

## 2. The Regional Context

### 2.b District descriptions:

#### i. East Anglia Forest District

The East Anglia Forest District (EAFD) covers approximately 14,000 square kilometres across the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. This is predominantly a rural area, with the exception of Thames Chase, which is located on the eastern fringe of London and the Thames Gateway, which lies to the east of London and south of the Thames. The population within the area covered by EAFD is over 4 million people. The area managed by EAFD is approximately 25,000 hectares.

Forest Enterprise manages the freehold of 75% of the forest district area, the remainder being leased from a wide variety of lessors.

● Theford Forest Park

The geology and soils of the District are reflected in the species composition, with pine being the main species. The original planting in Theford Forest Park was mainly of Scots Pine. This is gradually being replaced by Corsican Pine, which produces better quality timber. The district has approximately 12% broadleaved tree cover with the Lavenham zone having a particularly high-proportion, as most of its woods are either Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) or Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).

The District's administrative base is at Santon Downham, some 7.5 km northwest of Theford. This District also has two outstations; one at Tangham in Suffolk covering the Sandlings-Lavenham strategic zone, with the other at Cranham, near Upminster in Essex, covering Thames Chase and the Thames Gateway.




# 1. East Anglia Forest District Strategy

## A diverse range of roles


What follows is a major revision to the East Anglia Forest District's current Strategic Plan, scheduled to expire in 2005.

The principal aim of this expanded plan is to provide the direction to enable the District's seven teams to act cohesively to deliver the District's objectives.


**Thefford Forest Park**




Recreation




Timber supply



SSSI/pSPA




Heritage




Education

**North Norfolk**




Local recreation




PAWS

**Sandlings**



Landscape creation



Tourism

**Thames Chase**




Urban community




Health

**Lavenham**



HAP



PAWS



The Forest District provides a diverse range of activities from extensive recreation facilities through industrial timber production to landscape-scale habitat creation. All these activities are part of the District's contribution to the Forestry Commission's Corporate Plan. To co-ordinate delivery of these objectives the District has identified five strategic zones (North Norfolk, Thetford Forest Park, Lavenham, Sandlings and Thames Chase), which broadly mirror English Nature's Natural Areas Profiles.

The Forest District has the responsibility of meeting its share of national targets under the three drivers delivering sustainable management. The District's roles are summarised below:

### Social

- Education
- Access & Recreation in rural and urban areas
- Health

### Environmental

- SSSI/SPA
- PAWS
- BAP – HAP/SAP
- Heritage
- Landscape Creation

### Economic

- Timber Supply
- Local Employment
- Tourism Revenue

The public can enjoy our woodlands throughout the District.

In the Thames Chase Community Forest area we are actively developing woodlands in an urban context, where the focus is provision to the local community. This contrasts with the recreation facilities provided at our flag ship site at High Lodge, in Thetford Forest Park, which attracts over 250, 000 annual visitors to enjoy a wide-ranging forest experience. Provision is made throughout the District for informal public access with numerous way-marked walks.

To support the timber industry's substantial commercial investment in processing we are committed to ongoing timber production. This production is mainly focused on Thetford Forest Park and Sandlings zones.

The main priority habitats under the UKBAP, which are managed in East Anglia Forest District, are native woodlands and heaths:

- Native woodlands are either ancient woodland sites with the best examples in the Lavenham area, or PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites) where reversion working is actively being undertaken in both Lavenham and North Norfolk.
- Currently around 1000 hectares of heath is being managed in three of the management zones: North Norfolk, Thetford Forest and Sandlings. This includes the re-creation of 300 hectares in Thetford Forest which is being achieved in partnership under English Nature's **Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage** umbrella project.

Over 20, 000 hectares of the District's land holding is under SPA or pSPA (proposed Special Protection Area) designation specifically for woodlark and nightjar. A key requirement of this designation is the continuation of cyclic clearfelling of coniferous woodland to maintain breeding habitat for these rare birds.

# Glossary

<b>AONB</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	<b>EoE</b>	East of England
<b>ART</b>	Access, Recreation and Tourism – one of East Anglia Forest District’s functional teams.	<b>FC</b>	Forestry Commission
<b>ASNW</b>	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	<b>FE</b>	Forest Enterprise
<b>BAP</b>	Biodiversity Action Plan	<b>FDP</b>	Forest Design Plan
<b>BCP</b>	Brecks Countryside Project	<b>FHDC</b>	Forest Heath District Council
<b>BS</b>	Business Support – an EAFD functional team	<b>FJP</b>	Forward Job Plan - Forestry Commission’s system of describing staffs individual jobs.
<b>BTCV</b>	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	<b>FMM4</b>	Forest Management Memoranda 4 (Forestry Commission Plant Stocking Density requirements. It was renamed OGB4 in March 2004)
<b>CC</b>	County Council	<b>FNR</b>	Forest Nature Reserve
<b>CROW</b>	Countryside & Rights of Way Act (2000)	<b>Forest Education Zone</b>	A dedicated educational zone for schoolchildren at High Lodge, planned to comprise shelter, a teaching area and a toilet block
<b>CWG</b>	County Wildlife Group	<b>Forest Heath Education Pyramid</b>	A descriptor of the pattern of primary and secondary education in Brandon, Elveden and Mildenhall.
<b>CWS</b>	Country Wildlife Site	<b>Forest School</b>	A permanent, natural but safe setting in which children have freedom to roam and to experience the natural world through structured practical activities.
<b>E</b>	Estates - one of East Anglia Forest District’s functional teams.	<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council
<b>EA</b>	Environment Agency	<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>EAFD</b>	East Anglia Forest District	<b>GT</b>	Greenspace Team - one of East Anglia Forest District’s functional teams.
<b>EEDA</b>	East England Development Agency	<b>Green Arc</b>	Is a greenspace planning and delivery initiative that is being developed by a range of partners on behalf of all who live and work around the north and east of London.
<b>EERA</b>	East of England Regional Assembly	<b>Green Grid</b>	High quality, linked and publicly accessible open spaces, which enhance the biodiversity of undeveloped areas
<b>EETB</b>	East of England Tourist Board		
<b>ED</b>	Economic Development - one of the six Regional Woodland Strategy themes.		
<b>EFS</b>	England Forestry Strategy		
<b>EH</b>	English Heritage		
<b>EL</b>	Education and Learning - one of the six Regional Woodland Strategy themes.		
<b>EN</b>	English Nature		
<b>En</b>	Environment – one of East Anglia Forest District’s functional teams.		

<b>HAP</b>	Habitat Action Plan	<b>RSPB</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology	<b>RWS</b>	Regional Woodland Strategy
<b>IWWA</b>	International Wild Waterfowl Association	<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority	<b>SCC</b>	Suffolk County Council
<b>LBRC</b>	Local Biological Records Centre	<b>SCDB</b>	Sub-compartment Database - East Anglia Forest District's database of trees
<b>LRT</b>	Land Restoration Trust	<b>SCDC</b>	Suffolk Coastal District Council
<b>LTC</b>	Long-term Contract	<b>SC&amp;HP</b>	Suffolk Coasts and Heath Partnership
<b>NAO</b>	National Audit Office	<b>SC&amp;HU</b>	Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Unit
<b>NCC</b>	Norfolk County Council	<b>SEefd</b>	South-east England Forest District
<b>NE</b>	Natural Environment - one of the six Regional Woodland Strategy objectives.	<b>SMART</b>	Specific Measurable Achievable Realistic Time-bound (relating to target setting)
<b>NFD</b>	Northants Forest District	<b>SP</b>	Spatial Planning – one of the six Regional Woodland Strategy themes.
<b>NNDC</b>	North Norfolk District Council	<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>NNR</b>	National Nature Reserve	<b>SSSI</b>	Site of Special Scientific Interest
<b>NT</b>	National Trust	<b>SWT</b>	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
<b>NWT</b>	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	<b>TBD</b>	To be decided
<b>O</b>	Operations - one of East Anglia Forest District's functional teams.	<b>TC</b>	Thames Chase
<b>ODPM</b>	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	<b>TCCF</b>	Thames Chase Community Forest
<b>P</b>	Planning - one of East Anglia Forest District's functional teams.	<b>TEN</b>	Trans Environmental Network
<b>PAWS</b>	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	<b>TGSE</b>	Thames Gateway South Essex
<b>PCT</b>	Primary Care Trust	<b>UEA</b>	University of East Anglia
<b>PMS</b>	Performance Management System Forestry Commission process for managing performance in a unit or in jobs. Includes identification of training/development needs as well as objective setting, review and evaluation	<b>UKFS</b>	United Kingdom Forestry Standard
<b>QL</b>	Quality Of Life - one of the six Regional Woodland Strategy themes.	<b>UKWAS</b>	United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard
		<b>VAQAS</b>	Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service