

SPRING 2016

# Chartered Forester

MEMBER  
MAGAZINE  
FOR THE  
**INSTITUTE OF  
CHARTERED  
FORESTERS**

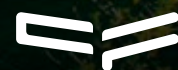


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# CONTENTS

Spring 2016

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Regulars

- 4 News
- 8 People
- 12 ICF Representation
- 30 Tributes
- 32 Regions
- 35 Diary

### Features

#### 14 Stuffy old boys network?

Two of ICF's youngest members talk about how chartered status has benefited their careers

#### 18 Setting the scene

Ahead of the ICF's National Conference, two speakers discuss the issues affecting their industry

#### 24 Land sparing challenge

The UK's next carbon budget will put the role of land use under scrutiny

#### 26 The GREEN SURGE

Forest Research joins European partners to create resilient green and blue infrastructures

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# NEWS

What our members have been up to

## FIRST WORD

RAISING THE ISSUES THAT MATTER

Forest Research has changed. From 1 April 2016 Forest Research will include Forestry Commission colleagues from Inventory, Forecasting & Operations Support (IFOS), Publications and Statistics. This strengthens the science, skills and expertise that Forest Research offers its new and existing customers. The agency will employ 240 staff, and have an annual turnover of around £15 million.

The IFOS team's work includes the National Forest Inventory (NFI). The NFI involves collecting, synthesizing and disseminating accurate information about forests and woodlands in the UK. The IFOS team is also skilled in mapping, geodata and operational support. This includes the development of the Forestry Commission's forest management information system (Forester GIS), and operational policy and guidance.

The publications team is responsible for a wide range of Forestry Commission advice, guidance and the results of research projects, while the statistics team produces official statistics on a wide range of topics related to forestry. The main statistics are published annually in Forestry Statistics and summarised in Forestry Facts & Figures.

Forest Research's science priorities are to provide the science and evidence base for programmes to protect our trees and forests, enhance forest ecosystem resilience and services, and ensure forests' sustainable management and adaptation to climate change.

Forest Research provides authoritative evidence and practical solutions for all involved in forestry policy and practice, and has an unrivalled range of expertise that provides proven skills, ideas and experience for its partners and customers across the UK and overseas.

**Hugh Williams FICFor,**  
**Head of Centre for**  
**Research Services**



Julie Adamson, ICF Marketing & Communications Officer, and Alex McAuley, ICF Policy & Development Officer, visit the Woodland Charter street art in Edinburgh

**T**he Institute of Chartered Foresters has joined a coalition of more than 48 organisations in a campaign led by the Woodland Trust celebrating the value of our trees and woods, and aiming to secure their future. The Charter for Trees, Woods and People will be launched in November 2017 and marks 800 years since Henry III signed the original Charter of the Forest protecting and restoring the rights of the people to access and use the Royal Forests.

The coalition's ambition is that the principles set out in the 2017 charter will articulate the relationship between people and trees in the UK in the 21st

century. It recognises that the UK's woods and trees are facing unprecedented pressures from development, pests and diseases and climate change. They risk being neglected, undervalued and forgotten. The charter will provide guidance and inspiration for policy, practice, innovation and enjoyment, redefining the everyday benefits we all gain from woods and trees for everyone, from government and businesses, to communities and individuals.

**For more information and inspiring stories, visit: [www.treecharter.uk](http://www.treecharter.uk) #treecharter**



## Forestry careers in 60 seconds

The Institute has been increasing its focus on forestry and arboricultural education, with the aim of future-proofing the sector by promoting these careers to young people.

We have teamed up with sponsors Forestry Commission Scotland and supporters Confor to produce a promotional video – Forestry Careers in 60 Seconds. The video is aimed at 14-18 year olds and showcases the diversity of roles in the forestry sector. It has been designed for distribution on social media channels and members are encouraged to share as widely as possible.

To view online, visit the ICF YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/CharteredForesters](http://www.youtube.com/CharteredForesters)

## EU referendum blogs – watch this space



In the run-up to the EU referendum vote in the UK on 23 June, the Institute will be posting a series of blogs from April that examine the implications of a decision to leave the EU

on forestry and arboriculture. The blogs will be posted in the ICF LinkedIn area (<http://bit.ly/1TTwVnl>) and on the ICF website (<http://bit.ly/1MdQx3k>).

## Fascinating Farnham Forest photo scoops top prize in European competition

An unusual picture of the top of Alice Holt Forest has scooped first prize in a Europe-wide photographic competition. It was taken from the top of a 26-metre (85 feet) tower in Alice Holt Research Forest, near Farnham. It won for the Forestry Commission's Forest Research agency a competition to illustrate scientific research that contributes to Europe's 'bio-economy'.

The winning photograph was taken by a 'phenocam' which has been mounted on

the tower since 2009. It takes pictures looking down on the forest every 30 minutes during daylight hours to record seasonal and cyclical changes in the forest. By studying the photos, scientists at Forest Research's Alice Holt Research Station, which is sited in the forest, can see how factors such as the changing climate affect key phenological events such as the timing of bud burst in spring and the onset of autumn colour.



© Forest Research

## 'Keep it Clean' campaign takes the lead on biosecurity

The need to 'Keep it Clean' will be an important theme of Forestry Commission England's communications about pests and diseases this year. Andy Hall MICFor, Head of Forestry Commission England's Tree Health Unit, explained: "Excellent work is already being done across the country to reduce the risks of introducing and spreading pests and diseases. We tree professionals realise that our work has a high chance of inadvertently spreading pests and diseases on our vehicles, equipment and clothing. We must take the lead on biosecurity to prevent these diseases from getting an easy ride.

"We have identified a demand from fellow

tree professionals for easy-to-understand, handy advice as to how we can each do our bit to minimise that risk. We will be rolling out a number of resources during the year to help embed good biosecurity practice. Among the resources will be:

- pocket-sized 'Z-card' guides setting out practical steps, tailored to the needs of three key high-risk groups – foresters and forestry workers, arborists and landscapers
- dashboard stickers to help people "think kit, think transport and think trees"
- an online e-learning package designed to raise awareness and knowledge of biosecurity issues and measures

■ continuing the Commission's well received programme of regional tree health events where woodland managers can get advice directly from experts.

Biosecurity advice is already available on the Forestry Commission's website at [www.forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/biosecurity) and at [www.forestry.gov.uk/pests](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pests)



Don't give pests and diseases an easy ride

## In brief

■ ICF Fellow Mark Pritchard FICFor wrote to us to say: "I thought the latest issue of *Chartered Forester* was excellent! It has evolved significantly in both content and presentation from the days when I remember producing it on a hand-powered Gestetner duplicating machine in Walker Street! Humble beginnings indeed."

■ The National Trust for Scotland proposes to transform the way it cares for Scotland's natural, built and cultural heritage. Savings will be made through staff relocation and reduction.

■ Thanks to support from FC Scotland and a strong drive for collaboration between owners of small woodlands in Argyll, the Sylva Foundation is piloting new co-operation tools within its myForest service. If you run, or want to run, a co-operative for small woodland owners, please email paul@sylva.org.uk for more details.

■ The Tree Council is looking ahead with the announcement of the key diary dates for its community action programme in 2016. The first two campaigns of the year – the Tree Care Campaign and Walk in the Woods Month – continue with the 2015/16 Tree Year theme 'Communities Rooted to Trees'. It highlights the value of trees in helping communities to put down firm roots and grow strong and healthy together. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1TR1VVK>



Environment Minister Rory Stewart

■ Environment Minister Rory Stewart has agreed there is "clear scientific evidence" that nature is beneficial to mental health following the publication of a new study by Natural England. Titled "A Review of Nature-Based Interventions for Mental Health Care", the research was commissioned by Natural England from the University of Essex and mental health charity Mind.

■ In Canada, a deal to protect most of the Great Bear Rain Forest has been agreed after decades of campaigning. The accord aims to safeguard 85 per cent of the world's largest intact temperate rainforest.

■ In January, the Institute responded to the Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021. All of the Institute's consultation responses can be viewed online in the Members' Area at: <http://bit.ly/1Rc7SZy>

■ *Our Forests, Our People*, a new short film produced by Confor, which they are asking

people to share, offers an insight into the sector through the voices of the people who work for forestry and timber businesses. The film, and the other materials that Confor is producing, is intended to tackle common misconceptions and promote a better understanding of what the sector is and what it provides for society.

■ FC Scotland's new Guidance Note, *The Provision of Archaeological Information and Advice in Scotland to Meet the UKFS*, articulates the agreed roles, responsibilities and requirements of all parties through the stages of developing forestry proposals to ensure the effective protection and conservation of the historic environment. It is aimed at all parties engaged in the preparation and approval of woodland expansion and management schemes. <http://bit.do/ukwasarchinfo> (foot of page)

■ The Urban Forest and Woodland Advisory Committee Network has now published its first document, *Our Vision of a Resilient Urban Forest*. Produced with support from Forestry Commission England, it brings together the expertise of the Network Members. A timely reminder of the benefits and importance of green infrastructure, the publication was formally launched at the Community Forests Conference in Birmingham on 22 March. Download it at: <http://bit.do/urbanforestvision>

## Skates on to meet grant deadlines

Thousands of hectares of England's countryside are set to benefit from further protection thanks to two grants to be rolled out under the Countryside Stewardship scheme this month.

The Forestry Commission's (FC) Woodland Creation Grant closed on 31 March for initial applications. It offers farmers and other land managers up to £6,800 per hectare to plant, weed, and protect young trees. The FC is highlighting the role of woodlands in reducing flood risk as part of an integrated approach to catchment management.

Also, capital grant applications for farmers to restore boundary features, such as hedges and stone walls, to protect their local wildlife or landscape must be submitted by 30 April. Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

**For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/countryside stewardship](http://www.gov.uk/countryside stewardship)**

## ICF to facilitate Tree Officers' Conference

The first National Tree Officers' Conference, organised by the London Tree Officers' Association and the Municipal Tree Officers' Association, is being facilitated by the Institute of Chartered Foresters. It will provide an opportunity for tree officers to present to their colleagues on the latest research, best practice and innovation in different areas of local authority arboricultural work. It will be held on the 9 November 2016, at the Oakengates Theatre, Limes Road, Telford, TF2 6EP ([www.theplacetelford.com](http://www.theplacetelford.com)). Bookings will open later in the year at [www.charteredforesters.org/tree-officers-conference](http://www.charteredforesters.org/tree-officers-conference)

The submission period for eligible abstracts closes on 14 April 2016. Those submitted should not exceed 500 words, and will be considered on a wide range of subjects relevant to the remit of a tree/woodland/planning officer. Abstracts will only be considered from local government employed tree and woodland officers. Email



Russell Horsey ([russell.horsey@charteredforesters.org](mailto:russell.horsey@charteredforesters.org)) for guidance.

Abstracts will be reviewed by a selection committee (Russell Horsey MICFor, Matthew Seabrook, Al Smith MICFor and Jake Tibbetts) and selection will be based on overall quality, appropriateness, focus, and the practical nature of material and appeal to a tree officer audience. Submissions by email to: Becky Porter, London Tree Officers' Association: [executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk](mailto:executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk)



The new forestry facility offers a practical training environment. Credit: UHI

## New facility for Scottish School of Forestry in Balloch

Inverness College UHI (University of the Highlands & Islands) formally opened its new Scottish School of Forestry facility at its Balloch site 10km east of the city last month. It was opened by Scottish Natural Heritage chairman Ian Ross OBE FICFor, a former lecturer at the site who led the development of its first degree course.

Lying within a 10ha woodland that serves as a practical training environment, the new larch-clad building will accommodate more than 150 students each year. An arboretum is planned on the site of the former building.

## Government action to tackle floods



The government confirmed the terms of reference for the National Flood Resilience Review, which will be chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Oliver Letwin.

Established last month following Storm Desmond, the review will assess how the country can be better protected from future flooding and increasingly extreme weather events.

It will focus on four key areas: updating

our climate modelling and stress-testing the nation's resilience to flood risk, assessing the resilience of our important infrastructure like electricity substations, our temporary defences, and our future investment strategy.

The review is set to be published this summer and the team will include the Government's Chief Scientist, Defra, DECC, DCLG, HM Treasury, and the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency.

## Slowing the Flow at Pickering

Understandably, given the floods in York and elsewhere, the Slowing the Flow at Pickering partnership project has received a great deal of public interest.

Slowing the Flow at Pickering is a partnership project closely sponsored by Forest Research as well as by Forestry Commission England, The Environment Agency, The North York Moors National Park Authority, Durham University, Natural England and the wider community. The lead funder is Defra.

Forest Research is leading this project, which is exploring a new approach to flood management. Slowing the Flow at Pickering is about working with nature to try to store more water in the landscape and slow its passage downstream. While this will not prevent all flooding, it is expected to reduce the frequency of future floods in the town, and to deliver

a range of other benefits to the local environment and community.

Key highlights from the project are:

- The local community and partners have embraced the concept of working with natural processes and believe this new approach to flood risk management is already making a difference.

- Flood alleviation has been achieved by working with natural processes, including building a large flood storage area, placing 167 'leaky' woody dams and 187 heather bale dams within streams, building two timber bunds, planting 44ha of woodland and improving farmland, moorland and woodland management.

- A strong partnership has delivered a more sustainable approach to managing flood risk, which has reduced the risk of flooding in Pickering from a 25 per cent chance in any year to a less than 4 per cent chance.

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# PEOPLE

What our members have been up to



## The National Forest Company new Chair

Sir William Worsley, a businessman, farmer and forester will take up the role from 1 April 2016

## Two members receive awards for excellence in forestry



Ian Ross and James Hepburne Scott (insert)

**T**he Institute of Chartered Foresters has announced two awards for excellence in forestry. Ian Ross OBE FICFor has been awarded the prestigious Institute's Medal, while James Hepburne Scott has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute.

Ian received ICF's highest award, the Institute Medal, for his commitment to professional excellence in forestry. Ian, known to many as Willie, is currently Chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage, in addition to chairing Forestry Commission Scotland's National Forest Land Scheme Assessment Panel. As a Highland Councillor for 13 years, he was active on sustainability, renewable energy and community engagement issues within both the Highland Council and in the wider forestry sector. A graduate in Forestry from Aberdeen University, he was later the senior lecturer at the Scottish School of Forestry, where he led on the development of its first degree course. He has been an ICF member for 33 years, and a Fellow for nearly 15. He has sat on numerous ICF regional and national committees, including the Council, Professional and Educational Standards Committees, the Educational and Scientific

Trust, and the ICF North Scotland Regional Group.

Ian said: "I am delighted and surprised to be awarded the Institute's medal – it is an enormous privilege and honour for me. The Institute has played an important part in my professional life – an opportunity to maintain my own knowledge and skills, learn from others and also hopefully make some small contribution to our sector. Although not involved in the forest industry on an everyday basis, I still consider myself a professional forester and this also reflects the positive way our profession has developed – it is most certainly about the more traditional forest products, but is also very much about the wider public benefits forestry can deliver."

Meanwhile, James Hepburne Scott has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute, which honours outstanding services to the forestry sector. This is an exclusive award, with only 14 previous recipients, and entitles the use of the post-nominals "FICFor (Hon)".

James Hepburne Scott is director of Forest Carbon Ltd, Chairman of the River Tweed Forum and Vice-President of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society. He was formerly Sales Director of Alba Trees

Nursery and Scotland Chairman of the Forestry and Timber Association prior to the formation of Confor. He has a small farm in the Scottish Borders where he has been an enthusiastic planter of productive woods.

The award recognises James' contribution to the forestry sector, in particular his long-time lobbying of government for greater support for UK forestry. James was among the first to identify the carbon market as an opportunity for UK forestry and to date, Forest Carbon has enabled more than 3,000ha of new forest creation.

Speaking of this award, he said: "I thank the Institute most sincerely for this award which has touched me deeply. I hope to help the Institute grow the reputation of British forestry and encourage good young people to make it their career."

Ian and James will receive their awards at the dinner during the forthcoming ICF National Conference – The Timber Supply Chain: Dynamics and Opportunities, which takes place on 27-28 April in Newcastle.

**For more information about the conference, visit: [www.charteredforesters.org/conference2016](http://www.charteredforesters.org/conference2016)**



# Over the last few months, ICF staff have promoted the sector to key decision makers



Scottish Parliament

**S**hireen Chambers FICFor attended the formal opening of the new facility for Scottish School of Forestry at Balloch (see page 7). More recently, Shireen went to the Industry Leadership Group's Skills Task Group (STG) meeting at Silvan House. The STG aims to develop a Skills Investment Plan for the sector. ICF members can learn more about the activities of this group by visiting: <http://bit.ly/1q2hKfn>

In January, Russell Horsey MICFor, Development Director, and Dr Stuart Glen, Membership Manager, attended Forestry Commission Scotland's parliamentary reception at The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood. The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr Aileen McLeod MSP, spoke at the event and launched Scotland's new animation: *There's more to Scotland's forests*

*than meets the eye* (<https://youtube.com/watch?v=4M8v0k5YdIg>).

Russell recently met with Natural Resources Wales to discuss training for professionals and with the England bio security team to look at their new biosecurity campaign and its new z-cards for arboriculturalists and foresters.

Alex McAuley, ICF's Policy & Development Officer, attended the Woodland Charter Professional Steering Group meeting in December, ahead of its launch in January. More details about the charter can be found on page 4 and at: <https://treecharter.uk>

Alex also attended a Forestry All Party Parliamentary Group meeting in Westminster where the role of trees in flood prevention was examined.

Finally, Stuart and Alex were present at Confor's Forestry and Timber: Scotland's Hidden Success Story conference in March.

## A new project is under way to improve the functionality of the ICF online Members' Area

Membership Manager Dr Stuart Glen is working on a project to improve the overall functionality of ICF's online Members' Area. Stuart said: "The first phase has to improve the appearance and some of the content of the Members' Area which had become a little dated.

"I am now working with Axia, who provide the technology behind the website, on the next phase which includes populating members' CPD records with attendance at ICF National events, such as ICF's Timber Supply Chain conference in April. Following

the event, those members who attended will have their CPD records updated and can then amend the data as needed to reflect their participation in respect of their current role."

Stuart added: "If you haven't logged into the Members' Area recently, I would encourage you to do so and to check that your details are up-to-date."

**If you have any feedback after using the new Members' Area, email: [stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org](mailto:stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org)**

## SOCIABLE LEARNING EVENT

The Institute is hosting its first ever study tour for young professionals which will take place on sites near Hexham and Carlisle in North England. Participants will visit both new planting and existing forest sites, in addition to a factory tour at Egger Forestry in Hexham. This event is a fantastic opportunity for forestry and arboricultural professionals under the age of 35 to enjoy a sociable learning event.

**Further details can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1R2NPON>**

## ICF WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBERS

### ASSOCIATES

Neil Beaton	South Scotland
Denis Coy	North Scotland
David Crozie	Wales
Iwan Downey	North England
Virginia Harden Scott	South Scotland
Colin Horton	North England
Christopher Marsh	North Scotland
Nicholas Mockler	South Scotland
Mark Nankervis	South West England
Iwan Parry	Wales
Lewis Prentice	South Scotland
Stewart Priddle	South West England
John Purchase	Wales

Dylan Roberts	Wales
Murray Swapp	North Scotland
Elton Watson	North England

### STUDENTS

Lewis Abnett	Midlands
Fiona Andrews	Wales
Richard Baron	Midlands
Jonathan Barton	Wales
Thomas Bennett	Midlands
Thomas Coleman	North Scotland
Susan Davies	South East England
George Dennison	Wales
Christie Dowling	Wales

David Finnigan	Wales
Julia Guenzel	International
Tom Harvey	North Scotland
Sam Hobson	Midlands
Benjamin Kwiatkowski	Midlands
Benyingme Lufung	Wales
George Pickering	Midlands
Ewan Ryan	Midlands
Andrew Smithson	Midlands
Matthew Tomkins	Midlands
Benjamin Vaughan	Midlands
Joshua Williamson	Wales
Hazel Yule	North Scotland

# New non-executive members welcomed

**T**he National Committee for Scotland, the body which helps Forestry Commission Scotland formulate its strategic forestry policies and advice to Ministers, welcomed John Hollingdale and David Gould as new non-executive members in February for a three year term. John, who is Chief Executive of the Community Woodlands Association, has more than 25 years' extensive forestry management and community experience. He is a member of the National Forest Land Scheme Evaluation Panel and helped Forest Enterprise Scotland with a recent 'Health Check' on their work with communities. He is also Chair of the Highland LEADER

Strategic Local Action Group.

Financial professional David's recent posts included being the Deputy to the Finance Director of NHS24 in Scotland, and Head of Corporate Services for Glasgow City Marketing Bureau. He was also a non-executive on the Audit Committee for the Registers of Scotland from 2007-12.

Welcoming the appointments, Amanda Bryan MICFor, Chair of the National Committee for Scotland, said: "Both Jon and David are highly experienced, and their skills will be a great asset in helping Forestry Commission Scotland to discharge its duties and to develop over the coming years."



## By appointment: Adam Todd

Adam Todd has joined the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) as its first Future Foresters Project Officer. His role is to support and inspire more people to take up careers in arboriculture, forestry and woodland management. The project is supported by the Prince's Countryside Fund and RFS members and aims to address an acknowledged skills shortage in the sector. Adam, 22, holds a BSc (Hons) in Forest and Woodland Management from the National School of Forestry, University of Cumbria, and is an arboriculturist.

## Author makes donation following sales of his books

A very big thank you to Peter Henry FICFor for making a donation to ICF's Educational and Scientific Trust (EST) from sales of his books: *An Earthly Paradise - Memories of a Forester in the Bechuanaland Protectorate/Botswana 1963-68*, and *All Our Yesterdays, vol. 2*, and *All Our Yesterdays - Memories of a Forester in Nigeria, 1950-62*. To purchase a copy of either publication, contact Allison Lock on 0131 240 1425 or email [allison.lock@charteredforesters.org](mailto:allison.lock@charteredforesters.org)

The EST continues to award three grant types - Travel Bursaries, Professional Development Awards, and Events Bursaries - with the aim of advancing education in all aspects

of forestry and arboriculture.

Last year, one EST beneficiary was Fergus Eakin who joined the Operation Wallacea Biodiversity research expedition to Pacaya Samiria reserve, Peru, from 13 June to 10 July. After completing his expedition, Fergus wrote to the Trustees: "It is very important that I express how grateful I am for the funding you have provided me. Without this assistance I would certainly have struggled to successfully complete this expedition. I can confidently say that I have achieved so much more than these. Unfortunately, I doubt I will ever be able to write down a complete idea of what I have achieved that does this expedition the credit it deserves."

## Corrections and apologies

Our sincere apologies to Jaime Bray for misspelling his name in the winter *Chartered Forester* when congratulating our new Professional Members. Also,

to ICF Associate David Browning, for additionally attributing him incorrectly as a MICFor, and to Bangor University - and Jeremy Barrell FICFor - for locating them in South and not North Wales in Jeremy's article on arboriculture.

## New Year's Honours for services to forestry

Mrs Wilma Carol Grant Harper, Director, Corporate and Forestry Support Division, Forestry Commission, FICFor, was awarded an MBE for public and voluntary services to the Forestry Sector in The Queen's New Year Honours.

Wilma, who retired from the commission at the end of March, reacted to the honour saying: "I'm delighted to be honoured in this way, and quite overwhelmed by the good wishes from so many people. I feel privileged to have had such a varied career in a profession with so many people who share my passion for forests and the ways they can contribute to our wellbeing."



## Meet the new Chair of National Forest Company



The National Forest Company (NFC) has appointed Sir William Worsley as its new Chair, effective from 1 April 2016. Sir William, a businessman, farmer and forester who runs Hovingham Estate, his family business in North Yorkshire, takes over from Catherine Graham-Harrison OBE whose term of office comes to an end this month. He joins in the NFC's 25th anniversary year.

## Defra welcomes Dominic Driver MICFor



Dominic has been seconded by the Forestry Commission (FC) to Defra's transformation team to run the review of marine and link Defra and FC on the common areas of work.

Dominic's secondment is due to end on 2 October 2017.

# A NEED FOR BALANCE

Are ICF's initial concerns about the Law Commission's Draft Wildlife Bill well-founded?

**Rod Leslie FICFor** and **Alex McAuley** reviewed the Bill and say 'yes'

## A BILL OF CONCERNS

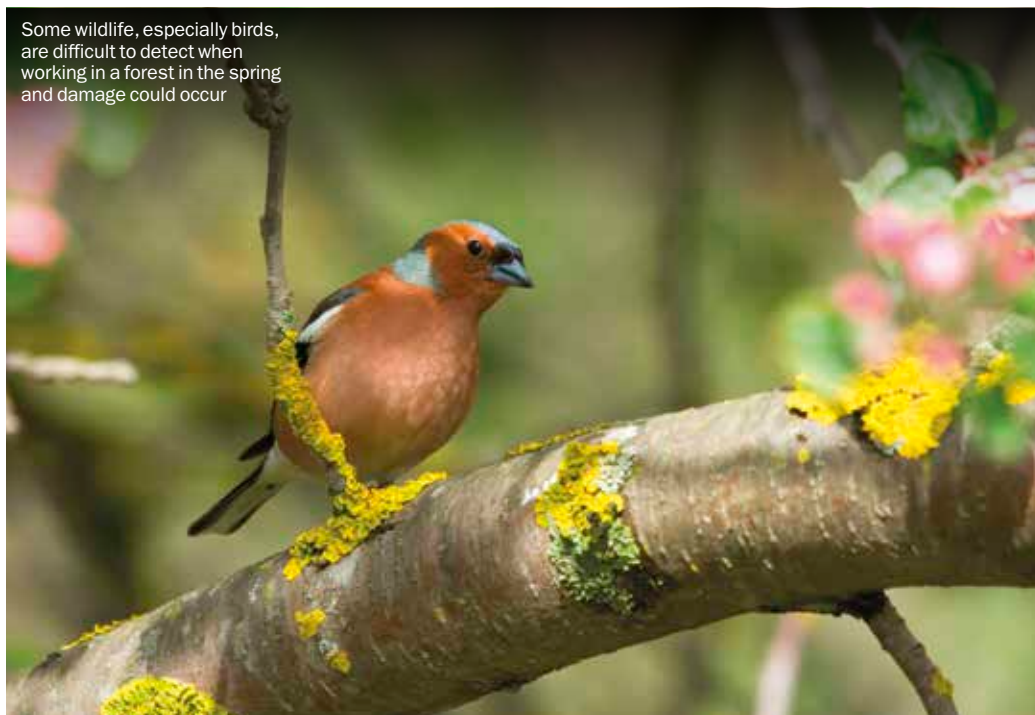
When the Law Commission published its final report and draft Bill on 10 November 2015, it recommended to Government that existing legislation be replaced by a single statute. The new statute would bring together the law governing the protection, control and management of wildlife and in their view make it more consistent, easier to understand and simpler to use. Additionally, it would reflect relevant EU directives and international conventions, as well as national wildlife policy, and provide a regulatory framework organised around schedules listing protected and controlled species and prohibited conduct.

The Institute first provided input during the formal consultation phase in 2012<sup>1</sup>. While, as reviewers, we are pleased to report that many of ICF's key concerns were addressed, we remain unclear as to how the proposals will work at a practical level for forestry operations.

For forestry, the key areas of concern in the report seem to be chapters three and four and, in particular, recommendations 29 to 34. This follows extensive discussion on what constitutes 'disturbance'. On first reading, the report seems to suggest that any action where one knew there was a risk of disturbance would break the law.

So, as a professional forester, one would know that going into almost any stand in the spring could destroy a chaffinch nest

Some wildlife, especially birds, are difficult to detect when working in a forest in the spring and damage could occur



and, in knowing that, an offence could be committed. However, it is not quite as clear as that.

The report recognises the emphasis in the EU Directives on population and habitat. An alternative interpretation in the forestry context could be that, as would almost always be the case, disturbing a small proportion of the local chaffinch population through thinning or felling in the breeding season would have no impact on chaffinch population from year to year. Nest losses would be likely to be well within the normal 'envelope' of losses to predation and other factors, such as weather.

Of principle concern – and highlighted in ICF's recent letter to the Law Commission – is that tree felling and thinning is of necessity a year-round activity. The Law Commission recognises that the industry has a wide range of systems in place to safeguard protected species, from nesting raptors to badger setts. However, the problem is that some wildlife, especially nesting birds, are impractical to locate and protect. Up until now the 'unintentional consequences of a legal

operation' has provided a defence. ICF has thus sought additional clarification on whether what has been proposed is a threshold to the 'deliberate' definition that the Law Commission has opted for.

While we consider there to be a need for a balance between woodland management and species protection, there is concern that further legislation that results in a reduction in management could breach the requirements of the EU Habitat Directive.

The Institute looks forward

to receiving the Law Commission's clarification on these points.

**Rod Leslie FICFor, Forestry Consultant, with assistance from Alex McAuley, ICF's Policy and Development Officer**

### Reference

1. Rod Leslie FICFor compiled the Institute's response.

### Read More

Download the final report at: [www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/wildlife-law](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/wildlife-law)



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# ICF REPRESENTATION

News from ICF Members on working groups

ICF Representatives Jon Heuch MICFor and Dougal Driver FICFor CEnv report on meetings they attended during the autumn 2015

## Defra Tree Health Policy Group focus on threat of new pests

I first attended this group on 15 October 2015, but was kept informed of pertinent issues prior to the meeting, including the outbreak of Oriental Gall wasp on chestnut and EU actions on Xylella.

Subsequently, members of the group were involved in two Defra Tree Health Challenge Labs (stakeholder invitation workshops) in November – one for ash and the other for oak and other species. The group has commented on the new Tree Council-led project on Chalara on ash in non-woodland situations. Pest-specific contingency plans are also being prepared, and the initial one, on Emerald Ash borer, has been circulated for comment. Others are in the pipeline.

There is a great deal going on in government agencies with regards to threats of new pests and diseases, actions to control existing ones and monitoring efforts to catch and control both new and existing problems. The internet is a rich source of information but it is split between various government agencies with further fragmentation as a result of devolution.

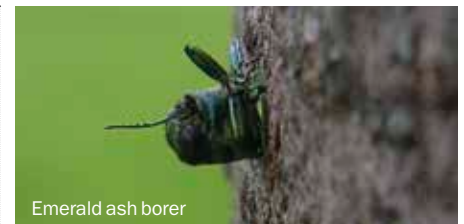
The Forestry Commission, Forest



John Heuch MICFor

Research, Animal and Plant Health Agency and Defra websites all have valuable information, as do the websites of various relevant Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish agencies. European websites can also be useful in some cases.

Jon Heuch MICFor



Emerald ash borer

© Dr Rex Bastian

## WHO IS YOUR ICF REPRESENTATIVE?

- **Applicants Focus Group (England):** Neville Elstone MICFor  
Graham Garrett FICFor
- **Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group:** Rob Shaw
- **British Standards Technical Committee:** Dealga O'Callaghan FICFor
- **GB and NI Tree Health Advisory Group:** Dr Jon Heuch MICFor
- **Glastir Woodland Stakeholders Group:** Charles Gittins MICFor
- **Green Infrastructure Partnership:** Martin Gammie MICFor, Dougal Driver FICFor
- **Joint Committee of the Landscape Institute Contracts Forum:** Alan Riley FICFor
- **National Forestry Learning & Development Working Group (England):** Russell Horsey MICFor
- **Natural Capital Committee Landowners Group:** Dougal Driver FICFor
- **New Forest Consultative Panel:** Mark Carter MICFor
- **Scottish Rural Development Plan Customer Representative Group:** Tim Liddon FICFor
- **Scottish Tree Health Action Group:** Matt Hommel MICFor
- **Society for the Environment:** Dougal Driver FICFor
- **Trees and Design Action Group:** Martin Gammie MICFor
- **Trees Health Policy Group:** Dr Jon Heuch MICFor
- **UKWAS:** Simon Hart FICFor, Robert Smith MICFor, Stuart Wilkie FICFor
- **Wales Phytophthora Operation Response Team:** Hugh Wheeldon MICFor

For contact details, please log in to the Members' Area at [www.charteredforesters.org](http://www.charteredforesters.org)

## Professions bound by a common green thread

The forestry profession took centre stage at the Society for the Environment's (SocEnv) December reception. It was held at The Crystal in London's Docklands, the sustainable cities initiative by Siemens and an environmentally friendly venue. As ICF is one of SocEnv's licensed Chartered Environmentalist Award presenting bodies, Executive Director Shireen Chambers FICFor attended the evening.

Dougal Driver FICFor, ICF's SocEnv Council representative, arranged for Andrew Heald MICFor, Confor's Technical Director, to be the guest speaker in order to showcase the versatility and role of forestry within the wider environmental sector. Andrew shared his insights with over a hundred people from more than 20 other professions.

He took the opportunity to use his own national and international experience to emphasise the importance of collaboration among professionals in order to deliver true and sustainable



Andrew Heald MICFor addresses delegates at the Society for the Environment's December reception

environmental stewardship.

In addressing such a diverse audience, bound together by a common green thread, Andrew went on to explain how the dialogue around valuing natural capital is providing a common language across a broad range of sectors, enabling a better understanding of the importance of natural resource management. Of course, trees and forests were mentioned throughout but, by emphasising our impact upon people, Andrew was able to make forestry relevant to all professions.

**Dougal Driver FICFor CEnv**

### Become a CEnv

ICF Professional Members can achieve the cross-sector transferable Chartered Environmentalist qualification, CEnv. Chartered Environmentalists work in all parts of the forestry sector and also more widely in other sectors.

Contact ICF Membership Manager Stuart Glen for more information:

**[stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org](mailto:stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org)**

 Institute of  
Chartered Foresters

## Get kitted out ICF style

Sales of ICF-branded outdoor clothing benefit the Institute's Educational & Scientific Trust



Available to members at:

[www.icf.impacttrading.co.uk](http://www.icf.impacttrading.co.uk)

# STUFFY OLD BOYS NETWORK? NOT US

**W**hile some professional associations and chartered institutes are perceived as stuffy, 'old-boys' clubs, that is certainly not the case at ICF. Twenty one per cent of ICF's members are aged 35 years or under, and in our recent membership survey almost 80 per cent of members disagreed with the statement that "the Institute is an old boys' network". But, is this youthfulness replicated across the sector?

Anecdotally, we hear of an aging workforce. Yet, equally, employers are demanding that new employees have obtained, or are working towards, a relevant chartered membership. Supporting this, the Institute is witnessing younger Associate members eager to obtain

## ICF Membership Manager Stuart Glen confirms that the changing role of the organisation is bringing fresh outlooks

chartered status and achieve recognition within the profession.

The pursuit and attainment of chartered status is not a test of forestry or arboriculture knowledge, but a demonstration of professional experience and competence. For this reason, applicants must plan their submission at a suitable stage in their career and, for some, this means taking time to gain the relevant management experience. The average age of an ICF Associate member when

first presenting for their Professional Membership Entry (PME) is 40 years old<sup>1</sup>; for context, the majority of ICF's Chartered Members are aged between 45 and 64 as demonstrated in Figure 1.

For some, there are distinct advantages to achieving chartered status sooner rather than later. It can mean faster career progression, establishing your standing within the sector and parity and recognition across professions. However, proceed with caution: it is not uncommon for applicants to be 'referred' at their first PME attempt because they have presented too soon - they haven't accrued sufficient professional knowledge and, therefore, aren't ready to progress to Professional Membership. In these instances, the Institute provides

**It is not uncommon for applicants to be 'referred' at their first PME attempt because they have presented too soon**

the applicant with detailed feedback and support on resubmission.

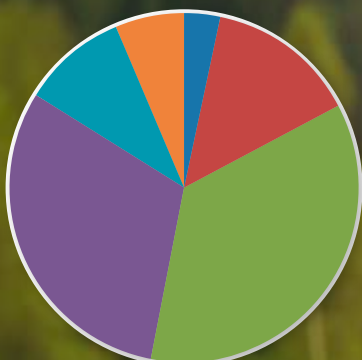
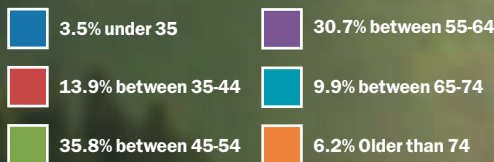
Two successful PME applicants are also the Institute's youngest Chartered Members. I asked Kerstin Leslie MICFor and Peter Topham MICFor about how chartered status benefits them and their careers.

**Dr Stuart Glen, Membership Manager, ICF**  
[stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org](mailto:stuart.glen@charteredforesters.org)

Reference

1. Based on PME submissions in 2014 and 2015.

**Figure 1. Breakdown by age range of ICF's Chartered Members as at 1 February 2016**



**Name: Kerstin Leslie MICFor****Position: Forestry Manager, Tilhill Forestry****Age: 28****How does it feel to be the youngest female Chartered Forester in the UK?**

It motivates me to encourage other young foresters to join the ICF. The more people that get involved, the more influence the Institute will have over issues that matter in forestry today.

**How long have you been an ICF member?**

I first joined the ICF as a Student member in 2011.

**What were your motivations for wanting to become chartered?**

Working towards chartered status is very much encouraged at Tilhill. I also wanted to use the process to further my professional development and meet a recognised standard.

**How much time did you devote to the process?**

I attended a PME workshop in 2013 which put me on the right track for completing my work record and CPD over the next couple of years.

The Critical Analysis didn't take too long to write but subsequently went through a few revisions. I did some preparation for the interview but overall I found it quite manageable.

**What support did you receive (from your employer, peers, family and friends, etc.)?**

My line manager was my main verifier and supported me throughout the process. Colleagues were more than happy to pass an eye over my Critical Analysis. It also helped to speak to people who had been through the interview process to get an idea of what to expect.

**How will chartered status help you going forward?**

I believe that being chartered will help demonstrate to clients that I am committed to delivering a professional service. I am looking forward to networking with a diverse range of ICF members and it will help to have a structure for continuing my professional development.

**What one piece of advice would you give to a potential PME applicant?**

Resist waiting until next year, just make a start!

**Name: Peter Topham MICFor****Position: Forestry Manager, Savills****Age: 26****When did you achieve chartered status?**

December 2014 (age 25).

**How does it feel to be the youngest Chartered Forester in the UK?**

It's fantastic – something I can really be proud of.

**How long have you been an ICF member?**

I joined as a Student member at Bangor University in 2009. I think choosing an ICF - accredited degree was a key step for me achieving chartership so quickly. It also provides an assurance of teaching quality.

**What were your motivations for wanting to become chartered?**

I worked for Smiths Gore, a firm of chartered surveyors who are now Savills, and chartership was the level of professionalism they expected. It is a great way to consolidate my knowledge and to demonstrate my competence to Savills with regard to career development. Importantly, being chartered ensures continuing development.

**How much time did you devote to the process?**

The whole process took three years. Savills were able to provide a diversity of work that allowed me to gain lots of experience within my competency areas including tree surveys, management planning, harvesting and restocking. ICF's PME Workshop helped me to understand the PME process. I do remember putting in quite a few evenings and weekends, particularly on the Critical Analysis.

**What support did you receive (from your employer, peers, family and friends etc.)?**

I had a mentor at Savills who was able to help me think about the process and topics for the Critical Analysis. I work on all sorts of projects in South West England so there were a lot of options. The chosen subject is

important as it can help or hinder you in meeting the requirements of the Critical Analysis. We also undertook some mock interviews which were really helpful to prepare me. I was lucky that I was allowed some study leave as well. My friends helped out with the accommodation (and post-interview whisky!) in Edinburgh.

**How will chartered status help you going forward?**

I highly value being chartered and the benefits that it has brought me so far. It has been instrumental to me becoming the Forestry Manager for the South West Region at Savills. The professionalism I learned leading up to and during my PME submission will aid me for the rest of my career. Being chartered allows me to demonstrate to clients the standard they can expect. This is particularly valuable for tender submissions. ICF membership also sits well with our RICS colleagues when we provide holistic estate management for clients. The magazine and e-newsletter helps me stay on top of the Institute and industry news.

**What one piece of advice would you give to a potential PME applicant?**

Start recording your diary early as you will not remember all the good things you have done.

# FOREST SCIENCE DELIVERED

Professor Julian Evans OBE FICFor explains the work of the ECFS and the challenges it faces to ensure that the Forestry Commission uses research investment to best effect

**T**he Forestry Commission's Expert Committee on Forest Science (ECFS) was established in autumn 2013 both to sense-check the Forestry Commission's (FC) spend on research and to monitor the quality of what Forest Research (FR) delivers. These twin objectives are complementary remits and distinguish ECFS from its predecessor, the Research Advisory Committee. ECFS is a government-appointed independent committee and its minutes are available on FC's website.

As with any advisory or consultative group, a major role is for members to be briefed in depth. This is achieved through a mix of presentations by scientists and researchers and by field visits. Care is taken to ensure that the committee also meets policymakers and conducts business in each of the devolved nations who advise FR on research needs and priorities. ECFS meetings or other input to FC's work take place three or four times a year.

Committee members consider and discuss a wide range of research issues, and in the last 18 months have provided peer review for the current programme of research being delivered under the Science and Innovation Strategy for



Julian Evans OBE, FICFor



One of the Expert Committee's roles is to ensure that Forest Research's work is the best that it can be

Forestry in Great Britain.

While there are many issues facing trees and forests in Britain, the question of tight funding has forced priorities, sometimes in ways that are invidious. Two impacts illustrate this. Long-term experiments occupy land and soak up resources for seemingly little return and yet are the bedrock of forestry research and a 'unique selling point' of what FR can deliver. It is easy to cut maintenance or close an experiment to make savings. History, however, shows that all too often new questions and new research ideas lead the scientist back to the very trial that was thought defunct and outdated. The great species trials and sample plots laid down two or three generations ago have come right back into their own as climate change drives future species choice. Where else can the 'Sitka spruces' of the future be found except in the plots and trials far-sighted researchers established in the past?

The second impact concerns staff. As well as having the trials, one needs the scientists who know them, know the subject and know those to network with throughout the country and the EU. This corporate knowledge is easily lost if there is a break, or worse,

no replacement. I cite this as a case in point, but it is not only true of species research of course. Every area of forest science suffers conflicting priorities. Managers must always be making impossible judgments between, say, pathology or social science, genetics or environmental research, or modelling and statistics, etc. Not one is easy, and ECFS is asked to advise on such judgments.

While ECFS has a strong FR focus, it also looks at the research FC funds with universities and other institutions. This represents about 10 per cent of total spend and tends to focus on shorter term projects or site-specific investigations. It is often accompanied by a great multiplier effect whereby FC's small targeted support sits alongside other funding streams, with FC benefitting from the whole.

In a sentence, ECFS seeks to ensure that the FC uses its research investment to best effect and that the research output is the best it can be within the resources available.

**Professor Julian Evans OBE FICFor, author, publisher and woodland owner and Chair of the Expert Committee on Forest Science**

## The Expert Committee comprises:

**Roger Coppock FICFor**,  
Head of Corporate and Forestry Support, Forestry Commission GB (FC GB)

**Prof Julian Evans OBE FICFor**,  
Chair of ECFS – silviculture and research management

**Prof Peter Freer-Smith MICFor** – FC GB  
Chief Scientist

**Prof Jaboury Ghazoul**,  
Professor of Ecosystem Management, ETH, Zurich – forest ecology

**Dr Clive Potter**, Imperial College – environmental social science (recently appointed to replace Prof Eunice Simmons)

**Prof Monique Simmonds**,  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew – plant pathology

**Prof Andrew Watkinson**,  
University of East Anglia – climate issues and environmental change

**Peter Whitfield FICFor**,  
Director, Tillhill Forestry – commercial forestry and plantation management



# OPPORTUNITY FOR ASH



There is growing awareness of the Grown in Britain brand, particularly in the construction industry, and the benefit of specifying British timber

**G**rown in Britain's Woodstock partnership initiative is an Innovate UK-funded project investigating how the supply of British hardwoods into the UK construction sector can be improved. The year-long project is led by forest managers and hardwood sawmiller English Woodlands Timber Ltd. The project partners represent all parts of the supply chain and includes Grown in Britain, Building Research Establishment, The Sylva Foundation, timber merchant T J Brewer and housebuilder Willmot Dixon.

The project is made up of four work streams: market research, timber stock funding, development of a timber supply hub and material efficiencies. The first stage of the market research concluded in December 2015, following an extensive industry questionnaire. The market was segmented into processors (those who supply and process round timber), suppliers (those who take the processed wood and supply the end customer), and customers (those specifying and purchasing wood from the suppliers). The key findings were:

- Oak is the predominant species specified, followed by ash, beech, maple and tulipwood.
- There exists a lack of information on available British hardwood – a key barrier to its specification.
- There is sufficient standing volume

## With the ICF's National Conference on the Timber Supply Chain looming, Tom Compton MICFor gives a timely introduction to an important British hardwoods project

of British hardwood to significantly increase current supply in the long term.

■ There is processor capacity in milling and kilning to increase timber throughput by 20 per cent over five years without investment in additional capacity.

In terms of overall hardwood use in the UK, it is estimated that 500,000t of sawn wood is imported annually and that UK supply is 47,000tpa, 80 per cent of which is oak. The project's aim is to increase UK production by a modest 20 per cent over five years and 100 per cent over 50 years.

Of Britain's hardwood species, ash is high in the mind of the project partners, given the likely spread of Chalara and its likely impact. In the context of an internationally traded hardwood, much of the ash stocked is American but the emerald ash borer is having a significant impact on their hardwood sawmilling industry and supply will become restricted. Currently, 15,000m<sup>3</sup> is imported annually representing 30,000m<sup>3</sup> of saw log. The project partners see this as an opportunity to develop a market for British ash to provide a ready alternative.

There is a growing awareness among the construction sector of the Grown in Britain brand and the benefit of specifying British timber. As processors though we

have to present a product that meets the expectation of customers and suppliers so it can offer a viable alternative to imported production.

Now in month five, the project partners will present its findings at this year's Timber Expo in September.

**Tom Compton MICFor, Managing Director, English Woodlands Timber Ltd**



### **Find out more...**

To learn more about this initiative or to contribute, email [tom@englishwoodlandstimmer.co.uk](mailto:tom@englishwoodlandstimmer.co.uk) or visit: <http://www.growninbritain.org>

# SETTING THE SCENE: CREATING LONG-TERM INDUSTRY GOALS

Valuable learning from the experience of speakers working overseas enriches ICF's National Conference each year. Chair Roger Coppock FICFor confirms that 2016 will not prove an exception with a focus on the future of the timber sector

**A**s we move closer to this year's ICF National Conference on the dynamics, opportunities, and possible need to adapt our approach to the timber supply chain, chair Roger Coppock FICFor poses four questions:

- what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the timber sector in the next few years?
- what action should be taken?
- where do you see the timber sector developing over the next five years?
- what impact would this have?

*Chartered Forester* invited Alfred W Kammerhofer, who heads up an independent timber products manufacturer in Switzerland, and Pat Glennon, joint Managing Director of Glennon Brothers in the Republic of Ireland, to give their views.

## Government

Mr Kammerhofer heads the Timber Industry and Forest Management Section of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. In Switzerland, beside the Forest Policy 2020, the Swiss Wood Resource Policy is an independent, use-oriented policy that supports the consistent and sustainable harvesting of wood from Swiss forests and the resource-efficient use of the raw material wood. The priority in its implementation is the ecologically and economically sound use of wood; indeed, wood use is core to both policies. The system boundaries extend from the forest as the supplier of the resource wood, along the entire wood value-added chain, through the various processing phases to the



Alfred W Kammerhofer

recycling or disposal of wood products<sup>1</sup>.

Wood use is core to both the Forest Policy 2020 and Wood Resource Policy. The Federal Act on Forest constitutes the legal framework (in particular Article 1, letter c and Article 20 of the Act), within which the Wood Resource Policy operates. In other words, the use-oriented approach of the Wood Resource Policy must not

jeopardise the safeguarding of the other legally defined functions of the forest.

## Strategy

In its Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2015, the Federal Council refers to the key socio-political challenges and defines the general objectives which all federal authorities are obliged to follow

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To book for the conference visit: [www.charteredforesters.org/conference2016](http://www.charteredforesters.org/conference2016)

# Facing the challenges head on

Pat Glennon is joint Managing Director of Glennon Brothers in the Republic of Ireland. It has plants in Longford and Fermoy as well as Windymains Timber and Adam Wilsons in Scotland. It supplies both the Irish and UK markets with products for the construction, pallet wood and fencing industries.

He said there are certainly many challenges. The government's policy on restocking is going to have serious repercussions further down the line as there's already a shortage of supply forecast from around 2026 onwards. At present the policy is to only restock 65 per cent of the cleared site with Sitka spruce while the remainder is restocked either with other conifers that the processing sector doesn't want, with native broadleaves, or left as open space with no commercial value.

Another challenge is getting recognition that forestry is a progressive, vibrant, green industry and not just a carbon sink. There is an ongoing push for green energy production via biomass powered plants but we are in real danger of having significantly too much biomass capacity and not enough raw material to feed these plants. The argument has to be that virgin fibre should not be used for burning and the focus should be on burning end of life

'waste' timber or low value residues.

The industry needs to address a number of issues:

- Increasing our forest cover to European levels, balanced against food production, farm subsidies and competing government policies.
- The consistent failure of government to achieve annual new planting targets. With less money available to support new forestry schemes it's difficult to see how this will change.
- The lack of undergraduates studying forestry at university. The industry is not attracting high-calibre young people and the current age profile of foresters is weighted towards the 40 plus bracket. Most, if not all, of the UK's forestry teaching establishments are struggling as numbers continue to fall.

On the more positive side, he sees the timber sector developing through better optimisation of crops and aiming for the best return possible from resource. He also believes that we will see an increase in combined heat and power from residues and smaller size plants and also in engineered wood, such as finger-jointing,

glulams<sup>1</sup> – or the next development, and bigger and longer dimensions from smaller timber.

An interesting conference awaits.

**Pat will chair Session Four, Processing for Value and Profit, on Thursday 28 April.**



Pat Glennon

in order to achieve natural resources sustainably. They identify 'protecting the climate', 'promoting renewable energies' and 'increasing economic productivity while decoupling from resource and energy use, aligning consumption with sustainable development', particularly in relation to measures in the area of 'sustainable construction'.

The Energy 5 and Climate 6 policies are important sectoral documents with significant interfaces and potential synergies with the Wood Resource Policy. Both policies aim to increase energy efficiency (e.g. through the Building Programme), and the proportion of renewable climate-neutral energy sources used. An equally important interface arises with the Swiss Confederation's new Regional Policy 7, which aims to achieve greater competitiveness and added value, particularly in rural and mountain regions where the forestry and timber sector plays an important role.

The operations of the Swiss forestry and timber sector can make a significant contribution to the area of the green economy and 'cleantech' through the

Wood Resource Policy.

These are important fields of activity for the federal authorities, the cantons and Business 8, particularly as the latter (Switzerland's building stock) is one of the most resource-intensive areas and, hence, a major contributor to the pollutant emissions which impair the environment and climate.

Accordingly, future building and renovation work must be more energy and resource-efficient and space-saving. Wood is particularly suited to this purpose.

## Forward outlook

Considering these challenges, the vision of the Wood Resource Policy states that: "the forestry and timber sector shall make an important contribution to the federal authorities' energy, climate and resource policy objectives".

The following interfaces exist in particular on the level of research and development. Primarily basic research on new applications for wood is being carried out as part of the federal National Research Programme NRP 66, 'Resource Wood'. As part of its European research work, under the European

Research Area Network (ERA-NET), the Commission for Technology and Innovation is establishing connections between Swiss research institutions and companies in the forestry and timber sector and the European area.

In the context of crisis events, as part of the National Economic Supply, it is ensured that the provision of sufficient energy for the population, inter alia through increased forest harvesting, can be guaranteed sustainably (Article 19 w National Economic Supply Act and draft ordinances).

Also, in certain regions of the world, wood is still not harvested and traded in accordance with the legislation in force. Since March 2013, the European Timber Regulation (EUTR 995/2010) enforces that only wood and wood products from legal sources shall be placed on the market.

**Alfred will address the conference on Wednesday 27 April in Session One, Setting the Scene.**

## Reference:

1. The Wood Resource Policy, pages 7-8 and Figure 1 on page 9. Download at: <http://bit.do/woodresourcepolicy>



# FORESTRY SECTOR ISN'T CLIMATE READY

**A**lmost three quarters of the UK's woodlands are in private ownership, yet little is known about the awareness of woodland owners and managers, and forestry professionals, concerning the importance of woodland resilience to environmental change. Prior to a major national survey conducted last summer, many key questions concerning adaptation to environmental change were unasked and unanswered, meaning that accordance with the guidelines of the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS) was difficult to measure, both in terms of current actions and future aspirations. This survey asked those questions.

## British Woodlands Survey

The British Woodlands Survey (BWS) 2015 gathered evidence to address these questions. It attracted responses from 1,509 people including: 827 private woodland owners; 182 forestry agents; 235 other tree and forestry professionals (e.g. NGO staff, forestry contractors), and 19 tree nursery businesses. Responses were received from across the whole of the UK: most private woodland owners were located in England, while agents proportionally represented more properties than owners in Scotland and Wales. The respondents represented an area of woodland, managed by owners or their agents, covering 247,891 ha; equal to 11 per cent of all privately-owned woodlands in the UK.

## Knowledge gained from a national survey on the awareness, action and aspiration relating to environmental change may have far-reaching consequences warns **Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor**

As we reported in the last issue of *Chartered Forester* (page 8, News), a central finding was that implementation of the UKFS good forestry practice requirements for climate change adaptation is currently low. This suggests that the forestry sector is not climate ready, and as a consequence, our woodlands are unlikely to be as resilient as they could be.

Only a small majority of woodland owners believed that climate change would impact the UK's forests in future, and there was a high degree of uncertainty. It is clear that current pest and disease outbreaks are dominating the resilience agenda, with less thought given to the longer term incipient effects of climate and environmental change. Woodland owners and managers may not be aware of both the magnitude and the rate of change that is predicted.

A dearth of contingency plans among owners and managers to deal with major events such as fire, pest and disease outbreaks, and extreme weather, was of considerable concern. Low levels of awareness and action in relation to biosecurity among owners, which was only marginally better among professional foresters, suggests that there is a need to review whether current guidance

on biosecurity and risk assessment is appropriate.

There were some positive results. Professionals and agents were generally more aware and active in implementing adaptation measures than owners, indicating that existing sources of information and outreach activities among these groups are effective. High awareness among woodland managers of environmental change impacts may provide new opportunities to engage them, particularly if focussed around issues of direct and local relevance.

## What next?

The results from the BWS 2015 survey will now be used by the collaborating group of organisations to develop an Action Plan. Earlier in 2015, the same organisations agreed to work together to prepare for climate change by signing the Climate Change Accord. In it they committed to the vision that "significant changes are required to widely-accepted and practiced systems of management to make them resilient".

This latest BWS survey has highlighted that action is urgent and it is needed right now.



### Measuring adaptation to environmental change

The survey report provides a baseline of evidence against which change can be measured in future. Here we give a few extracts from the 'Action' insights.

### Trees and species diversity

Owners and agents were asked their views on whether there was currently sufficient species and genetic diversity in both commercial and

non-commercial forests. Additionally, agents were asked to say what they thought their clients thought about these questions. The results are shown in BWS 2015 Figure 1.

Interestingly, woodland owners believed that there was insufficient species diversity in commercial forests by a large majority (78%), as did professionals representing the views of clients although by a lesser degree (41%) with high uncertainty (43%). On genetic diversity in commercial forests, again a large majority (64%) of woodland owners believed there to be insufficient diversity, while professionals were mostly unsure (62%).

On provenance, 71% of the nursery trade reported that they knew the provenance of all of their stock, with provenance information routinely provided to customers by 92% of businesses. A substantial majority of woodland owners (69%) stated a preference for specifying UK-grown material for future planting.

### Forest planning & management

A wide range of forest management practices were reported by owners and agents. Among the common practices, such as thinning, restocking or coppicing, certain practises widely considered relevant to managing for resilience were also reported:

- 57% practised selective felling while 19% practised clear felling (13% practised both)
- 43% practised invasive species control
- 23% practised continuous cover management
- 37% practised minimum intervention for ecological reasons

On the four key adaptation actions selected from the UKFS, only a minority of woodland owners had undertaken a soil survey, adopted CCF practices, or reviewed climate change projections, while a small majority had reviewed species suitability.

Also, only a small minority of woodland owners are taking adequate steps to make provision in their management actions for fire, wind tolerance, pathogen control, drought tolerance, flooding tolerance, or pollution tolerance/abatement.

### Biosecurity

As part of this section, respondents were asked what biosecurity steps they take. Figure 20 shows that only a minority of woodland owners confirmed having any of five key practices in place. Only 7% of woodland owners and 31% of nursery owners reported providing cleaning and disinfecting facilities for visitors, while just 33% of agents advise their clients to do so.

**Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor,**  
Chief Executive, Sylva Foundation

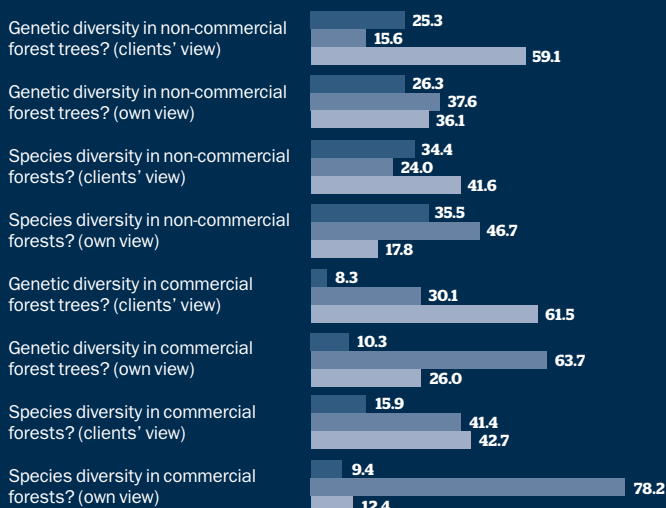
#### Find out more...

The authors of Awareness, action and aspiration among Britain's forestry community relating to environmental change: Report of the British Woodlands Survey 2015 are: Hemery, G, Petrokofsky, G, Ambrose-Oji, B, Atkinson, G., Broadmeadow, M, Edwards, D, Harrison, C, Lloyd, S, Mumford, J, O'Brien, L, Reid, C, Seville, M, Townsend, M, Weir, J, and Yeomans, A, (2015).

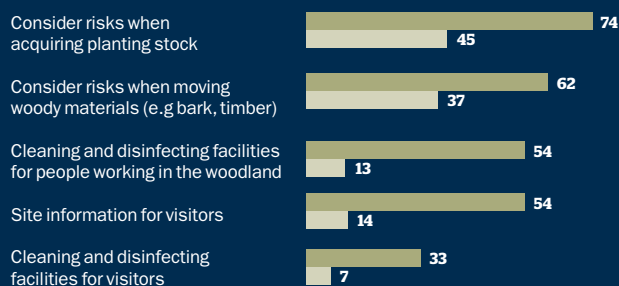
The survey Advisory Group comprised representatives of Climate Ready, Confor, Country Land & Business Association, Forestry Commission England, Forest Research, Natural England, Royal Forestry Society, Sylva Foundation, University of Oxford, and Woodland Trust. Funding was provided by the Forestry Commission, Oxford University and the Woodland Trust and the survey host and co-ordinator was Sylva Foundation.

Download the report at: <http://bit.do/BSW15report>

**FIGURE 1** Views (%) about adequacy of species and genetic diversity in commercial and non-commercial woods among owners and professionals (Agents, Professionals and Nursery owners/managers) representing perceived views of clients.



**FIGURE 2** Biosecurity actions taken by owners and agents (& of respondents for each risk factor)



#### KEY



# MAPPING OUT THE VALUE OF OUR LAND FOR THE FUTURE



The pilot looked at the sustainability of land use in the Tweed valley

In 2013 the Scottish Government commissioned two pilot projects, in Aberdeenshire and in the Scottish Borders, to look at how its National Land Use

Strategy might work in practice through a regional landuse framework. The pilots used an 'ecosystem approach' to consider existing and future land uses, and also as means of guiding decisions for optimal land use.

A key element of the approach used was a map-based evaluation tool that may help land managers make more informed decisions in the future, and the Scottish Borders Council has now made this tool accessible from its web-mapping service "Find It!"<sup>1</sup>

A regional landuse framework document was produced alongside the key related policies, setting out the ecosystem approach in more detail, and demonstrating how the policies might be implemented in response to climate change.

The document considers opportunities to extend

## Project Manager **Andy Tharme** has been leading a pilot project in the Scottish Borders to test an ecosystems approach to the Government's National Land Use Strategy

ecosystem services and deliver multiple benefits, and identifies options where conflicts might occur – particularly relating to agricultural production and forestry.

The framework has arisen in recognition of the increasing pressure the land is under for housing, food and timber production, while accommodating the wider needs of biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, maintaining the places people value while recognising that most land is a working countryside on which rural businesses depend. The approach has been very much 'bottom-up' and focused on stakeholder engagement. The Tweed Forum was the Council's key partner in the Scottish Borders pilot, and, in addition to the Council, it worked with the University of Dundee and mapping consultants Environment Systems Ltd.

The Forum led a programme of stakeholder engagement activities over the two-year pilot, with a series of workshops based on river catchment areas which included landowners, farmers and foresters. Each group considered maps of the 'natural capital' (goods and services relating to the natural world) and opportunities for improvement, such as flood management, biodiversity enhancement, and vegetation and soil carbon storage. These maps highlighted where changes could happen, rather than where they should. They were further developed using feedback from the stakeholders to identify current and practical issues. The framework is non-statutory – it will be left to individual land managers and landowners to make their decisions as before. It is there simply to provide better information: to guide and

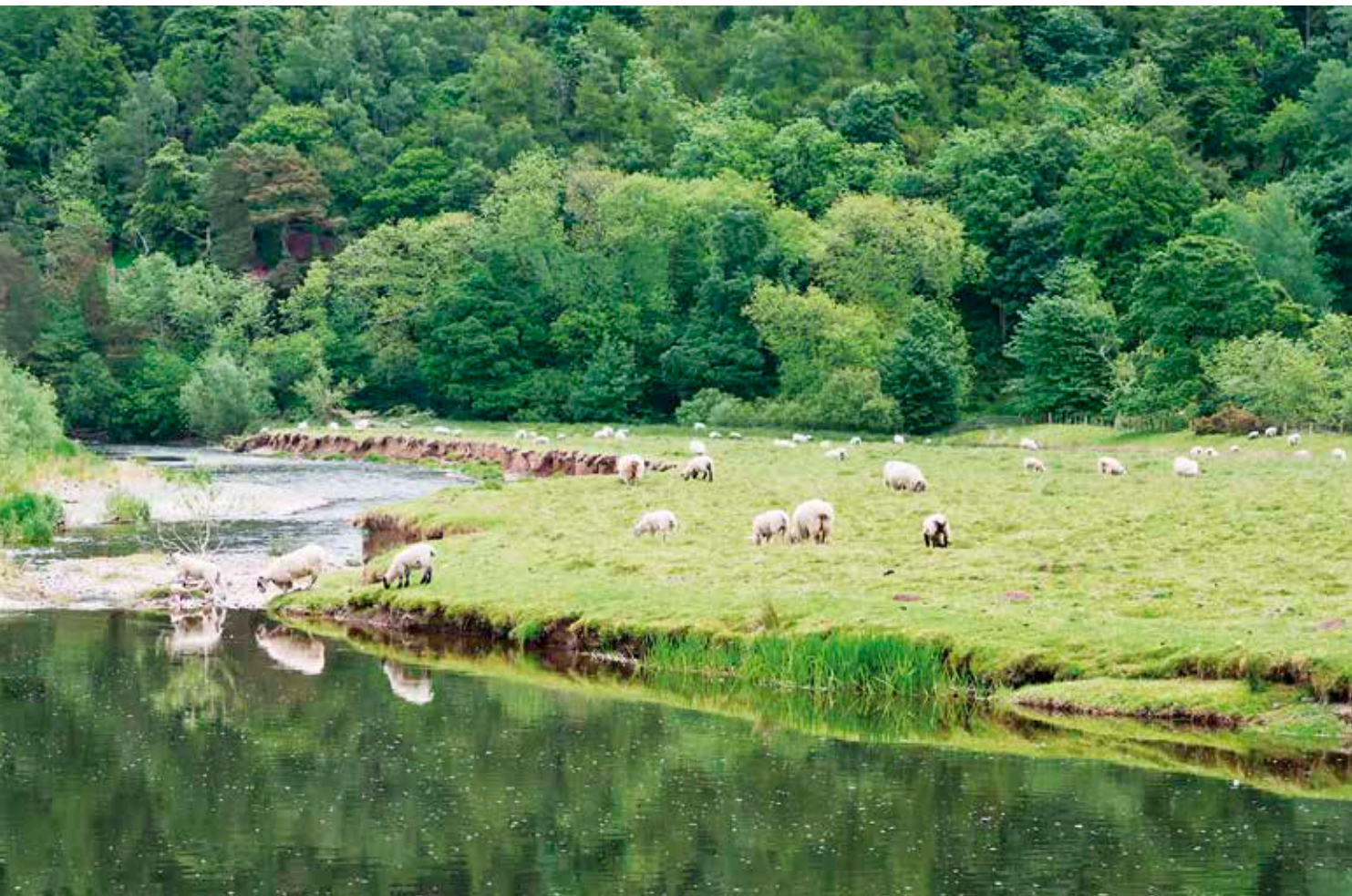
appraise, not to control.

The pilot successfully reported to the Scottish Government in the spring of 2015 and helped inform the revision of the 'National Land Use Strategy', which is currently out for consultation and due to be submitted to the Scottish Parliament this March.

The Framework provides suggested actions relevant to forestry that could be adopted elsewhere.

The Council is currently considering how it might inform the emerging Flood Protection Scheme for Hawick through targeted natural flood management as well as a number of biodiversity offset and compensatory woodland planting schemes.

Tweed Forum and Forestry Commission Scotland are evaluating whether the mapping could help inform the 'Woodlands for Water' element



of the Forestry Grant Scheme, and are exploring opportunities which may improve water quality in Scottish Borders.

Tweed Forum is looking at further evaluation of the mapping to assess how the information might be used to target specific benefits through the Scottish Rural Development Programme.

Foresters are familiar with the approach of delivering multiple benefits from land use. Taking our earlier experiences with the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy, and using the recent pilot as a platform from which to build, we hope to further develop the landuse

framework through working with all stakeholders to help realise the maximum value from our land economically, socially and environmentally. The recent flooding in the Scottish Borders and elsewhere is a very timely reminder of what is at stake!

**Dr Andy Tharme, Ecology Officer and Project Manager, Scottish Borders Land Use pilot**

Find out more...

1. Download the Scottish Borders Land Use Strategy pilot regional land-use framework document at: <http://bit.do/borderspilot>
2. For FindIt! visit: [www.scotborders.gov.uk/areamap](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/areamap)

## FAST FACT

The framework aims to enable more informed and integrated decisions about sustainable land use.



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# LAND-SPARING CHALLENGE

As the Government prepares the UK's next carbon budget, the role of land use in emissions has come under scrutiny, advises climate change expert Dr Mark Broadmeadow

A sequence of five-year carbon budgets is required by law, as set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act. These must be in place to ensure that the UK is on track to meet its legally binding target of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, compared to emissions in 1990. While the Government prepares to set the level of the UK's fifth carbon budget, the role of agriculture, forestry and land management has come under scrutiny.

Agriculture is one of the most challenging sectors for achieving significant GHG emissions reduction. Emissions from agriculture, primarily methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) from animal husbandry and fertiliser application, amounted to 49.1 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e<sup>1</sup> in 2014 – or, to put it into context, 10 per cent of the UK's total emissions. Projections indicate that even if abatement measures are implemented, emissions will only fall to around 30 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2050; a level which would constitute 18.5 per cent of the UK's total emissions by that time, if economy-wide emissions reduction targets are met. However, the Land Use, Land Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector provides real abatement opportunities through afforestation, improved nutrient management in agriculture and peatland restoration. At present, 'removals' through afforestation and sustainable forest management are more or less balanced by emissions from land use change, resulting in a small net LULUCF 'sink' of -5 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e.

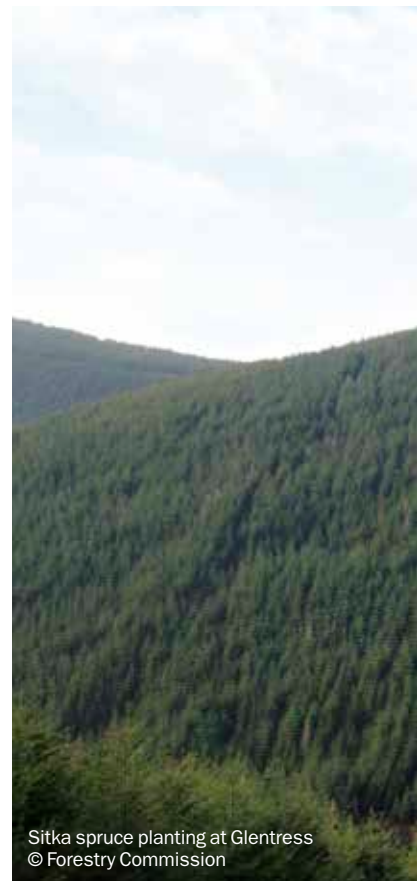
A recent study in Nature Climate Change, which was widely covered in the media, has considered agriculture, food production, forestry and land-use change as a single sector and assessed the potential for integrated land management to reduce GHG emissions. The analysis is comprehensive and includes emissions arising from on-farm energy use, agricultural fertiliser production and land use change, rather than the more narrow definition of agricultural emissions adopted in the UK's GHG inventory. It also assumes rising food demand resulting from a projected population increase of 26 per cent over the period in question and, in cases where food demand exceeds supply, accounts for exported emissions associated with the need to import food. Exported emissions associated with

animal feed production are also accounted for.

Although implementing all the measures would prove extremely challenging under the current social, cultural, economic and environmental norms of land use, the conclusion of the study was that sector-wide emissions could be completely offset by land-use removals by 2050. 'Upper bound' crop and livestock yield increases alone could, technically, spare sufficient land for peatland restoration and afforestation to produce net GHG emissions savings approaching 80 per cent. However, it was acknowledged that implementation at this level was unlikely. When demand-side measures – reduced food waste, and reduced meat consumption – were also included, the study concluded that there was significant scope to achieve 80 per cent emissions reductions.

Emissions reductions attributable to 'land sparing' were based on organic soils being restored to functioning peat bogs and mineral soils being afforested. The analysis established that 4.5 million hectares of land could be spared by a more efficient agricultural production and consumption, providing the potential for 700,000 hectares of organic soils to be restored into functioning peat bogs. The opportunities for the forestry sector were much greater, with an area of 4.4 million hectares available for afforestation or bioenergy production – although the prospect of increasing planting rates across the UK from the current level of around 12,000 ha/yr to 130,000 ha/yr would be challenging to say the least, increasing forest cover from 13 per cent to 30 per cent by 2050, a figure close to the European average.

Three 'afforestation scenarios' were considered: (1) the headline scenario assumed that the most productive native broadleaf species (in terms of carbon uptake) was planted in each of the UK's eleven NUTS 1 administrative regions, as assessed by a combination of Ecological Site Classification output and the Woodland Carbon Code 'look-up tables'; (2) a low-cost option assumed that native species naturally regenerated on the spared land, with a relatively conservative assumption of growth rate, and; (3) 'conifer forest' was planted, adopting the same approach as scenario 1, with a higher sequestration rate in the early growth phases compared to native broadleaf species. In 2050, the 'headline scenario' (planted native



Sitka spruce planting at Glentress  
© Forestry Commission



Tree planting in the Mersey Forest  
© The Mersey Forest Team





Livestock is another source of emissions

broadleaves) resulted in emissions savings of 65 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr. Reduced abatement was achieved in the ‘natural regeneration’ scenario (43 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr) while under the ‘conifer forest’ scenario, abatement was 73 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. Both the planted broadleaf and conifer forest scenarios assumed the woodland was unmanaged (but with natural disturbance included in the models) and maintained as a carbon sink. The potential for carbon storage in harvested wood products and carbon savings from direct and indirect fossil fuel were thus not accounted for. Although these emissions savings would have been accounted for in other sectors (energy, construction), the total abatement potential of afforestation is underestimated.

The afforestation scenarios were compared with a range of bioenergy-focused uses for the spared land. The growing of short rotation coppice (SRC) or miscanthus only achieved higher abatement than naturally regenerated native woodland (and similar to the abatement delivered by planted broadleaf or conifer forest) if it was assumed that the feedstock was used to substitute for coal in electricity generation. The study also concluded that abatement potential from growing oilseed rape on the spared land was minimal. The overall conclusion was that if other sources of renewable energy could decarbonise energy supply, it would be ‘more efficient’ to afforest the spared land than use it for bioenergy production, while also delivering a range of ecosystem services including water purification, recreation and flood mitigation. However, the analysis did not consider the adoption of biomass energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), which might have improved the ‘carbon efficiency’ of biomass crops relative to carbon sequestration through afforestation.

The study is a comprehensive analysis of options for the agricultural and land use sectors to address the challenge of reducing GHG emissions to meet domestic, legally-binding targets, and elegantly sets out the pivotal role that land use change, particularly afforestation, could play. At the same time, it makes clear the scale of the challenge ahead and the difficult decisions that policymakers and land managers alike will have to take.

**Dr Mark Broadmeadow, Principal Climate Change Adviser, Forestry Commission**

**References**

1. MtCO<sub>2</sub>e – million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent; a measure of total greenhouse gas emissions (here, restricted to carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) accounting for their different global warming potentials.
2. The potential for land sparing to offset greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Nature Climate Change (2016) doi:10.1038/nclimate2910.<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2910.html>

# PIVOTAL ROLE FOR GREEN SPACE

Staff at Forest Research are among European researchers and practitioners collaborating to create resilient green and blue infrastructures, confirms **Dr Alexander van der Jagt**

**G**reen infrastructure in urban areas is gaining prominence in debates over choice of land use, deployment of scarce resources, and actions to improve health and wellbeing of citizens. As trees are now being recognised as playing a pivotal role in providing quality green space, Forest Research's (FR) involvement as the only UK partner in GREEN SURGE – the new EU funded-project to investigate new ways of caring for and valuing green spaces – is all the more important. By linking the findings of the researchers and practitioners working together, the project's goal of providing guidance for future planning and management of green spaces will be achieved.

For its part in the project, which runs until 2017, FR is using Edinburgh as its case study. FR's role is to contribute expertise which will support practitioners in Edinburgh to be more strategic in investment decisions for the city's green spaces. For example, it is studying how insect pollinators such as bees and butterflies are influenced by the proportion of trees, shrubs and grass within domestic gardens in the city, and what this means for steps to support biodiversity. Related to this, FR is working with eCountability Ltd (a UK private company) and others on an Innovate UK project, SPADES1. This will develop an 'Urban Ecosystem Services Tool for Business and Local Authority Use' and produce mapped outputs for selected ecosystem services for use by the City of Edinburgh Council in revising their Open Space Strategy.

As part of the GREEN SURGE project, FR is also examining how socio-cultural background can influence urban green space preferences. For example, a recent survey carried out in Edinburgh revealed that migrants have a stronger preference for low-maintenance grass and shrubby vegetation than non-migrants. Another strand of research is focused on documenting innovative methods of involving communities and private



Satellite data enabled Forest Research to categorise gardens like these using object based image analysis

individuals in aspects of urban green space management, including financing. This identified a variety of tools and techniques for stakeholder engagement and examples, which highlighted success factors. Along with good-practice examples from other European cities, these are described in a green space planning guide, to be shared with city officials and other interested groups.

### Dynamic Edinburgh exchange

Increasingly it is recognised that knowledge and expertise is best exchanged, rather than transferred simply in one direction, e.g. from research to practice. Collaborative learning and knowledge production involving both researchers

and practitioners is at the core of the GREEN SURGE project. Five Urban Learning Labs (ULLs), including one in Edinburgh, have been created to facilitate this process of knowledge exchange. Forest Research introduced a ULL toolbox to provide a stepwise procedure for identifying and monitoring the urban green space stakeholders here and in other cities. It includes tools for:

- identifying stakeholders
- clustering stakeholders around specific sub-themes, and
- exposing existing power structures.

Workshops are organised to share insights and fine-tune the research questions needed for later stages of the project.

# IN OUR URBAN LANDSCAPES



Participants engaged in break-out groups' discussions at an ESCoM Scotland's Edinburgh Urban Learning Lab workshop last September

The Edinburgh ULL comprises a dynamic group of stakeholders from local government, businesses, community groups, government agencies, non-governmental as well as research organisations, and focuses on improving urban ecosystem services in the city. 'Engaging more people with urban green space' is one of the key themes of interest here, and this is particularly pertinent for deprived areas where high impacts in regard to health and well-being could be made.

A second interest area to the ULL stakeholders is 'supporting biodiversity by making conservation more strategic'. In particular, they demand knowledge on how wildlife is influenced by green

infrastructure, or the lack thereof, in different areas of the city.

The Edinburgh ULL also has a shared interest in 'finding new ways of quantifying and valuing ecosystem services'. There is a need to financially quantify and spatially map ecosystem services. While the former may help to explain to decision-makers that investing in green space makes economic sense, the latter would allow for more strategic investment of available funds by highlighting disadvantaged areas. Exploring new methods to engage businesses in urban green infrastructure development and maintenance could provide another route to delivering high

quality green spaces in the current climate of public sector budget cuts.

## Distilling key interest areas

FR project researcher Dr Alexander van der Jagt explained that the next stage was to distil these key interest areas on the basis of FR's most recent workshop (September 2015), which was aimed at establishing how stakeholders perceive and value urban ecosystem services. The results revealed

**continued overleaf >**

from previous page >

that cultural ecosystem services, in particular mental and physical health, animal viewing and biodiversity, as well as recreation and cognitive development were considered to be the most important services provided by the city's green spaces. Participants pointed out that there is some scope for improvement in delivering ecosystem services such as air purification and water flow regulation. Concerns were also expressed regarding the loss of green space and the unequal distribution of high quality green spaces across the city, with deprived areas being disadvantaged. Areas of research pertinent to local stakeholders were gleaned from surveys and interviews, as well as from discussions that were held at Edinburgh Living Landscape board meetings, introduced below.

### Current work

In related activities, FR scientists are working closely with researchers and professionals from the City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Royal Botanic Garden, and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust in the collaborative group Edinburgh Living Landscape (ELL). Launched in October 2014, the aim of this strategic partnership is to create, restore and connect green areas

of the city to ensure that landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change. It involves a range of measures such as the creation of meadows and woodlands.

Work so far has already resulted in changes to how some of Edinburgh's parks and outdoor spaces look, notably the City of Edinburgh Council's introduction of 78 naturalised grass areas (35ha) and 73 new floral meadows as part of their engagement with ELL. While the GREEN SURGE project will run until the autumn of 2017, it is easy to see that its legacy will be here for much longer.

**Dr Alexander van der Jagt, Project Researcher, Land Use and Ecosystem Services Group, Forest Research**

### Find out more...

Visit the GREEN SURGE website at:  
[www.greensurge.eu](http://www.greensurge.eu)

Join the project's mailing list or LinkedIn group at: [http://greensurge.eu/products/european\\_learning\\_alliance/](http://greensurge.eu/products/european_learning_alliance/)

Read about the Innovate-UK SPADES project at: (TBC)

Find Edinburgh Living Landscape at:  
[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/livinglandscape)

### About GREEN SURGE

Green Surge is an EU-funded collaborative project between 24 partners in 11 European countries. Its aim is to meet the demand by green-space practitioners for knowledge and practical tools to improve the planning and governance of urban green spaces.

The project involves researchers from many disciplines, including ecologists, geographers and social scientists together with planners, arboriculturists and parks managers. The consortium will deliver knowledge on the linkages between urban green infrastructure and important societal goals such as health and wellbeing, community cohesion, climate change adaptation and the green economy.

### Reference

This workshop was organised as part of the Ecosystem Service Community Scotland seminar series at the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation.



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# Public warned of *Xylella* threat



Elm yellows © USDA Forest Service

## FAST FACT

*Xylella* has 300 hosts and has badly damaged crops in Italy and Spain.

## DEFRA APPLIES FOR UK PROTECTION ZONES:

Defra has applied to the EU Commission for four new protected zones to help safeguard the UK from:

- Bacterial shothole of Prunus (*Xanthomonas arboricola pv pruni*)
- Elm yellows Phytoplasma (*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*)
- Palm borer (*Paysandisia archon*)
- Pine processionary moth (*Thaumetopoea pitycampa*)

These cases will be assessed by the EU Commission.

Certain temporary Protection Zones (on oak processionary moth, plane wilt and oriental chestnut gall wasp) expire in April 2016 and a review is underway at EU level about their continuation.

Since alerting members to the threat of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the last *Chartered Forester*, the media has raised public awareness of the disease. It relayed growers' fears that the disease could wipe out the English oak in the same way as ash dieback is killing the UK's ash.

Taking action, Defra's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has published a free guide giving the implications for the nursery trade. It is intended for growers, retailers, landscapers, garden designers, traders and anyone involved in importing plants, including from within the EU. Defra urges tree professionals to read this guide, which can be downloaded at: <http://bit.do/APHAGuide>.

APHA has also confirmed that it will undertake official surveys for *X. fastidiosa*, and that its Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate will be working with



The effect of the pine processionary moth on a tree in France © Maelor Forest Nurseries

businesses that need to be registered and authorised to comply with the new plant passporting requirements. These require that movements of all 'host plants' across the EU must be accompanied by a plant passport, through to the retail sale stage. The host plants' list is at: <http://bit.do/hostplants>

Oak under attack from *Xylella Fastidiosa* © John Hartman, University of Kentucky

Speaking at the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) conference in February, APHA Chief Plant Health Inspector Ed Birchall said that inspections are limited to named hosts on the EU list 'because of lack of resource'. This does not include English oak (*Quercus robur*), which is only a named host in the USA. Commenting, Jamie Dewhurst, Managing Director of Warwick-based J & A Growers, said: "The Food & Environment Research Agency's John Elphinstone said how difficult *Xylella* is to identify, how long it takes to show symptoms and how the bacteria is continuously evolving. I'm European Nursery Association representative for the HTA, and members' surveyed found 20 million plants are moving within the EU every day of the six-month planting season, and every single one of those is at risk. Trade works on a European basis. We need to take control of our borders, not for immigration but from a plant health point of view"

Download Defra's *X. fastidiosa* factsheet at: <http://bit.do/fastidiosafact>

## In Brief...

■ Cedars are being attacked by new fungus *Sirococcus tsugae*, warns Forest Research (FR). Affected trees develop dead needles on shoots, cankers and gum exudation; the needles turning a distinctive pink colour, then brown. The fungus may cause damage to high-value ornamental trees in public and private gardens, as well as losses on nurseries. FR has published a webinar outlining its identification and impact, on its website (<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/sirococcus>). Log possible sightings at: <https://treealert.forestry.gov.uk>

■ Help the Forestry Commission spread its 'Keep it Clean' message via its Twibbon campaign, which allows people and organisations to demonstrate their support (<https://twibbon.com/Support/keep-it-clean>) or by retweeting FC tweets from @TreePestNews and @DrKatDeeksFC, using #KeepItClean.

■ The Forestry Commission has published a Pest Alert on Plane wilt (canker stain disease), caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis platani*, which is present in the USA and Europe. In 2014 the UK became a *Ceratocystis platani* Protected Zone.

## TRIBUTES



Gwyn Francis pictured here (front row, second from left) with colleagues in the Scottish Forest Industry Development Group

### GWYN FRANCIS CB FICFOR 1930 – 2015

CF Fellow Gwyn Jones Francis CB FICFor, who died in Edinburgh on 27 November 2015, will be remembered for having a forestry career marked by his outstanding energy, vision and professionalism. Rising through the ranks of the Forestry Commission (FC), he became a Forestry Commissioner in 1983 and its Director General and Deputy Chairman in 1986 – at the forefront during a uniquely challenging decade.

Llanelli-born Gwyn graduated from the University College of North Wales, Bangor, with an Honours degree in forestry in 1952. After serving two years in the Royal Engineers, he joined the FC in 1954 as a District Officer in Neath. It was to start his long FC career.

As Principal of the FC's Gwydr Forestry Training School, near Betws y Coed, Gwyn

instilled his high standards and modernised the coursework. Impressed by the harvesting practices in North America, he took a 'gap year' in 1964 to study for an MSc in harvesting technology at Toronto University. Returning to the FC, Gwyn became involved in management and the development of timber markets, first in Cardiff then, in 1976, at the FC GB headquarters in Edinburgh where he was responsible for harvesting and marketing, latterly across the FC's forest estate throughout Britain.

With the FC plunged into a major industrial crisis when the recession closed its various markets for small Roundwood, Gwyn built on the entrepreneurial work of the Economic Forestry Group and negotiated the export of British-grown pulpwood to Sweden. In the 1980s, reversing the tables, he attracted to Britain the likes of Sweden's United Paper Mills in Flintshire, Norbord near Inverness and, later, what was then the biggest ever inward investment in Scotland, the Finnish-owned Caledonian Paper Mills at Irvine. It

amounted to over one billion pounds of inward investment.

Open to both criticism and new ideas, Gwyn's tenure as Director General brought some of the most profound changes in forest policy since the war, including the introduction of a new tree planting scheme in 1988, and a return to its founding traditional timber-based role. He fought the government on the privatisation of the FC's forests and also got it to agree that the FC should not be separated into Forest Enterprise and the Forest Authority.

In 1990, Gwyn was awarded a CB for his services to forestry. In his retirement he pursued his interest in birds, becoming an RSPB council member and chair of its Scottish committee.

Gwyn is survived by his wife Audrey, daughter Kay and son David, and granddaughters, Anna and Maya.

**David Foot CB FICFor, with contributions from John Morgan MICFor, Graham Hamilton MICFor and Roger Busby CBE FICFor, all former colleagues of Gwyn Francis**



### COLIN BASHFORD MBE

**A**s Chartered Forester went to press, ICF received the sad news that Colin Bashford MBE, a former President of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and founder of the CBA Trees consultancy, had died, aged 75.

Colin was well known in the industry and in 1990 received an MBE for services for his work with trees. He advised at ministerial level, was the ISA world president (the first non-North American to hold the post) from 2011-2013, and had previously served as its UK & Ireland Chapter Board Director and International Vice President and Executive Committee Member. He also served the Arboricultural Association and the British Standards Institute.

## DAVID MORGAN HUGHES OBE FICFOR 1935 – 2015

CF is sad to report the passing of Fellow David Hughes OBE FICFor, a former ICF Regional Chairman of the then Wales and The Marches Branch (1990-1993), in December 2015.

Although born in Yorkshire and brought up in rural Leicestershire, David's Welsh father never allowed him to forget his roots. With a great grandfather who was foreman on the Hafod Estate, near Aberystwyth, it was fitting that David emerged from the University College of North Wales in 1956 with a forestry degree. Two years National Service with the Royal Signals followed before he could join the Forestry Commission (FC) in Oswestry as Assistant District Officer for Denbigh and parts of Flint and Montgomery.

In 1960, now married to Christine, David's 37-year career in the FC continued its impressive progress, from promotion to District Officer, based in Bangor, to Work Study Officer for Wales. In the ensuing years came further promotions, to Principal Forest Officer, Assistant Conservator and finally, in 1992, to Chief Conservator, Forestry Authority of Wales in Aberystwyth.

Although devoted to his family, David always loved his choice of career, and the many friends he made during it. Thus, his award of an OBE when he retired in 1995 was a suitable mark of his forestry service.

Keeping active, David became a member of the FC Advisory Panel, a woodland judge for the Royal Welsh Show, and chaired the panel set up to advise on the restoration and conservation of Hafod Estate where his great grandfather worked before him. A final and fitting tribute to those Welsh roots.

From a tribute provided by David's family



## JOHN HEFFERNAN CANTILLON 1952 – 2015

Long-standing member John Cantillon MICFor sadly died in December 2015, aged 89. He joined the Society of Foresters of Great Britain, as it was in 1963, and would have celebrated 53 years of membership in January.

Initially John wasn't destined to be a forester, beginning his career in Dublin as an engineering apprentice. However, he grabbed an opportunity to study forestry at Trinity College Dublin, the city's renowned university. After

graduating in the late 1940s, John worked for the Forestry Commission (FC) in the West of Scotland around the Crinan Canal. The FC equipped him with a BSA motorbike which, by all accounts, did not like the winter conditions and particularly frost and ice, which at the time there was plenty of.

Returning to Ireland in the early 1950s, John worked as forestry manager on the Lismore Estate in County Waterford for ten years – at a time of forestry expansion in Ireland – before returning to the UK in 1960. He practised forestry consultancy for a number of forestry owners and developed a career with Economic Forestry Group in East Anglia.

John returned to Ireland in 1970, with

his wife Heather, and continued to work in forestry whilst at the same time livestock farming in County Waterford as well as breeding horses. The farm was an opportunity to go into nursery production, producing mainly beech for the hedging market in the UK.

In the 1980s, John facilitated Forest Thinning's export of Irish timber to the Swedish pulp mills pre the single market and Sweden's membership of the EU, which often made obtaining licences, etc., challenging.

In retirement, John quite rightly enjoyed his passions – sailing and following National Hunt Racing.

From a tribute provided by John's family

# REGIONS

News from around the ICF regions

## EAST ENGLAND

### Ancient woodlands at the top of the agenda

Members of ICF's East England Regional Group met at Ravenwood Hall in Rougham, a 16th century Tudor hotel close to Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, on 28 January for their Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr Gerry Barnes MBE FICFor, former Regional Group Chairman. Gerry gave a fascinating review of the work he carried out with Professor Tom Williamson on the landscape archaeology and history of ancient woodlands in Norfolk. A wide-ranging and well-illustrated presentation gave members an insight to research approaches and detailed information on many of the woods studied (most of which are not open to the public). Conclusions from the research have raised some interesting questions and challenges to conventional (ecological) thinking about ancient woodlands. The research work is comprehensively described in the book 'Rethinking Ancient Woodlands' which was reviewed in the



Members hear about Gerry Barnes' research into Norfolk's ancient woodlands

previous issue of *Chartered Forester*. Shortage of time meant that Gerry had skip through some of his slides. A follow-up field meeting, with Tom Williamson and Gerry, is being arranged for late spring 2016.

After the formalities of the evening,

members briefly networked in the hotel lounge before dinner, and enjoyed a discussion stimulated by the earlier presentation.

For those members who knew some of the woods studied, the discussion was particularly thought provoking.

## NORTH SCOTLAND

### Insurance mixtures with Sitka spruce

Some 40 ICF members and colleagues met on 1 December to consider the upland potential of plantation mixtures, combining Sitka spruce with alternative productive conifer species. The morning seminar was hosted by the University of Aberdeen in the penthouse suite of its impressive Sir Duncan Rice Library.

Dr Andrew Cameron, Senior Lecturer in the University's Institute of Biological and Environmental Science, explained that emerging threats to Sitka spruce, from drought in eastern Britain and potential pest and disease introductions, had raised concerns over dependence upon pure Sitka spruce plantations. 'Insurance mixtures' with alternative Pacific Northwest conifers offered one economically realistic remedy.

Dr Bill Mason FICFor, Senior Silviculturist (Emeritus) at Forest Research (FR), then reported on results from a selection of long-term mixtures experiments maintained by FR, notably at Margam and Gisburn Forests. These suggested that judicious combinations



A thinned p1950 mixture of Sitka spruce (yellow spots) and Douglas fir (pink dots), Balnacoul, Moray. Dr Scott McG Wilson/Dr Andrew Cameron

of species could produce 'over yielding' effects, exceeding the productivity of single-species stands.

Dr Scott McG Wilson, Chartered Forester and Rural Surveyor, Aberdeen, followed with a discussion on the results from a Scottish Forestry Trust sponsored study in 2014. He reviewed the British long-term record of mixtures including Sitka spruce with Douglas

fir, grand fir, noble fir and western hemlock. The results of the survey were summarised in *Scottish Forestry*, the journal of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, last spring.

Finally, Richard Walsh, Teagasc<sup>1</sup> postgraduate Walsh Fellowship student and a PhD candidate at the University of Aberdeen, explained the relevance of this approach to forestry circumstances in Ireland, where dependence on pure Sitka spruce is greater even than in Scotland. Richard's current PhD study is investigating the potential of several alternative conifers as companion species.

Despite gloomy winter afternoon conditions, and pre-fortified by a buffet lunch, the party visited Forestry Commission Scotland's Kirkhill Forest, just outside Aberdeen, to examine p1969 mixed stands of Sitka spruce with both grand fir and noble fir. Although previously under-thinned, these demonstrated the species' silvicultural compatibility.

**Scott McG Wilson MICFor, ICF North Scotland Regional Group Committee member**

#### Reference

1. Teagasc, Republic of Ireland, is the agriculture and food development authority in Ireland.





Peter Oliver

## REGIONAL NEWS

■ **IN WALES**, Regional Group Secretary Michael Cresswell reports that the committee has provisionally set three dates for meetings this year as follows: Spring Lunches in North and South Wales on 22 April (see page 35, Diary, for details), Summer Field Visit to Nant yr Arian on 17 June, and the Autumn Conference and AGM on 18 November in South Wales.

### ■ IN ADDITION TO THE SOUTH WEST

**ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP** joint meeting with the Wessex Silvicultural Group on 15 March (report in the summer issue), Chair Peter Oliver FICFor (pictured above) asks members to put 20 October in their diary for the autumn meeting on Rewilding in Reality, to be held in the River Otter area, Devon.

■ **IN SOUTH EAST ENGLAND**, Chair Martin Gammie MICFor reports that the committee has prepared a draft 2016 programme (subject to speaker/venue confirmations) for you to diary: 21 April – Business as Usual, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A fresh look at risk management in respect of both health and safety and business management, how these might overlap, and how they apply to the tree professional. 7 July – Navigating designations and legislation at the Hucking Estate, Maidstone, Kent. A guided tour of ancient woodland to consider best practice, protected species management and update on biosecurity issues. 20 October – incorporating the Group's AGM, Diversity, the key to resilience, at Crowthorne Wood in Swinley Forest on The Crown Estate. Topics to include fire risk, species choice and climate change resilience.

Martin welcomes input to the programme content and event organisation and also reminds that there is a vacancy on the committee for a Regional Group Secretary

(ICF Associate Guy Stephens is kindly Acting Secretary in the interim). Email Martin at: cwtarb@gmail.com

■ **AT THE EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL GROUP** AGM in January, held in Rougham, near Bury St Edmunds, Chairman Andrew Coombes FICFor (pictured below) and Secretary Mark Pritchard FICFor were re-elected. As some of the existing Regional Group Committee members were not able to attend, Andrew confirmed that he would confirm their willingness to continue or preference to stand down. Associate Jonathan Bundock and Gavin Robbie MICFor, both arboricultural consultants, volunteered to join the committee.

In a round-up of 2015, Andrew summarised the events held, namely a workshop on Ancient Woodlands, a visit to Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve, and a conference on Planting and Protecting Urban Woods. A programme comprising three or four meetings is now being planned for 2016.



Andrew Coombes

## ICF Regional Groups

### ENGLAND – EAST

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### ENGLAND – SOUTH EAST

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### ENGLAND – SOUTH WEST

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### NORTHERN IRELAND

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# PUBLICATIONS

## A-Z of tree terms

### A companion to British arboriculture (2nd Edition)

Reviewer: Duncan Slater MICFor

*Review in Brief: A helpful reference book for arboriculturists but in need of illustration.*

The second edition of this book is welcomed, as terminology in arboriculture is always moving on. Additionally, the author has clearly collaborated with a considerable number of contributors in the production of this second incarnation.

An important element of this book's value is that it takes one out of the insular terminology of arborists to define terms in the other disciplines that inevitably encroach into the professional role of an arboriculturist. These include forestry and wood-working terms, but also governmental bodies and initiatives, building descriptions, legal and land management terminology.

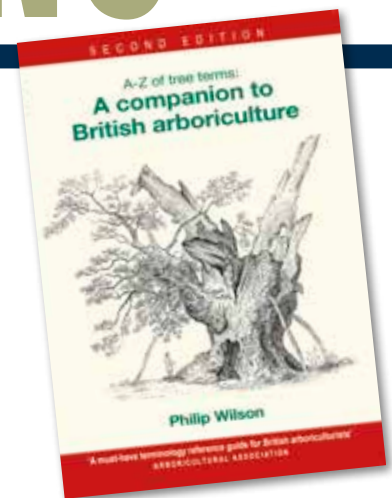
It is easy for a reviewer to pick holes

in anyone's attempt at a dictionary of terms: for instance, there are listings for some common fungi appearing on amenity trees, but it is far from comprehensive in respect of this and other technical topics. Perhaps some specialised areas like this should be agreed to be beyond the scope of this book. There is also a clear South East England bias, as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, gets a long entry, Westonbirt is only a secondary example of an arboretum (further down the list than the National Pinetum, Bedgebury, in Kent), and I could not find an entry for the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

However, fundamentally this book will not become a classic arboricultural text until it contains illustrations. For instance, one will much more readily recognise and comprehend what a witches' broom is when one sees its structure, rather than

when one reads a description.

So, when it comes to something more technical that most arboriculturists would be unfamiliar with, like the parts of a building, a labelled diagram would be a far more effective way to deliver this learning and would then justify the price.



### To get a copy...

Philip Wilson, 2015, Ethelburga House, 341 pp, softback, c. £35.00, ISBN 9780957178410. [www.treeterms.co.uk](http://www.treeterms.co.uk)

## In Brief...

### FC out of print resource

Out-of-print technical Forestry Commission (FC) publications can now be accessed through a new free online FC archive. As much of its older unrevised material is still valuable and in demand by students, researchers and professionals across the forestry and related sectors, the FC has converted all its technical publications to digital formats – about 400 in total – and will be uploading them into an online archive in batches over the coming year. The first 11 titles uploaded are Handbooks, and these will be followed by Technical Papers, FC Journals, Bulletins, Booklets, Field Books and Annual Reports. To access, select 'Archive' from the category menu at: [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)

### Thinning control guide

A new FC Field Guide, *Thinning*

*Control*, provides guidance on the control of volume to be removed when marking a stand for thinning, and a guide to thinning yields. It describes the yield class system and how yield class is assessed in a stand, covers thinning practice, field procedures, and presents general yield class curves for a selection of common species. It includes a useful inside front cover summary of the office and field procedures to be followed. ISBN 9780855389307, FC stock code: FCFG004 (£14), or download free at: <http://bit.do/thinning>

### Offsetting farming emissions

The January issue of *Nature Climate Change* journal has published the report of a new study into the potential for sparing land from food production to balance greenhouse gas emissions.

It shows that emissions from the UK farming industry could be largely offset by 2050, and this could be achieved if the UK increased agricultural yields and coupled this with expanded areas of natural forests and wetlands to match its European neighbours. The research suggests that upping forest cover from 12-30 per cent of UK land over the next 35 years – close to that of France and Germany, but still less than the European average – and restoring 700,000ha of wet peatland, would enable these habitats to act as a carbon sink. Read more at: <http://bit.do/farmgassink>

### Genetic conservation

The pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees is the focus of a new publication, authored by S M G de Vries, M Alan, M Bozzano, V

Burianek, E Collin, J Cottrell, M Ivankovic, C T Kelleher, J Koskela, P Rotach, L Vietto and L Yrjänä. It presents the findings of the working group, established by the EUFORGEN Steering Committee to develop the pan-European genetic conservation strategy for forest trees. Earlier analysis of available information revealed significant gaps in the conservation efforts in terms of the species covered and the geographical distribution of the units within the species' ranges. Download at: <http://bit.do/euconservation> or order using ISBN 978292550295.



# DIARY

Book now for...

## APRIL

● 22 April  
**ICF Wales Regional Group Spring Lunches:**  
**North Wales Lunch**  
 at Cross Foxes,  
 Dolgellau, Gwynedd  
 Contact: admin@  
 charteredforesters.org

● 22 April  
**South Wales Lunch**  
 at The Kings Head,  
 Llandovery, Carmarthenshire  
 Contact: admin@  
 charteredforesters.org

● 27-28 April  
**ICF National Conference**  
**The Timber Supply Chain**  
 –Dynamics and  
 Opportunities

Newcastle Marriott Gosforth  
 Park, North East England  
 More information at: [www.charteredforesters.org/  
 conference2015](http://www.charteredforesters.org/conference2015)

● 27 April  
**ICF Annual General Meeting**  
 5:30pm, Grandstand Suite,  
 Newcastle Marriott,  
 Gosforth Park.  
 Contact: admin@  
 charteredforesters.org  
 All members welcome.

### Find out more

For full details of ICF and  
 other industry events, visit  
[www.charteredforesters.org](http://www.charteredforesters.org)



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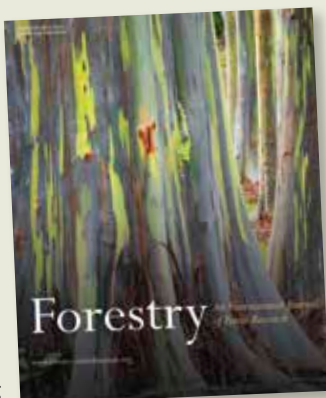
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Editor's Choice

● Variation of radial wood  
 properties from genetically  
 improved Sitka spruce growing  
 in the UK.

J Paul McLean, John R Moore,  
 Barry A Gardiner, Stephen J Lee,  
 Shaun J Mochan and Michael C  
 Jarvis

Extract: Study using SilviScan  
 and mechanical testing to  
 investigate radial variations in  
 wood stiffness, bending strength,  
 density and microfibril angle in  
 defect-free samples taken from  
 the first UK progeny trial to reach  
 merchantable size.



● Gravity models of forest  
 products trade: applications  
 to forecasting and  
 policy analysis.

Joseph Buongiorno  
 Extract: Includes estimated  
 elasticities to predict  
 the growth rate of trade  
 flows from 2015 to 2020  
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 projections of the International  
 Monetary Fund.

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