UKFS Principles: Plans into practice

Professionalism in Forestry

November 2017
“There is, however, a species of humanity – a class of self-styled experts – who advertise as being practical authorities on Forestry matters and who boast that they eschew all that is scientific, but whose only passport is, in reality, garrulous ignorance, and an overweening confidence in their own inability. I cannot too strongly warn my readers against attaching any importance to the remarks or advice of such men as these.”
The Institutes mission is to raise professional standards in forestry and arboriculture throughout the UK.
What is a Professional?

What do you think a professional looks like?
A professional is...
Some definitions

*OED* - **professional** *adj.* a person who engages in an activity with great competence.

*Wikipedia* - a **professional** is a member of a vocation founded upon specialised educational training.

*National Health Service* - **professionalism** is the adherence to a set of values comprising statutory professional obligations, formally agreed codes of conduct, and the informal expectations of patients and colleagues.
A professional ...

• Is competent or skilled in a particular activity
• Provides a service based on a special relationship with the client
• Should be educated rather than trained
• Must be independent of the influence of the state or commerce
• Should have legitimised authority
• Has the social function of speaking out on broad matters of public policy and justice

Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor,
CEO Sylva Foundation
Trust me, I’m a professional

“Two-thirds of respondents said that if a professional belonged to a professional body they would trust them more.”

From “Understanding the value of professionals and professional bodies.” A report commissioned by The Chartered Institute of Building, 2015.
The Code of Conduct

• Act with integrity
• Always provide a high standard of service
• Treat others with respect
• Take responsibility
• Act in a way that promotes trust in the profession
• Have regard for sustainability throughout your work
CPD – why is it important?

• The work-life balance of professionals is evolving
• Professionals today face new challenges
• Lifelong learning will prove fundamental
• Adaptability will prove fundamental
The Institute

- Founded in 1925, Royal Charter in 1982
- Has 1,750 members
- Maintains a Code of Conduct for members
- Gives impartial information to the public
- Publishes the scientific journal *Forestry*
- Regulates the standards of entry to the profession
- Advance and promote all aspects of forestry, and to encourage the study of forestry

Shireen Chambers FICFor, Institute of Chartered Foresters
Growing Careers

“The greatest benefit of chartered status is that it shows that forestry is a proper grown-up profession and a Chartered Forester is a genuine professional: someone whose knowledge and professional judgement is to be taken seriously.”

“Being chartered has opened up my career, providing a springboard to be holder in new ideas in arboriculture.”

“Developing knowledge in the field of professional practice is essential if you wish to progress in your career by advancing your knowledge.”
Society of Foresters 1947
A diverse membership