

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

April 2022 Issue 110

IN THIS ISSUE:

TIMBER IN
CONSTRUCTION

BIODIVERSITY

APF 2022



**Skills &
training**



Confor
Promoting forestry and wood



TREETOP FORESTRY^{Ltd}

Forestry | Sales | Parts | Servicing



Delivering power & productivity when you need it most.



TIGERCAT LH822 / LOGMAX 7000 TWIN

UNIQUE SERVICES FOR THE FOREST INDUSTRY

treetopforestry.co.uk

Balmakewan Woodland, Laurencekirk, Kincardineshire AB30 1QX
Chris Quincey - Sales - 07392 087006

SOLE AGENTS FOR

Log Max[®] Tigercat

CONTENTS



TREE PLANTING

- 6** The whats, the wheres, the why nots and the willingness for change

CONFOR NEWS

- 10** Red diesel, tree planting and community engagement dominate Confor's political agenda
- 13** Royal Welsh Agricultural Show
New members
- 14** Update on the use of red diesel
- 16** Confor dinner and awards 2022
- 19** Changing Attitudes
Forestry, timber and net zero
Lord Goldsmith to speak on forestry and tree planting

NEWS AND UPDATES

- 21** Apprentices triumph at the ALBAS awards
- 25** An update on the environmental land management schemes
- 42** Scientists develop synthetic sex pheromone to fool Emerald ash borer
- 42** Nature of Scotland awards

MEMBER PROFILE

- 22** Maelor's Operation

APF 2022

- 27** Seeking to break all records

SKILLS AND TRAINING

- 28** Inspiring a new generation of forestry professionals
- 30** A fundamental change to Scottish education in land-based industries
- 34** Attracting new talent to timber haulage and forest machine operating

LEGAL MATTERS

- 37** Managing regulatory investigations

MARKET REPORT

- 38** Supply is the critical factor
- 40** It's time to invest in UK forestry

TIMBER IN CONSTRUCTION

- 44** Bursting the myths about Homegrown Mass Timber Products



- 46** The Bridge of Doune today

- 49** Major changes inevitable if Ukraine conflict continues

WOOD FOR GOOD

- 51** Maintaining momentum

MACHINERY

- 55** Small but beautiful extraction

BIODIVERSITY

- 60** Measuring nature using the power of DNA

Q&A

- 64** Becoming a forest entrepreneur

RESEARCH

- 66** The integrated management of Hylobius abietis in UK forestry

SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

- 67** Mixed up about mixtures

TIMBER TRANSPORT CONFERENCE 2022

- 68** Conference makes successful return after two year absence

Tustins

WOODLAND FOR SALE



HAFOD Y FOEL & LLWYN CELYN

Talerddig, Llanbrynmair, Powys
188.57 Acres / 76.31 Ha
Two well thinned mature mainly Spruce forests within easy reach of timber markets.
For sale as a whole or in two lots.
For the whole, offers over £2,700,000



DELCOMBE WOOD

Bulbarrow Hill, Milton Abbas, Dorset
203.06 Acres / 82.17 Ha
A woodland of much charm with solid forestry underpinnings. High percentage of commercial species..
For sale as a whole or in three lots.
For the whole, offers over £1,800,000



STONEHOUSE WOOD

Boxley, Maidstone, Kent
66.04 Acres / 26.73 Ha
An attractive, mainly deciduous, woodland with timber building and areas of Norway spruce, western hemlock, Scots pine and sweet chestnut coppice.
Guide price: £550,000



ALLT HENGERAINT

Ciliau Aeron, Aberaeron, Ceredigion
45.79 Acres / 18.53 Ha
A restored Ancient woodland on a valley side only two miles from the sea. This leasehold tranquil woodland offers amenity benefits and timber harvesting.
Guide price: £178,000



DDOL ISAF

Llangollen, Denbighshire, North Wales
80.90 Acres / 32.74 Ha
A stunning slice of Vale of Llangollen countryside with potential for new tree establishment and management of the existing forest cover.
Guide price: £250,000



COED TY LLYS

Langynidr, Brecon, South Wales
29.92 Acres / 12.11 Ha
Set within the Brecon Beacons National Park on the side of a valley, this is a mixed woodland approaching its production phase
Guide price: £130,000



CRICH CHASE

Ambergate, near Matlock, Derbyshire
182.35 Acres / 73.8 Ha
On the fringe of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, this is a nature conservation/rewilding project. Firewood timber approaching maturity.
Guide price: £720,000



HIGH MEADOW & CRAIGHILL

Skenfrith, near Monmouth, South Wales
179 Acres / 72.4 Ha
A highly productive woodland with a significant amount of harvestable Douglas fir along with mixed regenerating broadleaves.
Guide price: £1,200,000



WEDDICAR WOOD

Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria
416.25 Acres / 168.45 Ha
This delightful wooded parkland landscape includes a 20 year commercial woodland, areas of young broadleaves, a river and lakes.
Guide price: £1,250,000



PITTMANS SHAW

Near Checkendon, Oxfordshire
17.23 Acres / 6.97 Ha
A private classic Chilterns beech wood, set within a much larger woodland. Elements of oak and cherry. Potential timber income.
Guide price: £230,000



Mike Tustin
Forestry Investment Specialist



John Clegg
Forestry Expert & Agency Specialist



Marcus Winnall
Forestry Land Acquisition & Sales Advisor

miketustin@tustins.co.uk • johnclegg@tustins.co.uk • marcuswinnall@tustins.co.uk
Unit 2, Park Farm, Akeman Street, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 3JQ

01869 254938

www.tustins.co.uk

Another reason to do more



STUART GOODALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
CONFOR

The unfolding events in Ukraine are shocking and difficult to watch as they rightly dominate the nightly news. UK forestry and timber companies have been quick to release statements saying they won't accept Russian timber, and the certification bodies – PEFC and FSC have classified wood and wood products from Russia and Belarus as conflict timber that can't be certified.

The global timber trade will likely be affected for many years to come by the fallout from the invasion. Russia is the largest exporter of softwood sawn timber in the world, has the largest reserves of growing wood and is a major exporter of other products, not least, birch plywood.

According to the latest figures, only 6% of our sawnwood imports come from Russia, but here in the UK we will still feel the impacts in our own supply chains. As other nations, especially those in the West, refuse to import Russian wood products in the short term, they will likely seek to reduce their exposure to Russian wood supplies in the longer term.

And there will be other impacts to come. The supply of pallets and pallet wood from Belarus was a topic raised in recent conversations with our counterparts in Europe. The loss of these supplies will have an impact on logistics across Europe.

During the pandemic, Confor ensured that governments across the UK recognised the essential uses of wood, and the key role wood plays in helping us achieve net zero in the UK by 2050 (Scotland by 2045). Confor's 2022 *changing attitudes* campaign on future wood supply has proven to be very timely. Outside of Scotland, the countries of the UK haven't seen future supplies of wood, both imported and domestic, as important – that will change.

I watched the Berlin Wall come down in 1989 with joy and optimism. I don't believe we're set to go back to those cold war days, but I do believe that global politics has changed and as UK and global consumption of wood increases there is now yet another reason to do more to ensure the UK produces more wood in the coming decades.

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:
£65/(£70 overseas)
Contact FTN@confor.org.uk

Forestry and Timber News is published by Countrywide Publications on behalf of Confor.

For advertising, contact
Julia Curtis 01502 725857
julia.curtis@micropress.co.uk

Printed by Micropress Printers Ltd



Stuart Goodall
Chief Executive
T: 0131 240 1416
E: stuartg@confor.org.uk



Andy Leitch
Deputy Chief Executive
M: 07881 510171
E: andy.leitch@confor.org.uk



Eliza Hibbins-Cline
Membership and Marketing Officer
M: 07918 880285
E: eliza@confor.org.uk



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



Maria Bellissimo
Policy Officer
M: 07884 579215
E: maria@confor.org.uk



Anthony Geddes
National manager for Wales
T: 07494 079305
E: anthony@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

PLANTING: THE WHATS, THE WHERE'S, THE WHY NOTS AND THE WILLINGNESS FOR CHANGE

With disappointing tree planting results everywhere outside Scotland, **Caroline Ayre**, **Maria Bellissimo** and **Anthony Geddes** look at the barriers, opportunities and attitudes facing regulators and policy makers.

Woodland creation – what and where?

In last year's England Trees Action Plan (ETAP), the UK Government re-committed to "plant 30,000ha of new trees per year by the end of this Parliament" (or 2024), with at least 7,000ha planted in England. The target, first set by the Climate Change Committee as part of UK's road map to net zero by 2050, was used as a baseline commitment by all main political parties during the 2019 General Election campaign. With so much cross-party support, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the target is a done deal.

Instead, one year on from ETAP and with only two years left in this Parliament, it is becoming ever clearer that both the UK and England targets won't be met. Even the National Audit Office expressed this opinion in a recent report. Over 80% of the 13,300ha of new woodland created in 2021 in the UK was planted in Scotland, the only country to almost meet its target of 12,000ha per year. The other nations fell abysmally short, as the table below shows.

Even if Scotland manages to meet its new target of 18,000ha/year set by the new SNP-Green Party Government in 2021, planting 30,000ha of new trees every year by 2024 remains a very distant prospect.

The expressions of confidence from ministers that the targets will be met are not enough to fix the problem. Especially when very little attention is being paid to the many obstacles affecting afforestation projects, all applying the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), throughout the application process. In 2021 only 2,100ha were planted in England. This figure was lower than the 2,300ha planted in 2020 and came after the launch of the generous Na-



ture for Climate Fund in September 2020, aimed specifically at tree planting. Wales has been slowly increasing its new planting, but from a base of 80ha it would be difficult to do less. The pipeline of new planting is encouraging but the reduction rate during the approval process belies a more significant problem.

This poor result should be particularly worrisome for ministers in Westminster and Cardiff, as it shows that the issue does not lie in funding, but lies with regulators struggling to set an approach that is consistent with meeting the targets. Additionally, single interest groups, who have no obligation to ensure the multiple outcomes from land use required by the net zero ambition, have a disproportionate influence on the tree planting application process.

These problems can be fixed but doing so requires strong political leadership and close collaboration with industry in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The most beneficial thing that ministers and regulators could do is assess the economic, social and biodiversity outcomes of land use as it is and compare them to those of increased tree planting with a strong productive component. Continuing to fail to acknowledge the potential for improving biodiversity and delivering additional outcomes through well designed afforestation leaves only potential for failure as it blocks all types of tree planting. The way forward must be to listen to industry and find a compromise to achieve notable nature gains compared to the current state of affairs.

Year	England		Wales		Scotland		N.Ireland		UK	
	target (ha pa)	Actual Planting (ha)	target (ha pa)	Actual Planting (ha)	target (ha pa)	Actual Planting (ha)	target (ha pa)	Actual Planting (ha)	target (ha pa)	Actual Planting (ha)
2017	2,200	1,100	2,000	400	10,000	4,700	n/a	200	n/a	6,400
2018	2,200	1,500	8,000	200	10,000	6,900	n/a	200	n/a	9,000
2019	2,200	1,400	8,000	600	10,000	11,200	n/a	200	30,000	13,500
2020	n/a	2,300	8,000	0	12,000	11,000	2,000	200	30,000	13,700
2021	n/a	2,100	5,000	300	12,000	10,600	2,000	300	30,000	13,300

Source: Forest Research, Forestry Facts & Figures 2021; House of Commons Research Unit.

Woodland creation – why not?

There is a wide range of complex reasons why woodland creation is constrained – land availability and ownership, concerns over future agricultural/land use support, regulation, and the enduring public and ENGO negative perception of production versus protection.

Regulation is, of course, required to ensure woodland creation is carried out sensitively and in compliance with UKFS. But processes and timescales could be improved. The Scottish Government's Mackinnon Review, published in 2016, recommended a more risk-based approach to regulation and simplified grant approval processes. This streamlined process has increased woodland creation in Scotland whilst also improving stakeholder consultation and maintaining environmental protection.

England's ETAP commits to review regulatory requirements "to streamline the application process while strengthening environmental protections", developing "stronger guidance on tree planting, peatland and bird surveys". This includes when planting will not be supported, to ensure applicants are clearer about the likelihood of progressing an application or not. The Forestry Deep Dive led by Lee Waters, the Deputy Climate Change Minister, produced 39 recommendations for improving forestry in Wales, among which were multiple aims to simplify processes, improve support and empower decision-making relating to forestry creation.

Both of these plans offer noble and welcome aims, yet they have created confusion and frustration with the rapid introduction of new, but unclear, guidance for breeding waders that has seen well-designed woodland creation applications refused without a comprehensive review of the risk.

We need a national conversation about land use priorities and the need for landscape change if we are to meet the challenges of the coming decades in terms of timber production, energy, wildlife, food and carbon sequestration. Our Governments must offer a vision of how mixed, well-managed woodland, can form part of a resilient future landscape that delivers a more diverse economy and ecology.

Woodland creation – the willingness for fresh thinking

Confor organised a two-day visit to Cumbria and North Yorkshire in March to show a team of DEFRA officials, which included Naomi Mathiessen and Bella Murfin, Joint Directors of the Nature for Climate Tree Programme, the many barriers facing tree planting in the area.

The 48ha Tilhill site at Mearbeck, North Yorkshire, showcased a clear example of a proposal meeting the strict UKFS but being implicitly rejected because of the presence of productive species. Despite the

continued on p8

PLANTING: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

ANDREW SOWERBY,
PRYOR AND RICKETT
SILVICULTURE

Wales has seen a dramatic change in the fortunes of tree planting in the last 12 months. With the reassignment of responsibility for forestry to the Deputy Climate Change Minister we have seen forestry shoot up the political agenda. Funding is at an all-time high with a 3-year budget totalling £57million just for forestry and significant interest from both farming and private sectors. The creation of new woodland planning funds and the forthcoming new grant schemes are all positive indicators of change but there are still some complications.

Diverse landscape

Wales is a country of small land holdings, diverse farms and broad ranges of habitats. One only need look at the Woodland Opportunities Map and marvel in the rainbow of designations and colours. This means planting is going to be proposed on land that has competing interests and purposes. Farmers can ill afford to plant on their best land whilst curlews, deep peat and other ecological constraints mean that forestry is squeezed into corners and wet fields, our regulators' new favourite hunting ground.

In directing Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to act as the regulator for Welsh

Government schemes, officials created guidance on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. This guidance seeks to support NRW in its decision-making process and allows for flexibility in determining what is appropriate land use allowing for changes in different circumstances. Unfortunately, NRW's risk-averse organisational culture means it is incapable of empowering its staff to make these difficult decisions.

Land usage

This is the crux of the problem; we are curating our poor land-use choices. By choosing to block land use change, the regulator is not conserving the landscape but consigning it to more of the same, continued grazing, roughing up on route to natural regeneration or another alternative farming outcome. We need regulators, ENGOs and single interest groups to start considering the positive outcomes that forestry can bring and measuring those against the outcomes of business as usual.

With the new Sustainable Farming Scheme in design and more farms seemingly abandoned by retiring farmers, there is a growing amount of land becoming available to purchase. The question remains, how long will it take for alternative finance, carbon funding and a dash of investment bravery to cut out government funding and with it many of the hurdles being thrown in the way of afforestation?





continued from p7

backing of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (in which it is located), this mixed plantation has been rejected because of a very remote possibility of future impact on wading birds. In the meantime, an all-broadleaf plantation a few miles away and with all other conditions being equal was swiftly approved. The visit to a Continuous Cover Forestry site near Penrith, managed by Jackie Dunne from Dunne-woods, highlighted the challenges that foresters face working within the limits of rigid processes that make it extremely hard to recover from events like Storm Arwen. These two sites were excellent examples of the need for closer collaboration and better support from regulators to the sector.

The final part of the visit included a discussion about timber supply with BSW's timber buying director Harry Stevens and a tour of the company's sawmill in Carlisle. It focused on the issues the sector faces because of the UK's reliance on imports and emphasised the importance of securing a strong domestic timber supply for the future.

The timely visit by Defra was a precursor to the launch of the long-anticipated House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee's report on Tree Planting, to which Confor gave evidence.

EFRA COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TREE PLANTING REPORT

30,000HA PA TREE PLANTING TARGET

By May 2022, the UK Government should set clear, annual targets for England's contribution to reaching the overall UK goal for planting of 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2024.

RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

By May 2022, Defra, the Forestry Commission (FC) and Natural England (NE) should set out a plan for completing the data mapping work needed to allow it to ensure trees are not planted in locations where they will damage the environment.

EWCO AND ELMS

By May 2022, Defra and FC should publish a clear and detailed timeline for the introduction of the ELM schemes, including how the EWCO and ELM schemes will fit together.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

Defra and FC should review the length of the maintenance payment. If they decide to keep it unchanged, the need to provide further information and guidance on what forms of additional private finance and economic opportunities landowners should seek to bridge the funding gap.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

By September 2022, Defra and BEIS should publish an action plan to increase the use of domestically grown timber in the UK, including guidance on what trees we should be growing to meet domestic demand. It should set out annual milestones to double the amount of domestically grown timber being used in the UK by 2030.

TREE SUPPLY

The UK Government should set annual tree planting targets for England, which would greatly help the sectors' confidence in the Government's commitment to tree planting. It should also provide updates on the establishment of a confidential information sharing system with nurseries.

SKILL AND WORKFORCE

Defra should commit to a target of at least an extra three hundred new people into woodland creation roles by 2025. Defra should create a dedicated taskforce with membership from the Department for Education, BEIS, FC and training providers to agree and deliver a clear plan to meet this target.

TREE PLANTING APPLICATION

Defra needs to consult on the criteria and process for its review of approvals regulations, which it should aim to conclude by December 2022.

PLANTING: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

LUKE HEMMINGS, SAVILLS

Having been sat firmly on both sides of the fence in recent months, I can see that there is a real appetite from the FC and wider Government to meet our tree planting targets; and almost insatiable demand from landowners and investors who wish to seize the moment and do something positive while they have the opportunity.

Unfortunately, ambition does not always equal delivery; and we are currently still a long way from meeting our annual planting target of 7,500ha / year in England by 2024-25. The best current estimate for the planting season we have just had (2021-22) is between 1,400 – 1,900 ha planted against a target of 2,577 ha.

England Woodland Creation Offer

Although there may be many reasons behind the discrepancy, the recent roll-out of the £126 million England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) – while welcomed for its generous payment rates – has been beset by processing bottlenecks and up to 600ha of new planting has had to be deferred until next year. The FC has been working hard to rectify this situation and allocate more resources, but it faced an 18% shortfall in projected staffing levels in 2021-22, hampered by the same skills shortages affecting the rest of the sector.

The launch of a Development Woodland Officer programme to train more skilled future foresters has been welcomed but will not provide new recruits

continued on page 9



**STIHL****NEW**

PRECISE CUTS. POWERFUL PRUNING. BATTERY POWERED.

APIII
SYSTEM

**PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE:
THE HTA 135 CORDLESS POLE PRUNER.**

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL STIHL DEALER. STIHL.CO.UK

The latest additions to the STIHL AP System are our most powerful yet. The HTA 135 telescopic pole pruner is perfect for removing dead wood, pruning branches and for cutting back fruit trees in noise sensitive areas. And thanks to its reinforced telescopic shaft, you'll be able to take on any challenge.

"No matter the height of the job, with the HTA 135 I know I can work safely from the ground and prune with precision in any environment. Plus the quiet motor, low-vibration and light weight of the tool makes it a pleasure to work with."

- Marcel Kickert, horticulturist and landscaper



**TELESCOPIC
SHAFT**



**LONG
SERVICE
LIFE**



**HIGH
POWER
OUTPUT**

continued from page 8

overnight. The program must make sure practical skills are learned alongside grant processing, and that the more seasoned staff, including Woodland Officers, are not overlooked or allowed to drift away.

While talking to interested landowners, the existence of the Woodland Creation Planning Grant remains a useful tool to de-risk the process of gaining approval to plant against a sometimes-complex regulatory landscape. Although there is a keenness to make the most of increased incentives, uncertainty over ELM remains a key factor with owners wondering if they might get a better deal for something else. The much-publicised planting of 270,000 trees by the Blenheim Estate in Oxfordshire is a great piece of advertising and a welcome sight, although it may also help reinforce the stereotype that large scale woodland creation schemes with ESG benefits at their core are primarily there to help big landowners offset their conscience.

Mixed messages

There do appear to be mixed messages at every turn – with Natural England wanting to create scrub in some areas where “woodland” would be rejected instantly, let alone anything like commercial forestry. New breeding wader guidance and peat guidelines are making it ever harder to find suitable sites for planting, while competition for the sites that do exist is increasing. Can we justify converting farmland into forestry when food security is becoming a more pressing issue? Current incentives place little value on the production of wood, and all of the emphasis on worthy environmental benefits which do not necessarily come with a plan for the future of new woodlands.

The reality is that we still need many more new woodlands producing sustainable, British grown timber, especially as imports of wood from Russia are blocked, proving that the globalised model of relying on others for our needs is not fool proof. Of course, all of this pales into insignificance in comparison to the suffering and bravery of people in Ukraine; but it is clear that we are entering into an ever more uncertain period when the availability of all raw materials and commodities are not as abundant or secure as they once were.

Follow-on plan

Beyond the current planting target, there is, as yet, no follow-on plan to explain how tree planting will be rolled into ELM. The Future Forestry project, launched in October 2021, will look at fundamental challenges, policy choices, and needs to urgently address the key issues of skills shortages, plant supply, land availability and integration with other environmental land use schemes. Some might even say it could be past time for a comprehensive Land Use Strategy.



Scottish Environment and Land Reform Minister Màiri McAllan (centre) with forest manager Jillian Kennedy (left) and Confor's Stuart Goodall (right)

RED DIESEL, TREE PLANTING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DOMINATE CONFOR'S POLITICAL AGENDA

With Maria Bellissimo now firmly in place, Confor has stepped up its political engagement in the first months of 2022 and held several meetings across the UK with ministers and politicians. In England and Northern Ireland, we pressed the case for action to drive up tree planting and support for the development of the industry; in Scotland, we highlighted the benefits of planting at scale in response to concerns raised by some local communities. In Wales, similar concerns are being expressed and we are in frequent contact with the forestry minister to discuss the industry's response.

All-Party Group

In England we held an excellent meeting of our All-Party Group where Dr Andrew Cameron presented his paper on expanding productive forests for carbon and to reduce pressure on fragile global forests. We have secured media coverage for Dr Cameron and this meeting provided the opportunity for Westminster politicians to discuss his findings. This was very timely as the EFRA committee has now published its report into forestry.

We also held introductory meetings with MPs who have forestry and wood processing interests in their constituencies to secure their support for the sector. With them, we majored on the upcoming change in red diesel taxation and the heavy impact it will have on wood processing Members. Since the consultation came out two years ago, we have lobbied on this issue and that will continue right until the last minute as alternative and affordable machinery and technology are not currently available. The impact will

also be made worse due to rising energy costs as a fall-out from the ongoing war in Ukraine.

In February, Confor had the pleasure of taking the Scottish Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Màiri McAllan MSP, to the Knowes and Keltie site near Dunning, Perthshire, managed by Scottish Woodlands. This was a brilliant

site for the Minister to visit: site managers Jillian Kennedy and Maaike Felstead talked about the design process and how they strove to secure public access, incorporated open areas to display the on-site archaeology, and modified the proposals to protect the wildlife present nearby. They demonstrated what large-scale planting can deliver and the Minister was very receptive and appreciative of the role that larger modern forests can play in maintaining thriving rural economies and providing benefits to local communities.

Stakeholder engagement

The theme of large-scale planting and engagement with local communities was also at the heart of our meetings with south-west Scotland MSPs in Holyrood. While forestry and wood processing continue to be recognised as a key local industry, there have been instances of local groups raising concerns with their MSPs about the scale of planting, resulting in challenges for the forestry people engaging with local stakeholders. Confor has commissioned work to develop training on stakeholder engagement as well as the resources to explain why new forests are required and their benefits. The outputs from this work will be made available across the UK.

continued on page 13



Looking for a high performance wood preservative? Wolmanit® CX.

In the vessel or in the field, you can rely on Wolman.

Using unique German engineering, Nordic quality and technical experts we can give you peace of mind and consistently high performing treated products.

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

Wolman Wood and Fire Protection GmbH, Dr.-Wolman-Str. 31–33, 76547 Sinzheim, Germany
www.wolman.de, Contact: info.wolman@wolman.de

THE FUTURE IS HAMPTON STEEL

BRITISH WIRE FENCING &
METAL POST MANUFACTURER

ALL
POSTS
GUARANTEED
FOR
30 YEARS

ONE OF THE
MOST COMPREHENSIVE
WIRE FENCING RANGES
AVAILABLE

For a superior integrated solution to your fencing needs, combine the award-winning **Versalok®** intermediate metal post and clip system and **Hampton's Metal Strainers**, all covered by Hampton Steel's **30 year guarantee**, with any woven wire fencing pattern. Choose from Class A galvanise **Hampton Net™** fixed knot fencing or **Sentinel®** hinge joint supplied in rolls of up to 500 metres.

Alternatively opt for our longer life green passivated **Hampton Net™ Green**, **Rylock® Green** or **Rylock® One** products. All these can be supplied with barbed wire, line wire and fencing staples in complementary coating options. Also available, **chainlink** fencing either class A galvanised or PVC coated with barbed or knuckled ends, fully galvanised **hexagonal wire netting** and **Gripple®** wire joining products.

The future of wire fencing is
Hampton Steel.



HAMPTON®

continued from page 10

Confor's deputy chief executive Andy Leitch supported Balcas Timber Ltd. as they hosted Northern Ireland's Forestry Minister, Edwin Poots. During the visit, the Minister stated his support for the global wood manifesto Time for Timber, which was launched at COP26 in November. This was a very significant development as we seek to rally government support for more tree planting in Northern Ireland to secure the sector's future. With elections for Northern Ireland's Assembly in May, it was important to win the backing of the Minister to then build further support. Confor is also currently working on a manifesto with a series of commitments in support of the sector that all parties standing for election will be asked to endorse. Shortly after this visit, we also secured UK forestry minister Lord Goldsmith's support for the key recommendations of the timber manifesto which we will follow up on with him.

Challenges

Throughout February and March Confor's team in Wales has met with both Lee Waters, Deputy Climate Change Minister, and Cefin Campbell MS, Designated Member for Plaid Cymru within the political power sharing agreement with Labour. Both are supportive of forestry and recognise the need and role of timber and fibre. Both highlighted their concerns that communities and other stakeholders' interests are acknowledged by firms supporting external investors seeking to enter the forestry market in Wales.

Unfairly the professionalism of firms and individuals operating in Wales is questioned by communities, farming unions or politicians. Both Confor and the industry must meet this challenge with vigour. Over the 1st quarter of 2022, the Confor Wales committee, Wales National Manager Anthony Geddes and Policy Officer Maria Bellissimo have been working on a roadmap to address this. A range of member, corporate and political communications are being developed to highlight how important forestry is in Wales. The role of high-quality afforestation providing long term payback for communities, employment, biological and ecological outcomes, as well as financially supporting the ailing farming sector, are all messages we seek to place with these stakeholders.

Alongside this public messaging, Confor remains engaged with the Welsh Government Deep Dive group which has refocused on delivery and action resulting from its findings. This includes work on felling licence reform and design of both a new specific forestry grant and Wales's Sustainable Farming Scheme. The latter is about to enter a co-design stage and we are keen to involve landowners and managers to ensure the practical considerations for afforestation and support of undermanaged woodlands are included.



Show season bounces back with Royal Welsh Agricultural Show



Anthony Geddes reports

After two years of cancelled shows and events I'm pleased to say that Confor will be returning to Builth Wells and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show with more gusto than ever.

We're still in the planning stages at present but expect to see a new layout for the forestry zone this year with more businesses than ever showcasing their brilliant work in Wales. Our early bookings include:

- Forestry Contractors breakfast with the DPJ Foundation an amazing Welsh Charity supporting rural mental health.
- Our legendary forestry lunch, full of fodder from the forests and engaging speakers discussing Sustainable Forestry Investment in Wales
- A full day of advice sessions for farmers interested in forestry. Everything from how to plant and tips of successful establishment, to accessing grants and using farm sourced timber.

Our key aim for the event, along with raising the profile of forestry is to support members businesses and the future of the forest industry. This year we feel there this a good opportunity to do this through engaging with the skills agenda and promot-

ing employment and experience opportunities but as always, your feedback and direction is welcome.

There are still plenty of opportunities to support us and be involved by bringing your business to the show or sponsoring an event. If you are interested in attending the RWAS 2022 please get in touch with me at Anthony@confor.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to our newest Confor members: **M&M Timber; Alister More; Nicholas Faddes; Rory Fettes; Andrew Low; David Boler; Jack Skeath; NatureMetrics; Richard Craven-Smith-Milnes; NexGen Tree Shelters Ltd; Treleaven Countryside Services; Orri Stevens; Dr J Von Pezold; Nick Covarr and RJ Trees and Hedging Ltd**



Confor Membership and Marketing Officer
Eliza Hibbins-Cline
E: eliza@confor.org.uk
T: 07918880285

Update on the use of red diesel



Andy Leith reports on the implementation of the new tax treatment for red diesel

Earlier in 2021 the UK Government confirmed its decision to remove the entitlement to use red diesel from most sectors from 1st April 2022. Confor had lobbied hard on behalf of the industry, but there was mixed news for businesses in the Confor family; forestry retains its entitlement to use red diesel, but activities outside the forest gate such as wood processors will lose that entitlement.

In the last 18 months, we have been lobbying furiously to seek a delay in the implementation of this new tax treatment for wood processors. As I type up this article, we are drafting another submission to HMRC to emphasise how the current exponential increases in energy prices on top of the loss of rebated fuel will have double-whammy effect on operational costs, reducing the financial ability to invest in green technologies and in some cases maintain viability, threatening jobs. I will continue to keep Members apprised of developments.

In response to Member queries over what activities actually fall into the forestry exemption, we sought clarification from

HMRC on the most common queries and this was their response:

HMRC: "For context, we define 'forestry' as "the upkeep and management of forests including the growing and harvesting of timber and other forestry products", and a 'forest' as:

a. An area of land where trees have been planted (often in rows and columns) with the intention that they will be grown and harvested for timber, or other forestry products.

b. A pre-existing natural forest which is being maintained and managed so that it may be harvested for timber, or other forestry products.

Another important point to mention is that, from 1 April 2022 the eligibility for vehicles to use rebated fuels will be assessed on both what vehicle is (only 'agricultural', 'special' and 'unlicensed' vehicles can use rebated fuel) and how it is being used. So, if an activity is allowed under our above definitions this doesn't automatically guarantee any vehicle can use rebated fuel for that purpose (as opposed to 'machines' which can all use rebated fuel if using it for an accepted purpose). Please see our interim guidance on what will constitute as an 'excepted vehicle' from 1 April - we're also updating Excise Notice 75 to include further detail on this soon."

Confor: In order to manage the forests and extract the harvested timber we have to build access gravel roads in the forest, it is my interpretation that the machinery used (excavator diggers, dumpers and rollers) to extract the materials within the forest boundaries and build these access tracks/roads will still be able to use the rebated fuel.

HMRC: "Yes - this is correct."

Confor: Where a landowner has received planning permission to construct a windfarm within a forest, the specialist machinery used to harvest and remove the trees will be able to use rebated fuel as this is still a forest harvesting operation using specialist machinery. The construction of the windfarm including the construction of additional access roads will not be able to use the rebated fuel?

HMRC: "Yes - vehicles and machines that are used for purposes relating for forestry

can be used for any other purpose on the land where they are ordinarily kept.

You are also correct that the construction of the windfarm including the construction of additional access roads will not be able to use the rebated fuel."

Confor: Some tree species in the country are under attack through disease causing widespread death of Ash trees with a significant amount of these being part of hedgerows/field boundaries along public roads. For public safety there are large programmes of work on behalf of local authorities to remove these trees using specialist forestry machinery, I assume rebated fuel can be used for these operations too.

HMRC: "Yes - cutting trees, hedges and verges bordering public roads are allowed activities."

Confor: Would you mind helping clarify what guidance I should be giving contractors/operators who use their machinery for forestry and agricultural activities for the majority of the time, but will take jobs for short periods in non-forestry activities such as constructing public roads or development sites, how would they best manage switching fuels?

HMRC: "If switching from an allowed and non-allowed use, they will need to drain the tank of the vehicle/machine of rebated fuel and flush it through with full duty paid diesel or biofuels."

Given many have expressed concern that this would be costly to do every time they switch between uses, we're advising the following options to mitigate this:

- have a fleet of vehicles/machines that are only used for allowed purposes and run on rebated fuel, and some that only run on full duty paid diesel or biofuel and are used for any other purposes.
- run all vehicles/machines on full duty paid diesel or biofuels for all uses."

In recent conversations with HMRC it has become clearer that some activities within forest boundaries will not be exempt, such as constructing buildings and mountain bike track construction because they are not considered to be core to forest management.

I am sure other queries will arise for us to consult with HMRC on. If you have any, please do not hesitate to contact andy.leitch@confor.org.uk

Confor has been consulted on the development of the current interim guidance from HMRC, the latest on both when rebated fuel can be used and fuels for use in vehicles (Excise Notice 75) before 1 April 2022 can be found at www.gov.uk, we recommend you read through them.





**CONFOR PRESENTS THE UK'S
LARGEST & MOST EXCITING
TREES & TIMBER SHOW**

APF 2022 & THE ARB SHOW

FEATURING...

**THE WORLD POLECLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIPS - EUROPEAN CHAINSAW CARVING CHAMPIONSHIP
UK OPEN TREE CLIMBING COMPETITION - WOODLAND CRAFTS - HORSE LOGGING
WORLD LOG TO LEG CHAMPIONSHIP - BRITISH OPEN FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS
FOREST WORKER ZONE - ARB WORKER ZONE - TREE HEALTH SEMINARS
FIREWOOD PROCESSING - BIOMASS PRODUCTION - FENCING VILLAGE**

300+ EXHIBITORS - 2½ MILES WORKING MACHINERY

**APF 2022
22nd/23rd/24th September
Ragley Estate, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 5PS**

**Email: info@apfexhibition.co.uk Website: www.apfexhibition.co.uk
Tel: 01428 723545 Follow Us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram**



Confor's largest-ever awards



David Lee reports on a highly successful return for the Confor Dinner and Awards

Future forestry leaders, great communicators and inspiring innovators were honoured alongside an industry stalwart at Confor's largest-ever awards dinner which took place on 1 March.

Hamish Macleod of BSW Timber won the Dedicated Service to Forestry Award, while

Laura Jermy picked up the Changing Attitudes prize for her work in sharing positive messages about the forestry and wood industry with new audiences on social media and in schools.

Matt Stevenson, of ECOSystems Technologies, won the Innovation and Research Award, while Michael Cresswell of Natural

Resources Wales took the Future Leader prize.

Confor's National Manager for Scotland, Jamie Farquhar, was also honoured ahead of his retirement, receiving a standing ovation from the audience in Edinburgh.

Màiri McAllan, the Scottish Government's Minister for Environment and Land Reform, told delegates that she was "proud to be the Minister for forestry, and to be in partnership with such a flourishing and forward-looking sector".

She continued: "I doubt there has been a more important time for forestry in a generation. This Government is clear on the vital role you all can play in helping to address the critical challenges facing us [particularly climate change and net zero] as we begin to look past the Covid pandemic."

The Minister was forced to join via video link after a positive test for Covid-19 on the day of the awards dinner.



Lord Duncan, Confor Chair, welcomes guests to the awards dinner

She also urged leaders of the forestry sector to "remember the importance of bringing local communities with you when new forests are being created". She added: "Good work is being done, and as an industry, forestry helps to economically support the more rural and remote areas of Scotland. I'm keen to build on this to ensure that we continue to develop and improve



Far left:
L-R, front, winners: Matt Stevenson, Innovation & Research; Michael Cresswell, Future Leader; Laura Jermy, Changing Attitudes Award; Hamish Macleod, Dedicated Service to Forestry Award.
L-R, back, finalists: Jamie Dewhurst (Innovation & Research), Alexander Lambton, Dr Mike Yerbury (both Future Leader), Josh Roberts (Innovation & Research) & Shona Smyth, Future Leader.

Left:
David Leslie (left) of James Jones & Sons, congratulates the Future Leader winner Michael Cresswell, along with two of the finalists, Shona Smyth & Alexander Lambton

The judges said: "As Laura's understanding of forestry has grown, so has her passion to tackle misperceptions among the public she deals with. We assessed passion, drive and enthusiasm to change attitudes, and also impact. In Laura's case, she ticks both boxes." Laura received her award from Ian Robinson, Director of Forestry at awards sponsor Scottish Woodlands Ltd.

Michael Cresswell, of Natural Resources Wales, was named as Future Leader in a very strong field, with EGGER's Mike Yerbury also commended by the judges for his leadership within his own business and across the wider industry.

Judges said they had been impressed by the leadership qualities of Mr Cresswell, as both Forestry Operations Team Leader with Natural Resources Wales and through his roles with the Institute of Chartered Foresters. They said he was "passionate about supporting young professionals".

David Leslie, Joint Managing Director of James Jones & Sons Ltd, presented the Future Leader award, created in memory of Tom A Bruce Jones, who Mr Leslie said had been a great leader himself who went on to inspire many others.

Mr Cresswell received a carved wooden bowl made by Angus Clyne in Perthshire, while the three other winners were presented with trophies made from ash, walnut and oak by Alice Blogg in Dorset.

Stefanie Kaiser, Communication Manager, was also recognised for transforming Confor's communications - especially Forestry and Timber News - after moving to a new role.

Stuart Goodall, CEO of Confor, said: "I'm delighted to have honoured such worthy winners at our biggest-ever award dinner and congratulate Laura, Matt and Michael for winning our 'new' awards. All three categories had strong shortlists and it is great to see such amazing talent driving our industry forward. Brilliant innovators, skilled communicators and strong and inclusive leaders are crucial to continued success.

"I was also pleased to honour Hamish who has been a tremendous servant to our industry - and to pay tribute to Jamie and Stef on their departure from Confor."

THE WINNERS

Dedicated Service to Forestry Award:
 Hamish Macleod, BSW Timber

Changing Attitudes Award
(sponsored by Scottish Woodlands Ltd):
 Laura Jermy, TG & DS Norman
Finalists: Vicky West, Manager, Woodland Carbon Code; Drew Easton, Learning & Development Manager, Jas P Wilson Ltd; and Tom Kemp and Nick Jarvis, Working Woodlands Cornwall CIC

Innovation & Research Award
(sponsored by Forestry Commission and Forestry & Land Scotland):
 Matt Stevenson, Founder Managing Director ECOSystems Technologies Ltd

Finalists: Jamie Dewhurst, Managing Director J A Growers; Eilidh Forster, Researcher, Bangor University; and Josh Roberts, Innovations Manager, Forestry & Land Scotland.

Future Leader Award
(sponsored by James Jones & Sons Ltd):
 Michael Cresswell, Forestry Operations Team, Leader, Natural Resources Wales.
Finalists: Alexander Lambton, Lockerbie mill manager, James Jones & Sons; Shona Smyth, Forest Manager with Pryor & Rickett Silviculture; Dr Mike Yerbury, Director, EGGER Forestry



Confor's retiring National Manager for Scotland, Jamie Farquhar, received a standing ovation from dinner guests.

Mr Macleod also said he was "humbled and grateful" for his award and described the "fantastic growth" of the industry during his career, stressing that innovation - like that shown by Matt Stevenson and others - meant there were enormous opportunities to use wood in new markets.

The judges praised Mr Stevenson - founder of Ecosystems Technologies, based in Inverness - saying: "The winner's dogged determination and vision to innovate and commercialise new construction products and systems which create new added value uses for homegrown timber, as well as increasing the opportunity to store more carbon in long-life products, is outstanding." He was presented with his trophy by Sir William Worsley, Chair of the Forestry Commission and Simon Hodgson, Chief Executive of Forestry & Land Scotland, joint sponsors of the award.

Laura Jermy, a timber buyer and harvesting manager with TG and DS Norman in Carlisle, was nominated for her work in making the industry more accessible, and understandable, to young people and women - by talking to schools and sharing stories on social media platforms, including TikTok.

community engagement for their benefit."

This was a theme picked up by Hamish Macleod, after he was presented with the Dedicated Service to Forestry Award by Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall.

Mr Macleod, now working as a part-time Public Affairs Adviser with BSW Timber after a long career in the industry (including a spell as a Forestry Commissioner), said: "Forestry has to be by consensus and we ignore that community aspect at our peril."

You can rely on treated timber in the field



when you follow the simple Ground Rules

Preservative pressure treatment provides wood with added durability. However, it's a mistake to assume that all pressure treated wood is the same – treatment levels should be tailored to the desired end use (Use Classes).

When **ground contact timber** is treated correctly to Use Class 4, it is fit for purpose – evidence from **WPA field trials** supports this.

Several timber trade bodies are working together to help ensure that quality standards are assured across the timber supply chain – so whether you buy or sell treated timber you can rely on its performance, just follow the simple **Ground Rules**.

Typical Use Class 4 applications include:

Fence posts, retaining walls, landscaping timbers, playground equipment, decking posts, decking joists, boardwalk substructures and any external application where structural integrity is essential for user safety.

for ground contact treated timbers:



Specify Use Class 4

levels of **preservative treatment** – anything less and service life, structural safety and customer satisfaction will be compromised.



Use a trusted treater

who has **third party accreditation** of their operational quality management systems – such as the **WPA Benchmark Scheme**.



Be prepared to pay

for quality – premium products incur higher costs but their inherent value is priceless when **performance in the field** is paramount.

Benchmark

APPROVED **TREATER**



The Make Sure it's 4 campaign is supported by:



Timber Trade Federation
growing the use of wood



www.thewpa.org.uk

Find a WPA Benchmark Approved treater:

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Confor launched its 2022 'Changing Attitudes' PR campaign on 15 February with a stark press release, targeted at mainstream media, putting forward a strong case for why the UK needs to plant more productive forests. This is a first step in communicating the need for and benefits of more modern productive forests, mixed and native, throughout 2022 and management of woodland generally.

The language in the press release was less nuanced or detailed than would normally be the case for a Confor release, but

we took our consultant's advice that we needed to deliver a simple, clear story that will be accessible to our target audience and there has been strong 'pick-up' of the story.

We led with an article in the *i* newspaper, which was followed by *The Times* both in the paper itself and a live interview by CEO Stuart Goodall on Times Radio. Further coverage appeared in the *Yorkshire Post*, *Politics Home* (read by MPs and their staff), *BusinessNEWS* and elsewhere.

The intention had been to follow this up with broadcasters, other national and regional newspapers, and the trade media, and then roll out the next story in the campaign. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine has completely dominated the news and the environmental and business journalists that we had been targeting have been asked to support the media coverage of Ukraine.

In response, we will explore a follow-up story which takes the current security situation and notes, that far from increasing domestic wood production, UK policy in England has contributed to an ongoing loss of productive forest. We will update on this and the campaign more generally in the next issue of FTN.



LORD GOLDSMITH TO SPEAK ON FORESTRY AND TREE PLANTING

Forestry Minister Lord Goldsmith will speak at the spring reception of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Forestry and Tree Planting on Tuesday April 26th.

This is the first time that the group has met in person for more than two years.

The reception runs from 3-5pm and will include short forestry and wood industry updates from Lord Goldsmith, Confor and Ben Lake MP, Chair of the APPG on Forestry and Tree Planting. There will be plenty of time set aside for networking and afternoon tea will be served.

Confor is also working with members to offer an opportunity for them to meet their local MP ahead of the reception. If you would like help in trying to arrange a meeting with your MP, please email Confor's Policy Officer Maria Bellissimo on maria@confor.org.uk.

If you are interested in attending the reception, please email Eliza Hibbins-Cline on eliza@confor.org.uk.

Stuart Goodall, Confor CEO, said: "We are delighted at the prospect of finally getting back together in person at the Houses of Parliament. We have run a very successful online APPG programme over the last two years, but we're all very keen to meet parliamentarians face to face and press the case for greater productive planting and more woodland management to secure future timber supply, and hear about Lord Goldsmith's plans for the development of our sector in areas like greater use of wood and skills."

FORESTRY, TIMBER AND NET ZERO

Carbon is increasingly driving government policy and, in the context of Climate Change, is one of the highest profile issues with the general public. While this focus has brought support for tree planting, and more recently the increased use of wood, it will also bring greater pressure on businesses to reduce emissions - the forestry and timber sector won't be immune from that, even though we work with trees and wood.

An increasing number of sectors are developing plans to achieve net zero in their industry, in part so they can take some ownership of how carbon reductions are achieved rather than simply leaving it to government or regulatory authorities. Looking downstream, Timber Development UK has recently published a proposal to develop a carbon roadmap.

Last year Confor established a task and finish group of Members to identify priori-

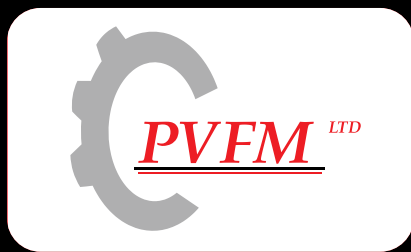
ties for work on carbon and developing a roadmap to net zero came out on top. Following that, Confor engaged Eilidh Foster, who has published work on forestry and carbon in *Nature* online, to undertake an analysis of the supply chain to identify key emissions and to begin to explore potential actions to reduce them.

Over the past two months, Eilidh has been interviewing a selection of Confor Members from along the supply chain and across the UK. Armed with this information, Eilidh will prepare a report for the Confor Board to discuss which sets out a proposal for developing a forestry and timber sector roadmap in partnership with Members.

There are strong business and reputational reasons for Confor and the industry to take further action to understand the carbon impact we have as businesses and as an industry through our work with trees and timber, and to anticipate and influence future policy developments. The proposed removal of the right to use red diesel in wood processing facilities is just one example of the changes to come.

Preparing ourselves to help shape the changes to come and to anticipate those we can't, will help our industry navigate the road to net zero.





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



NEW
Raptor 100



Apprentices triumph at the ALBAS awards

The Lantra ALBAS (Awards for Land-based and Aquaculture Skills) held on 3 March 2022 was a celebration of the achievements of trainees within Scotland's rural sector.

The prestigious event returned with a glittering ceremony at the Double-Tree by Hilton Hotel Dunblane Hydro, with over 180 finalists, event supporters, employers, training providers and industry leaders including the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands Mairi Gougeon, and our own Deputy Chief Executive, Andy Leitch.

The night was a great success, and the room was full of energy, laughs and celebration with huge cheers as each of the winners were announced.

Learner of the year

The Trees and Timber Learner of the year was Rachel Orchard, and Victoria Potts was runner up. Both participated in modern apprenticeships with Forestry and Land Scotland in the north-east of Scotland.

Laura Henderson from FLS's work-based learning team commented: "They have both shown such enthusiasm and

dedication, alongside the continued support of Jenna Finney, FM and Stewardship Supervisor, in the region and Neil Stewart from the Scottish School of Forestry".

Rachel Orchard winner of Trees and Timber, Learner of the year commented: 'I am overwhelmed, grateful, and honoured to be given the ALBAS award of Trees and Timber modern apprentice for 2022. The last year has been a wonderful experience of diving into the forestry world. I have gained a plethora of skills thanks to my knowledgeable mentors with their invaluable heuristic support, particularly my managers Jenna Finney and Laura Hender-

son along with my SSF tutor Neil Stewart. I am 24 and from Wessex, however I am now based with the FLS team in Durris, Aberdeenshire. Given the particularly stormy winter, we are currently busy clearing storm damage, such as cutting windblown trees and fixing fence lines.'

Victoria Potts, runner up explained 'having had such a positive time training as a modern apprentice over the past year, being recognised as a runner up by LANTRA has been a rewarding experience, which I am very proud of. Originally from Paisley I am 24 and currently based with the FLS team in Durris, Aberdeenshire. Here, my work is diverse with my role ranging from clearing up debris from recent storms to fixing fence lines. Through training with FLS and the Scottish School of Forestry I have gained an array of new abilities and skills creating a strong foundation of knowledge to build upon as my career progresses'

Inspiring

Ms Gougeon remarked: "What a great night spent honouring some hardworking and inspiring people across Scotland's land-based and aquaculture sectors. I just want to put on record what a truly spectacular group of individuals we have in the finalists and winners. I'm so proud to see the incredible work they are already doing and look forward to seeing them all continue in their careers."

Andy Leitch, chair of the industry skills group, was there in person to congratulate the winners. He stated "Confor are thrilled to see these achievements recognised. The award winners are a true inspiration for the sector, and we wish them every success for the future!"

It was a great night for forestry, lecturer Neil Stewart, who leads on the Modern Apprenticeship in Trees and Timber at the Scottish School of Forestry, was also named Most Inspiring Mentor, taking home the Jean's Jam Award.

Neil Stewart has worked at the school for almost 38 years, first as a technician then a lecturer. He said: "I am totally shocked and humbled. When they announced the winner, I was busy looking round the room looking for another Neil Stewart. I never in a million years imagined I would be nominated for an award like this. The modern apprentices have been a pleasure to teach, and I look forward to working with them as their careers develop."

Celebrations of forestry endeavour didn't end there, read about Tilhill's success on page 28.

"CONFOR ARE THRILLED TO SEE THESE ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNISED. THE AWARD WINNERS ARE A TRUE INSPIRATION FOR THE SECTOR, AND WE WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS FOR THE FUTURE!"

MAELOR'S OPERATION

Anthony Geddes reports on the largest commercial tree nursery in the UK

This year is set to be an exciting year for the BSW Group with Austrian corporation Binderholz completing on its acquisition just days into the new year. The Binder family and Binderholz group have a reputation for making strong strategic investments and innovating to add value to forest products. In this membership profile we meet Maelor Forest Nurseries and Ben Goh, their Commercial Manager at their site in Wrexham, to understand what becoming part of the Austrian group means for them.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the scale of Maelor's operation, they have the enviable claim of being the largest commercial tree nursery in the UK. They provide approximately 35 million trees a year from its 200 hectare site in Wrexham on the Welsh Borders and 70 hectare site based in Forres, Scotland.

Maelor became part of the BSW Group in 2019 having been acquired from Mike Harvey following decades of work to develop the original nursery. Ben joined Maelor as the Commercial Manager in January 2021 and, as he puts it, his role is to (try to) balance the nursery's production with customers' requirements. This involves managing sales and orders, as well as scanning the horizon for innovation and changes in demand.

I began by asking Ben what had attract-

ed him to join Maelor and what is it that most engages him working for them?

"Maelor is a brilliant place to work, the continuous drive for improvement, innovation and attention to detail make it stand out among the places I've worked before. As an industry I think it is the heady mix of meticulous planning and unpredictable external factors. The explosion in the popularity of tree planting has created plenty of growth opportunities, the skill is in understanding what that means for demand and how we can plan and accommodate that."

Our conversation naturally came round to the impact of the recent buy out of BSW Group. I was intrigued to know whether Binderholzs involvement, even at this early stage, has changed the energy and direction of the business.

Ben is quick to point out that the BSW Group was on a journey to re-invigorate the timber supply chain and that is still the case under Binderholz.

"They're a really significant global saw-miller and producer of value added products. The business operates in Austria, Germany, Finland and the USA so there is a wealth of diverse experience that can really support us."

"My view is that Binderholz's perspective on engineered timber is instructive of where the UK market should be heading and may require a rethink of how we can

bring broadleaf woodlands into management for timber."

With COP22 having placed so much focus on the Climate Emergency, I was keen to know if Ben's customers are starting to focus more on climate resilience when selecting trees, and what Maelor as a business is doing to support those choices.

"Yes and no! Customers are using, for example, Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification tool to understand the range of future climate scenarios and inform their planting decisions. On the other hand, we have customers who are working to preserve very local genetic material because of associations with endangered wildlife species. These are both important objectives and we try to support them through activities such as propagating a wide range of species and





provenances. Maelor is also working with forest managers to trial new species and hybrids which will be more resilient under the climatic conditions anticipated in the coming decades.”

With the Climate Emergency being compounded by a biodiversity emergency and the increasing costs of all chemical and biological inputs, Maelor is taking active steps to adapt to public and customer desires for smarter and reduced chemical usages on trees leaving the nursery.

During 2022 there are plans to start trials looking at reducing the input of pesticides and are including more trials with bio stimulants and trace elements to improve the overall health of the plants and their resilience to insect/disease damage. Improving the soil condition using techniques such as cover crops also make the trees less prone to disease, again reducing the need for fungicides. As part of the continued innovation program, Maelor trialled a garlic-based product for vine weevil larvae control.

Ben shared one of the most recent investments at the Wrexham site, a £4m mini-plug production system. He explained: “This project means less chemicals will be required to produce seedlings due to greater control of the growing environment. This coupled to employing cultural controls on weeds and disease, such as good hygiene in and around the tunnels to reduce the levels of wind-blown weed seed, and control over the growing media should result in the tunnels being free of weed seeds and requiring less secondary intervention.”

Proactive management is

clearly used here as an effective tool, with regular soil and water samples taken from the site for pathogens identification. These samples allow nursery staff to understand what pathogens may be present and plan for a more targeted approach to control them.

With some unwelcome visitors being able to fly under their own power I asked how Ben and his team manages these external threats.

“The nursery sites operate under an Integrated Pest Management plan which requires us to be more selective and environmentally focussed around our solutions to pest and disease management.

The control of *Hylobius abietis* (pine weevil) is one of the main challenges for commercial forestry; Gazelle (trademark name for acetamiprid treatment) is widely used, but Maelor conducts regular ongoing trials of alternative products. This year, we aim to trial 9 alternatives, including chemicals (including Gazelle), physical and biological treatments - since 2015 half of the products trialled have been alternatives to chemicals.”

Having persuaded Ben to spare me some of his time during the busiest part of his year, I wanted to understand what, given the magic wand, he would change about the industry outside of Maelor to make it work better?

“The most effective change that would benefit all stakeholders would be to improve the process for approving new planting schemes.” He explains: “To a greater or lesser degree, delays, or inconsistencies in approvals in England, Wales and Scotland are the number one reason for tree orders being cancelled, often late in the season when the costs of growing, lifting and grading trees have all been incurred, but there are limited options to re-home those trees and hence they are wasted if the approval does not go through in a timely manner.

“Underlying these difficult processes is I believe a lack of informed debate and consensus around what trees should be planted for, but in light of the urgency of the challenges which trees can and do address, we need strong leadership on the delivery of the ubiquitous targets, today.”





Managing Ash Dieback

- 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 01228 217517.



FTG MOHEDA



FUELWOOD
FORESTRY & FIREWOOD MACHINERY SPECIALISTS

www.fuelwood.co.uk
01926 484673

An update on the environmental land management schemes

Dr Melanie Jane Edgar reports on grants for woodland creation and management – the environmental land management schemes, England Woodland Creation Offer and Countryside Stewardship

The new environmental land management schemes will build upon current grants for woodland creation and management provided under the Nature for Climate Fund and Countryside Stewardship. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is designing the schemes in collaboration with the Forestry Commission, Rural Payments Agency and other organisations, as well as scheme users and stakeholders.

We know the forestry sector is interested in how the grants landscape is changing over the next few years. This article provides information on a few ways you can currently receive funding or get involved in the design of future grant schemes. It's up to you to decide what funding sources work best for you. You can enter a combination of schemes – so long as the actions you commit to are compatible and you're not being paid for the same actions twice.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive and Local Nature Recovery

The Sustainable Farming Incentive focuses on making agricultural activities more sustainable. Applications for the Sustainable Farming Incentive will open later this year. The scheme will begin with three standards, focusing initially on soils. More standards will be added in future years.

Defra is also piloting the Sustainable Farming Incentive. The pilot is underway – applications closed last year. The pilot includes the farm woodland standard which pays for introductory woodland management actions on open space and dead wood, and for increasing your awareness of threats to woodland including deer, grey squirrels, pests and diseases. There is also the option to expand existing woodland by planting up to 0.5 hectares on arable or improved grassland. Feedback from pilot participants will help to improve the standard before it is launched.

Local Nature Recovery will pay for the right things in the right places and support local collaboration. This scheme will contribute to our targets for trees, peatland restoration, habitat creation and restoration and natural flood management. Local Nature Recovery is intended to take forward and build on our experience of management actions in Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier offers, as well as more



PHOTO CREDIT: FORESTRY COMMISSION

tailored activities on sensitive sites as per Countryside Stewardship Higher-Tier or Higher-Level Stewardship offers. A pilot version of Local Nature Recovery will be available in 2023, with the scheme available across England by the end of 2024.

The content and structure of both schemes are being developed through co-design with industry stakeholders, including CONFOR, and farmers, foresters, and growers. If you'd like to get involved, please contact ffpcodesign@defra.gov.uk.

Landscape Recovery pilot

Landscape Recovery will pay landowners or managers who want to take a landscape-scale approach to producing environmental and climate outcomes through land use change and habitat and ecosystem restoration.

Defra is currently accepting applications for the first round of the Landscape Recovery pilot. The pilot is open to individuals or groups who want to deliver large-scale,

long-term projects of 500-5,000 hectares. Up to 15 projects will be funded across two themes:

- recovering and restoring England's threatened native species
- restoring England's streams and rivers

The application window for the first round of pilot projects will close on Tuesday 24 May 2022. More rounds with different themes will be announced.

England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply to EWCO for support to create new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as one hectare (made up of blocks as small as 0.1 hectare).

You could receive over £10,000 per hectare to support your woodland creation scheme. Funding is also available to support planning your new woodland through the woodland creation planning grant. Applications are open year-round, and you will be able to transfer penalty-free into an environmental land management scheme at agreed points in the future. We guarantee, as stated in the England Trees Action Plan, that if you create woodland now you will not be unfairly disadvantaged when the new environmental land management schemes launch.

Countryside Stewardship Higher-Tier

Countryside Stewardship provides financial incentives for farmers, foresters, and land managers to look after and improve the environment. Applications close on Friday 29 April 2022.

You will be paid a minimum of £1,000 per year to undertake actions that will improve the biodiversity of your woodland and/or make it more resilient to climate change. The actions will be determined by the objectives in your Woodland Management Plan, approved by the Forestry Commission. Funding for writing a Woodland Management Plan is available year-round through Countryside Stewardship.

More details Please note that other grants, not included in this article, are available. If you have any questions, please contact the Forestry Commission at GRNationalTeam@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

Still innovating forestry nutrition after 50 years



NUE-TREE FERT

Offering a complete nutritional package for forestry, woodlands and Christmas trees:

- GAFSA Unground Rock Phosphate
- Protected Nitrogen to optimise efficiency
- Controlled Release Fertilisers for planting hole
 - Available up to 2 seasons
 - Available in 1.2 & 25kg bags
- New, in-house heat-sealed 25kg bagging line
- Broad spectrum soil and foliar analyses
- Fertiliser advice and recommendations
- NUTRI-CO₂OL independently verified product carbon footprint

Technical enquiries:
Peter Scott



Commercial enquiries:
Callum Norman



Talk to us about forestry nutrition

t: 07525 642091 e: forestry@originfertilisers.co.uk www.originfertilisers.co.uk



Seeking to break all records

Ian Millward from APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition Ltd

The lifting of all Covid regulations and the announcement that the Arboricultural Association's ARB Show was joining forces with APF 2022 this year has helped bring the forest and arboricultural industries out of hibernation and APF 2022 has seen a big spike in bookings from both exhibitors and visitors.

With over 5 months to go until the event at Ragley Estate on the 22-24 September over 75% of the stand space on 2000m long demonstration circuit has already been sold. With stands on both sides of the circuit that is nearly 2 miles of working machinery for visitors to see. Over 220 exhibitors have already booked to attend.

Exhibition Secretary, Ian Millward, reported "Stand bookings have been coming in daily as exhibitors realise that APF 2022 is coming up fast and it is encouraging to see the number of new exhibitors to the event booking in. We anticipate selling out of stand space well before the event and urge any exhibitor wanting to attend to book now before it is too late"

Site meetings

The last exhibitor site meeting in February saw nearly 40 exhibitors attending to look at their sites and book space. For potential exhibitors wishing to look at the site before booking there are further

site meetings on the 13 April and 22 June. These are both at 2pm at The Kings Court Hotel, Alcester B49 5QQ.

Visitors have also started looking forward to finally getting out and going to shows. Advance ticket sales and camp-site bookings have taken off with visitors benefiting from the £4 a ticket discount if booked in advance.

In addition to the trade stands there is a wider range of events, competitions, and demonstrations than ever before, the Husqvarna World 25m pole climbing championships, the A W Jenkinson and Tilhill European Chainsaw Carving championships, the UK Open Tree climbing championship and the Mc Veigh Parker British Open Fencing Championships. Besides these there will be plenty of other competitions for the visitor to take part in on the day. These range from line throwing competitions, a tree climbing team challenge to a sport climbing master class.

The British Horse Loggers will be offering visitors the chance to try their hand at horse logging. Some of the vast range of woodland craft exhibitors will be giving the visitor the chance to learn a new skill from pole lathe turning to making a hay rake.

Arb Worker Zone

The APF Demo has always been keen to ensure that it serves as a valuable source of updating skills and knowledge. There will be daily seminars in the new Arb Worker Zone covering topical issues of the day including the latest in plant health, safety, and training. There will be technical demonstrations of maintaining machinery and

bringing visitors up to speed with the latest new equipment, tools, and techniques. Lantra & NPTC will be offering help and advice on training and assessment as well as showing what it takes to become an instructor or assessor.

Fencing Village

For the first time APF 2022 will host its new Fencing Village. With fencing being an important part of woodlands as well as in the wider agricultural sector, this is a show within a show aimed specifically at the fencing industry. Most of the key players in the fencing industry have already booked and the Fencing Village is centred around a large arena which will host demos of the new materials, equipment, and techniques as well as the British Open Fencing championship on the Friday of the show. It is an indication of the popularity of this event that entries closed within a couple of weeks of opening.

Having been locked down and restricted in our movements for so long, APF 2022 will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, network and find out what the latest industry gossip is.

Exhibitor booking forms, maps showing available space, a list of current exhibitors and more can be found in the useful documents area of the exhibitor section of the website. Advance tickets and camping can be booked online on the website. If you are a Confor member, one of the many benefits of membership is that you get free entry to the APF.

After a four year wait APF 2022 will be the place to meet in September. Book the dates in your diary now.



Inspiring a new generation of forestry professionals

Gareth Hopkins,
Development Woodland
Officer Programme Manager,
Forestry Commission
reports on forestry skills

Forestry skills in the spotlight

It has never been a more exciting time to be in forestry. The government's target to treble tree planting rates in England during this Parliament, along with the push to use more home-grown timber, means the sector is in the spotlight.

Add to this the key role that trees and woodlands can play in addressing the twin crisis of the climate emergency and biodiversity loss, and the need for a thriving forestry sector in the UK is vital. There is also a growing public interest in trees and woodland which has increased over the past couple of years, as many of us have discovered new or deeper connections with the natural environment for well-being and mental health.

Growing a long term and diverse workforce

The ambitious targets set by the government's tree strategies go hand in hand with wider government action to create new green jobs across the country. The £6 million Trees Call to Action Fund, the landmark National Apprenticeships drive and the multi-billion pound Plan for Jobs, are all designed to put the UK at the forefront of a green recovery.

Within the forestry sector, expanding long term workforce capacity is imperative to deliver tree planting and woodland creation ambitions, coupled with the drive to create a growing, highly skilled and more diverse workforce.

Like many industries, the forestry sector has seen a decrease in staff numbers over the past decades which has led to difficulties for many organisations in filling vacant positions. In addition, the current age profile of foresters further highlights the need to address the skills and experience shortfall within the sector. This skills shortage was captured in the 2021 Forestry Workforce Research report, which highlighted a need to increase supervisor and profes-

sional forester numbers by between 65% and 84%, and forest operative numbers by 48% by 2025 to meet the current known demands.

Skills, Skills, Skills

In order to deliver tree planting ambitions, and bring on board a highly skilled, diverse and long-term workforce, Forestry England and Forestry Commission are delivering two sector leading apprenticeship programmes to help kickstart careers in forestry.

The benefits for the sector are clear. Hiring an apprentice is a productive and effective way to grow diverse talent and develop a motivated, qualified and skilled workforce. Training can be adapted over time as necessary and as the needs of the sector changes. According to the Institute for Apprenticeships, 78% of employers say that apprentices help improve productivity. Furthermore, 74% of employers say apprenticeships help improve the quality of service provided.

Within Forestry England, level 2 Forest Operative Apprenticeships and Trainee Forester roles are in place giving individu-





als training right across the organisation covering areas including forest management planning, tree pests and diseases and timber harvesting techniques, as well as a chance to train in visitor and recreation management. Established in 2013, there are currently 21 apprentices undertaking the programme.

Holly Holden, an apprentice in Yorkshire District, says:

"I have been working as a recreational craftsperson apprentice/visitor service officer, and I am loving it. The support I have been given has been fantastic. I love the varied role; one week I'll be strimming on the trails and the next I'll be helping to install art exhibitions. I also work in Dalby visitor centre welcoming guests. I am getting a thorough picture of how visitors interact with the forest and how tourism can be managed with an environmental mindset. I am extremely happy I took the leap into this apprenticeship, and I am excited to see what I will be learning in the future."

New and exciting pathway into forestry

In addition, the Forestry Commission has this year launched the first degree-level apprenticeship for forestry in the UK – the De-

What the professionals said:

"This new programme offers a new and exciting career pathway into the forestry sector for people from all backgrounds and abilities.

It offers the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience, a BSc (Hons) and the potential to gain Chartered Forester status with the Institute of Chartered Foresters. The Forestry Commission apprentices will be paid and will gain all these qualifications, with zero tuition fees and no need for a student loan.

We are looking for ambitious, driven individuals who are eager to support our ambitious tree planting plans and ensure our precious woods and forests continue to flourish for generations to come."

**Forestry Commission
Chief Executive, Richard Stanford**

"We hope this will inspire a new generation of forestry professionals and encourage those already in the industry who want to learn while working, providing much needed new skills into our growing sector."

**Executive Director,
Institute of Chartered Foresters,
Shireen Chambers MBE FICFor**

"The University of Cumbria is proud of the collaborative role it plays with partners to upskill workforce teams in existing and emerging industries to address higher-level skills and sector needs. We are delighted to be working with the Forestry Commission to offer this new pathway into forestry."

**University of Cumbria Vice Chancellor,
Professor Julie Mennell**

velopment Woodland Officer programme.

Jointly led by the Forestry Commission, the University of Cumbria and the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the Development Woodland Officer programme has been developed in conjunction with the Forestry Skills Sector Trailblazers workgroup. It provides a new and exciting pathway into the forestry sector and is open to school leavers, graduates or anyone looking for a change in career direction. Importantly, the programme aims to address the common problem faced by new entrants in gaining both academic qualifications and real-world experience.

The Development Woodland Officer programme will use a newly developed Professional Forester Apprenticeship to offer a three-year, paid development opportunity, with a mix of 80% on-the-job training and 20% academic studies. This gives those on the programme a chance to build the underpinning skills needed to start on their journey as a professional forester and an opportunity to build their sector experience, honing their skills with real life experiences. And at the same time, earn while learning.

Development Woodland Officers will benefit from academic studies in forestry management at the University of Cumbria supported by co-delivery in some areas with the Forestry Commission. Trainees will also gain practical experience in Forestry Commission area teams across England, and nine months of wider sector placements to further build their skills and experience, enhancing future employment prospects.

Upon completion, successful graduates will earn a Professional Forester Apprenticeship (equivalent to Level 6), a BSc (hons) in Forest Management and the potential to gain Chartered Forester status with the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

The Forestry Commission will be offering 15 Development Woodland Officer positions in 2022, with the first cohort of officers starting in September. 45 places will be offered over the next three years.

The Development Woodland Officer recruitment window is now open. Details can be found on Civil Service Jobs or by searching Forestry Apprenticeship on gov.uk. Deadline for 2022 applications is 30 April 2022.

The Forestry Commission would also be interested in working with partners within the sector to develop the offer on an ongoing basis. If you would like to find out more about the Development Woodland Officer programme or the Professional Forester Apprenticeship, are considering offering apprenticeship positions or would like to offer support with work placements, please contact, either:

Contact DWOenquiries@forestrycommission.gov.uk or enquirycentre@cumbria.ac.uk



A fundamental change to Scottish education in land-based industries

Tony Lockey from BSW reports on the sector's skills development. Co authors: Dan Wilson – Tilhill Business Development Manager and Dr. Mary Thomson BVMS MRCVS – SRUC Director of Skills and Lifelong Learning

In a recent Skills Development Scotland report it was highlighted that unemployment rates in Scotland are significantly higher for young people compared with adults. To change this, we need industry and education to support pupils to build the skills they'll need to be successful when they leave school. This need for young people with hands-on skills in employment is never more relevant than it is today in our forestry and timber industries.

There has never been a more important time to get our skills system right. It is vital that our primary and secondary education involves a range of training opportunities linked with the land-based industries. Following the migration of key workers after Brexit and after going through two years of a pandemic, our focus must be on helping to bring our timber industry needs and COP26 findings into play. By giving young people earlier exposure to the world of work, we can help them develop the skills, experience, and knowledge they'll need when they leave school.

For young people, it's the chance to get a head-start on their careers by potentially gaining an industry-recognised qualification, and importantly work on real projects and broaden their career options when they leave school. And with the current Zeitgeist of young people actively wanting to work in the outdoors and help the environment, we are opening the doors to a committed, enthusiastic, and positive audience.

And for employers like us in the timber industry, it's the chance to attract highly motivated and committed young people

who are willing to learn, identify young people who are right for our business and ensure our organisation has people with the skills needed.

Lantra Partnership Working Award

Following a ground-breaking initiative, Tilhill and the Borders College teams were thrilled to win the Lantra Partnership Working Award at the recent Albas awards in Dunblane. The NPA 5 course is now in its third year of delivery for Borders College. School pupils attend college practical once a week, and practical sessions are supported by a weekly online class.

The judges were most impressed by the high degree of partnership and communication working between Tilhill and Borders college, the application clearly demonstrated benefits to both parties.

This partnership looks like it has the potential to develop those benefits and have a positive effect for both moving forward.

This partnership saw Dan Wilson, Business Development Manager at Tilhill and previous graduate student take on the task of being actively involved in binging through new talent with SBC. Dan says "When I

joined Tilhill in 2018 there was a lot of discussions around our industry having an ageing workforce and there was a need to bring new talent into the sector.

4 years after I joined Tilhill I can say that in my view the skills shortage within the industry has never been starker. This is not just managers in our industry but harvesting operators, planters, wagon drivers and



every other aspect of forestry is ready for fresh perspectives and innovation that can only come from minds that are new to our processes."

"I remember my first meeting with Mary Thomson who I believe was quite new to her position as the Rural Skills boss at Borders College at the time. I'd been given the go ahead to invest some time in seeing what we could offer, and her enthusiasm and drive was infectious.

We came to an understanding that what Tilhill had to offer by means of site visits and examples of forest operations would be of some use to creating an NPA level qualification for High School Students wishing to explore the industry.

Working with Garry Dickson of Borders College we review the syllabus and learning criteria and see how we could utilise ongoing operations close to the college to give the students a taste of the industry.

It's been a lot of fun and a good way to test my own knowledge against some



sharp young minds who always keep me on my toes and will always ask the unexpected questions! In the past 3 years we hope to raise awareness and stoke passion for a prosperous and exciting career not too far from their front door!"

There has never been a more exciting time to join forestry and hopefully that Borders College and Tilhill can inspire more collaborations throughout Scotland and the UK to open the door for many more young minds to come and make their mark on the industry.

We look forward to the day when we see some of these young talented people on the sites, driving vehicles or joining Tilhill through our Graduate Scheme.

Starting place

The Rural Skills National Progression Award (NPA) at SCQF level 5 is a credible starting place for candidates pursuing a future in one of the major land-based industries. Candidates will gain a knowledge of how a

rural business enterprise operates, and an insight into one of eight particular areas of rural skills: agriculture, animal care, equine studies, estate skills, fishery management, forestry, gamekeeping, and horticulture. The forestry option delivered at Borders College provides an opportunity to work at college and partner sites, and to engage with representatives from the sector.

The NPA covers the job roles, main sustainability features, alternative enterprises, and issues that a rural business enterprise may face.

As for the next steps with a forestry career, for school leavers but also plenty of potential for career changers, SRUC certificate in forestry is an ideal introduction to the skills and knowledge you need to develop a career in forestry and tree surgery (arboriculture). The course has a strong practical content, and students develop their skills in a college setting as well as benefitting from well-established links with the sector.

Specialist knowledge

The next step in the pathway is the advanced certificate forestry and arboriculture. Students on this course develop specialist knowledge and skills in general forestry, forest machinery or arboriculture. This can lead to a great career in forestry-working with trees and woodlands, usually in rural areas, for commercial, social, environmental, or other benefits. Arboriculture is another specialised field, usually associated with the management of single or small groups of trees, potentially in more urban areas. Forest mechanisation, as the name suggests, is about operation and utilisation of forestry machinery to carry out tasks like surveying, inspecting, harvesting, and planting trees and woodland areas. At this level, students choose which of these areas they wish to specialise in.

The certificate and advanced certificate incorporate machine operator training within the courses, and students have the opportunity to boost their employability >>

SKILLS AND TRAINING

by completing a NPTC accredited forest machine operators' certificate or 'tickets'. This means they finish their course as a technically trained 'ticketed' operator, with a wider understanding of the sector as well as being machinery and maintenance trained.

There are further progression opportunities, including an HNC/D option. These courses can be taken as a progression from an advanced certificate, or as direct entry options for mature students or school leavers. These courses would be a great option for students who are interested in forest management, or urban tree management.



Earn while you learn

Apprenticeships in this industry can provide a fantastic 'earn while you learn' opportunity. Apprenticeship delivery is based on a three-way partnership between the training provider, employer, and apprentice. SRUC deliver apprenticeships in Trees

and Timber, General Woodlands and Forestry and Arboriculture.

These qualifications are work-based courses designed to equip students with the basic skills required for the forestry industry. Students will demonstrate competence in chainsaw maintenance and operations, use of chipper, tree identification, health and safety and team working in the workplace. A Modern Apprenticeship can be achieved by completing this course plus an Emergency First Aid course and another industry specific award.

In 2022 SRUC are commencing development of a higher level 'technical' apprenticeship forestry qualification. This will be suited to those wishing to progress into a leadership or management role within the forestry sector and will also be an excellent option for employers seeking to develop their existing workforce. This qualification will include some mandatory units focussed on safe working, manage-

ment and leadership skills and integrated land use and enterprise as well as a suite of optional units which can tailor the qualification to employer needs.

Wider activities

SRUC are engaged in wider activities to support the forestry sector, including through the integrated land management team – their activities include a focus at Crianlarich on how trees and woodlands can be integrated into existing farms and crofts, and produce wider benefits than timber alone.

This will become an increasingly important area for land and forest managers to be aware of, particularly given the increase in extreme weather events which mean Scotland looks to upland managers to manage water quality and contribute to mitigation of flooding risk further downstream.

In recent summers, even Scotland's wettest sites such as the SRUC research farm at Crianlarich, can experience drought like conditions. Integration of trees into farms can provide improved year-round shelter for livestock. Ensuring we have the right trees in the right place is absolutely key and our future foresters have an important role to play.

We're here for the Next Chapter

For over 50 years, John Clegg & Co has been the leading UK forestry and woodland adviser.

Specialising in:

- Forest sales
- Acquisitions
- Valuations

How can we help you?

JOHN CLEGG & CO
Forestry | Investment | Sales | Management

Part of



Simon Hart – Sales and Valuations
07788 763055
simon.hart@johnclegg.co.uk

Harry Graham – Sales
07787 221422
harry.graham@johnclegg.co.uk
johnclegg.co.uk

We look forward to your visit.



INNOVATIONS FOR FORESTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

Secure your ticket now!
interforst.com/tickets

Information:
Pattern Limited, Tel. +44 20 3375 8230, info@pattern.co.uk

July 17–20, 2022, Messe München
interforst.com

INTERFORST

...financing your business



BUSINESS
FINANCE
BROKERS LTD

Asset finance and loan solutions for the agricultural, forestry & construction industry

Hire Purchase ■ Lease Purchase ■ Loans



businessfinancebrokers.co.uk

Authorised & regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority - No. 675825

01455 635 677

info@businessfinancebrokers.co.uk

ATTRACTING NEW TALENT TO TIMBER HAULAGE AND FOREST MACHINE OPERATING

Richard Hunter reports

The need for new forest machinery operators and timber lorry drivers is a constant topic of conversation. Therefore, to support new entrants we have hosted four Introduction to Forest Machinery events and two Timber Haulage Academies across Scotland, with events held in Dumfries, Inverness, Perth, Killoch and Lochgilphead.

The aim of the events was to bring new people into the industry who are already operating or driving but in different sectors or have transferable skills, such as supermarket delivery drivers, excavator operation or tractor driving. Another sector that was targeted during the marketing campaign was the armed forces leavers, over a third of applications came from veterans or those soon to leave the services. Their skills ranged from engineers to tank drivers and pilots which made one of the market-

ing statements 'this may be the most expensive machinery you will ever operate' slightly redundant.

The Timber Haulage Academy events planned and hosted by Creel Consulting, spanned 5 days starting with CPC+F, followed by timber lorry operation and site visits. The CPC+F is a new bolt onto the CPC that all HGV drivers undertake, this is specifically designed to meet the different demands of forest driving compared to driving on a normal road.

Mix of experience

Finding people that already have class 1 and want to move into forestry was a challenge, therefore the events were a mix of experienced drivers and novices new to commercial driving. This proved to work well with the experienced drivers able to support those new to haulage. One of the current difficulties for new drivers is the length of time it takes until they can take a HGV test. Although the Government deregulated some parts of the HGV system a test is still required, and current waiting times are around the 6 month mark.

To get a real feel for driving during both academies, delegates operated a timber lorry (provided by James Jones and sons in Inverness and JST Services in Ayrshire) under the supervision of Dalgliesh Training Services. During the events sites were pro-



vided by James Jones, Egger Forestry, Glennon Brothers and Tilhill to give a flavour of the conditions and workplaces the new drivers could be operating in, from the forest to mill or port. This collaborative approach has already paid dividends with half of the Inverness intake transiting to driving or moving into the industry.

The FMO taster event lasted four days, starting with using a simulator, before moving onto real operations and a 'tour' of machinery sites, before finishing with Emergency First Aid at Work + Forestry (EFAW+F) course. During the planning stage it was discussed having a one-day course on hydraulic hoses, but it was felt that a first aid course would better prepare the delegates to access forestry sites quicker. The EFAW+F instructor was Stewart Richardson of CA First Aid, who tailored the whole course around forestry, making it an enjoyable learning experience.

Over the whole FMO series of events the delegates all had the opportunity to operate a John Deere 1510G Forwarder. They also watched a range of machinery depending on the location and what was active at the time and all delegates saw a harvester at some point. With nearly 60 applications for 16 places it was fair to say that there is interest in machinery operation.



Support

The events could not have taken place without the good will and support of many organisations including John Deere for the loan of the 1510G for the delegates to use, along with the use of the Perth workshop. Plus, they ensured the delegates were correctly kitted out with overalls. The FMO series included site visits which gave the opportunity to meet a range of forestry companies and speak to the people already in the job. Each event was different, but the delegates all saw a harvester / forwarder combination.

Dumfries – James Jones & Sons gave a tour of their Lockerbie mill as well as arranging the operational site for the forwarder. The delegates also saw a tree shear and brash chipping courtesy of AW Jenkinson. Forwarder instruction by H&W training.

Inverness – Harvester clearing windblow on FLS site at Muir of Ord run by AMAC Forestry. Part of the tour included Duffy Skylines who were clearing 100-year old Douglas Fir from the steep sides of the A82, site introduction by FLS. Walton Logging provided the machinery instruction for both Inverness and Perth.

Perth – FLS hosted us on a large clear fell above Tummel Bridge as well as introducing the site. The tour guide was provided by AW Jenkinson, showing off brash recovery at its best.

Lochgilphead – Operational site provided by FLS, and tours of harvesting provided by Colin Brolly Forestry. This gave the delegates the chance to meet and talk with operators from the 'real' side of forestry. Machinery instruction carried out by John Deere.

Positive feedback

The delegates feedback from all the events was very positive and very similar; a greater understanding of the importance of forestry and a desire to join the sector. Adam, who attended the Inverness event, said 'It was great to actually get 'hands-on', be that in the simulators or on the forwarder. I'm in the process of changing career, and this event let me get a feel for whether operating forest machines was for me. We also received a practical First Aid +F qualification, as a perfect first step to being employable in the sector. The chance to talk to local contractors and FLS was very useful, both to gain contacts and even just to start immersing in the language of the industry. It was also great fun!' Adam is one of 15,000 members of the armed forces that leave the services every year. Confor has been working with a charity called High Ground that aims to support the transition to "civvy street" with a focus on rural jobs. More on that in a future article.

Both The Scottish School of Forestry and The Barony Campus played their part, giving access to their simulators and sites for the First Aid Courses, as well as being part of the initial planning group.

The events were hit by Covid several times, with delegates dropping out due to testing positive immediately before attending, but such was the desire that spaces were quickly taken up from the waiting list at very short notice.

The events were funded by Skills Development Scotland (SDS), through Scottish Forestry, as part of the National Training Transition Fund, and organised by Confor on behalf of the Scottish Forest and Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group. SDS required that the events be in Scotland, the delegates had to be 25 or over, be unemployed or at risk of unemployment. However, the marketing went UK wide and has generated interest and discussion to potentially host similar events in England.





LANDFOR

CHARTERED LAND & FORESTRY AGENCY

Land & Forestry
Marketing Specialist



Contact: Patrick Porteous

☎ 07444 559510

✉ patrick@landfor.co.uk

For further information and to sign up, please visit

www.landfor.co.uk



Maelor
Forest Nurseries



Tilhill

A Unique Partnership

We grow the tree seed,
design the schemes,
plant the saplings,
manage the trees and
sell the carbon units.



CarbonStore

tilhill.com maelor.co.uk carbonstoreuk.com

BSWGROUP member of binderholz ■

Pioneers in the field

For 16 years Forest Carbon have been helping UK farmers and landowners access the carbon market through the creation of over 220 new woodlands, and the restoration of five peatlands, introducing critical additional funding from businesses.

We led the way on development and implementation of the Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code, and are now working on a farm and soil carbon code.

Let us help you to explore carbon funding opportunities for your farm.

forestcarbon.co.uk

acag@forestcarbon.co.uk

☎ 0191 395 2956



FOREST
CARBON

Managing regulatory investigations – FAQs

Ramsay Hall, and partner **Paul Marshall**, who both specialise in providing support to clients on regulatory-led investigations answer our questions.

Organisations and sole traders operating in the forestry sector face a robust regulatory environment. We have seen a rise in the number of regulatory investigations in relation to incidents in the sector. In that context, it is more important than ever for those operating in the sector to understand the role of regulators, their powers, and how to manage a regulatory investigation.

1 WHO ARE THE KEY REGULATORS?

The key regulators are the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

SEPA's focus is on environmental concerns, for instance damage caused by the use of prohibited pesticides and other chemicals such as sprays.

HSE's focus is on unsafe practices in a working environment, including incidents involving falls from height and concerns around the use of machinery.

For wildlife crime, Police Scotland has a specialist team and will often work with HSE and SEPA to investigate suspected breaches.

2 WHAT ARE THE REGULATORS' POWERS OF INVESTIGATION?

Broadly speaking, the regulators' powers extend to a right of entry on land in order to carry out searches, and to seize items and samples for examination. There are also powers to compel individuals to answer questions at interviews.

If you become subject to a regulatory investigation, it's important to take advice on the extent of the legal powers at the disposal of the regulators.

3 WHAT HAPPENS IF A BREACH IS IDENTIFIED?

Wildlife and health and safety offences can result in criminal prosecution. In Scotland, the sole body for raising criminal prosecutions is the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service. They review investigation reports from Police Scotland / HSE / SEPA and decide whether (1) there is sufficient evidence to bring a prosecution and (2) it is in the public interest to prosecute.

In the event of a successful prosecution, organisations can be fined, and individuals can be fined and / or imprisoned.

For certain wildlife and health and safety offences, employers can be prosecuted,



as well as the principal wrongdoer.

It's also worth noting that regulatory investigations can have additional consequences. For instance, concerns around the use of firearms and shot guns can result in the revocation of firearm and shot gun certificates even where no criminal prosecution takes place.

4 WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF REGULATORS CONTACT YOU?

An attendance by regulators can be a challenging experience.

If you or your employee are contacted by a regulator, you should consider taking immediate legal advice. You can request that the regulator pauses any search or interview until you have discussed matters with your legal representative.

Whether or not you obtain immediate legal assistance, there are certain steps that any person faced with an attendance by a regulator should take:

- Be polite and courteous to the officers in attendance on behalf of the regulator(s). Ask them to confirm their names and contact details.
- Ask the officers about the reason for the attendance – the more detail you can obtain at the outset, the better.

- Ask the officers to confirm the legal basis for their attendance, to provide any relevant documentation (for instance a search warrant) and ask them to provide questions to you in writing.

- If you are going to be interviewed under caution, you have the legal right to a consultation with a lawyer beforehand, and to have them present throughout any interview. Make sure you exercise these rights.

5 HOW CAN YOU LIMIT THE RISK OF A BREACH OF REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS?

By taking several steps to limit the risk of a regulatory compliance failure, you'll limit the risk of a regulatory investigation. They include:

- Risk assessing your operations – where do the regulatory compliance risks arise? How can they be mitigated?
- Implement a regulatory compliance policy – the policy should explain how owners, employees and other associated persons should conduct themselves to avoid breaches of regulatory obligations.
- Provide training – ensure employees, contractors and other associated persons are aware of their regulatory obligations, the steps they should take to avoid a breach and the action they should take if they have a concern.

CONFOR MEMBERS FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION

Confor has partnered with law firms Brodies LLP and Atkinson Ritson Solicitors to run a legal clinic for members looking for guidance on key issues that impact forest owners and the forestry sector.

Whether your query is employment law, health & safety, planning, tax or property-related, contact one of our partners for a free initial consultation.

For members based anywhere in the UK
Brodies LLP
0131 228 3777
www.brodies.com
confor@brodies.com

For members based in England/Wales
Atkinson Ritson Solicitors
01228 525221
www.atkinsonritson.co.uk
info@atkinsonritson.co.uk



Supply is the critical factor

The recent tragic events in Ukraine have triggered a sequence of events that has put an already strained global timber market on further pressure to secure supplies of timber.

The market is currently in uncharted territory so let's try to understand what is happening and why this is pushing it into these unknown waters.

Prior to the invasion of Ukraine, there were already signs of pressure on supplies as global demand picked up and supplies were interrupted by storms, haulage issues and shortages of shipping capacity.

America has emerged as a major market for European and Scandinavian timber drawn by rapidly increasing prices. In March 2022 the US 4 x 2 KD spruce, pine, fir had reached \$1400 per 1000 BDFT which is equivalent to £450m³ for UK sawmills.

In January 2022 Germany shipped 25% of its sawn production to the USA, this is a massive increase of recent years.

In turn this has prompted the Scandinavian and European shippers to demand significant price increases for material supplied into the UK with reports of prices increase of €40 per m³ being achieved for April deliveries. Hopefully UK mills will be able to achieve similar price increases on the back of this.

The Ukrainians desperate fight for survival has caused further disruption to global timber supplies as Ukraine has historically been a major supplier of pallet and packing timber to Europe and, in particular, Germany and the Low Countries.

The subsequent trade sanction against Russia and Belarus will also have a massive impact on supply. Belarus is, like Ukraine, a major supplier of lower grade softwood and hardwood into the European market. According to some reports,

Russia supplied 33% of the timber delivered to the EU in 2021, whilst other figures show that the EU is 80% self-sufficient in timber and has been steadily reducing its dependence on Russian timber over the last 20 years.

Some EU countries are more dependent on Russian timber including Estonia, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK, which last year imported 450,000m³ of Russian wood products.

These are massive volumes to be replaced with immediate effect and are going to have a huge impact on demand for homegrown timber as consumers battle to secure supplies.

But, as with every market swing, there are pushback factors and this time around these are widespread and potentially long term.

We are all familiar with the rapid rise in energy prices for domestic heating and car fuel, but we must consider that



Covid, energy and fuel prices rises and the conflict in Ukraine have all put immense pressures on the global timber market



“PUTIN’S FOLLY HAS FORCED THE WEST TO BEGIN TO ADDRESS MANY OF THE GLOBAL ISSUES AROUND FOSSIL FUEL DEPENDENCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.”

the timber supply chain uses significant amounts of energy. Red diesel prices have doubled in 3 months, this means harvesting contractors may need an extra £1 to £1.50 per tonne to cover extra fuel, oil and lubricant costs.

Timber lorries are faced with massive increases in DERV costs with weekly and even daily price increases.

Sawmills consume large amounts of electricity for process power, oil for mobile plant and, in some cases, gas for kilns, board mills use energy for processes, drying and finishing lines.

This adds up to some significant cost increases in the supply chain that must be absorbed if it is to keep moving.

The UK government has recently in-

creased interest rates modestly to try and counter inflation but there is further pain to come.

The impact of global sanctions on energy has been well documented in the press but there already impacts on the global movement of metal ores, precious metals, minerals and foodstuffs which will start to appear in Western Europe. Just in time supply chains have been cruelly exposed by Covid and now we face even greater disruption.

There are now disruptions to shipping, substantial increases in sea freight costs, problems with availability of both complex components (John Deere harvester and forwarder cranes, iPhone and other Apple products) and simple components (pallet nails).

Putin’s folly has forced the West to begin to address many of the global issues around fossil fuel dependence and climate change. The drive towards a low carbon economy is being driven by reduced dependency on foreign powers as well as climate change concerns, but now the race is truly on.

This must be a good thing for the timber industry, many of the exciting technical innovations for wood use will now

be accelerated which will further drive demand and hopefully increase ability to pay.

In summary, there are potentially huge changes in patterns of supply and demand, whilst there may well be significant price increases there are also substantial increases in costs, and we may yet be pushed into a global recession that reduce demand and wipes out any price increase.

It is a fair bet that security of supply will become more important and a focus on increasing forest productivity, improving harvest utilisation and process efficiency together with new product development will be necessary to offset the impact of 25 years of limited planting, deforestation and reduced productivity.

Maybe just maybe, UK forest policy will again begin to focus on productivity, and the penny will drop that a low carbon economy will be based on productive mainly softwood forests, and we might be allowed to plant some new woodlands.

Contact 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.



It's time to invest in UK forestry

The forestry market continues to be active, with strong prices across the sector.

England and Wales

The woodland and forestry plantation market in England and Wales has started slowly but that could be due to the market trying to catch its 2021 breath before 2022 really begins in the early spring.

Values continued to rise in 2021 in the world of smaller properties, especially mixed broadleaved. Predominantly centred on west and south England these broadleaved woodlands can vary in their value per hectare with location being the main factor. Properties are often strongly contested through either an early offer in excess of guide price being accepted, or the rapid setting of a closing date.

Tustins has just brought Delcomb Woods in Dorset to market, an 82-hectare block of mixed commercial crop, which looks fantastic; bluebells, mature stands of Douglas fir, and an assortment of other conifers; it has plenty to offer but at a guide price of £1.8 million could be too rich for some buyers.

John Clegg & Co brought Greenawell Plantation in Devon to market in early January, 21.3 hectares of mixed commercial woodland, and with a guide price of

£310,000 has received some strong interest.

Two Oxfordshire properties, Heathend-Rummerhedge and Groveridge with both selling at around £25,000 per acre or £62,000 per hectare sold quickly during 2021, and were notable examples of excellently presented, well managed broadleaf woodland in attractive areas. The same goes for Riddlesworth and Lodge Covert in Norfolk going through conveyancing as we speak.

The sales process in England and Wales is slower than in Scotland and this is due to many sellers using lawyers who are not experienced in woodland sales. There is much to be said about asking your forestry agent to recommend suitable lawyers, experience in woodland conveyancing will save time and money.

Certainly, the lack of hectares coming to the amenity market is driving prices upwards. Timber/firewood are only a minor consideration, if any, in many situations. There appears to be a surge in demand for woodland/green space with first time purchasers wanting to make a lifestyle investment.

Scotland

The Scottish market remains strong with keen interest exerting upward pressure on prices across all property types, i.e., commercial plantations, amenity woods and planting land.

Bogrie in southwest Scotland was mentioned in our last report. This good quality property extending to 267ha, with an average age of 13 years and guided at £6.75 million or some £31,000/stocked hectare, moved to closing date within about two months and is now under offer above the guide price.

Prices have risen steeply over recent years (see the John Clegg & Co/Tilhill Forest Market Report 2021 for detail) and there have been some good examples of this on individual properties where the wood has sold twice in the recent past. Examples of this include Balnabeeran, near Inverness, sold for nearly £30,000/stocked hectare for 30-year-old spruce. Moss of Cree, in southwest Scotland, guided at c. £12,000/ha for 50-year-old conifers, but including a lot of lodgepole pine (now under offer). Monachyle in Stirlingshire, guided at c. £20,000/ha for 35-year-old spruce (closing date in April). All three of these woods have more than doubled in value since their last sale only 3-6 years ago.

Monachyle is a good example of how rising carbon prices are affecting freehold values. This woodland was initially planted by the Forestry Commission in the early 1980's. Some of the higher lying ground was ploughed and never planted or failed. Until recently this would have been valued as sporting/amenity ground at extremely low value. However, with carbon prices at current levels, it is now economic to fence this land and establish native woodland for carbon. Such land is worth at least £5,000/ha; up from as little as £1,000/ha only a few years ago.

The impact of carbon in the land market has been seen at large scale with the recent Glen Dye purchase by Aviva Investments and Par Equity, which represented more than 6,000 hectares of Aberdeenshire hill that had been managed primarily for grouse. However, its value of in excess of £5,000/ha is now under pinned by carbon. The new owners have ambitious plans for woodland creation (both commercial and native) and peatland restoration.

In this rapidly developing market, valuations can be difficult, with substantially different values applicable to the various



elements of hill. High prices are paid for the commercial element, lower prices for native wood, various prices for peat restoration and very low prices for land that is not suitable for any of the above. This makes due diligence at acquisition/valuation particularly important. Interestingly, some agents are not setting guide prices when selling such assets, a clear indication of a new and developing market.

Land suitable for commercial afforestation is in the range of £10-15,000/ha. Quite a lot of this activity is off market, but an example of an open market sale is Land at Kinlune in Angus. This was guided at £11,000/ha and is now under offer. With a relatively wide range of prices being paid and unsatisfied buyer demand, we usually recommend an open market sale to demonstrate best value.

Wider economic issues have not yet impacted on buyer demand, or on timber prices. The conflict in Ukraine is clearly upsetting on many levels, but it seems likely to tighten timber supply if anything. Rising interest rates may have an impact too, but at present there are substantial funds looking to invest in UK forestry and we see no change to this any time soon.

Contact simon.hart@johnclegg.co.uk



UFKES Greentec UK

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



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

Scientists develop synthetic sex pheromone to fool Emerald Ash Borer

UK

Tricking a beetle that is devastating ash trees in many parts of the world into thinking there is love in the air could be hugely beneficial to the forestry industry.

A Chemistry student at the University of Chester has been working with Confor member International Pheromone Systems to meet the challenge of producing a 'matchmaking' synthetic pheromone for monitoring and managing an insect responsible for the global destruction of millions of trees.

Now a serious economic pest, the Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, is devastating ash trees in Eastern Europe, Georgia, North America, Canada and China and could spread further as a result of trade in timber goods. Having already killed an estimated 30 million trees in North America, it presents a serious threat to ash trees all over Europe and is included in the 20 priority quarantine pests of the EU. With the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer there is a shortage of monitoring traps needed by forest managers.

The most effective solution for managing insect pests is a holistic approach called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM involves using a variety of different strategies in combination to maintain insect pest populations below a level that is deemed to be economically harmful. Insect pheromones play a very important role in any IPM system. Lures that slowly emit insect



pheromones are used in traps to monitor and, in some cases, control specific pests. IPM helps to balance the scales in favour of beneficials such as natural predators. As a result, pesticide use is decreased, and diversity is increased.

Some pheromones are easier to source or make than others. The pheromone for the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle however is very difficult to source which makes it expensive to use in traps. Field trials have

been conducted in Québec, Canada to test a new synthetic pheromone against the main commercial lure. The tests showed the synthetic pheromone worked just as well as the commercial one.

Contact If you are interested in ordering a lure for this pest, please contact IPS Customer Services at customerservices@ips1985.co.uk

Nature of Scotland awards

For the third year running, Confor is pleased to be sponsoring the Forests and Woodland Award, one of the annual Nature of Scotland Awards organised by RSPB.

The award is open to all - businesses, public sector organisations, research institutions, community groups and individuals, and is targeted at new or existing forests/woodlands that provide places for nature and wildlife. They can be of any type, and innovative new approaches are particularly welcome.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, 30 May.

The shortlist for the awards will be an-

nounced in September, and the awards night will be held on 17 November - normally at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre. Any work which has taken place since March 2019 is eligible. For more information and to access the digital application form, search for "Nature of Scotland Awards" on the RSPB

website now.

It would be great to see Confor Members submitting applications, and if you would like further feedback do get in touch with Stuart Goodall at stuartg@confor.org.uk. Though, as Stuart is also one of the judges for the award he can only provide general advice!





Two 160 cubic metre firewood log drying kilns



One 16 cubic metre log drying kiln complete with 60kw biomass hot air heater

Offering a comprehensive range of professional log & woodchip drying kilns for the timber industry. Along with kilns for sawn timber, pallets & fencing producers

KILN Services has been designing and manufacturing timber-drying kilns from its base in Essex for over 45 years. The company provides drying and heat-treatment kilns for all sectors of the industry, including softwood and hardwood sawmills, pallet manufacturing, fence-post producers, biomass fuel producers, modified timber and research facilities in universities and training colleges.

In recent years, the market for kilns to dry biomass fuel has increased considerably. This has been driven by consumer awareness of product moisture and government initiatives to improve air quality, such as the Woodsure Ready to Burn accreditation scheme.

Manufacturers of Timber Drying Kilns for over 45 years

Please visit our website for more information www.kilnservices.co.uk

t: 01621 785 935 e: kilnservices@btconnect.com

Kiln Services Ltd, Essex, CMO 8TE



Suppliers of new and used
forestry machinery

ALL NEW
Alstor 822



ALSTOR 8x8
Superior to handle in the terrain

Alstor mini-forwarders and harvesters

Unrivalled in the Terrain

UK & Ireland Alstor 8x8 Agent
Rabaud Forestry & Agricultural Machinery
England and Wales Syketec dealer
WORKBOX

T. 01746 718 456 • M. 07966 365 157
• E.nathan@homeforestry.co.uk •
Home Forestry llp, Willowdene Farm,
Chorley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PP.



NearHome

Bursting the myths about Homegrown Mass Timber Products



Matt Stevenson, founder of Ecosystems Technologies and winner of Confor's 2022 Research and Innovation Prize, discusses how he's working with a variety of partners to show Scotland, and the rest of the UK, just what our homegrown mass timber can do

18 months ago I messaged my serial collaborators, Sam Hart from Construction Scotland Innovation Centre and Professor Robert Hairstans from Napier University, to alert them to an opportunity to apply for £50k Innovate UK SBRI funding to fuel our mission to demonstrate the viability of manufacturing homegrown mass timber products. The fund was ideally aligned and if we were successful with securing Phase One funding, then there was a follow-on opportunity to bid for a much larger sum to commercialise the solution. The only downside was that we only had 24 hours left to prepare and submit our application!

Fortunately, we had been pursuing this mission for some time, and on the back of one of many all-nighters, we were able to successfully submit the application, we secured the funding and following on from this we secured a further £1.4m for Phase Two, which has allowed us to produce a viable engineered timber product from our homegrown Scottish timber, but that we could deliver a very credible and desirable

product to rival what was, until then, only available as an imported offering.

The backdrop to this story consists of years of debate and countless feasibility studies to explore whether homegrown mass timber was a viable proposition. Perception is a powerful barrier and the accepted wisdom had, sadly, been that our homegrown resource is not fit for this job.

Early adoption

I established Ecosystems Technologies to be a 'Commercial Accelerator' - we channel the rich R&D emerging from our academic institutions and innovators into applied innovation, providing early demonstration and driving scaling through early adoption, through working with engaged clients who gift us license to trial new technologies and solutions on live commercial projects, and through this demonstrate compelling use cases and market opportunities that drives wider adoption and scale up.

The key to this process is collaboration. In this instance, we are leveraging a num-

ber of key relationships. The work that Professor Robert Hairstans and his team have undertaken over the last decade underpins the entire proposition. Through their research, we have a sound understanding of homegrown Scottish timber, its performance characteristics, its strengths and weaknesses, and this baseline of understanding allows us to design optimised engineering solutions for our homegrown resource.

CSIC had the foresight to invest in the UK's only vacuum press, a critical piece of equipment we use to manufacture the homegrown Cross Laminated Panels that have long seemed like the illusive Holy Grail. CSIC also act to bring together industry and academia and serve as a key enabler of this type of innovative project.

We were joined in this endeavor by BSW Group. Dave Mills is the mill manager at BSW's Boat of Garten Sawmill and brought to the project his years of experience selecting and drying homegrown timber. Dave was able to break through all of the



Projects in production at the Innovation Center

perception blockers that foretold that it would not be possible to deliver a 12% moisture content board with minimal loss of yield.

Incredibly, this was achieved, at commercial scale, on the first pass through the kiln. Not only that, we took these first boards and our resulting first CLT panels achieved a good enough finish that we were able to use them as a visual grade panel. Indeed, it is these first panels that were used to manufacture the Transforming Timber Demonstrator that we showcased at COP26 in November.

Diversity

This project was showcased alongside a series of other projects delivered by Ecosystems, in collaboration with CSIC, Napier and BSW. It is the diversity of early projects that we have delivered that provides the exciting platform to scale up the manufacture and commercialisation of our homegrown mass timber products. Alongside Cross Laminated Timber Panels, we have produced Glue Laminated panels and beams, Nail Laminated panels (using an exciting new beech nail) and we have invented a Glue Laminated Timber Portal product too.

Our projects to date have included 6 study rooms for Fettes College in Edinburgh, a Zero Carbon 'GenZero' school prototype for UK Gov's Dept for Education, a NearHome retrofit kit of parts for Scottish Gov and Transport Scotland, and a series of cabins for Offgrid Travel. The future is exciting and having just moved into a new 6,000m² manufacturing facility in Invergor-don in Highland, we are looking forward to continuing to develop our homegrown timber and talent to deliver significant social, environmental and industry impact through applied innovation and collaboration.



SNRG Demonstrator



The completed prototype classroom

Gen Zero: The Future of Net Zero School Design

Following on from COP26, the GenZero prototype has been relocated to Ecosystems' factory in Invergor-don for further development work to be undertaken ahead of it being delivered to Manufacturing Technology Centre in April for further showcasing. In tandem, two floor panels have been delivered to University of Cambridge where performance testing is underway to validate the design and inform further development. The team at Ecosystems are actively working on a number of follow-on projects that look to further evolve the GenZero concept and serve as proof of concept for this exciting solution, with the ultimate aim being to deliver full scale new school buildings up to 4 storeys.

As a couple of parallel projects, the Ecosystems team is collaborating on the design of a new primary school in Cambridge, which will evolve aspects of the GenZero design and a retro-fit school façade replacement system to upgrade 1960s school buildings with a home-grown mass timber and wood fibre insulation based system. Ecosystems Technologies is one of the partners on the GenZero research project which is led by the Department for Education and funded by Innovate UK.

Beginning in 2019, the project challenges all elements of a school's design: from the construction and operation of buildings through to use of classrooms and technology. This research has culminated in the creation of a classroom prototype which was showcased during COP26 at Construction Scotland Innovation Centre's Innovation Factory near Glasgow last year.

The prototype is configured using a pre-defined 'kit of parts'. These have been proven to demonstrate greater whole life value, lower carbon and energy use, better safety and quality and improved overall performance of buildings.

The main construction material designed to be used in these classrooms is homegrown CLT. The school buildings also have a timber envelope; simple cladding which can withstand UK weather conditions and which together with opening windows, enables cross flow natural ventilation.

The windows are recessed, and trees are planted nearby to provide shade. Meanwhile, timber ribs provide visual contrast and direct rainwater into the rain gardens below; a sustainable urban drainage system which also reduces surface water flooding.

The GenZero classroom prototype contains 10t (20m³) of timber. The creation of the structural materials and the classroom construction produced 9t of CO₂e emissions. However, the carbon stored in the trees while they were growing is equivalent to 16t CO₂e, which means the classroom prototype can act as carbon storage during its lifetime.

8t (16m³) of glulam and CLT were used in the prototype which was grown and manufactured in Scotland. It takes approximately 27 trees to produce this amount of engineered timber, which would be harvested from an area the size of about a tenth of a football pitch - or approximately 800m².

In addition to the carbon capture and storage created through use of timber, the schools are also designed to have trees planted around them. An abundance of trees helps to provide an improved micro-climate and better water management, together with the aim to improve educational outcomes with the calming effects of a feature-rich landscape. They also protect the building's façade and offer solar shading.

Contact more information at www.genzero.co.uk



The prototype in construction

The Bridge of Doune today

Peter Wilson is an architect and founding director of the Mass Timber Academy Ltd. He has lectured and written on innovative timber design and construction for over 20 years.

New timber bridges in the UK are still a relatively rare phenomenon, especially ones fabricated from material extracted from local forests or woodland. When one does emerge that is not only visually striking in its design, but constructed from timber sourced from within spitting distance of its site, you know change is in the air as far as outdated perceptions of the usefulness of UK-grown timber are concerned. That the pedestrian bridge at Doune Castle so successfully complements the historic structure to which it leads is a measure of the care that has gone into its placement and the resulting umbilical relationship to the surrounding landscape.

If you've never been to Doune Castle, you will almost certainly have seen it: its imposing structure has featured in Monty Python and the Holy Grail, Game of Thrones (as Winterfell) and Outlander (as Castle Leoch), the popularity of all of which has contributed to its current lofty position on the list of most visited tourist attractions in Scotland. Indeed, prior to COVID-19 lockdowns (the years now referred to as 'BC'), the Castle's attractiveness to national and international visitors had increased to the point where the infrastructure of the site and the adjacent historic village were under unsustainable pressure, particularly as there were no obvious pedestrian links between it and Doune Village, meaning visitors and locals had no natural route to enjoy other local attractions by foot, including the River Teith, the Ardoch Burn, Doune Ponds, the Mill of Doune and the village itself.

Important projects

This has now changed: finance from the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) in 2019 enabled a collaboration between Stirling Council, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and representatives of Kilmadock's Community Development Trust and Kilmadock's Community Council to plan several important projects which, despite the challenges posed by pandemic restrictions, have now been delivered. The first, completed in early 2021, created a new con-



nection from the Castle past the site of a Roman Fort towards Doune Village, using a stepped ramp and path. The second, more significant, RTIF project, has been the recently completed pedestrian bridge crossing the Ardoch Burn by the Mill of Doune and the associated paths to/from it.

So, what makes the bridge so remarkable? First, it is configured as a double arch structure to span the fast-flowing water – asymmetrical arches between that span 20 metres and 10 metres respectively. There are also 10m run-offs on either side of the crossing over which the bridge deck stretches to connect the high points, extending the overall length to 50m. Second, the bridge curves on plan and it is the combination of these two factors that make its timber engineering so interesting and innovative in design.

The bridge structure is made from short pieces of timber – locally-grown larch – that are 50mm wide and up to 250mm in depth and laminated in 1500 or 2000mm lengths. The fabrication method uses a 'glue and screw' method to vertically connect the deep boards by gluing and screwing between each row of laminates to form a single solid mass of timber. This is an empirically tested technique that allows arches with a flatter profile to be constructed and the application of this laminated structural solution is particularly suited to the use of locally grown larch as this greatly improves the structural performance of a material that would otherwise not be suitable for bridge construction. The main span of the bridge is currently the longest single span of a timber 'glue and screw' arch built to date.



The arches support a more traditional post, beam and joist deck arrangement, added to which the guarding on either side of the bridge has been developed as a series of three-dimensional forms constructed from lengths of larch connected into panels and mounted off oak primary support rails. The design ingenuity of this, combined with the curvature of the bridge, greatly enhances the sculptural impact of the arches' geometry.

Home-grown

The principal timber used in the construction of the bridge is home-grown Scottish larch, sourced from the woods to the north-east of Doune in conjunction with the Moray Estate, within which the Castle is located. The timber, once felled, was cut locally to the sections required using mobile saw-milling equipment before being visually graded for kiln drying. Once dried, the material was planed and CNC-machined to the precise dimensions required for fabrication. The two structural arches were manufactured offsite by the contractor, Beaver Bridges Ltd, before delivery to site and their final lifting into place as complete structural elements.

The supporting ground works, riverbank abutments and intermediate pier were completed with the latter clad in stone by HES's in-house apprenticeship team who cut and laid available ashlar stone in the creation of the cutwater profiles with local Doune stone used as infill to the sides. The finished bridge construction is likely to require very little maintenance during its life span.

Designed by Historic Environment Scotland architect Gary Treacy and engineered by Fairhurst with Geoff Freedman Rural Bridges and constructed by Beaver Bridges Ltd., the new pedestrian bridge at Doune Castle is a demonstration project not only for innovative structural design that makes exemplary use of locally grown and milled timber, but also for the precision fabrication and other merits of offsite manufacture (OSM) foregoing the need for onsite scaffolding in a challenging location. Traditionally, there has been a tendency to install simplistic, replicable bridges in sensitive environments using a variety of products sourced from distant parts: by contrast, the new bridge over the Ardoch Burn stands as a showcase for the use of indigenous materials and context-driven design, the appropriateness of which to its historic location will be implicitly understood by international visitors for years to come. As such, it sets the bar high for the design and construction of future structural installations in Scotland's diverse landscape.

More information Peter Wilson is an architect and founding director of the Mass Timber Academy Ltd. He has lectured and written on innovative timber design and construction for over 20 years.



"THE PRINCIPAL TIMBER USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE IS HOME-GROWN SCOTTISH LARCH, SOURCED FROM THE WOODS TO THE NORTH-EAST OF DOUNE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MORAY ESTATE."





PICKSTON & DRUMCAIRN WOODS

Nr Glenalmond | Perthshire

70.60 Hectares / 174.45 Acres

Two well-located, compact and productive commercial woodlands.

Jon Lambert MRICS
jon@goldcrestlfg.com
07900 320 475

Freehold for sale as a whole or in 2 lots
Offers over £1,175,000

Jock Galbraith MRICS
jock@goldcrestlfg.com
07951 177 323

+44 (0) 131 378 6122 office@goldcrestlfg.com



Institute of
Chartered Foresters

46 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4HQ



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



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

Tipping Body Manufacturer & Specialist Body Builder



020 8539 0611 | www.tipperforsale.co.uk



Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are major global exporters, and account for approximately 10% of the softwood trade in Europe.

Major changes inevitable if Ukraine conflict continues

Market update from **Timber Development UK**

The awful Russian invasion of Ukraine has, quite rightly, dominated news headlines and debates in recent weeks. It is important as an industry, morally, but also financially and reputationally, that money from the timber sector is not attached to the invasion.

This is why on 8 March 2022 as Timber Development UK, the organisation formed from the Timber Trade Federation and TRADA, we advised all our members to cease trading with Russia and Belarus.

While Russia is not a major exporter of timber directly into the UK, the flow on effects of ceasing trade will likely be significant for some products and sectors. Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are major global exporters, and account for approximately 10% of the softwood trade in Europe. Some product groups such as birch plywood, and larch cladding are near wholly sourced from the region.

Initially we expect that the joinery sector will be particularly affected while construction will be relatively unscathed – given Russia is not a major source for structural softwoods. However, the impacts of this

conflict may not always be direct. Consumer confidence, which is key to demand for timber products, may also take a hit.

We also know, as we saw with the disruption to trade which occurred from COVID-19 over the last couple of years, that the market can behave unpredictably. Shortages in one product area can divert raw resources from one sector to another as the market moves to fix perceived imbalances.

Support

The big debate in the European industry at the moment is around what mitigation and support measures the industry should seek to take to alleviate shortages remains ongoing. But, one thing is for sure: we cannot ask for support unless we are also prepared to make some small sacrifice ourselves.

Timber Development UK already endorses the view of both Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification

(PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) that future goods from Russia and Belarus be classified as “conflict timber” and be ineligible for certification or responsible trade. Our world is set to undergo some major changes if the conflict drags on.

Of course, it will be some time for stock already on the ground in the UK or EU and goods in transit which have been ordered and paid for before the conflict began to be moved through the supply chain. For these goods we are advising all to follow the PEFC and FSC guidelines regarding pre-conflict and conflict timber.

Their advice is that if you can show that the goods landed or were in transit before the dates given by each certification body, which for PEFC is 2 March 2022, and FSC, 8 April 2022, then they should be valid for trade. Timber after these dates is regarded as ‘conflict timber’.

Alternatives

During this crisis the UK’s homegrown timber supply of timber products will become more important than ever. It will be important that we work together as an industry to ensure we communicate across the supply chain, and on what alternatives may be on offer to make up for shortfalls in different product areas for key markets.

One product area that we will be focusing on in our next communications with merchants is around the alternatives for Siberian Larch, a common cladding material. While of course UK-grown larch is an alternative which shares its natural durability, we also will be highlighting we have many other species grown here such as Douglas fir, Western Red Cedar and a variety of pine species.

Timber Development UK’s Timber Cladding Handbook for Specifiers,

Buyers and Installers offers definitive industry guidance on the many types of cladding available, as well as information about their various performance ratings and characteristics. We have made this guide freely available on our website:

<https://ttf.co.uk/download/the-timber-cladding-handbook>

Amidst this humanitarian crisis, the sector is working hard and has united to focus on how we can support Ukraine, mitigate the loss of timber, and maintain the sustainable management of forest resources. Timber Development UK will be providing regular updates on the situation as it develops. Be sure to visit our website at www.ttf.co.uk as well as our LinkedIn and Twitter pages.



MARSHALL

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING



**Quality
Machinery
Speaks For Itself**



WESTTECH

GMT EQUIPMENT

KONEOSAPALVELU

SERRA

DinaSaw

TMC CANCELA[®]
MULCHING SOLUTIONS

Eschlböck BIBER

Lennartsfors

FLEX FOREO

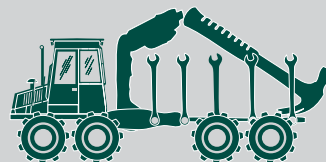
DALEN

Jussi

www.marshalllogging.co.uk



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



**Sales, Servicing
and Repairs of all
Forestry Machinery**
Tel: 01483 208075

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

**RICHARD COURT
FORESTRY ENGINEERING**

Specialising in excavator conversions for the forestry industry



Collins Farming & Forestry Services Ltd



**TURN POPLAR
AND ASH
INTO CASH**

*Don't let timber quality deteriorate -
Safely harvest while it has value!*

- ash and poplar dismantling and purchase
- hedge and woodland coppicing
- site clearance
- felling licence applications
- contract chipping
- supplier of dried and screened woodchip



m: 07850 988808

e: info@collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk

w: www.collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk

Maintaining momentum



Campaign Manager,
Sarah Virgo

provides an update
from Wood for

Good and looks at some of
her favourite campaigns
linking forestry and timber.

In 2022, the timber frame house UK market is set to rise by around £70m according to recent reports from MTW research. It's fantastic to see such positive forecasts for the sector, but within the marketing world, we don't want to get complacent with our messaging. At Wood for Good, we are aiming to continue building on the momentum and positive energy that we witnessed in 2021, particularly at COP26. As the UK timber industry's leading carbon messaging campaign, our aim is to keep people talking about timber as the solution to reducing embodied carbon emissions.

As a sector, we are aware of how timber products are created, how forests are managed and the different biodiverse, economic and sustainable benefits that they create. However, we cannot assume that our consumers know the same. With businesses all looking at ways to tap into

the ever-growing 'net zero' market, wood businesses are competing with green innovations and solutions from other building materials.

Thanks to the success of the Wood CO₂s less and Time for Timber campaigns, many within the construction and design sector are already talking about

the role timber can play in reducing our embodied carbon emissions. This is trickling into UK policy decisions; in January this year, the APPG for the Timber Industries Chair, David Warburton MP called for greater use of timber for tackling embodied carbon in the built environment.

As marketers, we are focusing on three key messages that we want to get across to our audiences, to cut through the rest of the noise being made about low-carbon building products.

Firstly, we want to break down the jargon used in the conversations around carbon, making information accessible for all audiences. This will help us improve understanding of the entire lifecycle of wood products. Forestry is a crucial part of the low-carbon story of wood, so educating our audiences on sustainable forestry management is a key priority for us.

Secondly, in the architecture and construction worlds, conversation is moving on from discussions about embodied carbon in buildings to circularity. To ensure that we are keeping wood at the forefront of conversations, going forward, we will be promoting timber's inherent circu- >>



WOOD FOR GOOD

lar properties even more. By discussing the role of wood in a circular economy, we can highlight recycled products, how to protect and prolong the life of wood products, and the circular nature of the forestry cycle.

Lastly, we are continuing to herald the health and wellbeing benefits of using timber in different built environment settings. In April, we're working with the CSIC to deliver a webinar series focusing on this, looking at case studies where timber and wellbeing is at the heart of design. The research and science behind wood's biophilic properties is something unique to timber interiors.

To deliver all this we've been working on creating new, updated versions of some of our most popular and effective assets to keep them current and engaging for our audiences. We'll be rolling these out throughout the year, giving our supporters access to download and use them in their own promotional work. Including animated videos and new infographics, the aim of them is to continue spreading

the message of Wood CO2ts less, while emphasising the relationship between sustainable forestry and timber in construction.

Keep an eye out for all the latest news on the Wood for Good website, where you can also view a host of infographics, videos, articles and case studies highlighting the benefits of designing and building with timber. And to receive our news straight into your in-box, sign up for our regular e-newsletter.

Who's connecting the dots?

Whilst we are working to ensure specifiers, architects and engineers understand the origins of the material they work with, other organisations are connecting the dots between forestry and timber construction for consumers. As we face challenges in ensuring that timber remains top of the list of sustainable building products, this is more important than ever.

Egger's campaign 'It's what's on the inside that counts' shows us how one tree from Egger's forests can be used to create multiple different products. The campaign guides customers through the process of harvesting a tree, where different parts of wood are used in different products - from wood fuel and sawdust to fencing and sawlogs. This transparent and simple visualisation helps to create greater awareness and understanding by consumers of what sustainable timber is.

Similarly, the Forests are Home campaign from PEFC highlights the importance of sustainable forest management across the world whilst celebrating best practice and showcasing products that have been created from sustainably sourced wood.

GET IN TOUCH If you have plans to run similar campaigns or are currently doing work in this area - we'd love to connect and find out more about your work. You can get in touch with me at sarah.virgo@woodforgood.com



One of the images being used in the Egger campaign



Celebrating Success

With a new year comes new opportunities to cultivate and celebrate excellence in wood design and practice. We are delighted to be sponsoring the RIAS awards again with Scottish Forestry. The awards celebrate fantastic projects from Scottish designers but there is also a special award for best use of timber. The shortlisted entries are now available to view on their website.

We are also sponsoring TDUK's University Challenge again this year. This year's challenge focuses on Hereford. As a team, students are tasked with designing the heart of the project which is a single physical building - Southside. Teams need to produce designs that sites the community centre within the local context and landscape, integrating the client's and community's interests.

The detailed designs must be 'net zero', creatively employing sustainable building materials and construction methods, and be energy and resource efficient, focusing on the health and well-being of people, the community, and our planet. The main material focus and specification for the centre will be timber and timber hybrid systems.



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

Stephen Cull

BLADEMASTER

"giving you the edge"



- Premium Quality Sawmill Blades for Lumbermate, Wood-Mizer, TimberKing and most makes of mobile sawmill
- Technical Advice
- Blade Sharpening
- Sawmill Training

T: 01348 873179
M: 07887 544333
E: sales@stephencullblademaster.com

buy blades online at www.stephencullblademaster.com

NEW

VIMEK®



Vimek has developed a brand new machine for the Next Generation project. The new forwarder has a 7.5 tonne carrying capacity and is powered by a 75hp, turbocharged Caterpillar engine and Bosch Rexroth transmission. This forwarder has a brand new larger cab with better visibility, better sound insulation and LED lights around the entire machine. A new Cranab crane has also been developed to be the perfect match for this forwarder with a reach of 6.7 meters.

New and used machines available with short lead time and exceptional back up service throughout UK and Ireland

+4428 3833 0011 +353 1969 7894

www.oakleafforestry.com

35a Derryall Road, Derryvane, Portadown
Co. Armagh BT62 1PL

Oakleaf
FORESTRY.COM

HYPRO

 **SAMPO ROSENLEW**

MERICRUSHER
DIFFERENT FOR A REASON

KESLA

VIMEK®

UNBEATABLE QUALITY • EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Approved
HYDRAULICS



We supply some of the largest forestry dealers, OEM's and maintenance firms in the UK and our products are considered to be some of the best in the world.

Rotators | Weigh Links | Log Grabs | Tree Shears | Flails



SUPPLYING THE FORESTRY & TIMBER TRADE

sales@approvedhydraulics.co.uk

0161 480 0869

approvedhydraulics.co.uk

allswage^{uk}

**A SELECTION FROM OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE
FOR THE FORESTRY MACHINERY INDUSTRY**



H CRIMP 110

- 1" 4SP
- Robust
- 110t
- Manual
- 28kg



H CRIMP 80

- 1" 2WB
- Lightweight
- 80t
- Manual or pneumatic
- 25kg



S CRIMP 70 EVO R

- 1" 4SP
- Revolving head
- 70t
- 230/415/12V
- 75kg

43-49 Roebuck Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 6RB

0121 553 5048 | allswageuk.co.uk

**HOSE ASSEMBLY
EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS**



Small but beautiful extraction



Andrew Smith,
Forestry
Lecturer at
Scottish School
of Forestry, UHI

Many forest owners and agents will have access to all terrain vehicles (ATVs) be that the sit-astride quad bike, or the sit-in variant (think John Deere Gator or Polaris Ranger as examples). These vehicles are traditionally used to transport people and equipment over rough terrain for example to distribute plants on a restock site, or to take a pinch bar and mull out to repair a fence. However, are there other possibilities for utilising these machines?

As the cost of equipment continues its upwards trajectory, owners look to utilise their machines more effectively. Ultimately, having something shiny sitting in the shed is not the most effective use of equipment or, indeed, finances. Over the years various pieces of equipment have been produced to meet a burgeoning market. Sprayers, flail mowers, snow ploughs etc have all been developed to make use of what many see as a viable alternative to a second tractor around a farm or estate. In some cases, such as equine holdings, there is no tractor, and the ATV is expected to perform all the duties. What about timber extraction? Several options are available, and that is what we will look at this month. Firstly, let us look at where or indeed why we might want to use this option.

Small equipment is easily moved from site to site, behind a pickup and trailer in many cases. It utilises a piece of existing equipment, and with a further small investment, makes it more useful to a business.



Logic THT200

In terms of sites, clearly an ATV method of extraction is not going to be used on a 5000-tonne clear fell. Think of small volumes, and potentially environmentally sensitive sites. Working in amongst a crop without a conventional rack system, the impact on the environment is minimal. For some businesses, ATV timber extraction is an affordable entry point into timber extraction. For others, it may compliment an existing service offering, such as arboriculture work. With regards to adaptability, many of the manufacturers have made their equipment adaptable to other tasks. For example, some provide infills to allow timber trailers to be used to transport loose materials e.g., woodchip, again highlighting that ATV equipment does not need to be a one trick pony.

Remember that ATVs, particularly the sit-astride vehicles, have a much smaller towing capacity and tongue weight than you may expect. As an example, a popular current model from one of the main manufacturers has a tongue weight of 14kg and a maximum towing capacity of 335kg.

Let us have a look at some of the equipment available to potential purchasers to use in conjunction with their ATV.

LOGIC

Logic is well known amongst ATV circles to produce a variety of equipment designed for use with ATVs of all shapes, sizes, and styles. Typical equipment they produce include sheep snackers, sprayers and slug pellet applicators. All products are designed and built in the UK.

In terms of forestry equipment, they currently manufacture two examples of trailed equipment, the THT400 forward-ing trailer and the THT200. The THT400 is a traditional forwarding trailer, minus the crane. It has 4 wheels and bogie style axles. It is equipped with a headboard and two sets of round bolsters. Timber is transported fully suspended. Simple and effective.

The THT200 is a two wheeled machine and is in the style of a logging arch and comes complete with a manual winch to lift timber up and onto the cradle which supports one end of the log, the other end dragging on the forest floor. The log is then strapped onto the cradle and driven out of the forest.

KELLFRI

Kellfri manufacture a wide range of equipment over several sectors including Agriculture, forestry and groundcare. Produced in Sweden, the brand is supported by several dealers in the UK.

In terms of ATV equipment for forestry, the range features simple items such as the Log Skidder Sledge, up to forwarding trailers complete with hydraulic crane; wheel drive and articulated steering – a true mini forwarder!

The log skidder sledge is, just that – a metal sledge dragged behind the ATV. It is attached onto the 50mm towing ball. Logs are choked using a chain, which is then winched into towards the sledge. A serrated edge grips onto the underneath of the logs whilst tension is maintained on >>



Kelfri log trailer with manual crane (left); Kelfri log sledge (middle) and Country Trailers 15S trailer (right)

the choker chain with the winch as they are extracted.

Next in the range is a conventional forestry trailer complete with a manually operated winch crane. The crane can lift a maximum of 150kg when lifting close in to the trailer. The trailer is designed for a maximum load capacity of 700kg, which is carried on 4 22x11-10 tyres on bogie style axles. Lastly, the 2-tonne forestry trailer which is available with several options including hydraulic wheel drive and articulated steering. Hydraulic cranes with reaches

of 3.6m and 4.2m are available. The hydraulic system is powered by an independent 9hp petrol engine and is controlled by a conventional 5 lever spool block.

COUNTRY TRAILERS

In terms of ATV equipment, Country Trailers produce one model suitable for use with ATVs, the 15S. As with most other manufacturers designs, the 15S is a traditional forwarding trailer with a head-board, timber bolsters and 4 wheels on a bogie axle design. The load area is

2700mm long (total length of the trailer is 3870mm) with the trailer being 1290mm wide (outside of bolsters). Options available include overrun brakes. Country also produces a crane suitable for this trailer, the 410 smart available with its own independent petrol-powered hydraulic pack.

VAHVA JUSSI

Vahva Jussi produce a range of equipment, including ATV equipment, in Estonia. Their ATV equipment follows the tried and tested route of a conventional forward-

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

EXETER CHARCOAL
 Makers of the Exeter Retort

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

07515 683908
www.carboncompost.co.uk
admin@carboncompost.co.uk

MW MASON WOODCHIPPERS



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

Peverstone
Cullompton,
Devon EX15 1RW



loglogic

loglogic.co.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 1884 839999

TOOLTRAK 75

The multi purpose compact tool carrier:



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

KESLA



**THE PERFECT SOLUTION THAT ADAPTS
TO YOUR EXACT REQUIREMENTS.**

For more information contact:

☎ Simon Rudyard: 07585 118136

✉ simon.rudyard@chandlersfe.co.uk

Chandlers

**Farm
Equipment**

SALES | PARTS | SERVICE
www.chandlers.co.uk



Avestavagnen's Forester Standard trailer

ing trailer with headboard; bolsters; and 4 wheels on a bogie axle design. Two models are available, the 1500 and 2000 with load capacities of 1500kg and 2000kg, respectively. Empty, these trailers weigh 190kg and 200kg, respectively. The larger Trailer

2000 is 1454mm wide.

With regards to loading these trailers, there are two hydraulic crane options available. The 320 (3.2m reach) and the 400 (4m reach). Power comes from a Honda GX200 petrol engine which drives a 9L/

min hydraulic pump. Accessories include hydraulic cage drive, hydraulic tipping bodies and clam shell buckets.

AVESTAVAGNEN

Avestavagnen manufacture the Forester and Woodman ranges of trailers in Sweden. The Woodman range features 3 models suited to use behind ATV, with a model for every budget. The standard; the Manual Crane and the Pro. The entry level model, the Standard, is a 4 wheeled trailer featuring 4 bolsters and a headboard. Loading is manual. The trailer is 1370mm wide and maximum recommended load capacity of 1300kg.

The Woodman Manual Crane and Woodman Pro are both built on the Standard trailer. The Manual Crane features a manually operated winch crane for lifting logs on and off the trailer. The Pro features a Warn, electric winch operated crane equipped with a radio control function.

The Forester range comprises three models, the Light: Standard and Plus which all feature hydraulic timber cranes. Crane reach of 3.4m is available on the Light and Standard Models whilst the Plus features a 4.2m crane reach. All models come with hydraulic wheel drive.

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, holding frames, bag loading trays, polypropylene sacks, standard bulk bags, LDPE sacks and storage tarpaulins.

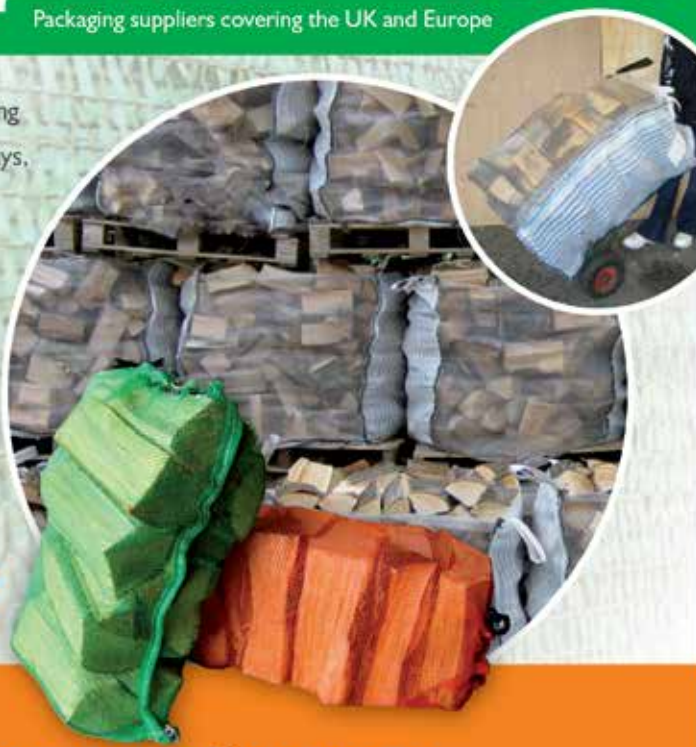
We carry a large range of stock in various sizes at our warehouse for delivery within 48 hours of your order.

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



INTRODUCING NORWOOD SAWMILLS LUMBERMAX HD38

38" Max Diameter
32" Max Board Width
14" Max Depth of Cut

20ft Bed Length; 17ft Cutting Length
(Extensions Available)

23HP Briggs & Stratton Petrol Engine
(7.5kW Electric Option Available)



GLOBAL
RECYCLING SOLUTIONS

*mills may be shown with optional extras

Global Recycling Solutions Ltd, Units 5-7 Ruston Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 9SW Tel: (0) 1476 568384 Email: sales@globalrecycling.eu



www.globalrecycling.eu

Measuring nature using the power of DNA

What gets measured, gets managed and until now, biodiversity has had a measurement problem. **Stefanie Kaiser** of green tech company NatureMetrics outlines how DNA-based methodologies can open the path to robust biodiversity assessments at scale.

Triggered by a powerful combination of recent extreme weather events, a 'return-to-nature' sentiment in society during lockdown, media attention around COP26 and the release of the Dasgupta Report on the Economics of Biodiversity, the penny has eventually dropped – both the climate and nature emergency have to be addressed, and quick. Governments and private businesses have to change their mindset and start seeing 'nature' as the fundamental resource our economy is built on. Basically, environmental costs and benefits need to make their way into corporate balance sheets.

A symptom of this trend, in particular in the forestry and wider land use sector, has been a striking interest in nature-based solutions and carbon markets; within the Confor membership, several new businesses have started dedicated carbon forestry ventures in the last few years. Land agents have reported a rise in the value of natural assets overall, which is reflected in soaring sales prices for not only commercial woodlands but also land suitable for afforestation or peatland restoration. Simon Hart of John Cleggs & Co says "even poor ground in Scotland is now selling at £5000/ha and more, which is more than treble values seen in the recent past".

For climate change mitigation, more or less robust market-based incentives in the form of carbon credit schemes exist, and National net zero strategies provide a strong framework and pull for companies to take tangible climate action.

However, climate change and the deterioration of nature and biodiversity are strongly interlinked. In the last six months, many in the business and finance community have woken up to the need to



BIODIVERSITY – DIGGING DEEPER

Soil biodiversity underpins the health and resilience of a forest ecosystem. Many people will intuitively relate the term 'biodiversity' to charismatic and potentially endangered species. Think red squirrels, pine martens, dormice and rare butterflies. However, it is mostly the less visible communities of bacteria, fungi and invertebrates that underpin the health of an ecosystem. Understanding soil biodiversity is a good proxy for understanding the overall ecosystem health of a forest. For example, there is increasing evidence that tree health is highly dependent on well-functioning fungal communities. However, Fungi can be tricky to visually survey unless they have above ground mushrooms, and these are only visible at certain times of year. eDNA can overcome this barrier.

monitor impacts on nature. Biodiversity regulations and certification requirements are likely to tighten resulting in the need for robust and scalable metrics.

Can we measure nature?

The measurement of biodiversity is extremely difficult due to its complexity, diversity and its interconnectedness to other aspects of the environment.

"Standardised monitoring of forest biodiversity at wide spatial scales and/or at repeat intervals is a significant challenge. The number of forest-dwelling species is immeasurable in itself, and we must resort to the careful selection of a subset of taxa or 'proxy' measures to represent forest species in their entirety", says Nadia Barsoum, forest ecologist

at Forest Research.

Molecular methods based on the detection of environmental DNA are revolutionizing the way we can understand our impact on biodiversity and habitats. At NatureMetrics, we are building strong methodologies to robustly assess and manage nature with eDNA.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY MONITORING IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR

There are many ways that molecular methods can be used to complement conventional monitoring methods.

1 Assess soil health

Understanding differences in soil fauna, bacteria and fungi can give an idea of the effect of land management on ecosystem health and resilience. NatureMetrics currently focuses on providing data on composition and richness, rather than on long lists of species, for the assessment of bacteria, fungi and soil fauna from soil samples.

"Using traditional methods, we can only measure what we see – that is a tiny fraction of biodiversity and it's often not measuring the things that are really driving the functioning of the ecosystem."

WHAT IS eDNA BASED BIODIVERSITY MONITORING?

NatureMetrics has developed a cheap, easy and highly effective way to measure biodiversity in an area using DNA from water, soil and insect samples that can be collected by anyone. It can provide data on biodiversity at unprecedented scales and resolutions.

Water (eDNA)

Vertebrates
Mussels
Crayfish
Bacteria
& more



Single species (qPCR)

qPCR confirms the DNA is present

Bulk invertebrates

Insects
Vertebrates



Soil/sediment

Soil fauna
Bacteria
Fungi



Scan the QR code to learn more about DNA-based biodiversity monitoring



Multi species (metabarcoding)

High-throughput sequencing produces lists of many species

Collect DNA sample



Extract DNA from sample Sequence the DNA



Match sequences to the species



2 Compare impacts of management regimes and forest types

This can be useful to manage reputational risk, to inform grant or certification applications or to assess the effectiveness of new treatment or management regimes. It can also compare differences in land management such as:

- Certified vs non-certified
- With or without pesticide treatment
- Clearfell vs non-clearfell
- Different tree species compositions
- Monoculture vs mixed stands
- Woodlands on sites with different site factors (eg soil types, water etc)
- Compare productive forests with previous land use (eg sheep pasture)

3 Detect specific vulnerable, invasive or elusive species

eDNA is a great tool for detecting the presence or absence of a particular species. This might be required for diverse certification and permit audits, when deal-

eDNA DERIVED METRICS

Currently, the main output from eDNA analysis would be a list of all species detected in a sample. Data is presented to visualise key patterns that might facilitate interpretation of ecological meaning. NatureMetrics is working with clients and partners to develop a range of derived metrics that require no further ecological expertise for interpretation.

Examples of metrics

- Species richness
- Difference in species composition between sites
- Functional and phylogenetic diversity
- Fungal:bacterial ratio (soil stability)
- Endangered or vulnerable species

ing with Sites of Special Scientific Interest in response to eNGO campaigns. Elusive or cryptic species can also be easier and more effective to detect using molecular methods, compared to conventional ecological surveying techniques. For the detection of specific species, molecular and traditional methods can complement each other, depending on species type and ecology.

Many priority species such as mammals, birds and amphibians are currently only detected from water samples, but detection from soil samples is currently in development.

4 Data for biodiversity KPIs

Currently, eDNA-based monitoring methods can provide the data that can inform the development of biodiversity indicators and metrics: For impact reporting and monitoring; For accessing grant funding or 'green' finance and for emerging biodiversity markets.

>>

BETTER BIODIVERSITY DATA IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

"The production of timber is a key objective in forest management, as it provides society with a supply of renewable raw materials and the owner with a source of income. As a result, we use a range of techniques for forecasting and measuring productivity and timber volumes, with a high degree of precision.

However, we also manage our forests to achieve other objectives, such as biodiversity. Our observation is that levels of biodiversity within productive forests is much greater than generally supposed and that it increases with time. We frequently identify species, including rare and protected species which biodiversity records suggest should not be present and have not previously been recorded on the site.

We thought that it would be useful to build on this anecdotal evidence and attempt to quantify the levels of biodiversity within the forests which we manage. The attraction of eDNA is that it offers a way in which this can be carried out in a systematic and quantitative way. If we are able to gather such information, then we could use it as baseline, so that we could record the impact of changes in management. We could also use it to better understand how the biodiversity in productive forest ecosystems changes as the forests develop. This could be used to compare against other land-uses and help to inform management at the landscape level.

If we are serious about biodiversity, then it is essential that we learn to measure it in a precise way. Only then, can we be confident about the impacts of our management."



Jason Sinden
Investment Director,
Gresham House

5 Assess environmental impact of operations

Pesticides, fuel residues or machinery lubricants can enter nearby streams or lakes and potentially have a negative impact on water biodiversity. eDNA biodiversity data and metrics from water samples can give clarity on environmental impact and change over time.

6 Pest detection

Currently, insect or soil samples can be DNA tested to detect key tree pests and diseases on site, for example Ips typographus, Emerald ash borer or fungal pest species.

There is also potential to develop DNA-based rapid detection kits for a variety of pest species; this could enhance and calibrate existing plant health monitoring frameworks and remote sensing methods.

eDNA VS CONVENTIONAL SURVEYING METHODS

eDNA-based monitoring technologies have a range of unique advantages over conventional surveying methods, but also come with limitations. However, the technology is advancing all the time.

Species reference libraries used for identification are evolving and ongoing research on machine learning techniques will further expand what eDNA based monitoring can do.

Advantages

- Large number of species detected, including elusive or cryptic species
- Scalable standardised data collection that is cost-effective relative to traditional approaches and enables consistency when sampling whole landscapes.
- Objective measurement and reporting – eDNA measures biodiversity directly, removing error introduced by observers and proxies.
- Auditable outcomes – eDNA samples can be stored for independent verification of outcomes, thus establishing the credibility of claims.
- Cost-efficiency – eDNA removes the need for experts in the field and reduces sampling time whilst returning high-quality data.
- Community engagement – NatureMetrics sampling kits have been designed to maximise ease-of-use and have been used extensively by non-expert samplers

Limitations

- Currently no robust data on species abundance (but relative abundance may be possible)
- No data on age or size distribution in population
- There can be uncertainty on spatial distribution
- Genetic reference data not available for all species

GET INVOLVED

Be ahead of the curve

The eDNA biodiversity monitoring technology is booming across sectors but is still not widely adopted within the forestry sector.

Get in touch if:

- you have water on your site and want to tell stories about key species on your site,;
- you want to understand how your management decisions affect soil health and soil microbiome that underpins the health

TRIALLING eDNA-BASED BIODIVERSITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR

At present there is a heavy reliance on the use of proxy measures of forest biodiversity, such as indicator species or structural features (eg volume of deadwood) that are known to correlate well with levels of biodiversity. The National Forest Inventory, for example, uses a suite of surrogate measures of biodiversity to assess inter-regional and temporal variations in 'woodland condition' as an indirect measure of biodiversity performance. These surrogate measures provide a measure of potential rather than actual, direct measures of biodiversity. Thus, they do not provide information on how the presence or absence of given species might influence forest ecosystem resilience and functioning. They also do not distinguish between different forest types (eg a wet woodland is assessed in the same way as a Sitka spruce woodland), or stages of development which can skew results unless variation caused by woodland type and age are properly accounted for.

With funding from Forestry England and Defra's Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme, Forest Research is currently undertaking a series of pilot studies that explore the potential for an eDNA approach to facilitate and increase the depth of direct forest species information acquired in national forest biodiversity monitoring schemes, but also in targeted forest regeneration projects, helping to account for no net loss in biodiversity.

More on this in a follow up article this summer.



Nadia Barsoum,
Senior Forest
Ecologist,
Forest Research

of the forest;

- you are interested in using eDNA for early detection of pests and pathogens and would be interested in being a R&D partner for NatureMetrics.

Contact

www.naturemetrics.co.uk

Stefanie.kaiser@naturemetrics.co.uk



Superior planting stock for commercial forestry.
Specialist grower of northern UK and Scottish seed zone
provenances to suit all planting requirements

We are situated in the beautiful county of Northumberland and supply around 15 million bareroot conifer and broadleaf trees per year to a wide customer base. A Plant Healthy accredited grower of major native timber and woodland species including improved Sitka Spruce. Trees can be pre-treated against Pine Weevil if required.

Our team have over 200 collective years experience in growing and nursery production as well as a firm understanding of the forestry industry. Our cold storage facilities ensure our trees are stored at the optimum temperature until you need them. Please get in touch today. No query is too big or small.

TreesPlease Ltd, Dilston Haugh Farm, Corbridge,
Northumberland NE45 5QY 01434 633049
sales@treesplease.co.uk www.treesplease.co.uk



PHCS - 0017 - UK



KINGWELL

**LEADING SERVICE PROVIDER
IN FORESTRY & VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT, MULCHING
& BIOMASS SOLUTIONS**

- ✓ HARVESTING & BIOMASS
- ✓ ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
- ✓ STUMP REMOVAL ✓ SITE CLEARANCE
- ✓ TREE CLEARANCE ✓ DEEP ROTIVATING
- ✓ DEEP PLOUGH CONTRACTING
- ✓ MACHINERY HIRE

**Kingwell Holdings Ltd
HEAD OFFICE**

Cordons Farm Depot, Long Green, Cressing,
Braintree, Essex CM77 8DL

✉ enquiries@kingwell-holdings.co.uk

☎ 01376 550989

www.kingwell-holdings.co.uk



Invest in natural capital

Create beautiful woodland

Offset carbon

Increase biodiversity

Restore habitats

Prioritise sustainability

Achieve biodiversity net gain

Align with SDGs

Engage your client base



Creating Tomorrow's Forests
for wildlife, people, and the planet
WWW.CREATINGTOMORROWSFORESTS.CO.UK

BECOMING A FOREST ENTREPRENEUR

At only 25-years old, **Thibault Sorret** of Wildsense is the CEO of an investment-backed start-up, with 13 staff members and plans for global expansion. Confor speaks to him about what drives him and his plans for the future.



Tell us a bit more about your entrepreneurial journey – When did you think of starting your own business and what was your main motivation? What kept you focused on your journey?

I've always wanted to be an entrepreneur and fix problems around me. My very first business was launched at 16, by writing a book to help students improve their studying. I then did my bachelor's degree in commerce and my master's degree in ecosystemic health. I became increasingly interested in the forestry sector and reached out to foresters to understand the issues they were facing on a daily basis, and founded my business around that. I shaped my mission around monitoring and restoring forests around the world to improve forest health. It is easy to stay motivated when the goal is so large and tangible results. In 2021, we met with foresters in Eastern France who were suffering from massive beetle attacks in their forests that they could not monitor. Our tools had a direct impact on their ability to better manage their forest by detecting these risks early on.

However, I wouldn't say I believe in motivation all that much, but rather discipline. With discipline, you get things done. Motivation fluctuates. Discipline is much more reliable than motivation. I apply this mantra to my work but also to my sport practices and personal projects.

What skills were crucial for your success as a young entrepreneur and where did you acquire them? What makes you different from other people?

One of the important skills for an entrepreneur is the courage to dive into a market and a technology you know little about,

"HAVING AN IDEA IS GREAT. HOWEVER, FOUNDING A COMPANY TAKES A LOT OF WORK AND THINGS WON'T ALWAYS GO OUR WAY. YOUR JOB IS TO PUSH THROUGH, KEEP GOING AND ADAPT."

and quickly surround yourself with a qualified team and learn from them. Being adaptable and disciplined are two other core skills.

I don't think I am particularly different from other people. However, I was lucky enough to be brought up by role models that truly inspired me: My grandfather worked his way up from being a farmer to a general in the army. My father also made a career for himself. Growing up abroad also helped me take accountability and responsibility to shape my future and not expect things to just go my way.

Career wise, I gained practical management skills by working for a Canadian scale up that grew from 50 to 750 employees in just five years. I also had the opportunity to closely work with the CEO who mentored me along that way that helped me grow as a person and as a manager.

Finally, playing rugby for 13 years and practicing for triathlons taught me a sense of perseverance.

What would be your recommendations for young professionals aspiring to be entrepreneurs?

Take the extra step: Most aspiring entrepreneurs have done their homework and have a fair understanding of the industry they wish to enter. However, taking the first step can be paralyzing, which is when they must go through with their idea and launch their business. Try it out! If the business fails, you'll have learnt a lot and can always find another job.

Be Adaptable along the way: Having an idea is great. However, founding a company takes a lot of work and things won't always go our way. Your job is to push through, keep going and adapt. We started with a team of three, and quickly realised our models inspired from scientific literature partially worked but were not generalisable. Instead of giving up, we tried to understand the issue, adapt, and finally created a different model that works.

The following quote is my personal favorite: "Fall in love with your problem, not your solution."

You have been very successful at attracting investment and grant funding, amounting to a total of EUR 1 million so far. Can you tell us more about the funding mix and your process of identifying and applying for funding? What were key factors of success?

Half a million euros were raised from ven-

ture capital and another 500,000 euros from grants and debts.

Identifying the right people that match with your project is key. Investors are often explicit about what they fund and don't. Not only is screening investors time saving, you will stay focused and have a higher rate of success.

Be action oriented and move fast. Wildsense was founded in December 2020, and by February 2021, we had our first paying customers. Venture capital looks at the ability to execute, but also the speed at which you do so.

If you are still in university, sign up to their startup programs. They're used to meeting students facing similar challenges. I was actually a student in Edinburgh when Wildsense was founded, and being part of their entrepreneur program was an efficient way to get started as I met many people and found the appropriate funding.

Take a look at Government resources, they highlight many opportunities.

Finally, get in touch with someone that built a similar company as yours and find out how they got funded, as funding is project specific and their experience might be helpful.

Tell me about the R&D process at Wildsense. From idea to marketable product, to marketed product.

The initial idea arose when I was conducting research for the completion of my thesis. Meeting foresters in Eastern Europe helped me better understand the health problems linked to forests. I then undertook a literature review to look at the best methods available and gathered a team to replicate those methods. We noticed limitations of these methods, as we were continuously getting false positives. Indeed, the pixel resolution was too low, and the roads were often mistaken for sick trees. We adapted and changed our approach and looked at time series to include forest change over time. Through a trial and error process, we finally obtained better, scalable results.

We then started reaching out to foresters who were interested in our solution and tool and got our very first clients.

What is the next milestone you want to achieve for your business?

We are currently monitoring 1M hectares. By the end of 2022, we want to monitor at least 10M hectares of land across the world, generating 1M in sales.



The integrated management of *Hylobius abietis* in UK forestry

Dr Ian Willoughby, Dr Roger Moore and Dr Tom Nisbet of Forest Research describe new guidance for forest managers on the integrated management of the large pine weevil.

On conifer restock sites stopping the large pine weevil, *Hylobius abietis*, from killing newly planted trees is a serious challenge. Forest Research recommend adopting what is often called an integrated approach to deal with the problem. This means first, understanding the life cycle and likely impacts of *Hylobius*; then, considering the full range of potential approaches that might be available to prevent the insect damaging young trees; and finally, selecting a restocking management strategy that may involve single or multiple techniques in combination with each other. An implicit part of this approach is that pesticides should only be used as a last resort, if there are no other effective, safe methods or combinations of techniques that can do the job without involving excessive cost.

With this approach in mind, Forest Research have produced a newly updated version of the guide to the integrated management of *Hylobius abietis* in UK forestry (Willoughby et al., 2022). This guide outlines the biology and life cycle of *Hylobius*, describes how to adopt an integrated approach, and then gives detailed, practical guidance on techniques that might be adopted to avoid the problem, such as the use of alternative silvicultural systems, fallow ground strategies, manipulation of ground vegetation and the use of good quality planting stock. It goes on to describe control measures targeting the insect's larval stages such as the use of en-

tomopathogenic nematodes or mulching and de-stumping.

Remedial control measures to prevent the adult insects damaging young trees are then covered, and in doing so the guide draws on some of the key findings of an ongoing programme of collaborative forest industry research into alternatives to the use of the conventional insecticides for protecting trees from *Hylobius* damage (Willoughby et al., 2020; Moore et al., 2021), some of which have been previously described in this magazine. Techniques in this category include various types of physical protection, or as a last resort pre-treating trees with insecticides, as well as possibly post-planting top-up spraying. A summary of the relative costs, efficacy and potential risks of the main remedial control measures is provided, along with a comparison of some of the hazard characteristics of the different insecticide options.

In recent years acetamiprid has increasingly been adopted as an alternative to cypermethrin, where insecticide use is deemed to be unavoidable. More detailed information on the specific hazards and risks involved with the use of the insecticide acetamiprid is therefore given in an appendix.

This comprehensive new guide, which we hope will help managers in getting to grips with the challenge of protecting trees from *Hylobius*, is available to download at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/hylobius-management-guidance



Adult *Hylobius abietis* feeding on a young conifer

References

Willoughby, I.H., Moore, R. and Nisbet, T.R. (2022). The integrated management of *Hylobius abietis* in UK forests. Forest Research Report, 34 pages. www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/8260/The_Integrated_management_of_Hylobius_abietis_in_UK_forestry_2022_eLMAxH7.pdf

Moore, R., Willoughby, I.H., Andrew J. Moffat, A.J. and Forster, J. (2021). Acetamiprid, chlorantraniliprole, and in some situations the physical barriers MultiPro® or Kvaee® wax, can be alternatives to traditional synthetic pyrethroid insecticides for the protection of young conifers from damage by the large pine weevil *Hylobius abietis* L. Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research 36 (4), 230-248. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02827581.2021.1906313>

Willoughby, I.H., Moore, R., Moffat, A.J., Forster, J., Sayyed, I. and Leslie, K. (2020). Are there viable chemical and non-chemical alternatives to the use of conventional insecticides for the protection of young trees from damage by the large pine weevil *Hylobius abietis* L. in UK forestry? Forestry 93 (5), 694-712. <https://doi.org/10.1093/forestry/cpaa013>





Mixed up about mixtures

I have been thinking about mixtures recently and the fact that traditional silvicultural texts would recommend establishing broadleaves with a conifer nurse to grow quality timber. Today we are more afraid of creating such stands, nervous about their management and because there is a bit of anti-conifer sentiment abroad in some quarters. Yet we, as an industry and profession and as owners large or small, are embarking on the biggest expansion of forest cover for a generation. So, let us rehearse the reasons why past generations of foresters have so favoured growing oak, beech, and other main crop broadleaves in mixture with conifers.

SITE CAPTURE

Whatever design of mixture – intimate, rows or groups – one benefit is more rapid utilisation of the site by the planted trees. Conifers usually establish more quickly and, provided the broadleaved element is well weeded and cleaned, this helps not harms them. Also, there is the practical point that it is easier to locate an oak or beech seedling because the conifer element shows where they are not! Of course, the actual planting spots may be well advertised by tree shelters. When planted among other woody growth – birch, sallows, and woody regeneration such as gorse or thorns – the broadleaved main crop species can often get ‘lost’ and, indeed, be overtopped.

IMPROVING BROADLEAVED QUALITY

Most broadleaved species have poorer stem form being less straight and more

branchy than most conifers. Traditionally this was mitigated by planting very high numbers, often 5000 to 8000 per hectare, so there was plenty of choice when cleaning and thinning and to provide close competition to suppress side branching. The cost today would be prohibitive. But if 50 per cent of the stand was conifer, established at a wider spacing, it would offer the side shade to reduce heavy branching and by growing somewhat faster than the broadleaved main crop would encourage upward growth. These two affects improved broadleaved stem quality.

EARLY RETURNS

Until the market for firewood greatly increased early thinning's from pure broadleaved stands were unsaleable or, until 30 years ago, destined for low grade woodpulp. Not only was this unattractive financially but a consequence was delayed cleaning and thinning and further risk to securing a worthwhile main crop. With a conifer element, thinning's are mostly more saleable and log size outturn often achieved before the conifers are finally removed after 30, 40 or even 50 years. While only about the first third of the broadleaved rotation had conifers, income from the latter would be substantial and transform the economics of the investment. They helped pay for the far longer investment made in the broadleaves.

MIXTURES OF BROADLEAVES

This seems attractive, for example oak and beech, or sycamore and wild cherry, but silviculturally they can be even trickier to

manage. All species have different growth profiles, different optimum site requirements and hugely different values per cubic metre (or per hoppus foot) at rotation end. Very crudely good oak is more valuable than cherry or sycamore and they, in turn, are more valuable than beech. Add this into the mix, and how to handle a stand can be fraught.

SILVICULTURE OF MIXTURES

Here is not the place to debate mixture design, species combinations, or thinning strategies beyond remarking that experience teaches that simple designs of conifer and broadleaves have worked well over the years. There are many examples of fine broadleaved woodlands today which started life helped by conifers. But I will finish with one bit of advice. When deciding what species to grow together in mixture, examine the height growth profiles and ensure that of the nurse species (conifer?) doesn't exceed overmuch that of the broadleaved main crop. A rule of thumb is that the nurse species yield class should never be more than twice that of the broadleaved.

I may return to this topic another time. With all the new planting going on we want not only to get more trees in the ground but make the most of the opportunity to raise the best quality crops we can. Also, mixtures are generally deemed more resilient, more sustainable, and better able to cope with the many threats forests face and, as Confor's own publications have reported, often better for wildlife and biodiversity too.



Conference makes successful return after two year absence



The Timber Transport Conference was recently held in Penrith on the 25 March at the North Lakes Hotel. **Eamonn Wall** reports

The Conference is organised by the Timber Transport Forum which is nearly 20 years old and is a partnership organisation with the purpose of facilitating the transport of timber from the forests to the mills and plants, whilst minimising disruption to the public, maintaining and improving minor roads and where possible moving timber by other modes of transport. It comprises the forestry and timber industries, timber hauliers, local authorities, national government agencies and chairs and administrators of the regional timber transport groups. It employs a full-time project officer who is Paul Boobyer and has 11 regional groups. Four

of which employ part time project officers: Ian Catterwell in Argyll, James England in Dumfries and Galloway, Claire Glaster in Grampian, Tayside and Fife, and Simon Stuart in Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire. All of whom were at the Conference. Con For host the Forum.

The Forum has created agreed road route maps, publishes Good Practice Guides, and the regional groups meet occasionally and deal with any timber transport issues in their areas.

The Conference was very well attended by over 100 delegates with nine speakers. Volvo Trucks sponsored the event which kicked off with a dinner on the previ-

ous evening. The Chairman of the Forum, Alistair Speedie, was once again the Chair for the Conference and did a very good job introducing the speakers and keeping to time.

Speakers

The first speaker was the Deputy Leader of Northumberland County Council who outlined the scope and purpose of the Great Northumberland Forest Project launched in 2019. The Project is really an all-encompassing banner for any tree planting taking place in the county and a way of promoting more tree planting through general awareness of all the existing grant schemes already available, education and publicity. However, the Council does have its own Free Tree scheme for community and public tree planting. The Project has a large range of stakeholders within the Northumberland Woodland Creation Project with the aim of creating 100,000 ha of new woodland to provide the multiple



range of benefits we can all list in our sleep including carbon off-setting, climate and biodiversity crisis, world timber supply, rural employment, recreation, and net zero. The Council also wants to look into its own woodland holding of 1200ha to improve management where possible.

Keith Jones from Forestry Commission England gave an overview of woodland cover in the North of England with a current cover of 14.5% and the target of 17.5%. He highlighted the new Cumbria Coastal Community Forest and the large amount of funding now available in England for woodland creation. The target is to plant 420k ha over the coming years.

From Forestry England, Kevin May, Director North Forest District, reminded us all that of course Kielder Forest is in his patch producing a lot of timber and revenue for the District. The key is sustainable forest management at the 1500 forests nationwide, covering 250k ha, that FE manage. In the north of England lies 86k ha of this producing 550k cubic metres annually. 90% of this from clearfells and 50% sold through standing sales, the balance either by in house harvesting teams or contractors. Annually 800ha is restocked with 3m



trees. The main issues to the forests are tree diseases and storms, and he stressed the importance of managing the forest to the UK Forest Standard, taking on board all the biodiversity (e.g. re-introductions) and public engagement (e.g. health and well-being) opportunities. New

woodland creation is also very much on the agenda for them. Also important are trainee programmes to get more people choosing forestry as a career, and the use of Natural Capital Accounts to show the value of forestry to society.

Net zero carbon vehicles

John Comer from Volvo gave us a very interesting review of Volvo's work in creating net zero carbon vehicles. It is a vast and complex issue. Volvo will be producing electric 44 tonne HGVs later this year which should have a 300km range but cost perhaps three times that of a diesel truck. Weight is a big issue as batteries are very heavy. Volvo will be building diesel engines for many years to come, and it was very interesting to see the reduction in pollutants over the years now in the EURO6 version. A EURO7 is in the pipeline in the EU. The government's target is to phase out die-

sel trucks in a phased manner, all by 2040. He noted that one litre of diesel produces 2.3kg of CO₂. The new bio diesel, HVO, hydrogenated vegetable oil, was discussed and the concept of well to wheel.

The view from the Road Haulage Association (presented by Chris Ashley) is that they support net zero but feel the time frame should be extended by 5 years. He outlined some issues that will slow the conversion to electric vehicles such as supply issues, Brexit, and Ukraine considerations.

Neill Stoddart from Creel Consulting gave a refreshing clear presentation covering many of the above topics. He now runs his Citroen van on HVO which requires installing a tank as you cannot buy it retail. It cost about 5% more than white diesel but 90% less CO₂, 30% less NO_x, and 86% less other pollutants. Transport in Scotland accounts for 36% of greenhouse emissions and Net Zero is set for 2045 so a big change needed. There are 690 timber trucks in the UK. Alternative fuels include HVO, LNG, BEV, Fuel Cell, and Hydrogen.

Dustbin lorries seem well suited to BEV, and a trial of 50 is working well. Each alternative fuel has its own range of issues. Also, electric chargers for trucks cost about £120k. If you were charging ten trucks, you could easily use up all the available current and cause a blackout locally. So, plenty of challenges.

Nicol Sinclair from Forest Research outlined their windblow assessments which finally showed 8k ha in Scotland and 3k ha in England blown down by storm Arwen. Murray Clark from Clark Engineering showed some videos about automatic timber tensioning straps.

Covering training of drivers, Sandro Borland from Bensile Training reviewed the ongoing HGV drivers training, the Certificate of Professional Competence. They have now introduced a version relevant to forestry and timber truck drivers, the + F. This compulsory 7-hour training has been lightened up with the production of 8 videos which we got to see. Very worthwhile! She also mentioned the Timber Haulage Academy to attract drivers into forestry transport.

Finally, was Mick Bottomley from Forestry and Land Scotland, who ran through useful points on managing in-forest infrastructure which included Key principles such as planning, space for vehicles and well fare, Regulation and Water such as managing runoff and slurry issues, Forwarders and roads, Stacking Area and Forwarder ramps.

Alastair Speedie brought proceedings to a close and mentioned the Strategic Timber Transport Fund and the round just closed amounts to £7m available. Closing dates for bids was March 21, and he is keen we continue bidding for funds to keep the funding pot available in the future.

It was a very useful day with a nice mixture of topics.



Clockwise from top left: The conference had a bountiful attendance; Neil Stoddart speaking about decarbonising timber haulage; John Comer, Product Manager at Volvo Truck and Alistair M Speedie, host of the TTF Conference.



The Confor team celebrating after a successful Confor Awards and Dinner! Not to forget Ann Stewart and Kirstin Donaldson who aren't pictured. All the best to Stefanie Kaiser on her new adventure at NatureMetrics and Jamie Farquhar on his retirement.

From top left to top right: Stefanie Kaiser, Jamie Farquhar, Caroline Ayre, Fiona Angier, Sarah Virgo, Anthony Geddes, Stuart Goodall, Andy Leitch, Richard Hunter. From bottom left to bottom right: Paul Boobyer, Eliza Hibbins Cline, David Lee and Maria Bellissimo.

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 ftn@confor.org.uk. Please include your name, a short comment text to go with the picture, and an image 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.

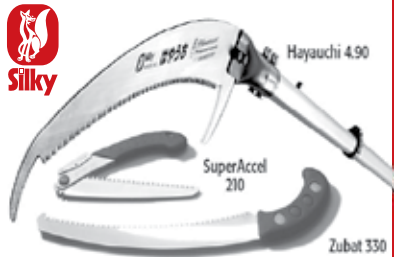
By submitting a picture to Forestry in Pictures you give Confor permission to use the file for non-commercial purposes in Forestry and Timber News or the Confor website. Photos will always be credited.

COMING UP IN JUNE 2022 - GET INVOLVED

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 or pitches for feature articles. Note that our general editorial deadline for the June FTN is 10 May 2022. If you would like to pitch an article idea, please do so by the end of April 2022.

MACHINERY EQUIPMENT

PRUNING MADE EASY



Silky Fox Saws
Foxley Estate Office,
Mansel Lacy,
Hereford HR4 7HQ

Tel: 01981 590224
Fax: 01981 590355
www.silkyfox.co.uk

The world's finest pruning saws

BIO-OILS

Plantoil
cares for the
environment



plantoil ...pure green
BIO-LUBRICANTS

CHAIN SAW OIL • 2-STROKE OIL • SAW BLADE OIL

FREephone 0800 013 7363 www.plantoil.co.uk

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

WANTED

QUALITY OAK REQUIRED

Standing or felled
**Good price paid for large clean
planking logs**
Also interested in other grades

Whippletree
T: 01763 208966 E: info@whippletree.co.uk

NET PRODUCTS

NET BAGS & BULK 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

CERTIFICATION

An independent FSC® &
PEFC Certified Forestry
Group Scheme

Providing UKWAS
certification to forest
owners throughout
the UK

The cost effective route to make certification work for you
Support, training, technical industry updates, trademark use



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



*Make this space
work for your
forestry business*

**Call Julia on
01502 725857**

unfogable mesh eye protection



www.meshsafetyglasses.co.uk
01254 377 467

FORESTRY & TIMBER

FORESTRY&TIMBER LIMITED

INDEPENDANT ADVICE

Purchasing | Selling | Managing | Investing?

- Woodland • Round & sawn timber
- Enterprise • Products

Director Mike Mann provides a one-to-one service:
based on 40 years experience across the industry.

Free initial telephone consultancy

Required now by client: 10,000ft³ good quality homegrown Oak sawlog

Contact: Mike Mann T: 01579 350 096 / 07436 282 700 E: mike.mann@crocadon.co.uk

JAS P WILSON

FOREST MACHINES

The One Stop Forestry Shop



New & Used Professional Machinery

Forestry Conversions

New & Used Spare Parts

Service, LOLER Tests, Lantra Training & Repairs



Lantra Courses: 29th-30th April **Please Enquire.**



www.jaspwilson.co.uk



@jaspwilson

Tel: 01556 612233 Email: info@jaspwilson.co.uk