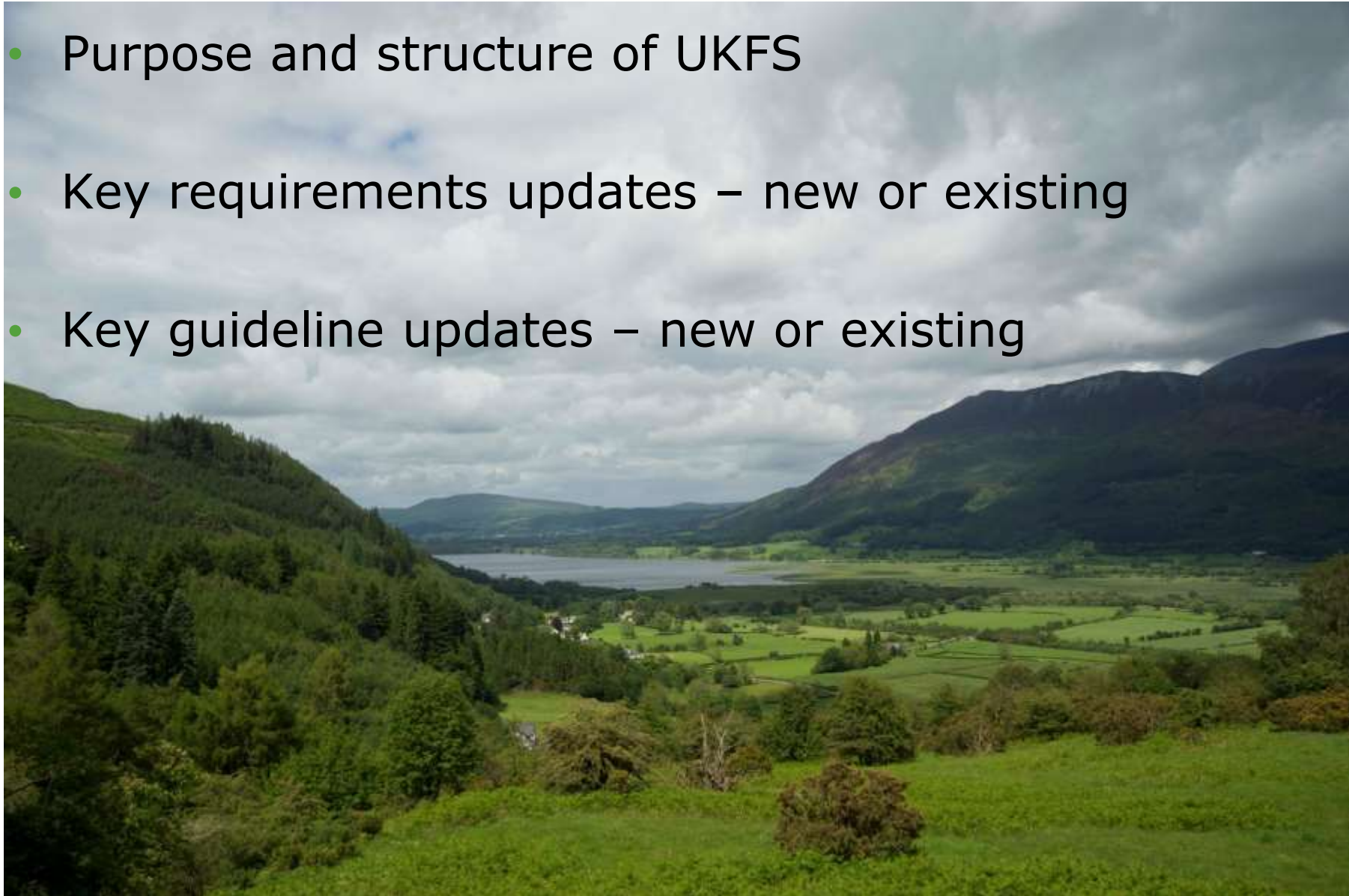


UK Forestry Standard 2017

Update on key changes

Penny Oliver

- Purpose and structure of UKFS
- Key requirements updates – new or existing
- Key guideline updates – new or existing





- Basis for the implementation of the UK's international obligations and reporting (UNFF, Forest Europe Criteria and Indicators)
- Statement of what government's require in implementing their regulatory powers (forestry and non-forestry)
- The consensus on forestry practice amongst devolved government and other Depts. agencies, sector interests
- Performance requirement providing incentives and RDR funding
- Basis for evidence of legality (EU Timber Regulation) and sustainability



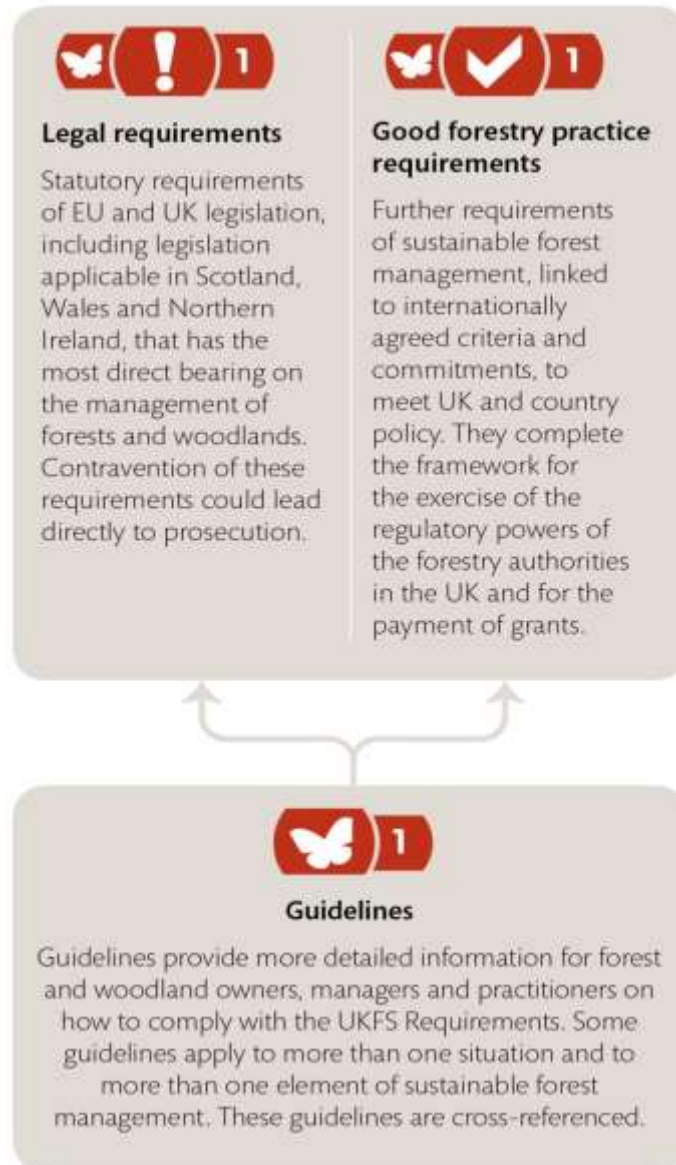
The UKFS 3rd edition:
Standard plus series of
7 separate Guidelines



**4th Edition
published on
5 July 2017**

The UKFS 4th edition:
Standard and Guidelines now
a single (digital) publication





- The overall framework of Legal and Good Forest Practice Requirements supported by Guidelines is unchanged.
- We have not combined, reduced or created new 'aspects of sustainable forest management'





Forest Protection





-   5 Proposals for access onto a public highway by a forest road must obtain planning permission; proposals for all forest roads must be notified to the planning authority and may require planning permission in areas with landscape designations.

Legal Requirement - New – changes to planning law regarding the notification of forestry roads in designated areas



Forest Planning

-   13 Consultation on significant or sensitive proposals should be carried out with interested parties as forest management plans are developed.



Good Forestry Practice Requirement - Update - these changes reflect the need to consult earlier

-   16 Forests should be planned and managed to enhance their resilience and mitigate the risks posed to their sustainability by the effects of climate change or attack by pests or diseases.
-   2

Good Forestry Practice Requirement – NEW – increased emphasis on resilience

-   **1** Appropriate protection and conservation must be afforded where sites, habitats and species are subject to the legal provisions of EU Directives and UK and country legislation. Advice can be obtained from the relevant authorities on minimising potentially adverse effects for management activity likely to affect them. An appropriate assessment for a Natura 2000 site should be undertaken as part of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal required under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).   **12**

Legal Requirement - Update – re-word of existing requirement for appropriate assessment

-   **4** Particular consideration should be given to conserving, enhancing or restoring priority habitats and species identified in the statutory lists of priority species and habitats for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, through the delivery of country biodiversity strategies and local level plans.

Good Forestry practice requirement – Update – change from reference to UK to each country

Flooding and water resources



In areas prone to flooding, woodland creation or the management and redesign of existing forests and woodlands in relevant upstream water catchments should be considered as a way of mitigating flood risk.

Good forestry practice requirement - New – Recognition of role trees and forests can play in flood mitigation



Operational Plans




2 Produce a clear operational plan that is understood by all those working on the site. For major operations, the plan should include:


- A description of the site, including any relevant designations, consents, licences or agreements.
- A statement of the purpose of the operations and an outline description of activities, which explain how:
 - operations will be modified in case of bad weather;
 - potential hazards to workers will be mitigated;
 - potential hazards to forest users will be mitigated;
 - machine access, refuelling and timber stacking will be handled;
 - sensitive or easily damaged parts of the site will be safeguarded;
 - to ensure only the intended trees and shrubs are felled;
 - biosecurity will be addressed;
 - the site will be left on completion of operations.
- A site map showing constraints, hazards and other key information.

Updated guideline reflecting country level experience of operational planning and the need to be more specific

Forest Structure

 **9** Maintain or establish a diverse composition within the forest management unit; where only one species is suited to a site and management objectives, a maximum of 75% may be allocated to a single species (see notes below). In all cases, incorporate a minimum of:



- 10% open ground or ground managed for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as the primary objective;
- 10% of other species;
- 5% native broadleaved trees or shrubs.

Note: (i) Where more than one species is suited to a site and matches the management objectives, opportunities must be taken to further diversify the above species composition. (ii) In woodlands of less than 10 hectares and in native woods the above proportions may be relaxed as long as the adjacent land uses provide landscape and habitat diversity.  **10**

 **25**



Updated guideline – based on operational practice to clarify the place of other species. The 75% max of main species remains

Mammal damage

-  **21** In areas where deer are a threat, develop and monitor deer management plans – ideally in co-operation with neighbours and local deer management groups.  **42**


Updated Guideline - Added in monitoring and working with neighbours



Pests and diseases

-  **23** Be vigilant for pests and diseases in forests and woodlands, including those in urban areas where the risks of new introductions can be high.  **35**

Updated Guideline – tightening of language


Priority habitats and species

-  **5** Avoid establishing new forests on soils with peat exceeding 50 cm in depth and on sites that would compromise the hydrology of adjacent bog or wetland habitats.

Note: Woodland creation on certain sites where deep peat soils have historically been highly modified may be considered, provided that it complies with the relevant country policy.  **5**  **24**


Note has been added to take account for sites which have been highly modified for a long time such as those used for dairy farming.

Native Woodland

-  **7** In ancient semi-natural woodlands, avoid introducing non-native species unless they would maintain or enhance the ecological function of the woodland.



Updated guideline – in context of climate change and other threats some flexibility is required to build resilience

Ecological processes

-  **9** Identify areas for minimum silvicultural intervention and consider encouraging or replicating ecological processes as a way of delivering biodiversity objectives within a forest management plan.

Updated guideline combining 2 overlapping ones

Tree and shrub species selection

-  **12** When selecting trees and shrubs for new woodlands and restocking, consider the risks and opportunities of climate change and vulnerability to pests and diseases for particular species to decide if alternative species or increased species diversity are merited.  **7**

 **27**



Updated guideline to include restocking and consideration of pests and diseases as well as climate change

Forest and stand structure

-  **20** Identify sites for long-term forest cover and ensure they are appropriately thinned.


Updated guideline – used to say thin early

Carbon in soils

-  **8** Consider the balance of benefits for carbon and other ecosystem services before making the decision to restock on soils with peat exceeding 50 cm in depth.  **25**


New guideline – consider balance of carbon between peat and trees when planning restocking

Carbon in forest ecosystems

-  **10** Avoid the removal of biomass from an approved woodland carbon project if this is not part of the agreed forest management plan.


New guideline – to cover Woodland Carbon Code

Sediment delivery


-  **38** Plan felling and timber extraction to minimise the number of stream and drain crossings, and protect any crossing points and riparian zones from damage by harvesting machinery.

Updated guideline – added riparian zones

Pesticides



-  **65** Pesticide-treated planting stock shall not be soaked in any surface water or wetland prior to planting. **GBR23d**

Updated guideline – expanded to cover any wet bits

-  **66** Pesticide shall be applied in accordance with the terms and instructions of the relevant product approval. **GBR23e**

NEW guideline on Pesticides

Shade and shelter

-  **87** Design and manage riparian woodland along small watercourses (less than 5 m wide) to provide a source of leaf litter and woody debris; retain this within watercourses unless it poses a significant risk of damaging or blocking downstream structures.  **31**

Updated guideline to clarify definitions around woody debris

Guidance on good forestry practice and reports of research supporting the UKFS can be found in the Forestry Commission technical publication series (forestry.gov.uk/publications)



- No priced hard copy (although print on demand option @ cost from Forestry Commission publications)
- Download (free of charge) from:
 - www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs
 - www.forestry.gov.uk/publications
- Three versions available:
 - Full version – ePub
 - Summary version – ePub
 - Full version – PDF