

Published: 06 May 2009

Effects of site preparation for afforestation on methane fluxes at Harwood Forest, NE England

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Biogeochemistry 97, 89–107(2010) | [Cite this article](#)

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Abstract

A field experiment was established at Harwood Forest to investigate the effects of three forest management practises (drainage, mounding and fertilisation) on methane (CH₄) emissions and environmental variables (soil temperature, soil moisture content, water table depth) from 2006 to 2008. The relationship between CH₄ emissions and environmental variables was also evaluated. The experiment was laid out in a factorial split-plot design on grassland in a peaty gley soil. Drainage increased daytime soil temperature at all depths. Mounding increased soil temperature at 1 and 5 cm depth. Soil moisture content was decreased by drainage and mounding. All practises affected soil CH₄ emissions with drainage reducing emissions by 57–

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