

Pete Verney

Managing the forest.

The commission holdings up on the moor contain probably 95 % Sitka Spruce, it's one of the most important commercial species in the country and it is just ideally suited to growing on the moor, you know, the conditions and the weather and the types of soil that we encounter up here are ideally suited to it. The main issue out here on the moor is one of landscape, you know, this is not a native species and its received a certain amount of criticism over the years, it was planted at a time when the commission was in its infancy and the commission was tasked purely by producing a strategic reserve of timber, at the end of the 1st World War tree covering in Great Britain was down to about 5% so the commission was set up to try and turn that around, so this was essentially purely a commercial forest, it was set up to provide that strategic reserve, create jobs, which was a very important part of the role of the commission.