

Helen McKay, BSc, PhD

Head of Biometrics, Surveys and Statistics Division



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Helen McKay first joined Forest Research in 1988 as a plant physiologist to improve the physiological quality of planting stock. Over the following 12 years her remit expanded to cover seedling morphology, seedling nutrition and wider nutritional sustainability. From 2000-2007 as part of Corporate and Forestry Support at Silvan House, she was a specialist advisor and commissioned research in forest operations, the physical environment, process-based modelling and remote sensing; she had a particular responsibility for woodfuel. Since 2007, Helen has returned to Forest Research as acting Head of the Biometrics, Surveys and Statistics Division with a staff complement of 37 split between Alice Holt and the Northern Research Station. She studied at the University of Edinburgh.

Current role

Head of Division of the Biometrics, Surveys and Statistics Division.
Chair of the GB Woodfuel Co-ordinating Group.
Chair of the GB Remote Sensing Integration Group.
Member of the Biomass Energy Centre

Affiliations and achievements

Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters
Member of the Chartered Institute of Environmentalists

Research areas

Remote sensing; woodfuel resource assessments; woodfuel use; carbon savings; harvesting disturbance; short rotation forestry; nutritional sustainability.

Main recent publications

Peer-reviewed publications

H. M. McKay, B. Hudson, R. Carr, C. Beck, S. Ward, H.. Snowling, and J. Pendlebury (submitted) Woodfuel consumption in Scotland 2005-8. *Biomass and Bioenergy*

McKay, H., Wilder, M., Curnow, P. and Fitz-Gerald, L. (2006) The application of waste legislation to bio-energy in Britain. *European Environment* 16, 368-375

Moffat, A.J. and McKay, H.M. (2007) The potential of British forests to recycle organic wastes. *Quarterly Journal of Forestry* 102, 21-27.

A. Weatherall, M.F. Proe, J. Craig, A.D. Cameron, H.M. McKay and A.J. Midwood. (2006) Tracing N, K, Mg and Ca released from decomposing biomass to new tree growth. Part II: A model system simulating root decomposition on clearfell sites. *Biomass and Bioenergy* 30, 1060-1066.

A. Weatherall, M.F. Proe, J. Craig, A.D. Cameron, H.M. McKay, and A.J. Midwood. (2006) Tracing N, K, Mg and Ca released from decomposing biomass to new tree growth. Part I: A model system simulating harvest residue decomposition on conventionally harvested clearfell sites. *Biomass and Bioenergy* 30, 1053-1059.

H. M. McKay (2006) Environmental, economic, social and political drivers for increasing use of woodfuel as a renewable resource in Britain. *Biomass and Bioenergy* 30, 308-315.

Levy, P.E. and McKay, H.M. 2003 Assessing tree seedling vitality using sensitivity analysis of a process-based growth model. *Forest Ecology and Management* **183**, 77-93

FC publications

Perks, M.P., Harrison, A., McKay, H.M. and Morgan J.L. (2006) Larch establishment and nursery practice. Forestry Commission Information Note.

Willoughby, I., Evans, H., Gibbs, J., Pepper, H., Gregory, S., Dewar, J., Nisbet, T., Pratt, J., McKay, H.M., Siddons, R., Mayle, B., Heritage, S., Ferris, R., Trout, R. (2004) Reducing pesticide use in forestry. Forestry Commission Practice Guide, 140pp

Boon, P.J., Coy, J.S., Hunter Blair, P., McKay, H.M., Merrett, W., Nisbet, T., Schaible, R. (2003) Forests and Water Guidelines, 4th edition. Forestry Commission Guideline