

The Woodland Grant Scheme 2013

Pettings Court Farm, Hodsoll Street, Sevenoaks, Kent



- **Woodland Grant Scheme** Woodland Regeneration Grant
- **Date** August 2013
- **Contact** Alexander Cornwallis

The Objective

The private shoot on the estate wanted to enhance the flight of birds when entering or exiting the main pheasant pen. The clearance of the area in question would provide the birds with room to rise above the trees before reaching the pegged guns. Cover was still essential and the client wanted to increase the population of native broadleaves within the woodland rather than let the Norway spruce dominate. The felling must be done before the arrival of the new poults in the summer.

The Woodland

The particular area in question contained approx. 2 acres of mature Norway spruce with a further acre of mature silver birch to the north. The pheasant pen in question was situated on the western side of the spruce.

Access

The woodland is accessed over a hard core track and with the necessity of heavy machinery for a fell such as this it provided perfect access for the felling machinery, collecting of timber post fell and any further access that was required.

The Work

With the above in place and the woodland already being registered with the Rural Payments Agency (a necessity when applying for a Woodland Grant Scheme contract) Pettings Court Woodland led itself towards the Woodland Regeneration Grant. With the objective in mind and all the necessary forms filled in (including an agent authority form that allows your agent to sign off amendments to the application) the application was placed and a felling license was granted. Woodmen were instructed shortly after the license was granted and the silver birch area was coppiced and allowed to regenerate naturally, whilst the Norway spruce area was clear felled and re planted with mixed native broadleaves of the client's choice. The timber was later extracted by the woodmen for personal use instead of a felling fee.

The Grant

Funding was provided for the restoration of the Norway spruce area back to native broadleaves. The grant is provided on a £1,750 per Hectare basis and in this case the client will receive approximately £700 for the felling, coppicing and re planting of the areas discussed.

Outcome

This was clearly no money making exercise however the objectives were met and the shoot improved.