



PRESS RELEASE 8 MARCH 2016- *Quantock Hills receive heathland boost*

Projects to revert conifer plantations to heathlands have begun in earnest

This week a new 8 hectare site has been cleared to allow for heathland regeneration on the Quantock Hills. The site at St Audries near West Quantoxhead, owned by the Forestry Commission, is adjacent to Quantock Common, an area that has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its rich tapestry of heathland plants and animals.

The aim of the scheme is to create more important wildlife habitat such as heathland and broadleaf woodland and link up existing areas across the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, creating corridors for species to move along. These areas are important for wildlife such as the Red Deer, nightjars and adders.

Nick Salter, Area Forester for the Forestry Commission says: "Working with the AONB Service has created this exciting opportunity to kick start the creation of more heathland as part of our approved Forest Plan for St Audries woodland and the removal of the stumps will make the area much easier to manage into the future ensuring its longevity and condition."

Iain Porter, Development Officer for the Quantock Hills AONB Service says: "This is the first in a number of schemes across the Quantock Hills that will improve the visual aspect of the Quantock Hills, increase the amount of priority habitat and join our existing areas together. We are really looking forward to working with more partners and land owners over the next five years."

David Eccles, EDF Energy's head of stakeholder engagement for Hinkley Point C said: "We're delighted to be able to support schemes to further enhance the natural beauty of the Quantock Hills which provide a stunning backdrop to Hinkley Point."

"The work will create a more diverse natural environment and is exactly the kind of investment that we'd hoped our Hinkley Point C funding would support."

The works have been delivered by the Quantock Hills Landscape Improvement Scheme, which is funded through the Sc106 agreement associated with the Hinkley Point C development. It is being delivered by the Quantock Hills AONB Service.

Quantock Hills AONB Service

Contact: Georgie Grant- tel: 01823 email:ggrant@somerset.gov.uk

Quantock Lodge Pool – Opening Times Spring 2016

Sunday - Family swim
10:30am – 12:30pm

Monday-Lanes Swim
6:30pm – 8:15pm

Tuesday – Adult Swim
8.00am-10.15am

Thursday – Adult Swim:
8:00am – 10:15am

Thursday-Lanes Swim
6.30pm – 8.15pm

Well Equipped & Quiet
Sports Hall& Gym

Quantock Lodge Leisure, Over Stowey,

info@quantocklodge.co.uk

Tel: 01278 733375