



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Nature for Climate Fund Update

## England Trees Action Plan

## England Woodland Creation Offer

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#TogetherForOurPlanet #COP26 #PlantMoreTrees



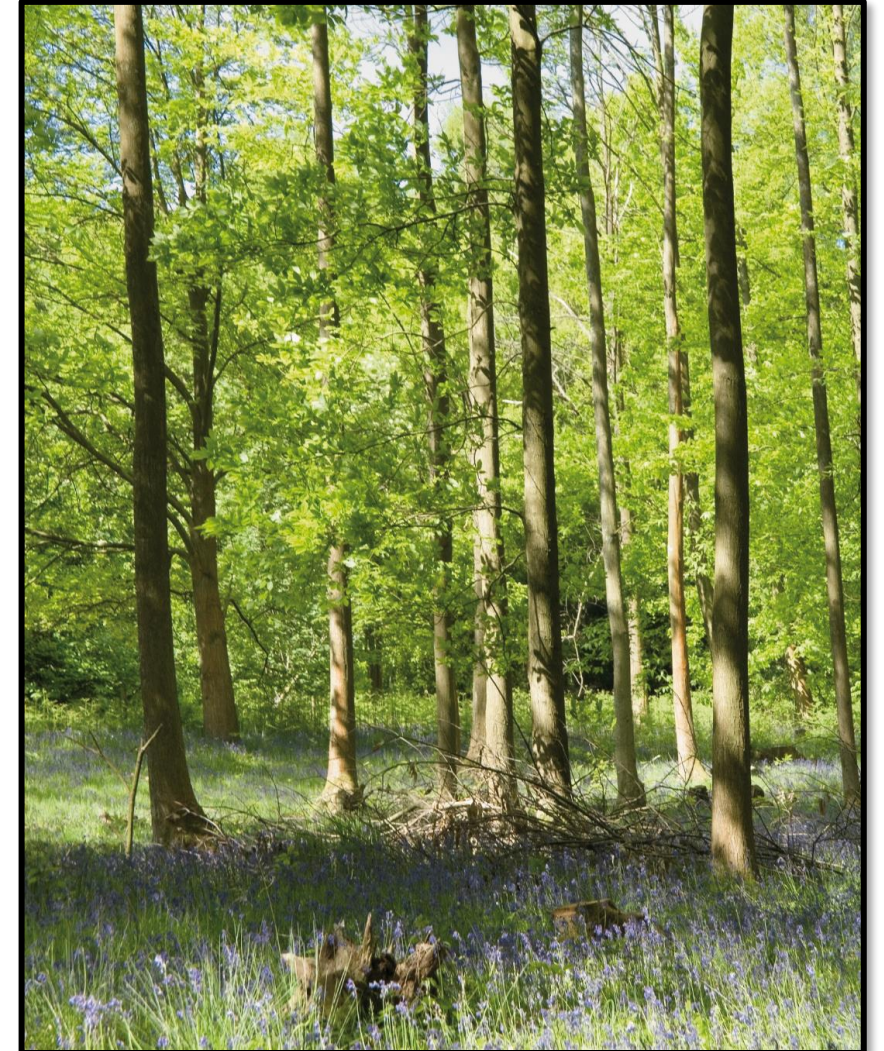


# The England Trees Action Plan

The England Trees Action Plan (ETAP) sets out our long-term vision for the sector, and the steps we will take over this parliament to start the journey to that vision. It will outline how Government will at least treble woodland creation rates in England by the end of this Parliament, as well as better protecting existing trees and woodland.

The strategic framework of the ETAP will deliver a number of Government ambitions. It will:

- 🌳 Provide an ambitious, long term vision for trees and woodland in England to 2050 and beyond
- 🌳 Outline Government's plans to deliver the trees aspects of the Nature for Climate Fund and other funding streams
- 🌳 Act as a call to action to land-owners and managers, the third sector, and communities to help us meet these ambitions
- 🌳 Align with other policy areas including peat and nature





# The Structure of the England Trees Action Plan



**Long Term vision to 2050 and beyond** - The England Trees Action Plan sets out Government's long-term, generational vision for the sector and England's treescape: what it needs to deliver and how Government will help others deliver it.

There are five chapters outlining over 80 policy actions Government will take during this Parliament to help meet the long term vision. These chapters are:

- 🌳 **Expanding and connecting our trees and woodlands**
- 🌳 **Trees and Woodlands as part of the green economy**
- 🌳 **Protecting and improving our trees and woodlands**
- 🌳 **Connecting people with trees and woodlands**
- 🌳 **Knowledge and science for trees and woodlands**

# Key Announcements

## Government will:

- 🌳 Aim to at least **treble woodland creation rates in England by the end of this Parliament**
- 🌳 **Launch the England Woodland Creation Offer**, a major new tree planting grant to plant over 10,000 hectares of new woodland over the lifetime of the grant.
- 🌳 **Extend the Urban Trees Challenge Fund**, and **launch the Local Authority Treescape Fund** providing investment to support the planting and establishment of trees in urban areas and trees outside of woodlands to benefit local communities.
- 🌳 **Expand the size of the nation's forests** by working with public and private land owners to create new woodlands under Forestry England's management
- 🌳 **Create at least three new Community Forests** and **select three new English regions to become part of the Woodland Creation Partnership scheme** providing greater public access to woodlands where they are needed most and boost tree planting rates.
- 🌳 **Strengthen protections for ancient and long-established woodlands** that have been in situ since the 19th century
- 🌳 **Setup a new fund to support UK tree nurseries** to enhance quantity, quality, diversity and biosecurity of domestic tree production

**This will be supported by over £500 million for trees from the Nature for Climate Fund**

# Expanding and Connecting our Trees and Woodlands

This section will outline the actions Government will be taking to deliver on their ambitions for expanding and connecting our trees and woodland. The topics this covers include:

## Supporting land-owners to create new woodland

- Government will aim to at least treble tree planting rates by the end of this Parliament
- Announcement of the England Woodland Creation Offer to support unprecedented levels of woodland establishment
- Supporting new and existing Woodland Creation Partnerships
- More woodland creation by public bodies on public land

## Creating new woodlands to benefit nature

- Supporting and extending the use of natural colonisation
- Woodland creation on vacant and derelict land

## Woodlands for water

- Supporting riparian woodland creation

## Trees and peat

- Actions to ensure peatland restoration and tree planting work hand in hand

## Putting the right tree in the right place

- Changing regulatory requirements for woodland creation for more certainty and simplicity while maintaining environmental standards
- Improving availability and quality of spatial and mapping data

## Putting more trees in our towns and cities

- Extension of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund
- Supporting local authorities to increase and retain tree cover in urban areas

## Building nursery capacity

- Actions to support the public and private nursery sector

# Trees and Woodland as Part of the Green Economy

This section will outline the actions Government will be taking to deliver on our ambitions for supporting the green economy. The topics this will cover include:

## Encouraging the use of timber in construction

- Provision of a timber innovation fund
- Develop a roadmap on use of timber in construction with key industry stakeholders
- Promoting more use of modern methods of construction

## Supporting innovative approaches to forestry

- Support for agroforestry
- Encourage recreation and tourism in woodlands

## Greening finance and taxation to support woodland creation

- Launch an Impact Fund to stimulate the flow of private finance into trees and woodland
- Develop natural capital markets
- Clarity on tax treatment of woodlands

## Support for tenant farmers

- More clarity on woodland creation on tenanted land

## Building a bigger, skilled workforce

- Understand the workforce needs of the sector, including in support of nature and economic benefits
- Improve skills and training routes into the forestry and arboriculture sector

# Protecting and Improving our Trees and Woodlands

This section will outline the actions Government will be taking to deliver on our ambitions for protecting and improving our trees and woodlands. The topics this will cover include:

## Improving the condition and resilience

- Actions to improve the condition and resilience of woodlands
- Better deer and squirrel management
- Actions to support the health of our woodlands

## Trees outside of woodland

- Launch the Local Authority Treescape Fund

## Adapting trees and woodlands to the impacts of climate change

- Encouraging landowners and managers to adapt woodlands to the impacts of climate change

## Ancient and long established woodlands and veteran trees

- Introduce a new category of Long Established Woodlands
- Update Keepers of Time
- Update the Ancient Woodland Inventory

## Better regulation of tree management

- Improve regulations around the management and felling of trees
- Improve the practice of managing trees in urban environments

## Preserving the nations forests for future generations

- Strengthen the protection of the nations forests

## Protecting trees by reducing biosecurity risks

- Actions to deliver improved biosecurity in England and GB including the promotion of the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme



# Connecting people with Trees and Woodlands

This section will outline the actions Government will be taking to deliver on our ambitions for connecting people with trees and woodland. The topics this will cover include:

## Community Forests

- Support for England's Community Forests

## Supporting access to trees and woodland

- Improve the quantity, quality and permanency of access to trees and woodlands
- Enable greater involvement of communities in woodland creation and management

## Trees in our landscapes

- Protect and improve landscape and heritage assets when establishing and managing trees and woodlands
- Encourage more trees and woodland in our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty



# Knowledge and Science for Trees and Woodland

This section will also outline how Government will be monitoring and evaluating the ETAP to ensure it delivers against their long term vision.

## Supporting woodland creation

- Better understand where and how to create new woodlands
- Improve knowledge of how different approaches to woodland creation and management impact carbon flows

## More resilient woodlands

- Better understanding of improving woodland resilience, impacts of climate change and new diseases
- Research into alternative materials for tree protection and establishment techniques
- Continued research on impacts of species reintroduction (e.g. pine martens)

## People and economy

- Further investigate motivations and barriers to woodland creation and management
- Build economic evidence base to help land managers make better decisions

# England Woodland Creation Offer

## **EWCO will cover capital costs**

- This will be at a 100% intervention rate (up to An £8,500 per hectare cap). It will also provide:
- annual maintenance payments for 10 years (£200 per ha)
- payments towards recreational infrastructure such as paths and picnic benches (100%)
- payments towards forest roads and tracks (40%)
- stackable additional contributions that recognise the public benefits that well-designed woodland created in the right locations will generate

# Additional Contributions

- **Nature Recovery** – available where woodland creation will expand areas of existing priority woodland, create areas of new native woodland or extend habitat for red squirrel populations. Support for these activities will help woodland-dependent priority species to recover. **High - £2,800/ha, Medium - £1,100/ha**
- **Riparian buffers** - available where the creation of native broadleaved woodland along water courses will improve river habitats. **£1,600/ha**
- **Access** – available where woodland creation will provide long-term permissive access for recreation on new areas of land. **£2,200/ha**
- **Close to settlements** – available where woodland creation will provide social and environmental benefits by being close to people. **£500/ha**



# Additional Contributions

- **Water Quality** - available where woodland creation will help reduce pollutants through land use change that reduces fertilizer application and/or creating woodland that intercepts pollution and sediment before it reaches water courses. **£400/ha**
- **Reduced Flood Risk** - available where woodland creation can help reduce the risk of flooding. **£500/ha**

# What's happening locally?

- Increasing our delivery capacity
  - Recently recruited 3 more Woodland Officers and 2 more Woodland Creation Officers and an extra Field Manager
- Increasing our national and local specialist / expertise capacity
  - Recruited an Area Ecologist (Lisa Kerslake) each area has one.
  - Recruiting another northern based Landscape Adviser (closed awaiting pre appointment checks)
  - Currently have a live recruitment for 2 Historic Environment Adviser posts.
- Working closely with partners (including)
  - Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees, Woodland Trust, Community Forest's and Great Northumberland Forest.

## What does this mean for the Northern Upland Chain LNP?

Should we look to promote the woodland creation opportunities more positively recognising that we already have a good starting point via the Natural Capital Investment Prospectus?

