



The Research Site

We think we have managed to find a suitable site - or two.

Aldenham School have kindly agreed to let us have access to their site in North London, set in 100 acres with many mature trees and situated on outcropping London Clay. This will be a significant contribution to the project.

William Powrie has also promised to see if there is an opportunity on the Southampton campus. There is outcropping London Clay beneath parts of it.

More news shortly.

Climate Change

The implications of climate change are as follows:-

1. Aggressive species will survive, and low risk species won't.
2. Oaks, Poplars and Willows etc., will be in leaf for longer. We already see evidence of this with buds coming earlier every year, and trees in leaf until later in the year.
3. The root systems will go further and deeper in search of moisture.
4. The combination of aggressive, high risk trees in leaf for longer mean we will see persistent deficiencies established much quicker, and encounter them more often.
5. Recovery - where it is possible - will take much longer.
6. Claim numbers will replicate those we see in event years, with a 400% increase in the summer months.
7. When we carry out investigations we will need more information because of (2 & 4) above. It may become unsafe to simply chop down a tree because it may result in heave that takes many years to expire without the amount of winter rainfall we are used to.
8. Claim costs will escalate. We will see more claims, lasting longer and costing more to repair.

In short, there is a major problem looming, and we have an opportunity to do something about it.

Timeframe - 2006

April - laboratory work underway

May - commence instrumentation of the site when the ground is fully rehydrated following the winter rainfall. First ERT readings.

June - sinking bores and retrieving samples for testing, whilst the ERT monitoring continues with readings taken every month at most.

September - retrieving the next set of soil samples allowing us to establish any correlation between soil swell derived from laboratory testing and ERT values. We hope to supplement this with precise levels taken throughout the year - if funding permits.

End of 2006 - reporting the results and setting out the program going forward.

Progress Reports will be available at regular intervals through this newsletter.

Glenda Jones

Glenda is the latest academic to join the team, working alongside Nigel Cassidy at Keele and using our work for her PhD.

Glenda is setting up a laboratory test model to ensure we can measure moisture flow in the fine grained London Clay soils before we instrument the site at Aldenham. MatLab are providing samples of soil for the experiment.

