

THE REGIONAL FORESTRY AND WOODLANDS WORK PLAN 2006-2007



This work plan outlines the main actions being undertaken by organisations in the Forestry and Woodland Partnership to deliver 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' - the Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework in the financial year 2006-07. To see the full Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework visit www.seeingthewoodforthetrees.org.uk

The Framework has four themes - as shown on the trunk and branches of our tree logo. The benefits of the Themes on the branches depend upon a secure future for our woodland resources, as shown on the trunk. To focus delivery, a priority topic has been chosen for each of the Themes. This delivery plan focuses on actions delivering the priority topics. This forms the basis of the structure of the Work Plan.

Theme	Priority Topic
1) Better places for People to Live	Sustainable Communities
2) Enhanced Environment and Biodiversity	Ancient Woodland
3) A stronger contribution to the economy	Renewable Energy
4) A secure future for our woodland resources	Regional Spatial Planning
4) A secure future for our woodland resources	Skills

The delivery against the Framework priorities happens in three main ways-

- **Advocacy** involves promoting what trees and woodlands do for the South East, also ensuring that these roles are recognised and supported in regional policy and priority setting documents.
- **Information flow** involves making sure those in the sector, and interested in the sector are aware of opportunities to help make positive change happen in the region.
- **Developing and supporting flagship projects** involves testing and giving support to a select number of initiatives that are delivering the Framework outcomes.

Content

- 1) Delivery Topics
- 2) Secretariat Support and Communication

1) Delivery Topics:

Theme 1 - Better places for People to Live

Priority Topic 1 - Sustainable Communities

RFF Secretariat actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand work occurring on Sustainable Construction in the region, seek to identify gaps where the forest industry could promote use of timber.• Develop Industry Day to look at opportunities in the Growth Areas and Olympics for the private woodland sector |
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Time commitment:

FC actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to Local Development Frameworks in Growth Areas (JH)• Ensure Growth Areas are aware of the opportunities that woodlands provide in terms of attractive environment, access(PMcK) and woodfuel (MW)• Promote EWGS grants in region targeted to focus on provision of access and Growth Areas(AB)• Co-ordinate Green Infrastructure work in Ashford Growth Area (RG)• Engage with Green Infrastructure work in Aylesbury Growth Area (JH)• FC and partners as consortium (bid for Access to Natural Environment BLG fund in Forest of Bere/Portsmouth area (SP) FC recreational and educational activities contribute to delivery of this priority topic• Involvement in FC Southern Growth Areas Group (DW, AB, RG, JH)• Work in partnership with CA/ NE to develop management plan for Jeskyns Farm - Thames Gateway• Involvement in South East Rural Urban Fringe Partnership (JH) |
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Woodland Trust Actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with FC on BLG application in Portsmouth area• Promote need for accessible greenspace through "Space for People"• Seek opportunities for community engagement via "Tree 4 all" programme |
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GOSE Actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing delivery of Rural Regional Delivery Framework - ensuring that forestry and woodland aspects are appropriately prioritised. Aspects related to Sustainable Communities include: high quality attractive landscapes Economic Development and Enterprise (measures on woodfuel), Forestry (measures on Green Infrastructure, sustainable construction, woodfuel) Greenspace, Housing (sustainable construction).• Programme managers for Regional Implementation Plan of Rural Development Programme for England, ensuring it includes priorities from Rural Regional Delivery Framework.• Responsible for Government Sustainable Communities policies in the region. |
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SEEDA Actions

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that woodland is valued for its contribution to the landscape, particularly around the Growth Areas, and develop the economic potential for woodlands to secure |
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its future contributions

SEERA Actions

- Support recognition of the multiple roles of woodland in SEERA contributions to Growth Area discussions.

Natural England Actions

- (EN & CA) Commenting on Growth Area LDFs and other planning documents, particular focus on Sustainability Appraisal.
- (CA) Input to Greening the Gateway Partnership and Green Arc Partnerships. Use to promote 'Countryside In and Around Towns' ideas
- (CA) Develop input on Green Infrastructure with each Local Delivery Vehicle and Growth Area ,including 'cookbook' of 'how to' deliver.
- (CA) Develop Green Infrastructure links to life chances (GB) & health agenda
- CA ,EN & RDS & Consortium partners inc FC bid for Access to Natural Environment BLG fund in Southampton/Portsmouth ;Slough, Reading & High Wycombe and North Kent
- CA ,EN & RDS submit portfolio bid to BLG for Green Exercise programme in South East incs FC as delivery partner
- CA commenting on HA's Rights of Way Improvement Plans as statutory consultee
- (CA) Develop a landscape strategy for SE Region

Environment Agency Actions

- Promote a policy in the SEPlan to encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future communities.

Forestry and Timber Association

- Promote opportunities to work in the Growth Areas to members.
- Support development of industry day to look at opportunities in the Growth Areas and Olympics for the private woodland sector

South East AONB's

- All SE AONBs with substantial woodland cover to prepare local accord on shared objectives with the Forestry Commission
- Promote role of woodlands and trees in the development of sustainable communities (North Wessex Downs, Kent Downs).
- Work to identify opportunities to promote and enhance sustainable access to woodland informed by research in accessible greenspace (North Wessex Downs, High Weald, Surrey Hills, Kent Downs)
- Promote the benefits of woodland recreation, particularly to health (Chilterns, High Weald)
- Explore innovative ways of promoting access to woodlands, such as mobile phone trails (South Downs, ?Chilterns).

Theme 2 - Enhanced Environment and Biodiversity

Priority Topic 2 - Ancient Woodland

RFF Secretariat actions

- Complete Planners Guidelines which include information on dealing with ancient woodland in relation to planning applications and planning policy (JH)
- Undertake low key programme seminars for Planners as opportunities arise (JH,?AB? ?JT?)

Time commitment:

FC actions

- Encourage use of Wealden Revised Ancient Woodland methodology, to develop this as tool for planners across the South East of England (PMcK)
- Facilitate management and support of ancient woodlands, especially SSSI's in unfavourable condition (SE England Native Woodlands Project and Conservancy Staff)
- Continue to manage FC Woodlands to enhance and secure the values of ancient woodlands sites (SEEDF, New Forest District)
- Partnership working in regards to ancient woodlands and landscape scale approaches (SEEDF, New Forest District, SEE Conservancy)
- Ensure joined up working with Natural England on woodland advice, particularly in relation to Higher Level Environmental Stewardship and Woodland SSSIs.
- Produce South East Woodland News to support those new to managing their woodlands.

Woodland Trust Actions

- Contribute towards planning guidance and workshops.
- Push for authorities to revise ancient woodland inventories as per Wealden
- Encourage involvement in the ancient tree hunt

GOSE Actions

- Managing delivery of Rural Regional Delivery Framework - ensuring that forestry and woodland aspects are appropriately prioritised. Aspects related to Ancient Woodland include Biodiversity (raising awareness with planners)
- Programme managers for Regional Implementation Plan of Rural Development Programme for England, ensuring it includes priorities from Rural Regional Delivery Framework.
- Raise awareness of PPS9 clauses woodland related clauses throughout GOSE and across regional planning networks.

SEEDA Actions

- No actions for this priority topic

SEERA Actions

- Investigate inclusion of this issue in the SE Plan Implementation Plan

Natural England Actions

- (EN) Work with FC Native Woodland Unit to bring SSSI woodlands back to favourable condition
- Support through Hampshire Pathfinder and LIFE project to bring SSSI's back to favourable condition through heathland and riverine woodland restoration in New

Forest area

- Ensure joined up working with Forestry Commission on woodland advice, particularly in relation to Higher Level Environmental Stewardship and woodland SSSIs.

Environment Agency Actions

- Through flood risk management works create priority biodiversity habitats, including wet woodland
- Ensure air quality issues from processes we regulate are considered for Habitats Directive sites that include woodland
- Contribute to the achievement of PSA 3 target of 95% of SSSIs to be in favourable condition by 2010, including woodland components

Forestry and Timber Association

- Promote sensitive and economic management of Ancient Woodlands through FTA visits, events and newsletters.

South East AONB's

- Target incentives for sustainable woodland management at ancient and semi-natural woodlands and other sites of ecological and cultural heritage (North Wessex Downs, Chilterns, High Weald & Kent Downs (particularly work in key butterfly area), Surrey Hills)
- Support revision of the ancient woodland inventory (High Weald, Surrey Hills, Kent Downs)
- Support for restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, particularly through High Weald Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites Project
- Work to protect ancient woodland through support of Deer Management Groups and management of other pest species (N Wessex Downs, Chilterns, Surrey Hills)
- Encourage sustainable management of shooting in woodlands to reduce detrimental impacts of intensive game rearing.
- Better understand relationship between woodland and other habitats (Surrey Hills)

Theme 3 - A stronger contribution to the economy

Priority Topic 3 - Renewable Energy

RFF Secretariat actions

- Support Forestry Commission and SEEDA in following up May/June Woodfuel Seminar. Evaluate opportunity for RFF support.
- Meet with Aylesbury Vale Advantage and Aylesbury Prison to follow up interest in renewable energy in Aylesbury Growth Area.

FC actions

- FC/SEEDA workshop on regional Woodfuel opportunities - May/June (MW)
- Networking support to interested parties (MW)
- Participation on South East Sustainable Energy Partnership (MW)
- Support for development of information resources (MW)
- SEEDF to consider opportunities to supply woodfuel alongside other product

Woodland Trust Actions

- No actions for this priority topic

GOSE Actions

- Managing delivery of Rural Regional Delivery Framework - ensuring that forestry and woodland aspects are appropriately prioritised. Aspects related to Ancient Woodland include Economic Development and Enterprise (promoting woodfuel), Food and Farming (non food diversification), Forestry (promoting woodfuel)
- Programme managers for Regional Implementation Plan of Rural Development Programme for England, ensuring it includes priorities from Rural Regional Delivery Framework.
- Ensure that woodfuel issues are high on the agenda of the South East Sustainable Energy Partnership.
- Ensure that woodfuel related activity on SESEP action plan are delivered.
- Ensure Regional Implementation Plan of Rural Development Plan England reflects regional woodfuel priorities.
- Ensure Government policy on renewables is embedded on regional policy.
- Help to deliver Government response to the Biomass Task Force recommendations

SEEDA Actions

- Lead RDA on Renewable Energy, with funding to support the supply chain
- FC/SEEDA workshop on regional Woodfuel opportunities - May/June
- Participation on South East Sustainable Energy Partnership
- Support for development of information and extension resources
- Production of independent research on the forestry sector by Simon Grayson.
- Develop a programme for stimulating the market for timber
- Support for demonstration projects

SEERA Actions

- Ensure role of woodfuel, and recognition of heat, is included in renewable energy section of the South East Plan.

Natural England Actions

- EN - No action under this priority topic
- CA - Further support for Community Renewables Initiatives (TV Energy, CEN)
- Work with FC to determine the impact of Short Rotation Coppice / Forestry , energy crops

Environment Agency Actions

- Participate in the South East Sustainable Energy Partnership.

Forestry and Timber Association

- Promote opportunities to develop supply chain for woodfuel through FTA visits, events and newsletters.

South East AONB's

- Improve understanding of the role and importance of woodland in the AONBs including benefits to the economy through support of wood fuel (North Wessex Downs, the High Weald, Kent Downs, Chilterns, South Downs, Surrey Hills)

Theme 4 - A secure future for our woodland resources

Priority Topic - Regional Spatial Planning

RFF Secretariat actions

- Ensure continued inclusion of Woodland Policy in South East Plan as it goes to Examination in Public
- Undertake low key programme seminars for Planners as opportunities arise (JH,?AB? ?JT?)

Time commitment:

FC actions

- Use of Letter to planners in regards to applications involving ancient woodland
- Involvement in FC Southern Growth Areas Group

Woodland Trust Actions

- Contribute towards planning guidance and workshops.

GOSE Actions

- GOSE validates the South East Plan produced by SEERA, on behalf of central Government (DD to substitute more appropriate wording)

SEEDA Actions

- Ensure 'hooks' for supporting woodland in the Regional Economic Strategy
- Develop seminars for members on rural issues, including forestry.

SEERA Actions

- Ensure that forestry policy remains in the South East Plan.
- Publicise information note on South East Plan for forestry sector, and planners guidance for implementing NRM5.

Natural England Actions

- (EN & CA) Statutory consultee for LDF and South East Plan, particularly focusing on Sustainability Appraisal.
- Develop understanding of benefits accruing for people the environment in increasing robustness of environment in relation to impacts of climate change. (NE +FC)
- Create guidance -(targeted where possible) - for woodland establishment and management within green infrastructure provision and landscape restoration. Include (NE & FC) - Additional benefits accruing from trees and woodland creation regarding Quality of landscapes, Bio-diversity, Environmental function and protection, recreation provision, and robustness against impact of climate change.
- Contribute to the creation of a centre of excellence for the synchronisation of conservation and recreation objectives - (NE & & FC)

Environment Agency Actions

- Support policies that enhance biodiversity, including the Woodland Policy in South East Plan.
- Promote a policy in the South East Plan to encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future communities.

Forestry and Timber Association

- No action under this priority topic

South East AONB's

- Ensure protection of woodlands in AONB Management Plans and promote protection of the landscape through support for AONB Management Plans in Local Development Frameworks and the South East Plan.

Theme 4 - A secure future for our woodland resources

Priority Topic - Skills (NB Suggested new inclusion in light of Conference)

RFF Secretariat actions

- Understand work occurring on Woodland Skills in the region, seek to identify gaps where the forest industry could promote use of timber.

Time commitment:

FC actions

- New Forest Woodland Apprenticeship scheme
- Winchester - working to upskill offenders in forestry skills

Woodland Trust Actions

- No action under this priority topic

GOSE Actions

- Managing delivery of Rural Regional Delivery Framework - ensuring that forestry and woodland aspects are appropriately prioritised. Aspects related to Skills include Economic Development and Enterprise (promoting skills).
- Programme managers for Regional Implementation Plan of Rural Development Programme for England, ensuring it includes priorities from Rural Regional Delivery Framework.
- Raise awareness of ESF Funding with potential for the forestry sector

SEEDA Actions

- Ensure support for woodland skills can be gained through the Rural Development Plan England.
- Support skills development through membership of Regional Appraisal Panels for Vocational Training Scheme and Harvesting, Processing and Marketing grants
- Support skills development for the woodfuel sector, through TV Energy and CEN.

SEERA Actions

- No action under this priority topic.

Natural England Actions

- No action under this priority topic

Environment Agency Actions

- No action under this priority topic

Forestry and Timber Association

- No action under this priority topic

South East AONB's

- No action under this priority topic

2) Secretariat Support and Communication Activities

E News: This 4-page news bulletin is circulated to 260 people in the region, covering the forestry and woodlands sector, the environment and conservation sector and broader rural sector stakeholders. It has been well received by those on the distribution list. It is aimed to increase the distribution.

Work programme for 2006-07:	Continue to produce, develop better links to projects around the region to enable more comprehensive picture of the region	
Time commitment:	1.5 days per edition plus support in design from Forestry Commission administrative staff (0.5 days) - Total - 6 days	6
Financial commitment:	No cost as Electronic medium, using existing infrastructure	

Website:

Work programme for 2006-07:	Continue to develop, adding case studies, funding, evidence base	
Time commitment:	0.5 days per month plus support in design from Forestry Commission administrative and web staff	6
Financial commitment:	No budget cost as Electronic medium, using existing infrastructure	

Shorter version of the Framework Document

Work programme for 2006-07:	Prepare shorter version of the Framework Document to hand out as advocacy document	
Time commitment:		5
Financial commitment:		

Steering Group Meetings

These occur 3 times a year at Forestry Commission South East England Conservancy Offices, Alice Holt, Farnham.

Work programme for 2006-07:	Three meetings - 2 nd May 2006, 28 th September 2006, 2007 tba	
Time commitment:	12 days, including preparation of papers	12
Financial commitment:		

Monitoring, Evaluation and Regional Evidence Base

Monitoring and Evaluation is essential in regards to evaluating the effectiveness of the Framework, in feeding back to funders and communicating the benefits that the sector provides to the region. This work all builds the regional evidence base, key to gaining further support for the sector.

Work programme for 2006-07:	Develop and populate appropriate M&E format	
Time commitment:	5 days plus ongoing updating of format	5
Financial commitment:		

Work programme for 2006-07:	Mapping of related South East Forums/Groups - to ensure that strategic linkages between areas of common interest can be developed.	
Time commitment:	2 days plus ongoing updating of format	2
Financial commitment:		

Work programme for 2006-07:	Develop Information Note on the South East England Forestry Industry - in partnership with EFIP, based upon their Jakko Poyrey study.	
Time commitment:	2 days	2
Financial commitment:		

Promotion and Events

The 'unique selling points' upon which to promote the Forestry and Woodlands Framework are

- A 'one stop shop' to promote and develop and evidence base of all the activities of the forestry and woodlands sector in the South East.
- A logo demonstrating simply what forestry and woodlands deliver for the region.

One stop shop Audience:

- 1) Regional decision makers - promoting what the sector can do for the region
- 2) Forestry and Woodland sector - ensure all are aware of all the activities going on, so that appropriate links can be made

Work programme for 2006-07:	Attend Weald Wood Fair	
Time commitment:	2 days (Friday and Saturday)	2
Financial commitment:	Share Forestry Commission tent.	

Work programme for 2006-07:	Foyer display in Regional Offices (GOSE, SEEDA) (and at SEERA meeting?)	
Time commitment:	1 day	1
Financial commitment:	None	

Policy Consultations and Influencing

Work to ensure, on behalf of the Partnership, that draft regional documents complement and are consistent with the framework

Work programme for 2006-07:	South East Plan Examination in Public Growth Area Local Development Frameworks English Forestry Strategy (April - May?) England Rural Development Plan + Regional expression	
Time commitment:		10
Financial commitment:	None	

Funding

- Act as an extra set of eyes and ears to identify new funding opportunities that could support projects delivering framework outcomes and make such opportunities known to appropriate projects.

Work programme for 2006-07:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on better understanding what funding is available and relevant for the sector. Prepare short briefing notes on what is available	
Time commitment:		6
Financial commitment:	None	

Work programme for 2006-07:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider developing fundraising training event (based on FE fundraising event) for the sector in the region.	
Time commitment:		3
Financial commitment:	None	

Any further questions? Contact:

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