



## **Close-to-Nature Foresters from Across Europe to Visit Scotland in 2016**

Pro Silva is an international federation of foresters who support *Close-to-Nature* forest management as an alternative to the conventional clear felling systems widely used in forests in the northern hemisphere. Members of Pro Silva believe that the more sensitive management approaches they use will produce attractive forests with a mixture of species and structures. These are more resilient to the effects of climate changes, can better withstand the impacts of pests and diseases, are more pleasing for visitors and beneficial for wildlife, and can still produce valuable timber. These approaches have been used in parts of Europe for several centuries and are now being introduced into forests and woodlands throughout Britain.

For the first time in its history, Pro Silva will hold its annual meeting in Scotland from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June when 44 delegates from 15 European Pro Silva associations will be attending. The meeting will be based in Stirling and visits will be made to a range of forests in central and northern Scotland, including sites in both of Scotland's National Parks.

The President of Pro Silva, Philippe Morgan, stated "We are looking forward to our visit to Scotland with great interest. We have heard much about the extensive afforestation schemes that were carried out there in the last century and we understand that foresters are now considering how best to transform the simple structures characteristic of these young forests into the more varied and species rich woods required to deliver sustainable forest management. We hope that our visit will help support this ongoing process of transformation of Scotland's forests".

## CCFG News Release

The host organisation for this visit is the Continuous Cover Forestry Group (CCFG). Welcoming the visit, the Chair of the CCFG Dr. Bill Mason said “It is a great honour and a privilege to be asked to host a visit to Scotland by so many distinguished forestry experts. While Scotland has a comparatively young forestry tradition compared to other countries in Europe, forestry is an important and growing part of the Scottish rural sector. It is important that we gain a better understanding of how and where close-to-nature forestry can best be used in our forests to deliver a wide range of benefits. We believe that that this visit offers a wonderful opportunity for an exchanges of views on approaches to forest management which will benefit the long-term development of forestry in Scotland and throughout the British Isles”.

During their visit, delegates will see a wide range of forests in Scotland ranging from native pinewoods through restoration of native woodlands to management of mature Sitka spruce woodlands. Their visit will offer the chance for informed dialogue with Scottish foresters on the best ways to ensure that close-to-nature forestry is embedded in Scottish forestry practice. The visit has been supported by Woodland Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland.

**Ends**

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

### **Media Enquiries**

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### **Notes to Editor**

- Pro Silva is an association of foresters from 24 countries in Europe and also in the USA which was founded in Slovenia in 1989.
- Pro Silva promotes forest management strategies which optimise the maintenance, conservation and utilisation of forest ecosystems so that the ecological and socio-economic functions are sustainable and profitable.
- The Continuous Cover Forestry Group (CCFG) represents foresters throughout Great Britain who support close-to-nature forestry. It is the British associate of Pro Silva and is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2016.
- More information is available at [www.ccfg.org.uk](http://www.ccfg.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/ContinuousCoverForestryGroup](https://www.facebook.com/ContinuousCoverForestryGroup)