

## FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND

### Woods for Learning: ANNUAL REPORT 05/06

#### Background

Woods for Learning, the FCS education strategy, was agreed by the NC in June 05. It is all about using Scotland's trees, woods and forests:

- to contribute to improving the life chances of young people;
- as an exemplar of sustainable development.

Four objectives are shaping our work with learning over the next three years:

1. **Local woods for learning:** Increasing the use of woodlands as an outdoor learning resource.
2. **Priority groups:** Focusing increased activity on priority secondary age groups.
3. **Facilities and services:** Providing woodland based education opportunities for use by education professionals.
4. **Increase recognition:** Increasing recognition and understanding of the potential of woods as a learning resource and an exemplar of sustainable development.

#### Education activity during 05/06

The following table reports progress against 05/06 actions in the 'Woods for Learning' programme plan.

Actions	Achieved	Comment
Report on current FCS education activity and propose monitoring and evaluation procedures	✓	Report available from the intranet
Publish 'Woods for Learning' Strategy	✓	Launched on 16 January 2006 at Fala Hill Primary School, Fauldhouse
Evaluation of Forest School in Scotland	✓	Report available from <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4xtm77">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4xtm77</a>
WIAT Education Officer appointed	✓	Wendy Hay started 2 April
Establish an Forest Education Initiative Scotland Steering group	✓	Achieved with agreement from the group to set up 2 subgroup on vocational and careers education and forest schools
Review of tree Trunk	✓	Report available from the intranet

Pilot Physical Activity trail	✓	Results from pilot used to revise trail for launch in 06
Set up and run Scottish Finest Woods Education Award	✓	Achieved. 19 entries received for judging in May 06

Other significant developments during 05/06:

- 25 education related press releases issued (14 on education launch).
- FCS and FEI hosted four teacher placements focusing on physical activity and enterprise skills. The 'Peg Bag Trail' is under revision with input from the WIAT Health and Education Officers.
- North East FEI Development Officer, Simon Harry, was appointed November 2005 for three years.
- The FEI Edinburgh/City of Edinburgh Council Forest Education programme will be part funded by the FCS WIAT Challenge fund. This includes funding for an Education Development Officer, Forest School training courses and demonstration Forest Schools.
- FEI Partnership fund has contributed to the development of nine local group projects across Scotland. The projects range from promoting health and well being ('Forest School' and 'Wooden Games' projects); to linking with the timber industry ('Seed to Saw' and 'Wood Tour' projects) to providing opportunities for learning about biodiversity and first hand learning ('Woodland Bus').
- Two Forest School training courses were run in Inverness and Dunkeld.
- Three events were run:

Networking day for FEI/ Forest School in Scotland

Forest School support day for trainees

Dealing with challenging behaviour in children (for FCS staff)

### Education progress indicators

FCS has worked with	June 2005- March 2006
Number of vocational pupils (worked with on course projects)	101
Number of teachers (on placement or worked with)	157
Number of children with additional support for learning needs	286
Total number of school visits (number of pupils)	8095
FEI funded Projects	9
FEI Cluster groups	12
Number of Forest Schools	20
Number of Forest School leaders in training	112

## 05/06 Education spend

	FES	FCS	Partnership fund	Total
Education spend	£315k	£84k	£20k	<b>£420k</b>

## What we said we would do in 06/07

The following table indicates Education programme plan actions for 06/07.

With partners (LTS, SNH, CSFT, FEI) link the Tree Trunk to the LTS outdoor learning website; to include a revision of content	Mar 07
Develop the Local Woods for Learning programme - to include pilot sites, training for FCS staff and teachers, and production of a Toolkit to aid the use of local woods by schools	Mar-07
Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for FCS education programmes	Nov 06
Produce guidance for FCS staff on Forest School and Vocational Courses	Nov 06
Establish 2 subgroups for the FEI Steering Group: Careers and Vocational Training; Forest School	Sep 06
Roll out the 'Wooden Games' in pilot areas in Glasgow, NE and BTC FEI clusters	Mar 07
Run Forest School Quality Assurance Scheme pilot	Dec 06

**FCS**  
**June 2006**

## **Case studies**

### **Wooden Games**

This new project will challenge schools in Perthshire, Glasgow and Aberdeenshire to host their own Olympic style event using a set of wooden games developed by a traditional wood worker Kenny Grieve. Area training events will help teachers work with their pupils to produce games including quoits, giant skittles and Viking wrestling sticks.

With strong links to the new Curriculum for Excellence, Wooden Games will encourage pupils to be more active in their school grounds, by creating excitement and interest in multidiscipline sports events. 3 FEI cluster groups, Big Tree Country (Perth), Glasgow and NE Scotland, are developing this project.

### **Clunes Forest School**

Forest School offers children regular opportunities for hands on learning in an outdoor setting, which helps to develop confidence and self esteem, as well as a practical understanding of the environment and sustainability issues. At Clunes Forest School, near Fort William, a group of autistic children have been doing a variety of activities such as coppicing and shelter building over the last year. These children have been presented with entirely new situations and the outcomes have been remarkable. Their attitude back at school is more positive and this has cascades into other aspects of their learning. Many of the children were very argumentative before they started, but now they work together, socialise and interact with others in ways they did not before.

### **Foggieton Project**

Foggieton woods form part of the Countesswells group of woodlands on the edge of Aberdeen. These are some of the busiest woods in the area used by local people for a range of recreational activities including walking cycling and horse riding. The Foggieton Project was set up to stimulate local involvement in the woods and help improve communication between FCS and the local community.

The initial phase of the project involved a felling operation in the woods. Each of the 3 local schools made a special visit to see the felling operations being carried out, and also to get a better idea of Foggieton itself, especially the "blank canvas" being created.

FCS staff then visited the schools to demonstrate how FCS designs its woods and the skills required to produce a plan; tree identification, measuring tree sizes, and how to use a map. The children were given blank maps of the woods and asked to produce a plan of their new woodland that had to fit a set of

agreed rules. Ideas from the children's designs have been incorporated into the overall design of the wood. Involvement with the schools helped to raise the profile of the development work in the woods with the local community. The children and community will continue to be involved with managing the woods through, for example, tree planting, maintenance etc.

### **The Peg Bag Trail**

The Peg Bag trail comprises of activities, which encourage a wide range of 'enterprise' skills and learning experiences involving physical activity in the outdoors.

The trail has been designed to be as flexible as possible in order to meet the individual needs of the user (teachers, youth leaders etc). It can be used for children aged 3-14 of different ability levels. Differentiated task cards are provided for use with early years and special needs. The trail can be set up in schools grounds, any woodland environment or park area where there are trees and only requires a few resources, stored in a portable bag.

The Peg Bag trail was developed by four teachers on a placement with FCS and FEI, funded through the Careers Scotland's EEBL programme. It has been piloted with schools in Edinburgh and by staff in Scottish Lowland Forest District and is currently undergoing a final review.

## Annex 1: Partner organisations for education

### National

- LTS
- SEED
- SEERAD
- SNH
- RHET
- LANTRA
- Central Scotland Forest Trust

### FEI Steering Group

- Central Scotland Forest Trust
- Eco Schools Scotland
- Field Studies Council
- LANTRA
- Learning and Teaching Scotland
- Royal Scottish Forestry Society
- Scottish Forest Industry Cluster
- Woodland Trust Scotland
- Tree Council
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- BTCV Scotland
- Grounds for Learning
- Sportscotland

### Partners with FCS Conservancies

#### Central

- West Lothian Council
- Woodland Trust Scotland
- City of Edinburgh Council,
- Scottish Natural Heritage,
- Grounds for Learning,
- Active Schools,
- Greenteam,
- Earthcalling
- Active Schools Edinburgh
- Careers Scotland
- Central Scotland Forest Industry Cluster
- Royal Scottish Forestry Society
- Phoenix House

#### South Scotland

- FEI

#### Perth and Argyll

- Scottish Enterprise Tayside
- Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust
- Perth and Kinross Council
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Leader+

### Additional partners with FCS Forest Districts

#### Dornoch FD

- Wick Primary School

#### Fort Augustus FD

- Glenurqhart High School
- Abriachan Forest Trust
- Kilchuimen Academy
- Balnain Primary
- Cannich Primary
- Kilchuimen primary
- Invergarry primary
- 10 glens community group
- Lochaber Council
- Highland Council

#### Inverness FD

- Abriachan Forest Trust
- Highland Council
- John Muir Award
- Glenmore Lodge National Outdoor Training Centre
- Scottish Forest Alliance
- Kingussie High
- Laggan Forest Trust

#### Lochaber FD

- Lochaber High school.
- Clunes partners – SNH & Highland Biodiversity.

#### Lorne FD

- SNH
- Active Schools Co-ordinator

#### Tay FD

- FEI,
- DTS,
- Blairgowrie High
- Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust
- Perth and Kinross Education and Leisure Departments
- Kinnoull Hill forest user group
- Community liaison Officers

#### Moray FD

- Speyside Way Ranger Service
- Active Schools Team
- Moray Council Ranger Service
- Highland Council Ranger Service
- Moray Mountain Bike Club
- Outfit Moray
- Arts Development Team
- Health Promotions Team

- Fire Service
- Grampian Police
- Volunteer Bureau
- Careers Service
- Grampian Fungus Group
- Out of School Federation
- 2 x Local Community Networks
- Youth Scotland
- Youth Justice Service

#### West Argyll FD

- Kilmartin Museum
- SNH
- Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
- ABREEF Management Board
- Tarbet Academy
- Edinburgh University
- BTCV
- Minard Community Woodland Trust,
- Blairbuie Community Woodland Trust
- Lantern Project Co-ordinators
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Stramash
- Mull and Iona Community Trust
- RSPB

#### Cowal & Trossachs FD

- Stirling Countryside Rangers Service
- Forth Environment Link
- Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary School
- RSPB
- Loch Lomond and National Park Authority Rangers Service
- Dounan's Outdoor Centre
- Central Scotland Police Wildlife Crime Division

#### Kincardine FD

- Foggieton Project
- Natural History Centre, University of Aberdeen.

- Aberdeenshire Council,

#### Buchan FD

- Scottish Forest Alliance
- Setpoint (Techfest)
- Forest Education Initiative
- Aberdeenshire council – Arts Development team
- Gordon Schools

#### Ae FD

- FEI
- Dalbeattie primary and secondary schools
- Colvend Primary School

#### Lowlands FD

- Grassfires Initiative
- West Lothian Council
- Fauldhouse Forest School Project
- Falkirk Council

#### Scottish Borders FD

- Peebles High School
- Fairbridge Initiative
- The Hub
- Lothian & Borders Police
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Red Squirrels in South Scotland Project
- Hawick High School
- RSPB,
- Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre,
- Borders Forest Trust

#### Galloway

- Eco schools project
- FEI
- Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust