

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

April 2019 Issue 92



Confor sets climate change planting target
See page 14

TIMBER IN
CONSTRUCTION
SKILLS & CAREERS



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

ISUZU
TRUCK 



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

Past issues and articles can be accessed online at

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

Non-member subscriptions:

£54 (£59 overseas).

Please contact Liz@confor.org.uk

CONFOR CONTACTS



Stefanie Kaiser

Communications and editor FTN
T: 0131 240 1420
E: stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk



Caroline Harrison

National manager for England
M: 07500 927482
E: caroline.harrison@confor.org.uk



Jamie Farquhar

National manager for Scotland
M: 07817 374906
E: jamie.farquhar@confor.org.uk



Anthony Geddes

National manager for Wales
T: 074 94079305
E: anthony@confor.org.uk



Andrew Heald MICFor

Technical director forestry and Northern Ireland representative
M: 07771 844653
E: andrew.heald@confor.org.uk



David Sulman

Technical director wood processing
T: 01786 449029
E: david.sulman@confor.org.uk



Dr Eleanor Harris

Policy Researcher
T: 0131 240 1417
E: eleanor@confor.org.uk



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



0131 240 1410



info@confor.org.uk



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

Printed by Micropress Printers Ltd

CONTENTS

NEWS & COMMENT

5 | EDITORIAL

6 | TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION

IS THE UK FORESTRY SECTOR UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

8 | NEWS

CONFOR TACKLES TIMBER SUPPLY CHALLENGES IN WALES

GUY WATT WINS ANNUAL AWARD
FORESTRY COMMISSIONERS MEET ONE LAST TIME

COALITION CALLS FOR NORTH-EAST FORESTRY INVESTMENT ZONE
PLANTING AT CORE OF SCOTTISH FORESTRY PLAN

REGULARS

11 | CONFOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY MAP

14 | CLIMATE CHANGE

A 40,000ha CARBON CAPTURE FACTORY



16 | MEMBER PROFILE

STEF KAISER VISITS
JAMES KINGAN & SONS



18 | NEWS FROM MEMBERS

18 | EVENTS

20 | Q&A

WITH SIMON HODGSON. ELEANOR HARRIS ASKS THE QUESTIONS

28 | MARKETS

TIMBER AUCTIONS REPORT
FOREST MARKET REPORT
TIMBER MARKET REPORT
FORECASTS REINFORCE CASE FOR PLANTING

43 | COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

CHANGING ATTITUDES

45 | BREXIT

FUTURE IMMIGRATION SCENARIOS FOR THE EU WORKFORCE

49 | PLANT HEALTH

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH TO TACKLE WEEVIL MENACE
IPS TYPOGRAPHUS UPDATE

51 | HEALTH & SAFETY

BE A HEALTH & SAFETY STAR – SHARE YOUR STORY

52 | MACHINERY

RAB EASTON ON FORWARDER TRAILERS

61 | PRODUCT REVIEW

DAVID ROSNEY ON HUSQVARNA'S 550XP MARK 11

65 | THE FORESTRY CENTURY

SOWING THE SEED FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

67 | TIMBER TRANSPORT

ROAD CAPACITY SHARING

69 | LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SECURITY AT THE GATE

70 | OBITUARY

TOM A BRUCE-JONES CBE, PIONEER OF MODERN SAWMILLING

73 | SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

BREXIT AND THE SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

74 | FORESTRY IN PICTURES

FEATURES

23 | TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION

MAKING THE MODERN TIMBER CITY
SCOTLAND SOWS THE SEED FOR HOMEGROWN TIMBER HOUSING ESTATE LEADS THE WAY IN USING ITS OWN TIMBER

HIGH SEASON FOR PROMOTING TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION



35 | SKILLS & CAREERS

APPRENTICES USE CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY TO LOG PROGRESS
WHAT'S NEW: COURSES, EVENTS, AWARDS AND MORE...

COVER

THE CARETAKER'S HOUSE AT HOOKE PARK WHICH USES ONLY TIMBER GROWN AND FELLED ON SITE. SEE p24.



moorend

SPECIALIST 4TRACK MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT



NORCAR POWERFUL ROBUST MINI LOADERS



T: 0800 011 68 28 M: 07867 42 69 19 EMAIL: INFO@MOORENDLTD.COM
MOOREND LIMITED, MOOREND LANE, SLIMBRIDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL2 7DG.

MOORENDLTD.COM
NORCAR.CO.UK



Sector at the crossroads

STUART GOODALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CONFOR

By the time you read your latest FTN, the process of devolving forestry policy, regulation and funding to the countries of the UK will have reached a new milestone.

Scotland sees the most visible changes, with the Forestry Commission name disappearing and two agencies appearing - Scottish Forestry: regulation, policy and grants, and Forestry and Land Scotland: managing the National Forest Estate and "any other land" assigned to it.

In England, the status of the institutions won't change, but Forest Enterprise England will become Forestry England.

In Wales, it's business as usual, or perhaps, business not as usual as NRW struggles to come to terms with repeated negative audit reports, and limited new planting - more on that inside FTN.

Northern Ireland is least affected as it wasn't part of the Forestry Commission 'family'.

Perhaps the biggest change is coming to Forest Research (FR). Its income is no longer provided and effectively guaranteed by the UK Government. Instead, those funds will sit with the countries and, after a transition period, FR will become more reliant on bidding for funds from governments (and other sources) as countries gain the freedom to spend

research money as they wish.

As an industry we've traditionally looked to 'The FC' and to 'FR' to tackle such issues as recruitment to the sector, research, putting the sector's case to ministers, statistics and inventory, and generally promoting forestry. Those roles have been in decline now for many years, most noticeably in the area of lobbying where Confor has become the voice of the private sector.

These organisational changes come at a time of wider societal and political change - tackling climate change is driving greater support for planting and the use of wood, especially in the construction sector. Leaving the EU (still expected to happen) will probably see more sheep farmers planting trees or selling their land, and it is likely to exacerbate skills shortages as migrant labour, especially seasonal labour becomes more difficult to organise.

The sector will need to navigate its way through these changes, while also taking more responsibility for its own future. Having the supply chain 'around the table' in Confor is a great help here. However, taking responsibility will also mean securing the financial resources needed to get governments and public agencies to work with the sector in future to tackle skills shortages, secure the industry statistical and inventory information we need, undertake business relevant research and promote productive forestry and wood products.

2019 isn't just a centenary, it's a year when the sector sits at a crossroads. Where we turn next will be crucial for the next 100 years.

www.confor.org.uk



Timber in construction: is the UK forestry sector up to the challenge?

Gary Newman, Woodknowledge Wales, in collaboration with **Andy Leitch**, Forestry Commission

For various reasons, mostly related to sustainability, the shine has started to come off steel, plastic and cement, themselves the wonder materials of the last century. Steel and cement production alone account for 50% of global industrial carbon emissions. Currently these 'embodied' carbon emissions of construction materials are largely unregulated, but as policy makers seek to meet legally binding carbon targets it seems only a matter of time before policies emerge to drive the shift to lower carbon alternatives.

As for petrochemical-based plastics, the environmental toxicity problem has remained in the headlines since the BBC screening of Blue Planet II. Some commentators are even describing plastic pollution as an environmental threat on the scale of climate change.

One thing is clear, our production and consumption of resources will be radically different this century than the last.

Timber – the solution for a step change in construction?

Enter wood products. Wood is the only widely available highly developed industrial material whose greater use in construction could provide a significant part of the solution. In general, it takes less energy to convert trees into useful construction products when compared to other materials. Equally, the use of wood creates a long-term store of carbon in the built environment. It is true that at some point in the future, this carbon stored in a building will be released, but as long as we use more timber than is being released through demolition, then this store will continue to grow. Additionally, the adoption of resource efficiency principles of re-use and recycling will keep the carbon locked up for many years to come.

New technology is also inspiring a renewed focus on wood. Engineered wood products, such as cross laminated timber (CLT) is enabling wood to compete with steel and concrete in medium and perhaps high-rise buildings. The focus on more manufactured off-site housing also seems to favour a shift to wood, particularly engineered wood.

As an alternative to plastic, the performance benefits of chemically and thermally modified wood is

enabling wooden joinery products such as windows to take back the market from UPVC. Wood fibre insulation is proving to be a healthier and cost competitive alternative to foamed plastics.

The rise of the wider health and wellbeing agenda in construction is also helping a shift towards more natural building fabric and internal environments. It is intuitive to some that the use of natural materials in interiors should enhance human well-being and there is a growing body of scientific research to provide the evidence to back this up.

Favourable policies to pave the way for more timber buildings

Given the above, it is unsurprising that the benefits of timber construction are starting to seep into favourable policy. The Powys Wood Encouragement Policy and Wood for Good's Wood First Policy in Hackney (although now withdrawn due to lobbying from other material sectors) are two small regional examples. The recent Committee on Climate Change report recommended the creation of national policies to promote the greater use of wood in construction. Such national policies are yet to emerge



To what degree the use of home-grown timber in construction enhances the economic case for tree planting will depend on how much of the added-value flows back down the supply chain to the grower.

and may well take the form of reducing embodied carbon emissions of construction rather than being material specific. Either way, wood wins.

In Wales, a group of social housing providers have thrown their weight behind a project led by Woodknowledge Wales to inspire the greater use of home-grown timber in construction. It is in the use of home-grown timber where the benefits of timber construction becomes unavoidably compelling for society and provides an additional political imperative for afforestation. To what degree the use of home-grown timber in construction enhances the economic case for tree planting will depend on how much of the added-value flows back down the supply chain to the grower.





Well over 90% of UK spruce sawlogs meet construction grade C16

PYC Construction in Wales.

The good news is that over the past 10 years there has been a 40% increase in the use of home-grown timber in new housing. However, imports still account for over 80% of the timber used in construction, and the UK industry is yet to fully embrace the manufacture of high-value engineered timber products such as glulam and CLT.

The highest value cascade principles of wood use are perhaps best delivered by focusing output on sawnwood for construction applications with co-products and small dimension timber flowing into other shorter-life products such as packaging, fencing and biomass. But what might be best for society is not necessarily what offers the highest return for industry, and the demand for timber is intensifying in all markets not just construction.

Timber is fit for purpose, but are our supply chains?

For those committed to building with home-grown timber, sourcing can therefore be a challenge. Most sawmills are not set up to offer a just-in-time service required by the timber frame industry and unsurprisingly find it difficult to service relatively small demand for one-off projects.

As a consequence, the home-grown timber that is sawn, planed, kiln dried and graded for construction applications is sometimes difficult to locate. Timber merchants that do stock home-grown structural timber tend not to hold these stocks separately and may not offer competitive trading terms when compared to the specialist importers.

The compelling societal benefits of using home-grown timber in construction can therefore be undermined by an inability to readily source product. If we are to harness home-grown timber in construction as a key driver to underpin the expansion of productive forestry in the UK, then the industry will need to address some gaps in the current supply chain. This would help to capture some of that value, alongside other product and co product markets, to further support the case for forestry as an economically attractive option for land owners, ensuring robust supply in the future.

<http://woodlandknowledge.wales>

See more on timber in construction from p21.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Video: Grwp Cynefin takes lead by specifying Welsh timber for Welsh homes
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Is the UK forestry sector responding to the timber in construction trend?

However, it is also in the use of home-grown timber where the barriers start to emerge.

It is only relatively recently that UK grown conifers have been machine stress graded for construction applications. As a consequence, it has proved necessary to overcome a widely held perception that home-grown timber is not fit for construction applications. Thanks to detailed recent scientific research we now know that well over 90% of UK spruce sawlogs meet construction grade C16 depending on machine grading settings at the sawmill. We also know through exemplar construction projects throughout the UK that home-grown conifers are fit for purpose for modern timber construction.

Correcting the perceptions surrounding quality has led to an increase in demand for home-grown timber by leading construction clients and by some of the more innovative timber house manufacturers such as Makar in Scotland and Williams Homes and



The compelling societal benefits of using home-grown timber in construction can therefore be undermined by an inability to readily source product

Confor tackles timber supply challenges in Wales

Anthony Geddes

Confor has made positive progress in Wales after the wood processing industry delivered a vote of no-confidence in the timber operations of Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Political engagement by Confor members has led to detailed discussions about how timber supply challenges can be overcome. We are also working with the Welsh Government on a new industry strategy and have welcomed the announcement of a new round of Glastir funding for woodland creation in March.

A sense of impending crisis in late 2018 grew when Peter Garson, Head of NRW's Commercial Operations, resigned – with many in the industry feeling this was a significant loss of deep forestry knowledge within NRW.

Confor had opposed the creation of NRW, amid fears that forestry expertise and focus would be lost in the 'super-quango'. The industry believes this has indeed happened, with NRW failing to develop a 'single culture' organisation. As a result, there have been failures in the way staff have let and operated timber contracts, including questions over whether some harvesting appears to have been done without contracts being issued or signed.

The no-confidence letter, sent by Confor on behalf of the processors, went to NRW on 18 January and a summit involving Confor, the processors and NRW was held on 27 February. At the meeting, commitments were given by NRW to help support customers through a process of real change.

I also met Lesley Griffiths, Minister

for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, who acknowledged the processors' concerns and committed to meet the group.

A root-and-branch review of NRW by Grant Thornton has led to a restructure. For forestry, this means harvesting and supervision will be place-based across six areas. Day-to-day management of contracts will be locally driven, delivered and monitored, with national quality standards. A sales and timber marketing plan will be delivered centrally through a single timber marketing plan.

There are several other changes:

- **Timber production:** NRW remains committed to its published timber production target of 850,000m³; the sales process is being reviewed to ensure the timber volume offered in each E-Sale can be worked within a reasonable period. (Previous contracts sometimes had restrictions of several months delay to harvesting operations)
- **Scoring and weighting systems:** a new system is required that rewards good quality contract operation, which will be consulted on.
- **Pre-contract bidding form:** from 01 April, NRW will require all business bidding on E-Sales to complete a pre-qualification form, which will include questions on HSE notifiable events, bankruptcy, qualifications, certification and training. Confor is awaiting dates from NRW for training advice on how to fill this out correctly.
- **Active contracts:** an apology was issued by NRW for the suspension of all over volume sales contracts without prior notice; NRW contractor managers are being asked to

monitor harvesting rates to ensure contract extensions can be applied for in a timely manner. (This should ensure continuity of supply); NRW is committed to fulfilling outstanding sales contract obligations. Where members are affected, please contact me, Anthony@confor.org.uk for further information

When I met the Minister, I said that processors felt NRW was failing the industry in terms of operations and general administration – and that there had to be a clear, long-term commitment to productive forestry. I also stressed that we are not planting anywhere near enough trees in Wales, with the demand for timber increasing as domestic supply decreases. The lack of Glastir has hindered creation but the difficulty of creating a successful woodland creation scheme must be addressed."

The Minister welcomed the industry's proposal to develop an industry strategy in Wales, with Welsh Government's support to develop it – including the use of timber in construction, economic benefits, enhancing biodiversity and decarbonisation. Confor will lead on this and aims to have something to present at the Royal Welsh Show in July.

Confor is happy to lead on the new strategy and it's great the new Glastir round is finally in place – but we want to see speedier processing of applications to boost industry confidence."

Welcome questions have been asked in the Welsh Assembly by Conservative member Andrew RT Davies, calling for an open applications window for planting, assurances on re-stocking on NRW land and Glastir support to bring more woodland into management.



ECOPLUG[®]MAX

The effective method to solve a 'growing' problem



- Safety engineered in the plug
- Maximum efficacy - all weathers, all year round.
- Can be used in or near water with permission from the EA/SEPA/NRW
- Drill. Tap. Done



Each Ecoplug contains 283mg formulated glyphosate product.

Ecoplug is a registered trademark of Ecoplug Sweden AB.

Ecoplug Max is distributed in the UK by Bayer Crop Science Ltd.

Technical Helpline: 01954 717575 Email: technical.helpline.uk@monsanto.com

For full details including risk and safety phrases, refer to our website at www.monsanto-ag.co.uk

USE HERBICIDES SAFELY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE.

© 2019 Bayer Group. All rights reserved.

Guy Watt wins annual Confor award

Guy Watt was named as the recipient of the Dedicated Service to Forestry Award for 2019 at Confor's largest ever annual dinner in Edinburgh.

The managing director of John Clegg Consulting Ltd was presented with the award by Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy.

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, said: "Guy has huge experience and is highly respected across the forestry and timber sector - and has made a unique contribution. His background in analysis and statistical reports is unparalleled.

"The sheer number and range of trusteeships and appointments he has held is testament to the high regard he is held in by so many in the private and public sectors. Guy is the 'go to' person for analysis of future wood supply and availability and is working on a keenly awaited update for Confor. His position in the sector is unique, his contribution immense."

Guy Watt thanked all the people he had worked with. He said: "It has been an absolute pleasure. One of the great things about



Guy Watt (left) receives his award from Fergus Ewing

this industry is that the people are so nice. Even when companies have faced difficult times, they pull together and get through."

Mr Watt is a partner in Timber Auctions, a Trustee of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and a Member of the Institute of Economic Development. He has been Chairman of the Scottish Forestry Trust and Scottish Hardwood Timber Marketing Group, as well as Vice Chair of the Central Scotland Forest Trust.

Confor Chairman Athole McKillop paid

tribute at the dinner to Tom Bruce Jones (snr), winner of the Dedicated Service to Forestry Award in 2017, who died in January. (See obituary on p66).

Fergus Ewing told dinner guests that conditions for growth and success in the forest and timber sector in Scotland had "never been better". He announced a range of measures by the Scottish Government to invest in the future of forestry to help boost further growth, including £7m for timber transport projects and £20m on replanting across the National Forest Estate.

Forestry Commissioners meet one last time

The first of April signalled a new era in forestry as the new devolved arrangements come into place, along with the two new Scottish Government agencies - Scottish Forestry and Forestry & Land Scotland.

This means that the management and regulation of forestry in Scotland are now the responsibility of Scottish Ministers, rather than the Forestry Commissioners.

The last Forestry Commissioners' meeting to include Scottish Commissioners was held in Edinburgh on Thursday, 14 March. It is exciting times indeed!

As well as looking forwards to this exciting future, this centenary year is also a great time to reflect on the fantastic legacy that all the Forestry Commissioners, past and present, have created. Their experience, skill and knowledge has helped shape forestry as we know it today across the country.

This legacy was recognised and celebrated at a dinner at the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh on Wednesday, 13

March, where the current Forestry Commissioners were joined by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, Fergus Ewing, and former Scottish commissioners, including George Stewart (front row, third from left) who retired from the Forestry Commission in 1979, and is currently Britain's oldest skier at 99 years of age.

Pictured (back row, l-r): Mary Barkham, Amanda Bryan, Ian Gambles (Director Forestry Commission England), Hamish McLeod, Bob McIntosh; (front row, l-r): Julia Grant, Jo O'Hara (Head of Forestry Commission Scotland), George Stewart, Sir Harry Studholme, Martin Gale, George McRobbie



CONFOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY MAP



FUTURE POLITICAL EVENTS

TBC Visit to Northumberland by David Rutley, England forestry minister

11 June Westminster, London - meeting of APPGF to launch 2019 essay and video competition

Broad coalition calls for North-East Forestry Investment Zone

Confor has brought together a broad coalition of interests to call for the extension of the Forestry Investment Zone (FIZ) initiative into Northumberland.

A letter to Forestry Minister David Rutley MP asks him to consider broadening the FIZ programme into the North-East from the initial pilot scheme in east Cumbria.

The letter is signed by six of the main contributors to Confor's Superwood conference, held in Newcastle in December 2018, which heard several calls for a Northumberland FIZ.

The letter is signed by: Councillor Peter Jackson, a farmer and leader of Northumberland County Council; Paul Brannen, Labour MEP for North East England and a strong supporter of forestry and timber; Confor CEO Stuart Goodall; Beccy Speight, CEO, Woodland Trust; Mike Childs, Head of Science, Policy and Research at Friends of the Earth; and Simon Hart of EGGER, the largest private sector employer in Northumberland.

The prospects for a Northumberland FIZ have been improved by the announcement by Chancellor Philip Hammond of a £260m contribution to the Borderlands Growth Deal (in addition to £85m from the Scottish Government) - covering Northumberland as well as Cumbria, Dumfries &

Galloway and Scottish Borders.

Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO, said: "Forestry Investment Zones are a real opportunity to drive productive planting and one prime area for a FIZ is Northumberland, as Confor identified in its paper last year."

The paper says that a FIZ would allow specific areas to be designated as suitable for planting, with the potential for enhanced grants and accelerated approval times.

"We believe the key to the success of the initiative is collaboration between economic, environmental and political in-



Signatories: clockwise from top left: Peter Jackson, Paul Brannen, Stuart Goodall, Simon Hart, Mike Childs and Becky Speight

terests, which is why we wanted to show Minister Rutley there is cross-party and cross-sector support for a Northumberland FIZ," said Mr Goodall. "The support of the county council leader, who is from a farming background, is very significant, as is the backing of high-profile environmental organisations."

Confor has invited David Rutley to visit member businesses in Northumberland to see first hand why the county is suitable for a FIZ.

The letter to Minister Rutley says: "There is clear cross-party political support to move ahead with FIZs (there are Labour and Conservative signatories to this letter) and cross-sectoral support, too.

"The Woodland Trust, Confor and Friends of the Earth have different primary objectives but all support expanding our woodland resource for the many benefits it provides, including a significant increase in productive forestry - to supply our domestic industry, reduce timber imports and make a real impact on climate change targets.

"We believe a series of FIZs can help to stimulate new planting and deliver wide-ranging positive benefits to our economy, our environment and our rural communities."

Planting at core of Scottish forestry plan

The Scottish Government's new forestry strategy has called for tree planting and woodland creation and maintenance to become a "shared national endeavour".

Launched in February, Scotland's Forestry Strategy sets out a 10-year plan to expand, protect and enhance Scotland's forests and woods - to deliver greater economic, social and environmental benefits.

Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy, said: "We can be rightly proud in Scotland of our track record on planting and maintaining trees and forests. Already, Scotland is responsible for nearly 80% of new trees planted in the UK and forestry is a £1bn industry supporting 25,000 jobs. Our woodlands soak up 12m tonnes of CO₂ each year and at the same time, thousands of visitors enjoy health and social benefits from these fantastic natural assets."

Mr Ewing's Deputy, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment Mairi Gougeon, visited one of the largest modern planting sites in Scotland soon after the strategy was launched.

She saw how trees were placed carefully at Jerah, on a hillside above the village of Menstrie in central Scotland, to prevent flooding in the community below, badly hit by floods in 2004 and 2012.

Two PhD studies by Heriot Watt University are examining the risk of water run-off from different types of planting and recording the impact on Menstrie. The aim is to learn lessons for planting future forests.

Mairi Gougeon added: "This is an exciting time for forestry in Scotland. On 1 April, new fully devolved arrangements will come into place, including two new forestry agencies that will play a significant role in taking forward the Scottish Government's

ambitions and priorities including delivery of Scotland's new Forestry Strategy."

Ms Gougeon, who was accompanied by Confor CEO Stuart Goodall and Andrew Vaughan of forest manager Tilhill, said: "Jerah is one of Scotland's largest newly planted productive woodlands. It's a great example of multi-purpose forestry that we want to see for the future, delivering woodland creation, carbon sequestration, timber production, recreation and flood management - all on a landscape scale."

During the creation of Jerah, 1.3m trees - including 16 different conifer and broadleaf species - were planted in early 2015. Although timber production is the primary long-term aim of Jerah, it also applies the objectives of the new strategy to secure other benefits - including peatland restoration, public access and habitats for birds as well as flood risk mitigation.

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

A 40,000ha carbon capture factory



Tree-planting targets are driven by the need to tackle carbon emissions

While foresters might want more forests because they produce valuable timber, and because we love them, for policy-makers, few drivers are strong enough to overcome the risky business of land use change and drive woodland creation, as the more pressing risk of climate change.

Afforestation is one of the most cost-effective means of carbon reduction, according to the UK Committee on Climate Change (see FTN August, p.6). Any 'zero carbon' ambition, to reduce what we can and offset the rest, turns to tree planting as one of very few proven, cost-effective, and large-scale technologies available to remove carbon from the air.

Confor has been at the forefront of thinking on carbon and forestry for over a decade. Our report, *Climate change: opportunities and challenges for the forest and wood-using industry* (2008) was published a year before the seminal 'Read Report', *Combating climate change: a role for UK forests*. Climate change was the headline topic on the Confor website for four years between the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the establishment of the Woodland Carbon Code.

Since then, other voices have made our case. In 2013, the Centre for Alternative Technology's *Zero Carbon Britain* calculated that as part of a suite of actions to become carbon neutral, the UK should double forest cover by 2030, which translates into planting an eye-watering 260,000ha every year,

two-thirds of which should be timber producing; plus an additional 250,000ha/year of short-rotation forestry, coppice, and other energy crops.

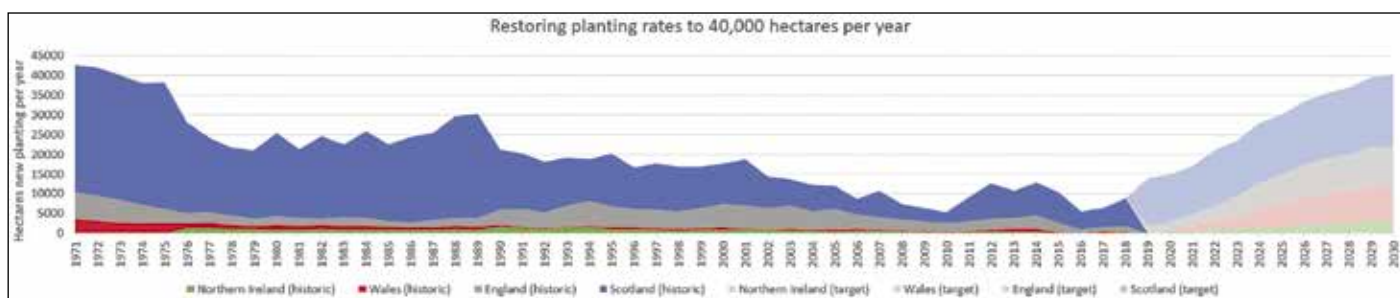
Now, with stories of heroic tree-planting feats multiplying around the globe and the resulting carbon reduction becoming quantifiable and one of the most hopeful stories of our time, academics, campaigners and politicians are doing the sums again. (See right).

The Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering proposed 1,200,000ha by 2040, or 57,000ha/year, increasing forest cover to 18%. The Committee on Climate Change developed a range of scenarios, one based on UK governments' own targets of 27,000ha/year, which they strongly recommend be met, and explored two others based on 30,000ha and 50,000ha, which they considered achievable and delivering considerable additional benefits.

Environmental organisations, too, have been setting targets. WWF UK tackled the 'zero carbon' question again in 2018: *Keeping it Cool* calculated that the UK should afforest 40,000ha/year. Friends of the Earth proposed doubling forest cover by 2050, equating to 100,000ha/year. The Natural Capital Commission, advising on the 25 Year Environment Plan, recommended a target of 250,000ha by 2040, or 11,300ha/year, in England.

Beside these weighty aspirations, UK governments' targets appear modest. The Scottish Government, it is true, aims to plant 15,000ha/year by 2025, a hefty contribution to an ambitious UK target. The 25 Year Environment Plan's English target equates to 6,200ha/year, lower than an earlier figure in their *Clean Growth Strategy* of 9,300ha, but considerably more ambitious than the '11 million tree' target of little more than 1,000ha/year.

Confor and climate change
In response to all this renewed interest, carbon and climate has again become a major theme of Confor's work. In December 2018, our *Superwood* conference brought together campaigners, politicians, foresters and architects to discuss the essential role





RECORD-BREAKING TREE PLANTING AROUND THE WORLD

2015 Pakistan launches its 'Billion Tree Tsunami', currently ahead of target.

2016 50m trees planted in one day in Uttar Pradesh.

2017 66m trees were planted in 12 hours in Madhya Pradesh, India.

2017 200m trees planted or naturally regenerated in drought-stricken Niger, with food production increasing by 600,000 tonnes a year in reforested areas.

2018 China pledges to afforest an area the size of Ireland, to achieve 23% forest cover by 2020.

PROPOSED UK PLANTING TARGETS

Zero Carbon Britain 260,000ha

Friends of the Earth 100,000ha

Royal Society & Royal Academy of Engineering 57,000ha

Committee on Climate Change High Biomass scenario 50,000ha

Confor target 40,000ha

WWF 40,000ha

Committee on Climate Change Multifunctional Land Use scenario 30,000ha

Committee on Climate Change advice 27,000ha

Forestry Strategy (Scotland) 15,000ha

Natural Capital Commission (England) 11,300ha

Clean Growth Strategy (England) 9,300ha

of tree planting and using timber in building a low-carbon economy. In January 2019, Confor organised a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry with Lord Deben, chair of the Committee on Climate Change, to examine building the policy environment to enable trees to deliver their carbon-capturing potential (*FTN February, p10-12*). In the coming year, our essay and video prize *The Future is Forestry* will link to climate change (see p41), and plans are in train for a major policy conference.

Behind the scenes, important ongoing conversations with stakeholders including Friends of the Earth, the Committee on Climate Change, Policy Exchange, Green Alliance, Nature Conservancy, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Institute of Welsh Affairs and others, are ensuring that informed thinking on forestry and its potential are embedded in policy-making across the UK.

To underpin these conversations, Confor has developed a policy paper, *Woodland carbon targets for the UK*, proposing a pathway to upscale woodland creation to 40,000ha/year, and bring woodland into management. While other targets are based on carbon required or land available, Confor's paper takes into account the practical opportunities and constraints for the industry. These targets are deliverable, and the risk of climate change means it is urgent that the UK governments put policies in place to ensure they are delivered.



The role of rapid emissions reduction [...] is widely understood. But it is increasingly clearer that reducing emissions is not enough – we must also actively remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering, *Greenhouse Gas Removal*, 2018

You can help. Local campaigns such as 'Zero carbon' or 'Transition' initiatives present a unique opportunity to talk to people who are passionate about tackling climate change, who probably know little about the forestry industry, but for whom we present an important solution: a renewed hope. You should have received a copy of *Woodland Carbon targets for the UK* inside this FTN, and it is also available on our website, along with other resources. Your challenge is to give the paper away to someone who is interested in climate change but doesn't know about forestry and timber production: a politician, a campaigner, or even a potential investor. Use it to start a conversation, and perhaps to invite them to visit your business and see your 'carbon capture and storage technology' in action.

Timber runs in the blood



James Kingan and Sons have been producing timber products for over 150 years.

Stef Kaiser visits the 6th generation family business in New Abbey, Dumfriesshire.

On a Tuesday afternoon, Jamie Farquhar and I find the Kingan timber yard and sawmill surprisingly nestled into a picturesque Scottish village. We are met by father David and son Fraser, the charming current generation of a business that has been part of the local community for over a century.

David tells us that in 1946, James Kingan and his sons founded the limited company as such, after two generations in business.

Initially, the business combined three core activities: farming, animal feed production and sawmilling. At the time David himself entered the business, some family members were more focused on farming and feed manufacturing, and eventually, it was decided that sawmilling should become a separate business.

David is lucky to be able to continue the long-standing family tradition. One of his two sons, Fraser (22), joined him full-time a year ago, after finalising his studies in mechanical engineering.

"From a young age, I've been interested in the business and the industry and helping out during school holidays as much as I could. I chose to leave home to study for a few years, but was always planning to come back to the family business and take over from my dad in the future. My degree has proven to be very relevant, giving me some understanding of the how our machinery works", explains Fraser.

Small business targeting niche markets

James Kingan and Sons are timber merchants, sawmillers and pallet manufacturers. Their client base includes timber buyers, fencing contractors, local manufacturing industries or farmers. They also supply directly to customers, offering non-standard sized material that the larger producers are unable

to provide. Examples are projects such as bridges or architect-led buildings, where very large or highly bespoke timber sections are needed.

"The choices in the market are high production or high flexibility, high value products. As a small business, we need to aim for higher profit margins because our volumes are so much lower. We therefore try to avoid middlemen as much as we can while focusing on processing flexibility to cater for the higher-profit niche markets," says David.

To stay in business, David and his team need to secure logs at a lower price than the large producers are paying and selling at a higher price than they are selling at.

In a standard production forest there tends to be a 10% of larger logs, from areas where the trees have grown quicker. The bigger processors, however, are highly specialised and unable to accept oversized logs for sawn wood; they wouldn't be able to extract any value from them other than for biomass. A lot of the forest management companies will therefore directly approach smaller mills such as James Kingan, who are known for their flexibility in processing odd-sized stock.

About 70% of the timber used in the Kingan sawmill is larch; a percentage that has significantly increased over the last decade. "Our customers are prepared to pay more for larch, it is a better product for the markets we are supplying. Historically, we found that we could buy larch cheaper than we could buy spruce, because of a limited demand from the large mills. With *P ramorum*, there is now increased interest from the bigger players, who all started to use more larch as it has become readily available. At present, the price of larch is almost as high as the price of spruce."

James Kingan and Sons source all of their timber from within a 50 mile radius of the sawmill and 95%



Father and son David and Fraser Kingan and, above, an oversized log destined for a niche market.



of it comes from their in-house harvesting operations.

The harvesting side of the business was initially set up to secure timber supply only but nowadays, in the era of harvesting automation, there is a surplus of 70% which is sold to other mills.

No business without staff

The sawmill does not only source and market locally, but the business is well embedded in the local community. As a 6th generation family business, the company is part of the social fabric of village.

The workers live within a radius of 10 miles, with the majority of long-term staff living directly in the village.

The Kingan family has an excellent track record when it comes to staff retention. Workers are taken on as labourers, trained on the job and enjoy a friendly and supportive working atmosphere.

"We do value our staff as individuals not just numbers on a balance sheet. If you work with the staff, they will work with you as well. They are not just working for us, they are working with us. We try to understand their circumstances, what is going on in their lives, be flexible with them whenever possible," reasons David.

A lot of their long-term employees have been on payroll for many decades and others are

“

For our current market, flexibility is absolutely essential. All our production lines are set to cut a variety of sizes, both of logs and end products. That helps us secure our market position and cater for customers who can't find the product they want from the larger mills.

third generation workers.

They employ two machine operators for their harvesting operations, one is 65, the other one in his fifties. They still enjoy their jobs and have no plans to retire any time soon. "We haven't gauged whether there is interested from next-generation harvester operators from the community, because at the moment there is no vacancy. I have no plan yet on what to do when our operator retires after now over 30 years of operating his machine."

Plans for the future

Two years ago, there were plans for substantial investment into upgrading the production line for smaller diameter logs at the New Abbey site. But the way the biomass market has gone in the last two years means that the price of the roundwood used has increased so much that to update the production line may not be economical.

"I haven't yet got my head round to what the way forward is. But I have real concern with regards to the affordable sourcing of material for this production line for the next one or two years. I need to decide whether I still want to upgrade the machinery to work with the same size of logs or whether what the alternatives could be.

www.jameskingan.co.uk



EGGER receives Minister of State

EGGER (UK) Limited welcomed the UK Government's Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, Rt Hon Claire Perry MP to their wood-based materials manufacturing site at Hexham in Northumberland on Friday, 8 March 2019.

Rt Hon Claire Perry MP's visit to Northumberland's largest manufacturing company comes on the back of concerns raised by the industry through the Wood Panel Industries Federation (WPIF) about the increasing demand for the UK annual wood basket.

Wood-based panel manufacturers are looking to ensure that wood security is at the forefront of future UK business and energy policy. The wood panel manufacturing sector uses 25% of the 11m tonnes of wood

delivered from UK forestry every year. UK manufacturers supply approximately 65% of the total UK annual consumption of wood-based panel products, which can be found in virtually every office, home and workplace across the country and is relied upon by the furniture, house building and construction industries across the UK.

Pictured (l-r) Cllr Cath Homer (Councillor for Hexham East), Guy Opperman MP (Member of Parliament for Hexham), Cllr Peter Jackson (Leader of Northumberland Council), Jonathon Stephens (Egger Plant Manager - Finance/Administration), Elfi Bretterklieber-Taye (Director, Campact Ltd), John Paterson (Director, Egger Forestry) and Rt Hon Claire Perry MP (Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth)

BSW apprenticeship week

BSW has organised a range of social and community events to benefit local mill areas. The company promoted itself at a number of career events inspiring young people and engaging with colleges and schools. The Fort William team assisted local schools with building work in their play areas. The mills at Carlisle, Newbridge, Dalbeattie and Boat of Garten promoted graduate and apprentice opportunities with local young people and parents.

Tony Lockey and Hamish Macleod also took some special visitors in the form of Finlay Carson MSP and Lynne Lambie, Skills Development Scotland around Dalbeattie Mill. Both visitors enjoyed their tour and can see the real benefit our apprentices bring to our business.



Pictured: Finlay Carson MSP at Dalbeattie with apprentices Liam Pagan, Mark Walker and Lynne Lambie SDS

CONFOR EVENTS

ENGLAND REGIONAL MEETINGS

May (TBC): North region event: The practicalities of the management of EPS in a woodland situation. Location: (TBC)

22 May: Marches region event: The practicalities of the management of EPS in a woodland situation. Location: Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

11 June: Southeast region event, jointly with ICF: Ash dieback H&S. Location: Kent

18 July: Southwest region event, jointly with ICF: Oak growing and use. Location (TBC)

06 September: South West AGM at the Confor Woodland Show

September (TBC): Southeast region event: Arundel bypass. Location: West Sussex

October (TBC): Southwest region event: Brimstone and wood treatment. Location: Vasterns

October (TBC): Marches region event, jointly with Wales: FISA SHAD. Location (TBC)

October (TBC): North region event: FISA "safety before profit". Location (TBC)

SCOTLAND REGIONAL MEETINGS

26 September: North-east SFTT meeting, Finzean Hall, Deeside

16 October: South SFTT meeting, Lockerbie

30 October: Central SFTT meeting, Stirling

WALES REGIONAL EVENTS

July: Confor at the Royal Welsh Show

September TBC: Confor Wales Committee

TECHNICAL MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

01 May: North Processors: Penrith

12/13 June: Nursery Producers Group annual meeting, FERA York

21 June: Forestry day at the Royal Highland Show, including Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

22/23 August: Forestry Expo, Little Clyde

05/06 September: Confor Woodland Show, Longleat

23 October: Safety, Technical and Compliance: Wales

60

HUSQVARNA CHAINSAWS
1959-2019 ANNIVERSARY

CUT FASTER. CUT LONGER. CUT BETTER.



INTRODUCING 550 XP® & 545 MKII

"The 545 is perfect for working up in the tree, like crown reduction, and I really love its easy starts, whereas the new 550XP® takes care of felling and performs more like a 60cc despite its optimised size and balance".

Martin Gotz - Tree care professional & Chainsaw instructor

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



Professional chainsaws with outstanding performance, quick acceleration and best in class cutting capacity with 2 year warranty.

- Displacement: 50.1cm³
- Power Output: 5.3kW
- Weight: 6.6kg
- Autotune™, Low Vib® & X-Torq®



Husqvarna
READY WHEN YOU ARE

In the forefront of a new era



Eleanor Harris

interviewed Simon Hodgson, the new chief executive of Forestry and Land Scotland

Simon Hodgson is a man of people and of places. A graduate of Durham University in tourism and environment, in the 1980s he was Regional Manager for the Woodland Trust in the North of England and then Wales, and Director of Conservation for The Conservation Volunteers. In 1992 he became Regional Director South for the Rural Development Commission (RDC), also spending time as Head of Corporate Planning and Internal Audit; Head of Corporate Affairs and Internal Audit for the South West Regional Development Agency; and then Director of West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Simon joined the Forestry Commission in 2005 as Chief Executive of Forest Enterprise England managing all the public forests in England and their commercial activities. He took wider responsibilities as Chief Executive of Forestry Commission England 2011-2013 during the 'forest sell off row' but returned to Forest Enterprise fully in 2013.

He was Chair of the English Forest Industries Partnership for a number of years, sits on the Board of Grown in Britain – promoting home grown timber, and has a strong record of involvement as chair of community and voluntary sector bodies, including running a community shop and café in his village.

Forestry and Land Scotland replaced Forest Enterprise Scotland when the Scottish Forestry Act came into force on 1 April.

You've achieved significant success in your career and you haven't shied away from tough challenges: what drives and inspires you?

A concern for the environment; more specifically for forests, and the way people are able to benefit from all that forests have to offer. I have been interested in the environmental consequences of forest loss from college days and I've always wanted to do as much as I can to contribute to their management expansion and protection. Although my career has taken some interesting turns, I always wanted to make the largest contribution I could to environmental protection with forest woods and trees at the heart of my concern.

What is your biggest contribution to Forest Enterprise England?

I hope it has been bringing the concept of multi-purpose forestry to life. The importance of the nation's forests was really bought out during the 'sell-off' row in 2011. It demonstrated to me that it was Forest Enterprise England (FEE)'s job to ensure that all of society was able to access and benefit from the public forests. With 226 million visits per year to the Forestry Commission sites in England, I think FEE is really delivering on that promise. I have also been very focused on making Forest Enterprise sustainable from its trading activity, FEE is getting closer to that each year and as long as the economy remains sound, I think that trend can continue.

What excites you most about taking the reins at FLS?

Forestry legislation doesn't come along very often, so the chance to be at the forefront of a new era for forestry in Scotland is very exciting. If you look at what Forestry Commission achieved over the last 100 years in expanding our forests, you've got to hope it can all be done again but in a 21st Century context. It's a great honour to have such a role.

Forest Enterprise Scotland, soon to be FLS, is the biggest individual supplier of wood in the UK. How do you see that role developing over the next 5-10 years?

We are a very important part of the timber supply market in the UK and I take that responsibility very seriously. The opportunity to grow our supply beyond its current level is limited by our capacity to expand our forest area, but I hope that will change over the coming years. The private sector supported by grants from Scottish Government/ Forestry Commission Scotland is doing a great job of increasing the forest cover in Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing's ambition is to keep that going and if possible increase it.

How will you ensure that FLS's responsibility for more than just forests will not result in a loss of focus on forestry and wood processing in Scotland?

The new organisation has been given a broader brief and we have a responsibility not only for the largest forest resource body in Scotland but also a large area of open land as well. Forest management, of course, remains at the core of what we do; however, FES, soon to be FLS, has long diversified into wider land management, renewables and recreation provision. Our responsibility to work with the sector to ensure a quality and consistent supply of timber to the market is undiminished; however, our responsibility is also to the people and visitors to Scotland who want to enjoy visiting their forests.

In the year of the centenary of the Forestry Act, what is it vital that we keep from the last 100 years of forestry in the UK, and what do we need to change?

The commitment to expand forest cover in Scotland, and in the UK, needs to stay. As one of the least forested countries in Europe, this must remain a priority. We will need to change our thinking and



How are you enjoying life in the north so far?

The welcome has been very warm and that has made settling in very easy. The genuine welcome and helpfulness of the Scottish Government and colleagues in FES, combined with the genuine commitment to work together to make Scotland a better place, is very energising.

Favourite film/ TV show?

Father Ted – without a doubt!

Favourite music?

Pretty varied to be honest but almost anything (with the exception of country and western!) that is well played I can enjoy in the right mood.

Favourite tree?

Scots Pine, as much on the Scottish hills as on the heaths of Dorset and Thetford.

Favourite forest walk?

The Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley.

Favourite holiday destination?

The Scilly Isles.

Favourite sport?

I'm a very keen cyclist: I was Chair of Bath Cycling Club in England and I've just joined the Ronde Club in Edinburgh

What advice would you give to someone starting out in a forestry career?

Make yourself useful in any capacity you can to gain experience, whether it's volunteering, office jobs, working with a contractor almost anything to get experience of the job on the ground. It will reward you when you come to take on more senior roles later.

Where do you see UK forestry in 30 years' time?

We are likely to see 1.5 degrees of warming by 2040, so I hope that by that time we will have developed more adaptable species to plant and more new techniques for managing forests in a warmer, windier, wetter climate. I think it is quite likely we will be growing trees in places that haven't been suitable for them for one or two thousand years. The world will be increasingly reliant on forests to help mitigate climate change, and I hope increased forest cover will be recognised as the most important mitigation we can make.

our practices as we learn more about climate change and the threat of pests and disease to our forest resources. This will be immensely challenging for foresters who have to work on long timescales and it seems that changes already evident in our environment are escalating ahead of the predictions of only a few years ago. We have a responsibility to use the best science and the best evidence to make the right judgements for the future.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing forestry in the UK, and how can we best tackle them?

Climate change, pests and diseases. Ensuring that people are able to use and enjoy our forests.

Increasing the volume of home-grown timber production and innovation in the

ways in which wood fibre can be used to provide society with the resources it needs. We also need to lock up carbon for the long term in timber products.

Tackling the challenge of safe working: a big one for the whole industry, which we need to get right.

What do you see as the biggest differences between forestry in Scotland and England?

In Scotland there is a very strong and welcome focus at government level on generating a regular and sustainable source of timber for the market: this is a stronger driver of policy than in England. There is also a strong Scottish Government and FLS commitment to on ensuring that all people can access forests for pleasure and recreation.

woodBUILD
 2019 | Conference & expo
 Prifysgol Bangor University • 26 June

BECOMING A HIGH-VALUE FOREST NATION

ORGANISED BY



KINDLY SPONSORED BY



SUPPORTED BY



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Expert speakers on forestry and timber construction
- The Big Debate: How can Wales become a high-value forest nation?
- Launch of timber construction case study exhibition
- Exhibition of timber solutions
- Updates on Home-Grown Homes Project
- Updates on Innovative Housing Programme

Quality, function, value and robust design.

Built-in as standard

Bomford Turner offer a range of flail mowers and rotary toppers from simple grounds-care machines to agricultural-industrial mowers for municipal and airport landscape maintenance.

Landscape

Forestry

Remote

Cultivation

Tel +44 (0) 1789 773383
 E-mail info@bomford-turner.com
 Website www.bomford-turner.com

Proven Landscape Technology

Follow us





CREDIT: SIDEWALK LABS TORONTO

Making the modern timber city

Peter Wilson, Timber Design Initiatives

It is instructive to look back over the past quarter century to see the extent to which the use of timber has impacted upon the UK construction industry during that period. Previously perceived as a low-value option for relatively small, domestic projects, timber has truly found its place in the design palette of architects and engineers seeking to deliver ever-larger commercial, public and residential projects. The transformation has been remarkable, driven in part by demographic change, environmental concerns, rising energy costs and the ongoing move to offsite manufacture (OSM). The combination has made new timber buildings no longer an unusual sight, so much so that the property development sector - often a fairly conservative grouping - has embraced wood to the point at which we are no longer looking at individual timber buildings lost amongst more traditionally-constructed edifices, but at entire city districts and even whole

towns fabricated from modern, engineered timber products and systems.

It is not only that significant numbers of architects and engineers have undergone a Damascene conversion to the use of timber. The continental manufacturing sector too looked into the future and saw opportunity to add value to over-production in the central Europe forest resource and to low-grade material through product innovation. In the space of 30 years, the capacity there to produce solid laminate timber systems such as cross laminated timber (CLT), Glulam, laminated veneered lumber (LVL) has grown exponentially and has expanded around the globe in response to construction industry demand. Everywhere, that is, except the UK, but more on that anon.

What has driven this ever-increasing demand? We can look back and identify a number of game-changing projects, many of which, paradoxically, are to be found in the UK. London, especially, not only provided the location for the Stadthaus, the first seriously tall, engineered timber residential project. Its

Continued on p25

Scotland sows the seed for homegrown timber housing



Christiane Lellig,
Wood for Good

Looking at the rural housing stock in Scotland, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd crossed the North Sea as the Scots embrace their Viking roots. Traditionally, Scottish homes were built using stone but this went into decline as more building materials became available. Now, 85% of all new homes in Scotland are built using wood. That's almost three times more than in England and Wales.

There are many reasons for this increase in popularity for building with timber. Firstly, the commitment to building timber houses has been driven by cross-party support from the Scottish Government, which last year pledged to plant 33 million trees by 2025. However, only a third of timber-built homes in Scotland are constructed using Scottish wood, so the aim is to increase the use of homegrown timber. Building with wood also offers a solution for climate change and offsite timber construction methods mean homes can be built more quickly.

Embracing offsite construction
Offsite timber construction is growing in Scotland with a market value of around £250 million. This has led to the establishment of co-operative Offsite Solutions Scotland, which brings together a mix of modular and timber frame manufacturers, sustainably-conscious architects, Edinburgh Napier University, the Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and Scottish Enterprise. All have the same goal of using the best in timber offsite solutions to transform homes and communities in Scotland.

Leading the way for timber modular housing in Scotland, and one of the one of the founding companies of Offsite Solutions Scotland, is designer and manufacturer, Carbon Dynamic. The company is committed to creating low energy, warm and beautiful homes created from locally-sourced and sustainable timber. Using timber frame and cross-laminated timber (CLT), the shells of the homes are manufactured in Carbon Dynamic's factory and transported to site to be erected in half the time a traditional

build would take.

The company specifies timber such as Douglas fir or larch and all windows are manufactured by a local Scottish manufacturer, Treecraft Woodwork. While local wood is used where possible, modified wood is also a popular choice due to its durability, a must with the harsh wind and rain conditions that many of the homes are subject to.

Innovating the traditional

It's no secret that Scotland has some extreme weather, especially in the Highlands, so houses need to be made with highly durable materials with impressive thermal properties. Also based in Inverness, fellow member of Offsite Solutions Scotland, design and build company Makar is well aware of this. Makar is a sustainability-conscious organisation and believes a home should be healthy too. Therefore, its construction material of choice is wood.

Wood used in buildings is known to improve indoor air quality, lower heartbeat rates for inhabitants and there's a perception of decreased stress levels too.



Wood used in buildings is known to improve indoor air quality, lower heartbeat rates for inhabitants and there's a perception of decreased stress levels too.

Makar admits to being inspired by European alpine countries and Makar-built homes are a nod to Scotland's topography using timber such as Douglas fir, Scots pine, Scottish-grown larch and Sitka spruce. Passionate about timber innovation, Makar has adapted local timber to create solid timber panels and modified timber.

Building a new 'forest culture'
Scotland is making the most of its abundance of timber and is taking this natural building material into the 21st century. So, what is the secret to Scotland's success and how can the rest of the UK follow suit?

Using land for forestry in Scotland is popular; even farmers have dedicated some of their land to woodland as it can be more profitable than rearing livestock. This enables Scotland to grow its own building materials and create jobs, a win-win for the local economy. This is fostering a new 'forest culture' that could be welcomed anywhere in the UK where land is suitable for growing trees.

Campaigns such as Grown in Britain are helping to support woods and forests and their supply chains in England and Wales. TV programme *Countryfile* and newspaper *The Guardian* have dedicated

Estate leads the way in using its own timber

airtime and column inches to raising the profile of forestry in England and Wales, but commitment from the UK Government remains weak. However, the Welsh Government recognises the benefit to the local economy and Powys County Council has pledged that all new council house projects should consider wood first, looking to local suppliers. This is further encouraged by the publication of the Welsh Government's *Branching Out* report, published last year with plans to increase woodland in Wales.

England has shown some promise following the planting of more than 200,000 trees at the Lowther Estate in Cumbria, one of the largest schemes in the country. Assisted by lobbying from Confor, the forest has also created more jobs. Another success story, also lobbied by Confor, is Doddington Moor in Northumberland. This is the largest project in England in 30 years and it is hoped will spur on many more. Since its establishment in 1995, The National Forest in the Midlands has grown and the area has benefited from job creation, increased woodland skills and a lower carbon economy.

While Scotland is leading on innovation in timber housing, with the right levels of support and commitment, these solutions can easily be applied throughout the UK. It's time for more homegrown homes in England.

This article was published on the Wood for Good website in November 2018. Wood for Good is the timber industry's campaign to promote use of wood in design and construction and is part owned by Confor.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



Find all links mentioned in text
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb



The Caretaker's House at Hooke Park is truly ground breaking. Invisible Studio were commissioned by the Architectural Association to develop a student schematic design into a prototypical low cost timber exemplar building using only timber grown and felled on site, and in its green state.

Piers Taylor, ARB RIBA Architect at Invisible Studio, explains: "Hooke Park is a 400acre woodland in Dorset. Estate forester Chris Sadd felled the timber as part of their forest management plan.

The species used for the building were spruce for protected cladding and studwork, larch for exposed cladding, Douglas fir for structural beams/posts and the kitchen, and poplar for stairs and floor. It was milled onsite using a Woodmizer. We do use homegrown timber on a regular basis - often grown and milled on site. I'm really interested in using homegrown timber and designing accordingly, rather than always importing timber."

www.invisiblestudio.org

Continued from p23

nine-storey CLT structure completed in 2008 was the impetus for a wave of higher and higher proposals around the world that, in terms of completed buildings, recently reached some 81 metres (over 265 feet) in the 18-storey Mjøstårnet tower, a mixed use development in Norway that opened in early March this year. Elsewhere around Europe, projects either in planning or construction range in height from 20-35 storeys whilst structural options for even taller timber buildings continue to be explored.

The pressure to build is immense. UN figures anticipate that the world's population will have increased from 7.6 billion in 2017 to 11.2 billion by 2100, resulting in the need to build almost two billion new homes in a mere 80 years. In the inevitable expansion of existing towns and cities and the creation of new ones, however, it is not only housing that needs to be provided. Urban developments embrace a wide range of building types, of which nearly fifty different examples (e.g. commercial, cultural, education, government, healthcare, leisure, public, recreation, religious, retail and transportation) can - and indeed have been - constructed from timber.

The issue is not whether a complete city of timber buildings could be built - it can - but where we might see the beginnings of large-scale movement away from non-renewable materials. The most recent proposal likely to be viewed with hindsight as a significant game-changer for the timber industry is in Toronto, where Sidewalk Labs is developing part of the waterfront for Alphabet, Google's parent company and employing leading architects such as Canada's Michael Green, Norway's Snøhetta and the UK's Thomas Heatherwick to design the many timber buildings required in this project.

In post-Grenfell UK, the current impetus is, for understandable reasons, decidedly different, but the pressure to build quickly and accurately from renewable materials is highly unlikely to diminish. At some point, government, together with the forestry and timber processing/manufacturing sectors as well as the construction industry will need to address a hard fact: the UK urgently needs to plant more trees that, on maturity, can be engineered into high added-value products from which our cities can, in the future, be formed or retrofitted. Engineered timber design and construction is now an international reality, and investment in advanced design and fabrication technology that makes best use of our home-grown resource is needed now if our industry is to begin to catch up with developments elsewhere and benefit from an unprecedented demand that can only continue to grow.

Peter Wilson is an architect and managing director of Edinburgh-based Timber Design Initiatives Ltd. The company provides continuing professional education in all aspects of timber design and construction for architects and engineers through its conferences, seminars, workshops, exhibitions and publications, as well as initiating projects that demonstrate and test innovation in the use of timber products and systems.

High season for promoting timber in construction



Wood for Good

2019 is likely to be the busiest year ever for the timber industry's campaign to promote use of wood in design and construction.

Timber as a design and construction material is gaining unprecedented levels of popularity with architects, engineers and their clients and there is reason for this.

Wellbeing, indoor air quality and use of healthy building materials are increasingly important topics in design and construction of office buildings, schools and residential developments. The health benefits of wood attract many designers to this naturally beneficial material.

The latest IPCC report adds unprecedented urgency to making a low-carbon future happen. Wood's potential to capture and store carbon from tree to finished building and beyond is making timber a first-choice material for those with a carbon-conscience.

In addition, the discussion around construction and the circular economy has gained significant momentum and was a key topic at this year's Futurebuild exhibition and conference. The circularity of wood products and structural timber systems place the forest-based economy as a core component to the future built environment.

Wood for Good are supporting this agenda with our core activities, presence at trade shows and monthly newsletters to our key audiences of architects, engineers, local authorities, housing associations and commercial developers.

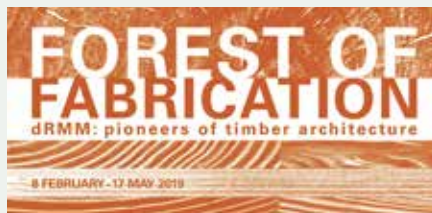
Wood for Good is the timber industry's campaign to promote use of wood in design and construction. The campaign's objective is to make wood a first choice material for specifiers and designers by demonstrating what you can do with wood. Wood for Good is part-owned by Confor.

www.woodforgood.com

Forest of Fabrication

From February to May The Building Centre in London present engineered timber as a defining material of 21st Century architecture through the lens of dRMM architects. The exhibition showcases the technology enabling quicker off-site fabrication methods, analyse the commercial argument for cross laminated timber and celebrate the craft and beauty of exposed timber in contemporary architecture.

A programme of talks and lectures explores the opportunities and challenges of designing timber structures. As headline sponsors we are using the exhibition to reach relevant audiences in the Social Housing, Build to Rent and Custom Build markets and are organising two breakfast seminars on modular construction and durability of engineered timber solutions.



Timber Design Pioneers

A collection of interviews with pioneering teams that highlights the potential for timber from the perspective of different members of the project team, as well as the value of collaborative working to achieve innovative solutions. The publication was launched at Futurebuild; interviews and case studies are available for download from TRADA's website.

WoodFest

Our new format to feature wood in design and construction in a specific city or region during a dedicated time period. Each WoodFest aims to create momentum for timber design and provide a platform for businesses from forestry to homes. Activities include talks and panel discussions on topical issues, exhibitions on Modern Timber Design, factory tours, and site visits with architects.

First WoodFests took place in Newcastle in December 2018 and Sheffield



in February 2019. By collaborating with regional organisations and built environment professionals WoodFest gets timber in the media and helps us put timber and related industries in the limelight.

As part of WoodFest Reading we will be running events in collaboration with the university of Reading throughout May, including a live-build with Piers Taylor and accompanying seminar programme around the topic of 'Engaging with Communities'.

In collaboration with the National Forest Company and James Lathams we will create a programme of events in the West and East Midlands in September. As always, we will tie this in with TRADA's university engagement programme and bring in architects, engineers, developers and their consultants.

Study trip for French architects

Not part of WoodFest, but relevant for a forest-based economy: Together with French forest organisation Abibois we are bringing a group of 35 architects and housing providers from Brittany to Scotland in early October. The aim of the study trip is to showcase Scotland's timber economy, innovation in timber construction and how it relates to housing delivery.

NORWOOD
SAWMILLS



GREAT SAWMILLS, GREAT VALUE

Find out how your Norwood will work for you
Contact your local dealer:-

GLOBAL
RECYCLING

Tel: 01476 568384

Web: www.globalrecycling.eu

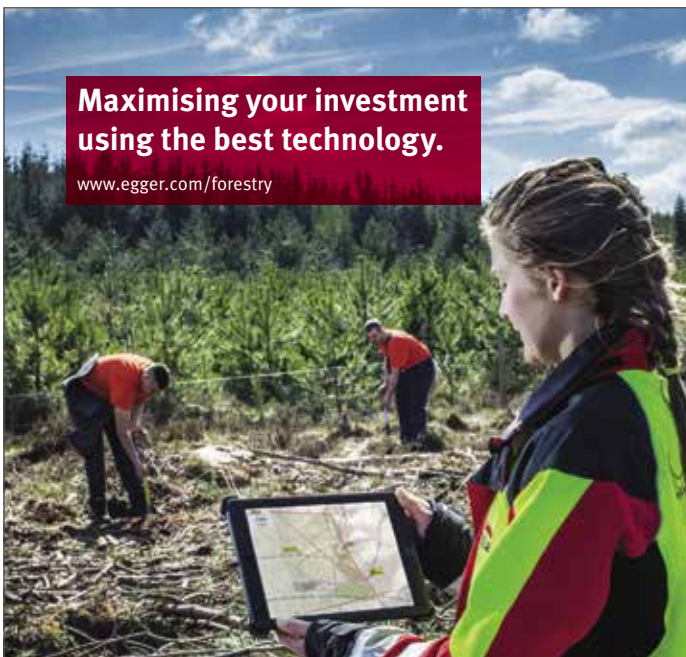
or www.norwoodsawmills.com

Email: sales@globalrecycling.eu



Maximising your investment
using the best technology.

www.egger.com/forestry



Whatever your reason for owning a forest – we understand that you need to make the most of it. Through our **efficient, straightforward and professional management** service we use the **best technology** to proactively identify opportunities to truly develop your woodland for the long-term. Why not call us on **T 01434 611038** to discuss your needs.

MORE FROM WOOD.



www.echo-tools.co.uk



WORKS AS HARD AS YOU DO

When you've hauled yourself all the way up that tree, you need a top handle chainsaw that won't stop until the work is done – one you can depend on for your living. The CS-2511TES is ECHO's lightest, most compact saw. Packed with useful features it's powerful, easy-to-use and highly manoeuvrable. And to show that you really can depend on ECHO, every chainsaw comes with a **2 YEAR WARRANTY**

DEPEND ON IT



Confidence wanes in a period of uncertainty



TIMBER AUCTIONS MARKET REPORT
Oliver Combe
Timber Auctions

Externally, the domestic market is now starting to feel the impact of the slowdown in the US and China, most noticeably in the carcassing and pallet wood sectors where producers are placing stock into the UK to compensate for reduced sales.

Brexit is going to have an impact:

- The political uncertainty seems to be reducing the confidence of companies to invest.
- There is increasing uncertainty in the currency markets.
- What tariffs will be levied on timber in the new trading agreement
- How border checks and cargo documentation will be handled post Brexit

The net outcome is increasing uncertainty and reduced confidence especially in markets like timber which are dominated by imported goods.

Carcassing timber

Swedish kiln dried C24 material is now readily available from importers at prices that are very competitive against the UK producers. This is leading to reduced demand and we the potential for price reductions as stock levels start to build. The Baltic mills are also starting to place C16 kiln dried material on the UK market in direct competition with the UK mills.

Spruce saw log supplies have improved

over the last six months and prices have started to ease back by between £5 and £10 per tonne, although the last round of Forestry Commission tenders has only seen very modest falls in roadside log prices.

Mixed conifer logs are also plentiful and we are now seeing price reductions in these categories.

Pallet and packaging

The pallet wood market remains reasonably strong; however, there are now “offers” available on narrow boards and block wood, a situation that we have not seen for 18 months. Some producers are seeing build ups of slower moving product lines and are now taking a much more pragmatic approach to pricing. The pallet and packaging mills have really been squeezed over the last 18 months by the saw log mills and the small roundwood processors: they have had to endure restricted supply and high log prices and any reductions in their finished product prices will be damaging to their businesses.

It should also be noted that pallet manufacturers are concerned if we crash out with no deal:

- Third country status means that UK/EU trade where timber is used as a carrier (pallet, box, drum etc) would be subject to ISPM 15 plant health requirements (ie required to be heat treated or kiln dried) This would apply to traffic in each direction across the Channel.
- Approximately 75% of pallets are not heat treated, including the pool pallets. There is no surplus capacity in the industry if this were to happen. Now, the pallet confederation Timcon



and their European counterparts Fefpeb have had single and joint discussions with Defra and their EU counterparts.

Everyone recognised a) that risk is very low and b) authorities won't be able to inspect every single consignment carried on/in timber. However, it is one of these issues that if anyone decided to play strictly by the rules, it would wreak havoc on trade.

Fencing and landscaping

The fencing market has had a very brisk start to the year due to the dry winter and excellent weather in February with some mills reporting gaps in the yard and re-

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

| Product | Lower price | Upper price | Trend |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Log 18 | £75.00 | £90.00 | = ↓ |
| Bar 14 | £60.00 | £70.00 | = ↓ |
| SRW | £50.00 | £60.00 | = |
| Fencing | £50.00 | £60.00 | = |
| H Wood firewood | £65.00 | £75.00 | ↑ |

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

| Product | Lower price | Upper price | Trend |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------|
| Log 18 | £75.00 | £85.00 | = ↓ |
| Bar / pallet 14 | £50.00 | £70.00 | = ↓ |
| SRW | £45.00 | £55.00 | = |
| Fencing | £50.00 | £55.00 | = |
| H Wood firewood | £50.00 | £60.00 | |



GLOBAL TRENDS

Globally, the sawn timber market appears to be coming back into balance with supplies having increased and demand stabilising.

The global economic outlook remains positive and all the forecasts indicate that timber consumption will continue to increase.

However, in the short term, there are some stormy waters to navigate through.

The US market went through a noticeable slowdown in late 2018 and although there has been a modest rally in early 2019 prices are still some way off their peak in early summer 2018.

This has made the US a less attractive market for European and Scandinavian timber which in turn has meant more timber being pushed in to Europe and the UK at lower prices. A very modest upturn in the strength of the pound has also encouraged importers back into the UK market.

China has also seen a modest slowdown in timber imports which has in turn taken heat out of the market.

Increased supplies in central Europe as a result of storm damage and beetle

infestation has led to a noticeable decrease in roundwood prices in the catchment area for the large German and Austrian mills.

They in turn have ramped up production of sawn softwood including pallet wood and have begun to displace the Baltic mills who in turn have started to bring material into the UK again.

So, import levels of Scandinavian and European carcassing as well as Baltic pallet wood have increased noticeably at the start of 2019 and put pressure on both prices and demand levels for the UK producers.

The key question is how long this situation will continue; the lower roundwood prices in Central Europe and based on a glut of storm and beetle damaged timber, the clean up effort is well under way and this may not be a long-term problem. Timber prices remain high in Scandinavia so producers are very aware of the need to maintain selling prices and appear to be using the UK as a release valve to move surplus stock until other global markets improve.

stricted availability of prime fencing sizes such as posts, rails and wide boards.

The price increases of the last 18 months have certainly increased supplies of roundwood for the fencing mills in the west and north but the situation on the east coast remains much tighter.

With the currently high log prices all sawmills will be looking to reduce roundwood prices as soon as they see their yards filling up and their bought ahead situation improving.

10% reductions seem to be in the offing, but is there enough supply for this to happen in the medium term?

Spruce supplies have certainly improved but redwood (larch and Douglas fir) is still in short supply in central and south England and across into Wales.

Availability is currently good but there still remains concern about the available volumes for early summer.

Small Roundwood

The insatiable demand for small roundwood does at last appear to be slackening off, prices of £50 roadside and £60 per tonne delivered have opened the gates again of private woodlands and led to increased supply. The backlog of felling licences has worked through and although

there appears to be more timber coming to the market, much of it is smaller scale mixed woodland with low stocking rates and of variable form and often with difficult working so in most cases timber comes out slowly.

Whilst many processors have now managed to build stock in their yards and some are even looking at restricting deliveries their bought forward position is still weak and this is maintaining prices at current levels for lower grade material.

The strong availability of cheap roundwood in central Europe has seen board prices fall in Europe and made it more attractive to import board than push production in the UK. It is likely that the major board producers will slow UK production down and import material from their European plants as long as this situation lasts and try to get their roundwood prices under control.

The sheer diversity of demand is a key factor here in maintaining prices and although we may see a softening of prices by 10% in the short term it is difficult to see that supply can continue to keep up with demand unless prices hold.

Timber availability

The high prices have been a huge boost

to the economics of woodland ownership especially in the larger more easily worked blocks where the economies of scale come into play.

It is in the smaller mixed woodlands where there is still more volume to come to market but it is a difficult and lengthy process getting it harvested. Contractor resource is a key issue; whilst there are plenty of harvester forwarder gangs there is a shortage of good chainsaw operators and machinery for working in the more challenging sites.

The upturn in the small roundwood market is key to making these sites viable but we really need the prices to hold up together with the saw log and firewood prices so that the contractor resource can gear up for these difficult sites.

Hardwood saw logs

After the excitement of the autumn there does appear to be some sanity returning to the oak saw log prices. The Westonbirt hardwood auction in November saw record prices for some three exceptional parcels of planking grade oak in Northants. £520 m³, £18.50 hft (twice) is a truly remarkable price level. A bit of investigation reveals two sawmills with very low stocks and a poor bought ahead situation getting 'auction fe-

>>



Roadside hardwood prices (£ hft) March 2019

| | Oak planking | Oak beam | Oak fencing | Oak cordwood | Export ash & beech | White ash sawlogs | Export sycamore | 1st grade firewood |
|------------|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| High price | £13.00 | £11.00 | £6.00 | £1.50 | £3.25 | £4.50 | £5.00 | £2.60 |
| Mid price | £11.00 | £9.00 | £5.00 | £1.25 | £2.75 | £4.00 | £4.00 | £2.25 |
| Low price | £9.00 | £7.00 | £4.00 | £1.00 | £2.00 | £3.00 | £3.00 | £2.00 |

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

>> ver' and trying to see each other out of the market!

Whilst oak saw log supplies have increased in the southwest and west of England there still appears to be a shortage down the east coast and prices remain very strong

Currently, good quality French oak is being delivered into the UK for around £350m³, £12.50hft, this will take some of the heat out of the prices for beam oak although there is still good demand for better UK planking and larger beam oak logs.

Beech saw log prices have firmed as the 'exporters' have begun to take an interest in this species and draw material away from the domestic mills, good quality white beech is fetching £3 to £3.50 hft at roadside (£80 to £90 per tonne).

Ash supplies have increased considerably as growers begin to take steps to reduce the impact of Chalara, whilst export ash prices remain around £2 to £3 hft there is still domestic demand for really good quality planning ash at prices of £4 to £6 hft.

Poplar demand is mainly for export and when coupled with the biomass user's ap-

petite for poplar chip wood this had encouraged owners to get on and fell poplar.

Firewood

Shortage of supply has driven firewood to record levels with £65 per tonne at roadside and £75 per tonne delivered being achieved in some hotspots, sometimes more, yet there still seems to be a shortage of material.

The mild winter has reduced demand but stocks throughout the supply chain remain very low as a result of reduced hardwood harvesting activity last year and it will require a noticeable increase in harvesting activity to build stocks up to a sensible level.

The falling price of heating oil, availability of imported firewood and the current domestic price ceiling of £100 per loose m³ for dry hardwood logs would lead one to think that the firewood price is at or very close to its peak and once supply increases it should stabilise.

It will be interesting to see if the insatiable demand for industrial biofuel starts to compete with the firewood sector or will new harvesting and recovery methods de-

velop to better utilise the tops and branch wood that the firewood sector currently does not use.

Most of the easily worked and accessible prime firewood stands have been worked already and with most hardwood species it is only realistic to thin once every ten years. We have had the "feast" and worked all the material that is genuinely available to the market and are now facing the famine as we wait for these stands to put on increment for the next thinning intervention or for the owner to decide to clear fell.

To bring extra volume to the market will involve working smaller more difficult stands, less desirable species mixes and producing a greater spread of assortments, fortunately the strong market for chipped biofuel makes this more commercially viable than ever before.

The current market is a great opportunity for owners to bring woodlands into management and improve crops as well as demonstrating "commercial activity" in their woodlands.

Compartments that have previously been unviable due to difficult working conditions, long extraction or poor crops are now an area of opportunity.

Summary

It would appear that across all sectors the market has peaked and that we are now in for three to six months of stabilisation if all external factors remain the same.

Whilst there appears to be a softening of the market in Scotland and Borders where supply of timber is more in balance with demand there still remain concerns over availability in England and Wales. We are now seeing the "spring rush to the market" but will there be enough and what will be left to work in winter 2019/20?

Brexit remains the big unknown, a lengthy delay in the process or a second referendum could lead to a strengthening of the pound by 10 to 15% which would then start to impact on domestic timber prices.

Hopefully "Felling licences online" will be user friendly, efficient and will speed the felling licence process up so we do not experience the horrendous backlogs of last year again.

We shall wait and see!

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 for free independent marketing advice.



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood

WOODLAND SHOW

5th-6th SEPTEMBER

2019

LONGLEAT ESTATE

SAVE THE DATE!

For details of how the Confor Woodland Show can work for you, call Laura on 01502 725866 or Chloe on 01502 725844

Plans are well underway for the 2019 Confor Woodland Show on 05/06 September. Once again, it will take place on the historic Longleat estate.

As the show grows in size and stature, organisers are investing in the site to make traffic movement easier for exhibitors – whatever the weather. A track is being laid diagonally across the arena and a one-way system established to avoid bottlenecks.

Improvements to the infrastructure has also enabled some additional stand space to be created in both the arena and woodland demo area. There will be opportunities for bigger exhibition stands to accommodate even the largest machinery.

Environmental challenges – in the UK and globally – will be central to Confor’s activities at the show. The seminar programme currently being planned will reflect how the sector can contribute towards mitigating against climate change through increased planting.

The economic and political challenges that follow Brexit will also be on the agenda and it is hoped that high profile politicians will attend and take part in the discussions.

The show’s role as a forum for debate has never been more crucial and it is anticipated that this – as well as growing numbers of exhibitors – will attract more attendees across the two-day event.

Alternating each year with APF, in 2019 the show will be the year’s primary forestry and woodland event. Although bookings for stand space are already up on previous years, there are still some premium pitches available.

Looking south as market springs into action



FOREST MARKET REPORT

Tanya Gato,
John Clegg & Co

The forestry market in the southern half of the UK is notable for the variety of its properties. There is something for most tastes and budgets, from commercial lowland pine, upland spruce, and attractive broadleaved woodlands of all shapes and sizes.

The last 12 months have seen continuing demand in all categories, but a spike in interest on the more commercial properties, along with strong and high-speed bidding, is a new feature. Against a backdrop of an increase in timber prices of around 30%, this is a logical market response, which was felt particularly in the second half of last year. As an example, Twelvemans Plantation in Devon, a 59ha woodland comprising mixed aged Sitka spruce and 49 or so hectares of bare land, originally guided at £1.05m, sold for well in excess of the revised guide of £1.3m at a closing date; excluding the bare land and un-plantable ground, the guide figure was revised upwards from £1558 to £1794 per stocked hectare.

This trend has been illustrated further during the last two months with sales agreed on other commercial properties, including Cockley Moor, Cumbria, 44ha, (guide £490,000; £1824/ha); Plas Esgair, Powys, 75ha, (guide £800,000; £4326/acre); Cwm-Byr, Powys, 73ha (guide £640,000; £1444/ha), all sold well in excess of their guide prices.

Similarly, the market appears to have woken up to the potential capital growth available in restock land and the younger forestry crops with values in the range £1000-£1300/ha being achieved. Three examples are Pennal Forest in Gwynedd, comprising 78 acres of young restock crops all under 10 years old, guided at £916/ha; Cym Yr Ychen, 102 acres in Powys, guided at £2871/acre and Ulpha Park Plantation in Cumbria, 29ha comprising almost entirely crops under five years old, guided at £907/ha, all receiving final offers above guide price.

Softwood crops continue to outperform their hardwood equivalents in most woodland size categories, bar the very smallest woodlands where affordability for entry

level buyers and amenity drivers come into play. As ever, privacy and isolation are key attributes sought by purchasers in broadleaved and amenity woodlands. Heavy public use has a marked negative effect on price and saleability on even the most attractive properties. Conversely, scenic woodlands, where owners will be able to have quiet enjoyment, are still attracting a premium. A prime example in the past few months is that of Walcot Wood in Shropshire, an attractive mixed woodland comprising around 26 acres, set in an historic landscape. The final selling price achieved was substantially above the guide of £2164/ha, illustrating that well cared for properties in good locations, can hold their own on capital values against the commercial holdings.

A few new developments and market drivers have underpinned a buoyant southern property market in the past 12 months. The commissioning of the Estover CHP plant in Kent in the summer of 2018 has undoubtedly introduced competition and increased prices for lower grade timber of all species. This is especially beneficial to broadleaved woodlands, creating an outlet for material which might previously have been unsaleable or harvested at a loss. In turn this offers woodland owners opportunities to remove and replace underperforming crops and improve crop quality by thinning, both of which benefit capital values.

Improvements in haulage logistics in the harder to reach parts of the country appear

to be feeding into improved timber prices in the south west. As a result, the property market in Devon and Cornwall, which has previously lagged behind the rest of the southern market on values, has improved noticeably. Ausewell Wood, a substantial property of 138ha, combining mature commercial crops, young crops for capital growth, native woodland and a scenic setting on the banks of the River Dart in Devon attracted bids at a closing date in excess of £2m, well above its guide price of £1.7m.

We note with interest that Forestry Commission England appears to have returned to acquisition mode, although in the current fast-moving commercial market, where some sales are being agreed in under four weeks, it may be difficult for them to place competitive bids quickly enough to gain a foothold.

A new dimension to the forest market is farms with permissions in place for large-scale planting, a market segment which, in England and Wales, had previously seen almost no activity for the past 20 or so years. Barriers to new planting are starting to be addressed by the regulatory authorities; the appointment in late 2018 of a forestry investment zone manager in the borderlands of Cumbria may be a sign that the FC, Natural England and the Environment Agency are genuinely seeking to streamline the planting application process while balancing the needs of wildlife and community. The success or otherwise of the two-year pilot may unblock the log-jam, enabling forestry investors to take up the government's challenge to step up tree planting in England, or will highlight the difficulties of reconciling competing land use objectives on this crowded island. Either way it should be welcomed as a positive statement of intent.

www.johnclegg.co.uk



Walcot Wood, Shropshire

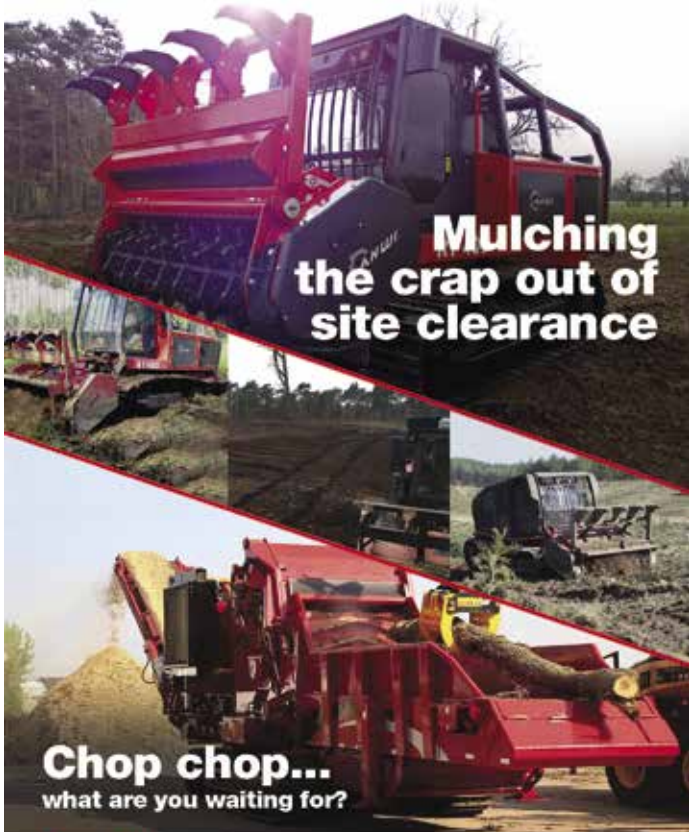
Protect yourself
your machinery and the environment
in one easy change



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



Mulching the crap out of site clearance

Chop chop...
what are you waiting for?

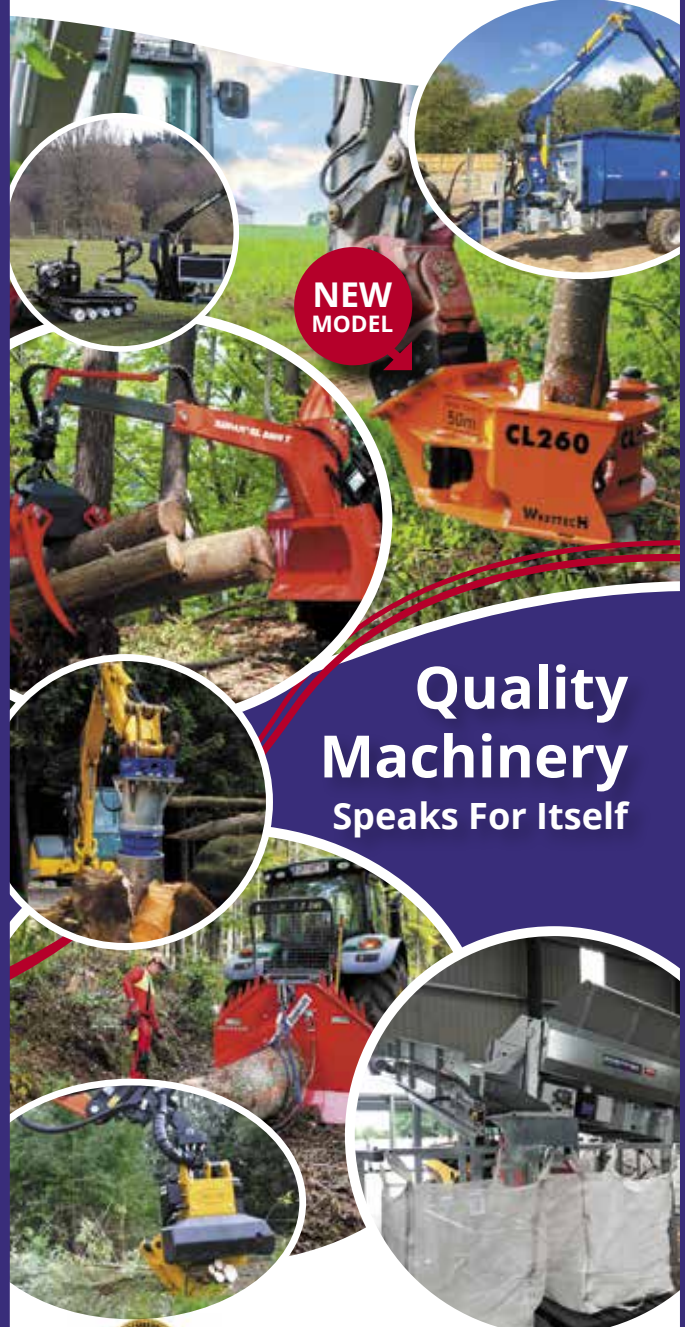
Book the best today

enquiries@kingwell-holdings.co.uk
Tel: 01376 550989
www.kingwell-holdings.co.uk

KINGWELL HOLDINGS LIMITED



MARSHALL
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING



NEW MODEL

Quality Machinery
Speaks For Itself



www.marshalllogging.co.uk

tel: 01892 770788 • mob: 07836 274164
email: sales@marshalllogging.co.uk

Hardwood follows softwood trends



TIMBER MARKET REPORT
Tim Leavers,
Euroforest

In my early days as a harvesting manager with Forest Thinnings, I remember being told that hardwood timber trading was a 'dark art' that those who practiced it were magicians in comparison to the softwood traders. Facing the challenge of uncovering these hidden practices, I decided, therefore, that reporting on the hardwood market might be less demanding and more helpful than trying to second guess now, what will be known, (by those of you reading this) about the 'final' outcome of the Brexit negotiations.

The hardwood market appears to have many similarities to the current softwood situation. The overall picture is one of rising demand, strong order books, reduced supply and improved prices. This is set against a global background, with the flow of wood inexorably moving east and south from Europe, coming to rest in the growing economies and populations of Asia and the Middle East.

Oak

With limited quantities of good quality oak coming from home grown sources and only then at what appear inflated prices, processors are feeding a strong customer demand, for oak frame buildings, furniture and joinery, with second lengths of French oak. With the barrel stave market buoyant, in France, volumes harvested reducing, the UK can compete for the rest against a lively market for sawn cants to Asia.

As a forester said to me this week 'The English oak is a little like our aging population, still hanging on longer than ever, extremely valued by some of the family, and neglected by others.' The value of healthy oak has resolutely kept pace with inflation. There remain many significant stands of late Victorian oak available in the UK to satisfy the 75,000m³ market but the reticence in bringing it to market is there, for

a number of reasons, but remains the owner's prerogative to choose to sell or not. Financial return is not a driver for everyone. Quality English oak will always find a market, but the small local market, just down the road, one day, might no longer be there if starved of supplies.

Ash

The demand in UK terms from the sawmills is finite, with adequate volumes of ash available to keep it sated. Some early excitement over thermally modified ash, thus increasing demand, has calmed and found a place in the market, an excellent product, but not with the sales anticipated at its introduction. As one importer said, "Ash just doesn't seem to spark the public appetite as much as oak, it's take-up as a cheap alternative for interior purposes doesn't look like happening any time soon". Asian demand for UK ash is ongoing, containers are leaving the UK bound for the Middle East, India and Vietnam on a regular basis. Export prices remain fairly static, but the underpinning of the ash log price by a strong demand for processible firewood, provides a base that is a starting point in any negotiation. Ash dieback (*Chalara*) is with us. The expectation from all the pundits is a widespread resurgence of the disease this spring. The resulting influx of timber can be absorbed by the export market; but the ash logs must be felled while the quality remains.

Beech

I will never forget standing, with John Workman, on his estate near Stroud gazing at the magnificent maturing beech soon to be felled for furniture production here in the UK. What of the market and what about beech? The furniture is now manufactured on the other side of the world and limited quantities of roundwood are sent there from the UK. The export price is being pushed up by firewood with a limited interest in the logs here in the UK, but

with some potential for further price rises throughout the year. The future of quality beech logs on these islands is inextricably woven into the tale of the grey squirrel!

Poplar

Poplar packed into containers (4-10.5m x 35cm minimum mid-diameter), is also finding a resting place in the Far East. The shortage of supply and insatiable demand for home grown conifer logs means that poplar is bought as a low-grade substitute for pallet and packaging. However, the hottest market for poplar is as biomass, where merchants are putting and selling all grades together. Moisture contents are an issue, but the rapid price increase, for logs, suggests that keeping the home fires burning, is driving up the value of poplar logs too.

Small roundwood

Firewood prices are inexplicably high, a warm wet winter following late autumn sunshine. Then the prospect of an abundance of ash for those who are prepared to wait. None of this should lead to a high firewood price. There is some indication merchants are forward buying in preparation for threatened changes to the regulations over seasoned wood. Firewood prices may well fall as the ash finds its way to the market. Firewood continues to be very species specific with limitations on size imposed by processing machines. Biomass demand is growing, bolstered by government incentive schemes.

Contrastingly, not fussy about quality and widespread across the UK, all manner of species in naturally sculptured shapes, is being fed into chippers. Neglected and undermanaged woodlands are opening up in response to the better than ever returns. These strong prices and the year round demand all help to provide an encouraging prospect for the hardwood market.

www.euroforest.co.uk



Forecasts reinforce case for planting

Stuart Goodall reports from
Timber Trade Federation UK
Softwood Conference

Forecast UK consumption for 2019
Low growth now, but an optimistic future ahead was the headline message coming from TTF's UK Softwood Conference in London on 06 March, which examined the UK, European and global market for timber.

Speakers forecast a modest increase in UK softwood consumption in 2019 based on estimated growth (by Construction Products Association) in housing starts of 2.4% and GDP growth of 1.4%. If correct, housing starts in 2019 would be approaching pre-recession levels.

UK disposable income is forecast to be flat at 0%, which alongside weak consumer and business confidence indicates zero growth in the repair, maintenance and improvement (RMI) sector – a key market for home-grown softwood in the UK.

Total UK softwood consumption for 2019 is forecast to rise 2.7% to 10.27million m³. A shade lower than 2017, but the second best year in the last decade.

The European and global perspective

As the second largest net importer of timber in the world, what happens overseas affects the price and availability of softwood in the UK. Looking ahead it is a mixed picture – stable demand in Europe, slowing economic growth in China and potential growth in USA housing starts which would likely draw in timber imports from Europe.

There is general optimism that growing awareness of the attractiveness of timber in

the fight against climate change will drive future consumption, including in China. However, Olle Berg, Head of Marketing and Business Development at Setra Group questioned whether the global economic cycle was set to peak, thereby presenting a contrasting indicator for future growth.

Berg noted that timber production is high in all countries and global softwood consumption is at an all-time high. Chinese consumption has grown by 40million m³ since 2007 within total global consumption of 350million m³.

European supply and consumption (including exports to the rest of the World) is forecast to remain largely in balance in 2019. The only development of note is a recent trend where wood has been regaining lost market share to concrete and steel in construction. This has been particularly notable in higher rise buildings, with Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) seeing significant growth.

The USA went from two million housing starts a year before the recession to 450,000 afterwards. In 2019 the forecast is for 1.4million starts against an underlying demand of 1.8million starts. European imports are forecast to increase by 400,000 m³ to 1.9million m³. Given that British Co-

lumbia's (BC) pest ravaged production is declining, if USA housing starts grow beyond 2019 to 1.6-1.8million then it won't be able to suck in volumes from Canada as it has in the past. BC represents 45% of Canadian production and 85% of its exports.

It was noted that South-East USA production is increasing but its species supply other markets – outdoor not construction.

The increasingly important Asian market, especially China, was described as 'tricky' in 2018. In Q3 and Q4 there was over-supply and stocks building in the ports. Although GDP growth is falling (and sceptics believe the GVA figures are exaggerated anyway), looking forward there is some optimism because of growing interest in building with wood due to its carbon benefits and suitability for prefabrication.

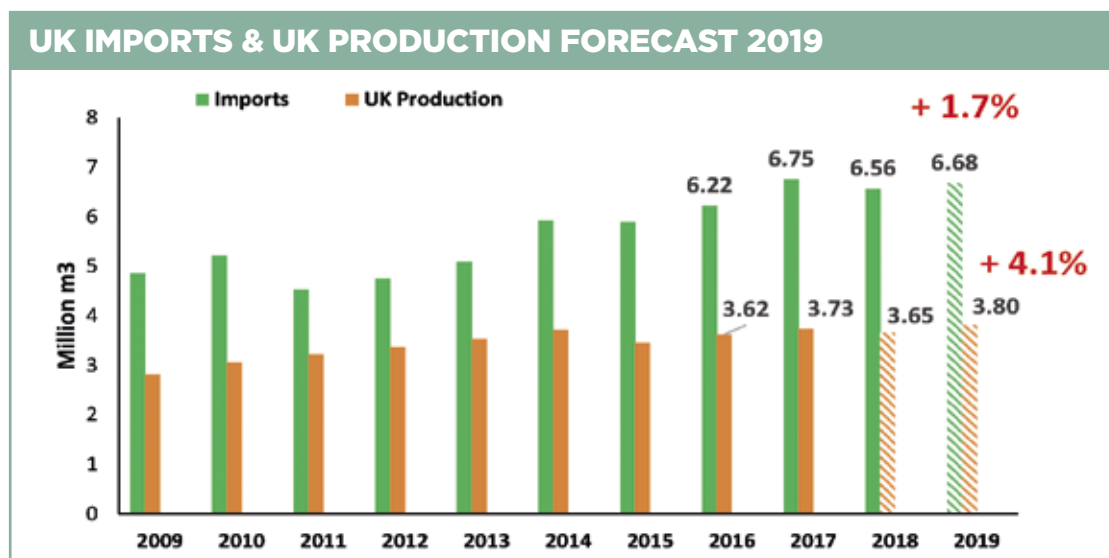
The age profile in China is turning (predicted to peak around 2028), which will impact on future demand and on costs of production – China is no longer a guaranteed source of low-cost labour, that 'role' will increasingly go to Asian neighbours such as Vietnam.

Longer-term, the global outlook is favourable. In the past, wood has lost ground to other materials and consumption per capita has dropped, but that's changed over the last five years. Per capita consumption is increasing globally with the carbon benefits of timber being seen as a key driver.

So, no reason to hang out new bunting this year, but certainly strong reasons to keep investing in planting and woodland management for the future, and a continued cautionary note for mills that domestic supply will remain tight and market prices will keep the squeeze on margins.



Per capita consumption is increasing globally with the carbon benefits of timber being seen as a key driver



FTN WEB RESOURCES



Presentations and graphs from the TTF softwood conference
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

FORESTRY OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Coombes Forestry is looking for an operations supervisor to join our professional team at an exciting time for the business. The successful applicant will assist the managers with overseeing all aspect of our forestry works. Focus will be around timber harvesting but will also include other operations such as roading, reinstatement works, mensuration and establishment.

The role will require you to be a self-motivated team member who can work independently to complete tasks to a high standard. You will be field based for the majority of your time but must also have the ability to work in an office environment. Experience in the forest industry would be desirable but training and supervision will be provided to help build your knowledge and career. Candidates should have the following skills:

- Relevant forestry qualification
- Safety & environmental awareness
- Self-motivation
- Ability to work as part of a team and also independently
- Strong communication skills
- Full driving licence

We offer a competitive package and company vehicle along with potential career development for the right candidate.

For more details please contact **Tim Dicker** on **01730 231 761** or email **tim@coombesforestry.com**. Please send your CV and a covering letter/email to **admin@coombesuk.com** by **Friday 31st May 2019**.

Unit 6 New Buildings Farm
Winchester Road
Petersfield GU32 3PB

COOMBES



NT Newlands Training

Dorset's leading land-based training company providing excellent training throughout the south of England

See our website for more information on courses

www.newlandstraining.co.uk

Phone: 01305 848454

mail@newlandstraining.co.uk

Unit 6, Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton,
Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7UA



Trees Please Ltd, a leading bare-root forest nursery, requires a Commercial Director to assist in guiding it through its next period of development. The successful candidate will lead the sales team in:

- reinforcing and developing the existing customer base,
- advising on and developing the existing product range,
- assembling a coherent commercial plan to guide the business through the next few years and keeping that plan under review whilst helping to deliver it.

This is a key role for Trees Please and will involve working with the management team which is largely led by the business owner. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the forest industry coupled with a professional approach and the ability to establish close links with

www.treesplease.co.uk

Commercial Director

key customers. The role can be, but need not be, full time nor will it be necessary to work solely from Trees Please Corbridge office. A competitive salary will be negotiated commensurate with the time and the experience that he/she can offer.

Trees Please Ltd has been in business producing nursery trees for thirty years and undertook a major investment in 2013. Its own nursery, which is still expanding, is now producing in excess of 10m trees p.a. with further assistance from contract growers and some spot purchases. None of the stock that it sells has ever been grown on the continent.

We recognise the importance of confidentiality in this appointment and would ask you to apply by sending a c.v. and covering letter to jobs@treesplease.co.uk. We anticipate a closing date of Friday 3rd May.



Apprentices use cutting-edge technology to log progress

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is the first institute in the UK to have used cutting-edge technology to log students' progression towards operating forest machinery.

At the start of Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2019 (4-8 March), four forestry apprentices have been using simulators at the Barony campus in Dumfries to work their way through a TimberSkills training course, developed by the machinery giant John Deere to monitor the progress of trainee foresters as they hone their skills before moving to real forest machines.

After gaining the basic skills and knowledge to start work on forwarders – the vehicles used to carry felled logs – apprentices Gemma Brown, 30, Jack Marshall, 17, Kris Faulder, 22, and James Thomson, 24, are now putting their training into practice on site in Galloway Forest District.

“Some of the key advantages of the TimberSkills course, over the previous use of simulators, is that there is a structured learning programme, it measures the progress of students and quickly identifies aspects of the student's work that needs to be worked on”, said Paul Fotheringham, Senior Instructor in Forestry at SRUC.

“Importantly, it prevents the development of bad habits from the outset, meaning that time doesn't need to be spent ironing these out later on.”

Jock McKie, Country Manager at John Deere Forestry, said: “It is great that we are using this cutting-edge technology here in Scotland to benefit the student learning



experience – it is an integral part of their development before we throw them the keys to a £400,000 machine.

“We are delighted to continually support SRUC through the provision of the simulators and machines as we strive to find the operators of the future.”

The trainees were the first to be accepted onto the pilot Forest Machine Operator Modern Apprenticeship scheme – developed by the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group, in partnership with SRUC and other pub-

Modern Apprentices Jack Marshall, Kris Faulder and James Thomson with Senior Instructor in Forestry Paul Fotheringham
Below: Modern apprentice Jack Marshall hones his forestry skills on a Jack Deere simulator

lic and private organisations – which trains young people to operate the hi-tech machinery used in the harvesting and primary processing of timber.

They will spend their first year working for Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES), with training carried out at Barony and in Galloway Forest District.

Two will remain with FES for the second year and two will be employed by forestry contractors Treetop Forestry and Elliot Henderson Timber Harvesting.

The pilot is being funded through the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Modern Apprenticeship programme, with additional employer support provided by Forestry Commission Scotland.

As part of the scheme, four harvesting machines have been provided by John Deere and Komatsu, with other companies providing fuel and ancillary equipment.

The pilot scheme will be reviewed after one year with a view to offering more apprenticeship places to young people in the future.



Future Foresters Skills Day for students is back

Up to 300 forestry and arboriculture students, apprentices and 'new starters' are expected to come together in October for a unique Future Foresters Skills Day which will introduce them to some of the most advanced thinking and technologies in the sector.

Sponsored by City and Guilds, Sorbus International, Haglof of Sweden and the Forestry Commission, the Royal Forestry Society's second National Student Conference and Demo Day is being held at Shuttleworth College in Bedfordshire on Friday, 04 October aimed at FE, HE, postgrad students, apprentices and those who may

have just started work.

Morning speakers will take a student-centred view of the challenges facing today's future foresters in the jobs market and in their careers. The afternoon will see hands on demonstrations by some of the biggest names in the industry. Participating colleges will also have the chance to win £2000 of Haglof equipment.

Tickets: £7.50. Booking and further details are available at www.rfs.org.uk/events/conferences-and-seminars by following the Future Foresters links.

SAVE THE DATE
04 OCT



Forestry apprentices sign up as new era for forestry begins

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing has marked Scottish Apprenticeship Week by welcoming eight new forestry apprentices to the Scottish School of Forestry at Inverness College UHI.

The male and female students successfully applied for the School's first Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Trees and Timber, a two-year programme supported by Forest Enterprise Scotland, that will allow them to study and work at the same time.

Mr Ewing visited the School to personally congratulate the apprentices in their decision to pursue a life-long career in a hugely successful industry.

He said: "Forestry in Scotland has never been in a stronger position than it is now and young people who are learning forestry skills are in high demand across the sector. It is very heartening to see that young women and men have recognised forestry is a hugely rewarding career path.

"They have also entered forestry at a hugely exciting time, when forestry itself is about to embark on a new chapter with the creation of two new agencies - Scottish Forestry and Forestry and Land Scotland.

"These new agencies will be instrumental in helping Scottish forestry to deliver more benefits to people, the environment, communities and businesses over the next 50 years and beyond.

"It is heartening to know that more and more young people are lending their sup-



port to that endeavour."

The eight new apprentices will receive on the job experience and training with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) from May 2019 and will also develop their skills through a recognised SVQ2/3 qualification from the Scottish School of Forestry.

FLS, which has come into being on 01 April, aims over the next few years to

increase the number of apprentices and other trainee routes in forestry roles as well as in professions such as civil engineering, digital and business administration.

It is anticipated that industry support for the apprenticeship programme will continue to increase and help to meet the current and growing demand within the sector for trained, skilled people.



Tilhill/BSW launches new forestry diploma course

The Tilhill Diploma in Forestry and Woodland Management is a new forestry diploma course that Tilhill/BSW will be launching this September. The new course will be taught at Coleg Llysfasi, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in partnership with Tilhill/BSW.

It will focus on training forestry workers from L2 to diploma and degree level. The diploma is split into two distinct stages, beginning at Level 3 and progressing onto Level 5. Entry is possible at either stage, depending on experience and qualifications.

Tony Lockey, learning and development manager at BSW Group highlights the ben-

efits of this course:

- Industry-tailored training for a successful career in forestry and forest management.
- Training to manage trees and woodlands safely, sustainably, efficiently, economically and to high environmentally responsible standards.
- Training in forestry technical skills, knowledge and understanding.
- Skills in business management, behaviours, and people management.

For more information and details on how to apply follow the link: www.cambria.ac.uk/apprenticeships/tilhill/

Industry working together to enhance skilled workforce

Nearly 30 forestry employers, associations and educational providers have pledged to work together to attract the very best of young and new talent into the sector.

The five-year Forestry Skills Plan aims to increase numbers of new entrants and improve the skills of the current workforce so that the growing forestry industry can reach its full potential in coming years.

The plan tackles identified shortages of skilled forest machine operators, chainsaw operators and tree planters, and suggested a need for a more rounded set of practical and business skills in graduate recruits. It also aims to promote forestry as a career within schools, attract a diverse range of new entrants to the industry, and halt a decline in numbers of forestry degrees and forestry training in colleges

The Forestry Skills Plan has four themes: talent attraction, skills and technical knowledge, education provision and employer support. The themes have been split into



separate action plans that partners will develop and deliver over coming years.

Caroline Harrison, Confor's England Manager said "Forestry isn't just about trees, it is also about people. This plan will facilitate a long term, coordinated, targeted approach to tackling skills issues. All the members of the Forest Skills Forum are committed to using the plan to prioritise activity, work together efficiently and take control of the skills agenda in order to develop a skilled forestry workforce for the future."

New-style courses start next year

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to three A Levels. These two-year courses will be developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of around three months. They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

FTN WEB RESOURCES



More about
T Levels

Forestry Skills Plan 2019 -
2024 for England and Wales
www.confor.org.uk/ftnweb

Confor Woodland Show 2019

An essential event for all students of forestry. See p31.



Harper Adams University

ICF accredited postgraduate programmes
MSc/PgC/PgD

**FORESTRY
MANAGEMENT**

**CONSERVATION
AND FOREST
PROTECTION**



Degrees that matter.



These courses offer a solid and effective way of studying forestry management and protection with a strong, applied focus. Input from industry professionals, many of them Chartered Foresters, will ensure the curriculum is relevant and current and that students benefit from the experience and insight of manager and scientists with real-world responsibilities. Industry visit and assignments based on professional projects and case studies reinforce this approach and help to build career links and networks.

The central UK location of Harper Adams, in Shropshire, enables access to a wide range of forest resource types for teaching and study.

Contact
Heather Hogan
Postgraduate Office Manager
01952 815289

Jim Waterson
Principal Lecturer
01952 815388

Come to an open day
harper.ac.uk/events

Learn more
harper.ac.uk/forestry

Study, or develop your staff, at one of the top performing colleges in the North.



East Durham College's Houghall Campus, in Durham, is one of the leading land-based colleges in the country.

We run level 1, 2 and 3 arboriculture and forestry diplomas (September starts), as well as apprenticeships throughout the year.

We also offer a large number of NPTC Awards (Formerly CS Units: 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 41, 47, 48 & 50) plus training in tree inspection, surveys and decay detection.

Call: 0191 518 4714

East Durham College,
Houghall Campus, Durham, DH1 3SG

eastdurham.ac.uk



Where Careers Grow

COILLTE
GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN



FORESTRY & ENGINEERING GRADUATES

We are now offering recently qualified Forestry & Engineering graduates a two year placement to gain invaluable experience across our forestry division. Graduates will be provided with placements in the areas of Resource Optimisation Analysis & Planning, Harvesting & Operations Management, Road Construction Management, Commercial Supply Chain or Financial Planning & Analysis.

This programme provides graduates with the opportunity to apply their technical learning and further develops their skills and competencies within an exciting and customer focused forestry business.

LOCATION

Roles will be located nationwide

HOURS OF WORK

41 Hours per week

REMUNERATION

Starting salary of €28,000

APPLICATIONS OPEN

04 March - 07 April 2019

CONTACT

Visit www.coillte.ie/careers/ to apply

At Coillte we are privileged to be custodians of 7% of Ireland's land. The forest industry will double in size over the next 10 years and Coillte will be at the core with an innovative supply chain and a consistent reinvestment in the next generation of forests.

#TheFutureIsForestry award 2019 to include video prize

Confor has expanded its annual competition for students and young forestry professionals for 2019 by adding a video prize.

The inaugural #TheFutureIsForestry prize last year was awarded for an essay only. For 2019, forestry professionals aged 30 and under and full-time students (of any age) will be invited to submit an essay or short video. Prizes of £500, £250 and £100 will be awarded to the top three entries in both the essay and video category.

The precise title of the essay and video will be revealed at a later date, but will include Confor's key theme for 2019, the link between forests, wood and tackling climate change.

The 2018 essay - launched to celebrate the contribution of young professionals and students to forestry and wood processing - asked 'How can forestry and wood processing help deliver a Green Brexit and a more sustainable society in the UK?' It was won by Lorna Johnson, a Masters student at Harper Adams University.

Tilhill Forestry and BSW Timber have agreed to sponsor the 2019 competition.

Stuart Goodall, Confor Chief Executive, said: "We are delighted to build on that



success by adding a video prize in 2019 - to recognise the importance of telling the positive forestry and wood story through a range of different media."

The competition will be officially launched at a summer reception at Westminster on the evening of 11 June. To express an interest in attending, please email neil@publicaffairs.coop

Professional Development Award in Forestry provides new CPD route

The new Professional Development Award (PDA) in Forestry offered by the Scottish School of Forestry (SSF), Inverness College UHI is proving to be a popular route for both non-foresters entering the profession and for those who are already working in the sector who are looking to progress in their career. The qualification which was piloted in 2017/18, has seen an intake of 18 students in 2018/19 with numbers looking healthy for the next academic year. The PDA, which comprises half of the traditional HNC in Forestry, is a part-time course delivered online with students attending two field weeks at SSF in Balloch, near Inverness, to complete practical work required for course assessments.

Those undertaking the qualification study four units including Forest Science, Forest Mensuration and Thinning Control, Health and Safety and Employment Legislation for the Land Based Industries and a choice of either Harvesting or Establish-

ment of Woodland.

The course has proven popular with many employers and currently there are seven Forestry Commission Scotland employees enrolled along with three from BSW Tilhill and one each from Scottish Woodlands, RTS, Jenkinsons and SAC Consulting. The cohort is completed by a small number of self-employed individuals. Having completed the PDA if students wish to progress further they can move on to complete the HNC, HND and the BSc Honours or select individual units from these courses. SSF currently has an additional 30 students who are completing various courses Distance Learning and/or Part Time from within the sector.

For further information see www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/courses/pda-forestry or email the SSF team on ssf.ic@uhi.ac.uk.

The 19/20 intake will start in early September 2019 when the first field week will be held.

OPPORTUNITIES

RFS Spencer Bursaries for students

Deadline 31 May

Five bursaries worth £150 each are on offer to students wishing to attend the Evolving the Forest conference in Devon on 19-21 June.

www.rfs.org.uk/learning/bursaries-and-studentships/rfs-spencer-bursary

RFS Viking Bursary

Deadline 03 June

Applications are now being accepted from students wishing to study any aspect of forestry which benefits the practical management and resilience of woodlands and which is original, independent, self-directed study or research and has clear study/research objectives, methods, outcomes and timeframe. The scope includes course-related dissertations and theses. Worth up to £2000.

www.rfs.org.uk/learning/bursaries-and-studentships/rfs-viking-bursary

Forestry student placements

The Northern Ireland Forest Service has just started the recruitment process for a number of paid work placements for 2019 from 12 weeks up to a 1-year placement. Details coming soon.

[@ForestServiceNI](https://www.facebook.com/ForestServiceNI)



Centre for Alternative Technology
Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen

Short
courses

JOIN THE CHANGE

- Sustainable Woodland Management
- Horse logging
- Social Forestry OCN
- Timber Framed Building
- Renewable Energy
- HETAS training centre

Learn more at:

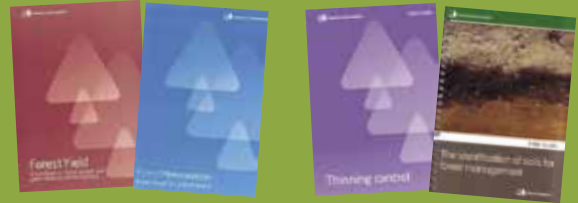
www.cat.org.uk/courses-and-training
courses@cat.org.uk • 01654 704966



www.treesource.co.uk
for books on trees

Treesource

supporting professional arborists and foresters



A wide selection of new and used books including titles from the ISA, Arb. Association and the Forestry Commission

Email: info@treesource.co.uk Tel: 01768 210793



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

Changing attitudes

Confor pilots a member communications network

As part of an ongoing campaign to improve public perception and understanding of forestry and wood processing, Confor has teamed up with a small group of active member companies to pilot a communications network.

Collaborative communications

The network is intended as a means for Confor to amplify stories and key messages about the sector and to share good practice and communications materials. The network is also looking at supporting positive local engagement by businesses.

Improving understanding of modern forestry and the benefits of wood products will help businesses in the sector secure much needed support for their activities, from planting to harvesting and transport, and help to avoid unfounded criticisms and opposition.

What has been achieved so far: Changing attitudes

A strong set of core messages has been developed that communicate what modern forestry and wood processing is about and which sets out why it is a sector worthy of support. A wide range of high-quality materials have been prepared and are available for members, from videos and an animation to reports and social media.

Confor has established ongoing relationships with a number of news outlets across the UK and we are now a 'go to' organisation for many journalists and media companies including the BBC. There is a website that receives thousands of unique visits every month and our social media is building a wide following, including politicians, media and influencers.

Building on this, we have recently been trialling a mailing campaign with a pilot group of around 10 member companies. Every one or two months, Confor has sent out an e-mail linking a current news item to relevant sector messages that can be amplified by members of the network. Confor also provides additional communications resources such as media content, publications or quotes that the network can use to illustrate the core messages to their audiences.

At a meeting held in February to assess the impact and usefulness of the mailing campaign and the Communications network itself, there was consensus among network members that there is a clear benefit for the sector in working together this way to communicate a positive image to the wider public and beyond, and that it is essential to align communications activities and pool communications resources within the Confor membership to positively brand our sector.



KEY LINES OF WORK

Amplifying messages and sharing good practice

Members of the network, via their own communication channels, utilise stories and messages that Confor provides, supported by high-quality Confor materials, including infographics, video and animation.

Embedding forestry business more deeply into local communities

Developing and sharing good practice in positive engagement with local communities by forestry and timber business, helping to prevent future conflict and securing active support.

Crisis toolkit to respond to local opposition

The aim will be to assist members with conflict resolution by offering a set of resources to guide them through the process of working with 'vocal locals', opposing politicians or negative media coverage.



We understand that some of our member companies, who are not yet part of the communications network, in particular those with a strong focus on communications and dedicated people, will be interested in being part of this initiative. Building a communications network requires time and resources and we are still tweaking the current structure to ensure that we can see the results we are looking for. We aim to open the network to other interested members soon. If you, or your company, would like to know more and potentially participate in the network please do get in touch!

For more information contact Stefanie Kaiser at Stefanie.kaiser@confor.org.uk and **0131 240 14**.



TOOLTRAK 75

The multi purpose compact tool carrier:



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

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 01934 862642



King Feeders UK

Eco Green
Composting Equipment
T: 01260 223 273
E: 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

Future immigration scenarios for the EU workforce



Free movement of people is expected to end in the event of the UK leaving the EU, bringing a significant change to businesses which are dependent on EU workers.

Lynne Marr, Brodies LLP, looks at the options

The EU and the UK have now agreed on an extension to the Brexit process. In the event that the Withdrawal Agreement is approved by the House of Commons by Friday (29 March) the Article 50 negotiating period will be extended until 22 May. If the House of Commons, in a third meaningful vote, does not accept the Withdrawal Agreement by Friday, then the “new” exit day will be 12 April.

This article focuses on the options of a ratified Withdrawal Agreement and a no-deal Brexit on 12 April.

The UK Government has sought to reassure EU nationals resident in the UK that, post-Brexit, they can continue living and working in the UK by applying for settled status through the new UK Settled Status Scheme. However, many affected individuals do not realise that settled status is not automatically granted; they must actively apply or risk being in the UK unlawfully and liable to removal.

The UK Settled Status Scheme most recently

has been the subject of criticism by the UK Parliament’s Human Rights Committee. The Committee expressed concerns over the Scheme, in particular in respect to the lack of physical proof of status and the ambiguity about the situation of those who miss the deadline for applications.

While the Settled Status Scheme might reassure employers with EU nationals in their workforces, it does not necessarily help those businesses relying on EU workers who work in the UK for short term, seasonal work rather than permanent employees. The proposed skills-based immigration system, to be introduced from 2021, provides little assistance in relation to that issue.

Providing certainty for EU, EEA, and Swiss nationals currently in the UK - Settled Status

If the proposed withdrawal agreement is ultimately ratified and the proposed transitional period implemented, EU, EEA and Swiss nationals resident in the UK at 31 December 2020 will be able to apply for either Settled Status (if they have been resident in the UK continuously for five years) or pre-Settled Status (if they have been resident in the UK for less than five years). As matters currently stand, an application for either status must be made by 30 June 2021 or the individual will be in the UK unlawfully. The application is completed online for free, and can be made now. Once this status is granted, the indi-



Many affected individuals do not realise that settled status is not automatically granted

>>



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 and speak to your local Area Manager, or simply call 01420 23030.





PROMO

SAVE
UP TO **7%**

ALL PROFESSIONAL SAWMILLS



- All professional range Wood-Mizer sawmills are discounted 3% off the base model price.
- Increase your total discount up to 7% by adding accessories to your sawmill. Get 1% extra discount per accessory.
- Promotion is valid until May 31, 2019



PROMO

LT 15 START

ULTRA-COMPACT SAWMILL FOR MAXIMUM QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY

STARTING AT ~~£4,625~~
£3,950



INCLUDES:
+ 10 BIMETAL BLADES

WOOD-MIZER UK
HOPFIELD BARN
KENWARD ROAD, YALDING
KENT ME18 6JP

info@woodmizer.co.uk 0 1622 813 201
www.woodmizer.co.uk

Wood-Mizer
from forest to final form

>> vidual holding it will have indefinite leave to remain in the UK to live and work and can access key services (NHS, education and housing). The status will be lost if the individual leaves the UK for five years. Settled Status can also be used as the basis for a future application for British citizenship.

If there is a no-deal exit on 12 April, the Settled Status Scheme will remain in place. However, the most up-to-date position is that only EU, EEA and Swiss nationals in the UK on 29 March 2019 can make an application and will have to do so by 31 December 2020 (rather than 30 June 2021). Any EU nationals arriving after a no-deal Brexit on 29 March 2019 can stay in the UK for up to three months or, if they wish to stay for longer, they have to apply for a new status, as explained below.

Worker's position from March 2019 - 31 December 2020

If there is a deal

If the proposed withdrawal agreement is approved, workers from the EU will be able to continue moving freely into the UK until 31 December 2020, as they currently do. This means that temporary workers will be able to travel to the UK, work and return to their member state.

If there is no deal

If there is no deal on 12 April, free movement will stop on that same day. In January 2019, the UK Government announced a "fix" to cover the period until the introduction of the UK's new skills-based immigration system from January 2021. Until then, EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who wish to live and work in the UK for short periods of time of up to three months can continue doing so. If, however, they plan to stay in the UK for more than three months, they have to apply for "European Temporary Leave". This allows holders to stay in the UK for up to three years and must be applied for online within three months of arriving in the UK. Employers should ensure that such workers are aware of the need to apply.

Will EU, EEA and Swiss nationals be able to work in the UK after 2020?

The UK Government's new skills-based immigration system is expected to come into force in 2021. A central principle of the new system is that skilled workers will be welcome to the UK provided that they are sponsored by an employer. This will be similar in many ways to the current tier 2 general sponsorship system. While the Government has confirmed that there will be no cap on the number of skilled workers coming into the UK and will relax some of the administrative burdens on sponsors - including the need to carry out the cumbersome resident labour market test - this route will apply only to workers coming to fill posts which require qualifications at RQF level 3 or above (Higher or A level) and with a minimum salary threshold of £30k. The latter is like-



A central principle of the new [skills-based] system is that skilled workers will be welcome to the UK provided that they are sponsored by an employer

ly to mean that this route will not assist businesses looking to bring in lower skilled or seasonal workers.

While the UK Government has clearly stated that it does not intend to have a dedicated route for unskilled workers into the UK, it has acknowledged the difficulty this may cause in some sectors which are reliant on lower skilled workers from the EU, including seasonal workers. To address this, the Government proposes to create a route for temporary short-term workers at any skill level to work in the UK. Further details are not yet clear but it will likely be very restrictive in terms of the number of applicants allowed to enter the UK; the nationalities it will apply to and the duration (12 months with a further 12 month cooling off period). Workers coming to the UK under this route will have to pay for the visa and whilst in the UK, they will be restricted from:

- access to public funds;
- bringing dependents with them; and
- switching to other immigration categories or settling in the UK longer term.

It is intended to be a transitory measure to allow affected employers to change ways of working so that they become less reliant on EU labour, and is not expected to remain in place after 2025.

Will employers in the UK realistically be able to continue relying on EU workers for seasonal work post Brexit?

Undoubtedly, this will be very difficult.

The Government is expanding its youth mobility scheme and expects to continue to attract young workers who will engage in lower skilled work. It seems unlikely that this will provide a solution to employers relying on seasonal workers.

Perhaps of greater assistance would be the permanent introduction of seasonal workers schemes in sectors where there is a reliance on seasonal peaks of work. On 06 March 2019, the Government opened a seasonal workers pilot which allows fruit and vegetable farmers to recruit up to 2500 non-EU workers for seasonal work for up to six months. The pilot is intended to inform future Government immigration policy and we may see the reintroduction of seasonal worker schemes in the future, although perhaps in certain parts of the farming sector only.

To discuss in more detail, contact Lynne Marr, Partner at Brodies LLP Lynne.marr@brodies.com or 0131 656 0241



MEMBER SERVICES

Free trial

Additional guidance on key immigration issues for employers engaging EU workers can be found on Brodies Workbox, an online platform that provides up-to-date, practical HR advice, templates and tools. Members of Confor can sign up for a free trial by emailing employment@brodies.com and quoting 'CONFOR'.



MOBILE CHIPPING SERVICES
TOP PRICES PAID FOR STANDING OR
WINDBLOWN TIMBER DIRECT TO YOU
THINNING & CLEAR FELLING
FREE NO OBLIGATION SURVEY



Our 770hp
 Albach Diamant
 produces high
 quality woodchip
 ranging from G30
 to G100

T: 01307 466699 Steve Watson: 07716 245299
Email: steve@angusbiofuels.co.uk | Unit 1, Eco Park, Forfar DD8 3BS



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

0844 770 7969

Funding for research to tackle weevil menace

Five companies have each been awarded up to £30,000 research funding to develop new techniques for managing the large pine weevil (*Hylobius abietis*) – the most serious pest of newly planted young trees in Scotland.

The companies – applicants to an open innovation competition from Forest Enterprise Scotland and launched by Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing last year – will look to develop alternatives to current chemical pesticides.

The pine weevil is estimated to cause direct losses of around £5m to forestry across the UK every year as well as causing significant delays to the re-establishment of future forest crops.

The project is one of the Scotland Can Do Innovation Challenge Fund challenges and will provide total funding to businesses and organisations of up to £550,000. The £9.2m fund is designed to increase the level of business innovation in Scotland by encouraging businesses and organisations to collaborate with Scotland's public sector to develop innovative solutions to societal challenges.

Administered by Scottish Enterprise, the fund is a joint project between Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Funding Council. Forest Enterprise Scotland is leading the project for the UK, with additional delivery support from ConFor and Forest Enterprise England.

Successful bidders will retain intellectual property rights to their ideas so that they can be seamlessly brought to market after the end of the research and development phase.

The companies now have five months to develop

and prove their ideas, in a bid to win further funding of up to £200,000 for prototype testing of one or two of the proposed new control options. Testing will take place in the field and over the tree planting seasons 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

WHERE THE INNOVATION FUNDING WILL GO

Inverness College – to develop a physical, biodegradable barrier derived from locally available plant extracts and mixed with a fungi that will infect and kill weevils that come into contact with it.

Omnia Tech – to develop an ultra-low-power remote unit and camera system to detect and record the weevil population remotely, removing the need for laborious manual monitoring but allowing for better informed, timed and targeted approach to controlling weevil populations.

Neem Co – to develop a plant protection product derived from the seeds of the Indian neem tree that will be applied to young forest trees to discourage weevil feeding and luring them to feed on a toxic bait before they feed on any young trees.

Forest Research – to develop a web-based decision support system to help forest planners manage the sequence and pattern of tree felling to reduce the risk of *Hylobius* attack and limit the opportunities for the weevils to move around the forest landscape and colonise felling sites.

Research and Commercial Partnership – to develop an advanced monitoring system to assess populations of *Hylobius abietis*, and predict their damage prior to tree planting and the need for remedial action. The system will be designed to perform as a 'trap, treat and release' device to deliver natural biological control agents that are active against adult weevils, to control *Hylobius* populations sustainably.



Ips typographus update

The discovery of the *Ips typographus* (eight toothed spruce bark beetle) outbreak in Kent last year, was of great concern to the UK forest industry. The latest news from the Forestry Commission is positive thanks to a swift response including management to minimise the risk of beetles spreading to adjacent sites.

The outbreak was restricted to a relatively small area, and all Norway spruce trees – which is the beetle's preferred host species – have been cleared from in and around the site. Ongoing eradication efforts include the use of a range of pheromone based traps to attract any beetles that might still be in the

area. These traps will be regularly monitored and infested material removed during the summer months. Local movement restrictions have also been introduced to reduce the risk of longer distance pest spread via spruce with bark.

Other potentially infested sites were identified within 100km of the outbreak but to date no further evidence of the pest has been found. An enhanced wider monitoring programme is also being deployed across the rest of the country.

The crucial monitoring period will be in during the warmer months as the beetle become active once daytime temperature is consistently above 20°C. Forest man-

agers can help to protect our forest resource from this pest by remaining vigilant and reporting any concerns that they might have via TreeAlert (www.treealert.forestry.gov.uk).

The information on the Government's plant health website has been updated to provide further information on this pest, including information to help forest managers differentiate between *Ips* from *Dendroctonus micans* (great spruce bark beetle). Both beetle species can kill individual trees but leave a very different signature on the infected trees. www.gov.uk/guidance/eight-toothed-european-spruce-bark-beetle-ips-typographus



Forest Machine Services Limited



We offer an extensive range of high quality forestry machinery at competitive pricing. Visit our website for more information about our services.

01434 230852

info@forestmachineservices.com
www.forestmachineservices.com



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

Lamberhurst Engineering Ltd
Priory Farm • Parsonage Lane
Lamberhurst • Kent TN3 8DS
www.lameng.com

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 www.bagsupplies.com



Be a Health & Safety Star – share your story

FISA are looking for you to share your stories when you have experienced an incident, near miss or good practice on site. In order to encourage reporting, FISA have developed templates as guides to help you report your learning points from incidents and near misses to help prevent others suffering the same consequences. If you have solved a problem and have an example of good practice then let everyone know.

Why Report?

Sharing things that go wrong and where people have helped to correct things is special. Being open with these things allows us to learn and support each other better.

The alerts and good practice will be shared by FISA regularly via the FISA website. Every quarter we will review and look for a Health and Safety Star who has submitted a safety alert or good practice that has helped others. All Health and Safety Stars will be rewarded by the group and also entered into an annual award submission.

If you wish to share your learning points in confidence we will ensure the alerts and good practice are anonymous. Health and Safety Stars can be anyone from landowners, contractors, operatives, forest works managers. In other words, anyone!

Get involved and help to make our industry safer.



Sharing history of the site from building the road, to harvesting to restock at a Tilhill Forestry district meeting.

Picture courtesy Tilhill Forestry.

The templates can be found on the FISA website under Safety Information.

www.ukfisa.com/safety-information.html

GET INVOLVED

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ACCORD

Safety Alert

FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY ACCORD

Good Practice

Need help completing the templates?

Do you already produce your own alerts and good practice and would like to share them with a wider audience? Get in touch: technical@ukfisa.com

FUELWOOD japa

Kindling & Firewood Processors

FUELWOOD

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



FTN5-17

Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd

www.fuelwood.co.uk t: 01926 484673

Forwarder trailers



RAB Easton looks at the choices for different mounts for forwarder trailer loaders – and picks a selection of the trailers on offer



The Botex range of trailers and loaders are designed and made in the UK.

Forwarder trailers are able to move from site to site under their own steam, eliminating expensive low loader hire. This makes them a more economical tool for harvesting smaller volume stands of timber and ideal for situations where the amount of timber harvested annually does not justify an expensive, purpose-built forwarder. Private estates, woodlands, forestry/fencing contractors and firewood merchants can benefit enormously from their use.

Extracting the felled timber from the forest and secondary extracting outlying timber blocks that have poor access or across fields to stacking areas is made much easier. Due to the high road speeds of most road legal tractors, delivering timber to sawmills and other customers can be quicker and more economical.

The loader for forwarder trailers can be tractor or trailer mounted; a trailer mounted system leaves the tractor free for other tasks, whereas the tractor mounted system is ideal for use with a chipper, firewood processor, sawmill, etc.

Tractor roof mounted

The advantages of this type of mounting is that the operator's all-round vision is excellent and, due to the weight of the loader being mounted over the rear driving wheels of the tractor, traction is improved and less load is carried on the trailer. This system also ensures all functions of the three-point linkage and arms remain available, meaning that a roof crane tractor can still use PTO machines such as wood chippers, farm implements and firewood machinery, to name a few. On the downside, it is more expensive due to the sturdy frame required for the tractor. Another frame on the front of the tractor is required to secure the loader when travelling, removing the loader is time consuming, and the stability of the tractor is compromised due to the higher centre of gravity.

Tractor JAKE mounting

This is a frame fitted to the tractor frame for attaching the loader to the tractor. It has most of the advantages of a roof mounting system with the added bo- >>

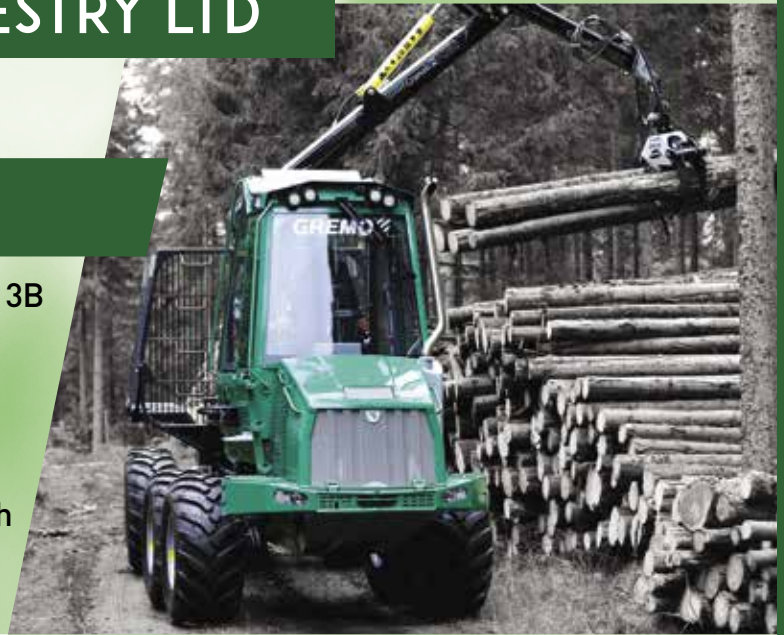




SB FORESTRY LTD

FORWARDER 750F

Engine: Cummins QSB 4 cyl, EC-stage 3B
Power: 164 Hp
Weight: 10,500 kg
Width: 2.27–2.40 m (500 tyres)
Traction force: >120 kN
Crane: Cranab FC53 6.5–8.5 m reach
Load capacity: 8,500 kg



GREMO

www.gremo.com



FORWARDER 1050F4

Engine: Cummins QSB 4 cyl, EC-stage 3B
Power: 164 Hp
Weight: 12,500 kg
Width: 2.47–2.70 m (600 tyres)
Crane: Cranab FC8 7.2–9.2 m reach
Traction force: >135 kN
Payload: 10.5 tons

USED EQUIPMENT FOR SALE



SB FORESTRY LTD



Gremo 1050F. 2009 14500 hours Cranab FC80 combi Cranab CR280X grapple Sitright seat Bogielift



Gremo 1050F 2009. 16000 hours Cranab FC80 combi extension Grippen grapple Bogielift Sitright seat Bandtracks and chains

SALES & SERVICE CONTACT SCOTT BURTON

Tranent, Scotland ✉ c.s.burton@btinternet.com ☎ 07795 438 341 📱 @SBForestry

>> nus of a quick release system to remove/fit the loader, with other attachments also available. The advantages of this mount are that the centre of gravity is much lower, it strengthens the tractor's frame, and the armour plating beneath the tractor provides added protection to the fuel tank, battery box and compressor. The disadvantage of this mounting system is that the loader's kingpost is attached to the frame at a lower point, obscuring the operator's rear view.

Both of these methods can be stabilised by hydraulic legs lowered to the ground or hydraulic rams to lock out the front axle when using the loader.

Trailer mounted

Most trailers are built with the mounting for the loader already built into the design, making it an economical solution. Compared to a tractor mounted loader, the loader itself does not require as much reach while loading the rear bunk of the trailer.

Many loaders are connected to the tractor's hydraulics via

quick couplings, with some having hydraulically operated levers and others with electronic levers. Stabilising the trailer for loading/unloading is done with hydraulically lowered legs; this allows lifting at right angles to the trailer at full reach without the worry of the trailer tipping over.

Trailer mounted loaders can be used to counterbalance the trailer if you find yourself in an awkward situation where the loaded trailer might tip over

Some loaders can have the loader controls mounted in the tractor cab or can be operated from a standing or sitting position on the trailer itself.

Trailers can be purchased in a variety of widths, lengths, carrying capacities and loader sizes able to cope with most sizes of timber. There are many extras that can be added to some of the available models, including hydraulic braking, steering drawbars, drive trailers, etc. There is a wide variety of makes and sizes of forwarder trailers/loaders to choose from and I have selected some of the ones I have seen.

BOTEX

These are the only trailers and loaders that are designed and made in the UK. They are manufactured at the premises of Jas P Wilson in Dalbeattie, South West Scotland and were established in 1964.

There are five trailer sizes available with carrying capacities ranging from eight tonnes to 15 tonnes with a selection of four loaders. Three are trailer/tractor mounted and one has a three-point linkage mounted system. The loaders have a reach ranging from six to eight metres and can be operated by either manual hydraulic or electric levers.

All the trailers have hydraulically operated brakes and the GR12 (12-tonne capacity) model has hydraulic cage drive rollers for increased traction. A hydraulically movable headboard is available and some trailers will extend to allow two bays of 3m produce.

They have a network of service engineers covering the UK and Ireland
www.jaspwilson.co.uk



PFANZELT



This company was started by Paul Pfanzelt in 1991. He initially manufactured geared forestry winches before designing and building his first forestry trailers in 1996.

They produce three types of forestry trailer:

The S Line trailers are available in 6, 9 and 11-tonne capacity with uni-drive and hub drive available on the 9 and 11-tonne options. Trailer loader options range from 6.2 to 7.85m reach with mechanical loader controls, and larger loaders with electrically operated joysticks can be mounted onto the tractor.

Profi trailers are manufactured in five different sizes and are available in two-tonne increments from 9 to 17 tonnes. They are constructed using a single beam chassis with sliding bolsters and bogie axles for optimum weight distribution and

load flexibility. They can have A or H type column stabilisers, while mounted trailer loaders have reach options ranging from 6.3 to 10m. Optional electric joysticks for loader operations and both hydraulic or air brakes can be fitted. There are three drive options: friction drive, wheel hub drive and hydromechanical drive with NAFF bogies (uni-drive is available on certain models). Road speeds of either 25 or 40 km/hr are available depending on the configuration.

Log Line trailers come in 14, 16 and 19-tonne load capacities with EHC joystick controls for the trailer mounted loader. Loader options for these trailers range from 7.7 to 10m reach and wheel hub drive is available.

North: csburton@btinternet.com
South: www.spaldings.co.uk/forestry

>>



SAMPO ROSENLEW



For demo info, contact us on:
+442838 330011 / +353 19697894
info@oakleafforestry.com



35a Derryall Rd, Portadown, Co. Armagh BT62 1PL

>>

FTG MOHEDA

FTG Moheda is a Swedish company established in 1835, and the forge where it all started is still in existence today. They first started manufacturing forestry trailers in the 1950's and the first Moheda trailer was produced in 1963. Today, FTG Moheda is a subsidiary of BRUKS Group.

Six trailers from five tonnes to 15 tonnes are in production, with the 10, 12, 14 and 15-tonne trailers available with a cage roller drive system for additional traction. A new 12-tonne trailer has been developed with a hub drive which can be disengaged from the tractor during driving. It will operate at speeds of up to 7km/hr and can be fitted with band tracks for reduced ground pressure.

Nine crane models are available from 5.1 to 8.75m reach and can be trailer or three-point linkage mounted. The three-point linkage mount allows use of the draw bar and PTO shaft for other attachments.

Engineers and sales throughout the UK and Ireland
www.fuelwood.co.uk



BINDERBERGER



Binderberger are an Austrian manufacturer established in 1930. They started manufacturing forestry equipment in 1980.

Eight trailer models are currently available ranging from five tonnes to 21 tonnes. The trailers have a double beam, high tensile, galvanised steel box section chassis as standard with aluminium pins. Some models have hydraulically adjustable chassis and capable of two bays of 3m with a mechanical or electrically operated drive option on certain trailers. There are 14 loader configurations ranging from 4m to 9.5m in reach, and most trailers have four crane options available. Stabilising jacks, hydraulic brakes, lighting and a standing podium on the trailers come as standard.

There are many extras available for these trailers including LED Lighting and a compressed air braking system, allowing road speeds of 25-40m/hr (60-80 km/hr).

Sales and service throughout the UK and Ireland
www.marshalllogging.co.uk

Timber Extraction

FTG MOW | FTG MOHEDA | AVESTA-VAGNEN

- ▶ 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



FUELWOOD

FTN5-17

Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd

www.fuelwood.co.uk

t: 01926 484673



Caledonian Forestry Services Ltd

FOR QUALITY FORESTRY MACHINERY



West Third, Tullibardine, Auchterarder PH3 1NJ

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

www.caledonianforestryservices.co.uk

>> **KESLA**

Established in Finland in 1960 and is still a family owned company today.

They manufacture five sizes of trailers carrying 9-12 tonne on a single beam frame. There are four drive options available on many models: roller drive, wheel motor drive, mechanical drive and hydrostatic mechanical drive. All systems can be disengaged for faster road speeds. The 144 ND 12-tonne trailer can be fitted with the KESLA proTRACTION drive control system; as this is connected to the tractor's ISOBUS system, using the drive system is easy and efficient.

Seven Loaders are available with an outreach of up to 8.8m and can be fitted with mechanical, hydraulic or electric control valves. They can be tractor or trailer mounted.

There are also several braking options, hydraulically adjustable headboards, articulated drawbars and flexible loading space configurations to suit most requirements.

UK: www.caledonianforestryservices.com

Ireland: www.oakleafforestry.com



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

www.forestmachinemagazine.com

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

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



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

AVAILABLE NOW FROM STOCK!

PFANZELT MASCHINENBAU
Heavy duty 3-point linkage mounted winches

Geared cable winches

REPLACEMENT PARTS

TO FIT **FAE**

TO FIT **SEPPI M**

HEAVY DUTY MULCHER TEETH
AVAILABLE NOW FROM STOCK!

HIGH PERFORMANCE TUNGSTEN PARTS

TUNGSTEN CARBIDE

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.

For full details call: **01522 507600**

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

SPALDINGS®



JOHN DEERE
Forestry Support
Tel: 01483 208075 Mobile: 07966 546735



RICHARD COURT
FORESTRY ENGINEERING

Specialists in the service and repair of all arboricultural and forestry machinery

We are approved UK Dealers for:




Service and repair of all forestry and arboricultural equipment
On site and workshop facilities
Tractor and digger forestry conversions
Parts sourced for all forestry machinery

www.rcfengineering.co.uk
info@rcfengineering.co.uk



Caledonian Air Surveys Limited
Air survey photography and photogrammetry for forestry and land management



Ness Horizons Centre, Kintail House, Beechwood Business Park, Inverness IV2 3BW
Tel: 01463 732566
email: info@caledonianairsurveys.co.uk
www.caledonianairsurveys.co.uk



ForestAndArb.com

For all your Forestry and Arboricultural needs

Please come and see us at the ARB Show stands E10 & E11 for extra special show deals on machines, PPE and all other equipment!

T: 01962 857951 E: sales@forestandarb.com

 Forest And Arb  @ForestAndArb  ForestAndArbHQ



MASON
WOODCHIPPERS




| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| SERVICING | REFURBISHMENT |
|  |  |
| HIRE | RESALE & BUYING |

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
www.masonwoodchippers.com



EXETER CHARCOAL
Makers of the Exeter Retort



Come and see us at
The ARB Show stand E21

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
01392 431454

The converted preaching

David Rossney reviews the Husqvarna 550XP Mark 11

Let me say at the start that I have been an XP user for a long time. In fact, from time to time, I still use my classic 254 purchased in late 1988, and made to commemorate 1989, the 300th anniversary of the Husqvarna company foundation.

As an instructor and forester, a roughly 50cc .325" Husqvarna has usually been the go-to saw for me for coppicing chestnut and early thinning in softwood stands. Over the years, I have seriously rated both the 242XP and 346XP. When the 550XP superseded the 346, I confess I thought putting 'chips' in saws would mean just more to go wrong, but I have to say I have been most pleasantly surprised by the generally reliable performance from my 550XP (2013). It still feels light but responsive, handles sweetly and seems to punch way above its weight, as useful in early stage oak thinning as in softwoods.

It is true that the 550 is much happier if allowed to use tank after tank of fuel, and dislikes a stop-start routine, but restarting (especially in summer) issues aside, I have had no real complaints over the last five years.

The question I'm inclined to ask is can Husqvarna improve on near perfection?

First impressions

Well it's both familiar yet different.

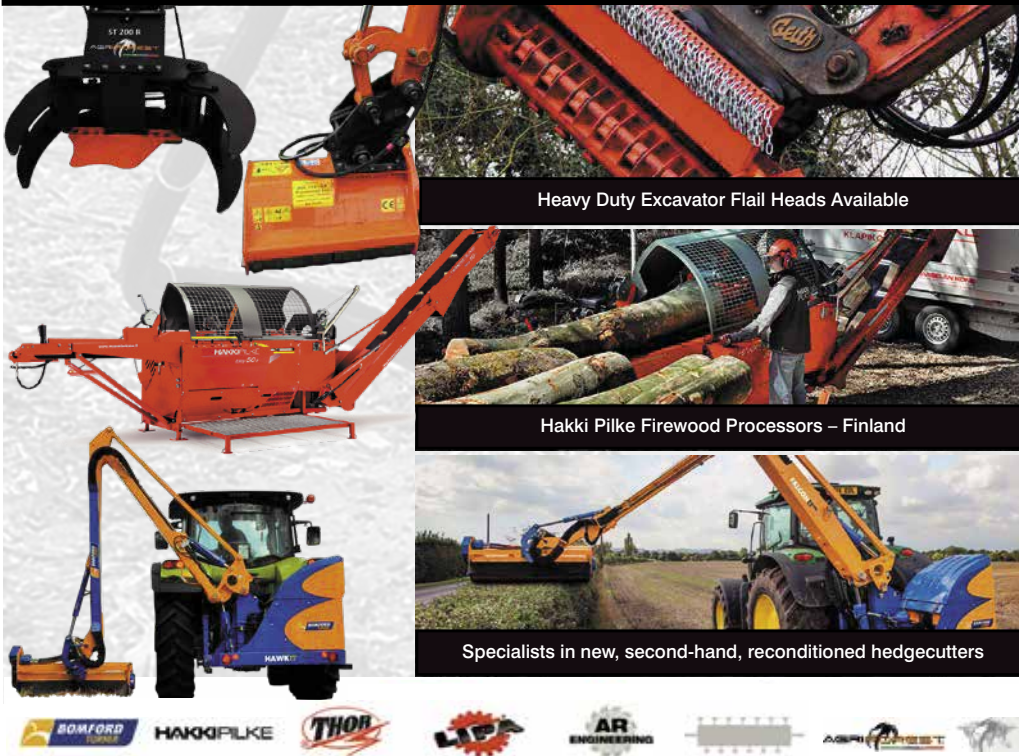
- **Differences in outward appearance.** A cleaner look and an extra sighting line to level the bar. It reminds me of the cross hair in a rifle scope.
- **A bit bigger looking.** The body is about 1 cm longer and 5mm taller, the latter perhaps to accommodate the redesigned and taller air filter?
- **Feels a little heavier?** On closer investigation I find the Mark 11 saw is now between 0.4 to 0.5kg heavier. (XP 5.3kg and XPG 5.5kg without cutting equipment)
- **A more robust looking exhaust muffler,** which I hope, may not dent so easily as the one on my old 550. I had seen so many of the same shaped dents on everybody else's 550s, one day I actually double checked to make sure it was not the original shape from new!
- **Hang on, they've moved the decompressor.** Wait, there is no decompressor!

After all these years we return to a saw without this almost ubiquitous feature, but somehow with no apparent increase in the amount of energy required to start the saw? I would be most interested to know how that has been achieved.

The result is that along with the auto re-setting

Mark 11 set up for sharpening in the wood
>>





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 • www.joeturnerequipment.co.uk



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 cutting timber a much safer one person job. The Timber Croc stands taller off the ground making the Working height hip level minimalising 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

PRODUCT REVIEW

>> stop switch the warmed saw is just one easy pull to restart, and so far, every time. Joy!

Taking off the covers

- In general, the Mark 11 seems easier to clean and maintain and may therefore be more likely to get done regularly by the busy contractor?
- I am pleased to see a redesigned area beneath the starter cover. The electric wires are now helpfully tucked away below the fly wheel in their own plastic lined groove in the casing, which makes for easier access when routinely cleaning the flywheel and eliminates the historic risk of the wires fouling the flywheel if the flimsy plastic cover gets cracked.
- The air filter looks radically redesigned, apparently higher capacity and better sealed, and seems to stay clean for a long time. It is fed with air through a re-designed air injection channel from the fly wheel.
- A redesigned top cover now has an extra thick wall to insulate the air filter/carburettor chamber from the heat of the engine.

Using the Mark 11

So far, the saw always starts easily from cold using the air purge/fuel primer and choke, but has a different, curiously low revving rate on both choke start and tick over, apparently the result of the re-designed air filter, air injection and new version auto tune. More reliable and with less wasted fuel on tick over, perhaps?

I found the new model a little more responsive than my old 550 XP. It runs and cuts really smoothly and without hesitation and all within a couple of seconds of starting, so definitely takes a little less time to get going from cold.

As expected it handles really well, and both felling and snedding are made very comfortable by the balance and the care in the design of the body shape which we have come to expect. Personally I favour a reduced gauge 15" bar and chain (1.3 mm) making the saw feel even more 'centred' in the hand.

Husqvarna claim that the cooling performance has improved by 13% on the old model, apparently achieved by improving air flow, increasing engine cooling fins and the better heat shielding of the carburettor from the engine mentioned above. I bet we



all know contractors who seem to regularly seize their saws, so perhaps this new emphasis on the 'endurance' properties will be very welcome?

Also, if these changes mean fewer unhappy minutes trying in vain to restart a warm saw, particularly in the summer, it will be a much needed improvement and would make many feel that Husqvarna have been really listening to their customers!

I am looking forward to testing this out on the Mark 11 this summer.

In a nutshell

It's hard to believe they could have improved on a saw I had come to regard as state of the art, but the new version 550 XP definitely feels like an upgrade. 10% heavier, but also feeling more powerful and robust while very smooth and balanced.

So thanks yet again guys.

They say it's important to enjoy your work... Well, this 550 XP Mark 11 now makes my working day go very nicely indeed!

Mark 11 (left) starter and fly wheel layout - better organised and easier to clean than Mark 1 (right)

AMR

- ▶ 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

t: 01926 484673



FIREWOOD PROCESSORS FOR EVERY NEED

HAKKIPILKE
Easy 43



CALL US NOW FOR THE BEST PRICE



028 9034 2838 | www.mlarge.com

Email sales@mlarge.com



The Ultimate Post Driver for the professional fencer



Difficult Terrain and Inaccessible Places no Problem

M8 Tracked Post Driver 220°

Distributor: Mark Vigrass

Tel: 07971 190 345

Email: sales@markvigrass.co.uk

www.vectorpowerdrive.com

Bio Equipment LTD



Come and see us at

The ARB Show
stand A01 & A02



01685 810148 | info@bioequipmentltd.co.uk

Unit 17, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun, Aberdare CF44 9UP

Sowing the seed for the next 100 years

Chris King, Wyevale Nurseries

Wyevale Nurseries was first founded in 1930 by Harry Williamson at a site in Hereford. This was further developed by his son Peter Williamson, who took the business forward into the later half of the century. The business is now in its third generation of ownership. Wyevale Transplants as a standalone business was established in 1987 when an opportunity was seized upon to replace the large volumes of foreign imports with UK home grown stock. Wyevale Transplants was merged with the other companies within the Wyevale Group in 2014. Whilst only having been growing for the last 32 years, the business has been at the forefront of an ever ebbing and flowing Forestry sector. Nurseries are often at the sharp edge of any immediate downturn, driven by either a changing political, environmental or economic climate. The bonfires at the end of the season are not totally behind us as a sector.

The business dynamics have changed greatly over those years, in a horticultural sector which is often criticised for being slow to adapt. Currently over eight million plants are grown annually across a 91ha farm nestled next to the Malvern Hills



AONB near Ledbury, straddling the borders of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. Its light sandy, red soils were eagerly eyed as perfect growing conditions for seedlings and transplants. However, the flat fields of the competing continental growers are not found, with slopes and steep ascents having to be negotiated at all stages of production. The area was once popular with growers, but due to changes in scale and aging work forces and with little sign of uptake from younger generations, Wyevale remains the only grower in the area. Production focuses on broadleaves for both the forestry sector and amenity markets where Wyevale Nurseries has a strong presence, across seedling and transplanted crops. Conifers increasingly form part of the mix, with crops grown on contract to ensure supply for larger schemes. This helps to stabilise some of the variances in customer demand from season to season, improving the environment for investment.

Investment continues to be made into

the business, with the biggest input coming in the form of new cold stores. This increases efficiency and allows for a greatly extended planting and selling season, making bare-root plants a more accessible option for customers whose time pressures on site need to be managed. The business runs a small fleet of five John Deere tractors, all specified to work with specialist nursery equipment, not usually seen in typical UK agriculture. The business employs eight full time staff, with numbers swelled during the busy season of October-May to a total of 28 staff.

Robotics

We look to the continent for inspiration in robotics, GIS mapping and GPS controlled implements, where uptake of new technology is far greater. All of these will help future proof a business that faces challenges in every area, especially labour, which until now has been largely made up of a transient migrant labour force. Brexit not only poses a tremendous challenge in any form, but an opportunity for those willing to negotiate it, particularly in a sector traditionally dominated by imports. The increased awareness of bio-security from both the private and public sector has sharpened the industries focus on the risk of dealing with imports, raising the importance of early stage contact with customers to ensure British sown and grown plant material.

Challenges are plentiful, with perhaps once of the biggest being a recruitment issue of the young into a sector which has a lot to offer. Tempting young, energetic individuals with a passion for growing and business away from more well promoted sectors such as agriculture will require a step up from all involved to ensure nurseries are not only well stocked with plants, but with people who are keen to provide the next generation of forestry material.

www.wyevalenurseries.co.uk





One of the countries longest establish machinery companies.
Over 35 years supplying high quality, reliable and affordable
Estate, Forestry & Firewood machinery.



Firewood Processors.



PALMS Trailers & Cranes.



Vertical splitters.



Split-fire Splitters.



Horizontal Splitters.



Cone Splitters



Log Saws & Band saws.



Double & Single Drum Winches.



Tree Shears.



Timber Grabs.



Skidding Grabs.



Compact Trailers & Cranes.



Nationwide Sales & Support. Regional Depots.

* New depot in Lanarkshire now open *

www.riko-uk.com enquiries@riko-uk.com TEL: 01420 487300

Road capacity sharing - a novel solution for difficult timber routes



Colin Mackenzie,
Highland Timber
Transport Group

The condition of the local road network between forest and main road often acts as a major impediment to getting timber to market and Councils and industry work hard with local Timber Transport Groups to get solutions. In recent years one of the most challenging areas to access has proved to be in the far north of Scotland where vast areas of moorland were planted 30-50 years ago with the mistaken expectation that the road network would be improved prior to harvesting. Alas, this was not to be: the area remains served by the weak A897 and B871 single track roads, twenty to thirty miles to reach the main roads on the coast, and then a further haul of 100 miles to the nearest mills.

The problem was first recognised in the 1990s when the local Council embarked on a series of Weight Restrictions to protect their assets. However, this coincided with the setting up of the Highland Timber Transport Group (HTTG) and the now established conciliatory and cooperative model of sorting things out between the industry and roads authorities. Weight restrictions were set aside and an initial solution between Council and industry was agreed to allow four trucks per day southbound, releasing about 20,000 tonnes per

annum from the catchment.

This was much less than demand so negotiations continued intermittently until a severe gale in January 2015 caused some 250,000 of largely lodgepole pine to blow over creating a crisis that had to be solved before the fallen timber lost all value.

Initially, the 16 owners were encouraged to consider setting up a co-operative but this proved a step too far. Instead, it was agreed that an informal Timber Haulage Group would be set up with all catchment owners or their agents invited to attend. The initial meeting started with a blank sheet but the principle was that each forest owner/agent had equal status and a single vote if it came to voting. The Council had agreed to increase the total capacity to 10 trucks per day, six southbound plus four northbound from the dividing midpoint. This released some 50,000 tonnes for 2017, so it now fell to be decided how this should be allocated to individual forests.

In a spirit of cooperation, the parties agreed at the outset that each party wishing to take timber out should have an equal allowance, regardless of forest size or planned output. This was felt to be the fairest approach and the 4 initial bidders for the southbound 30,000 tonnes got an allowance of 7,500 tonne each. With only one bidder seeking to haul northwards, they were allowed 20,000 tonnes.

The Timber Transport Group project officer acted as a facilitator in this process and drew up a Gantt Chart, allocating time slots to each successful bidder. It proved possible to do this on a consensual basis

making efforts to accommodate the logistical, environmental, contractual and other issues impacting on the various owners.

Having succeeded in agreeing these sharing protocols, how could they be policed? Whilst the Council was a party to these informal agreements it had no spare capacity to watch over hauliers on a day-to-day basis and most agents worked from offices 100 miles away. In reality, this has proved more simple than imagined: the public and hauliers themselves were quick to spot offenders and report back on observed non-compliance. All those involved in the supply chain quickly recognised that self-regulation of the capacity sharing agreement must be made to work.

After a successful first year, the Council carried out a series of strengthening and passing place improvements, assisted by 70% grant from the Scottish Government Strategic Timber Transport Scheme. Whilst this fell far short of the £50m or so that would be needed to fully modernise the road network the Council felt able to further increase the agreed capacity and in 2019 it is hoped that 90,000 tonnes will get to market.

The current output of roundwood, logs and woodchip are trucked mainly to mills on the Inner Moray Firth but with some export from Scrabster Port on the North Coast. With huge volumes still to come there is increased confidence that the area will continue to feed the expanding forest industry in the Highlands. Road capacity sharing has been proved to work to the credit of all parties involved.



Timber and flatbed trucks meet on A897



Loxston
GROUND CARE

irus
Die Industrie AG

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 www.irus-mowers.co.uk




From thinning to total clearance, chipping & mulching of sites, woods, farmland etc.



**Please call 07774 690504
email: kate@kwrplanthire.co.uk
www.kwrplanthire.co.uk**



- ▶ 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

Security at the gate

Patrick Mannix

My experience, as the owner of a small wood (32ha) in the Surrey Hills AONB, supports and expands upon that of Professor Julian Evans, who wrote as a 'small woodland owner', in the February 2019 issue of FTN.

My wood has a public bridlepath around the southern perimeter, sharing access to an adjacent, well used, minor road at the main entrance gate to the wood. The wood is vulnerable to illegal access by vehicles from either end of the public bridlepath or via the main entrance gate. Following an incident, vehicle access via the public bridlepath was deterred by large baulks of timber or substantial posts, only allowing pedestrian, horse rider and cyclist access. This would however not have been permitted if the bridleway was a BOAT (Byeway Open to All Traffic).

An Ifor Williams trailer, generator, Tirfor winch and cable have been stolen. Fortunately, the Woodmizer LT15 sawmill does not have wheels. The main gate has been broken several times in connection with movement of stolen vehicles. Round metal gate posts, pushed over and bent by a vehicle to obtain access, when replaced, were installed with a hardwood core inside the metal post.

The main access gate to the woodland was set back from the road, providing the opportunity for fly-tipping. To prevent fly-tipping a chain was erected across the entrance at the roadside, so there was no opportunity for a vehicle to pull in. This worked, except that each Friday the chain

was stolen using bolt cutters. The solution was to use something that nobody wanted to nick, plastic-covered wire cable. This also worked until cut, in order to attack the main gate. The cable was replaced by a metal gate at the roadside, which so far has worked. As Professor Evans pointed out it is important to ensure that the gate cannot be lifted off the hinges.

The most recent incident was following thinning operations on the neighbouring estate. Their access track was left open and unsecured. Joy riders used this to access my woodland (historically the track they used traversed both woodlands). I dug a large "tank trap" across the track at the boundary to prevent a recurrence.

Walkers are encouraged, a single rail fence borders the bridlepath with pedestrian access to permitted paths. Opportunist off-road motorcyclists or horseriders are deterred by locating their point of entry and blocking it, demonstrating that the land is under management and regular supervision.

The lessons so far:

- If you do not want it to be stolen, then don't leave it there.
- Walk the land regularly, or arrange for others to do so, and take steps to deter any unauthorised activity as soon as it is identified.
- Do not have an entrance which is an invitation to a fly-tipper.
- Block any possible unauthorised vehicle entrance, while permitting legitimate pedestrian or equestrian traffic.
- Make sure gates cannot be lifted off their hinges.
- Constant vigilance pays dividends.
- Engagement with the local community and walkers is important.

Display your Confor membership



Why not display your membership using our updated logo for Confor members?

Individual members can display the Confor member logo in e-mail signatures, on private or company vehicles, their website or in business-related correspondence of any kind. Stickers will be made available soon, you can request now by contacting Liz Hughson at liz@confor.org.uk

Corporate members can display the logo on their website. Employees of corporate members can use the Confor logo in their e-mail signatures.

You can display your logo on: websites, e-mail signature, stationery, site boards, company office, as well as banners or other promotion material. Download the logo and get more information on how to use it correctly here: www.confor.org.uk/resources/display-your-membership



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

GTM Rural Enterprises Ltd, Essex
Hay Fell Limited, Cumbria
HMC Forestry Ltd, East Sussex
Tirmynach Farm Services, Herefordshire
Bartholomew Digby, Midlothian
Jenny Crouch, Gwynedd
Jock Galbraith, Midlothian
Thomas Nash, Lincolnshire

LUCAS MILL

- ▶ 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



Portable Saw Mills

FUELWOOD

FTN5-17

Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd

www.fuelwood.co.uk

t: 01926 484673

Pioneer of modern sawmilling

Tom A Bruce-Jones, CBE

(1941 – 2019)

It was with very great sadness that on 23 January 2019 the forest and timber industry lost one of its most successful and finest leaders of recent times. Born on 28 August 1941, Tom Allan Bruce-Jones was a friend and business partner to a huge number of people and he played a major part in propelling both the art of sawmilling and the requirements of the wider industry into the modern, vibrant, success story which it is today.

Tom did this through a unique combination of skills which came so naturally to him. He was calm, creative, analytical, incisive and quick-thinking, which made it possible for him to deliver solutions which contributed greatly to the businesses in which he was involved. These qualities, however, always took account of the people around him and their supporting role in delivering successful outcomes even, sometimes, in complex and tricky situations. These are characteristics which many will recognise and set an example to all.

Tom read law at the University of Oxford and following that, his career started in the 1960s with Price & Pierce, a major and long-established forest products distribution company. In 1977, he was head-hunted by Georgia Pacific, an American pulp and paper company (now employing over 40,000 people) to set up the company's European pulp division based in Brussels. In parallel, he had been a non-executive director of the family company of James Jones & Sons Ltd since 1973 and in 1979, Tom returned to Scotland to take up the post of Joint Managing Director.

At this point, James Jones & Sons had been trading for almost 150 years and had a turnover of £6.8m. Under Tom's leadership, the truly progressive modernisation of James Jones commenced in 1984 with the start-up of the Dumfries sawmill. Although based in an ex-aircraft hangar, this was the first of a series of future developments using state-of-the-art Scandinavian technology. The acquisition of land at Lockerbie followed where the company invested in even more advanced timber processing on a greenfield site and this was to become one of the most successful and advanced sawmilling complexes in the UK, in addition to the other sawmill sites at Kirriemuir, Aboyne and Mosstodloch.

1993 saw Tom turning to expand his business interests into Canada where he created a joint venture vehicle with an Ital-



ian family group to purchase four wood treatment plants from Domtar Inc at an acquisition price of 2.95m Canadian dollars. The business, Stella-Jones Inc was listed on the Toronto stock exchange, with over 2000 employees, 40 production sites across Canada and the USA and has annual sales of over \$1.8bn. The product base was wood treatment, railway ties and transmission poles which Tom referred to as a 'plain vanilla' business. Such was his modesty.

In 1998, Tom diversified James Jones into I-joist production with the creation of a new manufacturing facility at Forres in Moray-shire. This established the company's Timber Systems Division which, today, has a 45% share of the UK's I-joist market, making a product used by every major UK housebuilder.

Diversification

In 2004, Tom took the initiative for James Jones to support a management buy-out of Scottish Woodlands Ltd. He had been a non-executive director of the company for some years but decided to support Scottish Woodland's management team in achieving a new structure which became 80% employee owned, with 20% for James Jones & Sons. Tom became Chairman of Scottish Woodlands Ltd in 2005 and served on the Board until 2016. For this

support, he affectionately became known as Scottish Woodlands' White Knight.

Whilst achieving the foregoing commercial successes, Tom played a truly significant role in supporting and developing the forest and timber industry as a modern, credible economic force. He served as Chairman of the Home Grown Timber Merchants Association (HTMAS) and later became the first Chairman of Confor, of which he was a founding member. He was the first member of the UK timber processing sector to be appointed as a Forestry Commissioner. His remarkable achievements resulted in him being conferred the CBE in 2003. In the same year, he was awarded Knight First Class of the Order of the Lion of Finland and in 2017 this was elevated to Commander First Class.

In early 2018, Tom was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In his inimitable way, he approached this illness in a way which was focussed on taking one step at a time but, sadly, he passed away in January 2019. Tom is survived by his wife of 40 years, Stina, and son Tom and daughter Caroline and their families. His memorial service at the RSNO Glasgow Concert Hall was held on 01 March 2019 with over 400 people in attendance: a remarkable tribute to a remarkable man.

Colin Mann



menzi muck

We Start Where Others Stop



Exc@v8

TOTAL PLANT SOLUTIONS LTD

'Nationwide from the English Lake District'

www.excavators-uk.com enquiries@excavators-uk.com 01539 729999

**PLANT, FOREST & CABLEWAY
ENGINEERS**

**SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT
SUPPLIERS**



KONRAD



EUROCOMACH



**TIGER
BEILWINDEN**

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



CHAIN SAW OIL ● 2-STROKE OIL ● SAW BLADE OIL

FREEPHONE 0800 013 7363 www.plantoil.co.uk

CERTIFICATION



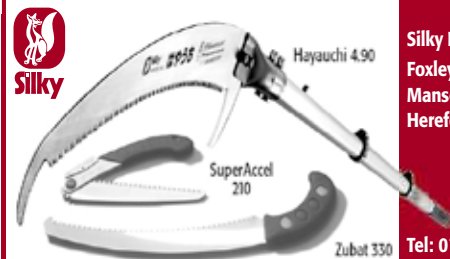
**FSC FM/COC
Group Certification**

UKFCG – an independent FSC certified
forestry Group scheme offering
UKWAS certification to forest
owners and managers in the UK
www.forestcertification.org.uk

Paul Sandys: 07803 619249
Phil Webb: 07970 388940
ukfcg@hotmail.com

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

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
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
Email 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



unfogable mesh eye protection

www.meshsafetyglasses.com

0845 2222 039

Advertise your forestry business in F&TN

Contact Laura on 01502 725 866



SMALL WOODLAND OWNER
PROFESSOR JULIAN EVANS OBE FICFor

Brexit and the small woodland owner

No one likes uncertainty. Indeed as one gets older this is felt all the more: traditions, routines and habits are welcome anchors in life. And I think this applies to our woodland management too, whether for large forest or small stands. So how can we best cope with whatever Brexit throws up?

For me the answer goes back to what my professor at Bangor, the late Eric Mobbs, would tell his students in the 1960s: "Strive to pass on your woodland or forest in better shape than how you received it." This applies now as it did then. Invest in the right silviculture and resilience will be built up and, as far as possible, your wood will be Brexit-proofed! But what is the 'right silviculture'?

Everyone will have their own ideas of what is best, but I would like to suggest three underpinning principles of good silviculture (see panel).

These three foundations of good silviculture will ensure successful forests in the future whatever Brexit may lead to. There are, of course, many, many other considerations to bear in mind which UKWAS (woodland assurance) so well entrenches in our thinking. One final thought is the growing recognition that trees, woodlands, and the 'greenscape' generally, is good for human health - mental, physical and spiritual. We made need this all the more as our politicians add to our worries and levels of stress by their failing to unite behind a common Brexit policy. I think I'd better stop!



Sound silvicultural practice is at the heart of resilience and sustainability for small woodland or large forest

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD SILVICULTURE

1 Care for the soil

I've not always got this right in my own patch and it is clear that damage can still impact how trees grow and how weeds proliferate even 20 years later. I am thinking mainly of logging operations in wet weather when soil gets compacted and its structure irreparably (?) damaged. So, don't bring in heavy equipment when the soil is really wet or, if there is no choice, lay brash mats or restrict routes to defined extraction racks and tracks. There is a second point: try to avoid causing soil erosion and, related to this, try to conserve organic matter and the 'protective' layer of dead leaves, twigs, fallen branches and other organic debris on the surface.

2 Focus on quality

If we are at home, my wife and I quite often watch Bargain Hunt at lunchtime. One of the mantras for antiques is, 'Quality sells'. The same is true of our woodlands. In general thin to favour the best quality - particularly important for broadleaved stands, and even consider high pruning to improve future log quality. Of course, in large forests pruning is a luxury unlikely to repay the investment, but for the small woodland owner it is a great way to improve quality of stems. Why not high prune a few trees every few visits, remembering that the best time is when the trees are at small pole stage around the time of a late cleaning or first thinning? And when thinning do remember to favour the pruned trees.

3 Celebrate diversity

While the threats monocultures are at risk from are, I believe, overstated by some, it remains true that variety of species and variety in structure helps increase resilience. With the rising tide of pests and diseases having variety is an insurance against complete devastation, and mixing of sizes and ages may help wind-firmness and even reduce fire risk a little.





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



FUELWOOD

FTN5-17
Fuelwood (Warwick) Ltd
www.fuelwood.co.
01926 484673



Photo: Douglas Wheeler

Douglas Wheeler managed to capture an almost romantic harvesting scene in a valley opposite Liathach, near Kinlochewe.

“It was a tricky site, wet and steep in places and it was lodge pole pine to top it off. But the scenery was breathtaking, so I had to stop and take a photo. There was no phone or radio signal on site, however, so it was a boring few weeks indeed.”

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
JUNE –
GET INVOLVED**

In June, we will run two features: **Firewood and Sustainable Energy** and **Innovation and Technology**. Please get in touch by 15 May if you would like to submit an article on the topic or simply if you have ideas on aspects that should be covered.

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

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



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

www.confor.org.uk/FTNweb

Watch out for the mouse icon in this magazine!



Paul Vidgen

Forest Machines Ltd



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!



Our latest stock and offers
at your fingertips...

 www.jaspwilson.co.uk

 01556 612233

 info@jaspwilson.co.uk

