

Why specify planting stock from Plant Healthy certified suppliers?

Prioritising biosecurity when purchasing plants and trees

Speaker, Chair and Panel Biographies

Key Speaker:

PROFESSOR NICOLA SPENCE



Nicola is Defra's Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHO) and Head of the UK National Plant Protection Organisation. She advises ministers, industry and others about the risks posed by plant pests and diseases, ensuring that measures are in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact, as well as leading the operational response in the event of a disease outbreak. Although plant health is a devolved matter; the CPHO co-ordinates the UK response to European and International plant health matters and takes the lead on national plant health emergency response.

Nicola is an experienced research plant pathologist and worked on virus diseases of horticultural crops in the UK and internationally for over 20 years. She is an expert in plant health and international plant trade and was previously the Head of Plant Health and then Chief Scientist at the Food and Environment Research Agency near York.

She is a President of the British Society for Plant Pathology, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, Honorary Professor at the University of Birmingham and a Director of the Birmingham Institute for Forest Research, Visiting Professor at Harper Adams University and a Trustee of The Yorkshire Arboretum.

She has a BSc in Botany from the University of Durham, an MSc in Microbiology from Birkbeck College, University of London, and a PhD in Plant Virology from the University of Birmingham. The subject of her PhD was Bean Common Mosaic Virus in Phaseolus beans in Africa.

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Chair:



SIMON LLOYD

Simon Lloyd was appointed Chief Executive of the Royal Forestry Society in 2012. He chairs the Forestry Climate Change Working Group and represents the RFS in a number of other cross sector bodies. He spent 28 years with BP in a range of roles, followed by a spell as Bursar of Herford College, Oxford. He has a PG Diploma in Forestry (Bangor) and the stewardship of woodland on his family's estate in Herefordshire.



Speakers:

EMILY FENSOM



Emily Fensom works for the Forestry Commission as a Woodland Resilience Officer, based in the east midlands. Emily's remit is to work alongside specialists in the sector to improve our understanding of the present and future threats to trees in order to explore measures for adaptation and resilience in UK woodlands.

Emily joined the Forestry Commission's Policy Advice Team earlier this year from the Higher Education sector and has a background in Plant Health. She worked in the FC's Tree Health team for a number of years after beginning her career with Scottish Forestry as an assistant Tree Health Officer. Emily graduated from the University of Birmingham with a BSc in Environmental Science and successfully applied to the Royal Society of Biology's Plant Health Professionals Register during her time with the Tree Health team.

ALISTAIR YEOMANS



Alistair works part-time as the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme Manager for the Plant Health Alliance. The Alliance's aim is to improve plant biosecurity in the UK and beyond. As a freelance consultant, Alistair works with universities, environmental NGOs, government, and industry to develop systems that advance our understanding and management of ecosystems. His experience of running land-based businesses helps ensure these frameworks and technologies are designed for the target audiences. Alistair is a Resilience Associate at the Sylva Foundation.

Panel:

JOHN WEIR



Adviser for woodland creation and resilience

Having started working within the forest industry in the mid 1970's, he has worked as a forester in Scotland, England, and Wales. Most recently after 7 years as Director of the National Arboreta (Westonbirt and Bedgebury Pinetum) he took on the role as Climate Change Programme Manager for Forest Enterprise England and is author of the Climate Change action Plan for the Forestry Commission estate in England.

In his current job for the Forestry Commission the purpose of his job is: ' Provide expert advice and facilitate knowledge transfer, to facilitate 'anticipatory adaptation' within England's woodlands'.



JEREMY CLARKE



Employed by Hertfordshire County Council in a dual role as Tree Health Officer & Sustainable Hertfordshire Officer. As Tree Health Officer I lead on the council's tree health agenda, providing advice on policy and practice in response to pressures from pests, disease and climate change and engaging with partners across the county. As Sustainable Hertfordshire Officer I am part of a team driving forward delivery on the council's response to the climate emergency, with a

particular focus on biodiversity.

TIM LIDDON BSc Hons FICFor



Tim grew up with forestry in the South West of England where his father had a forestry business. He studied Forestry in Aberdeen graduating in 1980, when he went on to join Tilhill as a forest manager. He has enjoyed the challenges and opportunities in the industry over the last 40 years.

After a spell in landscaping in Central Scotland he moved to Yorkshire and worked in a diverse range of operational work from landscaping in Tyneside, Community woodland creation in Teeside, to investment and estate forestry in Yorkshire. In his time in Yorkshire he was also Chairman Yorkshire Division Royal Forestry Society – 1996-1998.

In 2001 he moved to South West Scotland managing commercial investment forestry in that area. In 2007 he was instrumental in planning and delivering the Eskdalemuir Timber haul road, and also managed the rising restock programme and its associated challenges of large weevil numbers and an increasing deer population. 2009 saw promotion to Regional Manager for Scotland and responsibility for forestry and landscaping. In 2014 he became a founder Director of the then Sitka Spruce Breeding Cooperative (now the Conifer Breeding Cooperative), which is a public private partnership to ensure the improvement of productive Conifer continues.

In 2015 Tim was appointed to the Tilhill Board as Forestry Director. He has been a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters since 2004. He continues to seek solutions and to raise standards and resilience in forestry - from large scale re afforestation, weevil, and deer management to protecting the workforce and the environment.

