

## **The North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership**

### **Timber Transport in North Yorkshire**

Trees and woodlands form a key component of the landscape across North Yorkshire with timber transport being vital to their long term sustainable management. North Yorkshire contains over 60,000ha's of woodlands which represents two thirds of the Yorkshire and Humber total woodland area. This resource plays a significant role in supporting the rural economy as well as delivering a wide range of environmental, leisure and cultural benefits

Most timber transport in North Yorkshire is moved by road, and the road haulage industry is an important stakeholder in the timber industry. A proportion of the volume is taken by rail from Ribbleshead sidings to North Wales.

### **The North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership**

The North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership was created in 2003 in response to a recognised need to work in partnership to support the sustainable management of the regions woodlands.

The **aim** of the partnership is:

'To support the contribution of the forestry and timber industries to the North Yorkshire economy by ensuring that timber industries can access the timber resource whilst seeking to minimise the impact on the public road network, on local communities and on the environment.'

To achieve this, the group:

- Provides a forum in which stakeholders and operators can identify and discuss timber transport issues and problems with a view to finding sustainable solutions.
- Disseminates and informs best practice regarding timber transport management
- Develops, maintains and promotes a voluntary timber routes map for North Yorkshire that shows the most suitable routes for timber haulage, highlights known constraints and establishes consultation procedures between partners.
- Encourages targeted investment in the transport infrastructure and in other technologies that will reduce the impact of timber haulage.
- Informs strategic planning with neighbouring local authorities in support of improved timber transport

The group meets four times a year or as required. **Minutes of meetings** are posted on the GB Timber Transport Forum Website.

**Membership** is open to relevant interests. We aim to include representatives of forest owners and growers (both public and private), the wood processing industries, timber hauliers, the local authority, national parks and other Northern England timber transport groups (in Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham).

Members volunteer their time. Each member is encouraged to actively represent their interest group and to help to disseminate the work of the group.

The group maintains a wider network of interested stakeholders in the region, disseminating information by email and through the website.

North Yorkshire County Council currently provides some staff time to support the work of the group. The group is represented on the GB Timber Transport Forum. The Forum's project officer attends group meetings and can provide some support to the group.

## **The North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership Priority Actions**

**To promote the partnership approach and involve all relevant stakeholders, the group will:**

- Encourage appropriate membership of **The North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership** and commitment by members
- Develop understanding and establish working relations between partners
- Maintain and inform a wider network of stakeholders involved in timber haulage in North Yorkshire

**To disseminate and inform best practice the group will**

- Liaise with other timber transport groups through the Timber Transport Forum
- Organise and attend relevant events and demonstrations

**To develop and maintain the Timber Routes Map the group will:**

- Continue to develop and update a map of forest access points and likely timber production flows, identifying and categorising timber transport routes.
- Develop consultation procedures between stakeholders, particularly between the forestry industry and the local authority, to tackle recognised constraints to proposed timber haulage
- Develop, apply and monitor appropriate road and traffic management measures to minimise the impact of timber haulage
- Engage with neighbouring timber transport groups at a Northern England level

**To encourage targeted investment in the road infrastructure and other technologies the group will:**

- Share information with partners and stakeholders to improve forward planning
- Engage with and inform elected members of the local authority to highlight the economic value of the timber sector and the importance of road maintenance resource.
- Use the Timber Routes Map to identify regional priorities for investment
- Liaise with other Northern England Groups to seek support from government for a strategic fund for targeted infrastructure improvement and related projects

**Organisations currently represented on the North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership are:**

UPM Tillhill  
Forestry Commission  
Euroforest  
Egger  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Forestry Commission Advisory Committee  
Yorkshire Dales National Park  
North York Moors National Park  
Yorwoods  
ConFor  
GB Timber Transport Forum  
Landfactor  
Sheffield's & Co

If you wish to contribute to the NYTFQP please contact [James.Gilroy@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:James.Gilroy@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **NYTFQP Wider Stakeholder Group**

Northumberland Timber Transport Group

Cumbria Timber Transport Group

GB Timber Transport Forum

Yorkshire Water

Scurrah Associates

Woodland Trust

Farmmoorservices.co.uk,

Hovingham Estate.

Bolton Abbey Estates

Duncombe Park

Mexborough Estates

Greenwood & Co

Dawnay Estates

if you wish to be included in the stakeholder group please contact

[James.Gilroy@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:James.Gilroy@northyorks.gov.uk)

## **Background Information on Timber Transport in North Yorkshire**

NYTFQP commissioned RDI Associates Ltd to undertake a timber production mapping study which has been developed into a draft [Agreed Routes Map](#). This is currently being considered by the group and by stakeholders. A process for wider consultation is being considered prior to making it publically available.

**North Yorkshire Timber Transport [Seminar](#)** was held on 27th November 2008.

Throughout the day several key themes emerged. These are summarised below.

- Forestry plays a key part of the county's economy and all stakeholders are keen to support it and see it develop further.
- The need for effective communication between all stakeholders- particularly the highways authority and timbers extractors / forest owners.
- Early communication was seen as being vital in order to minimise the impact of extraction on the highways network and local communities.
- Tools and processes (Agreed routes maps / timber flow mapping, timber transport toolkit) are available to assist all stakeholders.
- The FQP can play a significant role in acting as a facilitator to improve communication between stakeholders and also as a resource for sharing good practice through its links with the GB Timber transport Forum.

The Timber Transport Forum [website](#) hosts various generic documents including

- [Timber Transport Management Best Practice Guide](#), and
- [Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice](#)