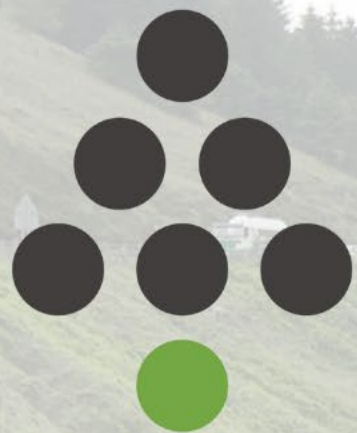




Scottish
Forest &
Wood-based
Industries

Speakers



- Scott Hendry – Lynx to Scotland
- Thomas Baer – Stem Cracking in Conifers
- Richard Hunter - Respectful Engagement in Forestry
- Timber Transport Update
- Scotland's Finest Woodlands
- Richard Hunter - Confor Update

Scott Hendry Lynx to Scotland



1. What is the Lynx to Scotland Project?
 - Project Timeline
2. Lynx ecology and biology
3. The roadmap to a licence application
 - The Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations
 - National Species Reintroduction Forum
4. What could a lynx reintroduction look like?
 - Release plan
 - Exit strategy
 - Monitoring framework
5. From a forestry perspective
6. Project funders
7. References

Trees for Life


SCOTLAND
THE BIG PICTURE

the
Lifescape
project

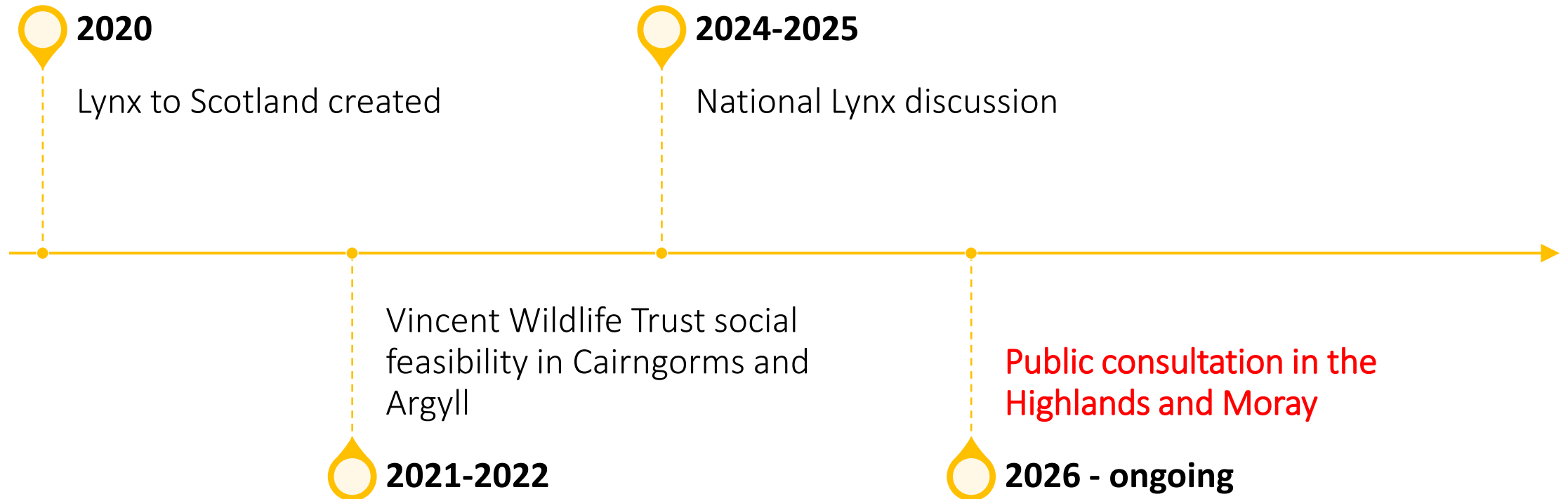
What is the Lynx to Scotland project?

Project timeline

Trees for Life

SCOTLAND
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the
Lifescape
project



Lynx Ecology and Biology

Trees for Life

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the
Lifescape
project

- Weigh between 17kg-28kg; males larger than the females
- Eurasian lynx is the largest of the *Lynx* genus
- Obligate carnivore and roe deer specialist
- They predate ~1 roe deer per week¹
- Woodland and rugged terrain are their preferred habitats^{2,3,4}
- Cover dependent ambush predator
- Mostly active at dusk and dawn
- 2-3 kittens once a year in late Spring
- Kittens are mobile at 2 months - fully weaned by 4 months^{5,6}
- 50% mortality rate in the first year and second years^{7,8}
- Solitary for most of the year
- Low densities (2.63 per 100km²)⁹
- Territory size dependent on prey and resource availability
- Subadults disperse to find their own territories at 10 months





The roadmap to a licence application

Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations

- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) adapted framework for anyone considering moving a wild species for conservation purposes within Scotland.
- Set up in 2014
- A license application must meet the requirements of the Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations
- Application to be assessed by NatureScot and the National Species Reintroduction Forum (NSRF).
- The Forum exists to ensure that reintroductions are a deliberate, transparent, and collaborative process rather than a surprise event that causes local uproar.

The roadmap to a licence application

National Species Reintroduction Forum

British Association for Shooting & Conservation (BASC)

Buglife

Bumblebee Conservation

Butterfly Conservation

Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)

Confederation of Forest Industries (CONFOR)

Countryside Alliance

Fisheries Management Scotland

Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS)

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

NatureScot

Natural England

National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)

National Museum of Scotland

National Trust Scotland

Plantlife

Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

RSPB

Royal Zoological Society Scotland (RZSS)

Scotgov

Scottish Association for Countryside Sports

Scottish Canals

Scottish Forestry

Scottish Gamekeepers Association

Scottish Land & Estates (SLE)

Scottish Water

Scottish Wildlife Trust

SEPA

Trees for Life

Woodland Trust Scotland

Trees for Life


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Lifescape
project

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Release plan

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the
Lifescape
project

1. 4 lynx to be released every year for 5 years to establish a founder population of 20 lynx
2. A lynx steering group will assess the success of the translocation and ongoing progress of the translocation
3. Steering group would include project staff; representation from farmers and forestry organisations; wildlife veterinarian; and a European lynx expert; and NatureScot representation
4. Releases would be halted if there was significant concerns
5. Failure of lynx to survive; ongoing livestock predation; failure of management responses to conflict

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Exit Strategy



Ring fenced funding to enable the removal of all lynx from the landscape in case of unprecedented circumstances



The lynx would be fitted with GPS collars, trapped, and removed from the landscape



They would be trapped via lures, bait and cage traps

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Proposed monitoring of ecological impacts



Impacts on deer numbers and behaviour



Impacts on mesopredators e.g. fox



Impacts on protected species



Habitat use and territory size



Dietary analysis



Carcass ecology - scavenging and nutrient cycling

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Proposed management plan for mitigating livestock predation



Dedicated team to respond to reports of livestock issues and put in place measures to reduce the likelihood of further predation



Livestock protection measures are effective across Europe



The project will provide financial and practical support to reduce the risk of recurrent predation



We are currently working with farmers to help us understand which methods would be most appropriate for use in Scotland

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THE BIG PICTURE

the
Lifescape
project

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Proposed financial support
for livestock losses

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THE BIG PICTURE

the
Lifescape
project



Direct compensation



Coexistence payments



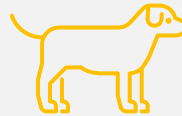
Third party insurance

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

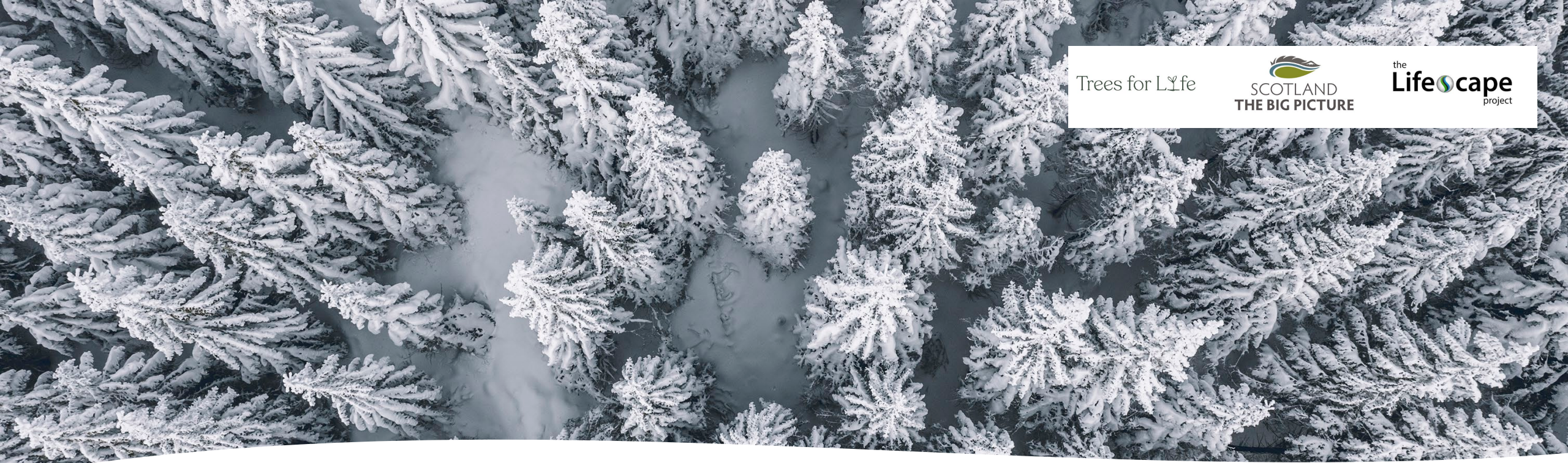
Proposed management plan
for livestock predation



Lethal control



Will be recommended if there
is no satisfactory alternative



Trees for Life

SCOTLAND
THE BIG PICTURE

the
Lifeescape
project

What could a lynx reintroduction look like?

Proposed collaboration with the forestry sector

- Released lynx would all be GPS collared
- The project would be aware of lynx natal den sites
- Collaboration between foresters and the project could be an appropriate means of assessing presence of collared lynx
- Data gathered by the project on the types of structures lynx use in Scotland for den and rest sites could be used to develop pragmatic guidance for forest operations

Quotes from a European context

*“In Slovakia lynx protections do not limit forestry operations (and, in general, lynx are not displaced from areas with routine forestry operations). What might happen in the UK would likely depend on, amongst other things, the specifics of the legislation and its implementation in practice. **If very strict measures were imposed, they could impact forestry. But is such an approach necessary in order for lynx to thrive within managed forests? Not according to experience in Slovakia.**”*

*“Identifying such places (dens) is extremely difficult without telemetry, this law is not applicable in practice. Consequently, such a zone for lynxes in commercial forests has never been created. In Poland, several lynx reintroduction projects or reinforcement of local lynx populations with wild or captive individuals were conducted. The Polish State Forest Service always supported such projects. **To sum up, neither Polish foresters nor hunters see lynx as a threat to their business.**”*

*“A lynx den can be anywhere - they do not reuse sites and there is no way to tell in advance where a lynx will give birth within its home range (usually within a quiet and rugged part of it – but it can be anywhere). **There is therefore no way to predict location or adopt any proactive measures.**”*

*“From my German point of view normal (sustainable) forestry has little influence on the reproductive success of lynx, and **lynx managers should be very cautious with demands for usage restrictions. It would risk the support of lynx protection of an extremely important interest group.**”*

*“In our part of Europe (Dinaric Mountains and Eastern Alps) no such restrictions are taking place. To me **it would be also a bit difficult to imagine what such restrictions would be. Avoidance of den sites would make sense, but they are very difficult to find (unless female is collared), so it would be hard to implement.** Also, lynx density is so low (much lower than wildcats) that any restrictions would affect a very small proportion of forests.”*

Project funders



**SIGRID
RAUSING
TRUST**



References

- 1 Molinari-Jobin, A., Molinari, P., Breitenmoser-Würsten, C., & Breitenmoser, U. (2002). Significance of lynx *Lynx lynx* predation for roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* and chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra* mortality in the Swiss Jura Mountains. *Wildlife Biology*, 8(2), 109–115. <https://doi.org/10.2981/wlb.2002.015>
- 2 Bouyer, Y., et al. (2015). Comparison of habitat selection data from GPS-telemetry and from systematic tracking in snow: The case of the Eurasian lynx in a highly structured landscape. *Biological Conservation*, 187.
- 3 Niedziałkowska, M., et al. (2006). Environmental correlates of Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) distribution in Poland. *Mammal Research*, 51, 110–127.
- 4 Filla, M., et al. (2017). Habitat selection by Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) is primarily driven by avoidance of human activity during day and prey availability during night. *Ecology and Evolution*, 7(17), 6640–6651
- 5 Breitenmoser, U., & Breitenmoser-Würsten, C. (1993). Die ökologische Rolle des Luchses.
- 6 Heptner, V. G., & Sludskii, A. A. (1992). *Mammals of the Soviet Union*, Volume II, Part 2: Carnivora (Hyenas and Cats).
- 7 Breitenmoser, U., Kaczensky, P., Dötterer, M., Bernhart, F., Breitenmoser-Würsten, C., Capt, S., & Liberek, M. (1993). Spatial organization and recruitment of Eurasian lynx in a reintroduced population in the Swiss Jura Mountains. *Journal of Wildlife Management*.
- 8 IUCN CatSG Living Species - Eurasian Lynx
- 9 Hetherington, David & Gorman, Martyn. (2007). Using prey densities to estimate the potential size of reintroduced populations of Eurasian lynx. *Biological Conservation*. 137. 37-44. 10.1016/j.biocon.2007.01.009.

Any questions?

Thomas Baer

Stem Cracking in Conifers



Stem cracking in British conifers: potential impact on economic resilience and current assessment efforts

Thomas Baer & Rubén Manso
FR Tree and Wood Properties team

Stem cracking

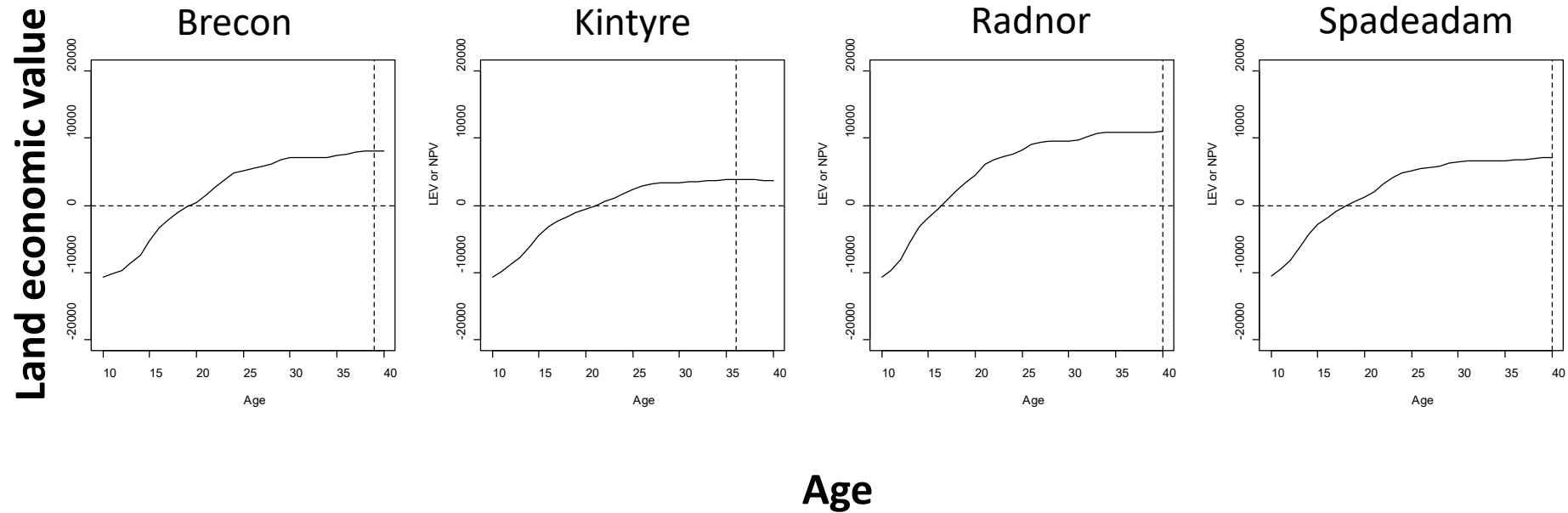


Consequence

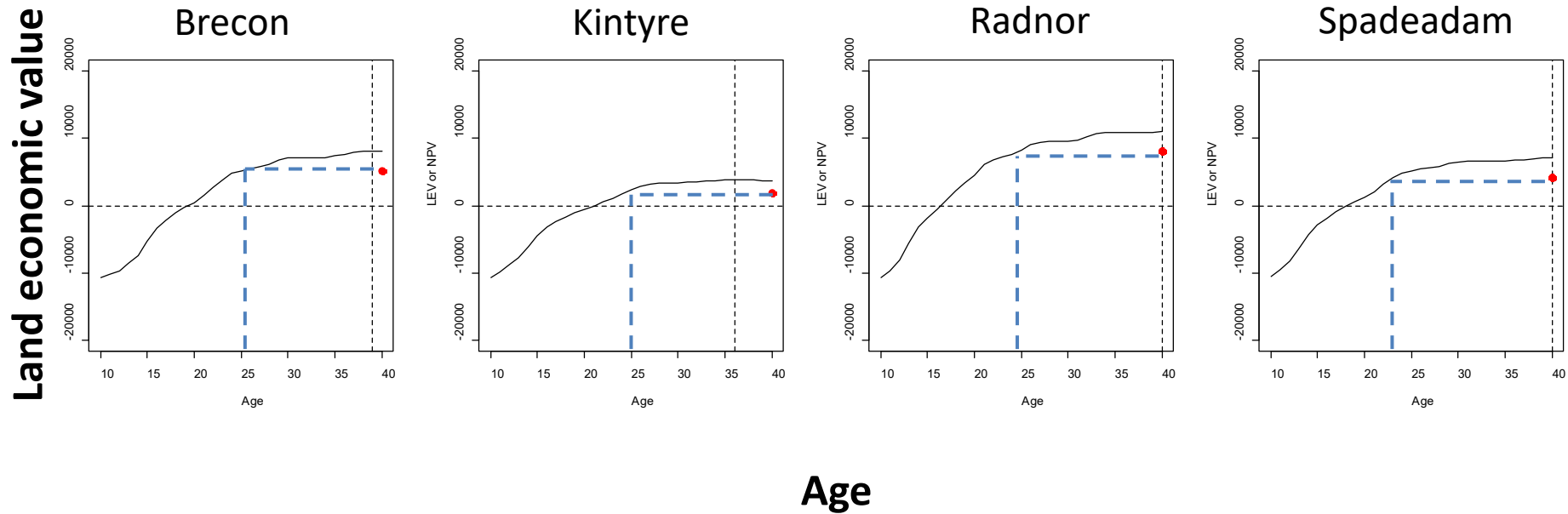
Log rejection at sawmill & loss timber value



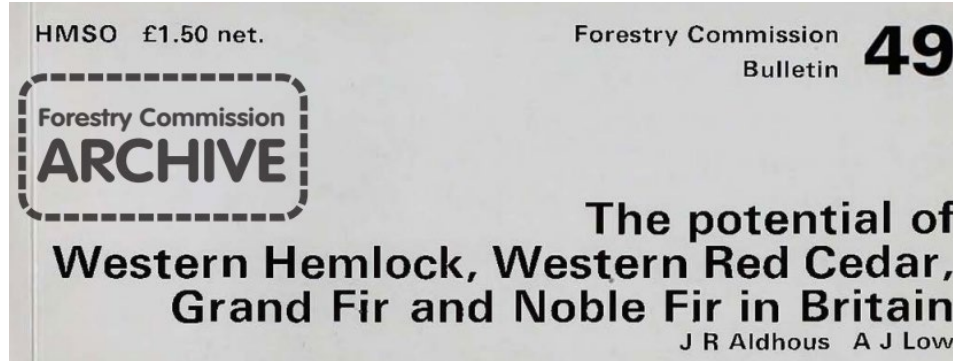
Consequence



Consequence



Species and incidence



Species	Prop. stands affected	Prop. Trees affected
Western hemlock	8/72	<1/3
Western red cedar	0/48	0
Grand fir	24/67	1/3-2/3
Noble fir	16/26	1/3-2/3
Sitka spruce	1/44	<1/3

Species and incidence

Variation in the incidence and severity of drought crack in three conifer species in North East Scotland

Andrew Cameron , Duncan Orr & James Clark

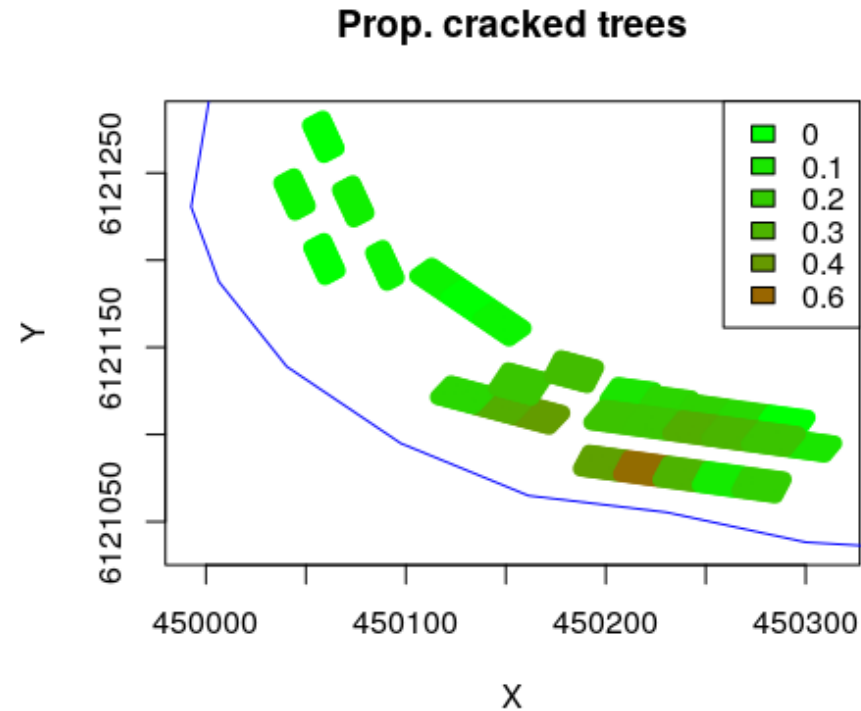
Pages 658-662 | Received 22 Mar 2017, Accepted 23 Jul 2017, Accepted author version posted online: 27 Jul 2017, Published online: 09 Aug 2017

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/02827581.2017.1360936>



Species	Prop. stands affected	Prop. Trees affected
Grand fir	-	13%
Noble fir	-	16%
Sitka spruce	-	3%

Species and incidence



Species	Prop. stands affected	Prop. Trees affected
Norway spruce	1/2	1/3-2/3



Species and incidence

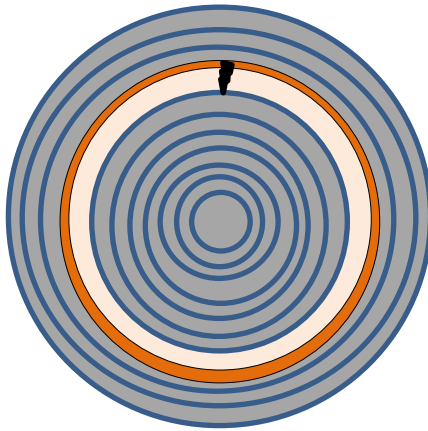
The UK Forestry Standard

The governments' approach to sustainable forestry



21 Maintain or establish a diverse composition across the forest management unit so that no more than 65% of the area is allocated to a single species. Enhance resilience and seek to mitigate the risks from climate change and pests and diseases by selecting species appropriate to the site using Ecological Site Classification or a similar tool.

Causes



"Weak" ring



Predisposition factors

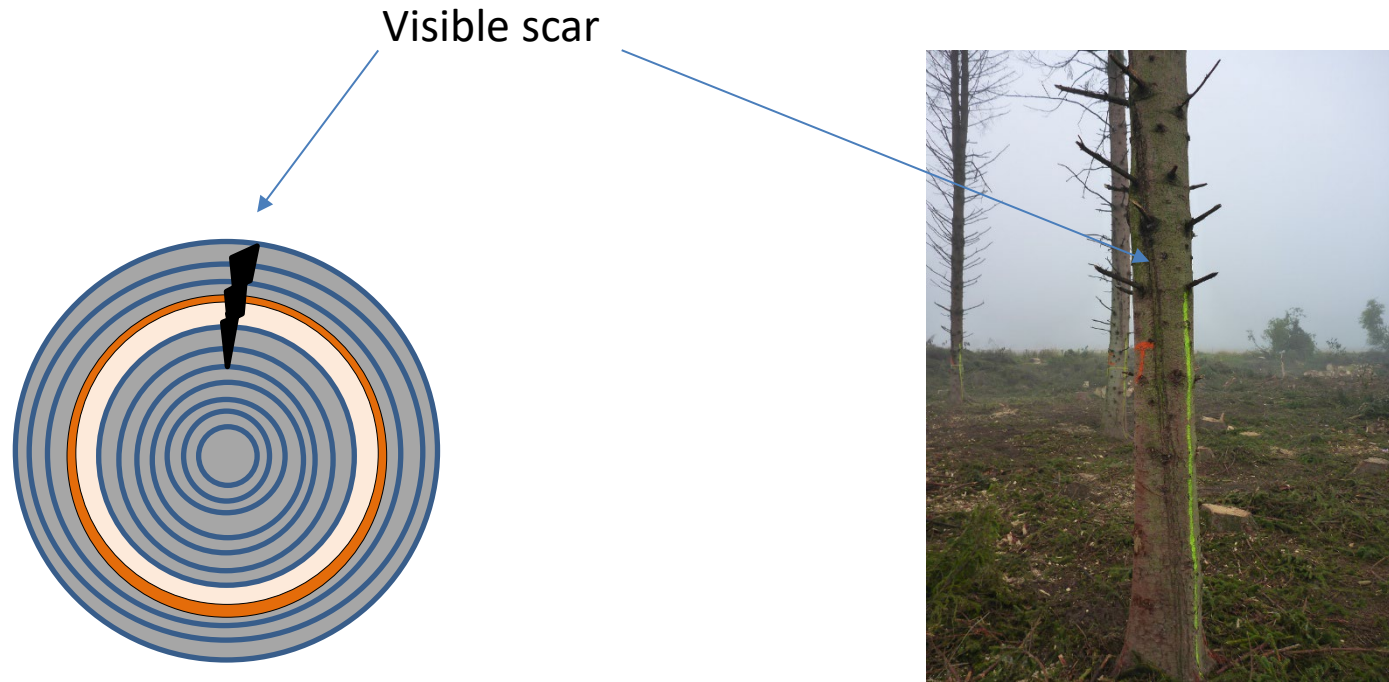
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Hydraulic stress
(e.g. drought)

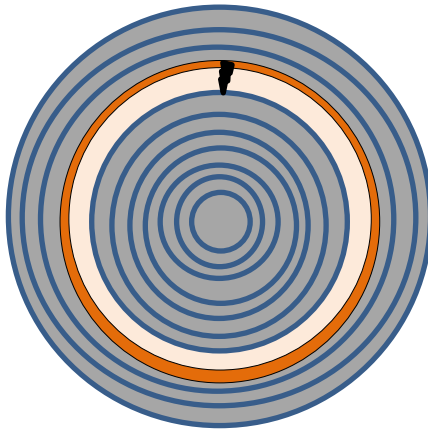


Triggering factors

Causes



Causes

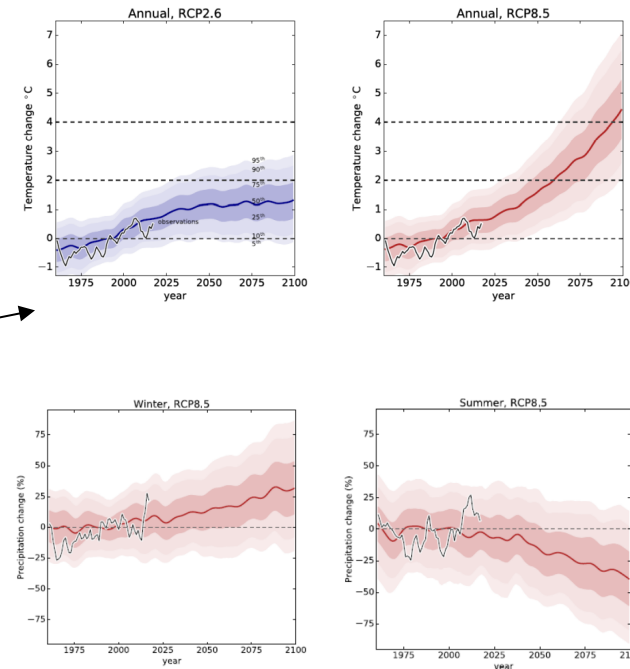


"Weak" ring

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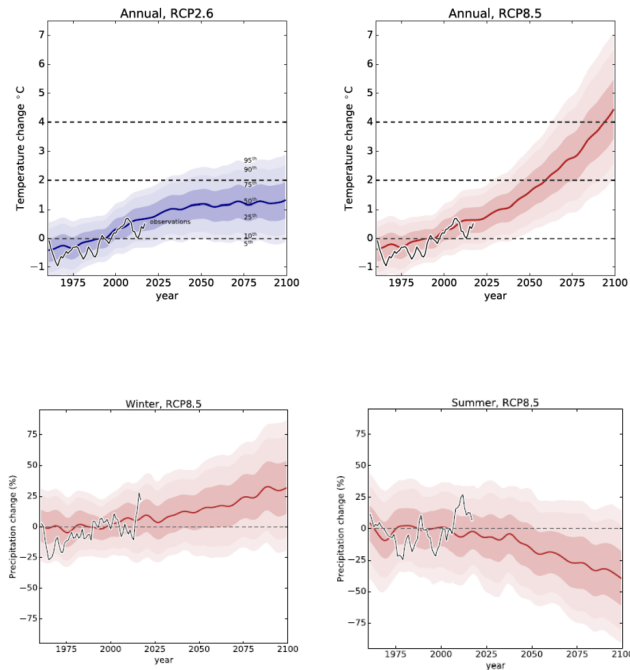
Hydraulic stress
(e.g. drought)

Future UK climate



/!\ Potential increase in cracking occurrence /!\

/!\ Warning /!\

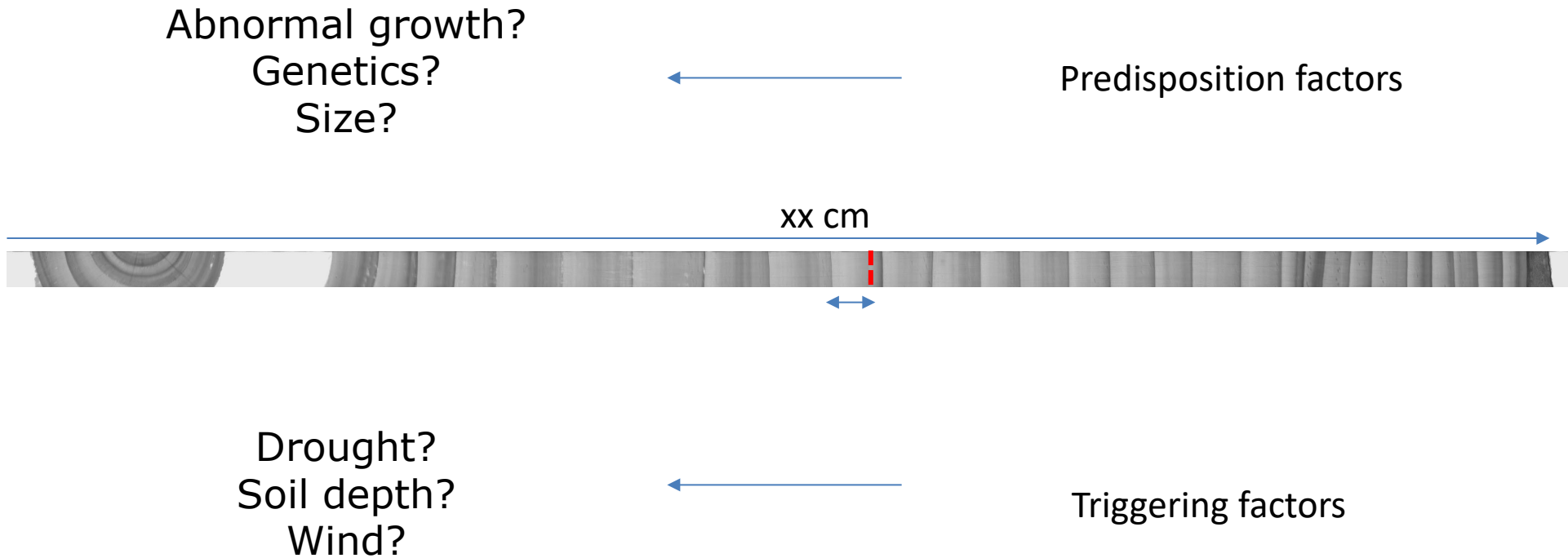


+

The UK
Forestry
Standard

The governments' approach
to sustainable forestry

Causes





Studying stem cracking

First step: Where are the affected trees?

Studying stem cracking

First step: Where are the affected trees?



(unknown distribution)



- Systematic inventory non-viable
- Expert survey as an alternative

Studying stem cracking

First step: Where are the affected trees?



Studying stem cracking

Next steps
affected

- Exp
- Sam
- Emp
- D
- S

find

ping

ears

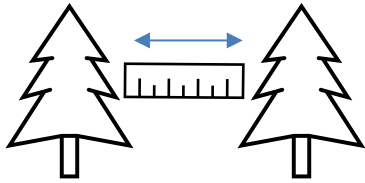


Solutions

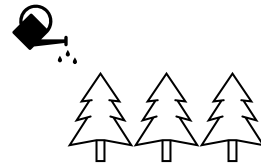
Predisposition factors

Triggering factors

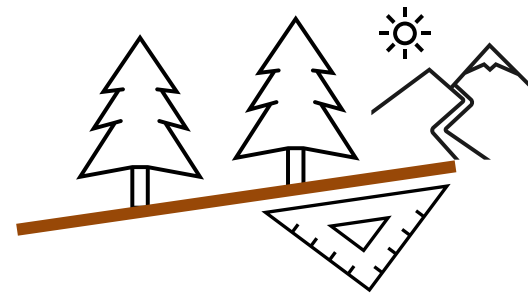
Identify possible areas to implement solutions



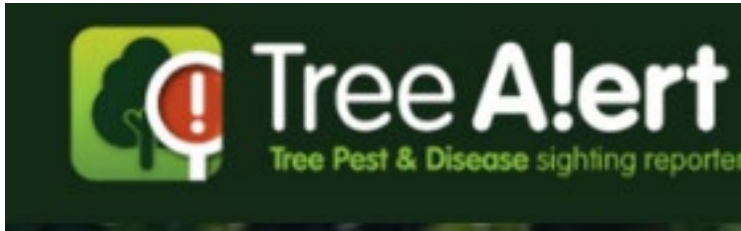
Silviculture



Tree breeding



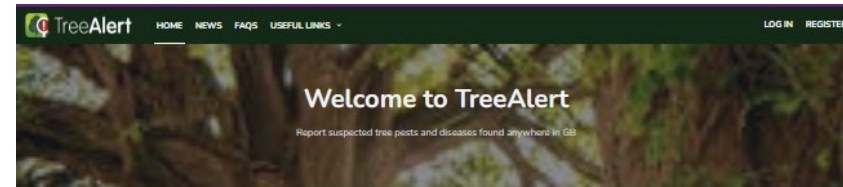
Site conditions



Abiotic Reports

Submit a report of damage not caused by a pest or disease, including

- Stem Cracking



About

Forest Research is the research agency of the [Forestry Commission](#) and Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research. We are internationally renowned for the provision of science, research, evidence, data and services in support of sustainable forestry.

Within Forest Research, the Tree Health Diagnostic and Advisory Service provides advice and where possible diagnosis and identification of tree pests and diseases.

Tree Alert is used to gather information about tree health issues across Great Britain. This information supports important tree health monitoring and surveillance work, contributes to ongoing scientific research, and helps to protect the nation's trees.

Tree Health Reports



How to submit a report

To submit a useful report of a tree health problem you will be taken through a series of pages where you will be asked a number of questions about your observation. The more information you can provide, the more useful your report will be.



What we do with your reports

We use the data obtained through TreeAlert to follow-up findings, to identify trends of spread, to direct surveys looking for regulated or quarantine pests and pathogens and to support pest and disease management.



Pests and Diseases

If you want to know more about any specific pests and diseases then the main Forest Research website has a range of information available. Alternatively, the [CitrusVirus](#) project has a range of guides, posters and videos which can help with trying to identify a pest or disease.

Submit a Report



General Report

Submit a report of a problem affecting the health of a tree. If you suspect or know the cause then please use the Disease specific report, otherwise use this General report.



Pest or Disease Specific Reports

Submit a report of a specific tree pest or disease that you have seen.

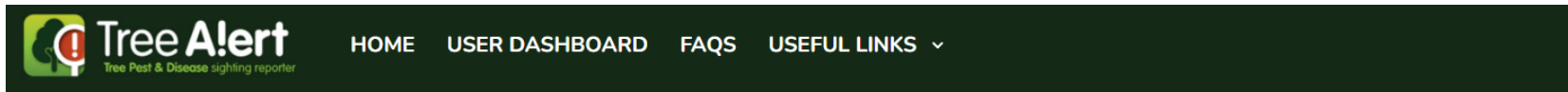
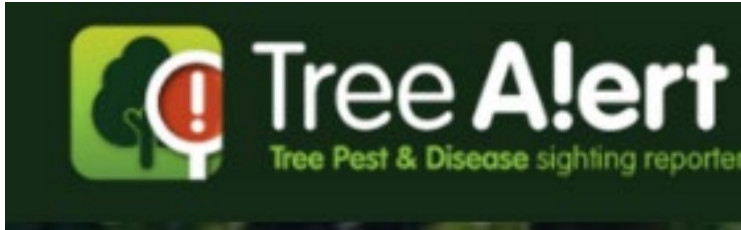
- Chalara Dieback of Ash
- Dothioroma Needle Blight
- Acute Oak Decline
- Phytophthora lateralis
- Asian/Citrus Longhorn Beetle
- Oak Processionary Moth



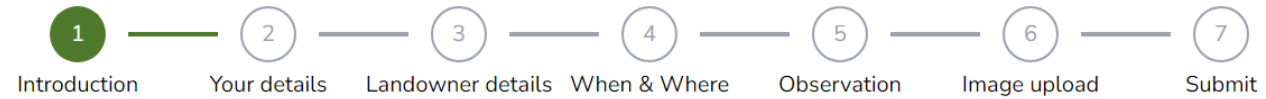
Abiotic Reports

Submit a report of damage not caused by a pest or disease, including

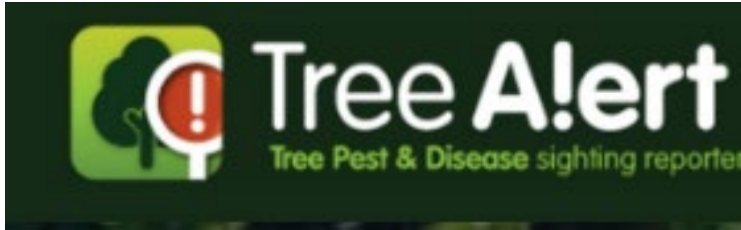
- Stem Cracking
- Oak Shrike



Dashboard > Stem Cracking



Introduction to Stem Cracking

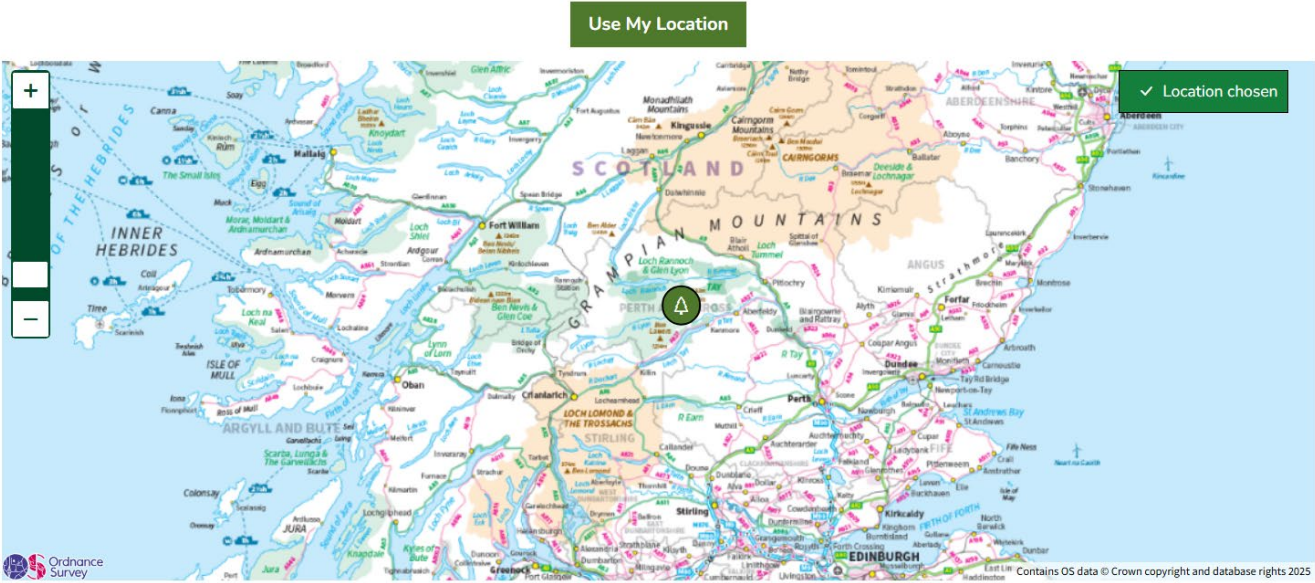


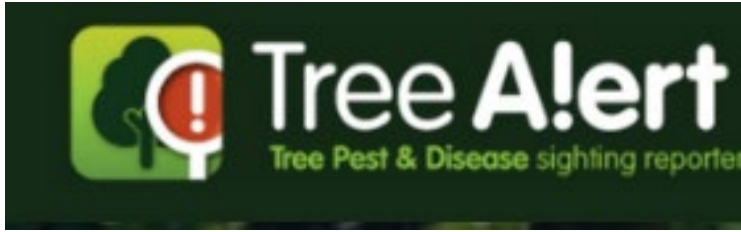
LOCATION

POSTCODE

OS Grid Reference *

NN7007351105





Tree Details

Age of affected trees

Has the tree(s) been recently planted? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

What is the approximate age of the trees affected? *

- ☐ Young
- ☐ Mature
- ☐ Old
- ☐ Mixed

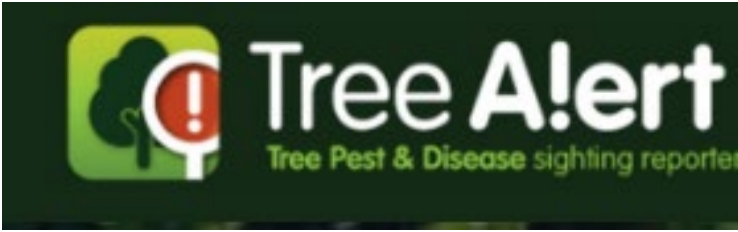
Size and number of affected trees

How many trees are showing signs of poor condition? *

- ☐ One
- ☐ A few (up to 10)
- ☐ Many (more than 10)

What is the approximate diameter of the stem / trunk? *

- ☐ Less than 5cm
- ☐ 5-15cm
- ☐ 15-30cm
- ☐ Greater than 30cm
- ☐ Mixture of diameters



Tree Species

Type of affected trees

At present we are only looking to collect information regarding coniferous trees.

Please indicate the general tree type *

☒ Coniferous

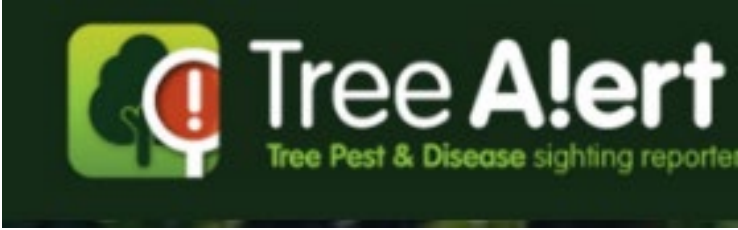


Common name

Spruce

Species

Sitka spruce



Upload Images

Details

Please be aware you will not be able to submit a report without uploading photographs of your observation.

To complete the report we need you to upload at least 1 photograph of the affected trees.

For more information about what we are looking for in the submitted photos please read the [How to take a photo](#) article on our website.

Damage in context photo *

Please upload a photo that shows the damage in context on the affected tree. So, where the damage is on the tree.

Drag & Drop images here, or click to browse

Affected tree(s) in context photo

If you have a photo that shows the affected tree(s) in context - so where the tree is and how it relates to its surroundings, please upload that too.

Drag & Drop images here, or click to browse

Damage details photo

If you have a photo that shows the detail of the damage, please upload that too.

Drag & Drop images here, or click to browse

FORESTRY & TIMBER NEWS

August / September 2025 Issue 130



Foresters urged to report evidence of stem cracks in conifers

Dr Rubén Manso and Thomas Baer outline the issue of stem cracking and seek input on compiling evidence to determine the cause.

The demand for structural timber has been increasing both in the UK and worldwide in recent years. This trend is expected to continue as a result of the implementation of policies that aim to mitigate the effects of climate change.

One measure included in these policies is the substitution of timber for traditional construction materials, which typically come with a significant carbon footprint (e.g. concrete, steel). The Timber in Construction Roadmap is an example of such policies in the UK.

The supply of domestic gradable timber in the UK largely depends on conifer planted forests. The range of strength classes and yield one can expect from this UK-grown timber resource has been studied for decades in principal species such as Sitka spruce, Scots pine or larch, and is now well understood.

The impact on the supply chain of large defects found in logs and/or standing timber, such as cracks, shakes or splits, has however received

significantly less attention in spite of recent efforts in academia.

One of such defects is stem cracking, commonly referred to as drought cracks. Stem cracking renders the affected timber unsuitable for structural uses. This defect is very common in Norway spruce and some firs grown in Britain but can also occur in Sitka spruce.

The issue seems to be driven by internal tensions in the tree. When internal tensions develop into a crack, the fault propagates vertically and radially, hitting the cambium and causing a scar or set of scars to form on the bark that often spiral up the tree. This enables cracked trees to be identified for many years after the cracks occur (Fig 1). The scars typically bear a healthy appearance, with no resin exudates coming out from them, and appear to be wide but sealed, as opposed as what one would expect from recent disease, deer or machinery damage (Fig 2).

The internal tensions that lead to cracking have been associated with different forms of water deficit, including drought. As a result of this, an increase

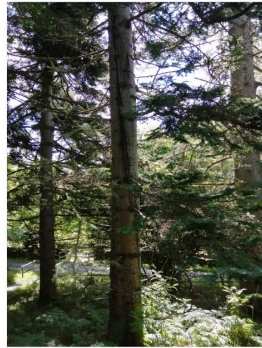
in this type of defect can reasonably be expected in Britain in the near future due to climate change. Given this and the efforts to diversify the UK conifer stock with spruce and fir species that may be prone to cracking, it seems relevant – and timely – to give more consideration to this issue.

At present, however, there is only anecdotal evidence on the rates of stem cracking occurrence or geographical areas of prevalence. The predisposition factors that make trees vulnerable to stem cracking are also unclear, although some sources point to abnormal, potentially climate-mediated, earlywood/latewood ratios within tree rings, tree age and size, and micro-site conditions that affect the rooting depth. Lastly, a recent study conducted by Forest Research has also gathered strong evidence that genetics could play a key role in this regard, at least in British Sitka spruce.

To provide answers to these questions, Forest Research has embarked on further research. The short-term objective is to assess the problem



Grand fir (*Abies grandis*)



Noble fir (*Abies procera*)



Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)



Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)



Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)



Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)

Thank you
(for listening
and reporting)!

Stem cracks in conifers – report it via TreeAlert

<https://treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk>



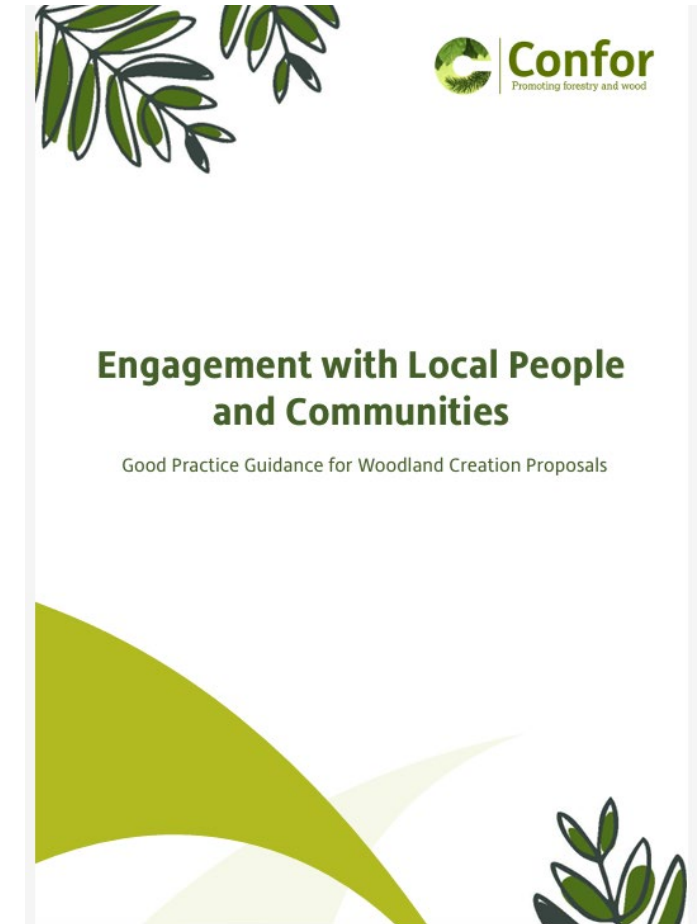
Any questions?

Richard Hunter - Respectful Engagement in Forestry

WORK BY AMANDA BRYAN – AIGA ASSOCIATES

Respectful Engagement in Forestry (Scotland)

- The Next step on from Good Practice in Stakeholder Engagement document.
- Developed these guidelines in response to feedback from members.
- FTN article - How can we achieve respectful and constructive engagement and what to do when it goes wrong?



Purpose of the Guidelines

- Set clear expectations
- Define good engagement and appropriate behaviours
- Provide guidance when things go wrong

Development of the Guidelines

- 8-month process.
- Input from member companies including Scottish Woodlands and Tilhill, along with ICF, FLS, SF and SLC.
- Sets out expectations of how forestry businesses and stakeholders will act and what is unacceptable behaviour.

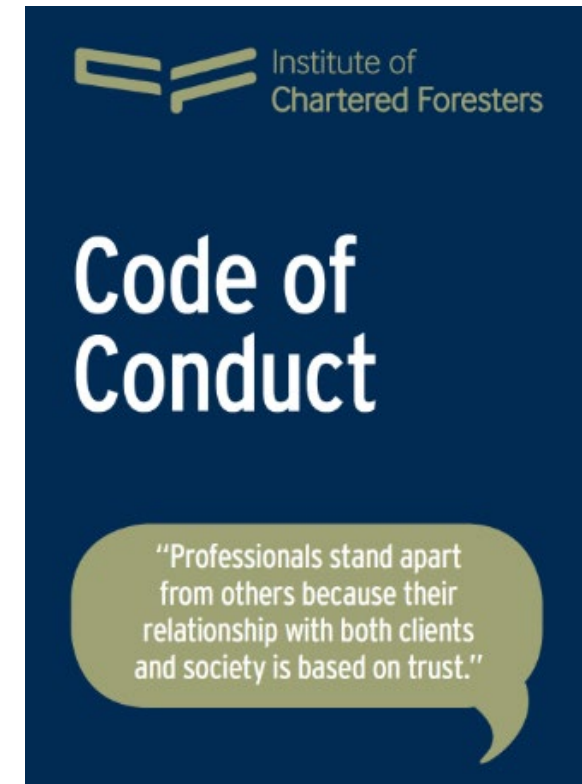
Recording Unacceptable Behavior

- Aggression or abuse.
- Threats.
- Unreasonable demands.
- Persistent complaints.



How to Respond to Issues?

- Maintain professionalism.
- Follow complaints processes.
- Escalate where necessary.
- Report threats to police.



Adopting the Guidelines

- Formal commitment by businesses.
- Integration into engagement processes.
- To agree to adopt the guidelines we ask that companies email me.
- Provide a link to their own complaints process which can be included in the appropriate section of the guidelines online.
- Those that sign up will then be able to use the guidelines as part of their engagement processes.

Questions

- Next Stakeholder Engagement Training to be held at John Deere, Perth in 11th and 12th June 2026.
- Happy to take questions and pass them on to Amanda Bryan to reply to!

New timber transport guidance — now available

Supporting industry, local authorities and communities



Transporting Timber on Public Roads

Good Practice Guide

TimberTransportForum
delivering solutions for a growing UK harvest

Our Timber; Our Roads; Our Communities

A Guide to Transporting Timber

Forestry and timber play an important role in our economy and daily lives, providing materials for everything from building homes to crafting furniture. At the same time, the movement of timber on our roads can impact others.

This guide is designed to offer an overview of how and why timber is transported, the impact it can have on our roads, and the steps the industry is taking to act responsibly and reduce disruption as much as possible. It aims to provide useful information and show the sector's commitment to doing its best for our roads and communities now and in the future.

The UK forestry and timber industry and its impact on roads

The UK forestry and timber industry produces around 10 million tonnes of timber each year from forests across the country. This sector is essential to modern society and the economy, contributing over £1.5 billion to the UK economy and supporting over 100,000 jobs in forestry and timber processing.

Many roads, particularly in remote areas, were never designed for the volume of timber traffic that now uses them. As a result, timber lorries can cause disruption for local residents, other road users, and businesses. However, there are steps we can take to ensure the timber industry's impact on roads is minimised.

How timber is transported

Timber is used in many everyday products – from construction materials, flooring and furniture to poles, posts, beams and paper. The raw material is moved by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) to various sites, particularly in Scotland, timber is also moved by air through ports like Liverpool, London, and Newcastle, as well as the West Coast, from the forests.

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Our Timber; Our Roads; Our Communities

A Local Authority Guide to Transporting Timber

Forestry and timber contribute significantly to the local economy and rural infrastructure needs. This summary provides a focused overview of how and why timber is transported on local roads, the challenges this can create, and the actions the timber industry is taking to manage and minimise its impact. It aims to support local authorities in understanding timber transport practices and collaborating on solutions that benefit communities and road networks.

Timber transport and the rural road network: Working together for sustainable solutions

The UK forestry and timber industry produces around 10 million tonnes of timber each year, supporting over 100,000 jobs and contributing to the UK's economy.

The Challenge

- Many rural roads are narrow and fragile.
- Timber haulage activities can be a concern for communities, businesses, and other road users.

Industry Action

- Using modern vehicles equipped with technology like GPS to prevent road damage.
- Following voluntary guidelines, including reduced lorry types, reduced and slower speeds, and adherence to the correct routes.
- Collaborating through Regional 'Timber Transport Groups' and the UK Timber Transport Forum to encourage dialogue and best practice.

A Shared Responsibility

Timber transport is a vital part of the rural economy and the sector is committed to working with local authorities to:

- Share information and planning.
- Coordinate infrastructure projects.
- Support long-term, sustainable access to the forest economy.

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The Challenge of Road Conditions

Public roads are used by many different vehicles, from cars, vans, buses, and freight lorries. Many roads are already under pressure from increasing traffic and limited funding for maintenance.

Efforts to Reduce Impact

Despite these challenges, the timber industry is taking action to reduce its impact on the road network and surrounding communities.

Operations are moving to modern vehicle technologies, including more powerful engines and advanced tyre technologies, which help reduce road wear and environmental impact.

To help reduce impact on local communities and other road users, timber haulage businesses apply voluntary measures – such as reducing speeds, vehicle weight, and timing of heavy movements, and avoiding peak travel times.

These measures are voluntary, agreed collaboratively with local authorities to balance essential timber movements with the needs of other road users.

A Shared Responsibility

Public roads are shared by all, and the challenges they face extend beyond the timber industry. The timber industry recognises its role in the wider transport system and is committed to using roads as safely and responsibly as possible.

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Our Timber; Our Roads; Our Communities

A Community Guide to Transporting Timber

Forestry and timber play an important role in our lives by providing many of the products we use every day. This summary gives an overview of how and why timber is moved on our roads, the effects it can have on local communities, and the steps the timber industry is taking to reduce disruption. Our goal is to keep you informed and build understanding about timber transport and its local impacts.

Timber on the move

Every year, the UK forestry and timber industry produces around 10 million tonnes of timber, most of which travels on our roads.

Why we see timber lorries on rural roads

As many forests are only accessible via narrow road networks and are often in remote areas, most timber has to be transported by road.

What the industry is doing

The timber sector reduces its impact by:

- Using modern vehicles that are kinder to road surfaces and the environment.
- Limiting haulage to specific times and routes, where appropriate.
- Managing the number of lorries where possible.
- Working with local authorities to develop and apply good practice.

Working with communities

Timber companies and local councils are members of Regional Timber Transport Groups, which support dialogue and practical problem-solving around timber transport.

Construction can play a part in sharing local knowledge. Infrastructure or disruption that may be required to transport timber can be planned in advance with local planning and engineering teams, ensuring that the appropriate measures are in place.

This clear vision has been produced to show how the industry is working to prevent road wear and respect local communities.

We're all road users

Timber is essential to the UK economy and rural life. While transporting it, the timber industry is committed to working responsibly and sharing roads respectfully with everyone.

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THE TIMBER TRANSPORT FORUM

FAQs – Frequently Asked Questions

- + Why is timber haulage important?
- + Why do timber lorries use minor, rural roads?
- + Is permission needed for timber lorries to drive on public roads as they're so big?
- + Is planning permission required for timber haulage?
- + Do HGV drivers have to do specific training?
- + What is the industry doing to reduce its impact on local roads and communities?
- + What is the Timber Transport Forum?
- + What the Forum doesn't do?
- + What are Regional Timber Transport Groups?
- + What are Agreed Routes Maps?
- + What are Timber Traffic/Transport Management Plans?
- + Where can I find guidance on best practice?

Supporting FAQs

Available at: timbertransportforum.org.uk



Categories & Competitions

- **Quality Timber:**
 - **New Commercial Woods**
 - **Silvicultural Excellence** - single stand, compartment or small woods
 - **Multipurpose Forestry** – whole forest or estate
- **New Native Woods**
- **Farm Woodlands**
 - **All farm / croft woodlands**
- **Community Woodland Award**
 - **Small groups**
 - **Large groups** - trophy for overall winner
- **Urban Forestry**
- **Schools and Early Years** – *entries closed for 2026*



- Encourage inspiring and eligible people & projects to enter – winners will gain PR, a cash prize & may receive trophy
- New website: www.sfwa.co.uk – visit for Award details, eligibility criteria and online entry forms
- Entries open now!
- **Closing date: 23:59 on 31 May 2026**
(Schools & Early Years closed on 31 March)

Contact: Jeannie Nairn

E: admin@sfwa.co.uk M: 07975 847055

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Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2026

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Confor Update

- Confor Staff –
 - April Armstrong
 - Andy Leitch
- Election
- Timber National Security
- 50 Year Forecast Published
- C16 Timber Campaign
- Lanzarta Approval
- FTS UK – New Entrants Scheme
- SPS agreement with EU
- Police and Crime – Fuel theft increase
- Lynx to Scotland Consultation
- Game Release Pens in UKWAS 5
- CTP Career's Fair in Edinburgh
 - Signed the Armed Forces Covenant
- CRG and Scottish Forestry Liaison meetings

Election Manifesto

1. Create a UK-leading timber strategy for Scotland
2. Plant more trees
3. Use more wood in construction
4. Create a new forestry strategy for a new decade
5. Develop a forestry and timber skills plan for Scotland

Please send this to your local candidates.

TIMBER: AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

- Formal inclusion of timber supply metrics within the National Security Risk Assessment
- Establish a cross-government Timber Security Taskforce reporting to the Cabinet Office
- Provide Treasury-backed 20-year certainty on productive woodland incentives.
- Recognise wood processing within the Industrial Strategy as strategic manufacturing.
- Commit to annual public reporting on timber import dependency and domestic capacity

TIMBER: AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

- Your input is needed:
- Webpage = petition
- Input your details to send to your MSP



Newly Published SG Docs

- 4th Land Use Strategy - Forestry referenced throughout
 - Key points include:
 - Economic resilience
 - Skills and training for new entrants
 - Critical value to the overall economy
- Climate Change Action Plan 2026-2040
 - Describes Forestry as critical to climate goals.
 - Highlights that forestry is one of the few sectors that can make effective cost savings to the Scottish carbon budget

Dates for your calendars: Confor Update

- CRG meeting 19th May – issues to raise to me by early May.
 - Royal Scottish Forestry Society, Annual Study Tour in June
 - FEG – Early Sept at Gretna
 - APF – Late Sept
 - Policy Conference 3rd Dec
-
- Next SF&WBI Event is November, suggestions for speakers always welcome – please see any of the organising committee



Thanks for listening!
Safe trip home

