

Natural colonisation: the opportunities and pitfalls in creating new resilient woods

Online 18th November 10:00am to 1pm



Natural colonisation is strongly promoted as an approach to woodland creation in Defra's English Trees Action Plan. What is the evidence that it creates woods that are resilient to rapid environmental change? What are the pre-requisites for success and the potential pitfalls? What evidence-led guidance is available for practitioners interested to adopt this approach?

This webinar, organised by the Small Woods Association in partnership with the Forestry and Climate Change Working Group features an authoritative line up of speakers and panellists to address this topic and provide practitioners with insight and guidance on policy, risk, opportunity and good practice for this relatively new approach to woodland creation.

Agenda

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| 10:00am | Welcome and Introduction, Simon Lloyd on behalf of the Forestry and Climate Change Working Group |
| 10:05am | Jonathon Spencer MBE, Ecologist
<i>'Woodlands and...self-propelled or planted? The pros and cons of naturally regenerated trees'</i> |
| 10:35am | Keith Kirby, Visiting researcher in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
<i>'Natural' colonisation: useful tool, not a panacea'</i> |
| 11:05am | Mark Broadmeadow, Principal Adviser Climate Change, Forestry Commission.
<i>An overview of the guidance on natural colonisation that has recently been published by the Forestry Commission.</i> |
| 11:20am | Joan Cottrell, Forest Research
<i>'Natural regeneration and resilient woodlands-a genetic perspective'</i> |
| 11:50am | Emily Warner DPhil Candidate, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
<i>'Woodland regeneration in Norway, lessons for Scotland'</i> |
| 12:20pm | Panel Discussion, chaired by Emma Goldberg, Forestry and Woodland Senior Specialist, Natural England |
| 1:00pm | Thanks & Close |

To book a place please follow this link: [Event Calendar \(smallwoods.org.uk\)](https://smallwoods.org.uk/event-calendar)

Biographies



Former Chief Executive of the Royal Forestry Society, currently chair of the Forestry Climate Change Working Group and Herefordshire woodland owner with 40 years' experience of managing businesses and charities.

Jonathan William Spencer MBE is a professional ecologist with wide interests in the history and ecology of woods, ecosystem restoration and recovery, forest resilience, silviculture, forest management and forestry, and the conservation of their historical character and wildlife.



Keith started his career with the Nature Conservancy Council initially carrying out woodland surveys, including helping to establish the National Vegetation Classification as a basic tool for describing woodland vegetation. 33 years later, with two big organisational changes (NCC became English Nature, became Natural England), Keith retired from that role back to Oxford and for the last 10 years has been a visiting researcher in the Department of Plant Sciences looking at long-term woodland change particularly at Wytham Woods and the Warburg Reserve.

Mark is the Forestry Commission's Principal Adviser on Climate change covering both adaptation and mitigation aspects alongside being the policy lead for woodland creation. He is currently on part-time secondment to Defra's forestry policy team. Mark has a background in research having led the Climate Change research project and then the Environmental Change Research team between 1993 and 2007.



Joan Cottrell has a BSc from Reading University and a PhD from Edinburgh University. Following several post-doctoral positions she has worked at Forest Research since 1991. Her initial role was to introduce molecular techniques into the organisation and has since developed expertise in the assessment of molecular and adaptive variation in populations of native trees in Britain. Her interests lie in understanding the processes that determine the distribution of genetic diversity and in explaining the relevance of this understanding to forest policy and management.

Emily Warner is a NERC funded PhD student in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford, researching the response of biodiversity and ecosystem functions to woodland creation, with a focus on native woodland creation in the Scottish Highlands.



Emma Goldberg is a forestry and woodland senior specialist at Natural England, the Government's advisory body for the natural environment in England, and gives advice on managing woodland SSSIs, deer management, and ash dieback.