

To: England Tree Strategy
Date: September 2020
Ref: Tree Strategy _NFU.doc
Circulation: Tree.Strategy.Consultation@defra.gov.uk
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England Tree Strategy Consultation

Summary

The National Farmers' Union of England and Wales (NFU) realises the important role trees and hedgerows will play in our commitment to Net Zero agriculture by 2040. In order to get the uptake needed, government must address various barriers that currently prevent engagement in planting trees from the farming industry.

There is a need to recognise trees in the wider landscape outside woodlands, which make up about one-third of total tree numbers, for the Government to be more positive about the multiple benefits they deliver to farm businesses, society and the environment, and to encourage good management of existing tree stocks, which have been overlooked in recent years by government policy.

The NFU endorses the policy principle of “the right tree in the right place”, and we recognise the importance of supporting and encouraging British sourced saplings and specialist growing opportunities such as Christmas trees. However, we believe that uptake of new woodland planting on farmland will be highly dependent upon effective policy instruments, such as payment for public goods linked to a robust carbon price reward for the carbon storage achieved.

Government should consider removing the permanency issue associated with establishing woodland e.g. by creating a new category of “carbon storage woodland” or “energy forests” which are not permanent land use change, but instead time-limited to 30-40 years, after which they may be reverted to their previous land use. Lastly, we agree with the need to review how tenancy agreements approach the responsibility for and rights to trees.

Background

The NFU represents 55,000 members across England and Wales. In addition, we have 20,000 NFU Countryside members with an interest in farming and rural life. We are the largest farming organisation in the UK, providing a strong and respected voice for the industry and employing hundreds of staff to support the needs of NFU members locally, nationally and internationally. We are engaged with government departments covering agriculture, rural affairs, environment, energy, climate change, employment, fiscal policy, infrastructure and transport issues, directing policy into real economic opportunities for rural diversification and job creation. The NFU champions British agriculture and horticulture, to campaign for a stable and sustainable future for our farmers and growers.

With 75 per cent of national land area in the agricultural sector, NFU members have a significant interest in land-based production of renewable energy and other non-food renewable resources. Last year, the NFU set out its vision for agriculture to achieve a net zero contribution to climate change across the whole of agricultural production by 2040, focussed on three key areas or ‘pillars’:

- Improving the productive efficiency of farming across all sectors
- Increasing on-farm carbon storage in vegetation and soils

- Boosting production of land-based renewable energy, including bioenergy for processes coupled to carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS), to generate credits for GHG emissions avoided and GHG removal.

General comments in response to the consultation document

In the context of our net zero ambition, the NFU welcomes this consultation on policies to expand tree cover, support woodland management and increase public engagement with trees and woodlands. However, we would like to make a number of general observations concerning the issues raised, based upon our experience of farmers considering tree planting over the past 10 years or more:

- There is a need to recognise trees in the wider landscape outside woodlands, which make up about one-third of total tree numbers, and for the Government to be more positive about the multiple benefits they deliver to farm businesses, society and the environment.
- There is also a need to encourage good management of existing tree stocks, which have been overlooked in recent years by government policy. Around 40% of existing woodland is not currently in active management. The NFU believe managing existing tree stock should be prioritised over new planting.
- Trees need to be planted for a good business reason, whereby their future management and maintenance are taken into account and their end market is known. Payments must reflect the long-term commitment.
- Building on from the above point, it must be publicly recognised that a proportion of the trees planted between now and 2050 (the period relating to this consultation) will be done so with the intention to be harvested.
- The reluctance of many farmers to plant trees is not just about financial decisions. There are other more deep-rooted issues, such as the permanence of land use change and the cultural desire for farmers to remain in 'farming' business.
- Land tenure is a barrier for agricultural tenancies. Historically, any forestry on tenanted land and any financial reward from timber production is owned by the landlord, not the tenant. Tenancies should be reviewed to allow tenants to financially benefit from trees on farm and therefore contribute going forward to government targets relating to trees.
- Feedback received from farmers and growers suggests that some local, simple tree planting and hedgerow grant schemes currently work well and can be favourable over national schemes. The NFU would like to see a simpler scheme landscape offered by the Forestry Commission, which offers straightforward application process and can be built upon local models for example those offered in the Peak District National Park and backed by the woodland trust.
- The NFU encourages Government to financially reward the management of small-scale coppice planting. The current 3-hectare threshold for Countryside Stewardship woodland creation grants proves to be a barrier to engagement.
- The NFU encourages the policy principle of the right tree in the right place. Hence, there is a need for tree planting to be based on sound, scientific evidence though it must also be recognised that science is a dynamic field. Government must do all they are able to avoid contradictory advice as we have seen in the past.
- The NFU strongly encourages government to not only reward new tree planting, but also financially incentivise good woodland management for existing woodland, both small and largescale. Additionally, moving forward existing woodland should be eligible to tap into carbon markets.
- Taxation can be a barrier to alternative permanent land use. Agricultural land currently qualifies for 100% relief from inheritance tax under Agriculture Property Relief and commercially managed woodland can qualify for 100% relief from inheritance tax under Business property relief. For any forestry that is not eligible to be managed commercially, the land is unlikely to qualify for either type of relief which is likely to act as a barrier.
- The NFU recognises the importance to support and encourage British sourced saplings – and for government to offer support/opportunities to nurseries to meet the increasing demand we are likely to see in the years ahead.

- There is a need for clarification around certain elements of the consultation, for example government to clarify what is meant by “woodland early years”. This is used throughout the consultation document yet offers no details of the period of time government are referring to.

The NFU broadly agrees with the level of ambition for bioenergy crops and the relevant policy recommendations made in the recent ‘Land Use: Policies’ report from the Committee on Climate Change. In addition to perennial energy crops (up to 700,000 hectares by 2050, as suggested by the CCC), we believe there will be opportunities in the 2020s to further expand production of annually harvested non-food crops within more diverse arable rotations. For example, hybrid rye, maize and herb-rich grass leys which can support an expanded fleet of AD biomethane installations to help decarbonise domestic gas supply.

However, we believe that uptake of new woodland planting on farmland will be highly dependent upon effective policy instruments, such as payment for public goods linked to a robust carbon price reward for the carbon storage achieved. Our view is that enhanced and extended hedgerows, together with small patches of woodland and other agroforestry measures, are most likely to be incentivised in the short term (e.g. 2021-25). Levels of woody vegetation cover of around 10% of total farm area are already the case in some parts of Sussex and Kent.

Within the NFU’s net zero plans, our initial estimates for woodland carbon storage are based upon an average of around 0.5% (range 0.25% -1.0%) of agricultural land being subject to new woodland planting, limited to less profitable land and subject to constraints such as tenants requiring landlord permission. Any farmer engagement with tree planting, whether that be agro-forestry or woodland creation must be done so on a voluntary basis. Farmers should be equipped with the correct advice and guidance but given the flexibility and confidence to determine where is best to plant on their own land

Nearly 30% agricultural land in England is tenanted either on Full Agricultural Tenancies or Farm Business Tenancies. In the majority of cases, tenant farmers are unable to plant trees on their holdings due to clauses within their tenancy agreements either expressly prohibiting them from doing so. More general clauses in the majority of agreements can also prevent tree planting since the activity can be interpreted as departing from agricultural use of the holding or amounting to breaches of farming the holding in accordance with the rules on good estate management and good husbandry as defined within the Agriculture Act 1947. Clauses currently within the Agriculture Bill go some way to allowing a tenant farmer to challenge these types of restrictive clauses but only for Full Agricultural Tenancies. Should the Bill be passed unamended, the same ability to challenge would not apply to Farm Business Tenants leaving them unable to plant trees without the consent of their landlord on the terms their landlord lays down. The NFU has asked for this amendment to be made to the Bill so that Farm Business Tenants may also benefit from the ability to challenge restrictive clauses.

Consultation questions.

Expanding and connecting our woodlands: questions

6. Which actions would address the financial barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland? (select all that apply)

- Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- Increasing the payment rates for incentives for woodland creation
- Widening the eligibility criteria for applicants to our woodland creation grants so more applicants can apply
- Widening the eligibility criteria for the type of woodlands and tree planting that can be funded
- Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental land management Scheme
- A quicker approval process for grant agreements

- g) Support if trees fail to establish due to no fault of the owner (for example, due to tree health or severe weather)
- h) Introducing mechanisms that provide an annual cash flow in the woodlands' early years
- i) Introducing mechanisms to realise a secure long-term cash flow for ecosystem services
- j) Introducing measures to stimulate more private investment (e.g. green finance) in woodland creation
- k) Developing new approaches to partnerships between landowners and woodland investors or managers which enable the landowner to derive an ongoing annual income from the land
- l) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words
- Assessing the implications of permanent land use change e.g. Tax disincentives
- Link the financial reward to carbon storage in trees via an actual or shadow carbon price

7. Which actions would be most effective in addressing the financial barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland? (select a up to three options)

- a) Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- b) Increasing the payment rates for incentives for woodland creation
- c) Widening the eligibility criteria for applicants to our woodland creation grants so more applicants can apply
- d) Widening the eligibility criteria for the type of woodlands and tree planting that can be funded
- e) Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental land management Scheme
- f) A quicker approval process for grant agreements
- g) Support if trees fail to establish due to no fault of the owner (for example, due to tree health or severe weather)
- h) Introducing mechanisms that provide an annual cash flow in the woodlands' early years
- i) Introducing mechanisms to realise a secure long-term cash flow for ecosystem services
- j) Introducing measures to stimulate more private investment (e.g. green finance) in woodland creation
- k) Developing new approaches to partnerships between land owners and woodland investors or managers which enable the landowner to derive an ongoing annual income from the land
- l) Other (if added, your own entry to question 6) assessing the implications of permanent land use change e.g. Tax disincentives

8. Woodlands provide a range of ecosystem services that provide benefits to businesses and society. How could government better encourage private investment in establishing trees and woodland creation? (Maximum 150 word response)

- Private investment should be allowed alongside government grants for tree planting/woodland creation and maintenance. Layering of payments would offer more incentives and reward the various public goods and ecosystem services being delivered by planting trees and hedges.
- The NFU supports the establishment of a sophisticated carbon market, as well as other ecosystem service markets such as a flood risk management market. Government should aid the development of this and support farmer participation to offer offsetting opportunities.

9. Which actions would address the non-financial barriers to the creation of new woodland? (select all that apply)

- a) Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- b) Providing access to better information on the income streams well managed woodland can provide
- c) Providing land managers with better access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- d) Providing the investment community with access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- e) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to land managers
- f) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to the investment community
- g) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to local communities
- h) Changing policy so it does not treat afforestation as a permanent land use change
- i) Increasing availability and access to contractors to plant and maintain the trees

- j) Increasing availability of desired bio secure planting material
 - k) Educate and enthuse a new generation to expand the forestry industry
 - l) Developing new approaches to partnerships between land owners and woodland investors or managers which enable the landowner to retain ownership of the land
 - m) Developing a supply of diverse and locally appropriate seed and planting material by supporting community tree nurseries and other small nurseries that provide UK sourced and grown trees.
 - n) Providing best practice guidance on how best to achieve tree cover through natural establishment (e.g. most suitable locations, ground preparation, fencing requirements and decisions on management over time).
 - o) Other – more clarity is needed around how current tree planting will interact with ELMs once launched in 2024.
- Tenancy regulation needs to be reviewed to address the current barrier for tenant farmers to engage and benefit from woodland on farm

10. Which actions would be most effective in addressing the nonfinancial barriers to the creation of new woodland? (select up to three options)

- a) Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- b) Providing access to better information on the income streams well managed woodland can provide
- c) Providing land managers with better access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- d) Providing the investment community with access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- e) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to land managers
- f) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to the investment community
- g) Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to local communities
- h) Changing policy so it does not treat afforestation as a permanent land use change
- i) Increasing availability and access to contractors to plant and maintain the trees
- j) Increasing availability of desired bio secure planting material
- k) Educate and enthuse a new generation to expand the forestry industry
- l) Developing new approaches to partnerships between land owners and woodland investors or managers which enable the landowner to retain ownership of the land
- m) Developing a supply of diverse and locally-appropriate seed and planting material by supporting community tree nurseries and other small nurseries that provide UK sourced and grown trees.
- n) Providing best practice guidance on how best to achieve tree cover through natural establishment (e.g. most suitable locations, ground preparation, fencing requirements and decisions on management over time)
- o) Other (if added, your own entry to question 9)

11. Which actions would address the regulatory barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland? (select all that apply)

- a) Providing access to better guidance on how to meet the UK Forestry Standard
- b) Local partners agreeing and setting priorities for woodland creation and other habitat restoration across landscapes
- c) Empowering the Forestry Commission to make decisions that reflect the national obligation to meet net zero emissions by 2050 and achieve the investment in natural capital set out in our 25 Year Environment Plan
- d) Implementing a joint approach to land management across central government and its agencies including those responsible for protected landscapes
- e) Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme
- f) Reduce the time and costs associated with Environmental Impact Assessment for afforestation.
- g) Other - Creating a clearer more streamlined path through regulation (e.g. EIA and UKFS) that must be done before applying for a grant.

Amending the definition of agriculture for taxation purposes to incorporate land within an ELMS scheme or other Government incentivised tree planting scheme.

12. Which actions would be most effective in addressing the regulatory barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland? (select up to three options)

- a) Providing access to better guidance on how to meet the UK Forestry Standard
- b) Local partners agreeing and setting priorities for woodland creation and other habitat restoration across landscapes
- c) Empowering the Forestry Commission to make decisions that reflect the national obligation to meet net zero emissions by 2050 and achieve the investment in natural capital set out in our 25 Year Environment Plan
- d) Implementing a joint approach to land management across central government and its agencies including those responsible for protected landscapes
- e) Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme
- f) Reduce the time and costs associated with Environmental Impact Assessment for afforestation.
- g) Other (if added, your own entry to question 11)
Creating a clearer more streamlined path through regulation (e.g. EIA and UKFS) that has to be done before applying for a grant.

13. How can we most effectively support the natural establishment of trees and woodland in the landscape? (Maximum 100 words)

- Natural establishment poses various challenges. The NFU believes that trees should be managed and assessed accordingly to ensure the right tree in the right place.
- in order to establish more trees in the landscape government must remove the permanency issue associated with establishing woodland e.g. by creating a new category of "carbon storage woodland" or "energy forests" which are not permanent land use change, but instead time-limited to 30-40 years, after which they may be reverted to their previous land use.

14. Are there any other actions - beyond the options you have already selected or submitted - that would help land owners and managers to transform the level of woodland creation and increase the number of non-woodland trees in England? (Maximum 150 words)

- Permanency issue must be addressed
- Carbon market establishment
- Financial support for non-woodland trees (hedgerow trees acknowledged for environmental delivery).
- Financial incentives to those with existing woodland for good ongoing management
- Tenancy review to allow tenant farmers to benefit from on farm woodland

15. Which of the following actions would be most effective in helping expand woodland creation in locations which deliver water, flood risk benefits and nature recovery? (select up to three options)

- a) Widening the eligibility criteria for woodland creation grants so more applicants can apply and more forms of woodland are eligible
- b) Widening the eligibility criteria for woodland creation grants so more sizes of woodland are eligible
*Clarification for rationale behind selecting option b- the NFU would like to see smaller woodland eligible for grant support
- c) Increasing grant payments for tree planting along water courses, steep sided slopes and difficult sites
- d) Quicker approval process for grant agreements
- e) Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme

- f) Implementing a joint approach to land management across government, including authorities responsible for protected landscapes
- g) Providing better access to advice and guidance on woodland creation, forestry expertise and training
- h) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

16. What role could the nation's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) play in increasing woodland cover? (Maximum 150 word response)

- Any tree planting must be based on the "Right tree in the right place" principle
- Voluntary engagement is essential
- There should be a financial incentive for good management of already existing woodland
- Single trees/trees on farmland and trees in hedgerows need to be financially encouraged and support/recognised for their ecosystem services.
- The NFU would not support National Park planning authorities being gifted any further powers to force tree planting.

Protecting and improving our woodlands: questions

17. Which actions would be most effective to increase protection for trees and woodland from unsustainable management? (select up to three options)

- a) Introducing measures to support compliance with the UK Forestry Standard
- b) More effective information sharing between government departments and their delivery bodies to inform decisions impacting on woodland, including to prevent woodland loss
- c) Introducing clearer processes for licencing tree felling, with felling licences that can be suspended, withdrawn or superseded
- d) Greater penalties for non-compliance with the requirements of the Forestry Act
- e) Powers to set wider felling licence conditions, for example to enable enforcement of compliance with the UK Forestry Standard
- f) A clearer policy presumption that all trees felled without a licence will be replaced (except in exceptional circumstances)
- g) Refining the process of making Tree Preservation Orders, and clarifying the criteria to improve consistency in application of the policy across local authorities
- h) Other - incentives for sustainable management

18. Which actions would best help the planning system support better protection and enhancement of the ancient and wider woodland environment and trees? (select up to two options)

- a) Providing support to fully complete revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (to include ancient woodlands under two hectares in area)
- b) Commissioning research into effective size and use of buffer zones around woodland for different impacts
- c) Providing better monitoring and recording of decisions on planning applications affecting ancient woodland
- d) Sharing best practice guidance and training to support implementation of National Planning Policy Framework policy on ancient woodland with local authority planners
- e) Encouraging more woodland to be brought into management where impacted by development
- f) More effective information sharing between agencies and local planning authorities to inform decision making impacting on woodland including to prevent woodland loss
- g) Refining the process of making Tree Preservation Orders, and clarifying the criteria to improve consistency in application of the policy across local authorities.
- h) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

19. What actions would be most effective in reducing the use of plastics in forestry? (select one option)

- a) Providing support to land managers for deer control and fencing
- b) Supporting further testing and trial of non-plastic alternatives such as tree guards
- c) Introducing stronger control on the recovery and disposal of plastics in grant agreements and public sector contracts for woodland creation and management
- d) Promoting the use of non-plastic tree guards
- e) Other (please specify in no more than 25 words)

20. Which actions would overcome financial barriers to woodland management? (select all that apply)

- a) Providing better information on timber prices, grant schemes and market opportunities for wood and non-wood products
- b) Providing grant support for a wider range of management activities
- c) Providing grant support for the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS)
- d) Providing support for woodland infrastructure such as roading
- e) Providing grants or loans for equipment, for example, harvesters
- f) Support to increase the productivity/supply chains for woodland products
- g) Support for land owner collaboration in woodland management
- h) Government requiring more domestic timber through procurement policies
- i) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

21. Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the financial barriers to woodland management? (select up to three options)

- a) Providing better information on timber prices, grant schemes and market opportunities for wood and non-wood products
- b) Providing grant support for a wider range of management activities
- c) Providing grant support for the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS)
- d) Providing support for woodland infrastructure such as roading
- e) Providing grants or loans for equipment, for example, harvesters
- f) Support to increase the productivity/supply chains for woodland products
- g) Support for land owner collaboration in woodland management
- h) Government requiring more domestic timber through procurement policies
- i) Other – Local planning authorities need to ease the process that allows for the processing and storage of timber, this is particularly relevant in National Parks.

22. Which actions would address the non-financial barriers to woodland management? (select all that apply)

- a) Providing user friendly woodland management services aimed at 'non forester' woodland owners
- b) Ensuring public recognition of woodlands that are managed sustainably (for example, like Green Flag awards¹⁴)
- c) Providing better communication of the benefits and need for woodland management with land managers and investors
- d) Providing better information on timber prices, grant schemes and market opportunities for wood and non-wood products
- e) Training to increase the forestry skills capacity in agricultural workers
- f) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

23. Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the nonfinancial barriers to woodland management? (select a maximum of three options)

- a) Providing user friendly woodland management services aimed at 'non forester' woodland owners
- b) Ensuring public recognition of woodlands that are managed sustainably (for example like Green Flag awards)
- c) Providing better communication of the benefits and need for woodland management with land managers and investors
- d) Providing better information on timber prices, grant schemes and market opportunities for wood and non-wood products

e) Training to increase the forestry skills capacity in agricultural workers

f) Other (if added, your own entry to question 21)

24. Which actions would overcome the regulatory barriers to woodland management? (select all that apply)

a) Streamlining delivery of current regulations (for example, self-service felling licences for tree felling proposals that would not reduce woodland cover)

b) Placing responsibility for complying with woodland regulation on the woodland manager rather than the woodland owner

c) Placing a legal obligation on all land owners to manage their woodland

d) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

25. Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the regulatory barriers to woodland management? (select one option)

a) Streamlining delivery of current regulations (for example, self-service felling licences for tree felling proposals that would not reduce woodland cover)

b) Placing responsibility for complying with woodland regulation on the woodland manager rather than the woodland owner

c) Placing a legal obligation on all land owners to manage their woodland d)

Other (if added, your own entry to question 23)

26. If you own and/or manage woodland(s) that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) what actions would help you most to bring that woodland(s) into management? (Maximum 100 word response)

- Appropriate funding for management

Currently funding for SSSI management is only offered through engagement within agri-environment schemes, the current Countryside Stewardship offering remains complex and overly bureaucratic which is preventing engagement. Moving forward, there must be simpler ways to offer financial reward for SSSI management.

- Better advice and guidance available which is easily accessible

27. Which of the following actions would be most effective in improving plant biosecurity across England's trees and woodlands? (pick up to two options)

a) Increasing the number of nurseries that meet the 'Plant healthy' management standard

b) Providing better best practice guidance and information about biosecurity

c) Introducing conditions which require suppliers to meet the "Plant Healthy" management standard for those public sector contracts and government grants that relate to tree planting and restocking

d) Amending planning policy to encourage local planning authorities to source trees from suppliers who meet the 'Plant healthy' management standard

e) Sharing the Forestry England's experience and case studies

f) Managing the impact of invasive non-native plants which provide a pathway for disease through targeted action, ongoing management and monitoring, and wider education

g) Developing a supply of diverse and locally appropriate seed and planting material by supporting community tree nurseries and other small nurseries that provide UK sourced and grown trees

h) Other – the NFU encourage government to support growers to achieve the standard mentioned in option "c", or achieve best practice for biosecurity, as selected through our response with option "b".

28. Which of the following actions are or would be most appropriate for England's trees and woodlands to contribute to climate change mitigation and helping to achieve net zero? (pick up to three options)

a) Bringing woods into management to enhance their future resilience to climate change and secure greenhouse gas emissions reduction in other sectors through wood replacing 'carbon intensive'

materials (acknowledging that this will lead to a short to medium reduction on carbon stored in the woodland)

- b) Planting UKFS-compliant productive forests to provide a strong carbon sink over the coming decades and then a source of sustainable timber to meet the needs of future generations
- c) Planting predominantly native woodland to act as a long term store of carbon
- d) Establishing 'energy forest' plantations (short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry) to satisfy future biomass demand for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage
- e) Encouraging agroforestry to increase the amount of carbon stored on productive farmland
- f) Strengthening the protection of all woodland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation

29. Which of these actions would be most effective in reducing damage to trees and woodlands caused by deer? (select up to two options)

- a) Develop a national policy on sustainable deer management and control measures
- b) Facilitate landscape scale control by land managers
- c) Deer control as a requirement of grant or felling agreements
- d) Incentives for the management of deer
- e) Supporting a range of approaches to tree protection, including fencing and other alternatives to plastic tree guards
- f) Better advice and guidance on the value of and options to control damage by deer
- g) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

30. Which of these actions would be most effective in reducing the damage to trees and woodlands caused by grey squirrels? (select up to two options)

- a) Making grey squirrel control a requirement of grant or felling agreements
- b) Providing incentives for the management of grey squirrel
- c) Researching contraception to prevent breeding
- d) Reintroducing animals to help control squirrels, such as pine martens and goshawks
- e) Providing better advice and guidance on grey squirrel control
- f) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

Engaging people with trees and woodland: questions

31. Are any of the following significant barriers to securing and maintaining street trees? (select up to three options)

- a) Appropriate standards and guidance for securing the right trees in the right places
- b) Practical challenges in terms of street design, planting requirements and compatibility with other infrastructure provision
- c) The adoption of street trees by local highway authorities, or alternative arrangements where streets are not adopted
- d) The skills and resources needed to deliver new street trees, including funding for planting
- e) The funding and skills for ongoing maintenance of street trees over their lifetime
- f) Other – please specify in no more than 100 words

32. How could government overcome the barriers to securing and maintaining street trees you have identified in question 30? (Maximum 150 word response)

33. Which of these actions would be most effective in increasing the number/coverage of trees in and around urban areas? (rank the following options in order of preference)

- a) Promotion through national policy (including England Tree Strategy and national planning policy) including recognition that trees and woodlands are key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to other green and built infrastructure
- b) Promotion through national guidance (such as green infrastructure, planning and design, and code/street guidance, e.g., Manual for Streets) - stronger inclusion of appropriate engineering solutions
- c) Development and implementation of Local Tree and Woodland Strategies and local planning policies - setting local targets for tree canopy cover and recognition that trees and woodlands are key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to other green and built infrastructure

- d) Training for practitioners, including highways engineers and others
- e) Providing better support for community forests in areas of greatest need
- f) Creating new community forests in areas of greatest need
- g) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

34. Which actions would most help the preparation and implementation of local Tree and Woodland Strategies? (rank the following options in order of preference)

- a) Preparing national guidance on developing Local Tree and Woodland Strategies
- h) Recognising trees and woodlands as key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to green and built infrastructure
- d) Agreeing national data standards for urban trees
- e) Standardising the approach to measuring the value of the urban forest resource
- c) Using canopy cover as a measure to monitor the scale and development of the urban forest
- f) Adopting Local Tree and Woodland Strategies as supplementary planning documents
- g) Strengthening technical expertise in tree and woodland management in local authorities

35. Which actions would most effectively engage people in the management and creation of their local woodlands? (rank the following options in order of preference)

- a) Providing more training opportunities to support woodland management and creation
- e) Facilitating networks to exchange ideas and share good practice
- c) Enabling community groups to influence decision making about the management of their local woodland
- d) Enabling community groups to participate in the management of their local woodland
- f) Providing better support for community forests in areas of greatest need
- g) Creating new community forests in areas of greatest need
- b) Providing legal support to community groups for the acquisition or lease of woodland
- h) Supporting the growth of woodland social enterprise in and around towns and cities

36. Which actions by government would be most effective in addressing barriers to peoples' access to trees and woodlands? (rank the following options in order of preference)

- b) Offering more generous woodland management incentives for those woodlands with public access
- a) Supporting woodland access through existing incentives and rights of way
- d) Supporting woodland access with bespoke incentives, simply to allow access
- c) Creating new accessible woodlands in and around towns and cities
- g) Supporting people to become trained/accredited to better facilitate contact (learning and health) with nature
- e) Improving the quality of access by investing in infrastructure (car parks, trails, path surfacing, signage, seating)
- f) Regulating to maintain access rights when creating new woodland

37. Which of the following do you most value about trees and woodland? (select up to two options)

- a) Places to exercise and relax and engage with nature
- b) Places for nature
- c) A source of sustainable products and employment
- d) A resource that provides water management
- e) A resource that cleans the air
- f) A resource that stores carbon
- g) As a feature within towns and cities
- h) As part of urban green space
- i) Other - (i) a source of employment and specialist ornamental tree production opportunities for some farmers, e.g. Christmas trees, tree nurseries, etc.

38. Which of these actions would best address the funding challenge for the planting and on-going maintenance of trees in urban areas? (select up to two options)

- a) Making central funding available to supplement private finance for establishing trees in existing developments.
- b) Using planning levers to require developers to plant trees relating to new development on streets and other public spaces
- c) Using planning levers to raise funds for on-going maintenance
- d) Ensuring the value of tree's longer term benefits are captured to access financing
- e) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

Supporting the economy: questions

39. What could the England Tree Strategy do to encourage the use of timber in construction? (select up to two options)

- a) Improving, encouraging or incentivising the growth of necessary skills such as those in green construction, design or forestry
- b) Promoting and incentivising Grown in Britain Certification
- c) Encouraging planning requirements to incorporate sustainable materials
- d) Amending public procurement standards to support Grown in Britain certified forest products, incorporate sustainable materials and signal long-term demand
- e) Increasing the availability of knowledge and stimulate an understanding of sustainable building practices
- f) Supporting new innovations in developing timber building materials such as cross laminated timber
- g) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

40. How could policy about the permanency of woodlands better support tree establishment for agro forestry or energy crops? (select one option)

- a) Changing policy so it does not treat afforestation as a permanent land use change
- b) Adjusting policy so energy forestry crops (short rotation coppice and short rotation forestry) are not permanent land use change
- c) Retaining the current position whereby afforestation is generally a permanent land use change
- d) Not sure

41. Which actions would best increase the uptake of energy forestry? (select up to two options)

- a) Providing financial support for the capital costs of energy forestry
- b) Clarifying the taxation of energy forestry (as either agriculture or forestry)
- c) Clarifying the regulatory position for energy forestry (for example, can I change land use in the future)
- d) Providing support to develop a secure supply chain (such as forward contracts for feedstock)
- e) Providing better advice and guidance on energy forestry
- f) Increasing skills capacity in energy forestry
- g) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

42. Which actions would best increase the planting of more trees on farms? (select up to two options)

- a) Clarifying the regulation of agroforestry as either agriculture or forestry
- b) Clarifying the implications for the land holding's tax status of planting more trees
- c) Providing better advice and guidance on woodland creation and management
- d) Providing incentives for a wider range of tree planting on farms
- e) Funding for the advice and the design of schemes for trees on farms and agroforestry
- f) Providing better advice and guidance on how woodland creation and management can contribute to farm business models
- g) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

43. Which actions would best increase agroforestry, woodland creation and management on tenanted farmland? (select up to two options)

- a) Providing industry led guidance, best practice and case studies of how tenants and landlords can work together to deliver benefits for both parties from diversification into tree planting and agroforestry on tenanted land
- b) Providing eligibility criteria for tree establishment grant agreements to discourage the proactive resumption of tenanted farmland
- c) Reviewing how tenancy agreements approach the responsibility for and rights to trees
- d) Confirming the property rights to long-term carbon benefits
- e) Other

44. What are the most urgent shortages in the workforce capacity needed to increase woodland creation, maintenance and management? (select up to two options)

- a) Professional forester
- b) Supervisor for forest works
- c) Machine operator, for example, tractor/harvester/forwarder drivers
- d) Hand cutter / chainsaw operator
- e) Tree planter
- f) Tree nursery workers
- g) Forestry educators
- h) Land agents, surveyors and architects with specialist forest knowledge
- i) All of the above
- j) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

45. Which actions would best strengthen productivity in forestry supply chains? (select up to three options)

- a) Providing grant support for wider range of management options
- b) Providing support for woodland infrastructure such as roading
- c) Providing grant or loans for equipment (for example, harvesters)
- d) Providing support for productivity/supply chains for woodland products
- e) Providing better information on market prices and opportunities
- f) Training to increase the skills capacity in agricultural workers
- g) Facilitating collaborative working between woodland owners
- h) Developing options for private investment for ecosystem services that drive woodland management
- i) Other - please specify in no more than 25 words

END ///

