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## **EDITORIAL**

Each time I edit this newsletter, I receive a very different set of contributions. It makes for an always interesting and often surprising read. You will see from this edition that there is a great deal going on in the native woodlands world and plenty of activity by NWDG. Iris Glimmerveen's observations of the year of FMD in North England provide a record of the awful events of 2001 and their impacts on native woodlands as well as other aspects of life in the countryside.

Sadly, we are bereft of Yorick Corre's fine illustrations. He has gone back to France, hopefully for not too long. Please would anyone else who could contribute illustrations of any kind contact me.

Don't forget that you can still book your place on:

- **The NWDG 2002 Spring Tour** to the West Coast - 24 - 26 May (organiser: Gordon Gray Stephens - contact details inside front cover)
- Joint visit to the **Old Mixed Plantations on Islay Estates** with the Continuous Cover Forestry Group - 28,29 August (See p 8)

And you can also come along to:

- Lower Plants Group visit to Dollar Glen - Sunday 14 April (see p 6)
- Lower Plants Group visit to Darley Wood, Troon, Ayrshire Sunday 28 April. (see p 6)

### **SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER**

**Subscriptions for 2002 were due at the start of the year. Please don't forget to renew your subscription and remind your friends and colleagues to renew or, indeed, to join NWDG if they have somehow missed out so far. New subscription rates are on the back cover. IF YOU HAVEN'T YET RENEWED, THERE WILL BE A RED DOT ON YOUR ENVELOPE ADDRESS LABEL - PLEASE RENEW NOW.**

Nick Marshall

# NATIVE WOODLAND DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

## REPORT FROM THE NATIVE WOODLAND DISCUSSION GROUP COMMITTEE

Richard Toleman, Chairman

The committee met in December to discuss general issues and the Argyll Field Meeting. We were hosted by the Central Scotland Countryside Trust at Shotts.

### Subscriptions

Alison had investigated payment by both Standing Order (SO). and Direct Debit. She recommended SO as being more suitable for a small organisation. This has been adopted. Please assist the Treasurer by signing the SO form and returning it a.s.a.p. *DO IT NOW*.

### Website

Meg has arranged this. Why not visit it at ([www.nwdg.org.uk](http://www.nwdg.org.uk)).

### Lower Plants Section

This is thriving under the guidance of Ben Averis and managed to meet 3 times in spite of FMD. Other meets are planned. (More of this elsewhere)

### Workshops

These were also very successful. It seems there will always be a need for "beginner" workshops in lichens and bryophytes, but also an "advanced" need has been identified. If you have ideas on other subjects e.g. Willows, fungi, please contact Carol, our Workshop Organiser, or bring them to the AGM.

### AGM

This will be held on Sat. 25 May at 19.30. The main business is the election of Committee Members to replace those retiring (Kate Nick & me). Nick is prepared to continue as Editor. The Committee will nominate Carol Crawford

for Chairperson, so we are looking for a new Workshop Organiser. *PLEASE WILL SOMEONE VOLUNTEER* Check with Carol for Job Description.

### Field Meetings

A great programme has been planned for this May by Gordon, and is sure to be popular as we got nowhere last year. Please come to the AGM with ideas for location and organiser for 2003 and 2004.

This is my final report as Chairman. I shall retire at the AGM. I have enjoyed my time and am pleased that the NWDG does interesting things, that members enjoy themselves at events and are full of ideas, but that most of all members participate and contribute, so making the NWDG a small but very successful body.

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## BOOKS TO BE AUCTIONED AT THE 2002 FIELD MEETING

Rawdon Goodier, one of the founding fathers of NWDG, donated the following books from personal collection, which will be auctioned at the spring 2002 Field Meeting to raise funds for NWDG. We are very grateful to Rawdon for this kind gesture.

- Jenik, J (1979) Pictorial Encyclopaedia of Forests. Hamlyn.
- Yapp, W B (1962) Birds and Woods. OUP
- Steven HM and Carlisle A (1959) The Native Pinewoods of Scotland. Oliver & Boyd
- Hora B (ed) (1981) The Oxford Encyclopaedia of Trees of the World. OUP

**NWDG LOWER PLANTS  
SECTION  
Ben Averis**

**Visits**

Bad weather meant that the Dollar Glen visit was postponed from 10 March to Sunday 14 April. As planned before, this will be combined with the launch the 2nd edition of Carol Crawford's Field Guide to Common Mosses & Liverworts of Scotland & Ireland's Native Woodlands. I'm sure the weather will be better this time, so we plan to meet at 10.30 a.m. in the upper (larger) car park at Castle Campbell, 1 km north of Dollar, 12 miles east of Stirling (OS 1:50,000 sheet 58; grid reference NS 962 993). The site has interesting valley woodland with a rocky stream.

Exactly a fortnight later we will have a similar event on the west coast. This will be at Darley Wood, Troon, Ayrshire. This site is different from most woods in being on very sandy ground, with a ground flora including - believe it or not - sand sedge *Carex arenaria*! There are also some wet areas and open glades giving diversity. We will meet there at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 28 April.

Directions to Darley Wood: Travel on A77 (from north or south) to roundabout which joins with A78 (just north of Prestwick). Take A78 West. After half mile at another roundabout take A78 to North. After 1 mile take B746 on left to Troon. After a mile at small roundabout take A759 left towards Troon centre. After half mile cross Darley Burn then take second left into Ottoline Drive. Park after 100 yards into Ottoline Drive just before corner - small pine plantation on W, entrance to Darley Wood straight ahead. Parking/meeting place on Ottoline Drive has National Grid Ref: NS 336 310 (OS 1:50,000 sheet 70).

Any queries-phone Ben Averis: 01620 860 029, or email [abg.am.averis@virgin.net](mailto:abg.am.averis@virgin.net) •

**BRYOPHYTES OF NATIVE  
WOODS**

**Carol Crawford**

After a few hitches at the printer's 1000 copies of the second edition of my "Field Guide to Common Mosses and Liverworts of Scotland and Ireland's Native Woodlands" booklet finally emerged in mid-February and at the time of writing (20/3) over 220 copies have gone out. Very positive feedback is being received.

The only point of debate is whether English names should have been included. The booklet is aimed at bryophyte beginners and I know non-biologists in particular find the English names useful. I am sometimes thrown when people ask me whether it is one or other moss using the English names as I have always thought of bryophytes in Latin and can't immediately remember which English names go with which! So I have to look up my booklet myself. Purist bryologists might prefer to see no English names. My only worry is that people might start using the English names in survey reports. Several mosses have several alternative English names so this could cause confusion. Ben Averis and I chose the simplest, shortest names from combined British Bryological Society lists to go in the booklet. The other criterion was that the English names should be aide-memoires. In a few cases there wasn't a suitable name and we had to invent one. If people feel it would be useful to use the English names in survey reports or publications then Latin names should always be included as well.

More details about the booklet were in the NWDG Autumn Newsletter. It is a higher quality publication than the first edition with a glossy laminated cover to withstand

being laid down on damp mossy ledges!  
The colours of the photos are also truer to life.

Big thanks are again due to SNH who provided over 90% of the funding for the printing. Also thanks to Eamonn Wall and Co. who provided the extra funding necessary to overcome the hitches at the printer's. Otherwise it might still be there!

Copies of the booklet are available from me on receipt of an A5 s.a.e. with 57p stamps (first class) or 44p (second class). I'm also encouraging recipients to send donations towards the next reprint. Anything will be gratefully received. At the current rate of dispatch we may need to reprint within the year.

Details of the launch of the booklet appear elsewhere in this newsletter. •

## NEWS, INFORMATION NOTES, FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### NWDG AND CCFG JOINT MEETING TO ISLAY

**Peter Quelch**

Starts 11am on Islay Wed 28 August [travel over that morning from Kennacraig (Tarbert) departing at 8.15am]. Finishes in time to catch last ferry to Kennacraig, leaving Port Askaig at 3.30pm Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Cars not needed on Islay - minibuses will be used for travel between sites for which a charge will be made.

Local organiser Janette McKay, Tigh an Arish, Gruinart, Islay, PA44 7PP, 01496 850593, [janette.mckay@virgin.net](mailto:janette.mckay@virgin.net)

Key content: The contrast between the three main types of forest on Islay:

- a) long established plantations in designed landscapes
- b) seminatural native woodlands
- c) 20th C forestry plantations.

The strengths and benefits of each type of woodland, and their relative costs and values in an island situation.

Booking forms and information about accommodation on Islay will be available from the beginning of May from Janette or myself. •

### NATIVE WOODLAND UPDATE

**Peter Quelch**

#### Forthcoming Events

Many events in the native woodland world this year are being badged under the Treefest logo, so check the Diary on the Treefest website for news and dates of forthcoming events – [www.treefestscotland2002.org.uk](http://www.treefestscotland2002.org.uk)

Forest Enterprise will soon be publishing a guidance booklet called **Life in the Deadwood**, and there will be training for FE staff available through FTS this spring.

#### Events Held

A highlight for me in recent months was speaking at the lively weekend **community woodland conference of Reforesting Scotland** at Dalbeattie. It was interesting to meet a party of people from Sweden and Estonia, some of whom helped very effectively in a participative exercise to identify key issues. For proceedings contact Munro Gauld on 0131 554 4321 or [munro@reforestingscotland.org](mailto:munro@reforestingscotland.org).

I was also privileged to accompany a group of 12 in the autumn to the '*primeval forests*' of **Slovakia**, a well-organised trip run by Clark MacTavish in Cumbria (see report in Autumn 2001 NWDG Newsletter). We saw some outstanding minimum intervention reserves containing near-natural woodland, themselves set in a wider mosaic of native species forests on a large scale – Slovakia is 40% forested. The woodland type varies according to soil and altitude, but beech, oak, spruce, larch and silver fir were all seen in their natural locations. Sycamore, maple and also some surviving elm were seen in natural forest settings. The apparently disease resistant elm are being bred up for planting out, and a batch had been given to Prince Charles on his visit last year. Further info (in English) on [www.ecosystems.sk](http://www.ecosystems.sk)

#### News of Initiatives and People

Since I last wrote there have been a number of changes in native woodland initiative personnel, indeed some initiatives themselves have finished their work and closed. So briefly, and apologies to any people left out of this quick roundup:



Colin McClean, previously of the DCS, has taken on surely one of the best native woodland jobs in Scotland as Senior Site Manager at **Abernethy**, while Stuart Taylor has partly retired, now working part time at the RSPB reserve.

Eoin Cox of **Borders Forest Trust** and the Woodschool has been awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours 2002.

**North Highland Forest Trust** (manager is Jon Priddy) now have a website – [www.nhft.org.uk](http://www.nhft.org.uk)

James Pendlebury has left **Highland Birchwoods**, as has Caroline Younger; Diana Gilbert is holding the reins at present.

Nick Raeside completed his work with the **Deeside Forest Project** in March 2001. Final project outputs included an economic study, biodiversity leaflet and EIA guidance. Eric Stevens left the **Grampian Woodlands Project** about a year ago, and John Donnelly completed the work, especially setting up demonstration woodlands. John was also project manager for the **Grampian Forest** until he left at the end of last year.

The latest news is that the **Grampian Woodlands Company** has taken over the mantle of all three projects. Three members of staff have been taken on: John Fraser as chief exec (a director of Christie Elite nurseries), Murray Swapp has taken on Grampian Forest and some of the old Grampian Woodlands duties, while Frank Sheridan of Glendye estate has taken on the Deeside Forest role.

Denis Torley has moved on from the **Forest of Spey** project to become a forest manager with TEF in the north-east.

**Clyde Valley Native Woodland Initiative** has ceased work and Graham Newport has not been replaced.

At **CSCT** two people much involved in native woodland work have left – Wendy Scott, and Penny Edwards. Penny has set up her own consultancy, and is also helping run the Small Woods Association in Scotland - contact her at [penny@yellowbrick-road.co.uk](mailto:penny@yellowbrick-road.co.uk)

Phil Gordon has left SAC to be a manager with **Woodland Trust** at Glen Quey, one of their big new sites under the Scottish Forest Alliance funding programme.

### **Publications**

I mention below a few new publications I have received on native woodland matters:

‘**NVC – field guide to woodland**’. by J Hall, K Kirby and A Whitbread, published 2001 by JNCC, Peterborough. This handy A5 booklet is a new and updated guide to woodland NVC and is recommended for general use in the field – (it replaces the older JNCC booklet no 4 of 1992 which was my previous best field guide to NVC).

‘**The Good Seed Guide**’ – a useful short A5 booklet summarising all you need to know about growing native trees from seed, by the Tree Council, [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

‘**Plant a Natural Woodland – a Handbook of Trees and Shrubs**’ a longer and attractive big format book by Charlotte de la Bedoyere with a host of practical info on native trees and where and how to grow them. Also has an illustrated section on woodland flora. Published by Search Press, Tunbridge Wells.

‘**Contested Mountains**’, Robert A Lambert, White Horse Press, Cambridge and Harris– a scholarly but readable history of nature and development in the Cairngorms, 1880-1980, with much about the native pinewoods and the Forest Park.

**‘Bill Hogarth MBE, Coppice Merchant’**, edited by Alan Shepley, is a short booklet about the life and work of one of the last traditional woodmen of the Lake District. I have written before about the work to establish a coppice worker apprenticeship in his name and this is progressing well. Further details at [www.woodeducation.org.uk](http://www.woodeducation.org.uk)

**‘Ecological Site Classification** – a PC-based decision support system for British Forests’ is now published by the FC as a CD Rom with User-guide by Duncan Ray at Northern Research Station, Bush, Penicuik. •

## **NEW WOODS GROUND FLORA PROJECT SEMINAR: 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE, BALGEDDIE HOUSE HOTEL, GLENROTHES**

**Tim Hall**

The UK remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe with between 11% and 12% woodland cover. Whilst we have to accept that loss to date of ancient woodland is irreversible, expanding the UK's woodland cover through the creation of new native woodlands can make a significant contribution to creating a sustainable environment and enhancing people's quality of life. The pace of new native woodland creation is increasing: in the last 10 years The Woodland Trust alone has planted over 5 million trees, creating 700 new native woods extending to over 7,000 hectares.

Many new native woodland creation schemes are relatively small scale and often isolated. As they mature, these 'islands' of new woodland may soon be colonised by more some of our more mobile species, notably songbirds. However, relatively immobile species, which include the vast majority of plants

associated with ancient woodland, are unlikely to reach isolated new woodlands.

A possible solution to this problem is to reverse habitat fragmentation through buffering and linking ancient woodlands with areas of new planting, thus allowing species to move along a continuous habitat gradient. This ideal will not always be achievable: community woodland initiatives for example may not have a convenient ancient woodland nearby, and new urban woodlands are very often islands in a sea of development. Should we not then consider enhancing new native woodlands with additional introduced species? The trees themselves are introductions - why not introduce a range of woodland plants to speed up the 'naturalisation' process of the newly created habitats and make them more attractive places for wildlife and people.

You may remember an article in the Spring 1999 NWDG newsletter (Volume 24(1)) on The Woodland Trust New Woods Ground Flora Project (how could you forget!). The Woodland Trust Scotland has been running the Ground Flora Project (part funded by Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage, and Fife Environment Trust) since 1997. Its aim is to monitor the success of various management treatments subsequent to the introduction of woodland flora on a woodland creation site.

The Trust is holding a one day seminar to present the results of the Ground Flora Project, which will include presentations, discussion and a site visit to look at the trial plots. There is no fee for the seminar and you get a free lunch. If this in itself is not enough to convince you to come along, an outline agenda for the day is as follows:

- “People and Woodland Creation: Changing Approaches”. Jonathan Hughes and Andy Beer (Woodland Trust)

- “Issues of Plant Origin and Provenance”. Sue Everett (Flora Locale)
- “Do Woodland Insects Colonise Introduced Plants in Broad Leaved Woodland?” C Moffatt (Imperial College)
- “New Woods Ground Flora Project: Results and Conclusions”. Joanna Francis (Independent Consultant)
- Site visit to Formonthills Community Woodland in the afternoon

To reserve a place at the seminar please write to: Margaret Mitchell, The Woodland Trust Scotland, Glenruthven Mill, Abbey Road, Auchterarder, PH3 1DP.

Places are limited, so we cannot guarantee a place for everyone. However, we will write to all those whom have expressed an interest as soon as possible, confirming whether or not they have a place.

If you have any queries about the content of the seminar itself, please contact Jonathan Hughes (Tel. 0131 662 9635) •

## **HAZEL COPPICING**

### **Sandy and Brian Coppins**

We are very keen to get information on current hazel coppicing being carried out in Scotland. We would like to hear from anyone who has carried out hazel coppicing, whether it be in large coupes, experimental plots or “incidentally” (clearing back scrub beside tracks, creating clearings, etc.). There is a current “buzz” which is gaining momentum for “doing something with hazel”, and words such as “sustainability” and “coppicing” are fast becoming almost soul mates. However, very little hard information is currently available for the “best practice” and actually just how realistic and sustainable

or, indeed, commercially viable, traditional hazel coppicing really is today. Is there any hard evidence that hazel coppicing is in fact good conservation practice in Scotland?

Those who attended the Scottish Woodlands History Discussion Group meeting at Battleby in November 2001 will know we have our own ideas and agenda with regard to utilising hazel, but we need to know what works today. This is hoped to be a timely enquiry, before wholesale coppicing takes place, as evidence from a recent visit to some Highland Perthshire hazelwoods have given us cause for concern as to just how feasible it is to coppice hazel in Scotland today.

Any response would be welcome, along the lines of information on the following points:

- what was the purpose of the coppice operation: commercial, conservation, incidental;
- location of the plots (geographically, nearest town/village);
- are the plots: part of a stand of pure hazel - within woodland - edge of hardwood/ soft-wood plantations - grazed pasture - hill-slope - valley - other;
- how big an area was cut;
- at what time of year did cutting take place;
- what actual cutting method was employed (i.e. chain-saw, bill hook, etc.);
- how long did the operation take (approx. no. man-hours);
- were the stools completely cut, or were some stems left;
- was it necessary to fence against deer, and if so, what was the cost and how did this relate to the financial viability of the project;
- if the coppiced plot was not fenced against stock/deer, to what degree was the regrowth affected by browsing: not

at all - little - moderate - major - devastating;

- what is the current market for hazel coppice;
- did regrowth assume a flush of slender, straight stems right from the start, or was there an initial tendency for more branched and bushy growth;
- and - most importantly - how long a period was there before the **second cut** was made, how successful was regrowth, was it economically viable, and will there be a third cut? In other words, can “traditional” hazel coppicing in Scotland be considered a sustainable and commercially viable use of native hazelwoods?

Please send any information to: Dr Brian Coppins e-mail - [b.coppins@rbge.org.uk](mailto:b.coppins@rbge.org.uk) or Sandy & Brian Coppins, 37 High Street, East Linton, East Lothian, EH40 3AA.

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## **HAVE YOU CLOCKED A CUCKOO YET?**

**Andy Fairbairn**

Butterflies, flowers and frogs all respond to warmer days and lighter nights. Already snowdrops are out and frogspawn has been spotted on the west coast. These are all clear indications that spring has arrived. Traditionally, one of the first sounds to herald the arrival of spring is the instantly recognisable call of the cuckoo. But the bird is declining in numbers. Over the last thirty years, the UK cuckoo population has fallen by 20 per cent in farmland areas and by a staggering 60 per cent in woods (British Trust for Ornithology - Common Birds Survey).

This spring, the Woodland Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology are asking people to listen out for the cuckoo, as part of a phenology survey (not to be confused with phrenology which is the study of

mental ability by feeling bumps on the head), which is monitoring the impact of climate change on the environment. The Trust is inviting all keen observers of natural events to listen out for the first, as well as the last cuckoo they hear. Even if you usually hear the cuckoo, but don't hear one this year, please let us know.

We are also looking for recorders to monitor other traditional spring events. People's observations of changes to Nature's calendar will build on data collected since 1736. It's easy to do and anyone can get involved – in the countryside or in towns, woods, parks, gardens or even out of the window.

Recorders in Scotland are in short supply and are especially needed to look out for the arrival of swifts and swallows; the emergence of spring flowers (including, primrose, snowdrop, bluebell (wild hyacinth) and dog rose); and the appearance of insects, such as bumble bees, queen wasps and ladybirds. Even the first date you have to cut the lawn is a useful statistic.

A simple recording form and guide is available from the Woodland Trust on 0800 083 7497 or by logging on to [www.phenology.org.uk](http://www.phenology.org.uk). You can view all the results at the website and compare what you have seen with records from history. There are also 'live' maps on the website which show where and when species have been spotted throughout the UK. With over 12,000 recorders, the phenology survey, run by the Woodland Trust and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (the UK Phenology Network), is now the largest of its kind in the world.

The real debate about climate change is not whether it will happen but how fast. The IPCC predict warming of 2.4 – 5.8°C over the next century. Events happen, on average, 6-8 days earlier in spring for each degree increase in temperature. On average

spring is arriving a week earlier than 30 years ago, this matches the warmer weather we've experienced in recent decades. This year the UK has had the warmest January for 9 years – warmer than 1998 when spring came 2 weeks early. We can predict that spring this year, will come perhaps 2 to 2.5 weeks earlier than the norm.

The Woodland Trust believes trees and woods are extremely susceptible to climate change in terms of how they will adapt, particularly ancient woodland species which can be less mobile and located in isolated habitats. For every 1°C rise in temperature, species need to move up to 150km north or 100m uphill. •

**REVIEW - BRYOPHYTES OF NATIVE WOODS - A FIELD GUIDE TO COMMON MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND'S NATIVE WOODLANDS BY CAROL L. CRAWFORD**  
**Review by Peter Wormell**

Walk though any ancient wood in Scotland or Ireland and the botanical importance of mosses and liverworts becomes clearly discernible. In the western oceanic woods, no matter how small, they dominate the scene all year round, but are most obvious in winter when ferns and tall herbs have died down. Every boulder or outcrop of rock is curtained, the forest floor is carpeted, and alongside lichens and some ferns they festoon the trees, sometimes from top to bottom.

We cannot all be experts on everything living in the woods, but for those of us who are keen to acquire knowledge of the biological makeup of our ancient relic woodlands, without necessarily specialising on any single order, small pocket reference books are what we need. Carol Crawford's book fulfils this need for

bryophytes.

Covering just 33 species of mosses and 3 leafy liverworts, she has arranged the text using a clear colour-coded system giving concise information on habitats, microhabitats, key identification features and distinguishing features where the species may otherwise be confused with others. Each species also has a list of the main National Vegetation Classification (NVC) woodland types they occupy (with a useful table at the back of the commonest bryophytes in Scottish NVC woodland types). It is a beautifully illustrated guide, with colour photographs showing not only each species in their natural setting but also single stems alongside.

In the absence of any other field guide dealing with Scottish bryophytes, this little book fills a much needed gap and will no doubt inspire many a forester and amateur naturalist to delve deeper into the fascinating subject of bryology. Mosses and liverworts are remarkable in their makeup and lifestyles. They are extremely beautiful, not only in the intricate makeup of their leaves, but also in the remarkably colourful carpets they create. The pastel shades range from reds and golds to whitish and bluish green, from silky glossy yellow to translucent deep green. The overall effect in the dappled light of our native woodlands is breathtaking.

Carol has whetted our appetites. Now we look forward to the next 36 common bryophytes and ultimately perhaps to the rarities! •

## GROUP/PROJECT REPORTS

### THE WOODLAND TRUST SCOTLAND IN GLEN DEVON

**Philip Gordon**

It seems hard to believe that just over 12 months ago the Woodland Trust Scotland did not have a presence in Glen Devon in the Ochils. In February last year we took possession of 383 hectares of the former hill sheep farm of Glen Quey. At a first glance, it seems fairly uninteresting Nardus and Molinia, rising from 200 metres in Glen Devon, to the 611 metre summit of Innerdownie.

Coming into the spring of 2002, over 300 hectares of the hill has growing on it sturdy young birch, oak, ash, rowan, hazel, juniper, holly along with many other species of native broadleaved trees and shrubs. In addition we are developing plans for a further 600 hectares further up Glen Devon in Glen Sherup, which we hope will eventually be part of a linked series of native woodlands in the Ochils, under the ownership or management of a number of organisations and individuals. After 700 years of sheep, some of the hills in this area are returning to their former condition as part of what was once known as the Clackmannan forest.

Of course nothing is ever that quick or simple. Long before we purchased the Glen Quey hill from the farmer Geordie Allan, (a friend of all wildlife and woodland), Norman O'Neill of RTS Ltd. from nearby Crieff had been consulting and negotiating with all the different interests in the area to develop a woodland creation scheme that was soundly designed. Norman, Bob, Mike of RTS Ltd. and their willing and able teams of contractors have been working solidly over the last 12 months, fencing, mounding, planting, guarding and weeding to get the

woodland off to the best start it could have.

We are conscious, however, that the trees themselves are only part of the story, and the plants, wildlife and people of the glen and the surrounding area are all very much part of the picture in developing the new native woodland.

Many people walk through Glen Quey on a popular old drove road route between Glen Devon and Dollar. The hills also have a following amongst hardy local hill-walkers, and Innerdownie forms part of a popular high ridge walk that takes in all the tops over 2000 feet in the Ochils. We have a small local community, and whilst some commute to Glasgow and Edinburgh, we have a developing relationship with locals who walk their dogs, look out over, take an interest or even work in the young woodland. 120 children and adults turned out in outstandingly awful weather last October to plant trees, go for walks, and chat around a barbecue, a measure of what such projects mean to people.

The vegetation is in places expected to revert relatively quickly to heather and blaeberry that in the past clothed some of the slopes. This will in turn encourage a change in the wildlife, with, for instance black grouse, which are occasionally seen in the area, expected to have an increased presence. The rising vole population will undoubtedly lead to more birds of prey such as the short-eared owl. Birds of open ground which are common in the grassy Ochils, such as skylark and meadow pipit, may be displaced by the planting. However, the open ground within the woodland will probably provide continued nesting for curlew and snipe. In time, woodland species such as pearl-bordered fritillary, spotted flycatcher, song thrush,

redstart, wood warbler and pied flycatcher will benefit from the creation of new woodland. We have had to deer fence the site as there are conifer plantations harbouring roe deer on most sides, so there is a downside such as the complete absence of grazing animals. The top netting of the deer fence will however be taken down as soon as the trees are established and we think that we can effectively manage deer within the young woodland.

The future? We hope to continue to develop our relationship with the people, and our understanding of the plants and wildlife of the area. We hope also to link with other developing native woodland projects in the Ochils, to create a network

of woodlands in the hills. It was in fact through encouragement from Cathy Tilbrook of SNH and the contacts of Simon Lockwood of Scottish Native Woods, that we came by the Glen Sherup area, which will link through a Forest Enterprise woodland to Glen Quey.

Special thanks go to our sponsors in this project BP and the vision of the Scottish Forest Alliance, of which these woods form an important part. Also to the Forestry Commission who have provided grant aid to the projects under the Woodland Grant Scheme. •

# ARTICLES

## FIRE AND PINWOOD ECOLOGY IN SCOTLAND: CURRENT RESEARCH AT GLEN TANAR ESTATE

Gary Servant

The complex role of fire in the ecology of natural Scots' pine forest is well documented for many parts of its extensive distribution (Goldammer and Furyaev, 1996), where fire is accepted as an important natural factor in the maintenance of a mosaic of forest types at the landscape scale. In Scotland, however, fire has generally been ignored as an ecological variable with potential positive attributes - presumably because of the dismissal of its importance in our Atlantic climate, and because of an understandable fear of the very real risk to person and property of wildfire.

Whilst the latter caution is entirely justified, the former assumption is unfounded. Although anthropogenic use of fire has undoubtedly had a deleterious effect upon natural woodland over the millennia, it is also plausible that fire might have been a significant *natural* disturbance mechanism within the native pinewoods of Scotland (Peterken, 1996). Historical evidence indicates a significant risk of uncontrollable wildfire impacting upon remnant Scots pine woodland, particularly in the Eastern Highlands - which experience a relatively continental climate and are commonly prone to extended summer droughts. The natural fire return interval at Glen Tanar, for example, has been estimated to be in the region of 80-100 years, based upon the historical evidence of the past four centuries (Marren, 1986). By ignoring, rather than studying, the role of fire in forest ecology in Scotland, we are both

exposing ourselves to unmanageable catastrophe and failing to recognise an important ecological process - which could be harnessed to improve the biological and structural diversity of native pine woodland, and could also greatly facilitate the expansion of these remnants.

In recognition of this fact, the management team at Glen Tanar Estate has been actively involved in research into forest fires (both in the UK and abroad) over the past five years. A preliminary research project is currently underway (in collaboration with RSPB Abernethy and Edinburgh University) with the aim of improving our understanding of fire behaviour in a pinewood context. It is hoped that, in the longer term, prescribed understorey burning can be used safely and wisely to enhance the diversity of native pinewoods and to stimulate their regeneration. Perhaps the tool that has contributed so greatly to the demise of native woodland over recent centuries, can at last be set to work in their favour!

In particular it is initially hoped to be able to improve Capercaillie habitat by understorey burning, which is anticipated to favour the regeneration of *Vaccinium* species over *Calluna* - thereby improving insect diversity and ease of foraging within the understorey (Hamilton, 2001). It is also anticipated that burning (in combination with careful herbivore management) will facilitate successful pine regeneration in areas of open canopy and along the forest edge (e.g. Sykes and Horrill, 1981), thus ensuring the expansion and long term health of the pinewood. Finally, it is recognised that a proper understanding of the dynamics of fire within the vegetation types found in Scottish pinewoods, is of fundamental importance in mitigating the



potential damage to these ecosystems which could be caused by wildfires.

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## A GUIDE TO PRUNING YOUNG BROADLEAVES

**Alastair Seaman and Eamonn Wall**

Note. This article first appeared in *Forestry and British Timber*. It is reprinted here by permission of the authors.

The last decade has seen an increase in the number of broadleaved woodlands being planted in lowland Britain. However, concern has been expressed that because of poor design, particularly inadequate stocking densities, many of these woods are unlikely to yield significant volumes of good quality timber. Careful pruning can turn many of these woods into valuable growing assets.

Although pruning is an age-old idea, it has been little practised in Britain during

recent decades. However, the increasing area of young broadleaved woodland is encouraging landowners and foresters to look again at this potentially useful technique.

### Why Prune?

Pruning is a means of manipulating the shape of a tree for any reason. In most cases it is carried out with the aim of maximising future returns from timber by producing good quality straight clean stems. The increase in value can be significant with top quality logs fetching ten or twenty times the price of their unpruned neighbours. There are other reasons for pruning too. The early removal of forks can prevent future catastrophic splits in an important specimen tree while careful pruning can prevent future shading of a garden, neighbour or nearby building. Well pruned woods are also more accessible making them easier to manage and more enjoyable to walk in.

### Which Species?

Most broadleaves will benefit from pruning. Some species such as birch and cherry are naturally inclined to grow tall and straight and will need less intervention. Others, such as oak, have a more heavily branching habit and will benefit more from early pruning. If the objective is to improve economic value then non-timber species such as rowan or willow are rarely worth pruning. Pruning of conifers is not so common apart from the singling of double leaders. However, traditional brashing of conifer stands does provide various benefits and Douglas fir and boat skin larch benefit from high pruning.

Frost tender saplings, such as ash, often lose their leader resulting in the two opposite buds sending out leaders, one of which should be removed by pruning. Species which don't have opposite buds fare better in times of frost, wind, insect and mammal damage because the damaged

leading shoot is replaced by a single bud lower down the bole which then sprouts to become the leading shoot.

### When to Prune

One of the most important rules of pruning is to start early. Small branches are easier and cheaper to remove as well as leaving smaller wounds. These can often be occluded within a couple of growing seasons, reducing the likelihood of decay and the size of any dead knots. Pruning can commence as soon as the trees have become established and started to put on healthy growth. This will depend on the quality of the site but will usually be between year 2 and 4. This early pruning is often referred to as formative pruning. As the trees grow taller, side branch pruning follows, usually carried out in lifts of one or two meters all the way up the bole to five or six meters over a period of time. Pruning above head height is known as high pruning.

There are many factors in deciding what time of year is best for pruning. Recent Forestry Commission research investigating the impact of pruning on wood staining and dieback suggests the following ideal pruning calendar.



These results suggest that summer is generally the best time to prune. However this will often have a greater impact on growth as more of the trees resources are lost in the form of sap bleeding and the sugars and nutrients that are tied up in leaves. For the busy manager, winter is

often a quieter time and, with the thistles and nettles down, it's easier to walk through young trees. With the trees free of leaves it is also easier to see the crown architecture and to choose the best branches to prune. So, although summer is the preferred time, pruning in winter is much better than not pruning at all. The only exception to this is that cherries are always best pruned in summer as this reduces the risk of infection from silver leaf disease.

### Pruning Intensity

Pruning is a balance between form and growth. Pruning too little will compromise form while pruning too much will reduce growth. The main rule of thumb is to prune little and often and to avoid removing more than 5 large branches in any one operation. Aim to leave a healthy growing crown of not less than one third of the height of the trunk. Leave a gap year to rest the trees.

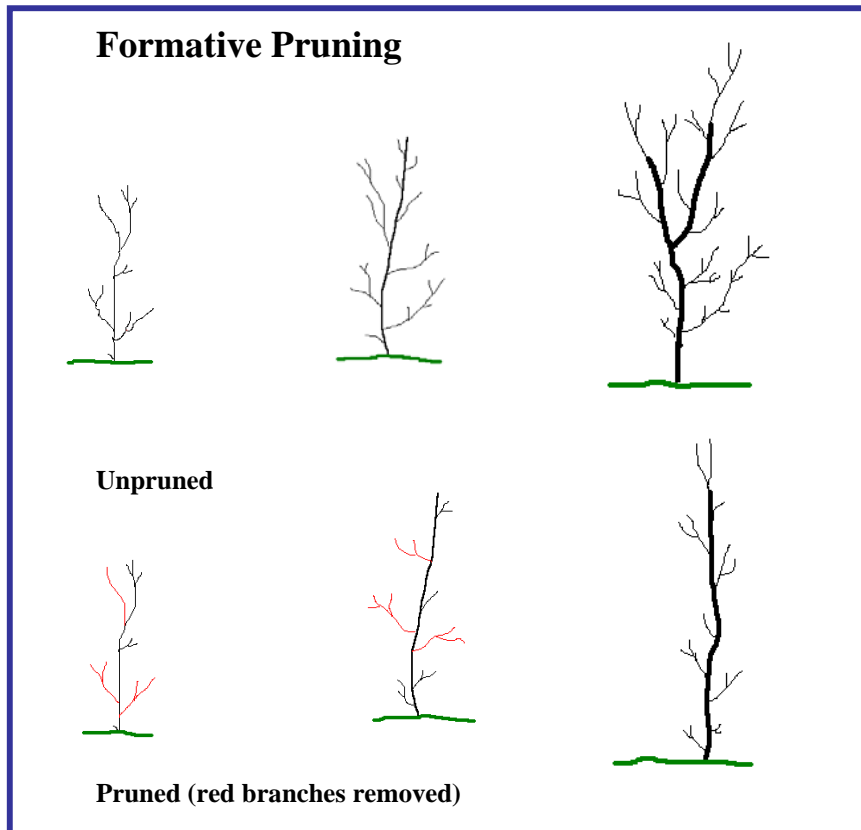
Many of the trees in a young plantation will be removed by thinning or competition before the final crop of timber trees is felled. The greatest benefit of pruning will be to these final trees and it is worth trying to identify them early on in the rotation in order to concentrate your efforts. Incorporating a reserve to allow for some future losses and a degree of further selection, this will mean working on around 200 - 400 stems per hectare. As well as making most efficient use of your time, leaving remaining trees unpruned may also help to meet other woodland management objectives, such as nature conservation or the provision of cover for game birds. We usually recommend formative pruning of most trees in a stand and then restricting high pruning to final crop trees with a reserve. It is unwise to select your final crop too soon.

### How to Prune

In most cases, the object of pruning is to produce a single straight stem of at least 5m high with small branches that will die

as the canopy closes to leave the trunk free of defects. In order to achieve this, the main priority is to remove forks and favour a single leader, usually the most dominant and straightest. The second priority is to remove large branches, defined as those with a diameter of more than 50% of the

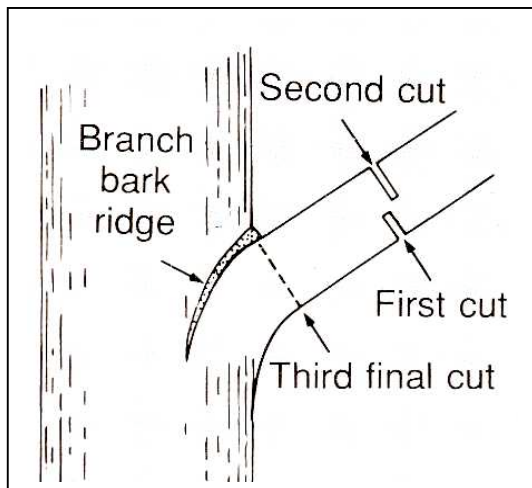
main stem. Where there are a number of such branches then those closest to the ground should be removed first. The illustration below shows the difference in development between a pruned and an unpruned sapling.



Pruning cuts are potential infection routes for a range of tree diseases and it is important that steps are taken to minimise this risk. It is vital to ensure a good clean cut and to avoid damaging bark on the stem. This is a particular risk when removing heavier branches which, as they fall, can tear off a strip of bark from the stem below. This problem can be avoided by removing most of the weight of the branch before making the final cut, as shown below.

the position of the interface between the fibres of the branch and the trunk. If this interface is breached, as is the case with “flush cutting”, then infection can spread much more rapidly.

Infection can also be minimised by harnessing the natural defences of the tree. Most trees produce an obvious “branch bark ridge” in the junction between the main stem and the branch. This indicates



The correct pruning position should aim to be as close to the stem as possible, without disturbing this natural line of defence as shown in the diagram (from Kerr & Evans, 1993).

Wound dressings were once thought to protect against insects and diseases and reduce decay. However, there is little scientific evidence to support this and some experts suggest that leaving a wound open allows it to dry out and stay healthy. Wound dressings are therefore best avoided, particularly when pruning a significant number of woodland trees.

### Pruning Tools

Achieving a good clean cut requires the use of appropriate and well maintained tools. Sharp secateurs are best for small branches of up to half an inch in diameter. For larger branches, a small pruning saw or a pair of double handled loppers are more appropriate.

In recent years, new lightweight telescopic pruning saws have become available for tackling branches above head height. Whatever tool you are using, a strong pair of work gloves will be needed to minimise the risk of blistering and always wear a hard hat when cutting branches above head height.

### Costs and Benefits

There have been few studies carried out to look at the economics of pruning. Personal experience and Forestry Commission findings suggest that between 150 and 200 trees can be pruned in a day. The potential increase in value of broadleaves which can be achieved as a result of 3 to 5 pruning operations is between 5 and 20 fold.

A recent honours thesis from Edinburgh University (Beaton 1999) took these basic figures and discounted them over typical rotation periods of 140 years for oak and 80 years for sycamore. The results indicated that pruning yielded an internal rate of return of 5.0% for oak and 6.7% for sycamore. They confirm what foresters and woodland owners have long believed; that pruning is a financially rewarding activity.

But pruning is more than just an economically sensible operation. It also a thoroughly satisfying and enjoyable one. On a fine day there are fewer more pleasurable pastimes than walking through your trees having spent a few glorious hours with a pruning saw in hand. Happy pruning!

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## **PRIORITISING *Rhododendron ponticum* (L) CONTROL IN WOODLANDS**

**Colin Edwards**

Note. This article first appeared in Forestry and British Timber. It is reprinted here by permission of the author.

The woodland conditions in Britain are almost perfect for *Rhododendron ponticum* since the combination of moist humid conditions, acidic soils and partial shade cast by tree canopies is ideal for regeneration and seedling growth. Once established, the bushes can shade out the ground vegetation, prevent regeneration and reduce the biodiversity of the woodland as well as colonising adjacent areas. So it is not surprising that many woodland owners go to great lengths and expense to try and eradicate the problem. But these eradication exercises are not always successful, leading to the 'myth' that *Rhododendron* is impossible to control, possessing some properties that saves the bushes from destruction. However, our experience suggests that implementing a management plan, which details a programme of considered operations, will lead to effective eradication of this pernicious weed.

Take this scenario as an example. You have an area of mixed woodland in which *Rhododendron* has been established for over 60 years. The majority of the bushes are concentrated in a small area of the wood, but are almost 3 m tall and cover 100% of the ground in an impenetrable wall of stems. On the fringe of this area are smaller bushes, spaced several metres apart and less than 1.3 m height.



*Although their flowers are attractive, there is little else positive one can say about invasive Rhododendron*

Your resources are limited, but something has to be done, so where do you start? Do you tackle the large mass of mature bushes that flower profusely every year? Or do you treat the ever-expanding margin of smaller bushes that occur at intervals a short distance away from the main concentration? The larger bushes are more difficult to tackle than the smaller ones and will require a concerted effort. By contrast, treating the smaller ones first will give an instant result and the area to manage will be smaller than before.

How often have woodland managers had to choose between tackling large bushes and controlling the smaller expanding front? Since there has been no guidance for managers to prioritise the areas they control, many opt for the 'instant result' and reduce the expanding area of newly establishing bushes first. There is, however, good reason to reverse this choice, and leave the smaller material till last.

It is often the case that the smaller material is caused by recent seeding in from an area of mature bushes – ie a seed source. As a result the bushes may still be in a vegetative form without flowers. Once they reach 10-12 years of age, flowering begins (Cross, 1975; Shaw 1984) and the problems increase.

If smaller bushes are producing few or no flowers, there is almost no risk of them acting as a seed source for other receptive areas. While at this stage they are relatively easy to treat, but if they are removed the combination of a receptive site and the proximity of a seed source may combine to produce further generations of bushes of this type on this site, leading to a continual programme of control. It may be a better alternative to leave these non-flowering or slow growing individuals until later in a control programme. While they occupy the site, no new germinants of *Rhododendron* can establish themselves in their place.



When mature, *Rhododendron* bushes can produce in excess of 800K seeds per year, dispersal begins in February and lasts until April

Tackling the mature seed producing areas first prevents the distribution of seed onto receptive sites, reducing the requirement for future interventions on an ever increasing area. Mature bushes flower every year (Brown 1953; Cross, 1975) and each flower is capable of producing 5000 viable seeds. A typical mature bush of 8 m<sup>2</sup> can yield between 750,000 and 1.5 million seeds ha<sup>-1</sup> (Edwards unpublished).

Thankfully not all seeds find an area to germinate or grow into seedlings. There are few 'safe sites' (Cross, 1981) where disturbance in the woods is limited. Following a major disturbance however, many seed-beds are created with the precise conditions required for successful germination and growth. These conditions often occur following clearance operations on the fringe of large seed sources in an attempt to halt the spread of *Rhododendron* (Thomson *et al* 1993). The result is a proliferation of new seedlings and re-establishment of *Rhododendron* on the site, even if the previous bushes were successfully controlled. Repeated interventions like this can give the false impression the *Rhododendron* is difficult to control, and a battle of wills ensues between the woodland manager and the site.

Although mature bushes produce viable seed every year, the seed will only remain in a germinable condition for a short period of time. Studies by Cross (1975) suggest the seed remains viable for only 60 days following wetting. In the field this means seed dispersed in late winter or early spring will either germinate that season or die, so that no long-term seed bank is created. This weakness must be exploited if areas are to be cleared successfully. The seedlings that re-colonise a recently cleared area are either from adjacent seed sources or were dispersed from the bushes previously on that site.

Seedling growth is initially very slow, and seedlings are not competitive at this stage. Vigorous 'weed' growth will compete with *Rhododendron* seedlings preventing their establishment. This is why the species does so well in recently felled or cleared areas where there is bare ground and little or no vegetation growth. Extensive areas of low growing bryophytes provide the ideal conditions for *Rhododendron* seedling re-colonisation of a site. The

bryophytes maintain a microhabitat that is high in humidity for fast and reliable seed germination, and provide little or no competition for the new seedlings. Direct manipulation of the vegetation on site may provide another means to halt seedling re-colonisation. *Rhododendron* seedlings find it difficult to establish and grow successfully in grassy swards and vigorous herbaceous growth, or in areas that are heavily browsed by sheep (Thomson, 1993).



*Rhododendron* invasion on a restock site; the disturbance associated with harvesting operations creates ideal conditions for rapid invasion

It also pays to split areas into those that are colonising rapidly, because they offer ideal conditions for seed germination and seedling establishment, and those where bush growth is slow. Rapidly colonising areas should be tackled before slow areas, after the main seed source has been removed. The faster growing plants are likely to reach flowering age sooner, or will put on more growth and hence produce more seeds, than the bushes in less ideal locations. By reducing the potential for seed dispersal onto a site, the area is likely to be cleared, and then kept cleared, sooner.

There are other factors to consider. Proximity to neighbouring seed sources, prevailing wind direction, and the time of year clearance operations occur are but three. Bringing all relevant factors together into a management plan for

tackling invasive *Rhododendron ponticum* in woodlands or on the open hillside, is the most important part of any aim to eradicate this invasive weed. The management plan should run for at least 5 years, and identify the priority areas to be treated during the period of the plan. Then the appropriate methods of treatment can be determined. This should include choosing the correct herbicide application method and timing. (Edwards, 1993, 1996, 2000; Stables and Nelson, 1990; Willoughby and Dewar, 1995). Finally, a monitoring schedule should be established to check the effectiveness of the control strategy and inform the revision of the plan.

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## **A CUMBRIAN WOODLAND OFFICER LIVING WITH FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, OR A STRANGE YEAR NOT TO BE REPEATED.**

**Iris Glimmerveen**

I know few people will forget there was an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK, but I am now coming to realise that other than the people directly involved it is difficult for ‘outsiders’ to grasp what it has meant and still means. Yes, I do have to write in the present tense, because even as I write this, some access restrictions are

still in place, and I don’t think that the full ramifications of the disease have come to light yet! I think the best way for me to explain is to tell you how it felt to me. Let me take you back to the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2001 when it all began.

### **Shock**

When news broke that FMD was diagnosed in Devon, I assumed, like I’m sure many other people did, that (a) it had skipped us by, and (b) if it had not, it could quickly be stopped in its tracks because of the wealth of knowledge accumulated with intensive farming. How wrong I was on both counts!

When the first pictures of burning pyres appeared on telly, Henk, my husband, said: “no wonder I was not allowed on the A69 today, this Heddon on the Wall farm is right along the road and the smoke is drifting all over it!”

### **Fear**

The first farm in Cumbria to go down was on 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. From that moment on it was like a cruel and indiscriminate domino game. I and my work colleagues were either glued to our radio sets for Radio Cumbria’s hourly news bulletins, or we were logged onto the internet to get to know who the latest victim was. There was no respite in these first few weeks. Every single day several Cumbrian farms were hit, pyres were lit, and it was coming closer and closer.

I then still lived in Geltsdale, on one of the largest hill farms in Cumbria, with thousands of sheep and about 60 cattle. At first Tom, the farmer, was not too worried, but one day when he could see 7 pyres burning from a vantage point on his farm, with the nearest being at Farlam (only 5 miles away), he started to put down straw mats with disinfectant.

Ironically the weather in those early days was gorgeous; frosty, but crisp and clear.



Even though it did register as such, it felt to me as if the gloomiest cloud was hanging over us, a cloud from which the silver lining was completely obliterated. I started to hitch a lift home with the farmer's wife as she was taking her kids to and from school to minimise traffic to the farm.

Meanwhile, Henk and I had been planning our removals, me from Geltsdale and Henk from our barn in Yorkshire, so that we could live together again in Great Salkeld, a small village near Penrith. We were going to use a removal van, Tom was OK with us bringing it onto the farm after disinfecting, but when we mentioned our plan to the farmer in Yorkshire, he said: "What, a van from Carlisle?!" We promised we would disinfect the van, and so got his approval.

So, when the day came in the middle of March, we ended up disinfecting the van three times; first at work just after I had picked it up. Then we drove to Yorkshire, left the van overnight on the road outside the yard disinfecting it and our shoes for the second time. And just to be sure we disinfecting the whole thing again for the third time the next morning before driving it across the yard to the barn. Thank God neither Tom nor the Yorkshire farmer got FMD. We would have felt awful if we could have been implicated in any way.

### **Sadness**

Rob, Henk's brother, had come over from Holland to help us with the Yorkshire move. Everything went very smoothly right up to 500 yards before our new home, where we had to stop our big van, and from our prime position in the front of the cab we had to sit and see 100 or so sheep carcasses being loaded into a truck for transportation to a rendering plant. What a welcome! There was a small blessing though. We dropped into our local pub that night and had an extremely nice meal,

normally completely impossible because you have to book weeks in advance!

The next day we drove to Carlisle to drop the van off. On the way in there were sheep gathered in a corner of a field - on the way back there was just a big heap of wool. It all made a lasting impression on Rob, who later told our family in Holland, that it is one thing to see it on the telly, it is quite another to have to live bang in the middle of it, and indeed wherever we turned there was no escape from it.

### **Acceptance**

Well before access restrictions were put in place by MAFF, we at ECCP were becoming anxious about accessing farmland and indeed more and more farmers also voiced their concern. So work as we knew it, had to stop, and halfway through March (three quarters through our planting season) we downed tools. We managed to complete the planting of three of the 12 planned new woodlands, but had to break off the other 9, at various stages, even though all materials, including the trees, were on the sites.

### **Compelled to take action**

Without any work prospects for the foreseeable future, we decided that our best course of action was to get most of us, 12 out of 15, seconded to MAFF. We could choose the type of work according to our abilities, so only one of us decided to work at the sharp end, helping Snowie (a local contractor) to dig/prepare trenches, light pyres and/or load animals on trucks for removal. A tough job, but then our Ken is a tough cookie.

Four of us decided to visit houses adjacent to infected farms to see whether there were any two-toed animals on the premises. If so, a Form D notice had to be served, irrespective of whether the animals were extremely valuable or pets, in the full knowledge that these animals too had to be destroyed. Also a tough job, but in a very

different way, every day they were coming back with heart-rending stories.

Dick was trained to vaccinate cattle, and therefore was held back in reserve, but in the end he was never called upon. The three others held the fort at ECCP. Five more of us, including myself, were placed at Carlisle Headquarters to do admin work.

We were split over several departments. Three spent most of their days copying documents, one went to the recording dept sorting original documents from copies and putting them in their respective files and also traced documents to ensure the files were complete. I first went to work in allocations, i.e. the department where vets were allocated to their jobs.

### **Overwhelming**

Being there, we saw the whole operation mushroom. In one month a large empty area of rough ground behind Hadrian's House, one of MAFF's offices in Carlisle, was transformed into a 'caravan park' with 23 portacabins. Office space was further commandeered from Cumbria Waste Management, a private company and from the Civic Centre. MAFF officers were drafted in from Leeds, Manchester and London, and vets flew in from France, Spain, Belgium, Canada, USA, Australia, and all over the world. Even with 120 or so vets there were still moments when there was not a 'clean' one immediately available to go to a suspected case.

Mayhem? Well, perhaps at times it seemed close, but no not really. Sure things were going wrong and there was a certain level of disorganisation, but amazingly somehow people were keeping their cool. Everyone was very busy, with a core of people working extremely long hours, but there was no real sign of panic. Is this what Brits mean by the 'Dunkirk spirit'?

Employment agencies were continuously drafting in more people, but the amount of

work was still overwhelming. It was only when the army took control that some people started to breathe easier. Mind you, this happened to be at the same time as the number of new cases started to level out! End March, after a couple of weeks in allocations, I sensed that things were under control there and got myself transferred to finance and here everything was still in complete chaos.

### **Frustration**

Talk about bureaucracy, I think MAFF has invented it! It might take your or my organization perhaps a week or two to approve and write a cheque, with MAFF, particularly in the first two months, it took at least 10 whole weeks! Unacceptable, when you realize that these farmers had no other way of generating any income whatsoever.

I was hoping that I would be able to make some inroads into the backlog of payment processing, but all the way through more details needed to be recorded and we had to go through the whole massive pile again. Then, just as the process was refined, London decided that they would process the payments from there and everything had to be sent off to London. After two weeks of this I decided that my own backlog of work at ECCP needed some urgent attention!

### **Powerless, enforced claustrophobia and emptiness - FMD in control!**

Once back from MAFF, I and my colleagues took the same route in and out of work, we minimised meetings, did not go walking and certainly did not undertake any site visits, all in order to minimise any possibility of transferring the virus. It felt very odd, being in the office day in day out, trying to plan for a time after FMD, but not knowing when that would be and what condition the countryside would be in. At the same time, it was also very strange to see the empty fields. Many were left ungrazed, some were ploughed

up, in others silage was made, while a few were completely overgrazed.

### **Fighting for survival**

With no regular work for any of us for the whole of summer, our estate team was deployed to assist with the closing of the whole public footpath network, while we field officers and admin people were thinking up ideas to help the recovery (the easy part) and how to fund them (the tricky part). This involved us with a myriad of recovery plans for Cumbria, but without any idea which ones would be successful. I think the ideas for Cumbria alone amounted to £200 million, but as it turned out Lord Haskins only promised us £8 million, just a tiny shortfall!

### **Total confusion**

September 11<sup>th</sup> was a very strange day for me; Henk and I went to the One Tree exhibition in Edinburgh. On the way in I was amazed to see the number of cattle and sheep out in the fields, while there I was exhilarated and inspired by the artwork on display, and on the way back our FMD problems were extremely forcibly put in perspective.

### **Exhausting**

For a long time now FMD has not been in the news anymore, but dealing with the aftermath seems to be a long and drawn out process. Disinfecting is still common place, access restrictions are still on the go, particularly on farms with sentinel stock or sniffer sheep as I keep calling them, and

the whole episode has cost the tax-payer £3 billion with more or less 3 million animals slaughtered. The long term effects can only be guessed at. Presently most farmers are asking themselves what to do next.

While carrying out an increasing number of farm visits, I'm also trying to finish off last year's projects and implement this year's, all in a couple months, and of course keeping everything within this year's budget. It seems like a giant house of cards, which any moment now could come crashing down on me, or, if I'm very lucky I might just pull it off.

### **Anticipation**

Of all the projects put forward to Lord Haskins, the 'Forestry futures' one funded by the Forestry Commission and the North West Development Agency, seems to be the only countryside management related one that will be implemented quickly. With the help of this project, Cumbria Broadleaves is soon going to be relaunched as Cumbria Woodlands. I will be seconded to it, so from June onwards I will divide my time between ECCP and Cumbria Woodlands. I can now start to focus on the 'real' job, i.e. plant and manage woodlands, while ensuring that some benefit will arise to the people in Cumbria - after last year this seems a doddle!

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# **NATIVE WOODLANDS DISCUSSION GROUP CONSTITUTION**

**Name:** The organisation shall be the Native Woodlands Discussion Group

**Aims and objectives:** The purpose of the group is to encourage interest in native woodlands, their ecology and management.

**Membership:** Membership of the group will be:

- a. Individual
- b. Family (1.5 x full rate)
- c. Concessionary (0.5 x full rate)

Membership of the group will cease 18 months after the payment of an annual subscription. Committee will advise the Meetings Organiser for the year of the fee for attendance of non-members.

**Officers and committee:**

- a. The group elects a committee of not more than eight members. The committee shall co-opt or appoint such officers as are considered necessary. Officers will be eligible to vote at committee meetings.
- b. Committee members shall serve for three years, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. The chairperson shall be nominated by the committee and endorsed by the Annual General Meeting.
- d. All members are free to attend committee meetings.

**Accounts:**

- a. The financial year shall be the calendar year
- b. The committee will set the annual membership fee before the end of October.
- c. The treasurer will keep accounts and present a financial report by 15th March each year. The accounts shall be independently audited by a competent person before presentation.

**Annual General Meeting:** An AGM shall be held at such a date as is determined by the committee. Notification of that meeting shall appear in the newsletter at least one month prior to the AGM.

Business at the AGM shall be determined by a simple majority except changes to the constitution which shall require a two-thirds majority of those members present. Family membership entitles up to two votes if both are present.

The chairperson and the treasurer will each submit a report at the AGM.

**Meetings:** The committee shall organise or authorise any member to organise such meetings as considered desirable.

**Publications:** The committee shall approve such publication as are considered desirable, and which carry the group's endorsement.

# **NWDG OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives:** The purpose of the Group is to encourage interest in native woods, their ecology and management, with a particular emphasis in Northern Britain.

**Activities:**

- \* Organise at least one Field Meeting with related discussion each year.
- \* Organise Workshops on subjects suggested by members (initially two per year).
- \* Issue Newsletters (currently two per year) with an emphasis on members' contributions.
- \* Maintain contact with like-minded organisations through the membership.

**Membership:** This is open to any interested individual (There is no corporate membership).

**Subscription:** According to the following categories -

<b>Ordinary individual</b>	<b>£15.00 p.a.</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>£21.50 p.a.</b>
<b>Concs./Unwaged</b>	<b>£ 7.50 p.a.</b>

**Subscriptions should be sent to Membership Administrator: Debbie Cowen (see inside front cover for contact details)**

# **NOTES FOR FUTURE CONTRIBUTORS**

**Copy date for the Autumn 2002 newsletter is 15<sup>th</sup> September.** The newsletter will go out in October.

The following types of contributions are always welcome:

- Group or organisation reports
- Woodland reports/updates
- Research, management and articles
- Shorter items of news, e.g. new groups/initiatives/projects or personnel changes
- Letters to the editor
- Reviews of books or other publications relating to native woodlands.
- Illustrations - cartoons, logos, pen and ink drawings of trees and wildlife etc..

Contributions can be up to 1500 words long. They should ideally be word-processed in Word for Windows 98 or compatible software and sent by email or on floppy disk. Please include full contact details with any contribution. Contact the editor if you have something to contribute but are having difficulty meeting a deadline. Also if you have an idea for an article you wish to discuss.

**The current editor is:**

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