

Annex 5: Joint Defra/FC forestry programme for 2014/15

Policy priority	Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement Commitment	FC Priority	Defra priority	Lead
1. Revision of the Squirrel Action Plan <i>FC & Defra's Native and Invasive Non-Native Species policy team to collaborate and agree a new approach to grey squirrel management for agreement by ministers. Potential for FC and RDP policy teams to collaborate and advise ministers on a proposal to make GS control a condition of RDP grants. [1]</i>	[22] We will continue to implement the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020, including by encouraging woodland management and creation that helps conserve and enhance wildlife.	P	ITE	FC
2. Review of approach to deer management <i>FC, DFP&ST and the RDP team will establish how to further landowner collaboration on deer management through an open review and informal consultation with key stakeholders, using the Deer Initiative Partnership as the reference group. [2]</i>	[22] We will continue to implement the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020, including by encouraging woodland management and creation that helps conserve and enhance wildlife.	P	ITE	FC
3. Review of balancing mechanism for Government's policy on open habitats <i>FC will review the need for a compensatory planting 'balancing mechanism' to ensure that woodland expansion aspirations are met alongside the delivery of Biodiversity 2020 open habitat restoration objectives. Defra Biodiversity 2020 team will be informed with the conclusion communicated to Ministers as appropriate. [3]</i>	[23] We will work to improve and restore our native and ancient woodlands and open habitats through renewing our commitment to the policies set out in the Open Habitats Policy and Keepers of Time.	I	ITE	FC
4. Regulatory changes to make it easy for landowners to	[27] We will pilot an approach that would reduce the	E	GRE/ITE	FC

<p>plant woodland (EIA pilot)</p> <p><i>FC will run the pilot project with close involvement from a range of stakeholders. FC and DFP&ST will evaluate whether the conclusions of the project suggest that any changes to the regulatory framework are desirable and present options to Ministers. [1]</i></p>	<p>regulatory burden on landowners who want to plant woodland by clarifying where a full Environmental Statement is unlikely to be required.</p>			
<p>5. Stakeholder engagement for expansion and management</p> <p><i>DFP&ST and FC (and possibly others, e.g. RDP policy) will establish a national cross-cutting stakeholder engagement process based on the research findings the findings of the forestry segmentation research project. [1]</i></p>	<p>[4] We will work with businesses and civil society to increase the total capacity and capability available to provide targeted advice on woodland management.</p> <p>[5] We will publish research on the potential impact of different ways of incentivising landowners to manage and create woodland.</p> <p>[26] We will work with the sector to find new ways of encouraging landowners to plant more trees where it best suits them and their local conditions.</p>	E/I	GRE	FC
<p>6. Establishing biomass sustainability criteria</p> <p><i>FC and DFP&ST will work with Defra Resource, Atmosphere and Sustainability and DECC to ensure that appropriate biomass sustainability criteria are developed to support the review of the Bioenergy Strategy in 2015/6 that do not harm the developing UKFS-based woodfuel industry in England. [3]</i></p>	<p>[3] We will exchange knowledge with advisors from across the sector on how to take a low burden, risk-based approach to implementing the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).</p> <p>[11] We will work with industry to help highlight opportunities for investment in new bioenergy and energy efficiency projects, including the development of suitable forest-based supply chains.</p>	P/I	GRE	Defra (DECC)
<p>7. Learning and development (skills) manifesto for the forestry sector</p> <p><i>FC and DFP&ST will develop a manifesto building on the</i></p>	<p>[4] We will work with businesses and civil society to increase the total capacity and capability available to provide targeted advice on woodland management.</p>	I	GRE	FC

<i>Skills Action Plan to ensure that the forestry workforce is able to meet increased demand for wood products. [2]</i>				
8. Establishing forestry's role in Water Framework Directive and Flood Risk Management <i>FC and DFP&ST will work with Defra WQ, FRM and RDP teams to establish an appropriate role for forestry in second cycle River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans. [2]</i>	[32] We will work with other organisations and initiatives to support the further development of markets in forest carbon and other ecosystem services such as water and biodiversity.	E	ITE	Defra
9. Forestry resilience and the National Adaptation Programme <i>FC, DFP&ST and Defra's Climate Ready Team will work with the sector to prepare a Climate Change Action Plan [2]</i>	[1] We will give greater priority to tree and plant health than ever before.	P	ITE/SPH	Defra
10. Review of policy on <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> <i>FC, DFP&ST and Defra Plant Health Team will review the approach to managing Phytophthora ramorum on larch. [3]</i>	[1] We will give greater priority to tree and plant health than ever before.	P	SPH	FC
11. Formalisation of Protected Zones for tree pests and diseases <i>FC, DFP&ST and Defra Plant Health Team will prepare options for introducing Protected Zones to present to Ministers for formal notification to the EU. [1]</i>	[1] We will give greater priority to tree and plant health than ever before.	P	SPH	Defra
12. Rural Development Programme <i>FC, DFP&ST and Defra RDP team will finalise forestry measures in NELMs and FFPS for Ministerial sign-off and establish the detail of grant delivery, including transitional arrangements. [1]</i>	[5] We will publish research on the potential impact of different ways of incentivising landowners to manage and create woodland. [22] We will continue to implement the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020, including by encouraging woodland management and creation that helps conserve and enhance wildlife.	E/I	ITE/GRE	Defra

	[32] We will work with other organisations and initiatives to support the further development of markets in forest carbon and other ecosystem services such as water and biodiversity.			
13. Ensure EU structural funds support forestry and wider sustainable development objectives <i>FC and DFP&ST will work together to ensure that sustainability objectives, as set out in the UK's Partnership agreement on EU Structural funds, are translated into Local Enterprise Partnership delivery. [2]</i>	[12] We will establish a register of forestry-related projects that are being supported by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and disseminate examples of best practice and business opportunities widely across the LEP network.	I	GRE	FC
14. Clarifying the implications of European Protected Species legislation for the forestry sector <i>FC and Defra Biodiversity team will work together to ensure that implementation of EU Habitats & Birds Directives; the Habitats Regulations concerning European Protected Species; and implementation of the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation, (including through the CAP), do not place an unnecessary burden on the forestry sector and act as a barrier to woodland management objectives. [1]</i>	[3] We will exchange knowledge with advisors from across the sector on how to take a low burden, risk-based approach to implementing the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). [22] We will continue to implement the Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020, including by encouraging woodland management and creation that helps conserve and enhance wildlife.	P	GRE	FC
Institutional				
15. Strategic alignment including research and headquarter functions <i>Defra forestry policy & sponsorship team/FC to collaborate on developing and implementing the revised working relationship alongside wider strategic alignment through the One Business Programme.[2]</i>	[33] We will retain a core of forestry expertise within Government with the capacity to deliver a range of functions, duties and powers ¹ .	n/a	n/a	Defra
16. Establishing institutional arrangements for delivery of plant (including tree) health priorities	[2] We will review the arrangements and resources needed for tree health in light of the final report of the Tree Health	n/a	n/a	Defra

<p><i>Defra plant health policy and FC to establish new arrangements for Plant Health delivery, seeking Ministerial approval. [1]</i></p>	<p>and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce¹.</p>			
<p>17. Aligning the functions of Natural England and Forest Services <i>FC and DFP&ST will work together and with NE and RPA to ensure efficient customer-focussed advice and delivery when the new grant schemes open. [3]</i></p>	<p>[34] We will confirm the organisational arrangements through which the Government's on-going forestry expertise and functions will be delivered in the future after the Triennial Review reports its preliminary conclusions in spring 2013¹.</p>	n/a	n/a	FC
<p>18. Forestry legislation, principally preparation for vesting of the PFEMO <i>Defra PFE MO project team/FC to collaborate on developing the legislative proposals. [1]</i></p>	<p>[36] We will establish a new, operationally-independent Public Forest Estate management body to hold the estate in trust for the nation and manage its resources effectively to maximise the value of the land, trees and other assets under its care.</p>	n/a	n/a	Defra
<p>19. Staged development of Forest Enterprise England to prepare for vesting <i>FC/Defra PFE MO project team to collaborate on ensuring that business opportunities are realised and that a resilient financial model is in place to support the long term development and operation of the PFEMO. [2]</i></p>	<p>[15] We will launch a new initiative to develop further the involvement of local communities with the Public Forest Estate.</p> <p>[24] We will publish a strategy for Open Habitat Policy delivery on the Public Forest Estate to set out the future priorities for development and management of open habitats across the Estate.</p> <p>[30] We will work with the Natural Capital Committee and the office of National Statistics to develop a set of natural capital accounts for UK forestry and use this to develop a set of natural capital accounts for the Public Forest Estate.</p> <p>[36] We will establish a new, operationally-independent</p>	n/a	n/a	FC

	Public Forest Estate management body to hold the estate in trust for the nation and manage its resources effectively to maximise the value of the land, trees and other assets under its care.			
20. Cross-border forestry functions <i>FC and DFP&ST (along with DAs) to collaborate on a refreshed basis for delivery of the cross-border functions. [2]</i>	[35] We will work with the devolved nations to ensure that vital cross-border functions in areas such as research, standards and tree health can continue to be delivered centrally, where this is appropriate.	n/a	n/a	FC
21. Science and Innovation Strategy <i>FC, CFS and DFP&ST to work with Defra Strategic Evidence team and other policy teams to develop the Science and Innovation Strategy into a series of coherent research programmes that cover the needs of forestry in England. [3]</i>	[33] We will retain a core of forestry expertise within Government with the capacity to deliver a range of functions, duties and powers. [35] We will work with the devolved nations to ensure that vital cross-border functions in areas such as research ¹ , standards and tree health can continue to be delivered centrally, where this is appropriate.	n/a	n/a	FC

¹Further expanded on in the Review of forestry functions and organisational arrangements for their delivery in England, published in July 2013.

²As set out in the Science and Innovation Strategy for Forestry in Great Britain published in March 2014.

FC Priority – P: Protect; I: Improve; E: Expand.

Defra Priority – ITE: Improving The Environment; SPH: Safeguarding Plant Health; GRE: Growing the Rural Economy.