

SW Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework Implementation Plan 2009-12: Actions

The following tables set out the priority regional actions to be undertaken by partners over the next three years. They are ordered in terms of the five aims of the 2007 Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests, and objectives within these. However many actions are cross-cutting and will contribute to achieving objectives under more than one aim. For more information on any particular action please contact the identified lead partner.

For any other queries, to comment on actions or make amendments please contact the RWFF Secretariat at the Forestry Commission, email southwest.fce@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

The following abbreviations have been used for organisations referred to in the tables:

AONBs	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	GOSW	Government Office South West
BioSW	Biodiversity South West	ICF	Institute of Chartered Foresters
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	NE	Natural England
CC&WWAONB	Cranborne Chase & West Wilts Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NHS	National Health Service
CLA	Country Land & Business Association	NFU	National Farmers Union
ConFor	Confederation of Forest Industries	NPs	National Parks (Dartmoor & Exmoor)
Defra	Department of Food and Rural Affairs	PCTs	Primary Care Trusts
DI	Deer Initiative	RDA	Regional Development Agency
EA	Environment Agency	RFS	Royal Forestry Society
EFIP	England Forest Industries Partnership	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
FC	Forestry Commission	ST	Silvanus Trust
FE	Forest Enterprise (the part of the Forestry Commission which manages the public forest estate or PFE)	SWA	Small Woods Association
FEI	Forest Education Initiative	SWCCIP	South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership
fera	The Food and Environment Research Agency	SWPLF	South West Protected Landscapes Forum
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	TDAG	Trees and Design Action Group
GI	Green Infrastructure	TW	Tree Warden
		WR	Woodland Renaissance
		WT	Woodland Trust

1: A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE			
AIMS	ACTIONS (partners)	Lead	Indicator of success
To provide a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations	Pests and diseases: 1.1 Maintain high awareness and vigilance re <u>Phytophthora</u> and other pests and diseases; 1.2 Increase owner participation in pest and disease management programmes. (FC, NE, SWA, DI, fera, FE, European Squirrel Initiative)	FC	Participation in awareness raising/training events; area of woodland with active management of pests and diseases
	1.3 Review and develop mechanisms to contact 'unengaged' woodland owners (FC, NE, CC&WWAONB, Cotswolds Ancient Woodland Project, CLA, NFU, AONBs, NPs, Silvanus Trust)	FC	More owners actively engaged in management; greater area managed
	1.4 Improve public understanding: Develop communications campaign to raise profile of woodland, improve public understanding of woodland management, and its value to society (BioSW, WT, FC, NE, AONBs, NPs, ConFor, FEI network, Cranborne Chase Woodfair)	FC	Improved understanding indicated through National Opinion of Forestry surveys
	1.5 Encourage establishment of more new woodland in appropriate areas (FC, WT, ConFor, others)	FC	Report on area of new woodland established by 2012, cf 06-09
Increase knowledge of state of woodland resource	1.6 Partners to develop common measures and reporting systems to i) establish good baseline information and ii) facilitate monitoring of extent, condition, and outcomes of public funding (FC, NE, BioSW, WT and others)	FC/NE	Evidence base and ability to report on and evaluate actions
	1.7 SW Region to identify its research needs to national partners (FC and others)	FC	needs identified and included in programmes of FR, NE and others
	1.8 Promote softwood inventory report, with view to finding resources to expand inventory to unmanaged/inaccessible and broadleaved woods (WR, ConFor, FC, FE, EFIP)	WR	softwood report findings widely disseminated and value recognised

2: CLIMATE CHANGE

AIMS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS (partners)	Lead	Indicator of success
Increase resilience of trees, woods and forests to climate change	Improve owners and managers awareness and understanding of how to adapt woodland to climate change	2.1 Communicate with woodland owners and managers recent research and the likely impacts, risks and benefits of climate change on trees, woods and forests, including species choice, forestry practice and urban issues (FC, FE, Westonbirt, FR, NE, CLA, NFU, WT, SWA, FWAG, Tree Officer Groups, Cotswolds AONB, SWCCIP).	FC	Increase in owners and managers whose woods are adapted for climate change
Trees and woods and forests contributing to mitigation of climate change	Use more wood and wood products for renewable energy and in construction	see <i>Business and Markets</i>		
	Lock up more carbon in growing trees and timber	2.2 As knowledge develops, run events to improve regional knowledge and understanding of carbon budgets in woodland ecosystems (NFU, FC, WT, NE, ConFor, SWPLF, CLA).	FC	Available information gathered and event held, information disseminated, no of delegates attending
		2.3 Encourage tree planting and woodland establishment	FC	Area of new woodland established; rate of tree planting
Enhance the role of trees, woods and forests in reducing the wider impacts of climate change	Resource protection: Manage river flows, protect and improve water quality, conserve soil	2.4 Identify areas for new planting/woodland management to improve water quality and resource protection and contribute to Water Framework Directive objectives, and target pilot projects accordingly (FC, EA, SW Water, WT, NE, FWAG, National Parks, Westcountry Rivers Trust)	EA/NE/FC	2 or 3 projects identified and underway
	Clarify the role that planting trees play in reducing river water temperatures	2.5 Complete project on the scope of managing river water temperatures on the Hampshire Avon. Develop pilot projects to demonstrate and monitor the ecological and economic benefits of riparian planting (EA, FC, WT, NE, Westcountry Rivers Trust, Cranborne Chase & West Wilts AONB, CLA)	FC	1 or more projects underway and producing data

	Street trees and urban woods reducing impacts on towns and cities eg shade, cooling, rate of storm water discharge	2.6 Agree and adopt a challenging target for canopy cover in urban areas, and provide guidance to promote it (FC, NE, SWCCIP, local authorities, WT, GI groups)	NE	Local authorities in SW adopt target and work to implement
Increase public understanding of role of trees, woods and forests in mitigating and reducing impacts of climate change	Improve public's understanding of need to help our forests adapt to climate change and the role of trees, woods and forests in mitigating climate change	2.7 Work with national partners to ensure that information on role of trees, woods and forests in climate adaptation and mitigation is available and more readily accessible (FC, Westonbirt, SWCCIP and others)	Westonbirt	Positive feedback on quality of and access to information
		2.8 Investigate potential role of RWFF partners in regional climate change education programme, based on experience from Westonbirt/Cotswolds initiative (Westonbirt and others)	Westonbirt	Potential identified, programme developed for roll-out in next Implementation Plan

3: NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
AIMS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS (partners)	Lead	Indicator of success
Increase contribution to natural resource protection and biodiversity	Trees, woods and forests contributing fully to regional biodiversity priority projects and habitat targets	3.1 Continue to develop and support landscape-scale initiatives in accordance with Regional Biodiversity Delivery Plan (AONB, NPs, BioSW, NE, FC, FE, RSPB, WT, Neroche Partnership)	BioSW	Agreement on the most important projects to take forward
	Restore open ground BAP habitats	3.2 Develop and begin implementation of a regional Open Habitat Restoration action plan (NE, FC/PFE, RSPB)	FC	Priorities agreed and action plan underway
	Reverse decline in woodland bird species	3.3 Develop project to implement best practice in management actions to improve conditions for priority woodland birds in Dartmoor, Exmoor, Forest of Dean and other identified regional hotspots (FC, FE, RSPB, NE, National Parks)	FC/FE	Programme of activity agreed and underway
	Ensure woods and forests are resilient to climate change	<i>see Climate Change</i>		
	Protect, improve and manage ASNW and veteran trees	3.4 Develop and promote best practice to ensure succession of ancient, veteran and noble trees, in woodland and in wider landscape, through training and practical management (NE, WT/ATF, local authorities, NFU, CLA, TW network/Tree Council, CC&WWAONB)	NE	Best practice note publicised and disseminated
		3.5 Better join up between of Higher Level Scheme/England Woodland Grant Scheme to bring more woods into management (FC, NE)	NE	Greater uptake of grant, increase in area managed
	Encourage planting of more new woodlands	<i>see also 2.3 under Climate Change</i> 3.6 Develop spatial framework for targeting tree planting and woodland creation integrating range of criteria including eg Nature Map, Landscape Character Assessments, Quality of Place (BioSW, NE, FC, WT, AONBs, NPs, key local authorities)	NE	Agreed spatial framework

	Increase knowledge and recognition of the contribution of new and existing trees and woodlands to ecosystem services	3.7 Develop and disseminate simple locally-derived information demonstrating value of trees and woods to local communities (Defra network, with eg WT, community forests, Somerset County Council)	tbc	Leaflets or web-based information produced and publicised
Increase contribution to landscape quality, culture and archaeology	Improve understanding and integration of landscape issues in woods and forestry	3.8 Training in use of landscape assessment tools eg LCA, Historic Landscape Characterisation, and their relevance to landscape scale woodland working, extend use of LIDAR (NE, AONBs inc CC&WWAONB, FC, FE, agents, English Heritage)	NE	Training events held and woodland officers, agents etc better able to use LCA tools.
Conserve biodiversity associated with non-native tree species	Encourage high standards of biodiversity management for all woods through targeted advice	3.9 Demonstration events in non-native woods, FE sites and other owners, eg exemplar Douglas fir sites (NE, FE, Woodland Renaissance)	FE	1 or more events held per year in SW eg Plantation on Ancient Woodland sites on Cranborne Chase

4: QUALITY OF LIFE

AIMS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS (partners)	Lead	Indicator of success
More people enjoying woodland	Enable more people to enjoy benefits of trees, woods and forests	4.1 Pilot project to coordinate promotion of existing opportunities for woodland access, eg in Dorset (FC, private landowners, FE, WT, local authorities, community forests)	FE	Project developed, trialled and evaluated
		4.2 Make available best practice re safety and access issues for landowners (FC, FE, NE, WT, NT, ConFor, CLA, National Tree Safety Group)	FE	Information collated and signposted to users
		4.3 Seek more secure funding for Forest Schools, to extend and consolidate work (FEI, community forests, FE)	Silvanus Trust	more people trained, practitioners and participants effectively networked
		4.4 Regional partners to support local action to increase use of 'accessible' woods by varied user groups (BTCV, WT, NE, FE, local authorities, Forest Schools, NHS, Cranborne Chase Woodfair, 1SW)	regional partners	Partners report increased use
		4.5 Regional partners work collectively to ensure that woodlands are a key component of health-related projects (NE, FE, WT, NHS Trusts/PCTs).	NE	Evidence of woodland in new projects
	Promote urban woodlands which demonstrate management for access, recreation and education	4.6 Organise events at 'showcase sites' to share best practice in quality access (FE, local authorities, community forests, WT, other owners)	FE	Events arranged - minimum 1 per year?
Sustainable communities	Increase integration of trees, woods and forests into sustainable communities	4.7 Develop the 'business case' for trees, woods and forests, ie what investment can deliver in rural and urban settings (WT, NE, GI groups, transition town initiatives, TDAG)	NE	Document produced and disseminated
		4.8 Use output to develop local campaigns to promote value of urban woods and trees (WT, FC, Tree Council? Tree Wardens eg Plymouth Tree Partnership?)	tbc	Local campaigns run
		4.9 Encourage all local authorities to develop strategies for management of urban trees and woodland (FC, key local authorities, GOSW, Tree Council/TDAG)	FC	No of local authorities with active strategies

		4.10 Programme of seminars or other events to address mechanisms for maintenance of newly created woodland (GI groups, local authorities, woodland contractors, community forests, FE?) and develop best practice	Silvanus Trust	Events delivered
Increase contribution of trees, woods and forests to green infrastructure and local environmental quality	Green Infrastructure strategies and plans to fully integrate trees and woods	4.11 Explore new approaches to funding of planting and maintenance of individual trees (FC, local authorities, GI groups, NE)	tbc	Event and/or case studies illustrating good practice
		4.12 Develop means to embed multi-functional role of trees and woodland in Green Infrastructure strategy and delivery (FC, FE, sub-regional GI groups and local partners, GOSW, WT)	NE	% of woodland in GI plans

5: BUSINESS AND MARKETS				
AIMS	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS (partners)	Lead	Indicator of success
Increase volume and sustainability of wood grown within the SW	Maintain current extent of commercial woodland and forest	5.1 Encourage establishment and restocking of commercial woodland in appropriate locations (ConFor, CLA)	ConFor	Ha planted by 2012
		5.2 Work to ensure that productive capacity is retained (ConFor, NE, FE, FC)	ConFor	Regional Open Habitat Restoration Plan
Tap into currently unmanaged woodland resource	Encourage woodland owners to work together	5.3 Test models of 'group management' of woodland (FC, AONBs, SWPLF, SWA, Silvanus Trust, WR)	FC	Key features of successful projects identified
	Increase awareness re benefits of woodland management	5.4 Improve provision of coordinated advice to owners eg in AW priority areas (NE, FC, SWPLF, RDA, FWAG, NFU, RFS, SW Woodshed, SWA, NPs, Cotswolds and CC&WW AONBs, Silvanus Trust)	FC	Positive feedback from survey of woodland owners and uptake of advice
	Ensure grants for woodland management are fully taken up	5.5a Support national work to reduce the administrative burden for owners/managers/applicants (FC, CLA, WT, ConFor)	FC	Changes to ewgs requirements
	Ensure grants for management are fully taken up	5.5b Promote England Woodland Grant Scheme more effectively (FC, NE, WR, SWA)	FC	Increase in spend of available grants
Increase knowledge and skills in woodland and forestry sector	Secure higher profile for training and development in industry	5.6 Develop regional forestry skills and training group to coordinate training and contribute to GB developments (Silvanus, WR, FC, ConFor, Lantra, ICF, SWA, land-based colleges etc)	WR	Group established
	Reach owners of smaller woodlands	5.7 Improve the provision and uptake of non-vocational training, particularly through RDPE (ST with FC, Confor, ICF, Lantra, SWA)	WR	No of people attending events
	Improve quality of timber produced	5.8 Develop programme of events for woodland owners and managers focused on timber quality (ConFor, RFS, ICF, WR, FC, NFU).	ConFor	Programme underway

Increase volume and quality of wood and wood products used and grown within the region	Substitute local wood and timber for high embodied energy materials in manufacturing and construction	5.9 Projects to increase use of SW produced wood involving i) public sector procurement campaign ii) investigate value of 'wood from SW' campaign to include low value wood products iii) establish pilot project for brokerage of local timber to architects, builders, specifiers (WR and others, including RDA, Constructing Excellence/Future Foundations, FE, ConFor, processors)	WR	Local authorities demonstrably using SW wood; feasibility report and recommendations produced; brokerage service launched
	Ensure forestry sector is equipped to meet demand	5.10 Encourage RDA to recognise potential of timber processing industry in SW (WR, ConFor, RDA, FC)	WR	Encouragement to investors evident
Increase woods' and forests' contribution to renewable energy and mitigation of climate change	Support further development of woodfuel supply at variety of scales, in appropriate locations	5.11 Support new woodfuel producer groups, also machinery rings and cooperative working, enabling efficient supply chains and economies of scale (FC, AONBs, local authorities, ST, NFU, county renewables champions, Centre for Sustainable Energy, RDA)	FC	New producer groups established
	Make better use of forest residues, and other 'waste' wood	5.12 Encourage installations capable of using wide range of woody biomass specifications (Regen SW, FC, local authorities, Centre for Sustainable Energy)	Regen SW	Boilers installed able to take residue material
Woods and forests contributing more to leisure/tourism economy	Find ways to redirect tourism and other non-timber revenues to owners	5.13 Run seminars for woodland owners to share best practice on 'non-timber' income from woods, to include tourism, health and other opportunities (ConFor, RDA, SW Tourism, FE, WR)	WR/ Silvanus Trust	Programme of seminars developed and run