

DISPOSAL POLICY FOR FORESTRY COMMISSION WALES

1. Selection of disposal candidates will focus typically on non-woodland assets and, on occasion, **small areas of woodland where it is difficult to deliver our social, economic and environmental objectives either now or in the future.** Candidate areas will usually be:
 - Buildings or non-wooded land
 - Leasehold with restrictive terms and little prospect of acquisition of the freehold
 - Physically remote (but not always)
 - Costly to manage
 - Contain liability

2. There will be a presumption against the sale of woodlands that have the following characteristics, as these woodlands are by definition likely to have potential for delivering our social, economic or environmental objectives:
 - Ancient Woodland Sites
 - Statutory designations
 - High access, recreation and amenity interests
 - Development and affordable housing opportunities
 - Commercial or economic benefits delivered to nearby communities
 - Research experiments
 - Significant reserves of timber
 - Significant areas of fallow land awaiting regeneration.

3. Proposals will be submitted annually to the Head of Estate Management via the Business Planning process for a preliminary decision. The preliminary submission will include an outline assessment of the public, operational and financial benefits to be delivered, including possible grant aid demands. If approval is given to progress the proposal further, a full disposal submission will be required and Director's approval before any legal commitment is given.

4. Any disposals progressed via this route will be subject to the requirements of the Section 41 (Government of Wales Act 1998) Arrangement with the Welsh Assembly Government.

[Ratified by FC Wales National Committee 13/02/2006]