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# Productive Woodland Enterprise Workshop

Birmingham

October 17 2013

# Objectives for the day

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- The role of social enterprises in unlocking productive woodland management
- Exploring the support AONB partnerships can provide to woodland social enterprises
- Lessons learnt from the NAAONB Social Forestry Pilot Projects
- Common tools and transferable approaches
- Exploring the future needs of woodland social enterprises nationally and locally

# Programme - morning

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- **Setting the Scene – Rebuilding a woodland culture – the role of Government**

Jane Hull, Forestry Commission on the link to the Woodland and Forestry Policy Statement and the opportunity provided by social enterprises to connect woodland owners, woodland contractors and communities

- **Setting the Scene – Productive woodlands – the landscape and biodiversity benefits of actively managed woodland**

Jez Ralph, Timber Strategies on the potential to deliver environmental, social and economic ambitions through better managed woodland assets

- **NAAONB social forestry pilot projects – Launch of final report**

Tim Crabtree, Wessex Community Assets explores the what, why and how of the pilot projects and pulls out the key learning points

# Programme - afternoon

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- **Woodland Social Enterprises Market Place**

During and after lunch representatives from the social forestry pilot projects will be displaying material from their activities and answering questions about their experiences and sharing approaches.

- **Common tools and transferable learning**

Tim Crabtree – Wessex Community Assets on the key learning from the pilot projects and link to useful tools.

- **Taking woodland enterprises forward – Where next?**

Mike Perry, Plunkett Foundation explores the emerging support for woodland social enterprises and proposes a way forward.

- **Followed by** a group-led assessment of the strengths, issues and opportunities for social enterprise led woodland management in protected landscapes.

# AONB partnerships

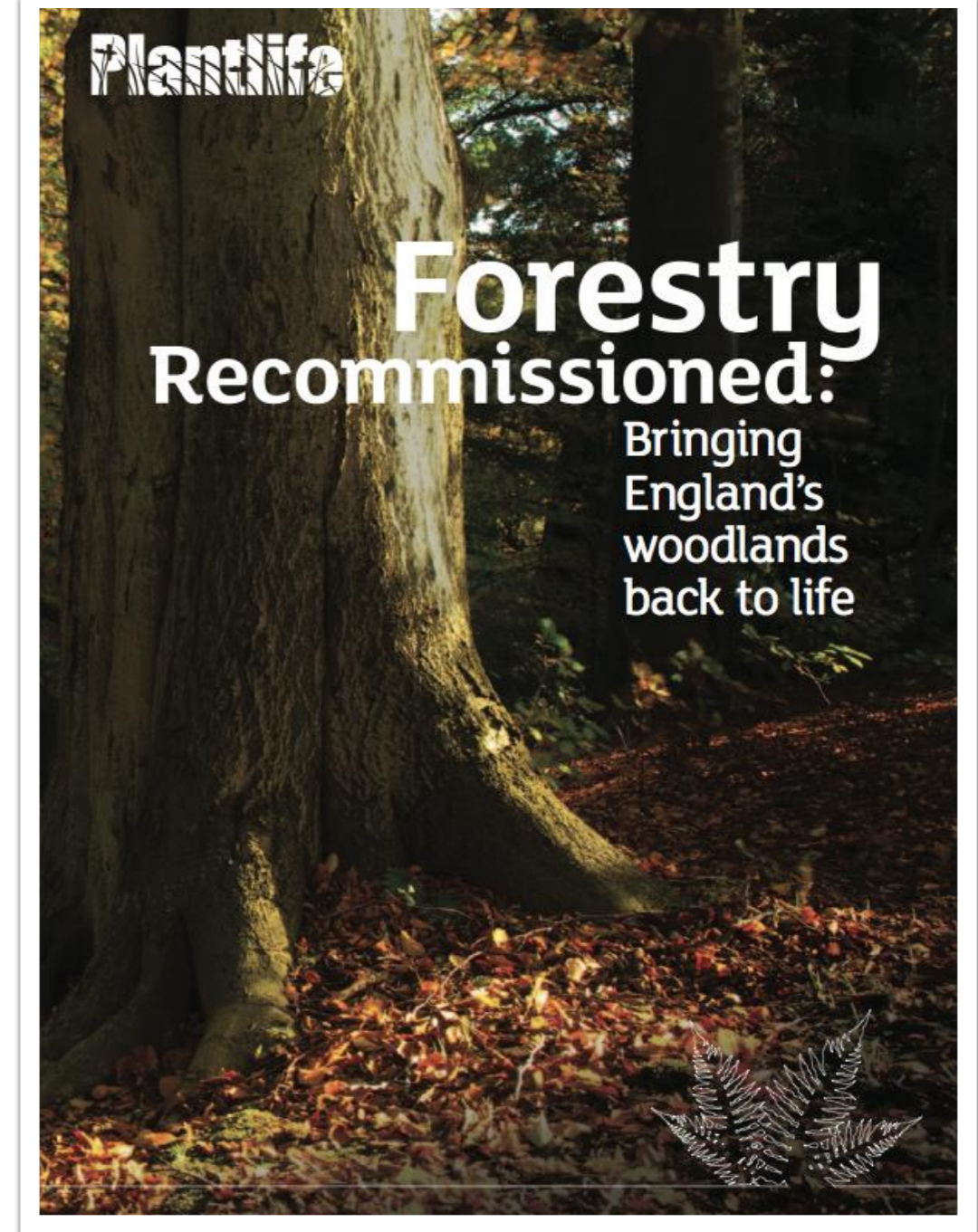
- 46 AONBs in the UK covering 18% of land area
  - 33 in England
  - 4 in Wales
  - 1 cross border
  - 8 in Northern Ireland
- primary purpose is “to conserve and enhance natural beauty”
- AONB partnerships use landscape as a framework to achieve an integrated approach to management including ecosystem services
- Woodland and trees are a critical component of landscape character and deliver valuable ecosystem services
- The NAAONB Social Forestry Project focuses on small, fragmented and undermanaged woodlands and on the role of community groups/social enterprises in unlocking better ecosystem management



# The woodland challenge

Woodlands in the UK often

- are not actively managed in ways that enhance landscape or biodiversity
- are not economically managed, so that their potential for producing products such as wood fuel is not being achieved
- lack access for local communities to enjoy the benefits that woodlands can provide, such as physical activity, learning and skills development and mental well-being



# The people opportunity

- Social enterprises can be effective agents for delivering landscape management activity, such as in the sphere of woodland management
- Understanding social enterprises as potential key members of AONB partnerships, alongside land managers and local businesses.



Contractors Owners Community

AONB partnerships



Woodland Assets

economic social ecosystem



# Where Next?

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- Does the Woodland Social Enterprise Network feel like what is needed?
- What is the role for AONB partnerships in supporting and developing local woodland enterprise activity?