

**FORESTRY COMMISSION SCOTLAND**  
**Woods for Learning: ANNUAL REPORT 06/07**

**Background**

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

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

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

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

**Education activity during 06/07**

The following table reports progress against 06/07 actions in the 'Woods for Learning' programme plan.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Comment</b>
With partners (LTS, SNH, CSFT, FEI) link the Tree Trunk to the LTS outdoor learning website; to include a revision of content	In progress	Underway. Progress slowed due to delays with Curriculum for Excellence and GLOW (Scottish Schools Digital Network)
Develop the Local Woods for Learning programme - to include pilot sites, training for FCS staff and teachers, and production of a Toolkit to aid the use of local woods by schools	In progress	Review of FCS and FEI resources undertaken to feed into this. Taster Day programme (developed by Central Conservancy) and Education Strategy (developed by Grampian Conservancy and Aberdeenshire FD) provide good models of practice
Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for FCS education programmes	In progress	FC Wales have an Education database which is almost appropriate for our use. This is currently in conversion for our use.
Produce guidance for FCS staff on Forest School and Vocational Courses	✓	Draft guidance developed and will be placed on the intranet
Establish 2 subgroups for the FEI Steering Group: Careers and	✓	Both groups established and working on projects

Vocational Training; Forest School		
Roll out the 'Wooden Games' in pilot areas in Glasgow, NE and BTC FEI clusters	In progress	Games and education pack developed. To be promoted in 08 to link in with Olympic Games
Run Forest School Quality Assurance Scheme pilot	✓	Draft Quality Assurance document agreed. This will be tested during September 07 – March 08

Other significant developments during 06/07:

- 35 education related press releases issued. 2 Ministerial visits to education projects hosted.
- FEI Scotland hosted the FEI GB Networking Day on Health and Wellbeing, in Birnam. 96 delegates attended, with speakers from LTS and Edinburgh University, plus a varied workshop programme.
- FEI Partnership fund has contributed to the development of four local group projects across Scotland, plus 6 small support grants. The projects range from promoting health and well being and promoting first hand learning ('Forest School'); to linking with the timber industry (Trees past and present) to providing opportunities for learning about biodiversity (The Enchanted Wood).
- 4 Forest School training courses were run with a total of 80 people (48 at Level 3 and 16 at level 2) trained.
- A review of FCS and FEI education resources was completed to assess what is currently available and to recommend the best way to share the information.

<http://alpacorn.forestry.gov.uk:7777/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ECONNECT/FC%20SCOTLAND/NATOFFHOME/POLICY%20GROUP/EDUCATION/FCS%20RESOURCE%20AUDIT%20FINAL%20REPORT.DOC>

### Education progress indicators

FCS has worked with	June 05- March 06 (10 months)	April 06 – March 07 (12 months)
Number of vocational pupils (worked with on course projects)	101	274
Number of teachers (on placement or worked with)	157	678
Number of children with additional support for learning needs	286	765
Total number of school visits (number of pupils)	8095	16512
FEI funded Projects	9	6
FEI Cluster groups	12	13
Number of Forest Schools	20	28
Number of Forest School leaders in training	48	80

### Education spend

Education spend	FES	FCS	Partnership fund	Total
06/07	£478k	£140k	£25k	<b>£643k</b>

05/06	£494k	£84k	£20k	<b>£598k</b>
-------	-------	------	------	--------------

### What we said we would do in 07/08

The following table indicates Education programme plan actions for 07/08.

Complete the Tree Trunk revision	
Submit a funding proposal for NEET's and Forest School	
Local Woods for Learning Programme: FCS staff training and networking	
Complete monitoring and evaluation framework	
Produce careers leaflet with FEI subgroup	

### CASE STUDIES

#### Rural Skills SQA courses

There are currently 2 courses that FCS staff are involved in delivering; Skills for Work, Intermediate 1 and Scottish Progression Award, Intermediate 2. These are two-year courses that include rural skills such as fencing, tree planting, hedge planting and path work. Other options on the courses include soft landscaping, crop production, animal or equine studies. The Skills for Work course has an employability unit, which runs through the entire course.

Inverness, Lochaber, Fort Augustus, Tay, Dornoch and Cowal and Trossachs Forest Districts are all engaged with schools in their areas, facilitating the delivery of certain aspects of the course.

Pupils are engaged in physical outdoor work one afternoon a week. The pupils value this kind of work as it has purpose (for example planting 1000 native Scots Pines near Aberfoyle). Pupils are motivated in their learning and for some, there is a real sense of achievement and success, something that they rarely experience in the formal school setting.

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/takinglearningoutdoors/sharingpractice/secondary/balfronhigh/introduction.asp>

#### Mountain Biking and Schools

There is increasing alignment between the areas of health, education and access. Mountain Biking is proving an exciting medium to engage young people in exercise in the outdoors and deliver some healthy living messages at the same time.

Lochaber Forest District has worked with both Primary and Secondary schools on mountain bike projects in this last year. Lochaber High School pupils took part in a 6-week programme on biking. This included bike maintenance, cycle trail building, map reading and a lot of cycling. These children, who exhibit a range of learning difficulties, also learnt how to look after themselves and behave responsibly on bikes in the forest. In partnership with the Active School Co-ordinator the district visited every primary school in Lochaber with the mobile bike unit. The children used the bikes in the playground and learnt new skills, including bike safety.



## **Scottish Finest Woods Award for Education**

This was the first year for this award, managed for Scottish Finest Woods Awards, by FEI. The Award was open to any primary, secondary or special school for either practical or classroom based projects involved with forestry, woodlands and trees.

1. The joint first prizewinners were:

- St. Crispin's Special School in Edinburgh for introducing pupils with severe and complex learning needs to a new woodland environment for their lessons.
- Kincardine -in -Menteith Primary School in Stirling for regenerating an area of local woodland and for hosting celebration days involving woodcrafters, parents and horse loggers.

2. Falla Hill Primary School in Fauldhouse won highly commended for their Forest School at Fauldhouse, West Lothian.

3. The following schools were commended: Chatelherault Primary, Longforgan Primary and Cults, Milltimber and Airyhall Schools in Aberdeen.

FCS, The Scottish Forestry Trust and The Royal Scottish Forestry Trust support the Award.

## **Edinburgh Forest School Project**

Edinburgh's Forest School pilot project aims to increase the educational use of woodlands within the city, with the health & wellbeing of both the student and the natural environment central to its ethos. The project has been developed to offer teachers a supported training package, which will provide them with the skills and confidence needed to ensure long-term provision of 'Forest Schools' to their students.

The key components of the project for this year are:

- Appointment of project officer
- Feasibility study of Edinburgh woodlands for use with learning
- Forest School Leader Training – 1 course for 16 teachers
- 2 Demonstration Forest Schools –Liberton High School and Fox Covert RC and ND primary schools

There are currently 9 Forest Schools running as part of the project. All the teachers involved have noticed a range of benefits to participants; increased confidence, working better with others, increased mobility, increased fitness, calmer behaviour in class, more engaged with the learning process and a greater respect for nature, to name but a few. This is a partnership project with City of Edinburgh Council, Career Scotland, FEI, FCS and SNH.

Sally York  
FCS,  
November 2007

## Annex 1: Partner organisations for education

### **National**

LTS  
SEED  
SEERAD  
SNH  
RHET  
LANTRA  
Central Scotland Forest Trust  
SQA  
HMiE

### **FEI Steering Group, Sub groups and other partners**

Central Scotland Forest Trust  
Eco Schools Scotland  
Field Studies Council  
LANTRA  
Learning and Teaching Scotland  
Royal Scottish Forestry Society  
Scottish Forest Industry Cluster  
Woodland Trust Scotland  
Tree Council  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
BTCV Scotland  
Grounds for Learning  
Sportscotland  
ConFor  
Barony College  
Children in Scotland  
Napier University  
Careers Scotland  
Inverness College

Business Dynamics.  
Heartstone  
Scottish Enterprise  
Leader + (FEI Partnership Fund match funding)

### **Partners with FCS Conservancies**

#### Central

West Lothian Council  
Glasgow City Council  
City of Edinburgh Council,  
Scottish Natural Heritage,  
Active Schools, Glasgow  
Active Schools Edinburgh  
Careers Scotland

Royal Scottish Forestry Society  
BTCV  
Greenspace Scotland  
Kelvin Clyde Greenspace  
Woodland Trust Scotland  
CSFT  
BEN  
FEI

#### South Scotland

FEI

#### Perth and Argyll

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

### **Additional partners with FCS**

#### **Forest Districts**

Fort Augustus FD  
Glenurqhart High School  
Abriachan Forest Trust  
Kilchuimen Academy  
Balnain Primary  
Cannich Primary  
Kilchuimen Primary  
Invergarry Primary  
10 glens community group  
Lochaber Council  
Highland Council

#### Inverness FD

Abriachan Forest Trust  
SNH  
Highland Council  
John Muir Award  
Glenmore Lodge (National Outdoor Training Centre)  
Kingussie High  
Laggan Forest Trust  
Bishop Burton College  
Elmwood College  
St Mary's University  
Scottish School of Forestry  
Edinburgh University  
Aberdeen University

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology  
Local secondary school  
Local primary schools  
Laggan Forest Trust

#### Lochaber FD

Lochaber High School.  
Highland Council  
Active School Co-ordinator  
Clunes partners – SNH & Highland  
Biodiversity.

#### Lorne FD

SNH  
Active Schools Co-ordinator  
FEI  
Argyll Estates  
Reforestation Scotland  
Argyll and Bute Council  
RSPB Wildlife Explorers  
Campbeltown Community Support  
Services  
Forest School Training Company  
Quarriers Oban

#### Tay FD

FEI,  
Perth and Kinross Countryside trust  
Leader+  
Quality of Life Trust  
Heritage Lottery fund  
Perth and Kinross Council  
Active Schools  
Tayside STEM Partnership  
Contract woodworkers  
Blairgowrie High

#### Moray FD

Moray Y Project  
Allsorts Out of School Club  
Arc Childcare  
Nairn Play and Leisure  
Elgin Play Scheme  
Iain Davidson (Nordic walking)  
Keith Community Centre  
Elgin Local Community Network  
Forres Local Community Network  
Buckie Local Community Network  
Moray Mountain Bike Club  
Lossie Local Community Network

Margot Henderson (storyteller)  
Be Active Lifelong  
Findhorn Youth Project  
Mark Jones (artist)  
Active Schools Co-ordinators  
Moray Council  
Defence Estates  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
RSPB  
Woodland Trust  
WDCS  
Active Schools Team  
Moray Council Ranger Service  
Highland Council Ranger Service  
Moray Mountain Bike Club  
Outfit Moray  
Health Promotions Team  
Fire Service  
Grampian Police  
Volunteer Bureau  
Careers Service  
Grampian Fungus Group  
Out of School Federation  
3 x Local Community Networks  
Youth Scotland

#### West Argyll FD

Kilmartin Museum  
SNH  
Reforestation Scotland  
ABREEF Management Board  
Dalraida Project  
Argyll Estates  
FEI  
Forest School Training Company  
Whelk  
Lochgilphead Primary school  
Inverary Primary school  
Lorne, Cowal and Trossachs FD's  
Mull and Iona Community Trust,  
RSPB,  
Carrraig Partnership  
Butterfly Conservation Scotland  
The Shark Trust  
SNH  
GRAB Trust  
ENABLE  
Brownies  
Guides  
Mid Argyll Health Network

Cowal & Trossachs FD

Stirling Countryside Rangers  
Service  
Forth Environment Link  
Kincardine-in-Menteith Primary  
School  
RSPB  
Loch Lomond and National Park  
Authority Rangers Service  
Dounan Outdoor Centre  
Central Scotland Police Wildlife  
Crime Division  
Balfron High School  
Fyne Studios  
Argyll and Bute Council

Aberdeenshire FD

Aberdeen City Council,  
Aberdeen Environmental Education  
Centre  
National Trust for Scotland  
FEI and all its partners.  
Aberdeenshire Council Ranger  
Service  
Setpoint (Techfest)  
Aberdeenshire Country side Project  
Grounds for Learning  
SCRA  
Career Scotland  
Aberdeen City Community Arts  
Banff and Buchan College

Ae FD

Dumfries and Galloway Council  
FEI  
SNH  
Scottish Arts council  
Careers Scotland  
Nith Salmon and Fisheries Board  
D&G Arts Association  
7 Stanes  
NHS

Lowlands FD

West Lothian Council  
BEN  
Clan Ranald  
Ethnic Minority Sports Association

Scottish Borders FD

Peebles High School  
High School  
RSPB,  
Scottish Borders council  
Borders College  
Tweed Forum  
Paths 2 Health  
Active School Co-ordinators

Galloway

Eco schools project  
FEI  
Police  
D&G Council Rangers  
SNH  
D&G Council