



Progress update October 2007

Chair's Foreword

The phrase 'joined-up' is the scourge of political sketch-writers and Plain English campaigners everywhere but it is, undoubtedly, a phrase that begs to be used in relation to the delivery of the Forestry Framework for England's Northwest.

So use it we will.

We have spent the last year and a half joining things up and getting things done.

Our partnership is joined up: Government departments, local authorities and the voluntary sector are all playing a part in steering the delivery of our Framework. Our sector has also reached out and struck new and practical partnerships, such as with the health sector or our regional environmental technologies champion, Envirolink Northwest.

We have also joined-up our projects and actions where we can, in areas such as supporting the timber sector or greening our urban areas, we have seen different actions in our Framework bundled up into projects that could help us deliver on a number of fronts.

It may be jargon, but 'joined-up' works well to describe the Northwest's Forestry Framework and the way it works.

As a cursory glance over the following pages will show, there is co-coordinated activity across the region taking forward a host of actions set out in our 'Agenda for Growth'. Of the 47 actions in our plan, 32 are underway and the remainder will almost all be coming on-stream in the coming year.

So across our six areas of action we are genuinely helping to bring the businesses working in woodlands and forestry together more closely into a recognizable sector; we are enhancing our region's image through green space development and we have plans for the transformation of gateway sites; we are supporting 'greener' farming and seeing the restoration of natural areas; we are making good links with the health sector, with education and with the prison service; we are putting efforts into developing biomass as a sustainable energy source within the region; and we are staying focused, in our sixth action area, on how we can keep improving our performance as a sector not least with the launch of a new Rural Development Programme for England.

And I am particularly pleased that we are planning a few, signature projects out of the Forestry Framework 'stable' that hit a number of our targets across differing action areas. These include a plan for a conference and PR campaign called 'Form>Wood' which will target the architecture, design and urban development sectors with the message that wood is the sustainable and contemporary material of choice. We are also launching a programme to really get to the heart of whether our urban tree cover is as healthy as we think it is or should be and will use the results of our surveying work to raise the game of our local authorities, in particular.

So there is plenty of progress in greening the region and supporting the sector, but there are many, many challenges that remain.

We must continue to expand our partnerships beyond the usual suspects. We need to develop more joint projects like the recent Land Remediation Network we've established with Envirolink and we seriously need to improve our linkages to the private sector.

We need to ask ourselves, honestly, if we are trying to do too much or if the Framework is adding enough value to the region's endeavours in our area. We must ensure we are the very opposite of a talking shop: we must be a source of action, activity and transformation.

We have to reach out and ensure that a much wider audience hears of our progress and finds out what they can do to partner up with us and help deliver our programme. We must create more of a 'buzz' now that our projects and activities are taking form.

And we have to improve the entire sector's performance in a few key areas.

We have to get better at influencing regional strategies and helping shape our region's future; a new Regional Economic Strategy is being developed and we have on the horizon the prospect of an Integrated Regional Strategy which should have woodlands, forestry and green space as a key component; the true 'setting' for prosperity and growth.

We must do our part to deliver against the region's Climate Change Action Plan, particularly in the adaptation to climate change impacts where woodlands forestry has the power seriously help to improve the resilience of both our rural and urban areas.

Finally we need to strive for ever better levels of design and delivery. If we are given the incredible opportunity of programmes like Newlands we must create spaces and places that inspire and transform communities; that rival anything, anywhere in the world; that make England's Northwest a region that attracts talent, investment and trade.



In 2008 we will be working to freshen up our Action Plan in the face of new national and regional developments but there will be no new strategies or visions or frameworks in the next few years; we have our plan, our stakeholders have agreed it and we will be sticking at it until all of our actions are delivered and all of our promises are made good.

Alongside a few other key areas of regional endeavour, such as the knowledge economy, climate change and work to achieve greater levels of community cohesion; our sector - woodlands and forestry - has pivotal role to play in delivering a more sustainable region for the future, a greener future for England's Northwest.

Steve Connor, Chair, Northwest Forestry Framework

Progress at a glance

After 18 months 43 of the 47 actions in the Action Plan are underway.

89 % are progressing according to plan or are ahead of schedule	
11% are behind schedule	

The following sections provide more details on progress in each action area.

Action Area 1 - Developing and supporting our woodland and forestry businesses

Lead	David Hunter - NWDA
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Priorities for Action

- a) The range of employment options and diversity of skills needed in modern forestry has widened substantially from the requirements of traditional forestry. These new career paths need specialist training provision to meet the specific needs of the sector in the North West.
- b) Existing business advice services need to provide, and be seen to provide, support that meets the specific requirements of the woodland and forestry sector.
- c) The timber sector in its broadest sense will benefit from increased cooperation, both within and beyond the region, to enhance its value to the North West.
- d) A strategic programme is needed to build on the environmental credentials of the sector. Particular efforts should be made to develop the true potential of wood energy and the opportunities offered by marketing of regional forest products with a view to influencing the development of local and regional timber product purchasing policies.

Progress to date

Action	Lead	Update
1 Create an accurate and comprehensive regional database of businesses in the sector	NWDA FC	Forest Initiatives and industry bodies databases will form the basis for a comprehensive regional database to be completed by December 2007.

2	Build an adequate profile for forestry and timber sector skills issues	National School of Forestry SSPA/Lantra	Opportunity for NSF to be represented at the SSPA brokered. Forestry and timber sector skills issues to be 07/08 item for SSPA.
3	Encourage land based SSPA to undertake audit of forestry sector skills needs, focussing on business support, distinguishing likely universal and more targeted needs of the sector Develop Forestry Centre of Excellence (COVE) and its linkages with other sectors	NSF land based SSPA /LANTRA NWDA	The National School of Forestry and Myerscough College, Preston, have been jointly awarded Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) status for the northwest by the Learning and Skills Council. A £550,000 grant over the next three years will help both bodies to develop forestry and arboriculture education in the region. The money will be used to acquire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mixed training woodland • Specialist training equipment to develop new courses • A Mobile Learning Unit to support work-based learning throughout the northwest • In addition some of the money will be used towards the construction of a £1m state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly building at the Newton Rigg, Penrith campus to house The National School of Forestry. • At Myerscough College a new Arboriculture Unit will be built, creating a hi-tech learning facility. <p>The Cumbria Campus/Myerscough College CoVEs is one of 400 being set up by the Learning & Skills Council to develop high quality local, regional, national and sector specialisms by providing relevant education and training for the workforce.</p>
4	Influence lead regional partners (Rural Development Programme for England & Rural Business Support	NWDA Forest, Timber and paper	Significant input by partners to ensure the forestry sector is well represented in each of the sub regional RDPE plans. Specific focus on forestry as part of NWDA consultation on RDPE and work also developing on a potential region wide proposal to RDPE for the forest sector.

	Group) to ensure adequate future support for forestry and timber businesses.	industry sector	
5	Explore how professional bodies can provide the technical expertise and specialist business support needed in this sector	NWDA NSF Forestry Representation bodies	NWDA made initial contact with ICF to explore how professional bodies can provide the technical expertise and specialist business support needed in this sector in preparation for this 08/09 action.
6	Work with wood promotion bodies to bring more national timber promotion events to the north west and identify opportunities for joint activity	CFNW Other woodlands initiatives	Ongoing work to host a major timber design conference in the NW – The Form >Wood conference is scheduled for early Spring 2008 Wood users and producers network set up in Mersey Forest area.
7	Develop a pilot Forestry Sector Leadership programme to promote networking and assist in the development of a sector leadership group. Cluster development through England Forest Industries Partnership northwest (EFIPNW) that Share knowledge/skills Develop a market led not supply led approach Link with Scottish and	NWDA FC Private Sector/ Industry Education establishments	Concept document (for use in securing funding) being developed by NWDA to support the development of a Leadership Programme. “Form>Wood” Conference being developed to promote wood as a sustainable material in architecture and design to provide a catalyst for new build in wood in the region and to bring together the timber sector with the building and design sector in the region as a headline event as part of signposting markets for high quality timber. Progress with EFIP outside of the group meetings themselves has been slow and the impact of EFIP regionally has therefore been scant. EFIP Work Plan Priorities are currently being drafted. NWDA and FC Regional Director met with Welsh Forestry Cluster Managers to learn more about activity in Wales and the links to the Northwest with North East Wales.

	<p>Welsh campaigns' Action Plans to promote framework</p> <p>Link to national wood for good campaign</p> <p>Signpost markets for high quality timber and work to develop markets for poor quality timber e.g. wood fuel.</p>		<p>Ongoing work in NW Woodland initiatives – users and producers group established in Mersey Forest area in 2007.</p>
8	<p>Establish and develop a north west woodlands portal - www.lwood.org.uk</p>	<p>NW RFF Delivery Group</p>	<p>Site now up and running with material added through the year to update on progress of the RFF. Site to have an interactive blog added in Autumn 2007.</p>

Action Area 2 - Using woodlands and forestry to promote and improve the image of the region

Lead	Paul Nolan - The Mersey Forest
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Priorities for Action

- a) A coherent and ambitious programme of gateway and transport corridor greening across the region will provide a major improvement to 'first impressions'.
- b) Our region should be strategically and practically promoting our woodland-based and woodland-linked tourism destinations to extend and enhance the visitor experience in the North West.
- c) Building on the North West's reputation as a leader in this area, more can be done to promote our work on woodlands as a viable tool in the regeneration and reclamation of derelict land.
- d) Influencing the planning system and providing advice and guidance to planners will encourage the integration of trees and woodlands into development schemes.

Action		Lead	Update
9	Map the main gateways and Map of key target areas Funding in place for	FC/NWDA	Mapping complete and information being assessed at present, sub regional partnerships have all been asked to contribute and have all shown some interest in the work. Assessment of existing initiatives that could assist in delivery of aspects of greening gateways underway.

10	Develop links to Liverpool Capital of Culture 2008	CFNW	Contact maintained with Capital of Culture Company, link with high profile artist project being developed with MF as a sponsor of the tree part of the project! Funding bids being developed for "Dendartistree" having completed initial feasibility work. Forest Fever in Mersey Forest in 2008 will focus on art and culture in the Forest
11	Continue to deliver Newlands and Targeted programme of Improved image for the region	FC	Both programmes now underway, more detailed progress reports available from project manager. Newlands 1 and 2 is now a £59 m programme extending to 2013 for the capital programme with commitment to 2112 by FC and targeting the reclamation of over 800ha of derelict land. RENEW are hosting a seminar focusing on Newlands as an exemplar reclamation programme. <u>RENEW Masterclass: Newlands - Land Regeneration for the 21st Century</u> Date: 25 October 2007 Location: MANCAT, One Central Park, Northampton Street, Manchester
12	Input into GI Guide	NWRA	Guide now complete and to be circulated at first GI Forum meeting on 12th September. Available at www.greeninfrastructurenw.org.uk
13	Key Facts for Developers and planners toolkit	NWRA	Questionnaire complete, coordinating work with questionnaire for AA3 on urban tree issues. Information to be sent out by e/o October and compile info for next RFF meeting. The questionnaire will look at current planning guidance and trees and woodlands strategies across the NW to assess where there gaps and need for toolkit approaches to share best practice etc.
14	Development of Network of expertise in land remediation	Envirolink	Network now established - 2 Advisory board meetings, launch event on 9th October, web site up and running, 34 members so far. Event on 9th October has over 80 people attending Information available on Envirolink website http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk/Envirolink/LandRemediation-sig.nsf?OpenDatabase

15	Identify potential for Forest Parks that in the future may become visitor destinations	Tourist Boards	Underway for south of the region, will look to north of the region over next 3 months for potential sites using knowledge of FC, Forest initiatives and use of the national woodland inventory.
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Action Area 3 - Maximising the benefits that trees and woodland bring to our region's biodiversity and landscape

Lead	Clare Mumford – Natural England
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Priorities for Action

- a) A joint agenda for agriculture and woodlands will deliver continued improvements for trees and woodlands, and schemes will be supported that bring benefits to our region's landscape, biodiversity and to forestry businesses.
- b) The linkage and expansion of existing areas of woodland, if carried out sensitively, will create more functional and biologically diverse habitats, addressing the effect of our fragmented woodlands.
- c) Consistent engagement with policy makers will ensure that the importance of trees and woodlands is fully appreciated and is visibly included in the key regional policies and strategies that will shape the future of the North West.
- d) Targeting key woodlands for entry into management schemes and providing protection for ancient woodlands and important trees will meet landscape and biodiversity objectives in the North West. Tree and woodland management should also contribute to the achievement of Habitat and Species Biodiversity Action Plan targets.

Action	Lead	Update
16 Initiate, support & implement landscape scale projects & their promotion	NE / FC	A number of projects are progressing well where forestry & woodlands are being integrated into wider land management schemes eg: - Cumbria Wealth of Wildlife, Wild Ennerdale, Grizedale valley farming & forestry - Cheshire Delamere Forest restoration of bogs in forest context
17 Identify geographical gaps using Joint	NE/FC	This will largely be done via Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) targeting within ES scheme. Work pending.

	Character Areas (JCAs) or other spatial divisions as appropriate, where new projects are needed to achieve objectives & build ecological networks		New initiative on deer management in South Cumbria in order to achieve SSSI condition objectives (see 20 below)
18	Review Woodland Visions across the region	Woodland initiatives / local authorities	No definite progress to date. Cumbria vision needs renewing: funding still needs to be secured. Lancs vision is new and being actively used. Cheshire woodland strategy was produced in the 1990s. No plans currently to update this, though there may be opportunities for refreshing it in future connected to landscape character work?
19	Increase tree planting in urban areas	Local authorities	Mersey Forest, Red Rose Forest, Pennine Edge Forest are delivering on behalf of local authorities significant urban tree planting programmes through Merseyside and Greater Manchester. They are also strongly influencing other agencies (eg via regeneration plans & programmes) on delivery. Questionnaire to be circulated on 1 Oct to NW local authority tree officers to scope out issues for further research.
20	Continued support & management of the Deer Management Groups	Deer initiatives	NW Association of Deer Management Groups is currently refreshing its structure & strategy in order to tackle significant issues of deer management.
21	Map all the Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) ancient & semi-natural woodland areas in NW	FC/NE	No work to date. NE has current woodland inventory for sites over 2 hectares across the region. NE unlikely to progress mapping of < 2ha this year due to other work commitments.
22	Provide incentives through proactive targeting & appropriate scoring / weighting of England Woodland Grants Scheme (EWGS)	NE / FC	Ongoing work. ES HLS targeting statements have woodlands & ancient trees incorporated into them. FC/NE joint funded project, delivered by Cumbria Woodlands, is progressing well to encourage land managers to apply for EWGS, in order to improve Cumbria woodland SSSIs condition.

	and Environmental Stewardship schemes		
23	Provision of advice & long-term woodland planning assistance to give landowners more confidence to manage their woodlands sustainably for biodiversity	FC / NE	Ongoing work via woodland initiatives and NE and FC advisers.
24	<p>Introduce a veteran tree scheme for the NW</p> <p>Promote veteran tree management through Environmental Stewardship</p> <p>Promote & utilise Ancient Tree Hunt findings</p>	NE	<p>Ancient tree management is written into ES HLS targeting statements. HLS targeting is being reviewed, and any proactive work on ancient trees will be part of this review package.</p> <p>A national Woodland Trust campaign for ancient trees started in Spring 2007, with official launch date of 25 June, promoting people's participation in surveying and identifying ancient trees in their locality. Website now live. 11 volunteers trained in North England, including Lancs, Cumbria & Merseyside representatives. Ancient trees recorded to date (figures awaiting verification): Cumbria 226, Lancs 13, Cheshire 18.</p> <p>Elwood is putting together proposals for HLF funding for work on ASNW & local hunting forests in East Lancashire</p>

Action Area 4 Using woodlands to improve our health, well-being and quality of life

Lead	Penny Oliver – Forestry Commission
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Priorities for Action

- a) We must work with woodland owners to develop a multi-purpose woodland management approach that caters for the needs of different recreational users, and engage with tourism and leisure bodies to increase the promotion of accessible woodlands.
- b) Targeted woodland creation and management would deliver enhanced access to woodlands near areas of high population density and significant quality of life benefits.
- c) Policies linking woodlands and health to local authority planning must be encouraged, while hospitals and other healthcare establishments can lead the way by developing woodlands and green space within their grounds. The ongoing development of schemes such as GP referrals for exercise must be encouraged.
- d) The region should take every opportunity to develop woodlands and associated activities that utilise them as outdoor classrooms in which to build life skills.

Action		lead	Update
25	Map woodlands against need and opportunity including existing programme, accessibility and barriers	Produce maps showing health 'need'	FC lead on mapping & liaison with Public Health team, GONW Have redone health and woodland maps with new PCT boundaries (TEP). NHS has provided point data for their estate. On NHS/SHA Green Summit steering group
		Access database giving locations and details about accessible woodlands in the region	FC/WT lead on mapping Initiatives have contacted own LA's – have provided some updated contact details and chased contributions.
		Current intervention programmes	CFNW lead on programme information Made links with Cumbria PCT – Cumbria PA Co-ordinator has sent contacts through. Have had other contacts from Lancashire and Liverpool.
26	Targeted woodland creation and management using mapping above which will identify gaps and priority places and people	New woodland in targeted areas	FC, CFNW/ Woodland Initiatives, WT, NE Have spatial information on where Woodland Creation Grant has been given in past 2/3 years

		Increased access to existing woodland in target areas		Are collecting information on where WIG access schemes have enabled access
27	Collect and promote best Practice for Practitioners, landowners and agents on access, recreation opportunities, engagement and health, using information from current pilot projects	Best Practice directory created on iwood website	NE, Woodland Initiatives, CF's	No lead body available at this time Agreed need to build links with existing BP information such as action 25 work to try to take this action forward.
28	Promotion of woodlands as a resource to deliver existing health, sport and physical activity schemes	Links made with local schemes	Woodland Initiatives, CFNW, NE	In action 25 started making some links with schemes. Some good links into SPAA's.
29	Advocacy and influencing of decision makers	Form relationships with key decision makers & funders	FC lead	Good relationship with key contacts in DoH in GONW and NHS estates. On regional Physical Activity taskforce and Cumbria PA Forum
	Influence LAA's		FC, Defra	Working with Defra agencies on developing LAA guidance for local

			agencies & woodland initiatives GONW	contacts including targets on accessible green space and health schemes Have liaised with GONW Public health team
30	Assess pilot Forest Schools in region, promote approach and establish training capacity. Investigate links with other schemes such as eco-schools and healthy schools, using school grounds and local woodlands as a resource	Higher Education Certificate in Developing Forest Schools	NSF	There have been 2 cohorts recruited onto the new HE Certificate in Development Forest Schools. The learners are a mixture of play workers, youth workers and teachers. Sure Start has paid for the play workers.
		Early years pilot	NSF	The Early Years Centre on campus continues to provide forest school sessions as part of its curriculum and continues to be the only provider in the area which also gives it an edge in the open market. The sessions have now been extended to provide play scheme programmes for the older leavers and siblings up to eleven years old.
		Eden Brows developed for older children	NSF	The forest schools' site at Eden Brows, Armathwaite has been well used by local schools and youth clubs in conjunction with Newton Rigg staff.
		Other Forest Schools	NSF	We are building up a data base of those active in Northwest. Had a meeting with Woodland Education Trust members. We have recently secured a tender with Cumbria Surestart to deliver two introductory Forest School sessions North and South of the county.
		Training capacity	NSF	Frontier Education have been developing training with Eden local schools in partnership with ECO (Eden Grove School) and have

				<p>developed a six week development programme with St Aidans School in Carlisle.</p> <p>FREETT funded a pilot sample training action and have followed up with similar courses designed for a range of groups – from Scouts to FE retention.</p>
31	<p>Meet with those involved in current projects related to worklessness to review skill/capacity building schemes. Consider development of an environmental escalator, incorporating several levels of engagement</p>	<p>Review current schemes</p>	<p>Mersey Forest and BTCV lead</p>	<p>Have met with Mersey Forest and BTCV. They have discussed with other partners as well.</p>
		<p>Develop environmental escalator pilot project on priority area</p>		<p>Have discussed ideas with Mersey Forest and BTCV and draft paper has been produced</p> <p>Have responded to structural fund consultations (ERDF and ESF) to try to enable funding for future project</p> <p>BTCV are delivering a worklessness projects in Carlisle/Workington/Barrow</p>
32	<p>Evaluate and promote</p>	<p>Produce evaluation</p>	<p>FC lead</p>	<p>Further to previous report, Uclan have proposed to undertake some monitoring and evaluation work utilising the Impact funding</p>

	<p>Haverigg Prison work pilot and develop to include more skills development. Promote health benefits to inmates in addition to environmental benefits</p>	<p>report about Haverigg Pilot</p>		
		<p>Develop approach at Haverigg</p>	<p>BTCV lead on skills Prison to make health links</p>	<p>Working out has re-started, initially at FC site Giggle Alley. BTCV Training programme and Uclan evaluation work due to start October 07</p>
		<p>Approach promoted and taken up further</p>	<p>FC lead</p>	<p>Continues to be a high level of support for the approach. Project brief now on 5th version</p> <p>Search for a project officer for first 6 months failed. Have met and agreed a way forward to utilise Impact funding.</p> <p>BIG lottery bid to fund extension of this work including BTCV on skills side – bid has gone in and looks hopeful</p>

Action Area 5 - The role of trees and woodlands in adapting to the impacts of climate change

Lead	Helen Sweeney – Government Office NW
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Priorities for Action

a) A concerted programme to increase vegetation and tree planting in urban areas would use urban trees as a key solution in the development of a region-wide strategy to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Our use of floodplains and upland areas needs to be addressed, planting trees and woodlands in a mosaic with other semi-natural habitats to help alleviate possible flooding and erosion (see Action Area Three).

b) The role of timber in construction projects, particularly in new housing developments, should be promoted as a low energy, low impact building material. (See Action Area One).

c) The creation of new, and management of existing woodlands must contribute to the creation of functional ecosystems and support species migration and adaptation. The consolidation and expansion of existing biodiversity 'hotspots' (such as ancient woodland) will increase the resilience of local habitats to the possible impacts of climate change. (See Action Area Three).

d) We should encourage and enable the production of roundwood for energy from a range of sources including managed woodlands and short rotation coppice grown on agricultural land.

Action		lead	Update
33	Facilitate and Promote, to the whole supply chain, the benefits and opportunities of	CFNW Woodland Initiatives FC	Conference held on 1st December by the CFNW to promote to Local Authorities the opportunities for using arboricultural waste Red Rose Forest work with Greater Manchester authorities on biomass installations.

	biomass energy and carbon savings			<p>Work ongoing collating intelligence on the under managed and unmanaged woodland asset in the NW in relation to the Woodfuel Strategy.</p> <p>Sub regional activity ongoing through CF and Woodland Initiatives, including courses e.g. Ignite in Lancashire, site visits and demonstrations, Cumbria and Lancashire and business support grants for supply chain development.</p>
34	Access capital grant scheme funding to assist in the installation of medium sized boilers to stimulate supply chain development.	Work ongoing within NWDA to secure funds for biomass activity.	<p>NWDA</p> <p>Envirolink</p>	<p>£1 million allocated in proposals put to NWDA board final approval expected end October. Capital grant scheme and supply chain development support. Opportunity for member of the Biomass Contacts to assist in the assessment panel.</p> <p>£30K allocated by DTI for biomass capacity building. Envirolink undertake work on mapping the biomass sector and an audit of process heat requirements in the North West. Reports produced</p>
35	Advocacy for the biomass sector in the North West (including under managed woodlands, processing by products and SRC)	Coordinating response to the RDPE activity	<p>Biomass Contacts Group</p> <p>CFNW</p> <p>Woodland Initiatives</p> <p>FC</p>	<p>The NW Biomass Woodfuel Strategy completed and signed off by the BCG</p> <p>Production of the Biomass Fuel Supply for England's North West Directory completed, used as a tool in the advocacy.</p> <p>3 day course for NW heating engineers on modern biomass systems successfully completed in Greater Manchester. 9 people attended.</p>

				Timber Officer post advertised at Mersey Forest to assist in delivery of including woodfuel development in RFF AA5.
36	Provide Regional information to planners and developers on the opportunities for biomass installations and use in relation to Planning Policy Statement 22 Renewable Energy	Technical information for planners and developers.	NWRA	Review existing information and material on the issue. Discussions undertaken with NWRA to assess where the gaps are in existing provision and draw up proposals to produce short regionally focussed paper/pack to distribute the LA planners and developers and decision makers to promote the opportunities for biomass installations.
37	Develop demonstration facility for biomass installations	Demonstration	NSF	Some initial feasibility studies of buildings on the campus at Newton Rigg have been completed. Three suitable building complexes exist that have older heating systems suitable for replacement. The woodfuel option appears to offer significant fuel cost savings approx, £20,000 per year for the 3 buildings along with the potential for demonstration purposes. Further feasibility and funding sources are being pursued.
38	Research the role of trees woodland and forestry in the low carbon economy	Demonstration	NSF	National research funding being pursued PhD specification created funding by ERC to be approved. Possible opportunities working with Cumbria Strategic Partners and the Cumbria Futures Group Think Tank to consider issues in relation to resilience to climate change

Action Area 6 - Supporting and Resourcing the Sector

Lead	Keith Jones – Forestry Commission
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Priorities for Action

- a) The spatial and thematic targeting of resources will best deliver public benefits, firstly in the management of existing woodlands and forestry businesses and secondly through the creation of strategically placed new woodlands.
- b) The development of an integrated (social, economic and environmental) landscape scale approach will assist resource allocation for woodlands and associated industry growth.
- c) Woodland development should be supported and delivered through broad, cross-sector partnerships to ensure that resources are accessible and delivery meets local needs.
- d) The roles of the public forest estates are as a champion for the new woodlands agenda, and as a catalyst for widespread local social, economic and environmental development.
- e) A climate for economic growth could be created by supporting and seeking to resource cooperation and communication across the sector in its broadest sense. (See Action Area One).
- f) An advocacy campaign that promotes wood products and demystifies woodlands to show them as assets, and forestry as asset management, will gain the support and investment needed to ensure that our woodlands can deliver the broadest range of public benefits.

Action		lead	Update
39	The use and development of PBRS as an aid for strategic planning and investment for other action areas. Promotion of PBRS approach to funders, decision makers and stakeholders	Priorities identified	FC & others as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various PBRS mapping work underway with various partners • Presentation to NE RD and Board member Feb • Climate change and Environ Index finished • Inter Gov Agency meeting in London • Starting work with Health Property Leads
		Zoning and market failure map – High and Low potential	FC & others as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esp. Creation of and Environ Index Complete July. • Also developing new DUN Brownfield land survey and PBRS sites selection and scoring system with NWDA.
40	Identify principal North West sector funding sources Clearly and simply present this to the sector specifically on RDPE	Seminar in 2007 when Natural England and RDPE are up and running	FC, Public & private sector e.g. ICF, FTA & RFS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A great deal of RDPE work underway • Combined Woodland initiatives bid to RDPE • Key action other in RDPE with Woodland Initiatives work trying for an overall bid • Need to be aware of State Aids limitations <p>Activity delayed awaiting RDPE Launch etc</p>
41	Identify and promote (via production of Case studies) best practice including:		FC Cumbria Woodlands Woodland

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bassenthwaite Catchment Study • Forest Futures linked to RDPE targets 		Initiatives	
42	Creation of a Future Visioning Forum to enable woodland and landowners to participate in the a delivery of RFF		FC NWDA Private Sector	
43	<p>Review and seek to safeguard existing capacity/delivery mechanisms</p> <p>Aim for a market-led approach</p>		FC NE NWDA Private Sector	At present no loss in delivery mechanisms, though there have been changes in capacity.
44	<p>Public Forest Estate to exemplify the way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share commercial advice with days with appropriate seminar those seeking to develop similar partners to showcase public benefit 		FC FD Private Sector	Ongoing work at Grizedale and other Forest District sites

	<p>delivery its work and approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop commercial partnerships, • share training and marketing 			
45	<p>Create advocacy capacity for targeted communications to promote trees and woodlands as an important option in sustainable land management</p>		FC NW RFF SG	<p>Advocacy in place through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications contract • RFF Champion
46	<p>Revise the NW RFF SG Delivery plan/framework group into a delivery group</p> <p>At the sub regional level, enable ownership and delivery through sub regional fora</p>		NW RFF SG	<p>New arrangements for the Steering Groups have been in place for a year.</p>
47	<p>Continue working closely with the key policy makers and</p>		FC NE NWDA	<p>Ongoing discussions with arrange of key policy makers – some examples include RDPE – proposals at sub region and regional levels for</p>

	input to strategies and plans		GONW NWRA WT	forestry programmes Regional Spatial Strategy - Forestry included in Policies EM1 and 3 Natural Economy NW – Forestry includes a strand of activity and as a component of the Green Infrastructure Strain Dept of Health – Good engagement at regional level with DoH
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Refreshing the Delivery Plan

In line with the RFF governance document the RFF Action Plan will be refreshed in 2008 and the new action plan launched to start activities 2009/10.

This will be an opportunity to assess where the RFF needs to develop, which actions in the current plan need to be continued and taken forward and where perhaps there are actions which are no longer priority, necessary or even perhaps relevant.

The Action Plan will take into account the policy environment within which Forestry has to be delivered.

We have:

A new Trees, Woodlands and Forests Strategy,

A new delivery plan from FC and NE due in early 2008,

Increasing focus on the role of Green Infrastructure in planning and land use decision making,

Increasing focus on natural resource management,

A new integrated regional plan on the horizon,

Proposals for growth points and Eco Towns potentially in the north west

Increasing realisation that climate change is an issue that has to be addressed through a wide range of activities across all sectors of the economy.

The role of forestry in the ever changing policy environment and the ability of the sector to take on these challenges will shape the next NW RFF Action Plan.