



CCFG Technical Meeting, 6th July 2010
Wakefield Lodge Estate, near Potterspury,
Northamptonshire

Shelterwood Management on Ash in Lowland England



Wakefield Lodge Estate is a mixed estate extending to approximately 970 hectares, with woodland, farming, shooting and property interests. Spanning the Northamptonshire / Buckinghamshire border, the Estate sits on gently rolling ground above the River Great Ouse to the southeast and the River Tove and the Grand Union Canal to the northwest.

The Estate's woods form a near-continuous ring of ancient woodland around Wakefield Lawn, and collectively represent the eastern side of the historic Whittlewood Forest as bound by the Roman Watling Street. The total of the Estate's woods amount to 295 hectares, thus representing 30 per cent of the total area of the Estate.

The ancient woodlands are, as a whole, typical of those found on the Midland clayland, being in principle open, high forest made up of predominantly ash together with a scattering of oak throughout. The majority of ash is pole stage to mature age-class, most of which are maidens with some coppice.

In many areas, this crop type has resulted from management work which was undertaken by Peter Garthwaite during the period 1982-1987 where heavy thinning was undertaken on the ash overstorey and the mature stands with a view to developing a uniform shelterwood system relying predominantly on ash regeneration.

The woodland on the Estate also is host to a large population of veteran oak trees which offer interesting management challenges.

In the morning we will be looking at the general principles of management, and reviewing the results of the heavy thinning undertaken in the early to mid 1980s with

a view to looking at the opportunities, constraints and threats currently exhibiting on the system. In the afternoon, CCF members will look at examples of how the transformation of the original even-aged stands to Continuous Cover management is being undertaken and how various trial management areas are succeeding.

- Location:** Wakefield Lodge Estate, Potterspury, Northamptonshire, NN12 7QX
- Meeting point:** SP743431
- Start time:** 10:00
- Finish time:** 15:00
- Registration:** For all enquiries and registrations please contact Gill Pemberton the CCFG Administrator at administrator@ccfg.org.uk Please include your postal address and phone number.
- Cost:** The charge will be £10.00, to be collected on the day where a receipt will be available.

The whole day will be spent outside, so please bring a packed lunch and suitable clothing.

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:
ADMINISTRATOR CCFG
MRS. GILL PEMBERTON**

**THE LIBRARY WING
ABBEY ST. BATHANS HOUSE
DUNS, BERWICKSHIRE TD11 3TX
administrator@ccfg.org.uk**