

England's community forests

28/3/2011

Launch of National Planning Policy Framework

Yesterday saw the publication of the government's hotly debated [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). While its full ramifications will take time to emerge, there are three clear links to the work of England's Community Forests:

> Firstly, as per the draft Framework published in July 2011, Community Forests remains a material consideration in the planning process. Paragraph 92 of the final Framework states:

“Community Forests offer valuable opportunities for improving the environment around towns, by upgrading the landscape and providing for recreation and wildlife. An approved Community Forest plan may be a material consideration in preparing development plans and in deciding planning applications. Any development proposals within Community Forests in the Green Belt should be subject to the normal policies controlling development in Green Belts.”

> Secondly, green infrastructure planning appears to feature well in the Framework.

> Thirdly, the presumption in favour of sustainable development has stayed in the final document.

In the meantime, partners and communities continue to have a real impact delivering Community Forests up and down the country, bringing social, environmental and economic benefits even in these challenging times. To find out more about our work and to find your local Community Forest, visit our website: www.communityforest.org.uk.