

*“Let me tell you something. You need a transformation. I need a transformation. The way the forest is managed needs a transformation.”* The reflective thoughts of David Lasala, one of the participants in this highly respected two day course run by Andy Poore and David Pengelly of SelectFor. Woodland Heritage generously supported six attendees of the most recent iteration (autumn 2016) and this article is an edited version of

Over its history the forest at Stourhead has been managed for its aesthetic value and particularly as a backdrop to the Estate’s renowned gardens. So much so that in 1898 a policy against large-scale clearfelling was implemented. to educate participants and to bring only small areas at a time, the forest the practical steps required to transform even-aged stands into ‘permanent irregular’ stands. The beautiful and developed into a patchwork of small even-aged stands, enchanting Stourhead (Western) Estate plays host to one varying from the next in age and species. When lectures and site visits, the combination of which makes a convincing case for the virtues of selective felling. Jonathan Tompson and David got involved with the Estate in the mid-90s they began to break up this uniform stand structure by felling and thinning across boundaries, and managing not by area but on a tree-by-tree basis. Here the objective is to make the most of every good tree (in terms of timber production) and for every tree to reach its financial optimum. Jonathan Tompson

for each tree





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