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Editorial

Welcome to the latest CCFG Newsletter! We hope that you find this issue full of relevant information about CCF and the work of our group.

Highlights of this edition include articles by Jens Haufe and Mark Yorke, and field reports by Sharon Rodhouse, Colin Edwards and Andy Poore. These outline some of the current thinking, educational opportunities and debates that are driving forward the continuous cover forestry movement. Phil Morgan, our Chairman, reflects on past achievements of the group and provides an overview of emerging priorities in UK forest policy that impact on the role of CCF. In addition, there is information about recent changes in the structure and administration of the group, and a selection of news items and links to additional sources of information.

Most important are dates for forthcoming meetings. We are an active group, and our field meetings are the primary means through which we share experience and develop our skills in CCF. Major events in England, Scotland and Wales over coming months give everyone an opportunity to stay involved. Why not also invite a colleague or friend who might be interested in joining us in our quest?

About CCFG …

The Continuous Cover Forestry Group was founded in 1991. Our primary objectives are to promote the transformation of even-aged plantations to structurally, visually and biologically diverse woodlands, and to promote the sustainable management of high quality timber. We play a key role in training and education, and are influential in the formulation of new forest policies in England, Wales and Scotland.

We have over 200 individual and corporate members. Membership is open to all with an interest in forestry, forest conservation and woodland environments.
Chairman’s Report

Philippe (Phil) Morgan, CCFG Chairman and Co-ordinator (Wales), reports on recent changes in the group and exciting plans for the future.

This Chairman’s report must start with an apology; this is an apology for the late CCFG Newsletter. The Newsletter has taken longer that usual to assemble and to produce and has not appeared on the website at the usual time. There are of course any number of reasons for it being so late, but it has been because the committee has been made up entirely of individuals who all give freely of their own free time, and who have had to balance their responsibilities to the Group with their other commitments, that things have been put off for too long. The Newsletter is the most important service the Group provides to its members, sharing information and providing a written record of visits and activities of the Group that not all can attend is vital if we are to spread better understanding of CCF. The Committee has decided that in order to serve the needs of the members more efficiently that we appoint an administrator. We held interviews in April and have recruited Ted Wilson on a part time basis (from June 2007) who takes on the role of administrator with responsibilities as Treasurer, Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Ted is well known to many in his former role as a senior lecturer in silviculture at the National School of Forestry, Newton Rigg; he comes with a lot of enthusiasm and with great experience and will help the Group to deliver a better service to its members and the wider forestry community.

Times have changed since CCFG was formed at the meeting at Longleat Estate on 13th March 1991. We now have devolved forestry administrations, national forest strategies, an expanding but homogenised forest industry, demands for health and recreation, climate change and the world economy. Never before has the need for CCF been greater to meet the objectives of the forest owner and of society. I have just returned from two inspiring days with Woodland Heritage, those great enthusiasts and supporters of CCF, who spread the word by organising meetings and pamphletting and demonstrating the reality of how CCF works for owners, the environment, and for both the timber user and the woodland user. Forest Research is increasingly publishing Information Notes to provide guidance and reassurance on methodologies; national governments are identifying CCF as the foundation with which to deliver sustainable forestry to meet the needs of 21st century British society. The ProSilva Europe visit was this year held in Ireland, a country with strong parallels of afforestation with ours, facing similar challenges with its growing stock, site types and markets. The tour was attended by the Chairman and Andy Poore, with support from Woodland Heritage. The demand for CCF was loud and clear, and the thirst for knowledge was palpable. Foresters have now to respond but still lack the confidence to take on the challenge.

“National governments are identifying CCF as the foundation with which to deliver sustainable forestry …”

CCFG was always intended to be an organisation to provide advice and support to its members in order to promote the principles of CCF. Never before has the need for providing that guidance been so great and we need to respond to this challenge. We have started to do, first by restructuring and devolving within GB, so that national groups can meet the needs of the members in England, Wales and Scotland. (Northern Ireland is rightly part of ProSilva Ireland under the inspired leadership of Robert Scott and Jan Alexander.) We have appointed an administrator to ensure that we provide a regular service to our members. The administrator will also draw upon his very extensive knowledge and experience of CCF to provide access to information and to develop the links between members and organisations as well as advertising and promoting training events. Both the web and training events will provide mechanisms for learning to suit the different needs of the members. We also need to develop the links and partnerships with academic and training organisations and to develop international collaboration to provide still more opportunities for understanding.

The new committee is made up of the three national groups, each with their own co-ordinator; the co-ordinators sit on the CCFG committee along with the administrator. CCFG will remain the point of contact with ProSilva Europe and of membership and funding. The committee is made up as follows:

CCFG Chairman: Philippe Morgan
Co-ordinator England: Mike Seville
Co-ordinator Scotland: Colin Edwards
Co-ordinator Wales: Philippe Morgan
Administrator: Ted Wilson
Those who practice CCF know that it is an adaptive type of silviculture based upon principles that provide the means to increase capital values and to generate income from sustainably managed woodlands for owners and for society. There is still, however, resistance to the idea from those who require certainties, replication, precise methodology and rigid systems and from those who, for their own reasons, wish to confuse the argument with carbon, climate change and globalisation. The challenge is to make CCF part of our forestry culture because the dam has broken and public demand for CCF requires us now to deliver.

CCF in Britain is still in its infancy and there is therefore a need to define itself more clearly to those who are sceptical and to provide examples of best practice to provide reassurance as well as exploring arguments of pros and cons. Rules and definitions in order to be accepted need to be set by organisations and institutions so CCFG must have a strong voice in order to make the case in the terms that they recognise. CCF will need to be defined by indicators in order for UKWAS and the forestry regulatory institutions to define and regulate CCF. It is only in this way that we can hope to avoid the confusion and the blurring of boundaries such as when claiming that Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) are CCF.

Political institutions have put CCF high on the agenda in the forestry strategies and nowhere more so than in Wales where the Welsh Assembly Government put CCF at the heart of the Wales Woodland Strategy. This was done after very extensive consultation and in response to popular demand; we must use that as an example and ensure that as foresters we are in a position to deliver.

Finally, at this time when the Group is at a junction, my thanks must go to those members of CCFG who have given so much of their time and support to the Group, especially those who have held the fort until the time when we have an administrator in place. In particular I would like to thank, John Everard, Treasurer and past Chairman, Mark Yorke, Secretary and training provider, and Ian Barrington who put in so much work on the website. All who have served on the committee have given enormously of their energy and enthusiasm and will, I hope, continue to do so in future with the support of our administrator.

Diolch yn fawr

Review of 2006

Mike Seville, our immediate Past-Chairman and current Co-ordinator (England), takes a look back at highlights from 2006, perhaps a turning point in acceptance of CCF in mainstream forestry practice?

2006 was an interesting year for CCFG, with meetings in Kyloe, Kingscote, Anagach and Holland. More details on some of these events are reported elsewhere in the Newsletter.

2006 was also the year that climate change leapt to the top of the Government agenda and the true merits of continuous cover forestry were fully recognised. Wherever you look, from the revised UK Woodland Assurance Standard, the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) report on Climate Change and the European Countryside to the report by the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology “UK Trees and Forests”, continuous cover forestry is recognised as the way forests and woodland should be managed in the future.

“... it is probable that for woodland to qualify in carbon offsetting schemes, management by continuous cover will be a pre-requisite.”

Woodlands managed by continuous cover are recognised as being more robust and better able to withstand the pressures of climate change. But more than this, woodlands managed by continuous cover where the forest capital is kept intact and where the carbon locked up in the forest soil is not periodically released are recognised as being better carbon sinks than clearcut plantations. Indeed it is probable that for woodland to qualify in carbon offsetting schemes, management by continuous cover will be a pre-requisite.

The timber produced by continuous cover management is also more valuable. The smaller and poor quality timber can still be used for renewable energy but continuous cover management produces a higher proportion of large dimension structural timber and it is in material substitution that the greatest benefits of timber use are realised. With forestry showing signs of coming out of the doldrums, I am confident of exciting times ahead for the CCF movement.
Robert Tottenham Remembered

It is with a heavy heart that I pass on the sad news of the passing of Robert Tottenham of Mount Callan, County Clare, Ireland on 12th April 2007.

For Irish CCF foresters he was a champion of the cause, always the innovator and always the challenger.

I had only been with Robert days before he died, walking across Mount Callan with Roland Susse from the AFI, making a trial run for the ProSilva visit in May. Robert the pioneer, always true to form, was testing his arguments on someone new, looking for different insights on how to move forward. It was a great shame that he missed the visit for which he had worked so hard and for so long by only a few days and it is a great credit to his wife Jane and to his son Robin that they hosted the visit in his absence.

Without Robert and without Mount Callan irregular forestry would not yet have started in Ireland. It was a combination of circumstance, gritty determination coupled with vision and risk taking that made him plant his home and agricultural holding in the West of Ireland with Sitka spruce; this is the mark of a true pioneer not knowing what the next step will bring. The challenges of generating regular income from trees only a few years old were a necessity and thinning his crops was second nature to him. It was only when he met Huw Denman on one of his visits to Ireland that Robert heard about CCF and got in touch with Hans-Jurgen Otto. He invited over Hans, Huw, Andy Poore and me, and ProSilva Ireland was launched at Spanish Point in June 2000. From that time onwards he never tired of organising visits to all parts of Europe where foresters were practicing CCF while lobbying tirelessly for CCF at home. He visited Wales many times because it was close by and shared species, weather, forest history, language and because he felt that we were exploring together. I organised the trip to Brittany for him and went on the PSI tour to Romania. Robert attended all the ProSilva Europe meetings and made contacts wherever he went and then in turn invited them over to Ireland to look at Irish forests and to give advice on how to make them more productive. He invited Hans-Jurgen Otto and Talis Kalnars to Baronscourt in Northern Ireland making ProSilva Ireland one country and confusing international boundaries.

He recently handed over the Chairmanship of PSI to Robert Scott and concentrated on organising the ProSilva tour to Ireland making sure that what he saw as the great icons of Irish naturalness were at the forefront of the tour, The Burren, Killarney, Derreen Estate and of course Mont Callan.

The ProSilva visit in May was a celebration of the work Robert started in Ireland at Mount Callan and it will undoubtedly be remembered as a historic tour. Without Robert Tottenham continuous cover in Ireland would not be at the forefront of Atlantic spruce irregular silviculture.

Robert leaves a wife Jane and his sons Robin, Fred and George.

Philippe Morgan
**Research Note**

**Sticking Your Head Out – the Social Status of Trees and Wind Risk**  
A Case Study from Clocaenog Forest

**Jens Haufe** looks at some of the issues influencing tree stability during the transformation process.

The Forestry Commission Wales and the Tyfiant Coed project at the University of Wales, Bangor (UMB), are monitoring a series of management demonstration plots in Clocaenog Forest, North Wales. Wind damage records from a thinning trial show the importance of selecting the right silvicultural system for transformation to CCF, but also of retaining the right trees during the transformation phase.

Wind risk and stand stability are considered key issues in silvicultural planning. Whereas in the past a ‘no thinning’ policy has been adopted in areas of high wind hazard, these days silvicultural management also seeks to reduce the risk of wind damage by growing individually stable trees rather than relying entirely on the collective stability of dense stands. No doubt the current trend towards CCF techniques has contributed to this, as opening up the main canopy of uniform stands at maturity is essential for natural regeneration or underplanting. Thinning operations aiming to initiate or promote natural regeneration need to be designed with particular care, selecting a) the appropriate silvicultural approach for given management objectives and site conditions, and b) choosing the right trees to act as a stable ‘framework’ for the stand during the regeneration phase. With regard to the first, we know that wind flow (and thus damage) depends largely on the integrity, density and the smoothness of crown canopy. A dense and even crown canopy will enable a smooth and largely undisturbed airflow above the tree tops, whereas gaps in the canopy act as entry points for the wind into the crown area. Therefore, a uniform shelterwood approach to regeneration can be considered to be the least risky with regard to wind hazard, whereas more irregular methods such as group shelterwood are more liable to wind damage. To distinguish a potentially windstable individual tree from an unstable one is less straightforward, and, contrary to what may seem to be the obvious, tree height is not necessarily a good indicator here. Matcheck and Breloer (1994) have compared trees to sailing boats (Figure 1), with the crown catching the wind load like a sail and the stem transferring the resulting forces to the root system which provides firm anchorage in the ground.

![Diagram of sailing tree](image_url)

Figure 1. Sailing trees (Matcheck and Breloer 1994 p. 185)

Based on this knowledge, forest scientists have identified relatively easy-to-determine stability indicators for conifers, namely height to diameter ratio and relative crown length. The first is calculated as the ratio between tree height and diameter at breast height (both in metres), with values of 50 or below being characteristic for open grown trees and a value of 80 widely considered as a critical (upper) threshold for individual tree stability from pole stage onwards. Relative crown length is expressed as a proportion of tree height. Open grown conifers typically show values close to 1.0, and 0.5 is commonly regarded as a critical (lower) threshold. Whereas relative crown length depends largely on the availability of light to a tree, height to diameter ratio undergoes distinct changes throughout a tree’s lifetime owing to the slightly different dynamics of height and diameter growth. Within even-aged stands there are usually clear trends over the diameter range, with pre-dominant trees showing the lowest height to diameter ratio and the highest relative crown length, and suppressed trees the opposite. Data from UMB’s research plots confirm these trends, as can be seen in Figure 2. Providing the overall stand stability is at an acceptable level – i.e. around or on the safe side of the critical threshold – the most stable individuals can thus be found among the largest trees.

In summer 2004, the Tyfiant Coed project together with FC Wales established a thinning trial in a 40 ha compartment of p51 Stka spruce in Clocaenog Forest. The objective was to promote existing advance regeneration, and to introduce it in places where it was still lacking. Stability considerations were given high priority, as the compartment is located at 400 m a.s.l. and the wind hazard considered to be high.
Throughout the compartment, about 100 stable ‘frame’ trees per hectare had been identified and clearly marked. These frame trees were chosen from pre-dominant and dominant trees only, taking characteristics like vigour, healthy appearance, branchiness and crown length into account where possible. The trees to be removed were marked in sample areas only; in other areas the operators were instructed to ‘thin in order to promote the frame trees’, i.e. to remove one competitor per frame tree on average. The following silvicultural approaches were distinguished in the trial:

- uniform shelterwood, where frame trees were scattered regularly over the area and the thinning followed a regular pattern regardless of the state of the natural regeneration,
- irregular shelterwood, where the thinning concentrated on areas where advanced natural regeneration was present,
- group shelterwood, where existing gaps in the main canopy, in which advanced regeneration was well established, were enlarged,
- strip shelterwood, where only 60 stable frame trees per ha were retained and all other trees were removed,
- control area, were no intervention was carried out at all.

This layout was later supplemented by a ‘frame tree removal’ scenario, when the marked frame trees were inadvertently removed during the thinning operation. The result was a uniform shelterwood with the most stable trees removed (crown thinning). Although this was not an intentional design, it proved to be very revealing with regard to stand stability.

Except for the control and strip shelterwood area, the residual basal area was roughly the same (25 – 27m² ha⁻¹) throughout the trial. Felling operations were carried out mechanised and motor manual. The whole compartment was then hit by severe gales in January/February 2005 and again in January 2007, which caused moderate windthrow and some windsnap damage. Figure 3 shows the layout of the experiment, together with date, direction and hourly mean wind speed (recorded at the weather station in Rhyl) and the number of windthrown or snapped trees per hectare.

As far as the conventional scenarios were concerned, the impact of the gales in winter 2005 was as expected. Damage was negligible in the control area, followed by the denser (A) and slightly more open (B and C) versions of uniform shelterwoods. Irregular and group shelterwood systems were again slightly worse affected, and the strip shelterwood, where basal area had been radically reduced to about 6m² ha⁻¹, suffered most damage with almost 6 trees per hectare lost. Compared to that, the damage amounted to 260% in the area where the ‘wrong’ trees had been removed. Table 1 shows detailed figures for all thinning specifications.

As illustrated in Figure 4, the risk of wind damage decreases with time elapsed after the last thinning. Thus, two years later, the experimental stands might be expected to have recovered from the disruption of their crown canopy. This appeared to be the case in Clocaenog. In most of the conventional thinning
Table 1. Stand data after thinning in 2004 and wind damage in winter 2005 and 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification</th>
<th>Stand after thinning</th>
<th>Wind damage [trees/ha]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>trees/ha</td>
<td>BA [m²/ha]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control area</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform shelterwood A</td>
<td>~265</td>
<td>~27.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform shelterwood C</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform shelterwood B</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular shelterwood</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group shelterwood</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strip shelterwood</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>~6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felling of frame trees</td>
<td>~265</td>
<td>&lt;27.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Layout of the thinning experiment at Clocaenog Forest. Arrows indicate the date, main wind direction and hourly mean wind speed for each gale event. The figures on the map show the number of windthrown or snapped trees per hectare, blue for 2005 and red for 2007.

Figure 4. Windthrow hazard in Norway spruce stands based on stand height and time elapsed since the last thinning intervention (image from Kramer 1988, p. 202)
scenarios the winter gales in 2007 resulted in little or no change in levels of damage when compared to 2005, despite greatly increased windspeeds. Indeed in those areas which suffered more damage in 2005, the irregular, group and strip shelterwood coupes there was a marked decrease in levels of damage. However, in the frame tree felling area the decrease was limited, and the level of damage was still 710% of that in the next worst coupe.

In modern forestry, individual tree-based silviculture is gradually replacing the traditional stand level management approach. This has repercussions on strategies and methods to guard against wind hazard. Developing individual tree stability and promoting stable trees in thinning interventions are indispensable requirements not only for CCF scenarios but also for clearfelling systems in high wind risk areas. The case study from Coo caenog clearly illustrates the role of the social status of individual trees for wind risk management and the importance of getting it right.

**Literature Cited**


**Perspective**

**Some Terminology of Relevance to Management with Continuous Cover**

Mark Yorke explains the importance of an agreed common terminology in CCF.

The term “Continuous Cover” was coined in 1991 when the Continuous Cover Forestry Group was formed after a meeting at Longleat Forest, of eight like-minded individuals from the state, private and research forest sectors.

As is now well known, “continuous cover silviculture” is not a silvicultural system in itself. The term embraces a range of silvicultural systems (or management options) that “deliver” continuous cover, as an alternative to clear felling and replanting. It is a means of achieving a wide range of management objectives where appropriate and practical.

In recent years there has been the potential for confusion or lack of consistency in some quarters as a result of other terms being associated with continuous cover. For example, in Forestry Commission and UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and other literature, field discussions, and various “Strategy” documents. This is illustrated with the following “definitions” and descriptions and their relevant sources, together with some comments from this author.

- **Continuous cover**

  “Silvicultural systems whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clear felling” (Forestry Commission 1998).

- **Clear felling**

  “Cutting down an area of woodland (if within a large area of woodland) is typically a felling greater than 0.25 hectares. Sometimes a scatter or clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area” (Forestry Commission 1998, UKWAS 2006).

  “Cutting down all (or most) trees in an area. Usually employed due to the constraints on wet soils in windy climates, where any disturbance to tree canopies can lead to the remaining trees being blown down” (Forestry Commission 2006a).

- **Low impact silvicultural systems (LISS)**

  “Silvicultural systems including *group selection, shelterwood or underplanting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards,* minimum intervention and *single tree selection systems which are suitable for windfirm conifer woodlands and most
broadleaf woodlands” (UKWAS 2006). (* see below for a description of these terms)

- **Alternatives to clear felling (ATC)**

  “The term ATC has been adopted by Forest Enterprise in recent times to refer to the use of a range of lower impact silvicultural systems” (Forestry Commission 2003).

Comment- why therefore not remain with the term LISS?

- **Silvicultural Systems within LISS**

  **Shelterwood** - “...Involves the felling of a proportion of the mature trees within an area whilst leaving some trees as a seed source and shelter for natural regeneration. The seed trees are subsequently removed...” (UKWAS 2006).

  **Group selection** - “A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups.” (UKWAS 2006).

  **Group felling** - “As clear felling but in small areas typically less than 0.25 hectares” (Forestry Commission 1998).

  **Small coupe felling** - “Considered by the F.C. to lie between group selection/shelterwood and clear fell systems, with coupes between 0.25 and up to 2 hectares (Forestry Commission 2003) – “A small-scale clear felling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically between 0.25 and 2.0 ha. in extent with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high” (UKWAS 2006).

  Comment- felling in excess of 0.25 ha. is clear felling and, therefore, **should not be associated with continuous cover!**

  **Single tree selection** - “A method of managing irregular stands in which individual trees of any size are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand” (UKWAS 2006).

  Comment- this suggests that UKWAS would benefit from a visit to a continental selection forest!

- **Minimum intervention** -“Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally permitted are fencing, control of exotic plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work” (UKWAS 2006).

  Comment- surely this cannot be described as a silvicultural system?

**General comments**

Another example of potential misunderstanding (within an individual corporate body) is found in the Woodlands for Wales Strategy of 2001 and the Forestry Commission’s “ Better Woodlands for Wales 2006” (Forestry Commission 2001, 2006b). Both documents use the term “continuous cover”, and provide descriptions of felling areas that fall within the Forestry Standards definition of clear felling. Meanwhile, the Enterprise arm of the Forestry Commission continues to ONLY use the terms LISS and ATC.

Perhaps the above is considered as “nit picking”, and pedantic but this apparent lack of a consistent approach is a potential source of unnecessary confusion and “wooliness” (not an unusual feature of UK forestry perhaps!) within both the literature and during field discussion meetings, for example.

**Literature Cited**


**Weblinks** – for free downloads and more information

- Forestry Commission Wales
  - [www.forestry.gov.uk/wales](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wales)
- Forestry Commission Scotland
  - [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)
- UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
  - [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk)

Members are invited to comment on this article to the author, Mark Yorke ([markyorkee@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:markyorkee@tiscali.co.uk)). Letters to the editor are also welcome, especially where they stimulate further debate.
The Tyfiant Coed Project: Continuous Cover Forestry Training in Mixed Broadleaf Woodlands, South Wales

Sharon Rodhouse reports on a recent CCF training event designed to develop skills in stand intervention planning, with equal consideration given to timber quality and stand regeneration.

Introduction

This two-day course, in May 2007, was organised by Dr Jens Haufe and Dr Owen Davies. The course was part of the Tyfiant Coed Project, which provides training and information on Continuous Cover Forestry Management in Wales, and is co-funded by the Welsh European Funding Office and FC Wales. The course attracted an enthusiastic group of participants from a variety of organisations and backgrounds. The Field Trips were held in Forestry Commission, Wales Woodlands and hosted by Dave Elberby, Planning Forester for Llanymddyfri Forest District on behalf of Richard Gable, Local Area Manager for Monmouthshire, Llanymddyfri Forest District who was unable to make it due to other commitments.

Theoretical Overview

Based at Llandogo, in the heart of the Wye valley, the first morning was spent in the village hall while Jens delivered a comprehensive presentation, which included by way of introduction:

- Definition & principles of CCF
- Native or site adapted species
- Forest structure, biodiversity & succession
- Main aspects, advantages and disadvantages of CCF
- Requirements & prerequisites of CCF
- Instruments of CCF
- Silvicultural programmes & practice

‘Thinning interventions’ were discussed at length and progressed from re-spacing (pre-commercial thinnings) through to thinning types, indices, intensity or grades and thinning cycles.

After a break, the concept of Frame Trees was explored. These are trees that display the desired characteristics of the crop, whether for commercial or environmental purposes. All interventions focus on these individuals. Selection criteria were followed by optimal numbers of Frame Trees to aim for and finally, how to identify competitors. The discussion of ‘silvicultural systems’ was carried over to the 2nd day.

Cuckoo Wood

The first field trip was to Cuckoo Wood, located on the Southeast-facing slope above Llandogo village. The wider area has a history of high quality oak timber production, although it was noted that conservation was also an important long-term objective at this ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) site. Our first stop was to study a uniform shelterwood of good quality oak (planted 1945) and thinned in 2005 (Figure 1). The thinning was undertaken by “feller select” method, with the focus on removal of poor specimens for pulp in order to improve overall timber quality in the residual stand. A dense carpet of briar that prevented adequate natural regeneration of oak dominated the understorey.

We then moved on to discuss techniques for minimising the development of epicormic shoots. Many oak trees have a genetic predisposition to produce epicormic shoots following thinning and in response to increased levels of light along the length of the main stem. This can be partly controlled by underplanting in conjunction with harvesting operations. A good demonstration was evident at our second stop in an area of mixed oak, ash and sycamore (planted 1931). It was advised that an understorey of sycamore be left to act as a nurse and that only those competing with the identified frame oaks should be removed.

Our third stop was a stand of medium to poor quality beech (planted 1978) displaying the usual squirrel damage. It was here that we all participated in a thinning exercise – we had to identify our frame trees and remove 1-3 competitors to each frame tree to achieve a crown thinning. The results were analysed to ascertain whether our intervention achieved this or a neutral thinning, or a thinning from below.

The next stop was at a stand of mature oak and beech with a mixed broadleaf understorey. Here we saw the benefits of natural regeneration, in this case beech, as means of limiting the development of oak epicormics below the stand canopy. Where the aim is to promote an oak stand over beech the group discussed the use of a ‘preparation cut’ or selective thin to increase light levels where there is existing oak regeneration. Regular monitoring over the following 5 years or so to remove any competing beech regeneration should be carried out. When oak seedlings are recruited as saplings of ~1.3m then group cuts, ideally coinciding with a mast year, can be made. This gives the oak regeneration a head start over the shade tolerant species.

At the final stop we visited a mature stand of European larch (planted 1942). This stand is composed of many well-formed stems with potential to produce high quality timber. We were informed that a boat builder from Hull pays a good price for being able to choose his own stems. The light penetrating quality of the larch enables a beech understorey to flourish, which provides an additional source of income, and
the management plan is to remove areas of beech to encourage regeneration of the larch.

**Lower Hael Wood**

Part 2 of the course took us to Lower Hael Wood, a couple of miles further up the Wye valley. Our first stop here was at an area of mature mixed broadleaf and beech where group shelterwood coupes had been opened in 2006 to introduce natural regeneration particularly of ash. The site formed part of the Ravine Ash Woodland Project. The advantages of a preparation cut prior to group cut was emphasised although it was agreed that budgetary constraints could make this difficult. Finally, discussion centred on management of a mature oak and beech stand. A uniform shelterwood thinning in 2005 had resulted in lots of ash regeneration but not so much oak. The remaining mature oaks displaying the usual epicormic growth, it was suggested that group felling (coinciding with mast years to optimise regeneration opportunities) could incorporate some of the oaks with the most profuse epicormics. Others less affected could remain and it may be possible to find niche markets for knotty ‘cats paw’ timber while the beech can remain, unless encroaching on the oak crowns.

**Stand Intervention Planning**

The second day started with an evaluation of our thinning exercise. Thankfully we were not named and shamed and all achieved very similar satisfactory results! Jens moved on to discuss CCF in the context of silvicultural systems with definitions and examples of the main systems:

- Clearfelling
- Uniform shelterwood
- Irregular shelterwood
- Group shelterwood
- Artificial group shelterwood
- Strip shelterwood
- Selection system

It was emphasised that each stand must be assessed individually and objectives clearly defined.

Management of mixed broadleaved forests was covered next and included all native species of importance for forestry. Both general requirements and species specific requirements was discussed in terms of:

- Site requirements
- Risk factors and diseases
- Silviculture
- Regeneration

The morning session ended with management of mixed stands, the advantages and disadvantages. Types of mixed forests and types of tree species mixtures with regard to compatible height growth and compatible light requirements were explored. To conclude, it was stated that CCF will always favour the shade bearers in the long term. Management must pay particular attention to manipulation of light levels in order to sustain light demanding species. Mimicry of natural disturbance patterns, for example variable gap creation, is important where a variety of species are included in the stand.

*Figure 1. Oak shelterwood displaying epicormic growth and profuse briar preventing natural regeneration.*
St Pierre’s Great Wood

In the afternoon we travelled south to St. Pierre’s Great Wood outside Chepstow. Our first stop of the day was to a stand of beech and mixed broadleaf (planted 1955/60) with a patchy beech and yew understorey. Thinned in 2007 by a local firewood contractor, who had removed wolf trees of beech and ash to favour the oak, there seemed to be no clear management objectives and remaining timber was of mediocre quality with squirrel damage evident. The focus was again on prevention of oak epiphragms and a consideration for this was to coppice the lime to create an effective lower strata.

The next stop was at a good quality beech stand (planted 1938) reaching target diameter. A small clearfell showed patchy beech regeneration with ash expected to show (Figure 2). Group discussion included future interventions – enlarging the existing gap and felling into the surrounding matrix to avoid the regeneration unless it was felt advisable to remove some of the beech regeneration in favour of ash. The subject of certified seed stands was touched on as there are several good wild cherry stems here and it was felt worthwhile to search these out for the best phenotypes and harvest the cherries.

Our final stop was at a natural ash site planted with Grand fir in 1970 that was growing well while ash continued to compete well (Figure 3). It was possible to see from the altered ground vegetation that the rich soil was showing signs of becoming acidic from needle shed. The management plan was a gradual removal of the fir and discussion was of thinning regimes, stand stability, and the good market for Grand fir at the moment.

Figure 2. Small beech clearfell with patchy beech regeneration.

Figure 3. Self seeded ash competing favourably with Grand fir on a natural ash site.
Concluding Comments

The two days were extremely well organised and highly relevant. I have been unable to go into detail on the course content, as the volume of information imparted was enormous but suffice to say that the course is running again in October and I would strongly recommend it.

Sharon Rodhouse is a student at the National School of Forestry, Newton Rigg, and is currently on a work placement with the Forestry Commission at Sherwood & Lincs Forest District. Sharon maintains an active interest in CCF and served for two years as the CCFG Student Rep.

Email: sharonrodhouse@talktalk.net

Editors Note: Details of forthcoming courses organised under the Tyfiant Coed Project are listed on page 17.
value to any timber harvested on site, to increase revenue of small operations.

The group were shown areas where past unplanned fire events have resulted in some small patches of vigorous regeneration as a direct result of the removal of ground vegetation and the humus layer. Efforts to use fire to stimulate regeneration have, however, not been as successful, this is most likely due to fire control not allowing the humus layer to be adequately burnt away.

Roe deer, rabbits and hares are a problem for regeneration on the site. Although the woods are managed with the public in mind and as a result there is a desire to keep wildlife visible for the public, control of deer and rabbits is carried out through shooting and ferreting.

The second site visit in the afternoon was to Curr wood is currently a privately owned wood of approximately 133 hectares, having been purchased from Seafield Estates in 2001. There are various ongoing trials in the woods some in conjunction with Forest Research. One trial visited was the use of scarification to encourage natural regeneration. Following a seed-tree felling operation in 2001, the area beneath the retained seed trees was mound scarified in 2004. This initially appears disappointing; as the level of seedling recruitment and speed of growth is far less than expected. However, this is to be expected in these situations. The seed trees had poor crowns and had not been developed prior to final felling, through crown thinning, to provide adequate quantities of seed for the site. Additionally the scarification was suggested not to be sufficiently intensive enough to provide suitable weed-free seedbed conditions for seedling germination and early growth. Larger screes that removed top vegetative growth, humus and litter layers to expose the mineral soil beneath has proved to be effective in other pinewood situations, and would be beneficial in the circumstances where rapid even recruitment was required. In contrast, there is vigorous growth of natural regeneration following an earlier felling and extraction operation where ground disturbance was greater beneath trees on the edge of the stand.

It was suggested that potential seed trees should be selected up to twenty years before the final felling and managed appropriately. With attention to these chosen trees they could be released to allow these crowns to develop to increase their seeding potential once the final fellings have occurred.

This type of forward planning was also discussed in the context of conservation interests. With changing ownership of these private woods comes a change in objectives and management expectations within relatively short timeframes. The question of managing for stand diversity was raised, with the suggestion that managers of these stand types should maintain as varied a structure as possible to cover as many objectives as practical. However, this often leads to managing the entire stand to meet the needs of one high profile species, or to achieve a single stand structure type. Instead it was suggested managers could achieve multiple objectives by continued appropriate management of the entire stand to vary the structure by continued thinning and harvesting in all appropriate areas. It was agreed that some forward planning was essential in these woods to ensure good timber supply and suitable development of seed bearing trees, but that this may not require the permanent marking of 'future' trees.

**Colin Edwards** is a Programme Leader with Forest Research, based at the Northern Research Station, Roslin. His research interests include pinewood silviculture, continuous cover silvicultural systems and management of invasive Rhododendron. Colin is the CCFG Co-ordinator for Scotland.

Email: colin.edwards@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFd-64FHV2

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**Natural regeneration in a Scots pine shelterwood, Boat of Garten, Speyside.**
International Meeting

ProSilva Europe Annual Meeting:
Ireland, May 2007

Andy Poore reports on the latest ProSilva Europe meeting, an event that served as a fitting tribute to one of Ireland’s great supporters of CCF.

ProSilva have an annual meeting for delegates from all the affiliated European country organisations promoting CCF and Close to Nature Forestry. This year it was held in Ireland. Phil Morgan and Andy Poore attended as representatives of CCFG. In total 50 delegates from 22 countries took part.

ProSilva Ireland (PSI) were the hosts and the development of the programme and much of the organisation had been undertaken by Robert Tottenham, who sadly died a few weeks before the visit took place. Robert had been the prime mover behind the setting up of PSI and he was delighted when ProSilva Europe agreed to hold their annual tour in Ireland. His absence was keenly felt but Donal O’Hare took over organisational responsibility at the last minute and did a wonderful job.

The tour started on Robert’s 400 ha woodland estate at Mount Callan in West Clare; not only a pioneering example of private sector afforestation in Ireland but also a unique example of a determined transformation in Sitka spruce on a site with very fast growth rates. Robert had been thinning from year 9 onwards on a 3-year cycle! An article that I wrote following a recent ProSilva Ireland visit to Mount Callan is reprinted elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In the afternoon we visited the Burren in North Clare, and in particular Eagles Rock, a beautiful limestone cliff and pavement with hazel woodland, incorporating the hermitage and church of St Colman Mac Duagh, a 7th century bishop and monk. Robert Tottenham had saved the site from the local farmer’s bulldozer for several years prior to resources becoming available to buy the area by force of his personality and by appealing to the farmer’s religious sensibilities.

On the second day we visited Curraghchase, an old estate now in the hands of the State and managed by Coillte, the state forest management agency. The area has a range of stand types including reasonably diverse areas dominated by beech, ash and oak. Curraghchase is a key site for developing Coillte’s approach to CCF and will also be used for research and training. On the way down to Killarney we stopped off at a typical farm woodland, part pure Sitka spruce, part pure ash. Since the early 1990’s a very large area of Irish farmland has been planted, largely funded by the European Union, and this represents a significant proportion of the 9.6% of land area now covered by forest in the Republic.

On the third day we visited the woods surrounding Muckross Lake, part of the Killarney oakwoods, the largest area of semi-natural woodland in Southwest Ireland. The structure here is interesting, reflecting over-exploitation in the 17-19th century and subsequent periods of afforestation through planting and natural processes. Apart from oak, areas of yew are common and the strawberry tree, Arbutus unedo, is present: a native relict of a Lusitanian flora restricted to Southwest Ireland.

A very extensive and impressive programme of rhododendron removal has been undertaken here, often recreating the semi-open conditions that must have existed prior to the most recent expansion of the semi-natural stands.

ProSilva Europe visit to Curraghchase, County Limerick, May 2007.

The Tour ended with a visit to Derreen woodlands and gardens down by the sea on the Beara peninsula. In the mid 19th century parts of the woods were planted by the 5th Marquess of Lansdowne with European silver fir and various North American conifers and have since been more or less left to their own devices. In this area with an exceptionally mild climate and rainfall of 1800 mm per year, a forest straight out of pages of Lord of the Rings has developed with exceptionally high standing volumes and tree ferns, a speciality of the near by gardens, naturalised in the shrub layer.

As ever the ProSilva delegates were very interested and supportive of these determined attempts at finding another way of developing forests in a country with a young forestry tradition.

The visit was a great success and was a fitting tribute to Robert Tottenham; the delegates raised a glass to his memory on the shore of the Killarney Upper Lake in soft rain on the final evening.

Andy Poore is a member of the SelectFor consultancy, which is well known for its special interest in continuous cover forestry. Andy manages a number of large private estates in southern England, and has particular expertise in managing sites with high conservation and heritage values.

Email: andy@selectfor.com
Web: www.selectfor.com
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**July 2007**

**CCFG Diary**

**Forthcoming CCFG Meetings and Events**

Details of three CCFG events to attend in coming months. Please mark dates in your diary, download the relevant information and booking forms from the website, and plan to attend!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates for the diary!</th>
<th>2007 CCFG Events and Meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 September 2007</td>
<td>CCFG Annual Event in Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Craigvinean Forest, nr. Dunkeld, Perthshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 September 2007</td>
<td>CCFG Technical Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thirlmere Reservoir, Lake District, Cumbria</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 October 2007</td>
<td>CCFG Technical Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clocaenog Forest, nr. Ruthin, N. Wales</td>
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**CCFG Annual Event in Scotland – Craigvinean Forest, Perthshire, 6 September 2007**

The CCFG Annual Event in Scotland will be held on Thursday, 6 September 2007 at Craigvinean Forest, part of the Tay Forest Park, near Dunkeld, Perthshire. Staff from Tay Forest District (Forestry Commission Scotland) and Forest Research are hosting the event. Charlie Taylor, Forest District Manager, is the lead organiser. This meeting builds on successful CCFG Annual Events in 2005 and 2006. Located in the heart of Scotland, Craigvinean offers the perfect location to encourage a strong turnout and for some vigorous debate.

**About Craigvinean**

Craigvinean Forest occupies an important and prominent location at the “Gateway to the Highlands” and adds to the stunning forest scenery in this part of Scotland. It is one of Scotland’s oldest managed forests, originally created with larch seed brought from the Alps by the 2nd Duke of Atholl during the great forestry expansion in the 19th century. Many innovative techniques were employed at that time, including scattering seed by cannon onto the dramatic crags of Craig a Barns just across the River Tay. This tradition of technical development continues today with the introduction of Continuous Cover Forestry to much of the forest estate. Craigvinean Forest now comprises many fine stands in a complex matrix of native and introduced species. It is the perfect location for demonstrating the potential of CCF.

**Programme**

**Location:** Craigvinean Forest, near Dunkeld, Perthshire.

**Meeting Point:** NO 004 422

**Start Time:** 09.00 for start at 09.30

**Finish:** 16.00

**Morning Session:**
- Walking tour of the southern end of the forest to discuss the role of CCF in sustainable forest management.
- Chance to discuss potential positive impacts on landscape, recreation and habitat and talk through the practical issues of improving skills (managers and contractors) and managing these stands (thinning intensity, regeneration monitoring and cleaning).

**Afternoon Session:**
- Drive through other parts of the forest and get some hands-on opportunities to test skills on site selection, management options and marking thinnings.

There is **no charge** for attendance at this meeting. Members are encouraged to attend, along with others interested in CCF and the work of CCFG.

Contact for more information about the programme:

Charlie Taylor (charlie.taylor@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Registration:

John Dobson (john.dobson@homecall.co.uk)

Registration Deadline: 31 August 2007.

Full details appear with a map on the CCFG website (www.ccfg.org.uk). Check in the “Events and Field Meetings” section.

Please note that we anticipate high demand for this event and that numbers are limited to 40 participants. Early registration is recommended.

**CCFG Technical Meeting – Thirlmere, Lake District, Cumbria, 13 September 2007**

United Utilities plc has kindly agreed to host a meeting of the group at Thirlmere Reservoir, near Keswick, Cumbria on Thursday, 13 September 2007. Paul Clavey and Vicky Pearson, from the United Utilities forest management team, will lead the event.
Thirlmere is a major source of water for the city of Manchester. Water quality and conservation are, therefore, key management objectives. The surrounding slopes are heavily forested, comprising conifer plantations dating from around 1900 and patches of ancient semi-natural woodland. Most of the area is now being managed according to CCF principles.

During the visit we will see some magnificent stands of Douglas fir and larch being managed under selection systems, as well as younger conifer and mixed broadleaves just starting the transformation process. Completion of a detailed inventory (2006), based on a network of permanent sample plots, has provided a wealth of information on the current woodland structure and serves as a reference for future management.

Please bring a packed lunch. Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. Liquid refreshments will be provided in the morning and at lunchtime. There will be two field stops in the morning and another two in the afternoon.

Meet at the Old Sawmill offices, Thirlmere at 10.00 for a 10.30 start. The workshop will conclude by 15.30. Meeting point: NY 317 196

Contact for more information about the programme:
Rik Pakenham (cforest@psa-online.com)

Registration information:

Full details appear with a map on the CCFG website (www.ccfg.org.uk). Check in the “Events and Field Meetings” section. It is important to register in advance for this meeting.

Cost: £5 for members, £10 for non-members.

Your completed registration should be returned to the CCFG Administrator by 6 September 2007.

CCFG Technical Meeting – Clocaenog Forest, nr. Ruthin, North Wales, 5 October 2007

Clocaenog Forest is well known to many members as a centre for continuous cover forestry in an upland conifer setting. The forest has been the focus of a great deal of research and also serves as an important demonstration site for CCF management.

Full details of the programme will be finalised in late July and posted on the CCFG website.

Contact for more information about the programme:
Mark Yorke (markyorkee@tiscali.co.uk)

Download details (late July) from CCFG website (www.ccfg.org.uk) in the “Events and Field Meetings” section. It is important to register in advance for this meeting.

CCF Research and Training at the University of Wales, Bangor

A brief update on CCF research and training seminars from the School of the Environment and Natural Resources (SENR), University of Wales, Bangor

Research

Tyfiant Coed (Welsh for forest or tree growth) was established in 2001 as an Objective One project co-funded by FC Wales and the University of Wales, Bangor. The project aims to gather and disseminate knowledge about suitable technologies and likely consequences of CCF management in Wales. In conjunction with FC Wales, project staff establish and manage CCF demonstration plots, provide training courses on silvicultural management for forest managers and planners, develop best practice guidelines for selected tree species and carry out applied research on CCF-related topics. Project activities focus on Gwydyr Forest, Clocaenog Forest and Coed y Brenin, with Stka spruce, birch and Douglas fir being the main target species. So far 15 demonstration plots have been established. Management includes various scenarios of transformation to CCF, spacing and thinning trials, an underplanting experiment, target diameter harvesting and mixed stands. Research concentrates on tree and stand growth under CCF conditions.

Training

The Tyfiant Coed project is continuing to organise a series of short courses on CCF management of conifer and broadleaved forests. Each seminar will be held over two days and includes both lectures and outdoor sessions. Participants will be invited to take part in practical exercises. The courses are free for all applicants working within the Objective 1 area of Wales. Applicants from outside the Objective 1 area will be required to pay a course fee of £75. Please note that for some courses the number of participants may be restricted to a maximum of 30. Early booking is therefore advised.

Seminar 7. Continuous Cover Forestry of Mixed Broadleaved Forests

Date: 2nd/3rd October
Location: Vale of Glamorgan, nr. Cowbridge

Seminar 8. Continuous Cover Forestry in Coniferous Woodlands: Transformation of Even-aged Plantations

Date: 30th/31st October
Location: Clocaenog Forest, nr. Ruthin

For further information and to apply please contact:

Dr Jens Haufe
SENR, University of Wales, Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 2UW
Participants at a recent seminar, based at Cwm Berwyn, Wales. Photo courtesy of Prem Raj Neupane.

**ICF “Silviculture Rediscovered”**

19–21 September 2007
The 2007 ICF National Field Tour, York.

Details of a timely conference that investigates historical and global perspectives, and future challenges for silviculture in Britain. The event is sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Foresters and incorporates a full-day field trip.

This 3-day event will cover the key components of silviculture: species characteristics; silvicultural requirements; soil and site factors; achieving successful establishment and/or regeneration and stand dynamics in a special session on ‘interactive silviculture’. The importance of knowledge of these to the modern forestry agenda will then be demonstrated in a field trip to the North York Moors and by a series of lively, stimulating speakers from the USA, Germany and much closer to home.

There will be a significant component dealing with continuous cover forestry and interesting discussion about the interplay between silviculture and forest policy.

Download Autumn Field Tour Programme [PDF]

Additional information: www.charteredforesters.org

Contact: Allison Lock
Phone: 0131 225 2705
Email: icf@charteredforesters.org

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**New! Continuous Cover Silviculture Web Pages at Forest Research**

Forest Research (FR) has updated and expanded its online information about CCF. Their website now includes details of research and technical developments under the following sections:

- Stand manipulation
- Regeneration
- Operational Aspects
- Risks of Windthrow
- Growth and Yield Modelling
- Decision Support Software

Each section provides a good level of detail on the background of the topic, and current work areas. Links to relevant FR and other research/technical publications are also provided to facilitate further reading.

**Excerpt from the Forest Research website.**

Navigating through the the FR website:
FR home > Sustainable forest management > CCF

Links:
- Forest Research homepage: www.forestresearch.gov.uk
- Continuous cover silviculture web pages: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-63CCQB

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**CCF on the World Wide Web**

While away happy hours at the many fascinating CCF websites on the WWW! We will incorporate links to these sites on our own website; keep forwarding your suggestions for inclusion in the next issue of CCF Newsletter.

**Association Futaie Irrégulière (AFI)**

- [http://www.prosilva.fr/](http://www.prosilva.fr/) (link to AFI from ProSilva France)
- AFI is an association registered by French law, setup in 1991 by a group of private forestry
consultants in order to promote the management of irregular-structure stands. It aims to share technical information and is based on the principles advanced by ProSilva. Each association remains quite distinct, although they both share a certain number of common objectives.

- The AFI aims to promote the most effective management practices and silvicultural systems for irregular stand structures, endowing stands with greater resilience and providing managers with a better capacity to respond to external factors (climatic events, market fluctuation, changing social demands, etc.).
- Over the last ten years, the AFI managers have refined the broader objectives and the detailed silvicultural systems of irregular stand silviculture.
- In order to assist with the promotion and to better define these silvicultural techniques, AFI decided to set up a network of research stands. Each one of the research stands is monitored providing detailed economic and ecological increment data.
- The first AFI research stand outside France was established at Sourhead in March 2006; the first AFI stand in Ireland was set-up at Curraghchase in March 2007.

Forestry Commission - Forest Research

- [http://www.forestreresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-63CC0B](http://www.forestreresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-63CC0B)
- Forest Research has recently updated and expanded their web pages on CCF.
- See separate article in this issue of CCFG Newsletter for more details.

ProSilva Europe

- ProSilva is a European federation of foresters who advocate forest management based on natural processes. ProSilva was founded in Slovenia in 1989.
- ProSilva Europe is an umbrella organization for twenty national and regional groups, each sharing approximately the same aims and objectives. Our current CCFG chairman represents Britain on the Pro Silva Assembly of Representatives.
- ProSilva promotes a policy of forest management that is “close to nature”. The organisation has adopted a set of forestry principles to guide and to stimulate debate about forest management and resource conservation.
- ProSilva organises a major congress every 4-5 years.
- The website is currently under development.

ProSilva Ireland

- [http://www.prosilvairland.org/](http://www.prosilvairland.org/)
- Our sister organization in Ireland, closely linked to ProSilva Europe.
- ProSilva Ireland was founded in June 2000 and has currently a membership of seventy. ProSilva Ireland recognizes and values the unique history of Irish forestry and its past, current and potential contribution at local, regional and national levels. Members are convinced of the need in Ireland for a greater range of management skills amongst foresters and forest owners.
- The organisation was founded in order to develop and promote ProSilva Principles as an alternative to clear felling in Irish forestry.
- The website includes historical information, news of meetings and events, an excellent image gallery, a long list of articles, a detailed bibliography and useful web links.
- The group is establishing a network of demonstration sites and has an active programme of field meetings.

Centre for Timber Engineering, Napier University

- [http://cte.napier.ac.uk/](http://cte.napier.ac.uk/)
- CTE has an expanding range of projects and programmes related to engineering and design with timber.
- A long list of research projects gives some insight to the potential uses and opportunities for high quality timber in the UK market. ([http://cte.napier.ac.uk/research.php](http://cte.napier.ac.uk/research.php))

School of the Environment and Natural Resources, University of Wales, Bangor

- [http://www.senr.bangor.ac.uk/](http://www.senr.bangor.ac.uk/)
- SENR was formerly the School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences.
- A wide range of inter-disciplinary research programmes have been brought together under a new departmental structure.
- There is a direct link from the Forest Ecology and Management research stream to information about research on CCF, led by Dr. Arne Pommerening.

Experimental Silviculture Research Group (Tyfiant Coed Project)

- [http://tyfcoed.bangor.ac.uk/](http://tyfcoed.bangor.ac.uk/)
- This website provides information about CCF and growth modelling research under the Tyfiant Coed Project.
- The site includes details of current research, staff contacts, publications (most available for download) and training seminars in Wales.
- Much of the work is funded by the EU, Forestry Commission Wales and University of Wales, Bangor.
CCFG Project

CCFG funds Bibliography Project

A small grant from the CCFG, together with funding from Woodland Heritage, has enabled completion of a bibliography of continuous cover forestry publications. The project was undertaken by Sharon Rodhouse and Ted Wilson, both based at the National School of Forestry, Newton Rigg.

The bibliography aims to cover a wide cross-section of papers and reports relating to continuous cover forestry, including silvicultural systems, management, economics, historical aspects, regeneration and forest conservation issues.

In total, the final report lists approximately 200 papers and reports from the 1950s to 2005. There is also a suggested “hot list” of ten essential papers for those interested in a technical, scientific and historical overview of CCF. Most publications relate to UK forestry, but in some theoretical areas the scope is more international. Each report is cross-referenced by subject class and species group, and abstracts are provided to give some indication of content and key findings.

CCFG retains a copy of nearly all the papers and reports listed in the bibliography, making accessible some of the more unusual material.

The full reference for the report is:


The report is available in PDF format in the members section of the CCFG website or by contacting the CCFG Administrator.

A limited number of bound copies of the report are available from:

School Office
National School of Forestry
University of Central Lancashire*
Newton Rigg
Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0AH

*Note that the school transfers to the University of Cumbria, from 1 August 2007

Recent CCF Publications

A round-up of recent research and technical publications related to CCF. The list includes papers mainly published since 2005. Please forward details of new publications of interest for inclusion in the next CCFG Newsletter.


CCFG Proposals for 2008: Field Meetings and Projects

The committee are actively working on the programme of field meetings, technical workshops and events for 2008. Please forward any ideas you may have to any of the committee contacts. We are particularly keen to offer events in all regions of GB, in an effort to make attendance at one event as easy as possible for everyone. Ideal locations for meetings are mature woodlands with good access, washroom facilities, and shelter for wet weather conditions and/or for delivery of lectures.

A number of project ideas are also currently being considered by the Committee. These include developing the photo-gallery on the website, creation of a national directory of CCF woodlands and the provision of more technical information about inventory and stand-level planning. We welcome input and ideas for all members and hope to report further on these initiatives in the next issue of CCFG Newsletter.

Website and Newsletter Review

In line with changes in administration of CCFG, we are reviewing the content and the usefulness of information on the current website and the format of the CCFG Newsletter.

The CCFG website and newsletter are the most important tools for disseminating information to both members and non-members. They are especially useful for providing news items and up-to-the-minute details of our workshops, meetings and events. The newsletter fulfills an important function as the permanent record of our group and as a platform for stimulating debate.

The Website: The committee feels that a re-design may be necessary to ensure that the website is visually appealing, has a modern style and is increasingly interactive. We want to reach as many people as possible and provide information that is highly relevant and has practical value. The new look will hopefully evolve with input from as many members as possible.

The CCFG Newsletter: We are interested to learn views on the frequency of publication, relevance of content, and topics or themes that members would like to see developed. Also, we are interested to hear opinions about the current online distribution, or if we should re-consider a return to a traditional print run.

We will be consulting with members over coming months to gather views and ideas. In the meantime, feel free to contact members of the committee to let them know what you think.

In the Next Issue … Publication details for CCFG Newsletter 27

The next issue of CCFG Newsletter is scheduled for publication on 7 January 2008. We would like to encourage members to contribute articles, photographs and news items to make the CCFG Newsletter as lively as possible.

Contents:

- Research and technical development articles
- Field meeting reports from 2007
- Full listing of events for 2008
- Details of CCFG projects and initiatives
- News items about CCF in the UK and overseas
- Members comments and feedback
- Round-up of recent publications
- And more …

Deadline for submissions is 1 December 2007.

All editorial enquiries to: CCFG Newsletter Editor, Ted Wilson (ccfg.admin@gmail.com).

CCFG Committee Contacts

CCFG GB Committee:

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Colin Edwards
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Ted Wilson
Administrator

CCFG Scotland Committee:

Bill Mason, Chair
John Dobson, Secretary
Colin Edwards, Co-ordinator

CCFG Wales Committee:

Mark Yorke
Phil Morgan, Co-ordinator

CCFG England Committee:

Mike Seville, Co-ordinator
Other members to be confirmed