

## Horse Logging Demonstration on Beacon Hill

**Woah William, Steady Up!** The cry rings out through the quiet woods, accompanied by the chink of the logging chains as Richard manoeuvres a tonne of horse nimbly through the trees.

William is HUGE! He is an Ardennais of 16hh and along with his half-brother, these two beautiful, giant animals have been working carefully to pull the felled trees back to the chain- saw gang working in Beacon Hill Wood. The Woodland Trust are clearing and thinning these ancient woods and the obvious choice to avoid unnecessary damage to this valued site is to use Horse Logging.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Jon Burgess from the Woodland Trust kindly invited MBBA and friends to view these wonderful horses at work. A steady stream of curious spectators picked their way through the leaf strewn woodland to stand in awe and marvel at the calm, gentle power of these massive animals. The trees are felled by chain saw and then it is the job of the horses and their handlers to collect the trees and drag them back to be cut into logs. They stepped easily over fallen logs dragging up to 30ft of tree behind them and then stood quietly while the log was removed for sawing, only to return again into the woods to retrieve the next tree, moments later.



William lives in Mere, Wiltshire but his half brother had travelled from Wales for two week's work on Beacon Hill. The whole group, often working as a team, are in continuous work all over the country as their skills leave woodland flora and fauna barely disturbed - especially important in Special Interest Sites. Having pulled out 240 tonnes of logging wood from Beacon Hill they have now moved onto their next job.