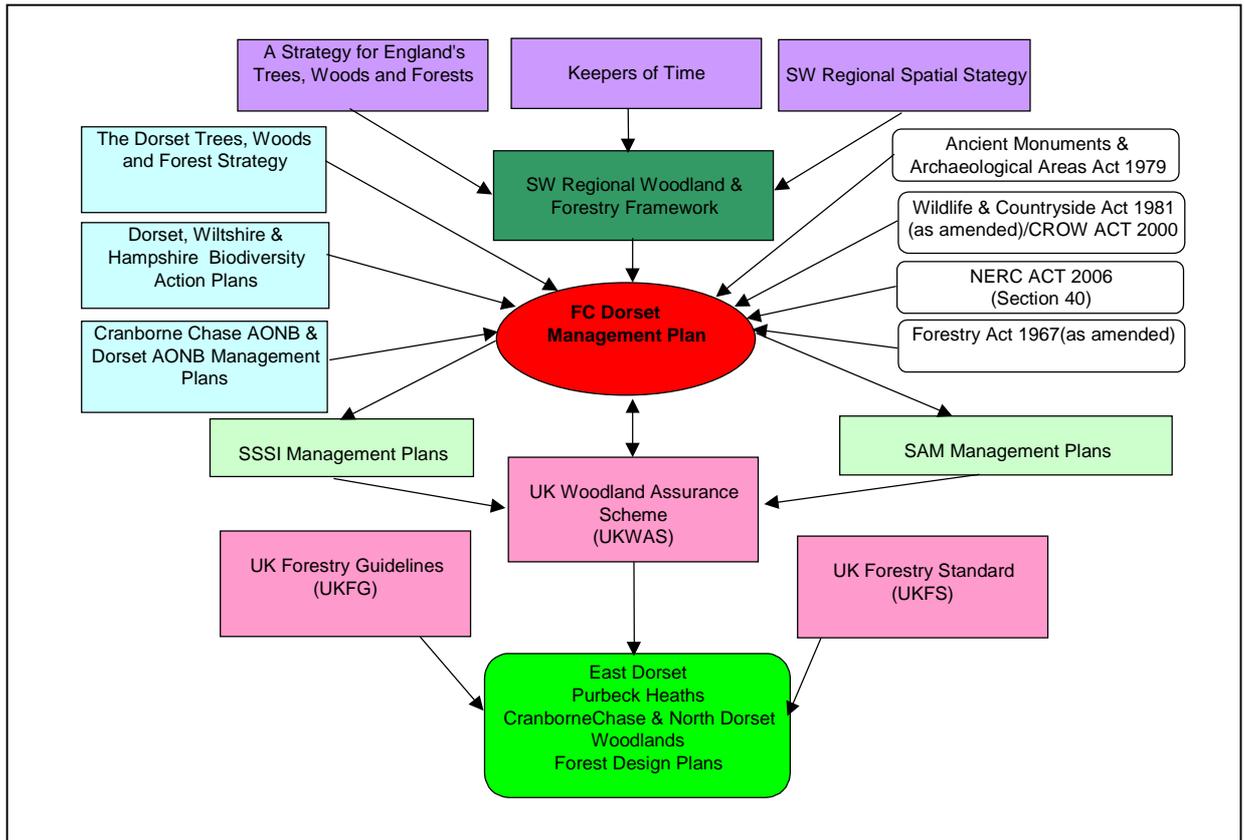


C2 MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

2.1 Legislative Drivers

The management of the Dorset & South Wiltshire Estate is strongly influenced by a wide range of legislation, government policy, Forestry Commission policy, national standards and strategies (Figure C2.1). The most significant drivers that direct management are summarised below.

Figure C2.1 Policy & Legislative Drivers



Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000/Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

Under Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, (as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), the Forestry Commission and their lease holders have an obligation to maintain, protect and enhance Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Furthermore the Forestry Commission and their leaseholders have a duty to consult Natural England over any Operations Likely to Damage (OLD) the SSSI. Permission is required from Natural England to carry out an OLD.

Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 makes provision for public access to the countryside in England and Wales. The Act creates a right of access to land mapped originally by the Countryside Agency or Countryside Council for Wales (now known as Natural England) as:

- ◆ open country;
- ◆ registered common land; and
- ◆ land over 600 metres above sea level.

It also created the power of Dedication, which can be applied to any land including woodlands, and gives that land the equivalent status as 'Access Land'

In support of the legislation, the Forestry Commission has dedicated its freehold Estate in England and Wales, with some minor exceptions, and so access rights now exist over this land.

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) set out the requirements for managing sites of European Importance (Natura 2000 sites) designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the UK. Significant areas within the Dorset Estate are designated as SAC.

Another requirement of the Natural Habitats regulations is the need to protect species of European Importance. Changes to the legislation, implemented in August 2007 have strengthened the legal protection given to European Protected Species in England and Wales. Previously it was an offence to deliberately kill or cause significant disturbance to these protected species, to deliberately destroy their eggs, or to destroy or damage a breeding site or resting place used by them. The amendment now means that it is also an offence to accidentally damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place when carrying out a lawful operation (which was previously exempt). This has considerable implications for the way in which the Forestry Commission manages its' Estate and the methods and practices, which need to be used to ensure compliance with the legislation.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006

Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, the Forestry Commission has a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in exercising its functions. The Duty aims to raise the profile and visibility of biodiversity, by ensuring that biodiversity is integrated into policy and decision making and in the day to day management of land and buildings.

Environment Act and the New Forest National Park Management Plan

The Environment Act 1995 (Section 62) places a duty on all Government Departments and other bodies including the Forestry Commission 'to have regard to the purposes of National Parks in the exercise of their own functions affecting land in a National Park'. Following its creation in March 2005, the main purposes of the New Forest National Park are:

- ◆ To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park
- ◆ To promote opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities and;
- ◆ Foster the social and economic well being of local communities

Although the Dorset and South Wiltshire part of the Estate lies outside the National Park boundary, the Crown Lands part of the Estate lies wholly within the National Park. The FC will need to holistically consider how it can manage the forest district as a whole to reduce some of the impacts in the Crown Lands, for example recreational pressure, to meet the objectives of the National Park Plan.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

The main legislation concerning archaeology in the UK is the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This Act, building on legislation dating back to 1882, provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). There are over 70 SAMs on the Dorset and South Wiltshire Estate covering sites ranging from burial mounds to Roman Roads. In England, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for implementing the 1979 Act and is advised in this respect by English Heritage (EH). The scheduling of a monument means that permission, notably 'scheduled monument consent', is required for works to a monument.

2.2 National Standards

UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)

The international timber products market is increasingly demanding assurance about the quality and environmental impact of woodland management. The UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) is a certification standard which sets out the necessary requirements which woodland owners and managers and certification authorities can use to ensure that woodland management in the United Kingdom is being carried out responsibly. The Forestry Commission nationally has gained UKWAS certification and it a requirement of every Forest district to uphold UKWAS standards in order to maintain the accreditation. UKWAS addresses specific aspects of woodland management and types of operation, notably:

- ◆ Compliance with the law and conformance with the requirements of the certification standard
- ◆ Management planning
- ◆ Woodland design – creation, felling and replanting
- ◆ Operations
- ◆ Protection and maintenance
- ◆ Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity

- ◆ The community
- ◆ Forestry Workforce

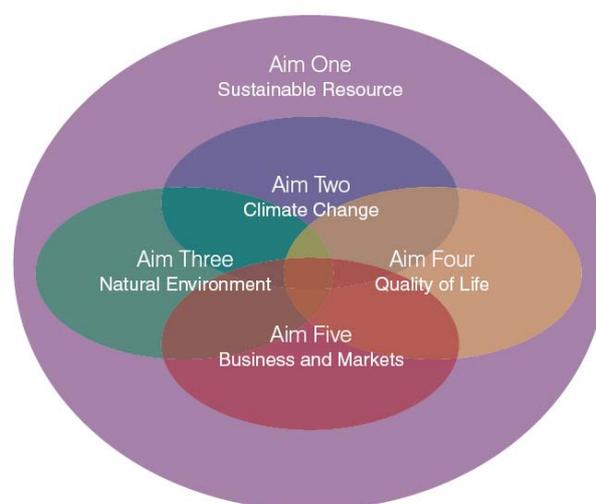
It is necessary to take particular account of UKWAS standards when managing woodland and to be able to demonstrate that the above aspects of woodland management are being adequately addressed.

<http://www.ukwas.org.uk/>

2.3 National & Regional Strategies

2.3.1 'A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forest'

'A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forest', was launched in 2007 and provides the framework to build upon the achievements of 'The England Forest Strategy - A New Focus for England's Woodlands', launched in 1999. The new strategy identifies national priorities and builds on Government policies about the quality of people's lives, the quality of the places, in which people live and work, and the sustainable use of resources to be addressed over the next 10-15 years.



The strategy has five main integrated aims:-

- ◆ **Aim 1: A Sustainable Resource.** To provide, in England, 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.
- ◆ **Aim 2: Climate Change.** To ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate.
- ◆ **Aim 3: Natural Environment.** To protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland) and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland.
- ◆ **Aim 4: Quality of Life.** To increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England.
- ◆ **Aim 5: Business and Markets.** To improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identifiable public benefits, nationally or locally, including the reduction of carbon emissions.

The Delivery Plan (2008-2012), developed by the Forestry Commission and Natural England on behalf of both Defra and wider government, translates the Strategy into

action and results on the ground. It is a national plan that overarches the nine Regional Forestry Frameworks. The aim of the Delivery Plan is to develop synergy with the Regional Forestry Frameworks and to establish evidence, policy direction and national programmes to help facilitate regional and local delivery.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/forestry/strategy.htm>

2.3.2 South West Regional Forest Framework

The South West Regional Framework was delivered in 2005 and sets out a framework of themes, aims and objectives (Figure C2.2) to deliver national forest policy as well as delivering other South West regional strategies such as the South West region's Integrated Regional Strategy "Just Connect". The South West Regional Forestry Framework is set within the context of 'Just Connect' and shows how woodland and forests, and the wider sector can help take forward the region's objectives. In parallel, the SW Forestry Regional Framework aims to show how woods and forests can support the Region's Sustainable Development Framework and also identifies where woodland and forests can help deliver a number of the South West's topic based strategies focused around, for example sport, culture, biodiversity, renewable energy and economics. The Framework is also an integral part of developing future land management options and incentives in the region

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/southwest-rwff>

2.3.3 Keepers of Time

'Keepers of Time' provides a statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland and outlines the Governments commitment and 2020 vision for Ancient Woodland, notably that:

" Ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other native woodlands are adequately protected, sustainably managed in a wider landscape context, and are providing a wide range of social, environmental and economic benefits to society."

The document provides a number of key policies relating to the protection and management of Ancient Woodland, which apply to our forests and woodlands.

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/keepersoftime>

THEME	AIM	OBJECTIVES	THEME	AIM	OBJECTIVES	THEME	AIM	OBJECTIVES	THEME	AIM	OBJECTIVES
CROSS CUTTING	Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the impact of climate change on woodlands and other habitats Use woodlands to help mitigate the wider impact of climate change Reduce flood flows and conserve soil Contribute to renewable energy Substitute local wood for high energy materials in construction 	LIVELIHOODS	Increase volume of wood consumed in SW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness/ potential for local wood to contribute to sustainable development Increase opportunities for local wood use in construction Demonstrate sustainable management of woods Improve quality of region's timber Maintain critical mass in the sector 	QUALITY OF LIFE	Sustainable Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise profile of woods with key audiences (See Cross cutting theme) More new woodland through planning process Continued delivery of Community Forest Plans Community forestry more widely adopted in SW Ensure forestry's role in rural development is fully understood and applied 	NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT	Protect natural resources and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, improve and manage ASNW and veteran trees Restore open ground BAP habitats Attain favourable condition of 95% of SSSIs by 2010 Reverse the decline in woodland bird species Promote resilience to climate change (see Cross Cutting theme) Protect natural resources
	Woodland management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand better owners' barriers to woodland management Understand better the condition of woods in the region Increase the number of owners making informed decisions about their woods Increase the area of woodland in management 		Increase woodfuel installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure learning & knowledge transfer in the region Better knowledge and understanding of potential for woodfuel Increased installed capacity 			More people enjoying woodland			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase area of locally accessible woodland Improve quality of access Increase number of visits to woods Excluded groups making better use of local woods Communities actively involved in managing and owning woods Woods and forests helping people develop healthier lifestyles Greater use of woods for education and culture
	Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More targeted and effective messages about woods and forests role in the region Better information and evidence Better joint working within the sector Better representation by the sector in the region Closely aligned investment to achieve public benefits Closer integration of woods with broader land management Excellence and innovation in integrated land management Keep abreast of public opinion regarding woods and forests 		Woodlands and leisure/ tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find ways to re-direct tourism revenues to owners Link up & jointly promote region's woodland tourism assets SW Woods promoted as destination Contribute to sustainable tourism 		More people enjoying woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase area of locally accessible woodland Improve quality of access Increase number of visits to woods Excluded groups making better use of local woods Communities actively involved in managing and owning woods Woods and forests helping people develop healthier lifestyles Greater use of woods for education and culture 		Landscape culture & heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance landscapes through woods and forests Woods used as resource and to inspire for historical/ cultural links Safeguard, promote and manage historic assets in woods
	Environmental Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better understanding of how environment and economy can support each other in woods 		Knowledge and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure flow of new entrants Link regional and national training development Raise skill/ knowledge level of owners More opportunities for new business development 						

Figure C2.2 SW Regional Framework Themes, Aims & Objectives

2.4 FC Local level plans & strategies

Forest Design Plans

Forest Design Plans (FDPs) set out the long term strategic objectives for management of the Dorset woodlands and encompass relevant national strategy and policy. The first FDPs were originally consulted upon and approved during 2002. As part of the England Forest Strategy, the Forestry Commission has a clear aspiration to involve communities in order to achieve sustainable forest management and gain public confidence and support for the benefits of well-managed woods and forests. Thus public participation has been key in developing the FDPs both in terms of influencing the long-term strategy and in undertaking FDP revisions.

New Forest District Deer Management Plan (2006)

The New Forest District Deer Management Plan (2006) sets out how the Forestry Commission proposes to manage the four main deer species (Fallow, Roe, Sika and Red deer) found on the FC Estate.

2.5 Other Plans & Strategies

The Dorset Trees, Woods and Forest Strategy

The Dorset Trees, Woods and Forest Strategy has been compiled by the Dorset Woodlink Project and provides the first countywide tree, woodland and forest initiative in Dorset. The Strategy was developed with reference to relevant regional, national and international strategies and policies and is intended to inform and influence local decision makers including woodland owners and managers. It includes a list of recommendation and priority actions to ensure that Dorset's trees, woods and forests provide a variety of benefits to the people of Dorset.

Dorset & Wiltshire Biodiversity Strategies

Local Biodiversity Strategies stem from The 1992 Rio Convention and the subsequent launch of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan in 1994. Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) enable the UK BAP priorities to be translated to a local level, while also including species and habitats that are of a local, but not national importance and thus do not appear on the UK BAP. LBAPs aim to provide a clear focus for conservation in their local area, prioritising future action and setting targets against which progress can be measured. The Forestry Commission is a partner organisation in delivering LBAP targets.

http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/iqs/sid.06985940004712744803610/the_dorset_biodiversity_strategy.html

<http://www.biodiversitywiltshire.org.uk/WiltshireBAP/Default.aspx>

AONB Management Plans

Significant areas of the Dorset and South Wiltshire FC Estate lie within either the Cranborne Chase or Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). AONBs are nationally important protected landscapes. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 confirmed the significance of AONBs and created improved arrangements for their management. Section 85 places a statutory duty on all 'relevant authorities' to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty when discharging any function affecting lands in AONBs.

AONB Management Plans provide a framework for the conservation and enhancement of AONBs and to guide activities that might affect the AONB.

<http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/partnership/dorset-aonb-partnership/33-management-plan.html>

http://www.ccwwdaonb.org.uk/whats_new/publications.asp