

Environment and Natural Resources

Our trees, woodlands and forests will provide a healthy and diverse environment.

Outcome	Output	Actions –mainly as proposed in RFS	Further details of proposed Action	Start Date of Action	Estimated end date of action	Lead Partners And other partners involved
Effective Response to Climate Change	Woodland Area	2. Develop a regional publication encouraging woodland creation and identifying target areas for the England Woodland Grant Scheme	Plan to take forward and expand the work of Northumbria University on the NECF woodland opportunity-mapping project, and then consider publication.	2005	2005	Forestry Commission FC RAC NECF GONE, Integrated Agency
		3. Increase the proportion of tree planting schemes incorporating a mixture of locally sourced native trees and more southerly provenances adapted to the warmer climates expected in the future.	Will be incorporated into EWGS regional guidance and scoring form.	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission
	Woodland Management	3. Support sustainable forest management (and woodland creation) to help ensure a continued supply of environmentally-friendly timber for the future	Through EWGS launch and regional targeting of grant spend.	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission
		4. Organise Forest Health Days to update woodland owners and managers about tree and woodland health issues	Now incorporated into the FC Outreach programme for spring 2005	2005	2005	Forestry Commission Forest Research, Forest Enterprise, FTA
	Renewable Energy	3. Disseminate best practice and lessons learned from Kielder heating scheme	Participation in ongoing monthly meetings of Kielder District Heating Partners; facilitation of similar biomass-fired heating schemes; publicity through input to Tynedale Renewable Energy Trail.	Started	ongoing	Renewables & Recyclables Project Tynedale Council, NNPA, North Energy Associates, Forestry Commission
	Waste Reduction	1. Set up pilot "Tree Stations" to increase recycling of wood	Detailed project design, fund-raising and site selection ongoing in 2005, project implementation expected in in 2006/07.	2005	2007	Renewables & Recyclables Project Redcar and Cleveland Council, Chris Day Associates,
Improved State of Environment	Ancient Woodlands	3. Promote the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites and support the implementation of management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish new FC England Ancient Woodland policy and management guidelines in 2005. Promote through England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) 	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission Woodland Trust, English Nature, National Trust
		4. Protect ancient woodlands, including Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, veteran and rare trees, and prevent further loss through development by liaising with planning authorities and responding to consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion through distribution of new Ancient woodland management guidelines and direct distribution of guidance to planning authorities. Ongoing responses to consultations 	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission Woodland Trust, English Nature
	Biodiversity	1. Develop regional priority areas for creating and extending native woodlands, building on existing work in the NE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting to bring together main stakeholders Use strategic tools of Space for Nature and Space for People to identify broad priority areas for woodland extension based on both biodiversity and social goals. Further define this map through consultation with information from other stakeholders to develop a definitive map and produce Consultation document and map. Final map and criteria agreed to help define regional priorities across stakeholders and channel funding from various sources. 	Apr 2005	Sept 2005	Woodland Trust FC, Wildlife trusts, NT, RSPB, LA, EN, CF, Local Woodland Initiatives
		2. Align the regional scoring and targeting of the new England Woodland Grant Scheme, for new and existing woodlands, to better reflect local and UK BAP priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development during 2005. Implementation during 2006 	2005	2006	Forestry Commission FC Regional Advisory Committee, RDS RAG, Integrated Agency
Improved State of Environment	Forest Certification	1. Launch Woodland Management Grant to support woodland owners who manage to the UKWAS Certification Standard	On schedule for a summer 2005 launch	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission

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Improved State of Environment	Priority Species	1. Develop a North of England wide project to secure the future of the Red Squirrel	Major HLF application	Oct 2005	Oct 2010	Northumberland Wildlife Trust FC, FE, NNPA, Lake District NPA, EN, Private Landowners
		2. Secure the woodland owners agreement (where their woodlands provide the habitat for priority species such as red squirrel and black grouse) to manage woodlands within target zones for the benefits of these species.	With partners we are in the process of identifying key woodlands and securing appropriate management to conserve both populations.	2004	20055	Forestry Commission Wildlife Trusts, English Nature, Northumbria University, RDS, Forest Enterprise, National Parks, MOD, FTA
	SSSIs	1. Agree management plans for all woodland SSSI's and open-ground SSSI's adversely affected by inappropriate forestry, and target action where site condition needs to be improved	Natural Commitment partners will work together to deliver this action through a variety of means, both individually and in partnership with others.	Started	Ongoing to at least 2010	Natural Commitment Delivery Group Natural Commitment partners: GONE, CA, EA, EN, FC, FE, NNPA, RDS
	Designated Landscape	1. Develop a framework and successor Challenge Funding scheme to create new native woodlands and reduce the impact of inappropriate existing woodlands in National Park and AONB areas	North East Protected Areas will develop a bid to the Forestry Commission and other potential funders to establish a Challenge Fund to achieve the targets for the creation of new native woodlands as set in the protected area management plans.	Spring 2005	End 2005	AONB Partnership Forestry Commission
		2. Extend the scope of existing landscape plans to consider the impact of new woodlands and minimal intervention 're-wilding' initiatives	North East Protected Areas will develop a methodology to assess the size of the issue of inappropriate plantations, investigate opportunities to address the issue and produce an estimate of the likely costs	Winter 2005	Winter 2006	North Pennines AONB Partnership Forestry Commission, Northwoods, private sector
			North Pennines AONB: To develop a new woodlands opportunity map for the North Pennines AONB	2005	End 2005	North Pennines AONB Partnership
			Northumberland National Park: develop a landscape strategy for the Northumberland National Park.	2005/06	End 2007	NNPA
		Develop a woodland character and opportunity map for woodland habitat enhancement the Northumberland Coast AONB, including opportunity as well as planting opportunity		April 2005	Ongoing	Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership

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Sustainable Communities	Community Involvement	1. Organise more events and visits so that more people can participate in woodland-based activities	Focused on Tees Valley and South Tyne & Wear and North East Co Durham	2005	2007	NE Community Forests FC Integrated Agency
		2. Help to establish community forest projects, including community owned woodlands where the demand exists, in 5 new local authority areas		2005	2007	NE Community Forests Local Authorities Land Management Agency
	Liveability	2. Investigate innovative funding solutions for green infrastructure in new developments, such as through annual property maintenance charges	Part of the NECF Green Infrastructure work stream	2005	2007	NE Community Forests FC Community Forests in NW and YH Northern Way Consortium
	Urban Woodlands	2. Expand the current coverage of Local Management Zone strategies as piloted in the Great North Forest, promoting their role as non-statutory guidance		2005	2007	NE Community Forests Consultants NE Environment Forum Local Authorities
Improved Health	Health Pilot	1. Produce a health and well-being publication highlighting the role of North East woodlands in the health field, and providing guidance for health professionals	Publication planned for 2005	2005	2005	Forestry Commission Gateshead PCT Friends of Chopwell Wood NECF
		2. Set up a pilot GP woodland-based exercise referral programme	This project is to investigate the health benefits of woodland areas for patients participating in GOAL Gateshead's Exercise Referral Scheme. Referral from practices in the West of Gateshead into Chopwell Wood for a variety of activities, supported by the Development Worker. Independent evaluation underway.	2003	July 2005	Gateshead Primary Care Trust FC, Derwentside PCT, Friends Of Chopwell Wood
		Set up pilot school visits programme to support the healthy schools standard	“Why 5 sessions in the wood?” (similar to promotion of fruit and vegetable consumption) Relaxation / Mental Health Promotion Activity sessions in the wood Physical Activity Sessions Forest Education, & orienteering sessions	Started	June 2005	Derwentside PCT
		Develop a programme of activities for primary school children which will be facilitated by a health promotion team.	Set up Funding Sub Group to develop project proposal/framework with regards to a sustainability project across 5 main woodland areas	July 2005	ongoing	Derwentside PCT
	Physical Activity	1. Develop promotional leaflets about local woods for health and well-being	Forest Enterprise leaflets now including health theme will produce a more general leaflet in late 2005 or early 2006.	2005	2006	Forestry Commission Gateshead PCT Friends of Chopwell Wood NECF
		2. Update woodland walk leaflets and facilities to encourage and support physical activity in woodlands	2005 Active Woods campaign commences, produce cycle Trail Quest leaflet for Kielder, Chopwell Festival health themed, create all ability path surface at Wooler Common	March 2005	ongoing	Forest Enterprise NNP Friends of Wooler Common, GNF