

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2010

1. Basis of accounts

These accounts are prepared in accordance with a direction given by HM Treasury in pursuance of section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

Management commentary

2. Status

Forest Research became an Executive Agency of the Forestry Commission on 1 April 1997. It undertakes the major part of the Commission's research and development programmes as well as providing survey, monitoring and scientific services.

Forest Research remains part of the Forestry Commission, which is a cross border Government Department responsible for forestry throughout Great Britain. The relationship between Forest Research, the Forestry Commissioners and Forestry Ministers is described in the Framework Document, revised and published in September 2003.

Under the Framework Document, Forest Research is funded from the sale of its services to both the Forestry Commission and external customers. Any annual surplus or deficit is counted in the Forestry Commission's net funding requirement.

With effect from 1 April 2008, the Forestry Commission's Estimate is incorporated as a separate Request for Resource (RfR) within the Defra Estimate. The Forestry Commission Estimate comprises sub-heads A and B with the net funding of Forest Research, as a Great Britain entity, included in sub-head B.

3. Strategy

The strategic aims and objectives of Forest Research have been set to assist the Forestry Commission to achieve its objective to take the lead in development and promotion of sustainable forest management and to support its achievement nationally.

These are discussed in detail in Forest Research's corporate plan, which is available on the Forestry Commission website and the Forest Research website (www.forestry.gov.uk and www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch respectively).

4. Relationships with stakeholders

As most aspects of forestry are devolved activities, strong relationships between the wider Forestry Commission and the devolved administrations are critical. In particular, the recent publication of the Forestry Commission's revised Science and Innovation Strategy has provided a new focus for some of Forest Research's activities in its role as the Commission's main research provider. Forest Research will also continue to retain three Research Liaison Officers, in England, Scotland and Wales, to support the process of research commissioning and dissemination on an ongoing basis.

As an applied research institute, Forest Research's relationships with the forestry and land management sectors are very important. Forest Research maintains effective contact with these sectors through direct work for, or dialogue and project partnership with, individuals, companies, trade associations and professional bodies. We also provide an annual suite of targeted seminars, workshops and continuing professional development (CPD) events and host

stands or presentations at major events such as the Royal Welsh Show. Our newsletter *FR News* published quarterly is well received by external stakeholders and typifies our outward facing approach to our work and communications. To supplement these activities we intend to launch a new, Forest Research branded, peer-reviewed, e-monograph publication in 2010-11 that will give in-depth analysis of specific topics and issues; keeping stakeholders more closely up-to-date with developments than is possible using conventional peer-reviewed science journals.

5. Aims and objectives

The aim of Forest Research is to support and enhance forestry and its role in sustainable development, by providing high quality research and development in a well-run organisation, as set out in the Framework Document. The objectives of Forest Research are listed on page 8 in the main body of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Current and future development and performance

6. Operating review

The publication and Ministerial launch of the Read report, *Combating Climate Change – A Role for UK Forests*, in November 2009 was a significant event during the year and involved a number of Forest Research staff as steering group members, editors and authors. The report has been well received by the scientific community, the forest industry and environmental stakeholders, and is now framing the policy advice and direction of the science Forest Research will need to provide to help the sector respond and adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

The need for scientific evidence to support the development and delivery of country-specific forestry policies is increasing. This year has seen a particularly large increase in the incidence of pests and pathogens affecting forest and urban trees. This has meant that the demand for our pathological and entomological expertise has been at an all time high and our staff have risen admirably to the challenge of providing the research advice and operational guidance needed by both public and private sector growers and managers.

This link to policy and operational needs continues to be maintained by the Programme Advisory Groups (PAGs) and associated Research Management Strategy Board (RSMB), the systems by which the Forestry Commission collectively specifies its research needs. Indeed this system is continuing to develop and undergo some refinement in order to consolidate and reduce the transactional costs involved.

Forest Research has developed and implemented a new Agency-wide financial reporting system including electronic time recording, a first for the Forestry Commission as a department. Most importantly, Forest Research has now embedded its new three centre structure and the associated interdisciplinary working has helped Forest Research to earn an increased level of external income. As part of its strategy to improve the commercial exploitation of its intellectual property, Forest Research also launched its first ever spin out company, C-Cure Solutions Ltd, in conjunction with the University of Surrey. The company will operate in the area of land remediation.

Our work on improving efficiency and increasing our external income has resulted in a considerable reduction in our net deficit.

7. Financial review

Forest Research produced a net operating surplus of **£20,000** on its Operating Cost Statement, excluding exceptional items and the notional cost of capital, an improvement over the net operating deficit of £154,000 in 2008–09. A comparison of income and expenditure with the previous year's results shows that:

- staff costs decreased by £212,000 (2.1%), resulting from a small net decrease in staff offset by the annual pay award effective from October 2009
- other management costs (excluding exceptional items) decreased by £68,000 (2.5%), mainly as a result of lower training costs (in 2008–09 costs included one-off PRINCE project management training) and losses on disposals as a result of a fixed asset cleansing exercise in 2008–09, offset by higher depreciation charges (resulting from the indexation of buildings)
- materials and services costs decreased by £226,000 (7.8%), resulting from employment of fewer contractors to meet contractual commitments, lower Central Service charges, and lower miscellaneous costs including legal expenses and conferences
- income from Forestry Commission customers decreased by £536,000 (4.0%), mainly as a result of Woodland Surveys staff transferring to Forestry Commission thereby reducing related income
- income from external customers increased by £204,000 (10.5%), largely as a result of higher Public Sector Research Exploitation (PSRE) income
- the notional cost of capital decreased by £42,000 (9.3%), as a result of lower average net current assets.

The net deficit for the year after the cost of capital charge of £411,000 and depreciation was £391,000, representing a cost recovery rate of 97.5%, compared with 89.4% in 2008–09. However, the net deficit for 2008–09, excluding early departure costs, represented a cost recovery rate of 96.2%.

After adjusting the total deficit for items not involving the movement of cash and for capital expenditure, bank account movements and income, the net cash inflow for the year was £442,000 (2008–09: £671,000), which was paid to the Forestry Commission.

Additions to fixed assets in the year were £580,000 (2008–09: £268,000). A grant from Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for photovoltaic panels at Alice Holt financed £129,000 of this expenditure. A further £250,000 was spent on roof repairs at Alice Holt. Forest Research spent the remaining £201,000 on essential items but plans to increase capital expenditure in future years as resources permit.

8. Financial objective – Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Forest Research's primary financial objective set out in the Framework Document is to recover the full economic costs, including cost of capital, of its operations from the sale of services to customers. In 2009–10 the recovery rate was 97.5%, compared with 89.4% in 2008–09 when allowing for early departure costs and 96.2% once these exceptional items were excluded.

Performance against other operational, scientific and financial KPIs is reported in the main body of the Annual Report and Accounts. Forest Research achieved £2.1m of income from non-FC customers against the KPI target of £2.4m, however an additional £0.2m from DECC was received via the Forestry Commission.

9. Events since the balance sheet date

There were no significant post-balance sheet events to record (see note 29).

10. The future

As part of its Corporate Plan objectives for 2010–11, Forest Research will establish a new Advisory Committee for Forestry Research, promote and implement its own Science Strategy, develop its molecular biology and epidemiological capacity to address current and emerging tree health issues, scope the creation of a research forest in Wales, and continue to develop innovative products, services or spin out companies. Forest Research will also continue to participate and play its part in the Forestry Commission's corporate programmes, in particular Business Sustainability, Investors in People, and Equality and Diversity. In addition, our Alice Holt and Northern Research Stations will be submitted for ISO 14001 approval this year.

We also intend to continue to place considerable emphasis on staff development during 2010–11, in particular through our participation in the Forestry Commission's Management Development Programme and through an in-house programme of events for our science leaders and managers.

11. Supplier payment policy

In October 2008, Government organisations committed to improving the cash flow position of its suppliers by settling their accounts within 10 days wherever possible. The Forestry Commission and Forest Research recognise their roles in supporting local, rural economies and has a proven record of meeting its contractual payment terms. Forest Research also works closely with its local suppliers to ensure prompt payment of debt. Management recognised that the general economic climate could potentially have a detrimental effect on small and medium enterprises and considered whether further action could be taken to improve cash flows. However, as Forest Research has a flexible approach to payment terms in contracts and agreed terms that suit the supplier, no special measures were required. It was generally believed that suppliers who faced hardship would discuss the matter with contract managers and agreed solutions developed. While the above would not apply directly to larger companies, Forest Research believed that special measures would not be required because of existing levels of prompt payment.

Forest Research observes the principles of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, we aim to pay within 30 days from the receipt of goods and services, or the presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is the later. An analysis for 2009–10 indicates that 100% of payments to suppliers, including those made using the Government Procurement Card, were paid within the due date. Arrangements for handling complaints on payment performance are notified to suppliers on orders. No interest was paid under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

12. Employment policies

Forest Research adheres to the Forestry Commission's employment policy and values and respects its staff by treating each member with respect and trust, and in doing so recognises that each person is different and can make a unique contribution to the work. The purpose of the employment policy is to demonstrate that it is an equal opportunity employer and the aim is to be fair to everybody. To do this the Forestry Commission and Forest Research ensure that no eligible job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of their gender or gender re-assignment, ethnic origin, disability, age, nationality, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, religion and religious or philosophical belief, and social class.

All employees, whether part-time, full-time or temporary, will be treated fairly and equally. Selection for employment, promotion or training or any other benefit will be on the basis of aptitude and ability. All employees will be helped and encouraged to develop their full potential and the talents and resources of the workforce will be fully utilised to maximise the efficiency of the organisation. No person shall be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

The Forestry Commission and Forest Research also follow good employer practices aimed at ensuring that all staff work in an environment free from both illegal and unfair discrimination and harassment. Consolidated statements of the Commission's obligations with regard to equality of opportunity and diversity are shown in the Staff Handbook. Full details of these initiatives arising from our policies are also set out on the Human Resources intranet site.

The Forestry Commission and Forest Research will monitor the success of their policies by:

- Collecting and analysing data as appropriate.
- Regularly reviewing procedures (recruitment, performance management, promotion and pay) to ensure that they are free of unfair discrimination.
- Reporting the results of equality and diversity monitoring to the Human Resources Management Sub-Committee on an annual basis.
- Liaising closely with Cabinet Office and other Government Departments to ensure that we are keeping abreast of all changes in legislation and other developments.

Further information on the employment of persons with disabilities, the provision of information to, and consultation with, employees, and the promotion of equal opportunities is available on request from the Human Resources unit of the Forestry Commission.

13. **Sickness absence**

The Forestry Commission has one common absence management policy which covers Forest Research and provides a consistent framework approach to management. The policy is underpinned by an externally provided occupational health service and an internal employee support programme which is available 24 hours a day. The average number of working days lost to sickness absence in Forest Research in 2009–10 was 6.0 per employee (2008–09 5.7), which compares favourably with the average of 6.6 (2008–09 7.1) for the Forestry Commission.

14. **Management**

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Ministers who had responsibility for the Forestry Commission, including Forest Research, during the year were:

Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP	<i>Secretary of State (until May 2010)</i>
Caroline Spelman MP	<i>Secretary of State (from May 2010)</i>
Huw Irranca-Davies MP	<i>Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs) (until May 2010)</i>
Jim Paice MP	<i>Minister of State for Agriculture and Food (from May 2010)</i>

Members of the Executive Board of Forest Research during the year were:

James Pendlebury *	<i>Chief Executive</i>
Peter Freer-Smith *	<i>Chief Scientist</i>
Helen McKay	<i>Head of Centre for Forest Resources and Management</i>
Andy Moffat *	<i>Head of Centre for Forestry and Climate Change</i>
Chris Quine	<i>Head of Centre for Human and Ecological Sciences</i>
Hugh Williams	<i>Head of Operations</i>
Wilma Harper	<i>Head of Corporate and Forestry Support</i>

* These Board Members have related party interests which are disclosed in note 27.

The Chief Executive is appointed following public advertising of the post. The term of the appointment, and provision for its termination, are governed by the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code.

Further details on remuneration are set out in the Remuneration Report (page 50).

15. Pensions

Information on pensions is contained in the Remuneration Report and accounting policy note 1.6.

16. Personal data related incidents

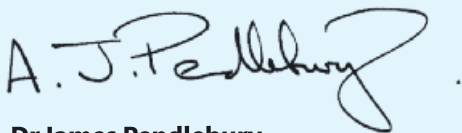
There were no protected personal data related incidents reported for Forest Research in 2009–10 or previous financial years. Forest Research will continue to monitor and assess its information risks in order to identify and address any weaknesses and ensure continued improvement of its systems. Further information on the handling of information risk is contained in the Statement on Internal Control, page 55.

17. Auditors

These accounts are prepared in accordance with a direction given by the Treasury in pursuance of Section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. They are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The fee for statutory audit services in respect of these accounts was £31,000. In addition, a fee of £3,000 was paid for the audit of IFRS shadow accounts for 2008–09. No further assurance or other non-audit services were provided.

18. Disclosure of audit information to the auditors

So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Forest Research auditors are unaware. I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Forest Research auditors are aware of that information.



Dr James Pendlebury

Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

1 July 2010

Remuneration Report

Remuneration policy

Remuneration of board members who hold senior staff group posts is determined by the Forestry Commission's Senior Pay Committee in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Cabinet Office. Details of membership of the Pay Committee are provided in the Remuneration Report of Forestry Commission Great Britain/England. Other board members' remuneration is determined by the standard processes set out in the Forestry Commission's pay and grading system.

Employment contracts

The Chief Executive is appointed following public advertising of the post. The term of the appointment, and provision for its termination, are governed by the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code. Dr James Pendlebury was appointed as Chief Executive with effect from 16 June 2008.

Civil Service appointments are made in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code, which requires appointment to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition but also includes the circumstances when appointments may otherwise be made.

All senior staff covered in this report hold appointments which are open-ended until they reach the normal retiring age. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

The performance of senior staff is monitored and reviewed through the appropriate Performance Management System (PMS) of the Forestry Commission. No element of remuneration is specifically subject to performance conditions although pay progression can be affected and bonuses, if awarded, are based on performance.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commissioners can be found at www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk

Salary and pension entitlements (information subject to audit)

The salary and pension entitlements of the members of the Forest Research Executive Board were as follows.

Name	2009-10		2008-09	
	Salary £000	Benefits in kind (to the nearest £100)	Salary £000	Benefits in kind (to the nearest £100)
James Pendlebury (from 16 June 2008)	75-80	1,500	55-60 (full year equivalent 70-75)	900
Peter Freer-Smith	70-75	3,900	75-80	3,900
Helen Mckay	55-60	-	55-60	-
Andy Moffat	60-65	-	60-65	-
Chris Quine	60-65	-	60-65	-
Hugh Williams (from 1 September 2008)	50-55	-	25-30 (full year equivalent 45-50)	-

The salary and pension entitlements of Wilma Harper, an Executive Board member, are borne by the Forestry Commission as she is Head of Corporate Forestry and Support, Forestry Commission. Her salary for 2009–10 was £70,000–£75,000 (2008–09: £70,000–£75,000).

Salary

'Salary' includes basic salary, performance pay or bonus, overtime and any allowances subject to UK taxation.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by the HM Revenue and Customs as taxable income. They are in respect of the Car Provision for Employees Scheme.

Remuneration of non-executives

The non-executive members of the Audit and Risk Committee received the following remuneration for their services during the year ended 31 March 2010.

Name	£000
Victoria M. Edwards	1
David A. Evans	1

Pension benefits 2009–10 (information subject to audit)

Name	Accrued pension at age 60 at 31/3/10 and related lump sum (LS)	Real increase in pension and related lump sum (LS)	CETV at 31 March 2010	CETV at 31 March 2009*	Real increase (decrease) in CETV
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
James Pendlebury	5–10 plus 20–25 LS	0–2.5 plus 2.5–5 LS	147	114	24
Peter Freer-Smith	20–25 plus 70–75 LS	0–2.5 plus 2.5–5.0 LS	514	448	37
Helen McKay	20–25 plus 65–70 LS	0–2.5 plus 10–12.5 LS	478	375	72
Andy Moffat	20–25 plus 70–75 LS	0–2.5 plus 5–7.5 LS	539	470	39
Chris Quine	20–25 plus 65–70 LS	0–2.5 plus 5–7.5 LS	420	357	40
Hugh Williams	10–15 plus 5–10 LS	2.5–5 plus 0–2.5 LS	137	97	27

*The figure may be different from the closing balance in last year's accounts. This is due to the Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) factors being updated to comply with the Occupational Pension Scheme (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

Civil Service pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 30 July 2007, civil servants may be in one of four defined benefit schemes: either a 'final salary' scheme (classic, premium or classic plus), or a 'whole career' scheme (nuvos). These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium, classic plus and nuvos are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index (RPI). Members joining from October 2002 may opt for the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium, classic plus and nuvos. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum (but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Classic plus is essentially a hybrid with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as for classic and benefits for service from October 2002 calculated as in premium. In nuvos a member builds up a pension based on their pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31 March) the member's earned pension account is credited with 2.3% of their pensionable earnings in that scheme year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with RPI. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a panel of three providers. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of classic, premium and classic plus and 65 for members of nuvos.

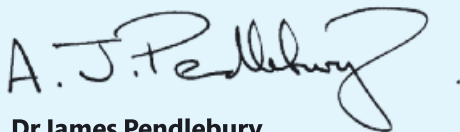
Further details about the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme can be found at the website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

**Dr James Pendlebury**

Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

1 July 2010

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under Section 7 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 the Treasury has directed the Forestry Commission to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts for Forest Research in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Forest Research state of affairs at the year-end and of its income and expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Forestry Commission is required to comply with the requirements of the *Government Financial Reporting Manual* and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, as set out in the *Government Financial Reporting Manual*, have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis.

The Director General of the Forestry Commission, as Accounting Officer for the Forestry Commission, has designated the Chief Executive of Forest Research as the Accounting Officer for Forest Research. His responsibilities as Forest Research Accounting Officer (including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which an Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records, and for safeguarding Forest Research's assets), are set out in *Managing Public Money* produced by HM Treasury.

Statement on Internal Control

1. **Scope of responsibility**

As Forest Research Accounting Officer and Chief Executive, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of Forest Research policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in HM Treasury's *Managing Public Money*.

I am responsible for the day to day management of Forest Research, including the production of Forest Research's accounts and financial procedures and for Forest Research's performance and operation, in pursuit of the agreed objectives and targets.

Forest Research is an executive agency of the Forestry Commission. Forest Research's Framework Document sets out my responsibilities as Accounting Officer. I am accountable to parliament through the Accounting Officer for the Forestry Commission.

As Forest Research Chief Executive, I am a member of the Forestry Commission's Executive Board and am responsible, normally through the Director General, to the Forestry Commissioners for the management of Forest Research. I have a right of direct access to the Forestry Commissioners, and to the relevant Minister, and a right to meet them at least once a year.

2. **The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Forest Research's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Forest Research for the year ended 31 March 2010 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

3. **Capacity to handle risk**

The Forestry Commission's risk management policy statement sets out why risk management is important; the procedures in place to manage risk; and the roles and responsibilities individuals have to ensure risks are managed effectively. The policy applies to Forest Research and was updated in March 2009 and is available to all staff via the intranet. A Forestry Commission-wide Risk Management Group co-ordinated the continued development of risk management within, and the sharing of best practice across, the Forestry Commission.

Forest Research now has formal ownership of its risk policy and associated management, although there will continue to be sharing of best practice and developments in risk management across the Forestry Commission.

Each Centre Head within Forest Research is responsible for ensuring the proper management of risks within their Centre, including embedding policymaking, planning and delivery.

4. The risk and control framework

The system of internal control incorporates risk management. The system encompasses a number of elements that together facilitate an effective and efficient operation, enabling Forest Research to respond to a variety of operational, financial and commercial risks. It includes regular reporting to Forest Research Executive Board, Forestry Commission Executive Board and, where necessary, to the Board of Commissioners.

Forest Research has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) to support the Accounting Officer and Agency Executive Board in their responsibilities for the effective management of risk, control and governance. Through its work the ARC provides independent assurance on these key activities within the direct control of Forest Research, which supports the achievement of its objectives. The ARC operates in accordance with the principles contained in HM Treasury's *Audit Committee Handbook*.

The ARC met three times during the financial year, in June 2009 and January and March 2010. In all cases they considered a range of reports from management, and from internal and external audit.

In the year to 31 March 2010, Forest Research carried out further work on its risk register. There has been a review of risks noted in the register, and their associated scoring. The Executive Board and the ARC have periodically reviewed and commented on the register throughout the year. The Forest Research Business Continuity Plan (BCP) has been reviewed and updated during the year. The inclement weather conditions in late 2009 and early 2010 tested the effectiveness of the BCP.

BCPs covering the shared services of Human Resources, Information Services and Finance are still under development. A private risk management consultant has been contracted to help to undertake a business impact analysis, the outcome of which will help Forestry Commission management establish the resource requirements and costs of the recovery options. The development of shared service BCPs will be completed in 2010-11.

5. Protecting information in government

Forest Research's approach to information assurance is set by the Forestry Commission, as it manages shared systems and services. In comparison with other government departments, the Forestry Commission's information systems hold a relatively small number of records and the volume of sensitive information requiring a protective marking is relatively low.

The Director of Finance, as the Forestry Commission's principal Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO), chairs the Information Security Management Forum (ISMF). It co-ordinates and controls the implementation of information security across the Forestry Commission. It met on 10 occasions during the year. The work of the ISMF is supported on a day to day basis by the Departmental Security Officer and the IT Security Officer. The SIRO produces an annual assessment of risk management across the Forestry Commission.

Governance arrangements have been strengthened during the year with the appointment of a SIRO in Forest Research. The Forest Research SIRO attended six of the ISMF meetings during 2009-10 (with a deputy attending three others) and provides a direct link on information assurance matters between the ISMF and the Forest Research Executive Board. The ARC has also received updates on information assurance during the year.

A network of Information Asset Owners (IAOs) exists who have direct responsibility for the assets under their control. IAOs have been identified for our key corporate systems and our local information stores.

Following the encryption of all Forest Research laptops, the ISMF approved a policy on protecting sensitive information on removable media. The ISMF also approved the purchase of encrypted USB memory sticks for issue in 2010 which all members of staff are required to use when taking sensitive or personal information out the office.

All Forest Research staff have now successfully completed the National School for Government (NSG) online training package Level 1, Protecting Information.

To aid continuous improvement, the Forestry Commission, on behalf of Forest Research undertook a self-assessment against the Government's Information Assurance Maturity Model (IAMM). The self-assessment identified a number of areas of risk where Forestry Commission will concentrate efforts in the coming year, which will impact on Forest Research. The areas include:

- Improvements to business continuity and disaster recovery systems within the central shared services, where new equipment has been procured to improve some of the more critical back-up and recovery arrangements.
- Improvement to system access controls. Information Systems will review and document the current procedures for handling requests to ensure secure management of data.
- Further documentation of processes and procedures leading to less dependency on key staff. Robust plans will be developed for each area and resources found to carry out the work.

Although this is of concern, we have suffered only one major systems failure, which occurred centrally in shared services at the Forestry Commission in 2008–09. While our Information Services (IS) took immediate action to prevent a re-occurrence, further work is still required to address key areas of vulnerability. IS has now developed a longer term strategy to re-establish quality information services and technology. By the end of the financial year, we had made funds available to IS to start a significant investment programme in the ICT infrastructure to reduce the business risk from system failure. The work is described in the IS Infrastructure Proposal document, which overall has a 2–3 year incremental delivery timescale, subject to sufficient resources being available. New equipment recently purchased will allow IS to improve some of the more critical back-up and recovery arrangements as quickly as possible.

Further work is still required to establish an overall project plan encompassing all three of the key risk areas. This will be taken forward under the lead of Director Finance GB in his role as SIRO and as a member of the ICT Service Board.

There is a Forestry Commission reporting system to capture all security incidents which are investigated in accordance with Cabinet Office and Information Commissioners guidance. There have been no reportable incidents of personal information data loss during the year.

6. Review of effectiveness

As Forest Research Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed by the executive managers within Forest Research who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework; the work of the internal auditors, who submit reports to the ARC which include the Head of Internal Audit's independent and objective opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of internal control together with recommendations for improvement; and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. Plans to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system are in place. In 2008–09 I reported five areas requiring particular attention during 2009–10; progress has been made but there are still some weaknesses to be addressed during 2010–11:

- One of Forest Research's objectives is to breakeven but it has sustained a deficit each year since 2007–08. Forest Research was restructured with effect from 2 April 2009 and a number of staff departed under an early retirement/severance scheme, which would reduce costs over time with the aim of achieving breakeven position. However, the impact of the 2009 Pay Award largely eliminated the cost savings of staff reductions. The main risk to Forest Research is the failure to secure new contracts and generate additional external income to enable it to breakeven. Sources of external income will be closely monitored and new opportunities scrutinised to maximise external income.
- In order to manage its business and deliver on its strategy, Forest Research requires effective management information systems. Following an earlier review of information needs, a new time recording system was implemented during 2008–09. Although the system was signed off as fit for purpose early in 2009, there were further problems concerning data input and output, which were not resolved until late 2009. This hampered Forest Research's ability to produce financial reports on project-based accounting, during the year, however financial control was managed at organisation level. During 2010–11 project-based accounting and reporting will be bedded in to improve financial control and monitoring.
- The strategic review of the risk register was concluded and the register is regularly reviewed by the Executive Board and the ARC. The Forest Research Business Continuity Plan was refreshed during the year and will be enhanced further during 2010–11 to include all relevant parts of the business.
- Forest Research is reliant on Shared Services for many of its Human Resources, Information Services and Finance requirements. The governance and funding of these services, and their links to country and Forest Research based support functions, is under review to ensure that they can meet the needs of their customers through an annual review process.
- The Forestry Commission and Forest Research had found it difficult to meet the timetable for the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). However, the trigger points for 2009–10 were met and all outstanding matters were completed. Forest Research received an unqualified audit opinion on the IFRS shadow accounts for 2008–09.

The ARC reviews its own effectiveness, using the NAO's *Self-Assessment Checklist*; the first review was undertaken in autumn 2009. The ARC considered the findings and agreed to implement the following priority issues in 2010:

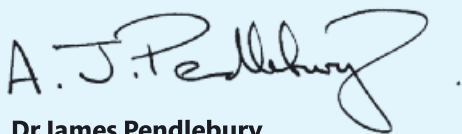
- Appraisals of committee members
- Presentation of Annual Report from ARC to the Forest Research Executive Board
- Issue draft minutes on a more timely basis.

Other issues will be addressed over a longer timescale.

The Head of Internal Audit has prepared an annual report and assurance statement to me as Forest Research Accounting Officer. The report includes an overall assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, control and governance within Forest Research. The overall opinion is that internal control within Forest Research provides assurance that material risks to the achievement of objectives are adequately managed. However, the Head of Internal Audit has highlighted that insufficient progress on some key business continuity planning and information assurance work has led to a limited opinion in respect of these items. Action for dealing with this is covered under the paragraphs above headed 'the risk and control framework' and 'Protecting information in government'.

7. Significant internal control problems

There were no significant problems to report.



Dr James Pendlebury

Chief Executive and Agency Accounting Officer
1 July 2010

Forest Research Agency

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Forest Research Agency for the year ended 31 March 2010 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. These comprise the Operating Cost Statement, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Executive, Accounting Officer and Auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Agency; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income reported in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on the financial statements

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Agency's affairs as at 31 March 2010, and of the net deficit, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000; and
- the information given in the Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Statement on Internal Control does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Amyas C. E. Morse

Comptroller and Auditor General

8 July 2010

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London SW1W 9SS

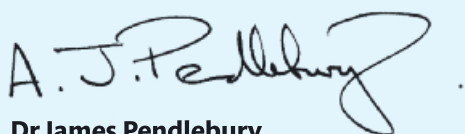
Operating Cost Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010

	Notes	2009-10 £000	2008-09 £000
Income			
Income from research, development and survey services			
Forestry Commission customers	4	12,879	13,415
Non-Forestry Commission Customers			
European Union	5	420	450
Other	5	1,728	1,494
Total Income		15,027	15,359
Expenditure			
Staff costs	6	9,639	9,851
Other management costs			
Other management costs excluding exceptional restructuring early departure costs		2,702	2,770
Exceptional restructuring early departure costs		-	1,220
Total other management costs	7	2,702	3,990
Materials and services	8	2,666	2,892
Total expenditure		15,007	16,733
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)		20	(1,374)
Notional cost of capital	9	(411)	(453)
Net (deficit) for the year		(391)	(1,827)
Net (deficit) transferred to General Fund		(391)	(1,827)

The notes on pages 67 to 98 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2010

		31 March	31 March	1 April
		2010	2009	2008
	Notes	£000	£000	£000
Non-current assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	13,499	12,169	14,152
Intangible assets	11	121	142	159
Financial assets	12	25	-	-
Trade and other receivables	13	51	58	44
		13,696	12,369	14,355
Current assets				
Inventories	14	3	3	3
Trade and other receivables	13	905	1,299	1,872
Cash and cash equivalents	15	22	454	275
		930	1,756	2,150
Total assets		14,626	14,125	16,505
Current liabilities				
Provisions	17	(164)	(719)	(32)
Trade and other payables	16	(1,711)	(1,691)	(1,810)
		(1,875)	(2,410)	(1,842)
Non-current assets plus net current assets		12,751	11,715	14,663
Non-current liabilities				
Provisions	17	(431)	(579)	(71)
		12,320	11,136	14,592
Taxpayers' Equity				
General Fund	18	3,914	4,395	6,461
Revaluation Reserve	19	8,277	6,741	8,131
Government Grant Reserve	20	129	-	-
		12,320	11,136	14,592



Dr James Pendlebury

Chief Executive and Agency Accounting Officer
1 July 2010

The notes on pages 67 to 98 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2010

	Notes	2009-10 £000	2008-09 £000
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities			
Net deficit for the year		(391)	(1,827)
Adjustments for non-cash transactions			
Depreciation	7	727	658
Amortisation	7	60	59
Timing between accrual and cash VAT		(3)	(4)
Non-cash inter-country transfers		(63)	(5)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	7	27	143
Loss on disposal of intangible assets	7	-	6
Notional cost of capital	9	411	453
Movements in provisions	17	68	1,229
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	14	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	13	401	559
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	16	20	(119)
Movements in payables relating to items not passing through the operating cost statement		-	144
Movements in receivables relating to items not passing through the operating cost statement	12	(25)	-
Use of provisions	17	(771)	(34)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		461	1,262
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	10	(559)	(361)
Purchase of intangible assets	11	(21)	(51)
Government grants towards capital expenditure	10	129	-
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(451)	(412)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash transfer (to)/from Forestry Commission		(442)	(671)
Net financing		(442)	(671)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		(432)	179
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		454	275
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		22	454

The notes on pages 67 to 98 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year ended 31 March 2010

		General	Revaluation	Government	Total
	Notes	Fund	Reserve	Grant	Reserves
		£000	£000	Reserve	£000
				£000	
Balance at 31 March 2008		6,461	8,131	-	14,592
Prior period error under IAS 8	1.20	(23)	(83)	-	(106)
Restated balance at 1 April 2008		6,438	8,048	-	14,486
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2008-09					
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment		-	(1,277)	-	(1,277)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of intangible assets		-	(2)	-	(2)
Non-cash charges: notional cost of capital		453	-	-	453
Non-cash charges: timing between accrual and cash VAT		(4)	-	-	(4)
Non-cash charges: inter-country transfers		(5)	-	-	(5)
Transfer of property, plant and equipment from/(to) other Forestry Bodies		(17)	-	-	(17)
Transfer from Revaluation Reserve		28	(28)	-	-
Net deficit for the year		(1,827)	-	-	(1,827)
Total recognised income and expense for 2008-09		(1,372)	(1,307)	-	(2,679)
Cash surplus to Forestry Commission		(671)	-	-	(671)
Balance at 31 March 2009		4,395	6,741	-	11,136

Continued on page 66

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year ended 31 March 2010 (continued)

		General	Revaluation	Government	
	Notes	Fund	Reserve	Grant	Total
		£000	£000	Reserve	Reserves
				£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2009		4,395	6,741	-	11,136
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2009-10					
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	19	-	1,518	-	1,518
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of intangible assets	19	-	18	-	18
Non-cash charges: notional cost of capital	18	411	-	-	411
Non-cash charges: timing between accrual and cash VAT	18	(3)	-	-	(3)
Non-cash charges: inter-country transfers	18	(64)	-	-	(64)
Transfer of property, plant and equipment from/(to) other Forestry Bodies	18	8	-	-	8
Government Grant for capital	-	-	-	129	129
Net deficit for the year	18	(391)	-	-	(391)
Total recognised income and expense for 2009-10		(39)	1,536	129	1,626
Cash surplus to Forestry Commission	18	(442)	-	-	(442)
Balance at 31 March 2010		3,914	8,277	129	12,320

The notes on pages 67 to 98 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2009–10 *Government Financial Reporting Manual* (FReM) issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of Forest Research for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies selected by Forest Research are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment, inventories and available-for-sale financial assets, and derivative financial assets and derivative financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss.

All IFRSs, Interpretations and Amendments to published Standards effective at 31 March 2010, have been adopted for the first time in these financial statements, taking into account the specific interpretations and adaptations within the FReM. The following IFRSs, Interpretations and amendments applicable to Forest Research have been issued but are not yet effective and have not been adopted early by Forest Research:

IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures (effective 1 January 2011) – The amendment provides exemption for full disclosure of transactions with state-controlled entities and is not expected to impact on the current exemption within the FReM. IAS 24 also extends the definition of related party to include relationships where joint control exists.

IAS 17 Leases – Although this is not adopted, there is potential for an existing operating lease for land to be reclassified as a finance lease, but as the lease has a relatively short unexpired term, there is unlikely to be a material impact on the financial statements. The outstanding liability as at 31 March 2010 was £14,000.

There has also been a major change to the FReM for 2010–11. Chapter 11 Income and Expenditure removes the Cost of Capital charge from the accounts which will result in lower gross expenditure for Forest Research. The Cost of Capital charge in 2009–10 was £411,000, which if excluded would have resulted in Forest Research making a surplus of £20,000 rather than a deficit of £391,000.

1.2 Value Added Tax (VAT)

Forest Research is covered under the Forestry Commission's registration for VAT. In order to comply with the government accounting regulations and normal commercial practice, income and expenditure shown in the Operating Cost Statement is net of VAT. The Forestry Commission accounts for VAT on a Great Britain basis with any VAT due to or from HM Revenue and Customs at the year end included in the Forestry Commission Great Britain/England accounts as a debtor or creditor in the Statement of Financial Position. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the Operating Cost Statement in the year in which it is incurred.

1.3 Segmental reporting

Forest Research's aim is to support and enhance the role of trees, woodlands and forests in sustainable development, by providing high-quality research, development and knowledge transfer. Management has determined that Forest Research operates as one operating segment, with results reviewed by the Chief Executive, as the chief operating decision-maker for Forest Research as a whole.

1.4 Revenue recognition

Income comprises the fair value of the consideration received or receivable from forestry and related activities. Revenue is shown net of value-added tax, returns, rebates and discounts.

Forest Research recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured and it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to it.

1.5 Foreign currency translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which Forest Research operates ('the functional currency'). The functional currency and the presentational currency of the financial statements is pounds sterling.

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions or valuation where items are re-measured. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Operating Cost Statement.

1.6 Employee benefits

Pensions

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The defined benefit schemes are unfunded and are non-contributory except in respect of dependant's benefits. Forest Research accounts for the PCSPS scheme as a defined contribution plan and recognises the expected cost of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employee's services by payment to the PCSPS of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the PCSPS. In respect of the defined contribution schemes, Forest Research recognises the contributions payable for the year. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Performance pay

As at 31 March, Forest Research recognised a liability and an expense for performance-related pay. Non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses are paid to staff whose work performance was assessed as being a 'Top Performer' in accordance with the Commission's performance management system. The bonus amount is at a standard amount depending on the employee's grade and is pro rated for part-time staff.

The Forestry Commission's Senior Pay Committee determines performance pay for staff in the Senior Staff Grade. The Committee comprises the Chairman, Director General, Director Scotland, Director England and three other non-executive commissioners. Forest Research's Chief Executive and Chief Scientist are Senior Staff Grades. Remaining Forest Research Board members receive annual salaries paid in accordance with the standard Forestry Commission Staff Pay Agreement negotiated through collective bargaining and the recognised Trade Unions. Their performance is monitored and reviewed through the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) of the Forestry Commission. Increases in salary and performance bonus, if awarded, are based on their manager's assessment of their performance.

Except for staff in the Senior Staff Grade, the bonus system ceased with effect from the staff reporting year ending on 31 March 2009.

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities and expenses are recognised for holiday entitlements earned to 31 March but not yet taken.

1.7 Capital charges

Charges reflecting the cost of capital utilised by Forest Research have been included in the Operating Cost Statement. The charge is calculated at the real rate set by HM Treasury (3.5%) (2008-09: 3.5%) on the average carrying amount of all assets less liabilities, except for cash balances held by the Office of the Paymaster General.

1.8 Property, plant and equipment

Where Forest Research is the principal beneficial user of assets of the Forestry Commission estate, they are treated as a non-current asset of Forest Research although legal ownership is vested in the Forestry Ministers. Staff payroll costs and expenditure on materials and consumables related to systems development software, for general use within Forest Research, are recognised as tangible non-current assets. There was no relevant in-house development activity in the year 2009-10.

The normal threshold for the capitalisation of assets is £2,000, but all IT equipment costing £250 or more is capitalised as a pooled asset.

Non-forest land

Non-forest land is shown at fair value. Professionally qualified staff employed by the Forestry Commission undertake a full revaluation of non-forest land at five yearly intervals (1 April). They follow the principles set out in the RICS Red Book and value on the basis of Open Market Value, Existing Use Value, Depreciated Replacement Cost or Discounted Cash Flow as appropriate under the RICS Standards for determining fair value. The work of internal staff is reviewed by Bidwells, Chartered Surveyors.

Unequipped agricultural land indices provided by the District Valuer are used to restate values between full valuations. A full valuation took place on 1 April 2008.

Revaluation gains and losses are recognised in the Operating Cost Statement in the year of revaluation.

Dwellings and other buildings

Dwellings and other buildings are shown at fair value less accumulated depreciation.

Professionally qualified staff employed by the Forestry Commission undertake a full revaluation of dwellings and other buildings at five-yearly intervals coinciding with that for the non-forest land (1 April). They follow the principles set out in the RICS Red Book and value on the basis of Open Market Value, Existing Use Value, Depreciated Replacement Cost or Discounted Cash Flow as appropriate under the RICS Standards for determining fair value. Suitably qualified external valuers review the work of internal professional valuers. A full valuation took place on 1 April 2008 and Bidwells, Chartered Surveyors, reviewed this.

In the intervening years between professional valuations, indices provided by the District Valuer are used to restate values. Indexation was applied as at 31 March 2009 and 2010.

Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Forest Research and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Operating Cost Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets are reviewed regularly to ensure that they continue to contribute positively to policy and business objectives. Assets that no longer provide the required level of contribution are considered for disposal by senior management. Decisions to sell such assets, including surplus properties, take into account a number of factors including the social and environmental effects as well as marketability. Non-current assets are classified as assets held for sale when their carrying amount is to be recovered principally through a sale transaction and a sale within 12 months of the reporting date is considered to be highly probable. Non-current assets held for sale are stated at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Plant and machinery

Forestry vehicles, machinery and equipment are shown at fair value less accumulated depreciation. Plant and machinery values are restated to current value each year using indices provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Information technology hardware

Information technology hardware is shown at fair value less accumulated depreciation. Information technology (IT) values are restated to current value each year using indices provided by the Office for National Statistics. The normal threshold for capitalisation of assets is £2,000, but all IT equipment costing £250 or more is capitalised as a pooled asset.

Revaluation reserve

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets are credited to the revaluation reserve in taxpayers' equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against the revaluation reserve directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the Operating Cost Statement. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the Operating Cost Statement and depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from revaluation reserve to general fund.

1.9 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible non-current assets (except land) at rates calculated to write off the valuation, less estimated residual values, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life. Asset lives are as follows:

Freehold buildings	- over 1 to 80 years
Scientific equipment	- over 5 to 20 years
Information technology - hardware	- over 5 years
Other machinery and equipment	- over 5 to 20 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised within the Operating Cost Statement.

When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the general fund.

1.10 Intangible assets

Intangible assets are valued initially at cost and subsequently at fair value using the revaluation model.

Where an active market does not exist, income generating assets are valued at the lower of depreciated replacement cost and value in use. Non-income generating assets are carried at depreciated replacement cost. These valuation methods are considered to be a proxy for fair value.

(a) Computer software

Acquired computer software licences are initially capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software and subsequently revalued to depreciated replacement cost. Acquired computer software licences are amortised over their estimated useful lives of 5 to 15 years.

Costs associated with maintaining computer software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred. Development costs that are directly attributable to the design and testing of identifiable and unique software products controlled by Forest Research are recognised as intangible assets when the following criteria are met:

- it is technically feasible to complete the software product so that it will be available for use;
- management intends to complete the software product and use or sell it;
- there is an ability to use or sell the software product;
- it can be demonstrated how the software product will generate probable future economic benefits;
- adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the software product are available; and
- the expenditure attributable to the software product during its development can be reliably measured.

Directly attributable costs that are capitalised as part of the software product include the software development employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Other development expenditures that do not meet these criteria are recognised as an expense as incurred. Development costs previously recognised as an expense are not recognised as an asset in a subsequent period.

Computer software development costs recognised as assets are subsequently revalued to depreciated replacement cost and amortised over their estimated useful lives of five to seven years.

1.11 Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets that are subject to depreciation and amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Where an asset is not held for the purpose of generating cash flows, value in use is assumed to equal the cost of replacing the service potential provided by the asset, unless there has been a reduction in service potential. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffer impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

1.12 Subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures

Investments held in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures that are outside the departmental boundary and where Forest Research does not exercise in-year budgetary control are accounted for in accordance with paragraph 4.2.4 of the FReM. Where such an investment is in another public sector entity it is reported at historical cost less any impairment. Where an investment is in another entity it is accounted for as a financial asset following the requirements of IAS 39 (see financial asset policy at note 1.13). C-Cure Solutions Ltd is accounted for as a financial asset available-for-sale.

1.13 Financial assets

Classification

Forest Research classifies its financial assets in the following categories: at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, and available for sale. The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial assets were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.

(a) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss comprise derivatives. Assets in this category are classified as current assets. Forest Research does not trade in derivatives and does not apply hedge accounting.

(b) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date. These are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position.

(c) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the reporting date. Available-for-sale financial assets comprise investments.

Recognition and measurement

Financial assets are recognised when Forest Research becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or have been transferred and Forest Research has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

(a) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value, and transaction costs are expensed in the income statement.

Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently measured at fair value. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value are presented in the Operating Cost Statement.

(b) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of loans and receivables is established when there is objective evidence that Forest Research will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments are considered indicators that the loan and receivable is impaired. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in the Operating Cost Statement. When a loan or receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited in the Operating Cost Statement.

(c) Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are initially recognised and subsequently carried at fair value. Changes in the fair value of financial assets classified as available for sale are recognised in equity. When financial assets classified as available for sale are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments recognised in equity are included in the Operating Cost Statement. Dividends on available-for-sale equity instruments are recognised in the Operating Cost Statement when Forest Research's right to receive payments is established.

The fair values of quoted investments are based on current bid prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (and for unlisted securities), Forest Research establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length transactions, reference to other instruments that are substantially the same, discounted cash flow analysis, and option pricing models, making maximum use of market inputs and relying as little as possible on entity-specific inputs.

Forest Research assesses at each reporting date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity securities classified as available for sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the security below its cost is considered as an indicator that the securities are impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit or loss – is removed from equity and recognised in the Operating Cost Statement. Impairment losses recognised in the Operating Cost Statement on equity instruments are not reversed through the income statement.

1.14 Financial liabilities

Classification

Forest Research classifies its financial liabilities in the following categories: at fair value through profit or loss, and other financial liabilities. The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial liabilities were issued. Management determines the classification of its financial liabilities at initial recognition.

(a) Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss comprise derivatives. Liabilities in this category are classified as current liabilities. Forest Research does not trade in derivatives and does not apply hedge accounting.

(b) Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are included in current liabilities, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date. These are classified as non-current liabilities. Forest Research's other financial liabilities comprise trade and other payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Recognition and measurement

Financial liabilities are recognised when Forest Research becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument.

A financial liability is removed from the Statement of Financial Position when it is extinguished, that is when the obligation is discharged, cancelled or expired.

(a) Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value, and transaction costs are expensed in the income statement.

Financial liabilities carried at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently measured at fair value. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value are presented in the Operating Cost Statement.

(b) Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.15 Inventories

Consumable materials and supplies are stated at the lower of current cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling prices, less further costs expected to be incurred to completion and disposal.

1.16 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, cash balances held by the Office of the Paymaster General and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

1.17 Provisions

Forest Research provides for present legal and constructive obligations which are of uncertain timing or amount at the reporting date on the basis of the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is significant, the estimated risk-adjusted cash flows are discounted using the real rate set by HM Treasury. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised in the Operating Cost Statement.

1.18 Government grants receivable

Government grants in respect of capital expenditure are credited to a government grant reserve. Subsequent revaluations are also taken to this reserve. Each year, an amount equal to the depreciation charge on the asset is released from the government grant reserve to the operating cost statement. Where the grant contributes only part of the cost of the asset, only that proportion is released from the government grant reserve. Grants of a revenue nature are credited to income so as to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

1.19 Contingent liabilities

Where the time value of money is material, contingent liabilities which are required to be disclosed under IAS 37 are stated at discounted amounts.

1.20 Prior period error

A lease between Forest Research (lessee) and Edinburgh University (lessor) had been capitalised incorrectly from 1997. The property being leased by Forest Research had been treated as a fully owned asset and required removal from property, plant and equipment. Due to a lack of historic information in the financial records the adjustment in these accounts has been calculated and based on best available and estimated figures. The value of the adjustment has been agreed at a total capital value of £116,946 with an assumed original capital cost of £45,000.

This adjustment became material after a revaluation in 2008–09 and is therefore included in the accounts for this period only.

The financial statements have been adjusted as follows:

Property, plant and equipment

Full cost of asset £116,946 and cumulative depreciation of £11,129 removed from property, plant and equipment.

General fund

Full cost of asset £116,946 has been deducted from the general fund and the cumulative depreciation of £11,129 added back. Assumed revaluation since inception of £83,075 has also been added back to the general fund balance.

Revaluation reserve

Assumed revaluation since inception of £83,075 has been deducted from revaluation reserve.

Note 2. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires Forest Research to make estimates, assumptions and judgements. These are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Estimates, assumptions and judgements that are deemed to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of Forest Research's assets and liabilities are as follows:

Intangible assets

Per IAS 38 Intangible Assets: an intangible asset arising from development shall be recognised if all of the following can be demonstrated by the entity:

- The technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale.
- Its intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it.
- Its ability to use or sell the intangible asset.
- How the intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefits. Among other things, the entity can demonstrate the existence of a market for the output of the intangible asset itself, or if it is to be used internally, the usefulness of the intangible asset.
- The availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the intangible asset.
- Its ability to measure the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development.

To date it has been deemed that the development activities undertaken by Forest Research have not met these conditions and therefore no intangible assets relating to development have been recognised. This will continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Note 3. First Time Adoption of IFRS

	General Fund £000	Revaluation Reserve £000
Taxpayers' equity at 1 April 2008 under UK GAAP	7,086	8,131
Adjustments for:		
IAS 19 Pay in lieu of untaken leave accrual 2007-08	(571)	-
IAS 19 Performance related pay bonus accrual 2007-08	(54)	-
Taxpayers' equity at 1 April 2008 under IFRS	6,461	8,131
Taxpayers' equity at 31 March 2009 under UK GAAP	5,069	6,824
Adjustments for:		
Prior period error under IAS 8	(23)	(83)
1 April 2008 IFRS adjustments	(625)	-
IAS 19 Pay in lieu of untaken leave accrual increase	(71)	-
IAS 19 Performance related pay bonus accrual decrease	45	-
Taxpayers' equity at 1 April 2009 under IFRS	4,395	6,741
		£000
Net operating deficit for 2008-09 under UK GAAP		(1,822)
Adjustments for:		
IAS 19 Pay in lieu of untaken leave accrual 2007-08 reversal		571
IAS 19 Pay in lieu of untaken leave accrual 2008-09		(642)
IAS 19 Performance related pay bonus accrual 2007-08 reversal		54
IAS 19 Performance related pay bonus accrual 2008-09		(9)
Notional cost of capital decrease		21
Net operating deficit for 2008-09 under IFRS		(1,827)

No cash equivalents were held by Forest Research at 31 March 2009 or 1 April 2008.

IFRS adjustments rationale

IAS 19 Pay in lieu of untaken leave accrual 2007–08 and 2008–09: in accordance with IAS 19 Employee Benefits, accruals have been made in respect of carried forward employee annual leave at 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009.

IAS 19 Performance related pay bonus accrual 2007–08 and 2008–09: in accordance with IAS 19 Employee Benefits, accruals have been made in respect of unpaid performance related pay bonuses for the performance year at 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009.

Notional cost of capital: the notional cost of capital has been recalculated based on IFRS net assets at 31 March 2009.

Note 4. Income from the Forestry Commission

Forest Research undertakes the major proportion of the Forestry Commission's overall annual research programme in the form of specifically commissioned projects to deliver agreed outputs. A separate annual charge is agreed for each project based on full cost recovery. These charges amounted to £9.4 million. In addition to the annual research programme, Forest Research provides other research and survey services for Forest Enterprise and Forestry Commission on a full cost recovery basis.

Income from Forestry Commission customers consisted of:

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Research, development and other services to:		
Forestry Commission	11,187	12,075
Forest Enterprise	1,692	1,340
	12,879	13,415

The decrease is mainly as a result of the Woodland Surveys staff transferring to the Forestry Commission thereby reducing related income.

Note 5. Foreign Exchange Gains and Losses

EU income includes nil (2008-09 £55,000) relating to gains on foreign exchange transactions. Other income includes a loss of £4,000 (2008-09 £30,000 gain) on foreign exchange transactions.

Note 6. Staff Costs and Numbers

6.1 Employee costs during the year amounted to:

	2009-10			2008-09
	Permanent staff	Other staff	Total	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Wages and Salaries	6,414	1,217	7,631	7,736
Social Security Costs	489	91	580	585
Employer's Superannuation Costs	1,245	162	1,407	1,495
Agency Staff Costs	-	21	21	35
	8,148	1,491	9,639	9,851

	2009-10	2008-09
Average number of employees (full-time equivalents)		
Permanent staff	207	217
Others	49	45
Total staff	256	262

Staff were covered by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) which is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme but the Forestry Commission is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The scheme actuary valued the scheme as at 31 March 2007. Details can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation (www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk).

For 2009-10, employer's contributions of £1,407,461 were payable to the PCSPS (2008-09: £1,494,690) at one of four rates in the range 17.1% to 25.5% (2008-09: 17.1% to 25.5%) of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The scheme actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates reflect benefits accruing during 2009-10 to be paid to the member when they retire and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. No Agency staff have yet taken this option.

6.2 Benefits in kind are provided under the following schemes:

- (i) Advances of Salary for House Purchase
- (ii) Advances of Salary for purchase of Season Tickets and Bicycles
- (iii) Car Provision for Employees Scheme.

Each scheme is subject to conditions and financial limits.

The Advances of Salary for House Purchase scheme had loans with an outstanding balance of £2,500 or more to three individual members of staff at 31 March 2010 and 2009. The total outstanding value of all loans was £57,531 (2008-09: £63,308). Such loans are unsecured, interest free and typically repayable over 10 years, with an optional 2 year deferral period.

6.3 Early departure costs

During 2009-10 15 staff left under the restructuring programme announced in February 2009. In 2008-09 Forest Research made a provision of £1,220,000 for the future costs at present value of the early severance on compulsory terms. During 2009-10 the provision was increased by £67,000 to cover additional costs of the scheme. Funding of the cash costs due in 2010-11 of £164,000 will be covered by the Forestry Commission Great Britain.

Note 7. Other Management Costs

Other management costs are stated after charging:

	Notes	2009-10	2008-09
		£000	£000
Travel and subsistence		574	566
Building maintenance		503	446
Utilities		318	323
Training		218	254
Other expenditure		67	134
Auditors' remuneration*		34	28
Auditors' remuneration – other**		3	-
Computer supplies		73	85
Staff transfer expenses		30	59
Non-cash costs:			
Provisions – exceptional restructuring early departure costs:			
Provided in year	17	-	1,266
Unwinding of discount	17	-	(46)
Provisions – other early departure costs:			
Provided in year	17	67	36
Unwinding of discount	17	1	(27)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	10	727	658
Amortisation of intangible assets	11	60	59
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	10	27	143
Loss on disposal of intangible assets	11	-	6
Total		2,702	3,990

* Auditors' remuneration for 2009-10 includes £31,000 for audit of these accounts and an additional £3,000 for the 2008-09 accounts.

** Auditors' remuneration – other for 2009-10 includes £3,000 for audit of IFRS shadow accounts for 2008-09.

Included within other management costs are charges from the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise amounting in total to £173,000 (2008-09: £191,000).

Note 8. Materials and Services

Materials and services are stated after charging:

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Materials and supplies	776	796
Central services provided by Forestry Commission	643	713
Vehicle lease charges from Forestry Commission	370	393
Contractors	508	506
Commissioned research	124	142
Publications	10	22
Protective clothing	17	15
Miscellaneous expenditure	218	305
	2,666	2,892

Included within materials and services are charges from the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise amounting in total to £1,013,000 (2008-09: £1,106,000).

Charges are made to Forest Research from the Forestry Commission and Forest Enterprise, as appropriate, for assistance with field experiments, hire of vehicles, machinery and equipment and for personnel, business management, financial and other support services at Silvan House, Edinburgh.

Note 9. Cost of Capital

Notional cost of capital based on 3.5% (2008-09: 3.5%) of average total assets, less current liabilities employed in 2009-10 amounted to £411,000 (2008-09: £453,000).

Note 10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Buildings	Scientific Equipment	IT Equipment	Other Machinery and Equipment	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Valuation:						
At 1 April 2009	2,038	10,097	2,046	643	865	15,689
Additions	-	375	158	24	2	559
Transfers	-	-	-	18	-	18
Disposals	-	-	(115)	(27)	(21)	(163)
Revaluation to current prices	-	1,731	62	51	6	1,850
At 31 March 2010	2,038	12,203	2,151	709	852	17,953
Depreciation:						
At 1 April 2009	-	1,761	1,025	443	291	3,520
Provided in year	-	366	194	97	70	727
Transfers	-	(4)	-	14	-	10
Disposals	-	-	(90)	(27)	(18)	(135)
Revaluation to current prices	-	273	27	30	2	332
At 31 March 2010	-	2,396	1,156	557	345	4,454
Net book value:						
At 31 March 2010	2,038	9,807	995	152	507	13,499
At 31 March 2009	2,038	8,336	1,021	200	574	12,169

Fixed assets were revalued as at 31 March 2010 in accordance with accounting policies. The valuation includes the principal research stations at Alice Holt Lodge near Farnham in Surrey and the Northern Research Station, Roslin near Edinburgh, with net book values (excluding land) of £6.3 million and £3.0 million, respectively, at 31 March 2010.

Depreciation expenses of £727,000 (2008–09: £658,000) have been charged to other management costs in the Operating Cost Statement.

Forest Research received a grant from the Department of Energy and Climate Change of £129,000 for installation of photovoltaic panels at Alice Holt. The related expenditure has been included in additions to buildings (see note 1.18).

Note 11. Intangible Fixed Assets

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Valuation		
Balance at 1 April	312	279
Additions	21	51
Disposals	-	(12)
Transfers	-	(3)
Revaluation	31	(3)
As at 31 March	364	312
Amortisation		
Opening balance	170	120
Depreciation in year	60	59
Disposals	-	(6)
Transfers	-	(2)
Revaluation	13	(1)
As at 31 March	243	170
Net book value	121	142

Intangible fixed assets relate wholly to purchased software.

Amortisation of £60,000 (2008-09: £59,000) has been charged to other management costs in the Operating Cost Statement.

Note 12. Financial Assets

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Valuation		
Balance at 1 April	-	-
Additions at cost	25	-
As at 31 March	25	-

This relates to the investment in C-Cure Solutions Ltd, a spin-out company jointly launched with the University of Surrey during 2009-10, in the area of land remediation. The company has initial capital funding of £50,000, £25,000 from each partner, who each own 33.4% of the company and the inventors own the remaining 33.2%. C-Cure Solutions Ltd, has its registered office at 25 Wakehurst Place, Rustington, West Sussex, BN18 3NG.

James Pendlebury represents Forest Research as a Director of the Company, for which he receives no personal payments.

Note 13. Receivables

13a. Analysis by type

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Current			
EU Trade Receivables	40	145	295
Other Trade Receivables	215	279	438
Total Trade Receivables	255	424	733
House purchase loans to employees	7	5	7
Prepayments and accrued income	643	870	1,132
Total Current Receivables	905	1,299	1,872
Non-current			
House purchase loans	51	58	44
	956	1,357	1,916

The carrying amounts of trade and other receivables are a reasonable approximation of their fair value.

All non-current receivables are due within 11 years from 31 March 2010.

As of 31 March 2010, £230,000 (2008-09: £181,000) were fully performing and not overdue or impaired and provided for.

As of 31 March 2010, trade receivables of £168,000 (2008-09: £243,000) were overdue but not impaired. These relate to a number of customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing analysis of these trade receivables is as follows:

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Less than one month	94	48	100
One to two months	4	13	37
Two to three months	32	182*	330*
More than three months	38		
	168	243	467

As of 31 March 2010, trade receivables of £nil (2008-09: £nil) were impaired or provided for.

The other classes within trade and other receivables do not contain impaired assets.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying value of each class of receivable mentioned above. Forest Research does not hold any collateral as security.

The carrying amounts of trade and other receivables are denominated in the following currencies:

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Current	£000	£000	£000
UK Pound	756	560	807
Euro	136	719	1,058
US Dollar	13	20	7
	905	1,299	1,872
Non-current			
UK Pound	51	58	44
	956	1,357	1,916

* Figures for 2008-09 and 2007-08 could not be disaggregated further and relate to a period of more than two months.

13b. Intra-Government balances

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Current			
Balances with other central government bodies	111	64	255
Balances with local authorities	60	-	27
Intra-Government balances	171	64	282
<hr/>			
Balances with bodies external to government	734	1,235	1,590
	905	1,299	1,872
Non-current			
Balances with bodies external to government	51	58	44
	956	1,357	1,916

Note 14. Inventories

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Inventories	3	3
	3	3

In previous years Work In Progress has been included with Inventories, but has now been reclassified as accrued income which is more appropriate as it relates to work on contracts not invoiced as at the end of the financial year.

Note 15. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The following balances at 31 March are held at commercial banks and as cash in hand:

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	454	275	248
Net change in balances	(432)	179	27
Balance at 31 March	22	454	275

Forest Research had neither bank overdraft nor short-term investments as at 31 March of any of the three years.

As part of its normal activities Forest Research maintains Sterling and Euro bank accounts primarily used for the receipt of income from non-Forestry Commission customers. These accounts are cleared to the Commission's main account on a regular basis. Sums held in these accounts on behalf of partners in European Commission projects are treated as third party assets and not included in the balances shown.

Note 16. Trade and Other Payables

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Current			
Payments received on account	842	677	324
Trade payables	143	350	848
Taxation and social security costs	41	48	46
Accrued expenses and deferred income	685	616	592
	1,711	1,691	1,810

The carrying amounts of trade and other payables are a reasonable approximation of their fair value.

All payables are to bodies external to central or local government, with the exception of £1,000 for a public corporation and trading funds as at 31 March 2010. Funds held on behalf of partners in European Commission projects are treated as third-party assets and not recorded on the face of the accounts (see note 28). At 31 March 2010 the amount held in Forest Research bank accounts on behalf of partners was £301,048.02 (31 March 2009: £11,544.83).

The carrying amounts of trade and other payables are denominated in the following currencies:

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	£000	£000	£000
Current			
UK Pound	1,535	1,637	1,619
Euro	165	48	156
US Dollar	11	-	1
Danish Krona	-	6	34
	1,711	1,691	1,810

Note 17. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Early departure costs		
Balance brought forward at 1 April	1,298	103
Provided in year	67	1,302
Utilised in year	(771)	(34)
Unwinding of discount	1	(73)
Balance carried forward at 31 March	595	1,298

Analysis of expected timing of discounted cash flows:

	Early departure costs
	£000
In the remainder of the Spending Review period to 31 March 2011	164
Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2016	415
Between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2021	16
Balance at 31 March 2010	595

Forest Research meets the additional costs of benefits beyond the normal PCSPS benefits in respect of employees who retire by paying the required amounts annually to the PCSPS over the period between early departure and normal retirement date. Forest Research provides for this in full when the early retirement programme becomes binding on Forest Research by establishing a provision for the estimated payments.

Note 18. General Fund

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Balance brought forward	4,395	6,461
Prior period adjustment (IAS 8)	-	(23)
Adjusted balance brought forward	4,395	6,438
Movement in year		
Net (deficit) for year	(391)	(1,827)
Transfer from Revaluation Reserve	-	28
Transfer of fixed assets to (-)/from other Forestry Bodies	8	(17)
Cash surplus to (-)/deficit from Forestry Commission	(442)	(671)
Non-cash inter-country transfers	(64)	(5)
Timing between accrual and cash VAT	(3)	(4)
Notional cost of capital	411	453
Balance carried forward	3,914	4,395

The prior year correction relates to the Foresters House at the Northern Research Station, which is not owned by Forest Research and had been incorrectly capitalised in the accounts. The net book value of the building was £106,000 (see note 1.20).

Note 19. Revaluation Reserve

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Balance brought forward	6,741	8,131
Prior period adjustment (IAS 8)	-	(83)
Adjusted balance brought forward	6,741	8,048
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) for the year		
Land and Buildings	1,458	(1,285)
Scientific equipment	35	10
IT	21	(3)
Other machinery and equipment	4	1
Intangible assets	18	(2)
	1,536	(1,279)
Transfer to general fund for backlog depreciation	-	(28)
Balance carried forward	8,277	6,741

The prior year adjustment relates to revaluation of the Foresters House at the Northern Research Station, which had been incorrectly capitalised in the accounts (see notes 18 and 1.20).

Note 20. Government Grant Reserve

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Balance brought forward	-	-
Grant received in year	129	-
Balance carried forward	129	-

Note 21. Financial Instruments

21.1 Financial Instruments by category

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	Loans and receivables		
	£000	£000	£000
Assets as per Statement of Financial Position			
Trade and other receivables (excluding prepayments)	625	1,110	1,732
Cash and cash equivalents	22	454	275
Total	647	1,564	2,007

	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
	Other financial liabilities		
	£000	£000	£000
Liabilities as per Statement of Financial Position			
Trade and other payables excluding statutory liabilities (excluding payments received on account)	828	966	1,440
Total	828	966	1,440

21.2 Exposure to risk

Forest Research's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due.
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that Forest Research might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments.

Because of the largely non-trading nature of its activities and the way in which government departments are financed, Forest Research is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, deposits with banks and other institutions, as well as credit exposures to customers, including outstanding receivables and committed transactions.

Liquidity risk

Each financial year, the Forestry Commission makes provision for the use of resources by Forest Research for revenue and capital purposes. Each financial year, the Westminster Parliament makes provision for the use of resources by the Forestry Commission for revenue and capital purposes in the Consolidated Fund Act via the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) vote. Resources and accruing resources may be used only for the purposes specified and up to the amounts specified in the Consolidated Fund Act. The Act also specifies an overall cash authorisation to operate for the financial year. Forest Research is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks.

The table below analyses the financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the balance sheet to contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances as the impact of discounting is not significant.

	2009-10		2008-09		2007-08	
	Less than	More than	Less than	More than	Less than	More than
	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Trade and other payables excluding statutory liabilities (excluding payments received on account)	828	-	966	-	1,440	-

Market risk

The Agency has no powers to borrow or invest surplus funds. Financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities and are not held to manage the risks facing Forest Research in undertaking its activities. However, under the Regulatory Reform (Forestry) Order 2006, with Treasury approval, Forest Research may form or participate in the forming of a body corporate, invest in a body corporate and provide loans. The Agency may also exploit any intellectual property arising from research.

During 2009-10, Forest Research made an investment of £25,000 in C-Cure Solutions Ltd, a spin-out company jointly launched with the University of Surrey. The company has initial capital funding of £50,000, £25,000 from each partner, who each own 33.4% of the company and the inventors own the remaining 33.2%. The investment has been recorded at its cash cost.

(i) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

Forest Research has no significant interest-bearing assets or liabilities and as such income and expenditure cash flows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates.

(ii) Foreign currency risk

Forest Research's only exposures to foreign exchange rates are through a bank account denominated in Euros and through receipt of EU funding for contracts which are denominated in Euros and US Dollars.

EU contract income denominated in Euros and US Dollars forms only 3% of Forest Research's total income. Therefore fluctuations in exchange rates do not have a significant impact on Forest Research's financial position.

21.3 Capital risk management

The Agency's objectives when managing its capital structure are to maintain its ability to continue to provide benefits for stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to safeguard Taxpayers' Equity.

21.4 Fair value estimation

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair value.

Note 22. Capital Commitments

There were no contracted capital commitments at 31 March 2010 (2008-09: £nil).

Note 23. Commitments Under Operating Leases

Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases are given in the tables below for each of the following periods.

Obligations under operating leases comprise:

	2009-10	2008-09
Land:	£000	£000
Not later than one year	2	2
Later than one year and not later than five years	10	10
Later than five years	2	4
Total	14	16

	2009-10	2008-09
Buildings:	£000	£000
Not later than one year	1	1
Later than one year and not later than five years	6	6
Later than five years	1	2
Total	8	9

Note 24. Other Financial Commitments

There were no other financial commitments at 31 March 2010 (2008-09: £nil).

Note 25. Contingent Liabilities Disclosed under IAS 37

There was one contingent liability at 31 March 2010 in respect of actions by an employee (2008-09: one).

Note 26. Losses and Special Payments

	2009-10		2008-09	
	Number	£000	Number	£000
Losses total	-	-	1	-*
Special payments total	-	-	2	49

*The loss was less than £1,000.

Note 27. Related Party Transactions

During the year, Forest Research has had a significant number of material transactions with the Forestry Commission, Forest Enterprise country agencies and with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who are regarded as related parties. In addition, Forest Research has had operational transactions with other Government Departments and other central Government bodies.

27a. Purchases of goods and services:

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
The University of Reading	10	4
The University of Southampton	8	4
Total	18	8

The above transactions, for course fees, student stipend, samples, amendments to an existing database, production of a new database and a related training course, occurred on an arm's length basis. These transactions are disclosed as Andy Moffat holds a visiting professorship at the University of Reading and Peter Freer-Smith holds a visiting professorship at the University of Southampton. There were no outstanding balances at 31 March 2010 (2008-09: £nil).

27b. Key management compensation

Key management personnel are deemed to be the members of the Executive Board of Forest Research. The compensation of such individuals whilst serving on the Executive Board (excluding Wilma Harper whose compensation is borne by the Forestry Commission Great Britain/England) was as follows:

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Salaries and other short-term employee benefits	422	573
Post-employment benefits	83	122
Total	505	695

At 31 March 2010 there were no amounts owing to key management personnel (2008-09: £8,000).

Refer to the Remuneration Report (page 50) for further details of remuneration of Executive Board members.

27c. Loans to related parties

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Loans to key management personnel		
Balance at 1 April	28	-
Loans repaid during year	-	-
Loans advanced during year	-	28
Balance at 31 March	28	28

The above balance relates to one member of key management personnel. House purchase loans to key management personnel are provided on the same terms and conditions as other Forestry Commission staff members. Such advances of salary are unsecured, interest free and typically repayable over 10 years, with an optional 2 year deferral period.

£nil provision has been made at 31 March 2010 (2008-09: £nil) in relation to the loans made to key management personnel.

27d. Transactions with C-Cure Solutions Ltd

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
C-Cure Solutions Ltd	25	-

The above transaction for investment in shares in C-Cure Solutions Ltd is disclosed as under the Agreement to form the company, James Pendlebury was appointed as the Forest Research Director of the company. See note 12 for more details.

	2009-10	2008-09
	£000	£000
Loans to other related parties		
Balance at 1 April	-	-
Loans advanced during year	6	-
Balance at 31 March	6	-

The above balance relates to a payment made by Forest Research on behalf of C-Cure Solutions Ltd for materials before the company had received funding from Forest Research and Surrey University. The balance will be repaid during the first quarter of 2010-11.

Note 28. Third-Party Assets

As a co-ordinator for a number of projects partially funded by the European Commission in Euros, Forest Research receives funds on behalf of partners for onward transmission once work programmes have been approved. These third-party assets are not recognised in the accounts.

	2008-09	Gross	Gross	2009-10
		inflows	outflows	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Monetary third-party assets – bank balances	12	301	(12)	301

Note 29. Events After 31 March 2010

These financial statements were authorised for issue on 8 July 2010 by Forest Research Accounting Officer.



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