



DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Six Case Studies



OUR SIX CASE STUDIES

1. Candacraig Estate, Scotland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conifer mixes • Deer control • Density planting trials • Data collection 	4-5	4. Holmes Wood and Fulmodeston Severals, Norfolk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restocking • Natural regeneration management • TRICO deer repellent • Small group planting 	10-11
2. Glandy Cross Wood, Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm damage • Transition to CCF • Enrichment planting • Underplanting 	6-7	5. Simons Wood, Cambridgeshire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding diversity • Inter row management • Productive oak • Conversion to CCF 	12-13
3. Woodland Heritage, James Wood, Somerset: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct seeding of oak • Comparison with cell grown trees • Different provenances • Former agricultural land 	8-9	6. Windy Gap, Northern Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productive timber • Conifer diversity • Pure species stands • Marginal hill land 	14-15

SINCE 2021 OUR GRANTS HAVE BEEN USED TO FACILITATE:

- Restock of clear-fell, failed stock and storm damaged areas
- Direct seeding trials
- Move woodland to Continuous Cover Forestry
- New species and provenances
- Encouraging coppice
- Managing regeneration
- Enrichment planting – adding new species
- Underplanting
- Planting in intimate mixes
- Planting in small groups
- Creating new woodland
- Hedges and linear wooded features
- Shelterbelts
- Urban woodland
- Flood mitigation

Grants cannot be used

- to plant single species woodland, except where there is a clear resilience-based justification for doing so (e.g. where a single species is to be planted to increase resilience to flooding and additional species are less likely to survive);
- to simply plant or replant trees that don't in some way make a positive contribution to woodland resilience (e.g. our fight against climate change, pests or diseases); or
- to support projects where the cost of purchase of trees is fully funded by another grant.

About our partners

Train Hugger and GreenTheUK offer money from rail users and businesses as grants to help RFS and RSFS members plant trees, at a rate of 50p per tree.



Replanting a stand with mixed tree species and ages to create species and structural diversity.

GRANTS FOR RESILIENT WOODLANDS

The Royal Forestry Society (RFS), Royal Scottish Forestry Society (RSFS), Train Hugger and GreenTheUK have joined forces to help people plant trees that will survive and thrive into the future.

Our aim is to provide a helping hand for those who are willing to try something different and to take informed risks. This flexible grant gives the opportunity for those who know their sites best to design schemes that will help to improve the resilience of their woodlands. There are no funding windows, no onerous reporting requirements and no limits to the number of trees you can receive funding for. We want to help you create better, more resilient treescapes for our environment, for people and for the economy.

That could mean planting species you have not tried before or using different or new mixes of species. We can also provide support for new planting or new management techniques.

Successful applicants have had a wide range of objectives. For some there has been a strong focus on creating productive woodlands of the future. For others it has been about adding habitat connectivity or restoring much loved landscape features.

What they all have in common is a desire to ensure that the woodlands are there for future generations to enjoy.

Applying for a grant

To apply you must be a member of the Royal Forestry Society rfs.org.uk/grants or the Royal Scottish Forestry Society www.rsfs.org.uk/ and own or manage all the land your grant application relates to.

You can apply year-round. We have made the process simple and quick. We aim to give you a decision within six weeks of receiving your application.



Follow rfs.org.uk/grants to find out more or use this QR code.

We welcome repeat customers! If you have already received a grant and are now involved in a new planting scheme, we will assess your application.

Our case studies

The following pages look back at some of the projects supported by our grants and how woodlands have developed. We hope they provide inspiration. The owners/managers in these case studies are happy for you to contact them to find out more about their experiences.

To find more case studies go to our website rfs.org.uk and follow the insights and publications links to case studies.



Young mixed plantation



Candacraig Estate where wind blow compartments are being restocked trialling a number of different conifer and broadleaved species

1. CANDACRAIG ESTATE, SCOTLAND

Key points

- Conifer mixes
- Deer control
- Density planting trials
- Data collection

Resilience Trial Planting at Candacraig Estate

Candacraig Estate in Aberdeenshire lies within the Cairngorms National Park. When Storm Arwen caused substantial windblow damage within small compartments in 2019, the estate saw an opportunity for experimental restocking and restructuring.

RTS Forestry successfully applied for a Grant for Resilient Woodlands for 20,350 trees to restock 10 hectares (ha) of windblow compartments.

The aim is to move away from reliance on Sitka spruce and Scots pine, to produce quality timber, explore natural regeneration, and transition to continuous cover management.

Planting took place in early 2024. Data collection is an important element of the project. The small restocking area – compared to the estate's size of 1,700ha – will have minimal impact on tree species diversity. However, data collected will inform future planting decisions.

Different methods of protection against deer damage are being tested and monitored. These include deer control and the application of a deer scent deterrent, TRICO.

The Site

The site ranges from 400-500m (1312-1640ft) above sea level. The climate is predominantly cold with chilly winters and mild summers (3 and 10 degrees Celsius). Average annual rainfall is around 100cm (39in).

Local soils are primarily brown earth with occasional pockets of mineral podzols which are generally regarded as relatively nutrient-poor.



Good form in some smaller trees in 2026

Coupes range from 0.5 to 2ha along a 5km stretch of the same glen, sharing similar topography.

Species Choice

Around 70% of the coupes have been planted. 30% have been put forward for natural regeneration.

Trees of 20-40cm were selected for conditions, exposure and expected weed competition and according to [Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification \(ESC V4\)](#).

Conifers

- Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- European larch (*Larix decidua*)
- Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce*)
- Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- Serbian spruce (*Picea omorika*)
- Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)
- Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
- Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)



Inspecting the structure of the Macedonia pine in 2026

Broadleaves

- Aspen (*Populus tremula*)
- Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)
- Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)

Planting Density

Commercial densities of 2,700 stems per hectare were used to reduce to 2,500 after natural mortality. One compartment, a mix of Scots pine and Macedonia pine, has been planted at 3,000 to trial increased density planting.

LISS Management

Areas designated for natural regeneration are viewed as a dynamic testbed for low-impact silvicultural systems (LISS) management.

Early Results

Areas treated with TRICO deer repellent are doing better than other areas. Trees adjacent to treated areas, but not treated themselves, received less browsing damage. Difficult weather might have affected the use of TRICO, with some plants showing treatment still, but others less so.

Natural regeneration areas have mostly failed, but there are more positive signs where there is more ground disturbance.

Looking at particular compartments: 19a 1, European larch has fared the best, followed by Western hemlock and Douglas fir; 18c, Macedonian pine is showing most growth, with Western red cedar coming through in some areas and Serbian spruce in others; 16c, Douglas fir is doing well (*this coupe has more sun than the others*).

In other areas some broadleaves had got away, but been browsed as soon as they reached the tops of the tubes.

Sitka spruce is most prevalent and has the best form. Many of the other species look quite bushy due to having received deer damage.

Looking Ahead

Alternate species require more care than Sitka spruce. TRICO application is costly, limited early growth means more weed competition and the form of the trees will likely require singling to mitigate the bushy appearance.

Different growth rates in different areas give food for thought. The estate is going to beat up the trial areas soon. Some of the larger trial areas might benefit from intensive stalking. The estate might trial a patchwork of TRICO application through different areas, so see whether this deters deer from nearby untreated plants.



Strong stem growth to resist conditions in 2026

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact
Mark Dobson - mark.dobson@rtsforestry.co.uk - 01339 885335



Japanese red cedar in the foreground growing well in 2026, some still in the shelters that were trilled

2. GLANDY CROSS WOOD, WALES

Key points

- Storm damage
- Transition to CCF
- Enrichment planting
- Underplanting

Mosaic planting in windthrow woodland

Glandy Cross Wood, near Cardigan in West Wales, is a 38 hectare (ha) woodland bordering the Pembrokeshire National Park. It is in an area at medium risk of windthrow. The main management objective is to grow productive construction grade timber.

Owners, Duncan Winton (forest manager and forestry contractor) and his father began moving the woodland to Continuous Cover Forestry four years ago with the help of an RFS Grant for Resilient Woodlands. They believe adding structural, age and species diversity to Glandy Cross Wood will better equip it to survive future climatic events, as well as build resilience to pests and diseases.

The Wintons bought Glandy Cross Wood in August 2020. It was predominantly Sitka spruce and larch plantations planted in the late 1980s, 1990s and in 2005. Larch affected by *Phytophthora ramorum* was felled under a Glastir Woodland Restoration Grant.

Storms Arwen, Dudley, Eunice and Franklin had all caused windthrow.

Since then subsequent storms, most notably Storm Darragh in 2024, have punched additional gaps in the plantations. As they clear up from these storms the Wintons have continued moving the woodland towards Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF).

Their mosaic of conifer and broadleaf species is taking shape.

Species Choice

Glandy Cross lies on predominantly flat land, gently sloping to the north west at 140-200m (459- 656 ft) above sea level. Part of the woodland falls within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The land is typically wet with very acid upland soils with a peaty surface over mudstone geology. Average rainfall exceeds 150cm (19.6in) a year.

Choice of species was guided by reference to a number of publications and Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification.

The RFS Grant for Resilient Woodlands covered planting 1,800 cell grown trees across 3ha in the 2021- 2022 planting season.

- Serbian spruce (*Picea omorika*)
- Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)
- Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)
- Japanese red cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)
- Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
- Small leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*)
- Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

Natural regeneration is encouraged within areas of mosaic planting.



Natural regeneration and enrichment planting in 2021-2022 in an area cleared after windthrow



When he planted in 2021-2022, Duncan Winton protected every other Douglas fir to determine how frosts impact on growth



Sitka spruce natural regeneration in 2026 with Western red cedar planted as part of the grant in the foreground. This area has been cleaned/respaced with willow and excess Sitka cut to favour other species and Sitka of best form.

Planting

Planting density was no less than 2500 per hectare. Trees were planted in species groups of around 50 plants.

Serbian spruce was planted more densely, because of its slender habit.

Broadleaves were planted in the northwest of the site, close to existing racks for added light as they grow.

Shade bearing Western red cedar, coast redwood and Japanese red cedar were planted close to areas of advanced Sitka spruce regeneration and up to 3m from existing crops.

Management

Since 2023 roe deer have moved into the area and are now being managed.

Concern over the frost sensitivity of Douglas fir and Japanese red cedar, meant Duncan protected every other tree to see whether there would be a difference in growth between them. So far there has been no appreciable difference.

All trees have been weeded at least once annually.

Update

Four years after planting most species are doing well. Small leaved lime has failed to thrive, and there was an early issue with weevils that seemed to favour Japanese red cedar.



Broadleaves were planted close to racks to add biodiversity to the woodland

**If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact
Duncan Winton - duncan@treesandtimber.co.uk - 07966 659810**



Oaks were seeded in 'nests' along a drill line. Credit Woodland Heritage

3. WOODLAND HERITAGE, JAMES WOOD, SOMERSET

Key points

- Direct seeding of oak
- Comparison with cell grown trees
- Different provenances
- Former agricultural land

Increasing Understanding of Direct Seeding in UK

An innovative scheme for direct seeding of oak in the UK is taking place in Somerset at Woodland Heritage's 20 hectare (ha) James Wood, the charity's first demonstration woodland.

Between January-April 2025 16.5ha of the site were planted, mainly with one-year-old cell-grown trees under an English Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) grant. More than 30 broadleaved and conifer species were included. Small existing woodland areas and hedges were incorporated.

The remaining land was planted with oak under an RFS Grant for Resilient Woodlands using a direct seeding technique not covered under the EWCO grant.

The site is on rolling former agricultural land between the Quantock Hills and Exmoor National Park.



Volunteers walk the drill rows, putting on a cane and Easywrap tree guard for each seedling. Credit Woodland Heritage



Successful germination. Credit Woodland Heritage

Direct Seeding

This planting method is widespread in Europe but not in the UK. The woodland plan was designed by Woodland Heritage with advice from Norbert Kovacs, Senior Forest Manager at Euroforest.

The seeding was designed in blocks across five compartments and planted between blocks of cell grown oaks.

Forestart provided all acorns from cold storage. Pendunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) came from the Lowther Estate in Cumbria. Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) came from Ross-on-Wye in England, Poland, France and the Netherlands.

Acorn rows were planted by country/provenance at densities of 10,000, 5,000 and 3,000 ha. Rows are 3m apart for easy mowing. They are GPS mapped for easy comparison in future years with the cell grown trees.

Brendon Hill Tree Services undertook the planting. Initial preparation included subsoiling – preparation of the drill line to loosen compacted soil – and an application of weed killer along each line to eliminate competitive grasses.

A tree planting machine attached to a tractor was adapted for seeding.



Oak seeding at James Wood using a specially adapted tree planting machine attached to a tractor. Credit Woodland Heritage

The Pros

By planting in high densities (replicating a good mast year) the trees should grow fast and straight with fewer side branches. This should lead to more choices when thinning, respacing and choosing best quality timber trees. In turn that could lead to higher timber returns.

If successful, the initial costs per tree will also be less. The approximate cost is about 10p per acorn or 48p per tree assuming 20,260 final trees. This compares with £2.67 per tree for 23,500 cell grown broadleaf trees with easywrap tree shelters or £1.60 per tree without shelters.

However, direct seeding can only be used where land is relatively even. It requires earlier and more frequent interventions to respace and thin than cell grown trees.

Early Results

2025 turned out to be one of the driest springs ever recorded in the UK. It was followed by a hot dry summer and a warm wet winter.

There were good germination rates in areas where the land was initially damp and where planting density rates were highest. Patchy results were

recorded in rows planted closest to field hedges and existing woodland where the ground was drier. The results affect all acorn seed provenances. Theories include:

- dry ground made it difficult to plant acorns deeply enough;
- competition for moisture from established vegetation; and
- squirrels (and others) digging up acorns for food.

There were just 15% losses among cell grown trees.

Monitoring will continue over decades to measure how the direct seeded trees compare with the cell grown trees planted in the same season.

See For Yourself

A generous bequest from James Stratton (1971-2019) to Woodland Heritage made the creation of James Wood possible. Woodland Heritage holds Open Woods and Workshops Days. Details are at www.woodlandheritage.org



Successful germination. Credit Woodland Heritage

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact

Email - office@woodlandheritage.org



Douglas fir in Fulmodeston thriving in 2026

4. HOLMES WOOD AND FULMODESTON SEVERALS, NORFOLK

Key points

- Restocking
- Natural regeneration management
- TRICO deer repellent
- Small group planting

Planting & Protecting Trees For Future Timber

“Provenance is everything. It is as important as how you plant and care for your trees.”

Edward Brun, trustee and managing forester for the Clackmannan Woods Settlement.

More than four years after the RFS Grants for Resilient Woods were used for restocking Holmes Wood and Fulmodeston Severals in Norfolk, both woods are thriving. In Holmes Wood, an additional grant was made for the management of natural regeneration.

Holmes Wood and Fulmodeston Severals are two of the three woodlands that make up the award-winning Clackmannan Woods Settlement in Norfolk. Active deer and grey squirrel management is in place.

They lie about 60m above sea level, on a sandy plateau with pockets of clay. Average rainfall is about 63cm a year. The woods have weathered three hot dry springs and summers since being planted. Despite the wet start to 2026, the water table remains low.

Objectives

The focus in both woods is on growing construction-quality and high-value timber of the future. The Settlement supplies specialist and mainstream markets at home and abroad.

Holmes Wood

In Holmes Wood, select felling of 1910 plantings of beech, sweet chestnut and oak took place in 2021. In February/March 2022 Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) was planted at 2m x 2m spacing. It established quickly.

Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) is being managed for coppicing. Growth from existing mature stumps has been vigorous. At Year 2-3 growth was reduced to two shoots per stool. Later these will be reduced to one to grow on to maiden trees.

Abundant regeneration of beech, Douglas fir, larch, birch and Scots pine is being managed to enhance the species mixes within the woodland. No replacement planting has been required.

TRICO deer repellent is being sprayed regularly. It has proved broadly successful for conifers but not so successful for broadleaves. The main problem is now fraying, with deer rubbing antlers on trees, rather than grazing them. The area was weeded in 2022-23.



Douglas fir thriving in Holmes Wood



Sweet chestnut coppice in Holmes Wood in 2026



TRICO deer deterrent has been used to reduce deer browsing.

Fulmodeston Severals

Fulmodeston Severals had been planted with an unusual and broad mix of conifer and hardwood species in 1865 by the 2nd Earl of Leicester as part of the nearby Holkham Estate. It was acquired by the current owners in 1979. Oak, Douglas fir and larch were felled in 2021. The 3.06 ha area was restocked with 9,650 trees using Grants for Resilient Woods in spring 2022.

Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and oak (*Quercus Robur*) were planted in small groups within a deer fenced area at 2m x2m and 1.5m x 1.25m spacing respectively. Natural regeneration has been encouraged. Initial plantings of Douglas fir were disappointing but additional plantings have proved successful.

There has also been substantial natural regeneration of both hardwood and softwood species. Some natural regeneration has now been transplanted elsewhere in the wood. Over vigorous birch regeneration has been removed as part of the management plan.

Provenance

Douglas fir has been sourced from the French tested seed orchard La Luzette and oak has been

sourced from British Hardwoods Improvement Programme trees elsewhere on the estate.

The provenance of all plantings is an important consideration for this estate which has been trialling oak from select seed stands in the Netherlands and Denmark and improved birch from Scandinavia.



Natural regen marked for transplantation elsewhere on the estate

**If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact
Edward Brun - ebrun@fringestate.co.uk**



Site overview in 2026 with a clear deer run through the less dense vegetation area

5. SIMONS WOOD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Key points

- Adding diversity
- Inter row management
- Productive oak
- Conversion to CCF

A Productive Template For The Future

“Where once we had just ash and oak with a hazel understory in this compartment we now have many species. This adds biodiversity and ensures the woodland would continue if new pests or diseases impacts any one species of tree.” Dan Cammarata-Hall, Forestry Manager for Milton Estates, Cambridgeshire.

A decision not to inter-weed between rows is just one of the management decisions being celebrated in Simons Wood near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

In 2022 a total of 1,700 young cell grown trees were planted in a 2 hectare (ha) compartment after successfully applying for our Grant for Resilient Woodlands. The compartment had previously been ash and oak with a hazel understory. Ash had been cleared in 2020 after falling victim to ash dieback. Some oak had been left standing for structural and age diversity.

Nine species were chosen for the compartment as a first move towards Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) across the wood. The plantings were seen as a template for future compartment management.

The Site

Simons Wood is part of the wider Milton Estate. It is a 22.7ha Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) site which adjoins the estate’s 15ha Oxye Wood.

The site is about 20m above sea level, with an average rainfall of around 68cm (26in) per year. It has slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base rich loamy and clayey soils.

The Aim

There are eight compartments in Simons Wood. They each contain limited mixes of broadleaf and coniferous species and tend to be single age. A new woodland management plan is being finalised. The planting policy used to move this first compartment to CCF has since been replicated.

Species

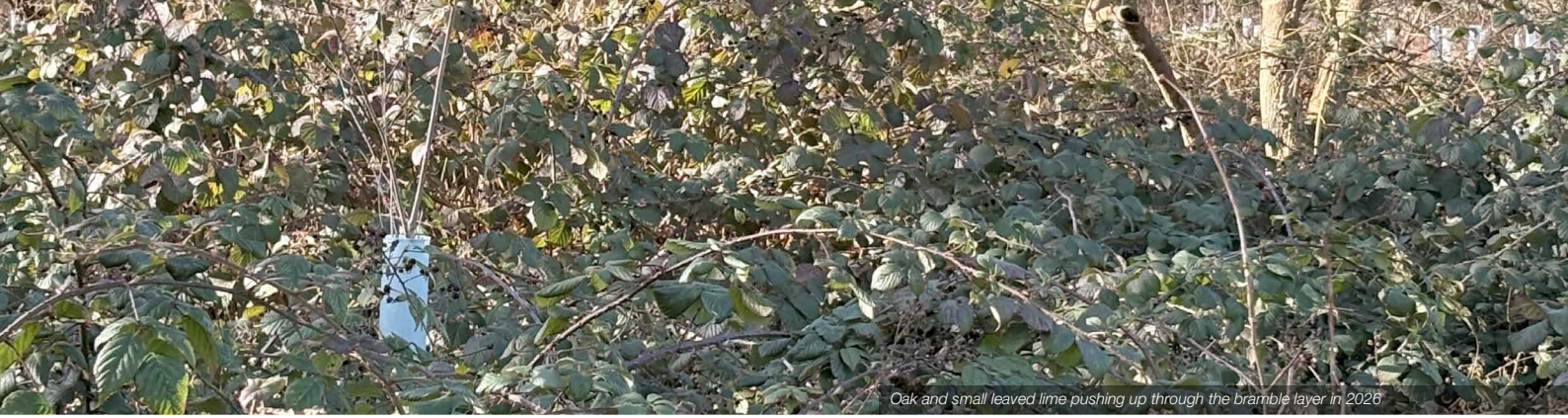
The [Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification](#) (ESC) tool was used as a guide to suitability together with a knowledge of species growing well locally.

The cell grown trees were provided by Cheviot Trees with a known provenance.

- Pendunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
- Wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)
- Small leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*)
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Yew (*Taxus baccata*)
- Wild privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)
- Box (*Buxus*)



Wild privet growing strong out of the top of the 1.2m guard



Oak and small leaved lime pushing up through the bramble layer in 2026



In 2022 Simons Wood was planted in rows and blocks with some oak retained for structural and age diversity

Productivity

Coppice species will provide woodland products for use on the Milton Estate and Gardens. A first thin in 20 years will include hornbeam as a firewood crop.

Oak is seen as a final timber crop; evergreens such as yew and box to provide year-round colour and cover to encourage birds; and shrubby species such as blackthorn and wild privet for biodiversity and landscape value around woodland edge and rides.

Management

Prolonged waterlogging in some parts of the compartment contributed to losses in more sensitive species particularly oak, black walnut, yew and cherry.

There has however been a steady and welcome emergence of natural regeneration, particularly blackthorn and willow. Willow had not previously been known in the woodland.

1.5m deer guards were used but deer pressure has affected almost all species. The exception is hornbeam which is now around 1.5 m above the tubes and performing well.

Active deer management is in place.

Inter-row management

Where bramble has been allowed to develop - reaching around 1.2m in places - the trees are pushing through strongly. Some lime and oak are already half a metre above the guards.

Heavier bramble cover is also influencing deer movement. Clear runs are forming where browsing pressure is concentrated. Denser bramble patches are largely avoided.

Weeds are also helping to keep moisture in at ground level creating coolness on hot summer days.



Hornbeam is showing particularly strong growth in 2026

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact Dan Cammarata-Hall - Forestry@miltonestate.co.uk - 01733 267740



Windy Gap where performance of alternatives to Sitka spruce will be shared with other woodland owners, timber growers and processors in Northern Ireland

6. WINDY GAP, NORTHERN IRELAND

Key points

- Productive timber
- Conifer diversity
- Pure species stands
- Marginal hill land

Exploring Alternatives to Sitka Spruce

“There is currently a major reliance on Sitka spruce for timber production, especially by timber processors, so we decided to investigate if there are alternative species which could be of value to that industry,” says owner, James Hamilton Stubber.

The Aughtentine Estate in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, restocked Windy Gap, a 4.44ha compartment, with nearly 10,000 conifers after successfully applying for our Grants for Resilient Woodlands.

Most were planted in early 2022. The unavailability of certain bare root species due to import restrictions meant Japanese cedar had to be sourced as cell grown in peat and was planted in December 2023.



Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) has been an early success story despite being planted a season later than other species



Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) is doing well

Baseline Survey

The trees were planted in pure species blocks of around 0.50ha to 0.75ha. The performance of this project will be shared with other woodland owners, timber growers and processors in Northern Ireland.

A Baseline Species Survey was carried out in October 2025 and will be repeated every two or three years. Initial results have been positive. Some species, including Japanese cedar, Douglas fir, Western hemlock, and Western red cedar are all showing particularly impressive growth.

The estate has a history of innovation. The plantings are the third crop on the site.

A first crop of Sitka spruce planted in 1963 was windblown in 1988. A second crop of Sitka spruce was planted in 1989 with half the site planted with grey alder in every 4th row to act as a nitrogen fixer. The compartment was clear felled in 2021. There was no discernible difference in the quality or tonnage between the two halves.

The Site

Windy Gap is 210 to 260m above sea level on marginal hill land with a southerly aspect. Soil is acidic with a clay sub-soil. Annual rainfall is approximately 127cm (50in). It is within an area of around 200ha of commercial conifer woodlands stocked nearly exclusively with Sitka spruce.



Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) looking good



Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) has been an early success story despite being planted a season later than other species

Species Choice

The estate sought advice from its forestry consultants. This complemented the experience and knowledge of how various species have performed from over the 60 years of managing their woodlands.

- 1,500 Grand fir (*Abies grandis*)
- 1,220 Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*)
- 1,400 European larch (*Larix decidua*)
- 1,200 Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*)
- 1,700 Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)
- 1,200 Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- 1,400 Norway spruce (*Picea abies*)

Care and Maintenance

Beat ups were carried out in 2024 and 2025. There has also been spot weeding in areas where rushes are particularly vigorous.

Pests and Diseases

A deer management plan is in place for red, fallow and Sitka deer across the estate. Damage to the new plantings has so far been minimal.

The Estate hopes the elevated and exposed position of the planting will help prevent weevils.

Elsewhere on the estate hybrid larch has suffered from phytophthora. European larch was chosen for its resilience to phytophthora.

More Information

The RFS Annual Study Tour will be held in Northern Ireland in May 2027. Windy Gap will be among many fascinating stops. A full write up of this tour will be included in the October 2027 Quarterly Journal of Forestry.



Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) starting to thrive

If you are interested in learning more about this project, please contact

Email - office@aughtaine.com

The printing of this report was generously funded by our partners Train Hugger and GreenTheUK



The RFS is a registered Charity (No. 306093) and is also a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales (No. 5306975). Our VAT registration number is 697 9058 62. Patron: HM The King.

Published April 2026

Grants for
Resilient
Woodlands



Discover more about the RFS at
www.rfs.org.uk

The Royal Forestry Society

The Hay Barns, Home Farm Drive, Upton
Estate, Banbury OX15 6HU.

Tel: 01295 678588

Email: rfsHQ@rfs.org.uk

Visit: www.rfs.org.uk

