

BIOGRAPHY

Edward Wilson

Silviculturist

BScF [New Brunswick], **BMedSci** [Sheffield], **MSIF**, **FRSB**

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, educator and policy advisor. Currently he is Principal of the Silviculture Academy and 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 novel approaches (Continuous Cover Forestry) to improving the resilience of Irish forests in response to threats from climate change, pests and diseases. Outside forestry, senior appointments have included Governor of the NHS in Cumbria (2012-2015).

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, including work with a First Nation community in Quebec. As Education Manager with the Royal Forestry Society (2015-2017) he developed an online knowledge hub, resources and short courses to promote forestry skills among woodland owners. He has held several university appointments, including programme director and postgraduate supervisory roles.

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; Forest Policy Group (trustee, board member, 2025-); Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee (UK Forestry Commission, 2010-2017); Expert Group on Forests and Natural 2000 Biosphere Reserves (European Commission, 2013-2015); Steering Group of the Prince of Wales Forest Leadership Award (UK and Canada) (2013-2015); Conservation Advisory Group (Woodland Trust, 2015-2019); International Editorial Board (Arboricultural Journal, 2008-2019; Forestry Chronicle, 2013-2016); and National Forestry Forum (England, 2015).

Among other projects, Ted has served as a judge for the UK Tree of the Year (Woodland Trust, 2015, 2016, 2017), coordinator of continuous cover forestry courses (Natural Resources Wales, Teagasc, Pro Silva Ireland, Cumbria Woodlands, Silviculture Academy 2018-2026), 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 (National 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 national and international conferences, symposia and lecture series on silviculture, forest health and woodland management. Most recently he was a chair of AAB Creating Canopies II and the UK Treescapes Conference.

As an applied scientist and educator, Ted has published over 150 papers, articles and reports related to forest management, woodland establishment, continuous cover forestry, forest resilience and social benefits of woodland. Several papers are now "highly cited"; his research profile places him in the top 8% for forestry, globally (ResearchGate). He has made over 200 technical presentations, several as keynotes.

Ted is a Technical Member, Society of Irish Foresters (since 2017) and Fellow, Royal Society of Biology (elected 2016). He is a recipient of the Gold Medal of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, James Cup of the Royal Forestry Society, among other awards. He is an active member of several professional organisations, including the Association of Applied Biologists, Canadian Institute of Forestry, Society of Irish Foresters, British Ecological Society, Continuous Cover Forestry Group and Pro Silva Ireland.

Further details of research, training, publications: www.silviculture.org.uk