

Biodiversity Benefits of Conifer Forests

by

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Research over the past 10 years has shown that planted forests in the UK have significant value for biodiversity and have a potentially significant role in restoring woodland biodiversity within forests and in the wider landscape. This presentation will explore the relationship between plantations and biodiversity in the UK, examine how this information is being translated into policy and guidance, and highlight ways in which plantations could be managed to enhance biodiversity. The presentation will draw on research published over recent years (Humphrey, 2005; Humphrey et al., 2003) the findings of which have been recently substantiated by similar work in Irish plantations (www.bioforest.ie). In the next few years there will be a suite of new policy and guidance publications relating to biodiversity in managed forests including revisions to the UK Forestry Standard, the replacement of the Nature Conservation Guidelines by the Forests and Biodiversity Guidelines and the drafting of new practice guides. More details on these forthcoming publications will be given in the presentation. Public consultations will also be initiated for some of these in the next few months.

References

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