

**PERFORMANCE AGAINST SPENDING REVIEW 2007 INDICATORS FOR 2008 – 2011:  
OUTTURN AT 31 MARCH 2011**

Aim	Indicator 2008 - 11	Outturn of the Three Year Period to 31 March 2011
<b>Delivering the Strategy for England's Trees, Woodlands and Forests</b>		
Aim 1 Protect & Enhance the Resource	Maintain the <b>area of certified woodland at or above 332,000 ha</b> - as an indicator of wider sustainable forest management.	Target missed. The area of certified woodland was 317,000ha as at 31 March 2011 (interim figure due to be finalised at publication of this National Statistic on 9 June 2011). The area was maintained above target up until the most recent interim update. The recent slippage was mainly due to expiry of a major landowner's certificate that has since been renewed.
Aim 2 Climate Change	Increase the number of boilers that use <b>wood for heat generation</b> (with a total installed capacity of 10 MWth) -- as an indicator of the uptake of woodfuel as a renewable source of energy.	Target exceeded-- total installed capacity has increased by an estimate of at least 75MWth (revised figure) at 31 March 2011.
Aim 3 Land & Natural Environment	<p>A net increase of 7,200 ha (see note 1) in the <b>area of native woodland</b> and <b>other semi-natural</b> habitats restored from forest (for which a target will be set during 2008–09) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>minimising</b> losses of native woodland;</li> <li>• <b>restoring</b> PAWS to native woodland;</li> <li>• <b>converting</b> other plantations to native species;</li> <li>• <b>creating</b> new woodland of native species; and</li> <li>• <b>restoring open habitats</b> through reduction or removal of plantations, woodland or scrub.</li> </ul>	Target achieved. The net increase stands at 7,569ha. A draft strategy for open habitats on the Public Forest Estate has been developed (pending any recommendations from the Independent Panel on Forestry).
	Increase the area of all <b>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)</b> where FC has statutory responsibilities which are in favourable or recovering condition to 95% by December 2010. (see note 2)	Substantially achieved. There has been an increase to 94.2% of the area of relevant SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. 99.8% of woodland SSSIs owned by Forestry Commission England are in target condition.
	Reverse the long-term decline in the number of <b>woodland birds by 2015</b> as measured annually against underlying trends using the Woodland Birds Index – as a proxy for wider biodiversity.	Partial progress. Populations for woodland 'generalist' birds have increased whilst populations of woodland 'specialist' birds have declined marginally. Overall the number of woodland birds has remained almost stable (2009 data).

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Aim 4 Quality of Life – Communities & Places	Increase the percentage of the population in priority areas with <b>access to woodland</b> according to access standards from 62% to 66% (relating to an additional 750,000 people having access) – as an indicator of woodlands' contribution to <b>Quality of Place</b> .	Target achieved. Increased to 66.3% (relating to an additional 833,000 priority people having access).
Aim 4 Quality of Life – Communities & Places	Develop a methodology, set a target, then measure an increase in: * visits to and <b>engagement with local woodland</b> ; * quality of experience; and * personal and social benefit for a series of selected sites, as an indicator of woodlands' contribution to <b>Quality of Life</b> .	Target achieved. A strong methodology to evaluate the contribution of trees, woods and forests was developed, independently approved and implemented by Forest Research. This encompassed a national survey; definition, profiling and surveying of the three site catchment populations; on-site visitor surveys; and analysis of staff-led activities, With 12 of the 15 component indicators successfully met, Forestry Commission England has successfully exceeded the Quality of Life target (of 8 out of 15). Comprehensive reports document the reusable methodology.
Aim 5 Working Woodlands	Develop and implement a regular <b>business confidence survey</b> from which will be set future targets for improvement – to improve the quality and quantity of sector information.	Survey withdrawn due to resource reductions, following re-evaluation of its business case. Research into existing business confidence surveys and available good practice completed.
<b>Improving How We Work</b>		
Customer Service	Provide excellent service to the customers of our <b>Grants and Regulations</b> to be measured by achieving 85% of <b>transactions within standard times</b> .	Some slippage. Overall performance was 75%, although for some transaction types performance has significantly exceeded target requirements. The percentages of relevant transactions completed on time or early were: England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) claims 91%, EWGS applications 71%, Farm Woodland Premium Scheme payments 68%, and Felling Licence Applications 90%.
	Achieve a recommendation standard of at least 75% at <b>all</b> of the visitor centres surveyed – demonstrating our <b>customers readily recommend our sites to their friends</b> – as an indicator of excellent customer service.	Of nine visitor centres surveyed the recommendation standard was exceeded at four sites and often substantially so: Wyre (approval value of 93%), Bedgebury (90%), Kielder (89%) and Haldon (89%). The standard was missed at five sites: Westonbirt (71%), Grizedale (70%), Sherwood Pines (70%), Dalby (65%) and Thetford (55%). Although this means that the ambitious target was missed overall, the average score of 77% means that by industry standards performance overall is very good.

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Developing Our People	Deliver <b>Diversity training</b> to 'all' staff – as an indicator of our objective to embed diversity across the organisation.	Target exceeded. 96.6% of staff in post at 31 March 2011 had been trained. The target including an allowance for staff turnover and staff away for prolonged periods of time, e.g. on maternity leave, was 88% of 'all' staff.
	Continue our good record by maintaining <b>working days absence per staff year</b> at or below 6.2 – in recognition of the strong connection between sickness absence, promoting the health and well-being of staff and delivering an engaged and motivated workforce.	Narrowly missed target with an average sick absence rate of 6.4 days per annum over the three years. Performance in days per annum in 2008/09 was 6.8 (revised figure), 2009/10 6.2, and 2010/11 6.2.
Delivering Sustainability	Attain <b>Environmental Management System</b> accreditation ISO14001 – or similar (subject to business requirements) – as an indicator of our movement towards <b>greater corporate sustainability</b> .	Substantially achieved. A robust Environmental Management System has been put in place right across the Forestry Commission and an initial phase of audits at Silvan House and Forest Research has been successful in achieving ISO14001 accreditation. The scope of the accreditation is due to be extended to Forestry Commission England sites during 2011/12.
Delivering Value for Money	Develop a system, measure and a target, then increase the proportion of <b>grants and regulation transactions carried out on-line</b> – as an indicator of efficiency.	A system has been developed. Significant progress has been made, although no formal measure or target set. All payments are now made through BACS. England Woodland Grant Scheme applications can now be made electronically, and additional guidance and improvements have been made to encourage this. Electronic map request facilities are now available internally ahead of wider provision for customers. Continual improvements have been made to the content and presentation of information on our website, and we have worked closely with the Rural Payments Agency on electronic use of the Rural Land Register.
	<b>Manage the public forest estate within an agreed net cost per hectare</b> - as an indicator of efficiency. The targets per hectare for each of the three financial years were £77.61 for 2008-09, £88.52 for 2009-10, and £88.65 for 2010-11 (+/-5% in each case).	Missed in-year target in 2008-09 with outturn of £83.80 per hectare. Target achieved in the two most recent years with a net cost of managing the Public Forest Estate per hectare of £86.27 in 2009-10 and £77.67 in 2010-11 (interim figure subject to NAO audit).

Note 1: Target adjusted to reflect Grants and Regulations work only.

Note 2: This target, that is specific to Forestry Commission England, includes SSSIs on the Public Forest Estate and **all** woodland SSSIs on other land