



**03/12**

**NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE**

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### **Change at the helm of The Scottish Forestry Trust**

Robert Scott OBE, the Chairman of The Scottish Forestry Trust for the last three years, is retiring after ten years of service to the Trust. Commenting on his retirement, Robert said "The Scottish Forestry Trust provides a really valuable interface between theory and practice, with its trustees drawn from a wide range of experience backgrounds, including universities and research organizations to sawmillers, forest managers and nurserymen. It has been fascinating to have been involved with the Trust for the last ten years, and I would like to thank our Director, Bob Stubbs, and all trustees, past and present, for their support and guidance, most especially during the three years of my chairmanship. I would particularly like to mention Willie McGhee who is also retiring from the Trust, and to thank Willie personally for his immense and truly unique contribution to the work of the Trust over the last ten years. The forestry sector is bursting with opportunities, but also faces significant pathological threats; the Trust is well positioned to assist, both in the exploitation of the opportunities and in the search for solutions to the threats, through its ongoing support for research, education and training in forestry throughout the UK."

Thanking Robert for his leadership of the Trust, incoming Chairman, Guy Watt said "We will miss Robert's enthusiasm and deep knowledge of forestry brought about through over three decades of practical experience at Abercorn Estates and I would like to wish him well for the future".

"Forestry faces many challenges, not least from the recent raft of tree diseases that are sadly affecting many of our iconic tree species across the UK. We anticipate that the demand for our support will continue to grow in the coming years as new research helps to identify new ways of tackling these problems. We urgently need to raise further funding in order to support some of these worthy projects and I am pleased to say that the Trust will be starting a targeted fund raising effort in the coming months".

The Trust is also delighted to announce the appointment of two new Trustees who will take up their roles from January 2013. They are Prof John Grace, an Emeritus Professor at the School of GeoSciences in the University of Edinburgh and Dr. Keith Kirby, a woodland ecologist and visiting researcher at the Oxford Plant Sciences Department.

**Ends**

**Notes for Editors:**

**The Scottish Forestry Trust** is the leading UK Charitable Trust providing funds for research, education and training in support of British Forestry. Established in 1983 by a gifting of share capital, the Trust is a registered charity and has a remit to provide funds to support research and education throughout the British forestry industry. Since 1983, the Trust has provided in excess of £2m to over 140 projects ranging from supporting post graduate education through to contributing towards industry applied research and assisting policy formulation.

**Guy Watt** has been Managing Director of John Clegg Consulting Ltd, which provides business, economic and rural development consultancy services since 2002. He is a forestry graduate of Aberdeen, has a B Litt in forest economics from Oxford and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and a Member of the Institute of Economic Development. He worked at the Forest Research Institute in New Zealand for 4 years and undertook consultancy work for over 20 years in the South Pacific, Asia, Africa and Central and South America. He worked for EFG for 10 years as a forest economist before becoming a partner in John Clegg & Co. He is Vice Chair of the Central Scotland Forest Trust, a partner in Timber Auctions and a Director of Scotland's Finest Woods Awards. He was Chairman of The Scottish Hardwood Timber Marketing Development Group for 5 years.

Further information is available from The SFT Director, Bob Stubbs at [director@scottishforestrytrust.org.uk](mailto:director@scottishforestrytrust.org.uk)