



## ProSilva Annual Meeting 2016

Scotland, University of Stirling, June 22-26.

### INVITATION, PROGRAMME AND BOOKING FORM

#### INTRODUCTION

The forest history of Great Britain is one of a decline in the natural forest cover over millennia, followed most recently by a century of forest restoration based primarily upon afforestation of marginal agricultural lands and mainly using fast growing non-native conifers. Thus in England there was around 15 per cent woodland cover towards the end of the eleventh century and by the end of the nineteenth century woodland cover was about or less than 5 per cent in all parts of Great Britain. Now the forest cover in Britain is about 3.1M ha or 13 per cent of the land area (>18 per cent in Scotland), and further increase in the forest area is a common aspiration of forestry policies in Britain.

Because of this history of deforestation followed by reforestation, the forests of Britain are now about half broadleaved and half composed of conifers. The conifer proportion varies from 26 per cent in England to 74 per cent in Scotland. The broadleaves are mainly native or naturalised species such as oaks, beech, birches, ash and sycamore while the conifers are mainly of non-native origin apart from Scots pine which is native to northern Scotland. The commonest tree species in British forests is Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) which was introduced from north-west America in the 1850s, has been found to grow well (average productivity of 14-16 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) in the oceanic climate of western Britain, and which now provides the raw material for important timber using industries, especially in Scotland. For instance, a recent report has estimated that the contribution of forestry to the Scottish economy was around £1000M and that the sector supported about 25,000 jobs. Current levels of timber production in Britain are about 11.4 M m<sup>3</sup> of coniferous roundwood (>50 per cent Sitka spruce) and 0.5M m<sup>3</sup> of broadleaved roundwood (this figure is probably an underestimate since there are increasing markets for firewood).

Note that forestry policy is devolved to the various countries of the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales). 28 per cent of the area is made up of public forests, managed by state forest organizations (Forest Enterprise England, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Natural Resources Wales, and Forest Services Northern Ireland). All public forests and 22 per cent of private forests are certified to FSC/PEFC approved standards with protocols outlined in the UK Forestry Standard and supporting documents.

One consequence of the afforestation programme of the twentieth century is the extensive area of single species plantation forests, often composed of non-native species. The prevailing management approach in British forests is patch clear-felling combined with artificial regeneration through planting. There is little difference between the application of this approach in conifer forests compared to broadleaved ones other than the size of felling area is usually smaller in the latter than in the former. Since about 1990 there has been an increasing interest in the use of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) to avoid the disruptive visual and environmental impacts of clear felling and to diversify the species and structural composition of the planted forests. However, despite the endorsement of CCF in country forestry policies and the facilitation of this approach provided by the CCFG, uptake of this approach is still at a low level. Recent estimates suggest that about 10 per cent of British forests are managed using CCF approaches, although the potential could be 30 per cent or more.

The Continuous Cover Forestry Group was founded in 1991 and seeks to encourage owners, forest managers and stakeholders to adopt a Continuous Cover approach wherever biologically feasible and where this meets the objectives of management. For this reason, we welcome the visit by ProSilva members as a means of sharing knowledge and experience about the possibility of transforming our young forests to more diverse and species rich structures that provide a wide range of ecosystem services. During the meeting, we will visit forests in both the Cairngorms and the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Parks. We will see a range of forest types from native Scots pine forests at the western edge of this species natural range to mature stands of non-native conifers growing in an area with some of the tallest trees in Europe. With the meeting based on the edge of the Scottish Highlands and close to the historic city of Stirling, we also hope to give you an insight into Scottish history and culture. On behalf of the CCFG members and committee, we look forward to welcoming you to Scotland in our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

## **PROGRAMME**

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016**

Delegates arrive at Stirling University. Registration will be from 12.00 at Beech Court. A variety of restaurants are available on the campus for you to make your own arrangements.

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 – Business Meeting (am) and visits to forests around Aberfoyle (pm)**

am ProSilva Business Meeting at Stirling University (alternative tourist programme may be arranged for those not attending the business meeting).

pm Visit to Planted Forests near Aberfoyle in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Points to be covered include:

- forest design planning;
- standard management regimes;
- increasing resilience to abiotic hazards and pests;
- role of continuous cover forestry in providing for ecosystem services

Dinner at Stirling University followed by an evening presentation by Dr John Calladine (British Trust for Ornithology, Scotland) on 'The effect of different forest management approaches on bird populations in Britain'.

### **Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Visits to Native Pinewoods in the Spey Valley**

am Visit to Glenmore Forest in the Cairngorms National Park

Topics to be covered include:

- Introduction to the native pinewoods of Scotland including their ecological and cultural values;
- History of the Glenmore pinewoods and current policies for their restoration;
- the importance of old-growth stands, and their regeneration;
- transformation of even-aged pine plantations.

pm Visit to Loch Vaa Forest on Seafield Estate.

Topics to be covered include:

- the role of shelterwood systems in managing native pinewoods for multifunctional objectives;
- Thinning to improve structural diversity;
- Management of deer for successful regeneration

Dinner at Stirling University.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – visits to Craigvinean and Faskally forests**

am Visit to Craigvinean forest in the Tay Valley

Topics to be covered include:

- using CCF to increase the structural diversity of planted Douglas fir forests;
- Resilience of CCF stands to wind damage;
- Structural development of old Douglas fir stands;
- Development of old growth habitat in planted forests

pm Visit to Faskally Forest

Topics to be covered include:

- one of the oldest trials of transformation to CCF in Britain (begun in the 1950s);
- reconciling CCF management with recreational pressures;
- manipulating structure and species composition to meet a variety of objectives

Dinner at Stirling University Hotel.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Delegates depart

## MAP



## WEATHER CONDITIONS, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

Scottish weather can be unpredictable. June is usually quite a dry month in Scotland but you will need to be prepared for rain showers with waterproof clothing. Suitable footwear for walking is essential. Temperatures are usually mid-teens Celsius.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

### *Travelling by car*

Your destination is the University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA.

Stirling is off the M9 motorway. Type the postcode FK9 4LA in to Google maps for full directions from your location. <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>

### *Travelling by plane*

Glasgow and Edinburgh have international airports.

**Edinburgh Airport** does not have a railway station. If flying in to Edinburgh, you will firstly need to get the Airlink 100 bus service or the tram to Haymarket train station. The bus runs 24 hours and

the tram runs from about 0500 to 2300. Journey times to and from the airport are between 25 and 30 minutes in normal traffic. From Haymarket train station you will need to get a train to Stirling – see travelling by train below.

Edinburgh Airport - <http://www.edinburghairport.com/transport-links/trains>

**Glasgow Airport** does not have a railway station. If flying in to Glasgow, you will firstly need to get the First 500 Glasgow Shuttle bus service to Glasgow Queen Street train station. The shuttle runs every 10 minutes. Journey times to and from the airport are circa 20 minutes in normal traffic.

From Glasgow Queen Street you will need to get a train to Stirling – see travelling by train below.

Glasgow Airport - <http://www.glasgowairport.com/im-arriving/onward-travel/>

### ***Travelling by train***

Your destination train station is Stirling.

From Edinburgh Haymarket, trains to Stirling are every 30 minutes and the journey is approximately 50 minutes.

From Glasgow Queen Street, trains are every 20 minutes and the journey is approximately 1 hour.

You may find the Trainline website helpful in planning your train travel and booking.

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

From Stirling train station, you can get a taxi or a bus to the University of Stirling, Stirling, FK9 4LA. A taxi ride is approximately 10 minutes. Take buses UL, 62 or 62a from the train station. The journey is approximately 20 minutes and takes you in to the centre of the Stirling University Campus.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Delegates will be provided with accommodation at the University of Stirling. We have reserved 40 single rooms with ensuite and 10 double rooms with ensuite. Please note the double rooms have double beds NOT twin beds. Delegates will also get free access to the sports and other facilities available on the university campus.

## **BUDGET**

The conference fee is £150 per person.

The fee includes:-

- 4 breakfasts (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday)
- 3 packed lunches (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)
- 3 dinners (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)
- All bus transportation to field visits
- Excursion guides
- Preparation and organization expenses

Accommodation is £59.50 for a single room per night or £70.00 for a double room per night which is to be paid by the delegate.

The fee and accommodation costs are to be paid directly to CCFG in advance of the meeting.

Once we have the details of the flights of those delegates arriving at Edinburgh (or Glasgow) airport, we hope to be able to arrange transport from the airport to Stirling. However, we cannot guarantee this at this point in time. If you need any further assistance or advice, please contact Mandy at [administrator@ccfg.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ccfg.org.uk).

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Emergency telephone number for police, fire brigade or ambulance is 999.

International telephone code for Great Britain is +44

### **Organisers / CCFG Contacts**

Bill Mason – Chair – [Bill.Mason@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Bill.Mason@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) – 07941 938992

Mandy Clinch – Administrator – [administrator@ccfg.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ccfg.org.uk) – 07730 373933

## **REGISTRATION**

Each country can register a maximum of TWO people. Please inform us if you have additional persons interested and if we have availability we will notify you.

In order to register to attend this event, please complete the attached registration form and send it by email to the organisers, CCFG GB, Mandy Clinch at [administrator@ccfg.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ccfg.org.uk).

**Deadline for completed registrations is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

## **PAYMENT**

Once we have received your application form, we will send you an invoice confirming the amount you should pay, the method of payment and the date by when the amount is required.

We require all payments in advance.

**Deadline for receipt of payments is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

Refunds are at the discretion of the organisers.

## SPONSORS

Many thanks to our sponsors for this event.



**Forestry Commission** Scotland  
**Coimisean na Coilltearachd** Alba



## REGISTRATION FORM

### ProSilva Annual Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2016, Stirling, Scotland

Please complete one registration form per person attending.

#### Delegate Details

First Name: ..... Surname: .....  
Country: ..... Mobile: .....  
Email: .....

#### Accommodation Preference

Please tick one per night.

Weds 22 June	<input type="checkbox"/> Single room with ensuite	<input type="checkbox"/> Double room with ensuite
Thurs 23 June	<input type="checkbox"/> Single room with ensuite	<input type="checkbox"/> Double room with ensuite
Fri 24 June	<input type="checkbox"/> Single room with ensuite	<input type="checkbox"/> Double room with ensuite
Sat 25 June	<input type="checkbox"/> Single room with ensuite	<input type="checkbox"/> Double room with ensuite

If you are sharing a double room, please confirm the name of the person with whom you are sharing so we correctly allocate rooms .....

#### Travel

Please advise us of your travel arrangements.

Plane      Departing from ..... Time .....  
                  Arriving at ..... Time .....  
                  Flight Number ..... Date .....

Car          Estimated arrival time at Stirling University .....

Train        Departing From ..... Time .....  
                  Arriving at ..... Time .....

Other        .....  
                  .....

It may be possible for us to assist you with some elements of your transportation depending upon numbers and timings. We will contact you if this is the case and provide you with additional details and maps to assist you further.

**Dietary Requirements**

Please tick one only.

- No special dietary requirements
- Pescetarian
- Other, please specify .....
- Vegetarian
- Vegan

**Payment**

We will invoice the delegate above with the cost of the conference fee and the accommodation. If you require that we invoice your organization directly, please confirm the correct details below.

.....

.....

.....

**Receipt**

Do you require a receipt or letter of confirmation of your attendance on this event? We will provide this at the registration for the event on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016.

- Yes
- No

**Other**

If you have any additional requirements, please advise us.

.....

.....

.....

**Please send completed application form to Mandy Clinch, CCFG’s Administrator  
administrator@ccfg.org.uk**

**Deadline Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016**