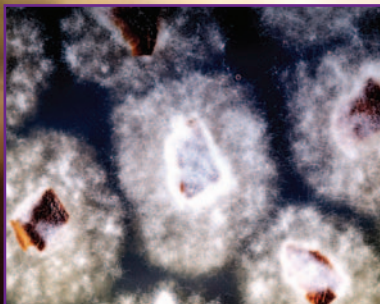


# Annual Report and Accounts 2010–2011





# Forest Research

## Annual Report and Accounts 2010–2011

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of The Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000

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# Chief Executive's Introduction



**There have been a number of notable achievements at Forest Research (FR) during the past year, which continue to uphold our reputation as the UK's leading institute for forest and tree-related research.**

Three of our scientists have authored a book on *Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland* (published by The Stationery Office), which has received critical acclaim. We have helped to launch and host the Urban Regeneration and Greenspace Partnership website ([www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/urgp](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/urgp)), and coordinated and co-authored the woodlands element of the National Ecosystem Assessment. Working with our counterparts, Forest Research India, and supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Department for International Development (DFID), we have collaborated with The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape

Restoration (GPFLR) to look at the links between forest restoration and ecosystem services in India. We have also secured our first tranche of investment in our spin-out company C-Cure Solutions Ltd, which was launched with the University of Surrey in 2009–10.

Both our Alice Holt site in Surrey and our Northern Research Station (NRS) near Edinburgh have secured full ISO 14001 status for environmental management, showing our commitment to minimising our impact on the environment.

**Our achievements continue to uphold our reputation as the UK's leading institute for forest and tree-related research.**

Of particular note has been the development of Forest Research in Wales, which supports Forestry Commission Wales's activities aimed at delivering the policy priorities of Woodlands for Wales, the Welsh Government's strategy for trees and woodlands. We have developed a number of successful collaborations with the Universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea in topics ranging from ground and aerial radar use to *Hylobius* control. We are especially excited about our plans with Aberystwyth University IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences) and IGES (Institute of



Geography and Earth Sciences) to launch the Dyfi Catchment and Woodland Platform later in 2011.

In addition to this, we have had another strong commercial year with external income exceeding targets by £300,000. To have achieved this, in a time of funding and staff recruitment constraints, is a significant achievement and is a testament to the expertise, skills and drive of our staff.

We are very grateful to all our partners and collaborators with whom we work. Indeed, it is the very nature of our work, which crosses regional and national boundaries and is both multi- and interdisciplinary in nature, that means we seek out opportunities to work with, and for, other organisations. These include the Forestry Commission, departments across central government, the devolved administrations in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the wider public sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities, the private sector and the European Commission.

I mentioned in last year's *Annual Report and Accounts* that I believed biosecurity would become an area of growing concern, and so it has, as illustrated in the following case studies. Our research into tree diseases has been crucial to understanding what can be done next. Of course we do not know, or claim to know, all the answers, and our work to further our understanding and find solutions continues. This year I would like to express particular thanks to the many individuals, NGOs, landowners, scientific colleagues and professional bodies that have assisted us with forest and tree biosecurity matters. We are particularly grateful for the support and enthusiastic cooperation of the forestry and arboricultural sectors and to many forest owners for access to their forests, without which we would not have been able to progress our research.

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In place of maintaining a standing Advisory Committee on Forestry Research, we intend to host a Visiting Group later this year, comprising scientists of international repute to independently assess our research programmes, science quality and knowledge exchange. That said, we are very grateful that during 2010–11 Professor Sir David Read has continued to provide advice on the quality of our science and our research priorities, and has agreed to provide input to the first organisation-wide Visiting Group during 2011–12.

Whilst we continue to invest in particular areas of research, we have had to review and reprioritise much of our activity over the past year. However, our staff have proved themselves to be more than capable of adapting to these changes and providing innovative approaches to moving the Agency forward and I would like to express my thanks, and those of Forest Research's Executive Board, to them all for the way they have responded to the challenges we face.

I would particularly like to express my appreciation of their professionalism, involvement and success in developing and growing our business.



**Dr James Pendlebury**  
Chief Executive



## Forest Research Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators – Progress Report

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Commentary
1. To enhance its scientific governance and strategic capacity, FR will establish a new Advisory Committee for Forestry Research (ACFR) comprising internationally recognised independent scientific experts.	<b>Carried forward:</b> The recruitment of a new ACFR is on hold and has been carried forward into a corporate objective for the 2011-12 Corporate Plan.
2. FR will promote and implement its Science Strategy and, as part of this, will implement the Government's new Universal Ethical Code for Scientists.	<b>Met:</b> A science strategy has been produced; a short version is currently being proposed for publication. The Universal Ethical Code for Scientists has been adopted.
3. During 2010-11 FR will further develop its molecular biology facilities and epidemiological capabilities in order to address current and emerging tree health issues.	<b>Met:</b> FR has purchased a new real-time PCR machine for Alice Holt. Two pathology rooms have been modernised at Alice Holt and the laboratory facilities at NRS have been upgraded.
4. In Wales, FR will complete the scoping of a Research Forest/Natural Laboratory concept and, in collaboration with partners, will identify location(s) and funding.	<b>Primary purpose met; carried forward:</b> A scoping document has been circulated and developed through frequent and ongoing interactions with a range of partners; work is ongoing. The Dyfi catchment area has been identified as the location for the Dyfi Catchment Woodland Research Platform, with a steering group of scientists from Aberystwyth University's IBERS (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences) and IGES (Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences). The initiative will be formally launched in mid-2011.
5. As part of FR's science and communications activities, FR will organise a major conference on trees and forests in British society; co-organise a conference on tree diseases; launch a new e-monograph publication series that gives in-depth analysis of specific topics and/or issues; and organise a minimum of three strategic events in Wales. FR will consider the Library Review and ensure that the Library is fit for purpose.	<p><b>Met:</b> FR held a conference on trees and forests in British society in Edinburgh on 13-15 April 2010 (receiving 115 delegates) and, with the Royal Forestry Society, co-organised a major conference on tree health in Warwick on 21 April (with 250 delegates).</p> <p>The first three e-monographs were published between January and March 2011, discussing: opportunity mapping for Woodlands; short-rotation forestry; and woods and forests in British society. They are now available on FR's website.</p> <p>The first strategic event in Wales, a climate change workshop, was held in conjunction with Forestry Commission Wales on 18 May 2010 and was very well received. In July FR's Executive Board (FREB) attended the Royal Welsh Show and a seminar was held to promote our work and presence in Wales.</p> <p>An action plan to modernise the Forestry Commission (FC) library was presented to the April 2011 FREB meeting.</p>
6. With support from the Forestry Commission, FR will meet its annual business plan, deliver its agreed outputs to customers and continue to expand its partnerships, external income and capacity for innovation. FR will seek to secure a total of £5.3 million of other external (i.e. non-FC GB) income.	<b>Met:</b> FR delivered its agreed outputs to customers, expanded its partnerships and external income. Income from non-FC GB customers was £5.6 million, exceeding the target of £5.3 million.
7. FR will participate in the FC corporate programmes including Business Sustainability, Information Security, and Equality and Diversity. FR will implement an Electronic Expense Management System (EEMS) and Alice Holt and NRS will be submitted for ISO 14001 approval.	<p><b>Met:</b> Alice Holt and NRS secured full ISO 14001 status in June 2010, as part of the Business Sustainability programme, which is now being extended to other parts of the FC. All staff have complied with protecting Information Training and passed Level 1. The FR Senior Information Risk Officer attends the Information Security Management Forum, and also provides reports to FREB and (annually) the Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <p>Equality and Diversity is core to FR activity. EEMS was introduced for use by FREB, lease car users and staff in the Chief Executive's office in January 2011, with roll out to all FR staff commencing in April 2011.</p>
8. Through its own investment and through projects such as our Innovation and New Markets Project (a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) funded Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund Round 4 (PSRE4) project), FR will identify, investigate and, where possible, develop innovative products or services and capacity through supporting and investing in staff.	<b>Met:</b> The Innovation and New Markets project invested all its funds in innovation projects. This resulted in the formation of two spin-out companies. A formal ceremony to mark the success of the INM project was held on 29 March 2011, with the FC Chair, Pam Warhurst, presenting awards. The final end of year report has been submitted to BIS.

# About Forest Research



**Forest Research is the Forestry Commission's Research Agency and is the UK's foremost body for forest and tree related research.**

## Background

The overall objective of the Forestry Commission (FC) is to lead the development and promotion of sustainable forest management and to support its achievement internationally. Forest Research (FR) is the Forestry Commission's research agency and main research provider.

## FR's Aim

To be a robust, market-relevant and flexible research organisation with a reputation for innovative applied science.

## FR's Strategic Objectives

1. To provide robust science to inform the development and delivery of UK Government and devolved administration forest policies.
2. To provide innovative applied research, development and monitoring services to UK, European and international forestry stakeholders.
3. To transfer research knowledge directly, or in partnership with others, to UK and international audiences.

## Research funding

Much of FR's work is funded by the FC with Corporate and Forestry Support acting as purchaser of research and other services in support of the forestry policies of the UK Government and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, FC England, Scotland and Wales purchase research, development and surveys specifically related to their respective forest estates. FR has also been increasingly successful in securing funding from other government departments, the European Commission, UK research councils, commercial organisations, private individuals and charities. Collaborative bids with other research providers and consortium funding have become increasingly important, placing emphasis on effective partnership working.



### Activities

Research and development are essential components in delivery of the benefits of sustainable forestry in a multifunctional landscape. FR's research, surveys and related scientific services address the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability. There is a focus on providing knowledge and practical solutions based on high-quality science. Our projects provide understanding, policy advice and guidelines on the implementation of best practice (on issues such as forest hydrology, continuous cover forestry, timber quality, land reclamation and the restoration of native woodlands). Much of the research is directed at increasing the many benefits of woodlands.

The protection of woodlands from pests and diseases, and predicting the impacts of environmental change are also overarching themes. FR works closely with the FC, the European Commission and other international bodies to ensure compliance with international agreements on the sustainable management of forests and the consideration of social and economic issues. The Agency also carries out work on genetic conservation, tree improvement, seed testing, method studies, product evaluation, crop inventory, surveys and monitoring.

### Resources

FR currently employs 236 (full-time equivalent) staff at Alice Holt Lodge in Hampshire, the Northern Research Station near Edinburgh, the FC Wales National Office in Aberystwyth and at field stations across England, Scotland and Wales. Contact information is given on the back cover.

**There is a focus on providing knowledge and practical solutions based on high-quality science.**

