

About Forest Research

Forest Research (FR) is an agency of the Forestry Commission and is the principal organisation in the UK engaged in forestry and tree related research. The Agency was launched on 1 April 1997.



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1 Scots pine at Exeter

2 Ash keys

3 Orange tip butterfly on bugle

4 Amenity tree health survey at Deene Estate, Northants

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Aims and objectives

Aims

To provide research, development, surveys and related services to the forest industry and to provide authoritative advice in support of the development and implementation of the Government's forestry policies.

Objectives

- To meet customers' needs and respond to changing customer demands.
- To satisfy current standards for the quality of research.
- To increase competitiveness and efficiency and demonstrate value for money.
- To recover the full economic costs of the Agency from charges to customers.

Customers

Most of our work is funded by the Forestry Commission with the Policy and Practice Division of the FC acting as purchaser of research and other services in support of forestry in Britain, including the particular needs of England, Scotland and Wales. Forest Enterprise, the agency responsible for managing the FC estate, purchases research, development and surveys specifically related to this estate. Other customers include the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food^a, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions^b, the European Union, commercial organisations, private individuals, land owners and charities. All our customers are free to purchase their research from Forest Research or from other sources.

Activities

FR's research covers a broad range of topics from genetic improvement of trees, through tree seed, tree establishment, stand management and threats to tree health. The species covered include all the main native trees as well as the commercially important introduced conifer species. An increasing proportion of the research effort is directed at increasing the environmental and social benefits of trees, including biodiversity and recreation, and ensuring compliance with international agreements on the sustainable management of forests. The Agency also carries out method studies, product evaluations, crop inventory, surveys and monitoring.

Resources

The Agency has two main research stations, Alice Holt Lodge in Hampshire and the Northern Research Station on the Bush Estate south of Edinburgh. The main office of Technical Development Branch is located at Ae in Dumfriesshire with subsidiary offices in the English Midlands and Wales. The Agency also has 10 field stations from which an extensive network of field trials, sample plots and monitoring sites is assessed. A list of addresses and telephone numbers is given on the inside back cover. The Agency employs 260 staff, not including visiting scientists and sandwich students. The Agency has published a Corporate Plan for the period 2001-2004. Copies are available from the Library at Alice Holt Lodge.

Editorial update Since the June 2001 General Election, Government Department name changes have occurred:

^a Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

^b Department for Transport, Local Government and Regions (DTLR).