

# FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

October 2018 Issue 89

**HUNGER  
FOR WOOD**





**Why just plant for volume when you can plant for high-quality timber production?**

**Full-sibling VP Sitka spruce has predicted increases in sawn timber volumes of up to 234% per hectare**

*(Mochan et al 2008 - Forest Research Note FCRN003)*

**This is because full-sibling VP Sitka spruce has the best genetics for quality timber production**

The table shows predicted gains for the best of the current full-sibling families (Small increases in acoustic velocity relate to large increases in timber stiffness)

	Diameter	Straightness	Branching	Acoustic value (stiffness)
% gain over unimproved QCI Sitka	+26	+38	+19	+4

Each family is derived from controlled pollinations of a chosen mother and father tree

In this way the desirable genetic traits for quality timber production are passed on  
Significant improvements have been made to family selection and plant husbandry

This means VP Sitka now has much better apical dominance and root development

Care is needed at establishment but the rewards can be substantial

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**COVER** IMAGE BY SHUTTERSTOCK.

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## Coming together

**STUART GOODALL** CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

**A** PF 2018 was the perfect location for Confor members to give overwhelming approval for the proposed merger with the UK Forest Products Association.

Over 18,000 people came through the gate to witness the sector at its best, all parts of the supply chain together, networking, making plans and inspecting millions of pounds worth of new equipment. Any visitor would see immediately that this is a big, thriving sector with huge potential.

I'm personally very pleased that the members of the two organisations have voted overwhelmingly to come together. Confor and UKFPA bring complementary skills and have staff with deep and wide experience in the industry. Together we will be able to serve our members better.

The plan is still to launch the new organisation on 1 January 2019, the centenary of the 1919 Forestry Bill. This is also very apt. In 1919, Government laid the foundations for the Forestry Commission to,

quite literally, grow the UK forest resource. In the final decades of the 20th Century an industry began to emerge to harvest and process the increasing supply of wood and now governments are looking to the private sector to take more responsibility for its own future well-being.

With this unified new organisation we have the opportunity to bring the whole supply chain around the table, planning how the sector will move forward.

And just in time. It appears that we've reached the point where we can no longer simply assume there will be increasing supplies of wood to come from the forest in the coming few years, and Forest Research will receive transitional funding to cushion it as the old certainties provided by having one main funder - UK government, have gone.

It's been many years since a public body - the Forestry Commission, saw itself as the champion of the industry. If we are to secure our future it now has to be through our own efforts. That means taking more responsibility for industry research, market information, training and promotion.

We often pride ourselves as an industry that thinks long-term and acts now. That's what we need to do again.



# Hunger for wood

Industry and key influencers in Scandinavia have recently been promoting wood as the raw material of the future. With buzzwords such as *#plastic-free* and *#bioeconomy* in everyone's mouth – what is the opportunity for the forestry and timber sector? And what are the challenges in our country? *SK*

“**Anything made from fossil-based materials today can be made from a tree tomorrow.**” That was the starting sentence of Markus Mannstroem, executive VP of Stora Enso's Biomaterials Division, in an interview last month. The Nordic company aims to replace fossil-based materials by innovating and developing new products and services based on wood and other renewable materials.

In April this year, at an event organised by the European Forest Institute (EFI), two Scandinavian ex-prime ministers – Göran Persson from Sweden and Esko Aho from Finland – emphasised that “decoupling growth from environmental degradation requires a major shift towards a low-carbon, renewable and resource-efficient society that has a sustainable economy”. The politicians believe that the world needs a new industrial revolution – the bioeconomy – and that trees are a practical way of moving away from a fossil-based economy. Considering the exceptionally high productive forest cover in Scandinavia, it comes as no surprise that forestry is put in the limelight as key solution to solve the sustainable resource challenge of the future.

The increased interest in the bioeconomy in general, timber in construction and a move away from

plastic packaging have all been gathering base in the last 12 months. The recommendations from the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and the move towards ‘carbon reporting’ will also mean an increased focus on the carbon footprint of materials. By the end of October, the European Union will present the new bioeconomy strategy and expectations are high that it will reflect the important role the forest-based economy plays in Europe.

This should all be great news for the forest product industry; we produce a low carbon, renewable, recyclable material with good environmental credentials, and when harvested in certified forests we have third party sustainability verification as well. At least, this is a golden opportunity to highlight the environmental credentials of wood as a material and give our sector the recognition it deserves.

However, promoting a large-scale shift to an economy based on forest (and farm) produce does not come without major threats: wood as a resource, despite being renewable, is still finite. How and where could the world grow enough trees to fuel a forest-based bioeconomy, feeding trees into additional industries such as clothing or plastic replacements?

In the UK, we can barely produce a third of the wood we currently consume.

## BARRIERS TO OVERCOME

Promoters of the forest-based bioeconomy admit there are barriers to overcome before a major shift from fossil-based and other non-renewable materials to forest-based products can occur:

- Favourable policy environments for forest-based industries need to be created
- From niche to norm: Economies of scale are necessary to make wood-based products competitive

- This means disrupting the dominance of fossil-based industries which might require some regulation
- Production processes for products made from wood components (such as viscose or stabilisers) need to become more sustainable, reducing the use of chemicals
- Wood supply and land availability are a major issue if demand is to increase substantially!

&gt;&gt;

## Will a supply shortage stop us from taking this ‘golden’ opportunity?



asks **Andrew Heald**

The long awaited Agricultural Bill is getting its first reading in the House of Commons. It is still unclear what it will mean for commercial timber production or future woodland expansion.

An opportunity for the forestry and timber sector to step up its game seems to be on the horizon; however, the challenge for the UK is that we can't handle increased demand for timber products. Even at current demand levels, we only produce around 30% of what we consume. As a result of supply shortage, timber prices have increased by around 30% in 12 months and additional timber coming to market is rapidly absorbed.







## What is bioeconomy

An economy in which the basic building blocks of growth are based on raw materials from the forest, land and sea instead of fossil and other non-renewable materials.

The bioeconomy is circular. Wood fibre, a renewable raw material, is part of the carbon cycle that starts with photosynthesis. The fibre can be recycled up to seven times.

Source: Swedish Forest Industries Federation



The long-term UK production forecasts are not positive and raise many more questions than answers, although better genetics and silviculture might brighten those worrying graphs a little.


Will the market tackle this supply challenge, and will landowners shift some of their land into profitable and productive forestry as a safety net against an uncertain Brexit? One of the challenges is that we don't have a true market in land-use (due to support payments), or in timber usage (due to RHI and RO payments); regulation also skews the market. If there is increased demand for wood-derived products, such as fibre-based packaging material, will this further increase demand for

small round wood in the UK, or will we simply import more pulp material from Europe and South America?

In a perfect world, our clever civil servants and politicians would see and recognise these long-term tricky challenges and act accordingly. They would level the playing field for all land-uses, they would strengthen the carbon markets to encourage more timber in construction and they would revisit biomass support perhaps. Most importantly - and this is perhaps the simplest task - they would ensure that clear messages are sent to the Defra 'family' of regulators and ensure that creating new woodland is made as straightforward as possible.

## >> Where are we going to see more wood-based products?

Wood has the potential to be a 'staple' raw material in the future, turning forests into a key natural resource. What does this mean for the forestry sector?

 **Housing**  
Timber and modified wood is a natural, renewable material and will increasingly be used in sustainable construction.

*"To achieve our goals, we need to increase the proportion of biomaterials rather than use energy-intensive materials such as glass or metal. We will also need to phase out certain materials completely to reach our sustainability targets. This will entail major changes for our industries, suppliers and, not least, our product range up to 2030."* Ulf Johansson, Global Wood Supply & Forestry Manager at Ikea

*"Timber buildings involve much less waste than concrete construction and are a third faster to build. Wood also has a smoother thermodynamic."* Andrew Waugh, Waugh Thistleton Architects

 **Packaging**  
Supermarkets are under increasing pressure to reduce plastic in their packaging. In May this month, supermarket chain Iceland was the first retailer to adopt the world's first 'plastic-free' trust mark to label for plastic-free packaging.


Pulp and wood-based packaging will dramatically increase in the near future, as consumers are looking to source materials from renewable sources and reduce the harmful impact of plastic waste. In addition, packaging solutions made from wood, such as Aldi's range of premium ready-meals presented in thin wooden crates, can help protect food better, therefore potentially contributing to reducing food waste.

Wood and wood fibres may also be increasingly used in disposable or reusable tableware.

Scandinavian company Stora Enso has developed timber-based alternatives that could replace everyday plastic products such as shampoo bottles.

 **Clothing industry**  
The increasing trend of 'disposable fashion' and the clothing industry's harmful effect on the environment have inspired innovators to look for more sustainable materials. Fossil materials account for a large amount of the raw materials used in fashion products.

Wood fibres are increasingly being used for clothing, and not only bamboo. Designer Stella McCartney is now using viscose sourced from sustainably managed and certified forests in Sweden. A lot of research is currently going into making the production process for wood-based viscose and similar materials more environmentally friendly.

 **Innovative uses of wood components**  
Many of these new materials depend on extracting the chemical building blocks of wood. This concept has been applied since the first century in the form of paper.

**Lignin** is currently used for energy production but could be converted to carbon fibre, a useful material for the vehicle industry.

**Nanocellulose:** A lot of research is going into this wood-based material which could in the future be used for computer screens or solar panels. 'Transparent wood' is already possible. Nanocellulose has an almost limitless potential - from food additive to base material for 3D printing of temporary transplants.

**Microfibrillated cellulose** is a stabiliser with a great potential for the cosmetic and other industries.



**Wood is sexy - forests are too - an opportunity not to be missed!**

The fact that consumer focus is currently on renewable, natural materials, there is now an opportunity to put our sector in the limelight and tell the public about the environmental credentials of the forestry sector. There has never been a better time for public engagement.

There is a great opportunity to work with product brands to link consumer goods to the story of forestry and wood. Fashion designer Stella McCartney has made this connection between product and source for her "fibres from forests" collection - taking online shoppers on a journey to the beautiful forests of Sweden and educating customers on the benefits of forestry and wood. Her website offers transparent supply chain information - from forest to shop.

See *Forestry and the bioeconomy*, p37

### FTN WEB RESOURCES



Film: Swedish Forest Industries vision of forest's role in a more sustainable future

Film: Stella McCartney "Fibres from forests" promotional video

Think Green - how bioeconomy and forestry can mitigate climate change and make EU prosperous. Swedish Forest Industries Federation

BBC Radio 4 Costing the Earth - Superwood: 8 things we learned about the future of wood  
Stella McCartney's 'forest chic'

Swedish Forest Industries Federation - BioeconomyLife: learn more about forestry and the bioeconomy

Metsae Group and Stora Enso on forestry in the bioeconomy

[www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb)

## FTN ditches its plastic wrappers

Readers will no doubt have noticed the change in how their copy of FTN is packaged. Like most mailed magazines, FTN was wrapped in plastic - the majority of which was consigned to landfill as it was of a type that was not widely recycled.

Members have been contacting us, asking us to ditch plastic in favour of a more environmentally friendly alternative. After some research by our publishers, we are delighted to have adopted a wrapper that is largely made from potato starch. This pioneering material is fully compostable and if you can't compost it at home, it will compost entirely in landfill within 12 months.



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# Strong political support for new planting in Borderlands

Confor and member companies have won the support of politicians at national and local level to support the industry and drive up planting in the North of England.

At a forestry summit organised by EGGER in Hexham, the leader of Northumberland County Council said tree planting had to be made easier to encourage investment and offer new upland opportunities after Brexit.

Councillor Peter Jackson, a farmer, said: “We have the UK’s largest planted forest on our doorstep (Kielder) but we are not doing enough; we are importing millions of tonnes of timber.”

The UK is the world’s second-largest net importer of wood products after China, with 80% of timber coming from overseas. Despite Kielder, forest cover in Northumberland is just 8%, below the English average (10%) and UK average (13%).

Councillor Jackson said: “We aren’t doing enough in terms of production and the potential for Northumberland and the whole Borderlands area is enormous. We need to find a way to get through funding and bureaucratic issues because it’s not particularly easy to plant a new forest. As a renewable resource, it’s common sense for us as a society to grow more timber.”

The summit followed on from publication of an EGGER document, *Forestry and wood processing in the Borderlands Growth Deal*, that has the support of Confor and local forestry and wood processing businesses, many of whom attended the summit.

The Borderlands Growth Deal aims to deliver economic benefit to five areas near the English-Scottish border: Northumberland; Cumbria; Dumfries & Galloway; the Scottish Borders; and the city of Carlisle.

Berwick-upon-Tweed MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan has backed the proposals in the document, which calls for:

- A Forestry Investment Zone in Northumberland to stimulate new planting;
- A Strategic Timber Transport Fund for northern England to match the one in Scotland, to build new forest roads and reduce pressure on rural roads; and
- A skills audit to plug future gaps, especially among drivers of forest machines.

Mrs Trevelyan said: “The Borderlands Growth Deal is a great opportunity for enhanced tree planting in Northumberland and other areas near the border. I support the plan to make Northumberland a Forestry Investment Zone (FIZ), to allow areas to be identified for potential planting at scale and for investment to be unlocked. I look forward to working



**Simon Hart of EGGER Forestry shows the delegation from Northumberland County Council and the forestry sector around the company’s site at Hexham.**

with Michael Gove at DEFRA and the Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry MP to ensure Northumberland is at the front of the queue for a FIZ, to stimulate new planting and support the area’s vital wood processing industry.

“The proposal for a Strategic Timber Transport Fund is another excellent idea which shows the forestry industry is very conscious of working with rural communities.”

Stuart Goodall, chief executive of Confor, who along with Simon Hart of EGGER, met Ms Trevelyan said: “I’m delighted Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Peter Jackson recognise the importance of the forestry and wood processing sector to the north of England and the need for the Borderlands Growth Deal to include measures to support the industry. It’s a sector with huge potential, but that potential won’t be realised unless action is taken to address future wood supply, transport and skills.”

Simon Hart, EGGER Forestry business development manager, said: “We support the need to plant more trees, as wood is one of the key raw materials required to manufacture our products.”

Mr Hart said investors were ready to put money into planting modern, multi-purpose forests, but added: “It is really difficult to get permission to plant trees in the north of England, so people go to Scotland, where it is easier. The north of England is letting the opportunity slip between its fingers.”

A high-level summary of the Borderland Growth Deal is due to be launched this autumn by the UK and Scottish Governments and five local authorities.

## FORESTRY IN NUMBERS

### AVERAGE FOREST COVER

**39%**  
EU-27

**18%**  
Scotland

**13%**  
UK

**10%**  
England

**8%**  
Northumberland

### FTN WEB RESOURCES



Document: *Forestry and wood processing in the Borderlands Growth Deal* (Egger)

Document: *How Forestry Investment Zones can support and drive forward new planting in England* (Confor)

[www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb)



# Confor steps up campaign on fair treatment for forestry

The publication of a UK Agriculture Bill provides real opportunity for forestry, but only if governments open their minds beyond farming and farmers after Brexit.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove outlined his vision for a Green Brexit after the publication of the Bill in mid-September and the Bill is due to have its second reading on October 10.

The Bill outlines the so-called “public goods” that will need to be delivered if farmers and land managers are to be supported by future public funding (*see panel*) - many of which are delivered by forestry.

The Bill also identifies that forestry can be supported under a future funding system: “The Secretary of State may also give financial assistance for or in connection with the purpose of starting, or improving the productivity of, an agricultural, horticultural or forestry activity.”

Confor has analysed the Bill in detail and will submit evidence to the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) committee’s inquiry into the Bill. [The Confor team was still working on its submission when FTN went to press].

It will also work with politicians and other stakeholders ahead of the Bill’s second reading to press for forestry to have a central role in plans for a future Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme. Confor’s England Manager Caroline Harrison is involved in the expert group examining ELM and Confor members are also taking part in those discussions.

## Starting point

Confor’s starting-point is its Common Countryside Policy document and the evidence it gave to the Government’s Health and Harmony consultation. In these documents, Confor stressed the need for a broader approach that gives fair and equal treatment to all land uses - including forestry - and a recognition of the wide-ranging economic, environmental and social benefits of forestry when identifying and rewarding public goods.

Stuart Goodall, Confor’s chief executive, said: “This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of rural policy and funding. After analysing the Bill thoroughly, Confor will set out how the Bill can support forestry. We will also look to

## PUBLIC GOODS

Part 1 of the Agriculture Bill says:

The Secretary of State may give financial assistance for or in connection with any of the following purposes

- (a) managing land or water in a way that protects or improves the environment;
- (b) supporting public access to and enjoyment of the countryside, farmland or woodland and better understanding of the environment;
- (c) managing land or water in a way that maintains, restores or enhances cultural heritage or natural heritage;
- (d) mitigating or adapting to climate change;
- (e) preventing, reducing or protecting from environmental hazards;
- (f) protecting or improving the health or welfare of livestock;
- (g) protecting or improving the health of plants.

build support for forestry into the new Environmental Land Management scheme.”

He said the Common Agricultural Policy had been a major obstacle to the expansion of forestry across the UK and added: “CAP has often set farmers against foresters when the two groups should be working together. Integration has been difficult to achieve when policy and delivery mechanisms exclude forestry and when farmers are penalised for planting trees by potentially losing access to future annual support payments.

“I agree with Michael Gove that the introduction of the Agriculture Bill is an historic moment, and Confor has supported his championing of diversified land use because forestry has a big part to play.

We have highlighted how forestry can contribute meaningfully to green, vibrant rural communities through an economic land use that also delivers environmental benefit, especially mitigating or adapting to climate change’.

“The Government’s own advisers, the Committee on Climate Change, recently identified planting trees as a ‘simple low cost option’ to move towards its climate change targets - and the Agriculture Bill must ensure that all land uses can be supported, helping us achieve ‘joined up’ government.” Mr Goodall said. “Michael Gove has very clearly highlighted the opportunity to protect our environment, leave the countryside in a cleaner, greener and healthier state for future generations, but that will mean looking beyond farmers and agriculture and including the forestry sector properly in designing new mechanisms.”

Confor will continue to play an active

role in the design of the new Environmental Land Management system to ensure it includes all forms of land use and management. He concluded: “We will also continue our constructive discussions with the UK Government and politicians. We cannot allow the opportunity for forestry to contribute to be missed and Confor will re-double its efforts to ensure this is the case, working with members and all stakeholders to deliver the best future land use mix for our rural areas, including trees.”

[www.confor.org.uk/news/brexit/](http://www.confor.org.uk/news/brexit/)

## Welcome for open application window

Confor has welcomed a decision to allow year-round applications for woodland creation in England.

The previous “application windows” system for the Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) has been identified as a barrier to planting by the industry, and Confor has been pressing for two years for rolling applications to be allowed.

Forestry Commission England and Defra announced in September that WCG applications can be made all year round.

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, said: “This is very welcome. Confor members had identified the need to do away with a short application window if Government was to drive up new planting. It has taken longer than we’d have liked to introduce but it is good that Government is responding to our asks and taking action”

## Members back merger with UKFPA

Confor members have backed a proposal to merge with the UK Forest Products Association in a unanimous vote.

All members who cast votes, both in person – at the Confor AGM at APF 2018 – and by post/by proxy were in favour of the merger. This involved a vote to amend Confor's Articles of Association to provide for the appointment of four new members to the Board to represent the UKFPA members joining Confor.

In a vote at the end of August, members of the UKFPA had backed the proposal unanimously.

After the final legal processes take place, the merger will take effect from 1 January 2019.

When the merger was first announced, Confor's chief executive Stuart Goodall and UKFPA executive director David Sulman said: "There is a lot more we can do for member businesses and this merger will help us deliver greater services and do more to promote their interests to politicians and in the media."

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

### Tribute to Martin

At the AGM, Mr McKillop paid tribute to Martin Bishop, Confor's National Manager for Wales, who died in a flying accident in June, along his friend Roderick Weaver. Mr McKillop said Martin was "very badly missed" by everyone at Confor and in the forestry sector in Wales.



## Labour 'will enshrine forestry in policy'

Labour will make forestry integral to a whole range of policy areas in a "stronger, deeper" way, according to the party's Shadow Environment Secretary.

Sue Hayman MP told a Labour Party conference event organised by Confor the lack of tree planting by the current Government, combined with the loss of woodland, meant the UK was "likely to be experiencing deforestation".

Later, asked why the last Labour manifesto had committed to planting just 1m trees, she said: "Let's move away from targets and talk about policy that really makes a difference. Tree planting needs to be integral to an awful lot of what we are doing. We could say '30m trees' and plant a lot of fast-growing willow, but we need to think about doing it stronger, deeper and better."

The event asked *Should the next Labour Government aim to double tree cover to tackle climate change?* and Hayman said as well as climate change, the impact of tree planting on mitigating flooding, reducing soil erosion and physical and mental health meant we should "crack on and plant more trees".

Sue Hayman said the Iggesund paperboard factory in her Workington constituency had to import a huge amount of trees from Scandinavia, with the resultant environmental impact. "We should look to grow more of our own timber and with the Common Agricultural Policy [CAP] going after Brexit, future payments should encourage more diversification of farming."

Both Ms Hayman and North-East England MEP Paul Brannen are broadly supportive of plans to reward 'public goods' under a new environmental land management scheme to replace CAP, but favour 'public benefits' rather than 'public goods'.

Brannen said forestry definitely demonstrated the public good of 'mitigating or adapting to climate change'. He said EU forest cover (averaging more than 35%) soaked up 10% of the whole EU's carbon emissions: "It's a huge carbon sink and if we can expand that [with more trees], we could soak up 11-12%, or more. If we make more things from wood, we could push towards 20%".

Brannen said breakthroughs in engineered timber meant we were able to build much higher with wood, from the historic 4-5 storeys to 18-20 storeys, in Norway and

Canada. "We can build at height and scale and we have to do that to reduce dependence on concrete, because concrete and its manufacture is responsible for 8% of global carbon emissions. If we keep building with steel, brick and block, we cannot meet climate change targets and might even go into reverse. The game changer is engineered timber, made in factories in the UK with 24-hour off-site production."

However, he warned we were simply not growing enough trees, with forest cover in the UK only 13% against the EU average of 35%-plus: "We have to (at least) double tree cover and use much more timber in housing."



“

The game changer is engineered timber

Paul Brannen MEP

India Bourke, an Environment Writer for *The New Statesman*, said planting trees was essential to keep on track with the Paris Agreement on climate change, but thought it was important to consider other benefits of tree planting and not damage the environment by planting monocultures.

Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO, said post-war planting to produce wood had delivered "unintended consequences" for habitats and landscapes, but stressed: "We have not planted monocultures for more than 25 years. We see the mistakes of the past but we can't show mature, modern, mixed forests yet because they are still growing. 25 years ago we signed up to the high-quality UK Forest Standard to ensure forestry would be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable."

Mr Goodall added: "We won't hit climate change targets unless we take carbon out of the atmosphere. We are talking about pumping carbon under the North Sea, but this is unproven and expensive - £500+ per tonne when it costs £20 a tonne to lock up the same amount of carbon in a tree."



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# Shaping forestry policy

Pressure to tackle climate change, the need to design land use policies in advance of leaving the European Common Agricultural Policy, and the devolution of forestry policy, has resulted in a 'summer of consultations' for forestry.

This has given Confor an open door to provide evidence and ideas on how forestry can be the answer to questions on carbon reduction, rural productivity and profitability, sustainable resource use and more. More importantly, it has provided the opportunity to highlight the challenges of grants and regulations, plant health and education required to be overcome to realise these benefits through new woodland creation and better woodland management.

We are not just telling you this to celebrate our hard work on your behalf. When backed up by many individual voices, our corporate voice has far more weight. In every part of the UK, there is an opportunity for you to send in your own response to a consultation which could make a real difference for the UK's forests and wood-using businesses. If you've never responded to a consultation before, we have step-by-step guides on our website to make it easy, so please help us make this the autumn we give trees a voice.

All the guidance, Confor's full responses to completed consultations, as well as to more regional and technical consultations, are available at: [www.confor.org.uk/resources/consultations](http://www.confor.org.uk/resources/consultations)



When backed up by many individual voices, our corporate voice has far more weight.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

### Rural policy after Brexit

Northern Ireland has a target to create 1,000 hectares of new woodland a year, however a wide range of factors mean that only about 1,000 hectares (in total) have been planted since 2012. Now you can help to change that. It is vital that you respond to the consultation and ensure DAERA hears of widespread support to grow the trees we need. Visit our website for more information.

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY

## WALES

### Land use after Brexit

This may represent the biggest opportunity in a generation to achieve a step-change in support for forestry and new woodland creation. It is vital that everyone with an interest in forestry in Wales responds to the consultation by 30 October. Visit our website for more information.

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY

### Decarbonising Wales

The Welsh Government is consulting on how best to meet its carbon reduction targets. Please let them know that trees must be an important part of the answer, by 4 October. Visit our website for more information.

HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY



# across the UK

## SCOTLAND

### Environment Strategy

Confor highlighted the fact that of the six objectives listed in the draft strategy (climate, waste, biodiversity, habitats, people and nature, global footprint), the first four are already delivered through existing strategies whereas the final two are not. The importance of this strategy is in ensuring that all important areas of environmental work are covered, and that more specific strategies do not conflict with one another. For example, focusing on tree-planting for biodiversity at the expense of production has exacerbated UK reliance on imported timber and therefore increased our global footprint.

### Climate Change Bill

Confor welcomed the commitment to the creation of 15,000 hectares of woodland per year, recognising that the interim target of 10,000 hectares has not yet been met. We urged that the separation of 'land use' carbon into agriculture and forestry must not make it difficult for landowners to engage in a mixture of land uses or to understand the carbon footprint of their business.

### 'Stability and simplicity' - proposals for rural funding during the Brexit transition

Confor supported the stability approach proposed, as in Scotland the current policy framework is working well for forestry.

### Scottish Forestry Strategy

The draft Scottish Forestry Strategy was launched on 22 September. See p16 for more information.

### Draft Budget

The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform committee asked for examples of 'the most cost-effective preventative investments in their portfolio and those that contribute most to achieving the Scottish Government's National Outcomes.' Confor highlighted the importance of productive forestry in delivering on a wide range of these environmental, economic and social outcomes.

HAVE YOUR SAY

## ENGLAND

### Rural Economy

Confor emphasised that it is misleading to equate the rural economy with food production, as it encompasses a wide range of activities. We outlined the benefits of a far greater role for timber production within the rural economy, and the importance of good connectivity in rural areas.

### Draft Clean Air Strategy 2018

Confor supported the government's proposals to reduce pollution from domestic wood burning. We urged the government to support a 'Buy local, burn local' campaign to incentivise woodland management and protect plant health. We also urged that the package of actions to reduce ammonia emissions from farming should include reference to the important role of trees.

### 'Health and Harmony' - the future for food, farming and the Environment

Confor welcomed proposals for an alternative to Direct Payments which disadvantage forestry; excellence in plant health standards; increased productivity and competitiveness; and the principles of 'public money for public goods' and 'polluter pays'. However, we raised concern that the proposals are framed so as to reinforce a division between farming and other land uses, and an assumption that farming is the only form of productive land use. A new policy framework must make it easy for farmers to integrate forestry and timber production into their business.

### Biosecurity after Brexit

Confor highlighted our existing policy positions on plant health in particular: phytosanitary certificates should be required for all imported material, restrictions should be placed on imported firewood, and consistent levels of new planting should be achieved to enable nurseries to plan effectively.

### Domestic burning and woodland management

Would your business benefit from policies to use more quality-assured, locally-grown firewood? Make sure you let them know by responding to this consultation by 12 October. Visit our website for more information.

HAVE YOUR SAY

# Scotland launches consultation on new forestry strategy

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on its first Forestry Strategy since 2006. Confor will be providing evidence in an effort to ensure that the positive approach to forestry and wood processing in Scotland continues.

In its recent Programme for Government (PFG), the SNP pledged to set out a 'long-term vision and objectives for forestry and woodlands' in the forthcoming strategy - which is expected to be finalised by the end of the year after the consultation period.

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, said of the Programme for Government: "I'm very pleased to see the positive re-statement of the ambitious target for new planting to support the £1 billion forestry and wood processing industry in Scotland and the 25,000-plus jobs it provides.

"The document clearly says the Scottish Government will plant 10,000 hectares every year and increase this by a further 50 per cent by 2025. More importantly, this is not just a paper target, but one that could be hit this year.

"The Programme also describes our forestry industry, accurately, as 'a future-proofed carbon negative industry' which delivers benefits to our environment, biodiversity and wellbeing as well as our economy. We also welcome the focus on new technology and future skills.

## PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT

The Programme for Government section on forestry says:

"Scotland's forestry industry is a future-proofed carbon negative industry that is worth £1 billion a year while protecting our environment, biodiversity and enhancing our wellbeing.

"We will plant more trees and make more of our forestry resources. We will meet our target of planting 10,000 hectares of woodland every year, and increase this by a further 50% by 2025. In the coming year, we will deliver a National Forestry Strategy setting out our long-term vision and objectives for forestry and woodlands and by April 2019 we will have new arrangements in place for forestry in Scotland.

"We will manage woodlands and forests more efficiently with better technology. We will use remotely-sensed data to develop new information on tree-felling activity to ensure that Scotland's woodland area is increasing and following consultation, put in place new regulations relating to the control of felling. To increase skilled opportunities for young people in forestry, a new Forest Machine Operators Modern Apprenticeship scheme will be operational by the end of the year."

"Confor looks forward to continuing its constructive relationship with Fergus Ewing and his team to make this ambitious forestry future a reality - and helping to create an ambitious forestry strategy to ensure a successful long-term future for forestry and wood processing in Scotland."

## New Kent energy plant to use locally-sourced wood

Kent Renewable Energy commenced commercial operations on 13 September 2018 two months ahead of schedule, to specification and within budget.

The plant has a capacity of 27MW and is located in Sandwich. It produces renewable heat and power which is delivered to nearby business and science park, Discovery Park, and to local power consumers connected to UKPN's grid. Fuel is locally sourced wood supplied by Euroforest.

Kent Renewable Energy is majority-owned by Copenhagen Infrastructure II (CI II), a fund managed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners. CI II owns the plant together with BWSC and Estover Energy, who has developed the project. CI II has invested around £150m equity in Kent Renewable Energy.

The plant capacity will be sufficient to serve roughly 50,000 homes and offset 100,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions a year.







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Tree planting is very demanding and repetitive... we walk an average of 43,000 steps a day on uneven ground, carrying 40 pounds of weight on our hips!



**Stef Kaiser**

meets 27-year old Liz Boivin, dedicated tree planter and co-director of Tomorrow's Forests, a young reforestation company that is breathing new life into the planting scene.

**SK: I'm amazed how far you've come in less than four years of setting up a business in a foreign country. You have your crew, a shiny website, an occupational health programme, a branded car and realistic plans for innovation. How did it all start?**

It was my partner Nick who initially set up the company in early 2014 during a home visit to the UK. Some forestry blocks caught his attention and he was excited to find out more. He arranged to meet up with a forester to get an understanding of the forestry sector in his home country. It took only one more business 'reconnaissance', and at the end of summer season 2014 - we were apple picking and living in a tent in British Columbia - we filled out our first bid for a planting job in Suffolk in the UK, printed it in a library and sent it over to Europe. We almost immediately got a positive reply, I got my visa in October and we relocated. A few of our Canadian colleagues travelled with us to give a hand with putting the trees in the ground. During this first season we met other contractors and started subcontracting from them. We have been busy since then!

In 2015, I joined Nick as co-director of the company. Becoming an entrepreneur was a big step for us. We don't have a schooling background in forestry or business administration, we learnt everything on the go.

**SK: How do you recruit your workforce?**

When we worked on our first contract in the UK, four of our Canadian colleagues came to work with us. The second year, it was 10, then 15 the following



year and this year we were up to 40 people in the crew, adding planters from Latvia and the UK.

We recruit our planters mainly through word of mouth and I also advertise positions on dedicated Facebook pages. Canadians come on a Tier 5 youth mobility visa, which allows them to do seasonal work in the UK, then go back and do another season in Canada. They are a bit planting crazy and make good money. In Canada, out of 60 days of tree planting over the summer, a good tree planter will make \$15000 - \$20000 at the end of the season. In the UK my guys are making £150-250 a day. One girl achieved £480 in a day!

I've always had at least a 50-50 gender ratio in my teams, sometimes there are even more women. I don't positively discriminate towards women but I think a good gender balance makes for a better team working closely together in a remote area.

**SK: What is the secret of your success?**

I think the fact that we are used to high-volume reforestation from back home helped us be so successful from the outset. The guys we hire are hungry for work and money and are highly trained. It makes us very competitive and we can achieve up to 3000 plants per day per person.

Another reason for our quality work lies in the technique we use: we favour the C-cut when planting a tree, as opposed to the nudge. The C-cut creates a nice wedge with soft ground, and we think it gives the tree a better chance to establish, and it is also faster.





## TOMORROW'S FORESTS

Tomorrow's Forests was set up by English-Canadian couple Nick Hollingworth and Elisabeth Boivin, and specialises in high-volume planting and maintenance operations.

Liz grew up surrounded by forests in her native Quebec, and started working as a tree planter in 2010. Her partner Nick, originally from Bury (Manchester), moved to Canada with his family in 2003, and started working in tree planting more by accident than by design. Before starting Tomorrow's Forests in the UK, the couple worked for a Canadian company with a crew of 12, planting 1.2m plants in a three-months summer season.

### **SK: Planting 3000 trees a day is a tough job: how do you keep a planter's body going?**

Tree planting is very demanding and repetitive and planters often suffer from painful tendonitis in their wrists or elbows. We walk an average of 43,000 steps a day on uneven ground, carrying 40 pounds of weight on our hips!

A whole lot of training is required to achieve our high daily planting rates. In addition, a good diet and stretching after work is essential. In Canada, we learnt about occupational health procedures that keep planters fit and safe, and we are now trying to implement them here (see *FTN August*). We also operate on a shift pattern and never work more than four days in a row.

Planting is accessible to anyone who is motivated. It's about turning on the 'athlete mode' for the three months. I've seen petite girls outperforming very strong men, because they come with the right attitude and they take care of themselves. It's not all about muscles - think that you have to touch your toes 3000 times a day!

### **SK: How do you find time to create such an excellent online and social media presence and even develop the new technology aspect of your business?**

Social media is simply part of our generation - we are used to being connected to the world. Facebook, Instagram etc are free and allow us to be approachable and accessible. While we are working, we and our crew have fun taking pictures. It's also good for the public to see the human side of forestry!

For our website, we hired a good designer. We wanted a site with a contemporary look that represents our generation and our work approach.

When it comes to new technologies, it is Nick who really likes to challenge himself and look for innovation. He has been pushing to start a drone programme for surveys. It's a steep learning curve and we have the support of Nick's brother, who has a drone license. In the future, we might hire someone with data processing and GIS expertise.

### **SK: What would you highlight as the main differences between forestry in the UK and Canada?**

In Canada, the forest industry is much bigger and deeply engrained in the culture. In the UK, I notice that the public is a bit disconnected and uninformed about what is happening in the forests.

From a technical perspective, in Canada we stopped using bare roots ten years ago in favour of cell-grown stock. Here, when we receive the trees to plant, the lots are less standardised in terms of size and shape. Due to the size and turnover of the industry in Canada, cell-growing large quantities of tree seedlings is affordable.

Another difference is that in the UK, systematic planting in straight lines is very common, whereas we would be more used to microsite selection, which provides a prime location for the tree to grow. If you're stuck in a line, you might get to a microsite which is in water or in a dip as opposed to being on a more preferable, elevated spot.

[www.tomorrowforests.co.uk](http://www.tomorrowforests.co.uk)

# New research programme to add value to homegrown

Grown in Britain's core business is to certify the homegrown supply chain; however, it has gradually become more and more involved in research and development into products that can add value to our current forest productivity and replace imports.

It is a generalisation but there is evidence that suggests that we import an array of engineered and added-value timber products that we could make here in the UK from homegrown timber. There are many reasons for this including the state of manufacturing in the UK and the structures and skills in other countries that support competitive development, production and exporting.

Following on from a good track record in developing added-value products such as thermal modified hardwood and the 'Grown and Made' window shown at last year's Timber Expo, GiB is well placed to collaborate in a more structured programme, bringing organisations, funding and action together to deliver change.

With so many sub-sectors, businesses and corners to the whole timber supply chain throughout

the UK it must be that there are hidden gems of ideas that need developing and so GiB is reaching out to capture ideas, thoughts and dormant innovation. As well as ideas, GiB are looking for strategic partners and funding to develop, prioritise and deliver the programme.

So if you, your organisation or someone you know would be a good partner for this programme or you want to throw a project into the mix, please do get in touch with ideas, contacts or for an initial chat. Please email [Dougal@GrowninBritain.org](mailto:Dougal@GrowninBritain.org)



GiB is reaching out to capture ideas, thoughts and dormant innovation.



The Grown in Britain Research and Development Programme will be launched in Grown in Britain Week 2018

[www.growninbritain.org/grown-in-britain-week](http://www.growninbritain.org/grown-in-britain-week)



**Forestry on Instagram**

## UK's most #instagrammable forests

"Forestry" and "Instagram" in one sentence?

Away Resorts, operator of six holiday resorts based in the UK, analysed hashtags used on Instagram to discover the public's favourite forests in the whole of the United Kingdom. The hashtags for 70 of the forests in the UK were collected and compared in order to compile the list. Only those that had 50 or more uses of their hashtag were included.

The data showed that The New Forest was the most popular with a combined total of 452,854 uses of the hashtags #thenewforest and #newforest.

The Royal Forest of Dean came in second (with 102,955 uses of #forestofdean) and the forest made famous by Robin Hood, Sherwood Forest (with 98,672 uses of #sherwoodforest), came in third.

The New Forest is also the top forest according to Trip Advisor with a rating of 5 out of 5 and 1541 reviews.

Despite being named as the most beautiful country in the world by Rough Guide in 2017, only one of Scotland's forests, Galloway Forest, made it into the top 25.

Two forests from Northern Ireland made the list, Tollymore Forest Park and Castlewellan Forest Park, however the whole of the top 10 list comprises of forests based in England.

[www.awayresorts.co.uk/best-forests](http://www.awayresorts.co.uk/best-forests)



### The top 25 #FOREST HASHTAGS on Instagram

#newforest, #thenewforest, #forestofdean, #sherwoodforest, #eppingforest, #hamsterleyforest, #delamereforest, #dalbyforest, #ashdownforest, #thetfordforest, #swinleyforest, #wyreforest, #haldonforest, #burnhambeeches, #tollymoreforestpark, #grizedaleforest, #gisburnforest, #forestofbowland, #salcayforest, #hatfieldforest, #macclesfieldforest, #kielderforest, #whinlatterforest, #moorsvalleycountrypark, #fristonforest, #castlewellanforestpark, #gallowayforest





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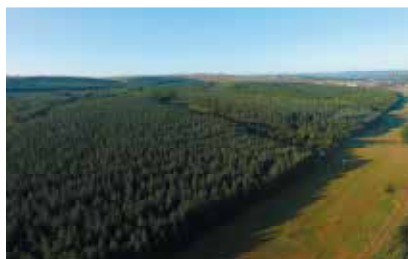
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# Digital marketing in practice

Driven by an enthusiastic marketing team, Tilhill is putting social media at the heart of its marketing strategy

**G**eorgina Thomas entered the world of sales and marketing at 15 years old, delving into a mix of fashion, technology and music. After running and selling her own businesses, she became the chief operating officer of an emerging music company but decided to step down as director and take on a very different challenge: applying her marketing skills to a sector that is still looking for its digital identity to be shaped.

She has recently joined Tilhill as assistant marketing manager and the impact her outside perspective on digital communications has had on the company's online presence cannot be missed.

**FTN: What was your first impression when you started working in the forestry and timber sector?**

When I took the job, I was excited, mainly because I saw very little digital activity in the forestry and harvesting industry in the UK; this meant I could start from scratch in my approach.

The lack of videos and organic photos was surprising. Forestry is a physically bubbling industry of stories of learning, changing and adaptations. There is so much to talk about, but it's not being documented for future generations and it should be.

There are gaps in the information available, such as real time insights into what a forester actually does. What is woodland creation, how you invest in a forest and much more. Working in forestry is exciting because it's a chance to freshen up the scene.

**FTN: What was your starting point when you joined Tilhill?**

Tilhill already had a small marketing team, full of energy and ready to embrace social media, which had been limited under previous ownership. After the merger with BSW, the constraints for digital communications and social media were lifted. Tilhill could go ahead with their vision and launch a full set of digital marketing activities, enjoying major support from Tilhill Forestry directors, who regularly send the marketing team content and ideas for sharing.

The challenge was retrieving the information and content from the staff as it was something the majority had never done before. While a few of the younger foresters and contractors already used social media, others took some time to understand the long-term necessity of using digital marketing.

It was clear from the outset, speaking



For a marketer, the forestry sector is dream opportunity for content creation and promotion.

to director Peter Whitfield and marketing manager Sarah Clay, that the company was very open to exploring this new realm and investing in the future. It was agreed that digital marketing could be used to give insight into Tilhill forestry and harvesting's day to day activities and the ongoing commitment Tilhill has to the industry in terms of safety, employment, environment, research and education.

**FTN: As a digital communicator, what are your objectives and approach for Tilhill?**

Forestry and harvesting need to begin moving into the digital era where building online communities and embracing transparency is the key. This comes with the publishing of regular information and being open with research, best practices and industry insights.

To move the industry more prominently into the digital limelight and, as a result, update its image, we plan to be more open, sharing stories, pitfalls, achievements and insights into staff and their activities.

In the era of transparency, the best companies share their knowledge and earn the trust of the community, and this is the focus for Tilhill.

In the future, Tilhill will continue to post staff updates and feature workers in action, sharing company news and key decisions, whilst focusing on themes within the industry featuring case studies, videos, interviews and articles to display messages in the most impactful way.

We will also continue to celebrate Tilhill staff and their achievements; otherwise



**I-r: Sarah Clay, head of marketing; Georgina Thomas, assistant marketing manager; and Catriona Greenhalgh, marketing assistant at Tilhill**





### Content, content: Tilhill's upcoming feature themes

September - **Quality Throughout** - focusing on ground prep techniques, plant quality improvement, proven professionals and species choice.

October - **Technicalities** - focusing on Harvesting Techniques, tree metrics, truck geometry, remote challenges, machinery, timber routes and special projects.

November - **Health & Safety** - public safety project, FISA, hazard warning & sign testing, diffuse pollution.

January - **Growing Our People** - graduate programme, Mentors and managers development Programme.

February - **Projects** - Eskdalemuir creation, strategic timber transport routes, landing craft, conifer co-op, sitka spruce, somatic embryogenesis

### Peter Whitfield's new digital self

After changing roles - Peter is business development director for Tilhill - and launching onto Twitter last year, Peter began to ask all the right questions and wanted to expand onto other platforms to discover further opportunities.

Social media is instant, with a fast response rate for posts, and Peter could very quickly see the value in being active on different platforms and now he embraces them all.

Social media platforms are just the start; next year you'll hopefully see Peter starting his own vlog and feature as a guest on the podcast.

Peter also appreciates that traditional marketing has a very important role to play as well and it is about getting the message across by the most effective means.


Peter has personal accounts on LinkedIn and Instagram (@[peterw139](#))





### New digital communications activities at Tilhill

- 1 **Content is king:** regular posting, engaging and contributing to our online community of followers, staff and contractors.
- 2 **Digital Newsletter** launching in November.
- 3 **Podcast** launching in January
- 4 **Themed months**, focusing on specific topics each month and using different communications channels and platforms

### Groups/influencers to follow

 Follow John Deere (@[johndeere](#)) for the most quality pictures. Their account is an Instagram dream, visually stunning machinery pics.

 Follow Confor's sustainability professional Andrew Heald (@[andyheald](#)), he's a force for good and keeps us all up-to-date on both domestic and international topics.

 Join the Forest Machine Operators Blog with 24k followers - it's a great place to see what our contractors are talking about.

what would be the point in having a chain-saw carving champion and multiple award winners within our business without sharing their stories.

We aim to demonstrate the effect that 70 years in business has had on an organisation and how it has become a leading company.

**FTN: What do you want to push in the future?**  
Media. I want to push regular original content such as Tilhill branded videos and podcasts as well as industry news, so we can share updates across the whole industry. To use our social media platforms to amplify the industry messages about the importance of forestry and woodland creation.





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# Show reveals the technology driving our industry forward



**RAB Easton**  
reports  
from APF 2018

**T**his year's APF Exhibition was once again held at Ragley Estate near Alcester in the Midlands. This bi-annual show is where the latest equipment used in forestry is showcased.

The 320 exhibitors enjoyed an influx of 18,500 visitors over the three days.

The weather wasn't at its, with some wet and windy conditions, but it certainly didn't dampen spirits and there was a happy atmosphere among both exhibitors and visitors.

The forestry schools were on hand to advise potential students on the various forestry courses that are available. Komatsu, Ponsse and John Deere had training simulators for anyone to try, hopefully inspiring more youngsters to choose a career in forestry.

I got a quick look around to see some of the latest technology being introduced to our industry and couldn't help being impressed by what was on offer.

**1** Hi-Vision Loglift 118S  
Hiab (Hydraulic Industry AB) featured one of James Jones and Sons Limited's latest Hi-Vision Loglift 118S cranes fitted on a Volvo FH Wagon and Drag. This is a revolutionary new design allowing the operator to control the crane from inside the truck cabin by using VR Goggles linked to 3D stereoscopic cameras. The VR Goggles offer excellent all round vision just by turning your head even in poor lighting conditions and the crane is operated by normal joysticks.

This system saves weight and fuel and eliminates the need to heat the crane cabin prior to loading on cold days. It is much safer for the operator as he is not exposed to freezing, wet and slippery conditions when walking between the truck cab and crane cabin.  
[www.hiab.com](http://www.hiab.com)

**2** Konrad Highlander  
Franz Buchsbaum from Konrad Forsttechnik GmbH was over from Austria on the Bio Energy stall with a new Konrad Highlander. This is a specialised 6 wheel drive machine designed for safely harvesting and extracting timber on steep ground conditions.

Fitted with a Konrad Woody harvesting head



for felling and de-limbing trees and a clam-bunk for extracting full length trees. - This machine will be delivered to the customer in Cumbria after the exhibition and will be used in the Keswick area.  
[www.forsttechnik.at](http://www.forsttechnik.at)

**3** Seikel  
Seikel are a German company with a UK base in Aberystwyth and are experts in upgrading Volkswagen commercial vehicles and the MAN TGV to four wheel drive on and off road vehicles.

They not only install the 4WD system but can upgrade the suspension to cope with rougher terrain and increase ground clearance. A full under body protection kit can be fitted which protects expensive components from obstacles encountered





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Thank you to all our staff, suppliers and customers for making it a great 3 days!



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>> when in off road conditions.

I could see a lot of advantages for this type of conversion for both forestry workers (mechanics, fencers, sprayers etc) and the emergency services.  
[www.seikel-uk.com](http://www.seikel-uk.com)

**4** Hydraulic portable swaging machine  
 Apex Fluid Power displayed a manual hydraulic portable swaging machine which will swage up to 1" multi spiral hoses and 1 1/2" two-wire hoses effortlessly. A spring-loaded catch for holding the dies in place is a good addition and the clear easy to use setting gauge makes it accurate and simple to set swaging diameters.

A good selection of multi-spiral flexible hoses were also being showcased, these can save a lot of time when trying to route awkward pipes around obstacles.

[www.apexfluidpower.co.uk](http://www.apexfluidpower.co.uk)

**5** Botex drive trailer  
 Jas P Wilson's unveiled the new Botex drive trailer with hydraulically adjustable headboard. The rear wheels are driven via a roller system to improve traction in difficult and wet conditions. They can now offer a top seat for the XL PRO 12 tonne trailer which is fitted with electric joysticks and can carry two bays of 3m produce.



>>

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>>



6

Congratulations to all the staff at Jas P Wilsons on winning the best stand 2018.  
[www.jaspwison.co.uk](http://www.jaspwison.co.uk)

**6** RJ Fukes Forestry Services  
RJ Fukes Forestry Services have increased their product range. While continuing to offer the full range of Logset products, they have added the Neuson range of tracked harvesters, Timberpro harvesters and forwarders and the Timbermax traction winch. They will be arranging demonstrations of some of their new equipment in the coming months so please contact them if you would like to attend.  
[www.rjfukes.co.uk](http://www.rjfukes.co.uk)

**7** Felastic plastic tracks  
An innovative product I saw was the Felastic plastic tracks; they are a lighter alternative to steel tracks for use on harvesters and forwarders working on wet flat sites. They are manufactured for small and large machines and will fit most tyre sizes.

They make pads that can be attached onto steel excavator tracks which will allow them to travel and work on the highway and sensitive areas. The only contact on the surface below is the plastic pads so there is no damage to tarmac, concrete and grassy areas  
[www.felasto-pur.de](http://www.felasto-pur.de)



7



8

**8** Riko  
Riko's display was impressive; they too have recently increased the product range they supply. Palms timber trailers are one of the new acquisitions, with carrying capacities ranging from 8,500kg to 18,000kg. Several models have 2WD and 4WD drive systems for improved traction and have 4.2 to 8.6m reach cranes for loading.

The Peterson Sawmill range has also been added to the Riko catalogue, several of the models were on demonstration. The WPF (winch protection frame) is the top selling model, able to mill timber up to 1.8m diameter.  
[www.riko-uk.com](http://www.riko-uk.com)

>>

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>> **9** Sensomatic chain grinder  
 Clark Engineering demonstrated the latest Markusson Professional Grinder. The new Sensomatic grinder automatically detects whether a left or right hand cutter is to be sharpened and it will grind the raker all in one action. It stops when all links have been sharpened, letting you catch up with other tasks at the same time. As standard the grinder comes complete with air cooling, light and exhaust system.  
[www.clark-engineering.com](http://www.clark-engineering.com)



**10** Heizohack Mercedes truck at Fuelwood  
 Fuelwood featured the Heizohack Mercedes truck complete with the HM8 400KFL chipper and FTG Mowi P30T loader with telescopic boom. The Fendt 1050 Vario with a trailer mounted Heizohack HM 14 860 KTL chipper was also present. Both were being demonstrated during the show and received positive feedback from potential customers.  
 This was another excellent display with a good selection of their product range.  
[www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)



**11** Sampo harvesters at Oakleaf  
 On the demonstration circuit were products that have recently been introduced into the UK, the

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11



12

controlled mini skidder usually fitted with a cable winch, (3.5 or 5 tonne pulling capacity) ideal for awkward and poor access areas. With minimal ground compaction making it suitable for footpath clearances of dangerous and overhanging trees.

The model at the APF was fitted with a mulcher for the clearance of small trees and scrub wood. The Moritz is available with a pto shaft for attaching different accessories.

[www.pfanzelt-maschinenbau.com](http://www.pfanzelt-maschinenbau.com)

>> first of these was the Sampo Harvesting equipment from Finland.

Oakleaf Forestry had a Sampo HR 46 thinnings harvester which was fitted with a Kesla 18 RH 11 harvesting head. A compact 4WD 2.1 to 2.4m wide harvester weighing 8,000 to 9,500kg (depending on tyre widths and accessories). It has a 50° steering angle and a 7.1m reach crane. A low impact harvester ideally suited for the UK and Irish conditions

[www.oakleafforestry.com](http://www.oakleafforestry.com)

**12** Pfanzelt Moritz skidder  
The small compact Pfanzelt Moritz skidder was also being demonstrated. This is a remote

With so much on offer you could probably fill a large magazine with all that was being displayed at the APF. This is just a varied selection of some of the equipment I saw.

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

[www.forestmachinemagazine.com](http://www.forestmachinemagazine.com)

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# Fair play for forestry – or blatant bias

**T**he forestry sector must unite behind a positive vision of the future to grasp the unique opportunity presented by the re-shaping of rural policy and funding after Brexit.

UK Government plans for a new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM) to replace Common Agricultural Policy direct payments are at an early stage - and the time to influence future policy is now, a seminar at APG 2018 heard.

*Fair Play for Forestry* discussed the prospect of a level playing-field as an ELM, which will reward land managers for delivering public goods, is designed.

Paul Brannen, Labour MEP for North-east England and a strong advocate of tree planting and building with timber, said: “We have a problem; most people are not aware of the multiple benefits of forestry. You have to marshal arguments, make them accessible to the public and show the benefits by planting forests in the urban fringe, within 30 minutes of everyone in a city or town.”

He added: “The Fair Play for Forestry movement isn’t big enough at the moment but it could be. It’s a winnable campaign but we should re-calibrate towards blatant bias for forestry, because it can tackle the biggest single collective problem in the world, climate change. Building all the homes the world needs in concrete, steel, brick and block means no chance of delivering on our aspirations.

“Carbon capture and storage is hugely expensive and staring us in the face is the opportunity to take carbon dioxide from the air by planting far more trees. We should aim to double UK tree cover.” He said Brexit offered forestry a window “to get out there and win the argument”.

Susan Twining of the CLA agreed: “The new ELM scheme won’t be fully developed until 2024. In the meantime, there will be a degree of economic pressure to allow businesses to take a long hard look at themselves. There is an opportunity for forestry to fill that gap.”

She said the CLA had deliberately chosen to talk about land management when looking at the rural future: “We want members to think of themselves as land managers, not just farmers, and forestry may well be something they should consider in future.”

Twining said sustainability was crucial, in farming, forestry and the environment, “with no weighting one way or the other.”

She added: “We shouldn’t worry too much about the value of different things. However, ELM payments need to ensure the right level of adoption, so long-term adequate funding is essential.”

Sue Pritchard, Director of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission, agreed there was a ‘window of influence’ for forestry. It was vital, she said, to look at forestry and woodland in a broad context: “It’s not just about the rural sectors, it’s joining up all the different policy conversations, to understand more about how we align public money and private investment to deliver public value.” For example, she said, forestry and woodland played a critical role in health and well-being.

She supported a broad land use policy and framework, but said in England, the idea had “ended up in the ‘too hard’ box, because it raises so many difficult questions.”

John Tucker, Director of Woodland Creation for Woodland Trust, thought Confor and Woodland Trust had worked together

effectively with “communication to benefit the whole industry”, but there was more to do. He warned: “The sector can be too inward-looking. We need to grow up, come together and recognise the whole is greater than the sum of the parts and articulate better all the benefits that forestry offers.”

“

I think [Michael Gove] does get it. He’s really interested in trees, woods and forests and it’s great to have a Secretary of State who is a big thinker.

Sir William Worsley, the new Tree Champion appointed by Environment Secretary Michael Gove at Confor’s suggestion, said: “It’s exciting and there are opportunities we’ve not had for a long time. All parts of the sector must move in the same direction; we must be outward-looking.”

Sir William thought Michael Gove understood the importance of large-scale productive forestry: “If we are to plant 11 million trees [during this parliament] we need scale, but land management is all about balance, so we need smaller woods too, the whole spectrum. I think [Michael Gove] does get it. He’s really interested in trees, woods and forests and it’s great to have a Secretary of State who is a big thinker.”

Sir William was “reasonably hopeful” of hitting the 11 million trees target but recognised it was a challenge. He said he was “in listening mode” and urged the forestry sector to come to him with ideas.

Several delegates said a significant barrier to more planting was land values, with prices often too high to make forestry investment viable.

Susan Twining said a well-designed ELM scheme offering fair rewards would make a difference: “New forestry is likely to go in places where farming is very marginal. The economics will shift, irrespective of land values.”



**The panel at Fair Play for Forestry. From left, Sir William Worsley, Susan Twining, John Tucker, Sue Pritchard, Paul Brannen and David Lee (Chair).**





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# Forestry and the bioeconomy

**F**orestry can play a big part in the future bioeconomy but strategic thinking is needed to provide the huge quantities of wood that will be needed.

Dan Ridley-Ellis of Edinburgh Napier University told a seminar on *Forestry and the Bioeconomy* that the emphasis on wood as a renewable, sustainable material shouldn't be confused with it being unlimited: "Collectively, we are behaving like there are no limits," he said.

"Forestry will be at the core of the future materials campaign; it's not the only source of biotic material but the only one that can deliver the volumes needed. However, those volumes are truly huge and we need to think more strategically about what we do with wood.

"People talk a lot about wood as an abundant material, but it's actually not that abundant when you look for the quantity and quality needed."

Jez Ralph of Timber Strategies agreed, saying we were removing too much of our softwood resource – around 80% of the increment, against a suggested maximum benchmark of 70%. "We're taking out way too much and we are only just at the beginning of the revolution in the use of cellulose," he said.

"Forestry is not just competing against oil or cement, it is competing against other land uses and agricultural products." Later, Dr Ridley-Ellis said we should be positive as forestry had the opportunity to "shape the direction of the future bio-based economy".

The increment of hardwood trees be-

ing removed (30%) presented a different problem, Mr Ralph said. The surfeit of beech in south-west England, for example, illustrated the danger of concentrating too heavily on one species for one market; in this case, beech for a furniture market which now wasn't there.

Dr Ridley-Ellis called for a "better way of managing the direction of research" and added: "We need to prune and thin ideas and bring the world of forestry and timber closer to research. How do we identify public goods in the R&D landscape? The model of rewarding novelty is broken. It's not always about the immediate wow! factor – we need to bridge the gap between what forestry and wood are becoming and what they are now.

"We are fixed to a model that involves large quantities of a rather small number



**Dan Ridley-Ellis speaking at the Forestry and the Bio-Economy seminar.**

of species – but all species, including sitka, are changing and in future there will be even more demand for quality wood fibre."

Dr Ridley-Ellis asked if architects needed to specify prime spruce when creating a one-storey timber building, for example. "Species are irrelevant," he argued. "What matters is its properties and qualities."

Jez Ralph agreed: "Glulam manufacturers are demanding higher quality timber but I don't know why. I thought the idea was to use lower quality timber, then create a high-quality engineered product. To use high-quality timber for multi-storey buildings makes sense, but not for single-storey."

Adrian Campbell of changebuilding said there had to be more thought by architects and engineers when they specified a particular species and quality about how to deal with it at the end of its life.

Gary Newman of WoodKnowledge Wales argued the major challenge was serving a world with a rapidly growing population. "There will be a far greater demand for stuff, largely driven by economics as more people come out of poverty. How do we get more from less?"

Part of the answer involved a significant increase in forest cover and creating more products from wood, he argued. "We need to bring the customer closer to the forest and have debates about giving them what they want. This alignment of aspiration requires a very significant change because we are all working in a dysfunctional supply chain."

## Scottish planting boom threat to tree supply

The nursery sector has warned of a future supply challenge due to the significant increase in tree planting in Scotland.

Rodney Shearer of Alba Trees told a Forestry Commission seminar at APF 2018: "We have a government in Scotland that is very supportive of forestry. This year, Scotland will plant around 12,500ha and more than 15,000 next year.

"That will cause a major hiccup in the supply of trees and nurseries will find it hard to step up [to meet additional demand]. The number of trees available in the open market is quite curtailed due to the expansion in Scotland."

Mr Shearer urged anyone planning new tree planting schemes to communicate with the nursery sector at an early stage.

John Tucker of the Woodland Trust said

the level of new planting in England was "an absolute disgrace". The long-term objective of planting 180,000ha by 2042 [in the 25 Year Environment Plan] requires an average of 7,500ha planted annually – when it has taken five years to plant 7,500ha in England.

Susan Twining of the CLA said one issue was "enormous problems" with current funding regimes, which needed to be addressed as well as a new, long-term ELM scheme.

Several speakers at APF seminars welcomed the decision to keep the Woodland Creation Grant application window open all year. While welcoming the open window, John Tucker said: "We need to make it easier for people to apply. It's great that applications are open all year round but the user manual is 70 pages long. We need to

flip the mindset. There are lots of investors ready to invest in forestry but they're going to walk away unless the Forestry Commission can move more quickly."

Andy Howard, project manager at Doddington North Moor in Northumberland, the largest modern productive planting scheme in England, said: "Two years ago, I was the Forestry Commission's biggest critic but it has listened hugely. It's still chalk and cheese in England and Scotland but the Commission in England is moving in the right direction." They have put in place mechanisms to make life easier. You have to work with the system, not against it."

Mr Howard said he was trying to develop more large-scale schemes in England, but the big problem was the availability and high price of land.

## Seven schools, 250 children, 12 industry volunteers

Comments from the children, teaching staff and volunteers who visited APF say it all:

- The exhibition was amazing and fun
- We particularly enjoyed the creative chainsaw carving sculptures and the exhilarating Stihl Timbersports
- Without trees we can't breathe
- Children seemed impervious to the rain
- Our school already does forest school once a week – it really came to life here
- So that's how you make charcoal
- We saw many types of machinery in action and learnt about how trees and wood can be used in all sorts of different ways
- I had a go at carving a chair leg
- It's important to understand and be shown the protective equipment
- I was really impressed with what the



**Teamwork from children from Mickleton Primary School!**

children knew about forestry and how enthusiastic they all were

- The exhibitors couldn't have been more helpful

Thank you to:

- Exhibitors who started up machinery and engaged with the school groups – they really loved their day out

- APF Exhibition helping the schools attending this year's show with grants of £300 towards travel costs
- Forestry Commission England's West England Forest District Learning Ranger team
- AW Jenkinsons and John Deere for goodies for the children to take home after the event

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Liz of Tomorrow's Forests demos stretching exercises for forestry workers at the APF. In the picture, with two senior arboriculture instructors. One of them, Chalky, comments: "So after working in the tree sector for 30 years I'm now learning the importance of stretching and warming up prior to working as I now struggle to put my socks on in the morning, so at 47 I've just started yoga classes."



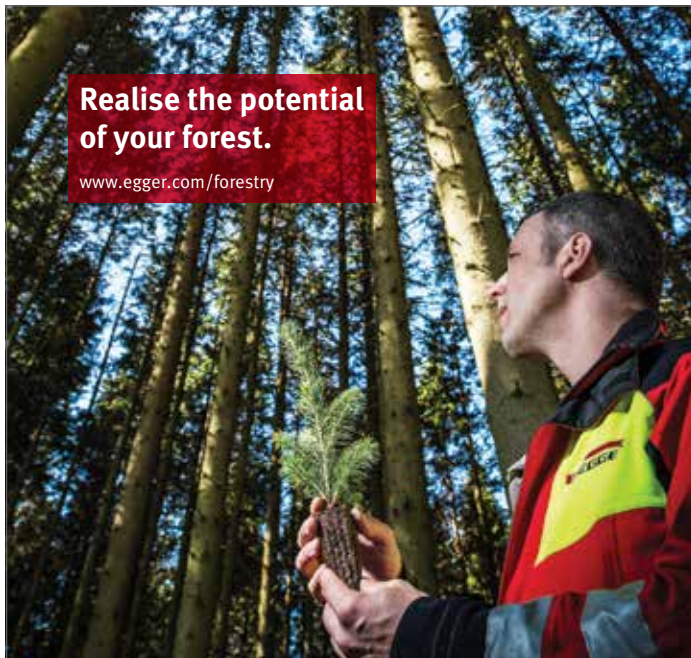
Left: Gender equality promoter Toby Allen of Sayitwithwood in front of a Cheviot Trees banner in the Confor tent.



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# Funding and securing of forestry - a legal viewpoint

by **Heather Burnett**,  
Brodies Solicitors LLP

**T**raditionally, forestry purchases in Scotland have been cash purchases, rather than relying on bank funding. However, as the strength of the market has attracted a new breed of commercial investor used to dealing with leveraged investment portfolios, the involvement of commercial lenders has been increasing.

Commercial lenders have started to recognise that forestry presents a good opportunity for lending – the market is stable in the long term and by its nature, forestry presents a relatively low-risk form of secured property. The current strength of the market plays a role – a greater number of investors and higher values means the banks are eager to tap into the market and provide funding opportunities which appeal to investors. There is also a move amongst commercial lenders to be seen to be providing green or sustainable funding (so called ‘green loans’), and forestry can fit within that model. In addition, bank funding is not only a consideration at the point of purchase – forestry can provide good security at any time that finance needs to be raised, perhaps in connection with infrastructure investment for the forest in question.

However, the banks are relatively new to lending to this sector and as a result, the process of obtaining funding and granting the required security (fixed charge) over the forest may not be as streamlined as, for example, the financing of a farm or commercial property. Some of the unique aspects of forestry purchases may not fit the relevant bank’s mould at the first point of asking.

## Clawback agreements

By way of example, clawback agreements, where a previous owner retains an entitlement to share in an increase in value as a result of development, are common in the forestry sector. Clawback agreements are usually reinforced by a security granted over the forest in question in favour of the previous owner/clawback holder. The existence of a second security, in addition to that required by the bank, whether already in place at the time of purchase or to be put in place as part of the agreed terms of the purchase, adds a layer of complication. The two securities will need to operate together, and an agreement as to which takes priority (the bank will insist on having priority) will need to be put in place. However that is a relatively common scenario and the parties involved will likely have experience of such arrangements. A well drafted clawback agreement will always state that a security to a lender will take priority, and lenders will be familiar



with such agreements.

Lending may also be complicated if, as is often the case, the forest in question does not consist purely of forestry, for example it may also include a cottage or a telecoms mast. The different elements to the security will need to be taken into account in arrangement of the loan and in the reporting by the solicitors involved.

Another factor is that some aspects of forestry may not fit the standard requirements of the lender. For example, insurance arrangements for forestry are peculiar to that sector, whereas a lender’s standard requirements in respect of insurance will likely be geared more towards buildings (whether residential or commercial) and anticipate that the secured property is insured to full reinstatement value, which is not applicable to forestry.

More generally there are aspects of forestry which are relevant to the value of the forest, and so relevant to the lender, but which may not be familiar to the lender or their legal advisors.

Ultimately, these points should not and do not overly complicate lending for forestry purchases or, of themselves, prevent funding from being secured. Discussion of these points will be wrapped up in the usual process of reviewing and reporting on the title to and value of the forest, which takes place with the lender and/or their advisors. In time it is expected that the processes lenders follow and their standard form documentation for forestry will develop and the need for discussions on the unique elements of forestry purchases will diminish.

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# Ownership and investment - new ideas, new opportunities

For many people owning their woodland would appear to be out of reach with either small woodlands being bought by “hobbyists” for a high per hectare sum, larger woodlands represent better value per hectare but with a total price running into the hundreds of thousands or millions.

There are several drivers for forestry and timber investment, not least the strong timber prices and projected future demand but also for the tax advantages and of course the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in terms of carbon, biodiversity and landscape.

Are there alternative investment and ownership models which would allow more people to benefit from owning woodland without either needing to inherit one or make the significant capital investment, required to purchase a forest directly? Would these al-



An alternative and community-led approach has worked well in the renewables sector

ternative investment models enable additional private investment into woodland creation and management?

An alternative and community-led approach has worked well in the renewables sector, with a number of windfarm projects developed by Community Wind Power proving successful.

One of the interesting elements of this new approach is the potential for the inclusion of “natural capital values”. Open ground and native broadleaves may have limited value in pure financial terms for a traditional forestry investor, however a non-traditional investor might see things differently. A local (non-traditional) investor might place a significant value on being able to walk around the woodland, or place a direct value on the flood mitigation impact of new riparian planting. These additional values might make the trade-off between native broadleaves and commercial conifers more attractive.

## Investment trusts

Anthony Crosbie Dawson of Gresham House (who manage 120,000 hectares of commercial forestry in the UK) says that “For investors who would like to gain exposure to forestry as an asset class, but who are not wishing to make the outlay of significantly in excess of £1m that is required to purchase an investment grade commercial forest, an alternative option is an investment in a forestry Fund.”

The advantages of a Forestry Fund in comparison to direct ownership of an individual forest include:

- Geographic and age class diversification through ownership of a portfolio of forests.

- Improved liquidity: the average transaction time for secondary share sales in FIM’s Funds is 30 days and to date shares have been traded at a premium to Net Asset Value.
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  - No annual expenditure on management, maintenance or insurance.
  - No further calls on capital for infrastructure expenditure.
- Furthermore, the Funds are tax transparent and therefore provide all of the taxation advantages of direct ownership. Their website is [www.greshamhouse.com](http://www.greshamhouse.com)





## Natural Capital

Andy Howard of Pennine Forestry who is the forest manager behind Doddington, England's largest new productive woodland for thirty years, believes that valuing Natural Capital is another driver for forestry investment

Pennine Forestry believe that as the UK transitions away from the current system of agricultural and land use subsidy support a new format of public-private partnership will be needed to fill any funding gap, and perhaps more beneficially channel private sector funding into improving our environment.

At this point in time it has been very difficult, if not impossible, to value the likes of carbon sequestration, water quality, public access, health & wellbeing improvements and a wide range of other Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services benefits. We believe though there is in some cases an appetite from the private sector to invest in these opportunities, for example for Corporate Social Responsibility or to offset the negative impacts of more commercially driven activities elsewhere. There is also a substantial interest from parties looking to make ethical investments.

We believe this can reduce public sector funding pressures and help deliver environmental benefits on a wide scale. By utilising Natural Capital funding we envisage being able to improve habitats as biodiverse havens, to increase woodland cover, to improve and protect rivers and water quality, protect and enhance carbon sequestration, promote recreational access to the countryside and to develop new agri-environment schemes to improve productivity and profitability.

## Woodlots

Until a few years ago, the term 'woodlot licence', or indeed the term 'woodlot' was largely unknown in Scotland. In North America, a woodlot is a parcel of woodland that is generally held in small-scale local tenure and used to produce limited amounts of firewood and timber, usually in a 'family-forestry' type setting.

In 2011, a group of Dumfriesshire foresters got together after discovering woodlot licences in British Columbia. These were a licence from the government of BC to grant tenure of Crown Forest land to families in BC. This has been running since 1948, with great expansion in the 70s, and sees local people take on the responsibility of managing, harvesting and restocking their local woodlot within the terms of a woodlot management plan and allowable annual cut system.

Establishing as a co-operative in 2012, the Scottish Woodlot Association strove to set-up woodlot licences in Scotland along similar lines. Its first woodlot licence was on Corsewall Estate near Stranraer in Galloway, kindly hosted by Angus Carrick-Buchanan. Since then, many more woodlot licences have been established and the association has steadily grown in size. With membership fees of only £20 a year for ordinary members, many people have seen the attraction of the programme and have got on board to help make woodlot licences a reality. The association is grateful for the many landowners who have got in touch to support the programme.

Andy Brown of Scottish Woodlots says: "Our current licences are based on a five-year licence agreement which is basically a standing-sale-with restocking type arrangement between the woodlot licence holder and the landowner. The association provides support and assistance."

[www.scottishwoodlotassociation.co.uk](http://www.scottishwoodlotassociation.co.uk)



**Scottish Woodlots licence holders at a recent get-together**

## Conclusion

The recently announced Agricultural Bill, will mean huge change in UK agriculture, and change means opportunities for new thinking and I believe forest expansion. These alternative models are in addition to the more traditional forestry investment approach. They will help deliver a more diverse forestry landscape, underpinned by the large scale productive forestry that we are familiar with; and the "fund approach" will allow more people to benefit from the opportunities of investing in forestry and timber

Greater local investment in woodland creation and management could also reduce a lot of the hurdles when a community hear that a farm has been

bought for "planting". Enabling local stakeholders to benefit directly from woodland creation, as has been demonstrated with locally owned wind-farms can completely alter how that landscape change is perceived and hopefully welcomed.

There are a number of options from investment trusts to woodlots. What is clear is that Government aspirations around "public money for public goods" in England and for greater community ownership in Scotland, means that there is likely to be new good opportunities for fresh thinking, particularly if this encourages closer connections between local communities and their local woodlands.

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# Standing timber market slows over summer months



by **Harry Stevens**,  
timber buying director  
Tilhill /BSW

The summer period has seen relatively little activity in the standing market with a reduction in the number of parcels coming to the market. Whether this is a summer slowdown or due to more parcels having been sold earlier in the year is unclear at this time.

Levels of competition for the parcels that have come to the market over the recent period show a strong demand for standing timber with parcels continuing to attract multiple bids. Recent FCS, FCE and NRW tenders have all demonstrated the strength of demand across the sector. As ever, quality sells well, but even small roundwood parcels are finding plenty of interest.

Broadly, the total sawn wood market remains the same as it has been all year, the underlying demand in the UK remains relatively weak. However, supply has been somewhat constrained with lower volumes of imported product coming to the UK market despite the weak position of Sterling due to the attractiveness of other markets such as near east and far east. This has allowed the price of home grown sawn timber to increase through the year but we are still tracking below imported prices. Sawn prices have now stabilised. Lead times for home grown sawn product that had been as far out as four to six weeks have reduced over the summer period. In summary, standing prices have been driven by the supply side rather than any increased demand.

Business failure saw a medium-sized sawmill exit the market in central Scotland earlier in the year with no apparent loss of demand for sawlogs locally. Similarly, a catastrophic fire at a southern Irish sawmill more recently has yet to affect the demand for saw-

logs on the west coast of Scotland. Most sawmills are reporting a reasonably strong bought ahead position and comfortable stock position.

After the strong upward movements in sawlog price earlier in the year, we now see a position where price has broadly stabilised. Demand and supply are more in balance and the move by buyers to 'get ahead of the market' has largely moderated. Looking forward, further increases in log price is unlikely.

The exception to this is the Welsh market where demand for sawlogs continues to outstrip supply with very strong demand for all parcels.

The market for small roundwood is more consistent throughout the country with demand remaining strong. Bought ahead inventories for processors and stock yards are not well placed and consumers continue to demand small roundwood. Buyers remain haunted by the challenging winter that everyone experienced last year and continue to work hard to provide a supply position for the forthcoming winter. Additionally there continue to be new entrants to the market in the form of additional biomass at a variety of scales which continues to keep pressure in the market.

One striking response to the tight small roundwood supply has been the move to large-scale imports into the UK of hardwood small roundwood from the Baltic states. This is coming into the UK at prices substantially above the UK market and looks set to continue for at least the coming winter period. Similarly, spruce roundwood is being imported from southern Ireland as well as cargos of sawmill co-products into Scotland.

For all parts of the sector, both roundwood and sawlog, margins have been squeezed and some users are reported to be at the point where affordability is becoming an issue to such a degree that at the margins some capacity may have to be switched off.

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Demand and supply are more in balance and the move by buyers to 'get ahead of the market' has largely moderated.

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# Continued strong demand and challenging supply



**TIMBER AUCTIONS  
MARKET REPORT**  
**Oliver Combe**  
Timber Auctions

## Global trends

The worldwide economic recovery continues to drive global demand for timber upwards both in terms of price and volume. The increasing demand from the USA has had a ripple effect across all the major timber trading routes and when combined with the voracious appetite for timber products from China the timber market looks resurgent.

Finished product prices continue to reach record levels and in most major markets these have risen faster than raw material prices leading to record levels of profitability.

Exports of sawlogs continue to rise and 2018 has seen a noticeable increase in Chinese demand for high value sawlogs from Europe (Oak and now beech).

In Europe, Scandinavia, Canada and the USA lumber prices have risen faster than sawlog prices however, this pattern is not universal. Eastern Russia, New Zealand, South America and the United Kingdom have all seen declining profitability as raw material prices increased faster than finished product prices.

Overall the trend has been for increasing demand and rising raw material prices with improving market conditions.

There remains however and degree of uncertainty and caution over the ability of the market to continue to move forward at the same pace.

The natural environment seems to be

becoming more volatile with this year characterised by wildfire and storm damage.

It remains to be seen what impact the dry summer has had on supplies in Europe and Scandinavia where wildfires have had a serious impact on logging activity. The fires in central Sweden in July and August have caused enormous damage to forest areas which had recently suffered huge storm damage, especially to spruce stocks. The fires in the pine areas have caused further loss of growing stock and are bound to have a long term impact on raw material availability for Sweden's wood processing industry.

In central Europe there are increasing problems with beetle infestation of storm damaged timber.

Concerns remain about the strength of the economy in the euro zone

The escalating global trade disputes and increasing energy prices are also now beginning to influence decision making and are leading to uncertainty.

It is global factors which drive the UK market and which also periodically disrupt it. The slump of the late 90s and early 2000s was caused by a strong £ and the newly independent Baltic states pushing cheap timber into the UK as they sought to establish their primary industries. Whilst the crash of 2007/8 was caused by the global financial crisis and the associated credit crunch. Who knows what the next one will be.

## Domestic demand

Whilst in the short term the UK economy remains in good health there is increasing uncertainty over Brexit, which is impacting on longer term business confidence. It appears that businesses are delaying investment and recruitment plans as they "prepare for uncertainty". There is considerable uncertainty over the likely impact of Brexit on the strength of the £ with one school of thought being that the £ will fall to parity with the Euro over the next 6 months whilst another is that the UK economy is actually more resilient than the euro economy and that a "no deal Brexit" will lead to a strengthening £. Whatever happens there will be change.

At the end of September demand for all categories of raw material remains insatiable, the summer shutdown period has had no impact on the frenetic activity levels. Most processors have remained open for raw material deliveries throughout the summer as they seek to rebuild stock levels prior to winter. Whilst sawlog supplies have improved in the North and most sawmill log yards are now full to the point where quotas are being introduced the stock of small round wood, pallet wood and fencing remains hand to mouth.

Order books remain strong and most processors have been able to increase their end product prices during the first half of the year to compensate for some of the increases they have experienced in raw material costs. As supplies have improved over the summer they have been able to start to focus on "cost control" and in some instances "cost reduction". Late summer has seen modest price cuts for some product categories.

### Roadside hardwood prices (£ hft) August 2018

	Oak planking	Oak beam /fencing	Oak cordwood	Export ash & beech	White ash sawlogs	Export sycamore	1st grade firewood
High price	£10.00	£9.00	£1.50	£3.25	£5.00	£5.00	£2.15
Mid price	£8.00	£7.00	£1.25	£2.75	£4.00	£4.00	£2.00
Low price	£7.00	£5.00	£1.00	£2.00	£3.00	£3.00	£1.80

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 (September 2018)

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£75.00	£85.00	=
Bar 14	£60.00	£70.00	=
SRW	£50.00	£55.00	= ↑
Fencing	£55.00	£60.00	= ↑
H Wood firewood	£55.00	£65.00	↑

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

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£75.00	£85.00	=
Bar / pallet 14	£60.00	£70.00	=
SRW	£50.00	£55.00	= ↑
Fencing	£55.00	£60.00	= ↑
H Wood firewood	£55.00	£65.00	↑

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



ries however there remains a fragile balance between price and supply levels.

Over the last decade the “normal” pattern has been for prices to increase in the spring and then start to fall in the autumn with the level of economic activity during winter determining how far back prices fall. Exchange rates have a big impact on where the prices “settle out”, however the strong demand throughout the seasons has led to a rising market for the last two years with extreme price increases over the last year.

By most estimates key timber market prices have risen by 33% over the last year but now look to be levelling out. Shortage of supply and increased competition for raw material have been key factors in driving the prices up and will have a huge influence on what level it settles at. (See panel.)

**Summary** For the major markets the focus is now on cost control and they will be looking to reduce raw material costs wherever possible however this has to be balanced with the need to build stocks for winter. Levels of timber coming to the market over the next three to four months will be critical to this.

For the smaller users operating on a more local level securing supplies to see them through this winter remains a key concern as does availability of harvesting and haulage resource to work any timber they can find locally. Stock levels in the local biomass and firewood supply chains remain very low and prices reflect this.

### Hardwood market

The hardwood season is starting and it is interesting to note developments in Europe as these are likely to have a significant impact on what happens in the UK

Oak supplies in Europe remain critical, demand is unprecedented whilst supply remains constrained, export demand to Asia and China has increased rapidly and prices have gone up by 20% again at this year's auctions which will lead to further price increases across the board for sawn oak products this autumn.

Beech demand is increasing steadily in North Africa, Asia and China leading to steadily rising prices.

Ash demand is increasing in France due to the higher prices of oak as well as the ever increasing impact of ash dieback in Northern Europe, this coupled with improved export demand has led to a steady improvement in prices for ash.

We can say with some degree of certainty that oak prices will continue to improve this year and we have already seen a good quality UK planking and beam parcel sell for £10 per hoppus foot this year (£270m<sup>3</sup>).

Ash demand is improving and the ex-

## SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY

### POSITIVES

- The felling licence backlog in England experienced in the first half of 2018 appears to have been largely resolved and timber is now coming forward to the market again.
- The increased prices have encouraged growers to bring more timber to the market, not in huge volumes but every little helps.
- Growers who have not engaged with the market recently are starting to look at marketing timber although for many of them selling timber has not historically been a good experience and they are tentative in their approach to re engaging with the market.
- There is strong demand for all categories of product at good price levels.
- Current price levels make most sites “workable” and can offer a level of return to the grower.

### NEGATIVES

- The harvesting and haulage contracting resource is stretched to the limit
- “New” sites seem to be more difficult to work with more constraints from wildlife, lack of infrastructure, access, sporting tenants and neighbours.
- The annual timber selling pattern seems to be becoming more focused on spring sales with a shortage of parcels offered in the second six months of the year.

## INCREASED COMPETITION FOR RAW MATERIAL

### POSITIVES

- All major processors running at or very close to full capacity.
- Annual capital investments and efficiency gains continue to increase the demand from existing plants by around 5% per annum.
- Processors looking at their specifications to see how they can use more of the tree.
- Estover CHP plant at Cramlington in Northumberland now fully commissioned and requiring 4000 to 5000t per week of wood fibre
- Estover CHP plant at Sandwich in Kent now reaching full operational levels of 4500 to 5000 tonnes per week.
- Local RHI plants continue to become an important player for small round wood with delivered prices around £50 per tonne and “local” haulage rates.
- Firewood industry continues to grow although in some areas this sector has been caught out by the strength of the market and has failed to react to price increases and now faces its main selling period with very low stocks and
- Increasing interest from exporters for ash and beech sawlogs.

### NEGATIVES

- RHI payments give biomass users the ability to compete with traditional markets.
- Scale of the RHI capacity not fully understood.
- RHI industry often not fully in tune with “timber market”
- Pallet and bar mills struggling to compete with biomass and large processors.
- Round fencing mills struggling to compete for raw material.
- Locally serious concerns over where the timber will come from.

porters are now interest in summer felled parcels, hopefully demand for beech will improve as well.

Firewood prices have rocketed this year due to lack of supply and strong demand. The industry has been slow to wake up to the scale of the problem and has been in “price denial” for much of the summer. Those who were willing to pay the price have got some stock in their yards; those that refused now have big holes in their yards. In the Midlands and north of England we have seen price rises of around £10 per tonne to around £60 per tonne at roadside for firewood over the summer, with demand still outstripping supply.

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# Supporting our future workforce

by **Andy Gardiner**, recipient of award from the Forest Industries Education & Provident Fund



I am a mature student studying BSc Hons Forest Management at the National School of Forestry, University of Cumbria. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund (FIEPF) for providing the grant to enable me to complete my NPTC CS30/31 chainsaw qualification. This article aims to give the reader a brief insight as to how I believe it has already benefitted my future employability and experience.

I have recently completed my mid-year placement and am now preparing to return for a final year of studies. The degree course is comprehensive, covering the broad silvicultural, operational and scientific elements of forest management. Machinery-based practical skills, however, fall wholly outside the degree remit. I believe basic chainsaw knowledge is essential for forest managers and forestry supervisors; be it clearing forest roads after windblow, felling high risk dangerous trees, or for contract management to ensure health and safety standards are met and work completed to a satisfactory quality.

I give a great deal of thought to my future employment after graduation. After all, retraining at age 40 is an expensive option in terms of tuition fees and lost earnings, regardless of my passion for forestry. When questioned, ALL the people I've talked to from the industry have confirmed that when it comes to getting a job, employers are looking for passion and experience. This is mirrored in jobs advertised in the forestry sector. I arranged to take the chainsaw course in early May 2017, immediately following the end of my second year at University. In June, I was interviewed for and then offered my dream mid-year placement as Trainee Forester on the Chatsworth Estate. I am certain that my winning the position was in part to being CS30/31 qualified, but beyond this

Across 2017-18, the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund has supported 14 award recipients with a total of £7365.

it has enabled me to maximise this invaluable work experience. The placement at Chatsworth has been hugely enjoyable covering a wide variety of tasks; including management plan writing, CSS applications, contractor management, GIS, veteran tree surveying, tree orders, planting tenders, stock assessments, tariffing and establishing a firewood business; and a substantial part of the role involves tree work as a forestry team member. Thanks to my chainsaw tickets I have been felling trees and supervising a work team rather than just feeding the chipper.

A big thank you to the FIEPF for providing the funding which in turn has enhanced my forestry credentials, aided in increasing the breadth of my forestry experience, and hopefully boosted my employability chances when I graduate in 2019.

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# ‘Can’t operate a machine if you don’t have a ticket. Can’t get a ticket if you can’t operate a machine!’

by **Angus Gray**, Treeworks

I am 21 and together with my father, Neil, we run Treeworks, a forestry contracting business, specialising in low impact timber harvesting.

After leaving school, I worked with my dad, who at the time had a small tree surgery business covering everything from tree climbing to small forestry jobs. I then attended the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness and completed an HNC in Forestry. It was at this point that I decided that I was more interested in forestry and the related machinery than tree surgery.

We started to move the business more towards low impact harvesting, specialising in thinning and



In the absence of long-term contract, our biggest challenge is the continuity of work.

small clearfells. We saw an opportunity in this area due to the demand for biomass, making thinnings financially viable. It was at this point that we bought a Volvo eight-tonne excavator with a stroke head. Forwarding was done using our existing Valtra and forwarding trailer. We worked with this setup for two years, building up a continuity of work mostly carrying out thinnings. We then improved our forwarding ability and efficiency with the purchase of a Valmet 828 eight-tonne forwarder. As timber diameters and the size of sites increased earlier this year, we replaced the Volvo and stroke head with a Doosan 14-tonne excavator with a SP roller head. This machine has dramatically increased production and our capabilities.

Our biggest challenge is the continuity of work. When first starting out we found it difficult to get work. Our first break-through was when we approached Harry Wilson at RTS and he gave us a Scots pine thinning followed by a Sitka thinning. We are very grateful for this as it gave us start. Being a young business we found it difficult to get work with the management companies without having a proven track record.

Once we had a few jobs under our belt we started to get more work based on reputation, which over time has allowed our business to grow, and enabled us to invest in better equipment. This continuity of work is essential due to a lack of long-term contracts.

## Struggling to gain experience

With regard to FMO tickets (aka Forest Machine Operator Certificate), had we not had our own machinery, I would have not have been able to gain the hours and experience to achieve the qualifications required before being allowed on sites. I can see how it can be difficult for somebody who doesn't have a family background in forestry to get a start in forestry. Having attended college, I have witnessed that there is an emphasis on forest management and administration rather than machine operations. Colleges don't have the resources to train students to the standard required, so the responsibility lies on the contractors to train their own operators.

An idea would be for everybody involved to put money into a pool that funds training. This should include everyone from management companies down to contractors including machinery manufacturers/suppliers, hauliers, sawmills and government. Everyone who contributes would benefit. But maybe young people are not interested in working long hours in isolation? Does the forest industry at all levels portray a positive image as an employer to young people?

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# Practical action helps



*Bergwaldprojekt* ('mountain forest project') is a non-for profit initiative that aims to promote the maintenance and care of 'protection forests' in mountainous areas, and to educate the general public on the value and management of these key ecosystems and the realities of "protecting the environment". **Stef Kaiser** visits the project in a small valley on the Austrian/Swiss border.

**B**ergwaldprojekt which started in Switzerland, has been running for 31 years. It offers volunteers a week-long working experience in carefully selected protection forests in mountainous regions across four countries. A 'protection forest' is one which has been identified as providing important benefits to the settlements in the catchment below, such as protection from avalanches, flooding or landslides. The charity has two main purposes:

- Guaranteeing the resource-intensive maintenance of protection forests and their direct benefits to valley settlements.
- Through volunteer work, encouraging public understanding of the forest and the realities of forest protection and management.

The project's motto is "actions speak louder than words". Instead of debating the problem of forest

degradation, people should experience the reality of forest management through active involvement, becoming ambassadors to change attitudes in other people.

Volunteers can book free one-week working holidays in mountain locations across several countries and thereby actively contribute to the care of the forest. The work is done in close co-operation with local forestry services.

## Protection forests

The forest I visit lies in the south-western corner of Austria, bordering Switzerland. The forest stabilises a steep, north-facing and humid slope and is therefore a key structure in protecting the village beneath it from avalanches, flooding and major landslides. The forest consists mainly of spruce.

"In this region, we have many protection forests,





**L-R: Protection forest of Curaglia before 1990; storm surface after “Vivian” in 1990; after the reforestation through the Bergwaldprojekt (2010)**

**Below: Project leader Michi Denfeld and local forester Sebastian Leitner**

# widen understanding

and one of our maintenance jobs is to remove old, rotting wood and make sure young trees are given the best opportunity to flourish”, says project leader Michi Denfeld.

Maintaining the right mixed-age, mixed-species structure is essential for a protection forest to deliver its stabilising function.

“We normally undertake some felling to encourage natural regeneration, then we wait for a few years to see if this has been successful. If necessary, we plant, and these young trees need intensive care, almost like garden plants. This high-input maintenance is only justified by the forest’s essential function in protecting the settlements below.”

The wood from any trees felled is always used in the best possible way. However, timber production is not the primary management objective.

“Getting the wood out of a forest in mountainous terrain is not an easy task. We mainly work with skylines, which we set up diagonally to avoid creating straight tracks down the slope, which are ‘no-go’ in avalanche-prone territory”, says local forester Sebastian Leitner.

“A challenge in the protection forests are natural ‘gullies’ where water and mud is transported down the slopes. In recent decades, villages in the valley spread into the ‘red zones’ below some of the mi-

nor gullies, which have not caused problems over the last decades but are still routes of evacuation for water and mud, and therefore a potential threat to the settlements. In a protection forest, trees are sometimes felled across these gullies to create stable microsites, allowing establishment of young trees for slope stabilisation.”

>>





## >> Crowd-sourcing intensive care

The project undertakes forest management work using groups of volunteers. The project is funded by donations and receives some additional funds from the local forestry departments who are benefitting from assistance.

“We choose those protection forests that are in need of help”, explains the project leader. “We undertake work that the district foresters couldn’t possibly cover on their own with the resources that they have available. For example, manually constructing access tracks to the very steep forest in need of management is a very resource-intensive job for three local foresters, but with 20 volunteers it becomes more realistic and we can maybe get 100 metres done per day. The idea is that each year, we come back and continue the job where we left it. Our work is therefore sustainable.”

The forestry jobs for the volunteers are decided upon immediately before a project work week begins. Tasks are instructed by experienced project leaders and local foresters, and include planting, clearing and weeding to facilitate establishment, construction of trails or deer fencing.

“This week, for example, we are working on trail maintenance and on clearing around young trees that we planted 3-4 years ago”, comments Michi.

## Public engagement

“Rather than trying to tell people about the threats to and importance of protection forests, we take volunteers into the forest and get them to work. Through their active involvement in forest management, they get to understand the bigger picture. After their week with us, they can intuitively understand ecological concepts such as the fact that sometimes, felling a tree in a protection forests creates space for younger, stronger trees to grow. We want to help the public to understand the challenges of foresters to keep forests healthy.

“When our volunteers return to their homes, they look at forests differently, they see them as a system that needs maintenance to function, rather than sentimentally fixating on the life of individual trees”, says Michi.

They will pass on a lot of new knowledge and experiences to the people around them. Volunteers amplify the concepts we want the general public to understand. They are our ambassadors and often encourage others to volunteer with us, therefore spreading the message even further.”

## Plant health

Deer are a problem in protection forests, which rely on a solid mixed-age, mixed-species structure, and even minimum deer browsing threatens regeneration. Deer can wipe out whole age-groups or species of trees in the forest structure.

“For example, Silver fir is a species that should be present in this protection forest, in particular on the north-facing, wetter slopes. It is much better suited for the site compared to spruce – but it is the deer’s favourite treat” says Sebastian.

Tree shelters are impractical because they are



pushed down by snow, causing the tree to grow at an angle. Growing trees in nurseries to a larger size is not an option either, because they do not establish.

In Austria, certain key protection forests are kept as ‘deer free zones’. This is achieved with a ‘stick-and-carrot’ approach: feeding stations in less vulnerable areas encourage deer to stay where habitats for them have been created. Remaining deer are herded out of the protection forest or culled according to a quota. In neighbouring Switzerland, deer feeding has been banned and deer are kept at bay just with planned culling, a narrow approach which compromises the management objectives of the protection forest, in the opinion of Michi Denfeld.

Due to the unusually dry weather of the last season, another key plant health challenge in the region has been the European bark beetle (*Ips typographus*). Lately, the *Bergwaldprojekt* has put a lot of resources into felling and de-barking affected trees.

[www.bergwaldprojekt.ch/en](http://www.bergwaldprojekt.ch/en)

**Volunteer de-barking of stumps of trees affected by bark beetle**



# Quality timber haulage



by **Colin Mackenzie**,  
Highland Timber  
Transport Group

Getting timber to the mill is a key step in the supply chain and the pressure is always on to shave costs. However, when choosing a haulier it is always worth putting quality into the equation before signing up the cheapest.

## Big vehicles on sensitive roads

Almost by definition timber will leave the forest onto a minor road, joining rural traffic serving homes, communities, cycle routes, schools etc. On such roads timber trucks are usually the biggest vehicles using the road and can appear intimidating to other road users. They can be difficult to pass, impossible to overtake and an easy source of frustration and focus of dissent. Add in to this mix the damaging effect on weak public roads and the picture becomes clear: we must all work harder to engage the best hauliers, particularly on sensitive routes.

## Information flow to ensure quality haulage

There can be many parties in the supply chain between forest owner and haulier and this can impede the flow of essential site information. Clients commissioning haulage must recognise they have a duty to pass on relevant information about difficult sites at tender stage, even if this does impact on cost.

Modern fleet management systems can give continuous read-out of truck locations, speed etc. Whilst this technology has traditionally only been realistic for larger operators, systems are becoming available for a tanner a month which give the smaller operator enough GPS data to know what is going on and where. This data can be hugely helpful in resolving third party complaints about speeding, convoying etc, quite often enabling such complaints to be repudiated. It can be expected that some local authorities will in future ask for such systems to be a requirement in known problem areas.

The Timber Transport Forum hosts the Agreed Routes Map system which is a vital tool for clients and hauliers planning extraction. For the last 20

years, rural roads authorities, local timber transport groups and the industry have cooperated to develop the system which identifies preferred routes for timber traffic as well as those roads which require further consultation before use, or which are indeed unsuitable. More recently route-specific timber transport management plans have been developed in some difficult areas.

## The human factor

These procedures are unique to the timber industry and it is to the credit of all involved in the supply chain that they generally work well. In the end they are voluntary and that is why it is so important to engage quality hauliers with experience, who understand and buy-in to this process. A cowboy saving a few pounds taking a shortcut has implications for not just safety but can undermine confidence that has taken years to build up between the industry and local roads authority. The damage that can be done by a poorly driven truck on a weak public road can rapidly run into tens of thousands, destroying not just the road but also the efforts of all those in the supply chain who have negotiated the local solution. It is simply not worth it.

## Avoiding convoys

The insistence of truckers to drive in convoy is something that mystifies other road users. On rural routes with limited overtaking opportunities they create frustration and annoyance. More importantly they increase the visibility of the industry in completely the wrong way. The Timber Transport Forum's "Wait a Minute" campaign promotes at least a minute between trucks, ensuring they are not intervisible - it is that easy.

This article does not propose that all quality hauliers need have big fleets. Small operators are a vital part of the timber supply industry and many have the experience, local knowledge and flexibility to provide an excellent service. With the current shortage of trucks and drivers there is even more pressure on to recognise that safety and quality are essentially intertwined and we all need to work harder to embed them in the supply chain.

<https://timbertransportforum.org.uk>

## How can we tell a quality haulier?

### Clear identification:

Well, for a start they will be proud enough to emblazon their trucks with logo and contact information. In cases of complaint, this has the benefit of direct communication being possible. Without it, complaints are likely to go directly to the local Council, Forestry Commission or other public body, leading to a trail of emails, frustration and bad publicity for all involved.

### Well trained and informed drivers:

It goes without saying that the quality haulier will have systems in place to ensure drivers are properly trained and updated. However, timber transport requires more than that; uplift sites vary, and drivers need to be fully informed on the known safety and community issues of their routes before leaving the depot.



## TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

A CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER, SAFER TIMBER HAULAGE

# Getting to know the ‘friendly fungi’ associated with the roots of key timber species

**Nadia Barsoum** provides highlights of over 10 years of research shedding light on who’s who in the world of friendly fungi colonising tree roots.

**B**eneath the forest floor, tree roots form an extensive, tangled network that becomes increasingly elaborate as it extends into the soil. However, this is not where a tree root system ends. Wrapped glove-like around most fine tree roots and extending from them are the thin thread-like hyphae of ectomycorrhizal fungi that can vastly increase the overall surface area of tree nutrient and water uptake. A gram of soil can contain hundreds to thousands of metres of these microscopic filaments which branch and explore between soil particles and bore into solid substrates such as wood.

Ectomycorrhizae (ECM) surround tree roots to form a mutually beneficial partnership with their host tree species, transferring water and essential minerals such as nitrogen and phosphorus to the tree host in exchange for sugars produced by the tree through the process of carbon capture from sunlight (photosynthesis). ECMs also produce chemicals (enzymes) which break down decaying material in soils, thereby increasing the supply of nutrients to trees.

Different ECM species excel in distinct specialist functions that trees depend on. These functions might include providing an effective physical barrier to protect roots either from root-eating predators (eg nematodes), soil toxins, desiccation during periods of drought and/or infection from disease-causing micro-organisms. Other specialist functions include the efficient decomposition of decaying organic matter to enhance nutrient supplies, the specialist uptake of specific nutrients, or the ability for long-distance exploration through soils. An individual tree would benefit therefore from having a diversity of ECM species on its roots to fulfil these multiple functions vital for tree health and growth.

Why research ectomycorrhizae?

While there is a growing appreciation of the value of ECMs to nutrient cycling in forest ecosystems and to tree health, there is a gap in our knowledge of the species that make up ECM communities in different forest types and the factors that influence

woodland ECM communities. It is particularly important to gain an improved understanding of the community composition and dynamics of these ‘friendly fungi’ under present conditions of rapid global environmental change, when trees are encountering multiple stresses, including climate change, land use intensification, atmospheric pollution and emerging tree pests and diseases.

What research has been undertaken?

Early research on ECMs was hindered by the need for specialist taxonomic experts to identify ECM species present on either root tips, or on the sporadic above-ground occurrence of ECM fruiting bodies (eg mushrooms, crusts). In 2005, Forest Research initiated research into the large-scale study of ECM communities on timber species using novel molecular genetic techniques for ECM species identification. These molecular methods, applied in collaboration with Imperial College London and Kew Gardens, offer a significant improvement in the ability to identify ECM species and to determine the composition of ECM communities. Coupled with this, Forest Research promoted the use of a network of intensively monitored forest plots (ICP Forests Level II Network) for sampling ECMs.

The ICP Forests Level II Network comprises a Europe-wide network of forest plots, including conifer and broadleaf timber species such as (in the UK) Scots pine, Norway and Sitka spruce, beech and pedunculate and sessile oak. It provides a unique platform with which to:

- Explore relationships between the ECM species present and a wide range of environmental variables monitored at the plot level since the mid-1990s such as tree nutritional status (based on leaf chemistry), levels of soil acidity and atmospheric deposition of nitrogen (N) and potassium (K).
- Understand the degree to which different ECM species are host specific on conifers versus broadleaves or even particular tree species – host specificity is poorly understood and could be highly relevant in woodland restoration and afforestation contexts.
- Determine whether any observed patterns in the composition of ECM communities are site specific or occur repeatedly across a wide range of sites.

Over the last thirteen years, Dr N Barsoum (Forest Research) and Dr M Bidartondo (Imperial College London) have worked collaboratively to raise research funds which have resulted in a succession







**1: ECM on Scots pine root tips.** Copyright Filipa Cox  
**2 and 3: ECM fruiting bodies, such as these chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*) and fly agaric mushrooms (*Amanita muscaria*), are of limited reliability in ECM surveys since they do not accurately represent species abundances as not all ECMs produce fruiting bodies and the timing of fruiting body emergence can easily be missed.**  
 Copyright Forestry Commission

of related PhD and post-doctoral ECM research projects pursued in 137 Level II plots in 20 countries across Europe. By applying directly comparable sampling regimes and species identification methods, one important outcome of the combined research effort is the establishment of a valuable baseline dataset of the ECM communities associated with the following timber species in Europe: Scots pine, oak (pedunculate and sessile), beech and Norway spruce. This research is also building an understanding of the key variables that influence the ECM communities in European woodlands dominated by these tree species.

#### What has the research found?

The combined datasets reveal that the identity of the host tree species is important in dictating the occurrence of particular ECM species. Of the ECM species recorded, approximately 60% were found to be conifer or broadleaf specialists and 13% were only ever found in association with a single tree species. Temperature was another variable that had an important influence on ECM species distributions, indicating a preference by some ECMs for cooler or warmer conditions.

Another clear trend observed across the Europe-wide gradient is that N deposition, K deposition and soil pH strongly influence the number and types of ECM species present. ECM species diversity generally declines with increasing levels of both atmospheric N deposition and increasing soil acidity. The steep gradient in levels of N deposition across Level II plots in Europe permitted 'critical loads' to be set and used to highlight the point at which deposition levels become harmful for ECMs. For example, in oak-dominated woodlands, N critical loads of 17 kg N/ha/year result in dramatic changes in below-ground ECM communities including the loss of many ECMs with structures specialised in the long-distance transport of nutrients (eg *Cortinarius* species). Certain ECM species can also be used as indicators of levels of N deposition due to their particular sensitivity (eg *Lactarius chrysorheus* - Yellowdrop Milkcap), or tolerance (eg *Scleroderma citrinum* - Common Earthball) to high levels of N deposition.

#### What next?

A decline in the abundance of ECMs compounded by a loss in ECM species and functional diversity can make ECM communities less resilient to environmental change. This in turn could have important consequences for tree host resilience to global environmental change. There is speculation, for example, that widespread reported observations of tree malnutrition across Europe may be influenced by a decline in ECM abundance and diversity which may be affecting the balance and acquisition rates of nutrients by trees. This link has yet to be proven, but underlines the urgent need for more research to clarify these relationships.

**Nadia.Barsoum@forestry.gsi.gov.uk**

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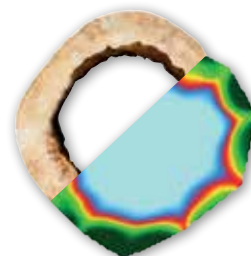
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# Trees and climate change: faster growth, lighter wood

Researchers at the Technical University in Munich have found evidence that the wood density of European trees has been continuously decreasing over the last 150 years.

**T**rees are growing more rapidly due to climate change. This sounds like good news. After all, this means that trees are storing more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in their wood and hence taking away the key ingredient in global warming. But is it that simple? A team from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) analysed wood samples from the oldest existing experimental areas spanning a period of 150 years – and reached a surprising conclusion.

The team led by Hans Pretzsch, Professor for Forest Growth and Yield Science at the TUM, examined wood samples from several hundred trees and analysed every single annual ring using a high-tech procedure – a total of 30,000 of them. “The heart of the LIGNOSTATION is a high-frequency probe which scans each sample in steps of a hundredth of a millimetre”, says Pretzsch, explaining the analysis procedure. “By doing so, we measure the specific weight of the wood with an accuracy and resolution which until recently was unthinkable.”

The wood samples come from the oldest experimental forest plots in Europe and were taken from common European tree species such as spruces, pines, beeches, and oaks. “We have detailed knowledge of the history of every single plot and tree”, says Pretzsch. “This allows us to rule out the possibility that our findings could result from the forest being managed differently now as compared to a hundred years ago.”

Climate change is making the wood lighter. From the collected data, researchers were able to demonstrate that the annually growing wood has gradually become lighter since observations began

“

A greater volume of wood is being produced today, but it contains less material than just a few decades ago

– by up to 8-12% since 1900. Within the same period, the volume growth of the trees in central Europe has accelerated by 29-100%.

In other words: even though a greater volume of wood is being produced today, it now contains less material than just a few decades ago. However, the explanation which immediately comes to mind does not apply. “Some people might now surmise that the more rapid growth could itself be the cause for our observations”, says Dr Peter Biber, co-author of the study – “In some tree species, it is in fact the case that wider annual rings also tend to have lighter wood. But we have taken this effect into account. The decrease in wood density we are talking about is due to other factors.”

Instead, Pretzsch and his team see the causes as being the long-term increase in temperature due to climate change and the resulting lengthening of the vegetation period. But the nitrogen input from agriculture, traffic, and industry also play a part. A number of details lead experts to surmise this, such as the decrease in the density of late wood and the increase in the percentage of early wood in the annual rings.

## Lighter wood – what’s the problem?

Lighter wood is less solid and it has a lower calorific value. This is crucial for numerous application scenarios ranging from wood construction to energy production. Less solid wood in living trees also increases the risk of damage events such as breakage due to wind and snow in forests.

But the most important finding for practical and political aspects is that the current climate-relevant carbon sequestration of the forests is being overestimated as long as it is calculated with established but outdated wood densities. “The accelerated growth is still resulting in surplus carbon sequestration”, says Pretzsch. “But scaling up for the forests of central Europe, the traditional estimate would be too high by about ten million metric tons of carbon per year.”

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# Developing new solutions for Hylobius control – a nursery perspective

by **Chris Hardy**, technical manager,  
Maelor Forest Nurseries

**B**ack in 2009, cypermethrin was the standard Hylobius weevil control product in forestry. In 2014 FSC granted a derogation for the use of cypermethrin, with an initial expiration date of 2014, thus alerting the industry to the urgent requirement for an effective alternative. The Hylobius Plant Protection Group (HPPG) was set up, consisting of various organisations including Forest Research, forest management companies and nurseries. The aim of the group was to identify and trial safer, more environmentally friendly weevil control options through trialling a range of conventional pesticides, physical barriers, bio controls, repellents, and the use of population prediction models.

Since 2010, the HPPG's field trials have been established annually, on sites provided by Tihill Forestry and Scottish Woodlands. The creation of randomised site layout plans has been overseen by Forest Research and more recently universities, ensuring a robust experimental design capable of producing reliable data. Trial results have been presented to and shared with industry representatives, such as Confor.

## Pesticides

The HPPG's first field trials were planted in 2010, with tree supply and treatment application carried out by the nursery. From the range of products tested, results of these initial sites identified neonicotinoid insecticides as effective. We were aware of the use of imidacloprid against weevil in Europe, but also knew that similar active ingredients with better ecotoxicology profiles were available. For this reason, acetamiprid had been included in the trials, and results between the two insecticides were comparable. With 500 times lower toxicity to aquatic organisms than cypermethrin (Willoughby et al., 2017), acetamiprid (Gazelle) was selected as a potential alternative. The supply of Gazelle treated trees to forest sites began in 2012. Uptake of Gazelle by the forest industry represented a big step forward in terms of environmental sustainability, demonstrating a desire for change and improvement in the sector's approach to pest control. The HPPG's trials are also indicating that there are other products with better ecotoxicity profiles than acetamiprid which may be viable alternatives.

## Physical barriers

We have endeavoured to test all physical-barrier

products available, some of them incorporating bio-repellents. A flexible sand-based coating used in Sweden was included in the first round of HPPG trials. Performance on the UK trial sites was poor, so the treatment was not selected for further testing. Plastic tree nets were also tried. Results were variable, with good performance on some sites but significant damage on others regardless of weevil population; additionally, the use of non-biodegradable plastics in our forests is not environmentally sustainable. A wax coating application machine was hired and shipped across from Sweden to Maelor specifically for the trials. When first tested in 2013, it was observed that the wax quickly started to crack and fall from the trees. Results showed that rates of weevil damage were high, but despite the initial failure we persevered. Wax was tried again for three successive years, with the same outcome each time. There has been some success though. We have been



Having proved that we can work together with a common purpose, we are confident that it is only a matter of time before we get there.

trialling waxed paper tree sleeves since 2013, producing efficacy data on a range of site types and for varying weevil populations. The sleeves are biodegradable and therefore represent an environmentally sustainable option. On very exposed sites, or with high weevil populations, the sleeves do not generally provide an adequate level of protection. But on more sheltered sites and with low to medium weevil pressure we have seen the sleeves perform well. So, combined with weevil population prediction and proper site assessment the sleeves fit well into an Integrated Pest Management programme. Recently the HPPG has been working with a partner company in the development of a new polymer treatment. Applied to the tree stem as a liquid, it sets to form a strong and flexible barrier. We have tested the polymer for three years running, during which time both the formula and the application technique have been improved. The nursery has bought a small application machine for the product: along with the trial work we aim to send out polymer treated trees to customers this season for evaluation and feedback.







### Bio-controls

A range of bio controls have been trialed, so far these have proved to be ineffective or impractical for individual plant protection. There could be a role for such products in reducing population levels. The HPPG members have been involved in work with BIOPROTECT, and later BIPESCO (Swansea University). Research is ongoing in this area and we hope to see developments soon.

### Where to?

To date 17 unique chemical treatments, eight unique biological treatments and eight unique physical barrier treatments have been tested in our trials. With varying rates, product combinations and replications that comes to over 200 separate treatments on over 70,000 trees. The HPPG's investment in the search for alternative weevil control strategies totals several hundred thousand pounds. Research and development of alternative solutions which provide improvements to environmental sustainability takes time and patience. Attempting to bring new products to the market prematurely risks not only catastrophic weevil damage on planting sites, but also loss of user confidence.

The HPPG is committed to continuing its work into alternative hylobius controls and are currently planning for a 2019 trials programme. The HPPG is now working within the framework of the Hylobius Industry Research Programme (HIRP). HIRP are currently raising funds to fully analyse and publish the HPPG's trial work together with work by the FC's Hylobius Working Group.

As an industry we have a long way to go before we will be able to rely on exclusively chemical free solutions for Hylobius. Having proved that we can work together with a common purpose, we are confident that it is only a matter of time before we get there. The recent announcement of an innovation grant funded by Forest Enterprise Scotland is a significant milestone. We look forward to finding out which novel and pioneering approaches are selected.

Any suggestions for new products to try will be gratefully received.

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# Can continuous cover forestry in conifer systems promote butterfly biodiversity?

by **Patrick Cook**, Butterfly Conservation

The Stourhead (Western) Estate, situated on the boundary between Wiltshire and Somerset, comprises a commercial, coniferous forest. Belonging to the Hoare family, the private estate has a long history of forestry, pioneering new techniques in forestry management. Current forestry management can be attributed to an influential visit to Switzerland in 1951, where the Hoare family first witnessed continuous cover forestry in practice and became determined to adopt the management technique. Under the guidance of forester, David Pengelly, the estate began converting its stand management fully to continuous cover forestry in 1997. On the estate, the stands can be found at varying stages of transition to continuous cover status and achieving the desired stand targets. Stands are comprised of a mixture of conifer species including Douglas fir and Sitka spruce alongside limited broadleaf components.

There is a growing interest in continuous cover forestry in the UK and how it can deliver as a commercial means to provide timber alongside non-timber benefits for biodiversity when compared with traditional practices of clear felling and replanting. Continuous cover can support biodiversity that requires ecological continuity by creating a more diverse vertical structure, not exposing the soil, promoting a mix of tree species within the stand and encouraging natural regeneration. Scientific research has been carried out on continuous cover stands in mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland. The outputs of these are starting to show how irregular silviculture can deliver for certain taxonomic groups, particularly birds. There is, however, a gap in our knowledge of how CCF in commercial, coniferous systems can deliver for biodiversity in taxonomic groups such as Lepidoptera, the order of insects comprising butterflies and moths.

## Larval host plants

Butterfly Conservation (BC) has been given the fantastic opportunity to look at this alternative approach to commercial forestry on the Stourhead (Western) Estate and investigate how this management technique can deliver for biodiversity, specifically Lepidoptera. Moths were of interest because they are a diverse group which feed on a range of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and lichens. This diversity of so-called 'larval host plants' is related to the diversity of structures found in the woodland. Stands have been selected for investigation, based on representing various stages along the continuum of achieving the desired stand characteristics utilising continuous cover forestry.

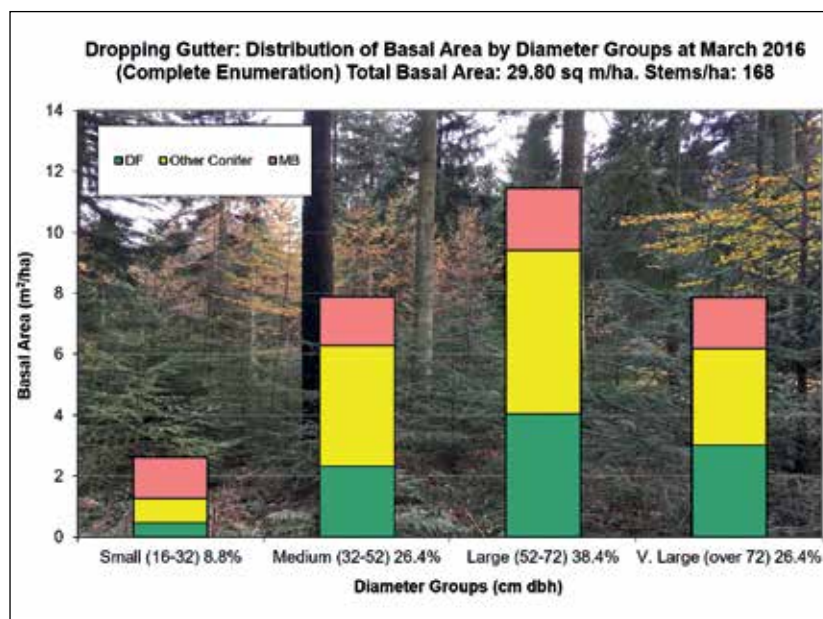
Dropping Gutter is the most progressed stand (total basal area is 30m<sup>2</sup>/ha) with an irregular verti-

cal structure and a mix of evergreen and, to a lesser degree, broadleaved trees (Figure 1). Great Combe (total basal area is 37m<sup>2</sup>/ha) is largely dominated by evergreen species, with fewer broadleaves, and a developing irregular structure, though is not as advanced as Dropping Gutter. Kingswood Warren (total basal area is 38m<sup>2</sup>/ha) is largely evergreen with a regular, even-aged structure.

To examine the abundance and species diversity of moths in the woodland, Robinson style moth traps were used at fixed points over a number of nights in June and July of 2018. During this period, 13,000 individual moths were recorded comprising over 300 species. Having this amount of data from the first full year of trapping is fantastic and will really allow us to start unlocking how stand structure influences the species richness and abundance of moths. Now in its second year, the BC project will continue to collect data over the next year which will help advise the estate on how their transformation to CCF delivers for Lepidoptera.

“

Continuous cover can support biodiversity that requires ecological continuity by creating a more diverse vertical structure



**Figure 1. Stand characteristics of Dropping Gutter**

If there is evidence that a commercial forestry system can also deliver other benefits beyond timber production, such as for biodiversity, then there is real value and increased sustainability in this form of land use. With planned expansions to the moth trapping over the next few years and inclusion of other taxonomic groups, we should begin to understand and produce scientific outputs on how this form of management can provide for biodiversity at an ecosystem scale. Once completed, the research implications of this study will add to the evidence that can inform land use and management practices at a national level.



## The picture is the message

In your interesting article (*FTN*, June 2018) on the use of visual images you encourage foresters to incorporate images to rapidly communicate information specifically about themselves and their businesses – a picture is indeed worth a thousand words.

And, of course, widening the thing out a bit, this is precisely what visual art, including painting, is all about: wordless communication about the subject, except that in this case the picture is the message, with no associated spelled-out written information, no words necessary at all.

I'm one of those strange individuals with a dual life, partly in forestry/trees over many decades but also a professional landscape artist who happens to quite often paint trees and woods.

In Royal Academician Ken Howard's view painting is about revelation, communication and celebration of the subject, and I think this is about right. Revelation, where you are trying to help viewers really see something that perhaps they've passed over but never really noticed; communication where you might be trying to say, convey the cathedral-like feel of the Californian coast redwood forests, or a UK broadleaved or conifer woodland; and celebration,



**Late summer, Victoria, Australia, watercolour, by Peter Perry**

where you might be wordlessly saying 'hey, look how beautiful this beech leaf or pine shoot is'

People appreciate and buy my woodland/tree paintings I think not because they are reminded of any specific woodland they know but rather because it helps them re-connect emotionally with trees and woodlands generally, or perhaps at a certain season – things that in this highly urbanised society most of us have come quite a long way from!

And, getting back to forestry and woodlands, as I've said previously in various communications/consultation responses, commercial woodlands can be, often are, just as stunning visually as non-commercial ones, something that the more purist conservationists and many in 'the media' can often forget.

**Dr Peter Perry**  
[www.peterperry.com](http://www.peterperry.com)



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## PESTICIDES NOTEBOOK

### COLIN PALMER

#### Kerb Review

The announcement last autumn by FSC that propyzamide was to be removed from the “highly hazardous” pesticide list came too late for many to include the herbicide in their winter weed control programmes. These notes are aimed to be a reminder of its role for those who had curtailed its use during the HH years.

Kerb is predominantly a grass weed herbicide, although it will also suppress docks, buttercup and many annual weeds. It is applied between October and end January, when winter rainfall can move this mostly insoluble root acting herbicide down to the roots through the top soil profile. As it is a residual herbicide, it may be applied in wet weather, and can be safely applied over all dormant trees whether conifer or broad-leaved species.

So, any downsides?

In comparison with glyphosate it is more expensive - costing up to £40 per sprayed ha, it can also fail on the tougher grasses such as tussocks and calamagrostis, and can be less effective on peaty organic soils. Care also needs to be taken on steep hillsides adjacent to watercourses, as torrential rain can physically displace the herbicide particles.

As well as the well known Kerb Flo, propyzamide is also available for forest use as Careta, Cohort and Relva from mainline forestry companies, plus over 30 parallel imports sourced from the EC which can often be found at discounted prices, and most of which have forest approval.

#### Hylobius - insecticide update

Concerns over neonicotinoids have resulted in three insecticides being withdrawn for all uses outside of greenhouses. This includes Merit Forest (imidacloprid) which has been used as a forest nursery treatment, but is no longer available.

The position on Gazelle SG (acetamiprid) looks much more favourable, and currently the EC Directorate has no plans to revoke this, as all the published scientific data indicates that it has no adverse effect on bee health. However, MEP's have recently voted to ban all neonicotinoids, including acetamiprid and the popular thiacloprid used for woolly aphid control in Christmas trees. Fortunately, this decision is non binding, creating battle lines between the scientific and political wings of the EU community. So, like Brexit, nothing is set in stone, and therefore steps are being taken to extend the forest approval of an alternative insecticide as an replacement should acetamiprid fall foul of the politicians.

The two synthetic pyrethroid products Forester (cypermethrin), and Alpha 6ED



## Brexit and pesticide approval

Confor was recently invited with other land use industries to meet with DEFRA to discuss possible outcomes for UK pesticides post Brexit. These revealed that whatever the outcome of the negotiations, we will be following European procedures during the “transition period” as indicated in the EU Withdrawal Bill.

In 2021 a UK regulatory system, based on EC regulations but combining both UK and EC roles will be put in place. This will introduce a Statutory Register with the intention of a “lighter touch” with an option of developing a shared regulatory approach with the “Quad Countries” - Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, the indications are that Environment Minister Michael Gove will wish to find ways of reducing or minimising the use of pesticides, so we do not anticipate any relaxation in the regulatory system.

An Agricultural White Paper is scheduled for 2019 leading to an Agricultural Bill. Few clues have emerged as to content, but a recent speech by Agriculture

Minister George Eustace provided worrying suggestions that scientific evidence may seem too controversial to utilise, presumably because it may not follow the “green” agenda. It also appears that hazard may be regarded to be more important than risk, which if implemented over motor transport would lead to a ban all vehicle use!

Government policy appears to see pesticides as a short term solution only, and will strongly encourage IPM (Integrated Pest Management) options - an area in which forestry is already well versed in practice. Ministers will encourage, but not fund, research and development into non pesticide solutions including enhanced plant breeding, sterile pest populations and development of pest and disease resistant crops.

However, to conclude on a reassuring note - Ministers continue to consider that glyphosate is safe and supports its use. Let us hope that acetamiprid get the same nod of approval.

(alpha-cypermethrin) currently have expiry dates in 2021 so should be available at for least the next few years. Forester may be used as a top up spray in PEFC certified or uncertified forests, and there is no certification restriction on the use of nursery treated trees with Alpha 6ED. However, other EC regulations may see these products being withdrawn earlier unless these are relaxed in the UK post Brexit.

Considerable research is being undertaken over non-insecticide solutions, and a summary of these can be found in the article on p66 in this edition of FTN.



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# Range Rover Velar

**Eamonn Wall** is not convinced by the Range Rover Velar

While many folk await the arrival of the ever delayed new Land Rover Defender, Jaguar Land Rover is busy ramping up production of its Range Rover models. The Velar, tested here, is the fourth model to join the Range Rover Vogue, Sport and the smaller Evoque models. Both the Vogue and Sport have recently been updated and the Evoque will be replaced early in 2019. The Velar sits in between the Evoque and Sport models with Velar prices ranging from £45,000 to £70,000. Evoques start at £31,000 and Sports at £63,000. The similarly sized Jaguar F-PACE is £10,000 cheaper than the Velar.

The Velar uses the same aluminium chassis that was developed for the Jaguar F-PACE (and XE and XF) and also uses the same engines, a choice of four diesels and two petrols, and gearboxes, though its suspension is toughened up for off-roading. Steel springs are standard on most models and air suspension on the more expensive ones. All models come with the ZF 8-speed automatic gearbox. The Velar has a good sized boot and expands to 1,700 litres volume with the rear seats folded. It can tow a braked trailer of 2400-2500kg.

I test drove the twin-turbo four cylinder diesel engine model, rated at 240bhp. A 275bhp V6 diesel is available for another £1500 and a 300bhp version for an additional £1300. Of course the cheaper 180bhp version is £3500 less than the 240bhp version. No doubt other options come as standard with the different engines explaining the cost differentials.

Anyway, the 240bhp engine provides plenty of power to propel the Velar at good speed – doing 0-60mph in 6-8 seconds. It is a refined and quiet car and handles well. A V6 engine though would be much more in keeping with the hefty price tag of £64,160 for the model tested here. A Range Rover Sport would be better value! Land Rover concentrated all their design powers creating the Velar, which has been voted the Best World Car Design. Perhaps this explains why the new Discovery is visually so disappointing (both externally and internally)!

The Velar is fitted with pop-out door handles which only go back in once you have locked the car or drive away. Surely they will be a source of hassle as the vehicles age. The fuel tank holds 60 litres and achieved 38mpg overall in my hands. The boot is large enough (551 litres) but has a large lip at the outside edge which makes it awkward for loading large items, but does stop small items falling out. Also as the rear door slopes back so much it means that when open it does not provide you with any cover from the rain as too far back, so that is no good.



The interior design follows on from recent Range Rover interiors but with fewer switches, and two touch screens holding most functions, radio, phone, navigation etc. The interior looks good in lighter colours but nothing special in darker colours.

In the past I remember testing the smaller Evoque and before was thinking I probably would not like it. However I did like it, it looks great, drives very well and has a nice interior, and costs only £30,000. Conversely, I thought I would like the Velar but didn't. Perhaps if it had a more exciting engine under the bonnet and lighter coloured interior I would have enjoyed it better.

It is a refined car and feels very well put together, easy to drive, and spacious and practical, but too expensive. I wouldn't want one instead of a Discovery (£45k plus) and as a road car it needs its V6 diesel engine to complete the package, and at that price point range you would be better off in a Range Rover Sport which is better off-road, has a low ratio gearbox and is even more refined. And a Jaguar F-PACE is a better choice at the lower end of the Velar price range.

Thanks, but no thanks.

*Eamonn Wall is a forestry and arboricultural consultant and Director with Eamonn Wall and Co.*



**Pop out door handles - bad idea**

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# Looking back

This summer I have been rectifying a mistake I made last winter. We had worked hard coping two patches of hazel amounting to nearly an acre in total, but had not protected the stools from browsing. Rabbits were not a worry; it was deer, both roe and muntjac, which could undermine the success of the operation by feasting on the regrowth. Our wood is deer fenced, but both these species gain access by jumping in from the adjacent railway line and then can't get out. A ranger comes from time to time to cull the miscreants. This year, he took one roe but we discovered another plus a muntjac still in residence, and they visited every single hazel stump for breakfast, lunch and dinner it seems. By July, the stumps were just green pincushions and not festooned with the 4 - 5 ft high shoots you'd expect.

The solution we're trying is individual protection of each stump with paper fleece used for weed control in the garden. It is stapled on to temporary posts cut from young sycamore regen or hazel, is a metre plus high, and should allow the hazel shoots to grow. The protection only needs to last two years at most. I picked up the roles of fleece very cheaply as an end-of-line-job lot at a garden centre resulting in cost per stool protected of about £1, my labour not included. So far it seems to be working and already late season shoot growth is well in evidence now that browsing has ceased.

Although for a large area individual protection is expensive, the key issue is that we are not trying to prevent deer access to a locality simply to deny them access to a stump. Deer are well known for finding ways through, around, over or even under(!) straight line fences, but can be deflected easily. This is what we hope our flimsy protection will achieve. We will see!



In the course of this work we came across a 'carcass of wood' more than 30 years old. We are familiar enough with old stumps of oak or chestnut hanging on and on, but what we found was the remnants of a fallen pine tree that had blown down in the great gale of '87. All that was left were the branch whorls of knotty wood and a core heartwood where the trunk was. These elements clearly had durability, as they lay on (not in) the ground, and recall an event now long distant in our memories. As the late David Fournier would often remind, good management of woodlands depends on interpreting and learning from what one sees. And he would emphasise beginning with the soil beneath one's feet.

As forest managers and woodland owners we need to take the long view and that means learning from the past as much as planning for the future. But most readers will know that already.

**Moss covered remnant core of long-fallen pine (also a broken off piece to the right). The whorls of knotty wood have lasted over 30 years.**



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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](mailto:Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org) before 14 November 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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“We were working on a thinning in Alyth, Perthshire, and came across this section of trees that had been worked on by the local beaver population. Initially, we thought it was other contractors but realised they had not done their felling tickets ... or maybe they had. Anyways, we stuck the sign up to make a statement.”

**Neil and Angus Grey**

## **COMING UP IN DECEMBER – GET INVOLVED**

In December, we will run a special feature on Timber treatment and wood science, and an additional feature on Professional services. Please get in touch in touch by late October if you would like to submit an article on the topic or simply if you have ideas on aspects that should be covered.

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

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



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

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Watch out for the mouse icon in this magazine!





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