



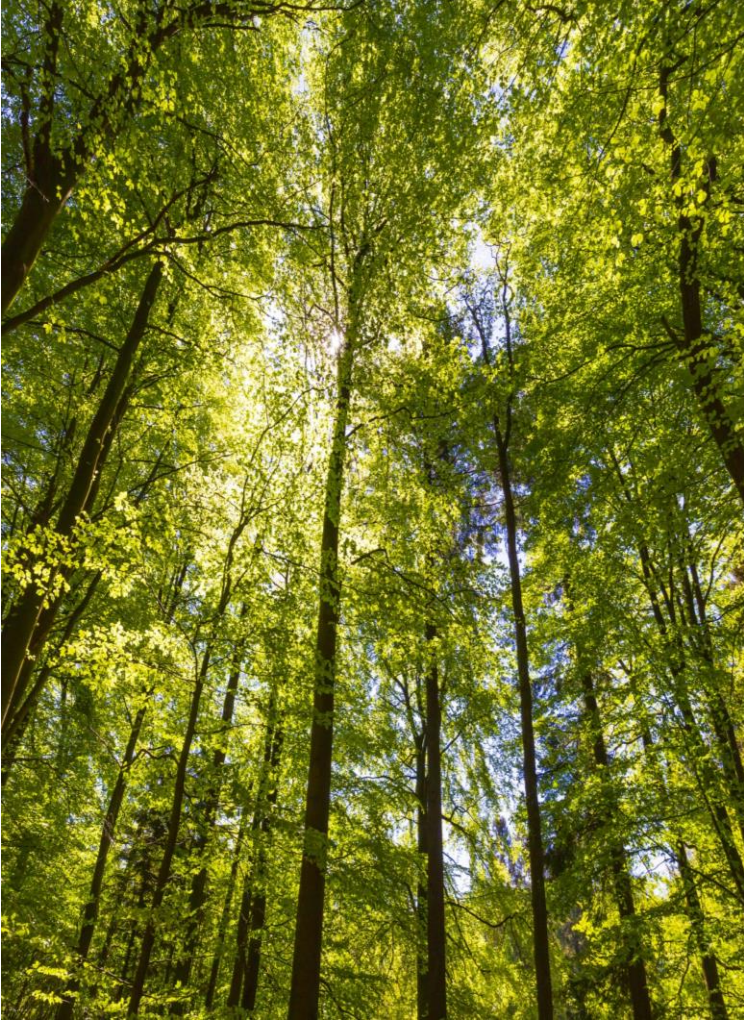
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Future of Trees and Forestry Forum

Thursday 3rd November,  
13:30-15:30



# Agenda



1. Welcome
  2. Ministerial Team
  3. England Trees Action Plan
  4. Future of Trees and Forestry –  
Interactive Sessions:
    - a) Increasing Timber Supplies
    - b) Green Finance
    - c) Sector Capacity
  5. AoB
  6. Update on Next Meeting and Close
-





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# Recent Ministerial Changes





# Defra Ministerial Team -



**Secretary of State**  
Dr Thérèse Coffey



Mark Spencer



Lord Benyon



Trudy Harrison



Rebecca Pow





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# England Trees Action Plan





# ETAP action status

ETAP chapter	No. of actions	Commenced	Completed
Vision (Trebling planting rates)	1	1	
Expanding and connecting our trees and woodlands	30	18	11
Trees and woodlands as part of the green economy	17	14	2
Protecting and improving our trees and woodlands	24	17	6
Connecting people with trees and Woodlands	7	5	2
Knowledge and science for trees and woodlands	12	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>21</b>

Across its six chapters, 21 actions have been delivered and 95% of the remaining actions are underway

# Expanding and connecting our trees and woodland

## What we have been working on:

- Responding to the prolonged hot and dry weather – offering advice to alleviate the challenge and putting in place a support package for agreement holders who have lost excess trees
- Processing a high-level of applications for the £9.8m Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund
- Reviewing the legislative and regulatory framework for woodland creation
- Published new 'UKFS Practice Guide: Designing and managing forests and woodlands to reduce flood risk'
- Updated the guidance about woodland creation and breeding waders

## What to look out for:

- Publication of new guidance to local authorities on creating local tree and woodland strategies (TBD)



# Trees and woodlands as part of the green economy

## What we have been working on:

- Preparing for the 6th Woodland Carbon Guarantee auction (deadline to participate in the auction is Sunday 6 November 2022)
- Following up actions from the second meeting of the Timber in Construction Policy Roadmap working group
- Reviewing government's timber procurement policy
- Launching the start of the first cohort of the Forestry Commission's Development Woodland Officer Apprenticeship Programme
- Launched a new £1.2m Seed Sourcing Grant (and held a public webinar with the ICF) to support the sector in increasing the quantity, quality and diversity of Seed Stands and Seed Orchards in England



## What to look out for:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Timber in Construction Policy Roadmap working group
- Launch of the Big Nature Impact Fund





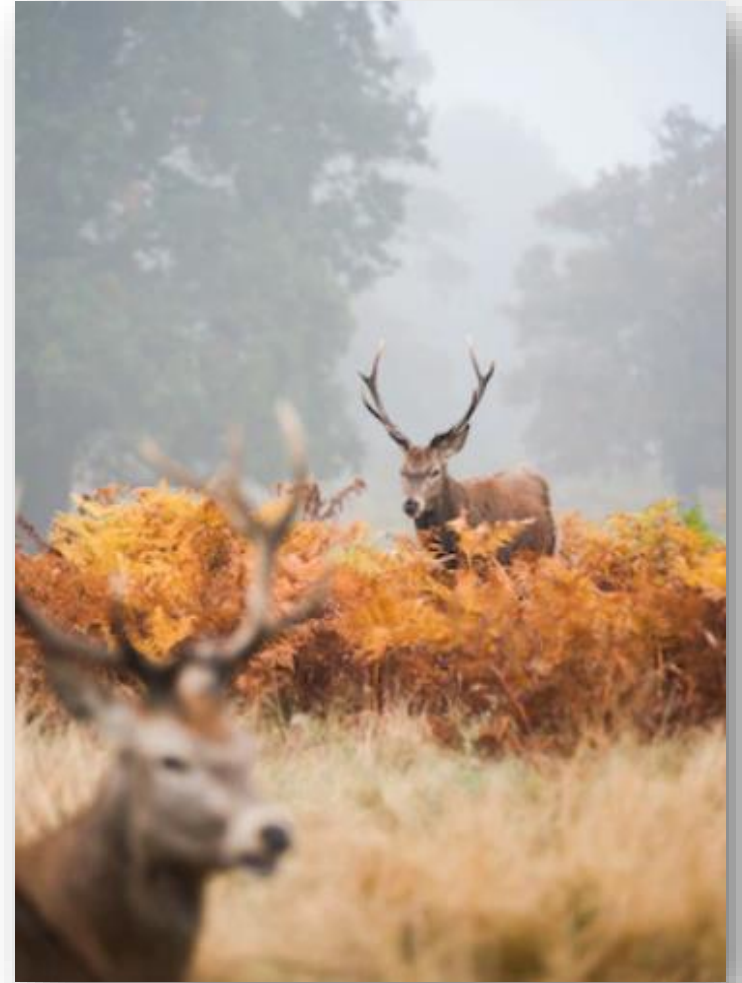
# Protecting and improving our trees and woodlands

## What we have been working on:

- Launched a public consultation on our proposals for a Deer Management Strategy
- Finalising grey Squirrel Action Plan and contribution to UK Squirrel Accord Red Squirrel Action Plan
- Supporting Grown in Britain to extend its woodland creation benefits verification tool to cover woodland management
- Continuing to progress our plans to increase woodland resilience

## What to look out for:

- Publication of summary of responses to the Deer Management Strategy
- Publication of Deer Management Strategy and squirrel action plans (TBD)



# Connecting people with trees and woodlands

## What we have been working on:

- Supported DLUHC to launch the Levelling Up Parks Fund, which will include £2 million of investment to support tree planting in new parks in deprived areas
- Announced £44.2 million in funding to support further nationwide tree planting via the Community Forests and Woodland Creation Partnerships
- Ongoing liaison with professional bodies to update guidance for highways and utilities engineers to encourage greater recognition of the benefits of street trees in relation to investment costs
- Following the wishes of its Patron, His Majesty The King, extended The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty

## What to look out for:

- Publication of our ambitions for public access (TBD)





# ETAP cross cutting work

## Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

- Further development and finalization of the M&E framework for the Nature for Climate Fund programme and ETAP
- A preferred supplier has been identified and inception meeting held

## R&D

- Following an ALB call for R&D proposals over the summer, bids were received and assessed and NCF+ funding will now support 16 new collaborative R&D projects to fill key data and evidence gaps. Valued at approx. £11.2m
- Projects sit under the following 4 themes: treescape expansion x 7, resilience x 2, benefits x 4, and treescape management x 3

## Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)

- Defra continues to work at pace to draft the revised Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP), which will set out our cross-government targets and commitments across 10 goal areas







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# Future of Forestry: Interactive Sessions





# Session Topics and Timings

- You will have the opportunity to discuss each of the three topics below:
  - Boosting domestic timber supply
  - Green Finance
  - Nursery Supply and Sector Skills
- You will be placed into a breakout room for 60 minutes.
- Every 20 minutes, the chair for the room will rotate to a different breakout room to present their topic for discussion.
- This means you will have the opportunity to discuss all 3 topics.



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# Increasing Timber Supplies Discussion Session

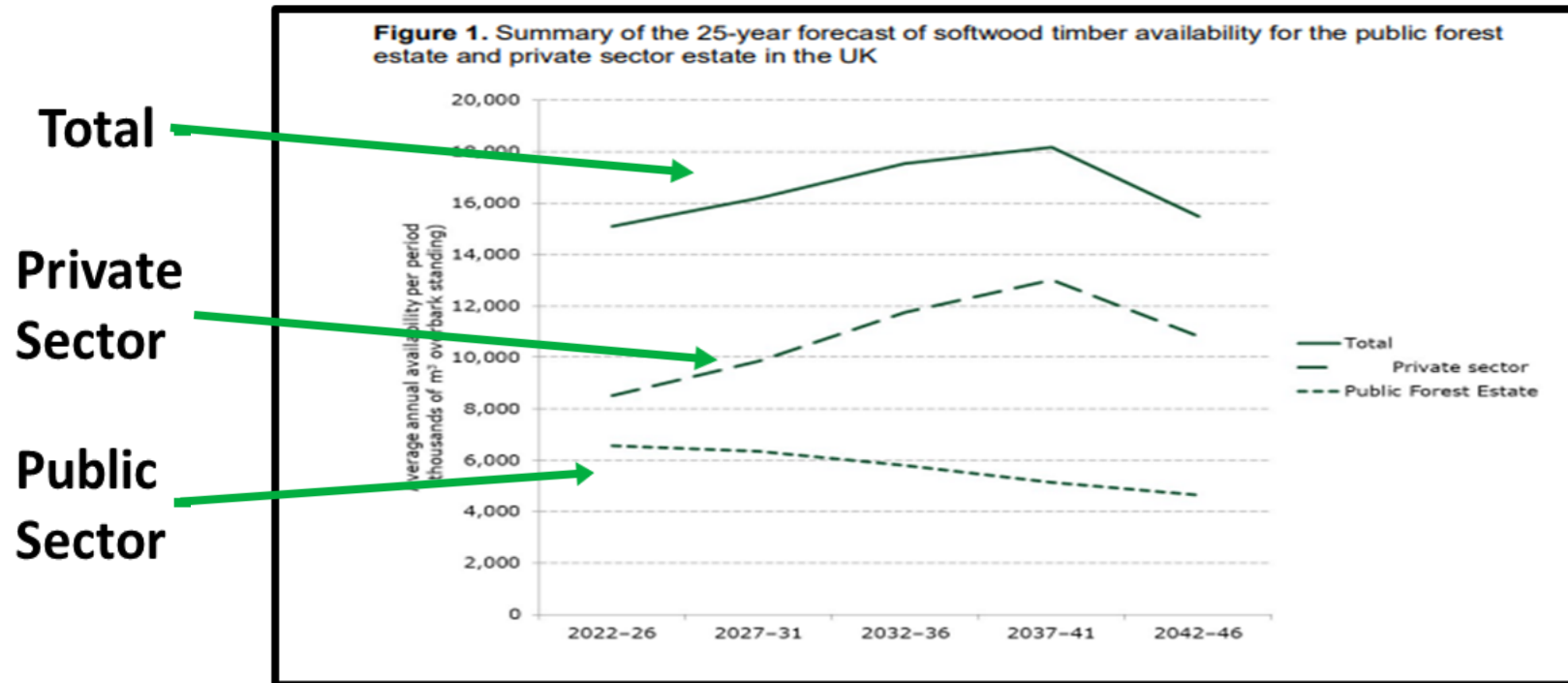




# Context

- UK imports 81% of its timber and wood products and is the second largest importer in the world
- 25 Year Environment Plan committed to *“increase timber supplies”* and the England Tree Action Plan commits to *“encourage demand for UK grown timber”*
- Increasing domestic timber supplies will:
  - ✓ Support growth in the forestry and wood processing sectors
  - ✓ Encourage more woodland management
  - ✓ Improve woodland resilience and pest and disease management
  - ✓ Reduce reliance on timber imports and negative impacts of deforestation in other parts of the world
  - ✓ Reduce carbon emissions through timber products displacing more carbon intensive materials (e.g. concrete/steel)

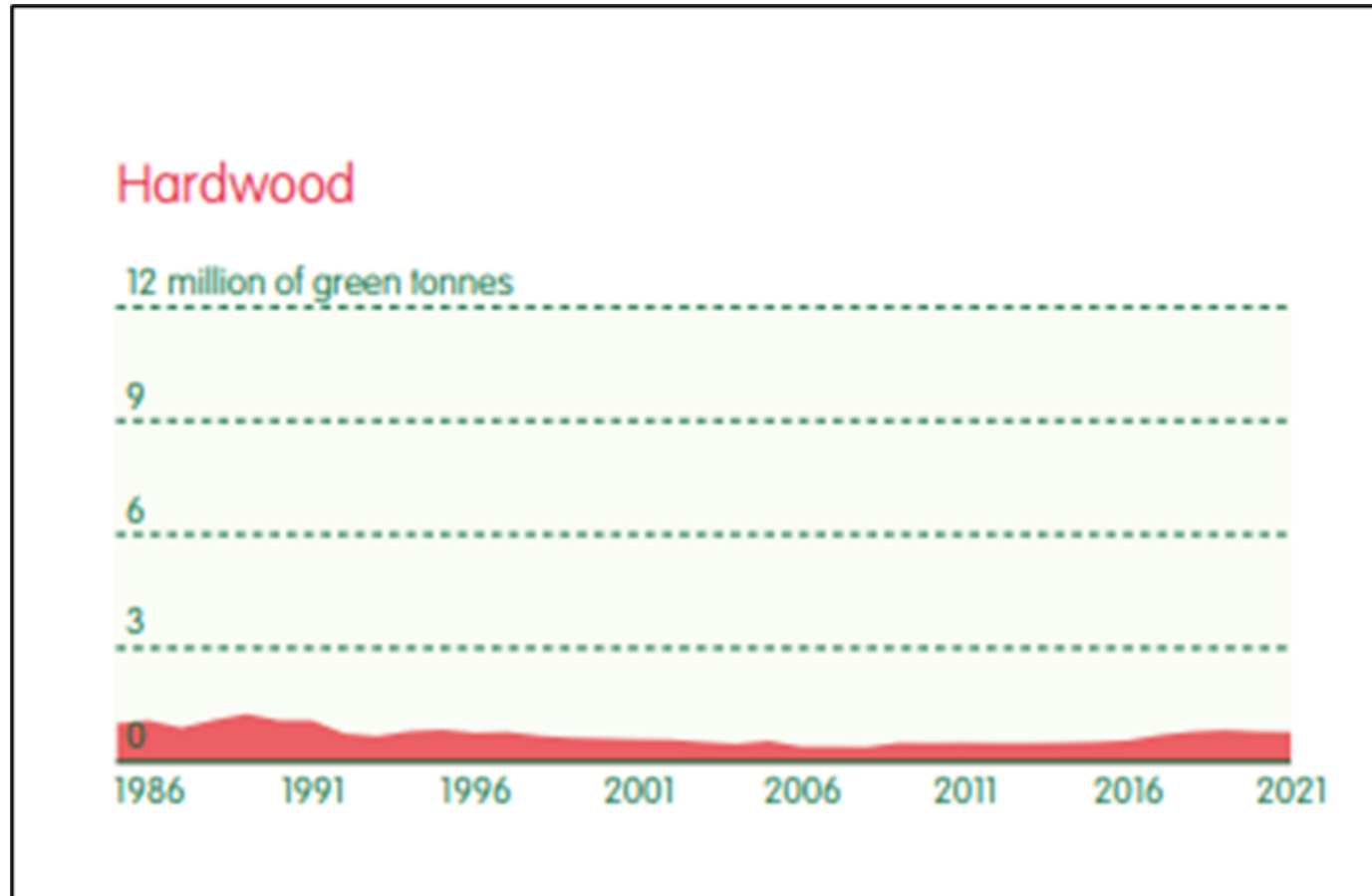
# Softwood Availability



- UK domestic softwood availability has been increasing as trees planted in the 1970s/ 80s reach maturity and as timber prices have risen. Availability is then expected to decline from 2041.
- In England specifically, softwood availability will be around 15% lower in 2042-2046 than current levels.
- In 2021 around 31% of available softwoods were not harvested



# Hardwood Markets



- Hardwood markets remain small (7% of removals)
- There will be a natural limit to how far this market can be increased
- However, potential harvests significantly reduced by lack of woodland management, quality of British timber and impact of pests/disease such as squirrel
- Circa 50% of privately owned woodlands are in sustainable management

# Existing workstreams already support these aims



**Increased tree planting**



**Joint work with Forestry Skills Forum to encourage new entrants**



**Nursery capacity project to increase domestic sapling supply**



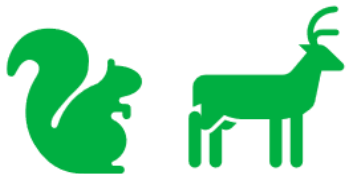
**Woodlands into Management Innovation Funds**



**Timber in Construction Roadmap and review of government timber policy**



**Tree Health and Woodland Resilience policy work**



**Focused plans for deer and squirrel management**



**Reviewing guidance (e.g., breeding waders/peat)**



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood

**Sector led strategy under development**



# Questions for Discussion

1. What are your hopes/fears?
2. What are the key blockers?
3. What should Defra & Forestry Commission keep doing, do more of, stop doing or start doing?



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# Sector Capacity Discussion Session





# What's the Sector Capacity project about?

- We are using Nature for Climate Fund (NCF) funding and a range of policies to ensure we have enough seed, saplings and labour available to support the increase in planting across the UK to 30,000 ha/year by 2025 and future ambitions.
- Specifically, we need to secure the right **quantity, quality, biosecurity and diversity** of planting stock and support the creation of a **resilient forestry workforce**.

## Seed and Sapling Suppliers

- 11 tree nurseries meet 90% of UK demand
- 60 smaller FRM-registered suppliers make up the remaining 10%
- Imports are a negligible part of supply

## The Forestry Workforce

- Projected demand for approximately 2000 core forestry jobs over the next five years and more beyond
- Education remains challenging – currently 13 L2 apprentices at 3 colleges

# Boosting Nursery Capacity

- A number of our interventions to expand the domestic tree nursery and seed sectors are now in delivery.

**Tree Production Capital  
Grant (TPCG)**

**£9m available up to  
March 2025**

**Equipment and  
infrastructure**

**New round ~March 2023**

**Tree Production  
Innovation Fund (TPIF)**

**Forecast to deliver  
£5.7m by March 2025**

**Innovation and new  
ways of working**

**Considering further  
round**

**Seed Sourcing Grant  
(SSG)**

**£1.2m available up to  
March 2025**

**Development of seed  
sources and stands**

**Open until 13 November  
2022!**

- Following our England Trees Action Plan (ETAP) commitment to explore new data sharing practices, we are working with nurseries to collate supply data. This will help us to monitor the success of our interventions, define the risk of market failure, and give confidence to nurseries about upcoming demand.



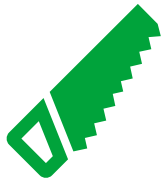
# Skills and Workforce – Challenges and Ambitions

- **Growing the workforce:** Tree planting ambitions have created increased demand on the forestry workforce, this means labour shortages are a threat but there is also an opportunity as we look to grow the forestry workforce
- **Combat the market failure in forestry education:** There are very few courses with few people on them; raising awareness and understanding of career pathways remains a key priority
- **Building our legacy:** boosting woodland creation and effective management is a long-term endeavour – the full impact on the labour market will be felt post-2025
- **Professionalising the sector:** Forestry is a skilled, technical profession, simply creating the demand for more people isn't enough, we need a resilient and diverse workforce with the right skills

# Existing workstreams already support these aims



**Apprenticeships L3 and L6:** Development Woodland Officer – landmark initiative in partnership with Institute of Chartered Foresters and University of Cumbria



**Short Course Training Fund:** a new fund looking to launch in early 2023 providing grants towards courses in key forestry skills, aimed at people wanting to change or diversify careers



**External training:** delivering on FC's role as a unique training provider e.g. UKFS training



**Digital Forestry Hub:** bringing together the relevant stakeholders as we look to shape a one stop shop for Forestry career content



**Education:** working closely with DfE on raising awareness of forestry careers and the understanding of Forestry's role in Net Zero and Environmental ambitions



**Forestry Skills Forum:** Working with employers and educators on the Forestry Skills Action Plan for England



# Questions for Discussion

- *Have you been affected by the skills shortage?*
- *Are you aware of these interventions? Are you undertaking work in this area that we should be aware of?*
- *How can you support us with these ambitions?*
- *What do you think the blockers are, and how could we remove them?*



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# Green Finance Discussion Session





# Context

- Defra has a target to mobilise private finance into nature recovery, including woodlands; specifically, £500m pa by 2027 and £1bn pa by 2030.
- The England Trees Action Plan sets out our ambition for broadening the forestry economy, investigating new potential income streams, such as payments for ecosystem services or other natural capital concepts that could attract more finance into trees.
- Defra has a vision for developing high integrity ecosystem markets, and forestry is at the forefront of this with one of the few government-endorsed ecosystem service market standards: the woodland carbon code.
- Importance of stacking ecosystem service schemes and yet maintaining high integrity markets to ensure that ecosystem services can be sold at high prices.
- Upcoming milestones:
  - ✓ December 2022 /early 2023 - Defra publishes Ecosystem Market Framework and Stacking and additionality guidance for Biodiversity Net Gain and nutrient neutrality markets
  - ✓ Spring 2023 – BEIS publishes its response to the Emissions Trading Scheme Call for Evidence.

# Ecosystem Service Market Framework

- Defra is planning to publish an overarching framework later this year that sets out principles and rules that should apply to high-integrity **Ecosystem Service Markets** (e.g. biodiversity, carbon, water quality, etc).
- The framework will also set out a process for developing new standards.
- Alongside the framework, Defra will publish guidance on **stacking and bundling and additionality** rules for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality schemes.

# Carbon Market Development

- The UK Emissions Trading Scheme Authority sought views on the development of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) from March 2022 to June 2022. The key area for Forestry was Chapter 8 which called for early views on the incorporation of greenhouse gas removal into the UK ETS.
- This included the consideration of Nature-based removals, such as woodlands and thus the Woodland Carbon Code.
- Voluntary carbon market is growing, with price of Woodland Carbon Units rising, but how can we further scale it?



# Questions for Discussion

1. What are the barriers to accessing private finance and how can we remove them?
2. Who should be the intermediaries between land managers and private capital?
3. What stops people registering with the WCC?



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# Any Other Business





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# Next Meeting

Thank You for Attending