

# Timber Development Programme 2008-2011

Annual Progress Report  
2008-09

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## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to document the progress on the second year of the Timber Development Programme (TDP).

## Background

The aim of the TDP is to contribute to the sustainable development of Scotland's economy by enabling the timber growing and processing sectors to find the highest value and most appropriate end market for Scotland's timber.

The TDP is structured as a three-year programme focussing on four prime objectives:

- Promote a predictable and stable timber supply
- Encourage more use of timber and timber products
- Enable improvements to timber supply chain efficiency
- Encourage and enable improvements to the quality of the growing stock

The Programme addresses key issues within the timber supply chain identified through lengthy discussions with industry stakeholders.

The Environment Minister launched the programme in December 2007.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) is assisted by an industry based steering group including representatives of The Forest Industries Advisory Board and is chaired by John Kissock OBE to determine the programme.

## Progress to date

This is the second Annual Progress Report and a pdf copy of the previous report can be found on the FCS website ([www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7BMMPR](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7BMMPR)).

## Headline Outputs of the Programme in 2008/09

A summary of the headline outputs for 2008/09 is categorised against the four key objectives of the programme is provided below.

### Promote a predictable and stable timber supply

#### *08/09 Outputs*

- An industry-working group continue to work closely to identify ways of making use of private sector data to develop a more accurate production forecast for 2011. This group met four times in the last year.
- There was continued research into quality assessment systems and tools for future forecast.
- A report on the "Use of Acoustic Tools in the Forestry Wood Chain" was completed and will be published in 09/10 as a Research Information Note.

#### *09/10 Tasks*

- FCS will host a series of industry seminars to inform the process for improving data gathering for the 2011 production forecast.
- Forest Research has been commissioned to validate a production forecast quality model.
- A new protocol for assessing log quality is being developed by Forest research and will be incorporated in to the 2011 production forecast and beyond.

### Encourage more use of timber and timber products

#### *08/09 Outputs*

- FCS organised and hosted a conference highlighting the carbon benefits of timber in construction. Over 130 delegates attended from across the construction and processing sectors. Presentations from the conference can be viewed at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7BMMPR](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7BMMPR).
- Two publications were introduced at the conference "Sustainable construction timber" and "Designing housing with Scottish timber". The aim of these publications is to provide guidance on how homegrown timber can be sourced and used in the construction industry. 2000 copies of each publication were distributed to local authorities, architects, specifiers, timber frame manufacturers and social housing associations. PDF of the documents can be found at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6b2jfb](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-6b2jfb).

- A further contribution was given to Scotland's Housing Expo to help with the marketing and delivery of the project.
- Provided support to a conference organised by the Centre for Timber Engineering to highlight the potential of cross laminated timber products (massive wood) within a UK context, both for construction and potential manufacture.
- Provided continued support to the Strategic Integrated Research in Timber project. There have been some excellent outputs to date developing our understanding of the properties of homegrown timber.
- Commissioned the Centre for Timber Engineering to complete a report on "using NIR spectroscopy to measure the durability of larch". The findings will be written and published in relevant scientific and industry journals.

### *09/10 Tasks*

- Continue financial support for the Strategic Integrated Research in Timber project.
- Provide further guidance for the use of timber products to architects and other professionals associated with the construction industry.
- Aim to develop a web portal that will allow effective dissemination of research outputs to the industry.
- Work with others to compare carbon impact of wood with other construction materials.

## Enable improvements to timber supply chain efficiency

### *08/09 Outputs*

- Continued support for the Timber Transport Forum and it's Project Officer.
- £6.5million in grant has been awarded through the Strategic Timber Transport Scheme to 16 projects that are focused on reducing the impact of timber transport on communities and the environment in rural Scotland.
- The Strategic Timber Transport Scheme was independently reviewed consequently appropriate revisions were made to the application process in consultation with the Timber Transport Forum.
- Forest Enterprise Scotland continued to support and manage a Modern Apprenticeship scheme.
- Scottish Enterprise commissioned a study to investigate potential shortfall in skilled labour for future supply chain programmes.

### *09/10 Tasks*

- Work with Timber Transport Forum to engage a new Project Officer.
- Follow up the findings and recommendations of the skilled labour study.
- Work with the Timber Transport Forum to commission study to investigate remaining challenges in timber transport.
- Forest Enterprise Scotland will explore the potential to expand their Modern Apprenticeship Scheme.

Encourage and enable improvements to the quality of the growing stock.

### *08/09 Outputs*

- Continued support for industry working groups such as "Improving conifer timber steering group".
- Hosted a workshop with representatives of the supply chain to identify key issues in delivering quality conifers for future markets.
- Hosted follow-up conference "Improved timber quality through plant selection and silviculture" at Birnam highlighting the importance of growing quality conifers. Over 60 people attended.
- Provided contribution to the Association of Scottish Hardwood Sawmillers (ASHS) towards the development of their market.
- Commissioned ASHS to hold two workshops to develop understanding of the barriers and solutions to improving the hardwood supply chain.

### *09/10 Tasks*

- Host a conference focusing on growing quality broadleaves for the Scottish hardwood market.
- Promote demonstration plots for growing quality hardwoods.
- Continue to support ASHS to develop.
- Commission Forest Research to produce information notes on growing quality conifers as a follow-up to 08/09 conference.

### Future projects

If you would like to share your view on current issues regarding the timber supply chain or would like more information on the programme, please contact:

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