



Woodland Workshops

The Oxfordshire Woodland Project is pleased to offer events that will help you enjoy woodlands, and get inspiration on how to live, work and play in them.

- Woodland Skills workshops explore traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing and pruning
- Managing my Woodland workshops provide ideas for what can be done in woodlands and how to plan the future of woodlands
- Rees's Rambles are monthly walks with the Manager of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project in a range of Oxfordshire's beautiful woodlands

The sessions are diverse and will appeal to woodland enthusiasts of many kinds. We can offer bespoke workshops to particular groups. Rees's Rambles are open to anyone, but pre-registration is required for the other events.





[rambling](#)



[things to do with your woodland](#)



[splitting wood for fencing](#)



[coppicing](#)

**What experience
do you want?
click a word**



[wood as fuel](#)



[Forest Commission plans](#)



[planning a new woodland](#)



[selection of trees for thinning](#)

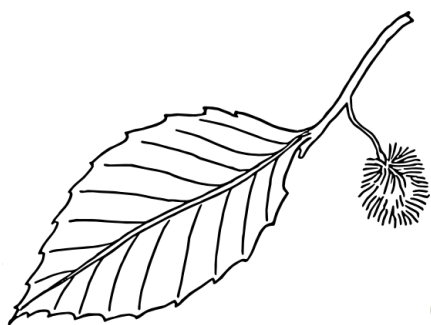
**What training do
you want?
click a word**



[pruning](#)



[chainsaw use](#)



Calendar of events

		standard	student on benefits OWG member
Saturday 12th January 2013, 10:30 – 15:30	Selection of trees for thinning Lower Farm, Ramsden, nr Witney	£50	£30
December sold out. Next is Monday 14 th & Tuesday 15 th Jan 2013	Introduction to chainsaw use (two day course)	£295	£295
Thursday 17 January 2013, 10:00 – 15:30	Things to do with your woodland (including ideas for making money)	£50	£30
Thursday 31 January 2013, 10:30 – 15:30	Coppicing Thrupp Community Wood, Kidlington	£50	£30
Thursday 7 Feb. 2013 10:30 – 15:30	Splitting wood for fencing and crafts Signal Court, Eynsham	£50	£30
Thursday 14 February 2013, 10:00 – 15:30	Introduction to woodland management Signal Court, Eynsham	£50	£30
Thursday 28 February 2013, 10:30 – 15:30	Formative pruning of woodland trees TBA	£50	£30
Thursday 14 March 2013, 10:00 – 15:30	Preparing management plans to Forestry Commission standards Location TBA	£50	£30
Monday 15 April 2013, 10:00 – 12:30	Rees's Rambles: Coombe Coombe Wood, Wheatley, nr Oxford	£5	£3
Monday 13 May 2013, 10:00 – 12:30	Rees's Rambles: Besselsleigh Wood Near Appleton, west of Oxford	£5	£3
Thursday 14 Nov. 2013, 10:30 – 15:00	Wood as fuel Signal Court, Eynsham	£50	£30
Thursday 28 Nov. 2013, 10:30 – 15:00	Modern charcoal production TBA	£50	£30
Thursday 12 Dec. 2013, 10:30 – 15:00	Felling and debranching trees without a chainsaw TBA	£50	£30

Chainsaw use - introduction



Chainsaws are used in a variety of circumstances and the wide scope of training reflects this. Important background information is available from HSE's document [Chainsaws at Work](#). This two day course is intended to be financially accessible to those who would like to gain an appreciation of good practice and safety.

Day1: Chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting

Day 2: Felling trees up to 8" in diameter

Although it is presented by fully qualified staff, it does not result in a formally recognised qualification, nor will it contribute to one in the future and you should satisfy yourself that this course fits your requirements. For those wishing to achieve minimum standards of training for commercial use, a longer programme of training and assessment must be selected, please [contact us](#) for further details (owp@oxfordshire.gov.uk). There will be a limit of 4 persons per course.

When? ~~Wed 5th & Thu 6th Dec. 2012, 09.30 for 09.45 start; 15.30 finish~~ *booked up*

Also: Mon 14th & Tues 15th January 2013, 0930 for 0945 start; 15.30 finish

Where? Farmyard at Lower Farm SP534986 , Lower Radley nr Abingdon

Requirements: Please see 'What to bring' below. The trainer reserves the right to reject inadequately-equipped trainees. If in doubt, call the Project office.

Cost? £295 incl. VAT. Booking is conditional advance payment.

What to bring:

- Lunch & drink
- Warm & wet-weather clothing
- Pen & paper
- Copy of HSE Chainsaws at Work
- Full personal protective equipment (please refer to Chainsaws at Work for required technical specification of protective equipment):
 - Chainsaw protective boots
 - Chainsaw Trousers –type C
 - Gloves/mitts
 - Helmet with integral visor & ear defenders

- One personal 'First Aid Kit 'A'
- Chainsaw-related equipment:
 - One lightweight approved chainsaw in proper running order. Suggested bar length 15 inches with chain guard. IE Stihl MS261 or similar
 - Two round chainsaw files as appropriate to chain type
 - One Oregon file holder (for above), for round file or similar model
 - One 6" flat file – smooth cut with rounded edges
 - Two file handles, for (2 & 4)
 - One combination fuel/oil can, with fuel and oil sufficient for the course
 - Timber tongs and holster
- One chainsaw tool kit comprising:
 - combination spanner/screwdriver
 - grease gun, for guide bar if applicable
 - depth gauge filing guide with combined bar scraper or as separate tools
 - other tools as necessary
 - One old ½" paint brush (for saw cleaning)
- One Felling lever, a high lift wedge, plastic wedge and timber tape.

Chainsaws and maintenance kit and associated wedges, levers & tongs may be available for hire if arrangements are agreed in advance. Personal Protective Equipment is not available for hire. There will be no surplus equipment available at the venue.

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Coppicing



Coppicing involves cutting broadleaf trees down to the ground, to encourage new shoots to grow. At this event you will find out why coppicing is good for woodlands and people, how to coppice, and what happens to the sticks that are coppiced. You will have a chance to see an area that has been coppiced before, try your hand at coppicing and making coppice products, and spend time absorbing the sounds, sights and smells of a woodland in winter. All necessary tools are provided.

When? Thursday 31 January 2013, 10:30 – 15:30

Where? Thrupp Community Wood, Kidlington: Meet at the canal lifting bridge in Thrupp hamlet, SP482159 north of Kidlington & Oxford. **Cost:** £50 standard, £30 Oxfordshire Woodland Group members, students & unwaged.

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Formative pruning of woodland trees

There is a marvellous opportunity in formative pruning to alter the shape of trees while they are still young to produce a high proportion versatile, high quality stems. Common and damaging defects in trees can be eliminated, leading ultimately to better timber. Better timber means a better income that will enable long-standing commitments, such as fencing and wildlife recording, to be met. Benefits are not confined within the woodland: a better supply of quality timber will encourage the local woodland economy while the timber that is traded can help displace more carbon-intensive building materials. Formative pruning is just as valid in conservation woodland since there is little or no environmental cost associated with the practice.



When? Thursday 28 February 2013, 10:30 – 15:30

Where? Meet at the Education Room, Sylva Foundation, The Manor House, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire OX14 4RA grid ref SU566934. **Cost?** £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Preparing management plans to Forestry Commission standards

Woodland custodians can gain insights by going through the management planning process. A plan forces you to think about your aspirations and how they link to the opportunities and limitations of your wood. If you know what you are going to do over the next year or two with confidence, you will be in a better position to engage contractors and capture grant aid opportunities that might otherwise seem out of reach.



Now is a good time to be preparing a plan:

- The Forestry Commission now offers £1000 for plans for woods over 3ha
- A new online planning template reveals the process, saving time & effort
- Online plans can be updated as conditions dictate so they become a living document and truly reflect the current woodland conditions without going out of date

This course takes you through the process, section by section:

- Working out your motivation, can you widen the benefit, now and for the future?
- Preparing to receive Forestry Commission grant aid: registration with RPA and RLR
- An introduction to *myForest*, the free online woodland management tool
- The survey: a systematic survey of the contents and features of your wood
- The searches: analogous to the searches an estate agent would do when preparing a house for sale. Online sources reduce the effort.
- The fun bit: Planning what you want to achieve and how you are going to do it, taking into account the opportunities and the constraints inherent in the woodland.
- Using these long term plans to prepare a short-term work-list

When? Thursday 14 March 2013, 10:00 – 15:30

Where? Oxfordshire County Council offices, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL. Take bus S1 to the Swan Hotel in Eynsham, walk to Signal Court

Cost? £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Rees's Rambles

Sunlight sparkling through new leaves, bluebells in the glades, crackling of leaves underfoot, huge centuries-old trees... Join Oxfordshire Woodland Project manager David Rees on the second Monday of each month for a ramble through one of Oxfordshire's beautiful woodlands. Learn about the history of the woodland, what problems it faces, and how it is being managed. The walks are leisurely – plenty of times for photographs, chatting and asking questions – and no longer than 2 miles. Bring sturdy shoes and a flask.



When and where?

Monday 15th April 2013 10.00-12.30: Coombe Wood, Wheatley

An ancient wood mentioned in an Anglo Saxon Charter of 970 AD and one-time warren for St John's College, Oxford. Discover the wood, its more recent history and its hidden topography. Meet at the Cuddesdon road junction SP594045, south of Wheatley, Oxford.

Monday 13th May, 10:00-12:30: Besselsleigh Wood, Appleton: Besselsleigh Wood in May is awash with glorious bluebells. Find out how the local community is managing the wood. Meet at the village hall. Nearest bus stop: Bus 63 from city centre, get off at Appleton.

Cost: £5 standard, £3 students and on benefits

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Selection of trees prior to thinning



An unusual feature of trees is that they keep growing in size over their entire lives. This is awkward for foresters! But as we shall see, they can turn this inconvenience into the most powerful of forestry processes, selection. Foresters start off with tiny saplings and mimic nature by planting them close together. As the trees grow, some need to be felled to make space for the remaining trees. Alternative strategies are considered and their strengths and (major) weaknesses revealed. The selection of which trees stay and which are felled is the forester's most powerful tool and is the subject of this workshop.

When? Saturday 12th January 2013, 10:30 – 15:30

Where? Lower Farm, Ramsden village, West Oxfordshire OX7 3AZ. Lower Farm is at grid ref SP359149. **Cost?** £50 standard, or £30 for Oxfordshire Woodland Group members, also students, people on benefits.

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Splitting wood for fencing and crafts

This is a practical workshop introducing a facility of certain species to split along their grain. Much of our national coppice depends on this feature, and an understanding of what make a good splitting rod/pole can inform fundamental woodland management choices. The course aims to introduce 'the knack' of splitting wood and explains exactly what is going on so that attendees have something to refer to later. Small hazel rods and larger sweet chestnut or oak poles (subject to availability) will be split. Depending on time, the session will progress onto creation of a jointed structure with the split rods.



When? Thursday 7 February 2013, 10:30 – 15:30

Where? Oxfordshire County Council offices, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL. Take bus S1 to the Swan Hotel in Eynsham, walk to Signal Court

Cost? £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Things to do with your woodland (including ideas for making money)



The perfect present for a nature lover

Do you need ideas for what to do with your woodland? Do you want to hear about other people's experiences and discuss possibilities with an expert? This 'taster' event will give you a wide range of ideas, from coppicing to raising chickens to making the woodland available to Forest Schools. Not all of the ideas will work on all woodlands: you will also be encouraged to think about what is special about your woodland, and so what will work well on it.



When? Thursday 17 January 2013, 10:00 – 15:30

Where? Oxfordshire County Council offices, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL. Take bus S1 to the Swan Hotel in Eynsham, walk to Signal Court

Cost? £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Woodland management - introduction



What happens in a woodland over a year, a decade, a century? What benefits do we get from woodlands? Should all woodlands be managed the same way, or do different kinds of woodlands require different types of management? The essence of woodland management is to ensure that these accumulating changes are for the better, to perpetuate the capacity of the wood to go on delivering that benefit. Scary stuff: the wood will react subtly and in many different, unobserved ways to any single impact.

This event aims to help you to manage woodlands better, and would be particularly helpful for novice woodland owners, including community groups. It covers:

- What are the common issues facing woodland custodians & managers?
- Working up a possible vision for the woodland & how do I fit into it? (How do my aspirations fit with those of society, what can I do during my short tenure?)
- Forming a policy and how this connects to short term actions
- How do I know how I'm doing?
- How can I keep control of it all? (management plans, introducing myforest)
- How can I follow my particular interests without compromising the versatility of the wood and its future?
- What help, financial and otherwise might I get?

When? Thursday 14 February 2013, 10:00 – 15:30

Where? Oxfordshire County Council offices, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL. Take bus S1 to the Swan Hotel in Eynsham, walk to Signal Court

Cost? £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Wood as fuel

Wood is a renewable fuel and has a vital role in reducing our dependence on fossil fuels for heating. This workshop shows heating with wood in a modern light and gets to grips with some of the main issues of burning it, growing it and connecting the two in a local market.



When? Thursday 14 November 2013, 10:30 – 15:00

Where? Oxfordshire County Council offices, Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL. Take bus S1 to the Swan Hotel in Eynsham, walk to Signal Court

Cost? £50 standard, or £30 for students, people on benefits, and members of the Oxfordshire Woodland Group

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Registration form



Name _____ Date of birth _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone number _____ E-mail _____

I wish to enrol in the following events please tick your choices in the shaded columns below):

COURSE	DATE	FEES	
		STANDARD	OWG MEMBER /CONCESSIONS
Selection of trees for thinning	12 January 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Introduction to chainsaw use	14/15 Jan 2013	£295	£295
Things to do with your woodland	17 January 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Coppicing	31 January 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Splitting wood for fencing and craft	7 February 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Introduction to woodland management	14 February 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Formative pruning of woodland trees	28 February 2013	£50	£ 30
Preparing management plans to Forestry Commission standards	14 March 2013	£ 60	£ 30
Rees's Rambles: Coombe Wood, Wheatley	15 April 2013	£ 5	£ 3
Rees's Rambles: Besselsleigh Wood	13 May 2013	£ 5	£ 3
Wood as fuel	14 November 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Modern charcoal production	28 November 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Felling & debranching young trees without a chainsaw	12 December 2013	£ 50	£ 30
Membership of Oxfordshire Woodland Group (OWG)		£ 20	

To help us tailor our presentations and follow best practice, we would like to know a little more about you:

What is your main reason for attending? (I own a woodland, visiting the countryside, etc.)

Do you expect to get anything specific from the event/s?

Do you have any allergies or health issues that we should take into account?

Name of next of kin

Next of kin contact telephone number

We require payment by cheque 30 days in advance of the workshop. Cheques should be made payable to our account keeper, OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL. Refunds are guaranteed only provided we receive at least 14 days notice of cancellation, however if we are able to refill the place we will refund the course fee.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return this form to: David Rees, Oxfordshire Woodland Project, Oxfordshire County Council Signal Court, Old Station Way, Eynsham OX29 4TL