

# Forest Research

## FR Eye

April 2007



## CONTENTS

Editorial

New climate change webpages

Award-winning scientist

Scottish timber miles

Offenders and nature schemes

What's new on the FR website

New publications

Events

## EDITORIAL

This month's issue of *FR Eye* brings the news that we may soon be monitoring 'timber miles' in the same way as 'food miles', all in the interests of sustainability and the environment. There are also details of new climate change pages on the web, as well as the good news that one of our scientists has won the Royal Forestry Society's 2006 James Cup! See inside to find out more...

If you've missed any previous issues, they can be accessed via our archive at: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/freye](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/freye)

If you would like to contact the editorial team or to request an email notification of future issues as they go live, write to us at: [newsletter@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:newsletter@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

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# NEW CLIMATE CHANGE WEBPAGES

The Forestry Commission website now boasts a new range of climate change pages, giving easy access to facts, figures and more general information on climate change and the role played by forests. Written with the help of Forest Research scientists, the web pages are designed to answer many of the questions frequently asked by the general public, planners and policy advisors.

The site includes details of how the **carbon cycle works** and there's also advice on asking the right questions if you're thinking of choosing one of the many carbon offset schemes now available. For example:

- ▶ Will you be able to locate the area of land and the trees whose carbon belongs to you?
- ▶ Would the trees have been planted anyway, even if you had not paid for the scheme?
- ▶ If the carbon you're buying is in mature trees that already exist, how has the scheme offset the carbon you have emitted?
- ▶ Is the scheme endorsed by a reputable independent organisation such as WWF?

Links from the FC climate change webpages take readers to **Forest Research's pages**, which contain more-detailed scientific and technical information about forestry and climate change.

See **[www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange)** for more information.

## AWARD WINNING SCIENTIST



*Kevin with colleague Amy*

Forest Research scientist Kevin Watts is the proud winner of the Royal Forestry Society's 2006 James Cup, which is awarded each year to the author of the best article published in its *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*.

Kevin's paper, *British Forest Landscapes — The Legacy of Woodland Fragmentation*, was judged to be joint winner of the 2006 award after appearing in the October 2006 issue. Kevin shares the award with forestry consultant Rodney Helliwell whose winning article was entitled *The Development of Ancient Woodland Vegetation* in the April 2006 issue. The cup will be presented to Kevin at an RFS event later this year.

For more details on his award-winning paper, contact **Kevin**.

# SCOTTISH TIMBER MILES



We've all heard of 'food miles' and the recent ideas from Defra about reducing the distance food is transported in the interests of sustainability, but now the Scottish Executive is also trying to take similar measures in terms of timber transportation.

As part of the Scottish Climate Change Programme, the Scottish Executive has set the forestry industry targets for carbon saving. One of the indicators used to measure this is 'timber miles' — that is, the distance travelled relative to the tonnage of timber moved.

The concept of timber miles could be used to guide Scottish transport initiatives, which aim to establish a sustainable timber transport infrastructure, making timber transport more efficient and reducing the negative impacts of road haulage on communities.

In 2005/6, a scoping study found that the easiest way to obtain information to calculate timber miles was to get it directly from the hauliers. A subsequent pilot study during 2006 identified the hauliers of Scottish timber and collected their mileage/tonnage information to make a first estimate of the current number of timber miles.

## **Next steps**

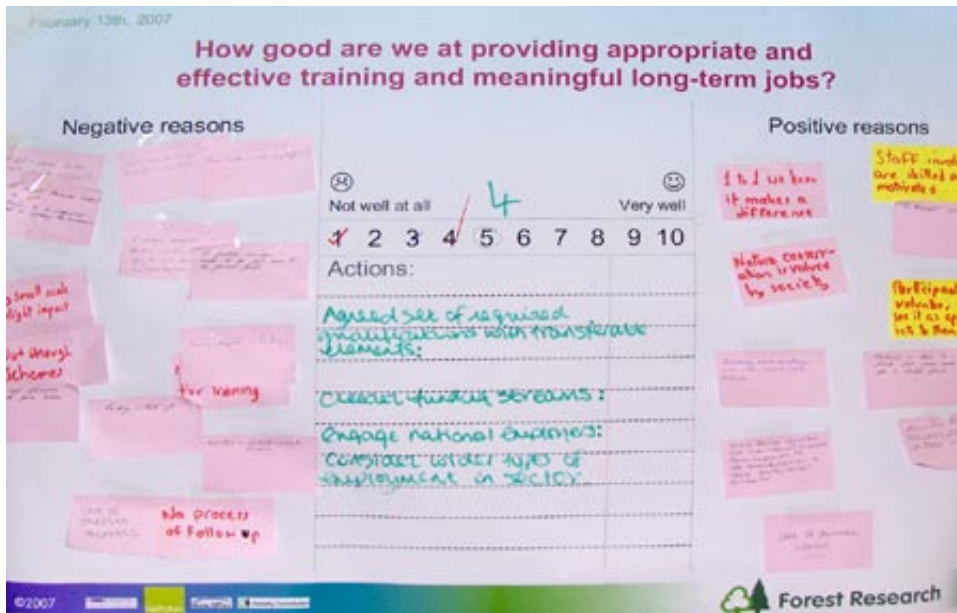
A protocol for an ongoing survey of Scottish timber miles is now being designed, with the support of both Forest Research and Forestry Commission statisticians, and will be sent for review by the Department for Transport. However, as well as having a strict process, it will be the collective engagement of the haulage profession that will be critical to the success of this drive towards sustainability.

*Finlay McAllister and Stephanie Roux*

# OFFENDERS AND NATURE SCHEMES - GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND GOOD FOR NATURE

In December's *FR Eye*, we outlined the positive effects of Offenders and Nature (O&N) schemes, and the benefits for both participants and the environment.

O&N schemes enable offenders to work with nature conservation and forestry public agencies or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which helps them learn new skills, improve their confidence and self-esteem, and build fitness and stamina ready for full-time work.



Further progress was made recently at an O&N 'Dialogue Day' held in London in February, which brought people together to share knowledge on research, policy and practice for initiatives across the UK. Attending were a number of groups that currently run O&N schemes, as well as delegates from several greenspace agencies, environmental NGOs, the Home Office, probation and prison management services, rehabilitation charities, land-based training colleges and academics.

Cont.

# OFFENDERS AND NATURE SCHEMES - GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND GOOD FOR NATURE

The day provided a good opportunity to network with others interested in or already active in O&N schemes; the discussions and working groups considered:

- ▶ past experience of using environmental management and conservation work in offender rehabilitation
- ▶ barriers to setting up and running O&N schemes and how to overcome them (e.g. partnership building between agencies)
- ▶ the scope and range of benefits of O&N schemes (e.g. assistance in overcoming addictions and addressing mental health issues)
- ▶ how to improve O&N initiatives (especially regarding resettlement and finding employment)

The event was organised by the Social and Economic Research Group of Forest Research in liaison with Forestry Commission England, Natural England, the National Offenders Management Service and the Home Office Custodial Estates.

## **Forthcoming**

Outcomes of the event are currently being evaluated and will feed into a report that will be published late 2007, detailing the policy, academic and practical background to O&N schemes and discussing barriers and potential ways to address these.

We are also planning to compile a set of guidelines this summer, giving information and contacts to help new schemes get off the ground more quickly.

The longer-term aims are to reduce the lead-in time for new projects and to formally evaluate the impacts of O&N schemes across the UK.

*Claudia Carter*

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE FR WEBSITE



## Research

### **Forest hydrology — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/HCOU-4U4JAM](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/HCOU-4U4JAM)**

This research programme is concerned with improving our understanding of these effects so that forestry not only protects, but where possible enhances the freshwater environment.

### **Scotland forest habitat network (FHN) — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6W7EVK](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6W7EVK)**

Part of the Habitat Networks programme, this project aims to develop a plan to support the strategic development and integration of FHNs and open habitat networks in Scotland. Reports and maps for four regions have recently been added:

- Borders and Lothian — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D2P](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D2P)
- Edinburgh and the Lothians — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D2P](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D2P)
- Highland — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4CZG](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4CZG)
- South West Scotland — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D24](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6V4D24)

### **Horse chestnut leaf miner (*Cameraria ohridella*) — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/leafminer](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/leafminer)**

Further information about the impact that this pest has on horse chestnut trees, along with its distribution during 2006.

### **Alien invasive species and international trade — [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/iufroinvasives](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/iufroinvasives)**

Examining the global forestry issues related to the unwanted international movement of alien invasive species, including fungi, insects, nematodes, and plants. Includes a new concept paper entitled: *A pathway approach towards prevention of movement of pests and pathogens with live plants in international trade.*

## Useful website links

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/pestaalerts](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/pestaalerts) — Downloadable handbills about diagnostic details of pathogens and pests

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/lidar](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/lidar) — Archaeological prospecting in woodland using Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR)

## Studentships

**Testing the adaptive significance of seed zones in Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)**

[www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6WAJNV](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/fr/INFD-6WAJNV)

Applications are invited for a Scottish Forestry Trust PhD studentship at the University of Edinburgh.



# NEW PUBLICATIONS

There have been a number of new social forestry reports published recently. Here's a recap of what's new:

## ***A marvellous opportunity to learn: a participatory evaluation of Forest School in England and Wales***

Liz O'Brien and Richard Murray, 2006

This publication brings together two studies that explore the impact of Forest School on children. It looks at case studies in England and Wales and illustrates how Forest School can improve children's confidence, knowledge of the environment, motivation and physical skills.

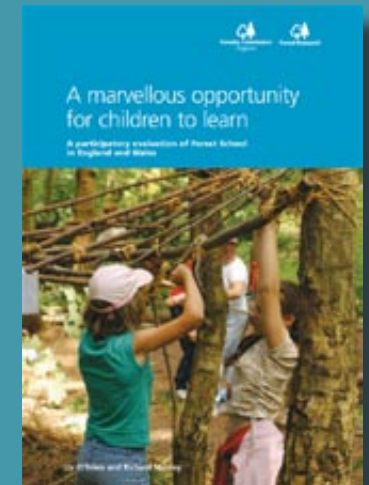
This research was carried out in a partnership between Forest Research and the new economics foundation, and was funded by the Forestry Commission, Forestry Commission England and Forest Research.

## ***Growing places: a study of social change in the national forest***

Jake Morris, 2006

A report on research exploring the links between changes to the natural environment (restoration or landscape change through afforestation) and the changing lives of people who live, work and spend their leisure time in The National Forest. This is a timely piece of research that explores some of the less tangible benefits that can be delivered through multi-functional forestry. The research reveals the ways in which an innovative and progressive model of social forestry adopted by The National Forest is resulting, not only in the growth of trees, but also in the growth of communities.

The report is the result of a partnership research project between Lancaster University, the National Forest Company and the Forestry Commission.



Cont.

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

## *Leisure landscapes: exploring the role of forestry in tourism*

Suzanne Martin, 2007

This publication aims to provide an insight into the role of the forestry sector in tourism provision. It examines the relationship between those who supply tourism products and services and the forestry sector, and gives findings from in-depth interviews with planners and managers, and from discussion groups with tourism enterprises.

The report explores tourism providers' perceptions, values and uses of woodlands for tourism, as well as the relationships between woodland managers and tourism providers. It also makes recommendations on how forest policy, practice and further research can help realise the potential of woodlands for tourism.



For more information or to order, visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/publications](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/publications)

# EVENTS

Full details of FR's events are available from the FR website: [www.forestresearch.gov.uk/events](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/events)

## **17 April**

### *Woodfuel conference*

An overview of the developing woodfuel sector; organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Royal Forestry Society and the Forestry Commission.

Royal Agricultural Society of England, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, 09.15-16.00

*National School of Forestry Seminar Series 2006/7,*  
featuring Forest Research speakers.

## **26 April**

### *Remote sensing applications in forestry*

Juan Suarez

National School of Forestry Seminar, Penrith, 16.00–17.00