

Forestry Across the Axes

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Forestry Across the Axes

Content:

- Reminder of the Axes - Forestry Commission perspective
- Axis 1, 2 and 3
- FC & NE Axis 2 delivery relationship
- Headlines - FC and local authorities at work using RDPE
- Challenges and Opportunities for local authorities
- Broader thoughts

A reminder - the RDPE Axes

Axis 1. improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors

Axis 2. improving the environment and the countryside

Axis 3. improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy

Axis 4. building local capacity for employment and diversification

Axis 1

Forestry Commission (FC) delivers some Regional Development Agency (RDA) sponsored projects where RDPE funds are:

- **supporting wood industries to purchase new equipment**
- **supporting woodland businesses with woodland inventory**
- **supporting woodfuel production and delivery**

e.g. West Midlands - *Heartwoods* as a support delivery body

e.g. West Midlands - Woodland Enterprise Grant (WEG)

Axis 1 ... hot off the press

Energy Crop Scheme (ECS) funds being redistributed to deliver the FC woodfuel strategy, utilising:

Measure 122 (improving the economic viability of forests)

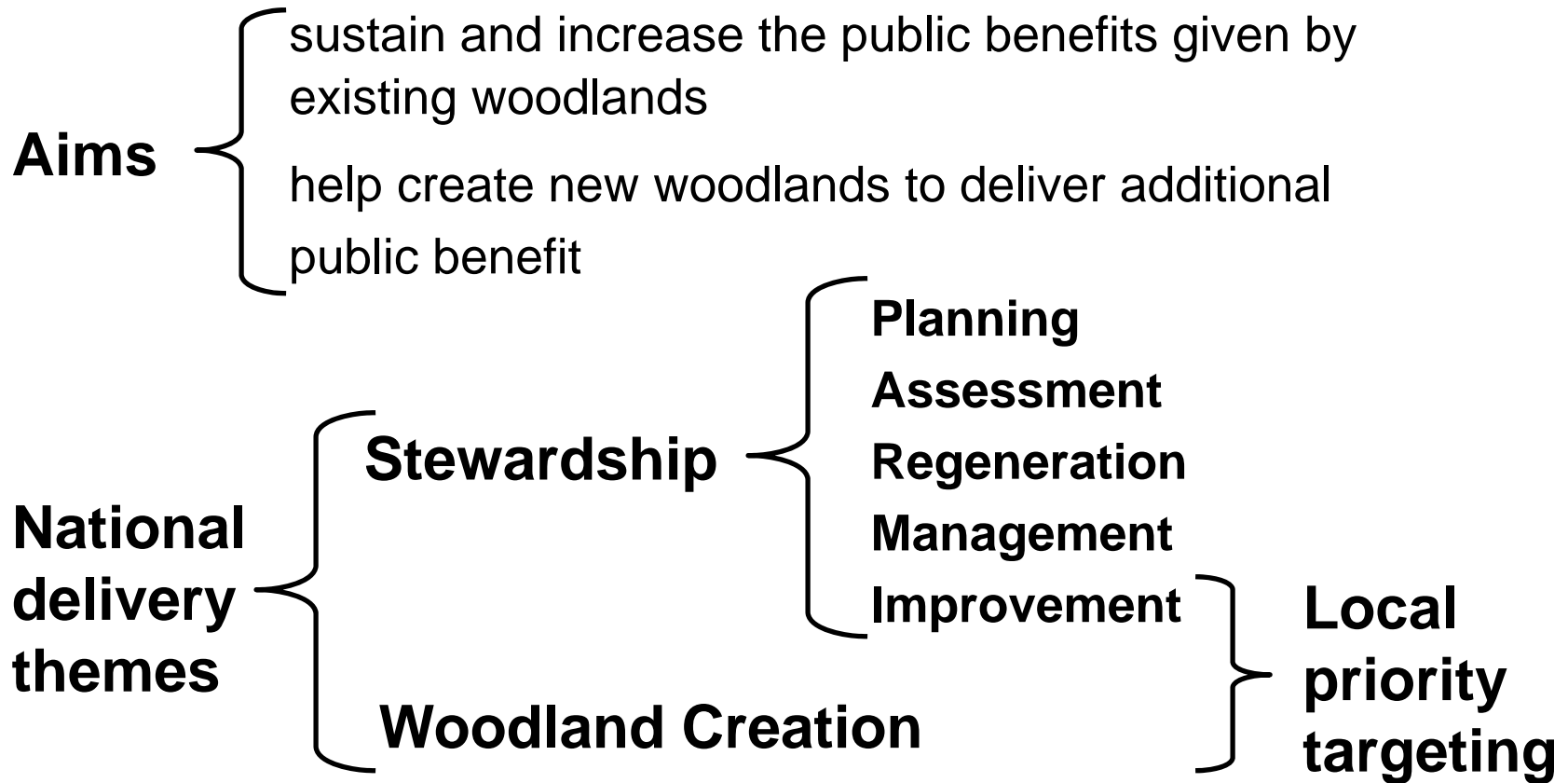
Measure 125 (infrastructure for development / adaptation of forestry)

£10m to be spent across England - FY's 10/11 to 13/14

Supporting Woodland Plans
 Access infrastructure in woodlands
 Woodland inventory / pre harvesting checks

Axis 2

English Woodland Grant Scheme -





Public Benefits



Axis 3

Forestry Commission (FC) supports some Local Action Group sponsored projects:

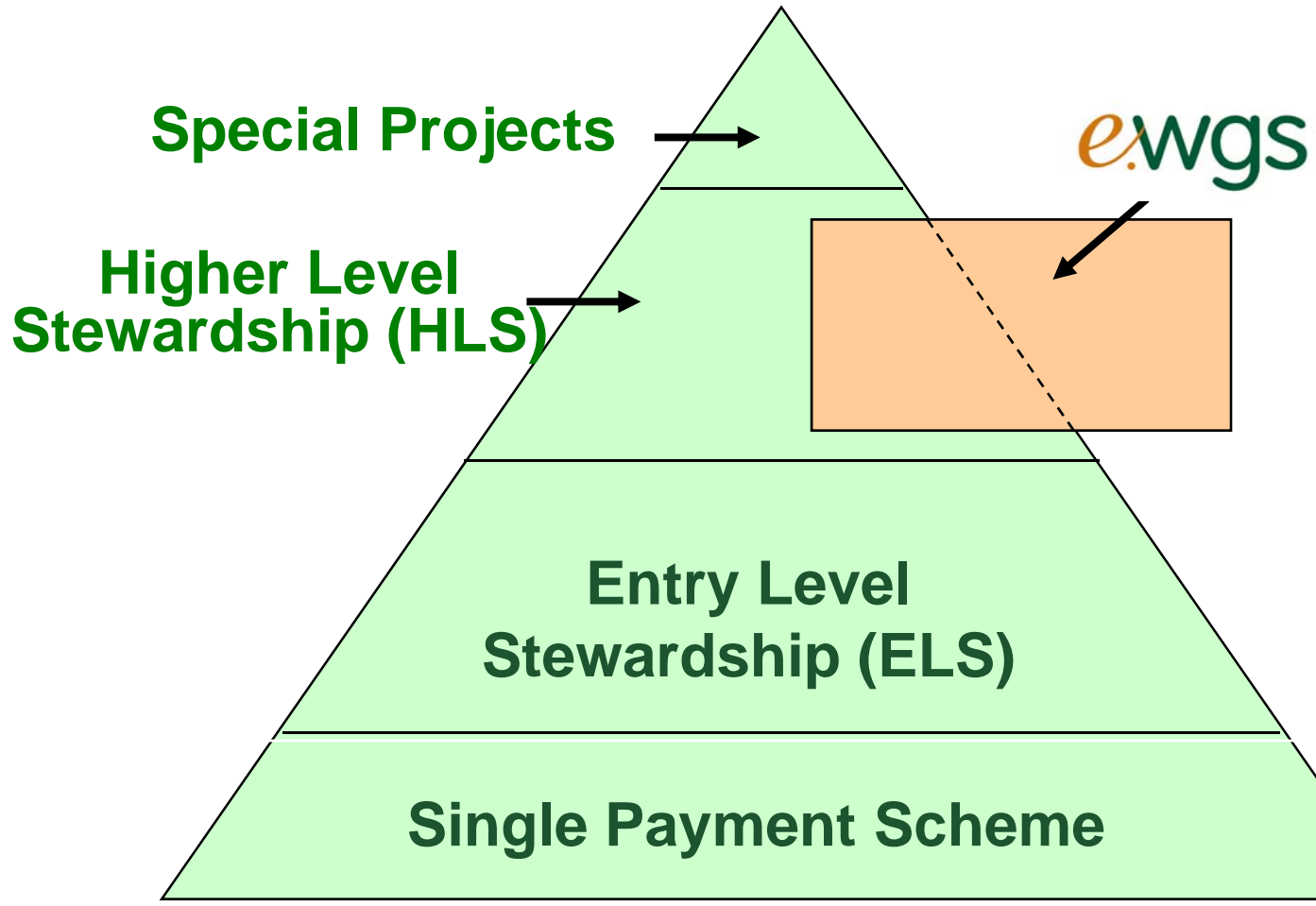
- e.g. West Midlands - Shropshire Hills AONB

Local authorities could use Axis 3 for example

- **to support recreational or tourism activities in woodlands (including infrastructure, signage and small-scale visitor centres)**
- **to deliver sustainable woodland management using social interventions**

but will need to approach LEADER BOARD successor for funds

Natural England & Forestry Commission



HLS or EWGS? Which is the most appropriate scheme?

- National Delivery Practice agreement between FC and NE
- Local iterations of the Delivery Practice
- NE and FC liase over HLS applications containing woodland options

HLS

woodland closely linked to farm management e.g. grazed woods

small woods in a farmed landscape

administrative efficiency

EWGS

Silvicultural basis

large-scale woodland work

Other considerations

Owner objectives

Type of woodland

Work required to tackle threats

Management type and intensity

Woodland size and landscape fit

Past or existing support

 **ema** , local authorities and wider RDPE

Headline examples

- **National Forest**
 - National Forest Tender Scheme
- **12 Community Forests around England**
 - Community Forest specific grants
- **Phytophthora disease control support (SW England)**
 - Rhododendron control
- **Community woodlands created for local people**
 - Black Country Urban Forest project
- **Permissive access improvements to existing woodlands**
 - Coventry City Council woodlands - trails for visually impaired
- **RDA sponsored projects delivered**
 - Heartwoods West Midlands Woodfuel Project

& challenges facing local authorities

- Changes in local politics, structures, priorities and staff
- Understanding the importance of biodiversity, and the role it plays
- Understanding the multi functional role of green infrastructure
- Having woodland registered on the Rural Land Registry (Axis 2 grants)
- Meeting eligibility criteria for some EWGS grants
 - e.g. Forest Certification
- Finding 'match funding' cash resource for Axis 2 grants
- Long term ownership and management of Axis 2 projects
- Understand the opportunities for investment from RDPE

& opportunities for local authorities

- Long term land management is supported under Axis 2
- Use HLS and EWGS alongside each other
- Contribute to discussions on future EWGS grant types
- Maintain biological, cultural and landscape records
 - Informs future planning and support mechanisms
- Gain understanding, and use of all Axes under RDPE
- Consult on 2013 - 2017 RDPE (yes, already underway)
 - Use RDPE for social interventions that deliver sustainable woodland management

Broader reflections

- **Reed Report** - creation of 150,000 ha of new woodland in England
 - Where, with what funding? Woodland Opportunity mapping?
- **Open Habitats policy**
 - Understanding the balance between restoration of biologically important non-woodland habitat, and the principle of 'no net loss of woodland'
- **Local Development Framework (LDF)**
 - Protecting ancient woodland sites, and veteran and iconic trees through the planning system
- **Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW)**
 - Dedication of woodland for permissive pedestrian access
- **European Protected Species (woodland) Regulations (EPS)**
 - FC is the Regulatory Authority
- **Regional Forestry Framework (RFF)**
 - A prospectus for delivery of multi-purpose public benefits using trees and woodland

Thank you ...

any Questions?

*e.*ewgs

www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs