

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August 2017 Issue 82

SAVE THE DATE
CONFOR
WOODLAND SHOW
7-8 SEPTEMBER
SEE p31
FOR DETAILS

**COMMUNICATING
FORESTRY**



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

BIOSECURITY ALERT

Xylella fastidiosa could devastate the UK's environment



Elizabeth Bush, Virginia Polytechnic.

Xylella fastidiosa is a bacterial disease, which is extremely difficult to control. *Xylella* affects a wide range of important woody plants and broadleaved trees, including oaks, elms and maples. It is spread by xylem-feeding insects. These insects can spread *Xylella* within 1 hour of themselves becoming infected, so dissemination of the disease between plants is rapid.

Xylella can only get to the UK on imported plants



TD Leiniger, USDA Forest Service,
Bugwood.org

Originating in the Americas, *Xylella* was identified in Europe in 2013. Brought in on live plant imports, *Xylella* is now in Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Holland, Czech Republic and Switzerland. In Italy, *Xylella* has put the olive industry in grave danger. Many of these countries export large numbers of plants to the UK. It is not known exactly where in Europe *Xylella* has spread to, because not all host plants are known, and known host plants may show no sign of *Xylella* infection.

Imported plants may show no sign of *Xylella* infection



Edward L. Barnard, Florida Department
of Agriculture Consumer Services, Bugwood.org

There are 359 species of known host plants, and it is accepted that there are more yet to be identified.

Very worryingly, some host plants may show no sign of infection by *Xylella*, making it impossible to detect all infected plants.

Once in the UK, feeding insects could spread *Xylella* from the infected imports to UK-grown nursery stock.

As such, the best control option is to keep *Xylella* out of the UK.

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www.confor.org.uk/join-us

Past issues and articles can be accessed online at

www.confor.org.uk/news/ftn-magazine

Non-member subscriptions:

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NEW!

You can now find additional resources for this FTN issue on our website - all in one place. Watch out for the mouse icon. all resources for FTN August are directly accessible from our homepage. www.confor.org.uk



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Spreading the message

STUART GOODALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

The forestry sector often criticises itself for 'hiding its light under a bushel'. Well the use of that term 'bushel' is now obsolete and I'd like to consign that particular criticism to the bin as well.

We have a fantastic story to tell, but we can't assume that people will listen to us, understand what we tell them or even believe it.

Mark Andrews, until recently editor of *Forestry Journal*, said to me a few years ago that if Confor could get a positive piece about planting conifers on *Countryfile* then we'd have achieved the near impossible.

Well we did. We also got the story on *The One Show*, on radio programmes and in print and online media. Does the great British public now talk about the great wood supply crisis over its morning coffee? Clearly not.

We're starting from a very low base of awareness of there actually being a forestry industry, and of the benefits of actively managing woodland - of all types. And a story has to be repeated numerous times - to the same people - before it's fully understood never mind (hopefully) accepted.

Confor has a comparatively small team - compared

to say environmental or farming groups - trying to cover all the ground of political engagement, technical support, disseminating news to members, etc. We seek to be precise, targeted and joined up in our media and lobbying activities. And it is working.

We have built good links with some key journalists and a wide range of politicians across the parliaments of the UK - this enables us to build understanding with people who will carry our message and give us impact where and when we need it.

At the same time, we are producing frequent topical publications and high-quality material like film, animation and infographics that can be easily distributed to the media and through social media.

One of my ambitions is that by the time I retire (and that may need to be a while yet) Confor will have helped create a far wider understanding of, and support for, our sector. If we can achieve that then all our businesses will benefit.

People will then understand the need to harvest, transport and transform trees into everyday products. They will support new planting of modern, productive forests to underpin rural jobs and capture carbon. They should still challenge us to do good for society and the environment, but they should also help and not hinder us as we become a mature and valuable rural industry.

I would challenge everyone to do their bit, and to support the messages that Confor is putting out. The communication resources I mentioned can be linked to (and often downloaded) from the Confor website - a great addition for your website or to share. And do dip a toe into Twitter - by following and retweeting our account you will help us spread the message further.

It all adds up and it does make a real difference.



A sustainable future for planted forests



Confor supported a major event which attempted to find answers to some of the most pressing issues facing forestry across the globe.

Andrew Heald reports

How do we find the balance between conserving and restoring the world's forests for social and environmental reasons, while also increasing sustainable production of forest products for a range of uses? How can we do this while also adapting to climate change and increasing the resilience of our landscapes? And what role can plantation forestry play in meeting the increasing demand for forest products?

These were the questions which the WWF's New Generation Plantations (NGP) platform tried to answer as it celebrated its 10th anniversary in London and Edinburgh on June 21-25. The celebration and annual Encounter was co-hosted by WWF-UK and the UK Forestry Commission, with support from Confor.

The NGP platform aims to share and promote the highest standards of plantation management around the world. It is based on the premise that well-managed planted forests in the right places can help conserve biodiversity and meet human needs, while contributing to sustainable economic growth and local livelihoods.

While the event celebrated the achievements of the past 10 years, the focus was also on the future, and how can we sustainably expand forestry plantations, and how can we do that quickly, a key issue for the UK as well as elsewhere in the world.

One of NGP's biggest success has been developing trust and transparency between the participants. International pulp and paper companies like UPM,

Mondi, Stora, Fibria and Navigator are normally business rivals competing for market share but within NGP they cooperate and share sustainability challenges and most importantly sustainability solutions.

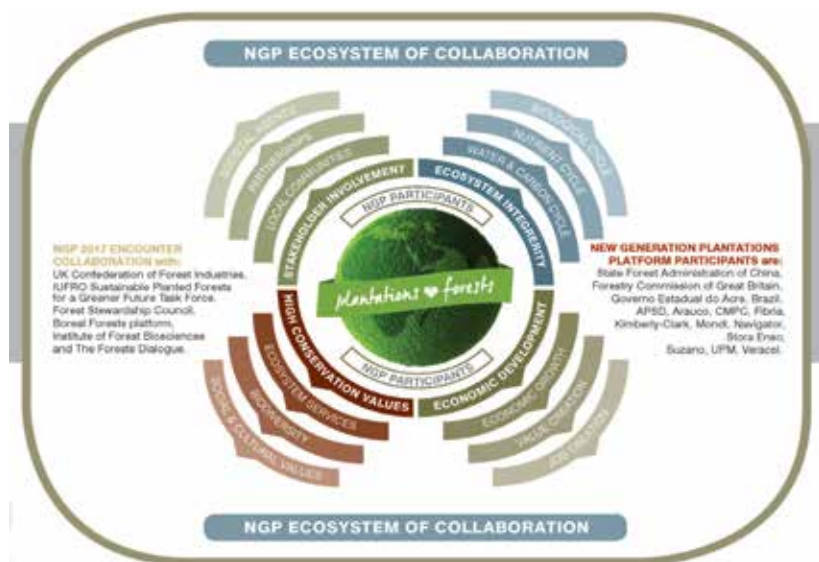
Andrew Heald of Confor who has worked with NGP since 2010, said "We wanted to bring NGP back to the UK, so that we could show forestry stakeholders, that the challenges facing plantation development here, are common around the world."

Estevao Braga of Brazilian pulp company Suzano said that "NGP is the best opportunity to show society that well managed plantations, can bring substantial benefits both socially and environmentally, and fight climate change, in a way that few other industries can do. This meeting is a great opportunity to share best practices with leading plantation companies from all over the world."

The NGP meeting was spread out over several days in London, Edinburgh and a field trip to Perthshire, to enable as many people as possible to participate and learn from the 10 years of hard work around the world.

Tim Liddon of Tilhill who attended the Edinburgh events said that "It was in many ways comforting and disappointing at the same time, that many nations represented in NGP are still coming up against similar issues that we have been through in our relatively recent history of our industry in Scotland."

There are a number of similar international forestry related conferences and dialogue platforms, but NGP is unique in that it focuses so heavily on partici-





mands, government, society, foresters and politicians and NGOs need to be involved in this.”

Andrew Heald summarized the week by saying “Often in our daily work, we think our challenges are unique and focused on our local forest our landscape. NGP is a great opportunity to learn and realise that our challenges are global, and also that our impact and our forestry footprint is global. As WWF points out, we need a lot more sustainable plantations, and we need them now.”

The final stop on the field visit was the Blair Atholl Estate, made famous by the “Planting Dukes” of Atholl in the 18th and 19th Century, who used newly imported tree species to establish their extensive planted forests, and to diversify their estate. Many of the international participants were surprised to see the growth rates and size of many of the conifers on the estate.

Two hundred years later, the challenges we face are similar, a growing population and demand for raw materials but compounded by climate change and an international spread of pests and diseases.

In the current uncertain UK climate both politically and environmental, there remains some key certainties, the global demand for timber and forest products is rising and the UK remains heavily dependent on imports. Almost everyone agrees that we should plant more trees, the challenge is where will they be planted and how will this be regulated and supported.

The public perception of plantation forestry in the UK, has been framed by the practices of the 1970’s and 80’s. Today’s new generation of plantations are a very different proposition, comprising a diversity of species and ages, with conservation areas, restored riparian vegetation and recreational opportunities as well as timber production. There’s also increased focus on sharing the benefits with communities and providing high-quality rural employment.

The value of projects like NGP is that these challenges and their solutions are common all over the world, by sharing best practice and using NGP to help facilitate discussions with key stakeholders, we can demonstrate why the UK needs to take much greater responsibility for growing the forest products we all use.

pation and engagement. There can’t be many events which attract such a diverse audience from Scottish Cabinet Secretaries to Westminster MPs and from major international organisations like WWF and World Resources Institute to the Community Woodlands Association and the Woodland Trust, as well as a range of Confor members.

The Forestry Commission helped organise many of the week long activities, and their Chairman Sir Harry Studholme at the Westminster reception said that “The challenge we face everywhere is getting trees in the ground. Against a background of finding money, high land prices, issues of landscape and misinformation about the differences between fast growing species and planting native forests, there is much to do. If we are to meet global timber de-

Top: Craigvinean Forest
Above (l to r): Julia Young, WWFs Global Forest and Trade Network; Dave Gibson, IFC, part of World Bank; Fiona Wheatley of Marks and Spencer
Below: Cameron Maxwell, Forestry Commission Conservator, and Rod Taylor, Head of Forestry at World Resources Institute



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WWF NGP – 10 things we need to do next
<http://newgenerationplantations.org/multimedia/file/d5c452d6-66cd-11e7-a380-005056986313>

NGP Blog from the meeting
<http://newgenerationplantations.org/en/studytours/11>

WWF International – article on working forests and need for plantations
http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/deforestation/forest_sector_transformation/better_production/index.cfm

Good summary of NGP activities - NGP Video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMV8wu8eGGs&feature=youtu.be&list=PL_YdtxsDh9Td4L7DpD1IBXu6Y17Wd-bNt

Confor steps up political engagement after election

UK/ENGLAND

June's General Election could hardly have come at a more frustrating time. Confor had built political and media momentum around planting in England, much of which was lost. We are now seeking to re-build that momentum.

Meetings have taken place with forestry minister Thérèse Coffey, MP on 27 June and 20 July, at which Stuart Goodall set out how more tree planting can be delivered and the opportunities for forestry to be a key part of rural policy after the UK leaves the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy.

The minister has now taken a greater interest in the issue of planting and future wood supply, and has agreed to speak at the next Confor London conference to be organised in November. Confor will also seek to engage directly with the new Secretary of State Michael Gove to pursue the integration of forestry into wider rural policy.

"I was pleased with the positive approach the minister took to the meeting, seeking substantive answers to the question of how we deliver more tree planting in the short term", said Mr Goodall.

Stuart Goodall gave Confor's analysis of why meeting tree planting targets was further forward in Scotland, and how the UK Government could help address the specific issue of persuading landowners in England to plant trees.

"Confor members are at the frontline of trying to make tree planting schemes work, quite literally, on the ground", explained Mr Goodall.

Confor is also organising a 'Chatham House' meeting between members involved in getting

schemes approved and the agencies involved, plus Defra officials to try to make significant improvements to the grant scheme.

On 18 June, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry was re-established for the new Parliament. Amongst other things it will seek to drive forward the EFRA Committee report into forestry, produced earlier this year.



Confor members are at the frontline of trying to make tree planting schemes work, quite literally, on the ground

SCOTLAND

Confor has co-ordinated industry input to the draft Forestry and Land Bill in the Scottish Parliament and Stuart Goodall has given evidence to the scrutiny committee.

There is concern that the Bill does not include any ambition to expand forestry in Scotland given the cross-party support for that aim, which Confor has done much to secure. The Bill also proposes powers of compulsory purchase, without any substantive justification provided in the Bill, or in other evidence, to support the need for those powers, and there is no protection for the productive capacity of the public forest.

Confor has been working with the Cabinet Secretary and MSPs, as well as the civil servants working on the Bill and will continue to do that as the Bill works its way through Parliament.

On 27 September, Confor will host a high-level conference in Edinburgh examining the opportunity for Scotland to build more with wood, linking in to current Scottish Government policy on climate change and on forestry.

Wood for Good will be the sponsor, with Christiane Lellig, Campaign Director, leading the second session of the event, which focuses on the practical opportunities of building with Scottish timber.

This will be preceded by a session setting the context for the event, with Cabinet Secretary Ferguson Ewing. The event will end with a political panel, with confirmed participants already including Peter Chapman MSP (Conservative), Rhoda Grant MSP (Labour) and Mike Rumbles MSP (Lib Dem).

Members benefit from a special rate of £49 which includes refreshment and lunch. More details are on the Confor website.



Chris Davies, MP (chair, APPG on Forestry) and Anne-Marie Trevelyan (vice-chair) with Stuart Goodall



“
It is clear that Dr Coffey is determined that we drive up tree planting in England”
STUART GOODALL

Minister announces £13m fund to increase England's woodland

Forestry Minister Thérèse Coffey announced the next round of funding for tree planting at a meeting with the forestry industry. For once, the funding - £13 million - includes an objective to boost the timber sector as well as promote biodiversity and reduce flood risk.

Confor's CEO Stuart Goodall - pictured with Dr Coffey at the meeting - welcomed the announcement, saying "This is the second meeting I have attended with the Minister since the election and it is clear that Dr Coffey is determined that we drive up tree planting in England, including of the productive softwoods that we need to secure the future of the important forestry and timber industry"

At a meeting with the minister in June, Mr Goodall provided advice on how to improve the grants scheme given the experience of Confor members across the UK.

The new fund will provide up to

£6,800 per hectare with application forms available in September.

Announcing the next round of funding, Forestry Minister Thérèse Coffey said: "Our forests and woodlands are vital for providing timber, improving the environment and protecting our wildlife.

"Today's announcement demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to the forestry sector and to biodiversity, which afforestation delivers. I hope to see as many applications as possible so this important industry can continue to thrive."

Guidance and application forms will be available in September, with the application window opening in January 2018.

Mr Goodall also briefed the minister on how Confor saw forestry playing a key role in future rural policy, after the UK leaves the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy.

Gove sets out his vision for Defra

Standing in WWF UK's stunning timber built Head Office in leafy Woking, Michael Gove Secretary of State for Defra, gave his first speech on the environment on 21 July.

His 30-minute presentation was full of quotes from Larkin, Keats and Byron as he stressed that Brexit was an opportunity to rewrite our environmental policies and reward environmentally responsible land use.

Gove re-committed to woodland creation as part of his CAP reform program and to the target of 11m trees in England, "because trees are not only a source of beauty and wonder, living evidence of our investment for future generations, they are a carbon sink, a way to manage flood risk and a habitat for precious species."

Timber and forestry were not mentioned, and at Confor we remained very concerned that this 11m trees, is a long way short of that needed to compensate for forest loss occurring due to the restructuring of 1970s plantations, and also short of the Committee on Climate Change recommendations of 15,000ha per year of wood-

land creation.

Gove was insistent that the Government would not reverse European environmental regulations but that we could do so much more once we had ditched the Common Agricultural Policy. The focus on farm support was that it should be a reward for "environmental protection and enhancement". Hill farmers were a special case and will continue to be "generously supported" after Brexit, to ensure that the "human ecology" of these areas was protected, but only if they deliver environmental benefits.

The long awaited Defra 25-year environment plan was postponed until early 2018; however, interestingly, Gove started that

“
Trees are ... a carbon sink, a way to manage flood risk and a habitat for precious species”
MICHAEL GOVE

"Critical to its success will be adopting as rigorous a methodology as possible to setting goals and reporting success or failure. Which is why I have written to Professor Dieter Helm, the Chair of the Natural Capital Committee, to ask his Committee to draw up advice on what our Plan should aim to achieve and how it should seek to do so."

This is perhaps the best avenue for significant woodland expansion; a Natural Capital approach to land use will support better decisions-making about land use, and how that use should be supported. Well planned and managed sustainable forests can deliver so much and will be valued highly by the Natural Capital Committee.

The Secretary of State was insistent that the UK could lead the world in setting high environmental standards, and is clearly not afraid to radically reform agricultural support payments and to deliver environmental gain. If he is serious about sustainability this will need to include reversing the decline in tree planting and reducing the UK's dependence on imported timber.

Getting inspired by Farm Forestry

Confor's new special report, *Farm Forestry*, provides case studies of farmers who have afforested part of their farm. The case studies are from Scotland, but the benefits are applicable to the whole of the UK.

We produced the report for the Royal Highland Show. This was a new venture: Confor have not been to the Highland Show for many years. But we received an invitation from the Forestry Commission to take part in a shared Forestry tent focused on providing landowners with the inspiration and information they need to plant trees. This was a welcome return for our hard work to focus the Forestry Commission on tree-planting.

In a successful collaboration, the Forestry Commission organised the tent and displays, and Confor organised an 'industry rota' of our members from forest management companies, and a booklet of case studies and articles over which to hold conversations, and for landowners to take away.

The star of the show was the virtual reality forest tour: a seedling's-eye-view of planting, skipping with squirrels over branches and flying over mountain bikers, being closer than you'd ever get to the business end of a harvester, and riding around on conveyors and forklifts through a timber processing plant. It captivated everyone from 8 to 80, and not only left people literally immersed in modern forestry, but kept people lingering round the tent and therefore asking questions and engaging in conversation (see p16).

However, the most important conversations were those with farmers and landowners which began, "I've got some land ... and was wondering about planting some trees..." They were able to meet woodland officers and forest management agents,



find out about grants and forest management plans, and go away not only with contacts and information, but usually excited by the unexpected wealth of potential their idea of planting a few trees had opened up.

The regulator, the member organisation and the agency, all in one tent: Diana McGowan of Forestry Commission Scotland, Eleanor Harris of Confor and Jean Nairn of Scottish Woodlands.

RESOURCES



Farm Forestry is available at www.confor.org

Improving productivity through restocking

Some 30 members of Confor's North Regional Group assembled at Zetland Estate on 12 June to consider and discuss the silvicultural issues, practicalities and techniques when establishing new woodlands and regenerating existing woodlands. The meeting was supported by the MTS Group.

Members were shown a diverse range of sites where they looked at and discussed species choice and provenance, improved sitka for shorter rotation lengths, tree protection, low cost re-usable deer fencing, brush recovery & ground preparation; weeding & chemical use, accessing grants, regulations and barriers to new planting.

Members were shown the award winning Carbon Woodland and a Woodlands for Water planting site.

The MTS Group demonstrated a range of their Bobcat forestry attachments including the Tree



Transplanter, Mulcher, Tree Spade and Grapple. Their attachments offer a modern insight into forestry solutions showing efficient, smart alternatives to manual labour.



Help shape the future of forestry

Devolution, pests and pathogens, Brexit, emerging markets, climate change, societal attitudes... just some of the momentous factors influencing our trees and woodlands, those who care for them, and those who rely on their products and services. Have your say about what these and other issues mean to you by taking part in Britain's only dedicated national survey about our woodlands and forestry: the British Woodlands Survey 2017.

The last BWS, which focussed on environmental change, represented 11% of all privately-owned forest land in Britain with 1500 stakeholders taking part. This year we are asking questions around priority themes suggested by some 400 stakeholders, plus themes of specific interest to England, Scotland and Wales.

BWS has a proven record of working with important forestry organisations in Britain to provide a solid evidence base that influences decision-making, and contributes to policy. If you are a woodland owner or manager, farmer, land agent, professional forester or forestry/wood business, please take part and help shape the future of forestry.

Take the survey:
sylva.org.uk/bws2017

BWS2017 is open until the end of September and is led by researchers from Forest Research, Sylva Foundation, University of Oxford and Woodland Trust.



WELCOME TO NEW CONFOR MEMBERS

Chris Sutton-Scott-Tucker,
Devon

David Charlesworth, Avon
Forest Machine Magazine
G M Sprigg, Worcs

The Dartington Hall Trust,
Devon

Trefusis Estate, Cornwall

Annual subscription to rise

Confor is applying a small increase for 2017/18 subscriptions due to inflation:

Woodland Owner Up to 30ha £99 / >30ha £99 + £1.66 per hectare to max of £1618

Agents and Consultants Sole £99 / + 1-2 agents £289 / 3+ agents £799

Forestry Professional £99 / Employees £65 / Retired £55

Corporate <0.5mn £99 / 0.5-5mn £289 / >5mn £799

Associate £99

Associate Organisation £289

Student £28

Magazine only Subscribers UK £57 Overseas and EIRE £62

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Certification schemes respond to Confor survey



Andrew Heald has asked PEFC and FSC to comment on the Confor Certification survey results.

In the last issue of FTN, Confor shared the results of our certification survey of UK sawmill and processors. The results of the survey confirmed a number of concerns that we have been highlighting in recent years, particularly around the availability of certified material and the question of a certified 'price premium'.

We asked the two schemes for their response and these are published in full in the panel on the right.

Following our meeting with PEFC International CEO Ben Gunneberg in April, we have also met with FSC International in July. Andrew Heald and Stuart Goodall of Confor sat down with FSC International Director General Kim Carstensen, the European Director Anand Punja and Rosie Teasdale, Executive Director of FSC UK, to highlight concerns and frustrations from the UK forest and timber industry.

We received reassurance that there is full support for a review of certification for smaller forests, and a revision of the FSC Group Scheme standard has been prioritised. However, there remains a tension within the FSC membership about the scope of FSC and whether it should be a platinum standard for the few or a 'good-

enough' standard for the many. FSC International reiterated their target of 20% of forest products to be certified by 2020, and that this was one of their main priorities.

Risk-adjusted auditing was also discussed, and this is seen as a key method to better target improvements in certification. Risk-adjusted auditing will be raised at the forthcoming FSC General Assembly but there doesn't appear to be a clear implementation plan as to how this will move forward and be delivered on the ground. Confor stressed that the UK would be the perfect low-risk country in which to trial any proposal.

Confor has lodged a motion at the General Assembly calling on better analysis of audit reports, to understand where non-conformances are occurring during audits. This ground work will be essential for any risk based approach. We were pleased to learn that this analysis is already occurring in some countries and that the UK intends to work on this in the near future.

Certification will always be a thorny topic and there remains a lack of clarity about what problem certification is actually trying to fix in the UK. The priority should be to simply promote and deliver better forest management, but somehow this seems to be perpetually lost in an ever-growing list of requirements, criteria and indicators. Confor's members want to see some simple improvements which save time, reduce cost and maintain integrity; at the moment there doesn't seem to be many improvements on the horizon.



Certification will always be a thorny topic and there remains a lack of clarity about what problem certification is actually trying to fix in the UK



Continuing to grow

by **Tallulah Chapman**, FSC UK Communications Manager

FSC certification can improve market access, enhance public image and incentivise good forest management. In the past five years global FSC certified forest area has increased by 32% to more than 196 million hectares and Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates have increased by 42% to over 32,000.

The FSC certified area in the UK has decreased from its peak of 1.69 million hectares in 2007; at the time of writing, it stands at around 1.62 M ha. However, over the last three or four years there has actually been a slight upward trend.

Specification

50% of respondents to the Confor survey for timber processors and sawmills stated that their customers specify FSC certified material. However, the FSC UK office regularly handles enquiries from businesses who, possibly due to incorrect specification, have received uncertified material or potentially certified material with a broken chain of custody. FSC UK are therefore working to improve the links between specifiers and suppliers of FSC certified products.

Those inviting tenders that include a requirement for FSC certified materials should ensure that suppliers are aware of the requirement that both the product and the supplier themselves (not just



their supplier) must be FSC certified. Those tendering for projects requiring the use of FSC certified materials should ensure that they hold FSC certification. This will enable them to provide the appropriate evidence of FSC certification to their contracting organisation.

Small businesses

Group forest management and chain of custody certification has been developed to help smaller woodland owners and small businesses achieve FSC certification by reducing the costs of certification. Groups of small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) benefit from streamlined auditing procedures designed to reduce the costs of certification. The total number of group scheme members in the UK has risen from 916 in July 2015 to 959 in June 2017, despite the closure of some smaller group schemes in the same period.

Vancouver and the future

“At the 2014 FSC General Assembly, our members made it clear that they wanted a bolder, stronger, more effective FSC. The Global Strategic Plan 2015-2020 confirms our commitments to increase focus on outcomes, empower people, advance our mission through alliances and improve user orientation.” says Kim Carstensen, FSC Director General.

A key objective of the plan is the streamlining of FSC’s policies and standards to ensure they are outcome-oriented and risk-based, incorporate market implications, and are analysed for cost implications. FSC welcomes feedback from certificate holders and other stakeholders, particularly in response to public consultations on these and other normative documents.

Time for a more pragmatic approach?

Commenting on the findings of the Confor Certification Survey, **Alun Watkins**, who heads up PEFC in the UK agrees that the survey provides some very useful feedback on what many find a confusing prospect. “Both forest owners and Chain of Custody certificate holders appear frustrated by what they see as unnecessary bureaucracy involved in the certification process and the cost of audits,” says Alun.

“As FSC forest certification was once the only option available to the UK forestry sector, PEFC is still very much in catch up mode. However, we welcome the chance to work more closely with UK forest industry to give them some clarity on what PEFC offers.” PEFC is now the world’s largest forest certification scheme and prides itself on its bottom-up approach. Its national members work closely with both forest owners and the supply chain to ensure that certified material is delivered to market as efficiently as possible.

Reducing costs

Indeed, with a view to reducing certification costs, PEFC UK is already working to establish group certification schemes for small and medium-sized forest owners, along with an online forest certification tool to make the process easier. PEFC is also revising its Chain of Custody standard and guidance documentation to make them more user-

friendly. Additionally, all certification body auditors now have to participate in PEFC-recognised training to make auditing, just as robust, but more applicable and consistent.

In terms of market access, PEFC UK is investing resources into growing demand for PEFC certified timber. In 2015 the Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) the review of public sector timber procurement policy (Category A Evidence), saw PEFC certification once again judged to provide assurances of legal and sustainable timber sourcing. In addition, various international construction sustainability schemes such as BREEAM accept PEFC certified timber as providing assurances of responsibly-sourced timber. Most of the UK’s leading construction companies are committed to procuring certified timber and the majority of UK timber merchants are dual PEFC/ FSC certified.

However, one issue that PEFC UK hears regularly, is that merchants specify that homegrown timber must be FSC, purely because this is what is embedded into their computer procurement system. “This is not an insurmountable problem,” says Alun. “Maybe the UK should follow the rest of Europe and adopt a more pragmatic approach to certification, there is a viable alternative, perhaps it’s time for a change!”



SCOTTISH FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Forestry in Scotland: From Trees to Timber Homes

The opportunity for Scottish forestry to provide more low-carbon housing is the central theme for the latest in Confor's popular policy conferences in Scotland. Forestry in Scotland: From Trees to Timber Homes will include a range of businesses, industry experts and a keynote address from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing, as well as a political panel.

The conference, to be held at the Royal Society of Edinburgh in George Street, on Wednesday 27th September, is sponsored by Wood for Good.

Christiane Lellig, Campaign Director of Wood for Good, will lead the second session of the event, which focuses on the practical opportunities of building with Scottish timber. Neil Sutherland of Makar Homes will also speak during this session.

This will be preceded by a session setting the context for the event, with Fergus Ewing followed by speakers including Confor CEO Stuart Goodall and Robert Hairstans of Edinburgh Napier University.

The event will end with a political

panel, with confirmed participants already including Peter Chapman MSP (Conservative), Rhoda Grant MSP (Labour) and Mike Rumbles MSP (Lib Dem).

Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO, said: "Scotland has an ambition to use more wood in buildings and to expand its forestry sector. This conference pulls those strands together, exploring how we can lock up carbon and create attractive, high quality buildings all at a time when governments are thinking about the future of rural areas, post-Brexit"

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TIMBER EXPO

Join us at Timber Expo

Confor is delighted to be an associate partner at this year's Timber Expo in Birmingham. Stand T533

We will be featuring products from UK businesses, explaining how they are high-quality and from sustainably managed forests. We will also have a Virtual Reality headset and film that will take the user into a 360 degree virtual forest.

Entry to the Timber Expo is free. Register at <http://www.ukconstructionweek.com/timber-expo>

Are you a processor or wood user and would like to exhibit something at the Confor stand? Please get in touch with us. We are looking for objects that convey the message that high-quality products are made from British forests.

Please contact eleanor@confor.org.uk



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VIRTUAL REALITY

Another view of Scottish forestry

One of the highlights at the Forestry tent at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh was a rare opportunity to experience Forestry in Scotland in a 360 degree Virtual Reality environment.

James McDougall of Forestry Commission Scotland, who brought this project to life, hit the spot: VR creates an environment without distractions where visitors can experience what forestry is, rather than just receiving information through leaflets or conventional video screenings.

“In this crowded world of media, we’re constantly being bombarded with images trying to hook us in to a new product or experience. So how

do you make something as simple as planting a tree interesting? Well you make the planter appear, towering above you as he plants the tree, from a worms eye view”, he comments.

“I was keen to have a company who knew nothing about forestry as this provides a datum for the level to pitch it at the general public. As foresters we often take things for granted – things that the general public just don’t get to witness at first hand. We went with Airborne Lens, worked out a rough story board and arranged some site visits so that camera man Liam could set everything up to capture the basic elements of forestry – from new planting site right through to machinery and sawmill.”



The making of Forestry in Scotland 360 VR experience

Airborne Lens was commissioned to produce the “Forestry in Scotland 360 VR Experience”. Based in Central Scotland, Airborne Lens is one of Scotland’s leading aerial imagery and digital media specialists, and one of the earlier adopters of 360 VR content creation.

The first step in any production is to create a storyboard, and so the team produced a full 360-degree storyboard that the client could view from inside a VR headset. This helped to identify where within the spherical view the key subjects would be best positioned, and how to encourage viewers to look around and immerse themselves within each scene.

The team used the GoPro OMNI 360 camera for the majority of the filming. The OMNI is a professional end-to-end solution for capturing, stitching and publishing high-resolution virtual reality and immersive content. The camera was mounted to a drone for some of the shots, as well as to tripods, clamps and vehicle mounts.

The footage from a professional 360 camera consists of multiple video files, all of which need to be stitched together to form one fully spherical image. This was done using specialist software

and powerful computers to handle the massive file sizes. Once the image was stitched, the footage was edited using traditional post production software to produce the final video.

www.airbornelens.com



One of the main aims of this project was to place the audience in settings and environments that they would typically never be able to experience in real life. From flying like a bird low above the canopy of a forest to standing next to the formidable harvester machinery, the viewer is able to immerse themselves in amazing environments. The VR experience also places the viewer up close and personal with Red Squirrels, as well as deep inside the inner workings of a sawmill.

LIAM ANDERSON, AIRBORNE LENS

A drone filming at Kelburn Castle
(Photo: Airborne Lens)





Wanna have a go yourself?

You can watch the 360 video at <http://bit.ly/forest360>

The latest internet browser versions support 360 video playback. For the fully immersive (and best!) experience, download the YouTube app on your phone or tablet.

With permission of Forestry Commission Scotland, the VR experience will be available this year at the Confor Woodland Show at the Confor tent.

Spreading the word

Grown in Britain is tapping into the social media video revolution to communicate with new and less experienced woodland owners, creating a new video about the value of their wood resources. *Realising the Value of your Hardwoods* was launched at the Woodland Heritage's Field Weekend in June



Produced with funding from Grown in Britain partners Woodland Heritage and the Forestry Commission, the video - which is now available (see resources) - runs through every stage from creating a woodland management plan to selecting trees for harvest and presenting them for sale and gaining a fair price for the felled timber. It also relates harvesting to replanting for the future and woodland management as a means for protecting wildlife and the environment. The video is presented as a conversation between Chartered Forester, trustee of Woodland Heritage and managing director of Pryor & Rickett Silviculture, Graham Taylor, in discussion with forestry student Kelly Morss and Grown in Britain CEO Dougal Driver.

Approximately 50% of privately-held deciduous woodland across Britain is currently under-managed. Increasing management levels would make a beneficial contribution to the country's economy and ecology. "It's essential for owners to understand that they can reap a benefit from their hardwood resources at the same time as managing their woodland for wildlife and for a long-term sustainable future," commented Dougal Driver.

Graham Taylor added: "A hardwood tree managed for maximum yield for planking, beaming and fencing, can be worth a good seven times more than simply selling it into the firewood market. Larger estates usually have woodland management plans in place but smaller woodland-owners may not be as familiar with managing to meet market demands, or indeed how to select and sell timber from their woodlands. We're pleased to join with Grown in Brit-

ain in providing this highly accessible guidance."

Grown in Britain has also been communicating its message face-to-face, addressing the members of the Builders Merchants Federation's Timber Forum. Merchants are an essential link in the chain for marketing British-grown timber, and the strategic partnership announced between the two organisations will see information and ideas flowing both ways as the relationship develops. Grown in Britain itself is also seen as a means of communicating values to customers. The campaign's latest licence-holder, Lonza Wood Protection, is using its promotional licence to chime with its customers in the British-grown timber market.



A hardwood tree managed for maximum yield can be worth seven times more than simply selling it into the firewood market
GRAHAM TAYLOR

RESOURCES

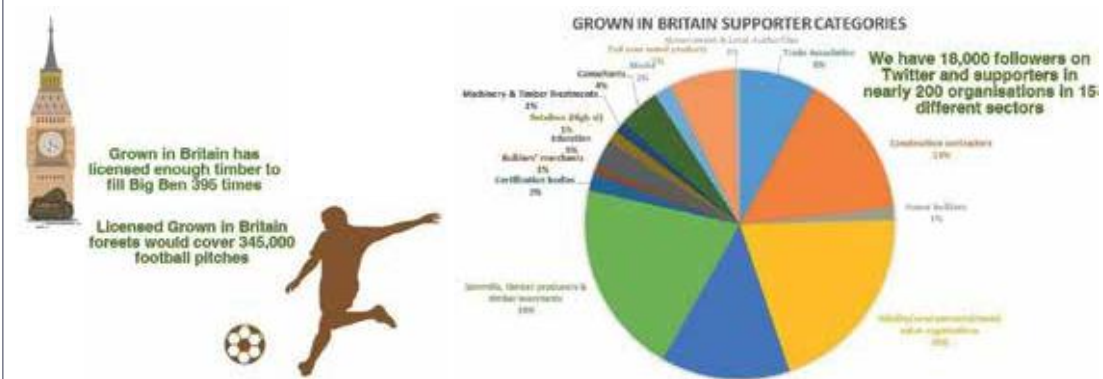


Additional resources are available at www.confor.org:

Realising the value of your hardwoods - watch the video

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Timber Girls

How heritage and experiential learning can inspire girl's perceptions of forestry.

Alice Goodenough reports

The Timber Girls project was motivated by the chance to uncover a hidden history of female forestry and provide inspiration to a new generation of girls thinking about their future. Funded by the Heritage Lottery, Timber Girls took women and girls into the woods to explore the history of the Women's Forestry Service and practice the hands-on skills they used to successfully support timber supply during WWI.

Woman tutors taught 45 girls how to hand fell timber and use horses to extract it, commemorating 100 years since women undertook this work on the home front, and providing female role-models from the past and today. Through this celebration of women's wartime contribution we hoped to inspire girl's perceptions of forestry, whilst learning more about their views of the industry.

Before they took part in Timber Girls, we asked students to tell us what kind of people they think foresters are and what skills they have. Through drawing and description girls revealed perceptions that must impact their feelings about forestry training and careers. Why do these findings matter? Well, they are information that might help us understand more about why there is a significant gender imbalance in recruitment to Forestry in the UK.

We discovered that students about to take part in Timber Girls were likely to picture a forester as being a physically robust man who fells trees with processes or equipment that might need you to be unusually courageous. Such conceptions could well contribute to girls feeling precluded from forestry work and Confor's own research suggests that for girls a childhood love of the outdoors translates much less obviously into a forestry career path, than for boys. Our research didn't focus on where girls gather such impressions, but are they really representative of the ethos of modern forestry and the range of career paths within it?

As well as re-creating their efforts, Timber Girls asked girls to consider the attitudinal barriers and challenges to women working on timber production during WWI. Even advocates for female forestry, for example, initially argued that women's contribution would need to be appropriately limited to less physical tasks. However, experiments with women undertaking every aspect of timber processing grew confidence that women could and must perform this



Where do influences upon girls' perceptions of forestry come from?

ground-breaking war effort.

Practically re-enacting the work of the Women's Forestry Service helped students reflect on their own ability and enthusiasm to take on such tasks. Some were concerned that the work might be physically demanding, dangerous or they might not be able to learn the skills required. However, every girl took part in felling, processing and moving the timber and their drive and enjoyment were infectious.

However, despite successfully practicing forestry skills, students began to describe the judgement and criticism they anticipate receiving from male peers when they try such hands-on and physically demanding activities. Girls also made comparisons between the institutionalised gender judgments that disbar them from playing rugby or football at school with the resistance towards female forestry in WWI. What's more, students told us that female pupils who chose not to take part in Timber Girls may have already decided they are not 'outdoorsy' and that practical outside activity could conflict with their developing feminine self-image. Again, this feedback could reveal much about the social and cultural influences that might prevent girls considering a future in forestry or any land-based employment.

What's exciting is that, using the hidden heritage of women forestry workers in WWI, the Timber Girls project both helped reveal such ideas and supported students to think of forestry as a female occu-



Woman tutors taught 45 girls how to hand fell timber and use horses to extract it

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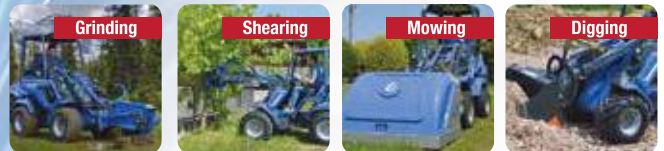
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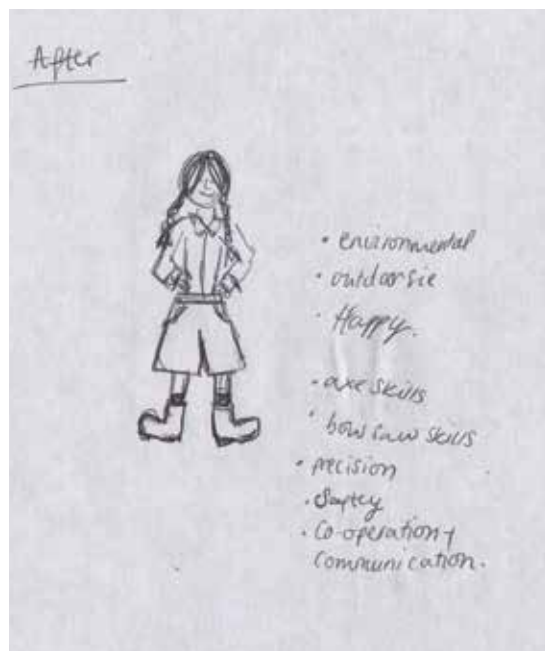
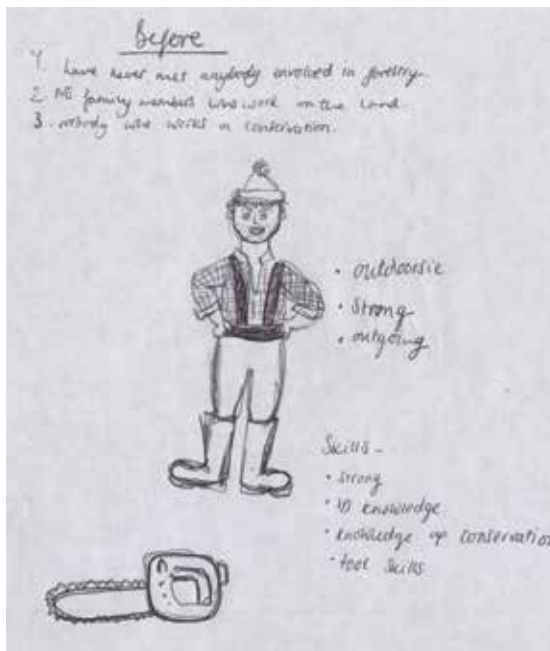
FORESTS

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www.pefc.co.uk

PEFC - Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification





Girls' Illustrations of a forester before and after the Timber Girls course

pation. Uncovering the work of these pioneers and importantly practicing their skills under female tuition changed the way that girls described 'A Forester' to us. After taking part in Timber Girls students were much more likely to imagine and characterise a Forester as female or unisex: as themselves, as their friends, as anyone. Taking part helped them focus less on strength as a prerequisite for working in Forestry and more on less gendered attributes, such as being hard working. Importantly students were also more likely to consider Foresters 'normal', after their experiences in project.

The Timber Girls project demonstrates that experiential learning and heritage can help young people to articulate what they think about forestry and its relevance to their future. However, there remain important questions about the influences that encourage or obstruct women becoming Foresters, particularly where they originate and how they impact on male recruitment. We are actively looking for partners and funding to explore these questions with students of both sexes, from a broader range of cultural and demographic backgrounds. Research

demonstrates that girls receive gender specific cues around safety, science and physical activity that can all be barriers to educational and lifestyle pathways. Timber girl's findings suggests that alongside such ideas, messages about outdoor work in relation to masculine and feminine ideals remain a critical influence on attitudes to forestry, just as they did in WWI.

Timber Girls is a project developed by Courage Cope Creatives in partnership with The North Devon Biosphere Foundation.

RESOURCES



Additional resources available at www.confor.org:
Confor report on Gender and diversity
Timber Girls film

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Q&A

JUSTIN MUMFORD

Justin Mumford is BSc(Hons), MSc, MICFor, CEnv, Managing Director, Lockhart Garratt Ltd, a leading environmental planning and forestry consultancy

How has forestry changed since you began in the profession?

My father first put a rusty old McCulloch chainsaw in my hand when I was about 12, to set about clearing up some storm damage on the farm with some old-fashioned chainsaw proof spats that went over the top of my wellies, and that was about it. Health and safety has greatly improved since then, and is now getting the attention it needs through FISA, which is great to see.

At that time, we were also planting up areas with vigorous poplar hybrid clones, in particular Beaupré and Boelare, which we were all getting very excited about, thinking it was going to make our fortune. How wrong we were!

As I entered the profession, private woodland estates were just losing tax relief and I was starting to see the importance of forestry start to slip as part of the wider estate portfolio. Mechanisation has increased massively, not just in terms of the size and speed of kit, but also in its variety and ability to work in a range of woodlands. This has helped to deliver into a number of interesting markets, which were not around 20 years ago. At the same time, however, we have also seen markets disappear, for example, I spent ages marketing rustic poles, which now are only a very small niche market.

The industry has also had to become a lot more political, and Confor's work in this respect has been crucial, in order to make sure our voice is heard in a far more complicated rural economy.

How do you think Brexit will impact on the industry? And what should Confor do in response?

I am quite excited about forestry in a post-Brexit environment. All land management is now due for a big shake up, and I can see forestry coming out of it in better shape than where it is right now. I am already hearing that interesting discussions are starting to develop around how forestry can be seen as the deliverer of huge public benefit, offering value to the public purse. This will raise the profile of forestry as a land use, and make it an important part of the rural estates asset. It is very much undervalued and not given the attention or resources it should in a lot of cases. We have uncertainty though for the next four years, and we are already seeing owners looking to hold off taking matters forward until they know

more about what opportunities may be available post-2022.

I can see the wider trade deals taking longer than the two-year window based on how matters have started. If an extension cannot be agreed, we may see levies placed on timber imports resulting in benefits for the domestic grower.

Confor are doing an excellent job in outlining the benefits of commercially managed woodland, not just at a political level, but also within the sector and, most importantly, to the general public. It is important that Confor continues to educate the public and takes the role of the Public Relations Manager of the sector. It was interesting to hear of Michael Gove's comments about environmental legislation being strengthened as opposed to weakened post-Brexit, which again may have benefits to the sector, although the devil will very much be in the detail. (See p9)

There is a lot of political interest in planting trees, eg for carbon and urban leisure and health. Is the Government missing a trick?

There may well be a lot of political interest in planting trees but this is yet to filter down to the landowners, particularly in England. The barriers are not new, devaluation of land, lack of early yield and the inflexibility of long-term land use change have all contributed. As one client often reminds me, as soon as he puts trees in the ground he has in effect, nationalised his land.

Joined-up thinking between Government departments, which would benefit from tree planting, would potentially require a Ministry of its own to achieve this, and considerable resources to back it.

Landscape, leisure and health were very much the emotional factors rallying the 500,000+ signatories, so we know that people are passionate about trees and woodland, and want to see more, and we all know this can still be done and delivered within a commercially managed setting.

What do you see in the future for Lockhart Garratt? Where are the growth opportunities?

Rural professional services are becoming more and more specialised and complex. As a result, we see much more demand for our forestry services from other professionals. We look forward



we are continuing to see opportunities to expand geographically and broaden our skills base with more specialist ecologists, arboricultural consultants, landscape architects and soil scientists. With this breath of expertise, we can provide a better management service.

Has the profile of people working in forestry changed since you began? Should it change further?

The sector has certainly become much more professional and specialised since I began. This is across agents, consultants and contractors; expertise now requires not only sound forestry management knowledge but also wider business administration and human resource understanding. It was encouraging to see that the industry was beginning to recognise this and was starting to make a big step forward through the Forestry Learning Network which was frustratingly cut short, however, the new apprenticeship syllabus is very much providing guidance on these wider aspects of knowledge and understanding.

As a business we have had success in recruiting people into the industry who are seeing forestry as a second career, and who bring with them a wealth of life experience, from the likes of ship brokers, telecommunications, consultants and property analysts. (See Member Profile on RTS Forestry, p28.)

If the Forestry Minister called you on the phone, what would be your one key point?

Please hold the post for a bit longer than your predecessors, and lay down a forestry policy that supports and develops commercial forestry for the long term, not just to the end of the current parliamentary session!

to continuing to make sure that both clients and landowners place importance on forestry and see it as an asset. I can, however, see matters becoming increasingly complicated. We will have to work quickly in order to capitalise on opportunities within eco-service systems and potential agroforestry projects.

The need for more complex silvicultural prescriptions and challenging external factors, such as pest and disease, and climate change, has meant that much more informed and evidence-based decisions need to be made. As a business,



All land management is now due for a big shake up, and I can see forestry coming out of Brexit in better shape than where it is right now.

Lockhart Garratt was established in 1998 and has become one of England's leading independent environmental planning and forestry consultancies. The company employs over 35 staff, providing expert advice relating to arboriculture, ecology, forestry, woodland management, landscape planning and design and green infrastructure from both their Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire offices.

Contact 01536 408840
justin.mumford@lgluk.com
www.lgluk.com

Lockhart Garratt designs Community Woodland

A six-hectare woodland created with support from the local community was officially opened in May in the presence of residents, parish councillors, National Forest representatives and project partners.

The launch of the Penny Wakefield Community Woodland to the east of Ellistown village in Leicestershire celebrates the culmination of a two-year project that has seen developers, engineers, National Forest staff, environmental stakeholders and the local community working in partnership. The aim of the project was to deliver an exceptional community asset that meets planning and engineering requirements for what has been a critical development and employment project.

Environmental planning and forestry consultants Lockhart Garratt were appointed in 2016 by developers Mountpark to design the scheme and liaise with stakeholders. The completed project, which has been delivered by Whiting Landscape Ltd, does this very effectively and will provide a valuable and sustain-

able area for the community.

John Lockhart of Lockhart Garratt said, "This has been a challenging and exciting project to work on. Through open dialogue we developed a framework of trust and understanding between all the parties involved which helped to find solutions and deliver the exceptional project that we are able to see and enjoy today."

The project faced many challenges, not least finding ways to integrate the objectives of replacing the trees and hedgerows lost to the development, creating new National Forest woodland and providing a structure to address drainage requirements for the new 1.4m sq. ft. warehouse buildings adjacent to the site. At the same time, the project needed to provide screening and a long-term sustainable woodland resource that would enhance the Ellistown community.

As part of the project 12,000 trees and shrubs have been planted with 800m of all-ability access pathways installed.

www.lockhart-garratt.co.uk

Steve's 40 years at Ransfords

Steve Green joined Ransfords as a career progression in June 1977 after relatively brief spells working in accounts at other Shropshire firms. Within 12 months it became apparent that the business was facing severe financial problems. Steve was instrumental in organising the purchase of the business by Alan and Brian Evans. "They paid £100 for the mill and the business but, as is now well known, along with the mill came £1.5m of debt," says Steve. "This was a huge sum in those days - equivalent to around £7m today - but every penny of it was paid off over

the following few years."

The mill has continued to invest in new equipment, new processes and new products. Indeed, in the 40 years since Steve joined Ransfords he estimates that in excess of £20mn has been invested. It is market leader in acoustic fencing panels as well as supplying durable British-grown, fencing and board material.

"There have been so many changes both at Ransfords and in the industry as a whole during my time here," says Steve. "Looking back, I can honestly say that any bad days have been far outnumbered by good ones. More to the point, I can confidently predict that the best days for this business are still to come!"

www.ransfords.co.uk

Forest Managers appointed

Tilhill Forestry has appointed two new Forest Managers to strengthen the company's operations across Kent, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

Working from Tilhill Forestry's offices in Groombridge, Kent, Hugh Davies MIC-For will cover Kent and Sussex. He has an

MSc in Environmental Forestry from Bangor University and his wide range of experience includes being a Forest Manager and consultant for two private companies in the Midlands, a saw mill worker, a forest ranger and a professional tree inspector. Most recently Hugh was working with Forest Research at Alice Holt.

Forest Manager Alex MacKinnon is based in Alton, Hampshire, and focusing on developing new business and man-

James Hepburne Scott elected RFSF president

James Hepburne Scott has been elected President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, following Sir Patrick Hunter-Blair's two-year tenure of office.

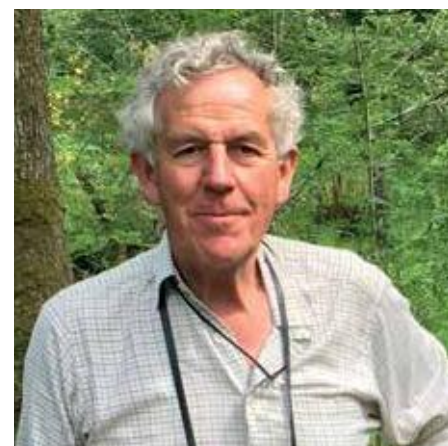
James will be known to some through his work with Alba Trees nursery from 1992 to 2012. During this time he was Scotland chairman for the Forestry and Timber Association for four years prior to the formation of Confor (Confederation of Forest Industries).

He is a director of Forest Carbon Ltd, chairman of the River Tweed Forum and an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Paying tribute to Pat Hunter-Blair, he said "It is a great privilege to be inheriting this responsibility from Pat whose leadership has been outstanding. The health and prospects of the Society have improved greatly during his tenure and I thank him profoundly on behalf of our 700 members."

Members come from all the areas of interest in Scotland's trees, woods and forests. The Society holds 20 field meetings each year throughout its 5 regions plus a whole society gathering each May. Its journal, Scottish Forestry, published 3 times a year, is widely respected at home and overseas.

www.forestcarbon.co.uk



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Bridging the gaps in forestry management



Stefanie Kaiser

visits RTS Forestry in Crieff, Scotland, whose secret to success lies in a goal-oriented business approach and an investment in a proactive and diverse workforce.

In the Perthshire town of Crieff, famous for its Whisky, a slick, contemporary timber building with glass frontage to the River Earn hosts the head office for a forestry management company of a special kind: Founded in 1984 by husband and wife Alan and Heather Robbins, RTS Ltd now operates throughout Scotland with a turnover in excess of £12 million and employing over 40 staff. Without any doubt, their people-centred, outcome-focused business approach is the secret that lies behind their success story.

I meet Harry Wilson, one of RTS' directors, and Ross Kennedy, H&M Director at their open-plan premises in Crieff. The office 'Feng Shui' already tells me that this is a working place for 'people' rather than 'staff'. I like it.

"Open plan offices help to support a culture that encourages the exchange of ideas and information", is Harry's opening sentence.

Harry is assertive about what the company's unique selling point is: RTS has developed a specialism in key areas of forest management and project delivery. But what makes them so successful, he points out, is their in-house ability to link all those individual expertises to deliver projects and give well-informed advice.

"We are able have a wider understanding of the different aspects and factors that need to be considered when delivering an assignment for a client. We bridge the gaps between consultancy, management and contractor work. For example, Scottish Power engage us on consultancy for a range of forestry elements within their infrastructure projects; they know that if we advise them to agree to something that it can be done in practice. In many cases we know that the following week, we might also get the contract to actually deliver it!"

The reason why I decided to pay RTS a visit was their progressive way of finding and cultivating their human resource.

"When we started recruiting, we would target graduates with conventional forestry careers from the traditional courses at Aberdeen, Inverness, and

Newton-Rigg'. This would normally generate a handful of applicants for a woodland manager job. Since then, we've welcomed and sought applications from people with different histories. We don't headhunt, but when people with untraditional backgrounds apply or otherwise approach us, their application is not immediately discounted because they haven't chosen the usual training route."

This has caught my interest. I am keen to hear some inspiring career stories.

"At the Royal Highland Show two weeks ago", Harry continues, "a couple of young people came up to me and asked about how they could get into forestry. One of them had an unlikely multi-cultural background, a degree in agricultural engineering and an Argentine-Canadian-Hungarian accent. He started working with RTS on the following Monday. I identified him as right for us and I offered him the job there and then. Another example is our most recent team member who used to be a radio producer in London before starting her forestry degree a year ago. She was proactive and had emailed various forestry companies to look for opportunities. She has got absolutely no forestry experience. But for us, it was about the person as much as about the background and experience. She has the right character that will fit into the RTS model."



We have benefitted from a team that is flexible in their thinking. We recruit people who are prepared to challenge the way things have been done

I ask Harry what character traits RTS is looking for. "We look for people who have a bit of get-up-and-go, who are prepared to look outside of their comfort zone and their knowledge areas. The guy that we hired at the RHS is someone who is happy to start at the bottom. He's going to drive a strimmer and plant trees. And if he chooses to stay in forestry, we will hopefully get him onto formal forestry education and he can work his way up to become a forest manager.

"We have benefitted from a team that is flexible in their thinking. We recruit people who are pre-

Continued on p30

RTS' FIVE MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- Forest management
- Woodland contracting
- Timber and biomass harvesting
- Renewable energy and transmission (forestry aspects)
- Woodfuel supply and contract chipping



STAFF PROFILES

VERONICA LLORENTE

RTS WOODLAND MANAGER

I have been with RTS for three years. Seven years ago I finished my forestry engineering degree in Spain. When the financial crisis hit, I came to Scotland without any English. After three years in the UK (Crieff, Scotland), doing random jobs and learning the language, I applied for a job at RTS. They were advertising for a woodland manager which I thought was out of reach for me – I had no practical experience and a foreign degree. Although I didn't match the professional profile they were looking for, they decided to hire me. With growing field and on-the-job experience I started to get more and more confident. I got a feel for what forestry in Scotland involves – the management practices, the species, timber values etc.

My family had a construction business in Spain. When I finished my degree I was thinking of going into harvesting. I thought that that was the actual heart of forestry. Once I started with RTS, they decided to steer me more towards forest management. I started to get a better idea of different aspects of forestry and what my skills and talents could be used for. And I was surprised that I ended up liking the management side of forestry

very much! Little by little I took more and more ownership of my projects. Regardless of my initial lack of language and knowledge the directors supported me and gave me the chance to learn new things every day, and to take on new responsibilities as I went along.

MATT KELLY

ASSISTANT HARVESTING MANAGER

I have been with RTS for just over a year. Originally, I did an interactive media course at Dundee University. The course wasn't quite what I expected and I left after the third year. I left being able to create websites and I tried to find a job for six months but failed. In the meantime, I was working on an organic farm, loving the outdoors, the craft and the physical work.

In 2007, my brothers started Kelly Tree Care and got me on board. I became a partner, a fully qualified arborist and at some point, as the business grew, we progressed into forestry. We had our own small-scale harvester and a Vimek forwarder. With a young family on the way I looked for something more regular and we decided to sell the company. We had worked for RTS and I phoned Harry at RTS and

asked if there was an opportunity to work with them. At the time, they were looking for a harvesting manager and he took me on. They saw that someone like me, who had been on the contractor side of the fence could understand what contractors go through, and be able to connect with them. In the last year, I really have developed an excellent relationship with all our contractors.

I had no formal forestry training at all. So the learning curve was steep but it was brilliant, I have not looked back. RTS is a great company to work for. They continue to dedicate time to get me up to speed with things, show me new skills like mensuration or pass on knowledge about timber marketing.

I would have a hard time finding a job in other sectors. I got an amazing opportunity in forestry that I wouldn't get elsewhere and someone has really spotted my potential. And I am very grateful for that. I think it has been a win-win.

Now I would like to become a Chartered Forester and RTS is going support me in that.

RTS gives you the space for personal development and to work out things out for yourself. That's why they select people who can fit in with this work philosophy.



Everything that RTS does has come from somebody's idea, and not necessarily from senior management

Continued from p28

pared to challenge the way things have been done, who can find innovative solutions, new paths. We make it clear to our people that we are happy for them to spend some of their / our time deviating, going off on a tangent, exploring something slightly different. For example, if someone goes out to do a job in the field, we don't want them to drive straight back to the office - we encourage them to take a detour - maybe they see somebody else's forest, for example. They can get out, have a walk, and take a closer look at what other people are doing. We also encourage our staff as much as possible to go on tours and visits - last year 3 team members went to Austria with Egger.

The RTS direction prides itself of being prepared to listen. Anyone in the RTS team can approach a director and say: "I had this idea, what do you think?" And everything that RTS does has come from somebody's idea, and not necessarily from senior management.

Harry gives an example: Our managers were getting complaints from clients about the ground damage forwarders were causing in the forests. After some wet summers, there was more damage than usual. So we had a chat within our team to try and find a solution. One of our managers mentioned a design of forwarder tracks which might help. We asked him to further explore this option and he came up with a proposal and a suggestion of how to deliver it. Most companies at this point would turn to their contractors. But that would be expensive and slow to effect. He suggested RTS bought £15,000 worth of tracks ourselves. These tracks are now made available to all of our contractors to ensure we jointly deliver the best possible finish for our clients on such sites. We invested real money and backed one of our employee's ideas."

www.rtsforestry.co.uk

RTS NEWS UPDATE

RTS has just recently secured a management buy-out, allowing it to continue its growth and expansion in the forestry and renewables sector.

Directors Norman O'Neill, Harry Wilson and Ross Kennedy have led the buy-out, supported by Royal Bank of Scotland. Founder Alan Robbins will retain an active role in the company and remain as Chairman. Norman O'Neill succeeds him as Managing Director.

A touch of hipster for forestry

Confor member Englefield Estate teams up with brewery to create a 'spruced-up' local ale

It is not only direct communication of the benefits of forestry that will help our industry to be perceived as a modern, forward-looking sector. Sometimes, becoming part of contemporary pop culture can do wonders to give forestry that up-to-date touch. And what better than making use of the ever-cool and creative world of craft beer (labelling) to get forestry literally "in front of everyone".

A Silchester-based brewery has named its latest ale 'Spruce Foresight' after the unique flavour of spruce tips gathered from a forest on the Englefield Estate.

Micro-brewery, Wild Weather Ales, specialises in "new world hops", a growing trend in the production of craft beers. New world hops generally have a more fruity and aromatic flavour and aroma in contrast to traditional or 'old world' hops. The company experiments by combining unique flavours to create a range of character ales.

Englefield Estate's Forestry Manager Richard Edwards worked with the brewery team to locate the best spruce tips for the recipe, which were found less than quarter of a mile from the brewery.

"Using locally harvested spruce tips to flavour a locally brewed craft ale would seem to be very on-trend and reflect well on the image of forestry" he said. "Most people will connect forests with places to walk and a sanctuary for nature although the better informed will know that we're primarily in the business of growing timber crops while making sure our forests are safe, healthy and well maintained.

"By using spruce tips as a flavour ingredient, we are extending our offering into the food market and there are all sorts of positive messages about the spruce being a fresh, natural, local ingredient, harvested within a mile of the brewery and keeping food miles to a minimum."

Mike Tempest, Brewery Director said: "The spruce tips provide a natural flavouring similar to the drink Dr

Pepper. The tips form the new growth on the lower part of mature spruce trees and it took around three hours to harvest around 11kgs of tips.

Spruce Foresight will shortly be available at the brewery in Silchester and in bars up and down the country.

If Wild Weather Ales choose to branch out further with their spruce flavoured beers they may wish to consider Spruce Willis, Spruce Springs-teen, Fiona Spruce, Spruce Wayne or even Spruce Lee!

The beer can be purchased from www.eebria.com



The Englefield Estate is a thriving community of farms, woodlands, residential and commercial properties covering 14,000 acres in Berkshire and Hampshire. There are 23 let farms, 3,500 acres of commercial forestry, a Home Farm of around 1,700 acres, 330 residential properties and 150 small business premises.

www.engefieldestate.co.uk



The show that keeps on growing

Nick Hoare, show chairman

I have just passed the watershed between “the Confor Woodland Show is on the the 7th and 8th of September” to “help, the Confor Woodland Show is on the the 7th and 8th of September and there is so much to do!”. Theory has to become reality.

The precursor of the Confor Woodland Show, the South West Woodland Show started in 1997 initially on the Perridge Estate then at Exeter Racecourse and was an institution within the region, and I loved it. In 2009 it moved to Longleat, and needed volunteers. What me? I did help out, and then found I had been inveigled into being chairman for the next show. The then show secretary Leslie Woodhead made it work. In 2013 we made it a two day show (which Leslie had always favoured), as it made it worth the exhibitors' time. She was right as we have increased exhibitor numbers every show since then.

The show is all about the exhibitors. The woodland site is in some ways the easiest. The concrete pads (World War 2 concealed storage areas) around the circuit are snapped up mainly by returning exhibitors. Some of them have been here every year since the show moved to Longleat. We have reserved an area at one end for the chainsaw

carvers. They are some seriously talented people, but not the quietest neighbours.

There is one big headache with the site, which is the 11,000volt overhead power line running through the middle of it. Safety is vital, necessitating lots of height restriction goal posts. If you are going to be exhibiting, and are reading this, we have told you once and will remind you twice more. Please do not be the one who says “no-one said anything about a height restriction”.

In 2009 it took over a week to lay out the 50 stands in the field, using measuring wheel, tape measure etc. The use of GPS has speeded up the process. The GPS tools of choice now are i-phones and i-phone super-users (i.e. teenagers). I am hoping that the more than 150 stands this year can be laid out in three days.

We are getting a professional team in to do ticketing on the gate, hopefully speeding the process. However this does not mean that we do not desperately

need volunteers to give out catalogues etc. at the entrance for a couple of hours! The show is run by a volunteer committee, with contractors working at cut price to do the site preparation and health & safety work. It is a small committee, who all have to really play their part.

The bar will again be run by the excellent Keystone Brewery and we have some really interesting caterers lined up. However, nice as they are, that is not what people come to the show for. It is the exhibitors who count, giving you a chance to see a huge range of machines, products and services at close hand, and hopefully to pick up a few bargains. Stands can find you the trees to plant, ways to protect them, prune them, fell them, process them into timber or turn them into energy. Add to that all the support needs like fuel, insurance, track repair, measurement, and 4x4 vehicles and the whole world of forestry and trees is represented. I will see you there.

CONFOR MEMBERS

Entry to the show for free for Confor members. A valid membership card must be shown at the gate.

Tickets are now available online. Visit www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk



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A programme packed with events, talks and seminars

Whether you are a forestry business or an interested individual there will be something for you in the packed programme of events, talks and topical seminars that Confor and the Forestry Commission are hosting throughout the two-days of the show.

The overall theme for Confor at the show this year is, "Forestry beyond Brexit". What do you want for our industry post Brexit? Come and put your questions to our panel of professionals.

Throughout the two-days there will also be practical demonstrations including horse logging, chainsaw carving, archery, timber sports and much more.

The Woodworkers Zone will run drop-in clinics across the two-days on subjects including health and safety, new technology, nutrition and well-being, efficiency, and the new apprenticeship standard.

Volunteers needed



After a number of successful events at Longleat Estate since 2009, this two-days show has improved year on year; again this year with increased interest from exhibitors we have extended the site and are expecting more visitors than ever.

Ensuring this busy event is a success is reliant on the hard work of the committee and a core of volunteers and helpers. As in previous years, the gate will be manned by volunteers - we need as many people as possible to kindly give one to two hours of their time on the gate. This year, we will not be collecting money, only dealing with tickets and welcoming guests, so the duties are a little less onerous. If you are attending the show and feel that you are able to spare some time I would like to hear from you. Gate duty is required daily from 08.30 to 16.30; the busiest time is 9.00 to 13.00. Also if you have colleagues who would be able to help do ask them to contact me.

If you can help please contact me with your preferred times and I will draw up a rota and circulate about two weeks prior to the event.

Steve Russell (Show committee)

T: 01380 831162

E: steve@woodlandcountrysidemanagement.com

Thank you for your support!



SEMINARS

THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

- 9.00 - 9.45 **Breakfast**
- 9.45 - 11.00 **Forestry beyond Brexit** (Confor)
Come and put your questions to our panel of professionals.
- 11.00 - 11.30 **How much is my hardwood worth?** (Grown in Britain)
Come and find out more about new work on hardwood timber prices.
- 11.30 - 12.00 **"Ready to Burn" campaign** (Woodsure)
Green wood can be up to 5 times higher in particulates than seasoned wood. Find out about the importance of quality woodfuel.
- 12.00 - 14.00 **Lunch and South West members forum** (Confor)
The Confor south west regional AGM.
- 14.00 - 15.00 **Timber security and technology** (Confor)
The Confor Safety, Technical and Compliance Group (South) meeting.
- 15.00 - 16.00 **The Forestry Industry Safety Accord** (FISA)
Come and put your questions to FISA.

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

- 9.30 - 10.00 **Grants to support forestry investments** (FC/RPA)
A session with experts to explore the grants available for improving rural productivity.
- 10.00 - 10.30 **Applying for a grant - warts and all**
A forestry contractor who has received a productivity grant explains how it has helped - and what the process was like for them.
- 10.30 - 11.00 **How much is my hardwood worth?** (Grown in Britain)
Come and find out more about new work on hardwood timber prices.
- 11.00 - 13.00 **Woodland on farms and adding value to your wood** (Soil Association)
Come and hear how to add value to your farm woodlands.
- 13.00 - 14.00 **Lunch**
- 14.00 - 14.30 **The tipping point for planting woodlands**
How to work out whether you can afford to convert farmland to forestry.
- 14.30 - 15.00 **Grey squirrel management** (Confor)
The latest information on progress to bring about collaborative grey squirrel control.
- 15.00 - 15.30 **"Coopetition" - Competitors working together in the Forestry Industry** (Woodland Advisors' Group)
Find out how agents are working together in "coopetition" to get more woods into management, develop their businesses and get better prices for their customers, while maintaining their independence.

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Forest Workers Area

Kindly supported by Confor the forest workers area will be hosting a program of workshops, advice clinics and demonstrations for those of us working within woodlands. On both days we will be running the increasingly popular chainsaw hold out competition, come and test your strength, good prizes to be won.

There will also be advice on keeping your body in tip top condition for working in the woods. Free tea, coffee and cake.

Thursday

- Using organised felling techniques to improve productivity and save back strain.
- Tools for business growth, 1 to 1 business coaching available.
- Restoring neglected coppice and marketing the products.
- Solutions to the housing issues facing rural workers
- Career clinic in the afternoon with representatives from training organisations on hand to answer questions about breaking into the industry, training pathways and apprenticeships.

Friday

- Using organised felling techniques to improve productivity and save back strain
- Forestry supply chain and Social Network survey analysis.
- Practical guidance about managing risk
- Chainsaw maintenance workshop
- Training pathways and apprenticeships.
- Restoring neglected coppice and marketing the products
- Solutions to the housing issues facing forestry workers
- Using MYFOREST to prepare management plans



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Based out of a centralised location in Chipping Campden Gloucestershire, we convert 100% of sustainable forestry products including harvested timber, sawmill bi-products and tree surgery arisings into a BSL, Woodsure and EN+ accredited fuelwood, including chip and pellet. All 100% UK sourced and manufactured.

True to our roots, we still offer forestry and site clearance services. With some of the most state of the art machinery in the industry, supported by an ever-expanding fleet of 44-ton articulated lorries, SDL Solutions provides an unrivalled and comprehensive service to the Tree Surgery industry.

In addition to this, we have designed and installed on site two purpose built cutting-edge biomass production and drying facilities which cater for all types of biomass systems. The latest project, a large-scale CHP system for the production of 100% UK sourced premium wood pellet, one of the first of its kind in the UK.

With our team of biomass specialists and cutting-edge equipment, SDL Solutions has an enviable reputation for being a leader in the UK biomass industry. We pride ourselves on our commitment to provide a professional and best-in-class service whilst maintaining the highest quality of work. SDL Solutions is continually adding specialist machinery to meet the needs of an ever-expanding client base and it's our ambition to become the UK's largest and most reliable wood fuel supplier.

“ SDL has carried out site and yard clearances for Glendale for over three years. During this time, we have built up an excellent working relationship. We have found them to be a flexible and reliable partner in the removal of all our arboricultural residues around all our sites throughout the UK. ”

Chris Mills, Glendale

“ SDL carried out a tidy job when chipping timber on our site. Their staff were friendly and professional. They were willing to discuss any aspects of their operation and showed me how their equipment is operated and how they manage a safe work site. ”

Daniel Burns, Forestry Commission Forester

“ We have been using SDL for all of our woodchip for the last four years. The company delivers an efficient and most importantly reliable, responsive service, which is essential for our just in time chip supply. ”

Mike Montagu, The Ditchley Foundation

For more information and career opportunities visit our website www.sdlsolutions.co.uk

Exhibitors and demos

We're still accepting Confor Woodland Show stand bookings. To date, 110 exhibitors have confirmed with Tilhill Forestry, Euroforest and Aspen Fuel sponsoring the two day event. We'll see lots of new faces in September with 29 of our 2017 exhibitors new to the show this year. We're expecting some impressive demonstrations and quality information from a variety of suppliers across the forest, woodland and arboriculture sectors from insurers, publishers, machinery manufacturers and dealers to consultants, contractors, wood burners, log driers, saws and tools.

With just over a month to go, we're now confirming our local caterers to keep visitors well fed and watered and if that isn't enough entertainment already, the ever popular archers are returning this year along with the horse loggers, chainsaw carvers and the UK Loggers Team.

If you haven't booked yet, hurry up!

Here's just a small sample of some of the companies which will be at the show.

BIOEQUIPMENT (STAND N1)

Bioequipment is a machinery distributor with a portfolio of products and equipment for forestry and bio-energy industries. At the show Bioequipment will be launching the Ecoforst T winch 10.2, which represents a "revolution in steep slope working for all forms of wheeled and tracked machinery". The T winch is an automatic traction assistance winch that can assist all forms of equipment to work safely on any sloping ground. It detects the applied force on the winch cable and adjusts the winch power and direction automatically to ensure optimum assisted

vehicle stability and traction.

Bioequipment will also be exhibiting a selection of shredders and mulchers from Bugnot including the BVN34 on tracks which will fit into the back of a van and through a household gateway. On display and working will be the BV range of green waste shredders and the BF range of forestry mulchers.

Making its debut in the UK market will be the Fravizel range of tree stump harvester sheers and land clearing rakes and vegetation-handling attachments.

GLENFARROW (STAND W18/19)

GlenFarrow is a leading manufacturer and installer of batch-fed biomass boilers and associated equipment. The company will be exhibiting at the show for the second time, following its success in 2015.

The 2017 Show will see GlenFarrow exhibiting and demonstrating a range of equipment that is relevant to the woodland and forestry industry including the British-manufactured 295 and 210 boilers.

GlenFarrow boilers continue to prove popular with the forestry industry because of their ease of use, superior engineering qualities such as water filled doors, that ensure maximum heat exchange, and accreditation to the RHI scheme. GlenFarrow provide a one stop shop for customers. They undertake the whole installation process for Biomass Boilers and associated products from design through installation



and completion of all the relevant RHI documentation. They also provide ongoing support and maintenance for Biomass installations.

Along with GlenFarrow 295 and 210 Biomass boilers the company will also be exhibiting Log and Chip drying equipment.

JAS P WILSON (STAND W44/45/46)

Jas P Wilson have been exhibiting at the Confor Woodland Show (and its predecessor the Southwest Woodland Show) since the beginning and as usual the company will have a good range of its high quality professional machines on show.

This year has seen the sales of Posch firewood equipment continue to be strong and demand for a better quality log for the netbag market has seen the emergence of the K650 and K410 machines which can be programmed to produce specific log sizes. A number of machines have been sold and are proving popular with large producers.

The Posch S-360 Turbo continues to be the most popular seller and Wilsons has taken many different types of machine in part exchange against these high speed machines.

This year's show will see some new exciting products which will combine well with the tractor-based machines the company specialises in. The show is at Longleat Estate who run many of Wilsons Posch machines as well as a Botex trailer. Botex heavy duty cranes and trailers will be shown and one of the new products will be fitted to one.

BOMFORD TURNER (STAND N1)

Bomford Turner reveals two new models to strengthen its grip on the UK's remotely-controlled mower market - a compact 40hp model, and a much larger Supreme 70hp model.

Continued on p39

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FORESTANDARB (STAND F1/2)

Forestandarb has various exciting new products at this year's show, from chainsaw and safety boots, to chainsaw trousers and machines.

Whether you are a forestry contractor, arborist, land/estate owner or cutter wood for your own use, Forestandarb has plenty to offer. "Come and look around and chat to our friendly, helpful staff and let them help you make to right choice."

SORBUS BIOSECURITY

(STAND G1/2)

Following consultation with the Forestry Commission and the Arboricultural Association, Sorbus International has produced a BioSecurity Kit packed in a handy hold-all. Pressure washers and recommended Cleankill and Propellar disinfectant products are also available for use with the kits. These kits will be available at the show.

A significant increase in the range of non-native pests and diseases in the UK over the past 15 years means that our rural and urban trees need greater protection. Human activity can accelerate the spread of tree pests and diseases. However, we

can minimise their spread with good biosecurity practice.

Sorbus International also supplies a wide range of the latest tree surgery and forestry equipment. Being showcased at the show will be climbing and rigging accessories, the latest chainsaw protective boots, trousers and safety helmets. In addition, Sorbus supplies a wide range of clothing and wet weather gear and offer a branding service if required.

Sorbus are the master UK importers/distributors of the impressive ARS Japanese pruning range. Also available are products for fruit harvesting, floristry and general/handycraft uses.

AUTOGUIDE (STAND W47)

Autoguide Equipment is celebrating its 40th anniversary in September and will be celebrating at its show stand.

Autoguide's range of vibrating post drivers will be demoed at the show. At the 2015 show, Autoguide announced the release of a new Maxi Postmaster, capable of driving posts up to 10" in diameter. This completed our range, including a

Continued on p41



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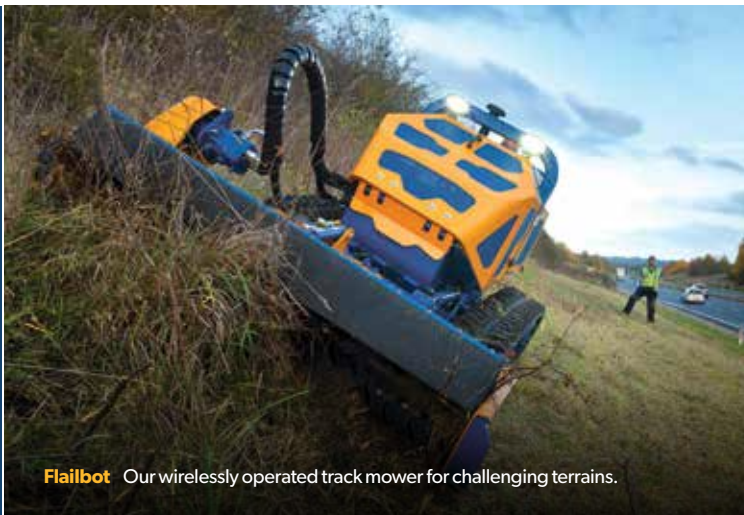
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Mini and Midi version. "Since it is such a special occasion, we are making a limited edition Midi Postmaster. Rubies are the gemstone associated with a 40th anniversary, so look out for this as a theme!"

Autoguide's sister company ABC Anchors will also be featured with a tree friendly screwpile foundation system.

On each of the two days of the show, Autoguide will be giving away a free 'ruby' gift to the first 40 enquiries.



AGRIFOR (STAND M7/8)

AgriFor has announced its new exclusive partnership with Palmse OU, which have been supplying Europe for over 25 years. The show marks the launch of Palmse's toughest-ever trailer, the 13D created specifically to be used with the latest 7 series crane offering Palmse's strongest ever lift.

John Clegg celebrates 50 years

John Clegg & Co is excited to be exhibiting at this year's Confor Woodland Show, especially as it will give members of the team an opportunity to welcome show visitors onto the stand and to celebrate the company's 50th year of trading.

Back in 1967 a young surveyor by the name of John Armitage Clegg sensed a gap in the market and had an idea that a specialist agency dealing mostly with the buying and selling of woodland property might find its place in the world of property. Having spent his early career in rural estate agency, John Clegg established John Clegg & Co in a cosy office in Chesham in Buckinghamshire from where a small team covered woodland valuations and sales across England and Wales. Business was brisk and in the 1970s an office in Edinburgh was added to handle forestry sales across Scotland and the north of England.

Forestry was a relatively new industry in the property world. Until the 1970s it had been the domain of the Forestry

Commission and the large landed estates. The same era saw a period of high income tax and the significant tax advantages of forestry were becoming more apparent, attracting new players to the market.

To this day John Clegg & Co still handles woodland valuations and sales from offices in Buckinghamshire and Edinburgh, now with added offices in Monmouth and Inverness. In its 50 years of trading an extensive library of woodland transactions has grown and, chances are, if you own a piece of forestry there will be a file on it in one of John Clegg & Co's offices.

Just as the Confor Woodland Show has grown in size and become one of the leading forestry exhibitions in the UK, John Clegg & Co has become a name synonymous in the forestry industry and now handles a significant market share of woodland sales throughout the UK.

Do visit stand D2 at the show to wish all at John Clegg & Co a 'happy anniversary' - there'll be celebratory cake and fizz to tempt visitors to pop along and say hello.



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The Life of a Tree Chapter 2: Forest

OAK 130-150 years from planting to harvesting

PLANT

The planting season normally runs from October to April with containerised trees being used early and late in the season. Over the last 5 years (based on information from the Confor Nursery Group) the average number of oak (*Quercus robur* and *petraea*) **planted annually in the UK has been 2.7m [1]**. The numbers being planted seem to be stable and although it is difficult to fully collate the figures only about 15-20% are being planted for objectives that include timber production with the remainder for objectives such as habitat creation and landscaping.

Oak as part of PAWS restoration or new woodland creation is usually planted in mixture with other broadleaves and woody shrubs following guidance such as **FC bulletin 112 Creating new Native Woodlands [2]**. This type of planting is often at irregular spacing with stocking densities of 800-1600 stems per ha.

When oak is planted with timber production as a primary objective, normal practice is to plant at a higher density such as 2500-3000 stems per ha often with a nurse conifer such as Norway spruce or Scots pine.

Oak are grown on a wide range of soils but if the primary objective is timber production the



best soils would be fertile loams and brown earths.

Appropriate provenance selection is important for both conservation and timber production objectives.

Site preparation prior to planting would largely depend on the type of ground being planted but would typically involve one of the following methods; scarification, mounding or chemical screefing.

MAINTAIN

Because oak are vulnerable to a wide range of damaging agents protection of the young trees is vital. This would normally take the form of a combination of individual protection and fencing. The combination required would depend on the type of damaging agent involved eg. deer, rabbits etc.

As with all young trees growing oak produces a number of **challenges for the grower [3]**.

For the first 2-3 years after planting the young trees will need to be maintained to enable successful establishment. This would typically involve chemical spot weeding and the replacement of missing trees (beating-up).

As the young trees develop additional maintenance work is likely to be required. This would typically include tree shelter removal and pruning/respacing where the oak was originally planted at a higher density for timber production.

Early respacing is particularly important where the oak has been planted in mixtures to prevent domination by a more vigorous species



DOUGLAS FIR 60-80 years from planting to harvesting

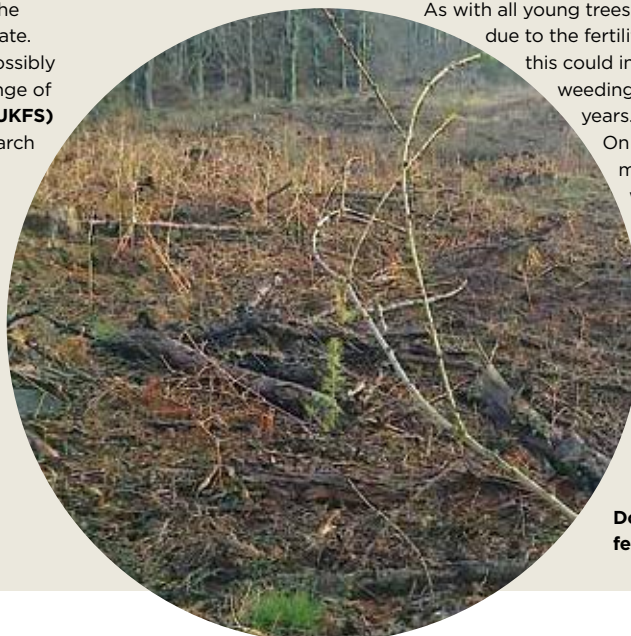
PLANT

The young Douglas fir (DF) plants would be delivered from the nursery and planted during the period November to April avoiding periods of extreme cold weather and frost. A wide range of provenance choices are now available for DF and planning and consultation with the supplying nursery is vital.

The number of DF produced and planted in the UK has averaged **1.42m per year over the last 5 years [1]**. This figure is based on information collated from the Confor Nursery Group so is possibly an underestimate. The requirement for DF seems to be increasing, possibly due to the requirement to plant a more diverse range of conifers to comply with the **UK Forest Standard (UKFS) [2]** and the reduction in the quantity of pine and larch species being planted due to pests and diseases.

To comply with standards and regulations DF is being planted on sites that could grow spruce but it is a more demanding species in terms of soil fertility and does best on brown earths and podsols and will not tolerate waterlogging [2].

Whether being planted as part of new woodland creation or replanting DF does best with some form of cultivation preferably scarification or mounding and as timber production would normally be a primary objective the planting spacing should be 2500-2800 plants per ha.



MAINTAIN

In most parts of the UK there is a very high deer population and **DF as a species is very susceptible to browsing damage [3]**. As individual tree protection is not appropriate on a large scale most DF plantations will need to be protected by means of deer/rabbit fencing. In some circumstances it is possible to establish DF without fencing but a high level of deer control would be required on a continual basis.

As with all young trees maintenance is necessary and due to the fertility of the sites being planted this could involve chemical weeding, hand weeding and beating up for the first 3-4 years.

On restock sites additional maintenance works such as weevil control may be required. If the initial stocking density of 2500-2800 stems per ha is maintained this should encourage enough competition for the trees to grow tall and straight although most DF thicket to pole stage stands contain a high number of poorer stems.

Douglas fir restocking and, right, felled ready for despatch.

Following the first chapter in the Life of a Tree – Nursery, we now move from nursery to Forest.

Certain themes recur several times, numbered in text:

1. Prediction of future markets
2. Governance and external certification
3. Challenges for growers
4. Profits and purpose of growing

MANAGE/THIN

7-8 interventions

Where oak is planted for timber production whether pure or in mixture with other species there are likely to be 7-8 interventions during the 130-150 year rotation. The first intervention would typically be at age 20-25 followed by subsequent thinning operations every 10-15 years. This regime highlights the intensity of management required to grow oak to achieve its potential, which may also include high pruning of the best trees.

Oak trees face a number of **tree health problems [3]**. These include acute oak decline, oak mildew and the oak processionary moth. With the increasing prevalence of tree pests and disease in the UK the challenges facing the grower multiply.

As the oak crop matures any nurse species will largely be removed and when the oak starts to produce acorns it would be possible to collect them for the nursery.

Initially the products realised from the thinning operations would be predominantly firewood but as the crop matures and tree size increases products such as fencing and construction grade oak should be recoverable.

Where oak has been planted at low density for habitat creation the management intensity would probably be greatly reduced. Thinning may be required if another species is threatening to dominate the oak or if it is possible to harvest a product such as firewood.

HARVEST/FELL

Where the oak has been grown for timber production the rotation length would be 130-150 years. At this stage the trees would be ready to fell and hopefully the products realised would include a high proportion of construction grade material as well as fencing and firewood **producing significant returns [4]**.

In all likelihood rather than adopt a clear-fell system the oak plantation is likely to be either selectively felled only removing a proportion of the trees and replanted where required or managed under a Low Impact Silvicultural System (LISS) involving group felling and replanting the clearings.



MANAGE/THIN

4-5 interventions

As well as the objective of planting a more diverse range of conifers to protect against pests and diseases and to take account of climate change (ESC), DF is a species of conifer where a **premium can be expected for good quality large diameter logs [4]**. To achieve this premium for size, DF in the UK would need to be grown on rotations of 60-80 years depending on whether the sites were west (60) or east (80) coast.

To achieve the tree size required a series of thinning operations are necessary and these would normally begin at age 20. The thinning would initially focus on removing smaller or poorer quality trees to give larger and straighter trees more room to develop. The thinning cycle would be every 5-8 years and 4 to 5 thinning operations (interventions) would be required to achieve the objective of producing good quality large sawlogs at age 60-80 years.

As the DF crop matured the thinning cycles would increase in length and depending on the silvicultural system being employed the thinning intensity may vary.

In the past it was common for good quality stands of DF to be high pruned; this is now less common and most 'pruning' is now carried out by natural processes.

DF as a species is generally resistant to most insect pests and diseases but is moderately susceptible to conifer butt rot and Honey Fungus.

In the latter stages of the rotation seed could be collected from the DF to supply the nurseries.

HARVEST/FELL

With the correct provenance, site fertility and with careful management and an appropriate thinning regime it should be possible to produce **good quality large DF sawlogs and attract a premium price [4]**.

Occasionally opportunities arise to market DF poles for specialist items such as ships masts but the usual markets for DF timber would be construction, fencing and palletwood.

Although DF can be managed under a clearfell and replant silvicultural system because it is a partial shade bearer it does lend itself to LISS such as group selection. Under the correct conditions and with appropriate protection it does produce good natural regeneration.

In summation DF is a species that could be more widely grown in the UK as part of species diversification rather than planting spruce and is capable of producing highly marketable products.

The tallest tree in the UK is thought to be a DF growing in Reelig Glen, Inverness.

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Many foresters with a stockpile of brash have considered having it removed, simply to prepare the ground underneath for a new crop. Save for one or two snags: it's not as easy, nor is it as cheap as it seems to remove on-site brash. Firstly, the cost alone of hiring specialist equipment to collect and process brash could seriously impact the financial benefit of a future harvest. Then there's the added issue of potentially damaging the natural ecology of the soil and robbing future crops of vital nutrients - especially with heavy machinery tearing up the nearby ground surface. As a result, many brash mats simply stay where they were first deposited, and are left there to break down of their own accord.

That's where A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products come in.

Not only do we have all the necessary equipment to remove and process brash on-site as quickly as possible, but we also pride ourselves on the knowledge and expertise we have gained over the years, which allows us to manage each site to the highest standard. Moreover, this is done strictly in accordance with the Forestry Commission's Guidance on "Managing Brash on Conifer Clear Fell Sites".

Here's just a glimpse into the type of equipment we use

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The Benefits of Brash Removal by A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products

Firstly, there's the financial benefit of maximising the revenue from traditional forestry sites, by speeding up the process of clearing the site. In fact, brash removal makes second generation crop management much easier and makes more options available. Depending on the circumstances, this could lead to different ground preparation methods and avoid trench mounding, significantly reducing crop establishment costs further down the line.

There is also the added benefit of natural pest control. Brash is the perfect habitat for unwanted vermin and its removal helps to prevent infestation that might cause serious problems for existing and new crops.

Ultimately, what makes A.W. Jenkinson Forest Product's services truly unique is the scale and flexibility of our on-site operation. We have all the equipment needed to suit any circumstances that require the removal of lop and top. We are able to provide as much of a tailored solution for small farm holdings as we are for large-scale forest owners – our approach is equally professional regardless of the size of the task. This also means we are much better value than any other form of removal services.

Today we employ more than 2,500 people across 30 operational facilities throughout the UK. In fact, each year A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products processes more than 3.5 million tonnes of roundwood, woodchips, shavings, sawdust, bark, green waste compost and other timber co-products.

Supported by a fleet of specialised articulated vehicles the A.W. Jenkinson Group plays a key part in every stage of the wood cycle process, from transporting harvested wood, recycling waste wood and co-products to manufacturing products ranging from animal bedding to biomass fuel pellets.

In conclusion, A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products has the specialists who understand the challenges of the forestry industry and appreciate the benefits of ecologically sustainable practices. In fact, we have been committed to these principles right from the beginning, when A.W. Jenkinson was first established in the mid-1960s. Our aim is to continue on this path, well into the future, helping our clients make the most of their natural resources and keep essential activities like brash removal as painless as possible.



Tree Shears

Robust and powerful, these machines are used to harvest and utilise the whole tree, thus increasing the harvested volume. They can be used on sites with failed or infected crops, and can remove all infected material from the site.



Brash Forwarders

Our brash forwarder units work in tandem with our chippers and shredders to extract brash to roadside ready for chipping. Not only are they light enough for smaller sites with limited access, but they're also robust enough to handle larger volumes too.

"It has been a pleasure working with A.W. Jenkinson. They have offered a complete and professional service, which has yielded additional income for our client and produced great savings in establishing the next crop of trees."

**Andy Turnbull, Associate (Forestry),
Bidwells Forestry Consultants**

Case Study Knowehead



Units Used:
Komatsu 865 Forwarder
Komptech Chipper Unit
Komptech Axtor Unit

In a recent assignment in Knowehead, we helped Bidwells Forestry Consultants (managed by Tilhill, Perthshire) with the removal of just under 900 tonnes of brash, which was eventually processed into biomass fuel.

The initial and crucial part of the process was to carry out trials to assess the viability and impact on-site brash removal would have on ground preparation costs and silvicultural benefits.

It was through this preliminary assessment, that we were able to devise a particular strategy for the client that not only minimised damage to nearby ground, but also maximised the overall yield and quality of biomass-ready material.

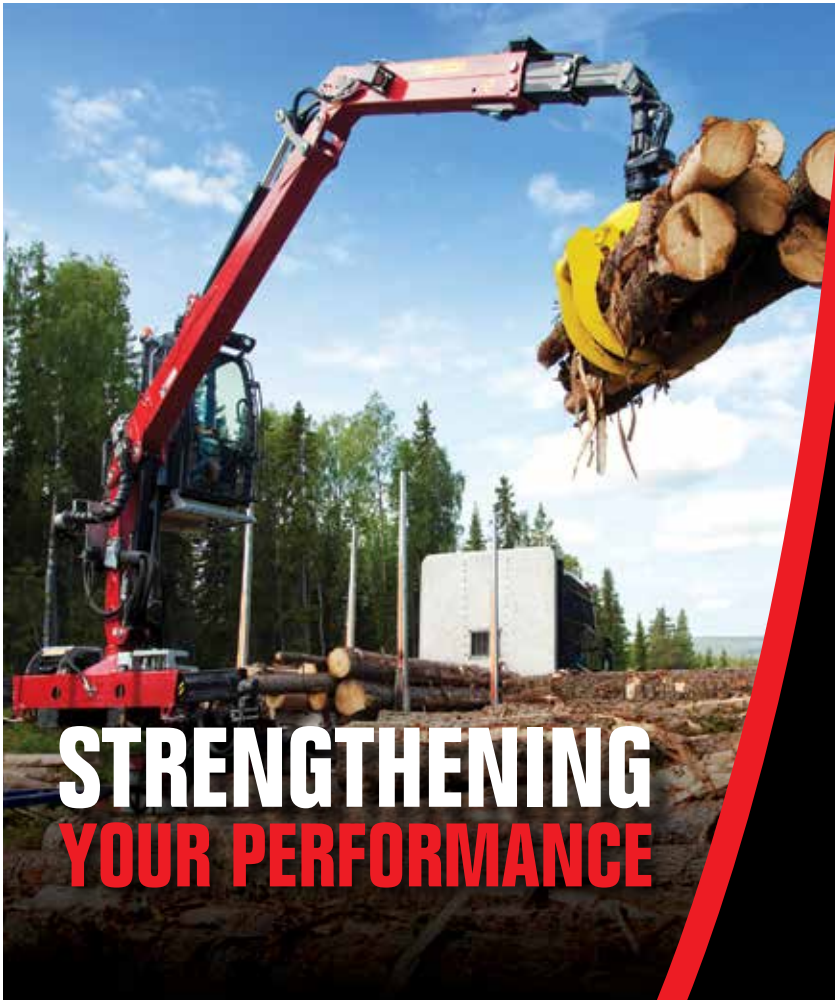
The area felled in compartments 1 and 2 was around 19.2 hectares of primarily P1975 Sitka spruce (0.5ha of larch) growing at Yield Class 18. Prior to harvesting the crop was measured standing at around 11,300m³.

Brash was recovered from approximately 75% of the area - the remaining 25% was not suitable due to ground topography, site suitability or brash quality (too contaminated to recover).

The result? Our client had successfully re-stocked their site with minimal preparation costs.

If you would like to find out more about how A.W. Jenkinson Forest Products can help you, please contact us on:

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Tim Liddon and **Martin Craig**,
Tilhill Forestry

Improved Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis* (Bong.) Carr) planting stock has been available to forest managers in Britain since the early 90ies. Stock can be obtained either from progeny-tested clonal seed orchards – or Full sibling rooted cuttings from controlled pollination between progeny-tested parents. Predicted gains in growth rate (measured as dbh), stem straightness, wood density and Acoustic Velocity can be found on the Conifer Coop website¹. Both State and private sector have restocked substantial areas with this improved material predominantly seed orchard (SO) in the early years with increasing use of Full sibling over the past seven years.

Many of these crops that have been restocked over the past 15 – 20 years are now reaching (indeed some may have already reached) the age at which thinning should be being considered, particularly given that the roading infrastructure is much improved following first rotation harvesting. Within Tilhill, an analysis of managed properties indicates the potential of some 7000 hectares over the next five years and doubling in the following 5-10 years.

Lee and Mathews (2004) estimated the volume gain from planting improved stock should be between 21% and 29% at the end of a rotation along with variations in other characteristics such as stem straightness, branching. Recent results from a series of (85) sample plots within Tilhill managed properties gives considerable credence to the forecast increased growth rates within improved Sitka spruce – indeed if you assess the crops against current yield tables they appear to be off the scale. It is clear that the relationships between age and top height, volume and basal area are different. One can see the different form of the crops. The picture on the right shows MOO55 - a half sibling used extensively in 2004–2007, with its characteristic narrow and light crown.

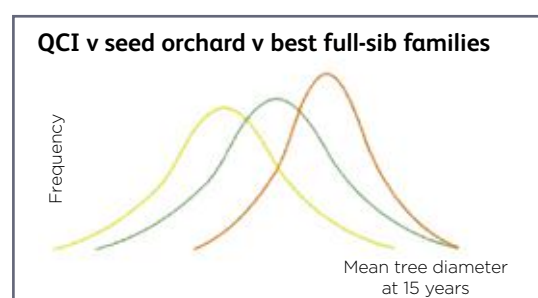
Predict

So the issue currently is to predict how these crops will grow either as thinned or unthinned crops and with the faster height growth it is likely that the window for thinning is narrow. Existing FC Yield Models are based on data from permanent sample plots set up in the 1920's which were predominantly QCI in origin. We know that current FC models were tending to underestimate volumes and overestimate mortal-



ity in existing QCI stands and a new set of SS yield tables were published in 2016 based on the preliminary outputs of a dynamic growth and yield model being developed by the Forestry Commission.

However these models do not cover for improved Sitka spruce where there is a dearth of data and as yet few permanent sample plots on which to base growth calculations. Forestry Commission and the Conifer Co-op are planning jointly on a revised digital model which will try and predict how these crops will grow and there will be iterative changes to these models as more data becomes available. This different growth manner should not surprise us, as the graphs below illustrate the normal distribution curves for the normal QCO population and then the selected material of seed orchard and Full Sibling.



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Continued from p47



In the meantime, however, forest managers will need to make decisions on whether and when to thin these crops on the basis of limited advice. Some of the pointers that forest managers should be aware of when looking at thinning options are shown in the panel (right).

Tilhill has thinned a 1995 restock crop planted with seed orchard material in 2014/15 (above). The site is approximately 100m above sea level and is fertile. The gross area thinned was 12.6ha which yielded 899 tonnes of pulpwood, in other words 71t/ha – a strong yield. The thinning was complicated by the lack of straight rows, and considerable natural regeneration some of which was harvested and some went into the brash mat as it was too small. But as a second rotation crop there was good – tried

POINTERS WHEN LOOKING AT THINNING OPTIONS

- 1 How is the relationship between top height and volume increment different to standard QCI?
- 2 How will mortality affect these crops? Is less mortality likely due to narrower crowns, less branching and straightness which makes the decision as to thin or not more critical. If there is little mortality throughout most of a commercial rotation managers have the prospect of perhaps 2500 stems per ha at year 40?
- 3 Should we be planning for shorter rotations to improve resilience in our Sitka crops, by exposing any one crop to potential harming agents for a shorter period?
- 4 On the other hand the recent version of Forest Gales indicates that outputs are less pessimistic than both the previous version and Windthrow Hazard Classification. It indicates that most forest stands may potentially be grown longer.
- 5 It will be the case that many managers have little if any experience of thinning practice.
- 6 Similarly contractor resource is likely to be an issue.
- 7 Does current site preparation have an impact on ease of thinning (i.e. fewer defined rows)?
- 8 How detailed are management records on what improved stock has been planted and where?
- 9 What are the optimal machine type, permitted load size and the possible use of flotation and traction aids which managers should consider? Size of harvest machinery is a critical factor in minimising damage to both crop and ground. Many excavator bases fitted with harvesting heads may be unsuited to thinning due to factors such as low ground clearance, width and damage from tracks.

and tested forest road access.

We hope that an interim Improved Sitka yield model will be in place by the end of 2017 to provide some more information to help Forest Managers and owners to make a more informed decision, on thinning. Some snippets from around the country are sounding very exciting in terms of yield and quality, which should encourage thinning to be carried out sooner rather than later.

www.tilhill.com

References

1 www.sitkacoop.co.uk



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Trending at Elmia Wood



Gavin Marshall reports on current trends from Elmia Wood, a four-day event held at Jönköping, Sweden, in June

For those who have never had the opportunity to attend Elmia, there is a quite staggering amount to see. It is a truly international show, and it is fascinating because it encompasses working methods from so many different countries. There is always a different way of doing something—whether it is better or not is a matter of opinion, but it will suit someone somewhere, and someone else is providing the equipment or machinery to achieve that aim—and it is all on show at Elmia.

At a time when the forest industry is going through an exciting time in this country, it is my intention with this article to give an overview of trends and working methods, rather than going into detail on any individual item. It is my aim to give pointers as to what is available, indicate new ideas, and perhaps stimulate thought and discussion.

I was particularly interested to share ideas with those involved in forestry in so many different countries, to find that they face the same problems as us, and how they tackle them.

Establishment

The use of wax for protecting plants against *Hylobius* appeared to be a popular display item. I noticed a number of stands showing this product. Treatment is carried out in the nursery, has the benefit of being harmless to both tree and planter, while still offering good protection against *Hylobius*. The wax formulation is in its infancy, but is being trialled in this country by Christie Elite Nurseries, on behalf of Norsk Wax - who are happy to treat either bare root or cell grown plants. It is relatively expensive at about 9p per tree - price is likely to depend on the development of machinery to effect treatment - but it will save on 4 spray applications, so should be cost effective. I like the idea of getting away from the use of unattractive chemicals where possible, and/or avoiding delay in replanting.



Forest management

There were a number of stands exhibiting soft and hardware designed to aid mensuration. There are clearly endless possibilities for such apps with the digital revolution, but many are still in their infancy. Alas difficult to photograph such tools, but the indication is clear—you use your mobile phone or tablet to establish the extent of your 1/100 ha plot, while at the same time measuring the basal area of every tree within the plot to establish stocking density. Or alternatively measuring the volume of timber in a timber stack accurately! For one who grew up with a girthing tape, pencil and notebook, and never quite enough hands to hold every-

thing, I found the concept particularly appealing, but how well it works in practice I cannot say. The most versatile offering was on display on the Treemetrics stand—an Irish company, and I commend you to them. They are digitally recording every tree removed in a harvesting operation, while keeping a running total of volume removed, against target for removal. As every tree removed is mapped, the forester is left with a clear idea of the progress of the operation. Felled timber is also broken down into product categories. Last but not least, it is potentially a good way of keeping a handle on the productivity of both harvesters and forwarders.

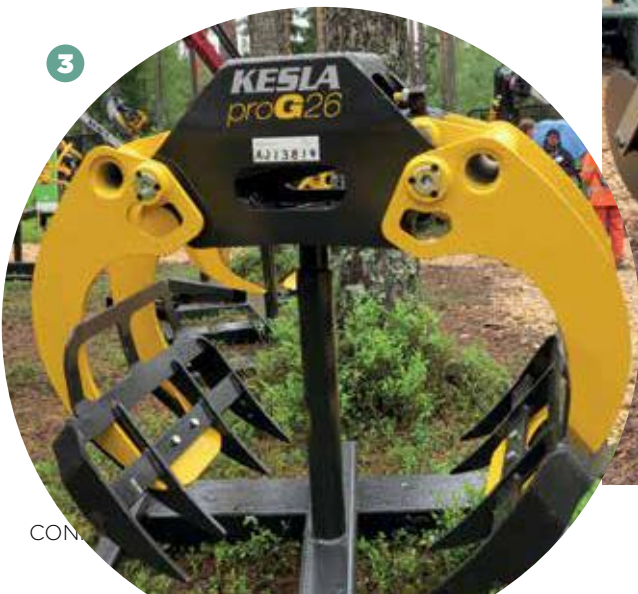
Ground preparation

This is not new, but there is no harm to be reminded of the alternatives available for ground preparation, and especially if we are to significantly increase our planted area. Videos showed this scarifier **[1]** doing a good job of exposing mineral soil through a layer of brush. The discs are powered so help drive the tractor over difficult terrain, but the downside is that you will create a drainage channel on slopes. These machines were being displayed by UOT Forestry, whose UK agent is Paul Vidgen.

The alternative is this moulder **[2]** from the same stable. This might be the preferred ground prep on wetter ground. Notable is its capacity to compact the mounds as it makes them, thus avoiding the need to allow time for settlement. I cannot compare rates, but this is dramatically quicker than mounding with an excavator and, again, appears to work well even on restock sites. This particular machine is currently being trialled, to good effect, by Simon Richardson.

I liked the look of this brush rake attachment on a standard Kesla grapple **[3]**. Apparently not such a new idea in Sweden, but it is new to the export market. The attachment, as with all Kesla products, is available from Jim Watt at Caledonian Forestry and will cost you £580-00. It is easily bolted on And it works! (Or so he says)

This double mouldboard plough **[4]**, developed by Kompania Lesna in Romania appeared to be packed with features. Note the discs behind the mouldboard, so designed to break down any brush lying on the upturned turf. And the addition of a subsoiler to break down any pan below the furrow looked useful. Designed for planting in the furrow - their weather pattern must be different to ours - the mouldboards were not wide enough to provide for two metre spacing if planting on the turfs, but being Romanian, they were clearly quite prepared to adapt the design to suit the customer. And another advantage is that you get a lot of steel for your money from Romania - this plough retailing at about £3,500-00.



Harvesting

OK, so this is what any forestry show is really about - big machines and there were any number to look at. However I suspect that those in the market for a large harvester or forwarder know exactly what they are looking for, and it is my aim therefore to concentrate on the range of machines available, with particular emphasis on versatility. One talking point which interested me was the universal difficulty of attracting drivers to all of these machines, a problem we must address. Of interest to me is that the Swedes, despite the extent of their forest cover, appear to favour working on a smaller scale, thus providing their operators with variety.

One trend of interest is the development of the tractor and trailer. Well, perhaps not the tractor—you can have any tractor you like so long as it's a Valtra. But coupled to modern trailer/crane combinations, you get a unit which is not so far removed from a purpose-built forwarder. Take the 'Y' drawbar, for example, (pictured below) which does away without the need for stabiliser legs, and means that you can reverse your trailer with the ease of a purpose-built forwarder. And the trailers are now available with affordable direct drive, and which can more easily match the tractor speed - a significant advantage over cage drive, and technologically no mean feat. Did you know that the trailer wheels must turn 4% slower than the tractor wheels?! Drive systems are constantly progressing. The main advantage of a tractor and trailer, is the high road speed, invaluable for long extraction routes, and obviating the need for low loaders. And of course the tractor unit is versatile, and can be used for many different tasks, with a wide range of attachments. But please note that all harvester heads on tractors are small, with a maximum tree girth of 35cms.





“

The move for greater versatility is perhaps the most interesting point of note, the striving to develop machinery which will reach ever more inaccessible corners of the forest

I hope that these photos convey something of the variety of systems available to the industry. Alas space does not permit more comprehensive coverage – the range of machinery available is truly eye watering from the largest forwarder I spotted boasting a payload of 24 tonnes, to the many quad-based forwarding units at the other end of the spectrum. Yes, there appear to be developments in the larger scale machines, boasting, for example, ever smoother crane operation, but in what I thought was an interesting move, the bigger names – Rottne, Komatsu et al were all exhibiting new thinnings machines – not that they looked particularly compact to me! And there was a considerable range of what I would call true thinnings forwarders, from the Vimek, to the Wood Tiger, Malwa, and the extraordinary little Alstor, which appears to defy gravity.

But the move for greater versatility is perhaps the most interesting point of note, the striving to develop machinery which will reach ever more inaccessible corners of the forest, and as witnessed by the many harvesters and forwarders boasting winches allowing them to be lowered down the sort of slope where even trees are struggling to hang on.

But I think my favourite forwarder has to be this one...



[1] Harvester head on a Valtra N Series

[2] Stroke processor – not very productive but cheap and easy to operate

[3] Nilsula conversion on a Volvo excavator, this one with harvester head. Not only does this make the excavator base much more stable, but it is also more comfortable for the operator – negating one of the main criticisms of tracked harvesters.

[4] Timber trailer with direct drive to trailer wheels

[5] One of the few purpose-built tracked harvesters, this one built by Neuson, and complete with tilting cab. An excellent looking thinnings harvester, but not zero tail swing, and quite expensive when compared to an excavator conversion.

[6] The simple art of suspending a harvester or forwarder from a winch on steep ground – not easy to demonstrate on flat ground!

[7] Remote controlled tracked skidder – with ultra-low footprint, but expensive at about £65,000





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Old acquaintance among the pines



Eleanor Harris, Confor policy researcher, on a celebration of forestry

In 2019, Confor will be at the centre of a national celebration of a century of forestry in Britain, and we want you to be part of it.

In 2019 we celebrate the centenary of the first Forestry Act, which created the Forestry Commission. Over subsequent decades, our island was brought back from the brink of complete deforestation, less than 5% tree cover, to the present level of 15%. Within lifetimes, we have seen newly-created timber plantations mature into productive and multi-benefit forests.

In 1919 the organisation which, after many mergers and re-namings, became Confor, was already eight years old. The Landowners' Co-operative Forestry Society Limited was founded in Edinburgh in 1911, based at 122 George Street, just a block away from Confor's present office at 59.

PARTICIPATE!

Are you planning an event? Our website will host a calendar of all events taking place over the year. And we would like to hear about any you are planning so that we can include them.

MUSEUM OF OBJECTS

We aim to collect 100 years of forestry in 100 wooden objects, to showcase the ways in which timber has been at the heart of our society over the past century. It will include as wide a range of types of object as possible, from the humble matchstick to state-of-the-art timber architecture; from pit-props to bioplastics; and from kitchen units to priceless marquetry. We will showcase this 'virtual museum' in a blog and in other media coverage through the year.

GREAT BRITISH WOOD PRODUCTS

I am seeking suggestions of products made from British timber for the collection. Objects should be accompanied by at least one good photograph, and up to 500 words telling its story. What is it? When (or over what period) was it made? What kind of wood is it? Where was the timber grown and is the forest still there today? Who or what was it made for? Who made it, and how? How was it used and is it still in use? What is its future?

A century ago, the UK could barely be said to have any 'forest culture'. Now, the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey reveals that 84% of us would like to see 'a lot more trees planted'. The centenary is an opportunity not just to celebrate the achievements of the past century, but to create the step-change in public understanding of the UK timber industry that will form the foundation of a mature forest culture in the twenty-first century.



GET INVOLVED



You can submit both events for the calendar and objects for the 'museum' on-line by visiting www.confor.org.uk/resources/events/100years. Or email me at eleanor@confor.org.uk

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'Battle' for supply keeps prices high



TIMBER MARKET
REPORT
Graeme Ralph,
Euroforest

The traditional uplift in activity in spring time has left sawmills in **England and Wales** scrambling for volume. Several mills are very short of volume and those that are currently well supplied are concerned about volumes going forward. The overall effect of the shortage is a significant battle for timber supplies especially in the standing market. This has driven prices to a very high level and competition is significant with all the signs being that the current level of demand is set to continue during the second half of the year.

In **Scotland** we continue to experience an East-West split with a generally stable supply situation in the West in spite of enhanced demand from Irish mills increasing their interest in Scottish sources of saw logs. In the East, a number of mills are currently hunting for supplies for the latter part of the year, and although prices in the West are good, they are generally stronger in the East as mills chase available volume. It appeared in late Spring that the steep price rises experienced in the early part of 2017 were beginning to fall back, but since then there has been a renewed appetite and this remains a very good time to be marketing sawlog parcels throughout the country.

Sawn fencing demand has been level, but with some carcassing mills reducing minimum top diameters to secure more volume, this has helped to eat into what would have been the fencing or pallet element of the crop, so this portion of the tree continues to find a home without too much of a problem.

In the **small roundwood** sector Kronospan's woes following a catastrophic turbine failure continue to

reverberate around the industry. They anticipate being back up to full production for the second half of the year, but have significant stocks around the country that will take many months to clear. In addition, Verdo has ceased production at both its Andover and Grangemouth sites and other small roundwood users have had maintenance shuts all of which has depressed demand. To make matters worse the strong sawmill activity throughout the country has led to record volumes of sawmill co-products being available which have tended to displace roundwood. So overall, not a great picture, but on the positive side, the new OSB line at Inverness is on schedule and is expected to be in production in late 2017 producing environmentally friendly formaldehyde free OSB which will open up significant new market opportunities for Norbord, and will see a doubling of demand at this site.

Not surprisingly small roundwood prices are under pressure, although thankfully most end users seem to be taking the long term view and are not cutting prices by as much as they might, in an attempt to maintain supplier confidence.

Overall, despite small roundwood prices being somewhat deflated at present, with sawlog prices as good as they have ever been, standing timber returns are still very healthy for woodland owners up and down the country, with particular localised hot spots of increased demand if you are in the right place at the right time. Indeed, in the recent Forest Enterprise Tenders in both England and Scotland there was a greater number of bidders than usual, with prices achieved well in excess of reserve.



Competition still strong for quality plantations



FOREST MARKET REPORT
Fenning Welstead,
 John Clegg & Co

This financial year in **Wales** has started well with the cautiousness surrounding the General Election softening quickly. The transactional market has improved swiftly and the demand for medium and large quality commercial conifer woodlands remains incredibly strong. The recent weakening of the Pound against the Euro has seen standing timber prices for Sitka spruce rise above the £45/ton threshold which bolsters purchasers' confidence.

Among note has been the recent sale of Cefn Creuan Isaf which reached well in excess of the £7800/ha guide price and included a small bothy shelter with holiday let consent. This substantial block of productive commercial conifers, was keenly valued by the market. The stocking consisted of mainly Sitka spruce, with replanting opportunities and future harvesting prospects for the remaining P1978 crops.

Forestry managers and agents in Wales have had a successful year so far acquiring a number of farms to convert to new planting schemes. These properties will help meet the future demand for timber resources. The Glastir grant application schemes remain technically difficult to navigate with only a few schemes receiving approval first time. However, growing experience of the application process has resulted in subsequent submissions being successful and the political weight now urging new planting can only improve this. Tillhill are understood to have obtained consent to plant 270ha. Most recently a high profile Welsh sports man has successfully gained

permission to plant 50ha of new woodland on his existing holding.

In **England** a similar account of the market is found. Recent sales of Brockhurst Wood and School Wood has resulted in strong offers at closing date resulting in prices well in excess of the guide prices of £190,000 and £200,000 respectively for these approximately 20 acre woods.

The overall feedback from the market remains; good quality private amenity woods or a well-stocked commercial woodlands will command a buyers interest and likely as not a healthy premium. Supply is at present subservient to demand. This coupled to a strong timber market has pushed even the more difficult properties to be considered in greater detail.

In **Scotland** we can report that there are a number of opportunities with forestry and residential property in combination; not a common occurrence. Dere Street Farm, just to the south of Edinburgh, offered 44ha of commercial spruce crops as a lot in conjunction with 90ha of agricultural grazing land and a modern four-bedroomed farmhouse with outbuildings. The forestry element was valued at just over £4500 per hectare, which, for spruce planted in the mid-1980s, was a very competitive price. The whole was on offer at £750,000 and is now under offer at a premium over that.

Gentleman's estate

On a slightly more substantial scale, Strutt & Parker and John Clegg & Co are jointly marketing Chapel-on-Leader Estate near Earlston in the Scottish Borders. Extending in total to 178ha, this gentleman's estate is based around a most attractive early-18th century house. The land lies beside the Leader Water and comprises mixed arable and livestock farming, with strong elements of commercial forestry; in particular Carol-side and Leaderside woods. The former, extending to 43.7ha and containing semi-mature mixed conifers and broadleaves, is guided at £6295 per hectare. The latter, comprising mixed conifer and broadleaf woodlands with some arable paddocks alongside fishing on the Leader Water - at just over £5500 per hectare and only 30



miles outside Edinburgh, this would be ideal as a project woodland.

The same agents have, on a more extensive forestry scale, Bolfracks Estate near Aberfeldy in Highland Perthshire, currently for sale at an overall price of £10.9M. Included within the estate the main Bolfracks Forest extends to 650ha of prime commercial forestry. With a guide price of £3.75M, comprising a wide range of age classes and including productive stands of conifers with excellent access, this is a very well managed forest property.

Also within the estate is Newhall Wood offering a smaller commercial package at 82.9ha and a guide price of £550,000. Newhall comprises primarily conifer crops





Left: Bolfracks Estate, and below, Lethem, The Hass & Broombaulks

It is an example of extensive, high quality commercial conifer forestry, established between 1987 and 1994. The forest is well laid out with rides, open glades and water. Sporting records show an average of 45 Roe deer shot over the last nine years. With a crop now just over 30 years old, this is a forest for further capital value growth as the timber matures over the next five to ten years. Thereafter, it should generate substantial income from harvesting. The property is available in three lots, but as a total, is priced at £5.825M, equivalent to £7435 per hectare. A closing date has been set for Friday, 4th August and we anticipate strong competition for what is an outstanding property.

Harvesting plan

Polmoodie near Moffat contains 200ha of well grown, commercial conifer crops dating from the early 1970s. With an approved harvesting plan in place for 71ha of immediate felling this appealed to the market despite some steep slopes and is now under offer at over Guide Price.

Looking at woodlands with excellent access, Pitlivie Woodlands near Dundee were sold earlier in the year by Knight Frank. Just over 112ha in size, comprising a mix of maturing spruce, restocked crops and some land reclaimed into grazing paddocks, a guide price of £675,000 looked very competitive and it eventually sold for well above that price, reportedly about £7500 per hectare. Not only did it have excellent infrastructure, but there was a most attractive fishing lochan sheltered by the trees.

As a general overview of where the forest market is, after ten years of bullish growth, it is clear that well-founded commercial plantations are still in great demand. With timber prices strengthening – see other reports in this issue – the income from a clear-fell may now exceed £20,000 per hectare. The fundamentals of the physical growth of timber combined with future raw material demands, underpins a very sensible investment. In contrast, forests which are compromised in terms of infrastructure, yield class or location, are being more critically looked at in terms of value. However, given the present political state in the UK, the value of Sterling may remain low for some years to come and that is a very strong influence on home-grown timber values. There is a popular saying that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. One could say the same about buying a forest – why delay now?

dating from the early 1990s, many of which have been thinned. It also has a man-made lochan providing sporting potential. Intriguingly, there is also planning consent to establish a small caravan park and camping site, together with the appropriate infrastructure and services. In such a strong tourist area this may have real potential.

The third major woodland element at Bolfracks is an extensive native pinewood established about 20 years ago. In total 180ha, this woodland enjoys spectacular views westwards to Loch Tay and includes the reportedly largest Black Grouse lek in the UK.

As the estate is presented to the market in 16 lots, there are many opportunities to

combine a forestry investment with a cottage or more substantial house and additional land.

Returning to our normal focus on straightforward woodlands, we commented last time on the sale of Glentaggart South and of Middlehill. These were two forests in the south of Scotland, each approximately 200ha in size and of similar age and composition. These have now sold at competitive closing dates. Middlehill, forming part of a major Eskdalemuir forest, achieved a sale price of just over £10,000 per hectare. Glentaggart South, a more standalone individual property in Lanarkshire, sold for just over £5500 per hectare.

Both properties had a requirement for access development and upgrading. Middlehill benefitted from being part of a forest complex where these development costs and benefits would be shared amongst several owners. While there were other issues creating the difference, it does stress the importance of the access structure into commercial forestry properties and the costs of upgrading to suitable standards.

Continuing with comments on the extensive commercial forestry blocks, the largest high quality forest offered on the open market in Scotland so far during 2017 has to be Lethem, The Hass and Broombaulks. In total, 783.46ha, this forest is situated just north of the border with England and is well served by having direct contact with the A68 and the A6088 public roads.



Defra Xylella high risk host list published

Xylella fastidiosa is a bacterial disease with many sub species and strains not known to occur in the UK. Defra has published an information note on *Xylella* high risk hosts.

In mainland Europe, most notably France (Corsica and mainland France) and Italy there have been several outbreaks of different sub-species which have led to significant impacts on plants both in the wider environment and those grown commercially for olive production. In 2016, *Xylella* was detected in Spain for the first time on cherry trees in a nursery. This subspecies is able to survive in cooler climates and affect a wide range of hosts, including many native broadleaved trees such as oak.

Although EU regulated, there remains some concern about the risk of introduction to the UK via infected host plants imported as plants for planting. The disease is spread by insects that feed on the xylem fluid. This includes the widespread and common meadow spittlebug, which is the principle insect spreading the disease in Italy and France.

Eradication measures for *Xylella* in the event of an



outbreak have been set out in emergency EU legislation. When *Xylella* is detected in an outbreak situation, all hosts within 100 metres must be destroyed and the area treated to control the vectors. There will also be measures placed on businesses trading in host plants within 10 km.

Olive branch affected by *Xylella* (CNR / Donato Boscia)

Sweet Chestnut Blight found in East London

The Chief Plant Health Officer has confirmed that Sweet chestnut blight has been found in East London.

Action is being taken to identify and control the disease in line with the Government's plant disease contingency plans. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Forestry Commission are carrying out extensive surveillance of sweet chestnut trees in the area. Further action will be taken on the basis of surveillance information and the best available scientific evidence.

Anyone who has sweet chestnut trees in their garden or on their land, or who works with the trees, should check them for signs of the disease. Any suspected symptoms must be reported, preferably using the Forestry Commission's Tree Alert disease reporting tool.



Businesses or woodland owners needing further information may contact the Forestry Commission's South East England Area Office by email southeast.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone 0300 067 4420.

RESOURCES



Resources on *Xylella* and Sweet Chestnut Blight available at www.conforg.org



Irus Remote Mowers

Irus have been building mowers in Germany since 1928, with their first remote mower in 2003. Consequently their range of remote mowers and tool carriers are one of the most developed on the market.

Yet again showing innovation with the launch the new Remote "Twin" at this year's Confor Woodland Show, the mower uses a 50hp Hi Torque Kubota engine, with 100 l/min hydraulic power, and the ability to carry two implements simultaneously. With a forest mulcher at the front and stump grinder at the rear, or 3,500kg skidder winch, and any number of combinations to increase work rates and speed in varying environments. Additionally, expandable tracks give up to 2 metres of track width, ensuring safe working and versatility on the most extreme slopes.

Exhibiting at the show will also be the 4 wheel Quatrak machine, the serious, cost effective performer Evotrak, and the hard working Deltrak 2.5.

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In the footsteps of a Victorian tree hunter



Our cover picture is taken from *Green Gold*, Gabriel Hemery's book based on the life of the Victorian adventurer and tree 'collector' John Jeffrey. It is a publishing 'adventure' in itself

The latest book by Gabriel Hemery, author of *The New Sylva* (Bloomsbury Publishing 2014), is due for publication in 2018, but thanks to a unique crowd-funding model, future readers are required to pledge their support in advance of publication. In return for a pledge, a number of rewards are on offer, all of which result in your name (or someone special to you) printed in the book.

Green Gold is a work of biographical fiction, based on a true story. It follows young Victorian tree-hunter John Jeffrey's extraordinary adventures as he crosses North America in search of trees and other plants. Hemery has merged fact - from letters, plant specimens and a minute book - with fiction in the form of Jeffrey's imagined expedition journals. These are the journals which he was contracted to write but which never materialised.

In 1850, under the employment of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), the young Scot was despatched to seek highly-prized exotic tree species in North America. The expedition was supported by subscribers including wealthy Scottish landowners, plant nurseries, and even members of the royal family. An early letter home tells of a 1,200 mile transcontinental journey on foot. Later, tantalising botanical samples arrived home from British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and California, yet early promise soon withered.

Three years after setting out John Jeffrey disappeared without a trace. Those at home wondered whether he was he lost to love, violence or the Gold Rush.



I have determined that I will start back north tomorrow, and find company as soon as possible in case my wounds fester, although I now feel a little more myself. The snow-clad peak of Mount Shasta exerts a dominant presence in this place, its foothills providing fertile hunting grounds for the botanist. Before me tall pines, all of the same new species, grow between massive boulders extending without interruption down the valley and far into the distance. This land is a paradise so rich it would see the same gentlemen emptying their purses to secure more collectors. Yet their ambitions might be cruelly shattered by my appearance.

AN EXTRACT FROM HEMERY'S
IMAGINED JOURNALS OF
JOHN JEFFREY

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John Jeffrey sent seeds of 119 species, including 35 conifer species, back to Britain, and more than 400 plant specimens were received by the Herbarium at RBGE. Two plant species still bear his name, Jeffrey's shooting star (*Dodecatheon jeffreyi*) and Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*).

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Assessing the stem straightness of trees

Forestry Commission Technical Note

Andrew Price, Adrian Hapca, Barry Gardiner, Elspeth Macdonald, Paul Mclean, 2017

The shape of a tree is very important in determining its timber volume recovery and value. A Technical Note just published by the Forestry Commission provides guidance on the methods that can be used to assess stem straightness in standing trees.

The Note looks at three methods: visual assessment, photogrammetric measurement and terrestrial lidar. It provides basic guidance on each of the techniques and recommendations for their use.

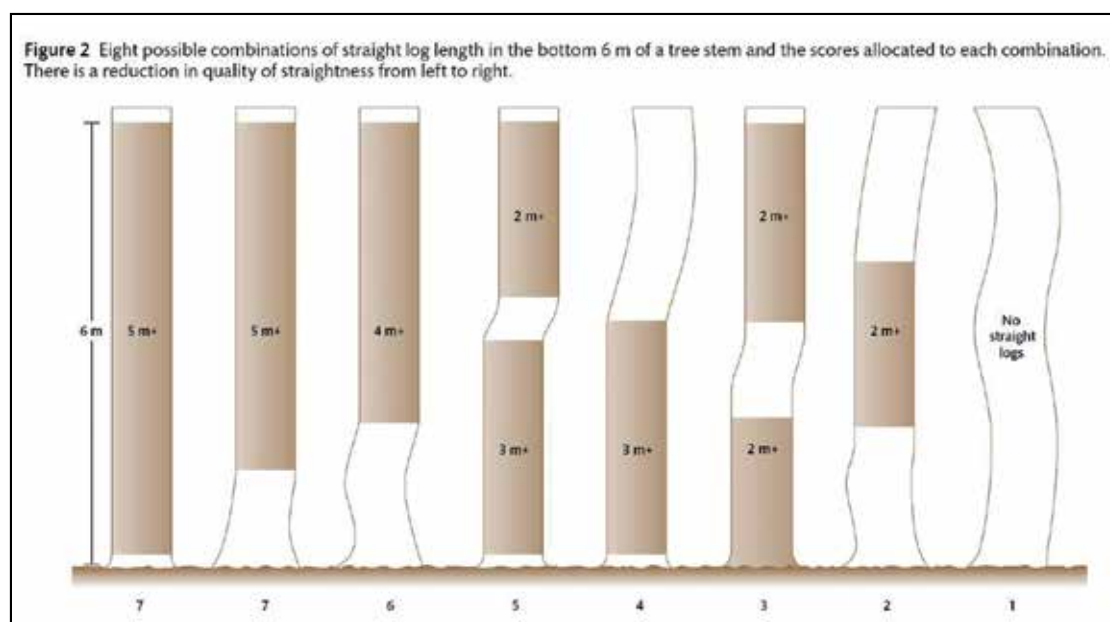
Effective assessment of stem straightness both at individual tree and stand level, prior to harvesting enables managers and researchers to:

- identify better quality stands, or the better trees within stands;
- optimise resource use by identifying and marketing material according to specific processor requirements;
- reduce the incidence of rejected logs or loads;

- obtain the best prices for logs;
- include log quality information in forest inventory, production forecasting and forest planning;
- inform processors about the quality of future supplies.


Author Andrew Price of Forest Research, said: “The ability to make an effective assessment before harvesting is useful for forest managers and practitioners to improve forecasting, planning, marketing and resource use.

“Each method has its own advantages and disadvantages depending on the requirements of the forest manager. For example, if a low cost and high speed method is required the estimates provided by visual assessment may currently be the best option. The photogrammetric technique is highly accurate but technically demanding and time-consuming. Terrestrial lidar can be used for plot-based measurements and is rapidly becoming more automated, which will speed up the method and make it more attractive to users.”




A figure from the Technical Note, Assessing the stem straightness of trees

The technical note is available to download from the publications catalogue at www.forestry.gov.uk/publications/whatsnew



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Keeping up the Pace

Eamonn Wall gets behind the wheel of Jaguar's new sports utility vehicle

Jaguar Land Rover have been very busy over the last few years trebling sales and making large profits. These profits has been reinvested in the Company and much of it was used by Jaguar to develop a new aluminium platform from which it developed three new vehicles, the small saloon XE, the larger XF saloon and its recently introduced estate version, and the crossover vehicle the F Pace. All three vehicles come with the option of 4WD and use mostly new in-house developed four cylinder engines built at a new factory in Warwickshire. Six cylinder engines are also available being the exiting engines used within the brands.

The F Pace is the better looking vehicle of the three and was designed to be an SUV version of the two door sports car the F Type. The rear lights design certainly echo those of the F Type and look very smart. During the design phase, much emphasis was placed on achieving very good handling combined with a spacious body.

I test drove the 2-litre diesel 4WD automatic version and confirm that it is a lovely vehicle to drive. It handles and rides very well indeed. Its 8-speed auto box is very smooth and preferable over the giddy 9-speed box found in the Discovery Sport. The 178bhp engine averaged 40 mpg during press-on motoring. In everyday use the engine is powerful enough and quiet nippy, but if you really want to leg it for overtaking it is not that explosive. Certainly, the 3-litre diesel would be faster but it is a lot more expensive. A new 237 bhp diesel four pot is now available and I reckon this would be



the one to go for. This same engine is also available in the new large Discovery where it does a good job.

The interior is nicely designed and is based on the one found in the XE saloon. The boot is a good size but ground clearance is not great, and unfortunately, suspension raising air springs are not available. Prices start at £34,500 for a rear wheel drive manual and creep up to £55,000.

The F Pace has been very well received, winning many global awards and is selling



The F Pace is Jaguar's Porsche-bating machine and one that drives very well

extremely well. It is doing very well in the USA where of course it comes equipped with a snarly 3-litre supercharged six cylinder engine. The factory is working 24 hours per day to meet demand. This summer, Jaguar will launch a smaller version: the E pace priced from £25,000. The E Pace is not based on the aluminium architecture but on the steel-bodied Discovery Sport. More interesting is the newly released Range Rover Velar which is based on the F Pace but with a slightly higher body, electronic locking rear differential, softer air suspension, and 4WD on all models. However, prices commence at £44,500. So for now, the F Pace is Jaguar's Porsche-bating machine and one that drives very well whilst being a practical family car.

Eamonn Wall is a forestry and arboricultural consultant and director with Eamonn Wall and Co.





Bracken spraying update

Bracken continues its relentless progress in upland areas, and although cutting, rolling or crushing will eventually reduce the vigour of the fern, the application of herbicides is generally the only practical long-term solution.

Currently, there are two approved herbicide options, Asulox or glyphosate, both of which can be highly effective when applied between July and the end of August prior to any signs of senescence.

Asulox is the product of choice in an establishing crop due to the excellent tolerance of most crop species to the herbicide. Despite initially being recommended for EC re-approval, Asulox lost its European registration in 2012 following a review of the regulations in Brussels, so in the last few years, forestry use in the UK and on moorland has been through an annually renewed Emergency Approval. The licence holders UPL are investing heavily in the provision of data for re-registration, and a full reinstatement hoped for in 2018 or 2019.

The 2017 Emergency Approval is very similar to that granted in previous years with use and storage from 01 July to 31 October, after which all unused herbicide must be returned to the supplier. Application may be by knapsack or tractor sprayer, or though helicopter services such as those operated by Mike Davies in Wales or PDG in Scotland. The previously popular drift application by Micron Ulva is not permitted.

Although knapsack application is permitted, the terms of the approval make this option impracticable in most circumstances, as a maximum concentration of 1% is permitted, and any runoff is prohibited.

At the forestry rate of 10l/ha, this would mean applying 1000l water per hectare, meaning that a 10 litre knapsack would cover only 10m x 10m, and almost certainly lead to runoff from the fronds. A cumbersome option would be to spray three times with 3.3l/ha in 330l water per ha - time consuming, but legal.

Glyphosate is equally effective on bracken but has the disadvantage of being much less safe to the underlying crop - particularly broadleaves. However, it does have a useful role as a pre-planting treatment, particularly on replant sites left for two-three years as part of a Hylobius management strategy.

Although glyphosate is not permitted to be applied by helicopter, it scores heavily on hand-held systems as it can be applied low volume by CDA spinning disc (250um) systems, by weed-wiper, and by knapsack at efficiently low water volumes. This means that glyphosate may be the preferred option for treating small bracken patches shading small pines or spruce. Timing should be targeted towards the end of August when there is a good chance that the crop leader growth will have hardened but



the bracken is still green.

At time of writing, no firm decision has been announced in Brussels about the long-term future of glyphosate.

Three options for the future

Two other application systems are being developed. The first is the use of the tractor-mounted canon mist-blower used by Christmas tree growers for insecticide and fungicide applications. These fan assisted sprayers are capable of spraying some 50m from the tractor, so will be a valuable option on semi accessible terrain.

The second option is the use of herbicide-carrying drones. This technology is already well established in Japan with an 8-rotor machine capable of treating a quarter hectare of bracken per flight. However, although the drones are available, it will probably take a couple of years for the regulatory regime to adopt a suitable approval process.

A third herbicide option also looks interesting. The sulphonyl urea herbicide amidosulfuron currently used for weed control in the cereal crop appears to be very promising. The herbicide has a reasonable safety profile on trees, can be applied by knapsack sprayer, and is not classified as harmful to the operator. However, it is classified as dangerous in the aquatic environment so would be likely to require a high aquatic buffer zone requirement. On the plus side, it been shown to be tolerated by moorland vegetation outside of forestry. However no moves have yet been made to gain an off-label approval for this use.

A Hardi mistblower spraying Christmas trees



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Electronic telecoms code set for reform

by **Scott Logan**

Telecommunications operators, keen to secure new sites and improve network coverage, are increasingly looking at forestry locations as an option. For forestry owners, most site leases are compatible with their own operations and can provide a welcome source of additional revenue. The Electronic Communications Code, which regulates most site leases and similar agreements, is being reformed.

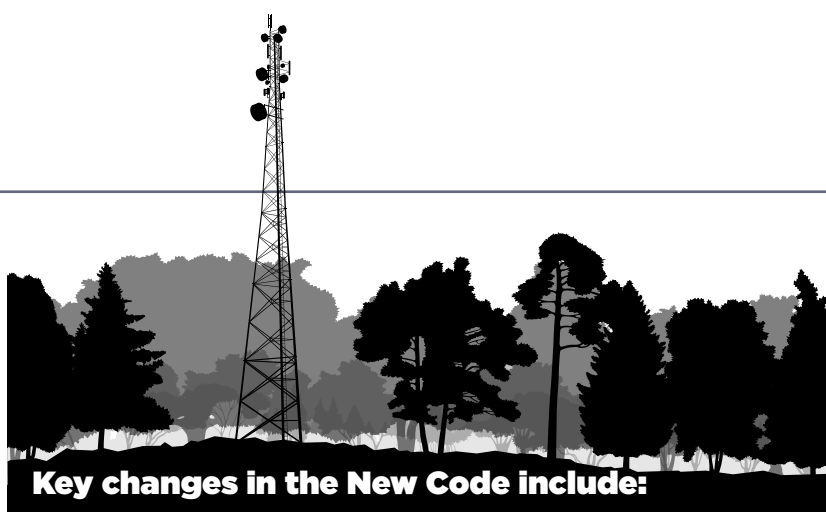
The Digital Economy Act received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017, paving the way for the introduction of the new Electronic Communications Code. It is expected that the new Code will be brought in to effect later this year.

The Code was first introduced in 1984 and provided a statutory basis for telephone companies to place landline telephone equipment on land. The Code was extended in 2003 to cover all electronic communications and further reform has been on the agenda for some time now.

The new Code aims to put in place modern regulation that supports the rapid rollout of digital communications infrastructure, including 4G networks, superfast broadband and future generations of technology.

Under the existing Code there is a delicate balance of interests between landowners on one hand and communications providers on the other, and disputes frequently arise. The new Code will shift that balance firmly in favour of operators, making it easier for them to deploy and maintain their infrastructure with new rights to upgrade and share apparatus. This will allow new technologies to be rolled out quickly as they become commercially viable but this will be at the cost of landowners who, until now, have benefited from additional payments where additional rights have to be secured by agreement.

Scott Logan is managing associate specialising in compulsory purchase, telecoms and utilities at Brodies LLP. scott.logan@brodies.com



Key changes in the New Code include:

Consideration

The payments landowners can expect to receive for having equipment installed on their land will fall because the basis of valuation will shift from market value payments towards a 'no scheme' value where the operator's use of the site for electronic communications is disregarded.

Upgrading & sharing apparatus

Operators will have new automatic rights to upgrade and share apparatus without requiring agreement or making payments to landowners, provided there is minimal adverse visual impact or additional burden on the landowner. This should allow new technologies to be rolled out quickly as they come to market.

Landowners, however, will lose out and can no longer benefit from additional income or 'payaway' in such circumstances.

Assignment/Assignment

The new Code provides for Code rights to be assigned freely without landowners' consent. Landowners will no longer be able to use a requirement for consent to negotiate improved terms.

This also means that landowners will have no control over the future identity of the operator, which will be of considerable concern to landowners, particularly in relation to site restoration and the risk of operator insolvency.

Apparatus termination/removal

The new Code extends the protections given to operators to retain their apparatus on site after any lease or other agreement has expired. Under

existing and new Codes, operators can apply to the Court for new Code rights and these provisions can be invoked to acquire new sites and to retain existing sites where a notice to remove has been served. The new Code extends the notice period for removing apparatus to 18 months and the circumstances in which a notice to remove can be given are limited.

Many landowners have experienced difficulties in recovering possession of sites held by operators under the existing Code. When the new Code takes effect, the extended notice period and limited grounds for removal may well deter landowners from voluntarily entering into such arrangements in the first place.

Contracting out

Contracting out of the new Code is prohibited, ensuring that the Code will underpin commercial negotiations at all times.

Transitional arrangements

Whilst parts of the new Code will apply to existing contracts, the transitional provisions exclude the reassignment of Code rights and the upgrading and sharing provisions from existing agreements. There will be a gradual move to the new Code as existing contracts come up for renewal.

Conclusion

The new Code strengthens the powers of operators and should significantly reduce their rent roll. Landowners, however, will lose out so that the public can benefit from having the improved networks that society demands in the modern digital era.



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SMALL WOODLAND OWNER
PROFESSOR JULIAN EVANS OBE PICFor

The future of plantations

In June I had the privilege to join the ten year celebration of 'New Generation Plantations'. This initiative brings together governments, including China and our own Forestry Commission, commercial forestry companies with large plantations such as Mondi, UPM and Stora Enso and major environmental charities, notably WWF. Examples of NGPs can be found across the globe, for example, in Brazil, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South America and others. It is a remarkable coming together to ensure, in essence, that forest plantations – the engine of future forest products – benefit society and, indeed, the planet. The 10th anniversary meeting, called an 'encounter', included representation from Confor, FSC, IUFRO and others and was opened by Sir Harry Studholme, Chair of the Forestry Commission. It all got me thinking about its relevance to the small woodland owner.

NGP describe themselves as an 'ecosystem of collaboration' and are underpinned by four principles: maintain ecosystem integrity; contribute to economic growth and employment; protect and enhance high conservation values; and have effective processes for stakeholder involvement. These principles are a benchmark against which to judge how all land is managed whoever owns it - after all 'no man is an island'. But what in practice might this mean to the owner of a small woodland?

Rather than attempting to translate these principles into localised application – surely we can all do that? - they provide an excellent reminder that pretty well all woodland is: (a) a component of the landscape in which it lies and hence has numerous ecological linkages; (b) offers 'services' to the environment to a greater or lesser extent in carbon storage, mitigating water runoff, gaseous exchange etc; (c) is of at least some interest to others who are not its owners; and (d) has the capacity, when managed well, to generate wealth. For me the NGP meeting brought home both the fact of multi-purpose forestry and the responsibility or duty to practise it at the local level. I think I can tick most of the boxes, whether running student training days in my wood, developing glades – and this year's fritillary butterflies have been breathtaking, earning income from standing sales and, all the time, recognising it is part of the Hampshire countryside only a mile from where Jane Austen grew up.

Visit the NGP website: you will be inspired. But take a moment to reflect how your management matches up to these ideals. Forgive the homily, but I am sure you get the drift.

There's another message from NGP. Forest plantations are no longer eschewed as second best. They are simply different from natural forest and



increasingly supply the bulk of the world's industrial timber. But with NGP principles in place they can supply wood in perpetuity in ways that enhance and not diminish the wider environment of 'people, planet and prosperity'. With an estimated 250m ha of new plantations needed by 2050, here is the model to adopt.

A silver washed fritillary enjoying bramble blossom in a glade in a 60-year-old beech plantation. Ringlets, skippers and browns were also present.


See p6/7.

RESOURCES

<http://newgenerationplantations.org>



Additional resources are available at www.confor.org

A man in a red and yellow jacket is shown in profile, holding a small pine sapling with both hands. He is looking upwards at the tall, thin trees of a forest. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with green needles, reaching up to a blue sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

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Constructive dialogue between FSC and Confor continues.

In the picture: Dr. Owen Davies (FSC UK Forest standards manager) with Confor's Andrew Heald (photo: Stefanie Kaiser)

Want to see your picture here?

Forestry in Pictures is a new regular feature in FTN. For every issue, we will select the most impacting photograph sent by a reader. If you have a photo you would like to see published here, please send

your file to Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org before 11 September 2017. Please include your name, brief description of yourself and the picture and a credit.

Photos should relate to forestry and timber and be of high-quality (minimum resolution 300dpi).

Exceptional pictures might be considered for the front cover of a future FTN issue.

By submitting a picture to Forestry in Pictures you give Confor permission to use the file for non-commercial purposes in Forestry and Timber News or the Confor website. Photos will always be credited.



**COMING IN
OCTOBER**
– GET
INVOLVED

In FTN OCTOBER we will focus on New Technologies in Forestry, with an additional small focus on transport and infrastructure. If you would like to suggest an article for these features, please contact the editor before August 25th. And, of course, we will continue to keep you up to date on important current topics, such as Brexit and planting in the UK.

We encourage members to inform us on what is going on in their businesses or raise interesting points to be discussed in future editions of Forestry and Timber News.

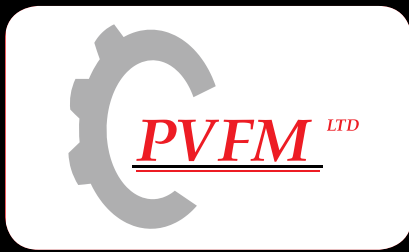
Don't forget that your opinion counts. If you would like to comment on any of the articles published in this issue, please don't hesitate to send a letter to the editor. Across the magazine, there are also specific opportunities for readers to participate, including:

- Confor Woodland Show
- British survey
- 100 years of forestry



And don't forget there is additional information on topics throughout this issue – FTN web resources are directly accessible from the Confor homepage. Watch out for the mouse icon in this magazine!

www.confor.org.uk



Paul Vidgen

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