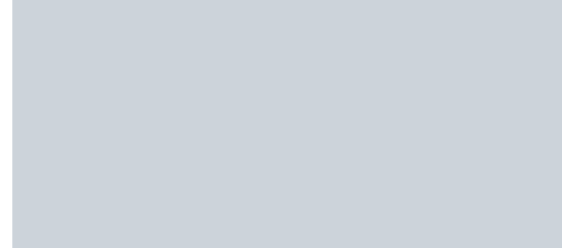
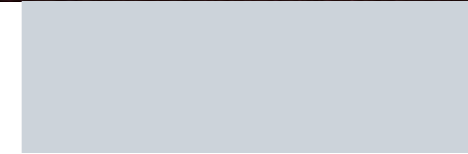


A DAY IN THE WORKING LIFE

Dr James Walmsley

Educating tomorrow's foresters is a multi-faceted vocation. In the latest of an occasional series of features showcasing roles within the industry, Bangor University's School of Natural Sciences Forestry



learners) come to Bangor for an 'intensive residential', spending a week learning about management planning and being challenged to develop a vision for a forested landscape up to the year 2100.

"We follow standard management planning protocols," says James. "Stretching the imagination over that time-span is hard: there is no single right answer. How certain words are used can change people's minds and determine the future of a forest. A plan could detail a site purely in terms of what is on site: oak, rowan, Sitka, larch, planted 1970; presence of red squirrels; footpaths, car parks, watercourses and so on. Describe the site instead by using value-based terms such as veteran, natural, ancient, unproductive, exotic, non-native, invasive, special, degraded, etc, and people start to get excited. This year we are introducing agricultural land and silvopasture into the study area, to reflect the increasing focus on afforestation."

Next month, James and colleagues will lead 65 students on a study tour to Scotland, exploring the role of hedges, trees and small copses as part of landscape-scale attempts to reduce flooding, and the use of new technologies such as LiDAR and drones for upland forestry plantation management. "Some students have never seen the inspiring work done by volunteers (Carrifran Wildwood), or been to a large-scale commercial forest (Eskdalemuir) or sawmill (James Jones & Sons): this really helps to bring their studies to life."

James is currently planning the compulsory two-week Tropical Forestry Study Tour, which will take place in Ghana in July 2019, in collaboration with the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG). Planning is complex. Students fly in from numerous locations across the planet, requiring assistance with issues such as visas and persuading employers to allow them time off, and all logistics such as travel, accommodation, food, staffing, negotiating with local guides, experts and facilities must be organised

James says: "Ghana's forest resource is fantastically diverse. The government is looking at reversing deforestation through plantations. Week one includes visits to degraded forest sites, primary and secondary forests, timber plantations of *Tectona grandis* and *Cedrela odorata*, nurseries, cocoa agro-forestry sites and sawmills."

In week two, student-led projects are undertaken in and around a 5,500-ha forest reserve. Preliminary findings are presented to stakeholders on the final day of the study tour, including staff at the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, with students taking