

BIOGRAPHY

Edward Wilson

BScF, BMedSci, MSIF, FRSB
Silviculturist

Edward (Ted) Wilson is a silviculturist who specialises in the sustainability, resilience and conservation of temperate forests. He has extensive international experience as a forestry practitioner, researcher and policy advisor. Currently he is Adjunct Professor of Silviculture, Institute of Forestry and Conservation, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto, Canada.

He has worked in Ireland, Canada and the UK over a period of 35 years, and delivered projects in more than 15 other countries. He has held posts with the Canadian Forest Service, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, UK Forestry Commission and the Royal Forestry Society. He was Walsh Fellow in Silviculture with Teagasc from 2017-2022, specializing in new approaches (Continuous Cover Forestry) to improving the resilience of Irish forests in response to threats from climate change, pests and diseases.

As a forestry professional, Ted has served as a district management forester and written or supervised over 40 sustainable forest management plans, managed a network of public forests with high public use, and administered a regional tree planting programme on private land. He has worked closely with communities and individual woodland owners, and contributed to a range of consultancies linked to public use and access to woodlands. As education manager with the Royal Forestry Society (2015-2017) he developed an online knowledge hub, resources and short courses to promote forest management skills among woodland owners.

In terms of tree and woodland policy, Ted has served on several senior-level boards, committees and specialist groups that develop new forestry policies and provide advice about trees and forest management. Most notably these include the Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee (UK Forestry Commission, 2010-2017), Expert Group on Forests and Natural 2000 Biosphere Reserves (European Commission, 2013-2015), Conservation Advisory Group (Woodland Trust, 2015-2019), International Editorial Board (Arboricultural Journal, 2008-2019) and National Forestry Forum (England, 2015).

Among other projects, Ted has served as a judge for the UK Tree of the Year contest (Woodland Trust, 2015, 2016, 2017), coordinator of continuous cover forestry courses (Natural Resources Wales, Teagasc, Pro Silva Ireland, 2018-2022), co-principal for a study of the social value of osprey in the Lake District, England (University of Cumbria, Forestry Commission, 2012-14), co-principal for the "Ancient ash trees in Eden" citizen science project (Heritage Lottery funded, 2013), consultant on Supersizing Broadleaves project (Future Trees Trust, 2022-). Work on the benefits of urban trees for mental well-being (Sheffield, 2010-2014) has been widely cited. He has also chaired and organized several national and international conferences, symposia and lecture series on silviculture, forest health and woodland management.

As an applied scientist and educator, Ted has published over 100 papers, articles and reports related to forest management, woodland establishment, continuous cover forestry, forest resilience and social benefits of woodland. He has presented over 160 technical presentations, several as keynote speaker.

Ted is a Technical Member, Society of Irish Foresters (since 2017) and Fellow, Royal Society of Biology (elected 2016). He is an active member of several professional organisations, including the Association of Applied Biologists, Canadian Institute of Forestry, British Ecological Society and Pro Silva Ireland.

Further details: www.forester.org.uk