

Annual Delivery Plan 2005-06

Implementing the **Regional Forest Strategy**
for the North East of England



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Regional Forestry Strategy Vision

"Our trees, woodlands and forests will help this region become a better place for us all to live, work, visit and do business."



This Vision Wheel summarises the heart of the Regional Forest Strategy

The Objectives in the Wheel form the main headings for the Plan. Under each Objective, the Actions are shown alongside the Outcomes we are seeking to deliver, and then by the main Outputs to which the Actions will contribute.

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Introduction

This document shows how the RFS will be implemented over the coming financial year 2005-06. It builds on the Action Plans in the Regional Forest Strategy and includes some Actions that go beyond the Action Plans. This is the first Annual Delivery Plan, and through the year we expect to be made aware of additional Actions that are taking place or are proposed.

RFS Delivery Group

The Group's role is to produce the Annual Delivery Plan each year, in conjunction with the Lead Partners, and to use progress reports by Lead Partners to keep track of changes in circumstances. We will facilitate partnership development as appropriate and, as more Actions come forward, we will ensure coordination between Lead Partners. The organisations represented on the Group are highlighted in the list of Lead Partners on page 18.

Lead Partners

Lead Partners are organisations who have agreed to coordinate specific Actions and to take the lead to ensure that their Actions are delivered in conjunction with their other partners. Those other partners may well provide some or even all of the funding or other resources. The Lead Partners' role is also to advise and report on their Actions to the RFS Delivery Group. They will meet at the launch of the Strategy, and then once or twice a year, to ensure they have the support they need, and are coordinating their actions to best effect. A list of Lead Partners is on page 18.

Economic Regeneration and Growth

Our trees, woodlands and forests will be a sustainable economic resource.

Outcome	Output	Actions –mainly as proposed in RFS	Further details of proposed Action	Start Date of Action	Estimated end date of action	Lead Partners And other partners involved
Increased Tourism	New Businesses	1. Work with providers of outdoor recreation to grow the tourism economy and business opportunities	Includes work with Kielder Partnership, Kielder Access Project, KCEL, Descend, leases to local businesses	Started	Ongoing	Forest Enterprise Kielder Partnership, KCEL, NCC, Tynedale Council
	More Visitors	1. Promote major forest recreation sites such as Kielder Forest as part of the tourism package – particularly outside the region		Started	Ongoing	Kielder Partnerships Northumbrian Water, Tynedale Council, Northumberland National Park, Northumberland County Council
		Produce & distribute Kielder Water & Forest park guide, promote Kielder through press articles, targeted advertising, presence at destination management events & provide a visitor information service.		Started	Ongoing	Kielder Partnerships Northumbrian Water, Tynedale Council, Northumberland National Park, Northumberland County Council
	New Facilities	2. Investigate the potential for new woodland-based leisure developments that contribute to the sustainable development of rural economies.	Hamsterley Forest – Premier Cycle Centre for the North East Region, Phase 1 - To establish Hamsterley Forest as a premier cycle centre for the North East region with a view to enhancing existing, and developing new, tourism markets within and beyond Teesdale and Wear Valley, and increase business competitiveness. - Single programme funding has been approved for Phase 1 of the project, enhancing and building new cycle trails in the forest and a cycling skills area.	Started	April 2005	County Durham Economic Partnership - Teesdale Marketing - Hamsterley Trailblazers - Forest Enterprise
Expanded Processing Sector & Increased Jobs	Business Cluster	2. Investigate the potential to establish a physical cluster of timber-related businesses in the NE, linked to the development of new processing capacity adjacent to existing facilities at Hexham and Teesside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently being encouraged. Evaluate outcome of discussions with planners and seek business partners 	Started	Dec 2005	NEFF
		3. Provide a supportive environment for developing primary and secondary wood-processing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create Business Cluster Examine cooperation with Sawmillers Forum 	Started	Dec 2005	NEFF Northwood Scottish Sawmillers Forum
		4. Work with the Scottish Forestry Cluster to ensure that cross-border links are developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue discussions with Scottish Regions and NW England on co-operation. 	1/04/2005	Dec 2005	NEFF
Improved Infrastructure	Brownfield Land	2. Promote achievements of woodlands in re-mediating brownfield land	Joint project with NECF/ONE/GFG, yet to be defined in detail.	2005	2006	Forestry Commission ONE, NECF, GFG, Groundwork, Land Restoration Trust
Improved Infrastructure	Tree Protection	1. Initiate a promotional campaign to protect and maintain trees in the built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting regional involvement in national tree campaigns Promoting the Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme regionally, to ensure community involvement in tree issues Initiate regular meetings of organisations interested in urban trees, to further the above 	Nov 2005 (around National Tree Week)	Ongoing	Tree Council BTCV
		2. Make better use of the powers available through the planning system to protect trees and woodlands from development pressures, particularly veteran trees and ancient woodlands	Through the North East Assembly's role as regional planning body to prepare RSS and its conformity role	2005	Ongoing	North East Assembly

Outcome	Output	Actions –mainly as proposed in RFS	Further details of proposed Action	Start Date of Action	Estimated end date of action	Lead Partners And other partners involved
Regenerated Economy	Settings for Devt	1. Promote temporary greening of derelict or underused sites in advance of development - as piloted by Middlesbrough REACT		2005	2007	NE Community Forests English Partnerships Local Authorities - Various
		2. Conduct further research to better understand the effect of quality landscapes on business relocation and expansion decisions	This is touched upon in the completed Business Case for the Environment Phase Two. Depends on the focus of Groundwork Northumberland.	2005	2006	Greening for Growth FC/NSP/Integrated Agency/ Chamber of Commerce.
	Regional Image	1. Establish a regional resource of woodland images		2004	Ongoing	Northwoods NEFF Members
		2. Compare the use of woodland imagery for marketing with related investment in trees and woodland		2005	2006	Northwoods
		4. Conduct market research to underpin a marketing strategy to promote woodlands, forests and their products to people & businesses		2005	2006	NE Community Forests FC ONE
Secure & Productive Forestry Businesses	*Productive Woodlands	1. Increase the sustainable timber harvest, measured as a percentage of the total annual growth in timber volume		2005	2008	Northwoods
Secure & Productive Forestry Businesses	Business Support	1. Ensure the new 'Brokerage model' for business support includes forestry expertise and understanding.		Started	Ongoing	Northwoods
		2. Establish an Internet Portal for forestry and woodland-related businesses		2004	Ongoing	Northwoods Tynedale Council, Northumberland CC, ONE, Northumberland National Park, FC
		3. Run seminars on the role of forestry in rural development, focusing on opportunities for business growth and diversification.	A first seminar will take place in Alnwick on 20 May 2005. This is being organised as part of the Northern Rural Network programme of events	Jan 2005	Ongoing	Northern Rural Network Northumberland Estate
		4. Launch a forestry 'Harvesting Processing and Marketing Grant' pilot scheme to encourage and develop the small-scale timber processing and value-added sector	Development work currently ongoing On schedule for a 2005 launch. Pilot area likely to cover the south of the region (south of the river Tyne)	2005	2007	Forestry Commission Integrated Agency, ONE, Business Link, Northwoods
		5. Set up a woodfuel producer group and support the establishment of a functioning woodfuel market	Involving application to DEFRA's bio-energy infrastructure grant scheme on behalf of c.bout 50 SME's and local authorities involved in forestry & arboriculture across the North East	June 2005	June 2008	Northwoods 50 SME's Newcastle City Council, Derwentside District Council, NECF
	Productive Woodlands	2. Support sustainable forest management, including replanting, that maintains the timber production potential of woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing provision of advice and work of Forest Research agency to support timber production. Through EWGS launch and regional targeting 	2005	Ongoing	Forestry Commission FC Regional Advisory Committee, Forest Research, Integrated Agency
	Skills & Training	1. Carry out a sector skills audit		2005	2006	Northwoods
		2. Establish a training and skills development project, initially focusing on wood-fuel, to build entrepreneurial and marketing skills amongst forestry businesses.		2004	2005	Northwoods Lantra, FC
		3. Undertake specific and targeted activities to improve the health and safety record of the forestry workforce.		2005	2007	Northwoods Tilhill, Scottish Woodlands, Newcastle City Council, FC