

# Irregular Silviculture – transformation in practise course

by Nick Turnbull

**A**s a recent graduate of the MSc course in Forestry at Bangor University (via distance learning), I have become used to people talking passionately about forests and trees. After all, trees matter. But persuading others to look again at what they have in front of them sometimes needs evangelists. Experts in the transformation of even-aged plantations to continuous cover forestry, Andy Poore and David Pengelly of SelectFor, take on this challenge. David and I can pull-off the challenge of

ensuring the production of excellent timber whilst maintaining a beautiful environment. But before the course members get to trees, lectures are delivered in the Stourhead memorial hall, administered by the National Trust which manages the landscape gardens, which historically were part of the whole Stourhead Estate. This neighbourliness seems to work, although

reveal whether the principles of continuous cover management have been absorbed. Course members are divided into teams and scores are provided. On this course, a husband and wife team, who own woodland in both Oxfordshire and Dorset, but were new to continuous cover forestry, led the way. Their secret weapon: the wife was French, and the French have always appreciated and understood their trees. No surprise therefore, that Andy Poore and David Pengelly have close association with the French organisation, the Association Futaie Ao.e 5Wraultiore (AFI), J E

has every tree within it recorded, measured and graded. Potential capital has also been pre-judged against which a marking exercise can be measured to