

keepers of time

A STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR ENGLAND'S
ANCIENT & NATIVE WOODLAND

ACTION PLAN 2005–2007



Policy area	Actions	Responsibility
Protection of the resource	◆ Assist relevant authorities with translating the principles in the ancient and native woodland policy statement into Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks	◆ FC, regional and local planning authorities
	◆ Continue revision of ancient woodland inventory in High Weald and apply methodology more widely as applicable	◆ High Weald AONB, WT, FC, NE Partners, Wealden District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust
	◆ Use the Ancient Tree Hunt initiative to develop a participatory approach to establishing a web-based list of concentrations of 'notable trees'	◆ FC, WT, ATF
Quality of life	◆ Roll out Active Woods initiative in ancient and native woodlands across England	◆ FC
	◆ Ensure the English Woodland Grant Scheme delivers more access and improves recreational experience in ancient or native woods, particularly those near to where people live	◆ FC
	◆ Quantify the potential for native woodland to provide 'environmental services', such as flood alleviation, through monitoring of various pilot projects	◆ FC, EA
Enterprise and employment	◆ Establish regional ancient woodland initiatives in each English region, which will engage more proactively with those owners and managers not currently actively managing their woodland	◆ FC
	◆ Provide an inspiring package of information, and a single point of contact, for owners of woodland in order to inspire and help them to carry out essential protection work	◆ FC
Ecological condition	◆ Ensure the grant schemes offered by FC and NE Partners are closely co-ordinated and focused on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ addressing threats and improving the condition of ancient and native woodlands, ◆ promoting the gradual restoration of planted ancient woodland sites 	◆ FC, NE Partners
	◆ Prepare and publish a strategy for the protection, improvement and restoration of ancient woodlands on the public forest estate	◆ FC
	◆ Develop and implement a programme to improve the condition of ancient and native woodland SSSIs which are currently in unfavourable condition	◆ FC, NE Partners
	◆ Develop protocols to ensure any removal of secondary native woodland results in clear biodiversity benefit against UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets	◆ FC, NE Partners

Policy area	Actions	Responsibility
Woodland species	◆ Publish a lowland mixed broadleaves Habitat Action Plan (HAP) and/or incorporate into any combined native woodland HAP arising from the 2005/06 review of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan	◆ DEFRA, FC
	◆ Target grants, advice and support at improving woodland habitats for threatened woodland management dependant Priority species and declining woodland birds (i.e. Forestry Target Species) where grant support is crucial to delivery of a given Species Action Plan	◆ FC
	◆ Produce woodland management guidance for Forestry Target Species and follow-up training, advice and outreach	◆ FC, NE Partners
	◆ Use research findings on factors causing declines in woodland bird populations to produce management advice and to help target grant aid	◆ FC, DEFRA, RSPB, BTO, NE Partners, WT
	◆ Produce best practice guidance for conserving deadwood habitats associated with ancient trees	◆ WT, FC
	◆ Begin a programme of detailed research on population changes and habitat usage and quality in Willow Tit	◆ RSPB, NE Partners, FC
Cultural heritage	◆ Produce a practical guidance manual and present outreach seminars on woodland and wider landscape management for bats	◆ BCT, NE Partners, FC England and Wales, CCW
	◆ Pilot techniques for rapid field assessment of woodland heritage, and support these via the Woodland Assessment Grants of the English Woodland Grant Scheme	◆ FC
Landscape context	◆ Provide training courses and material on woodland heritage to raise understanding and awareness of the cultural value of ancient woodlands	◆ FC, WT, EH, Universities, Local Authorities
	◆ Promote woodland creation which extends, buffers and links ancient woodland through both the English Woodland Grant Scheme and Environmental Stewardship grants	◆ FC
	◆ Pursue opportunities for the public forest estate to act as a core and catalyst for landscape scale projects	◆ FC
	◆ Address the problem of unsustainably high populations of deer, focused on areas where they are causing most damage	◆ DEFRA, FC, NE Partners, Deer Initiative
	◆ Develop and reach agreement on assessment of favourable condition of ancient and native woodlands at the landscape scale	◆ England Woodland Biodiversity Group

Action Plan 2005 – 2007

Keepers of Time, a Policy Statement for ancient and native woodland was launched in 2005. It provides a **framework for action** by listing a series of priority policy areas under which a number of strategic objectives are scheduled. It also contains a vision where "ancient woodland, veteran trees and other native woodland is adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and is providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society". The specific actions required to deliver the strategic objectives in the Policy Statement are listed in this **2 year Action Plan**. This plan will be updated as required by the Forestry Commission, with input from other Government departments and partner organisations.

It is intended that the actions in this plan are **Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic and Time-bound**.

ABBREVIATIONS

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ATF	Ancient Tree Forum
BCT	Bat Conservation Trust
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EH	English Heritage
FC	Forestry Commission
NE	Natural England Partners
RDS	Rural Development Service
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
WT	Woodland Trust



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