

PRESS RELEASE:

Heading: The Exmoor Society Pinnacle Award Winner

A young Exmoor entrepreneur, Nick Hosegood, an arborist from Luxborough, has been successful in winning the 2017 Pinnacle Award from The Exmoor Society. With the £3,000 award he plans to offer a portable milling service to Exmoor, his vision being to mill felled Exmoor-grown timber on site for use in structures, fencing or as building materials. The venture will allow him to extend his efforts in woodland management to improve and expand the woodland coverage on Exmoor.

Nick went to school in Minehead and then to Cannington and Plymouth University where he read animal behaviour,' said Exmoor Society Trustee and Pinnacle Award head judge, Jackie Smith. 'His greatest wish was to work and live here on Exmoor, recognising the need for a trade to do so and discovered a love of trees and wood. He trained as an arborist and set up his own company this year called Three Atop Woodland Services. Horrified by the waste of wood on Exmoor, of which he estimates as much as 80 per cent is wasted or burned, his plans for a mobile milling machine will allow him to turn felled timber into furniture, fencing and building materials on site for use by the landowner, with the milling remains only used for fuel. Alternatively, he will remove the wood for use locally elsewhere. All the judges felt that Nick definitely has the potential to succeed.'

When informed of his success, Nick said: 'I am truly grateful for this opportunity to expand my woodland business with the purchasing of mobile chainsaw milling machinery. I aim to reduce the wastage of wood on Exmoor by processing timber to be used by Exmoor people. In the future I am looking to take on a local apprentice to assist me with milling activities and to train them to become an arborist and share the same ethos towards conservation.'

Chairman of The Exmoor Society, Rachel Thomas, said 'It is noticeable that Nick recognises the sustainable use of Exmoor's woodlands and hopes to offer employment and training to another person living locally. This is precisely the purpose of the Pinnacle Award: to support young people to earn a living within Exmoor National Park without the need to seek employment outside the area. The award helps to demonstrate that special landscapes and livelihoods are very much linked together.'

More information on the woodland services Nick offers can be found on his website:

<http://threetop.co.uk/>

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