



Media Release – Immediate

Ref 13132

02 February 2010

Pigs to the rescue in preparing Forestry Commission’s sensory garden

Two Tamworth pigs have had a crucial role in developing the Forestry Commission’s new sensory garden.

Fred and Ginger took up residence at Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood, with a special task in mind.

The Forestry Commission decided to employ the unlikely candidates to clear an area of land overgrown with nettles and brambles. The Forestry Commission is strongly against the use of chemicals in its woodlands.

The two pigs have been at Fineshade for six months and have successfully cleared the 15 by 25 metre patch of land.

Visitor and communities services manager Sarah Walker said:

“The nettles and brambles had reached up to two-metres high in some places. Fred and Ginger have done a brilliant job of clearing the area and we’ve really enjoyed them becoming a part of our team.

“Forestry Commission staff can often be found spending their coffee breaks speaking to Fred and Ginger and the pigs will run up to the wall when called.”

The area of land which the pigs have helped to clear will now be developed into a sensory garden which will provide an outdoor classroom for school visits and will also be open for Fineshade Wood visitors to enjoy.

Pigs from the Tamworth breed were selected due to their long snout, perfect for rooting around. The pigs arrived at just three months old, and have been clearing the area for the past six months.

~Ends~

MEDIA CONTACT

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NOTES TO EDITOR

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2.1. Picture captions

Photograph 1 shows visitor and communities services manager Sarah Walker with Fred and Ginger.

Photograph 2 shows Forestry Commission community ranger Cheryl Joyce feeding the pigs.

2. About the Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible in England for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woods and forests, and increasing their value to society and the environment. Forestry makes a real contribution to sustainable development, providing social and environmental benefits arising from planting and managing attractive, as well as productive woodlands. Further information about the Commission can be found at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/>

Northants Forest District runs from Grantham in Lincolnshire right down to Ampthill in Bedfordshire, taking in many beautiful and varied woodlands.

3. Fineshade Wood, north Northamptonshire

Fineshade Wood is part of Rockingham Forest. Corby or Stamford is the nearest town or village. Fineshade is signposted from the A43, 9 miles northeast of Corby, and 6 miles southwest of Stamford www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge