



Forestry England

Burriott Wood

Consultation report and our response to issues raised

August 2024



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1. Executive summary

Between 8 July and 28 July 2024, we held a consultation on proposals for the designs of a new woodland at Burriott. The new 54-hectare woodland is close to the small hamlet of Burriott, near High Bickington in Devon. The woodland will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for people to enjoy alongside thriving wildlife and sustainably grown timber.

The design proposals we consulted upon were informed by site surveys and early engagement with statutory stakeholders as well as the local community.

We received 11 responses to the consultation which included over 30 comments. Whilst some comments were supportive, others highlighted concerns about our proposals, raised questions or made suggestions.

After carefully considering the responses, we are making the following changes and amendments to our proposals for the new woodland:

- We have moved the location of the access point to the west further away from the entrance to the private properties at Burriott Barton.
- We have moved the access point to the East to enable clear sight lines onto the highway.
- We have moved the pathway to the South of the Burriott Barton properties further away from the private boundary.
- We have moved the planting of fruit trees further away from the nearby properties at Burriott Barton.
- More open space has been included in the designs to allow for a greater variety of species and improve biodiversity in the new woodland.

Over the coming weeks, we will be finalising our designs to reflect these changes, ahead of an application to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review before we can begin to create the new woodland.

This report outlines our approach to our consultation and engagement with the local community and other key stakeholders, summarises the key concerns, issues and questions raised, and our response.

2. About the Consultation

2.1 Introduction

Forestry England is creating a new woodland on land we have bought at Burriott in Devon. The land was previously used for grazing and will provide a thriving woodland which will be planted with a mix of tree and shrub species, including mixed conifer and broadleaf trees, specially selected to be resilient to future climate conditions. The new woodland will be a 'Coronation Wood' to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The new woodland will have public access for visitors, providing a high-quality green space for people to explore and enjoy, a valuable wildlife habitat, and a sustainable source of timber for a green economy.

The consultation invited views from the public and stakeholders on our proposals for the planting and design of the new woodland.

Feedback will help to shape and inform our final designs which will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland.

2.2 Purpose

The aims of the consultation were to:

- Provide the public and our stakeholders with sufficient information about our proposals to allow informed responses and suggestions.
- Understand the reasons for any issues or concerns raised about our proposals.
- Identify issues we might not already be aware of.
- Provide adequate time for people to respond.
- Consider all responses carefully ahead of making any changes to our proposals.

2.3 Early engagement

In April 2024, we wrote to neighbours at 15 addresses close to the site for the new woodland.

The letter invited people's views on the issues important for us to consider as we develop our designs for the creation of a new woodland on land in Burriott. We also wrote to the Parish Councils of High Bickington and Atherington. The letter included a map showing the boundary of the new site and invited responses via an online survey. We also invited direct neighbours to the site to get in touch with us by email so we could introduce ourselves and discuss the process of new woodland creation in more detail.

We received 25 online or email responses to the early engagement. Additionally, we had telephone or face to face discussions with the owners or occupiers of 7 neighbouring properties.

Feedback, together with further design and survey work and engagement with stakeholders, has helped to shape the design proposals we presented in the July 2024 public consultation.

2.4 How our consultation designs were informed by feedback to early engagement

Feedback to our early engagement included questions and concerns about issues including:

- Public access and use of the new woodland, including pedestrian and bridlepath links
- Traffic, parking and the impact on local roads
- Views and neighbouring properties
- Boundary treatments including deer and dog proof fencing and hedges
- Flood prevention and mitigation
- Tree species and choices - include a mix of hardwoods, native and broadleaved trees
- Use of agricultural land for woodland
- Woodland management and maintenance of utilities
- Suggestions for wildlife preservation

Appendix E describes how the designs presented at the public consultation responded to this feedback.

2.5 Public consultation - who we consulted

We invited local people who responded to our initial early engagement survey, as well as representatives from Devon County Council, Torridge District Council, North Devon District Council and High Bickington and Atherington parish councils.

We also contacted other stakeholders such as local political representatives, local interest and wildlife groups, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Natural England.

A list of stakeholders we contacted and those that responded are included in **Appendix F** and **Appendix G**.

2.6 Dates and duration

The public consultation was open for 3 weeks from 8 July to midnight on the 28 July 2024.

2.7 What we asked.

The consultation survey included one open question inviting written feedback or questions about our proposed plans for the new woodland.

We also asked respondents to give their name and email address and, where applicable, supply details of the organisation on whose behalf they were responding.

2.8 Methods of responding

Respondents to the consultation were invited to give their views by:

- Completing the questionnaire included on our website at: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult/>
- Email at: woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk (where responding via the survey was not possible).
- Leaving comments or suggestions at the public information event held at the High Bickington Community Centre in High Bickington (comments from this event has been summarised separately in **Section 3.4**).
- Completing a paper survey at the public information event.

2.9 Overview of consultation responses

We received 11 responses to the consultation. The responses were coded and categorised as either positive, negative/concerns, questions or suggestions.

2.10 Consultation materials and publicity

2.10.1 Consultation materials

We published consultation information about the new woodland on our website. This included:

- An overview of the new woodland creation programme and tree planting objectives.
- A site appraisal of the existing site - with photographs and maps to give context.
- An overview of the surveys undertaken and the objectives and principles that have informed our design proposals for the new woodland.
- An overview of planting types included in the proposals.
- Visuals of how the new woodland might look soon after planting and, in the future.
- An overview of how feedback received to our early engagement had been incorporated into the designs presented in the consultation.

- Information on how to respond to the consultation.
- Comment boards at the consultation information drop in events inviting attendees to use sticky notes to leave comments about the proposals.

2.10.2 Consultation activity

We publicised the consultation in the following ways:

- **Media release:** Distributed to local news outlets.
- **News item and dedicated web page:** On the Forestry England website: [New woodland at Burriott | Forestry England.](#)
- **Emails** to over 40 people in the local area and stakeholders.
- **Posters:** Posters publicising the consultation were put up in public areas around Burriott.
- **Consultation drop-in event:** We held a public information drop-in event on Tuesday 23 July at High Bickington Community Centre, from 4.00pm - 7.00pm. More than 30 people attended the event and feedback is summarised in **Section 3.4.**

2.10.3 Analysis of consultation responses

Responses received by completing the survey or by email, were analysed by assigning (or coding) the points made by each respondent to one or more codes within a code frame. Codes were organised by theme and separated into positive, concerns/negative, and questions or suggestions. Each code reflects a point raised by multiple individuals in a variety of ways. From this it was possible to count how many times respondents had raised the same or similar points.

3. About the responses

We received a total of 11 responses to the consultation, 6 via the online survey and 5 by email.

Comments were summarised into ten overarching themes.

Theme	General positive	Concern	Question	Suggestion
Woodland creation	3			
Woodland design	3	1		
Fencing		3		
Public access		6	1	1
Parking and roads	1	4		
Public facilities		1		
Signage		1		1
Utilities		1		1
Woodland development		2		
Total mentions	7	19	1	3

Comments discussed at the drop in event have been summarised separately in **Section 3.4** of this document.

3.1 Positive comments

We received 7 general positive comments. These included positive comments about the overall design of the new woodland, the inclusion in the proposal of natural regeneration, and other comments such as ‘Brilliant idea’, and ‘We need more woodland and space’.

3.2 Concerns/ negative comments

The negative themes and issues have been summarised in the table below.

The most mentioned concerns were about fencing and boundary treatments for the new woodland; concerns about public access to the new woodland via the private lane and concerns about parking and the impact of this on the local roads and traffic.

Themes and specific concerns - Burriott	Mentions
Woodland design	
<i>Maintaining views</i>	1
Fencing	
<i>Do the proposals include fencing?</i>	3
Public access	
<i>Access of public and dogs into privately owned woodland and livestock fields</i>	2
<i>Access of public to private property</i>	1
<i>Position of gateways</i>	2
<i>Clarification of the use of the orchard</i>	1
Parking and roads	
<i>Use of narrow roads</i>	1
<i>Potential use of passing spaces as car parking spaces</i>	1
<i>Parking concerns</i>	1
<i>Wear and tear of roads</i>	1
Public facilities	
<i>Lack of provision of dog bins and a potential increase in fouling</i>	1
Signage	
<i>Need for signage at access points and private roads</i>	1
Utilities	
<i>Effect of planting on boreholes</i>	1
Woodland development	
<i>Concern about water run-off and flooding potential</i>	2
Total mentions	19

3.3 Questions & suggestions

We received four questions and suggestions about the proposals as follows:

- Include signage to prevent access of public to property
- Include signage to access points and private roads
- Indicate the water supply line on the woodland plan
- Clarify if the area planted with fruit trees is for public access.

3.4 Feedback from the consultation drop in event.

Over 30 people attended the public information drop in events held at High Bickington Community Centre on Wednesday 22 July 2024.

The event displayed the information already available to view on the website on large posters around the venue and Forestry England staff were on hand to talk about the proposals, answer questions or queries, and listen to any concerns from those attending. In addition, visitors to the event were invited to leave comments on feedback boards. Issues mentioned included:

<i>Comment</i>
<i>Provision of car parking for public visiting the site</i>
<i>Potential access to the lane to the south of the site</i>
<i>Dogs and public access to adjacent land</i>
<i>Provision of fencing</i>
<i>Access points from private properties adjacent to land</i>
<i>Negative impact on the lane between Burriott properties and the woodland</i>

4. Our response to issues raised.

We have considered all the feedback we received to the consultation, and our responses to the key issues raised are set out in the tables on the following pages (**Appendix A**).

We have grouped the issues into broad themes for a more readily understood overview of the issues. Positive comments about the proposals have been noted, but for conciseness, these have not been included in the tables.

Following further design work and in response to consultation feedback, we have made the following changes to our proposed designs for the new woodland:

- We have moved the location of the access point to the west further away from the entrance to the private properties at Burriott Barton.
- We have moved the access point to the East to enable clear sight lines onto the highway.
- We have moved the pathway to the South of the Burriott Barton properties further away from the private boundary.
- We have moved the planting of fruit trees further away from the nearby properties at Burriott Barton.
- More open space has been included in the designs to allow for a greater variety of species and improve biodiversity in the new woodland.

Appendix A: Our response to key issues raised - Burriott

Woodland design		
1	Will current views from properties be maintained, especially down and up the valley.	We have designed the new woodland to include lower-level shrubs close to properties to minimise the impact on the views down the valley.
2	Concerns about the path in the south as it is in a wet area - can the path be moved further away from the properties?	We have moved the pathway to the South of the Burriott Barton properties further away from the private boundary. Potential walking routes within the new woodland are likely to be wet in the winter months. We do not expect the path to be heavily used and it would be screened by broadleaf planting and existing hedgerows which will obscure views to nearby properties.
Fencing		
3	Will the site be fully fenced/contained to prevent people and dogs to access private property and land?	We are not proposing to include dog proof fencing on the boundary of the new woodland; we expect visitors to be responsible dog owners and follow our dog code .
4	Can the fence be positioned on the other side of the orchard (where fruit trees are being planted)?	Following the consultation we have repositioned the fruit trees further away from the Burriott Barton properties. There are no plans to specifically fence the areas containing the fruit trees. A small number of fruit trees will be planted in the area of low-density planting.
Access and footpaths		
6	Include signage to prevent access of public to private road, and private property	We will provide appropriate signage at each of the access points to the new woodland. We have no plans to include additional signage for private land or individual properties unless particular issues arise.
7	Consider the inclusion of a private access point from private land	We have no plans to include additional private access points for the private properties adjacent to the new woodland

8	Concerns about dogs accessing privately owned woodland and livestock fields from the new woodland.	We are not proposing to include dog proof fencing on the boundary of the new woodland; we expect visitors to be responsible dog owners and follow our dog code .
9	Can we add access to the lane to south of site?	As we do not own the land adjoining the lane on the South of the site, we are unable to provide additional access.
10	Does Forestry England need planning consent for widening existing and creating the new access?	Where consent is required, we will follow the appropriate planning process.
12	Confirm that the access from the private roadway into Burriott Barton is solely for the use of Forestry England - will the gate be locked and inaccessible to the public?	We plan to create two access points which are from the adopted highway which will allow access for the public. Access from the private roadway gate will be limited to Forestry England maintenance purposes only.
14	Can the access point entrance to the woodland be positioned away from the private road as the public will be accessing the woodland at this point.	The location of this access has been moved further away from the entrance to the private road.
15	Can the pathways to the access points be shown on the plan?	Plans have been updated to show suitable access points to pathways. There are no defined surfaced areas from the access points and pathways will be informal grass tracks.
Parking and roads		
16	Concern about the use and maintenance of the narrow private road by Forestry England vehicles.	Although Forestry England has a right of access along this road to enter the woodland, we do not intend this to be heavily used. The access points on the public road will be the main entrances for the purposes of planting and maintenance works.
17	Include signage to prevent parking in passing spaces or verges on the public lane.	We will monitor the situation and refer to relevant authorities if a problem develops.
18	General parking concerns - will we add car parking spaces for approximately three cars?	There are no plans to add car parking spaces, but we will monitor the situation.
Public facilities		

19	Include dog bins in the new woodland	We have no plans to install dog bins at this location. We expect visitors to be responsible dog owners and follow our dog code. Dog owners should always clear up after their dog. Where no bins are available, owners should bag the dog poo and take it home.
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Appendix B: Email to local residents

Dear neighbour,

Public consultation on draft design proposals for a new woodland at Burriott.

Thank you for your response to our early engagement survey about our new woodland at Burriott.

I am now contacting you about the launch of a public consultation on our draft design proposals for the new woodland.

These are available to view and comment upon [here](#) until midnight on the 28th July.

<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult/>

While we continue with our detailed planning for the woodland, we are keen to hear your views on our initial design proposals.

These have been informed by site surveys as well as the valuable insights gained from you and other local people earlier this year.

The new woodland will be a valuable place for timber production, wildlife, and people. It will have public access so you will be able to explore and enjoy it to support your health and wellbeing.

Public drop-in events

As part of the consultation, we will also be holding a drop-in event where you can view our proposed designs and talk to members of the Woodland Creation project team:

Date: Tuesday 23rd July **Time:** 4.00pm - 7.00pm **Location:** High Bickington Community Centre, Little Bickington Lane, High Bickington EX37 9HG

The new woodland at Burriott will be one of many that Forestry England is planting and will support Government targets to increase tree planting across the UK.

Please share this email with any friends or neighbours who may also be interested in our plans.

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team Responding to the consultation

The consultation will be open from 8th July to 28th July.

Online: We encourage you submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views [here](#).

<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult/>

If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email, typing 'Burriott consultation response' in the header of your email and including your name, address, and postcode in your response.

Next steps

The consultation will close on Sunday 28th July. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report along with our response to the key issues raised and published on our website. Consultation feedback and further surveys will help shape the final design proposal we will submit to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

The Woodland Creation Team
Forestry England

Email: woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk
www.forestryengland.uk

Appendix C: Consultation feedback form

A proposed new woodland at Burriott

Overview

Forestry England would like to share with you draft plans for the proposed new woodland at Burriott.

Why your views matter

Your feedback, as well as site surveys, has helped shape proposals showing how the new woodland could look. Forestry England value your comments and feedback on the proposal and welcome you to our consultation event.

Your feedback

1. Please use this space to add feedback on the proposed plans

Should you wish to provide further comments, please continue on a separate sheet of paper with your name clearly marked at the top and attach it to this response.

-
2. Are you responding as:
Please select all that apply
- A local resident
 - A local business
 - A political representative

Other: please describe:

Your details

You can submit information without completing the address, postcode, are you and email details, but if you chose to do so they will be held by Forestry England as per our privacy policy [Privacy Policy | Forestry England](#).

1. What is your address?

2. What is your postcode?

3. What is your email address?

Appendix D: Consultation information

Consultation information, exhibition boards and information available to view and download on the website at: consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult/supporting_documents/v2_2024.06.27_Burriot_Consultation_Panels_RevB_FINALcompressed.pdf



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland at Burriott in North Devon

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

We are planning a new woodland at Burriott, North Devon, about half a mile northwest of High Bickington. We would like your comments and feedback 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.

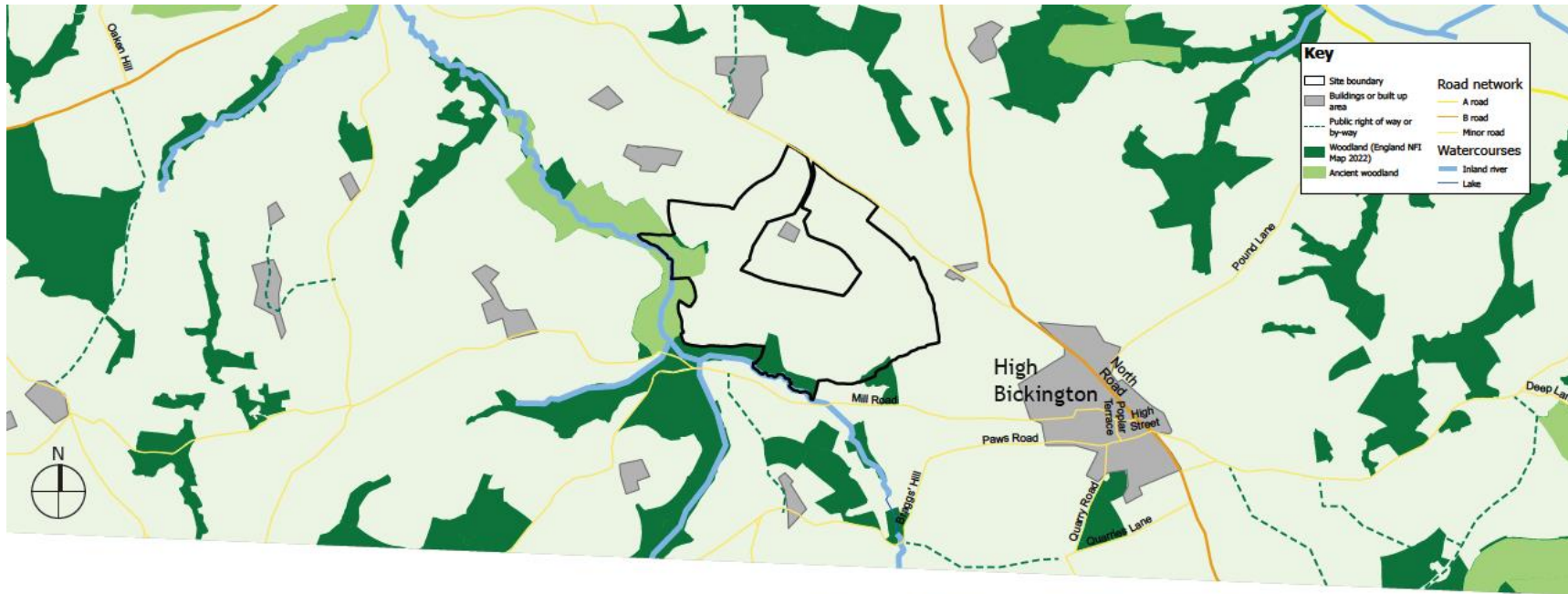
Our plans are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, supported by the Nature for Climate Fund. We aim to plant at least 2,000 hectares of new, high-quality woodlands across England.

In time, each new woodland will provide sustainable timber, contributing to a rural economy. And they'll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and combating flooding.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk



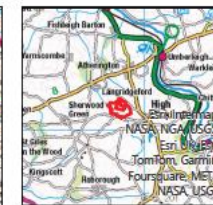
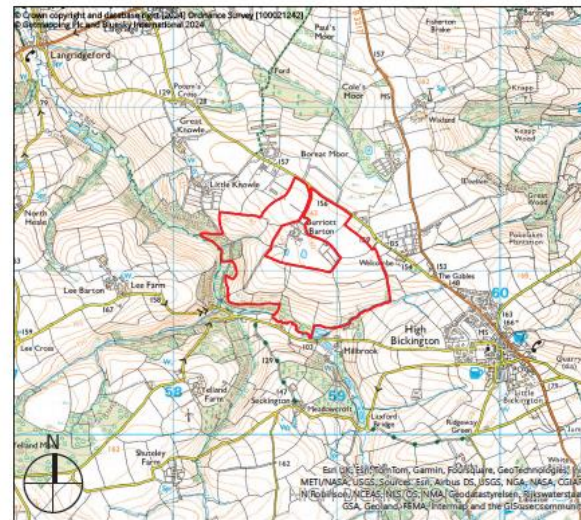


Site Location & Wider Context

The proposed new woodland is in North Devon, about five and a half miles northeast of Great Torrington and half a mile northwest of High Bickington.

The site for the new woodland lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 149: The Culm. This area is mostly remote and sparsely populated. It is a landscape of rolling ridges and plateaus and small valleys with fast flowing rivers and streams that drain the area. The heavy poorly drained soil supports a pastoral (grazed) landscape. There are also unique culm grasslands, a type of habitat typically found in this area and known for uncommon plant communities such as purple moor grass.

There are few trees on the plateau, except for some wind-sculpted hedgerows, farm trees and patches of conifer. More trees are found in the sheltered valleys. A mosaic of field patterns reflects the historic land use of the Culm.





The existing site

The site is on a south facing slope of a long ridge ('Langridge'), that stretches from High Bickington in the southeast to Langridge Cross in the northwest. Several small gullies cut through the slope coming up from the river at the bottom. The river flows north to join Langham Lake before merging with the River Taw.

The land at Burriott is currently used for grazing. From the plateau, you can see towards High Bickington, but hedgerows shorten the view.

A large section of woodland along the river is ancient semi-natural woodland. Historic maps show that a conifer plantation has existed since 1880 and that there are significant areas of rough pasture (culm) in the landscape. Many hedgerows have been lost since 1880, which would have enclosed the landscape, limiting views and making it feel more wooded.

Photos: 1. View from the public by-way north of Seckington. 2. A view of the current woodland and rough pasture on site. 3. View looking south from the site. 4. View looking west from the site. 5. View towards High Bickington from the site.





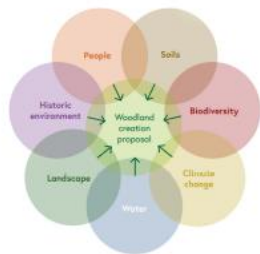
Tree species we could plant



Draft design

How we design new woodland

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:

- Preliminary habitat assessment
- Historic environment records
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Local environment records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- Climate matching tools
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland



Create a mixed resilient woodland: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of certified sustainable timber.



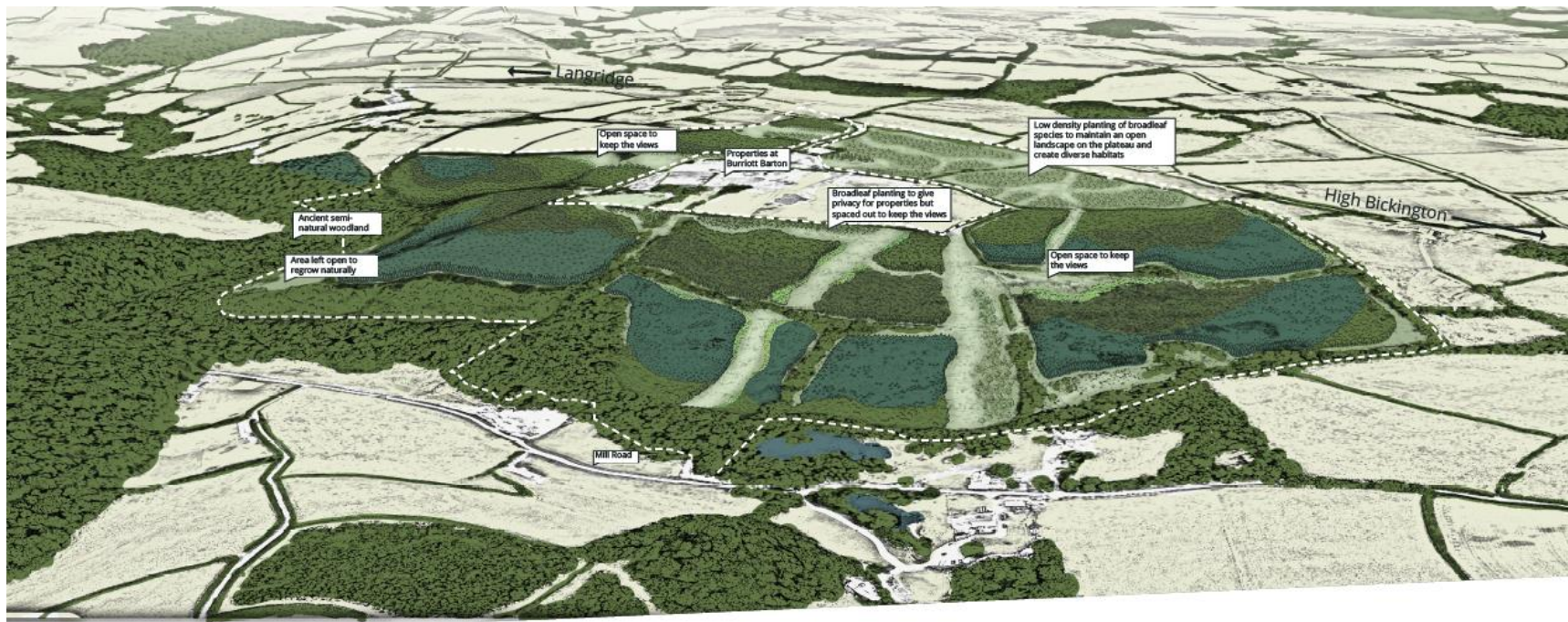
Improve woodland connectivity and enhance existing ancient woodland: link adjacent ancient woodlands to improve habitat connectivity. Maintain hedges and create open spaces and areas to regrow naturally (natural regeneration) within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.



Public access for health and wellbeing: provide low-key recreation opportunities by improving access to the countryside.



Sequester atmospheric carbon: help meet net zero emissions goals by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climates and create new areas to store carbon.



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Protect and improve the ancient semi-natural woodland with native broadleaf buffers and open areas for natural regeneration.
- Plant a mix of conifer, mixed and broadleaf woodland sensitively placed within the landscape to provide both timber security and biodiversity.
- Create grass rides next to hedgerows and plant shrubs at the edges of woodland to create areas for wildlife to thrive.
- Create grass paths for walkers to explore the new woodland, taking in views and different types of trees and habitats.
- Maintain important views from properties at Burriott Barton by leaving open spaces near their boundaries or planting shrubs and trees more sparsely.
- Grow a small fruit orchard for the residents of Burriott Barton.



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



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:

- <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult>

If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at

- woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by Sunday 28th July 2024

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
- Initial planting (Winter 2024)

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





A Coronation Wood at Burriott - our response to key themes from early engagement

We invited local people to share their initial views about our plans to create a new woodland at Burriott. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Public access

The new woodland at Burriott will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for people to enjoy. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

There will be pedestrian access off the road into the site which will allow people to explore the new woodland by a series of grass paths. There is no plan to include surfaced trails, cycling or horse riding specific infrastructure.

We are mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic particularly as the road is narrow. Our proposal does not include public parking. We will consider signs to discourage parking along the lane should this be necessary.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, we won't put a fence around the whole woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forest and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Design

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and closeness to nearby properties. Planting native broadleaf trees on the edges of the ancient woodland will support a wide range of wildlife including different species of birds, mammals, insects and fungi all of which thrive in the diverse environment created by these trees.

Our draft design includes grass paths, open spaces and keeps the existing hedgerows to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connect to existing open spaces outside the woodland.

Trees will be planted away from the hedgerows which will benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and this will be an attractive environment for many birds. The existing hedgerows will be maintained, providing nesting areas for birds and we are looking at the possibility of including owl boxes.

We are doing ecology and habitat surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems at Burriott and this will help shape our final design for the new woodland.

Our plan for the new, resilient woodland with a variety of trees at Burriott, aims to:

Create mixed productive and resilient woodland that delivers benefits for people, nature and economy

- Improve woodland connectivity in the landscape
- Provide additional opportunities for informal access to the countryside
- Sequester atmospheric carbon, supporting achieving net zero emissions targets
- Improve connectivity and enhance existing ancient woodland
- Provide a supply of sustainable timber

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to plan in detail for the trees we will plant for 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 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, planted together in mixtures, with 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 softwood 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 Burriott will include conifers such as Douglas fir, western red cedar, oriental spruce, and broadleaves such as oak, small leaved lime, birch, rowan, wild cherry and hazel.

Landscape and Views

Landscape and visual appraisal has informed our designs and we have carefully considered how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours. Where properties have important views, we will leave open spaces and plant shrubs at the edges of the woodland near the houses to make it more visually appealing. We will also plant more broadleaf trees in these areas because they are shorter than some conifers, generally live longer, and will help keep the view open.

Within the woodland we will create framed views and open spaces at key viewpoints, with grass paths to enhance the landscape for visitors. Near powerlines and underground services, there will also be grass paths to open up the views. These paths will have a natural shape with shrub edges to blend in with the surroundings.

The woodland has been carefully designed to blend with the surrounding landscape and to consider how it looks from outside the site. On the higher ground we will plant broadleaf trees sparsely to keep the skyline open. At the lower end of the site, the broadleaf trees will be a continuation of the existing ancient woodland and the broadleaf woodland in the valley.

Establishing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 24/25. Maintenance during the first five years is important to ensure the long-term success of the woodland. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and local contractors. So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to upgrade an existing entrance on the northern boundary to manage the site and to create one new entrance.

As part of our ongoing management of the woodland, we will begin to remove some trees after about 25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of timber and help the woodland

to thrive for decades to come.

Protecting the new woodland from deer

The UK is home to six species of deer, and their natural predators, such as bears, lynx and wolves, are extinct. Without predators, deer populations can become unnaturally big and their browsing can damage young trees. In the short-term, this can kill the trees and in the longer-term, it can reduce the resilience of the new woodland to climate change, reduce plant and animal diversity and lower the amount of carbon captured from the atmosphere.

Forestry England is part of the [Deer Initiative](#)¹, a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. We will use deer fencing within the site boundary to protect the new woodland. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers replace the role of Britain's missing predators by safely and humanely controlling deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our [website](#)².

Rabbit and deer fencing around the blocks of trees, will protect the young trees from browsing by deer and rabbits, and treeshelters (a protective tube or casing placed around a young tree) will protect smaller, wide spaced areas of trees.

Treeshelters and fences will be removed after approximately 10 years, after the woodland has become established, with materials being recycled where possible.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

Forestry England is creating new woodlands which will capture carbon, restore and connect habitats, enhance biodiversity, supply sustainable homegrown timber and great places for people to enjoy. Sites are individually and carefully assessed so they are suitable for woodland creation and sensitive to the local landscape. This assessment considers the existing land use, and we target lower-quality or less productive land to create new woodlands.

Our plans are part of a wider commitment to increasing tree planting rates across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025 and provide a source of sustainable homegrown timber. Currently the UK imports over 80% of its timber³ and we are more reliant on imported timber than imported food (40% of food is imported)⁴.

Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Burriott is graded at 3 and 4. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk



¹ <https://www.deerinitiative.co.uk/>
² <https://www.forestryengland.uk/en/forestryengland-deer-management>
³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-woodland-statistics>
⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/food-security-report-2021>, Table 2, UK food security sources - 2020/21



Forestry England



New Woodland near Burriott

Public Consultation Event on our proposed design

Tuesday 23rd July 4-7pm - Pyncombe Room
High Bickington Community Centre,
Little Bickington Lane, High Bickington
EX37 9HG.

Please drop in at any time during this period, to view the proposed design and speak to a member of our team.

For more information and to provide feedback visit
<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/burriott-consult>



You can also contact us at:
woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

forestryengland.uk

Appendix E: Our response to key themes from early engagement

A Coronation Wood at Burriott - our response to key themes from early engagement

We invited local people to share their initial views about our plans to create a new woodland at Burriott. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Public access

The new woodland at Burriott will be open to the public and provide a quiet space for people to enjoy. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

There will be pedestrian access off the road into the site which will allow people to explore the new woodland by a series of grass paths. There is no plan to include surfaced trails, cycling or horse-riding specific infrastructure.

We are mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic particularly as the road is narrow. Our proposal does not include public parking. We will consider signs to discourage parking along the lane should this be necessary.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, we won't put a fence around the whole woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forest and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Design

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and closeness to nearby properties. Planting native broadleaf trees on the edges of the ancient woodland will support a wide range of wildlife including different species of birds, mammals, insects and fungi all of which thrive in the diverse environment created by these trees.

Our draft design includes grass paths, open spaces and keeps the existing hedgerows to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connect to existing open spaces outside the woodland.

Trees will be planted away from the hedgerows which will benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and this will be an attractive environment for many birds. The existing

hedgerows will be maintained, providing nesting areas for birds and we are looking at the possibility of including owl boxes.

We are doing ecology and habitat surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems at Burriott and this will help shape our final design for the new woodland.

Our plan for the new, resilient woodland with a variety of trees at Burriott, aims to:

- Create mixed productive and resilient woodland that delivers benefits for people, nature and economy
- Improve woodland connectivity in the landscape
- Provide additional opportunities for informal access to the countryside
- Sequester atmospheric carbon, supporting achieving net zero emissions targets
- Improve connectivity and enhance existing ancient woodland
- Provide a supply of sustainable timber

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to plan in detail for the trees we will plant for 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 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, planted together in mixtures, with 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 softwood 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 Burriott will include conifers such as Douglas fir, western red cedar, oriental spruce, and broadleaves such as oak, small leaved lime, birch, rowan, wild cherry and hazel.

Landscape and views

A landscape and visual appraisal has informed our designs and we have carefully considered how close the new woodland will be to our new neighbours. Where properties have important views, we will leave open spaces and plant shrubs at the edges of the woodland near the houses to make it more visually appealing. We will also plant more

broadleaf trees in these areas because they are shorter than some conifers, generally live longer, and will help keep the view open.

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Protecting the new woodland from deer

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Tree shelters and fences will be removed after approximately 10 years, after the woodland has become established, with materials being recycled where possible.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

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Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Burriott is graded at 3 and 4. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.

¹ <http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/>

² <https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests>

³ [Forestry Facts and Figures 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/Forestry_Facts_and_Figures_2023.pdf)

⁴ [United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2: UK Food Supply Sources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672222/Forestry_Facts_and_Figures_2023.pdf)

Appendix F: Letters/emails announcing the launch of the consultation

Letters/emails were sent to the following stakeholders:

Stakeholders contacted
MP for Torridge and Tavistock
Devon County Council
Atherington Parish Council
High Bickington Parish Council
Torridge District Council
Torridge District Council Planning
Devon Countryside Access Forum
Devon Wildlife Trust
Natural England
RSPB
BT Openreach
Utility Assets
Wales and West Utilities - Gas
Historic England

Appendix G: Stakeholder responses

We received responses from Torridge District Council and Historic England.