



Forestry
Conference



THE NATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE 2023

TOPIC :

NEXT GENERATION:
SECURING OUR FUTURE



WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2023



9:00 AM - 5.00 PM

NEWBURY RACECOURSE, THE
RACECOURSE, RG14 7PN

THIS EVENT IS KINDLY SUPPORTED BY:
PRYOR & RICKETT SILVICULTURE



THE AGENDA...

08.30 - Breakfast and networking

09.30 - CLA welcome
Mark Tufnell

09.35 - Benefits for trees and woodlands in the
environment and how policy and law can support
landowners - Dame Glenys Stacey

09.55 - Measuring Assets
Sir Edward Milbank & Andy Howard

10.15 - Technology
Simon Bullock

10.35 - Forestry Minister Trudy Harrison

11.05 - Coffee

11.35 - Wildlife Management
Ben Harrower

11.55 - Trees – Silviculture
Jo Clark

12.15 - Q&A followed by Lunch

13.35 - Afternoon welcome

13.40 - Next Generation Forestry
Chris Williams

14.05 - A world of sustainable environmental
solutions Tom Williams

14.30 - Q&A followed by Coffee

15.05 - Panel Discussion
Phoebe Oldfield, Jez Ralph, Anna Brown

15.50 - Reflections and key takeaways from the day.

16.00 - Finish & Networking



Anna Brown
Director,
The Forestry Commission

Anna has worked in forestry for ca. 30 years, with a particular focus on Plant Health.

Since July 2022, she has been the Director of Forest Services – the part of the Forestry Commission responsible for incentivising, regulating and providing expertise in order to expand, protect, improve and connect England’s woodlands.

Anna has held a range of delivery, policy and research roles across the Forestry Commission. Prior to this she worked in the private sector. She has a BSc in Forestry from the University of Wales, Bangor and PhD from Imperial College, London.



Simon Bullock
Head of Business
Development
Land Energy

A Forester by trade with a career spanning 23 years in the Forest Industry, Simon’s career was sparked by work experience with the Forestry Commission in North Yorkshire during secondary school in 1993.

Being based in the Northwest of England has provided Simon with a breadth of experience from establishment and harvesting to processing and logistics.

For the last 14 years he has focused on business development within AW Jenkinson, initially implementing innovative techniques for recovery of residues supporting growth in large-scale biomass and reducing the reliance on small round wood.

More latterly the focus has been on optimising wood use across the sector and looking at technologies that can sustain the future use of residues beyond biomass.



Dr Jo Clark
Head of Research,
Future Trees Trust

Jo joined Future Trees Trust in October 2018 as Head of Research, working to improve Britain's broadleaved trees.

She started her forestry career as a genetic resources technician for the US Forest Service, working in the Pacific Northwest on production conifers. She spent 15 years at the charity Earth Trust, where she managed the UK's largest collection of broadleaved genetic trials, known as Paradise Wood.

Her doctoral research investigated the adaptation of ash to climate change. She leads the Living Ash Project, to identify a large and diverse number of ash trees with good tolerance to ash dieback.



Trudy Harrison
Minister for Natural
Environment and Land Use

Trudy Harrison currently serves as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Her political journey began with her election as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Copeland in 2017. Her dedication to public service is evident in her roles on key parliamentary committees and as a Parliamentary Private Secretary at various government departments. Beyond politics, she has a diverse background, including work at Sellafield, entrepreneurship in childcare, and community development.

In her current role, she oversees critical aspects of the natural environment, climate change adaptation, forestry, and more. Trudy's expertise and commitment make her an ideal speaker, offering valuable insights into environmental policies, climate change, and community development.



Ben Harrower
Owner, BH Wildlife
Consultancy

BH Wildlife Consultancy was established by Ben and Katie Harrower and was set up to meet the interest and demand in the fast developing thermal drone technology and its capabilities for use in wildlife data collection.

Ben is a trained forester and has spent his whole career on conservation and wildlife management projects across the UK as well as international projects.

Work has included everything from strategic deer management to beaver reintroduction projects and bird surveys.



Andy Howard
CEO,
Climate Solutions
Exchange Ltd

Being unable to help a major car manufacturer plant trees in the UK started Andy Howard on the journey that is CSX.

Having created the largest new private-sector woodland in England for 30 years, Doddington North, Andy understands deeply how rooted forestry industry practices are. Modern corporate buyers of carbon, and now biodiversity, offsets demand however a paradigm shift in audit and measurement of offset delivery.

Integrating updated scientific understanding with remote sensing earth observation data, analysed through AI, is the solution to this business need that Andy and his team at CSX have built over the last four years.



Sir Edward Milbank
Owner of Barningham
Estate and CSX Carbon

Edward Milbank is a trustee of Barningham Estate, a mixed upland business with in hand and tenanted farming, woodland, moorland, residential property and probably the finest pub in the North of England. The estate has been involved in two ELM Test and Trials and the Biodiversity Net Gain pilots. He is a director of Pennine Forestry which has developed new large-scale woodlands in England and Scotland, including Doddington – England's largest new productive woodland in 40 years.

In early 2020, together with Andy Howard, Edward established Climate Solutions Exchange Ltd (CSX), which is integrating new science and new technologies to measure and monitor carbon and biodiversity from changes in land management. CSX's purpose is to help develop a trusted natural capital marketplace offering land managers a fair return for environmental management and businesses transparent, verified carbon and biodiversity credits.

Edward is currently the chairman of the CLA's Forestry and Woodland committee.



Phoebe Oldfield
Award winning
designer and furniture
maker

Currently working at Benchmark Furniture, Phoebe is a Nottingham Trent University graduate, earning prestigious awards including the Chartered Society of Designers' CEP Student Prize and the Materials and Design Exchange Award for sustainability. She is passionate about promoting sustainable woodland management through the use of home-grown timber and her work, currently displayed at the V&A as part of the 'Field Notes Summer School,' explores the vital conversation of woodland management.

Phoebe is also the inaugural GiB Scholar, having completed the Sylva Wood School's Professional Course 2022/23, where she crafted 'Dendro' tables from GiB Certified timber. Phoebe's vision for the future of design and manufacturing is to foster a nature-centric approach, urging designers, makers, and clients to reconnect with the natural environment.



Jez Ralph
Director,
Evolving Forests

Jez Ralph has been working in forestry and timber for over twenty years following a degree in archaeology and a masters in forestry.

He is the founder and Director of Evolving Forests, involved in supply-chain development and forestry focussed media production.

Jez has spent time abroad at the Wood School in Helsinki and as a Nuffield Farming Scholar researching added-value timber processing and timber architecture. Following a stint managing the Architectural Association's Forest Campus, Hooke Park, Jez set up Timber Strategies to undertake Research & Development in forestry. This has now evolved into Evolving Forests.



Dame Glenys Stacey
Chair of the Office for
Environmental Protection

A solicitor by profession, Dame Glenys Stacey has a wealth of CEO and regulatory experience, having led the start-up or development of a number of public-sector organisations responsible for legal or regulatory services.

She has previously served as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation, Chief Executive at Animal Health (now part of the Animal and Plant Health Agency), chair of the Professional Standards Authority and Chief Regulator at Ofqual.

In 2019, she chaired an independent review of farm regulation at the request of the then Secretary of State for Defra and was appointed Dame Commander of the British Empire in the New Year's honours list in 2016 recognising her services to education. She was appointed Chair-designate of the OEP in December 2020 and Chair on legal creation of the OEP.



Mark Tufnell
President,
CLA

Mark trained as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse, and owns and manages a traditional estate in the Cotswolds. The farm is mainly arable incorporating key conservation measures for wildlife and enhancing biodiversity. It is part of the Jordans Farm Partnership and a member of LEAF Marque. In addition, there are a number of residential properties and commercial lets.

Mark is President of the CLA and has been actively involved in the organisation for over 20 years at branch and regional level, then chairing the Business and Rural Economy committee, Agriculture & Land Use committee and latterly the Taxation committee.



Chris Williams
CEO,
Royal Forestry Society

Chris has over 30 years' experience in the nature conservation, education and charity sectors, mostly at senior level.

He is keen to see forestry play its part in helping to address a range of environmental and societal challenges, and sees the Royal Forestry Society (RFS) as a long-established champion of the sector. Before joining the RFS as Chief Executive in 2021, he was a Director at the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and prior to that, a Regional Manager for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Chris will be talking about the known concerns regarding skills and capacity in the sector and what the RFS has been doing to help address them. This includes the RFS's extensive forest education and training programmes, their work developing qualifications, and their Forestry Roots placements, which helps new entrants into the sector. Chris will also talk about an ambitious new campaign, which aims to promote the value of trees and forestry to a wider audience, and encourage more young people to choose forestry a career.



Tom Williams
Managing Director,
Maydencroft Ltd

**TODAY'S CONFERENCE
WAS CHAIRED BY:**

**DOUGAL DRIVER,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GROWN IN BRITAIN**

**JANE HULL,
AREA DIRECTOR, SOUTH EAST AND
LONDON,
FORESTRY COMMISSION**

**TIM BAMFORD,
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, CLA**

Tom is MD and founder of Maydencroft, an environmental consultancy and contracting business which employs 140 people UK wide.

Maydencroft is somewhat unique in having specialisms in a number of different disciplines, all of which contribute to our holistic approach to Forestry, Woodland Creation and Nature Recovery. We assess, design, deliver and manage sites and projects from inception to completion, and beyond.

In today's complex and fast-moving world of forestry, and often with good intention, single-minded ideology continues to be stamped on our precious landscapes – a balanced view across a wide knowledge base is more important now than ever.

Tom will demonstrate with worked examples, the importance and value of a joined-up approach between different rural professions when it comes to forestry and woodland management and large-scale tree planting, and how Maydencroft is responding to the skills-shortage in our industry.

[Grown in Britain](#)

[The Country Land and Business Association \(CLA\)](#)

[Forestry Commission](#)