

## Continuous Cover Forestry Tour to Germany

22<sup>nd</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006

### Setting the scene

For more than a decade continuous cover forestry (CCF) has been reconsidered as a suitable forest management tool to meet the sustainability requirements which are part of the Rio Helsinki process. CCF may be said to include those silvicultural systems which involve continuous and uninterrupted maintenance of the forest. It endeavours to secure 'a continuous, harmonious cooperation of all factors of growth' (Troup, 1928). This is an 'environmentally friendly' forest management system which is only just being introduced to Wales, but been practiced for generations in Germany. The term sustainability is close to the idea of continuous cover. It has received a new quality since the United Nations Commission on Economic Development (UNCED) summit at Rio ten years ago. The new definition states that forest resources and forest lands should be sustainably managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations (United Nations, 2001). The Rio conference and its subsequent process provided a major impetus for the acceptance of the continuous cover forestry idea. We have specifically selected Northern Germany as a study area because site conditions are similar to those found in Britain and CCF is only 10-20 years ahead.

### The tour programme will include

- the management of *mixed* and *uneven-aged* stands along the German North sea coast in particularly *windy climate* (Schleswig-Holstein)
- regeneration of *mixed stands* on *poor sandy soils* under a first generation *Scots pine canopy* (Lower Saxony: Heatherlands of Lüneburg)
- the management of *mixed ash-sycamore-beech*, *Norway spruce-beech* and *oak-beech* woodlands (Lower Saxony: Göttinger Wald, Solling, Harz mountains)
- restoration of ancient woodland sites
- practical information on individual tree silviculture including tree marking samples and the frame tree method; training in silvicultural systems

The study tour will be co-organised and hosted by the Forestry Services of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, the University of Göttingen and the directors of the Forestry Research Stations of Denmark and Lower Saxony.

**Costs: ~ £450 per person excluding food. Places are limited. First come first served.**

A specific website (Blackboard) will provide detailed information on the tour as planning goes ahead.

**Interested? For more information please contact:**

Dr Arne Pommerening, arne.pommerening@bangor.ac.uk

Prof Douglas Godbold, d.l.godbold@bangor.ac.uk