

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August / September 2025 Issue 130

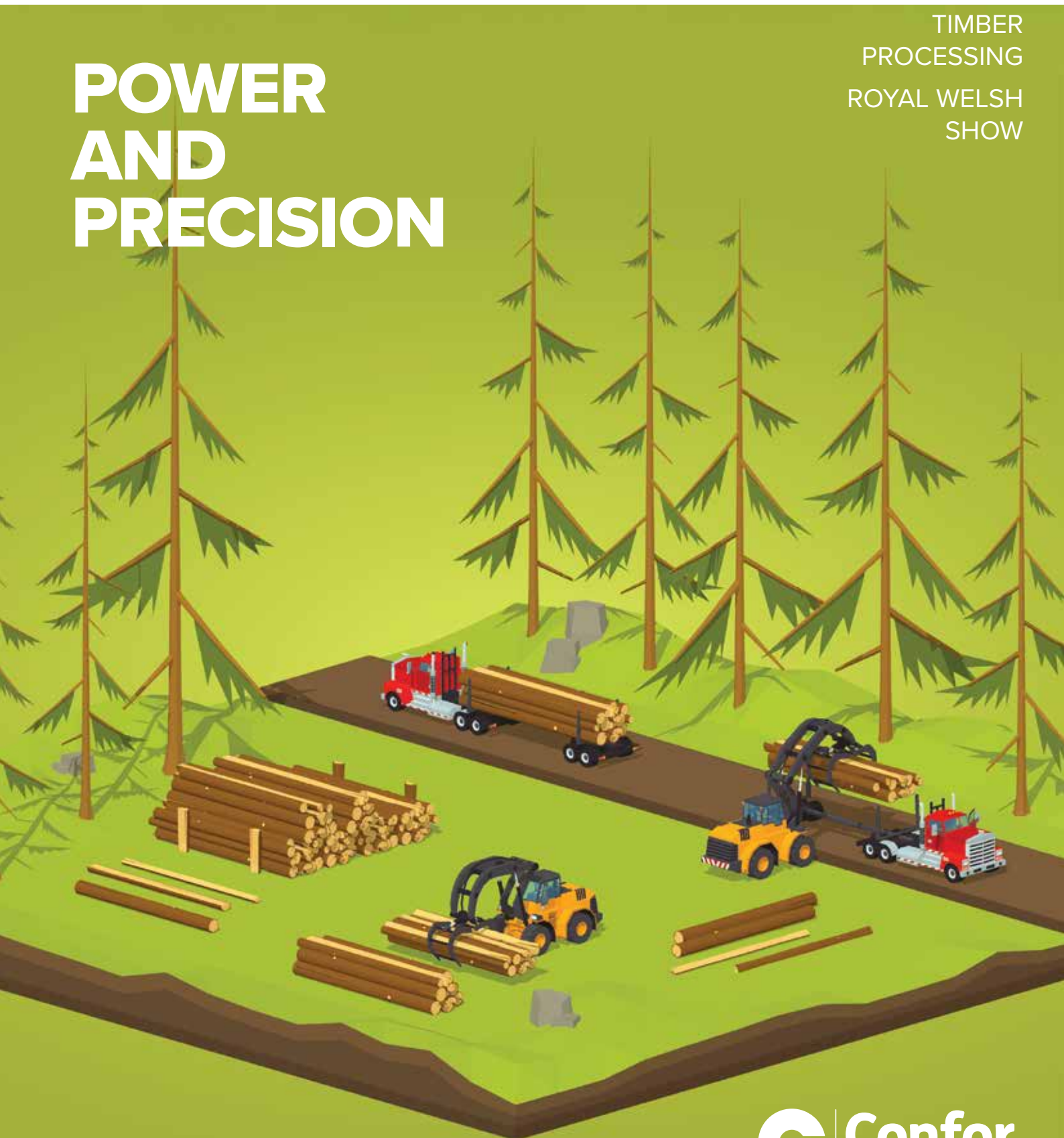
IN THIS ISSUE:

FOREST
MACHINERY

TIMBER
PROCESSING

ROYAL WELSH
SHOW

POWER AND PRECISION





A COMPANY WITH 40 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.



FRAVIZEL develops, manufactures, and provides support for equipment and machinery for forestry, and mining sectors. Currently in over 60 countries, the company is continuously committed to innovation, decarbonisation, increased productivity and a focus on the circular economy - a dedication that was recognised in 2024 with the Portuguese SME Innovation Award.

STUMP SHEAR

It was developed and designed to accelerate the entire land preparation process and optimise land use, as well as subsequent soil preparation operations, adding value to the by-products.

up to **+35 %**
Income (h/ha)

up to **-126 Kg**
Emissions (KgCO₂/ha)
Equivalent to
1300 km by car



FELLER BUNCHER

To optimise tree felling operations is as blade system (single or double) allows for complete felling of the entire tree section at ground level (blade overlap). Cutting close to the ground improves the efficiency of the felling process while preserving production capacity.

ARG - HARROWING RIPPER

ARG can perform three functions, harrowing, ripping, ridging, and also fertilisation in a single, simultaneous operation. The type of soil preparation provided by ARG allows for superficial, partial, and non-intensive tillage.

up to **+65 %**
Income (h/ha)

up to **-273 Kg**
Emissions (KgCO₂/ha)
Equivalent to
≈ 2800 km by car



Fravizel's product range covers the entire forestry process — including land clearing, soil preparation, planting, tree cutting, maintenance, and circular economy solutions. As part of its commitment to innovation in planting, Fravizel has developed the Vanguard planter, distinguished by its automation.

CONTENTS



42



24



26



16

ROYAL WELSH SHOW

- 6** Sparking debate at the Show
- 8** Confor welcomes historic timber strategy launched at Show

CONFOR

- 11** Political update: Bracing for change
- 12** Member update
- 14** 50 Years of the APF Demo
- 16** Confor at the Highland Show
- 19** Bringing members together: Open woodland visits in England
- 20** Leading by example: Award winner Cora Pfarre
- 22** Forestry industry calls for 'climate of confidence'
- 24** UK hosts annual meeting of European nursery group

EDUCATION FUND

- 26** Inspired by others: Claire Glaister connects with forestry networks in Florida
- 29** Silviculture in the Pacific Northwest

TIMBER PROCESSING

- 32** The right machine in the right place
- 35** Wood-Mizer launches a next-generation industrial sawmill

MEMBER PROFILE

- 38** Jas P Wilson: Ever changing, always delivering

FOREST MACHINERY

- 41** Why are forest machines so expensive?
- 42** New forwarder with 25 tonne load capacity
- 45** Launch of H Series sets new standard

LEGAL MATTERS

- 46** What do inheritance tax changes mean for forestry?
- 47** Felling Licences and Restocking Notices

FOREST MARKET REPORT

- 49** The busy, curious, proactive purchaser replaces caution and selectiveness

NEWS & UPDATES

- 51** New version of Woodland Carbon Code published
- 54** Working in the wake of windblow
- 58** Climate concern colours public opinions of forestry
- 60** Young talent at Tilhill Forestry drive innovation and sustainability
- 61** Unique Highland juniper forest given special European status in UK first
- 62** Alba Trees and Re-Genus partner on fungi-fuelled natural solution
- 65** Lessons learned in the wake of devastating wildfire

MOTORING

- 52** Driving the new Dacia Duster

FOREST RESEARCH

- 56** Foresters urged to report evidence of stem cracks in conifers

SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

- 68** Access for timber extraction

The confidence problem



STUART GOODALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
CONFOR

At the last two Confor Award Dinners, I have made the point that Scotland's traditional position as the 'go to' place for investment in woodland creation, forestry and wood processing is under serious threat.

In England, we have an industry National Wood Strategy and a Government Timber in Construction Roadmap, where the public and private sectors are working together to increase the volume of timber available, build markets for home-grown wood in housebuilding and construction, help forestry and wood processing businesses to be more profitable, and much more.

In Wales, the Welsh Government has recently launched its excellent Timber Industrial Strategy which aims to increase timber supply, develop capacity in the industry and more. Northern Ireland is also looking to get in on the act, at least on increased new planting.

North of the border it feels like the industry is losing confidence, and I hear of businesses turning their investment attention towards other parts of the UK.

The sector in Scotland has experienced a significant increase in negative media and political lobbying, often connected with new commercial planting schemes. The negativity usually comes laced with misinformation about the industry. Deeply flawed reports have also been published by self-proclaimed 'experts' and 'authoritative' voices that attack

current forestry practices and the attitudes of businesses in the sector.

Unfortunately, most of the media and some Scottish politicians appear happy to repeat what they are told without question. This may be part of a wider narrative taking hold, that 'industry' and the private sector is bad, and only the public sector can be trusted or directed to act in the interests of Scotland.

The Scottish Government is not helping by pumping out consultations and initiatives to the point where Confor, on behalf of the industry, simply cannot provide proper scrutiny and feedback anymore. This is bad for governance, and the frequency of change undermines investment confidence.

We have seen the emergence of actors who appear to want to subvert the consultation processes for new planting projects or damage the 'mainstream' industry because they don't like it - and perhaps because they feel they can.

These developments (and more) are undermining legitimate efforts to help the Scottish Government meet its woodland creation targets and stimulate further investment in the rural economy.

When the Scottish Parliament returns from its summer recess, it will be in election mode ahead of May 2026. As an industry which is so dominated by government policy and regulation, there is a big job facing us in the next nine months.

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:
£77.99/(£84 overseas)
Contact FTN@confor.org.uk

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

For advertising, contact
Danny Lewis 01502 725858
danny.lewis@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 Manager
M: 07918 880285
E: eliza@confor.org.uk



Eleanor O'Neill
Communications Manager
M: 07918 255930
E: eleanor.oneill@confor.org.uk



Dr Kate Palmer
Technical and Industry Support Manager
E: kate@confor.org.uk



John Bruce
National Manager for England
E: john.bruce@confor.org.uk



Richard Hunter
National Manager for Scotland
E: richard.hunter@confor.org.uk



Elaine Heckley
National Manager for Wales
E: elaine.heckley@confor.org.uk



Confor head office and editorial office
Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street,
Edinburgh EH3 9DR



0131 240 1410



info@confor.org.uk



www.confor.org.uk



Follow @forestsandwood on Twitter
for the latest Confor news and updates





CRYNIARTH PLANTATION

Carno, Powys

179.87 acres / 72.79 ha

An excellent, very high quality medium sized commercial woodland just about to enter its second rotation of production.

Situated on fertile mineral soils wrapping around a gently sloping hill, the property includes a valley, watercourse, some low-lying areas and a pond.

Good access. Freehold.

Guide price £1,200,000



BRYN MAWR

Pencraig, Llangynog, Powys

145 Acres / 56.68 Ha

Highly productive commercial plantation. Some 1988 Sitka spruce with impressive timber volume per stocked hectare ready for immediate thinning. Current thinning licence in place. Includes an open section of moorland with potential for planting with native broadleaves.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Good access. Freehold.

Guide price £500,000



AMERSIDELAW FOREST

Chillingham, Nr Wooler, Northumberland

391.06 Acres / 158.25 Ha

A large, well-managed commercial forest entering a new rotation in good condition. This forest, with its stunning location and all of its productive ingredients, is an extremely attractive forestry investment and includes a forest lodge and wild swimming pond.

Sporting rights owned and included in the sale.

Freehold.

Guide price £2,600,000



BICTON WOOD WEST

Callington, Cornwall

94.67 Acres / 38.31 Ha

Classic lowland ex-FC peninsula woodland. A productive commercial woodland that is advanced in restructuring and remains capable of producing further timber income.

A technically excellent site for growing commercial timber.

Good access.

Freehold.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Guide price £485,000



FOWNHOPE PARK WOODLAND

Fownhope, Herefordshire

188.61 Acres / 76.33 Ha

A well-managed woodland featuring a diverse mix of conifer species ranging from 1964 to 2022 as well as mixed broadleaves.

Felling licence expiring 2029

Sporting rights owned and included.

Good access.

Freehold.

Offers over £900,000



BELL COPPICE

Far Forest, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

203.45 Acres / 82.33 Ha

A premier productive well-managed Oak woodland.

Deer fencing.

Stream.

Timber ready to harvest.

Good access.

3 meadows included in sale.

Freehold.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Guide price £1,575,000



Mike Tustin FICFor MRICS
 Forestry Investment Specialist
miketustin@tustins.co.uk



John Clegg FRICS
 Forestry Expert & Agency Specialist
johnclegg@tustins.co.uk



Jack Clegg MRICS
 Forestry Sales & Planning Adviser
jackclegg@tustins.co.uk

Sparking debate at the Royal Welsh Show

National Manager for Wales **Elaine Heckley MICFor** shares her highlights from the Royal Welsh Show, held in Builth Wells on 21 – 24 July.

The Royal Welsh Show attracts more than 200,000 visitors to the heart of Wales every year. Once again Confor hosted a range of events, this time with the support of our sponsors PEFC UK, Rhizocore Technologies and HW Forestry.

The 2025 show was a big moment for Welsh Forestry as Welsh Government launched their first Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy (TIS), 'Making Wood Work for Wales', on Forestry Day. The forestry section of the show was appropriately busy, and held a good number of forestry stands and exhibitors.

Our Contractors breakfast exceeded

40 people and was sponsored and supported by the Forestry Contractors Association (FCA), Forest Industries Safety Accord (FISA), and the Royal Forestry Society (RFS). This year it was focused on mental health in the industry, an important subject.

The Confor Lunch, sponsored by Bronwin & Abbey, exceeded 100 people and was introduced by Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Climate Change Huw Irranca Davies, who took time to thank everyone, to talk about the importance of our industry in Wales, and the launch of 'Making Wood Work for Wales'.

Once again, our tent hosted the

forestry awards and the children's photographic competition, with many of our members receiving prizes for their woodlands. Confor ran seminars in our marquee focusing on risk zones, tree health, EUDR, agroforestry, storytelling as foresters, mycorrhizal fungi, and the impacts of grey squirrels.

Our thanks to FISA, Forest Research, PEFC UK, the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF), Rhizocore Technologies, the UK Squirrel Accord (UKSA) and Welsh Government for insightful discussions.

Telling stories 'Beyond the Tree'

As part of our plan to reach more people outside of the forestry sphere, we once again hosted a breakfast in the CLA tent, sponsored by the Velcourt Group, with a panel discussing 'Beyond the Tree'. Chair Andrew Heald, Inovaland, was joined by panellists Gary Newman (Woodknowledge Wales), Jamie Miller (Ty Pren), Jonathon Poynton (Pontrilas Timber), Robert South (Bronwin & Abbey), and Charlotte Hale (SO Modular).

Key Takeaways

- Timber is a key part of both climate adaptation and mitigation, but also has untapped economic and social potential in Wales – demand side pull, careful policy setting, and pragmatic guidance can help establish forestry as an appealing option for landowners.
- The Timber Industrial Strategy offers a framework, but its success depends on follow-through, cross-party support, and investment in skills, infrastructure, and culture.
- Access to markets requires more than trees – it demands silviculture, processing innovation, demand pull from construction, and a supportive policy landscape.

Panel introductions

Jamie Miller (Ty Pren): Introduced Ty Pren and their collaborative work with Longwood. Emphasised the role of bio-based materials and low-impact construction. Called for confidence in locally sourced materials and design-led solutions.

Jonathon Poynton (Pontrilas): Described Pontrilas as a high-volume processor operating within volatile global commodity markets. Product decisions are led by market demand, often focused on fencing, garden products, and pallets.

Highlighted a key reality: sawmills are shaped by economic conditions, not idealised visions.

Charlotte Hale (SO Modular): Spoke passionately about timber's potential to address global climate challenges and deliver local ecological and economic resilience. Emphasised that building sustainably is not a niche concern, but a vital part of national strategy. "Living better globally starts with living smarter locally."

Robert South (Bronwin & Abbey): Outlined their focus on silvicultural excellence and using every part of

every tree by developing diverse markets. Underscored the importance of relationships—between teams, between landowners and managers—and alignment with site-specific ecological, cultural, and regulatory constraints.

Gary Newman (Woodknowledge Wales): Stressed the need for demand pull from construction to incentivise silviculture. Celebrated Wales' potential: suitable climate, growing capacity, and strategic processing location near the English border. Positioned the Welsh Borders as the future timber hub of the UK, particularly as England's commercial forestry sector contracts.



- There is consensus that Wales has a unique opportunity to lead the UK in sustainable forestry, processing, and timber construction.

Andrew Heald warmly welcomed the launch of the Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy, praising its ambitious scope and clarity of vision. Around the room, nodding heads reflected a shared appreciation for the Welsh Government's renewed commitment to the sector. But, as Andrew reminded us, this is only the starting line.

Getting here has required us to build a shared, united vision - one grounded in the best available science but tempered by political realism and economic practicality. This vision must be locally responsive, tailored to Wales' ecological and cultural contexts, while remaining resilient to volatile global markets, climate change, and shifting social expectations.

Among the critical next steps, he stressed, is the need to build robust processing supply chains and ensure that viable markets exist. Only then can landowners confidently engage with forestry, knowing there's an economic return and that managing their forest and their business can go hand in hand.

He closed with the central challenge of the session: How can landowners access stable, long-term markets for timber from their woodlands - and how do we collectively move from vision to delivery, building a prosperous, sustainable forest nation rooted in Welsh values, yet connected to global opportunity?

Rob South outlined that while Wales can grow exceptionally good timber, there's still a lack of diverse, high-value markets to absorb the full range of what's produced. He praised the biofuel market for at least providing a price floor, stabilising some parts of the market despite its low profitability.

However, the real goal is utilisation of the whole tree - including smaller diameter thinning's and coarser timber that often goes underused. Fibre markets, for example, are starting to grow, and innovation is emerging. For silviculture to pay off, Wales must stimulate market demand beyond sawlogs.

From a high-volume processing perspective, Jonathon Poynton emphasised that Wales isn't producing enough timber to significantly influence global commodity markets. While the

UK's timber supply chain is comparatively more stable than the EU and US, it remains a high-risk, low-margin business.

He noted that timber scarcity will intensify globally over the next century, especially in southern Europe where climate impacts will be more severe. Wales, with its relatively favourable climate and forest growth potential, is well-positioned to fill future supply gaps, if we invest in the right systems now.

An audience member raised concerns about oak as a building material, citing examples of rot in the French oak-framed building they had seen. Charlotte Hale vigorously rebutted the implication that the problem was with oak. Instead, she pointed to design failure, not material quality.

She argued that timber is a highly durable material when designed, detailed, and treated appropriately, and that we must mainstream construction knowledge that has existed for centuries. "Look at Venice," she added, highlighting ancient wood structures standing in seawater.

This brought up questions about what is being planted in Wales and the quality

continued on p8

Confor welcomes historic timber strategy launched at Royal Welsh Show

Deputy First Minister
Huw Irranca-Davies
launched 'Making Wood
Work for Wales', the nation's
first Timber Industrial
Strategy, on Forestry Day at
the Royal Welsh Show 2025.

The new Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy sets out six priorities for the forestry and timber sector, including actions to increase timber supply, develop resilience and capacity, and instil confidence to support industry growth. It aims to enable both a greater scale and value of timber grown, and of timber products produced, across Wales.

The document represents years of collaboration with Wales's timber sector and follows extensive public consultation.

Confor National Manager for Wales Elaine Heckley MICFor has been a key participant in the discussion and has represented the views of members throughout the process.

She said: "This Strategy marks a historic milestone for the forestry and timber industry in Wales. It has been a hugely collaborative piece of work and signals a bright future for the sector, backed by strong political endorsement and with a clear purpose to grow the industry in Wales.

"It has been fantastic to see the response from members and industry in real time at the Royal Welsh Show, and to see the positive engagement from Welsh Government on the day. I look forward to driving the next steps so we can

see the Strategy deliver for productive woodland creation, providing green jobs, more timber products and getting more Welsh timber into the construction of sustainable Welsh homes."

Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister with responsibility for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, commented: "I am so proud to be launching Wales's first ever Timber Industrial Strategy today. I want our forests to be in active, sustainable and diverse use, providing economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to the people of Wales for many centuries to come and this strategy will play a key role in that.

"As the world works towards net zero, timber and wood fibre can make an immediate and important contribution to the materials transition needed for decarbonisation."

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, added: "Using more timber from Welsh forests will help Wales to strengthen the rural economy and create jobs, while also helping to decarbonise key sectors like housebuilding. I applaud the Welsh Government for publishing



this strategy and Confor looks forward to playing a key role in its delivery."

As part of the strategy, Forest Research have produced an evidence Annex focusing on evidence specific to Wales, creating a solid starting point of where the sector is and highlighting gaps in existing data.

Confor has been tasked to implement an Industry Leadership Group in Wales, like the ones in England and Scotland, to ensure our industry is represented, supported and enabled to grow and thrive. It is planned that the Deputy First Minister will co-chair the group, enabling collaboration with direct access to Welsh Government and the Senedd.

It is planned that a Chief Forester for Wales will be appointed, subject to ministerial approval.

The Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy is structured under the following six priorities:

1. Increasing timber supply
2. Increasing resilience in our forests
3. Resource efficiency and circular economy
4. Instilling confidence in demand
5. Developing sector capacity
6. Underpinned by behaviour change

continued from p7
of the resultant timber.

Rob South reinforced that while broadleaves are important, unmanaged planting - especially of oak - is a widespread issue. Broadleaves often don't receive the silvicultural care they need to grow straight, marketable stems. The grey squirrel problem is another major challenge for hardwood production.

He advocated for spruce and Douglas fir as sensible, market-ready choices:

fast-growing, high-volume, and already known by processors. Markets for hardwoods are growing, but must be matched with management strategies.

Gary Newman agreed spruce is a known quantity and already incredibly versatile, well suited to Nail-Laminated Timber, which is common and high-readiness. While processing technologies are evolving to allow greater use of minority species, the present opportunity lies with spruce.

He said species is secondary to action.

What matters most is that we're planting and managing forests for resilience and a long-term timber supply.

Jamie Miller also warned that species choice is a red herring if we don't address the skills gap. There needs to be a serious shift toward professionalising forestry careers: offering permanent contracts, decent wages, pensions, and housing. Without these conditions, young people won't stay in or enter the sector. Access and affordability in rural areas must be tackled.



Specialist producers of cell grown plants

Our state of the art nursery produces many millions of trees per year.

Grown and exposed to the bracing Scottish climate to produce a premium quality plant that will thrive.

Growing
since
1988

PLUS

Offering more
than just cell
grown plants

A one stop shop for all your planting requirements - at highly competitive prices



NEW
Tree Stake
Driver



www.cheviot-trees.co.uk

01289 386755



Discover BioWool®, the natural weed suppression material made from wool

Biodegradable • Strong • Made in the UK • Cost effective

NEW

Introducing EzeeHedge

The mulch roll for planting new hedgerows.
Pre-cut with 6 planting positions per metre

Designed
for
speed



Mulch Mats

Mulch Mats create a physical barrier that suppresses weeds, eliminating the need for herbicides.

This stable and supportive environment leads to better establishment and healthier growth for newly planted trees.

Mulch Rolls

BioWool on a roll provides a continuous physical barrier around new plants to suppress weed growth, eliminating the need for manual or chemical weeding.



Scan me
for a
sample



www.bio-wool.co.uk

Available from stockists nationwide

TreesPlease

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU GROW
YOUR GREENER FUTURE
www.treesplease.co.uk | 01434 633049
forestry@treesplease.co.uk

FIRST FOR ALL YOUR FORESTRY, WOODLAND AND HEDGING NEEDS

WE PROVIDE ALL TYPES OF BARE ROOT PLANTING STOCK FOR YOUR
WOODLAND, FORESTRY AND HEDGING NEEDS AND MORE ;

- TREE SHELTERS AND STAKES,
- HEDGING GUARDS AND CANES,
- PINE WEEVIL TREATMENT OPTIONS.

WE TAKE GREAT CARE TO SUPPLY QUALITY PLANTS AND PRIDE
OURSELVES ON OUR STRICT GRADING PROCESSES. FOCUSING ON
TREE ROOT DEVELOPMENT, PLANT HEALTH AND SECOND TO NONE
CUSTOMER SERVICE.

DO NOT HESITATE. GET IN TOUCH TODAY.
GROW YOUR GREENER FUTURE



100% Recycled Plastic Sapling Protection



SPIRAL tree guard

- Protects saplings from Rabbits, Hares, and Systemic Herbicides
- Expands with the natural growth of the tree
- Can be supplied ventilated if required
- Available in clear, brown or green finishes
- 40mm and 50mm diameter tube sizes
- Order direct from the manufacturer

Ansini Limited, Mill 3, Pleasley Vale Business Park, Outgang Lane,
Pleasley Vale, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG19 8RL

Tel: +44 (0) 1623 812333
Fax: +44 (0) 1623 812444 Email: info@ansini.co.uk
www.spiraltreeguard.com



MERRYLAW FOREST

Hawick, Scottish Borders, TD9 0PU

Extending to 323.80 hectares (800.11 acres)

Productive forest opportunity with yield classes up to 20

Over 81% of the planted area is commercial forestry

Attractive commercial crop age profile of 5 - 23 years

Well positioned for access to markets and processors

Superb road connectivity and network of internal forest roads

FOR SALE AS A WHOLE
OFFERS OVER £4,450,000

Leader House
Mill Road
Earlston, TD4 6DG

01896 802255
info@bellruralsolutions.com
www.bellruralsolutions.com






Bracing for change

With a new Budget, Scottish elections and changing faces all on the horizon, Confor's **Jon Garson** shares where we are focusing our political attention.

In recent weeks we have seen an increased focus on the government's fiscal situation. Chancellor Rachel Reeves has committed to a set of 'fiscal rules' that state program spending must balance with government revenue and that the debt-to-GDP ratio must fall.

During the election Labour also committed not to raise taxes such as income tax, VAT or national insurance on "working people".

These commitments mean the Chancellor has limited the range of measures available to meet the shortfall in government spending, estimated to be as high as £40 billion. For our sector, this has led to concern that the Autumn Budget will bring continued pressure on departmental budgets and new revenue mechanisms, possibly including tax increases.

We saw in the Budget last October that getting government spending under control has real implications for our sector. The increase in National

Insurance contributions, changes to Business Property Relief and a cut to DEFRA's budget were all measures that present a challenge to the industry.

Confor will be proactive in ensuring that government and MPs are aware of the importance of forestry in driving economic growth, particularly in rural areas, and in meeting planting targets and net zero goals.

We continue to be active across all nations on issues important to members and to the sector.

Recently the government released the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy. This 10-year plan identifies eight sectors (the IS-8) that government will actively promote and champion. While these sectors are focused on new industries such as advanced manufacturing, creative and professional services, the strategy does recognise and commit to working on addressing regulatory impediments to approve projects and unlock investment.

Confor continues to engage government to ensure that the need to create a regulatory and planning environment includes addressing the issues facing our sector. We also continue to work towards ensuring that the importance of the rural economy is recognised by government.



Chancellor Rachel Reeves

Scotland continues to issue significant consultations despite being no more than nine months away from an election. The focus of those that impact the sector focus on environmental and land use issues. Confor has expressed concern over the scope and quantity of the consultations we are being asked to contribute too; at present we are actively engaged in three tabled Bills and five open consultation processes.

As the election nears, we are seeing a high level of sitting MSPs announcing they will not be seeking re-election. As we saw in the run up to the UK general election, the majority of these are MSPs from the government benches. As of August, we have seen 33 MSPs (23 from the SNP) stepping back. This includes Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, and Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy, and Rhoda Grant, Labour spokesperson for Land Reform and Rural Affairs.

Whatever the outcome of the election this means that leading MSPs who will have influence over forestry will be new to the file. Confor will be working with members to facilitate contact with new MSPs as quickly as we can both after the election and where possible when candidates are selected.

In Wales we saw the recent publication of 'Making Wood Work for Wales', the nation's first Timber Industrial Strategy, launched by Deputy First Minister Huw Irranca-Davies at the Royal Welsh Show.

The Deputy First Minister spoke in the Confor tent, reflecting the leadership role Confor and our members played in the development of this important document. The Strategy is a huge step forward for the forestry and timber sector in Wales, and shows the kind of government engagement we would like to see across the rest of the UK.



LtoR: Rhoda Grant; Mairi Gougeon; Kate Forbes and Huw Irranca-Davies.

New member of the team at Confor HQ

Confor has welcomed Michelle Christie to the team as our new Bookkeeper & Office Manager.

Michelle joins us from a similar role at an Edinburgh-based masonry company and has worked with both the National Library of Scotland and Lothian Electrical Ltd in the past.

She takes over from Ann Stewart, who retired at the end of June 2025.

In her role at Confor, Michelle will be



supporting financial and administrative activities across the business while helping to keep our Edinburgh office running smoothly. She has already proven an invaluable member of the team, and we are delighted to have her on board.



Confor offers condolences on the sad passing of James Hepburne Scott

The Confor team were saddened to hear of the passing of longtime industry figure James Hepburne Scott on 3 August 2025.

Known throughout the sector as a pioneer of carbon-financed woodland creation in the UK, James was Co-Founder of Forest Carbon and previously spent many years with Alba Trees. James was also a key player in the foundation of Confor

and his significant contributions to forestry and land management were recognised with the award of an OBE in 2023.

James will be missed by many, and a full tribute will be forthcoming in the next issue of Forestry & Timber News. It is our understanding a Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Mary the Virgin, Upavon, Wiltshire on Wednesday 3 September.

MEMBER UPDATE

Coming soon



Eliza Hibbins-Cline,
Membership
& Marketing
Manager

The Royal Welsh Show has now been and gone – for those that attended we hope you had a lovely time, for those also exhibiting at the show we hope you had a successful week.

On behalf of the Confor team, it was great to see so many of you there and Forestry Day on Tuesday was especially positive. Our tent was buzzing with activity!

Looking ahead, membership renewals are fast approaching. Please note invoices will be sent out in the first week of September 2025 so keep your eyes peeled for those. Reminders will be shared in all your usual Confor communications.

We would love to retain your support for the next year. If you have any queries about your subscription or wish to provide feedback on your membership, please feel free to reach out to me at eliza@confor.org.uk.

As always, a warm welcome to our newest members:

England: Ms A Robertshaw, Ms A Reuer, Mr J Davis, Mr R Bowen, UK CLT and Mr R Aaronovitch-Bruce.

Northern Ireland: Mr. J Love.

Scotland: Mr D Henderson Howat and Mr S Amor.

Wales: Llandre Sawn Wood Ltd and Mentrau Bach Ltd.

International: Equus Advisory Services SRL.

Policy Conference joins forces with launch of Forest Market Report

Confor's annual policy conference returns to the QEII Centre in London on Thursday 20 November 2025.

Timber in Construction: From Roadmap to Reality will explore what actions are needed to turn the Timber in Construction Roadmap into reality –

and what that reality might look like.

This year, we are hosting the conference in association with the London launch event of the 2025 UK Forest Market Report from Tilhill Forestry and Goldcrest Land and Forestry Group, taking place on

Wednesday 19 November.

Those planning to attend both events may benefit from an exclusive 20% discount on general ticket sales. Confirm your booking at our policy conference to receive a discount code.

REQUEST A
STIHL AP SYSTEM
BATTERY DEMO.



STIHL

NEW

GET TREE CARE DONE. WITH BATTERY.

Take on all tree care tasks, from light pruning to removal, with the latest range of professional-grade, high performance tools from STIHL.

With nearly 100 years of engineering expertise, you can rely on STIHL to always have a strong partner at your side.

Legendary performance and quality since 1926.

DISCOVER MORE AT [STIHL.CO.UK](https://www.stihl.co.uk)



GTA 40
PRUNER



MSA 190 T
CHAINSAW



MSA 220 TC-O
CHAINSAW

APIII
SYSTEM

A Golden Anniversary: 50 Years of the APF Demo

With the one-year countdown underway, APF Exhibition Secretary **Ian Millward** tells us what to expect at APF 2026.

The APF Demo is back! The flagship event for the forest industry and the must-visit event for anyone working in the woodland, arboriculture, fencing, estate and ground maintenance sectors will take place on 24-26 September 2026 at Ragley Estate, Warwickshire.

It is the place to network with all the industry's stakeholders and catch up with old friends and see the latest state-of-the-art machinery and equipment. APF 2026 will also celebrate 50 years of the APF Demo since the very first show in 1976 at Longleat Estate.

APF 2024 was a huge critical success, and we are working hard to ensure that APF 2026 is a fitting event for our 50th birthday. 300 exhibitors and 20,000 visitors are expected to attend with over £90 million pounds of working machinery on show.

One of the standout features of APF

2024 was the sheer number of events and competitions on offer. There were two world championships, one European championship and five UK championships. We are looking to build on that for APF 2026.

Old favourites will be there, including the Husqvarna World 25m pole climbing championships, the AW Jenkinson European chainsaw carving championships, the UK Forwarder driving championships, the UK tree climbing competition and the British fencing championships. Look out for new events such as the UK Loggers and the UK Lumberjack championships and a new category event for students in Forwarder driving.

There will also be plenty of have-a-go events such as tree climbing, axe throwing and a 4x4 course.

Our Arb Worker Zone will return and be based around the UK tree climbing arena so you can watch the climbers go against the clock and then browse all the latest arb kit on offer. The Forest Worker Zone will, as ever, be a fantastic source of help, advice and practical demos on a huge array of subjects. The woodland craft area will have the largest display of rare and traditional woodland crafts on

show anywhere in the UK.

Plus, the Confor seminar tent is set to have all the latest topical news on grants, safety, training, pests and diseases.

We have now opened bookings for both exhibitors and visitors. Exhibitor booking forms are available on our website. Demand is expected to be high, and we sold out our Demo circuit last time. Confor trade members benefit from a 10% discount on site fees and Confor members get free entry into the show every day.

We still have some fantastic sponsorship opportunities to promote your company to a very targeted audience including the chainsaw carving, UK Loggers, UK Lumberjacks and tree climbing competitions as well as axe throwing, tree climbing, gates and car parks, our schools and education programme, woodland crafts area and seminar tent.

We are happy to discuss a bespoke package to meet your specific needs. For more information visit our website (www.apfexhibition.co.uk), email info@apfexhibition.co.uk or call us on 01428 723545.

We look forward to welcoming you to APF 2026.



Wider engagement at Agroforestry Show

With Confor's own Woodland Show on pause, energies have shifted to representing members at key external forums. National Manager for England John Bruce has been touring agricultural shows "on foot" to see where Confor can add most value.

Next up is the Agroforestry Show 2025, taking place at Woodoaks Farm in Hertfordshire on 10 - 11 September. Confor will be on site – kindly hosted by the Royal Forestry Society (RFS):

- Wed 10 Sept: Elaine Heckley,

National Manager for Wales

- Thu 11 Sept: John Bruce, National Manager for England

After running our own stand in 2023, we're keen this year to roam the showground, attend seminars and be easy to find. Do drop by the RFS stand for a chat or flag us down around the site.

With more farms looking to diversify, increase their resilience and help fight climate change, agroforestry offers a solution that works for both farming and nature, while also offering

opportunity for innovation within the forestry sector.

As a topic it is now regularly discussed within mainstream farming media and at regenerative farming events and is starting to feature within forestry media and events. At a policy level it is increasingly seen as a valuable tool to help meet net zero and biodiversity targets.

This second Agroforestry Show will feature workshops and talks, farm walk, exhibitors and market stalls, field demonstrations and a training hub.

OREGON®

SPEEDCUT™ NANO

CUTTING SYSTEM



FOR ACCURATE CUTS AND UNMATCHED SPEED

Built to optimize saw performance, SpeedCut Nano meets the demands of tree care professionals like no other system on the market.

- LONGER RUN TIME
- INCREASED SPEED
- SMOOTHER CUTS
- UNSTOPPABLE PERFORMANCE



	Inch	10"	12"	14"	16"
	cm	25	30	35	40

.325" LOW PROFILE	7	80 : 1,1mm	LubriTec™ OILING SYSTEM	4,0mm
----------------------	---	------------	----------------------------	-------

UPGRADE YOUR CHAINSAW TODAY

FITS ECHO™, STIHL™ AND HUSQVARNA™

Oregon Tool, Inc. is not affiliated or associated with any listed third-party trademarks.

TRY OUR NEW INFO CENTRE
FIND YOUR FIT WITH OUR
NEW CHAIN AND GUIDE BAR
SELECTOR GUIDE



OregonProducts.com

Confor at the Highland Show

Confor National Manager for Scotland **Richard Hunter** went along to the Royal Highland Show on 20 June to see what the arena and trade stands had on offer for Forestry Day.

Forestry Day at the Royal Highland Show (RHS) was hotter than normally expected in Edinburgh, but that thankfully did not put people off attending. The forestry arena was buzzing from a combination of events, including pole climbing, axe throwing, chainsaw races, carving, and stunt bikes.

The noise from machinery and the height of the poles meant that visitors could easily find their way to the arena, sponsored by Scottish Woodlands, and the public seating space was busy all day, putting some of the fun elements of the sector on show. One of the highlights of the day was an attempt at the world record pole climb, resulting in a great success for Dan Wheelan from Shropshire who climbed the 80ft pole in nine seconds, breaking the Guinness World Record previously set in 2001.

Some of the forestry stand surrounding the arena reported being very happy with the level of attendance and new leads for woodland management and creation. This may be one of the few times that the public stop and think about forestry so putting on a good show is important. The equipment on display both for forestry and wood processing was as impressive as ever and does a good job at shifting conversations away from forestry being all axes and manual work.

Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) hosted Scottish Forestry representatives over the course of the event, including

a reception titled Forestry Policy to Practice on the Friday. Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, spoke to attendees followed by Pat Snowdon, Head of Economics and Woodland Carbon Code at Scottish Forestry.

Helen McKay, Chief Forester for Scotland, talked about the demand for productive species, the costs of access routes, and the need to manage deer. Case studies from farmers discussed how they have brought woodlands back into management and added more tree cover on their land. One example featured blending woodlands into an existing farm plan, while the second incorporated fruit trees as part of a wider diversification strategy.

All the speakers had an underlying message of the need for woodlands in the landscape. SLE were gracious hosts and thankfully kept drinks topped up as the temperature climbed.

Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity of Scotland, joined NatureScot to launch the Code of Practice on Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture. The remit of the code does not cover forestry, but highlights where trees and woodlands on farms may be a positive addition to the business. These include biodiversity increases, carbon sequestration and soil health amongst many more.

Engaging with NatureScot to break down barriers and create greater



understanding is important. A prime example was a conversation with a senior agriculture policymaker who stated that forestry was less regulated than the farming sector! This led to a very in-depth comparison of the two sectors and showed that we still have a long way to go in making ourselves understood.

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) had a large stand on one of the main routes, and it was great to see Dr Hugh Morris, Senior Lecturer in Forestry and Arboriculture, in full recruitment mode.



Forestry was prominent just inside the door and showed SRUC's commitment to the sector. The whole stand was busy with young people all engaged with the interactive displays.

Elsewhere on the showground, the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) hosted thousands of children across the days of the show on their interactive workshop. The aim of the RHET is to give every child the chance to learn about rural Scotland, breaking down barriers and myths. This year's focus was root vegetables; it would be good

to see a year of timber in the future.

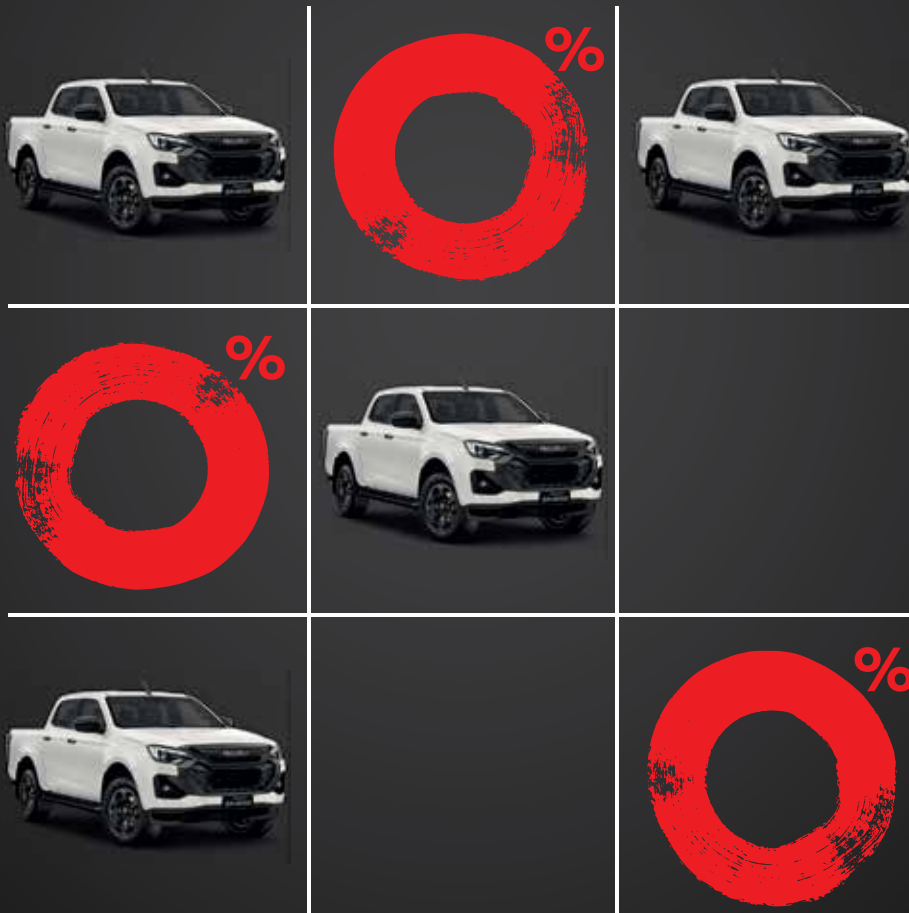
Police Scotland, as part of the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC), used RHS to launch their 2025-2028 Strategy. Confor is a member of the Partnership and ensured that forestry had its place in the document, which is very much focused on the four Ps: Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare.

The main thrust of the Strategy is to work across sectors, highlighting to each other when rural crime is increasing in certain areas or the type of

tactics used by criminals. This includes things like the theft of ATVs - a current trick is to hide a stolen ATV locally for a couple weeks (often in woodland) before returning to collect them. Thus, the thieves are trying to avoid being found with the ATV straight after the theft.

Much like the other large rural shows, RHS is a great meeting place not just for our sector to talk internally but to engage with others promoting the good that forestry does for Scotland and the UK.

NOUGHTS & V-CROSSES



GET 0% APR FINANCE[^]
ON THE NEW ISUZU D-MAX V-CROSS
50% DEPOSIT REQUIRED | 2 YEAR 0% AVAILABLE

Vehicles shown are Isuzu D-Max V-Cross models, OTR price of £49,000.
Model shown price includes optional special paint finish at £720.

BOOK A TEST DRIVE AT [ISUZU.CO.UK](https://www.isuzu.co.uk)

DRIVEN TO DO

All fuel consumption and emission values are based on the new WLTP (Worldwide Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure) test cycle which uses real-world driving data. Official fuel economy for the standard Isuzu D-Max range in MPG (l/100km): Low: 26.9 - 24.4 (10.5 - 11.6); Mid: 33.6 - 31.4 (8.4 - 9.0); High 39.2 - 37.2 (7.2 - 7.6); Extra-High 32.5 - 31.0 (8.7 - 9.1); Combined 33.6 - 31.4 (8.4 - 9.0). CO₂ emissions 220 - 235g/km. Visit [Isuzu.co.uk](https://www.isuzu.co.uk) for more information. [^]**Terms of Offer: Minimum 50% deposit required. 2 year 0% APR available.** Credit available subject to status to UK residents aged 18 and over. This offer is Hire Purchase. This credit offer is only available through Isuzu Finance provided by International Motors Finance Limited, St. William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff CF10 5BH. We typically receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to International Motors Finance Ltd. This may be a flat fee or percentage of the amount you borrow. Finance subject to status. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Prices correct at time of going to print. Offer available on the V-Cross Auto and V-Cross Steel Special Edition ordered by 30.09.2025 and registered by 31.10.2025. Stock subject to availability. Isuzu reserves the right to amend or withdraw offers at any time without prior notice. Retail customers only, not available in conjunction with any other offers. Can be used in conjunction with affinity schemes including NFU, BASC, NFUS and UFU. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Visit [Isuzu.co.uk](https://www.isuzu.co.uk) for more information.



Isuzu (UK) Ltd a subsidiary of International Motors Limited.

Bringing members together: Open woodland visits in England

Joint committees, members and invited guests joined Confor's John Bruce for a few days of knowledge sharing and spirited debate over the summer.

June 2025 saw two well-attended Confor events in Southern England that united regional committee members, agency staff, wider members and a few non-member guests for joint committee meetings and afternoon woodland visits.

Around 70 participants contributed to lively debate and shared learning centred around the future of productive forestry.

Carbon plantations & Euston Estate

Hosted by Carbon Plantations, the East & South East Committees met at Euston Estate for a packed day of innovation, policy engagement and practical forestry.

In the Old Kitchen, Justin Mumford (East Chair) and Ben Manterfield (South East Chair) steered discussion on extreme weather, timber-market volatility and regulatory complexity, gathering clear ideas for how Confor can keep influencing government thinking.

The afternoon's woodland event was opened by Nigel Couch, Managing Director of Carbon Plantations, who gave an overview of the company's work, particularly its commercial Paulownia planting which sparked keen interest.

The Euston Estate team, led by Matthew Hawthorne (Farm Manager), then took delegates aboard the Growing the Future trailer for an outdoor tour. Carbon Plantations staff explained the 2022 Paulownia crop's precision irrigation, soil



Nigel Couch and his team outline Carbon Plantations' timber production ambitions at Stourhead



Discussing irregular high forest with David Pengelly in Stourhead

monitoring and targeted nutrition, while broader discussion ranged across land-use integration and mammal control.

Special thanks to Laura Handford, Carbon Plantations Office Manager, whose organisation kept the day running smoothly.

Stourhead (Western)

Two days later the South West Committee gathered at Stourton Village Hall for a

discussion chaired by Nick Hoare (Wessex Chair & host) with support from Francis Fulford (Devon & Cornwall Chair).

A moderated Q&A featured Adrian Jowitt (Natural England) and Ian Tubby (Forestry Commission). Adrian stressed that Natural England supports well-managed productive forestry, including conifers, and members welcomed his evident woodland-management expertise.

David Pengelly then led a woodland tour showcasing Stourhead's transition to irregular high forest, prompting debate on natural regeneration, selective felling and long-term silviculture.

The day was supported by a hearty buffet from Nick & Sara Hore, featuring squirrel, rabbit and venison and reminding everyone why effective browsing control is integral to sustainable forestry.

Looking ahead

Both events blended structured committee debate with hands-on learning and informal networking. Opening the afternoon sessions to the wider Confor membership and welcoming a few interested non-member guests broadened engagement and, we hope, encouraged some new joiners.

These June events showed the power of local collaboration that can help shape national forestry outcomes. Confor in England plans further joint committee and open-woodland events in summer 2026 and is exploring similar opportunities for members in the North and the Marches too.



Outdoor learning around Euston Estate led by Matthew Hawthorne

Leading by example

The 2025 Tom A Bruce-Jones Memorial Award for Future Leader in the Forest Industry was awarded to Cora Pfarre MICFor, Head Forester at Maydencroft Limited. She spoke to Eleanor O'Neill about receiving the accolade at the Confor Dinner & Awards.

How do you feel about winning the award?

I'm genuinely honoured and grateful to receive this award. Forestry is full of committed and skilled people, so to be recognised by my peers means a great deal.

This recognition is not just a personal milestone - it's also a reflection of the mentors, colleagues, and clients who have supported and challenged me along the way. It gives me the energy to keep pushing for positive change in our sector.

What led you to a career in forestry?

I feel very fortunate to have known from a young age that I wanted to work in nature - ideally with wildlife. When I began volunteering at Wildgehege Moritzburg, managed by Sachsenforst, I knew I'd found the right path.

After completing my MSc in Forest Sciences in Germany, I drove to England

find incredibly meaningful. Every day is different, and for me, it's the best industry to work in.

Your award is for a 'future leader' - how do you bring leadership qualities into your role?

For me, leadership starts with good communication. I try to bring clarity, collaboration, and courage to my work, whether that's shaping woodland management plans, supporting colleagues, or helping landowners navigate change.

I believe strong leadership in forestry means being strategic, people-centred, and willing to challenge the status quo when needed.

I'm still learning every day, but I try to lead by example and with integrity. Supporting the next generation of foresters is also important to me, which I achieve by mentoring Assistant Forestry

Consultants or delivering training through our GreenSkills Training Academy.

What has been the biggest achievement of your career so far?

Helping to build a professional forestry service within a wider consultancy has been a defining achievement. It required strategy, persuasion, and persistence but also trust and teamwork. We have challenged ourselves to ensure that Forestry is now a respected, standalone offer to clients.

I'm grateful to Maydencroft Limited for its continued support and belief in forestry. Seeing woodland creation projects come to life - and knowing I played a role in shaping them - is incredibly rewarding.

What comes next for you?

Looking ahead, my focus is on transitioning from operational delivery into a more strategic leadership role - one where I can help shape the direction of organisations and influence the wider forestry and land use agenda.

I believe the future of forestry lies in embedding long-term sustainability at every level - from policy to practice - and in bringing in broader perspectives, including lessons from European forestry, where integrated land management and long-term thinking are often more embedded.

To support this transition, I'm preparing to undertake an MBA, with the goal of stepping into a director-level role. I want to play a part in positioning forestry as a central force in environmental resilience, rural development, and climate strategy - not an add-on, but a cornerstone.

“I believe strong leadership in forestry means being strategic, people-centred, and willing to challenge the status quo when needed.”

in 2014. It was challenging to find a job at first, and it took a few years before the British forestry sector and I finally connected, but once I joined the Forestry Commission, my career really began to take off.

Forestry combines scientific understanding, practical action, and a deep sense of stewardship, all of which I



Instant acceleration. Instant favourite.

The world's first Husqvarna chainsaw with fuel injection

It's an immediate feeling. The power and acceleration. The speed. Husqvarna 564 XP® is your shortcut to the pure joy of cutting. Innovation at its very best. With Husqvarna Fuel Injection technology, you get to enjoy instant acceleration and power delivery, all wrapped up in a tight, slim package. The power of a 70cc Husqvarna saw with the size of a Husqvarna 50cc saw. A groundbreaking landmark that will make you feel unstoppable. An instant winner. Feel it, try it, run it. Go.

Experience your new instant favourite
at your Husqvarna dealer or read more at
husqvarna.com/uk/chainsaws/564xp-fuel-inject/





Forestry industry calls for ‘climate of confidence’ to push up productive planting

The release of the Provisional Woodland Statistics for 2024/25 by Forest research in June painted a disappointing picture of planting across the UK. Confor was among the industry leaders to comment.

The forestry industry has called for a “climate of confidence” to ensure enough productive woodland is planted to deliver on crucial government ambitions - to deliver future timber security, and to tackle the damaging impacts of climate change.

Stuart Goodall, Confor Chief Executive, spoke out after new figures showed planting in 2024/25 was up in England, Wales and Northern Ireland - but significantly down in Scotland.

The fall in Scotland meant overall woodland creation in the UK fell from

20,660 hectares in 2023/24 to 15,690 hectares in 2024/25.

Stuart said: “There are encouraging signs in England, where overall planting is up by more than 25% and productive conifer planting has increased by 58% year on year. In Wales, conifer planting went up from just 10 hectares in the last figures to 320 hectares in 2024/25 and overall planting was up from 640 to 960 hectares - and we have a great chance to build on this further with the Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy. Northern Ireland has also seen an increase in overall and conifer planting.

“However, in Scotland, annual planting has fallen from just over 15,000 hectares in 2023/24 to 8,470 hectares in 2024/25 - which is very disappointing. Within that, conifer planting is down from 8,720 to 4,550 hectares.

“I cannot stress enough that we need to plant many more productive conifer forests - to avoid increasing the UK’s long-term reliance on timber imports (around 80% of wood used in the UK is imported) and to support more climate-

Woodland creation statistics in hectares (Some figures are rounded)

	Conifer	Broadleaf	2024/25	2023/24
Scotland	4,450	3,910	8,470	15,040
England	680	5,080	5,770	4,550
Wales	320	640	960	640
N. Ireland	120	380	500	430
			15,690	20,660

friendly construction. It is fast-growing conifers that will help achieve targets for net zero, support rural jobs and make the UK more resilient in the face of rising global demand for timber, but we're simply not doing enough of it."

Stuart added that the sharp fall in planting in Scotland was down to a combination of factors, but the biggest impact was a previous huge cut to the planting budget which seriously damaged confidence, alongside issues such as the process of securing approval to plant and the exclusion of fast-carbon sequestering trees from carbon trading.

"Confor is pressing for action on all these issues," he continued. "For this year, we have seen a significant increase in the budget, and we have also asked for multi-annual funding commitments to give greater confidence on future funding, as well as action to introduce a more formal process for approvals with clear deadlines that are met and clarity over recent legal challenges."

For example, the clear support for woodland creation in England by Forestry Commission Chief Executive Richard Stanford, in particular for productive woodland, is starting to deliver results.

"There have been positive developments - including mapping areas where there is a presumption that woodland creation schemes will be approved, and strict timetables for decisions. There is also more of a can-do attitude, and we expect to see that show up further in planting figures in future years," Stuart said. "This has promoted greater industry confidence in England, and we need to raise that confidence level in Scotland too - as it has traditionally been the powerhouse of the UK's productive forestry industry."

"In Wales, we've seen a step forward and hopefully the launch of a new Timber Industrial Strategy will support the significant progress required to meet the Welsh Government's ambitions for timber production."



Good work on the ground

The views of Confor's National Managers on how woodland creation in 2024/25 has impacted the forestry outlook across the UK.

SCOTLAND

*Richard Hunter,
National Manager for Scotland*

"The planting figures for Scotland highlight the pressures and barriers that new woodland creation faces. With the political ambition to achieve 18,000 hectares, the disappointing 8,470 hectares is a clear sign that we need greater partnership working to deliver more trees planted."

"The conifer planting figure of 4,550 hectares (down from 8,720 in 2023/24) is a real concern for future timber production and is the lowest figure since 2018. We cannot, and must not, allow this to become the norm because current timber forecasts are currently showing an alarming downward trend."

"We need to continue to advocate the benefits that productive forestry brings to Scotland and its people. It brings jobs and investment to rural economies and supports more climate-friendly construction. Economic and environmental policy across the UK, including Scotland, requires more productive planting, but we're simply not doing enough of it."

ENGLAND

*John Bruce,
National Manager for England*

"We're not just planting more woodland; we're starting to see some improvement in the balance of what's being planted. These are encouraging signs, but we still need to be planting far more productive conifer forests."

"Forestry Minister Mary Creagh MP has given her backing to two

important documents, the National Wood Strategy for England and the Timber in Construction Roadmap - and understands the need for much more home-grown timber, as we still import around 75% of the wood used in the UK."

"There has been a positive approach by the Forestry Commission in England to map areas where there is a presumption that woodland creation schemes will be approved, stricter timetables for decisions and improvements to the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)."

"There is much more of a can-do attitude, and we expect to see that show up further in conifer planting figures in future years."

WALES

*Elaine Heckley,
National Manager for Wales*

"These figures are a positive step in the right direction, but we still have a lot to do because current forecasts of future timber production in Wales is showing a worrying rate of decline. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work closely with the Welsh Government to ensure the Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy delivers sustainable timber supplies."

"Even though planting numbers are below the Welsh Government target, the private and public sectors are making good progress in setting solid foundations to build upon. Confor's relationship with Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Rural Affairs and Climate Change, is a very positive one and there is significant strategic work going on which should help push up planting levels next year."

"There is an awful lot of good work going on and I'm hopeful that this will lead to even more positive news in a year's time."

UK hosts annual meeting of European nursery group

A report from the 2025 meeting of the European Forest Nursery Association, which this year took place in the UK.

Representatives from Europe's leading nurseries and Forest Nursery associations came together in Canterbury in June for the European Forest Nursery Association (EFNA) AGM and annual meeting, hosted this year by Confor and the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA).

A busy meeting itinerary was held over two days. Many of the 25 delegates also extended their visit to tour some of the UK's Forest Nurseries

while here. Networking with our European nursery counterparts is a very important and productive opportunity at country level.

The meeting heard much concern over the major issues of insecurity in the marketplace, due to the far-reaching impact of the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and with the climate also making the conditions for the forest nurseries (and all nurseries) across the whole of Europe extremely challenging. It is not just us in the UK having to deal with extreme weather variation and political unrest abroad.

EFNA continues to be closely involved with the EU Horizon 2030 OptForests project. The gathering



EFNA delegates outside Canterbury Cathedral

received a presentation of the early results of the cross-country survey of forest nurseries and tree seed businesses. A discussion on

On the ground at the UK Squirrel Accord Conference

Confor Technical & Industry Support Manager Dr Kate Palmer recently attended the UK Squirrel Accord's 10th anniversary conference, a dynamic gathering of forestry professionals, researchers, and policymakers fully engaged in shaping the Accord's multi-year strategy.

Strategic engagement front and centre

A standout feature was the workshop-style consultation session dedicated to refining the Accord's next strategic phase. Delegates actively participated in steering the direction across key themes: grey squirrel control, red squirrel conservation, fertility control, genetic monitoring, and habitat restoration.

This approach of inviting genuine stakeholder input demonstrates a clear commitment to lasting engagement in both policy design and practical action.

Insightful keynotes: Grey squirrel control

Several speakers made powerful cases for proactive grey squirrel management as essential to successful woodland

establishment and long-term forest health:

- Cheryl Heard (ZSL) delivered a deep dive into grey squirrel ecology and damage patterns, focusing on young trees and timber quality.
- Dr Harry Marshall (Forest Research) framed woodland health within a "One Health" lens, linking grey squirrels to tick-borne disease dynamics.
- Rebecca Pinkham and Sarah Beatham (APHA) presented the latest on fertility control techniques, highlighting their promise to reduce grey squirrel numbers and prevent bark stripping that threatens broadleaf regeneration.

These insights underscored a shared conviction: without proactive grey squirrel control, forest regeneration and sustainable management efforts are significantly undermined.

Sir William Worsley (Forestry



Commission Chair) closed day one by reflecting on the Accord's progress and emphasising that controlling grey squirrels is critical to the success of future woodland establishment and the long-term resilience of UK forestry.

At the evening networking event, Baroness Hayman of Ullock (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, DEFRA) gave a compelling speech on the importance of red squirrel conservation alongside the need to support productive forestry, highlighting that biodiversity and timber production can and must go hand in hand.

From strategy to real-world action

What impressed me most was the energy behind creating a strategy that is practical and timber-focused. The synergy between timber industry stakeholders and conservationists is a powerful combination: shared knowledge, aligned priorities, and committed action will drive improved establishment success.



PlantTape at Oakover Nursery

material costs in the nurseries. Security of seed supply was also a universal concern, due to pest and climate impacts affecting the quality of seed formation and the increasing variability of seed maturity.

After the meeting, the delegates visited the nearby Oakover Nursery to look at the latest precision transplanting PlantTape system.

The current Presidency of EFNA is held by Denmark and will move to Sweden in 2027. The UK's current representatives in EFNA are Harry Frew (Confor) and Brian Fraser (HTA).

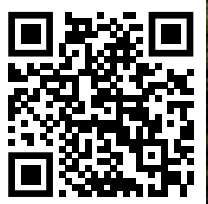
recommendations to policymakers and stakeholders involved in forestry was held, so that conditions for the production of timber and trade

compliance could be improved and followed.

All countries face the same labour shortages and rapidly increasing raw



CRANES & GRAPPLES | TRAILERS | CHIPPERS | HARVESTER HEADS



See full product range

No matter how **BIG OR SMALL** the task,
CHANDLERS has the solution for you.

For more information contact:
Rob Jenkins: 07717 681795
rob.jenkins@chandlersfe.co.uk

Chandlers

Forestry
Equipment

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



Claire with Jared Beauchamp and Zachary Butler, County Foresters, Florida Forest Service

Inspired by others

Claire Glaister received backing from the Forest Industries Education Fund to travel across the pond and connect with forestry networks in Florida. She gives an overview of the lessons learned.

On the spectrum from impulsive to comfortable, I've always considered myself firmly at the comfort zone end. That's why a work-based study trip to Florida earlier this year was rather unexpected, in both its instigation and outcomes.

I could "blame" four people for the inspiration: a Churchill Fellowship recipient and my partner in the delivery of Confor's Stakeholder Engagement Training (Scotland) Programme; the harvesting director of a UK forestry and harvesting company who kindly made an introduction; a speaker at the Confor Dinner & Awards, who highlighted the opportunities provided through the Forest Industries Education Fund; and one of their co-Trustees, who guided me through the application process.

Without their encouragement and support, my trip wouldn't have happened.

My visit to Florida inspired much more too, and to those whom I met during my week, I hope you realise how much your kindness, hospitality and willingness to share some of your forestry world with me, was – and still is – so very much appreciated.

Forming plans

My focus was stakeholder engagement – a daily part of my work, and, as I'm sure all of us can recognise, something on which an ever-brighter spotlight is being shone. This is something we cover on Confor's Stakeholder Engagement training course, so I was keen to explore how it is approached in a different country.

After the initial inspiration and introductions, I researched organisations and institutions in the area and contacted representatives from the Florida Forest Service, F&W Forestry, and the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS). Many emails and several Teams meetings later, my itinerary was set.

During the week, I was also introduced to private landowners Doug and Terry, to Garrett and his colleagues at the John M Bethea State Forest, harvesting contractors working whole tree harvesting systems, students and parents from the James Madison Preparatory High School, and the former Director of the School of Forest, Fisheries and Geomatics Sciences.

I was also treated to a traditional Floridian BBQ and welcomed as a

special guest at the James Madison Future Farmers of America (FFA) Annual Awards and Banquet.

Similarities and differences

What did I learn during my week? Too much to cover in this article but some highlights:

- **Forestry and farming are integrated:** Forests are treated, and accepted, as just another crop; tree farms are the norm.
- **Legislation and regulations differ greatly:** Landowners don't need permission to fell, thin, or plant trees, and have a legal right to burn as part of their land management practices.
- **Land use is flexible:** After trees are harvested, land can be replanted with trees or shifted to other land uses; and repeat.
- **The value of advice:** As in Scotland, both public and private sector advice is crucial in helping landowners achieve diverse objectives.
- **Incentives for conservation:** Conservation Easements provide payments for keeping land in conservation in perpetuity; especially valuable where development pressure is high.
- **Public perception:** While tree planting is popular, felling can be contentious; the need to communicate how land management supports broader societal goals is growing.
- **Flooding and fire risks:** Both are increasing, prompting significant research into resilient management practices.
- **Private land is truly private:** Unlike Scotland's Outdoor Access Code, access >>



OUTDOOR POWER REDEMPTION



1ST MARCH - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2025



BL4040F

**CLAIM A FREE 40V 4AH TABLESS BATTERY WITH
SELECTED 40V XGT & CONNECT X PRODUCTS**

MAKITAUK.COM/REDEMPTION

T&C's apply. Only listed models (all variants of) will qualify for the redemption offer, visit the website for complete list of eligible models and details. Claims can be registered on-line from 1st March 2025 and must be registered within 28 days of purchase for qualifying models. Qualifying models must be purchased by 30th September 2025 to qualify and registered within 28 days.



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



07977 098432 | 01377 255771 | mark.jibson@sky.com



Professor Damian Adams & Tracey Sleek, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

without permission can have serious consequences; you could get shot.

- **United yet independent:** US states - and even counties - operate under distinct legislative frameworks and fiercely guard their independence.
- **Universities deliver groundbreaking research:** Innovations, including the use of AI, are shaping forestry's future and making a global impact.
- **World-class resources:** UF/IFAS, Ordway-Swisher Biological Station and Austin Cary Forest are amazing demonstrations of international research and collaboration.
- **Forestry in education:** Programmes like Future Farmers of America (FFA) embed forestry in high school education, preparing students for careers in agriculture and forestry.
- **A new vocabulary:** "Cruising" means forest inventory, "bedding" resembles a cross between ploughing and mounding, "tracks" are what we would call Forest Management Units, and "Posted" means Keep Out.
- **Vehicle standards differ:** Not requiring MOTs may explain why some timber lorries look quite different from those I'm familiar with in Scotland.
- **Teenagers are universal:** Banquet conversations with the high school

students took me right back to my school days.

- **Foresters and maps:** We really can't help pointing at them.
- **Alligators are really scary:** I wanted to see one - until I did!
- **Carpe diem:** For reasons not for inclusion in this article, my location on the impulsive-comfortable spectrum has definitely shifted. Make the most of every opportunity and enjoy!

As for stakeholder engagement...

Despite obvious differences in land management and regulation, a common thread is the need to support those delivering land use change. Confor's Stakeholder Engagement Training Programme was developed for this purpose and is widely valued by delegates, industry leaders, and politicians.

At the University of Florida, Professor Jon Dain and I discussed the 8-month Extension programme called the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI).

The NRLI was established in the late 1990s in response to a situation I described to Jon as becoming increasingly commonplace in Scotland: a lot more scrutiny of the forestry sector

by local communities and, in some cases, opposition to it.

At its core, the NRLI programme aims to bring together professionals from sectors that impact or are impacted by natural resource issues and equips them with skills in conflict management, public engagement, and collaborative problem-solving. Since coming to Florida in 1998, it has created a network of over 600 natural resource professionals across public, private, non-profit, and tribal sectors.

There was a lot of discussion at the Confor training events about ongoing post-course support; one of the reasons that participants in the pilot phase recommended that events were held regionally was so that those who attended would have delegates nearby to offer peer-to-peer support.

The potential power of the NFLI network resonated with me and left me wondering:

- Could the next phase of Confor's Stakeholder Engagement Training Programme establish that peer-to-peer support group - a network of natural resource professionals?
- Might web-based platforms, such as the Forestry & Wood Hub, facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration?
- How could such an initiative be funded, administered and sustained?
- Given the difference in time commitment between the NRLI and Confor's training programme (eight months vs. a one-day workshop), how might we adapt these ideas to our context?

There are many questions to explore, but inspired by my time in Florida, I am eager to be part of the conversation.



Scan the QR code to see resources from Claire's hosts during her trip.

About the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund

The Education Fund supports career development for Confor members. Applicants can be individuals or companies, they must present clear reasons for doing the course, show how it will further their careers, and provide some background information.

Applicants can be at any stage in their careers and can pursue a wide

range of training including attendance at conferences, participation on specialist courses, management skills or practical training.

Trustees are also interested in requests to co-fund with other bodies as this may broaden the scope of training opportunities available.

Awards can only be offered prior to training. It generally takes about three

weeks to process an application, with offers of up to £1,000 per application. For more details and an application form, visit the Confor website.

The Provident Fund is available in cases of hardship, for example long-term illness, personal injury or death. It has more flexibility, and all applications are treated in confidence by the Trustees.

Silviculture in the Pacific Northwest: adapting to new climate, environmental and social realities

Travel to the US National Silviculture Workshop with support from the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund presented an opportunity for **Professor Edward Wilson** to learn about innovations in silviculture.

Reflecting on a recent study visit to coastal British Columbia (BC) and western Washington State, I was struck by the profound shifts taking place in silviculture and forest management. In a region renowned for timber production, a new paradigm of holistic, ecologically-centred forest stewardship is emerging, driven by climate change, biodiversity loss, and evolving societal expectations.

Underpinning the transformation in forestry is the concept of adaptive management. This is a “learning by doing” philosophy with continuous improvement of silvicultural practices based on scientific information and monitoring.

It was central to discussions during the biennial US Forest Service (USFS) National Silviculture Workshop, where over 300 silviculturists from across the USA gathered to share learning, research and experience.

Mature and old-growth forests

Undoubtedly, the priority for forestry in Washington and British Columbia is the management and conservation of Mature and Old-Growth (MOG) forests. Recognised as ecologically vital, they provide critical habitat, enhance resilience, and deliver environmental services like carbon sequestration. They are also noted for their productivity, complexity and longevity.

Major forest types include the Sitka spruce that occupies the humid coastal zone, Douglas fir which is dominant further inland, and mixed conifers found in mountainous areas.

For many decades, forestry practices have been under intense public scrutiny. Clear-felling was the main silvicultural system, which replaced many old-growth forests with young plantations. Debate about old growth conservation during the 1980s and 1990s resulted in governance structures and policies that give communities, industry and indigenous peoples more equal voices in planning decisions.

However, efforts to re-balance the management of MOG forests have presented new challenges. For example, the USFS introduced a Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) in 1994 that allocated 80% of the federal forest area to old-growth

reserves. This was successful in curtailing clear-felling, but industry often failed to secure alternative timber supply and catastrophic wildfires have destroyed more old-growth than was added since the plan was introduced.

These issues have exposed a limitation - well-intentioned conservation plans can be undermined by larger, climate-driven environmental shifts.

British Columbia also implemented moratoria on timber harvesting over millions of hectares of MOG forest. Again, challenges exist in deferring timber harvesting and dealing with large-scale forest fires.

Indigenous leadership has become a key factor in planning, protection, and resource allocation. As a result, new models are emerging to ensure equitable economic returns and integrate Indigenous land-care practices.

Silviculture innovation

During my travels, I saw first-hand how silviculture focuses on delivering diverse objectives, including forest successional pathways, watershed protection, scenic values, ecological restoration, wildlife habitat, and sustainable wood production.

Variable-Density Thinning (VDT) in mature stands has been widely adopted >>



Forester Rachel Shanner surveying an old-growth forest block in the MASS research study

for commercial thinning. This reduces stand density and promotes structural complexity by increasing variation in tree spacing, and through “skips” and “gaps” that mimic natural disturbance patterns. VDT-treated stands generally develop richer understories, compared with traditional thinning that prioritises uniformity of timber crops.

Variable Retention Harvest (VRH) is another practice that increases structural diversity of stands while retaining elements of the existing stand for at least one full rotation; typically 10-70%. Studies show a positive correlation between retained structural elements and levels of biodiversity in a coupe, creating conditions akin to continuous old-growth forests.

Although considered a closer-to-nature system, significant planning and stand manipulation is required to achieve desired outcomes.

Adaptive management: A framework for continuous learning

Adaptive management is now enshrined in forest policy and governance across the region. Major initiatives include Washington’s 1999 Adaptive Management Program and BC’s 2005 “Forests for Tomorrow” (FFT) programme that was implemented in response to large-scale wildfires and the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

In 2020, BC introduced the Silviculture Innovation Program (SIP) to enhance multi-value forest stewardship through silviculture research and extension.

Within the US Forest Service, the 2012 Planning Rule places an emphasis on the role of science in planning, monitoring and adaptive management. Silviculture is now recognised as a specialist area

of professional practice. The National Advanced Silviculture Program (NASP) provides graduate-level training for foresters who wish to progress as Certified Silviculturists.

Long-term research

Both Washington State and British Columbia have invested substantially in long-term studies that support adaptive management. The complexity and scale of many of these projects often requires multi-disciplinary, multi-partner collaboration – a feature of forest research in the region.

Two large-scale research initiatives featured during my visit. Both were initiated in the 1990s to support ecologically-based guidelines for thinning and harvesting operations. In Washington’s Capitol State Forest, the Silvicultural Options Study (SOS) has generated detailed data from the impacts of silvicultural interventions on harvesting costs, regeneration, wildlife, biodiversity, and forest health.

On BC’s Vancouver Island, the Montane Alternative Silvicultural Systems (MASS) Study aims to support ecologically-sustainable silvicultural systems in MOG forests at higher elevations.

A visit to the Wildwood private woodlot was also highly informative. The former owner, Merv Wilkinson (1913-2011), practiced individual tree management in a Douglas fir old-growth forest; a rare example where clear-felling has been avoided. He kept detailed records of his interventions and never harvested more than the annual increment. Now owned by the Ecoforestry Institute of Canada, it is an inspiring reference site for future silviculture innovations.

Charting a resilient future

My abiding impression from this visit is the high level of commitment to silvicultural science and evidence-based practices in managing MOG forests. The transition towards multi-value, ecologically-based forest management is underpinned by robust long-term research and comprehensive extension programmes.

Silviculturists are recognised as specialists with a distinct career pathway. Policy frameworks are evolving to prioritize mature and old-growth conservation and foster collaboration with Indigenous peoples.

Many challenges persist, including equitable implementation of old-growth deferrals for industry, achieving Indigenous co-management, and adapting to climate-driven disturbances like wildfires. Continued success hinges on sustained investment in interdisciplinary research and knowledge transfer, fostering collaborative governance, and embedding climate resilience as a core tenet of management decisions.

The journey towards sustainable and resilient Pacific Northwest forests is an ongoing, complex, and adaptive process.

Prof. Edward Wilson MSIF FRSB is a silviculturist specialising in continuous cover forestry. His study tour was supported by the Forest Industries Education and Provident Fund and the US Forest Service. Thanks to Prof Bill Beese and the Ecoforestry Institute of Canada for hosting forest visits, and to Dr Robert Slesak for facilitating attendance at the USFS National Silviculture Workshop.

Visit to the SOS in Capitol State Forest, Washington





LOOKING FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE WOOD PRESERVATIVE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE?

Wolmanit® CX and Wolsit® KD for high and low pressure treatment. 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 with consistently high performing treated products, delivered across the UK and IE.

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@de.sika.com



The right machine in the right place

Global Machinery Solutions share how their products and team have supported a self-taught sawmiller in getting his business off the ground.

Wavy Wood Sawmill is an independent small sawmilling company set up and owned by Nick Garton. He previously ran a groundwork business, which also produced and sold firewood, but became interested in sawmilling after realising he could profit from finished and milled timber.

Nick researched different sawmill models and brands and came across Global Machinery Solutions. After speaking to Technical Consultant Andy Dudley, he decided to invest in the Frontier OS27 due to its capabilities yet affordable price.

He then started milling logs – locally and sustainably sourced – to produce timber for himself and community members who needed fencing materials

and bespoke-measured timber for home and building projects. He also began making wooden bases for lobster and crab pots for local fishermen – and when he found the time, created a large shed to house his Frontier sawmill.

The sawmilling was an overnight success, with Nick producing more than 10,000 lobster and crab pot bottoms and around 220 tonnes of fencing in less than two years, all whilst working a full-time job at the local steelworks at the same time.

Nick decided to document his sawmill journey on social media and has racked up more than a million viewers on YouTube with his quirky, candid, and humorous videos.

As he'd become so established in just nine months, Andy Dudley invited Nick



to join the Global Machinery Solutions team at APF 2022 to demonstrate the Norwood sawmills, including the HD38. He loved using the machine so much during the show that he had to have one for his business.

"I'd had enough of grounds work and, although I was already selling firewood, I knew there were so many other opportunities," Nick explained. "The Frontier set me on the path by processing logs for fence panels and timber. The HD38 was the game changer though and I now spend as much time as I can – in between my other full-time job – milling larger slabs and building garden furniture to sell.

"The Frontier and Norwood sawmills – and Global's support – have allowed my business to snowball. I'm excited about my sawmilling future and hope to use them to generate even more income for my family."

Funding from local authority

As a growing independent business that supports the local community, Nick received funding from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to purchase the Norwood HD38 sawmill.

The new machine springboarded Nick into new realms, not only in terms of being able to mill more logs but also in moving to a larger premises a stone's throw from his existing site. While the Frontier OS27 still processes logs for fencing, the HD38 now allows Nick to mill much larger logs for his new furniture venture. His garden chairs and picnic tables are very popular and provide

another source of income.

Another major advantage of the HD38 is the intellisystem, which allows Nick to operate the sawmill by remote control. It removes the manual process of adjusting the cut thickness and manually pushing the carriage through the log.

The HD38 – along with all Norwood and Frontier sawmills – can be adapted to suit each owner's requirements, including the bed length. Again, this enables Nick to process the wider and longer logs to maximise the amount of finished timber.

Back-up as valuable as the machine

"The Frontier OS27 and Norwood HD38 sawmills have welcomed me into a whole new sawmilling world, and it's been life changing," said Nick. "There are many sawmill brands out there but what sold the Norwood and Frontier for me is the back-up provided by Global Machinery Solutions – particularly Andy, who's opened so many doors for me."

Andy continues to support Nick throughout his journey and regularly visits Wavy Wood Sawmill to sort any technical niggles and install and demonstrate new modifications.

He said: "It's been an absolute delight working with Nick and seeing his business flourish following the investment in his sawmills. It's wonderful to see the fruits of his labour pay off through the income he earns from his timber and furniture – and his work ethic is inspiring.

"Wavy Wood Sawmill is a marvellous success story and I'm looking forward to working with him for many years to come."

The future of Wavy Wood Sawmill

Nick has been inspired by both his sawmills and is always looking for new ways to generate more income from his timber. This includes selling logs to a professional wood sculptor who transforms them into works of art.

Through his YouTube channel, Nick has also formed close links with other sawmillers and this summer is visiting an American counterpart with whom he will attend the Ohio Forestry Association's Paul Bunyan Show.





Chris Forestry Ltd



Chokers & Skidding

Hand & Craft Tools

Axes & Hatchets

Pruners & Saws

Felling Aids

PPE

01269 595238 | 07722 505807

chris@chrisforestry.co.uk | www.chrisforestry.co.uk

Cellgowntrees.co.uk

**The UK's longest established
woodland tree cell grower**

**We offer British grown woodland
trees, hedging and shrubs**

Fruit/ornamental trees

Cell grown

Container grown

Field grown

Guards - Stakes - etc

Planting service available

Nationwide delivery service

Plant Healthy Certification

Scheme Accredited

Heathwood Nurseries Ltd

Growers of Quality Trees, Shrubs & Hedging Plants



www.heathwood.co.uk
sales@heathwood.co.uk
The Meadows, Higher Heath,
Whitchurch, Shropshire
SY13 2JA
Tel 01948 840 120



FIRST-CLASS FORESTRY MACHINES. UNMATCHED SUPPORT. STANDARD.

- Woodchippers
- Stump grinders
- Excavators
- Shredders
- Landscaping

Norwood
LumberMax
HD38



Pezzolato biomass
PTH 1200/1000



Bandit
15XPC

All our machines come with first-class
service packages, expert engineering,
and reliable parts support.

Wherever you are, we're there to keep your
machines running and your business moving.

Speak to us now about your forestry machinery needs.



01476 568384
sales@globalmachinerysolutions.co.uk
www.globalmachinerysolutions.co.uk

GLOBAL
MACHINERY SOLUTIONS



Wood-Mizer launches a next-generation industrial sawmill

Wood-Mizer introduces the WM5500 industrial sawmill – its most advanced wideband sawmill.

Replacing the WB2000 model, the new WM5500 from Wood-Mizer has been redesigned to deliver greater flexibility, higher efficiency, and enhanced operator experience, setting a new benchmark for industrial-grade sawmilling technology.

Greater capacity for bigger logs and wider blades

One of the standout upgrades in the WM5500 is its increased log diameter capacity. The machine can now process logs up to 105 cm in diameter, making it ideal for larger logs commonly found in industrial operations.

Along with this physical upgrade, the WM5500 now supports a broader range of blade widths: 50mm, 75mm, 100mm, and now up to 120mm, including the powerful Stellite-tipped wide blades.

Faster and more precise sawhead movement

To improve productivity, the WM5500 features a new servo-driven sawhead positioning system. This upgrade reduces head movement time to just five seconds, enabling quicker height adjustments and more precise cutting. The sawhead is also built with a more robust, wider frame and is supported by

a triple-row chain system for enhanced stability during vertical travel.

More power and smarter cutting

While previous models offered 30kW and 37kW motor options, the WM5500 introduces a powerful 45kW (60 HP) motor, specifically designed for high-demand operations that utilize wide Stellite blades. An integrated encoder continuously monitors the motor's RPM and adjusts it as needed using an altivar, especially when blades encounter harder sections of wood.

Advanced blade lubrication with compressed air assistance

To match the performance of wider blades, the WM5500 features a redesigned blade lubrication system. Using compressed air, the system

>>



TIMBER PROCESSING

sprays a controlled mix of fluid directly onto the working blade. Operators can fine-tune this mix using a regulation valve for optimal blade performance in varying wood conditions.

The compressed air system is also used to assist the debarker and board removal system, offering smoother operation and easier maintenance. With an air gun included for cleaning the sawhead area, every detail has been considered to optimize performance and operator comfort.

Blade tensioning remains reliable and robust, with the option of an electric pump upgrade, allowing the operator to manage tension settings directly from the cabin for added convenience.

Ergonomic operator cabin and precision hydraulics

Operator experience has been elevated in the WM5500 with a completely redesigned control cabin. It features a slanted screen to reduce glare, a touchscreen interface for intuitive function control, and



integrated joysticks for ease of operation. For maximum comfort, the cabin can also be equipped with air conditioning.

Hydraulic system upgrades also offer more innovative functionality. Instead of the standard proportional valve, the WM5500 uses a bypass-controlled oil flow system.

Built for flexibility and customisation

The WM5500 sawmill offers multiple bed size options: 4.5m (standard), 7.5m (medium), and custom lengths up to 12m. Customers specify their preferred blade width when ordering, which determines the blade wheel configuration, guide blocks, and wheel alignment setup.

A new era in industrial sawmilling

With the WM5500, Wood-Mizer introduces not just a new machine, but a new standard for industrial sawmills. It easily integrates into a sawmilling line, featuring log decks, sorting and transfer tables, edgers, and multirips, allowing for a productivity boost and a significant reduction in costs.

The WM5500 represents Wood-Mizer's ongoing commitment to innovation, performance, and user-focused design. From improved cutting capacity and speed to more innovative operator controls and maintenance-friendly features, every element in the WM5500 industrial sawmill has been carefully refined.



Bringing nature's beauty to your doorstep.

T & E Forshaw have been growing high quality plants and produce since 1899.

Our commitment to the environment, coupled with a dedication to offering diverse and vibrant plant varieties, led us to explore the realm of Cell Grown Trees, and so BLOOMIN FORESTS was born in 2023.

Thanks to our fantastic Production team, Innovative mechanised systems and technology and UK Provenance Seed, we strive to grow the highest quality trees and shrubs. Production is already approaching 5 million units, including contract growing for established UK nurseries, as we celebrate 125 years of growing.

• Cell Grown Trees and Shrubs

- UK Native Broadleaf
- Broadleaf
- Conifers
- Hedging
- Sundries
- Instant Hedging
- Contract Growing
- Plant Sourcing Service



330 Moss Lane,
Hesketh Bank
Preston, PR4 6XJ

Please contact us for further information.

01772 814309
info@bloominforests.co.uk



UKFCG

Forest Certification Group

We provide certification for
 ✓ 20 forest management companies
 ✓ 30 individual estates

- ✓ 200 forests certified
- ✓ 100,000 hectares certified
- ✓ 500,000T timber harvested annually

An independent FSC® and PEFC certified forestry group scheme for forest managers throughout the UK.

Contact UKFCG for certification advice and a quote



☎ **07970 388940**
 ✉ phil@forestcertification.org.uk

☎ **07852 726471**
 ✉ simon@forestcertification.org.uk
 🌐 www.forestcertification.org.uk



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

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!



☎ **01768 862157** 📞 **07798 723040**

✉ info@bagsupplies.com www.bagsupplies.com



EVER CHANGING, ALWAYS DELIVERING

Jas P Wilson, based in southwest Scotland, is a well-known name within the UK and Irish forestry, arboriculture and firewood sectors, with a product portfolio to match... but forestry wasn't the initial focus when the business was formed in 1964.

Founded by James Pearson Wilson, the current Managing Director grandfather, forestry and firewood equipment specialists Jas P Wilson had an entirely different kind of outfit six decades ago.

Looking back in time would reveal a family owned and operated business, as it remains today, but the day-to-day activity was centred around Land Drainage contracting.

Drainage was big business in those early years, as government grants implemented which were aimed to improve agricultural land, with this process increasing usable acreage. By 1975, the business acquired its first County tractor – something which the family would later realise was their path into supporting Forestry customers, as the Country was establishing itself within this sector.

Just 10 years later, government grants of around 75-80% of costs disappeared



overnight, along with the contracts the business had been built on.

The family then suffered the tragedy of losing James and his father-in-law in a road traffic accident – leaving his wife Margaret, and sons John and Billy to find a means forward with the business, their

younger brother Iain being only 12 years old at the time.

“We had a lot of big challenges, and some very difficult times in those early years,” remembered Billy Wilson, now Jas P Wilson Chairman. “Together with my brother John, who remained Contracting as I worked on the tractor refurbishment, we managed to find a way forward.”

The daunting task of trying to rescue the business saw various changes, and downsizes, until stabilising with a fleet of machines. Over the years, Billy had built up an excellent knowledge of the Country tractor, and through a local Forestry Contractor who was a friend of their father's, it was suggested they could recondition and sell these County tractors into Forestry.

They grabbed the opportunity and never looked back.

The business began to grow again as they took on more forestry machinery supply projects, before also acquiring other supporting brands and adding a



Manufacturing arm to the business. This has since grown into the Botex brand which many in the industry will know as the UK's only domestically manufactured heavy duty forestry trailers and timber loaders.

In recent years, Billy Wilson stepped down as Managing Director and handed the position over to his son Jim Wilson. He said: "I started working within the business at the age of 15, after finishing school.

"Over the course of my years within the business, which is nearing 20 years now, I've worked across our various departments – and found my first management role forming our firewood machinery aftersales department, looking after this developing area of the business, implementing a network of support staff and the resources needed to supply our customers, before much more recently moving into the MD role last year."

Jas P Wilson has developed into 'The One Stop Forestry Shop', priding themselves on the ability to support a

wide range of customers, groups and industries. From purpose-built forestry machinery to tractor based, excavator based or otherwise, the team have worked to make their machinery supply business tailored to their customers' needs.

Part-Exchange machines deliver quality, reliable products for those entering the industry. They offer the 'Wilson Protected' seal of approval – used machinery with warranty, a detailed inspection process, serviced and backed up through an Advanced Service Network of regional engineers.

The business has also invested in their manufacturing facilities, with their range of trailers and loaders developing in recent times, further pushing forward in their commitment to deliver high quality products which have been specifically designed to excel in UK and Irish woodlands.

The most recent addition to these production improvements was the addition of 3D scanning equipment in

Spring of this year. The business now employs Liam Wilson, Iain's son who has a degree in Aeronautical Engineering, to head up the 3D scanning project onsite – allowing the business to integrate scans of Tractors, Excavators and other equipment into their design process.

"The 3D scanner is basically a highly accurate piece of measuring equipment which allows us to scan machines into 3D models. We're currently using it to help design our Botex guard kits," Liam explained. "Our designers normally spend so much time going between their office and out to the tractors to hand measure what needs measuring.

"The scanner allows us to cut out that time and the really cool thing is that we're looking to use it in other industries too."

Jas P Wilson has been on a continual innovation journey. Across all departments, each team has worked to push things forward in various forms, resulting in new products, patents and updates benefitting their customers.

A key example is the development of a new UK-made machinery brand (SafeCut Machinery) and production of firstly THE MANTIS, a multi-axis tree pruning saw excavator attachment; delivering safe, fast and efficient tree pruning, with finished cuts far more akin to hand cutting chainsaws than other mechanised options such as tree shears.

More recently launched, the SafeCut Firewood Ringer is a brand-new machine for the firewood industry with a saw unit capable of multiple movements to process twisted, knotted and oversized timber into manageable rings of firewood.

The business has put a lot of work into developing even easier ways for prospective customers to view machinery, trial it, and see it working alongside other options to ensure customers get all the information they need from day one. This has led the team into putting on a number of demo day events, where visitors can expect to see a wide range of Firewood Processing Machinery working alongside systems and loading equipment to maximise their output.

The next such event is JAS P WILSON's Southern Firewood Processing Demo Days, which are being hosted in Hampshire 4-6 September 2025. The team will be on hand to welcome visitors from within the industry or those considering options and looking for some advice on where to get started.

Please book your visit here: <https://www.jaspwilson.co.uk/jas-p-wilson-hampshire-firewood-machinery-open-days/>



'The Home of Great Machinery'

942



- ⚙ Infeed Opening: 520 mm x 710 mm (20" x 27")
- ⚙ Max Log Diameter: Up to 450 mm
- ⚙ Customisable Output: Interchangeable screen sizes
- ⚙ Heavy-Duty Top Roller: Smooth, powerful feed of dense material
- ⚙ Optimised Infeed System: Elevated design with integrated hydraulic motor — no chute openings required
- ⚙ Engine: 275 hp Volvo Penta Stage V
- ⚙ Remote Control: Full operational control from a distance
- ⚙ Compact Footprint: Designed for site access and agility

- ⚙ Infeed Opening: 660 mm x 960 mm (26" x 37.8")
- ⚙ Max Log Diameter: Up to 550 mm
- ⚙ Customisable Output: Multiple screen options for varied chip size
- ⚙ Twin Vertical Feed Rollers: Superior grip and flow for oversized timber
- ⚙ Reinforced Infeed System: Designed for large-diameter logs and heavy-duty workloads
- ⚙ Engine: 400 hp Volvo Penta Stage V
- ⚙ Remote Control: Precision handling, from a safe distance
- ⚙ Ideal For: Site clearance, biomass, and demanding forestry contracts

962



UFKES
Greentec

**AUTHORISED DEALERS OF
UFKES GREENTEC EQUIPMENT**

We are proud dealers for UFKES Greentec, a leading manufacturer of innovative, high-performance wood chippers and forestry attachments. Known for their customisable solutions tailored to the demands of modern forestry and land management, UFKES Greentec offers a product range that includes robust and efficient machinery designed for professional use in challenging environments.

Why are forest machines so expensive?

A recurring inquiry within the industry pertains to the high costs associated with forest machines, equipment, and spare parts. **Rab Easton** looks at what contributes to the premium pricing of these essential assets in the forest management sector.

Forest machines, including harvesters, forwarders, skidders and feller-bunchers, are characterised by high costs due to a confluence of factors related to their design, production and operational requirements. The following outlines the primary reasons for their expense.

Specialised engineering

Forestry machines are intricately designed to function in demanding environments, including uneven terrains, mud, snow, steep slopes, and dense forests. To perform essential operations such as cutting, delimbing, and transporting timber efficiently, these machines necessitate robust frames, advanced hydraulic systems, and high-power engines capable of managing substantial loads.

Durability and reliability

Such equipment is engineered to endure prolonged exposure to dirt, moisture, mechanical stress, and intense operational demands. Manufacturers utilise high-grade materials and components, including reinforced steel, heavy-duty tracks, and robust hydraulic systems, to ensure a prolonged lifespan, thus contributing to elevated production costs.

Low production volume

Forestry machines are produced in relatively small quantities, distinguishing them from automobiles and general construction equipment. This niche market results in lower volume manufacturing, which reduces economies of scale and consequently increases the per-unit cost.



Advanced technology

Contemporary forestry machines incorporate advanced technology, including GPS tracking, computerised harvesting heads, automated cutting systems, telematics, and real-time productivity monitoring. While these technologies enhance operational efficiency, they substantially elevate the base price of the machines.

Operator comfort and safety

The cabins of forestry machines are meticulously designed to ensure high levels of comfort, visibility, and safety, given that operators frequently work long hours in hazardous environments. Features such as climate control, vibration reduction, reinforced cabins, and ergonomic controls contribute to the overall cost.

Customisation

Due to the diverse nature of forestry operations – varying by tree species, terrain, and climate – many machines

are custom-built or extensively modified to meet specific tasks or regional requirements, thereby increasing their cost.

High research and development costs

Ongoing innovation is essential for enhancing efficiency, reducing fuel consumption, and complying with stringent environmental regulations. The costs associated with research and development are substantial, and these expenses are reflected in the pricing of the machines.

Expensive maintenance and parts

Maintenance and spare parts for forestry machines tend to be costly and often necessitate specialised technicians as well as hard-to-source components.

In conclusion

Forestry machines incur high costs due to their complexity, durability, and specialisation, compounded by low production volumes and intensive technological requirements. These machines are purposefully engineered to perform in extreme conditions, necessitating the use of superior materials and advanced engineering practices.

Rab Easton is the Editor of Forest Machine Magazine, a digital publication written by loggers for loggers and dedicated solely to the equipment used in forestry operations. This article originally appeared on <https://forestmachinemagazine.com> and is published here with permission.

New forwarder with 25 tonne load capacity

A new powerful engine, robust transmission, and a large load space with a wide range of customisation options for different needs are just a few of the advantages that make the Komatsu 898 meet the market's demands in the largest segment.

Komatsu 898 is a further development of the popular final felling forwarder Komatsu 895, adapted to handle even larger loads.

The model is available in a standard version with eight wheels, but for forwarding in plantations on flat terrain, the six-wheel version can be a cost-effective alternative.

A very generous load space

The 898 has a robust load space with many possibilities for adjustments. The gate can be telescopically adjusted, and the foldable widening wings can be locked in the retracted or extended

position. There is also an option to make the gate slide along the direction of the rear frame.

The bunks have telescopic widening and can be equipped with hydraulically height-adjustable stakes. This increases productivity during loading and unloading by reducing the height that the timber must be lifted over the supports – something that also contributes to reduced fuel consumption.

New powerful engine

The Komatsu 898 has a new generation diesel engine. It is a powerful 7.5-litre AGCO engine with high performance

and good fuel economy, with the new CORE platform. Maximum power is 250kW and maximum torque is 1,450Nm.

The engine has a large radiator and hydraulically driven cooling fan, which allows the speed to be adjusted dynamically depending on the cooling needs. As an option, the cooling fan can be made reversible, making it easy to reverse the airflow and blow away debris.

The AdBlue system has a robust design, and a new feature is that the AdBlue filter is now located outside the tank, making it easy to access when the filter needs to be changed.

Powerful crane option

The 898 has two strong crane configurations, 165F (standard) and 205F (optional). The Komatsu 205F crane has a lifting torque of 205kNm and a swing torque of 51.9kNm. It's developed with an emphasis on increased productivity in final felling and plantation forestry.

The crane has a robust, welded pillar that, together with the main boom and outer boom, provides both good lifting height and lifting geometry. It can be selected with a reach of 7.5/8.5m with single telescope or 10m with double telescope. For the 205F, the largest grapple model, G88H, is available as an option, with a tip-to-tip area of 0.55m², and a powerful rotator.





Strong transmission for tough terrain

Komatsu 898 has a strong powertrain with a large bogie axle and the wheels are well dimensioned for the task – the rear wheels measuring 30.5" and the front wheels 28.5". Together with the 345kN max tractive effort (8WD), this enables the machine to move effortlessly in the terrain, even with heavy loads.

The 898 8WD is equipped with a new generation hydrostatic transmission with a large hydrostatic pump and dual hydraulic motors. This provides similar characteristics to the 895 with XT transmission, but with even higher traction force. The new hydrostatic motors are designed to handle higher pressure and higher speeds, which

allows more power to be delivered to the wheels.

This, combined with the powerful diesel engine, makes the machine even more powerful. The dual hydraulic motors provide high speed in the first gear, which also contributes to high productivity.

User-friendliness

Komatsu 898 has several well-thought-out design solutions that make the operator's workday easier. To begin with, the machine has a completely redesigned entry point with a new design for the ladder and a larger platform with a sturdy handrail placed on the engine hood. This makes it even easier and safer for the operator to

climb in and out of the cab.

The new design of the entry point has enabled the relocation of the toolbox to the left front frame box by the ladder, making it easy to access without opening the engine hood. Next to the toolbox is a large AdBlue tank, also adapted for the optional 500 litre diesel tank, allowing long shifts without refuelling. There is also a handy storage space for the filling funnel so that it is always close at hand.

In addition, there is also an optional service platform on the crane's slewing motor. The ladder on the left side by the tank has generous steps and can be removed and moved to attachment points at the base of the gate and on the right front frame box to simplify access during service and maintenance in these areas. The machine can also be equipped with an extra ladder on the right side of the tank.

Larger diesel tank option

The design with a larger AdBlue tank now makes it possible for all markets to order the optional larger diesel tank. Previously, this option was only available in markets where there were no AdBlue requirements.

With a capacity of 500 litres, the tank holds more than twice as much as the standard tank. This means longer work shifts without interruptions for refuelling, which increases both efficiency and uptime. Perfect for long days in the forest where fuel availability can be limited.

TMC  CANCELA

Forestry Mulchers

EFFICIENT MULCHING CAPABILITY

TMC CANCELA mulchers are engineered to an high quality standard for tough conditions with heavy duty replaceable mulcher teeth incorporating Tungsten Carbide. Each machine is designed to mulch forest debris including, low trees and stumps – efficiently mixing organic material.

DISCOVER OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE ...

FINANCE
DEALS
AVAILABLE
PLEASE
ASK!

SPALDINGS
MAIN DEALER FOR TMC CANCELA IN THE UK



TLE-150 Hydraulic Mulcher
for REMOTE CONTROL units



THJ-125 Hydraulic Mulcher
for 10-16 Tonne EXCAVATORS



TFX-225 PTO driven Mulcher
for 160-250hp TRACTOR units

For further details and to see TMC Cancela mulchers in action visit: www.spaldings.co.uk

Call our dedicated team on: **01522 507600**

email: agsales@spaldings.co.uk

 facebook.com/spaldings.ltd  x.com/spaldings  instagram.com/spaldingsltd

 **SPALDINGS®**



Family-run forestry specialists — supplying woodland management services, machinery, timber & firewood.

Official UK dealer for Malwa harvesters & forwarders low-impact solutions for regenerative forestry.

Call us on 01968 660 698 or email info@treelinescotland.com

Baddinsgill Farm, West Linton, Scottish Borders, EH46 7HL

TreeLine

Firewood | Fencing | Machinery | Forestry

www.treelinescotland.com



Launch of H Series sets new standard

John Deere introduces the 1270H and 1470H Harvesters and 2010H and 2510H Forwarders, delivering exceptional fuel efficiency, power, and performance.

John Deere launches its large-size H Series wheeled machines, designed to elevate productivity and operational efficiency. Featuring the all-new 1270H and 1470H Harvesters and 2010H and 2510H Forwarders, these machines integrate enhanced hydraulic systems, advanced automation and ergonomic operator enhancements.

By combining powerful performance with sustainability-focused fuel economy, the H Series redefines modern logging operations.

“The launch of the H Series represents a bold step forward for John Deere in forestry equipment,” said Mikko Borgstrom, Global Product Marketing Manager at John Deere. “These machines are built to deliver exceptional power, precision and fuel efficiency. With an industry-first innovation like enhanced hydraulic systems, advanced automation and an operator-first design, the H Series machines deliver exceptional productivity and performance in the field.”

Unmatched power and efficiency

The 1270H and 1470H Harvesters deliver impressive engine power and torque, enabling faster cycle times and improved cutting efficiency compared to the G Series. Advanced hydraulic systems, now featuring three dedicated pumps, provide greater power for feed rollers, saw units and boom movements. Compared to the G Series, H Series Harvesters enable significantly increased productivity and remarkably lower fuel consumption per harvested cubic meter.

Enhanced boom performance

The H Series harvesters and forwarders set a high standard in boom capability, delivering impressive lifting and slewing power, stability, and efficiency in challenging forestry environments.

Harvesters (1270H & 1470H)

- Intelligent Boom Control (IBC) 2.0, standard on H Series Harvesters, provides smooth, precise movements, helping to reduce fatigue and increase accuracy.
- Active Frame Lock brings more stability compared to previous harvesters, whether working on steep slopes or flat ground. This makes it easier to work when the boom is sideways and gives the operator a larger working area.

Forwarders (2010H & 2510H)

- Compared to the G Series, the new forwarders offer 25% more load capacity, helping to increase efficiency and reduce costs per cycle.
- F9 and F10 booms extend reach (up to 10.7m) and enhance lift torque for smoother, more efficient load handling.
- New frame lock system enhances stability, even with full loads on uneven terrain.

Operator-first design

The new H Series cabin features an expanded glass area for improved visibility, along with a quieter interior and a rotating and levelling cabin to enhance precision and reduce operator strain. Ergonomic controls, programmable joysticks and a premium sound system create a user-friendly experience.

The Intelligent Cabin Key acts as a personalized remote, unlocking the cabin, powering on the PC and automatically loading operator-specific settings to streamline workflow.

Next-generation digital automation

The new H Series lineup integrates next-generation digital tools to simplify operations and help reduce unplanned machine downtime. TimberMatic H Automation features a redesigned interface with intuitive controls, night/day display modes, real-time data sharing and site mapping to improve planning and execution. Meanwhile, centralized refill points, electric engine oil level sensors and a central greasing system enhance serviceability and maintenance.

The H216 Harvester Head, designed to replace the H270, is a versatile two-roller head optimized for both hardwood and softwood applications. It features a top-saw option, advanced feed motors and a find-end laser sensor, supporting precision and efficiency. Available for the 1270H Harvester with boom reach options of 8.6 and 10.0 meters, it also supports the 1470H Harvester with 8.6-, 10-, and 11-meter reach configurations.

With the introduction of the H Series, John Deere is redefining what's possible in forestry equipment. Featuring enhanced automation, and greater stability, these machines help forestry professionals improve productivity and reduce operational costs.

Legal matters

What do inheritance tax changes mean for forestry?

Much of the media coverage around the tax relief changes announced at the 2024 Budget focused on farmers, but owners of forestry assets and businesses are also likely to be affected. Partner **Emily Pike** of Brodies LLP explains more.

What is the main change to be aware of?

There will be a cap on the value of assets that can qualify for 100% tax relief under Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR). Starting from 6 April 2026, a £1 million cap will be applied to the value of assets that can qualify for APR and/or BPR at 100%.

Beyond this, reliefs will only apply at 50%. This means that, on death, any surplus value of assets over and above £1 million will now incur Inheritance Tax (IHT) at an effective rate of 20% - half of the normal 40% rate.

How will this affect owners of forestry assets?

Many estates will now be subject to IHT, particularly those with high land values, irrespective of the level of income yield. This is a common scenario for many forestry businesses due to substantial increases in land values in recent years.

Is there a way to manage this tax liability without immediate large cash outflows?

Yes, most estates can pay the tax via 10 annual interest-free instalments. However, it is still a significant cost, requiring liquid cash that most businesses may not have readily available.

What can be done to mitigate the impact?

Forestry business owners should start planning now. This may involve restructuring the ownership of assets, making lifetime gifts, or exploring

other tax-efficient strategies. For example, families or businesses may consider co-ownership of land, enabling multiple £1 million allowances to be set against the value, or using trusts.

Be wary of restructuring pitfalls though - it is worth seeking professional advice first to avoid immediate tax charges and ensure that assets still qualify for APR and BPR.

What other reliefs or deferrals are available for forestry owners?

Additional reliefs such as IHT woodlands relief can be considered, which defers the tax attributable to the timber itself until it is sold. There are also important income and capital gains tax reliefs to consider too.

Should business owners implement changes immediately?

The proposed new law is not yet in force, so it may be best to wait until

the final position is known before implementing any changes. This can help avoid unnecessary complications or unexpected tax liabilities. However, planning should be undertaken now because in some cases steps will need to be taken before April 2026.

What roles do insurance and will planning play under these new rules?

Insurance will become an important estate planning tool. Life policy proceeds can be used towards the cost of any IHT bill incurred by the estate or the recipient of a gift, or following a death.

It is also worth reviewing and updating wills to ensure they reflect the new rules and take advantage of any available reliefs. For instance, spouses or civil partners will generally be advised to avoid leaving all of their assets to each other if they each want to take advantage of the £1 million allowance. Various will structures can safeguard the position.

Are there any opportunities for the forestry sector?

The ability to achieve IHT relief at 100% for the first £1 million of assets may actually make forestry assets more attractive, especially in comparison with other business assets where there is no £1 million allowance, such as AIM portfolios.

What should forestry owners do next?

Seek professional advice. Legal and tax advisors can provide guidance on the best ways to structure the ownership of the estate, make use of available reliefs, and plan for the future.



michelmores

Felling Licences and Restocking Notices

Leading agricultural lawyers Michelmores detail navigating the requirements of the Forestry Act 1967.

The Forestry Act 1967 ('the Act') imposes various requirements in relation to controlling the felling of trees. In this article, we give a brief summary of some of the provisions of the Act relating to felling licences and restocking notices in England, as well as providing an update on a recent Court of Appeal case which considered the relationship between restocking notices and the planning regime.

The law – felling licences and restocking notices

The Forestry Commission has various duties prescribed in section 1 of the Act, which include promoting the establishment and maintenance of adequate reserves of growing trees. To assist with the fulfilment of these duties, Part II of the Act gives the Forestry Commission wide powers to control the felling of growing trees.

Section 9 of the Act requires a person to obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission before felling growing trees. This is subject to various exemptions – for example, section 9(4)(d) provides that this requirement to obtain a felling licence does not apply where the land is immediately required for the purpose of carrying out development authorised by planning permission that has been granted (or deemed to be granted) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

It is an offence for anyone to fell a tree without such a felling licence, and anyone who does so will be liable on summary conviction to a fine (section 17 of the Act).

If the Forestry Commission considers that a person with an interest in the land has committed an offence under section 17 (even if they have not been convicted of that offence), it may serve a restocking notice on them. This is a notice under section 17A requiring that person to restock that land (or to stock other land, if agreed by the Commission) with trees and maintain them in accordance with good forestry for up to 10 years.

It is possible to appeal the issue of a restocking notice by following the procedure under section 17B of the Act, which involves bringing an appeal to

the Secretary of State, who (unless he considers the appeal to be frivolous) must refer the matter to a reference committee.

Restocking Notices in the Court of Appeal

In July 2025, the Court of Appeal issued its judgment in the case of *R (Smar Holdings Limited) v Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs*. In this case, Smar Holdings Limited ('Smar') felled trees on its land in Bristol without a felling licence, and in March 2020 the Forestry Commission served a restocking notice.

Smar subsequently appealed against the restocking notice to the Secretary of State, on the basis that the land had been included in a proposed housing allocation in the Bristol City Council Local Plan Review, and it would not be "in the wider public interest" for the development potential of the land to be blighted during the 10 year period in which the requirements of the restocking notice would apply.

Following an unsuccessful appeals process under section 17B, the case was brought to the High Court, where the judge held that the broad public interest in delivering development could (and sometimes must) be taken into account in decisions about enforcement under the forestry regime.

However, the Court of Appeal subsequently overturned this decision, holding that the overall merits of a proposed development or a public interest in its delivery are irrelevant factors in the exercise of the power to serve a restocking notice. The focus of the power to serve restocking notices under section 17A, according to the Court, is simply to achieve the restocking of the land from which trees have been removed unlawfully, and only the interests of good forestry (and agriculture and local amenity) and the Forestry Commission's duties in section 1 of the Act are relevant.

The Court confirmed that, although the section 1 duties do not apply to the Secretary of State or the reference committee, there is nothing to suggest that they may have regard to a broader range of factors than the Forestry Commission.

The first instance decisions in *Smar* and *Wickford* had

sent a chill through the forestry sector, as they indicated that the Forestry Commission was expected to evaluate felling proposals against wide areas of policy. It is expected that this decision rights that issue and confirms the expectation post *Arnold White Estates Ltd v Forestry Commission* that the legislation intended to protect Forests remains paramount over Town and Country Planning legislation.

Landowners and developers should therefore consider the requirements of the Act carefully in relation to land which is going through the planning process.

CONFOR MEMBERS FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION

Confor Members have access to a free legal helpline, administered by Brodies LLP. Get in touch 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, one of our experts will be happy to give you a free initial consultation.

More info: <https://bit.ly/3yPGR11>

For members based anywhere in the UK

Brodies LLP 0131 228 3777

www.brodies.com

confor@brodies.com

For members based in England/Wales

Michelmores LLP 0333 004 3456

www.michelmores.com



MARSHALL

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING



WESTTECH

DALEN

FLEX
MADE IN SWEDEN

Binderberger
BILDERBERGER GROUP

KONEOSAPALVELU

Zenz

Jussi

DinaSaw

Lennartsfors

www.marshalllogging.co.uk



tel: 01892 770788 | mob 07836 274164

email: sales@marshalllogging.co.uk



**SOUTH EAST
OAK SAWMILLS**

**SOUTH EAST
FORESTRY**



WANTED



ENGLISH OAK

(Standing, Felled, or at Stump)

Call Jonathan

01580 819179 or 07759 567801

or David 07769 354118

southeastforestry.co.uk

southeastoaksawmills.co.uk



**F&W
Forestry**

Contact us for a free impartial
discussion **01786 406361**



Independent
forest management
to maximise the value
of your woodland.

www.fwforestry.co.uk

enquiriesUK@fwforestry.com

- * ACQUISITIONS
- * MANAGEMENT
- * HARVESTING
- * PLANTING
- * SURVEYING

68 Years in Forestry throughout the UK



Burnhouse Moor

The busy, curious, proactive purchaser replaces caution and selectiveness

Jon Lambert MRICS shares how Goldcrest Land & Forestry Group is seeing buyers finally stop stalling.

For the last 18 months or so, my colleagues have become rather used to - perhaps even bored of - listening to me talk about the market and state that purchasers are 'somewhat selective and cautious'. However, in recent months and specifically the last 3-4 weeks (I am writing at the end of July) there has been a definite upturn in active from interested parties.

Some new purchasers have been

working their way into the market; watching, learning and tentatively bidding. Existing forestry owners, who have been previously choosy or bidding at low ball figures, have increased their efforts and are considerably more proactive and aggressive with their bidding.

There is a huge amount of money in the system, both private (the FTSE hitting an all-time high on 24 July) and institutionally where funds have

mandates to deploy capital or they lose it. There is always a reason not to do something and all through last year and into this one, there was an abundance of the contagious disease of 'SoH': sitting on hands syndrome. This now appears to be over.

We are currently receiving more phone calls, emails and indeed bids than we have had for some time. The increase in confidence has turned into a large number of successful transactions throughout the UK. In the last week, Goldcrest Land & Forestry Group settled the Caledonian & Irish Forestry Portfolio, a collection of 16 properties extending to 2,614ha spread across Scotland from the Borders up to Aberdeenshire, across to Argyll, one on the Isle of Skye and one on the Emerald Isle.

The market initially was ambivalent about the opportunity. Because it was too large, too expensive, too spread out, only available as a whole? Whatever the reason, it was slow out of the traps, but an institutional buyer seized the opportunity and the legals are now complete.

In the recent past, we have had success from young to mature forests, both on and off the open

>>

FOREST MARKET REPORT

market. The last edition of Forestry and Timber News made reference to Banc Woodland, a 144ha 3-year-old mixed woodland we were marketing in Carmarthenshire, Wales. A large area of Sikta spruce complemented with both young and mature broadleaves and high integrity Pending Issuant Units (PIUs). The asking price of offers over £2.2m was comfortably exceeded by a number of parties.

The overriding characteristic was quality with Grade 4 soils, gentle slopes, good access and comprehensive roading, correct species, and excellent management adding up to a most attractive offering. The market responded, strong interest led to a most competitive closing date, and the property is under offer to a blue-chip covenant.

What is reassuring with this sale is the fact that purchasers are realising the value of carbon credits and are keen to buy properties where the carbon hasn't been sold off. They understand that with the continuation of resilient, proactive management, carbon is an asset that adds to the bottom line.

20 years ago, UK carbon credits were changing hands at £4-6/t. Today, land, young crops and carbon credits are being sold together with the credits making £26-30/t+.

At the other end of the age spectrum



and country is Burnhouse Moor, 130ha guided at £4.75m. Located in the sought after Scottish Borders and comprising mature spruce aged 41 years, it also met with considerable interest and strong bidding at the closing date. The property is now under offer with a number of bids comfortably breaking through the £5m mark.

Other smaller Goldcrest Scottish sales including Auchterhouse Wood

(8.2ha) by Dundee, Crailloch Moss Wood (36.3ha) by Port William, Lugton Wood (7.4ha) on the outskirts of Edinburgh, and Strathellen Wood (55ha) at Plockton have all recently completed. Tustins also record similar market activity with Concord Wood (56.9ha) in Buckinghamshire, Putham (73ha) in Somerset and Lind End (30ha) in Cumbria all now agreed. An optimistic outlook as we continue bring more opportunities to the market.

Many investors have been watching the Chancellor of the Exchequer, wondering where she will find the additional income to fill the ever-increasing blackhole. Earlier this week it was confirmed that her proposals made in the Spring Statement back in March for the changes to Business Property Relief will indeed take place in April 2026 (there was some discussion she might have delayed the date).

However, owners of forestry businesses remain confident in UK timber production, understand that GB imports over 80% of its requirements, and their appetite continues to acquire and look after our country's forests and woodlands and grow high quality timber.

Last but not least, the sale of Griffin Forest in Perthshire has recently been confirmed. The giant 4,000+ hectare forest combining continuous harvesting for the next 20 years plus wind farm income is a high yielding asset in an extensive block. The market is on the move...

jon@goldcrestlfg.com
07900320475





Image credit: Highfield Forestry

New version of Woodland Carbon Code published

A new version of the Woodland Carbon Code – the UK’s quality assurance standard for woodland carbon projects – was launched in early August.

The Woodland Carbon Code helps landowners, organisations and businesses to address climate change by creating and supporting woodland projects across the UK. It is delivered by Scottish Forestry on behalf of the governments of the UK, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Version 3 incorporates insights from recent research and consultation feedback and aligns with national and international frameworks. The changes

are designed to make the Woodland Carbon Code more accessible, practical and commercially viable for the land management sector.

They include:

- Revising rules to encourage more projects on crofted land
- Allowing projects up to 10 hectares to use a streamlined approach
- Providing clearer information on requirements and guidance
- Changing the minimum project duration to align with international standards
- Updating data in the additionality cashflow and carbon calculator
- Clarifying the survey protocol
- Refreshing and streamlining template documents.

The new version uses the latest economic data to reflect the practical realities of land management in today’s business climate.

Scotland’s Rural Affairs Secretary Mairi Gougeon said: “The Woodland Carbon Code is the government’s standard of excellence for verifying genuine carbon credits associated with woodland planting schemes across the UK. It is internationally endorsed as meeting high standards of integrity and is playing a vital role in helping Scotland meet its environmental ambitions, including our target to reach net zero by 2045.

“The new version of the Code offers further opportunities for farmers and crofters to plant trees on farms through eligibility improvements for small

woodlands and for crofts.”

Huw Irranca-Davies, Wales Deputy First Minister, who has responsibility for Climate Change policy, added: “Welsh farmers and landowners have significant opportunities to increase and diversify their income through woodland creation, whilst contributing to our climate goals.

“The updated Woodland Carbon Code provides an excellent mechanism for this, and I’m particularly pleased that the increase in the threshold for those eligible for a more streamlined process will allow a greater number of smaller projects to benefit. I hope this will encourage more Welsh landowners to make the most of this opportunity.”

Andrew Muir, Northern Ireland Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, commented: “These changes to the UK Woodland Carbon Code embrace recent research and valuable consultation feedback. They further enhance the integrity and transparency of the Code and will encourage its wider adoption by landowners, organisations and businesses.”

Mark Broadmeadow, Head of Climate Change at the Forestry Commission, said: “This update maintains and enhances the integrity of the code, ensuring that it continues to support a developing and vibrant carbon market.”

Since its launch in 2011, the code has helped to create 38,705 hectares of new woodland which are predicted to remove 13 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Driving the new Dacia Duster

The all-new Mark 3 Duster was launched in the autumn of 2024, and it is now becoming a familiar sight on UK roads. **Eamonn Wall** tries one out to see how it compares to its predecessors.

Dacia dates back from 1968 from when it produced versions of Renault cars in Romania. It was re-launched by the Renault Group in 2004 across Europe and the Mediterranean countries with the Sandero small hatchback. The first Duster model arrived in 2010, with the updated version in 2017.

Since then, the Jogger seven-seater model was introduced and Dacia vehicles are now sold in 44 countries. A small electric vehicle was launched last year, the Spring, which is basically a China-built re-badged Renault. Dacia is one of the best-selling brands in Europe and has factories in Romania and Morocco. The Duster rolls off the production line at Pitesti, Romania, at the rate of 1,000 per day!

This all-new Mark 3 Duster is based on the latest Renault platform, wearing a chunkier outdoor designed body above. This platform is also used for the Sandero, Jogger and the forthcoming Bigster. All this common sharing helps to keep costs down.

There is more plastic around the wheel arches and bumpers and some of it comprises 20% recycled materials, termed 'Starkle'. The front and rear skid plates are dyed in the mass, meaning the plastic is already coloured when it is injected to make the part; so scratches will not alter the original colour. The black plastic inserts on the front doors look a bit unnecessary.

The door handles on the rear doors are incorporated among the plastic inserts at the rear of the windows. I think having all door handles on the doors makes for a neater flowing design but on the Duster the rear doors' bulbous shape would make it a tricky fit. The head and rear lights are based on the Y-shaped signature design, which is also used inside for the air vents and door armrests. Overall, the new Duster is a good-looking vehicle with good ground clearance.

The new Duster is the same 4.34m length as its predecessor, but the whole vehicle does look a bit bigger. It is stiffer and this translates into less roll when



cornering and better steering. The new Duster is certainly a good car to nip along country roads with less body roll and accurate, direct and light steering compared to before. The whole vehicle feels sturdy.

It no longer has a diesel option being available with either a 1.2 litre three cylinder 130 bhp petrol engine combined to a six-speed manual gearbox, or 1.6 litre four cylinder 140 bhp petrol engine with a small electric battery and four-speed automatic gearbox, known as the Hybrid version. There is also a 1 litre Bi-Fuel version (which runs on petrol and LPG) with only



99 bhp; this is also the cheapest model. Fuel tank holds 50 litres with 55 litres for the 4x4 version.

Four-wheel drive is available with the 1.2 litre engine and comes with an additional 8mm ground clearance giving a useful 217mm. The 4x4 Terrain Control transmission has five driving modes as follows: Auto, Snow, Mud/Sand, Off-Road and Eco. The Off-Road mode is very similar to the outgoing Duster's 4x4 lock mode but with the added advantage of automatically and optimally distributing torque to the front and rear wheels according to grip and speed.

Hill Decent Control principally actuates the brakes to keep the vehicle's speed to within 0 and 18.6 mph.

The Duster's boot is usefully large, with room for a spare wheel. A Sleep Pack is available which is a 3-in-1 box containing a double bed that someone on their own can assemble in less than two minutes, plus a tray and storage space below. It measures 1.90m long and up to 1.3m wide. A new roof rack

fastens onto the modular roof bars and can hold up to 80kg.

I test drove the Hybrid 140 version which combines a four-speed automatic gearbox with two electric motors. It is a complex set up but works well most of the time. The electric motors aid acceleration and allow for all electric driving at lower speeds. It accelerated well enough, officially 10.1 seconds to 62 mph. Sometimes the gearbox would call up a lower gear which made the engine noisy. There was some wind noise from around the door mirrors. Fuel consumption was 45mpg.

It was easy to drive and handles well. However, the engine uses regenerative braking to charge the small 1.2kwh battery and this means that when you take your foot off the accelerator pedal the vehicle slows down rather than gliding. You do get used to this. The brakes themselves were okay but not excellent.

The dashboard contains two screens, one in front of the driver housing speed etc in digital format only. The other contains audio and satnav in some

versions. The leather covered steering wheel is nice to use. The auto dimming headlights work very well.

Apart from the bare bones Bi-Fuel version, there are three trim levels, Expression, Journey and Extreme. Standard tyres are 215/65 R17 with the option of 215/60 R18. Prices start at £18,745 for the Bi-Fuel and then start off at £21,245 for the cheapest 1.2 litre 130 Expression version. Four-wheel drive adds £2,200 giving its Expression price at £23,445, and the cheapest Hybrid 140 being £24,245. Prices go up to £26,745 for the Hybrid 140 Extreme version.

The Duster 4x4 is now the cheapest 4x4 on the market as the Fiat Panda and Suzuki Ignis are no longer available.

The Duster is a good work horse and nice to drive. I would like to try out the 130 version which saves £3,000 over the Hybrid version, and of course the 4x4 version.

Eamonn Wall FICFor is a tree and woodland consultant and Director with Eamonn Wall & Co.

WORKING IN THE WAKE OF WINDBLOW

Just over six months ago, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) issued a Regulatory Decision to provide flexibility around the need for felling licences to clear windblow damage from Storm Darragh.

MAKING THE REGULATORY DECISION

Callum Stone
*Forest Regulation and Tree Health
Team Leader, Natural Resource Wales*

Like most people in Wales, I spent the weekend of 7 December 2024 hunkered down waiting for Storm Darragh to blow over. While I was naturally concerned about damage to my own home, I also found myself thinking ahead: what impact would we be seeing in Wales' forests once the winds subsided?

Normally, our advice following storm damage is straightforward: windblown trees that are still alive will still require a felling licence. However, what became clear in the days that followed the storm was that the sector needed additional support beyond our usual licensing advice. This was the first time we seriously considered whether a Regulatory Decision - a tool used in other regulatory regimes - could help us respond.

The reasons for looking to provide this additional support here were threefold:

1. To help the sector respond quickly by easing the regulatory burden of felling licence applications.
2. To prevent our own forestry regulatory teams being overwhelmed with storm-related queries and applications.
3. To support urgent felling in areas where pests and diseases – particularly Ips typographus – posed an additional risk.

Regulatory Decisions haven't previously been used by NRW in forestry as they are more commonly



applied in the regulation of waste and water sectors. They are used to provide certainty to those that we regulate where there is a justifiable reason for us to not take enforcement action providing certain limitations and conditions are met, and where the activity they enable can be of environmental benefit.

In this instance, taking a risk-based approach, we identified options for not enforcing the need for a felling licence under specific conditions, allowing forest managers to re-prioritise their own operations where necessary and enable the felling of trees around areas of windblow caused by Storm Darragh.

Given that we'd never used Regulatory Decisions in the forestry sphere there were all sorts of questions internally about how it could work, how we could ensure it provided flexibility to forest managers whilst also maintaining a degree of regulatory protection over woodlands, and even whether the sector would want to use this and if it would be simple enough.

Through conversations with Confor throughout December we tested the water, and the response was a resounding yes to anything that could simplify and speed up the regulatory process.

Between January and July 2025,



Storm damage

NRW received 105 notifications of intention to fell trees using the Regulatory Decision. We've since been asked whether we'll issue one after every storm event. While that's unlikely - Regulatory Decisions must be nationally applicable and reserved for events with sector-wide impact - this experience has shown their clear value.

They now sit firmly in our regulatory toolkit, not just for storm damage but also for major pest outbreaks, fires, droughts, or other extreme events which severely affect the sector as a whole.

ENGAGING WITH THE PROCESS

Iwan Lloyd-Williams
Director, REBS Timber Trading Ltd

Following the damage caused by Storm Darragh to woodlands in December 2024, along with many other foresters, I was contacted by landowners asking: 'what can I do?'

They were obviously keen to clear blocked roads, tracks, footpath etc., but also wanted to ensure they maximised any revenue from the fallen timber. It is no surprise that a large proportion of windblow occurred in commercial woodlands and that work programmes would

need to be altered.

Following the storm, I emailed NRW on behalf of Confor to request clarification as, under the Forestry Act, a felling licence is required to fell 'growing trees' and, depending on an individual's interpretation – a windblown tree can indeed still be 'growing'.

I was pleased to receive a positive response from NRW within days of the initial email and was encouraged that they were considering options to expedite the felling licence process for the affected areas.

Early January we received further

information regarding Regulatory Decision 115. This allows foresters, agents and landowners to notify NRW of their intention to fell/clear windblown trees to a suitable boundary i.e. re-shape a coupe to allow for appropriate and ongoing management of a woodland.

As part of the process woodland owners/agents are required to email NRW highlighting the following:

- Owners of woodland including contact details.
- Map of woodland including the estimated area of windblown trees.
- Photographs of the windblow.
- Any hazards or constraints that may be present – OHPL, PROW, Heritage and Conservation.

Additionally, the woodland owner commits to restock the woodland in accordance with UKFS.

In most cases, I have received confirmation from NRW within 48hrs, together with a reference number (example: RD 115 – XX). This reference can then be supplied to any timber purchaser together with the NRW email to provide reassurance that the timber has been felled legally.

In conclusion, it has been great to work with NRW to provide a pragmatic solution to dealing with the damage caused by Storm Darragh. Hopefully, this pragmatic approach will be extended to any future windblow event. Diolch yn Fawr.



Iwan Lloyd-Williams



Fig 1: Noble fir
(*Abies procera*)

Foresters urged to report evidence of stem cracks in conifers

Dr Rubén Manso and **Thomas Baer** outline the issue of stem cracking and seek input on compiling evidence to determine the cause.

The demand for structural timber has been increasing both in the UK and worldwide in recent years. This trend is expected to continue as a result of the implementation of policies that aim to mitigate the effects of climate change.

One measure included in these policies is the substitution of timber for traditional construction materials, which typically come with a significant carbon footprint (e.g. concrete, steel). The Timber in Construction Roadmap is an example of such policies in the UK.

The supply of domestic gradable timber in the UK largely depends on conifer planted forests. The range of strength classes and yield one can expect from this UK-grown timber resource has been studied for decades in principal species such as Sitka spruce, Scots pine or larch, and is now well understood.

The impact on the supply chain of large defects found in logs and/or standing timber, such as cracks, shakes or splits, has however received

significantly less attention in spite of recent efforts in academia.

One of such defects is stem cracking, commonly referred to as drought cracks. Stem cracking renders the affected timber unsuitable for structural uses. This defect is very common in Norway spruce and some firs grown in Britain but can also occur in Sitka spruce.

The issue seems to be driven by internal tensions in the tree. When internal tensions develop into a crack, the fault propagates vertically and radially, hitting the cambium and causing a scar or set of scars to form on the bark that often spiral up the tree. This enables cracked trees to be identified for many years after the cracks occur (Fig 1). The scars typically bear a healthy appearance, with no resin exudates coming out from them, and appear to be wide but sealed, as opposed as what one would expect from recent disease, deer or machinery damage (Fig 2).

The internal tensions that lead to cracking have been associated with different forms of water deficit, including drought. As a result of this, an increase

in this type of defect can reasonably be expected in Britain in the near future due to climate change. Given this and the efforts to diversify the UK conifer stock with spruce and fir species that may be prone to cracking, it seems relevant – and timely – to give more consideration to this issue.

At present, however, there is only anecdotal evidence on the rates of stem cracking occurrence or geographical areas of prevalence. The predisposition factors that make trees vulnerable to stem cracking are also unclear, although some sources point to abnormal, potentially climate-mediated, earlywood/latewood ratios within tree rings, tree age and size, and micro-site conditions that affect the rooting depth.

Lastly, a recent study conducted by Forest Research has also gathered strong evidence that genetics could play a key role in this regard, at least in British Sitka spruce.

To provide answers to these questions, Forest Research has embarked on further research. The short-term objective is to assess the problem

and map the risk for any spruce and fir grown in Britain. Further down the line, the ambition is to collect wood samples on the ground that allow us to confirm that water deficit is the trigger of stem cracking and to determine with some certainty what the predisposition factors are.

Providing that enough and adequate information is available, it could even be possible in the future to forecast the probability of stem cracking for a given species, at a given location and under a given scenario of climate change. The overarching aim of these efforts would be to develop new management guidelines.

A preliminary but key step to the above aspirations is however to precisely determine where cracks occur. Given the current low frequency and sparse nature of crack occurrence, systematically surveying the forest estate is not feasible. Instead, forestry professionals from across Britain are being asked to look for signs of stem cracks and report them using TreeAlert.

This approach is based on citizen-science methods, where typically members of the public report instances of issues of scientific interest (e.g. pest or wind damage) that they encounter.

Reporting stem cracking in conifers has been possible through the TreeAlert Abiotic Reports section, which is the equivalent of the well-known Pest or Disease Specific Reports (SPODs) for abiotic damage, for over a year. This reporting process has now been streamlined.

To report the presence of stem crack, go to Submit a Report, directly choose Abiotic Reports and then Stem Cracking - log in will only be requested before this last step. You will be presented with a very straightforward questionnaire that includes the familiar steps involved in reporting ash dieback, Dothistroma in pines or Phytophthora in conifers. This questionnaire will prompt you to provide the location of the tree with stem cracks, and at least one photograph for verification purposes.

Providing personal contact details is

optional, but it would be useful for Forest Research staff to be in touch should a visit to the site be required.

Information gathered through TreeAlert will be hugely helpful, and the locations where cracks are found, photographs and personal details provided will be kept strictly confidential and exclusively used for the purposes of this piece of research.

Further reading

- Mitigating the risk of drought-induced stem cracks in conifers in a changing climate, Dr Andrew Cameron, Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research (<http://bit.ly/4oUElUn>)
- Variation in the incidence and severity of drought crack in three conifer species in North East Scotland, Dr Andrew Cameron et al., Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research (<http://bit.ly/45GNA79>)
- Identifying proxy measurements for drought tolerance in Sitka spruce, Dr Rubén Manso & Richard Whittet, Centre for Forest Protection (<http://bit.ly/3V0fExd>)



Fig 2: Example of damage that does not correspond to stem cracking



Other example, Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)



Climate concern colours public opinions of forestry

Forest Research released the results of the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey 2025 for England and the UK, Scotland and Wales in July.

In the new Public Opinion of Forestry Survey, around three-quarters of respondents who had visited woodlands (76% in the UK and England) agreed or strongly agreed that “A lot more trees should be planted” in response to the threat of climate change.

Forest Research (and previously the Forestry Commission) has conducted biennial surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues since 1995. These surveys are used to inform and monitor policy development.

In the 2025 publication, there was also strong support for mixed species planting specifically, with 72% agreeing “Different types of trees should be planted that will be more suited to future climates”.

Over 90% of those interviewed in Scotland stated that there was at least one benefit for forestry worth supporting with public money, with providing places for wildlife and tackling

climate change being the top choices.

Richard Hunter, Confor National Manager for Scotland, commented: “It is encouraging to see a high level of public support for planting more trees in Scotland. After the recent publication of provisional woodland creation figures revealed a significant decrease in planting for 2024-25, it’s more important than ever that the need for more trees is made clear at every level.

“In the last report on public perceptions of forestry in 2023, just 15% of respondents recognised timber production as a reason to support forestry. This has risen to 24% - a clear indicator of positive momentum that the industry needs to capitalise on.

“Public awareness of forestry is on the rise, and that is due in large part to efforts to engage and involve communities and the media in the good work we do. Confor has put a lot into this area, from providing training for stakeholder engagement to pushing for forestry to be recognised in the political agenda.”

Another key finding from the Scottish results supported this, reporting that 62% of those surveyed recalled seeing, hearing or reading media coverage about forestry. ‘Tree planting’ was the most commonly identified topic.

In Wales, 87% believed the woodlands near them provide at least one benefit for the local community. However, the number of respondents considering timber and wood products as benefits was at a low of 15%.

“Forestry in Wales has had a number of recent successes,” said Confor National Manager for Wales Elaine Heckley. “However, this report shows there has been a marked decline in public recognition of timber production and wood fuel as benefits of forestry since 2019.

“With a 50% increase in tree planting reported for Wales in 2024-25, it is crucial for industry to use this as a springboard for engaging the public and promoting what the sector does to support the rural economy, create jobs, and mitigate climate change.”

Encouragingly, the report also showed an overall fairly high awareness of threats to tree health in the UK, and 76% across the board agreed or strongly agreed that authorities and woodland managers should take action to protect trees from damaging pests and diseases.

The full results of the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey, including responses by country, are available on www.forestresearch.gov.uk.



BSWGROUP member of binderholz

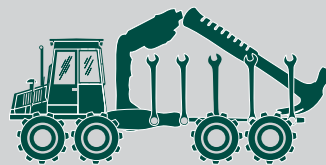
CarbonStore simplifies the process of securing carbon accreditation with the Woodland Carbon Code.

With over 6,000 hectares of woodland registered with the Code, we are one of the UK's leading project developers.

Contact CarbonStore for clear, trustworthy, and impartial advice in woodland carbon accreditation.

07500 950832 | info@carbonstoreuk.com

carbonstoreuk.com    



RICHARD COURT
FORESTRY ENGINEERING

**Sales, Servicing
and Repairs of all
Forestry Machinery**

Tel: 01483 208075

info@rcfengineering.co.uk

www.rcfengineering.co.uk

Specialising in excavator conversions for the forestry industry



**Tilhill
Forestry**

BSWGROUP member of binderholz

Our tree nurseries at Maelor specialise in supplying UK-grown trees with superior genetics to enhance growth, resilience, and timber quality.

Bioresecurity

Imported plants are the main pathway for invasive pests and disease; all the trees we supply are grown at Maelor throughout their life.

maelor.co.uk

Conservation

Our seed orchards are home to some of the rarest and most valuable native tree species, as well as the trees that will shape the future of UK forestry.

Innovation

We are pioneering research into tree breeding and husbandry, improving genetics, resilience, and adaptability to ensure a sustainable future for UK forestry.

Young talent at Tilhill Forestry drive innovation and sustainability

Graduates and apprentices take on business critical environmental challenges in partnership with Powering Futures.

Early career professionals from Tilhill Forestry have successfully completed a 14-week innovation challenge designed to explore and solve some of the most pressing sustainability challenges facing the forestry sector today.

As part of Tilhill's structured graduate and apprenticeship training programme, eight graduates and two apprentices took part in the challenge, developed and delivered in partnership with Powering Futures, a specialist skills provider for the future and young workforce.

Partnering with businesses to help them solve real time climate change challenges, Powering Futures tasks teams of 16–25 year-olds with solving a sustainability problem set by their employer and supports them in coming up with creative solutions through teamwork and climate skills.

Joseph Trodden, Programme Manager at Powering Futures, explained: "The apprentices didn't just come up with ideas, they presented solutions that

could genuinely transform operations. When you give young people the tools and trust to tackle real challenges, they deliver results that matter."

The 10 participants from Tilhill Forestry were tasked with developing practical solutions to real-world environmental problems currently being examined by the business – from reducing the use of single-use plastic in tree bag logistics, to enhancing the sustainability of operational practices across woodland creation and forest management.

Participant Alfie Bloor, Assistant Forest Manager (Graduate) at Tilhill Forestry, said: "The Powering Futures programme has encouraged me to build my networks across the business whilst also boosting my confidence in research, critical thinking and teamwork. I've most enjoyed getting to look at the business as a whole and making recommendations on innovations that can create real change at scale. That's really exciting."

Structured to complement the participants' working week, the Powering Futures Workplace Challenge enables them to dedicate focused time each week to collaborate in teams, conduct research, interview stakeholders, and develop business cases - culminating in presentations to senior leaders from Tilhill Forestry and BSW Group.

"This programme offered a fantastic

opportunity for our graduates and apprentices to engage directly with sustainability challenges that matter to the business," said Julie Fennikin, Group Learning and Development Manager at BSW Group, said. "The quality of ideas presented, and the confidence shown by our emerging talent, was exceptional. Their work has provided fresh insights and inspired active conversations within our leadership team about future innovation."

Among the proposals that were presented were laser-guided drone technology for precise crop measurement, long term soil rejuvenation through cover cropping, and practical steps to reduce or eliminate single-use plastic from tree logistics operations. These solutions combined environmental responsibility with commercial viability, offering fresh perspectives that had not previously been considered within the business.

Harry Stevens, BSW Group Forestry Director added: "It was fantastic to see our graduates and apprentices reflect on their own learning and teamwork styles throughout the programme, and how they grew in confidence as a group. What really stood out was how this experience encouraged them to build meaningful connections across the business - something that's incredibly valuable early in a forestry career."





Photo credits: Trees for Life

Unique Highland juniper forest given special European status in UK first

A Highland estate populated by juniper and silver birch has been recognised for its rewilding efforts and “dynamic conservation” techniques.

In a UK-first, a genetically unique juniper forest at Trees for Life's Dundreggan rewilding estate in the Scottish Highlands has been awarded a special European designation to protect and enhance its globally significant diversity.

The 10,000-acre estate in Glemoriston near Loch Ness now joins a European network of genetically important and well-managed sites classed as Gene Conservation Units – a status reserved only for long-standing native tree stands that meet specific criteria.

The network – managed in the UK by Forest Research – aims to ensure coordinated protection for the genetic diversity of tree species at a European scale. It brings together sites recognised for their protection of genetic diversity and natural processes.

Key parts of both the juniper and silver birch woodlands at Dundreggan have received the prestigious classification, adding to recognition of their importance and opening up opportunities for further scientific studies.

“This designation underlines why letting our ancient woodlands grow

back naturally is so important to us at Dundreggan, and it celebrates the remarkable remnants of naturally occurring and locally adapted juniper and silver birch that still survive on the estate,” said Gwen Raes, Trees for Life's Dundreggan Estate Manager.

“The unusually wet location for juniper, and the extreme westerly location of silver birch, have contributed to making their populations at Dundreggan very special. Through this designation and further management, we aim to ensure these unique woodlands secure the extra care and attention they need, so they are protected and enhanced going forwards.”

Also key to the designation is the estate's use of ‘dynamic conservation’ which helps protect the trees' genetic diversity. The land is being managed to encourage natural regeneration, enabling the trees to continuously adapt to their specific environment, including weather conditions and temperature.

Forest Research scientist Tom Sim, responsible for registering the UK's Gene Conservation Units, said: “The juniper and silver birch at Dundreggan are naturally occurring without historic planting, and have likely adapted to their local conditions over many generations.

“As a result, we would expect the stands to be representative of distinct genetic variation for each species at a UK and European level.”

Dundreggan has relatively high rainfall for juniper, and experts believe this could

have driven some local adaptation.

Juniper is a slow-growing evergreen shrub or small tree, with small blue-green needles and berries that ripen to a dark, blue-purple colour. It is more abundant in the drier, eastern part of the Highlands, where it reaches a larger size.

The species boosts biodiversity by providing shelter and food for a range of wildlife including insects, mammals and birds. Juniper is also valued for its culinary, medicinal and ritual properties, including use of its berries in game dishes and its role in producing gin.

Dundreggan is also at Europe's western edge of silver birch's natural range. This fast-growing species readily spreads over open ground, and supports many insects and other invertebrates, with over 300 species known to feed on it. The tree's roots draw up crucial nutrients, and its fallen leaves add richness to soil.

As part of the Gene Conservation Unit designation, Dundreggan's juniper and silver birch will be regularly monitored to ensure their survival, health and successful natural regeneration.

Visitors to Dundreggan and its acclaimed Rewilding Centre can explore the lush juniper and birch woodlands and enjoy walks along forest trails, including an accessible, low-level Juniper Path, known as Ceum an Aitinn in Gaelic. In total, the woodlands on the lower part of the estate are home to some 50,000 juniper and 80,000 silver birch.

Alba Trees and Re-Genus partner on fungi-fuelled natural solution

Alba Trees and Re-Genus Ltd have announced a partnership to scale a revolutionary, biogenic growing system called Woodland Grow. The initiative aims to produce over 5 million trees in the next three years to support the UK's climate targets and reshape how forestry is done – from seed to established woodland.

Backed by the Forestry Commission's Tree Production Innovation Fund, Re-Genus's 'Woodland Grow' system replaces synthetic fertilisers and peat with fungi-rich biology and sustainable, UK-sourced nutrition. It supports stronger, healthier and more resilient trees, and helps regenerate forest soils.

More than 1 million trees are already being grown in breathable, biodegradable paper pots produced by a Danish company Ellepot. Most have already been forward purchased by early adopters keen to trial the system. Gavin Adkins, CEO of Euroforest Silviculture, commented: "If this system consistently delivers higher survival and growth rates post-transplant, it's a game-changer for the economics of

reforestation and woodland creation."

The partnership has also launched an exclusive fertiliser pack for planting-team belts, supplied as 150-tree kits for the commercial tree-growing sector. It is designed for use at transplanting or during establishment and maintenance. Each tonne of synthetic nitrogen eliminated is estimated to save around five tonnes of CO₂e. Woodland Grow pellets are available for the coming planting season via Alba Trees.

Building on their early success, Alba Trees and Re-Genus are working to scale the Woodland Grow system to 5 million trees over the next three years. The partnership underscores both organisations' shared commitment to

sustainable forestry and responsible environmental stewardship.

Craig Turner, CEO of Alba Trees, said: "This partnership embodies everything we believe in – innovation, sustainability, and quality. By combining Alba's proven nursery systems with Re-Genus's microbiome expertise, we're growing trees with the future of the planet in mind."

Daniel Iddon, Founder of Re-Genus, added: "We are thrilled to scale up with Alba Trees after five years of research and development. By working with nature, we can improve survival rates, grow stronger trees, and regenerate forest soils – while tackling climate change"



New award announced to celebrate upskilling in forestry and wood processing in Wales

Lantra Wales provides vital expert training and qualifications for the environmental and land-based industries. To celebrate this, Lantra Wales are hosting an exclusive awards ceremony to be held on Thursday, 15 January 2026 at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells.

The awards ceremony will bring together other key partners, organisations, and individuals to recognise the initiatives, skills and enthusiasm of individuals pursuing careers within the environmental and land-based sectors.

Kevin Thomas, Director of Lantra Wales, said: "The Lantra Cymru Awards provide a platform to recognise and

celebrate the outstanding contributions that individuals have made in the environmental and land-based sectors in Wales.

"If you know an individual that's deserving of recognition in their field then please enter them and help celebrate this year's successes. We would like to encourage all individuals, colleges and organisations to get involved and get nominating now!"

"We also value the support of Farming Connect in helping to put these Awards on."

The categories span a wide number of land-based sectors and build on new projects operating in horticulture and animal health and welfare.

Categories include College Learner of the Year (20 years and under), College Learner of the Year (21 years and over), Farming Connect Learner of the Year, Farming Connect Horticulture Award, Farming Connect Farm Innovator Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A new category for 2025 is for the Forestry and Timber Processing sector. Lantra are looking to receive nominations for individuals who deserve recognition for their dedication towards upskilling and continued professional development.

The deadline for entries is 17 October 2025. Application information is available on the Lantra website.



INTRODUCING THE UK'S MARKET LEADING **SPIDER LIFT**

- ✓ EXCEPTIONAL BUILD QUALITY
- ✓ UNRIVALLED RELIABILITY
- ✓ DIESEL OR LITHIUM BI-ENERGY POWER
- ✓ EASY TO OPERATE
- ✓ SMART FEATURES TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND PRODUCTIVITY

THE TREE SURGEON'S FAVOURITE ► **HINOWA LIGHTLIFT 20.10 PERFORMANCE IIIS**

- Ⓜ WORKING HEIGHT: 20.10m
- Ⓜ WORKING OUTREACH: 9.7m
- Ⓜ POWER: Diesel/110v Cable
- Ⓜ TRANSPORT: 3.5t trailer



WHY CHOOSE HINOWA FROM APS

Access Platform Sales has proudly supplied Hinowa's **tracked equipment** to the UK arboriculture and forestry sectors for nearly 20 years.

They include **spider lifts** (13.3m to 40.2m), **minidumpers** (400kg to 2,875kg) and **forklifts** (1,600kg & 1,800kg).



Flexible finance packages so you get the machines you need within budget requirements



Attractive contract rental deals with fixed monthly payments that are tax deductible



Competitive service plans to keep your machines working safely and productively



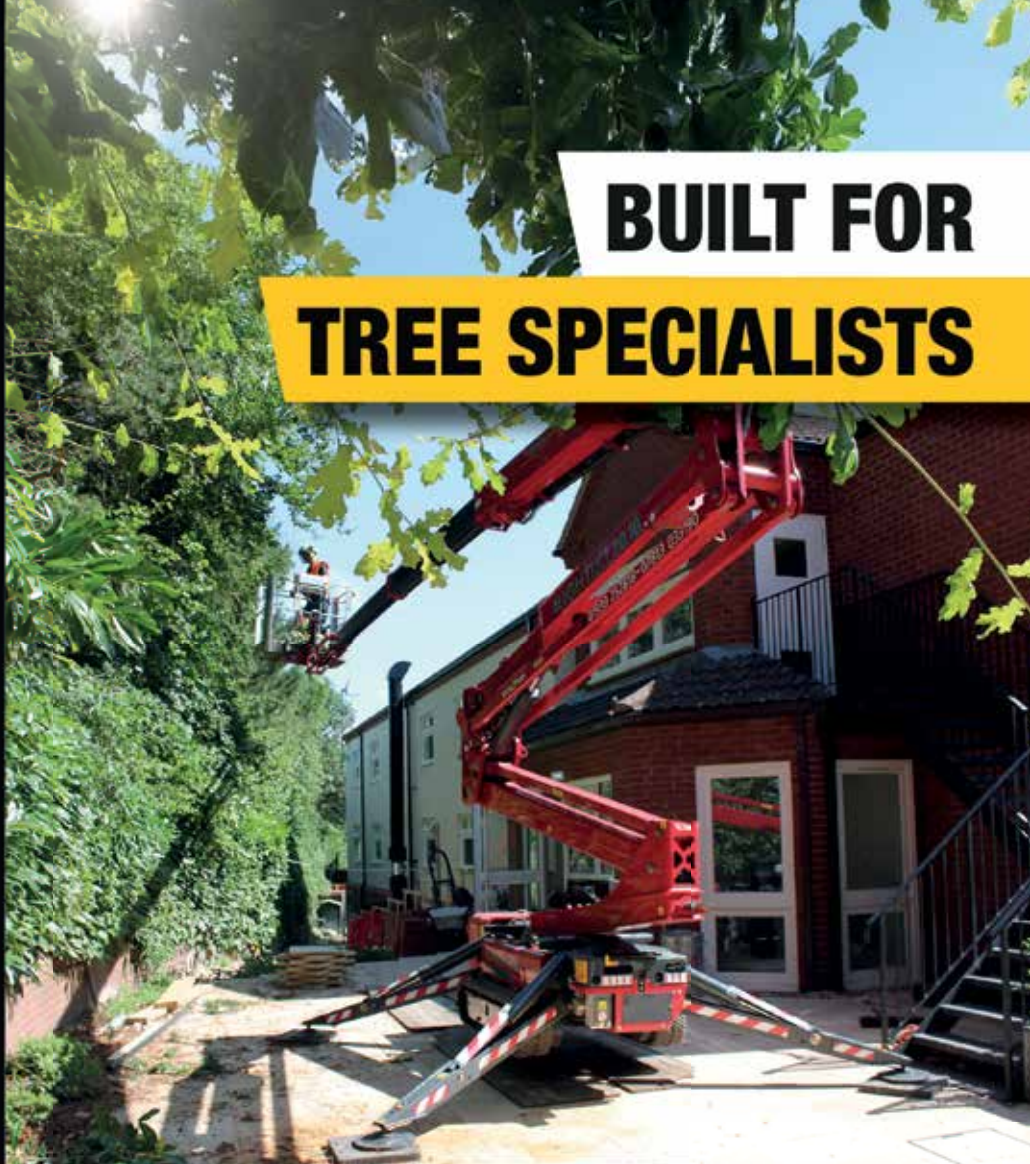
Mobile maintenance support delivered by our in-house team of experienced engineers



Talk to APS today or use the QR to browse the full Hinowa range
Call us on 01480 891 251 or email sales@accessplatforms.co.uk

Access Platform Sales Ltd - Leewood Business Park, Upton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. PE28 5YQ

BUILT FOR **TREE SPECIALISTS**



◀ **ULTIMATE VERSATILITY** **HINOWA LIGHTLIFT 18.80 PERFORMANCE IIIS**

- Ⓜ WORKING HEIGHT: 18.55m
- Ⓜ WORKING OUTREACH: 7.8m
- Ⓜ POWER: Diesel/Lithium Battery
- Ⓜ TRANSPORT: 3.5t trailer

- Silent and zero emissions for sensitive locations
- Saves fuel & ideal for renting for extra income



KOPPERS

Celcure®

RUNNING RINGS AROUND THE COMPETITION FOR SIXTY YEARS



Celcure® is the trusted high pressure wood preservative range from Koppers. Born from decades of research and technological innovation, Celcure® makes sure your timber lasts just as long.

Make sure it's treated right. Make sure it's treated with Celcure®.



Long-lasting protection for up to 30 years



Solutions for fencing and outdoor projects



Relied on for projects around the world for decades



Proven performance for Use Classes (UC) 1-4

Get in touch today

www.kopperspc.eu | kpc.uk.sales@koppers.eu | +44 (0)1628 486644



by Appointment to
His Majesty The King
Manufacturers Of Wood Preservatives
Protim Solignum Ltd
Marlow, Buckinghamshire

™Protim Solignum Limited trading as Koppers Performance Chemicals. Koppers is a registered Trademark of Koppers Delaware, Inc. Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information contained in this document, Protim Solignum Limited gives no undertaking to that effect and no responsibility can be accepted for reliance on this information. Information will be updated when the need arises. Please ensure you have an up to date copy. All products are produced by independently owned and operated wood processing facilities. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners. Koppers Performance Chemicals, Protim Solignum Limited, Jubilee House, Third Avenue, Globe Park, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1EY. Visit: www.kopperspc.eu, Email: kpc@koppers.eu, Call: +44 (0)1628 486644. Registered in England 3037845. © Copyright 2023



Fire visible from distance. Photo credit: Euroforest

Lessons learned in the wake of devastating wildfire

The rapid response of emergency services and skilled volunteers to recent Highland wildfires has been widely praised - but also raises questions about investment for future prevention and response support.

The largest wildfire Scotland has seen in modern times hit large parts of the Highlands and Moray last month, causing significant damage to new and existing woodland and moorland. Local landowners have praised the response of the firefighters, foresters and gamekeepers who came together to bring the fire under control.

According to the Scottish Wildfire Forum, two big fires, one near Carrbridge and the other on the Dava Moor, joined. The main run of the wildfires occurred in the period 28 June - 1 July.

The size of the fire has been estimated from two sources:

- EFFIS satellite information, indicating a total fire size of 9,664 ha (23,870 acres).
- Local sources of information compiled

into an updated map by Cawdor Forestry Ltd, showing a total fire size of 9,752 ha (24,087 acres), and a perimeter length of around 253 kilometres (157 miles).

This includes damage to around 8,716 ha (21,529 acres) of moorland and peatland and 1,036 ha (2,559 acres) of forest. Lost areas include a native Scots Pine forest, which provided important habitat for Capercaillie and Red Squirrels.

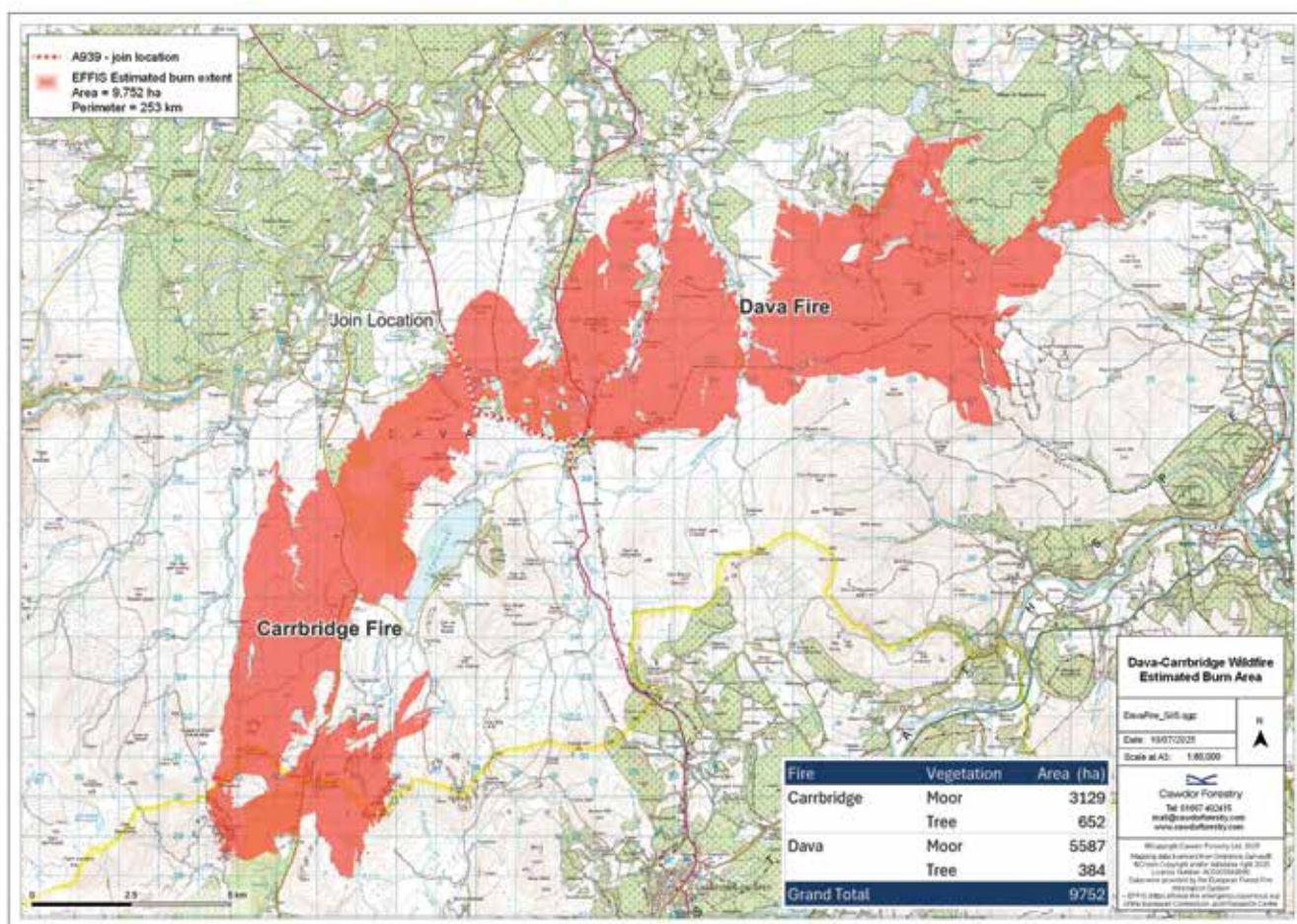
The scale of firefighting resources brought to bear was impressive. However, much of the equipment used in the immediate response was privately owned and operated, highlighting that the public sector is still not being appropriately resourced to tackle incidents of this scale. The helicopter that dropped water on otherwise inaccessible

terrain, for example, was paid for by the landowner.

Scottish Land & Estates (SLE) published a major report detailing the exceptional response by land-based and rural businesses. Prepared at the request of Scottish Government officials, the report reveals the extensive resources, manpower and expertise contributed by at least 33 businesses, including 27 estates.

The collective value of specialist firefighting equipment deployed by private land managers is conservatively estimated at £3.1 million, with over 100 employees engaged in the containment effort.

Ross Ewing, SLE Director of Moorland, said: "The Scottish Fire and >>



Map of fire

Rescue Service (SFRS) played a vital role in this incident, particularly in command, control and coordination, but the reality is that the majority of the hands-on firefighting was undertaken by gamekeepers – using their own equipment, experience and local knowledge.

“Without that rapid response from the land management community, the situation could have been far worse – and concerns remain that flareups could yet occur. Their efforts were exceptional, but we cannot rely on goodwill and geography to deliver a credible wildfire response.

“In this case, private investment by landowners in their employees

and specialist equipment averted a catastrophe. Ministers must recognise this when future spending decisions are made.

“Real weaknesses in our national resilience to wildfire have been laid bare in this incident. It took until Monday for helicopters to be deployed, despite requests being made over the weekend. That simply isn’t good enough in a situation where every hour counts.

“We also know that SFRS teams do not yet have universal access to the equipment and training needed to respond effectively to these fast-moving incidents. Firefighters across Scotland should receive regular training in the use of fire to backburn and create firebreaks.

The government must act now for the long-term - we need leadership, investment and a proper strategy.”

Thermal drone imaging technology operated by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and normally used to count deer, was used to identify and deal with remaining hotspots on Dava Moor.

Doug Harvey, FLS East Region Manager, said: “Although this fire was on neighbouring land to ours, it was of such a scale that it could have become significantly worse and endangered communities and lives.

“We responded to the call for assistance and provided some equipment, but our main contribution was piloting the thermal imaging drone to help locate the danger areas once the flames were out.

“Prior to the adoption of the hi-tech approach, ‘after-fire’ monitoring relied on the human eye detecting wisps of smoke or spotting smouldering vegetation, which could easily be missed on breezy days or in dense ground cover. We monitored the site of the Cannich fire in 2023 for about three months.

“Earlier detection and action to deal with the hotspots is going to result in a





Efforts to put out the fire. Photo credit: Euroforest

substantial reduction on the impact of peatland fires.”

Wildfires on peatland can often seem to be extinguished on the surface but can continue to burn in the peat to resurface at another place reigniting a fire days or even weeks later.

Overflying with a thermal imaging drone gives an immediate and highly accurate picture of where exactly dowsing and damping efforts should be targeted to swiftly put an end to the risk and prevent any further damage.

Reignited fires not only drain SFRS resources but also incur financial costs

for land managers in terms of lost revenue and recovery costs.

Peatland fires also release substantial levels of carbon emissions.

Forestry has a long history of planning for and dealing with fires; fire breaks are included in the design of new woodlands and forest roads give access to what are otherwise very inaccessible places. One of the methods used to fight this fire was the cutting a fire break through a woodland compartment, denying the fire more fuel.

In addition to making clear the case to urgently prioritise investment

in wildfire prevention and response, the critical role of trained land-based workers in responding to emergencies should also be emphasised.

Craig McGoldrick, Assistant Chief Officer at SFRS, said: “The SFRS have recently responded to large and challenging wildfires across Highland, Moray, and Aberdeenshire.

“The scale and complexity of the incidents resulted in a significant deployment of resources and expertise to the area.

“I would like to acknowledge and thank our partners, including Forestry and Land Scotland, who provided invaluable resources and support.

“Their assistance with additional equipment has significantly complemented our efforts on the ground.”

The loss of over 1,000 hectares of woodland comes as a blow after a poor planting year and will hopefully serve as a wake up to Government that in addition to planting more, we need to protect what we already have.

UNBEATABLE QUALITY • EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE



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



Small tractor and trailer fitted with grab and hoist to become a forwarder. Good for gathering firewood piles on easily worked sites.

Access for timber extraction



Julian Evans discusses the various kinds of access that need to be created in small woodlands for management and timber extraction.

I want to focus on this specific topic because in two recent field visits, I've gotten into conversation both with a purchaser of a new small (3.9 acre) wood and also visited a National Trust holding where getting at and extracting trees were challenging.

All woodland owners, large or small, need to have access to their trees if they want to sell timber, make silvicultural interventions or bring into management what may have suffered long neglect. In this way it links to the theme in this issue of Forestry and Timber News.

Access to woodland is, as we have often remarked, best considered as having two components: access to the wood from a public highway and access within from tracks, rides and even racks (temporary tracks spaced at intervals

through a stand for extraction vehicles to use).

In any woodland acquisition the first, access from the public highway, ought to be taken as a given as it is essential. Without such access, one is hugely restricted in management options. But what about internal access to get at the trees?

Getting machinery to a tree is affected by terrain, especially steepness of slope and obstacles like rocks, archaeological sites, streams and other water bodies and, very importantly, the soil type. The soil is critical because sandy soils or shallow ones over chalk drain freely and rarely lead to rutting in wet weather.

Conversely those that are clayey or silty can become quagmires and no joy for man or beast or machine! These 'difficult' soils are managed by extracting logs in dry conditions which usually means avoiding wintertime felling.

As to the kit to use, mechanical harvesters, forwarders for carrying logs from stump to stack, and extraction tractors vary hugely in size and capacity and hence manoeuvrability. And they vary hugely in cost per hour. Of course, all are right on the right site – big machines for big jobs of many thousands of cubic metres to be harvested.

But for small scale, even a single tree extraction such as a valuable oak or an outsize Douglas fir, not only will

traditional chainsaw felling (motor-manual) have to be used but extraction effected sometimes by winch or even horse.

There's another circumstance where extraction may be far from the norm. I'm thinking of those owners of small woodlands who source their own firewood. Since one can easily carry 1.2m (4ft) logs a few metres from within a stand to ride or track side – ones up to 10kg or double that by squatting and lifting to 'end over end' the logs – firewood is readily obtained. And the exertion of both cutting and then 'extracting' exercises and warms the operator long before the logs themselves warm them the next winter.

[Please don't take this advice as sanction to carry and extract logs in this way, you must be your own judge concerning health and safety – I'm just making the point of the variety of legitimate extraction activities.]

While mentioning health and safety, do avoid such woodland work in rain. It is not only unpleasant but makes the ground slippery and the risk of accidents and falls multiplied. One other observation on manual extraction is that species vary in how quickly they dry in the round when stacked.

Birch and sycamore dry quickly and so leaving logs a few months before carrying them out renders them significantly lighter, for ash and oak this is much less so.

Reaching heights safely



promax 
powered access → reaching heights safely

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



New Spider 20.95 ARB PRO

250kg cage capacity

20m working height

9.5m outreach

Separate cage control

One button auto-boom stow

GRP cage option



Promax Access Ltd

Unit 8, Acorn Phase 3,
High Street, Grimethorpe,
Barnsley, South Yorkshire S72 7BD

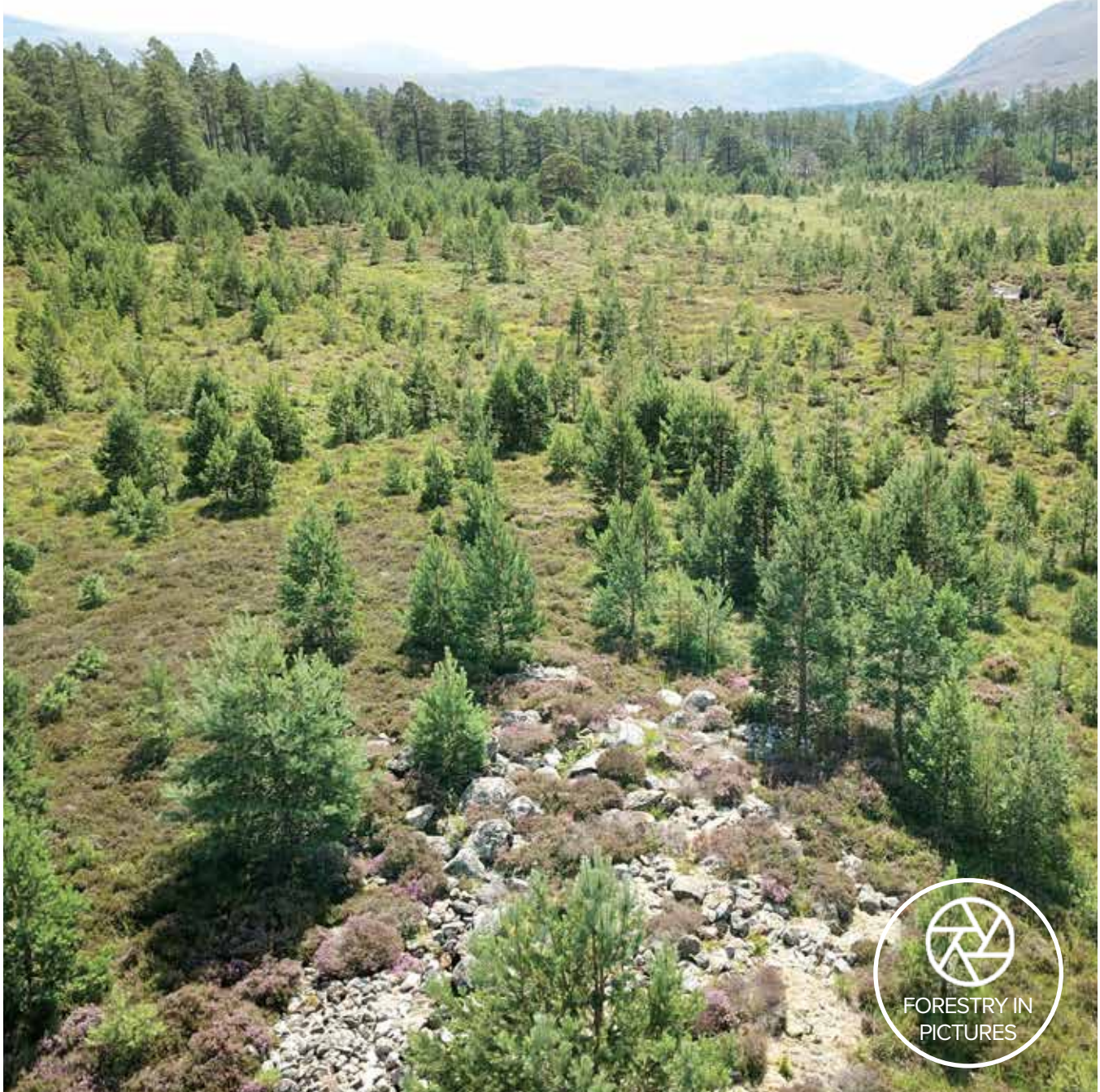
Email: **sales@promaxaccess.com**

Web: **www.promaxaccess.com**



Members of the
International Powered
Access Federation

Tel: **01226 716657**



Invercauld Estate in the Cairngorms has announced they have recorded over 2,000 acres of emerging new naturally regenerating native woodland.

The Estate has been measuring the areas where new naturally regenerating woodland has started to appear in a process using GPS and mapping technology since 2017.

Chief Executive Angus McNicol commented: "It is absolutely essential for us that our naturally regenerating woodland has not only environmental benefits but economic and social ones as well.

"All our woodlands are managed for multiple purposes including timber production, recreational stalking, public access and, in many places, agriculture. This multi-purpose land use is fundamentally important to ensure the socio-economic, as well as the ecological, sustainability of what we are doing."

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.

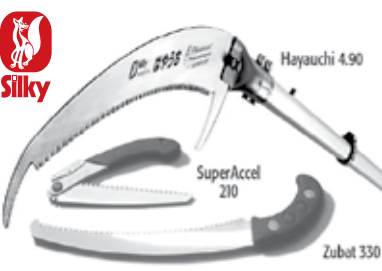
By submitting a picture to Forestry in Pictures you give Confor permission to use the file for non-commercial purposes in Forestry and Timber News or the Confor website. Photos will always be credited.

COMING UP IN OCT / NOV 25 – GET INVOLVED

In our October / November issue we will be focusing on Timber in Construction and Circular Economy. 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.

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

FORESTRY CONTRACTORS

SHROPSHIRE FORESTRY CONTRACTORS

WANTED

STANDING TIMBER ALL SPECIES INCLUDING SOFT WOOD
ALL SPECIES AND GRADES OF TIMBER AVAILABLE FOR DELIVERY

**ALSO OAK, ELM (PLAIN AND BURRS), BIG
ASH AND FIGURED SYCAMORE**
TOP PRICES AND PROMPT PAYMENT

CONTACT: JOHN HALL, FAIRACRES, COUNDMOOR,
CRESSAGE, SHREWSBURY SY5 6AY

Telephone: 01694 731621

Fax: 01694 731624 Mobile: 07802 366653

BIO-OILS

Plantoil
cares for the
environment



plantoil ...pure green
BIO-LUBRICANTS

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

FREEPHONE 0800 013 7363 www.plantoil.co.uk

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@wippletree.co.uk

*Make this space
work for your
forestry business*

**Call Danny on
01502 725862**

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

WANTED

LARCH SAWLOGS REQUIRED

**COLLECTED ROADSIDE OR
DELIVERED TO COUNTY DURHAM**

OFFICE - 01388 528362

MOBILE - 07802 949757

info@wardtimber.co.uk

unfogable mesh eye protection



www.meshsafetyglasses.co.uk

01254 377 467

CERTIFICATION

An independent FSC® &
PEFC Certified Forestry
Group Scheme

Providing UKWAS
certification to forest
owners throughout
the UK

UK FCG
Forest Certification
Group

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



Phil Webb: 07970 388940
ukfcg12@gmail.com
www.forestcertification.org.uk



SOUTHERN FIREWOOD PROCESSING DEMO DAYS



**SCAN
ME!**

JAS P WILSON
FOREST MACHINES

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR VISIT



POSCH
LEIBNITZ

AUTOLOGGER

Automatic Split, convert large diameter/Arb waste into logs



POSCH
LEIBNITZ

S-376

Hydraulic high-adjustable infeed.
Slewing outfeed, C.Saw, 37cm cut.



KRIPAN
reliably stronger

4218 PRO

42cm Cut, 2 Models: Circular Saw
or Bar & Chain, 18T Splitting.



4th - 6th September 2025



Watch these
Processors
cutting firewood.
+ Other Machines

Event Postcode:

GU33 6BJ

Free to attend
- Book today

Open 9am-4pm
- Daily



POSCH
LEIBNITZ

K-710 a-Vario

Automatic cut/split, up to 70cm.
Bar & Chain, 19T Splitting Force.



BOTEX

Loaders & Trailers

Latest spec 573 Loader + GR15
trailer will be working on site.

www.jaspwilson.co.uk

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