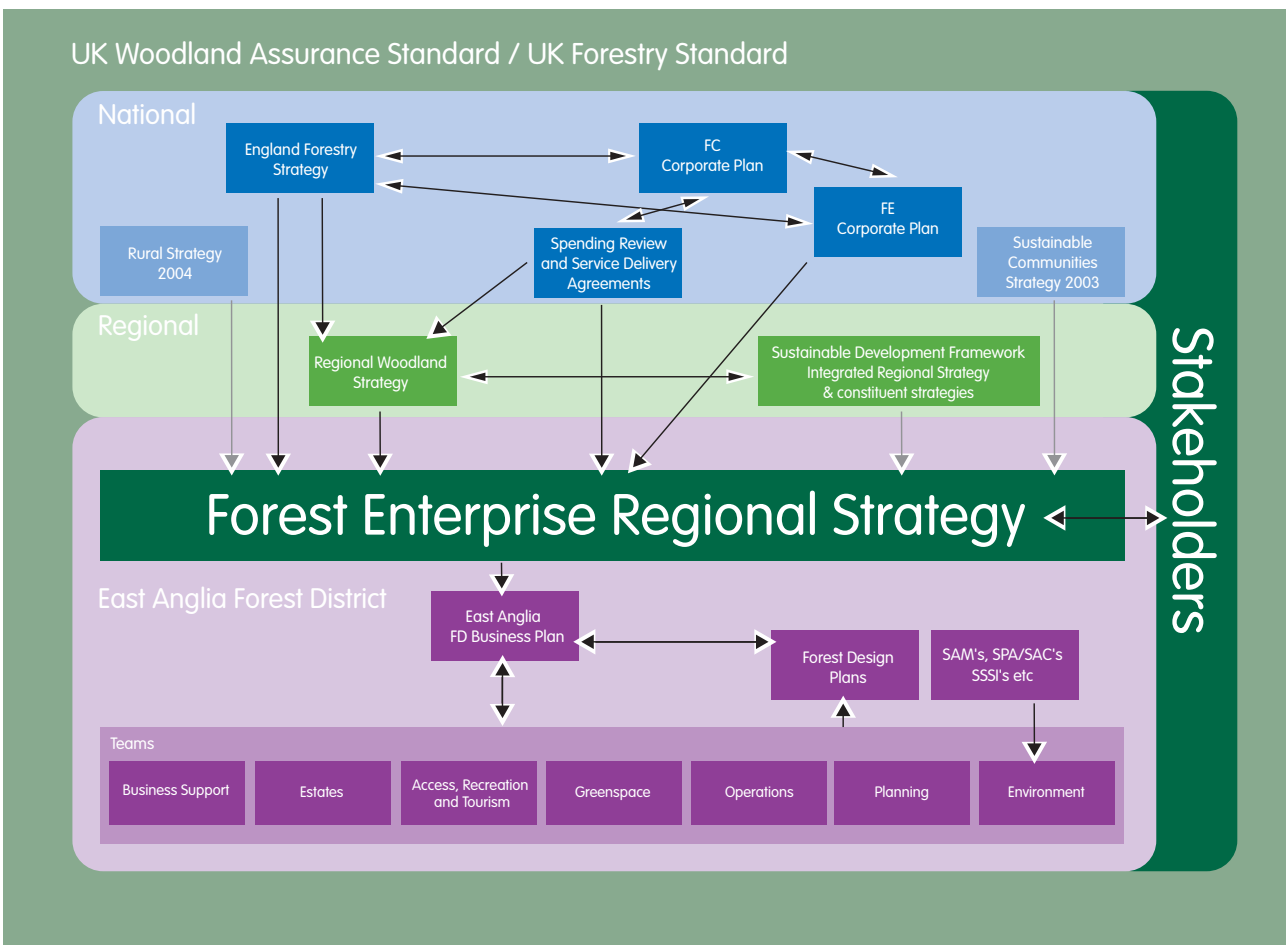


1. East Anglia Forest District Strategy

1.a Planning Issues

A wide range of national, regional and local issues have shaped the District's Strategy:



A strategic plan should not be unduly influenced by changes in the short-term but concentrate on taking the long view. This strategic plan has been based upon the core drivers for sustainable management (see Section 1.4 above), so that this District will consistently deliver its objectives. A fully sustainable position will only be achieved by securing a balance between the three principal drivers.

3.b UKFS/UKWAS defined

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) provides the framework for the protection and management of woodlands. This standard sets out the obligatory criteria for the sustainable management of all forests and woodlands in the UK. It is linked to developing international protocols for sustainable forestry.

The Government and organisations interested in sustainable forest management jointly developed the voluntary UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). The defining principle of UKWAS is the stewardship and use of woodland to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations. UKWAS is the audit protocol for the independent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) that enables timber from certified woodland to carry this logo and access markets that demand credible independent assurance that timber products come from sustainably managed sources.



As an independent measure of Forest Enterprise's commitment to sustainable forest management, all districts will continue to be audited against the UKWAS standard, so that districts' timber can carry the FSC logo.

3.c Overall corporate direction

The Forestry Commission estate is a national resource of exceptional value and potential. Forest Enterprise's responsibility is to use the estate to provide the greatest benefit to the public – for now and future generations.

The three guiding principles of Forest Enterprise are Public Benefit Delivery, Sustainable Management and Partnership. These principles are used in conjunction with the England Forestry Strategy to target improvements in the areas of economic development, social progress and environmental enhancement for the whole forest estate.

3.d The Regional Woodland Strategy

The East of England Regional Assembly and the Forestry Commission jointly published the Regional Woodland Strategy (RWS) on 27 November 2003. The RWS sits within a suite of strategies called the East of England Integrated Regional Strategy.

The RWS's core vision is:

“That trees and woodland be widely recognised as bringing high quality sustainable benefits to all who live and work in the East of England.”

Forest Enterprise is committed to the delivery of the Regional Woodland Strategy on the land it manages and in partnership with other organisations throughout the region.

Appendix 1:

District-relevant Regional Woodland Strategy objectives:

Note: While the South East England Forest District as a whole is committed to delivering on its own set of regional objectives, few of the Regional Woodland Strategy objectives are applicable to the District's Hertfordshire woods.

Regional Woodland Strategy (RWS) Objective – #1 Quality of Life

INITIATIVE		ACTION
QL 1 Support a strategic approach to access provision, to ensure that woodland is an integral part of wider greenspace and access strategies and programmes.	QL1c	Create high quality waymarked routes suitable for all, additional information for visitors and improved facilities at key sites.
	QL2a	Support and promote , "green exercise" through primary care trusts, community partnerships and local woodland owners.
QL2 Raise the awareness of the benefits of woodland for health and wellbeing.	QL2b	Use flagship initiatives to demonstrate the benefits of woodland for health.
	QL4a	Share examples of best practice in community involvement in woodlands.
QL4 Support community engagement in woodland issues.	QL4b	Where appropriate, involve local communities in woodland planning, design, establishment and management.
	QL4c	Encourage Local Strategic Partnerships to include trees and woodland issues in Community Strategies.
	QL4d	Create new community woodlands.

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
Programmes in hand by both Greenspace and ART teams	Key deliverable of recreation and access programme.	Provision of on-site information
Programmes in hand by Access, Recreation & Tourism (ART)	Supported by recreation and access; and community engagement, and Sustainable Communities programmes but not a key deliverable	
Programmes in hand by both Greenspace and ART teams	Supported by recreation and access; and community engagement programmes but not a key deliverable	
Active volunteer programmes being pursued by Greenspace ART, Environment Teams	Supported by recreation and access; and community engagement, and Sustainable Communities programmes but not a key deliverable	Impetus behind informing communities about woodland management
Greenspace ART, Environment, Planning	Key deliverable for all programmes	Information programme underway
Greenspace ART, Environment	Supported by all programmes, but not a key deliverable.	
Greenspace ART, Environment	Aspiration under the Sustainable Communities programme but dependent upon appropriate opportunities coming forward	

Appendix 1:

District-relevant Regional Woodland Strategy objectives:

RWS Objective – #2 Spatial Planning		
INITIATIVE		ACTION
SP1 Promote sustainable developments set within well-designed greenspace of which trees and woodland play a functional part.	SP1a	Develop and promote the Green Grid Strategy for the Thames Gateway South Essex.
	SP1b	Produce strategies for landscape protection and improvement within Milton Keynes & South Midland, London - Stansted - Cambridge, and other growth areas.
	SP1c	Produce a strategy for landscape improvement of London fringes of Essex and Hertfordshire that includes a high proportion of tree and woodland planting within a network of open green space "the Green Arc" vision.
	SP1d	Develop showcase exemplar sites for the creation of new woodland for public benefit in partnership with major developers and planning authorities.
	SP3 Create greener road corridors integrated into the wider landscape.	SP3b

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
Greenspace Team actively involved in Thames Chase		
Greenspace active	Supported by the Sustainable Communities and Ancient Woodland programmes but not a key deliverable.	
Greenspace and Environment Teams involved		
Greenspace team's advocacy programme underway	Aspiration under the Sustainable Communities programme but dependent upon appropriate opportunities coming forward	
Unofficial for EAFD & NFD	Unofficial for EAFD & NFD	

Appendix 1:

District-relevant Regional Woodland Strategy objectives:

RWS Objective – #3 Economic Development

INITIATIVE		ACTION
ED1 Encourage an increase in woodland-based tourism.	ED1b	Develop exemplars of best practice in tourism provision.
	ED1c	Increase the number of woodland visitor facilities.
ED3 Increase business competitiveness in the woodland and timber industries.	ED3f	Develop co-operative approaches to deer management and venison production.
	ED3g	Establish a quality assurance scheme for venison produced in the East of England.

INITIATIVE		ACTION
RE1 Promote the use of wood for heat generation.	RE1d	Make readily available methodology for the estimation of wood resource availability.

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
Access, Recreation & Tourism	Supported by the recreation and access; and ancient woodlands programmes	
Active ART programme underway	Key deliverable of recreation and access programme.	
Operations initiative continues	Supported by the ancient woodlands programme	
Operations	Supported by the ancient woodlands programme	

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
Operations programme underway	Supported by all the programmes	

Appendix 1:

District-relevant Regional Woodland Strategy objectives:

RWS Objective – #5 Education and Learning

INITIATIVE		ACTION
EL1 Develop opportunities for lifelong learning through trees and woodland.	EL1c	Establish exemplars of play and educational facilities within woodlands.
	EL1d	Improve interpretation at major woodland recreational sites.
	EL1f	Develop outreach work with minority, excluded and community groups to encourage woodland visits, structured guided walks, open days and similar participative events.

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
ART programme is underway	Key deliverable of the recreation and access; and community engagement programmes	
ART and Greenspace Team actively involved	Key deliverable of the recreation and access; and community engagement programmes	
Both ART and Greenspace teams have programmes underway	Key deliverable of the community engagement programme	

Appendix 1:

District-relevant Regional Woodland Strategy objectives:

RWS Objective – #6 Natural Environment		
INITIATIVE		ACTION
NE3 Promote the establishment and management of woodland within an integrated functional landscape to protect the historic environment and enhance biodiversity.	NE3a	Identify priority areas for both restoration and expansion of semi-natural woodland.
	NE3b	Identify and communicate actual and potential sites for heathland re-creation and wet woodland restoration.
	NE3c	Target woodland management and establishment at those areas identified in these mapping areas.
	NE3d	Promote base surveys and management plans to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment of woodlands.
	NE3e	Promote management activity in the region's woodland for biodiversity.
	NE3f	Encourage effective deer management at the landscape scale.
NE4 Help deliver Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans particularly through the management of native or ancient woodland, wood-pasture and veteran trees.	NE4a	Integrate national and local woodland Biodiversity Action Plans.
	NE4d	Improve the condition and quality of woodland Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, nature reserves and historic landscapes.

EAST ANGLIA FD	NORTHANTS FD	SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND FD
Environment & Planning teams	Supported by the ancient woodland and Sustainable Community programmes	
Environment & Planning teams	Supported by the ancient woodland and Sustainable Community programmes	
Environment Team	Supported by the ancient woodland and Sustainable Community programmes	
Environment & Planning teams	Supported by the ancient woodland, community engagement and Sustainable Community programmes	Restoration programme underway
Environment Team	Key deliverable of the ancient woodland programme	
Operation's programme in hand in co-operation with Environment Team	Key deliverable of the ancient woodland programme	Programme in hand
Operations & Environment teams	Key deliverable of the ancient woodland programme	Working with partners at Balls Wood nature reserve
Operations & Environment teams	Key deliverable of the ancient woodland programme	

Appendix 2:

The common development context:

East Anglia Forest District Strategy Issue	Regional Woodland Strategy	Forest Enterprise's Corporate Plan
	Renewable Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promote wood for timber generation 	
Economic	Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● increase woodland based tourism ● advance knowledge of sustainable timber & certification ● increase timber business competitiveness ● improve timber grown 	Economic Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● access improvements ● support timber business
Estates		
Greenspace	Spatial Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● promote greenspace development ● improve protection of trees and woodland ● create greener road corridors 	
Social	Quality of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support public access ● up awareness of woods' health & well-being benefits ● counter landscape degradation ● encourage community involvement with woodland 	Social Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● improved quality of life ● counteracting social exclusion ● encourage novel learning opportunities ● seek land regeneration
	Education & Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● develop woodland based lifelong learning 	
Environment	Natural Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● adapt to climate change ● promote integrated sustainable land management ● protect historic environments & enhance biodiversity ● help deliver BAP's 	Improved Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensure favourable SSSI's ● woodland restoration ● heathland restoration
Operational Issues		Managing Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sustainable forest management ● use of renewable energy & sustainability ● efficiency & cost-effectiveness ● safety practices ● adherence to Investors in People

England Forestry Strategy

Service Delivery Agreements (PSAs)

Forestry for Rural Development

- agricultural reform
- strategic development of woodland resources
- develop rural economy
- encourage diverse use of woodland resource

Rural Development

- promote sustainable use of the woodland resource
- set targets for improving woodland/forestry businesses

Forestry for Economic Regeneration

- land regeneration
- RDA connection exploited
- increase woodland
- environment improvements

Economic Regeneration

- improve disadvantaged urban community environments
- create new woodlands

Forestry for Recreation, Access & Tourism

- increase access
- improve access information
- enhance the estate
- promote understanding & education

Access, Recreation & Tourism

- promote active lifestyle
- increase environmental awareness
- increase rate of day visits

Forestry for Environment & Conservation

- protect woodland
- promote environmental benefits of woodland
- use BAP's to guide conservation
- protect cultural heritage

Environment & Conservation

- improve conditions of SSSI's
- implement BAP's and HAP's
- improve numbers of specific bird species

Sustainable Development

- achieve positive trends in sustainable forestry indicators
- prepare regional expressions of the EFS
- create new woodlands
- grow the UKWAS certified area