



Partnerships case study: Defence Infrastructure Organisation

THE WARCOP TRAINING AREA WOODLAND CREATION SCHEME

An innovative funding model for a public sector project

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) manages the military training estate for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The estate needs to provide a realistic training environment for the UK's Armed Forces and DIO was interested in creating more wooded areas, but at little or no cost to the MoD. The Trust has helped DIO achieve this in a pilot project on the Warcop training estate in Cumbria, providing woodland creation expertise and funding.

The challenge

The DIO's Warcop training area provides modern facilities for regular units from across the UK, yet it sits in a beautiful part of Cumbria that is an area of high conservation value. The entire training area forms part of the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and some of it falls within the Appleby Fells and Upper Teesdale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

With little existing woodland cover at Warcop, the DIO felt that tree planting would improve the military training capability of the area while also enhancing the landscape. But these improvements were needed at a time when the DIO is expected to make significant budgetary savings.



Key facts

- The Ministry of Defence is the nation's second largest landowner
- The DIO estate spans 240,000ha, of which approximately 25,000ha could be suitable for woodland creation*
- Warcop training area in Cumbria covers approximately 9,715ha (24,000 acres) and is in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- 160ha of woodland, comprising 176,000 native trees, are being planted at Warcop – doubling the existing amount of woodland on the estate
- Each hectare of woodland planted at Warcop will lock up approximately 550 tonnes of CO₂
- Funding for the project is coming from a variety of sources, including:
 - Over £100,000 of support is being provided by the North Pennines AONB Partnership's Living North Pennines project which aims to plant 250,000 trees within the North Pennines
 - Eurocamp, the holiday company, is funding five hectares, through the Woodland Trust's Woodland Carbon scheme (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/carbon)
 - Waitrose is supporting the project via its online delivery service and is funding the planting of 12ha during 2011

* Figure taken from an initial scoping study conducted by the Woodland Trust in partnership with DIO



The Woodland Trust solution

The Trust has nearly four decades of woodland creation expertise and is in a great position to help DIO with advice on creating a more wooded estate. We are also increasingly working on innovative funding models to assist others plant trees. In the case of Warcop, we have been able to secure funding through our Woodland Carbon scheme (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/carbon) where individuals and businesses help mitigate their carbon emissions by funding the planting of native woodland.

Funds from both Waitrose and Eurocamp have been used to help the DIO achieve its woodland creation ambitions. In addition, we have developed an excellent local working relationship with the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is part of the project, providing both significant funding – through its Living North Pennines project – as well as practical conservation support.

Planting has already begun at Warcop and the full 160 hectares – 176,000 trees – will be planted by the end of 2012. These new areas of mixed density woodland will not only improve the training environment but also provide much needed habitats for threatened species including the iconic black grouse.

David Olney, DIO's Deputy Chief Executive, summarises the partnership by saying: *"This excellent initiative allows us to improve training facilities, whilst securing significant conservation and environmental benefits at no extra cost to the Ministry of Defence."*

While Stuart Dainton, the Trust's Head of Partnerships, adds: *"It is a great example of working together and, whilst organisations have different motivations, ultimately everyone involved has benefited from the planting of trees."*

The Trust's partnership with DIO is continuing with work focusing on the assessment of suitable sites for planting – an initial scoping study has identified 25,000 hectares with potential for woodland creation. Once these sites have been identified we will be providing planting and funding advice to enable planting to get underway.

This partnership could result in the planting of thousands of hectares of woodland to help British soldiers train more effectively for military operations at no cost to the MoD, whilst helping to achieve the Trust's aim of doubling the UK's native woodland cover.

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Working in partnership with the Woodland Trust

Planting trees brings many benefits to organisations. The Woodland Trust is seeking to help realise these benefits for landowners within the UK by establishing woodland creation partnerships. We can provide expert advice on the planting and management of trees and woodland, assistance with funding and links to our highly effective communications and engagement teams.

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