

# **SETTING THE SCENE: NATIONAL POLICY**

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Director, Forest Services



"We estimate that Government and the sector working together towards this shared objective could achieve 12% woodland cover by 2060, an average planting rate of 5,000 hectares per year, provided private investment in woodland creation increases in line with our expectations."



"In addition to the 11 million trees we are planting across our nation, we will ensure that 1 million more are planted in our towns and cities."



“we pledge to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it.

That is why we shall produce a comprehensive 25 Year Environment Plan that will chart how we will improve our environment as we leave the European Union and take control of our environmental legislation again.”

“We will deliver on our commitment to improve natural flood management.”



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TOGETHER

Our Plan for a  
Stronger Britain and a  
Prosperous Future

THE CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST PARTY  
MANIFESTO 2017

“we will continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of the parliament. We will work with farmers, food producers and environmental experts across Britain and with the devolved administrations to devise a new agri-environment system, to be introduced in the following parliament.”

“During the 2020s we need to accelerate the rate of tree planting, working towards our 12% tree cover aspiration by 2060.”



“To do this will require investment by the private and charitable sectors, not just government. A number of our policy proposals will create the conditions for that investment to come forward.”

“We will need new skills in forest design, a reliable supply of resilient planting stock, new opportunities for domestic timber, and a new generation of skilled people helping to enhance our towns, cities and countryside.”

“We will set up a stronger and more attractive domestic carbon offset market that will encourage more businesses to support cost effective emissions reductions, such as through planting trees. We will also explore how we could extend this market to include other land activities.”

“We will develop a new network of English forests with the right incentives and rules to establish and support new regional and national community woodlands to help reach 12 per cent woodland cover in England by 2060. We have allocated funding to woodland planting to support our commitment to plant another 11 million trees this Parliament”

“Establish a new network of forests in England including new woodland on farmland, and fund larger-scale woodland and forest creation, in support of our commitment to plant another 11 million trees during this Parliament and increase the amount of UK timber used in construction.”

“Our indicative pathway could involve planting up to 130,000 hectares of new woodland and implement plans for farmers to plant more trees across England, providing not just carbon reduction but recreational space for our growing communities and timber for our bioeconomy.”

“We will unlock private finance to invest in forestry by establishing forestry investment zones to offer investors streamlined decision making and more certainty, within shorter timelines.”

“We will fund larger-scale woodland and forest creation, and we will design woodland creation incentives that attract more landowners and farmers to plant on marginal land, including through agroforestry and bioenergy production, to help diversify land-based businesses and enhance the farmed environment.”

“We will work with industry to increase the amount of UK timber used in construction, creating a conveyor belt of locked-in carbon in our homes and buildings.”



“Emissions removal pathway: Under this pathway, sustainable biomass power stations are used in tandem with CCUS technology. Carbon is removed from the atmosphere by plants (biomass) as they grow and, when the biomass is used to generate electricity, emissions are captured and stored instead of returning to the atmosphere. There is still a significant clean transition in other sectors but successful innovation in emissions removal allows more time for some of these changes.

“There is a diverse set of GGR technologies with varying potential scale and at varying stages of development. These include afforestation, bio-energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).”

“We will also develop robust estimates of sustainable biomass resource available to the UK, reporting during 2018, and consider Royal Society scientific views on GGR.”

“Leaving the EU gives us a once in a lifetime opportunity to reform how we manage agriculture and fisheries, and therefore how we care for our land, our rivers and our seas/ And we can recast our ambition for our country’s environment, and the planet”



- European Union (Withdrawal) Bill
- 25 Years Environment Plan
- Agriculture White Paper
- Agriculture Bill
- EU Exit negotiations

“The [25 Year Environment] Plan is a huge economic and social opportunity that can genuinely transform the natural environment, support the growth of the economy, allow citizens to reconnect with the health, wellbeing, spiritual and educational benefits of interacting with nature, and gift our children a richer, better and more resilient natural inheritance. With a natural capital approach, the environment should no longer be regarded as an obstacle to development; rather, a healthy environment is the basis of sustainable economic growth.”

National Capital Committee

Advice to Government on the 25 Year Environment Plan

September 2017

“Supporting farmers and others to invest in a diversity of natural capital assets such as woodlands has the potential to deliver a wide array of benefits .”

“Planting the right trees in the right places can deliver major gains in terms of reducing air and water pollution, decreasing flood risk and soil erosion, delivering recreation and health benefits, providing habitats for wild species and reducing greenhouse gases, storing carbon and helping stabilise the climate. Woodlands can also offer sustainable renewable fuel supplies thereby contributing to associated industries and employment together with tourism and timber revenues. All of these should feature in the appraisal and decision making progress to ensure best value for money from any investment.”

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“Increase woodland by at least 250,000ha by 2040.”

“Everyone is protected against a 0.5% annual probability flood event through a combination of natural flood risk management measures, engineered structures and property level resistance and resilience measures.”

“Everyone has access to local greenspace and recreation and can benefit from the physical and mental health benefits it provides.”

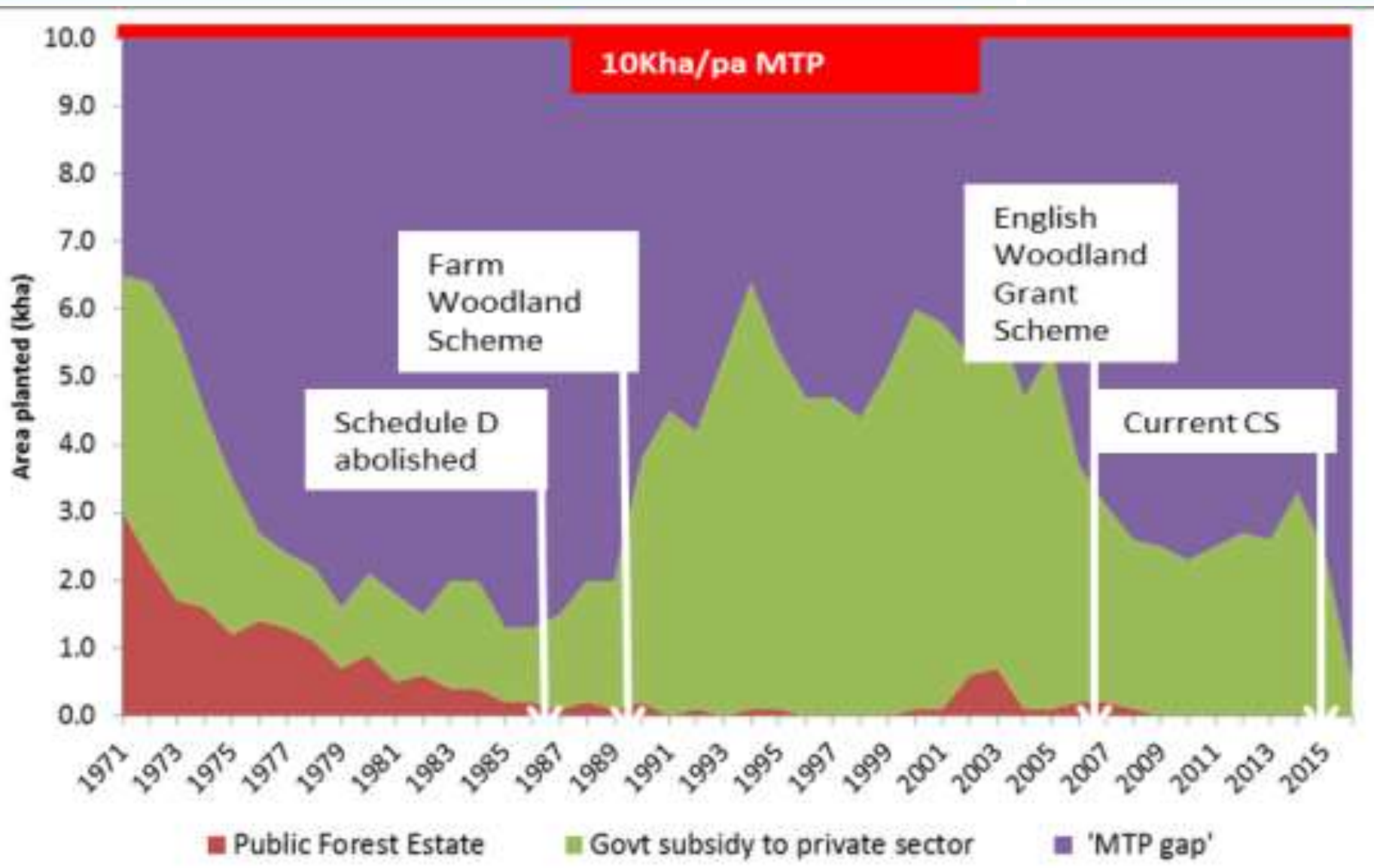
“Restore peatland systems, particularly in upland areas, to favourable condition”

National Capital Committee

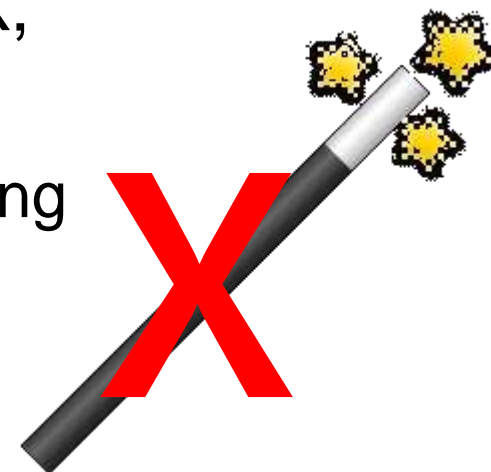
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# How big is the challenge and what does the past tell us?



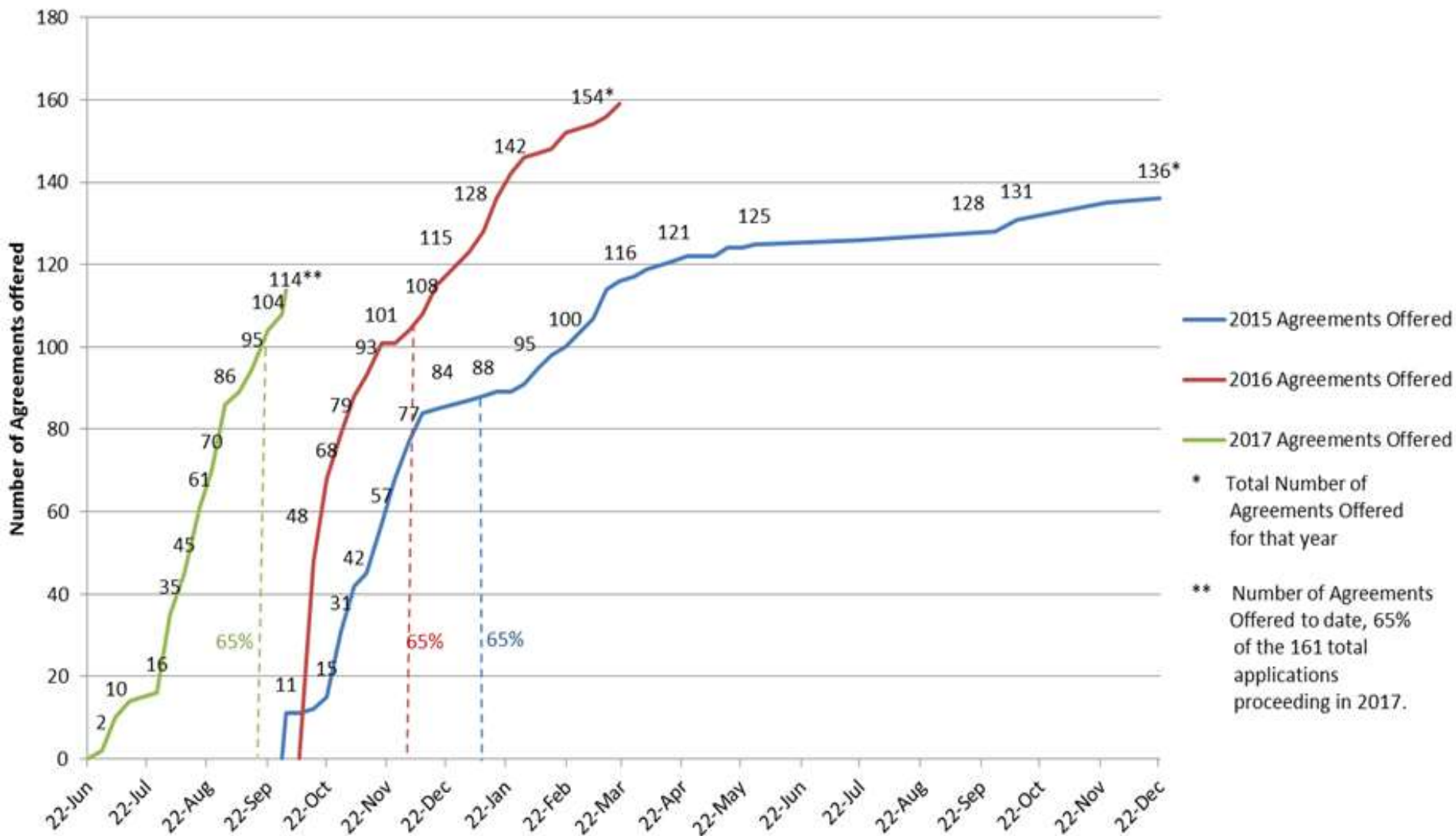
- Stable and user friendly grants;
- High Land prices
- Annual income prior to timber revenues
  - Processing sector
  - Carbon or other PES
  - Government Income foregone payments
- An understood regulatory framework;
  - Clarity over requirements
  - Continuing support for woodland planning
  - Rapid decision-making
- EU Exit uncertainty





# What are we doing about it?

Timing of CS Woodland Creation agreement offers: 2015, 2016 and 2017



- Upskilling: FC, NE, applicants and agents
- Woodland creation plan templates
- Forestry Investment Zones
- Domestic Offset Units
- Addressing peri-urban barriers – permanence of woodland creation?
- Natural Flood Management
- Water company funding (PR19)
- Let's see what the 25YEP has to say
- And the Agriculture White Paper too
- Replacing the Common Agricultural Policy

