

**AFAG WORKPLAN 2005-2008 - APPENDIX 2
OUTLINE PROJECT PLANS (v4 revd 8.06)**

AFAG Project A1 – Examination of the underlying and root causes of serious accidents and develop strategies for risk reduction (v2)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute more effectively to the PSA1 targets by reducing the incidence of fatal and major injuries in the forestry industry, further information and a more detailed analysis of relevant accidents is needed. • The Forest /Arboriculture Industry comprises many small and medium sized enterprises working in remote areas. Tree work is a high-risk industry - in the ten years 1995 – 2005 there have been 50 fatal accidents associated with tree felling and timber extraction and 138 major specified reported under RIDDOR in 2004/05 alone. However, we also know that there is significant under reporting, particularly of over 3-day accidents. |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To examine the underlying and root causes of serious accidents in forestry and arboriculture over the past 5 years; 2. To identify cultural and behavioural implications; 3. To identify strategies to reduce risk. <p>The above objectives have good correlation with the HSE's Forestry PID:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Improve awareness of health and safety issues and facilitate changes in behaviour within the industry, particularly in relation to forestry works managers.</i> b. <i>To continue improvements in the standards of health and safety management on forestry sites.</i> c. <i>Gain agreements with stakeholders to promote good practice</i> d. <i>The number of accidents with the forestry process code are reduced together with a reduction in fatal incidence rate based on a 1999/00 -2000/01 baseline</i> e. <i>Forestry business are aware of the guidance available from HSE and industry</i> f. <i>The AFAG guidance series is relevant, more complete, up to date and of high quality.</i> |
| Resources: | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE funding needed for consultants and research; holding meetings with industry and dissemination, eg through shows, articles, guidance, etc. • Support in kind from the forest and arb industries |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting held in Q4, with consultants (Bomel). • Report back to AFAG 7/3/06 – for steer on future work. |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of AFAG guide, articles, etc – to be determined. |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Emily Ramsay - Forestry Commission/AFAG Hans Fairley - AEA/AFAG Paul Smith - AA Jason Liggins - HSE Frances Hirst - HSE Nick Sangha - HSE</p> |

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AFAG Project A2 – Training and Certification (v3 - revd Aug 06)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current arrangements and relevant standards for training and certification of operators of machines (in particular chain saws), for use in forestry, arboriculture (and casual users, eg in agriculture) have developed over the last 15 years. These arrangements were amalgamated in 2002 into a common scheme of training provided by Lantra Awards, and Certificates of Competence (CoCs) awarded by the NPTC. This structure also encompasses Aerial Tree Work skills including tree climbing, pruning and dismantling at a basic level. • A relevant NPTC-assessed CoC is regarded as the starting point for employed operators and is the minimum accepted by HSE. However, NPTC CoCs have no expiry date. Members feel it is necessary to formalise HSE’s guidance in the Code of Practice on Use of Chainsaws, ie that “full-time” users should receive refresher training at least every 5 years, occasional users within 2-3 years. The cost implications of straight refresher training and re-certification are seen as a barrier, however, and the perceived benefits are limited. Another important factor is that industry employers appear to be mis-interpreting the standard of the CoC as representing “employability”. • It is therefore proposed to develop a system that addresses all these issues by incorporating the need for refresher training with a record of experience, updating and other CPD. A cultural change will be required for industry to accept such a system voluntarily, and it is therefore proposed that any draft system is offered to the industry for consultation in order to gain industry ownership and engagement. |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing training and certification routes, HSE guidelines and level of current uptake. 2. Examine other, existing models of career progression routes and registration schemes (outwith forestry / arboriculture) 3. Compile list of options for alternative refresher / progression structure 4. Carry out industry consultation to establish level of industry support for revised system 5. Present findings of consultation to key stakeholders 6. Support implementation and establishment of agreed system |
| Resources: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group consists of AFAG members, co-opted members from industry and staff from HSE (Ag sector). • HSE funding – Research / Hosting meetings / Dissemination / Consultation |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meeting : 07/12/05 • Second meeting : 24/01/06 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back to AFAG : 7/3/06 • Third meeting 25/04/06 • Fourth meeting 25/07/06 • Report to AFAG 16/8/06 • Proposed industry consultation exercise launched at APF 24/9/06 • 3 month consultation period - until 1/1/07 • Consultation results disseminated Q2 2007 | |
| Outputs: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings available to all AFAG members • Dissemination of all research / consultation to members and industry • Production of industry-agreed revised structure for re-training / refresher training / re-certification • Possible launch / promotion of consultation exercise at APF 2006 | |
| Membership of Working Group | <p>Simon Richmond (Leader) Jim Dewar/Graeme Munford Jim Brown Brendan Burns Graeme Hodgson Gerald Bonner Bruce Hatton Liam McKeown Paul Smith Nick Eden Chris Cooper-Abbs Joe Jarvis/Steve Hewitt Jack Kenyon Robert Beaney Madge Moore Campbell Logue Joe Bradley Keith Leech Ruth Jennings Adrian Kingsbury John Price</p> <p>John Murphy</p> <p>Frances Hirst Jason Liggins Alan Plom (Sec)</p> | <p>Lantra Awards FC/FE FTA FCA Forestry Consultant/Trainer TCIA AA AA / Lantra Awards - Trainer AA AA (papers only) ω European Arb Council NPTC AA Education Group TGWU Lantra SSC (papers only) ω Go4 Skills DARDNI (papers only) ex-UKFPA (resigned) BALI Local Authority/NATO Local Govt Employers (LGE)/ Milton Keynes Council LGE/ London Borough of Merton (CHAS) HSE HSE HSE</p> |

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AFAG Project B1 – Steep Ground Working (v2)

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| Background : | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As areas to be harvested become more inaccessible by traditional harvesting methods an increasing number of machines are being manufactured or adapted to have greater climbing ability than previously experienced in the forest industry. Both supervisors and operators are expressing concerns about the lack of information on which to base their decision-making and risk assessments. • As the number of these machines in use continues to increase, the provision of high quality, practical guidance is essential to prevent an increase in the number of serious incidents occurring on sloping ground. Furthermore, this project will consider all types of forestry work on slopes and provide guidance and advice where necessary. • This work will contribute to the ongoing reduction in the number of reported accidents in forestry and continue the work of both HSE and the forestry industry to improve H&S management systems in forestry. In particular, it has the potential to contribute to HSE's Injury Reduction Programme (Workplace Transport). |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work on Slopes Group to establish good practice, appropriate standards and prepare draft guidance in consultation with the forestry industry. 2. Production / publication of new AFAG leaflet for working on slopes included in Agriculture Communications Strategy. 3. HSE to produce AFAG leaflet in line with Communications Strategy. Final version of guidance approved by AFAG members prior to publishing. 4. Presentations by Sector and AFAG Group on guidance to industry groups. 5. Promote guidance and communicate risk management and project messages directly through the Forestry Commission, industry associations and exhibitions/demonstration events, as well as via specialist trade publications. |
| Resources: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group to consist of AFAG members, co-opted members from industry and staff from HSE (Ag Sector), as required. • Research needs and sources of funding to be identified. • Cost of production and publishing guidance from Communications budget – to be determined. |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Guidance completed and Agreed by AFAG – 09/11/2005 • Business Case for new publication included in Comms Strategy 01/02/2006 • Report back to AFAG 7th March 2006 - Stoneleigh |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members • Dissemination of all research to members and industry • Production of AFAG Safety guide • Dissemination of information at APF 2006 |

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| Members of Working Group | Neil McKay (Leader) Keith Leech Emily Ramsay Jason Liggins (Sec) | ICF/AFAG UKFPA/AFAG FC/AFAG HSE |
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AFAG Project B4 – Rigging and dismantling techniques in arboriculture (v2)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigging techniques in arboriculture vary, ranging from a single rope wrapped round the trunk (adding friction to control the descent of a cut section) to complex solutions and specialist devices. Concern has been expressed that some people in the industry are using equipment and techniques without a full appreciation of the forces generated and the limitations of the hardware and tree. In addition, loads are not easy to quantify and are known to vary dramatically depending on tree species and tree condition. • There is a history of reported accidents where control of cut sections is lost and where anchor points have failed. There is also anecdotal evidence that equipment has been overloaded, resulting in near-miss incidents. • Falls from height are the most common cause of fatal injury and one of the most common cause of major injury to employees, accounting for around 15% of all such injuries. As a result, Falls from Height are a key priority in the HSE's Injury Reduction Programme. The level of incidence varies considerably between industries, but this is obviously relevant to arb due to the nature of the industry. | |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Falls from Height Programme's objective is to reduce injuries by 10% by 2010, against a 1999/00 baseline. 2. To help in the production of reasonably practical industry guidance based on the findings of research to evaluate current rigging and dismantling practices used in arboriculture. | |
| Resources: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Group to consist of AFAG members, co-opted members from industry and staff from HSE (Ag Sector), as required. • Research being jointly funded by HSE and FC • Guidance to be published by the Arboriculture Association | |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research tender Board meets 2/3/06 • Research complete by end 3/07 • Guidance by 9/07(prov) • Report back to AFAG 7/3/06 - Stoneleigh | |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members • Dissemination of research findings and recommendations to members and industry. • Production of Industry guide to good rigging and dismantling techniques. | |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Frances Hirst Simon Richmond Jim Dewar Research Contractors TBC Other industry reps TBC</p> | <p>HSE (Project Leader) Lantra Awards/AFAG FC/AFAG</p> |

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AFAG Project B5 – Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees (v2)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents have been occurring during a range of activities involving machines assisting in the takedown of large edge trees and hung up or leaning trees. • AFAG have produced guidance for the industry in suitable methods to use machinery in the takedown process based on using skidders and hand winches. • Due to changes in machinery holdings and the lack of ergonomically suitable equipment it was agreed to revisit the issue in order to provide the industry with updated and improved guidance on suitable systems, equipment and techniques. | |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify current systems and shortfalls in suitability and uptake. 2. Review research funded by Forestry Commission and it's applicability for industry uptake. 3. Identify new systems, equipment and techniques. 4. Propose research to examine suitability of new systems, equipment and techniques. 5. Disseminate findings to industry. | |
| Resources: | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of Group drawn from AFAG and coopted from industry. • Joint FC/HSE funding - Research/hosting meetings/ dissemination. • Industry support – financial and in-kind contributions | |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Meeting planned 2 February 2006 • Report back to AFAG 7th March 2006 - Stoneleigh • Production and launch of AFAG guidance – APF Sept 2006 | |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members • Dissemination of all research to members and industry – articles etc. • Production of AFAG Safety guide • Dissemination of information at APF 2006 | |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Jim Dewar (Leader)</p> <p>Colin Saunders</p> <p>Dave Clark</p> <p>Donald MacLean</p> <p>Graeme Hodgson</p> <p>Jason Liggins</p> <p>Jim Burns</p> <p>Joe Bradley + Area Ops Manager</p> <p>John Graves</p> <p>Michael Grieve</p> <p>Neil McKay</p> <p>Neil Murray</p> <p>Peter Bowsher</p> <p>James Brown</p> | <p>Forestry Commission/AFAG</p> <p>Forest Research</p> <p>Forestry Training Services</p> <p>FCA</p> <p>Private Contractor</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>Forestry Commission</p> <p>DARDNI/AFAG</p> <p>Forestry Training Services</p> <p>Private Contractor</p> <p>ICF/AFAG</p> <p>Forest Enterprise</p> <p>Contractor</p> <p>FTA/AFAG</p> |

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AFAG Project C1 – Promotion of Rehabilitation Services (v3)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers in both the forestry and arboriculture industries are particularly at risk from occupational illnesses such as musculoskeletal Disease and Work Related Upper Limb Disorders. The provision of rehabilitation services is seen as a key element in managing these illnesses and in reducing both their incidence and the number of work days lost resulting from occupational illness. • This project aims to examine the existing provision of rehabilitation services and assess how well this provision matches with the needs of the forestry and arboriculture industries. The group will then work with rehabilitation service providers to increase their awareness of both the nature of forestry/arboriculture work and to facilitate the provision of specific services for those in these industries. The project will contribute to the ill health reduction programme. • The group will initially focus on rehabilitation services in Scotland where a number of organisations, such as Safe and Healthy Working Lives, already provide occupational health support. It will also aim to work with HSE's Partnership on Health and Safety in Scotland which brings together a wide range of governmental and non-governmental bodies interested in occupational health support. Work carried out in Scotland will then be replicated across England and Wales. |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing provision of occupational health support 2. Identify shortfalls in suitability of provision in relation to the needs forestry/arboriculture workers 3. Facilitate partnerships between occupational health service providers and industry bodies to improve support to the forestry/arboriculture sectors 4. Increase uptake of occupational health support in forestry / arboriculture industries through communication in trade press etc. 5. Reduce incidence of ill health and promote rehabilitation of those suffering from occupational illnesses |
| Resources: | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE funding– Research/Hosting meetings/Dissemination • Industry support – financial and in-kind contributions • Occupational health service providers - Research/Hosting meetings/Dissemination |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Group established Q1 06/07 • Report back to AFAG 7th March 2006 - Stoneleigh |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members. • Dissemination of all research to members and industry. • Partnerships between occupational health providers and industry bodies. • Increase in uptake of occupational health support in forestry / arboriculture industries. |

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| Members of Working Group | J Liggins (Project Leader) Others TBC | HSE |

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AFAG Project C3.1 – Whole Body Vibration (v2)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive (Directive 2002/44) deals with the control of diseases caused by vibration at work from equipment, vehicles and machines and new regulations that will help both employers and employees to take preventive action from vibration risks in the workplace came into force on 6 July 2005. • Mobile machine operators and drivers often report back pain. This can have many causes, not all related to work. But back pain may be made worse by driving for a long time in a poorly adjusted seat, jolting and jarring from rough roads (whole-body vibration) and by manual handling. | |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>It is intended to produce practical guidance to help manage exposure to reduce back pain and injuries.</i> 2. <i>This group will work towards the identification of sources of vibration exposure in harvesting, ground preparation and other operations in forestry and arb.</i> 3. <i>To produce guidance for managers, supervisors and operators on best practice to follow to minimise the impact of vibration and the associated issues causing back pain.</i> | |
| Resources: | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC funding – Research/hosting meetings/dissemination • HSE funding - Research/hosting meetings/dissemination/APF show. • Industry support – financial and in-kind contributions | |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Meeting planned 2/2/06 at HSL Buxton • Report back to AFAG 7/3/06 - Stoneleigh • Production of articles for Forestry journals March/April 06 • Draft guidance by 7/06 • Launch guidance at APF Show 22/9/06 | |
| Outputs: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members • Dissemination of research findings/recommendations to members and industry • Production of Forestry Press articles • Production of AFAG Safety guide • Dissemination of information at APF Show 2006 | |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Jim Dewar (Chair) Emily Ramsay Russell Ackroyd Colin Saunders Jason Liggins Neil McKay Alan Plom Paul Brereton Paul Pitts</p> | <p>Forestry Commission/AFAG FE/AFAG FCA Forest Research HSE ICF/AFAG HSE HSE HSL</p> |

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AFAG Project C4 – Reduce Exposure to Pesticides Used in Tree Planting (v2)

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been several reports of ill health caused by exposure to alpha cypermethrin, a pyrethroid insecticide used to protect saplings/transplants against large pine weevil (<i>hylobius abietis</i>). A number of those involved in planting operations have complained of various ill effects (facial tingling/burning, headaches and nose bleeds) allegedly attributed to exposure to the pesticide. • HSE specialists have investigated the level and pattern of exposure in those treating plants and those handling the treating saplings. A report is in preparation. This Project Group will examine the issues raised by the report and comprehensively review all aspects of planting operations to develop realistic and practicable solutions to ensure those involved in planting pesticide-treated saplings are not exposed to risks to their health. | |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify health risks, current systems of work and likely patterns of exposure. 2. Review HSE research into reports of ill health / patterns of exposure. 3. Identify suitable control measures to reduce exposure as far as reasonably practicable. 4. Disseminate findings to industry and HSE. | |
| Resources: | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE funding– Research/Hosting meetings/Dissemination • FC support – Hosting meetings/Field work / Dissemination • Industry support –in-kind contributions | |
| Milestones: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Report completed by 01/03/06 • Project Group convened Q1 '06 • Report back to AFAG 7th March 2006 – Stoneleigh. | |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings circulated to all AFAG members. • Dissemination of all research to members and industry. • Production of Guidance. • Dissemination of information throughout the industry. | |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Jason Liggins Emily Ramsay Robert Beaney Other Reps TBC</p> | <p>HSE (Project Leader) FC/AFAG FC (TGWU)/AFAG</p> |