

Appendix 1

Background Information - Forestry England

About us

At Forestry England we care for more land and trees than any other organisation in England. From small woodlands on the fringes of towns and cities, to vast areas like the ancient New Forest, for over 100 years we have been growing, shaping, and caring for more than 1,500 of our nation's forests. We are experts in bringing people and forest together.

Why we do it

The scale of what we do puts us in a unique position to tackle some of today's big issues. We are at the forefront of the climate crisis, using the latest scientific research to plan and plant forests which will survive in a changing climate.

We believe the nation's forests have a positive, long-term impact on people's lives, England's biodiversity, a thriving green economy and our response to the climate emergency. Our world-class, sustainable management of the nation's forests and our innovative, evolving approach grows the benefits for people, nature and the economy.

The nation's forests are a vital source of sustainable timber, supporting jobs and industry, as well as being places in which wildlife thrives and where people enjoy themselves, and are inspired.

Forestry England's mission is to connect people with forests providing vital spaces for people to boost their health and wellbeing.

Recreation

We welcome over 363 million of visits to our forests each year, and our estate spans every corner of the country - 99% of people live within an hours' drive of one of our forests.

Our 1,500 forests and woods includes 40 key sites and 24 visitor centres hosting a wide range of forest activities for people to enjoy.

We have more than 1,800 miles of waymarked trails including some of the best off-road cycling in the country, incredible walking and trail running routes, 32 play areas and 14 Go Ape! sites. We have more than 1,000 events, including a series of summer concerts featuring high-profile artists.

We offer local and national membership, with approximately 105,000 members. We also have an engaged supporter database of over 570,000 people.

Alongside our outdoor recreation offer we have a thriving health and wellbeing programme, ambitious national woodland creation and biodiversity action plans.

Timber

Background Information

Each year we sustainably harvest around 7.7 million trees from the nation's forests and provide 60% of England's softwood production making us the country's largest supplier of sustainably-sourced timber. Our woodlands carry the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and PEFC stamps of approval showing timber is produced to the highest environmental standard.

We're passionate about sustainable forest management. Each year our nurseries produce nearly 16 million new trees to replant and create new areas of woodland. We're actively seeking to buy more land to create new forests.

Wildlife

56% of England's rarest and most threatened species live in our landscapes, and over half of the land we manage is protected by statutory designations - from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks, to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). This includes everything from managed habitats for the rare smooth snake in Dorset to pre-Roman hill forts which are spread across the whole of England, virtually all this land is in sound or recovering ecological condition and accessible to the public.

We work tirelessly to restore biodiversity in our forests. We manage them in a way that opens up opportunities for wildlife to make their home amongst the trees. Whether that's thinning areas of forest to provide habitats for certain birds and butterflies, or reintroducing new species which can help disrupt the status quo and bring about positive changes to the habitat.

We are at the forefront of some of the most exciting species reintroductions. Sea eagles are being released after being wiped out more than 240 years ago, pine martens are being re-introduced to protect trees and beavers are being used to test new flood mitigation theories.

In the next year we are also looking at designating 6,000 further hectares of our forest as wild spaces. This process of 'wilding' aims to restore natural processes so nature can do much better without intervention. Recently Ennerdale in Cumbria became the first northern 'super' national nature reserve - recognised for landscape scale approach to partnership working - with wilding at its core.

What type of organisation are we?

We are a non-profit organisation that reinvests all income back into the environment, helping to address the biodiversity crisis, adapt to climate change and improve people's lives. We are classed as a public corporation which means we receive limited public funding (under 20%) and we generate most of our revenue ourselves. All the money we make goes back into caring for the nation's forests.

We are part of the Forestry Commission - the non-ministerial department responsible for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in England. Forestry Commission is an Executive Agency of Defra.

You can find out more about us at www.forestryengland.uk.