CHILTERN HAZEL COPPICE

<u>AND</u>

THATCHING SPAR SURVEY

<u>2006</u>

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<u>The Woodland Trust's North Grove</u> an example of grade 1 coppice, managed and harvested by <u>Mark Cottrell on behalf of the Trust</u> with the support of local manager John Brown.

THE SUBJECT OF THE SURVEY

A thatching spar is a straight strip of hazel wood split from a rod of hazel or 'gad' cut from a hazel stool. They are usually approximately 30" long and ½ inch in diameter and sharpened to a point at each end. They are twisted and bent in half to make a pin, like a large hairpin, to secure the thatch to its foundations.

<u>SUMMARY</u>

The survey conducted during the autumn of 2005 and winter of 2006 revealed three pertinent facts concerning the market for thatching spars and the ability of hazel coppice in and around the Chilterns to service that market.

1. There is a market of approximately 3 million spars annually required by thatching companies in and around the Chilterns which at the current price of 12 pence per spar is worth approximately £350,000.

Some thatchers are keen to support, indeed return to local sourcing and favour the restoration and maintenance of traditional management and production because it served them better than the system that has developed in recent years to source possibly, 40% of their spars from Poland.

- 2. Only one viable site of Grade 1 hazel coppice has so far been identified in and around the Chilterns. There is one substantial site planted as a demonstration coppice by a District Council. All the other resources are of poor management since they have either grown out of cycle to the extent that they are unrecognizable or have been managed for biodiversity which rarely results in adequate quality and economically harvestable material. The search continues however.
- 3. The workforce reflects the national trend in that it is very sparse, and few coppice workers were found who had any significant commitment to coppice management in and around the Chilterns.

INTRODUCTION

The idea for this project arose from an enquiry from a local thatcher about sourcing thatching spars locally through David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project. After contacting John Morris of the Chiltern Woodland Project the problem then appeared that sites of sufficient quality were now unknown in and around the Chilterns. It was then suggested that a survey might be valuable to discover any of these sites in and around the area of the Chilterns, supported by the Chiltern Conservation Board's Sustainable Development Fund.

Since markets can drive management and coppice requires good management for good quality materials it was considered that including in the survey the market for spars required by the local thatching industry would also be valuable.

Coppice, being an ancient form of woodland management has many biodiversity benefits and is expensive to maintain unless the materials can be sold. Since the tradition of coppice management has been in very serious decline nationally and hazel coppice may have declined more drastically in the Chilterns in favour of timber for the furniture industry, the management of hazel coppice has been the task of the conservation volunteers which has had the main objective of biodiversity conservation which does not necessarily produce reliable supplies of good quality coppice products that can be efficiently harvested.

<u>AIMS</u>

To survey the potential market for thatching spars for the thatching industry local to the Chilterns and relate the findings to the quantity and quality of the resource of hazel coppice in and around the Chilterns.

There seem to be several potential benefits for locally sourcing hazel for thatching spars.

- a. Thatchers would have a more reliable supply of good quality spars.
- b. Employment could be created for local people.
- c. Biodiversity dependant upon coppice sites could be conserved and even expanded.
- d. Reduction of transport problems by reducing the need to source materials from Poland. Warsaw is at least 1000 miles from London.

OBJECTIVES

1. To survey the thatching industry's annual requirement for hazel spars in counties whose borders contain parts of the Chiltern Natural Area i.e. Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire,

Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

The following aspects were included.

a. Survey the local thatching industry to calculate its annual requirements for hazel thatching spars

b. Discover if any companies have problems sourcing spars

c. To discover if any companies are sourcing from abroad.

d. To discover if the thatching industry is declining, stable or growing.

e. To discover if new thatched buildings are being commissioned.

2. Survey hazel coppice sites in and around the Chilterns natural area.

a. Find as many sites that have been coppiced for hazel in the recent past, the last 10 years approximately.

b. Collect qualitative information on each site related to its potential to produce coppice products.

METHODS

Initially the survey was in two parts:

- A. A survey of the thatching companies in counties local to the Chilterns.
- B. A search for the coppice sites in and around the Chilterns Natural Area

A. The Thatching Company Survey

I collected information from the website of The Association of Master Thatchers, Yellow Pages Directory and the Yellow pages website <u>www.yell.com</u> for thatching companies in the counties of Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

They were all sent a questionnaire and a stamped addressed envelope. The questionnaire requested the following information:

- 1. Do you have any problems sourcing thatching spars?
- 2. Do you ever have to, or even consider sourcing from abroad?
- 3. How many thatching spars would you expect to need annually?
- 4. What do you forecast for the volume of work in the thatching industry?
- 5. Are new buildings with thatched roofs being commissioned regularly?

Please add any further comments you wish to make on the reverse.

B. The Hazel Coppice Survey

Firstly, I attempted to gather information form the 1998 Forestry Commission Woodland Inventory. This survey indicated 21 hectares of unspecified coppice and 7.6 hectares of coppice with standards and 322 hectares of 'shrubs'. However I found it difficult to use to identify individual sites.

Secondly therefore, I contacted approximately 300 landowners from the Chiltern Woodland Project database, who were sent an explanatory letter and questionnaire as follows with a stamped addressed envelope:

1. Do you have any woodland managed as HAZEL coppice in the recent past?

2. If so, could you provide a brief description - indicate area of hazel?

3. Would you be willing to have it assessed and recorded as a potentially sustainable resource of coppice materials?

4. If you have some sites would you be interested in management advice for coppice products?

Finally, I contacted persons or organizations that may know of hazel coppice sites.

The local offices of the following organisations were contacted:

- 1. Forestry Commission
- 2. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- 3. Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
- 4. English Nature
- 5. British Butterfly Conservation Society
- 6. National Trust.
- 7. Wycombe Rangers.
- 8. Chiltern Society.
- 9. District Councils within the Chilterns were also contacted.
- 10. The Shooting and Conservation Society.
- 11. Any local coppice workers I could find.

Towards the end of the survey I returned to the Woodland Inventory as I decided I must try to identify the 21 hectares of unspecified coppice sites at least. To do this I contacted Mike Habergham of the Wendover office of the Forestry Commission who suggested I ask Martyn Potton of the Forestry Commission's GIS service. He authorized the relevant information to be sent to me. At the time of the publication of the survey I am investigating this information.

ADDENDUM

As the survey evolved and disappointingly few sites of viable coppice were reported I decided to include, as a makeweight, observations from people who were involved in the production or use of thatching spars in order to understand and communicate the problems that have evolved in their production from the British Isles, as it became clear that a significant percentage of the thatching spars in use were sourced from Poland which was problematical for thatchers at times.

SURVEY RESULTS and REPORT

SUMMARY OF SURVEY OF THATCHER'S REQUIREMENTS FOR THATCHING SPARS

I sourced addresses of thatching companies from Yellow Pages and the Association of Master Thatchers to collect together 43 companies from the counties of Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire. I asked them the following questions and I received 20 replies:

1. Do you have any problems sourcing thatching spars or liggers?

9 said they had NO problem.

10 said they did.

Replies were qualified thus:

4 mentioned occasional problems.

1 qualified this with the observation about the scarcity of spar makers.

2 qualified his reply with "locally, yes" and "from 70 miles away".

1 commented on the poor quality at times.

1 No comment

2. Do you ever have to, or even consider sourcing from abroad?

7 said they did not source from abroad

10 said they did, with 6 mentioning sourcing all or in part from Poland.

One offered the advice that ready twisted spars is the service to offer. This is what he is supplied from Poland.

3 Mentioned "if I have to!"

3. How many thatching spars would you expect to need annually?

My final tally is 1,404,000 spars year = 70,200/company with a range of 15-200,000/yr

43 companies therefore approximates to a total of 3,018,000 spars.

At 12 pence each = £368,160 worth of spars for companies in and around the Chilterns.

4. What do you forecast for the volume of work in the thatching industry?

11 commented that the work is steady.

3 predicted growth

5 were not sure

1 thought there were too many thatchers

5. Are new buildings with thatched roofs being commissioned regularly?2 said NO

The others commented from 'very few' to '1/3 of work'. One commented upon the governments green policies potential to encourage the commissioning of new thatched buildings.

To condense the survey further:

1. NO PROBLEMS – NEVER SOURCED ABROAD – ONLY 2!

2. OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS NO SOURCING FROM ABROAD - 4

3. NO PROBLEMS BUT SOURCING FROM ABROAD - 7

4. OCCASIONAL PROBLEMS BUT SOURCED FROM ABROAD. 5

So:

6 HOME SOURCING THATCHERS

12 USING FOREIGN MATERIALS

2 VAGUE ANSWERS

FINALLY

8 replies contained advice and support. One thatcher said he had contacted others and they were of the opinion that they could support at least one full time spar maker.

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Initially I had some encouraging conversations with local thatchers who were clear that they favoured local sourcing and that had been what they had been used to of course. Mr. M.B. Craker of Aylesbury was the first I spoke with and later his brother from Princes Risborough. Both have tried to harvest their own materials locally and Mr. M.B. Craker had in recent years approached the local Forestry Commission offices for assistance.

I had a reply from the Master Thatchers Association indicating general support for the project. I spoke with thatchers who were on their Committee, Rod Miller and Neil Painting who were very helpful and supportive of any project that could improve the prospect of local sourcing of spars.

I made contact with local coppice workers but they had little information and did not direct me to any viable coppice locally.

I managed to find two spar makers; Mr. Browning of Bedfordshire who is retired now and Mr. Cottrill of Wodecote and also Mr. Michael Auger of High Wycombe who is a general coppice worker and was very helpful.

I had some good information from Professor E.J.T. Collins of Reading University.

I downloaded some sections of his report for the Countryside Agency from

<u>www.craftsintheenglishcountryside.org.uk</u> published May-June 2005 from which I have quoted with thanks.

On the subject of thatching spars his report is summarized as follows:

GREENWOOD CRAFTS: MARKET TRENDS REPORT 2005

Thatching Spars

In the all thatch districts demand remains very brisk, with makers fully employed, dealers handling higher volumes, and prices 5-10% in advance of last year. The market is especially stretched where supplies of hazel are seriously deficient, and gads and/or finished spars have to be bought in from southern England, or from Eastern Europe. In Northamptonshire the position has been described as "desperate". Dorset and Devon remain large net importers. Norfolk too is poorly supplied, one of the small handful of spar makers in the county having recently died.

The report also comments upon three other important aspects:

1. <u>It is a mixed picture regarding quantity and quality</u>. The 1998 Forestry Commission Woodland Inventory shows very little in-cycle coppice existing outside of south east and south central England. It is suggested that investment in coppice restoration in Hampshire is beginning to pay off though there are comments that contradict this, such as a general complaint concerning a lack of cutters that results in restoration programs being put on hold or inexperienced cutters with poor standards of woodmanship being hired.

2. <u>The shortfalls in supply.</u> Shortfalls in supply seem to have been growing since at least 1993 and made up by imports from Poland and Belarus. Poland may be supplying as much as 40% of the national requirement. No reliable statistics exist as to the scale of this trade nor detailed information about supply chains.

Polish spar wood has been criticized by some of the thatchers in this survey and one refers to buying 'ready twisted' as being 'the market to go for'. Happily, according to Professor Collins, the supply from Poland does not seem to be affecting home supply prices.

3. <u>Recruitment remains a problem</u>. There is a 'trickle' of entrants to the industry but it is felt that a lack of support while they hone their skills and speed of production discourages them from persisting in the craft

I have also contacted Hampshire County Council Environment Department, in particular, Jonathan Rau, to ask him about the projects that Hampshire County Council have managed with English Heritage and the Master Thatchers Association. He was very helpful and gave advice that has been included in the 'Observations and Opinions'.

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ADDENDUM OBSERVATIONS and OPINIONS

SITES and HISTORY

- 1. Rod Miller commented that the whole coppice system would have declined to a far more critically low level without the imperative of harvesting hazel for spars.
- 2. Hazel coppice has declined in and around the Chilterns though it's presence in the area in recent history is unclear to me.
- From the Forestry Commission Bulletin No.27 'Utilisation of Hazel Coppice 'Survey by County for the years 1952/53. They estimate for Oxfordshire, Bucks and Berks 100 ha of worked hazel and 3,560 of un-worked. Note; this is not the Chilterns.
- Now the Forestry Commission Woodland Inventory indicates 21 hectares of coppice and 7.6 hectares of coppice with standards but 322 hectares of 'shrubs' in the Chilterns.
- 5. Hazel grows well in the Chilterns as it is not fussy about soils and is a common understory shrub. However, "Whilst hazel will thrive on dry basic soils it does best on damp, not waterlogged, soils that are no more than moderately acid. Such soils are not common in the Chilterns" ref Mike Render, as indicated by it's increased prevalence in the Vale of Aylesbury. So, if optimum production was important would the Chilterns be competitive? How significant would this difference be?
- 6. According to a life long coppice craftsman there are many varieties of hazel; one, 'silver hazel' is adapted to chalk.

2. RESTORATION AND PLANTING

- Multiple objective management but the priority objective is for high quality materials that can be efficiently harvested. Do not put biodiversity first. Recreate the original market and working practices and the biodiversity will follow.
- There is discussion related to the value of restoring coppice sites versus planting new coppice. Both need protection from pests, skilled restoration and long term management.
- Professor Collins thinks restored coppice doesn't produce good materials. It needs enrichment planting as stools needs to grow be closely together in order to produce straight rods.
- Mark Cottrill from a family of coppice workers thinks it is better to plant new coppice. Not in blocks but in strips – the crop is more accessible but Jonathan Rau says this is costlier to fence and the outer stools would not produce straight rods along the edges.
- 5. How long does it take to begin to harvest materials? New coppice. 10 -12 years, but stools do not reach their full potential for 70 years; ref Peter Lane.
- 6. Deer fencing designs and economics need to be understood.
- 7. Coppice as a field crop? Prof Collins has figures for this; English Heritage has sponsored it in Hampshire. Mike Render doesn't think it is economically viable at the present price of spars.
- 8. Should any new coppice be planted in an industrial block style or integrated into the landscape to enhance biodiversity conservation? For instance, as part of woodland networks or around woodlands to improve the profile of the woods?
- 9. Shooting may present an under utilized resource but they are reluctant to be involved due to disturbance. Apparently hazel coppice is excellent cover.

3. THE SPAR MARKET

- There seem to be two production systems in contemporary operation:

 a. Firstly, the traditional system based on proper management of coppice and full production of products of which spars are only one.
 b. Secondly, a system dating from about 1993, of makers buying gads from suppliers, the source of which could be southern counties or Poland and making
- 2. It seems that though there are plastic spars available, they are not well appreciated as they are unforgiving to use. I still have not tracked down any makers.

the spars.

- 3. Coppice products have an economically modest history. Hurdles have a value added aspect which had me wondering if spars might be under priced in competition but according to Peter Lane this does not influence the price or the status of the spars. He thinks he could make the same amount of money for the same time and effort in making either this is supported by Rod Miller.
- 4. Prof Collins survey declares that spars from E. Europe do not undercut the home grown materials significantly. However, one experienced coppice worker thinks that this is explained by thatchers getting spars cheaply due to their humble origin. "Spars are a very small percentage of the costs of a thatched roof." There is some agreement on this from a thatcher but it would be difficult to organize a better price in an industry that is quite fragmented.
- 5. Will the growth of the Eastern European economies make the cheaper pricing of their spars less easy to maintain so that ours may return to a competitive rate? How fast is this equalizing occurring? Will we be ready when this happens?
- 6. Rod Miller again thinks that the forecast of economic equalisation and an increase in transport costs will put English spars back on the market and we should consider this. It will also eventually put the people who are dealing in Polish spars at a disadvantage as their resource in England will have grown out of cycle.
- 7. There is less competition in the coppice products market today so that there is less quality required now.

- 8. Recruitment: How do you encourage and support new spar makers? Full time spar making is unlikely. Would be one part of an individual's operations supporting the return to a traditional working practices.
- 9. A hurdle maker may need up to 45 acres of worked coppice in cycle for a lifetimes work whereas a spar maker might need only 10 acres according to
- 10. Develop connections between landowners, thatchers and importantly, support coppice workers while they develop their skills and businesses.

AREA OF COPPICE POTENTIALLY REQUIRED

I have been asked to estimate this very imprecise area requirement. There are many variables. However, I have drawn on information from two sources based on grade 1 coppice:

1. Wessex Coppice Group quotes:

Grade 1 as having 12,000 rods per acre with 75% being useful; converted to hectares = 30,000/hectare / 75% = 22,500 rods/ hectare.

How many spars could be made from such a number of rods is a guess but if split it might equal 50,000 spars.

3 million spars/ 50,000 = 60 hectares on a 7 year rotation = 420 hectares

2. However, it has always been in the back of my mind that spars will be harvested as part of a range of products. So, using figures from 'Restoration of Neglected Hazel Coppice' by R. Hamer of Forest Research:

From 40 stools of grade 1 hazel coppice spars 263 spars gads that can be split into 4-8 spars could be produced as 1 of 7 types of coppice products. Lets say 1000 spars are made from this.

1 hectare will contain 1000 stools therefore 1000/40 x 1000 = 25000 spars per hectare.

3 million / 25000 = 120 hectares on a 7 year rotation = 840 hectares.

So, there is a wide choice, depending upon how you select your product and how well your coup is managed.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

- While other hazel coppice products may have better value added potential they are a matter of taste or style whereas spars of hazel are essential. Thus the observation by Rod Miller that the necessity to harvest hazel for spars, though a lesser volume product than hurdles, has kept the craft of hazel coppice management alive.
- 2. There is a substantial market for thatching spars and a significant number of the thatchers are keen to source spars locally. In fact they are well ahead of us in their appreciation of its range of benefits both environmental and practical.
- 3. Some thatchers expressed appreciation for any initiative and indicated that they would be supportive of local spar makers.
- 4. There is a valuable attitude towards the traditional system of sourcing spars that might seem based on nostalgia but is driven by the fact that supplies of spars were better and more reliable under traditional coppice management.
- 5. There is only one site of viable hazel coppice in the Chilterns Natural Area though there is one site developing in a demonstration wood in High Wycombe. The search continues and sites which have a history of hazel coppice production or have advantageous conditions will be sought.
- 6. There are sites down on the Vale of Aylesbury that are being harvested but since the sites have a recent history of management for biodiversity rather than good quality materials they are at the moment uneconomic but are thankfully being harvested nevertheless.
- 7. One pertinent observation I have come to understand is the importance of best practice management, good quality 'woodmanship', in an industry that struggles to provide an encouraging living for its operators. Management that produces high quality materials that are efficient to harvest is therefore highly advantageous. Though hazel coppice management has been maintained with great sincerity by the conservation movement for the objective of biodiversity conservation that objective alone does not equate to best practice for the professional coppice workers. The

right objective is therefore best practice for serving a market for high quality materials efficiently harvested.

- Though there is a problem of very little viable hazel coppice possibly a greater handicap is that there are so few coppice craftsmen in and around the Chilterns. None of the coppice craftsmen I contacted in and around the Chilterns were currently harvesting hazel for spars.
- 9. Would thatching spars be most likely to be produced as part of a network of jobs in a syndicate that could respond to the needs of local thatchers. Further than that it is difficult to see how in modern times a significant workforce could be generated to work hard to earn maybe £100/day (ref, Rod Miller) after developing the necessary hard won efficiency and do something rather monotonous.
- 10. Possibly members of the forestry industry who are getting older might take on this work, as did Mr. Browning of Dunstable.
- 11. Finding or developing suitable sites: What are the conditions in the Checkendon area where the largest concentration coppice sites have remained? Try to find areas in the Chilterns where similar soils and aspect are present.

FINALLY

I would like to refer to salient observations that have appeared in the survey to highlight:

1. There are thatchers who would like to return to the traditional ways, not out of nostalgia but because, it works.

2. The necessity to make thatching spars from coppiced hazel has maintained the craft of hazel coppice management though other more value added coppice products that are a matter of taste or style have been generally more appreciated.

3. As demonstrated at North Grove, high quality woodmanship on a well stocked site is vital to produce the necessary high quality materials that can be harvested efficiently to encourage an adequate living for the coppice crafts person. Conservation management for biodiversity does not do this.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

- To survey the volume/area of thatch and it's cycle of replacement to determine the number of spars that may be needed annually to maintain the thatched roof buildings in and around the Chilterns
- 2. Use the survey's findings to stimulate interest and make connections between landowners, potential coppice workers and local thatchers.
- 3. Investigate the history of hazel coppice and products in and around the Chilterns to discover the best sites and conditions for the establishment of hazel coppice.
- 4. Engage a local heritage or environmental NGO to support an initiative to develop new coppice sites on viable sites and restore coppice sites that have grown out of cycle and to administer recruitment into the craft.
- 5. Monitor the development of the Polish spar market.
- 6. Survey the local forestry workforce.
- 7. Finding or developing suitable sites: What are the conditions in the Checkendon area where the largest concentration coppice sites have remained? Try to find areas in the Chilterns where similar soils and aspect are present.

<u>APPENDIX</u>

POLICY and BIODIVERSITY

Woodland Habitat Action Plan for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

<u> 2005 – 2010</u>

1.2.5 Lowland mixed broadleaved woodland

This category covers a very broad range of woodland types growing on a wide range of soil conditions, from very acidic to base-rich and includes most semi-natural woodland in BBO. Many ancient woods in this category have a history of management as coppice with standards though many have now been converted, or developed naturally, into high forest or have been left as minimum intervention (either by design or default) since the deterioration of markets for coppice produce. The habitat is important for a number of national priority species including the dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*, spotted

flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, pearl-bordered fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne* (now extinct in BBO) and common fan-foot moth *Pechipogo strigilata*.

2.1

Although broad-leaved woodland cover has remained fairly constant since the 1920s, there has been a dramatic increase in the area of high forest. Much of this is attributable to the cessation of the traditional management systems of coppice and coppice-with-standards with subsequent progression to high forest. The coppice industry is an ancient one dating back to 5,000 BC. However many traditional markets have been lost in the last 50 years and the networks between landowners, coppice craftsmen and markets have been broken. Coppice woodland has many ecological and landscape values that need protecting and many species of British flora and fauna have developed under the coppice management system and are found in working coppice.

7.1

Lack of function and neglect of Timber production can be important for biodiversity in several ways:

A decline in demand for traditional wood products has lead to woods being converted to conifers or neglected.

Local Authorities can be of particular assistance by encouraging the use of locally produced woodland produce.

- By providing a varied woodland structure and hence many niches for wildlife
- By providing open canopy space during thinning to increase light incident on the ground and hence early success ional habitats. Coppice is important in these terms.
- By providing the economic sustainability that underpins continued investment in woodland management and conservation of biodiversity.

Despite this, in BBO biodiversity is still suffering, for example the majority of butterfly species reliant on coppice are extinct. The main causes are the continuing changes in woodland management, especially the decline in coppicing and lack of continuity of sizeable felling of broad-leaved woodland, both of which have reduced the frequency of

canopy gaps and overgrazing in open woodland habitats. Ride networks and glades have become far more important as habitats in local terms.

<u>LETTERS</u>

To the thatching companies:

Good day

Could you help me with a survey I have begun of hazel coppice sites in and around the Chilterns supported by the Chiltern Conservation Board and prompted by an enquiry from a local thatcher about the possibility of sourcing thatching spars locally?

I feel that matching a market for spars with the coppice resource would indicate that any coppice restoration or management need not be a wasted effort.

So, I enclose questions designed to assess the market for thatching spars from thatchers based in and around the Chilterns.

To the landowners:

Dear Landowner

We are doing a survey to discover the extent and condition of HAZEL coppice woodland in and around the Chilterns.

To compare the results with a local potential market we are combining this with a survey of local thatcher's requirement for thatching spars made of split hazel.

Since coppice needs to be well managed for its products and for the biodiversity that relies upon it we feel a reliable market for thatching spars could support any hazel coppice.

So, we would be grateful if you would respond to the questions overleaf.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. M. B. Craker – Local Thatcher Mr. J. Browning – Coppice craftsman Neil Painting – Local Thatcher Kit Davis – Local Thatcher Professor Edward Collins of Reading University Rod Miller – Spar Merchant Jonathan Rau – Local Government Officer in Hampshire Peter Lane – Coppice Craftsman from Dorset Mark Cottrill – Local Coppice Craftsman Michael Auger – Local Coppice Craftsman Alex Moir – Local Coppice Craftsman