

INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY
Visit to Nottinghamshire
7th November 2011

PANEL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shireen Chambers	Institute of Chartered Foresters
Stuart Goodall	Confederation of Forest Industries
Sue Holden	Woodland Trust
Sir Harry Studholme	Forestry Commissioner

APOLOGIES:

Rt Rev Bishop James Jones	Chair
Tom Franklin	Ramblers
Stephanie Hilborne	Wildlife Trusts
Dr Mike Clarke	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Dame Fiona Reynolds	National Trust
William Worsley	County Land & Business Association
Dr Alan Knight	Single Planet Living
John Varley	Clinton Devon Estates

SECRETARIAT ATTENDING AND CONTACT NUMBERS:

Mike Seddon	07990 698739
Erin Casey	07917 587303
Paul Hills-Gibbins	0207 238 4441

LOCATION/VENUE:

Hotel location (if overnight stay necessary):

Premier Inn Newark
Lincoln Road
Newark
NG24 2DB
Tel: 08701 977186

Location for Monday morning session:

Talbot Suite
Rufford Mill
Rufford Abbey Country Park,
Nr Ollerton,
NG22 9DF

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE VISIT

VISIT INTINERARY

The itinerary for the Panel visit and a map are attached in Annex A and B.

The itinerary has been drawn up in dialogue with the Nottinghamshire County Council, Sherwood Forest Trust and the Forestry Commission. The focus of this visit is to look at community forestry – the different models and associated issues.

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS

There is a interview opportunity for local media included in the itinerary. A copy of the news release is enclosed in Annex D.

We do not expect a vast amount of media interest, so one or two exclusive interviews will be arranged for throughout the day and Shireen will undertake these in Bishop James' absence. The secretariat will take photographs throughout the day for use in publicity after the visit.

We will “tweet” a few times ahead of and during the visit to further raise awareness of your visit and engagement with people in the area.

DISCUSSION SESSION

The Panel will take part in a discussion session with invited key stakeholders to look at different models of involving communities in woodlands and forests; how they are created and managed and the different issues faced by people who run community forests.

A list of invited people to this discussion can be found in Annex C. Stuart will chair this session.

TEA/COFFEE WITH INVITED STAKEHOLDERS

You will see from the itinerary that we are not including a stakeholder workshop during this visit as was the case previously. This is due to less panel members being present, less time available and on this occasion we will be meeting people relevant to the specific theme of community forestry, although attendees are welcome to discuss any forestry issues.

Local stakeholders or users of community forests in the area have been invited to meet with the Panel for an informal discussion over tea/coffee after the closed discussion session.

As this is an informal session, no notes will be taken to appear on the website and there won't be a guideline of questions to follow. It is an opportunity for the Panel to hear from and ask questions about community forestry in this area from the people who use them.

If Panel members are asked any questions they find difficult to answer, please remind the stakeholder that the Panel is in listening mode, we are there to hear their views and ask questions, not give answers or discuss outcomes.

PRACTICALITIES

ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

It is not essential that you arrive the night before for this visit. Where possible it is recommended that you travel on the morning to Newark Northgate train station for pick-up. However for those who live further afield, accommodation is provided at the Premier Inn, Newark, for the night of Sunday 6th November. You will need to have had your breakfast, be vacated from your room and checked out by 9.30am. Please bring your luggage with you when leaving the hotel.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

For those Panel members joining us on Monday morning, a bus will pick you up from 9.45am at Newark Northgate train station and return you here at 3.40pm.

For those Panel members staying overnight, they should make their own way to the hotel and we will pick you up at 9.45am and return you to Newark at 3.40pm.

For those arriving by car, please meet at the Talbot Rooms, Rufford Mill (details on the front page) at 10.15am

CLOTHING

During the visit you will be meeting with a range of local and regional stakeholders during the Rufford Mill sessions, so some form of smart casual business dress is appropriate.

During afternoon sessions the Panel will be on site at some forests, so outdoor clothing and shoes will be required. Also bring your waterproof in case of rain!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We have a risk assessment! Key points for your attention please are those below.

Public order. We have made every endeavour to work with representatives of local community to minimise any such risks. We have no concerns at present. If necessary we will withdraw from a situation.

Violent situation. There is always the risk that an individual or individuals we meet become agitated / aggressive. You will all be familiar with this from your day jobs, but clearly in such situations it is important not to be drawn into the argument. We are visiting to listen. If necessary we will withdraw from a situation.

Ticks, Adders and other things that bite. All are present in the forest. Boots and long trousers recommended.

Collision with other vehicles. When out of the bus, please maintain vigilance of other vehicles as we will be close to roads / tracks with other vehicles present.

Panel Secretariat

21 October 2011

ANNEX A: Visit Itinerary, Nottinghamshire 7th November

Aims for visit:

1. To meet with local and regional stakeholders to hear their views on community forestry
2. To encourage a dialogue between groups interested in England's forests and woods and hear about different models
3. To learn more about the regions passion for woods and forests
4. To see and hear about some of the multiple benefits people get from the forest
5. For all the above to consider how these can be best sustained going forward

Visit Itinerary, Nottinghamshire 7th November

Sunday 6th November	
Evening	Accommodation provided if required at the Premier Inn* No activity scheduled for the evening.

Monday 7th November	
For those staying overnight:	Please ensure you have had breakfast and be checked out and ready for collection at 9.45am. Bring luggage. For those with cars, please drive to Rufford Mill* for 10.15am. *Details on front page of this document
For those arriving on the day:	Be outside Newark Northgate Train Station for bus collection at 9.45am.
9.45am	Travel to Rufford Mill
10.15am	Arrive Rufford Mill

10.30am	<p>Discussion session about models of community forestry.</p> <p>Invitees can be found in Annex C</p> <p>Inc. tea/coffee</p>
12.00pm	Lunch – in the discussion room
12.15pm	<p>Informal tea/coffee with invited stakeholders</p> <p>Focus on community forestry but may include wider issues.</p>
13.00pm	Depart Rufford Mill and Travel to Ollerton
13.10pm	<p>Arrive at Ollerton Community Forest.</p> <p>Meet with Amy Chandler, Park Ranger who will show community volunteers at work on the forest and introduce 'Positive Action' (a mental health group) and 'Wild Sherwood' who are active on the forest.</p> <p>Media interviews will take place during this session.</p>
14.00pm	Depart Ollerton and travel to Manton Forest
14.20pm	<p>Arrive at Manton Forest</p> <p>Meet representative (Ted Wooddisse) from Notts CC.</p> <p>Here the Panel will see a site which has been abused by vandalism including motorbikes and hear about the proposed models to fix the problems.</p>

3.00pm

Visit closed

Travel back to Newark Northgate Train Station provided. ETA 3.40pm

ANNEX B: Map of Nottinghamshire



Code:

1 = Newark Northgate Train Station

2 = Premier Inn Newark

3 = Rufford Mill

4 = Ollerton Community Forest

5 = Manton Forest

Please note the Secretariat will have access to a vehicle to transport Panel members across the venues.

ANNEX C: Invitees to the discussion session

Name	Organisation
Paul Nolan	Mersey Forest
Sophie Churchill	National Forest
Malcolm Hackett	Greenwood Community Forest
Gareth Broome	Notts County Council
Norma Saunders	Sherwood Forest Trust
John Everitt	Notts Wildlife Trust
Tony Horsfall	Red Rose Community Forest
Andy Medhurst	Forestry Commission

ANNEX D: Draft Media release

Forestry Panel head to Nottinghamshire

The Independent Panel on Forestry is looking forward to exploring Nottinghamshire's forests and woods during their visit to the region on 7 November.

The Panel, who were set up to advise government on the future of forests and woods in England, hope they will be able to further explore the different multi-purpose uses of forests and woods during their visit.

On their previous visits to the Forest of Dean, Northumberland and Kent the Panel were able to learn about different forestry uses in those areas. What is really special about Nottinghamshire is how the community gets involved and make use of their forests and woodlands and the Panel are looking forward to seeing examples of this.

First of all the Panel will hear from some of the organisations in the region who organise community forestry such as; Sherwood Forest Trust, Greenwood Forest Trust, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. The Panel are keen to learn about what works well in the region and any challenges they face.

Afterwards the Panel will be joined by representatives of local community groups and organisations who use Nottinghamshire's forests and woodlands. Over a tea or coffee they will have the opportunity to tell the Panel first-hand why forests are so special to them. They will also be encouraged to share how the people they represent use woodlands and the benefits it brings them.

The Panel will then be out on site visits to see members of the community at work on some woodland sites and speak with them about their experiences.

Lessons learned from the visits, including Nottinghamshire, are just one of a range of ways to build up a good picture of the varied nature of forests and woods, and the role they play in communities and the economy. This will help inform their Progress Report, due to be issued to Government next month and the Final Report in Spring 2012.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

1. A representative from the Independent Panel on Forestry will take part in a media/photo opportunity during the visit. For further information see the below media opportunity.
2. For more information about the Independent Panel on Forestry including the terms of reference, agreed with the Chair visit <http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/>.
3. Caroline Spelman, Defra Secretary of State, announced that an independent panel to provide advice on forestry would be created on 17 February 2011.

Issued by the Independent Panel on Forestry. For more information contact Erin Casey on 07917 587303 or erin.casey@naturalengland.org.uk

Interview opportunity:

A representative from the Independent Panel on Forestry will speak to the local media during the visit. If you would like an interview it is essential you contact the Panel Secretariat: erin.casey@naturalengland.org.uk or 07917 587303.