

The UK Forestry Standard

The governments' approach
to sustainable forestry



7. Forests and People

Forests provide wide-ranging and diverse benefits to people in the UK. In addition to supporting livelihoods and employment, either directly or indirectly, sustainably managed forests provide opportunities for recreation and learning, and health and well-being activities. Forests are a part of our historical and contemporary culture, an integral part of the landscape around us, and an essential element of our cities, towns and villages.

The benefits of forests to people

There is growing interest and progress on understanding the wider social and economic benefits that well-managed forests can deliver. These benefits include developing and maintaining livelihoods based on the production of forest products and services, access and provision for recreation and the associated social integration, health and well-being that arises from it.

There are also the benefits of connecting people with nature and the associated development of learning, skills, understanding of the environment and improved quality of life. Recent years have seen recognition of the benefits of greater community involvement in forest design and management, and new forms of forest ownership and tenure have emerged with community groups taking on ownership or management responsibilities. However, as society in the UK becomes more diverse, not all social groups in the UK benefit equally from access to forests, often because of economic, geographical, social and cultural circumstances.

Access

Forests, particularly those close to where people live, are often highly valued by both rural and urban communities for the recreational opportunities that access to them provides. Across the UK, access legislation builds on public rights of way and traditional uses, but specific access rights and responsibilities differ across the four countries. Forest managers therefore need to understand the context they are operating in when developing forest plans and proposals and undertaking forest operations.

Forests in areas close to where people live and work can provide opportunities for groups in society who may not have previously made use of them. In some areas, maintaining and extending public access to forests has supported public health campaigns involving walking or cycling routes to schools and workplaces.

Public health policy increasingly recognises the importance of day-to-day physical activity for a person's long-term well-being, so forests are an important and valuable resource for public health. The use of forests is also recognised for its important role in childhood development.

Economic development

To support the expansion of forestry and land-based employment opportunities, new services, products and markets that support local economies have been developed, such as enterprises related to recreation and tourism. In addition, a focus continues on developing a diverse forestry workforce by providing training and skills development through, for example, vocational training and encouraging new entrants into the workforce. Partnerships with forest owners, and including community owners, provide opportunities for new forest-based businesses and community development.

Public involvement

To enable plans to be better informed by local knowledge and the experience and understanding of those using the forest or land, or living close by, forest managers should provide appropriate opportunities to involve stakeholders and the public in the development of forest management plans and woodland creation proposals. There are many examples where naturalists, historians and others with local knowledge and expertise have been of great value to forest managers, making them key contributors to forest planning and management.

The public can also play an important role in alerting forest managers and emergency services to incidents and problems in the forest, for example, the location of unsafe trees close to infrastructure, or the occurrence of pests and diseases (e.g. the Observatree project).

The forestry sector and the voluntary sector have developed processes of consultation and collaboration designed to incorporate the views of interested parties into the forest planning process, using a range of digital and face-to-face methods and practices.

Education and learning

Technical skills are increasingly important for today's mechanised and digital forestry industry and the forestry sector competes for skilled new entrants. Developments in technical training and apprenticeships provide opportunities for forest owners to contribute to the long-term success of the sector by assisting in the training of young people.

Forests provide an excellent opportunity to use a safe and stimulating space for learning and to encourage an interest in forests and the wider environment. This can range from one-off teacher-led visits to programmes of learning offered by forest schools and bushcraft practitioners as well as outdoor play.

Rights and constraints associated with forest land

Forest land frequently bears constraints and rights that are enjoyed by people other than the forest owner and can be important locally. It is good practice to identify these in forest plans. Because of their historic nature, certain rights might not be documented in detail or be based simply upon custom and practice.

Wayleaves and easements for utilities and services are legal agreements enabling third parties to access land. Existing forests and proposed woodland creation sites can sometimes be the source of water supplies for local houses, businesses and communities. Agreements such as sporting leases, fencing and boundary arrangements with neighbours and access agreements are also likely to be of interest to local people. Historic rights such as pannage, pasture and estovers exist in some forests.

For local land-based businesses such as cycle hire, dog sledding and pony trekking, access to forests (where necessary with the forest owner's agreement and sometimes for payment) can be important. Local communities and the wider public also value the opportunity to hold organised events such as orienteering and sponsored charity activities in forests.

Forest environments can present a range of natural and man-made hazards that could put visitors at risk. Guidance is available to forest managers on mitigating and communicating hazards and risks.

UKFS Requirements for Forests and People

Public rights of way

All four countries of the UK have legislation covering public rights of way. In England and Wales, highway authorities have a duty to maintain legally recognised maps of rights of way known as the definitive map and statement, held by the local authority and available to the public. Ordnance Survey maps show definitively recorded public rights of way but should not be relied upon as a legal record. The situation is similar in Northern Ireland, where district councils hold maps showing 'asserted' and 'alleged' rights of way. The landowner or land manager and the highway authority have responsibilities for rights of way that cross private land.

In Scotland, rights of way are recorded at a national level in the National Catalogue of Rights of Way. The National Catalogue is maintained by Scotways and local authorities hold a copy of records for their area. In addition, each local and National Park authority publishes a core path plan to provide a framework for supporting reasonable local access.



Rights of way must be respected and not obstructed.



In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, permission must be obtained from the local authority before structures are installed across public footpaths or bridleways; the landowner must maintain these permitted structures in a safe condition and adhere to relevant standards.

Public access rights to forests

All occupiers of land and parties engaged in forest management activities are subject to a range of public access laws and regulations.


In England and Wales, there is no general statutory right of public access to forests. However, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 provides for public access on foot to land mapped as 'access land' by Natural England or Natural Resources Wales. The Act also allows for owners, or long leaseholders, to dedicate their forests voluntarily as access land in perpetuity. Access land includes 'open country' (generally mountain, moor, heath and down), registered common land or land that has been voluntarily dedicated by its owners for public access. The Act also enables an owner to restrict or de-restrict access in some circumstances by a direction granted by a relevant authority.




In England and Wales, foot access must be allowed on mapped access land, including woodland dedicated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, unless a direction is in place to restrict or exclude access.

In Scotland, the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 establishes a statutory right of responsible non-motorised access for recreational and other purposes to land and inland water throughout Scotland with a few exceptions. This right allows people to pursue a wide range of recreational activities such as walking, cycling, canoeing, horse riding and ski touring, the commercial equivalents of these activities, and educational activities that

increase understanding of the natural or cultural heritage. People must not be obstructed from using their access rights responsibly. Access rights are not exercisable over some land, including land used wholly for cultivation of tree seedlings in beds or on which building, civil engineering or demolition works are being carried out. Detailed guidance for the public and landowners can be found in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.





-  4 In Scotland, the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 must be complied with; as an owner or manager of land or water in Scotland, you must manage that land in a way which is responsible in respect of the public's statutory access rights.

In Northern Ireland, the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 gives district councils the power to enter into public path creation agreements with landowners to create public rights along linear routes, and access agreements permitting persons to have access to 'open country' (land consisting wholly or predominantly of mountain, moor, heath, hill, woodland, cliff, foreshore, marsh, bog or waterway) for responsible recreation. The Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 provides a right of pedestrian access to land managed by the Forest Service, subject to byelaws. There is also considerable informal access to the countryside that takes place outside the above.

-  5 In Northern Ireland, the provisions of the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 must be respected; this provides for access agreements between landowners and district councils, where there is a duty to permit the public to have access to open country for responsible recreation.

In addition to statutory rights of access, many owners permit or encourage additional public use of their forests. This may be for recreation or other uses, sometimes exercised over many years. The provision of visitor facilities and site interpretation can help manage access and increase the public benefit.

Forests are sometimes subject to irresponsible use, including trespass, damage, arson, tipping and vandalism. Such anti-social behaviour can damage the forest environment and is a nuisance to other members of the public.

-  1 Landowners and managers should consider providing access to their forest, in addition to that required by statute.
-  2 Where uses of a forest are established by long tradition they should be respected and allowed to continue, providing the use is sustainable and not detrimental to management objectives.
-  3 Where public access for recreation and other responsible uses is well-established and recognised as a public benefit, or a potential benefit, consideration should be given to the design and provision of appropriate facilities.
-  4 Reasonable steps should be taken to discourage anti-social behaviour; where anti-social behaviour continues, the local authority or police should be informed and advice sought.

Equality in service provision

Equality is about creating a fairer society, where everyone can participate and have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Equality is supported by legislation that covers the whole of the UK and is designed to eliminate unfair discrimination against different groups in society.

In England, Scotland and Wales, the Equality Act 2010 protects people with disabilities and other defined 'protected characteristics' from being discriminated against in the provision of all facilities, goods and services. The Act describes a wide range of illegal discrimination and makes a requirement for reasonable adjustments to allow access to facilities, goods and services. For public sector organisations, the Act has an impact on forestry policies and management, for example, in the provision of forest access and recreation. Activities that affect people that are carried out by public bodies, or supported by public funds, are required to demonstrate that the interests of relevant groups have been accommodated. In implementing forestry policies and setting standards, the forestry authorities will address equality and diversity to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled.

In Northern Ireland, equality laws give protection from discrimination in accessing facilities, goods and services, which includes access to parks and open spaces by service providers, on five key grounds: sex (including gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity), disability, race, religious belief or political opinion, and sexual orientation.

As well as complying with anti-discrimination law, service providers who are public authorities are subject to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and must have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity for a range of groups: between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation, between men and women generally, between persons with a disability and persons without, and between persons with dependents and persons without. Public authorities must also have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between people with different religious beliefs or political opinions, or from different racial groups.



In England, Scotland and Wales, the Equality Act 2010 must be complied with in the provision of facilities, goods and services.







In Northern Ireland, anti-discrimination laws, including the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) and Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, must be complied with in the provision of facilities, goods and services.

Employment and Health and Safety

Landowners and managers need to be fully aware of their obligations under both employment and health and safety legislation. This is extensive and includes equality of treatment for recruitment processes and contracts, and a duty of care for staff while at work. There is also a duty of care towards people visiting business premises or land, whether they are there with permission or not. In some circumstances, volunteers may

legally be considered as employees, whether engaged directly by the landowner or undertaking activities for a third party.



The rate of accidents within the forestry sector has always been a cause for concern. Addressing this requires attention to safety protocols and training, and a commitment to the health and well-being of the workforce. Guidance on managing health and safety in forestry is produced by the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA).

-  **8** Those responsible for forestry businesses and activities must be aware of the range of legislation relating to employment and ensure compliance.
-  **9** Responsibilities under health and safety legislation must be complied with in relation to employees, contractors, volunteers and other people who may be affected by their work.
-  **10** Safe working practices must be implemented, and the safety of plant and machinery must be ensured, as set out in legislation and the guidance produced by the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA).
-  **11** Insurance must be in place where it is a legal or contractual condition in relation to employment, third parties and public liabilities.

Visitor health and safety

The Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 in Great Britain, the Occupiers' Liability (Scotland) Act 1960, and the Occupiers' Liability (Northern Ireland) Act 1957 and Occupiers' Liability (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 direct landowners and managers to ensure that visitors to forests are not put at risk by any act or omission by the landowner, or from risks that it would not be reasonable to assume a visitor should be aware of. This includes visitors exercising rights of access or using permissive ways and dedicated land, and also covers responsibilities to people who are not invited or permitted to be on the land in question. In this case, a duty of care still exists if one or both of:


- the landowner or manager is aware of a danger or risk, and it is known that people may be in, or come into, the vicinity of the danger;
- the risk is one against which the landowner or manager may reasonably be expected to offer some protection.


-  **12** The landowner or manager must discharge their statutory duty of care in relation to people visiting land, whether or not they are there with permission.
-  **13** In England and Wales, reasonable care must be taken to ensure the safety of visitors using permissive ways and land dedicated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Forest environments can present a range of natural and man-made hazards that could put visitors at risk. Natural hazards may include diseased trees and unstable rock faces. Man-made hazards include quarries, mineshafts and abandoned structures, as well as potentially

hazardous activities such as forest operations, pest control measures and some sports. Guidance on managing visitor safety is available from the Visitor Safety Group.

Guidance is available on managing public safety in relation to forest operations, such as that required for harvesting sites. This includes the definition of roles and responsibilities and the selection and management of control measures – for example, diverting routes and providing information and signs.

 **5** Hazards that pose significant and foreseeable risks to visitors should be managed to ensure the risks are minimised, whether or not the area is open to the public; where access is restricted due to hazardous forestry operations, provide and maintain clear signs to inform people of the restrictions and to signpost alternative routes.


 **6** Those involved in forestry should follow industry-standard health and safety guidance on managing public safety.

Public involvement

Involving people in the design of a forestry proposal can help improve and enhance the social and economic benefits delivered, particularly if the proposal is developed in a transparent way and the engagement begins early in the development process.

Engaging a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds and interests will help ensure that the facilities and benefits provided by the proposal are suitable for the widest range of people.

Once submitted to the forestry authority for approval, most felling, planting or management plan proposals are made available for public comment. Arrangements for this vary across the UK. Where an EIA is required, the consultation process is more extensive.

 **7** People with a recognisable interest in a forestry proposal or its outcomes should be given the opportunity to be involved in its development.

Local livelihoods

Forests can be the basis of a wide range of enterprises, whether these are undertaken directly by the landowner or in partnership with other businesses, or by individuals, and include the processing of timber products, provision of recreation and tourism opportunities, and craft-based or foraging activities. Forest-based enterprises make an important contribution to the local economy and support livelihoods.

 **8** Consideration should be given to promoting and facilitating local forest-based enterprises and economic activities.





UKFS Guidelines on Forests and People

Public involvement

Local people and interested parties can offer valuable knowledge and insights that can be of great assistance when formulating forest management proposals. Moreover, developing a proactive dialogue can help improve decisions, implement forestry proposals more effectively and lead to a culture of co-operation and support. Guidance is available to support the delivery of effective participation.

Before approval, most forestry proposals are subject to a consultation procedure and available for public comment. Where the proposals are significant, an environmental statement is likely to be required and consultation processes are more extensive. For the public to be involved in forest planning, clear information is required in a form that suits their likely levels of knowledge and expertise. The objectives for consultation need to be shared to ensure all those involved are clear about their role and how their input will be used. Public participation does not mean that the public has a veto on forest management decisions.




Public support and understanding can be fostered by good communication with interested parties and users of the forest. This can help with issues such as temporary closures due to forest operations, and dealing with anti-social behaviour. Forests can have a profound effect on the local landscape and in many situations contribute to the character and the 'sense of place' felt by local communities. When planning public engagement, it is important to consider all groups in society, including those with protected characteristics. Where public bodies introduce changes that affect people, an equality analysis will be required.

-  **1** Aim to engage local communities appropriately by seeking their views, developing proposals that are responsive to them, and building co-operative partnerships.
-  **2** As part of the forest design and planning process, consider which individuals and organisations from all groups in society may have an interest in the formulation of proposals or have something to contribute.
-  **3** Communicate forestry proposals and their operational impacts clearly; consider presenting several options and try to accommodate local needs.
-  **4** Consider the cultural significance of woodland features, taking account of local opinion, and develop measures to protect important features in forest management plans.

Accessibility

Where public access is provided, incorporating an overview of arrangements into the forest design and management plan will allow a strategic view to be taken. If access is a significant issue, a risk assessment will show that the duty of care towards visitors has been considered. As part of this, regular inspections by the forest owner or manager together with records of work done will help minimise risks to the public and demonstrate that appropriate actions

have been taken. This will include inspections of potentially dangerous trees in areas that are more intensively used by the public or adjacent to facilities such as car parks.

-  **5** Consider increasing public access to forests.
-  **6** Consider all members of society, including those who may not have been traditional forest users, when planning access provision.
-  **7** Where public access is a significant issue, consider producing an access management plan.






Visitor information

The provision of information for visitors can range from simple waymarks and signs to visitor centres with a range of educational and other resources. Signs and notices are important for managing visitor access as part of an access management plan, including the zoning, where appropriate, of conflicting activities. The public also needs to be made aware of temporary closures of access routes due to forest operations and alternative routes to take.

The provision of accessible information can also positively influence visitor behaviour (e.g. biosecurity awareness), as can codes such as the Scottish Outdoor Access Code or the Countryside Code in England and Wales.

Information is also useful to help people plan their visit and find out which routes and facilities are most suitable for them. For example, details of route lengths, path surfaces, walk gradients and the availability of facilities such as handrails, benches and toilets will help many people. In providing such information, the needs and interests of different groups in society are an important consideration and may have a bearing on the format or language used. Considering alternative formats such as pictograms, Braille, large print and audio can help those with learning difficulties or visual or hearing impairments.

Public enjoyment and educational value can be enhanced by providing information about the forest environment and location. A simple leaflet can make visitors feel welcome and on-site interpretation can be supplemented by off-site information such as websites.

-  **8** Provide signs and information in order to manage visitors' use of forests; guide visitors away from hazards and help avoid conflicting uses in the same area of forest.
-  **9** Where access is restricted due to forestry operations or other potential hazards, provide and maintain clear signs to inform people of the restrictions.
-  **10** Provide information that will help people to plan their visit, in consideration of disabilities and other special requirements.
-  **11** Consider the use of signage and interpretation to enhance visitor experience for all groups in society.
-  **12** Promote codes of responsible access.

Recreation

Forests have the capacity to absorb large numbers of people, while maintaining an experience of nature without a perception of overcrowding. This is particularly important in or near urban areas, where forests can provide valuable greenspace. Forests provide an ideal environment for many types of activities such as horse riding, mountain biking, orienteering, walking and running and also provide for country sports such as shooting. Some forests are suited to organised events such as mountain bike races, car rallies or paintballing. Zoning the various activities, and leaving some quiet areas, as part of the forest management plan, will ensure that incompatibility between various pursuits and damage to the environment is minimised.

There is an increasing understanding that supporting people's mental and physical health requires not only effective medical approaches but also healthy environments and lifestyles. Medical referrals for programmes of activity are becoming more widespread in the UK. In this respect, forests are well placed to provide spaces for people to improve their health through physical activity or by contributing to a sense of mental and social well-being.

A range of guidance is available on the detailed design of recreation facilities. Designing facilities together with local communities will help ensure the facilities are appreciated and respected by all groups and interests. Safety is an important consideration, especially in urban areas where it can be built into the forest's design. Forest managers should also manage access to mitigate the impact of recreation on the environment, particularly wildlife at sensitive times of the year. The impact of recreation on biodiversity may need to be considered as part of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal or Assessment (HRA).

Unauthorised trail building by mountain bikers is a growing issue across the UK. Trails and associated structures may be built using hand tools or mechanised equipment and construction activity may include vegetation management, such as removing branches from trees, digging and building structures in timber or other materials. Constructing unauthorised trails on someone else's land may be unlawful.

Unauthorised trails may also present a potential risk of liability for businesses and landowners should an accident occur. Forest managers have a duty of care under various pieces of legislation to consider the impact on staff, contractors, visitors, members of the public and the environment when managing unauthorised trails. Particular care should be taken where promoted trails or forest roads interface with unauthorised trails.



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Consider providing facilities for public recreation within forests.



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Where recreation use is extensive, consider how activities can be zoned or timed to minimise potential conflicts between different interest groups.



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Consider developing partnerships with health interests to establish and promote forest recreation activities in relation to health and well-being.



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Take account of environmental objectives and the impact of recreation on biodiversity.

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If there is evidence of unauthorised trails being built, consider assessing the risks to determine the most appropriate course of action, including engaging and working with forest users. Refer to country guidance where available.

Traditional and cultural uses

Some traditional uses of forests include rights of pannage (feeding pigs on acorns and similar), estovers (taking wood) and agistment (grazing). There are also many low-key informal uses that are not defined as rights, for example, the collection of fruits, berries, fungi and other seasonal products. Forests also provide cover for game, and country sports take place in many forests across the UK. Another traditional use of forests may be to visit well-known natural or built landmarks. Other than in Scotland, access to these may be at the discretion of the landowner. Some religious and immigrant cultures have strong links to nature and trees and value access to forests to celebrate traditional festivals.

All these uses are important in helping people to maintain traditions and developing connections between different cultures and the local environment. The benefits of such uses extend to increasing people's understanding of, and care for, local forests.

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Consider supporting the use of forests for sustainable activities, especially where such uses are linked to cultural activities or are established by tradition.

Education and learning

Promoting and delivering education and learning activities provides an important opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with and experience their local forests. Contact with the outdoors often leads to an increased interest in the natural environment and respect for plants and animals, as well as a greater understanding and knowledge about forestry, the benefits of forests and trees, and the effects of climate change on tree health and resilience. In addition to the natural environment, forests provide learning resources for subjects such as mathematics, geography and orienteering, and natural play can help develop social skills, confidence and a sense of worth and help establish pro-environmental behaviours.

Natural play for children is an important aspect of the learning process. Building dens and climbing trees can help with children's personal and social development as they learn to take considered risks and interact with others. In addition, natural play can help people with learning difficulties or mental health issues and can assist in the rehabilitation of adults at risk and offenders. Forests provide a dynamic and stimulating resource for education and learning for all groups in society.

Guided walks and interpreted trails can also provide learning opportunities in forests, for all ages.

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Consider supporting the use of forests for education and learning activities for all.



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Consider providing, or encouraging others to provide, educational interpretation for visitors, especially if there are distinctive ecological, historical or cultural features, as well long-term learning and play programmes.

Volunteering

Voluntary work in forests can extend to a wide variety of tasks, from manual work, such as coppicing or building paths, to leading guided walks and talks. Volunteering in the form of tree planting is a popular activity, particularly for schools and communities. Volunteering can also help people find a job in the forestry sector, and can generate benefits for all members of society, as well as contributing to forest management and providing assistance to the landowner or manager.

A duty of care rests with the landowner or manager for all visitors to forests, and there are liabilities associated with the use of volunteers. It is important that the legal status of both managers and volunteers is understood as it encompasses safety and security and can extend to employment rights if volunteers have a contract or any form of payment beyond expenses. The involvement of children and adults at risk needs specific planning, potentially including disclosure procedures and agreed methods for engaging vulnerable groups.



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Consider providing, or encouraging others to provide, opportunities for volunteering in forests, particularly from groups who would benefit most, such as young, old or disabled people, or those who have not traditionally used forests.







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Manage the health and safety of volunteers and follow appropriate procedures in working with young people and people at risk; ensure that the liabilities of the landowner or manager in relation to volunteers are understood and insurance policies cover their activities.

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

The design of the forest, particularly the layout, access and design of facilities, can help control unacceptable behaviour. Places that are little used or are out of sight can be more susceptible than those that are regularly used or are on view. Fly-tipping is most prevalent in places that have easy and unseen vehicular access. Evidence suggests that once vandalism, fly-tipping or littering have occurred, recurrence is much more likely unless prompt action is taken to deal with it.


Fly-tipping and dropping litter are offences, although the legal provisions vary across the UK. Where forests are at risk, good maintenance and regular visits to check for damage will generally result in reduced vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Encouraging access and engaging with local communities can help win their support in keeping forests free of problems. There are a range of campaigns and initiatives aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour and advice can be obtained from the local authority. People's perception of what constitutes anti-social behaviour differs and care must be taken not to stigmatise people or groups on the strength of complaints from other users.

-  **23** In forest management plans, use good design to mitigate the problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
-  **24** Where vandalism or litter occurs, aim to act promptly to remedy the situation and thus remove the likelihood of further problems.
-  **25** Encourage regular users of forests to act responsibly and report emerging problems so they can be dealt with quickly.
-  **26** Co-operate with public agencies and partnerships to manage the misuse of forests; consider working with others to develop community policing or wardens in areas where problems are significant.

Enterprise development

Forest-based enterprises provide social and economic benefits and can make an important contribution to the sustainability of local communities. As well as timber and timber-related goods such as charcoal and firewood, forest-based enterprises can include country sports, the production of non-timber goods such as venison, and recreation and leisure businesses such as bike hire, forest bathing, adventure play and corporate events.

Forests can also make a major contribution towards local tourism, bringing people into an area, which in turn benefits local businesses such as shops, restaurants and hotels. The role of forests in this respect is increasingly recognised by bodies responsible for local and regional development.

-  **27** Consider the potential for developing sustainable forest-based businesses and livelihoods and how this might be explored with interested parties and through local co-operation.