

# Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees Annual Report 2018/2019 July 2019

A report co-authored by the nine Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee (FWAC) Chairs

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## In memoriam

We were very sad to lose the expertise, passion and enthusiasm of Peter Wilkinson, a former member of the South West FWAC and Urban FWAC Network. He sadly passed away in June 2018 after a short illness. Peter was at the forefront of community forestry and was a passionate advocate for community engagement in trees and woodlands. He is missed across the entire FWAC network.

## About this report

The Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committees are the government's expert forestry committees, advising the Forestry Commission (FC) and Forestry England on implementing forestry and related

policies in nine regions of England. The Committees have a combined membership of nearly 100 members who bring together a wealth of professional knowledge, experience and perspectives from across the sector. The nine committees are complemented by an Urban FWAC network consisting of representatives from all committees to focus on urban forestry matters. The Chairs of the nine Committees meet regularly with Commissioners and senior staff.

The Committees are required to provide a joint report annually which describes highlights against the founding FWAC principles set out in 2013 as follows:

- Champion forestry interests and partnership working at local level for woodland resilience and sector development, providing independent insight into local needs and priorities.
- Provide advice on the application of national policies into local programmes, and help feed local priorities into national programmes.
- Support the Government's interests by developing strong local connections and networks to enhance synergies across the diverse forest and woodland sector, including the public forest estate.
- Conciliate in disputed applications for grant aid, felling licences, or approval of forest plans where there is a sustained objection by a statutory body.

The 2019 report consists of three sections:

- Annual Review of the work from April 2018 to March 2019 of the committees and examples of innovation and good practice under headings of advocates and champions, the local growth agenda and urban issues, the protect, improve and expand strategy, and cross cutting issues
- Supporting the FC Centenary celebrations
- A forward look at the immediate priorities for action in the coming year and the longer term

## 1. Annual review of work from April 2018 to March 2019

### Advocate and Champion

Several FWACs prepared regional response to the DEFRA *Protecting and enhancing England's trees and woodlands* consultation launched in late 2018, one of the most important consultations of the year, as well as providing input into early planning for the post CAP future for public goods and the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) grants.

The Urban FWAC Network meetings heard from Alan Simson, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry at Leeds Beckett University, and Glenn Gerner from Leeds City Council about the work that they have both been doing in and around Leeds and internationally for urban forestry. This prompted the Network to consider how they might support the wider development of a national set of model policies.

The South East FWAC discussed and challenged the Forestry Commission/National Parks Accord in a discussion led by New Forest Chief Executive Officer and FWAC member Alison Barnes. It also reviewed the FC's response to ash dieback, recommending adjustments to the approach and highlighting the need to have more clarity on policy regarding safety and felling, risk management and felling licence approvals.

The South East FWAC also challenged the Forestry Commission to address the retention and recruitment crisis by working with the Environment Agency (EA), which has had more success for similar posts (Jeanne Capey from EA is on the South East FWAC and subsequently worked with the Area Director).

The London FWAC sent the Greater London Authority (GLA) consistent key messages about the London Environment Strategy and was successful in (a) adjusting the draft wording and (b) securing a commitment to production of an urban forest plan. This was a significant achievement in an environment of competing requests, and the Environment Strategy will underpin the London Plan (which is under development). The FWAC has since been heavily involved in the development of the draft Urban Forest Plan, through the FWAC meetings and specific themed workshops. The FWAC also supported the London Tree and Woodland Awards with support for awards planning, sponsorship, promoting & submitting nominations and awards evening attendance.

The South West FWAC continued to develop its links with Forestry England, particularly around natural flood management and societal engagement expressed by the Foresters' Forest initiative in the Forest of Dean and visitor developments at Westonbirt Arboretum. Two members of the committee were co-opted to a Reference Committee, providing advice to the Secretary of State relating to a tree felling regulation matter in Wiltshire.

The North West FWAC discussed the future structure of the Forestry Commission, ELMS grants, creation of investment funds for Community Forests, Health & Harmony consultation, the Agriculture Bill, and urban woods.

East Midlands and East of England FWACs jointly visited Forestry England's Salcey Forest in Northamptonshire to take part in an in-depth planning for real exercise aimed at finding ways of improving public access and the visitor experience in the Forest, where infrastructure is proving inadequate for the numbers of visitors. The advice given was instrumental in helping Forestry England moving forward on decisions about renovating a major visitor attraction in the forest and planning for future infrastructure development including car parking and visitor facilities.

The Chair of the West Midlands FWAC, John Moverley, met with the Warwickshire Colleges Group and Smallwoods Association to champion training and skills in the forestry sector, to develop ideas for new training initiatives and explore the opportunity of the centenary celebrations in promoting the importance of education and training. John Moverley is also a member of the Severn and Wye Flood and Coastal Committee and the committee has received updates at each meeting on the work that is being carried out by the North West & West Midlands area teams in conjunction with the Environment Agency (EA) on natural flood management.

The West Midlands FWAC also received updates on future incentives and offered ideas on how to protect, improve and expand woodland in the future to the FC and DEFRA as appropriate. Countryside Stewardship (CS) was discussed at every meeting during the year and the FWAC has been kept up to date with CS applications in the area. Members have raised issues with schemes to National Office and helped resolve challenges.

West Midlands FWAC members are also engaged in a wide range of groups and activities across the area and champion the importance of forest and woodlands as well as the important roles to be played by Forestry Commission staff. These have included involvement in the Birmingham Institute of Forestry Research, the Community Forest Trust, and the National Forest.



**Woodland creation projects such as the Northern Forest require investment but will provide long term and long lasting social, economic and environmental returns.**

The North East Committee discussed and considered the *Health and Harmony* consultation in relation to key tree and woodland issues for the North East before contributing a submission in May. The Committee also discussed and considered Operations Note 43, which provides guidance on afforestation and breeding waders. This is a key issue in the North East particularly due to importance of curlew in the region. The guidance is aimed at helping protect important sites that are capable of supporting sustainable breeding waders. The March meeting also considered forestry and woodland opportunities from a North East and European perspective through the attendance of MEP Paul Brannen.

The Joint North East and Yorkshire June Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the changes to the Forestry Commission and also the Centenary celebrations. This included a visit to Hamsterley Forest to look at the ongoing development work of Forestry England.

Both NE FWAC meetings focused on woodland creation with presentations on Forestry Innovation Fund projects and how best to get significant new planting coming forward using opportunity mapping and stakeholder engagement.

The Yorkshire FWAC members like other FWACs recognised the importance of the post-Brexit Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs) in supporting the delivery of a range of natural capital benefits and goals including relating to trees and woodlands. The members emphasised one option could be to include the key objectives of the woodland within a land management plan with the activity detail being included in a supporting woodland management plan. In terms of ensuring an appropriate level of ambition within the plan as well as oversight and scrutiny of the plans and their implementation, their members recommended that:

- There should be a need for a set number / percentage to be audited;
- The FC provide a good auditing role of the current woodland management plan. The UKFS is a good practice guide and this benchmark is checked during the consultation and approval process;
- The scheme should allow the regulatory authority to continue to monitor felling; and
- The regulatory authority and agents have a clear idea of what is achievable and of benefit to both the environment and landowner.

The Yorkshire FWAC members discussed the increasing scientific evidence on declining insect populations and biodiversity because of intensive agriculture and climate change. The UK Forestry Standard covers the use of pesticides with a clear requirement to minimise their use and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme requirements extend this to include a positive action towards the production of a chemical reduction strategy. The details of what is actually being used and at what levels are not available.



*Congratulations and farewells to long serving East Midlands FWAC members*

## **Local growth agenda and urban issues**

The Urban FWAC Network examined the use of tree and woodland strategies as a means of support for wider green infrastructure development and growth. This work fed into the DEFRA consultation

on *Protecting and enhancing England's Trees and Woodlands*. There were also discussions on natural capital planning as some Urban FWAC Network members e.g. from the GLA have already been producing Natural Capital Accounts/registers and others are developing them or looking into it.

The place of forestry in London and the role of the Forestry Commission in a region with such high growth was the topic of discussion at a joint meeting between the London FWAC and the Forestry Commission senior management team visiting the region from Bristol in July 2018. Speakers included architects involved in development design.

Short rotation forestry for energy was back on the agenda after decades of absence joining more well-rehearsed recent topics such as local timber in construction and green infrastructure as key ways that forestry can secure net gain growth.

The FWAC also discussed inputs to the London Plan by agreeing consistent common key messages agreed to be include in individual consultation responses.

The South West FWAC was pleased to have appointed Jon Clark, the Director of the Forest of Avon Trust, to represent the urban forest agenda on the committee. Jon also now sits on the Urban FWAC Network.

Yorkshire FWAC members received regular updates about progress on the Northern Forest. They highlighted the challenges associated with delivery in South Yorkshire following the closure of the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership. They welcomed the discussion facilitated by the South Yorkshire Nature Partnership in considering the opportunities for the Northern Forest in South Yorkshire whilst recognising the challenges around delivery in terms of capacity within key NGOs and local government in the sub region.

The Yorkshire FWAC Chair moderated a meeting at Bishop Burton College, supported by the Forestry Commission, about woodland creation opportunities in the Northern Forest, which attracted over 70 attendees.

The Yorkshire FWAC has co-opted Northern Forest representatives from both HEYwoods and White Rose Forest to help support the connection between the FWAC and this important initiative.

The Yorkshire FWAC have been kept informed of the outline progress of the Sheffield tree felling case whilst recognising that the specific details have remained confidential whilst the investigation is ongoing.

## **Protect, Improve, Expand England's woodlands**

### **Protection – tree disease, regulation of felling**

The South West FWAC continued its focus on tree pests and diseases throughout the year. A watching brief was kept on *Phytophthora* and chestnut blight with more detailed work undertaken on ash dieback at both the summer and autumn meetings. Learning from the Eastern Counties was disseminated to FWAC members for wider information, and key learning at the planning stage in the South West was provided by the Tree Council Ash Dieback Toolkit. An opportunity was taken at the

autumn meeting at Westonbirt to examine ash dieback in an area of ancient woodland and offer advice of management and future species choice strategies.

Issues of tree health are also reported at each West Midlands FWAC meeting. Members are kept informed by Forestry Commission Staff about emerging health issues and the FWAC supported the delivery of a West Midlands tree health group.

London FWAC member Colin Buttery is the chair of the Oak Processionary Moth Strategic Advisory Group and other FWAC members are engaged in OPM strategy and operational management. They have helped promote the need to 'normalise' OPM management into day-to-day activity and are helping the FC develop templates and case studies to promote good OPM practice.

The Yorkshire FWAC has also been kept updated on the management of *Phytophthora ramorum* in the region and the work to support the sector on tree health issues. London FWAC members play a key role promoting tree health matters and biosecurity e.g. through the City of London in various media articles and London Tree Officers' Association biosecurity working group.

The East Midlands FWAC has focused some of its time on the role of regulation during the year. Concerned by rising instances of illegal tree felling in the region, it was briefed at its spring 2019 meeting on the regulatory challenges of protecting trees within a development context when economic stakes are high and fine for illegal felling generally low.

The East Midlands FWAC also kept under close review a case of a public forest estate ancient woodland within the region badly damaged by an industrial water-borne pollution incident. The Committee expressed concern that the planting of 3ha was insufficient compensation for the damage to 3ha and also felt the involvement of multiple environmental agencies responsible for different regulations and legal regimes, e.g. EIA, water pollution and the Forestry Act, exposed a degree of weakness and complexity in enforcement of the law. The Committee felt more transparency and reporting of the incident would have been in the public interest though some media coverage has subsequently occurred.

Yorkshire FWAC members produced a timely response to DEFRA on the consultation on the protecting and enhancing England's trees. Its key points were that the FWAC supports the principle of the duty to consult on proposals that affect street trees and that this should be extended to trees in public parks and open spaces under Local Authority responsibility (including in cases where management is devolved), as these are also of considerable amenity, wildlife and health benefits. There is also a case for local authorities to steadily build up information on the overall profile of tree coverage, and tree felling and planting activity, within its local authority area as part of a wider environmental audit, in conjunction with information sources from the Forestry Commission, the Environment Agency, the Woodland Trust and other organisations. This would help to set into context its own Tree and Woodland Strategy and help to build up a more comprehensive database locally, regionally and nationally for identifying where there are needs and opportunities for improving tree coverage and the associated value of natural capital. The size and species of the trees planted is also relevant, since this will give an indication of the length of time to maturity and carbon absorption rate of the trees planted.

The Urban FWAC Network meeting facilitated a DEFRA stakeholder meeting specifically on the proposed duties to consult and report on urban tree felling in its consultation on “Protecting England’s trees and woods”. The event also considered the ideas around the Urban Tree Challenge Fund.

The North East FWAC flagged that the parks and allotments of Newcastle has been set up as an independent trust and were keeping a watching brief on the outcomes of that change.



### **Improvement (includes woods into management)**

Focusing on management responses to ash dieback, the SE FWAC agreed that priorities for the Forestry Commission are:

- Enhanced landowner engagement to update management plans, encourage a collaborative response
- Enhanced deer management at a landscape scale to permit effective regeneration
- Networking to encourage access to markets, investment and cohesion in the supply chain and market development
- Encouraging use of Ecological Site Classification/local technicality expertise to determine species for resilient woodland restoration as well as delivering the multi-purpose woodland mix
- Sustained promotion of UKFS best practice including account of European Protected Species and other biodiversity, soil conservation and protection of water courses
- Support for woods into management events, so far focussed on community groups



Incentives and regulation activity continue to be reported to the Committee, providing advice on prioritisation and pressure points in the local team's capacity and its impact on service delivery to the sector. The FWAC have been updated and provided valuable comment on the number of felling licences the area receives and management plans.

The North West FWAC receives updates on the Stobart project at each meeting. Members have requested regular updates on how the project progresses to ensure it does deliver the forecast woodland management benefits.

Yorkshire FWAC members have supported the delivery of the online Felling Licence offering feedback on the new service.

The speed at which Ash Dieback has spread across the South East has meant that it has become a cross cutting issue, and the FWAC advises the following:

- Enhanced information to plan and track the operational response
- Support for timely and least cost road closures to permit the removal of dead/dying roadside trees
- Regular update and sharing of guidance/best practice/legislative requirements through events, case studies, social media
- Ready access to appropriate nursery stock for replanting

The London FWAC discussed a potential National Tree Strategy. The FWAC also discussed the IUFC Vancouver conference and the lessons and reflections for London and UK urban forestry.

The London FWAC focused on trees and development at its spring meeting 2019 with engagement with a developer and facilitated by a tree consultant specialising in management of trees in urban settings. This builds on a FWAC visit to a major development site in Basildon with an emphasis on best practice in protecting and incorporating trees and delivering a high-quality environment.

### **Expansion (woodland creation)**

FWACs up and down the country have continued to champion the need for substantial woodland creation as the reports below clearly show.

The East Midlands FWAC heard at first hand the latest state of government thinking on future incentives and the design of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme with its emphasis on public benefit, a plan led approach and funding linked to outcomes. A stimulating site visit to a local private family estate in Lincolnshire led to some fascinating discussions on how a successful estate in terms of current CS agreements might respond to the kinds of proposals now being considered and what this might mean in terms of a change of approach. Members provided follow up to DEFRA staff based on their professional experiences.

The East of England FWAC also concentrated on the Future Incentives schemes being developed by DEFRA, Members engaged enthusiastically and constructively both at meetings and in correspondence subsequently, and its input with its strong emphasis on whole-holding approach,

integrating woodland/forestry with other land uses, has been welcomed by Forestry Commission and DEFRA. The follow up site visit to a large mixed private estate near Bury St Edmunds looked at the strengths and weaknesses of existing and previous grant schemes and the lessons to be learnt for the new schemes.

The North West and Yorkshire FWAC continued to discuss and support the delivering, coordination and promotion of the Northern Forest project. The £5.7m funding agreement with DEFRA was signed and key roles appointed. The North West FWAC continued to discuss and develop alternative sources of funding to support the community forestry sector, discussing in detail approaches including 'Bond with Nature'. The North West FWAC also discussed the Forestry Investment Zone for the Forgotten Lands in Cumbria.

Woodland creation for clean water was one of the topics for discussion at the July South East FWAC with Forestry Commission senior managers. Portsmouth Water is seeing woodland creation as the best method to achieve these outcomes.

A woodland creation review discussion at the London FWAC meeting in Trent Park with Trees for Cities looked at 20-30-year-old projects and an exciting proposal for potentially >100 hectares of woodland creation particularly benefiting water (flooding and quality) and public access. The London FWAC discussed woodland creation opportunity mapping work carried out by GLA (Andrew Jones, FWAC member) with support from FWAC members and woodland creation promotion events delivered by FC and GLA with support from FWAC members.

As Countryside Stewardship and other non-RDPE grant schemes for woodland creation become more established, the London FWAC has noted a steady increase in average area of schemes and see this is a subject that should be covered more fully in future meetings.

The West Midlands FWAC have been updated with the latest information regarding woodland creation and visited Heart of England Forest to see the development of the project since it started in 1996. The FWAC has also reviewed new approaches, including Forestry Investment Zones, learning lessons from what is happening in Cumbria and reflecting this back to West Midlands. The Heart of England Forest was considered by the FWAC to be an example of a Forestry Investment Zone as in the future the forest will need to be managed. Beth Brook (the Chief Executive of Heart of England Forest) has also joined the West Midlands FWAC bringing experience of large woodland creation and creating a new native forest. Yorkshire FWAC members visited the successful Sheffield Lakeland Partnership project to consider woodland creation.

### **Cross-cutting issues**

Yorkshire and Humber FWAC members commended the progress made by the Yorkshire Forest District to progress several projects with multiple social, environmental and economic benefits including the Beaver Trial as part of the Pickering Slow the Flow Project.

The increasing costs to manage the safety issues associated with ash dieback (*Chalara*) were noted. As with other FWACs, the Yorkshire and Humber FWAC members are anxious about the spread of ash dieback and advocate for regular updates and sharing of guidance/best practice/legislative requirements through events, case studies, social media in order to manage the many and varied

consequences of the disease, such as disruption to sites and highways, minimization of health and safety risks and identification of trees which show signs of tolerance.

Urban forestry is a key issue for the West Midlands FWAC with large urban areas of Birmingham and the Black Country. It is in quite a unique position to contribute to developments given location, involvement of the universities and in other ways. The topic was a substantive item at one of their meetings this year. FWAC members sit on the Midland TDAG group and have raised concerns about urban trees to various stakeholder groups.

The East Midlands FWAC looked at the positives of trees within the development agenda on a visit to a site near Bardon in Leicestershire and saw how careful negotiation with local planners and major developers (Amazon) can result in net environmental gain for woods and the public, especially when negotiated and implemented by consultancies with specialist experience and knowledge in this field.

The South West FWAC looked at the developing cross-cutting issues around future land management incentives against the backdrop of Exmoor National Park reflecting on both the Defra and the National Park's views. During the year committee members provided a needed balanced input into the development of the Exmoor Ambition and subsequent ELMs Trial. Similarly, the committee is represented on two other trials in the South West.

Many FWAC members from across England attended the Community Forest Conference, which was celebrating 25 years of community forestry and effective delivery in communities across England.

## 2. Supporting the Forestry Commission's Centenary Programme

A wide variety of celebratory activities are planned involving the FWACS, with just a few examples illustrated here.

FWAC committee members from across the country will be supporting their FC Area teams in their Centenary themed attendance at a number of major shows including the Royal Cornwall and Devon County Shows, the biennial Confor Show at Longleat, the Lincolnshire Show, the CLA Game Fair, the Essex Show, the Northumberland Country Show and the Chatsworth Show.

There will also be a number of commemorative plantings: the South West FWAC will be supporting the local team in planting their centenary tree, as well as the national Eggesford Avenue celebration. Simon Richards (Royal Parks and London FWAC) has kindly facilitated a ceremonial centenary tree planting in Autumn 2019.). The East of England FWAC will revisit a major Woodland Trust site near St Albans and plant a centenary tree this coming winter. The West Midlands FWAC planted a tree in March at Cotteridge Park to celebrate 100 years of forestry and 20 years of the new woodland planted at the park. A centenary tree planting is planned in the West Midlands in the Heart of England Forest with Sir Harry Studholme and John Snow (Chair of Heart of England Forest). The Yorkshire FWAC's autumn meeting will focus on the Centenary including a tree planting event with the DEFRA Tree Champion, Sir William Worsley on Hovingham Estate.

The North West is planning a celebration and forward-looking conference in Oct 2019 in Manchester. The event will cover 100 years of the Forestry Commission, Northern Forest, 25 years of Community Forestry and the role of trees in delivering national carbon reduction targets by 2050



***Jane Rabagliati, East of England FWAC Chair at work***

At the invitation of the Area Director and Partnerships Manager for the East and East Midlands, members of East of England and East Midlands FWACs feature in a 2½ minute video celebrating the vibrant role of the FWACs, what they do, why they are important, and promoting recruitment of new members. The link to the video is: <https://youtu.be/OSNtbjkPFrw>

London FWAC members provided area-based stories and materials that the FC developed into a suite of FC centenary presentations, narrative and timeline about London's urban forest over the past 100 years; the FC are looking to deliver 100 FC centenary related talks in the South East & London area during 2019, and FWAC members have committed to helping achieve this.

### 3. Forward look at priorities for 2019 and beyond

It is envisaged that the progression of ash dieback will keep tree diseases high on the agenda for all FWACs. In addition to this all the of the FWACS are looking forward to continued engagement with the Tree Champion whose term now runs to June 2020 and to contributing to the proposed Tree Strategy.

Upcoming Urban FWAC Network meetings will be looking at the results of the Bristol iTree survey, how local communities are engaged with trees in the area, and the partnership between the local authority and Forest of Avon. The Network will also be supporting the development of England's Tree Strategy and wider work to support the aspirations of the 25-year plan on urban trees.

The South East FWAC is planning visits to the new Wendover multi million visitors centre, the OxCam arc of development through the Aylesbury vale, and discussions on multi use of land including timber sacrifice and re-wilding.

The Yorkshire FWAC will visit the Castle Howard estate with a focus on the role of the private sector in supporting woodland activities. The visit will also provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges of responding to tree health issues including *Phytophthora ramorum*, Chalara and the impact of squirrels.



***The highly visible East of England FWAC inspecting opportunities for woodland creation as part of housing development***

Future London FWAC meetings will address tree & woodland planting, the urban tree challenge, borough tree strategies, iTree studies, the London Urban Forest Plan development and the Forestry Skills Action Plan, looking at both opportunities at both operatives and management levels.

Some Committees will be revisiting open habitats policy and the tensions around loss of productive forest area, compensatory planting and habitat gains. In particular alternative routes to woodland expansion and restoration of ecosystem services through rewilding projects together with route to increasing resilience of existing productive woodlands owned by Forestry England will be on the agenda of the East Midlands Committee. FWACs are also keen to examine future opportunities for green infrastructure with major projects including the Oxford-Cambridge arc.

In the North West discussions will continue to focus on the future of land use, farming and forestry reflecting the new ELM programme and agenda of public money for public goods.

The West Midlands FWAC is planning meetings at Cannock Chase and the Smallwoods Association with discussions to further strengthen links with Forestry England and consider opportunities for further working together. In addition the FWAC will continue its focus on education and training and see first-hand innovative work being undertaken and its strong interest in natural capital.

The West Midlands committee has been sad to see the decline of valuable community forest activity in the Midlands and so will continue to campaign for core funding. Community Forests are set to

play a major part in delivering the current agenda and it is vital existing expertise and structures do not continue to be lost.



*A FWAC arc of expertise*

## Reflections on the future

Beyond the immediate topics to be considered, the FWACS see the coming few years ahead as a truly pivotal time with global and national attention turning to the role of carbon capture by trees, woods and forests as a significant part of the response to tackling the declaration of a climate emergency. The need to drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions has been comprehensively set out in the IPCC report in 2018 on pathways to limit climate change to 1.5°C and in the Committee on Climate Change report looking at the ambition of achieving net zero emissions in the UK by 2050.

Public and political opinion is now catching up with the sector's message about woodland expansion which has been consistently promoted for at least 20-30 years yet scaling up our collective existing modest efforts to deliver what is needed and overcoming the barriers to doing so is truly the most daunting task we have ever faced.

Now is the time if ever there was one for the sector to confidently project its ability to address these national and global challenges but the stakes are high, and capacity is limited within both the private sector and public sector to be able to respond rapidly. Nonetheless the opportunity created by the re-design of support for countryside land management in a post CAP era, which will focus on the use of public money for the delivery of public, is a once in a generation opportunity to change the direction of how we manage the finite resource of land in England and create resilience in our carbon, timber, water and food systems. This, in combination with the Comprehensive Spending Review, means the FC and DEFRA as a whole can have relevance to national policy at a level beyond anything anticipated before; to do that it will need the support of all of us.