





### Minister's Foreword

Jim Paice MP
Minister of State
Defra

Trees, woodlands and forests occupy a special place in the English landscape and in our folklore and culture; for many they are highly-valuable places to visit and enjoy.

Our natural environment underpins our economic prosperity, our health and our wellbeing. We are committed to protecting, improving and expanding our woodlands so that they can play a greater role in enhancing biodiversty and a range of other ecosystem services, providing opportunities for public access and enjoyment and to help to support local businesses and communities. Much of the public forest is primarily commercial timber production which must be managed profitably. The government is also committed to providing more opportunities for individuals and civil organisations to determine what they want from their forests and to take a lead in providing the benefits which are of most value to them. The government has also set out new challenges for all public bodies, to improve public sector finances and to make the move from 'big government' towards 'big society'.

I therefore welcome this corporate plan which sets out how the Forestry Commission will contribute towards delivering these goals.

I also look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Forestry, chaired by the Right Reverend James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, which will provide advice on the future direction of forestry policy in England and on the future roles of the Commission and of the Public Forest Estate.

The United Nations has also declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. It has invited governments, organisations and individuals to do all they can to raise public awareness of the key role of forests and sustainable forest management in building a greener, more equitable and sustainable future. The government is committed to being the greenest government ever and the Commission alongside other partners will take a full part in supporting this wonderful initiative.





### Chair's Introduction

Having completed my first full year as Chair of the Forestry
Commissioners, I remain amazed by the variety and quality of the work
undertaken by the Forestry Commission. It's an organisation built on the
passion and experience of people who really care about what they do.
From beat foresters to community rangers, woodland officers to woodfuel
coordinators—their expertise helps create a better environment for us all.

The government has laid out renewed challenges for the Commission; to meet growing public aspirations, to improve its efficiency, to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands and to focus on those tasks which only government can do. I also look forward to working with the Independent Panel on Forestry to help them advise on a new approach to

forestry policy in England, including looking at how woodland cover can be increased and at options for protecting and enhancing public benefits from all woodlands and forests.

I am therefore proud to introduce this corporate plan which sets out how the Forestry Commission in England will work with a wide range of partners to enhance the environment and biodiversity, to improve quality of life and support a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to the effects of climate change. We will do so by **protecting**, **improving** and **expanding** England's woodlands, **empowering and enabling** people to determine and deliver what they want from woodlands and **promoting economic activity** within the forestry sector and wider business.



Pam Warhurst
Chair of the Forestry Commissioners







# Delivering the Vision - Our Role

The Forestry
Commission is
the government
department responsible
for protecting and
expanding England's
forests and woodlands
and increasing their
value to society and
the environment.

We will work with a wide range of partners—other government bodies, private sector businesses, charities and civil society organisations—to deliver the functions and priorities set out in <u>Defra's Business Plan</u> and which reflect the role that England's trees, woods and forests have in delivering the priorities as set out. We will focus on:

**Protection**: protecting the woodland resource and increasing its resilience, for example, to pests, diseases and the impact of climate change;

**Improvement**: improving the woodland resource to enhance benefits including biodiversity, landscape quality and a range of other ecosystem services;

**Expansion**: Promote and incentivise the planting and natural regeneration of trees, woods and forests of the right type in the right place.

We will deliver this by:

**Empowerment and Engagement**: empowering and enabling people to engage with trees, woods and forests, so that they can determine the benefits that they wish to see delivered;

**Economic Activity**: promoting a competitive, thriving and resilient forestry sector alongside a wide range of private sector business partners.

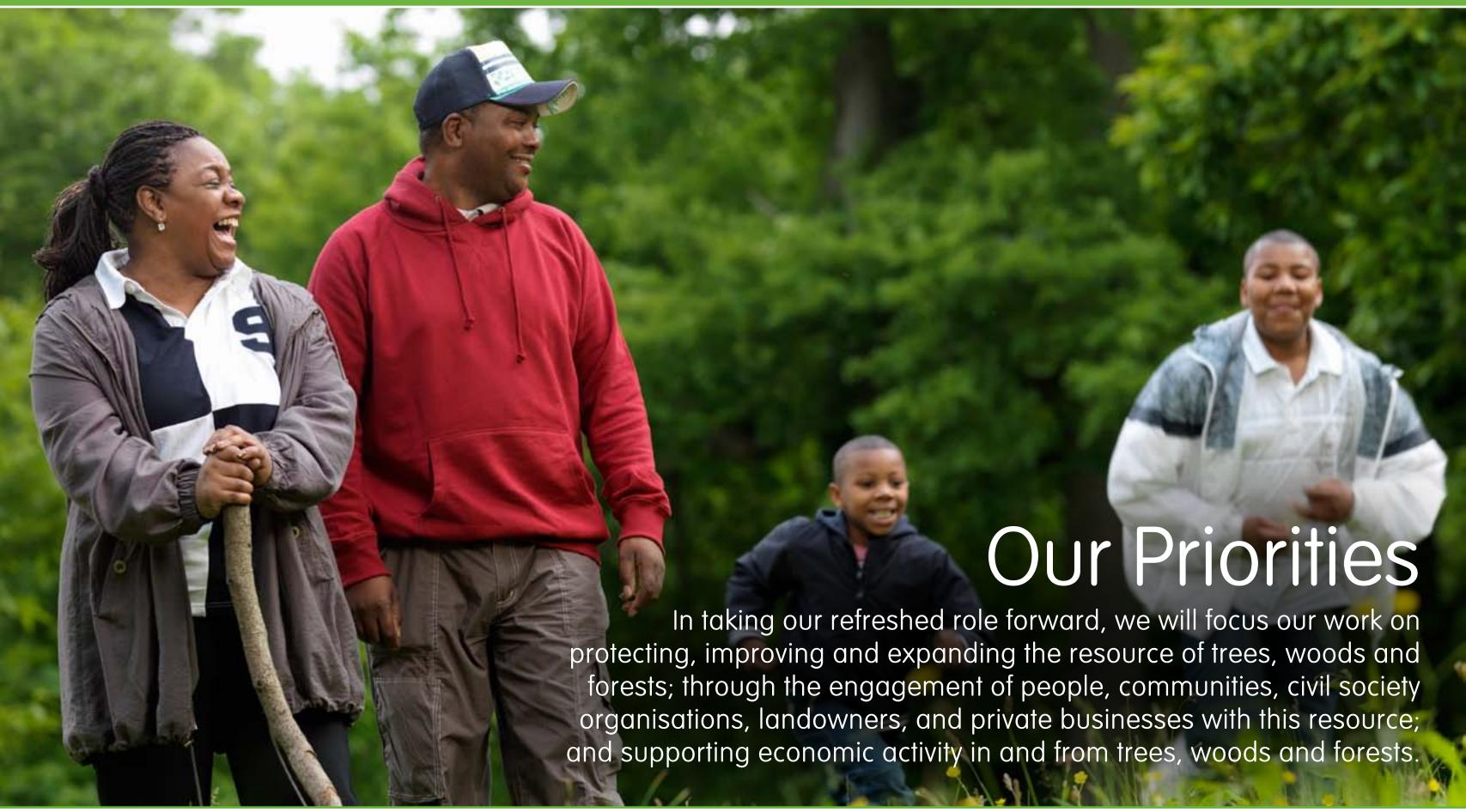
Key functions will include carrying out statutory regulatory functions (for example in relation to tree felling, plant health and environmental impact assessment), managing the Public Forest Estate and grant schemes, and providing expert advice (both nationally and locally). In addition there are new or increasing areas of activity, such as biosecurity, the Big Tree Plant, leading the work of the Woodland Carbon Task Force, promoting sustainable alternative energy sources and engagement with Big Society. We shall also work to ensure that woodlands can adapt to, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Meanwhile, key functions of the Forestry Commission that currently operate at a Great Britain level will continue: these include provision of research, Great Britain-wide plant health responsibilities, and custodianship of the UK Forestry Standard.

We will report on a streamlined suite of indicators to enable people to track the impact of the Forestry Commission's work and the progress of forestry in meeting key priorities (see Annexes B - D for a complete list).









### Protection

Protecting the woodland resource and increasing its resilience, for example, to pests, diseases and the impact of climate change.

Allocated Funds (£m)

15.4

■ Forest Enterprise

■ Forest Services

The threat to England's trees and forests from climate change, pests and diseases has never been greater. Our plant health officers, supported by technical experts in Forest Research, Natural England and the Food and Environment Research Agency will work to keep these threats at bay; where outbreaks do occur our local woodland officers will continue to work with sector partners and woodland owners to contain and minimise any impact. We will work to enable woods and forests to become more resilient by promoting greater diversity, improved habitat quality and better connections between woodlands and other habitats.

**Impact:** A woodland resource that is more resilient to climate change, pests and diseases, economic cycles and other changes.

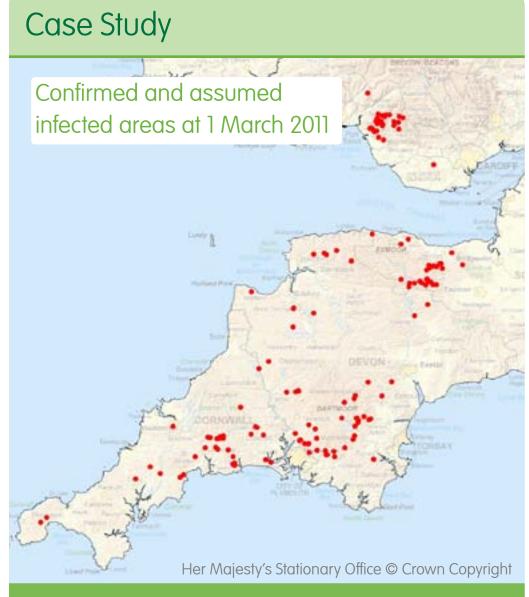
#### FC<sup>1</sup> Impact Indicators:

- Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)
- Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e.: the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)
- Maintain UKWAS certification on the Public Forest Estate

Forestry Commission

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Support and promote the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and retain certification of the PFE
- Implement the FC Biosecurity Strategy
- Begin to implement the Public Forest Estate Climate Change Action Plan
- Continue to work with Forest Research,
   Fera<sup>2</sup> and other partners to ensure the
   early surveillance and effective control of
   the impact of *Phytophthora ramorum*



### Phytophthora ramorum

The Forestry Commission is working with a wide range of public and private partners to respond to the threat of Phytophthora.

<sup>2</sup> Food and Environment Research Agency



## Improvement

Improving the woodland resource to enhance benefits including biodiversity, landscape quality and a range of other ecosystem services.

Working with a wide range of partners—including our Applicants' Focus Group and other customers—we will continue to promote the adoption of the UK Forestry Standard and provide frameworks to enable woodland owners to bring neglected woodlands back into active management and to enhance benefits including biodiversity, landscape quality, public access and a variety of ecosystem services.

**Impact:** More of England's woodlands are actively managed in a manner that halts the loss of biodiversity and enhances the other benefits they provide for society.

#### **FC Impact Indicators:**

- Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)
- Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Continue the restoration of planted ancient woodland sites
- Work with a range of partners to highlight the role of trees and woodlands in providing a variety of ecosystem services
- Launch a new RDPE<sup>1</sup> funded Woodfuel
  Woodland Improvement Grant aimed at
  bringing undermanaged woodland back
  into management by supporting access
  infrastructure and other preparatory
  work necessary for the harvesting and
  sale of timber

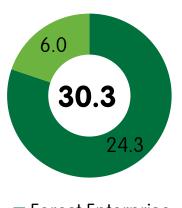
### Case Study



East Midlands Woodland Bird Project

A partnership project to reverse the decline in bird populations by providing financial support to improve woodland habitats and wider biodiversity.

Allocated Funds (£m)



■ Forest Enterprise

■ Forest Services

<sup>1</sup> Rural Development Programme for England



# Expansion

Promote and incentivise the planting and natural regeneration of trees, woods and forests of the right type in the right place. With one of the lowest levels of woodland cover in Europe—9% cover against a European average of 32%—England's natural environment needs more trees and woodlands. Working with other government departments and many stakeholder groups through the Woodland Carbon Task Force we will provide frameworks to enable the use of private finance and public engagement to expand woodland cover and to increase the benefits that can be derived from them. The expansion of woodland cover will make an important contribution to increasing our ability to adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. During 2011/12 we will also distribute a further  $\mathfrak{L}$ 30.6 million as part of the woodland related components of the Rural Development Programme for England of which  $\mathfrak{L}$ 14.9 million will support woodland expansion.

**Impact:** More woodland with the right trees in the right place.

#### **FC Impact Indicators:**

- Hectares of woodland created (gross)
- Projected carbon capture to 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Support woodland creation by providing grants and advice to woodland owners
- Woodland Carbon Task Force; putting in place the conditions for a step change in woodland creation and management using private finance
- Work with the Environment Agency to provide local decision makers with information on where woodland can help manage flood risk and improve water quality

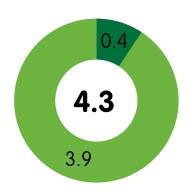
### Case Study



### Slowing the Flow at Pickering

A new project that seeks to demonstrate how better land management can help to tackle the flooding problem faced by Pickering in North Yorkshire.

### Allocated Funds (£m)



- Forest Enterprise
- Forest Services



# **Empowerment and Engagement**

Empowering and enabling people to engage with trees, woods and forests, so that they can determine the benefits that they wish to see delivered.

Woodlands improve our quality of life in many ways and we will encourage people to engage with woodlands for leisure, recreation and learning. Working with partners to develop the relationship between people and woodlands is fundamental to our approach to delivering our programmes. We will facilitate the wider ownership, expansion and management of England's woodlands to enable locally determined priorities and actions to sit alongside the protection of nationally important features (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and international and domestic legal obligations.

**Impact:** Communities, individuals, landowners and private business take the lead in determining and delivering the public benefits which they value and require from woodlands.

#### **FC Impact Indicators:**

- Percentage of priority people close to accessible woodland
- Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive "rate my visit" facility
- Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate
- Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Implement an action plan arising from a positive National Audit Office report of FC Interaction with Civil Society
- Support the delivery of The Big Tree Plant as part of the Defra led partnership, including giving first grants to community groups as part of a £4.2m, four-year Big Tree Plant funding scheme



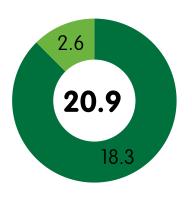
### Case Study



### Midlands Community Engagement

A Partnership programme which engages with people from diverse groups, encouraging access to their local woodlands.

#### Allocated Funds (£m)



Forest EnterpriseForest Services



## **Economic Activity**

Promoting a competitive, thriving and resilient forestry sector alongside a wide range of private sector business partners.

Allocated Funds (£m)

18.1

■ Forest Enterprise

■ Forest Services

We are committed to working with business to increase the viability of the forestry sector: to reduce the regulatory burden upon them, to support innovative mechanisms and to bring new capital into the management of woodlands. The production of timber from the Public Forest Estate also supports a wide range of timber and forestry businesses. We will continue to support the England Forest Industries Partnership (EFIP). We will work to enable more woods to be managed as parts of viable land-based businesses, to promote wood as a versatile and sustainable raw material and to integrate markets for woodland products and services, from timber to mountain biking.

**Impact:** A forestry sector which is competitive, thriving and resilient including many sustainably managed woods operating as parts of viable land-based businesses.

#### **FC Impact Indicators:**

- Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant
- Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate
- Number of felling licences issued

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Support the industry-led Forestry Regulation Task Force
- Skills action plan Working with key partners from across the sector to increase skill levels in and numbers of new entrants to forestry
- Publish the Woodfuel Implementation
   Plan delivering the road map
   for FCE's<sup>1</sup> woodfuel activities.
- Develop new models for involving businesses in the Public Forest Estate

### Case Study

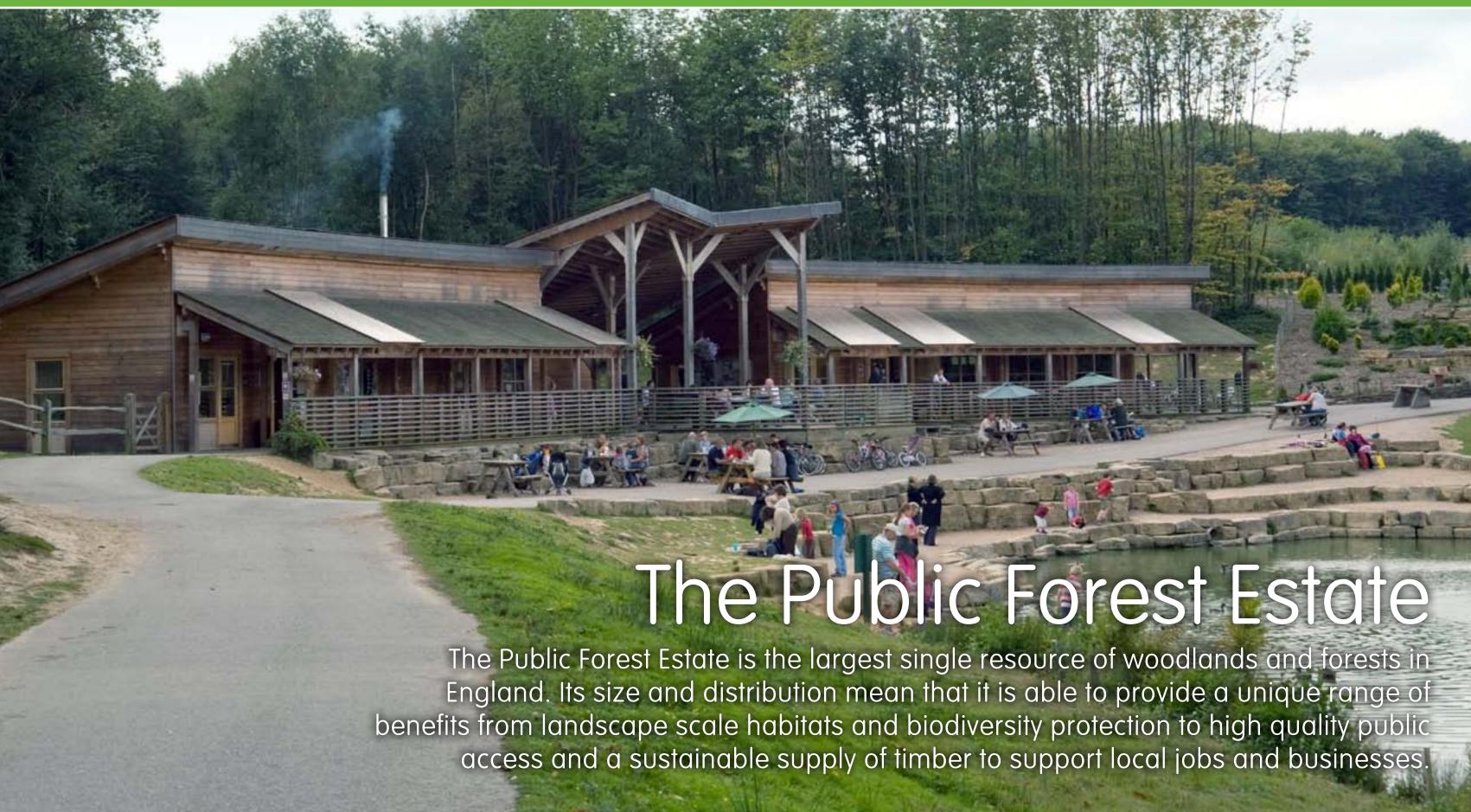


### **Woodfuel East**

A partnership project which supports the production and use of locally produced timber from existing undermanaged or unmanaged woodland.

Forestry Commission England







### The Public Forest Estate

The Forestry Commission Estate is managed by Forest Enterprise and is key to the Commission's capacity to deliver government policy and public benefits across England. Covering some 258,000ha, from ancient forests such as the New Forest through to large-scale multi-purpose productive forests such as Kielder in Northumberland, Forest Enterprise manages all of its forests in an integrated and sustainable way. The production of timber enables a wide range of small and medium sized businesses to add value from the timber produced, which is certified to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. We continue to adapt the estate to meet changes both in government policy and public need—from the initial objectives in 1919 to produce a strategic reserve of timber, through to providing widespread opportunities for public access, enjoyment and volunteering, the protection and enhancement of endangered habitats and facilitation and support for a wide range of private businesses and civil society organisations.

#### Key actions for 2011-15:

- Already over 80% of the work on the Public Forest Estate is delivered by a wide range of small and medium sized businesses, principally operating in the timber, tourism and leisure sectors. We will develop this approach and explore opportunities to facilitate further civil society and business partnerships.
- Forest Enterprise has a well established track record of consultation with communities and for promoting the use of the estate by local people and organisations. Our Forest Design Planning process engages all key stakeholders in the planning of the future of forests on their doorsteps. There are many examples of very high levels of involvement, for example through 'friends of ' and community woodland groups. Each year over 5000 permissions are granted to a wide range organisations to run events, such as orienteering or voluntary conservation work, on the estate. We will explore opportunities for further, broader and deeper engagement of communites in the management of our woodlands.
- The estate includes a wide variety of protected landscapes and habitats including over 67,000ha of sites of special scientific interest, nearly 17,000ha of heathland, 53,000ha of ancient woodland and 872 scheduled monuments. Over the next five years we will continue to maintain and improve these habitats, restoring additional areas of heathland and plantations on ancient woodland sites at a rate determined by both funding and best conservation practice. We will maintain and improve the condition of our SSSI's 99% of which are already in favourable or recovering condition.

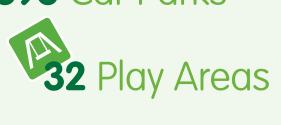
<sup>2002</sup> Baseline



# The Public Forest Estate

day visits per year supporting and enabling a wide range of private businesses from over 80 small private franchises through to 14 Go Ape! sites.





hectares of the estate is designated as SSSI with 99% of this in favourable or recovering unfavourable condition.

onal Parks

businesses deliver most of our visitor centre services, cafe, bike hire and outdoor activities.

of the country's softwood timber production supporting hundreds of small contractors and large sawmills that rely on our guaranteed supply to attract capital investment.





## Restructuring our Business 2011-15

**Forest Enterprise** is an internal agency responsible for the management of the Public Forest Estate.

**Forest Services** will be established in 2011/12 and has functions covering national and local expertise, regulation, providing advice and grants.

Proposals for restructuring FC England including changes in staff numbers and office locations are currently provisional and subject to consultation with FC staff and trade unions

The Forestry Commission's spending settlement for 2011-15 requires us to:

- Manage a reduction in Defra funding of 25% by 2014/15.
- Reduce the use of capital receipts to pay for revenue costs (£8m per annum in 2010/11).
- Change what the Forestry Commission delivers and how it is delivered to reflect the Government's new policies and approach.

Taken together, these will require us to undertake significant restructuring of current programmes whilst refocusing resources on a number of new priority

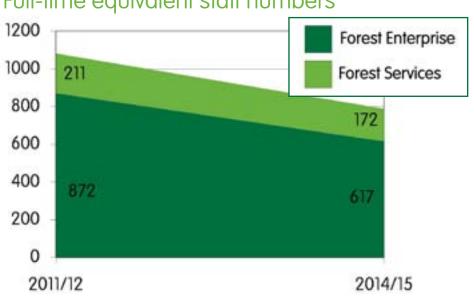
programmes such as biosecurity, The Big Tree Plant, the work of the Woodland Carbon Task Force and engagement with Big Society.

**Impact:** By April 2015 the Forestry Commission has evolved in its role and approach to lead the delivery of Government policy for trees, woods and forests, whilst operating sustainably within the resources available to it and having contributed towards the wider public sector financial deficit reduction programme. We will continue to build strong engagement at all levels, supporting and enabling others to enjoy the benefits that woodlands provide.

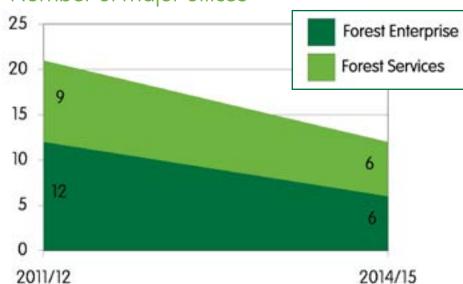




Full-time equivalent staff numbers



#### Number of major offices





# Restructuring our Business 2011-12

Over the next twelve months we will begin to restructure the Commission to maximise what we can deliver within the available funding and resources.



In carrying out this restructuring we are seeking to maintain capacity, within our reduced budget, for frontline services to carry out statutory regulatory functions (for example in relation to tree felling, plant health and environmental impact assessment), to manage grant schemes and to provide expert advice (both nationally and locally).

#### **FC Impact Indicators:**

- Number of employees (FTEs)
- Number of training days undertaken per member of staff (FTE)
- Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees
- Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early

#### Key actions for 2011/12:

- Support the Independent Panel looking at forest policy, the future roles of the Forestry Commission and the Public Forest Estate.
- Plan the reduction in the number of operational units to focus resources on frontline delivery.
- Restructure our current Policy & Programmes, Grant & Regulations and Regions teams to form a smaller and more focused national Forest Services team.
- Reduce staff numbers to reflect our new organisational structure whilst as far as possible investing in front-line staff to support our commitment to customer service.
- Promote closer working with the Environment Agency, Natural England and other Defra partners.

- Continue to build new relationships with partners to support delivery and to encourage voluntary groups and individuals to take responsibility for delivery of public benefits.
- Continue to improve public benefits on the Public Forest Estate and focus on those woodlands which have most public use.
- Examine other cost-saving measures, including targeting of wildlife and habitat management to areas of highest priority and further commercialisation of tourism and leisure.



### Annex A: Source and Use of Funds

£ million		2011-12 Planned	2012-13 Indicative	2013-14 Indicative	2014-15 Indicative
Source of Funds					
Parliamentary Funding		37.4	34.3	28.7	26.7
Forest Services	Other Income	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Forest Enterprise	Trading Income	50.3	50.5	50.5	50.5
Total Revenue		89.0	86.1	80.5	78.5
Use of Funds					
Forest Services	Protection	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.3
	Improvement	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.9
	Expansion	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.3
	Empowerment	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.0
	Economic	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8
	Total	18.9	17.7	16.5	15.2
Forest Enterprise	Protection	11.1	10.8	10.1	10.0
	Improvement	24.3	23.7	22.2	21.9
	Expansion	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
	Empowerment	18.3	17.9	16.7	16.5
	Economic	16.0	15.6	14.6	14.4
	Total	70.1	68.4	64.0	63.3
Total Expenditure		89.0	86.1	80.5	78.5

#### Notes

<sup>1.</sup> In addition to the above funds, a further £30.6m in 2011/12 is budgeted to be distributed on behalf of Defra as part of the woodland related components of the Rural Development Programme for England.

<sup>2.</sup> Pending the outcome of the Independent Review Panel the plan assumes no future asset sales. This impacts the financial plan by increasing costs although extra income is also generated from the revised estate holding. This creates a new net pressure of  $\mathfrak{L}3.5m$ .

<sup>3.</sup> Forest Services includes National Office administration and shared service costs

<sup>4.</sup> Values exclude handling costs associated with *Phytophthora ramorum*.



# Annex B: Forestry Commission Impact Indicators

Below is a listing of Forestry Commission England's Impact Indicators for 2011-15, as set out throughout this document. The table sets out how the Forestry Commission in England will contribute towards the wider State of England's Woodland Indicators which are to be developed, monitored and published as a part of Forestry Commission England's wider commitment to the Government's Transparency agenda, and providing information of value to our stakeholders.

No	Priority	Indicator	Publication	Breakdown
1	Protection	Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)	Quarterly	National
2	Protection	Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e.: the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)	Quarterly	Sub-national
3	Protection	Maintain UKWAS Certification on the Public Forest Estate	Annual	National
4	Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	Biannual	Sub-national
5	Improvement	Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat	Annual	National
6	Expansion	Hectares of woodland created (gross)	Annual	Sub-national
7	Expansion	Projected carbon capture to 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects	Annual	National
8	Empowerment	Percentage of priority people close to accessible woodland	Biannual	Sub-national
9	Empowerment	Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive "rate my visit" facility	Quarterly	Sub-national
10	Empowerment	Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate	Annual	Sub-national
11	Empowerment	Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate	Annual	Sub-national
12	Economic Activity	Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant	Annual	Sub-national



# Annex B: Forestry Commission Impact Indicators (Cont.)

No	Priority	Indicator	Publication	Breakdown
13	Economic Activity	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	Annual	Sub-national
14	Economic Activity	Number of felling licences issued	Annual	Sub-national
15	Restructuring our Business	Number of employees (FTEs)	Quarterly	National
16	Developing our Staff	Number of training days completed per employee (FTE)	Annual	National
17	Developing our Staff	Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees	Annual	National
18	Customer Service	Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	Biannual	Sub-national

Note: National reporting will be for England as a whole. Sub-national reporting will be for the new Forest Services Territories and Forest Districts once finalised.



# Annex C: Forestry Commission Input Indicators

Below is a listing of Forestry Commission England's Input Indicators for 2011-15 which provide information on the allocation and efficient use of resources. In addition we shall also publish the overall budget contribution towards each priority.

No	Priority	Indicator	Publication	Breakdown
1	Protection	Cost of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (£'000s)	Annual	National
2	Improvement	Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant (£m)	Annual	Sub-national
3	Expansion	Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)	Annual	Sub-national
4	Empowerment	Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services.	Annual	National
5	Economic Activity	Value of Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants	Annual	Sub-national
6	Restructuring our Business	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)	Biannual	National

Note: National reporting will be for England as a whole. Sub-national reporting will be for the new Forest Services Territories and Forest Districts once finalised.



# Annex D: State of England's Woodland Indicators

These long-term indicators will be used to provide a broader indication of the condition of England's woodlands but will not form part of our corporate reporting framework. In many cases although reporting will be annual, meaningful conclusions will require analysis over a longer time-frame.

No	Priority	Indicator	Publication	Breakdown
1	Protection	Number of tree diseases in England that are considered 'high risk' by the FC Biosecurity Board		National
2	Protection	Measure of how well woodlands are set up to cope with changes such as climate change based on size and how well species can move between them	Annual	National
3	Improvement	Rate of annual increment in England's forests	Annual	National
4	Improvement	Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory	Annual	Sub-national
5	Improvement	Percentage of woodland SSSIs in target condition	Annual	Sub-national
6	Improvement	Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds' data	Annual	National
7	Expansion	Area of woodland (total and change over time)	Annual	National
8	Expansion	Projected amount of carbon captured by England's woodlands	Annual	National
9	Empowerment	Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland	biennial	National
10	Empowerment	Number of visits to woodland from Natural England Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)	Annual	Sub-national
11	Economic Activity	Number apprentices and university students entering forestry (from Lantra)	Annual	National
12	Economic Activity	Gross Value Added from domestic forestry	Annual	National
13	Economic Activity	Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources	Annual	National
14	Economic Activity	Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested	Annual	National
15	Economic Activity	Installed capacity of medium sized wood-fuelled boilers (REA data in MW thermal)	Annual	Sub-national
16	Economic Activity	Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed	Biannual	National

Note: National reporting will be for England as a whole. Sub-national reporting will be for the new Forest Services Territories and Forest Districts once finalised.



If you need this publication in an alternative format, for example in large print or in another language, please contact:

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