.

Forestry and Wood Update

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COFORD’s activities are funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan, 2000-2006.

# Harvesting of forest residues – Issues and potential to be examined

COFORD has been actively promoting the use of forest biomass as a potential fuel source. To coincide with the Wood Energy 2004 conference, COFORD and Timberjack held a demonstration of a residue bundling machine at a Coillte clearfell site at Fermoy Forest. Following the demonstration COFORD was approached for more information by a consortium interested in establishing a CHP to be fuelled with forest residues. However, before such a project can be advanced a number of knowledge gaps must be addressed. To this end, COFORD has appointed PTR Ltd to conduct a short review of these issues. The tasks of this study include:

* Interview representatives from a number of stakeholder organisations to document issues and concerns relating to bundling of forest residues and their use for power (or heat or both) generation.
* Complete literature review and telephone interviews with overseas experts (as necessary) to address each of the issues/concerns raised.
* Quantifying the potential forest residue supply based on site and crop criteria.
* Assessing the ‘delivered-in’ cost of chipped residues.
* Documenting the material handling aspects of the fuel.
* Based on a literature review assess potential loss of nutrients from site.

To coincide with this review it is anticipated that a small group of people will travel to Finland for a two-day tour to discuss the use of forest residues in small and large-scale heat/power plants. A report on this tour will be included in the final report of this study. The complete final report is due on 16 March and will be made available on the COFORD website.

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# Biomass harvesting equipment – review available machines

With an increased interest in the utilisation of wood biomass for energy generation, the number of people requesting information of biomass harvesting equipment from COFORD continues to rise. Therefore, COFORD has commissioned Wood Energy Consulting, a Danish based company managed by Pieter Kofman, to compile a full list of available equipment including cost and performance data. In addition, the study will review existing and recent capital grant support schemes, to support the purchasing of such equipment, which are available in other EU States.

This review will be complete by 7 March 2005 and the report will be posted on the COFORD website. Specific tasks for this project include:

* Compile a database of currently available biomass harvesting equipment (to include residue bundling/chipping; tractor mounted chippers; truck mounted chippers; terrain chippers). For each machine the following data should be included: Make (Manufacturer); Model; Purchase price (including details of ancillary equipment); Horsepower; Dimensions (width/height/length); Reach of grab; Throughput; Size range of material that it can process; Particle size of output (including: can size be controlled); Name and contact details of Irish distributor (if no distributor/agent then give contact details on the manufacturer); Number of countries (list) where machine is used; Any other relevant information (potentially drawbacks, weaknesses, etc).
* Review capital grant schemes (for biomass harvesting equipment) operating in other countries and detail: Country; Organisation that administers the scheme; Detail the method of payment (up front payment or subsidy per tonne delivered to market or other); Detail criteria for eligibility of machines under this scheme; Detail selection criteria for approval of grant applications; Provide as much detail of the scheme as possible.

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# IT in the forest industry

The first event on the COFORD calendar for 2005 is a workshop and demonstration showcasing the application of information technology developments in various sectors of the forest industry. Presentations will include:

## Session 1: Inventory and Stand Assessment

* *Forest Service plans for IT in the future -* Paul Dunne, Forest Service
* *The technology behind Ireland’s national forest inventory* - Niall Farrelly, Forest Service
* *Decision support for sustainable forest management* - Frank Barrett, UCD
* *Dynamic modelling of conifer species* - Patrick Purser, PTR Ltd.
* *Laser scanning and its use in preharvest stand assessment* - Enda Keane, Treemetrics, and Gary Murphy, TSSG
* *Combining satellite imagery and field data to derive estimates of forestry variables* - Danny McInerney, Forest Research, British Forestry Commission

## Session 2: Harvesting and Haulage

* *Harvesthead – European training module for harvesting head technology* - Denis McGowan and Charles Harper, Innovawood
* *Log optimisation software* - Brad Turner, Halco Software Systems Ltd. (Canada)
* *IT applications in roundwood haulage* - John Lyons, Coillte, and Hanna Vilkman, Ponsse (Finland)
* *Timber permit management system used by NI Forest Service* - Jim McEwan, Northern Ireland Forest Service
* *IT applications in Irish roundwood harvesting* - John Lyons and Mark Carlin, Coillte

This event will take place at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, on Friday 11 February 2005. Details of the programme and the booking form are available on the COFORD website at [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). For further information telephone the COFORD office (01-2130725).

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# ITGA to launch website

Mr John Browne, TD, Minister of State for Forestry, Department of Agriculture and Food, is to launch the new website of the Irish Timber Growers’ Association on Friday 11 February 2005. The launch of [www.itga.ie](http://www.itga.ie) will take place at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, as part of the COFORD workshop on IT in the Forest Industry.

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# Forestry – Rural development in action

The annual national forestry conference, co-hosted by COFORD, the Irish Timber Growers’ Association (ITGA), the Society of Irish Foresters (SIF) and the Irish Forest Industry Chain (IFIC), will be held at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly, on Friday 11 March 2005. The theme of this year’s conference ***Forestry – Rural Development in Action*** will be dealt with in presentations on:

* *Policy drivers behind the Draft Rural Development Regulation* - Mr Piero Mora, Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development, EC
* *Foresight for Irish Land Use: Business as usual scenario* - Prof. Liam Downey, Professor Emeritus, NUI Maynooth/UCD
* *Rural Activities - contribution to the national economic wellbeing* - Dr Áine Ní Dhubháin and Ms Marie-Christine Fléchard, UCD
* *The potential impact of the Draft Regulation on Rural Development on the Irish Forestry Strategy-* Mr Henry Phillips, Forestry Consultant
* *Rural Development in Action - Case studies* presented by Niall McEvoy, Masonite; Pat Twomey, Grainger’s Sawmills; and Padraig Egan, SWS Forestry Services.

The programme will conclude with a panel discussion. Information and booking forms can be downloaded from the COFORD website [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie). For further information, contact any of the co-host organisations:

COFORD: email [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie), tel: 01-2130725;

ITGA: email [itga@eircom.net](mailto:itga@eircom.net), tel: 01-2350520;

IFIC: email [ific@ibec.ie](mailto:ific@ibec.ie), tel: 01-6051674;

SIF: email [sif@eircom.net](mailto:sif@eircom.net), tel: 071-9164434

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# Seminar on non-wood forest products

COFORD will be hosting a seminar on markets for non-wood forest products on 15 April 2005, at the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co Offaly.

Recent years have seen a move towards multifunctional forest management. Operating at a regional, local or forest level, the approach is to cater not only for wood production, but also a range of non-wood products, such as foliage and fruit, and the provision of services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, recreation and amenity.

In many parts of the world, particularly in the Nordic countries, there is a well established tradition of berry picking and mushroom collection in and around forest areas. Foliage collection is also practiced in many parts of the world, for a variety of uses, from the purely decorative, to feed for livestock.

Ireland’s forests are mainly managed for wood production, but with the approach now being focused more on multifunctional use, there is an increasing provision for services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration and recreation. At the same time, non-wood forest products, particularly foliage, are attracting more attention and interest from the business sector. While specialised crops are filling part of this demand, many products can be sourced from commercially managed forests, a resource that is rapidly growing in extent and diversity in Ireland.

In response to these trends, COFORD’s recently published report ***Markets for Non-Wood Forest Products*** addresses market potential for a range of products, from foliage to hunting, to recreation provision. It shows there is significant potential to capture income from products, particularly foliage and hunting. Services such as recreation also have potential, though in some cases they overlap as both product and service.

The seminar will deal with both international and national aspects of non-wood forest products, with a strong focus on products that have market potential. It will be of interest to foresters and forest owners, and indeed all those with an interest in commercialising non-wood forest products and services. The programme will include the following presentations:

* *An overview of non-wood forest product development in Europe* - Sven Walter, FAO
* *Non-wood forest product development in Wales* - Jenny Wong, Wild Resources Ltd.
* *An overview of market potential for nonwood forest products in Ireland -* Pat Collier, CollierBroderick
* *Wild foliage resources in Ireland* - Jim Costello, Forest Foliage
* *The promotion of non-timber benefits by the Forest Service* - Kevin Collins, Forest Service
* *Developing recreation in Coillte’s forests -* Bill Murphy, Coillte
* *Christmas trees – development potential in Ireland -* Noel Moran, Emerald Group
* *Markets for speciality foods from Ireland’s forests -* Una Fitzgibbon, Bord Bia

Visit [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie) to download the information leaflet and booking form. For further information, please contact COFORD (tel: 01-2130725; email: info@coford.ie)

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# Diary for 2005

Other events planned by COFORD for 2005 are:

* 13 May: Workshop on yield models
* 19-20 May: Wood Energy 2005
* 23-24 June: Seminar on managing our broadleaf resource to produce quality hardwood timber
* 20 September: Conference on plant quality
* 26-27 October: BIOFOREST conference
* 25 November: Workshop on Eurocode5

Full details of each of these events will be made available on the COFORD website and in this newsletter. You may also send an expression of interest in any of these events via email to [info@coford.ie](mailto:info@coford.ie), or call the COFORD office at 01-2130725.

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# Hardwood workshop in the Maynooth area

Plans are well advanced for the first in the 2005 series of hardwoods workshops. This first workshop is scheduled to take place in the Maynooth area on 23 and 24 June 2005. The first day will concentrate on the establishment and early management of broadleaves while the second day will concentrate on the preparation and sale of hardwood woodlots. Full programme details will be available in a later issue of this newsletter and on the COFORD website.

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# Deer management – National action plan

COFORD hosted a seminar in Tullamore on 26 November 2004 entitled ***Protecting Ireland’s Forests – the threat from deer and grey squirrel***. The seminar was organised to bring together experts on the topic of deer management and to provide a forum to discuss policy and best management practice in relation to deer control. The seminar was attended by about 100 delegates from a range of backgrounds including professional deer stalkers, forest owners, State organisations, representative organisations and forest managers.

Prior to the seminar the anecdotal evidence suggested that the national deer herd is growing rapidly in numbers with corresponding increasing damage to trees. The evidence suggested that this development was putting a large financial burden on forest owners through remedial action and/or the need to discount/devalue future timber revenue. There was also a suggestion that tree species selection was being severely limited due to the susceptibility of species such as oak, Scots pine, ash, birch, Norway spruce, sycamore to deer damage.

There was a widespread view that one of the main administrative causes of the growing deer problem was the lack of ownership of the problem and/or accountability among State departments and organisation. This was leading to all efforts to redress the situation being isolated, either geographically or organisationally. Most observers were in agreement that any successful initiative to tackle the problem would need to involve close co-operation of a number of stakeholders, principally forest owners, other land owners, State departments, conservation representative groups and others.

The key objective of the COFORD seminar was to work towards a consensus view on deer management policies and practices – how should it be done, who should do it and when should it be done? To this end COFORD has drafted a report suggesting how an effective action plan should be organised, funded and managed. The report will be available for downloading at [www.coford.ie/deermanagement.html](http://www.coford.ie/deermanagement.html) from Monday 7 February 2005.

The report sets out and prioritises the key tasks that need to undertaken to bring the wild deer population under active management and to bring deer numbers down to a more sustainable level, given the competing demands for land use that now exist in Ireland.

COFORD is inviting comments from all interested parties before 11 March 2005. Comments should be sent to Joe O’Carroll (email: [joe.ocarroll@coford.ie](mailto:joe.ocarroll@coford.ie)).

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# A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland

COFORD is pleased to announce that the publication ***A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland*** is once again available from the COFORD office. Orders can also be placed online at the COFORD website [www.coford.ie/bookshop](http://www.coford.ie/bookshop)

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# CARBON CORNER

## Wood energy – time to address policy gaps

Wednesday 16 February is C Day - the day when the Kyoto Protocol enters into force – and we wake up to a new international regime of emission targets and trading, of companies in the EU buying carbon credits, and of countries facing up to the reality of achieving their legally-binding emission targets. Most countries and individual companies in the process have begun to wean themselves off fossil fuel; some have begun the process over a decade ago through investment in R&D and alternative energy generation systems. Sadly, some countries are still in denial, and even though Ireland - along with its EU partners - has ratified Kyoto, there is a distinct lack of on-the-ground renewable energy projects that demonstrate that we are taking the problem seriously.

Ireland’s emissions are still close to 30% over the 1990 level (and need to get to 13% over the period from 2008-2012). Even with the successful implementation of all policy measures Ireland will need to find about 4 million tonnes of CO2 reductions per year from 2008. Not a vast amount by international standards, but still a target that must be confronted and met, most likely by purchases costing about €40 m per year. This level assumes all going well with the implementation of policy measures, including afforestation and renewable energy. Recent Carbon Corners have highlighted the emission target compliance implications of failure to deliver on afforestation and renewable energy targets. While the afforestation programme has been put on a sound financial basis, albeit only to the end of the current Rural Development Regulation in 2006, we continue to dither about wood energy. We still have only a handful of projects rolled-out, and there are few in the pipeline. An effective policy signal, or indeed implementation framework, has not been issued, and in their absence private sector investment will not take place.

The recently completed report of the Bioenergy Strategy Group of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources may offer some guidance on where the policy gaps exist in relation to wood biomass. If it does provide some of the answers it needs to be acted on over the coming months, by putting in place an imaginative policy framework to actively encourage wood energy projects, a framework that can be both cost- and environmentally-effective.

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# Forest Service call for proposals

The Department of Agriculture and Food (Forest Service) invites applications for grant assistance under the Forestry Development sub-measure of the Regional Operational Programmes 2000-2006 and the National Development Plan.

The Department of Agriculture and Food has allocated funds in 2005 under the Forestry Development sub-measure to develop forestry “to a scale and in a manner which maximises its contribution to the national, economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment.”

Applications are invited from individuals, organisations or corporate bodies for support towards:

* Pilot projects and initiatives concerned with developing sustainable forestry in Ireland;
* Projects aimed at the promotion of forestry in Ireland.

In particular, applications are invited for projects which aim to:

* Encourage the better management of existing forests;
* Promote new planting;
* Increase awareness of the benefits of forestry in particular the environmental benefits.

Projects should not exceed two years in duration and be completed by 31 December 2006. Depending on the number of successful applications received, grants of up to 75% may be available for individual projects. The closing date for receipt of applications is March 18th, 2005.

Further details and application forms are available at the Departments website ([www.agriculture.ie/forestservice](http://www.agriculture.ie/forestservice)) or by contacting:

Colm Prendergast, Forest Service

Tel: 1890-200223

Email: [colm.prendergast@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:colm.prendergast@agriculture.gov.ie)

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# Timber Fencing – Standards to be revised and updated

Roadside, farm and stud fencing are covered by Irish Standards (IS) 435, 436 and 437 respectively. These standards refer explicitly to the use of certain timber preservatives, such as CCA and Creosote, and provide prescriptive treatment schedules. However, given recent changes in the field of timber preservatives and the emergence of new treatments such as Naturewood and Tanalith®E, these standards need to be rewritten. Task Group 4 of WG2 of the Timber Standards Consultative Committee of NSAI is undertaking this process. The task group is chaired by Joe O’Carroll of COFORD and consists of sawmillers, timber growers, fencing contractors, chemical companies, timber treaters, IFA, DIT, Enterprise Ireland and NSAI.

The standards will be redrafted and put out for public comment in April. A new format will be adopted in that the revised standards will be based on performance requirements rather than being prescriptive on treatment schedules for each preservative. In this way the revisions will be ‘future-proofed’, in case yet more new preservatives emerge. The standards will, in effect, set the performance criteria that must be met by all components of fencing products, based on desired service life.

The existence of national standards for timber applications is important to help underpin the success of timber in growing market share in markets such as roadside fencing. For more information contact [joe.ocarroll@coford.ie](mailto:joe.ocarroll@coford.ie).

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# InnovaWood to produce ‘Success Stories’ brochure

InnovaWood ([www.innovawood.com](http://www.innovawood.com)) is an umbrella organisation that integrates four European networks in the Forest, Wood-based and Furniture industries into a more effective mechanism to support innovation in these sectors. Eurofortech, Eurifi, Euroligna and Eurowood have launched the InnovaWood Initiative in order to create a co-ordinated support infrastructure for innovation in the Forest, Wood-based and Furniture industries sector.

Its mission statement is: "Towards an integrated European research and training area for the forest and wood industry".

It is headquartered in Dublin and has over 80 members from across Europe and beyond. To portray the benefits to SMEs of embracing innovation and partnering with dedicated research and development providers, InnovaWood plans to publish a brochure of ‘Success Stories’. These will illustrate real projects where SMEs in the forestry/wood sector have partnered with research institutes (public and private) to develop innovative products and processes. Following the initial publication of the brochure it is planned to continue the initiative through a periodic series of ‘Success Story’ newsletter.

Anyone with projects meeting the outlined criteria should contact Joe O’Carroll, the RTDI Divisonal Co-ordinator of InnovaWood ([joe.ocarroll@coford.ie](mailto:joe.ocarroll@coford.ie)).

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# ESAT BT Young Scientist Award

Sharon Keegan and Aine Gildea from the Mohill Vocational School, Leitrim, were the recipients of the COFORD special award at the ESAT BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2005. The COFORD special award is given for the project that best depicts the positive role of trees and forests in the environment. The winning project investigated bird and mammal diversity within Leitrim woodlands.

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# Changes in the British and Irish Hardwood Improvement Programme (BIHIP)

The first meeting of the Management Committee of BIHIP is scheduled to take place in Hereford on 12 April 2005. The meeting will be combined with a field visit to recently established ash and oak seedling seed orchards, as well as a meeting of the BIHIP Ash and Oak Groups.

Since the beginning of 2005 there have been some changes in the structure of BIHIP. Dr Peter Saville, Oxford Forestry Institute, has taken over as Chairman of BIHIP. The new Secretary of BIHIP is Dr Jason Hubert, Forestry Commission. A new position of Treasurer of BIHIP has been filled by Mr John Davis, Woodland Improvement. John Fennessy, COFORD, has taken over as Chairman of the Oak Group. Dr Michael Carey, formerly of Coillte, continues as Chairman of the Sycamore Group while Mr Pat Doody, Coillte, is incoming Vice-Chairman of the Ash Group.

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# European Forest Genetic Resources Network (EUFORGEN) – Phase III

The third phase of EUFORGEN started on 1 January 2005 and will conclude in December 2009. At the most recent meeting of the Steering Committee in the Czech Republic in May 2004, having reviewed progress made during Phase II, it was recommended that the new objectives for the programme be adapted to facilitate the implementation of both Vienna Resolution 4 and Strasbourg Resolution 2 through future activities of EUFORGEN. It was also decided to merge the four Networks dealing with broadleaved tree species into two new species orientated Networks focusing on scattered broadleaved species and widely distributed broadleaved species. It was also agreed to establish two new thematic Networks:

* A forest Management Network to promote gene conservation as part of sustainable forest management;
* An Information Working Group – focusing on information management and increased public awareness of gene conservation.

The Information Working Group will replace the Inter-Network Group of Phase II and create a permanent platform for inter-network collaboration within EUFORGEN. One of the tasks of this working group will be to harmonise the information management among the networks.

The Conifer Network will continue to operate in Phase III and a meeting of the group is scheduled to take place in Larnaca, Cyprus from 7 to 9 April 2005.

COFORD acknowledges the support given by the Forest Service to the EUFORGEN Programme and all its activities over the past number of years.

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# Recent storm damage to forests in northern Europe

Over the weekend of January 8-9, storm damaged large areas of forestland in Sweden, the Baltics, Denmark, Norway, Finland and the UK. Sweden suffered most damage, and it is estimated that 75 million m3 were felled by the storm, which is more than the annual cut in Sweden in 2003 (70 million m3). In Latvia, it is estimated that 4-5 million m3 were wind thrown, representing approximately 30% of the annual cut in 2003. Estonia reports of 1-2 million m3 of wind thrown timber, and the amount of wind thrown timber in Denmark is approximately 1-1.5 million m3. This constitutes 50-75% of the annual cut in Denmark in 2003. A short-term decrease in regional timber prices is possible. However, current weather conditions do not favour a rapid flow of salvaged timber into the market. Even though the market at large is not expected to be significantly affected, the damage may be devastating for the individual landowner.

(Source: [www.iwc.dk](http://www.iwc.dk))

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# Timber quality, grading and scanning seminar

This event will take place on 16 March 2005 at BRE, Garston, Watford, UK. For details contact [reynoldst@bre.co.uk](mailto:reynoldst@bre.co.uk), tel 01923 664832, or click on to [www.bre.co.uk](http://www.bre.co.uk). The programme includes:

* *Principals of timber grading* - Chris Holland BRE
* *New stress grading methods and internal imaging of logs* - Federico Giudiceandrea Microtec
* *Timber scanning - customer oriented flexible production technology* - Leif Erlandsson, Innovativ Vision (WoodEye) AB
* *Distortion and stiffness of Sitka spruce. Results of DTi timber scanning project* - Tim Reynolds BRE
* *Drying and utilisation of UK-grown softwoods and hardwoods* - Geoff Cooper BRE
* *Shortlength project - using small section timbers from small woodlands for furniture manufacture* - Alan Watkins FIRA
* *In-line timber moisture measurement* (speaker to be confirmed)
* *Presentations by UK suppliers of machine stress graders*
* *Assessment and modelling of silvicultural impacts on timber quality* - Barry Gardiner/Elspeth MacDonald - Forest Research
* *The sustainability case for UK-grown timber -* Katie Livesay - BRE
* *UK-grown timber for cladding* - Dennis Jones - BRE

There will also be an optional tour of BRE Timber Centre facilities and equipment. Other speakers from industry or research are welcome.

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# Research scholarships for EFI members

EFI welcomes applications from young researchers or PhD students who are employed by, attached to, or registered with EFI member institutions.  
The scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. The topic of the research work should fit in EFI research programmes: (i) forest ecology and management (ii) forest products' markets and socio-economics (iii) policy analysis and (iv) forest resources and information. More information on the research programmes is available at [www.efi.fi/research/](http://www.efi.fi/research/). Guidelines for applicants can be found at [www.efi.fi/news/open\_posts/2004/  
Member\_scholarships\_2005.html](http://www.efi.fi/news/open_posts/2004/Member_scholarships_2005.html)

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# Woodland Access Conference

The conference *Woodland Access - The Ins and Outs* will take place on Thursday, 17 March 2005. Organised by The Royal Forestry Society, The Woodland Trust and The Royal Agricultural Society of England, this conference explores the policy and practice and the pros and cons of increasing public access in UK woodlands. The programme and on-line bookings are at [www.rase.org.uk/conferences](http://www.rase.org.uk/conferences).

For information on bursaries to subsidise student attendance, go to [www.rfs.org.uk](http://www.rfs.org.uk), open Careers & Courses, then Bursaries and then Spencer Bursary.

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# Erneuerbare energien 2005

***Erneuerbare energien 2005***, Germany's trade fair on renewable energy and energy-efficient construction, will take place at Böblingen near Stuttgart, Germany, from 25 to 27 February 2005. The wind energy industry has been meeting at the congress and exhibition for renewable energies since 1998. Around 25 exhibitors will present their offers to visitors from 32 countries. The international trade fair and conference "erneuerbare energien 2005" is reacting to the international growth dynamics of this market for the future with the focus of the INTERWIND®. For further information, email: [hegner@energie-server.de](mailto:hegner@energie-server.deo) or visit the website [www.energy-server.com](http://www.energy-server.com)

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