

AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION AND THE WOODLAND TRUST

Introduction

1. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is responsible for one of the country's largest landholdings. Defence Infrastructure Organisation manages the land as a corporate asset on behalf of the department, delivering construction, estate maintenance and facilities management for some 240,000 hectares, the majority of which is rural land. Some 14,000 hectares of this rural land is woodland.
2. The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading non-governmental woodland conservation and woodland creation organisation. It focuses on creating new native woodland, working with landowners to encourage them to establish woodlands with the overall vision of doubling the UK's native tree cover.

Background

3. For historic reasons, the UK is currently one of the least densely forested countries in Europe. The UK Government and the devolved administrations recognise that woodland and landscape trees deliver a host of benefits, improving the environment for people and wildlife, absorbing and storing carbon, sheltering crops and buildings as well as providing a renewable source of fuel and timber for construction and other beneficial uses.
4. Government has called for a major increase in woodland to counter climate change and to support the move towards a low carbon society. Recognising that defence land has the potential for significant additional woodland, in 2009 the then Chief Executive of Defence Estates agreed that The Woodland Trust should work with Defence Estates to scope opportunities for woodland creation on defence land. (Defence Estates became part of Defence Infrastructure Organisation 1 April 2011).

Aim

5. In recognition of the positive outcome of the existing collaboration between Defence Infrastructure Organisation and The Woodland Trust this Agreement aims to facilitate continued partnership working over the creation of woodland on the defence estate.

Scope of the Agreement

6. The agreement is concerned with the creation of new woodland on defence land in locations where planting is compatible with defence operational

activities, the interests of conservation of the natural or historic environment and of the MOD's agricultural tenants and licensees.

7. Defence Infrastructure Organisation agrees, subject to the above, to:
 - a. Encourage the creation of new woodlands across the MOD estate.
 - b. Facilitate positive engagement with MOD organisations and other interested parties, including MOD tenants, over the creation of woodland on defence land.
8. The Woodland Trust agrees, subject to available resources, to:
 - a. Continue to work with Defence Infrastructure Organisation to survey sites not covered by the existing woodland creation scoping survey.
 - b. Identify sites that appear to provide woodland creation opportunities to the maximum benefit of both organisations' principal interests and the long term interest of the UK environment and a low carbon economy.
 - c. Provide technical advice and guidance on the design and practical matters associated with the establishment of new woodlands.
 - d. Provide expertise and assistance in the cost of woodland creation and external funding and grant schemes applicable to defence land.
 - e. In accordance with the terms of any project-specific agreement with Defence Infrastructure Organisation, to source funding and manage the planting and the maintenance of new woodlands and trees on the defence estate.

Communication

9. Both parties to this Agreement accept that publicity and media interest arising from this agreement will be handled jointly, with both parties agreeing any material for publication. Press Releases may be issued by either partner subject to prior approval. Defence Infrastructure Organisation permits the use of its logo on co-branded Press Releases prepared by The Woodland Trust. In accordance with MOD policy, the Ministry of Defence logo may not be used by The Woodland Trust.
10. The Directors of each party will ensure that the content of this Agreement is communicated within their respective organisations.

Disclaimers

11. This Agreement does not create any formal legal partnership between the two organisations. It does not confer any preferential status on The Woodland Trust or imply that The Woodland Trust has any exclusive rights in relation to the provision of advice or other services to the Ministry of Defence. It does not imply any financial obligation unless this is specifically authorised by the relevant Directors of both partners.

12. The Woodland Trust, its Directors and employees will provide advice to Defence Infrastructure Organisation in good faith but will not be held legally responsible for that advice unless this is specifically agreed between the parties.

Monitoring and Review of this Agreement

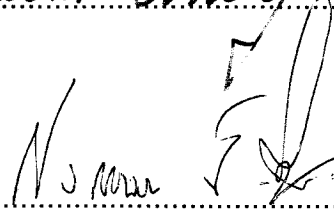
13. Both parties agree to a formal annual meeting between senior staff to monitor the operation of this Agreement and that they will keep the terms of the Agreement under periodic review.

Signed:

For Defence Infrastructure Organisation
David Olney, Deputy Chief Executive.....



For The Woodland Trust:
Norman Starks, UK Operations Director.....



Dated: 1 April 2011