Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the Continuous Cover Forestry Group’s National Conference 2014 on the theme, ‘Continuous Cover Forestry: Delivering Sustainable and Resilient Woodlands in Britain’.

This is the latest in a series of conferences and events that the group has organised and run over the years. The most recent of these were ‘Understanding Daylight in the Context of CCF,’ at Westonbirt and ‘Timber Harvesting Techniques’ at Stourhead.

CCFG was inaugurated by a small group of like-minded forestry practitioners following a meeting at Longleat on the 13 March 1991, and since that time has sought to increase awareness by providing information and training on the methods and application of the low impact silvicultural systems required in CCF management.

From its conception the group has been extremely successful in influencing the political agenda, to the extent that selection forestry management is now right at the fore of forestry thinking and practice.

In our rapidly changing world where there is more and more pressure on our forest resources to deliver an increasing number of objectives, I feel that the principles of the group develop a major route to help meet these obligations. At a time when concern about the sustainability and resilience of our woodlands is of critical concern, this conference in the Lake District is the perfect opportunity to discuss and showcase the benefits of continuous cover forests.

So please enjoy, learn and share your knowledge at this conference, and remember in the words of Goethe, the German writer and poet, ‘Everything has been thought of before, but the problem is to think of it again’.

Rik Pakenham
CCFG Coordinator for England
Conference Steering Group Chair