



Forestry Commission  
**ARCHIVE**

FORESTRY COMMISSION:  
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 1996 - 97



Forestry Commission

# OUR MISSION IS TO

PROTECT AND EXPAND BRITAIN'S FORESTS AND WOODLANDS AND  
INCREASE THEIR VALUE TO SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

OUR OBJECTIVES AS SET OUT  
IN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY –  
THE UK PROGRAMME, ARE TO

- PROTECT BRITAIN'S FORESTS AND WOODLANDS
- EXPAND BRITAIN'S FOREST AREA
- ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES
- CONSERVE AND IMPROVE THE BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND  
CULTURAL HERITAGE OF OUR FORESTS AND WOODLANDS
- DEVELOP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND RECREATION
- INCREASE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY  
PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY



# FORESTRY COMMISSION: ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 1996 - 97

## TOGETHER WITH THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Presented to Parliament in pursuance of Section 45 of the Forestry Act 1967 and section 5 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921

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FOREWORD





BY SIR PETER HUTCHISON, CHAIRMAN

There are many special things about forestry. One is the timescale to which we work. We pursue multiple-purpose forestry today – providing timber for industry, habitats for nature conservation and amenities for all to enjoy – largely with an eye to the interests of future generations. It can be hard to judge whether we are making progress. Annual Reports allow us to take stock to see if we are on the right track.

In 1996-97, has the Forestry Commission, in line with its Mission Statement, protected and expanded our woodlands? I believe it has.

Our forests continue to expand. There are signs that the decline in planting rates has come to an end. Total new planting rose this year by seven per cent to more than 16,000 hectares (ha). But more is certainly needed. We have consulted widely about how to expand woodland cover in England and introduced a number of exciting new opportunities in target locations, such as bracken land in Wales.

Quality remains every bit as important as quantity. A key initiative has been the drawing up of a draft UK Forestry Standard setting out for the first time a comprehensive standard for sustainable forestry. And we have played an active part in implementing the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, tailoring grants to focus on particular habitats and species.

We have been determined to retain the confidence of those with whom we deal. Local people have warmly welcomed our improved consultation procedures overall, and our initiatives to achieve more community involvement. The timber processing industry has shown its confidence with two very significant investments in processing plants.

Our own forests have continued to thrive. Granting Agency status to Forest Enterprise has already led to improvements. Forest Enterprise raised its net contribution from £3.0 million last year to £27.1 million. The activities of the Forestry Commission overall cost £48.5 million, a reduction of more than £10 million compared to 1995-96. In other words, whilst maintaining our existing programmes and launching new initiatives, we have still been able to reduce significantly the cost to the taxpayer.

As in any well-run business, we are constantly adopting new technologies to improve our performance. But one thing has not changed: the resourcefulness of staff at all levels. I would like to express my thanks to them for their support.

During the year, Terence Mallinson left the Board of Commissioners after seven years of wise contribution to the Board's affairs. We welcome in his place Tom Bruce Jones, Chairman and Managing Director of James Jones and Sons Ltd.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Hutchison'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sir Peter Hutchison

# INTRODUCTION





BY DAVID BILLS, DIRECTOR GENERAL

Since the Forestry Review of 1992 decisions have been taken which have resulted in a substantial restructuring of the Forestry Commission. During the year under review much effort was given to getting the structure working smoothly.

If any organisation is to be effective all involved must have a clear understanding of its mission and objectives. The Commission has defined its mission and objectives which we believe reflect the aspirations the British people have for forestry as we approach the millennium.

**Our Mission is:** To Protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

Our Objectives as set out in *Sustainable Forestry – the UK Programme* are to:

- Protect Britain's forests and woodlands
- Expand Britain's forest area
- Enhance the economic value of our forest resources
- Conserve and improve the biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage of our forests and woodlands
- Develop opportunities for woodland recreation
- Increase public understanding and community participation in forestry

Our achievements will be measured in terms of meeting these objectives and our Annual Report has been structured so as to place what we are doing in the context of what we are seeking to achieve.

The mission and objectives have helped the Forestry Authority, Forest Enterprise and the new Forest Research Agency define their roles within the Commission's overall objectives. Core services within the Forestry Commission, shared by these bodies, have been identified and appropriate customer/provider relationships identified and defined.

More of this work is needed but progress during 1996-97 has been impressive. That it has taken place against a further 10 per cent reduction in staff has been a major achievement. The staff reductions were supported by an early retirement scheme which has meant experienced staff at all levels have been lost. The reduction in numbers has in itself forced us to focus on new ways of delivering our programmes.

Doing more with less has been a common theme of many western Governments. Adapting commercial approaches to the public sector has been seen as a way of stretching the taxpayers' money further. There are some who are concerned that commercialism will be achieved at the cost of professionalism. Public sector outputs cannot always be encapsulated in conventional profit and loss and balance sheet statements, however, the experience has been that so long as appropriate objectives are defined and goals set, other measures of

achievement can be applied to achieve high quality outputs for non-market goods and services. This is done, for example, in the Forest Enterprise's separate annual report. A commercial approach will ensure the efficient production of its wide range of goods and services. This adds to forestry professionalism rather than detracting from it.

Despite the work time involved in restructuring and coping with the loss of more than 200 people, the Annual Report confirms new programmes and initiatives were successfully introduced. It is a tribute to the professionalism of our staff that they managed to achieve real progress despite an uncertain and difficult climate of change.

Much has been written and said of the pace of change in the late 20th century and how individual organisations and indeed entire societies have been stressed as they struggled to cope. The Commission does not expect the change rate to slow but what we want is an organisation which can recognise and adapt to new circumstances smoothly and quickly. In doing so, we will not only better achieve our objectives but we will also do so in a way which is easier on us all.

Looking forward over the next few years, we have a new Government with new priorities for forestry. It is quite clear that in the foreseeable future funding of Government activity will continue to be tight particularly for forestry, where the Government's manifesto made it clear that there would be no more large-scale disposals of forests. Devolution will undoubtedly lead to a re-appraisal of how forestry is promoted and developed under devolved legislatures. We can anticipate increased interest in forms of community participation, both in a rural development context as well as in peri-urban circumstances where forestry will be increasingly recognised as a land use able to regenerate spent land while providing urban populations with a place for recreation and an opportunity to improve their immediate living environment.

However, the earlier tradition which drove the Forestry Commission, that of providing timber reserves for industry, will be no less important. The GB forest processing industry is efficient and competitive and has shown a willingness to invest. However, it will need to be confident that forests with recreation, conservation and heritage benefits can also play a part in providing a sustainable resource for industry.

Sustainable forest management with multiple objectives can deliver a wide range of benefits and we are witnessing increased recognition of this by timber growers, processors, environmental organisations and other stakeholders. The FC sees itself as a broker of meaningful consensus on the way forward for forestry and as an advocate for sustainable forest management, a form of land use which we are confident will be highly valued in Great Britain in years to come.

*David Bills*

David J Bills



# REVIEW OF THE YEAR



Forestry Commission

# PROTECTING BRITAIN'S FORESTS AND WOODLANDS



Our efforts in pursuit of this key objective have focused on drawing up a single UK Forestry Standard designed to promote good forestry practice and management throughout the UK, maintaining rigorous plant health controls and scrutinising applications for permission to fell trees. We have also taken a prominent role in international affairs.

#### **UK FORESTRY STANDARD - FORESTRY GUIDELINES**

During the past ten years or so the Forestry Commission has published a series of Guidelines aiming to promote sustainable forestry in Great Britain. In June 1996, we issued for public consultation a draft UK Forestry Standard which brought together the various guidelines into a single standard. For several woodland types it provided a means of identifying the balance to be struck between development and environmental criteria.

Responses were received from a wide range of interested organisations and individuals and these are being considered. There was general support for the introduction of a standard to demonstrate the nation's commitment to sustainable forestry. A second draft of the text has been published for further consultation.

#### **FELLING PERMISSIONS**

We have continued to exercise strict control over tree-felling. Within the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) this year, we issued felling permissions for woodland management for nearly 28,000 hectares (ha) of woodland. Of this, WGS felling permissions in the year amounted to more than 7,000 ha. These permissions are conditional on restocking the land.

#### **ILLEGAL TREE FELLING**

We received 475 reports of tree felling from members of the public and others, of which 106 warranted further investigation. We brought prosecutions in 33 cases, mostly from incidents arising last year, and there are a further 13 where investigations or proceedings are still underway. In nine less serious cases, warning notices were issued. Restocking notices, requiring the replanting and maintenance of illegally felled areas, were served in 16 instances.

#### **RESTOCKING**

More than 6,500 ha of restocking were grant-aided during the year, nearly 800 ha more than in 1995-96. Conifer restocking accounted for about 61 per cent of this area. The area approved for future restocking, however, has dropped from some 8,500 ha in 1995-96 to 6,700 ha in 1996-97.

## PLANT HEALTH - IMPORT INSPECTIONS

Some 5,100 inspections of controlled wood imports were carried out in 1996 – a slight decrease from the previous year. The volume of wood imports subject to inspection increased, however, to 2.3 million cubic metres (2.1 million in 1995). In addition, our inspectors continued a programme of random inspections of non-timber cargoes to monitor wooden packing material (dunnage) which poses the highest risk of introducing new pests and diseases. We are pleased that the initiatives introduced since the last Report, combined with vigorous action on the dockside, have resulted in a significant decline in the number of incidents we have had to deal with. Only 48 serious incidents were recorded compared with 126 the year before.

Pheromone traps remain vital in detecting the presence of quarantine pests, principally *Ips typographus* (the Eight-toothed Spruce Bark Beetle). A total of 13 specimens were caught, compared to the previous year's record total of 149. This provided further evidence of the success of our campaign towards an improvement in pre-export controls, especially in the Baltic States.

## PLANT HEALTH - EUROPEAN UNION (EU) PROTECTED ZONES

Under the EU's Single Market regime, plant health controls can only be maintained on material when it enters a protected zone, an area where it can be shown that certain pests or diseases are absent and where they could cause economic damage. The arrangements in place for Great Britain will be maintained on a permanent basis, subject to continuing satisfactory forest survey results. Surveys carried out in 1996 again showed that we remain free of all of the relevant quarantine pests. However, in July the presence of *Pissodes spp.* (pine weevils) in the Mull of Kintyre was reported and confirmed. We therefore withdrew authority to issue plant passports to companies in the area exporting logs to Ireland.

There have been some minor changes to the EU regime itself. These were implemented by an amendment to The Plant Health Order 1993 on 2 April 1996.

## PLANT HEALTH - DENDROCTONUS MICANS

We reported last year on an isolated occurrence of *Dendroctonus micans* in the EU protected zone, close to the area of the country recognised as infested. Further surveys in the autumn revealed more infested trees in the same woodland. We shall, in consultation with the forest owner, continue with sanitation felling and the release of the specific predator, *Rhizophagus grandis*.

In October, an outbreak of *D.micans* was reported in a private woodland near Ashford, Kent. A survey was undertaken and a second, more serious, outbreak near to the limit of the survey area was discovered. The survey area was extended by a further 10 kilometres as a result. Early indications are that a total of 1,300 spruce trees in 21 locations have been attacked. An action plan is being discussed with the owners of the affected woodlands.

In February, we convened a meeting of the joint FC/forest industry Plant Health Working Group to review the measures in place to control *D.micans*. The Group endorsed the recommendation that we maintain the local market exemption whereby conifer wood may be moved freely within the *D.micans* Control Area. We are looking into the possibility of permitting roundwood not recognised as a host species for *D. micans* in this country to be moved to sawmills in the EU protected zone. Recommendations will be put to the Plant Health Working Group for its endorsement before any changes are implemented.

#### **PLANT HEALTH - GYPSY MOTH**

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, we have been monitoring the outbreak of Gypsy moth first recorded in gardens near Epping Forest in 1995. A number of larvae were again detected and treated by spraying. Traps were set up in and around the outbreak area. A survey carried out in March found one egg mass, suggesting that the moth may have established there and that larvae may be found in the early summer of 1997. Plans have been agreed for further surveying, and, if necessary, spray treatment.

#### **PLANT HEALTH - CHARGES**

We aim to recover from the customer the cost of providing certain plant health services. Legislation was introduced during the year setting fees to recover the cost of inspecting businesses authorised to issue plant passports. The Regulations also implemented revised charges in respect of import licences for material needed for research work.

Following extensive consultation, we have introduced charges for inspecting imports of timber. To ensure that the charges are applied fairly, a FC/joint industry Plant Health Customer Liaison Group has been formed. It met for the first time in February and endorsed the level of fees proposed. Negotiations have begun aimed at agreeing harmonised EU arrangements for inspection fees.

## TREE HEALTH SURVEY

We carry out an annual survey of forest health in Britain. In 1996, 8,952 trees were assessed on 373 plots. With the exception of beech, there were no major changes in crown condition compared to 1995. Oak and Norway Spruce both deteriorated slightly, but the condition of Scots Pine was virtually unchanged. Sitka Spruce maintained an improvement which has continued almost annually since 1988. The condition of beech improved significantly due largely to much reduced mast formation, but this was not sufficient to eliminate fully the severe deterioration reflecting the effects of the widespread drought in 1995 and the more local droughts in 1996.

## RESEARCH

We conduct research into a range of threats to tree health including insect pests, fungal pathogens and the impact of raised CO<sub>2</sub> and ozone events on tree growth. Ten intensive monitoring plots have been established to meet the requirements of EU Regulations 2157/92 and 1091/94. We are collecting data on forest crown condition, growth rates, air pollution inputs, soil condition, foliar chemistry and climate.

## INTERNATIONAL

### (i) Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)

The final session of the IPF, established in 1995 under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), took place in February 1997. Its final report was the result of a positive and productive dialogue between all participants. The agreed proposals for actions reflect consensus on a wide range of issues related to the sustainable management of all forests.

### (ii) FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO)

The Director General led the UK delegation to the thirteenth session of COFO on 10-13 March 1997. The FAO Forestry Department had put together an agenda which recognised the resource constraints both in domestic forest services and the international community, focused on the priority issues and allowed for greater participation of the delegates. COFO recognised the contribution FAO had made to the IPF and endorsed its role in key areas of sustainable forest management. FAO was asked to give priority to supporting the implementation of the proposals in the IPF report and its ten year survey, conducted in partnership with the EU, into the *Global Forest Resource Assessment 2000*.

(iii) European Union

Reflecting developments in the international forest dialogue, forestry maintained its profile in the European Union. The European Parliament passed a Resolution which recognised forestry's role and called for a more co-ordinated approach to forestry in Europe. Regulations protecting forests from atmospheric pollution and forest fires were extended.

EXPANDING BRITAIN'S FOREST AREA





We remain committed to the expansion of Britain's forest area. We continue to operate grant schemes designed to encourage new planting. This year we have introduced specific measures targeted at derelict land and challenge funds for priority areas. We have also consulted widely on how to extend woodland cover in England.

#### NEW PLANTING

In last year's Annual Report we expressed satisfaction about the level of new broadleaved planting and the area of new native pinewoods, but were disappointed about the declining level of commercial coniferous planting. The picture in 1996-97 was similar with high land prices still discouraging investment in larger scale and coniferous woods.

Overall we grant-aided the planting of nearly 16,000 hectares (ha) of new woodland. While this is some 1,000 ha more than in 1995-96, it is disappointing that the area of new schemes approved – i.e. planned for planting in future years – was only 14,100 ha, some 4,000 ha less than last year. This may be related, in part, to potential participants in the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme holding back until the revised scheme was introduced on 1 April 1997.

New broadleaved planting contributed some 57 per cent of the total planting programme. This maintains the high level of recent years and is a result of the push that was given to broadleaved planting in the Government's Broadleaved Review in 1985.

The high level of interest in the new native pinewood scheme continued. Some 3,900 ha were planted in 1996-97, a substantial increase on the 2,700 ha planted last year. For the specific purpose of extending the planting of native woodlands in the Cairngorms area, we have introduced a Challenge Fund for the planting of native woodlands in the Deeside Forest and the Forest of Spey.

Commercial conifer planting (other than native pinewoods) in 1996-97 was 4,600 ha, almost the same as in 1995-96. In an attempt to encourage such planting "down the hill" we have introduced two new Challenge Funds in priority areas; first, the Grampian Forest Challenge, in the wider Buchan area in the north east of Scotland and, second, a scheme applying to bracken land in Wales which was identified as a priority area in the report – *The Way Ahead for Welsh Forestry* (1995). Initial interest in both schemes has been very promising.

The Forestry Commission has continued to support and finance a tender scheme operated by the National Forest Company for new woodland creation in the National Forest in parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. Up to 31 March 1997, some 300 ha of woodland has been planted in the National Forest under this scheme, with another 400 ha approved.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

In May 1996, Ministers announced revised consultation arrangements aimed at providing greater openness on planting and felling proposals whilst streamlining the administration of applications. The full announcement is reproduced in Appendix 6 of our 1995-96 Annual Report and Accounts. Generally, the new arrangements have been well received. We plan to respond to calls for more information on planting and felling proposals by making the register available on the Internet and changing the public register to a map-based format. We are currently conducting trials using the new format.

## WOODLAND CREATION IN ENGLAND

We joined forces with the Countryside Commission to publish a discussion paper *Woodland Creation: Needs and Opportunities in the English Countryside*. The purpose of this discussion paper was to develop the debate and stimulate fresh thinking about the needs and opportunities for woodland creation in England. Publication in October 1996 was followed by three discussion meetings. Subsequently some 256 written responses were received, the majority supporting a substantial increase in woodland cover. A report has been published analysing the responses.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE REVISED FARM WOODLAND PREMIUM SCHEME

Following their review of the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS), the Agriculture Departments reported to Parliament in July 1996 and issued a consultation document recommending a number of changes. A wide range of organisations were consulted about the proposed changes and some minor modifications were made. The changes to the scheme were implemented, by Statutory Instrument, with effect from 1 April 1997.

The revised FWPS is wider in scope and more flexible. Payment rates have also been increased for plantings on arable land and improved grassland, both for the new scheme and for participants who had planted under the previous scheme and its predecessor, the Farm Woodland Scheme.

The administration of the FWPS by the Agriculture Departments has been integrated more closely with the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS). The Forestry Authority is now the main initial contact point for applicants. The opportunity has been taken to bring all the literature for both FWPS and WGS into a common format. This has allowed a considerable reduction in the number of forms required.

## DERELICT LAND

Forest Enterprise has developed an innovative partnership approach to the reclamation of seven former British Coal colliery spoil heaps in Nottinghamshire. The aim is to transform stark and bare deep mine spoil heaps into carefully landscaped multiple-purpose woodlands and, in so doing, to enhance the prospects for economic regeneration and creation of new jobs in industry.

British Coal will transfer freehold ownership of the sites to Nottinghamshire County Council, fund substantial re-engineering works to an agreed forestry specification and plant with the assistance of Forestry Authority grants. Forest Enterprise has been advising on woodland design from the outset and expects to supervise contract forest operations. Once crops are established, Nottinghamshire County Council will lease the seven sites extending to some 670 ha to Forest Enterprise under a 999 year forestry lease with an obligation to provide and develop public access. This ties in particularly well with associated proposals to convert the disused mineral railways linking the sites for use as pedestrian and cycle routes.

This partnership approach is an effective vehicle for bringing mineral land into viable forestry use in an area where Forest Enterprise already has management commitments. It will be substantially the largest new planting scheme in the designated English Community Forests. There are good prospects for applying a similar approach elsewhere.

## ECOLOGICAL SITE CLASSIFICATION

Ecological Site Classification (ESC) is being developed by our researchers as a tool to enable forest managers to determine site potential for commercial species and native woodlands. The sites are described in terms of climate, soil moisture regime and soil nutrient regime. An ESC for Grampian region was prepared in support of the Forest of Grampian Project and for the Cairngorms to support the development of a land use strategy for the area.

ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF OUR  
FOREST RESOURCES



We aim to maximise the economic value of Britain's forests consistent with delivering our multiple objectives. We have continued to run a number of relevant research projects. We are also contributing to the preparation of credible frameworks for certification and labelling and to the drafting of international timber standards. Through Forest Enterprise, whose activities are set out in greater detail in the Agency's own report, we have ensured that, despite difficult trading conditions, our own forests contribute to the sector's prosperity.

#### **TIMBER MARKET REVIEW**

The price deterioration which started around the middle of 1995-96 continued throughout 1996-97, although there was a small improvement in sawlog prices during the final quarter. The price index for our sales of standing timber fell by 10 per cent during the year, whilst the index for competitive sawlog sales dipped by 9 per cent earlier in the year to show, at the end of the period, an overall decline of 4 per cent after three months of steady increase.

There were two principal reasons for the difficult trading conditions: the increasing strength of sterling and an excess of paper-making capacity in North America. The latter led to a reduction in demand from European processors and to depressed small roundwood and residue markets. The situation did improve towards the end of 1996-97, but not before the lack of demand for residues had also affected UK sawmillers.

The chipwood industry appeared to be less seriously affected. It was able to utilise a significant proportion of the surplus small roundwood, thus allowing harvesting programmes to continue at the planned overall level. There was, however, some movement towards crops of larger average tree size and thus a lower small roundwood content.

A sharp increase in housing starts, and a buoyant fencing market, from the start of 1997 onwards are likely to be the principal reasons for the healthy sawlog demand and increases in log prices during the fourth quarter.

#### **TIMBER RESEARCH/TIMBER QUALITY**

The timber supply from our maturing forests will double during the next 20 years. This work is, therefore, important to secure markets in competition with imported wood supplies and with other materials.

In order to promote the best use of timber and timber products we co-operate closely with a number of other organisations, including the Building Research Establishment, Timber Research and Development Association, European partners and universities. We provide data and expertise in the drafting of British and European standards and undertake research to improve kiln drying and timber grading technologies on which the sawmilling industry depends. We have begun a programme to help make a strategic forecast of the quality of the timber which our forests will be producing in the future and are looking again at silvicultural practices to assess their impact on potential timber quality.

## FOREST CERTIFICATION AND TIMBER LABELLING

We participated in two international conferences held under the auspices of the Inter-governmental Panel on Forests on forest certification and timber labelling. This market mechanism sits comfortably with wider policies of encouraging voluntary action by consumers and producers to promote sustainable development. We are continuing to explore with forestry and environmental organisations and representatives of buyers of wood products credible frameworks which would be acceptable to all parties.

## MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

There has continued to be substantial investment in the sector, including from overseas. Eggers, an Austrian based company, was given planning permission to construct a new particleboard plant at Auchinleck in South Ayrshire. Another Austrian based company, Kronospan, has applied for permission to build a sawmill and particleboard plant north of Lockerbie in Dumfriesshire. Together these two plants will require in excess of 600,000 tonnes of wood fibre per year when they become operational. Techboard at Gwent began production of hardboard, a high density fibreboard, on an industrial scale in 1996.

We piloted, in the South of England, a new publication *Woodlots*, an inexpensive "exchange and mart" in which those owners wishing to sell small quantities of wood produce can advertise. It was well received and has now been extended to cover all of Great Britain.

The Scottish Hardwood Timber Market Development Group was also established in 1996-97. This Group aims to identify, encourage and facilitate the development of markets for timber from broadleaved woodlands in Scotland.

## MANAGEMENT GRANT

Annual Management Grant is a contribution towards the cost of work to maintain and improve existing woodlands. More than 55,000 hectares (ha) have been approved for grant-aid. Of this total, 26,000 ha were approved during 1996-97. The current level of approvals maintains the area receiving a form of management grant at 310,000 ha. During the year some 2,300 ha were approved for Livestock Exclusion Annual Premium (LEAP). This brings the total area under LEAP to some 4,000 ha.

## FOREST ENTERPRISE (FE) PRODUCTION

A total of 4.7 million cubic metres were harvested from FE forests, an increase of 0.4 million cubic metres over the previous year, an excellent achievement given the difficult market conditions. Some 2.3 million cubic metres came from direct working, the balance from standing sales. Overall around 25 per cent came from thinnings, the remainder from clearfellings.

The year saw a further concentration of direct working on a limited number of sites, allowing the economic benefits of large scale working with modern harvesting equipment to be maximised. An interesting technical development in this respect was the fitting of a product optimiser package to a harvester working in Buchan Forest District. This is able to select the most profitable product breakdown for each individual tree processed and has the potential of increasing the income obtained by £1-£2 per cubic metre. Other harvesters in the FE fleet are now being fitted with similar optimiser packages.

A successful project in Wales involved the competitive tendering of two five year contracts for standing sales covering crops growing on very steep and difficult ground, inaccessible to wheeled vehicles. The purpose of this was to encourage investment in state of the art cablecrane equipment with its significantly higher productivity than conventional machines. We were successful in achieving this objective, and arrangements were in hand at the end of the year for work to start during the early summer of 1997.

CONSERVING AND IMPROVING THE  
BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL  
HERITAGE OF OUR FORESTS AND WOODLANDS





Britain's forests and woodlands make a valuable contribution to the nation providing attractive landscapes and habitats for rare and endangered wildlife. We are determined to play our part in ensuring that this role continues. We have been involved in a wide range of initiatives including the extensive follow-up to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. We have also taken steps to promote native woodlands, introduced two new woodland improvement grant packages and further developed the use of forest design plans.

## **BIODIVERSITY**

The Government published its response to the report of the UK Steering Group on Biodiversity in May 1996, endorsing its proposals.

Delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan has required a number of groups to be set up to plan the work on individual species and habitats. The Forestry Commission is represented on all the key groups which affect forestry. Examples include:

- we are the lead partner responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of agreed Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) for Native Pinewoods and Upland Oakwoods. We anticipate a similar role for four further native woodland HAPs in 1997;
- we have initiated a Native Woodland HAP Co-ordination Group with nature conservation agencies and others to deal with common issues at UK level;
- we helped to set up the UK Red Squirrel Group, launched in July 1996, which steers the implementation of the red squirrel action plan, as well as being strongly involved in squirrel management groups at country and local level and;
- we have become increasingly involved in the development of local Biodiversity Action Plans which seek to agree local priorities for biodiversity and translate national targets into local ones.

The Forestry Authority Biodiversity Initiative continued to make good progress during the year through the Biodiversity Research Programme which seeks to find the best ways of diversifying planted forest.

## **NATIVE WOODLANDS**

Our concordat with the Association of National Parks seeks to promote opportunities to create new native woodlands in National Parks and to protect and manage existing areas. During the year concordats have been agreed for Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons National Parks, and the text of a concordat has been agreed with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

In Scotland, we reformed the Native Woodlands Advisory Panel (previously the Advisory Panel on Native Woodlands in the Highlands) for a fresh three-year term with a broader remit to provide advice on ways to promote establishment and management of native woodlands throughout Scotland.

The Panel set up four sub groups which enable its members and invited experts to investigate specific topics in depth. The sub groups are: Agriculture, Riparian Woodlands, Socio Economic Benefits and The Use of Native Species in Second Rotation Forests.

Two publications came out in 1996-97 based on the work of the previous Panel: Technical Paper 14 *The Boreal Forests of Scotland* by Dr Rick Worrell and Technical Paper 17 *The Native Woodland Resource of the Scottish Lowlands* by Neil MacKenzie and Robin Callander.

A major focus for the work of the Panel and its sub groups is a Native Woodlands Conference planned for autumn 1998.

### **NEW FOREST**

During the year work was completed on the Esso sponsored study of the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands of the New Forest. A detailed consultation document was presented to the New Forest Committee and the New Forest Consultative Panel. This reviewed the distribution, composition and structure of the Forest and considered options for its future management. To complete the consultative process the Deputy Surveyor chaired a seminar attended by respondents at which the way forward was discussed and agreed.

### **WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

In April we launched a Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) package (see Appendix 6) aimed at helping to deliver the habitat and species action plans under *Biodiversity, the UK Action Plan*. Challenge funded projects were successfully developed for priority cases, including rare butterflies in lowland England, upland oakwoods in Wales and Argyll and native pine/birchwoods in the Cairngorms and on Deeside. We have introduced a further project to encourage the management of under-managed woodlands.

Response to these two new WIGs has been encouraging – 415 projects have been supported with a total grant of £715,000. In addition, awards under the Challenge Funds were made to the value of £516,000 for 93 projects.

## FOREST DESIGN

We have initiated a proposal for long-term plans, similar in scope and content to forest design plans, to be a feature of the Woodland Grant Scheme. Owners who prepare such plans would be able to take advantage of streamlined consultation and Woodland Grant Scheme application procedures. A guide on how to draw up such plans will be published in 1997-98.

We initiated two studies – at Eskdalemuir in Scotland and in the Tywi area of South Wales – to explore the practicality of preparing long-term plans in places where there is a pattern of multiple-ownership within single management areas.

We are continuing studies at Glen Affric and Sherwood with the objective of applying an understanding of large scale ecosystem functioning and dynamics to possible scenarios for forest expansion and management.

## FOREST ENTERPRISE

The national forest estate is a major habitat and species resource exemplified by the presence of 371 sites of Special Scientific Interest, and a significant role in the conservation of more than 50 key species and several key habitats cited in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

In partnership with Scottish National Heritage and English Nature, we prepared national plans for conserving and expanding three key habitats: Lowland Heath, Limestone Pavement and Native Pinewood. For each of these habitats, Forest Enterprise manages more than 25 per cent of the national resource. These national plans will now provide the framework for producing local plans.

In preparation for our plan for the Wood Pastures key habitat, we published for consultation a major report on *Monitoring the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands of the New Forest*.

A wide range of species conservation measures continue with considerable success. The Galloway Forest Park Birds Project in partnership with local naturalists achieved its first five year target by establishing a clear understanding of the population and distribution of key species. It is now moving on to focus upon conserving habitats particularly those of Barn Owl and Black Grouse. A pair of Golden Eagles bred successfully on our land in North Scotland using, for the first time, an artificial nest site.

We established memoranda of agreement with CADW – Welsh Historic Monuments, Historic Scotland and English Heritage for the management of the 1,000 Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Forestry Commission land. Under the agreements, we completed more than 140 plans during the year, and started a survey to establish the current condition of ancient monuments as a base line against which to monitor future progress.

# DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOODLAND RECREATION



We want to see further improvement in the opportunities for recreation in Britain's woodlands. Our contribution has been to continue to offer relevant grants and supplements and to ensure that our own estate is as welcoming as possible. *These measures help to make our forests among the most popular parts of our countryside.*

#### **WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

The Woodland Improvement Grant we introduced last year to help encourage informal public access in woodlands continues to attract a high level of interest. We granted 75 approvals this year covering nearly 900 hectares (ha). The total area covered so far is some 1,400 ha at a grant value of £347,000.

#### **WALKERS WELCOME**

This initiative is aimed at encouraging woodland owners to welcome people walking in their woods. This year more than 7,200 ha of woodland management was approved with Walkers Welcome public access provisions included. This brings the total since 1992 to more than 22,300 ha on 810 properties.

#### **COMMUNITY WOODLAND SUPPLEMENT**

This supplement is intended to encourage the creation of new woodlands for recreation near to cities. The area planted for public access and receiving Community Woodland Supplement was 1,100 ha, an increase of about 150 ha in the area planted in 1995-96.

#### **MANAGEMENT GRANTS**

This year, some 8,400 ha were approved for management grants where the applicant indicated that public access was a high priority. This brings the total woodland area supported in this way during the past five years to more than 19,300 ha.

#### **FOREST ENTERPRISE**

*We provide and promote opportunities for public access for recreation to our own forests unless this conflicts with legal restrictions or gives rise to potential danger from forest operations. Where the terms of the lease impose constraints we are seeking to purchase freeholds so as to provide for unrestricted public access.*

#### **ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES**

Where visitor numbers to a wood are sufficiently high, we provide additional facilities to enhance the recreational experience. Such facilities are designed and selected to be consistent with quiet enjoyment of the countryside and include: picnic sites, waymarked trails, forest

drives, forest play areas, arboreta, viewpoints and interpretive panels. Wherever practicable the needs of the less able are catered for. We are committed to maintaining high standards of facilities and where appropriate raise income from carpark charges.

We also manage a wide range of Visitor Centres, several of which such as Grizedale (Lakes District) and Queen Elizabeth (Aberfoyle) attract more than 100,000 visitors per annum. Visitor Centres generally act as the primary orientation and information centres for Forest Parks, and in addition to the full range of forest facilities in the surrounding complex, will often house a major interpretive display about the local area, a forest shop and catering facilities.

Space permits mention of only the most prominent partnership projects, but there have been many projects across the country involving improvements to recreation facilities in conjunction with other agencies.

- The largest completed in the year was the redevelopment of Glenmore Visitor Centre (Inverness) which attracted funds from ERDF Objective 1, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise, Scottish Natural Heritage, BSW plc, and Bank of Scotland. The centre now comprises a new retail area, cafe and educational centre, together with extended information area and a new audio-visual presentation;
- At Sherwood Pines Forest Park a Visitor Centre is being constructed to replace the one burnt down by arsonists in 1993. Funding has been generated through the local authority, taking advantage of European funds, as well as a significant contribution from a franchisee. The building will incorporate an information area, cafe and shop, and cycle hire facility; and
- At Balmaha (Aberfoyle) a new path network was surveyed, funded and supervised by the Loch Lomond Park Authority. The path links a popular viewpoint with the Park Authority's new Visitor Centre. All maintenance costs have been underwritten by the Park Authority.

## VISITOR SERVICES

All our forest districts provide, largely through a corp of Rangers, a number of other local services including guided walks, talks, school parties, events in the forest and many other aspects of visitor management.

The first new edition 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Landranger Maps identifying Forestry Commission land are now being published.

During the year, equipment was installed and staff trained at key locations throughout the country to monitor visitor numbers to our forests. As part of our commitment to efficient service, surveys of visitor satisfaction have been introduced and a Forest Visitors Service Charter is undergoing preparation.

The New Forest published a *Framework for Recreation* consultation paper looking at strategic ways forward to cater for recreation demands while conserving the unique character of the forest.

## **FOREST HOLIDAYS**

Forest Holidays is a distinct business unit within Forest Enterprise, offering 166 self-catering cabins, seven cottages and 25 camping and caravanning sites.

The integration of our cabins and cottages with the forest makes our sites unique in the self-catering holiday market. We have achieved a high level of occupancy, partly through our loyal customer base and the goodwill derived from the Forest Enterprise and Forestry Commission brand names.

In April 1995 the cabins and cottages were brought together into a single management unit based at our head office. The merits of this structure were reflected in a 12 per cent increase in cabins and cottages income in 1996-97.

Modernisation of our existing cabin sites and expansion into new sites represents a major development opportunity. We are looking to fund this under the Private Finance Initiative.

Our network of campsites ranges from very basic, natural sites to sites with modern shower blocks, shops and bike hire. The campsites have been integrated into the Business Unit since April 1997.

# INCREASING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY





We are increasingly aware of the need to encourage our customers to understand and become involved in forestry. We are achieving this through educational initiatives at local level, conferences and seminars, research publications and community action programmes.

## PROMOTION OF FORESTRY

The Commission launched its Internet site during the year. The site ([www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)) has attracted visitors from around the globe and is being continually improved and expanded. It is intended to provide a wide range of information on forestry in Britain to all age groups and interests.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT

In April 1996 the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Office published a report *The Potential for Community Participation in Forest Management in Rural Areas* commissioned from Aberdeen University. Its purpose was to determine how forestry could be made more relevant to rural communities. The issue most frequently raised during the study was the need for stable, good quality work to be available locally. There was also concern about the provision of local services such as schools and shops and a wish to see foresters and their families as part of local communities. Following publication of the report, Forest Enterprise announced a programme to build on its existing community activities to encourage closer dialogue between local people and forest staff.

### i Forests And People In Rural Areas (FAPIRA) Conference

At the conference, *Forests and People in Rural Areas* held in April 1996 three new measures were announced:

- amendment of the Forestry Commission's sponsorship procedures to recognise the special contribution that woodlands can make to social and economic development. This puts social and economic benefits on the same footing as those arising from conservation and recreation;
- development of the concept of Forestry Partnerships; and
- publication of the Forestry Practice Guide, No 10, *Involving Communities in Forestry*.

The conference succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of the social benefits of woodlands.

## ii The Laggan Forest Partnership

A partnership has been created between the Forestry Commission and the Laggan Community, aiming to explore the opportunities for local communities to participate in the management of our woodlands at Laggan and to help optimise the economic and social potential. The experience gained at Laggan will be used to help the Forestry Commission and other communities improve public participation in the management of forests.

The Partnership has agreed three main outputs – an agreed Forest Design Plan (launched in March 1997), a jointly prepared Business Plan and a formal Partnership Agreement on the future management of Laggan. This was the first time that a Forest Design Plan had been prepared in full partnership with local people. It is anticipated that the joint Business Plan will be agreed and the Partnership formalised in the coming year.

## FOREST EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Forest Education Initiative (FEI) brings together people in education, forestry and related industries to increase young people's understanding of trees, the woodland environment, forestry industry and the timber trade.

A business plan for 1996-1999 was published which outlines the new activities the FEI aims to undertake, building on initial successes. During the year, FEI appointed a co-ordinator, Margaret Hardy, to assist the implementation of the plan, particularly supporting the development and work of the network of 17 FEI cluster groups.

The FEI is working on a resource for schools for the 5-7 age group for production in late 1997. The FEI in Wales published the Welsh version of *The Wonder of Wood* for primary schools - *Gwyrth y Gwydd*.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Several new publications were produced during the year. Among the technical publications was Technical Paper 19, *Revised Forecasts for the Supply and Demand for Wood in the UK*, which detailed important projections for the timber industry. Several Bulletins were issued including *Wet Storage of Timber: Experience in Britain*. A catalogue of the full range of forestry publications is available from the Stationery Office.

## FOREST ENTERPRISE

We are committed to promoting public understanding and involvement in forestry through a partnership approach with local residents, forest visitors, user groups, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, agencies and private businesses.

We estimate that 150,000 people per annum, mostly groups of school children and their teachers, take part in official educational visits to our forest districts.

Forest Enterprise continues to play an important role in Government initiatives aimed at encouraging woodland development and use close to centres of population. To date we have led the Valleys Forest Initiative for environmental improvement in South Wales, acquired and planted more than 400 hectares in the Central Scotland Woodlands Initiative, the National Forest and the Community Forests and bought the freehold of an important wood in the Avon Community Forest for recreational development.

# ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS



Forestry Commission

In working to achieve the Government's forestry objectives we aim to be an effective, responsive organisation, providing a first class service and striving to achieve continuous improvement.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Commission is financed by the Grant-in-Aid voted by Parliament, European Union reimbursements of eligible expenditure and the cash surplus achieved by the Forest Enterprise Agency in its management of the Commission's estate.

Key aspects of financial performance compared to 1995-96 were:

- The Grant-in-Aid requirement of £48.5 million was £10.4 million less than in 1995-96.
- EU reimbursements retained by the Commission increased by £0.5 million.
- The Forest Enterprise Agency's cash surplus increased by £24.1 million to £27.1 million. Including the payment of superannuation contributions, its total contribution to Commission funds increased from £17.9 million to £32.8 million. Its timber income increased by £5.3 million, other operating income by £0.4 million and income from the sale of properties by £5.0 million.
- After allowing for the exceptional costs of voluntary early retirements, the Forest Enterprise cash surplus exceeded the target set by Commissioners by £2.4 million.
- In applying the funds received, pension payments net of staff contributions increased by £3.1 million and other departmental net payments by £1.5 million, including a slight increase of £0.5 million in private woodland grant payments.

All Forestry Commission payments and receipts, including those of the Forest Enterprise Agency, and the Grant-in-Aid, are recorded in the Forestry Fund for which accounts are prepared and presented to Parliament. The Forest Enterprise accounts are published separately in the agency's Annual Report and Accounts. The Forestry Commission's Financial Statements and Accounts are on pages 44 to 57 of this Report.

## STAFF NUMBERS

The Commission's structure is set out at Appendix 1. At 31 March 1997 we employed 1,621.5 non-industrial staff compared with 1,796 the previous year. This reduction has been achieved through the continuation of the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme, through which a further 132 non-industrial staff successfully applied for early retirement, and further improvements in efficiency. The number of industrial staff employed during the same period fell from 1,850 to 1,747 also as a result of efficiency improvements and an increase in the employment of contractors.

## IMPROVING OUR EFFICIENCY

We have taken a number of steps to improve efficiency, including:

- the introduction, as part of the revised consultation arrangements, of a new and expanded Public Register for forestry proposals, available for inspection at Conservancy offices. This is produced electronically and copies can be made available on a regular basis to local organisations. The consultation procedures have been made more open and streamlined;
- developing ways in which Information Technology can increase efficiency in dealing with applications for grants and felling licences. The introduction of the Public Register of Felling and New Planting on a multiple fax mailing system in August 1996 has enabled us to reduce the resources employed in consultation. Current trials are examining how application maps could also be represented and sent electronically;
- the establishment of a dedicated Plant Health Service, with five operational regions, each under the charge of a Plant Health Regional Manager. All requests for export certification services are now dealt with centrally, with inspections being co-ordinated from Plant Health Services in headquarters;
- Forest Enterprise has introduced an improved management accounting system for allocating resources to all areas of environmental policy;
- The Forestry Authority has reorganised its Conservancy structure. Following a review of the management structure, the number of Conservancies in England and Wales was reduced. There are now 15 Conservancies: seven in England; six in Scotland, two in Wales; and
- The Forestry Authority has set up a Corporate Services Unit to replace the three separate personnel teams previously located in the National Offices, providing personnel support and advice to line managers. The Unit also represents the Forestry Authority in monitoring the efficiency of personnel practices and formulation of policy.

## APPLICANTS CHARTER

With the introduction of the new Public Register the method of dealing with Woodland Grant Schemes has changed. Proposals remain on the Public Register for four weeks during which time anyone may request further details and make representation to us about the proposed work.

Because of the time which an application must now spend on the register, our original Charter targets are less meaningful and they will be revised to reflect these changes. Nevertheless, we still achieved the ten week Charter target in more than 80 per cent of cases.

The Public Register similarly affected Felling Licence applications. On the information available, we achieved our Charter targets in 79 per cent of cases during the year.

## AWARDS

We were pleased that the work of the Commission and its staff was recognised by a number of awards during the year:

- OBEs were awarded to Willie Sheridan, former Head of International Policy, and Frazer Lindsay, former Head of Information. John Griffiths, Conservation, Recreation and Heritage Forester in Wales, Gerald Cutcliffe, Wildlife Ranger in Wales and Alan Garner, Leading Ganger at Delamere Nursery all received MBEs;
- The Balfour Browne Trophy for services to deer management was awarded to Tony Hinde, Forest Enterprise North Scotland;
- Newton Stewart and Aberfoyle Forest Districts were highly commended and commended respectively in the Scottish Woods & Forests Awards for their management of Knockman Wood and Rowardennen Oakwoods;
- Aberfoyle Forest District was also commended in the Nature's Prize Award for their Golden Eagle Eyrie Watch. Borders Forest District was also commended for their Lindinny Wood management and burn improvement; and
- South East Wales Forest District received two silver awards in the Royal Welsh Show Woodland Management Competition.

## ASSESSMENT CENTRES

Following an Assessment Centre held to identify Forest Officers from junior grades with senior management potential, two Officers were selected and are now participating in the Fast Stream Development Programme. Consideration is being given to extending the Assessment Centre techniques to other staff groups.

## EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

The Commission's re-launched staff suggestion scheme, Forestry Ideas and Rewards Scheme (FIRS), has been running successfully for three years. In September, the Commission Chairman presented his Award of the Year to John Hendrie, Forestry Authority England. His suggestion, Endoscopes for Plant Health Inspections, enabled bark beetles to be detected within packs of imported sawn wood without having to open the packs. The suggestion also won the Environmental Theme Category in the United Kingdom Association of Staff Suggestion Schemes (UKASS).

## PAY AND GRADING

The Commission's pay, grading and performance management systems were reviewed during the year, to ensure that our procedures fully support the Commission's business aims by providing the best means of recruiting, retaining, motivating and developing staff. The review identified potential areas of improvement which will be the subject of consultation.

## INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

A review of the Commission's training and development practices was undertaken, to consider how these compared with the Investors in People Standard for effective training and development of staff. At the end of the year the Director General formally committed the Commission to achieving the Investors in People Standard and an Action Plan has been prepared.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Although staff numbers have continued to contract during the year we have continued to maintain the diversity of the workforce through non discriminatory practices and procedures. In reviewing our Programme of Action on Disability in the light of the Disability Discrimination Act, all non-industrial staff were made aware of the provisions of the Act and given the opportunity to reassess their status in relation to revised definitions of disability.

A review of our procedure for handling complaints from staff is underway to ensure that it is visible, fair and effective especially when dealing with complaints about discrimination and harassment.

With the aim of generally raising the awareness of all Equal Opportunity issues, plans are in hand for a programme of Equal Opportunities training for all staff.



## RECRUITMENT

Permanent appointments to the Forestry Commission are made on the basis of fair and open competition with selection on merit. The procedures followed are in accordance with the guidance laid down by the Civil Service Commissioners and are subject to internal checks. During the year a total of 66 non-industrial and 53 industrial staff were recruited by the Forestry Commission across a wide range of grades. Information on the recruitment exercises conducted is provided in Table 4, page 77.

## ACCIDENTS AT WORK

The incidence of reportable accidents (those causing incapacity of more than three days) for the Forestry Commission as a whole rose slightly to 4.5 per 100 employees. This compares with figures of 3.6 (1995-96), 3.8 (1994-95), 4.7 (1993-94) and 4.8 (1992-93).

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Forest Enterprise has issued guidance to Harvester Operators on Work Related Upper Limb Disorders (WRULDs), which may be associated with the use of Harvester machines. Forest Enterprise has also reviewed working patterns of Harvester Operators in order to reduce the risk.

## FOREST ENTERPRISE AGENCY

We are pleased to report the successful outcome of Forest Enterprise's first year as an Executive Agency of the Forestry Commission. A full report of the Agency's activities is published in its Report and Account.

Both key financial targets – cash surplus and profit on trading – were achieved despite a very volatile timber market. A total of 4.5 million cubic metres of timber were brought onto the market as planned, and the increasing volume of timber harvested through the sale of standing trees represented a significant use of private sector funding in achieving that target.

On the environmental front, targets for Forest Design Plans, management agreements for sites of special scientific interest, scheduled ancient monuments, and endangered habitats were all met. In all other cases, either we achieved our targets or introduced the systems necessary to do so for the forthcoming year.

The forestry land market during the year experienced an upward trend which greatly assisted the achievement on final income of £19.9 million, just short of the disposals target for the year of £20 million from sales of land and other surplus assets. A total of 9,616 hectares (ha) of forest land was sold realising £14.5 million, the balance of disposals being houses and land not needed for forestry. This brought the total of land sold since 1989 to 65,865 ha. The most significant sales, with values in excess of £1 million, took place in South Scotland.

The year was also one of great organisational change within the Agency. It began with the implementation of the Commission's early retirement scheme and introduction of the structural changes to accommodate the 10 per cent reduction in staff necessitated by the 1995 Public Expenditure Survey (PES). During the year the Agency looked once more at its internal structure, this time against the need, as a business led organisation, to be proactive in pursuing the best structure for the efficient conduct of its work and to enable it to plan ahead of the PES cycle.

The review considered the scope for further reduction in the number of Forest Districts and examined the role of Regional Offices and HQ. Proposals have been put forward involving a reduction in the number of Forest Districts from 38 to 31 and a reduction in the number of Regional Offices from five to four by the closure of the York Office and the creation of an England Region based in Bristol.

Associated centralisation (to HQ) and delegation (to Forest Districts) of the administration functions carried out by Regional Offices is expected to result in a reduction in the size of all remaining Regional Offices, and the formation of a new Civil Engineering internal Business Unit has been proposed. Undoubtedly the uncertainties of the previous twelve months had taken their toll on morale, but it is to the credit of all staff in the Agency that they have responded positively and continued to deliver the services required of them professionally and efficiently.

#### FOREST RESEARCH AGENCY

As reported last year the Forestry Commission Research Division was included in a Prior Options Review of research establishments covering the field of agriculture and plant sciences. Following the review Ministers announced in May 1996 that the Research Division would become an Executive Agency of the Forestry Commission. A Framework Document for the new Agency was published on 11 February 1997. This sets out the purpose, key performance measures and funding arrangements for the Agency and the relationship with the parent department. A Corporate Plan has been prepared and the Agency duly began operating on 1 April 1997.

In common with the rest of the Commission the Research Division reduced staff numbers by around 10 per cent during the year mainly by early retirement. The opportunity was taken to re-assess research needs and re-organise the Division to ensure greater co-ordination of research programmes and clarify the role of support services. Following the retirement of both Chief Research Officers, Dr Peter Freer-Smith was appointed as the single Chief Research Officer with responsibility for all of the research branches. He reports to the Chief Executive of the Agency who also has direct responsibility for the support services.

We publish a separate report on Forest Research which gives a fuller account of research work carried out or funded by the Commission.

Sir Peter Hutchison, Chairman  
David Bills, Deputy Chairman and Director General  
Bridget Bloom  
Tom Bruce Jones  
John Edmonds  
Harry Fetherstonhaugh  
David Foot  
Robin Grove-White  
Sir Michael Strang Steel

Frank Strang, Secretary  
Forestry Commission  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh  
EH12 7AT

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTS



Forestry Commission

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# FOREWORD

## 1. STATUS

The Forestry Commission is the Government department responsible for forestry throughout Great Britain. It implements the Government's forestry policy within the framework of legislation (principally the Forestry Acts 1967 and 1979, the Plant Health Act 1967, the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 and the Countryside Act 1968), and subject to the direction of Forestry Ministers.

The Forestry Commission's forests are managed by its executive agency, Forest Enterprise.

The Forestry Commission's activities are financed through the Forestry Fund which receives Grant-in-Aid drawn down from Class XIII, Vote 10. The Forest Enterprise Agency's cash surpluses are paid into the Forestry Fund. The Forestry Commissioners present an annual Account to Parliament of the transactions of the Forestry Fund. The activities and transactions of Forest Enterprise are reported in the Forest Enterprise Annual Report and Accounts which is published separately.

The accounts of the Forestry Commission are prepared in accordance with a direction given by the Treasury in pursuance of section 5(1) of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921. They are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

## 2. FUNCTIONS AND AIMS

The aims of the Forestry Commission are, through its powers and duties set out in the Acts, to protect Britain's forests and woodlands and to encourage their management and expansion in a way that increases their value to society and the environment in accordance with Government policy.

It is responsible for providing support and advice to Ministers, policy development and European and international liaison.

Its internal department, the Forestry Authority, is responsible for implementing the Government's forestry policy, including the control of tree felling, providing advice to private woodland owners, administering the payment of grants for approved planting, restocking and management schemes and liaising with public bodies and non-government organisations concerned with forestry and the countryside. The Forestry Authority sets standards for the forest industry as a whole, and monitors the performance of Forest Enterprise in the same areas of operation as those which apply to the private sector.

### 3. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND SURVEYS

Each year a separate report on Forest Research gives a full account of the work carried out. The quality of the research work is monitored on a continuing basis by an independently constituted Advisory Committee on Forest Research.

With effect from 1 April 1997, the Forest Research agency was set up as an executive agency of the Forestry Commission, assuming ownership of and responsibility for the assets and liabilities appropriate to the research activity in the Forestry Commission Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

### 4. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Total net operating expenditure in 1996-97 decreased by £6,148,000 compared to the previous year, largely because of the reduction in costs associated with the voluntary early retirement scheme. Provision had already been made in the previous year for the bulk of these additional costs.

The voluntary early retirement costs apart, movements in other areas of income and expenditure resulted in much the same total of net expenditure as in the previous year. A slight increase in grants to private woodland owners was offset by an increase in the level of EU co-financing retained. Increased sundry income, due to recoveries of grants on failed private woodland planting, was partly offset by repayments to the EU of the co-financing element. An apparent increase in the net cost of research, development and surveys was due to the transfer to Research Division of the forest surveys and technical development activities that were previously included in Forestry policy and departmental administration costs.

After allowing for transactions not involving movements of cash, including a major proportion of the voluntary early retirement costs, the share of Grant-in-Aid attributable to departmental expenditure was £52,424,000, £1,479,000 greater than the previous year.

Future commitments and applications awaiting approval for planting and management grants at 31 March 1997 totalled £208 million, a decrease of £8 million from the previous year's figure of £216 million.

### 5. EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

The Forestry Commission's policies in relation to the employment of disabled persons, the provision of information to, and consultation with, employees, and the promotion of equal opportunities, are stated elsewhere in the Annual Report. The names of Commissioners are also shown elsewhere in the Annual Report.

D J Bills  
Accounting Officer  
2 November 1997

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 1997

	NOTE	£000	PREVIOUS YEAR £000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Planting grant co-financing from EU	2	<b>8,483</b>	8,000
Research income		<b>2,476</b>	1,615
Sundry income		<b>1,184</b>	719
		<b><u>12,143</u></b>	<u>10,334</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Grants to Private Woodland Owners	3		
Woodland Grant Scheme		<b>31,633</b>	31,128
Other schemes (now closed to new applications)		<b>830</b>	938
Repayments of EU co-financing	2	<b>350</b>	—
		<b><u>32,813</u></b>	<u>32,066</u>
Management and Administrative Expenses	4		
Private Woodland Grant Schemes		<b>6,334</b>	6,566
Licensing, regulatory and plant health services		<b>1,839</b>	1,835
Information and advisory services		<b>6,060</b>	5,974
Research, development and surveys		<b>12,912</b>	10,882
Forestry policy and departmental administration		<b>5,479</b>	6,561
Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme		<b>(193)</b>	5,699
		<b><u>32,431</u></b>	<u>37,517</u>
Net Expenditure for year		<b><u>53,101</u></b>	<u>59,249</u>

The notes attached form part of these accounts.



CASH FLOW STATEMENT AND RECONCILIATION TO GRANT-IN-AID FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

	NOTE	£000	PREVIOUS YEAR £000
Net expenditure for the year per Income and Expenditure Account		<b>53,101</b>	59,249
Less items not involving cash in the year			
Depreciation and loss on sale of office machinery		<b>(947)</b>	(1,242)
Notional employer's superannuation contributions		<b>(2,297)</b>	(7,710)
Movements in net current assets		<b><u>1,354</u></b>	<u>(332)</u>
		<b>(1,890)</b>	(9,284)
Add Capital Expenditure		<b>1,215</b>	982
Less income from sales		<b><u>(2)</u></b>	<u>(2)</u>
		<b><u>(677)</u></b>	<u>(8,304)</u>
		<b>52,424</b>	50,945
Forestry Commission Pension Scheme	8		
Pensions to retired staff		<b>30,451</b>	27,051
Contributions from staff		<b>(1,535)</b>	(1,261)
Employer's contribution from Forest Enterprise		<b><u>(5,739)</u></b>	<u>(14,900)</u>
		<b><u>23,177</u></b>	<u>10,890</u>
Forest Enterprise Net Cash Surplus	9	<b><u>(27,084)</u></b>	<u>(2,960)</u>
Total Forestry Commission Grant-in-Aid		<b><u>48,517</u></b>	<u>58,875</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 MARCH 1997

	NOTE	£000	PREVIOUS YEAR £000
Fixed Assets			
Office machinery and equipment	10	<b>3,642</b>	3,298
Current Assets			
Stocks		<b>120</b>	411
Debtors – due within one year		<b>1,730</b>	1,036
– due after more than one year		<b>409</b>	373
Cash in hand	11	<b><u>12,270</u></b>	<u>7,919</u>
		<b>14,529</b>	9,739
less Current Liabilities:			
Creditors due within 12 months	11	<b><u>12,782</u></b>	<u>9,346</u>
Net Current Assets		<b><u>1,747</u></b>	<u>393</u>
Total Net Assets		<b><u>5,389</u></b>	<u>3,691</u>

The notes attached form part of these accounts.

D J Bills  
Accounting Officer  
2 November 1997

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- i. These accounts are drawn up on an accruals basis in a form directed and approved by Treasury. They are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- ii. Every three years office machinery and equipment is revalued by Forestry Commission staff. The latest revaluation was carried out at 31 March 1996. Between revaluations the asset values are updated annually using a general price index.
- iii. Depreciation is provided on office machinery and equipment throughout its expected useful life of two to 20 years.
- iv. Superannuation Contributions  
Forestry Commission expenditure includes employers' contributions as determined by the Government Actuary. These have been set at 14.0 per cent for industrials and from 14.4 per cent to 21.4 per cent for non-industrials, depending upon grade.

These rates are also applied in assessing the Forest Enterprise employer's contributions, the total value of which is treated as a cash transfer to the Forestry Commission Pension Scheme.

## 2. PLANTING GRANT CO-FINANCING FROM EU

Contributions are received from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund toward eligible grants for woodlands in the private sector under the Forestry Action Programme.

If grants are subsequently recovered because of failure to fulfil the conditions of the Woodland Grant Scheme, the amount of co-financing that was received is repaid to the EU.

## 3. COMMITMENTS TO PAY PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT GRANTS

Following approval of a management plan for planting proposals, the Forestry Commission undertakes to pay planting grants in three instalments. At 31 March 1997, the Forestry Commission was committed under signed plans to the payment of future instalments of planting and replanting grants amounting to £124 million (1996 £116 million).

Grants for the management of existing woodlands are payable annually in arrears during the five-year currency of an approved plan, so long as specific objectives and age criteria are met. Commitments to future payments in respect of approved plans amounted to £30 million at 31 March 1997 (1996 £32 million).

Applications for planting and replanting grants, awaiting approval at 31 March 1997, amounted to £54 million (1996 £68 million).

4. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (INCLUDING TOTAL STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES)

	£ 0 0 0	PREVIOUS YEAR £ 0 0 0
i. Total staff costs		
Salaries	<b>14,842</b>	15,632
Wages	<b>1,381</b>	1,413
Social Security costs	<b>1,204</b>	1,280
Employer's superannuation costs – Note ii.	<b><u>2,297</u></b>	<u>7,710</u>
	<b>19,724</b>	26,035
Travel and subsistence	<b>2,435</b>	2,456
Other expenses (including auditors remuneration of £33,100) – Note ii.	<b><u>11,575</u></b>	<u>10,483</u>
Charges to Forest Enterprise – Note iii.	<b><u>(1,303)</u></b>	<u>(1,457)</u>
	<b><u>32,431</u></b>	<u>37,517</u>

ii. Additional costs associated with the implementation of the voluntary early retirement scheme amounted to £3,937,000 of which £3,401,000 represented the capitalised value of lump sum enhancements and the future extra cost of paying pensions for longer periods, which has been charged as an additional Employer's superannuation contribution. Other expenses includes a further £536,000 payable as redundancy compensation in addition to superannuation entitlements. The total provision of £4,130,000 made against these costs in 1995-96 was £193,000 higher than the costs that were subsequently incurred, resulting in the credit now included in the 1996-97 Income and Expenditure Statement.

iii. These charges cover the Forest Enterprise share of personnel, business systems, training and other support services at Forestry Commission headquarters, less the cost of finance services provided by Forest Enterprise to other departments of the Forestry Commission.

iv. The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	AVERAGE NUMBER	PREVIOUS YEAR AVERAGE NUMBER
Industrial staff	<b>115</b>	127
Non-Industrial staff	<b>712</b>	788
	<b>827</b>	915

## 5. FORESTRY COMMISSIONERS REMUNERATION

The remuneration of Forestry Commissioners is included in these accounts and (excluding pension contributions) comprises:

	£000	PREVIOUS YEAR £000
Chairman	<b>38</b>	37
Highest paid Commissioner	<b>94</b>	79
Other Commissioners	<b>174</b>	168
Total emoluments of Commissioners	<b>306</b>	284
Travel and subsistence of Commissioners	<b>28</b>	35

The emoluments of the other Commissioners fell within the following ranges:

	NUMBER	PREVIOUS YEAR NUMBER
£5,001 to £10,000	<b>6</b>	6
£60,001 to £65,000	<b>1</b>	2
£65,001 to £70,000	<b>1</b>	-

The Commissioners remuneration is in accordance with Civil Service pay rates. The names of Commissioners are stated elsewhere in the Annual Report.

## 6. SENIOR STAFF NUMBERS AND REMUNERATION

The number of senior staff whose remuneration exceeded £40,000 was:

	NUMBER
£40,000 – £44,999	5
£45,000 – £49,999	4
£50,000 – £54,999	1

## 7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Forestry Commission's executive agency, Forest Enterprise, is regarded as a related party. During the year, the Forestry Commission has had a significant number of material transactions with Forest Enterprise.

In addition, the Forestry Commission has had various material transactions with other Government Departments and other central Government bodies. Most of these transactions have been with The Intervention Board and Paymaster General's Office.

In the year to 31 March 1997, Forest Enterprise entered into the following material transactions involving the following non-executive Commissioners of the Forestry Commission:

- Mr Tom Bruce Jones is a director of James Jones & Sons Ltd which purchased approximately 220,000 cubic metres of timber at £5,319,000 and 17 hectares of land at £57,000 from Forest Enterprise.
- Sir Michael Strang Steel is non-executive chairman of Alba Trees plc which purchased seed and plants at £17,500 from Forest Enterprise and sold seed and plants at £35,000 to Forest Enterprise.

## 8. FORESTRY COMMISSION PENSION SCHEME

The Forestry Commission operates a defined benefit pension scheme. Legislation relating to the superannuation of the Forestry Commissioners and Commission staff is to be found in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Forestry Act 1967, as amended by the Superannuation Act 1972.

Superannuation benefits are met on a Pay-As-You-Go basis and benefits paid in the year are met from Grant-in-Aid. The superannuation benefits and contributions payable are identical to those of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, except that such benefits are paid out of the Forestry Fund and not the Civil Superannuation Vote. The liabilities of the Forestry Commission Pension Scheme are revalued by the Government Actuary every three years.

There were 3,537 active serving members at 31 March 1997. The number of current pensioners and the value of pensions paid in the year ended 31 March 1997, excluding lump sums and transfer values, were as follows:

	NUMBER	£ 0 0 0
Officers	<b>4,644</b>	<b>20,892</b>
Dependants	<u>1,714</u>	<u>2,846</u>
	<b><u>6,358</u></b>	<b><u>23,738</u></b>

In addition there were 1628 former staff with preserved pensions.

The capital value of the unfunded past service superannuation liabilities at 31 March 1996 amounted to £446.1 million and was made up as follows:

	£ MILLION
Serving members and their dependants	159.6
Current beneficiaries and their dependants	262.9
Deferred beneficiaries and their dependants	23.6
Total future liabilities	<u>446.1</u>

These future liabilities are charged against the Forestry Fund and will be next revalued at 31 March 1999.

## 9. FOREST ENTERPRISE NET CASH SURPLUS

The Forest Enterprise Agency's cash surplus is paid into the Forestry Fund and counted in the Forestry Commission Grant-in-Aid. The accounts of Forest Enterprise are published separately in its Annual Report and Accounts.

## 10. OFFICE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

	£ 000	PREVIOUS YEAR £ 000
Net book value 1 April 1996	<b>3,298</b>	3,701
Additions	<b>1,215</b>	982
	<b>4,513</b>	4,683
Less depreciation	<b>(846)</b>	(1,060)
Disposals/Transfers	<b>(104)</b>	(185)
Revaluation adjustment	<b>79</b>	(140)
Net book value 31 March 1997	<b>3,642</b>	3,298

## 11. CASH AND CREDITORS

The balance of cash in hand includes the excess working balance held in the Forestry Fund. It is surrenderable to the Consolidated Fund in the following year and has therefore also been included in creditors. The amount surrenderable as at 31 March 1997 was £12,268,000 and comprised £5,278,000 for 1996-97 and £6,990,000 for 1995-96. The amount surrenderable at the end of the previous year was £7,918,000 which, in addition to the excess working balance for 1995-96, also included £928,000 of EU co-financing in excess of the amount that could be appropriated in aid.



# STATEMENT OF COMMISSION'S AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Section 5 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921 the Treasury has directed the Forestry Commission to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the accounts direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must present fairly the Forestry Commission's state of affairs at the year end and of its income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Forestry Commission is required to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Forestry Commission will continue in operation.

The Treasury has appointed the Director General of the Forestry Commission as the Accounting Officer. His relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including his responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the Accounting Officers' Memorandum, issued by the Treasury and published in *Government Accounting* (SO).

# THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on pages 46 to 55 under the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out on page 49.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION, ACCOUNTING OFFICER AND AUDITOR

As described on page 55 the Commission and Accounting Officer are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. It is my responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on my audit, on those statements and on the regularity of the financial transactions included in them, and to report my opinion to you.

## BASIS OF OPINION

I conducted my audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Commission and Accounting Officer in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Commission's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by error, or by fraud, or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

## OPINION

In my opinion:

- the financial statements present fairly the net assets of the Forestry Commission at 31 March 1997 and its net expenditure and its cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1921 and directions made thereunder by the Treasury; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

John Bourn  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
National Audit Office  
22 Melville Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7NS  
4 November 1997

# APPENDICES



Forestry Commission

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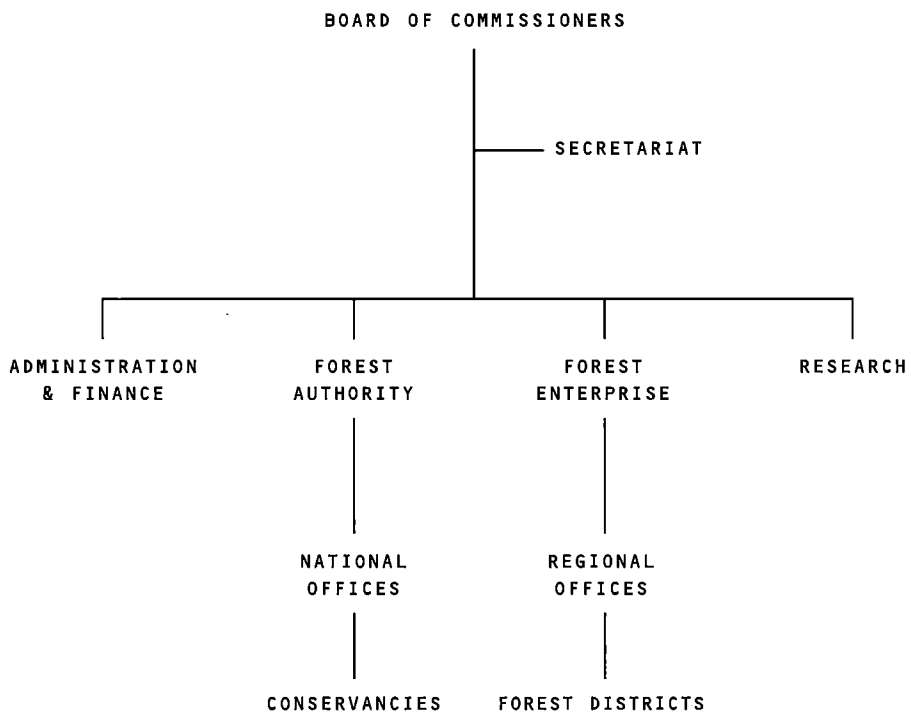
# APPENDIX 1

## THE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

### THE FORESTRY COMMISSION'S ROLE

As the Government's Department for forestry in Britain we have a statutory duty to promote the interests of forestry, balancing the needs of timber production with those of landscape and conservation. We are responsible for effective implementation of forestry policies and can only do this by working with others. We aim to be an effective, open and responsive organisation, committed to providing a first class service and striving to achieve continuous improvement. We have a structure designed to deliver the Government's policy.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION



As the Forestry Authority we protect Britain's forests and encourage good forestry practice by setting standards, giving advice, providing information and by offering grants for expanding, regenerating and managing forests and woodlands.

Through our Forest Enterprise Agency we aim to deliver multiple benefits to the nation by the efficient and sustainable management of the public forest estate.

Through our Forest Research Agency we aim to deliver high quality scientific research to inform the development of forestry policies and practices and promote high standards of sustainable forest management.

The Secretariat provides advice and support to the Forestry Commissioners and is responsible for policy development, international liaison, Parliamentary and Ministerial support and media and public relations.

The Administration and Finance Group provides core central services including finance, personnel and internal audit.

## APPENDIX 2

### FORESTRY COMMISSIONERS AND SENIOR STAFF

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sir Peter Hutchison Bt CBE	Chairman
David Bills	Deputy Chairman and Director General
Bridget Bloom OBE	
Tom Bruce Jones	
John Edmonds	
Harry Fetherstonhaugh	
David Foot	
Robin Grove-White	
Sir Michael Strang Steel Bt	

Frank Strang	Secretary
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#### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Eddie Arthurs	Director, Finance and Corporate Planning
Jim Anderson	Director, Personnel
Alan Mitchell	Head of Business Services
Ken Milsom	Head of Internal Audit

#### SECRETARIAT

Frank Strang	Secretary
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#### THE FORESTRY AUTHORITY

David Foot	Head
Donald Thompson	Head of Forestry Practice
Roger Herbert	Head of Grants and Licences
Tim Rollinson	Chief Conservator, England
David Henderson-Howat	Chief Conservator, Scotland
Simon Hewitt	Chief Conservator, Wales

#### FOREST ENTERPRISE

Dr Bob McIntosh	Chief Executive
Keith Gliddon	Director, Corporate Services
Peter Ranken	Director, Estate Management
Paul Hill-Tout	Head of Environment and Communications
Ian Miller	Head of Forest Enterprise Personnel
Mike Lofthouse	Head of Forest Operations
Craig Heaney	Head of Mechanical Engineering Services
Geoff Hatfield	Regional Director, North and East England
Rod Leslie	Regional Director, South and West England
Hugh Insley	Regional Director, North Scotland
Rob Soutar	Regional Director, South Scotland
Bob Farmer	Regional Director, Wales

#### FOREST RESEARCH

Jim Dewar	Chief Executive
Dr Peter Freer-Smith	Chief Research Officer



## APPENDIX 3

### STATUTORY AND OTHER COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP AT 31 MARCH 1997

#### NATIONAL COMMITTEES

##### ENGLAND

Miss B.M. Bloom (Chairman), Mr T.A. Bruce Jones, Professor G.R. Dickson, Mr J.W. Edmonds, Mr R.B. Grove-White, Mr C. Stratton, Mrs R.Thomas. Secretary to the Committee: Mr B.R. Sidaway. The Committee had no meetings during the year.

##### SCOTLAND

Sir Michael Strang Steel (Chairman), Dr J. Balfour, Mr T.A. Bruce Jones, Mr J.W. Edmonds, Mr R.B. Grove-White, Mrs C.G. MacWilliam, Mr H.A. Waterson. Secretary to the Committee: Mrs A. Alexander. The Committee had no meetings during the year.

##### WALES

Mr H.G. Fetherstonhaugh (Chairman), Mr T.A. Bruce Jones, Mr J.W. Edmonds, Mr R.B. Grove-White, Mr S.E. Hewitt, Mr J.R. Lloyd Jones. Secretary to the Committee: Mr P.D. Finch. The Committee had no meetings during the year.

#### REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

##### ENGLAND

###### North West England and Northumbria & Yorkshire Conservancies

Professor G.R. Dickson (Chairman), Mr C.H. Bagot, Mr D.J. Balfour, Mr D. Bolton, Mr I. Brodie, Mr R.N. Cartwright, Mrs C. Hardie, Mr A.A. Macdonald, Mr R.J. Steel Addison, Mr D. Stewart, Mr P.J. Veitch, Mr W.R. Worsley. Secretary to the Committee: Mr B.R. Sidaway. The Committee met in July 1996 and January 1997.

###### Midlands and East England Conservancies

Mr C. Stratton (Chairman), Mr N.A. Braden, Mr J. Broatch, Ms P. Evans, Mr J.A. Kay, Mr J. Niles, Mr T.E. Ruggles-Brise, Dr C. Watkins, Mr D. Whicher, Mr J.J.I. Whitaker, Mr A.J.K. Wordie. Secretary to the Committee: Mr B.R. Sidaway. The Committee met in June, November and December 1996 and March 1997.

###### Severn, Wye & Avon, The West Country and South East England Conservancies

Mrs R. Thomas (Chairman), Mr N.D. Anderson, Dr N. Atkinson, Professor D.J. Cassidy, Mr M.R. Henderson, Mr J.B.J. Howell, Mr A.J. Lawson, Mr S. Micklewright, Mr J.T. Perry, Mr D.W.G. Taylor, Mr W.D. Trehearne. Secretary to the Committee: Mr B.R. Sidaway. The Committee met in June, November and December 1996 and February 1997.

## SCOTLAND

### Highland and Grampian Conservancies

Mrs C.G. MacWilliam (Chairman), Mr R. Dennis, Mr J.C. Keenleyside, Mr A.N.G. Laing, Mr M.F.B. Leslie, Mr A. Maciver, Professor H.G. Miller, Mr I. Morris, Mr P. Ramsay, Lord Strathnaver. Secretary to the Committee: Mrs A. Alexander. The Committee met in May and November 1996.

### Strathclyde and Perth Conservancies

Dr J. Balfour (Chairman), Mr A.W. Barbour, Mr R. Beaney, Mr B. Brookes, Ms S. Chambers, Mr J.W. Dodds, Mr J.A. Fell, Mr C. James, Mr J. McNaughton, Dr P.S. Maitland, Mr P.S. Murray. Secretary to the Committee: Mrs A. Alexander. The Committee met in April and October 1996.

### South West Scotland and Lothian & Borders Conservancies

Mr H.A. Waterson (Chairman), Mr D.B. Crawford, Mr J.C. Currie, Mr R.H. Gladstone, Mr J.F.S. Gourlay, Mr D.I. Liddell-Grainger, Dr J.F. Lowe, Mr D.W. Minns, Mr J.B. Pendlebury, Mr T.S. Smith. Secretary to the Committee: Mrs A. Alexander. The Committee met in May, October and November 1996.

## WALES

### North Wales, Mid Wales and South Wales Conservancies

Mr J.R. Lloyd Jones (Chairman), Mr A. Bosanquet, Dr G.K. Elliott, Mr S.K. Neale, Colonel P.C. Ormrod, Mr M. Oxnard, Mr R. Price, Mr G. Roberts, Mr J. Robinson, Mr D. Stanbury, Mr L. Taylor. Secretary to the Committee: Mr P.D. Finch. The Committee met in June and October 1996 and February 1997.

## HOME GROWN TIMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sir Mark Russell (Chairman), Mr A.F. Bloomfield, Mr A. Bosanquet, Mr P.C.P. Bourdillon, Mr W.S. Brack, Dr J.D. Brazier, Mr C.J.S. Burd, Mr R.A.C. Byatt, Mr M. Crichton Maitland, Dr G.K. Elliott, Sir Leonard Figg, Mr M.F. Gale, Mr C. Fletcher, Mr J.R. Fletcher, Mr P. Higginbotham, Mr J.H. Holt, Mr G.M. McRobbie, Mr P.S. Murray, Mr A. Penrose, Mr A. Phillips, Mr D. Stanbury, Mr R.M. Turner, Mr G. Waugh, Mr P.H. Wilson. Secretary to the Committee: Mr A.W.D. Dungavel. The Committee met in June, September and December 1996 and March 1997. The Annual Report of the Committee is at Appendix 4.

## ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HOME GROWN TIMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr R.A.C. Byatt (Chairman), Mr P.T.G. Beadle, Dr A.S. Gee, Mr J.H. Holt, Mr R. Leslie, Mr A. Mattingly, Mr M. Mathers, Professor H.G. Miller, Dr R. Sidaway, Mr R.M. Turner, Mr R.A. Williams. Secretary to the Committee: Mr G. Patterson. The Sub-Committee met in July 1996 and February and May 1997.

#### SUPPLY AND DEMAND SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HOME GROWN TIMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr J.R. Fletcher (Chairman), Mr R.H. Adam, Mr P.T.G. Beadle, Mr A.F. Bloomfield, Mr H. Macleod, Dr R. McIntosh, Mr A. Smith, Mr D.A. Thompson, Mr W.A. Willis. Secretary to the Committee: Mr R.E. Selmes. The Sub-Committee met in May and November 1996 and February 1997.

#### TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HOME GROWN TIMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr J.D. Brazier (Chairman), Mr R.H. Adam, Mr D. Balfour, Professor W.B. Banks, Mr W.S. Brack, Mr A. East, Mr R.M. Fitter, Mr J.A. Kissock, Mr G.B. Little, Dr R. McIntosh, Mr D.A. Thompson, Mr M. Wall, Dr D.C. Wood. Secretary to the Committee: Mr R.E. Selmes. The Sub-Committee met in May and October 1996 and January and March 1997.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOREST RESEARCH

Professor H.G. Miller (Chairman), Professor W.B. Banks, Professor J.P. Blakeman, Dr A.F. Bravery, Professor R.M. Cormack, Dr A.R. Griffin, Professor B.R. Kerry, Dr P.S. Savill, Professor M.B. Usher. Secretary to the Committee: Dr P.H. Freer Smith. The Committee met in May and November 1996.

#### FORESTRY RESEARCH CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Mr D.L. Foot (Chairman), Dr J.H. Baker, Dr A.F. Bravery, Dr M.G.R. Cannell, Dr P.A. Costigan, Mr J. Dewar, Mr J. Hudson, Dr K. Kirby, Dr P. Maplestone, Dr P. Maryan, Professor H.G. Miller, Dr P.J.W. Saunders, Mr D.A. Thompson, Mrs L. Turl, Dr S. Webster. Secretary to the Committee: Dr P.H. Freer Smith. The Committee met in November 1996 and February 1997.

#### FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE SAFETY AND TRAINING COUNCIL

Mr J.G. Machin (Chairman), Mr W. Anderson, Mr G. Bonner, Mr J. Brown, Mr P. Bullimore, Mr J. Dewar, Mr R.J. Evans, Mr M. Henderson, Mr P.R. Higginbotham, Mr T. Howard, Mr B. Hudson, Mr J. Kenyon, Mr G.B. Little, Mr W. MacLachlan, Mr I. Millward, Dr A. Petty, Mr T. Preston, Dr J. Price, Ms E. Ramsay, Mr E. Rowlands, Mr F. Scott, Mr R.E. Shapland, Ms C. Turton, Mr M. Waddams, Mr R. Watson. Secretary to the Council: Mr T.E. Radford. The Council met in April and October 1996. The Annual Report of the Council is at Appendix 5.

## APPENDIX 4

### HOME GROWN TIMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

The Committee held four meetings during the year, in June, September and December 1996 and March 1997. In June, Mr Andrew Christie-Miller returned to the Committee to replace Mr Christopher Burd and Mr Michael Clarke replaced Mr Alasdair Laing. In September, Mr Andy Phillips replaced Mr Rowlands' and in December, Mr Phillip Higginbotham replaced Mr Tom Bruce Jones who had resigned from the Committee following his appointment as a Forestry Commissioner. Also in December, Mr David Stanbury succeeded Sir John Lister-Kaye.

The Committee was pleased to note the award of a CBE to Mr Burd and the award of the OBE to Dr Elliott in the 1997 New Year Honours List.

During the year, the Committee continued to take a close interest in developments on timber certification. The Committee felt that it was vital for the forestry industry that its customers be informed of the high standards set by the existing system of regulation within the United Kingdom. The adoption by the Forestry Industry Committee of Great Britain of their 'woodmark' had provided the missing link which was a tracking system for timber in the wood chain.

Committee members had mixed views about the value of certification. Members were concerned about the potential costs falling on growers and the position taken by those retailers promoting the FSC scheme. The Committee welcomed the opportunity for discussions on the Commission's proposal for a bespoke certification scheme for British forestry which could meet the increasing market demand for independent voluntary certification of forests aligned more closely to the mainstream of the International Organisation for Standardisation and the European Union's EMAs and Eco-labelling scheme.

The Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal to produce a UK Forestry Standard which they considered would help to reinforce in public their views that British forestry was being well managed.

The Committee welcomed the proposal for a market development study from the Supply and Demand Sub-Committee. The Commission proposed to approach the Development Agencies and to set up a management committee for the project which would consist of sponsor bodies and a small group of experts. The Committee sought the continuing involvement of the Supply and Demand Sub-Committee in advising on the progress of this project.

In June, the Committee considered the three papers presented by the Sub-Committees on multiple-purpose forestry. The Committee asked that the Commission take on the task of producing a more structured paper drawing on the themes highlighted by the Sub-Committees.

In December, the Committee considered the resultant paper in the form of a Forestry Framework Issues Paper. This was warmly welcomed. The Committee considered that it contained many of the necessary components and targets needed to formulate a forestry strategy. It saw the paper as complementary to the Forestry Accord which had been agreed by a wide range of interests including the Forestry Industry Council of Great Britain and Wildlife and Countryside Link. The Committee agreed that the Issues Paper should be considered by its Sub-Committees and that it merited wide consultation among forestry, trade and environmental organisations including the Commission's Regional Advisory Committees. The Committee agreed that the Sub-Committees should report back in June 1997 after further consideration. Comments from other bodies would be passed to the Sub-Committees to consider.

The Committee continued to take an interest in plant health issues. The Committee was advised on the reorganisation of the Commission's plant health work. The Committee was consulted on the introduction of charges for import licences and for inspections relating to the issue of plant passports. The Committee was informed of the control measures taken following the discovery of Gypsy Moth larvae in gardens near Epping Forest and of the outbreak of *Dendroctonus micans* in spruce trees in Kent, presumed to have originated from imported timber or dunnage. The Committee welcomed the Commission's expressed intention to review the policy underpinning the *D.micans* Protected Zone and wished to be consulted on this in due course.

The three Sub-Committees welcomed the opportunity to advise the Commission on its forestry research programme. The impending establishment of the Commission's Research Division as an Executive Agency would put the customer/contractor relationship on a more formal footing and Forestry Commissioners were keen that the HGTAC should play an active part in advising on research priorities.

Members were concerned about the slow pace in recognising the status of British timber in British Standards. A revision of BS5750 had not taken account of new test results on oak grading, ostensibly because a revised version of BS5756 had been delayed. The Committee welcomed the fact that oak would be the first home grown species to be listed in this British Standard but deplored the slow progress on publication. Strong representations were made to the British Standards Institution by the Forestry Commission and by the trade. It was agreed that, following publication of BS5756, other means would be found to make known the strength properties of British oak to architects and specifiers.

The Environment Sub-Committee considered a paper by RSPB which looked at the implementation of the Helsinki Guidelines within the UK. The Sub-Committee endorsed the report's conclusion that there was a reasonable overall correspondence between current UK policies and mechanisms and the Helsinki Guidelines, but that a number of areas required further work. The Sub-Committee considered that most of these areas could be addressed by the development of a national forest strategy, including a long-term research strategy. The

main Committee expressed concerns about how the Guidelines would apply to the use of introduced species which form the basis for much of the commercial forestry sector in the UK. The Committee considered that the Guidelines were intended to be interpreted in the context of each country's existing forest resource and urged that the key point was to demonstrate that forest practices were sustainable.

The Sub-Committee supported the draft position statement on forestry and peatlands whilst calling for flexible interpretation and for further advice on how to carry out restoration of peatland habitat.

The Sub-Committee also visited the FC Research Station at Alice Holt Lodge on its annual field trip. It concluded that:

- a close dialogue needed to be developed between the policy makers and the scientists;
- it was important to develop a long-term research strategy for 10-15 years or more;
- key staff should be maintained for strategic reasons;
- co-ordination between agencies should be addressed by the Committee;
- there was a need to allocate priorities and to identify potential beneficiaries and sources of funds for programmes;
- the Sub-Committee should first examine the current programmes and objectives for research funding and later the overall allocation of resources to different sectors of research.

The Supply and Demand Sub-Committee reported regularly to the HGTAC and the trade press on market trends and prospects. The Sub-Committee's annual statistical report of roundwood harvested and timber supplied to the main market sectors was presented to the HGTAC in August. The Sub-Committee decided that the next survey should include a full statistical survey of the capacity of the sawmilling industry. The Sub-Committee maintained an ongoing review of the progress of the National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees and advised on presentation of results.

Much of the Sub-Committee's recent work was reflected in the publication of an FC Technical Paper *Revised Forecasts of the Supply and Demand for Timber in the United Kingdom*. The programme for future work was reviewed in the light of this paper and several issues noted for further research.

The Technical Sub-Committee met on four occasions during the year. Changes in the way forestry and timber research are prioritised, organised and funded created a heavy programme of work. The Sub-Committee considered strategies for wood research in other countries and mechanisms for external funding. It also began to address the problem of ensuring that research priorities in environmental protection, silviculture, forest operations and enhancing economic value were appropriate to the Forestry Commission's strategic objectives.

The Sub-Committee maintained its interest in crop quality assessment receiving reports of progress in work by Forest Enterprise and by a private harvesting company. With forest products, the Sub-Committee studied progress in the gluing of green timber and research into kiln drying. In both areas the Sub-Committee encouraged improvements in links with industry and was pleased to see these being successfully established. The Sub-Committee visited a modern sawmill to see how the issues of log quality, timber drying and grading affected outturn of structural quality sawn timber acceptable to the increasingly stringent demands of the market.

The Sub-Committee welcomed the publication by Department of the Environment of *Timber 2005* and the recognition it gave to domestic timber supply. It noted the creation of the Timber Industry Alliance and supported its work to influence research proposals involving British timber.

The Committee is indebted to the Sub-Committees for their high standard of advice and would like to express its thanks for their continuing valuable support.

Sir Mark Russell, Chairman  
A.W.D. Dungavel, Secretary

## APPENDIX 5

# FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE SAFETY AND TRAINING COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

### CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

In my foreword to previous reports I emphasised the ambitious nature of the Council's programme. It is gratifying to report that once again all major targets have been met and the remainder are close to completion.

The accreditation of the new N/SVQ Forestry awards gave me particular satisfaction as it exemplified the constructive co-operation between Council, the industry it represents and the Awarding Bodies. The quality of the accreditation submission played a large part in its success. Great credit for this is due to the Project Officer, Council's VQ Steering Group and the industry co-operation all of whom assisted Council to meet the Accrediting Body's demanding deadline. Work to support the standards is at an advanced stage and publicity and promotion to achieve their effective implementation continues. Details of progress on allied projects are given in the report.

The Health and Safety Committee has completed its revision of the FSC Guides it inherited and has added several relevant to arboricultural operations. The outstanding area, covering the full spectrum of mechanised harvesting, will be completed in the coming year. In addition, the Committee will develop new guides for arboriculture operations and initiate a first review of guides in the new series to incorporate where necessary changes due to the introduction of new tools, equipment and work practices. The Committee has built up links with British and European groups to ensure due regard is paid to the needs of the industry and its operatives when developing standards for protective clothing, tools and equipment.

The year has been characterised with considerable achievement and consolidation. Now the Council has occupational standards and N/SVQs which are comprehensive and relevant the emphasis of its work will switch from development to implementation. As safe working practice is an inherent feature of the standards safety guides and other Health and Safety Committee work remains essential underpinning for all other aspects of FASTCo's work.

In my introduction to previous reports I have thanked individuals and the industry for their work for FASTCo. Repetition of my gratitude makes it no less sincere. FASTCo's objectives are determined after consultation with the industry which continues to give wholehearted support to the full range of Council activities. Its involvement and feedback gives FASTCo confidence that its aims are shared by the industry it serves. FASTCo believes its indebtedness is repaid by the benefit industry derives from FASTCo's achievements.



## ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### FORESTRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING - DEVELOPMENT PLAN PARAS 16-24

- The standards and awards were launched by the Minister for Education and Employment at the APF Conference in September 1996. The launch marked the start of a sustained publicity and promotion campaign to implement the awards and encourage their take-up.
- The Council revised the Forestry and Arboriculture Careers booklet in November 1996 to publicise the newly accredited Forestry N/SVQ awards. Full revision is planned in September 1997 to incorporate details of all relevant Landbase Sector awards due for accreditation in May.

### ARBORICULTURE EDUCATION AND TRAINING - DEVELOPMENT PLAN PARAS 25-27

- The interim arboriculture units developed in partnership with the Amenity Horticulture Industry Lead Body (ILBAH) were accredited as part of the Establishment and Maintenance Level 2 award. The remaining mandatory and optional units at this level cover occupational competences common to forestry and arboriculture, eg planting, maintenance and tending. Experience during piloting has led Council to propose to ILBAH that the elements within the two units are repackaged to increase access and hence their take-up.
- FASTCo has been pleased to co-operate with the Arboricultural Association (AA) to produce aerial rescue training guidance material. This competence is quoted in all arboricultural standards but to date has been poorly documented. The training guidance, endorsed by FASTCo and the AA, will provide trainers and practitioners with authoritative advice.

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY - DEVELOPMENT PLAN PARAS 28-31

- The Forestry Authority Safety Officer with valuable input from the industry and the Health and Safety Executive ran the third series of Safety Update meetings in North England, South and North Scotland. The Health and Safety Committee is to review the timing and content of the updates so that the next series continues to meet the need for current and intelligible advice on safe working practice and occupational health issues.

- During the year the Health and Safety Committee developed or revised nine safety guides and where relevant the associated checklists, namely:

215	Hedge Trimmers
216	Abrasive Wheels
220	Tractor Mounted Weeding Machines
310	Hand Winches for Directional Felling and Takedown
403	Mobile Elevated Work Platforms
505	Tractor and Winch Used for Takedown
601	Mobile Saw Benches
602	Mobile Peeling Machines
603	(Supplement) Harvester Heads

- The Health and Safety Committee has drawn up a list of potential guides on topics not covered by the current series. These are typically manual and mechanical arboricultural operations and possibly a booklet on wider themes such as *Operator's Duty of Care to the Public on and around Worksites*. The Health and Safety Committee will prioritise this list as a matter of urgency.
- Participation by the Health and Safety Committee on GB and EU Standards Committees is proving valuable in ensuring standards for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) etc are a rational compromise between ergonomic and safety factors. FASTCo's representatives have been instrumental in persuading the Committees to include fitness for purpose in the standards. Such inclusion is aimed at improving the wearability and durability of expensive PPE which can only encourage its use.

J.G. Machin, Chairman

T.E. Radford, Technical Secretary

## APPENDIX 6

### WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GRANT

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND  
ON 25 APRIL 1996

The Rt Hon Michael Forsyth MP, then Secretary of State for Scotland, made the following announcement in a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question about improving Britain's woodlands.

"I am pleased to announce that the Forestry Commission will be giving support, under the Woodland Improvement Grant, to two further projects aimed at improving Britain's woodlands.

The Woodland Improvement Grant was launched in 1995 as part of the Woodland Grant Scheme. The first project is helping to provide for public access to woodlands and will run for a further two years. The Woodland Improvement Grant will now also be available to improve the management of poor quality woods and for work to enhance the biodiversity of woodlands.

In the Rural White Papers, we recognised the importance of bringing woods back into productive management. Now we can support landowners who wish to do restorative work in poor quality woodlands to return these areas to sustainable management. Many aspects of work will receive funding, including uneconomic felling, respacing, rhododendron control and protective work.

Woodland Improvement Grant funds will also be available to help Britain's ancient semi-natural woodlands and to support work in woodlands to conserve rare species such as red squirrel, dormouse, capercaillie and various bats and butterflies. These are some of the most important habitats and threatened species identified in *Biodiversity, the UK Action Plan*, which the Government published following on from the Rio and Helsinki conferences. We expect Woodland Improvement Grant to grant-aid work identified in agreed management plans – for example, coppice management and rare butterflies and dormice, fence removal for capercaillie and the conservation of native woodlands in National Parks and priority areas in Scotland.

Within these two umbrella projects, we expect to see local partnerships develop, which not only means that resources are used more effectively but allows such groups to come together and work towards one cause. Woodland Improvement Grant will normally fund around half the cost of the work but, subject to approval by the European Commission, we expect a number of local projects to run as challenge funding where owners have the opportunity to compete for the available funds.

Further information for those wishing to apply for these new grants is available from the Forestry Commission."

TABLE 1:  
 AREA OF PLANTING BY PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNERS FOR WHICH GRANTS  
 WERE PAID IN THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

HECTARES

	ENGLAND			WALES			SCOTLAND			GREAT BRITAIN		
	NEW PLANTING	RE-STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE-STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE-STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE-STOCKING	TOTAL
Woodland Grant Scheme												
Conifer	458	750	1,208	57	556	613	6,306	2,651	8,957	6,821	3,957	10,778
Broadleaved	3,874	1,260	5,134	354	248	602	4,906	1,022	5,928	9,134	2,530	11,664
TOTAL	4,332	2,010	6,342	411	804	1,215	11,212	3,673	14,885	15,955	6,487	22,442
Old Grant Schemes (Now closed to new applications)												
Conifer	0	5	5	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	8	8
Broadleaved	16	12	28	0	7	7	0	19	19	16	38	54
TOTAL	16	17	33	0	10	10	0	19	19	16	46	62
Total												
Conifer	458	755	1,213	57	559	616	6,306	2,651	8,957	6,821	3,965	10,786
Broadleaved	3,890	1,272	5,162	354	255	609	4,906	1,041	5,947	9,150	2,568	11,718
TOTAL	4,348	2,027	6,375	411	814	1,225	11,212	3,692	14,904	15,971	6,533	22,504

- Notes:
1. The Woodland Grant Scheme figures in the above table include new planting grant-aided in association with the Farm Woodland and Farm Woodland Premium Schemes administered by the Agriculture Departments.
  2. The areas of new planting and restocking include those areas where the second instalment of grant for natural regeneration has been paid.
  3. It is estimated that 493 hectares were planted in GB without grant-aid.

TABLE 2:

AREA OF PLANTING BY PRIVATE WOODLAND OWNERS FOR WHICH GRANTS WERE PAID IN THE 20 YEAR PERIOD 1 APRIL 1977 TO 31 MARCH 1997

HECTARES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH	ENGLAND			WALES			SCOTLAND			GREAT BRITAIN		
	NEW PLANTING	RE- STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE- STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE- STOCKING	TOTAL	NEW PLANTING	RE- STOCKING	TOTAL
1978	831	1,008	<b>1,839</b>	591	36	<b>627</b>	4,900	933	<b>5,833</b>	6,322	1,977	<b>8,299</b>
1979	702	1,439	<b>2,141</b>	591	90	<b>681</b>	6,656	1,321	<b>7,977</b>	7,949	2,850	<b>10,799</b>
1980	814	1,731	<b>2,545</b>	556	112	<b>668</b>	6,932	1,022	<b>7,954</b>	8,302	2,865	<b>11,167</b>
1981	905	1,930	<b>2,835</b>	561	142	<b>703</b>	6,934	927	<b>7,861</b>	8,400	2,999	<b>11,399</b>
1982	795	1,888	<b>2,683</b>	1,004	223	<b>1,227</b>	10,663	1,339	<b>12,002</b>	12,462	3,450	<b>15,912</b>
1983	1,514	1,994	<b>3,508</b>	911	156	<b>1,067</b>	10,086	968	<b>11,054</b>	12,511	3,118	<b>15,629</b>
1984	1,480	1,935	<b>3,415</b>	1,064	113	<b>1,177</b>	14,129	1,019	<b>15,148</b>	16,673	3,067	<b>19,740</b>
1985	976	1,767	<b>2,743</b>	918	122	<b>1,040</b>	14,135	1,177	<b>15,312</b>	16,029	3,066	<b>19,095</b>
1986	984	2,346	<b>3,330</b>	743	434	<b>1,177</b>	17,292	1,559	<b>18,851</b>	19,019	4,339	<b>23,358</b>
1987	1,219	2,644	<b>3,863</b>	708	280	<b>988</b>	17,220	1,547	<b>18,767</b>	19,147	4,471	<b>23,618</b>
1988	1,679	2,718	<b>4,397</b>	945	476	<b>1,421</b>	21,197	1,660	<b>22,857</b>	23,821	4,854	<b>28,675</b>
1989	1,752	2,330	<b>4,082</b>	923	256	<b>1,179</b>	22,433	2,248	<b>24,681</b>	25,108	4,834	<b>29,942</b>
1990	3,366	3,871	<b>7,237</b>	552	270	<b>822</b>	11,488	1,984	<b>13,472</b>	15,406	6,125	<b>21,531</b>
1991	4,363	3,970	<b>8,333</b>	510	296	<b>806</b>	10,563	2,840	<b>13,403</b>	15,436	7,106	<b>22,542</b>
1992	3,966	4,042	<b>8,008</b>	356	579	<b>935</b>	9,825	3,210	<b>13,035</b>	14,147	7,831	<b>21,978</b>
1993	5,052	3,811	<b>8,863</b>	429	654	<b>1,083</b>	9,814	3,609	<b>13,423</b>	15,295	8,074	<b>23,369</b>
1994	6,091	3,700	<b>9,791</b>	626	441	<b>1,067</b>	9,180	4,314	<b>13,494</b>	15,897	8,455	<b>24,352</b>
1995	4,997	2,475	<b>7,472</b>	554	626	<b>1,180</b>	12,577	3,068	<b>15,645</b>	18,128	6,169	<b>24,297</b>
1996	4,338	1,972	<b>6,310</b>	442	620	<b>1,062</b>	10,195	3,169	<b>13,364</b>	14,975	5,761	<b>20,736</b>
1997	4,348	2,027	<b>6,375</b>	411	814	<b>1,225</b>	11,212	3,692	<b>14,904</b>	15,971	6,533	<b>22,504</b>

Note: This table includes planting grant-aided under the Woodland Grant Scheme in association with the Farm Woodland and the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme.

TABLE 3:  
 AREA APPROVED FOR MANAGEMENT GRANT UNDER THE WOODLAND GRANT SCHEME

	HECTARES			
	ENGLAND	WALES	SCOTLAND	GREAT BRITAIN
<b>1992-93</b>				
Conifer	11,096	1,222	10,985	23,303
Broadleaved	36,578	1,834	2,549	40,961
TOTAL	47,674	3,056	13,534	64,264
<b>1993-94</b>				
Conifer	18,246	3,911	41,983	64,140
Broadleaved	39,302	1,879	5,762	46,943
TOTAL	57,548	5,790	47,745	111,083
<b>1994-95</b>				
Conifer	7,620	1,750	31,293	40,663
Broadleaved	21,749	1,037	8,088	30,874
TOTAL	29,369	2,787	39,381	71,537
<b>1995-96</b>				
Conifer	4,478	1,164	9,136	14,778
Broadleaved	15,545	1,353	4,322	21,220
TOTAL	20,023	2,517	13,458	35,998
<b>1996-97</b>				
Conifer	3,257	458	5,103	8,818
Broadleaved	12,679	1,295	4,946	18,920
TOTAL	15,936	1,753	10,049	27,738

**TABLE 4 :  
RECRUITMENT**

	NUMBER APPOINTED	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF ETHNIC MINORITIES	NUMBER WITH A DISABILITY
<b>Industrial</b>				
Foreman	5	-	-	-
L/Ranger	7	2	-	-
Shop Assistant	2	2	-	-
Shop Manager	2	1	-	-
UFW	7	1	-	-
Rangers	12	4	-	-
Camp Warden	1	1	-	-
H/Ranger	2	-	-	-
Res Worker	3	1	-	-
<b>Non Industrial</b>				
Commissioner*	1	-	-	-
Senior Professional & Technical Officer	6	2	-	-
Information Officer*	1	-	-	-
Higher Scientific Officer	1	-	-	-
Scientific Officer	3	2	-	-
Asst Scientific Officer	1	1	-	-
Executive Officer	2	-	-	-
Administrative Officer	15	14	-	-
Administrative Assistant	8	7	-	-
Graphics Officer	1	1	-	-
Landscape Technician Grade 1	1	-	-	-
Technical Grade 1	1	-	-	-
Forest Officer III	18	2	-	-
Typist	7	6	-	1

Note: All of the recruitment exercises were conducted internally with the exception of those marked \* where an external agency was used.

The following permitted exceptions were used:

	NUMBER APPOINTED	NUMBER OF WOMEN	NUMBER OF ETHNIC MINORITIES	NUMBER WITH A DISABILITY
<b>Reappointment of former Civil Servants (inc both re-employed and reinstatement)</b>				
Administrative Officer	2	1	-	-
Forest Officer III	1	-	-	-
Executive Officer	1	1	-	-
<b>Transfers from other Public Services</b>				
Higher Executive Officer	1	1	-	-
Executive Officer	2	2	-	-
Administrative Officer	3	3	-	-
Administrative Assistant	1	1	-	-
Forest Officer III	1	1	-	-
<b>Short-term Appointments made permanent</b>				
*Professional & Technology Officer	1	-	-	-
Administrative Officer	1	-	-	-
<b>Recurrent Short-term Appointments</b>				
Support Grade Band 2	3	3	-	-

Note: No use was made of the permitted exceptions in any other categories. (\*appointment made in exceptional circumstances because of the specialist requirements of the post.)

FORESTRY AUTHORITY NATIONAL AND CONSERVANCY BOUNDARIES AS AT 31 MARCH 1997



Note: As from 1 April 1997, organisational changes will mean that Wales will have two conservancies - North Wales and South Wales



# ADDRESSES OF THE MAIN OFFICES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

## HEADQUARTERS OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT  
0131 334 0303 Fax 0131 334 3047

## THE FORESTRY AUTHORITY NATIONAL OFFICES

### England

Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge, CB1 2DU  
01223 314546 Fax 01223 460699

### Scotland

231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT  
0131 334 0303 Fax 0131 314 6152

### Wales

North Road, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 2EF  
01970 625866 Fax 01970 626177

## FOREST ENTERPRISE REGIONAL OFFICES

### North and East England

1A Grosvenor Terrace, York, YO3 7BD  
01904 620221 Fax 01904 610664

### South and West England

Avon Fields House, Somerdale, Keynsham, Bristol, BS18 2BD  
01272 869481 Fax 01272 861981

### North Scotland

21 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1EL  
01463 232811 Fax 01463 243846

### South Scotland

55/57 Moffat Road, Dumfries, DG1 1NP  
01387 69171 Fax 01387 51491

### Wales

Victoria Terrace, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, SY23 2DQ  
01970 612367 Fax 01970 625282

## RESEARCH

Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH  
01420 22255 Fax 01420 23653

Northern Research Station, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY  
0131 445 2176 Fax 0131 445 5124

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The others are:

Forestry Commission Annual Report Highlights

Forestry Commission Facts and Figures

Forest Enterprise Annual Report and Accounts

Forest Research Annual Report

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