

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

Introduction

This paper is an updated 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 will continue to be updated for each Forum meeting.

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

**Forestry Commission
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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 – December 2000

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><i>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:</i></p> <p><i>(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;</i></p> <p><i>(b) the continuation of MAFF's Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS); and</i></p> <p><i>(c) payments to maintain and improve the ecological stability of forests where the costs exceed the income from forestry under the WGS.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Joint DEFRA/FC economic, environmental and social evaluation of woodland creation under WGS/FWPS under way. 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; Responding to the recommendations of the Policy Commission on Farming and Food in the 21st Century where these impact on the ERDP; Driving forward the review of the agri-environment and related schemes, including the woodland schemes, to feed in turn into the mid-term evaluation of the ERDP in 2003; Ensuring 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]</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>English Nature, CA and FC have let a contract to review the implementation of the forestry aspects of the RDR in the UK and in selected other countries – report due early summer. [EN]</i></p>

	<i>In partnership with the other UK wildlife and countryside agencies and the Forestry Commission, research has been commissioned to examine 'the role of forestry in sustainable rural development'. This work looks at the range of support available to forestry in the current Rural Development Plans under the Rural Development Regulation, both in the UK and in seven other EU Member States. It will propose recommendations for improving the policy framework, incentive mechanisms and institutional arrangements required to improve the range of forestry measures available. A seminar was held in February to inform the draft findings of the research and the project will be completed in April. Further work will follow from this initial study. [EN]</i>
Support research into the implications of CAP reform for the transfer of land from farming to forestry.	Ongoing programme of research by the Countryside Agency. Research contract on 'new entrants to the land market' has been commissioned by the GB wildlife and countryside agencies. [CA] <i>Ongoing programme of research by DEFRA [DEFRA]</i> <i>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 (report Summer 2002). [EN]</i>
Support Strategic Development of Woodland Resources	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Publish a national woodland inventory to provide better information about England's woodland resources.	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. 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]
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.	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). North East England Forestry Cluster has completed a strategic study of the region's forestry sector. [FCA]
Ensure that the supply of timber from our woodland resources is available at the levels indicated in long-term forecasts.	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.
Continue to provide support for regional and local marketing initiatives, including small-scale and craft uses.	Third woodland initiatives networking day held in Cambridge in September 2000 and report of discussion published November 2000. 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] Northern England - a study into niche markets is being prepared together with a Timber Trades Directory. [FCA] The CA and FC, in partnership with industry and RDA's, are supporting two projects to investigate the application of business development tools to: a) help embed woodland industries within the wider economy in the West Midlands and b) explore the development of a forestry cluster in North West England.

<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><i>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]</i></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>
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 commissioned work to identify the economic and employment related benefits to date of creating the National Forest. [NFC]</p> <p><i>Joint DEFRA/FC economic, environmental and social evaluation of woodland creation under WGS/FWPS under way. [DEFRA]</i></p>
Encourage Diversification	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<p>Support a targeted programme for short-rotation coppice planting and encourage the use of wood fuel for energy production using the most efficient technology.</p>	<p><i>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]</i></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. 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>In partnership with the other UK wildlife and countryside agencies, research has been commissioned that looks at the potential roles of new native forests and wildwoods in upland land use and landscapes. A series of seminars were held to inform the research last Autumn and the final report is due March/April. [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>



2. Forestry for Economic Regeneration

Promote Forestry for Land Regeneration	
Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
<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.</p>	<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>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 **.</p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
<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. A Phase 1 demonstration focussed on colliery spoils is now complete. A pilot will concentrate on testing on colliery sites before introducing other types of brownfield land.</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>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 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 140 hectares has been acquired in the National Forest and some 500 hectares of former colliery land is being evaluated in South Yorkshire.</p>
<p>Support Regional Programmes</p>	
<p>Action Intended</p>	<p>Actions To Date And In Progress</p>
<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>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>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]</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>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>



Promote Forestry Through Land Use Planning

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Review Circular 36/78 on Trees and Forestry and consider, as part of a rolling programme, how the role of woodlands might be highlighted through regional and national planning guidance.	England Forestry Forum Working Group reviewing content and promotion of revised guidance. Final report and recommendations to Forum produced November 2000 (Paper 4/01).
Review the guidance in Minerals Planning Guidance Note 7 in due course and if necessary amend this to reflect revised forestry policy.	
Work closely with mineral and waste planning authorities to ensure that Government forestry policies are fully reflected in development plans.	<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 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>
Work with the minerals and waste industries to encourage consideration of forestry as an after-use at an early stage of planning development.	<p>As above.</p> <p>National Forest Company works closely with all main minerals companies in the National Forest. Also involved in a sub-regional partnership led by Staffordshire County Council which is developing a long-term restoration strategy for sand and gravel workings between Tamworth and Burton upon Trent. [NFC]</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>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 'Guide for Planners and Developers'. [NFC]</p> <p><i>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.</i> [CA]</p>



Promote Environmental Improvements

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Create new woodlands along transport corridors as part of a programme of environmental improvements.	<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>



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><i>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 and the Government is considering the Commission's recommendations as to how this might be taken forward. [DEFRA]</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></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>85% (2,600 ha.) of National Forest land has some form of access. Supported with a wide range of information packs and other materials. [NFC]</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 grant aided the development of 6km. of new cycle routes in the National Forest area. National Forest Company is also 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>



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 annually updates their "Access Pack" which promotes nearly 100 new woodlands with open access. The Company and local authority partners are shortly to produce an Access Standards Guide detailing proposals for common waymarking, surfacing and signage associated with woodland access sites and trails. [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><i>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. [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.</p>
<p>Develop the Forestry Commission's Woodland Park network close to towns and cities.</p>	
<p>Work in partnership with sports' governing bodies to accommodate noisy or intrusive recreation in suitable woodlands and relieve pressure on sensitive sites.</p>	
<p>Improve recreational and other facilities through private sector partnerships.</p>	<p>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.</p>



Promote Better Understanding

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Support research into the economic contribution that woodlands and forests make to tourism and the potential for forest-based tourism initiatives to benefit local communities.	<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>
Engage with the public to promote the benefits of trees, woods and forests.	<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> <p><i>English Nature published (February 2002) a report on 'Revealing the value of nature' – an assessment of the benefits that habitats including woods bring. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></p>
Support the Forest Education Initiative by developing the national network of local groups to encourage children and young people to better understand the importance of woods and forests.	<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>National Forest area to establish a new FEI cluster during 2000. [NFC]</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><i>Woodland Trust and WWF UK have published a report entitled <i>Development Threats to Ancient Woodland</i>, 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]</i></p> <p><i>English Nature DEFRA and FC are developing indicators of over-grazing by stock for use by RDS staff (report summer 2002) [EN]</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>Paper from the monitoring sub-group of the UK Native Woodland HAP Group is in draft, due for submission in May</i></p> <p><i>Procedures for anecdotal monitoring of woodland loss are being explored by FC regional staff and EN.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
Seek opportunities for encouraging the replacement of woodland lost to development with equivalent areas of new planting.	<p><i>"Deforestation for Biodiversity: A Policy Framework" consultation paper issued for expert comment July 2001.</i></p>
Introduce Long-Term Plans to guide the management of woods and forests.	<p>Launch of Long-Term Forest Plans in summer 1999. First plans will be prepared during 2000.</p>

Promote the Environmental Benefits of Trees and Woodlands

Action Intended	Actions To Date And In Progress
Support research to improve understanding of the value of the environmental benefits of trees, woodlands and forests and the environmental processes that they perform, particularly in relation to aerial and water borne pollution.	<p>Economic Benefits of Community Forestry Study completed for the Countryside Agency by CJC Consulting and Macaulay Land Use Research Institute. [CA]</p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>A report to be published June 2002 will set the UK woodland habitats in a European context. [EN]</i></p>
Promote greater appreciation of the broad environmental benefits of trees and woods to practitioners, decision makers and the public.	<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>
Promote greater appreciation of the value and use of locally-native trees and shrubs.	<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, have undertaken research with nurseries and grant aiding bodies on their willingness to grow and specify local provenance stock. [NFC]</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><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>English Nature is organising a resurvey of 90 woods previously studied in 1971 to assess biodiversity changes. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>English Nature is organising condition assessment surveys of woodland SSSIs and is exploring the extension of the approach to woodland more generally. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>A PhD project has just been let to Liverpool University to develop predictive models of ground flora changes in woodland. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>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]</i></p> <p><i>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.</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><i>English Nature has produced a report on key species associated with parkland and wood-pasture HAP (published Jan 2002) [EN]</i></p> <p><i>Ancient Tree Forum has been commissioned by English Nature to review the significance of UK's veteran trees in a European context. [EN]</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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. [EN]</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. This is due to be presented to Ministers in July</p>
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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>