



Corporate Plan 2014-15

Forestry Commission England Corporate Plan 2014-15

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Foreword

This is an exciting time for forestry in England. Last autumn's launch of Grown in Britain and the energy shown by the whole sector in creating a new woodland culture over the last 18 months are breathing new life into forestry, with major benefits for people, nature and the economy.

This corporate plan sets out how the Forestry Commission will rise to new challenges and seize fresh opportunities over the coming year in protecting, improving and expanding the nation's woodlands.

With its role as Government's principal source of forestry expertise confirmed, the Forestry Commission will have new resources available to tackle future and current pest and disease threats and help others do so. The organisation will ensure land managers continue to receive excellent advice about growing and managing their woodlands, including availability of grants. The focus on growing a stronger, more self-sustaining sector continues, including help with skills, apprenticeships and local partnerships.

We remain fully committed to creating a new organisation to hold the Public Forest Estate in trust for the nation. Over the next year we will see groundbreaking work to develop long term funding agreements, backed by payments for ecosystem services, to put the new organisation on a secure footing. This means Government will invest in the true value of our public forests and everything they offer to business, society and the environment.

This Government appreciates how woodlands create a wealth of benefits and services – from job creation to a playground for the adventurous, haven for wildlife to flood prevention in our river systems. We will work with our partners to deliver this plan, integrating our approach where necessary to secure multiple environmental outcomes and to help ensure these benefits continue for people today and for generations to come.



Images from top:
Dan Rogerson,
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State for water,
forestry, rural affairs and
resource management and
Sir Harry Studholme,
Forestry Commission Chair.



Introduction

The Forestry Commission works hard for England's trees, woods and forests through two arms:

Forest Services: responsible for putting in place the conditions that enable landowners and managers, businesses, civil society organisations and local communities to protect, improve and expand England's woodland resource.

Forest Enterprise: the Agency responsible for managing the Public Forest Estate.

Forest Services

This year we will begin to re-shape Forest Services in response to the Government's Review of Forestry Functions. Our challenge is to focus our business around our expertise. Our priority is our people delivering in the field. The heart of our business is the emphasis we place on getting our expertise to those who can make a difference to England's woodlands. Alongside this we are continually striving to be even better on tree health and further strengthen the link between the work we do and the growing economy.

Forest Enterprise

The Government's Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement lays down a challenge to re-shape Forest Enterprise in order to establish a new, separate management body to hold the Public Forest Estate in trust for the nation. Over the next year we will be working to build the foundations of this new organisation.

Alongside this, we know how important it is to continue to focus on our core business. What follows in this Plan represents the emphasis we place on delivering excellence. Our priority is to maintain our position as an international leader in delivering and demonstrating sustainable, integrated land management. We will work with others to keep the Public Forest Estate a special place for wildlife, which people can enjoy and where businesses can thrive.

Our priorities

England's woods and forests are a valuable national asset providing benefits such as jobs and economic activity, timber and woodfuel, clean water, biodiversity and places for people to enjoy the outdoors – a wide range of “ecosystem services”.

At the core of our work is our aim to make sure that England's woodland carries on providing more and more of these benefits, despite threats and with less Government intervention. We call this “resilience”. Together with our partners we want to create a resilient woodland resource and forestry sector.

Our priorities for the next year remain:

Forest Services Areas



Protect

Woodlands and forests face unprecedented threats. A major challenge is climate change, which can weaken trees, creating more suitable conditions for the expansion of pest populations. Alongside this an increase in international trade means that new pests and diseases are arriving from overseas.

We will plant for resilience and respond swiftly to tree disease outbreaks as well as regulate where we need to, to protect England's trees, woodlands and forests from these increasing threats. This will result in resilient woodlands and a thriving forestry sector.

Expand

We know that more woodlands create more benefits for the economy, for the environment and for the people that enjoy them.

We want to see an increase in the rate of woodland creation. The Government set out a challenging ambition for 12% woodland cover by 2060. We will work with others to encourage more trees to be planted, where it suits local conditions, to achieve this.

Forest Enterprise Districts



Improve

Managing woodland is essential. This is because a managed woodland is more likely to provide benefits such as jobs and economic activity, timber and woodfuel, clean water, biodiversity, and places for people to enjoy the outdoors.

We will always be at the heart of partnership working across the forestry sector. We provide woodland owners and managers with the advice, incentives and market opportunities they need so that they can work out what they want from their woods, plan how to make this happen and then put their plans into action.

Protect

We will help the sector reduce the threat to forest trees from pests and diseases

We will help the forestry sector develop its capability and capacity on tree health so that it is rare for new pests and diseases to become established in England. Our forest economy is global and the threat from new pests and diseases is increasing. We are doing more to prevent their entry at the border and enhancing inland surveillance to detect outbreaks early. Our aspiration is that the sector will react together, quickly and effectively, to deal with any outbreak. A resilient sector will cope with pests and diseases so that the economic, social and environmental value of our woods continues to increase.

Key actions:

- Risk assess, develop contingency plans, survey and monitor to help the sector keep out pests and diseases such as Emerald ash borer, sweet chestnut blight and Plane Wilt. We will respond to any new outbreaks that do occur.
- Survey and monitor to help the sector respond to key pests and diseases already present, including Chalara dieback of ash, Phytophthora ramorum, Oak Processionary Moth, Dothistroma needle blight and Acute Oak Decline.
- Actively contribute to Defra network reform of governance arrangements for plant health to achieve a more coherent approach to plant health in government.
- Along with partners help deliver both Defra's Tree Health Management Plan, which sets out Government's approach to tree health in England, and the Plant Biosecurity Strategy.

Case study

Oak Processionary Moth

The larvae, or caterpillars, of *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Oak Processionary Moth, OPM) pose a threat to oak trees and to human and animal health.

The caterpillars feed on the leaves of oak trees. Large populations can strip whole trees bare of leaves, leaving them vulnerable to attack by other pests and diseases, and less resilient to environmental events such as drought and flood.

In addition, the caterpillars have thousands of tiny hairs that contain an urticating, or irritating, substance called thaumetopoein, from which the species derives part of its scientific name. Contact with the hairs can cause itching skin rashes and, less commonly, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye problems.

This can happen if people or animals touch the caterpillars or their nests, or come into contact with wind-blown hairs.

There are outbreaks of OPM in West and South-West London, the Bromley/Croydon area of South London, and the Pangbourne area of Berkshire. In 2013 the Forestry Commission worked closely with partners to implement an enhanced OPM control programme. This allowed a major increase in targeted control effort and a significant increase in survey effort. Through Defra funding and other landowner and manager support, the programme helped achieve a 53% reduction in the number of OPM nests - 4,756 nests in 2013 compared to 10,163 in 2012. In addition, the rate of spread was reduced from 54% per year in 2012 to 17% in 2013.

Reduced OPM infestation and rate of spread look to have changed the course of the OPM control strategy. In 2013 the programme helped create major capacity in control contractors and surveyors, including using new machinery and experience from Europe. We have learned more about the effectiveness of low impact insecticides and distribution of host trees.

Forestry Commission surveys and the training of landowners, managers and volunteers to look out for and report OPM, are helping the sector respond to outbreaks in accordance with Defra's Tree Health Management Plan.

Continued Defra funding and research programmes will, during 2014/15, build the potential for and provide further evidence to deliver the current eradication strategy (with containment in West London) and to examine the possibility of eradication of OPM everywhere.

We will regulate to protect the woodland resource

Our aim is for the rate of woodland loss to be well below the rate of woodland creation. We have a light touch approach to regulation. We want to reduce the burden further and increase the effectiveness of our approach. We want more licences for tree felling to be covered by long-term woodland management plans rather than stand-alone felling licences. Woodland should be converted to other land uses only in line with policy such as the National Planning Policy Framework and, where necessary, after consideration of an environmental statement.



Key actions:

- Enable sustainable woodland management and woodland creation. This will be through using felling licences and Environmental Impact Assessments to permit activities in a risk-based, low burden way.
- Help the Department for Communities and Local Government as they reform the planning system and work with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on woodfuel and procurement standards. We want to support domestic economic growth and protect woodlands.
- Set up new arrangements for running forestry regulation following transfers of technical and transactional EU Payments functions to Natural England and Rural Payments Agency (see 'Defra One Business' page 26)
- Ensure that the New Environmental Land Management Scheme is designed to support woodland creation and management, including to enable ancient woodland restoration to be funded as a priority.
- Publish National Forest Inventory statistics for rates of woodland loss.
- Pilot new Forestry Commission Violation Reporting tool developed in 2013/14. The tool will enable Forestry Commission staff proactively to identify potential felling infringements and act upon these using existing statutory processes.



Protection
Allocated funds

Rigorous Protection of Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodlands are exceptionally rich in wildlife, including many rare species and special habitats. Tree felling proposals that are part of normal woodland management normally require a felling licence from the Forestry Commission and we ensure these are consistent with the UK Forest Standard before approving them.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives strong protection for habitats such as ancient woodland. In Spring 2014 local authorities were issued with Standing Advice by the Forestry Commission and Natural England explaining in more detail how the NPPF requirements should be implemented in England.

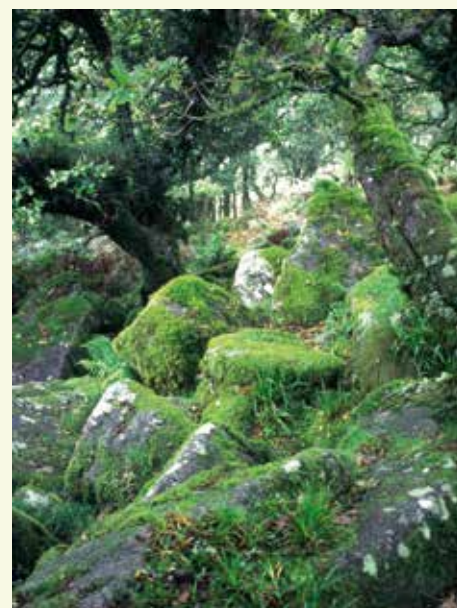
Further to this, the Forestry Commission's National Forest Inventory (NFI) uses an automated satellite imagery and aerial photography based system to monitor woodland loss on a year by year basis across all woodland over 0.5ha in size.

Alongside our map and satellite based work, the NFI fieldwork also monitors and confirms woodland loss on the ground. In this work, over 6000 randomly selected sample sites have been identified across England. Through a series of five year cycles looking at these 6000 sites the NFI will produce consolidated information to build a picture of rates of woodland loss between cycles.

The Forestry Commission also recognises the importance of restoring Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). In 2012 (the last full year for which figures are available) 875ha were restored on the Public Forest Estate and 916ha were restored on other woodland with the assistance of the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

Despite these controls, unfortunately illegal felling sometimes still occurs and the Forestry Commission and Secretary of State take these breaches very seriously. In 2013 the Forestry Commission took firm action following the removal of 1.9ha of ancient woodland on a site subject to a planning application for holiday lodges. The woodland was previously sweet chestnut coppice which had been cleared over a number of years and converted to grassland. Using its powers under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations the Forestry Commission issued an enforcement notice requiring the replanting of woodland.

The landowner appealed to the Secretary of State against the enforcement notice, with the basis of the appeal being that the felled area was only 0.9ha above the relevant threshold size, and that the notice required the replanting of mixed native species at dense spacing rather than pure sweet chestnut that previously existed. The Secretary of State dismissed the appeal and declined to vary the conditions of the notice, citing that it was reasonable that remedial action should have regard to securing future resilience against potential change in environmental conditions and new tree health threats. He also concluded that it was important to re-establish viable woodland and a functional ecological state as soon as practical.



We will work with the sector to manage the impacts of deer, grey squirrels and invasive non-native species

We want to see landowners collaborating to manage deer, grey squirrels and invasive species populations and the detrimental impact they have on England's trees and woodlands.

Our aim is for these species populations and/or their impacts to be approaching levels that do not significantly reduce England's woodlands' economic, social and environmental value.



Key actions

- Develop the effectiveness of our approach in relation to how we enable the sector to manage sustainable populations of deer.
- Update our grey squirrel control policy and action plan in Summer 2014, following further consultation with stakeholders. This will include stronger good practice guidance, research, upgraded monitoring, and advice to help landowners collaborate to control grey squirrels.

We will work with the sector to increase the ecological resilience of woodlands and forests

We want greater diversity in England's woodlands, biologically and structurally, with better connections between wooded and other habitats. This is so woodland can cope with threats such as climate change and pests and diseases. Woodlands also help society adapt to our changing climate, such as helping manage flood risk or cooling rivers with shade. A further benefit is that the woodland economy is based on a greater diversity of products and able to adapt to the changing economy as well as the changing climate. We want to see professional advice, regulation, grants, and management plans promoting this economic and ecological diversity.

We want trees as a component in green infrastructure to play an increasing role in urban adaptation and ecological resilience. We want to see contingency plans in place for extreme weather and other emergency events, and forest infrastructure better able to cope with these events.

Key actions

- Communication with the sector to develop knowledge and understanding of the need for a wider range of species, restructuring and ecological adaptation.
- Work with the sector to start a planting stock assurance scheme.
- Review Forestry Commission's Report on Adaptation Reporting Power and deliver our actions in the National Adaptation Programme.
- Familiarise all relevant staff with our new contingency planning approach to major incidents. This means we can quickly and effectively fulfil our appropriate role in Government wide responses to extreme events such as major windblow.
- Work with others to communicate to the sector the different approaches to using woodland for urban adaptation and green infrastructure.



Planting for Resilience

Recent outbreaks of pests and diseases within England's woodlands has highlighted the fact that only 10 tree species account for 80% of the woodland canopy.

Core to our strategy for ensuring woodlands stay resilient to this challenge, and the need to adapt to a changing climate, is the recognition that we need more diverse woodlands in species, genetics within species, stand and age structure.

In the current season Forest Enterprise have planted 17 alternative species of conifer on the Public Forest Estate, totalling over 500,000 plants (equivalent to approximately 200ha). Until the last couple of years, most of these species have not been planted on the Estate apart from in small scale trials many decades ago. Species such as redwoods have shown great productive potential on the right sites and provide additional diversity to our forests that reduces the overall risk from pests and diseases.

Coupled with planting more alternative species, Forest Enterprise are taking opportunities to adopt a wider range of establishment practices and silvicultural systems that will, over time, diversify much of the Public Forest Estate away from even-aged, single species plantations towards productive woodlands with a higher proportion of mixed species and an uneven age structure.

To complement this work we have a comprehensive web resource at www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechangeengland supported by free to use electronic tree species selection tools at www.eforestry.gov.uk/forestdss/ and a demonstration database of novel species at www.silvFuture.org.uk. Additionally, The Royal Forestry Society, funded by Climate Ready, have launched a national competition to recognise excellence in planting that adopts current best resilience practice.

Experiences with these lesser known species are being shared not only through normal field meetings but also via social media such as LinkedIn and Twitter.

Forest Enterprise

The Public Forest Estate already contributes significantly to the environmental benefits we get from England's woods and forests. We want to increase these benefits. In doing this, the overall biodiversity and heritage value of the Estate will be protected and enhanced at both the landscape and local level.

By 2020 we aim to have restored 3,870ha of open habitat and 2,950ha of planted ancient woodland sites. During 2015, 55ha of open habitat will be restored, building on the 1,271ha restored in 2014. This restoration will greatly increase the prospects for rare and declining species of butterflies and many birds associated with early succession woodland. For our restored heathland and mire there will be many species of reptiles, birds and insects that benefit.

On the Public Forest Estate we believe we have at least 40% of the 943 species listed as 'of principal importance' in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. We will continue our many conservation projects to support and enhance populations of this very wide range of plants and animals, from ospreys to whorl snails, in partnership with other organisations and through funding from non government sources.

Forest Enterprise also makes a significant contribution to deer control in England. We currently employ 59 wildlife rangers and 7 wildlife managers. In 2013/14 we issued 11 Deer Control Licences to private individuals, adding to 12 licences that were already in existence.

Key actions

- Continue to maintain our 68,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in 'Favourable' or 'Recovering' condition, with the area in 'Favourable' condition increasing year on year.
- Continue to restore Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to native woodland and plantations to open habitats in accordance with the Forestry Commission Keepers of Time policy and the Forest Enterprise Open Habitat Strategy, delivering multiple environmental outcomes where possible.
- Continue to improve the condition, extent and connectivity of conservation-priority woodland habitats and the populations of conservation-priority species.
- Continue to conserve and improve the condition of the extensive range of heritage assets across the Public Forest Estate by taking action to reduce the number of sites recorded on the Heritage at Risk register.
- Manage deer on the estate for the benefit of our forests and the wider environment, helping create local sustainable markets for over 68,000kg of fresh wild venison.

Case study

Rewriting Forest Design Plans to manage the effects of *Phytophthora ramorum*

Phytophthora ramorum was first reported in Cumbria and Lancashire in 2011 with the first case on the Public Forest Estate in Whinlatter that year. The affected stand was felled under plant health notice in early 2012. The disease has since been discovered at other locations across Cumbria.

Felling plans for all affected forests are now being re-drawn to manage the impact of the disease and to allow us to manage a range of scenarios depending on the eventual spread of *P ramorum*. We have re-scheduled planned felling of other species to balance the volumes of timber produced and minimise the impact to our customers.

Forest Enterprise has engaged with local communities and stakeholders via public meetings, as well as producing an information leaflet and publishing information on our website that communicates our plans. Together, these provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions and feedback their views on proposals.

Feral Wild Boar in the Forest of Dean

Case study



The Forest of Dean is providing a home to a growing number of un-invited guests – feral wild boar – after approximately 60 animals were illegally dumped on the edge of the Forest in 2004.

Damage caused by the animals to amenity grasslands, including football and rugby pitches, private gardens and picnic areas, has worsened in each year since then. They are now ranging

freely into villages, industrial areas and the fringes of local towns. In 2013 the number of boar involved in road traffic accidents overtook the number of deer killed or injured on the roads within the Forest.

Culling of the animals by Forest Enterprise England's highly skilled wildlife rangers started in 2008. Although culling by our rangers and surrounding land owners has stepped up a notch each year the population has grown rapidly.

Estimating populations of any wild animal with a degree of accuracy is notoriously difficult, and there is therefore no agreed population figure. Government researchers have confirmed a year on year increase in the range occupied by the boar, as well as an increased density of boar in the core area. Forest Research undertook a thermal imaging survey in early 2013 which gave an indicative population of

535 animals, with a subsequent cull of 135 animals from the Public Forest Estate. That work has been repeated in early 2014 and the outputs of the two surveys will be used to assess the cull target for 2014.

The feral wild boar continue to cause controversy in the local community. The Forestry Commission has engaged with the District Council, as well as HM Verderers of the Forest of Dean and animal welfare / animal rights organisations such as the UK Wild Boar Association to find common ground and consensus on a sustainable population level, and thus culling targets. As damage has worsened and further action been required, Forest Enterprise has secured the support of Parish and District Councils and the local MP in order to reduce threats to public safety and damage to amenity grasslands. The matter remains contentious, and we will continue to work with the community to manage this sensitive issue.

Health & Safety



The forest industry is one of the most dangerous sectors in which to work in the UK. This means health and safety runs through everything we do. Last year, representatives from many of the leading industry organisations, including Forest Enterprise England, joined together to form a steering group for the new Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA).

Safety considerations have always been at the core of our work. Many of the safe working methods have their origins in the standards and techniques developed on the Public Forest Estate, especially around the use of chainsaws. In the coming year, we will be expanding the expertise in our technical training team to deliver FISA accredited refresher training for all of our current operators.

Our focus will be on increasing the knowledge and skills required by supervisors and managers to improve organisational competency around the planning and supervision of chainsaw work. These skills are an important element of our practical support of industry-wide FISA objectives as they will help to improve safe working standards for our customers' operators, as well as our own.





Improve

We will work with the sector to increase the proportion of woodlands and forests that are sustainably managed



We want there to be increased economic development, biodiversity and access from bringing more English woodland into sustainable management. We want to see adoption of management plans and implementation of the UK Forestry Standard¹ being used to identify opportunities to promote economic growth, protect the environment and contribute to the delivery of government policies such as Biodiversity 2020, the Flooding and Coastal Risk Management directive, and the Water Framework

Directive. We estimate that this shared woodland management programme could bring around two-thirds of woodland into active management in the next five years, rising eventually to 80% if markets for wood products continue to develop as we believe they can.

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1. The UK Forestry Standard is the Government's definition of sustainable forest management. It sets out a low burden, risk based approach to gaining multiple benefits, or ecosystem services, from woodland. It underpins our work in enabling the sector to protect, improve and expand England's woodland.

Key actions:

- Work with the Environment Agency and Natural England to target and enable the implementation of woodland management measures to help reduce flood risk, improve water quality and benefit biodiversity.
- Lead a major cross-sector programme to increase the proportion of woodlands and forests that are sustainably managed. In 2014/15 we will focus on a shared programme to provide woodland owners with the advice they need to decide what they want from their woodlands, plan what they will do, and then put this plan into action.
- Work with others through our grant scheme to ensure the proportion of woodland SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition is maintained and the proportion of them in favourable condition increases.
- Support the Woodland Trust in providing the website Visit Woods, which encourages public access to woodlands close to where they live. We will measure the trend of access provision using our indicator framework and maintenance of our dataset 'woods for people'. We will continue to look at the role of public rights of way within woodlands. By understanding their condition and quality, we can provide better information to the public and support greater integration through Local Access Forums and Rights of Way Improvement Plans at the local level.
- Allocate £18m of English Woodland Grant Scheme funding to enable landowners to manage 300,000 ha of woodland.
- Work with Natural England and the Rural Payments Agency to develop the New Environmental Land Management Scheme, Farming and Forestry Productivity Scheme and LEADER support for forestry so that it enables landowners to manage more of their woods to the UK Forestry Standard.

Case study



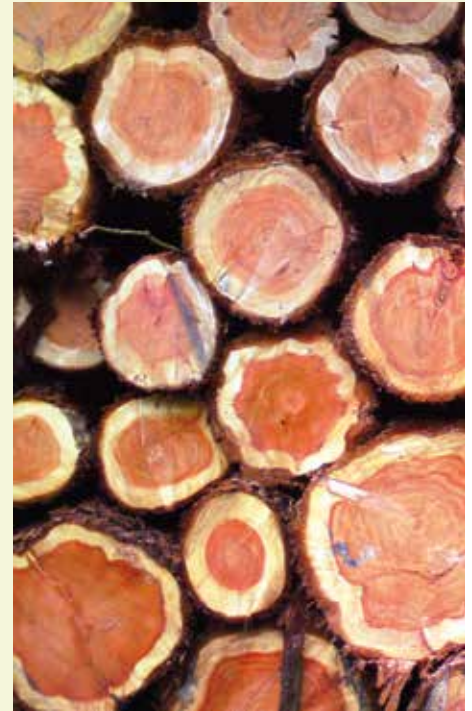
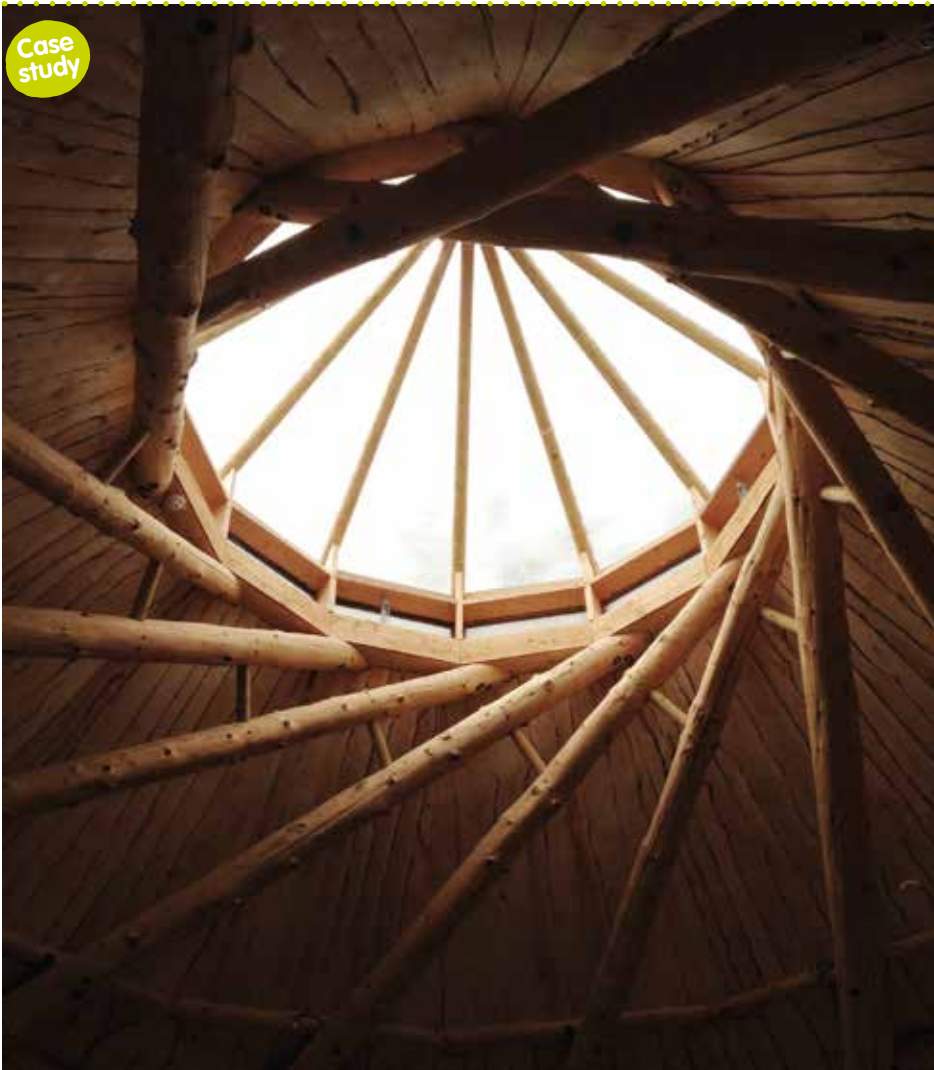
Skills & Apprenticeships

2014 will see the third annual 'Get Into Woodlands' programme being delivered in Herefordshire. Designed to attract new entrants into the workforce, the programme is a partnership between The Prince's Trust, Duchy of Cornwall, Hereford and Ludlow College, Pryor and Rickett Silviculture and the Forestry Commission.

Originally a two-week taster of woodland work, the programme has grown into a five-week course that incorporates a range of skills including planting, pruning and coppicing, training (including basic chainsaw and first aid) and work placements with potential employers.

In addition, the Forestry Commission funded Forestry Skills Initiative (FSI) is working in partnership with 'Get Into Woodlands' to offer support for potential candidates who can take the opportunity to progress from the programme into a full-time apprenticeship. There are currently over 50 apprentices all over England being supported by the initiative.

To date the programme has proven highly successful at providing opportunities for young unemployed people to try their hands at forestry work, with several progressing into apprenticeships and employment. This year we will build on that success.



Grown in Britain

The Independent Panel on Forestry urged both Government and forestry businesses to 'seize the opportunity provided by woodlands to grow our green economy' by putting in place a 'Wood Industry Action Plan'.

The Forestry Commission supported the forestry industry in taking up this challenge and instigating the Grown in Britain campaign.

Between February and October 2013 Grown in Britain was driven by Dr Peter Bonfield OBE who worked with a range of organisations to increase demand for British wood products, attract

investment into woodland creation and management projects and develop an English 'wood culture'. This work culminated with the inaugural 'Grown in Britain Week' during which the Grown in Britain Report was presented to the Secretary of State.

Since October, the work of Grown in Britain has been taken forward by an executive group comprised of representatives from Wilmott Dixon, Confor, Woodsure, Buildings Research Establishment, and the Forestry Commission. The development of a wider 'wood culture' is being delivered

by a growing list of supporters including the National Forest Company, Community Woodlands and Wildlife Trusts, as well as construction companies, sawmillers, woodfuel suppliers and woodland managers.

The Forestry Commission will carry on working with the rest of the Grown in Britain team to help consolidate the excellent partnership approach that has made possible the success so far of Grown in Britain.



Forest Enterprise

We want to make a significant contribution to economic activity, rural employment, the natural environment and green growth across England using the Public Forest Estate to deliver this.

Our task is to realise the potential of each of the public's forests for sustainable business opportunities, wildlife and nature conservation, and the enjoyment and well-being of local people and visitors.

Key actions

- Ensure that all of our forest estate continues to be certified to UK Woodland Assurance Standards.
- Support business on and off the estate by bringing 1.4m cubic metres of timber to market.
- Increase the range of species planted to help protect against disease and climate change.
- Work with partners to optimise the delivery of multiple environmental benefits from the estate.
- Continue to improve the condition of conservation-priority woodland habitats and the populations of conservation-priority species.
- Work in partnership with Forest Holidays to open a new cabin site at Thorpe Woods, Thetford and obtain planning consent for three new sites in England.
- Sign a lease with Camping in the Forest for development of a new campsite at Sherwood and work in partnership to complete a £600,000 capital investment programme at Bracelands campsite in the Forest of Dean.

Case study

Timber Harvesting in North England Forest District

Forest Enterprise is a major supplier of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified sustainable timber. Sawmills and other customers currently buy over £30m of timber from the Public Forest Estate in England each year. This revenue goes towards paying for the free access, recreational facilities, wildlife, conservation and environmental work that Forest Enterprise undertakes.

Kielder Forest, the largest productive forest in Northern Europe, lies within the Forest Enterprise North England District. The dedicated and highly trained Kielder direct harvesting team has built up a well-earned reputation for consistent delivery to the highest professional standards, with the district selling over 600,000 cubic metres of timber each year.

Making a change to log sizes with short notice is not easy in forestry production, but the Kielder team can have new sizes available for collection within a few hours. Timber collections can proceed 24 hours a day seven days a week using smartphone technology, and business-to-business processes are operated that communicate directly with Forest Enterprise sales systems. As well as this, and outside the work of the direct harvesting team, the Kielder civil engineering team work hard to ensure that lorries can still access the northern forests during winter so the mills can keep running.





Forest Holidays expand their Cropton cabin site in the North York Moors National Park

Forest Holidays experienced such high demand for the cabins at their Cropton site in the heart of the North York Moors National Park that the decision was taken to extend this site. During 2012-13 Forest Holidays gained planning permission from the North York Moors National Park Authority for an additional 27 cabins. The cabins were constructed and opened in June 2013.

The National Park Authority has recognised the significant contribution that the cabin site makes to the rural economy. Most Forest Holidays guests visit Cropton for short breaks and visit many local attractions during their stay, supporting a wide range of businesses and helping to sustain the local economy beyond the boundary of the Public Forest Estate. Studies have shown that each cabin contributes c£36,000 per year into the rural economy of North Yorkshire, meaning that the 47 cabins at Cropton are contributing almost £1.7m into the Pickering area economy.

The site also provides in excess of 25 full time equivalent jobs within the local area in a wide range of roles, from the site management team to forest rangers who help holiday makers explore the woodlands.



We want to extend access and expand opportunities for communities to become involved through taking part in activities that improve quality of life, health and learning. We want people across the country to connect with the nation's trees and forests so that they understand their importance and act positively to safeguard forests for the future.

Key actions

- Encourage communities to become involved in the Estate and its management by making our Forest Plans available online.
- Use the outcomes of the Community Involvement Project to measure and evaluate the costs and benefits of volunteering on the Public Forest Estate.



Case study

Community Involvement Through Volunteering Project

The aim of our community involvement through volunteering pilot project is to energise a “woodland culture” through active participation within the Public Forest Estate, as well as measure and evaluate the cost and benefits of community involvement.

To understand the synergies of the various parts of the business it is intended to run three distinct pilots covering community woodland, free public access woodland and a Forest Centre. Each of these environments brings potential opportunities as well as limitations. The aim of the project is to determine what these are and then develop a consistent and practical approach to roll out on a wider scale on the Estate.

In doing this we will increase understanding about the complexities of managing a large Public Forest Estate whilst measuring and evaluating the impact of volunteers.

There is already a lot of good practice in place and this project will seek to improve and spread best practice, making what we do more consistent throughout England. We will seek to make the process of getting involved with the Public Forest Estate through volunteering easier, and the process of managing volunteers more effective.



Case study

Croft Woods Forest Design Plan

Croft Castle sits in a secluded valley on the edge of the Welsh Marches near Leominster in Herefordshire. Home of the Croft family since the 11th Century, the Castle and adjoining grade II* listed parkland is now in the care of the National Trust. Prior to the National Trust's involvement the estate woods (64ha) had been leased to the Forestry Commission along with 189ha of wood pasture that lay between the parkland and the hill fort of Croft Amberley that rises up behind the Castle. Over the years the fragmentation of the landscape into different ownerships with varying management objectives worked to break up and change the landscape. Visual amenity, ecological value and historic landscape context were all reduced.

The National Trust and Forestry Commission have now drawn up plans to restore the historic landscape of Croft, and in doing so re-open the views to and from the hill fort, bringing about significant ecological improvements with a more optimal mix of habitats and woodland, wood pasture and open space. The proposals will see a large proportion of the secondary woodland cleared and switched into a farm business tenancy for the National Trust and their tenant farmer to manage through rough grazing. The other estate woods, now Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites will continue with the gradual process of restoration to ancient semi-natural woodland. Included in the package will be revitalised access between the hill fort and visitor hub for the Castle and parkland. This will allow more people to enjoy its commanding views and prominent position in the landscape, as well as make use of improved visitor information.





**cost of managing
the Public Forest
Estate**

Northumberland International Dark Sky Park

Kielder Water & Forest Park, where the largest forest in England is managed by the Forestry Commission, have joined forces with Northumberland National Park to become the biggest area of protected dark skies in Europe.

The Forestry Commission has been one of the lead partners working on the bid over the last two years in order to satisfy the strict benchmark set by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). Evidence gathering has included wildlife rangers taking light readings in the middle of the night, and action taken such as the exterior lights at Kielder Depot having been changed in order to reduce light pollution.

The status was awarded by the IDA on 9th December 2013 with the quality of the dark skies of Northumberland meriting Gold Tier (the highest award for Dark Sky Parks). The area, encompassing nearly 580 square miles (1500 km²) of public lands in northern England, is also the first IDA recognised International Dark Sky Park consisting of two independent parkland units.

In 2014 the next phase of the project will involve creating a number of Dark Sky Discovery points across the park. Outreach support will be delivered to local businesses in order that a number of local leaders can be developed who will deliver events. These will be in addition to those already run by the award winning Kielder Observatory where demand following the national publicity is already outstripping capacity.



Case study Forest Art Works

Art in some of our forest settings is another way we are engaging with the public and encouraging interaction with the environment.

Forest Art Works is a strategic partnership between Forestry Commission England (FCE) and Arts Council England (ACE). The partnership is designed to encourage collaboration between the two organisations - strategically at national, regional and local levels; and operationally, through individual locations and programmes. Forest Art Works has led to the development of a number of innovative new projects across art forms that together represent a significant portfolio of arts activity.

Jerwood Open Forest is a partnership with the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, with additional support from ACE. It began with a national open call, which received over 300 ambitious proposals for new artwork in England's forests. Five shortlisted artists were supported through a 6-month research and development project that culminated with an exhibition at the Jerwood Space, London. Two projects by artists Semiconductor and Chris Watson with Iain Pate have been selected and will be

realised this year at Alice Holt and Kielder forests respectively.

Living Symphonies is a highly ambitious piece of new music that grows in the same way as a forest ecosystem, portraying the second by second activity of the forest's wildlife, plants and atmospheric conditions. A never-ending symphony of sound unfolds in real-time amongst the canopy, trees and undergrowth providing a remarkable new way for audiences to explore forests with their ears as well as eyes. Living Symphonies will tour nationally to four forests in summer 2014, in partnership with Sound and Music - the national organisation for new music, supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund.

Picnic Cinema, in partnership with national portfolio organisation Eden Arts, will tour eight forests this summer bringing extraordinary outdoor cinema experiences to audiences across England. The programme has developed from a local initiative to a national tour, utilising central marketing and box office functions whilst sharing knowledge with local teams. We further anticipate this will grow our capacity to deliver future arts and cultural projects.



Case study Forest Enterprise England Apprentices

February 2013 saw twenty young men and women join Forest Enterprise England as Apprentice Forest Craftspeople. The 2-year apprenticeships are hosted in Forest Enterprise districts across England where they have joined with existing forest squads to learn a range of skills, from technical chainsaw and clearing saw work to risk assessment and pollution control. At the end of the 2-year programme the apprentices will be sufficiently trained to compete for forest craftsperson vacancies in Forest Enterprise England, or apply for jobs in the wider forest industry.

The apprentices are very much part of the local forest district teams where they gain from the knowledge and experience of the many craftspeople, works supervisors and rangers in Forest Enterprise England. That benefit is not all

one way, with many of the experienced team members noting the added pride and motivation they have achieved from sharing their skills and experience with the new apprentices.

The apprenticeship programme in Forest Enterprise England is supported by the Forestry Commission's national Learning and Development team trainers. The North Devon apprentices were chosen to front the programme at a recent national awards, and after due interrogation picked up a 'Bronze' award for the 'Best Apprenticeship Programme' at the UK Training Journal Awards.

With the first twenty apprentices now over half-way through their contracts, thoughts are turning to recruiting a second batch of apprentices to continue the excellent work that has been started.



Expand

We will work with the sector to create more woodland

We want to see the rate of woodland creation increasing. This is because in most but not all landscapes more woodland that fulfils the UK Forestry Standard will provide benefits to the economy, society and environment. These benefits are incredibly diverse and include growing woodfuel and timber, storing carbon to combat climate change, enhancing biodiversity, safeguarding clean-water, helping to manage flood risk, providing access to the countryside and improving landscapes.

We will work with landowners so that they are better able to choose woodland creation where it suits them and society, supported by new and innovative funding models.



Key actions

- Run a pilot on how to evolve our approach to Environmental Impact Assessment for woodland creation. This will further reduce any barriers to woodland creation while still safeguarding environmental benefits.
- Drive the Woodland Carbon Task Force so that it encourages the whole sector to work together on our ambitions for woodland creation.
- Work with Natural England and the Environment Agency to enable the sector to create more native woodland to help deliver Biodiversity 2020 targets for habitat expansion and better target woodland creation to help manage flood risk and safeguard clean water.
- Work with the Environment Agency to better target woodland creation for maximum benefit for the water environment.
- Further develop the Woodland Carbon Code so that it is generating significant private income for woodland creation.
- Work with Grown in Britain to develop their ecosystem services based framework "Goods from Woods" to encourage corporate social responsibility investment in woodland creation and management.
- Allocate £7m of English Woodland Grant Scheme funding to enable landowners to create 2,000 ha of new woodland with a further £9m to support recently planted woodland.
- Work with Natural England and the Rural Payments Agency to develop the New Environmental Land Management Scheme so that it enables landowners to create more woodland.





Heart of England Forest Project

The Heart of England Forest Project (HOEFP) is the brainchild of the publisher Felix Dennis. His vision is to create a self-sustaining 8,000ha to 12,000ha new native woodland, making the forest one of the largest new native woodlands in England.

Since 1996 the HOEFP team have built an estate of over 2,000ha in two main Worcestershire and Warwickshire blocks. Of this estate, 1,000ha has been planted as new native woodland. A further 200ha is existing woodland, including 80 acres of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites which are being converted to native species.

Planting on the estate includes a range of native trees and shrubs planted at random spacing. About 60% of planting stock comes from the estate's own nursery, with plans to increase this to 100%. In 2013 the team celebrated planting one million trees.

The woods will be managed on a continuous cover forestry basis for timber, firewood and potentially pellet production for biomass boilers. All trees planted which are eligible have been registered under the Woodland Carbon Code and so far the estate has not capitalised on any of this carbon finance.

The Forestry Commission have worked with the HOEFP team since 1996 to enable progress at the site. Grants have been given under the English Woodland Grant Scheme, as well as general advice provided. At the end of current grant periods around £4.6m will have been invested, and outside of the woodland areas HOEFP has also received Higher Level Stewardship funding. The developing ethos is for the Project to be a catalyst for area wide socio-economic growth.

A woodland burial site is already providing employment and will provide income in future. There are further plans for a new eco-building on the burial site, and the design for this has won an architectural award.

Also on the estate are a nursery with an outdoor woodland school, five acres of allotments near Stratford, a Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme approved camping site and opportunities for conservation volunteering and equestrian use.

In addition, HOEFP is working with the Countryside Trust to provide school visits for inner-city children (for example sheep shearing and falconry days).

This is an exciting and exceptional opportunity for a landscape scale change to create a large sustainable native woodland close to some very big centres of population.



Research and evidence

Our work on research and evidence will operate within the Science and Innovation Strategy for Forestry in Great Britain, published in March 2014. This will:

- Provide the evidence base to deliver healthy and resilient forests and wider ecosystems to provide benefits for society.
- Provide the knowledge to deliver woodland management and expansion as a component of sustainable land-use change.
- Provide the evidence base to allow the forestry sector to deliver a wide range of benefits from trees and woodlands to support sustainable economic growth in Britain.
- Mean that engaged and informed stakeholders can implement changes in policy and practice. The Strategy will provide access to a high quality skill base of forest researchers and also act as a tool to lever additional resources to widen and improve the evidence base.

Our approach to research and evidence will be underpinned by the following principles:

- Collaborative working with colleagues and others across Great Britain, government and the wider sector. This will ensure that trees, woods and forests meet the needs of people and society.
- A bold and ambitious professional approach to achieve high standards of quality, efficiency, sustainability and continual learning.
- Relationships and collaboration with colleagues and other stakeholders will be built on trust and openness to facilitate effective knowledge exchange.

In 2014/15 we will help develop the research programmes that flow from the Science and Innovation Strategy. We will do this by working across the forestry sector to develop a set of priority research questions for English forestry. These could include:

- What proactive measures will protect England's forests from pests and diseases and how and where can they best be deployed?

- How can woodland owners be encouraged to manage deer and grey squirrel populations to reduce negative impacts on forestry?
- What are the benefits of different types of woodland creation and management for water quality, flood risk, and biodiversity ecosystem service objectives; where should new woodlands be located and how should they be managed to maximise and integrate these benefits?
- What is the potential for genetic variability in climate change adaptation for forestry and woodland resilience?
- How can human attitudes and behaviours be changed to encourage a woodland culture which promotes and values woodland creation and sustainable management?
- What species and silvicultural systems will provide fibre with the properties needed to meet future market demands, e.g. for joinery, construction and biochemical purposes?

Over

40m

visits to
Forestry
Commission
sites each
year



Woodland Creation: Building the Evidence Base

Case
study

In Summer 2012, along with Defra, the Forestry Commission commissioned a research project to fill an important evidence gap about the ownership patterns, attitudes and motivations of private woodland owners and farmers towards woodland management and planting.

The research was carried out by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (lead), Ipsos MORI, Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), University of Aberdeen, CJC Consulting, and the James Hutton Institute. Representatives of Defra, Forestry Commission, and Natural England steered the research.

During Spring and Summer 2013 approximately 2,000 landowners or managers were interviewed, and models were developed to understand their likely behaviours and motivations.

The final report will be published in 2014. However, findings have already started to be shared and discussed with others. A seminar was held at Alice Holt Forest Research Station in November 2013, and the Woodland Trust will be reporting to the Woodland Carbon Task Force on the implications of the results on woodland creation.

In 2014/15 we will use the project outputs and evidence to help achieve the Government's woodland management and creation ambitions, for example through contributing to the implementation of the next Rural Development Programme for England.



Corporate Programmes

Woodland Policy Enabling Programme

The Woodland Policy Enabling Programme (WPEP) brings together the three main strands of work relating to institutional change that came out of the Government's Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement:

- (i) Setting up the new Public Forest Estate Management Organisation (PFE MO).
- (ii) Considering the future of our forestry functions.
- (iii) Establishing a refreshed basis for future cross-border working.

This joint Forestry Commission / Defra programme will ensure that we deal with the changes in an integrated way, including corporate and cross-border activities.

Until Parliament legislates to establish a new PFE MO, Forest Enterprise must operate within its powers, as an existing Public Corporation body operating under existing forestry legislation. We are therefore looking at ways that Forest Enterprise could evolve over the next three years into a Forest Enterprise 'plus'. This would mean incorporating the many features of the new PFE MO that do not require legislation to create a more free-standing organisation.

Ministers have decided on some key principles for how Forest Services will function. This is as a focussed expert body on forestry, aligned more closely with Defra.

For the time being Shared Services will continue to be provided by Forestry Commission Central Services for a defined period as the operating environment evolves.

Work will continue on establishing a refreshed basis for future cross-border working.



Defra One Business

During 2014/15 the scope of our role will change as the transactional elements of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) functions currently undertaken by us begin to be transferred to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

Bringing responsibility for processing payments together will result in an improved customer service for both existing and future customers. As part of this change in approach, technical advice on land management CAP grant schemes will be focussed in Natural England and the Forestry Commission will remain the principal source of expert forestry advice.

This will improve consistency and delivery and bring significant benefits to our customers. In particular, it will enhance the integrated advice offer following the incorporation of the English Woodland Grant Scheme into the new environmental land management scheme under the new rural development programme. Work on the transition will commence in 2014/15 and continue into 2015/16.

This change of approach means a reshaped Forest Services, further enhancing our ability to Protect, Improve and Expand England's trees, woodlands and forests.

Further to this, over the next year Defra will begin consolidating corporate services such as communications, executive office, HR and finance. This will be only where it makes sense to do so, and as a response to the challenging economic climate.

For the purposes of this the Forestry Commission has been identified as a 'tranche 2' organisation, meaning that our own corporate services will be considered in a second phase after 'tranche 1' corporate services have consolidated.

In practice this means that a new corporate services directorate will be set up in Defra which will operate from 1 July 2014 at the earliest. Corporate services staff from tranche 1 organisations will transfer to the new directorate first.

Once tranche 1 is complete the programme will move to tranche 2, however the scope and timing of this is still to be determined.

Business Sustainability

A sustainable, greener approach is a challenge for us as an operational and geographically dispersed organisation, but it is one we have worked hard to achieve. The Forestry Commission attained the internationally recognised sustainability standard ISO14001 in 2013 and we will be demonstrating our continuous improvement as a part of re-certification in 2014.

Furthermore, we will be working towards a greater devolution and transition of our currently centrally managed business sustainability work to England by 2015.

The Way We Do Business

People are at the core of what we do. It is vital that we use every possible opportunity to ensure that we remain valued by, and relevant to, society. Two key components of achieving this are:

- Continuing to increase the diversity of our workforce in order to better understand and relate to the changing society.
- Continuing to provide our customer services in new and innovative ways to diverse communities.

We will continue to be an organisation that is committed to high levels of employee engagement, motivation and achievement, and one that openly encourages participation, personal development and which values its staff.

The Forestry Commission's 'Fit for our Future' People Strategy 2011-2016 sets out how we will ensure that Forestry Commission employees are prepared, equipped and engaged to manage the changing work environment and to drive the change in a positive and successful way, helping deliver the Forestry Commission's ambitions.



Adopting New Media



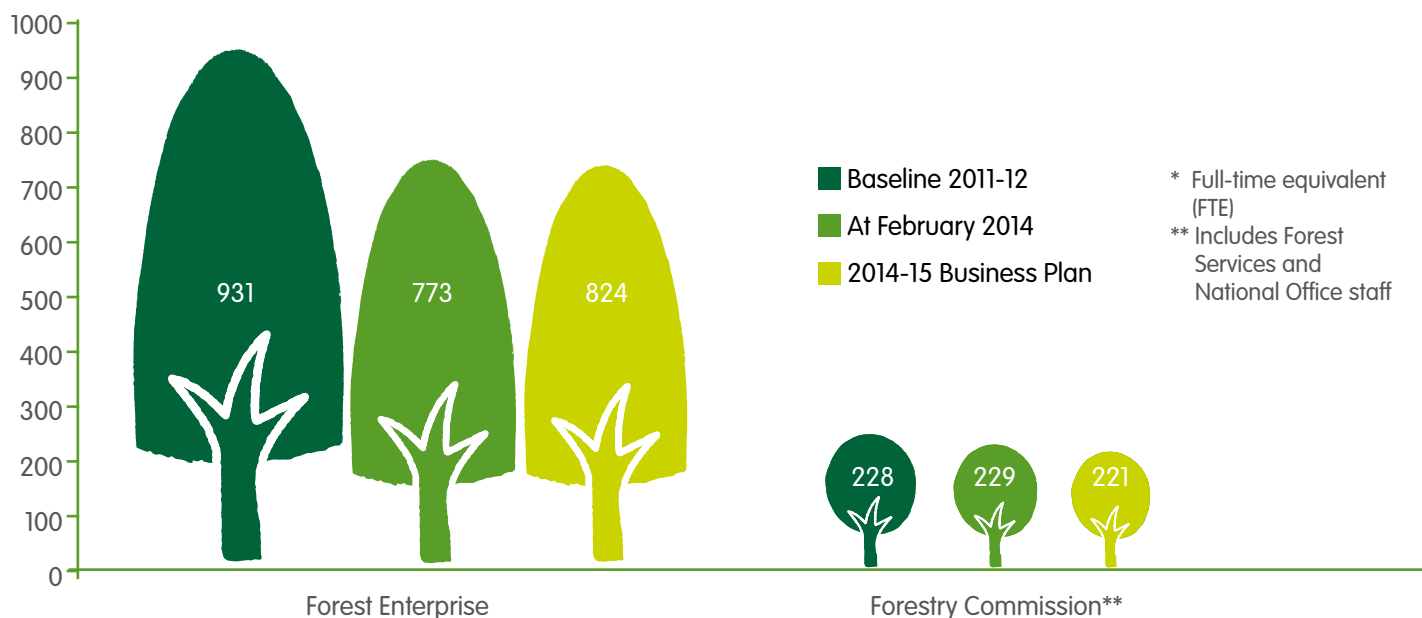
The recent explosion in the use of social media has transformed the way organisations communicate with their stakeholders and customers. As these new digital channels continue to evolve and become embedded in our daily lives, Forestry Commission England is harnessing the valuable opportunities they present.

In 2013 the Forestry Commission used social media to help communities understand tree health risks, including Oak Processionary Moth; engage local communities in forest planning; consult stakeholders on the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme; market forests as recreational destinations through the More in the Forest partnership; and promote Grown in Britain Week.

Additionally, the Forestry Commission is exploring the power of citizen science with its own app and online reporting form, Tree Alert. This exciting new tool received 2,700 reports of suspected tree pests and diseases in 2013 and is now being further developed under the Observatree tree health monitoring project.

Now with a following of more than 60,000 people across the organisation's social channels, 2014/15 will see increased impetus given to digital communications. By increasing our reach through these cost-effective channels, the aim is to make Forestry Commission England even more effective at working with our partners and serving our customers.

Staff numbers*



Annex A:

Sources and Uses of Funds

£ million		2013-14 Planned	2013-14 Outturn	2014-15 Planned	2015-16 Indicative
Source of Funds					
Parliamentary Funding		29.5	36.7	32.4	31.3
Forest Services	RDPE*	34.6	33.3	35.0	33.4
	Other Income	4.8	5.2	2.3	1.0
Forest Enterprise	Trading Income and use of reserves	54.3	64.2	64.3	64.5
Total Revenue		123.2	139.4	134.0	130.2
Use of Funds					
Forest Services	Protection	6.5	6.5	8.5	5.7
	Improvement	31.6	31.3	27.9	27.4
	Expansion	23.0	22.8	20.3	20.0
	Total	61.1	60.5	56.7	53.1
Forest Enterprise	Protection	16.1	20.5	20.1	20.0
	Improvement	45.3	57.6	56.4	56.3
	Expansion	0.6	0.81	0.8	0.8
	Total	62.1	78.9	77.3	77.1
Total Expenditure		123.2	139.4	134.0	130.2

Notes

1. Parliamentary funding assumes Defra CAP cover of £3.5m in 13/14 & £7.0m in 14/15.
2. Parliamentary funding excludes Capital expenditure.
3. Parliamentary funding includes monies for enhanced plant health activities within Forest Services. £2.7m in 2014/15, and £2.5m indicated for 2015/16.

4. FS includes National Office, England Corporate Services and depreciation on Grants and Licences Online System (GLOS).
5. FS project income includes Newlands 2, Wood Fuel East, and Plant Health (FERA) until end 2013/14.
6. 2015/16 Indicative values subject to SR14 negotiations with Defra in 2014.

* FC receives delegated authority from Defra on an annual basis to commit funds from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Funds for 14/15 of £35m & 15/16 of £33.4m have been agreed with Defra. From 16/17 a placemaker of £30m p.a. has been made subject to formal approval by Defra and EU.

Annex B: Impact Indicators

Our indicator framework monitors how we are making English woodland and forestry more resilient by working with the sector to protect, improve and expand England's woodland. The indicators are proxies for the changes we want to achieve in the real world. We use them to provide evidence for advice on policy and setting

up mechanisms for delivery and to enable our partners to hold us to account.

- Impact indicators focus on the impact of work with the sector.
- Input indicators focus on the amount of resource we are using to have this impact.

- Woodland indicators show changes in the state of England's woodland.

The trends in these indicators are important. We report a sub-set of headline indicators quarterly and the whole framework annually on our website.

Priority	Indicator	Trend
Protection	Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)	✗
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)	≈
Protection	Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate	≈
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	✓
Improvement	Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat	✓
Improvement	Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant	✓
Improvement	Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland	✓
Improvement	Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate	✗
Improvement	Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate	✓
Improvement	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	✓
Improvement	Area of felling licences issued in the period	✓
Expansion	Hectares of woodland created (gross)	✓
Expansion	Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects	✓
Customer Service	Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive "rate my visit" facility	≈
Customer Service	Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	✓
Restructuring our Business	Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents)	✓
Developing our Staff	Number of training events provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees	≈
Developing our Staff	Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees	...

Notes

Trends for all indicators reflect change between the baseline, normally at 1 April 2011, and the report as at 31 March 2014.

Trends showing little or no overall change normally occur as a strong performance is being maintained.

Trends showing insufficient or no comparable data can occur, for example, where an indicator is new and there are not enough data points to enable a suitable assessment of trend over time.

- ✓ Improving
- ≈ Little or no overall change
- ✗ Deteriorating
- ... Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Annex C: Input Indicators

Below is a list of the Forestry Commission's input indicators for the period 2011-15 which provide information on the allocation and efficient use of resources.

In addition we will publish the overall budget contribution towards each priority.

Priority	Indicator	Trend
Protection	Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (£'000s)	...
Improvement	Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant	✓
Improvement	Amount of grant paid for Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants	✓
Improvement	Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services	...
Expansion	Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)	✓
Restructuring our Business	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)	✓

Notes

Trends for all indicators reflect change between the baseline, normally at 1 April 2011, and the report as at 31 March 2014.

Trends showing little or no overall change normally occur as a strong performance is being maintained.

Trends showing insufficient or no comparable data can occur, for example, where an indicator is new and there are not enough data points to enable a suitable assessment of trend over time.

- ✓ Improving
- ≈ Little or no overall change
- ✗ Deteriorating
- ... Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Annex D: 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.

Priority	Indicator	Trend
Protection	Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years	✓
Protection	Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape	✓
Protection	Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition	✓
Protection	Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed	✓
Improvement	Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data	✓
Improvement	Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests	...
Improvement	Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory	...
Improvement	Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland	✓
Improvement	Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)	✓
Improvement	Number of apprentices entering forestry	✓
Improvement	Number of university students entering forestry	≈
Improvement	Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources	✓
Improvement	Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested	✓
Improvement	Installed capacity of medium sized wood-fuelled boilers (MegaWatt thermal)	✓
Expansion	Area of woodland (total and change over time)	✓
Expansion	Carbon captured by England's woodlands	✗
Expansion	Gross Value Added from domestic forestry	✓

Notes

Trends for all indicators reflect change between the baseline, normally at 1 April 2011, and the report as at 31 March 2014.

Trends showing little or no overall change normally occur as a strong performance is being maintained.

Trends showing insufficient or no comparable data can occur, for example, where an indicator is new and there are not enough data points to enable a suitable assessment of trend over time.

- ✓ Improving
- ≈ Little or no overall change
- ✗ Deteriorating
- ... Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

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