



June 2009 diary



Swans still here... still growing

The swans at Lee Moor continue to grow and there are still seven cygnets, they are wild animals but clearly having a bakery on site means they eat more processed grains than some of their 'mates'. The swan muck and the odd headbutt by the male swan is a small price to pay to have them on site. Watching the cygnets learn to fly is of course the fun bit yet to come. Photo shows the family dispersed around the edge of the pond.

The woods are for learning...

Did you know you get acorns off oak trees in less than 15 years & that they carry the largest number of creatures of any of our trees? Children from a local school have been visiting the woods at Lee Moor Farm and building structures from natural materials. More next time on this... we hope to have photos of the work they have completed. From my point of view the woods should be multi-functional.

Land use

Going to London to learn about rural land use is a bit ironic but I feel that a new era is being entered where science and the needs of the planet are going to have influence on what the land is used for. Indeed, in this the 700th year of land occupation in the Alnwick area by the Percy family, it is a good time to consider the – sometimes conflicting – uses that the 75% of land under the control of farming can be put to. Lee Moor is focused on biodiversity and woodland management, the Northumberland Estate on game management and agriculture. Together we are working on rural economic activities. The government have a site near York called [FERA](#). We need these 600 scientists more than ever; I enjoyed the visit greatly.

Gathering winter fuel

Sorry to mention winter, but the only time to think fuel is in the summer, ahead of the season. With oil prices rising it is time to get the 100 tonnes of dry (2 seasons old) timber on site and chipped. This will happen in the next week or so. Lee Moor hopes to be a centre for woodfuel, so watch this space for more information on that.

Photo shows dry wood stacked in front of growing poplars – some of which will be the 2010 heat!





Bong... you crack me up

Accidents happen: having jumped up from my desk it was not good to see my laptop cable around my leg, and then to hear the crash of the laptop hitting the ground. The crack was a thing of beauty, but unfortunately a new screen was needed. Having a range of tenants to ask for advice, I soon had a new screen, fitted on site. The moral of the story is that if we use the collective knowledge of the Lee Moor Business Park we can save time and money.

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