



Trees and forests in British society

13 – 15 April 2010

Edinburgh Conference Centre

Conference themes

Woods, trees and well-being

Social benefits, improving health changing behaviours, volunteers.

Economics

Economic valuation, policy evidence, climate change.

Woodlands and community development

Placemaking, social enterprise, community capacity.

Changing governance of trees and forests

Partnerships, planning, public engagement.

Science policy interface

Research-as-evidence, knowledge brokering.

The story of forestry in Britain is unique. Our forests provide us with a range of benefits reflecting the changing needs and demands of society. Today, trees, woods and forests are expected to contribute to improving health, building resilient communities, and adapting to climate change. As British society's perceptions and relationship with woods and trees change, the response is an evolution of policy and governance systems, forms of engagement, and mitigation actions in urban and rural areas.

Aimed at policy makers, researchers and agencies involved in British forestry and land use, the **objectives** of this conference are to:

- discuss societal and economic trends shaping the management of British trees and forests in both urban and rural contexts;
- share experiences of responses to these trends and how society can successfully engage with its woodland resource;
- identify future research and policy directions needed to meet emerging challenges.

Conference topics and call for abstracts

Woods, trees and well-being

The social benefits of woods and trees are very broad and can contribute to a wide range of well-being issues, from physical and mental health, as well as learning, social identity and culture. What does recent learning tell us about these issues? How does volunteering contribute? How can woodlands be used to change individual and community behaviours?

Economics

How do economic perspectives alter climate change responses of forestry? What is the influence of forest economics and socio-economics on policy development? How does economic evaluation alter land use decision making, and with what consequences?

Woodlands and community development

How are woodlands being used to further community development and social enterprise? Are there benefits for social cohesion, sense of place and quality of life? Can trees and woodland be used to build skills or social capital and facilitate to manage important social change issues in specific communities?

Changing governance of trees and forests

What are the policy drivers for change in woodland management? How is forestry being integrated within decentralised systems of decision making? What mechanisms exist for the wider inclusion of individuals and communities? What is the impact of these changes?

Science policy interface

We are also interested in abstracts that describe or evaluate new research methods around these themes. We are particularly keen to hear more about 'research-as-evidence' and the link between science and policy.

Use the form available on the website to send abstracts of 500 words to: Dr Bianca Ambrose-Oji:
bianca.ambrose-oji@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0845 604 0845

Closing date for abstracts: 30 September 2009.

Venue and registration

Delegate registration forms and more information about the programme and venue are available from www.forestresearch.gov.uk/treesandsociety or by contacting Evelyn Hall:
evelyn.hall@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

The venue is the Edinburgh Conference Centre:
www.edinburgh-conference.com