

Funding forestry
research, training and
education throughout
the UK.



Dr Stuart Glen

A presentation to the Hylobius Research Conference 2025

Thursday, 24 April 2025.

The Scottish Forestry Trust

The Scottish Forestry Trust was established in 1983

An independent Charitable Trust governed by a Board of Trustees

Support Forestry research, training and education across the UK

To date have supported more than 300 projects

Our smallest award has been £500, our largest is £70,000

We fund one-off events and activities to multi-year research projects

Our income comes from an endowment, plus partnership funds

Our Trustees



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Current research funding priorities

Futureproofing Forestry

FORESTRY CARBON. Defining and developing forestry and timber technologies' contribution to the carbon challenge facing society.

FORESTRY RESILIENCE TO THREATS. Understanding and managing current and emerging threats to the sector.

FUTURE FORESTRY LANDSCAPES. Understanding and planning for the forests, woodlands and urban trees of the future.

FORESTRY WORKFORCE AND SKILLS. Addressing the challenges of securing a well-trained workforce and with the right skills to deliver an innovative and adaptable sector.

Our funding streams



General Fund



Bursary Fund



Early Career Researchers Fund



Hylobius Research Fund



Identifying alternatives to conventional plastic tree shelters.
Dr Ian Willoughby FICFor, Forest Research (Forestry Plastics Group).

General Fund



Supports any research, training or education project, which fall outside the scope of the Bursary Fund, and which can demonstrate a benefit to the wider UK forestry sector.

Up to 30% of the eligible project costs.

The Trust will not normally support projects that have already started, are the statutory responsibility of other organisations or general appeals for funding.

Application submitted to Projects and Research Committee, which meets three times a year, to consider Concept Notes and Full Applications.



Bursary Fund



Supports PhD research carried out in the UK for the benefit of UK forestry.

Supported by Scottish Forestry, Forestry Commission and Natural Resources Wales.

Up to 30% of the eligible project costs.

Eligible costs can include student stipend fees, field work costs, doctoral training and attendance at conferences.

Application submitted to Projects and Research Committee, which meets three times a year to consider Concept Notes and Full Applications.

Current Bursary Fund Projects



P18-285B Improved pretreatment and fraction of soft and hardwoods to access feedstock chemicals. **University of St. Andrews.**

P19-286B Improving outcomes in montane woodland restoration. **University of Stirling.**

P19-292B Securing good quality acorn supply in the UK. **University of Southampton.**

P19-294B Enhancing Integrated pest management in forestry. **University of Edinburgh.**

P21-296B Identification of filamentous pathogens on leaves. **University of Birmingham.**

P21-299B Nutrient cycling in upland forest soils. **Middlesex University.**

P22-305B An easier route for strength grading hardwoods. **Edinburgh Napier University.**

P22-309B Balancing benefits and trade-offs from future forests. **University of Stirling.**

P23-312B Dynamic conservation of genetic diversity in juniper. **UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.**

P23-317B Sitka spruce colonisation at treeline in Scotland. **University of Stirling.**

P24-320B Modelling forest disease and its carbon budget. **University of Oxford.**

Current Bursary Fund Students



From left to right: James Baker (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology), Ben Wilson (University of Stirling), Kieran R Clark (University of Birmingham), Rory Abernethy (University of Stirling), Dr Ryan McClory (University of Southampton), Sarah Watts (University of Stirling), Dr James McDonald (Middlesex University) and Haoran Wu (University of Oxford).

Early Career Researchers Fund

Support for conference attendance for recently qualified researchers.

Up to £5,000 available annually.

Up to 30% of the costs.

No more than three individuals from any one institution.

Applications may be submitted at any time of the year.

A decision usually within 3-4 weeks.

Hylobius Research Fund

The Hylobius Industry Research Partnership has entrusted The Scottish Forestry Trust to manage The Hylobius Research Fund.

The large pine weevil, *Hylobius abietis* is estimated to cause in excess of £7 million worth of damage to young trees every year.

Develop an alternative to chemical treatments that will work in areas of high pine weevil populations.

Develop a viable biocontrol option.

The fund will aim to raise a minimum of £400,000 of funding over the next five years to support research.



Large pine weevil, *Hylobius abietis*.

Administration of the Fund

The fund will open for applications once the first year's funding is in place.

The Hylobius Research Fund will fund between 30-50% of the total project costs.

Applications will be submitted to an independent panel which will meet three times a year to consider Concept Notes and Full Applications.

Eligibility criteria, application guidelines and timelines will be drawn up and publicised on The Scottish Forestry Trust's website.

Contact details



Dr Stuart Glen

Email. director@scottishforestrytrust.org.uk

Web. www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk