

**THE
SCOTTISH FORESTRY
TRUST**

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The Scottish Forestry Trust is a charitable trust, established in 1983, to promote research, education and training in forestry.

In 1983 Timber Growers, Scotland, merged with similarly named organisations in England and Wales to form Timber Growers United Kingdom Limited (T.G.U.K.). It was resolved that the share capital of the company known as Scottish Woodland Owners Association (Commercial) Limited (SWOAC), wholly owned by Timber Growers, Scotland, should be transferred into a Trust, to be known as the Scottish Forestry Trust. In 1986 SWOAC was sold. The capital realised now constitutes the Trust's major asset.

The Trust is able to accept donations, and gifts of cash, property, etc from any source to further its work in assisting forestry to fulfill its potential role in the countryside and in the economy as a whole.

TRUSTEES

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REGISTERED OFFICE

5, Dublin Street Lane South, Edinburgh.

OBJECTIVES

The Scottish Forestry Trust was created to promote education, training, and research in forestry and silviculture.

The Trustees have determined that, for the time being, the Trust's major contribution should be towards funding research projects, although, as opportunities arise, educational and training projects are also supported. A small proportion of the budget is set aside for publications and travel.

The Trust accords high priority to research in the economic and socio-economic aspects of forestry. It also believes that the education of the general public in all aspects of forestry, and in particular its importance both to the well-being of rural communities and as a producer of raw materials for industry should be especially fostered at this time. Beyond that it is recognised that recreation, environmental protection and conservation are all topics on which better knowledge and information will assist owners and foresters to enhance the contribution of forestry to the countryside as a whole. In addition, although the resources of the Trust are small compared to the total funding of mainstream forest production research, opportunities do arise from time to time for the Trust to play a key role in supporting new work in this area.

The Trust does not confine its activities to Scotland, usually requiring of a project only that Scottish forestry should not be excluded from the potential benefits of the work it supports. Some of its projects are directly commissioned by the Trustees, often jointly with other funding agencies. Grants are also made to organisations or individuals both within and outside the forestry industry for subjects considered by the Trustees to be relevant to the Trust's objectives.

PROJECTS SUMMARY

Timber Supply Forecasting

Planners in industry need to be informed of the likely future supply of timber in terms of its amount, size and location. The national production forecast calculated by the Forestry Commission has invariably exceeded estimated actual production by the private sector. It is not known whether the discrepancy lies with the forecast, or with the monitoring of private sector production.

The Scottish Forestry Trust commissioned **The Forestry Department of the University of Aberdeen** to survey the private sector growing stock in Scotland, to begin to resolve the problem.

The results confirm the potential forecast; indeed their implications suggest that it may even be an underestimate. They also suggest that most of the timber has in fact been removed and point to a clear need to investigate the fate of private sector production, and the extent of local and internal estate markets.

Economics and Socio-Economics

The forestry industry of the U.K. is expanding and with it the industry's contribution to employment. Previous studies have focussed on employment at the national level and in subsectors of the industry. The Scottish Forestry Trust joined with TGUK, the Scottish Development Agency and Stirling District Council to **commission Firn Crichton Roberts Ltd to examine forestry employment in a specific geographic area** and to trace links between forestry and other sectors in the rural economy.

The resultant study of forestry employment in the Stirling District showed that the District had just over 30,000 hectares of forest, 7 sawmills and 1 major board plant. The forest industry in the District has a well-developed structure with all the main components of the forestry industry represented. Local forestry supports 354 jobs with an additional 30-35 jobs outwith the District dependent upon Stirling Districts forests. A further 200 jobs are reckoned to arise in other sectors of the local economy, but are dependent of Stirling Districts forests. Long term growth prospects indicate that another 240 jobs will be created in Stirling District based upon its local forests in the next 15 years.

The Scottish Forestry Trust has also joined forces with the Forestry Commission and FICGB to fund a **major input/output study of the forest industry**, currently being conducted in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the University of Edinburgh in association with that University's Departments of Agriculture and Economics.

The objectives are to display the inter-industry relationships of forestry, wood-processing and associated sectors within an input/output analysis, and to quantify the multiplier effects, especially in employment, associated with increased activity in forest management.

Forestry's Public Relations

The forestry industry is constantly under review and quite often under attack from a number of directions. In an age in which public discussion of important issues is dominated by the media it seems prudent to ensure that the industry's case is adequately and appropriately presented. In the hope that it will make a valuable contribution to the industry's communications planning the Scottish Forestry Trust has **commissioned Valin Pollen Ltd, a communications consultancy, and its sister company Concensus Research**, a specialist market research company, **to identify forestry's key audiences** and to assess their current knowledge and perceptions of the industry, and to explore how the communications chain operates to influence opinions.

The Management of Broadleaves

The Forestry Commission's Broadleaved Policy introduced in 1985, with the objective of ensuring that broadleaved woodlands are managed in a way which is compatible with maintaining their wildlife and amenity values is specified via management guidelines. These guidelines have important economic implications.

The Scottish Forestry Trust is providing **financial support for an investigation of the financial implications of the guidelines on the economics of the traditional forest estate.**

The first stage of the work has involved the development of a computer model which allows an economic comparison between traditional estate management practices and those specified by the guidelines. The second stage, now under way, extends the findings of the first stage which involved one estate, to four further estates, with a view to providing a more comprehensive evaluation.

The results of this work will assist both the state and private sectors in the review of the Broadleaved Policy due to take place this year.

Agro Forestry

The production of timber from widely spaced trees, combined with pasture from which animal product, often sheepmeat, is produced has developed in other parts of the world, notably Australia and New Zealand. Its potential relevance in the European environment remains uncertain and is the subject of an increasing amount of research in the U.K.

One of the key aspects in understanding the time courses of tree and pasture growth, as the tree canopy develops, lies in the interception of solar radiation by the respective foliage canopies. The Scottish Forestry Trust is currently supporting an investigation carried out in the **Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the University of Edinburgh into the proposition that the growth of trees and pasture when combined in agroforestry systems will be linearly related to the light intercepted by their respective foliage canopies.** The work is being carried out on extensively instrumented sites at Dunkeld and Cloich.

Pests and Diseases

The Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*) is a caterpillar which feeds on many species of foodplant. It has severely defoliated oak and apple. It reached pest status in Sitka Spruce on several Scottish sites in 1981. An attempt at control by spraying in 1983 was only partially successful. Because of the importance of Sitka Spruce to the forest economy of Scotland, the Scottish Forestry Trust is funding a **study of the biology of the moth as an essential prerequisite to the development of appropriate control strategies.**

The work is being carried out in the **Department of Zoology, Oxford University with the cooperation of the Forestry Commission Northern Research Station and the N.E.R.C. Institute of Virology.**

The Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*) is a major pest of spruce from Siberia to Western Europe. It was first discovered in Britain in 1982. Control strategies centre on sanitation felling and spot peeling. More recently, biological control by the release of a specific predator *Rhizophagus grandis* is being attempted.

The Scottish Forestry Trust is supporting a research programme supervised by the **Forestry Commission in association with Cardiff University aimed at a better understanding of the dispersal of both pest and predator.**