

# The long-term role of the Forestry Commission England Public Forest Estate: consultation.

## National consultation event.

The aim of the event was to stimulate discussion on the issues raised by the consultation, allow people to hear the views of others and to encourage people to submit a written response to the consultation.

## Details

Date of meeting: 14 July 2009

Location: National Exhibition Centre (NEC) Birmingham

Number attending: 52

Chair: Paul Hill-Tout, Director, Forestry Commission England.

Forestry Commission England National Committee attendee(s): Sir Harry Studholme, Keith Oates, Dr Tayo Adebawale (also chair of Working Group, led the plenary discussion).

Study Working Group attendee(s): Rob Cooke, Natural England; Stuart Goodall, Confederation of Forest Industries; and Mike Wood, Wildlife and Countryside Link.

## Key points raised during whole meeting discussion

Many of the consultation questions are yes/no but many of the response will be qualified with a "but" and these nuances will need to be teased out in the analysis

There is inherent cost pressure within the existing plans from declining timber income and growing environmental and social programmes.

A substantial and as yet un-quantified potential income could come from the carbon market.

Potential trade-off between pursuing carbon objectives and other objectives particularly social objectives.

Important role for the Public Forest Estate is to lead the forestry sector both in terms of professional expertise and also in the way in which the infrastructure is used to demonstrate and promote standards and innovation throughout the sector.

Need to separate out issues for the whole sector and those most pertinent to the Public Forest Estate.

Need to maintain multipurpose nature of the current approach.

Different business models are appropriate to the public forest estate and private sector.

# Public Forest Estate consultation

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Generally broad (if qualified) support for commercial activities on the estate with reservations expressed on wind power development and potential for inappropriate competition with the private sector.

Not all the responses will be positive about the current role of the Estate, such responses will be valued as part of a robust evidence base.

Following the consultation the Study team will keep participants updated on Study progress.

## Comment from Chair

No additional comments.

Note taker: Joe Watts. Project Manager, Public Forest Estate Study

Date notes finalised: 24 July 2009

To find out more go to [www.forestry.gov.uk/england-estatestudy](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-estatestudy) or contact:

Dominic Driver

Senior Projects Officer | Policy and Programmes Group | Forestry Commission  
620 Bristol Business Park | Coldharbour Lane | Bristol | BS16 1EJ  
0117 906 6003 | [pfe.consultation@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:pfe.consultation@forestry.gov.uk)