

Appendix 32



WOODLAND
TRUST



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Position Statement Climate change

The Trust's view

- Global mean temperatures are increasing at rates unprecedented in human history, with human activity a major contributory factor through release of “greenhouse gases” such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. This leads to both chronic and acute changes in weather patterns and an increase in extreme events such as droughts, floods and storms.
- Impacts already evident include shifts in species phenology, loss of synchrony between interdependent species, and potential competitive advantage of some species, as well as altering species ranges.
- Fragmentation of natural habitats confounds the ability of species to adapt to rapid change, or to migrate to more favourable areas.
- Climate change poses a major threat to the natural environment, through both direct effects of global warming and indirect effects e.g. warmer winters might allow larger populations of pathogens to survive, placing additional stress on host populations in the following spring.
- Human wellbeing is threatened as we depend on the ecosystem services the natural environment provides.
- In a UK context conservation action is needed at a landscape scale to increase the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and other threats. Tree and woodland management which increases the opportunities for adaptation of native species is an essential element of this.
- At the same time, action is needed to mitigate climate change by protecting existing carbon stores and increasing carbon sequestration, including through woodland protection and appropriate creation.
- Public understanding and engagement is essential if any of this is to be achieved.

The Trust will:

- Work to increase resilience of natural ecosystems through action and advocacy to protect and restore valuable woods and treescapes, and increase permeability through more trees and woods in the right places.
- Use trees and woodland to support the resilience of urban and rural areas to climate change through, for instance tree planting and woodland creation to protect water resources.
- Promote the role of trees and wood in mitigating climate change through use of sustainable timber or biomass for energy production where this delivers genuine greenhouse gas savings.
- Promote positive personal action on climate change, directly engaging people in a positive way, e.g. through protecting ancient woodland or planting trees, or through volunteering to record with Nature's Calendar.
- Raise awareness of climate change, including through campaigning. Continue to work in partnership with relevant coalitions, such as The Climate Coalition, to ensure the benefits of, and the threats to, the UK's trees and woodland are included and given adequate consideration in the wider climate narrative.
- Promote Woodland Carbon to companies and press Government to enable the wider adoption of woodland creation as a means of abating carbon emissions through mechanisms such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment and Zero Carbon Building regulations.
- Continue to reduce the Trust's climate change impact, for example through green travel, alternative energy sourcing, and waste reduction.

Background

The scientific consensus is that climate is changing, largely due to human activities, and that the change is largely irreversible. Predicting future climate scenarios is fraught with uncertainty but even in the lower emissions scenarios, warming is inevitable that will have substantial environmental, social and economic impacts.

The average temperature of the planet's surface rose by 0.89 °C between 1901 and 2012. Nine of the 10 warmest years on record occurred since 2000, with 2014 being the warmest. Climate model projections cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that during the 21st century the global surface temperature is likely to rise a further 0.3 to 1.7 °C for the lowest emissions scenario using stringent mitigation and 2.6 to 4.8 °C for the highest.

Average UK summer temperature is likely to rise by 3 to 4°C by the 2080s, while average summer rainfall may decrease by between 11 per cent and 27 per cent. Winters are likely to become wetter and summers drier, with trends indicating this is already happening. Extreme weather events such as droughts, storms and floods are likely to become more common.

Climate change is a threat to woods, trees and wildlife. It is leading to shifts in species phenology, loss of synchrony and potential competitive advantage of some species as well as altering species ranges. Less mobile species may not be able to move or adapt due to habitat fragmentation and intensive land use. Climate change may also exacerbate other threats to wildlife such as pests and diseases and non-native invasive species, as conditions in the UK change to be more conducive to their establishment.

Given that some climate change is inevitable, measures are required for both mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation requires reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, for example through using renewable alternatives to fossil fuels, and protecting existing areas that store carbon such as peatlands and forests. Increasing tree cover can increase carbon sequestration, and help mitigate the impacts of extreme events such as flooding. Production of sustainable timber and woodfuel can substitute for fossil-fuels and their derivatives.

Adaptation means making ecosystems more resilient, enabling movement of both species and genes through the landscape. Valuable habitats such as ancient woodland should be protected as a source of genetic diversity, and buffered from negative impacts of surrounding land use. Connectivity should be increased through creation of new habitat – e.g. by planting trees and new woods and reducing intensity of land use.

Our native trees and woodland have, in general, high levels of genetic diversity. This provides an opportunity for adaptation, however this requires successive generations of trees subject to the selection pressure of a changing climate. We need to ensure that there are sufficient opportunities within woods to provide the possibilities for new generations of trees, ideally through natural regeneration. Native woodland of diverse structure and tree species appropriate to the site will provide the greatest chances for adaptive change. This may mean planting more minor species where these are appropriate to the site and using a mix of UK provenances rather than just local provenance planting stock. Evidence does not suggest that non-UK provenances or species are needed to increase resilience of ancient and native woods.

Britons are more likely to agree the climate is changing than at any time in recent years, with nearly nine in 10 people saying climate change is happening and 84 per cent attributing this somewhat or entirely to human activity. However, many people are still removed on a day to day basis from the reality of climate change and may see the solutions as being outside their control – in international agreements and national policy, rather than in individual behaviour. People feel a strong attachment to the places where they live, and positive opportunities for local action are more likely to succeed.

Updated 02/06/15

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Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Engagement

Since late 2013 The Woodland Trust has been actively engaging with stakeholders, local community and specialist groups to develop the planting plan and general aims for the project.

March 2014

On Sunday 23rd March 2014, The Woodland Trust held a public meeting at Langley Vale Village Hall to introduce themselves and give some broad aims for the project (including percentages of woodland creation and open space). The meeting was attended by 226 people from the local area, including Councillors, business owners, Epsom Racecourse, representatives from the local schools, parents and ecologists. The overall response to the project was extremely positive, with concerns including increased traffic and ecology.

Open Day

On Saturday 28th June 2014, The Woodland Trust held an Open Day at the site, where local people were invited to come along to have a look at the planting plan and join a guided walk around part of the site. The walk looked at all aspects of the project, including woodland creation, managing ancient woodland, grassland management, retaining views and the WW1 related history of the site. The event was attended by 97 people, with again very positive feedback received.

Councillors

In March 2014 The Woodland Trust organised a guided walk for Councillors from the three local authorities and Surrey County Council. The event was well attended, with 19 Councillors coming along. The majority of the comments received were supportive and positive, with the only concerns being directed toward increased traffic volumes.

Neighbours

There are a number of neighbours that border the site, who have been consulted with. Without exception, they have been supportive of the project, with two common concerns.

- 1) That any tree planting would block their views and/or light from their properties.
- 2) That any new paths would bring people close to their property and invade their privacy.

Community groups

A thorough engagement of community stakeholders for the project has been undertaken, which has included local Councillors, Councils, schools and residents societies. The table below shows some of the engagement that has taken place.

Group	Number of people	Details	Dates
Surrey County Council	5	Our CEO, Sue Holden, attended a meeting with senior figures from SCC to appraise them of the project. Attendees included Cllr John Furey, Transport and Environment Cabinet Member and Cllr Mike Goodman, portfolio holder for Environment. The meeting was very warmly received.	
Local Authority meeting	6	Attended by Surrey County Council, Reigate and Banstead Council, Epsom and Ewell Council and Mole Valley Council. Meeting with local authorities to introduce the project. The presentations were met warmly and positive comments were given about the project. Only issues were around planning, which we are already being addressed.	19/2/14
Cheryl Gillan MP	2	Meeting to make her aware of the project as she lives nearby. She was extremely excited and promised her support.	24/2/14
Farm Manager	1	Met the farm manager several times. He has been responsible for managing the farm for many years and is fully behind the project, asking to be as involved as possible throughout.	numerous
Chris Grayling MP	1	Meeting to make him aware of the project as it is within his constituency. He has promised his support and provided us with various links to other groups and organisations to aid with stakeholder engagement.	7/3/14
Vale Primary School	40	We asked for help from parents and children with the PR launch. They were very enthusiastic and we had a large number of people turn out for the cameras.	10/3/14
Epsom Racecourse	10	Several meetings and guided walks with representatives from the racecourse, who have offered their support.	Numerous
Epsom Downs Conservators	40	Group of people responsible for managing this area of open space that borders the property. They were very keen on the project, their only concern being for increased numbers of walkers on the bridleways.	22/4/14
Councillors	19	We held a guided walk for Councillors from all four local authorities. The only concern raised was for increased traffic along the local roads. Overall the response was extremely positive.	Numerous
Local stables and horse	12	Several local horse training and riding stables are close to the site, so we met with them all.	17/4/14

training		Overall very supportive of new horse access and rides. Only concern was about an existing bridleway that borders our site at Langley Vale Road, where there have been incidents between bikes and horses.	
Local livestock farmers	3	A rare breeds farm adjoins the site. They are very supportive of the project and have asked if they can help manage the site through grazing. They have enough livestock to graze all 100ha of open space.	17/4/14
Freemans School	4	Meeting to discuss the students being involved in planting and other activities. They are very keen and have also offered us use of their car park for events.	N/A
Tadworth and Walton Residents Society	100+	Evening meeting which was very well received. Only concerns were about increased traffic on local roads and that we planted native species.	N/A
Headley Parish Council	50+	Very well received, with only concerns around traffic and whether we could plant all 200,000 trees in the four years of the centenary.	N/A
Vale Primary School Fete	100+	An incredibly supportive event, with lots of offers to help with the project through volunteering and donations.	N/A
Dame Sarah Goad	2	Really supportive of the project and what we are trying to achieve.	N/A
Asda	5	Important business in the area that are very pleased to see the project and are keen to support the project, possibly through corporate planting events or fundraising	N/A
Pfizer	3	Very important local business, who are supporting the project and would like to be involved at some level.	N/A
Surrey Connects	12	Important group focussing on the local business sector. They are positive toward the project and have promised their support.	N/A
Royal Automobile Club	3	Locally based business who are very interested in the project and have offered their support, yet currently unclear as to what form this will take	N/A

Specialist groups

A number of specialist groups, organisations and individuals have also been engaged with, detailed in the table below.

Group	Number of people	Details	Dates
Lower Mole Countryside Project	6	They are very keen to help us with the project and we will be working with them to carry out coppicing works in the ancient woodlands with their volunteer group.	7/5/14
National Trust	4	Very supportive of the project and have offered a team day of volunteers to help us in any aspect of the project.	7/5/14
Surrey Wildlife Trust	6	We have had several meetings and they are very keen to work with us on a number of aspects of the project.	Numerous
RSPB	1	Impressed with the project and the obvious benefits for birds. Only concern was over the large number of ground nesting birds and the need for this to be accounted for in the plans.	7/5/14
Corporation of London	2	Very supportive of the project and possible partnership link up in the future with nearby Ashted Common	7/5/14
Surrey Hills AONB	2	Very supportive of the project and, even though the site is outside of the AONB, they see this project as creating a gateway into the AONB that they are keen to support.	27/1/14
Recorders	10	Group of local ecological recorders. They were initially sceptical about the project, but after attending a presentation they are supportive in general terms. They are concerned about annual plants being taken into account in the plans.	15/4/14
Local bird recorder	1	Has been recording birds on the site for several years and is very keen to see the project. He has offered his support with continued recording and will also be putting up boxes around the wood.	Numerous
Natural England	2	Meeting held with Area Manager plus an Agri-environment scheme Advisor. They are very supportive and further meetings are being organised	Numerous
Environment Agency	1	Have been contacted and invited to meetings and guided walks, but so far have been unable to attend.	N/A
Forestry Commission	3	Meeting held with senior members, which was met with a very warm response.	Numerous
CPRE	1	Have been contacted to appraise them of the project, but to date no response has yet been received.	N/A
Surrey LNP	1	Very supportive of the project and have asked to be involved throughout	Numerous

