

Small woodland keepers in the UK: difficulties and opportunities

Paddy COX, Keepers of Small Woods, West Sussex, UK

- **Scale of activity:** local
- **Actor/s:** Community-led organisation
- **State of the activity:** started in 2010, ongoing
- **Keywords.** sustainable woodland management, small woodland owners, community led organisation, exclusion of communities



Summary

We operate as community-led organisation promoting coppicing, traditional woodcrafts and local woodland products.

Description of activities

Woodland management. Sustainable forestry management for biodiversity and productive uses.

Woodland products. Roundwood structures and shelters, greenwood shakes and furniture, charcoal and fencing.

Woodland economy. A large element of our operating model includes training courses in traditional woodland skills, outdoor learning and recreation in woods.

Outlook

Challenges include the unsustainable woodland being seen solely as financial “investments” that increasingly excludes communities from access, or from contributing towards, supporting, appreciating or understanding the

role of woodlands in the wider environment. Consequent outcomes frequently include local hostility to any active management of local woods, “nimbyism” and the lack of understanding of community roles in sustainable development generally.

Next steps. We shall continue to include local communities in a range of woodland activities and events, building support for and understanding of the important role that small local woodlands can and should make in creating more sustainable communities.

Source and contact

Information gathered at: the 1st workshop on Sustainable Forest Management (17-20 March 2016)

Keepers of small woods

Contact: Paddy Cox

E-mail: paddycox8@gmail.com

Website: --

Available at: Forum Synergies' website -> [link](#).

