

Forest Research's new organisational structure takes shape

Forest Research's (FR) old style Research Management Board met for the last time in May. From June, a larger Executive Board (FREB) will assist in managing the organisation. In addition to the Chief Executive and the Directors of Personnel, Research and Finance, the Executive Board will include FR's five new Divisional Heads, who are:

- Head of Biometrics, Surveys & Statistics Division - Professor Sam Evans
- Head of Ecology Division - Dr Chris Quine
- Head of Environmental & Human Sciences Division - Dr Andy Moffat
- Head of Forest Management Division - Mr Bill Mason
- Head of Tree Health Division - Dr Hugh Evans.

FREB will hold its first meeting on 23 June.

Advisory Committee on Forest Research appoints 2004 Visiting Groups

The Advisory Committee on Forest Research has held its first meeting since election of its new Chair and members. Plans for FR's 2004 Visiting Groups were amongst items discussed. Two visiting groups were appointed. The first, to Social Research Unit, will take place on 9 - 10 September and will comprise Dr Victoria Edwards (Chair), Professor Bill Slee and Professor Thomas Randrup. The second, to Woodland Surveys, will take place over 12-14 September, and will be led by Professor Hugh Miller (Chair), Dr Keith Kirby and Professor Erkki Tomppo.

FC's Expert Group on Research and Development

FC's new Expert Group on Research and Development held its first meeting in May. The group discussed environmental research, modelling, forest protection, continuous cover forestry and social research, and toured Alice Holt's Seed Testing, Chemical Analysis and Soils Laboratories.

Professor Lynch honoured

Professor Jim Lynch, FR's Chief Executive, has been honoured by the University of Surrey with the title of Distinguished Professor. This is the seventh such award that UniS has made and the first such award for a biologist or chemist.

OST selects ForestGALES as example case study

The office of Science and Technology selected FR's ForestGALES case study as an example of successful knowledge transfer at a conference attended by Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister and over one hundred delegates.

Forest Research short listed for Work Experience Award

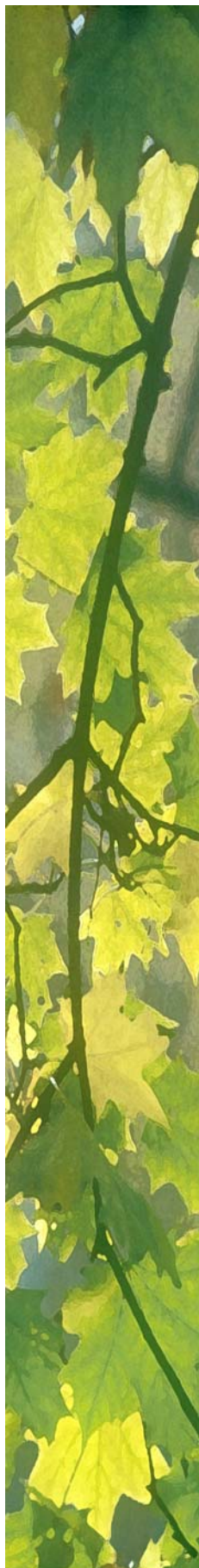
Forest Research has been short-listed for an award by the National Council for Work Experience. The Council awards aim to recognise, encourage and reward organisations that provide work experience for higher education students and display good practice in work experience

Forest Research selected for Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition



Forest Research's entomologists will be presenting an exhibit entitled 'Biological Cruise Missile: Beetle vs. Beetle in Forest Protection' at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, which takes place in

London from 5 - 8 July. Details of our exhibit will soon be appearing on the Royal Society website for 16-19 year olds, <http://www.sc1.ac.uk>.



Fieldwork completed for Defra sustainable grazing methodology study

TSU teams at Exeter, Mabie and Kielder are now completing their surveys of grazing in upland oakwoods and ashwoods. FR's Ecology Division is undertaking the survey for Defra, English Nature and the FC, who need an effective but simple methodology to assess sustainable grazing.

NIWT2 consultations underway

Consultations between Woodland Surveys, FC Forestry Group, the FC National Offices, and other stakeholders on the protocols and sampling for the second round of Britain's National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees, are now underway. Different data capture devices are also being trialled, to ensure that the most efficient and modern methods of data capture are used.

Focus on birch dieback

Heike de Silva, Pathology's new PhD student, joins FR to study the distribution and biology of the fungal pathogen, *Anisogramma virgultorum*, responsible for birch die-back. Heike's research is funded by the Scottish Forestry Trust and aims to:

- investigate the pattern of distribution of *Anisogramma virgultorum* in Scotland and its morphology and impact on the growth of birch;
- examine aspects of the infection cycle of *A. virgultorum* and determine the conditions required for infection; and evaluate the effect of provenance of silver birch and downy birch on susceptibility to infection by *A. virgultorum*.

The virtues of cold storage in Iceland

Alan Harrison visited Iceland at the invitation of the Icelandic Forest Service. He gave presentations on the role of cold storage in maintaining planting stock quality. Climate change has affected seedling dormancy cycles and cold storage is seen as a means of compensating for this change. This visit has opened up possibilities for further collaboration and currently an EU Northern Periphery Programme bid is being developed on the topic of establishment and management of Atlantic seaboard woodlands, principally for shelter.

Beijing Plant Protection Congress

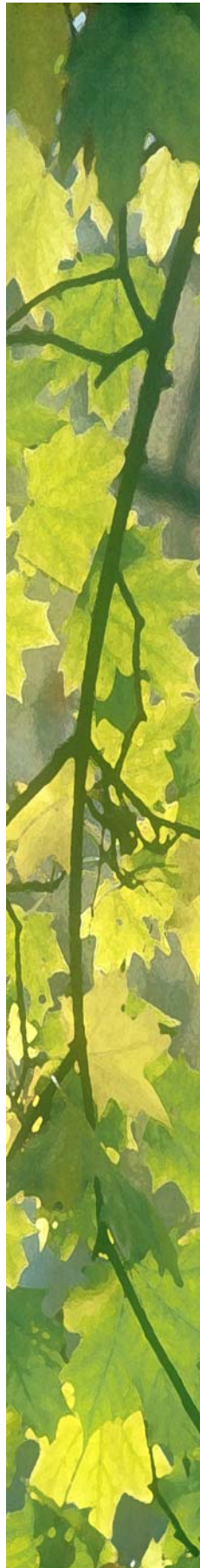
Hugh Evans (Tree Health Division) visited Beijing in May to attend the XV International Plant Protection Congress. In addition to organising and chairing a forestry section session, Hugh presented two papers on FR's biological control programme against *Dendroctonus micans* using the predator *Rhizophagus grandis*.

Consultations progress on FC science strategy

Stakeholder consultations being led by FC's English and Welsh national offices are now complete and recommendations are shortly to be put to the respective national committees. The Scottish consultation is still ongoing. Once all three national findings are complete, these will be compiled into a single GB science strategy by FC's Forestry Group. This team will include representatives from the National Offices and Peter Freer-Smith, FR's Research Director. These amalgamated recommendations will then be put to GB executive board, FC commissioners and ministers.

Phytophthora taxon sp. C

A new quarantine pathogen, *P. taxon* sp. C. was found on a further ten beech trees in Cornwall in April. Details of the new *Phytophthora* are available in a [Pest Risk Assessment](#). This and other pathology news stories are covered in the latest issue of [Path News](#).



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