

Seed to Saw - The Background

Seed to Saw is a pioneering North East regional education initiative to make children more aware of a major local growth industry. Forests, timber and related activities are big business, netting the region an astonishing £425 million each year and employing up to 30,000 people.

Project partners One North East, Forest Education Initiative, Forestry Commission and the Great North Forest have secured funding to set up this internet site packed with materials, video clips images and resource material relevant to the National Curriculum to create exciting new studies linked to the timber and forestry trades. The website material is being designed to dovetail with National Curriculum studies and the material is currently aimed at Key Stage 2 and GNVQ level.

It was developed and trialled by pupils and teachers at Bishop Ian Ramsey Primary, Medomsley, County Durham. Ashley Primary, South Tyneside and Coquet High School, Amble, Northumberland. These three schools spent one session per week over seven weeks visiting forests, saw mills and retailers. Staff from the timber trade also gave presentations to the pupils both in the classroom and on fieldtrips.

The resource material has largely been written by teachers of these schools aimed at teachers to enable a seven week Seed to Saw project to be run using the Key Stage 2 medium and long term lesson plans provided and the two GNVQ accredited units. Additional resource materials such as the Fieldtrip database and printable worksheets are available for you to download and print out.

Seed to Saw and the Forest Education Initiative (FEI)

FEI is a national initiative fronted by the Forestry Commission as part of its delivery programme for the 'England Forestry Strategy'. It is a partnership embracing the forestry and timber processing sectors, environmentalists and educationalists, landowners and countryside managers. FEI aims to increase young people's understanding of the local and global importance of trees, woodlands, forest environments, the forestry industry, the timber trade and the wood products industries. FEI acts as a facilitator. Its aim is to work with "moving spirits" in the sectors listed above to produce resources and influence thinking and

make pragmatic and philosophical links between the forest industry and the world of learning.

FEI has a national network of "Cluster Groups", which consists of representatives from the forest industry, environmental organisations and the education sector.

The FEI North East Cluster group is hosting 'Seed to Saw', as a means of harnessing the spirit of FEI within the North East of England.

Partnership

The purpose of this project is to specifically focus the attention of the Cluster and partners on the 'timber side' of forestry, including timber processing, end usage and retailing. It is intended to make direct links between the educational needs of schools (within the context of "*Life Long Learning*") and the world of work within the timber supply chain, linking the project to the wider concept of timber as a sustainable raw material.

Seed to Saw and the Great North Forest

The Great North Forest launched in 1990 is a partnership of the Countryside Agency, Forestry Commission and 6 local authorities.

The core belief of the Great North Forest is the importance of the relationship between people and the land. This includes practical activity, consultation and discussion, learning and growing and maturing and stewardship.

Over the last 12 years the Great North Forest has been at the forefront of the Community Forest programme, engaging communities, producing information, influencing educationalists and making a difference. There are now 1.5 million new trees planted across the Forest area.

The main focus of Seed to Saw, as the educational strand of the Great North Forest programme of work, is to bring the "world of wood" into the hearts and minds of young people through core curriculum activity and experiential learning.

As a "path finder", Seed to Saw looks at the economic and functional sides of the forest and timber industries. It takes a step beyond tree planting and ecological thinking to explore the "business" of trees.