Interview Transcript[[1]](#footnote-1)

Subject 4: Employee of Environmental Council

I: [explaining project]

[1:28]

I: What kind of decisions do you make or others in the [organisation] with respect to uncertainty and hazards?

S: Quite a big question really because, the bit of the organization that I’m in is mainly involved in, we’re economists and we get involved in doing economic impact assessments of policies and projects so there might be a question such as how to control a particular forest pest or disease and we would carry out an assessment of the costs and benefits of different approaches and consider risks associated with different approaches whereas colleagues in other parts of the organization will work much more at an operational level in terms of actually deciding how to manage woodlands, woodland design and management on the ground. So that’s the main way that we look at it anyway.

[2:44]

I: Okay. So do you use any weather information such as rainfall, temperature, wind speed, any sort of…those kinds of forecasts?

S: We don’t, but people in, we have a research agency called [organisation] and they do look at weather information in relation to climate change impacts. There’s a model called the [climate model] and you can use data from that to look at likely rainfall/temperature scenarios going into the future and they’ve taken this information then to look at what the implications might be for forest management because if you for example think that based on [climate model] data that the east of England is going to get much drier, then you need to think about what species of trees are going to be planted in the future because the current ones may not be sufficiently resistant to drought so it’s that sort of thing.

[3:58]

I: Okay. So it sounds like talking to someone in that division might be a bit more helpful.

S: It might well be, yes. One area where we have been looking at risk as an issue is in relation to forest pests and diseases and there is somebody working as a student, doing a PhD at [university]and she has developed a model to come up risk factors associated with different species depending on what kind of pests and diseases they may be vulnerable to. So that work might be relevant to you. And we’re a partner in that project.

I: Okay. Excellent. That does sound relevant. Do you happen to have a couple of names of people I could speak to either from the [organisation] or the PhD student?

[contact information exchanged]

I: Perfect. Well thank you so much for your help and for giving me names of other people who could help.

S; It’s alright.

I: I hope you have a good day. Thank you.

S: Alright then thanks a lot.

1. The interviewer is denoted by “I” and the subject as “S” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)