

## **Forestry Strategy Event – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Forest Research Northern Research Station, Roslin.

### **Overview of the summit**

The aim of the event was to bring together participants with a wide range of forestry interests to celebrate the significant achievements delivered under the Forestry Strategy since its publication in 2019 and explore the opportunities and challenges that forestry faces to ensure it continues to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits for Scotland.

The event's programme is given at Appendix 1, the list of attendees at Appendix 2, and information on the partnership projects showcased at the event at Appendix 3.

### **1. Welcome to Northern Research Station (James Pendlebury, Chief Executive, Forest Research)**

Participants were welcomed to the event and reminded of the importance of using robust science and evidence to inform the decisions of both policy makers and forestry practitioners. Examples were given of how Forest Research has supported this through work on the National Forest Inventory, quantifying the sustainable forestry carbon cycle, and productive species choice under the Route Map to Resilience.

### **2. Opening remarks (Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands)**

The Cabinet Secretary gave a short speech which emphasised that despite many challenges for forestry over the past few years, a great deal has been achieved since the publication of the Forestry Strategy in 2019, and this should be celebrated.

The Strategy's pivotal role in giving direction for current activities and future plans was highlighted, with examples of how Government and partners have risen to meet challenges and make the most of opportunities. Delegates were asked to reflect on what has been done already, and to contribute their ideas about what actions are needed in the next few years to continue to deliver the Strategy.

A key message was that Government can't deliver the Strategy alone, so it is imperative that the sector continues to work together to maintain momentum towards realising the 50-year vision for Scotland's forests and woodlands.

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### 3. Delivering the Forestry Strategy: case study presentations (Paul Lowe, CEO, Scottish Forestry)

Four delivery partners were invited to nominate and present case studies that illustrated their interpretation of multi-purpose, sustainable forest management and delivery of the Strategy's vision.

- On behalf of the Community Woodlands Association, Angela Williams from the Langholm Initiative in South Scotland spoke about the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve.
- On behalf of the Confederation of Forest Industries, David Robertson from Scottish Woodlands spoke about a woodland creation project in Coulshill, Perthshire.
- On behalf of Scottish Environment Link, Andrew Weatherall from the RSPB spoke about work being done at Abernethy Forest.
- On behalf of Forestry and Land Scotland, Stewart Towers spoke about work on the public estate at Devilla Forest in Fife.

### 4. Points of discussion in the panel session (Chaired by Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands)

Panel:

- Andy Rockall (Director, Community Woodlands Association)
- Stuart Goodall (CEO, Confor)
- James Pendlebury (CEO, Forest Research)
- Alan McDonnell (Head of Nature Restoration at Trees for Life, representing Scottish Environment Link)
- Helen McKay (Chief Forester for Scotland).

The panel offered reflections on the question: "What are the key challenges and opportunities facing the industry?". Key points included:

- **Improved communication** is increasingly critical to support the delivery of the Forestry Strategy, to address misunderstandings, and reduce friction driven by lack of knowledge and misplaced frustrations. Scientific rigour and effective communication are critical for balanced public debate. There is an opportunity for different interests across the sector to collaborate more in developing a set of public messages to support constructive conversations and reduce polarisation, as the current divisions and contrary communications risk undermining forestry's reputation.



- **Addressing the climate crisis:** forestry can contribute to this, but it requires a rapid increase in forest resilience, bringing more forests and species into active management and promoting more smaller-scale forestry.
- **Delivering sustainable forestry:** greater skills, capacity and creativity are needed if we're to continue to deliver multiple benefits in a changing climate, and this will require the forestry sector to diversify its traditional management practices, e.g. design and delivery of productive forests could incorporate smaller coupes and include a wider range of species.
- **Diversification:** this is a hugely exciting direction for the whole supply chain, but progress will always be restricted by limited understanding and embedded thinking, so these need to be challenged and overcome.
- **Community involvement:** key barriers to more involvement in forestry by communities include the price of land, the skills and resources required to be part of schemes, and perhaps most importantly, time.

Questions were asked from the floor and responded to by the panel.

## 5. Reflections on the workshops

A workshop session was held, with three facilitated groups.

Each group was asked:

- What are the main strategic opportunities and challenges that could be addressed over the next five years to enable forestry to continue to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits and realise the Strategy's 50-year vision?
- What actions can your organisation take to help realise these opportunities and address the challenges?

The main points raised in the workshops, as presented by the facilitators at the subsequent plenary session, are given at Appendix 4.

## 6. Closing remarks and next steps (Paul Lowe, CEO Scottish Forestry)

The main points from the day's discussions were highlighted and a commitment made for Scottish Forestry to:



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# Forestry Strategy Event

- Produce a note of the event, share it with participants and publish it on their website.
- Revisit key themes and ideas shared at today's event with the National Forestry Stakeholder group, to help inform the development of the next Strategy Implementation Plan covering the period from spring 2026.

**Close**

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## Appendix 1 – Programme

### Scotland's Forestry Strategy event: Delivering the 50-year vision for forestry

Date: 4 June 2025

Time: 10:30 – 15:30

Venue: Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY.

### Programme (in-person meeting)

| Time         |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>10:30</b> | <b>Arrival, registration, refreshments</b><br>'Delivery marketplace' in the coffee/lunch area - Displays by partners of innovative projects that are delivering the Forestry Strategy.  |
| <b>11:15</b> | <b>Welcome to Northern Research Station</b><br>James Pendlebury, Chief Executive, Forest Research   |
| <b>11:20</b> | <b>Opening address</b><br>Ms Mairi Gugeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands   |
| <b>11:30</b> | <b>Delivering the Forestry Strategy: case study presentations</b><br>Paul Lowe, CEO Scottish Forestry<br><br>Nominated <sup>1</sup> case studies illustrating different interpretations of multipurpose, sustainable forest management, and delivery of Scotland's Forestry Strategy vision: Community Woodlands Association; Confederation of Forest Industries; Scottish Environment Link; and Forestry and Land Scotland.<br><br>Q&A |
| <b>12:20</b> | <b>Panel discussion</b><br>Chaired by Ms Mairi Gugeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands<br><br>Panel members: Community Woodlands Association; Confederation of Forest Industries; Forest Research; Scottish Environment Link; and Chief Forester for Scotland.<br><br>Q&A  |

<sup>1</sup> Organisations were asked to identify a case study that is:

- Currently being delivered in an existing forest or woodland, or a woodland creation scheme that has been established since 2019
- Demonstrates multipurpose, sustainable forest management, supporting the vision of Scotland's Forestry Strategy (2019-2029).



| Time  |   |
|-------|---|
| 13:00 | <b>Lunch</b>  |
| 13:45 | <b>Workshop discussion</b><br>Bob Frost, Head of Forests for People, Scottish Forestry<br><br>1) What are the main strategic opportunities and challenges that could be addressed over the next five years to enable forestry to continue to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits and realise the Strategy's 50-year vision?<br><br>2) What actions can your organisation take to help realise these opportunities and address the challenges? |
| 14:45 | <b>Refreshment break</b>  |
| 15:00 | <b>Plenary feedback on group discussions</b><br>Paul Lowe, CEO Scottish Forestry  |
| 15:25 | <b>Closing remarks and next steps</b><br>Paul Lowe, CEO Scottish Forestry   |

## Appendix 2: List of participants

| Organisation   | Representative     |
|--|--------------------|
| AAC Clyde Space  | Sarah Knight       |
| AAC Clyde Space  | Omasan Akporiaye   |
| Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest                       | Erin Shott         |
| Beo Airceig  | Astie Cameron      |
| Beo Airceig  | Hazel Boyd         |
| Borders Forest Trust                                     | Charles Dundas     |
| Cairngorms National Park Authority                       | Fiona Holmes       |
| Chief Forester for Scotland                              | Helen McKay        |
| Clyde Climate Forest                                     | Chris Stark        |
| Committee on Climate Change                              | Ruth Gregg         |
| Communities for Diverse Forestry                         | Morag Paterson     |
| Community Woodlands Association                          | Andy Rockall       |
| Confederation of Forest Industries                       | Stuart Goodall     |
| Dumfries & Galloway Woodlands                            | McNabb Lowrie      |
| Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust                   | Charlie Cumming    |
| Fife Climate Forest                                      | Rebecca Logsdon    |
| Forest Research  | James Pendlebury   |
| Forest Research  | Chris Quine        |
| Forest Research  | David Edwards      |
| Forestry and Land Scotland                               | Michael Hymers     |
| Forestry and Land Scotland                               | Stewart Towers     |
| Forestry & Timber Technologies Industry Leadership Group | Andy Leitch        |
| Forth Climate Forest                                     | Douglas Worrall    |
| Future Woodlands Scotland                                | Shireen Chambers   |
| Green Action Trust                                       | Karen Sutherland   |
| Highlands & Islands Enterprise                           | Christine Rolin    |
| Institute of Chartered Foresters                         | Louise Simpson     |
| Lantra (Scotland)  | Liz Barron-Majerik |
| Langholm Initiative                                      | Angela Williams    |
| National Access Forum (Scotland)                         | Richard Barron     |
| National Farmers Union Scotland                          | Jonathan Hall      |
| National Trust for Scotland                              | Jeff Waddell       |
| NatureScot   | Claudia Rowse      |



| Organisation  | Representative    |
|---|-------------------|
| Non-Executive member (Scottish Forestry's Strategic Advisory Group) | Phil Taylor       |
| Non-Executive member (Scottish Forestry's Strategic Advisory Group) | Richard Morris    |
| Processors Group (Confederation of Forest Industries)               | David Leslie      |
| Royal Society of Edinburgh  | Des Thompson      |
| Scottish Environment Link   | Andrew Weatherall |
| Scottish Forestry Trust   | Stuart Glen       |
| Scottish Wildlife Trust   | Nicole Still      |
| Scottish Woodlands  | David Robertson   |
| South of Scotland Enterprise  | Andy Tharme       |
| Tilhill   | Andrew Vaughan    |
| Timber Transport Forum  | Iain Catterwell   |
| Trees for Life  | Alan McDonnell    |
| University of Edinburgh   | Yvonne Edwards    |
| Wood Panel Industries Federation                                    | Alastair Kerr     |
| Woodland Trust Scotland   | Simon Ritchie     |

Support staff from Scottish Forestry were also in attendance.





## Appendix 3: Partnership projects

| Project                                    | Description  |
|--|--|
| Canopy – Detecting tree pests and diseases | <p>How can technology help detect tree pests and diseases earlier, across the whole of Scotland? <a href="#">AAC Clyde Space</a> are developing “Canopy”: a detection and classification system for tree health stress signatures in 1.5 metre multi-spectral satellite imagery. Imagery will be collected by AAC Clyde Space’s own satellites, due to launch later this year.</p> <p>Canopy development is funded by Scottish Forestry and Scottish Government through the <a href="#">CivTech programme</a>, sponsored by the Scottish Forestry Tree Health Team. The team are exploring if Canopy <a href="#">could replace and improve their annual program of aerial surveillance</a> by providing quick and comprehensive mapping of suspected new tree health threats. If successful, Canopy could offer many other opportunities for innovation in forest monitoring and management.</p>   |
| Women in Forestry and Future Foresters     | <p>Scottish Forestry works with Lantra to support the <a href="#">Women In Forestry practical training</a> fund which has been available since 2022. The fund is open to any woman resident in Scotland who is either already working in or who is keen to start working in the forest sector and can demonstrate how the training will support the development of their business or employment options.</p> <p>A new fund called the <a href="#">Future Foresters</a> was developed in 2024/25 to support those new to the sector, and in particular those who are studying forestry to gain additional skills and qualifications to progress their career.</p> <p>Both funds provide up to £500 towards a relevant course and is administered through the <a href="#">skillshub.scot website</a>. This fund is supported by the Scottish Forest &amp; Wood-based Industries Industry Leadership skills group as one of the initiatives to attract and encourage young people to become the next generation of foresters.</p> |
| Outdoor and Woodland Learning (OWLS)       | <p><a href="#">Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland</a> is dedicated to increasing opportunities for outdoor learning in and around woodlands. It is a membership organisation, supported nationally by Scottish Forestry.</p> <p>Working with a network of 14 local groups, support and training are provided to teachers (early years through to</p>   |



| Project                         | Description  |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | secondary), practitioners, youth group leaders and more. Outdoor learning links directly with the Curriculum for Excellence through all four of the core capacities and encourages interdisciplinary learning and learning for sustainability. Two annual national networking events are held every year to share best practice, new ideas and problem solve.  |
| Integrating Trees Network (ITN) | <p>The <a href="#">award winning</a> Integrating Trees Network (<a href="#">ITN</a>) is a joint Scottish Government and Scottish Forestry initiative which has built a strong network of farm/croft woodland demonstration sites across Scotland.</p> <p>Designed to be led by farmers and crofters, it hosts free on-farm and virtual events across Scotland to encourage more farmers and crofters to plant and manage trees. It brings together farmers, crofters, and technical experts to share practical knowledge, experiences and advice about the processes, objectives, challenges and outcomes of integrating trees into agricultural businesses. It highlights the numerous benefits trees can offer, from those that support the business to the many climate and biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>Central to the ITN's approach is effective communication, emphasising peer-to-peer engagement to inspire behavioural change. The initiative collaborates with various organisations within the agriculture, land management, and environmental sectors, expanding its reach and impact. The most popular events have focused on integrating trees to improve biodiversity, how best to design shelterbelts and riparian planting.</p> |
| Climate Forests                 | <p>The Central Scotland Climate Forests initiative is a transformative environmental programme aimed at enhancing woodland cover across the central belt of Scotland. It supports Scotland's broader climate goals by increasing carbon sequestration, improving biodiversity, and creating resilient landscapes that benefit both people and nature. Scottish Forestry plays a central leadership and funding role in the initiative.</p> <p>The three climate forests are:</p> <p><a href="#">Clyde Climate Forest</a> which covers Glasgow City Region, comprised of eight local authorities from Greenock to Lanark. The partners involved are Green Action Trust, The Conservation Volunteers, Trees for</p>  |





| Project       | Description  |
|---------------|--|
|               | <p>Cities, Glasgow City Region Green Network, Local Authorities (Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire), Future Woodlands Scotland, University of Glasgow, Tree Council and Woodland Trust Scotland.</p> <p><a href="#">Forth Climate Forest</a> which covers the Forth Valley region, including Stirling, Falkirk, and Clackmannanshire. The partners involved are Stirling University, Local authorities (Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Councils), Woodland Trust Scotland and environmental NGOs.</p> <p><a href="#">Fife Climate Forest</a> which covers the entire Fife region. The partners include CLEAR Buckhaven &amp; Methil, Climate Action Fife, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Fife Communities Climate Action Network (FCCAN), Fife Council, Forestry and Land Scotland, NatureScot, NHS Fife, Rural Skills Scotland, Scottish Forestry, St Andrews Botanic Gardens, Transition University St Andrews, Trees for Cities, Tree Council, Sustainable Cupar and Woodland Trust Scotland</p> |
| Beo Airceig   | <p>Loch Arkaig is one of the nine initial priority areas identified in the Scottish Government's strategic approach to restoring and expanding Scotland's rainforest. The strategic approach aims to restore and expand Scotland's rainforest co-operatively and at a landscape scale.</p> <p>This is what the partners of Achnacarry Estate, Arkaig Community Forest (ACF), Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), and Woodland Trust Scotland (WTS) are doing at Arkaig (Beò Airceig). To date, Scottish Forestry has approved over £1 million of Forestry Grant Scheme funding towards the cost of restoring and expanding the rainforest including the Caledonian pinewoods. This includes funding for rhododendron control, conifer removal, deer management and monitoring, regeneration and native woodland planting.</p>  |
| Branching Out | <p><a href="#">Branching Out</a> is an outdoor therapeutic programme for adults with severe and enduring mental ill health. The service consists of three hours of woodland activities per week delivered over a three-month period.</p> <p>Scottish Forestry oversees the co-ordination and development of the programme through out Scotland.</p>  |

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| Project       | Description  |
|---------------|--|
|               | <p>The programme is delivered in partnership with more than 10 organisations: these include local authority ranger services, regional forest trusts, social enterprises and independent nature-based facilitators. Additional partners include NHS mental health services and mental health charities.</p>   |
| D&G Woodlands | <p><a href="#">Dumfries and Galloway (D&amp;G) Woodlands</a> (a not-for-profit SCIO and membership organisation) is focused on delivering tangible projects that help to provide a response to the climate and nature crises, and at the same time, help to foster a better understanding and appreciation of the region's natural heritage and how it can support sustainable communities.</p> <p>Projects include:</p> <p><a href="#">The D&amp;G Tree Planting Grant Scheme</a>, which provides grants for small native tree and woodland planting projects that fall below the size eligible for the Forestry Grant Scheme. It is administered by D&amp;G Woodlands and funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council's Nature Restoration Funding, Scottish Forestry, Woodland Trust Scotland, windfarms, and private donors.</p> <p><a href="#">Woodlands Plus</a>, which aims to demonstrate how value (employment, public access or biodiversity) can be added to woodland in the region. Project funders include the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the commercial planting sector and the Glenkens &amp; District Trust, administered by Foundation Scotland.</p> <p><a href="#">Bennel Wood- Woodland Laboratory</a> - Bennel Wood (a 13 hectare recently felled conifer woodland near Dalbeattie) was purchased by D&amp;G Woodlands in December 2024. The ambition is to establish it as a woodland laboratory, trialling techniques and approaches that influence natural regeneration on a recently felled site and identifying the range of benefits that result. This project is being supported by South of Scotland Enterprise as part of the Natural Capital Innovation Zone.</p> <p><a href="#">Restoration of the Historic Wood of Keir</a>, a remnant ancient Oak and Ash woodland. D&amp;G woodlands support this restoration project, which is led by the local community, landowners and Keir Community Council and has funding support from the Woodland Trust and the D&amp;G Council's Nature Restoration Funding.</p> |

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| Project                                | Description   |
|--|---|
| Future productive species for Scotland | <p>In early 2024, Scottish Forestry commissioned Forest Research to assemble the evidence required to select a shortlist of future productive species for Scotland.</p> <p>This work is a key action to deliver the new <a href="#">Routemap to Resilience for Scotland's Forests and Woodlands</a>, and was overseen by a cross-sectoral Steering Group. An initial long list of 64 species and eight evaluation criteria was developed. Further refinement was made through expert judgement and stakeholder consultation. The provisional shortlist has about 20 species and will be published later in 2025. It also informs other actions in the Route map, to ensure there is seed and plant supply, improved material, silvicultural knowledge, and processing capability and end markets to maximise the benefits these shortlisted species will provide.</p>   |
| Forest Innovations                     | <p><b>Decarbonising supply chains</b></p> <p>Heavy haulage remains a key opportunity to decarbonise forestry and ensure future fit supply chains. Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) can offer instant emission reductions, but the technology is untested in forestry applications, making it difficult for operators to develop business cases to transition BEV fleets. EV Timhaul is a three-year pilot project supported by Scottish Forestry which deployed two 44 tonne BEVs with partners James Jones and Sons at Lockerbie, and Scotlog in Inverness. Now in year two of three, the experience and understanding gained on operationalisation are invaluable and already informing future directions.</p> <p><b>Decarbonising society</b></p> <p>Wood fibre is a critical enabler for a design based Circular Bioeconomy. The importance of wood is increasing as other sectors seek to displace fossil fuel derived materials with sustainable, nature-based alternatives which sequester carbon as they grow, provide renewable substitutes to finite and polluting resources, and can offer energy recovery and fertiliser as end-of-life co-products. Scottish Forestry has supported research to develop a range of bio-based products from wood including structural timbers, fertilisers, wood fibre insulation, textiles, novel veterinary pharmaceuticals for pigs and sheep, and alternative fuels. As a net exporter of timber, Scotland is ideally positioned to support and advance this sustainable future.</p> |

## Appendix 4: Key points from the workshops

Common themes from the three workshops were:

| Opportunity   | Theme   | Challenge   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverse forests are wanted</li> <li>Plant intimate species mixes at scale.</li> <li>Step change in workforce skills and training required to deliver diverse forests.</li> <li>Re-introducing top predators would help promote and enhance ecosystem functions.</li> </ul>   | <b>Resilience, climate change, pests and diseases</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation in response to climate change needs to be a higher priority.</li> <li>A huge challenge is <i>Ips typographus</i> and future pests and diseases.</li> <li>Need to agree on what is an acceptable level of risk.</li> <li>Focused diversification is a better aim for forestry than seeking a general increase in biodiversity. Future focus should be on which species and mixes to promote.</li> <li>There is an increased expectation from the public for more diverse forests.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industry is responding e.g. woodland creation Route map “is brilliant”</li> <li>More small woodland creation schemes might be more acceptable than fewer large schemes.</li> <li>Case study idea – get a commercial forest and have different interest groups manage the different elements in the forest to maximise benefits. SOSE interesting in trialling this in South Scotland.</li> <li>Understand forest resources better through improved mapping and quantifying – production forecast, biodiversity mapping, hardwood resource, access/community benefits.</li> </ul> | <b>Rate of change</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don’t wait for the problem/threat to appear before making change.</li> <li>Industry isn’t responding fast enough.</li> <li>If we make too many changes too quickly, we lose sight of the objectives.</li> <li>The scale of change (felling, woodland creation) can raise concerns.</li> </ul>  |

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| Opportunity   | Theme                  | Challenge   |
|---|------------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of larger estates and landowners collaborating on landscape-scale culling.</li> <li>• FGS rates are better for deer management than for fencing.</li> <li>• Younger/new stalkers open to change.</li> <li>• Integrated policy/public procurement to tackle food poverty – use venison as healthy red meat option in schools, hospitals, nursing homes etc. Could help with public perception of forestry providing wider public benefits.</li> <li>• Effectively controlling deer populations would allow a paradigm shift in productivity.</li> <li>• Mugdock Country Park - example where good communications enabled deer culling to occur with no issues from the local urban population.</li> <li>• Trees for Life is developing a proposal to support the deer control sector by paying the cost per head to cull deer. The estimated cost is around £15m but they expect to see 320,000 ha of natural regeneration in 10 years.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Deer</b></p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High numbers but low political appetite to increase the cull in particular areas.</li> <li>• Older stalkers are resistant to change - ingrained ways of working.</li> <li>• Lack of training and funding available for training stalkers/wildlife rangers.</li> <li>• SS dominant because deer don't eat it! Everything self-seeds but only one species (SS) is left unbrowsed.</li> <li>• Venison sales give a low return.</li> <li>• Disconnect between urban populations and deer culling.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run a consultation in Scotland on land use, like the Defra one.</li> <li>• There is a fundamental requirement to promote systems thinking at the landscape scale. A holistic approach should consider all operations, from growing to secondary processors.</li> <li>• Potentially significant benefits in promoting a natural capital approach – need more funding and more options.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Land use</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to move forestry off organic soils and onto mineral soils/marginal hill ground.</li> <li>• Grants don't cover all costs - farmers don't have ready cash to go ahead with forestry but large investors do.</li> <li>• There needs to be stronger sense of national purpose and clarity for woodland creation, and closer working with agriculture</li> </ul>  |



| Opportunity   | Theme   | Challenge  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to manage existing woodlands better – not always look only at woodland creation.</li> <li>Tailor advice for farmers (such as via the Integrated trees Network) so that trees on farms reflect the farmer's perspective and the need for multiple benefits.</li> </ul>   |   | <p>so that the grant scheme does not split forestry and agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certainty is needed for investment in forestry, especially for Woodland Carbon Code projects. Having shorter time frames from purchasing land to planting with more certainty regarding the steps would be welcome.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased new woodland aids investor confidence – more timber is wanted.</li> <li>Large diameter softwood availability is increasing so the volume is obtainable if kit and skills are there to harvest it</li> <li>Use procurement levers to specify Scottish timber, e.g. MoD housing could be timber housing.</li> <li>Alternatives to SS will need to be productive - the sector needs decent alternatives, and focused tree breeding for these alternatives, to increase productivity towards SS levels.</li> <li>Look to use wood fibre in Scotland instead of exporting it and shorten the wood fibre supply chain so more Scottish-grown timber is used in Scotland.</li> <li>Understanding a wider range of options and supply chains would give a better focus on how to manage forests.</li> <li>Species change or diversifying species won't be a problem for wood fibre.</li> <li>In combination, Circular Economy and Industrial Biotechnology are key opportunities to diversify</li> </ul> | <b>Future business and the availability of timber</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of timber supply is a challenge because of multiple demands - timber will become a limiting resource in the near term.</li> <li>Increased global demand for wood fibre.</li> <li>Rate of restocking is slow and not using productive species.</li> <li>The ability of the processing sector to adapt and accept alternative species is diminishing over time (through consolidation).</li> </ul> |





| Opportunity  | Theme  | Challenge  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>forest business models and enhance value-add opportunities at all scales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Industry Leadership Group will be working on shortening supply chains in Scotland and thinking about new products like sustainable aviation fuel.</li></ul>   |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accelerate community wealth building and embed it in the forest planning system.</li><li>• Support forest schools – children’s connection to trees and timber is vital for the future.</li><li>• Communicating very good examples of high-quality timber drivers could significantly help public perceptions.</li><li>• Active discussion is the backbone of constructively moving forward together.</li><li>• Public access is important and could be used as a big gain for woodland creation – i.e. forests opening up the landscape for walking, cycling, horse riding with fewer likely conflicts with livestock etc.</li><li>• Community rangers or similar could build better and closer links with communities and help change negative perceptions.</li><li>• More communication, e.g. better signage and storytelling could help connect communities to the benefits of forestry.</li><li>• Forestry schemes need to deliver on what was promised.</li></ul> | <b>Community engagement and public perceptions</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perception is frequently the biggest barrier – there’s a fundamental need to take the public with us.</li><li>• Mistaken assumption in the sector that the public see the same benefits as we do; instead, need to get communities on board before issues are identified and concerns consolidated.</li><li>• Communities don’t have access to/funds for independent professional forestry advice.</li><li>• Timber transport is a public face of forestry - reducing investment in it will have a negative impact.</li><li>• Local authorities may not be too good at engaging with timber transport, which doesn’t help with public perceptions.</li></ul> |