Forestry England

Growing the nation’s forests

Proposed new woodland Hagworthingham Wood in Lincolnshire

Forestry England are planting new woodlands to expand the nation’s forests

We are planning new woodland near Hagworthingham in Lincolnshire. We would like your comments on our initial ideas. Your input will help shape our final designs.

Working with public and private landowners, we’re choosing the right places for woodlands to grow and flourish, carefully planting a mix of tree species to be resilient in our changing climate.

Every new woodland will have public access so you can explore and enjoy them to support your health and wellbeing.

They will be valuable places for wildlife, often linking other woods to provide green corridors for wildlife to move and thrive across the landscape.

In time, each new woodland will provide sustainable timber, contributing to a green economy and they’ll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and water management.

Forestry England is creating this new woodland through Defra’s Trees Programme.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

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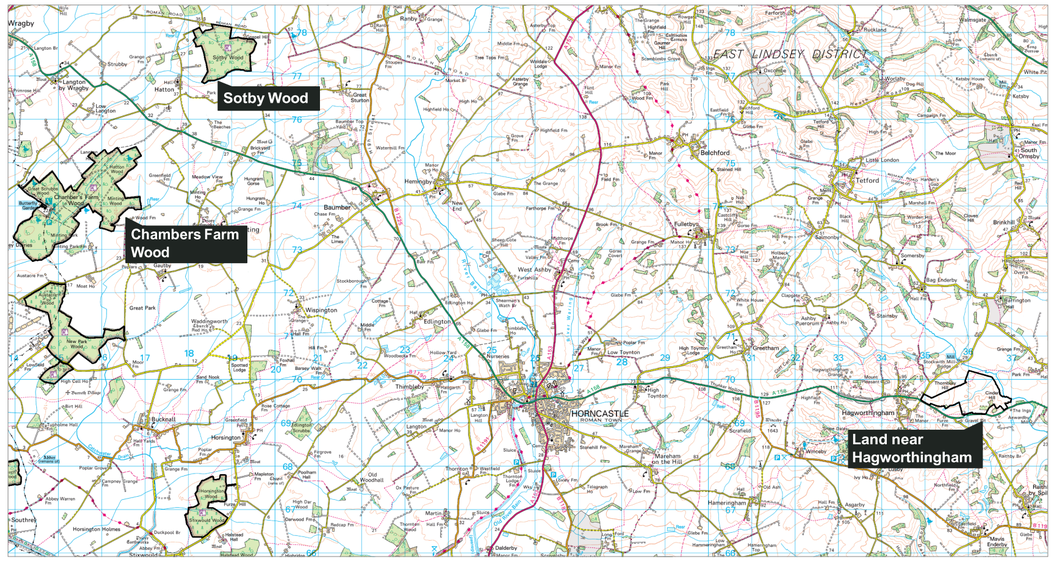
Site location & landscape context

The proposed new woodland near Hagworthingham is within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 43: Lincolnshire Wolds. The Lincolnshire Wolds NCA is a long, narrow band of rolling agricultural land dominated by a west-facing chalk escarpment approximately 50 m high. The area is characterised by a range of varied yet unified features including open, arable plateau hill tops, chalk escarpments, deep dry valleys with sinuous beech woods and isolated ash trees punctuating the skyline. The area is sparsely settled with many villages hidden within the folds of the landscape and modest country houses and farmsteads. Woodland is limited particularly to the north but there are occasional shelterbelts, hedgerow trees and scattered beech clumps. Important alder carr woodland is associated with some of the valleys in the south-west. (Natural England, 2013)

The proposed new woodland near Hagworthingham is approximately 15 miles from land Forestry England manages at Sotby Wood and Chambers Farm Wood.





The existing site near Hagworthingham

The site near Hagworthingham sits at the southern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. It slopes gently from 75m in the west to 25m in the east, towards the River Lymn and its valley to the east. Several small hills create a gently undulating landscape and limit views across the site. The site is split down the middle by a strip of woodland, scrub, wet woodland, wetland, hedgerows and scattered trees, mostly following the line of the river Lymn tributary. The upper part of the site is made up of several large fields, which reflect its former use for arable farming. A public footpath comes into the site from Harrington Road and runs along its northern edge, with distant views across the landscape. Some homes and businesses in the wider landscape also look towards the site.



1: Wide view southeast over site from public footpath off Harrington Road. 2: View east from public footpath towards River Lymn valley. 3: View southwest towards the existing New plantation and Sausthorpe Walk plantation. 4: View south looking up internal valley on site. 5: View east across landscape towards River Lymn valley.

Low density broadleaved trees and shrubs on edges to soften the appearance of woodland in the landscape with mixed woodland beyond.

Opportunity for grazing in the open area.

Riparian broadleaved planting enhances the watercourse, with mixed broadleaved planting beyond.

Grass route, with a potential future upgrade to surfaced track for woodland management.

Areas of existing willow scrub and neutral grassland habitats are retained.

Low density broadleaved planting near properties and businesses along Partney Road.

Grass walking routes through the site link to existing public footpaths.

Various habitat types in the centre of the site are retained and enhanced, including broadleaved woodland, wet woodland, mixed scrub, neutral grasslands and willow scrub.

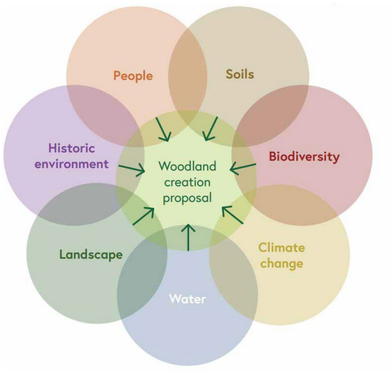
Key:

- Low density broadleaved planting
- Mixed conifer and broadleaved planting
- Broadleaved planting
- Riparian broadleaved planting
- Bund
- Pond (seasonal)
- Scrape
- Planned Road Upgrades
- Open space
- Pedestrian access
- Operational access
- Possible planting types

0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 Kilometers

How the new woodland at Hagworthingham could look

We are designing the new woodland to benefit people, wildlife and the wider landscape (natural capital approach). Our design meets the UK Forestry Standard, which takes into account the following elements (Forestry Commission, 2021):



Detailed desktop surveys, site surveys and analysis will inform our design. This includes:

- Local environment record review
- Preliminary ecological appraisal
- Breeding bird survey
- Historic environment records review
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland

Future forest resources and resilience: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of sustainable timber.

Thriving habitats for wildlife: create a mosaic of habitats including areas of wet woodland to enhance biodiversity of this part of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Public access for health and wellbeing: create low-key public recreation opportunities with new green space for people to walk in the woodland.

Benefits for the wider landscape: capture carbon, supporting net zero emissions targets.

Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape: support delivery of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape by increasing public access and woodland cover.

Types of woodland we could plant



Scots pine with silver birch, red oak, larch



Sweet chestnut with rowan



Oak with hornbeam, sycamore, small leaved lime



Alder with goat willow, downy birch, black poplar



Hornbeam



Sycamore



Hazel



Silver birch



Hawthorn



Small leaved lime



Macedonian pine



Wild cherry

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Operational and pedestrian access point.

Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland.

Opportunity for grazing in the open area.

Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland.

Riparian planting along the watercourse with mixed broadleaved woodland beyond.

Low density broadleaved planting to the boundary edge allows for some open views from neighbouring properties.

Mixed broadleaved woodland to the boundary edge, with mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland beyond.

Grass walking routes connect to existing footpaths, and allow opportunity for people to walk in the woodland.

Mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland.

Operational access point.

Mixed broadleaved woodland.

Various habitat types are retained in the centre of the site, including broadleaved woodland, wet woodland, mixed scrub, neutral grasslands and willow scrub.

Areas of existing willow scrub and neutral grassland habitats are retained.

How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Plant coniferous and broadleaved trees together, with shrub species along some edges. This will add variety, colour and texture in the landscape.
- Create grass routes for woodland management and for public access, which will connect to existing rights of way leading to Hagworthingham and the wider landscape.
- Create wildlife corridors by leaving open space next to hedgerows and adding some shrub planting at the edges of woodland for wildlife to thrive.
- Include a mix of open space, native shrubs and trees at low density to keep some open views from nearby properties. This will also protect heritage features and make the area look interesting throughout the year.

Artist's impressions:



Public footpath from Hagworthingham how it looks now



View from east of site how it looks now



How it could look 5 years after planting



How it could look 5 years after planting



How it could look in 25 years



How it could look in 25 years

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Low density broadleaved trees and shrubs on edges to soften the appearance of woodland in the landscape with mixed woodland beyond

Opportunity for grazing in the open area.

Riparian broadleaved planting enhances the watercourse, with broadleaved planting beyond.

Grass route, with a potential future upgrade to surfaced track for woodland management.

Areas of existing willow scrub and neutral grassland habitats are retained.

Low density broadleaved planting near properties and businesses along Partney Road.

Grass walking routes through the site linking to existing public footpaths

Various habitat types are retained in the centre of the site, including broadleaved woodland, wet woodland, mixed scrub, neutral grasslands and willow scrub.

Your views are important to us, let us know what you think about proposals for new woodland near Hagworthingham

Forestry England

Hagworthingham Wood - our response to key themes from early engagement

We recently asked local people for their early views on our plans to create a new woodland at Hagworthingham, in Lincolnshire. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Access to the new woodland

The new woodland will be open for local people to enjoy as a quiet, natural space. Once it is established, we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

The new woodland can be easily reached from the village using the existing public footpath from Harrington Road to the north of the site. Once there, a network of new grass routes will give access for woodland maintenance and for people to explore the new woodland. There are no plans to include new surfaced trails, cycling or horse-riding specific infrastructure.

Dogs will be welcome, but the woodland will not be fully fenced and we do not plan to install dog waste bins. We expect all dog owners to act responsibly and keep their pets in sight and close by at all times in the new woodland, following our Forest Dog Code[1].

Parking and traffic

The new woodland has been designed as a quiet space and we anticipate that most visitors to the new woodland will do so on foot. We have no plans to include visitor or other recreational facilities and therefore our proposal does not include public parking. This will help keep local roads free from extra traffic.

Our forestry vehicles need to access the new woodland from the road so they can manage and maintain the site. We plan to use the existing northern entrance off Harrington Road, and upgrade the current surface. To reach the southern part of the site, we will create a new secondary access from the A158, for occasional operational use. We will include barriers at both entrances to prevent unauthorised vehicle access and reduce the risk of antisocial behaviour.

Design, landscape and views

The new mixed woodland will enrich the landscape by boosting biodiversity, enhancing the natural environment and protecting heritage features. We have done surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife, soil conditions and archaeology at Hagworthingham. These surveys, along with a landscape and visual appraisal, and local feedback have guided our draft designs.

We have planned the woodland layout to protect heritage features and respect views from neighbouring properties. We will keep open space next to these properties, with conifer and broadleaf planting set further back.

The design keeps key sightlines and areas of openness where appropriate. This includes a large open area to retain views from the Hagworthingham to Aswardby public footpath looking south, as well as corridor views and northern vistas where possible. While some views will be maintained, it remains important to balance the aims of creating productive new woodland with the desire for open space and visual connectivity.

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to choose the right trees to plant in the new woodland. Our surveys help us to choose the trees most suitable for the site now and as the climate changes. Our professional foresters carefully choose what trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the local soil, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species and geographical features nearby. We also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to keep woods as healthy as possible.

The species will be a mix of broadleaf and conifer, often planted together in mixtures, with groups of shrub species along edges to increase the variety and provide seasonal colour and texture. Species have been chosen to produce a future source of sustainable timber. This supply of homegrown wood products will support the wider British timber and forestry industry, helping to reduce the demand for imports from other countries.

Species at Hagworthingham might include oak, silver birch, small leaved lime, goat willow, black poplar, hazel, common alder, hawthorn, Scots pine, Macedonian pine, hornbeam and wild cherry.

Establishing and managing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 26/27. Maintenance during the first five years is especially important to ensure the woodland's long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and our contractors.

Longer term, Forestry England will develop a Forest Plan to make sure that future timber production is sustainable. As part of our ongoing management of the woodland, we will begin to remove some trees after about 20-25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of timber and help the woodland to thrive for many years to come.

Community Involvement

Forestry England works with many 'friends of' societies and community groups that help manage our woodlands. Whilst we have limited resource to support long term volunteering opportunities on the site, we will monitor use and interest at our new woodland sites in the area as part of our wider engagement plans across the district.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

The UK is home to six species of deer. As their natural predators (bears, lynx and wolves) are no longer present in the UK, our wildlife management team have to manage the deer populations. Without predators or management, deer populations become unnaturally large, and their browsing can damage or kill young trees and wildlife habitats, reducing the resilience of the new woodland to the effects of climate change and lowering the carbon captured from the atmosphere.

We will use deer fencing to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in smaller areas. Rabbit and deer fencing will protect young trees from browsing, while tree tubes will safeguard smaller, widely spaced areas. After the woodland has become established, deer fencing and tree tubes will be removed and recycled where possible. This usually happens after approximately 10 years.

Forestry England is part of the Deer Initiative[2], a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. Our highly skilled wildlife management team will safely and humanely control deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our website[3].

Why are you planting agricultural land?

Lincolnshire is currently the least wooded county in the East Midlands. The new woodlands will capture carbon, restore and connect habitats, enhance biodiversity, supply sustainable homegrown timber and wonderful places for people to enjoy.

We understand concerns around food security, and we want to keep the best-quality land in agricultural production. This is why we do not create woodlands on the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Hagworthingham has been found to be grade 3 and is not considered to be of high agricultural quality.

Forestry England's role is to manage and expand the nation's forests to ensure they are healthy and sustainable and benefit wildlife, people, and the economy. The new woodland will capture carbon, connect existing woodland habitats for wildlife to move between, and provide a sustainable source of timber, which is crucial for the UK's green economy.

References:

1 https://www.forestryengland.uk/dog-code

2 http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/

3 https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests

Forestry England

Your views are important to us - let us know what you think

Responding to this consultation

We encourage you to submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views by completing the online feedback form at:

- bit.ly/hagworthinghamw

- If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by 11.59pm on Sunday 17th May 2026

What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Planting (Winter 2026/27)

Scan the QR code to find out more:

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