

East Worth woodland

Consultation report
and our response to
issues raised.

November 2024



Table of Contents

1. Executive summary	4
2. About the Consultation.....	4
2.1 Introduction.....	4
2.2 Purpose	5
2.3 Early engagement	5
2.4 How our consultation designs were informed by feedback to early engagement	5
2.5 Public consultation - who we consulted	6
2.6 Dates and duration.....	6
2.7 What we asked	6
2.8 Methods of responding	6
2.9 Consultation materials and publicity.....	7
2.9.1 Consultation materials	7
2.9.2 Consultation activity	7
2.9.3 Analysis of consultation responses	7
3. About the responses	8
3.1 Overview of consultation responses.....	8
3.2 Positive comments	8
3.3 Negative comments.....	8
3.4 Questions & Suggestions	10
3.5 Feedback from the consultation drop in event	10
4. Summary of stakeholder responses.....	11
5. Our response to issues raised.....	12
1. Access to the new woodland	12
2. Agricultural land	13
3. Car parking and traffic.....	13
4. Communications and consultation.....	14
5. Design development	14
6. Paths.....	14
7. Safety.....	15
8. Tree planting and species	15
9. Users of the new woodland.....	16
10. Wildlife	16
Appendix A: Consultation information	18
Appendix B: Consultation questionnaire	33
Appendix C: Code frame	35

Appendix D: Letters/emails announcing the launch of the consultation.....	37
Appendix E: Stakeholders contacted	41
Appendix F: Stakeholder responses	42

1. Executive summary

Between 19th August and 15th September 2024, we held a consultation on proposals for the designs of a new 29.8 hectare woodland at East Worth.

We received nine responses to the consultation, which included 42 comments. Whilst we received broadly supportive comments, others were negative or raised questions and made suggestions.

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

1. In response to extending the path network to the northern part of the north block, we have marked pedestrian crossing points on the design plans.
2. We have considered accessibility when entering the site and have updated our designs to include inclusive entrances.
3. We have considered a hard standing area for one or two cars and will incorporate informal parking in our designs.

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

This report outlines our approach to the consultation, a summary of the key 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 East Worth, near Northlew in West Devon. The land, which is currently mostly pasture farmland with medium sized fields and managed hedgerows with mature broadleaf hedgerow trees, has been bought to provide a thriving woodland which will be planted with 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 woodland will be managed by Forestry England. It will have public access for people to enjoy in every season and expand existing wildlife habitats to provide greater benefits for biodiversity.

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

Feedback will help shape and inform our final designs which will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

2.2 Purpose

The aims of the consultation were to:

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

2.3 Early engagement

In April 2024, we wrote to neighbours at seven 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 East Worth. We also wrote to the Northlew Parish Council. 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 visiting <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/east-worth>, or email at woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk. The early engagement closed on 19th April 2024.

We received nine responses to the early engagement from six respondents, online and via email. Additionally, we had telephone or face to face discussions with the majority of owners or occupiers of 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 September 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
- Design, landscape and views
- The trees we will plant
- Establishing the new woodland
- Protecting the new woodland from deer
- Research trials
- Planting trees on agricultural land

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

2.5 Public consultation - who we consulted

Our consultation was open to anyone who lived or worked in the local area or had an interest in our proposals.

We focused our publicity on people living in the vicinity of the proposed woodland or visiting East Worth and Northlew, as well as stakeholders in the local authority, including Northlew Parish Council, local councillors and the local member of parliament.

We also told the statutory stakeholders we consult with when creating a new woodland including Natural England.

The list of stakeholders is included in **Appendix E**.

2.6 Dates and duration

The consultation was open for four weeks from Monday 19th August to midnight on Sunday 15th September 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.

The survey we published on the consultation website (<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult/>) is included in **Appendix B**.

2.8 Methods of responding

Respondents to the consultation were invited to give their views between Monday 19th August and Sunday 15th September 2024 by:

- Completing the questionnaire included on our website <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult/>
- Giving comments by email to woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk
- Leaving comments or suggestions at the public information event on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at Northlew Victory Hall, Station Road, Northlew, Devon, EX20 3NP (summarised separately in section 3 of this report).

2.9 Consultation materials and publicity

2.9.1 Consultation materials

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

- An overview of the new woodland creation programme and Government tree planting objectives
- A site appraisal of the existing site - with photographs and maps to give context
- An overview of the surveys undertaken, our 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
- Information on how to respond to the consultation.

2.9.2 Consultation activity

We publicised the consultation in the following ways:

- **Media release:** Distributed to local news outlets
- **Dedicated web page:** on the Forestry England website
- **Letters/emails** to local residents on 19th August
- **Letters/emails** to stakeholders on 19th August
- **Posters:** a poster publicising the consultation was put up in the local area and a PDF of the poster was attached to the Parish Council email
- **Social media:** a social media event was created on Facebook to publicise the event
- **Consultation drop in event:** We held a drop in event at Northlew Victory Hall on Tuesday 10th September 2024. The event showed the information already published 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.

Attendees were also encouraged to leave immediate feedback on the comments board and to respond to the consultation formally via the online survey or by email. We also asked attendees to leave their contact details if they would like to be kept updated about the proposals.

2.9.3 Analysis of consultation responses

Responses received to the consultation by completing the on-line 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, 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 the same or similar points had been raised by respondents.

3. About the responses

We received nine responses to the consultation including two from stakeholders (listed in **Appendix E**). Eight of the responses were received via the online survey, and one response by email.

3.1 Overview of consultation responses

All responses to the consultation were coded into 43 comments, questions, and suggestions.

Comment	Number
Positive comment	5
Negative comment	26
Suggestion/Question	12
Total	43

We have summarised the comments into the following overarching themes:

Issue	Mentions
Access to the new woodland	10
Agricultural land	3
Car parking and traffic	4
Communications and consultation	1
Design development	3
General positive comments	3
Paths	2
Safety	5
Tree planting and species	5
Users of the new woodland	4
Wildlife	3

3.2 Positive comments

Of the five positive comments most were overarching general comments such as ‘Generally looks good’, ‘It’s all good’, ‘This seems like an exciting development’. Other positive comments were about the inclusion of research trials and some conifer trees which could supply softwood timber in the future.

3.3 Negative comments

Of the 26 negative comments, more than half were about access to the new woodland, car parking, traffic, and safety. Other comments reflected concerns about the use of agricultural land, design development, tree planting and species, users of the new woodland, and wildlife.

Concerns	Mentions
Access to the new woodland	
Concern about access to the new woodland from the public highway	3
Concern about the access route for the general public to access the new woodland	2
Clarify how public access will be provided	1
Concern about maintenance issues related to the access route	1
Agricultural land	
Use of agricultural land	3
Car parking and traffic	
Concern about car parking, causing an obstruction and access to properties	2
Concern about lack of a car park to reduce obstruction on roads and verges	1
Design development	
Lack of scoping of impact on the environment	1
Site unsuitable	2
Safety	
Risks to property security	2
Safety of public along the lanes	3
Tree planting and species	
Dense planting of conifers	1
UK softwood quality will not reduce imports	1
Users of the new woodland	
Dogs should be banned or restricted	2
Wildlife	
Wildlife management, including grey squirrels	1

3.4 Questions & Suggestions

We received thirteen questions and suggestions about the proposals.

The top themes included:

Access to the new woodland
Include appropriate gaps or gates for people with disabilities to access the site, compliant with the British Standard 5709 2018
Suggestion for an alternative access to the new woodland - from the public right of way (Northlew footpath 22) to allow access to the northern part of the woodland
Car parking and traffic
Provision for a small car park to avoid obstruction on roads and verges, or at least to allow this should the need arise
Communications and consultation
Consult the local council regarding non-designated features
Paths
Extend path network to the northern part of the north block
Mark paths throughout the woodland on the plans
Tree planting and species
Design - exclude planting trees in rows for a more natural appearance
Users of the new woodland
Allow horse riding and cyclists
Add a restriction to public access
Wildlife
Clarify deer control and management in relation to public access
Provide an area for frogs near the wet hollow where you enter the gate.

The code frame summarising the comments received to the consultation are included in **Appendix C**.

3.5 Feedback from the consultation drop in event

Over twenty people attended the drop in consultation event at Northlew Victory Hall, Station Rd, Northlew, Okehampton EX20 3NP from 4pm to 7pm. This included two representatives from the Parish Council, a borough councillor and one other councillor. A representative from Devon Countryside Access Forum also attended.

Many of the attendees were generally supportive of the proposals, as displayed on the panels (Image 1; **Appendix A**). There were some questions and concerns expressed.

Key discussion topics included:

Car parking
Suggestion that some car parking provision should be considered, even if just in the bell mouths to the main access points so that two to four cars could park
Access
Position of the access track
Linking with Public Rights of Way
Concern about potential disturbance from visitors to the new woodland
Sheep worrying/disturbance
Suggestion to retain the existing stock fencing near to a farm with sheep
Views
One mention of the loss of a view, but with no major concern given the speed of woodland maturity



Image 1. Information panels at the event at Northlew Victory Hall on Tuesday 10th September

4. Summary of stakeholder responses

We received two stakeholder responses:

1. A confirmation from Historic England that the proposal does not affect any designated archaeological sites, with a recommendation to consult with the Devon County Council historic environment team regarding non-designated features (which was done at consultation stage).

2. A response from Devon Countryside Access Forum with suggestions regarding access and paths.

5. 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 on the following pages.

We have grouped the issues into broad themes for a more readily understood overview of the issues. Many respondents made positive comments about the proposals, all of which have been noted. For conciseness, these have not been included in the report.

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

1. In response to extending the path network to the northern part of the north block, we have marked pedestrian crossing points on the design plans.
2. We have considered accessibility when entering the site and have updated our designs to include inclusive entrances.
3. We have considered a hard standing area for one or two cars and will incorporate informal parking in our designs.

Our responses to the key issues raised are set out in the following themes:

1. Access to the new woodland

1.1 Concerns about access to the new woodland via the public highways

The public highways to East Worth are not substantially different to other roads in the area. While the new woodland will be publicly accessible, we are not actively promoting it as a destination. It has been designed for local people to enjoy the site. We will monitor the situation and discuss with the appropriate bodies.

1.2 Concern about public access from an ‘unadopted’ track which would not be suitable

The ownership of the access route is unknown and has not been adopted as public highway, with Forestry England and others having rights of access over it. Users of the access route will be responsible for the safety of themselves and others. As the site is not being promoted as a destination, we do not anticipate high visitor numbers. Contact details for addressing any ongoing concerns will be provided once the site is open.

We are in separate communication with the property owners that have raised specific detailed concerns about the access arrangements.

1.3 Concern about maintenance issues relating to the ‘unadopted’ track

So that we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to repair and improve the quality of the access route that

leads to the entrance to the site. A hardcore surfaced turning point for our vehicles will be created within the woodland.

1.4 Clarify how public access will be provided and why the site has public access

The site will be Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) dedicated and the public will have the right to access the woodland which is a requirement under the funding received from Defra's Nature for Climate Fund to create the new woodlands. Public access to the site will be along the access route from the western side of the new woods.

1.5 Include appropriate gaps or gates for people with disabilities to access the site, compliant with the British Standard 5709 2018

We will consider adding appropriate gaps or gates for access.

1.6 Provide additional/alternative access to the new woodland, from the public right of way (Northlew footpath 22) to allow access to the northern part of the woodland

This proposed access into the new woodland would cross land that is privately owned and does not connect with the existing public right of way into the new woodlands. In addition, the unsurfaced route along Footpath 22 is circa 600 metres across country and is unlikely to be suitable for all potential users. We will not currently be exploring this option further.

2. Agricultural land

2.1 Use of agricultural land

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 (Agricultural Land Classification grades 1 & 2). The land at East Worth is Agricultural Land Classification grade 4, as per Natural England '[Guide to assessment development proposals on agricultural land](#)' and [Defra Magic Map Application](#).

High land values are likely to prevent woodland creation on the majority of 'best and most versatile land'. There are 8.8 million ha of agricultural land in the England. Statutory tree cover targets require around 0.25 million ha of trees and woodlands to be created or just less than 3% of the total agricultural land resource.

Timber is a crucial material for the UK's economy helping a move away from higher-emission materials like steel, concrete, aluminium and bricks. It is renewable, sustainable, and has a lower carbon footprint, making it essential for environmentally friendly construction.

3. Car parking and traffic

3.1 Concern about car parking, causing an obstruction and access to properties.

We will monitor the situation and consider signs in appropriate locations on our land to discourage parking if necessary.

3.2 Concern about lack of a car park to reduce obstruction on roads and verges and provision for a small car park, or at least to allow this should the need arise.

We have no plans to incorporate a designated parking area. However, we have considered the maintenance of a small hard standing area for a couple of cars and will incorporate informal parking in our designs.

4. Communications and consultation

4.1 Consult local council regarding non-designated features.

The local council have been contacted as part of the consultation process.

5. Design development

5.1 Lack of scoping of impact on the environment.

Any woodland creation projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the environment will require consent from the Forestry Commission, who are the statutory regulators for forestry.

Forestry Environmental Impact Assessments are split into two stages:

Stage 1: apply to the Forestry Commission for its view on whether your project is likely to have a significant effect on the environment

Stage 2: apply to the Forestry Commission for Consent

We are currently working towards a stage 1 application which will include information from this consultation and other surveys and assessments we have undertaken.

5.2 Site unsuitable

We have conducted extensive scoping and on-site surveys to ensure the site's suitability. Using ecological modelling, we have selected appropriate tree species. Our expert foresters are involved throughout the process, assessing soils and determining the most suitable tree species.

We look at multiple sites, and some will be rejected at initial screening stage. We carefully consider the sites that we progress forwards and look at suitability to decide which sites will progress forward. We use Sensitivity Analysis tools ([A guide to Forestry Commission's sensitivity maps for woodland creation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-forestry-commission-sensitivity-maps-for-woodland-creation)) and, as the site at East Worth has low sensitivity, it is highly suited for woodland creation.

6. Paths

6.1 Extend path network to the northern part of the north block.

Crossing points have been added to the designs, and people will have access around the site along the grass rides.

6.2 Mark paths throughout the woodland on the plans.

There will be access into the site which will allow the public to explore the woodland by a series of grass paths. The access and crossing points will be marked on the plan and visitors to the new woodland will be free to walk on the grass paths between the deer fenced areas of the woodland blocks.

7. Safety

7.1 Risks to property and security.

We don't anticipate that large numbers of people will visit the site and that it will be mostly enjoyed by local people visiting the new woodland. We will monitor the situation and work with local residents. Signage with details about how to contact us (including out of hours) will be provided once the site has been opened.

7.2 Safety of public along the lanes.

While the new woodland will be publicly accessible, we are not actively promoting it as a destination. It has been designed for local people to enjoy the site who may be familiar with the local road network. We will consider signs in appropriate locations on our land to highlight road safety should this be necessary. Cookworthy, Circuit (Holsworthy Wood) and Abbeyford nearby are woodlands that provide formal parking facilities for those who wish to visit land managed by Forestry England by car.

8. Tree planting and species

8.1 Dense planting of conifers

The designs include a combination of broadleaves and conifer species. Tree species have been chosen to reflect the bespoke site conditions and changes in the climate and to help ensure the new woodland will continue to sequester carbon. We have applied climate modelling to determine the most appropriate species for the site to meet our objectives.

The design includes a research trial of conifer trees designed by Forest Research to help understand how tree species grow and store carbon in a changing climate. The conifer plantings will have a specific layout for research purposes. These trials will examine how different spacings between trees can affect their growth across a variety of locations and climates.

8.2 Design - exclude row planting for a more natural appearance

As part of our design development, we conducted a Landscape and Visual Appraisal to assess the landscape and visual impact of the proposed new woodland. Our design includes shrubs and broadleaves which provide structural and visual diversity with the height, texture and seasonal colour of the trees. Some areas of the site will be planted in rows which allows for easier access for maintenance including weeding, grass mowing, and felling.

The conifer planting design in the research trial will have different spacings, the appearance will look more varied and natural than a planting with a single spacing. There will be a Sitka spruce trial within the woodland. Many of the trees within the trial area will be planted at wider spacing creating an open woodland structure and allowing them

to develop a full and attractive crown. At the edges of the research area, we will be planting broadleaf shrubs and trees to create a gentle feathered edge.

8.3 UK softwood quality will not reduce imports

We are experts in selecting optimal sites and cultivating spruce plantations that meet both British and international standards for structural timber. Each site is meticulously assessed for soil type, depth, moisture regime, exposure, elevation, and mean annual temperatures, ensuring they are ideally suited for spruce growth.

While we will remain import-dependent for the foreseeable future, maintaining a robust domestic supply supports the local timber industry (including felling, haulage, and processing) and provides a buffer against currency fluctuations, especially when the pound is weak, and imports become expensive.

There are many types of products, aside from structural timber, which can be seen in this [‘timber and the uses of wood’](#) webpage.

For further information please see [Forestry Facts & Figures 2024](#).

9. Users of the new woodland

9.1 Allow horse riding and cyclists

The new woodland at East Worth will give local people a quieter area to enjoy, away from the busier woodlands. We have no plans to introduce horse riding, cycling or carriage riding specific infrastructure or paths.

9.2 Dogs should be banned or restricted

The new woodlands will be open to the public. 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. Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodlands, but we won't put a fence around the whole woodland. Dog owners must be responsible and keep their pets under control in all the forests and woodland we care for, following signs and our [Forest Dog Code](#).

9.3 Add a restriction to public access

We are not able to add a restriction to public access; the new woodland will be accessible for the public to enjoy.

10. Wildlife

10.1 Clarify deer control and management in relation to public access.

We will be fencing compartments (individual woodland blocks surrounded by grass rides) to protect from deer and hare browsing of the saplings. The fencing will go around the area of trees. Visitors to the new woodland will be free to walk on the grass paths between the deer fenced areas of the woodland blocks. To avoid instances where gate failures lead to deer getting into the new woodland and damaging the young trees, we do not install gates in deer fencing unless it is an existing right of way. Once the trees are established, the deer fence will be taken down, allowing people to explore the whole site. Deer management will follow the guidance in the [UK Forestry Standard](#)³.

10.2 Provide an area for frogs near the wet hollow where you enter the gate.

We are including riparian planting and will retain the pond to encourage amphibian species. We are unable to make changes that are outside the boundary of our ownership. We are providing new scrapes to the northern area of the site which will benefit amphibians, and we will look for further opportunities at the new site.

10.3 Wildlife management, including grey squirrels.

Forests may be subject to damage or degradation from grazing or browsing mammals, particularly when trees are at the establishment stage. The forest manager will monitor damage and decide whether intervention is necessary.

References:

¹ United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021: Theme 2:UK Food Supply Sources- GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

² [Forestry Facts & Figures 2024](http://forestresearch.gov.uk) (forestresearch.gov.uk)

³ UK Forestry Standard 5th Edition available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>

Appendix A: Consultation information



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland at East Worth, West Devon

We are planting new woodlands to expand the nation's forests

We are working on designs for a new woodland at East Worth, West Devon, approximately 1/2 mile north of the village of Northlew. We would like your comments and feedback on our initial proposals. Your feedback will inform our final designs for the woodland.

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 rural economy. And they'll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and combating flooding.

Forestry England is creating these woodlands through the Nature for Climate Fund.

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





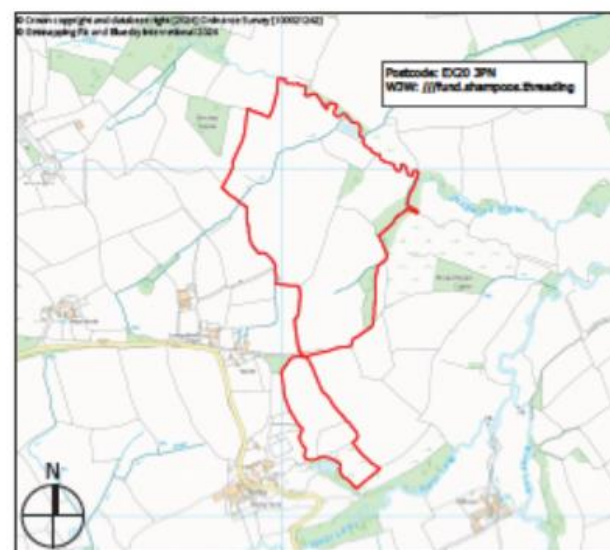
Site Location & Wider Context

The proposed new woodland is next to the village of Norley, approximately 1/2 mile north of the village of Northlew and 6 miles northwest of the town of Okehampton.

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. Heavy poorly-drained soil supports a pastoral landscape. Typical of this area are distinctive culm grasslands¹ with uncommon plant communities such as purple moor grass.

There is little tree cover on the plateau of this character area, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow, farmstead trees and conifer blocks. Broadleaf woodland is more frequent in the shelter of the valleys. A mosaic of field patterns reflects the historic land use of the Culm.

¹ grasslands characterised by species-rich grass and herb communities which grow on shallow lime-rich soils





The existing site

The site is mostly pasture farmland with medium sized fields and managed hedgerows with mature broadleaf hedgerow trees. There are a few small broadleaf woodland copses and ribbons of broadleaf woodland following streams within and around the site. The general landform is undulating with limited height for viewing points. High hedgerows and winding roads limit views of the site from a distance. These features coalesce to give the appearance of a heavily wooded landscape

Habitats on site comprise mostly modified grassland¹, with a small area of neutral grassland² at the southern end of the site. There is riparian³ woodland, trees and scrub along Wagafor Water. Historic maps show areas of Culm grassland running along the northern boundary of the northern block (Wagafor Water) and the southern end of the southern block.

- ¹ vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils
- ² vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of neutral soils usually with a pH of between 4.5 and 6.5
- ³ relating to or situated on the bank of a river

Photos: 1. View north from entrance to northern part of the site. 2. View of the southern field from farm gateway to the south. 3. View south from within the southern field. 4. Open ditch within the site. 5. View north from within the site.



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 guide our design. These include:

- 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 diverse and resilient woodland: plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of certified sustainable timber.



Improve connections between woodlands: connect adjacent woodlands to improve habitats. Maintain hedges and create open spaces within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.



Extend and improve riparian (riverside) woodland: include riparian buffers and wetland scrapes along Wagaforde Water and other watercourses within the site.



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



Capture carbon from the atmosphere: support net zero emissions strategies by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios.



Include Sitka spruce research trial: to better understand how trees produce timber and capture carbon in a changing climate.

Tree species we could plant



English oak with hornbeam, rowan, alder and small leaved lime



Scots pine with western red cedar, coast redwood, lycamore and hornbeam



Sitka spruce climate matching/resilience trial and spacing trial



Riparian buffers with willow, alder, black poplar and aspen



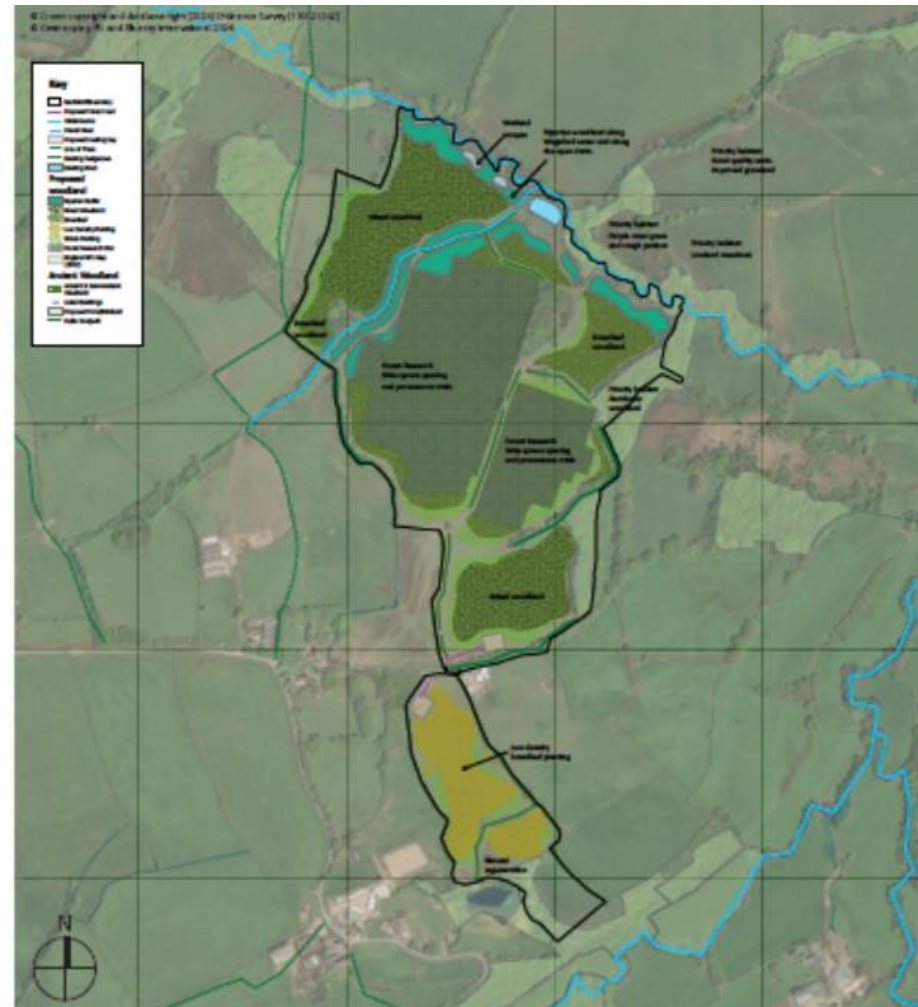
Shrubs including hawthorn, wild cherry, field maple, crab apple and hazel

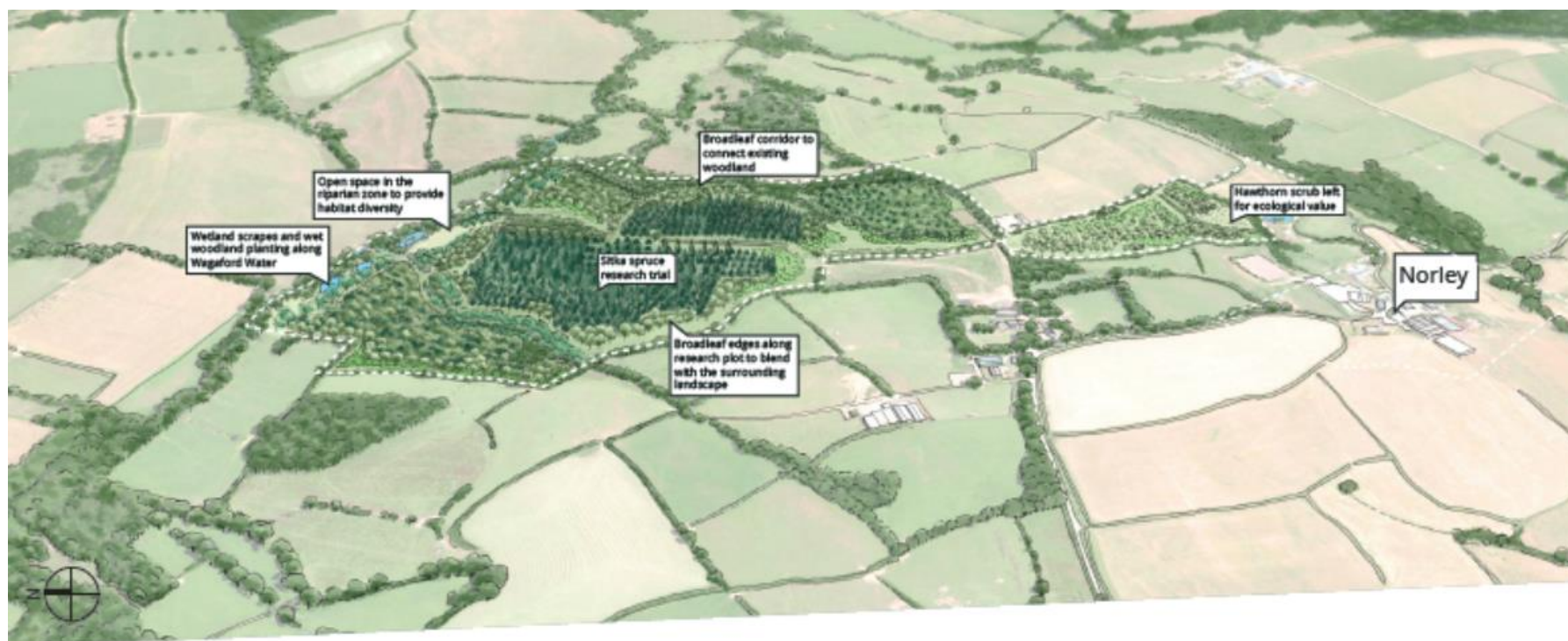


Sessile oak with Scots pine, western red cedar, coast redwood, hornbeam and small leaved lime



Wild Cherry with wych elm, rowan and sessile oak





How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Include a research trial for Sitka spruce to improve our understanding of how this species will grow and capture carbon in a changing climate. The trial will look at how different spacings between the trees can affect their growth. Sitka spruce is our most commercially important timber species and this trial will help us to estimate more accurately how timber and carbon is stored in British woodlands.
- Run a tree breeding trial to find the different types of Sitka spruce that can best resist pests, diseases and drought.
- Plant a 20m buffer of riparian/wet woodland species such as alder, willow and aspen along Wagafor Water and 10m of wet woodland species along the open drain through the site.
- Include wetland scrapes and open space to extend and improve the existing riparian habitat.
- Create open corridors by providing buffers around hedgerows. Along these open spaces we will be planting shrubs at the edges of the woodland to create areas for wildlife to thrive.
- Plant broadleaves in the southern field and retain areas of hawthorn scrub where the benefit to wildlife has been identified.
- Connect existing areas of broadleaf woodland in and around the site by creating broadleaf corridors.



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/eastworth-consult>

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

All views should be received by midnight on Sunday 15th September.

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 2024/25)

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





Forestry England

A Coronation Wood at East Worth - 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 East Worth. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

Public access

The new woodland at East Worth will be open to the public and our focus will be on providing a quiet space for local people to enjoy without significantly increasing car traffic. Our proposal does not include public parking.

There will be pedestrian access to the new woodland via the existing track leading into the site which will allow people to explore the new woodland. There is no plan to include surfaced trails, cycling or horse riding specific infrastructure.

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 forests and woodlands we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

Design, landscape and views

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and closeness to nearby properties.

We are doing ecology and habitat surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems at East Worth 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 East Worth aims to:

- Create a diverse and resilient woodland: provides a lasting supply of certified sustainable timber.
- Improve connections between woodlands: connect adjacent woodlands to improve habitats. Maintain hedges and create open spaces within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.
- Extend and improve riparian (riverside) woodland: include riparian buffers and wetland scrapes along Wagesford Water and other watercourses within the site.
- Provide public access for health and wellbeing: provide low key recreation opportunities by improving access to the countryside.
- Capture carbon from the atmosphere: support net zero emissions strategies by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios.
- Include Sitka spruce research trial: to better understand how trees produce timber and capture carbon in a changing climate.

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 nearby properties have views towards the woodland, we will plant more shrubs and broadleaves to provide structural and visual diversity with the height, texture and seasonal colour of the trees. The southern part of the site will be planted with broadleaves and shrubs only, with some areas of open space. This will provide a visual connection to existing areas of woodland as well as providing valuable habitat.

There will be a Sitka spruce research trial within the woodland. Many of the trees within the trial area will be planted at wider spacing creating an open woodland structure and

allowing them to develop a full and attractive crown. At the edges of the research area we will be planting broadleaf shrubs and trees to create a gentle feathered edge.

There will be an open buffer along good quality hedgerows often with adjacent shrub planting providing grassy paths for people to walk along.

Along Wagesford Water there will be a 20m riparian buffer zone planted with wet woodland tree species such as willow and alder at wider spacing and we may include some scrapes for additional habitat. There will also be a 10m riparian buffer along the open ditch through the site.

Where there is existing broadleaf woodland we will plant connecting broadleaf woodland corridors.

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 in mixtures and single-species areas, 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.

Following the UK Forestry Standard's advice, we will include riparian (riverside) buffers next to rivers, ponds and other areas of water. Over time these will develop into a network of wet woodland corridors. The design will improve the habitat for species such as the willow tit and at the same time improve the water quality and increase the storage of floodwater.

Species at East Worth will include conifers such as Scots pine, western red cedar, coast redwood, and broadleaves such as oak, hornbeam, wych elm, small leaved lime, sycamore, willows, aspen, alder, rowan, wild cherry and hawthorn.

The Research trial consists of Sitka spruce.

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, local contractors and the Forest Research Technical Support Unit. So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to repair and improve the quality of the unadopted track that leads to the entrance to the site. A hardcore surfaced turning point for our vehicles will be created within the woodland.

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 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 no longer present in the UK. 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 to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in smaller areas. 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 [here](#).

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

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

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





Forestry England

A Coronation Wood at East Worth - 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 East Worth. Here are our responses to the key themes and questions people raised.

What research trials are you planning?

We are setting up a series of research trials to help understand how our native and commercial tree species grow and store carbon in a changing climate. These trials will look at how different spacings between trees can affect their growth across a variety of locations and climates. Over future decades, we will study how well Sitka spruce (our most commercially important timber species) survive, grow and produce timber at East Worth. The data we collect will help us estimate more accurately how much timber and carbon is stored in British woodland and guide our future plans for reducing carbon and net zero strategies.

We are also running a tree-breeding trial. We will test different types of Sitka spruce to find the ones that can best resist pests, diseases and drought. This will help us identify nursery plants that are best suited for the various weather conditions across the UK.

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 provide 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 given the UK currently imports over 80% of its [timber](#).

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.

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

Capture carbon from the atmosphere: support net zero emissions strategies by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios.

Include Sitka spruce research trial: to better understand how trees produce timber and capture carbon in a changing climate.

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Following the UK Forestry Standard's advice, we will include riparian (riverside) buffers

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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.

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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.

¹ Forestry Facts and Figures 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Forestry England

Your views on new woodlands

Public consultation event
on our proposed designs for
a new woodland near East
Worth

Tuesday 10th September - 4pm to 7pm
Northlew Victory Hall, Station Road,
Northlew, Devon, EX20 3NP

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/eastworth-consult>



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

forestryengland.uk

[New woodland at East Worth | Forestry England](#)



[Visit](#) [Things to do](#) [Forestry and wildlife](#) [Support us](#) [Membership](#) [About us](#)



New woodland at East Worth



Growing the nation's forests

Forestry England are creating a new Coronation Wood at East Worth, in Devon, to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The 29.8 hectare woodland is near the village of Northlew. The woodland will be open for informal public access for local people to enjoy alongside thriving wildlife and sustainably-grown timber.

Work in progress at East Worth

The new woodland will be a valuable place for timber, wildlife and local communities. The land will be planted with tree species chosen to match local soil types and expected future climate conditions. The landscape design will aim to improve the site for nature conservation.

We are creating detailed plans for the new woodland. The woodland at East Worth will be an important part of the work that Forestry England are doing to expand the nation's forests as part of the Nature for Climate Fund.

East Worth public consultation

We invite you to comment on our draft design proposals for the new woodland. You can comment online until Sunday 15 September. We will be holding a public drop-in event in September - find out more on our [consultation page](#).

For any further queries please contact us by emailing woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk.

[View the plans »](#)

Appendix B: Consultation questionnaire

Our proposals for a new woodland near East Worth Overview

Forestry England would like to share with you draft plans for the new proposed new Coronation wood near East Worth.

Why your views matter

Your feedback, as well as site surveys, will help shape the design proposal for how the new woodland near East Worth could look. Forestry England value your comments and feedback on our proposals.

Full details are available to view and respond to until Sunday 15th September at <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult>

Introduction

Thank you for taking part in this consultation for future woodland at East Worth. You can submit information without completing the name and email details, but if you chose to do so they will be held by Forestry England as per our privacy policy which can be found at <https://www.forestryengland.uk/privacy>.

Your details

What is your name?

What is your address?

What is your postcode?

What is your email address?

Are you responding as: *Please select all that apply*

- ☐ A local resident
- ☐ A local business
- ☐ A political representative
- ☐ Other stakeholder: please name below

Do you have any comments about our proposals?

Please use this space to add any feedback on our proposed plans

- ◆ Please tick this box if you would like to be alerted when the results of this consultation are published.

Appendix C: Code frame

Theme	Total Mentions
Access to the new woodland	10
Concern about access to the new woodland from the public highway	3
Access from a road which would not be suitable	2
Clarify how public access will be provided	1
Include appropriate gaps or gates for people with disabilities to access the site, compliant with the British Standard 5709 2018	1
Suggestion for alternative/additional access to the new woodland, from the public right of way (Northlew footpath 22) to allow access to the northern part of the woodland	2
Concern about maintenance issues related to the unadopted road	1
Agricultural land	3
Use of agricultural land	3
Car parking and traffic	4
Concern about car parking, causing an obstruction and access to properties	2
Concern/suggestion regarding lack of/provision for a car park to reduce obstruction on roads and verges	2
Communications and consultation	1
Consult local council regarding non-designated features	1
Design development	3
Lack of scoping of impact on the environment	1
Site unsuitable	2
General positive comments	3
General positive comments	3
Paths	2
Extend path network to the northern part of the north block	1
Mark paths throughout the woodland on the plans	1
Safety	5
Risks to property and security	2
Safety of public along the lanes	3
Tree planting and species	5
Dense planting of conifers	1
Design - exclude row planting for a more natural appearance	1
Inclusion of conifer trees which could supply softwood timber in the future	1
Inclusion of research trials	1

UK softwood quality will not reduce imports	1
Users of the new woodland	4
Allow horse riding and cyclists	1
Dogs should be banned or restricted	2
Add a restriction to public access	1
Wildlife	3
Clarify deer control and management in relation to public access. Explain 'least restrictive access'.	1
Provide an area for frogs near the wet hollow where you enter the gate	1
Wildlife management, including grey squirrels	1

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

From: Woodland Creation
Sent: 19 August 2024 09:05
Subject: Public consultation on draft proposals for East Worth Coronation Wood

Dear neighbour,

Public consultation on draft design proposals for a new woodland at East Worth

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

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 until midnight 15 September at : <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-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 10 September **Time:** 4.00pm – 7.00pm **Location:** Northlew Victory Hall, Station Road, Northlew, EX20 3NP

The new woodland at East Worth will be one of many that Forestry England is planting and will form part of wider plans 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 19 August to 15 September 2024

Online: We encourage you submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views here: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult/>

If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email, typing 'East Worth' 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 15 September 2024. 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



[REDACTED]

From: Woodland Creation
Sent: 19 August 2024 09:35
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: East Worth - Letter 5 – Parish Councils, responded to early engagement or no response to early engagement (individual)
Attachments: New woodland at East Worth event poster.pdf

Dear Northlew Parish Council,

Public consultation on draft design proposals for a new woodland at East Worth

We recently contacted you about our early engagement on plans for a new woodland at East Worth

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

These are available to view and comment upon here: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/eastworth-consult/> until midnight on the 15 September 2024.

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.

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The Woodland Creation Team
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Appendix E: Stakeholders contacted

Stakeholder
Direct neighbours and businesses
Butterfly Conservation
Devon County Councils (including County Archaeologist, Highways, Development)
Devon Countryside Access Forum
Devon Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Historic England
Local Councillors (Devon County Councillor & West Devon Borough Ward Councillors)
Local Member of Parliament - Central Devon Constituency
National Farmers Union
Natural England
Northlew Parish Council
RSPB Exeter Group
Utilities (various)

Appendix F: Stakeholder responses

We received public consultation responses from the stakeholders listed below:

- Devon Countryside Access Forum
- Historic England

In addition, we received consultation responses from Natural England at an early stage in the consultation process, and from Northlew Parish Council within the early engagement consultation.