

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

February / March 2025 Issue 127

IN THIS ISSUE:

WOODLAND
MANAGEMENT

CONFOR DINNER &
AWARDS 2025

FUTURE OF
UK TIMBER

CHANGING WITH THE LANDSCAPE



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

CONTENTS



WOODLAND MANAGEMENT

- 6** Exploring the timber potential of emerging species
- 28** Restoring the Cornish Alps
- 30** **Mapping the Future:** How mobile apps and online systems are shaping forest data collection
- 36** Choices for those managing and creating woodland for biodiversity and wider environmental benefits
- 38** Are your business and lone workers weather ready?

CONFOR

- 10** Forestry and wood processing at the crossroads in Scotland
Member update:
A successful start to the year

CONFOR AWARDS 2025

- 12** Industry innovators, leaders and advocates among Confor awardees
- 16** **Top of the class:** This year's shortlisted nominees are driving change and leading the industry into tomorrow

POLITICAL UPDATE

- 20** Keeping the cycle going
- FIEPF**
- 23** Points of view on Confor's policy conference
- 26** Wildfire management brings the heat

MEMBER PROFILE

- 34** Looking at forestry through a different lens

LEGAL MATTERS

- 40** Managing staff during severe weather
- 41** Commercial opportunities for forestry and financial resilience

FOREST MARKET REPORT

- 42** Caution reigns in a fickle market

NEWS & UPDATES

- 44** Recommitment to the Timber in Construction Roadmap welcomed
- 45** Ardgay Game wins FLS contract for north of Scotland

- 46** Hundreds of funded places on UKFS e-learning programme
- 48** Welsh Government seeking sector input ahead of strategy launch
- 50** Homegrown seed to kickstart a new breeding generation
- 52** Collaborative efforts lead recovery after Storm Darragh
- 54** West coast log exports stop due to bark beetle risk
- 56** Scotland hit softer by Storm Éowyn than feared
- 58** Sycamore Gap saplings to spread hope throughout the nation
- 60** Forests with Impact launches first commercial tree nursery in UK prison
- 62** Over 22,000 trees planted across historic Staffordshire site
- 63** Consultation on Tree and Woodland Strategy at Eryri National Park

SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

- 64** The more things change, the more they stay the same

Weathering the storm



STUART GOODALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
CONFOR

These days devastating storms are given a name to help communicate impending danger. Perhaps we should apply the same approach to Trump presidencies?

Seriously though, Storm Éowyn has brought record winds to the island of Ireland and caused some dreadful damage to forests and big trees in Northern Ireland. This comes not long after Storm Darragh damaged forests in Wales and parts of England, and many areas in Scotland and England still show the scars of Storm Arwen. Looking overseas, fires have devastated parts of California and floods have hit Queensland, Australia.

Of course we hear of devastating weather-related events every year, but records are repeatedly being broken.

When a climate emergency was first announced, politicians provided clear explanations of the challenge and eNGOs were in the vanguard of those calling for swift progress.

Now, some politicians are pushing back against the “costs” of net zero and highlighting local opposition to investments in low-carbon infrastructure, while many environmental NGOs talk about ‘nature’ rather than climate – even though a warmer world will have devastating effects on nature.

In response we need to see political leaders restate the case for action, and in an honest

way – not all who lose their jobs will find new ones in low carbon industries and not all industries are as well-paid or economically impactful as, say, oil and gas.

In this context, the forestry and wood processing industry is one of the few sectors that is well placed to support communities faced with an industry in transition, namely agriculture. Meat consumption is reducing, there is downward pressure on annual subsidies, and we hear many stories of sons and daughters reluctant to take on the family farm.

Forestry can provide a higher value land-use that benefits such communities and wider society and provide a positive choice for the farmer who may wish to diversify or exit from farming.

England has announced a land-use consultation which provides the opportunity for our sector to promote this positive message, and Confor will facilitate members to respond to the consultation and organise an event in Westminster with our All-Party Group of politicians. Hopefully this will help stimulate debate and spur action by politicians in support of our low-carbon industry.

It won't stop the storms, but achieving net zero is vital if we are to break the cycle of weather records being broken and perhaps avoid a Storm Donald wreaking havoc on our forests.

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



Richard Hunter
Technical and Industry Support Manager
E: richard.hunter@confor.org.uk



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



April Armstrong
National Manager for Scotland
E: april.armstrong@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

Tustins



LLANFOIST WOOD

*Llanfoist, nr Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire*

24.51 acres / 9.92 ha

This PAWS site is a compact commercial woodland with timber ready to extract. Felling licence expires April 2026. Predominantly Norway Spruce & Western Hemlock with Oak, Ash & Beech. Situated on the old Monmouth & Brecon Canal.

Good access. Freehold.

Sporting rights owned and included

Guide price £200,000



LIND END WOOD

Broughton Mills, Cumbria

73.11 Acres / 29.59 Ha

Situated within the Lake District National Park, comprising a mix of bare land for restocking, woodland and grazing land. Stream and pond.

Roadside access.

Sporting rights reserved.

Freehold.

Guide price £400,000



PICKERING BECK WOOD

*Kingthorpe, Pickering,
North Yorkshire*

184.42 Acres / 74.63 Ha

Substantial area of maturing larch. Restocking includes Douglas Fir.

Sporting rights reserved.

Freehold.

Guide price £750,000



BLAEN WAUN

NR Lampeter, Ceredigion

26.20 Acres / 10.60 Ha

Principally p2005 Sitka Spruce plantation on a highly productive, flat, sheltered and watered site.

Estimates of YC 24-28 could be possible on this site.

Felling licence expires July 2025. Proven access from felling of previous Sitka Spruce crop.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Freehold.

Guide price £200,000



SIX YEWS WOOD

*Near Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire*

24.71 Acres / 10.00 Ha

Compact productive woodland, part of a larger complex.

Sitka Spruce with larch, Scots Pine & mixed broadleaves.

Good access. Freehold.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Guide price £140,000



COED PANT DU UCHAF

*Nr Pontypridd, Rhondda
Cynon Taf, South Wales*

27.76 Acres / 11.24 Ha

Planted 2017 with elite Sitka Spruce and now well-established with the crop showing excellent growth rates.

Estimated growth should be in excess of YC 24.

Good access.

Sporting rights owned and included.

Guide price £170,000



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

EXPLORING THE TIMBER POTENTIAL OF EMERGING SPECIES

The wood properties and utilisation potential of less widely planted species are important considerations for forest managers but, for many species, there is limited information available on their timber properties when grown in the UK.



Crown copyright, Forest Research.



Prepped for sawing

There is widespread interest in diversifying the range of tree species grown in British forests to increase resilience of both our forest landscape and our timber resource. Alternative species and silvicultural approaches are being explored to mitigate the risks of climate change impacts, such as the growing incidence of damaging pests and diseases, and to help to improve the biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services.

However, critically for productive forests, we need to ensure that the species planted will be suitable for future timber markets and contribute to future timber security.

Experimental trials, forest gardens and arboreta have provided some information on the growth rate and survival of many species that are not currently widely planted, but relatively little is known about their wood properties or their commercial potential when grown in the UK. The data that does exist is often from single trees or very small sample sizes grown in situations unrepresentative of productive forestry, which provides little information about the wood properties and their variation at a population level.

In recent years, Forest Research, in collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University, has started to investigate these properties systematically and provide initial insights into the timber potential of UK grown stands of lesser planted species. A first publication in 2016 examined the timber properties of Norway spruce, western hemlock, western red cedar and noble fir, at sites across the UK, finding that all species had the potential to produce sawn timber suitable for use in construction.

Now, focussing on a few representative stands, mostly in Scotland, they have built

on this research by collecting data related to the physical and mechanical properties of sycamore, silver birch, grand fir, Serbian spruce, European silver fir, Pacific silver fir, Japanese red cedar and Caucasian fir grown in Britain.

The testing stage

Stands were identified at Drumtochty Forest in Aberdeenshire, Grandtully Wood in Perthshire, Kilmun Forest Garden in Argyll, Drumlanrig Castle and Dockridding Wood in Dumfries and Galloway, and Thetford Forest in Suffolk.

Based on the distribution of stem diameters within sample plots, within a stand of a given species, a representative sample of trees were selected from across the range and felled for detailed further studies of their wood.

Sample trees were felled and one 3.1m sawlog was cut from each tree. The logs were processed into structural-sized battens. These were kiln-dried and conditioned to an equilibrium dry-basis moisture content of 12% before measurement with a handheld grader.

To determine stiffness and strength, the battens were then tested to destruction using a four-point bending test in accordance with British Standards EN 384 and EN 408. Wood density and moisture content were also measured on a defect-free sample cut from each batten after testing.

Due to limited resources, the destructive testing did not include the European silver fir or grand fir from Thetford. Values gained from the handheld grading tests were used to estimate sample density and bending test stiffness using standard adjustment factors while correcting for moisture content.

continued on p8



Harvested log



Sawn boards

“This research is a crucial step towards gaining acceptance in UK timber markets for emerging species and the promotion of their wider-scale deployment.”

Andrew Leslie, Head of Silviculture and Wood Properties at Forest Research.

continued from p7

Characteristic values of density, bending strength and bending stiffness were calculated according to EN 384 and compared to the requirements of the most common strength classes in EN 338.

Building potential

The results suggest that European silver fir, Pacific silver fir and Serbian spruce could all be graded into the C16 strength class, with a near 100% yield.

The grand fir tested in this study was limited by density and strength to the C14 strength class, with stiffness also borderline. However, the non-destructive measurement of the timber from Thetford suggests a larger sampling would produce better results.

Caucasian fir was limited by strength to about C14, however Caucasian fir from Turkey had much better visual grading assignments than the samples used in this study, with even the lowest visual grading class achieving C18.

Japanese red cedar fell below C14. This finding was similar to those from the Azores, where the timber achieved C14 by machine grading.

When silver birch and sycamore were graded against the softwood ‘C’ strength classes, they met the requirements of C40 and C20 respectively. Neither species, however, graded well in the hardwood ‘D’ strength classes, being limited by density to D30 and D18 respectively.

That these hardwoods do not fit well into the established hardwood strength classes is not unusual since these classes were developed for relatively higher density and more commonly exploited hardwoods such as oak and sweet chestnut (although sycamore grown in Germany can be visually graded to D30).

This is an emerging issue across Europe now that more varied hardwood species are coming to market and is the reason why ‘C’ strength classes were opened up to lower density hardwoods in 2016.

Conclusions

The small number of trees tested in this project, as well as the single geographic location for most species sampled, limits the conclusions that can be drawn about the utilisation potential. However, results indicate that several of the conifer species tested could potentially be blended into

the ‘British spruce’ C16 market because the timber is similar in appearance, properties and grading.

European silver fir, Pacific silver fir and Serbian spruce appear the most promising of the species studied in this project, while grand fir is also perhaps worth investigating further given its importance as a commercial species in North America.

Along with noble fir, western red cedar, western hemlock and Norway spruce, which were found to produce high yields of C16 timber, these species, if found suitable, could be considered as potential structural timber for the UK market.

Interestingly, a recent study found that grand fir, noble fir, western red cedar and western hemlock were all assessed as having General Yield Class (GYC) estimates which were similar to Sitka spruce under a range of site conditions. European silver fir, Pacific silver fir, Caucasian fir and Japanese red cedar were estimated as having a GYC no more than three classes below Sitka spruce under some conditions.

The task of bringing a wider range of species to the market for structural timber is large, and this early exploratory work is the first stage in determining where future research effort should be targeted.

The resources required for a full-strength grading assignment of a species under the current system are substantial. Since some of these new species, particularly hardwoods, do not fit well to established strength class profiles, the need to adapt standards and industry practice should be considered.

The full ‘Timber properties of species with potential for wider planting in Great Britain’ Research Note was published by Forest Research in December 2024.



Largest UK supplier of tree planting materials

We are fully stocked for the season ahead

Green-tech offer a huge range of shelters, guards, spirals, stakes, canes and sundries, and is the largest official distributor of Tubex shelters.

We're consistently at the forefront of innovative and sustainable tree planting solutions, with products such as Woodland Grow, a new natural fertiliser derived from woodland soils.

With products in stock and ready for dispatch, we're here to help with fast and flexible delivery options, competitive pricing and excellent customer care as standard. Contact us today!



Committed
to sustainable
solutions



Huge range of
tree planting
products



Largest official
distributor of
Tubex shelters



Always at
the forefront
of innovation



Recycling service
for used shelters
and spirals



Excellent
customer care
as standard

Order today by calling **01423 332100**
or order online at **www.green-tech.co.uk**

✉ sales@green-tech.co.uk ✉ [@greentechltd](https://www.instagram.com/greentechltd) [f @greentechuk](https://www.facebook.com/greentechuk) [in green-tech-ltd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/green-tech-ltd)



Forestry and wood processing at the crossroads in Scotland

Confor has partnered with leading Scottish law firm Brodies LLP to host a conference examining the future of forestry in Scotland at a time of major challenge and change.

Forestry and Wood Processing at the Crossroads' will feature speakers from the world of forestry and a political panel – a year before the next Scottish Parliament elections.

The conference - to be held on Wednesday 21 May at Brodies' Capital Square offices in Edinburgh – will examine barriers to woodland creation, and how they can be overcome to secure future timber supply.

Stuart Goodall, Chief Executive of Confor, who will speak at the event, said: "Forestry and wood processing is a modern-day success story in Scotland, adding £1.1 billion annually to the economy, investing heavily in rural communities and making a huge contribution to the country's 2045 net zero target.

"However, industry growth has relied on increasing availability of wood, but that supply is forecast to fall in coming decades - so we're at a crossroads."

He added: "The decision to slash the woodland creation budget for 2024-25 damaged confidence, and without that new source of future wood, the whole supply chain faces difficult questions on whether to invest further in Scotland.

"There are also continuing concerns about inconsistent application and approval processes, and ever-changing standards, regulations and grant rules.

"Falling confidence could see investment leak from Scotland. To avoid that, we need clear policy and settled funding from Governments in Scotland and London."

Graeme Leith, Rural Business and Natural Capital Partner at Brodies LLP, said: "It's a pivotal moment for the forestry sector.



Brodies' Capital Square offices in Edinburgh

"Forestry and wood processing is a modern-day success story in Scotland, adding £1.1 billion annually to the economy"

Stuart Goodall,
Chief Executive of Confor

There is broad political and industry consensus that timber should be increasingly used in UK construction, at a time when there are ambitious targets for new housing. That clearly requires a focus on domestic timber production.

"This conference will be a chance to hear from, and engage with, key industry figures who will share their insights, views and ideas, on both the challenges and the opportunities for the sector."

The conference will be followed by a workshop on new contract templates for regulating the sale and purchase of carbon

units from carbon sequestration projects, registered under the Woodland Carbon Code and the Peatland Code. Scottish Forestry has worked with three legal firms, including Brodies, on the development of these contracts.

"The project aims to encourage more landowner participation in carbon sequestration schemes, and increase the number of such schemes across the UK," said Mr Leith.

Bookings for the conference and workshop will be available via the Confor website from early March.

MEMBER UPDATE

A successful start to the year



Eliza Hibbins-Cline,
Membership &
Marketing Manager

Happy 2025! A big thanks to those who continually support Confor, your loyalty enables us to push forward in the forestry industry!

Our Confor Dinner and Awards 2025 has now been and gone, a great evening as usual and a highlight of the year for the team; to be surrounded by members and those who are doing amazing work in the industry! For those who couldn't attend,

there will be another chance in 2026!

You should have now received and are hopefully enjoying our new notebook. If you haven't and would like one, please email eliza@confor.org.uk. If you have any suggestions on what future merchandise you would like to see from Confor, please share ideas with members@confor.org.uk.

On behalf of Confor, I wish you a successful year ahead!

**STIHL**

GET IT DONE WITH BATTERY.



Experience unprecedented performance with STIHL's extensive range of professional grade battery-powered tools for commercial users.

IPX4 certification lets you continue working with confidence in the rain. Long-lasting smart batteries deliver consistent power throughout the whole battery charge. And fast chargers deliver quick recharge times so you and your tools are always ready for the job.

MSA 300 CHAINSAW



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

APIII
SYSTEM



**Mairi
Gougeon
MSP**



**Confor
Chief
Executive
Stuart
Goodall**



Industry innovators, leaders and advocates among Confor awardees

Future forestry leaders, great communicators and inspiring innovators were honoured alongside a dedicated servant of the industry at Confor's annual centrepiece for the forestry calendar.

Speaking ahead of the Awards ceremony, held at Surgeons Quarter, Edinburgh on Wednesday 19 February, Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall said that the organisation is proud to promote the voices driving the industry towards the future with new technologies, ways of working, ambitions for environmental change, and a higher profile for forestry and timber in the public sphere.

Welcoming guests, he commented on the constant progress being made and highlighted the good messages for forestry shared in the First Minister John Swinney's climate change speech at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens earlier that day.

Attendees at the awards dinner also heard from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands Mairi Gougeon MSP. She said: "Forestry is a green powerhouse. It drives progress towards net zero in all forms, it tackles biodiversity loss, it supports our communities,

but it's also so vital for our wider economy in Scotland.

"We need a vibrant industry that has that confidence and is continuing to invest, building on its reputation for innovation and adding value; an industry that's adaptable and one that is prepared to explore opportunities to compete on a global stage too.

"I want to offer congratulations to all of those who have been nominated for an award tonight and recognise the work that all of you do. Those showing leadership, driving innovation, conducting research and developing skills are really leading the way for the wider industry. A massive well done to all of you."

Ms Gougeon also touched on the Woodland Creation Route Map published by Scottish Government earlier this month and announced her intention to host a Forestry Strategy Summit later in 2025.

A number of MSPs from across parties and constituencies were also invited to

attend and engage with the industry representatives delivering for economic and environmental goals across the country. Arianne Burgess MSP, Finlay Carson MSP, Rhoda Grant MSP, Daniel Johnson MSP, Edward Mountain MSP, Colin Smyth MSP and Brian Whittle MSP were all in attendance.

The winners

The Building Industry Resilience Award was presented for the first time this year to recognise the need for the industry to

continued on p15

SCIBERSCROSS FOREST

Near Brora, Sutherland, Scotland

957.60 Hectares / 2366.25 Acres

FOR SALE

Offers over £8,500,000

- An outstanding forestry investment opportunity with a significant volume of mature timber ready for felling
- One of the largest and most productive commercial conifer forests to be offered to the market in Northern Scotland
- Spectacular location in a highly scenic area of Sutherland in the Scottish Highlands
- Opportunity for peatland restoration and wind development, subject to consents



CONTACT:

Patrick Porteous
+44 (0)7444 559510

Harry Graham
+44 (0)7375 823528



LANDFOR
CHARTERED LAND & FORESTRY AGENCY
www.landfor.co.uk

W: www.landfor.co.uk E: info@landfor.co.uk



MOBILE SAWMILLS • STATIONARY SAWMILLS • WIDE SAWMILLS



Since 1982, Wood-Mizer has brought personal and portable sawmills to people all over the world who want the freedom of sawing their own lumber for projects or profits. Engineered for performance and quality, Wood-Mizer offers a complete line of sawmills for woodworking hobbyists to full-time sawmill operators. Stationary or portable, manual or hydraulic, standard or wide, monorail or twin rail, it's your choice and it's all available from Wood-Mizer.

NOW SHOP ONLINE! - BLADES AND SPARE PARTS



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

info@woodmizer.co.uk 01622 813 201

woodmizer.co.uk



Wood-Mizer
from forest to final form



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    



Maelor Forest Nurseries specialises in supplying UK-grown trees with superior genetics to improve growth, resilience and timber quality.

Biosecurity

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. Our state-of-the-art laboratory in Wales is the only one of its kind in Europe.



Part of Tilhill Forestry - the UK's leading sustainable forestry and timber harvesting company

The Remote Control for Power, Performance & Strength!



01432 274361

For Full Product Range, Visit www.votex.co.uk

CONFOR AWARDS 2025

continued from p12

futureproof itself through innovation, education and collaboration. This award was sponsored by Forestry Commission and Forestry & Land Scotland.

The winner was the ICF Emerging Leader Programme, which has been developed by the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) in partnership with Clore Social Leadership. It is designed to help leaders in the forestry sector build their potential, strengthen their networks and drive social, environmental, and organisational change for the long-term benefit of the forestry sector.

Now in its fifth year, the Changing Attitudes Award is sponsored by Scottish Woodlands Ltd and is given to an organisation or individual going above and beyond to promote forestry and wood beyond the bounds of the industry.

Paul Brannen, Director of Public Affairs for CEI-Bois & EOS, received the accolade in recognition of his efforts to get the new Government to recognise the significance of embodied carbon in the built environment. The judges drew special attention to his 2024 book ('Timber! How wood can help save the world from climate breakdown') as a well-researched, well-structured argument for the greater use of timber, and why this means far more wood-producing forests must be planted.

The Tom A Bruce-Jones Memorial Award for Future Leader in the Forest Industry was awarded to Cora Pfarre MICFor, Head Forester at Maydencroft Limited, by sponsors James Jones & Sons.



A number of MSPs attended

Since joining Maydencroft, one of Cora's great achievements has been to develop and deliver forestry training courses on behalf of the Greenskills Training Academy, for internal staff and external candidates. She is passionate about education and mentorship, and is known for taking a huge amount of pride in her team.

CarbonStore Ltd sponsor the Net Zero Award, which is presented to an individual or organisation making a specific and measurable contribution to the forestry and wood industry's efforts to deliver the UK's net zero ambitions.

It was received by NexGen Tree Shelters Ltd, whose tree guards ensure wool is used sustainably in a circular economy model for broadleaf trees grown in perpetuity, improving biodiversity, water quality and landscape value.

The title of ICF Professional Forester of the Year 2025 was also awarded on the night, recognising the contributions made by Chartered Arboriculturists or Chartered Foresters to the betterment of forestry on a community, regional, national or international level.

Winner Peter Wharton MICFor, Director of Wharton Natural Infrastructure Consultants, has championed inclusivity within the profession and challenged stigmas around neurodiversity. He has raised awareness and fostered a culture of acceptance through advocacy and sharing his own experiences.

Confor extends our congratulations to all winners and nominees, and our gratitude to the sponsors mentioned here, as well as Green-tech Ltd and the University of Cumbria for supporting the event.



THE CONFOR DEDICATED SERVICE TO FORESTRY AWARD

Confor's highest honour was bestowed upon John Paterson, Manager at EGGER Group UK. John has held numerous roles within the forestry arm of EGGER over the last 37 years and his name has long been synonymous with the brand, the panel board sector, and the wider timber processing and UK forestry industry as a whole.

Confor Chair Lord Duncan of Springbank applauded John's contribution to the industry, from being a founding member of the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) and supporting both the Wood Panel Industry Federation and the Timber Transport Forum (TTF), to constant advocacy in regulatory and political circles.

His dedication to a thriving productive forestry sector the use of homegrown timber has even extended to his own home, with restoration and housebuilding pro-

jects taking up his free time.

John has always been a great supporter of young people coming into the industry, from working with the higher education sector and personally recruiting and training new talent. He is a people person and many figures from across the UK's forestry and timber landscape consider him a close friend.

Accepting the award, he made reference to a health setback several years ago that saw him step into his current Public Affairs role with EGGER. Despite the odds, John's energy and appreciation of the 'big picture' remain undiminished and he continues to fight the good fight for all aspects of sustainable forestry and timber processing.



THE BUILDING INDUSTRY RESILIENCE AWARD

*Sponsored by Forestry Commission
and Forestry & Land Scotland*

ICF EMERGING LEADER PROGRAMME (WINNER)

Developed in partnership with Clore Social Leadership, the Emerging Leader Programme is designed to help leaders in the forestry sector build their potential, strengthen their networks and drive social, environmental, and organisational change for the long-term benefit of the forestry sector.

Despite being a relatively recent initiative, more than 125 key forestry figures have been involved, either as a participant, mentor or interviewer, shaping the future of leadership in the sector.

BYRON BRAITHWAITE MICFOR

Assistant Regional Manager, Scottish Woodlands Ltd

Byron's research, conducted outside his day job, is extensive and crucial to the future resilience of the forestry and wood industry. He has investigated the likely effects of drought and fire on the UK forest industry and is identifying solutions that could significantly improve survival rates of new planting.

His ambition is to enhance public awareness of fire safety messaging, by supporting educational initiatives and creating programmes for outdoor enthusiasts.

MAELOR FOREST NURSERIES

Maelor Forest Nurseries is a pioneering leader in the forestry sector, leveraging advanced vegetative propagation techniques to enhance tree stock resilience against climate change, pests, and diseases.

Maelor integrates advanced technologies such as DNA barcoding and controlled pollination to capture and accelerate genetic gains. In particular, the somatic embryogenesis laboratory significantly reduces the time from seed to saleable plants, which is vital in addressing challenges posed by a changing climate.

TOBY PARKES

Founder & CEO, Rhizocore Technologies

Rhizocore Technologies produce locally-adapted mycorrhizal fungi to enhance tree planting success. They have worked to troubleshoot the issues seen in similar



ICF Emerging Leader Programme Team
with Richard Stanford & Kevin Quinlan

TOP of the CLASS

This year's shortlisted nominees are
driving change and leading the industry
into tomorrow

past applications and tailor solutions for each planting site, ensuring the best possible result for customers.

The scientific rigour the company dis-

plays is exemplary, driven by literature and data. Rhizocore is enabling foresters to see potential in poorer quality land for tree planting due to their positive impact.



THE CHANGING ATTITUDES AWARD

Sponsored by Scottish Woodlands Ltd

PAUL BRANNEN (WINNER)

Director of Public Affairs, CEI-Bois & EOS
Paul's 2024 book 'Timber! How wood can help save the world from climate breakdown' is a well-researched, well-structured argument for the greater use of timber, and why this means far more wood-producing forests must be planted.

He has used his book as a platform to make a detailed case for the industry and communicate effectively with a wide range of interest groups - especially politicians, environmentalists, and the housing and construction sector.

TOM COATES MICFOR

Area Harvesting and Supply Manager, James Jones & Sons Ltd

Tom has been a champion for sustainable timber production by educating online audiences through informative posts, on-site videos, and commentary on current events in the sector. He has been a constant advocate for best harvesting practice and promotes the use of timber at industry events.

His content on LinkedIn is accessible and easy to digest for newcomers to forestry subjects and frequently provides thoughtful insight on the perceptions of the industry.

THE FORESIGHT SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

The programme was launched in the summer of 2022 to help young people within rural Welsh communities gain employment in forestry in their local areas, where forestry and land-use change has previously been viewed negatively locally and in the national press.

Initiatives like the Foresight Sustainable Forestry Skills Training Programme are vital for engaging this future workforce, providing an education on the benefits of forestry, and imparting the necessary skills to thrive in the industry.

>>

"PAUL'S BOOK 'TIMBER! HOW WOOD CAN HELP SAVE THE WORLD FROM CLIMATE BREAKDOWN' IS A WELL-RESEARCHED, WELL-STRUCTURED ARGUMENT FOR THE GREATER USE OF TIMBER."

Paul Brannen

ICF PROFESSIONAL FORESTER OF THE YEAR

PETER WHARTON MICFOR (WINNER)

Director, Wharton Natural Infrastructure Consultants

As a Professional Membership Examination (PME) assessor, Peter has worked tirelessly to break down barriers within the ICF for individuals with neurodiverse conditions. His advocacy has led to significant process changes, including the introduction of a neurodiversity declaration option and a dedicated budget for assessor training.

Peter's open sharing of his own experiences has raised awareness and fostered a culture of acceptance, helping to dismantle stigmas in the profession. His efforts have directly

influenced how forestry and arboricultural professionals are supported.

KATH MCNULTY MICFOR

Team Leader, Forest Operations, North West, Natural Resources Wales

Kath is an innovative and influential leader in forestry, consistently delivering high standards in her operations.

At the request of the Welsh Government, Kath led the implementation of recommendations from a Woodknowledge Wales report on adaptive forest management. She organised a pivotal workshop that initiated significant changes in forestry practices.

Her ability to look outside the

forest fence for solutions exemplifies her ability to view landscapes as dynamic, integrated mosaics, making her a standout leader in the field.

MARK CHILD MICFOR

Programme Manager, Great Northumberland Forest

As Programme Manager for the Great Northumberland Forest since 2019, Mark has significantly increased tree cover and promoted forestry to rural and farming communities.

Mark is also a dedicated STEM Ambassador, positively influencing young people's and teachers' perceptions of forestry. Additionally, Mark's work on the ICF North England Member Network Committee has been instrumental in organising and delivering events that promote the ICF and significant topics within the forestry sector.



THE TOM A BRUCE-JONES MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE FUTURE LEADER IN THE FOREST INDUSTRY

Sponsored by James Jones & Sons

CORA PFARRE MICFOR (WINNER)

Head Forester, Maydencroft Limited

Throughout Cora's career, she has shown enthusiasm and ambition to progress while expanding her knowledge and experience with every role. She is passionate about education and mentorship, and has always received glowing reviews from any training she has delivered on behalf of Maydencroft's Greenskills Training Academy.

Across her team and the wider company, she inspires very high standards and expectations around client and project management, and always leads by example.

JULIA HENRIKSSON

Utilities Contract & Environmental Manager, Scottish Woodlands Ltd

Julia has demonstrated great initiative outside her day-to-day role by taking a holistic approach to her work, linking together forestry management, utilities work and environmental considerations in a strategic and innovative way.

This has allowed Julia and her colleagues to give more detailed ecological advice to clients and made her a more effective, well-rounded and collaborative manager overall.

BRYONY HEWETSON WARD

Business Change Manager, Forestry and Land Scotland

Bryony has been major force in delivering transformational change in FLS's land management operations. Her contributions have seen her challenging norms, sharing research, supporting senior leadership, and stepping up to establish and bring structure and clarity to new work programmes.

She is hugely passionate about driving positive change in the forestry sector and her background leading diverse teams and managing complex projects has brought a fresh perspective to the industry.



Cora Pfarre

Gary Hurlstone,
NexGen Founder and MD

ROBBIE MACDONALD

Scotwood Macdonald Ltd

Robbie has been instrumental in leading the implementation of efficient and safe systems of work within the business. He has built Scotwood Macdonald to become the go-to choice for mensuration and drone surveys.

Robbie has grown the company and is looking to further expand, showing the leadership required to develop an effective team. He is also heading a cross-industry discussion about safety, in particular with respect to mountain rescue in forested areas.

Matt has taken Forwoods Forestry & Woodland Consultancy Ltd to Net Zero for Scopes 1 and 2 in the last year and is committed to the cause of reducing carbon emissions throughout the business.

The significant positive impact Forwoods has had on advancing its Net Zero goals along with their efforts in woodland creation, which have not only reduced their own environmental footprint but have also contributed to increased carbon sequestration and reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

YVONNE EDWARDS

Forest and Peatland Development Manager, The University of Edinburgh

Yvonne has been instrumental in the development of the University's Forest & Peatland Programme which involved purchasing three sites and entering long-term partnerships to create woodland and restore peatland over 4,500ha.

Yvonne has worked closely with local communities to ensure the woodland design delivers multiple benefits for enhancing biodiversity, celebrating local cultural heritage, and teaching and research opportunities.

THE NET ZERO AWARD

Sponsored by CarbonStore Ltd

NEXGEN TREE SHELTERS LTD (WINNER)

NexGen tree guards ensure wool is used sustainably for broadleaf trees grown in perpetuity to improve biodiversity and water quality and landscape value. This circular economy model of wool to tree to landscape amenity allows Scotland to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

As a company, they have been strong advocates for Net Zero goals, not just by replacement of plastic in the environment, but also through supporting other organisations and groups.

MATT BROCKLEHURST MICFOR

Director, Forwoods Forestry & Woodland Consultancy Ltd

THE PALLET LOOP

Providing a greener, leaner, safer, smarter way of transporting building materials, The Pallet LOOP is shifting UK construction from the current approach of 'delivering, distributing and discarding' pallets to the principles of 'recover, repair, reuse'.

The company's distinctive green reusable pallets are now transporting bagged plaster and plasterboard products for British Gypsum – one of the biggest building material manufacturers in the UK.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FORESTRY

See us at
**ICF ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2025**

PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

The University of Cumbria is home to the National School of Forestry and has a strong reputation for producing award-winning, professional graduates who now occupy some of the most senior positions in the forestry and woodland sector.

To discuss your training needs and how to sponsor learners on the apprenticeship, request a call from our business team.

Email: apprenticeships@cumbria.ac.uk

Visit: cumbria.ac.uk/professional-forester

Call: 01228 888726



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO

Keeping the cycle going

With a new UK government still setting their course and parties in Scotland and Wales beginning to gear up for the 2026 elections, it is a critical period for long-term prospects of the industry, explains Confor's **Jon Garson**.

As outlined in our 2025 Business Plan, we are continuing our efforts to engage with elected officials in all nations and ensure that the sector's voice is heard. As part of this ongoing work, our CEO Stuart Goodall appeared before the Holyrood Rural and Island Affairs Committee as part of a panel discussion on forestry and woodland management in Scotland towards the end of 2024.

In addition to our ongoing program of site visits for elected officials, we also held our first MSP Political Forestry Dinner. The first was with the Scottish Conservatives and was a huge success with over one third of the caucus in attendance, including party leader Russell Findlay. This format allowed for a constructive dialogue between members and MSPs and the building of relationships that will serve the sector well in the coming months.

We will be looking forward to replicating this success with the other parties at Holyrood and intend for these dinners to become a key element of our public affairs calendar.

Elsewhere, Scottish Labour produced a document soliciting opinions on which issues should be included in their 2026 Manifesto. While Confor made comments in response to this document, the full range of issues we will focus on in the coming campaigns will be determined through a policy consultation process with members.

In Wales, we continue to move forward on the establishment of a Cross-Party Group in the Senedd and to engage members in a consultation on the Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy. This will need a high level of active engagement as the recent political turmoil in Wales has left a lot of uncertainty for productive forestry.

In terms of the UK, we are beginning to see di-

rection from the Labour Government on issues that directly impact the sector. Both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister have made a number of public comments reiterating the government's commitment to economic growth being their number one mission.

This follows some disappointing growth figures for the UK economy. Figures published by the Office of National Statistics showed monthly real gross domestic product (GDP) to be estimated to have grown by 0.1% in November 2024 (largely because of a growth in services), following an unrevised fall of 0.1% in October 2024. Real GDP is estimated to have shown no growth in the three months to November 2024, compared with the three months to August 2024.

While this level of growth is in-keeping with many European nations, they have played into a media narrative about a lack of business and public confidence in the

progress being made on the government's commitment to economic growth.

While the government has looked to stimulate immediate growth by announcing a number of 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects to drive regional growth they have also begun to look at long term structural impediments to growth. These areas are potentially significant for the forest and wood use sectors.

A key area that has emerged as a focus for government is planning and regulatory reform as a prerequisite for delivering economic growth. Of particular interest to our sector will be an internal regulatory review at the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) led by economist Dan Corry. A core focus of this review is to examine whether the regulatory landscape is fit for purpose and whether regulators are equipped to drive economic growth.

Confor welcomes the commitment to removing unnecessary bureaucracy while maintaining essential environmental protections. For many years, Confor has raised concerns about how increasing regulatory barriers are making it harder for the forestry sector to grow and invest. To allow the sector to play its role in meeting the government's economic and environmental objectives, we will be engaging with officials to ensure the issues of the industry are recognised.

In a separate announcement the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed has launched a "national conversation" on Land Use in England. The importance of productive use of land has never been greater. We have increasing demand on a finite land base that requires new approaches focused on a more collaborative model centred around best and most productive use.

Though the focus of the consultation places significant emphasis on protecting agricultural land, the new approach envisaged by government will need to recognise the key role forestry plays in land use across England. Confor will be working with members to develop a response to the consultation and to ensure members' voices are heard, including at the workshops that will be held as part of the process.

This all means a busy period across the UK for Confor and our members.

We will be working hard to provide the resources and tools needed for members to be proactive in delivering a coordinated set of positions that lay out the value of investing in the forestry and wood use sectors.



Steve Reed.
Secretary
of State for
Environment,
Food and
Rural Affairs

**Scottish
Conservatives
party leader
Russell Findlay.**



**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



EXETER CHARCOAL
Makers of the Exeter Retort



The Exeter Retort is available to order.

Produces high quality barbeque
charcoal/biochar in a fraction of the
time taken by traditional ring kilns.

07515 683908

www.carboncompost.co.uk

admin@carboncompost.co.uk



SURREY FORESTRY LIMITED

Established over 20 years ago, Surrey Forestry Ltd
provide a full range of professional arboriculture, forestry
and groundwork services for commercial
and domestic clients.

- Biomass
- Forestry services
- Logs for sale
- Sawmilling
- Site clearance
- Tree surgery
- Vegetation clearance
- Woodland management

Based in Surrey, we also
cover Hampshire, Kent,
Sussex and all locations
in or around the M25.



Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



authorised

01483 285951

info@surreyforestry.co.uk | www.surreyforestry.co.uk
Tollgate Farm, Guildford Road, Effingham, Surrey, KT24 5QL

Growing Timber in Fine Mesh Shelters



mesh air space = 47% of total surface area = less carbon

OUR FINE MESH SHELTERS blend in with the landscape, and because of their ventilation, are happy in our warmer and changing climate, wind blow resistant, and bird friendly, (they can climb in and out). Trees may grow a little slower, but have stronger stems.

MANUFACTURERS of Spiral Guards and
WHOLESALE of Fine Mesh Shelters,
Plastic Mesh Deer Fencing,
canes, stakes, mulch mats, etc etc and
Forestry & Hedge Plants of Native Provenance

'The One Stop Forestry Shop'
Large Stocks Ensures Fast Service

Tel: 01588 650496

Fax: 01588 650631 For our full brochure

FARM FORESTRY Co Ltd

Eaton Farm, Bishops Castle,
Shropshire SY9 5HX

www.farmforestry.co.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!



t 01768 862157 m 07798 723040

e info@bagsupplies.com www.bagsupplies.com



Points of view on

Confor's policy conference

The Forest Industries Education & Provident Fund (FIEPF) enabled students from across England and Wales to attend Green Growth Through Forestry and Wood.

Once again, FIEPF provided financial assistance for tickets and travel so nine students from all stages of study in forestry, environment and sustainability, agroforestry and food security, and pollution could attend Confor's December 2024 conference: Green Growth Through Forestry and Wood.

Karl Courtney, Bangor University

Attending this conference at this intersection was inspiring. Paul Brannen's presentation demonstrated how timber could drive progress toward the UK's climate goals, while Alex Goodfellow emphasized that the timber industry is prepared to meet increased demand.

However, not all speakers shared the same optimism. Tom Barnes, lead author of the National Wood Strategy for England, expressed doubts about whether the nec-

essary political support exists to drive the change desired by most attendees.

Conversations during the lunch break confirmed the overall mood: a genuine desire to build an industry that tackles climate breakdown. However, it was evident that significant support is required to enable this transition and growth. A recurring phrase during the conference was "the money in the room," which highlighted that the financial power of those present would likely determine the sector's future. This underscored the challenges of securing investment and boosting confidence, particularly from the government.

It became clear that while there is enthusiasm and capability within the industry, the right policies, incentives, and funding will be essential to drive change. The government needs to provide reassurance and leadership if the sector is to realise its

potential in supporting climate and environmental goals.

James Harding, Bangor University

I was introduced to new ideas such as 'embodied carbon', which has an important role to play in the market economy of timber. It was interesting to hear how this term is beginning to permeate and will hopefully lead to a shift in the perception of timber, recognising it as an environmentally responsible and sustainable product.

I did pick up on some tensions in the room, notably the frustration that the National Wood Strategy has yet to be implemented by politicians. I was quite shocked by some of the statistics that were shared, particularly the repeated notion that conifer planting is incredibly low compared to broadleaves.

continued on p24

continued from p23

It's understandable that private landowners are now favouring broadleaves due to their 'native' status and perceived ecological benefits, but the lack of conifer planting will have severe ramifications if we are really hoping to achieve the goals of building new houses with timber 'embodied carbon' frames.

I really appreciated the opportunity to converse with senior industry leaders. It was fascinating to hear about their career trajectories and the changes in perspectives around silvicultural practices.

Laura James,
University of Birmingham

What a fantastic opportunity to engage with some tremendously exciting ideas, and to connect with professionals within the forestry industries passionate about sustainability and innovation. It has also opened my eyes to potential career opportunities outside of academia and given me a real sense of excitement and optimism.

A huge highlight for me was hearing Paul Brannen discuss his book. His passion, understanding of, and commitment to timber and its role in combating climate change were incredibly motivating – it's certainly fired me up! Similarly, Alex Goodfellow's dedication to, and belief in the transformative role of timber-framed housing in the housebuilding industry was inspiring.

I was also particularly interested to learn about the concept of "Optoppen" as presented by Whitby Wood. While I'd heard of this concept, I hadn't realised that there was a UK-based company actively engaging with this innovative approach.

The presentations painted a vivid picture of how sustainable forestry methods can collaborate to achieve net-zero targets in a tangible and meaningful way. While there was a palpable sense of frustration in the room that government had perhaps not done enough to support change over the past 12 months, I was left with a profound sense of excitement about the very real-world ideas and innovations that hold the promise of helping to deliver the government's climate aspirations.

The speakers weren't just discussing theoretical targets; they were presenting actionable plans and were already meaningfully contributing to these goals.

Justin Jones, *University of Derby*

The conference was insightful in learning from speakers like Mary Creagh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, who said there has been a push towards environmental movement in the political arena, referencing the first time in a decade that four forestry Ministers were able to meet.



Yet, she mentioned in her talk that government policy is over a decade old and more needs to be done to update this. It was great to hear the Confor CEO and other business directors suggest their ideas as to how the new labour government should implement the National Wood Strategy for England and Timber in Construction Roadmap.

What astounded me was that the UK imports a whopping 81% of timber, making it the second largest importer of timber globally. Now is the time that emphasis should be put into tree planting and channelling the budget towards forestry. With wood processing currently worth £2.3 billion GVA annually, investment in this sector will only add to its worth.

To summarise, I really enjoyed the event. It has further broadened my understanding and horizons of forestry, and I am interested in learning the new Labour government's roadmap of how businesses can work together in partnership to deliver the National Wood Strategy for England.

Megan Lucas, *University of Cumbria*

When reflecting on the conference, it is clear that there are undoubtedly a number of challenges ahead for the forestry industry, and a few speakers did express concern that they were painting forestry as a bit "doom and gloom".

However, from what I heard, I feel incredibly positive about the future. Trees

really do seem to be the answer to everything. Sequestering carbon as they grow, locking in all of that carbon for the lifetime of that product, and replacing materials that release huge amounts of carbon in their manufacture. The opportunities for timber in construction are astounding; I had no idea of how many products timber can replace (wood fibre insulation, who knew?!).

I also found it incredibly insightful hearing from industry professionals about the need, and purpose of conifers. Having started off in native broadleaf planting and progressing into an apprenticeship where my role is getting broadleaf woodland back into management, I've certainly got a much more informed, and positive view of conifers now.

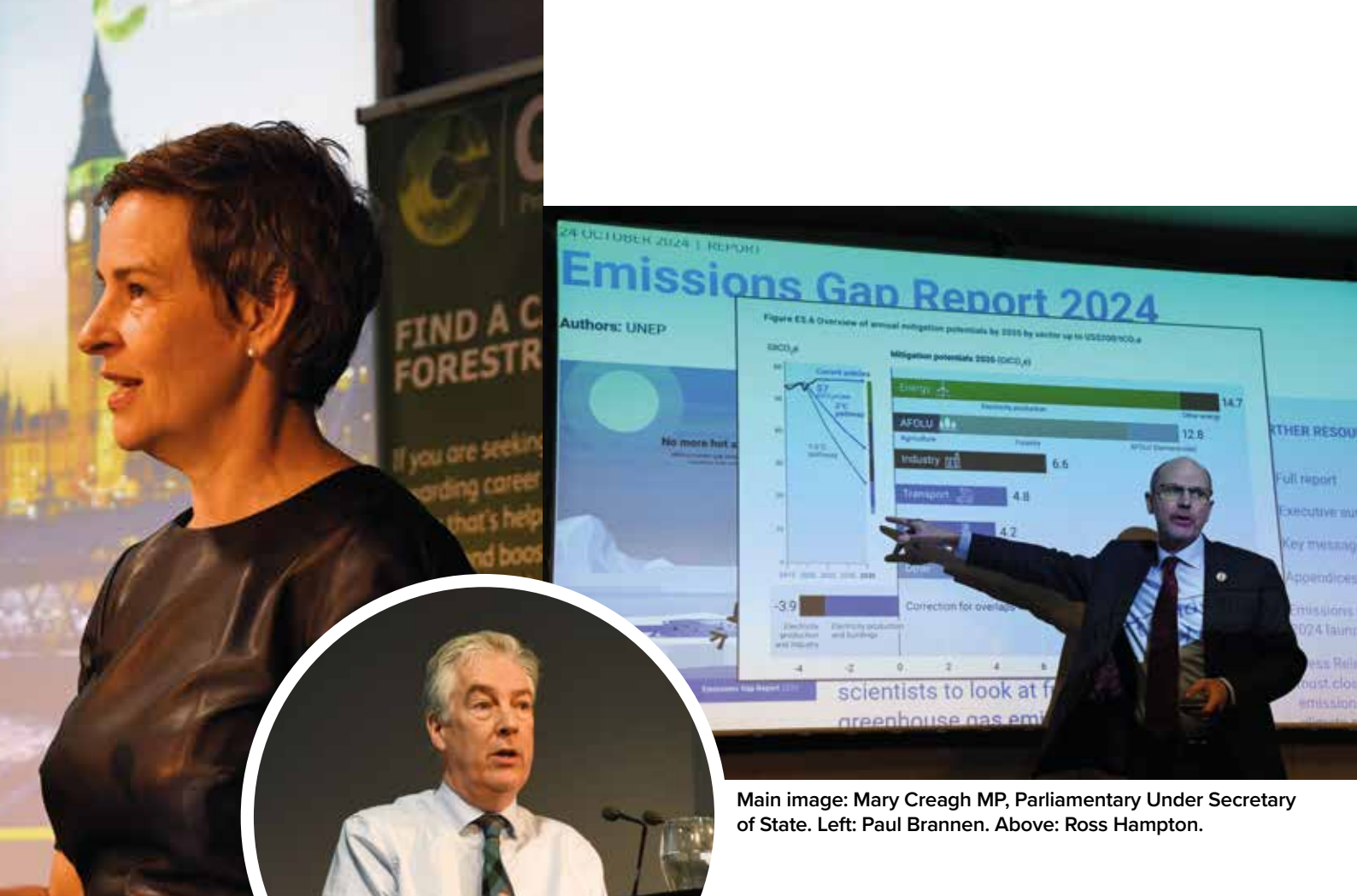
An incredibly thought-provoking conference!

Christopher Kevin Northrop,
University of Cumbria

Attending my first Confor UK policy conference was an invaluable experience and due to the breadth of people attending from the sector I learned a great deal.

The focus on government policy was interesting and despite scepticism in the room, I felt encouraged by the traction forestry has the potential to gain. The speakers were inspiring with common goals and direction.

As a student with grand plans to be part of a greener solution in forest manage-



Main image: Mary Creagh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. Left: Paul Brannen. Above: Ross Hampton.

ment, listening to the speakers on the day has left me inspired. I intend to investigate policy a little deeper and see how far it has come in recent years, thus understanding its potential trajectory. I would also like to understand better the concept of timber as a product being more widely accepted.

I want to research timber's ability to store carbon as a product/material and its environmental impact in production vs other materials. I will research more around the routes into the forestry work force. I am intrigued to understand better greener timber building concepts and will read delve into Paul Brannen's book.

I have come away feeling more positive than ever about my choice to come into the sector, more curious, better guided for learning and feeling positive about the future of forestry in general.

Henry Shaw, University of Cumbria

An invaluable day of presentations and discussions, the conference provided innumerable nuggets of knowledge and potential pathways that I might follow.

I was particularly interested in all that Paul Brannen had to say about his new book and all that timber can offer us in construction. The solutions are out there and voices like his are essential to widen support for promoting home-grown wood in construction.

the views of forest industries on a global stage. It is clear that, as Hampton outlined, echoing the statements of the IPCC, increasing forest carbon stocks will generate the most significant sustained mitigation benefit.

I hope that voices like his ring loud and will be heard by both our government and those around the world.

Noah Trotzig-Ruddick, Bangor University

The conference has helped me to develop a greater understanding of how the forestry industry runs and the many ways to create a greener country through policymaking and the transition towards using forest and timber-based products. Questions were raised on securing the future supply and availability of forest and wood products, the need to reduce the importation of timber, and finally how the sector can help in the creation of more green jobs.

Paul Brannen's book on timber and presentation on building with timber and Richard Stanford's talk on how forests and woodlands can contribute to the government's climate goals were both beneficial in solidifying the versatility of the use of forest and timber products.

Ross Hampton's inputs were incredibly valuable, as I believe will be the work of the International Sustainable Forest Coalition in representing

The overarching message of the conference was how the UK and the forestry industry can implement the National Wood Strategy and how forestry is one of the key sectors that can contribute to the country's goal of net zero.

Fergus Walters, Bangor University

An informative and friendly conference which has served as a great first step into the industry. It was fantastic to meet industry professionals and see the direction of travel of industry towards timber security, as well as the barriers that larger firms have to investment in planting trees.

The mixed discussion around the minister's speech was especially interesting and made me feel positive about the future of the industry I plan to enter. It was heartening to hear many people at the top of industry acknowledge the importance of both community woodland and productive forestry and discuss how these can be balanced.

The talks from Ross Hampton and Richard Stanford, giving both international and national views on making timber production sustainable, were eye-opening.

I had an illuminating conversation with Paul Brannen about carbon capture and credits in buildings which has definitely shaped the direction I would like to take my career. To me, one of the key areas is in removing barriers to carbon credit investment and using the woodland code to streamline woodland creation.



Wildfire management brings the heat

Run by the Forestry Commission as part of their Lantra-accredited Vegetation Fire Training framework, **Jonathan Strevens** attended three separate courses with support from the Forest Industries Education Fund.

The Vegetation Fire Foundation (VFF) course, held online, is a prerequisite to completing all of the other modules, covering a basic introduction to fire theory. Initially we looked at fire science, how things burn, fuels, and factors affecting fire behaviour (including topography, weather, sun exposure, atmospheric pressure, and relative humidity).

In particular, I found learning that a fire running upslope is significantly more aggressive to be very eye-opening. Subsequently, we had teaching on fire line safety including the safe system of work, known as LACES (Lookouts, Awareness, Communications, Escape routes, and Safety Zones).

Lookouts are designated team members who must watch for specific key information such as weather, and changes in fire behaviour; however, this should not negate the importance of all team members remaining aware, and thus the phrase “Look up, Look Down, Look All Around” should be utilised. Communications both within the team and externally are essential and multi-faceted, ranging from simple vocal commands to Fire Service Radios. Prior to tackling any fire, escape routes should be established for the team with safety zones accessible from them - this mitigates risk of serious injury to the team.

Finally, we learnt about the management of wildfire incidents using the Incident Command System



Controlled fire

“Lookouts are designated team members who must watch for specific key information such as weather, and changes in fire behaviour.”

There was also instruction on fire beaters, an effective yet under-utilised tool, and knapsack sprayers, a flexible bladder with a higher-pressure pump system, very different to the chemical sprayers we are all used to. We were then taught how to use a drip torch correctly to ignite fires, enabling us to practice using the suppression tools.

The difference between using water and not using it was significant, water resulting in a cooler environment to work in but comparatively less visibility due to the increased smoke produced.

To conclude, we also learnt how to use high pressure fogging systems, an effective method to make water last a long time on a fire, and standard lay flat hose and branches (a branch is fire service speak for a nozzle) - firefighting seems to come with its own language!

Continuing the spiral curriculum, the Wildfire Management Plan (WMP) E-learning added more detail on fuel types and topography, and new information about the planning process, management zones and response plans. Developing our ability to survey and plan, we reviewed example stakeholder feedback before surveying a real site: identifying fuel types, topography and access for firefighting.

On to the planning process we identified the various management zones: Zone A, the asset zone, anything like infrastructure, buildings and key assets; Zone B, the buffer zone, where fuels are managed to protect the asset zone and Zone D; Zone

C, the land management zone; and Zone D, the fire exclusion zone (areas that fire cannot be allowed to enter, such as priority habitat or important timber crops).

Lastly, we developed Response Plans and learnt how to plan fire suppression tactics, drawing on international best practice alongside a comprehensive template, invaluable for my own understanding.

This opportunity has allowed me to gain a deeper insight into a crucial aspect of forestry through protecting both important habitats and key commercial timber crops from the growing risk of wildfires. I am immensely grateful for the funding that the FIEPF provided me to be able to attend and I am already reviewing my current practice to ensure that these principles underpin anything that I do within my career going forwards.

Specifically, I will be utilising my understanding of response plans from WMP as it is paramount to fire safety on all sites that I work on, and I will be sharing that experience with my local area and recommending those I work with to also attend these courses to deepen their own knowledge on this subject. It will also be useful in helping local landowners access grant funding, as this is soon to be a requirement for landowners to have in place in order to receive ELMS grant funding.

I also recognise that there is still further training and learning for me to undertake so I intend to try and gain more experience within prescribe fire and am looking into chances to do that in the near future.

The Vegetation Fire Operator (VFO) E-Learning unit reinforced what we had learnt on the VFF, with more emphasis on hand tools, pumps and ignition devices, setting us up well for the workshop day. This included instruction using hand tools to create ‘handline’, a strip where the vegetation has been cleared down to mineral soil, as an ‘indirect’ firefighting method removing fuel from the fire.



Final woodland design.

RESTORING THE CORNISH ALPS

The changes that may be wrought on a landscape by a robust woodland design, implemented by a dedicated team, can be transformative. **Julian Burchby** MICFor, Operations Director (South) for Euroforest Silviculture, shares the details of a unique restoration project at Dubbers Dam.

When you think of your average woodland creation site in the English lowlands, images of rolling pasture or sweeping arable fields come to mind, which certainly has been the case when I think back over schemes I've been involved with. It was during the first lockdown that the opportunity came along to visit a site that couldn't have been more different: a completely man-made entity within the Karslake Complex China Clay operations in mid-Cornwall,

with the objective of landscape restoration.

China clay (kaolin) has been mined in this area for the past 250 years, resulting in an extensive area of industrially disturbed land. Fondly known as the Cornish Alps, it is now managed by Imerys Minerals Ltd, a French company who have been responsible for the site since 1999.

The St Austell deposits were the largest in the world, with the very high-quality kaolin utilised in the manufacturing of paper, paint, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and rubber, as examples.

Imerys is obligated under planning permissions to restore areas once operational activities cease. Some planting had taken place approximately 20 years ago; however, insufficient preparation and maintenance has resulted in some very low-quality new woodland. All parties agreed that whatever was done now must be to a much higher standard and we learn from that experience.

Euroforest Silviculture were commissioned in 2020 to design a new woodland on the site known locally as Dubbers Dam,



Top: Looking east across the lower part of the site with well-established areas ready for planting and existing planted areas and scrub visible on the right-hand side.
Above: Northwest perspective, across what will be the commercially planted area, with unrestored areas in the background. *Image courtesy of Sean Simpson, Imerys Minerals Ltd.*

with an overall brief of native woodland with a commercial component and the provision of public access for local residents.

The site essentially consists of a series of terraces interspersed with a network of tracks and includes some existing areas of scrub and rocky slopes unsuitable for planting. Our recommendation was to create a woodland design utilising the Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Planning Grant, prior to applying for funding through EWCO. Various designs were drawn up including a 3D model which

significantly helped to convey the plan to stakeholders & the Imerys Board, with specialist input from Plan Vision. The site contains a good proportion of open ground, variable density planting and a range of species suitable for the local and regional conditions and provide a resilient planting mix.

After centuries of mining to access the minerals, all of the topsoil has long since gone and under an environmental permit, Imerys imports various waste materials suitable for manufacturing soils. These ma-

terials consist of compost like output (CLO), anaerobic digestate, clean water cake and sludges amongst others which, when mixed with 50% fine sand (a by-product of China clay production), a nutrient rich 'compost' is created and spread across the tips and dams within the permit area to a depth of approximately one metre.

Regeneration of the areas restored using manufactured soils has been incredibly successful, with vegetation growing at a significantly increased rate. Initial soil testing verified the manufactured soil was sufficient for tree establishment, however it would benefit from further enhancement and to that end we worked with Woodland Grow, an innovative company developing bespoke fertiliser containing woodland mycorrhizae.

Various options were considered for the application, with pellets chosen as the most efficient and focused on the areas of the site that would be planted with eucalyptus and conifer species i.e. the more commercial element of the scheme.

Once the scheme had been approved under EWCO and with planning already advanced, work commenced on site in the autumn of 2024. Initially the areas of vigorous grass required cutting to facilitate planting with installation of the 4500m of perimeter deer fencing starting in October, quickly followed by planting.

Delta Forest and their large team soon got the 90,000 trees in the ground (majority in 0.6m spirals with some in mulch mats) and will be returning to plant the eucalyptus in the spring. An intensive maintenance regime will be put in place including improving areas of scrub and existing planting within Dubbers Dam, which were all incorporated into the contract.

The landscape has been transformed visually, and is now a show piece for Imerys, with new habitats created and rare species such as Jack Snipe, Little Ringed Plover, Dingy Skipper Butterfly and Dormouse in residence. However, it still needs further refining to create something with a more natural appearance from a landscape perspective.

This unique site has presented many challenges with the design having to be altered to accommodate various features, but an incredibly satisfying project and we are looking forwards to watching the new woodland establish over the coming years and monitoring how the soil mycorrhizae expand throughout the site.





MAPPING THE FUTURE: HOW MOBILE APPS AND ONLINE SYSTEMS ARE SHAPING FOREST DATA COLLECTION

In the digital age, the forestry industry is working hard to capitalise on technological advancements. However, significant gaps remain, leaving the measuring and monitoring of forests less efficient than it could be.

With the UK's ambitious planting goals, the need for supply-chain efficiency and finding ways to bring more woodland into management, it is more important than ever to develop systems for forest data collection that are accurate, efficient and accessible.

A range of mobile apps have emerged that increase ease and reduce the time required to monitor woodlands. Yet these tools often operate in isolation, lacking seamless integration with platforms for digitally storing or visualising collected data. This gap necessitates a time-consuming and error prone manual translation process. Long term storage and presentation of data forest data are vital for sustainable management over time.

Supported by the Forestry Commission's Forestry Innovation Fund, Evolving Forests, with the Sylva Foundation and Northwoods, have been investigating how app-collected forest data can integrate with forest mapping platforms. To test this concept, the project focused on integrating data from the forest inventory app Ar-



boreal Forest with the Sylva Foundation's mapping platform, myForest.

The goal for this integration test was to enable a woodland owner to use the app Arboreal Forest on an iPad or iPhone to rapidly collect inventory data in their woodland. Then, back at their desk, users could press a button to directly import the inventory data from Arboreal Forest into their myForest account, automatically populating the inventory information for each relevant subcompartment.

Core to the work is to test the ability for accurate digital mapping and sampling using mobile devices and apps without the need for expensive and niche equipment.

The challenge of data communication

A key issue encountered early in the integration was the communication of data between platforms. Most industries that share data between different platforms rely on well-established data standards to communicate and facilitate re-use of data. However, UK forestry has no such standard except for individual tree assessments.

ARBOREAL FOREST

Arboreal Forest is an inventory application available on Apple iPhones and iPads that makes use of Lidar, GPS, and augmented reality to assist collection of forest inventory measurements such as DBH and height, at specific sample points.

The app allows you to measure circular plots or transects and stores spatial information of where samples are collected. Once the data has been collected, it calculates important metrics such as volume, and basal area of sample points, that can be used to inform forest management. The data points are then visualised on the Arboreal

Forest website, and from there can be downloaded as CSV files.

MYFOREST

myForest is a comprehensive online mapping tool that provides the latest resources for sustainable forest management and unique support for the creation of new forests around Britain.

It allows you to draw forest compartments and subcompartments, and input a range of data on your forest including inventory data, which is then compiled into a format that can be exported for a woodland management plan, including felling licences and plan of operations.

When we talk to each other about tree species, we understand if one person calls a tree an oak and another quercus. When we take inventory volumes, we can communicate these to buyers with a joint understanding because we all use the same formula. When digital platforms talk to each other this translation of terms isn't always obvious.

If one collects a species name as scientific name, and another as common name, there becomes an extra step of translation needed in the background before being able to share data. If two apps use two types of volume calculation (not all apps

are developed in the UK, using UK conventions), there is potential for significant errors to occur if the difference isn't negotiated and dealt with in the background.

As more data on forest health and forest resources is collected, the need for standardised communication becomes increasingly urgent.

Integration

The first step in the work was to use API keys to connect Arboreal Forest with myForest. These are short pieces of code that allow apps to talk to each other.

Widely used, most newly developed >>



Paul Vidgen

Forest Machines Ltd



Forest Keep, Watersplash Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7QP

Tel: 01344 873499 Email: info@pvfm.co.uk Web: www.pvfm.co.uk



NEW
Raptor 100



and leisure lives in most areas. In forestry there has been less take up so far but feedback from volunteer testers has been positive. Participants highlighted the ease and usefulness of the tool, emphasising its potential to streamline their workflow.

After resolving initial bugs, we plan to conduct more focused internal testing. This phase will compare the manual process of collecting and storing inventory data, with the digitised integrated version we've developed.

We've used Arboreal and myForest as test platforms for this integration because inventory of woodlands is so important and traditional analogue processes so laborious. In the future, integration could include not only apps for inventory but also stack measurement, biodiversity monitoring tools, and visitor monitoring with all information seamlessly combining into one

management platform.

In a world where currently many woodlands in the UK are not actively managed, tools like myForest and Arboreal Forest that cost effectively and accurately use devices we all have to hand could play a pivotal role in improving forest stewardship.

Crucial will be the need for some standardisation of terminology and ways of working. This needs to happen before the proliferation of apps becomes so great that the task becomes impossible. It needs to happen with cross-sector collaboration.

The 'Forest Integrate' project has demonstrated the potential for digital tools to transform forest data collection and management. However, achieving widespread adoption and integration will depend on collective action to standardise data communication and improve interoperability across platforms.

>> apps have API keys that should make integration simple and achievable. The hardest part of the integration turned out to be aligning differences in the way words and calculations were used by each platform.

This work was undertaken by the team of digital engineers at Sylva where, uniquely, foresters and web engineers sit in a common team.

Field testing the integration

Once the integration was set up, testing covered as wide a set of scenarios as possible. Volunteers from the South West and North East of England were asked to use their mobile devices to undertake inventory at eight sample points, across a range of sites, from plantations to ancient woodlands.

Back at their desks, they were able to import the inventory data on tree species, DBH and height directly into myForest without the need for laborious data entry.

Volume, trees per hectare, basal area and more are all calculated within myForest, which then forms part of the inventory for woodland management plans, allowing users to make informed decisions about thinning and felling of their woodland.

What next?

This kind of app integration using APIs is becoming a normal part of professional



LOOKING AT FORESTRY THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

Veon is Ireland's largest private forestry management and ecology services company, operating for over 30 years. Today, the Scottish ecology division of the business is well-established with clients in both Scotland and Northern Ireland. Trevor McHugh, Managing Director (Commercial), shares how the geographic expansion has broadened their horizons.

Veon traces its roots back to 1990, starting out as a forestry consultancy in Ireland. Over the last two decades, they have been the largest purchaser of commercial forestry plantations for a broad range of clients including Family Wealth Offices, private individuals and corporate clients.

Trevor McHugh, Director for Veon Ecology in Scotland, commented: "Working on everything from forest modelling to consulting on Ireland's very first windfarms, we prided ourselves in looking at forestry

through a 'different lens' – how can this be done better for our clients, rather than just following the crowd and repeatedly doing the same thing?"

In 2015, a merger took place bringing together both technical and commercial skillsets to begin the latest chapter of what Veon is today. It was the core strategy to be a full-services forestry company, assisting both corporate and farm forest clients through the journey of forest ownership and portfolio development.

Five years later, Veon established Veon

Ecology to meet the requirements of forestry clients looking to procure licences to carry out forestry activities. Since then, Veon Ecology has established itself across other sectors providing a wide range of ecological and hydro-ecological services with clients that include government and non-government bodies together with corporate clients.

"In the years 2018 to 2020, a deep forest licensing crisis enveloped the Irish forest sector. Sadly, this brought forestry in Ireland to a point where traditional forest management business models simply could not continue," Trevor recounted.

"Some chose to exit the sector. Veon pivoted the company, launching Veon Ecology which has become an exceptionally busy division within the Veon family.

"In both the UK and Ireland, our clients are across forestry, the renewables sector – be it solar or wind – while the construction and hospitality sectors are also hugely important for our team. We deliver significant assignments for semi-state bodies, informing them of the challenges that various protected species and habitats are facing and how we can improve the protections being afforded to them within geographic areas."

In recent years the decision was made to broaden the geographic range of Veon Ecology, moving operations into Scotland in



Above left: Peat survey undertaken on Glenforsa Mull. This picture shows invasive rhododendron which has a drying and therefore negative effect on the peat. Above right: Windfarm adjacent to the survey site.

Left: Scots pine trees in commercial forest in Angus, taken during a mammal survey focussing on red squirrels. Right: Round-leaved sundew taken in tattymoyle during vegetation survey.

2024 to deliver a broad range of ecological services. These include woodland creation projects, NVC Habitat Surveys, Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Furthermore, the team deliver Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) services on a variety of forestry projects among others.

“Our expansion into Scotland provides us with a wider base to build the business on,” Trevor explained. “From a professional perspective, there are also subtle differences to how the science of ecology is delivered in the real world of report writing, project planning and, for Confor members, in how it is handled within forests.

“These subtle differences are good for us as a company. They ensure that we stay fresh and that we learn from being exposed to both the British and Irish approach to regulations and practices.

“Veon Ecology was born out of a need to pivot our business and reinvent ourselves as a company. The expansion into Scotland has been a hugely important and successful next step in that journey.”

As the wider team combines the expertise of the existing Irish business with local ecologists, Veon Ecology is ideally placed to assist the forestry sector in meeting and exceeding the challenges of modern environmental obligations.

Reports are produced utilising desktop analysis, gathering current onsite field data and utilising relevant ecological legislation and regulation to provide clients with robust reports to assist them in achieving their project objectives.

Such in-depth studies have relevance for projects across forestry, construction, manufacturing, renewable energy and more.

“Our focus is, and will always be, helping our clients, whether they are in forestry or operating elsewhere in the economy, to achieve or even exceed their environmental obligations and to do so in a manner that is fundamentally aligned with the needs of the forest and wider environment as well.

“These two ‘needs’ are too often presented as being points of conflict when they don’t need to be. Our belief is that both can be achieved so that strong and responsible forest management can proceed which necessitates that it upholds and supports the legal environmental requirements as well.

“Through this approach, we help our forestry clients achieve what they need to achieve within their forests but avoid the negative outcomes that arise where eco-



Above left: Commercial woodland in Tattymoyle Northern Ireland, taken during a peat assessment and NVC vegetation survey prior to the creation of a new windfarm. Above right): Badger sett entrance in woods in Angus.

logical matters are not suitably addressed in the project plan or delivery.”

Trevor speaks from a well-informed knowledge base having worked alongside many different clients ranging from large institutional portfolio owners to corporate investors as well as those in the HNW category. He is an active member of Forestry Industries Ireland (FII) and has formerly chaired both the Forest Harvest Training Forum and The Timber Mobilisation Group in IFFPA which is now Forest Industries Ireland.

Having been with Veon since 1998, when the business was operating under the pre-merger brand of IFS, he has seen the benefits of adapting to a changing forestry and land use environment.

Trevor said: “Change is challenging in any organisation, so we are proud of our team who embraced the journey that we had embarked upon and understood that this change was both a necessary and positive next step for Veon and its clients.

“Veon Ecology launched from a standing start in 2021. This was against a backdrop of a deep forest licensing crisis in our traditional business sector and a global pandemic that created its own unique challenges. Despite this, we have grown a broad-based

team of CIEEM registered ecologists with specialisms across Habitat Mapping (NVC), ornithology, protected species, mammals, invasive species and freshwater ecology.

“A company is only as good as its people, so by pivoting the company we ultimately have given our team a whole new set of opportunities that were not even considered possible a decade ago.”

Onward and up seems to be the theme of Veon Ecology’s immediate agenda.

“The next five years will be about expanding the ecology and arboriculture divisions and at least doubling the capacity of our teams,” Trevor predicted. “Recent weather events have once again reinforced that operating in an environmentally responsible manner is not a choice but a necessity. Those of us in forestry know only too well what the downsides of climate change look like.

“The various national and international regulations that we must work to merely serve to ensure that we all do our jobs responsibly. Veon Ecology will develop in a way that aids and assists all of our clients, including those that operate in the forestry sector, to deliver on their projects in a manner that remains ecologically sound and above any accurate criticism.”

CHOICES FOR THOSE MANAGING AND CREATING WOODLAND FOR BIODIVERSITY AND WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

A new report from Forest Research looks at available evidence to review the factors influencing biodiversity in woodland.

Woodland creation and management deliver a wide range of environmental benefits. The extent of those benefits is determined by a spectrum of factors, including the type of woodland, the way it is managed and its position in the landscape.

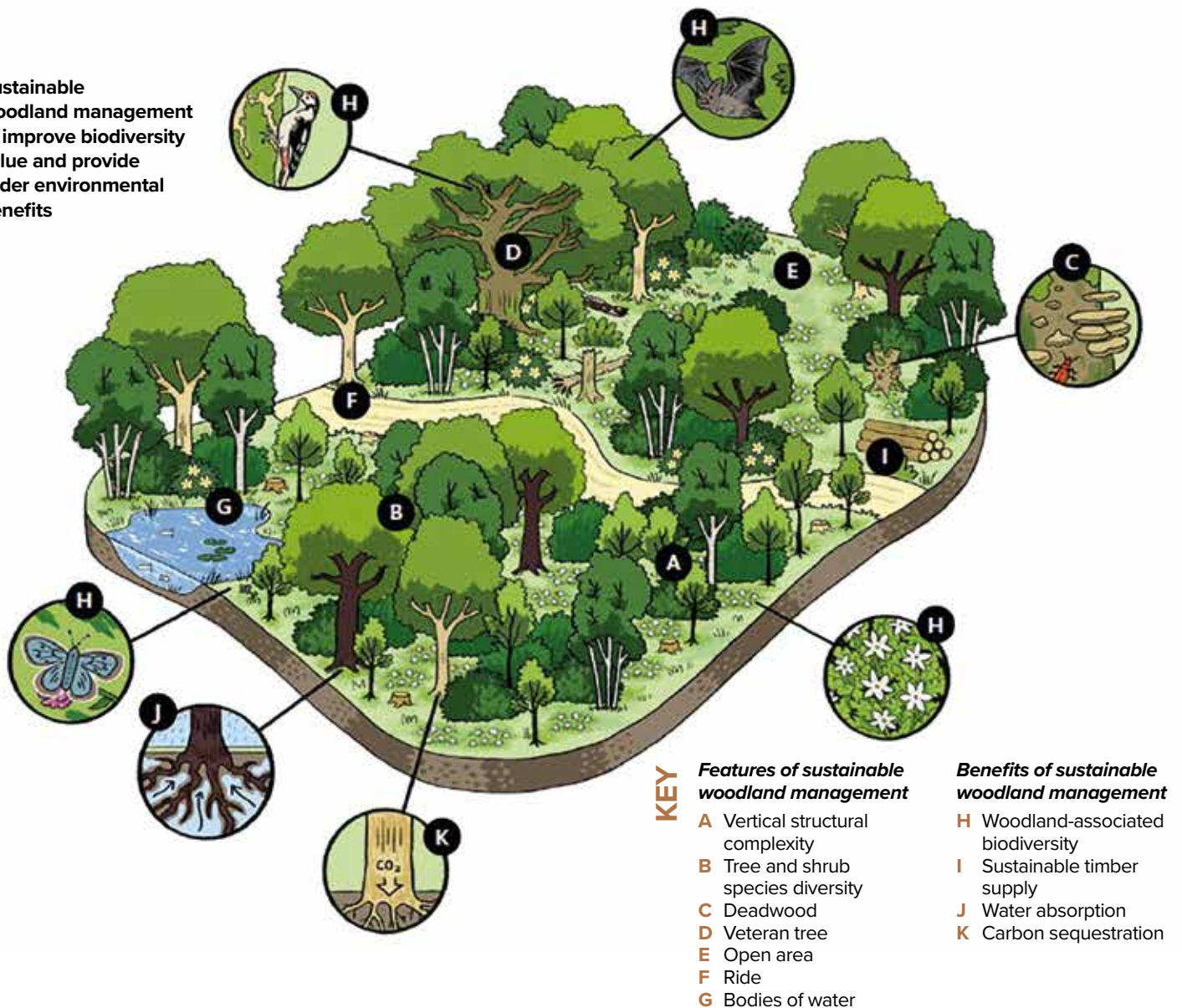
Forest Research's report, newly published, reviews existing evidence to assess the relative importance of a range of factors in the delivery of biodiversity value and other environmental benefits.

Joint author of the report Forest Research Spatial Scientist Joe Beesley said:

"While there's a wealth of knowledge and information available on the biodiversity and environmental benefits of woodlands, this report provides a detailed review of that evidence.

"We look at how the management, creation and spatial configuration of

Sustainable woodland management to improve biodiversity value and provide wider environmental benefits



Summary of the evidence base (quantity and agreement of evidence) on the biodiversity outcomes and environmental benefits of woodland creation actions.]

Biodiversity	Carbon sequestration	Water quality	Flood mitigation	Resilience
Spatially discrete woodlands				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing woodland cover in a landscape is well known to benefit species of many taxa (Bennett, Radford, and Haslem, 2006.)The size and isolation of a new woodland will strongly influence the species that colonise the new habitat and the rate of colonisation (Humphrey et al., 2015).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Woodlands sequester greater amounts of carbon than agricultural land (Mayer et al., 2020)Peatland afforestation can lead to net carbon loss (Anderson, 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Woodlands can improve water quality by reducing pollutant and sediment content (Cheng et al., 2022).Planting in riparian areas is particularly effective at reducing diffuse pollution and soil erosion into waterways (Binner et al., 2017).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well-positioned woodlands, particularly on catchment slopes, can help to reduce the volume of surface run-off (Binner et al., 2017).Some evidence that woodlands can mitigate smaller flooding events (Binner et al., 2017; Cooper et al., 2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well-connected new woodlands have greater resilience to climate change at a landscape scale (Craven et al., 2016).
Woodland expansion				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Larger woodlands are generally linked to greater species richness and abundance for many taxa (Humphrey et al., 2015).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As expansion increases woodland cover, it will generally lead to higher rates of carbon sequestration if undertaken sensitively and if carbon-rich habitats, such as peatlands, are avoided (Mayer et al., 2020).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Woodland expansion increases woodland cover, which improves water quality by reducing pollutant and sediment content (Cheng et al., 2022).Expansion of riparian woodlands and shelterbelts is most likely to benefit water quality. (Nisbet et al., 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Impact on surface flows and flood mitigation is likely dependant on existing woodland position, location of expansion, and species choice (Cooper et al., 2021).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Larger woodlands support bigger tree- and woodland-associated species populations, leading to increased genetic diversity and resilience to climate change (Oliver et al., 2015).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Well established: high agreement, high quantityUnresolved: low agreement, high quantity		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Established but incomplete: high agreement, low quantityInconclusive: low agreement, low quantity		

woodlands within a landscape affect biodiversity, ecosystem resilience and key ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, and improved water quality.

“We know that across Great Britain, woodlands are being planted and managed to deliver multiple objectives at any one time. By understanding the potential synergies and trade-offs between these objectives, planners and forest managers can make informed decisions about the best approach to woodland management or creation at their site.”

Key findings: “Better, bigger, more, and joined”

The UK is committed to the protection, expansion and sustainable management of woodlands to secure a wide range of environmental and social benefits. However, many woodlands have fallen into unfavourable ecological condition because of a lack of suitable management, or due to external pressures such as herbivore damage, invasive species, and pests and diseases.

The type, location and management of woodland elements within a landscape, and the potential network they form, can however determine the extent to which

woodlands support native biodiversity and contribute to the delivery of ecosystem services.

The ‘Making Space for Nature’ report, published in 2010, identified four key attributes for managing, restoring and creating habitats across a landscape to benefit biodiversity: better, bigger, more, and joined.

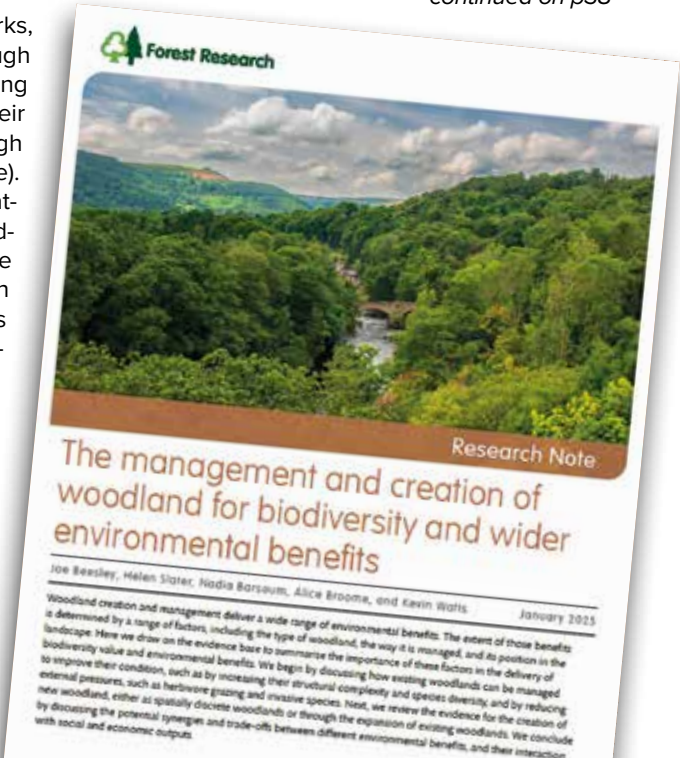
For woodland networks, these are implemented through the management of existing woodlands to improve their condition (better) and through woodland creation (more). New woodlands can be created as spatially discrete woodlands, which could provide stepping stones between nearby woodland fragments (joined), or adjacent to existing woodlands to expand them (bigger).

The location of new woodland and its proximity to other wooded features, including trees outside woodlands, hedgerows or wood pasture, may also influence connectivity across a landscape.

Managing existing woodland and increasing structural complexity

A key component of Forest Research’s report is to look at available evidence on how a woodland’s ecological condition can be improved by increasing structural complexity, increasing tree and shrub species diversity, and reducing exter-

continued on p38



ARE YOUR BUSINESS AND LONE WORKERS WEATHER READY?

In the wake of severe storms and adverse weather conditions impacting parts of the UK, **Emma Thomas**, Director of Trackplot Ltd, explains the new features of their service helping keep lone workers safe.

Trackplot specialises in keeping outdoor lone workers safe and we appreciate the harsh environmental conditions they can be exposed to, particularly during the winter months. Integrated into Trackplot's lone worker monitoring system is a unique suite of real-time weather and environmental data, warnings and alerts so customers can anticipate risks and prevent problems.

Newly launched are two additions to the service: UK-wide Personal Severe Weather Notifications and Flood Warnings and Alerts (England). Emma Thomas, Director of Trackplot Ltd, advises: "These services have been developed especially for outdoor workers, those who travel regularly for work, offsite workers or those in remote regions."

The main driver behind these new developments is the impact of climate change on the UK weather. According to the Met Office 2024 is predicted to be the world's warmest on record: January – September 2024 was 1.54°C above pre-industrial levels. Rain in particular will be a challenge across the UK.

Predictions for 2070 compared to 1990

advise that winters will be between 1 and 4.5°C warmer, up to 30% wetter, and the intensity of rain will increase by up to 25%. Days when rainfall exceeds 30mm per hour will happen twice as often.

Research published in October 2024 by the Met Office advised "43% of people have been caught out unexpectedly by severe weather over the past year". The report also confirmed the biggest cause of disruption was heavy rain stopping people getting to work on time or going out.

The second factor which influenced the expansion of Trackplot's environmental service is HSE's work-related accidents and fatality statistics. The human impact of poor health & safety is clear: the latest figures from 2023/24 state 138 workers were killed in work-related accidents, 87 members of the public were killed in work-related accidents and 604,000 workers sustained a non-fatal injury.

An average of 8 days were taken off work due to a workplace injury. The annual cost of workplace injury alone was £7.1 billion with 4.1 million working days lost. An estimated 15,300 workers withdraw permanently from the labour market annually as a

result of a workplace injury or work-related ill health and these are an important sub-set since they incur large costs.

Trackplot anticipates the increasing intensity of weather as climate change worsens will increase risks for outdoor workers and will impact negatively on the UK's health & safety statistics. Trackplot's focus on outdoor-specific health & safety tools, enabling customers to prepare and be weather ready, will allow managers to make timely and appropriate decisions to prevent incidents.

What are personal severe weather notifications?

These individual notifications are issued to a lone worker if they are in a severe weather region or within 10km of a flood area. Utilising UK-wide Met Office Weather Warning data and Flooding (England) data, these notifications enable the lone worker to reassess their schedule and decide on a contingency or if necessary to abort their mission.

The notification is also sent to the worker's managers, so they are aware when they are potentially at risk.

continued from p37

nal pressures. Structural complexity describes the variation in woodland structure and is influenced by the woodland's underlying topography, hydrology, and geology.

Joe Beesley added: "From our review, we identified research that clearly demonstrated high structural complexity goes hand-in-hand with a positive impact on the abundance and species richness of birds, bats, small mammals and vascular plants, with deadwood adding further complexity.

"Overall, structural complexity may also bring resilience to a woodland, with some evidence showing that reduced tree density can increase resilience to pests and pathogens."

Woodlands with higher structural complexity have also been shown to accu-



Trackplot's Met Office Weather Warning data includes eight different weather types including rain, thunderstorms, wind, snow, lightning, ice, extreme heat and fog.

Flood warnings and alerts

The merging of the Environment Agency's Flood Warnings and Alerts into the Trackplot Portal allows users to check current floods and threats across England. The data includes four levels of flood emergency:

Colour: Red

Warning/Alert Name:

Severe Flood Warning

Meaning: Severe Flooding, Danger to Life.

Colour: Amber

Warning/Alert Name: Flood Warning

Meaning: Flooding is Expected, Immediate Action Required.

Colour: Yellow

Warning/Alert Name: Flood Alert

Meaning: Flooding is Possible, Be Prepared.

Colour: Green

Warning/Alert Name: Warning No Longer in Force

Meaning: No longer in force. Be aware of residual water and hidden debris

Emma continued: "Severe weather typically disrupts travel, transport and itineraries; can prevent access to sites; causes power cuts and damage to property and infrastructure. We expect Trackplot's new tools will help workers and businesses to prepare in advance of weather hitting to prevent situations escalating."

mulate more above-ground carbon than less structurally complex forests. Leaving natural deadwood and brash from forestry operations on-site can increase the amount of carbon stored in forest soils and adds roughness to the woodland floor which contributes to flood mitigation and better water quality.

Potential synergies and trade-offs

The review of evidence indicates that managing a woodland to maximise its biodiversity value often involves trade-offs with timber production and carbon sequestration. Actions to improve a woodland's ecological condition, such as establishing a diverse mixture of tree species or employing selective thinning regimes, have been shown to increase harvesting costs.



The felling of premature plantation trees, such as in the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), may also be required to establish a native woodland community, but could cause the loss of a productive timber crop. However, evidence does show that areas not designated as high value for biodiversity can be managed under an integrated approach to deliver multiple benefits while maintaining productivity.

Yet, woodlands with high biodiversity value are shown in the report to also provide a range of other environmental benefits. Structurally complex and diverse riparian woodlands stabilise riverbanks and reduce sedimentation, thereby improving water quality and enhancing flood mitigation.

The aesthetic, recreational and cultural value of a woodland is also enhanced

by high levels of biodiversity. Recreation in woodlands is valued at around £907 million annually and, in 2022, provided health benefits to an estimated 3.2 million people.

Productive woodlands also provide habitat for wood species and can deliver synergistic environmental benefits. They generally sequester large amounts of carbon and, when sited on catchment slopes, can deliver flood mitigation benefits.

In conclusion, Joe Beesley said: "We hope this report will provide a useful reference point for planners and forest managers when looking for evidence on how certain actions can deliver benefits for biodiversity and wider environmental outcomes."

The report was funded by the Forestry Commission.

Legal matters

Managing staff during severe weather

The recent Storm Éowyn led the Met Office to advise of a risk to life, and that travel should be avoided where possible. Brodies LLP look at the issues for employers arising from both employment and health and safety law.

What steps can employers take to plan ahead for severe weather?

Strategic planning for severe weather events is worthwhile. Identify key decision-makers in advance and evaluate the circumstances in which it may be necessary to close workplaces or advise workers not to travel or attend work, particularly if they work outdoors or are lone workers.

Having an adverse weather and travel disruption policy for workers can help explain communication routes, highlight when alternative working options might apply and clarify the position on pay.

Should staff travel to work or work outdoors in adverse weather?

Employers have a duty to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their workers. The Scottish Government's Severe Weather: Fair Work Charter is not mandatory, but its recommendations are likely to reflect health and safety duties. The Charter recommends that:

- Workers should not be put at risk by attending, or attempting to attend, the workplace during severe weather.
- Employers should not incentivise workers to work during warning periods.
- Employers should consider circumstances that could increase risk, such as pregnancy or disabilities.

Employers should assess the risk posed to workers both by travelling to work and attending work during weather warnings. Bear in mind that just because workers' roles are deemed 'essential' does not mean employers should encourage them to attend work if doing so poses an unacceptable level of risk.

If staff can't travel, are there other options?

If travelling to work carries too much risk, there may be other options. If staff can work from home, this should be the first port of call. In some cases, using alternative work-

places or changing start and finish times might reduce risk, but will need careful consideration.

Do we need to pay staff who can't travel to work?

Clearly, if staff work from home or elsewhere, they should be paid as normal. If the workplace is closed, meaning staff cannot work, they should be paid, unless there is a clear contractual right to withhold pay (which is unlikely).

School closures or other disrupted care arrangements, such as for elderly relatives, could trigger the statutory right to 'time off for dependants' for some employees. Whilst the statutory right is unpaid, internal policies might provide for pay.

Otherwise, if the workplace remains open, but some staff cannot attend, the position on pay is not always clear. Employers should abide by contracts or policies that provide for pay in these circumstances.

However, even if there appears to be no obligation to pay, there may be good reasons to do so; for example: non-payment could lead workers to take excessive risks to attend work; some might call in sick to trigger sick pay; there may be risks to employee relations and wider reputation; and, in some circumstances, non-payment could be challenged in a tribunal.

If employers opt to pay when they are not obliged to, they should clarify in writing that this is a gesture of goodwill and future decisions will be on a case-by-case basis. If workers are not being paid, they could be given the options of using holiday, time in lieu or making up the hours.

Kathleen Morrison is a practice development lawyer in employment and Victoria Anderson is a senior associate in health and safety, at Brodies LLP.



Kathleen Morrison (top) and Victoria Anderson (below)





Photo credit: Keith M Ramsey/shutterstock.com

Commercial opportunities for forestry and financial resilience

Chloe Vernon-Shore (pictured below), an experienced Partner in Michelmores' Commercial team, explains how the practice regularly reflects upon, adapts to and embraces change.

We have remained relevant by diversifying our practice base to fit changing social and economic demands and to reflect the ever-evolving needs of our clients. We are always keen to support our clients in the diversification of their business to build and maintain economic resilience.

Over the last five years we have acted for the largest forester and creator of woodland in the UK. We have supported them throughout their expansion into a number of commercial enterprises, including in-forest concerts, open-air cinemas, off-grid cabin installations and extreme sport experiences.

We have also supported their establishment and growth of different environmental service lines, such as nutrient neutrality and biodiversity net gain.

While some of the more tangible commercial opportunities, like large-scale concerts, will be unrealistic for smaller, privately owned forests, there is real scope for (and we have seen forward-thinking clients undertake) diversification of their forests for ecological and profitable gain.

One such client is the Cabilla Valley Temperate Rainforest, a rare temperate rainforest that is home to a diverse range of plant species, such as air-purifying lichens, and is an official ancient oak woodland.

Cabilla Valley sits in the heart of Bodmin Moor and spans 300 acres of upland hill farm and rainforest valley. The land consists of 100 acres of woodland, including both secondary and ancient rainforest, and 200 acres of degraded grazing land.

In January 2023, the owners of Cabilla Valley founded the Thousand Year Trust, a charity dedicated to the restoration of temperate rainforest landscapes and with its mission to catalyse the movement to triple the amount of temperate rainforests in the UK over the next 30 years.

The Thousand Year Trust is supporting research into the true value of temperate rainforests for the benefit of biodiversity, climate and people, and to this end, is building a temperate rainforest research station in the heart of the forest to facilitate and accelerate research into our rainforests.

To increase engagement with the rainforest and support of the charity, individuals and groups can visit Cabilla Valley overnight, stay in a Koyt cabin and have full access to the 300-acre site. There is a barn space for group activities and the owners have collaborated with local partners to create unique experiences for visitors.

We have the legal expertise to support diversification and growth to ensure the interests of individual landowners are best protected. This could include (amongst others) the incorporation of special purpose vehicles to ring-fence risk; clearly written contracts with commercial partners so that the expectations, rights and obligations on everyone involved is understood from the outset (and disputes are minimised); and the implementation of tax efficient structures.

We also have an expansive and growing network of organisations that can provide further support, such as ecologists, land agents, brokers and technology businesses. We are always happy to share our expansive network with our clients.

If you are a forester considering diversification but don't know which areas of your landholding to put to which use, data-rich reporting tools, such as those developed by Map Impact, can help you to make initial decisions on an informed and empowered basis.

Map Impact screens sites using geospatial satellite imagery to help end-users identify which areas of their landholding would best align with early-stage BNG requirements and other nature-based markets.

Using UK Habitat Classification, Map Impact maps over 60 different habitat types in detail to identify and analyse ecological characteristics of specific sites. This granular detail can then inform landholders as to how and where to diversify their holding.

Find out more

- Cabilla Valley Temperate Rainforest: www.cabillacornwall.com
- Map Impact: www.mapimpact.io
- Thousand Year Trust: www.thousandyeartrust.org

michelmores

CAUTION REIGNS IN A FICKLE MARKET

Goldcrest Land & Forestry Group look at the factors impacting forest markets north and south of the border.

Scotland

We have seen a modest increase in the market appetite for sawlogs. This is having a positive impact on standing timber pricing, there is optimism for a timber price recovery in the middle part of 2025. Chip board manufacturers still provide a floor price for timber in the market.

The market for younger commercial plantations is impacted by lower timber prices due to the impact on discounted cashflows. Planting approvals have become more difficult to secure in recent years. This adds a significant level of risk to purchases of land for planting, and may increase the demand, and therefore pricing, of existing forests. The lack of development risk with existing forests is an attractive attribute within this market backdrop.

Despite some challenges, we have detected an uplift in market activity and encouraging values. Several large, high quality commercial forests have transacted on the open market and off market in established forestry locations during Q3 & Q4 of 2024, at high prices. This might suggest a stronger focus of silvicultural fundamentals among buyers.

Once such example was Norwood Forest in the Borders. This exceptional 939-hectare commercial spruce property completed in Q1 2025 and achieved a significant figure above the guide price of £19.5m.

Over the past 5 to 10 years, there has been a remarkable surge in demand for green investments and estates, with carbon and biodiversity credits assuming increasingly significant roles in the market. This buying power has not yet translated into existing commercial forests, and opportunities for biodiversity net gain credits are some ways away from providing the

level of returns expected from timber production.

As inflationary pressures ease and interest rates stabilise, institutional investors find themselves with more capital to deploy. However, they remain somewhat cautious in their investment approach, navigating uncertainties in the market landscape.

The UK Labour government has recently introduced changes to the inheritance tax (IHT) structure that impact forestry holdings. Starting in 2026, business property relief will be 100% for holdings valued up to £1,000,000, with a 20% charge on values exceeding this threshold. There are several concessions to this, such as the taxable allowance being doubled if the property is owned by a married couple. The potential impact of these changes on forestry freehold values remains uncertain.

IHT relief continues to be a significant factor for many forestry investors, though the ownership base also includes foreign investors, charities, and other entities for whom inheritance tax is not a concern. These changes may lead to increased activity in properties at the lower end of the value spectrum, potentially resulting in the lotting of larger forests at the time of sale.

However, it is also possible that investor behaviour will remain largely unchanged, as the 20% IHT relief remains an attractive option compared to other investments.

“For those seeking forestry investments, now feels like a good time to buy. The forestry market has softened, however many forecast timber prices to continue to rise over the next few years.”



Craig-y-Cae



Galt Senna

Moreover, changes in the AIM investment market and taxes on unspent pension pots may become more pressing concerns for investors planning their inheritance strategies.

For those seeking forestry investments, now feels like a good time to buy. The forestry market has softened, however many forecast timber prices to continue to rise over the next few years.

As we roll into 2025, the turbulent times of the previous two quarters continue to have an effect on the marketplace. Despite



Sowerby Wood



Dolgarrog



Norwood Forest

inflation nearing the Bank of England's target rate of 2%, interest rates remain stubborn, now at just under 5%. These factors, coupled with the run up to last year's general election and the subsequent budget announcement has led to a degree of nervousness and uncertainty.

England & Wales

South of the Border we have predominantly seen mixed woodlands and smaller commercial properties coming to the market in Q3-Q4 2024. Goldcrest have offered Sowerby Wood, a 110-hectare mixed forest south of Carlisle for £1.4m. This comprises a mixture of mature Scots pine and a second rotation mixed crop of spruce and native broadleaves. Goldcrest have also marketed Craig-y-Cae, a small predominantly mixed conifer woodland near Builth Wells in Mid-Wales.

Both properties have amenity potential. Tustins have several small spruce-dom-

inated properties for sale. All are circa 10 hectares in size with Blaen Waun, a Sitka spruce plantation near Lampeter being marketed for Offers over £200,000. The one property to buck this trend was Ffynnon Badarn in Gwynedd, marketed by Tustins, which at 481 hectares sold well in excess of its guide of £7.8m last summer.

The soft and somewhat fickle market has shown that properties are taking longer to find a suitable buyer and often a sale is negotiated rather than going to a closing date. Pricing of properties shows variety. Some seem to be marketed with a real discount and others are pushing the upper range of what the market will look at.

Anecdotally, there is still plenty of money out there and market sentiment shows purchasers are still keen for commercial, spruce-dominated properties in the right location. Mixed woodlands which would appeal to "lifestyle" buyers are taking longer to find a home and when they do pur-

chasers are often looking for a significant discount.

Two properties of note that Goldcrest has under offer are Dolgarrog woodland in Snowdonia and Gallt Senna in Pembrokeshire. Dolgarrog has 11,000 PIUs and one of the first properties to be sold with woodland based carbon credits attached to the freehold. Both properties have been negotiated under the guide prices of £740,000 and £425,000 respectively.

Timber prices, especially sawlog, in Mid-Wales have softened. In part, due to the after effect of Storm Darragh and a glut of timber heading to the market. It is likely that tens of thousands of windblown timber will come to market of the next two quarters.

It is vital that owners preparing properties for sale use experience and competent agents with the ability to reach the target audience far and wide. Sensible conversations need to be had when agreeing a realistic guide price.



Recommitment to the Timber in Construction Roadmap welcomed by Confor

The announcement made by Environment Minister Mary Creagh was part of the government's ambitious plans to boost the domestic timber industry, economic growth, rural jobs and housebuilding targets.

Confor was a partner in the creation of the Timber in Construction Roadmap, which outlines measures to increase the use of timber in the construction sector. The document was a key topic of discussion at Confor's policy conference in December, where Ms Creagh described it as "useful and important".

Following the government's fresh endorsement, Confor Chief Executive Stuart Goodall said: "Confor welcomes the UK

Government's commitment to work with partners, including the timber industry, to deliver the important ambitions of the Timber in Construction Roadmap.

"In light of domestic timber security, we particularly welcome the Roadmap's focus on increasing productive forestry and on promoting the use of homegrown wood-based construction products. Both of these actions will make an important contribution to achieving the UK's net zero targets and

economic growth."

Using timber in construction is one of the best ways to reduce emissions from buildings. Around 25% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are from the built environment, and larger buildings can store up to 400% more carbon when built out of engineered timber products compared to when built with concrete. Currently 80% of the timber the UK currently uses is imported.

The new Timber in Construction Roadmap outlines Government priorities and key actions including:

- **Encouraging the use of sustainable, low carbon building materials**, and ensuring carbon emissions are considered during the design, construction and use of buildings.
- **Fulfilling the Government's commitment to delivering 1.5m homes this Parliament** by using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) including the use of timber, to boost productivity in housebuilding and deliver high quality, energy efficient new homes.
- **Creating a circular economy by championing timber's potential** for a clean growth future - supporting the construction sector to use the most sustainable, low carbon materials and construction techniques.



• **Accelerating economic growth by creating new and diverse green jobs** in the productive forestry and timber sectors, as well as stimulating further investment into domestic timber and wood processing supply chains.

These actions will go alongside recommending to existing plans such as promoting timber as a construction material, boosting skills and capacity across the supply chain and increasing the supply of sustainable timber products.

Speaking at the Timber in Construction (TiC) Summit in London on 27 February, Environment Minister Mary Creagh stated: "This Government is getting Britain building."

"Our Plan for Change will build 1.5 million homes this Parliament. Timber will play a vital role benefitting development and nature."

The Summit was supported by the Confederation of Timber Industries (CTI), an umbrella organisation of Confor, the Structural Timber Association (STA) and Timber Development UK (TDUK), which represents the UK's timber supply chain.

Alex Goodfellow, CEO of Donaldson Offsite, chairs the CTI and commented: "The Minister's support for the Timber in Construction Roadmap shows the Government's firm commitment to a growth agenda: growth for forestry, for housing, for low-carbon skills and for the economy. The timber supply chain is a major economic player in the UK, connecting rural and urban environments."

"Timber frame construction is a well-proven technology and business model for delivering houses rapidly and sustainably while improving quality. By accelerating

this growth, we can build more low-carbon housing today while providing a market pull for expanding forests. As a supply chain we will support the Government to deliver on all of the goals in the roadmap and help build a more sustainable future."

The amended roadmap goes further than previous Government commitments, setting out more ambitious targets and actions to increase the use of homegrown timber in construction in a move to reduce carbon emissions, provide green jobs of the future, create affordable and sustainable housing, and drive-up economic growth.

Increasing the domestic production of timber will create new green jobs in the forestry and wood processing sectors, which contribute over £3bn to the UK economy.

Forestry Commission Chief Executive, Richard Stanford said: "To reach net zero, we must increase timber production from homegrown trees and use that timber in our buildings to sequester carbon. The Timber in Construction Roadmap will propel forestry production in England to ensure timber security, reduce our dependence on imports, and address the nature crisis by boosting biodiversity, improving water quality, and providing more green spaces for people."

"The Forestry Commission will continue to collaborate closely with partners from the timber, forestry, and construction sectors in this critical area of work for many years ahead".



Ardgay Game wins FLS contract for north of Scotland

High quality, sustainable venison from land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland is now reaching domestic and international markets with the help of two Scottish processors.

Following the recent tender of ten geographic lots, long-standing partner, Highland Game, which will continue to operate in nine areas, has been joined by Ardgay Game, which won the contract for the north of Scotland.

Ardgay Game has over 40 years of experience and has recently completed a £1 million infrastructure investment that has allowed a 37% increase in deer processing capacity. As a result of winning the tender it intends to create two full-time and nine seasonal jobs.

Ruaridh Waugh, CEO of Ardgay Game, said: "This partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland marks an exciting new chapter for Ardgay Game. We're honoured to work alongside Highland Game, a long-standing leader in the venison industry, as we both champion the growth of sustainable, high-quality Scottish venison."

"With growing consumer awareness around health, sustainability, and low-carbon food choices, wild Scottish venison is perfectly positioned to meet these trends."

"We look forward to collaborating across the industry to realise its full potential and help put Scottish venison at the forefront of sustainable eating."

Proximity to the FLS sites will ensure lower transportation costs and support long-term cost control, as well as reducing emissions.

Forestry and Land Scotland
continued on p46

continued from p45

land's Head of Wildlife Management, Anton Watson, said: "Deer management is fundamentally important for our woodland creation and our habitat conservation work.

"An important aspect of that is having the necessary, behind-the-scenes infrastructure in place to help us get Scottish venison to market and on to people's plates.

"Ardgay Game is excellently placed to work with us in the north of Scotland and we look forward to working with them."

With greater recognition of the health benefits and higher levels of uptake in sectors including schools, hospitals, the armed services and others, Highland Game has increased its staffing level by 30% over the last five years to meet the growing demand for venison.

Responding to Ardgay Game's involvement in venison supply, Highland Game Managing Director, Christian Nissen said that greater collaboration in supply – as well as customer partnerships – was key to drive forward the Scottish quality venison industry.

He added: "Ardgay Game's long-term commitment to sustainability, quality and operational efficiencies are geared towards better serving the marketplace so we very much welcome them to the fold.

"Scotland has an opportunity to tap into a fantastic natural resource and, through providing a top-quality product that is the basis for market-leading, convenient and low-carbon meal solutions, help to realise the full potential that venison offers. With sustainable investment to drive greater efficiencies and more of the highly skilled staff needed to drive innovation, there are great commercial opportunities to be seized.

"We are delighted to further progress our strategic partnership with Forestry and Land Scotland at this key time as we continue to develop wider commercial partnerships in both the private and public sectors."

Hundreds of funded places on UKFS e-learning programme

The Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry and Natural Resources Wales have given their backing to the UKFS e-learning programme, which has been developed by the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF) and delivered via their online training platform Silvestor, with funding from DEFRA's Trees Call to Action Fund.

The three organisations have funded places for 344 foresters and arboriculturists, giving them an exciting and alternative way to get to grips with the UKFS, which was previously only available in a text-based document.

The ICF's e-learning programme breaks down the key elements of the UKFS into modules with engaging graphics and interactive elements, such as videos and quizzes, as well as virtual reality experiences, allowing users to work through the content in their own time.

Louise Simpson, Executive Director at the Institute of Chartered Foresters, said: "There has been a lot of interest in this new e-learning format and we've been really pleased with the take-up, with hundreds of forestry professionals at different stages of their careers signing up for the course in their own capacity, as well as through the funded places secured by the Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry and Natural Resources Wales.

"These partners have been involved from the start and have helped to make this project a success by providing in-



valuable input and support at every stage.

"This is a special year for the Institute of Chartered Foresters as we celebrate our centenary and our ongoing work to develop new and innovative ways of raising professional standards. Making the UKFS available as an e-learning programme is just one of many initiatives designed to support foresters and arboriculturists and equip them to carry out high quality, sustainable work in line with the principles of best practice."

The UKFS e-learning programme has been accredited by Lantra, which specialises in developing training and qualifications to enhance careers in land and environmental sectors, and leads to certification on completion.



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



Plant Healthy



330 Moss Lane,
Hesketh Bank
Preston, PR4 6XJ

Please contact us for further information.

01772 814309
info@bloominfores.co.uk



100% Recycled Plastic Sapling Protection



- 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



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



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



Welsh Government seeking sector input ahead of timber industrial strategy launch

A consultation on the first Timber Industrial Strategy for Wales has been opened to responses from industry by the Senedd Deputy First Minister.

Huw Irranca-Davies MS, the Deputy First Minister for Wales and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Climate Change, has launched a consultation on a strategy to promote the Welsh Timber Industry.

When finalised, the new strategy will set out a clear roadmap for how government and industry will work together to achieve a thriving wood-based economy in Wales. It will include plans to futureproof forests, create green jobs in the timber industry, develop more sustainable housing and boost decarbonisation.

Confor has pressed for such a strategy to ensure Welsh forests are productive, produce the type of wood required for key sectors such as housebuilding and construction, and to facilitate the skills development needed to support that.

Elaine Heckley, National Manager for Wales, said: "The development of a Timber Industry Strategy for Wales is a big step for-

ward, and I encourage all Confor members and the wider industry to respond to it to make their views known.

"For this sector to thrive and grow and add even more to the economy and jobs in rural Wales, we need a clear strategy to secure future wood supplies from Welsh forests. We also need to reduce our current reliance on imported timber. By doing so, we will stop offshoring our responsibilities and secure more local timber to support our Welsh Timber industry."

Ahead of the announcement in January, the Deputy First Minister travelled to Penrhyndeudraeth to see first-hand how

wood can work for Wales. He visited Maes Deudraeth – a new social housing project using timber frames – and nearby Hafod Boeth Forest where he learned more about timber production in Wales from workers at Tilhill Forestry.

He met tenants who talked about the benefits of living in low carbon, timber framed homes and apprentices at both sites learning green skills in house building and in timber production.

Mr Irranca-Davies said: "Timber is crucial to achieving a stronger, fairer, greener Wales. The forestry, timber and construction sectors offer varied careers, including high-paid green jobs, while also helping us tackle the climate emergency.

"By working with industry, Wales can make the most of the opportunities that come from making and selling forest products from renewable, sustainable and responsibly managed forests.

"We want our forests to bring economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to the people of Wales for many centuries to come. That's why I would encourage everyone to have their say in this important consultation."

Jayne Bryant, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government added: "As well as its positive contribution towards boosting jobs and green growth, timber also contributes directly to the Welsh Government's commitment to building more high-quality, sustainable and affordable homes. It also helps our ambition to meet Net Zero by 2050.

"Timber offers a low-carbon alternative to high-embodied carbon materials, like concrete. Alongside wood fibre, it also offers opportunities for reduced-carbon methods of construction, panelised solutions and off-site manufacture.

"Timber-framed homes can also be built quicker, helping to provide more high-quality, durable, healthy and sustainable homes for people in Wales, including social housing.

"As we see growing demand for low carbon timber-framed social homes, I am incredibly pleased to see the launch of this important consultation."

A series of webinars hosted by Welsh Government will run in March to raise awareness on the issues tackled by the Timber Industrial Strategy. The consultation is open until 16 April and Confor will be making guidance available to members to inform responses.



mwmac
TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

Training · Assessment · Refresher

- Agriculture
- Arboriculture
- Chainsaw
- Forest Machinery
- Health & Safety
- Landscape & Amenity
- Pest Control
- Pesticides
- Timber & Woodfuel
- Tree Health
- Utility Arboriculture
- Vehicles & Plant
- Woodland Management

t: 01597 258615
e: enquiries@mwmac.co.uk
w: www.mwmac.co.uk

mwmac Ltd, Coed Pwllacca, Brynwnern, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SE

supersharp
CYMRU

Get **37%** MORE FROM YOUR **SAWMILL!** with **RIPPER**

SAVE ONLINE 5% OFF
USE CODE "TFN1024" AT CHECKOUT

sawmill blades
Frontier, Logosol, Woodland Mills, Wood-Mizer plus many more

blade resharps
Specialist inspection, sharpening, setting, return delivery

order blades online

www.super-sharp.co.uk
tegid@super-sharp.co.uk 07711 579718

@supersharp_cymru

UFKES
Greentec **UK**

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

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

A new generation of Douglas fir trees suitable for the UK climate is in sight thanks to a groundbreaking new project from the Conifer Breeding Cooperative and Forest Research.

Douglas fir is native to North America and has been used in British forestry for over 100 years. Demand is rising rapidly, and we currently import much of our seed from the USA or France, and there is a need to develop a strain that is specialised for British conditions.

For decades there have been incomplete attempts to develop British Douglas fir seed sources suited to our conditions. Now a Government-funded project led by the Conifer Breeding Cooperative has overcome this and will grow the next generation of Douglas fir from British tree seeds.

The project involved the selection of 200 visually superior trees from the best Douglas fir plantations in Britain, as well as 40 genetically superior trees from long-term experiments managed by Forest Research.

This selection of outstanding Douglas firs will now be used by the Conifer Breeding Cooperative and Forest Research as breeding stock to produce British Douglas fir seed.

The chosen trees will be copied by grafting cuttings onto rootstocks, after the grafted plants will go into seed orchards. In several years, once seeds are available, they will be supplied to forest nurseries to grow the first genetically improved British Douglas fir trees.

Richard Whittet, Head of Tree Breeding at Forest Research and Chair of the Conifer Breeding Cooperative, said: "We have selected a new generation of Douglas fir trees for breeding, based on their adaptation to the British climate and timber properties which is an important step forward for the resilience of our nation's trees.

"This achievement is the result of decades of work by Forest Research and our domestic and international partners. Collaboration has enabled us to get things done on the ground and harness new technologies, such as the low-cost DNA marker array for quality assurance".

A DNA fingerprint – which shows the genetic make-up of each tree and is used as a quality-control tool – has also been taken of each tree by Oxford University. This is the first time this technique has been used at such an early stage of a tree breeding programme in Great Britain and this important data will help advance the project.



Homegrown seed to kickstart a new breeding generation of British Douglas Fir

A groundbreaking breeding programme is set to develop a new generation of British-grown Douglas fir trees after decades of research.

Sir William Worsley, Chair of the Forestry Commission, added: "We are facing a changing climate and biodiversity decline, with trees playing a significant role in mitigating some of the worst impacts.

"We rely too heavily on timber imports in the UK and if we are to strengthen our own domestic supply then this type of science will play a huge role in the future.

"Therefore, there has never been a more crucial time to invest in domestic tree-planting".

Douglas fir is a desirable timber-producing tree for Britain and this step forward to develop a resilient British population will ensure better yield for our domestic timber industry. Fast growing conifers such as this sequester carbon more quickly than slower growing species.

"Douglas Fir is a well-known and increasingly popular tree in UK forestry and can play an important role in efforts to diversify the range of softwood species that

we grow to produce high-quality UK timber," commented Stuart Goodall, Confor Chief Executive.

"Alongside measures to keep pests and diseases out of the UK and vigilance and a rapid response to any outbreak, it's important that there is also investment in research to improve the productivity of species like Douglas Fir and help us to widen the pool of suitable, wood producing tree species.

"This work by the Conifer Breeding Cop, funded by Defra, is very important and I strongly welcome the progress that is being made."

Today's development will help bolster the domestic timber industry as part of the Government's critical mission to make the UK clean energy superpower and ensure we are resilient to a changing climate. This is the latest Government innovation in the fight to protect our nation's trees and woodlands.



VIGILIS

TREE SHELTERS

Vigilis Tree Shelters offers a wide range of **tree and hedge planting products** suitable for all types of planting projects. As a manufacturer we pride ourselves on being at the forefront of innovation and quality.

Our shelters and wraps are available in both fully **soil-biodegradable** and **recyclable** options.

VIGILIS BIO

Developed over numerous years, our fully soil-biodegradable Vigilis-Bio range has been designed and tested to ensure it offers the **same protection as a traditional shelter** for the required 5+ years but then **biodegrades naturally** into the soil **without micro-plastics or toxicity**.

To find out more about the journey and science of our Vigilis-Bio range visit www.vigilistreeshelters.com.

Origin Suregreen Ltd are our exclusive UK partner. They have our full range of biodegradable and recyclable tree shelters, hedge wraps and mesh guards in stock and ready for you.

Contact Origin Suregreen to enquire today:

Email: vigilis@sure-green.com

Phone: 01376 653370


suregreen



Follow us on LinkedIn to stay-up-to-date with industry news, product development and more.



Collaborative efforts lead recovery after Storm Darragh

Most forest access routes within the Welsh Government Woodland Estate impacted by Storm Darragh have now been cleared, thanks to recovery efforts led by Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) land managers, and partners.

In the wake of Storm Darragh's destructive 90mph winds in December, NRW's land management teams have worked tirelessly alongside local authorities, emergency services, utility companies, and members of the public to unblock access routes essential for emergency services and residential properties within the woodland estate.

This collaborative response has been vital as NRW continues to assess the extent of the damage to its forests and nature reserves across Wales. Early assessments indicate significant impacts, with widespread areas of trees felled and many kilometres of forest roads, walking trails, and mountain bike routes obstructed by debris.

Gavin Bown, Head of Operations Mid Wales for NRW, said: "Our initial efforts since Storm Darragh have focused on regaining access to forest roads used by residents and emergency services.

"The response has truly been a team effort. We are immensely grateful to our colleagues, contractors, local authorities, emergency services, utility companies, and members of the public for their incredible work to restore access.

"We know people will be looking forward to getting outdoors over the festive period. But while we continue to assess the damage to the land in our care and continue our work to clear trails, we're asking people to avoid visiting our forests and reserves.

"We want to get our woodlands back to normal as soon as possible, but safety is our top priority, and the danger from falling trees or branches remains significant. Additionally, contractors will be operating large machinery in many of our forests as part of the clean-up operation, further increasing the risks to the public."

The destructive high winds of Storm Darragh have left a significant mark on Wales, causing widespread damage to trees, woodlands, and forests. Private landowners are now facing challenges similar to those experienced by NRW.

In response, NRW has released guidance to assist private landowners in addressing the aftermath of the storm. The guidance clarifies when the felling of growing trees is permitted under exceptions in the Forestry Act.

Key exceptions include cases where trees pose an immediate and genuine danger to public safety, such as hazards to footpaths, roads, or nearby properties. Additionally, exceptions apply to trees felled by or at the request of statutory undertakers, such as power and water companies, when trees have fallen onto power lines or obstruct roads and tracks necessary for safe access to these lines.

The guidance aims to support landowners in navigating the complexities of tree management following Storm Darragh.

Nick Fackrell, Senior Officer, Forest Reg-

ulation and Tree Plant Health, NRW, said: "Generally in Wales under the Forestry Act, a felling licence granted by NRW is required for the felling of growing trees unless they are covered by an exception under the Act.

"If a landowner is claiming an exception from the requirement to seek a felling licence, such as where trees are posing an immediate danger, it's their responsibility to record any evidence of how it applies to the felling they are intending to carry out.

"We strongly advise that they take multiple photographs of any situation where they are claiming an exception and record decisions made in their risk assessment and method statement for the task, and retain these records for at least three years.

"If landowners are unsure if an exception exists, then we strongly advise they consult a forestry professional or seek a felling licence."

In January, NRW issued a regulatory decision to provide a degree of flexibility and further reduce the regulatory burden on landowners and managers. This does not change the legal requirement to have a valid felling licence where necessary, but NRW will not normally enforce the need for a licence if you meet the conditions set out in the regulatory decision.

Before carrying out any felling operations in areas damaged by Storm Darragh, you should check whether you are able to comply by referring to RD 115.

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



Collins Farming & Forestry Services Ltd



TURN POPLAR AND ASH INTO CASH

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

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



m: 07850 988808
e: info@collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk
w: www.collinsfarmingandforestry.co.uk

CAN YOU SEE YOUR CHIPPER?
WE CAN!

ATVTRAC®
 www.atvtrac.co.uk



We can see your ATV, UTV, 4x4, Forestry Equipment & Machinery



If you would like to know more information about ATVTrac get in touch.

+44 (0) 1327 317 980 (Lines open 9am - 5:30pm)

TRIAL ASPEN RISK-FREE, WITH OUR MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Use the 2 or 4-stroke fuel risk-free in your working environment and if you don't 'Experience the Difference' simply return the unused fuel for a refund of the cost difference. Visit our website for more details.

ASPEN®
 FUEL FOR PROFESSIONALS
 www.aspenfuel.co.uk





West coast log exports stop due to bark beetle risk

Conifer logs from Scotland's west coast can no longer be exported to the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland due to concerns over the *Ips cembrae* bark beetle found in the area.

Part of the west of Scotland is designated a Pest Free Area (PFA) for several bark beetle tree pests, including *Ips cembrae*, which are present elsewhere in GB. This has allowed conifer timber to be exported from the PFA to the island of Ireland, with a phytosanitary certificate confirming the absence of all these tree pests.

Following a finding of *Ips cembrae* beetles in a trap at a port in Ireland last year, all movement of conifer logs with bark from the PFA to the Republic of Ireland (ROI) and Northern Ireland (NI) was paused as a precautionary measure.

After a full analysis of surveillance data and trapping results, and advice from the GB Forest Research agency, Scottish Forestry say they cannot guarantee the PFA is free from *Ips cembrae* bark beetles. This means that phytosanitary certificates con-

firmed the absence of *Ips cembrae* cannot be issued and exports of conifer logs to the island of Ireland are stopped.

Andy Leitch, Confor Deputy Chief Executive, said: "The timber industry has known for some time that the Pest Free Area designation for the Argyll area has been under continuous pressure from the potential advancement of *Dendroctonus micans*. We have worked closely with Forest Research and Scottish Forestry for a number of years to mitigate any further reduction in the buffer zone.

"However, the discovery of *Ips cembrae* has meant that the PFA has closed sooner than expected. This will impact on the timber trade on both sides of the Irish sea and will likely have a significant impact on some businesses in the short-term.

"Both the UK and Irish authorities take

plant health regulations very seriously, and Confor seeks to work with them constructively because the future health and vigour of all our forests is extremely important to Scotland's economy, environment and society as a whole."

The decision to stop exports was taken carefully, acting on the full range of scientific evidence, including trap findings of *Ips cembrae* at ports within the PFA. Data was shared and discussed with the ROI and NI plant health authorities.

James Nott, Head of Tree Health at Scottish Forestry, said: "We recognise the impact this will have on the timber industry. We have to respect the regulations in other countries and help them maintain their freedom from pests and diseases, in the same way we would expect from them.

"The decision to classify an area as free from a particular pest must be based on robust evidence. Climate change is seeing the threats from pests and diseases increasing. We have been speaking with the industry over the last few years to help give them an opportunity to prepare for this change.

"Sadly, our surveillance means we can no longer say with confidence that *Ips cembrae* are not in the West of Scotland Pest Free Area and as such we can no longer meet the requirements of importing nations requiring pest freedom.

"We are taking this action to stop exports from the Pest Free Area now to ensure we do not run the risk of introducing a quarantine pest to places like Ireland, where it is not currently known to be present."

The Pest Free Area status was introduced back in 2005 and at the time was only expected to stay in operation for a limited time, as beetles slowly moved towards the west coast of Scotland. Work to reduce the spread of tree pests enabled the status to remain in place for much longer than anticipated.

The forestry industry has been kept aware of the impending change and has helped implement actions to mitigate the risk and maintain trade over the last few years.

These measures included stopping the exportation of larch wood in 2022 and the introduction of a buffer area in 2024 following findings of the bark beetle *Dendroctonus micans*. As a result, trade has been reducing as industry has been adapting to the changing circumstances and taking up alternative markets.

The timber from this area will continue to be marketed in the same way as all the other timber in Scotland but will lose its access to ROI and NI. There is no increased risk across GB.

Elevate your plant health practices with precision & speed!

POCKET[®]
DIAGNOSTIC

Control the future of PLANT HEALTH with Pocket Diagnostic Tests

Are you ready to revolutionise your approach to plant health? Detect 4 plant diseases with our industry leading plant health tests.

Rapid Lateral flow tests for:

- Phytophthora
- Potato Virus Y
- Erwinia Amylovora
- Ralstonia Solanacearum



Rapid Results: Pocket Diagnostic tests provide in-field results using lateral flow technology, allowing immediate insights into the health of your plants. No more waiting for lab reports – confirm or dismiss suspicion of disease at your fingertips!

User-Friendly: No specialised training required. Our tests are designed with simplicity in mind, ensuring that anyone can utilise them effortlessly.

Compact Design: Carry the future of plant diagnostics in your pocket! Our compact and portable tests enable easy on-site transportation & detection, transforming the way you monitor and manage plant health.

Bulk Discounts: Planning for extensive testing? Benefit from attractive bulk discounts, making our tests even more accessible for large-scale applications. Get in touch for more information.

Why Choose Us?

Scientific Excellence: Backed by cutting-edge research, our tests are at the forefront of plant pathology, providing you with reliable and accurate results.

Trusted by Experts: Embraced by researchers, agronomists, and consultants worldwide, our tests are the preferred choice for those committed to advancing plant health monitoring and practices.

Sustainable Solutions: By enabling rapid on-site detection, our tests contribute to sustainable agriculture and environmental preservation, aligning with your commitment to responsible practices.

USE CODE **FTN10** FOR **10% OFF**
THE POCKET DIAGNOSTIC RANGE ON OUR WEBSITE.

EXPIRES 01.06.2025



 **SORBUS**
I N T L

For more information

Call: **01373 475540**

Or visit: **www.sorbus-intl.co.uk**



Scotland hit softer by Storm Éowyn than feared

Scottish Forestry has confirmed that the Windblow Contingency Plan has been stood down after assessment in the wake of Storm Éowyn.

The consistent message is that there has not been damage to forests on a very large scale, and appears to be considerably smaller than the damage seen after Storm Arwen in 2021.

Although there are many individual trees down, and in some places pockets of forest affected, the overall area involved does not need co-ordinated national action.

Local support will continue to be available through Scottish Forestry for felling permissions, which are needed for windblow, and other advice if required.

Jason Hubert, Scottish Forestry's Head of Sector Development said: "It looks like we escaped the worst of Storm Eowyn. Feedback has indicated that although some areas are affected, there's no large-scale damage to forests, certainly nowhere on the scale that we witnessed with Storm Arwen.

"We are hearing of larger specimen trees that have been blown over or snapped and as a result there appears to be more windblow found in towns and cities than in previous storms.

"Although the winds were exceptionally strong, we believe that the direction of wind played a huge part in reducing the damage. Our forests and woodlands are well used

to south westerly winds and the root structures are therefore quite resistant. The age and diversity of woodland structures may also have helped lessen the damage."

Scottish Forestry plans to meet with Confor and Forestry and Land Scotland to check whether any lessons can be learned from handling the recent storm.

However, Scottish Forestry is advising all woodland owners to be very proactive in the management of storm damaged trees.

Recently windblown, snapped, dying and sawn trees are particularly susceptible to infestation with tree pests and diseases, particularly damaging bark beetles like *Ips typographus*. Therefore, action to manage storm damage trees is being strongly advised on tree health grounds.

Whilst many woodland owners, local authorities and other organisations carry out their clean-up operations, the public are reminded to take extra care when visiting forests and pay attention to any local signage. Clearing windblown trees can be very hazardous and should only be attempted by full trained people.

Red squirrels found for first time on site in Yorkshire

Reds had not been seen in the plantation before and the UK Squirrel Accord's project officer, Julie Bailey, identified them. She believes the colony will prosper and increase and since the squirrels have been confirmed, the owners now plan to manage the landscape with the population in mind.

Project Officer Bailey explained: "The plantation owners gave permission to survey a specific area using thermal imaging technology that picks up body heat. I found four individual red squirrels.

"I then placed two cameras in the area and was able to confirm a new colony of red squirrels. The plantation owners were delighted."

They have given Julie permission to extend her survey to cover the whole of the plantation. She has established a new volunteer group, The Yorkshire Dales Red Squirrel Alliance, as part of a pilot project to protect red squirrels and tree health funded by the Forestry Commission.

Local volunteers are being encouraged to join by the UK Squirrel Accord.

"One local volunteer who lives close to the plantation has, for some time, been managing non-native grey squirrels and his work has enabled these reds to move into the plantation," Julie added.

There are other red squirrel populations within a few miles of the plantation and Julie is optimistic for the future of the native species in the Western Yorkshire Dales.

Rebecca Isted, Forestry Commission Squirrel Policy Advisor, said: "Our native red squirrels are an important part of our natural heritage and the discovery of a new population in North Yorkshire is a positive step in our shared aim to protect, identify and strengthen populations across England.

"Red squirrels are endangered, and we estimate there are fewer than 40,000 left in England. The Forestry Commission is committed to supporting the survival and recovery of our native species in woodlands across the country."





Introducing
BioWool™
mulch material
from Cheviot Trees,
the exciting and
revolutionary
NEW biodegradable
product



A natural weed
suppressant



UK made from ethically
sourced wool



Strong & durable



Fully biodegradable
in soil and water



Cost effective



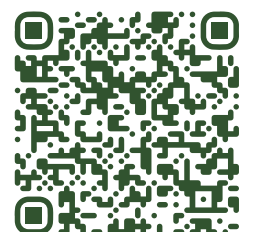
Easy to install with
our biodegradable
bamboo pegs



Chemical free

Available in
mulch mats
and rolls

Contact us
for a **FREE**
sample



01289 386755

www.cheviot-trees.co.uk

Sycamore Gap saplings to spread hope throughout the nation

Worthy causes across the UK have been revealed as the recipients of nearly 50 saplings from the iconic Sycamore Gap.

The National Trust has announced the recipients of the 49 'Trees of Hope' Sycamore Gap saplings being gifted to individuals, groups, and organisations across the UK.

Nearly 500 applications were received for the 49 saplings – one to represent each foot in height that the tree was at the time of felling. The saplings are currently being cared for by the conservation charity's Plant Conservation Centre, and they should be strong and sturdy enough ready to plant out in winter 2025/26.

The new homes for the saplings will all be in publicly accessible spaces, enabling many more people to feel part of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree's legacy with recipients from all across the UK including The Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease at Seacroft Hospital in Leeds, Holly's Hope in conjunction with Hexham Abbey in Northumberland, and The Tree Sanctuary and Tree Amigos in Coventry.

Andrew Poad, General Manager for the National Trust's Hadrian Wall properties said: "Each and every application for a 'Tree of Hope' told heartfelt stories of people's emotional connections to the Sycamore Gap tree and the importance of nature. They spoke of loss, hope and regeneration from all four corners of the UK, from towns, schools, colleges, community groups, hos-

pitals and hospices, it's been a privilege to read them all.

"The tree meant so much to so many and through the 'Trees of Hope' initiative we are helping reach people across the nation, for generations to come.

"Each sapling will carry a message of hope with it as they start a new chapter not just for the tree but for all the 49 people and communities that will receive a sapling next year."

The applications were judged by a panel of experts from the National Trust led by independent judge and arboriculture specialist, Catherine Nuttgens.

Catherine commented: "The Sycamore is one of the most architecturally beautiful trees in our landscape. In summer, their dark green leaves create a canopy that looks almost like broccoli, while in winter, they create a silhouette that perfectly depicts what we think of when we think of a tree.

"The loss of any tree can evoke strong emotions - none more so than the Sycamore Gap tree. Its destruction felt utterly senseless, destroying the simple joy it brought to so many people for so many reasons. But the 'Trees of Hope' initiative has kept that sense of joy and hope alive, and it has been truly humbling to read through so many applications but a difficult task to

select the final 49 recipients.

"The stories have come from every corner of the UK and every walk of life. Their words reflect the hope and kindness that human beings are capable of, which feels like such a fitting response to the loss of this precious tree."

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is building The Rob Burrow Centre for Motor Neurone Disease at Seacroft Hospital, which will be a landmark care centre when it opens next year and by winter, its Sycamore Gap sapling will find its new home.

The first of its kind, the vision for the centre's creation came from the former Leeds Rhino rugby league legend and his consultant neurologist in Leeds, Dr Agam Jung, with the aim of providing a bespoke centre suited to the varied and changing needs of MND patients.

The connection to Sycamore Gap runs deep for many in the MND community who have taken on long distance walks and fundraising challenges to help Leeds Hospitals Charity raise money to build the centre, including treks across Northumberland and Hadrian's Wall.

In Coventry a 'Tree of Hope' will go to The Tree Sanctuary and their young group of 'Tree Amigos' who have gained recognition and awards for replanting trees damaged by vandalism in local public spaces.



The Tree Sanctuary is home for unwanted trees as well as nurturing saplings grown from the seeds of ancient trees that have been lost to urban development. The trees are then planted in a new communal woodland known as Liberty Wood, which was entrusted to the Sanctuary by Coventry City Council.

Martina Irwin from the Tree Sanctuary said: "When we heard about the loss of the iconic Sycamore Gap tree last year, our Tree Amigo group decided to plant locally gathered sycamore seeds to create a living legacy for the species in our urban woodland.

"We are proud of the respect and dedication our teenagers show for all trees, especially when they are often assumed to be responsible for vandalism of trees. Receiving a Tree of Hope sapling from the original Sycamore Gap tree, gives us all an incredible chance to connect even more people, especially young people, to nature.

"This special tree will be planted next year among the other 'lost' trees in our care, serving as a beacon to inspire respect, understanding, and a sense of responsibility toward all trees."



Millie Toft with Julian Ohlsen

Top Silviculture student presented with Phil Johnson Memorial Award

A Bangor University student has been recognised by Tilhill Forestry for exceptional performance on the MSc Silviculture module.

Millie Toft, a dedicated student at the School of Environmental and Natural Sciences (SENS), Bangor University, has been awarded the prestigious Tilhill Forestry Phil Johnson Memorial Award for Best Silviculture Student 2024.

Millie, based in London, received a specially carved wooden trophy and £250 in vouchers from Tilhill Forestry's recently retired Southern England Regional Manager, Julian Ohlsen. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Forestry with the support of her employer, the Forestry Commission, where she has been a valued member of the team for over seven years.

She said: "What an honour and shock all bundled into one. I never believed for one moment that this would be me - especially as all my course mates are so experienced and knowledgeable. I really enjoyed all the aspects of the Silviculture module, which is testament to all the lecturers who made it such an engaging experience. So, thank you all."

This award is dedicated to the memory of Phil Johnson, who served Tilhill Forestry with distinction for many years. As the Regional Manager for

England and Wales, Phil made significant contributions to the company before his untimely passing, following a courageous battle with cancer. Among his many achievements, Phil was instrumental in establishing the UK's largest privately-owned mountain bike centre at Coed Llandegla, Wales, leaving a legacy of innovation and dedication.

When presenting the award, Julian Ohlsen said: "It is wonderful to know that Phil Johnson's legacy within Tilhill Forestry and the wider industry lives on with the next generation of silviculturists and foresters. It was fascinating to hear of Millie's work with the Forestry Commission and her interest in horse logging.

"Our partnership with Bangor University is a long-standing one, with many of their graduates joining rewarding careers as forest and harvesting managers within Tilhill Forestry, and we look forward to continuing this fruitful partnership for many more years to come."

Forestry has been taught at Bangor University for more than 120 years, and its forestry degrees are accredited by the Institute of Chartered Foresters.

Tilhill Forestry presents awards to outstanding forestry students at universities offering degrees in the field to connect further with students looking to pursue a career in forestry. Additionally, the company operates a competitive graduate programme, which has welcomed many graduates from Bangor University over the years.

Forests with Impact officially launches first commercial tree nursery in a UK prison

Forests with Impact, an award-winning, industry-led social enterprise, has partnered with Maelor Forest Nurseries to establish a commercial tree nursery within HMP Haverigg in Cumbria.

BSW Group is proud to be a National Partner of Forests with Impact, a social enterprise focusing on sustainability and community development. This programme establishes commercial tree nurseries in prisons, delivering valuable skills in horticulture, nursery management and environmental conserva-

tion, in turn supporting how we approach ecological restoration.

The primary goal of Forests With Impact, a community interest company, is to grow seedlings that will assist the UK in achieving its tree planting, nature recovery and biodiversity targets, while the surplus income made from the tree nurseries

will be reinvested into targeted training and community resources for the prison and the local community.

This programme not only tackles local employment and skills development



RHIZOCORE
TECHNOLOGIES

Restoring the underground networks of forests

We produce Rhizopellets with locally- adapted ectomycorrhizal fungi to enhance tree planting success.

Our Customers



Forestry England

Our Rhizopellet



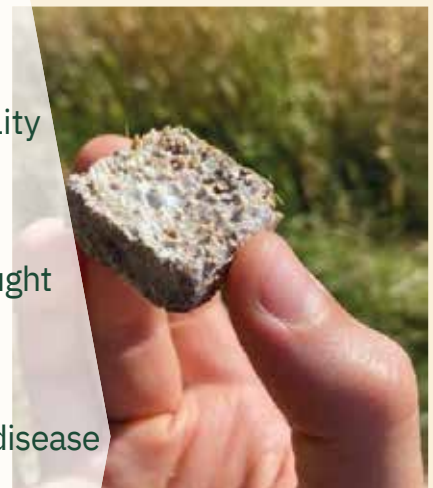
Improves soil fertility and structure.



Vastly improve drought tolerance.



Increases pest and disease resilience.



up to 82% survival rate improvement

Growth rates boosted by 20-50%

Fungi stores 20% of carbon long term

Reduces the need for fertilizers.

enquiries@rhizocore.com

www.rhizocore.com

0131 341 4734



challenges but also serves as a powerful force for environmental change, marking the start of an extraordinary journey toward ecological restoration, community empowerment and social wellbeing.

Forests With Impact aligns with BSW's own operations, and the two businesses have already been working closely together, with Maelor Forest Nurseries, a member of BSW Group, providing expert insight to help HMP Haverigg establish its first polytunnel.

Andrew Henry, Nursery Director at Maelor, has supported the launch of the initiative with invaluable advice, along with Gavin McLaughlin, Head of ESG at BSW Group, and James Brennan, Head of Marketing at BSW Group.

Gavin commented: "We're delighted to be a National Partner for Forests With Impact and believe their objectives are very closely aligned with our own.

"Growing and planting trees promotes ecosystem restoration, helps combat climate change, and improves air quality, all while equipping prisoners with employable skills.

"Helping to provide valuable skills is an essential step in improving our communities and helping those in difficult situations turn their lives around.

"We're incredibly excited about the programme and believe that by working together, we can help to change people's lives for the better, while also raising awareness of the opportunities within our sector."

With 250,000 saplings already planted, and a larger polytunnel being installed soon, the project is gearing up for a wide scale launch later this year.

A tree-mendous celebration of 40 years of success

The biggest ever Scotland's Finest Woods Awards is back for 2025 with a new prize and plans for a 40th birthday celebration.

Entries are now open for the 2025 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards. A glittering awards ceremony will take place in November when there will be the added chance to celebrate National Tree Week.

Jean Nairn, Executive Director of Scotland's Finest Woods, said: "It is wonderful to be planning for our 40th anniversary awards ceremony. And, having a new award to champion the important role urban woodland plays for our communities and the environment shows the vital role trees play in every part of the country.

"Scotland's Finest Woods brings together brilliant work, from farms and forestry to local woods and schools. We are excited for this year's entries, building on what has been a superb array of best practice woodland management and creation over the last four decades."

Helping wildlife, communities and the climate through great woodland is not just happening in rural settings. The new award for Urban Forestry, sponsored by Future Woodlands Scotland, reflects the fact that 80% of Scotland's population live in towns and cities, making urban forestry a vital element to create a greener environment, literally and environmentally.

There are 11 competitions at this year's Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, covering the new category as well as Quality Timber, Farm Woodland, New Native Wood, Community Woodland and Schools and Early Years, and Climate Change.

Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands, presented many of the Awards last year. She said: "The awards are a brilliant showcase for the very best of Scotland's woodlands.

"Each year there's such a variety of awards covering communities, schools, farming,

through to native and productive woodlands. I'm really pleased that for the first time there is now a prize for urban woodlands too.

"The event is a celebration for many people who work hard to manage their woodlands, and I would thoroughly recommend owners to join in and submit an entry."

In 2024, the awards went to a diverse range of work from forestry within a biologically and structurally diverse native wood to best practice farm woodland to a community group which transformed a heavily browsed deer park with increased biodiversity.

Guy Watt, Chair of Scotland's Finest Woods, the charity which operates the programme, said: "It is great to look back on 40 years of celebrating and championing the best of all things woodlands and forestry. That is a fantastic achievement not only for the charity but also the great foresters, farmers, crofters, community groups and schools.

"To add urban forestry as a standalone award is a fitting way to mark four decades, especially at a time when the value of greenspace is rightly being appreciated more than ever."



Over 22,000 trees planted across historic Staffordshire site

Tubex, Robinson Forestry and Cheviot Trees are among the businesses contributing to the restoration of an ancient woodland site.

A 12.26-hectare planting project in Staffordshire is underway to enhance biodiversity and restore historic woodland areas. Landowner Jonathan Capener, a third-generation steward of the land, is leading the project in partnership with Robinson Forestry and Tubex, supported by T W Hardesty Forestry & Rural Services, Hatton Contracts Ltd, and Cheviot Trees.

The site, which was once a racecourse in the early 1900s, is being transformed through a programme of woodland creation and restoration. The project is reconnecting fragmented ancient woodland and replanting areas lost to clearance around the Second World War.

One of the key efforts of the programme is the restoration of Bentilee Wood, expanding it to its historical extent, alongside the replanting of Oxhay Wood, a 6.7-hectare area felled in the 1940s. Together, these efforts aim to enhance biodiversity and provide continuity between woodland habitats with a mix of native species such as oak, field maple, hazel and Scots pine.

While conifers are carefully planted outside the ancient woodland areas, the primary focus remains on native species to support local ecosystems. The project is

also expected to contribute significantly to carbon sequestration, with estimates suggesting it will absorb approximately 3,500 tonnes of carbon over the next 100 years.

In addition, a smaller 0.24-hectare shelterbelt is being created to screen the Keele Services Lorry Park from a nearby farmhouse, complementing the larger-scale planting efforts which aim to bring long-term environmental and biodiversity benefits to the area.

Planting began in November, with several ecological and logistical challenges being addressed as part of the work. These include archaeological features, badger setts, gas pipelines, and the presence of resident deer. Rather than remove or exclude these features, the project has adopted a “working with nature” approach.

For example, browsing by the deer is being managed using 1.5m Tubex Recyclable Tree Shelters in areas where deer fencing is impractical due to the terrain. Smaller shelters are being used in fenced areas to protect saplings from rabbits, while allowing wildlife to continue using the site. This was especially important in this instance, as the area’s substantial buzzard population depends heavily on rabbits as a food source.

Funding for the work has been secured

through the England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) grant, which supports woodland creation across the UK. The project was one of the first to use the new EWCO

Fast Track system, with additional incentives secured for outcomes such as improved water quality, flood risk management, and nature recovery.

To accompany these efforts, the landowner is also introducing a series of leaky dams to slow water flow into the catchment and reduce downstream flooding.

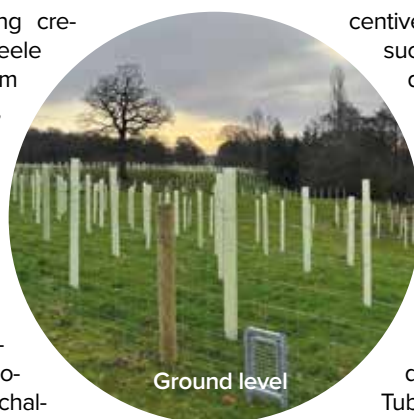
Tubex’s recyclable tree shelters were chosen for the project due to their durability and compatibility with the site’s objectives. These shelters, which are made with 35% recycled content, protect young trees from browsing animals while creating a favourable microclimate to aid establishment.

At the end of their lifespan, they can be collected and recycled through Tubex’s dedicated Collection & Recycling Programme. Once returned through this scheme, they are recycled and reused to produce new shelters, making them a circular product.

Simon Smith of Robinson Forestry noted that this approach helps maintain balance in the ecosystem, commenting: “Tubex tree shelters allow us to protect saplings from browsing without excluding wildlife from the area. For example, fencing off large areas or culling every deer might solve the immediate problem of browsing, but it could have serious unintended consequences for the ecosystem.

“Deer, rabbits, and even the insects supported by their activity play an important role in the balance of this landscape if their numbers are proportional to the ecosystem. By using the right shelters in the right areas, we can ensure the trees are established successfully while still working with the natural dynamics of the site.”

Jonathan Capener shared his thoughts on the project: “This work is helping to restore the woodland to how it may have looked in my grandfather’s time. It’s an important step in managing the land for the future.”



Stoke Planting Site



Consultation to co-develop a 100-year Tree and Woodland Strategy at Eryri National Park

The Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park Association has released a draft version of a new strategy to create vast areas of woodland over the next 100 years, with ambitions to increase forest cover by 50%.

Ambitious plans have been unveiled to create vast new areas of woodland that will transform the look of Eryri. Over the next century, millions of saplings are to be planted on mountainsides to increase the national park's tree cover by 50%.

With the process of developing the Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy now nearing completion, a further consultation period has commenced to draw up a supplementary action plan for the delivery of the strategy's vision.

The proposed woodland will cover 53,315 acres, mostly on upland fringe (ffridd) environments and steep bracken sites on mountainsides. Increasing tree cover on upland farms is also expected as part of the plan. By 2125, the goal is for 75% of the national park's woodland resource to be made up of native trees, with the remaining 25% to be made up of conifer and other non-native trees.

Along with peatland restoration and the conversion non-profitable conifer plantations, this will inevitably lead to a decline in Wales' softwood timber resource for commercial foresters. However, the strategy's authors argue that commercial forestry will still be viable if the focus is turned to hardwood timber.

The document states: "There will be plenty of scope for well-designed mixed forest types producing high quality timber to still be a considerable part of the landscape within the National Park. It will require significant investment and the right

planning and consideration to achieve a robust supply and functioning forestry sector which includes a hardwood supply chain. In addition, there will need to be a commitment to support the measurement and valuation of non-timber and niche-market tree and woodland products to assist with the financial viability of trees and woodland."

For the past year the Eryri National Park Authority (ENPA) has been co-designing the Eryri Tree and Woodland Strategy in partnership with Coed Cadw. During the development phase the public and landowners and managers were consulted to ensure that they played a core role in its development.

Rhys Owen, ENPA Head of Conservation, Woodland and Agriculture said: "By creating a strategy and action plan with landowners and managers at the core of its development, we hope that they will feel ownership over it and as such, make it a viable and achievable strategy.

"Trees and woodlands are important assets that offer huge benefits to the natural environment but also provide social opportunities that promote health and well-being. By developing an inclusive, bottom up approached strategy, we can ensure that future generations can continue to benefit from all that trees and woodlands have to offer."

Creating and managing woodlands to reduce the amount of rainwater flowing off the Welsh hills has long been a key objective. With storms expected to dump ever

larger volumes of water across the country, measures to reduce lowland flooding are taking on greater urgency.

Also targeted will be farmland ffridd, one of the most important woodland habitats in Wales, both culturally and for nature. This is the transitional zone between lower hillsides and the open uplands.

One landowner backing the 100-year plan is Rhys Evans, whose family runs two farm holdings in Rhyd-y-main, near Dolgel-lau. They keep Welsh Mountain sheep and pedigree Welsh Black cattle to manage around 700 acres of hill and mountain land in the area.

He believes more farmers need to embrace tree planting: "It is a shame that trees are sometimes viewed as a threat to agriculture and food production. Planting the right tree in the right place can yield huge environmental and farm business benefits. However, woodland creation requires a strategic approach and careful consideration."

The draft strategy will be presented to the ENPA Committee for adoption in the Spring. In the meantime, the Authority will turn its attention to developing a supplementary action plan, once again, in collaboration with the public through a consultation process.

If you own or are responsible for a parcel of land in Eryri, be it a back garden, a community park or agricultural land, you can have your say on the ENPA website (<https://authority.snowdonia.gov.wales>).

The more things change, the more they stay the same



Julian Evans looks back at advice for woodland owners from nearly 30 years ago.

During the Christmas to New Year break I came across an early 'Woodland Owner' newsletter. I think it was the second or third that Judith Webb and I had put together in days long ago when Confor was the Timber Growers Association (TGA). And I have a confession to make: even these pieces for Forestry and Timber News are filed on my laptop under 'TGA'!

Reading through, this Spring 1998 Newsletter not only pictured your writer looking a bit glum – and with a tad more hair – but recalled the issues and concerns of small woodland owners at the time. As our title reveals, nothing really changes.

In my own introductory piece – 'New life for our woodlands' – I talk about how neglected most small woods are and how thinning, helped by rising demand for firewood, is an effective tool. It improves timber prospects, wildlife values and even enjoyment of the wood itself as it is 'opened up'. The same could be – and indeed is – written today.

Reviving hazel coppicing is also on the front page. It features the work of the Wessex Coppice Group and Linda Glynn makes the thoughtful and apt observation: "It is important that people should be aware that by buying hazel coppice products they are supporting rural jobs and helping to conserve the specialised plant and animal life of our ancient woodland."

She laments the shortage of coppice craftsman urging the need for more training so rural skills are not lost. Isn't that just the refrain today, lack of trained professionals and artisans throughout our sector?

'Horsepower' covers most of page 2 with Jim Waterson's then optimistic view of the increasing role horse extraction will

(and should) play. Now horse logging is a regular at shows like the Bentley Wood Fair and similar 'wood-fests'.

Pages 3 and 4 are mostly taken up by a very personal account of Alex Argypulo falling in love with the idea of owning a woodland and then how he finally came to own not one but two. And how woodland ownership has extended over the last 30 years! While many traditionalists lambast 'wood-lotting' my experience suggests that while having many owners of a single woodland is a bureaucratic nightmare - to use an overworked metaphor - it has brought to forestry a whole new community of people. People who are almost always committed to enhancing wildlife, doing a bit of opening up, resuming coppicing, improving access and the like in their 'corner of the countryside'.

Why should we deny them such pleasure; why when so many benefits – physical, mental and spiritual – are brought by

being among trees or in a wood?

One other piece is by the irrepressible Ted Green. "Let it rot2", he urges, as he inveighs against tidiness in woods and the harm even small fires do to soil. He rightly reminds of the importance of soil microbiota and fostering woodland diversity more generally. And does that not resonate today?

So, I have summarised for you the wisdom of nigh on 30 years ago that remains as relevant as ever. It is like the writer of Ecclesiastes in the Bible: "There is nothing new under the sun". And it is why all of us, including this aging writer, should be passionate about passing on whenever we can hard-won experience, painstakingly acquired knowledge, indeed the lessons of life, from our love of woods and wanting them to be the best they can be.

Businesses know this as corporate memory: can there be a more precious legacy from owning woodland?



CAN WE ASSIST WITH ASH DIEBACK REMOVAL ON YOUR PROPERTY?

FREE SITE APPRAISAL AND CONSULTATION TO ASSESS THE LEVEL OF RISK AND THE BEST APPROACH

Euroforest are specialists in Arboriculture and offer a range of tree care and woodland management solutions to suit your needs:-

**Mechanised Arboriculture
Tree Health Surveys
Tree Surgery
Site Clearance & Mulching
Hedge & Verge Maintenance
Tree Planting & Landscaping
Marketing of Timber and Biomass**



Ash Dieback and other tree diseases continue to spread at pace throughout the UK. It is anticipated that up to 97% of all Ash trees could be lost. Ash and other species at risk are widespread in woodlands and roadside edges. This causes a considerable liability risk to landowners associated with falling trees, especially adjacent to footpaths, highways, and property. Early intervention is always advised to minimise cost and maximise value.

Euroforest offer a tailored approach to suit all requirements. We use a range of specialist equipment, allowing us to safely dismantle any tree in any location. All of our projects are professionally planned and managed from start to finish, enabling us to achieve and deliver the best results.

Our highly experienced team offer an industry leading Arboriculture service across the country. We lead the way in compliance and public relations, seeing a gold standard through our certification to ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems, ISO 45001 Occupational H&S Management and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.

Euroforest's specialist teams offer a bespoke service, from initial site appraisal through to completion and replanting. We offer a service that puts the landowner centre stage while always minimising costs and maximising any timber revenues. If you wish to find out more, please visit our website or contact us via the below details.

CALL US ON 01483 920992
arboriculture@euroforest.co.uk

www.euroforest.co.uk





A helicopter has been used to lay out quarter of a million trees for planting on a remote site managed by Scottish Woodlands Ltd on the Isle of Mull.

The Lochgilphead team worked with Skyhook Helicopters and Scottish Tree Planting to get almost 250,000 young broadleaved trees into place in Argyll.

Eddie Addis, General Manager (Management and Services) for Scottish Woodlands Ltd, said: "On remote and challenging sites like this, there are safety risks with trying to lay out such a large number of trees using traditional methods.

"The high costs of the hire of a helicopter are offset by many other factors: far less risk to operators; a reduced need for labour; the large savings on infrastructure costs; and the reduced environmental impact of not having to build infrastructure in what will be a carbon-eating new native woodland!"

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.

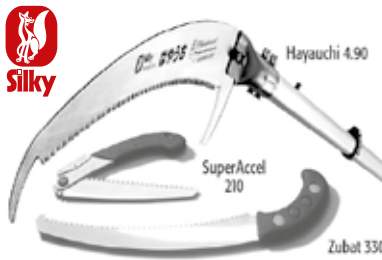
By submitting a picture to Forestry in Pictures you give Confor permission to use the file for non-commercial purposes in Forestry and Timber News or the Confor website. Photos will always be credited.

COMING UP IN APR / MAY 25 – GET INVOLVED

In our April/May issue we will be focusing on Skills & Training and Career Development. 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@whippletree.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

High performance firewood
production at your fingertips.



S-376
FIREWOOD PROCESSOR



Scan here to
see full details

✓ Competitive
finance options

✓ Generous part-
exchange options



JAS P WILSON
FOREST MACHINES

www.jaspwilson.co.uk

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