



## The Forestry Commission



The Forest of Dean

The Forestry Commission is one of the largest landowners in England and Wales. As the government department responsible for forestry policy throughout Great Britain, its mission is to protect and expand Britain's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment. Founded in 1919, it owns 205,000 hectares of woodland in England and 109,000 hectares in Wales. Its total land ownership in England is 259,000 hectares and 126,200 hectares in Wales.

Around 90 per cent of the Forestry Commission's land was unregistered at the start of 2005/6. Land Registry had worked with the commission on pilot registrations of the Forest of Dean and the New Forest, preparing the way for the go-ahead to register the whole of the estate.

Mark Thornycroft, Head of Estates in England, says the commission felt registration was "something that everybody ought to do".

"The reason why the exercise kicked off when it did was because we had the offer of help and support from Land Registry. We discussed it with Land Registry for a considerable period and we were happy to agree it was something we would do.

"We were very keen to have security of our title through registration. There were certain forests where we have had problems with boundary disputes.



Kielder Forest

“The exercise has gone extremely well and we’re very pleased to have secured the registration of our estate with the very considerable support of Land Registry.”

Maggie Telfer, Head of Register Development at Land Registry, says the Forestry Commission programme was the most ambitious project Land Registry has ever attempted.

“The Forestry Commission has frequently expressed its satisfaction with the speed and efficiency of the processing,” she says. “We continue to work with the commission to supply it with the map information in the format that best suits its needs.”

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