

APPENDIX 1

Data Sets Used in the Character Assessment

DATA SETS USED IN THE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The table below details the key data sources used in the district landscape character assessment.

(*) denotes a mapped data set that was available in a digital format that could be interrogated in GIS.

A number of existing landscape character assessments and core documentation were also used in the assessment process. A full list of written sources is provided in the bibliography.

| Topic | Data Set | Data Source |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Baseline Mapping | *Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 digital mapping (raster data) | OS/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| Geology | *British Geological Survey data (1:50,000) | British Geological Survey/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| Landform | *OS DTM Landform Panorama data | OS/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| Vegetation/ Land Cover | *Land Cover Map 2000 | CEH/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| Woodlands | *National Woodland Inventory | Forestry Commission/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| Nature Conservation | *Natural Areas | English Nature/ Countryside Agency |
| | *National Nature Reserves/ SSSI | English Nature |
| Landscape Character | *Countryside Character Areas | Countryside Agency |
| | *National Landscape Typology | Countryside Agency |
| Political Boundaries | *County Boundary *District Boundaries | Gloucestershire County Council |
| Landscape Designations | *AONB | Countryside Agency |
| Time Depth | Historic Landscape Character Assessment (Paper plot at 1:50,000) | Gloucestershire County Council |
| Settlement Patterns | *Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Mapping | OS/ Gloucestershire County Council |
| | Rural Settlement Atlas (Publication) | English Heritage |

APPENDIX 2

By Definition: Project Outline and Programme

COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY
CONTRACT BRIEF

WHAT MAKES THE FOREST OF DEAN SPECIAL? ENGAGING
FOREST COMMUNITIES

Introduction

1. The Countryside Agency wishes to let a contract which will contribute to the Landscape and Heritage Study for the district, which the Agency is promoting and funding as part of its commitment to supporting Integrated Rural Development in the Forest of Dean. The contract will provide information about landscape and heritage resources that local people regard as so special that they merit particular attention in land use planning and landscape and heritage management processes. This information will be assessed with other information about countryside character, biodiversity and historical and archaeological resources, to create as full a picture as possible of the special qualities of the Forest of Dean.

2. The Countryside Agency was established on 1st April 1999, on the merger of the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission. Its role is to work for people and places in rural England. The Agency is a statutory adviser to government, in particular the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and also the Department of Local Government, Transport and the Regions (DLTR). It has broad powers to research and experiment, coupled with a wide ranging remit enabling it to:

- conserve and enhance the countryside;
- promote social equity and economic opportunity for people living in rural areas; and
- to help everyone, wherever they live, to enjoy this national asset.

Background and purpose of the project

3. The Forest of Dean local government district is the setting for the Countryside Agency's national pilot Integrated Rural Development (IRD) project. With the Forest Regeneration Partnership, local communities and other stakeholders, this project explores ways of protecting, managing and regenerating landscapes and places that everyone knows are special, but that do not have a protective designation.

4. The Countryside Agency Board decided to become involved in IRD in the Forest in November 1999 and confirmed this decision in September 2000. A major review will take place in early 2003, at which time the Board will assess whether sufficient progress has been made with alternative(s) to landscape designation, to remove the need for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

10. The objectives of this contract are:
 - i. To design, run and assess a series of exercises in which people are asked to express what makes the district's landscape and heritage so special that those things/qualities merit particular attention in all relevant local government policies and strategies;
 - ii. To present the results of these exercises in a tangible, usable form, so that they can be integrated with other, more traditional 'top down' information, in a technical contract to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment of the Forest of Dean. This latter contract will run in parallel with this one, as part of the Forest's Landscape and Heritage Study;
 - iii. To engage a cross section of the Forest's communities, including children and young people, and people who may not see themselves as 'joiners' in community exercises, as well as established groups such as parish councils and other stakeholder groups (such as members of the business community);
 - iv. To work in such a way that participants can explore and express their own senses of what is special about the Forest of Dean, rather than be constrained by a firm framework or expectations from the outset;
 - v. To cover the area of the Forest of Dean District;
 - vi. To maintain regular contact with the contractors appointed to undertake the Countryside Character study for the district, which is the other central element of the Forest's Landscape and Heritage Study.

Study Method

11. The overall approach to a project like this has to be qualitative, and the whole way of working must be open and inclusive to a wide range of attitudes and views. The exercises themselves must be designed to engage both people's immediate enthusiasm and longer term support for the results. Ideally, each part of the district needs a full scale parish plan (as specified in the Agency's 'Vital Villages' programme), but this can't be achieved in the time available. So what is needed are exercises that are useful in themselves as a key part of the Landscape and Heritage Study, that can also be fed into other longer term processes, such as parish plans and perhaps also community strategies and plans. An initial assessment of the effects and impacts of the exercises will also be required.

12. The kind of exercises that should be considered are:
 - i. Running a 'Jigsaw' project. This involves offering all town and parish councils, and other groups such as historical societies and Dean Forest Voice, 1 or 2 disposable cameras, so that people can record visual images of things that matter to their group or community. (Parishes in the Wye Valley AONB are already involved in a 'Jigsaw' exercise, so this new contract will need to liaise closely with AONB staff);
 - ii. Setting up a multimedia competition for children and young people, involving poetry, art and craft work, ending in a public exhibition;

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Interim report | 15 March 2002 |
| Progress meeting with steering group | April 2002 |
| Draft final report | 31 July 2002 |
| Progress meeting with steering group | August 2002 |
| Final report | 21 August 2002 |

Copyright

16. The results of this work and all intellectual copyrights whatsoever which are produced as a result of this contract, shall be the property of the Countryside Agency. Subject to any written agreement to the contrary, copyright of all material produced under this contract, including digital data, published and unpublished results and reports, etc. shall become the property of the above body. The Agency will have the right to use the results and to determine whether the results of, or reports on, the project shall be published and whether the material and results shall be exploited commercially and, if so, on what conditions.

Terms and Conditions

17. The contractor will be appointed by the Countryside Agency on an inclusive, fixed price contract following competitive tender. A tender interview will be held prior to award of contract. This contract follows the Countryside Agency's Conditions of Contract for Research and Experimental projects, dated April 1999 attached as Annex 1. Travel and subsistence will be paid at Countryside Agency standard rates, attached as Annex 2.

Environmental Conditions

18. For the purposes of this contract the Agency requires the contractors to use recycled paper when producing written work and environmentally sustainable working practices. All paper outputs associated with this contract (tenders, interim, draft and final reports) should use an environmental grade paper and text should be printed on both sides of a page. All travel associated with this work should be by public transport (or foot or cycle) unless it is genuinely unavailable or necessitates excessive additional time.

Project Management

19. The contract will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the Countryside Agency's Forest of Dean Senior Project Officer, who will act as Project Case Officer. The contractor will be expected to manage the project through one named Project Manager, who will act as first point of contact and be responsible for delivery of outputs. Regular, informal liaison with the contractor is essential from project commencement and the project case officer will request interim information to assist in monitoring the work. All financial and contractual issues

25. Tenders should be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Tender documents for what makes the Forest of Dean Special? contract - not to be opened before 12 noon on Friday, 14 September and sent to:

Matt Scarratt
Contracts Manager
Countryside Agency, SWRO
Bridge House
Sion Place
Bristol BS8 4AS

26. For further information about this invitation to tender please contact Val Kirby on 0117 973 9966 or email val.kirby@countryside.gov.uk

27. Any further information supplied to any one prospective tenderer will be immediately circulated to all others either by fax or email.

APPENDIX 3

Forest of Dean Biodiversity Project: Project Outline and Programme

FOREST OF DEAN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT - SUB PROJECT OUTLINES

FOD IRD Project
Steering Group

FOD Biodiversity
Steering Group

REPORTING PROGRESS

- communicating to demonstrate progress and record success
- publicity and support
- dissemination of ideas/skills

GIS DEVELOPMENT

- GIS based system
- Linked to LRC/GEDU and Council systems
- Use as constraint mapping and 'vision' planning tool
- Hardware & software requirements ?

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

- definition of projects for implementation
- scoping, costing and establishment of partnerships
- establishment of mechanisms
- funding bids

AUDIT AND SURVEY

- Collation of data (GIS layers)
- new survey to inform
- evaluation of significance

IMPLEMENTATION

- delivery of conservation and enhancement projects by communities, partners and contracts
- links to GWT (and other) volunteers groups/projects

VISION MAPPING

- development of habitats and species conservation and restoration targets
- integration of BAP targets/ delivery - links to BAP strg grp

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LINKS

- establish links and support with parishes, landowner groups and local businesses
- encourage 'stewardship' and promote benefits of healthier environment
- examine and develop green economy/products

KWS CONFIRMATION

- establishment of criteria and evaluation of sites
- collation and presentation of data
- improved protection of sites = sustainability

INFORMATION AND TRAINING

- disseminate information/advice
- establish support and increase skills

Primarily 2001 and 2002

Primarily 2002 and 2003

FOREST OF DEAN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT - YEARS 2 and 3

The project will be part of the Forest of Dean Integrated Rural Development Project and will contribute significantly to ensuring the regeneration of the economy and communities within the District is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

The project will do this by providing data necessary to securing the effective protection and enhancement of the Districts natural heritage through:

- assessment of the natural heritage resource
(collation of existing data and additional survey, evaluation of data and establishment of the significance of the resources [link with designations particularly KWS])
- making information on the natural heritage available
(Development of a GIS system for use by all relevant partner organisations)
- development of strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage
(Preparation of 'vision maps' and incorporation of the targets identified in the UK and County BAP relevant to the area)
- development of implementation projects
(Establishing mechanisms and costings and identifying funding streams for delivery in the second phase of the IRD project - promoting a community-based approach)

The project will be based on number of individual **SUB-PROJECTS** overseen by the **FOD Biodiversity Steering Group** (EN, GWT, FODDC) and reporting to the **FOD IRD Project Steering Group** (via CA:Val Kirby)

FOREST OF DEAN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT - 2001/03

COST ESTIMATES BASED ON THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFICATION, SOURCE MATERIALS AND PROJECT OUTPUTS

Costs include GWT Project Management charges

1. *Habitats*

| MapInfo Layers | Source | Notes on content of data to be produced | Project Year Year 1 - 2001/2 Year 2 - 2002/3 | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Woodland | Forestry Commission - Cambridge office on CD (EN have secured - CP) | Digitised boundaries of all woodland over 2ha - Linked data on site name, area. (Note: limitation of users - sharing agreement needed) | 1 | |
| | Aerial photographs for woodland under 2ha | Dot distribution for woods <2ha | 1 | |
| Ancient Woodland Inventory Sites | English Nature - download from EN website | Digitised boundaries of all woodland - Linked data on site name, area, etc Note: FOD central forest inventory to be revised following FE survey 2001/2 | 2 | |
| Hedgerow zones | From assessment of air photos | Zones (high, medium, low connectivity) characterised and id on maps with key and supporting text * see 5 below | 1 | |
| Grassland | | | | |
| a Inventory sites | EN - CP to secure from national office | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, code, area, grassland type, date of survey | 1 | |
| b Daffodil meadows | From GWT data | Digitised boundaries with linked data as above | 1 | |
| (c Unassessed grassland) | From air photos | | Deferred | |
| Heathland | EN inventory/data and FE data | Digitised boundaries of existing sites - linked data on site name, GRef, area, general info on nature of interest (notes on history where recent and to wider vision - see also 5 below) | 1 | |
| Streams and water courses | From EA (Wales and Midlands) | Digitised line data with linked data (name, other ?) | Exclude from project (or for Year 2) | |
| Parkland (and Veteran trees?) | From EN/GWT provisional inventory | Digitised boundary or 'zone' - linked data on site name, code, LPA, Parish, GRef, notes - related info trawled from other sources GIG, K Alexander (targeted survey in 2002 to inform ecological assessment?) | 2 | |
| Orchards | | | | |
| a Coverage of extant orchards | From maps and air photos | Digitised boundaries | 1 | |
| b Distribution (past and present) | From OS maps 1:25,000 First series | dot maps (by 1km square) | 1 | |
| Saltmarsh & estuarine habitats | From EN data with ground truth 'sampling' to identify the upstream limit of tidal influence | Digitised boundaries of saltmarsh/saline grassland areas | Deferred | |

*this assumes MapInfo data can be used in the aerial photograph application - if not, costs will be more

2. *Species*

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Dormouse | S Bodnar and GWT info | Internal users Dot map - linked data on site name, date General 'zone' map | 1 1 | |
| Horseshoe bat inventory | >From EN spreadsheet/download from existing | Internal users Dot map - linked data on code, name, GRef, use/type of roost, Horseshoe sp., grade, other bat spp, max no. recorded, date 'vision action planning map' | 1 2 | |
| Otter | GWT data | Internal users Dot map of sighting and road casualty records - linked data on dates, recorder 'vision action planning map' | 1 2 | |
| Water Vole | GWT survey data | Internal users Dot map of survey records - linked data on dates, recorder 'vision action planning map' | 1 2 | |
| Invertebrates | EN ISR paper map data | zone map of important recorded locations | 1 | |

**Provisional costs pending further detailed specification

3. *Designations*

| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|----------|--|
| SSSIs | Download from EN website | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, area, etc | 1 | |
| SACs | Download from EN website | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, area, etc | 1 | |
| SPAs | Download from EN website | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, area, etc | 1 | |
| RAMSAR | Download from EN website | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, area, etc | 1 | |
| Key Wildlife Sites (including GWT nature reserves) | GWT data | Digitised boundaries - linked data on name of site, GRef, general info on nature of interest, date designated (if available) | 1 | |
| Blue post sites | GWT data and FE data | Digitised boundaries (or point data where too small) - linked data on site name, GRef, general info on nature of interest | 2 | |
| Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) | GWT(RIGS Group data) | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, GRef, general info of features of interest, date designated | 2 | |
| Other important wildlife sites (recorded habitats and species, inc priority BAP species) | GWT/GEDU data base | Dot map - linked data indicating nature of interest (eg protected species, BAP priority species) | 2 | |

4. *Targeted Survey and reports*

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Classified Brown Land and Local Plan allocated land | Brown land surveyed 00/01 Allocated land 01/02 | Digitised boundaries - linked data & survey report on value of land for wildlife with identification of opportunities to retain and enhance features of interest | Digitise Boundaries - 1 Survey and linked data - 2 | |
| Grassland - St Briavels & Hewelsfield area | Phase I evaluation made 00/01 Phase II survey of site id from above 01/02 and 02/03 | Digitised boundaries of sites of KWS status - linked data on site name, GRef, area, date of survey, general description of nature of interest (NVC) | 2 | |
| Parkland/veteran trees | Evaluation of provisional inventory site (id 00/01 by EN//GWT contract) | Digitised boundaries - linked data on site name, code, No. trees, Age range of trees (?), other features of interest | Digitising and visual assess - 1/2 Ground survey - 2 | |

***Cost assumes FODDC have digitised boundaries and they are compatible with MapInfo

5. *Vision Mapping and Biodiversity planning*

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|----------|--|
| Hedgerows (for bats and dormice) | Use zone maps to define action required to deliver biodiversity targets | Text linked to zones identifying priorities for action and opportunities for main sectors/partners/communities | 2 | |
| Heathland | Identify priority areas for future restoration and linking of sites as part of open space network | Text linked to zones identifying priorities for action and opportunities for main sectors/partners/communities | 2 | |

6. *Flexible additional elements depending on availability of resources (incl time)*

Other Planning /Landuse Layers (of value to biodiversity planning)

| | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|----------|------------------------------|
| Forest waste | FE/FODDC | digitised boundaries | | Excluded from project |
| Stat forest, design plan boundaries & brushwood zones | FE | digitised boundaries (linked to explanatory text) | | Excluded from project |
| Natural Areas | EN | digitised boundaries - linked data to NA profile/key features | | Excluded from project |
| WV AONB | WV AONB Officer | digitised boundary (linked to explanatory text) | 1 | |

APPENDIX 4

Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey: Outline and Programme

FOREST OF DEAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1 The current Forest of Dean Archaeological Survey

The Archaeology Service of Gloucestershire County Council is currently undertaking a major archaeological survey of the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The project is funded by English Heritage, the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission and the County Council, and employs a team of three full-time archaeologists. The project is designed as a four-stage process, of which only stages 1 and 2 are currently funded. Full details of the survey programme are set out in the project design (Hoyle 2001) held by all funding partners and the four stages are therefore only briefly summarised below:

Stage 1

This stage is entirely desk-based and consists of the systematic collection of data from a range of published and unpublished text and map sources to bring together archaeological information on the Forest of Dean into a single body of data.

Stage 2

This stage is a pilot field survey which will test a number of archaeological techniques, including field survey, excavation and geophysical survey, to determine the most suitable methods to be applied in Stage 3.

Stage 3

At this stage the project team will look more closely at a number of archaeological questions in the Forest of Dean and undertake extensive prospecting field survey. The scope of this will be determined following analysis of the data collected earlier in the project. It is likely that this will involve investigating why some types of site, such as earlier settlements, are under-represented. Particular attention will be paid to identifying and quantifying archaeology in areas currently under woodland, and examining the problems of searching for archaeology in those areas.

Stage 4

This will consist of a report synthesising the results of Stages 1-3. This is currently envisaged as:-

- Discussion of the results of the project with reference to the archaeological themes which it explored.
- Brief management recommendations for land within the survey area.
- Recommendations to take the results of the project forward at a community level to promote awareness of the archaeological resource in the Forest of Dean or for community based management or research projects.

In addition to the above stages of work a National Mapping Programme project covering the Forest of Dean is being undertaken in conjunction with the survey.

The project commenced in January 2002 and work on Stage 1 is currently in progress.

APPENDIX 5

Forest of Dean Summary of Nature Conservation Interest

FOREST OF DEAN SUMMARY OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

* Denotes a significant presence in the landscape type

1 WOODED VALLEYS - the Wye Valley

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | * | In lower stretches of the River Wye (SSSI & cSAC) at junction with Severn Estuary SSSI, pSAC, Ramsar and SPA |
| Rivers and Streams | * | R Wye SSSI & cSAC <i>one of cleanest and most unaltered of lowland rivers in England</i> . Tributaries in from Dean Plateau. KWS = Mork Brook and tributaries |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Small unimproved and semi-imp on steeper slopes - mosaics with scrub and as ecotones at woodland edges - some in orchards. KWS = Caudwell Bog |
| Farmland | * | River flood plain |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | As part of the mosaic of woodland and open habitats on steep slopes |
| Woodland | * | Internationally important ASNW on steep slopes (several SSSI and one cSAC) - <i>the most important area within the FOD for near natural woodland</i> |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | * | Veterans in ASNW (Cadora woods) and The Hudnalls SSSI as well as in ancient hedgerows - Oak, ash, lime, beech and elm of note |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Some derelict orchards in area 1b |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | * | R Wye SSSI & cSAC - shad, lampreys, salmon & eels |
| Otter | * | R Wye SSSI & cSAC - recovering population. KWS Mork Brook |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Range of rare species associated with woodland habitats especially where coppice history and where limestone cliffs support grassland refuges and number of rare Sorbus hybrids |
| Dormouse | * | Throughout woodland and hedgerow habitats |
| Bats | * | Zone includes many important roosts (including lesser horseshoe breeding and hibernation roosts designated SSSI and cSAC). Woodland rides and edge and adjacent mosaic habitats provide essential feeding areas |
| Invertebrates | * | Range of rare and notable species - reflect diversity of habitats (including mosaics and wetland component) and history of management (low inputs and coppicing on steep slopes, retention of riparian zones) |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | * | Range associated with ASNW. Also Annex 1 birds - Peregrine, Raven and Goshawk |

2 LIMESTONE HILLS

BAP HABITATS

Estuaries & Saltmarsh
 Rivers and Streams
 Standing Open Water
 Wet Grasslands
 Species rich grasslands

* Unimproved and semi-improved grasslands intermixed with more intensive farmland and in mosaic at woodland edges - some with calcareous influences

Farmland

* Pastures with livestock on hilly ground

Ancient Hedgerows

* Throughout

Woodland

* Combination of ASNW and replanted ASNW with calcareous influence in ground flora. Linked in character to parts of area 5. SSSI - Dingle Wood, KWS - Blakes Wood. Woodland supports "scowles" - ASNW flora and access to underground systems with bats

Wood pasture park & Veteran trees

? parts of woodland with history of grazing, some veterans

Lowland Heathland
 Limestone Pavement
 Old Orchards
 Industrial spoil habitats

* Some in area 2e

BAP SPECIES

G.C.Newt
 Farmland Birds
 Migratory fish
 Otter
 Wintering wildfowl
 Breeding waders
 Brown Hare
 Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species)

* Range of notable species associated with woodland habitats and open space within woods

Dormouse

* Throughout the woodland landscape and probably in hedgerow network

Bats

* Area include important underground mine complexes particularly for greater and lesser horseshoe bats. Entrances to these areas or surface mine workings - "scowles".

Invertebrates

* Range of notable species associated with woodland habitats and open space within woods

Nightjar
 Woodland birds

* Range of species typical of range of native and planted woodland types and including Annex 1 Birds Directive species

3 LIMESTONE PLATEAU

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | | |
| Standing Open Water | * | KWS - Noxon pond (degraded) |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Particularly in area 3b where an important concentration of small, unimproved and semi-improved grassland have been retained on small holdings managing with traditional non-intensive methods. Also important acid grassland habitats at Tidenham Chase (Poors Allotment SSSI). <i>Together with Area 5 the most important location for species rich grasslands within the FOD - mostly neutral</i> |
| Farmland | * | Mixture of pasture and arable systems |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Retained in southern parts of Area 3a and a major landscape features of area 3b where a matrix of ancient field boundaries associated with the Hewlesfield Common area have been retained. <i>(Possibly one of the most important hedgerow landscapes in FOD if not the County)</i> |
| Woodland | ? | replanted ASNW in south of 3a |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | * | Veteran tree - King Yew at East Wood |
| Lowland Heathland | * | Heathland and acid grassland mosaic site at Poor allotment SSSI with area of restored heathland adjacent (FE) forming <i>the most important heathland location in both the FOD and county</i> |
| Limestone Pavement | * | Small area of limestone pavement (probably indicative of a much larger area now covered by woodland) - <i>unique feature in the FOD</i> |
| Old Orchards | | |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | * | Suspected important area but little research done |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | | |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | * | Area 3a - northern part - important location for hare? |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Some notable plants in semi-natural habitats throughout the area - Carex montana, tintern spurge |
| Dormouse | * | Present in hedgerows and woodland throughout the area (including coniferous plantations) |
| Bats | | |
| Invertebrates | | |
| Nightjar | * | Re-established populations at Tidenham Chase in recent years |
| Woodland birds | | |

4 WOOD SCARP AND LOWER SCARP SLOPES

BAP HABITATS

Estuaries & Saltmarsh
 Rivers and Streams
 Standing Open Water
 Wet Grasslands
 Species rich grasslands

*
 Unimproved and semi-improved grasslands on steep slopes in mosaic with woodland and hedgerow habitats KWS - Ridley Bottom

Farmland
 Ancient Hedgerows
 Woodland

*
 *
 Throughout the area
 ASNW and replanted AW particularly in area 4a. KWS - Woolaston
 Lime Coppice

Wood pasture park & Veteran trees

*
Site at Lydney Park is probably the best parkland site in FOD

Lowland Heathland
 Limestone Pavement
 Old Orchards
 Industrial spoil habitats

BAP SPECIES

G.C.Newt
 Farmland Birds

Migratory fish
 Otter
 Wintering wildfowl
 Breeding waders
 Brown Hare
 Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species)
 Dormouse

*
 On tributaries of the River Severn

Bats

*
 *
 Throughout area in hedgerows and woodland
 Important breeding roosts (in buildings) and underground mine sites (including SSSI and candidate SAC) for lesser and greater horseshoe bats - connected to the extensive underground systems in area 5

Invertebrates
 Nightjar
 Woodland birds

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh Rivers and Streams | * | Many small streams throughout the area including Cannop Brook, Cinderford Brook and Soudley Brook |
| Standing Open Water | * | Many open water sites throughout the area including important sites at Woorgreens, Cannop and Soudley (Soudley Ponds SSSI). <i>This area hold the most important locations for standing water habitats in the FOD</i> |
| Wet Grasslands | * | Some of the extensive open areas within the forest (often opened by clearfell) support damp acidic grasslands (Molinia dominated) which sometimes grade into wet heath and bog habitats |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Predominantly acid grasslands and complex ephemeral grasslands on old industrial sites (spoil heaps) - these areas contain many species (plant and animal) which are characteristic of the former semi-natural habitats prior to afforestation KWS - Cinderford Linear Park. <i>Together with Area 3 the most important area for species rich grasslands within the FOD - acid grasslands</i> |
| Farmland Ancient Hedgerows Woodland | * | Main habitat - composed of small areas of true ASNW with large areas of broadleaved woodland retaining semi-natural character but being significantly modified and also extensive areas of replanted ASNW. All types found in mosaic and interconnected by belts of scrubby woodland and open space. Alder habitats along streams. <i>Very diverse range of woodland habitats with important open space elements contributing significantly to overall level of biodiversity - the largest and most diverse area within the FOD</i> |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | * | Some parts of the forest have a long history of wood pasture management and retain many characteristics. Includes Speech House Oaks SSSI - important for lichen communities. In general over mature and veteran trees are few. |
| Lowland Heathland | * | Several significant areas of heathland (developing from clearfelled plantation woodland) showing characteristics of the former semi-natural habitats prior to afforestation eg Crabtree Hill, Oakenhill. Some farmland birds (skylark, linnet, tree sparrow) use clearfell areas |
| Limestone Pavement Old Orchards Industrial spoil habitats | * | Ancient (pre roman) to recent industrial history has resulted in extensive surface and underground mine systems (of importance for bats) and ephemeral wasteland, grassland and scrub habitats (with associated plant and invertebrate interests). KWS - Cinderford Linear Park |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | * | Cinderford Linear Park and Lightmoor KWS |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | * | On streams and ponds within the area |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Range of species associated with diverse habitats |
| Dormouse | * | Throughout woodland areas |
| Bats | * | Extensive underground mine systems provide internationally important hibernacula (5 SSSI & cSAC sites) and over 100 other significant locations. Extensive woodland cover with mosaic of open habitats (grasslands, clear fells, rides and wetlands provide diverse feeding opportunities and connectivity across the area |
| Invertebrates | * | Range of species associated with diverse habitats including open space, wetland, woodland and heathland species |
| Nightjar | * | Re-established population on open space, heathland and clearfell sites |
| Woodland birds | * | A wide range of typical species including important western oakwoods bird populations (pied flycatcher, redstart, hawfinch and wood warblers) and a number of Annex 1 Birds Directive species (Goshawk, Peregrine, Raven). Important bird research reserve at Nagshead SSSI/RSPB reserve |

6 UNWOODED VALE

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | * | Saline inundation grasslands on lower reaches of Wye in area 6a |
| Rivers and Streams | * | Tributaries of the Severn including Ell Brook and River Leadon |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | * | Floodplain and inundation grasslands of above river streams. Saline inundation grasslands on lower sections of the River Wye eg Pennsylvania Fields SSSI - large populations of nationally scarce plants - see below |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Unimproved and semi-improved grasslands, mainly neutral or slightly acidic and in north supporting large populations of wild daffodil and green winged orchids. Kempley Daffodil Meadow SSSI, Vell Mill meadow KWS, Oridge Street KWS and Merestones KWS. Also Ell Brook Meadows KWS alongside R Leadon. |
| Farmland | * | Mixed pasture and arable farming throughout |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Throughout areas but notable 6b and 6c, (Blaisdon & Westbury) |
| Woodland | * | ASNW eg Ley Park Wood Coppice |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | * | Some sites retained - yet to be evaluated |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Significant historic feature(much declined in recent decades) throughout areas - important associated dead wood invertebrate populations (Broadway Orchard, Elton and Westbury areas) |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|----|---|
| G.C.Newt | *? | Probable area for this species - poor records |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | * | Re-establishing populations on tributaries of Severn and on R Leadon & tributaries |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | * | Redshank & curlew in wet meadows - unknown extent of remaining interest |
| Brown Hare | * | Particularly in areas 6c and 6d |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | 6a includes saline inundation grasslands with populations of nationally scarce plants eg Alopecurus bulbosus, Bupleurum tenuissimum). 6d is part of area which forms stronghold for wild daffodil populations. Also 6a has sole county location for Carex divisa. |
| Dormouse | * | In ASNW woodlands |
| Bats | * | Significant horseshoe bat roosts and important feeding habitats |

Invertebrates

Nightjar
Woodland birds

* Important localities for remnant populations of Stag beetle and Noble Chafer (old trees and orchards)

7 DRAINED RIVERINE FARMLAND AND GRAZED SLATMARSH

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | * | Floodplain grasslands adjacent to the tidal section of the estuary - some with brackish influence and associated ditch habitats |
| Rivers and Streams | | |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | * | inundation grasslands with winter flood regimes |
| Species rich grasslands | | |
| Farmland | * | mostly pasture |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Locally eg AWRE peninsula important landscape features |
| Woodland | | |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | | |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|----|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | *? | re-establishing populations |
| Wintering wildfowl | * | Inundation areas used by range of duck and wading species |
| Breeding waders | *? | possible areas of residual interest |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | River bank and saline grasslands species include several nationally scarce species |
| Dormouse | | |
| Bats | | |
| Invertebrates | | |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | | |

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | * | Internationally important estuarine habitats of mud, sand and rock (Severn Estuary SSSI, Ramsar, SPA and pSAC. Unique physiographical regime with 2nd highest tide in world (tidal bore) and extreme dynamics |
| Rivers and Streams | * | Northern section of area more brackish/freshwater influence of River and number of freshwater tributaries throughout length |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | | |
| Farmland | | |
| Ancient Hedgerows | | |
| Woodland | | |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | | |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | * | Important populations of shad, lamprey, salmon and eel - (Severn Estuary SSSI, Ramsar and pSAC features) |
| Otter | * | Re-establishing population |
| Wintering wildfowl | * | Important populations of wintering duck, geese, swans and waders - Severn Estuary SSSI, Ramsar and SPA features) |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | | |
| Dormouse | | |
| Bats | | |
| Invertebrates | * | Populations of intertidal invertebrates of high biomass and important as food for wintering birds populations. |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | | |

BAP HABITATS

Estuaries & Saltmarsh

Rivers and Streams

Standing Open Water

Wet Grasslands

Species rich grasslands

*

Neutral and acidic/neutral grasslands some on steep slopes and often with hedgerow and scrub associations eg Clarke's Pool Meadow SSSI

Farmland

*

Mixed pasture and arable

Ancient Hedgerows

*

Throughout area

Woodland

Wood pasture park & Veteran trees

Lowland Heathland

Limestone Pavement

Old Orchards

Industrial spoil habitats

BAP SPECIES

G.C.Newt

Farmland Birds

Migratory fish

Otter

Wintering wildfowl

Breeding waders

Brown Hare

* ?

Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species)

*

Rare sorbus hybrids on river cliffs at Gatcombe

Dormouse

Bats

Invertebrates

Nighthjar

Woodland birds

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | * | Longhope Brook KWS |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Unimproved and semi-improved and acidic grasslands often on steep slopes and associated with hedgerow and woodland edge habitats Newnham Haie Bog KWS and 2 Bridges area |
| Farmland | * | Pasture and some arable |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Throughout area |
| Woodland | * | ASNW and replanted ancient woodland - some with significant historic context eg Flaxley, Welshbury and Chestnuts. Remnants of original native cover of the Dean ?? - lime woods |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | ? | Some areas - resource not yet evaluated |
| Lowland Heathland | * | Heathland and bog habitats at Wigpool common with associated notable plant species |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Particularly in areas 10a,10b and 10d on steep slopes |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | * | Longhope Brook |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Range of notable species on diverse habitats |
| Dormouse | * | Throughout woodland areas |
| Bats | * | Internationally important lesser and greater horseshoe breeding roosts (Dean Hall & Blaisdon Hall SSSI and cSACs) and hibernation roosts (SSSI and cSAC) in mines at Wigpool and Edgehills |
| Invertebrates | * | Deadwood invertebrates associated with orchard habitats (Gnorimus nobilis - Noble Chafer) and variety of invertebrates associated with heath/bog, woodland, grassland and scrub habitats. |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | * | Range of typical birds of native and planted woodland |

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | | |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Unimproved and semi-improved neutral to acid grasslands often on slopes associated with woodland edges, hedgerows and orchards Glasshouse Orchards KWS |
| Farmland | | |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Throughout area |
| Woodland | * | ASNW and planted AW , some with Silurian limestone influence |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | *? | Acid grassland and former heathland habitats at May Hill SSSI |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Throughout area |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | | |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Area (also 15, 14, 6d , 11b) part of wild daffodil country |
| Dormouse | * | Throughout woodland areas and hedgerows |
| Bats | * | Breeding roosts and feeding habitats |
| Invertebrates | * | Area includes important populations for Noble Chafer and Stag beetle |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | * | Range of typical woodland birds |

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | | |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | * | Floodplain grasslands with ditch habitats (Walmore Common SSSI and Ramsar SPA). <i>The most important wetland meadow and bird site in the FOD</i> |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Inundation grassland and ditches |
| Farmland | * | Pasture |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | |
| Woodland | | |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | On steeper ground at flood basin edge |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | | |
| Wintering wildfowl | * | Internationally important site for Bewicks Swan (SSSI and Ramsar SPA)and regionally important site for other wintering wildfowl and waders |
| Breeding waders | * | Re-establishing wader populations ? |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Nationally scarce plants associated with wet grassland and ditch habitats |
| Dormouse | | |
| Bats | | |
| Invertebrates | * | Range of typical and notable invertebrate species associated with ditches. Some orchards with Noble Chafer populations |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | | |

BAP HABITATS

Estuaries & Saltmarsh
Rivers and Streams
Standing Open Water
Wet Grasslands
Species rich grasslands
Farmland
Ancient Hedgerows
Woodland
Wood pasture park & Veteran trees
Lowland Heathland
Limestone Pavement
Old Orchards
Industrial spoil habitats

BAP SPECIES

G.C.Newt
Farmland Birds
Migratory fish
Otter
Wintering wildfowl
Breeding waders
Brown Hare
Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species)
Dormouse
Bats
Invertebrates
Nightjar
Woodland birds

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | * | River Leadon & tributaries |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grasslands (associated with hedgerow and orchard habitats) |
| Farmland | * | Mixed pasture and arable |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Throughout area |
| Woodland | * | Includes Collinpark Wood SSSI - important ASNW lime wood and Ryton Coppice KWS |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | | |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Throughout area - some with semi-improved grassland interest and invertebrate interest |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | * | On River Leadon and its tributaries |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Red tipped Cudweed (BAP species) |
| Dormouse | * | In ASNW |
| Bats | * | Breeding roost locations |
| Invertebrates | * | Potential orchard dead wood invertebrate interest - Gnorimus nobilis (Noble chafer) ?? - research required |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | | |

BAP HABITATS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Estuaries & Saltmarsh | | |
| Rivers and Streams | | |
| Standing Open Water | | |
| Wet Grasslands | | |
| Species rich grasslands | * | Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grasslands often associated with woodland edge, hedgerow and orchard habitats. Daffodil meadows |
| Farmland | | |
| Ancient Hedgerows | * | Throughout area |
| Woodland | * | Extensive ASNW and planted AW in north of area (Dymock Woods SSSI) |
| Wood pasture park & Veteran trees | | |
| Lowland Heathland | * | Remnants of heathland vegetation within Dymock Forest |
| Limestone Pavement | | |
| Old Orchards | * | Particularly in south - Gwen & Veras fields KWS |
| Industrial spoil habitats | | |

BAP SPECIES

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| G.C.Newt | | |
| Farmland Birds | | |
| Migratory fish | | |
| Otter | * | On Ell Brook (tributary of R Leaddon) |
| Wintering wildfowl | | |
| Breeding waders | | |
| Brown Hare | ? | |
| Vascular plants (Nat Scarce & notable species) | * | Part of a local stronghold of wildlife daffodil meadows |
| Dormouse | * | Throughout woodland and hedgerow habitats |
| Bats | | |
| Invertebrates | * | Important invertebrate populations in Dymock Forest (Dymock Woods SSSI) - particularly woodland butterflies and moths |
| Nightjar | | |
| Woodland birds | * | Range of typical species including Annex 1 Birds Directive species |

APPENDIX 6

By Definition – Sample Answers

BY DEFINITION – SAMPLE ANSWERS FROM WIDE RANGE OF RESPONSES TO 1256 QUESTIONNAIRES

Those who thought of Forest of Dean as neither Statutory Forest or Local Council Area.

The whole Forest of Dean , the woods, the whole area. I know Newent is in the FOD but think of it as Gloucestershire. Think of FOD as between rivers up to Mitcheldean.

Deep feeling for the area not covered by geographical boundaries An area & feeling of belonging

The Forest of Dean is a bigger thing than just the woods and the local government

It means cycling to me and a lot of walking - a wooded area with a lot to offer

Do you feel Part of FOD – NO – WHY?

Because I don't live near the Forest itself. I have little reason to visit the forest. I feel much more part of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire

It's not in the direction we tend to travel. We are on the edge and travel out

Most of the people who I know, don't live, sound or act like Foresters so I don't myself.

Because I live in Sedbury and I feel neglected

Never consciously, although aware of the Forest of Dean due to being born around Tidenham Chase.

Do you feel part of FOD? YES – WHY?

Because it is part of my work area

Because I've got loads of things to do in the Forest of Dean and I've got loads of trees in my back garden like they do and I like the countryside

When we moved here we were made welcome and people I have met now think I'm a forester

I was born here at the Dilke

The small villages and community spirit. The uniqueness of the people- things like our dialect give us an unique identity and gel us together

As much as a newcomer of ten years can feel!

Special – Place

The countryside. The greenery of the countryside. Over here you're midway between the Wye and the Malverns, nice countryside and nice towns like Ledbury. Good access. Not necessarily nice towns in the forest itself. Coleford felt alright, not sure about Cinderford.

Many contrasts. Mining areas and beauty spots. Top half nothing in common with industrial bottom.

It's still relatively unspoilt - lots of green countryside, lots of walks. You can get away from the main roads, get peace and quiet

I still find new things and new places even after living here for 20 odd years. That is something I really like. As a general thing the trees are special, that's central

Mostly the beauty of the actual forest. The little market towns

The wonderful views from Littledean Hill Road. You can see Gloucester and the Severn. I like the wild woods - I don't like it when the trees are in lines, it looks wrong. All the bare patches of land where trees used to be that's wrong too.

The landscape. Bream Cricket Club looking over towards Sling and its sunset. It's quite nice. Trees, light.

The location, between the rivers an island between England and Wales.

It's beautiful but not quaint. Rural, a bit robust.

The whole concept of the trees, colour, landscape. It is scenic, contoured. The natural beauty

The trees and the wildlife and the insects. Evergreens. Birds, cuckoos, blackbirds, butterflies and ants, ladybirds and woodlice, rabbits, finding badger holes and footprints.

What's Special – People

Strong local families, traditionally close knit community

The independence which people feel, having a sense of their destiny more than urban people.

It seems to be 30 years behind everywhere else. The friendliness of the people. It's more of a community than where we live in London. The community spirit of the place.

The relaxed atmosphere, the friendliness of the people.

The people are quite unique. They've got very set strong opinions and they won't always be budged by modern thinking. I don't think that's a bad thing. They're not easily persuaded or won over

Because of the centuries of inbreeding the intelligence levels have separated into two categories which allows one to seek out more easily your own intellectual peers. Possibly coincidental that they are outsiders

To be able to be alone. Everyone communicates. I'm very happy to have moved here. There's a better pace of life. People just live, respect who they are and what they are. I feel at home here. It's where I wish to be and where I'll stay, I love this place. People treat me with love and care

The independence of the people - this can often make them more tolerant of different groups of people. It can also make them intolerant - travellers get a better reception here.

The outdoors is immediately there! It's not twee and plushy like the Cotswolds. Real people going about real lives.

The people and distinct culture - anti authority attitude. Strong sense of community. The industrial past has left a different 'set' of people, very different to the Cotswolds.. The mining culture has left a structure of social organisations - cricket, football, rugby, silver band, male voice choirs, village halls. A strong social network

What's Special – Process/Activities

The views of the Severn, the waymarked paths. The variability of terrain unpopulated where I visit anyway. Good for walking.

Lydney Docks - quiet there, bird watching, see life on the river. See the big ships going to Sharpness, see them in and out.

Somewhere to go, in the woods, mountain biking with mates, take a scrambler up the woods

Music scene, cycle and freedom, walking.

Love the woods, scenery, walk for hours with dog, ride horse around forest.

The beauty and solitude of the forest. I am a walker in the forest

Music scene, cycle and freedom, walking.

The diversity, there is so much to observe e.g. Sculpture Trail, ponds, cycling. No hassle parking. No traffic to get there. Can get lunch there. The plantation, specially the hardwoods. Barbecues

What's special – Past/heritage/rights

Nice ancient trees. Oaks. Dean Heritage Centre. It's interesting to see the heritage of the forest and its history is educational. It's nice to see big old trees. Sculpture Trail. Picturesque, Puzzle Wood, schools trips. Railway. The ancient trees !

Brought up in Forest ways - drinking rough cider, sheep badging and eating what they grow or breed.

Traditions. We still have carnival at Pillowell. Whitecroft will have their football team.

The oak trees. The nearest thing to ancient woodlands as it gets. Mixture of old trees. Old trackways and tramways. Lots of water and ponds. It joins onto the Wye Valley. The history independent coalmines is quite interesting

History in general. Grandfathers were miners, still working mines. King - Royal status

Local brass bands and silver bands - Lydbrook are great. Local football club-Horrace played rugby, I watched soccer. Forest churches - the Forest Church, Harrow Hill and Mitcheldean. Forest Church congregation and its fabric is very welcoming. I am in favour of the sheep (not on roads) and freeminer traditions.

The rights of access, the freedom to roam.

The feeling the whole land has been burrowed, tipped, mined, quarried and used. There are a lot of people with a long tradition of skills. You can probably find someone to do whatever you want in the forest, coming from generations of metalworking, mining, forging - comes from having and being independent

Special – Presence/Abstract

Uniqueness - there is only one FOD, you can't compare it to anywhere else.

The peace, tranquillity, the Wye and the Wye Valley. The beauty and peaceful nature of it.

Its people, pace of life. A very special place. Its location, peace and quiet

Being in and around what is a living organism whatever you do you are 'in' the forest. Continually growing and changing.

The Forest itself – magical

The free spirit of the forester, you haven't got to belong to any social clan. People are accepted on their own merits

I think it's a bit mysterious

Special – Access/freedom/space

You can walk anywhere, you're not restricted, can walk to see no one except bloody cyclists

Open access to all woods and fields (when no Foot and mouth)

Handy for so many places. Handy for local attractions. Handy for daily life. Very accessible

The beauty, the sense of freedom, large tracks of forest that you are free to explore and my children had that experience as they grew up.

The ability to roam in open countryside, no restrictions. Not many places in this country where you can do that