

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August 2018 Issue 88

**APF 2018 PREVIEW
MACHINERY
COMMUNICATION**



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YOUR BODY IS A TEMPLE



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Can one be more than two?

STUART GOODALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

Clearly it depends on the context, and mine is the announcement that Confor and UKFPA are discussing a merger of the two organisations.

Shortly before I joined Confor, UKFPA members narrowly voted against merging into Confor, while Forestry and Timber Association members voted overwhelmingly for it. The subsequent merged organisation felt like it was three-quarters complete – a number of mills joined Confor, but most did not.

In recent years, many mills have joined Confor, making it much more representative of the industry as a whole, and the view from inside the organisation now is that a successful merger would be the last piece in the jigsaw of a project begun over 10 years ago.

It is of course up to members what happens to Confor, and there will be a discussion at this year's AGM – to be held on Thursday, 21 September at APF 2018, followed by a vote on any changes required to the company's Articles of Association.

So far, feedback from Confor members has been, in general, overwhelmingly positive. I am meeting one member who has expressed concern and I would be happy to hear from any others who may feel similarly. Some members have asked for greater detail, in particular on the financial aspects of a merger, and this will be provided

before any decisions are made.

Personally, I believe that a successful merger will be good for the sector and strengthen the services on offer to members. And that is also the view of the Confor Board.

In my own career, I've lobbied, been lobbied and advised ministers on lobbying. It's clear to me that a single voice is most successful in securing what an industry needs and wants. Faced with different voices an official or minister can pick and choose and do what they want to do.

For the last three years in particular, Confor has had a strong membership of woodland owners, managers, harvesters, mills, nurseries and more. We've been able to agree a single perspective on the issue of the day and put that over to ministers and officials, clearly and successfully.

The refrain I hear often these days is that "Confor has stepped up its game".

A merger that brings together the complementary strengths of Confor and UKFPA, will also enable us to provide more services to members – technical advice, market information, industry news and more.

There is an attractive historical context for the merger as well. 2019 is the centenary of the Forestry Act – the first step in turning round centuries of neglect of our forest resource, leading to the growth of an industry that now employs tens of thousands and contributes so much to the economy, the environment and to communities across the UK.

The Act also established the Forestry Commission (FC) and gave it a leading role for the sector as a whole. Since the turn of the century devolution has divided and reduced the scope and scale of the FC. The sector now needs to take responsibility for itself.

We are fighting for attention against other sectors and lobbying interests whose resources dwarf ours. Confor has succeeded by improving its practices and by giving politicians and officials the single voice they seek. This merger will enable us to get more out of the sector's limited resources and that must be a good thing.



Trees keep on giving for carbon reduction



Eleanor Harris on the importance of forestry in the climate change debate

In a year which began with the ‘beast from the east’ exacerbating a crisis in timber supply, and which continued into a summer in which woodland owners face the highest risk of fire for many years, climate change is becoming a very real risk for forestry. Yet, to an extent unparalleled in almost any other industry, forestry also holds the potential to make a significant contribution to tackling climate change, not by reducing its operations, but by expanding them.

Climate change and carbon reduction is coming up many political agendas and is already the driver which sets the tree planting targets in the various parts of the UK, although only Scotland is currently approaching meeting these. But how does forestry and timber have such huge potential in tackling climate change, why is it so difficult to translate this potential into ‘trees in the ground’, and how can we change that?

Timber: Impacting carbon three times over
The importance of timber in construction as a medium-term carbon sink has only recently begun to be recognised. Confor was an early advocate of this, and in 2015 commissioned Sandy Greig to calculate the carbon benefit from the 20,000 hectare, UK Forestry Standard forest of Eskdalemuir, taking into account the final uses of the harvested timber. It has proved a difficult challenge to present the study in a form which was easily understood, but this is now available in the leaflet enclosed with this magazine, summarised in the graphic on the right.

The Eskdalemuir study concludes that every hectare of productive forest results in a carbon benefit approximately equal to one individual’s carbon emissions over a year. It also demonstrates that the lion’s share of the benefit is derived from the use of timber, rather than the growing tree.

A tree grown for timber tackles climate change in three ways: (1) by sucking up carbon in the forest, (2) by locking up the carbon in a timber product, and (3) by avoiding the pollution caused by making the product from concrete, steel or plastic.

Harvested wood products and easy wins
Sometimes the easiest things are the hardest to do. This was highlighted by the recent report of the Com-

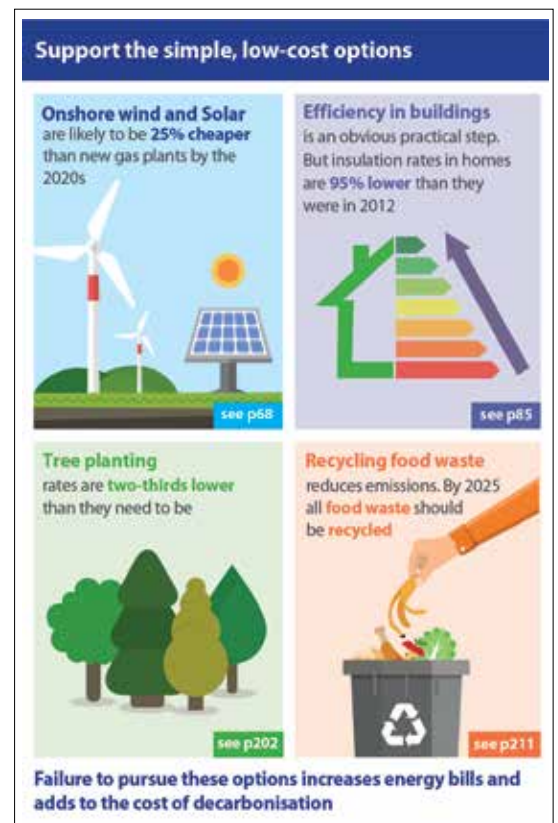


Forestry holds the potential to make a significant contribution to tackling climate change, not by reducing its operations, but by expanding them

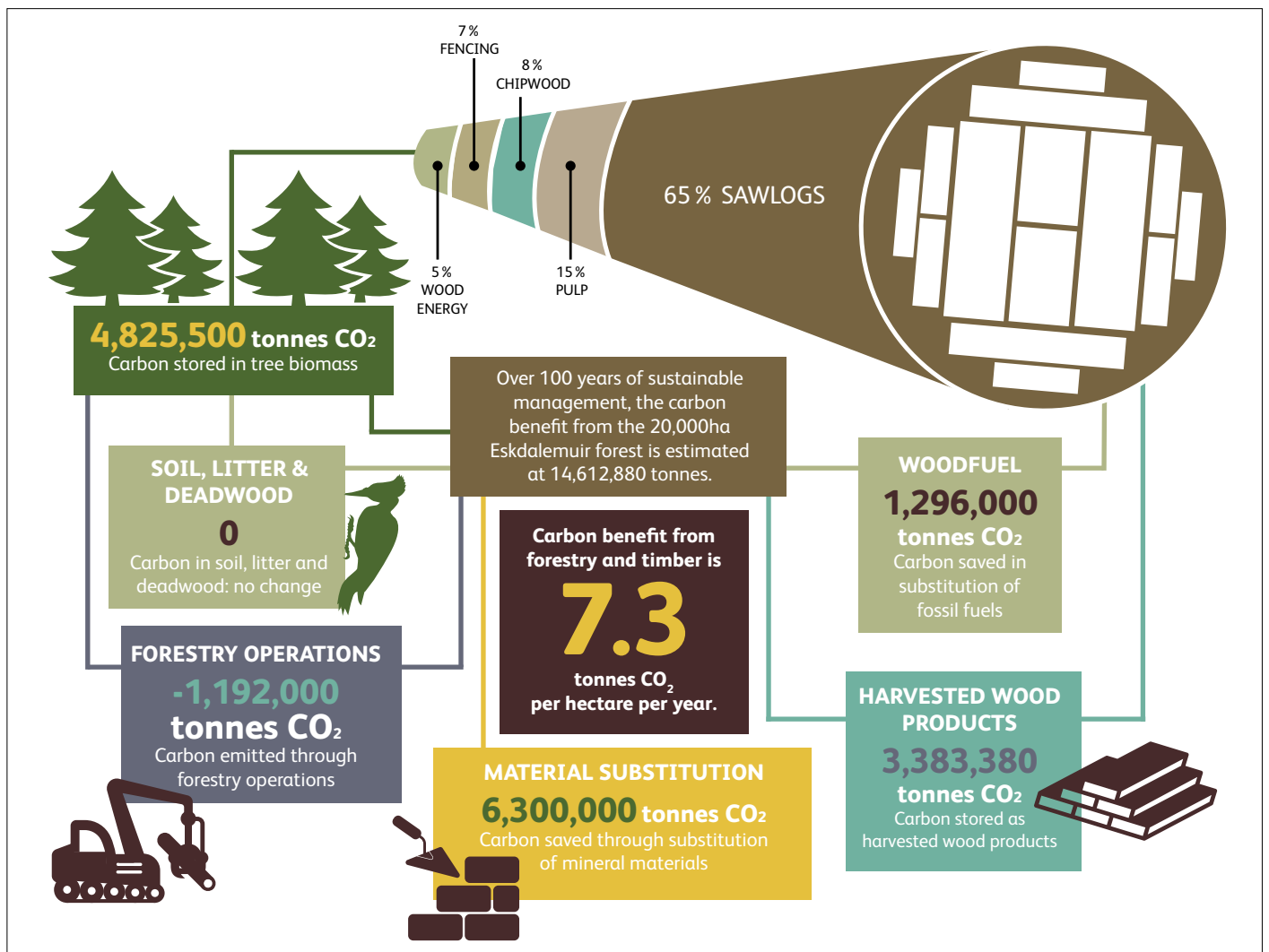
mittee on Climate Change (the CCC) to the UK government on progress to tackle climate change (see FTN web resources). The report leads with a stern warning that the government is missing four key ‘easy wins’ in tackling climate change (see graphic below), one of which is tree planting, and that this will be an expensive failure.

Encouragingly, however, this year, for the first time, the benefit of timber (the subject of our Eskdalemuir study) is included in the calculations made by the CCC, under Harvested Wood Products (HWP). HWP calculations assume that carbon is locked up in paper for two years, particleboard for 25 years, and sawn timber for 35 years. This means that the ‘carbon life’ of a tree is extended well beyond the time it stands in the forest, while new trees continue to sequester more carbon in its place.

Confor is working with the CCC to help develop more sophisticated ways of measuring the carbon benefit of forests and developing policy to maximise their carbon benefit.



Graphic from the Committee on Climate Change June 2018 Progress Report to Parliament



The policy gap

Confor is also helping the CCC to understand the policy blocks which mean that, despite the good intentions, trees are not planted. They recommend that the government urgently 'develop a strategy in England and each of the devolved administrations to deliver around 20,000 hectares per year across the UK by 2020, rising to 27,000 hectares by 2024, in line with stated ambition', but recognise that this advice, accepted before, has not resulted in action.

One potential problem is the desire of governments to avoid subsidising timber production by distinguishing between timber grown for commercial use, and timber grown for carbon. It is immediately obvious from the discussion above that there is no distinction: all timber is created from carbon taken from the atmosphere, and in fact the best way to grow timber for carbon, for cost-effectiveness, scale, and long-term storage is to grow it for commercial use: to build our cities from wood.

The distinction therefore creates a danger that carbon funding will be directed into land uses which compete with tree planting, delivering worse results than if there were no carbon funding at all.

An example would be a cattle farm which makes only a marginal business profit but receives carbon funding to improve grassland management. The

business is still carbon-emitting, albeit at a lower level. The farmer cannot afford to diversify into forestry, although the farm would make higher business profits in the long run, because of a loss of carbon funding: carbon sequestration is part of the normal course of forestry business, rather than an additional, non-commercial activity. If there were no carbon funding, the farmer would have a business case to plant 20% of the land with timber to diversify income, which would result in the business becoming a 'carbon sink' instead of a 'carbon source'.

This is why governments need to be extremely careful in developing policies around 'public' and 'private' goods as if these operated in distinct spheres. Public funding affects the private economy, for example by making uneconomic activities viable, or changing the balance of profitability between two activities. Meanwhile, the private sector is increasingly aware of the risk of climate change to their businesses, although it is a 'public' issue.

This is all part of the development of the very new idea of natural capital accounting: how we measure the value of our planet's resources so as to avoid exploiting them to our own destruction. A stable climate is one of the services of nature, like air to breathe, water to drink, and the diversity of life, that we take for granted in everything we do,



This century must credibly be called a century of decarbonisation
Angela Merkel

>>



Whereas in previous years it barely registered as a risk, now [April 2018] close to a third of global CEOs are “extremely concerned” about the threat climate change poses to their organisation’s growth

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England

>> but which businesses and governments increasingly realise that they must safeguard actively to continue in future, as a business must ensure its financial accounts remain in the black. As the world’s only cost-effective, large-scale carbon-capturing industry, the forestry industry has an essential role to play in replenishing the world’s store of natural capital. The private sector knows this: investment for this truly sustainable industry is flourishing. It is now essential that the public sector develop land use policies which do not hinder this development, in every part of the UK.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Download the infographic on p7
Download the enclosed leaflet
Download CCC report on progress to tackle climate change

www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

In the post....

Some members have suggested a practical way that Confor itself could reduce its carbon footprint – by finding a more sustainable postal wrapper for FTN.

Simon Tooth, publisher responsible for FTN at Countrywide Publications, said: “We are looking at alternatives to the plastic wrapping we use for mailing our portfolio of magazines, including FTN.

“Like most mailing houses, ours is highly automated and geared around plastic film. While this film is accepted for recycling in some parts of the country, it is true that the vast majority goes to landfill where it takes many years to degrade.

“Reduced and non-carbon alternatives – including biodegradable and compostable films – are being introduced to the market. However, these are still relatively expensive and, by their very nature, have a shorter ‘shelf life’ which can make handling and storage more problematic.

“A better option for FTN may well be a return to paper or even card envelopes and we are currently costing a number of different grades to ensure the magazine is protected in the post. We hope to advise Confor on a least-cost but sustainable solution in time to implement for the October issue.”

What is Confor doing?

As well as engaging with the Committee on Climate Change, Confor is involved in a wide range of policy discussions on the future role of timber in UK land use and climate policy:

- Working with Defra and BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) to develop English Forestry Investment Zones to deliver the low-carbon Clean Growth Strategy.
- Working with Defra to design Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) to deliver public goods like decarbonisation effectively.
- Working with Welsh Government to ensure timber has a high profile in both the recent Woodlands for Wales Strategy and consultations including Brexit and our land and A low-carbon pathway for Wales.
- Working with the Scottish Government to ensure the Scottish Forestry Strategy and post-Brexit policy deliver integrated land use, and that the commendable improvements in rates of productive woodland creation are uninterrupted during the transition to new structures.
- Working with think-tanks including the English Bright Blue, the Food, Farming & Countryside Commission, and the Institute of Welsh Affairs to ensure that land use including forestry and timber is in the forefront of thinking about the low-carbon economy.
- Engaging with farmers and the public to generate interest in productive forestry, through media articles and attendance at events like the Royal Highland and Royal Welsh Shows.
- Arranging visits for key politicians to sawmills, forests and nurseries, to see for themselves how trees turn climate-changing carbon dioxide into ‘home-grown homes’.

What can members do?

More and more of our members are asking us how they can help with getting the forestry message across. Making the carbon argument is one area where your many voices around the country can do far more to change the mindset of businesses, campaigners, the public, academics and politicians than our one voice.

- Respond to consultations such as those mentioned above. It is of great value for Confor’s response to be supplemented by others from around the sector, both in reiterating our points and adding others from your own business’s point of view.
- Engage with your local low-carbon groups. These coalitions of policymakers, environmentalists, academics and activists are often innovative and open-minded in their quest for evidence-based ideas to decarbonise their local economy. They are often also urban-based and therefore unaware of the forestry industry and the solutions it can offer. Get involved and perhaps offer to give a presentation: please contact us if you would like assistance with this.
- Invite your local politicians to visit your business, to show them forestry’s potential for tackling climate change issues while improving the local economy.
- Make use of the Eskdalemuir study to demonstrate the carbon benefits of your forests. If the composition or produce of your forest is different you might be able to use the methodology to adjust the results. Please contact us if you would like extra copies of the leaflet, or high-resolution versions of the graphic.

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Proposed merger with UKFPA



by **Athole McKillop**,
Chair Confor

When Confor was established in 2006 it was hoped that it would bring together all the representative bodies in the forestry and wood processing sector into one organisation so that the industry had a strong, single voice and the resources to provide high quality services to Members. Confor may now be in touching distance of achieving that ambitious aim.

Over the last 18 months, representatives of Confor have held discussions with representatives of the UK Forest Products Association (UKFPA) to explore the opportunity for a merger of the two businesses. These discussions picked up pace earlier this year, and there is now a proposal that merger should take place by end-2018.

I wrote to Confor members on 2nd July outlining the main elements of the proposed merger. The letter, and attached Joint Statement (see *next page*) from Confor and UKFPA, highlighted that the combined organisation will strengthen its practical support to members and benefit from increased capacity, while leaving the current subscription mechanism unchanged for the next two years and, going forward, retain a focus on members driving the work of the organisation through an agreed annual business plan.

The Confor name and brand will be retained, it has strong name recognition

amongst politicians, officials and the media.

Four additional Directors will be nominated by UKFPA to join the Confor Board for a period of two years. After that, the Board will review the appointments process with the aim of streamlining the Board while maintaining clear representation of all Members. Confor's Articles of Association would need to be amended to allow for this to take place, and it is planned that this change will be put to members at the September AGM.

Due diligence

Ahead of the AGM, Confor will undertake formal due diligence and agree the final details of the merger proposal. It is expected that UKFPA members will vote formally on the merger prior to Confor's AGM.

If the members of both organisations support the merger, then it will take place at the end of 2018.

Both I and the wider Confor Board are fully behind this merger. We recognise that it will strengthen our sector and deliver increased benefits to Members.

As Stuart Goodall says in his lead article to this issue of FTN, a single voice for our sector will further strengthen our lobbying efforts and this is vital at a time of real change and opportunity - Brexit, modern day highs in timber prices, the ramping up

of public policy to reduce carbon emissions, increasing plant health threats, etc.

In recent years Confor has secured increased support and funding for new planting across the UK, we continue to fight against new bureaucracy and regulation and for the simplification of existing measures (not least certification), and the profile of forestry in political circles and the media has never been higher. Post-merger we aim to achieve even more.

Members are the life-blood of Confor and the merger will support additional services for members. Just to highlight a few things, we are working on a timber price index and greater market information, and the merger will provide greater resource for technical advice and support - we foresee Andrew Heald being freed to provide more focus on forestry matters, while David Sulman, Executive Director UKFPA, would bring unparalleled experience and knowledge in supporting wood processing.

I would encourage all members to engage with this merger process, and if you have any questions or concerns do please contact Stuart.

2019 is the centenary of the Forestry Act, and I hope it will also be the year that the forest and wood processing industry strengthens its voice and that a new Confor can begin to do even more to help businesses, large and small, be successful.

Joint statement from Confor and UKFPA on proposed merger

Confor and UKFPA have complementary strengths, for example, Confor in promoting the industry in political and media circles and improving grant schemes, and UKFPA with a strong track record in practical, technical advice. A successful merger would bring additional services to the members of both organisations and increase the resources available to be used to promote our industry.

The Executive Council of UKFPA and the Board of Confor have discussed and endorsed the headline details of the proposed merger and **it has been agreed that the aim should be to complete the merger by the end of 2018, subject to approval by members.**

This would mean that on 1 January 2019 (the centenary of the Forestry Act) the sector would be united for the first time from nurseries to mills, able to speak with one clear voice, dedicated to providing the highest levels of service to Members.

The following key points have been agreed as the basis for the proposed merger:

- The organisation will have a practical focus, with specialist committees, including harvesting and contracting;
- Members will have access to technical and commercial information and advice on wood processing (David Sulman) and on forestry (Andrew Heald);
- A network of regional/country groups will remain;
- There will be no change or increase in subscriptions for members of either organisation within the first two years after merger. The Board of the merged organisation will consult with members on a unified, transparent subscription mechanism to be implemented after that;
- As is currently the case in UKFPA and Confor, members of all sizes will have a voice in the running of the organisation, and the organisation's business plan will be developed each year with the input of members through regional meetings;
- Current staff from both organisations will be retained with current terms and conditions. The office in Stirling will be retained as the main work place for David and Dorothy Sulman. In time, this arrangement will be reviewed;
- UKFPA will nominate four directors to join the Confor Board for a period of two years. After that, the Board will review the appointments process with the aim of streamlining the Board while maintaining clear representation of all members;

- The name of the merged organisation will be Confederation of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd – Confor for short. This recognises the current strength of the Confor brand in political and media circles, and the full name encapsulates who the organisation represents.

Next steps

- 1 Following a positive presentation of the proposed merger to the UKFPA Executive Council and to Members at the UKFPA AGM on 29 May 2018, representatives of the UKFPA Executive Council and the Confor Board have agreed to provide this statement to members.
- 2 The covering letter to Confor members sets out the Board's support for the merger, highlights that there will be opportunities for members to ask questions and make comment, and that it is planned to have a vote on any changes required to the company Articles of Association at the company AGM on Thursday, 20 September at APF 2018.
- 3 UKFPA will undertake a ballot of members ahead of APF 2018.
- 4 If both sets of Members vote positively, then steps will be taken to effect the merger in time for the launch of the merged body on 01 January 2019.
- 5 The resources available to represent and service our sector are small in compared to agriculture, environmental bodies or industries like steel and concrete. We need to keep building on what we have achieved so far and maximise the value we can obtain from the resources we have available to us.

We believe this merger comes at the right time for our industry and that it will mark a significant step forward for Members and for the industry across the UK.

Athole McKillop
Chair
Confor

Gavin Davidson
Vice-President
UKFPA

Rod Gordon
Vice-President
UKFPA

Stuart Goodall
Chief Executive
Confor

David Sulman
Executive Director
UKFPA

Are autonomous, all-electric logging trucks here to stay?

In early July, Swedish tech start-up Einride revealed T-log, its latest all-electric, autonomous truck. More powerful than last year's T-pod, the T-log incorporates some off-road capabilities and is designed to navigate forest roads.

Powered by the Nvidia Drive self-driving platform, the T-log is capable of SEA level 4 self-driving. It has no driver's cab but can be remote-controlled by a human operator. No driver's cab enables a smaller vehicle, increased loading capacity, greater flexibility, lower production costs, lower operating costs and optimized energy consumption, allowing the T-log to run solely on batteries, even in difficult environments.

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FTN WEB RESOURCES



Read more about the T-log and watch the promo video

www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb



Forestry on Twitter

This issue's eclectic selection from the world of trees and timber on social media was brought to you by [@andyheald](https://twitter.com/andyheald)

FAO Forestry @FAOForestry · 15h
 "Forests play a key role in the national economy. We are making every effort to invest in the forest sector, to increase forest cover and to fight desertification." Lebanon's Director-General Louis Lahoud #COF024

CCC @theCCCuk · 6d
 Good news! Defra's changes to the Woodland Creation grant + Woodland Carbon Fund are now permanent. This should support Govt's commitment to plant 11 million trees during this Parliament: bit.ly/2KLjVmA It also aligns with our latest advice: bit.ly/2KggPqz

Andrew Heald @andyheald · 5d
 Great example of joined up integrated rural thinking - local #timber for local homes 🏡. Well done @WKWales @wgmin_enviro @bswtimber

Housing group supports jobs by backing Welsh timber in apartment... dailypost.co.uk

Telfords Forestry @TelfordBlack
 Guys voted this the best job o the year to work on.looking good considering the weather.scottish woodlands property

Wales Environment Link · 28/06/2018
 On Tuesday, @wgmin_enviro @hannahblythyn launched a new Woodlands for Wales strategy. Very welcome to see Welsh Government prioritise increased tree cover and to align it with new land management schemes post-Brexit. Read more here: buff.ly/2tMxtmG

Chris Charles @chris4nature
 Treeees 🌲🌲 was fully of small bird tweets, calls and clicks.

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Confor at the Royal Welsh Show

With a bigger tent and a fuller programme, taking on the delivery of Martin Bishop's plans for Confor at the Royal Welsh Show was a tall order. But the show had to go on, and, thanks to the tremendous help we received from many people, the show did go on.

Despite our increased size, the marquee was still full to overflowing for our Forestry Day seminar, Green Gold telling the story of the rise and rise of Welsh timber. As Tim Liddon (Conifer Breeding Co-operative) and Paul McLean (Forest Research) told us, thanks to developments in conifer breeding and silviculture, we can grow timber faster and more consistently than ever before. We heard from Simon Inkson (Powys County Council) about their Home Grown Homes project and the learning curve which is taking place amongst architects and housing departments about new timber technologies available for building efficient modern houses from local timber. Stuart Goodall (Confor) spoke about policy developments in Wales and the UK. Carbon and climate are increasingly important drivers for woodland creation and timber building across the UK, and Wales is no exception (see theme article, p 6-8).

At the time of writing, we are preparing for our second seminar aimed at landowners, Forestry on Farms, at which Andrew Bronwin (forest management), Mark Price (Kronospan) and the Welsh Government will speak on how farmers can deploy trees to become the powerhouse of the rural and sustainable economy.



The Confor tent won the bronze award for the best forest interest stand at the RWS. From left to right: Stuart Goodall, Eleanor Harris, Andrew Heald

Wales has seen the launch of a series of important forestry policy documents:

- **May:** The Welsh Assembly report on Welsh Government progress on climate change mitigation listed woodland expansion as the first priority action, calling for a more detailed plan for delivering targets.
- **June:** the refreshed Woodlands for Wales Strategy was launched, with a clear commitment to planting rates of 2000 hectares per year by 2020 and increased timber production.
- **July:** the Brexit and our Land consultation was launched, proposing to integrate forestry with farming in schemes for economic resilience and public goods.
- **July:** At the Royal Welsh Show, the new strategy for managing the Welsh Govern-

ment Woodland Estate was launched, committing to maintaining or increasing timber production on the estate, and to reporting on annual key performance indicators on this and other measures.

For every one of these reports, we heard repeatedly at the show from numerous government officials and other stakeholders of the importance of Martin's detailed and dedicated input in shaping every one of these reports. This level of understanding of the importance of productive forestry in the Welsh Government and Assembly has been a significant Confor success over the past few years.

The most important thing is that this policy buzz translates into trees in the ground. We have a target, and it is vital that the Welsh Government puts the measures in place and commits the funding to ensure that the millions of words and volumes of goodwill translate into millions of trees and volumes of timber, sooner rather than later.

The Welsh Government have invited Confor's input in particular into the ongoing Brexit and our Land consultation, and emphasised the importance of engaging our members to submit responses. We will be in touch with Welsh members with more detailed briefing to help you to do this, but in the mean time please do read the consultation document on the Welsh Government website and help us make the case for giving forestry a high priority in future land use.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Have a look at more photos of Confor's presence at the RWS. www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb



A packed Confor tent during the seminar Green Gold

Martin Bishop, 1956-2018

The death of Martin Bishop in a flying accident on 10 June 2018 has left an enormous gap in the forestry and wood processing community in Wales – and far beyond.

Tributes poured in after Martin was sadly killed with his friend Roderick Weaver in the accident near Raglan, Monmouthshire. Everyone recognised his tireless work for the forestry sector, which was having a real impact at the highest levels of the Welsh Government.

Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs in the Welsh Government and Hannah Blythyn, Minister for Environment, both praised Martin as, “a passionate advocate for the forestry sector”.

Similar sentiments were expressed by senior officials in Welsh Government, the Chair and Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales and politicians from all parties.

Mike Har-



vey, Chair of Confor Wales, said: “Martin was tireless in his advocacy of forestry. He had that very personable quality of being able to speak his mind and challenge others without causing offence. The enthusiasm he had for forestry was driven by the vision he had for Wales; that of developing its huge potential as a grower and producer of home-grown timber.

“I pay tribute to Martin and the difference he has made in getting forestry more widely recognised and understood by policy-makers. It is important we do not lose that legacy.”

Stuart Goodall, Confor’s Chief Executive, spoke at Martin’s funeral, describing him as, “someone you could instantly connect with – and instantly think of as a friend. Colleagues in Confor sought his advice, which he always gave willingly, and everyone gravitated to him.

“I knew that Martin would do a great job at Confor, but I was still surprised how he threw himself into the role, with a determination to make a positive difference. The impact he had on behalf of our sector is remarkable.”

Martin’s original ambition was to be an underwater welder on oil rigs, but he took a forestry job until he got his diving qualification – and never left.

In 1995, he joined Chantler Timber as a timber buyer, and in 2001, moved to A J Charlton and Sons in Somerset, where he stayed for 13 years. He joined Confor in 2014.

Martin commanded respect from those he met and worked with and grew Confor’s membership in Wales based on that respect. He had a rich life outside work, with many interests and many friends.

Martin and his wife Angela were welcoming hosts. Their home near Abergavenny was effectively an open house and their hospitality was always warm and generous.

Martin’s family highlighted his love of adventure sports, his commitment to his local community and said: “Martin died doing something he loved and will be sorely missed by all.”

We will miss Martin deeply. The world is a poorer place without him.

David Charlton

A J Charltons & Sons Ltd

Martin was hungry for knowledge and whilst he had already achieved a degree in renewable energy he wanted to progress his knowledge further so embarked on a timber technology degree course which of course he achieved.

He was happy to share his knowledge and so if anyone in our company had a technical question it was Martin that they would go to. His love and enthusiasm for timber and the timber industry always shone through. He was well-liked and respected by our family and work colleagues alike, totally dedicated to his job and any task he undertook.

Maureen Weaver

South Wales Gliding Club

Martin took up gliding after many years as a hang-glider pilot. He was enticed by the fact that a pilot can go much further in gliders than hang gliders. In 2009 he

flew his first cross-country flight from Usk in Monmouthshire to an airfield near Stratford-on-Avon.

He was quickly recognised as a man of many skills and organised work parties to cut down trees, move stumps, weld broken pieces of kit, build fences and generally keep the place in order. When others failed, his superior strength and knowledge frequently saved the day. He had astonishingly large, dangerous-looking kit which he brought to the club to make short work of any job.

He was never daunted by any project. On one dreary November day, he organised 20 people to build a fence across an entire field and no-one was allowed home until it was finished, an hour after dark.

He became Winch Master at the club. Martin made sure the winch was always maintained to the highest standard, and if some part of it broke, he would make sure it was fixed before the next flying day,

even when that meant repairing it in the dark.

One of Martin’s characteristics was that he always looked for the best in people, even when the best was hard to find. The club will miss his cheerful presence enormously.

Simon Thomas AM

Shadow Minister for Energy, Climate Change and Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly

I first got to know Martin at the Confor stand at the Royal Welsh Show where there was always a warm welcome and plenty of advice. Our working relationship developed when I became Plaid Cymru’s shadow minister for climate change, energy and rural affairs as we shared a joint interest in promoting forestry and woodland. This work intensified following the vote to leave the EU and the real need to identify initiatives that Wales could own and pioneer. This culminated in establishing a Cross Party Group on



(Clockwise from above left)
Martin with his wife Angela; with Rebecca Evans AM at the Confor stand at the Royal Welsh Show; and with his glider
 (picture Maureen Weaver)

Woodlands, Forestry and Timber recently. Trees don't have voices, but Martin gave them a voice in our democratic debates, and our understanding of a joined-up rural economy and environment was enriched by his contribution and direct persuasion.

Geraint Richards

SW Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee/Woodland Heritage
 Martin Bishop was one of the best men I have had the privilege of knowing. His career pathway gave him a very special set of skills: how many other people started 'in the woods' on machinery, then became an expert timber buyer (hardwoods and softwoods) before ending up in an advocacy role? He knew the forest industry inside out but, more than that, Martin was a thinker, constantly applying what he had learned for the good of the sector, about which he cared so passionately.

When Martin spoke it was always worth

listening. Above all, however, he was just about the nicest man you could meet, always there for anyone who needed him. With his practical background, he could happily talk for hours to the operative in the woods, yet that sharp mind and warm personality meant he could also be sent to meetings with senior sector leaders and politicians. He represented Confor at a plant health and biosecurity meeting at Highgrove, which The Prince of Wales attended; having helped organise the meeting, Martin was just the sort of person I wanted around that table.

A good man, a fair man, a funny man – one of the best.

David Sulman

Executive Director of the UK Forest Products Association
 We were all shocked and saddened to hear of Martin's untimely death. Martin was very well known in the UK forestry and forest products sector and we had

the pleasure of working closely with him during his time as Chairman of the UKFPA Southern & Western England Regional Group.

Gary Newman

Woodknowledge Wales
 Martin and I had a shared mission to develop productive forestry in Wales, Martin on forestry and me on timber construction. Martin had the tougher job, tirelessly promoting the benefits of forestry on all sorts of Welsh Government committees from climate change to pest and disease control. Martin had a real knack of being absolutely clear and consistent about the opportunity, never ducking areas of conflict, whilst at the same time being universally liked and respected by everyone. Martin had a huge positive impact on the forest sector in Wales and it is beholden on myself and others to ensure the work he started endures for the long term. He would expect nothing less.

Confor campaigns bring business plan actions to life

Like most organisations, Confor is guided by an annual Business Plan, signed off by the Board. Where Confor diverges from most other businesses, is that this Plan is brought to life through a series of campaigns.

In our Business Plan for 2017, which was extended into 2018, Confor had 14 actions across six priority areas:

- 1 Securing wood supply in the short and longer term;
- 2 Protecting and promoting the sector's interest as the UK exits the EU;
- 3 Changing attitudes towards the sector amongst politicians, civil servants, environmental NGOs and the public;
- 4 Driving fundamental improvement to the operation of forest and chain-of-custody certification;
- 5 Promoting markets for wood products and supporting woodland management;
- 6 Consolidation in industry representation.

Our campaigns

A board member leads each campaign, bringing their expertise to the subject, and they are responsible for reporting back to Board meetings on their campaign. The Board member is supported by appropriate Confor staff and occasionally other Confor members (see panel).

CAMPAIGN	CONFOR LEAD	BOARD MEMBER
Wood supply in England	Caroline Harrison	Athole McKillop
Wood supply in Wales	Eleanor Harris	Mike Harvey
Wood supply in Scotland	Jamie Farquhar	George McRobbie
Wood supply in N Ireland	Andrew Heald	James Hamilton Stubber
Changing attitudes	Stefanie Kaiser	Stuart Goodall
Certification that works for the UK	Andrew Heald	Tom Bruce Jones
Timber supply and statistical information	Andrew Heald	Tony Hackney
Plant health	Caroline Harrison	Will Anderson
Restructuring Confor and building the team	Stuart Goodall	Raymond Henderson
Membership	Liz Hughson/ Stuart Goodall	Ralland Browne

Keeping you up to date

In future FTNs we will be bringing you updates and specific achievements against these Campaigns. Recent successes have included:

- In England, Confor has welcomed Sir William Worsley's appointment as the UK Government's first Tree Champion to expand forest and woodland cover – we'd proposed that an independent come in to advise the Secretary of State.
- In Scotland, Confor alerted the Cabinet Secretary to the need for additional money so that greater than 10k ha planting can take place in 2018/19 and this is being actioned.
- Confor's updated plant health paper has been widely welcomed.
- Following positive discussions between the Confor Board and the Executive Council of UKFPA, members are to be consulted on a proposed merger.



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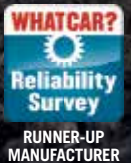
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1. L200 Series 5 Titan rental shown is for manual transmission. Business users only, subject to status provided by Shogun Vehicle Leasing (a trading style of Lex Autolease Ltd, SK3 ORB). Excess mileage charges of 10.92p plus VAT per mile. Vehicle must be returned in good condition to avoid further charges. The offer is valid for new vehicles registered between 1st July and 30th September 2018, whilst stocks last. Other terms and mileages are available on request. Available in the UK (EXCLUDES Channel Island and I.O.M) subject to availability. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is correct at time of going to print. 2. 3.5 tonne towing capacity is possible with 3 axle braked trailer; 3.1 tonne towing capacity is possible with 1 or 2 axle braked trailer; 0.75 tonne towing capacity is possible regardless of the number of trailer axles or trailer brakes. 3. Super Select 4WD is not available on L200 Series 5 4Life models. The air conditioning system contains fluorinated greenhouse gases. Chemical name: HFC-134a. Pre-charged weight: 0.52kg. Global-warming potential ratio: 1430. Converted CO₂ weight: 0.74t.



Don't feed the troll!

"If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all..."



Twitter veteran **Eleanor Harris** offers real-life advice on how to avoid getting drawn into harmful angry disputes on social media.

I recently discovered Dave Gorman's show *Modern Life is Goodish*, a satire through the medium of powerpoint, all five series of which are on catch-up on *Dave* (Dave the TV channel, not Dave the comedian, obviously...). A recurring ploy of this very funny show is where Gorman constructs a 'found poem' from 'the bottom half of the internet', and performs it, improbably, to the accompaniment of Handel's Sarabande in D Minor.

But what is 'the bottom half of the internet'? Many an article on a news website has as least as much text again below it in the 'comments' section. Dave Gorman realised that these often angry and ill-informed arguments between readers about the horsemeat scandal, or metrification, or Prince William's decision not to wear a wedding ring, had tremendous comedy potential. The bottom half of the internet.

Our industry is full of people who are very intelligent and very passionate, which makes us vulnerable to being wound up by the pack of ignorance and prejudice we inevitably encounter as soon as we dip our toes into social media's murky waters, and sucked down into the depths. Working out how to send a tweet is easy. The challenge is to stay in the 'top half' of the Internet.

So as a (somewhat battered) Twitter veteran, I thought I'd write down my techniques for keeping my head above the surface, as I attempt to be an inspiring and informative voice for forestry and timber on-line.

Best practice to stay in the 'top half' of the Internet

1 Don't be judgemental
Resolve to stay gracious, good-humoured, and patient, and be strict with yourself, especially when it gets controversial. I suspect few of the people who repeat the cliché that 'city kids think milk comes from a supermarket' have ever have considered that their door frame, desk, book, cereal box, floorboards, or tissues, once grew in a forest. Coming from a non-forestry background, I'm acutely aware that when people say, 'I know this sounds stupid, but I'd never thought of trees as a crop before', they are only a few years behind me. It is not people's fault that no one has pointed this out to them before: this is why you are on social media, to explain it. But you need to be very, very patient. There are a lot of people.

2 Don't feed the 'trolls'
Trolls, on Facebook and Twitter, are people who, anonymously, fuel arguments for the sake of it, with off-topic, mean, personal and sarcastic comments. It is easy to get sucked into attempting to answer the trolls, to engage them in rational discussion, getting increasingly frustrated as you bring forward more and more evidence in favour of your point, while they just keep biting back until, reduced to 280 faceless characters, you become as angry, rude and irrational as they are. As soon as you realise you are getting into this situation, walk away and stop answering — mute the notifications if necessary. No-one is ever going to look at that conversation and conclude that you lost the argument because you didn't have the last word. Write a new tweet about something else.



If you want to see how to defuse serious trolls, google “JK Rowling responds to trolls”: she is the master of this art. As a last resort you can ‘block’ a troll, but I’ve never yet had to resort to this, which prevents them reading, and hopefully being influenced by, my tweets in future.

3 It’s not your responsibility to Fix The Internet

In the film *Bridge of Spies*, Mark Rylance plays Rudolf Abel, an unassuming little man who spends the entire film in a state of mortal danger while remaining disconcertingly calm. At various points, other characters ask him “aren’t you worried?” or “aren’t you frightened?” to which Abel replies, “Would it help?” Getting worried about it never helps. Instead ...

4 Do something else
You lose perspective when you are a workaholic focused all the time on one topic and one group of people, and foresters do seem prone to this. I can get completely absorbed in choral singing, which gives me a different social circle, and academic history, which gives me an unrelated intellectual challenge, and forget all about trees for a while. We all need a second vocation.

5 Be authentic
Some people have two Twitter accounts, one under their own name, and another where they can be ‘troll-ish’ under an anonymous persona. This became particularly popular around the Scottish independence referendum, when political passions ran sky-high. This approach from the land of Jekyll and Hyde seems to me a selfish trick which does the cause you are trying to support more harm than good, and I doubt does you any good either, but it’s interesting to think about why people do it.

6 Switch off
Our industry has been slow to tell its story in the past, and I would encourage every member

of it to help to change that, but social media is not the best way. So if we are encouraging you to join Twitter, and you would rather organise school events, put up on-site interpretation boards, run effective public consultations, or engage your local politicians instead, for heaven’s sake don’t let us stop you. These face-to-face encounters will be far more



effective. But do tell us so we can tweet about it, to share your good practice.

You have wisdom and passion worth sharing — and the trees need your voice — but look after yourself, and don’t fall into the ‘bottom half’ of the Internet.

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Elderslie Estates wins prestigious woods award

Elderslie Estates has been named joint winner in the Quality Timber Category of the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards and receives the John Kennedy Trophy for multi-purpose woodlands. The judges praised the excellent approach to forestry in evidence at the estates.

Elderslie Estates, near Houston, Renfrewshire, is committed to being in the 'vanguard of innovation' to realise the tremendous potential of forestry in the future.

It has 400ha of woodland on 1600ha of land with three tiers of commercial forestry and woodland.

Owner Mark Crichton Maitland (pictured) said: "In developing our woodlands at Houston we have deliberately pushed boundaries, not only in term of forestry versus agriculture, but also pushed the silvicultural, regulatory and commercial boundaries. We think pushing boundaries is what won us this prestigious award.



"We are particularly proud of our experimental eucalyptus plantings and delighted to detect a change in attitudes towards this pioneering species and a recognition of its potential role in a multifaceted woodland enterprise. There are enormous possibilities for forestry in the future and our ambition is to stay in the vanguard of innovation.

"When I look at the map of Elderslie Estates and Houston Farms, I don't see a whole lot of distinct boxes, some labelled farming

and others forestry or a steading for redevelopment or renewable resource, I see an interwoven and multi layered tapestry.

www.elderslie.org

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Read the FTN profile on Elderslie Estates, published February 2018
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Clifford Jones Timber named Wales' top family business

Clifford Jones Timber beat off stiff competition from nine other businesses from across Wales, including the Snowdonia Cheese Company and Cardiff's Sandringham Hotel, to win the award which was presented by Family Business United at a glittering ceremony at the May Fair Hotel in London.

The company, which now makes over four million wooden fence posts a year at its bases in Ruthin and at Gretna in the Scottish Borders are also well known for their innovative and eco-friendly approach to the business.

Richard Jones, from Wrexham, chairman of the company founded by his grandfather, said: "We truly are a family business as my sister Sarah and I are involved on a daily basis and my three sons are now stepping in as well so we hope to be around for many more years."

Clifford Jones Timber began in 1948 as timber hauliers and the founder was succeeded by his son, Alan, in 1984 and three years later they took over a small sawmill in Ruthin. Richard Jones succeeded Alan as chairman two years ago. His sister, Sarah, the commercial director, is also on the board and Richard's son, Josh, is now spearheading a successful commercial drive as area sales manager. Josh's brothers, James and Alex, have also joined



the company.

They process over 100,000 tons of timber from sustainable forests every year and their proud boast is that every scrap of timber is used.

"Everything is used. That's part of our culture because it makes good business sense and it makes sense for the planet as well."

www.cjtimber.com

Clifford Jones Timber have been named Wales's Best Family Business; pictured at their Ruthin headquarters are staff and Jones family members, from left, Alex, Sarah Jones-Smith, James, Richard, Josh and Alan.

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MP visits James Jones sawmill

An MP from north-east Scotland has visited James Jones & Sons' sawmill in Mosstodloch to see the impact of continued investment on rural communities.

Douglas Ross, Conservative MP for Moray, discussed how the company's on-going programme of investment is creating rural jobs in Moray and Aberdeenshire and contributing to local economies in Scotland as a whole. Mr Ross was shown the primary and secondary timber processing and timber treatment facilities by James Jones' director David Leslie and senior site manager Neil Petrie.

Mr Leslie outlined the development programme at Mosstodloch in recent years, totalling £10 million, the latest investment being the development on a round fencing line, the first in the UK of its type.

Mr Leslie said: "With the forestry and sawmilling sectors facing major challenges

in terms of supply, it is vital that companies like James Jones & Sons have the opportunity to speak openly and regularly with ministers and policy-makers to ensure that the decisions they make will support the future of our sector.

"Since acquiring the site at Mosstodloch almost 30 years ago, we have invested continually, as well as elsewhere in north-east and south-west Scotland. We are committed to further investment in the north including projects of £8.5m at our Forres I-Joist plant and £5m at our Aboyne sawmill over the next year. This visit allowed us to demonstrate first hand to Mr Ross the important contribution our company is making to the Moray economy and what an integral part of the community James Jones Group continues to be."

CEO of Confor, Stuart Goodall said: "It is crucial that politicians from Westminster



and Holyrood work together to protect this vital rural industry after Brexit. Forestry and timber production can deliver many of the public goods which Michael Gove has put at the heart of future rural policy - including climate change mitigation, reduced flood risk, public access and greater biodiversity."

www.jamesjones.co.uk

Record year and new CEO for Premier Forest

Newport-based Premier Forest Group Ltd has posted another successive year of record growth as the independent timber group marks its 25th anniversary and announces its first CEO.

The financial year ending April 2018 saw sales revenue grow by £10 million to a

turnover of £126 million, with pre-tax profits more than doubling to over £9 million. The group, which is principally engaged in the importation, distribution, merchanting, sawmilling and wholesale processing of timber and timber products, is on course to achieve a targeted £200 million turnover within the next three to four years.

The record growth comes as co-founder and director Terry Edgell (right) takes on the role of group CEO.

www.premierforest.co.uk



BHT gains nationally-recognised accreditation



BHT trees supplied and planted at Grangewood Hall, Derbyshire, part of the National Forest

The Woodland Trust's UK Sourced and Grown (UKSG) Assurance initiative is aimed at protecting the provenance of native trees. British Hardwood Tree Nursery Ltd (BHT) can now add UKSG Assurance to other industry certifications, reinforcing the confidence and provenance the company has already provided to its network of UK customers.

BHT are one of a newly-inspected group of forest nurseries who conform to a rigorous set of measures intended to eradicate the potential threat of pest and disease from non-UK sourced plant material. The UKSG Scheme guarantees buyers that trees in their stock marked with the UKSG badge are raised from seeds sourced only from the UK and grown in the UK for their entire lifespan.

To gain UKSG assurance, BHT underwent a close inspection from the Wood-

land Trust Development Team. Elements of BHT's operations that contributed to their successful inclusion were:

- Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) registered for 20 years.
- Full traceability with data from computer and supplier management systems
- All stock from UK nurseries with Plant Passports
- Exemplary bio-security measures
- Close monitoring of stock with daily management inspection
- Grading by suppliers
- Root-dipping prior to heeling-in and repeated prior to dispatch
- Pest and disease-free stock
- High level of care of soil and nutrients for stored plants
- Well-drained beds to minimise standing water from rainfall.

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Engineered with high specification build quality, utilising high strength steel and incorporating cutting edge technology to produce long lasting replaceable hammers with carbide tips designed and patented by TMC Cancela.



Transmission system with **TURBO CLUTCHES** to ensure tractor overload protection

TOUGH FORESTRY MULCHERS

1.8m

TFS2-180 mulcher c/w fixed push frame



1.8/2m

TFK-180, TFK-200 mulcher c/w hydraulic push frame



2.25m

TFZ-225 mulcher c/w hydraulic push frame & turbo clutches



2.5m

TFT-250 mulcher c/w hydraulic push frame & turbo clutches



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APF 2018

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Fountains Forestry acquires Treelands

Fountains Forestry, with their office for England and Wales in Exeter, has announced that it has acquired the assets and goodwill of Treelands Ltd, a forest management company that has provided professional advice and services to woodland owners across England, Scotland and Wales since 1982.

Richard Gray, Director based at the Exeter office, explained that since joining their US parent company, F&W Forestry, in 2016 the UK business has grown organically. When opportunities should arise the strategy is to further develop the business through acquisition without compromising their independence from the timber processing industry or the personal service which is valued by clients.

The addition of Treelands staff and clients strengthens the independent forest management service offered across the UK under the banner of Fountains Forestry. Parent company, F&W Forestry Inc of Georgia USA provides forest management services for clients throughout the US, South America and through an associated company in France.

www.fountainsforestry.co.uk



'Group think'

The unprecedented demand for homegrown timber has led to challenges for the supply chain from growers and processors as clients look to buy from licensed Grown in Britain sources.

To help meet the demand, Grown in Britain encourages cost effective group schemes that can bring more woods and more businesses into the licensed supply chains thus increasing the volume of homegrown timber assured as not only from sustainable and legal sources but also homegrown.

The latest GiB group will be facilitated by leading woodland management company, Pryor and Rickett Silviculture who operate across England and Wales. The Pryor and Rickett Grown in Britain Group Scheme will be initially rolled out for clients in the south-west of England and will provide a very cost effective entry into GiB licensing for woodland owners and every type of timber processor and user.

Both Grown in Britain and Pryor and Rickett Silviculture are concerned at the diminishing amount of assured sustainable and legal home grown timber and feel that is time to turn the tide so that demanders can procure more homegrown timber with confidence.



This demand is backed up by recent discussions that GiB have held with national contractors, major house builders, property developers and local authorities, all of whom want to see our existing homegrown timber supplies not 'self proclaimed' as homegrown but assured and branded by licensed Grown in Britain growers, processors and retailers.

Pryor and Rickett Silviculture recommend the robust yet straightforward nature of the GiB scheme and the ethos of driving homegrown production and marketing. Why not find out more at the APF show by visiting their stand no 11 and taking advantage of their show discount!

For more information on costs and how to apply, contact Keira Tedd the group coordinator: keira@silviculture.co.uk
www.growninbritain.org



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Cutting trees not corners



Stef Kaiser visits Jim Wilmer & Sons who have been timber harvesting in Scotland for over 40 years

With a fleet of over 70 specialised machines Jim Wilmer & Sons Timber Harvesting Ltd (JWS) are the biggest outfit of its kind in Britain and can offer a range of harvesting services such as clearfell, thinnings or steep ground harvesting, including traction assist t-winchling. They complete their service package by offering traffic management and excavation services. JWS are also supported by their in-house engineering department, based at their purpose-built workshop premises at Dailly. Roselle Workshops is the base for the companies admin, spare parts and service departments. The service department boasts 9 field service vans to back up their vast fleet of machines. The business pride themselves in offering a top-quality service in a very competitive market where it is easy for companies to cut corners. They have been accredited ISO certification for health and safety management 45001 and environmental management 14001 and

sit on the FISA steering group.

On a baking hot day, I meet David Wilmer and harvester operator Richard Gibb during one of their jobs for James Jones and Sons in South Ayrshire. With pride, they introduce me to one of their latest acquisitions, the latest model of the John Deere G-series (*above*).

“My father Jim started out in the timber industry straight out of school, felling trees with a chainsaw and selling firewood locally”, explains David.

A natural entrepreneur, he soon decided to take a major risk and got a bank loan to buy his first tractor and skidder. He started to tender for his own clearfell sites, where he would work with his chainsaw and tractor/skidder but also be in charge of marketing the timber. The next step was to purchase his first forwarder, then a purpose-built Kockums harvester. Jim then started to expand the business by adding JCB harvesters with Keto heads and Kockums Forwarders. With the help of loyal, hardworking work-

force, today JWS are one of the largest timber harvesting contractors in Europe.

As well as the company's dedicated team, Jim Wilmer was lucky enough to have a committed family who worked with him tirelessly in building the business, which is bigger than the name "Jim Wilmer and sons" would suggest. All three siblings – Amanda, David and Gary – have grown up and worked within the company in various departments for a number of years and still work closely alongside Jim to help drive the company forward.

"My mother Lynne was a key pillar of the business, in particular when Jim started", remembers David. "She was a very hands-on, 'roll-the-sleeves-up' kind of person. She supported the family business in any way she could, not ever shying away from hard work. Mum would take care of the parts and consumables for the machines as well as all the companies administration. My brother, sister and I have all dedicated our careers to support Dad with the family run business we are proud to have built."

Industry concern #1: Skilled workforce

"The future of the workforce is very worrying. The average age of machine operators is far too high. Lots of experienced operators are retiring with nowhere near enough young blood coming in. There is not enough funding coming into the forest industry for training new, young machine operators."

A new harvester costs £400k and the market is so competitive that operators end up shouldering a huge financial responsibility. There is a need for experienced operators who can live up to the pressure and the expectations for the competitive outputs that have to be delivered. There is also a huge financial risk involved with training new workforce. It gets harder and harder for businesses to give work to very young and inexperienced guys.

"The only way we can currently deal with this challenge is to bring in skilled drivers from abroad, from countries like Latvia, Finland, Czech Republic etc. A few years ago, we tried to put on training courses ourselves to get experienced operators, some from abroad, to train young lads. The last attempt was a few years ago, but we couldn't keep our trainees in the end – they couldn't cope with things like having to travel away from their home and didn't bring in the right work ethic either."

David believes that the solution could lie in proper schooling and training to encourage employment. In Scandinavia, operators come out of forestry colleges with a solid knowledge and experience in operating, servicing and maintain the forestry machines they will work with.

JWS has been part of the Barony college initia-

“ There is a shortage of experienced operators who can live up to the pressures and expectations of highly competitive jobs.

tive to provide more industry-relevant training for forest machine operators. The problems that Barony college has historically faced was that a lot of the guys finishing the courses were not up to a certain standard required in the industry, and could not be put in the machines for commercial jobs. "We have, in the past, given young guys opportunities and then were asked by our main clients to remove them from site because their work at roadside wasn't of a high enough standard."

Working with communities

Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing aspect of business at Jim Wilmer & Sons. "We notify members of nearby communities before we start a felling job. We chap doors, put out flyers, and speak to the people directly. We try to work alongside the local communities to make sure we can understand their side, or if there are any culturally important places on the site where we are going to harvest. It gets you off on the right foot and the works move faster, rather than if we have to deal with complaints and angry people all the time."

Futureproofing the business

Jim Wilmer's company is investing a lot of money into new technology and new ways of doing things. "We try to offer a more complete package of the services we are providing, for example with regards to steep ground technology and traffic management we are moving with the times. We try to futureproof our business and adapt to changing industry demands."

In Scotland, the company are the first to use T-winch technology for safer timber extraction on steeper grounds. T-winchers are largely used in countries like Germany, Austria or Canada, which are ahead of us in terms of working on steep slopes. "In times of reduced timber supply there are still large volumes of timber that can come to market but we are being asked to harvest sites that are getting steeper and steeper and they want us to do the job safely according to FISA guidelines – something that on some sites is not that easy to achieve. The T-winch technology has helped with that.

At the moment the forest industry is booming. "Everyone is looking for extra machines but machine availability along with operator availability is a concern."

Additionally, with more *P ramorum* outbreaks, the FC has requested extra squads of machines for emergency felling to control the disease. "We have currently expanded our fleet by adding seven squads of machines just to deal with the increased demand. We can't say how long the upturn in demand and diseased stock will continue, but we will continue to fluctuate machine numbers to suit our customers requirements.

Finding the extra operators for them will be a challenge, though. We are heavily advertising via social media, trying to attract drivers from home and abroad.

www.jimwilmerandsons.co.uk

APF 2018 heading for another record show

Only just over a month to go until Confor's flagship forestry show, the APF 2018, opens its gates on 20 September for three days at Ragley Estate, Alcester, Warwickshire. Exhibitor bookings have already climbed over 290 and are well on the way to exceed the record total of 315 reached in 2016.



Take a break

When you want to relax and enjoy a well-earned pint or lunch with old friends and colleagues there is plenty of space for a sit down. Both the main catering areas will have large covered seating areas in case the weather turns inclement and both of these areas will have free Wi-Fi available to enable you to catch up with work emails. The catering area near the woodland crafts area will have a range of artisan produced food including squirrel pie!

Exhibition Secretary, Ian Millward commented: "The word has certainly got around that the APF Exhibition is the place to be if you sell machinery, equipment and services into the forestry, woodland, arboricultural and fencing industries.

We are nearly fully booked and there is a real possibility that we will sell out of stand space before September and I urge any exhibitors still considering attending to book soon before it is too late."

As the show develops and grows there is more to do and see than ever before. Machinery for both large and small scale woodlands will be strongly represented.

THE EVENT TO MEET THE SECTOR

The APF is the place where the entire forestry and timber sector gets together for their biannual gathering. Nearly every association will be there including Confor, Forestry Commission, RFS, ICF, FCA, Arb Association, Small Woods Association, FISA, The Woodland Trust, Lantra and NPTC. If there is anything you need to know about trees, timber and woodlands you can find the answers at APF 2018.

Visitor information

Confor members enter for free!

Don't forget to bring your membership card to the event. For any questions regarding tickets or membership cards, please contact liz@confor.org.uk

Accommodation

There is really too much to see in one day so why not stay over and spend two days with us? We have onsite camping and there is a wide range of accommodation locally. The visitor section on our website has details of local accommodation. If you need to buy additional tickets or book camping you can do this via our website and receive a discount on the gate price.

More visitor and exhibitor information

Full details of the exhibition including a list of exhibitors booked are on the exhibitor section of the website.

info@apfexhibition.co.uk

www.apfexhibition.co.uk

Tel: 01428 723545.

[APFExhibition](#)

[@APFExhibition](#)

STIHL TIMBERSPORTS 11AM, 1PM AND 3PM EVERY DAY AT STIHL ARENA

The original extreme sport returns to APF 2018, with the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® team demonstrating their speed and precision with axes and saws in the STIHL Arena. Never seen TIMBERSPORTS® before? This is your chance to see what the fuss is about, with the top British athletes going head-to-head in all six disciplines including the mighty Hot Saw, a super-charged chainsaw with chain speeds of up to 240km/h!



DEMOS AND ACTIVITIES

FENCING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

APF 2018 will feature a working area to showcase the very latest in machinery, equipment, materials and techniques. There will be regular daily demonstrations of machine and hand held postdrivers, strainer installation, the use of Gripples as well as Fast Fencer, a competition to find the fastest fencer to erect 25m of stock fencing. There will be opportunities to drop in and discuss any fencing query with experts

CHAINSAW CARVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

There is another stellar line-up for this year's APF 2018 Chainsaw Carving Championships sponsored by A W Jenkinson and Tilhill Forestry. 25 of the Europe's top carvers will compete in the three-day competition for the European title. Competitors come from all over the UK as well as far afield as Spain, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and even Mongolia with Will Lee seeking to retain his 2016 title. All competitors will have a piece of Redwood timber 2m tall x 1m diameter to work with. **All sculptures will be auctioned on Saturday 22nd at 3pm.**

WORLD POLECLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World 25m pole climbing championships sponsored by Husqvarna, are once again taking place at APF 2018 and entries have now opened. There is a fantastic prize fund of over £4000 plus a host of other Husqvarna equipment on offer.

There are expert and tree surgeon classes, with heats on all three days of the show culminating in the finals on Saturday afternoon. Pre-entry is recommended and forms and rules can be found on the compe-

tion and events page of the APF website www.apfexhibition.co.uk. Husqvarna will also be giving product demonstrations.

UK FORWARDER DRIVING COMPETITION

Komatsu and Barony college will once again be hosting the UK Forwarder driving competition at APF 2018. The competition will be taking place over all three days of the show to find the fastest and most skilled driver. The competition will take place in a realistic woodland setting and will be a real test of an operators skill, accuracy and dexterity as well as speed using the latest Komatsu equipment. Competitors will be able to enter on the day and the winner will be the fastest time over the three days once any penalty points have been deducted.

LOG-TO-LEG POLE LATHE TURNING

Top pole lathe turners will compete in the World Log-to-leg pole lathe turning championship for the famous silver rimmed Mazer trophy on **Saturday 22nd**. At the sound of the horn the turners grab a round ash log in a Monte Carlo style mass start and race back with it to their pole lathes. They then have to split it and then turn two identical chair legs using only leg powered lathes in the shortest possible time. They



Thursday, 9.30am
Confor tent

Meet the Government's
Tree Champion

Sponsored by

John Clegg & Co

then race back to the start line with their legs. The fastest turners do not always win as legs are also judged for accuracy, being identical and other faults. Heats will be held during the previous two days.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

FISA and Lantra will be running practical safety and training demos throughout the three days on a range of subjects from tree felling to tree climbing.

PLUS MUCH MORE INCLUDING...

- The World 'Log to leg' pole lathe turning championships
- Extensive traditional woodland crafts area with many have-a-go opportunities
- Steam driven sawmills
- Working vintage machinery
- Technical updates & seminars.

Forest Workers Area

SAFE SKYLINING

MWMAC will be operating their double drum winch skyline, demonstrating how timber can be extracted from difficult or sensitive sites with minimal outlay. On **Thursday** you will have the opportunity to learn how to safely set up similar systems. Just turn up to get involved.

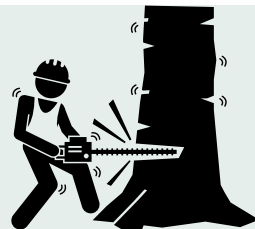
PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS

There will be an ongoing manual handling demonstration, reminding us that by using our brain we can save our backs. Tomorrow's Forests will demonstrate useful stretching exercise to keep the most hard-working forest workers fit and healthy. Throughout the show, there will be workshops on chainsaw maintenance, and a review of the current chain maintenance tools.

TALKS AND ADVICE SESSIONS

- The RFS and representatives from the Forestry Apprenticeship Trailblazer will be on hand to talk career development and how to break into the industry.
- The SWA will answer questions about bringing woodlands into management.

- Advice clinic on planning operations around protected species on **Thursday**.



FREE COURSES - REGISTER NOW!

On **Friday**, the Workers Area will host two free courses, titled, 'Planning for Profit'. Participants will leave equipped with a better understanding of breaking down processes to include the production, safety and ecological constraints in order to have more confidence during the tendering process and use planning to control operations profitability. There will be two free, two-hour courses, at 10am and 2pm. Places are limited, if you'd like to attend or for a course program email toby@sayitwithwood.co.uk

FOR THE FUN

There will also be the popular 'chainsaw hold out' and other pop up competitions with great prizes. Also, a space to relax and network.

Full programme will be available on www.apfexhibition.co.uk closer to the event.



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APF seminars timetable

	Title	Organiser	Event type
THURSDAY			
10.30-12.00	Fair play for forestry	Confor	Panel & discussion
13.00-13.45	Timber, forests, markets	FCE	Panel & discussion
14.00-14.45	Future incentives going forward	FCE	Panel & discussion
15.00-16.00	Management of ash, post-Chalara		Panel & discussion
FRIDAY			
9.30-10.15	Felling licence online	FCE	
10.30-12.00	Forestry and the bioeconomy	Confor	Panel & discussion
13.00-13.45	Making woodland creation happen	FCE	Panel & discussion
14.00-15.00	Dealing with new and emerging tree health challenges		Panel & discussion
SATURDAY			
11.00-11.45	Tree health and biosecurity - past, present and future	FCE	Panel & discussion
12.00-12.45	Action oak	FC/FR	Presentation

Forestry Commission events

TIMBER FOREST AND MARKETS Expert views on current market conditions, innovation opportunities for forestry in England. Chaired by Dougal Driver.

FUTURE INCENTIVES GOING FORWARD What are the opportunities and possibilities for incentives for forestry in England outside of the EU? An informed panel discussion.

MANAGEMENT OF ASH, POST CHALARA A panel of industry experts will share their experience of living managing and adapting to Chalara. Chaired by Mike Render with Graham Taylor, Justin Mumford, Simon Wallace, Mark Williams and Ewan Calcott.

FELLING LICENCE ON LINE Ewan Calcott explains how the new system works.

MAKING WOODLAND CREATION HAPPEN Chaired panel discussion about the challenges and opportunities faced in making new woodland creation happen; including case studies.

DEALING WITH NEW AND EMERGING TREE HEALTH CHALLENGES Anna Brown, Head of Tree Health for Forestry Commission England, will chair a panel discussion of industry experts that have faced recent challenges which will include a member from the Forest nursery industry.

Confor events

1: FAIR PLAY FOR FORESTRY

Expert panel and discussion

Confirmed panellists: Susan Twining (CLA), Sue Pritchard (RSA), Natalie Buttriss (Woodland Trust Wales). In addition to representatives of the industry.

A common theme emerging from the responses to Defra's Health and Harmony consultation is a desire for integrated land use, with fairer recognition and reward for land managers that deliver public goods. A number of questions will need to be addressed in any future land use bill or strategy.

Suggested questions for the panel discussion

1. Level playing field

- Is a tonne of CO₂ stored in the soil, in woodland or in avoided emissions worth the same? Should all land managers be rewarded in the same way for delivering the same public goods?
- What are those public goods, how are they valued and who gets to decide?

2. Land Use silos

- How do we break down the real and perceived barriers between different land uses?
- Should there be a standard set of rules for all land managers?
- Would a land use strategy improve a wider understanding of land management needs?

3. Trade and Security

- We are only "3 square meals from revolution" but we also waste 1/3 of all food that could be produced.
- UK is the world's 2nd biggest importer of forest products and the lack of new productive planting over the last 30 years places the UK in a vulnerable trading position. In addition the global demand for forest products will more than double by 2050.
- The UK Govt has committed to building 300,000 new homes every year, can it do this without a secure supply of timber?

2: FUTURE FORESTRY AND THE BIOECONOMY

Expert panel and discussion

Confirmed panellists: Adrian Campbell (Change Building), Dan Ridley-Ellis (Napier University), Jez Ralph (Timber Strategies), Gary Newman (Woodlandknowledge Wales)

"Anything that you get from a barrel of oil, you can get from a tree". 100 years ago the Forestry Commission was formed to develop a strategic reserve of timber, and in particular to grow "pit props" for the mining of coal. What trees should we be growing now, to deliver the maximum value for UK plc?

Suggested questions for the panel discussion:

1. What future products might we get from trees, from Cross Laminated Timber to nano-cellulose?

- What does this mean for traditional forest product based industries?
- How do we balance production or should we leave it to the market?

2. What does this mean for forest management and species choice?

3. Who is scanning the horizon for new ideas and development?

- How do we keep the UK industry informed and quick to react to new demands and opportunities? Or should foresters just focus on growing timber



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- Growing our staff
- Collaboration with industry in Weevil trials
- Environmental protection

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The Zago Eco Green Composter supplied by King Feeders UK offers a simple, reliable and economic means of green waste recycling. Because these machines operate at a very low noise and nuisance level, they are favoured by many local authorities for use in urban areas. They grind, mulch and mix bio-degradable products, from grass mowings, roots and soil to ten inch diameter tree loppings, pallets, waste paper etc.

The volume of material is significantly reduced and can be reloaded and mixed with other products before being applied to the ground. These machines have been in production for more than 20 years and can be designed to individual requirements. A wide range of options are available for traditional and in vessel composting.

Composting Equipment • Shredders
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www.ecogreencomposting.co.uk

On show at APF...

At the ApF 2018, there will be many product launches and new machines on show never seen before in the UK. If you are planning to buy or replace any machinery then you need to be at the show as it is the one place you can see every manufacturer and their equipment working in realistic conditions. Here is a taster of some the huge variety of products and services you can see

DEMO AREA: 360-400

Visit AC Price Ltd for great demos and a chance to win!

We will be demonstrating a 2015 Heizohack Mercedes AROCS (pictured) and New Valtra 174 with Kronos Drive trailer and Jake mounted Kronos 8020 crane with XCrane control system.

If you are visiting the APF show, pop in and participate in our prize draw – a hamper is up for grabs!



STAND: Static J1 and I1

Euroforest and Prior & Rickett tree and timber identification competition

Euroforest Limited will again be running the tree and timber identification competition in partnership with Prior & Rickett Silviculture (Static I1), with one £50 voucher being given away daily, for the highest scoring entry that day. The voucher can be redeemed, whilst at the show, from one of the forestry equipment and clothing stands. Entry to the competition is free, so come and test your skills against some of the best foresters in the country and see how well you do! Whilst visiting us you can find out more



about the Euroforest group of companies and the range of services they provide.

STAND: L1

Hampton Steel launches new metal post system for fencing professionals

Versalok™ is a Post and Clip intermediate metal post system which will be launched at selected forestry and agricultural shows this summer. Versalok™ is a 'homegrown' product, manufactured in Northamptonshire by Hampton Steel. The post features a delta profile which enhances its strength and durability. With the ability to accommodate all woven wire fence patterns, Versalok™ has been designed with lozenge shaped holes to easily and securely lock in the patented stainless steel Versalok™ clip.

We are excited to be showcasing Versalok™ at the APF Exhibition.



STAND: 280 - 320

Don't miss machinery demos at Fuelwood

Once more, the Fuelwood stand will be a show highlight, demoing a wide range of top forestry machinery, such as:

- Launch! Heizohack Truck Chipper
- VEPAK Generation 4 log bagging machine
- FTG Moheda timber trailer
- Avesta Vagnen ATV trailer
- Lucas Mill Portable Sawmill
- Japa Firewood
- AMR Log Splitter and Saw

Machines can be demoed on demand

and more new products will be introduced to the public, such as Gros wood chip blowers and troughs and new FTG Forest timber trailers and cranes.



STAND: 9B (Isle I)

Forest Machine Magazine celebrates second birthday

A warm welcome awaits and you can browse the latest issue of our logging magazine and find out what we are about. There will be some great giveaways and competitions over the three show days, fantastic photo opportunities for kids and adults and you can check out some of our latest hi-vis work and leisure clothing.

It's great seeing you and finding out what you are up to and who knows, you could be our next great feature in the magazine.

DEMO AREA: 80-110

Greenmech introduces new wood processor to the UK

GreenMech will have a vast range of machinery on display on stand 80-110, in the outside area. In addition, visitors will also have the opportunity to find out about a number of special deals and flexible finance options available exclusively at the show.

Next year sees the introduction of new, more stringent Stage V emissions standards covering diesel engines above >>



>> 26hp, so a particular highlight on the GreenMech stand will be the petrol-powered Arborist 130 and Arborist 150p models.

Also on show, for the first time in the UK, will be GreenMech's new Combi 200 wood and green waste processor (pictured, previous page). Based on the successful Arborist 200, it features a robust conveyor and a large in-feed chute to make loading safe and easy.

DEMO AREA: 800 - 840

Oakleaf Forestry launches new harvester

Oakleaf Forestry are excited to announce the addition of the Sampo Rosenlew range of low impact harvesters and forwarders and will be demoing the HR46x Harvester (right) at the APF 2018 show. The Sampo HR46x is a high-capacity 4-wheel harvester specially designed for first thinning.

DEMO AREA: 455 - 520

The latest STIHL products in action

STIHL will be exhibiting its latest developments in professional chainsaws and forestry equipment at this year's APF



Exhibition, where visitors will have the chance to see the products in action at the manufacturers demo area situated on the woodland demo circuit.

In addition to its own demo area, STIHL will have a large range of high performance tools for professionals on display within the main arena on the static

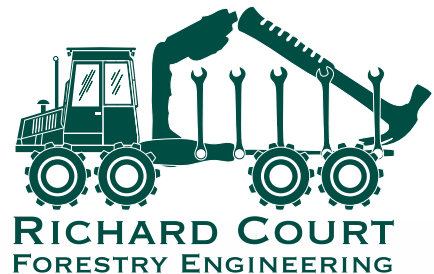
circuit, including the latest MSA 161 T cordless top-handled chainsaw and the lightweight MS 462 C-M petrol chainsaw. STIHL will also be giving visitors a look at the new MS 500i - the world's first lightweight petrol chainsaw with electronically controlled fuel injection.



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The Woodland Crafts Area at APF 2018 has probably the largest display of traditional woodland crafts skills to be found anywhere in one place in the UK.

Situated in the centre of the show-ground the area has become one of the most popular features of the show. Visitors will be able to see displays of pole lather turning, besom brooms, hazel hurdles, oak swill baskets, charcoal burning, coracles, split hazel baskets, cane and rush seating, willow weaving, Windsor chairs making, bentwood chairs, spoon carving, bowl turning and, for the first time, a wheelwright will be making wooden wheels and shodding them with steel rims.

Many of the craftsmen and women will be delighted to give advice and offer have-a-go opportunities to visitors.



Shed Therapy

Shed Therapy (Scotland) is a group of people who believe in the power of making to build identity. Using your energy and starting with a tree, they will show you how to make items you can use - firewood, pencils, kitchenware and furniture.

Shed Therapy's handsaw business relates to the UK forestry and wood sector by providing easy-access to low-impact timber processing. If you only have a few

cuts to make or have unskilled people, or don't want to spend money on training, chainsaw, PPE and fuel then handsaws can be a viable option.

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Wide range of benefits from school visits to APF

by **Mandy Jones**,
Forestry Commission

We encourage school visits to the APF show as fantastic days out, having many curriculum links such as art (chainsaw carving), technology (the machinery), history (the traditional crafts and techniques) and promote the career side to secondary schools.

Why is it important for the forestry sector to put younger children in touch with forestry?

Many schools have been studying the deforestation of the rainforests so it is important for children to know that our woodlands in the UK are managed sustainably – we grow trees, fell some and re-plant so there will always be forests here.

How do you convey a holistic image of forestry, including the productive side?

During our APF school tours there are a number of fun activities that can get the message across

as well as asking “How many things do you use or come into contact with daily that are made of wood?” We also explain that through careful management, we can grow timber, have habitats for wildlife and provide recreation for visitors. The Forestry Commission’s message is about multipurpose forestry... for people, timber and wildlife.

How did the kids respond to the mentioning of felling trees?

It depends on what they’ve learned in school. If they have been learning about the rainforests, then they think felling trees is bad although some schools teach about sustainability and how wood is good. Once children realise that we can keep re-planting and felling they think it’s great. Many of them worry about the wildlife, so we explain how our forest planning actually encourages habitat creation and looking after the wildlife we have.

See *Communicating forestry*, p42



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Shaping a holistic perception of forestry from a young age



We need to promote a positive perception of commercial forestry to young people, says

Stefanie Kaiser

Changing attitudes is the rather vague title of one of Confor's current business campaigns (see p18). Its objective is to influence the perception people have of the forestry and timber sector in our country. People with a positive attitude will be open to hear the important messages we want them to understand, or will be more likely to consider forestry as positive sector to work for.

From experience I can say that most of my perceptions were shaped in childhood. Perceptions make me feel a certain way when I see a productive sitka forest, a mixed broadleaved riparian forest or a harvester clearing a block. In the case of forestry, my perceptions of what is 'nice' and what is 'negative' were initially shaped by things like a) the forests that surrounded me b) TV images of bulldozers in Brazil clearfelling the rainforest or c) the storybooks and Grimm tales I loved to read - they taught me about 'idyllic landscapes' (farms with apple orchards and some oak trees with birds) and more frightening ones (little red riding hood enters the dark wood where the big, bad wolf lives).

Working with secondary schools to raise awareness of forestry as a career option is something that requires ongoing attention. However, in parallel, it is important to make sure that from a young age, forestry and wood become part of a person's concept of a sustainable and positive landscape and economy.

Children of primary school age, for example, are not yet burdened by a lot of the pre-conceived ideas that influence the judgement of adults or even older teenagers. Organisations like the Woodland Trust are excellent at shaping concepts such as 'sus-



tainability', 'nature' or 'good land use' in children's minds. However, the messages kids are exposed to are often one-sided, sometimes downplaying the 'distressing' reality of trees being used to make timber. When these children grow up, they are likely to have an unrealistic expectation of what forestry is and should be, and therefore might be reluctant to accept our sector as the sustainable industry it is.

No matter whether we aim to promote forestry as a career choice to teenagers or whether we want the general public to accept forestry as a positive land use - shaping a positive attitude early is something our sector might have neglected so far.

A drawing of a forest by Olivia (5) who sees a woodland as a place for people and animals (even sheep!) but also acknowledges that trees are felled for timber.



Spread the forestry message

What can you do yourself to help create a balanced perception of forestry in the future generation?

- If you have a school kid yourself, talk to them about sustainable land use and forestry, teach them how the environment, the economy and people are interlinked. Take them and their friends out on countryside trips regularly and show them examples.
- Talk to your child's teacher about forestry
- Ask your child to do a presentation on forests and their uses as part of their science or sustainability curriculum.
- Talk to the school about activities you can organise – take the kids to your forest or show them how wood is used. A lot of schools welcome such initiative.
- Get your very young kids to draw forestry scenes, including the productive aspect such as Olivia's drawing on p42.



Ewen Weatherspoon Photography

The power of children's books

How comes that my two-year old daughter's books are full of lovely meadows and cute animals, showing a world far from reality. But then, on the other hand, in her "on the farm" books the romantic idea of farming includes combine harvesters slowly making their way through large-scale wheat monoculture! The image on the right is an example of how openly

the farming sector talks about its productive elements, which are far from idyllic in this case!

Farming is a more traditional land use sector than forestry in our country, but what can we learn from it?



There are some initiatives that are trying to change this. In Switzerland, for example, the forestry region of Toggenburg has recently published a children's book that aims to awaken interest in forestry and timber. In the storybook, two squirrels accompany a log from tree to finished house.



Providing role models for children

by **Elizabeth Barron-Majerik**

I want to ensure that every school pupil in Scotland (and beyond) has at least some awareness of the wide range of careers open to them in forestry. Whilst they might not all decide to study or work in forestry or arboriculture, it is important that we are doing all we can to promote it to the public, as all benefit from growth in this sector. To do this, we need ambassadors, and the folk best placed to do that are those that love working in it! Specifically, we need enthusiastic individuals, working in forestry, who are happy (with help!) to talk to teachers, school pupils, the public, or even just anyone who will listen, about what working in forestry is like, what it involves, what it doesn't involve, and how to get started.

Why is it important for the forestry sector to put younger children in touch with forestry?

Although I knew I wanted to study Plants at University, no one at school suggested Forestry as an option. Whether it was because I was female, or because they just didn't think of it. I don't want my children, or any others to not have access to this fascinating subject and range of associated careers, just because no one thought to mention it! And of course, it is just more

fun to be in the forest than in the classroom.

How do you show younger people a holistic image of forestry, including the productive side?

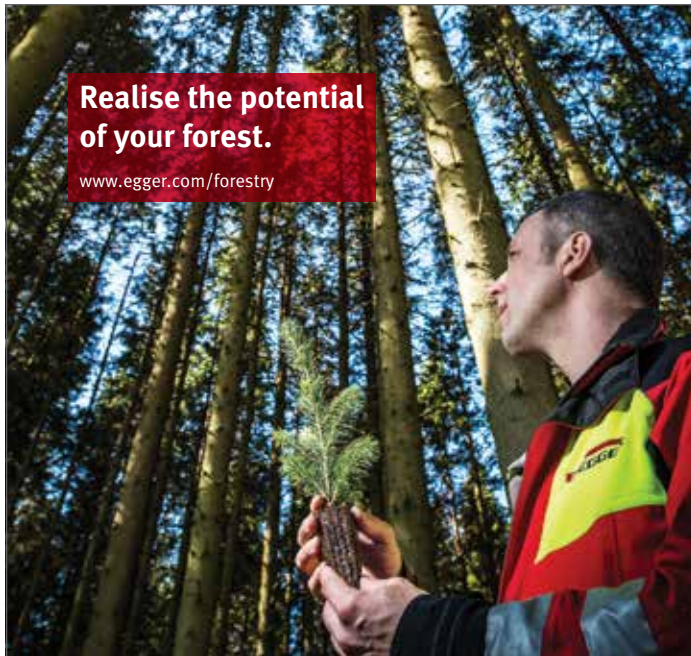
We ran LOTS of activities during our school events! There was tree planting, STEM activities, we looked at the animals you would find in the forest, tree ID, use of the harvesting simulator, knot tying and much more. My favourite quote at the end was from a P3 who asked; "I want to live here!" I hope he keeps that enthusiasm, and to that end we need more ambassadors.

How did the kids respond to the mentioning of felling trees?

I think they just saw it as a natural part of the process required to make the products that we had talked about in the other sessions. The great thing about forestry is that there is something in it for everyone. Some kids preferred the machinery, some the tree ID, some even liked the knots best!

Elizabeth Barron-Majerik is Programme Development Manager at Inverness College, UHI. The College has organised several school events to promote the forestry sector.

School visits to APF, see p41



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Open days to connect with the public

The forestry and wood processing sector is a £2 billion industry across the UK, but has often operated below the radar of the general public.

Open days are a great way of engaging people in the forestry and wood story and explaining what we do. We need to do more to get people out into our forests and processing facilities to show them what we are doing.

EGGER (UK) Ld has recently organised an Open Day (see opposite page) and the experience shows that people are surprised, and delighted, to see the modern and exciting face of the industry. Whether it is members of the local community or a politician, we find that they are always impressed by the hi-tech nature of the wood processing business – and technology is a great way to engage young people. And they do also love to ride in the diggers.

Open days in busy working environments can be a daunting prospect – but we must not let that put us off and we must ensure health and safety is at the very heart of any visits.

As an industry, we are getting better but we can do much more - and if we work collectively, to make the connection from the forest to the factory and then the products which people want for their homes, that is a powerful and positive message.

David Lee



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The free family-friendly open days were organised with health and safety as a top priority at the plant, which employs 130 people and where production lines run 24/7 every day of the year.

Visitors were able to enjoy a 'Dig-a-Day Experience' - voted Best Family Day Out at the 2017 Scottish Entertainment and Hospitality Awards - where they had the chance to learn about excavators and have a go in a digger. Alongside a wide range of children's activities, visitors were also able to try out a harvesting simulator to understand more about working life in a forest.

"At EGGER we feel it is vital to build strong relationships with the local communities. Our event provided

the opportunity for visitors to chat to those who work at EGGER Barony and also our colleagues from across EGGER (UK) Limited, which included our colleagues from our Hexham manufacturing site, forestry and wood recycling subsidiaries. With the day offering factory tours, people had the chance to go behind the scenes and find out how our chipboard is made."

said Heiko Lichtblau, EGGER production/technical director for the site.
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FOREST MARKET REPORT
Fenning Welstead,
John Clegg & Co

Scotland

One of the forestry highlights of the first half of the year in Scotland was the sale of Bolfracks through Strutt and Parker/John Clegg & Co. This was a mixed forest estate to the west of Aberfeldy in the stunning scenery of the upper reaches of the River Tay (see photo). The two main forestry lots generated considerable interest. Lot 6, 48 hectares of 20 year old spruce, thinned and with access from the public roads sold at around £7500 per hectare. The much larger Lot 7, 619 hectares contained crops planted from 1966 to 2017. Very well served by internal roads and presenting a matrix of crop ages, this sold at a price equivalent to £9000 per conifer hectare. A very sound forestry property with the prospect of timber income and capital growth plus a real sense of ownership.

On a similar scale, Achaglass Forest near Tarbert, Argyll at 640 hectares presents, on the face of it, a not dissimilar forest. With crops planted in 1971 through to recent restocking in 2015, this forest is also well served by internal roading, some recently upgraded by a wind-farm development. Set in the panoramic scenery of the northern Kintyre Peninsula with hill lochans and views westwards to Islay and Jura it sold at a price equivalent to £5300 per hectare.

In the far north, Bidwells are currently marketing Brawlbin on behalf of the Forestry Commission. Brawlbin is situated near Thurso in Caithness. With a guide price of £755,000 the property extends in total to 437 hectares of which 340 hectares are stocked with conifer crops dating from 1970 to 2018. There is a high percentage of lodgepole pine and pine spruce mixes. The guide price works out at approximately £2200 per conifer hectare. This reflects the quality of the crop, location and distance to market. However, with approximately 250 hectares of Sitka spruce becoming available to harvest, there can still be commercial sense in such properties albeit that the

values are different.

It is worth reflecting on how the differences in location, soil types and crop influence the pricing and values of forestry plantations.

Moving further south, the same agents are marketing Leiterchullin comprising 459 hectares in total including 190 hectares of mixed commercial forestry but most interestingly a grass park and vacant cottage overlooking Loch Duntelchaig. Situated close to Inverness this is a very appealing property and with a guide price of £1.25m one might anticipate some very keen bidding.

Planting land

Looking towards the other end of the forestry rotation, there is a strong demand for planting land. A number of opportunities have presented themselves to the market. These include Auchentaggart Farm near Sanquhar. Galbraiths have had this on the market and we know that a number of forestry interests have considered it. However, the mix of soil qualities makes forestry not perhaps the most ideal land use other than integrated shelter belts with farming operations. Not the most commercial of forestry options but a warmer landscape for livestock and wildlife.

Typical of the land used in earlier planting schemes is Urral Moor near Aberfeldy. Savills have this on the market as a grouse and sporting property extending to 3000 hectares. With a guide price of £8.5m (ie £2800 per hectare, approximately), this might be an ideal forestry project subject to obtaining approval. One only has to look at the neighbouring Moness and Griffin Forests to realise that other moorland in Perthshire has gone down the forestry road within the last 40 years. Blanket Sitka may no longer be in vogue but a well-designed mix of commercial and habitat planting could be supported and should grow very well. Such fundamental change of use may not be popular with everyone but the potential cannot be ignored.

Smaller lots

All of the above woodlands and land tend to be relatively extensive and of interest to the larger investor or collective fund. There is still a lot of activity at the smaller end of the spectrum. Kingside Loch, for example, was sold by John Clegg & Co earlier in the year. Only 11 hectares in size and primarily consisting of a hill lochan, this attracted considerable interest before being acquired by the neighbouring forestry owners. For a small woodland one might consider some property in Ayrshire where a 21 hectare farm woodland premium scheme project aged 10 years sold for £3600 per hectare. Or the small Tuttin Wood at Cairnie, Aberdeenshire extending to only 7.5 hectares of Sitka spruce planted in 1997. This also included some pockets of mixed broadleaves and a small field. With good mineral soils, >>



Bolfracks with Loch Tay in the background



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>> access and available water, this sold at over £8000 per hectare.

The market in Scotland is very active with a wide range of properties available for purchase across the country.

Wales

Moving south to Wales, the market has been characterised by a lack of commercial conifer woods. Cwm Yr Ychen, 102 hectares, came to the market at £725,000, created immediate competitive bidding and sold swiftly at well in excess of the guide price. Demand remains strong for properties capable of growing good quality conifers. It is reassuring to see the number of investors keen to create new commercial woods. Hopefully, the various bodies will produce a strategy to identify land suitable for planting. Investors will not buy a farm with the hope that in a couple of years they might get consent to plant. Tilhill Forestry acquired 75 hectares near Llandovery at the start of this year with consent agreed. It was planted with mainly commercial conifers by the end of April and should grow on to make a worthwhile contribution to Welsh timber supplies. The price is understood to have been in the £1000 to £1200 per hectare bracket.

England

Just over the border in Shropshire, Weston Heath Wood, 166 hectares comprising a wide range of commercial forestry crops created competitive bidding moving the sale price to considerably in excess of the guide price of £1.6 million.

The south-west of England has seen an active first half of 2018. John Clegg & Co offered its first Forest School in over 50 years of trading, with Haldon Park Forest



Haldon Park Forest School and Humberdown Wood

School forming one of the three lots at Haldon Park Wood and Humberdown Wood near Bishopsteignton, Devon. The other two lots had strong commercial stocking. The 52 hectares on offer attracted national press coverage before selling as a whole at a figure in excess of the guide price of £670,000. Ausewell Wood, 138 hectares near Ashburton, Devon was attracting strong interest at the time of writing with a closing date for best offers fixed for late July. Situated on the eastern bank of the River Dart this strongly commercial woodland is guided at £1,700,000.

In the south-east 62.9 hectares of carried crops, ranging from pure commercial conifers, mainly late rotation, younger mixed crops and areas of pure broadleaves, near Guildford, Surrey sold in two approximately equal sized lots with the price exceeding £15,000 per hectare.

On the more amenity side, Piercefield Wood, 81 hectares notable for its influence at the birth of modern tourism in Great Britain attracted at a buyer at close to the guide price of £575,000. This spectacular

broadleaf wood is on the slopes of the River Wye at Chepstow, Monmouthshire.

Adjoining the Basingstoke Canal near Farnborough, Surrey, 23 hectares of mixed woodland with strong conservation interest – a Special Protection Area for Birds, as well as being part of two Sites of Special Scientific Interest – attracted a number of bids at the closing date, achieving in excess of the guide price of £450,000. Accepting that this is in lowland England it is never-the-less remarkable that a conservation wood is achieving a market price of over £20,000 per hectare.

As we move forward into a period where Natural Capital will be an increasing part of valuation this is worthy of note. Foresters have always known that their activities had substantial if unquantifiable benefits in this direction. The recent re-valuation of the Forestry Commission's assets in England is understood to have included a look at what the value of Natural Capital might be. We are moving into a new world.

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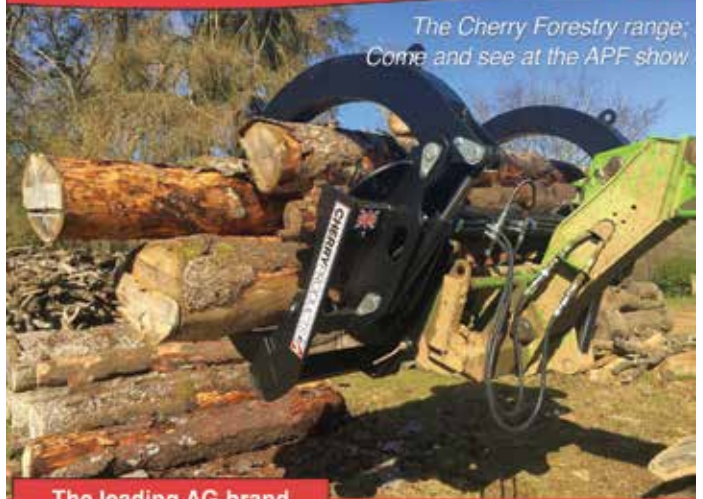


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TIMBER MARKET REPORT
Tim Leavers,
Euroforest

Four months ago, we were staring helplessly past drifting snow and later watching the relentless falling rain. All this, restricting access to the forest. The market was poised to take off, but the weather was inhibiting much of the planned activity.

However, the show must go on. The curtain finally lifted. From that moment, the level of business, has barely given anyone in the forestry sector a moment to draw breathe. So centre stage the action was frenetic, driven by the high demand and high prices. Working hard to catch up, it was almost as if two scenes had been rolled into one.

Sawlogs

The opportunity to sell all grades of sawn timber has continued undiminished. With no major change in the exchange rates, imported timber can be matched by comparable home-grown alternatives, with price advantages too. The demand for sawlogs remains strong. Log prices have continued to rise with a 65% increase on the prices of two years ago, and in some areas by 25% over the last quarter. Most mills are staying open for roundwood deliveries throughout the summer, even if production takes a break.

Regionally, the further south you go, the greater the price and the scarcer the logs. There is no appreciable material shortage in the north, but demand for the finished product is supporting the strong standing prices. The larger coups of 10-20,000 m³ are attracting strong competition and can be difficult to secure. With the double-act of a weaker pound and ongoing, rising global consumption of wood products, imports continue to hold their price. Asia and the Far East are drawing supplies of construction grade timber out of northern Europe and US production is being utilised in rebuilding after hurricane damage. Will the bubble burst? Will there be a twist in the tail?

There is a worldwide nervousness about the possible impact of escalating international trade disputes and oil price rises, whilst here in the UK, we are trading against a background of political and thus econom-

ic uncertainty. Recently, market observers report that manufacturing and construction industries are in a holding pattern, with the number of businesses expressing an intention to invest falling over the quarter. However, the major processors are reporting full order books, stretching comfortably beyond quarter three.

Small roundwood

The scene is similar - demand constantly outstripping the supplies available. A biomass market with depleted stocks after the prolonged winter came to the market with a healthy bank balance and was keen to replace what wood it had consumed. What characterises this market is not just the larger players, August should see the CHP plant at Sandwich fully operational, taking 240,000 tonnes of fibre per annum, but the small and medium size players too. The numbers of processors in this sector has multiplied, from domestic heating schemes to medium size business units (500-10,000 tonnes per annum) and in some regions it is hard to see, irrespective of price, where the wood will come from. With RHI backing the biomass users are not shy about joining the chase for timber. Despite the inevitable availability of sawmill chips, due to production levels, the board processors are

not sitting on their hands either, but are responding strongly to the situation, adding to the upward surge in roundwood standing and delivered in prices.

Fencing and palleting

Out of the limelight, but very much part of the act, are the round fencing, bar and pallet users. With biomass regularly fetching in excess of £50 per tonne on the one hand and log processors prepared to take produce in at 14cm diameter on the other, they are being pushed from both directions. One trader reported that "We could sell every load of fencing stakes two or three times over... the whole market is like trying to complete a jigsaw with only half the pieces!" The hike up in raw material price, due to its scarcity, is hard to justify given the market price for both sawn palletwood and peeled and treated fencing.

Can we confidently say, 'It's all good'? Certainly, the short-term prospect looks as if demand will continue unabated, and prices appear set. The curtain is yet to fall on this current drama, it may only be in March 2019 that all attention will be drawn away, as Brexit takes centre stage and we discover the part it has to play.

www.euroforest.co.uk



Kent Renewable Energy's CHP plant at Sandwich, Kent, during its last phase of construction in May 2018.

Still hot in the kitchen, especially in the south!



TIMBER AUCTIONS MARKET REPORT
Oliver Combe
Timber Auctions

Global trends

Global demand for timber continues to rise with the major world economies enjoying periods of sustained growth and increasing timber consumption across all sectors. After a period of stability there is now a general cycle of increasing prices with only a few exceptions where there are short-term oversupply problems (Central European spruce and Eastern France pine).

Difficult harvesting conditions in Scandinavia and the Baltics during winter and strong demand have led to low stock levels for most major producers which has in turn given them the confidence to push prices upwards. For the north European and Scandinavian producers the increasingly protectionist policies of Donald Trump have presented a golden opportunity to supply the US market with carcassing timber in ever increasing quantities. The lure of large ongoing volumes of simple specifications to a market with good payment history and credit is too good to miss even at the expense of traditional markets closer to home like the UK. The major Scandinavian producers are reporting improved financial results and strong order books. As we approach the summer shutdown season the

market conditions look very positive.

Prices of imported timber coming into the UK have steadily crept up over the first six months of the year to record high levels this has in turn allowed the domestic mills to increase their selling prices steadily over the first six months of the year to compensate for the increased raw material prices.

Domestic demand

Domestic demand for timber remains good with the UK economy bumping along quite steadily despite the political chaos around Brexit. In fact the recent uncertainty over whether Brexit will ever happen and the calls for another referendum have led to the pound falling against the euro back to levels last seen in March 2018. This puts further pressure on the price of imported timber and helps domestic producers be competitive.

Most producers have been steadily increasing their finished product prices during the first six months of 2018, with the smaller fencing mills being able to move earlier than the larger carcassing mills. Whilst fencing prices seem to have reach

a plateau at around £250m³ delivered for treated primes (posts, rails, feather edge) in July, there are still price increases planned for some carcassing products into August.

Merchant sales to end users are good across all sectors and unusually for July there still appear to be shortages in UK sawmills of certain key products.

Stock levels throughout the supply chain have never fully recovered from the very difficult conditions of this spring, most processors are now running at "budgeted" levels and where log supplies allow, are trying to catch up production capacity that was lost earlier in the year. With stock being sold as fast as it is produced there has been little chance to build stock prior to the summer shutdown season. Normally sales start to slowdown during July and August and then pick back up in September but this is not a normal year and it will be interesting to see what happens if demand continues to hold up through the rest of July and August. Early indications are that July will be a better than expected month with order books filling up quickly.

With the price increases on the whole implemented, order books looking good and strong demand elsewhere in the world, conditions on the demand side appear well set for the UK timber market.

Domestic supply

Supply of timber remains the critical issue and the further south you look the worse the problem is. The strong market conditions of late 2017 and the first half of 2018 have carried on although there are now signs that the prices have peaked out and

Roadside hardwood prices (£ hft) July 2018

	Oak planking	Oak beam	Oak fencing	Oak cordwood	Export ash & beech	White ash sawlogs	Export sycamore	1st grade firewood
High price	£9.00	£8.00	£8.00	£1.40	£3.25	£5.00	£5.00	£2.10
Mid price	£8.00	£6.50	£6.50	£1.25	£2.75	£4.00	£4.00	£1.90
Low price	£7.00	£5.00	£5.00	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£3.00	£1.70

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

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

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£80.00	£90.00	=
Bar 14	£60.00	£70.00	=
SRW	£50.00	£55.00	= ↑
Fencing	£55.00	£60.00	=
H Wood firewood	£55.00	£60.00	↑

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

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

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£75.00	£80.00	=
Bar / pallet 14	£55.00	£65.00	=
SRW	£50.00	£55.00	= ↑
Fencing	£55.00	£60.00	= ↑
H Wood firewood	£50.00	£55.00	↑

buyers are successfully stabilising the prices.

Certainly the extreme price spikes seen in the spring have now largely disappeared as more wood has come to the market enabling buyers to be more structured with their purchasing.

Prices have stabilised and available volumes have improved significantly, most major buyers have their immediate requirements covered and are now looking to secure volume for Q4 for 2018.

The key to market prices over the next six months will be how much timber comes to the market. Over the last three or four years there has been an emerging trend for growers to concentrate their sales into the first six months of the year with very little timber offered to the market from July onwards. This has contributed to shortages from December through to March in 2017 and again in 2018.



It appears that the human resource is also fully stretched and there is a real issue with recruitment of new operators*

to secure timber in the current market as those who have bought the standing trees determine how the trees are cut up and to which markets they are delivered.

Constraints on the supply chain High prices have led to high activity levels for the contractors and hauliers and the supply chain is now struggling to produce

on highly competitive rates dependent on producing a lot of timber which leaves little time and money for training new operators. If the industry is to continue to expand we need to consider carefully where and how we are going to recruit and train the next generation of operators.

The firewood market is starting to look like it is going to be very difficult this winter in that demand has suddenly increased on the back of a cold winter but at a very late stage in the winter and crucially after the softwood shortage started to bite. Consequently, many contractors who have been working in mixed parcels are now working in softwood to meet the exceptional current demand. Now that the firewood buyers are getting their heads around the lack of availability and starting to accept the current market prices they still cannot get wood through their gates as there are no contractors free to work in hardwood crops until late summer. In the meantime the firewood merchants have to wait or look to imported firewood.

Early indications are that the price of imported firewood will start to increase this autumn as round timber prices in the Baltic's and Europe have risen by a similar level to those in the UK and this will have to be passed on in the prices.

** Read more about this issue in our members' profile on Jim Wilmer & Sons, on p28.*

It will be interesting to see if the very strong prices in 2018:

- 1 Bring more timber to the market,
- 2 Extend the selling season,
- 3 Encourage owners to allow harvesting activity to continue into the shooting season.

My observations are:

- 1 Yes, some owners have taken advantage of the strong market and put forward extra parcels but in the overall market these are not significant volumes, maybe 5%?
- 2 New instructions to sell in Quarter 3 have fallen right away although there are a few owners looking at getting parcels ready to sell in Quarter 4?
- 3 Some owners are rescheduling harvesting activity into September and possibly October and have been encouraged by the dry weather, others are using the dry weather and strong prices to reach parts of their woods they have never been to before.

So overall the market has helped to bring more timber to the market, especially in Scotland and allowed prices to stabilise but in England the processors and buyers are still living hand to mouth and supplies are scarce.

The shortages of supply appear to be most acute for those who use the middle of the tree, ie pallet mills, shavings mills, round fencing manufacturers and independent biomass users. To maintain volumes we have seen sawmills reducing their supply specifications and large industrial round wood processors looking to take an increasing percentage of the tree. In effect, the sawmills move the cut-off point up the tree and the board mills move it down the tree and those who use the middle of the tree get squeezed out of the supply chain.

This makes it very difficult for timber buyers who traditionally offer 'gate' prices

more timber as the harvesting and haulage contractors are now running at full capacity and simply cannot do any more. Machine lead times are around six months and machines are only built to order so it is not a case of picking up the phone and buying a new harvester or forwarder to increase production.

There is now an issue, in that if a parcel can be brought to the market quickly and a contractor needs to be found to work it at short notice, most contractors are fully committed for the next two to three months and so it is very difficult to get a job started and bring extra into volume to the market.

In addition, it appears that the human resource is also fully stretched and there is a real issue with recruitment of new operators. The UK now has a very modern harvesting fleet of expensive machines running

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Your body is a temple

Toby Allan (Say it with wood) believes that it's time for our sector to prioritise the physical health of its workers.

Forestry is a hard and potentially dangerous job, and after working in physical roles most of my adult life, the aches and pains are starting to increase as I get older. Along with workplace accidents, musculoskeletal injuries from repetitive hard graft was an accepted part of the job when I started out. Luckily we have begun to see sense as far as managing the risk of accidents goes. We all have a right to go home safely nowadays.

But we are still failing to deal with the potential threat of injuries caused through the way we work. Ironically this could be the strain of intense physical activity, such as hand-cutting timber, or potential heart problems from sitting operating machinery for long hours.

As an employer, I have a responsibility to ensure the workplace is safe, we provide training, Personal Protective Equipment, guard machinery and do our best to make the job easy. But I realise this hard physical activity or long hours of sedentary work could potentially cause future problems for the people I work with.

Say it with Wood's occupational health mission

Pretty much everything I've read online about either warming up before physical work or adding cardio exercise into the day of machine drivers has shown positive results. Have a look at the interesting resources recently put up on the CONFOR website to find out more. In principal it's easy- incorporate the appropriate exercise into the daily routine. Which is what my partner Aly and I are going to do. However, in this country, it's a change in culture we need. Explaining to young fit people that they need to exercise now, to avoid something that may or may not happen in several years' time goes against behavioural change theory. In short, we react strongly to things that are immediate, highly likely and with positive results. For example; it's easier to make someone get out of the way of a truck that's about to hit them than give up smoking. Other countries, such as Canada, have succeeded in changing this culture by demonstrating that there are financial benefits to thinking of your body as a working machine. A short cardio workout mid-shift should keep you focussed for the rest of the day driving a machine (immediate good thing), and contribute towards the 150 minutes cardio recommended by the NHS. Canadian tree planters engage in

physical improvement before and during a season because they earn more. Our bodies are our biggest asset, and in the same way we look after machines, we have to maintain our bodies to get the most from them.

Our plan

At Say it with Wood we've decided to incorporate exercise into the day and see what the results are.

In the yard and forest, our team of 'working athletes' will start the day with a short 5-10 min warm up and we'll take it from there. As back pain is the most likely injury, that is where we'll focus, after taking some advice the routine will look something like this:

- Jogging on the spot, star jumps or similar to get the blood pumping into the muscles.
- Neck - side to side, up down and rolls.
- Shoulders - butterflies forward and back.
- Trunk - Side stretches, forward bends and twists
- Legs - Knee to chest and heel to buttock stretch.
- Arms - Tendon and wrist extensions.

That's it. Short, sweet and achievable
To be completely honest, the reaction

Swiss forestry sector committed to getting workforce to work-out

The Swiss Ministry for Environment has started a pilot project to promote the physical health of forestry workers and apprentices. The initiative has resulted in a comprehensive set of guidance documents and videos with targeted exercises and fitness tests, mainly to be used in forestry colleges as part of the young people's programme to become future forestry workers.

In one of the forestry businesses participating in the programme, the workforce meets up every day for their morning exercises. 17-year old apprentice Florian (in picture) says that at the beginning, the proposition was a bit weird but now the morning

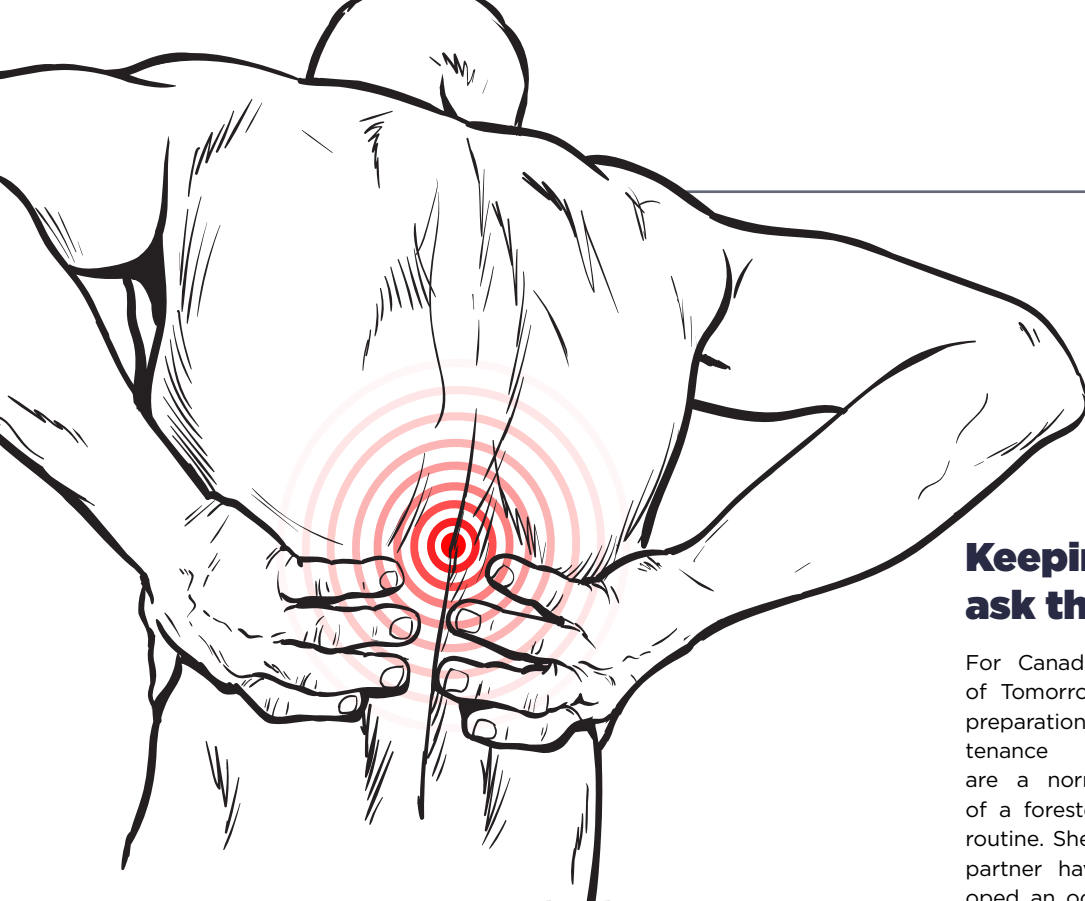
routine is an agreeable start for the working day to prepare for a hard day's work. He now knows which exercises benefit him most, in his case it's the "cat pose" (aka known as "happy cat")

The ministry for environment commissioned a private health provision company to develop and implement the programme for the forestry and related sectors.

The workers comment that stretching together in the morning also offers valuable socialising time. Once they are off in the forest, they are now more aware of their bodies needs and more consciously look after themselves.

This is so far a pilot programme and the next step is to encourage foresters to incorporate the programme into their working routine. And to hope for a lot of open-mindedness!





Keeping planters upright - ask the Canadians

For Canadian Liz Boivin of Tomorrow's Forests, preparation and maintenance workouts are a normal part of a forester's daily routine. She and her partner have developed an occupational programme for their planting squads.



"I think promoting occupational health in our sector is something which everyone could benefit from. A lot of the older generation for example has been used to break their back at work and not really train in preparation of the work or stretch afterwards and this has caused life lasting injuries in some people. It is really important to open people's eyes to the danger of hard, repetitive work.

"In relation to tree planting, tendinitis is a main issue. There is a lot of stretches which can be done pre-season to help prevent such injury. Back and knee related injuries tend to happen a lot due to the constant bending and weight lifting done all day.

"A good diet, filled with healthy sugars and carbohydrates are essential in order to keep going all day. A mix of simple and complex sugars throughout the day will help workers to stay focus and not feel tired as they are burning calories working away.

"We do ask of our workers do stretch their wrists in the morning prior to work commencement in colder weather as it helps reduce injuries if they don't start work on "cold muscles".

"I think pre-work training and after work stretches need to be talked about a bit more as a lot of people still think it's for 'hipsters' and 'hippies'. Opening up conversation about it and taking down the stereotypes that surround it will definitely help people get in the good habits of working out and hopefully be safer at work."

FTN will run a members profile on Liz Boivin and Tomorrow's Forests in the October issue.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Preparation and maintenance exercises for planters

Quick guide for injury management

How to eat to keep planting

www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb



Poor posture from Ben and Connor



As back pain is the most likely injury, that is where we'll focus,

from the lads when we suggested this has ranged from disbelief to derision, which is why we're starting with a less is more attitude and monitoring results. If paying people to warm up for a few minutes each day means better productivity and less down time then that has to be an investment, right?

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'Alternatives' - the new buzzword?



by **Tim Liddon**
FICFor, forestry
 director, Tilhill

It is now nearly four years ago since 'resilience' was elevated to the buzz word in forestry and now it is the turn of the word 'alternatives'. Foresters are now thinking more widely about what to plant and where. The challenges of getting 'alternatives' established and to thrive are now being recognised more extensively as well. The regulators are pushing for more diversity in our forest plans and new planting.

But we need to think a little bit further to ensure the baby is not thrown out with the bath water as it were! Our great challenge in the uplands is to enhance resilience wisely. Given the relatively poor sites on which our current crops thrive we need to be careful not to put species on these site that will not thrive as that, in my view, will not be enhancing resilience.

Restructuring of the 1970s plantings is now well advanced and with this comes age diversity which is a good start. We are also seeing a good uptake of improved Sitka material being used. This is bringing enhanced quality and giving the grower the opportunity to reduce rotation lengths, thus building in more resilience as any one crop has a shorter window of exposure to pathogens. Used wisely it should be possible to maintain or indeed enhance genetic diversity. This is an area that the Conifer Breeding Cooperative considers fundamentally important and as such has commissioned a PhD so we can gain a better knowledge base in order to allow growers to make more informed decisions.

Understanding the genetics of our crops will be a critical factor in providing resilience in our plantations and equally important as shortening rotations. The desire to improve plants and animals is now very well developed. We see this in horticultural cultivars, food crops and in animals in order to provide increased yields, refine taste, increase disease resistance as well as many other advantages. These gains are delivered by selecting superior individuals and in some areas by genetic modification - but not in UK Forestry.

If we look at chicken production, genetic selection has reduced the breeding cycle from 40 weeks to 20 weeks with an increase in productivity, and has also improved resistance to disease. In forestry though, the tree breeder has some disadvantages over agriculture due mainly to the length of the crop cycle - often one year in agriculture but thirty plus years in forestry - so the gains come more slowly.

A history of improving Sitka

Fortunately, in the early 1960's the Forestry Commission started work on improving Sitka spruce, our mainstay crop. Over 1700 'plus' trees were selected as a potential breeding population. The first open-

pollinated Sitka spruce progeny tests were planted in 1967 with the objectives of ranking parent trees for genetic quality relative to unimproved material.

To start with, only height and stem straightness assessments were carried out in the progeny tests. Wood density was introduced in around 1986 and then branching habit was assessed. In the last couple of years, through the Conifer Breeding Coop (of which Tilhill Forestry is a founder member), acoustic velocity is now being assessed. This measure gives an indication of timber stiffness (strength).

Some typical gain stats are given in the table.

ID No.	Diameter	Density	Straightness	Branching	Acoustic value
psiPF65TE	7	4	30	12	-
psiPF66TE	12	0	16	0	-
psiPF69TE	17	-9	34	19	4
psiPF75TE	17	-9	34	19	4
psiPF79TE	3	11	16	8	-
psiPF80TE	16	1	36	14	3

Tree breeding in Sitka has now moved on to studying the detail of the genomics of Sitka Spruce. In 2017 a significant project was launched by researchers from Forest Research and the Universities of Oxford and Edinburgh. This research project has received significant funding from BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council). It has also received support from the UK forest industry with significant financial support from the BSW Group.

The overall goal is to develop genomic prediction (GP) methods for Sitka spruce and transfer these lessons to the forestry industry as a whole. GP can be used to predict important traits such as productivity, resistance to insect pests and tolerance to climate change. It could also shorten the process of effective selection of new Sitka strains down to just 11 years.

But growers of course should also broaden species mix where appropriate. The Conifer Breeding Cooperative (nee Sitka Spruce breeding Cooperative) has broadened its scope to involve other productive Conifers.

More information is being pulled together so that our foresters can make more informed decisions in order to get the right species in the right place to deliver our client's objectives. This involves understanding where the best genetics for each species can be found. For example, sample plots are being established for Norway spruce from Swedish, Danish and German seed orchards, and also plots of Lutz Spruce.

We are seeing an increased interest in seed orchards and the use of 'landrace provenance' being a way of increasing productivity. Growers will need to use climate change predictions in their decision making process.

The results of the trials mentioned above will be part of the decision making and are eagerly awaited by the whole of the forest industry.

www.tilhill.com

Researching the tolerance to ash dieback of individual trees – an update

by **Steve Lee**, Forest Research

In 2012, ash dieback caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (previously known as ‘Chalara’) was found on established woodland trees growing in eastern Britain. Government funding bodies quickly commissioned a number of research projects to investigate how the disease could be controlled and whether it might be possible to use tree breeding to ‘breed our way’ out of the problem.

Over the next nine months or so, Forest Research became involved in three different research projects:

- Mass screening trials of native ash for tolerance
- The Living Ash Project
- An investigation of the tolerance of different ash species to ash dieback.

Five years later, it is timely to give a brief update on the progress we have made in each of these pieces of work.

Mass screening trials

In 2013 we planted 155,000 common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) seedlings across south-east England to see if any showed tolerance to ash dieback. The trees came from a range of provenances across Britain, Ireland and the near-continent. All were sourced from tree nurseries located in the UK or Ireland. They were planted at 14 locations where the disease is known to be present and were monitored over the five years of the research project for signs of infection, tolerance and survival.

At the end of the second growing season, ash dieback had been confirmed at all 14 sites, and by the end of the third growing season infestations with *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* fungus, had become more widespread at all sites, although around 50% of the trees were alive with no signs of infection. By the end of the fourth growing season, only 15% of all trees were alive and free of any sign of infection. The level of infestation was also much more varied with two sites showing high levels of trees with no sign of infection whilst other sites had barely any trees in this category.

The mass screening trials have now completed their fifth growing season and overall levels of tolerance (ie trees alive with no signs of ash dieback infection) are around just 1%. It would be wrong to extrapolate this figure from controlled field trials to mature trees growing in the wider environment since we don’t know yet what any juvenile:mature correlations might be. We do, however, know that young seedlings appear to be the more susceptible than older trees and certainly are quicker to die. In the

meantime, our findings demonstrate positive signs that we might be able to identify the most tolerant genotypes for further resistance breeding. There also appears to be some significant variation in tolerance depending on where the trees came from in Britain, with some ash sources from the south of Scotland appearing to be slightly more tolerant and those from southern England and Ireland much less so.

In late February 2018, there was a limited amount of grafting onto rootstock of trees showing tolerance to ash dieback but growing on sites that will no longer be accessible to Forest Research once this project comes to an end. A total of 1355 grafts were created from 575 trees. We expect these early selections along with many others currently being identified elsewhere in woodlands and hedgerows, will form the early core of a future resistance breeding programme.

The Living Ash Project

The specific objectives for the Living Ash Project are to establish new genetic trials of ash to investigate the variation and heritability of tolerance to infection with *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* fungus and develop tissue culture techniques to enable us to rapidly produce large numbers of any tolerant trees identified, for use in future tree planting.

Seed was collected from mother trees in a seedling seed orchard established as part of the ash breeding programme run by Future Trees Trust. The trees which make up the orchard were derived from ash plus trees selected from all over the country for good stem form and superior growth rate well before the arrival of ash dieback. Seed was collected from over 50 mother trees in the seed orchard, raised in a nursery and in 2016, were planted out over three trials sites in the Midlands (at the National Forest near Ashby-de-la-Zouch) and south-east England (Kent and Hampshire).

The trees are currently in their third growing season. Towards the end of the 2018 growing season, but before the leaves fall, Forest Research technicians will assess the level of infection on a tree by tree basis. From these data we should for the first time in Britain, be able to estimate genetic variance components and so derive heritability estimates for tolerance of ash trees to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* fungus and so get an idea of whether ‘breeding our way’ out of this problem is a possibility. Data from the continent suggest relatively high heritability which means selecting tolerant trees in woodlands and trials such as in the mass screening trials, will



Mark Oram with an ash tree on a site in Kent at the start of its 6th growing season. No signs of ash dieback so far for this tree.



lead to a general increase in the number of tolerant trees in the landscape. We need to find out if this is also true in Britain. It is very early to make definitive decisions with three year data; trends may well change with age but this marks a starting point so that future progress can be measured.

Investigating the tolerance of different ash species to ash dieback

This project aims to investigate the variation in tolerance to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* fungus across different ash species. Those ash species which co-evolved with the pathogen will likely be more tolerant even when grown in the presence of the disease here in Britain. We aim to find out which the tolerant species are such that if necessary in the future,

hybrid crosses might be carried out with the native *Fraxinus excelsior* to induce tolerance. This would be similar to how the Americans have been dealing with chestnut blight by crossing their native chestnut with a tolerant Asian species, and then back-crossing to the American. This is very much seen as 'Plan B' in Britain. The ideal is to select and breed native tolerant stock for tree planting, but in case that proves too difficult it seems wise to develop a second line of defence.

To conduct this research, Forest Research contacted all the main arboreta in Britain and was amazed to discover there were nearly thirty different non-native ash species growing. We had tremendous co-operation with arboreta as we requested

Top: **A very fast growing ash tree free of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* infection after 2-growing seasons in progeny trials near Ashby-de-la-Zouch**

Above: **Gustavo Lopez (new Head of Tree Breeding at Forest Research) with a fast growing tree free of ash dieback disease in a progeny trial site in Kent**

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>> scion material (shoots) of at least three different trees representing as many different ash species as possible. The scions were grafted onto native ash rootstock for later planting out into the field at three sites in southern England. Grafting took place over a three year period due to graft incompatibility problems between the species. Data on their tolerance will be gathered in 2018 and in subsequent years.

Looking to the future

Over the last five years, good work has been carried out to establish field trials designed to find trees tolerant to ash dieback disease, and also determine the likely success of any future resistance breeding programme. Elsewhere screening of exotic ash will help identify which species we might want to consider in a future hybridisation resistance breeding programme if that becomes a necessity. Scientists from the Living Ash Project are already busy selecting trees worthy of a new resistance breeding programme. These trees will be planted in a special archive where future breeding work can be carried out, or shoots made available for the establishment of new seed orchards. It is all going to take a decade or two yet, but the objective is to carry out the breeding work necessary to keep ash ecosystems as an important component in the British landscape and ash as a timber species.



Gustavo Lopez looking at a grafted copy of *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* on a *F excelsior* rootstock at Alice Holt

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the funders of the three research projects, collaborating arboreta, the nurseries that provided the ash seedlings for the mass-screening trials and all of the various land owners who have allowed trials on their land without any charge.

The Mass Screening Trials were funded by DEFRA with contributions from Forestry Commission and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine, Ireland.

The Living Ash Project is co-ordinated by Earth Trust with funding by DEFRA and Forestry Commission.

The research investigating the tolerance of different ash species to ash dieback is funded by the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Initiative - Phase 2* and co-ordinated by Queen Mary University of London.

*Funded jointly by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Defra, Economic and Social Research Council, Forestry Commission, Natural Environment Research Council and the Scottish Government.

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New harvesting technique for peatland sites

Peatland restoration work carried out by Forest Enterprise Scotland's (FES) team in the North Highlands has prompted the development of a new harvesting technique.

Applicable for wet and standard sites, the new technique combines the use of a low ground-pressure excavator, equipped with a set of tree shears, with standard excavator based harvester.

By using these machines in combination, the distance between brush racks has been increased threefold, which in turn

has reduced the amount of round wood being used to keep machines afloat.

The over-all effect is an increased efficiency of fibre recovery, improved compliance with UKFS and potentially a reduction in operating costs.

Additional benefits include low stumps which aid restoration efforts, a potential reduction in restocking costs and the ability to better protect riparian and other ecologically sensitive zones.

Tim Cockerill, for the FES team in North Highland, said; "This new technique allows us to recover more fibre by letting us more easily access and work difficult sites.

"Over the past four years we've restored over 4000ha of peatland - with half of that being 'forest to bog' restoration - but the Lodgepole pine on these wet sites has so far attracted little commercial

interest because it was not high quality and was difficult to recover.

"Normally, we would mulch it or fell to recycle but today's high demand for fibre and current thinking that removing all forest residues improves the restoration potential, meant that we were keen to explore different responses.

"The new technique delivers a number of environmental and economic benefits and, because it concentrates the brush and leaves the brush mats much cleaner, it's also generating more interest with customers looking to undertake brush recovery operations."

FES is now formally evaluating the technique and is looking to work with FR and SEPA to monitor the effects of the new harvesting methods on adjacent aquatic habitats.



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SHEAR



Tree shears are a versatile tool in woodland management, says **Rab Easton**

Tree shears can be attached to a multitude of carriers: excavators, tractors, forwarders, wheeled loaders, tele-handlers and skid-steered equipment. They vaguely resemble a harvesting head but work in a totally different way.

A hydraulic grapple closes above the section of wood/tree to be cut and holds it firmly in place, the hydraulically operated shearing knife at the bottom then cuts through the wood (like a huge pair of secateurs). The cut section can therefore be safely manoeuvred by the carrier to an area where it can be processed.

Tree shears are designed for cutting and removing limbs/trees, they do not process the timber after cutting. In my opinion they are a safer, quicker and cheaper option to using a chainsaw and are extreme-

ly versatile. Tree shears can be used for woodland management, cutting off windblown timber, removing trees under power/telephone lines, roadside felling, clearing railway lines, removing trees near water, trees on steep slopes and for tree maintenance.

There is a huge choice of shears made by many different manufacturers; for excavators, there are shears suitable for the lightweight two tonne machines for scrub and hedgerow clearance, up to the large 35 tonne machines, which can deal with large soft and hardwoods.

Clearing scrub woodlands and overgrown hedges can return an income as the material can be harvested very quickly and then chipped and sold for bio-fuel. Branches and trees leaning over buildings, roads, railway tracks etc can be dealt with efficiently

1 Rabaud

Rabaud is an innovative French family-owned company, founded in 1980. It owns more than 55 applied patents, has full control over each process (engineering, manufacturing, assembly, sales and delivery) and has its own in-house research and development department. Rabaud are a large manufacturer heavily involved in forestry and agriculture with 200 employees who manufacture over 8000 machines annually. Three models are manufactured; the smallest is the Xylocut 300 shear for telescopic loaders with 20 tonnes of cutting power and will cut up to 30cm/12" stems. The other two are for excavators in the 13-17 tonne range and 16-25 tonne range, the Xylocut 310PE and 400PE. The 310PE will cut up to 31cm/12 D " and the 400PE will cut up to 40cm/16" with a cutting force of 60 tonnes with 340 bar of hydraulic pressure.

The cutting knife is bolted on for easy maintenance and there is the option of an accumulating clamp for multi stemming smaller crops. The Rabaud dealer for the UK is Home Forestry Llp who are based in Shropshire.

www.homeforestry.co.uk



2 Fecon

Fecon are a successful North American company with a worldwide dealer network. They were established in 1992 and were initially involved in forestry mulching but they have since branched out into wood for energy and drilling equipment.

Justin Kingwell of Kingwell Holdings Ltd is the UK sales and service engineer. Justin personally uses a lot of the equipment he markets so as well as having great working knowledge and mechanical understanding, he can also vouch for the quality.

Fecon tree shears are designed to be attached to various carrier vehicles; they are tough and durable as they are made from Hardox steel.

Fecon manufacture five sizes of tree shears, with the smallest for a 4.5 tonne excavator, to the largest, which can harvest stems/branches up to 50cm/20" and can be attached to 2-35 tonne excavators. Available as a single knife shear or a dual knife bunching shear fitted with an accumulator arm for multi-stemming.

The fitting bracket is bolted on and sized to the excavator that is used.

www.kingwell-holdings.co.uk

POWER

as the material to be cut is held securely and can be pulled away from or lifted over buildings, objects or sensitive areas. If there is machine access it can greatly reduce the costs of expensive tree surgery work. I have seen excavators fitted with shears on large barges clearing the sides of the canal ways in Germany, all the cut produce was stacked on board for chipping at a later date. It was amazing the length along the canal that was cleared each day.

Forest Enterprise Scotland is trialling shears on a low ground pressure excavator in the North Highlands for peatland restoration work (see p63). This new harvesting technique allows more valuable fibre recovery from the Lodgepole Pine which would normally be used in the brash mat to keep machines afloat.

Tree shears are also used in forestry, dealing with large windblown areas. Conventional harvesting heads use a chainsaw to cut the timber and with windblown trees this can result in a lot of stones at the base of the tree due to the root plate being lifted. This can damage and dull saw chains, slowing production and increasing costs. Stones don't affect the blade of the tree shears in the same way allowing a closer cut to the root plate.

From a safety perspective large excavators have stronger cranes and more slewing power which can deal with and drag out dangerous intertwined trees in a safe and secure manner.

There are too many suppliers in the UK to list individually so we are looking at a small selection of the ones that are available.

>>

>> **3** Jak

These tree shears are manufactured in Finland by Jak-Metalli Oy and they are distributed worldwide through their approved dealerships. Jak have three sized models available, the 200, 250 and 300: the largest is able to harvest 30cm/12" stems. The 200 is suitable for 2-4.5 tonne excavators, the 250 for 5-11.5 tonne excavators and the 300 for 12-20 tonne excavators. The 200K and 250K models are designed for attaching to forestry machines and tractors and the 200Z, 250Z and 300Z are for attaching to wheel loaders and tele-handlers (the difference between the normal, the K and Z models is the attaching mechanism for different carriers). They have a twin hydraulic cylinder mechanism for fast and efficient stem cutting and the design of the shear centres the tree prior to cutting.

All are manufactured from Hardox steel from SSAB, the cutting blade is replaceable and they all come with a full 24 month warranty. Jas P Wilson of Dalbeattie is the authorised distributor with a network of sales and service engineers covering all of the UK and Ireland
www.jaspwilson.co.uk



4 TMK

This was launched in Finland by Tenho Koponen in 2013. The first shear was made by himself for his personal use. It was never his initial intention to go into full scale production but others that saw the shear working were very interested and it wasn't long before the orders came flooding in. The family-run business has escalated to selling over 1300 units to 20 different countries. There are three shears available; the 200 Beaver, the 300 and the 400 Big Boy which can harvest up to 40cm/16" with models suitable for attaching to excavators in the 2-30 tonnes weight range. The shears are suitable for attaching to forestry vehicles, tractors, tele-handlers and skid steers. All their models can be fitted with a clever bunching mechanism for multi stemming when working in smaller timber.

TMK tree shears are manufactured from Hardox steel and have the option of a turbo telescopic hydraulic cylinder. The smaller cylinder works always first, keeping the motion fast and when the smaller cylinder runs out of power, the bigger cylinder starts working automatically. This allows a fast motion without



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5 Westtech

An Austrian company which manufactures one of the largest selections of equipment for the biomass industry, Westtech was started more than 13 years ago by Werner Steininger, a skilled engineer, and has over 20 employees with their products sold globally.

The woodcrackers have a clever, quick release attaching system which allows different Westtech attachments to be changed over without having to leave the cab of the machine. There are three separate types of shears for different applications with a selection of sizes in each category. The C series has four different sized shearing heads designed for harvesting all soft and hardwood trees/bushes from small diameter up to large 60cm/24" stems.

The CB series has four sized heads for working in stems up to 350cm/14". These models are designed for the efficient harvesting of smaller fuel crops and are designed for multi-stemming. The CL series has two sizes of heads for cutting up to 320cm/11" and are suitable for short rotation coppice and landscaping.

Westtech shearing heads are available for a multitude of carrier vehicles as well as excavators in the 2-30 tonne weight category. Allan Marshall >>

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I have used excavators as a guide for the size of carrier for the shears but as stated earlier they can be used in conjunction with a variety of equipment.

Most of the shearing heads come with tilt rotators which gives the operator good flexibility and control for cutting at all angles (ideal for removing dangerous overhanging branches safely).

Tree shears are excellent for efficiently thinning/harvesting woodlands that would normally have been uneconomical and too time consuming to undertake.

All the tree shears I have seen working and at forestry exhibitions were both robust and well made.

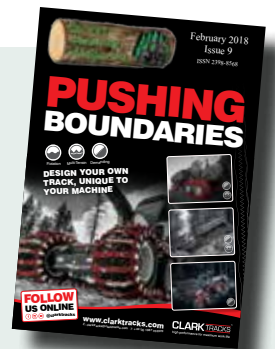
Before deciding on purchasing tree shears you should consider the suitability of the equipment/work they will be used with/for, the availability of spare parts, the quality of the after sales service and of course the price.



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.
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Award for inspirational farming-forestry balance

Planting trees to provide shelter has helped a farmer to breed healthier and heavier lambs – and to win a coveted award. **David Lee** reports.

Peter Gascoigne, who farms at Broughton in Peebles-shire, close to the Scotland-England border, was the inaugural winner of the Farm Woodland prize in Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2018. Judges described the balance of farming and forestry on his land as "exemplary and inspirational".

They said Mr Gascoigne had "demonstrated the direct benefit of the woodland to the agricultural business, with productive conifer woodland starting to yield returns and more productive, better-quality lambs being produced on the farm."

The judges also said: "Mr Gascoigne's efforts are an inspiration to other farmers considering planting woodlands on their farms. The owner is conscious of landscape design, with biodiversity, wildlife and conservation all factored [into] the woodland mix."

In his entry, Mr Gascoigne said: "Our main farming enterprise is breeding quality lambs, and this can only be achieved in my opinion by creating warmth and shelter by planting trees given the altitude of the farm."

Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, who presented the award to Mr Gascoigne at The Royal Highland Show, said: "I'm determined that we work with hill sheep farmers to say that forestry and farming can go together. There are many benefits, such as providing shelter belts against the cold winter weather that is so injurious to young lambs."

Mr Gascoigne has planted 126 hectares of trees at Gascoigne Farm Ltd, combining soft wood trees for commercial use and hard woods to be retained for future generations. He has also built a farm house, steadings and ponds on the 385-hectare farm since buying it in 2002.

He attributed his success to his perseverance in 'redressing the balance' after many years of what he saw as the destruction of rural areas for purely financial reasons.

He said: "I think we enhanced the landscape. The wildlife we have now compared to what there was is unimaginable - red squirrel, frogs, badgers, brown hare. I have put back into the environment what was taken away when the trees were cut down and the ponds were drained in my youth by the policies of successive governments in the pursuit of money.

"I always said that if I ever owned a farm, I would repair some of the damage. We have commercial forestry to pay for it, but I have put a lot of hardwoods in and I'm putting in another 30,000 this year. I want those trees and the wildlife to be my



Left: Gascoigne Farm; right, Peter Gascoigne pruning trees at the farm

legacy, to survive for generations to come."

The Farm Woodland category was only introduced to the long-running awards this year, thanks to the support of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland and Confor member Scottish Woodlands.

Confor is also a supporter of the Awards, along with member companies Alba Trees, BSW, EGGER, Iggesund, James Jones & Sons, Scottish Woodlands and Tilhill Forestry.

In the same category of SFWA, John Strachan's Tullo Farm in Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire was highly commended. The judges said it was "a remarkable project by any standard in terms of concept, design and implementation; a near-perfect example of an arable farm woodland integration project. It has enhanced the diversity of business opportunities in the future while dramatically enhancing the environment."

“

On our high-altitude farm we can breed quality lambs by creating warmth and shelter from trees we have planted

2018 Scottish Finest Woods Awards winners

Community Woodlands Award K-Woodlands, East Kilbride

Farm Woodland Award Peter Gascoigne, Gascoigne Farm Ltd., Broughton, Peeblesshire

Highly Commended: John Strachan, Tullo Farm, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire

Commended: Iain Stewart, Gain Farm, Cumbernauld.

New Native Woods Award Invercauld Estate for Craig Leek & Meall Gorm, Braemar, Aberdeenshire

Highly Commended: Trees for Life for Allt Fearnna, Dundreggan Conservation Estate, Glen Moriston, Highlands

Quality Timber Awards

New Commercial Woodlands category James Jones & Sons Ltd. for Rig of Airie, New Galloway

Small Wood, Compartment or Single Stand of Trees category Sandy Paterson for Senwick Wood, Kirkcudbright Bay

Whole Forest or Estate category Houston Farms Partnership for Elderslie Estates, Renfrewshire and Hunt-Grubbe Family Trust for Kenmore Forest, By Inveraray, Argyll

Schools Award St. Mary's School, Melrose

Joint Runners up: Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral Primary School, Motherwell and The Secret Garden Outdoor Nursery, Letham, Near Cupar, Fife.



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Pine martens – your new forest friends?

by **Dr Andrew Stringer**

Pictures **Nick Martin**

Pine martens are forest-dependent mammals, related to stoats, badgers, weasels and otters. They are native to Britain and used to be a common sight. However, they were eradicated from much of England and Wales by Victorian gamekeepers, and are now one of Britain's rarest mammals. They are still found in parts of Scotland and Ireland, and a small number were recently moved to mid Wales as part of a species recovery project.

They have a very broad diet, mainly eating small mammals such as mice and voles. They also eat birds, invertebrates, large quantities of berries when in season, and – grey squirrels...

Predators such as pine martens are essential for the health of local ecosystems. As a generalist, pine martens will eat what is most common. For instance, a study in Scotland showed that the most commonly taken birds were woodpigeons. By capping the populations of our most common species, pine martens help to provide a natural balance.

Bark stripping by grey squirrels can be particularly damaging to the forestry industry, with impacts on beech, sycamore, and oak alone estimated in 2001 to cost the sector £10 million per rotation. The

most exciting recent research on pine martens is the discovery of their impacts on grey squirrels. This was first demonstrated in central Ireland, where the natural recolonisation of pine martens has led to the eradication of grey squirrels from six counties. More recent evidence from Scotland supports this conclusion, showing that pine martens have clear impacts on grey squirrel populations, with subsequent beneficial effects for red squirrels. What is most striking from this research is how quickly it could happen: for instance, pine martens have only been recorded in the borders of Scotland over the last five years, but within that time they have already had clear impacts on grey squirrel populations.

The key reason for pine martens' impacts is due to evolutionary history – while every native species in the UK has lived alongside pine martens for millions of years, the grey squirrel has not. This means they are not adapted to avoid predation by pine martens, and are simply unequipped to deal with the threat. There also seem to be further effects than just predation – it is possible that pine martens are affecting grey squirrels' behaviour and reproductive rates.

The pine marten is currently very rare in England and Wales, but a population has recently been established in central Wales. A second project, led by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust and Forestry Commission, is now proposed for the >>

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>> Forest of Dean and Wye Valley. A recently published feasibility study shows this second project would reduce pine martens' extinction risk in England and Wales from 22% to 5%, virtually ensuring the pine martens' survival. We are planning a five-year project, with adaptive management and detailing monitoring - including what impacts they have on grey squirrel populations and levels of squirrel damage. However, one of the key hurdles to now overcome is funding for the project. The project would be carried out to the highest standards and would only go ahead if the necessary funds are in place. This could take several months and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, a charity, has launched the first stage of a fundraising campaign.

Dr Andrew Stringer is Pine Marten Project Manager, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
andrew.stringer@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Learn more about Mission Pine Marten Appeal
www.GloucestershireWildlifeTrust.co.uk/Mission



What can land managers do?

Forestry managers who are currently working in areas where pine martens are present can take several steps to encourage these mammals. Pine martens are happy in all woodland types (the 'pine' is a misnomer), but they do need healthy populations of their prey to survive. Long-term retentions and continuous cover forestry can often be beneficial for wildlife, and encouraging a more diverse understorey and increasing levels of forest 'clutter' can help populations of small mammals - pine martens' primary prey. The Vincent Wildlife Trust's *Managing forest and woodland for pine martens* information sheet is a useful resource for anyone who would like to find out more (see left).

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Information sheet *Managing forest and woodland for pine martens*
www.confor.org.uk





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UKWAS4: first impressions

Ewan McIntosh from Tilhill and Bolton Abbey Estate head forester **John Everitt** have been among the first to use the new standard. Here are their thoughts.

In the previous FTN, we reported that the latest version of UKWAS had finally gone live. In addition to revising the content standard, the design and layout of the standard has also been given an overhaul. The aim was to make the standard easier to use by forest managers, and to enable them to more easily demonstrate how they are compliant with the standard.

As the UK's largest forest certification group scheme, currently at 220k ha and over 360 members, Tilhill Forestry undertakes on average 150 UKWAS audits every year and its team of 12 auditors has been prepared for the transition to a new standard for some time.

Bolton Abbey Estate joined Tilhill's Group Scheme in 2005 and has seen the UKWAS evolve over time so Tilhill saw the Estate, and its head forester John Everitt, as a good candidate to experience an UKWAS 4 audit and give feedback from the forest manager/landowner's perspective.

John's overall view of UKWAS 4 was positive. He said that **"the structure of the new standard is more user friendly with requirements relating to similar elements of forest management grouped together" into more logical sections**".

The first impressions are that there's less "jumping around the standard" looking for the relevant requirement. John also felt that clarity for forest managers and auditors in the introduction on how the standard should be audited and how to consider situations where legacy forestry practice, no compliant to UKWAS of UKFS, should be considered. **"The**



opportunity for flexibility when considering how a forester can demonstrate compliance to requirements can only be positive."

Ewan McIntosh from Tilhill (right) and John Everitt of Bolton Abbey Estate

There have been some positive developments around some existing UKWAS requirements:

- The **Deadwood** requirement has moved away from the 'forestry by numbers' approach and whilst the outcome of the requirement essentially remains unchanged, the focus of the requirement challenges the manager to look at the whole estate and identify where deadwood retention will be of greatest value and how to communicate the desired outcome to the forest workers.
- **Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS)**, similarly to the new deadwood requirement, has become much less prescriptive without changing the desired outcome.

What's new in UKWAS4

John gave his thoughts on a number of new requirements that have been included in UKWAS 4:

- **Anti-corruption** - "whilst some may ask why this is in UKWAS now, it's a useful requirement as it helps land owners/ forest managers understand and ensure that they're meeting their legal duties which are very straight forward & not at all onerous."
- The **redundant materials requirement** was initially "thought would be onerous and expensive to comply with" but when audited the standard's approach to ensuring compliance to sound environment practices, which is aligned to Bolton Abbey's long standing

environmental policy, is achievable and beneficial to the Estate in the long run.

- The new **diffuse pollution requirement** is "very much welcomed given the regulatory environmental demands placed on the forestry industry today. It helps estates take a risk adjusted and planned approach to managing the risk of diffuse pollution whilst hopefully reducing the amount of reactionary operational management. The key to success, as with many things in forestry, is well-considered planning which is properly well documented coupled with effective communication between forest manager and machine operators."
- **Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands**

(ASNW) isn't new to UKWAS but "managers now need to demonstrate that they've identified their ASNW and what they're going to do to maintain or improve its condition over time. Key to this is effective monitoring and record keeping."

- **Veteran Trees** are "long overdue in the UKWAS and this new requirement encourages a pragmatic approach to managing these valuable ecological assets on our Estate."

John concluded: "UKWAS certification allows the Estate to demonstrate that its forest management is of an internationally recognised standard of sustainability. We sell over 2500 tonnes of timber annually and firewood which is marketed locally."

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Grandfather spraying certificates

Foresters born before 31 December 1964 who previously sprayed under the 'Grandfather Rights' exemption, have until the end of 2018 to take the "C & G Level 2 Safe Use of Pesticides Award". After the end of the year candidates will have to take full qualifications from the PA suite of specified certificates - a much more demanding examination.

This certificate is designed for those who have worked with professional pesticides but as yet have not taken a specified certificate, and assumes that as candidates have had previous training and/or experience to operate under Grandfather Rights, so takes less time and costs less to register than the

full pesticide awards.

It is only applicable for those using professional pesticide products on land they own or occupy so contractors staff must take the full PAi / PA6 qualification.

Candidates can either self-study using a work book or attend a training course to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge. Candidates will have to take a practical assessment covering knowledge and competence based on the equipment that they use to apply pesticides.

Details of trainers / examiners in England & Wales can be obtained from the Confor Pesticides Helpline.

Timbrel Pro

The scrubkiller Timbrel lost its UK approval in November 2014, and since that time foresters have needed to rely on glyphosate for scrub control. For many species such as rhododendron and bramble, glyphosate will perform well, but other woody weeds such as gorse are not well controlled.

Triclopyr is also much more selective than glyphosate so is useful in situation where grasses are to be retained.

The manufacturers Dow Agrosciences (now merging with Dupont and renamed Corteva) have promised a replacement, (Timbrel Pro) which should have been approved for use in the UK early in 2016. But constant delays from the regulatory authorities in Belgium who have responsibility for processing the approval has meant that this very useful product has yet to appear. A further delay has just been announced with a new target date sometime in 2019.

Once approved in Belgium, the product will then have to progress through the UK regulator under the EC Mutual Recognition process which will cause further delays, And that is not the end of the process, as the approval will not include forestry, so an offlabel approval will then have to be applied for.

Adding this all together, means that it is entirely possible that the UK will have moved out of the European regulatory system before approval is granted, which could mean that the process will have to start from scratch under whatever regulatory regime is then operating in the UK - so the omens are certainly not looking good.

However, there is a possible alternative option - that of applying for an offlabel approval for another triclopyr herbicide, or one based on the similar compound, fluroxypyr. Many of these products exclude the use of knapsack sprayers which rather rules them out, and others contain aminopyralid which can be hazardous near tree roots making them also unsuitable.

Hylobius control with Gazelle SG: Gazelle and counterfeit parallel imports

Acetamidrid is manufactured by Nisso Europe, and sold in the UK by Certis Europe BV as Gazelle SG, Gazelle and Insyst, but under other names in Europe.

When purchasing Gazelle SG you may be offered alternative products. These may be cheaper - but are they authorised, legal and certification allowable? Under EC parallel import regulations, any parallel import product may be used so long as the "reference product" has a label or an EAMU for the required use.

However, in 2018 counterfeit acetamidrid has been found in the UK - so how can we be sure that we have an approved formulation? Any fake product may harm the crop, be hazardous to the operator and environment and is unlikely to do the task for which it is used - so why take the risk? Instead, purchase only from reputable distributors who will have checks and balances in place to avoid inadvertently supplying illegal products.

Counterfeiting is big business worldwide - indeed in Europe is it estimated that

14% of pesticides are likely to be counterfeit materials and Europol's Silver Axe campaign has seized over 670 tonnes of counterfeit or illegal pesticides since 2015.

It is important also to understand that Certis has invested a considerable amount of time and money in the UK to gain this forest approval, and we should consider whether by not supporting them, and purchasing from a competitor is in the long term interests of the forest industry.



The product on the right is genuine Gazelle SG, but that on the left, although packaged as acetamidrid, is actually counterfeit material which almost certainly will not work, and may harm the crop and the spray operator.

Parallel Import acetamidrid products in the UK. Sanguie has now been withdrawn by the HSE for non-compliance, and Pure Ace is similarly under investigation.

UK Product	MAPP	Company	Source	Original Name	Formulation	OK?
Gazelle SG	13725	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WDG	✓
Aceta 20	16919	Eurochemicals	Czech.	Gazelle SG	WDG	✓
Vulcan	16689	Pan Agriculture	?	Gazelle SG	WDG	✓
Pure Ace	18364	Pure Amenity	Germany	Mosiplan SG	WDG	✓
Sanguie	16042	Agroquimicos Genericos	Spain	Gazel Plus	WDG	✓
Antelope	18041	Gemini Agriculture	Spain	Gazel Plus	WDG	✓

Acetamidrid products with no approval for use in forestry

UK Product	MAPP	Company	Source	Original Name	Formulation	OK?
Gazelle	12909	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WSP	X
InSyst	13414	Certis Europe	UK	N/a	WSP	X
Acetamax 20SP	15888	MAC-Gmbh	Germany	Gazelle	WSP	X



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



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Bioequipment will be launching two new product ranges at this year's APF and introducing two new models from existing suppliers.

The Twinch traction winch from Ecoforst has evolved and developed into the bigger and better Twinch 10.2 which realises 25% increase in performance. Jim Wilmer has ordered and will take delivery of the first Twinch 10.2 at the show.

We will be reintroducing Primetech tracked mulchers and will be displaying a PT175, PT300 and PT475. We will have a PT475 sold to a major UK land clearance contractor .

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New pickups coming soon



The pickup market is buoyant and the choice is set to get bigger, says **Liam Campbell**

Buying a new pickup truck is set to become a much harder choice from 2019, with a whole host of new vehicles joining the UK market in 2019 and 2020. In this article, we look at the new pickups that are set to hit UK showrooms in the coming years.

SsangYong kicks us off with the new pickup truck launches in 2018 with the all-new Musso, followed shortly by the X-Class V6. Next year, 2019, is also set to be a big year, with the new Ford Ranger and LDV T60.

Ford Ranger

Ford has announced that it will be making “major changes” to its Ranger pickup truck for the 2019 model year, which will spell the end for the 2.2 and 3.2-litre Duratorq TDCi engines. While the smaller engine will be replaced by the 2.0-litre EcoBlue from the Transit line, there’s uncertainty as to what will take over from the 3.2 five-pot – could we be getting the 3.0-litre V6 Powerstroke from the F150?

Jeep Scrambler

The upcoming Jeep Scrambler pickup could soon be on sale in the UK, according to Jeep UK boss Damien Dally. The Jeep Scrambler is a pickup truck variant of the next-generation Wrangler, which is due to go on sale in America in 2018.

Land Rover Defender pickup

After a three year absence from the market, Land Rover has confirmed an all-new Defender for 2019. Although the new model is swaying more towards to mainstream volume customers, VAT-deductible commercial variants – like a pickup truck and two-seater van – are still expected to make up a huge proportion of sales.



Land Rover Discovery Commercial 5

Although technically not a pickup truck, the Land Rover Discovery Commercial is VAT-deductible and a capable off-roader which makes it appealing to many pickup truck operators. Land Rover withdrew the Discovery Commercial from sale a couple of years ago, but launched a new model in the summer of 2018.

LDV T60

Ireland’s Harris Group has announced that it will be importing the LDV T60 pickup truck into the UK from 2019. The announcement of the Chinese-built LDV T60 comes less than a year after the brand’s UK relaunch, and shows its commitment to the UK LCV industry.

Mercedes-Benz X-Class V6

Mercedes-Benz entered the world of pickup trucks in 2017, with the launch of the X-Class. The model everyone is waiting for, however, only arrives late in 2018. The V6 will, for a short time, be the most powerful pickup truck to buy in the UK, with an output of 255bhp and 550Nm.

Mitsubishi Shogun Sport Commercial
As with the Discovery Commercial, the Shogun Sport Commercial is a great alternative for pickup truck buyers with its highly-respected Super Select 4WD system and that all important ‘light commercial’ designation for reclaiming VAT. The vehicle, which is based on the L200, is expected to hit Mitsubishi dealerships in September 2018. >>



Above: Ford Ranger
Top: LDVT60
Centre: Mitsubishi Shogun Sport Commercial

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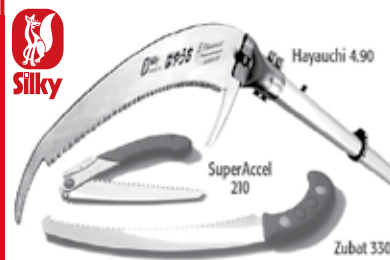
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>> Peugeot pickup truck

Peugeot has announced it plans to once again field a one-tonne pickup in Europe, 20 years after the demise of the 504 pickup. The French manufacturer still hasn't disclosed when or where production of the Peugeot pickup truck will take place, although it will be partnering with Chinese manufacturer Changan for the

Renault Alaskan

Like Daimler, Renault is another manufacturer that is seeking the expertise of its alliance partner, Nissan, to develop its first full-size European pickup. Based on the Nissan Navara, the Renault Alaskan will be the third pickup to be built at Nissan's Barcelona plant alongside its Nissan and Mercedes-badged siblings. Originally supposed to have been launched in September 2017, Renault maintain that its still a matter of when, and not if, the Alaskan is launched in the UK.

SsangYong Musso

The launch of the 2018 SsangYong Musso is arguably this year's biggest event in the pickup calendar, as complete product overhauls only occur every 8 to 12 years. On paper, the new pickup has a lot going for it; a 3.5t towing capacity, competitive pricing and a 7-year warranty; a first for pickup trucks.



SsangYong Musso

Toyota Land Cruiser Commercial

Commercial variants of the Toyota Land Cruiser are about to go on sale once again, after a five year absence from the market. The Land Cruiser is tough and strong, and the new model features the newly-developed 2.8-litre Toyota GD engine, which is capable of producing up to 177hp and 450Nm.

Liam Campbell is editor of Professional Pickup and 4x4 magazine.

<http://pickupand4x4.co.uk>

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Safe forest roads

by **Roland Stiven**, Confor

Take a quarter of a million pound timber lorry, stacked with safety features and technology and one healthy, trained experienced driver. Now, set them out on a narrow, twisting, muddy, potholed forest road with crumbling edges, collapsing culverts, steep turns and no turning areas - in the dark, in all weathers.... Does that sound sensible? A properly designed, well-constructed, regularly maintained forest road is crucial to safe timber haulage and is the responsibility of the landowner.

What are the challenges?

Start with the bellmouth junction onto the public road:

- Is it reasonably level and wide enough to turn?
- Is it clear of debris, can you see in both directions sufficient for the speed of the traffic, are there appropriate signs?
- Gates and barriers; do they work well and can you pull off the road before you have to open them? What if there are two lorries together?

Let's look at the forest road itself:

- Is it wide enough to drive regularly without creating ruts?
- Is the edge of the carriageway obvious, are the ditches clear and maintained and the verges cut back?
- Are corners sufficiently widened and gradients within sensible limits?
- Are there passing places for two lorries to pass at sufficient intervals for the sightlines so that no-one needs to reverse?
- Are there obvious turning areas and suitable stacking and loading sites and space to store trailers?
- Are there goalposts marking out the powerlines and adequate clearance beneath the powerlines?
- Is the road in good condition, well-cambered and drained with a well-graded and rolled running surface. Potholes, bumps and punctures are not



just annoying, they can be the start of a cascade of problems with major safety implications.

Which is of these roads is safer?

Who deals with problems arising from unsafe roads?

- Who is responsible for the road and who is managing traffic and monitoring condition?
- Who decides whether to close the road?
- Does the driver know who to contact to report problems with the road and is there a formal procedure in place to log problems and ensure they are dealt with quickly?
- Can the emergency services and support vehicles find their way around your forest roads in the dark?

Much of the UK is still in the process of, creating a sustainable forest resource for the long term. Part of that is building and maintaining 1000s of miles of forest road. Let's ensure our forest roads are a safe working environment.

Landowners: Plan it, build it, manage and maintain it well. Take your responsibilities for safety seriously.

Drivers: you are the ultimate decision makers; drive carefully and demand decent, safe, forest roads.

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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 September 2018. 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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Tina Ambler, safety manager for Tíhill Forestry surveys the forest scene.
Photo: Tíhill



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COMING UP IN OCTOBER – GET INVOLVED

In October, we will run a special feature on finance and investment. Please get in touch if you would like to submit an article on the topic or simply if you have ideas on aspects that should be covered.

There will also be a review on the APF 2018 and we will continue to cover the hottest topics of the moment. 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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