

CUMBRIA AND THE LAKE DISTRICT TREES, WOODLANDS AND FORESTRY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

An inclusive cross-sector partnership is developing a Strategy that will set out a collective vision and objectives for a range of issues including protection, improvement, expansion, economy & jobs wider benefits and empowerment. The Action Plan will focus on the priority actions to be taken by partners and other stakeholders that will create the conditions necessary to attain this vision and objectives.

Cumbria, including the Lake District, has a forest and woodland cover of 67,671ha, 9.9% of the land area, broadly the same proportion as England. Of the total, 19,106ha is the Public Forest Estate managed by the Forestry Commission and most of the remaining 48,565ha is in private ownership. Although much of this forest and woodland is actively managed, a significant proportion is not, so benefits are not optimised. Cumbria also has a vast resource of non-woodland trees with significant existing value. As with forests and woodlands, these non-woodland trees present challenges and opportunities for the future. By developing this strategy and action plan, the latent potential of Cumbria's trees, woodlands and forests can be harnessed to increase the quantity and quality of goods and services they generate for the people of Cumbria and nationally.

OUTCOMES

A Strategy and Action Plan that will develop the full range of benefits derived from Cumbria's trees, woodlands and forests by:

- a) encouraging enhanced and balanced "triple bottom line¹" management of the area's trees, woodlands and forests
- b) setting out a collective long term vision for new woodland creation describing the overall anticipated type and distribution of forests and woodlands in the area
- c) providing an overview of the existing and future potential economic base and future growth stemming from forests, woodlands and wood processing
- d) setting out the opportunities trees, woodlands and forestry can provide for delivering a wide range of ecosystem services
- e) promoting initiatives to protect the areas trees and woodlands from known and emerging plant health threats
- f) providing coherence and synergy with current and emerging local and national policy drivers, incentives and regulations²
- g) identifying barriers to delivery and mechanisms to remove or minimise the barriers

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Funding has been provided by a wide range of partners and the preparation of the strategy and action plan is being overseen by a steering group consisting of public, private and third sector organisations. Work commenced in October 2012 and is due to complete by 31 March 2013.

For more information see <https://sites.google.com/site/treesforcumbria/>

¹ Triple bottom line in this context means outcomes that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits

² e.g. Government Response the Independent Forestry Panels' report and the development of the new RDR England programme