



GROWING OUR FUTURE

The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework

October 2004

The vision for woodland and forestry in the West Midlands is to create a viable and inclusive woodland and forestry sector that maximises sustainable development through delivery of economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the people of the region.



SUMMARY

The West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework (the Framework) aims to inspire and guide those involved in the management of trees, woodlands and forests in the region to secure the sustainable development of this resource. Supported by evidence in the baseline study *A Growing Resource*, the Framework directly connects woodland and forestry to the wider regional agenda, where there are opportunities to improve the quality of life for everyone.

This should result in the continuation of what works well, the development of new benefits for both the woodland and forestry sector and local communities and an improved environment in urban and rural areas and at their interface.

The Framework takes into account the often poor profitability of the extensive timber resource and the changing supply-chain infrastructure. It suggests how to bring together the owners of the resource and wood-related businesses with the public authorities to deliver both economic returns and benefits to the public.

The Framework's vision and its aims, objectives and actions (the Action Plan) have been developed from the key stakeholders' aspirations for the woodland and forestry sector. The Framework has been widely discussed, formulated and adopted during extensive consultation. The work to be done and the resources needed will be set out each year in a Forestry Framework Delivery Plan (the Delivery Plan).



Image: Forestry Commission

OVERARCHING AIMS

The aspirations are for the Framework to:

- Illustrate how regional woodland cover may evolve over several decades, helping to deliver new woodlands and manage existing (under the Regional Spatial Strategy and according to the Framework vision) and to enhance the quality of life in the region.
- Provide a spatial context for the development of woodland and forestry in the region and contribute to urban and rural renaissance through the regional planning process.
- Chart and facilitate an economically viable woodland and forestry sector that is able to deliver the Framework vision and help improve household incomes in rural areas.
- Make clear the relevance of woodland and forestry to people's everyday needs involving local communities wherever possible.
- See a significant increase in the activity of the woodland and forestry sector and its contribution in urban and rural areas and help achieve relevant Public Service Agreement targets.
- Strengthen urban-rural links and see woodland and forestry more successfully embedded in wider urban and rural agendas, particularly in urban fringe areas.
- Improve understanding of regional woodland and forestry at strategic levels and within regional structures so that the woodland and forestry sector can make an effective contribution to other regional policies, delivery plans, joined-up agendas and actions.
- Illustrate good practice in sustainable development processes by minimising the ecological footprint and by demonstrating: how the woodland and forestry sector can make significant contributions and maximise benefits to health, recreation, recycling, renewable energy, urban and rural regeneration and biodiversity conservation; why health and leisure sectors should engage with and invest in woodland and forestry.

Image: Forestry Commission



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A VISION FOR FORESTRY

The Framework is the regional expression of government policy for woodland and forestry in the West Midlands. The consultation carried out in developing the Framework confirmed that trees, woodlands and forests contribute significantly to the lives of everyone in the region.

The Framework identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the woodland and forestry sector and shows where it can contribute to urban and rural regeneration. It links woodland and forestry to every part of government. It also shows where the private sector and government policy can work together on projects that will contribute to the economic, social and environmental improvement of the West Midlands.

The Framework charts how the woodland and forestry sector and its partners can work together to develop priorities and targets for sustainable woodland creation and management in the region. It shows how woodland and forestry can bring public benefits and contribute to the sustainable future of the region's communities, linking with key strategies such as the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Regional Sustainable Development Framework.

There are a number of special features relating to woodland and forestry that characterise the West Midlands when compared with other regions:

- The use of timber in building construction throughout the region's history and across all building types.
- The contribution of woodland and forestry to the diversity and distinctiveness of the region's character and landscapes, including its historic dimension.
- An extensive network of hedgerows, street trees, orchards, veteran trees, parkland, traditional woodland estates and ancient woodland.
- Activity, expertise and commitment to make better use of the woodlands in and around the major urban areas.
- The combination and contrast of remote rural areas in the west of the region, accessible rural areas and urban areas.
- The strong sense of responsibility of owners, especially the influence of traditional estates, organisations and local communities for stewardship of their local trees and woodlands.
- The network of small and micro-businesses based on the woodland resource of the region.
- The experiments connecting forestry and health.
- The significance of the region as a transport hub and the contribution of trees and woodlands in greening the transport corridors and improving the region's image.
- The experience of damage from flooding and other climate change effects.

These special features shape the vision for woodland and forestry in the region, which is as follows: The vision for woodland and forestry in the West Midlands is to create a viable and inclusive woodland and forestry sector that maximises sustainable development through delivery of economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the people of the region.

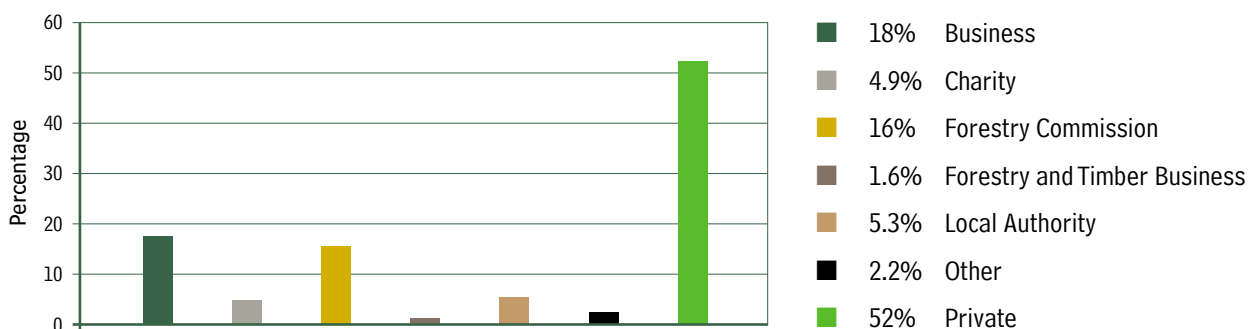
To achieve the vision, the West Midlands woodland and forestry sector needs to help the region earn a reputation for:

- Using trees and woodlands to unify and enhance both urban and rural landscapes and to help create a sense of place at a landscape scale.
- Linking consumer to grower, processor and retailer.
- Promoting quality local wood products for local use.
- Using trees as one of the main tools in urban regeneration and greening programmes.
- Using wood for energy.
- Having high standards of care for woodlands where there is public access.
- Using woodlands and forestry to foster social inclusion and cohesion and education for all, and to promote good health and quality of life.
- Leading the way on collaboration, innovation and invention.
- Conserving hedges, fruit orchards, parkland, leafy public spaces and veteran trees.
- Using trees and woodlands to enhance transport corridors.
- Making use of woodlands for tourism, local recreation and other non timber products.
- Using trees to help manage flood risk, floodwater and alleviate weather extremes.
- Learning from experience and sharing ideas, expertise and resources.
- Protecting and enhancing ancient woodlands.
- Meeting national, regional and local biodiversity targets relating to woodland and forestry.

Growing trees is a long-term activity, and the Framework takes a long-term perspective. Much can be done now, but it may take years to implement some of the changes needed to achieve a sustainable woodland and forestry sector. The Framework shows how the vision will be delivered, illustrated with a number of case studies. Each year a delivery plan will be produced to accompany the Framework, setting out prioritised and detailed actions.

Most woods in the region are privately owned. Achieving the vision depends on partnerships between private and public sectors. With the vision in common, new partnerships can be developed to deliver private and public benefits.

Woodland ownership in the region



THE FRAMEWORK IN CONTEXT

Background

In 2003, the woodland and forestry sector commissioned the baseline study *A Growing Resource* to explore the contribution that woodland and forestry make to the quality of life in the West Midlands. The study clearly showed that woodland and forestry are relevant to all aspects of regional life.

To make more of this resource, the woodland and forestry sector and its partners prepared this Framework. A Steering Group (comprising key regional partners, led by the Government Office for the West Midlands together with the Regional Assembly and facilitated by the Forestry Commission) drove the drafting (see page 73). The Steering Group developed the Framework as a way of linking woodland and forestry to other regional strategies, in order to prioritise resources,

increase woodland and forestry activity and improve the quality of life in urban and rural areas. Throughout the process, the Steering Group consulted hundreds of woodland and forestry practitioners and other stakeholders. The implementation of the Framework is dependent on partnerships and the continued support of stakeholders in the private, public and non-government sectors.

The Framework has been prepared with the next five to ten years in mind. But given the long-term nature of woodland and forestry, its aims and objectives will guide the region for much longer. The Delivery Plan will be reviewed annually. It will detail and prioritise the aims, objectives and actions of the Framework, indicating responsibility for implementation and where the necessary resources may come from.

Image: Forestry Commission



Structure

The Framework is written for policy-makers and woodland and forestry practitioners. It begins with the policy context and then describes the main assets by way of maps, facts and figures, which demonstrate the breadth of woodland and forestry activity in the region.

The Framework vision is supported by a set of operating principles that should underpin all woodland and forestry activity in the region, whether at policy or delivery level. The Action Plan is divided into 11 strategic themes, with accompanying aims, objectives, actions and case studies. These strategic themes will link directly to the Delivery Plan.

A table of woodland and forestry links to Public Service Agreement targets, a glossary and references are shown in appendices.



Birmingham school children.
Image: The National Forest, Photographer – Martyn Pitt

National policy

The Framework is influenced by and sits within a broader national (and international) policy framework. Some of the key national policy imperatives are:

- Sustainable Forestry: the UK Programme (1994) – sets out the UK response to the Rio Summit and subsequent intergovernmental conferences, and accompanies:
- Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan (UKBAP 1994) – prioritises action for conservation of species and habitats.
- England Forestry Strategy (EFS 1998) – focuses on forestry for: rural development; economic regeneration; recreation, access and tourism; and environment and conservation.
- UK Forestry Standard (UKFS 1998) – sets the standard for forestry practice in the UK according to sustainable forest management principles.
- England Rural Development Programme (ERDP 1999) – outlines the shape of rural development support in England 1999-2006.
- A Better Quality of Life – A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK (1999) – sets out criteria and action for sustainable development in the UK.
- Our Towns and Cities: The Future. Delivering an Urban Renaissance (UWP 2000) – sets out a vision for urban renaissance in the UK, and accompanies:
- Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England (RWP 2000) – sets out a vision for rural renaissance in the UK.
- The Rural Strategy 2004 sets out a new devolved and targeted approach to rural policy and delivery over the next three to five years, based on the vision set out in the RWP 2000.
- Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Plan for England (2002) – sets out the priorities for action on biodiversity in England.
- Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003) – sets out a vision for making communities more liveable.
- Energy White Paper 2003: Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy – puts renewable energy at the heart of government's energy policy and response to climate change.

Regional policy

In addition, the Framework sits within a broader regional policy context, with which it seeks to engage.

Key regional policy strategies and plans include:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy (2004) – sets out a statutory policy for regional and local planning, provides a regional policy on woodland and forestry, including the contribution of the woodland and forestry sector to the regional landscape, economy and quality of life. It also requires the statutory monitoring of increases in woodland and forestry, as referred to in Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Creating Advantage. The West Midlands Economic Strategy (2004) – recently revised, outlines the strategy for promoting regional economic development and is accompanied by:
- Delivering Advantage (2004-2010) – the regional delivery plan for the economic strategy. This refers to a number of industry 'clusters,' some of which link to the woodland and forestry sector, the principal ones being: environmental technologies; building technologies; high-value consumer products; tourism and leisure; food and drink.

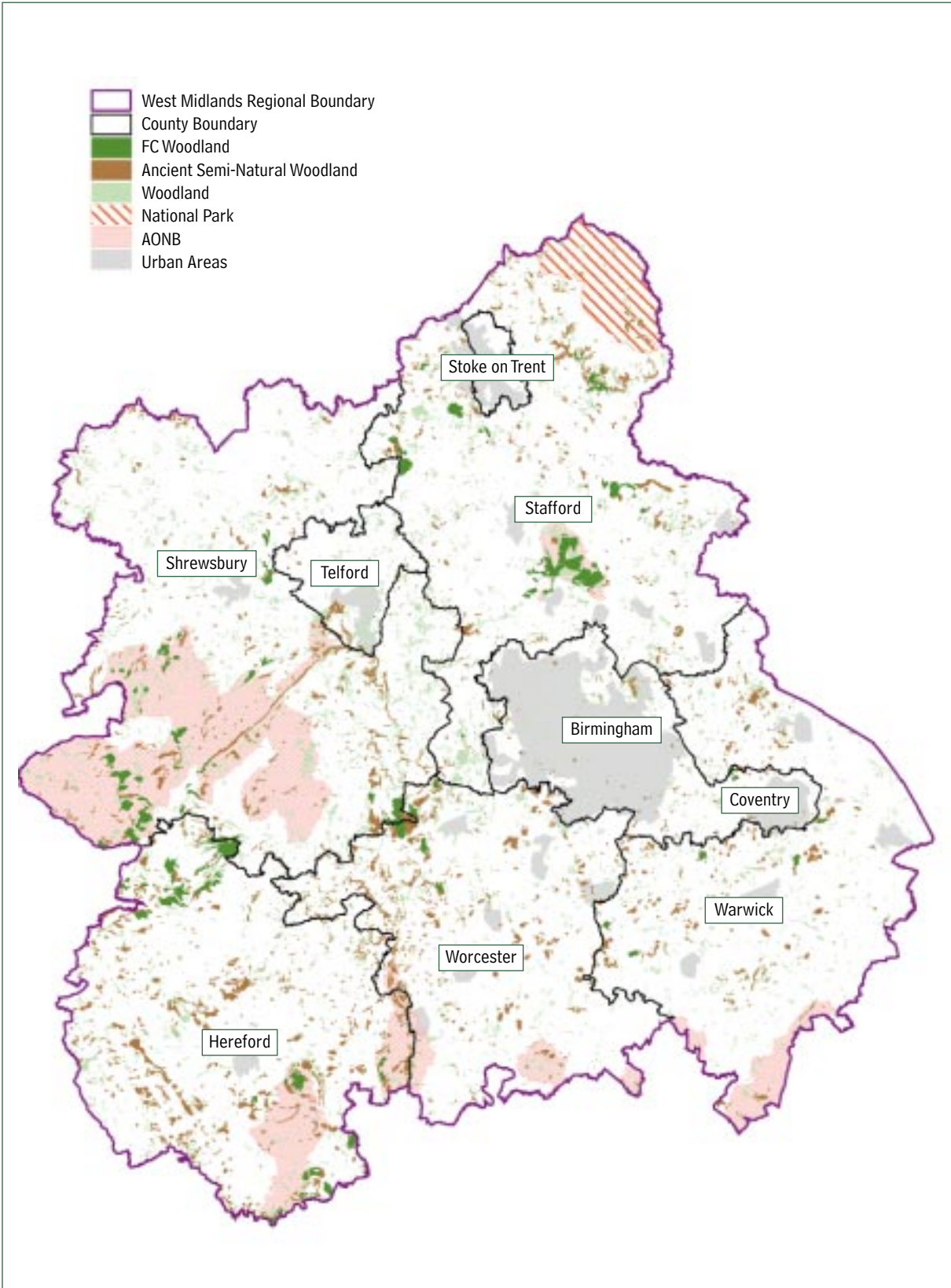


Image: Nick Smith

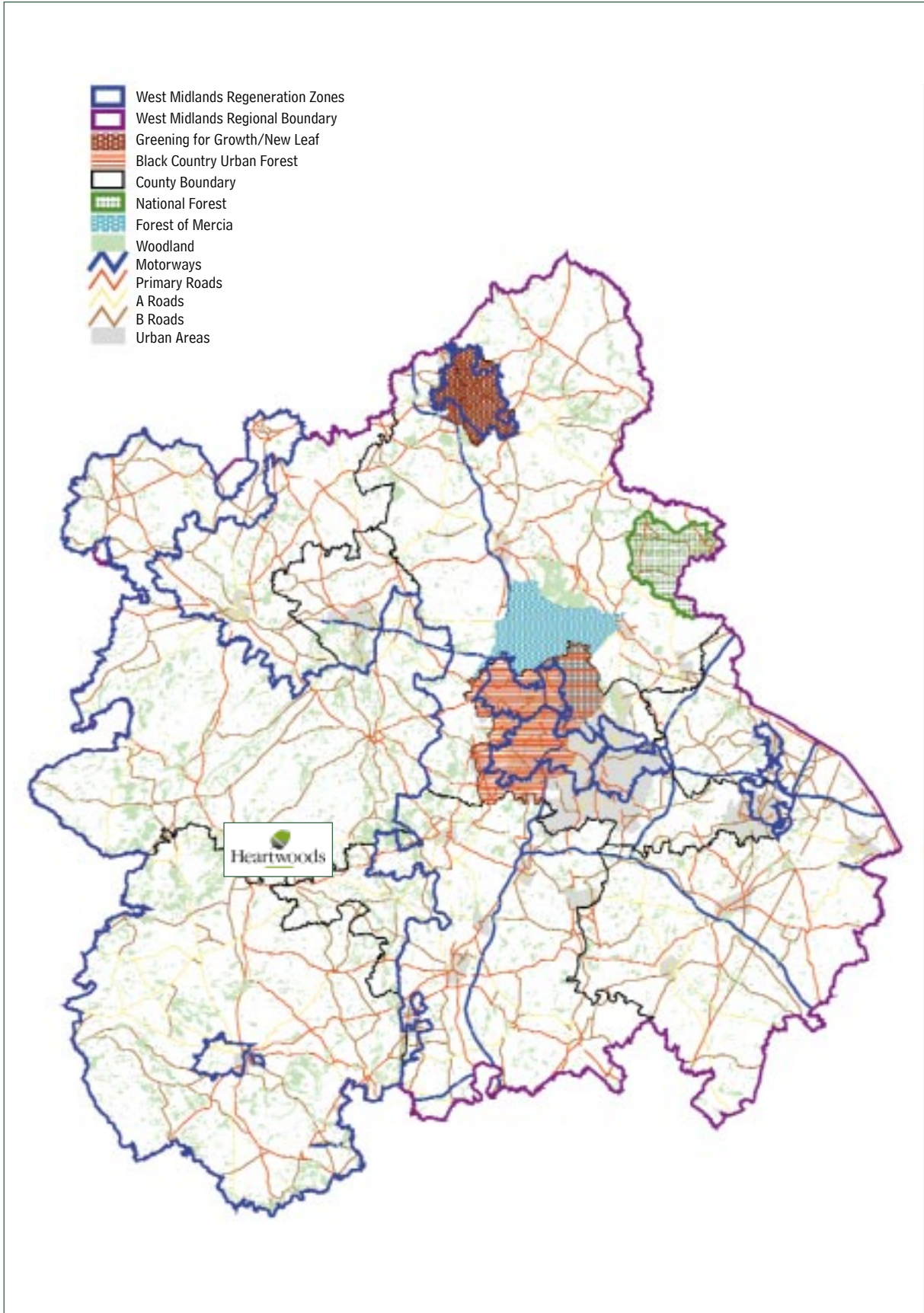
- Building a Competitive Advantage: West Midlands Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA 2002) – sets out a framework for upskilling the regional workforce.
- Benchmarking the Forest Industries in the West Midlands (2003) – sets out a series of actions to address training and upskilling within the regional woodland and forest industries' workforce.
- A Quality of Life, the future starts here – A Sustainable Strategy for the West Midlands (RSDF 1999) – sets out the regional sustainable development framework, now being revised.
- West Midlands Regional Concordat (2003) – an agreement between key regional partners that seeks to secure improved quality of life for people in the West Midlands.
- Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food – West Midlands Delivery Plan (2003) – sets out the key actions for the region in taking forward the Curry report.
- West Midlands Energy Strategy (consultation 2004) – sets out the priorities for the region in achieving the targets outlined in the Energy White Paper.
- Regional Wood Energy Strategy (2003) – outlines a programme for action to develop wood use for energy in the region.
- West Midlands Regional Climate Change Scoping Report – sets out key issues and topics, which will lead to a delivery programme.
- Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (consultation 2004) – sets out the priorities for action in the region.
- Cultural Life in the West Midlands (2001) – sets out the cultural strategy for the region.
- The West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy (2004) – sets out a vision for regional tourism to 2010.

Regional woodland assets maps

Woodland Cover



Woodland Initiatives



Regional woodland and forestry baseline information

In 2003, regional partners commissioned the baseline study *A Growing Resource* into the benefits of woodland and forestry to the quality of life in the West Midlands. The region is known for various special features, including its timber-framed buildings, network of small woods, and apple and pear orchards. It also has an enviable record for urban woodland and forestry, protecting street trees, managing open spaces and creating new urban-fringe woodlands.

The region's total area of woodland and forestry (of 0.1 hectares or more) is 98,474 hectares. This represents 7.6% of the land area (compared with 8.4% for England as whole). There has been an increase of 1.5% in woodland and forestry cover in the region in the past 20 years, a result of significant new planting of broadleaves through various grant schemes. Though the majority of new planting has occurred in the more rural shire counties, more recently there has been shift to planting in the urban and urban fringe areas.

Regional woodland distribution by county

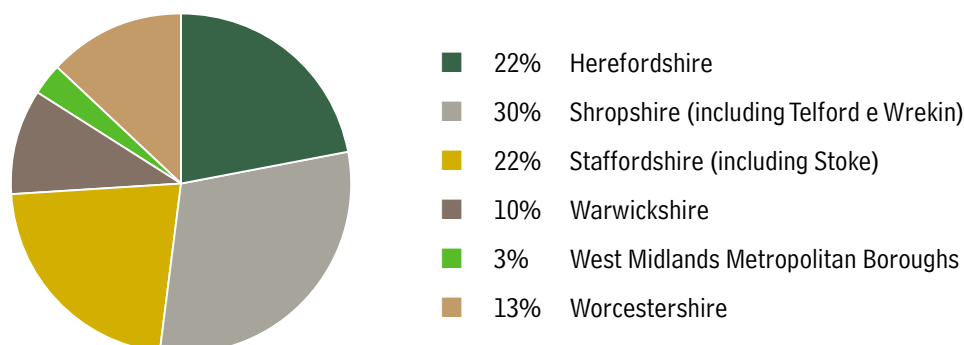


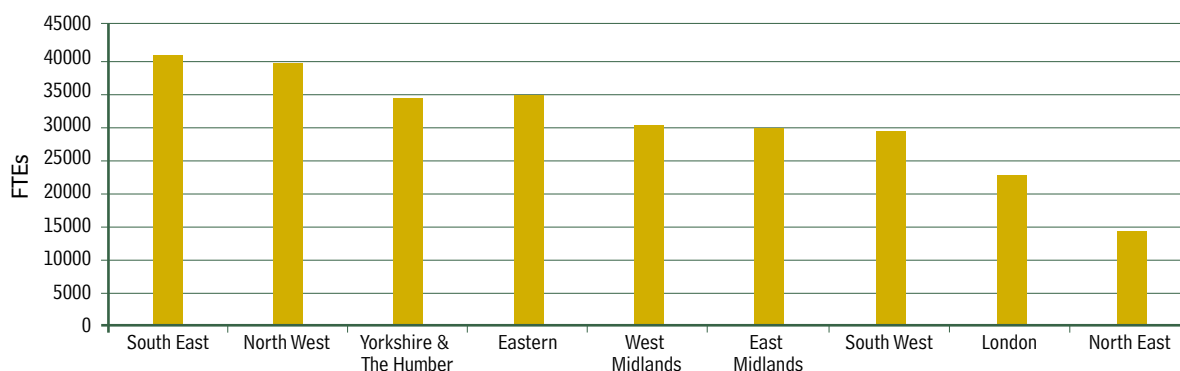
Table 3.1 Area (hectares) of new planting under the Woodland Grant Scheme planted/claimed 1994/5–2004/5 [July]

	Herefordshire	Worcestershire	Staffordshire incl. Stoke	Shropshire incl. Telford e Wrekin	Warwickshire	WM Met. Boros	Total
1994/5-7/8	519	384	309	564	463	133	2372
1998/9	48	102	63	134	78	49	474
1999/2000	103	71	63	101	80	46	464
2000/1	63	103	89	79	42	93	469
2001/2	28	79	61	30	37	16	251
2002/3	45	96	92	115	145	17	510
2003/4	52	126	113	53	125	11	480
2004/5	20	86	225	106	103	8	548
Total	878	1047	1015	1182	1073	373	5568

Woodland and forestry employment can be significant in rural areas, particularly as woodlands can create or help safeguard jobs in association with other land uses. Compared with the region as a whole, a relatively large number of people in the rural areas of the West Midlands are employed in the woodland and forestry industry, through planting and woodland management and related timber production and services.

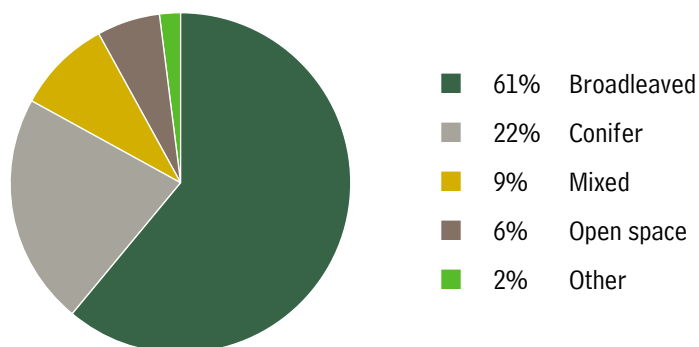
Woodlands and forests also provide tourism, recreational and educational opportunities and associated employment throughout the region, either as attractions or as part of the general landscape. In urban areas, woodlands play an important role in regeneration and landscape improvement, making these areas more attractive and helping to improve the image of the region. This induces inward investment at the same time as improving the quality of life for local people.

Figure 3.2 Total employment in woodland related industries, 2001



Note: Figures are based on the Standard Industrial Classification codes used in the Embedding Industries report plus employment relating to "manufacture of machinery for paper etc" (SIC 2955) and "agents: sale of timber/building material" (SIC 5113)

Woodland type



There is significant variation in the nature and extent of woodland-related activities across the region. In Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, for example, woodlands have traditionally formed part of the local economy (through the local timber industry and sporting use) and of lifestyles (for example, through wood-burning for heat). In urban areas, woodlands tend to be associated more with regeneration and initiatives to encourage community participation and social inclusion (for example the Forest of Mercia community forest). Woodland and forestry are estimated to contribute about £700 million per annum to the economy of the region.



Birmingham school children.

Image: The National Forest, Photographer – Martyn Pitt

Table 3.3 The value of woodland and forestry in the West Midlands

Nature of benefit	Estimated annual value (£ million)
Forestry gross output (including indirect and induced effects)	90.8
Timber processing gross output (including indirect and induced effects)	229.6
Total timber benefits	320.4
Landscape	41.8
Built development	20.7
Recreation and tourism related expenditure	144–195.4
Non-market benefits of recreation and tourism	57.0
Education	2.0
Biodiversity	65.7
Carbon sequestration	9.9
Flood control	0.5
Health	4.5
Total non-timber benefits	346.1–397.5
Total timber and non-timber benefits	666.5–717.9

Figures are sourced from the regional forestry baseline study *A Growing Resource 2003*

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

These operating principles underpin all the actions in the Framework. They complement similar principles in other regional strategies. For the Framework to be successful, it is critical that stakeholders endorse and adopt these principles in their day-to-day work on woodland and forestry, under the auspices of the Regional Woodland and Forestry Forum.



Image: Forestry Commission

Achieving sustainable and integrated growth

Integrated economic, environmental and social benefits should be jointly pursued by all the activities promoted by the Framework; tools such as sustainability appraisals are available to ensure this. Woodland and forestry shares with other sectors the desire for viability and a better quality of life. The sector has a long history of applying the principles of sustainable development to day-to-day management. Now it can demonstrate progress through the forest certification and chain of custody processes.

Looking long term

Policy and planning relating to trees should be long term. Woodland and forestry policy, strategy and activity need stability for the long term. Growing trees is a very long-term business; optimum cropping cycles are about 50 years for softwoods and 100 years for broadleaves. Climate change is also long term with its influence on growing timber and wildlife habitats and species. In contrast, much of the policy framework in which the woodland and forestry sector operates is short term.

Being action-focused

The woodland and forestry sector should be action-focused. The various parts of the sector need to respond to the lead taken by the Framework by generating practical ideas and creating or promoting opportunities, especially at a landscape scale. The Framework contribution to this action-orientated culture includes linking to other regional strategies and supporting the gathering of information, planning and evaluating those roles that are best done at regional level.

Becoming integrated

Woodland and forestry should be integrated, whether by connecting producer to consumer, bringing woodland and forestry together with other sectors, joining up urban and rural areas, linking woodland with other habitats, joining up advice at the point of delivery, or involving collaborations between businesses to be more efficient and effective.

Delivering value for money

Projects supported by public funds should assess their value for money but pay equal attention to economic, environmental and social impacts.

Being knowledge-based

All woodland and forestry sector activities should be based on the business principles of sound research and knowledge. Wherever possible, woodland and forestry sector activity should gather and make available information and data, and share good practice within and between regions.

Raising awareness

Practitioners in the sector should act as advocates for woodland and forestry and the Framework, addressing the low profile and lack of understanding of woodland and forestry in this country.

Respecting environmental assets and designations

The public expects high standards of environmental protection. In day-to-day work, the woodland and forestry sector needs to meet environmental guidelines and standards and to develop best practice that addresses and respects the needs of natural and historic assets, as well as land use and statutory planning designations.

Image: Forestry Commission





There are 11 strategic themes within the Action Plan.

THE ACTION PLAN

Strategic themes, aims, objectives and actions

There are 11 strategic themes within the Action Plan. Each includes a brief comment on the current situation for woodland and forestry and a table showing the aims, objectives and actions, all determined by the stakeholders. With each theme are case studies, as examples to illustrate how the objectives might be achieved. Themes are often closely interlinked, as illustrated in table 5.1 (see page 66).

Case study 1	Woodland Cover (WC)	18
Case study 2	The Woodland and Forestry Industry (WFI)	22
Case study 3	Wood Energy (WE)	26
Case study 4	Recycling (ReC)	30
Case study 5	Recreation and Tourism (RT)	34
Case study 6	Health and Wellbeing (HW)	38
Case study 7	Education, Learning and Skills (ELS)	42
Case study 8	Fostering Social Inclusion (FSI)	46
Case study 9	Enhancing Biodiversity (EB)	50
Case study 10	Natural and Cultural Environmental Benefits (NCEB)	56
Case study 11	Supporting the Regeneration of the West Midlands (SR)	62

MONITORING PROGRESS

The Framework and the Delivery Plan will be routinely monitored and evaluated. The measuring and reporting will be carried out by a group of key stakeholders on behalf of the West Midlands Woodland and Forestry Forum, serviced by the Forestry Commission and Framework Programme Co-ordinator.

Progress on achieving the actions in the Framework will be reported to the West Midlands Regional Assembly. The Framework is one of a number of key regional strategies that are monitored by the Assembly.

Framework actions will contribute to and work in association with action under other regional strategies, such as the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands.

Progress on the work targets in the Delivery Plan will be regularly assessed and reported annually to the West Midlands Woodland and Forestry Forum. This will lead to annual modifications to the Delivery Plan to help achieve the actions and meet the objectives set out in the Framework.

Image: Forestry Commission



APPENDIX

Links to Public Service Agreement Targets

This table is to assist the policy-maker; it links 37 Government targets to the Framework themes and aims.

Selected Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets 2005-08 Set in the Government's 2004 Spending Review	Link to Framework Theme	Link to Framework Objectives
<p>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p> <p>1. Promote sustainable development across Government and in the UK and Internationally, as measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the achievement of positive trends in the Government's headline indicators of sustainable development; the UK's progress towards delivering the World Summit on Sustainable development commitments, notably in the areas of sustainable consumption and production, chemicals, fisheries and agriculture and; progress towards internationally agreed commitments to tackle climate change. 	All	
<p>2. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels in line with our Kyoto commitment and move towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010, through measures including energy efficiency and renewables. [Joint target with DTI and DfT]</p>	2, 3, 4, 10, 11	WFI2, WE1, WE2, WE3, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, NCEB2, NCEB3, SR2, SR3
<p>3. Care for our natural heritage, make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all, and preserve biological diversity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reversing the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends; and bringing into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites. 	All	
<p>4. Reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2008, demonstrating progress by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for rural people.</p>	2, 3, 4, 7, 11	WFI3, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, HW1, HW4, SR1, SR2, SR3
<p>5. Deliver more consumer-focused, competitive and sustainable farming and food industries and secure further progress, via Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations, in reducing CAP trade-distorting support.</p>	1, 2, 3, 11	WC1, WFI3, WE2, EB6
<p>6. Enable 25% of household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005-06, with further improvements by 2008.</p>	4, 11	ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, SR 1
<p>8. Improve air quality by meeting the Air Quality Strategy targets for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1-3 butadiene. [Joint target with DfT]</p>	1, 10	WC3, NCEB1, NCEB2, NCEB3
<p>Office of the Deputy Prime Minister</p> <p>1. Tackle social exclusion and deliver neighbourhood renewal, working with departments to help them meet their PSA floor targets, in particular narrowing the gap in health, education, crime, worklessness, housing and liveability outcomes between the most deprived areas and the rest of England, with measurable improvements by 2010.</p>	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11	WFI3, WE2, RT1, HW1, HW2, ELS1, FSI1, FSI2, FSI3, NCEB1, NCEB3, SR1, SR2, SR3

Selected Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets 2005-08 Set in the Government's 2004 Spending Review	Link to Framework Theme	Link to Framework Objectives
2. Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions by 2008, and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, demonstrating progress by 2006. [Joint target with DTI and HM Treasury], including by establishing Elected Regional Assemblies in regions which vote in a referendum to have one.	2, 3, 4, 5, 11	WF11, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, RT2, SR1 SR2, SR3, SR4
4. By 2008, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of local government in leading and delivering services to all communities.	All	
5. Achieve a better balance between housing availability and the demand for housing, including improving affordability, in all English regions while protecting valuable countryside around our towns, cities and in the greenbelt and the sustainability of existing towns and.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11	WC1, WC2, WF1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, RT3, HW1, HW2, FSI1, FSI2, FSI3, NCEB2, NECB3, SR1, SR2, SR3
6. The planning system to deliver sustainable development outcomes at national, regional and local levels through efficient and high quality planning and development management processes, including through achievement of best value standards for planning by 2008.	1, 8, 11	WC2, WC3, WC6, FSI2, SR1, SR2
8. Lead the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and improvement of the quality of the built environment in deprived areas and across the country, with measurable improvement by 2008.	1, 6, 8, 11	WC2, HW1, HW2, SR1,SR2
Department of Trade and Industry		
4. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels in line with our Kyoto commitment and move towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010, through measures including energy efficiency and renewables. [Joint with Defra and DfT]	2, 3, 4, 10, 11	WF12, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, NCEB2, NCEB3, SR2, SR3
6. Build an enterprise society in which small firms of all kinds thrive and achieve their potential, with (i) an increase in the number of people considering going into business, (ii) an improvement in the overall productivity of small firms, and (iii) more enterprise in disadvantaged communities.	2, 3, 4, 7, 8	WF12, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ELS4, FSI2
7. Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions by 2008, and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, demonstrating progress by 2006. [Joint target with ODPM and HM Treasury]	2, 3, 4, 7, 8	WF11, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, RT2, SR1 SR2, SR3, SR4
Home Office		
6. Increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.	All	
7. Reduce race inequalities and build community cohesion.	5, 6, 8, 11	RT1, RT4, HW1, HW2, FSI2, FSI4, SR1
Department of Health		
1. Substantially reduce mortality rates by 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● from heart disease and stroke and related diseases by at least 40%, in people under 75, with at least a 40% reduction in the inequalities gap between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole; ● from cancer by at least 20% in people under 75, with a reduction in the inequalities gap of at least 6% between the fifth of areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole; and ● from suicide and undetermined injury by at least 20% 	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS3, ELS4, FSI1, FSI2, FSI3
3. Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reducing adult smoking rates by 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26% or less; 	6, 7, 8	HW1, HW2, ELS3, ELS4, FSI1, FSI2, FSI3

Selected Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets 2005-08 Set in the Government's 2004 Spending Review	Link to Framework Theme	Link to Framework Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● halting the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 20110 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole [Joint target with DfES & DfCMS] and ● reducing the under-18 conception rates by 50% by 2010 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. [Joint target with DfES] 		
114.To improve health outcomes for people with long-term conditions by offering personalised care plans for vulnerable people most at risk; and to reduce emergency bed days by 5% by 2008, through improved care in primary care and community settings for people with long-term conditions.	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS3, ELS4, FS11, FS12, FS13
<p>Department for Education and Skills</p> <p>3. Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reducing adult smoking rates by 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26% or less; ● halting the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 20110 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole [Joint target with DoH & DfCMS] and ● reducing the under-18 conception rates by 50% by 20101 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. [Joint target with DoH] 	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS3, ELS3, FS11, FS12, FS13
9. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16 year olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006 and to 85% by 2008, and to at least 75% in each School Sport Partnership by 2008. [Joint target with DE&S].	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS2, ELS3, FS11
<p>13. Increase the number of adults with the skills required for employability and progression to higher levels of training through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● improving the basic skill levels of 2.25 million adults between the launch of Skills for Life in 2001 and 20101, with a milestone of 1.5 million in 2007; and ● reducing by at least 40% the number of adults in the workforce who lack NVQ 2 or equivalent qualifications by 2010. Working towards this, one million adults in the workforce to achieve level 2 between 2003 and 2006. 	2, 7	WF11, WF12, ELS1, ELS3, ELS4
<p>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</p> <p>1. Enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5 to 16 year olds so that the percentage of school children in England who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25% in 2002 to 75% by 2006 and to 85% by 2008, and to at least 75% in each School Sport Partnership by 2008. [Joint target with DE&S].</p>	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS2, ELS3, FS11, FS12, FS13
<p>2. Tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reducing adult smoking rates by 21% or less by 2010, with a reduction in prevalence among routine and manual groups to 26% or less; ● halting the year-on-year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 20110 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole [Joint target with DoH & DfCMS] and ● reducing the under-18 conception rates by 50% by 20101 as part of a broader strategy to improve sexual health. [Joint target with DoH] 	5, 6, 7, 8	RT3, HW1, ELS2, FS11, FS12, FS13
<p>3. By 2008, increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above from priority groups by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● increasing the number who participate in active sports at least twelve times a year; by 3% and increasing the number who engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport at least three times per week by 3%; ● Increase the number who participate in arts activity at least twice a year by 2%, and increasing the number who attend arts events at least twice a year by 2%; 	5, 6, 7, 8	RT1, RT3, HW1, HW2, ELS2, ELS3, FS11

Selected Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets 2005-08 Set in the Government's 2004 Spending Review	Link to Framework Theme	Link to Framework Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● increasing the number accessing museums and galleries and collections by 2% and ● increasing the number visiting designated historic environment sites by 3%. 		
4. By 2008, improve the productivity of the tourism, creative and leisure industries.	2, 5, 7, 8	WFI1, WFI2, RT1, RT2, RT3, RT4, ELS2, ELS4, FSI2
<p>Department for Work and Pensions</p> <p>4. As part of the wider objective of full employment in every region, over the three years to Spring 2008, and taking account of the economic cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate [Joint target with HMT] ● increase the employment rates of disadvantaged groups, (lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and those living in the local authority districts with the poorest initial labour market position), and ● significantly reduce the difference between the employment rates of the disadvantaged groups and the overall rate. 	2, 3, 5, 7, 8	WFI2, WE1, RT1, RT2, ELS1, ELS2, FSI2, FSI3
<p>Department for Transport</p> <p>6. Improve air quality by meeting the Air Quality Strategy targets for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1-3 butadiene. [Joint target with Defra]</p>	1, 10	WC3, NCEB1, NCEB2, NCEB3
7. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels in line with our Kyoto commitment and move towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010, through measures including energy efficiency and renewables. [Joint target with DTI and Defra]	2, 3, 4, 10, 11	WFI2, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, NCEB2, NCEB3, SR2, SR3
<p>Her Majesty's Treasury</p> <p>6. Joint target with ODPM-PSA2 and DTI-PSA7</p>	2, 3, 4, 5, 11	WFI1, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, RT2, SR1, SR2, SR3
<p>5. As part of the wider objective of full employment in every region, over the three years to Spring 2008, and taking account of the economic cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● demonstrate progress on increasing the employment rate [Joint target with HMT] ● increase the employment rates of disadvantaged groups, (lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, those with the lowest qualifications, and those living in the local authority districts with the poorest initial labour market position), and ● significantly reduce the difference between the employment rates of the disadvantaged groups and the overall rate [Joint target with DWP] 	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	WFI2, WE1, RT1, RT2, ELS1, ELS2
6. Make sustainable improvements in the economic performance of all English regions by 2008, and over the long term reduce the persistent gap in growth rates between the regions, [Joint target with ODPM & DTI]	2, 3, 4, 5, 11	WFI1, WE1, WE2, ReC1, ReC2, ReC3, RT2, SR1, SR2, SR3, SR4
<p>HM Revenue and Customs</p> <p>By 2007-08 reduce the scale of VAT losses to no more than 11% of the theoretical liability</p>	2	WFI3

GLOSSARY

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	NUFU	National Urban Forest Unit
ANGSt	English Nature standards for access	ODPM	Office of Deputy Prime Minister
ASNW	Ancient semi-natural woodland	PCT	Primary Care Trust – delivering local health care
AWM	Advantage West Midlands – the regional development agency	PSA	Public Service Agreement
BAP/s	Biodiversity Action Plan/s	PAWS	Plantation Ancient Woodland Sites
BC	Butterfly Conservation Society	RA	Ramblers Association
COGAP	Codes of Good Agricultural Practice	RBS	Regional Biodiversity Strategy
CA	Countryside Agency	RDS	Rural Development Service (Defra)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	RES	Regional Economic Strategy
EA	Environment Agency	Regen WM	The Regeneration Centre of Excellence for the West Midlands
EFS	England Forestry Strategy	R&D	Research and Development
ERDP	England Rural Development Programme	SAP	Species Action Plan
EA	Environment Agency	Section 16	of the CroW Act allows the owner of any land, or lessee with not less than 90 years of their lease outstanding, to irrevocably dedicate that land for public access
EH	English Heritage	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
EN	English Nature	SWM	Sustainability West Midlands
EU	European Union	UKFPA	United Kingdom Forestry Products Association
FEI	Forest Education Initiative	UKWAS	United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard
FoM	Forest of Mercia	WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme
FC	Forestry Commission	WIG	Woodland Improvement Grant
FE	Forest Enterprise	WM	West Midlands region as defined by Government Office
FRESA	Framework for Regional Education and Skills Action	WMBP	West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership
GOWM	Government Office West Midlands	WMRA	West Midlands Regional Assembly
HAP	Habitat Action Plan	WMRFF	West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework (the Framework)
Lantra	The land based sector industry lead body	WMWFF	West Midlands Woodland and Forestry Forum
LSC	Learning and Skills	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
LDFs	Local Development Frameworks		
MEP	Member of the European Parliament		
NFC	National Forest Company		
NT	National Trust		

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