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December 2018 Issue 90

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COVER IMAGE BY SHUTTERSTOCK

WHILE THIS IMAGE WAS CHOSEN FOR ITS VISUAL IMPACT, WE UNDERSTAND THE BREED OF SHEEP MAY NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UK SECTOR - *ED.*


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Get off to a good start

STUART GOODALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

I'm going to skip Christmas and what you may be looking for in that increasingly threadbare stocking and move straight on to New Year resolutions.

And I'm going to suggest a few for the readers of this magazine.

First, resolve to tell at least one person a month about the incredible benefits that forestry and timber provide, and why we should plant more trees and use more home-grown wood.

Promoting awareness and understanding is a continuing theme for me. I can see how other less deserving sectors get more political attention, support and funding because they are seen as important.

Confor has fantastic resources that you can make use of – please visit our website or ask for help.

Second, come along to our local meetings and tell us how we can make your business better.

Confor does a huge amount of political lobbying, we meet with public officials to make regulation better and grant schemes simpler, we also provide technical support and drive up funding for the sector. Hopefully you enjoy this magazine and our Enews and social media.

But if there's more we should do to help you, and people like you, to be more successful please tell us. My own email address is **stuartg@confor.org.uk**

Third, persuade at least one person to join Confor.

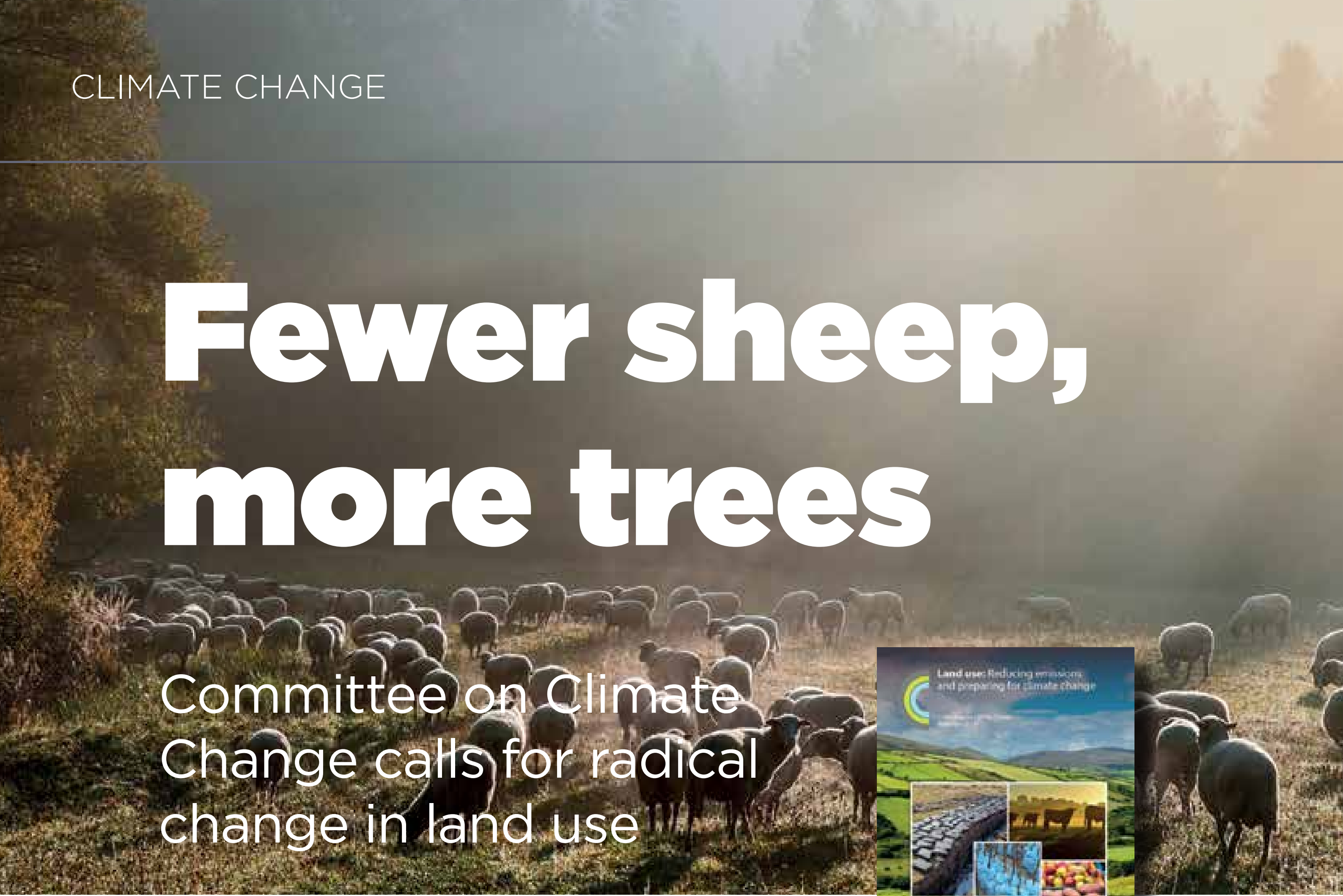
It's not just that greater financial resources enables us to do more on your behalf, it's also a case of numbers. I speak to politicians and officials and tell them I represent 1500 members, from small to large businesses. That statement would have even greater impact if I could refer to far more of the (at least) 79,000 people who work across the UK in our sector.

Give people our phone number (0131 240 1410), email them our website address or tell us who we should contact.

Fourth, tear out this page and put it in your diary or on your desk for January 2 (maybe the 3rd in Scotland).

You wouldn't want to forget to make those all-important resolutions now, would you?

www.confor.org.uk



Fewer sheep, more trees

Committee on Climate Change calls for radical change in land use

The latest report by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) reminds Government of the urgent need for a steep step change in land use in the context of climate change and recognises the need to reduce grazing land in favour of woodlands. The farming lobby and environmental groups are opening up to the discussion. This could be the tipping-point in persuading the UK Government that it must take real action in pushing tree planting up the policy agenda.

A series of previous reports on climate change have identified forestry as a "simple, low-cost option" to making a significant impact on targets – as the climate change debate shifts from simply reducing emissions to taking carbon out of the atmosphere (*see FTN August, p6/7*).

New report brings spark of hope

However, translating positive calls from expert bodies into action remains a challenge. Yet the latest CCC report, *Land Use: reducing emissions and preparing for climate change*, seems to move things forward in two significant ways:

1 Focus on land use

This is a specific report about land use and climate change, and really gets into the nitty-gritty detail of how things need to change on the ground.

2 Increased support for land use change

A range of voices are coming in behind Confor and other forestry organisations and supporting the need for fundamental change.

The report clearly states that some land currently used to produce food needs to be converted to woodland, and specifically recognises that one of the drivers for this is to create sustainable timber homes.

> *"The incremental changes seen in the past to how we use land is not enough. There is a window now to have a more radical policy. There are government plans to increase planting rates, but the plans have not been funded and to date the targets have been missed."*
>
> **Chris Stark, CCC chief executive**

Confor chief executive Stuart Goodall said: "This independent, expert report reaffirms, yet again, that we need to get seri-

Decisions need to be made quickly

The UK's goals for addressing climate change are unlikely to be met without fundamental land reform. Proposed new UK laws on agriculture and the environment means there is now a one-off opportunity to define a new land strategy.

Source: *Land Use: reducing emissions and preparing for climate change*

ous about planting more trees if we are to meet our commitments to mitigate climate change.

"Climate Change is regularly held up as the greatest existential threat to our planet and our way of life and I would encourage the CCC to be even bolder in its reports and recommendations until the UK Government recognises its responsibilities and takes them seriously."

Forestry and farming: working together

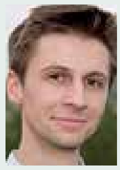
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is working increasingly closely with Confor to develop the concept of land use change. Last year, Prof Davy McCracken of SRUC spoke at a Confor conference about sheep and trees in the context of integrated land use and farm forestry. The exchange of expertise was reciprocated when Confor's Eleanor Harris gave a lecture on forestry to SRUC students this October and participated in the panel discussion at SRUC's Land Use Conference on 28-29 November. Recently, Andrew Lacey and Malcolm Young of SRUC's SAC Consulting joined Confor's Wood Supply in Scotland Campaign to work with Scotland Manager Jamie Farquhar on promoting timber-growing to Scotland's livestock and arable farmers.

Confor will continue to press its case that planting trees offers a real opportunity to diversift farm incomes, improve the welfare of livestock and create a more sustainable, long-term business.

Support from vocal environmentalists

The environmental lobby is also starting to throw its weight much more strongly behind tree planting as a way to address climate change in a quick, meaningful and cost-effective way - and to address the issue of competing land uses head-on. Campaigner George Monbiot said the report was "timid and inadequate" and Friends of the Earth's Guy Shrubsole agreed that the CCC needed to go much further. Shrubshole's call to double forest cover echoes the debate organised by Confor at Labour conference in September, *Should the next Labour Government aim to double tree cover to tackle climate change?*

"Roughly four million hectares of uplands is used for sheep, yet sheep account for just 1.2% of our diet. Allowing trees to return to a significant portion on this land has a far greater potential for carbon reduction than the puny measures proposed in this report."
George Monbiot



"We need to reforest far more of Britain than the government's current puny tree-planting targets - going beyond what this report calls for and doubling forest cover [from 13 to 26% across the UK] to lock-up carbon and help prevent floods."
Guy Shrubsole

Channeling anger into action: time for clear commitments

With support for a significant increase in tree planting growing to tackle climate change, Confor's attention will turn to how to actually make a difference.

"We have seen some welcome developments – including the opening up of the narrow applications window and the appointment of a Tree Champion," said Stuart Goodall. "But the evidence base – and the clamour for action to increase tree planting and home-grown timber use – is growing by the day. It's time for clear commitments."

The long-term commitment contained in the Government's 25-Year Environment Plan means planting 7500ha per year in England to 2042 – but the latest statistics show that barely 1000ha were planted in 2017-18.

The CCC report sets a minimum baseline target of 20,000ha in the whole of the UK by 2020 – and 27,000ha by 2030 – which means more than doubling (by 2020) and tripling (by 2030) the 9000ha planted in 2017-18 - more than 80% of which was planted in Scotland.

"The Scottish Government has set clear and unambiguous targets and linked them to policy objectives, especially climate change," said Mr Goodall. "In 2018, there is a strong prospect that the 10,000ha target will be met. That target rises to 15,000ha annually by 2025 and we can see the pathway to achieve that.

"What we need now is the UK Government – and the Welsh Government – to put in place robust and meaningful targets too, to show it is serious about forestry and timber – and therefore serious about climate change. Confor and the industry looks forward to working with new Forestry Minister David Rutley MP to identify these targets and what processes need to change to meet them. Scotland has shown that political will, collaboration between the public and private sector and tangible, short-term actions can make a real difference."

"The long-term target is nothing more than an aspiration on a page. What we need are specific annual targets, with a robust and clear pathway to meet them."
Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO

FTN WEB RESOURCES

CCC report *Land Use: reducing emissions and preparing for climate change*
Report: *Eskdalemuir – A comparison of forestry and hill farming; productivity and economic impact*
Confor report: *Farm Forestry*
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

The Agriculture Bill: what future for British land use?

In the June *Forestry and Timber News* we reported on Confor's response to the consultation on how the Common Agricultural Policy should be replaced after Brexit. We had five key asks:

1 An appropriately named 'Land Use bill' (not an 'Agriculture' bill)

2 The inclusion of timber alongside agricultural products in consideration of produce from the land

3 Consideration of public goods delivered in the ordinary course of business (such as carbon captured by forestry) as well as additional public goods paid for by public funds

4 Clear links to other related policies such as the Clean Growth Strategy and 25-Year-Environment Plan

5 Consultation in the devolved administrations as well as England.

Despite being joined by environmentalists and others in calls for a more forward-thinking title, the 'Agriculture Bill' was introduced to Westminster on 12 September.

As we go to press, it is unclear whether there will be a Brexit deal or not.

How does the bill affect different parts of the UK?

The bill provides a framework for structuring devolved delivery of rural funding outside the European Common Agricultural Policy. The main part of the bill provides a structure for England. Two subsequent sections do the same for Wales and Northern Ireland. The Scottish Government have not yet accepted provisions for a rural policy being made through a Westminster bill, so there is currently no section in this bill for Scotland. The England and Wales provisions are similar, but (in the absence of a government) the Northern Ireland provisions deliver a framework to continue business as usual.

Are the provisions for England and Wales better for forestry than CAP?

When Michael Gove was made Environment Secretary and began to consider this question, Forestry and Timber News (October 2017) reported on Confor's Common Countryside Policy. This summarised the Common Agricultural Policy as 'the CAP that doesn't fit', shoring up an uneconomic and environmentally degrading farming sector with Pillar 1 subsidies, inadequately compensated for by counter-subsidies for forestry and environment under Pillar 2.

The Agriculture Bill successfully tackles the problem at the heart of CAP, by clearly stating that rural funding can be given for two purposes:

Public benefit: 'managing land or water' for a range of environmental and social benefits

Economic development: 'starting, or improving the productivity of, an agricultural, horticultural or forestry activity.'

This is a huge step forward for forestry, which is now clearly included, on an equal basis, with farming in eligibility for funding.

Of course, the devil will be in the detail, and there is plenty of detail.

First, large sections of the Agriculture Bill, on provision of data, support in the event of exceptional market conditions, and marketing of produce, appear to revert to applying exclusively to agriculture. The wording does not seem entirely clear whether this is the case, and nor is it clear, if it is, whether this would provide benefits to agriculture from which forestry would be excluded. Confor is seeking clarification from Defra on these points.

> This is a huge step forward for forestry

Second, the bill is merely a framework. It leaves considerable flexibility for governments to decide how money will be spent in future. While it may not restrict governments from supporting forestry, this does not mean that governments will. If the Agriculture bill is passed, it will be vital that the rural policies delivered under it deliver the step-change in forestry cover and management that we need not just for the sector, but for our whole society (see the article on p6/7)

In England, funding will chiefly be delivered through Environmental Land Management schemes (ELM). In Wales, proposals from government following the Brexit and our Land consultation are expected in the next few months. Given the dismal record on tree planting in England and Wales, this radical reform offers the opportunity for a much better deal for forestry.

In Scotland, where there was strong support for remaining in Europe, the government hopes to change as little as possible. Given that this year the Scottish Government is likely to hit its target of 10,000 hectares of new woodland creation with a majority productive element for the first time this millennium, we have no desire to disrupt this with the upheaval of system reform; however, it would be beneficial in the longer term to ensure forestry and farming become more integrated in Scottish policy and rural culture.

Find out more about consultations

Confor is actively engaged in the ongoing discussions on the Agriculture Bill, and our responses were written following consultation with our members. All our evidence is posted on the Consultations page on our website – or visit FTN web resources.

We are grateful to all members who fed into these responses and responded and attended meetings in their own right. These make a real difference to ensuring that the sector's voice is heard and taken seriously in these discussions, so please keep it up!

Consultations are likely to be ongoing over the coming months, so keep checking back or follow us on Twitter and Facebook for updates.

FTN WEB RESOURCES

Consultation documents
Briefing on the second reading of the Agriculture Bill
Evidence on the Agriculture Bill to the Welsh Assembly
Response to the English Health and Harmony consultation
Response to the Welsh Brexit and our land consultation
Response to the Scottish Stability and Simplicity consultation
Response to the Northern Ireland consultation
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Introducing Anthony Geddes, Confor Manager for Wales

Confor has appointed Anthony Geddes as its new National Manager for Wales.

Anthony, 37, was formerly a forestry surveyor for John Clegg and is well-known to the forestry sector in Wales.

He brings many years of experience in both land management and renewable energy projects.

Anthony's major challenge is to turn around the graph on new woodland creation and hold the Welsh Government to its annual target of 4000ha of new planting. There is also an opportunity for a more integrated approach to land management and rural development.

Anthony says "Forestry and timber has been a central part of my career for the last decade and I'm delighted to be joining Confor to use my experience to keep building the sector's influence in Wales on behalf of members. I'm passionate about communicating the positive forestry and timber story in Wales to all Confor stakeholders and to the general public. There are political, environmental and fiscal challenges facing the sector, but I think we have a really great opportunity to press the environmental, economic and social case for more tree planting and greater use of timber in Wales. I look forward to meeting up with our Welsh members to learn their priorities and ensure we move forestry forward together in an effective and constructive way."

Anthony started on 26 November. He can be contacted at

Email: Anthony@confor.org.uk
Mobile: 07494 079305

Q&A

Favourite tree?
Broad leaf - Ginkgo biloba, they cast an amazing silhouette. Conifer - Douglas fir lovely soft needles and it's such a diverse building material too.

Favourite drink?
At work tea; after work red wine

Favourite film, book or TV show?
Italian Job, what's not to love amazing scenery, great soundtrack and awful British cars!

Favourite sport?
To watch it has to be rugby.

How did you get into forestry?
Professionally it was all the fault of the RFS: I met John Clegg at their offices one day and the rest is history. Personally, I grew up in the Wye Valley and have been walking dogs in woods for as long as I can remember.

What did you do before you joined Confor?
I'm fortunate to have a broad range of skills including a background in timber recycling and power generation. Prior to joining Confor I was a surveyor with John Clegg & Co Forestry Agents.

What are you most looking forward to in this role?
Getting to know the members in Wales and building on the amazing achievements of Martin.

What do you think is the biggest challenge in Wales at present?
Planting! There are so many challenges facing forestry especially with the Land Use Policy paper. My concern is that almost all the political focus is for the post-Brexit landscape.

Tree planting is needed now! It will help the future industry, maintain current employment, boost investor interest in forestry and start us on the path to achieving our Climate Change Commitments.

What question would you like to ask Confor members?
Would you recommend us to a friend? What attracted me to Confor is the work they do for the membership and for the forest industry. I'm excited to be part of that and want more people to become members. I'd like to know why we get recommended and what we can do to build on that.

What are you most likely to be found doing at the weekend?
Either out on my mountain bike amongst the trees or in my workshop persuading some antiquated piece of machinery back into life.

Forestry strategy to be 'more than just words on a page'

Fergus Ewing commits to meeting planting targets and highlights skills shortages as key challenge

The politician responsible for The Scottish Forestry Strategy insisted that it must be much more than words on a page if it is to make a genuine difference to the "dynamic and confident" sector.

Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, made the comments at a conference in Edinburgh organised by Confor and legal firm Anderson Strathern.

"A strategy either flies or it is words on a page. I want people to feel this strategy has a purpose and they have a stake in it, so it is much more than words on a page," said Mr Ewing.

The consultation on the draft strategy – which is embedded in legislation for the first time – closed on 29 November and the Scottish Government is expected to publish a final version within the next few weeks.

Confor was broadly happy with the draft strategy as a "strong framework", but has called for more detail on how it will help grow an industry already supporting more than 25,000 jobs and worth £1 billion annually to the Scottish economy.

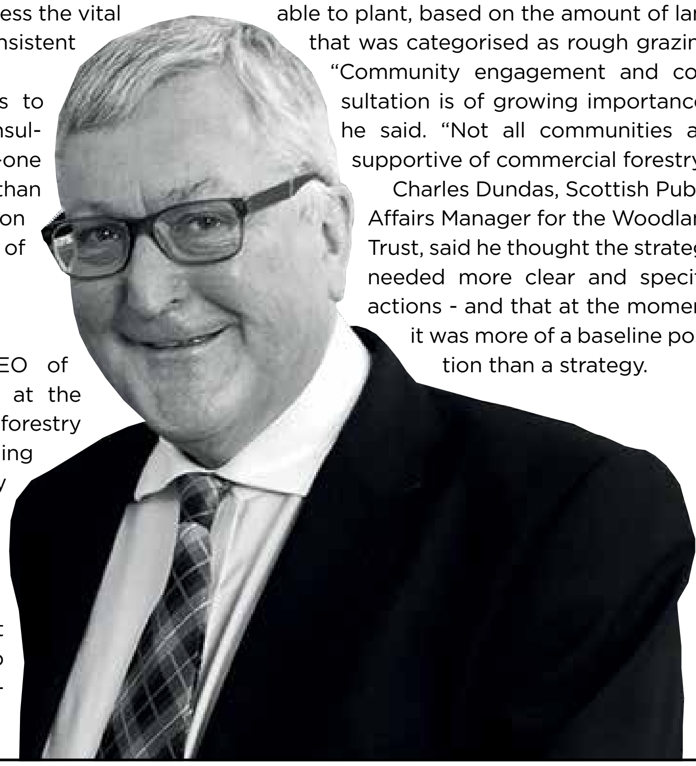
At the event, Fergus Ewing said the Scottish Forestry Strategy provided a "clear framework for action" to meet the planting target of 10,000ha per annum, rising to 15,000ha by 2025.

However, Mr Ewing highlighted skills as a specific challenge. "We have a new apprenticeship for machine operators and we [public and private sector] need to work collaboratively to tackle the skills issue - because it might be a bigger issue than the availability of land.

"If you cannot get people to do the work, you cannot achieve your objectives."

Mr Ewing said he was hopeful that the 10,000-hectare new planting target for 2018 would be hit and he recognised the need for the strategy to address the vital issue of a future consistent timber supply.

Urging delegates to respond to the consultation, he said: "No-one is better equipped than you to advise us on the practicalities of getting this right."



Maturity

Stuart Goodall, CEO of Confor, also spoke at the event. He said the forestry sector was reaching a level of maturity and self-reliance, and that the private sector was ready to step up to the mark and plant the trees needed to deliver multiple environmental, social and economic benefits if the political support was clear and the required funding is made available. Mr Goodall also highlighted the continuing need for the forestry and timber sector to communicate the benefits of growing more trees and using more home-grown wood, especially to tackle climate change.

"We need to link the Forestry Strategy very clearly into other policies, and it is vital to show – to the general public and rural communities – the multiple benefits forestry and wood can deliver," he said.

"We know that we have to strain every sinew to take carbon out of the atmosphere to meet climate change targets - and planting trees is a proven, low-cost way to do that."

John Mitchell, Head of Land and Rural Business at Anderson Strathern, said it was significant that the forestry strategy was on a statutory footing for the first time. He thought sufficient land should be available to plant, based on the amount of land that was categorised as rough grazing.

"Community engagement and consultation is of growing importance," he said. "Not all communities are supportive of commercial forestry."

Charles Dundas, Scottish Public Affairs Manager for the Woodland Trust, said he thought the strategy needed more clear and specific actions - and that at the moment, it was more of a baseline position than a strategy.

Simon Hodgson to lead Forestry and Land Scotland

The chief executive of Forest Enterprise England is to cross the border to become the first leader of Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). Simon Hodgson has been appointed as chief cxecutive designate of the new agency, which will be established in April 2019.

He is expected to take up the post in January and with the agreement of the Forestry Commissioners, he will be seconded to the Forestry Commission as Chief Executive of Forest Enterprise Scotland until FLS is established.

The news was announced by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing MSP in response to a parliamentary question. He said: "This appointment represents another milestone in the process to complete the devolution of forestry in Scotland."

Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall welcomed the appointment: "Simon is an experienced individual we know well and someone who understands the benefits of modern productive forestry within the context of broader land management.

"We look forward to working with Simon to deal with the opportunities and challenges facing the sector, not least future wood supply."

Supply chain pressure as demand increases

Confor commissions update of influential study

The increasing demand for wood products is creating challenging trading conditions for many sawmillers and processors across the UK. In some cases difficulties in obtaining sufficient roundwood supplies is resulting in production cut backs and record timber prices.

A number of Confor member companies have expressed underlying concerns that the potential availability of coniferous roundwood in Britain may not be sufficient to meet current or future demand. One of the reasons suggested for this situation is that there has been a steady increase in demand for coniferous roundwood for energy production which has resulted in larger material being used for energy production which would otherwise have been used by sawmills.

In 2015, John Clegg Consulting was funded by the Wood Fibre Processing & Supply Industry and the Forestry Commission to undertake a detailed study of wood fibre availability and demand in Britain. This study covered the activities of 119 companies with 141 existing or proposed plants that used or supplied wood fibre in Britain. Included in the study were 33 companies that were operating or had plans to operate 37 wood energy plants.

The 2016 report showed that the potential availability of coniferous roundwood in Britain as a whole exceeded forecast demand and the gap varied by between 1-2 million green tonnes per annum up to 2030, after which the gap is forecast to narrow significantly.

The report also found that there were major differences in coniferous roundwood availability and demand in different parts of the country. In the northern and central zones of England present and forecast use of coniferous roundwood exceeded demand and in the south Scotland zone, the situation was, and would continue to be, extremely tight.

Confor has secured funding to review this study and report; this update will help the forestry sector better understand the current market conditions and enable member companies to plan future investment and development. Confor will be working with Guy Watt who compiled the original report and questionnaires will be circulated in the next few weeks. The report will be published in spring 2019.

Unanimous vote for merger

Both Confor and UKFPA members have voted unanimously for merger of the two businesses. This means that on 1st January there will be a unified voice for the sector spanning the supply chain from nurseries to wood processors.

The merger has been welcomed by ministers in Scotland and Wales and by the chair of the Westminster All-Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry.

Confor members agreed at the company's AGM at APF 2018 in September to amend the company's Articles of Association to provide for the appointment of four new members to the Board to represent the UKFPA members joining Confor.

The process of due diligence is almost complete, with nothing of concern raised by auditors and a legal agreement between the two parties will be signed in early December.

After the AGM vote, Confor Chair Athole McKillop said: "Everyone is very pleased that both memberships have backed the merger proposal. We have so many opportunities and challenges facing us, from post-Brexit funding and policy, to plant health and securing future wood supply, it's vital that we make best use of the sector's resources to promote our interests and to provide enhanced services to members."

The merged organisation will retain the Confor name and work will begin in January on maintaining a strong voice for all members, with strong local engagement.

The merger is apt, given that 2019 is the centenary of the Forestry Act. The private forestry and timber sector has grown significantly, in the last 30 years in particular, and is becoming a mature industry. This merger will help the sector to grow further in the coming years and decades.

Celebrating the past, excited about the future

In 2019 we will celebrate the centenary of the first Forestry Act, which created the Forestry Commission and recognised the importance of forestry to the UK.

Over subsequent decades, our island was brought back from the brink of complete deforestation, with less than 5% tree cover, to the present level of 13%. Within lifetimes, we have seen newly-created timber plantations mature into productive and multi-benefit forests.

The past century rediscovered UK forestry in a society which had lost its forest culture. But in the coming century, forestry will become crucial to our society's very existence. The International Panel on Climate Change reported in October that keeping global temperature increase within 1.5° is imperative to avoid far-reaching consequences; and the deadly wildfires that have destroyed the town of Paradise in California provide a horrific reminder of what this means.

A report launched last month by the Committee on Climate Change (see p6/7) states that to contribute sufficiently to this urgent global effort, up to 50,000ha new woodland creation per year for the next 30 years will be required, focusing on fast-growing conifers to be manufactured into timber products which lock up the carbon for as long as possible.

This is why we are 'celebrating the past, excited about the future'.

FTN WEB RESOURCES

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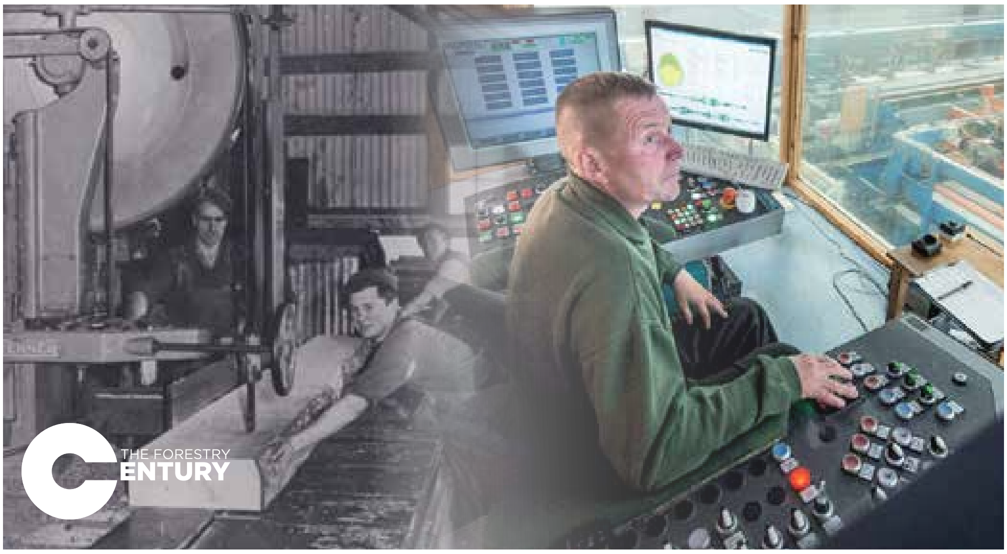
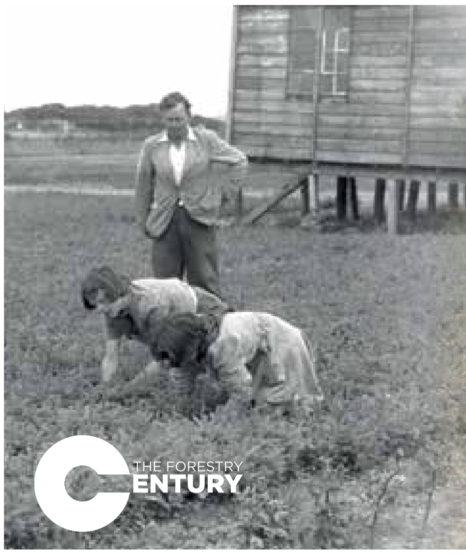




Our branding for you to use

Confor has created a logo for the celebration of the Forest Century next year. We will use it throughout our communications and make it available to all Confor members and the wider sector.

The logo is available for download in several colours and formats on the Confor website (see FTN web resources). If you want to apply your own corporate colours, contact the editor who can supply an Illustrator file.

What members can do

Use the branding resources on their paper headers, in signatures, on events, leaflets and for social media cards.

And spread the word with the hashtag:

#forestrycentury

Your Forestry Century

ORGANISING AN EVENT? SHARE IT WITH US!

All over the UK, woodland owners, forestry companies and organisations are planning conferences, exhibitions, talks, awards, launches and receptions to celebrate the centenary.

The Confor website will host a calendar of all events taking place over the year. Whether it's something one-off or a regular event with a Forestry Century theme, please send us details of any events you are planning using the form on the 'Events' section of our site. We will promote them through our various channels through the year.

Please make use of the Forestry Century branding, available on our website, and get involved on social media with the hashtag #ForestryCentury.

We will be celebrating the Forestry Century in the 2019 issues of FTN. If you have an idea for an article, whether it's news of an event, a reflective opinion column or a picture-based piece, please get in touch.

PICTURES COURTESY FORESTRY COMMISSION, TILHILL AND J&A GROWERS

Future of forestry in safe hands of bright young thinkers

The future of the forestry industry is in safe hands after a group of "thoughtful, articulate and passionate" young people were rewarded for their writing excellence at a positive and well-attended reception at Westminster.

Lorna Johnson, a Masters student at Harper Adams University, was named the winner of Confor's first Future of Forestry writing prize. The 22-year-old, also a graduate agricultural consultant with ADAS, won £500, presented by Forestry Minister David Rutley MP at the Westminster reception organised by Confor for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry and sponsored by Tilhill Forestry.

Sandy Davidson, a Forest Management student at the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness, won £250 for second place, while **Rob Coltman** and **David Pelly** of Tiilhill Forestry were placed joint third, receiving £100 each. All four winners also received signed certificates.

The event was organised to celebrate the contribution of young professionals and students to the profession. They were asked to write on 'How can forestry and wood processing help deliver a Green Brexit and a more sustainable society in the UK?'

Ambassadors

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, said: "We were delighted with the response to the competition and there could have been many more winners from the entries received. It was fantastic to see all four winners at Westminster to receive their prizes. They were excellent young ambassadors for our industry - thoughtful, articulate and passionate about the future of forestry - and that future looks very bright to me."

David Rutley MP, who took over responsibility for forestry earlier this year, made a very positive impact as he engaged with many members of the forestry and wood processing sector at the event. He said: "There is a growing interest in the forestry sector in parliament and real opportunities as we leave the EU. The concept of public money for public goods provides new levers which we can use to bring forestry to the fore."

Chris Davies MP, Chair of the APPG on Forestry, opened the event. He said afterwards: "There was an incredibly positive vibe about the reception and the essay prize, which augurs well for the future of forestry. I'm certain the industry has a very bright future if it is in the hands of hugely impressive young people like our four award-winners."

Winners – pictured with Stuart Goodall and Peter Whitfield – l to r, Lorna Johnson, Rob Coltman, Sandy Davidson and David Pelly.

Lorna Johnson, who is doing her Masters on Conservation and Forest Protection, said: "I'm really delighted to win this award and it was brilliant to meet my fellow winners and so many forestry professionals at Westminster to discuss the exciting future of this great industry."

Enhanced role

The judges said Lorna's essay made "a powerful case for forestry's enhanced role in a sustainable future society, with a holistic approach connecting forestry, wood use, climate change and much more". Lorna's MP Emma Reynolds (Labour, Wolverhampton North East) attended the awards ceremony to celebrate Lorna's success.

Drew Hendry, SNP MP for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, was at the presentation to congratulate Sandy, as was David Pelly's constituency MP Christine Jardine (Lib Dem, Edinburgh West). Several other politicians, including Bill Grant, Neil Parish, David Drew, Alex Chalk, Lord Clark and Lord Clinton attended the event.

Peter Whitfield, Business Development Director at Tilhill Forestry, said the forestry and wood sector was gathering really positive momentum - and that his company had been delighted to support the competition and encourage young professionals to think creatively about the future - and to challenge convention.

#TheFutureIsForestry

FTN WEB RESOURCES

The four winning essay have been published on the Confor website and Lorna Johnson's winning essay will appear in Forestry and Timber News in February 2019.
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Ready for social media but no idea what to post?

In the age of social media, we all know that we should be using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Co, and more than one colleague will have told us about the impact social media has had on their business success. Some of us might have opened accounts with a firm intention to become the next social influencer, but then something was missing: good content.

Not all businesses or people will have the capacity, focus or even a suitable product or story to be posting relevant content several times a day. There are different levels of engagement, from thoroughly planned social media strategies at the heart of business development, to frequent personal storytelling for raising your profile, to occasional updates on business news and successes.

But whatever your level of social media usage is, you will need to think of content and match it to your expected outcome. Good content can sometimes be hard to find, especially if you are not a social media natural. ***SK***

15 SOCIAL MEDIA **CONTENT IDEAS**

Need some inpiration? Here are some ideas – a lot of them will work beyond social media, in your newsletters, website or publications.

1 Polls or questions

Facebook offers built-in polls, but you can also run them manually to boost engagement. People often feel very tempted to respond to polls or short quizzes, and will therefore “stick around your profile”. Simple and relevant questions work well, too. This can be used for market insight, research or business improvement. It’s also a great way of stimulating discussion, which could be useful if you are organising a campaign or event. People will remember you or your business as a dialogue starter, so it’s a good way of raising your profile or brand. But be aware that social media debates can go downhill pretty quickly, so be sure to stay on top of it!

Read “Dont feed the troll” in FTN August.

2 Behind-the-scenes posts

Take candid shots of yourself, your employees, or snap a shot of your office or workspace. Or go a step beyond and create a series of “A day in the life of” posts to feature people or professions in your organisation. It’s a great way of creating interest in your business. People connect with other people, not with products or *brands.*

Read “A picture is worth a 1000 words” in FTN June.

3 Share breaking industry news

Stay on stop of what’s going on in your industry or niche. Confor offers news via website and newsletter. Ask us for additional resources to spice up your news posts!

4 Facts, stats and infographics

Share new, relevant industry statistics. Avoid copy-pasting complex tables or graphs or using very large numbers. Try using simple percentages or comparisons instead; for example, comparing

Northumbria's 8% of forest cover with the EU average would be a simple, thought provoking figure. Simple stats could be displayed in infographic format as an attached picture. Make sure to use the stat to draw in attention, then link it to your own message.

5 Product pictures

These work best on sites like Pinterest or Instagram, possibly also on Facebook, if they include people and their stories. Focus on photo quality and think about how you can add a unique angle to the shots (eg an employee actually using the product, a customer-submitted photo with a good caption). Photos of your products being sourced, manufactured or transported might be a good way of giving your audience some insight into your supply chain, therefore promoting transparency and trust. Or post a creative or unexpected use for your product – get your clients involved!

6 Get people involved

Your followers will love giving their thoughts on how to improve your products.

7 Ask for reviews or testimonials

Eliciting reviews from fans or followers is one of the best ways to get testimonials you can use as social proof on your website.

8 Share a helpful resource

Don't be afraid to direct your followers to other people's valuable content (not just your own). You could link to new publications, free services or guidance articles. Or personally recommend a (preferably free) tool or resource you think your audience would find useful. Giving something without commercial interest builds trust. Of course, no-one will expect you to share your competitors' promotional videos!

9 Answer an FAQ

Have a question you get asked a lot? Answer it on social media and create value for your clients.

10 Link to a case study

Case studies are great for delivering useful info in a way that's often more palatable and actionable than a standard blog post. They offer key information embedded in a personal story. Use an image of a person and a teaser sentence or quote in your post, then link to the full content.

"Giving something without commercial interest builds trust.

11 Post a video testimonial

Share a video review; or better yet, ask your social media followers to submit their own video testimonials. In the age of youtube tutorials and advertising, this can work well - a bit of charisma might help.

12 Hold a photo competition

Ask for photo submissions and then get your followers to vote. Share the winning photos, too! There are lots of other options for competitions and prize draws that work on social media and some of them can be used specifically to create audience (eg people have to share your post to enter the competition). A great opportunity if you are selling a product. Advice from a professional might help if you want to use a competition for effective business development via social media – there are many marketing tools available for this.

13 Promote your presence at events

If you are about to attend a trade show or conference, build up expectation and post updates before the event, eg letting your customers know about special deals, activities or gatherings at the event. For seminars and conferences, create bespoke social media cards for speakers and let them use them to promote their presence.

14 Share pictures from an event

People love finding themselves or others on socialising pictures. Be careful not to tag people without their consent. But allow people to tag themselves in the pictures. Don't forget to use the event hashtag for maximum exposure.

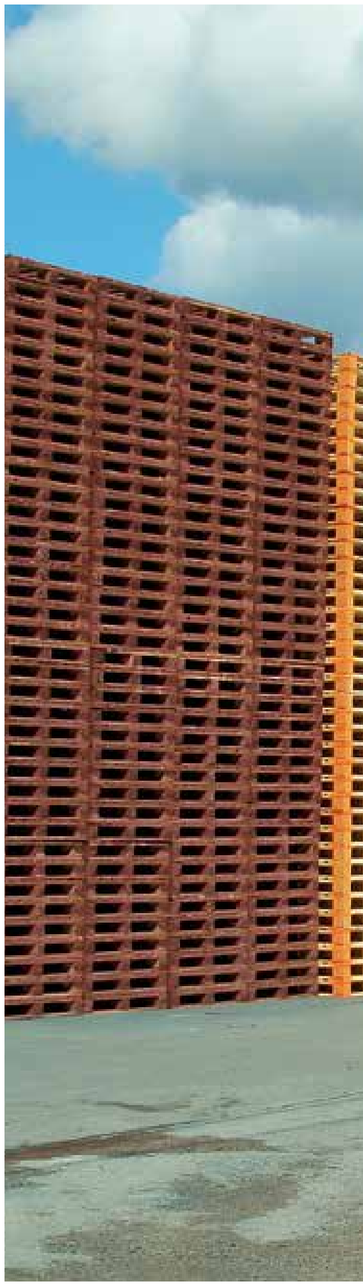
15 Do a post series

Typical for blogs, but why not on social media? Share a series of similar posts over a certain number of days. An idea is to choose a topic or question and let each of your employees produce a post.

You will see that some of these ideas work best if you already have a critical mass of followers, but they also help you build your audience. It might be useful to start by engaging with social media groups that are frequented by your audience of interest, such as Forest Machine Operator blog or other interest groups. Talk to the administrator first though and avoid blatant advertising when posting on groups!

In the context of climate change and concerns over unsustainable resource use, there is growing consumer demand for wood as an environmentally friendly alternative to plastic-based materials. 28% of British timber goes into the pallet and packaging sector; pallets are omnipresent in our lives and their glamourous 'urban cool' appeal of late makes them the perfect ambassador to link the forestry story to the wood products people use every day. **Stefanie Kaiser** reports

A flagship for sustainability



On a dull day in October I visit Gil Covey in Golborne, one of James Jones' (JJS) pallet manufacturing and repair sites. Gil is executive chairman of the JJS Pallets and Packaging Division and former president of both the UK Timber Packaging and Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) and its European equivalent FEFPEB. From the moment Gil steps into the room, his enthusiasm for pallets is contagious; it takes him only a couple of minutes to get the key point across that pallets are THE flagship example of a sustainable everyday product and that efficient resource use is at the heart of the pallet production and repair processes at James Jones and Sons.

At sites like Golborne, JJS creates new pallets for all major pallet pools (ie pallet rental systems, namely LPR, CHEP, IPP Logipal and EPAL) and independent clients. Furthermore, pallets are inspected and recycled and repaired to all standard specifications. The business has an annual capacity of five million new wooden pallets and 20million pallet inspections and repairs.

James Jones and Sons is proud to source all of their pallet timber from British and Irish, FSC-certified forests. Whilst it is part of the company's business values to support local forestry, there are other, more practical reasons to choose domestic wood over imported stock, says Gil Covey: "it is faster and easier to source compared to imported timber and the company benefits from the existence of cutting-edge sawmills such as JJS mill in Lockerbie, that specialise in the efficient and fast processing of roundwood. Furthermore, British softwood is ideally suited to consistently comply with the standards and customer specifications for pallets, such as strength characteristics, appearance and quality. When using locally sourced wood, the assembled pallets can be heat-treated and kiln dried which most customers in the food and beverage sector prefer to the anti-stain treated pallets from abroad.

Gil points out that manufactured pallets strictly complies with the ISPM15 phytosanitary regulations, which are critical to protect our forests from pest infestation.

Promoting circular economy – the pallet lifecycle

Wooden pallets are made from a natural material harvested from renewable and sustainable forests; as well as being reusable, repairable, and recyclable. At the end of their life, the wood can be used for biomass or biodegrade easily.

James Jones and Sons is proud to be involved in the pallet production process from planting trees for timber to reusing components once pallets are discarded.

The wood sourcing for the pallet industry follows the principle of Cascade of Wood Use, predomi- >>

Prime example of a sustainable product

The environmental credentials of wood are unbeatable

- Wood is natural and biodegradable
- Wood benefits the environment while growing: very much unlike the production of plastic or other oil-based material. JJS, for example, only sources wood from British forests which are all sustainably managed.
- Wood is renewable
- Wood uses less energy compared to alternative materials
- Wood products stores carbon

A great example of reusable packaging and efficient resource use

Pallets are not, unlike other packaging solutions, disposable products. In closed-loop systems, they can have a lifespan of over 30 years. During this time, they are reused again and again and are inspected and repaired regularly. Sourcing, production and repair processes are aligned with the principles of Circular Economy.

Pallets in the UK have comply with several environmental standards

British, FSC-sourced timber, ISO 14001 and PAS 2050

UK pallet facts and figures

1 PALLETS

- 250m pallets in circulation
- 42m new pallets produced per year (2016)
- 40m pallets repaired each year

2 WOOD TREATMENT*

- 70% of pallets are untreated (green)
- 25% heat treated
- 17% kiln dried and heat treated

**figures from 2016 survey of TIMCON members*

3 COST

- £4-£12 – sale price for pallet in 2018
- £1.82-£3.91 – average cost of inspecting and/or repairing pallet (2016)

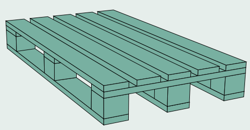
4 WOOD SOURCING

- 1.4m m^3 of timber are consumed for pallets each year
- Over 70% of this timber is home-grown
- 28% of domestic timber production goes into the pallet and packaging sector.

Pallets' carbon footprint

James Jones have completed full life cycle assessments of their products, including pallets, to help clients strengthen their Corporate Social Responsibility. A study commissioned by TIMCON, Wood for Good and Skogs Industrierna showed that all types of wooden pallets assessed have a net negative carbon intensity, meaning that while a tree is growing, CO_2 is taken from the atmosphere and stored in the wood, rather than being emitted, as would be the case for the production of alternative materials such as plastic. There are CO_2 emissions associated with wooden pallets however, the majority of which come from energy consumed during manufacture.

30kg



The amount of CO_2 stored by one heavy-duty (green or heat/kiln-treated) pallet.

Equivalent to

20 hours of energy use for an average house

PICTURES: PAUL NEMETH

"We have experienced a 60% rise in the cost of pallet timber we buy since 2016 and 70% of the pallet price is the cost of the raw material. This strong reliance on British timber makes the pallet and packaging sector very vulnerable to rising timber prices in our country. And Government's lack of delivering planting targets is extremely worrying!

Gil Covey, James Jones and Sons

>> nantly using parts of the tree that are not of prime interest to the domestic sawmilling industry, such as small logs or 'falling boards'. This is highly efficient and sees every part of a harvested tree used, therefore supporting the economic viability of the forest products sector.

Pallets are produced in 'green', with the option to heat-treat or kiln dry according to client specifications.

Pallets in closed-loop pallet pools are periodically recovered, inspected and repaired. JJS as a major subcontractor to the major pallet pools is involved in further streamlining this process so that pallets in good conditions are identified early in the inspection process and can directly be reused. This saves transport, labour and energy in the system.

At the end of a pallet's lifecycle, their components are reused or turned into biomass (JJS uses it for kiln-drying other pallets), therefore feeding resources back into the system.

Stephen Craig, JJS Group environmental manager, commented: "Through our recent investments in planting schemes, we are able to demonstrate best practice UKWAS and UK Woodland Carbon Code forest design and management.

"By fully linking our timber planting & harvesting activities, sawmill production and pallet manufacturing, with our pallet recovery, repair and fibre recycling operations, we can highlight our sustainable life-cycle business approach.

"Our initiatives ensure that our clients remain our key focus and are able to benefit from this approach to ensure their own CSR requirements are fully supported by James Jones & Sons Ltd."

www.jamesjones.co.uk/pallets

Sustainable process from start to finish

Source: www.jamesjones.co.uk

COMMENT

by **John Dye, President,** Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON)

A product for our time

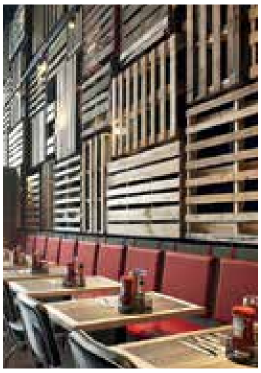
Wooden pallets have been the first choice for carrying goods safely around the world because of their strength, reliability and environmental credentials, for more than 60 years.

During this time, innovation in the way timber is harvested, sawn and manufactured has transformed the forest-based sector, which for our business has meant we are today able to produce pallets and packaging far faster and more efficiently. Investment in new technologies over time has allowed us to keep pace with lightning-fast modern supply chains.

The way our raw material is regarded has also changed. Even ten years ago, products made from wood were misunderstood - and vilified from some quarters as a result. Today, thanks to forest-based sectors lobbying and communicating well, and media coverage of the environmental damage caused by widespread use of plastics, government and consumers understand the value of using wood far better now.

This focus on the environment is likely to have an impact on the nature of consumer goods and packaging into the future. Recyclability and sustainability are more important to consumers, who demanding more products that tick these boxes, delivered to them in packaging that does, too. Wooden pallets and packaging have an important role to play – not just as an essential for safe transportation – but as part of a holistic sustainable package that includes product, packaging and logistics.

www.timcon.org



FTN WEB RESOURCES

Videos
TIMCON: Wood is good (3 videos)
Nature's packaging (USA)
WOOD FOR GOOD offers a range of videos and publications on why timber should be the material of choice

TIMCON Publications
Factsheet closed-loop pallet pools
Carbon intensity of green, heat treated and kiln dried/ heat-treated pallets
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Glen Tanar estate wins ‘Inspiring Futures’ award

Glen Tanar – together with Aboyne Academy – won the ‘Inspiring Futures’ award at the ‘Northern Star Business Awards’ in September.

This was in recognition of their ongoing partnership, which seeks to deliver hands-on career inspiration experiences to local school children, through a series of interactive learning days.

The partnership was first initiated, a few years ago, to raise awareness among academy pupils of the wide range of career opportunities available to them, in local sectors such as the forestry industry. Latterly, the relationship between the two has expanded to cover the growing tourism sector, with the piloting of a ‘Hospitality & Tourism’ day hosted by Glen Tanar.

Glen Tanar is a diversified estate on the eastern edge of the Cairngorms.
www.glentanar.co.uk

L-r: Julian Hollingdale (Tilhill), Ryan Assal and Amanda Bryan

Double reason to celebrate for Scottish School of Forestry

Last month, Forestry Commissioner Amanda Bryan has been appointed head of the Scottish School of the Forestry at Inverness College UHI.

Amanda’s career spans over 25 years in land management and rural and community development in the Highlands and Islands. She has been a Forestry Commissioner since 2012 and chair of the Forestry Commission’s National Committee Scotland since 2015. She’s also chair of the Board of Crown Estate Scotland and a board member for Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Amanda has been appointed on an interim basis following the departure of Elizabeth Barron-Majerik, who recently took up the post of Lantra Scotland director.

Another reason for Inverness College to celebrate is the winning of a prestigious Tilhill Forestry award by Inverness College UHI student Ryan Assal, who is in the third year of the University of the Highlands and Islands’ BSc (Hons) in Forest Management. He won the Tilhill Forestry Award for Best New Planting Application.
www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk

JST Services launches new, shiny website

JST Services’ newly designed features striking images, a new mobile-friendly scroll-done layout and updated information on the business and its services. It’s worth turning up the sound for the video.
www.jstservices.co.uk

Gresham House expands fund

Gresham House, the specialist alternative asset manager, is expanding FIM Sustainable Timber & Energy LP (“the Fund”), with an issue of new “D” Limited Partnership Shares with a target raise of up to £50m and subject to a minimum subscription of £92,625. The closing date for this offer is 21 December 2018.

Formed in 2010, the Fund is an established trading business which has £159.4 million of net assets, comprising 61 large scale commercial forests, four operational wind farms and six operational solar parks, all located in the UK. The Fund’s objective is to provide a balance between income and capital growth, allocating 80% of net assets to forestry and 20% to renewable energy assets in the UK, targeting an annual return of 7% with an initial cash yield of circa 2.1% per annum (adjusted annually in line with CPI plus 1%).
http://greshamhouse.com

Keep in touch...
send your news to
stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk

Brimstone and timber

Q&A

Caroline Ayre interviews Tom Barnes, Managing Director of Vastern Timber, passionate advocate of British timber, and producer of Brimstone the first commercially available thermally modified timber sourced from English and Welsh woodlands.

CA: What was your journey to becoming Managing Director of the family firm?
I studied Environmental Sciences at University and following graduation I headed overseas and took up a research post with the Oregon State University Forest Services. On return to the UK I spent six years as a graduate trainee with Meyer Timber before joining the family business. In 2015, after completing an MBA, I became Managing Director. In 2016 the Brimstone trademark was launched and I joined the Executive Board of Grown in Britain.

CA: Why did you decide to develop Brimstone?
The concept was borne from a meeting we had in 2014, hosted by Grown in Britain. A grouping made up of BRE, the UK Construction group, Tyler Hardwoods, Timber Strategies and others came together to see how we could add value to our moribund white hardwood resource and help to bring woodlands back into management.

The result was, “why not TMT”? The Finnish have been modifying softwood since the 1960s and the Estonian’s, French and German’s have tried and tested processes. The equipment is relatively cheap and there are limited unknowns.

With some seed funding from the Forestry Commission, and working collaboratively with Tyler Hardwoods, we decided to develop a TMT product. Things started to move quite quickly so we partnered with a French company who have a TMT plant.

CA: Why the name ‘Brimstone’?
Because it engenders conversation. A lot of thought went into the branding. We wanted something that would link to the use of British timber and of course the Brimstone butterfly is synonymous with British woodland in spring. Then the obvious expression that comes to mind is “fire and brimstone”.

CA: What was the process to get Brimstone to market?
We continued to send material to France to improve the product and launched the product in 2016. All of the Brimstone range is Grown in Britain certified. We continued to work with BRE to test the durability and strength of the product and displayed it at Sylva in Oxford along with various trade shows.

Unlike thermally modified softwoods such as Thermowood, the products in the Brimstone range contain relatively few knots, resulting in a clean and contemporary appearance.

Thermally modified wood is available from many parts of the world, but what sets the Brimstone range apart, is that it is produced from trees grown in English and Welsh woodlands. Brimstone products have been born out of a desire to not only offer sustainable wood, but to ensure that in doing so we are sustaining our local woodlands first. Brimstone truly offers

Brimstone explained

The Brimstone range is a range of products made from thermally modified timber. Thermally modified timber (TMT) is produced by super heating timber to a temperature of between 160° and 210°. There are various processes, but the end goal remains extreme heat without the wood catching fire! The thermal modification process does not involve any chemicals and penetrates to the core of the timber.

The combination of high heat and steam transorms the wood in a number of interesting ways. Firstly, sugars, resins and extractives are cooked out of the wood, leaving nothing for the fungus and bacteria to feed on. Secondly, the cell walls are reconfigured, considerably reducing the hydroscopic nature of the wood. Thirdly the process turns all wood a beautiful walnut colour.

The advantages of Brimstone

Stability: One of the most impressive outcomes of thermal modification is improved stability. Thermally modified timbers have a stable moisture content of approximately 4-6%, even when left outside in wet conditions. This means that, wet or dry, hot or cold, the amount of shrinkage and expansion in the modified wood will be negligible.

Durability: The second key advantage of super-heating wood is that it converts fast growing wood species that would normally rot when left outside (non-durable) into products that will last for many decades untreated. Research has shown that thermally modified white hardwoods reach class 2 durability and for some species class 1 (EN350). Class 2 indicates a service life of 60 years for thermally hardwood products used in Class 3 above ground applications.

Brimstone products are ideal for cladding, decking, external joinery and outdoor furniture. The Brimstone range we offer includes thermally modified ash, sycamore and poplar.

an opportunity to make a meaningful difference to our local woodland economy.

CA: What now?
This year we were successful in a bid to the Forestry Innovation Fund and have partnered with Timber Strategies to test different types of modification technology to help to decide what equipment to bring to the UK to produce it ourselves. We have commissioned work on the life cycle analysis of the product for an Environmental Product Declaration. The data will support our sustainability ethos, "locally grown, locally produced".

CA: You use ash. With the now unfortunate reality of ash dieback do you see the disease as an opportunity?
We have a responsibility to use the ash coming to market in the best possible way. If we can use the better quality timber for TMT then the poorer quality should go to the biomass fuel markets. It may take the pressure off softwood sawlogs going for chip. I think it will be a slow burner though and then there will be a glut of timber. We will have to ramp up the production of Brimstone.

CA: What is your vision for the British hardwood industry?
The future will be difficult and the infrastructure for processing hardwoods is diminishing. There is not enough material of the quality needed to support our industry even with timber prices so high currently.

We need to plant more trees and encourage landowners to bring more timber to market. A resilient treescape is important but I would ask, where will the market be for all the alternative species that are currently being promoted to landowners? Engineering technology will take any wood fibre. The species is not as important as the volume and the quality of what is grown and for that we need good sivicultural practice, faster growing species and pest control. If landowners are to make an informed decision on the future use of their land use then they need to be presented with the pure economics of different silvicultural regimes.

Vastern Timber

Established in 1904, Vastern Timber is owned and run by three members of the Barnes family – Peter, Jon and Tom – representing the third and fourth generations of the family.

The firm is one of the UK's largest hardwood sawmills, specialising in cutting and manufacturing native grown timbers including English oak, sweet chestnut, ash, sycamore and larch. Vastern Timber trades from the two sites, with four log-converting bandmills, computer-controlled drying kilns and well-equipped machining facilities, enabling them to process both hardwoods and softwoods for a wide range of uses. The company employs 40 full-time employees. Of the 7000m^3 sawn timber they produce per annum, 90% is British grown.

www.vastern.co.uk

Rising demand for UK timber is driving demand for wood science

by **Dr Graham Ormondroyd**

The demand for the use of timber is increasing, whether this be in long-term applications such as construction or in applications with very short life spans such as replacement for single use plastics or as biomass fuel. This demand for timber is causing pressure on the forest resource, especially when we consider the appropriateness of timber species for some applications.

While the demand on timber has been driven by government strategy and international policy, other policies and legislation has meant that traditional means of timber protection are being phased out and banned due to legislation such as REACH and the Biocidal Products Regulation. The loss of both creosote and Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA) based preservatives left a gap in the arsenal of protection for timber which required a deep understanding of the science of timber and timber protection to fill.

The science of timber, or wood science is a generic term that covers a whole subset of disciplines based around the use of wood, these can include chemistry, mechanics, biology, physics, and an understanding of the deterioration of timber. Only by the bringing together of this multi-disciplined approach to timber can we understand and develop new ways to protect timber and ensure that it, when appropriate, has a long-life span that allows for the sequestration of carbon from our atmosphere and its storage for an appropriate length of time.

Different tecniques

Many of the recent advances in wood protection have led to the development of an industry known as the wood modification industry and just as with the term 'wood science' this encompasses many different timber protection techniques. Timber modification is a term given to a range of treatments that change the physical and/or chemical make-up of the timber to improve on one or more of the timber's properties. Timber modification falls into two categories, the first being active modifications that react with or chemically change the timber (eg chemical modification, thermal treatments), second being passive modifications, which change the physical properties of the timber as a whole but do not change the chemical structure (eg impregnation treatments). While most timber modifications are still within the realms of the scientist's laboratory there are some that have been commercialised to a greater or lesser extent – acetylation (Accoya and Tricoya), thermal modification (including Thermowood, Platowood, Le Bois Perdure and Retiwood) and furfurylation (Kebony). Each of these modifications alters the timber in a characteristic and unique way.

Currently, the modified timber that is used in the UK is produced abroad and has to be shipped to the UK with the associated carbon foot print. However, this may well soon change. The development of both heat treatment in the southeast of England and north Wales along with an impregnation treatment plant in south Wales will lead to a potentially flourishing UK timber modification industry. However, once again this new industry cannot rely on imported scientific knowledge, the knowledge base to support these new industries has to be specific to the UK's timber resource, the climate and the unique challenges that timber is use faces.

While the academic wood science community is relatively small within the UK it has been recognized by the government as playing an important role in both the fight against climate change and the implementation of a clean growth strategy throughout the UK. Recent investment by UK government through Innovate UK has seen projects funded as diverse as an investigation into the use of laser technology to increase the permeability of timber to new protection liquids, the production of home grown, home dried cross laminated timber and the bleaching and dying of UK timber veneers for high quality furniture applications. All of these projects are funded under schemes that require industry/academic collaboration and want to see a return on investment for the companies involved. Some of these projects see work been undertaken within the universities, whilst others embed an academic within the company and work 'on the ground' to solve a pressing issue that prevents company growth.

There is a growing appetite in the UK for bio-based solutions to all areas of life and the UK and regional governments are support research and development, the implementation of the research into real life scenarios will aid the UK government in the achieving their target of a low carbon economy.

Accoya was used in the construction of a series of new rail passenger shelters in East Anglia

Dr Graham Ormondroyd PhD FIMMM is Head of Materials Research, BioComposites Centre, Bangor University and Chair of The Wood Technology Society, IOM3 (as of 13 December)

For more information on grants for research and development contact the Wood Technology Society, who can direct you towards the most appropriate institution and funding body.
www.iom3.org/wood-technology-society

New sections this year

- FTN Guide to Digital communication
- Machinery review, collaboration with Rab Easton of *Forest Machine* magazine
- "Take the high road" Timber Transport campaign

Highlights

New compostable wrapping introduced in October, initially with moderate success in terms of performance!

Theme articles

In our theme articles at the beginning of the magazine, we cover current topics but ones that are of wider and ongoing relevance to our sector:

February: The Sycamore Gap – A north-south divide.
Andrew Heald and Jason Sinden raise the issue of long-term challenges and risks for forestry investors and lament that the uncertainty of success in getting commercial projects approved can scare off even the keenest investors.

April: Timber Forecasting – making sense of the numbers
Andrew Heald, Confor Technical Director looks at the subtleties of timber statistics, challenging readers to compare theoretically available timber with actual harvest numbers.

June: Let's talk about all land use
The UK government has been consulting on policy proposals for how to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after Brexit. Eleanor Harris reports on Confor's response and asks for forestry to be put in the wider land use context.

August: Trees keep on giving for carbon reduction
Eleanor Harris on the importance of forestry in the climate change debate

October: Hunger for wood
Industry and key influencers in Scandinavia have recently been promoting wood as the raw material of the future. Ahat is the opportunity for the forestry and timber sector? And what are the challenges in our country?

December: Climate change
Committee on Climate Change calls for radical change in land use including a reduction in grazing land.

Online resources

Did you know that...

- FTN web resources offers additional material/ reading for the current magazine issue **www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb**
- You can read past issues online here
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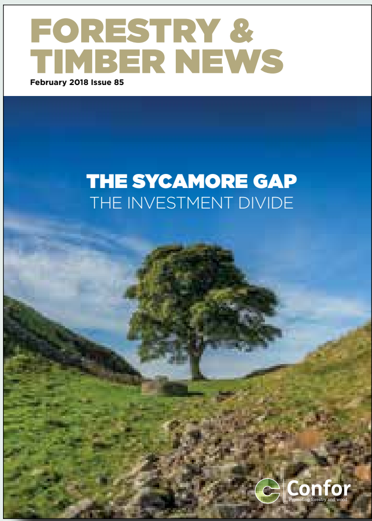
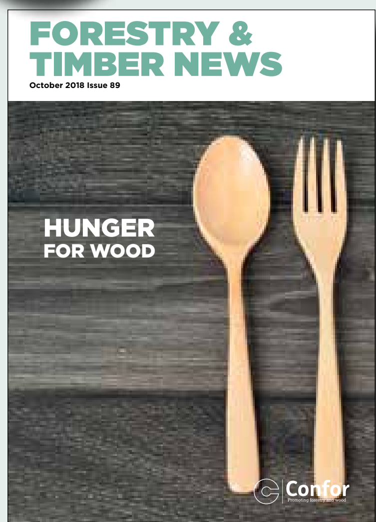


HAVE YOUR SAY

- What do you think of our covers?
- What would you like to see more of in 2019?
- Are there any topics you think we have neglected in 2018?

Send your comments and general feedback to **Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk**



LAST FEW TICKETS

Superwood: How forestry and timber can drive a low carbon economy

The event aims to bring together the whole supply chain, from tree nurseries and forest managers to wood processors and architects building with wood - along with academics, environmentalists and politicians – to strengthen existing connections and create new ones and to put forestry and timber at the heart of a low-carbon future.

For more details, booking and full agenda visit **www.confor.org.uk/resources/events/superwood/**

CONFOR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Ben Sheers, Worcestershire
Benjamin Ainsworth, Cheshire
Charles Cuthbert, Northamptonshire
Daniel Iddon, Bedfordshire
Eleanor Hopkins, Manchester
Ewan Austin, Cumbria
Gary Stoker, Cumbria
Glyn M Jones, Wrexham
Nicola Rivett, Hampshire
Patrick A V Mannix, Surrey
Stephen M Dilley, Bedfordshire
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Cabcare Products Ltd, Staffordshire
Fox Davies Forestry, West Midlands
Hawkins Forestry L&D, Suffolk
Hog Tree & Garden Landscape Contractors, Cheshire
Holloway Agri-Drain Ltd, Worcestershire
Landmarc, Devon
Mackay Forestry & Farming Family Partnership, Dumfriesshire
McArthur Forest Services, Northumberland
Piercefield Farm Estates Ltd, London
Pwhitehead Forestry & Land Managment, Cumbria
Sylvaculture Ltd, Midlothian
The Happy Forest Ltd, East Sussex
Trees For Life Woodland Services, Moray
Anderson Strathern, Midlothian

A tale of two halves

TIMBER AUCTIONS MARKET REPORT
Oliver Combe
Timber Auctions

While quarters three and four of 2018 have not quite seen the frenzied activity of the first six months of the year, the market remains very strong and prices remain at record levels at the end of 2018.

Whilst the high prices have brought large volumes of timber to the market in the Central Belt and northern Scotland the supply situation remains much more challenging in the Borders, England and Wales with processors still fighting to secure volume.

Strong domestic demand

Demand for all products remains very strong and whilst supplies of sawlogs have improved as we approach Christmas there remains a shortage of small roundwood and palletwood.

All market sectors have increased their demand and whilst there has been more timber brought to the market in 2018 than recent years this has barely kept up with the increased demand from traditional users. When these high levels of demand are combined with new entrants to the market such as the energy plants at Cramlington and Sandwich it is easy to see why there is such intense competition for standing parcels from a wide range of buyers.

The delays in felling licence approvals in the first six months of 2018 now seem to be resolved although there does not appear to be a huge uplift in the volume of timber being offered to the market.

GLOBAL TRENDS

Global demand for timber continues to increase and 2018 looks like being a record year in terms of volumes and values traded with current estimates looking towards 126 -130 millon m3 being traded. The major global producers continue to increase their market share with Russian, Germany, Ukraine and Austria posting significant increases in their volumes.

Canada continues to struggle with declining volumes to both the US and China when compared to 2017.

Whilst the US lumber market has been on a bull run for 18 months the summer of 2018 has seen a roller coaster ride with record high prices in early 2018 followed by a crash in prices over the summer. US sawmills are now taking production capacity out to try and balance supply and demand and hopefully stabilise prices.

The Scandinavian producer volumes have remained largely unchanged as they seek efficiency gains to counter high log prices and continued supply challenges due to storm and fire damage. Volumes to Europe and America have increased whilst the volumes to the middle east, China and the UK have decreased.

The Chinese market continues to increase and is now the largest importer and consumer of timber in the world, volumes have doubled over the last 10 years.

Emerging markets

Whilst the Russian Far East and Siberian mills are steadily increasing their market share, Europe still supplies around 3m m^3 per year. Although China remains an attractive market, other emerging markets in the Far East such as South Korea, India, Malaysia and Vietnam are steadily increasing the volumes taken from European and Scandinavian producers.

The strong global demand has meant that volumes offered to the UK market from overseas producers have remained low and that the prices have remained high. There are reports of imported pallet and packaging being 20 to 25% higher than UK material and availability being limited.

All the signs are that the pattern of sales this year will be the same as the last three years where the majority of the volume is offered in the spring and the volumes then dwindle away in the second six months.

This can make for very strong prices in December and January as buyers seek to fill their yards and inventories for the spring peak of demand.

Impact on the market

Intense competition to buy standing trees remains the key feature of the market with increasing numbers of offers on all parcels of timber. What has been striking in 2018 is the spread of prices being offered. A recent standing sale parcel attracted bids from £8t standing to over £60, this spread of prices has been seen in other parcels where new

£ per tonne delivered to customers in Wales, central and south England (November 2018)

Product	*Lower price*	*Upper price*	*Trend*
Log 18	£80.00	£95.00	= ↑
Bar 14	£60.00	£75.00	=
SRW	£50.00	£60.00	= ↑
Fencing	£55.00	£60.00	= ↑
H Wood firewood	£60.00	£70.00	↑

£ per tonne delivered to customers in north England and Scotland (November 2018)

Product	*Lower price*	*Upper price*	*Trend*
Log 18	£75.00	£90.00	=
Bar / pallet 14	£50.00	£70.00	=
SRW	£40.00	£55.00	= ↑
Fencing	£50.00	£55.00	= ↑
H Wood firewood	£50.00	£60.00	↑

HARDWOODS

Oak, oak and more oak, the demand for oak remains insatiable throughout the world and prices continue to increase across the globe whilst supply remains constrained.

UK oak prices have reached unprecedented levels in 2018 with roadside parcels of high quality material now reaching £10 per hoppus foot, large beam oak, 15 quarter girth and above is now worth as much as planking oak.

On a purely economic basis it is difficult to see why anyone would plant anything else other than oak on suitable sites and there would be a strong case for using the French improved timber provenances.

The felling season for the white hardwoods has started and whilst there is increased demand for ash and beech sawlogs the recent surge in firewood prices has wiped out these increases and made it only worth cutting sawlogs in the very best stands.

Growers are becoming much more aware of the huge risk from Chalara and there is a steady increase in the number of ash parcels being offered to the market.

The shortage of small roundwood has

increased interest in poplar and prices of £40 per tonne at roadside have recently been achieved for poplar small roundwood.

The firewood market has rocketed over the last six months as the shortage of material offered to the market has driven intense competition to buy what is available, this combined with new biomass plants also looking to buy hardwood small roundwood has resulted in the supply chain being hand to mouth. Roadside prices £65 per tonne are now common for processor sized material and over £70 has been achieved for really good quality parcels. This translates back to standing prices to £40 to £55 per tonne.

With prices at these levels and no stock at roadside anywhere it will be exciting times for growers who have material to offer to the market over the next six months.

Again there are now large ranges in prices being offered for material at roadside with a recent tender seeing prices ranging from £45 to £85 per tonne at roadside.

Roadside hardwood prices (£ hft) November 2018

	Oak planking	Oak beam	Oak fencing	Oak cordwood	Export ash & beech	White ash sawlogs	Export sycamore	1st grade firewood
High price	£10.50	£10.00	£6.00	£1.40	£3.25	£4.50	£5.00	£2.60
Mid price	£9.00	£8.00	£5.00	£1.25	£2.75	£4.00	£4.00	£2.25
Low price	£8.00	£7.00	£4.00	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£3.00	£2.00

These prices are for guidance purposes only and are based on historic market information

entrants and established players try to come to terms with the complexities of the standing sales market.

It is more critical than ever that growers should offer timber to the open market and have an effective and transparent method of selling their timber as there are significant differences in prices being achieved.

The large processors remain the dominant force in the market, the sawmills have successfully increased their sawn timber prices over the last nine months and whilst this has not happened as quickly as they wished they do now have a margin between costs and revenues.

Whilst there is a concerted effort by the processors to keep prices under control the

“

It is more critical than ever that growers should offer timber to the open market and have an effective and transparent method of selling their timber as there are significant differences in prices being achieved.

‘elephant in the room’ remains availability of timber.

As Forestry Commission volumes continue to decline the market becomes ever more dependent on the private sector. In 2018 it is estimated that 66% of the timber sold will come from privately owned forests. The Forestry Commission is reporting a 28% year on year increase in timber prices, however, the private sectors motives for marketing are much more complex than the Forestry Commission and high prices do not always mean more wood for sale. Adjacency, access, licensing and other interests all influence the decision to sell.

Whilst high prices have brought more timber to the market in north Scotland, as one moves south into the Borders the supply situation seems to have tightened up noticeably this quarter and standing prices of over £60 per tonne are being reported again.

As one moves into England and Wales the supply situation becomes more critical and there is genuine concern that there is just not enough timber to cover demand. Good quality standing clearfell parcels are topping £70 per tonne which means sawlog prices on prime parcels are between £90 and £100t delivered. Even small roundwood is fetching £50 per tonne at roadside yet there is still not enough timber to go around and processors are having to look to import volume by boat from north Scotland and Europe.

Summary

There is intense competition to buy timber from a diverse range of markets and prices have reached unprecedented levels, timber sales can now produce substantial sums of money.

It has never been more important to have an effective timber marketing strategy and to offer timber to the “open” market.

TIMBER AUCTIONS

Timber Auctions can now offer an online “private auction” facility; this will allow us to present parcels of timber for sale by auction to a selected list of registered buyers. We believe this is a unique facility and will allow timber sellers to have all the benefits of a traditional auction sale through and online sale.
If you wish to discuss parcels of timber you would like to market, please contact Oliver Combe on 07771 958975, oliver.combe@timberauctions.co.uk for free independent marketing advice.

Mission 'timber'

TIMBER MARKET REPORT
Tim Leavers,
Euroforest

The chancellor's autumn budget has just been delivered and the wind has turned to the south-east and winter feels as if it could happen. So, with winter soon upon us, the market is responding.

The demand for timber is sweeping the market. There is no sector that is untouched by the current situation. The volumes being asked for are driving the volumes coming up for offer. Every price impacted and warmed by the unrelenting appetite for fibre from biomass projects. Driven by conscientious log buyers a traditional hardening on price has crept into the sawlog market. Endeavouring to cap the summer seasonal highs with 10% reductions is a challenge, in a market where there are few logs to be had. Demand reflects the lively order books. Sawmills are still under pressure to secure material. There are buyers approaching growers to source extra timber by finding and capturing significant off-market volumes. It is apparent that there are wood processors who are well bought, yet are wanting to keep faith with suppliers, so where volume exists, are not wanting to turn off the wood stream. The lower volume production units have, historically, always been able to pay a little more for their timber supplies, but in the face of fierce competition, they are concerned at the prices being paid and yet are unable to step out of the supply chain. They do not have the capacity to mitigate the material costs by scaling up their production.

Small roundwood is being sought across every sector, with processors aggressively chasing down sources of timber. The particle board market is considerably stressed working under, what they consider, an inflated pricing structure driven by biomass being bought for prices in excess of £60/tonne. Prices on roundwood are again making the utilisation of high-input, low-volume yield, fibre streams economically feasible. So, interested owners are drawing additional revenue from the chipping of brash and whole trees, primarily because it helps offset costs.

There is also a strong demand for **sawn palletwood**. The pallet board producers are squeezed by biomass and traditional small roundwood markets on one side, and sawlog top diameters regularly being chased down to 14 centimetres on the other. Round fencing will continue to be in short supply as the existing growing stock predicates a minimal available volume, especially across the south, where there are few young plantations. Nothing new, but it is worth reminding ourselves of the demographics of the National forest resource and the resulting softwood timber volumes. This is borne out by the 25-Year Forecast of Softwood Availability (2016) published by the Forestry Commission's National Forest Inventory (NFI). This suggests between the years 2017/21 to 2032/37 a 19.14% drop in volume of small roundwood under 16cm top diameter, across Great Britain, including both private and public timber sources. The most marked decline is in England. However, the NFI figures show an uplift in the last five years of the period (37/41) when there is predicted to be a small increase.

> There are buyers approaching growers to source extra timber by finding and capturing significant off-market volumes.

The **sawlog** figures for 16-34cm top diameter material make happier reading. Although future technologies will surely improve recovery percentages in sawing processes, some of the shortfall in biomass and particle board raw materials, will come from increased sawmill production.

> Prices on roundwood are again making the utilisation of high-input, low-volume yield fibre streams economically feasible

There appears to be a mixed response to wood supply. From September, some of the private sector estates have their attention taken up by their shooting commitments, understandably making it impractical to entertain harvesting companies. Volumes offered through the state forestry organisations and institutional investors is tailing off as the year runs to a close. It has been a good year for growers across all regions, so they have no need to empty the basket of next year's offerings. For those who want one last visit to the market there are still plenty of interested buyers to talk to.

We sit here with the Brexit negotiations looming on the horizon, no-one is clear, the compass is unsteady, so we cannot be sure whether we are seeing the sun rising on a promising new day or setting on a profitable one. There is very little idea what the outcome might finally be. No deal might mean higher prices. The City will decide once they know what they are deciding about. Vital to making sound business decisions, is the necessity of having a clear framework to operate in. The Brexit negotiations are everything, as yet, we do not have that. The current economic cycle is good, so demand nationally and worldwide remains high. One importer talking on the post-Brexit scenario said, 'They have it, we need it, they want to sell, business will find a way whatever the initial difficulties are, imports will come in'. If Theresa May does a deal the pound will rise by 10% and the pressure will be back onto sawn prices.

So maybe, sit back, keep alert and chuck a few more logs on the fire, against the cold winds! We are a resilient industry and we play a longer game than most. Brexit will be a distant memory by the time we are cutting down the trees paid for by the modest £60m this government is dedicated on spending to plant them.

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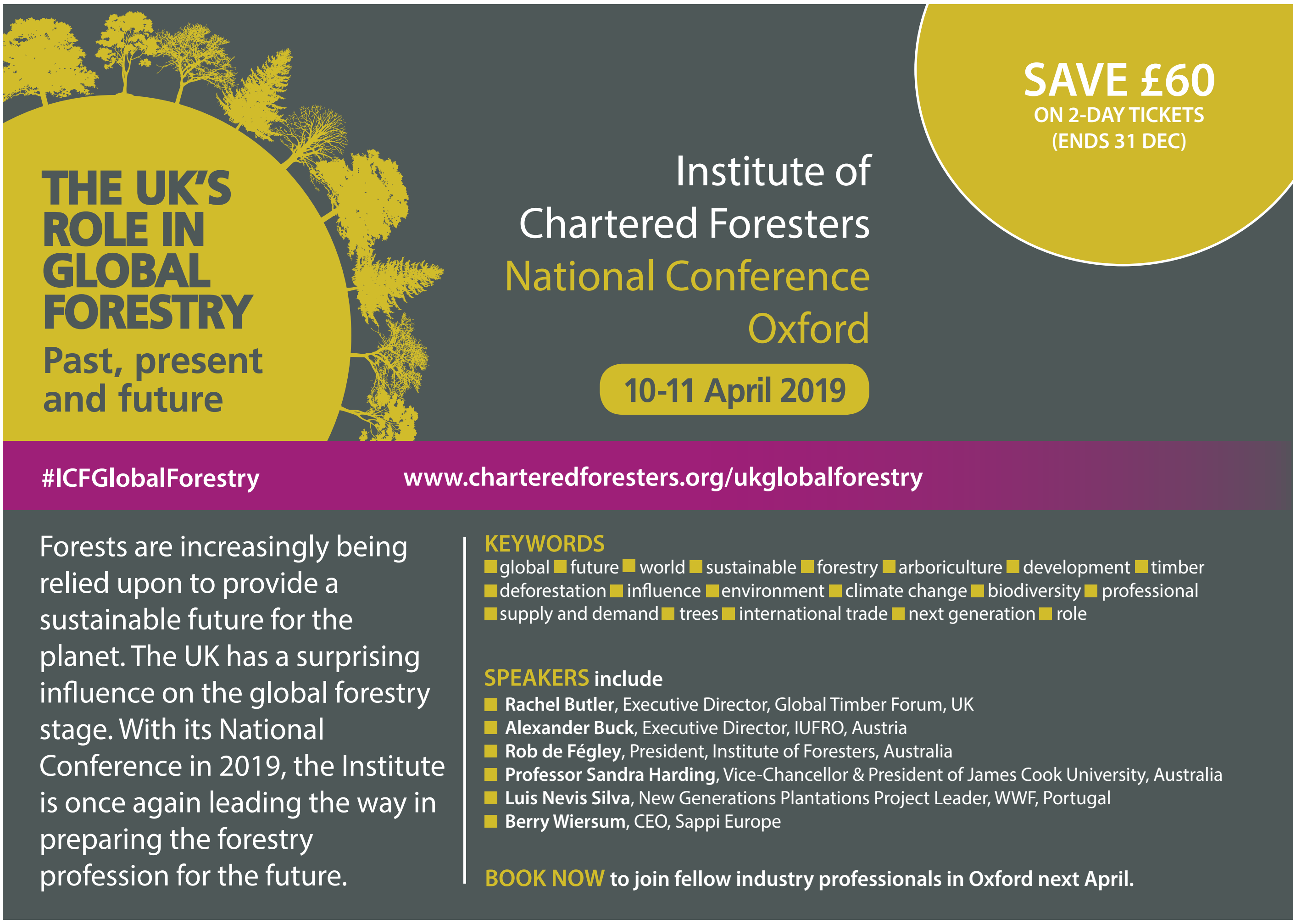
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KEYWORDS
global ■ future ■ world ■ sustainable ■ forestry ■ arboriculture ■ development ■ timber ■ deforestation ■ influence ■ environment ■ climate change ■ biodiversity ■ professional ■ supply and demand ■ trees ■ international trade ■ next generation ■ role
SPEAKERS include
Rachel Butler, Executive Director, Global Timber Forum, UK
Alexander Buck, Executive Director, IUFRO, Austria
Rob de Fégley, President, Institute of Foresters, Australia
Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor & President of James Cook University, Australia
Luis Nevis Silva, New Generations Plantations Project Leader, WWF, Portugal
Berry Wiersum, CEO, Sappi Europe
BOOK NOW to join fellow industry professionals in Oxford next April.

Looking north

FOREST MARKET REPORT
Fenning Welstead, John Clegg & Co

I don't know about you, but the years seem to be passing more quickly. This quarterly report comes round more rapidly every time and another Christmas is almost upon us. With a focus in this issue on the north, what's been happening since the APF show?

Ardteatle Forest on the north-eastern edge of Loch Awe has been sold by John Clegg & Co. Extending to 144ha in total and with 48ha of mature spruce alongside 20-year old crops and young restock this is a very attractive and compact commercial property. A competitive closing date led to a successful sale at over £15,000 per stocked hectare; this price reflecting the value of the mature timber in a market that has seen an uplift of 30% in the price of standing timber over the last year.

At the time of writing another forest of mixed mature/young restock has gone under offer at similar value. While the young crops still needed work to achieve establishment the mature timber is an immediately available return of cash income. Factor in location and supply/demand imbalance and one can see why the values keep rising.

Newmore wood near Invergordon is a different forest being more of a Scots pine and mixed conifer crop. At 218ha it's a good size and with easy terrain where a range of management techniques could be considered including shelterwood. Of the several offers received the highest at just over £8000 per stocked hectare won the day. Although the high percentage of pine is a factor, this land could be converted to a faster growing spruce crop or retained as a most attractive mixed woodland with diversity and wildlife values.

Bidwells marketed another woodland with a high percentage of mixed conifers at Gartlove in Clackmannanshire. Only 38ha in size, this mostly comprises crops dating from the 1950s and thus with scope for immediate income. Much of the larch, pine and spruce has been thinned making for a delightful forestry atmosphere. At the time of writing it is reportedly under offer at around £10,000 per hectare.

The rise of natural capital is a growing phenomenon. Difficult to quantify but certainly a factor in some sales. Bell Rural Solutions are marketing Acregate Forest (previously known as Lochlyoch). This is 743ha of woodland and 115ha of pasture and hill grazing on offer at £3.95m. The most interesting aspect of this sale is that the largest forestry lot, extending to 591ha and with a guide of £2.72m, was planted in 1993 with a high percentage of mixed broadleaved species. While the conifer elements, and the spruce especially, is performing very well the broadleaves are more habitat than workable crop. The prospect of good hardwood timber seems low but the habitat and natural capital value is undoubtedly there. With a guide price equivalent to £4600 per hectare it will be of great interest to see how the market reacts at the closing date set for 07 December.

Knight Frank & Bidwells jointly marketed Blackhouse Forest Estate in the Yarrow valley of the Scottish Borders. In total 640ha and containing 312ha of conifer forestry the USP was the off-grid house. Entirely self-sufficient with solar panels, hydro and biomass energy systems with enough energy to power the house and the estate's ATV and a Tesla for shopping expeditions. If the planning system began to accept building in forestry situations we could see a lot more of this.

Looking again at commercial timber, the continued demand is for raw material. Virgin plantations. by which I mean those planted under schedule D and generally wall-to-wall spruce, are in short supply as most of these have now entered production. The few that remain untouched and with substantial reserves of timber now standing within them have gone up in value most strongly. Kirk Hill is a 120ha plantation planted in 1981 with solid spruce crops and now close to production. There was an extraordinary experience at the closing date when the top two offers came in at exactly the same price. It required a shootout between them to establish a clear result. The sale is not yet complete but clearly the availability of a predictable volume of timber in the medium term was a significant factor in the result and the competitive bidding.

Kirk Hill

Another factor which is increasingly apparent is the effect of Forest Plans on market value. We have had a couple of instances this year where the Forest Plan designed by the present owner has not met with the favour of the new owner. In two cases this has resulted in adjusting the forest plan, in order to get the sale over the line. This is something to bear in mind when managing your forest asset - your personal perception of what is valuable may not suit the market when it comes time to sell. Careful asset management with a view to the longer term is a valuable part of forest ownership.

The next forest market report will focus on southern regions of the country.

www.johnclegg.co.uk

Annual UK forest market report

The UK Forest market report 2018 was launched on 21 November. In its 20th edition, Report is produced by industry leaders Tilhill Forestry and John Clegg & Co and provides analysis of this growth and further commentary about forestry as an investment choice. The report also features a study on the lowland woodland sector.

Read the full report at **www.tilhill.com/forestry-investment**

SÉAN LENIHAN

Afforestation short of target again

For the second year in a row, Ireland's afforestation target which this year is 6600ha will not be achieved. To date, according to Forest Service figures just over 3500ha have been planted, which represents the lowest level of spring afforestation in over 25 years. The severe drought in May, June and early July had a significant impact as it is estimated that the planned afforestation of 500ha which was approved, and ready to go, was suspended until the end of the year. When one considers that as late as 2010 over 8300ha were afforested in the full year, the drop off in planting levels is a major cause for concern. The most optimistic outcome that could be expected now would be 5000ha, but there is a real possibility that the total outturn for 2018 will probably be 4500 to 4750ha.

The reasons for the reduction in afforestation levels are varied, complex and open to debate. Many farmers have switched to land leasing as opposed to traditional conacre and can earn from €18,000 for a five-year lease tax-free to €30,000 tax-free for a 10 year lease. Leasing rates per acre at an average of €230 are similar to Forest Premium rates which are also tax-free, but obviously don't involve a major and in most cases irrevocable change in land use.

Planting downturn

Another big issue has been the refusal by the Forest Service to row back on the restrictions on planting of mainly upland areas categorised as unenclosed or unimproved areas. Historically, many of these areas were planted at first by the State in the 1930s and subsequently Coillte but also by private growers from the 1990s on. The majority of this land category produced Yield Class 14 Sitka spruce which is the minimum requirement for grant approval by the Forest Service, and indeed many sites would have recorded higher Yield Classes. The Forest Service however decided in 2009 that only 20% of any application could include unenclosed/unimproved land and this has led to a collapse in planting levels in these areas. Many in the industry believe that as much as 750–1000ha of land per annum has been effectively sterilised by these restrictions.

The other big issue is the new afforestation rules which were introduced in 2017 as part of the new Felling Act requiring owners to place a site notice on the land they intend to plant at application stage, and allowing the public to object to the granting of afforestation licences. Combined with increasing, and unfortunately unchallenged anti-forestry propaganda in mainstream and social media has resulted in a hostile environment for forestry in certain parts of the country. This has had a detrimental knock on effect on the number of new afforestation applications especially those where the conifers, and especially Sitka spruce represent the majority species.

> The drop off in planting levels is a major cause for concern

Summer drought 2018

The extended dry spell which commenced in mid-May and lasted until the end of July had a profound impact on newly planted sites resulting in mortality levels as high as 85% in eastern counties, and averaging 55% countrywide. The financial implications for growers and the industry are very serious and while there had been an expectation that the Forest Service would introduce a reconstitution scheme to assist with the cost of replanting it hasn't materialised to date. Instead, the Forest Service have issued an official circular whereby they have agreed to pay the establishment grant on affected sites provided the registered forester signs a declaration to fill-in the dead trees by March 2019. The drought also impacted even more severely on the nurseries who were left with up to two million trees in cold storage which subsequently had to be destroyed.

Knowledge Transfer Groups

In August 2018, the Forest Service introduced a forestry Knowledge Transfer Group scheme for the first time. Knowledge Transfer schemes have been a feature of mainstream agriculture in Ireland for many years now especially in the beef, dairy, tillage and sheep sectors, and there are currently 25,000 farmers registered with agri KT schemes.

Under the new forestry KT scheme, groups of 10-20 forest owners have to attend 4-7 meetings/events for which they will receive €70 per meeting. The KTG organiser receives €6500 for organising and facilitating the group, and a combination of mandatory, and selected topics/subjects must be covered.

To date, 35 KT groups have been created with a total membership of 700. Their development is viewed as positive by most people in the industry, and another indication of how far the private forestry sector has progressed in the past 25 years. It is expected that the KT scheme will be fully funded again for 2019.

Timber prices

Timber prices were very strong for the first three quarters of the 2018. Prices however for commercial grades have dipped in the last quarter partly due to a significant reduction in sawlog processing capacity as a result of a serious fire at a mill in County Cork. Roadside prices are currently: pulp – €28; pallet – €52; and sawlog – €75. Standing sales for an average tree size of 0.5m³ have hovered at €55 for most of the year.

www.kestrelforestry.ie

Charity launches consultancy arm

A new woodland management consultancy is generating funds to help restore the Caledonian Forest, reports **Georgie Brown**

Trees for Life has recently launched a new professional woodland management consultancy, Trees for Life Woodland Services. The consultancy is set up to help private landowners manage, restore and expand their woodlands. As a social enterprise, 100% of profits generated by the consultancy go to Trees for Life to further the work of the charity in restoring the Caledonian Forest.

Trees for Life Woodland Services is now working primarily across the Caledonian Pinewood zone with a variety of clients and towards a range of objectives, including biodiversity and habitat enhancement, amenity and timber production. New woodland creation schemes currently underway range from productive small-scale croft planting projects to large -scale native woodland habitat restoration on traditional private estates. With the desire to provide an end-to-end management service, the full range of work offered includes site assessments for woodland creation and restoration, sustainable management of existing forests, strategic woodland management plans, harvesting and marketing timber, grant scheme and carbon sequestration funding applications, operational and project management, financial forecasting and advising on compliance with environmental and Health and Safety legislation.

Trees for Life Woodland Services is led by Gordon Brown, a chartered Forest Manager with a wealth of experience in forestry practice and woodland management in the public, private and charity sectors. Gordon is passionate about the ecological role of woodlands as well as their connection to society and the rural economy. He is joined by Georgie Brown (no relation), who has experience in public and private forestry and a keen interest in native and productive woodlands. Georgie is an Associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and is working towards achieving chartered status.

Ecological dynamics

The consultancy utilises expertise within the charity, accumulated through decades of experience restoring and establishing native woodland. This is set alongside an understanding of conventional, commercial forestry provided by Gordon and Georgie, to provide a unique consultancy and management service to assist landowners to maximise the ecological, cultural and financial value of their woodlands. The consultancy delivers high quality, sensitively designed planting schemes which incorporate a deep appreciation of the ecological dynamics of woodlands and their context within the wider landscape. This is a service which Trees for Life have repeatedly been asked to provide in the past, and are now pleased to have the capacity to deliver.

While specialising in native woodland establishment, the business has a far wider remit than this. It also takes on more conventional estate woodland management, where the owners' objectives align with those of the organisation. For example, the consultancy will be managing a diverse property in the Highlands where sensitive felling and restocking of commercial crops will be undertaken in the process of moving towards managing the productive woodlands through low impact silvicultural systems in the future.

Trees for Life Woodland Services also has the capacity to market the carbon sequestered in our planting projects once certified under the Woodland Carbon Code. The carbon market can often seem a little obscure or abstract, but the consultancy is able to offer a unique combination of carbon sequestration opportunities and corporate involvement which allows companies to deliver environmental benefits and create a genuine relationship between their staff and the forest. This additional source of funding has already unlocked exciting new projects and is promising to be an important dimension of the consultancy's work.

The purpose of Trees for Life Woodland Services is to provide a unique and valuable offering to the forest management sector, meeting the needs of a variety of woodland owners and contributing to increasing the ecological diversity of Scotland's woodlands.

www.tflwoodlandservices.co.uk

"Planting schemes … incorporate a deep appreciation of the ecological dynamics of woodlands and their context within the wider landscape

Forestry and woodlands – tax reminder

by **David Gittins**, Chartered Accountant

The favourable tax treatment of forestry activities depends on the forestry/woodlands being accepted as 'commercial'. If this is accepted, the following will apply:

Income tax

Income is free of tax but no expenditure applicable to forestry activity is tax allowable. Accounts prepared for forestry activity should not be submitted to HMRC.

Capital Gains Tax

The potential tax liability on a sale or transfer applies only to the increase in value of the land, disregarding the trees. Hold-over relief can apply in some circumstances.

Inheritance Tax

100% business property relief is available for commercially managed forestry.

Is my woodland 'commercial'?

The commercial nature of the forestry activity is most important and evidence to support this is vital. Although no accounts may be needed for income tax purposes, they are good evidence that a proper business is or has been carried on. A separate column in the accounts of an estate with multiple activities is scarcely adequate. The Brander case (HMRC vs Brander (Executor of the 4th Earl of Balfour) should be studied and noted to see whether it is applicable to areas of commercial forestry within an esate with various commercial or investment activities.

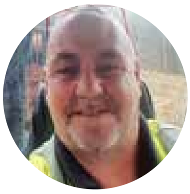
A separate VAT registration, if possible, is also useful evidence of commerciality. Sales of timber – even if less than the registerable limit for VAT registration – are not necessarily important provided that the management of the forest/woodand is/has been with a view to the realisation of profit. Trees do not have a fixed "sell-by date" and an accusation that no sales have been made or that there have been no sales in a number of consecutive years is not a valid criticism, provided the intention to make taxable sales in due course has always been present.

MEMBER SERVICES

Woodland taxation helpline

Confor members get 30 minutes of free initial advice, which will be provided in the form of a first basic guidance on the enquired issue. A valid membership number has to be provided.
David Gittins
01242 262490
Gittins.trees@btconnect.com

TACKLING THE SKILLS SHORTAGE



RAB Easton reports on some creative solutions aimed at addressing the critical shortage of forestry operators

The lack of new forestry operators coming through the ranks is a major issue which will have serious consequences for the industry in the near future.

This is not just applicable to the UK as most timber producing countries are experiencing similar problems, and with an increasing demand for timber products this is an issue that is not going away.

Luckily, machine manufacturers, dealers, forestry colleges and contractors are doing everything they can to help alleviate this problem by looking at ways to attract new people into the industry.

Personally, I don't understand why this is happening as I think the industry has never been in a better position than it is in today.

People around my age will remember how difficult things used to be. Most of us were chainsaw operators felling trees for skidder or skyline extraction; this was a hard, physical occupation which involved working in all weather conditions (we were paid by production: no work = no wages) with one of the highest accident rates. In the 1970s safety equipment was rare, very expensive, uncomfortable and heavy to wear, especially on hot summer days.

Wages were poor and it was difficult to earn money as most companies paid on a "load away basis"; this meant that if timber was slow to move to the sawmill, we all suffered from a money drought. Nonetheless, very few people left the industry as it was more of a way of life rather than a job and, to this day, most of my lifelong friends are still or used to be involved in the industry.

During the 1990s the industry became better organised as mechanised harvesting took over from manual squads. Good machine operators who were high timber volume producers experienced an upturn in demand and were rewarded with excellent salaries and were operating reliable, efficient equipment.

At this point, there was a waiting list for people wanting to make the leap from a chainsaw or skidder to operating a harvester or forwarder and training usually involved operating an older machine on weekends to gain valuable experience.

Since the turn of the century, although there have been a few young operators who have joined the industry and they have been a valuable addition, the majority of operators have been in the 50 to 70+ age group and will be looking to retire in the near future which is going to leave a large void.

Today, good machine operators are highly respected by both employers and the companies they are contracted out to and generally there is no ceiling on production or hours, which can result in an excellent standard of living.

I find it strange that there is a lack of new young operators coming through – despite the fact that social media sites glamorise the industry and this should be attracting more people, this isn't the case at the moment.

It can involve long working hours and staying away from home but the rewards are incredible. Some of the vistas one can experience from the cab are fantastic – you are pretty much your own boss and the financial rewards for a good, highly productive operator are excellent.

Palfinger EPSILON's new Smart Control demonstration at the Interforst Exhibition

Simulators

I was visiting the Interforst Exhibition at Munich in July and was delighted to see that some of the large manufacturers are taking steps to address this issue, which will impact on everyone involved in the industry.

Many manufacturers provide training simulators and this is a good way to start

John Deere 1170G with IBC

training and discover whether the prospective operator has the correct aptitude.

Many of the manufacturers supply simulators, including John Deere, Komatsu Forest, Ponsse, Logset, EcoLog, Vimek, etc., and many of these can be found in schools, colleges and the manufacturers' premises.

While at Interforst, Mikael Frimodig from EcoLog was on the WFW stall and invited me to try out their simulator. Either the harvester or forwarder can be selected or it is possible to create your own profile, allowing you to log in and out and resume the training session in the future.

It starts off with driving exercises to familiarise the user with the controls for manoeuvring the machine. The quality of the graphics was excellent and having the seat moving side to side and up and down to simulate terrain conditions creates a realistic experience.

Moving on to a selective thinning programme for the harvester was excellent as it teaches the student to select the trees which need to be removed to create a valuable final crop. There are target zones to fell the trees into to minimise the damage to the final crop and the same is true for the processed timber. Any damage to the standing crop by harvesting or by driving the machine results in penalty points added.

The trainee can then switch to the forwarder mode and extract the timber harvested; once again, points are added for any crop damage by the forwarder or crane operation.

This is an excellent method for training and will ensure the student is familiar with the controls and limitations of the machines before progressing onto the real machines in the forest.

There are two types of simulators being used; the ones with a screen and the Virtual Reality (VR) type which involves wearing goggles for a 3D experience.

Ease of use

Machine manufacturers are looking at ways to make machines easier to use, for example John Deere created the Intelligent Boom Control (IBC) which makes using and controlling the cranes significantly easier.

IBC works by the operator controlling >>

>> the boom tip as opposed to individual cylinders; pushing the joystick forward/backwards controls the cranes reach movement and operates the main lift, dipper and extension cylinders keeping the crane parallel, and the other joystick controls the height and slew movement.

The benefits are a shortened operator learning curve, faster cycle times with reduced fuel consumption, smooth boom motions with cylinder end damping which reduce mechanical stress, and a reduction in operator fatigue which results in improved productivity.

Other machine and loader manufacturers have their own versions of this crane tip control system which I have tried and found them all to be extremely user friendly.

Role of the colleges

Colleges are also doing their bit to help. Newton Rigg, based in Cumbria, are part of Askham Bryan College and benefit from excellent sponsorship partners including AWJenkinson's and Komatsu. Over the last two years, Newton Rigg has forged links with Costal Pines Technical College in Georgia, USA. In June, several students and lecturer Martyn Davies flew out to America for two weeks to visit the college and experience the differences between the two countries in the logging and forestry sector. As part of the trip the students took part in the Timber Harvesting Operations Certificate programme, which provides safety and operations training using industry standard harvesting equipment used in the south eastern USA. This was a fantastic experience for all involved and Newton Rigg hope to continue to grow and develop these strong links with Costal Pines Technical College.

The Barony at Parkgate, Dumfries have just had two candidates finish a Forest Machine Operator Skills Development course.

>>

Above; Ponsse Scorpion simulator

Left: EcoLog harvesting simulator at Interforst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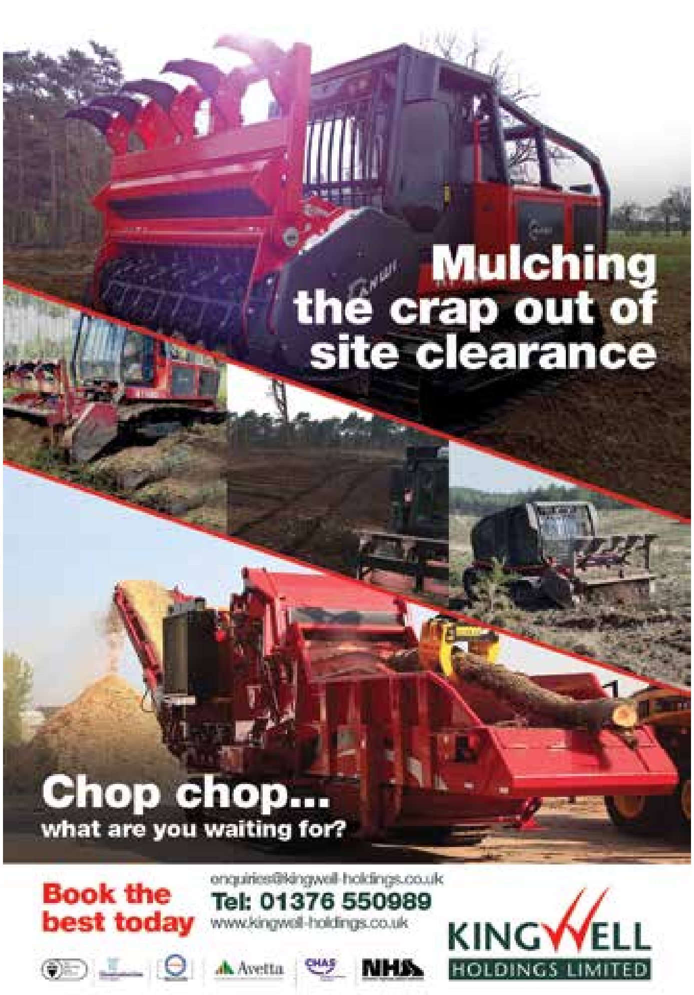
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www.ecogreencomposting.co.uk

>> This was the first eight-week course in a series of three courses delivered by the established partnership of UKFPA, the Barony Campus of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), John Deere Forestry and the Forestry Commission Scotland.

Having completed two weeks of intensive instruction at Barony Campus, which included the use of machine simulators supplied by John Deere, the trainees moved to a large harvesting site near Eskdalemuir for the remaining six weeks of the course. Each intensive and practical course addresses all aspects of mechanised harvesting and forwarding operations and candidates are assessed under the Forest Machine Operator Certification scheme. Rachel Fraser, Training Manager said: "Training opportunities for Forestry Machinery on this scale are rare, and without access to courses such as these it can be difficult for individuals interested in this career to gain the skills that contractors are looking for in their operators." The second of the three programmes began in October.

Inverness Forestry School caters to students from the Highlands and Islands and further afield. They have a practical "Skilled Craftsperson" course for students which provide a thorough grounding for getting started in the industry.

There are other independent companies offering training for instance, H & W training. Based in Dumfries but covering the UK and Ireland with courses for most types of forestry and arboriculture activities, they have a week-long training course for both harvester and forwarder operators with one on one tuition and the opportunity to gain their NPTC licence after completing the course.

Another scheme which is just starting is the two-year pilot Apprenticeship Scheme. Forest Enterprise Scotland, in partnership with Scottish Forest Industries, is delighted to have offered four Forest Machine Operator Apprenticeships. These will be based in Newton Stewart in our South Scotland Operational area.

Jim Wilmer and Sons Timber Harvesting Ltd have to be commended for taking the initiative and starting their own training programme, with four trainees currently in progress.

Two started in the yard under the watchful eye of Jim, his son David or an experienced forwarder driver loading and unloading the John Deere 1110e forwarder and manoeuvring it around the yard. After about two weeks they progressed to the forest, being monitored and tutored by Robert Forsyth for a week before being assessed by the NPTC. Two others are out on site with their harvester operator fathers and jump on the controls under their watchful eyes at break times and for a few hours after finishing time.

They are paid the minimum wage during training and Jim is looking to put aside a John Deere 903 harvester for the training process. The intention is for another four students to start soon.

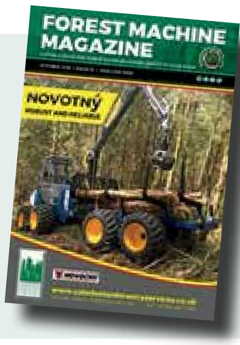
Although this is very costly for Jim due to trainees' salaries, time and setting machines aside for training which should be earning their keep, Jim has first-hand experience that the industry is in crisis and he is doing his utmost to alleviate the problem.

It's great to see so many people now pulling together and investing time and money to try and encourage more people to choose forestry as a career. It is a satisfying, enjoyable and exciting way to make a good living and provides the opportunity to work alongside some of the most genuine people - camaraderie still exists within the logging industry.

Rab Easton is the editor of the bi-monthly Forest Machine Magazine. He is a second generation logger with over 40 years of hands on experience in timber harvesting. Rab's magazine is available both in print and online and he is very active on Twitter and Facebook.
www.forestmachinemagazine.com

@forestmachineoj

Facebook: @forestmachineoperatorjobs



Liam McDonald, Newton Rigg student, on a Cat Loader at the Coastal Pine Technical College in Georgia, USA

The Great British Weather of 2018 – how did forest nursery crops respond?

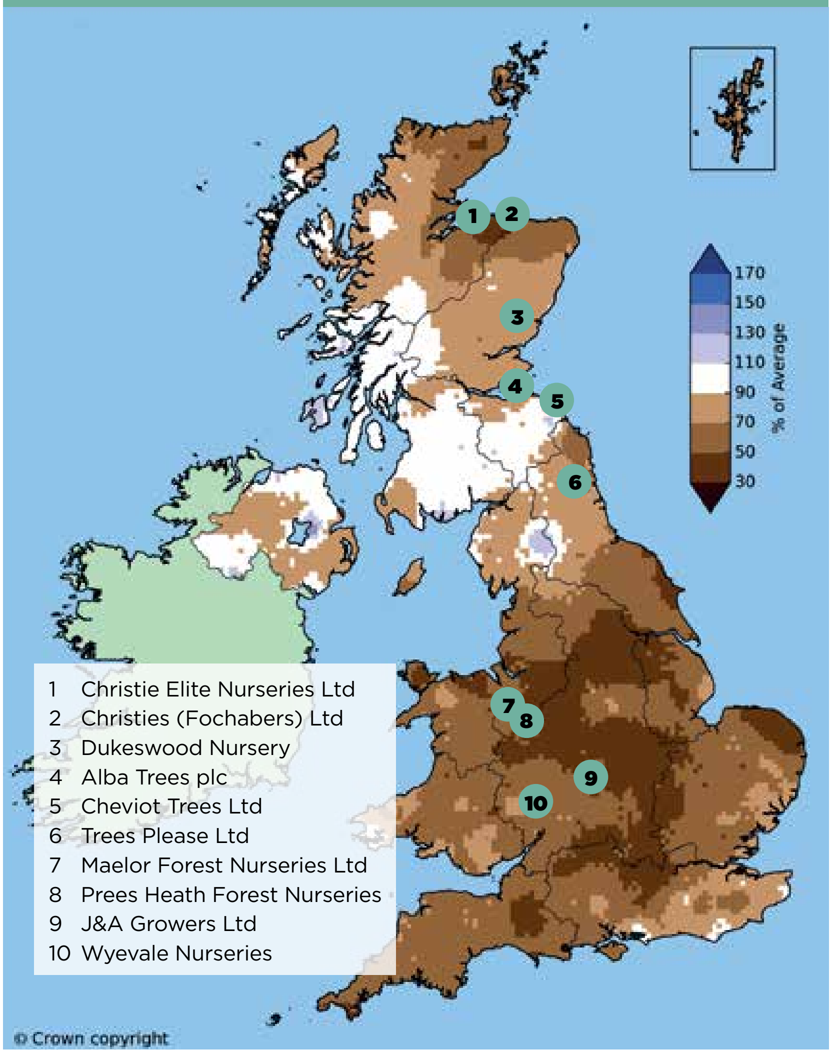
by **Alice Snowden**, Cheviot Trees

It seems to be more and more frequently we experience record breaking extreme weather; the hottest season since here, the driest season since there, and so on. Is this a worrying trend, does it have a real impact on nursery production and planting stock availability? We cannot control it but we see each year how the weather impacts our crops on the forest nurseries, and as growers we respond as we can. 2018 has undoubtedly provided us with a range of challenges thus far! The industry-wide increase in nursery tree production means more trees will be planted this season than for many recent years; what can we expect from this year's planting stock?

The 'Beast from the East' in March was followed by such an unusually late spring, possibly the latest we've seen for decades. The cold temperatures meant that bud burst was delayed. Was this a good thing? Well, it is always a trade-off between gaining the longest possible growing season versus growing too early and have the new growth caught and damaged by late spring frosts. Late bud burst and avoidance of spring frosts is good for tree quality and form, although slightly at the expense of height.

Summer was dry. So, so dry. When it arrived, it was hot and dry. Nurseries up and down the UK were depending on their irrigation systems almost like never before. What does this mean for the tree crops? Our bareroot seedbeds and container grown crops generally have permanent/semi-permanent sprinkler or gantry systems in place. Lots of hard work for the watering staff but it was possible to germinate and start the crops off reasonably. With lots of early warmth and water the new sown crops began the season well enough. Heat stress soon kicked in however and many crops stopped growing partway through summer this year. Irrigation is

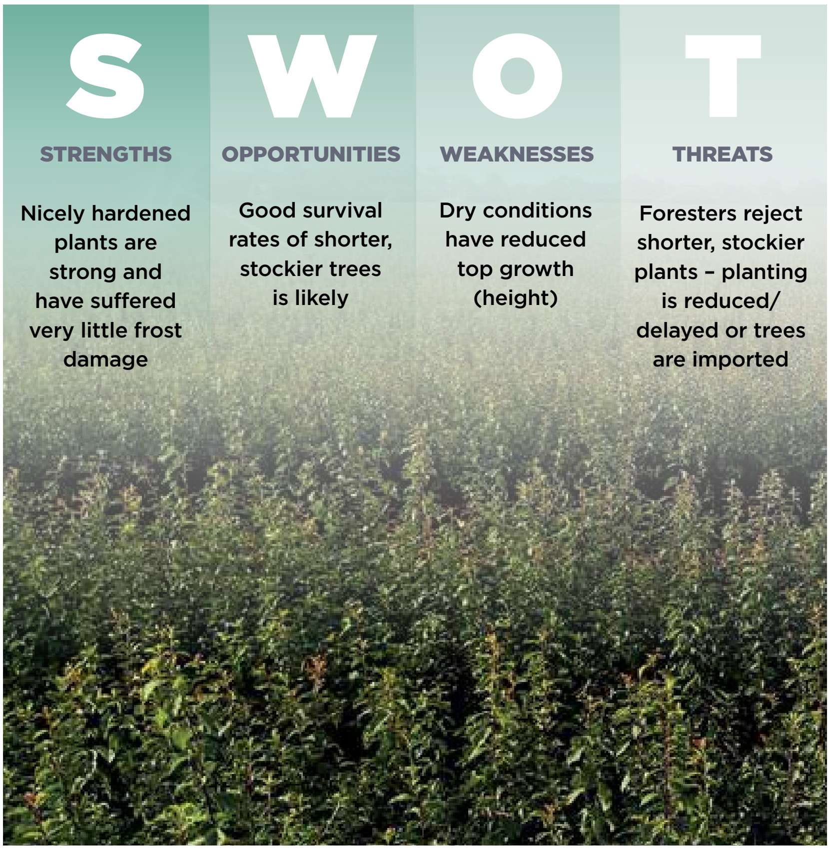
Met Office Summer 2018 rainfall amount % of 1981-2010 average showing position of nurseries



The 'Beast from the East' was followed by an unusually late spring and then a dry summer which called for heavy irrigation.

not the same as rainfall; 'doses' of water can only be applied few and far between, and it is slow and laborious to move the portable irrigation kit such as guns and reels from field to field. Lots of lined out bareroot crops struggled to put on as much top growth as usual this year. Summertime irrigation of cell grown crops was also challenging; the relative availability of irrigation equipment, whilst a great advantage, still does not fully replace natural rainfall.

Autumn has been kind; a gentle easing down of temperatures with a few slight frosts helping hardening up and the onset of dormancy without causing damage. The gentle temperature drop and return of the rain has helped plants take up the earlier applied fertiliser, used at that stage for secondary (strengthening) growth rather than primary (height) growth. So whilst forest nursery crops have grown hardy, strong and sturdy, on average they are not particularly tall this season. Is this a problem? It is far better to have strong plants than thin ones. A plant with a good root collar diameter, good roots and strong stem has greater chance of survival. Survival is what we need this season, when demand for planting stock is beginning to outpace even the newly increased nursery production levels. Let's all keep our fingers crossed for a kind winter and spring 2019, and good survival rates from this season's planting stock.



Coleg Cambria Llysfasi and Tilhill Forestry join forces on training

A leading agriculture college has joined forces with the UK's largest forestry and timber harvesting company to meet a growing demand for woodland workers.

Coleg Cambria Llysfasi and Tilhill Forestry unveiled their new partnership – the first of its type – at the APF 2018.

The aim of the Tilhill Diploma in Forestry and Woodland Management is to bring the forest industry an increase to its next generation of managers and operators by way of offering a unique blend of education, industrial experience and bespoke training underpinned by the National Apprenticeship Scheme.

Llysfasi head Iain Clarke said there is a skills gap in the forestry industry and a crucial need to develop a highly-skilled workforce to take the industry forward.

"With the continued introduction of new technologies to the already sophisticated and highly integrated timber production and supply chain, future managers need to have a broader range of skills than ever before," said Mr Clarke.

He went on to say: "Whether it is forest operations, technical support or management, companies frequently have difficulties in recruiting staff with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience needed to manage and maintain the forests of the future.

"Unfortunately, not enough young people are choosing to train and work in forestry and the supply of new entrants has diminished leading to challenges when replacing retiring staff and to expand and push the industry forward."

Lecturer Andy White, who will lead the programme, said forestry in the UK is a growing business and the union of these two pioneering organisations could not have come at a better time.

"This exciting partnership between Tilhill Forestry and Llysfasi aims to provide a direct career path into forest management in a way never offered before," said Mr White.

"Training begins with technical knowledge and skills development at Level 3 and proceeds to management skills at Level 5, with opportunities to enter the work place at the end of each stage."

Mr White added that learners will benefit from the technical input, support, mentoring, and vast amount of knowledge and experience of Tilhill Forestry staff, as well as tailored work placements, while studying at Llysfasi.

"With the backing of Tilhill Forestry we will be able to deliver the very best of modern forestry training and education. We are all extremely excited to be part of this new partnership and are encouraged by the interest and support already received," he said.

Managing Director of Tilhill Forestry George McRobbie added: "We have been looking for a partner to drive this development for the industry for some time.

"In the past our new entrants have tended to be forestry graduates. By teaching people from an earlier age they can enter the sector sooner and, we hope, stay longer. It's a win-win. Our parent company BSW has invested heavily in apprenticeships at our mills and it makes sense to widen the opportunities to work for Tilhill through apprenticeships too. We will also be helping further by sponsoring some students through bursaries."

Tilhill managing director George McRobbie (left) with Llysfasi head Iain Clarke

Forestry Excellence Awards come to London and south east in 2019

DEADLINE 5 MARCH 2019

Royal Forestry Society (RFS) is bringing the Excellence in Forestry (EIF) Awards to the most densely populated region of England in 2019 – London and the south east.

Awards coordinator Dr Rachel Thomas says: "We are looking to show how community woodland and small woods are important to areas which are relatively built up; how larger well manged woodland can bring benefits to an area over many generations and to uncover woodland learning projects which will inspire others around the country.

"We urge all woodland owners and organisations to enter"

The Awards are open until 5 March 2019 for applications from London and from Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex (East and West), and Wiltshire.

There are five categories:

- Award for Silviculture Excellence (sponsored by Tilhill Forestry)
- Duke of Cornwall's Award for Resilient Multipurpose Forestry (sponsored by Savills and TreesPlease)
- Small and Farm Woodland (sponsored by Forest Stewardship Council)
- Community Woodland
- Education and Learning Award for schools, colleges, universities and other training providers (sponsored by Forestry Journal and PEFC)

www.rfs.org.uk/awards/excellence-in-forestry-2019/)

Woodland carbon 'delivered' – not just 'promised'

Dr Vicky West of the Forestry Commission explains how the market has moved on

The UK's Woodland Carbon Code, managed by the Forestry Commission, has now been running for seven years and the number of players in the woodland carbon market, as well as the trees themselves, are growing.

There are now over 190 projects validated (checked at the outset) to the Woodland Carbon Code, brought forward by 24 different project developers – including Forest Carbon, the Woodland Trust, forest agents, other charities, local councils, a sawmiller and individual landowners. Together, these projects have created over 20,000ha of woodland which are predicted to sequester 6.3m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) from the atmosphere over their lifetime, of up to 100 years.

Averaged over the next century this 63,000 tCO_2e per year is a long way off compensating for the UK's (current) annual emissions of 468m tCO_2e per year, however it is equivalent to the annual emissions of 13,500 cars or the energy use of almost 7,000 homes each year over the next century[1]. New woodlands are never going to compensate for the UK's current level of emissions, but they can be an important tool in a portfolio of measures – especially as we move towards the latter part of this century when the UK government has committed to reach 'net zero' emissions.

Together, these projects have created over 20,000ha of woodland which are predicted to sequester 6.3m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2e) from the atmosphere over their lifetime, of up to 100 years

What are the 'verified' carbon units that are now available?

One aspect of the Woodland Carbon Code is that projects are required to 'check-in' after five, then every ten years, to monitor and verify (independently check) the carbon sequestered to date. Project developers have started undertaking year 5 verifications, with 56 completed so far. These projects have converted units which were a 'promise to deliver', into actual sequestered, verified (3rd-party checked) carbon units. So far the number is small, around 5 thousand units – trees taking time to grow, and having to account for any initial soil carbon losses before the balance is positive.

This means that there are now two 'products' on sale:

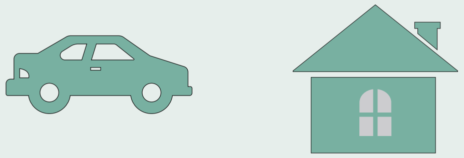
Pending Issuance Units (PIUs) – effectively a promise to deliver future carbon sequestration, by purchasing early in a project before the trees have grown; these can be used in Corporate Social Responsibility claims about the future benefit of an investment.

Woodland Carbon Units (WCUs) – or tonnes of carbon dioxide proven to be already sequestered from the atmosphere into growing trees. These can be used by companies to compensate for their unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions.

63,000 tCO_2

per year from 24 WCC projects can offset annual emissions of

13500 cars *or* 7000 homes

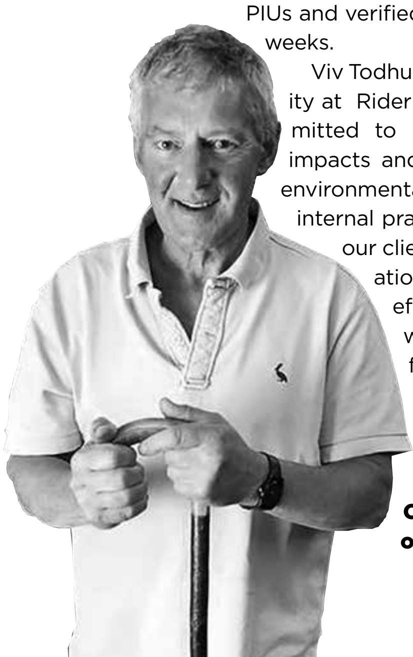


The pioneers

The Craigengillan Estate in Ayrshire verified their first group of projects totalling 91ha this year, proving that they had already sequestered almost 600 tCO_2e in the first five years, and are on track to sequester another 26,500 tCO_2e over the next 95 years. The estate is the first to sell Woodland Carbon Units, or sequestered carbon. This year, they have sold almost 450 verified Woodland Carbon Units to Rider Levett Bucknall via Carbon Clear, a carbon retailer. Craigengillan have also sold almost 2,000 PIUs to Barclays Bank via First Climate. They are hoping to complete further sales of both upfront PIUs and verified, sequestered WCUs in the coming weeks.

Viv Todhunter, Head of Corporate Responsibility at Rider Levett Bucknall, said "We are committed to minimising adverse environmental impacts and maximising the opportunities for environmental enhancements, in both our own internal practices and in the advice we give to our clients. We constantly review our operations and services to promote carbon efficiency. As part of this approach we were delighted to purchase the first verified credits available on the Craigengillan Estate."

Mark Gibson, owner at Craigengillan, says both buyers



Craigengillan Estate owner Mark Gibson.

appreciate the wider conservation and community work occurring on the historic and beautiful estate and feels buyers are happier to buy PIUs after the first verification in preference to before, as they have further assurance that the project is well established and looking good to deliver carbon sequestration in future Mark Chadwick, CEO at EcoAct UK, confirms that many of their UK-based clients are now looking at how they can support carbon reduction projects closer to home with the Woodland Carbon Code providing unique access to forestry projects and carbon credits in Britain.

Mark Gibson says: "This Woodland Carbon Code project has been a joy. It is allowing us to create superb native woodlands which will not only sequester carbon but also bring huge benefits to people and wildlife. It fits perfectly with the principles of the UNESCO Biosphere in which we are situated. The recently planted second group woods, have been formally dedicated to the Woodlands Trust's World War 1 Centenary Project. The Forestry Commission guided us through the whole process and EcoAct UK and South Pole were great to deal with when we came to selling our first Carbon Units to their clients".

The market situation

Of the 6.3m tCO_2 validated to the WCC to be delivered over the next 100 years, around 60% has been sold upfront to a number of different companies making Corporate Social Responsibility claims, with the remainder to be sold as PIUs in the near future or WCUs later on once they are verified.

As far as we are aware, the price paid by corporate buyers has been from £5 to £15 per unit/tCO_2e, but it's too early to say whether WCUs will be more or less 'valuable' than PIUs. The price paid depends on the wider benefits of the project, be that other ecosystem services that are also delivered, the location of the project relative to the purchaser's office or customer-base, or potentially the ability for the purchasers staff to engage directly with the project via volunteering for planting or conservation work. The leaders in negotiating these sales have been Forest Carbon and the Woodland Trust, but other deals have been sealed via carbon brokers such as Natural Capital Partners and Climate Friendly as well as Carbon Clear and First Climate mentioned above. A few landowners/agents have made a small number of direct sales to local companies.

The woodland carbon projects and the process that supports them are maturing, and there's more government policy supporting the use of such market mechanisms; for forest agents or landowners not already involved, now's the time to be considering a woodland carbon project, helping the UK meet it's emissions reduction targets for 2050 and beyond as the trees grow.

www.forestry.gov.uk/carboncode
Vicky.west@forestry.gov.uk

Policy driving the agenda

Over the last year there have been changes - actual and proposed - in government policy which signal a stronger demand for woodland carbon in the future:

• Greenhouse gas reporting is likely to become mandatory for around 12,000, rather than 1000 of the UK's largest companies over the next year or so. Companies are likely to have the option to compensate for unavoidable emissions with verified WCUs as per current guidance.

• The domestic carbon offset market will be strengthened, according to the UK Clean Growth Strategy and Defra's 25-year plan.

• Government will offer a 'Woodland Carbon Guarantee' for verified WCUs, with £50m over the next 30 years committed in Westminster's recent autumn budget for a pilot project in England.

REFERENCES

1 www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator

In for the long haul

by **Neil Stoddart**

Sustainable is a great forestry buzzword. According to Wikipedia it means *Able to continue over a period of time*. Perhaps not applicable to UK timber haulage then. Let me explain.

The forest industry is currently riding the crest of a wave, with primary timber production and processing sectors both increasing volumes. The future vision of forestry supports this but there is a real danger that, going forward, we may not have the resources to haul the product to market.

Timber haulage is a highly competitive and low-margin business,. often having to respond to fluctuating customer demand. Drivers have to deal with variable road conditions (off and on highway) and bad weather while delivering safely and on-time to customers.

Is our haulage sustainable?

It seems to me that the UK timber harvesting supply chain is, too often, all about the lowest price. Currently, only the landowner is gaining the financial benefit of high timber prices while perversely, the rest of the sector races to the bottom as it eats itself to capture volume.

West Fraser, a leading North American integrated wood products company, states: “We value our contractors as important members of our team in the communities where we operate. Our mill operations depend on them to be at the top of their game”. Is this a sentiment followed in the UK?

Most major forest management and timber harvesting companies run ISO Quality assurance programmes, and are FSC accredited. FSC provides third party certified global standards for sustainable forest management, which covers a balance of environmental, social and economic aspects. It notes “The well-being of forest communities and ecosystems is as important as replacing trees in ensuring the future of the world’s forests”. Is sustainable haul-

>>

> “
> Timber haulage is a highly competitive and low-margin business,. often having to respond to fluctuating customer demand.

Current challenges for the timber transport sector

Labour

Of all the UK’s business sectors, the transport industry is probably facing the biggest skills shortage and urgently needs to recruit 45,000 drivers.

RHA chief executive Richard Burnett notes: “The average age of an HGV driver is 55 years. Many are retiring and not enough are coming through the system to replace them. It costs approximately £4k for a young person to get their Cat 1 HGV license but too few young drivers have access to the funding needed and many operators simply cannot afford to take on apprentice drivers”

The traditional feeder sectors for timber HGV drivers were motor-manual forestry (from which some labour would have progressed to lorries after a period on forest tractors with loaders) and agriculture. Both have seen dramatic declines in the numbers employed and are now facing staffing challenges of their own.

The wages and conditions that the timber haulage sector can afford to offer drivers simply do not look attractive compared with other opportunities for the young workforce.

Construction, for example, can provide better wages, training and a career pathway where the young employee is given guardianship (and decent welfare facilities).

Fuel

UK diesel fuel duty still remains by far the highest in the EU. This impacts on haulier’s cash flow, profitability and economic growth. Fuel costs have risen 10% since Jan 17, increasing in Oct again. Fuel accounts for some 38% of HGV running costs, so a 4% increase is needed on base rates just to stand still.

Investment

Specialist timber vehicles can now cost up to £250k and assets face steep depreciation curves due to the tough nature of the operational activity. Compared to road-going fleets, the maintenance and repair costs are considerably higher. Many of the larger timber hauliers have othersupportive income streams as their timber fleet would often not stand on its own financial merit.

Legislation and Compliance

HGV Operators licence holders work within an increasingly regulated licensing regime that actively promotes road and safety compliance but, to remain fully compliant, incurs management costs.

>> age ever considered here?

To be honest, the current challenges for the sector (see panel) paints a pretty bleak picture for the timber haulier. The notion of the sector being "sustainable" is stretching it a bit. Perhaps we are heading for a cliff edge, a collapse, where the last few standing get the prize, if there is one to win! Unrealistic? probably, but we have recently seen some hauliers getting out of timber, with many others currently considering it.

Looking forward

We absolutely have to look towards a brighter future; so, what improvements can be made?

To start with, we need recognition and a better understanding by the trade of the issues noted above.

Rate-based issues are a commercial concern between hauliers and their customers, but it goes without saying that increased rates would allow for investment in staff, as well as attracting and training new blood. There will be mistrust, so perhaps an industry levy to a central fund/specialist training centre would reassure customers that any increases weren't being misallocated?

Price vs Quality - you don't need an MBA to review this chestnut and there are countless thesis, reports and graphs on the subject.

Value placed on quality and service needs to be appreciated and audited. You can barely get onto a worksite in London with an HGV without being FORS (Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme) accredited. It's a voluntary accreditation scheme that promotes best practice for commercial vehicle operators, and gives the construction sector the reassurance they are paying for quality!

We cannot import any more administrative cost or burden into timber haulage, but maybe a simple assurance scheme with a recommended scale of minimum rates would be useful to provide a level playing field of costs for timber purchasers. A scheme like this would also ensure only those hauliers who are investing in the right areas could gain access to work opportunities and tenders. Could FSC play a role here? The FC certainly could.

Rates submitted by hauliers are often locked into

the duration of 'harvesting job' which can then extend over much longer timescales than anticipated. There needs to be flexibility for programmed rate review points and increases linked to annual inflation and fuel indices.

Finally, longer term open relationships, with improved communication between hauliers and their customers, would provide visibility on work programmes which in turn would allow for workflow continuity and generate confidence for ongoing investment......and perhaps sustainability!

www.jstservices.co.uk

Neil Stoddart is GM with JST Services (Scotland) Ltd. An industry professional with 25 years' experience in private sector Timber Harvesting and Logistics. He currently sits on both the Timber Transport Forum and FISA committees.

Ash: safety vs nature

by **Simon Walls**, Euroforest

As ash dieback becomes more visible in the landscape it moves from a forestry or arboricultural problem, to one which has the potential to impact on all landowners and indeed anyone who uses woodland for recreational purposes or the public highway network to travel.

The physiological properties of ash are such that in death a tree will rapidly loose structural integrity and could create a significant hazard within 2-3 years. In a tree with ash dieback the situation is made worse because death does not occur over one season and often will initially go unnoticed, the result being that by the time a tree is identified as being affected, the crown is already in a state where branch loss is a reality. The advice offered by DEFRA against pre-emptive felling of ash has potentially created a situation where many trees at roadsides or in other areas of high public pressure are now in a condition where only rapid intervention can prevent serious injury or loss of life.

Any science on the subject is hard to access but; travel any section of wooded road and where safe look up into the crowns and you will likely find yourself under dead and dying ash trees – it is very likely that the current landscape along many sections of road, in forests and other amenity areas will be changed significantly in the next few years. The bigger question for many landowners and operational foresters is how do we do that safely without risk to operators and before someone is seriously hurt or killed by falling branches or trees.

Balancing objectives

The potential for ash dieback to rapidly change our rural landscape and habitat cannot be underestimated. The problem with the DEFRA advice is that it has created a sense of security in implying that we have time, whereas in reality what has been achieved is to condense the felling of diseased ash into a shorter time period and which undoubtedly will have a greater impact on both visual and ecological landscapes. Additionally, this will also require the deployment of a larger resource to deal with the problem and in doing so spreads the necessary skills very thinly.

For many people, the increased levels of deadwood in our forests will be viewed as a positive benefit, increasing the availability of habitat for bats, birds and invertebrates, >>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Good practice around how to deal with ash dieback would suggest that a zoned approach, in line with the general tree safety management advice offered by the National Tree Safety Group and the Forestry Commission, would offer a balance between due diligence, environmental benefit and financial objectives.

The primary focus for any land owner must be to remove or make safe any ash which is showing signs of disease and is within falling distance of roads, paths, railway lines or any other area frequented by people. Additional consideration should be given on how any operation can be mechanised, reducing operator exposure to a minimum; the use of harvesting machinery where operators are protected from falling branches and tops by a cab, offers the highest levels of risk control.

Additionally, the use of shears on a long reach boom may also provide opportunities for crown reduction where trees are of a size that otherwise necessitates manual felling, one further benefit of this technique is that large stems could be retained as safe standing deadwood ie crowns removed to a height which presents limited risk to people accessing the land.

The second priority would be to address the area zoned as having potential for access or a known low level of access, in these areas there is more potential to retain a proportion of diseased trees but again the focus should be to consider desire lines and known points of access, these could include for example, bird pens and shooters pegs on sporting estates where there is no public access or any other point where people could be stationary for any period.

Finally, very remote areas where public access is difficult or unlikely could be left for natural processes to take place and for decay to occur.

Most importantly we must acknowledge that doing nothing is not an option, landowners and agents must recognise their wider duty of care and operational managers must make every effort to protect operators they engage to address the problem.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>> however we must ensure that this additional standing deadwood is reserved for areas with low public pressure and low risk. It would be difficult to advise a landowner to do nothing and let trees decay naturally when any level of public access is likely.

Experience from Denmark suggests the situation is further complicated by the fact that a primary infection of ash dieback renders the tree more susceptible to attack from other pathogens, in particular from Armillaria which causes the rooting structure to decay and thus the benefits provided by standing deadwood are short-lived at best. Conversely, Polish foresters claim that Armillaria is not a problem but that ash dieback itself causes a rapid decay of rooting however the result is essentially the same.

The challenge then is how best to balance a range of objectives; a land owner has a duty of care to anyone accessing their land or who could be affected by trees or parts of trees falling from their land on to adjacent land accessed by others. Most landowners will also have a primary objective of realising the financial potential of their undertaking and also are likely to have an interest in the wider environmental benefits of their management. Importantly, financial returns from ash will be compromised as the disease progresses and timber quality deteriorates and the volume of ash being marketed increases.

Improving environmental protection in forestry

by **Stuart Wilkie**

The Forest Industry Environment Group (FIEG) came together following discussions between various individuals across the state and private forestry sector in Scotland. There appeared to be several areas of environmental interest where working together seemed to offer advantages. We found that we had common goals but also common problems, particularly in seeking compliance with regulatory, UKFS and UKWAS requirements.

The FIEG is not a formally constituted body, and is currently made up of representatives from Confor, Forestry Commission Scotland, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Scottish Woodlands and Tilhill. We hope we can draw in the experience, skills and time of other organisations, companies and individuals in the future, including from outside Scotland. If you would like to be involved or if you have suggestions for issues that should be tackled in the future, please let us know.

At the most practical level the objective of the group is to promote common standards so that everyone working in the sector receives consistent message from site to site, and also to help interpret legislation and guidance, and distil this down to sensible workable advice.

As a first step the group felt it was useful to establish a framework of roles and responsibilities. This would also give a consistent reference for future guidance and operational management. Rather than reinvent the wheel, it seemed obvious to adopt the familiar roles described in FISA's Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry, and simply define environmental responsibilities for those roles. Thus, the idea of Guidance on Responsibilities for Environmental Protection in Forestry was born with the aim that it could become an accepted industry wide standard.

The first draft of the proposed guide is published on the Confor website as a consultation exercise. The group would welcome your thoughts and comments, with a view to producing a final draft in the spring of 2019. Please send you comments to **stuart.wilkie@scottishwoodlands.co.uk** by 15 January.

www.confor.org.uk/resources/consultations

Stuart Wilkie is Certification and Environment Manager, Scottish Woodlands

Confor and HTA demand action on *Xylella fastidiosa*

The discovery of *Xylella fastidiosa* in two more sites (one in Belgium and one in the Netherlands) has significantly increased the risk of it reaching our shores. The scenes of devastated Olive groves in Spain and Italy have attracted the headlines, but the disease can also infect woody plants such as Lavender, Bay and several species of broadleaf trees widely grown in the UK.

If *Xylella* were to spread to the UK, control would focus on the targeted removal of host plants and management of the vector insects' habitats. The challenge for any nursery in the UK found to have imported an infected plant, is that they would be likely to face tight quarantine regulations on the rest of their trade. Defra has recently issued guidance for the nursery and plant importing industries that includes details of the control measures which would be taken if the disease were found in the UK.

Confor's Nursery Producers Group has been working closely with Alistair Yeoman of the HTA, to produce a joint letter to Nicola Spence the Chief Plant Health Officer for the UK. The letter requests that high risk plants are tested for *Xylella* before being imported into the UK.

For the future biosecurity of our tree and shrub nurseries it is essential that this disease is kept out of the UK. Confor has been pushing the Government hard on a number of plant health issues.

www.confor.org.uk/news/plant-health

Mitsi makeover: L200 updated

Thanks to its excellent off-road capabilities and reliability, the L200 has long been one of the favourites in the forestry sector. Next year, Mitsubishi will be updating its well-established pickup and **Liam Campbell** was at the global premiere in Thailand to put it through its paces.

The L200 can trace its history back in the UK to the 1980's and it is now one of the longest-running nameplates in the pickup sector. In 2015, the Series 5 was launched raising the bar in terms of refinement, and it also introduced the cleaner and more efficient 2.4-litre MIVEC engine. Next year however, the updates are focused around safety, but there will be a completely new face, a new transmission, alterations to the chassis and suspension and a moderate update inside.

Striking new looks

This is a facelift in every sense of the world, with the badge being 'lifted' 100mm compared with the previous mode and, love it or hate it, the new model certainly turns heads. Mitsubishi has noticed that pickup truck customers around the world are wanting a more 'tough' and 'masculine' looking truck, and that the curved, 'smiley face' design of previous generation was quickly becoming out of date.

Adopting the company's 'Dynamic Shield' design, the aesthetic alterations to the radiator grille, headlights and bumper certainly give the L200 a broader and futuristic appearance, but we feel it fails to emulate the masculinity of the Ranger or facelifted Hilux.

There are new lines sculpted into the side panels and the wheel arches have been widened and made boxier. The rear lights have also been changed, and are available in LED on higher trims, to give a wider impression.

On the inside, the alterations aren't so extravagant; the centre panel around the multifunction display adds more chrome, while the shift panel has been refreshed with a boxier design and chrome effects. Designers have also added a premium feel soft pad trim to the floor console, arm rest, door trim and parking brake, while there are large smartphone trays in the centre and rear consoles. The elevated driving position provides excellent all-round visibility and, because it has the longest cab in its class, boasts excellent leg room in the front and rear. However, it's also the narrowest cab on the market, and it can feel cramped for those of 'wider' proportions.

New features

Mitsubishi has taken the 2019 update as an opportunity to introduce a number of new comfort and driver assist systems. Multi-around monitor, consisting or four cameras, provides the driver with an all-round view of their surroundings in car parks with the push of a button on the dashboard, which automatic high beam dips the full beam when it detects oncoming traffic. In the back, two USB charging points have been added and there's a new rear air circulator which cools down rear occupants much more effectively than the current model.

Engine and driveline

As with the pre-facelift model, it seems that Mitsubishi's 2.4-litre 4N1 (2,442cc) engine is likely to remain, although it couldn't confirm whether the current power ratings (150hp/380Nm and 178hp/430Nm) would stay the same.

The engine is refined and standard models are hooked to the same 6-speed manual transmissions, although a new 6-speed automatic transmission has replaced the notchy 5-speed, supplying smoother and more seamless gear shifts.

Price and availability

The new model won't be available to UK customers until the late summer. Prices are expected to only increase marginally from the current £19,505 to £31,810 plus VAT price range, and the warranty will remain the same at five years, or 62,500 miles.

Ride and handling

The L200 has long been criticised for the amount of body roll generated in the corners, due to its high centre of gravity and the narrowest track of any pickup. We are happy to report that body roll has reduced on the new model thanks to alterations to the suspension. The larger rear dampers seem to contain bumps a lot better, with noticeably less 'cab shudder'.

We already regard the L200 as the best off-roader in the pickup segment, thanks to its great manoeuvrability, light chassis but, most importantly, the shift-on-the-fly Super Select 4WD system with locking centre-differential which is the most responsive and adaptable of all the current pickup truck 4WD systems.

However, Mitsubishi has raised the bar even further by introducing hill descent control (operable at four speeds of up to 12mph) and the off-road mode switch with five settings. This system adapts the engine performance, electronic stability control and traction control for the optimum performance on four off-road settings.

New safety systems

The L200 already has a respectable 4-star NCAP rating, but it seems Mitsubishi has its eyes set on all five for the 2019 update. Mitsubishi has rolled out a number of new safety features, which are key in the prevention and detection of collisions.

Forward Collision Mitigation (FCM) detects possible collisions with vehicles and pedestrians ahead, and gives the driver visual and audible warnings, while Blind Spot Warning (BSW) with Lane Change Assist (LCA) helps avoid sideswiping other vehicles when changing lanes on motorways by detecting vehicles behind or at the rear quarter and alerting the driver with a flashing light in their door mirror. Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) works in a similar way, but when reversing.

However, it was the Ultrasonic Misacceleration Mitigation System (UMS) that really caught our attention. This device stops the acceleration when manoeuvring in tight spots if it detects a collision is about to occur, therefore reducing accidents resulting from improper use of the accelerator.

Loading weights and dimensions

The European specification models have yet to be finalised, but we do know that the L200 will retain its one tonne payload and the load area will be exactly the same size (1520mm by 1470mm). However, the bosses couldn't confirm whether or not it will retain it's 3.5t towing capacity as this was achieved through secondary testing and, for a while, the towing capacity may drop back down to 3.1 tonnes.

Liam Campbell is editor of Professional Pickup and 4x4 magazine.
http://pickupand4x4.co.uk

Review of available herbicides and insecticides expected to be available for use in forest & farm woodlands in 2019

Withdrawn and introduced products

Since the last review early in 2017 a further four pesticides previously used in forestry have been revoked under the EC review process, or have not had their UK forestry off-label approval (EAMU) renewed:

Glufosinate ammonium

A contact weedkiller sold as Challenge or Finale, typically used on natural regeneration sites.
Possible alternatives: glyphosate (Roundup) and propyzamide (Kerb), carfentrazone ethyl (Shark)

Imidacloprid

A neonicotinoid insecticide used to pre-treat transplants for protection against hylobius.
Possible alternatives: alpha-cypermethrin (Alpha 6ED) & acetamiprid (Gazelle SG).

Metsulfuron methyl

A foliar herbicide used in farm woodland for dock & annual weed control.
Possible alternatives: fluroxypyr (Starane Hi-load), 2,4-D (Depitox).

Napropamide

A residual herbicide used in farm woodlands for annual weed control.
Possible alternatives: pendimethalin (Stomp Aqua), isoxaben (Flexidor).

On the plus side, an extremely promising deer deterrent, Trico, has been introduced, and a review of commercial experience will be published in FTN in the New Year.

MEMBER SERVICES
Pesticides helpline

Pesticides helpline is a free service operated by Confor's crop protection adviser Colin Palmer on behalf of Confor members. Colin can be contacted 8am to 8pm Mondays to Fridays on 01531 633500 (leave a message if necessary) or by email to: branchline@xln.co.uk

Pesticide options currently available for 2019

This list updates the list (compiled February 2018) to be found in the 2019 Confor diary. The approval dates are those currently published, but should be used for guidance only, as experience suggests that these are subject to change.

GRASS CONTROL - FORESTRY

Cycloxydim (eg Laser)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approved to November 2023
Safe to trees at all stages, but only active on fast growing grasses. Ineffective on typical upland grass species including Nardus, Molinia, Juncus and some fescues.

Glyphosate (Eg Roundup ProActive)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approved to June 2020
A large number of glyphosate products containing tallow amines have been phased out due to regulatory concerns. There is a strong possibility that EC Ministers will vote to withdraw the product in 2021.

Propaquizafop (Falcon)
FSC x PEFC √ Offlabel approval (EAMU 2016/3458 to May 2024.
Safe to trees at all stages. Approval restricted to one application at half rate (0.75l/ha), so really only of value on seedling grasses in forest nurseries and farm woodlands.

Propyzamide (eg Kerb Flo)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approved to July 2021
Winter applied residual herbicide. Not effective on coarse grasses or rushes, sedges only partially controlled.

BRACKEN CONTROL – FORESTRY

Asulam (Asulox)
FSC √ PEFC √ Emergency approval granted for 2019 use from 1 July to 31 October.
Approval conditions expected to be as 2018, so aerial use & use through tractor sprayers. Although knapsack sprayer use is approved, the requirement of 1000l/ha water volume without runoff is not attainable.

Glyphosate (eg Roundup ProActive)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approved to June 2020
Useful for spot treatment through knapsacks or pre planting on dense infestations.

HERBACIOUS WEED CONTROL - FORESTRY

Clopyralid (eg Dow Shield 400)
FSC √ PEFC √ EAMU 2012/2041. Approved to October 2020
For the control of thistles. Will also kill clover. Generally safe to the crop.

No other herbicides now approved for herbacious weed control in forestry other than glyphosate.
A much delayed selective herbicide / scrubkiller to replace Timbrel is now expected to be approved later in 2019.

INSECTICIDES - FORESTRY

Pre-treatment for Hylobius Control in the forest nursery

Alpha - cypermethrin (Alpha 6ED)
Approved to January 2022.
Applied through the electrodyne applicator and still very effective. However, the approval of all synthetic pyrethroids is threatened by EC rulings on endocrine disrupters, so the product may be revoked prior to 2020.

Acetamiprid (Gazelle SG)
Hylobius offlabel approval EAMU 2012/1068 to September 2019
Aphid offlabel approval EAMU 2016/2653 to September 2099
Forest Nursery pre planting EAMU's 2011/1313, 2013/2418, 2016/2653
Commercial use had demonstrated that this is a very effective insecticide against the weevil. Acetamiprid belongs to the neonicotinoid group of insecticides, which is under severe political pressure due to concerns over bee health. However within this group, acetamiprid has the best bee safety profile, so may remain even if other similar insecticides are withdrawn.

Post-planting hylobius treatments

Acetamiprid (Gazelle SG)
FSC √* PEFC √ Offlabel approval to October 2019.
Best used following Alpha 6ED

treatments to minimise the potential for insecticide resistance. High level of operator tolerance. Two applications per year permitted.

Cypermethrin (Forester)
FSC x PEFC √ Approved to April 2021
Continues to be a very effective part of the control programme. Use in PEFC certified forests or non-certified forests only. Three applications per year permitted.

CATERPILLAR CONTROL FOR PINE MOTH, PINE LOOPER & PROCESSIONARY OAK MOTH etc

Diflubenzuron (Dimilin Flo).
FSC √* PEFC √ Approved to December 2021
A chitin inhibitor - prevents moulting leading to death. Control of lepidoptera only - all other insect species unaffected. One application per year. Aerial use & hand held use permitted.

Bacillus thuringiensis (Dipel DF)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2016/0931to March 2020
A biological insecticide injested by the caterpillar. No limit on the number of applications.
Control of lepidoptera only - all other insect species unaffected.

FUNGICIDES IN FORESTRY

Phlebiopsis gigantea (PG Suspension)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approval to March 2020
Biological control of fomes. Maximum shelf life of product is seven months

Urea (Urea)
FSC √ PEFC √ Used as a pesticide under a 'Basic Substance' approval.
A nitrogenous fertiliser used for the control of fomes. See Forestry Commission literature for dilution rates.

MAMMAL CONTROL

Aluminium ammonium sulphate (Sphere ASBO)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approval to December 2021
A deterrent against rabbits, hares and deer. Effectiveness relies on the build-up of 'avoid' memory in the target species. Not rainfast.

Aluminium phosphide (Talunex)
FSC x PEFC √ Approval to February 2022
For the control of rabbits using pellets activated by moisture. Operator certification required prior to use.

Emulsified Sheeps Fat (Trico)
FSC √ PEFC √ Approval to Feb 2023
A new introduction for deterring deer browsing & fraying. Early reports indicate that it is very effective and rainfast.

FARM WOODLAND HERBICIDES

Farm woodlands are defined as new plantings on ex arable or improved grassland fields.
All products used in forestry may be used in farm woodlands plus the following:

FOLIAR HERBICIDES

2,4-D (Depitox)
FSC x PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2008/2843 to December 2099
For inexpensive foliar control of thistle, buttercup, ragwort, dandelion and a number of annual weeds.

Amidosulfuron (Eagle)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2014/2508 to June 2021
A sulphonyl urea foliar herbicide active on cleaver & hogweeds. Reasonably tolerated by the crop.

Carfentrazone - ethyl (Shark)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2008/0551 to January 2019
A contact herbicide which dessicates annual broadleaved weeds. Avoid crop leaves or needles.

Florasulam (Boxer)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2008/2826 to September 2099
A sulphonyl urea foliar herbicide active on a number of annual weeds including cleaver, plus hogweeds.

Fluazifop - p methyl (eg Fusilade Max)
FSC x PEFC √ Approved to December 2021
Safe to trees at all stages, but only active on fast growing grasses. Ineffective on typical upland species including Nardus, Molinia, Juncus and some fescues. Knapsack use permitted (EXCEPT in Christmas trees).

MCPA (eg Agroxone)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2012/2061 to April 2021
For inexpensive foliar control of thistle, buttercup, ragwort, dandelion and a number of annual weeds. Application through hand held equipment is prohibited.

Tribenuron – methyl (Quantum SX or Thor)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel EAMU 2012/2063+64 to April 2021
A sulphonyl urea herbicide with foliar activity on a range of annual weeds.

RESIDUAL HERBICIDES

Flumioxazine (Digital)
FSC √ PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2008/2844 to December 2021
A residual herbicide which inhibits the germination of a number of annual broadleaved weeds. Limited action on grasses.

Isoxaben (Flexidor)
FSC x* PEFC √ Approval to November 2023
Residual herbicide which inhibits the germination of a number of annual broadleaved weeds. No activity on grasses.

Pendimethalin (eg Stomp Aqua)
FSC x PEFC √ Offlabel approval EAMU 2009/2918 to September 2099
Residual herbicide which inhibits the germination of a number of annual broadleaved weeds with limited activity on grasses.

Notes:
* On revised FSC list yet to be adopted.
i. All users must now hold a PA1 plus PA2 (crop sprayer) or PA6 (knapsack sprayer) operators certificate.
ii. A copy of the appropriate authorisation (EAMU) must be downloaded from https://secure.pesticides.gov.uk/offlabels/search.asp before applying any offlabel pesticide.

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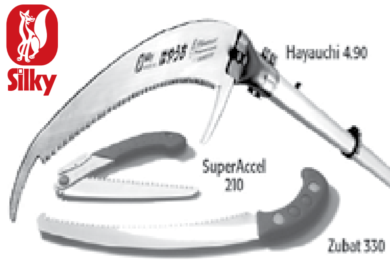

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SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

PROFESSOR JULIAN EVANS OBE FICFor

Some good news

At the end of October I attended the Royal Forestry Society's conference about *The Future for English Woodlands* held at the National Memorial Arboretum. It was co-sponsored by the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers. I listened out for news of interest to small woodland owners; I was not disappointed.

I won't report on every presentation such as that of Confor's Andrew Heald or Gabriel Hemery's talk on resilience for example, but highlight just three which struck me forcibly.

Miranda Windram, Forest Enterprise, showed how using the natural capital approach has begun to influence decisions operationally in FE. How when valuing what forests and the forest environment provide, far beyond that of income from timber, changes what may be done. It is early days, but I was left with the clear impression that in the not so distant future all owners of woodland will one day receive recompense, or have properly acknowledged, the public good they provide, whether carbon storage, slowing the flow water-wise, amenity and access, wildlife conservation, human health etc. There will be no quick solution or financial windfall, but policy is moving in the right direction – our wonderful woods and forest are wonderful for all sorts of reasons!

We went out for coffee and Justin Mumford of Lockhart Garrett didn't disappoint on our return. Timber prices are at a ten-year high and even small woods with a few lorry loads of logs are worth looking at. I hope readers of these articles already know this, but it was good to be reminded. It is always worth looking at even a hectare or two of woodland to see what there is and whether a thinning can turn a penny or two. Investment in biomass boilers, wood-burning stoves and the like continue to help the smaller owner realise some return.

Dieback resilience

The final – and in my opinion finest – presentation of my trio was Professor Richard Bugg's question asking, 'How resilient English ash trees are to dieback?' Richard is a geneticist and he showed how English ash differ somewhat from eastern European and especially Danish ash – the latter being where we have learnt much of what to expect from ash dieback. His most powerful conclusion was to encourage the strategy of using profuse natural regeneration as a means of achieving rapid selection for some improvement in tolerance. A less hopeful comment was the emerald ash borer is not so far from our shores.

I've not commented on progress with grey squirrel fertility control, use of continuous cover silviculture, the long list of pests and disease threats there are, or of the opening paper a 'tour de force' on agriculture (and forestry) and Brexit. But probably in the case of the latter you wouldn't want me to before Christmas!

Happy Christmas and do enjoy your woodland, it is a precious and increasingly prized asset.

Moccas Park, Hereford. The ancient trees in this private National Nature Reserve are infinitely more precious for wildlife than timber.

FORESTRY IN PICTURES

The picture was taken at the beginning of Martin's Ride at Crowfield Plantation, Bryn y Gwenin, Monmouthshire. Bryn y Gwenin means 'Hill of Bees' and the author is the steward of the woodland.

Photo and Haiku:
Mathew Plumb, Abergavenny

Wane

Light gone haze again
lazy shift of blue and mist
a run of lusting

Want to see your picture here?
Forestry in Pictures is a regular feature in FTN. For every issue, we 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 14 January 2019. 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.

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COMING UP IN FEBRUARY – GET INVOLVED

In February, our annual feature on Forest management and diversification will return, together with a new feature on Human Resources. Please get in touch before the Christmas break if you would like to submit an article on the topic or simply if you have ideas on aspects that should be covered.

Remember that FTN is your magazine – get in touch if you want to suggest editorial or give us feedback on articles we have published in the past.

Confor members, send us your company's news updates!

A reminder that additional information and downloads on topics and articles throughout this issue is available online. FTN web resources is accessible from the Confor homepage or directly via
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