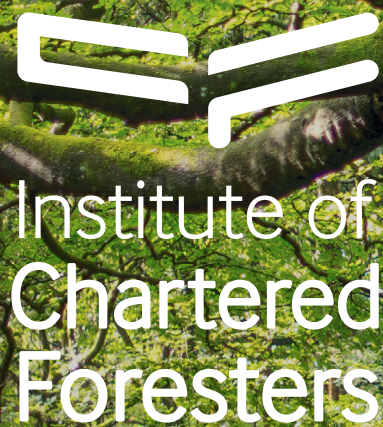




Institute of
Chartered
Foresters

100
YEARS

2025
Our year in review



A message from our President

In June 2025 I succeeded Geraint Richards MVO OBE FICFor as President of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and I want to offer my sincere thanks to Geraint for all the time and focus that he dedicated to the Institute. Geraint supported the Executive Team through a period of change, supported the launch of Technical membership and inspired the membership with a memorable speech at the Centenary Dinner in April 2025.

I am privileged to fulfil the role of president and I am consistently impressed with how much is being delivered to our members by Executive Director Louise Simpson and her team. I want to offer my sincere thanks, and that of the wider membership for their dedication and achievements.

I became President after our Centenary National Conference in Edinburgh where the focus was on engaging with society and telling the story of our profession. In total there were 66 events in 2025 with 20 Members' Hours and 13 Special Interest Group events representing a repeated increase in annual activity.

Other events include the tenth National Tree Officers Conference, a new Ancient Woodlands Conference and a successful forestry exchange programme in collaboration with professional bodies in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

We held the Centenary National Study Tour in Windsor along with 17 Member Network events and we saw the promotion of three chartered members through the Forester Apprentice scheme.

In terms of membership, I am delighted to say that the Institute now has over 2,350 members with 47 promotions to professional membership through Professional Membership Entry (PME), two promotions through Assessed Professional Competence (APC), four promotions through the Professional Forester Apprenticeship programme and one application met the requirements of Chartered Environmentalist. In addition, there were ten promotions to Fellow.

We continue to deliver our Strategic Plan 2022-2026 and I can report that Council and the Executive Team are already planning the renewal of the plan for the next five years.

It is a great honour to be the President of this organisation that is fundamental to current and future care of the UK's woodlands and trees. I look forward to serving you during the coming year and to, hopefully, meet many of you at some of our events.

Andrew Sowerby FICFor

President of the Institute of Chartered Foresters

Our highlights of 2025





TREES Spring 2025 Special Centenary Issue

Professor Julian Evans OBE FICFor reflects on 100 years of the Institute



Geraint Richards MVO OBE FICFor
talks trees with Dame Judi Dench



Centenary National Conference & Dinner in Edinburgh



Centenary National Study Tour
at Windsor Great Park



South East England Member Network
event at Bedgebury National Pinetum



Wales/Cymru Member Network
Centenary Conference in Bangor

2025 marked the 100-year anniversary of the Institute of Chartered Foresters. Throughout the year we celebrated this milestone with special events, reflections on our history, and messages of support from members and partners across the sector.

Institute of Chartered Foresters 100 YEARS

Centenary messages

“

I feel very privileged to be an Honorary Fellow of the Institute...all the best for the centenary celebrations and good wishes for the next one hundred.

Tony Kirkham MBE VMH FICFor (Hon)

“

Happy Birthday! What a fantastic story our profession tells over the decades notwithstanding world wars, tax changes, proposed mergers, but through it all we have become a much stronger profession with pride in ourselves and our work.

Shireen Chambers MBE FICFor

“

The Institute has been my companion throughout my professional life and I'm delighted it has reached its centenary!

Dr Gary Kerr FICFor

“

It's a privilege to celebrate the centenary of the Institute. I'm thankful for all the professional experiences and learning I've had from colleagues across the sector over the last 20 years and look forward to many more in the coming decades.

Andrew Sowerby FICFor

“

In 1925 would we have imagined remote sensing, scanning roots, 3D models and valuation methods of urban trees? Behind, and in front of, these changes is the Institute – setting standards and encouraging professionals. In 2015 will we look back at 2025 and wonder at how trees and woodlands were not truly valued, how we struggled to make working with trees a well-known career, and how nature-based solutions were just the beginning. What's next? That's down to our commitment, passion, drive for excellence and innovation, with the Institute leading the way.

Sharon Durdant-Hollamby FICFor

“

It's fantastic to see the Institute growing from strength to strength... it is hard to imagine what our predecessors in 1925 would have made of where 100 years of excellent progress have taken the Institute to today.

Professor John Healey MICFor

“

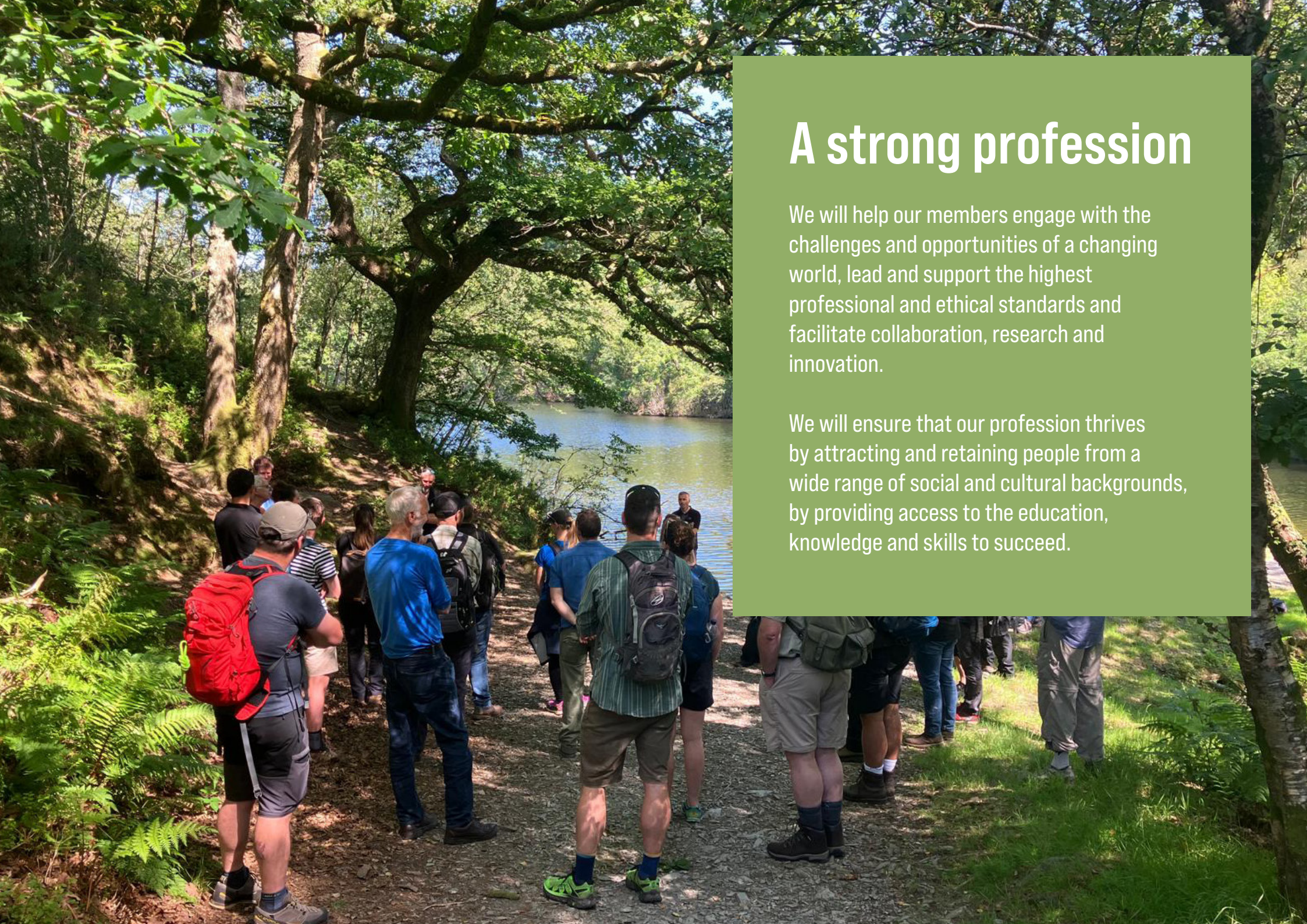
I've been a member for more than 40 years and it has been a key companion along my career journey...I thank the Institute for all that it has given me and wish it, and all members, best wishes for the next 100 years!

David Edwards FICFor

“

The Continuous Cover Forestry Group would like to congratulate the ICF on reaching 100 years - what a milestone!

Continuous Cover Forestry Group

A group of people, mostly men, are seen from behind, walking along a dirt path in a lush forest. They are wearing various hiking gear, including backpacks and hats. The path leads towards a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, which is visible in the distance. The trees are large and leafy, creating a canopy over the path. The lighting suggests it's daytime with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

A strong profession

We will help our members engage with the challenges and opportunities of a changing world, lead and support the highest professional and ethical standards and facilitate collaboration, research and innovation.

We will ensure that our profession thrives by attracting and retaining people from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds, by providing access to the education, knowledge and skills to succeed.

Events

National events



In April, we celebrated our Centenary National Conference in Edinburgh and online. Delegates from across the sector came together as we reflected on the past century in forestry and arboriculture through the lens of key subject areas, while also looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that the next 100 years will deliver.



The Centenary National Study Tour brought members to Windsor Great Park, exploring Windsor and Swinley forests, gaining insight into commercial forestry, biodiversity conservation and public recreation across 3,000 hectares of woodlands.



Early career professionals events

In 2025, our programme for early career professionals continued with both the annual conference and study tour, designed to inspire, inform and connect. Both events are developed by a steering group of early career professionals, with the conference focusing on building resilience to change, and the study tour at Chatsworth Estate exploring traditional estate management and a visit to a local sawmill.



66
events
held



5,175
event
delegates



21
#MembersHour
sessions



2,300
#MembersHour
registrants
*[up from 1,800 in
2024]*

Partner events

Webinars

How the UK Forestry Standard Enables Progress on Forestry – Wales

This webinar provided Wales-specific guidance on:

- ✓ Measures in the Sustainable Farming Scheme to incentivise farm woodland management and creation
- ✓ The Timber Industrial Strategy (TIS) focus on increased timber production
- ✓ The role of woodland in the 30 by 30 commitment



Ditch the Plastics? It's Time to Reduce Plastics Pollution in your Woodlands

In collaboration with the Forest Plastics Working Group, and the first in a two-part series, this webinar explored the challenges and collaborative solutions to reduce plastics use in tree establishment.



»»» 10 YEARS ««« **NTOC** National Tree Officers Conference 2025

The National Tree Officers Conference (NTOC) 2025, held at Reading Town Hall, marked a remarkable milestone – ten years of bringing together professional arboriculturists from across the UK (and sometimes beyond) to learn, share, and celebrate their vital work. With a sold-out audience of nearly 350 attendees, the event was the biggest yet, showcasing the continued growth and importance of the conference as a cornerstone for the arboricultural community.



Awards & Honours



The Hugh Miller Award for Excellence

Five members received an award for their Professional Membership Entry submissions.

Emma Barnes MICFor Forestry Commission	Sallie Corfield MICFor Forestry Commission	Ryan Gledhill MICFor Lanpro
John Rose MICFor Treeconomics	Dr Robrecht Schmitz MICFor CEnv Sibelco	

Student Awards

Five graduates from Institute-accredited forestry and arboriculture courses were presented with an Institute Student Award in 2025.

Alex Burton University of Cumbria	Taran Fox Bangor University	Ric Hampson Myerscough College
Jodie Hodgkins Harper Adams University	Anta Misina UHI Inverness	

Silvicultural Prize

The Silvicultural Prize is awarded annually for work advancing the sector's knowledge of silviculture published in the Institute's prestigious journal *Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research*.

Gardenia Gonçalves de Oliveira
UNESP - São Paulo State University

The President's Award

The President's Award recognises outstanding services to the Institute, either at regional or national level.

Stephen Campbell Tilhill Forestry	Ben Gunneberg MICFor International Sustainability Adviser
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Honorary Fellowships

Paul Brannen FICFor (Hon)
Confederation of Timber Industries

Professor Peter Bonfield OBE FICFor (Hon)
University of Westminster



Institute's Medal

The Institute's Medal is given to individuals who demonstrate a continued commitment to professional excellence and service in forestry. It is presented to those whose work reaches beyond the profession and is recognised UK-wide.

Professor Julian Evans OBE FICFor
Forest Scientist



Dr Helen McKay OBE FICFor CEnv
Scottish Forestry



Paul Nolan OBE MICFor
The Mersey Forest



Professional Forester of the Year

This award recognises Chartered members for their outstanding service to the profession of forestry and for furthering the principles of the Institute in the past three years.

Peter Wharton MICFor
Wharton Natural Infrastructure Consultants



Fellowships

Iain Anderson FICFor
Treeline Forestry Ltd

David Bole FICFor
Forestry Commission

Phillip Brophy FICFor
Barrell Tree Consultancy

Amanda Bryan FICFor
Scottish School of Forestry

David Cashman FICFor
Barrell Tree Consultancy

Keiron Hart FICFor
Tamla Trees Ltd

Desmond Henry FICFor
Scottish Woodlands

Charles Robinson FICFor
Robinson Forestry Ltd

Karen Russell FICFor
K Russell Consulting Ltd

Robert South FICFor
Bronwin & Abbey

ICF wins Confor's Building Industry Resilience Award for the Emerging Leader Programme



UKFS for Non-Foresters

In September 2025, the Institute launched the **UKFS for Non-Foresters** module — a one hour online course that brings the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) to a wider professional audience. Designed for those whose work intersects with trees, woodlands or land use, the module distils the core principles of the UKFS into clear, practical guidance, helping nonspecialists make confident, well-informed decisions.



Provides a solid understanding of the purpose and scope of the UKFS



Develops clarity on the difference between legal requirements, good practice and guidelines



Builds awareness of key subject areas and how they apply in practice



Increases confidence to collaborate more effectively with forestry professionals



This course is about opening doors and making the UKFS accessible, so that anyone with an interest in woodlands can feel confident engaging with forestry. By broadening understanding beyond our own sector, we are helping to tell the story of a diverse and vibrant forestry industry, ensuring that good woodland management is embedded across the UK.



Louise Simpson
Executive Director



SILVESTOR

GROWING KNOWLEDGE

Built with the sector. Shaped by the sector.

From learning platform to collective resource

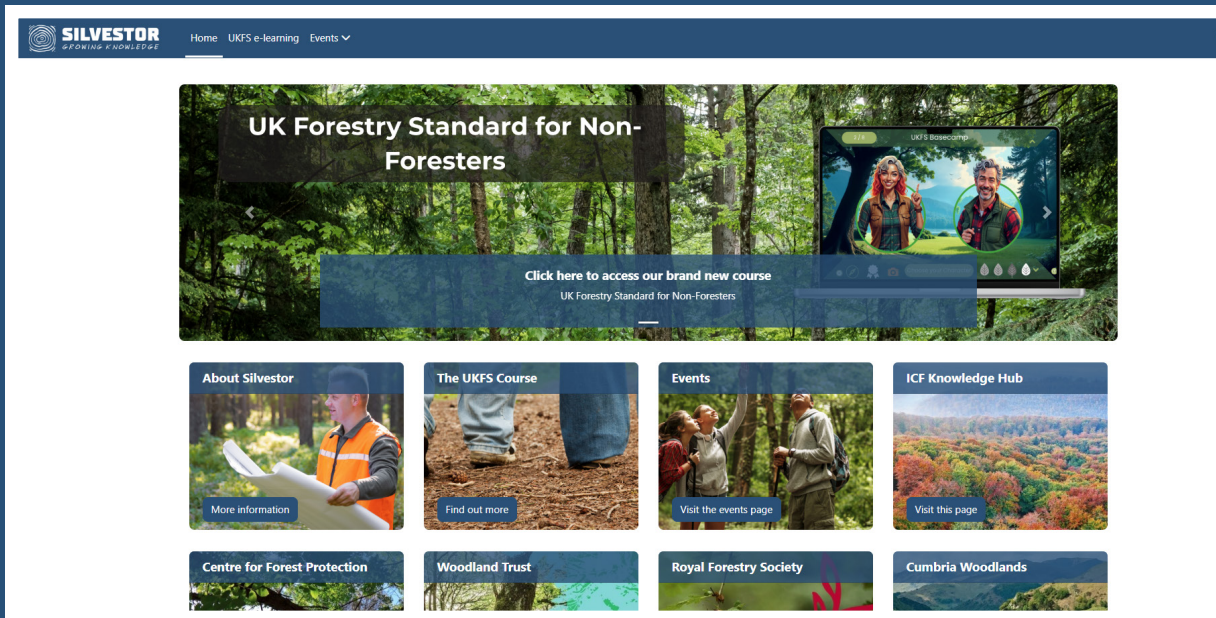
Silvestor began as the home of the UKFS e-learning programme and has since evolved into a sector-wide platform for learning, collaboration and professional connection. What started as a single training space has grown into a collective effort to bring forestry and arboriculture resources together in one reliable, accessible place.

A steering group guides Silvestor's development, ensuring it grows in line with shared priorities and real-world needs. Alongside its core learning and collaboration functions, Silvestor also offers a simple, centralised events calendar, supporting its broader mission to bring people, opportunities, and knowledge together.

A central hub for the sector

Built with the sector and continually shaped by the organisations who contribute to it, Silvestor reduces fragmentation by providing a central hub where professionals can:

- ✓ Access training
- ✓ Explore events across the UK
- ✓ Discover sector projects & news



1,700+ registrants

As more partners join, the platform will become richer, more representative and more reflective of the breadth of activity happening across the sector.

Silvestor is becoming a truly sector-led resource: a connected, collaborative and future-focused space designed to strengthen professional practice and support the long-term resilience of the UK's trees, woods and forests.



We marked a major milestone in our mission to broaden routes into the forestry profession with the launch of the sector's first virtual work experience programme, developed in partnership with Springpod. Designed to make careers in forestry more visible, accessible and engaging for young people, the programme offers an interactive introduction to the sector, allowing learners to explore real roles, hear from professionals and understand pathways into the sector.



Pre- and post-programme surveys indicate a significant increase in awareness of forestry career opportunities. Students are recognising the breadth, impact and relevance of roles across the sector.

Early feedback highlights



- ✓ Greater understanding of real-world forestry roles
- ✓ Engaging and interactive format
- ✓ Accessible introduction to a traditionally less-visible sector

Over the coming year, the platform will continue to develop (funding permitting) with plans to expand content, add new spotlight features and enhance the learning experience. The Springpod virtual work experience programme represents an exciting step forward in tackling the sector's long-standing skills and visibility challenges. By meeting young people where they are and showcasing forestry as an inspiring, future-focused career, we are helping plant the seeds for the next generation of professionals who will care for our trees, woods and forests.

Funded by:



Additional funding for
TikTok campaign from:



1,200+
young people
enrolled

**48% of participants
identified as female**
helping address the
sector's gender imbalance

**Programme rated
7.5/10**
above the Springpod
platform average

Young Professional Foresters' Exchange Programme



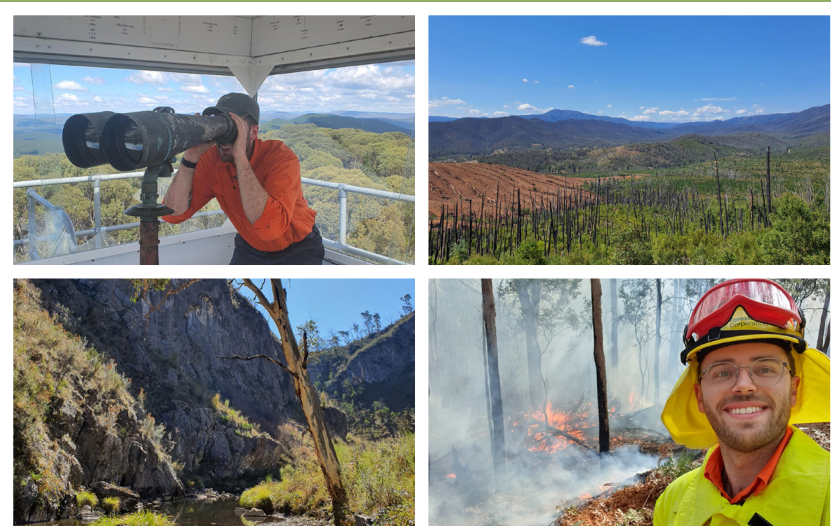
This programme, developed with partner organisations in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, provides a unique opportunity for rising stars in forestry to share knowledge and gain hands-on international experience through a three-month paid work placement overseas. Two individuals from the UK were selected for the 2024/25 programme:



Alex Donaldson MICFor

AUSTRALIA

Forestry Corporation of New South Wales



Emyr Parker MICFor

NEW ZEALAND

Juken NZ





A strong voice

We will ensure that tree professionals are understood and valued by policy-makers, the media and society. We will do this through the expertise of our members, our leadership, advocacy and engagement with stakeholders at all levels. We will base our decisions and policies on sound evidence.

Policy

We remain focused on influencing policy in skills and professional standards through an evidence-based approach and partnership working. In 2025, we maintained regular dialogue with DAERA, Defra, Forestry England, Forest Research, Forestry Commission, Forestry and Land Scotland, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Forestry. Engagement spanned a broad spectrum of issues on behalf of our multidisciplinary membership across all four nations.

We responded to consultations on a range of topics, key areas included:



National land use frameworks



Climate action and carbon budgets



Timber and procurement strategies



Further education and sector skills



Nature recovery and biodiversity policy

We signed joint letters to government on:



The value of nature



Local Nature Recovery Strategies



New Defra appointments

Healthy trees need healthy people

Working alongside sector partners, we are addressing mental health challenges within forestry — recognising that a resilient workforce is as vital as resilient woodlands. As the sector's physical safety record continues to improve, it is time we took urgent action to address the issues relating to mental health in our industry. We are working together to help identify the issues and provide useful tools to help prevent and alleviate them.

Scottish Biodiversity Metric

Members of the Institute met with NatureScot to begin the process of developing a Biodiversity Metric for Scotland in respect to the biodiversity quantification of individual and groups of trees. It was a very positive meeting and it was agreed that the Institute will facilitate a co-design group to further develop the metric.

UK Tree Planting Taskforce

We attended, the second meeting of the UK Tree Planting Taskforce entitled, *Communities at the Heart of Woodland Creation*. Chaired by Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, it focused on the vital role of community engagement in woodland creation. Ministers from all four UK nations agreed that involving local people is key to successful and sustainable tree planting. The Taskforce aims to unite UK administrations to accelerate woodland expansion.

Institute representation



Our representatives sit on groups, panels, and committees across the sector, actively participating, feeding back developments, and advising us on actions to take. The role of an ICF Representative is a crucial touch point between Institute staff, Council and members. We are represented on 17 groups, committees, and advisory boards, over ten high-level standing groups where staff members represent the Institute, and a constantly evolving number of targeted, time-bound working groups, research teams, and review panels.

Institute members

Arboriculture & Forestry Advisory Group	Scottish School of Forestry - Forestry Advisory Committee
British Standards Institute B/213 Committee	Scottish Tree Health Advisory Group
Defra ELM Engagement Group & Advice Satellite Group	Scottish Wild Deer Best Practice Steering & Woodland Groups
Delivery Advisory Group (Forestry Commission)	Society for the Environment Board
England Woodland Biodiversity Group	UKWAS Steering Group
FISA Steering Group	Woodland Carbon Code Advisory Board
Green Infrastructure Partnership Sounding Board	UK Squirrel Accord
Resilient Treescapes Advisory Group	London Urban Forest Partnership
Scottish Forestry Customer Representative Group	

Institute staff

- Apprenticeships Trailblazer Group
- Environmental Policy Forum
- Forest Plastics Working Group
- Forestry Skills Forum (England & Wales)
- National Forestry Stakeholder Group for Scotland
- National Tree Safety Group
- Plant Health and Biosecurity Alliance
- Scottish Forestry Timber and Technology Skills Group
- Trees & Design Action Group
- Tree Health Operations Forum

Our groups

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Steering Group represent key areas of the forestry and arboriculture sector, helping ensure the Institute reflects the diverse interests of our membership. These groups support knowledge exchange, sector dialogue and professional development, providing relevant CPD opportunities while contributing to a shared understanding of professionalism across forestry and arboriculture.

Environmental SIG

Green Finance SIG

Harvesting & Marketing SIG

Nurseries SIG

Arboriculture & Urban Forestry Steering Group

#MembersHour

Our groups developed a number of **#MembersHour** sessions in 2025, providing CPD opportunities and a forum for members to explore emerging issues across the sector. Topics ranged from **ancient woodland protection** and **temperate rainforest conservation** to **AI in forestry**, **woodland carbon technologies**, **biosecurity challenges** such as *Ips typographus*, and insights from the **nursery** and **harvesting** sectors.

TREES magazine

AUTUMN EDITION

Playing it Safe: How to Abide by the Wildlife Act when Harvesting
submitted by the Harvesting & Marketing SIG



Ancient Woodlands Conference

Past, Present and Future

The Environmental SIG led the development of the Ancient Woodlands Conference in Birmingham, which brought together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to explore the threats and opportunities facing these irreplaceable habitats. The conference provided a valuable forum for sharing evidence, practice and policy perspectives across the sector.



Growing influence

127

Vacancies posted on our Job Board in 2025

74

Blogs posted on our website in 2025

244

Mailers sent to members in 2025



CPD events



Policy updates



Job vacancies



E-News



Institute news



6,315 LinkedIn followers



26.7%



1,258 Instagram followers



10%



2,686 Facebook followers



4%



8,368 X followers

NEW



We joined the social media platform Bluesky in August 2025 and continue to grow our following

Website engagement



77,075 unique visitors



18.9%



160,860 sessions



19.9%



353,032 page visits



37%

TREES magazine

Our membership magazine continues to go from strength to strength, with another four issues published in 2025.

TREES continues to deliver a wide range of:



Sector news



Opinion pieces



Latest research

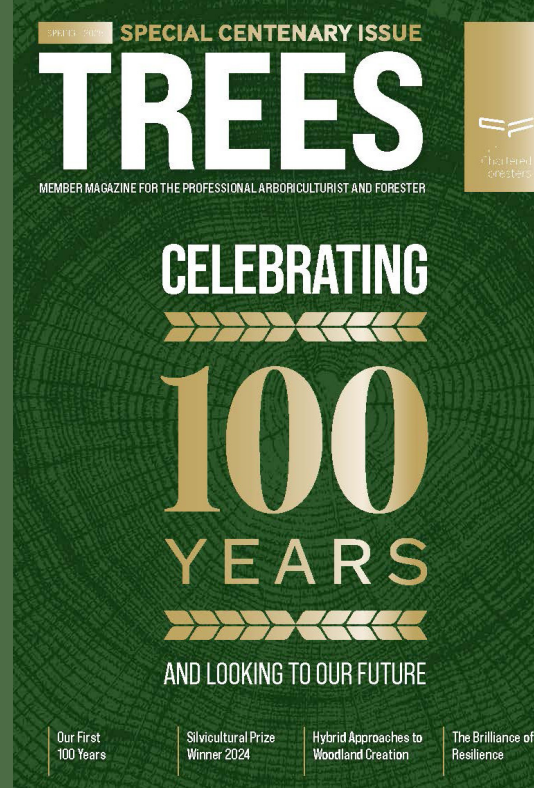


ICF Representative
updates



Member Network
activities

We remain extremely grateful to those members who contribute relevant and thought-provoking content for the magazine.





A strong organisation

We will grow our membership base and ensure that our business model supports our vision, purpose and strategy. We will do this by engaging talented and committed staff, enhancing the value of our offer to members and others, generating diverse and sustainable sources of income and striving for operational excellence.

The Examinations Board

2025 proved to be another record year for professional membership, with 57 applications coming through the Professional Membership Entry (PME) route, four via the Professional Forester Degree Apprenticeship route, and three via the Assessed Professional Competence (APC) route. In addition, there was one new Chartered Environmentalist. Following the review and interview process, 54 members were promoted to chartered status, and five worthy winners of The Hugh Miller Award for Excellence were selected during the process – **Emma Barnes MICFor**, **Sallie Corfield MICFor**, **Ryan Gledhill MICFor**, **John Rose MICFor** and **Dr Robrecht Schmitz MICFor CEnv**.



ICF Assessors, Moderators and staff at the Professional Interviews in Edinburgh

We are continually grateful to the 80 dedicated assessors and four moderators who give their time and expertise to carry out the entire assessment process and in particular to the Chair of the Examinations Board, Alex Murray FICFor from Glennon Brothers, for his expert guidance in upholding the Institute's professional standards.

First Professional Forester Apprentices awarded chartered status

Four members of the inaugural Professional Forester Apprenticeship cohort achieved Chartered Forester (MICFor) status after presenting for PME. The pioneering degree-level apprenticeship, a partnership programme from the University of Cumbria, Forestry Commission and Institute of Chartered Foresters, combines academic learning with practical experience and is helping develop the next generation of skilled forestry professionals. Congratulations to **Stuart Banks MICFor**, **Gareth Biggins MICFor**, **John Herbert MICFor** and **Matthew L'Estrange MICFor**.



Jo Fox-Evans
Head of Membership Engagement

This is a landmark moment for the forestry sector. These apprentices have not only completed a rigorous academic and practical journey but have now joined the ranks of Chartered Foresters. We are proud of their achievement and of the programme's role in shaping the next generation of forestry professionals.



Forestry Commission



University of
CUMBRIA



Institute of
Chartered Foresters

Congratulations to 2025's new...



Professional Members

Oscar Adams MICFor
Stuart Banks MICFor
Emma Barnes MICFor
Robert Barnes MICFor
Adrienne Bennett MICFor
Gareth Biggins MICFor
Glyn Bradbury MICFor
Chris Bray MICFor
James Brown MICFor
Jake Burton MICFor
Sallie Corfield MICFor
Ilona Coulson-Ashworth MICFor
Tom Coxhead MICFor
Stephen Duggan MICFor
Robert Dyche MICFor
Charlie Elliott MICFor
Olivia Murray MICFor
Ryan Gledhill MICFor
Tom Gosling MICFor
Christopher Guest MICFor
Mark Hedley MICFor

John Herbert MICFor
Thomas Hiles MICFor
Jack Houston MICFor
Ellen Humphrey MICFor
Helen John MICFor
Dan Kadlubowski MICFor
Douglas Knox MICFor
Fraser Lamont MICFor
Matthew L'Estrange MICFor
Andrew Maclachlan MICFor
Alexander Malkin MICFor
William Marshall MICFor
Freddy McCreery MICFor
Tommy Milburn MICFor
Nick Mockler MICFor
David Molloy MICFor
Joey Oliver MICFor
Emyr Parker MICFor
Pippa Paterson MICFor
Marcus Reeves MICFor
Kathryn Reid MICFor

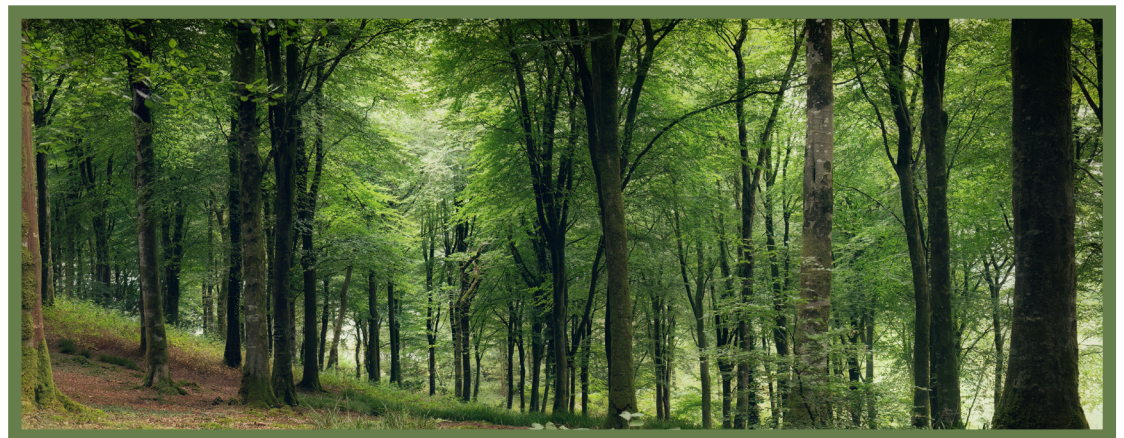
Daniel Ridley MICFor
John Rose MICFor
Clare Rutherford MICFor
Dr Robrecht Schmitz MICFor CEnv
Harriet Schiavone MICFor
Tony Sorensen MICFor
Adam Stirling MICFor
Dr Felicity Stout MICFor
Jack Thomas MICFor
Seb Tighe MICFor
Gary Winn MICFor
Stuart Wood MICFor

Technical Members

James Endacott TechICFor
Sam Guthrie TechICFor
James Harrison Moore TechICFor
Matthew Norman TechICFor
Robert Jamie Wright TechICFor

Chartered Environmentalist

Hannah Jones CEnv



Our membership



2,413

Members at the
end of 2025

3.69%

Membership
growth in 2025

89.9%

Annual member
retention rate

87.7%

CPD compliant
Chartered members

79.7%

Male

20%

Female

0.3%

Other

Our membership by age

Under 25 4.4%

25 - 34 18.1%

35 - 44 22.5%

45 - 54 21.9%

55 - 64 19.8%

Over 65 10.7%

Our members work in:

Arboriculture	9.6%
Biodiversity & Wildlife Management	8.3%
Forest Engineering	0.6%
Forestry and Arboriculture Research	1.9%
Forestry and Woodland Management	27.6%
Harvesting, Marketing and Utilisation	7.9%
Inventory and Mapping	4.9%
Land Use Appraisals and Landscape Design	4.3%
Litigation in Connection with Trees & Timber	0.6%
Management and Administration	8.4%
Public Policy	3.6%
Recreation Management and Planning	1.5%
Timber Processing	1.4%
Training and Education	2.8%
Tree Nursery Management	0.7%
Tree Surveys and Reports	8.2%
Urban Forestry	4.7%
Utility Arboriculture	0.8%
Woodland Investment and Valuation	2.3%

Member Networks

17 Member Network
events in 2025

572 Attendees
in 2025



Are the face of the Institute
at a regional level



Provide networking & knowledge
exchange opportunities



Are ambassadors
for the industry



Promote the benefits
of membership

During our centenary year, our Member Networks continued to bring professionals together, delivering 17 events in 2025 that strengthened collaboration, shared expertise and celebrated the breadth of skills across the sector. These activities played a central role in supporting members as they engaged with emerging challenges and opportunities in modern forestry. From field visits and study tours to technical seminars and networking sessions, each event is designed to support professional development and enhance sector-wide knowledge exchange.

Topics that shaped the year

Across the programme, Member Networks explored some of the most important themes facing today's forestry professionals, including:

Decarbonising timber transport – examining new approaches to sustainable logistics

Biodiversity net gain – continuing to inform management decisions and policy awareness across the sector

Agroforestry and silvopasture innovation – exploring mixed land-use systems and practical trial results

Woodland creation assessments – supporting members to implement robust, evidence-based establishment practices

The success of the 2025 programme is a testament to the commitment of our volunteer Member Network committees and the enthusiasm of members nationwide. As we move beyond our centenary celebrations, Member Networks will continue to champion local engagement, deliver high quality CPD and foster a strong, connected professional community.



South East England Member Network



South Scotland Member Network



Wales / Cymru Member Network



South West England Member Network

Forestry: An International Journal of Forest Research



Institute membership
includes a free
Forestry annual
subscription

Looking back at the *Forestry* year 2025, I mostly remember a year of changes and growth that brought along some exciting new developments. *Forestry* received a notably higher number of submissions to the journal, including submissions to our new article categories: software and dataset articles. These categories were added to our standard research articles to acknowledge the increasing importance of work carried out by scientists who do not directly conduct research but invest time and effort in building databases as well as analytical tools that allow others to conduct exciting studies. These efforts play a key role in advancing our understanding of forest ecosystems and how we can manage them in a sustainable and efficient way. *Forestry* now offers a means for this work to gain visibility, and we are already seeing some very positive impact. For example, one of the most cited and viewed articles over the last months was a software article describing the software 3DFin, which allows the automatic extraction of single-tree metrics (stem position, diameter at breast height, and tree height) from mobile laser scanner point clouds.

And of course, we also saw numerous exciting research studies being published in *Forestry* in 2025. The year began with the publication of the Special Issue on forest fires in cool-temperate and humid-continental forests. This is a topic that has so far received comparatively little attention but is currently gaining momentum due to the increasing number of wildfires occurring in forests where wildfires have previously been extremely rare. Studies in our Special Issue focus on widely differing scales. One study examined how char originating from wildfires affects microbial activity in the forest floor; another study examined how different leaf litter compositions of central European forests differ in their combustion properties. Yet another study explored links between bark beetle damage and the fire radiative power of wildfires burning through damaged forests across a low mountain range. With this Special Issue, *Forestry* positioned itself at the forefront of this important research field, which has increasing practical relevance. Members of the Institute can access these exciting manuscripts for free on the *Forestry* website!

Two more highlights from 2025 include a review article discussing the management of harvesting residues around the world and an innovative idea for giving trees a unique fingerprint. The management of harvesting residues is a topic that is becoming increasingly important as energy and fiber resources become more limited. At the same time, residues play an important ecological role, and the review nicely shows that this trade-off between the economic use of residues and the avoidance of ecological damage has so far not received sufficient attention in forest management. The final article I would like to mention here caught my attention mostly because of its innovative idea. The authors of the study developed a method that allows them to use the location of branches along the stem, as identified by terrestrial laser scanning, to develop a unique fingerprint for each tree. This approach may have potential applications in tracing the origin of individual trees from the forest to the sawmill, potentially also supporting efforts to fight illegal logging. While the approach is still in its early phase, we might hear more about it in the future.

Finally, as every year, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of our international team of scientific editors and members of the editorial board of *Forestry*, who invest an incredible amount of time and effort in keeping our journal up and running. I would particularly like to thank Dr Tzeng Yih Lam, who has recently volunteered to support Dr Rubén Manso and myself as an additional Deputy Editor-in-Chief. I am deeply grateful for the support of everyone involved in the journal, and I am looking forward to collaborating with you in the years to come.

Dr Fabian Faßnacht
Editor-in-Chief



Institute of Chartered Foresters

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