

# FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August 2019 Issue 94



SHOW SEASON  
FORESTRY  
INVESTMENT



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood





Photo © The Crown Estate

# Choose PEFC Forest Certification

Your customers' assurance of responsible sourcing



20 YEARS  
CARING FOR  
OUR FORESTS

Discover more at  
[www.pefc.co.uk](http://www.pefc.co.uk)





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

Past issues and articles can be accessed online at [www.confor.org.uk/news/ftn-magazine](http://www.confor.org.uk/news/ftn-magazine)

Non-member subscriptions:  
£54 (£59 overseas).

Please contact [Liz@confor.org.uk](mailto:Liz@confor.org.uk)

## CONFOR CONTACTS



**Stefanie Kaiser**  
Communications and editor FTN  
T: 0131 240 1420  
E: [stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk](mailto:stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk)



**Caroline Harrison**  
National manager for England  
M: 07500 927482  
E: [caroline.harrison@confor.org.uk](mailto:caroline.harrison@confor.org.uk)



**Jamie Farquhar**  
National manager for Scotland  
M: 07817 374906  
E: [jamie.farquhar@confor.org.uk](mailto:jamie.farquhar@confor.org.uk)



**Anthony Geddes**  
National manager for Wales  
T: 074 94079305  
E: [anthony@confor.org.uk](mailto:anthony@confor.org.uk)



**Andrew Heald MICFor**  
Technical director forestry and Northern Ireland representative  
M: 07771 844653  
E: [andrew.heald@confor.org.uk](mailto:andrew.heald@confor.org.uk)



**David Sulman**  
Technical director wood processing  
T: 01786 449029  
E: [david.sulman@confor.org.uk](mailto:david.sulman@confor.org.uk)



**Dr Eleanor Harris**  
Policy Researcher  
T: 0131 240 1417  
E: [eleanor@confor.org.uk](mailto:eleanor@confor.org.uk)



Confor head office and editorial office  
59 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG



0131 240 1410



[info@confor.org.uk](mailto:info@confor.org.uk)



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



For the latest news of forestry and wood sign up to #forestandwood on Twitter

Published by Countrywide Publications, Fountain Way, Reydon, Suffolk IP18 6SZ on behalf of Confor.

For advertising, contact Laura Munnings  
01502 725866  
[laura.munnings@micropress.co.uk](mailto:laura.munnings@micropress.co.uk)

Printed by Micropress Printers Ltd

## CONTENTS

### NEWS & COMMENT



#### 5 | EDITORIAL

#### 6 | SKILLS & TRAINING

THE FORESTRY WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

#### 11 | NEWS

'SEIZE THE DAY' TO DRIVE UP PLANTING IN NORTHERN ENGLAND  
MINISTER SEES PROCESSING SECTOR IN ACTION

UK MUST PLANT MORE TREES TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFOR'S TARGET 'AMBITIOUS BUT ACHIEVABLE'

#THEFUTUREISFORESTRY - ESSAY AND VIDEO PRIZE

CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE YIELD FROM SCOTTISH SEED STOCK

#### 41 | SCOTLAND'S FINEST WOOD AWARDS

THE ANNUAL 'TREE OSCARS'

#### 42 | CONFERENCE REPORT

EVOLVING THE FOREST

### REGULARS

#### 14 | CONFOR REGIONAL & TECHNICAL MEETINGS

#### 15 | SHOWS

THINKING GLOBAL, PLANTING LOCAL: MAKING IT HAPPEN AT ROYAL WELSH

#### 16 | PLANT HEALTH

PESTS & DISEASES UPDATE

#### 21 | NEWS FROM MEMBERS

#### 22 | MEMBER PROFILE

THE CONVERTED FARMER

#### 24 | LETTERS

#### 29 | TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION

SPEYSIDE SWEEPS THE BOARD

#### 42 | CONFERENCE REPORT

EVOLVING THE FOREST

#### 45 | FORESTRY CENTURY

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

#### 48 | MARKETS

TIMBER AUCTIONS REPORT

#### 61 | SKILLS & TRAINING

SCOTTISH SKILLS GROUP MAKES PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN

#### 63 | MACHINERY

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM THEFT OF EQUIPMENT

#### 71 | TECHNOLOGY

DATA OR YOUR LIFE

#### 73 | TIMBER TRANSPORT

CARBON HAULING CARBON

#### 75 | PESTICIDES NOTEBOOK

#### 78 | MOTOR

'MOUNTAIN GOAT' WITH A CULT FOLLOWING

#### 81 | SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

TRAIL CAMERAS

#### 82 | FORESTRY IN PICTURES

### FEATURES



#### 30 | CONFOR WOODLAND SHOW PREVIEW

A SHOW FOR OUR TIME

#### 52 | FORESTRY INVESTMENT

AFFORESTATION OPTIONS  
DRAWING SERIOUS INTEREST

PRODUCTIVE WOODLAND  
PLANTING - IT'S HAPPENING IN SCOTLAND, WILL ENGLAND FOLLOW SUIT?

DIVERSE FACTORS INFLUENCE UK FORESTRY INVESTMENT CLIMATE

INVESTORS BACK FINNISH CUTTING-EDGE FORESTRY TECH  
FULL HOUSE FOR SEMINAR

#### COVER STORY

HARVESTING CONTRACTOR ROBERT WHITTAKER, OUR MEMBER PROFILE (P22)

PICTURE:  
S KAISER/CONFOR





# Wolmanit® CX

## Trusted preservative for high quality timber treatment



- Wood preservatives for use class 1-4
- Patented Wolmanit CX formulation, since 1989
- BASF warehousing and logistics
- Engineering support
- Marketing support

Leading the Way in Wood Protection

 **BASF**

We create chemistry



# Funding skills development

**STUART GOODALL** CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

In my last column I highlighted the lack of statistical and market information available to our sector, especially when compared with other industries in the UK and forestry and timber sectors overseas.

In this issue of FTN we feature education, recruitment, training and skills development. For some time now, when Confor has been developing its business plan for the following year, the issue of skills in its widest sense has arisen time and again. The challenge we face, is what can Confor do, especially when there are so many organisations active in pursuing a range of initiatives.

In his lead article on the topic, David Sulman highlights the proposal that has been made by some in the industry for a 'Forestry Skills Champion'. As David notes, there are examples of successes, but most people would likely agree that more needs to be done and that a greater degree of co-ordination would be useful.

Following on from that article, Jock McKie of John Deere provides his perspective and states "The industry needs to think hard about its future and invest to become more professional". Jock highlights the need for "a fundamental shift in legislative support, training commitment and funded training sources".

Traditionally the sector has looked to governments and bodies like the old Forestry Commission to provide the funds and/or courses. However, there is now less willingness in governments, across the UK, to directly fund training and the FC as a pan-GB entity with the resources to make a real contribution is gone.

In a conversation earlier this year with Fergus Ewing, the Scottish forestry minister, he was clear that skills and recruitment was a key issue for the industry, but he was also clear that industry should step-up and provide significant, new resources (not least financial) and that industry should not expect government to shoulder the cost.

Subsequent conversations in England and Wales signal that political interest and resources are, if anything, lower there than in Scotland.

We need to capitalise on the recent growth of the sector and the increasing support we are securing from politicians across the UK. However, in order to really make an impact, we need to secure more industry funding.

One way of doing that is through the type of industry 'Fund' I have highlighted previously. Working with the Board of Confor, and based on initial feedback from a range of members, I have developed a proposed structure for this, including the key activities that could be supported and how funds could be collected, administered and spent for the benefit of the sector.

Such a Fund will only be successful if there is broad understanding and buy-in from across the industry, and the next step is to talk formally to members across the UK and along the supply chain to identify issues and answer the questions that are raised. I would hope that following that exercise we can develop a more refined proposal that can be put to the industry to secure the required support.

It may be that the industry will not support a Fund in sufficient numbers for it to be established, but it's an initiative I believe Confor has to explore for the future benefit of the sector.

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





# The forestry workforce of the future



**David Sulman**, Confor's Deputy Chief Executive, considers the topical subject of education, recruitment, training and skills development for the sector.

**M**any hours have been spent in meetings discussing concerns about the future of the forestry workforce and its development. There has been particular focus on the apparently parlous state of education, training, recruitment and skills development across the forestry sector. It would be easy to become frustrated and downcast about the apparent state of affairs and lack of progress. But just how bad is the situation and are there signs of positive change?

There are, undeniably, skills shortages at various levels, for example, skilled chainsaw and machine operators are particularly sought-after and training provision is costly and limited. Forestry work managers (FWMs) have an ever-increasing workload to ensure compliance with a wide range of regulations and guidelines around health and safety, and environmental protection, quite apart from road-building and maintenance, logistics etc. We need to ensure that FWMs have a well-rounded understanding of all of subjects that impact on their working lives, as well as opportunities to keep them abreast of developments relevant to their jobs.

## The training challenge

Some say that there is little interest in careers in forestry; however, if interest in the Modern Apprenticeships launched by Forest Enterprise Scotland, (now Forestry & Land Scotland), is anything to go by, with nearly 300 applicants for a total of 20 places on their programme in Trees and Timber and Forest Machine Operations, there is apparently no shortage of interest amongst young people. Whilst that level of interest is very encouraging, it is also very disappointing that so many people could not be offered a training place and may well be lost to the industry as a consequence. Similarly, it is often reported that people keen to work in harvesting struggle to get a foot on the ladder, as harvesting contractors are seldom able to take on persons with no experience of mechanised harvesting operations.

Another challenge of forestry education and training is to not lose sight of the needs and potential for development of those already working in the sector. As the popular saying goes, "every day's a school day" and



there is always something new to learn. Skills development and continuous professional development (CPD) is not well established throughout the wood supply chain, although the efforts of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and some companies are noteworthy.



There is a need for more co-ordinated training provision

## A call for targeted and co-ordinated action

However, it is not all bad; there have been and continue to be some examples of success (see page 8), although most would agree that more needs to be done and that a greater degree of co-ordination would be useful.

Some have suggested that we could benefit from a 'Forestry Skills Champion'. This could have potential if it delivered greater focus and co-ordination; not least in assessing what is currently being done, identifying gaps and what more needs to be done, to identify willing partners and support mechanisms and to make things happen. At all times it needs to be ensured that any offer suits the needs of employ-





**A young harvesting machine operator in Sweden** Photo: Rab Easton

ers of all sizes across the forestry sector, in particular the micro, small and medium-sized businesses, who do not have the human resources of larger companies. The worlds of forestry and education are very different by nature; not to mention different qualification standards and levels in England, Wales and Scotland, which complicates the picture. Therefore, expertise in the education and training sector might be more important than forestry knowledge for such a champion.

This continues to be a very topical subject and to a large extent, the future is largely in our hands; Governments and their agencies have said that they are willing to help, but it has to be accepted that industry will have to put its hand in its pocket as well if it really wants to make a difference.

We would welcome your thoughts on what you think needs to be done and how we might go about addressing this vitally important subject.  
[stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk](mailto:stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk)

**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY**



with **Jock McKie** of John Deere

## “We need a step change in the industry as a whole”

### **Why do you think the UK operator training model is providing so hard to operate and resource?**

There are several challenges to new entrants into the industry - the frequency and availability of courses, the minimum machine operator age of 18 and the sheer cost of a course. The forestry industry in the UK is very supportive of the need to train new machine drivers and there is real evidence in Scotland at least to lead the way in meeting demand.

The cost of an 8-week course is £16,000 per head. The skills taught will take a knowledgeable forest worker or saw operator up to a good machine operator standard. This is an immense cost to any college and current courses depend on the right calibre of apprentice. Machine drivers may well be school leavers but anyone being told to wait two years before they can train may well be lost to the industry for life. We need a fundamental shift in legislative support, training commitment and funded training sources.

### **What would you import from the overseas schemes and could they work here?**

The training schemes themselves are good, we have had excellent results on the modern apprenticeship scheme. What is required is a step change in the industry as a whole. We have 12 machines at colleges in Sweden and Finland and the costs of the courses are met by the industry as a whole. Their investment back into the industry has been the key to the quality of the workforce

they enjoy.

As John Deere we are building a new workshop outside Perth to help our business keep up with future demands. This includes new apprentice engineers and we are proud to be backing them. Two of our machines will be used by colleges to train the future drivers. We hope if they learn in a green machine they'll always want to drive one but we bear that cost.

The industry needs to think hard about its future and invest to become more professional. These costs could be met through better machine utilisation and efficient cutting but it needs standards to rise.

### **Have you identified a delivery partner in England or Wales?**

There is a lot excitement over what could be in England and Wales and Forestry England have one of our simulators on loan to take to roadshows and other events. The work between BSW and Llysfasi College is very promising and building on the success of the Scottish schemes potentially even sharing their programs could provide the future workforce needed.

There is a question about how many drivers England and Wales will need as the output models look quite flat for the next 10 years but the average age of a machine operator is over 50 and is getting close to 60. The message we need to get across is that with planting targets rising and sawmills investing is good quality operators will be needed to benefit everyone. By optimising what goes through the machine head you really can afford to invest in the industry.



## WALES

### Forestry Apprenticeship Pilot

Wales has enjoyed a good level of success with the Forestry Apprenticeship Pilot Project. This Welsh Government scheme is delivered by Coleg Sir Gar in conjunction with Pembrokeshire College as the lead training provider. Having started in 2018, it has delivered 15 roles to date with the 2019/20 subscription filling up quickly.

The two-year pilot aims to provide a wage subsidy to incentivise and support employers wanting to recruit up to 30 new forestry jobs through new apprentices or up-skilling the existing workforce. This has resulted in bespoke support for self-employed apprentice mentoring provision.

The pilot has achieved significant interest from both employers and individuals and there are positive signs that it is raising awareness of apprenticeships within the sector. By continuing to capture future skills needs and identify funding linkages there is strong hope/possibility of continuation of the scheme.

### Focus on Forestry First

Focus on Forestry First Ltd is a not-for-profit social enterprise company established in September 2016. The company remit is to support firms within the Welsh Trees & Timber sector to access skills, plan staff development and increase the qualification levels of operators within the sector. This is done through a combination of skills development, mentoring, knowledge transfer and innovative training. "The key to successful training is identifying gaps, creating a plan and using professional pathways to provide high quality training."

To date FFF have run nearing 10,000 training days including 2000 individual course for 2300 individual trainees. This is an incredible achievement from a standing start in 2016.



## ENGLAND

*Steve Fowkes offers an update on Forestry Commission England's work on skills and workforce development.*

### Simulator training

FC is working with John Deere on a project which will see a small cohort of FC staff trained up to set up and operate John Deere's range of Harvester/Fowarder simulators (see Q&A page 7).

### Future Foresters Skills Day

FC is once again supporting the Royal Forestry Society in putting on the Future Foresters Skills Day this autumn. The national student conference event, at Shuttleworth College on 04 October, will highlight to current and prospective forestry students how technology is changing the face of modern forestry. Tech, kit and experts are combining

in a showcase day to inspire the next generation of foresters and demonstrate how the 21st century is an exciting time to be in the forest industry.

### Shop window for FE providers

Brokered by Forest Services, FC is offering further education providers the opportunity to use high-volume Forestry England visitor centres as a shop window for their educational provision. In an attempt to help potential future forest workers make the connection between visiting the forest and working in it, Forestry England will be hosting posters and flyers that highlight nearby learning opportunities in forestry subjects. The Woodland Trust have also offered the opportunity of hosting materials on some of their sites, where appropriate.

## SCOTLAND

### Operator development course

A series of eight-week, hands-on courses were developed by the former UKFPA in conjunction FC Scotland, Barony College and industry, namely John Deere. The aim was to develop the skills of persons who already had basic experience in timber harvesting. The courses comprised two weeks of in-college instruction, including the use of machine simulators, followed by six weeks on a harvesting site, operating modern harvesters and forwarders, generously provided by John Deere Forestry and FC Scotland. After a successful pilot course in 2007, the series ran until 2018, with 55 people successfully completing the courses. Each course, which provided four training places, included FMOC assessment. A 100% success rate was achieved in all of the courses. Positive feedback was received from both trainees and employers alike. Interestingly, many of the trainees were self-funding, rather than being sponsored by harvesting contractors. Read more on page 7.

### Forestry skills summits

This skills shortage has been recognised by the Scottish Government, which recently brought together a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sector for two Forestry Skills Summits, one which took place at Inverness College UHI.

### Skills working group

In recognition of the need for a workforce of the right size and with the right skills, Developing a Workforce with Skills for the Future is one of 5 strategic priorities in the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group's economic strategy. To help them deliver this priority, the Industry Leadership Group (ILG) set up a Skills Group which comprises an enthusiastic membership of over 20 people from the industry - including David Sulman and Andrew Heald from Confor, the public sector and educational establishments. There is also representation from the equivalent group in England which encourages collaborative working on common issues and reduces the risk of duplication of effort. *Andy Leitch reports on page 59.*

## FTN WEB RESOURCES



*Forestry Skills Plan 2019-2024 for England and Wales*

*Roots for Further Growth: An economic strategy for Scotland's Forest and Timber Technologies sector 2030*

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



# 60

HUSQVARNA CHAINSAWS  
1959-2019 ANNIVERSARY

# INCREASE YOUR OUTPUT



## 572 XP® / XP® G CHAINSAWS

"The 572 XP® delivers everything I need in a chainsaw to increase my productivity: Incredible acceleration and reduced gyroscopic forces make limbing easier. Phenomenal torque keeps the chain cutting faster and no matter what the temperature or altitude the 2nd generation Autotune™ keeps my engine running at peak performance".

**Andy Campbell, Forestry Contractor & Lantra +F instructor.**

For more information and to locate your local Authorised Husqvarna dealer visit: [HUSQVARNA.COM/UK](https://www.husqvarna.com/uk)



Latest generation, combining excellent ergonomics, durability, reliability with higher power output.

- Displacement: 70.6cm<sup>3</sup>
- Power Output: 4.3kW / 5.85hp
- Weight: 6.6kg



**Husqvarna**  
READY WHEN YOU ARE



SEE OUR MACHINES  
IN ACTION AT THE

Forestry  Expo

SCOTLAND

22-23 AUGUST



**TREETOP**  
FORESTRY Ltd

Forestry | Sales | Parts | Servicing



**TIGERCAT LH822D HARVESTER with LOGMAX 7000 TWIN**



**UNIQUE SERVICES FOR THE FOREST INDUSTRY**

**[treetopforestry.co.uk](http://treetopforestry.co.uk)**

Balmakewan Woodland, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire AB30 1QX

Chris Quincey - Sales - 07392 087006

SOLE AGENTS FOR

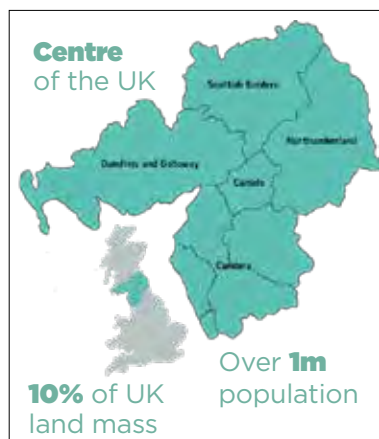
**Log Max® Tigercat®**



# “Seize the day” to drive up planting in northern England

The forestry and wood processing industry has been urged to “seize the day” and take advantage of two significant opportunities to drive up planting in the north of England.

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (BIG Deal) - a collaboration between the UK Government, Scottish Government and five local authorities - includes a proposal to develop a Forestry Innovation Centre, as well



**The Borderlands region comprises five local authority areas (Carlisle City, Cumbria County, Dumfries and Galloway, Northumberland County and Scottish Borders). It is within two-hours drive of 14m people.**

as allocating £10 million to “underpin the development of the rural economy” either side of the border.

Meanwhile, Confor has taken the lead role in convening discussions on developing a Forestry Investment Zone (FIZ) in Northumberland to stimulate new, large-scale productive planting. Following an open letter by a range of political, industry and environmental stakeholders after Confor’s Superwood conference last December, Forestry Minister David Rutley invited Confor to develop plans for a FIZ in the county. Confor then worked with Defra to arrange a visit to the county by the minister on 19 July to discuss the idea. [see panel]

Stuart Goodall, chief executive of Confor, welcomed the positive developments. “There is real potential here to deliver a step change in planting in northern England and the sector really needs to seize the day and grab these huge opportunities,” he said. “Borderlands really is a BIG Deal for forestry and wood as our sector is central to the proposals to support rural economic development and create a Natural Capital Innovation Zone. The invitation to develop a detailed plan for a Forestry Innovation Centre is the icing on the cake.

“There is a lot of work ahead to develop plans for the centre, but we have had excellent engagement between Confor members, rural skills providers, public forestry bodies and other stakeholders - and I’m confident we can move forward to develop a plan that focuses on adding value and increasing productivity within our sector to benefit the economy and environment of the Borderlands region.”

On FIZ, Mr Goodall said: “Minister Rutley has given us very positive messages about a productive FIZ and there is enthusiasm across the sector to develop a detailed propos-



al. We need more planting in the far north of England and the FIZ offers the opportunity to achieve that - especially with the Borderlands Deal taking shape at the same time.”

The Borderlands’ Heads of Terms document says: “The forestry and wood sector in the Borderlands is an asset to the region which can deliver substantial low carbon growth and contribute towards sustainable economic development. Forestry and wood processing are a significant employers and contributors to the economic growth of the Borderlands region.”

On the Forestry Innovation Centre, the Deal documents say it will “develop with the forestry sector a centre of excellence to showcase innovation that would improve productivity across the whole supply chain”.

**Iain Kyle from Wallshield Farm nr Haltwhistle tells Forestry Minister David Rutley MP about the challenges of planting commercial woodland in Northumberland**

**Below: John Paterson (right) welcomes David Rutley to Egger’s Hexham facility**

## Minister sees processing sector in action at Hexham works


Confor member Egger, which employs more than 600 people at Hexham in Northumberland, also welcomed the announcement. Last year, Egger published *Forestry and wood processing in the Borderlands Growth Deal* to start a debate about the industry’s cross-border significance.

John Paterson, head of Egger Forestry, said: “Egger opened up the conversation about the importance of our industry to the Borderlands and we have been delighted to play a central role in very constructive discussions with colleagues from the industry, academia and public forestry.

“We were pleased to host Minister Rutley when he visited Northumberland on 19 July to show him around our facility at Hexham and highlight the importance of more commercial forestry planting in the county.”



### FTN WEB RESOURCES

 *Forestry and wood processing in the Borderlands Growth Deal*  
[www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb)



# UK must plant more to tackle climate change

Confor has welcomed the news that Scotland has “smashed” its annual planting target – and called on the rest of the UK to raise its game to tackle the climate emergency.

The Scottish target of 10,000ha in the year to 31 March 2019 was comfortably exceeded, with 11,200ha of new planting (up from 7100 the previous year). This represents 84% all new UK planting.

There was just 1420ha of new planting in England, 520ha in Wales and 240 in Northern Ireland.

Stuart Goodall, CEO of Confor, welcomed the success in Scotland and called on the Scottish Government to work with industry to

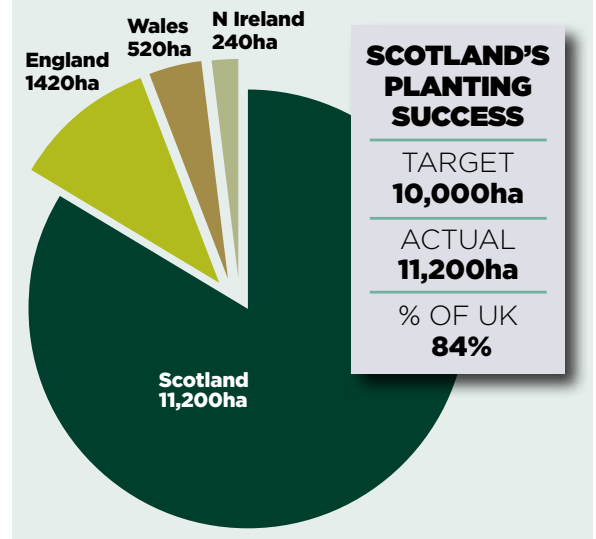
maintain the momentum and drive on to the next landmark target of 15,000ha by 2025 – and then Confor’s target of 18,000ha by 2030.

Mr Goodall said: “I’m delighted that we’ve met and gone well beyond the planting target in Scotland, based on more than 10,000ha of private sector planting, backed by just over 1000ha by the national forest estate.

“Confor has worked long and hard with the Scottish Government to get to this point and I truly hope the momentum will be maintained in the coming years. We now need the rest of the UK to move beyond ramped-up rhetoric on a climate emergency and begin to take the positive action

## PLANTING BY NUMBERS

(for year to 31 March 2019)



that we see in Scotland.

“The Committee on Climate Change has consistently said we have to plant far more trees to tackle the climate emergency, but only Scotland is currently rising to the challenge.”

## Confor’s target ‘ambitious but achievable’

Confor has set “ambitious but achievable” UK targets of 40,000ha of new annual woodland creation by 2030 as part of its #ThinkGlobalPlantLocal campaign. The latest figures show just 13400ha are being planted. The 40,000 target includes 18,000ha annually in Scotland – a figure supported by the Scottish Government’s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing MSP.

“Fergus Ewing’s support for our target is really positive,” said Mr Goodall. “We look forward to continued constructive partnership with Scottish Government, Scottish Forestry and all stakeholders to keep driving up planting to deliver multiple benefits, including creating jobs, supporting wildlife and tackling climate change.”



Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing MSP said: “This is fantastic news that we’ve smashed the targets. It is testament to the Scottish Government making forestry a priority and investing and helping growing the industry. The whole tree planting effort has truly been a

national endeavour with all forestry interests, both large and small, pulling together.”

The statistics were released the day after the UK Government signed up to deliver net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Successive reports by the Committee on Climate Change have highlighted planting new forests as crucial in removing atmospheric carbon and reaching the net zero position.

Mr Goodall added: “It is also encouraging that the softwood percentage of the new planting is higher than in the last decade, as they will be the lifeblood for the Scottish timber processing industry of the future and help both Scotland (and the rest of the UK) to attain future new housing targets – and deliver many of the wood products we all use.”





**90+ YEARS' CHAINSAW HERITAGE.  
79.2CC 2-MIX ENGINE TECHNOLOGY.  
6.8 HORSE POWER.  
6.0 KILOGRAMS.  
0-100KM/H IN 0.25 SECS.  
1 FUEL INJECTED CHAINSAW.  
STIHL LIFE.**

Introducing another industry game changer, the world's first fuel injection petrol chainsaw – the STIHL MS 500i. Every forestry professional knows every gram of weight counts. Which is why we've called upon all our engineering know-how to deliver a never before achieved power-to-weight ratio. Simple and comfortable to operate, with low vibration and exceptional manoeuvrability, the MS 500i provides optimum class leading performance you can rely on, day in, day out. Perfect for handling all disciplines, from felling to cutting timber, the MS 500i is yet another example of STIHL innovation.



**NEW**

The New STIHL **MS 500i** chainsaw. The first chainsaw with STIHL electronically controlled fuel injection. The best power-to-weight ratio on the market.

Find out more at your local  
STIHL Approved Dealer or visit  
[www.stihl.co.uk](http://www.stihl.co.uk)

**STIHL®**



# CONFOR REGIONAL & TECHNICAL MEETINGS



# Thinking global and planting local: Making it happen at the Royal Welsh

**Anthony Geddes**, National Manager for Wales, reports on Confor's biggest Royal Welsh yet.

What a show it has been: a proper scorcher, but the heat hasn't put people off and the Confor tent has positively bulged with presenters and guests.

Highlights included hosting His Majesty Prince Charles presenting the Stickmakers' awards; a sparkling range of young foresters talking about their journeys into the forestry profession, and the launch of the Modern Methods of Construction report by Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, which highlights the importance of timber as an industrial material and paves the way for the Timber Industry Strategy.

Building on success of last year's larger tent, we increased the number of events on stand and enjoyed speakers from all walks of forestry life, including Mima Letts of Tree Sparks, Professor John Healey of Bangor University, Anne Hughes of Focus on Forestry First, and Andrew Sowerby MICFor of Prior & Rickett.

At the Contractors Breakfast, Toby Allan of Say it with Wood, provided us with a thoughtful and funny toolbox talk on health and well-being. It gave Anthony Geddes, Confor National Manager for Wales the opportunity to talk to non-members from the contracting industry about their challenges and opportunities, and highlight what Confor has been doing over the last 12 months. Anthony said, "it is a core part of Confor's campaigns in Wales to strengthen its links with forestry and contracting businesses and we are looking to run more events like this throughout the year."

With both Forestry and the Royal Welsh Show being in their 100th year, we took some time to reflect and discuss what may be in store for the next 100. In a series of talks and Q&A sessions we discussed topics from climate change to housing to future forestry careers. At a centenary event, Minister Lesley Griffiths made the welcome announcement that the funding will be doubled for the next round of the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme, with £2m available for tree planting from 30 September. Confor members in Wales are encouraged to submit expressions of interest.

Ms Griffiths also hosted the Sustainable Farming Consultation which will guide land



usage and reform post-Brexit. Confor will be responding to the consultation to ensure that forestry forms a major part of that future and we will be encouraging members to engage too. We will have more news about this through the autumn.

Andrew Sowerby (Pryor & Rickett), Andrew Heald (Confor) and Lee Oliver (Deer Initiative) led our seminar on Farm Forestry with a series of information-packed presentations ranging from on-farm woodland design to global climate change and timber demand. With the thoughtful debate that ensued, discussing issues from tenant farming and forestry to productive broadleaves, it demonstrated the relevance of Confor's "Think Global Plant Local" climate change campaign on the ground for farmers and environmental campaigners as well as foresters.

The tent was never quiet for long, with the children's photography awards, trade stand awards, woodland awards, a seminar on protected species by Focus on Forestry First, and the immensely popular John Deere harvester simulator keeping it busy between Confor's own events.

No RWS would happen without the support of our kind sponsors and this year we are pleased to thank The Deer Initiative, Euroforrest, Focus on Forestry First, John Deere, Pryor & Rickett and Tilhill. It remains to say, see you at the Confor Woodland Show ... this September!

**Growing future foresters: Gwenllian Humphreys making a tidy job with the John Deere harvesting simulator in the Confor tent.**

**Inset left: On the hottest day on record, the Confor team develop their climate change strategy: ground temperatures can be over 15 degrees cooler under a tree canopy.**



I had an awesome day at the Royal Welsh Show sharing my thoughts on the future of forestry and how to engage the next generation. Thanks Confor for inviting me - an amazing session all round.' *Mima Letts, Tree Sparks*  
Good to hear foresters at Confor talking about climate change seriously today. We need to do our bit and . . . fast. *Llais y Goedwig*

Lots of positive and inspiring conversations in the Confor tent about the potential of trees and timber in climate change mitigation. *Eilidh Forster, University of Bangor*



# Pests and diseases update

**With the increase in findings of tree related pests and diseases in the UK members are urged to remain vigilant. Inspect your trees, inspect again and then inspect again. The Forest Research website is an excellent resource of insect, pathogen and mammalian threats.**

**To report sightings of pests and diseases, use the TreeAlert online portal.**

## Confor welcomes tighter restrictions on oak imports

Confor has welcomed strengthened measures on the import of oak into the UK that have been introduced to protect trees from the threat of Oak processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*).

Caroline Ayre, National Manager for England, said Confor had worked closely with the UK Government and its agencies to introduce the tighter controls. She added: "We had already produced a paper (see FTN web resources) calling for an immediate ban of high risk trees. We hope that these restrictions are not 'too little too late' and ask that industry remains vigilant. The constant message is 'inspect, inspect and inspect again.'"

The bolstered measures will only permit imports of certain oak trees, including:

- those from OPM free countries
- those from designated pest free areas including Protected Zones (PZ) - and areas of the European Union declared free of OPM
- those that have been grown under complete physical protection for their lifetime

This Statutory Instrument (SI) builds on measures introduced in August 2018 and applies to all oak trees, except cork oak, over



## Are your Sitka looking poorly? Green spruce aphid may be the cause...

The Regional and Conservancy tree health champions of Scotland met recently and aphid damage to spruce was one of the topics under discussion.

The green spruce aphid (*Elatobium abietinum*) has been a well-known pest for many years, traditionally peaking every 5-7 years or so in various parts of the country. Classically, the aphid feeds on older needles but what appears to have happened this year is a high starting population (due to the very mild winter) which has led to a much higher than normal flow of 'feeding toxins' to extending shoots, this then killing the new growth and leading to some very sick looking trees.

Usually, the worst aphid damage is seen on edge trees and in shelterbelts – and this can give a false impression about the actual scale of damage to larger-scale woodland. However, it is yet to be seen if that classic distribution will apply this year. If climate change reduces the period between aphid peaks in particular areas and if the subsequent damage extends into more than just edge trees, then *Elatobium* could well start to impinge far more significantly on yield.

In view of the above, the spruce aphid is the subject of FR scrutiny and *Elatobium* will certainly be on the agenda of the next meeting of STHAG (Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group).

Please use the TreeAlert online portal so that the scale of this year's problem can be assessed.

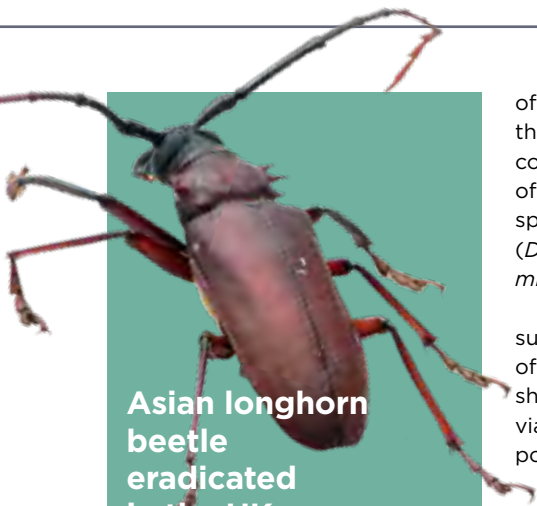
a certain size. This is because these trees represent the greatest likelihood of introducing OPM into the UK PZ, as they are more susceptible to pest populations and more difficult to inspect.

The restrictions will cover both imports from overseas and the movement of trees from areas of the country where OPM is already present – in London and surrounding counties.

## The Deer Initiative for England and Wales to close

After 24 years, Deer Initiative Ltd (DI Ltd), the executive arm of the Deer Initiative Partnership (DIP) is to cease operating at the end of the current financial year 31st March 2020. The DI was established in 1995 to deliver the objectives of the DIP in the form of advice and guidance and to advocate the sustainable management of wild deer. The organisation has worked with a range of partners across government, academia and the private sector to develop a broader understanding of the need for well evidenced, effective and humane deer management. The decision to cease operations is a result of the changing operating environment within the land management and conservation sector, in part due to the DI's own success in promoting the importance of sustainable and effective deer management. Diminishing funding opportunities within the sector have also had a significant impact on the DI's ability to operate. David Jam the Executive Director of DI Ltd said; "It has been a very difficult decision but it could be said that we have been victims of our own success, a fact borne out by the number of organisations we first introduced to the concept of sustainable deer management who now have their own inhouse deer management staff. Our development of the England and Wales Best Practice and its widespread adoption throughout the sector is a credit to the expertise and knowledge of the DI staff. The Best Practice Guidance has undoubtedly led to an improvement in standards of safety, humaneness and effectiveness and helped to narrow the gap between





## Asian longhorn beetle eradicated in the UK

The Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) – an insect which poses a risk to broadleaved trees such as oak and silver birch – has been eradicated in the UK following six years of trapping and surveillance work by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and the Forestry Commission.

The pest was initially discovered in Kent in 2012, most likely introduced through infested imported wood packaging material.

professional and volunteer deer managers so important to improve public perception of deer control". He added; "it's been a pleasure to work with such a professional and dedicated team and with so many other like-minded individuals across the sector" It is anticipated that the DI Partnership will remain in existence as a sector forum for focussed discussion and escalation of deer related topics.

## Remain vigilant against the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle

Confor continues to work with Defra to do everything possible to prevent the spread of the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) that was found in Kent in 2018 and subsequently destroyed.

Forest Research continue to heavily monitor the area and an exclusion zone remains.

With worryingly high populations of the beetle in Europe members are urged to remain vigilant and be aware of the signs

of *Ips typographus* that are commonly confused with those of the European spruce bark beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*).

Anyone who suspects a sighting of the bark beetle should report these via the TreeAlert online portal.



## Ash dieback research strategy published

Defra has published the Ash Research Strategy which summarises existing evidence on ash trees and their key threats, including ash dieback and emerald ash borer. In doing so, the strategy identifies key research themes for the future.

>>

# THE NEXT GENERATION OF FENCING SYSTEMS

## UK MANUFACTURED METAL POSTS AND FENCING

- ✓ Rylock<sup>®</sup>Green and Rylock<sup>®</sup>One Fencing Products
- ✓ Versalok<sup>®</sup> Metal Post and Clip System
- ✓ Hampton Box and Angle Strainer Post Systems
- ✓ Hampton NET<sup>™</sup> Fixed Knot Fencing
- ✓ Hinge Joint Fencing
- ✓ PVC Coated Chain Link Fencing
- ✓ Galvanised Chain Link Fencing
- ✓ Barbed Wire
- ✓ Line Wires
- ✓ Hexagonal Wire Fencing



# HAMPTON<sup>®</sup>

+44 (0) 1933 234070 | sales@hamptonsteel.co.uk | www.hamptonsteel.co.uk





**Fountains  
Forestry**

AN F&W COMPANY

**TRULY  
INDEPENDENT  
FORESTRY  
MANAGEMENT  
ACROSS THE UK**

**Our sole interest is yours,  
as a woodland owner**

Come and see us at stand J6 at the  
Confor Woodland Show or, if you miss us  
there, call **01392 877741** to talk through  
the tax and financial benefits of forest and  
woodland ownership and the rewards our  
forestry management can bring to you.

**www.fountainsforestry.co.uk**



**LOGLIFT**

**Forestry**  **Expo**  
SCOTLAND

22-23 August 2019

Elvanfoot • South Lanarkshire

## **LOGLIFT FORESTRY CRANES** – **HYDRAULIC PILOT CONTROL**

Experience smooth crane control with **HYDRAULIC PILOT CONTROL** from LOGLIFT.

**Hydraulic Pilot Control (HPC)**, available on our range of forestry cranes, helps you work faster, get more done and perform better.

HPC gives you light responsive controls and a smoother crane ride, by controlling the hydraulic fluid as it passes through the machine.

Enjoy the feeling of featherlight crane steering.

Also on display will be a **F118 with HiVision** – the augmented reality camera control system from Hiab that makes it easier, safer and more comfortable for drivers to operate the crane.

Join us at **Forestry Expo Scotland, 22-23 August**, and see game-changing LOGLIFT F118S crane technology for yourself. Unable to make the show? – contact us on: **01691 626 467** or find out more at **hiab.com**

Hiab's **ProCare service packages** and **service network**, plus **Hiab genuine parts**, ensure that an investment in LOGLIFT will be paid back with an increase in productivity and lower Total Cost of Ownership – Call **08456 072 797**.



**HI VISION**  **TM**

hiab.com



## >> Timber plant passporting update

A meeting of the Timber Plant Passporting Technical Working Sub-group was held on 10 July. With the 14 December 2019 deadline for arrangements to comply with the new Plant Health Regulation getting closer, it is a matter of considerable practical importance that we get a clearer picture of what these new arrangements will be and ensure that they are reasonable, practical and proportionate. The new requirements will require Plant Passports for movements of roundwood of all conifer species with bark, Sweet chestnut with bark and Plane with or without bark, from felling sites to processing sites, together with bulk movements of bark.

The existing system for controlling the exports of conifer roundwood with bark from the pest-free area in the west of Scotland to Northern Ireland

and Eire will continue, but will be adapted to ensure compliance with the new Regulation.

Although Plant Passports will be required for the movement of sawdust, wood chips and slabwood, these are considered to be a lower priority than roundwood and isolated bark at this time. The meeting considered the production of a Plant Passporting Guide, the updated e-learning package, provisional registration and authorisation and feedback from the *Ips typographus* plant passporting trial.

Those responsible for issuing Plant Passports, (to be known as Registered and Authorised Professional Operators), will have to be registered with and authorised by the Forestry Commission Plant Health Service, (the competent Authority for the UK), and will be subject to an annual inspection, for which a fee, (yet to be determined), will be payable. The focus of plant passporting will

## UK Squirrel Accord secures Lords debate

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the UK Squirrel Accord, has secured a debate in the House of Lords, 05 September 2019, entitled *Threats posed by pests and diseases to native trees in the UK*.

- What are your thoughts on the current situation around tree pests and diseases?
- What questions would you like to see answered in the debate?
- What changes would you like to see made as a Contact [caroline@confor.org.uk](mailto:caroline@confor.org.uk) with your thoughts.

primarily be on traceability from forest to processing site. This matter continues to be the focus of Ministerial attention in both Westminster and Edinburgh.

## FTN WEB RESOURCES



- Read or download Confor paper *Plant Health and Brexit*
- Link to Tree alert portal [www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb)



Forest Machine Services Limited

## GUERRA FORWARDER TRAILERS



**GUERRA**

## STRENGTH AND POWER INCREASE LOAD CAPACITY

The GUERRA range of trailers offers forest professionals a trailer that makes their work simple, safe and effective. The differential lock (R12 and R16 series) and full 4-wheel drive system improves traction of the trailer on the ground. The steering drawbar with 2 powerful cylinders improves the maneuverability and driving. The loading center of gravity is lowered to improve stability, and challenging working conditions are improved with high powered disc brakes on all 4 wheels as well as hydraulic hill descent control. GUERRA trailers ensure maneuverability and traction in all operating conditions and terrain.

**Call us today for more information and visit our website for our full range of equipment and services.**

**01434 230852 | [info@forestmachineservices.com](mailto:info@forestmachineservices.com) | [www.forestmachineservices.com](http://www.forestmachineservices.com)**





## Wood Supply Manager

Speyside Renewable Energy, North Scotland

Speyside Renewable Energy Ltd. are looking to appoint a Wood-fuel Supply Manager to run and develop the wood fuel supply contracts at the Combined Heat and Power plant at the Macallan Distillery near Craigellachie, Speyside.

We are looking for an applicant with relevant academic qualifications and / or associated experience of wood-fuel or commodity trading.

Individuals should be able to demonstrate strong commercial awareness and have excellent interpersonal skills. The candidate should be highly motivated with good organisation, communication and supervisory skills. They should have competent IT skills and be able to apply a high level of professionalism to the position.

**The position offers attractive salary and benefits with the opportunity to grow and develop in an exciting renewable energy investment.**



For more information and to apply please contact: Annetta Henry at Estover on 07743 757766 or email: [annetta.henry@estover.co.uk](mailto:annetta.henry@estover.co.uk)

**Closing date for application: Monday 5th August '19**

# shape

your future

## Chief Plant Health Officer, Grade 6

**SALARY:** £57,525 - £64,779

**Ref:** IRC238242

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)

**LOCATION:** Belfast

Further appointments may be made from this competition should NICS positions become vacant which have similar duties and responsibilities.

The Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHO) position offers a unique and exciting opportunity to lead the Plant Health Division in the Forest Service agency of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (NI). The successful candidate will provide leadership and direction within the Agency's Plant Health Division, commanding the confidence of Plant Health professionals internationally, in delivering a well informed strategic policy and regulatory control programme for NI.

On appointment, the CPHO will assume the position of an Executive Director on the Forest Service Management Board, contributing to the strategic development, leadership and governance of Forest Service's very diverse land management and service delivery portfolio.

This post may be filled by secondment of the successful candidate from his/her current employer.

For more detailed information and to apply, please go to [www.nicsrecruitment.org.uk](http://www.nicsrecruitment.org.uk)

Alternatively, an application pack can be requested by contacting:

HRConnect, PO Box 1089, The Metro Building, 6-9 Donegall Square South, Belfast, BT1 9EW. Telephone: 0800 1 300 330. Email: [recruitment@hrconnect.nigov.net](mailto:recruitment@hrconnect.nigov.net)

All requests must include your name, address and reference number IRC238242.

Completed application forms must be returned to arrive not later than **12:00 noon (UK time) on Friday 23rd August 2019.**

**WWW.NICSRUCREUITMENT.ORG.UK**

The Northern Ireland Civil Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**ALL APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT ARE CONSIDERED STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF MERIT**



**Northern Ireland CIVIL SERVICE**



## Materials Manager (Forest Products) Scotland

Harper Contracts (Insch) Ltd and Wood Recycling (Scotland) Ltd procure around 200K tonnes of wood products per Annum and have been recycling wood in Scotland for over 20 years. Our recycling plant is based near Stirling and we have depots in Inverness and Aberdeenshire.

We are looking for a Materials Manager with the experience and motivation to enhance and build on our reputation with existing clients, as well as someone who has the initiative, professionalism and enthusiasm to help us expand our customer base. The successful applicant should be a self-motivated individual who has the ability to build relationships at all levels whilst working within an area under the guidance of the Company Director and Depot Plant Managers.

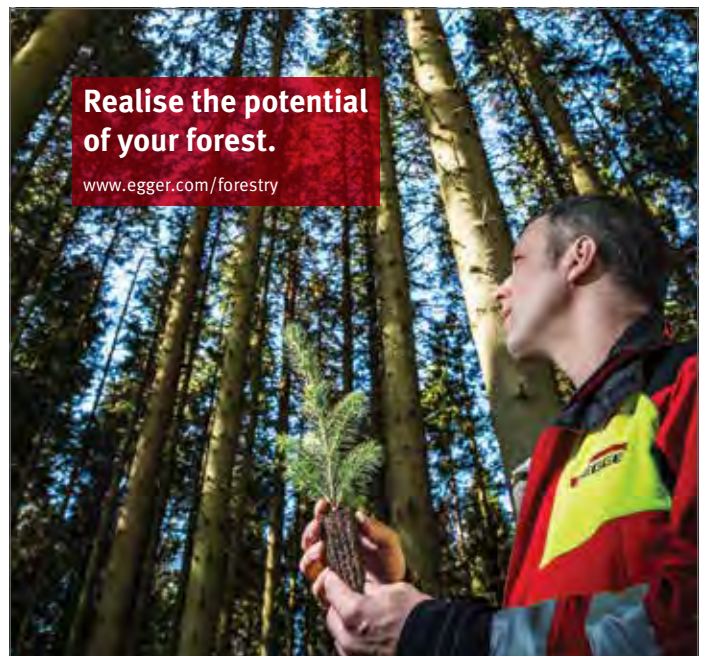
Individuals should be able to demonstrate strong commercial awareness, excellent interpersonal skills and should have experience of working in either a Forestry related or Wood Recycling role. Excellent organisational and IT skills are desirable, but above all we are seeking someone with enthusiasm and drive and who can demonstrate flexibility and adaptability with a strong "Can Do" approach to a varied workload.

**Application to be received no later than the 31st August 2019.**

A valid driving license is essential for this role.

A competitive salary is available to the right candidate.

**To apply please email a C.V and cover letter to: [info@harpercontracts.com](mailto:info@harpercontracts.com) or post to: Harper Contracts (Insch) Ltd, Unit 3, North Road Ind Est, Insch, AB52 6XP**



**Realise the potential of your forest.**

[www.egger.com/forestry](http://www.egger.com/forestry)

Whatever your reason for owning a forest – we understand that you need to make the most of it. That's why we are here, to deliver effective management through our experience, expertise, dedication and knowledge; vital for the long-term success of your woodland.

Why not call us on **T 01434 611038** to discuss your needs.

**MORE FROM WOOD.**



## RFS top honour for Duchy of Cornwall Head Forester

Geraint Richards, head forester for the Duchy of Cornwall, has been presented with the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) Gold Medal for distinguished services to forestry by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cornwall.

The Gold Medal is the highest honour awarded by the RFS for services to forestry and Geraint Richards is only the 40th person to have been awarded it since the medal was instituted in 1960.

Geraint studied Forestry at Bangor University and worked for four years for the Forestry Commission in Kent and East Sussex as a forest officer before being appointed to his current post in 1996. As head forester, he is responsible for the management of over 2000ha (5000acres) of trees, woodlands and forests across the Duchy's extensive land-holding in the South-West of England and Herefordshire.



## PEFC turns 20

2019 is a very special year for the PEFC family as together they celebrate their 20th anniversary. In 1999, European small-forest owners came together to create an international forest certification system that had their needs at heart: PEFC!

"Having no certification system suitable for smallholders was a serious issue back in the 90s," said Ben Gunneberg, the CEO of PEFC International since the very beginning. "Not only for the many small-forest owners that could not benefit from certification, but also for the world."

Over the next 18 months, PEFC will be celebrating their achievements of caring for forests. We will interview the leaders of PEFC for FTN October.

#20yearsforcaring



## BSW donates logs for Glastonbury installation

BSW Group has donated over 2500 logs to the BEAM installation, a multi-sensory experience at this year's Glastonbury Festival which has been designed by award-winning artist Wolfgang Buttress.

Buttress is best known for his sculpture in Kew Gardens, Hive, which won a gold medal at the 2015 Milan Expo and highlights the importance of bees in our ecosystem.

Buttress said: "In creating the BEAM installation we hope to communicate the intrinsic relationship between bee and human, promoting the vital role that honeybees play in pollinating 30% of the food we eat whilst educating

people on the challenges that bees face in today's climate."

Constructing the impressive structure, which consists of the inner 12-metre hexagon and a wider outer diameter of 25 metres, has been made possible thanks to the large donation of material from the team at BSW Timber.

Tony Hackney, chief executive at BSW, said: "We are delighted to be donating the logs, which were harvested by our sister company Tilhill Forestry, and to be playing a part in Wolfgang's phenomenal vision, BEAM."

"With a business that is, at its very core, built on nature, we are passionate about the environment and we strive to communicate the environmental impact of everyday activities to our customers and stakeholders alike."

"Involvement in projects such as the BEAM installation at Glastonbury's Greenpeace Field provides us with an opportunity to further demonstrate our commitment to the environment. We are grateful to Wolfgang for the opportunity to both strengthen our company values and to support such a worthy festival experience."



### FTN WEB RESOURCES



Watch the video of the BEAM installation  
[www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb)

### CONFOR WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jemma Bargery, Devon  
 Edward Baxter, Fife  
 Mat Box, Devon, Nottinghamshire  
 David Delve, Somerset  
 Susie Drew, Hampshire  
 Rosie Dutson, Cumbria  
 Thomas Dutson, Cumbria  
 Joel Gray, Devon  
 Lachlan MacEwan, Perthshire  
 Colin Mann, Stirlingshire  
 Heidi Stevenson, Staffordshire  
 Robert Stevenson, Staffordshire  
 Alistair Walton, Cumbria  
 Robert Whittaker, Berwickshire  
 Duffy Skylining, Inverness Shire  
 GR Forestry Consultancy, Angus  
 Richard White & Co Ltd, Denbighshire



# The converted farmer



Robert Whittaker comes from a farming background and runs a small harvesting contractor business in the Scottish borders. **Stef Kaiser** meets the entrepreneur to hear an inspiring account on how farming and forestry can be part of the same story.

**R**obert is a farmer by training. After leaving school, he bought his first sheep and decided to study agriculture at the University of Edinburgh. However, he wasn't born into a farm-owning family, although both his father and his grandfather had, at times, worked in the sector.

After completing his degree, he got the opportunity to rent some farmland in the area of Jedburgh, where he hails from. From his first single sheep, he quickly built up to a flock of 1200. Money was easy to borrow back then; he drew up a business plan, and got the backing of his bank.

Because his family didn't own a farm, he lacked access to grants and was therefore a self-funded smallholder trying to make his farm work without subsidies, a venture which, in the end, proved to be unsustainable. Sheep farming just wasn't economically viable as an activity in itself.

"We were working silly hours, constantly driving all

over the place, driving sheep from one place to the next and not really making any money. At that time, my best friend from school worked for Euroforest and was looking for additional workers down in the borders. Obviously, I was looking for extra income, so I ended up working for his subcontractor Treetop forestry."

Over the years, Robert started to spend more and more time working in forestry to make a living, and the sheep flock was becoming less of a priority. It got to a point where keeping sheep just didn't generate enough returns anymore, the land that they were renting was being sold, and the decision was made to sell the flock.

"This freed up a lump sum of money and after three months - just out of off chance - Stuart Booth (from Treetop) kindly offered to sell me one of the machines and work for him as a sub-contractor", Robert remembers. "I was in a good position because I had the capital in place, and I had guaranteed work. And now I can make a good living from forestry."

Robert now has one full-time and one part-time operator working for him. Talking about how he himself moved into the forestry sector makes me bring up the hot topic of operator training - a big challenge for many contracting businesses.

"I was trained on the job, at that time - it was 2006 - we were using a TigerCat and were working on a wind farm site, I remember. There were a lot of machines working, so I had a lot of other men around me showing me how to do the job."

He is aware that training operators is a tricky issue these days. His approach to the challenge is quite simple and his full-time contractor has followed the same path as himself:

"You sit with them for a couple of days, and show them the ropes, and let them learn on the job. I've been very fortunate; the men who work for me were self-starters and had the right work attitude. They were able to pick up the basics very quickly, making my time investment in training fairly manageable.

Robert feels privileged. He is on site all day, working his two machines with the help of his two staff. He is able to supervise the work at all times assist his workers whenever necessary.

"I am aware that some of the bigger contracting businesses are reliant on the man on the job to do a perfect job on his own, and they work on a large number of sites at the same time, and therefore can't be onsite supervising operators that might not be experienced yet."

We talk about planting trees on farms and how this is being seen from a farmer's perspective.







“If I was a farmer in the position where I had the money, I would be buying land and planting trees on it just now”, says Robert with confidence. “I would take all the low grade ground out and just plant it with trees, organising it in blocks.”

Robert returns to our conversation about the reasons he moved from farming into forestry. Because he didn't own land, he didn't receive grants and was competing against people who based their farming business on subsidies. He feels strongly about the market distortion caused by an out-of-date grant system. Looking at the land use sector, he believes that getting rid of subsidies all together would create a level playing field for all and would not reward those who have the skill to 'milk' the subsidy system. He even sees the pitfalls of the grant system within the forestry sector:

“The way grants are allocated to buy machines, for example, is distorting the market as well. Here in the Scottish Borders, we don't get financial support to purchase our machines. Whereas we know people just south of the border in England, only 20 or 30 miles away who get 50% grants on £400,00 machines.

He believes that the grant system is not suitable to

“

“If I was a farmer in the position where I had the money, I would be buying land and planting trees on it just now”

help people get started in the industry. “We often see that the people who are getting these subsidies for the machine purchases are already established contractors, who have the resources and the experience to make the most out of the public financial support that is available. It's not helping to bring new blood into the industry”.

As I keep talking to Robert, I realise how much of a 'people's person' he is. Having worked locally for over 13 years now, him and his business are well embedded in the local community. His secret of success are the long-standing and trusting relationships he enjoys not only with his workers but with people he interacts with across the supply chain.

“We are so embedded in our community that we benefit from getting all this local work, because we do try and build that bond with the landowners, agents and other key people in the supply chain. Obviously, the majority of what we do is all farm work or state work, we don't really do Forestry Commission work, or anything on the larger scale, we leave that for the bigger contractors.”

Working locally, he enjoys a healthy work-life balance, spending socialising time with his work colleagues and returning home to be with his family every evening.

“On our sites, we mostly work in a small team, two or three of us on one site. We stop every day to have a meal together and catch up, and usually stay in sight of each other. That means we don't face the mental health challenges that affects some lone machine operators.”



## A need for market intelligence

Your editorial in the June FTN invites comment on market intelligence. May I comment as an investor in forestry in Britain.

In the 1970s there was a serious shortage of market intelligence on which to make a case for investing in forestry. The situation has not improved.

My own view is that government policy on forestry, including private investment in forestry should start with an annual 'State of Forestry in Britain' report given by the minister for the environment based on the

market knowledge of the Forestry Commission, the co-ordinated views of the major private investors in forestry and the views of the major processors of wood in Britain including their forecast of home and export markets for wood and wood fuel. Such a report would provide an excellent basis for the main participants to be reviewed in FTN. Such a review should report on actual performance against targets for wood harvested and for area planted.

**Ben Porter, Classic Canes**

## Time for change

After a career in the private forestry sector of over 40 years, working across Scotland and northern England, a Confor member, and founder and managing director of Woodland Management Services Ltd, I have seen many changes in the UK forest industry.

Now with today's unprecedented levels of activity, interest and confidence in this industry and with increasing recognition of the environmental benefits of woodlands, I have decided to plan for retirement, and offer the business for sale.

Established in 1986, Woodland Management Services covers all aspects of private forest management from assessment of land and crops for acquisition, woodland design, general management, crop prescriptions, maps, budgets, grant aid negotiations and a full timber marketing service including crop appraisal and valuations.

Success of this business has resulted from delivering a service which combines good practical silvicultural advice in association with sound business practice. The quality and ability of the business is reflected in many clients with 30+ years' association.

Woodland Management work is supported by a full forestry contracting service carrying out fencing, ground preparation, planting and maintenance with a small direct labour force supported by seasonal staff and specialist

contractors as required.

These are very exciting times for the UK forestry industry, with the importance of our woodlands becoming a key focus on the public agenda and a priority for government working towards net-zero carbon emissions".

With an annual planting target of 10000ha in Scotland, Committee on Climate Change detailing potential for UK planting to assist greenhouse gas capture targets being met and the first Forestry Investment Zone just over the border, this business is well located to develop these exciting opportunities.

I am looking for balanced proposals which not only reflect the value of the business but also demonstrate knowledge, ability and responsibility for professional business development to provide the very best continued support for clients. Bringing the business to the open market I am trying to assist and encourage interest from new backgrounds to ensure I find the best possible successor for the business.

With a very strong order book and an extensive client database and knowledge of forest ownership and private timber resources, this is an opportunity to galvanise the current attractive market conditions from a highly respected and well positioned platform.

**Finlay Mitchell**

*Woodland Management Services is now for sale; see advert on p58*



## Molly joins Confor for work experience

Molly MacColl-Baker spent three days with FTN editor Stef Kaiser as part of a work-experience week at her High School. She shadowed Stef in the office and accompanied her on a field trip to meet harvesting contractor Robert Whittaker for this issue's member profile.

### Molly comments:

The field trip to Peebles was overall a very interesting day. I learnt far more about the forestry industry, which prior to the investigation I lacked knowledge of. The day was different to what I imagined a communications job to look like as I didn't imagine it being so practical- meaning that we would actually go out to the forestry site where we were shown around the grounds. Carrying out the task in this way proved to obviously be a far more efficient and successful way to do the job as we were able to actually view the grounds of which those in the forestry sector work on everyday. It was a very eye-opening experience as I learnt how a forester's job is normally carried out as well as the struggles they face - varying from financial issues to theft of equipment. I think that the forestry sector seems like an incredibly labour-intensive job, with hard work involved. Despite this, it seems very rewarding and interesting as an occupation. The job is obviously more enjoyable if you don't have to work in isolation for weeks at a time - which is often the case. If you work for a company that promotes close relationships between workers, it surely makes a big positive difference.

# The year's leading UK forestry event

The Confor Woodland Show, returning to Longleat on 05/06 September, is for anyone interested in forestry providing an excellent opportunity for those working in the industry to meet existing and potential customers. Whether you are a business or an interested individual there will be something for you throughout the two-days:

- meet the forestry professionals representing every sector from nurseries to processors
- see demos and static displays of the latest forest machinery and equipment
- hear what the experts have to say in a lively programme of seminars and debates, with the running theme of forests and climate change
- enjoy the superb surroundings of the Longleat Estate



**Confor**

Promoting forestry and wood

**WOODLAND  
SHOW** 5th-6th SEPTEMBER

**2019**  
LONGLEAT ESTATE



[www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk](http://www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk)



# #TheFutureIsForestry - positive response to essay and video prize

Forestry students and young professionals have responded positively to Confor's enhanced essay and video prize 2019.

Entries are already coming in for #TheFutureIsForestry competition, which was launched at a reception at Westminster in June.

Students from the National School of Forestry in Cumbria, Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness, Bangor University and Harper Adams University - and young professionals - mingled at the event with Forestry Minister David Rutley, fellow MPs, Tree Champion Sir William Worsley and Forestry Commission Chair Sir Harry Studholme.

Lorna Johnson, a Masters student from Harper Adams, read from her winning essay in 2018 and Forestry Minister David Rutley said the competition was extremely timely because "the future of forestry is incredibly bright".

The topic for the 2019 competition - with prizes of £500, £250 and £100 for the top three essays and top three videos - is: **How can farmers and landowners be motivated to plant more trees to deliver a wide range of benefits, especially mitigating climate change?**

Minister Rutley said to the young people at the event: "Your essays are pivotal to shape our ambition for the future. They are important as we need to come up with plans to make it happen. Climate change demands it and public interest demands it."

Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO, said: "Confor has put a real focus on forests, wood and climate change and is urging people to #ThinkGlobalPlantLocal - and the essay prize is part of that. We are encouraging students and young professionals to think about the future of the planet - and the profession. We had a very high standard of entries

last year but we hope to go even higher for 2019."

The deadline is 14 October and anyone aged 30 or under - and students of any age - can enter an essay of up to 1500 words (plus visual materials and accompanying text) and/or a video of 1-2 minutes. Winners will receive their prizes at a presentation evening at the Houses of Parliament on 26 November.

The competition is sponsored by Tilhill Forestry, BSW Timber and Forestry Commission.

For further information, see the Confor website or email Eleanor Harris: [eleanor@confor.org.uk](mailto:eleanor@confor.org.uk)

**DEADLINE  
14 OCT**



**Forestry students and young professionals at Westminster with Forestry Minister David Rutley MP, Confor CEO Stuart Goodall, Tree Champion Sir William Worsley, Forestry Commission Chair Sir Harry Studholme, MPs and other industry representatives.**

## Challenge to improve yield from Scottish seed stock

Forestry and Land Scotland has set out an Innovation challenge, offering research and development funding for ideas to improve yield from Scottish seed stock, which is open to individuals, businesses, universities and stakeholders.

The demand for young trees in Scotland in 2019 was more than double what it was a decade ago - and it will have to double again within five years if we are to meet our climate change action plan commitments.

But growing trees is actually a tricky business, especially in the early stages. Most tree species used in forestry are 'masting' species, producing good seed crops in certain years with low levels or no seed at

all in intervening years.

As much as two-thirds of that available seed can be lost through predation, weed competition, drought or simply a failure to germinate. The Challenge aims to encourage the development of low-cost, non-labour intensive technologies that will minimise losses and maximise on the number of saleable seedlings of any commercial tree species grown by FLS.

Applicants can address the issue from any angle, looking at processing techniques, seed protection - before, during and after planting - or sowing and growing techniques. Solutions might involve automation, robotics, imaging technology and physical or chemical treatments.

Up to ten successful applicants will be awarded £3,000 +VAT to develop a comprehensive product design and development plan, and will be given support to turn their idea into a workable, commercially viable product.

A further £20,000 +VAT will be made available to the most promising plans for five months of laboratory or workshop testing to create a prototype, with the top prototypes then being awarded contracts worth up to £220,000 +VAT to carry out field testing for up to three years.

At the end of that period there will be a commercial tendering opportunity where FLS will seek to purchase the solution that best meets it's needs available on the market.

A 'bidder day' familiarisation day will be held at Newton Nursery by Elgin on 12 August 2019. To book please contact **Melanie Mathiasen@forestryandland.gov.scot**. Closing date for applications is 21 August 2019.

# GLOBAL RECYCLING

Visit us and share your photos



Norwood Sawmills

Confor  
**WOODLAND SHOW**  
7th - 9th SEPTEMBER  
**2019**  
LONGLEAT ESTATE

STANDS  
J8 - J9

Visit us at The Confor Woodland Show 2019 for EXCLUSIVE Parts offers and promotions!



Bandit Stump Grinders



Bandit Wood Chippers



Jo Beau Wood Chippers



Jo Beau Stump Grinders

Tel: 01476  
568384

Units 5-7 Ruston Road, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9SW  
[www.globalrecycling.eu](http://www.globalrecycling.eu)

**seppi m.**

- Mulching mowers from 10HP-350HP
- Tough & versatile
- Many attachments available for every forestry job

## Tough Tools for a Tough Job.

Purchase direct from the UK Importer:

**LAMBERHURST ENGINEERING LIMITED**

t: 01892 890364  
e: [info@lameng.com](mailto:info@lameng.com)  
Lamberhurst Engineering Ltd  
Priority Farm • Parsonage Lane  
Lamberhurst • Kent TN3 8DS  
[www.lameng.com](http://www.lameng.com)

# MARSHALL AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING WESTTECH



**Quality Machinery**  
Speaks For Itself



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

tel: 01892 770788 • mob: 07836 274164  
email: [sales@marshalllogging.co.uk](mailto:sales@marshalllogging.co.uk)





# SAMPO ROSENLEW



T: +442838330011 +353 1 9697894  
E: [info@oakleafforestry.com](mailto:info@oakleafforestry.com)  
35a Derryall Rd, Portadown, Co. Armagh BT62 1PL





## Speyside sweeps the board in use of wood award

Wood for Good is the timber industry's campaign to promote use of wood in design and construction. A partnership of Confor and Swedish Wood, Wood for Good delivers a diverse campaign of awards, information and events aimed at architects, engineers and specifiers.

Together with Scottish Forestry, Wood for Good supports an annual 'Best Use of Wood' award for the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. This year's judging panel – which included Jon Stevenson, until recently, marketing director at James Jones & Sons Ltd – had a difficult task to pick a winner from the many superb examples of timber in architecture.

There was a clear winner and a 'highly commended' – both happen to be in Speyside.



Scottish  
Forestry  
Coilltearachd  
na h-Alba



Wood for Good

### THE HIGHLY COMMENDED

#### **Cairngorms National Park Authority Headquarters, Grantown on Spey**

*Designed by Moxon Architects*

The client in this case was Confor member Seafield Estates. Will Anderson, their Chief Executive, said: "We are very impressed with what architects Moxon have achieved with their sympathetic designs. The juxtaposition of old stone building with a new cross laminated timber structure is particularly aesthetic, and the eco friendly aspects of the design, combined with its energy-efficient elements and CO<sub>2</sub> saving, make this a building to be proud of. The building is wrapped in locally sourced Scotlarch cladding.

As a responsible landlord, the environmental footprint was a priority for us and, with the family's long involvement in forestry, a timber construction seemed the logical answer. We were also keen to ensure that the local community benefitted both from retaining Cairngorms National Park Authority as a business in Grantown and from the use of a local construction firm A.W. Laing who carried out an excellent and well managed project with great attention to detail."



### THE WINNER

#### **Macallan New Distillery and Visitors Experience, Speyside**

*Designed by architects, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners*

The rolling roofscape of this building echoes the form of the surrounding hills and serves to successfully conceal an exceptionally well resolved and ingenious fusion of architecture, whisky technology and impactful interior settings displaying the heritage of the Macallan brand. A processional landscaped walkway symbolically and physically connects the 18th century laird's house at the heart of the estate with the new visitor centre. The internal journey continues under a warmly lit majestic double

curvature timber gridshell roof. The combination of atmospheric lighting with the architectural form and the intriguing arrangement of stills and exhibits creates a sense of drama throughout this hugely impressive building.

The roof constructed by Austrian firm WieHag is one of the most complicated timber structures in the world, comprising 1800 single beams, 2500 different roof elements and 380,000 individual components, almost none of which are equal or the same.





# A show for our time



**Nick Hoare**, Confor Woodland Show chairman, looks forward to this year's event at a time when the importance of the forestry sector has never been greater

W elcome to the Confor Woodland Show. It has been an interesting two years since the last show. We live in uncertain times, but the one certainty is that we need more woodland and more timber. Look at the key issues facing our country and the world, and our forests are set to be a major part of the solutions. That woodland is important in the fight against climate change is hardly news, but it is easy to forget that carbon sequestration is just one aspect. Timber frame is the easiest way to build super-insulated new homes. Timber is replacing energy intensive materials such as steel and concrete in an ever-increasing range of applications. Biomass is replacing fossil fuels.

Wood and wood fibre-based products are rapidly replacing plastic, as part of the solution to the plastic problem. Spending time walking in woodlands has been proven to reduce stress and mental health problems. Cycling, running and walking in forests fights the obesity crisis.

Well managed woodland supports much of our most precious wildlife.

While it is nice to feel that we are part of the solution to global problems, it is even nicer to know that forestry and woodlands are a financially viable and set to become even more profitable in the future. The demand for timber will not go away, recreation and tourism revenues will continue to grow, government support is likely to switch from industrial agriculture more environmental concerns, including woodland.

Here at the show you will find all the products and services and, most importantly, the people to enhance and grow our forests.

## Sustainability

Confor has a strong commitment to reducing the event's environmental footprint. We are looking into reducing the use of paper for advertising, catalogues and publications distributed at our tent. For catering, we are doing our best to avoid the use of disposable tableware, packaging and bottled water in the Confor tent.



## We would like to encourage

- visitors to bring their own water bottles and reusable travel coffee mugs - some will be on sale at the Confor tent
- exhibitors to identify opportunities to reduce their resource use and waste generation at their stands
- visitors to look into car sharing for transport from railway stations and airport - feel free to use the Facebook events page to team up for lifts.

If you are an exhibitor and are taking steps to reduce your environmental footprint at the show, let us know what you are doing or directly share it on the Facebook events page to encourage others!



## Farming will be key focus

Confor welcomes all farmers to the show who would like advice on what they could be eligible for in terms of grant support for woodland creation, planning, layout, species choice and if they already have woodland, advice on market opportunities and help to bring timber to market.

There will be a range of exhibitors who will be able to give professional advice to farmers and landowners on how they can maximise their business productivity by adding an additional tax-free asset

## Show facts

[www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk](http://www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk)

### When:

Thursday 5th September: 9am - 5pm  
Friday 6th September: 9am - 4pm

### Where:

Longleat Estate, Warminster, Wiltshire

### Advance tickets:

Thursday admission: £13  
Friday admission: £13  
Two Day admission: £20  
Students admission: £7  
Under 16s: FREE

### Gate tickets:

Full per day: £15  
Students per day: £10  
Under 16s: FREE



## Our theme this year: Forests, Wood and Climate Change

Confor has put the issues of Forests, Wood and Climate Change at the centre of its campaigning work and is calling for the UK to [#ThinkGlobalPlantLocal](#) and increase forest cover significantly to make a real difference.



to the farm business. As well as bringing moribund woodland into management, land that may otherwise be under-utilised could support a land use that brings additional benefits including on-farm timber, shelter for livestock, biodiversity benefits and future environmental payments for wildlife, carbon and clean water.

Tilhill Forestry at stand B8 is a good information hub to get started.

## Schools - inspire the next generation

CAN YOU HELP?

What better place than the Confor Woodland Show to introduce children to our industry, with you, the professionals, showing them what happens in a modern working forest and bringing it all to life. Those who have volunteered at APF in the past can, I am sure, vouch for the enjoyable time they had, as well as answering those tricky questions!

This is the first time schools have been at the show and we have two local primary schools booked across both days. Each group will be accompanied by a teacher/ adult who is entirely responsible for the children. We are looking for volunteers to accompany each group to explain and interpret what the group is seeing at each stop. There will also be learning resources from the Forestry England Rangers for schools to take back to the classroom.

The tours are likely to take 1-2 hours to complete and generally leave between 9.30am and 10.30am. More information on briefing times, suggested routes, an introductory talk to each group / school on forestry and what to expect on the tour, as well as some health and safety issues to bear in mind, will all be dealt with in the run up to the date.

Don't forget that Confor members get free entry into the Confor Woodland Show on production of your current membership card. If you need a ticket however please let me know and I can arrange free tickets for volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering to take a group around the show please email [fiona@confor.org.uk](mailto:fiona@confor.org.uk). If you know of anyone else who is coming to the show please pass this on to them as a prospective volunteer.



## Volunteers at the gate

Ensuring the event is a success is reliant on the hard work of the committee and a core of volunteers and helpers. The gate will, as in previous years, be manned by volunteers. We need as many people as possible to kindly give one to two hours of their time to welcome guests to the show and help with ticketing. If you are attending the show and feel that you are able to spare some time we would like to hear from you. Gate duty is required daily from 08.30 to 16.30; the busiest time is 09.00 to 13.00. Also if you have colleagues who would be able to help do ask them to contact us.

If you can help please contact Steve Russell with your preferred times by telephone on 01380 831162 or email at [steve@woodlandcountrysidemangement.com](mailto:steve@woodlandcountrysidemangement.com)

 **Spread the word!**

 **Please spread the word via social media and visit our Facebook page.**

## Thanks to our sponsors







**Bite**

Blade for Infusion in Trees

Sorbus are the exclusive UK distributor of the BITE System.

Blade for infusion in trees



**LASER GEO/ECII-D**

Laser Geo. Unbeatable specification for a hand held measurement device ECII-D clinometer. Affordable & accurate height & distance measurement



Don't give pests and diseases an easy ride



We offer Biosecurity kits. Simple biosecurity measures help limit the spread of tree pests and diseases.



**DPII CALLIPERS**



01373 475540

[WWW.SORBUS-INTL.CO.UK](http://WWW.SORBUS-INTL.CO.UK)



See us at  
Confor  
**WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
Stand E1

**Loxston**  
GROUND CARE

**irus**  
BY HONDA

## Loxston Groundcare Ltd are the sole UK distributor for Irus mowing machinery

The Irus range of remote controlled mowers are designed for mowing and maintenance of precipitous slopes, parks, roadside verges and railway embankments offering reduced risk of injury to operators. Irus remote control mowers will go where standard walk behind or ride on mowers cannot go safely being able to run on slopes of up to 50°.

Radio control ranges of up to 300m ensure that operators are always out of harm's way.

We will be able to supply new machinery, attachments and spare parts.

To make an enquiry please call us on 01460 242562 or email us [info@loxston.co.uk](mailto:info@loxston.co.uk) [www.irus-mowers.co.uk](http://www.irus-mowers.co.uk)

## FOREST CARBON

UK woodland creation for business carbon footprints

We've been working with forward thinking businesses to create Woodland Carbon Code certified UK woodlands for carbon capture, society and nature since 2006. Together we're up to 8 million trees at 150 sites around the UK.

If your woodland creation project is in need of critical additional funding, or you just want to learn more, come and see us at the Show or get in touch.

[www.forestcarbon.co.uk](http://www.forestcarbon.co.uk)  
Confor Woodland Show Stand C11

## Seminars in the Confor tent

There is a packed programme of talks and topical seminars throughout the two-days of the show that explore the show theme of **Forests, Wood and Climate Change**.

Confor is planning two breakfast seminars. On Thursday morning we will be discussing mitigation and how we will meet woodland creation targets. On Friday morning we will be discussing adaptation and how we can change our woodlands for a changing climate.

Come along and put your questions to our two panels of professionals.

**With thanks to our breakfast sponsor:**



### Thursday, 05 September

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKERS
9.00 - 10.00	Breakfast - sponsored by Abbey Forestry	
10.00 - 11.30	Woodland expansion, a solution for the climate emergency: Panel session	See below
12.00 - 13.00	Confor southwest region AGM	
13.00 - 13.30	Uses for UAVs in woodland and land management	Barle Valley Forestry
13.30 - 14.30	Current and future incentives including the Woodland Carbon Guarantee Fund	Forestry Commission
14.30 - 16.00	The Forestry Industry Safety Accord AGM, landowner and agent update	FISA

**Woodland expansion, a solution for the climate emergency - speakers:**  
 David Rutley MP  
 Sir William Worsley: Defra Tree Champion  
 Eleanor Harris: Confor  
 Friends of the Earth (speaker TBC)  
 Matt Taylor: Country Land and Business Association  
 Paul Nolan: Mersey Forest and the Northern Forest

### Friday, 06 September

TIME	TITLE	SPEAKERS
9.00 - 10.00	Breakfast	
10.00 - 11.30	Changing woodlands for a changing climate: Panel session	See below
11.30 - 12.30	The Climate Change Action Plan meeting our targets	The Forestry Climate Change Working Group
13.00 - 14.00	Living with ash dieback: how do we manage and adapt: Panel session	Forestry Commission
14.00 - 15.00	Woodfuel and the Clean Air Strategy	Woodsure

**Changing woodland for a changing climate - speakers:**  
 James Hepburn Scott: Forest Carbon  
 John Weir: Forestry Commission  
 Bryan Elliott: Eucalyptus Renewables Limited  
 Amanda Calvert: Smallwoods Association  
 Sue Davies: University of Edinburgh  
 Alice Snowden: Cheviot Trees  
 Biographies for all speakers will be available on [www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk](http://www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk)

If you want to secure a place for a seminar, please visit the seminars section on the show website or contact [Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk](mailto:Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk)





## Packed schedule of events at Forestry Workers Zone

On both days, the Forestry Workers Zone offers a great selection of micro-workshops, drop-in clinics and demonstrations. Check for timings of demonstrations on the day.

### Live demonstrations

- Chainsaw maintenance and advice, Dave Rosseney (Esus Forestry)
- Hydraulic component strip down, maintenance and advice, (Steven Wills FMS)
- Ergonomic tree planting (MWMAC)
- John Deere harvester simulator

### Drop in advice clinics

- FMO records of registration (MWMAC)
- Supervision and consolidation of new chainsaw users in line with FISA 805 (MWMAC)
- Forestry Apprenticeships, Skills and CPD (Steve Fowkes, Forestry England)
- MySafety phone app (Stephen Bartlett)

### 20-minute micro courses

- 09:30/13:30 Wellbeing, climate change and forestry (Toby Allen)
- 10:30/12:30 / 15:30 EPS management walk (Martin Hayles)
- 11:30/14:30 Pricing work by breaking down the processes (Mike Crutchley)

## Demonstrations

In addition to the programme of talks and seminars there will be an exciting programme of practical demonstrations. Demonstrating at the show this year will be:



### Archery

Ballands Bowmen Woodland arena

### Chainsaw carvers

Featuring Danny Thomas, Harry Thomas, Woody Parkes, David Flemons and Will Lee. Find them in the woodlands in the chainsaw carving area



### Horse logging

British Horse Loggers & Swainsford Heavy Horses



### Watch the UK loggers select their team for World Championship

The UK Loggers will be holding the team selection for the UK Team to represent the UK at the World Logging Championship in Serbia in 2020. Six professionals and two U24's will be battling it out to become the final three professionals and one U24 to form our team. This approach is designed to select those competitors that consistently perform at the highest level. Competition is intense.

Over the two show days they will compete not once but twice with the highest aggregate scores selecting the team. Visitors will be able to watch the competition and cheer on their favourite.

The competitors to compete at the CWS have been selected at the annual UK Championship held this year at Newton Rigg College, Penrith Cumbria on the 17 and 18 July 2019. So not only is the UK championship up for grabs at Newton Rigg but also the opportunity to be team member and compete against the best in the world.



**N35.125**  
**GRAFTER**   
**GREEN**



# Loaded with benefits.

Discover how the all-new  
Isuzu Grafter Green can  
work for your business.

Isuzu Grafter Green.  
A proper little grafter.

[graftergreen.co.uk/arborist](http://graftergreen.co.uk/arborist)

**ISUZU**  
**TRUCK** 





# Caledonian Forestry Services Ltd

FOR QUALITY FORESTRY MACHINERY



See us at

Confor  
**WOODLAND  
SHOW**  
2019

Stand W9



West Third, Tullibardine, Auchterarder PH3 1NJ

T: 01764 663798 E: sales.cfs@hotmail.com

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

# CONFOR WOODLAND SHOW PREVIEW

With over 150 exhibitors expected at the two-day show, every sector of the industry is represented... from nursery to processing, from machinery and arb supplies to management advisors and cutting edge new technology...

## FIREWOOD

**Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd**

Stand S1-5

### Meet the new JAPA 365 14-inch firewood processor

The brand new JAPA 365 - 14 inch firewood processor is now available in the UK through Fuelwood. Available with tractor PTO, 3-phase electric, dual-powered, or Honda petrol engine powertrains, in 3-point link, static or road-towable variants, there is an option to suit all requirements. The .325" chainsaw on 15" bar makes quick work of cutting timber and splitting is effortless through 2, 4, 6 or 8 way splitting knives. The machine is controlled effortlessly via hydraulic joysticks, controlling feeding of the timber, cutting, positioning of the splitting knife and timber deck/log

lift controls. The conveyor can also be slewed round into 5 positions enabling multi bag filling and/or uniform loading of trailers.

This all new, cost effective, and hugely productive machine fits neatly into the rest of the Japa range as their mid-size processor. The machine will be demoed at the Firewood stand at the Confor Woodland Show. To see the whole range of machines visit: [www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)

## TECHNOLOGY

**Artio Geomatics**

Stand V6

### Drones demo

Artio Geomatics will be demonstrating the use of drones and their applications for forestry; visit them at their stand for more information.



## GRANTS

**Tilhill Forestry**

Stand B8

### Forest management information hub

Tilhill Forestry's stand is a hub of information for woodland owners, landowners, farmers and local authorities. Featuring information on available grants such as Countryside Stewardship (CS) with grants available under Woodland Improvement (WD2) to bring unmanaged woodlands back into management, Woodland Management Plans and the Woodland Carbon Fund. Pests and diseases are a constant threat to our woodlands and countryside, currently we see a focus on Ash Dieback management and the associated professional services we offer including tree surveys, safety assessments together with harvesting & marketing of produce and then replacement planting with a diverse and resilient restocking.

**Artio Geomatics will be demonstrating how drones can be used in forestry. See stand V6**

>>



**JAPA 365 firewood processor**

FUELWOOD

japa

Kindling & Firewood Processors

- ▶ Circular saw & chainsaw processors
- ▶ 6", 8" & 10" length kindling options
- ▶ Up to 14" capacity
- ▶ Huge productivity
- ▶ Finance available
- ▶ Designs specifically for processing UK timber

See us at

Stands S1, S2, S3, S4, S5

FUELWOOD

FTN5-17
Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
[www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)
t: 01926 484673



WOOD-MIZER UK  
 Hopfield Barn, Kenward Road,  
 Yalding, Kent,  
 ME18 6JP  
 Phone: 01622 813201 | info@woodmizer.co.uk  
[www.woodmizer.co.uk](http://www.woodmizer.co.uk)



COME and SEE in ACTION!

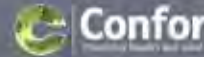
**LT20** Mobile Sawmill

**VERSATILE AND RELIABLE  
 WOOD PROCESSING  
 FOR SMALL BUSINESS**



LT20MG25SDH3-2.2

WOODLAND SHOW | 5TH-6TH SEPTEMBER 2019 | LONGLEAT ESTATE



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



Tel: 01380 816 516

## >> WOODLAND CREATION

**Eucalyptus Renewables Ltd**  
Stand C8

### Farm diversification

Short rotation wood supply chains are critical to meeting the existing and forecasted shortfall in supply of roundwood by all timber users in UK. The extensive development of combined heat and power plants throughout UK over the next ten years will further exacerbate the current shortage of available roundwood. Rural land use models will have to become more targeted on their outcomes, whether it be for commercial productive purposes or meeting biodiversity natural resource protection objectives. The use of Eucalyptus trees to produce maximum wood cellulose on the shortest possible productive rotation is both economically viable and sustainable. The yield on some of these plantations is world class in the region of 40m<sup>3</sup> per year per hectare. This equates to around

one and a half truck loads of timber per hectare per year. Production thinning could start at four years of age and clearfell operations at ten years of age will produce 400m<sup>3</sup> per hectare. Short rotation timber production plantations are another crop and will start to generate an economic return from four years of age. Mixing biodiversity and productive outcomes is a sign of robust land use with benefits key to a thriving rural sector.

[www.devonforestryconsultants.co.uk](http://www.devonforestryconsultants.co.uk)  
[bryan@devonforestryconsultants.co.uk](mailto:bryan@devonforestryconsultants.co.uk)

**Cromers Wood,  
Kent, 29 yr.old  
Eucalyptus  
nitens, 7.5m<sup>3</sup>  
each, June 2018**



## COMPETITION

**Forest Workers Zone**  
Stand W228

### Chainsaw hold out competition

The Forest Worker Zone returns with its fun chainsaw hold out competition, with great prizes to be won.

## PLANT HEALTH

**RFS**  
Stand B8

### Worried about Ash Dieback?

In partnership with Forestry Commission we have published ten Ash Dieback case studies, helping to share experiences around the country. Find them on our stand at the show or on our website [www.rfs.org.uk](http://www.rfs.org.uk) by following the About/publications links

# ACCESS, PERFORMANCE, CAPABILITY

The compact **Predator 56RX** stump grinder has it all. With a rear hydraulic PTO for attachments, quickly transform the machine into a narrow access powerpack for site clearance. Attachments include forestry mulcher, winch and turf flail.

- ✓ Radio control
- ✓ 56 horsepower diesel turbo
- ✓ 31 inches wide
- ✓ Dozer blade/tow bar as standard



01189 404 739  
[WWW.PREDATOR-MFG.COM](http://WWW.PREDATOR-MFG.COM)



# HI-LINE

training



- High quality arboriculture & chainsaw related training
- Forestry/Arb focused Emergency First Aid at Work +F
- Specialist utility arb training
- Industry recognised qualifications
- Training for both individuals and organisations
- Tree surgeon fast track courses

t: 033 345 678 86  
 e: training@hi-line.co.uk  
 w: hi-line.co.uk/training

f /HiLineTraining    i /hilinetraining

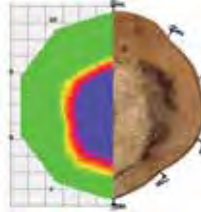


# Tree Diagnostics

NEW  
E-LEARNING  
ACADEMY

Hi-Tech Tree Investigation Suppliers & Trainers

### Importers for Fakopp and Others



- Dynaroot – Root Stability
- Static Wind Load ‘Tree Pulling’
- ArborElectro Impedance Tomograph
- Arborsonic 3D Tomograph
- Sumo Rugged Tablets
- Arb-Ex – Air Excavator

Investigation Service Available

SUPPLY - TRAINING - SUPPORT



Contact Ian Barnes    01423 323851    07831 530563  
[www.treediagnostics.co.uk](http://www.treediagnostics.co.uk)

# M.LARGE



**M.LARGE** T: 02890 342838 E: sales@mlarge.com www.mlarge.com

**HAKKIPIILKE**

**GMT EQUIPMENT**

**BMF**

Follow us on:

# Woods honoured in annual 'Tree Oscars'

A large public woodland steeped in forestry history, two innovative young crofters, and a nursery where children can spend their session in the woods were among the prize-winners at Scotland's annual 'Tree Oscars'.

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2019 presented a special Centenary Award to mark 100 years since the 1919 Forestry Act, which went to Fort Augustus Woodlands - the first site acquired by the Forestry Commission in Scotland after the Act.

Judges said: "Covering almost 10,000ha, these woods are steeped in the history of 20th century forestry, up to the present day. Evident within the forest area is the full spectrum of challenges faced by forest managers over the last 100 years, along with their efforts, responses and initiatives to overcome those challenges."

Another new award for the 2019 was the Farm Woodland Award for Young People, won by Lynn Cassells and Sandra Baer for Lynbreck Croft, near Grantown on Spey.

Judges said they had made an impressive impact in a few short years on an abandoned croft, using the woodlands as shelter for livestock and fuel for the croft.

Lynn Cassells said: "We have tried to achieve full integration of the trees and woodland into the croft business. They are a valuable asset in terms of

shelter for animals and fuel for us - as well as everything they do for biodiversity and soaking up carbon. That three-legged stool of sustainability is at the heart of everything we are trying to do in our community."

Earthtime Forest School Nursery in Duffus, Moray, was presented with the Schools Award by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at a ceremony at the Royal Highland Show. Judges were impressed by the "huge enthusiasm" of staff and co-operation with the landowner [Duffus Estate] to create a forest kindergarten in a previously unused areas of woodland. They added: "The aim is to ensure children are allowed to spend their whole nursery session in the woodlands, providing unlimited, uninterrupted play and learning opportunities in nature."

The Centenary Award was a hard-fought category, with the public forest estate, community woods and private sector all honoured. Abriachan Forest Trust, a 540ha community forest by Loch Ness, was highly commended as "a pathfinder for communities in Scotland wishing to get involved in woodland ownership and management".

Fergus Ewing, MSP for Inverness and Nairn and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, who presented the awards, said: "This is a huge year for forestry in Scotland, with full devolution and the smashing of



From top:  
Children in the outdoor nursery at Earthtime Forest School Nursery, Duffus  
Lynn Cassells (sitting) and Sandra Baer at Lynbreck Croft  
Looking towards Fort Augustus Woodlands



our ambitious planting targets. We are achieving on both quantity and quality as these annual Awards so clearly demonstrate."

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

## THE AWARDS IN FULL

### Schools Award

*Winner:* Earthtime Forest School Nursery, Duffus, Moray  
*Runner-up:* Levenmouth Academy, Buckhaven, Fife.

### Community Woodlands

#### Large Community Woodland

*Winner:* Gifford Community Woodland, East Lothian.  
*Highly Commended:* Beechbrae Wood, Blackridge, West Lothian.

#### Small Community Woodland Group

*Winner:* Michaelswood Public Amenity, Aith, Shetland [and overall winner of the Community Woodland Award and Tim Stead Trophy]  
*Highly Commended:* Doune Ponds, from Perthshire.

### New Native Woods

Jahama Highland Estates, for Kinlochleven Native Woodland, Lochaber (managed by Bidwells).

### Quality Timber Awards

#### New Commercial Woods

*Winner:* Mervyn Harrison, Beirhope, near Hownam, Kelso, Scottish Borders (managed by Tilhill Forestry)  
*Commended:* K & J Walker for Whitehillshiel Forest, Hawick (managed by Scottish Woodlands Ltd).

#### Small Wood, Compartment or Single Stand of Trees

David Shepherd & Annie Griffiths for Craggach Woods, Kirkhill, near Inverness

#### Whole Forest or Estate

James Evan Baillie for Darroch Wood, Scaniport Estate on the banks of the river Ness, south of Inverness (managed by Bowlts Chartered Surveyors).

### Farm Woodland Awards

#### Scottish Woodlands Ltd Trophy for Young People

Lynn Cassells and Sandra Baer, Lynbreck Croft, Grantown on Spey.

### Lilburn Trophy for all farm or croft woodland

*Winner:* John Drysdale farmer & Kieran Kelly, forestry manager, Kilrie Farm, Kirkcaldy, Fife.  
*Highly Commended:* Peter Gascoigne, Gascoigne Farm Ltd., Broughton, Peeblesshire.  
*Commended:* W Shanks, Kerslochmuir, Dalry, Ayrshire (managed by Scottish Woodlands) and John MacLean, Lagadorrain, Isle of Iona.

### 1919 Forestry Act Centenary Award

*Winner:* Fort Augustus Woodlands managed by Forestry and Land Scotland.  
*Highly Commended:* Abriachan Forest Trust, Loch Ness-side, Inverness-shire  
*Commended:* Bagold Ltd, Minto Woodland, Denholm, Hawick (managed by Tilhill Forestry) and Llanarth Estate for Kirkennan Woodland, by Palnackie, Dalbeattie, Dumfries & Galloway (managed by Scottish Woodlands Ltd)



# Evolving the forest

On 19-21 June, at an international gathering organised by the RFS, Timber Strategies, and art.earth, creative thinkers and doers explored the forest and how we live with trees.

Unique in its approach, the organisers managed to create a well-balanced audience made up of not only woodland enthusiasts, conservationists and artists, but also professional foresters, scientists and wood users.

The programme was an eclectic mix of traditional seminars and panel discussions, artist exhibitions and interventions, practical workshops, forestry tours and woodland-themed art performances, all exploring the importance of forests for people, our environment and our economy.

The event was held at the beautiful Dartington Hall in Devon, an estate known for its commitment and dedication to experimental land use and the arts. Despite a location and programme that would naturally attract a creative and environmentally-minded audience, the organisers managed to communicate a holistic vision of UK forestry - which assumes a productive element of woodlands - and make it the starting point for discussions and creative work at the symposium.

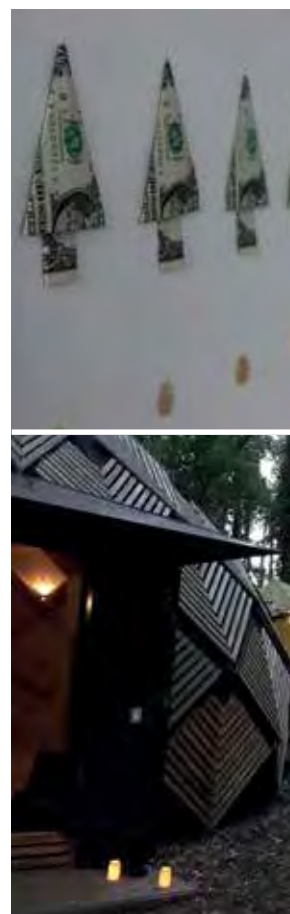
The non-judgemental event atmosphere created a space where the foresters among the speakers and fa-

cilitators could communicate their messages of modern productive forestry in a non-apologetic way and discuss it with audience groups more aligned with conservationist ideals. This led to some interesting exchanges between a wide range of very different kinds of people, connected by their common interest in creating the best woodlands for the future.

Confor's Andrew Heald talked about forest plantations as part of an integrated approach to global sustainability, and his messages were received very positively, with no negative comments from the floor.

The receptiveness of the audience could have been further taken advantage of by bringing in additional representatives from the softwood sector and from the political arena.

In conclusion, Evolving the Forest by all means created an exciting platform allowing new ideas to emerge at the intersection of art, science and business. The commercial forestry sector has not been known for communicating with confidence to external audience, and therefore, symposiums such as the Dartington event should be encouraged as much as possible.



## Reflecting on 100 years of forestry

In the context of the centenary of the Forestry Act, a diverse group of experts and thinkers - among them a conservationist, a forester, a wood user and a land agent - were challenged to present their vision and speculate about the role of forests and forestry over the next decades.

How can a future landscape support our people and the materials we need while at the same time provide ecosystem services and offer a habitat for biodiversity? There is no sense in recreating a landscape of the past that served a society and its need at a different time.

**Gabriel Hemery**  
Sylva Foundation

Foresters are being reclaimed as something very positive, something to be proud of. As part of my land management, I need to produce timber in order to avoid sucking resources from other parts of the planet.

**Sir Harry Studholme**  
Forestry Commission

**ForestAndArb.com** 

For all your Forestry and Arboricultural needs

Come and see us at Confor, stands F1 & F2, for extra special show deals on machines, PPE and all other equipment!

T: 01962 857951  
E: sales@forestandarb.com

 Forest And Arb  @ForestAndArb  ForestAndArbHQ





Every piece of land is precious. we need to assess what we need and contrast it with where the land is and what the conditions are. We want to plant what is appropriate in a specific place to get the best value for the overall ecosystem.

**Piers Taylor**  
*Invisible Studio Architects*

I envision that trees are going to be owned by a much larger basis of people and the public will be more aware of and connected to forests.

**Beccy Speight, former CEO**  
*Woodland Trust (now RSPB)*



## Visit us at the Confor Woodland Show, stand V7



Barle Valley Forestry Ltd

### Forest Surveys

- Plotting & Production Surveys
- Timber Cruising & Woodland Tariffing
- Timber Quality Assessments
- GIS Mapping & Data Collection
- Fixed Monitoring, Research Projects & Attribute Surveying

01398 323213 [contact@barleforestry.co.uk](mailto:contact@barleforestry.co.uk) [www.barleforestry.co.uk](http://www.barleforestry.co.uk) [@barleforestry](https://twitter.com/barleforestry)



**UFKES**  
Greentec

UK



- Wood chippers
- Wood chipper combinations
- Stumpgrinders
- Woodgrapples, cutters & saws



07977 098432 | 07813 110886  
mark.jibson@sky.com

**Protect yourself**  
your machinery and the environment  
in one easy change

Bulk savings available



**Aspen is the fuel of choice for 1000's of arborists across Europe. Are you one of them?**

Find out more about the benefits of Aspen fuel and where to buy at

ASPENFUEL.CO.UK



**Tanasote™**

Visit our webinar event at



<https://youtu.be/G9Rluw9LtCo>

**Lonza**

Wood Protection

REAL WORLD THINKING.

REAL WORLD PERFORMANCE.

**A new twist on an old classic**

- Hot Copper Oil alternative to traditional Creosote treatments
- Innovative organic co-biocide protecting against copper tolerant fungi
- Designed to provide an extended service life protection against decay and insect attack - **40 years for poles** and **30 years for sleepers**
- Designed to protect heavy duty, high performance timbers - **telecommunication and electricity poles, rail track timbers, industrial fencing**

Use wood preservatives safely. Always read the label and product information before use.







# Taking the long view

**Francis Fulford** reflects opportunities won and lost

The First World War was a ‘timber war’; everything that moved and flew was made of wood and the power which drove industry came from coal which had an insatiable thirst for pit props. Like every estate in the land ours was ‘raped and pillaged’ to supply this demand. Sadly, my grandfather failed to replant after the war because, as my father wrote: ‘between the wars forestry was not considered an economic proposition ....it was easier to buy foreign timber fit for building as it was cheaper.’

When my father came back from World War II he was inspired by the profits being reaped by estates which had replanted. To give you an idea, a friend of his bought a rundown farm on Exmoor and paid for it by selling the hedge row timber! My father then became an enthusiastic forester as did many of his friends; between 1948 and 1968 all over the land woods which had gone to pot like ours were replanted mainly with coniferous trees. Of course mistakes were made. My father initially planted Scots pine mixed in with beech as Scots pine was then the most valuable soft wood timber. However, wisely advised by a forestry great, Brian Howell the founder of Fountain Forestry, he also fortunately planted Douglas fir, although the species wasn’t a fashionable timber then among saw millers!

Of course, landowners like my father had the prospect of a pot of gold before their eyes. The predecessor of Confor –The Timber Growers Organisation - used

to produce a brilliant annual booklet called *Mensuration Marketing and Costs*. The 1974 edition states, for example, that for standing coniferous timber in excess of 0.424m<sup>3</sup> per tree the average price was £11.50 (£160 at today’s prices) per cubic metre. It had doubled from its previous year average of £5.48/m<sup>3</sup>. Wow! No wonder people like my father and his friends were convinced that in forestry they had found the solution to the survival of their estates. With a friendly taxation regime they had now a chance to ‘lay down’ untaxed riches for their sons to use on such essentials such as paying Death Duties and school fees without selling land to do so.

Such boom prices did not last of course. The 30-odd years between Nigel Lawson’s budget which altered the forestry tax regime and 2016 were a deeply depressing time for committed foresters like me. How many times did I hear fellow landowners, whose father’s had been mustard keen on their woods repeat what had become a mantra, “there is no money in trees”. Things thankfully are different now. The biomass market has given us the most important incentive yet to manage our woods, a profitable market for rubbish timber, while exciting developments in timber engineering promise to take wood and wood products into areas our fathers never dreamed of.

Forests are the ultimate long-term investment. I am fond of saying that when I cut down an oak tree I know it was planted by my ancestor around 1820 to be eventually used to help build a ship to fight the French and that now ships are made of steel and the French are a protected species and my oak probably goes to make a

**Above: Land girls operating portable Liner saw at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk - 1945** (Courtesy Forestry Commission)

>>



# THE FORESTRY CENTURY

>> kitchen. It is a similar story with other species. After the Great War a landowner was pondering over what to replant in his devastated woods when a friend said "Plant ash". "Why?" asked the landowner. "Because aeroplanes are the future. Five years ago aeroplanes could only just get across the channel now they can fly across the Atlantic. Aeroplanes are the future and what are aeroplanes made of - ash." Inspired, the landowner duly planted up his woodlands with ash only to find that within a very short time aeroplanes were all being made of aluminium and now I daresay his descendant is heartily cursing him as he looks at those ash woods now being devastated by *Chalara*, courtesy of Dutch nurseries.

My woods are littered with such mistake as my father was a sucker for every new 'wonder species' idea. So, we have small plots of southern beech, poplar, western hemlock and now finally fashionable and in demand, western red cedar. In my turn, I have planted European walnut, black walnut and hybrid walnut on the principle that if you are going to plant a tree why not plant one which may end up being valuable rather than something which will probably end up being firewood. I am though not sure about the hybrid walnut, it grows straight, but so do Turkey oak and I have a lot of magnificent 200-year old Turkey oaks which, if only they were English oak would be worth several thousand pounds a tree. I suspect they were a 'wonder tree' once and are now beautiful to look at but only good for biomass.

So what other species am I thinking of planting to add to the diversity of woods? Well, West coast red wood *Semper virens* is tempting me. It grows fast, looks magnificent, lives forever so even if, like my Turkey oak, they end up, for some reason, valueless they will still give pleasure to future generations. Next year I am going to plant a few and as I stand back and admire my handiwork I will say to myself: "In 20 years these tree will look pretty good". Then I will remember that in 20 years I will be 86! But that is the joy of forestry and planting trees - it is the only occupation which makes you look forward to getting old.

**A working horse at Eggesford Forest - 1919**  
(Courtesy Forestry Commission)



**ECCO STOVE®**  
Natural Heating



Eccostove.com

## Alternative Woodfired Heating

- Heat from as little as a single room or your whole home.\*
- No radiators or electrical connection required.
- Up to 12 hours of heat from just 7kg of logs.
- Surpasses the 2022 emission & particulate requirements.
- Scrapage scheme available for old stoves.



- ▶ All aspects of woodland management and design
- ▶ Woodland creation, establishment and maintenance
- ▶ Timber harvesting and marketing
- ▶ Arboricultural surveys and assessments



Contact us today:

01386 554 027

office@abbeyforestry.co.uk

www.abbeyforestry.co.uk



Visit us...

at the Confor Woodland Show 2019: stand W7-W8

1.8m

TFS2-180 mulcher c/w fixed push frame



1.8/2m

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



2.25m

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



2.5m

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



TMC CANCELA forestry machines are specially designed for mulching branches and low trees, including remaining stumps after felling trees; producing a very high degree of mulching, often to sawdust.



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



Transmission system with TURBO CLUTCHES to ensure tractor overload protection



# TOUGH FORESTRY MULCHERS

WIRELESS remote control supplied as standard with all winches to ensure ultimate operator SAFETY!



HEAVY DUTY

## Geared cable winches



Rugged 3-point linkage mounted winches manufactured in Germany with wireless remote control.

### REPLACEMENT PARTS

TO FIT FAE



HEAVY DUTY REPLACEMENT MULCHER TEETH AVAILABLE NOW FROM STOCK!

TO FIT SEPPIM



HIGH PERFORMANCE TUNGSTEN PARTS

TUNGSTEN CARBIDE

**SPALDINGS®**

Spaldings parts are designed and manufactured for Spaldings to exacting quality standards and are supplied to fit machines indicated and are not sold as genuine parts.

Tel: 01522 507 100

Email: forestry@spaldings.co.uk  
Visit: www.spaldings.co.uk/forestry

APPROVED DEALER FOR:





# Market feels effects of global events



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

## Domestic market

The domestic market continues to be significantly influenced by events elsewhere in the world. The global slowdown has led to large volumes of Swedish and Baltic timber being dumped into the UK at the same time as Central European producers (Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania) have increased deliveries to the UK. The net result has been a flood of imported carcassing timber into the UK which has put the domestic producers under significant price and volume pressure as they fight to defend market share in a slow market.

In the first three months of 2019, these problems were compounded by the pound strengthening on the back of optimism that Theresa May's Brexit deal might be accepted. Following Mrs May's resignation, Boris Johnson becoming Prime Minister and the Labour Party going into self-destruct mode, global markets have lost confidence in the UK and the pound has been steadily falling since the beginning of May. There is now speculation that the pound will fall further in the next three months as Mr Johnson's attempt to leave Europe by 31 October becomes increasingly complicated.

## UK softwood sawlogs

Prices for sawlogs have fallen through the first half of 2019 on the back of increased supply and very patchy demand for sawn

timber in the spring of 2019.

The balance of supply and demand has been very varied.

In the south and midlands of England, demand has fallen and prices have reduced, however, there have not been large volumes of timber offered to the market and so most processors need to carry on buying.

Wales has seen substantial offers of timber to the market over the last six months and most processors are now well bought, although price still remains a serious issue for them as they have to be able to compete with the cheap imported timber being landed from Central Europe. To do this effectively, log prices will need to be around £70 per tonne delivered.

Whilst Natural Resource Wales offered 190,000m<sup>3</sup> obs to the market in June, this was on the back of a reduced overall offer of 700,000m<sup>3</sup> obs this year; so whilst in the short term there is plentiful supplies of round wood there continues to be concern over the longer-term picture.

Scotland and northern England have seen very high levels of harvesting activity but it is also here where the slowdown and associated price reductions of £15 to £20 per tonne standing are being reported. With the bulk of the private sales for the year brought to market, buyers can now take stock of their inventories and work out how they are going to dilute the remaining expensive wood on their books. Currently, there are still high stocks of small roundwood and sawlogs at roadside, many mills are only running at 70 to 80% capacity and looking to take extended holidays. Production levels are likely to remain low until the global glut of sawn timber has worked its

## GLOBAL TRENDS

The Global sawn timber is currently in the process of finding a new balance as supply curtailments finally catch up with slowing demand. In North America and Canada there are weekly announcements of mill closures and production curtailments however this pattern is also now emerging in Scandinavia and in the UK, hopefully the holiday season will stem this.

Global tariff wars, Brexit and continuing tension in the Gulf have led to increased market uncertainty and reduced confidence which impacts on prices; are we seeing the end of the global free trade era and the emergence of a more "protectionist" trade era?

At the same time, as political market disturbance has been occurring, there have been a series of major environmental incidents that have had a global impact on timber supply. Wildfires, storm damage, tree diseases and insect infestations have all been evident over the last year.

In Europe, significant wind throw over the winter, exceptionally hot summers and many over mature stands have led to extensive spruce bark beetle attacks. The salvage operation has been rapid and has led to a significant increase in sawn timber production in Central Europe which is now being pushed into already crowded world markets.

The US market slowed in autumn 2018 which meant large quantities of Canadian carcassing timber were diverted to China, together with the European material and increased supplies from Scandinavia. The net result is

way through the system and demand levels pick up.

In summary, price pressure on finished products has led to reductions in sawlog

### £ per tonne delivered to customers in Wales, central and south England (July 2019)

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£65.00	£75.00	= ↓
Bar 14	£45.00	£60.00	= ↓
SRW	£40.00	£50.00	= ↓
Fencing	£50.00	£60.00	=
H Wood firewood	£50.00	£70.00	=

### £ per tonne delivered to customers in north England and Scotland (July 2019)

Product	Lower price	Upper price	Trend
Log 18	£65.00	£75.00	= ↓
Bar / pallet 14	£45.00	£60.00	= ↓
SRW	£40.00	£50.00	= ↓
Fencing	£50.00	£60.00	=
H Wood firewood	£50.00	£70.00	=



a glut of timber on the docks in China resulting in falling prices.

Whilst the Chinese market remains the largest market in the world, consuming 600 million m<sup>3</sup> annually, of which 54% is imported, there have been significant short-term changes to patterns of consumption.

China has begun a programme of strict environmental regulation in 2018 and has continued this through 2019, this has led to the closure of large numbers of small and medium-sized primary producers (sawmills, veneer plants) and secondary processors (furniture and flooring). In time these plants will be replaced by more modern facilities that meet the tougher new environmental standards or relocate to inland China where they can take advantage of easy access to Russian timber but in the short term demand for timber is reduced at a time when global supply levels are high leading to rising stocks and falling prices.

The USA is seeing declining production in the north and west and increasing production from the Southern pine belt leading to prices increasing in the south and falling in the north.

All of which has combined to cause a downward price trend in sawlog prices during the second half of 2018 and the first six months of 2019.

The global sawlog price index is now back to the same level as it was in the second quarter of 2017 whilst the European sawlog index fell 3% in the first quarter of 2018 to euro 81.08 per m<sup>3</sup>.



prices over the first six months of the year, supply levels have reduced and it appears that we are now at the bottom of the cycle and prices will stabilise at these levels.

#### Small roundwood

Demand and prices have fallen right back from the peaks of autumn 2018. Increased production from the forests has meant that most markets are now well supplied and can start to focus their efforts on reducing raw material costs.

Whilst in the short term this has been a successful strategy, in the longer term there are signs that roadside stocks are decreasing, production levels in the forest are static and new sales being offered to the market have fallen right off so we could be seeing the bottom of the market cycle here.

Regional disparities in prices have become more pronounced, with prices of £30 per tonne roadside being offered by some areas where there are high stocks with others are still offering £40 to £50 per tonne. Again, supplies are most plentiful in the north, with less material available further south, the seasonal slowdown in the biomass sector is also most pronounced now coupled with technical problems at a couple of the larger small round wood users has made the small round wood market challenging in the north but more rewarding in the south.

#### Timber availability

Whilst prices have fallen from the peaks of late 2018, they remain at a very healthy relative to the last 10 years and it is still very

worthwhile for woodland owners to undertake harvesting operations. The high prices did bring more timber to the market but there are now signs that supplies of standing timber to the market is reducing with less new sale instructions coming forward and merchants managing production levels in the forest.

Over the past five years, there has been a definite trend in the private sector for the bulk of the timber to be marketed in the spring, with very little being offered in the second half of the year.

Pheasant shooting, farming constraints, roading concerns and access constraints have all contributed to an increase in marketing for summer working and a noticeable slowdown during the winter

In England, there has also been an in- >>





THE TREE CUTTING TOOL A CUT ABOVE.

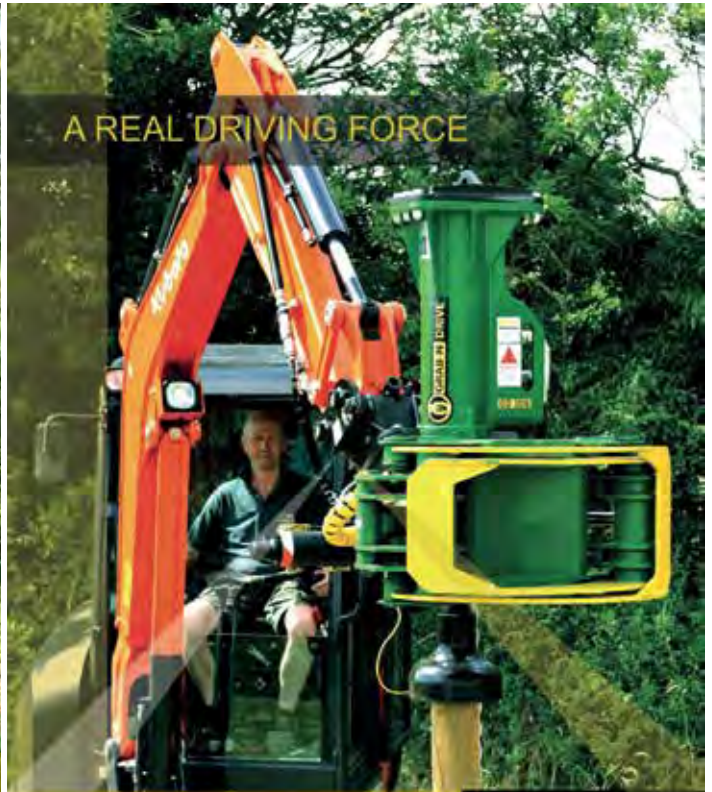
The Exac-One Treemaster excavator attachment takes cutting performance, safety and stability to new heights. To find out more, call 01684 593052 or visit [www.exac-one.co.uk](http://www.exac-one.co.uk)



**TREEMASTER**

Shear perfection

FINANCE OPTIONS AVAILABLE



A REAL DRIVING FORCE

The Exac-One Grab-n-Drive makes 'one man' post handling and driving A Real Option! – simply and safely. To find out more, call 01684 593052 or visit [www.exac-one.co.uk](http://www.exac-one.co.uk)



**GRAB-N-DRIVE**

Max Impact

POST DRIVING MADE EASY

# BAG Supplies Ltd.

Packaging suppliers covering the UK and Europe

We specialise in the supply of all types of firewood and kindling net bags, ventilated bulk bags, cubic nets and frames, bag loading trays, polypropylene sacks, standard bulk bags, LDPE sacks and storage tarpaulins.

We carry a large range of stock in various sizes at our warehouse for delivery within 48 hours of your order.

We even offer a free personalised print and design service so your nets/bags can be ordered with your logo or design.

***We've got it in the bag!***



t 01768 862157 m 07798 723040

e [info@bagsupplies.com](mailto:info@bagsupplies.com) [www.bagsupplies.com](http://www.bagsupplies.com)

>> crease in thinning activity, particularly in broadleaves as a response to the shortages of firewood that the market experienced in the winter of 2018 and 2019. This sort of work is less productive than conifer clear felling and will lead to lower output levels from the forest in the second half of the year, as well as pulling machines away from conifer felling jobs.

The outlook then is for reducing supplies in the second half of the year which will present challenges for the processors as they try to secure volume for winter 2019/20.

### Hardwood saw logs

Those with 'oak fever' seem to have taken a collective cold bath this spring as there has been a noticeable stabilising of oak prices in the first half of 2019. Chinese demand for oak sawlogs from Europe has slowed down this year, leading to better availability from Europe at prices that are competitive. Oak sawlogs are now readily available from France at around £12.50/hft delivered which has now put a ceiling on domestic roadside prices for around £11/hft (£300m<sup>3</sup>). Export demand for beech has remained steady with prices of £80m<sup>3</sup> underbark and upwards available for planning grade beech sawlogs. Despite increased supplies of ash sawlogs this market has held up very well throughout the season and into summer. Prices of between £90 and £100m<sup>3</sup> (£3 to £3.50/hft) at roadside are available for 'export grade' ash, currently, and it is

hoped that these prices can be maintained through into winter. In many ash woods the impact of ash dieback has become really pronounced in summer 2019 and it would appear to be wise to get felling plans in place to recover value from ash woods whilst it is both safe and economical to do so.

### Firewood & Fuelwood

There has been a steady increase in firewood harvesting activity in 2019 and as supplies have increased, prices have stabilised in all areas and started to fall in some areas. In the midlands and south of England, prices have settled back to £50 to £55 per tonne at roadside as large volumes of diseased ash has been brought to market this year, whilst in the north, the supplies are only just starting to improve and prices are £60 to £65 per tonne at roadside. The supply of diseased ash and its impact on the market remains very much and unknown quantity. Developing systems to safely and effectively harvest diseased trees is still underway; this in turn will determine what products can be produced from the trees as they are felled. Will it be most practical to simply chip the material at stump or will it be possible to cut firewood? Once diseased, the timber becomes progressively more brittle leading to shattering on felling and concerns over how it will behave when run through a firewood processor.

Therefore, whilst ash dieback is going

to have a significant impact on the timber market it seems likely that the biomass market will be the big winner from it.

It is difficult to quantify the true extent of the demand for biomass and fuel wood in the UK given the fragmented market and the varied feedstock's being used as domestically. The United Kingdom continues to be the largest importer of wood pellets in the world. In 2018, the country was the destination for 36% of globally traded pellets. In 2017, the UK imported 6.833 million tonnes of wood pellets according to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy annual report. The 2018 figures are published on the 25th July 2019. Supply of wood from diseased ash is only a drop in the ocean compared to these vast quantities.

### Summary

Domestically, the market appears to be settling down at lower activity levels and prices 10 to 20% back from the peaks of late 2018 but we still in a period of great uncertainty as the country tries to come to terms with Brexit's impact on demand levels and cheap wood from Central Europe puts pressure on end product prices so expect further market volatility in the short term.

### Roadside hardwood prices (£ hft) July 2019

	Oak planking	Oak beam	Oak fencing	Export ash & beech	White ash sawlogs	Export sycamore	Large Douglas fir & Larch
High price	£12.00	£10.00	£7.00	£3.25	£4.00	£5.00	£3.25
Mid price	£10.00	£8.00	£5.00	£2.75	£3.50	£4.00	£2.90
Low price	£8.00	£7.00	£4.00	£2.00	£3.25	£3.00	£2.50

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

### TIMBER AUCTIONS



If you wish to discuss parcels of timber you would like to market, please contact Oliver Combe on 07771 958975, [oliver.combe@timberauctions.co.uk](mailto:oliver.combe@timberauctions.co.uk) for free independent marketing advice.



## Heavy Duty Professional Log Splitters

See us at  
  
 Stands S1, S2, S3, S4, S5





- ▶ Heavy duty splitters from 7-28 tonne capacity
- ▶ Horizontal, vertical & combi types available
- ▶ Hydraulic, PTO, engine & electric power options
- ▶ Heavy duty, robust build quality
- ▶ Incredibly fast, double pump action

FUELWOOD

FTN5-17
Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
[www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)
t: 01926 484673



# Afforestation options drawing serious interest



Scottish forest market report and investment outlook by **Fenning Welstead**, John Clegg & Co

For the first time in many years the forestry planting targets in Scotland were exceeded last year. This is great news and confirms the high level of interest in creating investment in our future forest resource. Finally, the results of a positive grant scheme and a consultation process that seems to be viewing forestry more favourably are bearing fruit. It is notable that there are many marginal farms (and some not so marginal) being bought by afforestation interests.

Two farms acquired by forestry investors are at **Daljedburgh** (353ha) and **Shankston** (600ha). Both situated in southwest Scotland and bought with a view to afforestation. Comparing values is not straightforward as farmhouses, steadings, land quality and location are all variable factors. However, it would not be unreasonable to indicate that the potentially plantable land is likely to have been in excess of £4000 per hectare.

At the time of writing John Clegg & Co have just launched **Coulshill** and **The Corb** near Auchterarder. In total 1270ha of fertile upland farm set within the gentle valleys of the Ochil Hills. There is clearly an option to continue farming but the opportunity for afforestation is there and it will be fascinating to see how the market responds.

The sale of **Cliffhope** gave support and confidence to the value of young plantations. This young commercial property was planted in 2011. The total area of just over 600ha contains 412ha of stocked crop. At a sale price of over £5m, this equates to approximately £12,800/ha of stocked crop. With a well-developed access infrastructure, internal roading and located in the Scottish Borders it is a prime example of the value of location and getting the fundamentals correct.

For more mature crops, we must consider plantations established when we last had very active afforestation; during the 1980s and the final years of the Schedule D tax regime. The sale of two parcels of commercial spruce at **Ballyoukan**, near Pitlochry, is a good example. While it is still going through the legal process, it is perhaps not unreasonable to pass comment that the 220ha will have sold for something approaching £20,000/ha.

All of the forests above have as their prime objective the economic production of commercial volumes of timber. As we have seen over the last decade, the market value of such assets has increased markedly. I was recently asked to comment on an apportionment between crop and solum values for a spruce plantation. Having been acquired just after the turn of the century and sold

some 13 years later, the property has comfortably more than quadrupled in value. At the point of purchase in 2000 the trees were about 15 years old and therefore at the point of sale they were 28 years old. Clearly part of the growth in value is simply to do with the physical growth of the trees, but there is also a growth in value in land and in timber values. When one considers that the management input during this period in a crop's life is relatively nominal, this has been, by any stretch of the imagination, a simple to manage and effective place to invest capital.

Turning now to smaller woodlands, John Clegg & Co sold **Binn Wood** in the Fife & Kinross area at a price of just under £10,000/ha, this for 23ha of mixed conifers and broadleaves approximately 40 years old. This represents an ideal woodland for an individual owner offering a place of recreation, physical activity, forestry management and enjoyment, together with potential capital value growth and a modest amount of income. It is not so long ago that we were seeing this sort of price paid for small woodlands in the south of England and wondering whether it would ever apply in Scotland. It appears that that time has now arrived. Other woodlands sold during the past six months to a year reinforce that view, with prices approaching £10,000/ha for woods that offer sensible access, amenity and prospects for reasonable timber growth.

Savills placed a slightly larger plantation at **Arnshean** on the market earlier this year. In total 54ha of which 43ha carried a crop of 29-year-old Sitka this sold at a competitive closing date in May at a price equivalent to over £25,000 per hectare. True, there was local interest and possibly some marriage value but the close bidding suggests that there is some market depth for this type of asset. Despite the recent softening of timber prices there seems to be considerable confidence that the trend for timber is upwards. While there will be troughs



**Coulshill and (below) Cliffhope**





along the way the general direction is upwards. There are some current sales working through the system that reinforce this view.

#### Recreation

Looking ahead to a world where carbon sequestration is likely to be ever more important and the cost of holiday travel may become either prohibitive or politically unacceptable, is there a chance that 'stay-cations' become the norm and the demand increases to find recreational activity in our rural hinterland? If that is the case then forestry and woodland offers an excellent backdrop within which to accommodate considerable visitor numbers and the necessary facilities to cater for them. It has often been difficult to secure planning approval for any form of development within woodlands whereas the surrounding farmland has appeared more of an open opportunity. Perhaps that may change.

This morning I had a conversation with a potential woodland investor and once we had covered the obvious questions around trees, grant systems and so forth, we moved onto alternative uses for a woodland. He was clearly looking at ways of meeting what he saw as an ever-growing demand from the UK population for activities in the countryside and how he might be able to meet that with a commercial operation. It is stimulating to find ourselves in a world that is beginning to appreciate not only the fundamental production of timber but also the wider range of opportunities that woodlands and forests can provide.

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



[enquiries@kingwell-holdings.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kingwell-holdings.co.uk)

**Tel: 01376 550989**  
[www.kingwell-holdings.co.uk](http://www.kingwell-holdings.co.uk)





**Teagle**

**NEW**

## FOREST PRO

- ✓ 180HP – 350HP dual transmission
- ✓ 600mm rotor with fixed hammers
- ✓ Full automatic belt adjustment
- ✓ Scrub, bushes and timber to Ø50cm



# FORESTRY MULCHERS

HORTICULTURE • AGRICULTURE • FORESTRY • CONSTRUCTION

01872 560592 or visit: [www.teagle.co.uk](http://www.teagle.co.uk)



The UK's largest producer of top quality cell-grown forestry trees

See us at

Confor  
**WOODLAND  
SHOW**  
2019  
SMALLER SIZE

Stand J1



Tel: 01620 825 058 Email: [sales@albatrees.co.uk](mailto:sales@albatrees.co.uk)  
[www.albatrees.co.uk](http://www.albatrees.co.uk)



# Productive woodland planting - it's happening in Scotland, will England follow suit?



by **Athole McKillop**,  
Partner, Galbraith,  
Edinburgh and Penrith

The forestry investment market has been very active over the last decade. We have seen properties change hands several times, each time at substantially increased values, often despite significant restructuring and reduction in timber volumes. The IPD UK Forest Index has shown strong increases in overall returns in recent years and better short and long-term performance than other UK property types, equities and bonds.

Timber prices form part of the growth measured by the IPD UK Forestry Index and, although subject to fluctuation, the long term has seen steady timber price growth. In the UK, we still import circa 80% of our timber products although we would have the land, climate and skills to grow more of our own supply needs. For many years, it has been recognised that the UK growing timber resource will peak towards 2030. Demand and processing capacity has, however, continued to grow. After many years of lobbying by Confor and industry players, Scottish Government and Westminster only recently recognised that timber availability, the associated economic activity, and all the non-market benefits of trees and woodland, particularly carbon sequestration, will decline unless we start planting more trees.

The Scottish Government has reacted positively, in word and action. As a result, the annual planting target of 10,000ha was exceeded in 2018. Positive words in England have yet to be translated into any really significant results.

The opportunity for new planting, both as an investment and as an alternative land use, is still gathering pace. Despite the Brexit farce, with very strong commitment to continued expansion of productive woodland playing a positive role the rural economy and the health and well-being of people and our planet, we will see continued support for more forests and woodlands across the UK.

The opportunities north and south of Hadrian's Wall are very different. The situation south of the border can be summarised fairly swiftly. Although private investment, government funding and enthusiasm to plant trees is evident, too many barriers remain in place. Confor, along with much appreciated support from Egger, arranged for the UK Forestry Minister David Rutley MP to visit Northumberland in mid-July to discuss potential for a Forestry Investment Zone and to focus on breaking down those barriers. As well as touring the Egger site and round-table meetings, the Minister visited Wallshield

and Nunwick Estate to discuss new productive forestry proposals. Supported by the Tree Champion, Sir William Worsley, the Minister unequivocally expressed Government's desire to see more productive forest planting, particularly in Northumberland, where there is strong political support. The key going forward will be to ensure that Ministerial decisions are delivered and not lost in translation between and within government departments, especially given the conflicting roles of different parts of DEFRA.

In Scotland, the McKinnon review in 2016 highlighted barriers and proposed solutions to the Scottish Government to speed up the process of planting approvals - the result, planting targets are being exceeded for the first time in decades. Will Westminster learn from this?

Those planting are keen to participate in the successful financial performance of the sector, to make best use of the positive tax treatment and increasingly they are taking more interest in the fact that the underlying investment is in a truly environmentally friendly raw material, a net absorber of carbon, which helps to mitigate climate change and which has a positive impact on people and the environment. Equally, we are seeing more farmers looking seriously at diversifying their businesses to include significant elements of productive woodlands. The uncertainty about future support for the farming 'status quo' means the more forward-thinking are taking the opportunity to change whilst great opportunities exist. One farmer in the Borders has sensibly concluded that continuing to farm his 1000 acre hill farm, as it "aye haes", won't wash going forward. Farming is his life, so he wants to continue, and he can, by farming approximately two thirds of his stock more actively on the lower third of the farm, with limited, if any, reduction in net profit, leaving a very substantial area of hill to plant.

Tree planting is happening across Scotland but the focus is in mid, west and south Scotland. The latest Scottish Forestry statistics show some 70% of all approvals since 2016 have been within Central, Perth and Argyll and South Scotland Conservancies, rising to over 85% of all productive conifer approvals. The South Scotland Conservancy, perhaps not surprisingly, has accounted for nearly 50% of all productive conifer focussed approvals. Grampian and the Highlands and Islands continue to see a focus on less productive woodland types with approximately 80% focussed on broadleaves and native pine.

The opportunities, enthusiasm and support for productive woodland creation and investment are evident, principally in Scotland for now. The opportunities and support exist in England. We just need some of the enthusiasm from Scotland, along with clear direction and prioritisation from Westminster, to filter through to the decision makers closer to the ground in England.



We are seeing more farmers looking seriously at diversifying their businesses to include significant elements of productive woodlands



# Ash Die Back is here!

- Ash Die Back (Chalara) is now present throughout the UK.
- Sadly expectation is for up to 97% loss of ash trees.
- Ash is widespread in woodlands and roadside edges.
- Are you managing your liability, particularly in respect of falling trees around footpaths and highways?
- Secondary factors, such as honey fungus, can cause rapid decay.

Decide NOW, before the timber value tumbles, or the removal of increasingly unstable trees becomes more dangerous and costly.

Using specialised, cost-effective machinery and expert teams, supported by professional management, Euroforest will turn your dying woodland into a sustainable asset.

## EUROFOREST

sustainable excellence

For further info visit [www.euroforest.co.uk](http://www.euroforest.co.uk) and speak to your local Area Manager, or simply call 01420 23030.



Book a  
**Free  
demo**



01246 811 475

**Penny Hydraulics**

VEHICLE MOUNTED EQUIPMENT

**LOADS BETTER**

Quote  
**WV10  
& Save  
10%\***



### VEHICLE MOUNTED LIFTING SOLUTIONS

LOW WEIGHT | REDUCE RISK OF INJURY | INCREASE EFFICIENCY

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

\*Offer valid until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, terms and conditions apply.

# Diverse factors influence UK forestry investment climate

It's late July and the year has been dominated by Westminster politics and a flagging Brexit strategy, with the lack of progress frustrating all and impacting markets in many sectors. So has this effected investor sentiment in forestry market? asks **James Adamson** of Savills

Well, no is the short answer. We continue to see demand from both existing and new investors, and in the recent marketing of Eldrick Forest in South Ayrshire, there was a notable degree of overseas interest. The drivers are varied but well documented; the bright future for timber, low interest rates, weak Sterling exchange rates, tax efficiency, alternative or 'green' investing and more. One of the common themes we hear is that the long-term nature of forest growth facilitates locking away capital in a 'safe' environment, effectively using timber as a biological bank based on the 'store of value' principle. You deposit your money, it appreciates in value as trees grow, and if you want to make a withdrawal you either fell or sell, both in a tax efficient manner.

Uncertainty impacts investment markets in different ways and sentiment is all important. We were concerned that post referendum the UK may look unattractive to foreign capital, seen as a hostile nation moving away from the European Union. While some consumer-focused investments may have seen downside from this, to an extent the reverse is happening in the land markets with sentiment among some overseas investors, savvy and global in outlook, considering the weak Sterling an opportunity to obtain value for money, and not overly looking at downside risk from Brexit. The picture is quite polarised however, with good quality and especially best-in-class attracting good interest, but run-of-the-mill, less so.

## Shortage

We feel the UK forest market was a little slow to start this year, not through lack of investor interest, but in terms of product coming onto the market. Savills' annual Spotlight market research shows that, over recent years, the area of forest property marketed in the first half of the year has averaged just over 7000ha across Great Britain (sales over 20ha). Against this, H1 2019 saw only 5400ha recorded, but interestingly at an average guide price of £7348 per hectare, some 26% over the medium-term average. In terms of regional market share, 12% of this has been in England, 84% in Scotland and 4% in Wales where a high proportion of sales are in the sub-20ha category so not in the analysis, and for which the market share increases to 27%. This is a fairly typical distribu-

tion of market share where Scotland dominates with a medium-term average of 88% of the annual sold area.

Naturally, lack of product impacts values, which continue to rise as investors compete for good properties. An interesting pricing trend to emerge over the last few years has been the rise in value attributable to younger timber trees, once considered at worst a liability and at best of low latent value. The traditional price age curve is changing, with the best young timber now achieving the same capital values as poorer quality mature timber, leading to a flatter price-age profile. This is partially because restructured woodlands are increasingly multi-age and also because investors are extending their time horizons further with the expectation of future rises in timber price over 10, 20 and even 30-year timeframes.

## Forest funds

The investors fall into two broad categories. Firstly, larger private and institutional investors seek scale, as this brings efficiency in the size and frequency of timber harvesting operations and therefore income, which allows payment of dividends or cash yields. Secondly, smaller private investors continue to look for long-term capital growth and tax efficiencies as part of their wealth management strategy. Over recent years it is clear that the former is starting to dominate the stocked woodland market, with some now very significant and well-run forest funds around.

Demand for planting land remains high too, although the conversion process remains elongated and not without risk; it needs to be made much simpler to encourage a wholesale shift in planted areas. While institutional money may dominate the stocked woodland market, the private buyer still dominates the planting land market. Purchasers are driven by long-term capital appreciation and can generally afford to forgo income, although objectives are varied from rewilding to succession planning.

Over the last year or two, another type of more holistic forestry buyer has been emerging and several recent land sales of what might not be considered typical planting land (better agricultural or sporting property) have been bought by forestry interests driven by a desire to develop integrated land use properties, not wholly driven by commercial afforestation, but where it is one thread of their investment strategy. Are we witnessing the arrival of the 'lifestyle forestry investor?' These purchasers are well capitalised and seem less inclined to follow traditional valuation models than the pure forestry investors. As it was put to me by an investor recently, they adopt a 'buy to hold forever' strategy, and see forests for what they really are; long-term, low risk stores of value.

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



Over the last year or two, another type of more holistic forestry buyer has been emerging





## B. Price **MUS-MAX** Specialist Ltd.

Tel: 01584 891 307  
Mobile: 07518 810 269  
Email: [ben@mus-max.net](mailto:ben@mus-max.net)  
Web: [www.mus-max.net](http://www.mus-max.net)



See us at  
**CONFOR WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
Stand D2

### THE CLEAR CUT COOLING CHOICE



- High performance axial fans & centrifugal blowers.
- Engine cooling, hydraulics cooling.
- Long life, reliable, robust.
- Multiple applications – forest harvesters, woodchippers, excavators, stump grinders, hedgecutters.



**01905 613 714** [www.spalautomotive.co.uk](http://www.spalautomotive.co.uk)

## BUSINESS FOR SALE



Due to the imminent retirement of the proprietor, a well known and highly respected Woodland Management and Contracting business, based in the Scottish Borders, is offered for sale, at a time of great opportunity and confidence in the forest industry.

- ✓ Successful, resilient and profitable trading record for over 32 years.
- ✓ Extensive well established client portfolio covering farm woods through mixed traditional estate woods to large commercial plantations throughout South Scotland.
- ✓ Unrivalled knowledge of woodland ownership, woodland resources and specialist support services and markets.
- ✓ Excellent reputation and industry respect for all aspects of work undertaken with an outstanding portfolio of successfully completed projects with associated client support and testimonials.
- ✓ Good current order book with very good resources for further development.
- ✓ Temporary office and storage accommodation available immediately, if required.
- ✓ Continued support and assistance available from one of the most experienced private commercial foresters in the UK to aid future development and assist continued professional excellence and services to clients.

The resources, knowledge and reputation of this company, along with the availability of experienced support, and current unbelievable opportunities within the industry combine to create an outstanding opportunity for continued successful development and growth of a profitable and responsible business.

Further details available on request: **Finlay Mitchell, Woodland Management Services (UK) Ltd**  
Swinton Mill House, Coldstream, Scottish Borders TD12 4JS. T: 01890 840530 M: 07980 562955  
E: [finlaymitchellwms@gmail.com](mailto:finlaymitchellwms@gmail.com) [www.woodlandmanagementservices.co.uk](http://www.woodlandmanagementservices.co.uk)

## Investors back Finnish cutting-edge forestry technology company

Forestry tech company CollectiveCrunch has announced the closure of a €600k funding round led by Finland's Thominvest, taking the company's total funding to €1m. Existing and new angel investors also participated to complete the round. CollectiveCrunch will use the funds to finalise and launch the first commercial version of its Linda Forest platform in the second half of 2019.

With its long history in forestry, Thominvest has a solid understanding of the value CollectiveCrunch brings to this market. The firm's state-of-the-art AI-supported technologies help landowners to more accurately assess and manage their forestry inventory and buyers of wood resources to target the wood they actually need.

"We are following developments in AI closely and have been aware of CollectiveCrunch since 2017," said Thominvest Group's Mats Söderström. "CollectiveCrunch is focused on the forestry industry and we were convinced by the team's capabilities and the commercial progress they have made in the last quarters," he

concluded.

CollectiveCrunch's Linda Forest AI platform utilises climate, geo, and customer process data to arrive at better predictions of forest inventory. The solution lets foresters know the volumes and species of wood they have on their land without having to drive out for inspection. CollectiveCrunch says traditional solutions can be cumbersome, time-consuming, expensive, and may have error rates of up to 30%.

### Global ambition

"The funds raised in this round are essential in building the team and technical capabilities to fulfill our ambition of becoming a global leader in AI for the forestry industry," said CollectiveCrunch CEO Rolf Schmitz.

The round closure follows a multi-year partnership with Finland's Metsähallitus Forestry Ltd that aims to improve harvesting and forest development planning. The company has offices in Helsinki, Berlin, and Munich, and forestry customers in Finland, Sweden, Estonia, and Brazil.



## Full house for investment seminar

Tilhill Forestry held its fourth Woodland Investment Seminar on the outskirts of Cheltenham. The seminar focused on lowland woodland properties.

The event on 18 June proved popular with an audience of woodland owners, investors and their guests. It was therefore to a full house that Peter Chappell, forestry investment advisor at Tilhill Forestry welcomed delegates and outlined the theme of the event – the investment aspects of timber businesses for tree growers in the lowlands.

The session was opened by Bruce Richardson (*above*), head of Investment and property at Tilhill, who took the audience on a contextual journey through recent years, illustrating the relationship between timber prices and woodland property values. A key area explored was that of tree species diversification. The investment aspects of this were unpacked during the seminar, alongside the usual silvicultural matters.

### Taxation arena

Next to speak was Christine Tuckerman of the accountancy firm Bishop Fleming. Christine gained the avid attention of the audience, many of whom were directly affected by the latest developments in the taxation arena, and a lively discussion around the different VAT rates applicable to firewood growers ensued.

In an entertaining and educational presentation, Oliver Coombe of timberauctions.co.uk explored what factors could lead to significant variations in timber prices and how, with correct management, it could be possible to achieve superior pricing for quality products, both hardwood and softwood.

Finally, David Edwards, outgoing president of the Institute of Chartered Foresters gave an interesting talk about how to optimise the potential of lowland woodlands to successfully grow some of the tree species discussed by Oli and Bruce.

A question time to the speaker panel followed, and Peter Chappell, in summation described difficulties using traditional investment appraisal methodologies in accurately capturing value that could be gained in the lowland setting through management flexibility and creativity.

Tilhill Forestry intends to hold a second woodland investment seminar this year in Aberdeen in August.





**New vehicles complete with bodywork for the arb & landscaping industry. Nationwide delivery.**



TOW BARS | FULLY WELDED ALUMINIUM BODIES | SIGN WRITING | TOOL BOXES | LED LIGHTING BODIES FOR NEW AND USED VEHICLES  
CUSTOMER SUPPORT | CONVERSION TO FACTORY TIPPER  
FINANCE AVAILABLE ON NEW VEHICLES

**Tipping Body Manufacturer & Specialist Body Builder**



Find us on:  
**facebook**

**020 8539 0611 | [www.tipmaster.co.uk](http://www.tipmaster.co.uk)**



# **MP & KM Golding Ltd**

## **Road Reclamation Services**

**DO YOU HAVE A POTHOLED TRACK, ROAD, YARD OR CAR/LORRY PARK?**

MP & KM Golding Ltd have an eco-friendly, cost effective concept in road, track and yard maintenance. We can give your potholed and rutted track a new lease of life.



**Before**



**6 months after**

- Use of existing material
- Shaping and grading
- Specialist compaction equipment
- Drainage work undertaken
- Cement stabilisation
- CPCS trained staff
- Nationwide coverage

***Smoothing the way ahead***



**grading**



**culvert pipes and headwalls**



**V ditches dug**

**[info@roadreclamation.co.uk](mailto:info@roadreclamation.co.uk)  
[www.roadreclamation.co.uk](http://www.roadreclamation.co.uk)**

**call: 0845 094 3818**

# Scottish Skills Group makes progress on action plan

The Skills Group in Scotland has been hard at work, reports

**Andy Leitch**

Developing a Workforce with Skills for the Future is one of five strategic priorities in the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group's economic strategy. In order to deliver this priority, the Industry Leadership Group set up a Skills Group which comprises an enthusiastic membership of over 20 people from the industry - including David Sulman and Andrew Heald from Confor, the public sector and educational establishments. There is also representation from the equivalent group in England which encourages collaborative working on common issues and reduces the risk of duplication of effort.

The Group created an action plan in 2017 focussing on four areas: talent attraction, new entrants, workforce development and curriculum review. Since then, a number of initiatives have been developed and delivered to contribute to these four main areas.

## Forest machine operator training

A key priority was to develop a viable forest machine operator training scheme. A Forest Machine Operators (FMO) sub-group consisting of a number of contractors, harvesting companies, machine manufacturers and training providers was established to explore the best solution for the future; a task easier said than done! After a lot of discussion, debate and consideration, a private/public sector partnership to pilot a two-year Scottish Forest Industries Forest Machine Operators Modern Apprenticeship was launched and is now being delivered (see page 7/8).

Over 100 people applied for the four apprenticeship posts and the scheme will see two of the apprentices moving to private sector contractors in their second year and the other two remaining with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). It is hoped that another four FMO apprenticeships will soon be offered in the north of Scotland. SRUC Barony and Scottish School of Forestry staff are working together to refine and further develop the apprenticeship framework

and will also be taking account of feedback from the current pilot. It is appreciated that such a two-year model won't suit everyone so the sub group is continuing to explore what other potential training schemes could be developed, particularly for contractor-based machine operators.

## Other initiatives

In partnership with industry and public sector, the group delivered a range of outputs, including:

### 1. Studies commissioned:

- "Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies sector: Skills & training scoping study" carried out by UHI and Forest Research;
- Harvesting machinery census
- Review of the Future of the forestry Workforce in Scotland" which will help provide the sector with a clearer idea of potential numbers of new recruits required across key segments of the industry in Scotland over the next 10 years.

2. Co-development of the Outdoor Woodland Learning and Forest Kindergarten/schools initiative for early years learning.

3. Working in partnership with the Royal Highland Educational Trust to engage with thousands of school children at the Royal Highland Show as a way of introducing them to forestry using harvester simulators, virtual reality goggles showing 360 degree films and other interactive activities.

4. Working with Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Inverness College to develop a forestry ambassador scheme as a way of promoting our sector to potential new recruits. This has resulted in discussions with STEM ambassadors, the aim of which is to incorporate forestry into their existing STEM ambassadors initiative, raise the profile of our sector and provide the opportunity for people already working in the industry to participate and enjoy the benefits of being a STEM ambassador;

5. Promoting the work of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), a Scottish Government initiative which was introduced to help companies to improve their engagement with schools and attract new talent across Scotland.

[www.owiscotland.org](http://www.owiscotland.org)

[www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors](http://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors)

Working with the education sector SRUC Barony College and the Scottish School of Forestry (SSF) plan to continue to work closely with the sector in order to explore and develop more creative methods of training and learning that meet the demands of the industry. Options could include distance learning modules - such as those currently being offered at SSF - and more vocational courses and Technical Apprenticeships. These developments provide an excellent opportunity for industry representatives on the Skills and Regional ILG Groups to get involved and help the colleges develop a curriculum that will both meet industry needs and provide a viable training resource, particularly as budgets are becoming increasingly constrained.

Focussing further downstream, Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) have developed a couple of initiatives which aim to attract new engineers and architects into the wood-based industries sector.

## What next

At the second summit this year, SDS also launched their "Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland: 2019-2021" which identifies opportunities for support to the forestry and wood-based industries. Over the coming months the Skills Group aims to complete its current programme of activities, develop a 3-year action plan which takes into account the outputs of the Forest Industry summits and on-going input from industry and other Skills Group partners and explore opportunities for the sector provided through the Skills Action Plan for Rural Scotland.

<https://news.gov.scot/news/rural-skills-plan>

## GET INVOLVED

The continued support and enthusiasm of Confor and other industry representatives is vital to the continued success of the Skills Group and if you would like to be involved please contact David Sulman ([david.sulman@confor.org.uk](mailto:david.sulman@confor.org.uk)) or Andy Leitch ([andy.leitch@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:andy.leitch@forestry.gov.scot))





# Suppliers of new and used forestry firewood and fencing machinery



Alstor mini forwarders • Rabaud Firewood processors • Saw benches • Kindling machines • Chain winches • Farma cranes and trailers • Log peelers & pointers • Log splitters 14-80 tonnes • Cone splitters • Cleaving splitters • Grader blades



**New in stock**  
Alstor 840 pro-combi forwarder  
Rabaud F80 log splitter 80 tonne  
Rabaud 2.5m grader blades  
Rabaud 300mm tree shear for Manitou  
Call Nathan on 07966 365157



New Rabaud Xylotrail forwarding trailers

T. 01746 718456 M. 07966 365157 www.homeforestry.co.uk E. nathan@homeforestry.co.uk  
Home Forestry llp, Willowdene Farm, Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV16 6PP

**NATIONWIDE**

# LANDMARC

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTORS

- Remote control tracked mulchers, material up to 8"
- Steep gradient clearance
- Long reach excavators with mulching heads
- Habitat restoration and creation
  - Stump grinding
  - Chipping
  - Access roads
  - Tree felling
  - Winching

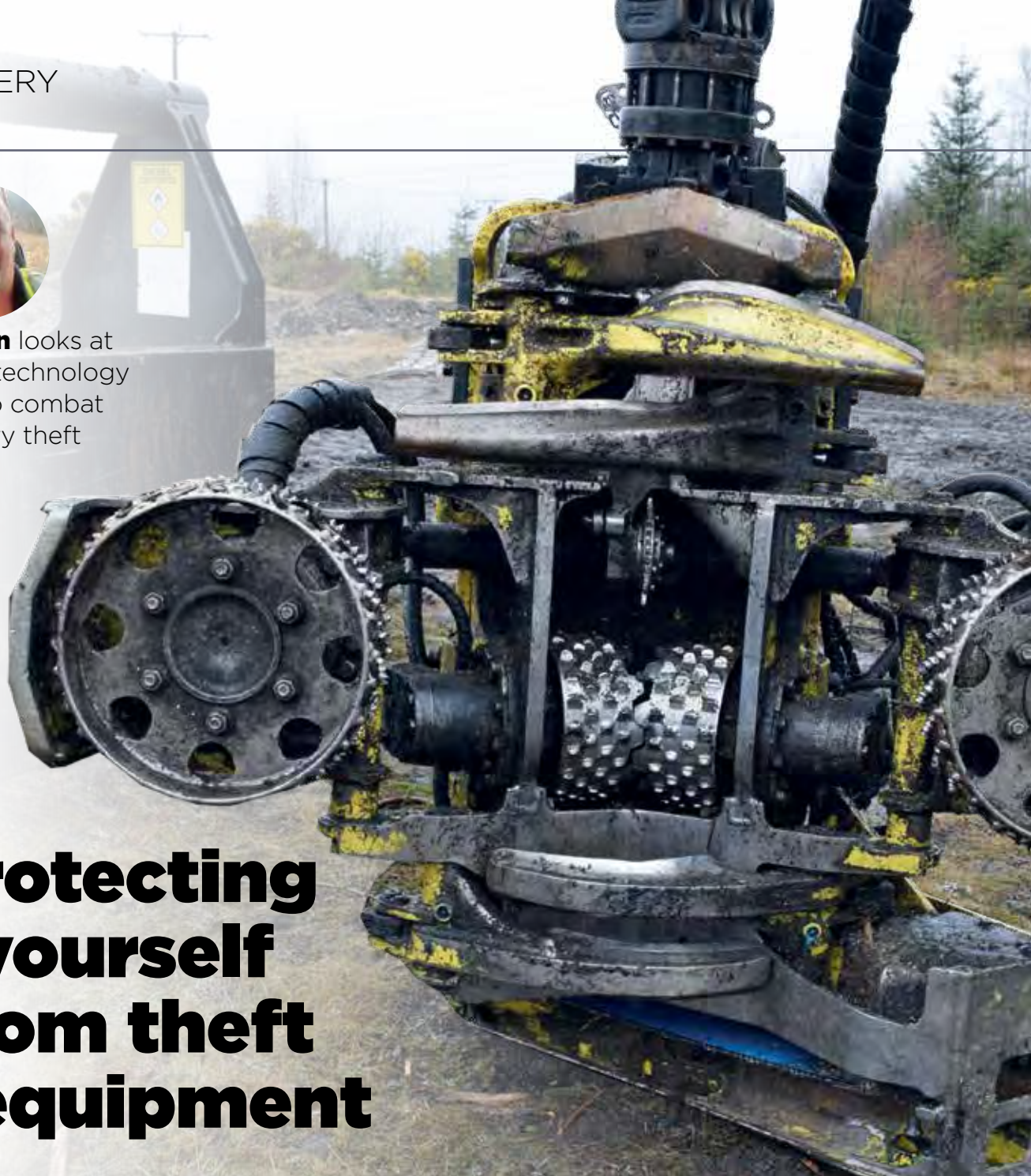
Contact: 01803 712946 or 07970 256590  
info@landmarc.co.uk www.landmarc.co.uk







**RAB Easton** looks at some of the technology available to combat machinery theft



# Protecting yourself from theft of equipment

I am normally quite a level-headed guy but when I hear about theft or vandalism involving forestry equipment this sends me into an uncontrollable rage. In this industry we all work bloody hard to make a living and to turn up in the morning and see your machine vandalised or tools and diesel stolen is both devastating and heart-breaking. I have personally experienced this many times in my forestry career.

Much of my harvesting work in recent years has been carried out in the Cowal and Trossachs forest district with very few incidents of this type, but whenever we have moved to another forest district the story can change completely.

The first incident occurred when I was working near Barrhill in Ayrshire; I was operating a Bruunett 678 Harvester on a clear fell and at this point I was towards the rear of the site and couldn't see my car. I came out of the forest onto the road and saw my car door open, so I stopped the harvester and ran over to investigate. They had smashed the rear window and my tools, clothes (I



Operators were not as well paid back then and it took me years to replace everything I lost

had been at work for two weeks and was heading home that night), chainsaw, PPE, harvester bars, chains, spare parts and all my personal belongings were gone. I was absolutely shell shocked as many of my tools, as well as being essential for my work, had sentimental value as I had started collecting them as a youngster.

I drove to the nearest phone box (mobiles were in their infancy and phone signal in the forest was rare) and called the police. I was asked what I expected them to do as it was a minor crime and the culprits were probably wearing gloves anyway; I came away feeling it was partly my fault as my car wasn't in my line of sight.

Operators were not as well paid back then and it took me years to replace everything I lost. Although my insurers were happy to take an extra premium for carrying tools, they were only insured when my vehicle was within a locked secure compound. "Didn't you read the small print, Sir?"

Jump forward a few years and I was operating a black cab Komatsu 860 near Allanton in the central belt >>



**Treesource** EST. 1985  
**SUMMERFIELD BOOKS**  
 New and second hand books  
 on trees, forestry, arboriculture and natural history



**Observatree** guides for monitoring tree health  
 from Forest Research  
 Now available as ring bound field guides





Wood properties and uses of Scots pine in Britain

DEER BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ENGLAND & WALES

Woodland management for fuelwood and timber: a best practice guide

[www.summerfieldbooks.com](http://www.summerfieldbooks.com)  
 e-mail: [info@summerfieldbooks.com](mailto:info@summerfieldbooks.com)  
 Tel. 01768 210 793

# Heathwood Nurseries Ltd

CELL GROWN TREES.CO.UK

*Buy the best of British*

**Growers of quality trees, shrubs and hedging plants.**

Producers of British trees and shrubs from British seed origins in cells, containers and field grown for hedges, gardens, landscaping and woodlands.



See us at  
**Confor WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
 Stand D8



[www.heathwood.co.uk](http://www.heathwood.co.uk)  
 01948 840 120 | [sales@heathwood.co.uk](mailto:sales@heathwood.co.uk)  
 The Meadows, Higher Heath, Whitchurch, SY13 2JA




**Sennebogen 718e**

Boasts a massive 15m reach to the pin and offers a safe, effective and mechanised de-veg system.

Ideal machine for a wide application of works including dealing with Ash Dieback.

**Demonstration day 12th Aug 10am-12pm**  
 07903 463743 [alec@kwrplanthire.co.uk](mailto:alec@kwrplanthire.co.uk)  
[www.kwrplanthire.co.uk](http://www.kwrplanthire.co.uk)



**BIO-CHOPPER MIXER WAGONS**

Capacities available 5 to 30 cubic



- Robust design
- Simple chopping mechanisms (2 augers, with star blade cutting against fixed counter blades)
- Trailed, electric, diesel and self-propelled versions
- Optional extras; conveyors, cranes, weigh systems etc
- 2008 RASE Silver Medal Award

**2 TONNE TIPPING TRAILER**

**Optional equipment:**

- Lights
- Hydraulic brakes
- Mesh extension
- Fitted sheets



Harry West (Prees) Ltd., Lower Heath, Prees, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2BT  
 01948 840 465  
[harrywest.co.uk](http://harrywest.co.uk)

See us at  
**Confor WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
 Stand A5







>> of Scotland. I arrived on a Monday morning and went to the forwarder, which was hidden in the forest, and as I approached I saw that it had been spray painted with offensive graffiti. The door window was smashed and my toolbox had been stolen from inside the cab. My diesel tank had been filled the previous Friday and was also hidden, but there was a valve at the bottom of the tank for draining it and this had been opened and almost 1000l dumped onto the ground. I had to call SEPA and a major clean-up operation took place at considerable cost.

Another incident took place a few years later at Lennoxton, where the Ponsse Buffalo I was operating and the Ponsse Ergo operated by a colleague were severely vandalised and out of action several weeks. I believe the damage to the two machines exceeded £50,000, and again I lost my toolbox.

These incidents have a knock on effect on others. Ian and Melissa Young were hauling our timber from Lennoxton and after the incident Melissa would phone to see if I was still at work on dark evenings as she was nervous about being there on her own. Although working in the forest is a fantastic way of life, being on a remote site late at night can become uncomfortable when you see unauthorised cars approaching.

Timber hauliers are also vulnerable and I have heard many stories of situations where they just locked their doors and let the perpetrators steal their diesel as they were outnumbered and had no phone signal.

Furthermore, I have heard reports where items appear to have been stolen to order but I hope this isn't true as this would mean it is some of our own committing the crime.

I could write a book on the huge number of incidents I have heard about, but luckily as technology is advancing so is security.

I have to take my hat off to the machine manufacturers because they have done a great job in helping to curb the theft of machines.

Every machine has its own vehicle identification number (VIN) stamped into the metal at various locations on the chassis, frame, etc. and to buy any spares or servicing equipment it is necessary to quote the VIN. In addition, when mechanics carry out repairs on site they list the VIN and machine hours on their worksheet.

This has been a great help in reducing the number of machines being stolen.

Newer forestry machines are fitted with sophisticated computers like the Komatsu Maxi Fleet system, which creates a geo-fence around the machine when parked (like an invisible compound) and if someone attempts to move the machine it will notify the contractor and send live feed from the machine's cameras to their mobile/tablet/computer.

The other difficulty we face is vandalism and theft of smaller equipment and diesel.

To be an efficient and competitive contractor it is vital to have a well-equipped workshop on site, which is commonly known as a site safe. It is normally a large walk-in container with the facility to make hydraulic hoses and store electrical and hand tools as well as a selection of spare parts. This enables operators to carry out minor repairs on site that could otherwise incur lost production due to downtime.

Although our safes are well secured the thieves are coming better prepared; some have electric angle grinders or cut off saws and cut the steel hinges off to get at the equipment.

Some insurance companies will pay out on thefts and vandalism, but normally the extra cost on the insurance premium the following year will result in the cost being borne by the contractor themselves anyway.

Security guards or patrols are not affordable options in forestry due to the remote locations of some forests, so some more practical alternatives which should help to secure machines and equipment and deter thieves and vandals are listed below.

## VPS Group

One system they offer for hire is portable VPS Alert Towers.

I have experienced this type of system recently and at night and weekends all the machines, diesel and site >>







# A & B Services (Scotland)



Supplying your every need for forestry and agricultural machinery and accessories



Adapting, maintaining and servicing all types of machinery. Mobile welding unit and hydraulic stock. Agents for Husqvarna, Oregon and Koller as well as other recognised brands. We also provide a range of safety clothing and footwear. Sales and aftercare of strimmers, lawnmowers including robotic, chainsaws and much more. New for 2019 stocking Husqvarna full auto mower range as well as their new battery series.



01567 820840 | [info@abs-scotland.co.uk](mailto:info@abs-scotland.co.uk) | [www.abs-scotland.co.uk](http://www.abs-scotland.co.uk)



## Forestry Attachments

### Providing World Leading Forestry Attachments

- Mulchers & Flails
- Stump Grinders
- Log Crackers
- Log Grabs
- Cone Splitters



- INTERMERCATO
- FEMAC
- BALTROTORS
- CMB

**BESPOKE OPTIONS  
MANUFACTURED  
IN-HOUSE**

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

**0844 770 7969**

>> safes were parked together with four of these security units surrounding them.

The units are bright yellow so they are easily visible, which in itself is a deterrent, and are anchored securely to the ground for protection against adverse weather conditions. Each unit is self-contained and powered by lithium batteries. A signal is sent to the monitoring station every eight minutes so any malfunction is prevented. They normally have four fixed PIR video cameras, giving peripheral vision of 20m in daylight and 12m at night, an alarm sounder, strobe lighting, and a fire detection system.

As the units communicate with the monitoring station via GPRS RF Radio Communications and they will work in most locations.

When activated they capture a ten second video and send it to the monitoring station which is manned 24/7. The footage can also be sent directly to the customer's phone, tablet or computer.

Installation is quick and easy, normally taking 45 minutes and a further ten minutes if any repositioning is required.

The site they were installed on was one of the places that is renowned for thefts but this system certainly did its job as the site was harvested without incident.

They have service centres throughout the UK and the hire cost will depend on several factors including the number of units, location, etc.

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

Another company offering a similar system throughout the UK is; [www.portalsecurity.co.uk](http://www.portalsecurity.co.uk)

## Security camera systems

Other options are battery or solar powered security camera systems. When choosing these it is best to get cameras that blend in with the scenery and don't have any lights when in operation.

Plenty of signage warning people that there are surveillance cameras is a good idea and may deter most thieves.

Reolink have a selection of battery and/or solar powered PIR-activated security cameras for sale. Some will work via the 4G network with their own SIM card, thus enabling phone/tablet notifications when a camera has been activated. This will give you the chance to record the footage day and night.

Another option is PIR-activated security cameras with SD cards which will record and store the video footage. The disadvantage of this system is that if the perpetrators find the camera they can take the camera or SD card away, thus removing the evidence.

These can also be purchased from Amazon.

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

## Novetic

Another system I have seen is Novetic. This is a discreet, small, PIR operated camera which both records and transmits footage. It has some clever features, for example you can check the battery status of the camera on your phone and it will alert you via SMS when the battery level is low. You can also control the remote monitoring and alarm functions via SMS, it has Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), and it captures high quality



day and night video footage.

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

Hopefully some of these surveillance systems will catch the villains in the act and with successful prosecutions it might deter others considering this path.

## Simple ideas to keep your equipment safe

There is a good variety of security equipment to help safeguard your equipment but here are one or two simple ideas that you can take to protect your equipment:

Never divulge harvesting locations on social media – if you enjoy sharing photos of your machines and work-sites on social media make sure there are no obvious landmarks that could possibly give your location away. I recently saw a video of a guy who had forgotten his machine keys and he took a video of how he accessed the machine and operated it without them. It was not a very bright idea sharing this video on social media as you have no idea who will see it.

Be diligent and keep information about locations vague – you never know who is listening to your conversation while out socialise.

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)

[@forestmachineoj](https://twitter.com/forestmachineoj)

[@forestmachineoperatorjobs](https://facebook.com/forestmachineoperatorjobs)





**pezzolato**

**FRANZ HOCHLEITNER**

**forstreich maschinenbau**

**Pfanzelt MASCHINENBAU**

**EXOL**

TRY OUR PRICES!

**D. A. HUGHES FORESTRY EQUIPMENT**  
01691 882 138 • www.dahughesforestry.co.uk

# Collins Farming & Forestry Services Ltd

www.collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk

- Hedge and woodland coppicing with excavator and tree shear/grab
- Poplar and large tree dismantling with high reach material handler and grapple saw
- Timber extraction and purchasing
- BSL registered supplier of dried and screened virgin woodchip
- Wood fuel chipping to G30, G50 and CHP specs



07850 988 808 / 01728 660 271  
info@collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk  
Valley Farm, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2LR



**TIMBER CROC**

## SAW HORSE

- ✓ Logs from 1"-11"
- ✓ Planks
- ✓ Pallets
- ✓ Posts

No adjustment

Easy to assemble • Safe to use • Fast and efficient

### ELIMINATE DANGERS!



No other person required. Work safer and faster on your own.



Work taller, help prevent backache and avoid the temptation to place a foot on the log

The Timber Croc is manufactured in Ireland and is copyright and patent approved. Timber Croc stands alone as the only log holder that is completely self adjusting. Securely holding logs of only 1" in diameter to heavy trunks at 11". The Timber Croc requires zero adjustment and will never leave you a log of awkward length to split.

The independently hanging teeth allow for anything round or square to be gripped securely, making for cutting timber a much safer one person job. The Timber Croc stands taller off the ground making the Working height hip level minimising backache and fatigue.

The rows of teeth top and bottom, alleviate the dangers of a "spinning log" while this extra clearance removes the possibility of grounding the saw.



**TIMBER CROC SAW HORSE**  
UK Agent Murdoch McEwan: 07710 667060 Email: murdoch@timbercroc.com  
Buy online at www.timbercroc.com

# Police advice to avoid theft of kit

## Theft from vans

Police are advising those who work in rural industries not to leave a van containing tools unlocked - make sure it is secure at all times even when you are working and do not leave kit in your vehicle overnight.

- Vehicles should be locked at all times and all tools should be property marked. Tools left in the vehicle should be locked securely within a solid tool vault bolted to the sides or bottom of the vehicle.
- When leaving your vehicle overnight, park in well-lit areas and near your home if at all possible - with the most expensive tools removed from the vehicle.
- Vehicle alarms may prove to be a good investment especially if you rely on your tools for your livelihood. You can register any specialist tools and equipment on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- If you see anyone acting suspiciously around a van, please call police immediately on 999.

## Mark your property

Marking your property is a positive way to fight crime, it can act as a deterrent, it allows you to prove ownership and helps you to identify your property easily if it is offered for sale. Marking your property also provides a means for the police to

identify stolen goods and return them to their owners.

- You can use visible markers (marker pens, waterproof paint, stencils, engraving or specialist overt marking kits) or invisible markers, such as UV pens or specialised forensic kits (eg SmartWater).
- You can put any kind of mark on your property to distinguish it from other similar items. This could be your postcode pre-fixed with the number of your address eg 63 WR6 2BB.
- A post code is unique to your property, which most organisations recognise and allows the goods to be identified and returned to you. Just putting a name or symbol on the property makes it identifiable, but does not provide details to the police of who owns the property and where it came from.
- It is strongly recommended that you take a photo of all your valuables and make a note of any distinguishing marks, including where and how you have property marked it. You can then print the photographs off and keep in a safe place, load onto your computer or keep on a memory stick. By having these records if your property is stolen you will have as much information as possible to give to the police and also pass to retailers and other organisations to help locate your property.



## Operators comment

"I work in Wales, mainly in south Wales. So far this year, theft of fuel, batteries and damage to equipment, has been regular throughout the area. On average every 2 to 3 weeks. We got hit ourselves 7 days ago, and they took 3000lts of fuel and batteries. The fuel tanks were well of any extraction tracks a good distance in the wood, they were locked and we had placed logs through the top of the tanks. They brought there own keys, started a machine and use it to push the logs off, cut the locks, carried them out to the road, emptied them, then drained all the machines."

"The question should be has anyone NOT experienced theft!! Mostly diesel and batteries for us accompanied by some mindless vandalism. Parking machinery anywhere near public access/roads is a recipe for trouble."

"We put up signs with Satellite Security and some real looking cameras and that did help. We were working in pretty remote areas in Northern Alberta Canada. We made it all look very professional. That was 10 years ago. We had a lot of theft up to that point."

"You can get trail cams that have SIM cards and send you a picture or video right to you phone."

*All comments from Forest Machine Operators blog*





Timber Extraction

- ▶ Swedish timber trailers and cranes
- ▶ From 1.3 to 15 tonne capacity
- ▶ Full range of telescopic cranes
- ▶ Minimal ground impact and damage
- ▶ Specialist trailers for use with ATVs

See us at



Stands S1, S2, S3, S4, S5



FUELWOOD

FTN5-17
Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
[www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)
t: 01926 484673





## LANDPOWER MACHINERY

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND PPE SPECIALISTS

- **Chipper Hire**, short or long term hire available!
- **Chipper sales**, new or used with part exchange and finance available!
- **Servicing** available for all chippers, also offering on site servicing!

**Covering the South West!**



Tel: 01963 370752 • Fax: 01963 373915 • [www.landpoweruk.com](http://www.landpoweruk.com)

Common Lane, Yenston, Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0NB

# eco angus

simple solutions for greener heating suppliers of MCS accredited wood burning boilers

- ✓ Offer the complete range of wood log boilers
- ✓ Two complete ranges Angus Super and Angus Origno 200
- ✓ Output range 18kW, 25kW, 40kW, 60kW, 80kW, 96kW and 130kW
- ✓ Products fully MCS certified
- ✓ Grants available under Renewable Heat Incentive
- ✓ 92% Heat Efficiency
- ✓ Significantly reduce heating costs
- ✓ Incorporate into existing heating system



[www.ecoangus.co.uk](http://www.ecoangus.co.uk) **01934 862642**



**King Feeders UK**

**Eco Green  
Composting Equipment**  
T: 01260 223 273  
E: [info@kingfeeders.co.uk](mailto:info@kingfeeders.co.uk)



### Why buy Eco Green?

- ✓ Range from 5 cubic metre to 30
- ✓ Durable and robust construction
- ✓ Heavy duty 4 auger machine
- ✓ Alternative more economical 2 auger model
- ✓ Heavy duty boron blades with 2 bolt fixing
- ✓ Outlet discharge elevators built with heavy duty stainless steel chain
- ✓ Emergency stop buttons on all models as standard
- ✓ PTO / diesel / electric drives
- ✓ Rear loading hopper as standard
- ✓ Large comprehensive range of spares with next day delivery
- ✓ Nationwide in-house support team
- ✓ User safety training on all machines
- ✓ Flexible payment plans with guaranteed buy back

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

# Data or your life

## MySafety app is coming to the forest

Increasingly, as technology advances, 21st Century forestry is demanding better data flows: Business intelligence for yield forecasting both in the forest and throughout the wood-based industries to optimise capital investments, Internet of Things for forest machine servicing, and availability to optimise operational management at the sharp end in the forest. However, to date, despite the ubiquity of mobile phones, little advantage has been taken to deploy that technology and protect those working in the forest, and thereby safeguard the industry's investment in its scarce and skilled human resource.

Fortunately, the MySafety App project, funded by Scottish Forestry Trust in 2018 and with support from Scottish Woodlands Ltd and Egger Forestry, is about to shift the forest industry Back to the Future.

MySafety App was conceived by two Aberdeen University Forestry graduates, who were both keen to give something back to the industry - Colin Mann formerly MD of Scottish Woodlands and Stephen Bartlett, who runs a software company specialising in compliance and risk solutions mainly within the health sector. Aware of the need to engage operators fully in the industry's safety processes and the enormous potential of technology, their motive was to supplement the industry's high-level efforts to enhance personal safety.

This agile project, with its series of rapid, iterative development phases and operational trials, will ensure the app's usability is optimised so it can be adopted widely by those most at risk in our forests. Trials have already started and the MySafety App is expected to be available to all those in Forestry in 2020.

### The cost of a life

Forest accidents can be very costly for operators, their families and other industry stakeholders, through:

- lost income.
- cost of handling incidents for both FWMs and contractors, which can be many tens of thousands of pounds.

### Technology will change the industry's culture

In recent years, the forestry industry has made great efforts to improve its safety processes. However, to date, it has not ex-

ploited the full potential of mobile technology to drive a change in its safety culture; minimise the numbers of forest incidents, and reduce those associated costs.

It is anticipated that the disruptive potential of MySafety's social media features: i.e. use of photos and channel messaging to support collaboration hubs, will cause significant change in the industry's safety culture and deliver those other important benefits.

MySafety will facilitate incident reporting and ensure it is practical for everyone in the industry to provide an extensive dataset of information on every incident, simply by pressing just a few keys on their smart phone. The rich sets of data captured by MySafety will also allow formal analysis of the industry's safety triangle for the first time ever.

Working closely with the industry and HSE, MySafety's initial specification to capture information on incidents has already been extended to capture operator competency information. Those individual logbooks will be held in the system's core database of competencies and certificates. In turn, that centralisation will further improve the industry's efficiency of handling personal data, cut admin costs and free Forest Managers' time.

### GET INVOLVED

MySafety is now being trialled by several established organisations and their teams. Our initial feed-back will be from a small group of Operators, Contractors and Forest Work Managers and participation by others who are interested in the App's development is welcomed.

- To trial the App, please mail

[c.mann@lfi-silva.com](mailto:c.mann@lfi-silva.com) or

[stephen.bartlett@invigilatis.com](mailto:stephen.bartlett@invigilatis.com)

- the first trial version is only in the App-Store but subsequent versions will also be available as Android apps
- you can find MySafety on the AppStore by searching for ms10.
- please provide your email address when you enter your Personal Information during the MySafety Registration.



### FEATURES

- Safety check
- Incident Reporting
- Competency log for trainees
- Competency diary for experienced operators
- Messaging for team communications
- Lone Working Support
- Emergency Alert
- Daily Safety Updates

### BENEFITS

#### Operator - admin efficiencies/time gains

- easy incident reporting
- reduced admin - just one repository for certificates and competencies

#### Contractor - admin efficiencies, time gains and reduced costs

- immediate awareness of team issues
- visibility of all teams
- one source for all operators' certificates and competencies which are up to the minute

#### Forest work manager - admin efficiencies, time gains and reduced costs

- immediate awareness of site issues
- visibility of all sites
- one source for all operators' certificates and competencies which are up to the minute

#### Owners - improved operational awareness

- Industry - improved understanding of its safety triangle, lower levels of incidents and enhanced safety culture





# BioEquipment LTD



See us at  
**Confor WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
 Stand K2

- No manual handling. Loads and unloads itself
- Processes logs up to 15 inches diameter
- Produces 6 cubic meters per hour
- Supplied with 2, 4 or 6 way splitter
- Complete one person processing

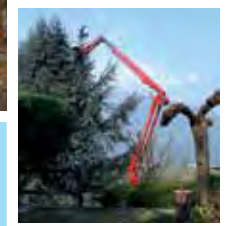
UK agents for  
**Halverson**  
 Wood Products, Inc.

**01685 810148 | info@bioequipmentltd.co.uk**  
 Unit 17, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun, Aberdare CF44 9UP

## Reaching heights safely



- Extensive range of compact tracked 'Spider' access platforms
- Compact machines able to access difficult to reach areas
- Manoeuvres through standard gateways and narrow paths
- Track widening system & greater ground clearance
- Established 1999



**Promax Access Ltd**  
 Unit 8, Acorn Phase 3,  
 High Street, Grimethorpe,  
 Barnsley, South Yorkshire S72 7BD  
 Email: [sales@promaxaccess.com](mailto:sales@promaxaccess.com)  
 Web: [www.promaxaccess.com](http://www.promaxaccess.com)



Tel: **01226 716657**  
 Fax: **01226 716658**

# JTE JOE TURNER EQUIPMENT

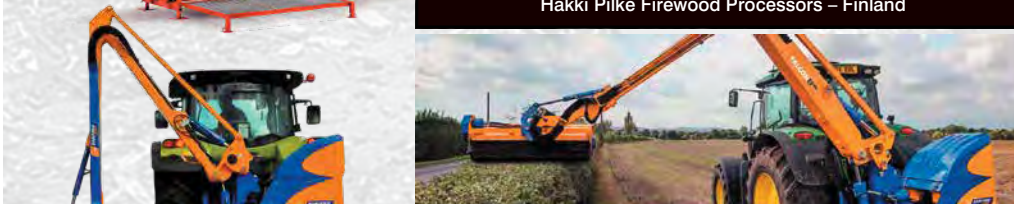
01789 763958



Heavy Duty Excavator Flail Heads Available



Hakki Pilke Firewood Processors – Finland



Specialists in new, second-hand, reconditioned hedgecutters

## PRODUCT RANGE

- Hedgecutters
- Firewood
- Log Splitters
- Agricultural
- Forestry
- Flails
- Excavator attachments
- Firewood grapple
- Saw attachments
- Remote control mowers

## PLUS...

- Used machinery
- Rotor balancing
- Spares

## NEW PRODUCTS



T 01789 763958 • F 01789 400330 • M 07836 589699 • E [sales@joeturnerequipment.co.uk](mailto:sales@joeturnerequipment.co.uk) • [www.joeturnerequipment.co.uk](http://www.joeturnerequipment.co.uk)

# Carbon hauling carbon

by **Roland Stiven**,  
Timber Transport Forum

Back in 2013, carbon emissions and related climate change were becoming a priority issue for society and the Timber Transport Forum thought that it was time to quickly get a handle on the carbon footprint of timber transport. Society is finally catching up and both the Scottish and Westminster Governments have recognised there is a climate emergency with challenges for us all on how it is addressed.

Forestry, of course, is seen as one of the saviours and there are calls for more ambitious targets for new planting to soak up the carbon emissions from other sectors. Trees absorb carbon and mills are increasingly low carbon, burning biomass residue to help heat and power their processes. Sawn timber and board products sequester carbon for the lifetime of the products and can enter the biomass fuel supply chain thereafter. In addition, timber can displace more energy costly materials such as concrete and steel. So far, so good.

Timber haulage, however, remains stubbornly reliant on diesel. With a timber wagon delivering around six miles per gallon we are burning fossil carbon to haul wet logs (with much the same weight in water) across the country from forest to mill. Rail and coastal shipping can play a part in reducing emissions, but road haulage will continue to be required for the large major-



ity of timber movements.

The Forum's 2013 carbon footprint study was thorough – it took account of the fuel used by lorries on different types of road but also; the fossil fuel energy being used to manufacture and maintain vehicles, the energy cost of tyres over the life of the vehicle and the energy used to construct or maintain a typical density of forest and public roads. It then put the timber transport element in context looking at the whole forest and timber lifecycle from ground preparation and planting, through timber processing, retailing to end users and ultimately the end use, recycling and end of life scenarios for timber.

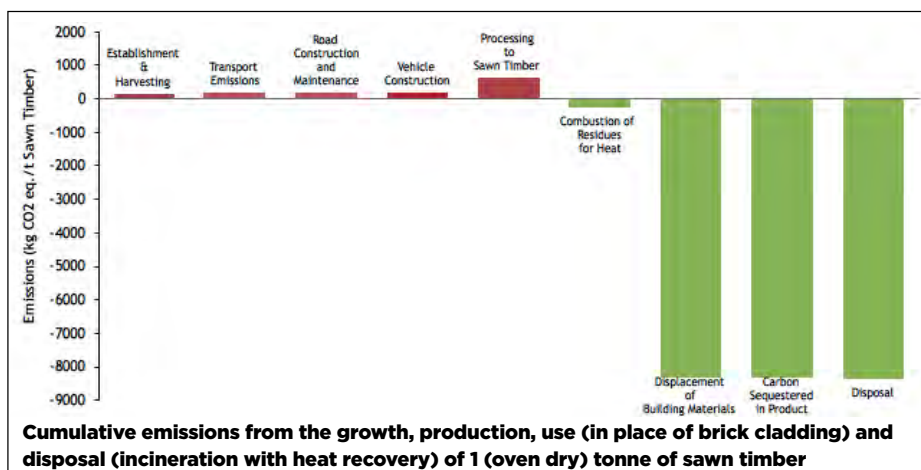
What became apparent through the carbon footprint study was, that although haulage was the largest carbon emitting processes in the supply chain, timber transport emissions are relatively small, accounting for only 6% of the emissions arising from producing one tonne of sawn timber and 15% for producing one tonne of biomass fuel. We also took some comfort that we were contributing to an overall very beneficial supply chain.

In the wider world there have been emission reductions in many sectors, through

energy efficiency and renewable energy supplies and now even car manufacturing is finally starting to move to electric at scale. Heavy freight however is the last bastion of diesel with transport generally being the one sector that has made little headway in reducing emissions.

Quite which way heavy haulage will go remains up for discussion. LPG gas (rather than diesel) engines provide a currently viable route to reducing emissions. TESLA has produced an electric 'semi' truck and Volvo has recently created an electric [shipping] container-carrying lorry prototype, but the weight of the battery reduces load capacity and range and, besides, where are you going to plug your lorry in? On YouTube you will find examples of electrified roads and tram-like electric motorway approaches to charging lorries en route. Hydrogen may be an answer in some places using the over-supply of renewable energy production capacity compared with grid capacity in some areas to produce hydrogen as a fuel for trucks. The technology is straightforward with hydrogen-fuelled buses already being used in the UK. The supply and fuelling infrastructure would need to be developed.

It may all seem somewhat futuristic but the age of diesel is waning and investment in research and development is going towards decarbonised transport. Timber transport will, as ever, need to adapt.



## EVENT

We hope to address this and other issues at the 2020 Timber Transport Conference which will be held at the North Lakes Hotel in Penrith on 20 March 2020. Details and links to the carbon footprint study can be found at <https://timbertransportforum.org.uk>





See us at stand W1




*The Exeter Retort* is available to order.  
Produces high quality barbecue charcoal/biochar in a fraction of the time taken by traditional ring kilns.

[www.carboncompost.co.uk](http://www.carboncompost.co.uk)  
**01392 431454**




Quality refurbished woodchippers and stump grinders  
All makes and models of chipper and grinder  
3" to 12" tracked, road tow and PTO  
All refurbished machines sold with 30 day warranty

Call us on 01325 377 475 or 07484 081 795  
Email [john@masonwoodchippers.com](mailto:john@masonwoodchippers.com)  
[www.masonwoodchippers.com](http://www.masonwoodchippers.com)

Peverstone  
Cullompton,  
Devon EX15 1RW



Tel: +44 (0) 1884 839999 [loglogic.co.uk](http://loglogic.co.uk)

## TOOLTRAK 75

The multi purpose compact tool carrier:




Front mounted, mowers, mulchers, chippers, stump grinders, snowblowers, snow ploughs, bulldozers.



The ultimate post driver for the professional fencer

Difficult terrain and inaccessible places no problem

M8 Tracked Post Driver 220°



Davies Implements Limited

Distributor: Davies Implements Ltd  
Tel: 01267 237726  
Email: [sales@daviesimplements.co.uk](mailto:sales@daviesimplements.co.uk)  
[www.vectorpowerdrive.com](http://www.vectorpowerdrive.com)





# Bracken control

An update following the annual meeting of the Bracken Control Groups at Ingram, Northumberland in June 2019

It is estimated by Fera that bracken currently infests some 2m ha – around 8% of the UK land surface, and, because of increased pesticide regulation, coupled with reduced availability of grants, this infestation is expanding at between 2-3% per year. As a result control measures which peaked in 2011 at around 14,000ha just prior to the EC revocation have now fallen to an annual figure closer to 5000ha.

The difficulties of managing bracken in forest establishment are well rehearsed, as if not controlled it will at best put the young crop in check, or in dense infestations will smother and kill the crop. It is a fierce competitor to the crop, with an established infestation consisting of upwards of 300 tonne/ha fresh weight including up to 1.5 kilometres/ha of underground rhizomes. It also harbours tick borne diseases, creating a hazardous environment for forestry staff.

## Asulox (asulam)

Asulam, currently sold by UPL as Asulox, is the key herbicide used in the UK for the control of bracken, predominantly by aerial application. While glyphosate will also control bracken it cannot be sprayed from the air and has the potential to kill not only bracken, but any vegetation such as grass or heather which it is wished to retain.

UK is unique in Europe in having a severe bracken problem, this being traced back to the influence of medieval farming practices, and the effect of reasonable levels of fertility on lowland and lower upland soils. The only other country worldwide with a similar problem is New Zealand.

Asulox was first marketed in 1965 by Dagenham based May & Baker, later to be absorbed by the French company Rhone

Poulenc, which itself became absorbed into the German Bayer group. As a result of new EC regulation, from 1991 all pesticides have to be re-authorised on a five-year basis, and around half of the 600+ pesticides used in Europe failed these new stringent criteria, asulam among them.

This was a surprise, as asulam has an excellent human and environmental profile, and the evidence submitted strongly supported these attributes. Unfortunately, though, the Swedish authorities (who did not have a bracken problem at the time) noticed that the submission had not followed the strict EC protocol in one minor area. This concerned a breakdown product which, at higher rates is used as a pharmaceutical, and as Bayer market this medicine they used the data generated to support this use. However, the data was generated according to a pharmaceutical protocol – and the EC require tests to be undertaken to a slightly different pesticides protocol. So asulam was a refused registration on what was a technical issue.



UK is unique in Europe in having a severe bracken problem

At about this time, Bayer, having absorbed a number of pesticide companies, was divesting itself of some of the minor products, asulam among them. Fortunately, asulam has a strong presence as a general herbicide worldwide in a number of crops as diverse as sugar cane and bananas, so it was purchased by the British company UPL to market worldwide outside of Europe.

As a result of this loss of asulam in Europe, the Bracken Control Group was formed in 2011 to support the EC re-reg-

istration of asulam. The group is administered by the Heather Trust, largely through the work undertaken by the chief executive, Simon Thorpe, and Confor is a member. Following representations from the bracken control group, UPL commenced the process for re-registration in Europe, and the dossier was submitted in 2014, which, if successful should gain an EC registration in 2020. However, new regulations on endocrine disruptors may require further data and delay. Once registered in the EC it will then need to be registered in the UK which will take a further two years, so will hopefully be re-registered for use in Britain in 2022.

In the meantime, section 53 of the EC regulation caters for emergency approvals, which are handled on a country by country basis. The Bracken Control Group, through the Heather Trust, coordinate this application which has to be submitted annually in liaison with UPL, and to date, including 2019, authorises use between July 1st and the end of October.

## Control measures

Herbicides continue to be the most efficient means of control. Other measures, such as cutting, rolling and cattle grazing will, over time, reduce the intensity of the infestation, but are likely to be impractical in most forest establishment programmes. Mulching may also be considered on smaller scale plantations.

A site visit by the Bracken Control Group to a long term field trial using non chemical techniques illustrates the shortcomings of using mechanical control techniques as shown in these photographs.

Current practice is to use a pre planting aerial application of Asulox under the Emergency Regulations, or, if the terrain permits, an application of Asulox or glyphosate by crop sprayer. A licence has to be gained for each aerial application, and these are handled by the Environment >>



# **SOUTH EAST** **FORESTRY**

**ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO  
BUY LARGE QUANTITIES  
OF STANDING TIMBER**



**Unmanaged woodland?  
Overstood coppice starting to fall over?  
Timber growth stopped due to much competition?**

South East Forestry can help with your woodland management needs and provide economic returns.

We are looking to purchase large volumes of woodland grown standing timber from unmanaged and managed woodlands.

- All hardwood species sought
- Oak, Ash, Sweet Chestnut, Hornbeam, Sycamore
- Thinning, coppice and clear-fell
- All softwood species of interest
- Felling licences arranged to meet your woodlands needs

**South East Forestry: We buy – We fell – We sell**  
**Call John Davies on 01580 819179 or 07759 567801**  
**[www.southeastforestry.co.uk](http://www.southeastforestry.co.uk)**

>> Agency in England, NRS in Wales and SNH in Scotland. The criteria are rigorous and areas will be restricted by the presence of watercourses, together restrictions concerning wildlife and favoured non target plants.

Unfortunately, neither of the two key herbicides asulam and glyphosate will penetrate the full length of these rhizomes and any out of reach adventitious buds will produce new fronds the following year, which, if untreated, will, within four years return the infestation to pre spraying condition. So follow up treatments will be required until the crop becomes competitive, and none are particularly attractive options (see panel).

## The future

Non chemical options continue to be researched by Tom Gledhill of Historic England, supported by many decades of work by Rob Marrs & others, but the most promising potential comes from five decades of research by Roy Brown, formally from the University of Bangor. This work has included research into alternative herbicides, with extremely promising results from the use of amidosulfuron, currently available in the UK as Eagle. Amidosulfuron has been demonstrated to provide excellent bracken control with an excellent operator safety profile. Some 300+ treatment plots assessing some 60 environmental variables has shown that while not as environmentally benign as asulam, the characteristics of the product should provide sufficient confidence to support an offlabel use in forestry as a spot treatment follow up to pre planting asulam or glyphosate treatments.

Earlier work commissioned by Forest Research has indicated that the herbicide displays good crop safety - and indeed it has been safely used in Christmas trees for many years for the control of cleavers. The environmental data is available for the

## FOLLOW-UP TREATMENTS

### Asulox by knapsack sprayer

The Emergency Approval makes this option very difficult, as the maximum concentration permitted is 10ml per litre water. So at 10L/ha product this means 1000L application per ha - which in any case is disallowed by the regulations which disallow runoff. A possible option is to spray twice using 3L/ha in 300L water/ha - although this will provide reduced level of control.

Note that hand held CDA/ULV spinning disks, or weedwiper use are not permitted.

### Asulox by quad bike and sprayer

The full 10L/ha rate can be used - but only on suitable terrain

### Glyphosate by knapsack, CDA or weedwiper

Glyphosate can be used at a rate of 20ml/L in a knapsack, a maximum of 33% solution in a CDA applicator or as a 1 part to 2 parts water in a weedwiper. Glyphosate certainly has a usable set of options for applying by hand held equipment, but does not have the crop safety characteristics of asulam. It is preferable, therefore, to apply as late as possible in the bracken spraying season, possibly in early September, when most conifers will have sufficient wax to repel the herbicide. Avoiding the crop as much as is feasible is, though, a prudent precaution, and an absolute necessity in the case of broadleaved crops.

### Cutting

By hand or strimmer will release the crop from check if done in June - ideally when the bracken is no more than 0.5m tall.

### Quad Bike in inter row mower of roller

In June and again mid summer if necessary if access and terrain permit.

industry to use, should the forestry sector decide that the investment in applying for approval in forestry (circa £3,000) can be justified.

## Conclusion

With political thinking looking more positive towards commercial forestry, land currently covered in bracken is likely to be favourably considered for planting, as these areas become less attractive for upland farming or conservation interests.

The continued use of herbicides to assist establishment is likely to continue to be the preferred option for control, at least in the short term, and recognising the uncertainties over continued availability of asulam and glyphosate, it may well be pru-

dent to consider an application for the use of amidosulfuron to assist successful crop establishment.



## MEMBER SERVICES Pesticides helpline

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



See us at



Stands S1, S2, S3, S4, S5

**Portable Saw Mills**



- ▶ 6", 8" & 10" capacity mills available
- ▶ Swing blade cuts up to 10"x 20" beams
- ▶ Dedicated slabbing mill options
- ▶ Quick set-up time on any terrain
- ▶ Weatherboard & planing attachment options

FTN5-17
Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
[www.fuelwood.co.uk](http://www.fuelwood.co.uk)
t: 01926 484673

FUELWOOD



# ‘Mountain goat’ with a cult following

**Eamonn Wall** has been running a Panda 4x4 in his firm over the past few years. It has now covered 54,000 miles. So is it any good?

I have always been a fan of small cars and when as a student working in the Alps, I noticed that compact Mark One Panda 4x4s and Subarus were the favourite vehicles among mountain dwellers. So many years’ later in my role as a car reviewer I got the chance to test drive both the petrol and diesel versions of the current Panda 4x4 which is the third reiteration of this model.

The first Panda looked like a mini Land Rover Defender with its flat metal panels and flat windscreen. It was a well-loved vehicle and stayed in production for nearly 20 years.

The current model is also a great looking car in its 4x4 state, with raised ground clearance and different front and rear bumpers. All Pandas now have five doors, and with their upright stance are surprisingly roomy for their length. Much was made about the use of squared off circles (known as squarcles) in the design (for controls, pockets, steering wheel, inserts, etc) which is good fun.

The diesel version is a well proven four-cylinder 1.3 litre Fiat engine, which comes with a five speed gearbox and does 54mpg. The more unusual engine is the award winning two-cylinder 850cc 85bhp petrol Twin Air Fiat engine, which comes with a six speed gearbox and does 44mpg. The longer geared Twin Air model cruises quietly at high motorway speeds, whilst the diesel’s lower top gear gets noisy at such speeds. The Twin Air model is also cheaper to buy.

The interior design is good and our model’s pumpkin interior is novel and well liked. The boot is surprisingly spacious (fits a large dog easily) and the car is well kitted out, including Bluetooth, heated seats and windscreen.

The four wheel drive system is very good. In normal circumstances power goes to the front wheels and when slippage is detected power



is automatically shifted to the rear wheels, in the same way as it would in a Discovery Sport or VW Tiguan. However the Panda 4x4 has a special button for calling up drive to all four wheels which you can engage before moving off, say on a slippery steep snow covered incline. It works very well and removes front wheel slippage while power is being shifted rearwards. Even BBC’s Top Gear drove one to the top of a mountain beating Suzuki’s Ignis, for what it’s worth!

Over the past 50,000 miles our petrol Twin Air Panda 4x4 petrol has proved to be a great wee 4 x 4. It is great fun to drive and was excel-

lent in the snowy winter of 2018. It is great off-road, combining its light weight and clever 4x4 system and only its lack of mega ground clearance prevents it beating a Discovery off-road. Yes it’s the best small 4x4 x far being cheaper than a Suzuki Jimny.

A more extreme Cross version of the Panda 4x4 comes with even higher ground clearance, but perhaps is a bit jiggly on road.

Second-hand prices for low mileage Panda 4x4s start around £6,000 and new pre-registered ones from £12,000. It is not surprising these wee mountain goats of a car have a cult following. Enjoy!

*Eamonn Wall  
FICFor is a  
forestry and  
arboricultural  
consultant and  
managing  
director of  
Eamonn Wall  
and Co Wood-  
land Design and  
Management.*





## Firewood and Forestry Machinery



See us at  
**Confor WOODLAND SHOW 2019**  
 Stand R1

- Tajfun Firewood Processors with Joystick control. 48cm/20" capacity and 25 tonne splitting force.
- Optional log loader or live loader deck

- Tajfun Forestry winches from 3.5 to 10.5 tonne.
- Mechanical and hydraulic versions.



Reliable after sales parts and service from the Tajfun UK importers.

Firewood Processors – Winches – Sawbenches – Logskidders – Grabs – Cranes – Mulchers



Kilworth Machinery Ltd., Annwell Lane, Srisby, Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2TA  
 Tel: 01530 412690 Fax: 01530 560002 Email: sales@kilworthmachinery.co.uk  
 www.kilworthmachinery.co.uk



## Caledonian Air Surveys Limited

Air survey photography and photogrammetry for forestry and land management



Nesa Horizons Centre, Kintail House, Beechwood Business Park, Inverness IV2 3BW  
 Tel: 01463 732566  
 email: info@caledonianairsurveys.co.uk  
 www.caledonianairsurveys.co.uk

Stephen Cull

## BLADEMASTER

"giving you the edge"

See us at stand C10



- Premium Quality Sawmill Blades for Lumbermate, Wood-Mizer, TimberKing and most makes of mobile sawmill
- Technical Advice
- Blade Sharpening
- Sawmill Training

T: 01348 873179

M: 07887 544333

E: sales@stephencullblademaster.com

buy blades online at [www.stephencullblademaster.com](http://www.stephencullblademaster.com)

## The year's leading UK forestry event

The Confor Woodland Show, returning to Longleat on 05/06 September, is for anyone interested in forestry providing an excellent opportunity for those working in the industry to meet existing and potential customers. Whether you are a business or an interested individual there will be something for you throughout the two-days:

- meet the forestry professionals representing every sector from nurseries to processors
- see demos and static displays of the latest forest machinery and equipment
- hear what the experts have to say in a lively programme of seminars and debates, with the running theme of forests and climate change
- enjoy the superb surroundings of the Longleat Estate



Confor  
 Promoting forestry and wood  
**WOODLAND SHOW**  
 5th-6th SEPTEMBER  
**2019**  
 LONGLEAT ESTATE

[www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk](http://www.conforwoodlandshow.org.uk)



Steel Viper is a UK based engineering and fabrication company specialising in the sales, design and installation of high quality, bespoke equipment for both commercial clients and private individuals

07721 612 485

david@steelviper.co.uk

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

North Road Industrial Estate, Inch, Aberdeenshire  
 AB52 6XP



[WWW.STEELVIPER.CO.UK](http://WWW.STEELVIPER.CO.UK)



**FORESTRY CONTRACTORS**

**SHROPSHIRE FORESTRY  
CONTRACTORS**

**WANTED**

**STANDING TIMBER** ALL SPECIES INCLUDING SOFT WOOD  
ALL SPECIES AND GRADES OF TIMBER AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY  
**ALSO OAK, ELM (PLAIN AND BURRS), BIG  
ASH AND FIGURED SYCAMORE**  
TOP PRICES AND PROMPT PAYMENT

CONTACT: JOHN HALL, FAIRACRES, COUNDMOOR,  
CRESSAGE, SHREWSBURY SY5 6AY

Telephone: 01694 731621  
Fax: 01694 731624 Mobile: 07802 366653

**BIO-OILS**

**Plantoil**  
cares for the  
environment

**plantoil ...pure green**  
BIO-LUBRICANTS

CHAIN SAW OIL ● 2-STROKE OIL ● SAW BLADE OIL

**FREEPHONE 0800 013 7363 www.plantoil.co.uk**

**CERTIFICATION**



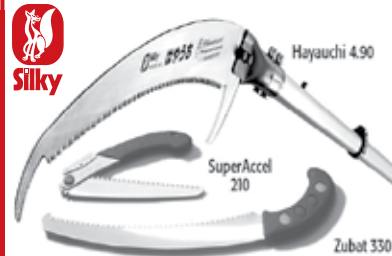
**FSC FM/COC  
Group Certification**

FSC certified forestry Group scheme  
offering UKWAS certification to forest  
owners and managers in the UK  
[www.forestcertification.org.uk](http://www.forestcertification.org.uk)

Paul Sandys: 07803 619249  
Phil Webb: 07970 388940  
ukfcg@hotmail.com  
FSC® C112410

**MACHINERY EQUIPMENT**

**PRUNING MADE EASY**



**The world's finest pruning saws**

Silky Fox Saws  
Foxley Estate Office,  
Mansel Lacy,  
Hereford HR4 7HQ

Tel: 01981 590224  
Fax: 01981 590355  
[www.silkyfox.co.uk](http://www.silkyfox.co.uk)

**WOODLAND MANAGEMENT**



- ▶ All aspects of woodland management and design
- ▶ Woodland creation, establishment and maintenance
- ▶ Timber harvesting and marketing
- ▶ Arboricultural surveys and assessments

Contact us today: 01386 554 027  
[office@abbeyforestry.co.uk](mailto:office@abbeyforestry.co.uk)  
[www.AbbeyForestry.co.uk](http://www.AbbeyForestry.co.uk)

**NET PRODUCTS**

**NET SACKS/  
NET BAGS**

for logs & kindling.  
Plain or with printed band.  
1 - 3 day delivery anywhere  
in the UK. For the best  
quality, service and prices!  
Contact Ian or Robert.  
Medallion Net Co Ltd,  
Franciscan House,  
Grove Lane, Elmswell,  
Suffolk IP30 9HN  
Freephone 0800 7834018  
Telephone 01359 242910  
Fax 01359 245264  
[www.medallionnet.co.uk](http://www.medallionnet.co.uk)  
Email [bsmith4uk@aol.com](mailto:bsmith4uk@aol.com)

**WANTED**

**QUALITY OAK  
REQUIRED**

**Standing  
or felled**

**Good price paid  
for large clean  
planking logs**

**Also interested  
in other grades**

**Whippletree**  
Tel: 01763 208966  
Fax: 01763 208977



**Advertise your forestry business in F&TN**

**Contact Laura on 01502 725 866**



SMALL WOODLAND OWNER  
**PROFESSOR JULIAN EVANS OBE FICFor**

## Trail cameras

**W**e've all seen how beneficial a trail cam is in TV wildlife programmes to spot a snow leopard or capture an astonishing kill. We've even seen footage from cameras strapped to birds. But what role might such gear have for the small woodland owner?

Trail cameras are not expensive, starting at around £120. They take pictures and/or videos triggered by movement. In daytime they are just like an ordinary camera or smart phone, and at night give a black and white image of much poorer definition based on infrared sensing. Either way they allow you to monitor what is going on when you are not there.

My first trial was to confirm what I suspected that deer were back in my 'deer-fenced' woodland! I set up the camera strapped to a hawthorn tree and focused it on a stump of freshly browsed hazel. Not only did I record a fine image of a roe but also a wretched muntjac appeared in a later frame. Both deer species prevalent in the locality had found there way back into the wood.

The second siting focused the trail cam on the entrance area, partly to see how far from the gates it would be triggered and partly out of curiosity concerning who or what was coming and going. In view of the increasing prevalence of fly-tipping in general, monitoring one's main access point could be useful.

The results were unexceptional: a colleague's vehicle, a roe deer, a hare and a fox. Also at 35 m from the entrance it was too far to be triggered by passing traffic on the lane and certainly too far to identify a culprit dumping any rubbish.

Later in the week, visiting a friend's wood, his two trail cameras had similarly revealed the usual mammals but his interest was to identify the best locations where deer browsing occurred in order to set up his high seat for culling. He was pleased with the evidence assembled and, for him, the camera was a new device in his woodland management toolkit.

As with all new bits of kit, getting used to it and gaining experience helps make the most. The trail cam is a



definite addition, and certainly more than just amusement. Its dull, dark green, almost muddy colour disguises it well and anxiety that it would be spotted and stolen has much diminished provided, of course, it is carefully sited. Perhaps in a later piece in FTN I will report further images, such as from the spot where I suspect badgers are forcing there way under the fence, but meanwhile here is the one of the very first and certainly the 'best' image to date - if wasn't that I didn't want the animal to be there in the first place!!

As with everything, the more one can learn about one's woodlands the better.

By the way my wife is so impressed with the trail cam she wants to set it up in our garden to see what wildlife is there, particularly hoping to confirm the signs of a hedgehog.

**Deer caught by the trail cam - the feeble tent-like protection of hazel stumps in the background didn't work.**



### Biomass Wood Chippers

- ▶ Class leading chippers producing G30, G50 & G100 fuel
- ▶ Low power requirement
- ▶ 300mm - 860mm capacity infeed diameter
- ▶ 3pt link, chassis mounted or lorry chipper options
- ▶ PTO, electric or engine drive options

See us at



Stands S1, S2, S3, S4, S5



FTN5-17

Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd

www.fuelwood.co.

01926 484673

FUELWOOD





## **Beth Kelsall, delivery co-ordinator, City of Trees**

Beth joined the City of Trees team in August 2013 after completing a degree in Wildlife & Practical Conservation (BSc Hons) at the University of Salford.

Beth currently co-ordinates the delivery of all the teams' practical activity including tree planting, woodland management and community engagement. A focus in recent years has been on the DEFRA-funded 'Trees for Learning' programme, of tree planting with Primary Schools across Greater Manchester. During the course of this project, Beth has worked with over 100 schools to design and deliver bespoke tree planting schemes and educational activities. These projects have also involved working closely with a range of different partners such as charitable organisations, landowners, regional and national businesses and community groups. The collation of statistics, budget management and collection of feedback from a range of sources has also been a key part of Beth's responsibilities.

### **Want to see your picture here?**

Forestry in Pictures is a regular feature in FTN. For every issue, we select the most impacting photograph sent by a reader. If you have a photo you would like to see published here, please send your file to Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org. Please include your name, brief description of yourself and the picture and a credit. Photos should relate to forestry and timber and be of high-quality (minimum resolution 300dpi). Exceptional pictures might be considered for the front cover of a future FTN issue.

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



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

In October, we review this year's Confor Woodland Show and will run a feature on Environmental Innovation. Please get in touch by then end of August if you would like to submit an article on innovative approaches or technologies to make our industry even more environmentally friendly.

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 [www.confor.org.uk/FTNweb](http://www.confor.org.uk/FTNweb)  
Watch out for the mouse icon in this magazine!





# Paul Vidgen Forest Machines Ltd



See us at  
Confor  
**WOODLAND  
SHOW**  
2019  
Stands W24  
& W25



**Forest Keep, Watersplash Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7QP**  
**Tel: 01344 873499 Email: info@pvfm.co.uk Web: www.pvfm.co.uk**



Sole UK importers and  
dealers for; AHWI/Prinoth,  
Naturatec, Bruks Chippers,  
Trevi Benne Forestry  
Attachments, UOT  
Scarifiers & Mounders,  
King Kong Carbide  
Tools

Dealers for; BerCon  
Log Splitters, FTG  
Baltic Trailers and  
Cranes.



# JAS P WILSON

## FOREST MACHINES

The one stop forestry shop!

POSCH



3OTEX



USED VALTRA



HARVADIG



Kato Harvesters

JAK INSTALLATION

IASCO

Sp

IGLAND



TP



FAE



FOREST MACHINE SPARES DIRECT

Confor  
WOODLAND SHOW  
5th-8th SEPTEMBER  
2019  
LONGLEAT ESTATE

Visit our stand:  
**W44 - W46**



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



01556 612233



[info@jaspwilson.co.uk](mailto:info@jaspwilson.co.uk)

