

Pete Verney

Changes in forestry work.

It really was hard manual labour, if I could put it that way, it was relatively unmechanised in its infancy, although we always had tractors and crawlers and things, the initial fellings and thinnings were done using axes and cross cuts to fell and cut up the trees, as time progressed we moved into the era of chainsaws and from there we've now moved even further along the mechanical line into forwarders for picking up the timber and harvesters which are huge machines that can cut, pick up, process the trees in a matter of minutes. The other thing with a young forest which Bellever obviously was in the 1930s up to the Second World War is that when its young, in its early days, it needs a lot more intensive management, as it becomes mature or semi mature that need for management is less consequently the need for less guys, so from a workforce of some, here at Bellever of around 30 some 20 years ago, we are now down to four of us.