



CCFG Wales Field Visit to St Pierre's Great Wood
Friday 11 October 2019
10.00-15.30

This year we will be taking a break from upland Sitka Spruce plantations to visit the extreme South East of Wales and to explore mixed woodland flanking the spectacular Wye Valley. Close to Chepstow, St Pierre's Great Wood is 107 hectares of mixed plantations on an ancient woodland site, with base-rich soils overlying limestone. Design plan objectives here are to restore semi-natural native woodland via lower impact silvicultural systems, leading ultimately to CCF management, delivering biodiversity, timber and resilient woodland for amenity, conservation and recreation.

Recent coupes include conifer clearfells and a single tree selection thin of Beech and Ash to continue the promotion of natural regeneration.

A short circular walk will take in:

- Recent Larch sanitation clearfell now regenerating – is enrichment planting appropriate?
- Remnants of Lime coppice
- Beech, Ash and Cherry high forest
- Early attempts at small group fellings
- Hawfinch feeding station
- Later attempts at small group fellings with better regeneration
- Most recent Beech and Ash thinning
- Older Fir clearfell with advanced regeneration
- Prolific Ash regeneration but Chalara evident
- Remnant Spruce stand
- Optional very short walk across to Kites Bushes to view Wild Service with regeneration.

We are grateful to Natural Resources Wales for agreeing to host us.

Meeting point

Meet at the car park at ST 504 932.

Time

Tea and coffee will be provided on arrival from 10.00 for a 10.30 start.

Please bring suitable outdoor clothing and footwear and a picnic lunch. In the interests of biosecurity, clothing and footwear should be free of soil and plant debris.

Booking

People interested in attending this visit are asked to let the CCFG administrator know either by email administrator@ccfg.org.uk or by telephone on 01309 641133. The field trip is free for CCFG members and students and £15 for guests.