

DEFRA FORESTRY FORUM MEETING 29 JANUARY 2014

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY

2013 PROGRESS REPORT

Following publication of the Government's Forestry and Woodland Policy statement, the RFS has contributed to its implementation as follows:

1. Protect

- Co-hosted with Forestry Commission England two woodland visits specifically focused on species diversification and woodland resilience.
- Joined the SilviFuture partnership to provide woodland owners and managers with a source of information on novel species to support planning for greater resilience.
- Produced a short video of the RFS Coast Redwood grove at Leighton to highlight the potential of this species in British forestry.
- Supported the work of the Future Trees Trust to research and develop trees with greater resistance to disease.
- Promoted the OPAL Tree Health survey, encouraged RFS members to participate as "tree buddies" and organised three OPAL Tree Health meetings in RFS and RFS members' woods.
- Gathered evidence from RFS members and other woodland owners and managers in support of the FC England's review of grey squirrel policy.
- Kept RFS members informed through woodland meetings, the Quarterly Journal of Forestry and RFS e-news of the latest news and views on tree pests and diseases and what woodland owners can do manage and mitigate the impact.

2. Improve

- Supported the launch of Grown in Britain and Grown in Britain Week.
- Organised a conference, to be held in May 2014, on the topic "Building in Wood" to promote the opportunities to add value to wood at different stages of the supply chain from forest to construction, and partnered with Grown in Britain to promote this event.
- Organised a fifth year of the RFS Excellence in Forestry competition to promote excellence in the management of large, small, community and multipurpose woods and for the first time, hosted an urban forestry category in the competition in partnership with Forestry Commission England.