

## Synopsis of comments received from stakeholders

Comments are in no particular order. Many responses received by the end of May 2008 were highly detailed and this is only a brief synopsis and it may not reflect the comments precisely. Comments may be amalgamated or compiled from more than one response and so are not necessarily attributed here to individuals or organisations.

<b>Main issues</b>
Local authorities need bigger profile as deliverers
Hedgerows largely absent from document. Archaeology not mentioned. Preservation of remains in situ is important - need better assessment/ management. Education opportunity. Restoring ancient woods may threaten remains.
Regional Development Agencies need to be influenced nationally also Green Infrastructure / forestry increases attractiveness for investment.
Rural Development Plan for England Axis 1&3 opportunity needs to be a pivotal activity. Forest Enterprise actions need to be proofed against policy - especially woodfuel.
Specific actions contributed.
Urban trees importance, especially for engagement and support Local Authorities. Major on capitalising on neighbourhood trees to galvanise support. Need to build on learning and initiatives for long term revenue funding. Brand opportunity for English/ British grown wood? Specific actions contributed.
Specific actions contributed.
Confusion of national/ regional roles. Regional Forestry Frameworks are important for regions. Sustainable land use debate absent. Profitable timber/ wood production is foundation and needs to be strengthened. Trees and hedgerows generally absent. Hardwood won't do much for construction. Why are 40% of conifers not harvested? Integrate Climate Change with regional Climate Change Action Plans. Support and suggestions for Aim 5. Regional Development Agencies will engage as appropriate for their region.
Comments mainly relevant to Aim 3 re Biodiversity Action Plans, England Biodiversity Strategy , need for Open Ground targets, lack of references to biodiversity in aims 1,2,4,5. Biodiversity should not be limited to 'ecosystem services'. Insufficient action re rare threatened species Need to include Natura 2000 sites not just Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Error in statements re woodland bird decline. CC mitigation should not be a badge for woodland creation/ retention on other UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats.
Small Woods Association to be a delivery partner. Private woodland owners should be engaged in social forestry and economic viability of woods. Specific actions contributed.
A challenging offer to FC/ DEFRA.
FWAG has a delivery role in Aim 2, 3, 4, 5. Public benefit needs clarifying - not just 'access'. Creation of undisturbed well managed woods important. Lifestyle owners need to be engaged. Pest species are collective responsibility. H&S and insurance barrier to public enjoyment.
Shooting is an important economic activity - good practice available. Woodland can be well managed for shooting and wildlife (not all are). Recreation is imp for business and markets. Specific actions contributed.
Support for work on problem species. Specific actions contributed.
Regional/ local activity is important. Trees are important in their own right. Woodland Initiatives can help on the ground but need resources. Climate Change Actions are long term - don't be too hasty. Work with woodland owners is important. Historic environment actions not mentioned e.g. LIDAR. Need balance between harvesting and sustainable management e.g. woodfuel as means to an end. Specific actions contributed.
Needs more cross referencing to avoid silos. AONB management plans are important for delivery. FC/ AONB accord should be referred to. Protection of existing woodland not specifically referred to. AONBs will be important delivery partners.
Green Infrastructure welcomed. Regional landscape assessments and spatial planning are important. Don't be specific about mentioning delivery partners - or if so, mention Ancient Woodland Policy! Local authorities are important delivery partners.
Expand area of woodland to increase timber production for construction - security of supply.

<p>Education/ awareness important for understanding woodland management (inc tree removal). Local communities could be more prominent, not an afterthought. Historic environment organisations should be mentioned. Link between Green Infrastructure opportunities and disadvantaged communities is not a given. Strengthen links to local communities. Capacity building is important within organisations as well as in communities. Work with those partners who do have credibility.</p>
<p>Needs to identify resources, give priorities, be more measurable, outcome focused and SMART. Climate Change is too much about micro-management in woods - insufficient about habitat networks. Some key points lacking in 'Where we are'. No further loss of Ancient Woodland and 'large proportion of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites should be in restoration'. No reference to ability of population to access woodland - and should be mirrored in 'where we want to be'. Wooded greenspace in new urban landscape should be much stronger. Need buy in from DCLG; also mention of Eco-towns.</p>
<p>Agree to spatial framework approach and willing to work together. Role of woods in flood risk management (Climate Change Context) needs better information/ targeting -willing to work together on this. Also need for and opportunities to carry out joint research. Support greater role for woods in review of Environmental Stewardship / Rural Development Plan for England re floods/ sediment control. Role of wet woods in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems should be developed/ promoted further. Priority for research/ evidence/ pilot projects re woodland role in Water Framework Directive &amp; Soils strategy. Catchment Sensitive Farming should link Flood Risk Management to targeting woodland creation.</p>
<p>Landscape Character analysis is not comprehensive and do not all cover Historic Landscapes Characterisation - need to recognise. Evidence/ remains in woods are a tool for public appreciation/ awareness/ education and should be part of evidence/ research. English Heritage / Local Authority Historic Environment Services should be listed as partners throughout. Historic environment/ landscape character needs to be taken into account re Climate Change / natural environment. Suggestions for wording to incorporate protection of historic environment assets. Role of Local Authorities in quality of life highlighted and role regarding planning. Growth (reducing barriers) not at the expense of non-renewable resources such as historic environment.</p>
<p>Whole farm/ landscape approach needed to address risks/ opportunities from wildlife. Some species declining, others e.g. deer are thriving. Extending public access should not be at the expense of wildlife and habitats. Need appropriate support/ incentives to achieve management outcomes. Wildlife (including deer) should be in balance with natural, social and economic requirements of woods. Support current partnerships that are effective; strengthen/ create new re rivers and water. Current &amp; projected deer densities are a significant threat to productivity.</p>
<p>A wide range of specific actions contributed.</p>
<p>Need to be more up front about wildlife in and that uses of woods and forests are part of the plan not just focus on trees and timber products. Should be clearer links through the document on where we are, to where we want to be, to pivotal actions. Ecosystem services needs clarification.</p>
<p>Several points about managing for species, especially bats also value of landscape scale approach, engaging people through bat counts. Training opportunities/ skills development for woodland managers in species management needed. Regulation should refer to protected species and any changes should not be detrimental to biodiversity. Specific actions contributed.</p>
<p>Street trees important and aim to incorporate in new communities - but not without problems. Wish to work to challenge agencies to accommodate trees. Also wish to work with Highways Agency, estate management companies. Design led approach can include trees. Trees useful for car parking areas but need advice on safety/ crime reduction. Welcome advice on species and wish to support research on shade/ cooling benefits of trees. Code for Sust Homes is an opportunity for biomass Combined Heat and Power, also building materials of wood/ Forest Stewardship Council. Need advice on accredited sources of biomass. Long term management via communities and managing agents are important. Opportunity in Eco Towns programme for Green Infrastructure corridors. Mapping data could be shared better - willing to investigate. Keen to work with FC.</p>
<p>Many references to ECF as delivery partner. Local authorities &amp; universities also should be partners. Specific actions contributed.</p>
<p>In some areas the majority of wood are not in management; control of deer is a prerequisite. Welcome 2020 management objective. Biodiversity not mentioned and targets should be given. Good (and bad) practice examples can help educate owners.</p>

<p>Need greater clarity on opportunities Trees, Woods and Forests can make with planning/ development, also development in woodland. Need to show link to national curriculum. Decline in hardwood is about quality - biodiversity and quality can be achieved together, e.g. squirrel control. Specific actions contributed.</p>
<p>Draft is complicated. Too much skew on natural environment, not enough on landscape conservation and design. Reversal of policy? Reference to Forest Design Plans? Need reference to quality landscape design throughout. Geographic Information Services are good but no substitute for creative design and judgement.</p>
<p>Wish to be a partner to the plan. International Green Infrastructure conference scheduled for 09 - joint working opportunity. Need CABI and FC to collaborate on evidence re Climate Change. Can use their networks to disseminate information.</p>
<p>Need for management to provide habitat for biodiversity - priority now. Management particularly important in face of climate change</p>
<p>Spatial frameworks should refer to Historic Landscape Characterisation (across all Local Authorities) and place English Heritage as a partner. Woods and forests contain immense potential for cultural benefits and happy to work to partner in taking this forward.</p>
<p>In Climate Change, species assemblages are important - not just trees. Also species re-introductions. Wildlife Trusts are active partners in many areas with practical delivery in woodlands (rarely alone usually in partnership). 'Living Landscape' vision is relevant to Climate Change and Natural Historic Environment (ecologically functioning, resilient, low carbon and good for people) and is spatially based. Reserves and local sites are important - Wildlife Trusts liase with landowners and engage the public widely.</p>
<p>Community Forests are partners across all aims and are a key delivery mechanism. Green Infrastructure role underplayed. Need stronger link between national, regional and sub-regional delivery.</p>