

# Trees Outside Woodland

Managing, maintaining and growing our  
treescapes (APSE Talking Trees 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025)

Jon Stokes & Jackie Shallcross  
The Tree Council

# The national charity working together to...

**Fund, plant and care for  
trees and hedgerows**

**WITH TREE WARDENS  
& THE COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY ACTION**

**Inspire the next  
generation of young  
environmentalists**

**WITH EDUCATION  
PARTNERS & YOUNG  
TREE CHAMPIONS**

**YOUNG LEARNING**

**Use science to  
influence policy and  
support best practice  
on trees and the  
environment**

**WITH GOVERNMENT &  
ACADEMICS**

**PRACTICAL SCIENCE &  
RESEARCH**

**Influence tree-related  
policy**

**WITH CHARITY  
PARTNERS & TREE  
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PARTNERSHIP POWER**





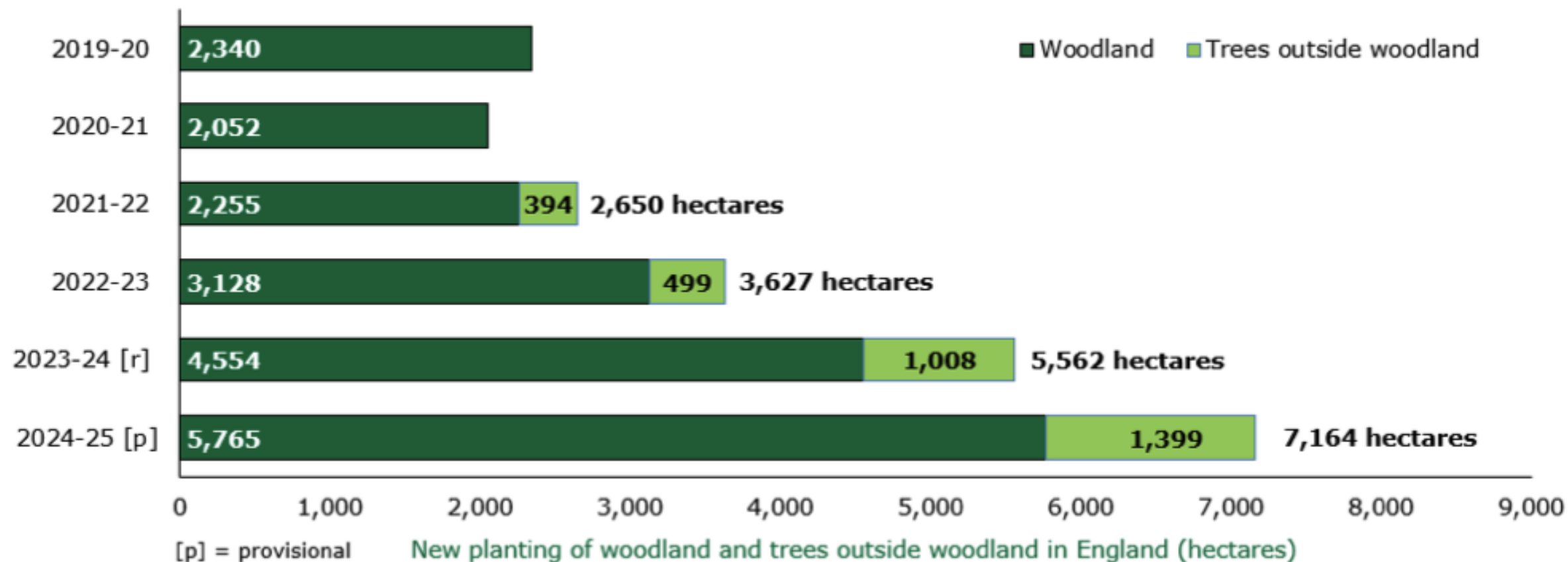
# Trees Outside Woodland

3.2% of Britain

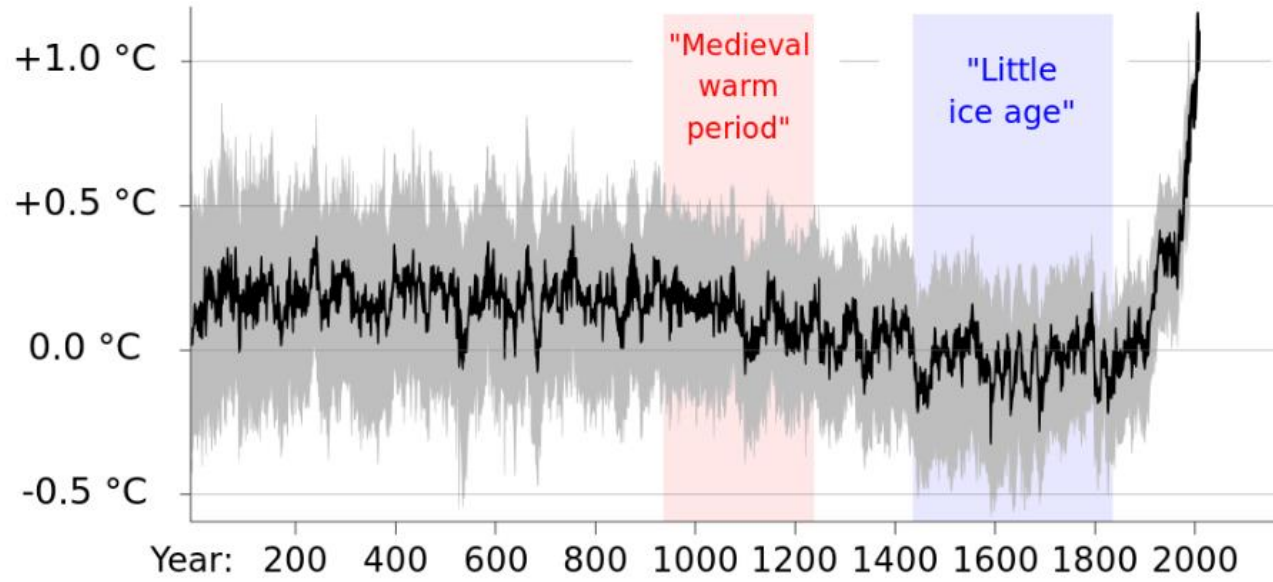
Nearly 4.3% of  
England

Almost 20% of our  
total tree canopy  
cover

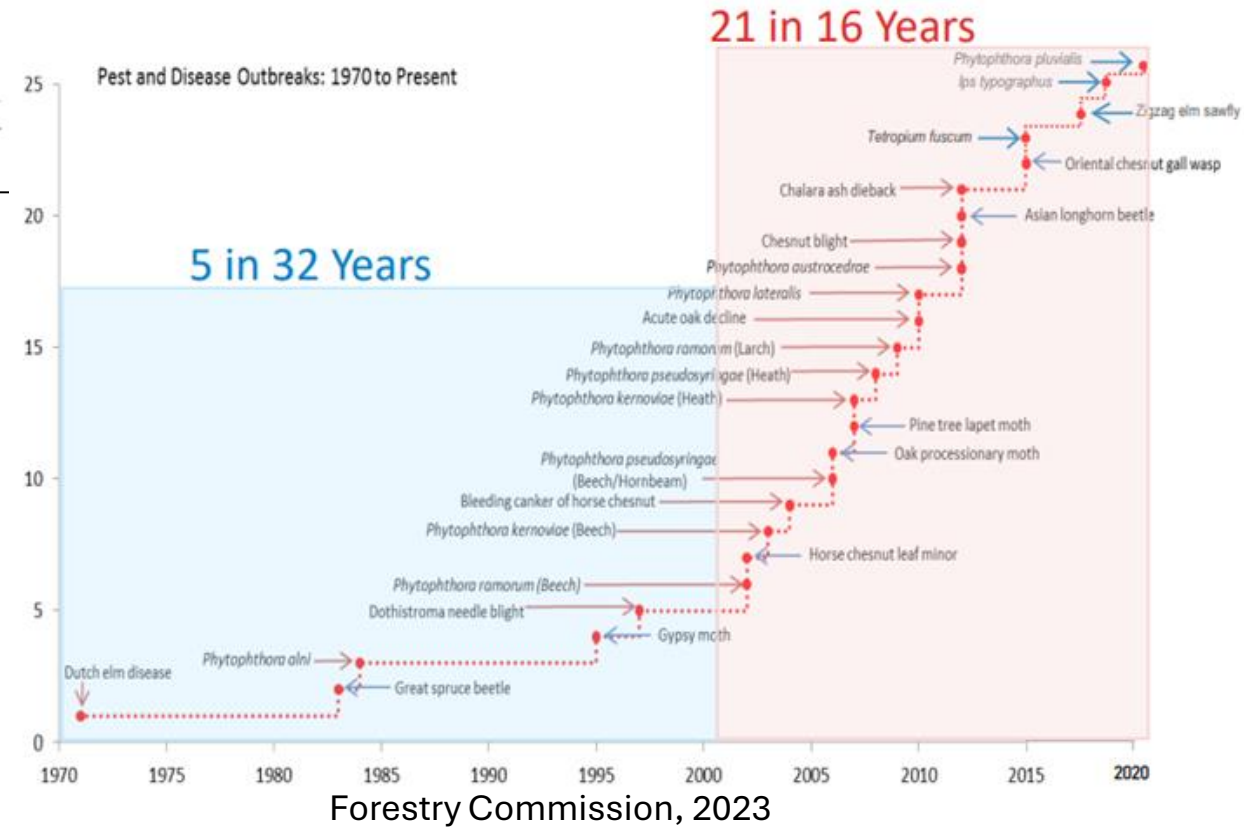
# New planting of woodland and trees in England



# Global Average Temperature Change



Global average temperature change, Ed Hawkins, Climate Lab Book 2019



Forestry Commission, 2023

# The protocol- overview

## Module 1: About you and the site

- Organisation name
- Site name
- Site code
- Land use type
- Planting dates
- Organisation involved
- People involved
- Funding source
- Site preparation
- Species planted
- Size of trees planted
- Type of supplier of trees
- Type and size of planting
- Density of planting
- Mulch use
- Maintenance carried out
- Information about the monitoring

**We recommend to complete this before you go to site.**

## Module 2: Tree establishment assessment

- Date of assessment (auto-fills)
- Location of tree (auto-fills)
- Species of tree (pre-populated list)
- Rate from category 1 (Excellent) to 4 (Dead/Missing) (defined on next slide)
- Photographs
- For each tree rating 2-4, the app automatically asks you for further information (Module 3).

**This would be completed on site.**

## Module 3: Tree inspection

For trees rated 2, 3, or 4, can you see any potential issues within these categories:

- Leaf symptoms
- Stem symptoms
- Base
- Mechanical damage
- Environment factors
- Other

The app includes multiple choice options for specific issues within these categories.

Report any signs of pest or disease to TreeAlert.

**This would be completed on site.**

Rate this tree!



**Category 1  
Excellent**

Tree is growing well and looks extremely healthy – vigorous growth with no signs of pests and diseases.

**Category 2  
Good**

Tree is growing as expected and showing little or no sign of pests and diseases.

**Category 3  
Poor**

Tree does not appear to be growing well; you might see signs of poor health and/or pests and diseases damage.

**Category 4  
Dead or Missing**

Tree is clearly dead or is missing or removed.

Rate this tree!



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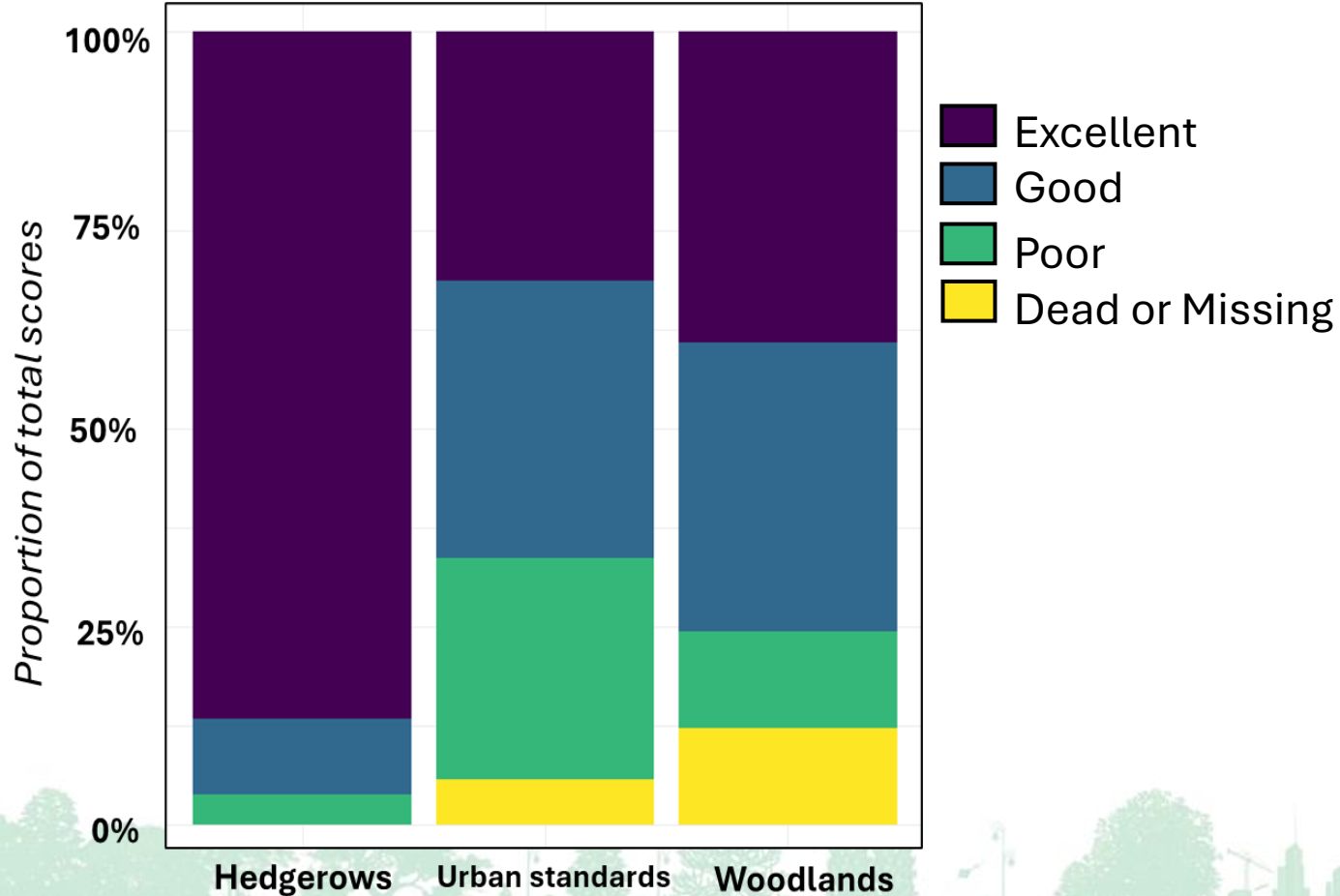
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**Poor**

Tree does not appear to be growing well; you might see signs of poor health and/or pests and diseases damage.

**Category 4**  
**Dead or Missing**

Tree is clearly dead or is missing or removed.

# Tree establishment project



## 36 sites in Phase 1



# Trees Outside Woodland



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Original thinking... applied





HM Government

# Shared Outcomes Fund: Trees Outside Woodland

The £4.8m Trees Outside Woodland programme (in two phases) is developing innovative and sustainable new ways to increase tree cover, to address both climate and ecological emergencies.

Pilot projects are exploring ways to:

- Plant more trees in towns and cities
- Increase the uptake of tree schemes
- Increase tree planting in the farmed landscape
- Develop more community tree nurseries



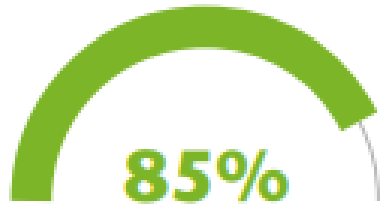
In partnership with:



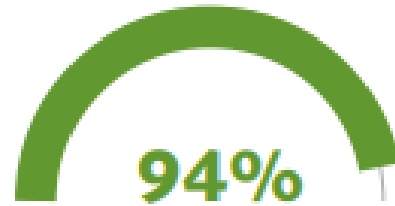
# Tree Grants

## Trees in the Farmed Landscape

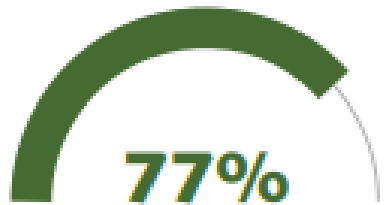
Of farmers and landowners surveyed:



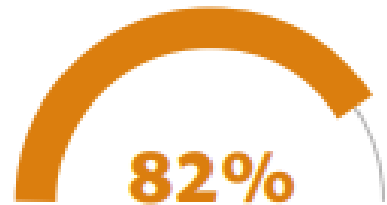
said this scheme allowed them to plant the **systems they wanted**.



said the project officer helped them achieve the **best outcome** for their land.



agreed this scheme was **easier to apply** for than others.



of participants would **recommend the scheme** to other landowners.



**78%** would plant more trees.

# Tree Giveaways

| Local Authority | Scheme Type | Scheme Year  | No. of Applicants | No. of Trees   |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Chichester      | Free        | 2021/22      | 104               | 8,020          |
| Chichester      | Subsidised  | 2022/23      | 48                | 7,475          |
| Kent            | Free        | 2022/23      | 203               | 17,910         |
| Norfolk         | Free        | 2021/22      | 121               | 10,890         |
| Norfolk         | Subsidised  | 2022/23      | 288               | 31,495         |
| Shropshire      | Free        | 2020/21      | 96                | 15,100         |
| Shropshire      | Free        | 2021/22      | 121               | 18,000         |
| Shropshire      | Free        | 2022/23      | 120               | 21,620         |
| Shropshire      | Subsidised  | 2022/23      | 121               | 14,140         |
|                 |             | <b>Total</b> | <b>1,222</b>      | <b>144,650</b> |



**May 2025**

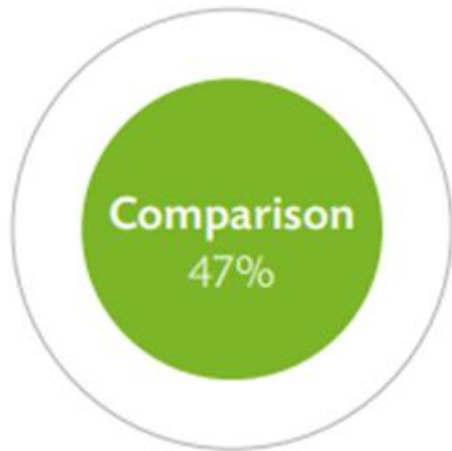
**4 years 2 months post planting**

**Comparison**

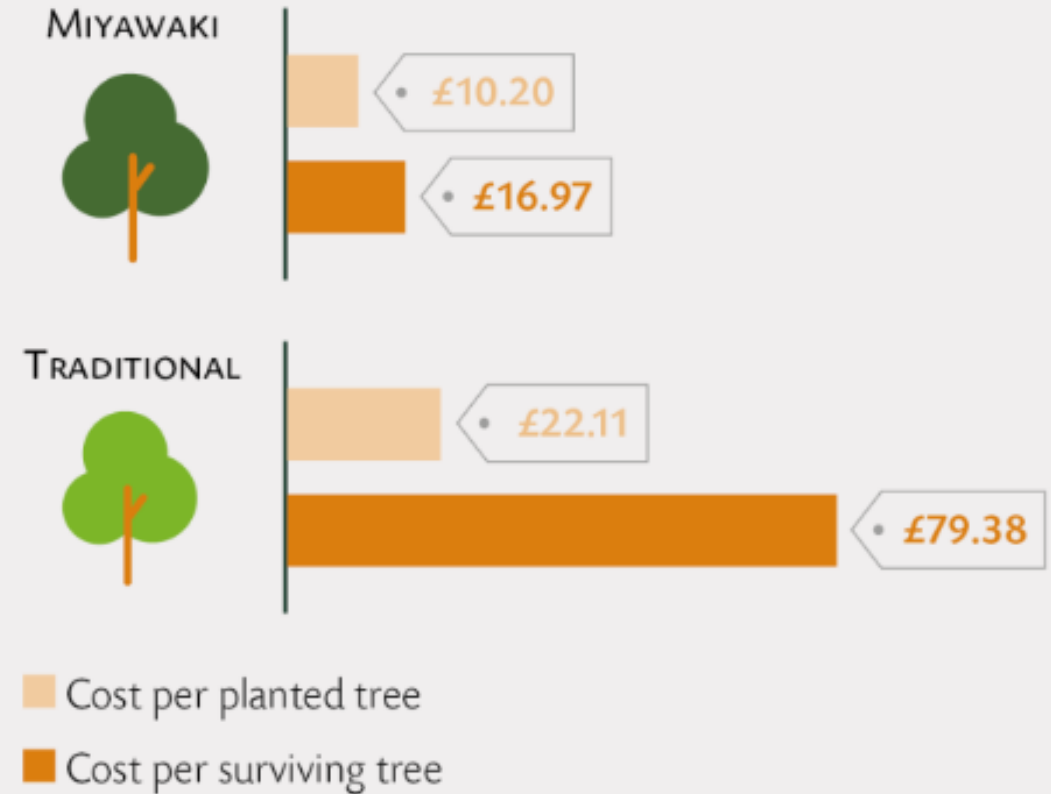
**Miyawaki**



Tree survival rates were **significantly higher** in Miyawaki plots...



...and the cost per surviving tree is far lower.



# Community Tree Nurseries



# Tree Nursery Production Species

67% conifer  
33% broadleaves

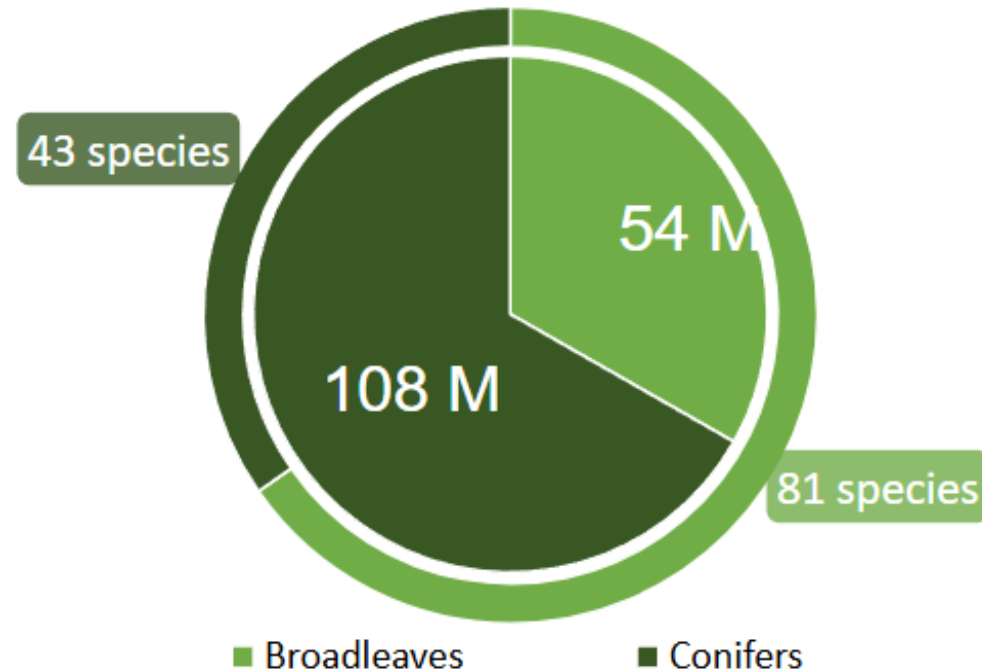


Figure 5: Pie and ring chart representing broadleaves (light green) and conifers (dark green) as part of the total nursery production. The inner pie chart shows how many trees have been produced for each group, while the outer ring chart shows the number of species produced for each group. Broadleaves make up a third of the overall production, but around two thirds of the number of species produced.

# Local sourcing

## The CTN pilot

- 258,000 approx. trees per year
- A large range of species – native and mainly broadleaf
- Seed collected within 20 miles
- A range of production formats
- Multiple social benefits



## Understanding the country's network of community tree nurseries

Pilot 4

The project identified a diverse network of more than 80 of these nurseries, often volunteer-led groups growing mostly broadleaf trees to enhance their local treescape.

**250,000+** trees are grown a year. Most seed is collected within **20 miles** of the nursery.



# ARE YOUR TREES HEALTHY?

Six easy steps to check your trees' health

- 1 Know what good health looks like in all the tree species you grow. Early detection of pests and diseases can help prevent problems from spreading.
- 2 Check the trunk. Make sure the bark is healthy and there is no peeling, cracking or flaking, swollen or sunken areas, beetle exit holes or frass (waste), discolouration or bleeding sap. Look for rot and fungi and anything that doesn't look right.
- 3 Regularly check all the trees in and surrounding your nursery for anything that looks unusual.
- 4 Check the roots. If a plant looks unhealthy, the problem could be underground. Healthy root systems are firm with many fibrous roots. Look for fungi, damage by invertebrates, rot, discolouration and lesions.
- 5 Check new and old leaves. Look for insect damage, such as holes, eggs and bite marks, browning or other discolouration, scorched, dry or wilting leaves, leaf curl, spots, galls, powdery deposits such as mildews.
- 6 Take action. If a tree doesn't look right in the nursery, speak to the manager. If you think you've found a pest or disease in your local area, report it via TreeAlert: scan the QR code below.

A plant can look unhealthy because of environmental factors e.g. it could be too wet or too dry. Spotting the signs early can help you fix the problem.

For more information, visit [www.observatree.org.uk](http://www.observatree.org.uk) or [www.forestresearch.gov.uk](http://www.forestresearch.gov.uk) (search for 'pests and diseases')

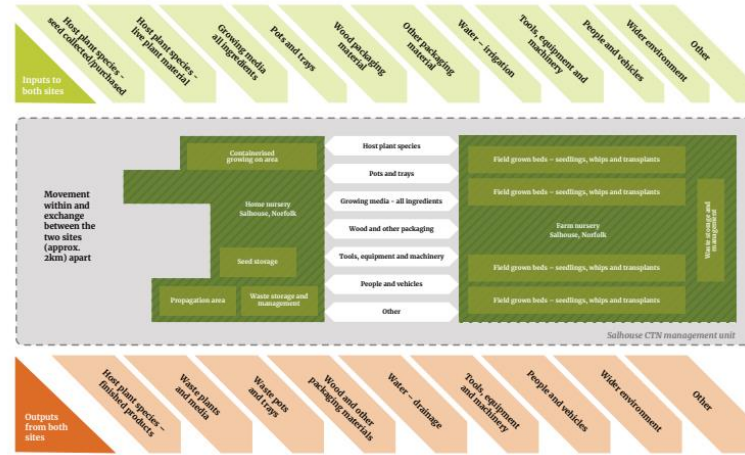


The alarming rise of tree diseases, pests and pathogens in recent years poses a risk to trees everywhere, so nurseries must take precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. Moor Trees has a boot cleaning station at the nursery entrance. Many volunteers also have footwears they only wear at the nursery and leave there.

SALHOUSE

## EXPLAINED: IDENTIFYING PATHWAYS FOR PESTS

Plant Healthy provides a self-assessment tool that will help you identify what your nursery can do to prevent tree pests and diseases from establishing and spreading. Here's an example from Salhouse nursery.



A larger version of this diagram is available on our website: [treegrowersguide.org.uk/resources](http://treegrowersguide.org.uk/resources)

## THE TREE GROWER'S GUIDE

A beginner's guide to identifying and growing trees from seed, and starting a Community Tree Nursery

Includes the updated GoodSeed Guide with extra content online

### Biosecurity basics for CTNs

Small actions that make a big difference

1. Register with your local APHA plant health inspector (Call 0300 1000 313 or e-mail: [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)).
2. Learn what tree pests and diseases look like.
3. Inspect your trees regularly for signs of pests or disease.
4. Know where your trees or tree seed comes from.
5. Collect tree seed from areas free of pests and diseases.
6. Keep donated trees in separate areas for a growing season.
7. Ensure good drainage and airflow between saplings.
8. Check your compost frequently for any issues.
9. Clean work stations, tools and equipment regularly.
10. Make use of wash stations at the entrance to the nursery.

## Good practice for nursery biosecurity

How you can help to protect your nursery from pest and disease threats

### Before you enter or leave the nursery today remember to maintain good biosecurity

Don't bring in or take out plants or soil

**Think kit**  
Always make a clean start before you enter the nursery. Please use the boot clean station to remove soil and sanitise your shoes before entering and leaving the nursery.

**Think trees**  
Please do not bring plant material onto the nursery site unless agreed beforehand with the nursery manager. If something doesn't look right with any plants leaving the nursery, please inform staff or volunteers.

| Practice           | Priority | Impact | Notes   |
|--------------------|----------|--------|---|
| Boot washing       | High     | High   | Essential to prevent soil and plant material from spreading between sites.  |
| Equipment cleaning | High     | High   | Prevents the spread of pests and diseases on tools and machinery.           |
| Water management   | Medium   | Medium | Good drainage and airflow reduce the risk of fungal diseases.               |
| Site management    | Medium   | Medium | Regular checks help to spot problems early and prevent them from spreading. |



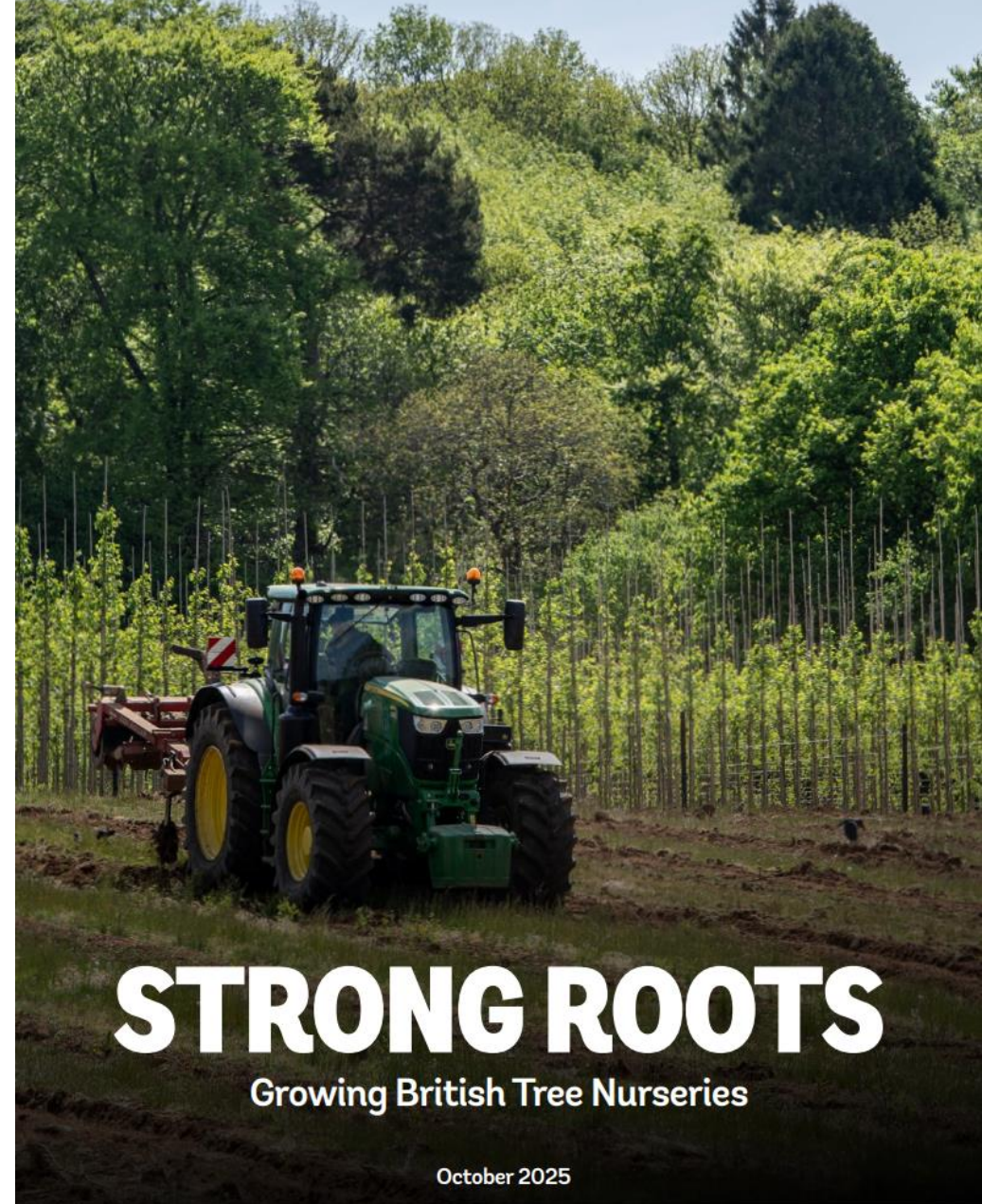
# The Future of Community Tree Nurseries

“Community Tree Nurseries (CTNs) play a crucial role in growing tree species and provenances that may be unavailable elsewhere, but face financial and regulatory challenges that limit their expansion”

“Supporting homegrown tree production will strengthen biosecurity, support sustainable economic growth and rural livelihoods, and help meet climate and biodiversity commitments.”

## Report recommendations:

18. Provide accessible government funding for CTNs and small nurseries
19. Commit to sustained funding to support CTN networks.



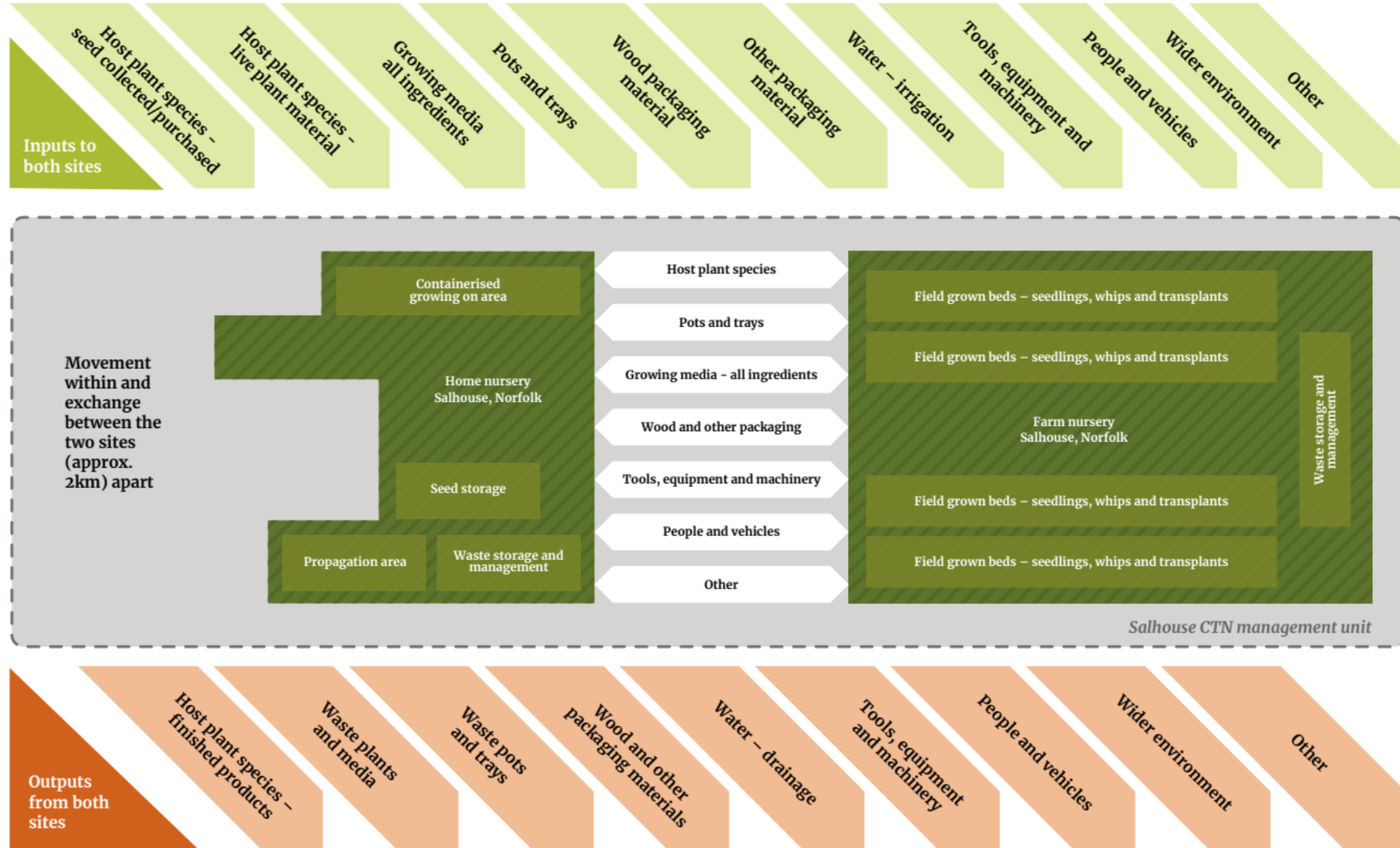
# Community Tree Nursery Collaborative



<https://fellowshipofthetrees.org/ctnc/>

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[Make a donation](#)[Back to home](#)[Growing Together](#)[For Schools](#)[For Communities](#)[Get Growing](#)[FAQs](#)[Resources](#)

# Growing Together

For trees, community and a greener future

**A community tree nursery (CTN) is a group of people who come together to collect seed, grow trees and then give them away to be planted locally.**

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth. Over the coming decades, we will need to grow and plant tens of millions of trees to increase tree cover, tackle climate change, restore biodiversity and support people's wellbeing. To help meet this demand, it's essential that more trees are grown here in Britain. [British-grown trees](#) reduce the risk of introducing pests and diseases from overseas and are generally better adapted to their local environment.

# Growing Together

[growingtogether@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:growingtogether@treecouncil.org.uk)

# Tree Council and Partners Grants 2025/26



**Application Guidance**  
**Branching Out Fund**  
Grants between £250 & £2,500  
England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland

the tree council



**Application Guidance**  
**Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund**  
Grants between £2,500 and £10,000  
England, Scotland & Wales

the tree council

Network Rail



**Application Guidance**  
**SP Energy Networks Community Tree Planting Fund**  
Grants between £2,500 and £10,000  
Scotland only

the tree council

SP Energy Networks



**Application Guidance**  
**Trees Outside Woodland Fund**  
Grants between £10K and £40K  
England only

the tree council

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



**Application Guidance**  
**National Highways 3 Million Trees Project**  
Free Trees  
England only

the tree council

national highways

