WOODLAND TRUST

Space for People
Targeting action for woodland access

Contents

With partnership working we can fulfil the vision of accessible woodland for all

WTPL/Niall Benvie

Foreword

I was delighted to be asked to write the foreword to Space for People version 2, especially so early in my term as Chair of the Forestry Commission.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the fact that over the last five years, accessible woodland has increased and to congratulate all those involved in helping to create these opportunities, especially the work of the Woodland Trust.

We have come a long way since we started this work, however we must not rest on our laurels. This report usefully sets out what we all need to do to allow more people access to woodlands close to where they live. Easily accessible, high-quality woodlands are crucial to more people benefiting from the range of opportunities that trees, woods and forests can provide.

The Forestry Commission has played its part, supplying data and using the Woods for People dataset and the Space for People analysis to target grant aid to create or enhance woodland, much closer to where people live. Woodland creation and supporting increased access in existing woodlands is a specific priority in each of the country's forestry strategies, all published since the original work in 2004.

I look forward to even more accessible woodland over the years and urge you to continue to play a part in this vision. A vision which will allow children to have natural play experiences; older people to have opportunities for quiet contemplation within easy reach of their doorsteps; and for people who have never visited their local wood, the confidence to explore, for the first time, the woodland around the corner.

Pam Warhurst
Chair of the Forestry Commission

Summary

Woods and trees are good for us. Many of us feel this intuitively but increasingly there is research that backs it up, showing that access to woodland can really benefit physical and mental health and improve our quality of life.

Yet despite national commitments to increasing people's access to woodland, in many parts of the UK significant numbers of people do not have nearby woodland they can visit. Overall only 15.6 per cent of people in the UK have access to a wood at least 2 hectares in size a short walk from where they live.

The Woodland Trust wants this to change so that everyone can access woodland within easy reach of their home. To assess what is needed, the Trust began collecting data on accessible woodland in 2002, and published the original version of Space for People in 2004, setting out its analysis of access to woodland in the UK and its vision for increasing the amount of accessible new native woodland close to where people live. Since then, we have continued to collect data on accessible woodland on an annual basis. This revised version of Space for People highlights changes that have been made in the last five years, and sets out our new vision.

While the proportion of people in the UK with access to woodland has increased since 2004, there is still a real deficit which we believe must be tackled by creating new woods for communities to use and opening up woods that currently do not offer public access. We see this as integral to our wider vision of a UK rich in native woods and trees, providing landscapes that can continue to meet the needs of both wildlife and people in a sustainable way.

As well as being places to exercise and play, to relax and refresh the spirit, woods are a key part of the "green infrastructure" or planned network of green spaces and other features that delivers improvements to people's surroundings and quality of life. Trees and woods store carbon, generate oxygen, stabilise the soil, and help to improve water quality. They can help adaptation to climate change by providing a cooling effect in urban areas, and flood alleviation in those places increasingly affected by this problem. Last but not least, trees and woods, especially native woods, are host to a vast array of wildlife.

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe with around 12 per cent woodland cover, compared with an average of 44 per cent in Europe. Only 4 per cent of the UK's land area is covered with native woodland. The Woodland Trust's aspiration is to see the area of native woodland doubled in the longer term. But we want to see that woodland created in areas where it will bring maximum benefits to people and wildlife. Space for People provides essential information to help us achieve that aim.

WTPL/Ewing Reeson

We need to create new woodland where it brings maximum benefits to people and wildlife

Section 1 – Context

The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. Our vision is a UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone, and we set out to achieve this through three broad aims:

- To enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees

- To protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future

- To inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

Inspiring people to appreciate woodland, and to understand how important woods and trees are, can underpin the achievement of our other aims. Fundamental to this is ensuring people have the opportunity to experience woodland for themselves at first hand. We therefore believe **there should be a wood with open access close to everyone's home.**

[1] Natural England *What is Green Infrastructure?*
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/ planningtransportlocalgov/greeninfrastructure/default.aspx

The case for accessible woodland

Woodland close to where people live can form an integral part of Green Infrastructure (GI), the strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features that deliver environmental and social benefits, including places for outdoor relaxation and play, space for wildlife, climate change adaptation, environmental education, and improved health and well-being[1]. While some of these could be delivered through appropriately-sited woodland without open access, creating woods that are accessible and welcoming offers the opportunity to "scale up" the benefits hugely.

Health and well being

> "The countryside can be seen as a great outpatient department whose therapeutic value is yet to be fully realised."
>
> **Dr William Bird, strategic health adviser for Natural England**

There is a substantial and growing body of evidence that access to woodland and other greenspace makes people feel better. Getting out into natural spaces, especially when combined with moderate exercise, can have a beneficial effect on physical
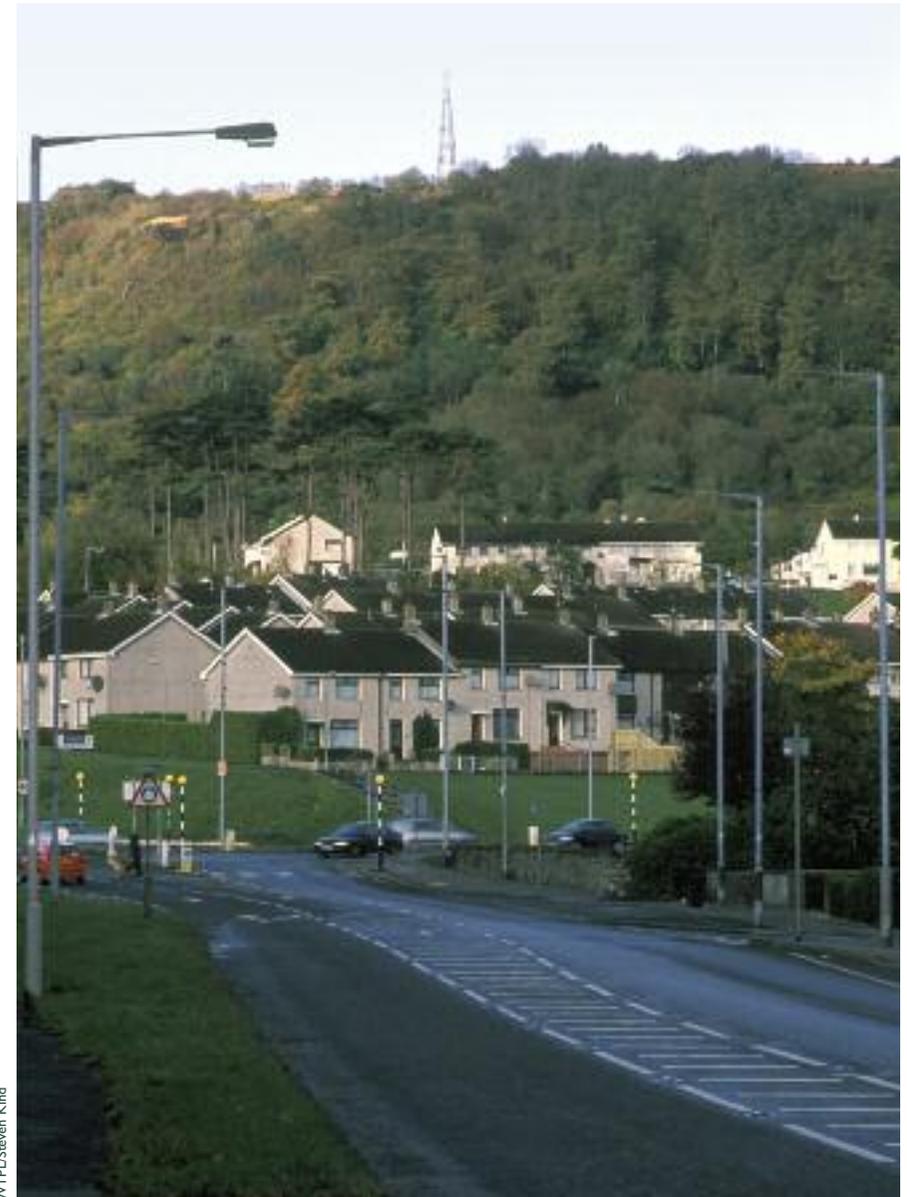
Woods near where people live bring a multitude of benefits

health, mental health and well-being, and can also help social cohesion.

Physical inactivity is a major preventable health risk, which affects about 60 per cent of the population. In addition, it is estimated that lack of physical activity costs the economy in England alone £8.2 billion a year[2]. But there is also evidence that contact with the natural environment enhances the positive health benefits of exercise; attractive natural spaces increase motivation to continue outdoor activity in the long term[3]. Promotion of physical activity close to where people live, with an emphasis on walking, is more likely to result in sustained activity. Overall, physical activity levels increase where participants have convenient and close contact to green space[4].

Mental ill health affects one in six people and costs the NHS £12.5 billion and the economy £23.1 billion a year[5]. Studies show that exposure to nature aids recovery from daily stresses[6]. For children, contact with nature has been shown to aid concentration and self-discipline, and may even be helpful in dealing with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)[7]. Studies indicate that early experience of nature is important, particularly before the age of 12. The freedom of unstructured play in nature creates for children a source of independence and inner strength that can be drawn upon during stressful situations for the rest of their life[8] and natural environments help develop all types of play, essential for development. Indeed Louv[9] suggests that children need to experience natural environments to prevent "nature deficit disorder". Children who spend time in woodland with friends or alone without parental supervision are the most likely to visit and enjoy woodland as an adult, and are more likely as adults to describe woodland as "magical"[10].

All green space offers opportunities for health and well-being but woodland has special qualities.

[2] Bird W (2004) *Natural Fit: Can green space and biodiversity increase levels of physical activity?* RSPB.

[3] Tabbush P and O'Brien L (2003) *Health and well-being: trees, woodlands and natural spaces.* Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

[4] Bird W (2004) *Natural Fit: Can green space and biodiversity increase levels of physical activity?* RSPB.

[5] Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (2003) *The economic and social costs of mental illness.* Policy paper 3.
http://www.scmh.org.uk/pdfs/costs_of_mental_illness_policy_paper_3.pdf

[6] Ulrich R S, Simons R T, Losito B D, Fiorito E, Miles M A and Zelson M (1991) *Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments.* Journal of Environmental Psychology 11, 201–230.

[7] Faber Taylor A, Kuo F, and Sullivan W (2001) *Coping with ADD. The surprising connection to green play setting.* Environment and Behaviour. pp 54-77

[8] Wells NM and Lekies KS (2006) *Nature and the life course: Pathways from adulthood Nature Experiences to adult Environmentalism.* Children, youth and environments 16 (1)

[9] Louv (2005) *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from Nature Deficit Disorder.* Algonquin Books.

[10] Wells NM and Lekies KS (2006) *Nature and the life course: Pathways from adulthood Nature Experiences to adult Environmentalism.* Children, youth and environments 16 (1)

WTPL/Brian Aldrich

People are more active if they have green space near their homes
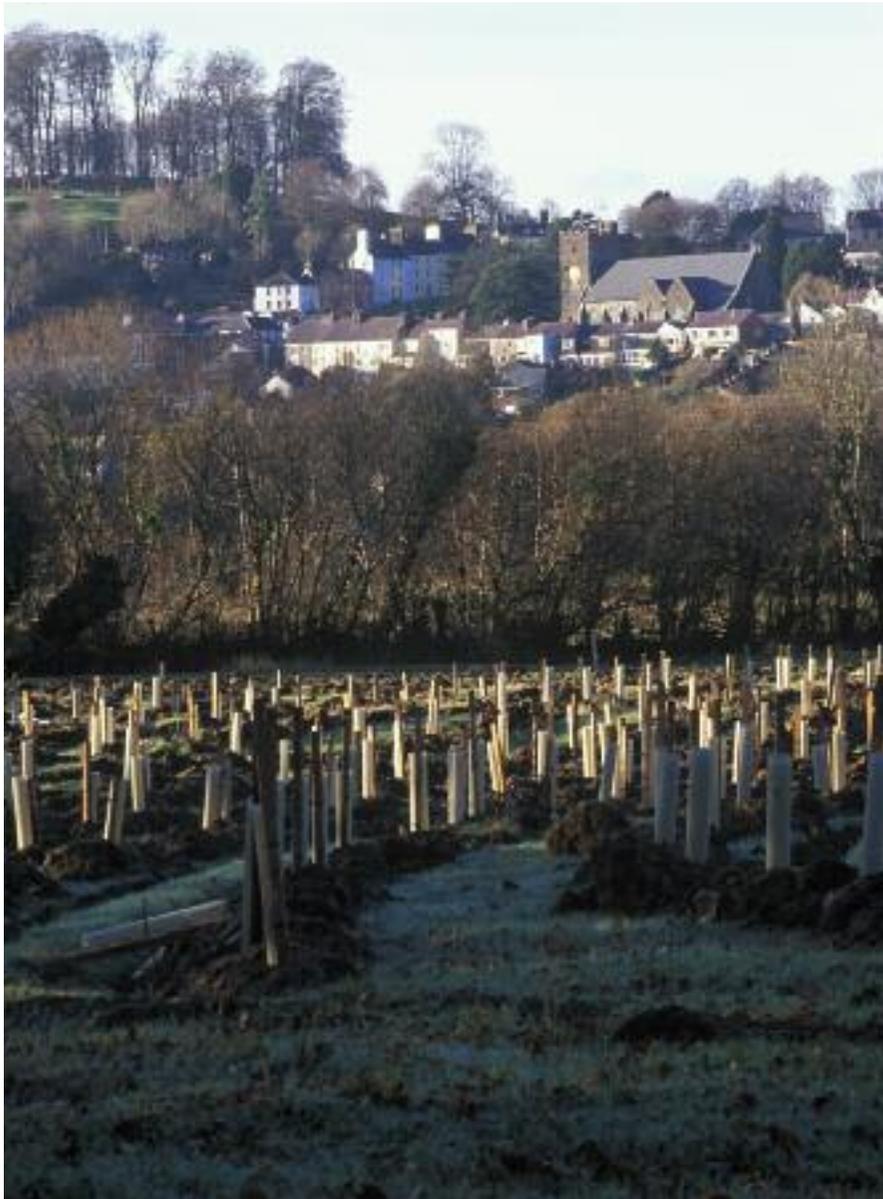
Creating new native woods gives people an opportunity to see wildlife at close quarters

Woods and trees can screen out noise and absorb large numbers of people without seeming overcrowded. They often hold special meaning for people, and their complex structure offers more opportunities for imaginative play than more open green spaces.

Ecosystem services

Woods and trees can improve the quality of our lives in many other ways. They make a substantial contribution to "ecosystem services", the processes by which the environment produces resources we need such as clean air, water, food and materials. Woods and trees have a measurable impact in reducing air pollution[11], absorbing polluting gases, intercepting particulates, and releasing oxygen. Creating new native woodland can improve water quality by reducing sediment, nitrate, phosphate and pesticide concentrations through lower inputs and decreased run-off. In urban areas, where trees are used as part of sustainable urban drainage systems, they can reduce surface run-off and retain pollutants on brownfield sites[12].

Climate change adaptation

Woods and trees store carbon, mitigating the effects of climate change, but they can also help us adapt to the effects of climate change. They lower local air temperatures, through transpiration of water and shading, thus lowering ozone levels. This is particularly important in towns and cities, where temperatures tend to be higher – in London, for example, the temperature differential between the city centre and surrounding suburbs may be as much as 10°C on summer days, the "urban heat island effect". Woodland and trees can also play an important role in mitigating the effects of flooding and in control of surface water. Woodland can reduce small floods at a local scale since they improve soil infiltration of water, and may mitigate large floods on floodplains by absorbing and delaying flood flows[13].

Biodiversity

Native woodland is particularly important for wildlife. For example, broadleaved woodland contains twice as many species of conservation concern as any other habitat[14]. The complex structure of woodland provides a multitude of niches for different species, and while trees take years to reach maturity, a new native wood provides a range of interesting transitional and temporary habitats as it develops. Creating new native woodland and treescapes is essential to help wildlife adapt to climate change, by creating a landscape that is both more resilient and more connected. Accessible woodland close to communities offers people the opportunity to see wildlife-rich habitats at close hand.

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[11] Crabtree C J (2009) *The value of benefits arising from trees and woods in the UK*. CJC Consulting, a report commissioned for the Woodland Trust.

[12] Calder I R, Harrison J, Nisbet T R, Smithers R J (2008) *Woodland actions for biodiversity and their role in water management*. Woodland Trust.

[13] Calder I R, Harrison J, Nisbet T R, Smithers R J (2008) *Woodland actions for biodiversity and their role in water management*. Woodland Trust.

[14] Biodiversity: the UK Steering Group Report (1995) Volume 1: Meeting the Rio challenge HMSO

Section 2 – Developing targets

In 2004, the Woodland Trust published the original version of Space for People, setting out its analysis of access to woodland in the UK and its vision for increasing the area of accessible woodland close to where people live.

Since then, the Trust has continued to collect data on accessible woodland in the UK each year. The analysis carried out in 2004 has been repeated using data from 2009, resulting in updated figures for the area of accessible woodland, an indication of changes over the intervening five years, and refreshed targets for increasing the amount of new native woodland needed close to where people live.

The analysis required:

- the Woods for People project, collecting data on accessible woodland annually

- development of a Woodland Access Standard – the minimum standard for access to woodland that we felt should be met in all areas

Woods for People

Woods for People began in 2002 with the aim of producing as comprehensive an inventory of accessible woodland across the UK as possible, and is an ongoing programme developed by the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England, supported by Forestry Commission Wales and Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Definitions

The following definitions are used:

Woodland is defined as "land under stands of trees with, or the potential to achieve, tree crown cover of more than 20 per cent". This is taken from the Forestry Commission's National Inventory of Woodland and Trees[15], (now the National Forest Inventory).

Accessible woodland is defined as "any site that is permissively accessible to the general public for recreational purposes".

This includes sites with unrestricted open access and restricted, but permissive, access (eg fee-payable, fixed-hours access).

The definition does not include woods served only by public rights of way. Data collected by the Countryside Agency[16] in England and Countryside Council for Wales[17] showed that walkers often encountered problems with access on rights of way. Problems of access quality can also occur on permissive routes through woodland, but it seemed fair to assume that owners and managers would be more likely to address them where they have invited people to walk.

[15] Forestry Commission *The National Inventory of Woodland and Trees* **http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/hcou-54pg9t**

[16] The Countryside Agency (2001) *Rights of way condition survey 2000.* Research notes CRN 43

[17] Countryside Council for Wales (2003) *Wales Rights of Way Condition Survey 2002.*

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there is no assumed right of access, other than statutory public rights of way. Open access land defined under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (i.e. mountain, moor, heathland, downland and registered common land) ensures a right of access to larger areas in England and Wales, but does not include woodland unless voluntarily dedicated under Section 16 of the Act.

In Scotland, there is a right of responsible access to almost all land and inland water, as defined in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act[18]. However, just as public rights of way do not ensure quality access, a right of responsible access in Scotland does not mean access will be encouraged to all woodland or that it is accessible. For this reason, this research includes only woodland in Scotland where access is specifically encouraged.

Data collection
Relevant organisations were asked to give details of woodland with public access that they owned, managed or knew about. Public and voluntary bodies with large woodland areas, or those with responsibility for particular areas were targeted. Woodland supported by Forestry Commission or Forest Service Northern Ireland grant aid aimed at making improvements to access was also included; this accounts for a large proportion of the accessible woodland recorded.

[18] Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) **http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ legislation/scotland/acts2003/asp_20030002_en_1**

The Woodland Access Standard

The Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard aspires

- That no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size

- That there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes

National standards for accessible greenspace enable assessment of the resource against need, and inform spatial planning. Without them it is not possible to properly assess whether a sufficient resource of accessible greenspace exists.

Such standards have been used for some time; one of the earliest, the National Playing Fields Association's (now Fields in Trust) Six Acre Standard[19] for playing space advocated six acres (2.4ha) per 1000 people comprising 1.6ha for outdoor sport and 0.8ha for children's play. Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales have developed standards for accessible natural greenspace.

[19] Fields in Trust. *The new six-acre standard.* **www.fieldsintrust.org.uk**

Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommend:

- No person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size

- at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home

- one accessible 100ha site within 5km of home

- one accessible 500ha site within 10km of home

- provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 people

While a range of different types of accessible greenspace is valuable, the Woodland Trust believes woods are of particular value. In urban areas in particular, their visual prominence can create a balance between the built and natural environment. They cost little to maintain and can absorb large numbers of visitors, and since they are such rich natural habitats, they offer visitors an inspiring experience of contact with nature.

We therefore believe that in terms of provision of natural greenspace, woods should be seen as the optimal habitat and that a separate standard for woodland, which should complement the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), is needed.

WTPL/Deborah Morris

Development of the Woodland Access Standard took into account studies showing there were more frequent visits to woods when they were close to people's homes: 59 per cent of woodland visits entail a round-trip distance of under 8km[20]. Beyond this, the frequency of visits drops markedly.

It has been shown[21] that people wish to visit sites of at least 2ha; in a wood this size they felt a sense of escape from the outside world. The preferred

[20] Forestry Commission (2002) *Forestry Statistics.*

[21] The Countryside Agency et al (2003) *Great Britian Day Visits survey 2002 – 03.* **http://p1.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Recreation/visits/dayvisits02-03.asp**

size was between 11 and 40ha. Day visits to woodland are most likely to be made on foot and "walkable" distance is approximately 500m or 6-8 minutes walking time.

The Woodland Access Standard therefore aspires that people should have access to woodland of an adequate size within easy reach of where they live – woodland of at least 2ha within 500m. Given the optimal 8km round trip distance, there are further opportunities to provide larger woods around communities within a distance that people can easily travel – 20ha of woodland within 4km. Ideally, both these standards would be met. However,

The Woodland Access Standard in urban areas

In urban areas it may not be possible to meet the Woodland Access Standard if there is insufficient land available for new planting. It might also be appropriate to develop an additional standard that takes account of smaller pockets of woodland – existing and potential – in these areas.

A pilot study looking at three urban authorities in north-west England showed that reducing the minimum area of woodland required to meet the Woodland Access Standard in these areas to 0.75ha did increase the percentage of people with access to

woodland. Several smaller areas of accessible woodland might be the next best thing to provision of woods of 2ha or greater where the latter is impossible.

Unitary authority/ County	Hectares	Potential accessible population	% of population with access to a wood within 500m	
			2ha wood	0.75ha wood
Knowsley	8647	150459	44.5	59.0
St. Helens	13638	176807	48.6	58.1
Warrington	18064	190095	17.6	27.5

where it is not possible to meet the 500m threshold, for example in urban areas where there is a lack of available land, then the 4km threshold should be the minimum provided.

The Standard is intended to be used as an aspirational benchmark and a basis for discussion and decisions on provision of accessible woodland, and some flexibility is needed in its interpretation.
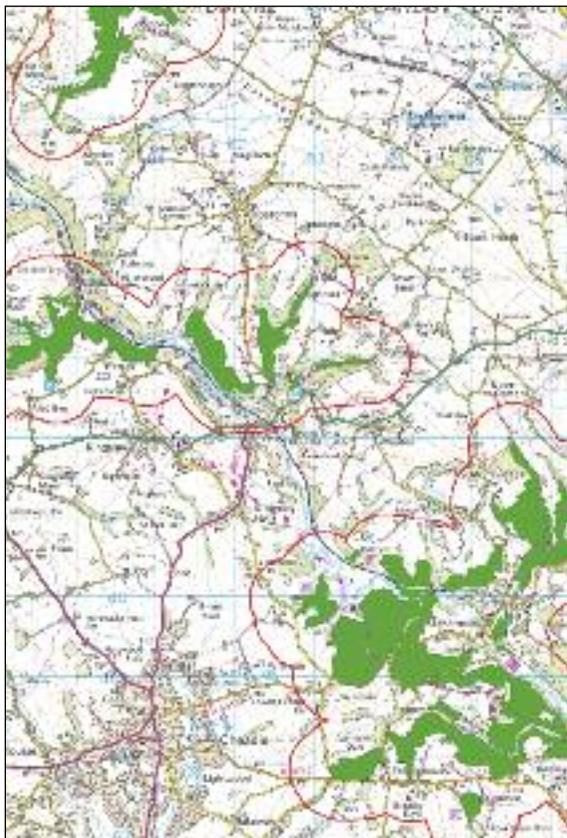
Map showing 500m buffers around woodland

It is equally applicable to urban and rural areas, but in remote areas, where relative distances are greater, common sense should be applied in trying to provide accessible woodland for everyone. In urban areas, it may not be physically possible to meet the standard if there is insufficient land available for new planting. In addition, it may not be appropriate or necessary to push for the Woodland Access Standard in landscapes that already have a high degree of accessible natural greenspace, neither should new woodland be sited on existing semi-natural open ground habitat, ecologically valuable brownfield land or archaeological sites.

The Standard is not intended to be applied prescriptively. Local assessment is also needed to ensure adequate accessible woodland is provided depending on actual levels of use.

Development of the targets

The Woods for People data was analysed against the Woodland Access Standard to produce figures for the deficit in accessible woodland, and targets for the area of additional accessible woodland required.

The accessible woodland data was captured in a Geographical Information System (GIS) as digital woodland boundaries. To assess the proportion of the population able to access these woods within the aspirations of the Woodland Access Standard,

500m and 4km buffers were extended around the aappropriately-sized woods. The proportion of the population falling within these buffers was then calculated using Census 2001 data

In earlier versions of Woods for People, some woodland data was received only as grid reference points. Modelled woodland boundaries were created for these sites for the first version of Space for People, but since then actual woodland boundaries have been captured digitally, so the updated version gives a more accurate picture.

The same process was used to assess the proportion of the population that could have access to woodland if appropriately located existing woods (shown on the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees – now the National Forest Inventory - in England, Scotland and Wales, and derived from Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland vector data in Northern Ireland) were opened for public access.

This left areas devoid of woodland, where people have no access or no potential for access. In these areas woodland creation is required. Optimum location for new woods in these areas was modelled based on population density and therefore designed to achieve high return rates, typically around 90 per cent of people having access. Results are therefore a function of current deficiency of woodland and the distribution and density of the population.

Section 2 – Developing targets

The woodland creation targets resulting from this analysis should be seen as minimum requirements because:

- It is unlikely all existing woods will be opened for public access

- It is doubtful optimal location would always be achieved in practice

- Local decision makers need to take account of the level of use and size of population to decide whether additional new sites should supplement provision

- The Woodland Access Standard states 2ha and 20ha as the minimum size of site required in each distance threshold.

The data was also overlaid with datasets indicating the 10 per cent most deprived areas, based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, to assess whether people in these areas had adequate access to woodland and how woodland might be used to improve their quality of life.

Results

Table 1 shows the area of woodland that is accessible in the UK, and as a percentage of total woodland cover.

The figures in Tables 2-4 give a broad assessment of woodland access in the UK. Table 2 reflects how

many people currently have access to woodland (using the Woodland Access Standard as the measure) in each country. Table 3 shows how many could have access if inaccessible woods were opened up to the public, and Table 4 gives the results of analysis to show how many people require new woods planted in their area to meet the deficit (assuming all inaccessible woods could be made accessible), and the area of new woodland that would be required. Each table gives figures from the analysis of the latest data collected in 2009, with figures from 2004 for comparison, thus showing the change over a five-year period.

A breakdown of the figures by region (for England) and by local authority area for all countries, is given in Appendix 1.

Discussion

Only 15.6 per cent of people in the UK have access to a wood of at least 2ha within 500m – easy walking distance – of their home. The figures for woods of 20ha within 4km are better – 64.8 per cent in the UK – but there is still a substantial deficit.

The pattern shown in 2009 is similar to that for 2004, with people in Scotland and Wales having higher levels of access to woodland than England, and Northern Ireland having the lowest, even though a larger proportion of Northern Ireland's

Table 1 – Area of accessible woodland in the UK, by country, and by English region

Area of accessible woodland (2009 data) as percentage of the total area of woodland

Country/Government Office region	Area (ha)	Total woodland area	Area accessible woodland	% of woodland area that is accessible
Country				
UK	24872566	2795827	1377560	49
England	13295236	1059728	398523	38
Wales	2122450	281171	113557	40
Scotland	8023384	1339736	791784	59
Northern Ireland	1431496	115192	73696	64
Region				
East Midlands	1581477	74443	31371	42
Eastern	1957502	117004	42430	36
London	159472	6074	4311	71
North East	867642	104460	68288	65
North West	1491831	94314	44195	47
South East	1941293	267756	83636	31
South West	2439224	213612	62169	29
West Midlands	1300380	88667	26830	30
Yorkshire and Humber	1556415	93398	35294	38

Table 2 - Percentage of population with access to woodland as defined by the Woodland Access Standard

Accessible woods

Country	% population with access to 2ha+ wood within 500m		% population with access to 20ha+ wood within 4km	
	2004	2009	2004	2009
England	10.2	14.5	55.2	63.0
Wales	15.7	17.4	72.3	76.7
Scotland	15.3	27.8	54.4	83.0
Northern Ireland	7.5	7.2	50.3	40.2
UK	10.8	15.6	55.8	64.8

Table 3 - Percentage of population who would have access to woodland if existing woods were opened up to the public

Inaccessible woods

Country	% extra population with access to 2ha+wood within 500m if existing woods opened		% extra population with access to 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	
	2004	2009	2004	2009
England	26.1	23.2	26.7	20.6
Wales	43.2	42.5	25.3	20.9
Scotland	38.5	29.2	41.2	14.2
Northern Ireland	22.5	21.6	16.3	23.2
UK	27.9	24.6	27.6	20.1

Table 4 - Percentage population requiring new woodland, and minimum area of new woodland required, to meet the Woodland Access Standard

New planting

Country	% population requiring new woodland for access to 2ha+ wood within 500m		% population requiring new woodland for access to 20ha+ wood within 4km		Minimum area of new woodland required for 2ha+ wood within 500m (ha)	Minimum area of new woodland required for 20ha+ woods within 4 km (ha)
	2004	2009	2004	2009	2009	2009
England	63.7	62.3	18.1	16.4	28614	14480
Wales	41.1	40.1	2.5	2.4	1243	620
Scotland	46.2	43.1	4.4	2.7	2466	1120
Northern Ireland	70.0	71.2	33.4	36.6	2623	2211
UK	61.3	59.8	16.6	15.1	34946	18431

woodland is accessible than that of any of the other countries. This partly reflects the fact that Northern Ireland has the least woodland cover in the UK at only 6.5 per cent, followed by England at 8.7 per cent of land area.

Overall, the percentage of people in the UK with access to woodland has increased over the five-year period from 2004 to 2009. Despite a slight drop in Northern Ireland, there are increases in all other countries, some substantial. The highest increase at a country level is in Scotland, where the percentage of the population having access to a 2ha wood within 500m has increased from 15.3 per cent to 27.8 per cent, and the percentage having access to a 20ha wood within 4km has increased from 54.4 per cent to 83.0 per cent.

The increase in woodland recorded as accessible is partly balanced by an opposing downward shift in the amount of inaccessible woodland, and in the area of new woodland required to ensure that everyone has access to woodland within the context of the Woodland Access Standard.

Woods in and Around Towns - Scotland

In Scotland, the Woods in and Around Towns initiative (WIAT) was launched to bring neglected woodland into active management, create new woods and work with people to help them use their local woodland. Phase 1 invested £30m between 2005 and 2008. Under Phase II (2008-2011) a further £24m is available to improve the quality of Scotland's urban woodlands.

Since 2005 WIAT has helped to create 378ha of new woodland near where people live, as well as bringing 9000ha of urban woodland into active management and creating or upgrading nearly 180km of paths. WIAT focuses on woods within 1km of settlements of over 2000 people.

Central Scotland Forest Trust
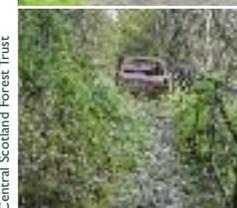
Access improved with the help of WIAT grants and, inset, the same path before

Changes in the amount of woodland access recorded could be due to a number of possible factors:

- Receipt of new records through the Woods for People project which might reveal that woods previously thought inaccessible do, in fact, have permissive access

- Uptake of forestry grant schemes leading to an increase in the area of woodland recorded as accessible

- Expiry of forestry grant schemes (after five years) after which it cannot be assumed woods remain accessible, so they are removed from the database, leading to a decrease in the area of accessible woodland

- Landowners opening up private woodland to public access, with or without grant aid

- Creation of new woodland

From the data supplied, it is difficult to assess in detail all the reasons for the changes in the data in the five years from 2004 to 2009, and it would be wrong to conclude the figures show a simple increase in the amount of accessible woodland in the UK. The figures for Northern Ireland show the amount of accessible woodland can go down as

Green oasis in an urban area

Monkstown Wood, in Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland, is almost 16 hectares (39 acres) of woodland and other habitats created by the Woodland Trust on land provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Thousands of young native trees, planted in the year 2000, already tower over the tallest of walkers and complement the mature hedgerows. This green oasis in a busy urban area provides a peaceful retreat for local people, while also forming part of a longer walking route, the Newtownabbey Way.

During the second half of 2009, more than 30,000 people visited the site, which was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2008.

New accessible woodland has been created through targeted grant aid

well as up, due to a reduction in uptake of grant schemes and all the above factors need to be taken into account when studying the changes. The data for Scotland suggests that the increase there can be partly attributed to an increased uptake of grants in the central belt area, which means an increase in recorded accessible woodland in an area of high population.

The decrease in need for new woodland does, however, show new woods have been planted close to communities through targeted grant aid, partnerships and individual initiatives.

The targets for creation of new accessible woodland show an overall reduction but this is relatively small, and there are still challenging targets to be met.

A study of woodland access in the 10 per cent most deprived areas in each country (and in each region in England) showed that these are not necessarily the areas with the least woodland access. In England and Scotland, there is little difference between the percentage of people with access to woodland, as defined by the Woodland Access Standard, in the 10 per cent most deprived areas as compared with the national average. In Wales, there is more woodland access in these areas. Northern Ireland does show a larger shortfall in the amount of woodland access available for those in the most deprived areas.

While these results may mask a complex range of factors, it does suggest that maximising the benefits

Table 5 Woodland access in 10% most deprived areas of each country (national average figures in brackets)

	% population with access to a 2ha+wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods open	% extra population with access to 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods open	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km
England	13.9 (14.5)	62.0 (63.0)	12.4 (23.2)	13.5 (20.6)	73.7 (62.3)	24.5 (16.4)
Wales	22.7 (17.4)	85.0 (76.7)	29.4 (42.5)	13.5 (20.9)	47.9 (40.1)	1.5 (2.4)
Scotland	27.4 (27.8)	87.9 (83.0)	22.3 (29.2)	11.3 (14.2)	50.2 (43.1)	0.8 (2.7)
Northern Ireland	4.4 (7.2)	21.7 (40.2)	11.2 (21.6)	35.3 (23.2)	84.3 (71.2)	43 (36.6)

Table 6 Woodland Access in 10% most deprived areas by English region

	% population with access to a 2ha+wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods open	% extra population with access to 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods open	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km
East Midlands	8.3 (9.4)	51.3 (50.0)	13.9 (19.8)	19.2 (25.7)	77.8 (70.8)	29.4 (24.3)
Eastern	10.7 (11.6)	29 (51.5)	16.1 (25.3)	41.8 (32.1)	73.2 (63.1)	29.2 (16.4)
London	2.3 (9.1)	47.6 (67.9)	6.2 (11.6)	0.9 (5.37)	91.5 (79.3)	51.5 (26.7)
North East	13.6 (18.0)	60.7 (63.6)	13.9 (24.9)	22.1 (22.7)	72.6 (57.1)	17.3 (13.7)
North West	23.9 (22.8)	76.1 (67.5)	12.4 (18.3)	9.6 (16.4)	63.6 (59.0)	14.3 (16.1)
South East	11.0 (15.5)	50.1 (65.6)	22.8 (35.4)	21.9 (22.5)	66.3 (49.1)	28.1 (11.9)
South West	7.6 (12.8)	76.6 (67.4)	21.7 (30.8)	17.1 (25.9)	70.8 (56.3)	6.3 (6.8)
West Midlands	11.8 (15.4)	59.3 (63.8)	12.1 (18.9)	12.3 (20.5)	76.1 (65.7)	28.4 (15.7)
Yorkshire and Humberside	14.0 (14.5)	62.3 (63.8)	12.7 (23.9)	19.4 (21.8)	73.3 (60.5)	18.3 (14.3)

WTPL/Christopher Beech

Transformation of a village

The little village of Fordham, Essex, is almost surrounded by a new nature reserve that covers around 200 hectares with large scale new native woodland creation. As well a providing free open access for the people of Fordham, this Woodland Trust site attracts visitors from larger centres of population such as Colchester, nearby.

Woodland creation on such a scale can profoundly impact on a community, transforming the landscape around people's homes from one of intensive agricultural production to a patchwork of thriving, wildlife-rich habitats.

WTPL/Nick Cobbing

of woodland access in deprived areas means more than simply creating more woodland, or opening more woods up to public access.

Projects which encourage people to make the most of the woodland they already have, by making woods welcoming and giving people the information and inspiration they need to visit them, could also be important in bringing improvements to quality of life in these areas, as demonstrated by the Cydcoed project in Wales.

The Woodland Trust is also launching Visitwoods[22], an online resource that will inform people about woods they can access, based on the Woods for People data, and provide a range of inspirational resources to encourage them to discover the benefits of woodland for themselves.

[22] www.visitwoods.org.uk

WTPL/Peter Nash

Projects that inspire people to visit woods can improve quality of life

Woods for those most in need

Between 2001 – 2008, Cydcoed helped more than 160 community groups across some of the poorest parts of Wales improve their surroundings and quality of life.

The £18 million project used woods to provide new jobs and opportunities, empower communities, promote healthy recreation, education and conservation as well as creating 227 hectares of new woodland and improving more than 37,500 hectares of existing woodland.

Managed by Forestry Commission Wales, it was funded by the EU (Objective One) and the Welsh Assembly Government.

An evaluation of the project found that the 85 per cent of people questioned felt the quality of life for their community had improved by being involved in Cydcoed, and more than 90 per cent felt the woods to be an important part of creating a sense of well being through offering a relaxing and stress free area.

Section 3 – Policy implications

There is already substantial policy support for an increase in accessible woodland close to where people live. Country forestry strategies recognise the value of access to woodland and set out aspirations that more people should access woods for the benefits they provide.

In England[23], this includes a vision that woods within easy reach are used for educational, social and community purposes, and an aim to make it easier for people to use and enjoy woodland. Regional strategies (Regional Forestry Frameworks) also promote woodland access, many adopting the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard.

In Wales[24], the forestry strategy aspires that more people lead healthier lives because they take opportunities to enjoy woodland. It commits to encouraging development and promotion of woodland access.

The Scottish Forestry Strategy[25] commits to making access to woodland easier for all sectors of society, for example by targeting woodland creation and access improvements in areas where health and community need is greatest and current provision is weak. It adopts the Woodland Access Standard.

The strategy for forestry in Northern Ireland[28] commits to realising the potential of forests to be used for recreation.

Grants for woodland management and creation include incentives for provision of public access.

For example, since 2005 the Forestry Commission in England has given £1.3m towards 728ha of new community woodland, has supported public access in 14,000ha of woodland per annum through woodland management grants, and has spent £1.3m on access improvements. The availability of permissive access to private woodland has increased steadily since the 1980s, and the largest section of data on accessible woodland in the Woods for People dataset comes from grant scheme information provided by Forestry Commission and Forest Service Northern Ireland.

However, there is still substantial scope to increase woodland access further across the UK through creation of new accessible woodland, and by opening up existing woods to the public. The policy challenge is therefore one of constructing incentives and practical mechanisms to build upon the strategic intent expressed in the country forestry strategies and to accelerate the generally positive trends identified above.

[23] Defra (2007) *A Strategy for England's Woods, Trees and Forests.* **http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/forestry/20070620-forestry.pd**f

[24] Welsh Assembly Government (2009) *Woodlands for Wales.* **http://wales.gov.uk/docs/drah/publications/090324woodlandsforwalesstrategyen.pdf**

[25] Scottish Executive (2006) *Scottish Forestry Strategy.* **http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf/$FILE/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf**

[26] Forest Service NI (2006) *Northern Ireland Forestry: A strategy for sustainability and growth.* Department of Agriculture and Rural Development NI. **http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pd**f

WTPL/Brian Aldrich

Creating new accessible woodland

While opening existing woods to the public is important, creation of new woodland offers the opportunity to deliver many other benefits as well as woodland access. Despite a recent fall in the rate of woodland creation, public policy is now beginning to swing towards larger scale increases in woodland cover in the UK than have been seen in recent years. The rationale for this extends beyond the need for more woodland access.

The challenge will be to overcome the barriers to woodland creation, and then to ensure it is targeted sufficiently towards areas where people live in order to meet woodland access needs.

The rate of woodland creation has fallen overall in the UK in the last five years, with a total of 5,900ha planted in 2008-2009 compared with 11,900ha in 2004-2005.

Table 7 – Woodland creation figures for the UK by country 2004 – 09 (Forestry Commission)

Year (ending 31 March)	New planting (thousands of hectares)				
	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2004-05	5.3	0.5	5.7	0.4	11.9
2005-06	3.7	0.5	4.0	0.6	8.7
2006-07	3.2	0.4	6.6	0.5	10.7
2007-08	2.6	0.2	4.2	0.6	7.5
2008-09	2.1	0.1	3.4	0.3	5.9

However, the value of expanding the UK's woodland cover is gaining recognition because of the many benefits that woods and trees provide.

During 2009, the Government launched its UK Low Carbon Transition plan, which stated that if 10,000 hectares of new woodland were planted annually for the next 15 years, the resulting new trees would lock away 50 million tonnes of carbon by 2050 – making a very real contribution to the country's carbon reduction targets.

An independent report produced for the Forestry Commission on the role of UK forests in combating climate change also highlighted the contribution woodland could make to abatement of greenhouse gases emissions[27] and recommended that planting of 23,000ha of new woodland annually for the next 40 years would reduce carbon emissions by 10 per cent by 2050.

Translation of these recommendations into policy would offer the opportunity for a step change in the rate of woodland creation. Targeting this new woodland near to where people live, and in areas where there is currently a deficit in accessible woodland, would enable multiple issues to be addressed.

[27] Read D J, Freer-Smith P H, Morison J I L, Hanley N, West C C and Snowdon P (eds). (2009) *Combating climate change – a role for UK forests. An assessment of the potential of the UK's trees and woodlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The synthesis report.* The Stationery Office, Edinburgh.
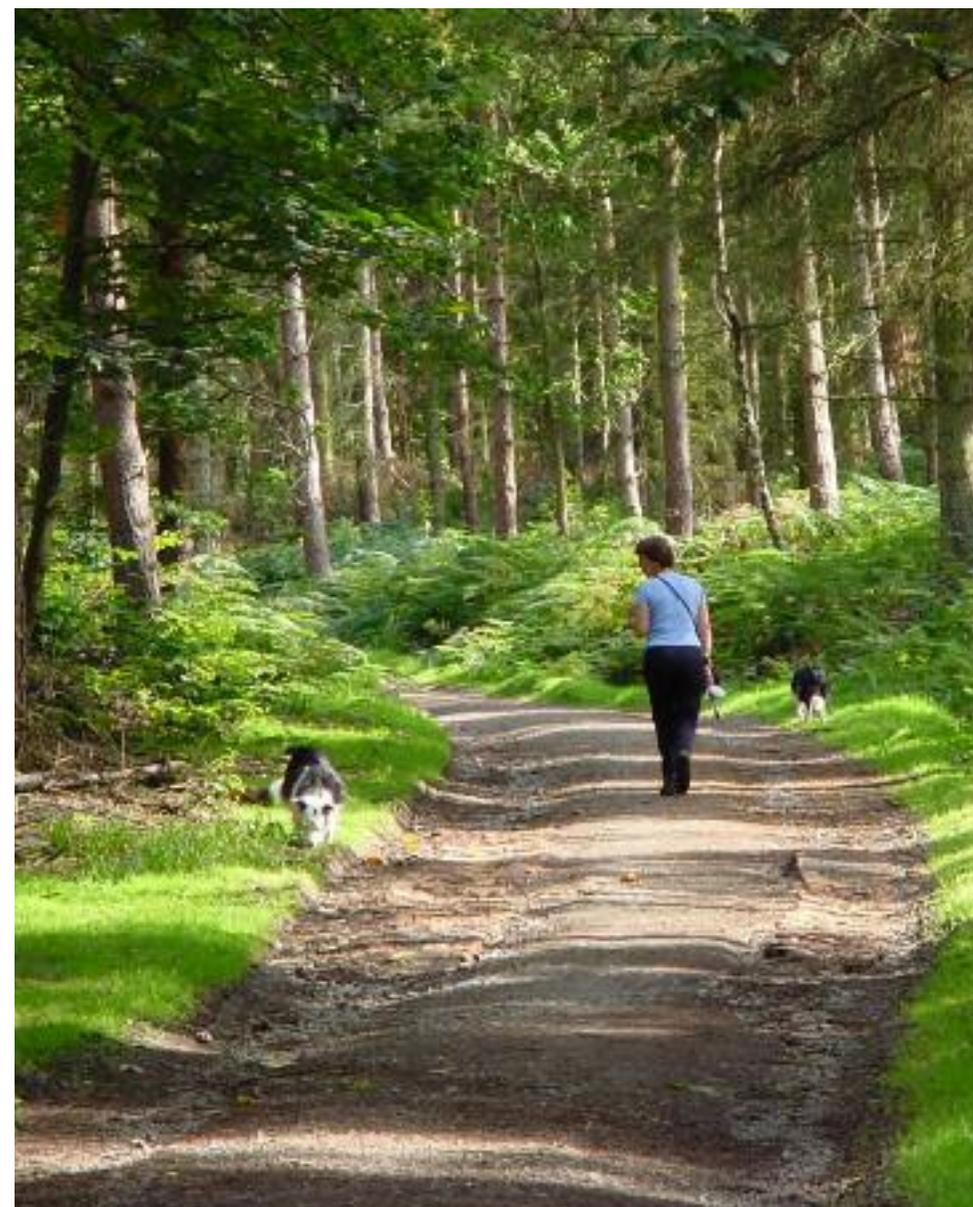
Green Infrastructure – Central Scotland

The Central Scotland Green Network was officially launched by the Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham in September 2009.

Its vision is that by 2050, the environment of Central Scotland will have been transformed through the creation of a high quality green network enhancing people's lives, supporting the economy, allowing nature to flourish and addressing climate change.

Specific goals include every home to be within 300m of an accessible greenspace, a doubling of woodland cover, and that the green network is used by everyone to improve health and well-being.

Keith Geddes, Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Partnership Board, says:

"Working in partnership with established bodies and local community groups, our goal is to make the central belt of Scotland a thriving and vibrant place where the environment helps communities and business flourish."

In Scotland, the Scottish Forestry Strategy[28] already sets the scene for large-scale expansion of woodland, reaffirming the Government's expectation that an increase in woodland cover in Scotland from the current 17 per cent to around 25 per cent in the second half of the century would be needed to deliver the vision. This would involve a sustained annual planting programme of around 10,000–15,000ha, and would enable Scotland to meet the Woodland Access Standard. The new woodland should include at least 35 per cent native species, thus matching the Woodland Trust's aspirations for doubling native woodland cover.

Northern Ireland's forestry strategy[29], includes a commitment to double woodland cover, and in England, the North West Regional Forestry Framework is leading the way with a manifesto that includes an aspiration to double woodland cover in the region.

At the same time, the concept of Green Infrastructure has now gained common currency. This highlights the importance of the natural environment in land use planning, in particular the life support functions provided by an interconnected network of natural ecosystems – eg clean water and air, healthy soils, flood attenuation, sustainable drainage, shade and shelter, and recreation.

Green Infrastructure planning is increasingly recognised as a valuable approach for spatial planning and is now seen in national, regional and local planning and policy documents and strategies. The concept is equally valid in rural and urban areas.

Natural England recommends that all local authorities produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Woodland Trust believes that native woodland, accessible to the public, should be considered in all GI strategies.

[28] Scottish Executive (2006) *Scottish Forestry Strategy* http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf/$FILE/SFS2006fcfc101.pdf

[29] Forest Service NI (2006) *Northern Ireland Forestry: A strategy for sustainability and growth*. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development NI. http://www.forestserviceni.gov.uk/strategy-for-sustainability-growth.pdf

Green Infrastructure…"should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Green Infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites."

Natural England guidance on Green Infrastructure

WTPL/Eric Porter

Even with political will, there are practical barriers to achieving the scale of woodland creation required to meet aspirations under the Woodland Access Standard, particularly in terms of land availability. Increased emphasis on food security and the need for the UK to be more self-sufficient in food production means that it will not be appropriate to create large areas of new woodland on prime agricultural land.

Pressure for further development continues to be an issue in and around centres of population and this affects both the availability and price of land, and the willingness of landowners to consider planting woodland. Every opportunity should therefore be taken to expand woodland through the planning and development control process, for example through policy tools such as "habitat banking" and stricter use of compensation packages for infrastructure projects.

Planting on brownfield or reclaimed sites is an option but needs careful preparation and management and establishment is generally more difficult and expensive than planting on agricultural land.

The success of the National Forest, in the English Midlands, shows what can be done with sustained targeting of resources towards an ambitious woodland creation target.

[30] Regeneris Consulting (2005) *Economic and Social Benefits of Countryside Access Routes in the North East.*

Increasing the accessibility of existing woods

Core paths and rights of way

In England and Wales, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) required local authorities to undertake rights of way improvement plans by 2005, but did not specifically require them to invest in the improvements themselves. It is likely that as a result many more local authorities will have digital maps of their rights of way, which means that technically it would now be possible to include woods served by rights of way in the accessible woodland dataset, perhaps as a subset. However, an assessment first needs to be made of the quality of provision, and whether this has improved sufficiently for these woods to be included. People are more likely to exercise if there is good quality provision, as evidenced by research that found a 4 per cent increase in adult activity in the North-East owing to improvements in public rights of way[30].

Currently, however, there is not sufficient data to assess the condition of rights of way. In England, for example, no surveys are being undertaken at a national level, and rights of way do not appear in the list of 198 National Indicators by which the performance of local authorities is measured. There is also a danger that if local authority budgets are squeezed, rights of way will not be maintained adequately in the future to enable

Forest of the future

The National Forest success story shows what can be achieved if resources are targeted in a sustained way towards woodland creation. The Forest covers 200 square miles of the English Midlands across parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire. The aim behind the concept was to demonstrate that a large-scale, attractive forest could be created, combining commercial forestry with benefits for wildlife, landscape and people. The ambitious aim is to increase woodland cover to around a third of land within the Forest boundary.

This is now well under way with woodland cover having increased from around 6per cent in 1991 to 18 per cent in 2009, and over 7 million trees (5,785ha woodland) planted. Public access is available to 82 per cent of woodland. Within the Forest, 63 per cent of people now have access to a wood of at least 2ha within 500m of their homes (compared with the England average of 14 per cent), and 100 per cent have access to a wood of at least 20ha within 4km (compared with the England average of 63 per cent.
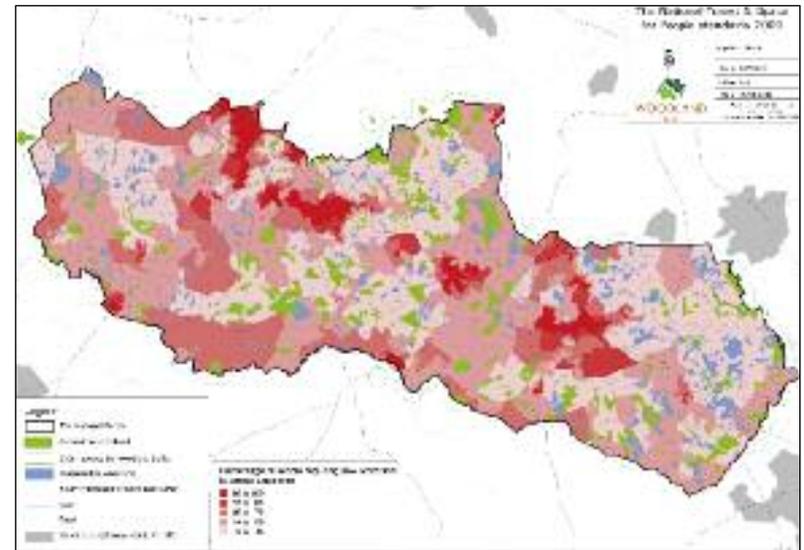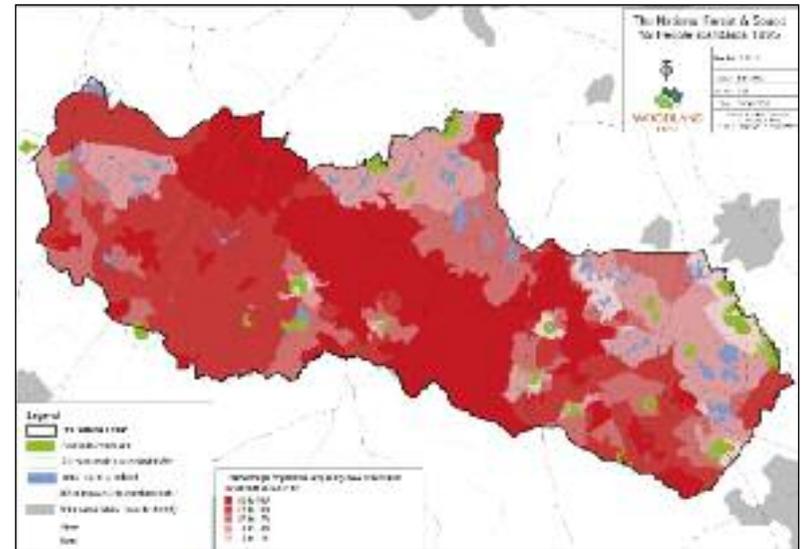
the inclusion of these woods in the Woods for People data.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act also offers the opportunity to improve and increase access through dedication of access in perpetuity under Section 16 of the Act which was intended to encourage woodland owners in particular to voluntarily create permanent public access to woods. No incentives currently exist to encourage landowners to do this and take-up has been poor.

In Scotland, every local authority and National Park authority is required to draw up a plan for a system of paths (Core Paths) sufficient for the purpose of giving the public reasonable access

throughout their area. Several access authorities have now adopted their plans and others are working towards adoption.

Core paths are paths, waterways or any other means of crossing land to facilitate, promote and manage the exercise of access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Once the access authority have adopted their plan they must compile a list of core paths. The provision of a core path network provides for a greater opportunity for people to enjoy the countryside.

Core paths must cater for everyone, including those with disabilities. In drawing up their core paths plans access authorities must have special regard to all those people with disabilities who seek to exercise their access rights.

As with rights of way in England and Wales, core path data for Scotland could, once complete and available, be used to add woods to the accessible woodland dataset.

Grants and incentives

The area under grant schemes to encourage access has increased overall in the last few years though there have been fluctuations during changes in the grant systems.

This demonstrates the importance of incentives in persuading private landowners to provide permissive access to their woods, and the need for such incentives to continue at current levels, or to

WTPL/Keith Huggett

increase, if further progress is to be made in opening woods up to the public.

Currently, once grant schemes expire, woods are removed from the Woods for People dataset unless we know via another route that the woods are still open for access (for example, directly from the landowner). However, this may not reflect the true picture since some landowners, having made the commitment to public access, may allow it to continue even if they are no longer receiving grant.

The way forward

The analysis of accessible woodland data from 2004 and now from 2009 enables a broad overview to be taken of progress in provision of woodland access. While the trend appears positive, there is still a long way to go to ensure that as many people as possible experience the pleasure of visiting woodland within easy reach of their homes.

A three-step approach is recommended to take this forward:

1. Maintain current levels of permissive access to woodland:

- Maintain or increase levels of grant offered for provision of woodland access

- Retain a public forest estate with a focus on the needs of society – including communities with little existing access to woodland

2. Make the Woods for People data as accurate and comprehensive as possible:

- Continue to update Woods for People data annually

- Make an updated assessment of the quality of access provided through rights of way and core paths and add woods served by these as a subset of the data if appropriate

3. Increase the area of existing woodland which is accessible:

- Government to adopt the Woodland Trust's target of doubling native woodland cover

- Targets for woodland creation, aimed at meeting the Woodland Access Standard, to be included in all national and regional forestry strategies

- Development of planning guidance which makes provision for the creation of new native woods within walking distance of residential areas

- All levels of government should give heightened emphasis to new native woodland creation within spatial planning and green infrastructure strategies

- Use of forms of planning gain, including the Community Infrastructure Levy to create accessible woodland vital for the wellbeing of communities affected by development

- Positive action to encourage private landowners to open up their woods to public access, including incentives for dedication of access in perpetuity

- Adequate investment in the monitoring and upkeep of rights of way and core paths to enable woods which are accessible by virtue of these to be included in the Woods for People dataset

- A stronger emphasis on woodland creation in the existing grants regime.

Provision of accessible woodland close to where people live is the starting point, but it is not the end of the story. There is a need to encourage and inspire people to get out into the woods and re-connect with nature, and to this end the Woodland Trust is launching Visitwoods[31], an initiative to tell people where they can access woodland and to provide them with a whole range of resources to get the most out of their visit.

It is only through people's understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of woodland that we will ensure its survival, and with it the survival of its wonderful array of wildlife. At the same time, visiting woods can enrich people's lives enormously, and creating new woodland close to where people live can bring benefits that extend far beyond accessibility. The Woodland Trust believes that everyone should have the oppportunity to visit woodland within easy reach of their homes.

Space for People is a first step towards achieving this.

[31] www.visitwoods.org.uk

WTPL/Katherine Jaiteh

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Tables showing provision of woodland access and targets for woodland creation at country, regional and local authority level across the UK

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Country								
England	14.5	63.0	23.2	20.6	62.3	16.4	28614	14480
Wales	17.4	76.7	42.5	20.9	40.1	2.4	1243	620
Scotland	27.8	83.0	29.2	14.2	43.1	2.7	2466	1120
Northern Ireland	7.2	40.2	21.6	23.2	71.2	36.6	2623	2211
UK	15.6	64.8	24.6	20.1	59.8	15.1	34946	18431
England by Region								
East Midlands	9.4	50.0	19.8	25.7	70.8	24.3	2824	2960
Eastern	11.6	51.5	25.3	32.1	63.1	16.4	5212	3160
London	9.1	67.9	11.6	5.4	79.3	26.7	2240	640
North East	18.0	63.6	24.9	22.7	57.1	13.7	1502	440
North West	22.8	67.5	18.3	16.4	59.0	16.1	2434	1360
South East	15.5	65.6	35.4	22.5	49.1	11.9	5731	1740
South West	12.8	67.4	30.8	25.9	56.3	6.8	4091	1540
West Midlands	15.4	63.8	18.9	20.5	65.7	45.7	2453	820
Yorkshire and the Humber	15.7	63.8	23.9	21.8	60.5	14.3	2128	1820
England by county/unitary authority								
Barking and Dagenham London Boro	0.0	54.5	7.2	1.2	92.8	44.3	67	20
Barnet London Boro	11.7	76.6	18.1	21.4	70.2	2.0	140	20
Barnsley District	9.9	98.0	24.5	2.0	65.6	0.0	22	0
Bath and North East Somerset	32.7	75.6	24.4	23.3	42.9	1.1	62	60
Bedford	8.9	44.0	15.5	52.6	75.6	3.5	28	100
Bexley London Boro	4.8	98.3	31.1	1.5	64.1	0.2	90	20
Birmingham District	9.0	54.9	20.7	5.3	70.3	39.8	2	20
Blackburn with Darwen	14.4	97.0	34.1	2.9	51.5	0.1	82	20
Blackpool	1.9	0.0	7.9	0.1	90.2	99.9	62	20
Bolton District	28.4	82.6	21.1	17.4	50.4	0.0	0	0

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Bournemouth	19.5	95.6	29.2	4.4	51.3	0.0	56	0
Bracknell Forest	40.6	89.7	48.4	10.3	11.0	0.0	38	0
Bradford District	5.3	56.7	29.9	41.9	64.8	1.4	20	120
Brent London Boro	4.9	34.2	7.5	0.5	87.5	65.3	76	20
Bromley London Boro	26.7	98.6	17.9	1.0	55.4	0.4	117	20
Buckinghamshire County	24.2	80.5	32.5	2.8	43.3	16.7	528	260
Bury District	40.8	98.5	19.0	1.5	40.2	0.0	0	0
Calderdale District	23.1	95.5	43.3	4.4	33.6	0.1	26	0
Cambridgeshire County	3.2	24.7	16.6	22.4	80.2	52.9	939	860
Camden London Boro	4.9	83.0	7.1	0.0	88.0	17.0	35	20
Central Bedfordshire	7.9	71.7	26.6	17.3	65.5	11.0	310	140
Cheshire East	4.5	34.9	33.0	49.0	62.6	16.1	334	140
Cheshire West and Chester	18.3	72.7	11.5	18.5	70.3	8.8	222	140
City and County of the City of London	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	96.8	100.0	5	20
City of Bristol	13.9	90.4	20.1	6.4	66.0	3.2	6	20
City of Derby	14.6	65.8	5.6	8.3	79.8	25.8	0	20
City of Kingston upon Hull	3.3	0.0	4.4	6.6	92.3	93.4	125	20
City of Leicester	0.3	6.8	6.0	0.9	93.6	92.2	0	20
City of Nottingham	11.8	77.9	14.5	21.5	73.7	0.6	0	40
City of Peterborough	9.2	9.6	23.3	72.6	67.4	17.7	166	120
City of Plymouth	31.7	100.0	29.1	0.0	39.1	0.0	54	0
City of Portsmouth	3.1	1.2	20.8	36.4	76.1	62.4	0	20
City of Southampton	39.8	98.9	22.0	1.1	38.3	0.0	47	0
City of Stoke-on-Trent	24.3	40.1	4.0	37.4	71.7	22.4	157	20
City of Westminster London Boro	0.0	27.0	6.6	0.1	93.4	72.9	38	20
City of Wolverhampton District	9.3	63.9	10.5	3.2	80.3	32.9	0	20
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	7.5	38.6	44.6	57.9	47.9	3.5	661	300
County Durham	36.4	96.7	30.6	2.8	33.0	0.4	266	40
County of Herefordshire	9.9	47.4	21.4	46.3	68.7	6.3	222	80

Appendices

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Coventry District	14.1	63.5	12.0	19.8	73.9	16.6	2	20
Croydon London Boro	31.0	89.1	10.0	1.2	59.0	9.7	84	20
Cumbria County	17.5	57.4	25.5	22.9	57.0	19.7	420	300
Darlington	4.7	71.2	27.2	5.9	68.0	22.9	24	20
Derbyshire County	15.4	50.8	35.0	41.9	49.6	7.3	223	200
Devon County	8.5	67.8	38.9	28.7	52.5	3.5	595	240
Doncaster District	19.6	74.4	18.3	19.1	62.1	6.5	264	40
Dorset County	12.3	49.5	44.7	37.2	43.0	13.3	370	60
Dudley District	29.4	100.0	7.4	0.0	63.2	0.0	0	0
Ealing London Boro	1.2	15.2	13.5	17.8	85.3	67.0	97	20
East Riding of Yorkshire	2.2	5.1	15.2	60.8	82.6	34.1	515	580
East Sussex County	13.2	76.7	40.0	11.0	46.7	12.4	330	80
Enfield London Boro	0.5	40.5	7.9	38.8	91.6	20.6	124	20
Essex County	15.3	62.0	24.9	27.3	59.8	10.6	1021	760
Gateshead District	16.2	85.0	24.4	4.9	59.4	10.1	100	20
Gloucestershire County	12.0	69.2	22.7	19.4	65.3	11.4	627	120
Greenwich London Boro	20.6	99.4	12.6	0.0	66.8	0.6	67	20
Hackney London Boro	0.0	17.0	10.3	0.0	89.7	83.0	34	20
Halton	22.3	88.9	9.3	5.9	68.4	5.1	11	20
Hammersmith and Fulham London Boro	0.0	86.8	0.2	0.0	99.8	13.2	31	20
Hampshire County	21.0	78.8	42.2	19.4	36.8	1.8	510	60
Haringey London Boro	9.2	69.1	0.1	0.2	90.7	30.7	51	20
Harrow London Boro	3.7	85.1	18.4	0.2	77.9	14.7	67	20
Hartlepool	20.0	94.4	3.9	2.3	76.1	3.3	64	40
Havering London Boro	15.4	97.2	3.7	0.0	80.9	2.8	141	20
Hertfordshire County	17.5	68.4	27.8	25.9	54.7	5.6	865	140
Hillingdon London Boro	6.4	81.8	19.3	0.0	74.3	18.2	163	20
Hounslow London Boro	2.6	31.4	22.5	20.1	75.0	48.6	92	20
Isle of Wight	17.0	81.5	55.9	16.8	27.2	1.8	48	20

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Islington London Boro	0.0	54.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	45.6	28	20
Kensington and Chelsea London Boro	0.0	27.1	17.4	0.0	82.6	72.9	19	20
Kent County	10.1	58.3	29.8	24.2	60.1	17.5	1349	380
Kingston upon Thames London Boro	7.7	95.6	16.1	4.3	76.2	0.2	62	20
Kirklees District	7.8	44.0	45.8	36.7	46.4	19.3	24	60
Knowsley District	44.5	96.8	7.4	2.4	48.1	0.8	5	20
Lambeth London Boro	9.7	49.1	4.5	0.0	85.8	50.9	45	20
Lancashire County	17.7	51.0	26.5	15.9	55.8	33.1	1092	460
Leeds District	24.2	91.8	20.1	7.9	55.6	0.3	38	20
Leicestershire County	6.3	43.3	18.5	17.1	75.2	39.6	308	440
Lewisham London Boro	8.4	100.0	10.5	0.0	81.1	0.0	60	0
Lincolnshire County	5.7	32.4	13.1	25.5	81.2	42.1	1095	1420
Liverpool District	16.3	64.6	12.0	14.6	71.7	20.8	4	20
Luton	9.5	6.4	21.6	74.3	68.9	19.3	0	20
Manchester District	32.1	74.9	9.9	7.8	58.0	17.3	0	20
Medway	37.8	95.7	13.2	2.7	49.0	1.6	117	40
Merton London Boro	9.0	89.0	8.3	0.6	82.7	10.4	56	20
Middlesbrough	16.8	25.0	17.4	50.8	65.8	24.2	77	20
Milton Keynes	11.0	70.9	23.6	25.2	65.4	4.0	197	80
Newcastle upon Tyne District	7.7	37.2	22.5	60.9	69.7	1.9	121	40
Newham London Boro	6.3	86.5	0.2	0.0	93.4	13.5	66	20
Norfolk County	9.8	51.5	29.5	37.3	60.7	11.2	1124	460
North East Lincolnshire	5.8	52.6	10.5	4.9	83.7	42.5	30	40
North Lincolnshire	6.1	47.9	20.6	33.6	73.3	18.5	174	220
North Somerset	11.0	77.9	28.1	21.6	60.9	0.4	157	0
North Tyneside District	1.9	6.5	24.2	49.3	74.0	44.2	121	20
North Yorkshire County	8.1	50.7	36.3	35.7	55.6	13.6	667	620
Northamptonshire County	5.8	31.6	25.1	52.3	69.1	16.1	807	580
Northumberland	16.1	51.0	42.2	40.4	41.6	8.6	237	160

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Nottinghamshire County	13.4	85.8	18.2	10.7	68.3	3.6	314	240
Oldham District	32.8	92.2	4.2	0.2	63.0	7.6	0	40
Oxfordshire County	5.0	34.8	29.3	47.7	65.8	17.5	838	480
Poole	32.3	94.9	37.1	5.1	30.6	0.0	7	0
Reading	0.5	32.8	48.7	35.3	50.8	31.9	52	20
Redbridge London Boro	16.1	92.1	10.5	1.4	73.4	6.6	65	20
Redcar and Cleveland	35.1	84.9	14.2	14.9	50.8	0.2	83	20
Richmond upon Thames London Boro	11.6	76.0	24.2	20.1	64.3	3.9	70	20
Rochdale District	37.5	55.9	14.0	28.4	48.5	15.8	0	20
Rotherham District	22.0	75.2	19.0	24.8	59.0	0.0	0	0
Rutland	8.4	72.6	21.3	27.3	70.3	0.1	77	0
Salford District	41.7	100.0	7.5	0.0	50.9	0.0	2	0
Sandwell District	21.2	99.3	8.1	0.7	70.8	0.0	0	0
Sefton District	19.1	74.3	7.1	0.6	73.8	25.1	65	20
Sheffield District	46.9	94.2	18.6	5.3	34.5	0.4	14	20
Shropshire	9.4	45.7	33.2	52.7	57.4	1.6	331	60
Slough	8.5	82.3	26.5	3.7	64.9	14.0	55	20
Solihull District	27.5	7.8	14.5	38.1	58.0	54.0	35	20
Somerset County	4.7	36.2	20.6	39.9	74.7	23.9	736	560
South Gloucestershire	18.6	79.5	13.3	11.3	68.1	9.2	57	80
South Tyneside District	6.5	71.9	8.0	0.4	85.5	27.7	100	20
Southend-on-Sea	6.1	50.3	4.3	15.5	89.7	34.2	0	20
Southwark London Boro	13.3	77.2	7.6	0.0	79.1	22.8	43	20
St. Helens District	48.6	100.0	14.0	0.0	37.4	0.0	4	0
Staffordshire County	12.3	66.8	22.7	29.5	65.0	3.7	788	200
Stockport District	11.6	22.4	23.1	73.5	65.3	4.1	0	20
Stockton-on-Tees	20.0	87.1	12.1	12.8	67.8	0.1	159	0
Suffolk County	8.1	39.2	34.6	43.2	57.3	17.6	656	500
Sunderland District	10.7	44.5	31.4	17.7	58.0	37.8	149	40

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Surrey County	17.0	78.9	48.2	15.7	34.8	5.4	666	20
Sutton London Boro	2.0	84.8	19.2	12.5	78.9	2.7	72	20
Swindon	7.8	90.2	20.6	9.7	71.6	0.2	134	0
Tameside District	26.9	74.4	30.3	25.2	42.9	0.4	2	20
Telford and Wrekin	49.5	96.5	16.9	3.5	33.6	0.0	32	0
The City of Brighton and Hove	3.6	45.0	24.2	29.6	72.2	25.4	107	40
Thurrock	15.8	72.3	14.8	0.2	69.5	27.5	103	40
Torbay	13.3	91.4	46.1	8.6	40.7	0.0	68	0
Tower Hamlets London Boro	1.3	7.7	9.1	0.0	89.6	92.3	37	20
Trafford District	25.7	59.2	9.5	18.3	64.8	22.5	0	40
Wakefield District	12.7	81.4	14.7	9.4	72.6	9.2	25	60
Walsall District	30.8	95.0	11.4	3.9	57.8	1.0	4	20
Waltham Forest London Boro	25.6	100.0	3.8	0.0	70.6	0.0	52	20
Wandsworth London Boro	10.2	44.1	22.8	12.7	67.1	43.2	46	20
Warrington	17.6	71.5	20.8	9.3	61.6	19.1	126	40
Warwickshire County	6.9	51.6	27.2	35.5	65.9	12.9	472	180
West Berkshire	8.2	61.4	56.9	38.5	34.9	0.1	31	0
West Sussex County	14.5	51.8	27.7	32.0	57.8	16.2	516	180
Wigan District	40.2	99.9	10.1	0.1	49.7	0.0	0	0
Wiltshire	8.5	60.0	34.0	35.6	57.5	4.4	501	100
Windsor and Maidenhead	10.0	60.1	34.2	37.6	55.8	2.3	154	20
Wirral District	11.0	85.9	22.4	14.1	66.5	0.0	3	0
Wokingham	15.5	40.1	50.9	51.1	33.6	8.7	148	20
Worcestershire County	11.5	70.0	25.9	23.9	62.7	6.1	408	180
York	6.7	42.3	17.1	18.3	76.2	39.4	185	20

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		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
England districts by county									
Buckinghamshire County	Aylesbury Vale District	12.7	44.0	13.1	7.7	74.2	48.3	258	240
Buckinghamshire County	Chiltern District	24.7	99.9	48.3	0.1	27.0	0.0	76	0
Buckinghamshire County	South Bucks District	25.7	98.3	41.9	1.1	32.4	0.6	96	20
Buckinghamshire County	Wycombe District	35.1	99.9	39.8	0.1	25.1	0.0	97	0
Cambridgeshire County	Cambridge District	2.8	18.2	23.8	19.9	73.4	61.9	72	20
Cambridgeshire County	East Cambridgeshire District	4.7	24.1	11.7	11.4	83.6	64.4	157	200
Cambridgeshire County	Fenland District	0.6	0.0	4.2	0.0	95.2	100.0	157	240
Cambridgeshire County	Huntingdonshire District	1.8	40.4	12.5	32.1	85.6	27.5	224	220
Cambridgeshire County	South Cambridgeshire District	5.9	27.2	26.3	33.4	67.8	39.4	329	266
Cumbria County	Allerdale District	13.6	55.9	35.2	35.1	51.2	9.0	77	100
Cumbria County	Barrow-in-Furness District	16.4	0.0	8.5	0.0	75.1	100.0	70	80
Cumbria County	Carlisle District	16.0	90.9	17.7	9.1	66.3	0.0	77	0
Cumbria County	Copeland District	26.4	79.6	28.4	16.5	45.2	3.9	41	60
Cumbria County	Eden District	3.1	26.5	39.4	67.9	57.5	5.6	39	0
Cumbria County	South Lakeland District	24.4	66.2	27.3	24.0	48.2	9.8	115	100
Derbyshire County	Amber Valley District	8.1	30.2	41.1	67.5	50.8	2.2	4	20
Derbyshire County	Bolsover District	15.4	90.1	27.8	9.8	56.9	0.1	0	0
Derbyshire County	Chesterfield District	17.5	20.0	41.2	80.0	41.3	0.0	2	0
Derbyshire County	Derbyshire Dales District	23.8	68.1	44.2	25.9	32.1	6.0	60	40
Derbyshire County	Erewash District	6.6	17.0	16.1	56.5	77.3	26.5	0	81
Derbyshire County	High Peak District	21.7	61.3	57.0	30.2	21.3	8.5	78	20
Derbyshire County	North East Derbyshire District	15.4	80.6	32.9	19.4	51.7	0.0	2	0
Derbyshire County	South Derbyshire District	21.3	67.1	21.3	20.3	57.4	12.6	78	41
Devon County	East Devon District	9.5	87.4	31.0	11.0	59.5	1.6	139	40
Devon County	Exeter District	0.5	75.7	17.6	12.2	82.0	12.1	70	40
Devon County	Mid Devon District	2.4	49.3	38.3	41.5	59.4	9.2	96	140
Devon County	North Devon District	10.0	43.5	38.4	55.6	51.6	1.0	38	20
Devon County	South Hams District	15.5	69.5	40.8	29.4	43.7	1.1	71	20

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		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Devon County	Teignbridge District	13.8	74.3	45.1	25.7	41.1	0.0	119	0
Devon County	Torridge District	6.4	44.8	63.3	54.2	30.3	1.1	17	20
Devon County	West Devon District	8.6	78.7	62.3	21.0	29.1	0.3	45	0
Dorset County	Christchurch District	0.6	46.0	54.6	54.0	44.9	0.0	29	0
Dorset County	East Dorset District	25.4	99.0	58.9	1.0	15.7	0.0	49	0
Dorset County	North Dorset District	6.5	76.4	39.2	23.0	54.4	0.6	90	0
Dorset County	Purbeck District	17.2	59.3	56.6	40.7	26.2	0.0	42	0
Dorset County	West Dorset District	10.7	17.5	36.5	61.2	52.8	21.3	98	60
Dorset County	Weymouth and Portland District	7.7	0.0	27.5	49.3	64.8	50.7	62	40
East Sussex County	Eastbourne District	12.5	81.9	15.9	0.1	71.7	18.0	42	20
East Sussex County	Hastings District	6.7	80.1	50.8	19.9	42.5	0.0	26	0
East Sussex County	Lewes District	5.7	33.1	32.9	27.6	61.4	39.3	99	20
East Sussex County	Rother District	14.0	87.4	47.9	9.6	38.1	2.9	89	40
East Sussex County	Wealden District	22.1	93.3	48.9	2.4	29.0	4.3	75	40
Essex County	Basildon District	24.6	90.5	24.2	9.5	51.2	0.0	0	0
Essex County	Braintree District	0.8	25.8	27.5	58.8	71.8	15.4	128	120
Essex County	Brentwood District	24.6	93.7	31.8	6.3	43.6	0.0	75	0
Essex County	Castle Point District	23.7	72.1	10.1	27.9	66.2	0.0	0	0
Essex County	Chelmsford District	11.5	61.1	12.3	15.2	76.2	23.7	133	100
Essex County	Colchester District	6.8	68.4	44.7	26.4	48.4	5.2	60	40
Essex County	Epping Forest District	29.6	88.3	18.8	8.9	51.6	2.8	121	40
Essex County	Harlow District	40.7	95.9	30.0	1.4	29.3	2.7	34	40
Essex County	Maldon District	0.9	4.7	21.9	50.8	77.2	44.5	105	220
Essex County	Rochford District	21.1	84.2	23.7	9.6	55.3	6.3	8	60
Essex County	Tendring District	4.0	12.7	20.8	63.3	75.2	23.9	211	140
Essex County	Uttlesford District	3.2	45.1	34.2	49.4	62.7	5.6	145	60
Gloucestershire County	Cheltenham District	0.1	50.5	6.6	4.0	93.3	45.5	71	40
Gloucestershire County	Cotswold District	4.8	47.2	50.8	51.5	44.4	1.4	88	0
Gloucestershire County	Forest of Dean District	48.0	95.0	20.0	4.4	32.0	0.6	34	20

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Gloucestershire County	Gloucester District	5.0	87.7	6.3	11.7	88.7	0.5	73	40
Gloucestershire County	Stroud District	16.4	90.5	39.1	7.7	44.5	1.7	188	40
Gloucestershire County	Tewkesbury District	3.1	35.4	19.7	50.9	77.2	13.7	172	60
Hampshire County	Basingstoke and Deane District	8.2	59.1	42.7	40.9	49.1	0.0	94	0
Hampshire County	East Hampshire District	28.0	99.4	41.6	0.6	30.5	0.0	43	0
Hampshire County	Eastleigh District	32.3	98.0	38.4	2.0	29.3	0.0	22	0
Hampshire County	Fareham District	32.7	76.5	27.0	23.5	40.4	0.0	4	0
Hampshire County	Gosport District	18.5	99.6	32.7	0.4	48.8	0.0	0	0
Hampshire County	Hart District	15.0	84.9	76.5	15.1	8.5	0.0	23	0
Hampshire County	Havant District	36.5	85.3	28.4	0.4	35.1	14.3	8	20
Hampshire County	New Forest District	24.8	90.5	45.6	9.5	29.6	0.0	77	0
Hampshire County	Rushmoor District	6.7	30.5	51.8	69.5	41.5	0.0	27	0
Hampshire County	Test Valley District	16.0	59.9	46.6	40.0	37.4	0.0	121	0
Hampshire County	Winchester District	9.1	82.2	38.2	12.8	52.7	5.0	90	40
Hertfordshire County	Broxbourne District	7.9	99.8	25.7	0.2	66.5	0.0	71	0
Hertfordshire County	Dacorum District	31.4	70.9	12.1	28.4	56.5	0.7	58	40
Hertfordshire County	East Hertfordshire District	7.9	39.5	35.6	54.7	56.5	5.8	174	40
Hertfordshire County	Hertsmere District	13.0	81.6	25.4	18.4	61.6	0.0	104	0
Hertfordshire County	North Hertfordshire District	1.3	8.0	29.3	50.6	69.3	41.5	133	40
Hertfordshire County	St. Albans District	7.5	58.7	33.6	40.1	58.9	1.1	117	20
Hertfordshire County	Stevenage District	45.3	99.9	10.2	0.0	44.5	0.0	30	0
Hertfordshire County	Three Rivers District	42.2	97.1	28.3	2.9	29.5	0.0	70	0
Hertfordshire County	Watford District	2.8	100.0	46.3	0.0	50.9	0.0	25	0
Hertfordshire County	Welwyn Hatfield District	24.7	71.9	33.3	28.1	42.0	0.0	84	0
Kent County	Ashford District	12.0	31.8	29.9	68.2	58.1	0.0	121	0
Kent County	Canterbury District	6.6	96.3	20.5	3.4	72.9	0.3	156	0
Kent County	Dartford District	16.4	99.8	27.9	0.1	55.8	0.1	106	20
Kent County	Dover District	5.0	6.6	46.7	62.4	48.3	31.1	110	100
Kent County	Gravesham District	6.0	86.5	12.6	0.3	81.4	13.3	72	20

		Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Kent County	Maidstone District	14.2	67.9	36.3	31.7	49.4	0.4	142	40
Kent County	Sevenoaks District	15.7	89.1	43.3	10.9	40.9	0.0	67	0
Kent County	Shepway District	2.7	26.6	31.5	53.4	65.8	20.0	99	60
Kent County	Swale District	7.9	34.9	14.6	32.3	77.4	32.8	163	60
Kent County	Thanet District	0.0	0.0	1.6	0.0	98.4	100.0	121	80
Kent County	Tonbridge and Malling District	12.8	71.3	41.8	28.7	45.4	0.0	156	0
Kent County	Tunbridge Wells District	24.1	95.7	57.7	4.3	18.2	0.0	37	0
Lancashire County	Burnley District	43.2	99.9	22.7	0.0	34.0	0.1	44	0
Lancashire County	Chorley District	33.6	89.1	23.5	2.4	42.9	8.4	85	60
Lancashire County	Fylde District	0.0	0.0	18.3	53.7	81.7	46.3	105	169
Lancashire County	Hyndburn District	17.1	78.2	33.4	1.2	49.5	20.6	70	20
Lancashire County	Lancaster District	6.2	52.3	19.2	7.9	74.6	39.8	158	20
Lancashire County	Pendle District	27.2	35.8	23.0	24.8	49.9	39.4	86	60
Lancashire County	Preston District	17.0	42.4	30.5	14.2	52.5	43.4	95	40
Lancashire County	Ribble Valley District	7.8	65.4	43.4	34.2	48.8	0.4	60	0
Lancashire County	Rossendale District	23.2	67.0	48.9	16.7	27.9	16.3	4	20
Lancashire County	South Ribble District	27.7	58.4	29.3	1.0	42.9	40.7	119	20
Lancashire County	West Lancashire District	5.8	36.2	34.9	38.7	59.3	25.1	139	140
Lancashire County	Wyre District	5.2	0.5	5.7	13.4	89.1	86.1	127	120
Leicestershire County	Blaby District	6.3	22.9	22.2	2.7	71.5	74.4	0	68
Leicestershire County	Charnwood District	2.0	52.1	24.2	29.4	73.9	18.5	4	80
Leicestershire County	Harborough District	0.9	1.5	17.5	26.8	81.6	71.6	101	120
Leicestershire County	Hinckley and Bosworth District	6.9	87.8	12.5	7.8	80.6	4.4	21	80
Leicestershire County	Melton District (B)	0.5	1.1	11.6	34.5	87.9	64.4	113	140
Leicestershire County	North West Leicestershire District	20.4	85.6	24.4	13.8	55.1	0.6	69	40
Leicestershire County	Oadby and Wigston District	7.9	0.0	6.3	0.0	85.8	100.0	0	20
Lincolnshire County	Boston District	4.6	60.2	0.0	0.0	95.4	39.8	92	220
Lincolnshire County	East Lindsey District	3.8	14.0	9.4	28.2	86.8	57.8	245	420
Lincolnshire County	Lincoln District	18.1	53.1	21.6	15.7	60.3	31.3	54	40

Appendices

		Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Lincolnshire County	North Kesteven District	3.1	20.8	20.6	44.6	76.3	34.6	162	180
Lincolnshire County	South Holland District	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	98.2	100.0	207	340
Lincolnshire County	South Kesteven District	4.7	50.8	13.9	30.6	81.4	18.6	166	160
Lincolnshire County	West Lindsey District	6.4	36.9	19.7	43.1	73.9	19.9	169	180
Norfolk County	Breckland District	13.1	54.2	26.6	40.1	60.3	5.7	186	60
Norfolk County	Broadland District	10.7	78.5	44.1	21.4	45.2	0.1	126	0
Norfolk County	Great Yarmouth District	0.5	10.1	14.4	54.0	85.1	35.9	129	20
Norfolk County	King's Lynn and West Norfolk District	8.2	47.5	23.4	30.3	68.4	22.2	264	200
Norfolk County	North Norfolk District	13.4	71.9	34.7	25.4	51.9	2.8	137	40
Norfolk County	Norwich District	17.2	78.4	18.5	21.4	64.4	0.2	56	20
Norfolk County	South Norfolk District	3.2	10.8	44.5	74.2	52.3	15.0	225	120
Northamptonshire County	Corby District	15.4	96.6	48.4	3.4	36.2	0.0	8	0
Northamptonshire County	Daventry District	8.7	8.3	21.9	47.2	69.4	44.6	154	320
Northamptonshire County	East Northamptonshire District	3.1	50.4	33.6	40.0	63.3	9.6	115	40
Northamptonshire County	Kettering District	0.2	14.8	36.3	65.2	63.4	20.0	88	40
Northamptonshire County	Northampton District	5.3	0.0	22.3	89.1	72.4	10.9	127	40
Northamptonshire County	South Northamptonshire District	3.9	43.0	16.0	35.1	80.0	21.9	190	240
Northamptonshire County	Wellingborough District (B)	8.5	78.0	7.3	11.5	84.2	10.4	126	80
North Yorkshire County	Craven District	5.2	16.5	38.6	65.1	56.3	18.4	65	60
North Yorkshire County	Hambleton District	4.1	16.7	29.3	48.9	66.6	34.3	128	200
North Yorkshire County	Harrogate District	9.8	65.6	40.1	28.8	50.1	5.6	150	60
North Yorkshire County	Richmondshire District	8.6	41.2	42.8	51.0	48.6	7.7	53	60
North Yorkshire County	Ryedale District	11.1	38.0	41.9	55.0	47.0	7.0	27	20
North Yorkshire County	Scarborough District	10.0	81.0	37.6	8.6	52.5	10.4	107	40
North Yorkshire County	Selby District	6.6	54.0	25.7	30.4	67.7	15.6	137	200
Nottinghamshire County	Ashfield District	23.8	100.0	16.0	0.0	60.2	0.0	0	0
Nottinghamshire County	Bassetlaw District	7.1	76.4	29.2	18.6	63.7	5.0	121	80
Nottinghamshire County	Broxtowe District	7.3	73.8	21.4	20.6	71.4	5.6	0	20
Nottinghamshire County	Gedling District	12.4	100.0	13.6	0.0	73.9	0.0	5	0

		Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Nottinghamshire County	Mansfield District	17.9	100.0	19.4	0.0	62.8	0.0	0	0
Nottinghamshire County	Newark and Sherwood District	19.1	78.9	13.0	18.9	67.9	2.3	125	60
Nottinghamshire County	Rushcliffe District	6.6	71.0	15.1	16.8	78.2	12.3	62	80
Oxfordshire County	Cherwell District	2.1	8.8	13.7	43.3	84.2	47.9	201	240
Oxfordshire County	Oxford District	6.0	77.5	35.7	22.5	58.3	0.0	64	0
Oxfordshire County	South Oxfordshire District	5.7	42.7	34.2	33.7	60.1	23.6	207	60
Oxfordshire County	Vale of White Horse District	5.3	10.5	38.3	81.1	56.4	8.4	189	160
Oxfordshire County	West Oxfordshire District	6.1	29.0	24.2	67.7	69.7	3.3	178	60
Somerset County	Mendip District	5.0	52.6	27.1	39.8	67.9	7.6	101	20
Somerset County	Sedgemoor District	2.3	25.6	13.4	7.7	84.3	66.7	158	300
Somerset County	South Somerset District	1.9	14.0	26.2	65.2	71.9	20.9	292	180
Somerset County	Taunton Deane District	3.8	45.5	8.4	46.9	87.8	7.6	149	40
Somerset County	West Somerset District	25.6	87.5	34.6	9.3	39.8	3.1	37	20
Staffordshire County	Cannock Chase District	30.4	100.0	15.4	0.0	54.2	0.0	3	0
Staffordshire County	East Staffordshire District	17.1	72.4	15.2	23.1	67.7	4.5	125	60
Staffordshire County	Lichfield District	6.8	82.2	19.8	17.4	73.5	0.4	97	20
Staffordshire County	Newcastle-under-Lyme District	7.3	39.5	34.6	60.5	58.0	0.0	125	0
Staffordshire County	South Staffordshire District	19.9	75.3	25.4	21.7	54.8	3.0	30	40
Staffordshire County	Stafford District	6.2	41.2	23.2	41.7	70.6	17.2	194	60
Staffordshire County	Staffordshire Moorlands District	10.1	65.9	30.0	33.2	59.9	0.9	160	40
Staffordshire County	Tamworth District	0.4	73.8	11.9	26.2	87.7	0.0	54	0
Suffolk County	Babergh District	6.3	45.9	36.9	37.6	56.8	16.5	109	60
Suffolk County	Forest Heath District	18.5	65.8	36.8	31.8	44.7	2.4	44	40
Suffolk County	Ipswich District	5.8	40.6	36.9	23.9	57.3	35.5	0	40
Suffolk County	Mid Suffolk District	5.0	44.5	37.3	38.0	57.8	17.5	181	240
Suffolk County	St. Edmundsbury District	10.9	35.5	29.6	52.7	59.5	11.8	127	100
Suffolk County	Suffolk Coastal District	6.0	48.3	43.8	22.8	50.2	28.9	97	100
Suffolk County	Waveney District	8.8	9.3	22.0	89.9	69.2	0.8	98	0
Surrey County	Elmbridge District	22.9	90.1	22.6	9.9	54.5	0.0	98	0

		Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
		% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Surrey County	Epsom and Ewell District	5.6	100.0	34.5	0.0	59.9	0.0	40	0
Surrey County	Guildford District	46.8	88.7	27.4	11.3	25.8	0.0	29	0
Surrey County	Mole Valley District	23.4	99.1	53.4	0.9	23.2	0.0	72	0
Surrey County	Reigate and Banstead District	6.1	91.0	57.3	9.0	36.7	0.0	110	0
Surrey County	Runnymede District	17.6	83.5	38.4	16.5	44.0	0.0	74	0
Surrey County	Spelthorne District	0.0	17.8	20.1	19.0	79.9	63.2	77	20
Surrey County	Surrey Heath District	12.9	66.7	82.1	33.3	4.9	0.0	18	0
Surrey County	Tandridge District	8.0	84.0	66.4	16.0	25.6	0.0	79	0
Surrey County	Waverley District	24.4	89.9	62.7	10.1	12.9	0.0	29	0
Surrey County	Woking District	3.7	48.1	77.0	51.9	19.3	0.0	38	0
Warwickshire County	North Warwickshire District	17.0	92.3	36.3	6.3	46.7	1.5	88	20
Warwickshire County	Nuneaton and Bedworth District	0.7	30.6	34.0	54.4	65.3	15.0	0	60
Warwickshire County	Rugby District	5.7	12.7	29.2	49.4	65.2	37.9	75	60
Warwickshire County	Stratford-on-Avon District	2.5	43.6	23.9	44.8	73.6	11.6	188	60
Warwickshire County	Warwick District	12.5	85.4	17.9	14.2	69.6	0.4	120	20
West Sussex County	Adur District	0.2	0.2	6.1	39.5	93.7	60.3	39	20
West Sussex County	Arun District	5.3	41.2	10.9	13.2	83.7	45.6	157	60
West Sussex County	Chichester District	14.7	43.7	28.5	37.9	56.7	18.4	69	100
West Sussex County	Crawley District	49.2	99.3	23.9	0.7	26.9	0.0	39	0
West Sussex County	Horsham District	9.0	66.9	46.6	33.0	44.4	0.1	131	0
West Sussex County	Mid Sussex District	20.4	70.3	54.7	29.7	24.8	0.0	30	0
West Sussex County	Worthing District	0.1	15.5	9.0	81.8	90.9	2.6	55	20
Worcestershire County	Bromsgrove District	2.6	68.5	15.2	23.8	82.2	7.7	2	60
Worcestershire County	Malvern Hills District	3.1	61.8	29.7	33.6	67.2	4.7	121	80
Worcestershire County	Redditch District	28.0	74.4	47.7	25.5	24.3	0.0	0	0
Worcestershire County	Worcester District	16.6	85.4	19.0	12.5	64.4	2.1	54	40
Worcestershire County	Wychavon District	2.4	35.2	24.2	46.3	73.4	18.5	230	80
Worcestershire County	Wyre Forest District	17.9	99.2	23.4	0.7	58.7	0.0	0	0

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Wales by local authority								
Blaenau Gwent	43.9	93.4	23.7	6.6	32.5	0.0	97	0
Bridgend	17.8	67.8	38.9	29.6	43.2	2.6	14	20
Caerphilly	23.4	99.6	41.0	0.4	35.6	0.0	28	0
Cardiff	4.2	54.7	36.7	42.6	59.1	2.7	0	20
Carmarthenshire	10.0	73.5	43.9	25.7	46.1	0.8	141	80
Ceredigion	24.0	62.3	54.0	37.2	22.0	0.5	9	0
Conwy	18.7	78.0	37.3	20.2	44.1	1.8	46	20
Denbighshire	17.5	76.5	25.7	23.4	56.8	0.0	105	0
Flintshire	19.2	72.2	32.8	27.6	48.0	0.2	67	0
Gwynedd	17.0	57.7	45.9	40.2	37.2	2.0	143	60
Isle of Anglesey	8.1	21.6	22.8	30.8	69.1	47.6	98	260
Merthyr Tydfil	34.9	90.9	27.0	9.1	38.2	0.0	3	0
Monmouthshire	17.5	95.7	31.9	4.1	50.5	0.2	56	0
Neath Port Talbot	22.6	98.4	56.3	1.6	21.0	0.0	29	0
Newport	16.0	84.0	36.2	14.5	47.8	1.5	26	40
Pembrokeshire	4.4	35.2	77.3	62.4	18.4	2.4	51	60
Powys	14.6	63.2	51.0	36.3	34.4	0.5	106	0
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	36.6	99.8	37.6	0.2	25.9	0.0	21	0
Swansea	12.0	86.9	58.4	13.0	29.6	0.1	81	0
The Vale of Glamorgan	8.4	81.9	34.9	9.0	56.6	9.1	80	40
Torfaen	25.2	95.6	50.6	4.4	24.2	0.0	8	0
Wrexham	14.6	84.6	46.7	14.0	38.7	1.5	35	20
Scotland by local authority								
Aberdeen City	28.9	100.0	13.5	0.0	57.6	0.0	97	0
Aberdeenshire	17.8	68.6	31.1	29.2	51.2	2.2	151	80
Angus	48.9	53.0	14.2	45.6	36.9	1.4	66	20
Argyll & Bute	29.0	86.6	41.7	11.5	29.2	1.8	35	0

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
Clackmannanshire	28.2	100.0	53.8	0.0	18.0	0.0	14	0
Dumfries & Galloway	14.5	75.4	34.4	23.9	51.0	0.7	113	40
Dundee City	28.2	99.5	5.5	0.5	66.4	-0.0	64	0
East Ayrshire	33.3	49.8	26.5	50.1	40.2	0.1	61	0
East Dunbartonshire	48.1	86.3	19.7	13.7	32.2	-0.0	44	0
East Lothian	7.8	62.8	27.8	26.7	64.4	10.5	52	20
East Renfrewshire	7.5	72.6	62.9	27.0	29.6	0.4	35	20
Edinburgh City of	43.4	89.1	18.0	2.7	38.6	8.1	133	20
Eilean Siar	13.6	32.9	8.5	13.6	77.9	53.5	73	220
Falkirk	37.6	99.6	25.9	0.4	36.5	0.0	75	0
Fife	30.6	92.2	21.9	6.3	47.4	1.5	209	20
Glasgow City	16.4	91.2	27.3	8.5	56.4	0.3	185	20
Highland	29.8	79.4	32.8	14.0	37.5	6.5	115	80
Inverclyde	21.6	56.1	40.0	43.9	38.4	0.0	27	0
Midlothian	37.1	99.6	23.5	0.4	39.4	-0.0	42	0
Moray	16.4	95.2	37.6	4.7	46.0	0.1	56	0
North Ayrshire	26.0	63.4	37.3	35.9	36.7	0.7	65	40
North Lanarkshire	44.1	100.0	22.7	0.0	33.2	-0.0	138	0
Orkney Islands	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.0	99.0	100.0	24	180
Perth & Kinross	17.5	79.4	40.4	17.9	42.1	2.8	77	40
Renfrewshire	8.0	70.2	63.1	29.8	28.8	0.0	68	0
Scottish Borders	26.9	59.7	40.2	39.4	32.8	0.9	68	20
Shetland Islands	7.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.8	100.0	39	280
South Ayrshire	2.2	60.8	28.9	39.0	68.9	0.1	76	0
South Lanarkshire	29.6	81.1	40.3	18.7	30.1	0.3	125	20
Stirling	35.8	92.9	40.4	7.0	23.9	0.0	30	0
West Dunbartonshire	11.5	99.8	50.7	0.2	37.8	-0.0	40	0
West Lothian	54.1	97.7	18.1	2.3	27.8	0.0	69	0

	Accessible woods		Inaccessible woods		Woodland creation			
	% population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	% extra population with access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m if existing woods opened	% extra population with access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km if existing woods opened	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 2ha+ wood within 500m	% population requiring new woodland for access to a 20ha+ wood within 4km	Minimum area of new planting required for 2ha+ woods within 500m	Minimum area of new planting required for 20ha+ woods within 4km
NI by local authority								
Antrim	3.9	63.2	29.2	5.3	66.9	31.5	82	100
Ards	4.8	10.4	25.7	23.7	69.5	65.9	193	200
Armagh	9.3	30.9	18.4	11.8	72.3	57.3	87	140
Ballymena	10.8	14.2	21.9	31.3	67.3	54.5	104	100
Ballymoney	4.8	64.5	25.9	22.2	69.3	13.2	51	60
Banbridge	3.6	4.8	10.9	22.9	85.5	72.3	88	140
Belfast	1.3	42.0	15.5	39.6	83.3	18.4	149	20
Carrickfergus	11.1	39.3	16.4	21.2	72.5	39.6	44	40
Castlereagh	6.9	62.6	19.8	24.0	73.3	13.4	80	80
Coleraine	18.1	62.6	20.6	18.8	61.2	18.5	103	60
Cookstown	8.6	63.0	29.9	20.7	61.5	16.3	47	100
Craigavon	6.7	0.0	14.8	33.8	78.5	66.2	177	68
Derry	6.6	9.4	19.6	4.5	73.8	86.1	143	61
Down	14.4	53.0	29.2	20.2	56.3	26.8	147	140
Dungannon	12.7	44.5	29.7	11.1	57.6	44.4	129	60
Fermanagh	14.7	77.5	30.7	11.0	54.6	11.5	97	120
Larne	2.5	15.1	25.4	23.8	72.1	61.1	61	40
Limavady	9.7	47.4	25.9	13.1	64.4	39.5	48	40
Lisburn	3.9	13.5	21.3	20.2	74.7	66.2	162	180
Magherafelt	5.8	60.0	25.8	11.0	68.3	29.0	94	40
Moyle	18.3	83.2	14.9	8.8	66.8	8.0	29	40
Newry and Mourne	10.4	78.7	24.5	12.9	65.1	8.4	194	80
Newtownabbey	13.5	80.3	13.8	3.9	72.7	15.8	98	80
North Down	3.9	10.8	27.7	75.2	68.4	14.0	89	60
Omagh	6.5	60.9	33.9	10.1	59.5	29.0	54	60
Strabane	3.5	36.4	20.4	19.3	76.1	44.3	74	100

Space for People
Targeting action for woodland access

WTPL/Brian Aldrich

WOODLAND TRUST

🌲 **Forestry Commission**

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Woodland Trust was founded in 1972 and is the UK's leading woodland conservation organisation. The Trust's vision is of a UK rich in native woods and trees enjoyed and valued by everyone.

The Trust relies on the support of the public, industry, commerce and agencies to carry out its work. To find out how you can help, and about membership details, please contact one of the addresses opposite.

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www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications

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