

Demand for oak logs lifts hardwood sale

JOHN JENKINS NEWLAND RENNIE

There was a packed saleroom for the 29th Annual Hardwood Auction at Cirencester, last November. Those present witnessed a varied trade with standing sales proving more difficult to judge but an exceptionally good trade on oak logs producing a record price for

these sales at £233/m³.

The Forestry Commission entered the largest number of lots but there were private growers' parcels from Staffordshire, Norfolk and Hampshire.

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SAW LOGS



Oak saw logs were in strong demand with best log prices easily exceeding last year's demand and creating a new sales record of £233 per m³ for Salcey oak [1], purchased by Harrison of Kettering, which comfortably exceeded the previous record of £203 per m³. The other two Salcey lots [2] exceeded £180 per m³, both sold to Pontrilas.

Logs from Alice Holt made £188 per m³ to Northwood. Tilhill bought the Chiddingfold oak for the same figure.

New Forest oak logs [3] also met much better demand than last year with the best from Frame heath making £133 per m³, selling to Brooks who also purchased the Island Thorns oak for £128 per m³. Last year, oak from the same place made £110 per m³.

The main disappointment in this section was that 125 m³ of Sweet chestnut logs in Wyre Forest did not reach reserve.

Firewood met uneven demand, the best price being £43 per tonne from Westacre Estate, Norfolk.

STANDING SALES





Thirteen varied lots were on offer with four lots failing to achieve reserve. The clear message was that quality lots sold. The best of these was 1574m³ of quality thinning and clearfell (of which 360m³ oak and 970m³ larch) at Brackenhurst [4] and Marchington Woods near Uttoxeter, submitted by Matt Brocklehurst of Forwoods Forestry & Woodland Consultancy Ltd. The tree mean size was 1.4-5.3m³ for oak and .95-1.57m³ for larch. The whole lot achieved £60,000 and sold to Euro.

The other interesting sale was a thinning of beech (1.15m³ mean tree) at Savernake [5], which sold to Woodgate for £41 per tonne. The specification was very similar to a lot in last year's sale in the same Forest District which achieved £36 per tonne to the same purchaser.

Sweet chestnut met mixed response with a clear-fell of 0.45m³ mean tree in Wyre, achieving £23 per tonne, whilst a large lot of mixed-size Sweet chestnut in the Dean (0.7 - 2.3m³) did not achieve reserve. Smaller oak sizes (.39m³) sold at £18.50 per tonne.

SOFTWOOD

Three parcels were on offer comprising fully mature Douglas fir and Corsican. The standing Douglas fir at Sned Wood in Mortimer, Salop topped at £57 per m³ or £488 per 8.5m³ tree and part of a former seed stand which was, interestingly, sold at auction in 1980 for £33.20 per m³ to 18cm TD.



Next year's sale:
30 November 2017. Enquiries to
John Jenkins or Keith Spencer
Telephone 01600 712916



Forestry Woodlands Competition at Royal Cornwall Show

08-10 June 2017, Wadebridge

Entries close 03 March 2017

Competition classes:

Class 1: For new conifer, broadleaved or mixed woods of between 0.5ha and 20ha between the ages of 5 and 15 years old.

Class 2: For woods or compartments of woods of between 0.5ha and 20ha which have been renovated or are undergoing renovation from a neglected state within the last five years.

Class 3: For woods or areas of woods or significantly wooded parkland of between 0.5ha and 100ha of any age, the main objectives being environmental / conservation, landscape and recreation.

Class 4: For woods or compartments of woods of between 0.5ha and 20ha which were established over 15 years ago and which are managed primarily for their timber production. They can be of coniferous, broadleaf or mixed species woodland.

Class 5: For any business operating in Cornwall with the primary objective of using and adding value to round timber produced in the county.

Forestry Competition details from:

Terry Herron MICFor T: 01872 520325

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Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

The 2017 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards are an annual recognition of excellence among those who use, own or manage Scotland's woods and forests - and a celebration of their contribution to the wealth and well-being of communities.

Applications are now open for 2017, with trophies and almost £7,000 of prize money to be won. There are seven awards in four categories and entries are accepted up to 31 March 2017.

Next steps for enhancing natural capital and biodiversity in Scotland

01 March 2017, Edinburgh

Confor's Stuart Goodall will be among the speakers.

Trees, People and the Built Environment 3

05 April, 2017, Birmingham

Early bird booking open now.

Next steps for natural environment policy in England

27 April 2017, London

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum Keynote Seminar. [Read more](#)

Confor Woodland Show 2017 (change of date!)

07/08 September 2017, Longleat Estate.