



THE ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY

Woodland Visits 2026

As these events may be subject to change or cancellation, please check the website or contact the local Honorary Secretary.

rfs.org.uk/events-category/woodland-meetings

- 11 - 14 May** **Annual Study Tour hosted by the Southern Division**
- 15 October** **Excellence in Forestry Awards Ceremony at Sheepdrove Organic Farm, Lambourn**

For a full list of RFS events including online and in-person training courses, seminars and lectures, please visit rfs.org.uk/events

RFS meetings take place in woodlands in all weathers. Appropriate, clean footwear should be worn. Please be aware of your health and safety at all times. Do not take risks that could put yourself or others in danger. Do not attempt to do anything that you do not feel confident about and please follow instructions.

RFS members are welcome to attend events in all Divisions.

Attendance at woodland meetings can contribute to any ongoing CPD obligations.

EAST ANGLIA

Hon. Secretary Lulu Agnew - 07388 918759 - lulu.agnew@brown-co.com

14 May Euston Estate - Duke & Duchess of Grafton (Thetford)

17 June Weasenham Woods - Toby and Anna Coke (Swaffham)

24 Sept Westacre Estate - The Birkbeck family (King's Lynn)

To include Divisional AGM.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Hon. Secretary Dr Denise Taylor - 07931 303367- rfsglos@gmail.com

Visit Secretary Stuart Payne - 07935 603536 - stuart.payne@fdean.gov.uk

21 May Lydney Park Estate - Viscount Bledisloe (Aylburton)

Conversion of estate grown timber and restocking of clear-fell sites. Thinning and respacing in Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF).

17 Sept Tortworth Estate - The Moreton family (Wotton under Edge)

Converting plantations to informal Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF). Managing deer and squirrels to improve natural regeneration. To include Divisional AGM.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Hon. Secretary Simon Lloyd - 07770 324785 - rfsherefordshire@gmail.com

19 Mar Stoke Lacy Village Hall (Bromyard, Worcester)

Evening event. Chris Johnson Memorial Lecture delivered by Tony Norman. The topic will be black poplar. To include Divisional AGM. Preceded by supper.

19 June Moccas Park and Gillian's Wood National Nature Reserve (Hereford)

AM: Management of ancient trees.

PM: Landscape recovery.

11 Sept Stoke Edith - Rupert Foley (Ledbury)

Simple silviculture and historic landscapes.

09 Oct Brook Farm and Bryn Arw (Longtown)

Joint visit with South Wales Division.

AM: Commercial-led woodland creation projects at Thorlux Lighting.

PM: Comparing commercial with community-led woodland creation.

HOME COUNTIES

Hon. Secretary Joe Western - 07498 887538 - joe.western@maydencroft.co.uk

22 Sept Southill Estate, Bedfordshire

Topic to be confirmed.

LONDON & MIDDLESEX

Hon. Secretary Angus Morrison - 07739 313739 - angus.morrison@rbkc.gov.uk

15 April Chelsea Physic Garden (Chelsea)

Tour of this amazing and unique garden.

12 May The Palm Centre (Richmond)

The cultivation of palms.

MIDLANDS

Hon. Secretary Scott Martin - 07990 654151 - scott.martin@forestryengland.uk

30 Apr Courteenhall Estate (Northampton)

Afternoon event. Guided tour of arboretum and gardens.

23 June Boothby Wildlands and Boothby Wood - Nattergal and Forest Enterprise (Boothby)

Rewilding of formal arable site and neighbouring woodland management.

- 07 July Blatherwycke Estate (Peterborough)**
Traditional lowland estate management including riparian management and other environmental stewardship schemes and projects.
- 24 Sept Ragley Estate (Alcester)**
Guided tour of historic estate and current home of Association of Professional Foresters (APF).

NORTH EASTERN

Hon. Secretary Luke Hemmings - 07977 056495 - royalforestry.ne@gmail.com

- 15 May South Park, Tyne Riverside Country Park - Woodland Trust (Prudhoe)**
Plantations on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) restoration, Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) work and native woodland creation.
- 08 July The Whitfield Estate - The Whitfield Estate and Savills (Hexham)**
Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier, transformation to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF). Rhododendron control, resilience and sporting opportunities.
- 11 Sep Redesdale Forest - Forestry England (Blakehopeburnhaugh)**
100 years of forestry in Kielder.

NORTH WALES

Hon. Secretary Dr Christine Cahalan - 07901 856892 - c.m.cahalan@bangor.ac.uk

Visit Secretary Fiona Peate - 07980 598411 - fionapeate@hotmail.com

- 30 Apr Delamere Seed Processing Centre - Forestry England (Northwich)**
This cutting-edge facility will support creating climate resilient forests for future generations.
- 07 May Chirk Castle and Estate - National Trust (Wrexham)**
Management of veteran and ancient trees in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) parkland.
- 02 July Cefn Llwyd and Palé Estate - Tilhill Forestry (Bala)**
Challenges of upland silviculture in commercially managed woodland. To include student prize giving and Divisional AGM.
- 01 Oct Bodnant Garden - National Trust (Colwyn Bay)**
Management of the tree collection.

NORTH WEST MIDLANDS

Hon. Secretary Chris Henretty - 07973 136277 - christopher.henretty@gmail.com

- 15 Apr Wyre Forest - Natural England/Forestry Commission**
Forestry operations on an oak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- 15 July Delamere Nursery and Bostock Estate (Cheshire)**
AM: Developing and deploying emerging species.
PM: Delayed thinning programme in mixed woodlands.
- 30 Sept Chirk Castle - National Trust (Clwyd)**
Management of veteran and ancient trees in a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) parkland.

NORTH WESTERN

Hon. Secretary Dr Romola Stringer - 01539 725168 - 07806 065602 - mail@sprintmill.uk

- 09 Apr Abbeystead Estate - Abbeystead Estate (Lancaster)**
Commercial forestry, biodiversity constraints for woodland creation, temperate rainforest and upland oak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Numbers are limited.

- 21 May** **Messengermire and Dodd Wood - Forestry England (Keswick)**
Beech thinning, birch and oak nest planting, pruning and thinning. Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) management on steep ground.
- 10 June** **The Coppice Co-op and Gait Barrows National Nature Reserve (NNR) - The Coppice Co-op (Milnthorpe)**
Coppice restoration and management, products and traditional crafts.
- 07 July** **Holker Hall Estate Woodlands - Holker Hall Estate (Cark-in-Cartmel)**
Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) re-stocking, public engagement and landscape scale deer management.
- 22 Sept** **Haverthwaite Heights - Lake District National Park Authority (Haverthwaite)**
Temperate rainforest and Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) assessment. Invasive non-native species and access issues. To include Divisional AGM.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Hon. Secretary Brian Malcomson - 02827 638026 - brian.malcomson@scottishwoodlands.co.uk

- 17 Apr** **Aughtaine Estate - James Hamilton Stubber (Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone)**
Joint visit with Irish Timber Growers Association to discuss aftermath of Storm Eowyn, future resilience planning, renewables and forestry.
- 12 June** **Tollymore Forest Park - DAEFA Forest Services (Newcastle, Co. Down)**
Planning, harvesting and regeneration on Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) operations and deer management.
- 4 Sept** **Ballytrim Sawmills and Estate - The Cunningham family (Killyleagh, Co. Down)**
Visit to sawmill to discuss afforestation and Estate management. To include Divisional AGM.

NOTTS & LINCS

Hon. Secretary William Price - 07771 376622 - wjep@hhfarms.co.uk

- 04 June** **Potterhanworth Woods - Robin Battle (Lincoln)**
Managing an ancient woodland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) using Grant Aid, amid increasing pest and disease pressure.
- 10 Sept** **Venue to be confirmed - Chris Reynolds, Forestry Research**
Species choice in a changing world.

OXON & BUCKS

Hon. Secretary Tim Shardlow - 01869 340342 - tim@nicholsonsgb.com

- 18 March** **Neighbours Hall (Great Milton)**
Evening event. Dr Pascale Nicolet will talk about 'Woodland Ponds and Water' whilst Oliver Wright will discuss growing cricket bat willow. Preceded by supper.
- 08 May** **Hockeridge and Pancake Woods - RFS (Chesham)**
Look at recent work undertaken to consider resilience and climate change in these RFS owned and managed woods.
- 22 July** **Hardwick Estate (Reading)**
The practice of irregular silviculture in Chiltern beech woodland.
- 04 Sept** **The Buscot and Coleshill Estates - National Trust and Future Trees Trust (Swindon)**
Visit new National Centre for Broadleaved Tree Improvement. To include Divisional AGM.

SOMERSET & DORSET

Hon. Secretary Oliver Mead - 07780 667082 - oliver.mead@carterjonas.co.uk

- 20 May Culm Davy - Forestry Commission (Wellington)**
Assessment and adaptation to the threats of climate change.
- 18 June The Newt (Bruton)**
Management of native broadleaved woodland with high degree of public access.
- 10 Sept Little Burton Farm - Mr and Mrs Henry Adams (Sherborne)**
Why grey squirrels damage trees and which trees might be grown in the future.

SOUTH EASTERN

Hon. Secretary Annie Weddle - 07815 648826 - rfssoutheast@hotmail.com

- 04 June Hadlow Estate and Silva Woodland Management (Tonbridge)**
Joint meeting with the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) to consider proactive spruce felling and restocking, deer control, rhododendron removal and utilising timber on the estate. Numbers are limited.
- 17 June Great Thorndean Wood - Stephen Gatley (Warninglid)**
Restoring ancient Ghyll Woodland and managing broadleaf plantations.
- 08 July Winterfold Heath - Mark Foster (Cranleigh)**
The importance and benefits of pine silviculture.
- 02 Sept Brede High Woods - Woodland Trust (Rye)**
Coppicing, woodland restoration and management of open habitats within woodland.

SOUTH WALES

Hon. Secretary Racheal Lee - 07525 202186 - swrfssec@gmail.com

- 27 March Sophia Gardens (Cardiff)**
Examination of the city's evolving approach to urban forestry including management of a complex urban tree canopy.
- 02 July Elan Valley Visitor Centre - Natural Resources Wales (NRW) /Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (Rhayader)**
Celtic Rainforest management a year after Storm Darragh.
- 10 Sept Pembrey Sands - Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (Coed Penybedd)**
Management of sand dune woodland and associated pests and pathogens.
- 09 Oct Brook Farm and Bryn Arw (Longtown)**
Joint visit with Herefordshire Division.
AM: Commercial-led woodland creation projects at Thorlux Lighting.
PM: Comparing commercial with community-led woodland creation.

SOUTH WESTERN

Hon. Secretary Carolyn Richards - 07872 598659 - crichardsb@mac.com

- 27 May Lowley Woods - Tree Aid (Doddiscombsleigh) and Whitemoor Farm - Charles Lacey**
AM: Evolving Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) of various hardwoods and conifers.
PM: Squirrel damage, deer fencing and eucalyptus planting to replace ash.
- 18 June Ladock and Arrallas Wood - Duchy of Cornwall (Truro)**
Multi-purpose commercial forestry, restocking and diversifying following removal of diseased larch.
- 10 Sept Trevague and Trebartha - Patrick Latham (Lewannick, Cornwall)**
AM: 12 ha of 25-year-old farm woodland at Trevague.
PM: Woodland gardens and Champion Trees at Trebartha.

05 Oct Haldon Forest - Forestry England (near Exeter)
Managing recreation around ecology; forestry operations; Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) versus clear fell; and Forest Research trials. To include Divisional AGM.

SOUTHERN

Hon. Secretary Steve Russell - 01380 830022 - steve@woodlandcountrysidemangement.com

11 - 14 May RFS Annual Study Tour (WSM) SOLD OUT

25 Mar Malshanger Estate Club - Sir Jeremiah Colman (Basingstoke)
Evening indoor event. Charles Dutton will talk about the future of growing broadleaves in lowland Britain - with or without grey squirrels.

17 June Bradley Wood - Christopher Pease (Whitchurch)
Evening outdoor event. Management of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW).

16 Sept Englefield Estate - Richard Benyon (Reading)
Woodland in the landscape and growing commercial woods on restored gravel sites. To include Divisional AGM.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Hon. Secretary Stewart Carter - 07590 369712 - rfsworcs@gmail.com

17 Feb Ombersley Estate - Ombersley Conservation Trust
Tour reviewing 50 years of woodlands, land use and Estate matters.

04 Mar Worcestershire Young Farmers Club HQ (Hawford)
Evening event. The Lawrence Pilling Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Johnny Birks, who will discuss the return of the pine marten.

22 Apr Sturt Forestry - Simon Haimes (Wyre Forest)
A look at productive woodland management. To include Divisional AGM at Coppice Creations.

Sept TBC Wyre Forest - Natural England
Oak harvesting and saw log presentation.

YORKSHIRE

Hon. Secretary Jim Smith - 07771 813 064 - jimrfsyorkshire@hotmail.com

14 May Sledmere Estate - Sir Tatton Sykes (Driffield)
Woodland management within a Wolds landscape.

25 June Ings Farm - Regen Future Co (Trimble)
Diverse agroforestry techniques, promoting productivity and ecological resilience.

29 July Thorpe Trees - Caroline Taylor (Ouseburn)
Evening event. Visit to leading specialist tree nursery which produces over 3 million bare rooted trees and hedging plants each year.

24 Sept Hardcastle Crags and Gibson Mill - National Trust (Hebden Bridge)
Woodland restructuring, debris dams and the heritage of Calderdale.