

Why not join us?



FURTHER READING

Hart, C. (1995) Alternative Silvicultural Systems to Clear Cutting in Britain. FC Bulletin 115.

Helliwell, D.R. (2000) Continuous Cover Forestry. Published by author.

Kerr, G., Mason, W., Boswell, R. and Pommerening, A. (2002) Monitoring the Transformation of Even-aged Stands to Continuous Cover. FC Information Note.

Mason, W., Kerr, G. and Simpson, J. (1999) What is Continuous Cover Forestry? FC Information Note.

Mason, W., Kerr, G. (2001) Transforming Even-aged Conifer Stands to Continuous Cover Management. FC Information Note.

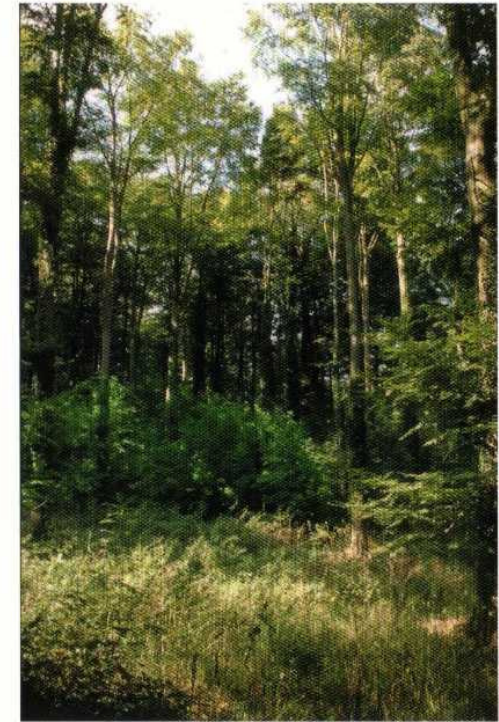
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Continuous Cover Forestry Group

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CONTINUOUS COVER FORESTRY GROUP



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Our objective is:

to promote the transformation of even-aged plantations to structurally, visually and biologically diverse forests in which sustainable production of timber is undertaken through the application of principles of continuous cover forest management.

Background

The Continuous Cover Forestry Group (CCFG) was inaugurated on 13th March 1991, following a meeting at Longleat Estate, Wiltshire. Its objective then was to encourage the structural and biological diversity of forests and woods by the use of uneven aged silvicultural systems.

Since that time the Group has grown in numbers and the concept is much more widely accepted. It is now included, as a valid approach to woodland management, in both the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).

Defining Continuous Cover Forestry Stand structure

The CCFG feels that forests managed in accordance with the principles described below, will generally develop a permanently irregular structure at compartment level over a long period. At this time, however, it is uncertain whether permanently-irregular structures will develop in stands composed entirely of light-demanding species or in certain upland forest types. In such cases, higher rates of natural disturbance will lead to a mosaic of structures, some of which could involve regeneration gaps of a significant size. The transformation process, i.e. the initial period when CCF principles are applied to even-aged stands, may also involve even-aged elements, either through the use of small-scale clear-felling or the adoption of shelterwood systems.

Principle 1: *Adapt the forest to the site. CCF seeks to work with the site and respect ecological processes and inherent variation rather than impose artificial uniformity.*

Principle 2: *Adopt an holistic approach to forest management. CCF regards the whole forest ecosystem as the "production capital" of the forest. This includes the soil, the forest micro-climates, the associated fungi, flora and fauna as well as the trees themselves.*

Principle 3: *Maintain forest conditions and avoid clear felling. CCF regards maintenance of forest conditions as an essential tool in achieving its aims.*

Principle 4: *The growing stock. Under CCF management, stand improvement is concentrated upon the development of preferred individuals rather than the creation of a block of stems with uniform spacing and average stem characteristics. A characteristic of permanently irregular stands is that yield control is based on measurements of stem-diameter and increment rather than age and area.*

Activities of the Group

- Foster the exchange of information and practical experience in the management of uneven-aged woodlands within the UK and abroad.
- Organise a programme of field visits, both at home and abroad, in order to exchange ideas and promote the understanding of continuous cover forest management.
- Arrange practical workshops and seminars to facilitate the understanding of CCF systems and extend its practice.
- Publish a biannual Newsletter and other information about continuous cover
- Maintain contact with other UK and European organisations, colleges and universities engaged in woodland management.
- Encourage research into the methods and benefits of CCF management.

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN
FORESTERS PRACTISING
MANAGEMENT WHICH FOLLOWS
NATURAL PROCESSES



UNION EUROPEENNE DE
FORESTIERS AUX CONCEPTIONS
DE GESTION PROCHE
DE LA NATURE

VERBAND DER NATURNAH DENKENDE FORSTLEUTE IN EUROPA

In addition to maintaining contact with a wide variety of organisations in the UK, CCFG is affiliated to Pro-Silva, the federation of European forest managers with similar ideals. We use these contacts to exchange information and have arranged a number of very successful visits on the continent hosted by Pro-Silva members.

