

A SUMMARY OF ACTION PLANNED OR UNDERWAY TO IMPLEMENT THE ENGLAND FORESTRY STRATEGY

Introduction

This paper is a summary of the actions being taken to implement the England Forestry Strategy since the last meeting of the Forum. It has been compiled from information supplied by Forum members. Actions are shown under each of the four programmes of the Strategy.

Up to this Forum Meeting a running update has been provided. However, due to its ever increasing length (27 pages in April 2003) it has been decided to only include new and revised actions since April in this report. All previous progress reports are available on the Forestry Commission web site at: www.forestry.gov.uk/englandforestryforum

The Forum is invited to note the contents of the tables.

Forestry Commission October 2003

Note:

The information in the following tables has been compiled by the Forestry Commission and includes information provided by other organisations that are members of the England Forestry Forum. Unless otherwise indicated (in square brackets after each entry), the information has been provided by the Forestry Commission.

The information that has been brought forward to help put new items and revisions in context is in normal text and additions and revisions are in italics.



ENGLAND FORESTRY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT – OCTOBER 2003

1. Forestry for Rural Development

Influencing Policies for Agricultural Reform	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Ensure that forestry will be considered in the development of rural programmes under the Agenda 2000 proposals for a new Rural Development Regulation.	
Support research into the implications of CAP reform for the transfer of land from farming to forestry.	
Support Strategic Development of Woodland Resources	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Publish a national woodland inventory to provide better information about England's woodland resources.	
Encourage new investment in the wood-processing sector by publishing forecasts of wood production and through our policies for regional development and support for rural economies.	
Encourage new investment in the wood-processing sector by publishing forecasts of wood production and through our policies for regional development and support for rural economies. (Contd.)	In National Parks a Sustainable Development Fund has been established, administered by the National Park Authorities to encourage projects which deliver community, economic and environmental benefits in support of National Park purposes. <i>In the first two years the Fund has amounted to £2.6 million and a variety of woodland and forestry projects are amongst early beneficiaries in the competition for these grants. These include specialist woodland and forest public access provision, a sawmill feasibility study, the use of wood chips for biomass heating, a pilot charcoal project, native tree seedling production, and a variety of schemes to encourage woodland management. Community and volunteer involvement, and educational links, feature in several cases, and numerous further applications to the Fund are expected.</i> [ANPA]
Ensure that the supply of timber from our woodland resources is available at the levels indicated in long-term forecasts.	<i>Forest Enterprise met its full Production Forecast commitment of 1.4 million m³ for softwood in 2002/03, representing 74% of total softwood production in England that year. Trading conditions continued to be very difficult with one major sawmill closure (Forest Garden). Despite this FE's production commitment has been a significant factor in generating major investments in at least four sawmills during the last year improving both capacity & efficiency and helping them to make further inroads against imported timber.</i>

<p>Continue to provide support for regional and local marketing initiatives, including small-scale and craft uses.</p>	<p>Forest Enterprise has worked in partnership with the CA to develop the Dean hardwoods project which has successfully placed locally-grown oak with Dean craftsmen.</p> <p><i>A contract is now being let by FE/CA to evaluate the project and assess its potential for replication elsewhere. [CA]</i></p> <p><i>As part of a wider FC/CA programme of work looking to increase consumer awareness of the impact that their purchasing decisions can have on England's woodlands a study has been commissioned to assess current marketing practice and to establish what relevant consumer awareness work (notably from the local food sector) has been developed elsewhere. [CA]</i></p> <p><i>Professor Collins (Reading University) is carrying out a survey of the availability of skilled craft workers across the country. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>The National Forest Company is working to stimulate, guide and develop a new woodland economy in The National Forest. An Action Plan has been developed for the period 2003-5 which includes: quantifying the woodland resource; undertaking a strategic economic assessment of the woodland resource; encouraging the development of a wood fuel user and supplier network; and undertaking certification of woodland owned by The National Forest Company [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>Quality hardwoods are sold through the annual Westonbirt auction organised by Rennie's & Forest Enterprise. This is England's premier hardwood sale event and attracted 70 buyers this year. It is open to private sellers, allowing smaller scale production to reach a national marketplace.</i></p>
<p>Extend the range of business advice, training and local support offered to woodland businesses, particularly small producers.</p>	<p><i>Advantage West Midlands: The Woodland Skills Baseline Report, December 2002-March 2003 This report is providing a clear direction on how the sector can develop and covered areas such as skills levels, infrastructure and training provision. Recommendations include priority skills development activity in business management and the provision of core skills. [RDA]</i></p>
<p>Develop Understanding of the Rural Economy</p>	
<p>Action Intended</p>	<p>Actions To Date And In Progress</p>
<p>Commission a study of the economic impacts of forestry in the rural economy.</p>	<p><i>The South West England Woodland and Forestry Strategy Economic Study has been . The study evaluated the sectors contribution to the regional economy, highlighting the limited direct value of timber processing but the significantly greater value in terms of non-timber uses and made a first approximation of the value of woodlands in environmental terms. The study recommendations include: addressing strategic forestry priorities through national and regional planning guidance, increasing public understanding of woodland and forestry, encouraging new markets to achieve effective woodland management, and developing stronger links between producers and users through marketing and advisory networks. [RDA]</i></p> <p>Executive summary available at: http://download.southwestrda.org.uk/file.asp?File=/regeneration/general/forestry-study-summary.pdf</p> <p><i>East of England Woodland Wealth Appraisal ("Wood Bank"). A baseline study to demonstrate the economic value of trees and woodlands to the region. EEDA co-funded the research during 2001/02. Woodland in the region worth around £680 million in "added value" terms to the region for both commercial products and quality of life benefits. [RDA] More details available at: http://www.woodlandforlife.net/wfl-woodbank/</i></p> <p><i>Advantage West Midlands: Regional Forestry Framework baseline. Regional partners share the ambition to develop a common Regional Forestry Framework. The existing information base was strong in some areas and less so in others. A contract was let to ENTEC and funded by AWM to ensure a consistent baseline of information existed for the region as a whole. This was produced in a summary format entitled "A Growing Resource" and circulated widely across the region. This in part laid the groundwork for our later work on the Regional Forestry Framework. [RDA]</i></p>



Encourage Diversification

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Support a targeted programme for short-rotation coppice planting and encourage the use of wood fuel for energy production using the most efficient technology.</p>	<p><i>The National Forest Company (NFC) is actively promoting the use of wood fuel for energy production within The National Forest. NFC is a partner in the Joint Action Plan for the development of Bio-energy in the East Midlands; and is facilitating cross boundary working on wood fuel between the East and West Midlands Regional Development Agencies and the Forestry Commission. [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>East England Development Agency: A 'Demand Audit for Wood-fuel Heating' to identify potential early adopters of wood-fuel heating and provide a basis for future development support that would help to deliver wider policy objectives. This will provide the basis for all parties to be informed as to the current general level of demand, and the opportunity to develop ten specific wood-heating projects. The scope of this study will include consideration of: the wood-fuel supply chain, boiler technology, identification of potential early adopters, individual property heating requirements, ten specific property energy audits with financial appraisal, summary of benefits, summary of policy deliverables. [RDA]</i></p> <p><i>Advantage West Midlands 'Embedding Woodland Industry In The West Midlands, March 2002' This report identified that the woodland industry was facing decline and recommended research into skills analysis and product diversification. The report concluded that the sector needed support to address its strategic issues and problems and develop its capacity. One of the very encouraging strands of activity developed from this work was the Wood Energy Programme developed. Working with the Forestry Commission, the Countryside Agency and input from the Government Office for the West Midlands, Advantage West Midlands commissioned DTZ Pieda Consulting to advise on how best to develop a wood energy programme for the West Midlands. The study provided a strategic approach to wood fuel in the region and from four regional energy projects a number of observations were made to develop the sector. One of the projects involved installing a wood fuel boiler in Worcestershire County Hall, which has demonstrated how wood fuel can be a viable heating option offering cost and resource savings for the public sector. [RDA]</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise is planning to install wood heating in a number of new buildings: Kielder Village: wood heating will be installed to heat Kielder Castle, new workshop units and several private houses in 2004. Wood heating is planned for the following projects currently in the planning phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rockingham Forest Heritage Centre & Northants Forest District Offices at Fineshade</i> • <i>Wyre discovery centre & local authority projects in the area with Worcesterhsire CC</i> • <i>Part of the Forest of Neroche project, with Taunton Dean borough council</i> • <i>Bedgebury National Pinetum & Education centre</i>



2. Forestry for Economic Regeneration

Promote Forestry for Land Regeneration	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Promote the role of forestry in the restoration of former industrial land by supporting research to develop cost-effective methods of establishing woodlands and establishing a national network of sites demonstrating best practice.	<p><i>Forest Enterprise has created or is currently developing a total of over 3,500 ha of urban regeneration and community woodland. Centred on the Nottingham coalfield, Thames Chase, Mersey and Red Rose Community Forests and the National Forest, new woods have also been created in most community forests.. Early sites (Rosliston in the National Forest is over twelve years old) now demonstrate the original vision whilst the value of new woodland in regenerating the environment for people's lives, business and the image of areas previously blighted by dereliction has moved to the centre of the regeneration agenda in several parts of the country.</i></p> <p><i>The Capital Modernisation Fund has achieved over three years in the three Community Forests – Thames Chase, Red Rose and Mersey an investment of £14 million, creating 33 new woods (1.3 million trees) and 75km of all-ability path. 40% of this was achieved on derelict or despoiled land.</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise's five-year partnership with Yorkshire Forward and Doncaster Metropolitan Council saw the first planting in the South Yorkshire coalfield in 2003 at the 102 ha Bentley colliery.</i></p> <p><i>A Partnership between the Forestry Commission, Thames Chase Community Forest, the Corporation of London's Epping Forest and the Lea Valley Country park, the Green Arc project is proposing to bring the benefits of extensive access countryside and woodland to the Government's major urban developments in the Thames Gateway. Built into the planning for extensive housing for key workers in the capital, Green Arc aims to bring the quality of life benefits of accessible countryside to the core of the development approach.</i></p>
Promote a decision making framework for the design, planning and site preparation requirements of woodland establishment on former industrial land and use this as a basis for Government funded work.	
Consider the need for longer-term support and management of woodlands on former industrial land and explore new ways of securing their future.	<p>The Forestry Commission is working with English Partnerships, Groundwork, the Environment Agency and the RDAs to create a National Land Restoration Trust. The LRT will restore, hold and manage land for the benefit of society and the environment. It will act with local communities to implement soft end uses for previously industrial land, turning these sites into assets for local people and attractive settings for new economic activity.</p> <p>The Land Regeneration Trust is expected to be formally created before the end of the year. The Sustainable Communities plan has given the Trust a target of 1500 hectares (over three years) of brownfield land to be restored and managed as public green open space.</p> <p><i>The evaluation report for the CMF project 'Community Forestry delivering sustainable regeneration' was published in April, Led by Paul Selman of the University of Gloucester Countryside & Community Unit, the report concluded that 'the overall value for money of the project is favourable ' and 'we consider it likely that the annual public benefit deriving from the project will exceed £4000/ha/pa'.</i></p>



Act directly through the Forestry Commission acquiring and managing land in regeneration partnerships.	<i>Forest Enterprise are partners in the development of plans for the £10m regeneration of Broughton Moor near Whitehaven in Cumbria. The intention is to re-develop this 430 hectare former MOD ammunition depot to a mixture of soft and hard end uses including woodland and public open space.</i>
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Support Regional Programmes

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Encourage the Regional Development Agencies to use forestry and woodland programmes in implementing their objectives.	<i>The Forestry Commission and North West Development Agencies £23m 'Newlands' project was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Forestry Commission Chairman in July 2003. The project aims to restore over 400 ha of brownfield land, all of it strategically located and much severely damaged</i> <i>A £7.8million integrated rural development project is being developed in the Wyre Forest with Advantage West Midlands. It aims to modernise and expand the forest's successful discovery centre, including expansion of education facilities, encourage woodland management throughout Wyre forest, not just on FE's 1,075ha 'core' area, develop the use of woodfuel at both Wyre itself and in surrounding public buildings such as schools and create a range of new businesses and jobs. Effectively combining environment, economy and social aspects this is a pioneer for future integrated development projects.</i>
Encourage the development of new urban forestry initiatives which can demonstrate achievement through partnership approaches.	

Promote Forestry Through Land Use Planning

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Review Circular 36/78 on Trees and Forestry and consider, as part of a rolling programme, how the role of woodlands might be highlighted through regional and national planning guidance.	<i>PPS 7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas is now out for public consultation until end of 2003. Forestry is included at paragraph 33 of the document. The consultation document is available on the Internet at: www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_023936.hcsp</i>
Review the guidance in Minerals Planning Guidance Note 7 in due course and if necessary amend this to reflect revised forestry policy.	
Work closely with mineral and waste planning authorities to ensure that Government forestry policies are fully reflected in development plans.	
Work with the minerals and waste industries to encourage consideration of forestry as an after-use at an early stage of planning development.	

<p>Seek opportunities to consider how the setting of future built development might be enhanced by the incorporation of wooded and other green elements, and how to encourage such development through planning guidance.</p>	
<p>Promote Environmental Improvements</p>	
<p>Action Intended</p>	<p>Actions To Date And In Progress</p>
<p>Create new woodlands along transport corridors as part of a programme of environmental improvements.</p>	<p><i>English Nature has worked with the Highways Agency on producing guidance on improving new woodland as a habitat through ground flora introductions. [EN]</i></p>



3. Forestry for Recreation, Access and Tourism

Increase Access to Woodlands	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Draw on the Forestry Commission's report on woodland access in England in implementing the Strategy.	<p>English Nature is producing information on the impact of increased access on nature conservation interests in woods and is reviewing which SSSIs may need some restrictions placed on access as a consequence. <i>It is also reviewing access to its own reserves. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>Dedication of Access Land Regulations published in September 2003 following the CROW Act of 2000 allowing land owners to dedicate land (particularly woodland around which the regulations were primarily drafted) voluntarily for public access [WT].</i></p>
Target grants to increase the opportunities available to visit woodlands, particularly in areas where there are shortages of access.	
Promote a network of forest tracks suitable for cycling as part of the National Cycle Network and our Integrated Transport Strategy.	
Improve the Quality of Information About Access	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
In partnership with woodland owners and others, explore ways of making up-to-date information available on woodlands to visit and improve the quality of information, building on the Forestry Commission's Walkers Welcome package.	<p>The provisional database of accessible woodland is due to be completed at the end of May 2003. [WT]</p> <p>The National Forest does much to promote woodlands to visit. <i>An access pack promotes 158 new woodlands with open access and a Forest Walks' Pack promotes 15 routes that link new and existing woodlands. In addition the National Forest OS Explorer map indicates woodlands with access. Guides have also been produced promoting cycling, horseriding and disabled access. [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>The partnership between Forestry Commission England and the Woodland Trust has completed the development of a provisional database of accessible woodland. This will provide a degree of strategic information about the quality and quantity of currently accessible woodland in England. A report on the database and its compilation will be published by the end of 2003 and a simple web site will provide background information on the project. While it is not intended to make the inventory available publicly at present, further refinement and updating is planned. [WT]</i></p>
Enhance the Nation's Forest Estate	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Give priority to acquiring freeholds of leasehold land in areas close to centres of population, particularly in the Community Forests and the National Forest, when there is a shortage of existing woodland access.	



<p>Develop the Forestry Commission's Woodland Park network close to towns and cities.</p>	
<p>Work in partnership with sports' governing bodies to accommodate noisy or intrusive recreation in suitable woodlands and relieve pressure on sensitive sites.</p>	
<p>Improve recreational and other facilities through private sector partnerships.</p>	<p><i>The National Forest Company works extensively with private landowners to create new recreation facilities. 30 new facilities have been created including fishing lakes, orienteering, mountain bike and carriage driving courses and the re-watering of part (2 km) of the Ashby de la Zouch canal. [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>The East England Development Agency has appointed a Social Development Advisor to represent and advise the Forestry Commission on social inclusion policy issues across the region and to facilitate partnership projects on access, health and education [RDA]</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise is modernising its major forest centres through a series of partnership projects.</i></p> <p><i>Whinlatter Forest Centre was re-opened in 2003 after a £400,000 modernisation, part of over £1m of regional and European funding supporting the development of the Lake District Osprey project. By the end of 2003 the Ospreys had reared a total of four young, been seen by over 250,000 visitors and generated an estimated £2m per annum to the local economy. The project is recognised as an outstanding exemplar of modern rural development, with enthusiastic local support.</i></p> <p><i>In partnership with the Hindes, our catering franchisees, FE launched 'Maples' restaurant at Westonbirt National Arboretum. A major addition to visitor services, the business has had a successful first summer. A modern building in home-grown softwood, Maples is an effective exemplar for the architectural use of wood and the project has generated ten new jobs.</i></p> <p><i>FE are currently developing plans and funding packages for centres at Bedgebury National Pinetum, Delamere Forest (Cheshire), Wyre Forest Centre, Dalby (Yorkshire), Grizedale (Lake District), Cannock (West Midlands), Sherwood Pines (Notts), Alice Holt (Hants) and would expect to deliver at least one project per annum over the next five years.</i></p> <p><i>Modernised under the government's biggest ever investment in forest tourism, Deer Park Cabins (Cornwall) have completed their first full summer season and Keldy (Yorkshire) re-opened in September. The £10 million CMF project has brought the successful cabins concept into the new century with bigger, superbly equipped, attractive wooden cabins. The importance of our forests to tourism was recognised during FMD in the North Yorks Moors in 2001 and the modernisation of the cabins has been welcomed as a significant boost to the area's economy.</i></p> <p><i>New sites at Sherwood, Moors Valley (Dorset) and Grizedale joined the original Go-Ape high ropes course at High Lodge, Thetford. A rare genuinely new and exciting idea, Go-Ape is already a significant employer with up to five full-time equivalent jobs at each site. Go-Ape has won the 2003 NFU award for best new rural attraction.</i></p>



Promote Better Understanding

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Support research into the economic contribution that woodlands and forests make to tourism and the potential for forest-based tourism initiatives to benefit local communities.	<i>East England Development Agency: Commercial recreation toolkit. To demonstrate how recreation can provide a financial return to private woodland owners. This will collate information on existing demonstration sites, give information on how to develop a business plan and carry out market testing, plus give practical advice on liability, management, grants availability etc. [RDA]</i>
Engage with the public to promote the benefits of trees, woods and forests.	<p><i>The Tree Council's Tree News was relaunched in 2001 with financial help from Dennis Publishing and is now a full colour twice yearly magazine on sale in high street retailers. Woodland Trust's Broadleaf magazine now reached 125,000 Woodland Trust members. [WT]</i></p> <p><i>The Woodland Trust/Centre for Ecology and Hydrology phenology project to promote public involvement in scientific recording of natural events in the calendar especially those linked to woodland wildlife now has over 20,000 volunteer recorders (see http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/phenology). [WT]</i></p> <p><i>Over the next three years the National Forest Company is developing the LANDshapes – Heritage in the Making project. This initiative aims to draw together and record the history of the Forest area. Its key focus is community involvement with the aim of developing oral and written histories about the area and education initiatives. [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise's FSC certification for all its timber production also ensures that processors can access all markets as interest in the procurement of sustainable timber grows. Iggesund who are the major carton board manufacturer, selling mainly into the food industry, hold regular joint events with FE where they bring customers to our forests in the Lake District to demonstrate sustainable forestry. These visits prove to customers on the ground that far from destroying forests their use of sustainably produced wood is supporting a thriving economy, a forest rich in wildlife and recreation for hundreds of thousands of people.</i></p> <p><i>FE are establishing links between the FC website and timber customers, for example Gidding's sawmills, to publicise the availability of certified, home grown timber and to reinforce the link between woodland management and timber products.</i></p>
Support the Forest Education Initiative by developing the national network of local groups to encourage children and young people to better understand the importance of woods and forests.	<i>A Forest Education Initiative funded pilot of bird boxes for schools in partnership with The Hawk and Owl Trust in the south west has just been awarded £47,000 Lottery funding towards a two- year, £55,000 project to put boxes into 50 schools, including a webcam in every tenth box.</i>



4. Forestry for the Environment and Conservation

Protect Existing Woodlands	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Review the effectiveness of the existing measures for protecting ancient semi-natural woodlands and, if necessary, introduce new measures for giving them added protection.	<p><i>A further tranche of woodland sites are being proposed to go forward for protection under the European Habitat and Species Directive in 2003. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>English Nature have followed up the Woodland Trust/WWF report 'Development Threats to Ancient Woodland' with further work on how planning authorities deal with ancient woodland issues (EN Research Report 536, 2003). Support was given to the Ancient Tree Forum for their review of veteran trees on development sites [EN]</i></p> <p><i>Proceedings from the Future of Deer conference held in March 2003 have been published as an EN Research Report 548, 2003 [EN]</i></p> <p><i>Woodland Trust database of ancient woods under threat from development currently contains more than 200 live cases covering approximately 2200 hectares. Current proposals for airports expansion has been assessed by the Woodland Trust as directly affecting or damaging approximately 1000 hectares. [WT]</i></p>
Seek opportunities for encouraging the replacement of woodland lost to development with equivalent areas of new planting.	<p><i>A technical bulletin on landscape scale restoration of forest landscapes has been published by the Forestry Commission in conjunction with the British Ecological Society. [EN]</i></p>
Introduce Long-Term Plans to guide the management of woods and forests.	<p><i>English Nature achieved certification of its woodland reserves to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. [EN]</i></p>
Promote the Environmental Benefits of Trees and Woodlands	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Support research to improve understanding of the value of the environmental benefits of trees, woodlands and forests and the environmental processes that they perform, particularly in relation to aerial and water borne pollution.	
Promote greater appreciation of the broad environmental benefits of trees and woods to practitioners, decision makers and the public.	<p><i>The Woodland Trust is undertaking a literature review and easy to read promotional synthesis of benefits of woodland for funding bodies and decision makers in fields not usually related to woodland by end of 2003. [WT]</i></p> <p><i>Three partnership sites: the Lakes Ospreys, Symonds Yat Peregrines and Rockingham Kites were the most popular sites in the RSPB 'Aren't Birds Brilliant' project, attracting over 200,000 visitors in 2003. English Nature and the Lake District National Park Authority were also partners.</i></p>



<p>Promote greater appreciation of the value and use of locally-native trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>A partnership of the UK wildlife and countryside agencies have commissioned research that looked at the potential roles of new native forests and wildwoods in upland land use and landscapes. Details of the research are available at: www.lupg.org.uk. This research has been followed up by a second phase of work which is looking at how incentive mechanisms might be used to support such a change in land use and at establishing an information network for 'new wildwoods' and similar 'wildland' projects. This work is due to report Spring 2003. [CA]</p> <p><i>Report now available at; http://www.lupg.org.uk/pubs</i></p> <p><i>A project has been started to look at the potential for using large herbivores to manage landscapes for biodiversity under more free-ranging regimes based around the Dutch nature conservation models [EN].</i></p>
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Use the Biodiversity Action Plan to Guide Nature Conservation

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Establish a framework for monitoring important woodland habitats and species linked to the National Biodiversity Network.</p>	<p><i>The preliminary results of English Nature's re-survey of 103 woods (was 90) have been published EN Research Report 460. Full results will be available in summer 2004 [EN]</i></p> <p><i>Subsequent work to the MONARCH climate change project has looked in more detail at the potential for beech woodland plant communities to re-establish in northern England if conditions become unsuitable in the south (EN Research Report 528). [EN]</i></p>
<p>Establish a framework for monitoring important woodland habitats and species linked to the National Biodiversity Network.</p>	<p><i>The Forest Enterprise survey of ancient woodland has now been developed into a reporting system for FE's ancient woodland restoration programme. The report found a total AW resource of 53,128 ha of which 15,952 is ASNW and 35,426 of PAWS. Of 1,750 ha of 'other habitats' 637 ha of Norway Spruce felling in Northants is already under recovery to native woodland. The report 'Ancient Woodland on the Forestry Commission Estate in England' is available from Forest Enterprise national office at Bristol</i></p>
<p>Establish an English Native Woodlands Partnership to co-ordinate and implement links between the Forestry Strategy and the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	
<p>Target grants through the Woodland Grant Scheme to reverse the fragmentation of existing native woodlands, conserve priority species, and help with the preparation of management plans for semi-natural woods</p>	

Protect Cultural Heritage

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Work with archaeological authorities and others to identify sites of historical importance, to make sure that proposals for new planting that might affect such sites are evaluated before applications are determined.</p>	

