

JSP 362, Volume 3, Section 3 Leaflet 2 – Forestry and Arboriculture

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OVERVIEW

3.3.2.1 The aim of this leaflet is to provide the overarching policy on woodland, forestry and arboricultural management across the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate. The term forestry is used to describe all aspects of tree management, including woodland management and individual tree management, in both rural and urban areas. It addresses productive and non productive opportunities, including biomass production. All of the MOD estate contains trees that will fall under this policy and the guidance contained herein must be adhered to at all times by internal and external organisations operating on the MOD estate.

3.3.2.2 The MOD estate contains approximately 15,000 hectares of woodland comprising of a mixture of conifer and broadleaves in a variety of management prescriptions. These range from productive conifer plantations to amenity broadleaves.

3.3.2.3 The forestry asset can be subdivided into;

- Forestry used specifically to support operational or military training requirements.
- Forestry for social, recreational or conservation requirements.
- Sustainable development and climate change mitigation opportunities.
- Amenity tree management (single or small groups of trees).

3.3.2.4 Forestry Management for operational or military training requirements should always be the number one priority for the forestry asset on the MOD estate.

SCOPE

3.3.2.5 This leaflet defines the MOD policy for the management of forestry across the MOD estate both nationally and internationally. Forestry management is defined as;

- The management of predominantly tree covered land (woodland) whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller units (commonly known by a variety of terms such as woods, copses and shelterbelts).
- Amenity tree management (arboriculture) is concerned with trees that fall out with the above definition and can include small groups or individual trees. Primarily for the benefit of the wider community' these may be in urban and rural locations and include ancient and veteran trees. The associated benefits may be historical, conservation and social.

MOD POLICY

General

3.3.2.6 The military requirement shall remain the key driver in managing the forestry resource on the MOD estate. Thereafter additional opportunities such as woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) management, income generation, climate change mitigation, sustainable development renewable energy, biodiversity, access and communities can be explored. Forestry can generally deliver many of these secondary benefits in conjunction with the primary objective of operational or military training requirements and synergies should be maximised wherever possible.

3.3.2.7 The principles, actions and conduct when dealing with forestry on the MOD estate will be in accordance with current UK forestry legislation and policy as implemented by the UK and devolved authorities. Details of these policies can be found in section 3.3.2.25, *Applicable Legislation*. In general terms MOD policy follows Forestry Commission (FC) guidance (FC England, FC Wales, FC Scotland and Forest Service Northern Ireland) with operational or military training requirements overlaid as required.

3.3.2.8 Sustainable forestry management will be implemented wherever possible. Sustainable forestry management is 'the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems' (Food and Agriculture Organization).

3.3.2.9 The MOD will not claim any woodland grants directly from the FC, however tenants and licence holders may do so at their own discretion.

Forestry Management

3.3.2.9 Forestry management on the MOD estate will conform to FC policy/guidelines which promulgate best industry practice. All forestry/woodland will conform to one or more of the following before any forestry management is undertaken;

- Be contained within a Long Term Forest Plan.
- Have individual management plans to the relevant FC Region format.
- Have current and accurate GIS based maps.
- Have plans agreed and lodged with the relevant FC Region.

3.3.2.10 There is an aspiration for all woodland on the MOD to be certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards. However, certification of MOD woodland will only be implemented on a region by region or site by site basis where there is a favourable business case. A cost benefit analysis that includes impacts on defence use must be undertaken before certification.

3.3.2.11 Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Regional Foresters will be the focal point for the delivery of forestry management policy within their regional area.

Woodland Creation/Tree Planting

3.3.2.12 All woodland creation and amenity tree planting on the MOD estate will be identified by customers and have SME input from the DIO Regional Forester (working as point of contact for customers) to ensure;

- Operational capability and training requirements are maintained or enhanced.
- Opportunities for secondary benefits are optimised.
- All applicable licences and permissions are in place (e.g. Felling licences, Planning, etc)
- Correct site/species choice is achieved.
- Forest design plans are produced according to relevant guidelines.
- All new woodland/trees are mapped using relevant Geographical Information System guidelines.
- All new woodland/trees are contained within a long term management plan.
- Future management and maintenance requirements are fully integrated with applicable Industry Partners.

Tree Felling

3.3.2.13 Before any tree felling is undertaken on the MOD estate the DIO Regional Forester must be consulted. All felling on the MOD estate will be subject to the following prerequisites and DIO Regional Foresters may assurance monitor any felling to ensure this policy is being adhered to;

- All applicable licences and permissions are in place (e.g. Felling Licences, Planning Consents, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Sustainability Assessments (SA), protected species licences etc)
- MOD liability is protected.
- Suitable mitigation planting is in place, as directed by conditions of approval.

Where there is no specified replanting contained within a licence then this will be on the advice of the DIO Regional Forester and take into account individual site and customer requirements.

Amenity Tree Management

3.3.2.14 Amenity tree management on the MOD estate will conform to FC and arboricultural best practice, to include all relevant planning regulations, BS standards and current industry guidelines e.g. National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG).

3.3.2.15 Tree inspections on the MOD estate will conform to relevant health and safety legislation and take account of the Occupiers Liability Act (1984). All of the MOD estate will be covered by tree inspections in order to protect MOD liability. It is the responsibility of DIO to ensure that tree inspections are undertaken by the relevant Industry Partner.

3.3.2.16 DIO Regional Foresters will Quality Assure (QA) tree safety reports and plans to ensure industry best practice is being adhered to. It is the responsibility of DIO customers/industry partners to ensure amenity tree management is carried out with due diligence and to satisfy health and safety requirements as well as relevant legislation pertaining to protected species. DIO Regional Foresters will advise and enforce this policy where necessary to ensure MOD liability is protected.

Ancient Tree Management

3.3.2.17 The MOD estate contains a large amount of Ancient, Veteran and Notable trees and appropriate management of this asset is essential. Proactive management shall be undertaken to ensure trees are identified, protected and appropriate replacement/supplementary planting is undertaken to increase, where practicable, the amount of trees on the estate. DIO Regional Foresters will ensure that all management is according to best practice and current guidelines.

Tree Preservation Orders

3.3.2.18 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 198 gave Local Authorities the power to place Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) to preserve trees, groups of trees and woodlands. The Town and Country Planning Act 2004 removed Crown Immunity from the Planning Acts including TPOs. Therefore Local Authorities in England and Wales, through the Forestry Commission, can now place TPOs on trees and woodland on the MOD Estate. Regional Foresters will provide advice and guidance on TPO matters. It is MOD's view that TPOs should be avoided as this can lead to restrictions on development in the future. All cases of the Local Authority wishing to issue a TPO on MOD land, or adjacent to it should be referred to the DIO Regional Forester.

Conservation and Biodiversity

3.3.2.19 Conservation issues will be contained within the forestry management plans and will form part of the overall management objectives. Woodlands will be managed for their cumulative overall benefits and not according to single species or function. SSSI woodlands will be managed according to statutory requirements. For further information see [JSP Leaflet 362 Vol 3 Sec 3 Leaflet 7](#).

Cultural Heritage

3.3.2.20 Cultural heritage issues will be contained within the forestry management plans and will form part of the overall management objectives, taking into account the advice of DIO Subject Matter Experts (SME).

Environmental Impact Assessment/Sustainability Appraisals

3.3.2.20 DIO Regional Foresters in conjunction with DIO SME as appropriate will advise as to whether EIAs or SAs are required for forestry projects/operations and provide SME advice for their completion. Details can be found at; [MOD Sustainability and Environmental Appraisal Tool Handbook](#)

Integrated Estate Management Plans (IEMP) and Integrated Rural Management Plans (IRMP)

3.3.2.21 IEMP and IRMP are used by MOD to provide a long-term view for the management of the estate in relation to new developments and military activity. It provides agreed long-term aims and objectives to support the management of the site. The Forestry Woodland Plan forms one element of the plan, and the objectives of the woodland plan must be compatible with the other elements. Where appropriate recreation and access issues will be encouraged and will be contained within the forestry management plans and will form part of the overall management objectives. The JSP leaflet on access will provide further details (JSP 362 Chap 7)

Overseas

3.3.2.22 This policy is applicable on the overseas estate, in addition to any host countries specific policy or regulations. This policy is to be implemented where host countries requirements fall short of the advice contained herein.

Health and Safety

3.3.2.23 Effective Health and Safety (H&S) arrangements are essential if forestry activities are to be undertaken safely and should be adhered to at all times by all those concerned with the management of trees on the MOD estate. JSP 375, MOD Health and Safety Handbook, will provide further details.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.3.2.24 DIO manage the implementation of this policy across the MOD estate

- a. **DIO Head Office.** DIO Head Office (Secretariat - Policy) is responsible for the developing and promulgating of MOD Forestry strategy and policy. The policy is developed by DIO in liaison with DIO Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Forestry, other focal points within DIO and other TLBs.
- b. **DIO Hard FM.** The delivery of Forestry management on the Defence Infrastructure Estate is the responsibility of DIO Hard FM. The day-to-day responsibility is delegated to the DIO SME (Forestry).

(1) **DIO Subject Matter Expert (SME) Forestry** DIO SME Forestry is responsible for advising DIO Regional Foresters within regional offices on the implementation on the DIO forestry management policy. The DIO SME Forestry is contactable via DIO Foresters at the Regional Offices.

(2) **DIO Regional Foresters.** Regional Foresters are to provide advice on the implementation of forestry management policy within their regional area. This function includes production of strategic management plans, long term forestry plans and day to day guidance on harvesting, thinning, commercial opportunities and other forestry management issues.

(3) **Other DIO SMEs.** The relevant DIO SMEs are responsible for providing specialist advice on historic environment, designated sites, protected species, public access and recreation.

(4) **Industry Partners.** Industry Partners are responsible for ensuring compliance in all aspects of this policy and for practical management of the forestry asset in accordance with advice from DIO Regional Forestry Specialist.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

3.3.2.25 The following publications provide an overview of the key documents concerned with forestry, a full list of applicable legislation, policy and guidelines can be found contained within Forestry Practitioners Guide.

This list is constantly evolving and users are reminded to check with the relevant DIO Regional Forester for the most current iteration.

- The UK Forestry Standard - The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry (1998)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000
- Forest Reproductive Material (Great Britain) Regulations 2002
- Combating Climate Change – A Role for UK Forests 2009
- The UK Forestry Accord. (1996). In: The Forestry Authority & Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland (1998)
- Cyprus Forestry Regulations (1980) - http://www.sba.mod.uk/Cyprus_forestry_Regs
- Cyprus Forestry Ordinance (1980) - http://www.sba.mod.uk/Cyprus_Forestry_Ordinance