



Case Study: Planning for the future

Adaptation at Jeskyns

Forestry Commission England has set up a project at Jeskyns in Kent that demonstrates one approach to ensuring that new woodlands are resilient to climate change. The demonstration woodland is divided into a 'Woodland of the Present' and a 'Woodland of the Future'.

The 'Woodland of the Future' contains some species that are likely to be more resilient to hotter and drier climates. Some of these species, including small-leaved lime and hornbeam, are native to the British Isles, but some non-native species have also been included. The seeds of native species used to grow the trees in the 'Woodland of the Future' have been collected from warmer areas of Europe.

Aims of this project:

- To create a diverse woodland, which is resilient and able to adapt to projected climate change, and which can be monitored to help plan woodlands elsewhere.
- To demonstrate that adapting to climate change does not mean

wholesale changes and that hopefully, we can retain our characteristic wooded landscape through subtle changes.

- To engage people in the work needed to tackle the impacts of climate change, and show that it is both necessary and possible to adapt. An interpretation board is currently in production, which will help to meet this aim.

The plot at Jeskyns will be monitored by Forest Research to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various species. The results will help to inform plans for

planting new trees and woodlands across the public forest estate in England.

There are several Forestry Commission research plots of this nature planted across the UK. Forestry Commission Wales is using one such plot as part of a new education programme to engage secondary school students in the importance of planning for the future in terms of species choices and species mixes. After visiting the plot, students work towards designing what they think a forest of the future will look like.

