

WEALD *WoodKits*

Action for a Productive Landscape



Weald Wood Kits is an experimental project providing support for local designers and wood using businesses to explore the potential for using under utilised timber in everyday items. It aims to harness design creativity and innovation to make the most of the qualities of different local timbers. In the Weald we are surrounded by ancient woodland - criss-crossing the landscape in a mosaic of hedgerows, shaws, small farm woods and sweeping forests.

Throughout its history the character of the Weald has been shaped by wood. So much woodland survives in the Weald because its soils grow trees easily and Weald communities always managed to find an economic use for timber.

But for the last 60 years our woodlands have lain mostly idle with the increasing shade excluding many



plants and animals which had become adapted to a cycle of regular management. Today many people are looking again at wood to provide a carbon neutral way to heat their homes but the timber growing all around us has many more potential uses.





Jonathan Lloyd worked in Corsican Pine from Angley Wood, kindly donated by Dr Fitzwater, experimenting with utilitarian items such as log bins and hen houses.

"I've relished the challenge of dealing with low grade timber, from extraction from the forest, through milling to fabrication Corsican is perfectly adequate for many purposes and having spent most of the project frustrated by the lack of clear white wood, the penny finally dropped that what would in most eyes be it's biggest drawback is perhaps it's most endearing feature; the often intense black staining picked up after milling tends to avoid the more resinous knotty areas, creating stark colour contrasts of black and redish brown."

Dave Green of High Weald Furniture designed logbins in timber cut and milled near to their workshop, reducing transportation to a minimum.

"By choosing furniture made from home-grown timber you can help conserve woodlands and give valuable support to traditional rural industries."

We welcome your input. Tell us what you think about the products and your experiences of using local wood. Visit us at the website to find more about sourcing local wood products and using logwood as a fuel.

Weald Wood Kits is part of a wider programme of projects initiated by the High Weald AONB Joint Advisory Committee to promote productive landscapes whose outstanding natural beauty sustains and is in turn sustained by a vibrant local economy.

Visit us at www.highweald.org/wealdwoodkits

