

WINTER | 2021

TREES

MEMBER MAGAZINE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ARBORICULTURIST AND FORESTER



Institute of
Chartered
Foresters

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TREES

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MEMBER MAGAZINE FOR THE PROFESSIONAL ARBORICULTURIST AND FORESTER

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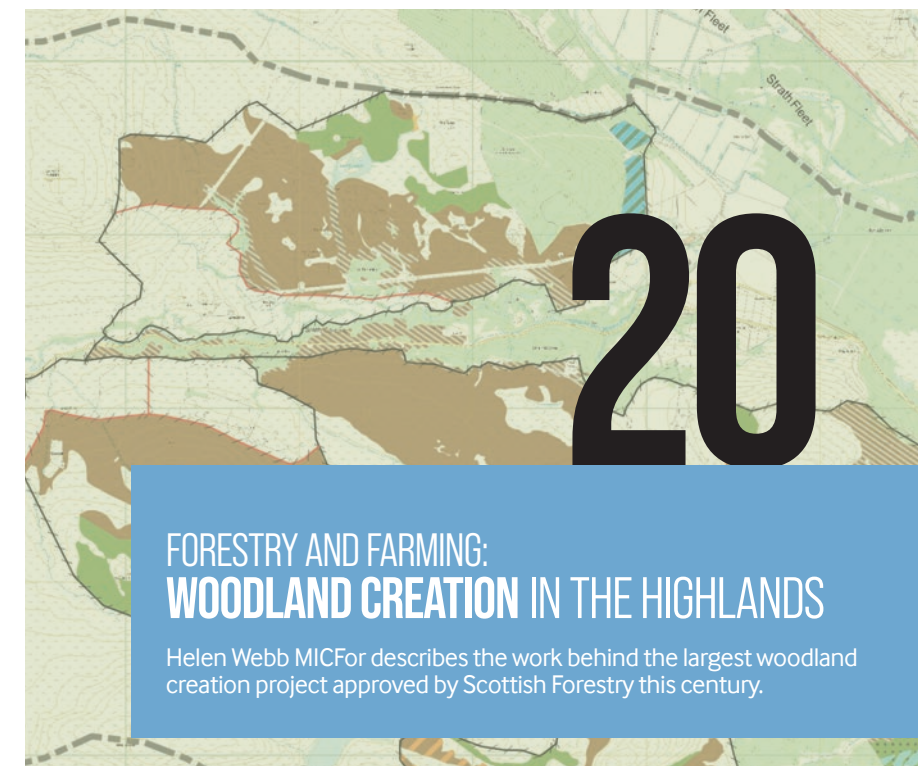
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FIRST WORD

SHIREEN CHAMBERS

MBE FICFOR

ICF Executive & Technical Director

WELCOME TO 2021.

And so far it's not looking much different to last year. But there is a lot to be optimistic about, despite the grim start looking very similar to a grim ending to 2020. Our sector is buoyant, with trees being seen as a cornerstone to a green recovery. This is due in large part to climate change transitioning from an ecological concern to an economic driver.

While this is good news, the bad news is that we lack a skilled workforce to achieve the ambitions of government and business. This void will be filled with those who wish to jump on the green bandwagon using trees to fulfil the need for carbon storage, ecological diversity, flood management, wellbeing and the many other reasons why we plant and manage trees. Without a cadre of well-trained forest managers and policy makers, it will be impossible to maximize the contributions of forests and trees to sustainable development.

“The nature of our future woodlands depends on attracting talented students to forest programmes and equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. Providing easy access to information on forest education and to learning materials, including through web-based platforms, will expand the opportunities of forest-related learning to a far wider audience.”

The Institute is well placed to assist with this and we are developing our ideas together with partners and governments. Complementary efforts to raise the profile of forestry professions in educational curricula and within the general public are important to increase awareness and understanding of woodlands and of tree-related professions. We need to be engaging with a wide range of participants, many of whom don't see us as we see ourselves and don't feel that our expertise is relevant to their woodland creations aspirations. Difficult as we may find it to accept, we don't 'own' these aspirations and other experts in land management, climate and ecological science may well drive policy on woodlands counter to our own ideas of sustainable management.

We need to embrace dialogue and look for opportunities to do so. There has never been a more relevant time to talk to others.

HEADLINES

✉ SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER AT
CHARTEREDFORESTERS.ORG

Implications for Forestry in UK's SIXTH CARBON BUDGET

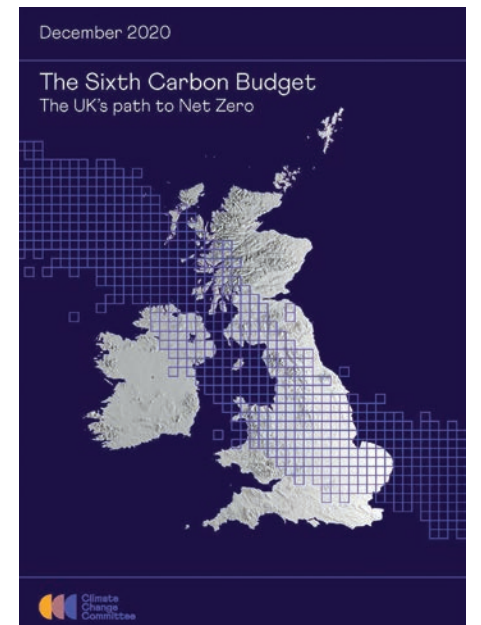
The UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) has published its recommendations for the country's path to Net Zero by 2050. Their ambitious Sixth Carbon Budget will run from 2033 to 2037 and aims to create new industrial opportunities alongside a significant boost to public health and nature.

Forestry will play a key role in delivering these recommendations. Chapter 2 sets out the balanced pathway to meeting Net Zero and says 'a transformation is needed in the UK's land while supporting UK farmers'. The budget involves planting 440,000 hectares of mixed woodland, with a further 260,000 hectares

of agricultural land shifting to bioenergy production, by 2035. This would increase woodland cover in the UK from 13% to 15%. Sustainable peatland restoration is vital and the CCC recommend a 33% increase of area restored by 2035.

Other actions include the expansion of low-carbon energy supplies, reduced demand for carbon-intensive activities and an increase in low-carbon solutions.

The Sixth Carbon Budget can be accessed by visiting: theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/



New Research Reveals the RESILIENCE OF SCOTS PINE TREES TO DROUGHT



Recent research from the University of Stirling considers how resilient Scots pine trees are to extreme drought events which could have implications for global climate change efforts. The study was led by Tom Ovenden, PhD Researcher in Biological and Environmental Sciences and Student member of the Institute.

Summarising the research, Tom said:

“Crucially, we documented a pattern of compensatory growth in the latter stages of the nine-year post-drought period we considered, after the trees had already recovered. As a result, some trees actually grew faster during this post-recovery period than would have been expected if drought had never occurred – meaning that the wider forest also recovered some of its lost biomass.”

"Our documentation of mature trees going through a period of 'catch-up' growth to recover their lost biomass is one of the first research studies to do so. If this mechanism is more widespread in other species and locations, it could have profound implications for the estimated loss of carbon and wood that we currently ascribe to extreme drought events globally."

The study 'Life after recovery: Increased resolution of forest resilience assessment sheds new light on post-drought compensatory growth and recovery dynamics' was published in the British Ecological Society's *Journal of Ecology* in January 2021 and was funded by the University of Stirling, Forest Research and the Scottish Forestry Trust.

Read the full study:
doi.org/10.1111/1365-2745.13576

HEADLINES

Read the latest news on charteredforesters.org/forestry-arboriculture-news

Research Tender Launched to Explore Efficacy of TREE ESTABLISHMENT IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The charity Fund4Trees works to promote sustainable treescapes across the UK. They believe that too many tree planting initiatives conducted in urban areas are supported by short-term capital funding and that there may not be the resources and/or revenue funding needed to ensure successful establishment in the longer term. Research is needed to quantify the scale of this problem and identify the causes and potential solutions, to ensure that the funds invested in future planting initiatives deliver value for money and provide the ecosystem service benefits intended.

Fund4Trees invites tenders that propose suitable projects to conduct research that will provide reliable qualitative evidence which explore these issues. It is envisaged that the research will focus on the larger public-funded schemes, and/or those secured under planning conditions as part of development projects that have been promoted as environmental improvement projects.

Fund4Trees Trustee Martin Gammie MICFor said:

“ We are pleased to announce that we are now inviting applications for relevant research projects. It is important that potential applicants can demonstrate compliance with the research brief and that their proposed research can feed into the overall project plan to produce a combined body of work that can be used with cumulative effect to influence positive change at a national level. ”

If you would like to get involved, please visit: fund4trees.org.uk/funding/research-tenders/



The UK Government has invested £12.1 million to fund the new Trees for Climate programme that will support the planting of over 500 hectares of trees in all ten of England’s community forests. It has been estimated that the trees, when mature, will eventually store over 100,000 tonnes of CO², will reduce flood risk, and increase sustainable UK grown timber.

Paul Nolan OBE MICFor, Director of The Mersey Forest and Chair of England’s Community Forests, said:

“ Our Trees for Climate programme will plant millions more trees around England’s town and cities, targeted at areas where they can make the greatest difference, in particular to local quality of life and levels of health and wellbeing. ”

Trees for Climate will create and retain jobs within the forestry and environmental sector and follows the announcement of a further £40 million additional investment as part of the government’s Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

Forest Research TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS USER SURVEY

If you are familiar with the various technical publications published by Forest Research then we would encourage you to take their publications user survey. They are looking to collect stakeholder and user views on the range, content and fitness for purpose of the various publications and would like to know what you would be interested in for the future.

It will only take 10-15 minutes of your time and the questions will largely relate the ‘guidance and forestry practice’ and ‘research and statistics’ general categories of publication.

The survey will close on 5 March and you can participate by visiting: smartsurvey.co.uk/s/frpublications/

ENGLAND LAUNCH AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION PLAN

The Agricultural Transition Plan for England, published by Defra on 30 November 2020, is essential reading for foresters. Having entered the agricultural transition period on 1 January 2021, the proposed plan details the three components (the Sustainable Farming Incentive, Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery schemes) that will make up the Environmental Land Management scheme, with a full roll-out planned for 2024.

The UK Government and Defra are committed to the idea of co-design to develop the framework in the proposed plan for England. Strong engagement will help shape this in a positive way for the sector, but this is a big task over the next four years, with many pilots, tests and trials running to help shape the final, firmer offer.

To read the Agricultural Transition Plan for England, visit : assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/939925/agricultural-transition-plan.pdf

ONE PLANET SUMMIT for Biodiversity



Hosted by France in cooperation with the United Nations on 11 January 2021, the One Planet Summit for biodiversity saw a number of global leaders commit to protecting nature and health. The global pandemic has shown the important link between nature and wellbeing but ambitious action is needed to preserve and restore biodiversity.

The summit focussed on four key themes: the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, promotion of agro-ecology, mobilisation of funding for biodiversity and the link between deforestation, species and human health. Closing the summit, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, announced funding of over \$14 billion for the Great Green Wall initiative to restore and ‘regreen’ the Sahel region of Africa.

2021 hopes to be the year of climate action with the global biodiversity framework due to be agreed at the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in Kunming, China in May and with COP26 on Climate Change in Glasgow in November.

New UK Land CARBON REGISTRY

The UK Woodland Carbon Registry and the UK Peatland Code have joined to form the UK Land Carbon Registry. Providing a single location for all UK carbon units, the joint registry will make it easier for landowners and buyers to manage their woodland/peatland projects and carbon units.

Jointly funded by Defra and NatureScot, the public registry currently lists over 500 projects and the interest for carbon credits is rapidly growing. Welcoming the merge, the UK Forestry Minister Lord Goldsmith said:

“ This new joint registry will support nature-based solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises by making it easier for investors to offset emissions. This builds on our existing support for the domestic carbon market, driven by our Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme which provides landowners additional long-term income for capturing carbon through new woodlands. ”

Value of NEW WOODLANDS Confirmed in Recent Study

A recent study, commissioned by Scottish Forestry, Tilhill Forestry and SEPA, has demonstrated the natural capital benefits of planting new woodlands. The first of its kind in the UK, the study tests the application of the Natural Capital Coalition’s Forest Products Sector Guide of the Natural Capital Protocol to a woodland creation project that was completed in 2017 at Larriston in the Scottish Borders.

Key findings covered timber value, carbon sequestered, flood risk protection and biodiversity. The analysis found timber to provide the largest source of financial revenue, valued at £2.5 million over the next 50 years and the value of net carbon sequestration to society was estimated at around £9 million. In addition, the study found significant benefits to flood alleviation and biodiversity from modern-day forestry.

To view the full study, please visit forestry.gov.scot/publications/988-forest-sector-final-report

PEOPLE

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Mike Townsend OBE. Mike achieved chartered status in 1989 and was promoted to Fellow in 2001.


He was a member of the Institute for over 30 years, serving on the Institute Council between 2000 and 2002.

Graduating from Bangor University with a BSc (Hons) in Forestry, Mike spent many years working across various roles at the Woodland Trust, including Operations Director, Chief Executive and Principal Advisor.

A full obituary will follow in the Spring 2021 edition of *Trees*.

David Bole MICFor Appointed Forestry Commission SECTOR CAPACITY PROJECT LEAD

In January, David Bole MICFor was appointed the Sector Capacity Project Lead for England's tree planting programme. The Forestry Commission, in partnership with Defra and other key stakeholders, is looking to boost the forestry sector in order to meet demand from accelerated tree planting rates. This will involve supporting forestry development and tree nurseries, and building a pipeline of skilled people coming to work in woodland and forestry roles.

 If you have any ideas about how we can increase the sector's capacity, please get in touch with David at: david.bole@forestrycommission.gov.uk.



David said:

“It's an exciting time to be in forestry. As more woodland is created and managed in England, we are going to need more nursery capacity to supply biosecure stock, and many more jobs to design, create and manage those woodlands over the long-term.”

INSTITUTE FELLOW HEADS UP FORESTRY IN SCOTLAND at John Clegg & Co



Simon Hart FICFor joined John Clegg & Co, the forestry division of Strutt & Parker, in January 2021 as the new Head of Forestry in Scotland. His appointment was announced alongside the new UK-wide Head of Forestry for John Clegg & Co, Edward Daniels. Simon has been a member of the Institute for over 36 years and has worked for a range of firms including Tilhill Forestry, Egger and RTS Forestry.

Simon commented on the sector's significant role in fighting the climate emergency:

“These are exciting times to be in forestry. Suddenly it is not just about trees; carbon and the natural capital values associated with woodland are moving up the political agenda. Forestry has become mainstream and with the growing climate emergency, that trend is only going to accelerate over the decades to come. Opportunities abound for investors and land owners. John Clegg & Co holds a market leading position and I believe it's an excellent time to be joining the business to help develop the services we can offer to our extensive client base.”

Matthew Rivers FICFor CEnv Joins RAYONIER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rayonier is a timberland real estate investment trust and is responsible for over one million hectares in some of the most productive softwood timber growing regions in the United States and New Zealand. Matthew Rivers FICFor CEnv has been elected to the company's Board of Directors and has extensive forestry, sustainability, biomass and wood supply chain experience in the United States, Europe and South America.

Matthew is currently Director of Alternative Fuel Origination at Drax Group plc, having previously served as a Drax Group Special Advisor and as Director of Fuel Procurement at Drax Power. A member of the Institute for over 40 years, Matthew received his bachelor's degree in forestry from the University of Aberdeen and has an MBA from the University of Strathclyde.

Chartered Forester Appointed SENIOR FORESTRY INVESTMENT MANAGER at Scottish Woodlands

Hayden Morrison MICFor has been appointed as Senior Forestry Investment Manager at Scottish Woodlands Limited. His new role will include acquisitions of forestry and land for new planting throughout the UK. Hayden previously worked as an Asset Manager at Gresham House where he oversaw the management of two large forestry investment funds. Hayden commented on his new role:

“I am delighted to be joining Scottish Woodlands. I look forward to working within the investment team who have been extremely successful to date, particularly in sourcing new planting ground for a wide variety of clients.”



NEW FORESTRY BUSINESS LAUNCHED by Institute Fellow

GOLDCREST Land & Forestry Group was formed at the start of the year by three well-known forestry specialists who previously worked for John Clegg & Co. Fenning Welstead FICFor FRICS, former President of the Institute, Jon Lambert MRICS and Jock Galbraith MRICS helped drive John Clegg & Co forward for a combined total of more than 70 years.

Based in Edinburgh, Goldcrest operates throughout the UK and offers services such as buying and selling forestry and land on behalf of clients, valuations, asset management and strategic advice on rural estates and businesses.

Two Institute Fellows Launch FOREST CANOPY FOUNDATION

Formed by a group of forestry professionals from the private sector, including Institute Fellows Graham Taylor MBE FICFor and Justin Mumford FICFor, the Forest Canopy Foundation (FCF) aims to increase woodland creation in England, helping to achieve the UK's net zero target by 2050.

The non-profit organisation will engage with policy makers, investors, landowners and the government to help shape forestry in England, making tree planting more achievable. Grown in Britain (GiB) have partnered with the foundation to ensure the reliable delivery of tree planting and will regularly audit all projects against their standard for at least 25 years.

NEW DIRECTOR of DSHwood

Iwan Lloyd-Williams MICFor has been made a Director of the wood trading business DSHwood UK, leaving his role as Head of Purchasing for Clifford Jones Timber. A subsidiary of the Danish-based DSHWood, the company has been operating in Scotland since 2011 and Iwan has been appointed to head the operation in England and Wales. DSHwood UK are looking to grow the business quickly to offer a fully national service providing forest owners a truly independent timber marketing option in order to achieve best value for the timber grower.

After 20 years in the forestry sector, Iwan was awarded chartered status in 2020. He is the Vice Chair of Confor Wales and is a trustee for the mental health farming charity, the DPJ Foundation.



PEOPLE

NEW CHARTERED MEMBERS

The Institute is delighted to welcome 34 new Professional Members who, despite the significant challenges of last year, presented for chartered status via Professional Membership Entry (PME) or Assessed Professional Competence (APC). Many congratulations to the following:

Nicholas Berry	The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group	George Peet	DIO (Ministry of Defence)
Ian Braddock	RSK ADAS Ltd	David Pelly	SylvaCulture Ltd
Samuel Bristow	Tilhill Forestry	Daniel Small	The National Forest
William Burfitt	Tilhill Forestry	Aoife Smith	DAERA NI
John Stephen Clark	Jack Pine Trees Ltd	Shona Smyth	Pryor & Rickett Silviculture
Thomas Coates	EGGER Forestry Ltd	Jonathan Tompson	Forestry England
Matthew Cope	M H Cope Forestry Consultant	Kristin Waeber	National Trust
Neil Crookston	Scottish Woodlands Ltd	James Walker	All Tree Services Ltd
Thomas Drewett	Bidwells	James Walmsley	Bangor University
Anthony Farndon	Forest Research	Thomas Whitchurch	Pryor & Rickett Silviculture
Felix Gregory	Pryor & Rickett Silviculture	Julie Wilby	Forestry and Land Scotland
James Hand	Forestry and Land Scotland	Georgios Xenakis	Forest Research
Ben Harrower	Woodland Trust	Iain Yoxall	Forestry England
Laura Henderson	Forestry Commission		
Paul Jarczewski	Woodland Trust		
Iwan Lloyd-Williams	DSHwood		
Stephen Lowe	Network Rail		
Robert Marsh	Rob Marsh Woodland Services Ltd		
Hugh McKay	Forestry and Land Scotland		
Calum Murray	Tilhill Forestry		
Alan Ockenden	Forestry Commission		

The Institute relies on the efforts of a pool of 90 dedicated, knowledgeable and professional assessors, supported by two Moderators – Tom Jenkins FICFor and Nick Mottram FICFor – and the Chair of the Examinations Board, Steve McCartney FICFor to run the PME and APC process. We could not do it without their support and we extend our most sincere thanks to everyone involved.

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED FORESTERS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ASSOCIATES

Kevin Aiken, South Scotland	Tommaso Locatelli, South Scotland
Paul Aitchison, South East England	Gareth Meadows, Midlands
Luke Barley, South West England	Kelly Thompson, North England
Archie Bird, Midlands	Joe Wogden, Midlands
Calum Davidson, North Scotland	Adam Yacoub, South Scotland
Stephen Garbett, South Scotland	
Ben Goh, Midlands	

STUDENTS

Jude Anderson, South Scotland	Helen Gray, South Scotland
David Benz, South East England	Ailie MacDonald Wilson, South East England
Matthew Berg, Midlands	Adrian Maguire, International
Paige Brown, North Scotland	Ruth Malone, South East England
William Chisholm, North Scotland	Marcus Reeves, South West England
Will Fitzpatrick, North England	Jessica Stocks, East England
Amelie Frommel, South Scotland	George Watson, North England



FORESTRY & CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP

ICF REPRESENTATION

Martin Glynn FICFor CEnv

Last autumn, the Forestry & Climate Change Working Group (FCCWG) organised a series of workshops on the subject of 'Climate Change Adaptation of Forests, Woods and Trees'.

Hosted online by the Institute, the four events attracted over 1000 attendees who heard about the challenge confronting the sector, silvicultural systems, species choice and decision support tools. Recordings of each session remain available to view in the Members' Area of the Institute website.

This apparent level of interest in how forestry needs to adapt to climate change provides an interesting contrast to the findings from the 2020 British Woodlands Survey (sylva.org.uk/bws). In an article in this publication (Autumn 2020), Dr Gabriel Hemery FICFor, Chief Executive of the Sylva Foundation and a member of the FCCWG, described that

“there is little evidence of action being taken overall to improve woodland resilience.”

The survey, conducted by the Sylva Foundation in conjunction with the FCCWG, received responses from a wide range of stakeholders in the sector, not just Institute members, and perhaps it is woodland owners and other non-Institute members that are not acting on the climate change predictions to the extent that is required? Do Chartered Foresters have (or know where to get) the necessary skills, or is it the rules and regulations of grant schemes, owner's aspirations and market expectations that is holding the sector back from taking the necessary steps? Whichever, climate change impacts and adaptation will almost certainly be the issue which defines the working life of those who are just now embarking on a career in forestry, and the case for urgent action seems overwhelming.



Members of the FCCWG are committed to working together, and with other partners, to enable the necessary policy, research and practice frameworks for climate change adaptation to become an integral part of the sector and profession. The Group's response to the recent England Tree Strategy consultation called, for example, for climate adaptation to underpin all elements of the strategy, and not to be an 'add-on'. The Group also welcomed the publication of the Forestry Commission's guidance document 'Managing England's woodlands in a climate emergency', published in 2020.

As the Institute's representative on the FCCWG, what I would be interested in hearing from its members is what the Group can be doing to provide the necessary skills, information and tools for advocacy to ensure that the British Woodland Survey of 2030 is not still saying that there is little evidence of action being taken.



You can contact me at:
martin@martinglynn.co.uk



Forestry and Climate Change Working Group

The Forestry Climate Change Working Group (FCCWG) was established in 2014 to 'provide a single point of focus for collective action on climate change adaptation in the forestry sector' in England. It has produced a Strategy and Action Plan which is regularly reviewed by the Group. Members include the private, public and third sectors.

FEATURE

A RECORD YEAR FOR THE UK FORESTRY MARKET



With the 2020 UK Forest Market Report highlighting the astonishing year that the forestry and woodland sector has experienced, Tilhill Forestry's Head of Investment and Property, Bruce Richardson ACIB MICFor, emphasises the key link between professional foresters and the surge in forestry values.

£200M+
2020

£126M
2019

The total market value for commercial forestry

When the first lockdown started in March 2020 we were very unsure about how the forestry and woodland markets would respond. Surely nobody would want to travel to look at a new woodland in the heart of a crisis?

As it turned out, the market experienced just a brief hiccup while it adjusted to the 'new normal' and then proceeded to power on to record-breaking highs. The raw figures speak for themselves.

The total market value for commercial forestry (which we broadly define as greater than 20 hectares (ha) in size, and mainly coniferous in character) rose to over £200m for the first

time, up from £126m in 2019. This comprised of 61 properties, down substantially from 81 properties in 2019, but perhaps not surprising given the travel restrictions throughout the year. However, the area sold, at around 12,500 stocked ha, was up slightly from last year. This includes two unusually large transactions which influenced some of the averages.

“ The average price of a hectare of stocked commercial forestry sold at £16,000/ ha in 2020, the highest unit price that we have seen in over 20 years of producing the UK Forest Market Report. ”

“ New planting rates remained level at around 13,300 ha, with Scotland providing the bulk of the planted area again. ”

We believe that a number of factors lie behind this increase in forestry values. Many of these are macroeconomic in nature and beyond the control of foresters, such as low interest rates, favourable taxation treatment or uncertain prospects for other asset classes. However, this year, we have seen clear evidence of where professional foresters can indeed directly influence forestry values. Where good silvicultural practice had been applied, we saw the achievement of outstanding prices in the year, with a number of prime properties selling at astonishing prices of well above £30,000/ stocked ha.

These properties were in their second rotation and had the usual 'added value' features of a prime location, proven capacity to produce high volumes of timber, built and tested internal infrastructure, and good external access. They were restock sites around 10-15 years old, planted with genetically improved stock, including full and half siblings, and with attention to post-planting work to ensure top quality establishment. Now measured at over yield class 30, these trees are demonstrating improved vigour and form, improved straightness (25% improvement over Queen Charlotte Island), and higher sawlog component at harvesting, allowing investors to predict excellent crops in the next 15-20 years. Investors recognise quality and can bid confidently on that basis.

There was a marked downturn in the amount of plantable land offered to market during the year with hot competition for what little did become available. The major selling agents have all reported that hill land can receive higher bids if it has forestry potential.

With politicians across the board making substantial 'net zero' promises, the message from our UK Forest Market Report seminar was that if we are to meet these targets in a timely fashion, the regulators must push harder to facilitate and not delay woodland creation.

On the positive side, we have seen an influx of interest from a new breed of investor, driven by carbon and wider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) objectives. These range from individuals looking to make their own contribution to improving the environment through to institutions with substantial carbon offsetting targets. The Woodland Carbon Code currently favours mixed broadleaf planting so we anticipate these investors can create substantial, multi-purpose mixed woodlands on land which might be seen as too sensitive for more commercial schemes. An enticing proposition for a forester keen to flex their creative muscles!

Woodland Carbon has become of increasing interest to investors and in response, Tilhill has set up CarbonStore, a specialist team to advise on the opportunities this creates. Peatland Carbon similarly is creating interest and adds value to land which previously has offered little financial gain.

Smaller amenity woodlands remain popular, with England dominating this part of the market. The market slowed in the initial stages of lockdown but bounced back strongly once

people were able to get out again and inspect the woodlands for themselves. There has been much publicity about the move towards working from home creating the possibility of living outside the commuter belts, and I wonder if we will see this have an impact on the woodland market in 2021?

In conclusion, a surprisingly active year in the forestry market, with all sectors holding up well. We have seen strong interest from investors ranging from the smallest amenity woodland to the largest commercial forest, an influx of new investors with wider objectives, and interesting new opportunities arising from natural capital.

“ And the good news for foresters is that applying our professional skills to deliver top quality silviculture is valued by investors who are confident enough in the future of our industry to pay top dollar for the best forestry. ”



10 year old improved Sitka, now standing at 7.5m
Credit Tim Liddon FICFor



15 year old improved Sitka, now standing at 10.5m

Bruce joined Tilhill Forestry in 2013 as a (mature) Graduate Trainee and specialises in investment forestry. He has been the Lead Analyst for the Tilhill Forestry and John Clegg & Co UK Forest Market Report since 2015, and currently leads a team providing advice on all aspects of forestry and woodland investment, including acquisition, valuations, portfolio management and woodland creation.

RESEARCH FINDS INTERACTIONS WITH TREES, WOODLANDS AND WIDER NATURE SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

FEATURE

Liz O'Brien, Head of Social and Economic Research Group at Forest Research
Jack Forster, Statistician at Forest Research

The COVID-19 outbreak has brought with it a great deal of change and with that, challenges and opportunities. Routines and relationships with family, friends, colleagues and wider support networks have been disrupted. Many people have needed to find new or adjusted ways to sustain their mental and physical wellbeing.



Further details of Forest Research's survey and interviews, including the report of the survey analysis: forestresearch.gov.uk/research/engagement-nature-and-during-covid-19-restrictions

Results of the qualitative comments in the survey and follow-up interviews will be available soon.

Forest Research has carried out a survey and interviews to find out whether the COVID-19 restrictions of spring to early autumn 2020 led to changes in people's interactions with, and benefits gained from, trees, woodlands and wider nature. The work was carried out as part of the Active Forests Programme funded by Forestry England and Sport England with support from the National Lottery. The survey ran from mid-June until the end of July 2020 and 2,115 responses were received. Follow up interviews were conducted in August and September 2020.

Analysis of the survey responses (O'Brien and Forster, 2020) found that the number of individuals who continued to visit 'woodlands or forests' and 'fields, farmlands, countryside' during the period of COVID-19 restrictions was greater than for other nature spaces. These respondents were also visiting woodlands or forests more frequently, with a larger increase in visits for women than men. For more than two-thirds of respondents, the restrictions increased the time they had taken to appreciate nature, their feelings of connection to nature and their level of happiness when in nature. Over half felt they had an increased appreciation of the trees in their street, garden, park, along footpaths and in woodlands.

There was a varied list of motivations reported for visits to nature during this time, with 12 out of 14 motivations listed in the survey being reported as a 'significant increase' or 'some increase' by more than 50% of respondents. 'Taking children out', 'extra time as schools were closed', 'exercise', 'mental' and 'physical' wellbeing all scored highly. Young people (16–34 years of age) were particularly motivated to visit nature for 'mental' health and wellbeing benefits, 'exercise', 'exploration' and to 'take a break from work or electronic devices'.

Interactions with nature during the restrictions resulted in an increase in a range of benefits, with eight out of the ten benefits listed in the

survey being reported as 'significantly better' or 'having some change for the better' by more than 50% of respondents. Women and younger people (16–34) were more likely to report an increase in nature connection and improvement in benefits from natural spaces than men and older generations. The 'feeling of escape and freedom' was particularly significant to respondents. Other benefits included 'mental wellbeing benefits', 'enjoying activity with family in my household', and 'gaining a sense of solace from engaging with nature'.

Connections to nature also particularly increased for individuals who were very physically active prior to COVID-19. These respondents tended to do more physical activity following the introduction of restrictions and were more motivated to visit nature, not just for 'exercise' but for a range of other benefits including 'exploration', 'connecting with nature' and to 'learn something new/challenge themselves'. Over 50% said that they would 'definitely sustain' any improved physical activity levels they had made in the long-term. Conversely, physically inactive people tended to decrease their activity during the restrictions.



“ Over half of respondents felt they had an increased appreciation of the trees in their street, garden, park, along footpaths, and in woodlands. ”

For more than half of respondents, a concern about overcrowding and not being able to keep their distance from others acted as a barrier to them enjoying nature, and this was significantly greater for younger people (16–34). Younger

and older individuals were more likely to report not meeting people and not being able to use facilities as barriers to spending time in nature than middle-aged individuals, while households with children (those under 16) were more likely to report a lack of facilities due to COVID-19 restrictions as a barrier.

The responses to the survey illustrate the important role of nature, trees and woods during the COVID-19 restrictions in providing many people with a chance to maintain or improve their wellbeing by appreciating trees and nature, feeling connected to and accessing nature. The restrictions also provided people with an opportunity to reflect on their relationship with nature, trees and woods and how they value these spaces. However, the survey also showed there were some significant differences between groups in terms of how they interacted and benefited from nature during the period.

The finding about the importance of nature in supporting health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic is echoed by other surveys. Olsen and Mitchell (2020) found that the majority of users of green space stated that these spaces benefited their mental health during the COVID-19 lockdown (65% in the UK and 63% in the Scotland compared to 68% in this survey). More broadly, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for a Green New Deal report (2020) engaged with a wide range of British

society over the summer of 2020 and found that there is a strong desire for a greener and fairer society with more green spaces, liveable streets, less traffic, and better access to good quality nature spaces for all.

Footnote

The respondents to this survey are a sample of people interested in nature, and with a particular interest, potentially, in woodlands and the types of activities that can be undertaken in woodlands, including family activities. This is because the recruitment of respondents was carried out largely via Forestry England's newsletter and social media. The report of the analysis provides further details.

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DRONE USE IN FORESTRY

FEATURE

Mark Simpson, Assistant Utilities Forest Manager (Graduate) at Scottish Woodlands

Mark Simpson outlines some of the key considerations when utilising drone technology in forestry operations.

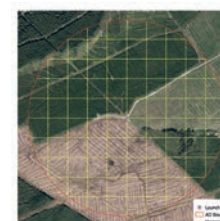
What drones offer is a strategic oversight, allowing us to see problem areas sooner, delivering more information in a single picture, faster.



Drones are daunting to anyone just starting out. What are the laws? What are the limitations? What are the potential applications? Should I use a fixed-wing or quadcopter? What data becomes available? This is an overview guide to drone operations viewed through the filter of forestry.

Laws

Any operator undertaking flight missions to inspect their forest assets will require a permit from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to do so. Unless already in possession of a Permission for Commercial Operations (PfCO), as of the 31st of December 2020 any drone under 2kg requires an A2 Certificate of Competence (A2 CofC) to fly commercially. A drone under 2kg is all a forester really needs. The A2 CofC course is designed to walk the pilot through how to use a drone safely and legally, covering all angles of commercial use with extensive explanations.



Mission Restrictions and the Area of Operations

The drone Area of Operations (AO) is limited to a height of 120m, a radius of 500m and must always stay in Visual Line of Site (VLOS) of the operator. For reference, this works out at to an area of 0.79km², or 79 hectares (ha) of total coverage.

Furthermore, the AO isn't tethered to the launch site, the AO is tethered to you. If you move, so does the AO. It's not unheard of for some operators to chase their drone across a site in order to maximise flight time.

Applications

The benefits of even a cheap drone on operational efficiency are staggering. Undiscovered pockets of windblow and significant growth variance are now visible. Blocked drains won't stay hidden for long. Walking over a waterlogged fell site for routine inspections just became easier. Worried about downstream siltation? Now you can see it in a matter of seconds. Does the site need weeding? Send the drone up. You don't even need advanced equipment like First Person View Goggles and the latest high-speed laptop - most drones come with a remote controller that plugs directly into your smartphone.

Fixed-Wing or Quadcopter?

Fixed-wing drones are for mapping huge swathes of land - a fixed-wing drone can map the AO in approximately 14 minutes. On a large restock site or new woodland creation you will have unparalleled mapping ability for ground preparation, weeding issues and (if equipped with a multispectral camera) accurate crop health data. Most commercially available fixed-wing drones have a flight time of 90 minutes per battery. At a resolution of 3cm/pixel, they can map at a rate of 5.5 ha per minute. The caveat to a fixed-wing drone is finding a clear area to launch, land and maintain VLOS - an extremely difficult task if you are in the depths of a forest.



Quadcopters are flying periscopes capable of reaching 120m into the air and 500m away from you. A quadcopter can map the AO in approximately 42 minutes. Most commercially available quadcopter drones have a flight time of 20 minutes per battery. At a resolution of 3cm/pixel they can map at a rate of 1.85 ha per minute, making them perfect for small area data capture and precision observation. They are much smaller than a fixed-wing, can take-off and land vertically and will stay in one position for as long as you need.

Data Analysis – Beyond Data Capture

In addition to basic photography and video capture, drones also open sites to more advanced data analysis techniques.

Advanced data analysis starts with the orthomosaic – a single picture created by stitching several photographs together. These photographs are commonly used for roofing and building façade inspections. A map much like google maps can be created when the camera is faced straight down - all GIS software accepts orthomosaics for analysis, allowing you to drag and drop data directly onto the workspace. Several services offer the capability to create and analyse orthomosaics – the most popular being Pix4D & DroneDeploy. When enough pictures of a site have been collected, a fairly accurate point-cloud dataset can be created. Point-cloud datasets allow users to build a 3D model of the site. 3D models offer foresters another new tool – volumetrics. If you map a site before works commence, you now have a way to determine borrow pit volumes and see the visual impact all at the same time.

In Closing

The need for boots on the ground doesn't vanish with introduction of drones - they simply remove the limitations of terrestrial anchoring. Ground proofing can't be beaten and will always be a necessity. No technology can mensurate a forest from the air (not even LiDAR, but that is a technology for another article). What drones offer is a strategic oversight, allowing us to see problem areas sooner, delivering more information in a single picture, faster. We can download and send pictures and videos while the drone is still airborne – in some cases even stream the flight in real-time. Drones give us new ways to communicate to our clients, co-workers and the public. We can captivate audiences with the stories of our industry from the scale of the landscape itself, delivering a fascinating new perspective from ground preparation through to harvesting.



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“ To face down the risks and realise the opportunities our response must be transformational – tweaks to the status quo will not suffice. ”



FEATURE

Clive Thomas FICFor
Senior Policy Advisor
at the Soil Association

GROW BACK BETTER

A ROUTE MAP TOWARDS RESILIENCE POST-COVID

Clive Thomas FICFor considers the bold action needed post-COVID-19 in response to the threatening climate, nature and health crises. Clive is a Senior Policy Advisor for the Soil Association, focusing on forestry and international land use.

In response to calls to ‘build back better’ the Soil Association launched ‘Grow Back Better’ at the end of 2020 as a resilience route-map for post-COVID-19 food, farming and land use. As a systems charity we focus on the whole, looking at the opportunities in the nexus between food, farming and forestry to ensure we grow back better.

The COVID-19 crisis is not yet over and is not the only challenge we face. The pre-existing crises of climate, nature and health remain and have been exacerbated by this global pandemic. We have seen how a crisis in one domain can spill over into another, triggering abrupt and unpredictable changes. The unthinkable can become the new normal with unnerving speed and this poses both risks and opportunities; the risk that ecological and social breakdown become normalised but also the opportunity to do things differently and create a pathway to a more resilient future.

Whilst all of our Grow Back Better report recommendations remain relevant, our transformational agenda for a farmer-led tree revolution and ambition to stop deforestation associated with imported animal feed are particularly pertinent to the opportunities and risks facing both forests and the forestry sector.

As those working in land management will know, the vast majority of UK land is farmed – more than 70%, with only 13% woodland cover – so why are the custodians of the UK’s farmland largely ignored in the setting of tree planting targets and plans for implementation?

Perhaps then, it comes as no surprise that these targets consistently fail to be met (with Scotland as a notable exception in recent years).

Rather than taking a stop-farming approach, we’re calling for a ‘farmer-led tree revolution’ with a radically different approach to the integration of trees into the farm enterprise.

Whether using an agroforestry system to diversify and build resilience, managing existing farm woodland to contribute to the productivity of the enterprise, establishing new farm

woodland, or even just valuing trees as part of the farm infrastructure – farmers have so much to contribute to, and gain from, this tree revolution across our farmed landscapes. It is time farmers were put in the driving seat of this tree revolution and rewarded for the benefits this will deliver for climate, nature and health.

We also want to see enhanced protection of the world’s most precious forests to ‘stop deforestation associated with imported animal feed’. The key to tackling the climate and nature emergencies together, will be action to reduce the industrial farming of pigs, poultry and cattle here in the UK, which are fed on imported cereals and soy, driving deforestation elsewhere and worsening pressures to intensify farming in the UK. We’re hoping to raise awareness amongst citizens of the hidden deforestation impacts of the food in our shopping baskets, as well as with farmers concerning the deforestation associated with imported animal feed.

If we cut grain-fed meat from our diets, we could free up 50% of cropland to achieve our call for a step change in the integration of trees across our farmed landscapes (amongst other things) – all whilst rearing cattle and sheep in lower numbers in nature-friendly farming systems. This same change would also enable us to phase out 80% of nitrogen fertiliser use, which has a huge impact on our rivers and wider biodiversity and drives nitrous oxide emissions (a greenhouse gas more long-lived than methane), as highlighted in our recent Fixing Nitrogen report.

In summary, our efforts to grow back better should target investment in areas that will secure benefits in resolving the climate, nature and health crises systematically, while re-booting the economy. Making the wrong choices at this moment could lock us into damaging directions of travel for the future. The risks around the mantra to ‘Build, Build, Build’ are perhaps obvious when it comes to infrastructure projects – but in our route map we outline others, including net zero pathways that do not work for nature, bailing out the polluters and trade agreements that lock us into a ‘race to the bottom’.

Around the world, governments, businesses and individuals have responded to the COVID-19 crisis with innovation and imagination, re-writing political, social and fiscal norms. An equally bold response must now be mounted in response to the threats posed by the climate, nature and health crises. We must accelerate progress on ‘the good’, hasten the die-off of the ‘the bad’ and take transformational action now.



Further Information
You can read the Soil Association’s full
Grow Back Better report by visiting:
soilassociation.org/growbackbetter



FEATURE

Helen Webb MICFor,
Woodland Officer at Scottish Forestry

FORESTRY AND FARMING: WOODLAND CREATION

IN THE HIGHLANDS

Helen Webb MICFor describes the work behind the largest woodland creation project approved by Scottish Forestry this century.

Scottish Forestry's Highland and Islands Conservancy have recently approved the largest woodland creation project under the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS). The new woodland at Cambusmore will cover 933 hectares (ha) and stretch along 12km of Strath Carnaig, from Loch Fleet in the east to Loch Buidhe in the west.

Scottish Forestry have awarded £3.2 million for the scheme which will see 1.4 million trees planted over the next three years. The new planting will sequester nearly 50,000 tonnes of CO₂ by 2045, significantly contributing towards the Scottish Government's planting targets and the climate change commitment to reach net zero emissions.

Welcoming the approval of the plans, Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing MSP commented, "The scheme is a great example of farming being fully integrated with forestry. This approach benefits both the farming business and the environment at the same time." This landscape scale project is being undertaken by Ken Greenland, a sheep and cattle farmer with a passion for preserving and enhancing the wide range of wildlife and habitats on his land. The scheme covers about one-third of Mr Greenland's land and will expand and link existing fragments of native woodland while enabling him to rationalise and improve hill grazing.

The planting will predominantly be native species - Scots pine and birch with rowan, oak, aspen and alder. 77ha of natural regeneration will expand the existing native woodland areas,

and 58ha of diverse conifer will be planted outside the Special Protection Area (SPA) to provide future timber production.

Integrating the new woodland with his farming business is a key objective for Mr Greenland, as is increasing the biodiversity on the estate. He said, "My agents have taken great care in developing the plans to ensure that we can accommodate species that need open areas. I also wanted to provide a long-term habitat for a wide range of species whilst also connecting up the fragments of native woodland and improving my hill grazing. It has been a long time in the planning but now I cannot wait to get started with fencing and planting."

Developing and obtaining approval for a woodland creation proposal on this scale requires professional foresters and effective stakeholder engagement. It was a very sensitive application with much of the planting within a large hen harrier SPA, also two designated woodlands (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation) and four Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There were also other unscheduled archaeology, breeding birds such as black grouse, public access and areas of deep peat to consider.

I worked closely with the applicant to ensure effective stakeholder engagement and consultation. This started with due diligence to identify key stakeholders including neighbours, the local community council, specialist interest groups and governmental bodies. Following initial contact, key sensitivities were identified and fed into the Environmental



Impact Assessment (EIA) Forestry (Scotland) regulations 2017 screening process conducted by Scottish Forestry.

Scottish Forestry decided that consent would be required under the regulations, and this initial stakeholder feedback was used to scope the focus of the EIA report that the applicant prepared. This focused on detailed surveys including archaeology, soils and peat depth, breeding birds and Hen Harrier use of the area. The report set out how any negative impacts, particularly on the designated sites could be avoided or mitigated. Detailed surveys and the preparation of an environmental report were undertaken by the applicant and our team worked closely with them to ensure all potential impacts were properly mitigated. This included a detailed soil and peat depth survey which informed the planting design and ensures no areas of deep peat are disturbed or planted on.

The EIA process introduces a formality to consultation with stakeholders and once the EIA report was prepared it was advertised and Scottish Forestry formally sought views of the stakeholders who had responded during due diligence. The key issues around designated sites were complex and required detailed discussion

3 YEARS | **£3.2M**
1.4M TREES



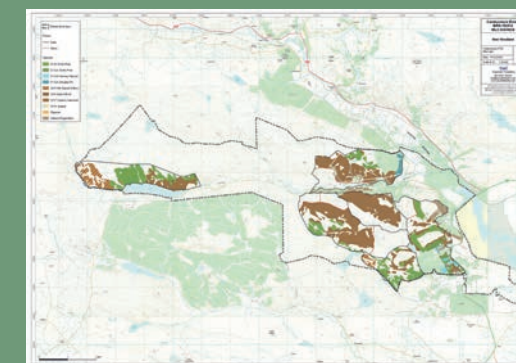
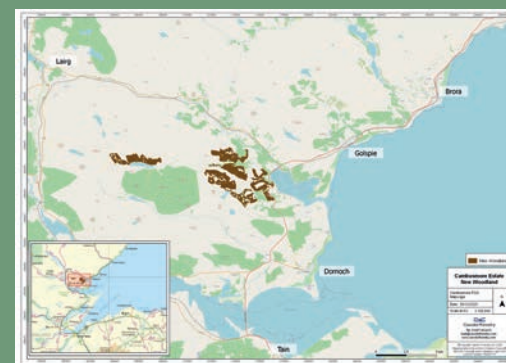
with a few key stakeholders including during site meetings with Scottish Forestry Conservancy members and the applicants.

This process of engagement, survey and consultation took two years and during that time Cawdor Forestry were appointed as the forestry team to help take forward the EIA and consent, then turn it into a deliverable plan and Forestry Grant Scheme contract. Sarah Toulson (Associate member of the Institute) was the Forest Manager leading this work and ensured that the stakeholder consultation was completed along with the NVC, soil and deep peat surveys to match the most suitable woodland type and method of cultivation to different areas of the scheme, while ensuring that these also matched with the owners objectives and the various sensitivities. Sarah has considerable experience of woodland expansion in the north including successfully establishing a 460ha new native broadleaf and pinewood in the Cairngorms National Park. Sarah commented, "Cawdor Forestry's driving

principle in designing planting schemes is 'the right tree in the right place' and this was especially important for Cambusmore. Keeping the best grazing ground to support the farming business and utilising the marginal underused hill ground for woodland creation supported the applicants objectives, helping support and increase biodiversity. Seed collected from

the two nationally important designated woodlands is being contract grown to keep the woodlands as close to provenance as possible. Areas of commercial woodland have been added where accessible, creating long term income for the estate where possible."

“ This woodland creation scheme is significant, not only in size, but also in importance. It is a welcome boost towards our national tree planting targets which are key in our efforts to tackle the current climate emergency. ”



Detailed collaboration with stakeholders and Scottish Forestry was highly important - thanks to all the people involved in getting this project to realisation, it's great that we can now get to work.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS 2020

Three members received an Award for Excellence from the Examinations Board for their Professional Membership Entry (PME) submissions in 2020. We caught up with them to find out how they found the process and more.



Nicholas Berry MICFor
Forest and Climate Specialist

1. How long have you been a member?

I have been a member for one year.

2. Why was becoming chartered important to you?

A few years ago I helped establish The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group (TLLG), a consultancy company that aims to promote best practice in ecosystem management. As we are still quite small, being part of a professional network is a good way to stay connected with the latest developments in forestry, and the opportunity to learn from the wealth of experience in the institute is really valuable.

3. How did you find the application process?

Once I had decided to apply, I spent a while thinking about whether my recent experience fit the competencies. This involved a bit of soul searching - "Am I a forester?" I figured applying was probably the best way to find out. I had my doubts at each stage so was very pleased with the outcome.

4. How will chartered status help you going forward?

I have noticed a growing need for professional certification in some of the countries where I work. Indonesian law, for example, requires all foresters working in the country to be registered professionals. Chartered status may, therefore, help me to keep doing the work I enjoy most - developing Plan Vivo certified carbon projects in community-managed forests.

5. What advice would you give future PME applicants?

Discuss the process with your friends and colleagues. You are sure to get support and you will have people to celebrate with once it's over.



Hugh McKay MICFor
Harvesting & Marketing,
Forest Management &
Stewardship Manager

1. How long have you been a member?

Don't worry if you join early in your career or a bit later, the Institute welcomes members presenting at all stages of their career. Just choose a year that suits you and when you can dedicate time in your busy schedule and go for it.

2. Why was becoming chartered important to you?

Chartered status is becoming the expected bar for many jobs. It helps you to show to an employer that you are maintaining and improving on your high standards of practice and understanding of Forestry or Arboriculture throughout your work and you will uphold the professional status expected of your roles. It was a must-have for me.

3. How did you find the application process?

A bit daunting at first but I found the Professional Membership Entry Guidance Notes to be invaluable and I kept referring back to them to ensure all my documents met the criteria and were returned by the due dates.

4. How will chartered status help you going forward?

Being chartered, I am more able to provide mentoring, support and advice to candidates aiming for chartered status. It also gives me more credibility with clients, customers and stakeholders.

5. What advice would you give future PME applicants?

Plan early. Read through the PME guidance notes and requirements provided and note all the deadlines on your plan. Ensure there is room for flexibility in your plan as there will always be demands placed on you at work or in your private life and that time will fly. Everyone will have a number of subject options to consider for their Critical Analysis. Take time to choose the one which best fits the competences and is complex and don't worry if your topic did not go to plan as you'll have all the more to say in lessons learned but don't forget the word count.



Felix Gregory MICFor
Forest Manager

1. How long have you been a member?

I have been a member since 2013, joining as a student member at the same time I commenced my Forestry degree at Bangor.

2. Why was becoming chartered important to you?

I have always seen chartership as being a badge of a professional forester, and so it was something that I was aiming towards from the start. It is recognition from peers throughout the industry that you are a competent and trustworthy professional. The Institute is a wide-ranging and valuable network of experienced professionals, I was always keen to be part of that, as a fully-fledged member.

3. How did you find the application process?

I particularly enjoyed the Critical Analysis and Interview stages of the process, and found these to be genuinely useful in reflecting on past projects and experiences from which I could learn and develop. The Work Records and Career Profile sections helped to show me areas in which I had good experience, and other areas of work which I would benefit from exploring a bit more.

4. How will chartered status help you going forward?

As I further my career, make new contacts and form new relationships, the MICFor post nominals will help to show others across and outside the industry that I am a professional in my attitude, approach and knowledge.

5. What advice would you give future PME applicants?

Give yourself time! I spent at least two months thinking about the best subject for my Critical Analysis, to ensure that I had chosen a topic which I could thoroughly analyse and learn from, before starting to write. This meant that the reflection was genuine and thoroughly considered, and the topic was one which I enjoyed discussing. While helping me to write a decent Critical Analysis, this also meant that the process was useful in identifying opportunities to improve my approach to forest management work in the future, and formed the basis for an enjoyable conversation with the assessors during my interview.



Are you considering applying for Professional Membership Entry this year and want to find out more? Sign up for our 2021 PME Webinars – four sessions in March covering all aspects of the application process: charteredforesters.org/event/2021-pme-webinars/

FEATURE

EDUCATION AND SKILLS



Dr Rob Hawkins
Education and Outreach Officer,
Institute of Chartered Foresters

Central to the purpose of a professional body is the mission to raise standards in their sector and thereby engender trust within it. The Institute is no different in this aim and, therefore, education skills and training are at the forefront of what we do. Presented here is an update on just some of the current skills work we are involved with.

England Tree Strategy

One significant piece of work last year was our response to the England Tree Strategy (ETS) consultation which coordinated members' views from survey responses and online workshops, steered by a group of members and the Institute's Council. When it comes to skills and standards, the response calls for strategic investment in the industry. This strategy needs strong emphasis on building a professional, skilled, trained workforce to deliver on the government's ambitions and highlights the urgent need for more skilled staff. There is a need to promote forestry and arboriculture careers (UK wide) making them attractive to young people, something the Institute is actively pursuing through both the Forestry Skills Forum (in England and Wales) and the Scottish Forestry & Timber Technologies Skills Group. Professional standards will be ever more important to support all strategic ambitions. The Institute has a vital role to play in setting a high bar and ensuring professionalism through chartership, the code of conduct and structured CPD. We have called for the government to endorse this badge of excellence and actively encourage chartership.

Defra and a Sector Skills Plan

We have been working with Defra on a sector skills plan and have developed proposals on what the Institute and other bodies can do – in the short term and the long term – to achieve the huge increase needed in jobs and skills. The Institute skills subgroup lead within the Forestry Skills Forum where work on the plan continues. We are also now pursuing funding opportunities to meet some of the skills gaps and Shireen Chambers MBE FICFor, the Institute's Executive Director, pressed Minister Zac Goldsmith on skills during a recent ETS ministerial roundtable.

COP26

The UK is due to host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. The aim of the summit is to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. We believe this conference has the potential to raise the profile of arboriculture and forestry in this country and internationally - we will be working on ways to both engage with it and raise our education and skills agendas there. Follow @COP26 on Twitter for more news.

EFRA Inquiry Response

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee asked whether the target of 30,000 hectares of planting across the UK annually by 2025 is sufficiently ambitious and realistic. As part of our response, we urged the government to address the critical skills shortage. Quite simply, without the right people with the right skills, not only will targets not be met, but damage to the industry and the environment are possible. Tree establishment goes beyond mere planting. It is not enough to have an army of volunteers putting trees in the ground – those trees will not flourish without properly skilled forestry workers to maintain and manage them.

Upcoming Workforce Survey

Both the EFRA and ETS responses highlighted the sector-wide skills gap. To assess what the state of that gap is, a new workforce survey for England and Wales is being planned. Steve Fowkes of the Forestry Commission is coordinating this important piece of work which will need to be both an analysis of the current workforce, and a projection of what it needs to be if it is to achieve government woodland creation and management targets. Once this is known, a refreshed Skills Action Plan of how to achieve what is required can be formulated. This new survey information can be added to similar work previously carried out in Scotland to give a Britain-wide picture. The Institute will have a seat on the steering group which will be carrying out the work on behalf of the English Forestry Skills Forum.

Higher Level Apprenticeships in England

The Institute has representation on the Trailblazer group developing three higher level apprenticeships for our sector in England. The apprenticeship itself is not a qualification, but a programme of training and on the job experience which may also include qualifications within it. More information can be found either on the UK government's and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) websites (links below). Unlike older style apprenticeships, these programmes are open to all, not just school leavers, meaning many potential apprentices may already work in the sector, you may already employ them yourselves, and they can be used to upskill the current workforce. The Level 6 Professional Forester (degree level) programme is currently under review by IfATE. The arboriculture group is just a little further behind in its development of their provision, mainly due to two apprenticeships being developed at the same time – a Level 4 Arboriculturist (equivalent to a Certificate in Higher Education) and the Level 6 Professional Arboriculturist (degree level). With the extensive work experience embedded within these programmes and the provision of a degree, we hope that successful apprentices will have both the knowledge and experience needed to also be granted chartership. Look out for more news on the development of these programmes soon.



UK Government - Apprenticeships:
bit.ly/3igBAzV

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical
Education: bit.ly/3bIKewb



SCOTLAND'S FINEST WOODS AWARDS 2021

Are you a Climate Change Champion? That is the question Scotland's Finest Woods Awards is posing to the forestry community in 2021.

The 'Tree Oscars' are back after the pandemic forced their cancellation in 2020 with a new Climate Change Champion Award introduced to mark Scotland hosting global environmental summit COP26 in November.

“ There is an increasing recognition of the vital role forests and woods can play in mitigating climate change and COP26 can shine a positive light on Scotland, where 80% of the UK's trees are currently being planted, ”

said Angela Douglas FICFor, Executive Director of Scotland's Finest Woods. "It's a perfect time to introduce this exciting new award."

The Climate Change Champion Award has been developed with specialist independent guidance from Forest Research, Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research. Expert judges will select the winner from entries who opt to enter this new award in addition to one of the well-established 2021 Awards categories - three awards for Quality Timber, two awards each for Farm Woodland and Community Woodlands, plus one award each for New Native Woods and Schools.

"All entries can highlight how they are making a contribution - whether mitigating climate change impacts, adapting effectively or sharing learning and knowledge," said Angela. "By selecting the Climate Change Champion from across the range of Scotland's Finest Woods Award entries, we uphold the Awards' clear mission - to reward excellence in the creation and management of our woods and forests."

The Institute is a long-term supporter of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, with members regularly appearing among the prize-winners.

All 2020 entries will be carried over to 2021, with the option to add updated information both relevant to the specific category and to the Climate Change Champion Award, which is sponsored by CarbonStore - a collaboration between Tilhill Forestry and Maelor Forest Nurseries.

The Awards ceremony, normally held at the Royal Highland Show in June, is scheduled to take place online, on a date yet to be confirmed.

"The Awards ceremony has always been a friendly, feel-good event and we are working hard to replicate this as much as possible online," said Angela.

“ It's extremely unlikely we'll be able to get all winners and supporters together for an in-person ceremony, but we'll do our very best to hold a celebratory event to reward quality and excellence that captures the feel-good factor too. As a sector that works hard all year round and in all weather, we rarely make time to reflect on achievements, congratulate those who achieve the highest standards and recognise the very best forestry in Scotland. ”

Awards' Trustees have stressed the health and safety of judges - experienced professionals who understand excellent silviculture and skilled woodland management - and entrants is top priority for 2021. Entries must be submitted by 31st March 2021.



Full details can be found at:
sfwa.co.uk

An overhead view of Torr Dhuin, part of Fort Augustus Woodlands, winner of the SFWA Centenary Award in 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFICIENCY RATINGS ADDED TO NURSERY TREES

Nadine Moreby
Marketing & Events
Coordinator, Treeconomics

Images courtesy of Barcham Trees

Courtesy of Treeconomics



Cambridgeshire-based Barcham Trees has engaged consultancy Treeconomics to help customers make a more informed choice when selecting trees from its catalogue. An environmental efficiency rating has been added to every species, much like those you see on white goods in the UK.

Trees provide many benefits. Perhaps the one we are most familiar with is their ability to absorb and store carbon. By offsetting carbon emissions generated by human activity, every tree is a credit to the environment, helping to mitigate climate change by ensuring that more carbon is stored than released. However, every tree species stores carbon at a different rate. The question as to which species delivers what and over what period has never been articulated in a way which is easy to follow by both professionals and the public alike.

By creating a tag for each tree in the Barcham catalogue, customers can see exactly what each tree will be able to deliver in terms of carbon capture, with ratings ranging from 'A' to 'E'. The tags also show how long it will take before the tree will offset the carbon it took to grow, deliver and plant it. The idea was to help customers select trees which will help them achieve their carbon goals. Many local authorities up and down the UK have ambitious tree planting targets, as well as goals to reduce their carbon footprint. Trees have a critical role to play in achieving these.

However, it is not simply the case of selecting species with higher carbon captures; trees should also be selected based on the conditions they will grow in. A poor scenario would be to plant an 'A' grader, such as a Sycamore, in a confined space so it can never fulfil its potential. Planting the right tree in the right place (with the right care), will ensure it can fully deliver its ecosystem services.

So, how were the trees rated?

Over the past ten years, data has been collected from UK trees and put through i-Tree Eco - a peer-reviewed, open source software suite, developed by the United States Forestry Service. It is used to assess urban trees and calculate their benefits to society. This tool was used to calculate the carbon storage of each tree species and variety based on the expected diameter at breast height (DBH) it would reach within its lifetime. These values are displayed graphically on individual tree tags, indicating the carbon credit grade and the carbon capture potential of the species as it grows.



Mike Glover, Managing Director of Barcham Trees, commented: "We are delighted with the work that Treeconomics has done in classifying the range of trees we grow, this will make it easier for our customers to make informed planting decisions and maximise their ecological return on investment. This is very innovative work and we hope it will help to bridge the gap between science and end user tree selection."

Kenton Rogers MICFor, Director of Treeconomics, concludes:

“ This is a fantastic first step in the environmental rating of nursery trees. In time, we will be expanding these tags to include other environmental factors, such as how much air pollution each tree is able to filter, amongst others. ”

Treeconomics is a social enterprise which works internationally with community groups, research organisations, public bodies, municipalities and private business to complete projects which highlight the value of trees.

If you would like to talk to Treeconomics about a similar project for your own nursery, please contact:

07710 803 339 or info@treeconomics.co.uk



Find out more at:
treeconomics.co.uk/treecarboncertificate

DELIVERING SUSTAINABILITY: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF WOODLANDS AND FORESTS

FEATURE

Sam Hart
Innovation Manager
Construction Scotland
Innovation Centre



Scotland is claimed to have hit the energy jackpot twice over the past century – the first time with the discovery of North Sea oil and gas; the second with the advent of renewable energy. It is little surprise then that our natural resources are most often talked about in these terms – whether it is oil, wind, or wave.

Yet there is another natural resource that could be as important in helping Scotland achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2045 – our woodlands and forests. The sector contributes an estimated £1 billion to the Scottish economy as it stands, with a strategy in place to double this over the next decade.

A great deal of planning and organisation has gone into developing a sustainably managed set of forests and woodlands in Scotland – land cover of just 5% at the beginning of the 20th century has increased to 19% today; the highest in the UK, totalling 1.46 million hectares (ha). That should only increase on the back of Scottish Government targets to boost annual new woodland creation to 18,000 ha in 2024/25.

There is also significant local demand for the sector's products, not least in housebuilding where 85% of new homes in Scotland are built

with timber, according to figures from Wood for Good – almost three times as many as in England and Wales where it is still growing in popularity. That's before we even look at the material's potential use in school buildings and other public sector or commercial constructions projects.

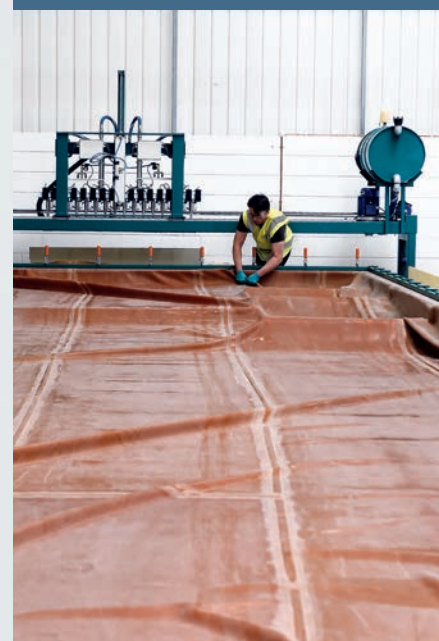
The opportunities are vast, yet UK Government statistics show that in 2018 the UK was the world's second largest net importer of forest products – including timber – behind only China. A significant part of the reason for that is the use of homegrown timber has largely been restricted to non-structural applications in construction, such as repair, maintenance and improvement rather than new build and the production of fencing material or pallets.

There is inevitably a considerable carbon cost associated with importing any goods – let

alone vast quantities of materials – and the greater use of a naturally renewable, low carbon-embodied material can only help boost sustainability in the built environment. And so, the good news is that the wood products we use in construction, and how we apply them, could be about to undergo a substantial change.

Edinburgh Napier University's Centre for Offsite Construction and Innovative Structures (ENU COCIS) has in recent years led on research and development to determine the viability of using homegrown timber for the production of mass timber products and systems – for example, cross laminated timber, glue laminated timber, and others components key to the construction of timber-built structures. The centre's work has proven that, with drying and processing, Scottish timber can be used for a variety of higher-value purposes.

The COP26 demonstrator has been constructed at Construction Scotland Innovation Centre's specialist facility using the only vacuum press of its kind in the UK for processing cross laminated timber (CLT) panels, and glue laminated timber (Glulam/GLT) panels.



Following these efforts, a number of Scottish-sourced timber products have been pilot manufactured, tested, and analysed for use. Along with a consortium of partners – including ENU COCIS, Scottish Forestry, Confor, and SNRG – Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) is trialling homegrown timber in a live environment.

The project will manufacture the first Scottish-sourced cross laminated timber and nail laminated timber housing unit – including its walls, roof, and floor – using the UK's only vacuum press at CSIC's facility. The superstructure will be showcased at this year's COP26 United Nations conference on climate change in Glasgow, when the eyes of the world will be on the efforts made in Scotland to drive sustainability.

Although one piece of a larger puzzle, the demonstrator project is an important milestone that could lead to the mainstream use of home-grown timber in construction across Scotland and the rest of the UK. It could also prove the investment case for the development of the country's first engineered timber manufacturing plant, offering an alternative to products currently imported from Europe.

“ We have the renewable natural resource, internationally recognised expertise, and technical capabilities necessary to be at the forefront of a new approach to delivering a sustainable and resilient built environment in response to the COVID-19 recovery, Brexit, the declared climate emergency, and UN Sustainable Development Goals. ”



If a 'green recovery' is the way forward in the post-COVID-19 world, the materials we use to build will be key – not only in terms of how they are produced, but also where they are sourced from.

Through research and development on timber, Scotland is taking a major step forward to unlocking the potential of a home-grown material that can help build a more sustainable country, while providing a significant boost to the economy.

Sustainably managed forests and woodland cover in Scotland.

5% 1900s
19% 2021

EVENTS



UNEARTHING VALUE

Dr Bruce Howard, Director of the Ecosystems Knowledge Network, outlines their mission of sharing innovation and promoting greater awareness of 'environmental value'. The Network was initiated by Defra in response to a commitment for a knowledge sharing network in HM Government's 2011 Natural Environment White Paper, Securing the Value of Nature.

2021
CONFERENCE
Accelerating
Woodland
Creation &
Management

Ecosystems
Knowledge
Network

In formulating responses to concerns about climate and nature, our nations' environmental economists may feel like their discipline has finally come of age. From bees to bogs, they are busy taking stock of natural features and valuing them in monetary terms. There are merchants in big numbers. For instance, the environmental economists at the Office for National Statistics say that the removal of air pollution by woodland in the UK equated to a saving of nearly £1 billion in health costs in 2017.

If you are a land-dependent business, a government or a local authority with greenspace, natural capital accounts are now a trendy accessory to have. Spearheaded by environmental economists, they illuminate the value of natural features and how this is changing over time.

On arrival in the inbox, however, the immediate application of the accounts and valuations is harder to see. To plant or not to plant? To manage or go wild? To sell or to keep?

“ At the Ecosystems Knowledge Network, part of our mission is to share the examples of where evidence of environmental value is being used to make a difference. ”

We are a diverse network of 2,500 professionals across the UK, many of whom wouldn't

consider the natural environment to be their sole concern. Our job is to share innovation in making the environment relevant to wellbeing and prosperity. From our perspective, there are practical implications to the environmental value being unearthed by the economists.

Firstly, the values demonstrate that stewardship of the natural environment is not the preserve of those who wear the 'environmentalist' badge. Natural capital evidence points towards the environmental restoration challenge being a landscape-scale partnership endeavour. Accordingly, no profession or interest group holds the upper hand – morally or practically – in delivering change.

There is a second thing that natural capital evidence points to. Sooner or later, we must talk about real money for specific projects. Whether for forestry or any other activity on land, we must make sure that the financing and the revenue is a reflection of the full range of values that are exposed by the economists. This means reaching beyond carbon to finance for things like natural flood risk. A pioneering project in the Wyre river catchment in Lancashire has brought the likes of FloodRe, Triodos Bank, the Rivers Trust and United Utilities together and more to consider how natural flood management could be financed.

Ecosystems Knowledge Network is an independent network that adds value to professional membership organisations.

As such, we want to shine the light on examples of situations where forestry professionals are playing the fullest possible role in environmental restoration ambitions of government. Public health representatives are now routinely being invited onto the steering groups of local environmental initiatives. But in these heady days of climate and nature concern, there is surely a greater role for those who understand what trees can and can't do in society.

The Ecosystems Knowledge Network is free and open to all. You are welcome to join in. You are also welcome to register your interest in the Network's upcoming Accelerating Woodland Creation and Management Conference in May 2021. Through this event, we want to communicate the value that the professional forester can offer to others who are reaching for a spade in response to national woodland creation targets.



Find out more at:
ecosystemsknowledge.net/join

Find out more about the Accelerating Woodland Creation and Management Conference Conference at:
ecosystemsknowledge.net/events/woodland

NATIONAL TREE OFFICERS
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020

Mark Goodwin, Marketing & Communications Manager at the Institute, looks back on the recent National Tree Officers Conference 2020.



Thanks to our conference sponsors - Glendale Civic Trees, GreenBlue Urban, 2Excel Geo, Bluesky International and Ezytreev.

The ongoing situation with COVID-19 meant the fifth National Tree Officers Conference was very much a new experience for everyone when compared with the four previous editions. It was decided early in the planning process that the conference would, for the first time, take place entirely online - instead of one day of presentations, the conference was expanded over four weeks, each featuring a different subject area. Throughout November 2020, over 300 delegates saw 18 presentations covering topics such as Ash dieback, plant passporting, biodiversity in the urban landscape, tree planting programmes, sustainable infrastructure, urban treescape resilience and community forestry.

Hosted by the Institute and developed in association with the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA), the Municipal Tree Officers' Association (MTOA) and the Association of Tree Officers (ATO), the conference offered a fantastic opportunity for tree, woodland and planning officers to present to their peers on the latest research, best practice and innovation in different areas of local authority arboriculture and urban forestry. The Institute remains committed to the promotion of professionalism in arboriculture and the professional development of tree officers. We're proud to work alongside our conference partners to deliver the National Tree Officers Conference and look forward to seeing you again this year!

Week 1 – Planning

James Remington, Planning Tree Officer at Buckinghamshire Council, opened the conference and armed delegates with a practical understanding of veteran trees – what they are and why they need special consideration in planning. Simon Needle, Principal Arboriculturist at Birmingham City Council, explored how community action on tree loss led to arboricultural considerations being considered in planning policies. Nick Boddington, Local Authority Coordinator at HM Land Registry, outlined an ambitious programme to create a digital database using information from local authorities to help inform Tree Preservation Orders. Caroline Parker, Environmentalist, presented research exploring whether UK-based developers can work with local authorities to secure the planting and maintenance of new urban trees and woodlands. Jake Tibbetts, City Gardens Manager, outlined the introduction of the 'Urban Greening Factor' into planning processes in the City of London - assessing the value of green infrastructure and ensuring its implementation in new urban developments.

Week 2 - Planting and Species Selection in a Changing Climate

Britt-Marie Alvern and Neil Ross, City of Stockholm, introduced us to different types of planting beds used in Stockholm and how urban substrates are replacing compacted soils. Mike Ripley, Tree Officer at Hampshire Highways, explored Santamour's '10-20-30' rule and its relevance to current arboricultural practices. Kat Hadincova, Tree Officer, described a strategic tree planting programme targeting areas of poor air quality in the London Borough of Barnet. Week 2's final session saw Chris Corder MICFor interview Dean Bell, PhD Researcher at the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments, where they discussed engineered tree pit solutions and their ability to combine arboricultural requirements with the demands of the built environment.

Week 3 - Pests & Diseases

Stewart Marshall, Forestry Officer, provided a progress update on Leicestershire County Council's Ash Dieback action plan, outlining developments so far and plans for the future. In a wide-ranging interview with Greg Packman, Kevin Martin, Manager of Arboriculture at Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens, outlined his responsibilities with particular focus on the impact and management of pests and diseases. Dr Charles Lane of Fera Science concluded Week 3 by exploring the Plant Health and Biosecurity Competency Framework and its application in training, with reference to new and emerging tree pests and pathogens.

Week 4 – Wild Card Session

Cormac Downey began the week outlining his role as the first dedicated Arboricultural Officer within the National Historic Property section of the Office of Public Works, Ireland. James Robinson, PhD Researcher at the University of Edinburgh, examined how resilience is understood and implemented by tree officers managing urban treescapes in England. Catherine Nuttgens, Community Forestry Manager, spoke about the opportunities and complexities when engaging the public to help create sustainable canopy cover in Sheffield's green spaces. Sarah Kiss MICFor and Lozz Scott, Tree Officer at Southampton City Council (SCC), discussed the establishment of SCC's in-house tree surgery team and whether the aims of delivering a better service with less cost and more accountability have been achieved. The final session of Week 4 (and the conference) saw Chris Colwell, Senior Arboricultural Officer at City of Westminster, critically analyse the 'right tree, right place' mantra and offer a practical, strategic overview of how it may be achieved.

ICF MEMBERS

PROFESSIONAL COMPLAINTS DETERMINATION

The Professional Complaints Panel met in November 2020 to determine two complaints, the findings of which are summarised below.

COMPLAINT A

A Professional Complaint brought against Mr Nick Evans MICFor was upheld and the Member issued with a SEVERE REPRIMAND.

The Member admitted that he had copied files belonging to his employer without the employer's permission. The Member had done this after he had given notice of intent to leave his employment. The purpose of making the copies was to assist the Member in setting up his own business.

The Panel acknowledged that it is not uncommon that when a forestry manager moves from a company to set up on their own or join another company that an existing client may wish to retain the forestry manager's services. However, any transfer of plans or other information must be undertaken in a transparent manner and with the full knowledge and permission of the owner of that information.

The Panel concluded that the Member's conduct was in clear breach of the Institute's Code of Conduct to act with integrity and honesty. The sanction will be recorded on the Member's file.

The six Professional and Ethical Standards making up 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

COMPLAINT B

A Professional Complaint brought against a member was upheld and the Member received a REPRIMAND.

The complaint was brought by an inexperienced contractor employed by an experienced member to monitor newly established trees on a forestry site. The Complainant was given no written risk assessment nor written lone working guidance. The Member, acting as Forest Works Manager, argued that in his view the site was very low risk and a written assessment was unnecessary. The Panel rejected that contention as it was not supported on the evidence before it, of risk assessments for other contractors on the same site. The Panel acknowledged that the Complainant had obligations to assess their own risk at work.

The Complainant subsequently suffered injuries from slipping and falling on site, sufficient to prevent further work on foot. An all-terrain vehicle was provided which the Complainant had no previous experience of using. Despite this, the Member allowed the vehicle to be used before the Complainant underwent the necessary training, in clear breach of health and safety guidance.

Furthermore during the hearing the Panel were concerned that the Member, on numerous occasions, attempted to pass responsibility for his failings to the Landowner, breaching the Code of Conduct Standard 4, providing that a member should be accountable for all their actions and not blame others.

The Member was reprimanded for his breaches of the Institute's Code of Conduct. The sanction will be recorded on the Member's file.



The Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) Guidance on Managing Health and Safety in Forestry can be found on their website at: ukfisa.com/Safety/Safety-Guides

BOOK REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by **Clive Thomas FICFor**,
Senior Policy Advisor for the Soil Association



LIVING WITH TREES

BY ROBIN WALTER

Crikey, what huge breadth Robin Walter covers in the 200+ pages of his book, the latest contribution by Common Ground to helping its readers explore the relationship between people and the natural world.

The title, *Living with Trees*, welcomes you in but neither this or the sub-title for the handbook, 'grow, protect and celebrate the trees and woods in your community' prepare you for this tour de force of history, facts, stories, case studies, ideas, analysis and introduction to many of the key policy questions for the tree agenda in 2021.

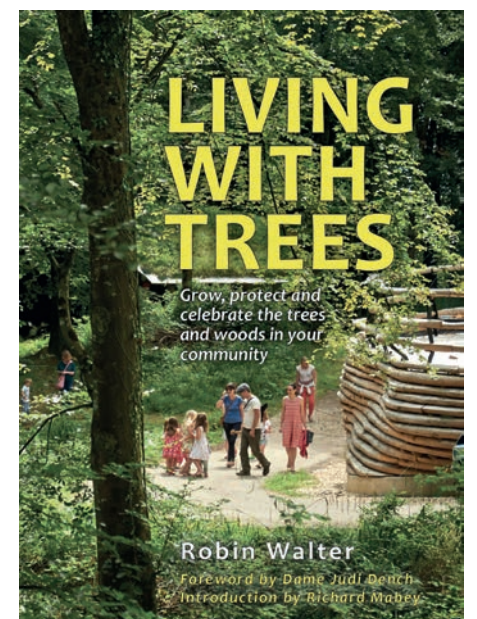
The format of the book supports this cornucopia, with a rich design approach melding very readable text, helpfully sub-titled in bite size sections, with margin facts, whole page case studies and a fine selection of images and drawings.

“ As well as being visually appealing, the book is very tactile (I guess I mean I keep on flicking through it!) and works either as an end-to-end read or as a dip-in, as almost all pages offer something as a stand-alone read. ”

Spread across five very sequentially logical chapters, starting from 'out of the wildwood' and ending with a clear vision articulated via 'into a land of trees'. Then a deep filling in chapters 2, 3 and 4 of living, playing, and working among, and with, trees.

So, there's much here for the everyperson but what about for Institute members? Well you might know or even be involved with some, or much of what Robin covers; and on first sight, Chapter 4 'Working with Trees' might be the one we reach for first, given our professional lives. But I urge you to read more widely, and I guarantee you will learn something new, or be challenged to think about bread and butter issues, in a more expansive or inclusive way. On the minutiae, as a north Londoner by birth, I'm glad I now know why the tube stop just along from me for many years is called Seven Sisters (seven elms planted around a walnut tree on common land – page 77). But I was also challenged professionally by the notion in Chapter 4, that our long accepted 'hierarchy of use' for wood, should start with the fundamental premise that the best use of a tree is to leave it growing. Perhaps the starting and end point for most citizens? And I was equally stimulated by the generous analysis of the contrasting approaches to valuing trees in Chapter 2 'Trees in our Lives', so relevant now, as many of us make the natural capital case for trees.

Robin writes skilfully about many of the key policy issues posed by these agendas and all the multiple opportunities and challenges for trees. His approach is 'big tent', presenting most of the options operating along a continuum, arguing that the best decisions are made



based on context and clarity of objectives. This inclusive approach might not suit all of us when we are grinding our policy axes, but deep down we know that bridge building to help deliver 'a lot more trees for many purposes,' is probably the best no regrets policy we can adopt. But as the final chapter points out, we always need to consider the counterfactual before we make the case for yet more (or less) human intervention in the lives of trees. As Robin points out, perhaps our ultimate challenge as tree professionals is that trees do tend to do just fine without us most of the time!

In summary, the few hours I spent reading this book count as CPD for me and I commend the same for all Institute members in 2021.

DIARY

2021

2 MARCH

Forest Value Webinar in partnership with Confor and Focus on Forestry First

9-30 MARCH

2021 PME Webinars

9 March - Introduction, Career Profile & CPD Record

16 March - Work Record

23 March - Critical Analysis

30 March - My PME experience

11 MARCH

#MembersHour with Alistair Yeomans MICFor

11 MARCH

Carbon Cycling and the Mycorrhizal Symbiosis Webinar in partnership with Focus on Forestry First

16 MARCH

The Mersey Forest: Creating Value from Woodlands

25 MARCH

#MembersHour with Tom Barnes, Vastern Timber

4 MAY

ICF 2021 Annual General Meeting (Online)



Visit the Institute's website for the latest updates to our forthcoming events schedule: [charteredforesters.org/forestry-arboriculture-events/](https://www.charteredforesters.org/forestry-arboriculture-events/)

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JEWEL CHANGI AIRPORT | COURTESY OF PWP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Three arborists from the Westonbirt Arboretum Pro Tree Team stand in a forest. They are wearing green t-shirts with the arboretum's name, safety harnesses, and STIHL gloves. Each is holding a STIHL chainsaw. The background shows large trees and autumn foliage.**STIHL**

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8 SPECIALISTS.
1 CHAINSAW
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