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Pennine Edge Forest is a partnership of



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Pennine Edge Forest Business Action Plan 2004 - 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WOODLANDS IN THE COMMUNITY AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURES

WORKING FOR WOODLANDS IN OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, STOCKPORT AND TAMESIDE DISTRICTS

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Introduction

Community forestry has been identified as a real opportunity to improve the environmental image and quality of the region to project a positive image for investors and visitors. It has also been recognised as a successful way of improving the overall quality of life for those who live and work in the North West, especially in the 'Merseybelt' landscapes in and around the conurbations of Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The Pennine Edge Forest will create opportunities and benefits for the environment, economy and communities of the Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside metropolitan boroughs, and create a high quality investment gateway to Greater Manchester, the Southern Pennines and the wider North West region. It will contribute to greener economic growth in the North West. Working with Red Rose Forest and other partners, PEF will help to deliver a positive new image for Greater Manchester as a place to live, work, visit and invest in. The Pennine Edge Forest Business Action Plan 2004-2013 has been produced by the Pennine Edge Forest Partnership to start this process in a creative and dynamic way.

The Forest Vision

"The Pennine Edge Forest will be an investment in the landscape to benefit all who live, work, learn and play in our Forest. We will create a high quality sustainable landscape, providing a green gateway to the region, rich in recreational opportunity, visual attraction and biodiversity. We will create a positive environmental image to promote and encourage economic growth through investment at all levels in the Forest and Greater Manchester as a whole. We will support local communities, their quality of life and opportunity and their aspirations for their environment. We will connect communities with the natural world on their doorstep."

The Forest Partnership

The Pennine Edge Forest is a partnership of the metropolitan boroughs of Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport and Tameside working with the support of:

- North West Development Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Countryside Agency
- Environment Agency
- United Utilities
- Groundwork, Oldham and Rochdale
- Groundwork, Tameside
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- Red Rose Community Forest
- National Urban Forestry Unit

Investing In The Landscape

Pennine Edge Forest has developed an approach termed Landscape Investment Areas (LIA). The LIA approach is based on the principle that community forestry is an investment in the landscape that provides economic, environmental and community benefit through improved image, recreational and amenity spaces and enhanced biodiversity.

The Pennine Edge Forest will target its efforts on landscapes in need of investment and care - the landscapes which are most important to the society, economy and environment of the Forest. These landscapes have suffered neglect and abuse due to economic and social change in the twentieth century. Landscape Investment Areas ensure that actions are clearly related to local, county and regional economic, environmental and community priorities for regeneration and renaissance, and that, wherever possible, benefits are cross-cutting.

Strategic Context

The Pennine Edge Forest has been established at an exciting time for England's Northwest. New opportunities for ambitious and innovative economic, environmental and community renaissance are emerging and growing. PEF will be a creative and innovative part of the region's green infrastructure delivery mechanisms which will help to:

- Regenerate and transform derelict land and neglected landscapes
- Identify new regional park resource potential
- Deliver the green infrastructure for "The Northern Way"
- Bring environmental quality to Housing Market Renewal
- Connect town and country in the urban fringe
- Deliver the England Forest Strategy in the North West
- Support Rural Regeneration in the South Pennines

Our Key Targets and Objectives

To help deliver renaissance, regeneration and improved quality of life for the Forest community, our key targets to 2013 and interim targets to 2006 are shown in the table below:

Activity	by 2006	by 2013
New woodland planting	50 ha	475 ha
Small-scale DUN land reclamation	20 ha	50 ha
Locally native trees planted	100,000	1,000,000
Trees planted with local schools	20,000	100,000
Under-managed or neglected woodland transformed into community woodland	75 ha	400 ha
Urban arboretum created in each district linked by a Pennine Edge Forest trail	start	4 total
Business landscapes, priority neighbourhoods and transport corridors transformed	30 ha	1000 ha
Strategic river valleys regenerated	75 ha	1000 ha
New and improved recreational access and green commuting routes	3 km	25 km
Woodland branded as "Woodland Welcome" sites	20 ha	1,500 ha
Forest education centre and interpretation centre connected by a network of key sites		1
Schools involved in tree planting	160	All
Events celebrating the Forest landscape	120	1000

PEF will bring major regeneration benefits to all of the forest communities and create a green gateway to Greater Manchester. Specific actions are included in the Business Action Plan to:

- revive transport corridors;
- re-invent derelict, underused and neglected land;
- enrich communities;
- transform business landscapes;
- revitalise river valleys;
- enhance canal corridors;
- revive rural landscapes;
- manage landscape change;
- provide a competitive landscape for learning and life skills development;
- provide new business opportunities in town and country;
- add quality to new development;
- provide a Forest for everyone;
- protect and enhance biodiversity; and
- encourage global responsibility and sustainability