



Corporate Plan 2018-19

Contents

Foreword	3
Looking forward	4
Forest Enterprise England	5
The nation's forests	5
Objectives for the nation's forests	6
Forest Services	9
Introduction	9
Protect, improve, expand	10
Protect	11
Improve	14
Expand	16
Research, evidence, indicators and data	20
Cross-border / Corporate Forestry Support	21
Introduction	21
Forest biosecurity	22
Climate change and economics	25
Evidence	27
Standards and international forestry	28
Corporate programmes	29
Future of the Forestry Commission	29
Annex A: Sources and uses of funds	31
Annex B: Forest Services indicators	32
Annex C: Forest Enterprise indicators	34

Foreword



Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State for the Environment

Our public forests are some of our most cherished national landscapes, playing an important part in protecting our wildlife and improving our environment. As we prepare to celebrate Forestry Commission England's centenary next year, its work to enhance woodlands across the country will continue to be integral to this government's green ambitions.

Woods and forests are vital for timber production, but they also lock up carbon; protect wildlife; shape the countryside landscape; reduce flooding and provide a wealth of opportunities for people to connect with nature. Tree planting lies at the heart of our recently published 25 Year Environment Plan, and Forestry Commission England plays a vital role in helping to deliver on this.

We are already making significant contributions to our drive to plant 11 million trees and recently announced support for a new Northern Forest. In addition, large-scale productive woodland planting schemes have been approved at Doddington North Moor in Northumberland and the Lowther Estate in Cumbria, the first of their kind for more than a quarter of a century. Both are benefiting from government support and funding such as the Forestry Commission-managed Woodland Carbon Fund and the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant.

This is a great start, but we have much more to do. I hope these schemes will encourage a wave of similar projects to come forward and help other landowners realise the benefits of woodland creation.

We have also recently announced changes to strengthen the role of the Forestry Commission. It will remain in England, and will continue to protect, improve and expand some of the country's best-known landscapes. From the Forest of Dean to Northumberland's Kielder Forest it will also continue to manage more than 250,000 hectares of England's Public Forest Estate, holding our public woods and forests in trust for future generations. It will maintain its specialist forestry expertise, offering support, advice and guidance to landowners and managers responsible for England's woodlands.

As we leave the European Union, this government is clear that woodland creation, management and protection will be at the heart of our plans to improve the environment. I wish the Forestry Commission England continued success in planting more trees and ensuring the safety and resilience of our woodlands and forests so that future generations can enjoy these precious natural assets for decades to come.

Looking forward



Sir Harry Studholme
Forestry Commission Chair

This year is defined by change. After nearly a century of creating and managing Britain's forests, formal responsibility for Scotland's forests will transfer from the Forestry Commission to the Scottish Government in April 2019.

I am excited by the opportunities this presents to Forestry Commission England. It allows us not only to focus on the unique characteristics of the forest estate in England but also to refresh our vision for how we deliver our services in future.

All parts of Forestry Commission England will continue to collaborate closely together (and with the wider sector) to create a great place for living and begin to implement the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Forest Enterprise England will develop its identity as an England-only body – Forestry England. At the heart of Forestry England will be its role as the custodians of the nation's forests, to secure and grow their economic, social and natural capital value. The forests receive more than 220 million visits from members of the public every year. These need to be safe and enjoyable, while at the same time the forests continue to strengthen wildlife and heritage conservation, and ensure sustainable and profitable timber production. Through this agenda, Forestry England will reach out to a cross-section of people – young, old and everyone in between – to help them connect more fully with the nation's forests.

Forest Services and our cross-border teams are looking to the future of England's forests and how best to protect, improve and expand them in the face of climate change, pests and diseases. We will continue to support

the government's ambition to plant more trees, optimise the wide range of public goods that they provide and to increase the production and use of home-grown timber. And we will provide ministers with expert advice on forestry matters, particularly on how we can make the most of opportunities as the United Kingdom prepares to leave the EU. We need to think in new ways and develop new partnerships with owners and managers of land to care for and grow our natural assets.

Importantly, we will work closely with colleagues in Scotland and Wales, to ensure continued cross-border collaboration on vital work such as plant health operations and forest research.

This Corporate Plan lays out an ambitious programme for how we will realise this vision, enabling us to safeguard and protect England's national forests – as well as forests and woodlands in the private sector – for the next 100 years and beyond.

Forest Enterprise England



The nation's forests

England's national forests are a treasured natural, economic and social resource held in trust for the nation and managed by Forest Enterprise England (FEE). Covering more than 250,000 hectares, England's national forests make up almost a fifth of the total forest resource, and with 1,500 forest areas dispersed throughout the country almost everyone in England is within a one-hour drive of a forest that we look after.

We manage England's national forests for much more than timber. They capture carbon, clean our air and water and control flood risk. They also provide places for people to enjoy, wildlife to flourish and business to grow.

Changes to the value of the benefits provided by England's national forests are measured through FEE's Natural

Capital Account which we publish alongside our traditional financial accounts. The Natural Capital Account provides a structured and transparent way to quantify the full value of services provided by England's national forests and the impact of our management of them. The account reflects both the value to the organisation as well as to wider society, providing a broader perspective when compared to traditional financial reporting. The 2017-18 Natural Capital Account will be published in summer 2018.

We operate a mixed business model, deriving income from trading activities and from government funding via Forestry Commission England. Trading activities range from the sale of timber, providing leisure and tourism services and maximising the broader commercial potential of the land we manage through rental and mineral income, licences and permissions. We also receive income from a range of

public, private and charitable sources through partnerships to support specific developments or programmes.

The costs for associated activities, such as biodiversity conservation and managing public access, are met through Forestry Commission England's financial settlement from Defra and managed through a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) agreement between FEE and Forestry Commission England. Together with funding to pay for allocated Forestry Commission overhead costs, in 2018-19 this will amount to around £17.6 million.

The next section of this document sets out what we will do in 2018-19 to achieve the outcomes for the activities detailed in our PES agreement with Forestry Commission England.

Objectives for the nation's forests



Forest Enterprise England manages the nation's forests for people, nature and the economy. Our commercial activity is self-financing, and does not require support from taxpayers. Further information on our timber production and other aspects of our trading activity can be found in our Annual Report. Funding from the taxpayer for FEE supports the delivery of the following outcomes:

Nature

The nation's forests and woodlands deliver vast benefits, providing diverse ecosystems where wildlife can flourish. Our woodlands form an important part of our natural and cultural heritage.

We are working to achieve the following nature-focused outcomes in 2018-19:

- the 67,921 ha of designated habitats (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)), are managed so that 95% are maintained as being in favourable or recovering condition and 50% are in favourable condition by 2020
- the 39,337 ha of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites that are not designated as SSSIs are steadily being restored so that 2,900 ha have been restored to native woodland by 2020
- the 7,432 ha of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland that are not designated SSSIs are managed and there is a steady improvement in their condition so that at least 45% are in favourable condition by 2020
- the 22,348 ha of Open Habitat that are not designated SSSIs are managed so that their condition is steadily improved and 3,800 ha of additional Open Habitat are created by 2020, subject to the application of the regulatory requirement for compensatory planting



Case study Captive beaver introduction

Our nation's forests have long provided a wealth of diverse habitats and ecosystems where animals can flourish. At Forest Enterprise England we are continually looking for ways to improve these habitats and, where possible, and with the help of well researched scientific evidence, look to reintroduce species into our woodlands that were once native to the country.

In 2017 work was begun to trial the limited release in to captivity of the Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*) in the Forest of Dean, and in summer 2018 a small number of Eurasian beavers were released into an enclosure at Greathough.

The beaver project has several potential outcomes that we hope to measure throughout the duration of the trial. It should contribute significantly to the restoration of the riparian habitat surrounding Greathough Brook. The beavers will work to create a rich ecosystem of interconnected beaver canals, dams and pools that will provide new

opportunities for a wealth of wildlife including plants, invertebrates, and amphibians. These improved habitats could, in turn, reverse the decline of wet woodland birds such as the willow tit.

The Eurasian beaver will not just transform the local habitat for the benefit of other animals. A significant part of the study and reintroduction trial is to measure the effect the beavers' activity has on water flow and local flooding.

Flood prevention and control have become more important to rural communities over the past few years and several studies have shown that beavers can have a dramatic and positive influence on flood alleviation and water quality. This, combined with the obvious appeal for the local communities to have the chance to see these rare mammals, demonstrates the enormous benefits to people and nature that Forest Enterprise England provides, potentially leading to further native animal reintroduction trials in the future.

Case study Milton Abbey restoration

As well as ensuring the essential conservation of our natural landscape, Forest Enterprise England works to preserve our national heritage for people to visit and enjoy.

In 2017 Forest Enterprise England, alongside the Diocese of Salisbury and Milton Abbey School, with special funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Viridor Credits, received approval for a project to restore Milton Abbey and surrounding landscape in Dorset. The project, named 'The Great Stare' after the grass staircase that links the abbey with the chapel, will reconnect the abbey to the rest of the Capability Brown-designed landscape and woodlands managed by Forest Enterprise England.

This year we will begin essential repairs and other conservation work to the abbey church and add amenities to attract many new visitors. These visitors will also be able to enjoy entirely new facilities, including easier access to the Abbey, car parking and improved access and signs around the immediate landscape.

Another focus of the project will be developing a programme of arts and education-based events designed to bring in talent from the local communities and beyond. These events will also ensure a sustainable source of funding to maintain Milton Abbey.

Through preservation projects such as this, Forest Enterprise England is able to assist in restoring the nation's cultural sites and allow more of the public to visit and engage with the rich heritage assets that exist all over the country in ways that were not previously possible.

Case study **Gruffalo spotter app**

One of the key objectives for Forest Enterprise England (FEE) is to connect people with forests and woodland. We continued our longstanding and award-winning partnership with Magic Light Pictures, developing an augmented reality app to have a fresh approach to bring the Gruffalo and other characters to life and in turn attract new and returning visitors to our forests.

The augmented reality app gave visitors with a smartphone or similar device the opportunity to not just follow the Gruffalo spotter trail through some of the best woodlands England has to offer, but also to interact with the characters from the Gruffalo books. Visitors to the woods have been able to pose for photos with the Gruffalo and others, as well as watch the characters move about the forest.

Alongside the augmented reality app visitors were given the opportunity to buy activities packs that

encouraged visitors of all ages to connect with, and explore, the woodlands in new ways.

The success of the app has been enormous. Since its launch in March 2017 it has been downloaded over 420,000 times and been covered by over 80 press outlets. Research has shown that 25% of visitors to FEE's visitor hubs this year have come due to the app and supporting campaign. Feedback from visitors has been overwhelmingly positive and illustrates our success in engaging the public with forestry and with nature.

In 2018, and beyond, we will continue to expand our offer by incorporating more exciting technologies for our millions of visitors to experience. These range from interactive virtual reality art installations to new augmented reality trails and learning experiences that families can come and experience across the country. We want more ways to encourage the public to engage with nature.



People

The nation's forests give everyone the chance to connect with nature for enjoyment, education and/or relaxation. This has the potential for enormous benefits to the quality of life for people living in both rural and urban communities. Forest Enterprise England is committed to improving these green spaces to increase the benefits to individuals whilst reducing air pollution and mitigating the impact of the changing climate.

We are working to achieve the following people-focused outcomes in 2018-19:

- a wide variety of high-quality learning initiatives continue to be delivered and facilitated to around 350,000 people, enabling visitors, schools, groups, families and individuals to engage with, and learn about, trees and forests and their sustainable management
- Enable over 190,000 hours of high-quality volunteering opportunities to support all elements of the business
- engage with around 350,000 people through our permissions system for events and activities, giving all members of society the opportunity to enjoy outdoor space for recreation
- the extensive and diverse range of 954 registered ancient monuments in our forests and open spaces are cared for, so they are conserved with less than 10% on the annual risk register, as assessed by Historic England. Significant undesignated heritage assets and listed structures in the nation's forests are also conserved. In addition to their conservation, the enjoyment and understanding of these assets is facilitated
- the 4,027 ha of community woodland is managed to provide highly valued accessible green space around towns and cities across England



Forest Services

Introduction

Forest Services are the government's forestry experts. We contribute to the government's 25 Year Environment Plan objective of being the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, by encouraging and supporting landowners and the sector to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands.

To do this we:

- set standards for sustainable forest management
- provide expert advice on forestry and woodlands
- regulate woodland management and creation
- survey, monitor and take action against tree pests and diseases
- deliver statutory and discretionary cross-border plant health functions
- deliver and support incentives to create and improve woodland

We do all this by working with wider government - the Defra Group in particular - and the forestry and woodlands sector.

Our focus this year will be on:

- contributing to the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan, working with the forestry and woodland sector
- progress towards delivering the government's commitment to plant 11 million trees this parliament
- supporting the 25 Year Environment Plan ambition to develop the existing joint Area Integrated Plans with the Environment Agency and Natural England into natural capital plans
- working with the rest of government to prepare for, and make the most of, the opportunities for England's forestry and woodlands as we prepare to leave the EU
- working with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to complete the devolution of forestry

Forest Services Areas



Protect, improve, expand

Protect

We will: Manage and reduce the impact of existing woodland tree pests and diseases, and lower the risk of new ones occurring, so that the value of natural capital in woodland is maintained.

Make woodland more resilient to climate change and enable landowners to manage populations of deer, grey squirrels and invasive species.

Use proportionate regulation to create a level playing field on which sustainable businesses can thrive, to protect the wider environment and prevent unnecessary loss of, and damage to, woodland.

Improve

We will: Support growth in the forest economy and bring more woodland into sustainable forest management in line with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) to benefit people, nature and the economy.

Expand

We will: Help the forestry sector create more woodland in England, including large-scale productive woodland, to provide wide-ranging environmental, social and economic benefits.

Protect

New pests and diseases will rarely take hold because of the way the sector responds to them. The threat from current pests and diseases will be under control.

Those who own, manage or work in forestry and those who use English-grown wood and wood products, will make choices that balance the needs of the economy, environment and society.

Improve

There will be more woodland actively managed according to the UK Forestry Standard, driven by increased timber supplies, especially hardwood.

Expand

More than 11 million trees will be planted by 2022, with a number of new large, productive woodlands.

Protect



In 2018-19, Forest Services' activity will be focussed on:

- inland operations and surveillance in England
- taking on the line management of the existing cross-border plant health (forestry) and forest reproductive material functions, including international surveillance for potential threats and inspections at the border, to maximise business continuity and preparedness for these functions' devolution in April 2019
- working with Defra to advise on how best to protect England's trees and woodlands from pests and diseases as we leave the EU

Tree health

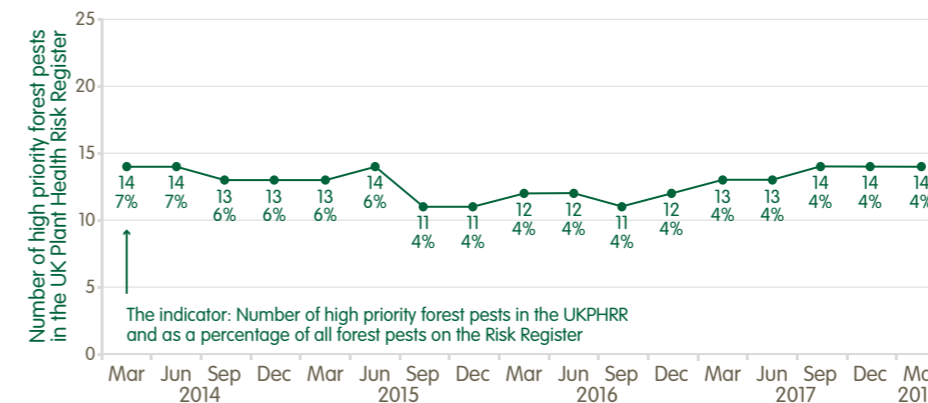
An increasing number of pests and diseases threaten our woodlands' resilience.

We aim to manage those threats so they do not significantly threaten the natural capital value of woodlands and the wider environment's natural capital.

To help prioritise our actions we will use the UK Plant Health Risk Register, which sets out the relative risks of pests and diseases.

We will run efficient surveillance systems, including the use of citizen science where appropriate, so that we can identify and respond quickly and proportionately to any potential threats.

Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register



Key indicator: Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register

Source: UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)¹

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- support the development, launch and implementation of the Tree Health Resilience plan in 2018
- work with the sector to develop biosecure supply chains for woodland creation
- surveys and programmes to manage the impact of *Phytophthora ramorum*, oak processionary moth, Chalara ash dieback, oriental chestnut gall wasp and sweet chestnut blight
- review arrangements for the management of Chalara ash dieback in view of its increasingly large-scale impact
- regular aerial surveys of the country and land-based follow-up surveys of potentially high-risk sightings
- sustained awareness-raising and biosecurity training for the sector
- make our tree health data more open and accessible to the sector
- continue delivering the Countryside Stewardship tree health grant
- plan for continued protection against pests and diseases as we prepare to leave the EU

Defra 25 Year Environment Plan goal.

Enhancing biosecurity.

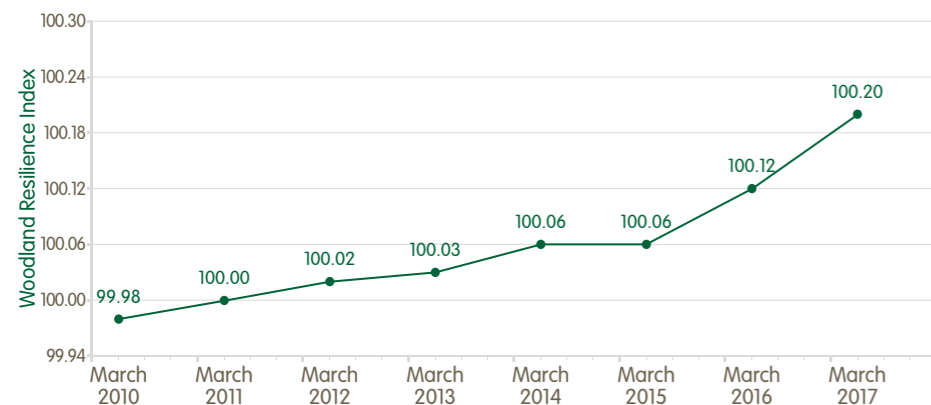


Woodland resilience

We aim to increase the resilience of England's woodland resource and forestry sector to current and future threats, including climate change, damaging invasive species, deer and grey squirrels.

We will help landowners to transform their woodland by increasing ecological diversity and collaborating across holdings.

Woodland Resilience Index



Key indicator: Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory modelled by Forest Research

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- review, with Natural England, landscape-scale deer management contract outcomes to date and agree on future deliverables
- continued implementation of the UK Squirrel Accord action plan
- disseminate and promote updated squirrel control guidance
- provide training on new tools and guidance to support woodland resilience to the sector
- ensure protection against invasive species remains as we prepare to leave the EU
- support the work of the Urban Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees (FWAC) Network
- agree and communicate a cross-sector position on the role of genetics in resilience to climate change based on recent evidence review
- support continued development of the Forest Education Network
- run an annual contingency planning exercise

Defra 25 Year Environment Plan goal

Mitigating and adapting to climate change, thriving plants and wildlife.



KEY ACTIVITIES:

- support the Tree Champion's work drawing on the Mackinnon review of forestry in Scotland
- launch online felling licence application
- national roll-out of service standards for management plan processes
- engage with work on regulations relevant to forestry, in preparation for leaving the EU
- work across government to improve processes related to planning
- use regulatory tools to promote sustainable forest management and protect the environment
- further improve guidance on, and understanding of, regulatory requirements for woodland creation to support government's ambitions



Regulating for sustainable growth

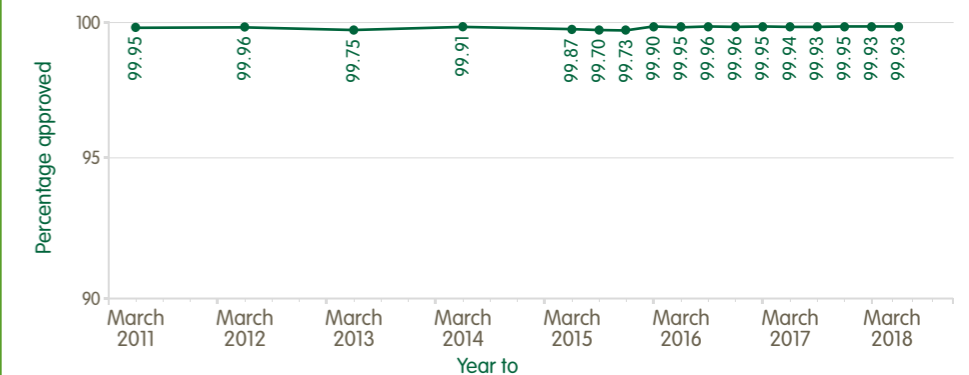
We aim to promote best practice that enables businesses complying with the UK Forestry Standard to thrive, and England's woodland area and natural capital to increase.

of woodlands coming under UK Forestry Standard management plans, minimise illegal felling, and deal with non-compliance appropriately.

We will continue to develop a proportionate approach to regulation, support an increasing proportion

We will ensure that the opportunities following exit from the EU are grasped, and woodlands remain appropriately protected.

Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval



Key indicator: Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Improve



Support the forest economy

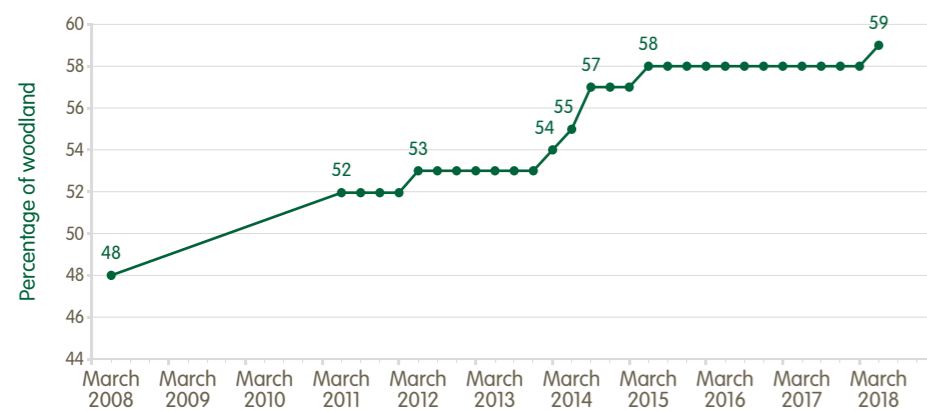
We aim to support a growing forest economy to bring more woodland into sustainable forest management, benefiting people, nature and the economy.

We will work with our partners to support investment and growth in the forestry sector, through increased demand for home-grown timber, helping the sector to develop the

skills and knowledge required for sustainable growth, and providing expert advice on forestry to woodland owners, agents and businesses.

In sustainable forest management, the landowner decides what they want from their woodland, plans how to achieve this, and puts the plan into action, each stage being consistent with the UK Forestry Standard.

Percentage of woodland in active management



Key indicator: Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- support and work with wider government, industry and Grown in Britain to increase home-grown timber use in construction
- support innovative projects for forestry via the Forestry Innovation Fund
- work with the sector to develop a new 'forest advisor' apprenticeship standard
- facilitate commercial outcomes in hardwood supply chains
- provide forestry expertise to support the delivery of Countryside Stewardship grants for woodland management planning, woodland improvement and capital items
- support work to shape future woodland improvement objectives, policy and delivery, as we prepare to leave the EU
- continue to administer grant payments under our legacy grant scheme agreements



Case study UKFS Masterclass Programme

Our team in the East and East Midlands has developed a programme of in-depth professional training focussed around the UK Forestry Standard. Running over three years and working with the Institute of Chartered Foresters and UK Rural Skills Ltd (an accredited

training agency) this programme covers each area of the Standard in detail, led by national experts in each field. This year we have covered general forestry practice, water and soils, with sessions on biodiversity, landscape and climate change planned for next winter.

The recently refreshed UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the backbone of UK forestry policy. It sets out in detail

the standards for sustainable forest and woodland management. It is the standard by which we judge woodland management plans and good forest practice on the ground. It underpins grant incentives and has international relevance, allowing the UK to fly the flag for sustainability on the world stage. So, gaining a deep understanding of it is key for forestry agents, managers and owners wanting to deliver the best in woodland management.

This year's feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: the practical sessions getting people to put the standard into practice being the most valued.

Case study Kent Renewable Energy heat and power stations

Actively managed woods deliver more ecosystem services and are more resilient. However a large proportion of England's woodland is undermanaged largely due to lack of markets for lower quality wood. Forest Services continues to encourage investment in wood-using industries by demonstrating the sustainability of England's wood supply chain (through our regulatory role), by providing robust statistics on the potential supply and by bringing elements of the supply chain together.

Estover Energy was established by a small group of investors including Henry Ward, owner of Squerryes Estate in north west Kent, about 10 years ago and have been seeking sites for woodfuelled combined heat and power powerstations. Their first powerstation was built on Speyside and supplies electricity to the grid and heat to the Macallan distillery.

The second site at Discovery Park near Sandwich in Kent has been bought by Kent Renewable Energy and is just being commissioned. This will utilise over 160,000m³ of low grade broadleaved wood per year and underpin the active management of more than 30,000 ha of broadleaved woodland.

This is a potential 'game changer' for the predominantly broadleaved woodlands of south east England and has already encouraged forestry agents to work collaboratively as the 'Woodland Advisors Group', and harvesting contractors, led by Euroforest, to explore how they can sustainably harvest large quantities of wood from sensitive woods.

Much remains to be done by all involved, not least Forest Services, as the supply chain evolves in demonstrating the benefits of woodland management to a diverse range of stakeholders.

Expand

Woodland creation

We aim to support the planting of more woodland in England so that woods provide greater environmental, social and economic benefits.

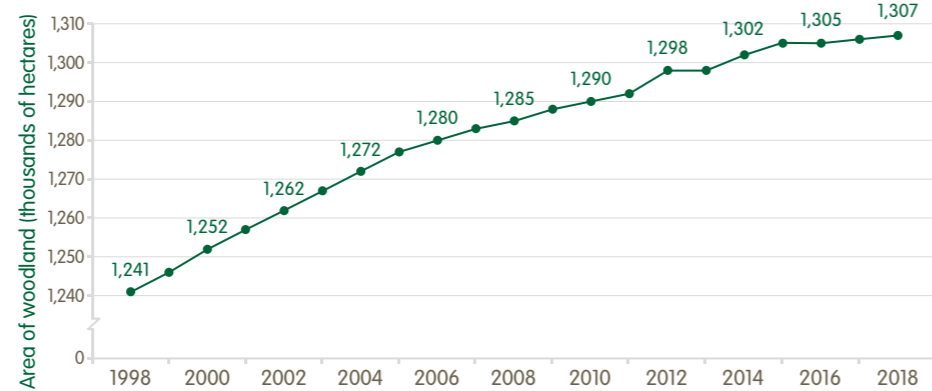
Woodland creation will be funded primarily through Countryside Stewardship and the Woodland Carbon Fund, and supported by the Forestry Innovation Fund woodland creation planning grant. All woodland creation supported by public funds must be consistent with the UK Forestry Standard 2017.

We will encourage more woodland creation near towns and cities to help stimulate investment and provide sites for recreation.

We will support woodland creation across England that helps deliver clean water and air, manages flood risk, improves biodiversity, increases public access and stores carbon, as well as producing timber and wood products.



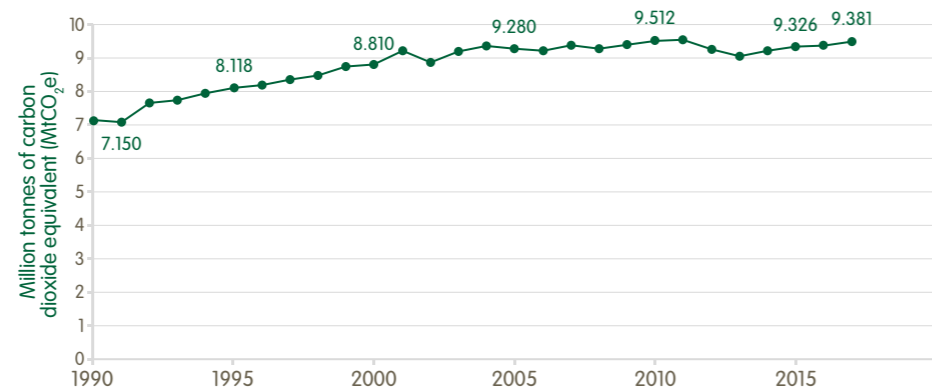
Area of woodland in England



Key indicator: Area of woodland in England

Source: Forestry Statistics (Forestry Commission) based on the National Forest Inventory

Carbon captured by English woodland



Key indicator: Carbon captured by English woodland

Source: UK greenhouse gas emissions statistics (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)



KEY ACTIVITIES:

- work with the sector to deliver government's manifesto commitment to plant 11 million trees this parliament
- support woodland creation initiatives through expert advice, guidance and tools, sharing of expertise, regulation and promotion of good practice
- provide forestry expertise support for the delivery of Countryside Stewardship grants for woodland creation
- support the development of a new Northern Forest announced in the 25 Year Environment Plan
- work with stakeholders to design a new woodland creation grant scheme as part of the future environmental land management scheme, as we prepare to leave the EU
- develop and promote Forestry Investment Zones to attract community, commercial and landowner investors, in collaboration with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and stakeholders
- manage the High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd woodland fund
- continue administering the Woodland Carbon Fund, implementing improvements made to the scheme in 2017
- continue to promote the Woodland Carbon Code, while working with Scottish government to prepare for them managing the Code on behalf of UK countries from 1 April 2019
- support the implementation of woodland and tree planting elements of the Environment Agency's £15m fund to promote natural flood measures
- support the government objective to plant 1 million trees in towns and cities trees by 2022

Case study **Case study: Lowther Estate Cumbria**

The Lowther Estate in Cumbria worked with partners including the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Eden Rivers Trust to bring to fruition a new large-scale productive woodland in the north west of England.

In November 2017, the Lowther Estate gained approval for 170 hectares of new productive woodland, 'Jacks Wood', named after the estate's recently retired forester, Ian Jack, who led the development of the project.

The new woodland will largely be within the Lake District National Park and will see the planting of 121 ha of productive conifer, with the remainder made up of predominantly productive broadleaves. In total, 213,098 trees will be planted – making this one of the largest areas of productive conifer to be planted in England since the 1980s.

Lowther Estates used the Woodland Creation Planning Grant to help with the design process for the new woodland, receiving payments to cover the costs of the planning process. The estate has also received approval for funding under the Countryside Stewardship scheme for the planting and maintenance of the woodland.

The new planting will blend existing blocks of monoculture conifers with new woodland made up of broadleaves, helping to restore the look of the landscape. This will create an extensive natural corridor linking the south of the estate with important pasture woodlands and a community woodland which adjoins two local villages. The new section



of wooded corridor will also be of huge benefit to the local wildlife, including the resident red squirrel population.

The estate management team worked closely with a range of stakeholders from the outset, so that feedback from local groups was taken into consideration as early as possible during the planning process. The team worked particularly closely with the Eden Rivers Trust to ensure that the woodland will also provide multiple water benefits to downstream communities, reducing the likelihood of future flooding and improving water quality and ecology by decreasing the amount of run off from the surrounding land. The woodland will also benefit the wider public by extending current public access provisions, and will provide the setting for a wide range of outdoor activities for visitors to enjoy.

In addition to these wider benefits, a primary objective for the estate is to be able to manage the woodlands to generate a future income from timber sales, which will in turn support local forestry businesses. There are a number of strategic timber mills in Cumbria, which the estate currently supplies, and it is expected that the trees planted now will mature and ready for felling at the time when it is predicted that timber shortages will

occur - providing much needed long term security. The provision of future stock to supply these mills will build confidence and help these businesses to continue to grow and invest over the coming years.



Case study **Doddington North Moor**

Doddington North Moor is an ambitious private sector-led woodland creation project which seeks to create a new mixed productive woodland on a 354 ha site near Wooller in Northumberland. The objectives of the proposals include providing improved recreational opportunities, carbon sequestration, timber production and increased biodiversity. The project will also make a significant contribution to the government's 11 million tree planting target. The proposals include using a range of species to help deliver these objectives including Sitka spruce, Scots pine and native broadleaves.

The project was developed with support from the Woodland Creation Planning Grant which was critical in helping to obtain the relevant evidence and information to develop a woodland creation plan which met the requirements of the UK Forestry Standard. The project was also identified as requiring consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations due to the potential impact on the environment. Issues identified during the EIA process included the

potential impact on priority habitats, peat, landscape, breeding birds and priority species, the water environment, heritage, roading, social impacts, economic impacts and carbon.

The Environmental Statement produced demonstrated how the proposals had carefully taken into account the features of interest across the site and identified opportunities to mitigate the potential impact. As an example of the approach taken, the potential impact on priority habitats was addressed working directly with Natural England through their Discretionary Advice Service to work with the applicant to help develop a commercially viable forestry project which both responds to the landscape and provides opportunities to protect, restore, enhance and create priority habitats. The end result is that once the forest is established it is predicted to deliver a 68% increase in priority habitat across the site, rising from 96 hectares to an intended 162 hectares. The Environmental Statement also identified how the proposals made a positive contribution to the environment through other objectives such as the potential to sequester over 120,000 tonnes of carbon and provide greater recreational opportunities for the local community.

The project has received formal consent and was the first scheme to gain support through the Woodland Carbon Fund with the application being processed and approved in five working weeks. The first planting was undertaken with the help of the local primary school to help build the connections with the local community. Doddington North Moor and the Lowther Estate are the first large scale productive woodland creation projects in England for 30 years, warmly welcomed by the sector and the local community.

Research, evidence, indicators and data



We will continue to use evidence to work out how to better achieve and monitor the outcomes we want for forestry. We will operate within the Science and Innovation Strategy (SIS) for Forestry in Great Britain and the Defra Group's evidence strategy.

Our indicator framework is an important part of our evidence base. The indicators are proxies for the changes in the real world that we want to achieve. They allow us to monitor changes in England's woodlands and in the forestry sector, to assess the impact of our work to enable the sector to protect, improve and expand England's woodland, and to report on our performance.

Data and evidence will be especially important to inform decisions relating to forestry as we prepare to leave the EU, and to monitor the implementation of joint area plans with Natural England and the Environment Agency and work with them to develop local natural capital plans with a wider range of local partners.

We will continue to work closely with Defra on evidence and data requirements. We will implement decisions on the future arrangements for forestry research commissioning in England to ensure critical research and evidence remain available to inform policy and decision-making.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- continue to work with Forest Research to gain knowledge from the research programmes arising from the Science and Innovation Strategy
- working with Welsh Government to agree and implement arrangements for Welsh Government to manage forestry research commissioning on behalf of all three countries from 1 April 2019
- continue to support Forest Research to develop and make available an increasing number of key data sets for forestry, such as the Ecological Site Classification Support System for tree planting
- publish quarterly and annual reports of our indicators

Cross-border / Corporate Forestry Support

Introduction

During 2018-19 we are preparing to transfer the cross-border functions delivered by Corporate and Forestry Support (CFS) to Forestry Commission England and the devolved administrations. This will prepare the ground for the full devolution of forestry on 1 April 2019.

The specialist CFS teams will work closely with the devolved administrations to deliver professional and expert advice and guidance and ensure that business continuity is maintained during the transition phase.

The functions will continue to be delivered on a cross-border basis to ensure that the expert advice and knowledge remains available to each country. After full devolution, this will be done through a memorandum of understanding between the three countries and the Forestry Commission.

Forestry Commission England has provided corporate governance for the Forestry Commission in England and Scotland from 1 April 2018. This will include support for the Forestry Commissioners, and the preparation of new governance arrangements for Forest Enterprise and Forest Services in England to be in place from April 2019. Forest Research will remain as an agency of the Forestry Commission, and new corporate governance arrangements for the agency will be developed during the year.

Forest biosecurity



Line management of the Plant Health Service transferred to Forestry Commission England on 1 April 2018, and for 2018-19 will be delivered to Forestry Commission Scotland and to Wales through an existing agreement. The devolution of this function will be completed by April 2019. In 2019-20 a memorandum of understanding between the countries will come into force.

Forest and wider ecosystem health remains our highest priority. Healthy and resilient forests, woodlands and trees support the economy, provide mental and physical stimulation for the British population, and act as a haven for Britain's rich and varied biodiversity.

In recent years, the Plant Health Service has worked closely with other agencies, Defra, and the forestry sector to strengthen the UK's response to invasive threats. As a consequence we are now better prepared than ever before to address new challenges before they emerge. However, there is no room for complacency in the face of changes in weather patterns and a gradual change in site suitability for some of our major forest and woodland species. Increased levels of trade will be necessary to grow the UK economy, and these can harbour potential threats, including wood boring beetles and *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium which can cause disease in a wide range of woody plants. The Plant Health Service will continue to work closely with the trade and the border force to

minimise threats, whilst ensuring as few burdens as possible on industry.

While preparing to fully implement the new EU plant health regime, the service is also planning for a future UK outside the EU to ensure that our biosecurity borders remain effective and proportionate.

The service will continue to work in partnership with wider government, academia and the forestry sector to mitigate and manage these threats. Research commissioning will be through a collaborative process and will ensure that resources are targeted effectively to provide rapid response to new threats. This will involve close working with Defra's Chief Plant Health Officer, the Plant Health Risk Group and the plant health services in each country.

Key activities

- undertake analysis of plant health risks, treatment costs and strategies for containment and/or eradication, including new pathways such as emerging trades
- provide advice to underpin the UK Plant Health Risk Register and draft new shared contingency plans on priority tree pests
- provide expert input to Defra to enable delivery of the Tree Health Resilience Strategy
- close co-ordination and expert input to the Defra Plant Health Risk Group resulting in a set of prioritised actions on tree pests and pathogens
- update the advice and guidance on biosecurity controls and on management of tree pests which are already established
- co-ordinate cross-border outbreak management teams
- make an expert contribution to the implementation of the new EU Plant Health Regulation
- support the UK Chief Plant Health Officer in safeguarding the UK's biosecurity
- ensure compliance with EU inspection targets for imports into the EU of wood, wood products and isolated bark, including an enhanced commodities inspection programme in high-risk areas
- plan for continued protection against pests and diseases as we prepare to leave the EU, including through supporting the government in the implementation of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 to ensure important tree health regulations continue to have effect after we leave the EU
- draft plant health legislation as required and prepare submissions for ministers
- maintain the Forest Reproductive Materials register of basic material and ensure that the industry is complying with requirements

Indicators

1. Number of interceptions of non-compliant imports.
2. Meet our customer-care target of inspecting 95% of imports of wood and wood products on the day of notification of landing, or the next working day.
3. Monitor the notification of firewood imports and examine 5% of consignments.



Case study **Statutory notification scheme for firewood imported into England and Scotland**

A statutory notification scheme (SNS) was introduced for firewood imports in January 2017. Over the next year we will focus our attention on those aspects of the firewood trade which we believe to represent the greatest risk of introducing harmful tree pests to the UK. We will continue to take corrective action where any fuel wood imports do not meet landing requirements and will continue to share evidence from the trade with colleagues in Defra's Plant Health Risk Group.

Over the next year our team will engage with a Defra review of preparedness against the Emerald ash borer which is a serious pest of ash trees and is present in western parts of Russia. The evidence about the movement of ash firewood from Eastern Europe to the UK will be used to assess the potential risk that this trade represents as a pathway for the introduction of this pest.

We have taken corrective action where any fuel wood imports were found not to meet landing requirements, particularly where these represent a risk of introducing harmful tree pests into the UK.

A report was prepared to provide firewood importers with an update

on the firewood import trade for the period covering 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. Good practice was highlighted together with some areas that need attention to ensure that the firewood SNS operates effectively.

Since April 2017 the SNS has run smoothly with a significant increase in the number of firewood importers enrolling and notifying the Forestry Commission of their imports. The number of enrolled companies or individual traders has more than tripled from 47 at the beginning of April 2017 to 149 as of the end of March 2018. There are also a number of firewood traders who, although not enrolled, have been notifying the FC of their imports.

In 2017-18, the quantity recorded by the end of March was 67,450 tonnes. Approximately 90% of firewood is imported from the EU with Latvia and the other Baltic nations as the most important suppliers.

The market is dominated by birch, ash, oak and alder which are declared as originating in the EU, predominantly from Latvia (60%).

2,333 notifications were received during this period and 116 inspections were carried out and the firewood that was inspected was generally compliant. Inspections are mainly risk-based and focus on regulated species. 80% of the firewood notified had been kiln dried to below 20% moisture content.

There were 28 cases where the conifer wood packaging material associated with the firewood consignments was non-compliant. It is not permitted to land this material with traces of residual bark unless it is accompanied by a plant passport. Where passports are issued these act as an official declaration that either the material has been kiln dried or has been supplied from an area known to be free from conifer bark beetles.

Our inspectors normally serve notices for the destruction of material where it is found to be non-compliant. Importers are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the relevant guide and to specify to suppliers that compliant wood packaging is used with consignments.

Importers can familiarise themselves with the landing requirements for firewood and wood packaging material by checking the guide 'Importing firewood – requirements for landing material into Great Britain' on the Forestry Commission website.

Climate change and economics



Key activities

- enhance certification and monitoring procedures for the Woodland Carbon Code and promote awareness across the forestry sector
- build the evidence base on the value of woodlands in supporting natural capital and delivering forest ecosystem services
- work with experts in and beyond the forestry sector to develop new nature-based business opportunities and funding models for woodlands
- work with partners to develop and improve natural capital accounts for forestry

Indicators

1. Projected amount of carbon (million tonnes) captured to 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code-approved British woodlands.
2. Number and type of dissemination activities emanating from our work on climate change and ecosystem services.

We will prepare for the transfer of the climate change and the economics functions to Scotland from April 2019. These functions will then be provided by Scotland to England and Wales.

Forests and woodlands remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and convert it into carbon, allowing sustainable forest management to produce wood products that can substitute for fossil fuel-intensive energy and materials. Trees and woodlands can also help us to adapt to the impacts of climate change, for example by providing shade and cooling in towns and cities and alleviating flooding.

Commissioned research, underpinned by economic analysis, will strengthen the evidence base on how woodlands contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This will support a clear rationale for the establishment of new woodlands and forests, where

they can deliver the greatest benefit for society. Further research into the provision of other ecosystem services - including the role of woodlands in alleviating flooding - will help to build a business case for investing in woodlands to deliver such services. Our economists will explore new funding mechanisms to encourage investment in new woodlands.

We will lead the development and promotion of the Woodland Carbon Code to enable it to operate effectively, and independently, into the future. We will continue to work with Forestry Commission colleagues, Defra, the Office for National Statistics and other partners to further develop natural capital accounts for forestry by including other ecosystem services.



Case study **Natural flood management – case study at Southwell, Nottinghamshire (JBA Consultants, 2017)**

There is an urgent need to provide more hard evidence of the role of woodlands in alleviating flooding. We commissioned JBA consultants – who carry out flood defence appraisals for the Environment Agency - to develop their hydrological models so that the impacts on water flows of planting woodlands could be assessed.

A case study site was chosen at Southwell in Nottinghamshire which has suffered repeated flooding in recent years. JBA worked with Forest Research hydrologists to understand how woodlands affect

water flows. JBA economists then assessed the costs and benefits of woodland planting, taking account of the numbers of properties flooded before and after woodland creation.

The results show woodland planting to have a significant impact on medium and larger flood events with a return period of 25 to 75 years. These events are associated with fluvial flooding originating in the upper catchment where land management practices influence the level and speed of water flows.

The economic analysis shows that flood benefits significantly outweigh planting costs. Cost-benefit ratios of up to 4.7 were estimated. If wider environmental benefits are included, these rise to as high as 27.7.

Overall, the results from this first case study of its type show that woodland creation can provide cost-effective reductions in damages from flooding and, for appropriate catchments, could play a key role as part of wider natural flood management or in conjunction with traditional approaches to flood defence.

In 2018-19, we will continue to build the evidence base around woodlands and flood management, by presenting the results of this work at conferences and seminars and by working with Defra, the Environment Agency and others to identify and carry out further case studies.

Evidence

Co-ordination of research commissioning will transfer to Wales in 2019. Wales will continue to deliver this on a cross-border basis to England, Scotland, and increasingly Northern Ireland.

Research commissioned under the Science and Innovation Strategy (SIS) for Forestry in Great Britain will continue to be undertaken during the year, by Forest Research and external providers.

We will work closely with the wider forestry sector to explore opportunities for it to engage with forestry science, building on the development of a National Tree Improvement Strategy for the UK.

Key activities

- publish a series of research reports and research notes, which provide accessible information on research outputs for policymakers and practitioners
- publication of a field book and two practice guides on integrated vegetation control and pest management
- work with the devolved administrations and Forestry Commission England to develop new governance and commissioning arrangements for cross-border-funded research
- manage a steering group for each of the seven SIS programmes to ensure quality outputs and targeted dissemination
- support the Research Strategy Management Board, and the Expert Committee on Forest Science
- maximise leverage of Forestry Commission research funding through collaboration with other government departments and external organisations
- develop an evidence base for new methods of silviculture, the value of emerging alternative species, and the use of pesticides and techniques to help develop more resilient forests
- provide advice on the impacts of forestry on hydrology and water quality, including sustainable flood management and mitigating diffuse pollution and water acidification
- present findings of changes to soil carbon under woodland creation, expansion and harvesting scenarios
- conduct economic appraisals and analyses and provide expert advice to support policy and practice including pest and disease control options, investment returns to woodland planting and new mechanisms for woodland creation



Indicators

1. Maintain the percentage of the research budget committed to biosecurity.
2. Maintain or increase the proportion of funds spent on research delivery against commissioning costs.

Standards and international forestry

Delivery of the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) will transfer to FC Scotland in 2019, and will continue as a cross-border function.

The UKFS sets the standards for sustainable forest management in the UK, and will be promoted domestically and internationally. The most recent version of the UKFS and Guidelines was published in April 2017. It articulates the UK's approach to sustainable forest management within a framework of international agreements at global, European and EU level. This approach is firmly rooted in evidence-based science and enables the maintenance of a co-operative and common basis for forestry practice across the four countries of the UK.



Key activities

UKFS - we will:

- promote the UKFS as the standard for sustainable forestry in Britain
- develop good practice guidance to underpin and articulate the standard at UK level
- lead on forest certification on a cross-border basis by acting as the standard setting body for the UK
- contribute to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as a steering group member
- support the Food and Agriculture Organisation/United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Joint Integrated Programme of Work (2018-2021) as it affects the UK by facilitating the contribution of UK forestry expertise
- provide support to Defra in developing its response to EU exit, where this will have an impact on international forestry matters
- provide support to Defra in setting up new arrangements for providing technical support for international forestry after April 2019

International forestry - we will:

- contribute to the Forest Europe work programme to ensure that UK forest interests are represented
- lead for the UK in the EU Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) by facilitating UK forestry expertise and reporting outcomes and developments to Defra, other departments, and country forestry policy teams. Share best practice and agree a common approach with other member states

In the international context, Defra leads for the UK. During 2018-19, new arrangements are being put in place to support government in taking an approach informed by domestic forestry experience and research to guide the UK's input to international processes. This work will ensure that the UK's influence is brought to bear in agreements on forestry and related fields such as the environment and climate change.

Corporate programmes

Future of the Forestry Commission

During 2018-19 we will take forward the changes required to deliver our new operating model, Future Forestry Commission.

The changes, which have the full backing of Defra ministers, will mean that from April 2019 the Forestry Commission will be an England-only body. Forest Research will continue to operate across the UK as an agency of the Commission, and the whole Forestry Commission will remain an outward looking, connected organisation, engaging with the forest industry and other national and international partners and stakeholders, and delivering research and other services to Scotland and Wales by agreement with the devolved governments. We will establish a new Board of Commissioners for the nation's forests. Commissioners will continue to be appointed by Her Majesty the Queen on the advice of her ministers, who will retain a power

of direction. We will continue our work to protect, improve and expand forests and woodlands in England beyond the Public Forest Estate, as part of the government's commitment for this to be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than it found it.

These arrangements provide certainty for the future of the Forestry Commission, and a strong, sustainable platform for our precious forest and woodland environments to thrive for the long term.

The change will be carefully managed and will recognise:

- our mission in protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of our forests and woodlands and increasing their value to society and the environment. Opportunities will be delivered through active management

of our nation's forests enabling others to plant more woodland and increase natural capital

- the importance, especially post-devolution, of continuing cross-border collaboration in a number of areas notably research, tree health and forestry standards. We will work together with the Scottish and Welsh Governments to promote strong forest science, to sustain high standards for forestry in the UK, and to protect our trees against pests and diseases

- the government's commitment to ensuring that public forests are kept in trust for the nation with no net reduction in the size of the nation's forests. We will continue to build and strengthen Forest Enterprise England as a more autonomous, customer-focused organisation within a new strategic framework to protect and enhance the estate for

people, nature and the economy. Over the next year we will go on to restructure and strengthen the governing board of Forest Enterprise England, and explore how we can use our continuing public funding and our revenue streams to enhance the estate

- the opportunity to streamline and simplify the governance of the Forestry Commission so that it is right for our enduring mission and our new structure
- our role within the Defra Group and that the government's future forestry and woodlands policy will be fully integrated with its wider plans for the natural environment and the rural economy
- the need to continue to work hard to recruit, retain, and develop a talented and diverse workforce with the skills and experience we need to deliver our mission
- the opportunity offered by the Forestry Commission's centenary in 2019 to celebrate our rich and diverse record of achievement and set out with confidence on the road to the next hundred years of forestry in England

In 2018-19 we will complete the establishment of our new corporate service arrangements in Forestry Commission England, working closely with colleagues in Forestry Commission Scotland, Forestry Commission Shared Services and Forest Research to coordinate change to minimise the risk to business continuity and the costs of transition. During 2018-19 we will take forward the recruitment of new non-executive board members.

We will work closely with the Scottish and Welsh Governments in transitioning all the services currently delivered on a cross-border basis to new arrangements in an orderly manner, with minimum disruption to our day-to-day business, by April 2019. This work is overseen by the Forestry Governance Project Board (FGPB) whose membership is drawn from the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments and includes Director England.

The Forestry Commission will continue to fully engage with Defra in the ongoing development of the Defra Group and the Single Departmental Plan (SDP) through relevant Outcome System Groups. Along with other group bodies, the Forestry Commission has produced a specific Action Plan for 2018-19 to describe how we will help deliver the Defra Strategy and SDP, as well as our contribution to the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Forest Services will continue working with Natural England and the Environment Agency in the development of local area integrated plans.

Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committees (FWACs) will continue to discharge their important statutory and advisory roles in support of Forest Services, and we will continue to help them develop their impact at a local level.

Annex A: Sources and uses of funds

£ million		2017-18 Planned	2017-18 Outturn	2018-19 Planned
Source of funds				
Parliamentary funding		36.1	41.4	41.9
Forest Services	RDPE ³	27.5	13.3	24.0
Total revenue		63.6	54.7	65.9
Use of funds				
Forest Services	Protection	4.6	3.7	5.1
	Improvement	22.5	18.3	25.0
	Expansion	16.3	13.2	18.1
	Total	43.4	35.2	48.3
Forest Enterprise (Ecosystems services)	People	12.1	11.8	12.3
	Nature	15.0	14.5	12.7
	Economy	-6.9	-6.8	-7.4
	Total	20.2	19.5	17.6
Total expenditure		63.6	54.7	65.9

Notes:

1. Parliamentary funding includes resource expenditure for Forest Services and the FCE National Office, Forest Enterprise's Annual Subsidy Limit (ASL), and depreciation. It excludes capital expenditure.
2. In 'Use of funds' Forest Services includes FCE National Office and depreciation.
3. FC receives delegated authority from Defra on an annual basis to commit funds from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
4. FEE economic activity is fully self-financing and provides a contribution to reducing the costs of non-market ecosystems services to the taxpayer.

Annex B: Forest Services indicators

At Forest Services we use our indicators to show our contribution towards forestry and woodlands in England, and to show barometers of trends in the wider forestry sector in England. The indicators reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. The indicators are proxies for the changes in the real world that

we want to achieve. We use them to provide evidence to advise on forestry policy, for setting up mechanisms for delivery and to enable our partners and stakeholders to hold us to account. The trends in these indicators are important. We signpost the statistical sources used and where feasible we also publish the underlying geographical

information on the map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site. Full reports for each indicator are available in our quarterly headline indicators updates and annual Indicators Report.

Indicator	Short term trend <small>(Note 1)</small>
PROTECT	
Pests and diseases	
Headline indicator: Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR) <small>(Note 2)</small>	≈
Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last ten years	✓
Other protection indicators	
Headline indicator: 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)	≈
Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape	≈
IMPROVE	
Economic and environmental gain	
Headline indicator: Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	✓
Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed	✗
Number of a) apprentices and those with work-based diplomas, and b) university students, entering forestry	a) ✓ b) ✗
Annual increment in England's forests	...
Area of felling licences <small>(Note 2)</small>	✓
Gross Value Added from domestic forestry	✓
Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested <small>(Note 2)</small>	≈
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the Public Forest Estate	✓
Places for wildlife to prosper	
Hectares of restoration of a) plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), and b) open habitat, in woodland other than the Public Forest Estate	a) ✗ b) ✗
Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live woodland, using woodland birds data.	≈

continued ~

Indicator	Short term trend <small>(Note 1)</small>
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than the Public Forest Estate	a) ≈ b) ≈
Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory	...
People's health and enjoyment of woodland	
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than the Public Forest Estate <small>(Note 2)</small>	≈
Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)	✓
Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland	✗
EXPAND	
Increased woodland creation	
Headline indicator: Area of woodland and rate of new planting	≈
Government supported new planting of trees in England	...
Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal <small>(Note 2)</small>	✗
Contribution to carbon abatement	
Carbon captured by English woodlands	≈
Projected carbon capture in 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects	✓
Customer service and business metrics	
Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	✗
Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied <small>(Note 2)</small>	≈
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Director's Office	...
Average number of training days organised by Forest Services Business Support attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services	...
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services <small>(Note 2)</small>	✗

Notes

1. The short-term trend assessments for the indicators are simple ones comparing the difference between the value of the indicator in the most recent period for which data is available, normally the 2017-18 year or as at 31 March 2018, with that five years earlier.
2. The short-term trend assessment of this particular indicator covers less than five years; treat with caution. See full report in our Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report.

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

Annex C: Forest Enterprise indicators

As custodians of hundreds of thousands of hectares of woodland on the Public Forest Estate, Forest Enterprise England contributes a great deal to people, nature and the economy. Much of this achievement can be counted, and has been valued for the Forest Enterprise England Natural Capital Account 2016-17. The good work on the Public Forest

Estate also contributes a lot to Forest Services' wider goals for the forestry sector, and where possible the Forest Enterprise indicators shown reflect this separate and distinctive contribution. There are also indicators specific to monitoring the success of Forest Enterprise. We signpost the statistical sources used and wherever feasible we also publish the underlying

geographical information on the map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site. Full reports for each indicator are available in our quarterly headline indicators updates and annual Indicators Report.

Indicator	Short term trend <small>(Note 1)</small>
PEOPLE	
People's health and enjoyment of woodland	
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to Public Forest Estate-accessible woodland <small>(Note 2)</small>	🔄
Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate	✅
Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate <small>(Note 2)</small>	✅
Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate	🔄
NATURE	
Places for wildlife to prosper	
Hectares of restoration of a) plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and b) open habitat on the Public Forest Estate (in comparison to Forest Design Plans) <small>(Note 2)</small>	a) 🔄 b) 🔄
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on the Public Forest Estate	a) 🔄
a) Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	b) ✅
b) Favourable condition	
ECONOMY	
Economic and environmental gain	
Headline indicator: Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	❌
Percentage of woodland in active management (Forest Enterprise contribution) <small>(Note 2)</small>	🔄
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate (in comparison to Forest Enterprise timber production plan) <small>(Note 2)</small>	🔄
ORGANISATIONAL	
Customer service and business metrics	
Headline indicator: Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare) <small>(Note 2)</small>	✅
Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive 'rate my visit' facility	🔄
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise	⋯
Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Enterprise England	⋯
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Enterprise <small>(Note 2)</small>	❌

Notes

1. The short-term trend assessments for the indicators are simple ones comparing the difference between the value of the indicator in the most recent period for which data is available, normally the 2017-18 year or as at 31 March 2018, with that five years earlier.
2. The short-term trend assessment of this particular indicator covers less than five years; treat with caution. See full report in our Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report.

- ✅ Improving
- 🔄 Little or no overall change
- ❌ Deteriorating
- ⋯ Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data



We will consider all requests to make publication content available in alternative formats. Please contact:

The Diversity Team
England HR Services
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1EJ

0300 067 4130

englandhr.services@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

For all other enquiries contact:

Forestry Commission England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1EJ

0300 067 4000

fc.England@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

forestry.gov.uk/england



HM Government



Published by Forestry Commission England
© Crown Copyright 2018

Design by Transition Creative for FC England Design & Creative.

2079/August 2018/20/Severn

Printed on paper
certified under the mixed
sources label.
Please recycle after use.

