

RFS

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



INSPIRING PASSION AND EXCELLENCE IN WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Programme for the Whole Society Meeting 2018

Hosted by South Western Division, Monday 14th May – Friday 18th May

based at The Gypsy Hill Hotel, Exeter (Annual Dinner – Thursday 17th May)

Monday 14th May – Clinton Devon Estate, Merton

The first day consists of visiting the Heanton Woods element of Clinton Devon Estates. The Heanton Woods covers approximately 1000 hectares and comprises mainly conifer. In the morning there will be stops at Beacon Park and Burymoor Plantation considering management of broadleaf in the landscape, and the award-winning conifer plantations. Lunch will be held at Clinton Hall in Merton followed by the Annual General Meeting. The afternoon starts with a walk through the Pinetum in Huish Woods culminating in a garden tour and a Devon Cream tea hosted by Lady Clinton at Heanton Satchville.

Tuesday 15th May – Haldon Forest Park

The Haldon Forest area (1728ha) is made up of a large forest block along the Haldon ridge with a number of outliers surrounding it. Haldon Forest SSSI is designated for its dwarf heathland, raptor and lepidoptera assemblages and nightjar. The public forest here is predominantly conifer having been planted after the First World War and now includes large areas of restored lowland heathland and rotational forestry. The forest also provides a unique outdoor experience and is a key tourist site for Exeter and Devon, with thousands of visitors every year. Lunch will be held at the nearby Exeter Racecourse restaurant which has excellent views of the course and surrounding woodland.

Wednesday 16th May – Restormel, Cornwall

The morning visit is hosted by the Duchy of Cornwall with a guided tour of Restormel Castle, seat of the Black Prince, and the Restormel woodlands. There are many Northwest Pacific timber species being grown, in addition to a small area of young Canadian improved Douglas fir. We'll take in views of the parkland and historic landscape before lunch at the Duchy Nurseries. In the afternoon, the group moves on to the neighbouring Boconnoc Estate, another important historic landscape, to see work undertaken to deal with *Phytophthora ramorum*, rhododendron clearance and restoration and management of the historic parkland. The day concludes with tea at Boconnoc House.

Thursday 17th May – Fingle Woods

Fingle Wood (320ha) provides excellent opportunities to observe ongoing forest road design and construction, thinning, SPHN clearfell and restock operations. The five year harvesting program has required a flexibility in the utilisation of available management tools and to adapt harvest operational techniques to meet Woodland Trust economic objectives whilst also delivering ecological benefits. Of particular interest is the detailed management of ancient monuments and the development of unmanaged broadleaves and conifers into CCF management. Lunch will be at the Fingle Bridge Inn, nestled in the steeply wooded valley slopes of the upper River Teign. The WSM dinner will take place this evening at The Gypsy Hill Hotel. Our after-dinner speaker is Kevin Cox, Chairman of the RSPB and RFS member.

Friday 18th May – Quicke Estate

The morning woodland visit will be held at Newton Wood at Quicke Estate near Newton St Cyres, Exeter. On view are spectacular Douglas fir and Coastal Redwood, with management considerations focussing on maximising value over the long term. The WSM will conclude after lunch, after which members will be returned to the hotel by coach. Car users will have the option of visiting the Quicke Cheese Stores and Farm Shop, or the Quicke Estate Arboretum, both of which a very short walk from the lunch venue.