

Draft stakeholder briefing

Review of the UK Forestry Standard

The four administrations of the UK have begun work on the review of the current UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). The review takes place every five years and the aim is to update and publish the next version by the end of 2022.

The review will ensure the Standard is up to date and continues to safeguard and promote sustainable forestry practice in the UK, whilst reflecting the international context in which forestry operates. The UKFS is the technical standard which underpins the delivery of the forestry policies of the four UK countries.

The process will start with the engagement of technical experts and stakeholders to review the Standard's current content and identify areas where updates are required; based on improvements in scientific knowledge, developments in international approaches and new or amended legislation.

A UK reference group of stakeholders will be engaged from March 2021. Organisations with a knowledge of the different aspects of sustainable forest management have been invited to join the group (see below for the list of organisationsⁱ).

This reference group will support the countries in the development of the updated Standard, ensuring it is relevant and appropriate across the UK. It will help make sure the Standard is functional and practical for a modern forestry sector, and clearly sets out a balanced approach to sustainable forest management in a changing environment.

The review will also be informed by detailed technical and policy discussions within each country.

The timetable for the review is:

- Phase 1: technical review of content and initial stakeholder engagement: Mar 2021 – Jul 2021
- Phase 2: re-drafting of content and consultation: Aug 2021 – Aug 2022
- Phase 3: final editing, design and publication: Sept – Dec 2022.

The UKFS review is overseen by a Project Board made up of representatives from the four countries, and is co-ordinated by Scottish Forestry. The final content of the new edition of the UKFS will be approved by the four administrations.

For further information contact: UKFSreview@forestry.gov.scot

ⁱThe following organisations have been invited to join the reference group:

- Birmingham Institute of Forest Research
- British Hydrological Society
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management

-
- Committee on Climate Change
 - Confederation of Forest Industries
 - Environment Links UK
 - Institute of Chartered Foresters
 - Landscape Institute
 - National Soil Resources Institute
 - Outdoor Recreation Network
 - UK Woodland Assurance Standard
 - Representative from the statutory environmental agencies.