

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August 2023 Issue 118

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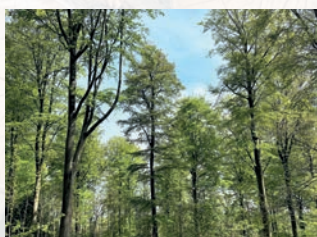
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Is the importance of forestry finally sinking in?



STUART GOODALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
CONFOR

It was heartening to read Westminster's Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) report 'Seeing the wood for the trees: the contribution of the forestry and timber sectors to biodiversity and net zero goals', published 19 July. Confor has liaised previously with the EAC, and I met with the Committee's chair to discuss the inquiry that led to the report.

This is the second House of Commons committee report in this Parliament, from different sets of MPs from across the parties, to reach the conclusion that we need to plant more productive woodland in England (and the rest of the UK) and give greater priority in policy and grants to producing wood. The EAC notes that doing so will help achieve net zero and protect and promote biodiversity at home and overseas.

Over the last year, I have detected a general shift in policy and delivery in England towards a more supportive attitude for the industry. Of course, so much is dependent upon the minister in charge.

Current UK Forestry Minister Trudy Harrison has sought to pursue an inclusive approach where productive forestry and rural businesses are understood and valued. By contrast, her predecessor seemed intent on ignoring the evidence and overwhelmingly prioritising issues of biodiversity to the point of actively damaging rural jobs, undermining

efforts to achieve net zero and further driving up imports of wood.

The two Committee reports were informed by formal evidence from Confor and although we provided additional support and advice, an important point I take away is that many others also provided evidence, including NGOs and civil servants, and both committees' subsequent conclusions are supportive of Confor's policy position.

"OVER THE LAST YEAR, I HAVE DETECTED A GENERAL SHIFT IN POLICY AND DELIVERY IN ENGLAND TOWARDS A MORE SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE FOR THE INDUSTRY."

The shift in policy and delivery I highlighted above is important and it's vital that it continues. We need to move on from having to answer the question of why we need productive planting, active management of woodland and greater wood production.

We should now be questioning and facilitating how the UK urgently addresses the forecast fall in future wood supplies by greatly increasing productive tree planting and how we can sustainably manage more of our woodland.

Confor is a membership organisation that promotes sustainable forestry and wood-using businesses. Confor members receive *Forestry and Timber News* for free as part of their membership. For more information on membership, visit www.confor.org.uk/join-us

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RECOGNITION FOR THE ROLE OF TIMBER IN TACKLING CLIMATE CHALLENGES

David Lee explains how a Westminster report makes the case for timber production in England's forests and talks to Stuart Goodall about Confor's perspective.

A report by the cross-party Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has set out the case for putting timber production back at the heart of forestry policymaking.

The House of Commons committee's report, 'Seeing the wood for the trees: the contribution of the forestry and timber sectors to biodiversity and net zero goals', makes it clear that the Government must clearly set out how forestry in England will contribute to the delivery of objectives for timber, as well as for nature recovery and climate.

"This welcome report highlights how a failed generation of policymaking has led to a decline in wood production in England, which will in turn harm efforts to achieve net zero by 2050 and mitigate a growing timber crisis," said Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor. "This needs to be a watershed moment that puts timber production at the heart of policymaking in England, where it belongs.

"Importantly, it stresses what Confor has said for years: a sharp increase in timber production can be achieved at the same time as addressing the climate emergency and nature crisis. Economic and environ-

mental benefits can be delivered in tandem. The very title of the report recognises this."

The problem is clearly defined by the EAC: "The World Bank estimates that global timber demand is set to quadruple by 2050. Demand in the UK is also expected to rise, in part because of the Government's commitment to promote timber use in construction as part of the UK's Net Zero Strategy.

"The UK imported 81% of all its timber in 2021, making it the second highest net importer of wood in the world. Against this backdrop of increasing demand, the UK's softwood timber supply is set to fall even further behind demand, with production forecast to peak in the late 2030s before falling back to current levels in the 2040s."

EAC Chair Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, said: "The Government's target to plant 30,000 hectares of woodland in the UK by March 2025 is welcome, and by and large Ministers appreciate the conflicting challenges



and demands on woodland. But the Committee is concerned that England is currently way off meeting its contribution to that UK-wide goal, and that the rate of planting must increase: not only to achieve greater biodiversity, but to ensure that the supply of timber from productive forestry is maintained.

“At the moment there are simply too many overlapping strategies that aim to cover tree planting policies in the UK and in England, and there is little evidence of an overall vision for the timber sector. The numerous strategies are disjointed: what is required is an overarching, holistic strategy that sets a long-term vision for how different types of woodland will be used to deliver Government’s goals.”

Stuart continued: “This analysis of productive timber supplies running out is spot-on, and the UK needs to act now. Confor has been heartened by the actions of the

current Forestry Minister, Trudy Harrison MP, and I’d call on her to respond positively and constructively to this report. We need to remove the outdated stigma once and for all from softwood planting and deliver the modern forests that society needs.

“The report makes clear that we need to plant softwoods to provide the timber for the next generation - especially timber frames for hundreds of thousands of warm, sustainable new homes.”

He also welcomed the Committee’s recognition that previous government strategies for the sector had not been well-integrated.

The report says: “The Government should clearly set out how forestry in England will contribute to the delivery of objectives for timber as well as for nature recovery and climate.” It also calls for the Timber in Construction roadmap to address the afforestation commitment in the England Tree Action Plan, and “demonstrate how timber supply in future decades will help to meet growing demand for timber construction products, in a comprehensive, integrated and strategic way”.

While welcoming the UK Government’s ambition on tree planting, ‘Seeing the wood for the trees’ also suggests that overall tree planting targets should be divided into sub-categories for the type of woodland needed to achieve different goals - and urges Forestry England to make its contribution to future timber supply by planting 2,000 hectares of new woodland by 2026.

Stuart added: “This is the call for a properly integrated and long-term vision for forestry that we have been demanding for decades - getting planting done, and insisting that the private sector is encouraged to plant all types of woodland, with a strong focus on productive forestry to grow timber.

“Confor is currently working on a National Wood Strategy for England and that
continued on p8



continued from p7

work chimes very closely with this report. We look forward to the Government working with us to join the dots and make the vision in this report a reality.”

The report says: “We recommend that the Government set a realistic long-term target for the amount of timber to be produced domestically... In tandem with this target, and in line with our earlier recommendations, we recommend the Government determine the proportion of new woodland to be established under current targets which is to contribute to timber production.”

Stuart concluded: “This is the second time in this parliament that a committee of MPs has looked closely at forestry and tree planting - and both have come to similar conclusions: the UK needs to do far more to prioritise domestic timber production. This is backed up by comprehensive analysis and reporting by the Climate Change Committee, highlighting that UK tree planting rates are simply not where they need to be and highlighting the role of productive forests.

“This new report makes a compelling case for more forests to produce more home-grown wood to serve the UK’s needs.

By doing this, we can over time, reduce pressure on fragile forests overseas.”

The EAC is due to issue a separate report on deforestation after the summer recess as part of its Sustainable Timber and Deforestation inquiry. Stuart gave evidence to this inquiry on behalf of Confor late last year, highlighting the particular need to use more wood in construction in order to help decarbonise the UK’s construction industry.

He said: “I look forward to this next report as this links closely with Confor’s work with Friends of the Earth to link low levels of tree planting in the UK with its global impact.”

Keeping wood on the agenda

With a general election looming in 2024 and political parties preparing their manifestos, Confor is scaling up its engagement across the political spectrum this autumn.

Confor has a positive working relationship with UK Forestry Minister Trudy Harrison MP and we look forward to welcoming her to a meeting with the Confor Board at the end of August. The minister will also be invited to speak to Members later in the year as Confor promotes the industry in Westminster.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Forestry and Tree Planting will host a breakfast reception in the Houses of Parliament on 14 November, and Confor’s policy conference returns to the QEII Centre in London on 7 December.

It isn’t often that Confor attends Party conferences, but this year we will have a stand at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool in early October.

“It’s a crucial time to be engaging with politicians as we prepare for a general election in 2024,” said Confor CEO Stuart Goodall. “There are always so many different sectors vying for attention, but I believe it’s vital that Confor continues to seek to raise awareness amongst politicians of the positive message of green growth that forestry and wood processing brings.”

The Labour Party conference will give Confor the opportunity to engage with existing MPs and members of the House of Lords, as well as election candidates. Labour is currently short of MPs in rural areas,

but this could well change if opinion polls prove correct.

At the same time, Confor will continue its constructive work with Trudy Harrison MP, described by Stuart as “a real breath of fresh air as Forestry Minister”.

He added: “Trudy Harrison understands the real potential of forestry and wood to the UK’s economy and environment. She has talked to the industry directly and openly - and most importantly of all, she has sought to understand the barriers to unlocking the full potential of forestry and wood, and how she can help remove them.”

The APPG in November will feature updates on the National Wood Strategy for England, due to be published this autumn, and on the next steps after the Environmental Audit Committee’s report on Sustainable Timber and Deforestation.

The London conference in December follows a very successful event at the same venue last year. There was real enthusiasm and a sense of optimism as Trudy

Harrison gave a clear message of support and action to the sector and Mike Childs of Friends of the Earth spoke about the collaboration between his organisation and Confor on a potential Timber Sector Deal.

“The Confor conference in De-

cember 2022 provided an ideal platform to launch the development of a National Wood Strategy and I look forward to discussing it this autumn as we seek to ensure we increase the long-term future supply of sustainable timber in the UK,” said Stuart.

“Forestry and wood processing is a relatively small sector and Confor has a very small team to promote it, but we have a fantastic message - offering low-carbon, green growth outside of the major cities. This year we are focusing on wood as it chimes well with so many political priorities. However, it can be overlooked when so much attention is placed on tree planting - the two need to go together.”

He stressed that it was vital to get politicians from all sides to realise the potential of wood to be what he called “the missing low-carbon link” in a green economy. A recent report by the Climate Change Committee suggests up to 40,000 new forestry and wood jobs could be created if the UK hit its planting target of 30,000 hectares of new woodland each year and highlighted the significant role that UK-grown timber can play in achieving net zero.

It recommended that the UK Government “develop a comprehensive plan to increase the production and use of UK-sourced timber and support the long-term economic viability of domestic woodlands”.

If you are interested in attending the APPG reception on Tuesday 14 November and/or the policy conference on Thursday 7 December, please register your interest by emailing eliza@confor.org.uk.

To express an interest in supporting Confor’s work at the Labour conference, get in touch with stuartg@confor.org.uk.





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A concerning downturn in public opinions on forestry



Forest Research recently published the results of a survey on public opinions of forestry, revealing that support has slumped to a 10-year low.

Public support for investing government money in the forestry industry has dropped significantly in the past two years, according to results published by Forest Research.

The Public Opinion of Forestry survey is carried out every two years to gauge the attitudes of respondents towards forestry and forestry related issues. Topics covered include visits to woodland, importance of forestry, engagement with forest issues, climate change and tree health.

A total of 81% of respondents agreed there was at least one reason to support the industry financially, down from 99% in 2021 and 89% in 2013. The vast majority of respondents who had visited woodlands agreed that “a lot more trees should be planted” in response to the threat of climate change.

However, just 15% of those surveyed agreed money should be spent on providing timber to sawmills and there was little support for reducing timber imports from overseas.

In response to the figures presented for the UK and England, Stuart Goodall, Confor Chief Executive, commented: “It is disappointing that the UK analysis of public opinion is still so narrowly drawn, focusing on little more than recreation. The sector in its broadest sense, incorporating amongst others industry, NGOs and the public sector, is keen to raise awareness and understanding of the many benefits that forests and woodlands provide.

“We need a regular survey of public opinion that includes all the key benefits to inform and measure progress, and I would call on those who oversee this work to bring together a broad group to fundamentally redesign this potentially valuable resource.”

The counterpart survey for respondents in Scotland revealed that, though 80% strongly agreed “a lot more trees should be planted”, public support for forestry is down across the board.

Commenting on the results, Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon said: “It is encouraging to see that the survey highlights that



“IT IS DISAPPOINTING THAT THE UK ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC OPINION IS STILL SO NARROWLY DRAWN, FOCUSING ON LITTLE MORE THAN RECREATION.”

**STUART GOODALL,
CONFOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

there is strong support for planting trees for climate change and wildlife as these are two of the biggest crises that we face.

“Scotland has the most ambitious woodland expansion programme in the UK but we are undertaking this in a careful and considered way, with the aim of getting the right tree in the right place.

“It is good that people see the benefit
continued on p13

MARSHALL

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UKFS: Pests, diseases and wood production

With amendments to the UK Forestry Standard on the horizon, we asked Members to share their insights on how the new requirements may impact the industry.

In 2022, Confor consulted members on a number of proposed changes to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) proposed by the four country forestry agencies. One of those changes was to reduce the maximum percentage of a single species in a Forest Management Unit from 75% to 65%.

The principal rationale was to diversify species in the UK's forests in the face of an increased threat from pests and diseases. Confor passed on Member concerns at the time but earlier this year Scottish Forestry, on behalf of the four countries of the UK, confirmed that UKFS would be amended to reduce the maximum to 65% for both new planting and restocking.

As an urgent measure to draw attention to industry concerns, Confor liaised with over 20 companies to write to ministers highlighting that the expected further erosion of the UK's productive softwood resource would undermine investment in the industry. In addition, Confor sought further information from forest nurseries and from woodland owners, agents and manage-

ment companies. This was to ensure we had up-to-date feedback from across the membership.

Forest nursery Members highlighted that, as well as having between 3.5m and 4m plants in the system that may not have a market if this change was made, they would also be unable to supply the alternative plants that would be required, leaving woodland owners without the young trees they'd require. The nurseries have identified that they would need up to 3-5 years to adapt to the changed requirement and highlighted that the big impact would come from restocking.

We surveyed within our Woodland Owner, Agents, and Professional member categories between 7-17 July 2023.

The survey asked three core questions on the proposal to reduce the maximum percentage of a single species in a Forest Management Unit from 75% to 65%:

1. Level of impact on restocking?
2. Level of impact on new planting?
3. Overall standpoint on the change taking

account of wider economic concerns?

We calculated that Member respondents managed and/or owned almost 800k hectares of private forest area, so around 25% of forest/woodland in UK was represented.

All Members that responded to the questions also elected to provide a supporting commentary for each answer, which provided excellent insight. The membership contribution by country to the survey is in *Table 1*.

The first two questions in the survey explored the direct impacts of a reduction in the single species percentage for Members in relation to restocking existing woodlands and new planting.

The findings presented in *Figure 1* highlight that Scotland would be most significantly negatively impacted with over 70% of respondents confirming this, and a further 21% indicating some impact.

Given the extent and importance of the Sitka spruce resource in Scotland this is not surprising. In both England and Wales around three-quarters of members felt it would have a significant or some impact.

The results for the third question displayed in *Figure 2* show that that 77% of respondents across the UK take the standpoint that we should not change single species percentages in the UKFS.

As one Member put it: "By maintaining 75% you are allowing landowners/foresters to make the decision and have the choice over what species to plant, rather than a blanket reduction that further limits the potential for restock and new planting. Foresters are already taught and aim to be as



Table 1

	Contribution to Survey*
England	31%
Scotland	54%
Wales	15%

*Northern Ireland was discounted as statistically invalid due to a lack of responses.

Figure 1: Summary of the Level of Impact on each country

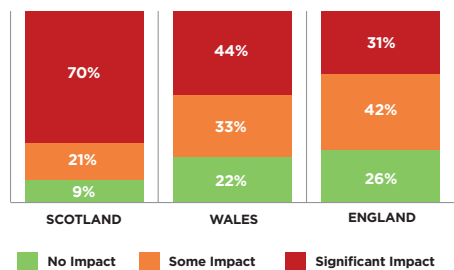
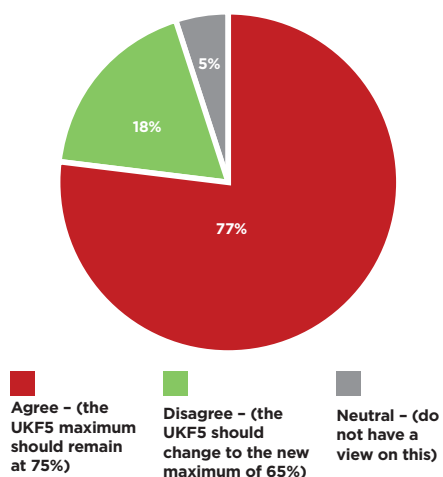


Figure 2: Summary of UK-wide responses

Question - Taking account of the economic concerns of the entire supply chain and/or your standpoint on this issue; please indicate if you agree that the UKFS minimum percentage of a single species should remain at 75%?



resilient as possible when faced with species selection..."

We would like to express a huge thanks to all Members who participated in this survey. It was important to have this engagement and it has reinforced the need for Confor to challenge and question government on this change. Further updates will be provided to Members.

continued from p10

of using public money for forestry as it provides multiple benefits and supports rural economies. We all need to build on this public support and continue to create forests and woodlands that provide environmental, economic and social benefits for all."

Stuart added: "It is good to see recognition from the majority of respondents that public funding should be made available for forestry. However, the clear downturn in public awareness and understanding of the sector in recent years is a major concern.

"Disappointing drops have been recorded in almost all reasons to support forestry with public money in Scotland, including the benefits provided for wildlife, the rural economy and recreation. Even support for the sector's efforts to tackle climate change has fallen to its lowest point since 2015, despite the climate emergency and the significant and far-reaching work the sector is doing on mitigation.

"In analysing this part of the survey it's important to note the context ('...reasons to support forestry with public money') as this isn't the same as asking people what is valuable generally about forestry or even what they value. Nevertheless, this is a sobering



"IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THAT THE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS THAT THERE IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR PLANTING TREES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDLIFE AS THESE ARE THE TWO OF THE BIGGEST CRISES THAT WE FACE."

**RURAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY
MAIRI GOUGEON**

survey, and it is vital that the sector reflects on how we can raise our collective game.

"Confor has been stepping up its activities to both increase awareness of the industry through media engagement, and to assist the wider sector in securing public support for years to come. While Confor's work will particularly stress economic benefits like job creation we are keen to agree and deliver a complementary, consistent and impactful narrative that incorporates all the benefits that forests, forestry and timber can provide."

Woodland Statistics: UK tree planting still 'way off target'

The UK planted a total of 12,960 hectares of new woodland in the year to 31 March 2023 - less than half the target of 30,000 hectares of new woodland creation annually by 2025 and down from 13,860 hectares in 2021/22.

"The 30,000-hectares target is a manifesto commitment, but we're not making the progress required towards meeting it," said Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor.

"On the plus side, planting in England is up year on year, while on the downside the proportion of timber-producing woodlands is tiny. We need to do much better here, as a failure to plant far more productive woodland is bad for the UK's economy and for the global environment. It is also a fatal weakness, in that all evidence shows planting targets won't be met without creating significant areas of productive woodland - people who own land want to make a living and earn an income."

He added: "It's vital that we seize the day by going further and faster - to produce the timber we need in this country and avoid an ever-increasing reliance on imports. The UK currently imports 81% of its wood products at a cost of more than

£11 billion, according to latest figures."

"This increasing 'timber insecurity' is bad for the UK's economy and bad for the environment. We can, and must, do better."

New planting rates in Wales doubled from 580 hectares in 2021/22 to 1,190 hectares in 2022/23 but in Scotland, new planting dipped from 10,480 hectares to a disappointing 8,190 hectares.

England saw an increase from 2,260 to 3,130 hectares, but Northern Ireland slipped back from 540 hectares to 450.

Stuart said: "In England, the focus must be on planting more productive forestry, without that targets will simply not be met. The benefits of achieving that are clear, and I look forward to the publication of a National Wood Strategy for England in the summer and we are working with the UK Government on a Timber Sector Deal to recognise the enormous environmental and economic benefits that our industry can deliver.

"Without planting far more productive woodland we won't hit the planting targets and lock up more carbon in wood products, and if we don't hit the planting and timber targets then we won't achieve net zero."



Anthony at his final show

A hub of activity

Anthony Geddes shares highlights from the Confor Forest Business Hub at this year's Royal Welsh Show.

The Royal Welsh Show 2023 got off to an explosive start with the leaders of NFU Cymru publicly stating they would be unable to enter into the new Sustainable Farming Scheme in Wales as it stood. What was a relatively quiet Sunday morning welcoming exhibitors swiftly turned into a busy, media-filled day.

The focus of the Show shifted from farming to the question of trees, tree planting and farming businesses - a theme that continued throughout the course of the week.

Following on from the success of last year, we once again welcomed Members

and partner organisations into the Confor Forest Business Hub. The purpose of this space is to showcase the diversity of Welsh forestry and the business who work in it. Back for a second year were Pontrilas Sawmills and Pryor & Rickett Silviculture, joined by a host of new partners including the Institute of Chartered Foresters, Western Bio Energy, SAF Woodland Management, A.W. Jenkinson, the Small Woods Association, NextGen Tree Shelters, and the National Coppice Federation.

Special thanks must be given to Tilhill, John Clegg & Co and Bronwin and Abbey, who sponsored the breakfasts and Tuesday lunch. Without this support we wouldn't be able to run these popular events and draw in not only forester representatives but those from across the farming and environmental sectors too. Wild Charcuterie did a fantastic job of bringing the forest to our

plates for an incredible and varied lunch.

The Confor tent proved to be a popular destination for Members of the Senedd with a welcome delegation from both the Environment, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee and the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

We were also pleased to receive a visit from Julie James MS, Minister for Climate

"WE WERE PLEASED TO RECEIVE A VISIT FROM JULIE JAMES MS, MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO DISCUSS THE RESILIENT SOILS AND TREES PROJECT"

Change who took the time to discuss the resilient soils and trees project being led by Daniel Iddon of SAF Woodland Management.

The seminar program at the show is always packed with interesting presentations, discussions and audience questions and this year did not disappoint. Changing the Paradigm of Forestry proved to be a popular topic for discussion with Ella Smith (Bronwyn & Abbey) Abi Reader (NFU Cymru, Deputy President) and John Healey (Professor of Forest Sciences).

They each presented an alternative perspective for the expansion of forestry and one that butted up against the thinking of some established forest owners and managers. The debate and discussion were lively, enlightening and drew clear conclusions that farmers need good quality expert advice, but also foresters need to listen to the farming objectives and not just assume desired outcomes.

Welsh Government and the design of the Sustainable Farming Scheme will need good quality input from us to make sure they have the evidence to support the 10% target of woodland cover on farm.

Our young forestry professionals did an outstanding job of developing the conversation about what's driving farmers to plant and what's holding them back. The session titled 'Farmers Talking About Trees; Is Forestry Listening?' heard farmers Huw Evans from the Brecon Beacons, and Aled Lewis and Geraint Davies from Bala highlight opportunities for planting and the challenges they've faced with the process, Natural Resource Wales involvement and Welsh Government policy.



Confor Forest Business Hub

“OUR YOUNG FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB OF DEVELOPING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT'S DRIVING FARMERS TO PLANT AND WHAT'S HOLDING THEM BACK.”

Luke Cross and Lamorna Richards (Tilhill) and Sam Rowley (Pryor & Rickett) put together a polished professional session and I look forward to seeing what our upcoming foresters will do next year.



Julie James MS visits the Business Hub



LtR: Iwan Williams (DSHwood), Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Paul Davies MS and Sam Kurtz MS, Sarah Murphy MS, Anthony Geddes and Andrew Sowerby.

This show is for me one of mixed emotions. Having worked for Confor for the last five years and strung up banners alongside my colleagues in desperate heat and pouring rain, this is my last Royal Welsh Show in the role.

It would be remiss of me to end this article without saying the biggest thanks to my colleagues and show team: Richard Hunter and Eliza Hibbins-Cline, Andrew Bufton (A.V. Services) and Iwan Williams (DSHwood). Their patience, support and consistent supply of humour and biscuits has made working at these events a real privilege.

Come join them, the new Confor Wales Manager and our fantastic members next year for RWAS 2024.

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Confor gives thanks to outgoing National Manager for Wales



Anthony Geddes MICFor, Confor's National Manager for Wales, will be moving on to a new role at the end of September.

Formerly a Surveyor at John Clegg & Co, Anthony joined Confor in 2018. Since that time, he has been instrumental in driving the forestry and wood-using sector forward in Wales, acting as a dedicated and strategic force for tangible change in the industry.

In 2022, he achieved status as a Chartered Forester, further cementing his knowledge of and commitment to forestry as a whole.

Stuart Goodall, Confor Chief Executive, said: "Anthony has become the 'voice' of the industry in Wales and in doing so built-up excellent working relations with a number of politicians. He leaves the industry in a stronger place, which I'm very grateful for.

"Everyone at Confor wishes him the very best with his next challenge, and it's great to see that we won't be losing Anthony from the industry."

Several Members who have worked closely with Anthony over the years have extended their thanks for all his contributions to the forestry and timber sector in Wales.

Andrew Sowerby, Director at Pryor & Rickett Silviculture, commented: "In his time serving as Confor's Manager in Wales, Anthony has been crucial in securing over £50 million pounds of additional Welsh Government funding for forestry. He was key to realising a sig-

nificant increase in woodland creation grant in Wales and he has encouraged the sector to the extent that woodland creation last winter was over double the average for the previous 30 years.

"Alongside all these achievements, Anthony has conducted himself with professionalism, generating consensus and building trust across the membership in Wales. His leadership in post is defined by his grasp of the wider economy, the complexities of government and a passion for forestry."

"It has been great to work alongside Anthony over the past few years, where he has shown his commitment to improving the forest industry here in Wales" added Iwan Parry, Regional Manager of Wales and Marches for Tihill. "He will be missed, and we wish him well in his new role."

Robert South, Bronwin & Abbey Operations Director, said: "I would like to thank Anthony for his commitment and hard work setting Wales on a path to a more sustainable future for forestry."

Iwan Lloyd-Williams, Director of DSH Wood, concluded: "Anthony has been a great asset to Confor in Wales and his leadership, energy and wit will be missed by all in the Confor Wales membership. Over the years he has led many a campaign and has also spearheaded the presence Confor have within the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

"We hope to welcome Anthony as a committee Wales member in the not-too-distant future. Diolch Ant."

MEMBER UPDATE

A BUSY CALENDAR IN Q3



Eliza Hibbins-Cline,
Membership
& Marketing
Manager

Firstly, I want to say that it was a pleasure meeting so many of you at the Royal Welsh Show; the Confor Forest Business Hub was buzzing, and it was great to see all the Members taking part!

Speaking of shows, with the Confor Woodland Show approaching in late

September, I'll take this opportunity to remind you that tickets for non-Members are available for purchase through our website. Please note that they are cheaper to buy in advance than on the gate, so save money and get them now!

Confor Members can gain free entry with a current Membership Card. If you can't locate your Card, please don't worry - I will be sending copies of them out shortly. Bear in mind that it is valid for the entry of one person only and any accompanying colleagues will need to purchase their own ticket. If you have queries regarding this policy, please contact me.

For those who can't make the Confor Woodland Show, Confor will also be at the Agroforestry Show in Wiltshire in early September. If you are planning on attending, please pop by and see us!

Finally, a quick note to say that 2023/24 Membership renewals are coming up! During the first week of September, you will be notified of your new subscription rate. Payment will then be due on 1 October 2023. If you have any concerns regarding renewals or your Membership, please contact me.

Contact Eliza on 07918 880285 or email eliza@confor.org.uk

Creating a secure future

Neil Stoddart, Managing Director of Creel Maritime Ltd, was awarded the inaugural Net Zero Award at the Confor Dinner & Awards 2023. We spoke to him about his commitment to ensuring he leaves the industry 'cleaner and greener' than the day he entered it.

What does this recognition of your work mean to you?

Winning the Net Zero Award is a validation of the hard work, dedication, and commitment my team and I have put into making our company a leader in sustainability.

This recognition means a great deal to me personally, as it reinforces our shared vision of creating a secure future for the industry within the net zero goals set by government. It also serves as a motivation to continue pushing boundaries with innovation and driving positive change in the industry.

Has this industry always been where your career was headed?

The extreme end of forest logistics has been on my radar since first using a small floating pier system back in 2004. From an early stage, I recognized the need for sustainable practices in forestry and timber transport.

Combining my passion for innovation with my professional aspirations, I found my earlier role at JST and support from John Scott allowed me to focus my efforts on driving development on sustainability in the business sector from LGP haulage to shipping.

Moving forward, setting up Creel allowed me to make a tangible impact by expanding greener solutions with innovative business strategies, hopefully creating a win-win scenario for the industry.



What's your perspective on the industry's role in achieving net zero?

Well, forestry is the original and best net zero industry, and we need to shout louder about this. It grows both carbon that we can 'lock' and important rural jobs.

Forestry plays a pivotal role in achieving the ambitious goal of 'net zero' emissions. I firmly believe that businesses have a responsibility to lead the way in adopting sustainable practices and transitioning to low-carbon operations. By setting a simple, but really positive example such as switching the standard 'foresters pick up' to run on HVO fuel and implementing other innovative solutions, we can inspire other organisations to follow suit, creating a collective impact that will eventually drive systemic change.

However, we have to temper that by remembering that in many supply chains (such as HGVs) we are trying to change 120 years of development of oil based fuel in 10 years!

What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

While winning the Net Zero award is un-

doubtedly a significant milestone, the biggest achievement so far has been setting up Creel Maritime Ltd and watching it grow with a dedicated team of staff that share my passion for innovation. The backroom work required in running a business is significant so keeping the plates spinning at Creel takes a lot of time and effort.

What comes next for you?

Building upon the momentum of this award, my future plans revolve around further amplifying our sustainability efforts and expanding our impact. I aim to strengthen collaboration with industry peers, and continue to drive industry-wide initiatives to accelerate the adoption of net-zero practices in timber transport, both commercially (i.e. shipping, barging and rail operations) and through the ongoing promotion of technology and innovation.

By continuously pushing the boundaries of what's possible, I strive to promote a more sustainable and resilient industry for future generations.

The Net Zero Award 2023 was sponsored by Tilhill.

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Keeping pace with demand

Members of Confor’s Nursery Producers Group and public sector representatives headed to Delamere in June for a reflection on the sector’s outlook. **Fiona Angier** shares what was discussed.

This meeting encompassed a wide spectrum of forestry nurseries – large and small; wholesale and end grower – from across the UK, working to further the UK nursery industry for the benefit of UK forestry.

Matt Hommell, Chair of the Nursery Producers Group, steered attendees through public sector updates from England, Wales and Scotland, covering planting targets, applications, approvals, staffing and predictability, seed and plant supply, and funding and grant updates.

After the recently published, poorer than expected planting figures across the UK as a whole, the nurseries impressed on public sector colleagues the need for confidence,

stability and earlier intelligence. Increased staff resources across all countries are being implemented to help process increasing planting applications to meet ambitious targets that all governments have signed up to.

The recent seed, capital and innovation funds have seen wide engagement across the sector and a proposed knowledge-sharing event would allow these developments to expand further.

A visit to both the Lobslack and Abbotsmoss sites of Forestry England’s Delamere Nurseries followed the next day. A hectare of glasshouse greeted us at Lobslack, Forestry England’s new cell-grown development. Automation is high on the agenda from cell filling with peat free compost,

seed sowing and topping, irrigation, temperature control, and moving through the glasshouse and on outside to harden off for their second year before being planted out.

Moving on to the open-grown nursery site at Abbotsmoss, we also looked at the mini-plug transplanter and plant grader and sorter investments – next time we’ll hopefully get to see them in action. A wide range of species are being grown at both sites to give our forests the best chance to adapt to the changing climate conditions and tree diseases.

Next year we are looking to be involved in showcasing current and future developments in mechanisation and automation across the nursery sector.



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Scottish Forestry boost support measures and announce industry summit

Following the disappointing confirmation that Scotland has missed its planting targets for last year, Scottish Forestry has announced a raft of new measures to help get back on track.

Scottish Forestry will host a summit with industry leaders and land management bodies later this year to get planting levels back on track.

The move comes alongside a package of new forestry measures designed to improve skills and speed up the woodland creation application process, whilst encouraging more landowners to get trees in the ground.

Figures released in June show that last year, Scotland had created 8,190ha of new woodland out Scotland's national target of 15,000 ha. Scottish Forestry had approved 11,000 ha worth of applications, however 25% of these projects were either delayed or not taken forward by the landowners.

The main reasons for this "slippage", which is higher than in previous years, is thought to be around skills and capacity in the sector.

Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon said: "Scotland has the most ambitious woodland creation targets in the UK and despite the challenges of Brexit, Covid and vicious winter storms, landowners have created around 51,000 hectares of new woodland in the past five years – around 102 million trees.

"This is a tremendous achievement and I know so many organisations and Scottish Forestry have worked flat out to make this happen.

"It is clear that although Scotland is performing way better than the rest of the UK, our planting rates are not meeting our ambitious targets. Action is needed and both the private and public sector must collectively step up and improve its output.

"Scottish Forestry has increased its staffing by 20% and will now invest £1 million to give these new forestry professionals more training to help speed up the woodland creation process. I'm also pleased to see Forestry and Land Scotland continuing to provide many valuable apprenticeships to create more opportunities for our young people to join the industry. We also need the private sector to play its part in providing similar employment and skills training opportunities.

"Creating more woodlands is a national joint effort involving landowners, charities, communities and forestry managers. I want our summit to bring everyone together to agree additional actions we can all take to take our commitments on woodland creation to the next level, ensure that forestry makes its crucial contribution to tackling



climate change, and provide valuable jobs and business opportunities in rural Scotland too."

Scottish Forestry has also published "refreshed" guidance to help communities get more engaged with new forestry schemes that are proposed in their areas.

The purpose of the guidance is to provide greater clarity around the existing engagement and consultation processes during the development and approval of woodland creation schemes, felling permission applications and management plans.

The document outlines why engagement and consultation are important, the processes involved in the development and approval of forestry plans and proposals, roles and responsibilities, how to use the public registers and how complex cases are resolved.

Additionally, actions to boost riparian planting and agroforestry through expanded funding opportunities under the Forestry

Grant Scheme have been announced.

The riparian target area for new planting that is eligible for increased grant support has been expanded to encompass around 175,000ha of land across Scotland. These woodlands will help improve water quality, reduce river temperatures, help with flood management and enhance biodiversity and the wider environment.

The new riparian target maps have been developed with input from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot, Marine Directorate, James Hutton Institute, Tweed Forum and the Riverwoods partnership initiative.

To help increase the rate of agroforestry planting in Scotland, key new measures include a 50% increase in the agroforestry grant rate and funding for biodiversity and fruit and nut trees. Increased flexibility aims to support farmers wishing to integrate trees on their farms, whilst strengthening their business through diversification.



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Mairi Gougeon & Bushcraft Bairns

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Excellence in forests and woods honoured at Scottish ‘Tree Oscars’

A forest for the future, designed to help in the fight against climate change, a young farmer mixing trees and pigs, and a community woodland in a country park were all honoured at the Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards 2023.

Mairi Gougeon & David Carruth



© Julie Broadfoot

The Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards ceremony at this year’s Royal Highland Show was a true celebration of all that is good about Scotland’s forests and woodlands.

Speaking at the event, Executive Director of Scotland’s Finest Woods Jean Nairn said: “Once again, Scotland has excelled itself in producing some world-beating examples of forestry and woodland, not least in the important sphere of climate change.

“It is always pleasing to see such a wide range of entries, from early years through to more seasoned foresters, community groups to farmers... Everyone learned something from each other - all doing things differ-

ently but with the aim of the environment and trees at the heart of it.”

This year’s winner of the prestigious CarbonStore trophy for Climate Change Champion was The Future Forest Company Ltd for Dumyat, near Stirling. They have produced a ‘multi-use forest for the future’, with the main objectives of carbon sequestration, enhancing biodiversity and providing for communities.

There is a total planting area of 184ha with over 340k trees of 18 different species, as well as plans to introduce wildflower meadows to increase biodiversity.

A brilliant example of agroforestry using pigs won David Carruth the Scottish Woodlands Ltd Trophy for Young People for his work at at Brodoclea, North Ayrshire for The Future Forest Company Ltd.

David works with a herd of 163 Mangalitza pigs on the forest floor. He said: “For the pigs, the constant access to fresh foliage means that I only supply them with 3% of their total diet through summer months. They are healthier and happier because

they have large social circles and can constantly engage with the woodland.”

Winner of the Dulverton Flagon, an occasional award given at the judges’ discretion for a successful balance between commercial forestry and competing objectives, was Ardachuple, in a National Scenic Area at the Kyles of Bute, Cowal.

The work saw a productive crop established using sound silviculture. At the same time, they developed biodiversity for the benefit of wildlife and raptors, and enhanced habitat where possible existing native woodlands. The trophy was collected by Bryan Pearce, manager for Tilhill.

The judges said: “Ardachuple was an extremely well designed, planned and implemented scheme which showed how commercial woodland can be established in a very sensitive landscape.”

The winner of the Woodland Trust Scotland Trophy for New Native Woods was Martyn’s Wood, Crannich, Isle of Mull. It was planted in memory of Martyn Osmond, the nephew of owner Robin Sedgwick, who passed away as a result of a tragic accident on in 2009.

It was difficult to have a good tree establishment on infertile, exposed, treeless land. Because of that they used Alder and Poplar, both fast growing, to nurse the



CarbonStore biodiversity survey

more tender stems of Oak, Willow, Rowan, Silver Birch and Hazel. The bulk of the Poplar will be removed once the woodland is fully established.

Meanwhile, Fordyce Primary School near Portsoy in Aberdeenshire took home the Crown Estate Scotland Schools’ Trophy.

The judges summed up the tireless work of the pupils and staff: “The project was multifaceted and included the Fordyce Plantation project where the pupils worked with the local estate in an area of forestry adjacent to the school to identify and map the Badger setts for forest management purposes.

“The pupils also planted a woodland in the school grounds as part of the Queen’s

Green Canopy Project. What shone out was the pupils’ voice in driving the school improvement journey and their investment in and enthusiasm for the projects. A well-deserved winner.”

The winner of the Scottish Forestry Early Years’ Trophy was Bushcraft Bairns at Comrie Croft, Perthshire who created a Forest School setting that nurtures connection with nature through play.

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, who presented the Awards, said: “The Awards are a great opportunity to celebrate our trees and woodlands, and especially, all the inspiring people who care for them. I’d like to congratulate the award winners and everyone who took part.

“This year we’ve had some fantastic entries which shows Scotland really does have a vibrant forestry and woodland sector.

“I’m particularly pleased to see so many children and young people involved in award entries. We need to grow and nurture our future foresters from an early age and attract more young people into the world of forestry. This is an important issue that needs collective public and private action and I’m looking forward to discussing this, and finding solutions, at the forthcoming Scottish Forestry Summit later in the year.”



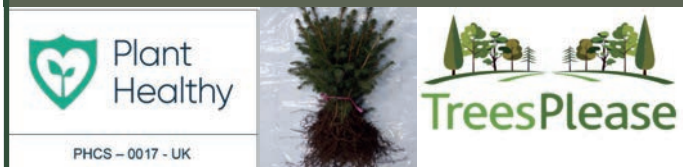
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SKYWARD BOUND FROM HUMBLE ROOTS

Nova Pangaea Technologies has secured major investment from an aviation industry leader to drive forward their work on developing Sustainable Aviation Fuel from wood residues.

Nova Pangaea Technologies is a cleantech company that has created a revolutionary process, converting wood residues and agricultural waste into advanced biofuels and other bio products, some of which are then used to produce Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

Based in Teesside, Nova Pangaea Technologies has gained significant momentum in recent years, securing millions of pounds worth of private investment and public funding, including from the Department of Transport's Green Fuels, Green Skies competition to develop the UK's first SAF production facility utilizing UK wood waste.

Project Speedbird, a collaboration between Nova Pangaea Technologies, British Airways and LanzaJet, supports the development of the UK SAF sector towards deploying innovative SAF production technologies at a commercial scale that can reduce emissions from the aviation sector. The goal

is to produce 100 million litres of sustainable fuel per year from 2025 - enough to power 2,000 flights from London to New York operated by an A350 aircraft.

Sarah Ellerby, Nova Pangaea Technologies CEO, said: "In order to deliver the transport decarbonisation plan, we need to increase and accelerate investment in technologies that will deliver the net zero mandate. We want the UK to be a world leader in SAF and to do this we have to be ambitious and embrace innovation.

"We plan to deliver the first UK based end-to-end sustainable value chain from UK wood waste and residues to SAF. We are not only proud to partner with British Airways and LanzaJet but proud that the UK is leading the charge to decarbonise aviation."

As part of the drive to meet this demand, Nova Pangaea Technologies has taken on the construction of NOVAONE, the UK's first second generation bioethanol





biocarbon, biochemicals, biopolymers, and drop in for biofuels such as SAF. LanzaJet's alcohol-to-jet (ATJ) technology will convert the ethanol to Synthetic Paraffinic Kerosene (SPK) and Synthetic Paraffinic Diesel (SPD) to produce sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel.

REFNOVA also produces the co-product biochar, a natural carbon sink which can be used as soil enhancement.

According to the Wood Recycler's Association, the amount of waste wood processed in the UK increased to 3.98 million tonnes in 2019. Leveraging the technologies from this partnership, NOVAONE will convert wood and non-food agricultural waste from sustainable sources into 102 million litres of SAF per year, recycling the stored carbon as part of the process.

British Airways intends to offtake all SAF produced through Project Speedbird to help power some of its flights. The SAF produced would reduce CO₂ emissions, on a net lifecycle basis, by 230,000 tonnes a year - the equivalent emissions of approximately 26,000 British Airways domestic flights.

IAG has also indicated plans to harness Nova Pangaea Technologies's technology to support the decarbonisation of other airlines in its group. This is part of IAG's investment programme in SAF, which at the end of 2022 amounted to \$865 million in future SAF purchases and investments (based on assumed energy prices), with agreements in place for 250,000 tonnes of SAF.

"This is a transformational milestone, and a real endorsement of the crucial work Nova Pangaea Technologies is doing," Sarah commented. "We are delighted to be adding IAG - one of the foremost names in the aviation industry - to our shareholder register."

"WE PLAN TO DELIVER THE FIRST UK BASED END-TO-END SUSTAINABLE VALUE CHAIN FROM UK WOOD WASTE AND RESIDUES TO SAF."

facility. Work on the secured site in Teesside is due to start by the end of 2023, with bio-fuel production underway by 2025.

The completion of this commercial-scale production plant will support the next step in the commercialisation of Nova Pangaea Technologies' world-leading REFNOVA® technology.

International Airlines Group (IAG), the parent company of Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, Vueling and LEVEL, have recently announced a significant investment to progress the development of NOVAONE as part of their commitment to be net zero by 2050.

Luis Gallego, IAG's CEO, stated: "Sustainable Aviation Fuel is the only realistic option for long haul airlines to decarbonise, which is why investment in this area is so critical.

"At IAG, we have set a goal to use 10% SAF by 2030. And we are not just buying SAF, we are willing to invest in developing the industry, but we need governments in the UK and Europe to act now to encourage further investment."

The UK Government's SAF mandate, which is expected to be introduced from 2025, will require at least 10% jet fuel to be made from sustainable feedstocks by 2030. This represents 1.2 million tonnes of fuel (1.5 billion litres), which equates to more than triple of the current total global supply.

Facilities like NOVAONE will be vital in meeting this demand.

Sarah explained: "Our facility will be the UK's first commercial plant of its kind, and it will play a crucial role in decarbonising the aviation sector, as well as providing local employment opportunities. We are confident of beginning construction later this year and producing second-generation bio-fuels by 2025."

Project Speedbird's integrated technology platform is based on Nova Pangaea Technologies' REFNOVA® process of converting lignocellulosic feedstocks, such as waste wood and biomass, into sustainable



Life in the time of war for Ukraine's National Forestry University

The following is an account from Mr. Mykola Borys PhD, Vice Rector for Educational Work and International Relations, and Ms. Halyna Lesiuk PhD, Head of International Mobility Sector.

Education in wartime

The Russia-Ukraine war has already reached the mark of 500 days at the time of writing. While fierce conflict is taking place at the front, Ukrainian education and science are holding their own battles to maintain the quality of education at the highest possible level and survive over the refugee crisis.

A separate burden and a niche in this process is carried by the Ukrainian National Forestry University (UNFU), the only specialized forestry and woodworking university in Ukraine, which recently established a partnership with the University of Highlands and Islands in Scotland as part of our support initiative.

When the situation allows, students are still being taught on the campus, in other cases, online. The reason is very pragmatic – there is not enough shelter space for all 4,500 students in underground floors of the University. At the same time, educational processes are regularly interrupted due to the power outages and massive de-

struction of Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

Lviv, like other Ukrainian cities, experiences constant attacks by Russian missiles and drones. A deadly strike took place on 6 July just 1,000 meters from the UNFU and

took the lives of 10 city residents, and more than 40 people were injured. Therefore, classes are constantly disrupted by air raid alarms, during which students and faculty members are forced to go to the shelters.



Professor Yuriy Dadak

Real cost to the University

Extra work and any inconveniences with electricity are incomparable to the human losses felt at UNFU. In the first months of the war, Yuriy Dadak, Associate Professor in the Department of Sawing Technologies, Carpentry and Wooden Construction Products, a public intellectual, Ukrainian poet and father of two children, died in battles in the Luhansk region.

Now the list of those who have given their lives in the fight for a free and independent Ukraine includes: Mr. Yuriy Onysyk (died 27 April near Popasna), Mr. Volodymyr-Vasyl Kulyan (died 3 May in the Luhansk region), Mr. Ihor Peron (died 5 May in Siversk), Mr. Ihor Izhyk (died 26 June near Lysychansk), Mr. Andriy Hankevich (died



on 5 July in the Kharkiv region), and Mr. Yuriy Mizunskyi (died 28 November near Bakhmut).

More than 40 UNFU employees and students are currently in the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and are defending the country.

The University actively supports the Army, using various available methods and forms of aid: it transfers humanitarian aid to victims of hostilities, and donates to the needs of the Army. In particular, one day's earnings from each employee are transferred to the Military Hospital every month.

To date, University staff have donated more than €2.5m (UAH).

Consequences for forestry

The Russia-Ukraine war has had a significant impact on Ukrainian forestry: 2.9m hectares of Ukrainian forests have suffered different levels of damage. As of February 2023, 1,776 foresters had been mobilized and 4,300 foresters protect the state.

Due to the war, financial losses from the destruction of real estate objects in the forestry industry amount to €1.2b (UAH), according to a 2022 report from the State Agency of Forest Resources of Ukraine.

How to support the UNFU

Like many other state institutions, UNFU faces financial difficulties. For the functioning of the University and ensuring work in the new winter semester, it is extremely important to have alternative sources of energy for the operation of heating systems, as well as to renew and repair shelters.

Looking to the future, UNFU staff and students see uncertainty, and therefore we ask for help and support in this difficult time. Your partnership, moral and financial support, and assistance with equipment or materials is an extremely important contribution to the support of forestry education and science in Ukraine.

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to the United Kingdom for supporting Ukraine and helping Ukrainian refugees.

Help the Ukrainian National Forestry University by donating at: www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/scottish-school-forestry (look for the Ukraine donation banner on the homepage).

I find it very hard to reconcile the feeling and reality of living in a war zone whilst trying to continue with normal life. I have not experienced anything close to living under constant threat of attack and the complete uncertainty of tomorrow for yourself, family, friends, and way of life.

Following my article about fundraising efforts for the Ukraine National Forestry University in last month's issue, I felt that my words relaying their plight were woefully inadequate and lacking in the real impact of war on your doorstep. So, I asked the staff of the UNFU to answer some questions about life in the time of war. I am sure you will find their account moving.

We are aiming to raise around €85,000 to replace an old heating system, and to provide heat pumps and several solar powered mobile electricity generators. So far, despite efforts, there has only been one offer of a donation. We hope this will change over the coming months, especially as a bitter winter looms for the Ukrainian people.

Please give what you can.
Euan Bowditch, Scottish School of Forestry, UHI Inverness

Recipient: Ukraine National Forestry University (UHI Inverness holding in Trust).

If you have any further queries, please contact Euan Bowditch, Scottish School of Forestry (euan.bowditch.ic@uhi.ac.uk).

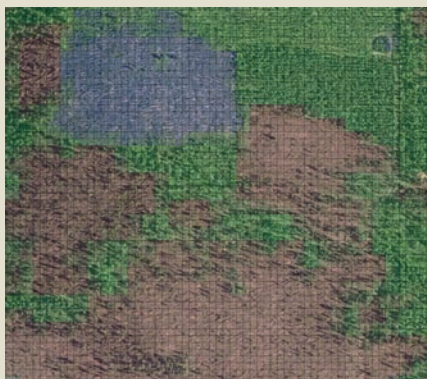
AI-based solution detects early signs of bark beetles

Metsä Group has partnered with CollectiveCrunch, a leading AI company specializing in forestry solutions, to equip forest owners with detailed and timely information about potential threats in forests.

"Bark beetles and storm damages pose significant threats to forest health, resulting in substantial economic and ecological consequences," said Jarkko Lipponen, Co-Founder and CEO of CollectiveCrunch. "Detecting the early signs of bark beetles, and monitoring changes such as storm damage in near real-time, is vital for forest owners to take swift and appropriate actions to mitigate their impact."

In response to this critical need, the joint effort that was initiated in December 2022 has culminated in the development of an advanced AI-based solution that enables early detection of bark beetle outbreaks and near real-time monitoring of storm damages in forest ecosystems.

By analysing a combination of various



data sets, subtle patterns and anomalies associated with bark beetle infestations are identified and forest owners can access precise location-based insights to effectively combat the problem.

Metsä Group Digitalisation Director Olli Leino explained: "Forest owners can now proactively identify areas vulnerable to bark beetle outbreaks, including influences from storm damages. With early

detection, prompt action can be taken, preserving the health and productivity of forests while ensuring sustainable management practices.

"The ability to detect and address these threats efficiently brings significant value to forest owners, safeguarding their investments and contributing to the long-term resilience of forest ecosystems."

Metsä Group is currently finalizing integrations and piloting the product. Customers will be able to access the product through Metsä Group's application starting in August.

"The collaboration between Metsä Group and CollectiveCrunch highlights the power of industry-leading expertise and technological advancements in addressing the pressing challenges faced by the forestry sector," Jarkko concluded. "We are delighted to provide forest owners with a solution that enables them to carry through their commitment to responsible and efficient forest management."

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- Pest Control
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- Timber & Woodfuel
- Tree Health
- Utility Arboriculture
- Vehicles & Plant
- Woodland Management

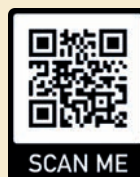


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CONFOR WOODLAND SHOW PREVIEW



SEMINARS

HOMEGROWN TIMBER
ADAPTING FOR CLIMATE
FOREST PLASTICS

DEMONSTRATIONS

FOREST WORKERS ZONE
CHAINSAW CARVING
BRITISH HORSE LOGGERS

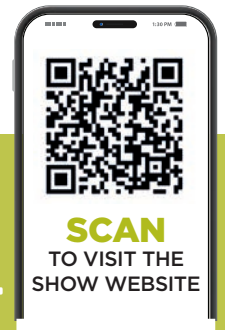
EXHIBITORS

MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS
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 **Confor**
Promoting forestry and wood

**WOODLAND
SHOW** 21-22 SEPTEMBER
2023
BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND





Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

**WOODLAND
SHOW** 21-22 SEPTEMBER
2023
BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND

IT'S BACK BIGGER AND BETTER

Join leaders from the forestry and timber industry for a two-day event focused on the key issues facing the sector, new innovations in machinery and research, and exploring opportunities for future growth.

The Confor Woodland Show is a place for anyone interested in trees and wood to hear about the latest products and services, receive practical advice, network with peers, and enjoy the demos and seminars on offer.

Held this year at the Bath & West Showground on 21-22 September, the Show promises a valuable snapshot of the industry, whether you're a part of it already or are looking to find out more.

TICKETS

Visitor tickets for one or both dates are available to purchase online at the below rates:

- Two Day Ticket (Advance): £18 +VAT
 - Single Day Ticket (Advance): £11.66 +VAT
- Student and group discounts are also available. Visit www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk.

Please be aware that tickets bought at the gate will be subject to higher costs than those prebooked online.

Confor Members are entitled to free en-

try to the Showground. You will be asked for proof of Membership at the gate. A copy of your Confor Digital Membership Card will be sent to you via email prior to the Show.

A Membership Card provides valid entry for the individual cardholder only. Accompanying guests should purchase a ticket to avoid delayed entry.

WHAT'S ON ACROSS THE SHOWGROUND

Visitors can expect to view machine demonstrations, see live chainsaw carving and archery showcases, and enjoy the food and drink selections on offer.

The Forest Workers Zone will be a key feature of the Confor Woodland Show this year, acting as a 'one stop' hive of activity for people working in the practical side of the industry to come for information, advice and networking.

Experts will be holding practical demonstrations on skills such as chainsaw maintenance and tips for safe use, as well as being on hand to answer your questions or discuss any issues you are facing.

FIND US IN THE CONFOR TENT

The Confor tent is set to be the central hub of the Show, bringing together big names and influencers to discuss topics like agroforestry, bioplastics, trends in the forest marketplace, and modern management techniques.

This year's speaker lineup includes representatives from DEFRA, Forest Research, Rainbow Professional, CSX Carbon and more!

Richard Hunter, Technical and Industry Support Manager at Confor, said: "After a four-year break, it's great to have the Confor Woodland Show retaking its place in the sector's calendar. With a move to the Bath & West Showground, we hope that our Members and colleagues from across the industry will agree the Show has returned bigger and better than before."

"Everyone at Confor is excited to welcome old and new faces back in September. We are immensely grateful to our sponsors and exhibitors for making our excellent programme of discussions, panels

Thursday 21 September		Friday 22 September	
TIME	TITLE	TIME	TITLE
9am	Breakfast: Overview of Forest Markets <i>Sponsored by John Clegg & Co.</i>	9am	Breakfast: <i>Sponsored by Anglo American Oil Company</i>
10.15am	Seminar: Biodegradable Products: The importance of standards <i>Rainbow Professional</i>	10am	Seminar: How forestry fits in the LNRS <i>Forestry Commission & DEFRA</i>
12pm	Panel Discussion: England Wood Strategy: Potential Impacts for Homegrown Timber	12pm	Lunch: Sustainable Forestry Supporting Deer Management <i>FSC UK & BASC</i>
1pm	Lunch <i>Sponsored by CSX Carbon</i>	1.15pm	Seminar: Unlocking the value of British wood products <i>Rainbow Professional</i>
2pm	Seminar: Sci-Fi Forest: Propelling an English Oak woodland into 2050 <i>Bifor</i>	2.45pm	Seminar: Climate Risks & Forest Adaptation <i>Forest Research</i>
3pm	Seminar: Forest Data Capture <i>Forest Research</i>		

Schedule of events is subject to change. Please refer to www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk

and demonstrations possible.

"This is an extremely important time for forestry in the UK. The benefits that woodlands, forestry and timber can provide for the economy, for rural communities, and

for the mitigation of climate change present unique challenges and opportunities for the sector. Bringing leaders in the industry together to share knowledge and ideas is now more important than ever."



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Ash Dieback and other tree diseases continue to spread at pace throughout the UK. It is anticipated that up to 97% of all Ash trees could be lost. Ash and other species at risk are widespread in woodlands and roadside edges. This causes a considerable liability risk to landowners associated with falling trees, especially adjacent to footpaths, highways, and property. Early intervention is always advised to minimise cost and maximise value.

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Our highly experienced team offer an industry leading Arboriculture service across the country. We lead the way in compliance and public relations, setting a gold standard through our certification to ISO 45001 Occupational H&S Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.

Euroforest's specialist teams offer a bespoke service, from initial site appraisal through to completion and replanting. We offer a service that puts the landowner centre stage while always minimising costs and maximising any timber revenues. If you wish to find out more, please visit our website or contact us via the below details.



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PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Careers Roadshow has partnered with the Confor Woodland Show to offer 400 free entry tickets for schools, colleges and other organised groups who would like to attend the Show.

This will provide an invaluable experience for classes learning about forestry and nature, students looking to make connections, and young people interested in rural careers. They will have the opportunity to speak with people currently working in the sector and get an idea of the wide range of career paths available.

Groups will be guided around a Show trail by the RFS Education team, ensuring they get to watch some amazing practical demonstrations, see cutting edge machinery in operation and take part in all the best



Photo credit: Scottish School of Forestry

things the Confor Woodland Show has to offer.

Eleanor O'Neill, Confor Communications Manager, said: "Getting people at all levels of education interested in forestry and trees is key to securing the sector's workforce of the future. Confor has been heavily involved in different outreach programs with schools, colleges and universities across the UK for this very reason.

"We're delighted to be able to offer this

opportunity at our Show and thank the RFS for their support."

RFS are offering a maximum of 60 student places per organisation as demand is expected to be high. Tickets are free but a £50 refundable deposit is required to secure bookings.

Visit www.rfs.org.uk/events/confor-woodland-show/ to check eligibility and make enquiries.

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SILENT AUCTION: PLANT A TREE IN '73

Tim Kirk, now of Forest Valuations, has very kindly donated a number of first day stamp covers of British Trees issued 28 February 1973. Confor will be auctioning these pieces of forestry history, with proceeds to go to the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund (FIEPF).

The stamps were commissioned at the request of Brigadier Holmes, the Managing Director (Posts) of the Department of the Environment, to mark 'Tree Planting Year'. He stressed the 'increasing importance which needs to be given to environmental and conservation issues' - a sentiment that still carries weight 50 years on!

We have set up an Online Silent Auction to manage the interest we hope these items will create - you can submit a bid now by scan-



ning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/44VWVWR>.

One of the covers will be on display in the Confor tent. The auction will close at the end of the Confor Woodland Show on Friday 22 September and winners will be announced on our social channels thereafter.

Tim said: "I bought these when I worked on forestry investment with the Economic Forestry Group, later incorporated into Tilling Foresty. Four of us occupied offices opposite the Old Bailey in the City, to drum up new investment money, and marry that with woodlands or new planting land. If

you followed the stamp's advice, you would have made serious money!"

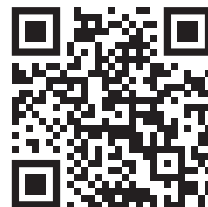
The FIEPF was established as a charity in 1997 for the advancement of education of Confor Members (and their employees) employed in forestry or related industries through the provision of grants for further education or training to improve professional development; as well as to provide assistance in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

The Fund has provided grants of around £10-12k a year since for chainsaw and related arboriculture courses; conference and seminar attendance; MSc and other higher education courses and dissertations and a whole host of other courses and activities.



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MEET THE EXHIBITORS

ATVTRAC

ATVTrac, the renowned agricultural asset tracker with a proven track record in recoveries, is now available to the Arborist industry, providing a discreet yet effective solution to security tracking on all manner of equipment.

Launched over a decade ago, following the parent company's experience and proven track record in motorcycle security, ATVTrac offers a dedicated security product, enabling owners of all types of machinery to have a live link to their machines 24/7 regardless of location.

Bringing updated security functions including GPS, GPRS and Radio Frequency, ATVTrac added new functions, including lone worker security (for machinery such as all-terrain vehicles), battery voltage alerts and service reminders too, offering more than just a security focussed product.

Thanks to the unit's very small physical size, ATVTrac can be installed on virtually all types of machinery, from ATVs to woodchippers, taking a simple 12v feed combined with its own internal battery for smaller machinery applications too.

With location information available via a dedicated app and website 24/7, owners are able to keep a live track of all machinery with the added bonus of support from Securitas, should a machine be stolen and need securing quickly.

And for 2023, ATVTrac now offers a 0% finance package too, allowing users to not only spread the cost of the physical unit, but subscription fees too.

www.atvtrac.co.uk

CPL

CPL offer one of the largest ranges of access equipment for the arborist sector from grounds and park maintenance up to large



forestry projects. Such a vast sector deserves a variety of solutions to ensure safety and efficiency. Therefore, CPL dedicate design and manufacturing resources to ensure there is an option for all interventions.

A firm favourite has always been the Type approved Pick-up mounted platform. The 4x4 Isuzu D-Max and Toyota Hilux base vehicles make sure the operator can gain access no matter the terrain and the 360° boom rotation system ensures access to everything.

Additionally, working closely with Italian design experts AlmaCrawler has ensured that CPL now have a solution for every aspect of green maintenance. Although spider lifts have been a firm favourite within the arborist sector for some time, the B1890 and B1570 Almac designs are somewhat different.

These units are a combination of both a self-propelled wheeled platform and stabilised tracked platforms. The one-of-a-kind Spiderboom technology allows the platform to be moved without stowing. This makes multiple tree/ shrubbery maintenance more efficient which in turn saves time and money.

CPL have also designed a 20m articulated boom mounted on a 3.5t Iveco Daily. This model has a front fitted basket allowing for

precise access to trees overhanging building roofs. The CPL 20m Chassis mount also has a high load capacity: the articulating aerial platforms are designed to carry users (two-person basket) as well as equipment.

With an internal Customer Support team, CPL can offer UK-wide maintenance and support to all businesses using access equipment. The engineering team have had extensive training on not only CPL manufactured products, but all types of equipment. There is also a vast stock of spare parts available for next day delivery within one of the five facilities based in Kettering, Northamptonshire.

<https://cpl-ltd.com/>

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continued on p42

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- Excellent light transmission ensuring optimum growth

SEE US AT CONFOR STAND B5

continued from p40

ys, where most of our short courses take place. Our advanced chainsaw courses run at Hafren Forest, near Llanidloes, and our aerial courses all run at a site near Llan-drindod Wells. We also deliver some basic chainsaw courses near Cowbridge, in South Wales.

The HSE recommend refresher training every three to five years; every course we offer has a refresher option. Trainees can also “upskill” to a higher-level qualification, depending on the qualifications they hold.

We make it easy for people to book on to our courses; you can book direct through our website, via our Event Diary, or you can phone the office to discuss your Training needs, to ensure you book on to the most appropriate courses to you.

<https://mwwmac.co.uk/>

ASPEN FUEL

Founded in 1988, Aspen Alkylate fuel has long been helping to improve operator working conditions, enhance engine performance and reduce the negative impact on the environment - and they're so confident you'll agree that businesses can now trial Aspen Fuel risk-free or get their money back!

Being free from ethanol, benzene and many of the other hazardous hydrocarbons found in traditional pump fuel, Aspen alkylate petrol has been proven to improve equipment performance and reduce the wear on engine components. The cleaner fuel not only brings benefit for your equipment, but significantly reduces pollutants into the atmosphere - better for both people and the planet.

These benefits have seen Aspen become a popular choice with professionals, who also enjoy the convenience of having Aspen delivered in bulk, by the can or drum, directly to their site. For those yet to 'experience the difference', Aspen have introduced a new incentive where, subject to a bulk purchase, operators can trial Aspen with an option to return the unused fuel if they change their mind.

Commenting on the offer, Business Development Manager Axel Hildebrand said:

FULL LIST OF THIS YEAR'S EXHIBITORS

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- Winchester Garden Machinery
- AVT Importers / The Ratchet Shop
- Penny Hydraulics Ltd
- Woodland Trust
- B. Price Mus-Max Specialist Ltd
- Rainbow Professional
- Royal Forestry Society
- John Clegg & Co. LLP
- British Horse Loggers
- Cheviot Trees Ltd
- Wood-Mizer
- Cumberland Platforms
- ATVTrac
- LBK Packaging (NNZ)
- Fountains Forestry
- Roberts Rural
- Euroforest Ltd FTA
- CSX Carbon
- Versalift UK
- Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
- Cabcare
- Arbforest Ltd
- Kawasaki Motors UK Ltd
- Sorbus International Ltd
- Anglo American Oil Company
- Creating Tomorrow's Forests
- Hydraulic Hose Crimpers
- Allswage
- Carbon Compost Company / Exeter Charcoal Co
- Ian Woods Grey Squirrel Control
- Heathwood Nurseries
- MP & KM Golding Ltd
- Geosynthetics LTD
- Wilson Machinery
- Rhizocore
- Sales Point Associates
- Approved Hydraulics Ltd
- Suregreen
- Lister Wilder
- G A Groundcare Ltd
- Harry West Ltd
- Forestry Commission
- Agrecruiting Staff Ltd
- Select Media - Forestry & Energy Review
- Woodsure
- Rainbow Professional
- Green-Tech
- Alfa Access Services
- DJB Machinery Ltd
- Chandlers Farm Machinery
- Ufkes Greentec
- Exac-One Ltd
- Laronkarn Ltd
- MWMAC Ltd
- Forest Workers Zone/
- Say it with wood
- Modul-System Ltd
- Merlo
- Sylvagen
- C & O Tractors
- AJ Mowers
- Eucalyptus Renewables / Devon Forestry Consultants
- Elite Access Repairs Ltd
- Grown Green
- FSC UK
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Don't panic: The trees are still growing

Goldcrest Land & Forestry Group's **Jock Galbraith** MRICS and **Oliver Thompson** MICFor encourage a long-term perspective in the face of heightened caution.

Across all sectors, cautious investment has become the norm in a time of unprecedented change and uncertainty. The forestry market, too, is experiencing a period of adjustment following a previously strong and stable phase.

In mid-2022, the commercial forestry marketplace was characterized by rock-solid stability, bolstered by high confidence, near-zero interest rates, and low inflation. However, recent global conflicts and an unfavourable mini-budget announcement by the shortest-lived Chancellor and PM in UK history have shaken investor confidence.

Subsequently, a series of interest rate rises by the Bank of England aimed at curbing inflation have had further impact. Currently, the base interest rate stands at 5%. In addition, timber prices have been affected by the aftermath of Storm Arwen,

and the reduced activity in the housebuilding and construction sectors.

Staying calm in challenging times

Despite these challenges, forest owners and investors are advised not to overreact. We maintain our excitement and optimism about timber and forestry as an investment. Regardless of economic conditions, timber will continue to grow physically year on year.

Demand is expected to rise as society seeks alternatives to plastic, steel, and concrete. It is indisputable that we will require more raw materials in the future and the UK remains the world's second largest importer of timber. UK forestry serves as an excellent hedge.

Moreover, it is crucial to recognize the third-party benefits that forestry provides, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and natural capital all of which appear

to be of increasing corporate importance and value.

While the forestry market faces challenges and uncertainties, forest owners and investors are encouraged to maintain a balanced perspective and not to overreact. Forestry properties remain promising investments, as the demand for timber is projected to grow steadily, driven by the societal shift away from traditional materials.

Furthermore, the numerous benefits provided by forestry, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and natural capital, should not be overlooked. The snapshot of the forestry market in Scotland, England, and Wales illustrates a mixed landscape with notable sales, varying interest, and ongoing opportunities.

With a prudent approach and a long-term view, the forestry sector can weather the current economic downturn and continue to thrive in the years to come.





SNAPSHOT OF THE FORESTRY MARKET IN SCOTLAND, ENGLAND & WALES

Scotland

The first quarter of 2023 was relatively quiet in terms of commercial forest sales on the open market. Notable large sales, such as Griffin and Glenshira, have both gone to closing dates for offers. Ledard Forest, with a weighted average age of 15 years, is under offer and received multiple competitive bids.

Goldcrest recently introduced five high-quality commercial forests to the market, three in Aberdeenshire and two in Fife, all of which have generated strong early interest. Off-market transactions have also become more common, as some investors prefer purchasing properties without competing at closing dates. The sale of amenity woodlands and land continues to perform well, catering to a growing number of individuals seeking ownership for recreational purposes.

The planting land market in Scotland has cooled in the last 12-18 months as investors are more cautious about potential constraints. However, we are still seeing strong prices and recent transactions suggest quality planting land is worth between £12,000 - £15,000 per hectare.

England & Wales

England and Wales have had their share of notable sales in the marketplace. Goldcrest successfully marketed Longheugh and Raydale, both properties in northern



England with significant volumes of timber, achieving prices exceeding £40,000 and £30,000 per stocked hectare, respectively.

In Wales, numerous commercial properties have been listed, primarily second rotation forests. These properties offer established access and infrastructure for the removal of coniferous timber crops. However, they tend to be more complex, and their younger crops do not provide immediate income.

Bryn Forest near Tregaron is currently under offer at a strong price of over £30,000 per stocked hectare. Another forest in mid/west Wales, Coed Glynclgyrogwen, guided at £1.8 million, is also under offer.

The inclusion of the financial additionality test within the Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) has resulted in the exclu-

sion of “commercial” woodland creation schemes across Great Britain from receiving funding under the WCC and grant aid. This exclusion has particularly affected new woodland creation projects in England and Wales, which lag behind Scotland in both area and number. Nevertheless, some investors are pressing ahead with commercial woodland creation projects.

Notably, a large land sale in the north-east of England transacted in late 2022, exceeding £20,000 per plantable hectare. However in Q1 & Q2 of this year, there is noticeably less market activity as people take a breath and assess.

Amenity woodlands continue to hold their place in the market, attracting purchasers with diverse criteria for ownership. Various agents are introducing small, broadleaved properties to the market, maintaining its relatively buoyant nature.

Market doldrums: The state of timber in volatile times



Oliver Combe, Timber Auctions, shares his view of the timber market at home and beyond.

THE GLOBAL SITUATION

Global supply chains are adapting to the increased volatility of global markets and the restriction on spending power caused by inflation and increased cost of borrowing. This, together with governments looking to adjust economic policies post-Covid and to reflect new geopolitical tensions, has led to reduced global demand and changes in material flows.

In the timber industry, there has been considerable adjustment of processing capacity to match reduced demand and investment in new, more efficient and versatile machinery has become a key focus.

Sawmills in the central European market have been faced with significant challenges like a lack of prime spruce logs as the full impact of environmental factors from the last 10 years (storm damage, beetle damage and wildfires) now coincide with a sudden significant slowdown in both domestic construction activity and export demand.

Global sawn timber prices have fallen steadily this year, to the point where the sale prices are below the cost of production for some producers. Stock inventories have been significantly reduced and it will only take a small increase in demand for prices to start to move forward as we have seen recently in the USA.

Concern over wildfires and better than expected new housing starts have seen US

GLOBAL TURMOIL REMAINS THE ORDER OF THE DAY

- The war in Ukraine has passed its 500th day.
- UN reports that climate change is “out of control” after hottest week on record.
- Global inflation is at 7% (IMF emerging markets and developing economies 8.7%; advanced economies 4.7%).
- Headline inflation has started to fall but core inflation remains high (OECD economic outlet June 2023).
- Chinese economic growth has slowed since April 2023 (*World Bank June 2023 China Economic Update*).

and Canadian timber prices rise by 22% in the month of June.

Global volatility is changing supply chains and has been highlighted by the World Economic Forum as a key area of change.

THE UK OUTLOOK

The UK market is busy adjusting to the ‘cost-of-living’ crisis, which has led to a

noticeable slowdown in demand for wood products at the same time as there is increased availability of imported timber products.

There are signs of things settling down, but two key indicators show that pressure on household income will continue into 2024 and that spending will be constrained.

Whilst energy and fuel prices have steadily fallen over the last six months, food and other goods prices inflation remains high. To counter this, the Bank of England have steadily increased interest rates. Subsequently, we’ve seen sharp increases in the cost of borrowing, whether this is for domestic mortgages or business investment (*see figure 1*).

The end result of reduced demand has been processors looking to balance production to demand. This is achieved by working at reduced hours, focusing on inventory management, and balancing raw material prices with production costs and end product prices.

Recent structural changes in the industry are also influencing the market currently.

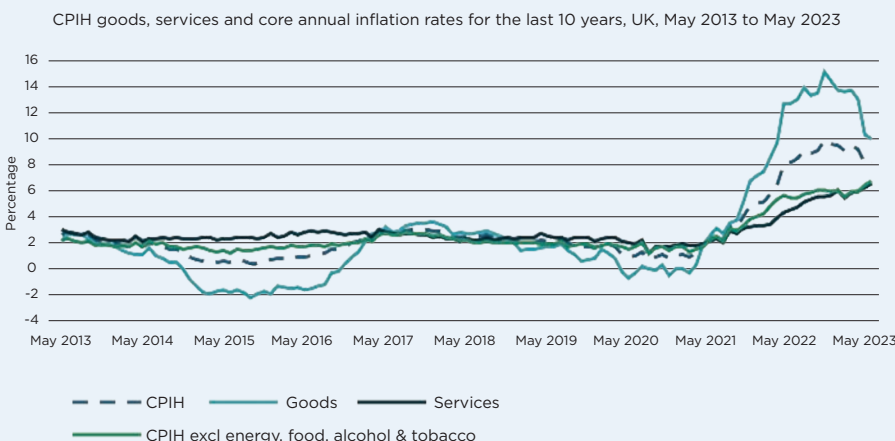
The shakeout from BSW Timber’s takeover of Scott Pallets is still working through the system but there are reports of independent mills now having to find new outlets for side boards and block wood which is creating further pressure on a difficult market.

The closure of BSW’s Southampton mill will reduce demand for softwood logs in the south of England by around 90,000 tonnes per year. Raw material supply in the south of England has been challenging for a number of years and it seems that there is plenty of capacity in the Welsh Marches and east of England to absorb this volume.

On a positive note, BSW’s announcement of a planning application to increase the production capacity at Newbridge on Wye from 200,000m³ of roundwood per year to 360,000m³ is a very welcome move.

This together with Kronospan’s continued development of the Chirk plant where, since 2020, they have been working to double capacity and broaden the product range whilst improving business resilience by adding an OSB line, new storage silos, biomass boilers and process efficiencies as part of a six-year £200 million investment programme.

FIGURE 1: CPIH CORE AND SERVICES INFLATION RATES UP IN MAY 2023 WHILE GOODS INFLATION EASES SLIGHTLY



Source: Consumer price inflation from the Office for National Statistics



UK ROUNDWOOD MARKET

The market is very patchy at the moment but there are a number of key trends emerging:

1. The clear up from Storm Arwen is still underway and FLS have recently offered large volumes of windblow and storm damaged timber to the market. There is some concern that the material will have degraded to the point where it is only suitable for the use as biomass and industrial wood.
2. High volumes are being offered to the market in the east of Scotland.
3. In Scotland, there is a surplus of small roundwood and potentially a shortage of sawlogs due to the crops being offered to the market.
4. In England and Wales supply to the

CHANGING FACE OF GLOBALISATION

100%

expect **changes in the structure of global supply chains** over the next three years

Corporate strategies expected to shape global supply chains over the next three years:

94%

restructuring of supply chains in line with geopolitical faultlines

91%

prioritisation of resilience over efficiency in supply chains

84%

diversification of suppliers

77%

increase focus on environmental sustainability

74%

using AI and other technologies for supply chain optimisation

Source: Chief Economists Outlook, World Economic Forum, May 2023

market remains tight.

5. Buyers are wary about committing to large volumes in an uncertain market.
6. The firewood market remains strong in England.
7. Harvesting operations have run well for the first half of the year.
8. Roadside stocks are building.

The market remains challenging although there are still good prices available for good softwood sawlog crops, especially in the Scottish Borders, England and Wales.

Overall standing prices are showing downward price trends in the north and stable prices in the south and in Wales.

The firewood market remains excellent, there is considerable demand and prices are at an all time high with roadside prices of £85 to £95 being achieved in some areas, and delivered prices of £100 to £120 being reported.

There has been a noticeable upturn in landowners wishing to get diseased ash felled and marketed before it gets too degraded, which is leading to a scarcity of contractors equipped to tackle “estate type work” in some areas. However, there appears to be a movement of squads back from windblow work to more mixed jobs as the softwood market slows down and the focus of activity moves to more varied lower production jobs producing firewood, biofuel and some log material.



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Visitors to forestry land – a balancing act



Kate Donachie, Managing Associate and expert in health and safety law at Brodies LLP, fills us in on legal obligations to the safety of visitors on forestry land in Scotland.

Landowners and occupiers in Scotland can often feel there is a conflict between duties imposed on the one hand by the Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960 and the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the rights granted on the other by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

This can be particularly acute for businesses operating in the forestry sector, where your land is both attractive to visitors, and dangerous because of the work that is carried out there. However, there is a practical way through this issue.

WHAT CAN I BE LIABLE FOR?

The Occupiers Liability (Scotland) Act 1960 imposes civil liability for hazards on your land; if someone is injured and you haven't met your duties, you could be sued for damages. The 1960 Act requires that occupiers take reasonable care to avoid loss or injury.

As a general rule, occupiers aren't liable for harm caused by obvious dangers, for example cliff edges, but can be liable for unexpected hazards, such as obscured ditches or failure to maintain structures like fencing.

The Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 imposes a duty on the employer to do what is reasonably practicable to avoid risks to the health and safety of the pub-

"IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO ENTIRELY EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FROM FORESTRY LAND. HOWEVER, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM CERTAIN AREAS OF YOUR LAND ON A TEMPORARY BASIS."

lic. You cannot be sued for damages just because you have breached this duty, but you could be investigated by the HSE and face criminal prosecution.

The standard of care is higher than that imposed by the 1960 Act but relates only to your business operations, not the natural features of the land.

In the forestry context, you could be in breach of your duties if someone is injured by a falling tree during felling operations, or because they came too close to plants or equipment. The nature of these activities means it can be impossible to maintain safety while allowing unrestricted access over the land.

CAN I PREVENT ACCESS?

It's not possible to entirely exclude the public from forestry land. However, there are exceptions, and it is possible to exclude members of the public from certain areas of your land on a temporary basis.

The 2003 Act does not grant access to land surrounding and associated with non-domestic buildings, structures, works, plant and fixed machinery. This means that the public can be excluded from yards containing machinery and plant and also from areas on the land where there is permanent fixed machinery or plant.

Where work is only carried out from time to time in an area, you can only restrict access to the extent that it is reasonable to do so, to ensure people's safety.

If you do impose temporary restrictions, you should provide information about the areas that are restricted and, if possible, signpost alternative routes. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code advises that, if possible, work that will exclude the public from taking access should be planned for times when public use is likely to be at its lowest.

It is also recommended that access is allowed, if safe, when work has stopped for a temporary period, for example at weekends.

Ultimately, you can only exclude people when, to the extent, and for as long as is

reasonably necessary, to ensure safety. If the work could be done in another way, or at another time which would reduce the amount of land closed off or the period for which it is not accessible, then that alternative approach needs to be taken. In any event, the purpose must be a genuine land management requirement.

YOUR DUTY TO TAKE CARE

You have a duty to take care for the safety of members of the public coming onto your land; the access granted by the 2003 Act does not remove that obligation. However, you are entitled to restrict access, where that is proportionate and necessary to ensure safety.

CONFOR MEMBERS FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION

Confor Members have access to a free legal helpline, administered by Brodies LLP. Get in touch for guidance on key issues that impact forest owners and the forestry sector.

Whether your query is employment law, health & safety, planning, tax or property-related, one of our experts will be happy to give you a free initial consultation. More info: <https://bit.ly/3yPGR11>

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All photos: Creel Maritime Ltd.

New safety guidance for roundwood in ports

Gillian Clark, FISA CEO, explains the motivation behind the recently published FISA 707.

Shipping of roundwood has steadily increased over the last 18 months, heavily impacted by Storm Arwen clear up across Scotland. Ports previously unused for timber for many years are now being utilised for multi-modal shipping of timber.

It was therefore pertinent for FISA to engage with this sector to create a base guidance document that can be referenced by ports, hauliers, and suppliers. 'FISA 707 - Roundwood in Ports' is now under an 18-month review process to allow any further updates to the information from industry feedback.

A recent quayside event emphasised the importance of operational pre-planning when stacking timber in ports. Timber at this port had not been block-stacked correctly as the stanchions had been placed too far apart. Hauliers did not query or move stanchions, resulting in 1.5m gaps between rows.

Additionally, roundwood timber was not squared-off or butted square on a regular interval. Stacks were created in rows outside the reach of the stevedores handling machine. This resulted in a health and safety issue for all port users and the crane operator when loading the vessel.

In addition to safety concerns, this is an

inefficient use of space and time-consuming to rectify during the loading period.

The implications could have been very serious. Highlighting the real need for new safety guidance in this area.

FISA 707 - Roundwood in Ports

The new guidance covers the safe practices to be followed when operating large goods vehicles (LGVs) and 360-degree cranes in a port environment. Whilst the main thrust of this guide relates to timber haulage operations, sections are also appropriate to operations in and around a port environment including discharge of ships and stacking on the quayside.

FISA 707 has guidance for all stages of the process including; loading and unloading quayside; loading and discharging the timber vessel and; load security. There are also sections covering the lorry, the loader, driving within the port, and other general advice.

The guidance in the leaflet can be used, along with the manufacturer's handbook for your vehicle, as part of the risk assessment process to help identify the

controls to put in place when carrying out haulage operations in the operational port.

You must assess the effects that other port operations and weather conditions will have on the haulage activity as well as following this guidance. Operators must have had appropriate training in the operation of their equipment and understand the increased risks of operating in a port environment.



TREES ON FARMS ARE A KEY SOLUTION TO QUESTIONS ON CLIMATE, NATURE AND FARMING

The vital role of agroforestry for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and future food security will be the focus of the UK's first Agroforestry Show.

Trees could be the key to ensuring food production amidst climate change and biodiversity loss, according to farmers and researchers who will be leading the charge at the UK's first Agroforestry Show.

Researchers and farming pioneers have found that agroforestry - combining trees with livestock or crops - can protect animals during heat waves, boost yields, and cut river and air pollution.

These findings will be presented at the Show, alongside new discoveries by farmers on how best to incorporate trees on farms as tools for climate resilience and producing food.

The two-day Agroforestry Show, being organised by the Soil Association and Woodland Trust on 6-7 September, aims to upskill farmers and foresters to expand agroforestry as a key climate, nature and



farming solution across the UK.

The event programme features more than 100 speakers on all aspects of agroforestry and includes research on how trees can prevent river pollution and reduce ammonia emission, plus insights into the benefits of tree shade to reduce heat impacts on livestock.

Farmers will also be sharing both what has worked and what hasn't with tree

planting, and the impacts it has on nature, with new updates on farm research that is being supported by the event organisers.

Confor will be in attendance to represent the forestry sector and support the huge opportunity for innovation between those who produce food and those who work with trees.

ADOPTING TREES CAN HELP FARMS ADAPT

The need to adapt to a rapidly changing climate is becoming a critical concern for farmers. Drier and hotter summers can have devastating effects on both arable and pastoral farms and speakers will reveal how adopting agroforestry can serve as an important buffer in heatwaves as well as in cold and wet conditions.

Shade from trees can prevent heat stress on dairy cows which can lead to lower productivity, higher disease levels and reproduction issues.

Soil Association's Head of Agroforestry Ben Raskin said: "The nation's love of trees and hedgerows shows we intrinsically understand the benefits of trees on farms. But we desperately need more, and this event aims to empower people to make this happen."





KEY SESSIONS AT THE SHOW INCLUDE:

- **Trees, climate change and resilience:** Hear how agroforestry systems are providing farmers greater adaptation benefits in the face of temperature/rainfall trends, more erratic weather, and extreme climatic events.
- **Hedges, Edges and Farmland Trees:** Find out about the practical management of farm native woodlands, hedges, shelter belts and in-field trees to support livestock, crops, nature and for future generations.
- **The Importance of trees in resilient livestock systems:** The presence of trees in livestock systems can act as an important buffer leading to an increase in system resilience. Panellists will cover the major benefits of re-connecting animals with tree-enriched landscapes.
- **Cows & Trees in Silvopasture:** How can tree planting be best designed for shade, shelter, and browse for cattle? What lessons can be learned from existing UK silvopasture systems? Listen to first-hand experience from farmers working with trees and cows.

Book your tickets and find out more about what's happening at the Show: www.agroforestryshow.com.

“Evidence from farming pioneers and researchers shows that agroforestry can deliver resilience for land managers across the country. Trees can protect their farms from extreme weather, make additional income from tree products and build biodiversity into their land.

“But there is a knowledge gap in this country so the Agroforestry Show is aimed at giving farmers and foresters the confidence to have a go by themselves to kick-start a farmer-led tree revolution.”

Helen Chesshire, Lead Farming Advocate at the Woodland Trust, added: “We know bringing more trees into the UK farmed landscapes is essential if we are to meet nature and climate goals. Implementing agroforestry does this whilst also supporting farmers to continue to produce agricultural outputs - a win-win scenario. But with less than 5% the UK agricultural area under agroforestry this show is needed to give farmers and foresters the confidence to implement it at scale.”

Modelling by Cranfield University has shown that establishing silvopastoral systems on 30% of England's grasslands would bring pastoral systems into net zero greenhouse gas production by 2051

continued on p54



continued from p53

(assuming no emission cuts from other farm operations).

There are over 100 expert speakers attending the show, at Eastbrook Farm near Swindon, which is backed by lead sponsor Sainsbury's, to discuss first-hand how they are using trees on their farms.

One such speaker, Dr. Lindsay Whistance, Organic Research Centre Senior Livestock Researcher, has led studies in agroforestry and delegates will be able to see to her discuss in person how ecologically resilient systems support 'a life worth living'.

She commented: "Heat stress on animals is very real. Our Studies have shown that livestock are starting to use shade at around 18oc, indicating an avoidance of mild heat stress at this level. Mild heat stress shouldn't be taken lightly as even this can lead to a three-litre reduction in milk yield, so the importance of cooling farms is very real."

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Though interest in agroforestry has been on the rise across the UK farming and forestry sectors, there is still uncertainty for many as to how to put this concept into practice.



The President and Deputy President of NFU Cymru recently stated that they could not take part in the Welsh Government's proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme following clarification of the 10% tree cover requirement.

Anthony Geddes MICFor, Confor's National Manager for Wales, said: "I understand that Welsh farmers feel the proposed changes in the Sustainable Farming Scheme are not deliverable and won't fit their farms. The evidence for change has not been presented to them, but we can also see that the pressures of climate change are being felt in the rural landscape.

"The future of tree planting is changing too. Silvopasture, agroforestry, and other planting systems can help boost grazing

productivity, animal welfare and improve habitats. Faster growing species can deliver timber and fibre more quickly, creating viable incomes when mixed in with the farm business. The opportunities are countless whilst respecting the need to produce food and support communities.

"Confor stands ready to work directly with Welsh Government and Farming Unions to support managing existing woodlands and creating new woodlands in such a way that it can be supported by all parties."

Eastbrook Farm is managed by Soil Association Chief Executive Helen Browning, who will be giving tours of her seven-year agroforestry project which has been supported by the Woodland Trust.



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Crowdfunding initiative for Rhizophagus breeding programme

Confor urges the private sector to contribute towards research that will combat the rise of bark beetle populations.

Pests are a constant issue for the forestry industry. It generally takes considerable research to find a way to combat them but, thankfully, we have an excellent, ready-made solution for *D. micans*: the predatory beetle *R. grandis*.

It's a success story we all already know about. The breeding and release of *R.g* has undoubtedly slowed the spread of *D.m* across the country, saving the industry potentially hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of timber over the years.

The breeding programme is supported both in physical materials and funding via the public forest estates who account for 25% of the release sites. The other 75% of release sites are within private land ownership. Forest Research, who carry out the only breeding programme, are looking to the private sector to supply £10,000 per year to continue the project.

This is only a quarter of the total cost; we are getting very good value for money. However, the private sector must be willing to contribute to the fund in order to demonstrate that it is still regarded as a priority. Public sector funds are always under pressure so a large contribution from the private sector sends a clear message that this project is needed.

Research both formal and anecdotal has found that, in small woodlands, *R.g* is so effective a predator it reduces the *D.m* population to a level that the *R.g* population then crashes. However, *D.m* can reinfest from extremely low local populations and additional releases of *R.g* are often required. The breeding programme is not just needed to slow to spread but also to prevent *D.m* population build ups behind the front line.

In return for contributions from the private sector, Confor has asked that the breeding programme publish an annual report about its work,



Rhizophagus Grandis beetle

flickr.com/Udo Schmidt under Creative Commons licence).



Forest damaged by Bark Beetles



the spread of *D.m*, and other relevant information (within the bounds of GDPR).

This is a cost that all Spruce growers should be willing to contribute to and therefore Confor has created a crowdfunding page in support of Forest Research. The last time Confor ran a similar collection was in 2016 and it successfully raised three years' worth of funding. We would like to match this achievement and so are aiming to raise £30,000.

By asking all members to contribute, it spreads the burden and reduces the cost considerably. There is no minimum or maximum that can be added to the fund. However, a model based on Confor membership categories would look like this:

- **Level 1:** Small woodland owner / forestry business with turnover under £500k = £45
- **Level 2:** Annual turnover between £500k and £5m / Forestry agents employing 2 = £75
- **Level 3:** Annual turnover greater than £5m / Forestry agents employing 3 or more / large woodland owners = £135
- Timber processing businesses = £450

The GoFundMe page is a suitable method for several reasons. Practicality it can easily handle the transactions at any time of the day (not just office hours), the fees for handling the transactions are lower than Confor can provide, and it is a secure and well-known platform.

From a collection viewpoint it is open to the public and will be suggested to those non-Confor members such as local authorities, farmers and golf courses who have all received *R. grandis* in the past.

The idea of attaching a cost to the release was discussed but discounted, as *D.m* is not a notifiable pest and there are no legal pressures to deal with it. Therefore, a non-commercial woodland owner (such as a agricultural shelterbelt owner or Local Authority) is more likely to refuse or delay the release if a cost is attached, this would allow the *D.m* population to increase and spread further before being dealt with.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the funding page and make a contribution.



Timber interior

A collaborative boost for timber in construction

An online knowledge library designed to promote the use of homegrown timber in the UK built environment has been launched by BE-ST.

Transforming Timber (www.transformingtiber.co.uk) is the output of an Innovate UK-funded project led by Built Environment - Smarter Transformation (BE-ST) in partnership with Ecosystems Technologies, Edinburgh Napier University and University of Edinburgh to accelerate the commercialisation of UK-grown timber products.

The online resource aims to provide the sector with the information and understanding it needs to make homegrown mass timber the material of first choice for specifiers, designers, and contractors.

Making this move could significantly improve the carbon footprint of the UK's buildings, while driving the value of homegrown timber through its use in higher grade, higher value products and applications.

By increasing use in commercial construction and housebuilding, this action can also reduce the UK's reliance on imported timber and create a new manufacturing industry that delivers green jobs and supports a just transition.

Sam Hart, Head of Modern Methods of Construction, BE-ST said: "The launch of Transforming Timber is an important mile-

stone in the move towards more mainstream use of home-grown timber in the UK's offsite manufacturing sector.

"Making the industry aware of natural and renewable resources like UK-grown mass timber, its wide ranging high-value applications, and its transformational potential is the first step in creating a sustainable and resilient built environment and accessing a range of environmental, cost, and economic benefits for the UK."

Supported by a consortium of experts in timber manufacturing and engineering including Confor, Timber Development UK (TDUK) and Scottish Forestry, the Transforming Timber website will provide the sector free-to-access content including information on life cycle analysis, value chain mapping, quality assurance test work, manufacturing compatibility and case studies exploring key areas such as post occupancy evaluation.

The website was officially launched on 12 July as part of an event presenting the findings from the first year of the Forestry Commission funded 'Building from England's Woodlands' project, led by NMITE in partnership with dRMM Architects, Ecosystems Technologies, Edinburgh Napier University,

Professor Robert Hairstans, Director of the Centre for Advanced Timber Technologies at NMITE, commented: "The UK has the renewable resource, internationally recognised expertise and technical capabilities necessary to be at the forefront of a new approach to delivering a sustainable built environment in response to the climate crisis.

"Extensive research and investment - on the part of my team at Edinburgh Napier University and by other experts - has proved that a mass timber approach to construction is very much feasible.

"Transforming Timber simply demonstrates this, while providing the sector with the tools it needs to unlock the potential of UK-grown mass timber and make the future of offsite manufacturing a circular and sustainable one."

David Hopkins, TDUK Chief Executive, added: "The UK needs to increase the use of timber in construction to achieve its net zero targets by strengthening timber supply chains and boosting the use of homegrown timber.

"The Transforming Timber platform adds to this knowledge base, and we are delighted to be a collaborating partner for this initiative as we collectively try to increase the level of timber used for built environment delivery in buildings which not only store carbon but have minimal operational energy performance requirements whilst creating places where people want to live and work."

"THE LAUNCH OF TRANSFORMING TIMBER IS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE MOVE TOWARDS MORE MAINSTREAM USE OF HOME-GROWN TIMBER IN THE UK'S OFFSITE MANUFACTURING SECTOR."

Makita

XGT

40V LITHIUM max

XGT 40V CHAINSAW RANGE

40V MAX XGT BRUSHLESS CHAINSAWS

UC016G: Chain Oil Capacity 260ml, Chain Gauge 0.043", Chain Pitch 0.325", Chain Speed 0-25.5m/sec, Bar Size 40cm, Maximum Output 1,600w, Weight 6.2-7.5kg. Tool-less change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC015G: Chain Oil Capacity 260ml, Chain Gauge 0.043", Chain Pitch 0.325", Chain Speed 0-25.5m/sec, Bar Size 35cm, Maximum Output 1,600w, Weight 6.2-7.5kg. Tool-less change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC014G: Chain Oil Capacity 260ml, Chain Gauge 0.043", Chain Pitch 0.325", Chain Speed 0-25.5m/sec, Bar Size 30cm, Maximum Output 1,600w, Weight 6.2-7.5kg. Tool-less change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC011G: Chain Oil Capacity 260ml, Chain Gauge 0.043", Chain Pitch 0.325", Chain Speed 0-25.5m/sec, Bar Size 35cm, Maximum Output 1,600w, Weight 6.1-7.4kg. Captive nut change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC006G: Chain Oil Capacity 200ml, Chain Gauge 0.050", Chain Pitch 1/4", Chain Speed 0-24.8 m/sec, Bar Size 25cm carving bar, Maximum Output 1,400w, Weight 3.8-4.7kg. Captive nut change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC003G: Chain Oil Capacity 200ml, Chain Gauge 0.050", Chain Pitch 1/4", Chain Speed 0-24.8 m/sec, Bar Size 30cm, Maximum Output 1,400w, Weight 3.8-4.7kg. Captive nut change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.

UC002G: Chain Oil Capacity 200ml, Chain Gauge 0.050", Chain Pitch 1/4", Chain Speed 0-24.8 m/sec, Bar Size 25cm, Maximum Output 1,400w, Weight 3.8-4.7kg. Captive nut change and adjustment of saw chain, IPX4 rated.



UC016G
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Lantra announces new members to Board of Trustees

Lantra, the independent accreditation body, announced the appointment of three new Trustees at this year's Royal Welsh Show.

After more than 40 years helping land-based and environment businesses to attract talent and develop workforce skills, Lantra has built a strong reputation for quality and for its commitment to the sector. As a not-for-profit charity, the Board of Trustees is a vital part of the organisation, instrumental in setting the strategic direction and overseeing performance.

Trefor Owens is an experienced chartered forester and senior leader in sustainable land management. He has worked extensively with land-based industry committees and advisory boards for organisations such as Forestry and Land Scotland, DEFRA and Welsh Government. Trefor's expertise in workforce skills planning and his passion for woodland and the natural environment will be invaluable.

Euryn Jones brings a wealth of experience in agricultural education, where he has worked as both an Agricultural Lecturer and Farms Director. His current role as a Regional Agricultural Director for HSBC sees him working closely with farmers to develop and grow their businesses. Euryn's experience in education and his



grassroots appreciation of farming challenges chime perfectly with Lantra's business objectives.

Helen Taylor is a committee advisor and Chartered Surveyor with governance experience across the UK's public and private sectors. Her experience in compliance and regulation, governance and risk, and stakeholder engagement will all be critical skills as the Lantra Board of Trustees prepares to help the senior management team achieve its short and longer-term goals.

David Llewelyn, who took over as Lan-

tra Chair of Trustees in 2022, commented: "Lantra works tirelessly to address the needs of the land-based and environment sector, anyone working in the sector will appreciate these needs are ever changing and often complex.

"It is critical that we have the breadth of skills and experience on the board to guide and support the staff team in delivering the charity's purpose. I'm confident that the new trustees joining us bring expertise and knowledge to complement our existing members and contribute to Lantra's continued success."

Scottish local government data freely available

The Improvement Service (IS) has launched open access to the Spatial Hub, a local government data resource covering the whole of Scotland and containing a wide range of information val-

uable to organisations and companies with an interest in forestry and land use.

The Spatial Hub collects data directly from local authorities and other partner organisations, which is then compiled and published in Scotland-wide datasets for others to use.

Until now, these datasets were only available to local government, public sector organisations and academics, but new funding from the Scottish Government has allowed IS to make this information available to everyone.

Several Spatial Hub datasets include trees and land cover and can be used to assess what opportunities and protections are in place for such important landscape features.

Ron Wilkinson, IS Spatial Information Services Programme Manager, said: "This is the first time in the UK that such a significant resource is being made available as open data; open for anyone to access, use and share as they see fit.

"The availability of these Spatial Hub datasets will save organisations time and money, as they will no longer need to source this data from individual local authorities, while also helping to standardise and maintain the quality of the data used across a wide variety of sectors.

"Spatial Hub datasets cover everything from environment and pollution, energy,

and health and care services to community and society, planning, and roads and transport plus many more, and will be enormously valuable to those with an interest in forestry and land-use issues."

These datasets can be used in a variety of ways by a range of organisations and individuals. They are regularly updated and can be accessed through the dedicated online platform which has search and download functions.

The IS also works closely with Ordnance Survey (OS), who have played a key role in the development of the Spatial Hub over the last seven years.

Dominic Cuthbert, OS Strategic Development Manager added: "OS has been a key partner of the Improvement Service for over 15 years. We have provided specialist knowledge and insight to support IS create and release accurate datasets that are critical for validation and quality assurance across the various functions of government.

"We are excited to support the launch of this Local Government open data initiative that will not only enable access to a single source of geospatial datasets but improve efficiencies for customers and support critical developments across the planning and environmental communities."

Visit www.data.spatialhub.scot to review the information available.





Tree shelter recycling scheme grows

The immediate success of Tubex's nationwide network of drop-off hubs for the collection and recycling of used tree shelters has been underlined with the announcement of further locations.

Taking the current total to 17, the latest hubs are situated around the UK. Each offers a place where foresters, landowners, landscapers and farmers can bring tree shelters at end-of-life and drop them off free of charge.

Tubex reported that many of the drop-off dates announced have filled up, with hundreds of thousands of shelters already collected. As a result, the total of shelters collected is already double the volume collected in 2022.

The expansion of the hub network also extends the programme's partnership to Maydencroft, Green-tech and British Hardwood Tree Nursey, who have set up hubs, to join those already launched by Tubex's parent company Berry Global - Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, National Trust and Tillhill.

Richard Gill, Sales Director at Green-tech, said: "It's great to have already had our first collection after being named as an Official Drop-off Hub for the Tubex Collection & Recycling Scheme, and I'm sure this is the first of many for us! Green-tech are proud to be a part of this programme which further reinforces our commitment to the future of the landscaping industry and our environment."

Green-tech's Trade Centre at Rabbit Hill Business Park took its first delivery from the North York Moors National Park's woodland team at the end of July.

Bill Shaw, Woodland Operations Supervisor at the North York Moors National Park Authority, commented: "We are delighted to be getting involved in the Tubex Collection & Recycling Scheme, this won't be the last time we visit the Green-tech Trade Centre."



Oak Processionary Moth identified in Derbyshire

Members of the public are being asked to remain vigilant after a number of oak trees in the Long Eaton area of Derbyshire were confirmed to be infested with the tree pest Oak Processionary Moth (OPM).

The trees are currently being treated and extensive surveillance work is ongoing to further investigate the findings and to direct appropriate control measures to prevent their potential spread.

Swift and robust action is being taken to identify the source of the outbreak, which has happened outside of OPM's established area in London and some neighbouring counties. This includes implementing a rigorous management programme with the aim of eradicating the pest from this area, and extensively monitoring sites in the surrounding area through a programme of ground surveys and pheromone trapping.

Andrew Hoppit, OPM Project Manager at the Forestry Commission, said: "Following extensive surveillance, our experts have identified the presence of Oak Processionary Moth on several oak trees in Derbyshire.

"We are responding to the incident through our wider environment surveillance and trapping programme and are taking robust action to eradicate the pest. We encourage all members of the public in the Derbyshire area to remain vigilant for the pest and report any sightings to the Forestry Commission."

Members of the public in

Long Eaton and surrounding areas across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire are urged to be especially vigilant and check for any signs of their own oak trees being infested, including those recently planted.

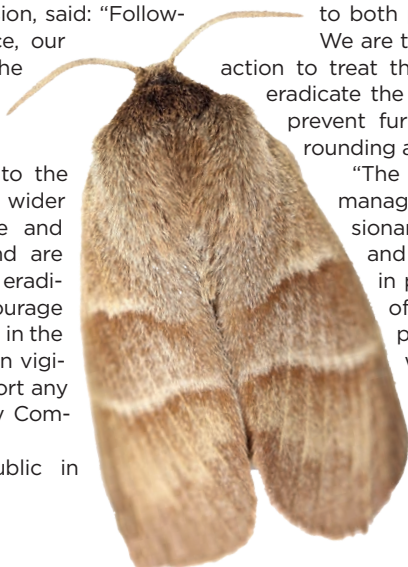
OPM caterpillars have black heads and grey bodies covered in long white hairs, and they usually move nose-to-tail in a procession. OPM nests are typically dome or teardrop-shaped, averaging the size of a tennis ball. They are white when fresh, but soon become discoloured and brown.

Sightings of the pest should be immediately reported via the TreeAlert portal. Owners and managers of oak trees can support the fight in tackling this pest by giving access to Forestry Commission surveyors to assess whether their trees are infested.

Nicola Spence, UK Chief Plant Health Officer, said: "Oak Processionary Moth is an insect pest of oak trees and poses a threat to both plant and human health.

We are taking swift and effective action to treat the infested trees and to eradicate the pest from this area and prevent further spread in the surrounding area.

"The Government takes the management of Oak Processionary Moth very seriously and has a robust programme in place to reduce the level of pest prevalence and protect oak resource, whilst supporting landowners to manage the risks associated with OPM in the areas where it has been identified."





STILL A PLACE FOR THE QUAD BIKE



Despite the rise in popularity of ATVs in field and forest, quad bikes have a unique offering in rider mobility that keeps them on the market. **Andrew Smith** shares thoughts on what's available.

We saw another interest rate rise at the end of June; the latest attempt to reduce the stubbornly high rate of inflation. What this means for the consumer is that the cost of borrowing is higher. I'm sure many readers will have noticed this with items such as mortgages.

When purchasing items of plant and equipment, the double whammy is that rising production costs have made items dearer in the first place, coupled with more expensive borrowing!

It is not just private households who are feeling the pinch. This perfect storm has led to many buyers re-evaluating their spending. A good example is the increasing demand for good quality, second-hand machinery (it doesn't stay on the dealer's forecourt for long) with buyers choosing quality second hand over new machines. Some may view this as a risky strategy, but the reality is a new broom doesn't always sweep clean.

Other buyers are holding onto equipment for longer rather than trading them in, but this too comes with problems because every month that goes by, the finan-

cial gap between the trade-in machine and the new is getting bigger. Many businesses are instead opting to replace some of their smaller items of plant instead.

In the last edition of FTN, we looked at some of the sit-in ATVs available on the UK market, noting that many organisations are purchasing them in preference to the traditional sit-astride quad bike. However, the reality is that there is still a place for the quad bike.

They are very different machines to the sit-in style and very capable but also require a different style of driving, with the rider being described as 'active' - that is they move about on the saddle to maintain traction and stability. Tasks which we frequently use quad bikes for include leading out plants on a planting site; chemical spraying; flailing along footpaths and bridleways, as well as moving people and equipment to remote areas including, for example, rangers on deer control duties.

Small holders and in particular horse owners often purchase a quad bike in preference to a small tractor for cost and manoeuvrability. Indeed, a small industry has built up supplying equipment to



make quad bikes more usable for a range of tasks.

One of the main advantages of a sit-astride ATV is that it is relatively easy to transport from site to site, requiring only a small unbraked trailer. Often these trailers can then be used behind the quad bike too. Disadvantages include quad bikes being attractive to thieves so please do take time to invest in security measures, be those physical measures such as locked sheds, wheel clamps etc. or more sophisticated measures such as trackers.

Finally let's talk about safety. I'm sure



lic disc (ATVs fitted with IRS).

All models feature selectable two- or four-wheel drive. Towing capacity varies between 384kg for the entry level 420 and up to 599kg for the IRS PS and DCT IRS PS 520 models. Finally, for those who need it, some models are available as green variants!

SUZUKI

Suzuki also offer two main models in their utility ATV range: the Kingquad 500 and 750, offering 493cc and 722cc respectively, with an entry level 500 available without power steering. Both models feature a continuously variable transmission (CVT), which has two forward ranges and a reverse range and independent rear suspension.

All models feature 30kg and 60kg front and rear rack carrying capacity, plus a 600kg towing capacity and a 17.5 litre fuel tank capacity. Amazingly, the Kingquad 750 weighs only 5kg heavier than the 500 model for what should, in theory, be a much bigger ATV. For example, the length, weight and seat height of both models is identical!

Both models feature selectable two- or four-wheel drive, and the latter also locks the front differential. Braking is provided by traditional hydraulic brakes on the front, and a sealed multi disc system on the rear axle. The Kingquad 500 and 750 models are available in four different colours.

POLARIS

Some of you may remember the Polaris ATVs of 20ish years ago, the D-Bat models and their somewhat dubious reputation! It is fair to say that none of this applies to models in 2023. Utility models include the

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the majority of readers will know someone who has either come off a quad bike or overturned it. It may even be the reader themselves!

Every year the HSE data is sadly riddled with people being either seriously injured or killed in quad bike accidents. Contributing factors often include a lack of PPE or lone working without a proper system in place. Most manufacturers offer a one-day 'Easy Rider' course as part of the purchase of a new ATV. Please make use of it. Even for the most experienced of riders, a refresher course is a useful thing to go on and may even save a life.

As for PPE, helmet, gloves, appropriate footwear, Hi-Viz and long sleeves should all be worn.

This month we're going to look at utility ATVs on the UK market, namely from manufacturers who were at the recent Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh.

HONDA

In my part of the world, Honda ATVs are definitely the weapon of choice for farm or forestry work – new or second-hand. Their engines are renowned, and you'll find them

in lots of items of small plant.

Honda offer two main models of sit-astride ATV: the Fourtrax 420 and the Foreman 520. Within these there are several variations such as the 420, 420 PS, the 420 DCT PS and the 420 DCT IRS PS, whilst the Foreman 520 is available in PS, IRS PS and DCT IRS PS guises!

To translate, power steering (PS) is much as the name suggests. Independent rear suspension (IRS) is, rather than having a monoshock working on the entire rear axle, a suspension unit to each rear wheel and offers a better ride for the operator while maintaining contact with the ground for both rear wheels. Dual clutch transmission (DCT) has been used on Honda's motorcycle range for a number of years and can be used fully automatically or as an electric shift ensuring the operator stays in control. Traditional style transmissions are used throughout.

Engine sizes of 420cc and 518cc (both four stroke petrol) for the two quads, Honda has never felt the need to offer a large (e.g., 700cc) ATV. Stopping is provided by means of hydraulic brakes on the front and either a mechanical drum or single hydrau-

MACHINERY

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Sportsman 570 and 1000 models and also the X2 570 and 6x6 570 models.

At 952cc, the twin cylinder Sportsman 1000 is one of the largest utility quads on the market in the UK. It features an automatic transmission delivered to the ground by either two- or four-wheel drive. Independent rear suspension and disc brakes all round are also important features alongside a 680kg towing capacity.

The Sportsman 570 is available in several guises, but features similar specifications to the 1000 model, albeit with a modest 567cc single cylinder. Independent suspension and disc brakes all round are other similarities. Front and rear rack capacities are 41 and 82kg respectively, considerably more than you may be used to. The X2 variant merely accommodates the carrying of a passenger, legitimately.

Finally, the Sportsman 6x6 570 is something unique on the market. A sit astride ATV but with six-wheel drive and a large load platform behind the operator. Not everyone will need one of these, but they are finding popularity locally with a number of fencing contractors. With similar features to the standard 570 (e.g. engine size, independent suspension all round, disc brakes all round) the big selling factor is the rear load bed with an impressive 363kg carrying capacity, and a seating arrangement suitable for a passenger.

CF MOTO

A relatively new name on the block, CF MOTO are gaining popularity. Sheep fans who follow Cammy Wilson aka The Sheep



Game may well have seen him using his CFORCE 625 model up until recently.

Within their ATV range there are five model ranges available - a 450, 520, 625, 850 and 1000 which feature engine sizes of 400, 495, 580, 800 and 963cc respectively. Without doubt, one of the key selling points of these machines is their price tag with the entry level 450 model coming in at £4,665+VAT.

However, they are fairly well spec'd and well worth a look. For example, the 450 Basic features a CVT transmission, independent suspension front and rear, and selectable two- and four-wheel drive. Finally, an 802kg towing capacity makes for impressive reading! The 450 comes already homologated ready for road use, it just needs to be registered. The 520 has similarly impressive features along with the addition of an in-built 1,134kg capacity winch.

The CF MOTO range comes with a full two-year parts and labour warranty for peace of mind, similar to those provided by other manufacturers.

CAN-AM

Though perhaps in the past the CAN-AM range of quads was seen as being for recreational use only, the Outlander range certainly dispels that myth. The 450 and 570 models are available in a number of configurations with increasing sophistication. For example, from the XU model onwards the ATVs are fitted with ABS (anti-lock brake system).

The 450 and 570T models are relatively basic, with a workman like specification. They feature a CVT transmission with a high/low and reverse range, selectable two- and four-wheel drive with an automatically locking front differential, fully independent suspension, front disc brakes, and a single rear disc brake.

The ATVs are rated for towing up to 750kg with a braked trailer, or 54kg or 109kg front and rear rack capacities. Other models in the range feature power steering and an integrated front winch. Again, like other manufacturers mentioned, CAN-AM offers a two-year warranty.

Komatsu Forest developing sustainable machines



Komatsu Forest is further investing in the future by building a completely new development department focused on the electrification of forest machines. With this initiative, the company wants to take the lead in the forest machinery industry and help reduce net carbon dioxide emissions from its forest machines.

"We have a production facility that is close to carbon neutral, and we are working with the same goal-awareness to reduce CO₂ emissions from the use of our forest machines. The vision is to reach a 'net zero emission worksite,'" said Erik Nilsson, Chief Technology Officer at Komatsu Forest.

Peter Hasselryd, VP Marketing & Sales, added: "We see an increasing interest in our customers and partners in reducing the environmental impact of forest machines. We aim to reduce CO₂ emissions from our products by 50% by 2030 and expect to have something on the market before then."

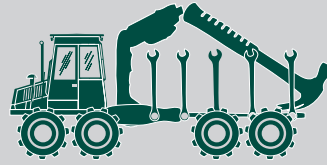
The new development department will be expanded gradually, and the company are looking for people with several different types of competencies.

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WHAT MAKES A GOOD SPORT?



Eamonn Wall gets behind the wheel of the new Range Rover Sport – the successor to one of the most profitable cars in the world

When Ford owned Land Rover, they reported that the Mark 1 Range Rover Sport was their most profitable car within their vast empire. That was launched in 2005 and the hugely successful Mk2 Range Rover Sport came along a decade later, boasting a design based on its aluminium Mk4 Range Rover big brother.

Last year, the all new Mk3 Range Rover Sport hit the market, again taking inspiration from the bigger Mk5 Range Rover. Both were designed in tandem on a new and very expensive underpinnings referred

to as Flex MLA – Flexible Modular Longitudinal Architecture.

This MLA chassis has been designed to future proof the firm by being able accommodate a range of power plants; namely internal combustion petrol and diesel engines (often now referred to as ICE), plug in electric hybrids (PHEVs), and pure electric (EVs).

The new Sport is much more similar to its big brother than the previous model, even if it doesn't look like that from the outside. Their interiors are most similar: slightly lower seating, a raised centre console, and three spoke steering wheel are

the only visible differences. The front windscreen is more sloped on the Sport too.

The Sport is 4,946mm long, 2,209mm wide and 1,820mm tall. It has a bigger boot than its brother at 835 litres and 1,860 litres with seats flat. Prices for the Sport start at £84k.

The new Range Rover is available with both diesel and petrol engines, petrol hybrids, and a fully electric model available is due in 2024. Six-cylinder diesel and petrol engines are Land Rovers own Ingenium mild hybrid three-litre straights sixes assembled in Wolverhampton. Interestingly, the PHEVs are based on the petrol versions and not the diesels, I suppose for anti-soot legislation reasons in urban areas.

The model tested here, an Autobiography HSE, is fitted with the more powerful 350D engine (a 300D version is also available). All engines in the new Sport use the well-proven and continuously developed German ZF eight-speed automatic gearbox mated to twin-speed transmission, offering low range gears. This is linked to Land Rover's new intelligent All-Wheel Drive (iAWD) system which decouples the front axle under certain conditions such as cruising down a motorway, with the intention of saving fuel.

The new Sport is slightly larger than the model it replaced and a lot heavier weighing in at 2,390kg. It has a maximum off-road ground clearance of 281mm, with a normal clearance of 200mm.

This diesel version comes with an 80-





litre fuel tank and can tow 3,500kg whereas the PHEV petrol versions have 90 litres, slightly less ground clearance, and can only tow 3,000kg. The PHEV can do 70 miles on battery power alone, which is very good for a PHEV, but it's a pity the larger tank is not fitted to diesels.

The new car is 15% more aerodynamic than its predecessor and should average 35mpg. I got 32mpg but it was awful wet weather and the car only had 200 miles on the clock. The real world official mpg is 38mpg, but that perhaps seems a bit adrift from everyday reality. Also, the more power one has the faster you tend to go, thus using up more fuel, and these official figures are based on not exceeding 70mph.

The 350D is a fast motor featuring 350bhp and 700 Newton metres torque providing a swift 0-60mph in 5.9 seconds. The 300D with its 300bhp and 650Nm of torque does it in a still fast 6.6 seconds. Top speeds are 145mph and 135mph respectively for the odd occasion that one might want to sprint across Germany!

In comparison, the P400 petrol version does it in 5.4 secs, 150 mph and 28mpg. All plenty fast enough and all that power is useful for towing too. It is not surprising so many second-hand Sports end up in the forestry world.

The air suspension is very useful in raising the vehicle for off-road work and the new larger boot is a bonus too. The AWD system ensures permanent 4WD is in place when off-roading by selecting the correct



mode on the dashboard-located pop-up rotary controller. It is also automatically in place when pulling away from a standstill, in cold weather and at speeds above 100mph.

Towing is made easier with Advanced Tow Assist to aid reversing manoeuvres. The driver is able to steer a trailer into a space just using the rotary controller on the centre console, guided by trajectory lines displayed on the Pivi Pro screen via the rear camera. Hitch Assist and Trailer Stability control make it easier to hitch a trailer and get driving with confidence, while the electrically deployable tow bar

neatly stows out of sight at the touch of a button.

Handling on- and off-road is aided by various systems including Terrain Response 2, dynamic air suspension, Dynamic Response Pro, brake torque vectoring, decoupling roll bars, electronic active differential and adaptive off-road cruise control.

The interior ambiance is aided by active noise cancellation through the speakers and just general attention to detail. Cabin air has a Purification Pro system, and the seats are beautifully sculpted. You can recharge your phone by just leaving on a wee

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continued from p65

shelf on the dashboard. Overall, it is a very nice place to be. It is a little understated but works well.

The headlights are very powerful LEDs and rear lights are special red. Braking has front flaps that allow cooling air when required but stay closed otherwise to save fuel. Wave Mode locks the driveline, sets ride height at maximum, and closes all cabin vents to allow wading in up to 900mm, which is the same for the Defender, Discov-

ery 5 and RR Vogue.

The styling of the new Range Rover Sport is a natural progression of the previous model. The side silhouette is very familiar, though the front is a bit mixed up. The grille and lights look great but the below pumper seems a bit fussy, too many horizontal features. The rear design is a major departure for the Sport with its Range Rover Velar and smaller Evoque thin horizontal lights and writing. Most folk are not that impressed with the rear styling, and I agree.

My other dislike is those silly pop-out door handles which announce to the world that your car has been left unlocked. When popped out they display a key hole beneath which looks cheap - not what you want to see every time you open your £100k car! The handles look neat when moving but clumsy when parked before you lock up, so really a design flaw.

Driving it is fantastic. It's quiet, fast, sounds good, has tight handling, and gives a superb view of the road ahead. Great stereo and my wife enjoyed the massage seats. The bigger boot is welcome, and it's well-lit too. The dash is easy to use and the

instrumentation very clear and concise, though I still reckon the Discovery 4 dials are the best ones out there!

People often ask me what has been the best car I've ever tested. The answer for a long time has always been the Mark 2 Range Rover Sport for its fantastic combination of off-road ability, brilliant 300bhp V6 diesel engine (which became a straight six later on), lovely styling, interesting lights and a great cabin. On a number of occasions, I have nearly bought one.

Will the new Range Rover Sport be my favourite from now on? Probably not. It is a little too big and, though it is a fantastic car to drive, you feel a little disconnected. Plus, I really don't like the rear end or those pop-out door handles. The new Range Rover Vogue may well steal the accolade with its superb styling alone.

The Sport is a great car that has a few minor drawbacks. They will put some folk off, but plenty more are queuing up to buy one and I don't blame them.

Eamonn Wall BSc MSc FICFor is a forestry and arboricultural consultant, and investment Director with Eamonn Wall & Co Woodland Design & Management.

Maker of UK's first zero-emission HGV identifies plan to accelerate sector transition

HVS (Hydrogen Vehicle Systems), an innovator in zero-emission commercial vehicles, has unveiled a five-point plan outlining the key steps required to realise the widespread adoption of hydrogen-powered HGVs and a call to action to drive the transition to a hydrogen economy.

The company has called for clarity on detailed timescales, supported by policy incentives to encourage early adoption of vehicles. This includes changes to legislation, green hydrogen production subsidies and commitments to infrastructure development, as well as support for workforce training.

HVS' roadmap aims to propel the industry forward, enabling more rapid decarbonisation of the goods delivery sector, and helping the UK to meet its commitment to achieving net-zero targets. It focuses on five key areas for development:

- 1. Incentives** - Governments must implement a package of support measures that provide operators with incentives and offer clarity on actual costs to generate confidence to invest in new fleets.
- 2. Legislation and regulatory framework changes** - Governments and local authorities must provide clear commitments to supporting the transition by setting ambitious carbon reduction tar-



gets and adopting sector-specific goals.

- 3. Green hydrogen production** - HVS calls on the UK Government to ramp up support for the increased production of renewable energy and channel these efforts into green hydrogen production.
- 4. Infrastructure** - A heat map analysis of the UK logistics road network estimates that as little as seven strategically located hydrogen refuelling stations would be required to serve most HGV movements in the motorway distribution network.

- 5. STEM skilled workforce and training** - Training and education programs are essential to establish a capable workforce at both the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) and tier 1 supplier levels.

Jawad Khursheed, HVS Chief Executive Officer, said: "HVS' hydrogen technology holds a major key in supporting governmental emissions reduction targets, both here in the UK and in Europe, through the decarbonisation of the heavy goods sector. However, change in this market is not happening quickly enough.

"This industry desperately needs clarity from the UK government on incentives to encourage the early adoption of hydrogen HGVs, alongside commitments to support the development of new H2 technology, green hydrogen infrastructure and revisions to regulations.

"HGVs are the second largest contributors to UK transport emissions. Whilst they make up just 1.5% of all vehicles on our roads, they contribute a disproportionate 19% of all vehicle emissions. With their numbers increasing, their emissions are likely to increase. Our roadmap shows how the haulage industry can seamlessly move from fossil-fuelled fleets to green hydrogen HGVs, enabling the UK to remain competitive globally and ensuring climate change goals are met."



Where have all the insects gone?

Julian Evans discusses what can be done to invigorate declining insect populations.

Caring for small woodlands is a microcosm of the larger landowner encouraged today to consider the environment, nature biodiversity, climate change and so much else in management of land. We can all do a bit.

What has concerned me again this year – at least until earlier this week as I write – has been how few butterflies there have been, how little car windscreens and number plates parade entomological impacts, and how little has improved in half a century.

My father was a keen amateur entomologist and even he lamented the declining numbers at the time Rachel Carson was writing her truly iconic book ‘Silent Spring’ in the early 1960s, warning about pesticides and their long-term impact.

But not all is doom and gloom. In late May and early June, I noticed several large oak trees looking decidedly ‘peaky’ with thin crowns of tatty leaves. Tiny green caterpillars hanging on gossamer threads showed that the defoliation was from oak Tortrix moths as this year’s later flushing, owing to a cool wet spring, had resynchronised larval emergence with tender tree leaves.

At about this time several hedges appeared in places to be draped in muslin, a sure sign of ermine moth activity as the tiny larvae build their protective tents. Then in late June, at a Forest Research meeting in Cardiff, remarks were passed on the phenomenal aphid honeydew this year with stickiness on the ground, on gate latches, as well as inevitably on cars parked under trees.

A couple of days later I was with Chris Reynolds, Forest Research’s authority on



tree species, visiting a major new trial covering many hectares looking at broadleaved options for planting in the future. Growth of tulip trees, Italian alders, wild service and many more were impressive, but most impressive on the day were butterflies!

Marbled whites were everywhere while meadow browns, ringlets, and coppers were all in abundance. For the first time in years, I was near to feeling there were ‘clouds of butterflies’ just like my father used to relate.

So, what lessons for the woodland owner?

Years vary, the pattern of weather events drives so much and no doubt 2023’s warmest ever June will have had its impact. Rough, unkempt patches are to be welcomed but so too is clear-felling in the right circumstances.

The large research trial site that so de-

lighted me had been clear-felled a few years before and is now a sea of wildflowers and grasses. This won’t last of course as the trial plots grow up and begin to create a canopy, but it makes the point.

Open ground in our woodlands is key to biodiversity and is why coppicing is so beneficial. We know ride management helps such as opening up scallops in places to increase patches of light, timing cutting after flowering and seed set, and cutting part one year and part the next.

Of course, by writing this piece in July, I am guilty of not knowing what later insect broods will emerge as some species have two or even three in a year. But I hope we can all do a bit to help ease what has become labelled the ‘nature crisis’. Yes, there are fewer insects about for the reasons we all know, but recovery is clearly only waiting a return to more favourable conditions.

Stephen Cull
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Forestry England and Forest Holidays have joined forces to improve biodiversity in Kielder Forest, Northumberland. The partnership has already taken eDNA samples to produce a vital baseline dataset on the wildlife already in the forest ecosystem. The results will inform Forestry England's decisions on which activities will best improve biodiversity at Kielder during the five-year project.

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COMING UP IN OCTOBER 2023 - GET INVOLVED

In October we will be reviewing the Confor Woodland Show. Remember that FTN is your magazine – get in touch if you want to suggest editorial or give us feedback on articles we have published in the past. Confor members, send us your company's news updates or pitches for feature articles. Note that our general editorial deadline for the October 2023 FTN is 10 September 2023. If you would like to pitch an article idea, please do so by the end of August 2023.

The logo for SAF Woodland Management features the letters 'SAF' in a large, bold, green font. A stylized green leaf is integrated into the letter 'A'. Below 'SAF', the words 'WOODLAND MANAGEMENT' are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a white background with rounded corners.

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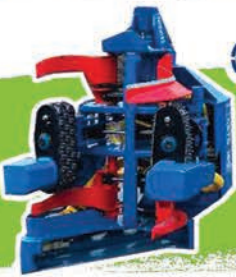
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