

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. It has been compiled from information supplied by Forum members. Actions are shown under each of the four programmes of the Strategy. The paper is continually updated for each Forum meeting.

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

**Forestry Commission
March 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. New information, added since the previous report, is shown in italics. Unless otherwise indicated (in square brackets after each entry), the information has been provided by the Forestry Commission.



ENGLAND FORESTRY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL 2003

1. Forestry for Rural Development

Influencing Policies for Agricultural Reform	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Ensure that forestry will be considered in the development of rural programmes under the Agenda 2000 proposals for a new Rural Development Regulation.</p>	<p>Consultation paper considering options for forestry measures and mechanisms for implementing the EU Rural Development Regulation planned for issue in July 1999. Report of consultation published November 1999.</p> <p>Report on CAP and Forestry by the GB wildlife and countryside agencies published January 2000. [CA/EN]</p> <p>Wildlife & Countryside Link has published (July 2000) 'The Rural Development Regulation: Fulfilling the Promise' aimed at civil servants and other key opinion formers. Includes a section on forestry issues. [WCL]</p> <p>The England Rural Development Programme (ERDP), which was approved by the European Commission in October 2000, provides a framework for the implementation in England of the EU Rural Development Regulation (1257/99) – the "second pillar" of the CAP – a major step towards reshaping support for rural areas, encouraging sustainable rural businesses and thriving communities. It is intended to help farmers and foresters respond better to consumer requirements and become more competitive, diverse, flexible and environmentally responsible. It also provides help to rural businesses and communities which need to adapt and develop. The main forestry/farm woodlands measures in the ERDP are as follows: (a) the continuation and expansion of the FC's Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) to support the maintenance and development of forests and afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural land; (b) the continuation of MAFF's Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS); and (c) payments to maintain and improve the ecological stability of forests where the costs exceed the income from forestry under the WGS.</p> <p>In addition, the ERDP includes an Energy Crops Scheme covering short rotation coppice and miscanthus. Forestry and its related industries could also benefit under the new Rural Enterprise Scheme and Vocational Training Scheme. Estimated that ERDP will provide £1.6 billion in support between 2000-2006, of which £139 million and £77 million respectively are earmarked for the WGS and FWPS. Opportunities also exist for use of woodland products within Rural Enterprise Scheme, e.g. support for farm diversification enterprises using timber, such as fencing or manufacture of outdoor furniture. Vocational Training Scheme can provide grant at up to 75% to support activities intended to improve the occupational skill and competence of persons involved in forestry; training in sustainable forest and woodland management may also be funded.</p> <p>Joint DEFRA/FC economic, environmental and social evaluation of woodland creation under WGS/FWPS under way. (Completed June 2002). Working on securing radical proposals for the Mid-Term Review of the CAP, in particular: a significant shift of resources from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2, and an increase in the UK's disproportionately low share of funds. Working with like-minded EU member states to secure recognition of the need to simplify the Rural Development Regulation and to demonstrate to the European Commission how this might be achieved. Contributing to the response to the recommendations of the Policy Commission on Farming and Food in the 21st Century where these impact on the ERDP. Contributing to the review of the agri-environment and related schemes, including the woodland schemes, and the mid-term evaluation of the ERDP in 2003; ensure the proper resources are committed to effective implementation and that ERDP funds are fully utilised on high quality projects, so that the Programme is widely recognised and valued as making a real difference to the rural environment, economy and communities. [DEFRA]</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Link Farming and Rural Development Group published 'A Greenprint for the Future' summarising its aspirations for the review of agri-environment schemes. Includes reference to woodland and FWPS. [WT]</p>

<p>Ensure that forestry will be considered in the development of rural programmes under the Agenda 2000 proposals for a new Rural Development Regulation. (contd.)</p>	<p><i>In partnership with the other UK wildlife and countryside agencies and the FC, research has been completed examining the role of forestry in sustainable rural development. This work looked at the range of support to forestry in the current Rural Development Programmes under the Rural Development Regulation, both in the UK and across seven other EU Member States. The report concludes that the RDR at the present time at least, represents a largely missed opportunity for the UK forestry sector. Details are available at www.lupg.org.uk ("An enhanced role for forestry in sustainable rural development.") [CA]</i></p> <p>Forestry Commission has put forward a proposal for a new forestry harvesting, marketing and processing grant as a modification to the ERDP. This will enable the introduction in 2003 of a grant in support of businesses engaged in harvesting, processing, marketing and promotion of outlets for timber products. The modification will also allow support for the formation of groups, co-operatives or woodland associations. <i>The proposal has now gained approval from EU.</i></p>
<p>Support research into the implications of CAP reform for the transfer of land from farming to forestry.</p>	<p>Ongoing programme of research by the Countryside Agency.</p> <p>Research contract on 'new entrants to the land market' has been commissioned by the GB wildlife and countryside agencies. [CA]</p> <p>Ongoing programme of research by DEFRA. [DEFRA]</p> <p>New Entrants to Land Market report published in January 2001. English Nature and CA have carried out research into the potential for developing new wildwoods in upland Britain to deliver a range of benefits [EN]. Details of the work are available at: www.lupg.org.uk</p>
<p>Support Strategic Development of Woodland Resources</p>	
<p>Action Intended</p>	<p>Actions To Date And In Progress</p>
<p>Publish a national woodland inventory to provide better information about England's woodland resources.</p>	<p>Collection of data for the Inventory is based on a two stage process – the main woodland survey covering woodland over 2 hectares and the small woodland and trees survey covering woodland less than 2 hectares, groups of trees and individual trees. During the year mapping and fieldwork were completed in all counties in England. The results of both surveys for all counties will be published and made available on the Forestry Commission's Internet website over the next 12 to 18 months.</p> <p>English Nature has commissioned Forest Research to put together the Ancient woodland Inventory data and the NIWT to provide an overview of woods of importance for conservation. [EN]</p> <p>The National Inventory of Woodland and Trees was published on 21 November. The Regional Reports are being published from February to May 2002. Details of the Inventory can be found on the Forestry Commission website at: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-54PG9U</p> <p>Forest Enterprise has completed a survey of ancient woodland sites on the FC estate in England. <i>Published 2002.</i></p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Forecast of wood production published in 1995 covering a 20-year time horizon. Next forecast planned for publication once the woodland inventory work is complete (c. 2001). Published 2002</p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise publishes detailed forecasts of production from its estate every 5 years, the next set of figures due in 2005.</i> Tailored forecasts regularly provided to support potential investors in new processing capacity.</p> <p>North East England Forestry Cluster has completed a strategic study of the region's forestry sector. [FCA]</p> <p>In Yorkshire and the Humber a Forestry Foundation Study for the region has been completed. This was supported by the RDA and FC, and is being discussed with the Yorkshire Forest Industry Liaison Group and will be used to help develop the REEF and revisions of the Regional Economic Strategy. West Midlands Conservancy has completed a joint study with Advantage West Midlands on Embedding Forest Industries in the region. The results of the study will feed into the work of Heartwoods and the Advantage West Midlands rural regeneration zones. The Forestry Commission has commissioned a further three baseline studies in partnership with the relevant RDA in the South West, East England and North West, these are due to report in the autumn (2) and spring respectively.</p>

<p>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.)</p>	<p>In National Parks a Sustainable Development Fund has been established to be administered by the Park Authorities to encourage projects which deliver community, economic, and environmental benefits in support of National Park purposes. In the first year the Fund amounts to £1 million, and it is anticipated that a variety of woodland and forestry projects will be amongst the beneficiaries of the Fund. [ANPA]</p> <p><i>Following a review of the Objective 5(b) funded Marches Woodland Initiative, Advantage West Midlands is supporting the Heartwoods Initiative. This support is particularly aimed at the development of woodland related business opportunities, with a focus on energy and other related innovation. [AWM]</i></p> <p><i>Heartwoods is starting to implement the results of AWM feasibility work on the market and applications of wood fuel in the region. [AWM]</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise use a range of techniques for bringing wood to the market to maximise access to potential customers. Recent innovations include the introduction of electronic auctions and tenders.</i></p>
<p>Ensure that the supply of timber from our woodland resources is available at the levels indicated in long-term forecasts.</p>	<p>Development of Woodlots continues with new sections added for sawn timber, service, and marketing events. A sister publication (Eco-Ads) has been launched to establish buyer-seller linkages in the conservation sector.</p> <p>Woodlots and Eco-Ads have been combined as a web based interactive service on www.ecolots.co.uk</p> <p>Forest Enterprise England achieved sale of its production forecast of 1.4 million cubic metres of timber in 2001/02 and 2002/03.</p>
<p>Continue to provide support for regional and local marketing initiatives, including small-scale and craft uses.</p>	<p>Third woodland initiatives networking day held in Cambridge in September 2000 and report of discussion published November 2000.</p> <p>National Small Woodlands Association's Initiatives Register has now been put on the Internet and will be transferred to a map based research tool during 2000. [NSWA]</p> <p>Northern England - a study into niche markets is being prepared together with a Timber Trades Directory. [FCA]</p> <p>The CA and FC, in partnership with industry and RDA's, are supporting two projects to investigate the application of business development tools to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> help embed woodland industries within the wider economy in the West Midlands and explore the development of a forestry cluster in North West England. <p>The fourth woodland initiative day was held in May 2002 and a report of the discussion published. A woodland initiatives co-ordinator has been appointed. This post is jointly funded by FC, CA and supported by the SWA.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise now places 50% of timber into long-term contracts to provide support and security to timber processors and contractors.</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>The NFC produced a report in February 2003 to stimulate, guide and develop the new woodland economy in the National Forest. [NFC]</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise is working to develop new small scale markets. An example is the current work with a manufacturer of 'hurling' sticks identifying suitable Ash stands.</i></p>



<p>Extend the range of business advice, training and local support offered to woodland businesses, particularly small producers.</p>	<p>England Forestry Forum Working Group established to review the range of business advice and training and recommend how it could be extended. Final report and recommendations to Forum produced November 2000 (Paper 1/01).</p> <p>England Rural Development Programme Vocational Training Scheme can provide grant at up to 75% to support activities intended to improve the occupational skill and competence of persons involved in forestry; training in sustainable forest and woodland management may also be funded. [DEFRA]</p> <p>A steering group comprising DEFRA, EN, EA, CA and FC are undertaking a programme of research reviewing current provision of advisory services and informing the development of an action plan to provide more joined-up advice for farmers and land managers. The work is due to be reported on in the summer. [EN]</p> <p>Training/business support needs assessment has been completed in the National Forest. An EU regional bid for vocational training has been won in the East Midlands (2002) led by the Rockingham Forest Trust and involves the NFC, FC and ADAS [NFC]</p> <p>Forestry Commission is holding a workshop on the proposed changes to the Vocational Training Scheme on 24 October 2002. The purpose of the workshop is to update the forestry sector on the proposed changes to the scheme and to identify any further barriers to uptake.</p> <p><i>Recently a forestry business support project and a forestry training project have been launched in North East England. These projects will create new business opportunities and to support and train those already working in the sector. They will be managed by the Northwoods initiatives on behalf of a partnership involving FC, FCA Northumberland LSC, Northumberland and Durham County Councils, Northumberland National Park, CA and EN.</i></p> <p><i>NWDA and the Forestry Commission have been principle partners in developing and funding the "Forest Futures" component of the Cumbria Rural Action Zone. Cumbria Woodlands, the lead body for delivering Forest Futures, will facilitate access to high quality business development support, marketing, training and other information and support services with a view to achieving sustainable, economic woodland development.</i></p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise and the Forestry Contracting Association have worked together to run 6 locally based seminars for businesses involved in timber transport to update them on the new roundwood haulage code of practice.</i></p>
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Develop Understanding of the Rural Economy

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Commission a study of the economic impacts of forestry in the rural economy.</p>	<p>Study completed and results summarised in England Forestry Forum Paper 11/00.</p> <p>National Forest Company has undertaken work to identify the economic and employment related benefits of creating the National Forest (2000). This will be updated in 2003. The study identified 44 new jobs created and 15 protected through NFC investment; 22 new forestry and landscaping jobs have been created; and over 500 have been created through forest involvement in incoming investment actions. [NFC] <i>Tenders invited for the update, February 2003, with completion in October 2003 [NFC]</i></p> <p>Joint DEFRA/FC economic, environmental and social evaluation of woodland creation under WGS/FWPS under way. [DEFRA] The evaluation was completed in June 2002 and is available on the Forestry Commission and DEFRA web sites.</p> <p>Forestry Commission has commissioned a study on understanding Forestry in Rural Development. The purpose of the study is to develop and evaluative approach for understanding the current and potential value of forestry to the economies of identified rural areas, and to test it through case studies in England and Wales. The research is due for completion in late autumn.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise/Forestry Commission have embarked on a programme of joint visits to key timber processors to identify key issues and opportunities for the sector. A report will go to the England Woodland Industry Group. <i>This has resulted in a workshop run jointly between FC/FE and FIDC looking at reconnecting the various sectors of the forest industry.</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>Under the Energy Crops Scheme, part of the England Rural Development Programme, 491 hectares of SRC have been or will soon be planted and one producer group is being supported. In September 2001 the National Energy Crops Conference was held to bring together policy makers, planners, growers, energy producers and other interested parties to discuss the future of energy crops. DEFRA and FC jointly ran 2 seminars in NE England in October 2001 in order to bring together producers and potential end users. The Government has now announced £70m of funding which will help develop markets for woodfuel in heat, combined heat and power and electricity generation. [DEFRA]</p> <p>The CA in partnership with the DTI, FC, many government and industry bodies, environmental groups and charities launched the Community Renewables Initiative in February 2002. This initiative funds support teams in 10 different areas of England to provide local community initiatives with advice and training on all topics associated with renewable energy (like feasibility studies, funding, technology issues, planning, environmental assessment and public participation). The initiative, which covers the range of renewable energy technologies, is expected to support many electricity and heating schemes from wood fuel. (email: community.renewables@esd.co.uk for further details). [CA]</p> <p>In partnership with the FC and Regional Development Agencies, a number of local/regional studies have been commissioned to look at the potential use of wood fuel and to identify the key market barriers that might hinder the introduction of a successful wood fuel programme. [CA]</p> <p>The CA has been supporting the South West Forest to develop its role as a national pilot/demonstration for rural development forestry. We will continue to fund elements of the business plan over the coming three years. [CA]</p> <p>Funding is now available under the DTI/NOF Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme to support the installation of technology that uses energy crops as fuel for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electricity generation (£51 million) • Combined heat and power (£10 million) • Small scale heat (£5 million) <p>The scheme promotes the efficient use of biomass for energy by stimulating the early deployment of biomass fuelled heat and electricity generation projects. Applications for biomass heating and small-scale CHP installations (less than 1MW_e) closed on 31 July 2002 and the results are expected soon. Applications for high efficiency electricity generation and large-scale CHP installations are due in by 31 October 2002. [Defra]</p> <p>A consultation exercise was undertaken this summer by Defra on the proposals for a new £3 million Bio-energy Infrastructure Scheme. The scheme aims to help develop the supply chain required to harvest, store and supply energy crops and forestry woodfuel to energy end-users. The scheme will be opened to applications in spring 2003.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise is in discussions with potential developers of woodfuel energy schemes at all levels. FE England marketing officer has been given specific responsibilities for woodfuel development.</p> <p><i>FC has carried out a study to look at the potential for converting its own buildings' heating systems to woodfuel.</i></p> <p><i>Under the Energy Crops Scheme, 500 hectares of SRC have been or will soon be planted. One producer group application has been approved and another is currently undergoing assessment. [Defra]</i></p> <p><i>The European Commission's approval of the Bio-energy Infrastructure Scheme is currently being sought and the Scheme is expected to be open to bids in Spring 2003. [Defra]</i></p> <p><i>Under the Bio-energy Capital Grants Scheme, £4.2m of grant aid for eleven bio-energy heat projects was announced in January 2003. Bids for larger power and combined heat and power (CHP) projects are currently being assessed and the results should be announced shortly. [Defra]</i></p>



<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 (Contd.)</p>	<p><i>The DTI's £10m Clear Skies Initiative (formerly known as the Community and Household Capital Grant Scheme) aims to encourage homeowners, schools and communities across the UK to take the initiative in developing and installing their own renewable energy schemes, including woodfuel heating. [Defra]</i></p> <p><i>The £50m Community Energy Programme, launched in January 2002, provided capital grants to install new, and refurbish old community heating networks, including wood-fired combined heat and power (CHP) installations. [Defra]</i></p>
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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>Forestry Commission and National Urban Forestry Unit have funded a study (The Potential for Woodland on Urban and Industrial Wasteland) by Manchester University. Forestry Commission Research Agency has published the full report of the study as a Technical Paper (No. 29). An Executive Summary has also been published jointly with NUFU.</p> <p>NUFU involved with phytoremediation trials with the Mersey Forest and John Moores University. [NUFU]</p> <p>Forestry Commission and English Partnerships have established a Steering Group to look at forestry and regeneration related issues. Specific areas for investigation will include the Coalfields, New Towns, liabilities, and long term management. A framework for joint working has been agreed and will be published in November 2001.</p> <p>Seminar on regeneration of brownfield land to community woodland jointly hosted by the National Forest Company and FC Land Regeneration Unit in autumn 1999. [NFC]</p> <p>National Forest Company and Forestry Commission Research jointly produced Technical Paper 27 'Woodland Creation: Experience from the National Forest' – documents 3 demonstration woodlands, two created on ex colliery/clay working sites. [NFC]</p> <p><i>267 hectares of derelict land and 697 hectares of mineral worked land has been restored to forestry and related regeneration and biodiversity after use in The National Forest (to 31/03/03) [NFC]</i></p> <p>DETR has published "Soil Forming Materials: Their Use in Land Reclamation" and the Forestry Commission now uses this as the standard by which woodland grant schemes on appropriate sites will be assessed.</p> <p>England Forestry Forum Working Group established to consider the role the Forum can play in promoting forestry for land regeneration and develop an agenda to guide action. Final report and recommendations to Forum produced December 2000 (Paper 2/01).</p> <p>On the recommendation of Ministers, an Interdepartmental Group has been established to look at opportunities to accelerate the role of forestry and regeneration. The Group aims to submit its report and recommendations for action in spring/summer 2002.</p> <p>English Nature is promoting a consortium to create several hundred hectares of new woodland on former china clay spoil in Cornwall to meet multiple objectives. [EN]</p> <p>Forestry Commission and English Partnerships published a joint framework in November 2001 setting out how they will work together to delivered shared regeneration objectives. The focus is on the regeneration, management and long-term ownership of land to help deliver the Government's social, environmental and economic regeneration objectives.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise is creating 1000ha of new woodland using Capital Modernisation Funding (CMF) within Thames Chase (East London), Red Rose (Manchester) and Mersey Community Forests. These new woodlands will provide very important exemplars of good practice. The University of Gloucester is carrying out project monitoring and will measure performance across a range of social, economic and environmental objectives. <i>To date Forest Enterprise has created over 1300 hectares of new woodland using CMF.</i></p> <p>The Urban Green Spaces Taskforce final report was published in May 2002. The report, "Green Spaces, Better Places" is a significant document in relation to urban green space policy and within this context trees and woodland are recognised as having a very important part to play. The report underlines the broad range of other Government policy areas that green spaces contribute to (namely neighbourhood renewal, healthy living, social inclusion, education and lifelong learning, environment sustainability, and culture and heritage) and therefore creates a valuable context for the ER Programme.</p>

<p>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 (Contd.)</p>	<p>Sustainable Development Commission draft discussion paper on “Vision for Sustainable Development – Environment and poverty – the missing link?” June 2002.</p> <p><i>Publication of the Government’s response to the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce report “Living Places – Safer, Cleaner, Greener” – which maintains the role of trees and woodland as an integral part of the urban green space agenda.</i></p> <p><i>Publication of the ODPM’s “sustainable communities plan” Sustainable Communities – Building for the future. This provides a valuable context for the Living Places agenda as well as opening up wider opportunities for woodland in relation to housing supply, new growth areas, decent housing and countryside and local environments.</i></p> <p><i>Forest Research are to create a dedicated regeneration “area” within its new website expected to go live April 2003. This will provide a central data point on all issues relating to good practice, standards for woodland and brownfield land as well as creating the necessary links to wider forestry and regeneration policy areas</i> Forest Research (FR) is a member of a consortium entitled 'Sustainable Urban Brownfields: Integrated Management' which has submitted a bid to EPSRC under a call entitled 'Towards a sustainable urban Environment'. Partners include the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield, Manchester and Reading, and the Building Research Establishment. The proposed programme of research is currently being assessed, and the result will be known towards the end of 2002/early 2003.</p> <p>FR has had a project entitled 'Development of indicator methodology to determine plant availability of metals in soils' ratified by CL:AIRE (Contaminated Land: applications in real Environments). The project is submitted with Ove Arup. Work will begin shortly.</p> <p>A project entitled 'Environment Impact assessment of water, sediment and airborne particles in the Tamar River catchment using a multi-proxy approach' will begin in October 2002, as a PhD studentship jointly funded and supervised by FR and the University of Reading.</p> <p>English Partnerships are developing forestry related community renewable schemes, such as the project being trialed in South Yorkshire. The project intends to utilise Short Rotation Coppice [SRC] to remediate and stabilise coal spoil whilst creating a market for wood fired boilers. Locally managed and run, it is intended that wood will be supplied on a renewable basis from the site and that the site will have large areas of public access with a strong emphasis on the educational interpretation of the process. [EP]</p> <p>A new role for English Partnerships was outlined by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, in a parliamentary statement on 24 July 2002. Concluding the Review of the organisation, he identified English Partnerships as a key delivery agency in the government's new 'living communities' agenda to regenerate our towns, cities and rural areas. Part of this remit includes developing and maintaining a national brownfield strategy, which will include best practice guidance on assembly, remediation and development of land and buildings. [EP]</p> <p>The Brown > Green Conference held at the Earth Centre, Doncaster on the 4th July 2002 was organised by English Partnerships, and was supported by Yorkshire Forward, Forestry Commission, exSite, Groundwork UK. The conference had a clear purpose; to engage the regeneration and development sector in a debate concerning new innovative approaches to dealing with large brownfield sites, the focus was clearly on the role of amenity forestry and energy crops as possible end uses in all large development and regeneration schemes including mixed use. [EP]</p> <p><i>In The National Forest a sewerage sludge and card compost trial project to establish woodland on brownfield land is underway. Partners include NFC, ADAS, Biffaward and ProCarton.</i></p>
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<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.</p>	<p>Work in the Mersey and Red Rose Community Forests funded by English Partnerships and the Forestry Commission to develop a decision making framework for woodland establishment on closed landfill sites has been completed and launched regionally.</p> <p>The FC (Land Regeneration Unit), English Partnerships and the RDAs are developing “intuitive software” for creating custom made specifications for woodland establishment on brownfield and associated Greenfield sites. It is expected that the software (called “ROOTS”) will be available early in 2003. Currently the software is being beta tested on collieries in South Yorkshire. A PowerPoint presentation is available from the Forestry Commission Land Regeneration Unit.</p> <p>In line with the emerging economic development agenda FC have reviewed and agreed revised criteria for establishing priorities for the Forestry for Economic Regeneration Programme for 2002/3. This enables us to align our objectives more closely with those of ODPM and allows a sharper focus on the Government’s Index of Deprivation and distribution of brownfield land. The aim is that these will be used to form the basis of regional expressions for the Programme in all Conservancies in due course.</p> <p><i>The FC is looking to develop the “Public Benefit Recording System” conceived as part of the Newlands project in the North West. This is a decision support system for selecting sites most likely to deliver public benefits.</i></p>
<p>Consider the need for longer-term support and management of woodlands on former industrial land and explore new ways of securing their future.</p>	<p>Forestry Commission’s Land Regeneration Unit reviewing long-term liabilities issues in conjunction with solicitors.</p> <p>Groundwork Trust through Wasteland Woodland Programme has just established a working group to explore opportunities for managing wasteland to woodland sites.</p> <p>Work by EP and Groundwork has identified that there is an existing unwillingness for the regeneration sector to enter into long-term commitments without new mechanisms to cover this issue (along with concerns over liability issues relating to long-term tenure, insurance and risk transfer). EP and Groundwork along with the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission are currently addressing these concerns in its work on potential land reclamation trust mechanisms.</p> <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><i>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 3 years) of brownfield land to be restored and managed as public green open space.</i></p>
<p>Act directly through the Forestry Commission acquiring and managing land in regeneration partnerships.</p>	<p>The Forestry Commission’s Land Regeneration Unit has acquired c50 hectares of freehold land and a further 140 hectares of leasehold land in the Mersey and Red Rose Forests. Forest Enterprise seeking to acquire 1,200 hectares of land in Thames Chase over the next 10 years and currently negotiating the acquisition of 200 hectares. Forest Enterprise awarded £9 million under the Government’s Capital Modernisation Fund for a package of measures worth £14 million involving the creation of 1,000 hectares of new woodland. (See Forum Paper 22/00 for more information.)</p> <p>The Land Regeneration Unit is currently (March 2002) investigating some 2000 ha of brown and greenfield sites in the Merseyside/Cheshire/Greater Manchester area of which nearly 800 hectares has been acquired under leasehold and freehold agreements. In addition a further 202 hectares has been acquired in the National Forest and some 500 hectares of former colliery land is being evaluated in South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Through the CMF programme in the north-west, the Forestry Commission’s Land Regeneration Unit has now (February 2003) acquired a total of 942 hectares in the Mersey and Red Rose Forests. The expanded program in the North West benefited from £3m of capital injection provided by the North West Regional Development Agency.</p>



Support Regional Programmes

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Encourage the Regional Development Agencies to use forestry and woodland programmes in implementing their objectives.</p>	<p>RDA Guidance on preparation of regional strategies issued by DETR, March 1999.</p> <p>RDAs will be represented on the Forestry Commission/English Partnerships Steering Group (see above).</p> <p>National Forest 'written in' to the East Midlands Regional Development Agency Strategy and Rural Action Plan. [NFC]</p> <p>NFC has accessed £50,000 of EMDA funding towards land acquisition and development (66ha) [NFC]</p> <p>Yorkshire Forward is working with the Forestry Commission's Land Regeneration Unit on woodland schemes for a number of former colliery sites in South Yorkshire.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission has initiated 'partnership projects' to develop a database of brownfield sites with potential for woodland within its Economic Regeneration Priority areas. These will draw on the publicly available National Land-Use Database and will be used to inform regional strategies. The Forestry Commission and North West Development Agency have developed a new partnership which will deliver 300 hectares of new woodland on brownfield land.</p> <p><i>Advantage West Midlands has agreed to a joint project with the FC to develop a brownfield land database within priority regeneration areas in the West Midlands.</i></p> <p>The Woodland Trust has appointed a regional policy officer for England, a part of whose job will be to develop contacts with RDAs and promote the benefits of woodland as a means of achieving sustainable development objectives at a regional level. [WT]</p> <p>Yorkshire Forward has funded a West Yorkshire urban forestry programme since 1998, rising to a value of £250 000 in 2001/02. The programme is managed by the National Urban Forestry Unit and delivered through the White Rose Forest. Yorkshire Forward has also commissioned a Forestry Foundation study in partnership with the Forestry Commission. [NUFU]</p> <p>In September 2002 a national seminar was held between RDA and FC regional representatives to consider woodland and forestry's contributions to economic development.</p> <p>The NWDA and FC are developing an innovative partnership in the North West (known as the "Newlands" project) which builds on the work in the Mersey and Red Rose Community Forests. Here, FC will be engaged to deliver the woodland element of the RDA's brownfield land targets under their "Improving Image and Environment" programme. The project will involve £18.8million of capital and revenue funding over the next 5 years and aims to create some 400ha of new woodland on brownfield land and create over 31km of public access routes in the Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Cheshire sub-regional areas. Subject to performance, a similar programme extending to the rest of the region will be developed in 3 years time.</p> <p>The Land Regeneration Unit in partnership with FRA (Forest Research Agency) is formulating a staged pathway approach to site investigation. The first stage involving desk top and walk over ground surveys has been tested on three landfill sites in Manchester and Salford. Meetings with Local Authority Contaminated land officers are being arranged to evaluate results and hopefully agree a strategy for implementation of intrusive ground surveys. It is these surveys that will define whether sites are suitable for restoration to community woodland and covering not only environmental consideration but also long term liability issues.</p> <p>Forestry and woodland references have been included within ODPM Corporate Planning and Regional Economic Strategy Guidance to RDAs.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise has established a Development Group to explore funding and project development with RDAs and others.</p> <p><i>The 'Newlands' project has progressed to be near its implementation phase. This project will receive £11.8 million over 5 years as part of the broader land regeneration programme for the North West. This is the largest investment and involvement the NWDA is likely to make in bringing about significant landscape change through woodland creation. The initial phase will operate in Merseyside. [NWDA]</i></p>



<p>Encourage the development of new urban forestry initiatives which can demonstrate achievement through partnership approaches.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal Foundation included forestry as an issue as part of their Sustainable Land Re-Use Investigation at the Newcastle Land Regeneration Expo, June 1999.</p> <p>National Forest Company has a number of schemes underway – notably in Burton upon Trent and at Swadlincote, using funding from the Single Regeneration Budget. [NFC]</p> <p>Best Practice Guide has been produced on creating new urban forest parks, based upon the experience of Swadlincote woodlands. (30ha Urban Forest Park in the National Forest) [NFC]</p> <p>NUFU has published guidance on developing a strategic approach to urban forestry (1999) which has been actively promoted to local authority and other organisations. [NUFU]</p> <p>NUFU is supporting three new regional urban forestry initiatives (East Lancashire, West Yorkshire, and Thames Gateway), all of which demonstrate a partnership based approach to working. [NUFU]</p> <p>NUFU is supporting the development of three new city forests in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Countryside Agency, Groundwork and other organisations in Stoke-on-Trent, Hull and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. [NUFU]</p> <p>Launch of Green Gateway strategy, February 2002 – the agreed strategy for the urban forest within the Thames Gateway area – supported by over 30 organisations. [NUFU]</p> <p>NUFU has trialled a community partnership approach to urban forestry at neighbourhood level, working with the Gallions Housing Association and the London Boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich to produce and deliver a neighbourhood woodland masterplan in Thamesmead, within the Green Gateway. [NUFU]</p>
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Promote Forestry Through Land Use Planning

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>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.</p>	<p>England Forestry Forum Working Group reviewing content and promotion of revised guidance. Final report and recommendations to Forum produced November 2000 (Paper 4/01).</p>
<p>Review the guidance in Minerals Planning Guidance Note 7 in due course and if necessary amend this to reflect revised forestry policy.</p>	
<p>Work closely with mineral and waste planning authorities to ensure that Government forestry policies are fully reflected in development plans.</p>	<p>European conference on Mineral Planning, Harrogate October 1999, includes a plenary session on the role of forestry as an afteruse.</p> <p>National Forest Company has established a policy framework within Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire Minerals/Derelict Land and Waste Plans, promoting restoration of sites to forest-related land uses. [NFC]</p> <p>Research has been commissioned to review and evaluate the planning mechanisms and processes used to secure quality of life benefits for Community Forests and similar areas that exploit allied approaches. Study objectives include identifying good practice in using the planning process to secure benefits and examining whether the organisational structure and/or strategy for a Community Forest itself has enabled quality of life benefits to be secured, and to identify ways in which the planning process can be better used to secure Community Forest objectives. [CA]</p> <p>DEFRA are in discussions with the FC with regard to the role for forestry in relation to its Sustainable Development Strategy in relation to the restoration of operational land.</p>

<p>Work closely with mineral and waste planning authorities to ensure that Government forestry policies are fully reflected in development plans. (Contd.)</p>	<p><i>Research was commissioned last year by the West Midlands Conservancy into attitudes and practices pertaining to woodland and mineral restoration in Staffordshire. The results of this work flag up a number of national issues which were addressed at a seminar for mineral and landfill planners and practitioners in the West Midlands on the 12 March 2003. The seminar included presentations from FC, Defra and the Local Planning Authority (Staffordshire CC) and will provide a template for further events in other regions in due course.</i></p>
<p>Work with the minerals and waste industries to encourage consideration of forestry as an after-use at an early stage of planning development.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>National Forest Company works closely with all main minerals companies in the National Forest. Also involved in the Central Rivers Initiative a sub-regional partnership which is developing a long-term restoration strategy for sand and gravel workings between Tamworth and Burton upon Trent and the Ashby Wolds Forum in Leicestershire, which won the RTP1 planning achievement award 2002, based upon large scale reclamation of derelict mineral land. [NFC]</p> <p>NFC research has identified that 697 hectares of mineral worked land and 267 hectares of derelict land has been restored to forest related uses in The National Forest [NFC]</p> <p>Completion in December 2001 of a FC funded project in partnership with Staffordshire County Council to examine a cross-section of existing and proposed restoration schemes for mineral workings and waste disposal. The aim was to identify the barriers currently restricting the wider role of woodland as an after-use. FC with the support of DEFRA are now looking to develop a series of regional support workshops to address the issues the report raises.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise is working with mineral and waste disposal partners to create new public access woodland in Thames Chase, Mersey, Red Rose, CFs and the National Forest.</p>
<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>Proposals for a joint accord between the Forestry Commission and English Partnerships setting out shared priorities to be developed in the context of the Forestry Commission/English Partnerships Steering Group (see above).</p> <p>National Forest Company has produced a second edition of its 'Guide for Planners and Developers'. [NFC]</p> <p>Research into the economic benefits of Community Forestry was commissioned in partnership with NUFU, Central Scotland Countryside Trust, FC, The National Forest and Red Rose Forest. Split into two phases, the overall aim of the study is to identify whether community forestry initiatives are delivering or will deliver economic benefits. Phase 1, now completed, investigated the extent to which existing data was available and highlight the need for further datasets. Phase 2 will collate the external funding benefits from across all community forestry initiatives and gather information about environmental enhancement and its impact on the attraction of businesses and households. Other aspects may also be explored such as cost effective issues as opposed to cost benefit analysis. Research on property values by NUFU, social and environmental benefits of forests and health and the environment by the FC are also being considered. [CA]</p> <p>A new research study has been set up with NUFU to quantify the influence that the presence of trees/greenspace has upon domestic property values in England. In depth interviews with estate agents and other property professionals will be undertaken supported by detailed analysis of aerial photography to quantify the tree and woodland cover in three selected Community Forests representing the North/Midland and South of England. Results expected early 2003.</p> <p>There is ongoing research commissioned by the Countryside Agency towards the production of a database of good practice case studies of environmental, social and economic activity in Community Forests.</p> <p>Over 100 hectares of planting has been secured linked to housing and commercial development in the National Forest and over £840,000 in commuted funds towards additional forest development.[NFC]</p> <p>A Best Practice guide has been produced on the creation of a new 30 hectare Urban Forest Park at Swadlincote [NFC]</p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise has worked with partners to develop an innovative softwood building at Westonbirt Arboretum that demonstrates the potential for more 'green' buildings.</i></p>



Promote Environmental Improvements

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Create new woodlands along transport corridors as part of a programme of environmental improvements.</p>	<p>Countryside Management initiative underway along the route of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link in Kent which will include creation of new woodland to replace that lost along the route. [EN]</p> <p>Well established Highways Agency/NUFU programme in the West Midlands (Woodlands by the Motorway). NUFU and Highways Agency exploring scope for replication in West Yorkshire, east Lancashire and elsewhere. [NUFU]</p> <p>FC has now added transport routes as one of the key strategic criteria for the programme.</p> <p>The Highways Agency is undertaking a study of the potential for planting along the M1, A42 and A38 routes through The National Forest [NFC] <i>Following the study a three year planting programme is due to start in April 2003. [NFC]</i></p> <p>Woodlands by the Motorway project survey undertaken in East Lancashire (M65). The Highways Agency, NUFU and the White Rose Forest have undertaken a survey and completed sites along the M62 in West Yorkshire. NUFU, Mouchell Consulting, Highways Agency and the London Borough of Redbridge have undertaken enhancements along the M11 in the Roding Valley. [NUFU]</p> <p>Forest Enterprise are creating new public access community woodland adjacent to M25 and M62 under the Community Forest CMF project, and at South Burdon next to A66 at Darlington Co Durham.</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>As part of the review process, a series of seminars to look at the practical issues associated with increasing access to woodlands and improving the quality of information about access opportunities were organised in York, Bristol and Milton Keynes in summer 1999. A report of the seminars was published in September 1999.</p> <p>Forestry Commissioners recommendations on options for increasing access to woodlands published October 1999 (details available on Forestry Commission Internet website). Background work on 'Access to Other Land' published by the Countryside Agency May 2000.</p> <p>DEFRA and the FC are working together to promote the use of powers in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to dedicate land for access. The CROW Act introduces a new public right of access on foot to open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) and registered common land. The Act also enables owners and holders of long leases to dedicate their land for access. Proposal for a regulatory framework for such dedications are set out in a DEFRA consultation paper issued in January 2002. The FC has agreed in principle to dedicate its estate. [DEFRA]</p> <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. [EN]</p>
Target grants to increase the opportunities available to visit woodlands, particularly in areas where there are shortages of access.	<p>Over 7000 hectares of new woodlands planted under WGS Community Woodland Supplement since 1992.</p> <p>74% (3675 ha.) of National Forest land has some form of access with a further 11% of land with access planned. Supported with a wide range of information packs and other materials. [NFC]</p> <p><i>The Forestry Commission's 2002-03 'Woodland Welcome' Pilot in South East England Conservancy was considerably over subscribed with 63 applications. The judging panel selected 26 applications to be taken forward.</i></p> <p><i>A report by The University of Brighton into ownership patterns, and perceptions of public access provision in the South East of England collected valuable information on attitudes to access that will be considered together with the results of the access pilot.</i></p>
Promote a network of forest tracks suitable for cycling as part of the National Cycle Network and our Integrated Transport Strategy.	<p>Forest Enterprise and Sustrans joint accord launched summer 1999.</p> <p>National Forest Company has produced a cycling strategy for The National Forest; has grant aided the development of 16km. of new cycle routes and is a partner in the cross-regional Burton-Swadlincote Transport Strategy, which aims to achieve improved leisure/transport links, including links with the National Cycle Network. [NFC]</p> <p>NUFU has developed a series of woodland trails as part of the Black Country Urban Forest. Maps and leaflets to encourage greater use of the Forest are in development – project supported by the Countryside Agency (through WHI), Forestry Commission and the Millennium Commission. [NUFU]</p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise has worked with BikeArt to secure over £100,000 to develop cycling in Thetford Forest as a regional centre of excellence.</i></p>



Improve the Quality of Information About Access

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>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>	<p>Forestry Commission is providing support (funding and data) for the Forestry Trust's Regional Access to Woodlands Guides. Guides for south-east England, the West Country and Severn, Wye and Avon have been published. Work on Guides for north-west England and the Midlands is underway by the Trust. The Forestry Trust has merged with the Woodland Trust and plans are underway for full marketing and publishing strategy for the woodland guide series. [WT]</p> <p>Woodland Trust woods now feature on 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer series maps under public access land. [WT]</p> <p>National Forest Company "Access Pack" promotes 125 new woodlands with open access. The Company and local authority partners have completed information on common waymarking, surfacing and signage associated with woodland access sites and trails. [NFC]</p> <p>The OS National Forest Explorer map includes indication of woodlands with access.[NFC]</p> <p>Walk in the Woods programme, promoting access to hundreds of woods during May each year, facilitated as part of the Trees of Time and place campaign. Information collated by the Tree Council. [NUFU]</p> <p>A partnership research contract between Forestry Commission England and the Woodland Trust has been let to develop 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. The partnership is set to report by the end of 2002[WT]</p> <p>Forest Enterprise is developing the FC Website as a focal point for disseminating access information about facilities on around 160,000 hectares public access land it manages in England. Forest Enterprise has supplied mapping information to OS to enable it to show access land on its 1:50,000 map services.</p> <p><i>Exploring Woodland Guides for East Anglia and North Thames, Peak District and Central England have been published. Guides to North West England including the Lake District, South East England, Yorkshire and North East Regions are now being prepared and are due for publication in autumn 2003. The final guides, Severn Wye and Avon, Chilterns and the Cotswolds, south West England are due in 2004. [WT]</i></p> <p><i>The provisional database of accessible woodland is due to be completed at the end of May 2003. [WT]</i></p>

Enhance the Nation's Forest Estate

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>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>	<p>Forest Enterprise plans to purchase up to 3,000 hectares of freeholds over the next five years to provide new or assured public access to land currently held under lease. Forest Enterprise has set an indicative target of achieving at least 500 hectares of public access land within each Community Forest and the National Forest within 10 years. <i>To date (March 2003), 296 hectares of freeholds have been purchased in Shropshire, Devon and Dorset.</i></p>
<p>Develop the Forestry Commission's Woodland Park network close to towns and cities.</p>	<p>Unsuccessful bids made to the Capital Modernisation Fund in 2001/02 and the 2002 Spending Review.</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>Forest Enterprise continues liaison with RAC MSA, and effectively provides facilities for motors sport (rallying) to continue in Britain.</p>
<p>Improve recreational and other facilities through private sector partnerships.</p>	<p>Forest Enterprise aims to develop at least three major Forest Centres and four new catering franchises through Private Finance Initiative partnerships over the next five years. Invitations to tender issued autumn 1999. A preferred bidder has been in negotiation for 3 years, but no deal yet – considering alternative funding options.</p> <p>FE has secured £10m CMF funding for refurbishment of Forest Holidays at English cabin sites. Deer Park (45 cabins) now complete, Keldy (61 cabins) currently under reconstruction.</p> <p>FE Lake District Osprey partnership has attracted over 100,000 people over 3 months in summer 2002 in a project designed to boost tourist recovery post foot and mouth.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission, working with a wide range of partners, has secured £0.5m to enlarge the Whinlatter Visitor Centre in the Lake District. The project will provide a new centre for the viewing of the first pair of Ospreys to return to breeding in England. This project will provide new employment opportunities in this Foot & Mouth hit area, both directly and through increased tourism activity in the area.</p> <p><i>New facilities will be open in Spring 2003.</i></p> <p>FE has been exploring relocation of its largest campsite in the New Forest in an initiative to continue withdrawal from pasture woodland designated SAC with reinvestment in modern camping facilities.</p> <p><i>FE have had a successful first year operation of an innovative high ropes course called 'Go Ape!' at Thetford Forest. This franchise operation will open 3 further courses in Spring 2003.</i></p>
<p>Promote Better Understanding</p>	
<p>Action Intended</p>	<p>Actions To Date And In Progress</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>National Small Woods Association producing a practical guide to the costs and benefits of all major recreational activities in woodland in conjunction with the Countryside Agency in 2000. [NSWA]</p> <p>Forestry Commission carrying out a study to examine the economic contribution of forestry to tourism within Britain. Contract for Phase 1 scoping study to look at existing methodology, research and data is nearing completion. Phase 2 will subsequently calculate actual money spent, employment and the associated multipliers.</p>
<p>Engage with the public to promote the benefits of trees, woods and forests.</p>	<p>Results from the Forestry Commission's 1999 Public Opinion of Forestry survey published November 1999. Survey report available on the Forestry Commission's Internet website.</p> <p>National Small Woods Association launching a 'Local Woods Campaign' in 2000. [NSWA]</p> <p>Trees of Time and Place campaign achievements include 400 MPs who have pledged support through Constituency Oaks, 2,500 schools now participating in Growing with Trees (in partnership with Learning through Landscapes); 500 sites secured for planting personal seedlings and the promotion of urban forestry, community nurseries and local provenance stock. [ToTap]</p> <p>In September 2000 the Woodland Trust will launch 'Wild About Woods', with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim is to reach new audiences through multi-media, video, CD-ROM, audiotape as well as special materials and sites with special facilities for the less able. [WT]</p> <p>200 community woods now either planted or due for planting by spring 2001 as a result of 'Woods on Your Doorstep' project – local communities have chosen to celebrate the millennium with a new wood and played a key role in planning and realising the project with the Woodland Trust's help. [WT]</p>



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<p>Engage with the public to promote the benefits of trees, woods and forests. (Contd.)</p>	<p>English Nature published (February 2002) a report on ‘Revealing the value of nature’ – an assessment of the benefits that habitats including woods bring. [EN]</p> <p><i>Defra’s Environmental Action Fund has funded the development of a Community Woodland Network, a self help materials and web site, plus conference scheduled for July 2003. [WT]</i></p> <p><i>The Woodland Trust is promoting a second children’s trees and woods conference in July 2003 at Hainault Forest in Essex. [WT]</i></p> <p><i>Since 1995, 46,000 people have been involved in Forest related community events in The National Forest. [NFC]</i></p> <p>English Nature is a major organiser of ‘In Praise of Trees’, an arts and science celebration of trees and woods as part of the Salisbury Festival. [EN]</p> <p>Conkers Visitor Centre in The National Forest has attracted 250,000 visitors in its first year of operating. [NFC]</p> <p>The updated and extended Royal Forestry Society website was launched in early October 2002. The site is aimed at people with an existing interest forestry that want to gain a better understanding. It contains a wide range of information on trees and woodland including sections on individual species, woodland management, wildlife and wood products. There is also information on places to visit, careers and courses, and certification. [RFS]</p> <p>Forest Enterprise ran an International Festival of Gardens from June to August 2002, attracting well over 100,000 visitors to Westonbirt Arboretum. Forest Enterprise concert programme at 5 sites across England attracted 28,000.</p>
<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.</p>	<p>FEI Challenge fund to support the formation and development of local groups being prepared with launch planned for summer 1999. Eight challenge fund bids have been approved for projects ranging from resources to local schools to a new woodland site for use as a living classroom. FEI has completed (June 1999) a review and evaluation of its existing educational resources. FEI developing proposals for interactive website for launch by summer 2000. New clusters are due to be launched in the South Yorkshire and Tees Community Forests in spring 2000.</p> <p>In England there are now 23 clusters and 2002 saw 12 challenge fund bids supporting a wide range of educational projects. New national partners have been added to the FEI Executive Committee in the Tree Council, Groundwork UK and BTCV. To further the growth and increased demand for FEI, a fund raising campaign has been instigated and this will be a major drive in the immediate future.</p> <p>The Conkers Discovery Centre and Rolleston Forestry Centre jointly attracted over 800 school visits in 2001, involving over 30,000 children.. NFC has established an environmental education project in South Derbyshire sponsored by Rolls Royce; and has developing a pilot Social Inclusion project with the Countryside Agency that has provided free transport for 11 inner city schools from Birmingham, Derby and Leicester to visit National Forest environmental education centres and plant trees at new forest sites. [NFC]</p> <p>Forest Enterprise welcomes over 100,000 children per annum to its forest education centres, e.g. Westonbirt, Wyre, Cannock, Delamere, Hamsterley, Alice Holt, High Lodge (Theford).</p>



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>Forestry Commission added to the list of non-statutory consultees for development in or affecting ancient semi-natural woodlands and ancient replanted woodlands in April 1999.</p> <p>Additional woodland sites are being proposed to go forward for protection under the European Habitat and Species Directive. [EN]</p> <p>Woodland Trust has completed a study to examine the current mechanisms for protection of woodlands in England and Wales. [WT]</p> <p>England Forestry Forum Working Group established to consider the extent and nature of threats to ancient semi-natural woodlands and develop proposals to address any identified threats. Final report and recommendations to Forum produced December 2000 (Paper54/01).</p> <p>Woodland Trust has produced a leaflet on planning applications and ancient woods to help inform local authorities about planning decisions affecting ancient woodland. [WT]</p> <p>Woodland Trust published a report in June 2000 on why UK's ancient woodland is still under threat, outlining issues of climate change, land management and planning/policy weaknesses as a contribution to the debate on the status of ancient woods today. [WT]</p> <p>Woodland Trust and WWF UK have published a report entitled Development Threats to Ancient Woodland, the first attempt to provide a comprehensive review of the scope and nature of development impacts on ancient woods. Over 130 cases have now been identified which illustrate that major infrastructure projects, leisure development and housing are the principal threats, designations do not protect sites from damage or loss and that local authorities vary considerably in their procedures policies and interest in ancient woodland issues. For a downloadable copy visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk [WT]</p> <p>English Nature DEFRA and FC are developing indicators of over-grazing by stock for use by RDS staff (report summer 2002) [EN]</p> <p>English Nature is supporting the Deer Initiative directly and through research into the impact of deer on biodiversity (papers on impact on flora published autumn 2001) [EN]</p> <p>Paper from the monitoring sub-group of the UK Native Woodland HAP Group is in draft, due for submission in May</p> <p>Procedures for anecdotal monitoring of woodland loss are being explored by FC regional staff and EN.</p> <p>Protection of woodland from external impacts has been incorporated as one of the five key objectives of the Woodland and Forestry Workstream of the England Biodiversity Strategy. Delivery actions will be considered in the next phase of work. The initial draft of the Workstream paper is being submitted to the EFF in March. The England Biodiversity Strategy is due to be completed by July.</p> <p><i>The England Biodiversity Strategy 'Working with the Grain of Nature' was published on 24 October 2002</i></p> <p>The Woodland Trust published a report in July entitled 'Reclaiming our Forgotten Inheritance' focussing on the restoration of planted ancient woodland sites and drawing upon research which the Trust commissioned by the Oxford forestry Institute. [WT]</p> <p><i>A report on developing survey methods to assess over-grazing of upland woods has been prepared by the Working Group set up by Defra, English Nature and the Forestry Commission. Action on the recommendations was discussed by the sponsors at a meeting in March.</i></p>



<p>Seek opportunities for encouraging the replacement of woodland lost to development with equivalent areas of new planting.</p>	<p>“Deforestation for Biodiversity: A Policy Framework” consultation paper issued for expert comment July 2001.</p> <p><i>The paper was published with the proceedings of a seminar on deforestation held in Edinburgh in Dec 2002.</i></p> <p><i>The National Forest Company has agreed a set of development planting guidelines with the 9 local authorities to secure new woodland plantings within new developments. 100 hectares of planting has been achieved so far. [NFC]</i></p>
<p>Introduce Long-Term Plans to guide the management of woods and forests.</p>	<p>Launch of Long-Term Forest Plans in summer 1999. First plans will be prepared during 2000.</p> <p>Over 80% of FC woods in England managed under long-term Forest Design Plans – over 160k.ha. Forest Enterprise secured UKWAS/FSC certification for the entire FC estate in 1999 and secured a WWF ‘Gift to the Earth’ award in 2001 for efforts in promoting independent certification and good forest management.</p>

Promote the Environmental Benefits of Trees and Woodlands

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>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.</p>	<p>Economic Benefits of Community Forestry Study completed for the Countryside Agency by CJC Consulting and Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. [CA]</p> <p>The Environment agency is undertaking projects to enable monitoring of the effects of woodland on riverine fauna. Research programmes are being developed to assess the impact of land use, including woodland, on water resources and flood risk [EA]</p> <p>A report to be published June 2002 will set the UK woodland habitats in a European context. [EN]</p> <p>NFC has undertaken a Socio-Economic Study (2000) of the benefits of forest creation in the National Forest. This is being updated in 2003. [NFC]</p> <p>New research by NUFU on behalf of the CF Partnership to quantify the influence that the presence of trees/greenspace has upon urban domestic property prices.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise supports a network of research plots across the FC estate in England.</p>
<p>Promote greater appreciation of the broad environmental benefits of trees and woods to practitioners, decision makers and the public.</p>	<p>Countryside Agency has established the Countryside Character Network with forestry interests represented.</p> <p>England Forestry Forum Working Group established to develop proposals for encouraging better understanding of the concept of landscape by Forum members and other interested groups.</p> <p>Heart of the National Forest Visitor Centre is promoting greater appreciation of trees to the public. 80,000 visitors in the first year. National Forest Discovery Centre (due to open in 2001) will demonstrate the role of trees and woods in everyday life. [NFC]</p> <p>Trees Matter!: a review of the benefits of urban trees and woodland published by NUFU (1998). Widely distributed to opinion formers and practitioners. [NUFU]</p> <p>Gardening Which?: promotional work with NUFU, Trees for London and others to raise profile of benefits: A Blueprint for Trees published (1999). [NUFU]</p> <p>Trees and Healthy Living national conference organised by NUFU (1999). Substantial media coverage of the health benefits of trees. Report of conference, with details of underpinning research, published by NUFU (2000). [NUFU]</p> <p>The Woodland Trust has published a report ‘Space for Nature’ setting out its thoughts on landscape-scale action for woodland biodiversity [WT]</p> <p>Further national conferences on trees, greenspace and public health organised by NUFU: In 2000 (in conjunction with CVNI) and 2002 (in conjunction with Department of Health, Health development Agency, Forestry Commission and the National Community Forests Partnership. [NUFU]</p>

<p>Promote greater appreciation of the broad environmental benefits of trees and woods to practitioners, decision makers and the public. (Contd.)</p>	<p>Forest Enterprise runs over 1000 events and visits for the public every year, from major concerts and festivals to school visits, eg Kielder and Chopwell Festivals. Publicises activities through widespread local media and leaflets, etc.</p> <p><i>The England Biodiversity Strategy published by the Government in October 2002 stresses the role of biodiversity in enhancing people's quality of life, in both urban and rural areas, and the contribution it makes to local economies.</i></p> <p><i>The Forest Enterprise Wyre Forest Discovery Centre has been awarded 'Eco-Centre' status</i></p>
<p>Promote greater appreciation of the value and use of locally-native trees and shrubs.</p>	<p>Guidance on collection and use of local seed sources published in August 1999 as Forestry Commission Practice Note No. 8.</p> <p>Forestry Commission Technical Paper 31 on 'Genetic Variation and Conservation of British Native Trees and Shrubs published summer 2000.</p> <p>National Forest Company, with Charnwood Wildlife Project, are funding a Local Provenance project officer to identify local provenance seed sources in the forest area, and to work with nurseries to grow and specify local provenance stock. The NFC has also produced a local provenance policy. 15 of the 17 tender schemes in 2001 used local provenance stock. [NFC]</p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>The use of locally native seed origins is being considered as part of the review of ancient woodland policy and practice</i></p>



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>Draft framework being tested by English Nature for monitoring of SSSI sites (to be described in an article in March issue of British Wildlife). [EN] Framework to be used as the basis for monitoring other native woodlands, probably through a sampling system.</p> <p>Members of the UK Woodland Habitat Action Plans Group are working on monitoring systems outside as well as inside the SSSI system. Details available from Keith Kirby, EN. [EN]</p> <p>Woodland Trust has published a report called 'Woodland Biodiversity: Expanding our Horizons', which looks at landscape-scale measures of woodland biodiversity. [WT]</p> <p>English Nature lead consortium on assessing impacts of climate change on habitats and species (MONARCH project), which included beech, oak and pinewoods. Report published November 2001. [EN]</p> <p>English Nature is organising a resurvey of 90 woods previously studied in 1971 to assess biodiversity changes. [EN]</p> <p>English Nature is organising condition assessment surveys of woodland SSSIs and is exploring the extension of the approach to woodland more generally. [EN]</p> <p>A PhD project has just been let to Liverpool University to develop predictive models of ground flora changes in woodland. [EN]</p> <p>English Nature is leading a project to draw together data held by local record centres and make it available through the National Biodiversity Network. [EN]</p> <p>Forestry Commission leading the Woodland Bird Group that is about to re-survey 350 woodlands to estimate the changes in bird populations and refine the hypotheses for woodland bird population declines. The 4 year project has £600k funding from FC, DEFRA, EN, RSPB and BTO.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise PAWS restoration programme across England envisages restoration of around 20,000 ha to native/local species.</p>
<p>Establish a framework for monitoring important woodland habitats and species linked to the National Biodiversity Network.</p>	<p>Forest Enterprise has a contract with Butterfly Conservation to monitor and report on butterflies on key FE sites. Forest Enterprise is working on one of the largest landscape scale habitat projects, looking at survival of red squirrels in Northumberland with Newcastle University.</p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise has completed and published a survey of Ancient Woodland on the Forestry Commission Estate in England.</i></p> <p><i>Ways of incorporating information from both the Ancient Woodland Inventory and the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees via English Nature's 'Nature Online' initiative are being investigated.</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>Woodland HAP and species targets being refined to provide local level guidance by a sub group of the English Native Woodlands Partnership. [EN] Woodland HAP targets expressed by Natural Areas due to be agreed at July meeting of English Native Woodlands Partnership. Details of the agreed targets due to be published early 2001.</p> <p>Draft lowland broadleaves HAP submitted to JNCC as part of HAP gap analysis work approved as UK HAP. English Native Woodlands Partnership working up targets with UK Group by end 2001.</p> <p>SAP species assessed and forestry target species identified. Publication likely 2001.</p> <p>English Nature has produced a report on key species associated with parkland and wood-pasture HAP (published Jan 2002) [EN]</p> <p>Ancient Tree Forum has been commissioned by English Nature to review the significance of UK's veteran trees in a European context. [EN]</p> <p>In the Chilterns and South Downs English Nature is piloting techniques for identifying how woodland expansion can be linked with expansion of other priority habitats such as grassland.</p> <p>A paper on deadwood conservation has been developed by members of the Native Woodland Partnership and is being published in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry by RFS as part of their contribution towards implementing the EFS. [EN RFS]</p> <p><i>The ENWP played a key role in drafting the woodland components of the England Biodiversity Strategy, and will act as the 'workstream group' for subsequent implementation.</i></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>	<p>WGS New Native Woodlands in National Parks Challenge Fund is contributing to this.</p> <p>FC in collaboration with the English Native Woodlands Partnership has launched (September 2000) the 'JIGSAW' Challenge Fund under the WGS to help reverse the fragmentation of native woods.</p> <p>Work between EN and FC (Research) carried out on ways of identifying high priority areas. [EN]</p> <p>EN Species Recovery Programme continues to support research and management on woodland species including red squirrel, violet click beetle and other deadwood species, bats, pine marten. [EN]</p> <p>A pilot of a scheme to grant aid the preparation of management plans for semi-natural woodland and supporting surveys is being trialled in the West Midlands and South West England.</p> <p>Veteran Trees Initiative published "Veteran Trees Management Handbook, Safety Guidance for Owners of Veteran Trees", and a booklet on grants available for managing veteran trees. A related series of workshops have also been held. [EN]</p> <p>New approaches to prioritising woodland creation under the draft Lowland Mixed Deciduous HAP are being worked up by the ENWP and the UK NW HAP Group.</p> <p>Native woodland expansion priorities and targets, which integrate existing HAP targets, are being developed as part of the England Biodiversity Strategy. Strategy scheduled for publication in autumn 2002.</p> <p><i>Priorities for both HAPs and SAPs have been an input to the development of the England Woodland Grant Scheme</i></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>	<p>Joint accord between the Forestry Commission, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) and English Heritage, setting out shared priorities, to be published summer 2002.</p> <p>Forest Enterprise is working with English Heritage on assessment of wide-scale archaeological interest in the Forest of Dean.</p> <p><i>Forest Enterprise has been awarded £47,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund as a special planning grant for the Forest of Neroche project on the Blackdown Hills near Taunton in Somerset under the Landscape Partnership Scheme. English Nature has promised support. This stems from an ecologically-based historic landscape restoration project for the group of FE woods along the Blackdown ridge, restoring them to native woodland consistent with the wider FE plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) restoration project, and in support of the rural economy through enhanced public access provision.</i></p>