



CCFG England Meeting to Thetford Forest, East Anglia
Wednesday 25th September 2019
09.30-15.30

This is a visit to England's largest lowland forest which is managed by Forestry England (previously Forestry Commission). Predominately a forest created in the early 1900's on poor low grade sandy agricultural land and heath. Most early planting was with pine (Scots and Corsican) species that grew well in the dry exposed nutrient poor soils, subject to severe winter cold, late spring frosts and frequent hot dry summers. Total area of Thetford is some 19,000 ha.

Much of the forest is now in its second rotation but since the late 1990's much of the pine, particularly the Corsican, has suffered from the serious fungal disease of Red Band Needle Blight (*Dothistroma septosporum*). Dealing with this disease has been both a major problem and provides an opportunity. A sick mid rotation crop in many areas gives managers the chance to diversify species by underplanting in a less hostile environment than the traditional large clearfell sites typical of previous management. This could lead to the development of irregular stand structures and presents opportunities to adopt a range of CCF systems.

The visit will enable us to look at and discuss some early species trials set up in the 1950's by Forest Research, guided by FR's Chris Reynolds. We will also visit and discuss with the area managers some of the early underplanting of diseased crops, planted with a variety of species, and discuss both the future of these crops and how recent lessons and research results are being applied within the forest.

Meeting point and time

Santon Downham Forest Office, Sat Nav postcode: IP27 0WB
Toilets and ample car parking at the office.
Meet at 9.30am for a 10.00am departure.

Details

Please come with your own packed lunch and drinks.
Be prepared to be away from your vehicle all day.
Bring suitable outdoor clothing and CLEAN safety footwear, high vis jackets/bibs and safety helmets (All may be mandatory for some site visits, if you cannot bring please let CCFG admin. know in advance).

Booking

People interested in this visit are advised to contact the CCFG administrator by email administator@ccfg.org.uk.

Please note that the number of attendees will be limited to 30 and a first come, first serve booking system will be adopted. Once this ceiling has been reached any additional attendees will be placed on a waiting list. The visit is free to members and students and £15 for guests.