

Tree Scribe



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THE SUCCESS of British agriculture in responding to the stimuli applied during and since the war to increase production now presents problems of real magnitude in how the process is dampened down without severe disruption in the rural economy.

Mounting surpluses in the EEC and the cost of the CAP are well publicised.

Whatever solutions are forthcoming, it does seem likely that several different, if complementary, approaches will be required. Modifications to the CAP appear inevitable but not yet within the grasp of politicians.

Without waiting for an EEC outcome the Government has given an airing to its view that greater diversification is required in rural land use, marking the change in policy away from the over-riding priority given to food production.

Given that the latter policy has held sway for nearly 50 years, it may take some time for attitudes to change. The announcement that planning authorities need no longer accord agricultural land special protection by virtue of its current use for food production was mis-represented by some

TOWARDS A NEW ENLIGHTENMENT

*An appraisal
of the
Government's
initiatives
on land use*

as a call to planning authorities to sanction housing developments on any agricultural land.

The outcry missed the point that planning control still rested with the planning authorities. (It also overlooked the fact that much housing development had taken place on arable land where the local need was perceived as over-riding).

The creation of more farm woodlands is expected to play a part in the diversification process and financial encouragement is to

be given to farmers to promote this, with an initial target of 36,000 hectares being planted in the first three years.

The scheme envisages a minimum area of three hectares per holding, with a minimum area of one hectare for each individual woodland, and a maximum area per holding of 20 hectares in the lowlands and 40 hectares elsewhere.

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Hail Caledonian!



● Mr Casimir Ehnrooth of Kymmene-Stromberg (left) and Lord Glenarthur of the Scottish Office plant a symbolic birch tree at the site of the new Caledonian pulp mill at Irvine.

(Picture by courtesy of the Forestry Commission)

BRITAIN'S forest industry received a massive boost in confidence with the announcement at the beginning of this year that the internationally-renowned Kymmene-Stromberg corporation of Finland had decided to invest £215 million in a new integrated pulp and paper mill at Irvine in Ayrshire.

The operation will trade as Caledonian Paper plc and the product will be lightweight coated paper manufactured from domestic spruce pulpwood, imported chemical pulp and china clay from Cornwall.

Start-up is planned for April, 1989 and in full production the mill will use 200,000 tonnes a year of spruce pulpwood drawn from state and private forests in West Scotland. 480 jobs will be created in Irvine and a further 400 will be secured in timber harvesting, road haulage and supporting industries. There is an opportunity for a second production line to be installed in the mid-1990s.

This brings total investment in new and expanded wood processing in Britain to almost £600 million over the past six years.

The Irvine mill, which represents the largest single inward investment ever made in Scotland, marks the crowning achievement of the Scottish Forest Products Development Group set up in 1981 in the wake of the closure of the Fort William pulp mill, and on which MD David Brierton has served throughout as a TGUK representative.

There will be other important spin-offs in the Scottish economy from the Caledonian Paper mill. Consumption of electrical power, for example, will rank second only to the giant Ravenscraig steel complex.



Park plaudits

THE Snaprails Park, Sandhurst, contract undertaken by Central Landscape branch based at Greenhills has recently won a major award.

The Mars Awards are the major environmental honours in Royal Berkshire, awarded to schemes which have made the most positive efforts to improve the living and working environment.

Snaprails Park was the garden of a large house, long since demolished. The garden had become overgrown and neglected with much

invasive scrub growth beginning to form impenetrable thickets.

Nonetheless, there were still many attractive specimen trees in the park. For example, an especially fine mature Tulip Tree dominates the pond area, and other specimen trees include cedars, maples, oaks, swamp cypresses and sequoias. There are a number of large examples of the "Tree Heath" also by the pond.

The Park, 3.5 hectares, is one of the principal features of public open space in a major development of 2000 dwellings between the town of Sandhurst and the Royal Military Academy. The Barton Willmore Partnership were the landscape architects for the rehabilitation works and G. Osborne Limited, the main contractor.

The amenities introduced for local residents included a footpath and cycleway running along the original drive, a meadow, two play areas, a kickabout area, a streamside walk and a wild garden, approached by a footbridge over a stream.

The focal point of the park is the pond, originally totally silted up, invaded by rushes and other wetland species and blocked with debris.

Before excavation began water-loving species, iris, ferns and other marsh plants were carefully removed and later replanted as a natural aquatic fringe. A cobbled, stepped water cascade at the pond overflow is an attractive feature, especially at times of high water discharge.

In all, 10,300 square metres of grass seeding was carried out, and 34 selected specimens were planted of lime, ash, red oak, oak, hornbeam and Norway maple. Seven thousand shrubs, hundreds of transplants and narcissi completed the planting.

Play areas, 450 square metres in extent, were protected with dog-proof fences and a woodchip play surface laid. Swings, a "sputnik," helicopter, bench seats, litter bins and wood steps were installed.

The transformation of a semi-derelict area into a most attractive amenity with plenty of relaxing open space is now complete. After two seasons' growth something of the original grandeur and beauty is beginning to pervade the park once more. The introduction of the play areas adds to its appeal to the younger members of the community.

● LEFT: THE PLAY AREA IN SNAPRAILS PARK

ONE SNOWY night in February my son ran into a tawny owl which was sitting in the road a few yards from our gate. He took it to the vet who thought it had concussion as it had a cut over one eye. He treated the injury and the owl seemed otherwise unharmed. He sat there, watching everyone and was a great favourite at the surgery.

With instructions to return him to the vet in three days, he was brought home and fed on tinned cat food, which was not very easy as he spat it out at every opportunity.

We sat him on the back of an old garden chair in the utility room so that I could keep an eye on him and he was quite content to have someone talk to him and stroke his feathers.

Steak and liver cut into little pieces and pushed down his throat proved more to his liking than cat food and four days later he started to take the food himself.

The swollen eye looked better and he was livelier, so I persuaded him to sit on my arm and carried him out in the evening to sit on the garden fence to see if he would fly to his mate who was hooting just across the field. When he was still there at bedtime, he was brought inside again as I was afraid a fox might get him.

After a week of this pattern, he still showed no sign of wanting to fly, so I encouraged him to exercise his wings by moving my arm up and down, which he imitated. He was so beautiful, with his great dark eyes watching every move and, although he had a very sharp beak and long claws for tearing food, he

Elizabeth Bradbury,
clerk/typist in Marches branch,
describes how she nursed an
injured tawny owl back
to good health



● Elizabeth Bradbury with the owl she cared for briefly.

was so gentle that I didn't even get a scratch.

One night he flew around the kitchen and landed on my son's shoulder and I knew he would probably fly the following night. The next day I sat him on the fence while I was gardening and he took a great interest in watching the other birds I feed.

I fed him that evening, took him outside and, almost immediately, he flew away, although I can still hear him hooting across the field in the evenings.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ON LAND USE

Continued from front page

Planting grants would be available under the conditions of the Forestry Commission's forestry and broadleaved woodland grant schemes, and annual payments are proposed for 20 years for conifers or mixed woodland and 30 years for pure broadleaves as a partial offset for the loss in agricultural revenue.

While the details of the scheme are subject to wide consultation before being finalised and while there is a question as to whether the levels of subsidy outlined

would, in fact, encourage the degree of activity sought, there is no doubt that the general concept is greatly to be welcomed.

If trees appropriate to the site are grown and properly looked after, even small woodlands can produce useful timber as well as enhancing the landscape.

Equally to be welcomed is the Government's raising of the target for new commercial afforestation, State and private sector combined, from 30,000 to 33,000 hectares per annum. This surely is a recognition that the wood processing industries depend on timber produced on a reasonable scale and that the country's

self-sufficiency in timber leaves plenty of room for increased production.

Also, no longer is afforestation to be expected to make do with the poorest land, grudgingly released from agriculture; there have been several references to forestry "coming down the hill." Market forces will have much to do with this coming into effect.

It is perhaps too early to acclaim a new age of enlightenment, but certainly foresters and others actively involved in land-use will warmly applaud a response to their pleas for less constraint on the availability of better quality planting land.

PROFILE Bryson Middleton

TALKING to Bryson Middleton, it very quickly becomes clear that he is a man totally in harmony with his environment and with his chosen lifestyle. On joining Tihill in 1970, he put down roots in the Border country which have strengthened with the years.

As southern area manager for Tihill's Scottish Division, Bryson acts in a supervisory and advisory capacity for four branches — Borders, run from the same office in Jedburgh, Lothians, based further north in Gifford, Solway, operating from Carlisle, and Yorkshire forestry branch, based in Thirsk.

Having such a large territory to cover means that he is seldom in his office — something which happens to suit him admirably, for he is a man who likes to keep in touch with the countryside and the staff in his branches. Being tied to a desk would be anathema to him and he freely confesses to finding paperwork a "necessary evil."

His management style is avuncular, getting the best from his branch managers by a blend of friendly and knowledgeable advice, tactfully delivered and backed up by his wealth of experience.

Settling in the Borders followed an unintentional start to his career, involving a lengthy spell abroad which originally, unlike some of his fellow graduates in forestry, he did not actively seek.

Hailing from Aberdeenshire, Bryson spent his formative years on a farm concerned mainly with rearing livestock. His father had managed an Aberdeen livestock market before taking up full-time farming and his mother ran a family butcher's business.

"He sold them on the hoof and she sold them across the counter," is Bryson's graphic description of his family background.

Bryson would have followed a career in agriculture but for the influence of a certain Frank Oliver, then the Forestry Commission's conservator for East Scotland and a neighbour of the Middletons. He encouraged the young Bryson to take up forestry and, at the last moment, he switched to a forestry degree course at Aberdeen University.

Then followed two years' National Service in the Royal Engineers but, alas, by the time Bryson was ready to look for a job, employment in forestry had taken a downturn and he could not have picked a worse time to join the job market.

"The immediate post-war planting boom was over," explained Bryson. "By the middle '50s both interest and urgency had evaporated and the Forestry Commission was forced to cut back its planting programme and the numbers it employed."

In 1959, out of 65 graduates from UK universities, the Forestry Commission employed only two, the Colonial Office took 13 (the last they ever engaged) and three more were absorbed into the private sector. Bryson Middleton was not among them.

Newly-married and desperate for a job, Bryson went to work for Unilever and, after a brief spell in their London headquarters, was sent to Nigeria to plant oil palms. Although he would have much

His hobby is his work

preferred a job in timber, working on established estates in Nigeria and then in Cameroon was closely allied to it and he enjoyed the life better than he had expected.

After three-and-a-half years he was transferred to North Borneo, known as Sabah since gaining its independence, this time on development work, establishing new estates from dense jungle.

"It was tough work," recalls Bryson. "We had to fell, clear, make roads, build drainage and plant oil palm estates of 15,000 acres in a hot, sweaty climate where skilled labour was at a premium."

Added to that were the day-to-day problems of living 70 miles up-river without road communications. Links with the outside world were by river or by a tiny airstrip the estate people built for themselves. Bryson was, by now, deputy estate manager and the Middletons had established themselves firmly as part of the community.

Bryson's wife Isabel returned to the UK for the birth of their first son, but two later ones were born in Sabah. Isabel started a school for local and estate children which was later taken over by the Government, who appointed her headmistress in charge of the school's 250 children.

Higher education — or the lack of it — for the Middletons' growing boys was, ironically, to cause their return to the UK in 1969. As a devoted family man, Bryson did not relish the prospect of sending his sons home for a boarding school education in the manner of many



Val Pettit meets Scottish Division's southern area manager Bryson Middleton in his home patch of Jedburgh in the rolling Border country.

expatriates and, despite there being no job lined up for him, the Middletons returned to Aberdeen, where they had wisely kept on a house.

A prudent streak in Bryson's nature had, however, prompted him to approach Tihill's managing director David Brierton on his previous home leave, a contact which would prove fruitful — though not immediately.

To plug a gap — and to fend off a very real fear of unemployment which had haunted him since his father had suffered a spell without work in Bryson's childhood — he took an administrative job with a mineral exploration company where his role was to act as intermediary between his employers and the local Aberdeenshire farming community whose ways and dialect he understood.

It did nothing to further his career in forestry but it enabled him to find his feet again in the UK long enough to follow up his earlier contact with Tihill. This time, there was a job for him and, at long last, Bryson found himself working in his chosen field.

The job was as assistant branch manager in Borders branch under Sandy Macpherson. Co-incidentally, Bryson took over in Jedburgh from Murray Ure, now Tihill's investment manager, with whom he had graduated and served in the Royal Engineers and who had also been in Borneo, returning just six months earlier. At Murray's invitation, he also took over the Ures' house in Jedburgh where the

Middletons have lived happily ever since.

Two years later, in 1972, Bryson became harvesting and marketing regional manager and in 1974 was appointed branch manager. He was promoted to his present post in 1980.

Two of the Middleton boys are following Bryson into forestry as a career. The two elder boys are studying forestry at Aberdeen. Alex sits his finals this summer and Bryson junior, two years younger, is on the same course. Alan, choosing, like his father before him, to go for something different, is doing a business studies course and plans to become an accountant.

Now firmly rooted in Jedburgh, the Middletons' decision to make their lives in the Borders has been influenced not only by their deep affection for the area but also by other contributory factors. Isabel has worked to establish for herself a highly-respected career in remedial teaching and Bryson has a deep commitment to the church where, formerly a session clerk, he is now treasurer.

But another major commitment on his part was the purchase of two parcels of woodland — one of 10 acres and another of 15 — which he manages himself just for the sheer enjoyment of it.

"If anyone asked me," said Bryson, "I would have to say that my most absorbing hobby is forestry!"

NOT SO very long ago, East Anglia was a remote, peaceful backwater of England, cut off from the hurly-burly of the rest of the south-east by poor transport communications.

The completion of London's orbital M25 motorway linking to the M11, the go-ahead for Stansted as London's third airport and the rise of Cambridge as a centre for high-tech innovation has, however, changed much of that.

The population is rising and investment is on the increase, responding to a vigorous local economy, proximity both to the capital and to seaports, and greatly improved road networks.

Riding high in the wake of this changing scene is Tilhill's Anglia South branch whose order book is twice that of two years ago and which is playing a part in enhancing some of the new developments.

Four years old in October following the split in 1983 of the former single Anglia branch into Anglia North and Anglia South, the branch is managed by Phil Hymers, one of Tilhill's longest-serving branch managers.

Phil managed the original Anglia branch and explained that the split was made in order to stimulate further growth, allowing Anglia North to expand north and west and leaving Anglia South to exploit more fully the potential in the south of the area.

Based at Culford, near Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, Anglia South reaches south to the River Thames, west to the M1 and north to the A45 trunk road from St. Neot's to Felixstowe. The branch is predominantly engaged in landscaping work and, with the one exception of an estate of 65 hectares of broadleaved woodland managed for a private client, all Phil's work is fixed-price contracting.

Currently, his biggest contract is the one awarded in 1986 by the British Airports Authority for landscaping at Stansted Airport.

Stansted is being developed to handle eight million passengers a year and a million pounds worth of landscaping contracts have already been awarded for early phases of the work. Anglia South won the largest and most prestigious of the contracts awarded.

The contract, worth £363,000, and obtained in the face of strong competition, involves perimeter planting of some 45,000 trees of native species to blend airport buildings and runways into the countryside and to soften the lines of a vast long-stay car park with shrubs, whips and heavy standards.

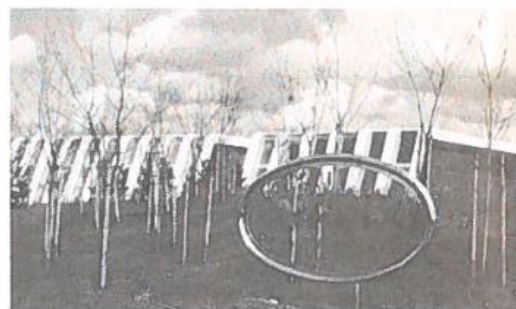
Careful consideration has been given by the client to achieving the best possible standard of landscaping to meld naturally with the surrounding countryside; hence the client's stipulation for the use of trees of native species only in the perimeter planting.

A further indication of their care for the local environment is the establishment of a small ecology park where numerous species of wild orchids found growing on the construction area have been safely transplanted.

The heavy clay soil at Stansted becomes easily waterlogged and most of Tilhill's planting schedule has been suspended to allow the site to dry out. Anglia South's labour team at Stansted is led by David Pitt. He and his men have spent the spring months in fencing, mulching and doing some planting ready for the big push in the autumn.



● Stuart Black (right) looking at plans at Stansted.



● NAPP Laboratories.

VAL PETTIT VISITS AN OPPORTUNITIES PRES

Branch that's really taking off . . .

The completion of a motorway network around London was instrumental in the choice of Stansted as the capital's third airport. These same motorways have given Anglia South three important contracts from the Department of Transport.

The latest, and largest, was on the M40/M25 interchange in Buckinghamshire just outside Rickmansworth, a complicated, spaghetti-like system of underpasses, flyovers and sliproads. The job of planting an area of approximately half a square mile with 180,441 trees and shrubs provided the branch with a contract worth £235,000.

The complexity of the site meant that Tilhill's labour squads wanting to get to a different part of the site on the other side of a carriageway sometimes had to travel as far as five miles to move a mere 20 yards!

The next largest motorway contract was the branch's first, in 1983, for the Colchester by-pass. Worth £100,000, it involved very similar work planting 100,000 transplants and maintaining them for a year. Until then, the branch had participated in innumerable motorway schemes, drilling holes and backfilling prior to planting by the Forestry Commission. Phil was delighted with the breakthrough provided by the Colchester contract into handling the entire project.

The Colchester by-pass was followed in 1985 by a £75,000 contract for planting 70,000 trees and shrubs on the M25 between the M11 and the A121 near Waltham Cross in Hertfordshire. This contract was distinguished by the care needed to avoid puncturing the semi-permeable "terram" membrane below the topsoil on one of two tunnels.

All three motorway contracts were, once again, won against stiff competition. "It's the sort of work we do well," said Phil, who is clearly proud of having secured such large contracts from a Government department.

Geographically-alert readers will have noted that the M40/M25 contract was beyond the boundaries of Phil's area. At the time, Central Forestry branch, into whose patch the interchange fell, had a full order book while Anglia South's was relatively low and with Phil's expertise and excellent performance in this field, it made sense for his branch to handle it.

"In any case," said Phil, "with better motorway links, distances are not the problem they would have been at one time."

Another prestigious contract for the branch was at the Cambridge Science Park where Tilhill were contracted to undertake landscape and structure planting for NAPP Laboratories. Working to a

landscape architect's design, the simple but effective planting scheme of *Cornus* spp (dogwoods), willow and Corsican pine complements the building's futuristic shape and gives welcome winter colour.

In the car park, an unusual effect has been achieved by dividing up the area with raised mounds planted with Cotoneaster "Skogholm" and *Salix repens argentea*.

Following the original £45,000 contract awarded in 1983 when the building was still under construction, the branch has won four further contracts at NAPP.

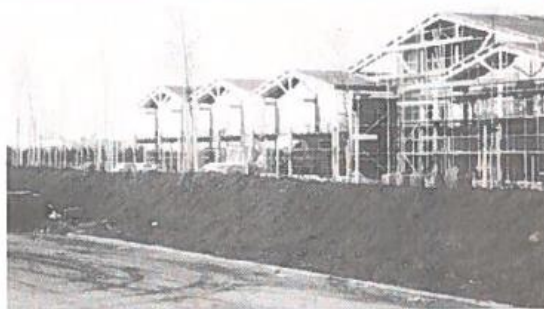
In the same science park, set up in 1975 in tune with a Government initiative to foster universities' contacts with high-tech industries, the branch has completed a £12,700 contract for landscaping a "starter unit," a small two-storey factory/workshop block for small, new enterprises, and has just begun work on a £27,000 contract for structure planting to shield the new St. John's Innovation Centre.

The scheme involves planting fast-growing native hardwoods — willows, alders and poplars — on an area of 4000 square metres and decorative landscaping in the immediate environs of the new building now under construction for St. John's College.

Landscape sub-contractor David Grant, who handles a lot of Anglia South's work, is currently busy



• Decorative paving and shrub beds at Frogmore



• Car park at the Cambridge Innovation Centre

ANGLIA SOUTH BRANCH AND LEARNS ABOUT THE PRESENTED BY THE HIGH-TECH AND POPULATION BOOM

erecting rabbit fencing around the site of the perimeter planting.

Phil also took *Tree Scribe* on a whistle-stop tour of some of the branch's other contracts to illustrate the variety of work undertaken.

There was a brief stop on the A45 near Newmarket where the branch had handled a £28,000 design-and-build landscape contract for a Mobil service station and restaurant complex straddling the dual carriageway and maintained to a very high standard and then a visit to Frogmore Hall near Hertford, a lovely Victorian country house which is the headquarters of Frogmore Estates, plc.

There, Anglia South had completed an unusual contract involving a high proportion of hard landscaping – chequered brick paving to harmonise with detail in the external architecture of the building. "It was a tricky job," said Phil, "but the end result was very pleasing to the eye."

In complete contrast, the grand tour of Anglia South ended at Welwyn Garden City, one of England's first new towns, where Tilhill has landscaped the Hertfordshire County Police headquarters in a £16,600 contract now nearing completion.

"This is typical of the kind of work we do," said Phil. "The client, Hertfordshire County Council, awards us many such contracts in the £10-30,000 range – and they mount up."

"We have just started a much bigger £52,000 contract for them to reclaim a former quarry recently used as a refuse tip."

To round off and just to show that the branch hasn't lost touch with its forestry roots, Phil elaborated on the forestry management work Anglia South carries out at Wyken Hall. It has been under Tilhill management since 1980 and virtually the whole woodland is designated as an SSSI owing to the change in soil type and consequent change in natural vegetation type from one end of the estate to the other.

The management of Wyken Hall is designed to conserve the existing vegetation structure which varies from pure hornbeam coppice on the heavier soils to the south to hazel coppice on the lighter, sandier soils elsewhere. The hazel coppice in particular is being actively worked for firewood and the new growth will be worked to provide thatching spars for traditional roofing.

PHIL HYMERS joined Tilhill in 1972 straight after graduating with a B.Sc. in forestry from Aberdeen University. He spent five years in Northern branch as an assistant branch manager, and then went to Marches branch in 1977 as branch manager, dividing his time initially between running the branch and managing the West Midland Timber Treatment Company in which Tilhill was then a partner.

In 1980, he transferred to the original Anglia branch as branch manager, assuming responsibility for Anglia South when the territory was divided in 1983.

Phil is an active member of his local parish church where he is church warden. What little time remains after work and church commitments Phil claims is taken up acting as a taxi driver to his four children!



Phil Hymers

He clearly enjoys the landscaping aspect of Tilhill work and his enthusiasm for it has been instrumental in the way Anglia South has capitalised on the potential for landscape work in the area.

Modestly, he attributes the success of landscaping projects to the skill and hard work of the branch's labour and sub-contractors.

FORESTER Stuart Black joined Tilhill in 1985. He gained an OND in forestry at Newton Rigg and went straight to Anglia South on amenity forestry work.

He was heavily involved in the M25/M40 interchange project and from now on will be increasingly involved at Stansted. In his spare time, Stuart engages in a lot of sporting activity.

ASSISTANT contracts manager Clive Tanner joined Tilhill in February this year from the London Borough of Redbridge where he was a landscape architect.

Sadly, he suffered recurrence of a back problem within a few days of joining Tilhill, but has now resumed work.

EDITH MOUNCEY is the branch's secretary. She has been with Tilhill at Culford for 13 years, originally as secretary for Anglia branch before its division into two, working initially for John White and then Martin Wilkinson in their time as branch managers.

She has a son who has just started his own horticultural business and, thanks to her experience with Tilhill, Edith is able to help out with the bookwork in her spare time.



Stuart Black



Clive Tanner



Edith Mouncey

IAN LEAR, assistant contracts manager, joined the branch in 1986 from Oxford City Council where he was a senior chargehand in landscaping.

After graduating from Bangor University with a degree in forestry and soil science, he worked for a time in a wholesale nursery in Cheltenham.

With Tilhill, he deals with all aspects of landscaping contracts. His hobbies are conservation, photography and squash.



• Ian Lear with container-grown shrubs.

Woodland wildlife . . .

THE management and control of timber crops and the manipulation of forests and woodlands has always been at the core of the work of the practising forester.

He deals every day with an ever-changing, dynamic collection of habitats. Maintaining the diversity of these habitats can do much towards the conservation of our countryside's wildlife and a great deal can be achieved at little or no cost if thoughtful planning is applied.

With conservation now very much a live issue in Great Britain it was timely that the subject of this year's Institute of Chartered Foresters Spring Discussion Meeting was Wildlife Management in Forests.

Such a wide ranging topic is difficult to cover between a Friday afternoon and a Sunday but some 75 delegates were treated to ten excellent papers ranging from red deer to butterflies.

The organisers are to be congratulated in arranging that every speaker came from the sharp end of current research and field practice and all demonstrably on top of their subject matter.

Foresters, through their previously low public profile, have not made known sufficiently well to the public just how valuable forest and woodland habitats are.

We well understand how this value will further increase as the relatively juvenile age structure of the nation's forest estate develops and matures.

That will all take time and it may be enhanced along the way by a little effort which has a high pay-back in terms of conservation benefit and a greater ability to exercise positive management control.

ICF members attending the AGM in Lancaster confirmed the continuance of Bob Gray in the President's chair. In typical fashion, Bob speculated that this might be due either to our satisfaction with his handling of this busy post or apathy on our part that we felt safe no lasting harm would result if he stayed.

We are not known for our apathy; Bob can be reassured that the membership is well pleased and we look forward to the coming year under his helm.

The Institute's Medal is our highest award. It was fitting that, after a life of support and devotion to the development of forestry education and training, members voted unanimously to make this award to Professor Charles Taylor.

The President presented this accolade to Professor Taylor after reading to the meeting the citation listing his considerable achievements both in the field of education and in the promotion of the Institute as a professional body and as instigator of the move to Chartered status.

Tilhill adds its own congratulations to Charles Taylor for this well-deserved award.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Stephen Havranek of Argyll branch on his marriage to Evelyn MacDougall from Perthshire . . .

. . . Redmond de Burgh of Argyll branch and his wife,

Lorna, on the birth of a son, Calum, on December 19 . . .

. . . Richard Sochacki of Marches branch and his wife on the birth of a daughter, Joanna Clare on March 31, a sister for Thomas. Richard has also recently passed the driving test of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

FERGUS TICKELL has taken over as manager of Argyll branch.

The appointment takes Fergus back to his home territory. He was brought up in Lochaline in Morvern and, as he knows the area so well, is delighted to be returning with his wife, Anne and baby son, Andrew.

Prior to this promotional transfer, Fergus was with Central Forestry branch as senior abm, having joined Tilhill in 1981 with a first-class honours degree from Edinburgh University.

Keenly interested in the historical evolution of Scottish land use, Fergus may also be able to supply some useful experience to the Oban Rugby club as he has been a league player with Stirling for several seasons.

Graham Chalk has joined Borders branch as an abm. Graham graduated from Bangor University in 1985 and has spent the intervening period working for the Forestry Commission, spending a year in South Wales and eight months in the New Forest.

Scottish

He was employed as a forest survey assistant assessing yield class and, as many of the Borders branch management properties planted in the early seventies reach first thinning stage, his experience in this field will prove very useful.

Andrew Binks has joined Yorkshire Landscape branch as assistant contracts manager. Andrew qualified from Hadlow College, Kent with an OND in Commercial Horticulture and gained experience working with Hillier and Oakover Nurseries before setting up and running his own contracting company dealing in domestic landscape work.

Simon Jacyna has been promoted from abm to contracts manager with Northern Landscape branch.

Douglas Macmillan has joined Central branch as an abm. He

People

graduated from Aberdeen University in 1984 with an honours degree in Forestry and has since obtained an M.Sc in Forestry and Operations Research at the Pennsylvania State University in the USA.

In his spare time, Douglas enjoys most sports, particularly squash and football and is very keen on Scottish history. He is also "computer literate" and has written a simple woodland valuation program for micro computer use.

Andrew Malcolm has joined Central branch as branch forester. He qualified in 1984 with a SCOTEC diploma in forestry from the Scottish School of Forestry in Inverness and prior to joining Tilhill worked as a contractor in Argyllshire.

Alan Parr has joined Central branch as an abm. He graduated last year with a degree in forestry from Aberdeen University and before joining Central branch spent five months with Argyll branch and a short period with the National Trust in the Lake District. His interests include painting, photography and mountaineering.

Abms John Little and Stephen Havranek have both transferred from Central to Argyll branch.



Fergus Tickell



Andrew Binks



Douglas Macmillan



Andrew Malcolm



Alan Parr

CONTRACTS

CENTRAL branch has won a £66,000 contract from the Forestry Commission for site preparation and the planting and maintaining of 51,000 trees on the M4 and M25 near Heathrow. **Hampshire County Council** awarded three contracts, worth £27,175, £6202 and £2498, for tree and shrub planting at schools in the Southampton area and a private client in East Hampshire awarded a £21,000 contract for planting of a shooting spinney.

The branch also won two smaller contracts, one from **Astor Chemicals** at West Drayton for fencing and tree planting (£5543) and the other from **Elmbridge Borough Council** for fencing (£5400).

● **CENTRAL LANDSCAPE** branch has won contracts totalling £354,057.

The largest came from **Balfour Beatty** (£122,000) for work at Watchmoor Park, Camberley, and

Willett Ltd. awarded two contracts totalling £109,401 for work at Brooklands section 52 (£73,047) and an industrial screen at Brooklands (£36,354).

Woking Borough Council awarded a £51,751 contract for work at Goldsworth Park West and the **University of Surrey** awarded a £37,831 contract for work at the Surrey Research Park in Guildford.

Other contracts include **Hughes and Sons** (£15,000) for work at Netley Gun Site, the **AA** (£11,261) for work at Norfolk and Fanum Houses at Basingstoke, Hants, and **Tartan Buildings Ltd.** (£6813) for work at Mainframe 11 at Weybridge.

● **MARCHES** branch has won contracts totalling £150,442.

The largest, worth £69,422, came from the **Department of Transport** for roadside tree planting and maintenance along the Worsop bypass. **Sandwell Metropolitan Borough** awarded a £29,800 contract for urban landscaping and associated hardworks, the **PSA** awarded a fencing, seeding and tree planting contract in Chester and **Derbyshire**

Southern

County Council awarded a £9800 contract for work at a reclaimed colliery site at Apeknowle.

Other contracts came from **Wychavon District Council** (£8180) for work at Evesham and **The Woodland Trust** (£4853) for fencing at Church Stretton.

● **SOUTH EAST FORESTRY** branch has won contracts totalling £175,043.

Contracts to the value of £100,319 came from **Kent County Council** — £89,436 in association with the **Department of Transport** for motorway embankment planting and three years' maintenance on the M25 at Swanley, a further £5257 contract for motorway planting on the M25 at Dartford and a contract worth £5626 for work at Foalhurst Wood and Preston Hill.

ARC Property Developments Ltd. awarded two contracts for the A20/20 development at Allington, one worth £11,284 for verge reinstatement and the second, worth £14,277 for

and places



Julian Ohlsen

Southern

Mrs Eileen Adams has joined Marches branch as branch secretary. She has come to Tilhill from the West Midland Timber Treatment Plant at Ditton Priors and replaces Mrs Carys Palmer who left to join the Shropshire Probation Service.

Julian Ohlsen has joined South West branch as a forester. Julian began his forestry career at Longleat Estate followed by study at Newton Rigg. He was then employed by Fountain Forestry in Somerset and Caithness until he took a year out in 1984 to travel the world. On returning to the UK he became a self-employed forest worker until his appointment with Tilhill.

Julian is a keen sportsman with a particular interest in cricket.

Richard Carrick has left South West branch, where he was employed as a forester for three-and-a-half years, to join the Forestry Commission at Saverne Forest.

Nurseries

Ian Weatherhead has joined Nurseries Division as assistant to the nursery production manager.

After completing a B.Sc. in Botany at London University in 1983, Ian went on to do a Ph.D at Reading where he was involved with a research project sponsored by the Forestry Commission and undertaken jointly by Reading University and the FC Northern Research Station in Edinburgh.

Ian was born in West Germany and has travelled widely in Europe and America. His other interests include cricket, football and photography.

Margaret Walker and Rachel have been joined in the Nurseries Division office by Mrs Jackie Hines who transferred from Southern Division Central branch where she worked for seven years. Jackie is a keen tennis player and has twice represented England at basketball.



Ian Weatherhead

Signs good for future, guests told

THE dinner dance at York's Viking Hotel was once again a great success.

The guest speaker this year was former Southern Divisional director Bob Gray who attended not only as an old friend of Tilhill but in his capacity as President of the Institute of Foresters.

He assured guests that, 12 months after his departure from Tilhill, the reality of retirement greatly exceeded his wildest expectations. He wondered, too, in an amusing aside, whether or not his absence from the company had any bearing on its recent good performance!

On a more serious note, he welcomed the recent pronouncements about new planting targets and the formation of the Forest Industry Committee and reminded forest managers of their obligations to the environment. "I urge you all," he said, "to continue to have a thorough understanding of environmental pressures and the needs of wildlife."

Earlier, Tilhill chairman H. E. Trevan-Hawke congratulated everyone concerned in Tilhill's record year. "We are pointing in the right direction," he said. "Keep facing that way."

Managing director David Brierton, after



● Bob Gray addresses guests at the York dinner dance.

welcoming the guests, referred to the many helpful signs for the forestry industry in recent months.

"It would have been a brave man," he said, "who, back in the dark days of 1981, had predicted that, by now, the industry would be back on its feet."

Since then, he continued, there had been a stimulating period which had seen high quality board and pulp companies coming into the UK and domestic sawmills expanding and we now had an industry which was well-rounded, vigorous and well spread throughout the country.

"The industry has now come of age," he said, "and it bodes very well for the future of Tilhill, for the confidence of the forestry industry and for recognition of the importance of that industry to the economy."

Division

planting of a railway bund. Blue Circle Industries plc awarded a contract worth £29,989 for work at various quarries. The Woodland Trust awarded a £6993 contract for work at Wendon Wood, Roberts-bridge. Strutt & Parker awarded a £6550 contract for work at Framfield Estate and British Industrial Sand Ltd. awarded a £5631 contract for work at North Park Farm quarry at Godstone.

● SOUTH EAST LANDSCAPE branch has won contracts totalling £119,400.

The largest, for £47,000, came from Blue Circle Estates Ltd. for work at the Dartford International Ferry Terminal. Wandsworth Borough Council awarded a £35,000 contract for container-grown tree planting. Whyatt Ltd. awarded work worth £17,000 at the Queen's Road Day Centre, McCarthy & Stone Ltd. awarded an £11,000 contract for work at Bexhill and British Rail awarded a contract worth £9400 for work at various stations.

● SOUTH WEST branch has won contracts from the PSA totalling

£74,851 for screening of a proposed training village at Cope Hill Down and Chittern Down (£52,454), fencing and planting at an army camp in Blandford to screen new installations (£13,533) and for erosion control planting at Bovington Camp (£8864).

Hawtree & Son awarded a contract worth £8006 for work at Salisbury at South Wilts Golf Club and Taylor Woodrow awarded a £6453 contract for planting at a residential development in Bath. Smaller contracts totalling £6573 came from Sheraton JT for maintenance at an office development in Swindon (£2250), West Dorset District Council for maintenance of local authority car park plant beds at Lyme Regis (£2163) and Bernard Thorpe Ltd. for work at a supermarket in Midsomer Norton (£2160).

● WILTS AND WEST branch has been awarded a contract from South West Water for £17,485 for work along the access road to the Roadford Reservoir, a contract worth £12,860 from the CEGB for landscaping new offices, a contract worth £6702 from British Rail for landscaping work and a contract worth £5625 from Sheraton JT for landscape maintenance at an office complex.

Scottish

ARGYLL branch has won a landscaping contract worth £2066 for the Sea Life Centre at Barmahine near Oban.

● BORDERS branch has won a £7300 contract for the design and implementation of a tree and shrub planting scheme around the Seafield Caravan Park at Seahouses in Northumberland.

● LOTHIAN branch has won a contract worth £25,255 for the supply of plants and planting at Harecleugh Estate near Westruther, a £23,294 contract for fencing, planting and maintenance work at Easthouses Bing at Dalkeith in Midlothian, a £10,081 contract from Blue Circle Industries for planting and maintenance work at Dunbar Works and a £5352 contract from East Lothian District Council for planting on an old coal bing at Winton, near Tranent.

● NORTHERN LANDSCAPE branch has been awarded contracts totalling £42,612. The largest, worth £15,348, came from Morrison Construction for planting on the

Auldearn by-pass. Gordon District Council awarded a £12,241 contract for phase one of Balmadie woodlands, the SSHA awarded a £6753 contract for planting at Peterhead and the Church of Scotland/Hugh MacRae & Company awarded contracts totalling £8270 for landscaping at Culduthel Home for the Confused Elderly.

● SOLWAY branch has won a £50,000 contract from William Moss to landscape the new Asda Superstore in Carlisle.

● YORKSHIRE LANDSCAPE branch has won a contract worth £317,932 from English Industrial Estates which involves landscape improvements on 11 industrial estates in the north-east. The work includes three years' maintenance.

The branch has also won two contracts from the CEGB valued at £30,817 and £28,694. Included in the contract works are experimental plots for tree seeding to establish methods for possible future treatments for landscaping fuel ash mounds.

Other contracts include security fencing (£4428) and mound formation and seeding works (£11,974), both for ICI plc at Middlesbrough.

IT IS pleasing to report that the company made progress on all fronts in 1986, establishing new records for sales and profits. This splendid achievement, which reflects great credit on all the staff, stems from their dedication and commitment to the company's advancement.

Particularly notable was the result in our Nurseries Division where sales were significantly up both in volume and value, and profit was again increased.

The nursery is the recognised leader in its field and has earned its reputation by a combination of applied skills and timely capital investment. A further £¼ million was committed in 1986 to extend the area under cultivation, to double the cold-storage capacity and to improve the water supplies for irrigation and frost protection.

The increased output from the nursery permitted increased supplies both to the trade and to our own clients, the latter reflecting a further increase in new planting, particularly by our Scottish Division where the area planted was the best achieved since 1982.

Demand for investment in new planting remains strong and is constrained only by the availability of land of a quality we feel confident about recommending to our clients. In this respect the long-awaited announcement by DAFS in the Spring of some relaxation of their criteria for releasing hill and upland land for planting was most welcome, albeit too late to assist 1986 planting.

During the year both private and institutional clients made significant acquisitions, particularly in Scotland and the North of England, and the total area under management again increased.

In a strong market some clients also took the opportunity to realise holdings, clear benefit being gained by those who had heeded the company's consistent advice to concentrate on accessible and productive sites.

The company's sales of

timber showed a marked increase in the volume sold derived from early thinnings in new plantations, and particular attention was given to meeting commitments to supply the bulk-using pulp and chipwood markets.

The planned process of separate specialisation in landscaping was further advanced and an increase of 21 per cent obtained in sales. Margins, however, remain under pressure in this highly-competitive field. Major work was undertaken in motorway planting and a very large contract won at Stansted Airport.

The Government has been giving more attention to the question of different uses for land likely to be surplus to agricultural requirements.

While encouragement will be given to farmers to plant woodlands of modest extent there is also recognition that the burgeoning forest products industry needs high-

Still growing strong

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

volume supplies of timber and the raising of the target for new commercial planting, state and private combined, from 30,000 hectares to 33,000 hectares per annum is most timely.

Following hard on the heels of new sawmilling developments and the major investments in new and expanded bulk processing by such as Caberboard, Thames Board, Shotton, Highland Forest Products, Egger and Kronospan comes the announcement by Kymmene-Stromberg of their new pulp and paper mill at Irvine which alone will use 200,000 tonnes of spruce pulpwood per annum.

The new strength of the forest products industry gives added confidence to, and justification for, investment in forestry. There are indications of increasing interest by insurance companies in the forestry sector, reflecting a

growing appreciation of the strength and stability of the forestry industry, not least in comparison with agriculture.

The development of the forest products industry is one of the great but little-recognised success stories of British manufacturing industry. That it uses as its feedstock the natural and renewable domestic resource of timber and substitutes high value imports is all the more important to both the rural and national economies.

A very warm welcome is given to the newly-formed Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain which seeks to bring a cohesive voice to the industry as a whole, from nurserymen through to the largest processors and embracing growers, managers, trade union, academics, contractors and sawmillers.

Together, the combined industry is a significant constituent of the rural and national economies, with much to contribute in employment, productive land use, wealth creation and import substitution. The role of the industry deserves to be better understood in the community as a whole.

The FICGB's first speedy action was a coherent response to the rather narrowly-based National Audit Office report on the Forestry Commission. Its next task is the production of a soundly-based strategy for the industry as a whole.

There are encouraging signs that more and better is expected of forestry. We in Tilhill shall be playing our full part in contributing further to the industry's development.

A voice for forestry

IN A move long advocated in certain quarters the entire British forestry and wood products industry outside of the State sector has come together to advance its common interests and put forward the views of the industry as a whole.

At its inaugural meeting in January the formation of the Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain was supported by representatives of all sectors including sawmilling, pulp and paper, board, harvesting, forest management, private growers, nurserymen, trade union, universities, training, and the Royal Societies. The Chairman was confirmed as the Hon. James Galbraith.

FICGB lost no time in getting down to work. Its first task was to undertake the industry's response to the National Audit Office's review of Forestry Commission objectives and achievements.

This was done with commendable speed with the assistance of Edinburgh-based consultants Finn Crichton Roberts in time for consideration by the Public Accounts Committee at the beginning of February.

At an all-party meeting on forestry attended by members of the House of Lords and MPs the chairman of FICGB said, "Forestry is an important industry as well as a land use. There is no point in producing timber unless there is the capability to process it. Equally, no one is going to invest in a forest products industry if there is not a guaranteed long-term supply of timber."

"It is only when we put these two sides of the industry together — the land use and the processing sector — that we can appreciate how to maximise the benefits of the primary resource in terms of import substitution, added value, and employment."

Already, new facts are emerging. The latest survey of employment in forestry and wood processing has shown that 40,000 jobs are involved, a considerably higher figure than the

previously published estimate of 27,250. Further detailed studies are to be undertaken relating to the significance in a sample district of forestry and wood-processing employment, and to the linkages among the various sectors of the industry.

Invited to brief the Secretary of State for Scotland on its formation and role, FICGB was able to highlight the separate but inter-dependent components of the industry and the contribution to the economy of the added value involved in processing the domestic resource.

Even at local level the employment generated within a productive forest is seven times that of traditional hill farming, one of several points that seemed to be well taken by Mr Rifkind.

FICGB is the long-awaited voice of the industry, aiming to ensure that the entirety of the national forestry resource is fully comprehended and properly presented to Government and the people.

Work is already in hand on the preparation of a definitive strategy for the national forestry industry.

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