

## INTRODUCTION

This review of the Forest Plan has been prepared by the Forest of Avon team on behalf of the Countryside Agency, the Forestry Commission, Bristol City Council Bath and North East Somerset Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council.

It is a non-statutory plan (it has no legal powers) and it is essential that the community forest concept and its implementation is properly embedded into the formal planning system at regional, strategic and local levels.

### The Plan aims to:

- introduce and explain the concept of community forests and their national context;
- describe the character of the Forest of Avon area and show how the Community Forest will enhance it;
- identify strategies and priorities needed to turn the idea into reality;
- show how the Forest will contribute to the area's sustainability and biodiversity;
- show who will lead the Forest and make it happen;
- invite and encourage local people from all sections of the community to have their say and to help to make the Forest a reality.

## The Plan's contents

The Plan explains what community forests are, describes the area, outlines proposals and priorities and suggests how the Plan will be put into action. It is in five main parts:

### National Context

Explains the background to the community forest concept and how the Forest of Avon is part of the national family.

### Local Context

Describes the study area both geographically and by main topics, and highlights what is already happening.

### Forest-wide Vision

Introduces the vision for the Forest, showing what it could be like, topic by topic.

### Forest Strategies

Puts forward proposals for each of the Forest's management areas, showing what could happen and where.

### Implementation

Indicates who will be involved in taking the Plan and vision forward, how this can be done and some of the key tasks, targets and costs.

## Public consultation

Originally, a draft of this Plan was published in June 1994. This was circulated to a wide range of organisations and individuals to ensure that the Plan responded to people's needs and concerns. A summary of the comments was published in the Report on Consultation and, where possible, these views have been built into the Forest Plan.

This review, carried out in 1999-2000 has consulted a range of partners and local communities and has been adopted by the local authorities and national partners.

Forest of Avon  
Ashton Court Visitors Centre  
Ashton Court Estate  
Long Ashton  
Bristol  
BS41 9JN

**Tel:** 0117 953 2141

**Fax:** 0117 953 2143

**E-mail:** [admin@forestofavon.org.uk](mailto:admin@forestofavon.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.forestofavon.org.uk](http://www.forestofavon.org.uk)

