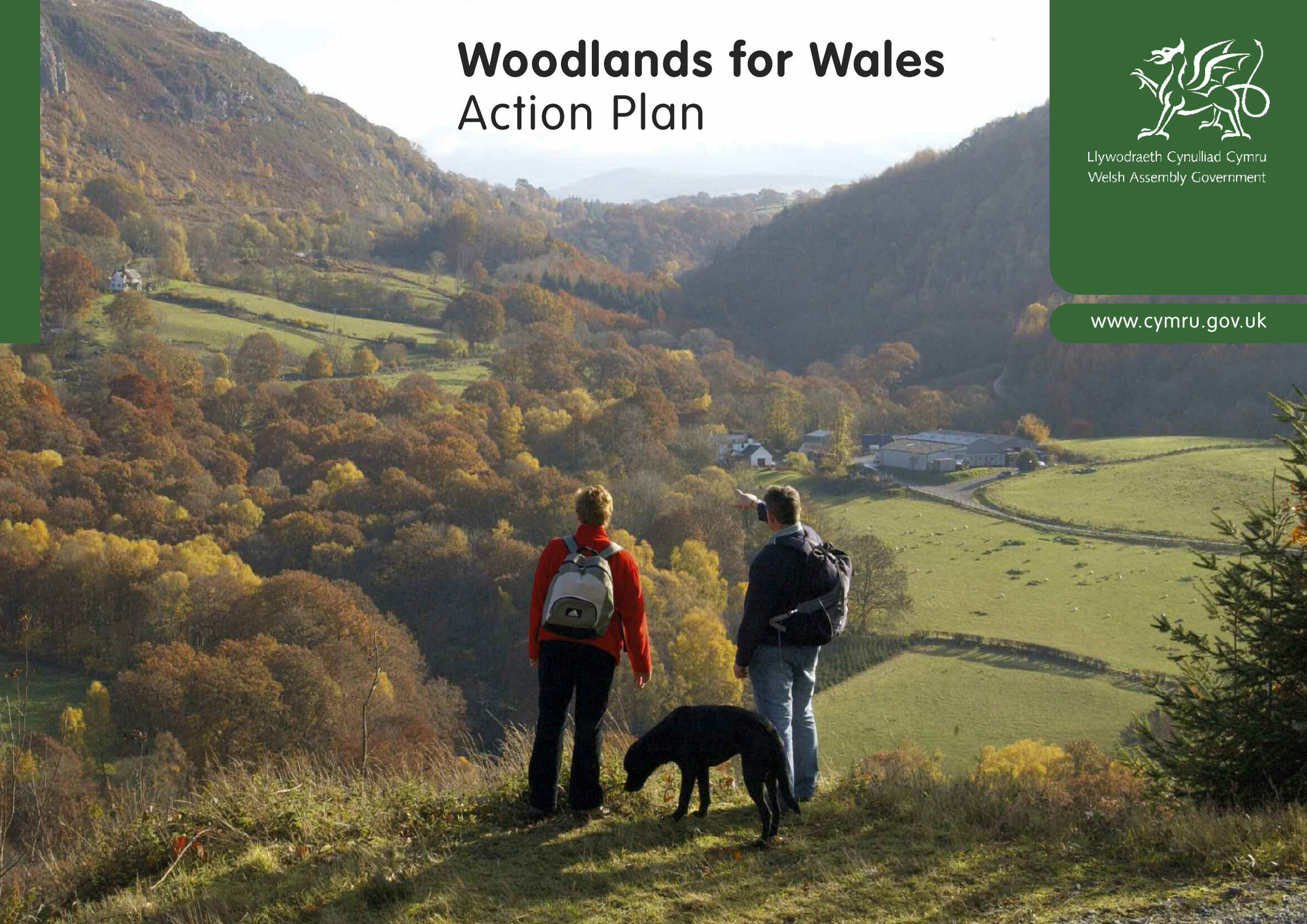


Woodlands for Wales Action Plan



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government





www.cymru.gov.uk



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Minister's foreword

I have great pleasure in presenting the Woodlands for Wales Action Plan. This sets out what is planned over the next five years to make progress towards achieving the objectives of our 50-year Woodlands for Wales strategy.

Woodlands and trees can make a significant contribution to delivering not only social, economic and environmental benefits but also to addressing the impacts of climate change. They are a key asset which, if well managed and in good condition, can provide a wide range of goods and services for everyone's benefit - both in rural areas and in the towns and cities of Wales.

Through the actions in this Plan we aim to increase the woodland cover of Wales and to increase the range of tree species in those woodlands. We want to bring more existing broadleaf woodland into active management, much of it on farmland. We want to see all land managed in a more integrated way, with woodlands and trees playing an important role in the wider landscape.

As well as adapting to a changing climate themselves, woodlands and trees can help Wales as a whole manage the effects of climate change. This Plan includes actions that will encourage the use of trees to help control flooding, and that will introduce more trees to urban environments - where they provide shade and improve drainage, as well as a making our towns and cities more attractive. Increasing the demand for timber and other woodland products will help to reduce our carbon footprint – by using wood as fuel, and by replacing more energy-intensive materials like steel and concrete with timber that can store carbon for hundreds of years or more. This increase in demand will also sustain and expand our forest industry and business sector and its contribution to the Welsh economy.

We want to see more people visiting Welsh woodlands to take advantage of opportunities for walking and enjoying some peace and quiet, or for more adventurous activities. This will not just help to make people in Wales happier and healthier, but will also contribute to the Welsh economy through tourism.

The outputs from this Action Plan will build on the significant progress that has already been made since the strategy was first published in 2001. Driven by a changing world, Welsh Assembly Government programmes and policies and our One Wales commitments, this Action Plan sets out how we can begin delivering the outcomes of the revised Woodlands for Wales strategy.

I am grateful to everyone involved in the initial consultation on the strategy, and in developing this Action Plan, as well as those who have agreed to lead or support specific actions in the Plan. I want to thank in particular the Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel who provided invaluable independent expertise and were closely involved in preparing the Action Plan.

Everyone with an interest in woodlands and trees, whether as individuals, organisations or partnerships, will want to see this Action Plan make progress. We are now all challenged with taking action to deliver the outcomes of Woodlands for Wales for the benefit of everyone that lives, works in or visits Wales.

Elin Jones AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Faterion Gwledig
Minister for Rural Affairs

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1. Introduction

This is the first published Action Plan for Woodlands for Wales, our 50-year strategy for woodlands and trees. This Action Plan sets out the key activities that will need to be undertaken to achieve the 20 outcomes set out in the strategy. It explains what must be done and who is responsible for taking the lead in each action.

First published in 2001, Woodlands for Wales was revised and re-launched in March 2009 following an extensive public consultation. The strategy can be found at:

[Link: Woodlands for Wales](#)

When it was first published, the strategy focused on people, woodland management, services and jobs. These are still key priorities, but the revised strategy also needed to address emerging issues, particularly the effects of climate change.

Our revised Woodlands for Wales takes account of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, and recognises that woodlands and trees can and do deliver multiple benefits, at the same time and in the same place. The strategy identifies the environmental services that woodlands can provide such as replacing fossil fuels, storing carbon and helping us to cope with the effects of a changing climate.

The revised strategy also aims to increase people's engagement with woodlands and trees, and ensure that the full range of opportunities offered by woodlands is accessible to all sections of our diverse society in an equitable way.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken since 2001 to deliver the aims of the first strategy, and the five-year progress report, published in 2006, can be found at:

[Link: Five-year progress report](#)

Building on these achievements and taking into account additional policies and programmes, such as One Wales and The Environment Strategy, this Action Plan looks forward over the next five years. The actions needed to make further progress by 2015 are detailed in Section 6, and the Action Plan will be reviewed periodically during its five year lifespan.



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2. Outcomes of the Woodlands for Wales strategy

The actions in this Plan will help to deliver the 20 outcomes of Woodland for Wales, which are grouped under five strategic themes: Welsh woodlands and trees; responding to climate change; woodlands for people; a competitive and integrated forest sector; and environmental quality.

These outcomes are:

Welsh woodlands and trees

1. More woodlands and trees are managed sustainably
2. Woodland ecosystems are healthy and resilient
3. Woodlands are better adapted to deliver a full range of benefits
4. Woodland cover in Wales increases
5. The management of woodland and trees is more closely related to other land uses
6. Urban woodlands and trees deliver a full range of benefits

Responding to climate change

7. Welsh woodlands contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of Wales

Woodlands for people

8. More communities benefit from woodlands and trees
9. More people enjoy the life-long learning benefits of woodlands and their products
10. More people live healthier lives as a result of their use and enjoyment of woodlands
11. More people benefit from woodland-related enterprises

A competitive and integrated forest sector

12. More Welsh-grown timber is used in Wales
13. The forest sector is better integrated and more competitive, supporting the Welsh economy
14. Increased use of timber as a key renewable resource
15. A thriving, skilled workforce in the forestry sector

Environmental quality

16. Woodland management achieves high standards of environmental stewardship
17. Woodlands and trees of special conservation value are in favourable management
18. Woodland biodiversity is supported and native woodland is in favourable management
19. Woodlands and trees make a positive contribution to the special landscape character of Wales and to sites of heritage and cultural importance
20. New and existing woodlands and trees contribute to water and soil management

3. Other key Welsh Assembly Government strategies which the Woodlands for Wales Action Plan will help to deliver

Climate Change

Addressing climate change is one of our key priorities, and in 2007 we established the first Climate Change Commission in the United Kingdom.

We are committed to achieving an annual reduction of 3% in carbon-equivalent emissions from 2011 in areas of devolved competence. Woodlands and trees can help contribute to this ambitious target through:

- **sequestration**, as growing trees lock up carbon in their roots and branches, and even more carbon becomes stored in the soil itself.
- **substitution** in a number of ways; for example, woodfuel can be used as a carbon-neutral energy source instead of fossil fuels, and timber used in construction can replace energy intensive materials like concrete and steel.

As well as this, woodlands and trees need to be resilient and able to adapt to a changing climate themselves. Woodlands and trees can also bring a range of other social and environmental benefits such as helping to control flooding and moderating summer temperatures in urban areas through shading.

Several actions in the Plan fall within the Woodlands for Wales strategic theme of responding to climate change. This is a cross-cutting theme and it is important to note that actions under the other four themes will also make a direct contribution towards addressing the effects of climate change.

[Link: Climate Change Strategy](#)

Environment Strategy for Wales

The Environment Strategy for Wales recognises the value of woodlands in delivering a wide spectrum of environmental benefits. Woodlands for Wales is seen as a delivery mechanism for 12 of the Environment Strategy's 39 outcomes (listed in Appendix 1). Woodlands and trees are recognised as providing ecosystem services and addressing the effects of climate change, and the Environment Strategy also identifies effective woodland management as a means of protecting biodiversity, designated sites and ancient woodland.

[Link: Environment Strategy Action Plan](#)



One Wales

One Wales reinforces and develops previous Welsh Assembly Government commitments to economic development and improved environmental quality for the purposes of community development and wider regeneration. The Woodlands for Wales Action Plan can help to deliver One Wales commitments, including those for a sustainable environment and a prosperous society.

The Plant! initiative supports a specific commitment we made in One Wales to “provide support for indigenous woodlands, including a tree for all new babies and adopted children, helping to create a Welsh National Forest of native trees to act as a carbon sink”.

[Link: One Wales](#)

The Welsh Assembly Government’s Renewable Energy Route Map and Bio-energy Action Plan

The draft Renewable Energy Route Map and Bio-energy Action Plan indicate that home-grown woodfuel and biomass can make a small but significant contribution to the renewable energy sector in Wales. In addition to the woodfuel harvested from the Assembly Government woodland estate, there is an opportunity increase the contribution of other woodlands to renewable energy production, through improved woodland management.

[Link: Renewable Energy Route Map consultation](#)

[Link: Bio-energy action plan consultation](#)



photo: R. Francis - Woodland Trust Picture Library



Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales 2007-13

The RDP for Wales is part of a joint Welsh Assembly Government/European Union (EU) strategy to make our country a better place in which to live and work. Looking after the environment and encouraging sustainable economic development are two of the most important goals in the RDP.

A number of the actions in this Plan will contribute directly towards delivering across two objectives (Axes) of the RDP:

- Axis 1 - Improving the competitiveness of the agriculture and forestry sectors
- Axis 2 - Improving the environment and countryside and indirectly towards the other two objectives:
- Axis 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
- Axis 4 - The Leader approach, which supports community-led local development strategies.

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4. Monitoring and reporting progress

There is a requirement to gather evidence across all themes of Woodlands for Wales, to support delivery and measure progress. Underlying the Action Plan is a need to gather more, new information and evidence which, in turn, will require the establishment of research sites and a series of pilot projects.

We shall be using a range of measures to monitor progress, and will publish a set of indicators for Woodlands for Wales to help us assess progress towards achieving the 20 strategy outcomes.

At the end of the action plan period in 2015 we shall report on:


- progress towards achieving each action
- the contributions that other Welsh Assembly Government policies have made to achieving the outcomes of Woodlands for Wales



5. How the Action Plan is set out

The Action Plan is in the form of a table, organised under the five strategic themes and 20 outcomes of Woodlands for Wales.

The table shows:

Outcomes of Woodlands for Wales - if you 'hover over' the  symbol you will see what the strategy said we would do to implement the outcome - these were listed in the strategy as "to get there we shall". For most (but not all) of the points in these "to get there we shall" lists there is a specific action in this Plan.

Actions are each listed only once, but in practice every action will contribute to more than one of the 20 outcomes, often across several strategic themes.

Lead organisations and principal supporting organisations involved in delivering the action are identified - with the lead organisation(s) shown in bold and principal supporting organisations shown in regular text. If you 'hover over' the acronyms you will see the full name of the organisation(s).

The lists are not exhaustive and many other organisations will be involved in the effective working partnerships needed.

Additional outcomes which each action contributes towards delivering are listed numerically. The 20 outcomes of Woodlands for Wales can be found on page 5.

Current status summarises how far each action has progressed (this will be updated annually).

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6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible

Click on a link below to take you to the table of actions for a specific Woodlands for Wales theme:

Link: **Welsh woodlands and trees**

Link: **Responding to Climate Change**

Link: **Woodlands for people**

Link: **A competitive and integrated forest sector**

Link: **Environmental quality**



Key to Action Plan Tables

BOLD text **Lead Organisations** - (the organisation(s) that will deliver the actions in the plan, working with other organisations)

REGULAR text Principal supporting organisations - (will be contributing to the delivery of the action with the lead organisation(s))

 Further information available by selecting the link

If you 'hover over' the acronyms you will see the full name of the organisation(s).



6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Welsh woodlands and trees

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
1. More woodlands and trees are managed sustainably	a) Complete the review of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and associated guidelines; publish the revised UKFS and guidelines; and promote these to woodland owners and managers in Wales.	FCGB, FCW	2, 3, 16	Revised UKFS and guidelines to be published in November 2010
	b) Promote the benefits of certification against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) to woodland and owners managers in Wales.	FSC, PEFC	2, 3, 16	Ongoing
	c) Maintain UKWAS certification for the Assembly Government woodland estate.	FCW	2, 3, 16	Annual compliance audits by independent international inspectors Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS)
	d) Review the current woodland grant scheme, Better Woodlands for Wales, to align its priorities with those of the revised strategy Woodlands for Wales.	FCW & BWW Stakeholder Group	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	Ongoing, due for completion within the 5 year span of this Action Plan
	e) Make the process of obtaining grant aid simpler for the owners and managers of small woodlands.	FCW & BWW Stakeholder Group	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	BWW Smallwoods scheme was launched at Royal Welsh Show in July 2009
	f) Ensure that, during the RDP review and the development of Glastir, consideration is given to the need for funding to encourage the management of woodlands and trees on farms, and to create additional farm woodlands.	WAG - DRA Glastir Programme Group, FCW	2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 20	Ongoing, Glastir to be launched in 2012
	g) Bring more woodlands into management by developing the First Steps grant scheme to encourage woodland owners to begin managing their woodlands.	FCW	2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 14, 16, 20	To be launched by June 2010

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Welsh woodlands and trees

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
2. Woodland ecosystems are healthy and resilient	a) On issues relating to woodland and tree health and protection, use existing stakeholder networks to improve awareness, sharing of information, monitoring and management. <i>i</i>	FR, FCGB Plant Health Service, WAG - Plant Health and Biotechnology Branch, CCW, ConFor	1, 3, 16, 17,18	Ongoing
	b) Develop and implement a Deer Management Action Plan for Wales, with input from all relevant stakeholders.	FCW, FR, WBP	1, 16, 17, 19	Ongoing, FCW and Deer Initiative met in December 2009
	c) Develop and implement a Grey Squirrel Management Action Plan for Wales, with input from all relevant stakeholders.	FCW, FR, WBP	1, 16, 17, 19	Progress to be reviewed by end of March 2011
	d) Take action to develop a strategic approach to the issue of invasive species which damage woodland habitats (such as Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam).	WBP Non-Native Invasive Species Forum	1,16, 17, 18	Under consideration, Forum will meet in December 2010
	e) Develop and publish guidance on increasing the diversity of woodlands in Wales, and apply this guidance to the Assembly Government woodland estate. Promote the guidance and encourage other woodland owners to apply it. <i>i</i>	FCW, FR	1, 3, 5, 7, 16, 18	Guidance to be drafted by end of March 2010, and published in September 2010

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Welsh woodlands and trees

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
3. Woodlands are better adapted to deliver a full range of benefits	a) Develop and use models to examine the benefits/effects of reducing reliance on clearfell through adopting a range of alternative silvicultural systems and practices. Develop and provide guidance on moving away from clearfell management regimes where appropriate, and apply this guidance to the Assembly Government woodland estate. Promote the guidance and encourage other woodland owners to apply it.	FR, FCW	1, 2, 7, 12	Initial modelling work to be completed and guidance provided by March 2014, to inform the 2016 production forecasts
	b) Gather evidence to measure and evaluate the non-market costs and benefits of woodlands and trees.	FR, FCW	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, 20	Ongoing
	c) During the development of both Better Woodlands for Wales and Glastir, consider the non-market ecosystem services provided by woodlands and trees.	WAG - DRA Glastir Programme Group, FCW, Wales Environment Research Hub	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 19, 20	Ongoing, Glastir to be launched in 2012

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Welsh woodlands and trees

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
4. Woodland cover in Wales increases	a) Develop spatial planning tools to identify priority areas for woodland creation and develop a programme of woodland creation across Wales, using the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area as a pilot area.	FCW, WAG - DRA Glastir Programme Group, CCW, EAW, WT, WFBP	3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20	Heads of the Valleys woodland plan, using spatial planning tools, to be completed by April 2010
	b) Monitor the removal of woodland for priority habitat restoration, and develop a process to ensure that this is accounted for when setting targets for increased woodland cover.	FCW, CCW, WEL, FR, WFBP	1, 7, 18, 19, 20	As first stage, priority habitat restoration areas to be identified on the Assembly Government woodland estate by end of March 2012
	c) Develop and publish guidance for planning authorities and planners to help ensure that tree cover lost through development is compensated by woodland creation elsewhere in Wales.	WAG - DESH, WLGA	1, 6, 7	Guidance will be considered as part of the revision of the suite of Technical Advice Notes and Planning Policy Wales
	d) To implement actions 4a, b and c above, support initiatives and mechanisms to increase tree cover and create new woodlands in Wales, such as Better Woodlands for Wales and the Plant! initiative.	FCW, WAG - DRA, WT	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20	Ongoing, as BWW is revised to align it with the revised Woodlands for Wales
	e) Use the National Forest Inventory to monitor the permanent removal and replacement of woodlands in Wales.	FCGB, FCW	7, 19, 20	The latest map is due to be published by April 2010; thereafter survey data will be fed into the Inventory on a rolling programme

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Welsh woodlands and trees

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
5. The management of woodlands and trees is more closely related to that of other land uses <i>i</i>	a) Develop a process to ensure that woodlands and trees are routinely considered as an integral part of planning and development policy.	WAG - DESH, WLGA, FCW	3, 4, 6, 19, 20	Ongoing, with opportunities taken to consider woodlands and trees during the revision of Technical Advice Notes
	b) Promote the inclusion of woodlands and trees in an integrated approach to land management, and provide advice to landowners and managers through mechanisms such as Farming Connect.	WAG - DRA Glastir Programme Group, FCW, WLGA, CCW, Wales Environment Research Hub	1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, 20	Ongoing through approaches such as Glastir
6. Urban woodlands and trees deliver a full range of benefits <i>i</i>	a) Evaluate best practice, and promote the benefits of increasing tree and woodland cover in urban and peri-urban areas, using the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area as a demonstration. Working in partnership with others, particularly local authorities, encourage more public access to this resource and greater use of it.	FCW, WLGA, Local Authorities, CCW, strategic regeneration partnerships (e.g. Heads of the Valleys)	1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10	Heads of the Valleys woodland plan, using spatial planning tools, to be completed by April 2010; Heads of the Valleys urban woodland and trees working group formed in 2009
	b) Raise awareness of the benefits of trees, and of the solutions that they can provide in an urban environment, and promote trees as an integral part of urban planning and development.	WAG - DESH, FCW, FR, EAW, CCW	7, 9, 10, 16, 20	Ongoing

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible Responding to Climate Change

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
7. Welsh woodlands contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of Wales	a) Collate and share information about the role of sustainably managed woodlands in abating carbon emissions through the substitution of timber and woodfuel; highlight the opportunities this provides for farmers, other woodland owners and managers.	FCW, FR (collate information), WFBP (share information), Farming Connect, WAG - DESH	1, 12, 14	Ongoing
Climate change is an overarching theme of the strategy and many of the actions in other sections will also contribute towards responding to its effects	b) Develop an approach to Short Rotation Forestry in Wales and provide guidance to owners and managers.	FCW, FR	4, 12, 13, 14, 20	Develop the approach for Wales by 2014, considering how FR has approached this issue in England and Scotland
	c) Complete the development of a UK code of good practice for forest carbon management projects.	FCGB, FCW, WAG - DESH, WAG - DRA	1, 3, 4, 20	Due to be published in 2010
	d) Develop, publish and promote guidance and advice on woodland management techniques which aim to manage the carbon balance of woodlands - by reducing carbon loss, maintaining the woodlands' on-going effectiveness in locking up carbon (as a sink), protecting soils and producing timber.	FR, FCW, WFBP, WAG - TSD, Farming Connect	1, 2, 3, 5, 14, 16, 20	To be developed by 2011
	e) Develop, publish and promote good practice guidelines emerging from FUTUREforest	FCW and other EU partners	1, 2, 3, 16, 20	This is a 3 year programme: 1st phase 'seeing is believing' was completed October 2009; 2nd phase 'developing together' runs until Dec 2010; and 3rd phase 'transfer to policy' will run in 2011
	f) Develop, publish and promote guidance on the role of woodlands and trees in helping us to adapt to climate change. Promote the ability of trees to reduce temperatures by providing shade for people and buildings, particularly in urban areas. Promote their ability to help to reduce the pressure on urban drainage systems.	FR, FCW, EAW, WLGA	3, 6, 20	Ongoing, through guidance on woodland species and diversity, woodland and carbon management, and in work with other organisations

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6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Woodlands for people

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
8. More communities benefit from woodlands and trees	a) Identify organisations already contributing to or promoting public involvement in woodland, aiming to fill any gaps.	FCW	1, 3, 9, 10, 11	Stakeholder validation report completed in October 2009
	b) Review and, where appropriate, revise the consultation processes relevant to woodlands, including those linked to the Better Woodlands for Wales programme and to the Assembly Government woodland estate, aiming to be inclusive and giving everyone an opportunity to contribute.	FCW	1, 3	FCW corporate programme being developed to review and revise consultation process; project underway to review consultation process for BWW - report and recommendations due March 2010
	c) Explore the legal and operational issues associated with transferring woodland management responsibilities to community groups and enterprises. Formalise ways of working in partnership in order to deliver effective community development objectives, particularly in relation to the Assembly Government woodland estate.	FCW , Llais y Goedwig, Development Trust Association Wales	1, 9, 10, 11, 16	Pilot in progress with a number of potential projects being considered
	d) Develop, publish and promote guidance for woodland owners and organisations working with communities.	FCW , Llais y Goedwig, WLGA	1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16	Will be prepared in 2011/2 following publication of FCW corporate programme on public involvement and enterprise

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Woodlands for people

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
	e) Develop, publish and promote guidance and support for communities and other groups to help them establish beneficial links with woodlands and woodland owners.	FCW , Llais y Goedwig	1,9,10,11,16	Will be prepared in 2011/12 following publication of FCW corporate programme on public involvement and enterprise
	f) Help identify the best ways for communities to access funding and resources for woodland activities, providing support and promoting opportunities.	WCVA , Llais y Goedwig, FCW	9, 10,11,15	Develop joint working between these organisations, reporting back by end of March 2014
	g) Initiate a partnership approach to managing woodlands and trees as a tool for regeneration, focussing on the Strategic Regeneration Areas and using the Heads of the Valleys project as a pilot.	FCW , Strategic Regeneration Partnerships, CCW	6,11,15,16	Heads of the Valleys woodland plan to be completed by April 2010, illustrating opportunities for woodlands and trees to contribute to the regeneration of the Heads of the Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area
	h) Through the publication and promotion of case studies, provide information on all aspects of public involvement in woodlands.	FCW	6, 9, 10, 11,16	Ongoing, with 12 case studies to be published by end of September 2010

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible

Woodlands for people

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
9. More people enjoy the life-long learning benefits of woodlands and their products	a) Continue to encourage and support the use of woodlands as a lifelong learning resource, highlighting the value and benefits of wood and woodlands in people's day to day lives.	Woodlands for Learning Forum, WAG - DCELLS, FCW	8, 10, 15	Ongoing
There are further actions in the Integrated Forest Sector section under outcome 15 'A thriving skilled workforce in the forestry sector'	b) Continue to develop Forest School as a delivery mechanism including, for example, programmes for the Foundation Phase, 14-19 Learning Pathways, adults and play; and provide training, continued professional development and networking for practitioners.	FCW, FSW, FEI	8, 10, 15	Ongoing
	c) Highlight the national and local opportunities that woodland offers for 14-19 Learning Pathways.	FCW, WAG - DCELLS, 14-19 Learning Pathways Partnerships	8, 15	Ongoing
	d) Work with the forest industry in Wales to provide opportunities, across the range of sector skills, for work experience and pathways to employment.	WFBP, Lantra, FCW, FEI	8, 11, 15	Ongoing
	e) Align woodland learning pathways and training, aiming to ensure that new and existing activities are accredited and can integrate into the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) where appropriate.	FCW, WAG - DCELLS, WFBP	8, 11, 15	Ongoing as learning pathways and training develop
	f) Develop pilot projects examining how woodlands can be used as a valuable resource for play.	FCW, Play Wales	6, 8, 10	Pilot projects to be developed and running by end of March 2013
	g) Publicise and extend the opportunities for woodland volunteers.	WCVA, FCW	1, 8, 9, 10	Ongoing, with review in 2011/12

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Woodlands for people

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
10. More people live healthier lives as a result of their use and enjoyment of woodlands	a) Provide, develop and promote well-managed, targeted woodland access throughout Wales; provide and develop suitable infrastructure (such as pathways) and facilities in woodlands that feel safe and welcoming. Publish good practice guidelines and involve local communities and groups wherever appropriate.	FCW, CCW, WT, WLGA	1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 16	Ongoing, FCW's corporate programme for recreation and access due to be prepared by September 2010
	b) Work with statutory Local Access Fora, to help deliver Rights of Way Improvement Plans.	CCW, FCW, WLGA	6, 8	Ongoing
	c) Develop a robust evidence base to enable spatial targeting of public access to woodlands and of public involvement in woodlands.	FCW	6, 8	Heads of the Valleys woodland plan, using spatial planning tools, to be completed by April 2010
	e) Review and improve promotion and marketing of the access and recreation opportunities that woodlands in Wales can offer.	FCW	8, 9, 19	Consider and report back by end of March 2012
	f) Promote the use of woodlands for health and well-being by contributing to the appropriate networks, involving a wide range of statutory and third sector organisations.	FCW, WAG - Public Health Wales, Institute for Rural Health	8, 13	Ongoing, initially establishing a clear link between FCW and WAG - Public Health Wales
	11. More people benefit from woodland-related enterprises	a) Promote and provide support and guidance for enterprise opportunities associated with woodlands, for example tourism and non-timber forest products.	FCW	8, 13

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
A competitive and integrated forest sector

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
12. More Welsh grown timber is used in Wales	a) Publish, in 2011, the 5 yearly public and private sector production forecasts, providing baseline information on future timber production levels from Welsh woodlands.	FCGB, PSPFG	13	Next production forecasts to be published in 2011
	b) Develop improved models of tree growth and improved economic models to quantify the impact of changing silvicultural practices on future timber supplies. Use this information to help develop programmes which will sustain timber production at the national scale in the long term, and at current levels for the Assembly Government woodland estate in the short to medium term.	FR, FCW	1, 2, 3, 13	To be developed alongside FCW's corporate programme for managing more diverse woodlands; initial report back on progress in 2011/12
	c) Develop, publish and promote guidance for growers and processors on the timber properties of the tree species that will (or are likely to) form the future woodlands of Wales, to help them make informed investment decisions.	FCW, FR, WFBP	2, 3, 14	Publish guidance in 2012/13
	d) Establish a network of research and practical demonstration projects to provide information on forest management techniques, product quality and product development.	WFBP, FR	2, 3, 14	Publish guidance in 2012/13

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
A competitive and integrated forest sector

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
13. The forest sector is better integrated and more competitive, supporting the Welsh economy	a) Publish, promote and maintain a list of current sources of financial support for forestry enterprises at all levels; identify any gaps in current financial support and seek additional funding to fill these.	WFBP	8, 11, 12, 14	Initial publication by end of March 2011
	b) Support organisations that encourage networking opportunities within the forestry sector.	WAG - DE&T Business Support	7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15	Ongoing, with networking opportunities and events
Opportunities for enterprises can also be found in the 'Woodlands for people' section	c) Identify existing best practice, and build on experience to develop models for woodland related enterprises, including social enterprises; publish and promote case studies illustrating best practice and lessons learnt.	WFBP, FCW, Coed Cymru	7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15	Ongoing, initial information to be published by end of March 2011, helping to inform the FCW programme approach to be published in March 2012
	d) Publish and roll out a Supply Chain Action Plan for woodland products.	FCW, WFBP	8, 12, 14	To be published by end of March 2011
14. Increased use of timber as a key renewable resource	a) Develop, publish and promote guidance for policy makers, planners, architects and end users on the benefits of timber, to help stimulate market demand for timber products.	WFBP	7, 12, 13	To be published by end of March 2011
	b) Develop, publish and promote guidance on procurement by public sector bodies, to help increase the use of timber products.	WFBP	7, 12, 13	To be published by end of March 2011
	c) Provide opportunities to showcase timber and wood products, to encourage their wider use.	WFBP	7, 12, 13	Ongoing, report back by end of March 2011
	d) Develop the application for CONSTRUCT.	FCW	7, 12, 13	Ongoing, 1st stage application submitted; 2nd stage application due in 2011

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
A competitive and integrated forest sector

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
15. A thriving skilled workforce in the forestry sector	a) Ensure that learning materials and activities explain the importance of active woodland management, and the use of timber as a valuable renewable resource which can help to mitigate the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration and substitution. Learning materials should stress the need to use timber wisely and to consider the future availability of timber from Welsh and global markets.	FCW Woodlands for Learning team, FEI, WFBP	1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16	Ongoing, review learning materials during 2010/11 to ensure this information is included in FCW delivery; encourage use by others via Woodlands for Learning Forum
Opportunities for learning and training can also be found in the 'Woodlands for people' section	b) Assess the skills needed at all levels of the sector, and the availability of appropriate education and training. Where there are gaps, work with others to develop accredited training opportunities.	FCW, WAG - DCELLS, Lantra, WFBP	8, 9, 11	Ongoing, with initial review to be completed by end of March 2012
	c) Review, develop and promote flexible schemes for apprenticeships, work placements and accredited woodland learning pathways within the sector.	FCW, WAG - DCELLS, Lantra	8, 9, 11	Ongoing

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Environmental quality

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
16. Woodland management achieves the highest standards of environmental stewardship	a) Help to manage and reduce the impact of wildlife crime and criminal damage on woodlands and their biodiversity, by developing a joint approach to these problems as part of the partnership agreement between CCW and FCW.	FCW, CCW	1, 2, 3	Ongoing, with annual renewal of the agreement between CCW and FCW
Actions on information and advice, UK Forestry Standard and approaches to tackle threats from non-native invasive species are dealt with under the Welsh woodlands and trees theme.	b) Work with public and third sector organisations to develop guidance for woodland managers to help them manage and reduce antisocial behaviour, criminal activities and environmental nuisances such as fly tipping and vehicle trespass in woodlands. Develop pilot projects, exploring education and prevention as alternative means of managing these problems.	WAG - Police Liaison, Fly-tipping Action Wales (Taclu Tipio Cymru), FCW	1, 2, 3	Ongoing, initial report on pilot projects by end of March 2014
	c) Work with partners to improve environmental standards of woodland management.	FCW, CCW, EAW, Cadw, WFBP, FCA	1, 2, 3	Ongoing

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Environmental quality




Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
17. Woodlands and trees of special conservation value are in favourable management	a) Implement the responsibilities in relation to woodlands as defined in the Welsh Assembly Government Biodiversity Framework. <i>i</i>	WBP Woodland Ecosystem Group	18	Ongoing, monitored through Biodiversity Actions Reporting System (BARS)
	b) To bring designated sites into favourable management, support woodland managers implementing the actions defined in the Wales Biodiversity Partnership's Sites Actions Database.	WAG Environment Strategy Outcome 21 working Group, CCW	18	Ongoing, monitored through the Sites Actions Database managed by CCW
	c) Roll out to the whole of Wales the successful pilot project to revise the Ancient Woodland inventory; promote, publicise and use the revised inventory.	FCW and CCW	18	Following successful pilot in 2009, project being taken forward in 2010/11
	d) Review existing tree protection measures, including those currently in Planning Policy Wales; identify new mechanisms to monitor and manage individual trees of value including veteran trees, street and hedgerow trees, trees in parks and rare trees; publish and promote the new policy and guidance.	WAG - DESH, WLGA, FCW, CCW, WT	2, 3,17	Guidance to be reviewed and included in current policy documents, such as TANs, when these are renewed; report back end of March 2014
	e) Plan, prioritise and implement as appropriate the restoration of PAWS on the Assembly Government woodland estate and encourage PAWS restoration in the private sector with support from the Better Woodlands for Wales grant scheme. <i>i</i>	FCW, WBP Woodland Ecosystem Group (in the case of private woodlands)	1,18, 19	Ongoing, aim to complete planning and prioritisation on the Assembly Government woodland estate by end of March 2011

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible
Environmental quality

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
18. Woodland biodiversity is supported and native woodland is in favourable management	a) Work towards the targets of the native woodland Habitat Action Plan (for condition, extent, restoration, conversion and expansion) on the Assembly Government woodland estate; and encourage other woodland owners and managers to do the same.	WBP Woodland Ecosystem Group , UKNWHAP group	1, 2, 16, 17	Ongoing, monitored through BARS
Actions taking forward conversion of woodlands to a more natural state is discussed under the Welsh woodlands and trees theme	b) Identify areas where woodland should be permanently removed for the purpose of priority habitat restoration, if the open habitat would provide a greater environmental benefit than the woodland. Plan and prioritise habitat restoration and management of these areas, within the Assembly Government woodland estate.	WBP Ecosystem Groups	3,17	Ongoing, with report on progress by end of March 2014
	c) Review, plan and prioritise a targeted programme for halting the loss of the protected and priority woodland species that are on the Section 42 priority species list for Wales and encourage its implementation.	WBP Woodland Ecosystem Group	2, 3, 16, 17	Ongoing, with programme developed by end of March 2014
	d) Identify appropriate opportunities for improving habitat connectivity between and within woodlands and other habitats across Wales, taking account of conservation efforts for Section 42 priority woodland species; and plan and encourage reconnection of these areas in future, with support from relevant grant schemes.	WBP Woodland Ecosystem Group	2, 3, 17	Ongoing, with report on progress by end of March 2014

6. Action Plan Table of themes, actions and organisations responsible

Environmental quality

Outcome	Action	Lead Organisations with principal supporting organisations	Additional outcomes supported	Current Status
19. Woodlands and trees make a positive contribution to the special landscape character of Wales and to sites of heritage and cultural importance 	a) Review and improve existing mechanisms for assessing the contribution made to landscape character and quality in Wales by the nature and character of woodlands and trees; review and improve the process of applying the assessments to land-use decisions, including decisions about historic landscapes, new woodland creation and open habitat restoration.	Cadw, CCW, FCW, Archaeological Trusts	5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19	Report on progress by end of March 2014
Action to improve public involvement and access is covered in the Woodlands for People section. Architectural use of wood is covered in the Competitive and Integrated Forest Sector section	b) Review and improve existing mechanisms to protect and manage archaeological sites within woodlands as well as the historical and heritage value of the woodlands and trees themselves.	FCW, Cadw	3, 8, 18	Review ongoing, report on progress by end of March 2014
20. New and existing trees and woodland contribute to water and soil management 	a) Ensure woodland management guidance takes account of the Water Framework Directive and the Welsh Assembly Government's Soil Action Plan; revise the FCGB Soil and Water Guidelines to accompany UKFS.	FCGB, FCW, EAW, CCW, WAG - DRA, WAG - TSD	3, 5, 16	Ongoing, with report on progress by end of March 2014. The revised FCGB Soil and Water Guidelines to be published by early 2011
Actions to develop payments for the services woodlands can provide to manage diffuse pollution, soils and water are covered in the Welsh Woodlands and Trees section	b) Gather baseline information and build on existing research to establish a range of demonstration sites to highlight the actual effects of woodlands at catchment level.	FR, FCGB, EAW, CCW, Wales Environmental Research Hub	3, 4, 5	Ongoing
	c) To inform the targeting of new woodland creation, undertake spatial analysis to demonstrate where woodland and trees would provide benefits for the management of soil and water (e.g. in reducing flood risk and diffuse pollution). 	FR, FCW, EAW, CEH, CCW	3, 4, 5	Ongoing

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Appendix 1

Environment Strategy outcomes which Woodlands for Wales helps to deliver

No	Outcomes
7	Wales' greenhouse gas emissions are minimised, consistent with Wales contributing fully to meeting UK-wide targets and in line with more specific Wales targets that are in development.
8	Wales has improved resilience to the impacts of climate change. A clear, flexible programme of measures is in place to enable Wales to respond and adapt to climate change.
16	Soil is managed to safeguard its ability to support plants and animals, store carbon and provide other important ecosystem services.
18	The use of alternative materials, secondary and recycled aggregates is maximised where possible in the construction industry.
19	The loss of biodiversity has been halted and we can see a definite recovery in the number, range and genetic diversity of wildlife, including those species that need very specific conditions to survive.
20	The wider environment is more favourable to biodiversity through appropriate management, reduced habitat fragmentation and increased extent and interconnectivity of habitats.
21	Sites of international, Welsh and local importance are in favourable condition to support the species and habitats for which they have been identified.
23	The quality and diversity of the natural and historic character of our landscape and seascape is maintained and enhanced.
27	There is easy, equitable access to ample high quality green space.
29	There is sustainable, widespread and equitable access to the countryside and coast, which recognises the need for a balance between tranquil areas supporting larger numbers of people in a range of activities. Damaging access will be discouraged.
35	The quality of our groundwater, rivers, lakes and coastal waters is maintained and enhanced.
36	Diffuse pollution is better understood and action is being taken to reduce and manage diffuse pollution.

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Appendix 2:

Acronyms and glossary

14-19 Learning Pathways	A commitment to transforming learning provision for all young people in Wales, it addresses the need for a flexible and balanced approach to the education of 14-19 year olds.
Adaptation	Measures reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, for example by increasing readiness for pests and winds, creating woodland networks, and using woodlands in flood management.
Ancient woodland	Sites that have been continuously wooded since before 1600AD.
Archaeological Trusts	The four Archaeological Trusts in Wales maintain regional Historic Environment Records, and are concerned with policies relevant to the preservation, recording, interpretation and presentation of the archaeology, historic landscapes and built heritage of Wales.
ASNW	Ancient semi-natural woodland is ancient woodland where the trees and shrubs are semi-natural. These are generally the most important woodlands for biodiversity.
BAP	A Biodiversity Action Plan is a plan for a key habitat or species, to establish the factors for its decline and the work necessary for its recovery. National BAPs are approved by Government and form part of the overall UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The original impetus for these plans derives from the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.
BARS	Biodiversity Action Reporting System is the reporting system for UK national, local and company BAPs, and for the Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans of all four UK countries.
Biodiversity	The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species.
BWW	Better Woodlands for Wales is the woodland grant scheme administered by Forestry Commission Wales.
Cadw	The historic environment service of the Welsh Assembly Government.
Carbon footprint	A representation of the effect that human activities have on the climate in terms of the net amount of greenhouse gases produced, usually measured as tonnes of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide equivalent.
CCW	The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.
CEH	The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology is a leading UK body for research and monitoring in terrestrial and freshwater sciences.

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Climate change	Natural and human-induced changes in the 'average weather' of a region. (The term 'global warming' was previously used synonymously with 'climate change').
Coed Cymru	An all Wales initiative to promote the management of broadleaf woodlands and the use of locally grown hardwood timber in Wales.
Coed Lleol	A partnership project hosted by the Smallwoods Association with a steering group of representatives from Forestry Commission Wales, Countryside Council for Wales, Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Tir Coed, the Health Service in Wales, and representatives of community woodland groups and self-employed foresters. It aims to help more people enjoy and care for woodlands in Wales.
Community	A group of people holding something in common, such as a place or a common interest.
ConFor	Confederation of Forest Industries , an organisation established to help build the market for timber, timber products and forest services, and create a supportive policy environment for the forest industries.
CONSTRUCT	An Interreg IV C project being developed with the aim of increasing the amount of sustainable renewable timber that is used in the construction of low and zero carbon houses and buildings.
CQFW	Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales , a single unifying framework that merges the concept of volume of learning achievements (credit) with the concept of demands made on the learner by that learning (level) to create a system embracing all types and styles of learning, and all qualifications. Since 2003, all learning offered in Wales, including mainstream qualifications, is gradually being brought into the CQFW.
Deer Initiative in Wales	A broad partnership of statutory, voluntary and private interests dedicated to "ensuring the delivery of a sustainable, well-managed wild deer population in Wales".
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs , the UK government department responsible for policy and regulations on the environment, food and rural affairs.
Development Trusts Association Wales	An independent organisation promoting and supporting the community enterprise and regeneration work of the 40 development trusts in Wales.
EAW	Environment Agency Wales is an Assembly Sponsored Public Body responsible to the National Assembly for Wales (and an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England). The EAW plays a central role in delivering government environmental priorities in England and Wales.
Ecosystem	The interaction of communities of plants and animals (including humans) with each other and with the non-living environment. Balanced ecosystems are stable when considered over the long term - hundreds of years in the case of woodlands.

Ecosystem services	Collective term for the multitude of resources and processes supplied by natural ecosystems, which benefit humankind. Ecosystem services are distinguished from other ecosystem products and functions because there is human demand for them, and many studies have attempted to quantify their economic value. Ecosystem services include provisioning services (food, water and timber); cultural services (recreational, health, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits); regulating services (protection of water and soil resources; provision of shelter, shade and cooling, locking up atmospheric carbon); and supporting services (soil formation and photosynthesis).
Farming Connect	A Welsh Assembly Government scheme providing subsidised one-to-one support, knowledge, expertise, training and advisory services to help develop farm businesses.
FCA	Forestry Contracting Association
FCGB	Forestry Commission of Great Britain , the government department responsible for the protection and expansion of Britain's forests and woodlands.
FCW	Forestry Commission Wales acts as the Welsh Assembly Government's Department of Forestry, responsible for managing the 38 per cent of Welsh woodlands on the Assembly Government Woodland Estate. On behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, FCW advises on the development of forestry policy and its implementation; encourages sustainable woodland management within the private sector; administers grants; and is responsible for regulatory work, including licensing felling and replanting.
FEI	Forest Education Initiative , a partnership of forestry and timber-processing sectors with environmentalists and educators. FEI aims to increase understanding and appreciation, particularly among young people, of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products. FEI works with young people through its national network of local cluster groups.
First Steps grant scheme	A capital grant scheme (under development) with a focus mainly on small-scale woodland creation, plus some limited opportunities to protect and enhance existing woodlands.
Fly-tipping Action Wales (Tacllo Tipio Cymru)	A Welsh Assembly Government project, led by Environment Agency Wales, to deliver a long term reduction in fly-tipping, through business engagement, education, community action, targeted publicity measures and enforcement.
Forest School	An innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals of any age through regular positive outdoor experiences. Forest Schools in Britain have been developed and adapted from the original concept implemented in Sweden in the 1950s and developed throughout other Scandinavian and European countries.

Forests	Generally large areas of predominantly tree covered land.
FR	Forest Research , an agency of the Forestry Commission GB providing research, development and monitoring services to support UK forestry, the Forestry Commission and the policies of the UK Government and the devolved administrations.
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council , an international, non-governmental organisation which promotes the responsible management of forests. FSC runs a global forest certification scheme which allows consumers to identify, purchase and use timber and forest products produced.
FSW	Forest School Wales , a voluntary organisation supporting Forest School provision in Wales.
FUTUREforest	An INTERREG IV C European project which is looking at how trees and woodlands can adapt to the effects of climate change and provide opportunities for mitigation. It is a partnership of 7 European regions, including Wales, sharing experiences and ideas on water management, biodiversity, soil protection, natural risks, timber production and carbon management. FUTUREforest aims to identify the threats, weaknesses and strengths of Europe's forests as they face up to climate change; developing best management techniques to guide policy makers and stakeholders.
Glastir	A new Welsh Assembly Government environmental land management scheme, which in 2012 will replace five existing agri-environment schemes.
Global citizenship	The concept of citizenship at a global level, acknowledging one's responsibilities not only to other people but to the Earth itself. Global citizenship is about understanding the need to tackle injustice and inequality, and having the desire and ability to work actively to do so. It is about valuing the Earth as precious and unique, and safeguarding the future for those coming after us.
Heads of the Valleys programme	A 15-year regeneration strategy developed in partnership with five local authorities (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen) and other local stakeholders to tackle the root causes of economic inactivity and other key issues in the area, within the context of the Wales Spatial Plan.
HEG	Historic Environment Group was established in 2004 to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on action to benefit and promote the historic environment of Wales. It specifically identifies strategic issues and priorities for action. With CADW as chair and secretariat, members include the Civic Trust for Wales, CCW and the WLGA.
Institute for Rural Health	A UK-wide academic charity working to inform, develop and promote the health and well-being of rural people and their communities through research and projects, education and training, and policy analysis.
Invasive species	Non-indigenous unwanted plants and animals that adversely affect habitats they invade (economically, environmentally or ecologically) often to the detriment of native species.

Lantra	The Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries works across the whole of the UK.
Llais y Goedwig	Formally launched in February 2009, Llais y Goedwig is an association supporting and representing community woodlands in Wales.
Local Access Forums	The 29 Local Access Forums in Wales have a statutory function under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to provide advice, and to discuss the improvement and management of public access. Recreational access of all types will be taken into consideration, including walking, horse riding, and cycling.
National Forest Inventory	A periodic national survey identifying woodland cover; woodland by ownership; and woodland by Interpreted Forest Type. A wide range of information is gathered, including tree species, age and stocking density.
Native species	A species that arrived in Wales without the assistance of humans during post-glacial colonisation.
Native woodland	Woods mainly or entirely composed of locally native species.
Open Habitat	A habitat where there is no (or limited) tree cover e.g. Bog, heath and grassland.
PAWS	Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites are former Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands (ASNW) that have been more or less completely replanted with native or non-native species, degrading the ecological value of the site. The degree of loss of biodiversity varies markedly with species planted and subsequent management.
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification , an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which promotes sustainably-managed forests through independent, third party certification.
Plant!	Welsh Assembly Government initiative to plant a tree for every new baby and adopted child in Wales from 1 January 2008, helping to create a Welsh National Forest of native trees.
Play Wales (Chwarae Cymru)	The national organisation for children's play in Wales, an independent charity funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The aim is to act as a champion for children's play, and to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of play in the health and well-being of children.
Priority open habitats	Habitats identified as threatened and subject to a UK BAP. These include upland heathland, blanket bog, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland meadows and lowland calcareous grassland.
Priority species and priority woodland species	Species identified as threatened, and subject to a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Priority woodland species in Wales include the spotted flycatcher, wood warbler, black grouse, bullfinch, red squirrel, dormouse and several species of bat.
Priority woodland habitats and priority native woodland habitats	Woodland habitats identified as threatened, and subject to a UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The priority woodland habitats in Wales are upland oak woodland; upland mixed ash woodland; wet woodland; lowland beech and yew woodland; and lowland mixed broadleaf woodland.

Production forecast	Forecast of timber availability in the public and private sectors.
PSPFG	Private Sector Production Forecasting Group (FCGB) of representatives and woodland managers develops forecasts of timber availability for the private woodland sector.
Public Health Wales	A National Health Service Trust, established in 2009. Public Health Wales was established as an NHS Trust on 1 October 2009. It brings together the following organisations and services: Congenital Anomaly Register and Information Service (CARIS), National Public Health Service Wales (NPHS), Screening Services Wales - Antenatal Screening Wales, Breast Test Wales (BTW), Bowel Screening Wales (BSW), Cervical Screening Wales (CSW), Newborn Hearing Screening Wales, Wales Centre for Health, Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU).
RDP	The Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013 is the mechanism by which the Welsh Assembly Government will deliver activities which support the countryside and rural communities, thereby encouraging the sustainable management of agriculture and the environment.
Real World Learning Cymru	A partnership organisation that supports and promotes the delivery of out of classroom learning.
ROWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plans , which local highway authorities in Wales are required to produce (under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). ROWIPs are intended to cover a 10-year period, providing a prioritised plan for the improvement of the local rights of way network for all users.
Section 42 list	Defined by the National Assembly for Wales under Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, this is the definitive list of habitats and species of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales.
Semi-natural woodland	Woodlands with current stands predominantly composed of trees and shrubs native to the site and not obviously planted (there are no truly 'natural' woods remaining in the UK), which appear to have arisen mainly from natural regeneration or from coppice/pollard growth from naturally-regenerated individuals.
Silviculture	The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.
SRF	Short Rotation Forestry , the cultivation of fast-growing trees for 8 – 20 years. The trees are often coppiced.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest , a conservation designation denoting an area in Britain protected for its wildlife or geology.

Strategic Regeneration Areas	Areas designated by the Welsh Assembly Government, where there is a focus on integrated, cross-cutting initiatives aimed at economic development and regeneration.
Substitution	The use of materials, such as woodland products, as a replacement for (in this instance) materials that are derived from fossil fuels or produced using fossil fuels.
Supply Chain	A system of organisations, people, technology, activities, information and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to customer.
Sustainability	In a general sense, the capacity to maintain a certain process or state indefinitely. The concept of sustainability applies to all aspects of life on Earth and is commonly defined within ecological, social and economic contexts.
Sustainable forest management	'The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems' (Second Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Helsinki; 1993).
UKFS	UK Forestry Standard , the UK government's approach to sustainable forestry, sets out the criteria and standards for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK.
UKNWHAP	UK Native Woodland Habitat Action Plan
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Standard , an independent certification standard of sustainable woodland management in the UK. UKWAS is currently the central component of the forest certification programme operated in the UK by the Forest Stewardship Council.
Veteran tree	A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value culturally, within the landscape or for wildlife.
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government. Departments include: DCELLS - Department for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills DE&T - Department for the Economy and Transport DESH - Department for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing DRA - Department for Rural Affairs
Wales Environment Research Hub	Co-ordinates environmental research in Wales, to strengthen the evidence base for the Wales Environment Strategy. The Hub promotes collaboration between research providers in universities and research institutes, and users of research (primarily government and its agencies).

Wales Spatial Plan	A 20-year plan for the sustainable development of Wales - produced by the Welsh Assembly Government.
Water Framework Directive	A substantial piece of EC legislation designed to prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems, promote the sustainable use of water and reduce water pollution. It will be the major driver for achieving sustainable management of water in the UK and other Member States.
WBP	Wales Biodiversity Partnership provides a leadership role and an expert steer on priorities for action on biodiversity in Wales.
WCVA	Wales Council for Voluntary Action represents the voluntary sector in Wales.
WEL	Wales Environment Link , the umbrella body for environmental organisations, is the officially-designated intermediary body between the government and the environmental non-governmental sector in Wales. WEL is a network of environmental and countryside non-governmental organisations, mostly with an all-Wales remit.
Welsh National Forest	All woodlands in Wales, the total of all Welsh woodlands, publicly and privately owned, now and in the future.
Welsh Soil Action Plan	A component of the Welsh Assembly Government's Environment Strategy identifying actions to be taken to protect and improve soils, which is to be published in 2010.
WFBP	Wales Forest Business Partnership , a voluntary grouping of businesses and other organisations across the forestry sector established to meet the objective of developing world-class forest product industries. Its members believe that collaborative activities undertaken by WFBP will strengthen the competitiveness of their businesses and of the forestry sector as a whole.
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association , representing the interests of local authorities in Wales. The three fire and rescue authorities, four police authorities and three national park authorities are associate members.
Woodland	Land where the ecological condition is, or will be, strongly influenced by the tree canopy. In terms of land cover statistics (in the UK), woodland is currently defined as land with trees where the mature trees would cover more than 20 per cent by area. Large tracts are generally called forests, smaller units are described in a variety of terms such as woodlands, woods, copses and shelterbelts, but there is no minimum size for a woodland.
Woodlands for Learning Forum	A partnership organisation which helps to maximise the use of woodlands for learning by steering developments, ensuring that these are attuned to the learning community's needs and making most effective use of limited resources.
WT	Woodland Trust , the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.