

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 4

**Outcome:** 1. ~~Financial viability~~ **Cost of land management**

Management of the landscapes that result from restoration of open habitats is financially viable in the long-term, including associated woodland and remaining woodland elsewhere.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A negative impact. The open habitats are more costly to manage than the woods or forests from which they arise.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

? Difference between costs and financial viability.

There was consensus that costs are about right, but there is a high variation.

Generally goes from 'asset' to 'liability' on balance sheet (depending on the scale).

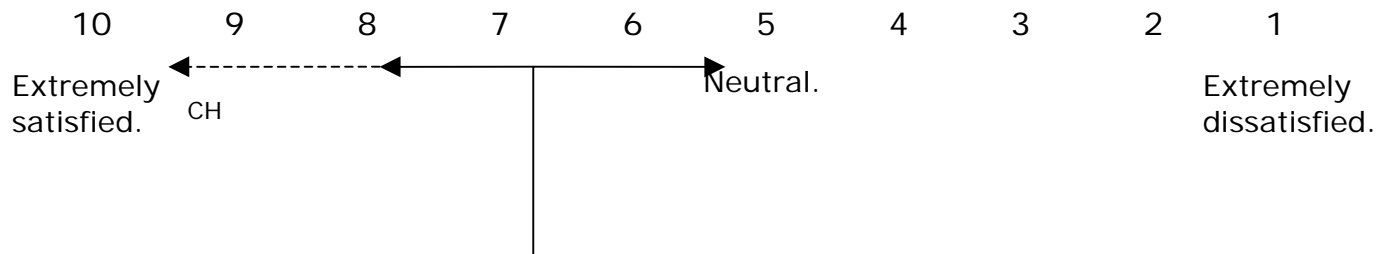
Under performing in biodiversity is a 'cost' in terms of management costs.

? Depending on public pot.

Where forest is not viable the relative costs may not be so negative and the benefits greater.

Don't like the 'financial viability' term.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*



This might be better:

Likely impact: See above



# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 3

**Outcome:** 2. Keeping to Government commitments on woodland cover.

The UK Government is able to demonstrate fulfilment of our international commitments to sustainable forest management, especially maintaining net woodland cover.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A potential negative impact if rates of permanent woodland loss due to restoration go above a threshold, currently thought to be 1,100ha per year.

**Evidence for:**

Carbon finance.  
Energy forestry (but nature of woodland and what it delivers – biodiversity/social – may change)  
Urban greenspace?  
HAP targets for woodland.

**Evidence against:**

Land availability – food security, etc.  
Eco-tourism and development.  
European drivers – Natura 2000.  
Better woodland design (diverse structure and multiple use – including social)  
A UK commitment that could unravel at country/regional/local scale.

Conflicting policy issues need highlighting – less concerned about the evidence which we are content with.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

Better expression of the uncertainties could move this to 8.

This might be better: A dynamic threshold figure is needed.

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 6

**Outcome:** 2. Keeping to Government commitments on woodland cover.

The UK Government is able to demonstrate fulfilment of our international commitments to sustainable forest management, especially maintaining net woodland cover.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A potential negative impact if rates of permanent woodland loss due to restoration go above a threshold, currently thought to be 1,100ha per year. ???

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

Questionable baseline re cover and replanting.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

## Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 1

**Outcome:** 3. Resilient ecological communities.

Communities of key open habitat species that can adapt to climate change.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests: A positive impact provided guidelines on managing biodiversity to adapt to climate change are followed. The key factor is the creation of heterogeneous habitat well connected to other habitat and with some patches of sufficient size to support populations that are viable in the long-term even if relatively isolated. Retaining some woods and forests to create mosaics of woodland and open habitat is likely to have a positive impact. Too great a focus on creating and retaining at stasis open habitats that conform to definitions of favourable condition may have a negative impact.

**Evidence for:**

Biological evidence associated with vascular plant species present in existing large areas of open habitat (and also invertebrates and birds).

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      **7**      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 2

**Outcome:** 3. Resilient ecological communities.

Communities of key open habitat species that can adapt to climate change.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests: A positive impact provided guidelines on managing biodiversity to adapt to climate change are followed. The key factor is the creation of heterogeneous habitat well connected to other habitat and with some patches of sufficient size to support populations that are viable in the long-term even if relatively isolated. Retaining some woods and forests to create mosaics of woodland and open habitat is likely to have a positive impact. Too great a focus on creating and retaining at stasis open habitats that conform to definitions of favourable condition may have a negative impact.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely  
satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely  
dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: [Fundamental driver](#).

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 3

**Outcome:** 4. Carbon balance.

Woods and forests make an appropriate contribution to the ability of the UK Government to meet its commitments for reducing carbon emissions.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A negative impact on the contribution of woods and forests to UK carbon reduction commitments. Such an impact should be set in the context of current efforts to unlock additional green house gas (GHG) emissions abatement measures by the Committee on Climate Change as part of the process for setting future emissions reduction targets.

**Evidence for:**

Uncertainty over timber substitution figures.

**Evidence against:**

Actual impact is small but still significant.  
Public perception will be far more negative.

Conflicting policy issues rather than concerns over the evidence.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

7

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better: [Link to energy/ carbon woodland expansion.](#)

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 2

**Outcome:** 4. Carbon balance.

Woods and forests make an appropriate contribution to the ability of the UK Government to meet its commitments for reducing carbon emissions.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A negative impact on the contribution of woods and forests to UK carbon reduction commitments. Such an impact should be set in the context of current efforts to unlock additional green house gas (GHG) emissions abatement measures by the Committee on Climate Change as part of the process for setting future emissions reduction targets.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

Evidence in its infancy but  
more has been commissioned.

Could be mitigated by compensatory planting.  
(strategic carbon balance)

Restored open habitats have an abatement  
role.

Unsure of significance of carbon change from  
open habitat restoration.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely  
satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely  
dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: Evidence needs to be clearer

## Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 5

**Outcome:** 5. Positive trends in populations of open habitat species.

The declining trend in populations of key open habitat species is halted and if possible reversed.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A positive impact. The magnitude of benefits depends on the starting woodland or forest, the open habitat being restored, subsequent management and other changes such as patterns of recreation. The evidence appears to show that for most key species woodland and forest has a positive role to play and that a mosaic of permanent woodland, temporary open space, and permanent open space will deliver the desired outcome. Much depends on the management regime creating ecological processes that will deliver the niche requirements of priority species.

**Evidence for:**

Evidence is good for most species – restorative correct and ongoing management (e.g. grazing).  
The scale and mix of habitats needs to be taken into account.  
Over focus on birds?

**Evidence against:**

Evidence that clear felling is very positive for some open habitat bird species, e.g. nightjars and woodlarks.  
Need evidence to see to what extent the open habitat we have created are being maintained appropriately.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

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Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 1

**Outcome:** 5. Positive trends in populations of open habitat species.

The declining trend in populations of key open habitat species is halted and if possible reversed.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A positive impact. The magnitude of benefits depends on the starting woodland or forest, the open habitat being restored, subsequent management and other changes such as patterns of recreation. The evidence appears to show that for most key species woodland and forest has a positive role to play and that a mosaic of permanent woodland, temporary open space, and permanent open space will deliver the desired outcome. Much depends on the management regime creating ecological processes that will deliver the niche requirements of priority species.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

Need more evidence associated with other taxa i.e. more than birds.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely  
satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely  
dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 6

**Outcome:** 6. Quality of life and landscape.

Changes in landscape due to restoration of open habitats from woods or forests improve the quality of life of people who experience that landscape.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact on quality of life ~~as mediated by landscape~~ provided ~~landscape scale deforestation is avoided and the landscape changes are carefully designed and implemented~~ **at an appropriate landscape scale.**

**Evidence for:**

Process has already been done (EIA)  
Lee, T.P. (2001), Technical paper 18.

**Evidence against:**

Short-term concern.  
When does a woodland still feel like a woodland (size, design)?

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      **7**      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: **Little impact on quality of life provided it is carefully designed and implemented at an appropriate landscape scale.**

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 6

**Outcome:** 7. Learning about landscape history.

People now and in the future can learn through direct enjoyment of the outdoors how history has shaped the landscape.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little effect on the ability of people to learn how history has shaped the landscape.

**Evidence for:**

Current users don't care provided access is available.

**Evidence against:**

Can form part of wider educational programmes.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10    9    8    7    6    5    4    3    2    1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 6

**Outcome:** 8.Preservation of historic features [environments](#).

The condition of historic features in open habitats restored from woods and forests improves and key cultural and designed landscapes are retained.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Potential for negative impact if guidelines for dealing with historic features are not followed .  
Conversely, the potential impact could be positive if guidelines are followed.

**Evidence for:**

[Good guidance exists.](#)

**Evidence against:**

[Interpretation of guidelines incorrect.](#)

[Not a wide understanding of historic environment by people who implement and the general public.](#)

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

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Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 2

**Outcome:** 9. Commitments on native and/or ancient woodland.

The Government is able to keep to commitments in Keepers of Time on area of native and/or ancient woodland.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact if policy is followed.

**Evidence for:**

Strong.

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: [Opportunity to deliver Keepers of Time objectives on a greater scale.](#)

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 3

**Outcome:** 10. Desired trends in woodland biodiversity are not compromised.

Any improvement in trends in populations of key species associated with native and non-native woodland habitats is not compromised.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

Loss of particular woodlands e.g. wet woodlands.

Biodiversity value of non-native (plantation) woodland is insufficiently recognised.

Uncertainty of survival of woodland species.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

If notes above are addressed, then 8.

9

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 2

**Outcome:** 11. Water quality and yield.

There is no significant negative effect on nitrate run-off, scavenging of airborne pollution, water yields, flooding, or other water quality factors.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact on a national scale. Some potential positive or negative impact at local scale, e.g.: positive due to increased water quality in some upland catchments following deforestation, negative due to acid flushing and erosion in some other upland catchments, negative due to loss of screening for airborne nitrogen pollution in some lowland catchments.

**Evidence for:**

Relatively insignificant compared to agricultural impacts.  
Mechanisms (e.g. FEIA) do exist to address risks.

**Evidence against:**

Focus on N too limited (P, sediment, etc.)  
Reliance on good practice questionable.  
Agglomeration of 'local' impacts could have strategic implications.  
Uncertain good restoration practice.  
Water supply and quality – lots of unanswered questions (Pitt review).

Impacts vary with timescales

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: The more these issues of evidence are addressed at national level, the less they will hamper/slow down local delivery.

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 3

**Outcome:** 11. Water quality and yield.

There is no significant negative effect on nitrate run-off, scavenging of airborne pollution, water yields, flooding, or other water quality factors.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact on a national scale. Some potential positive or negative impact at local scale, e.g.: positive due to increased water quality in some upland catchments following deforestation, negative due to acid flushing and erosion in some other upland catchments, negative due to loss of screening for airborne nitrogen pollution in some lowland catchments.

**Evidence for:**

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely  
satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely  
dissatisfied.

3

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 1

**Outcome:** 12. Air and noise pollution abated. [Include light pollution.](#)

There is no significant negative effect on the role woods and forests play in ameliorating air and noise pollution..

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact provided flexibility is given to allow belts and other small areas of trees to be retained as screens and provided these are well managed.

**Evidence for:**

[Include light pollution which relates especially to issues of perception \(like reference 84 on page 34\).](#)

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact: [Woods and forests have a positive effect in ameliorating air, noise and light pollution.](#)

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 1

**Outcome:** 13. Positive engagement by local and other users.

People's positive engagement in the landscape they use, particularly their local landscape is maintained or enhanced (including engagement of woodland owners and those working in forestry).

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A risk of significant negative impact.

**Evidence for:**

Anecdotes from instances of successful restoration.

Owners of land will only restore where they are positively engaged.

**Evidence against:**

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

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Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 5

**Outcome:** 13. Positive engagement by local and other users.

People's positive engagement in the landscape they use, particularly their local landscape is maintained or enhanced (including engagement of woodland owners and those working in forestry).

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** A risk of significant negative impact.

**Evidence for:**

Restrictions on dogwalkers in relation to ground-nesting birds and need for dogs on leads. Increased restrictions in access rights.

**Evidence against:**

Clarification of evidence into

- 1) disturbance should be less valued because it is a management issue
- 2) 2) longer-term issues e.g. appearance, use by people. Value this.

NB: Piece of evidence on people's comparative preferences in the local landscape e woodland or open habitat

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 5

**Outcome:** 14. Access and recreation.

The rates of use and benefits received by recreation users are maintained or enhance.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Little impact except for some open habitats where there may be a conflict between recreational users and ground nesting birds.

**Evidence for:**

Recreation users value the environments that they spend time in and its management.

(NB: will add to ongoing cost)

(But provide financial income to local business.)

**Evidence against:**

? Dog users anecdotally because dog users are key.

But ... need to be a balance with other species.

Avoid single issue.

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9\*      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.

Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

\*NB: assumes that our points are incorporated.

This might be better:

Likely impact:

# Policy workshop item 5: Reviewing the evidence.

Group 4

**Outcome:** 15. Timber sector confidence.

Any effect on timber supply has little impact on the confidence in the harvested woods products producing and processing sectors meaning that economic activity in the sector is not curtailed.

**Likely impact of restoration of open habitats from woods and forests:** Potentially negative impacts at a regional scale, *so policy needs to address this.*

**Evidence for:**

*Qualitatively may be OK but ...*

*But does not take account of the implications for training courses.*

*Regional and local projects might give positive gains but depends on confidence in long-term funding.*

*Loss of contractors could have knock on effects on ancient woodland management.*

**Evidence against:**

*... Evidence outdated/ incomplete and more research is needed. (Some surveys are underway.)*

*Might be more positive opportunities for contractors in open ground management and other elements of the industry, including compensatory planting.*

*Wood production forecasts.*

*How satisfied would you be if this analysis of the evidence were used to inform the policy development process?*

10      9      8      7      6      5      4      3      2      1

Extremely satisfied.



Neutral.

Extremely dissatisfied.

*Score depends on the net scale of change/targets.*

This might be better:

Likely impact:

## Policy workshop item 9: Ranking the outcomes, developing criteria