Willow mentioned their projects Fleet insurance with Co-op. includes vehicles and £3m public liability cover.

Charcoal production discussed. Rod described the ‘Terra Prata’ phenomenon in soil.- Improves soil and a long term carbon capture. Suits low grade s.w. timber which is poor for charcoal bricketts and firewood. This is being researched at universities by P.H.D. students.

Bob described his charcoal ‘Retort’ method. Can do 200Kg- 1-2 hrs-60Kg- using oil drums welded together and put on rails with a fire underneath. It is also possible to capture the gases from this process and use these for a fuel (e.g. driving a turbine)

Potentials of large regional continual retort charcoal plants mentioned. Future economies of wood fuels were mentioned with oil predicted to rise to \$185/barrel by next year.

Jerry Langford- director of ‘Woodland Trust’ Wales, then dropped in. He described how W.T. are looking for groups to take on responsibility for managing their woodlands for long term in order to help meet their woodland objectives and beyond.

Issues of leases and insurance were brought up, the Objective 3 areas of Wales were mentioned as having particular objectives that need to be met. One group in workshop were looking for woodland to manage and were very interested in this potential. (they stayed to talk to Jerry after workshop)

Various woods in Ceridigion, ,N.Wales, Dolleron (East of Machynllth)
Further info available on Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk