

CURRICULUM VITAE

Karen Russell BSc(Hons), MICFor

Senior Forestry Consultant & Research Services Manager

DATE OF BIRTH

9th January 1972

QUALIFICATIONS

- Full Membership, Institute of Chartered Foresters 2007
- Bachelor of Science Upper Second Class Honours degree,
Biological Sciences, University of Portsmouth 1993

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- British & Irish Hardwoods Improvement Programme, Executive Committee
and member of several species groups 1996-to date
- British & Irish Hardwoods Improvement Programme, Cherry Group Secretary 1997-to date
- British & Irish Hardwoods Improvement Programme, Chestnut Group Secretary 2009-to date
- Referee for various international science journals 2000-2008
- Walnut Club, Secretary, Committee Member, Editor of Newsletter 2000-2006
- European Forest Genetic Resources Programme, UK representative 1998-2005
- EU COST Action Programme, UK Management Committee representative 1995-1999

CAREER

Lockhart Garratt Ltd: Senior Forestry Consultant & Research Services Manager Oct 2008 - to date
East Malling Research: Woodland Research Programme Coordinator Jul 1998 - Jul 2008
Seconded to Defra: Land use and Biomass Specialist Nov 2006 - Mar 2007
East Malling Research: Research Leader Sept 1993 - 1998

EXPERIENCE

Trees, Forestry and Woodland Management

Chartered Forester experienced in dealing with the establishment, management and conservation of trees and woodlands, particularly in combination with woodland surveys, quality timber production objectives and novel silvicultural systems. Expert knowledge of cherry, sweet chestnut and walnut.

Research

Karen has 15 years experience in broadleaved tree research on native and non-native species. Specialist areas include management and characterization of genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ*), breeding and improvement strategies, climate change impacts, conservation and biodiversity studies. Substantial experience of UK and European research programmes and fora, undertaking project identification, development, management, coordination and reporting at local, national and international levels.

As an experienced forestry research and development manager who combines academic, stakeholder and policy development experience with practical forestry and agricultural knowledge, Karen is able to add value to projects by being able to strategically understand 'the bigger picture and context' and to communicate this.

Industry interaction and surveys

Karen has a very wide experience of Stakeholder engagement, having coordinated and facilitated many and varied events, tailoring them to the requirements of different audiences. This has developed substantial expertise of different forestry and agricultural sectors, and associated stakeholder organisations. She has designed and undertaken a range of national surveys to examine perceptions, supply chains and to identify constraints in forestry and the biomass industry, reporting findings and recommendation to Government and industry.

Policy Development

Karen is skilled in the identification, collation and evaluation of industry, government and research data sources to inform and develop strategic policies relating to forestry, biomass and land use. Karen was seconded to *defra's* Bioenergy policy unit in 2006-07 as a recognised expert in forestry, biomass and land use, to lead a programme of work (across several Government departments) to provide strategic analyses and data on biomass and land use to underpin and inform the development of two key documents – the UK Biomass Strategy and the Government's Energy White Paper in 2007. Subsequently, Karen has maintained contacts with *defra*, DECC and Forestry Commission. Experience in specifying, negotiating and commissioning Government contracts and drafting responses to Parliamentary Questions.

PUBLICATIONS

- Broad range of refereed (21) and other scientific publications in UK and international journals as well as European species reports and conservation guidelines.
- Numerous reports for UK Government and EU commissioned research projects.
- Various articles in trade press and journals.

KEY PROJECTS AT LOCKHART GARRATT

Strategic Economic Study of South West England Woodland and Forestry (2008) and Regional Forestry Economic Baseline for the West Midlands (2009)

Commissioned by South West Woodland Renaissance with funding from the South West of England Regional Development Agency and Advantage West Midlands respectively. These were collaborative projects with *ekosgen* (Development and Regeneration consultants) with Karen as Project Manager for Lockhart Garratt undertaking primary and secondary research across the sector. Our work involved three key elements a) Regional economic studies of forestry b) Stakeholder surveys to evaluate the impact of the regional funding of forestry and c) Recommendations to facilitate sector development. Both reports becoming the key forestry evidence reference documents for policymakers and delivery bodies in SW England and West Midlands. Nov 08 - Mar 09. and Aug 08 - Dec 09.

British & Irish Trust: Sweet Chestnut Project.

Funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. This project on sweet chestnut involved a) collection of superior trees and their propagation b) assessment of the UK resource c) summary of chestnut's environmental requirements and ecological characteristics and d) evaluation of chestnut's potential as an energy crop and recommendations for future work. As Project Manager, Karen coordinated the involvement of 51 estates and landowners, reviewed literature and delivered a high quality project within very tight deadlines. Jan - Mar 09.

Implementation Strategy: Hazel & Thoroughsale Woods.

Funded by Corby Borough Council. This project built on a strategic Management Plan for the woodland and was designed to enable the effective, timely and budgeted implementation of the Management Plan over a 15 year period and with a budget of £1.66M. It aims to transform the 73 hectare woodland into a green asset for Corby, providing a vibrant, safe, attractive and well-managed community woodland, as well as conserving its wildlife. Karen jointly developed the Implementation Strategy and will be involved in putting it into practice. May 09 – to present.

Last updated 21th January 2010