

Hagworthingham Wood: a new woodland in Hagworthingham, Lincolnshire

Consultation report and our response to key issues raised

July 2026



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1. Executive summary

Between 15 April and 17 May, we held a consultation on proposals for the designs of a new woodland, called Hagworthingham Wood, on land we recently purchased at Hagworthingham in Lincolnshire.

This report focuses on the feedback we received to the consultation and our response to the key issues raised.

We received 84 responses to the consultation. Whilst we received many broadly supportive comments, some highlighted concerns, and others raised questions and made suggestions.

After carefully considering the responses, further design work, and in response to consultation feedback, we have updated our proposed designs for the new woodland to include the following:

- We have ensured the buffers along the watercourses comply with UKFS standards
- Shown the boundary of the Hagworthingham Meadow Local Wildlife Site on the design
- Updated the alignment of the forest road to the north east of the site

Further amendments will be considered in the design pending:

- Feedback from the breeding bird survey
- Discussions with the Lincolnshire County Council Public Rights of Way team

We will shortly be applying 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 102-hectare woodland on land we have purchased at Hagworthingham in Lincolnshire. The new woodland, which we will call Hagworthingham Wood, will be planted with mixed conifer and broadleaf trees, specially selected to be resilient to future climate conditions.

The new woodland will be open to the public for people to explore and enjoy, whilst also being a valuable place for wildlife and producing sustainable timber for a greener 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 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 Objectives of the new woodland

Our objectives for the new woodland are:

- **Future forest resources and resilience:** plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of sustainable timber.
- **Thriving habitats for wildlife:** create a mosaic of habitats including areas of wet woodland to enhance biodiversity of this part of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- **Public access for health and wellbeing:** create low-key public recreation opportunities with new green space for people to walk in the woodland.
- **Benefits for the wider landscape:** capture carbon, supporting net-zero emissions targets.
- **Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape:** support delivery of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape by increasing public access and woodland cover.

2.3 Consultation purpose

The aims of the consultation were to:

- Provide the public and our stakeholders with sufficient information about our proposals to allow them to give informed responses and suggestions.

- Understand the reasons for any issues or concerns about our proposals.
- Identify any 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.

2.4 Early engagement

Between, 19 November and 10 December 2025, we sent letters to 250 addresses within 1.5 km of the boundary of the proposed new woodland on land at Hagworthingham. The letters included a map showing the boundary of the new woodland and invited people to share their thoughts, through an online survey, on what should be considered as we develop our designs for the new woodland.

We also sent emails, with a copy of the letter, advising local elected representatives about the local engagement that was taking place within the areas they represent. These included:

- Victoria Atkins MP - Louth and Horncastle Ward
- Parish councils of Hagworthingham and Aswardly
- District Ward councillors, East Lindsey Council, and County Ward councillor for the Louth Wolds Division

We received 58 responses, including responses from immediate neighbours, local businesses and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

2.5 Feedback to early engagement

Overall, feedback showed strong community support for the woodland project, which is widely seen as a valuable asset. There is clear appreciation for its sustainable land use, particularly in comparison to alternatives such as solar farms.

The suggestions and comments we received have been summarised below:

1. Planting and design

Develop a biodiverse, climate-resilient woodland using a varied mix of predominantly native broadleaf species suited to local soils, avoiding monoculture and removing non-native plants.

Include core species such as oak, ash, willow, alder, beech, hazel, sweet chestnut and walnut, alongside understorey planting like bluebells and wildflowers, and introduce scarcer species such as small-leaved lime, as well as mosses and lichens.

Design wide, regularly managed rides and create habitat corridors along access tracks using native trees, shrubs or coppice to support wildlife and improve

connectivity with nearby green spaces (e.g. Snipe Dales). Incorporate diverse habitats, wetlands and ponds, and consider innovations such as inoculated saplings for truffle production.

Consider the balance of conifer to broadleaf species, buffer zones, fire precautions and privacy for neighbouring properties.

2. Wildlife habitat

Support wildlife by installing bird and bat boxes and maintaining areas of open habitat for species such as skylark. Encourage a broad range of biodiversity, including butterflies, bees, pollinators and birds of prey, as well as mammals like hedgehogs. Put in place a robust, long-term management plan for species such as squirrels and deer, with adequate resourcing, and explore partnership working with organisations such as the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to maximise shared benefits.

3. Access and recreation

Provide inclusive, multi-use recreational spaces by incorporating open grass areas for informal sports such as rounders and cricket, alongside amenities such as a café or meeting space. Create a welcoming environment with dog-friendly walking routes, waste bins, seating and picnic areas, while ensuring full accessibility for disabled users, mobility scooters, cyclists and equestrian use, including carriage drivers. Include features such as bird hides and spaces for activities like yoga, gong sessions and parkrun.

4. Community and education

Provide education and community engagement opportunities by developing a forest school, nature trails, information boards and play areas for children. Encourage strong local involvement through volunteering opportunities, helping to build community ownership and ongoing stewardship of the site.

5. Local businesses and woodland users

Explore opportunities to support sustainable land use and local enterprise by considering low-impact accommodation such as bell tents and specialist planting like truffle-inoculated trees. Enable managed access for local farmers, including the potential introduction of livestock within the woodland, and create opportunities for traditional woodland management practices such as coppicing to support skills, employment and habitat diversity.

6. Paths and access

Design a clear network of accessible paths suitable for all users, including those with mobility needs, while considering whether areas of open access should be allowed for informal exploration. Improve access and connectivity by creating paths to join existing footpaths and creating circular routes.

7. Parking and access

Suggestions about parking provision were mixed, with some support for providing this as long as it is carefully planned, including suggestions for locating parking at the top end of Harrington Road, while one response opposed it. There were also concerns that creating access from the A158 could pose a traffic hazard and should be avoided or carefully managed.

8. Boundary treatments and fencing

Provide more information about fencing and boundary treatments, particularly where neighbouring properties are adjacent to the new woodland.

9. Views

The woodland design should be sensitive to its setting within the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB by carefully considering landscape character and protecting important views. Concerns about potential impacts on existing scenic views, such as those along the footpath between Hagworthingham and Aswardby, as well as from neighbouring properties, should be minimised through thoughtful layout and management of tree heights.

10. Environmental impacts

Consider impacts on watercourses and surface water, with a recommendation that Forestry England contributes to wider flood mitigation to protect downstream farms and communities.

Avoid the use of plastic tree guards by exploring more sustainable alternatives, such as biodegradable wood or cardboard sheathing to avoid microplastic pollution.

11. Deer and squirrels

Put in place a robust deer and squirrel management plan, potentially in partnership with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, alongside appropriate fencing to help reduce risks on nearby roads such as the A158 and Harrington Road.

2.6 Who we consulted - public consultation

Our public consultation on the draft design proposals for the new woodland 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 local area, as well as stakeholders (officers and elected local ward members) from Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey Council, and wildlife interest groups such as Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Butterfly Conservation, Bat Conservation, and the Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Project.

We also told the statutory stakeholders we consult with when creating a new woodland, including Natural England, Historic England, Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape and the Environment Agency.

The list of stakeholders we contacted is included in **Appendix F**.

2.7 Dates and duration

The consultation for the new woodland was open for just over four weeks from 15 April to 17 May 2026.

2.8 What we asked

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

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 website, is included in **Appendix C**.

2.9 Methods of responding

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

- Completing the questionnaire included on our consultation portal at <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/hagworthinghamw>
- Giving comments by email to Woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk
- Leaving comments at the public consultation drop in event at Stockwith Mill, Harrington Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, PE23 4NE on Thursday 30th April from 4pm - 7pm.
- Feedback received at the drop in event is summarised separately in section 3.6 of this report.

2.10 Consultation materials and publicity

2.10.1 Consultation materials

The consultation materials published on our website and available to view in person at our consultation drop in event included:

- An overview of Forestry England's Woodland Creation Programme and tree planting objectives.
- A site appraisal, with photographs and maps to give context.

- An overview of the surveys undertaken and our objectives and principles, which have informed our design proposals for the new woodland.
- An overview of different tree and shrub species 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.

2.10.2 Consultation activity

We publicised the consultation in the following ways:

- **Media release:** distributed to local news outlets.
- **Dedicated webpage:** on the Forestry England website at: www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation-hagworthingham
- **Citizen space consultation portal:** <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/hagworthinghamw>
- **Emails:** to local residents.
- **Letters/emails:** to stakeholders.
- **Posters and leaflets:** a poster publicising the consultation and drop in event was put up in several locations near the site. Posters were also shared with the local parish councils for inclusion on their noticeboards/websites and leaflets were posted through letterboxes to promote the consultation.
- **Consultation drop-in event:** Our drop in event at Stockwith Mill on Thursday 30 April, displayed the information already published on the website on large posters around the venue and Forestry England staff were available for people to talk to about the proposals, answer questions or queries, and listen to any concerns.

Those attending the event were also encouraged to leave immediate feedback on the comments board and to respond to the consultation formally via the online survey, by email, or by completing a hard copy of the consultation questionnaire. We also asked attendees to leave their contact details if they would like to be kept updated about the proposals.

2.10.3 Analysis of consultation responses

Consultation responses 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 comments or suggestions, and concerns/negative comments.

Each code reflects a point raised by 1 or more 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.

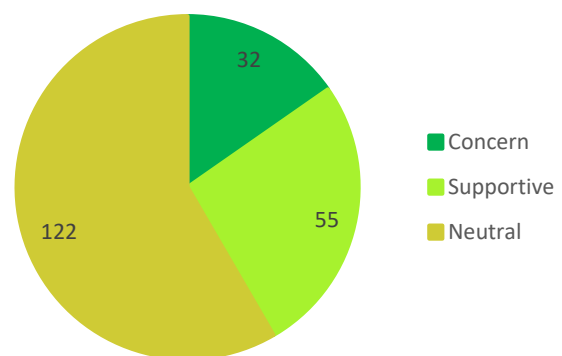
3. Consultation feedback

3.1 Consultation response overview

We received 84 individual responses during the consultation period. 75 responses were from local residents, and nine were from stakeholder organisations. Whilst some responses contained broadly positive supportive comments for the new woodland, some raised concerns and others asked questions or raised comments that were neutral in sentiment. The responses were categorised into 209 comments by sentiment and theme.

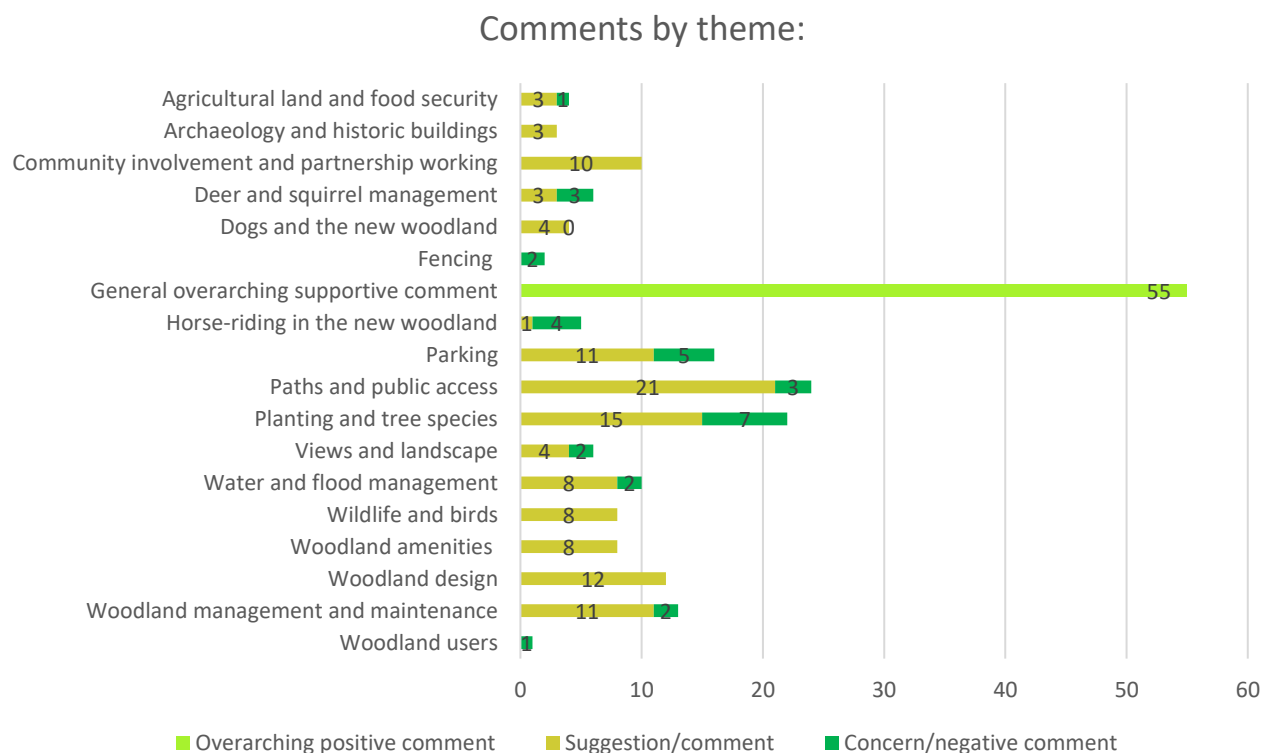
A full list of stakeholder organisations contacted is available to view in Appendix F. The organisations that responded were:

- Lincolnshire County Council
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Historic Environment
 - Trees and Woodland Creation
- Historic England
- Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (on behalf of Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- National Farmers Union



3.2 Consultation response by theme

The responses were categorised into themes and sub-categorised into concern, question, or comment/suggestion:

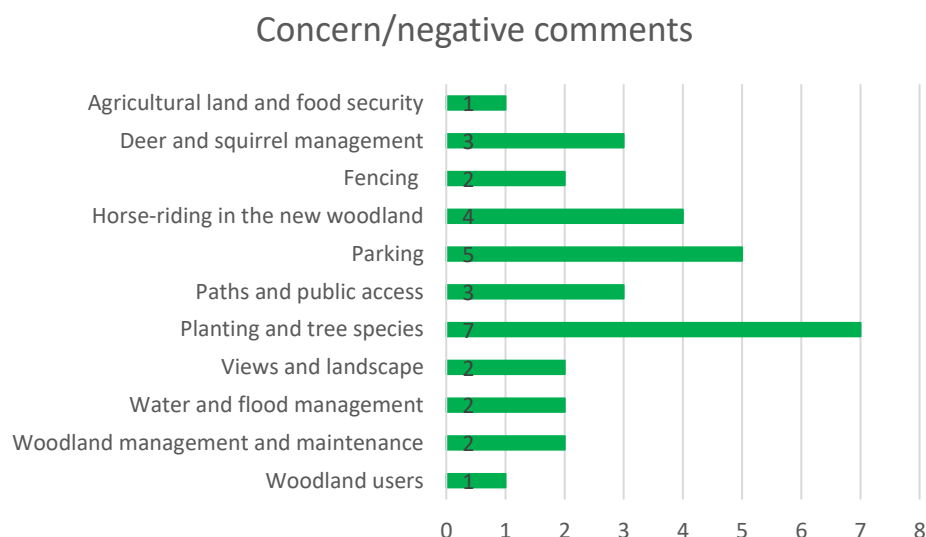


3.3 Supportive comments

We received 55 general overarching positive/supportive comments. These included: 'I love the idea of this, my wife and I enjoy walking in the local area and this would be a great new area to explore in the future!'. 'This is such an important and exciting project which will only add to the beauty of this countryside'. 'I would support any additional woodland in Lincolnshire'. 'The massive benefits to the local ecosystem enhancing and encouraging wildlife to thrive and support the balance of the new woodland is immeasurable.'

3.4 Concerns/negative comments

We received 32 negative comments/concerns. The most mentioned concerns related to planting and tree species, lack of parking provision and horse-riding.



Agricultural land and food security (1)

Concern about food security and the use of former farming land for woodland - historically part of the site has supported agricultural land.

Deer and squirrel management (3)

Concern that deer fencing in the woodland may displace growing deer populations.

Fencing (2)

Concerns about the potential impact of fencing on wildlife and request for details on the type of fencing proposed. There is also concern about a potential increase in deer collisions on the A158, with a suggestion to include fencing or hedging—at least initially—to help deter deer crossings in this area.

Horse-riding (4)

Concern that horse-riding trails will not be included in the new woodland and concern about increasingly fast roads and safety.

Parking (5)

Concerns about the lack of car parking and how this could lead to inappropriate parking in farm yards, gateways and on narrow lanes which could cause obstructions and pose safety risks.

Paths and public access (3)

Concern about the potential increase in visitors to the area and the resulting impact on nearby farmers, particularly in terms of road use and disruption to farm operations. There is also concern about the possible enclosure of an existing footpath, highlighting the need to maintain a clear, continuous and accessible route, alongside ensuring paths are suitable for all users.

Planting and tree species (7)

Key concerns included the use of non-native or unsuitable species (with a specific reference to Macedonian pine and Scots pine planted in groups) and a suggestion to avoid the use of conifers. There was also a concern about the proximity of planting close to a neighbouring property and the use of plastic tree tubes.

Views and landscape (2)

Key concerns highlighted a preference to preserve the open character of the Wolds rather than plant trees and the potential loss of views, particularly from the public right of way over the Lymn Valley.

Water and flood management (2)

The Spilsby Sandstone groundwater body is in poor condition due to over-abstraction, and therefore new licences to abstract groundwater in this area are unlikely to be permitted.

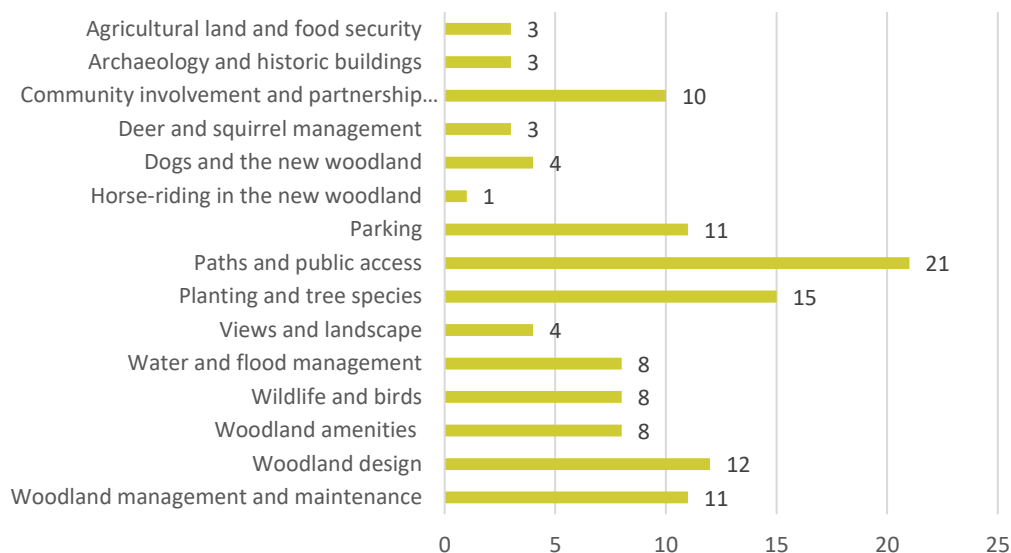
Woodland maintenance (2)

Concern that a long-term maintenance plan for the new woodland will be essential to ensure the successful woodland establishment. Ongoing maintenance will also be essential to ensure the new grass rides linking to Public Rights of Way will remain accessible.

3.5 Questions, comments and suggestions

In addition to the 55 general positive comments (see section 3.3), we received a further 122 comments, questions and suggestions

Suggestions, comments, questions



All feedback is included in the code frame in Appendix E.

Key comments within each theme included:

Agricultural land and food security (3)

Suggestion that there is a need to balance woodland creation with the protection of agricultural land for food production and a request for further information about the quality of land being lost and how land suitability for woodland creation is assessed.

Archaeology and historic buildings (3)

Further surveys are recommended to identify any historical or archaeological features and to inform appropriate mitigation measures. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, with evidence such as cropmarks, trackways and features of possible Roman origin, so engagement with Forestry England heritage experts and Lincolnshire County Council archaeological specialists is advised.

Community involvement and partnership working (10)

Key comments suggested opportunities for partnership and collaboration, including involving the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, collaborating with the Chalk Stream Project, and working with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. There is also an interest in volunteering and educational opportunities and a suggestion that local land holdings could provide locally sourced green hay for land restoration at the woodland site.

Deer and squirrel management (3)

Comments highlighted the importance of effective deer and squirrel management to support successful woodland establishment and suggestions that Forestry

England should take a proactive lead in taking a landscape approach to manage deer populations.

Dogs and the new woodland (4)

Provide dog-friendly paths and locate new scrapes away from main pedestrian routes to help protect wildlife from disturbance by dogs.

Horse-riding and the new woodland (1)

Suggestion to include horse-riding provision by creating safe access routes from Raithby Road, linking to the wider bridleway network around Bag Enderby, Hagworthingham and Harrington.

Paths and public access (21)

Suggestions to maintain existing footpaths so they remain usable and uninterrupted during and after woodland establishment, with specific suggestions for connecting to existing footpaths - for example public footpath 211, Stockwith Mill, public footpath 45, and the National Cycle Network, and to consider future land acquisition to expand access opportunities. Additional route suggestions included a path to the highest point in the woodland, a public footbridge over the stream and ensuring an adequate width (e.g. 5m) where existing footpaths paths run within woodland rides.

Parking (11)

Suggestions to include a small car park, specific suggestions for the location of a car park and a request for information about how visitor access and potential impacts will be managed. If a car park is not included in the final design, it was suggested that signage should be provided to direct visitors to suitable nearby parking locations.

Planting and tree species (15)

Suggestions to retain natural willow and grassland areas, with recommendations to leave features like gorse slopes, boggy ground and river habitats unplanted, and to carry out further habitat mapping to identify possible unclassified fen habitat.

Respondents also sought clarity on the woodland's objectives. Tree species suggestions included retaining a limited number of standard trees such as oak, and an interest in the potential reintroduction of elm. Additional points note that the SHINE may be larger than currently mapped, no peat is present, and impacts on existing priority habitats within the site are expected to be minimal.

Natural England indicated that the proposed woodland is unlikely to significantly affect nearby designated sites, including Mavis Enderby Valley SSSI, although several local wildlife sites are in close proximity, particularly Hagworthingham Meadow.

Views and landscape (4)

Retain views from the Wold and plant sensitively where these exist as well as views over the Lymn Valley from the public rights of way. Suggestion to leave viewpoints where possible with a specific suggestion to leave a Knoll at the bottom of the valley free from planting.

Wildlife and birds (8)

Confirmation from Natural England that the proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on any non-woodland breeding waders, and that water vole and brown hare are present on the site but unlikely to be affected.

Suggestion that because there are badger setts on the site, advice should be sought from the Badger Trust on how best to avoid their disturbance. Suggestion to explore the possibility of restoring the pond in the Deciduous Woodland (DWOOD) area, creating south-facing bee banks for mining bees before planting, and including wide rides through the woodland to support flora, insects and butterflies.

Water and flood management (8)

Comments included confirmation from the Environment Agency that the site is within both surface water and groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. Any impact on flows or channel shape is unlikely to affect downstream features or activities. Suggestion to undertake a water use assessment, supported by modelling, and confirmation that an abstraction licence will be needed if water use exceeds 20 m³ per day. Suggestion that the project should take account of previous work by the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council on the River Lymn and local chalk streams, and consider adding ponds along the stream that feeds into the River Lymn to support biodiversity.

Woodland amenities (8)

Suggestions for the inclusion of waste bins, a sculpture trail, signage and interpretation boards and public seating.

Woodland design (12)

Suggestions to include open spaces, rides and edge habitat in the new woodland, retain existing scrub and grassland areas and include small pockets of coppice species in discrete small areas. Suggestions also suggested the inclusion of specific buffers including around the Local Nature Site, the DWOOD area and tree drip-lines.

Woodland management (11)

The most mentioned comment was the need for a long-term management plan for the new woodland as well as the active management of existing scrub, grassland and to maintain access where grass rides join with public footpaths. Other

suggestions included minimising herbicide use in favour of mechanical methods, ensuring any necessary Environment Agency permissions are obtained for herbicide use near watercourses and exploring rotational coppicing to reduce management costs.

The code frames summarising the comments received to the consultation are included in **Appendix E**.

3.6 Feedback from the consultation drop in event

Over 50 people attended the event which displayed the information already published on the consultation website on large posters around the venue. Forestry England staff were on hand to talk about the proposals, answer questions and listen to any concerns from those attending.

Attendees were also encouraged to leave immediate feedback on sticky notes on the comments board. Many of the comments mirrored those also received from the formal consultation responses. The comments are summarised below:

Parking (2)

- Include parking - you underestimate the popularity of the Wolds
- Consider enlarging the small parking area on Harrington Road

Horse riding (3)

- Concern there is no provision for horse riders
- Provide horse-riding access

Footpaths and access (2)

- Pathway to link other footpaths safely via Harrington Road
- Access for mobility scooters

Signage (1)

- Include interpretation boards

Trees (4)

- Alders along the river are dying
- Consider planting in small areas those species that would coppice eg small leaved lime, hazel, sycamore, sweet chestnut & hornbeam, in small areas all together that would give small areas of coppice
- Don't plant in straight lines

Wildlife and birds (5)

- Will there be enough areas for skylarks?

- Deer control and deer displacement control: collaboration with neighbouring farms
- Squirrel control
- **Water management (3)**
 - Ditch management collaboration
 - Acid soil run off into chalk stream

4. Summary of stakeholder responses

We received formal responses from the following stakeholders during the public consultation period. The stakeholder feedback has been included in the analysis.

- Public Rights of Way
- Historic Environment
- Trees and Woodland Creation
- Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum
- Historic England
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service (on behalf of Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- National Farmers Union

The stakeholder responses have been summarised below.

1. Lincolnshire County Council - Historic Environment

Presence of several potential historic monuments, out farms and enclosures on the site, recommendation to undertake further surveys to confirm their location to avoid tree planting within sensitive archaeological or earthwork areas.

2. Lincolnshire County Council - Public Rights of Way

Welcomes the potential additional access opportunities for walkers to the east of Hagworthingham. Suggest a connection to Public Footpath 211, which currently terminates as a dead end, and suggest linking it with the proposed track network. They note that the higher ground could offer attractive viewpoints before the woodland becomes established. They also support the incorporation of Public Footpath 46 along the north-western edge of the site and suggest a width of 5 meters. Looking ahead, they suggest that any future acquisition of land to the north-west could create valuable links to Stockwith Mill and Public Footpath 45. They emphasise the importance of continuing engagement on access provision, with a focus on making the site as accessible as possible for all.

3. Lincolnshire County Council - Trees and Woodland

Broadly welcomes the proposal to increase woodland cover in an area identified within Lincolnshire County Council's planting strategy but considers that further detail is needed before full support can be given. Key points raised include the need for a clearer timescale for public access under CROW, commitments to the long-term maintenance of grass rides and public rights of way, clarification on the future balance of conifer and broadleaf woodland, and more detail on how additional habitats and existing willow scrub and grassland areas will be managed and enhanced. The response also highlights opportunities for grazing management, the importance of coordinated deer management at a landscape scale, and the need to consider previous Environment Agency work on the River Lymn and associated chalk streams.

4. Lincolnshire Joint Access Forum

The Lincolnshire Joint Local Access Forum is broadly supportive of the proposed woodland creation at Hagworthingham and welcomes the opportunity to increase woodland cover in the county. Members sought reassurance that existing footpaths would remain usable and uninterrupted during establishment of the new woodland and once the scheme is complete and raised a concern about the potential enclosure of an existing footpath and the importance of maintaining a clear, continuous and accessible route for the public. The forum sought confirmation that public rights of way within the site will be protected, remain open and be appropriately integrated within the woodland design and management arrangements.

5. Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape

Broadly welcome the proposals and the opportunities the new woodland presents and sets out overarching policy context. They are supportive of the measures to reduce visual impacts, including open corridors and lower-density edge planting, and expect all planting to have softer woodland edges with less dense planting nearer the edges and shrubs. Highlights concerns about deer displacement resulting from deer fencing and calls for proactive, landscape-scale deer management in partnership with neighbouring landowners.

Welcomes the measures included so far to enhance the River Lymn and wetter areas, and encourages further measures to support natural flood management and wet grassland habitats. Supports the proposed species mix, including productive

timber species, but stresses that long-term establishment, thinning and management will be critical to delivering a sustainable timber resource.

Emphasises the importance of actively managing existing and future open habitats, including scrub and grassland areas, through grazing or cutting to prevent habitat loss through scrub encroachment.

Notes strong public interest in access provision, including maintaining existing rights of way and creating additional routes where possible. Recommends exploring circular walking routes, permissive paths and stronger links to the wider rights of way network. Suggests providing accessible paths suitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs, along with a small car park away from the main road.

Encourages the use of interpretation and educational materials to promote the site's history, cultural connections, wildlife, chalk streams and woodland management.

6. Historic England

No concerns with respect of the setting of designated assets.

Note the presence of undesignated features identified from air photography indicative of late prehistoric/roman activities - these may have some sensitivity to planting. Refer to Forestry England's own archaeological expertise and our colleagues in the County Council and the HER data.

7. Environment Agency

The Environment Agency highlighted several water and environmental considerations for the site. As the site lies within both surface water and groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, careful management of vegetation control will be required, with compliance expected for any herbicide use. Woodland creation and maintenance should avoid adverse impacts on the River Lymn and its tributaries, although the risk is considered low given the nearby watercourse is a minor drain. The underlying Spilsby Sandstone aquifer is already under pressure, meaning new groundwater abstraction licences are unlikely to be available for woodland establishment. The Environmental Impact Assessment should therefore consider water requirements for tree establishment, species selection, long-term water demand and planting timing, supported by appropriate modelling where necessary. Any water use exceeding 20 m³ per day may require an abstraction licence, subject to availability.

8. Natural England

Natural England's response fully supports the woodland creation proposals

at Hagworthingham with minimal concerns and suggested refinements.

The response sets out Natural England's six guiding principles for habitat creation (existing habitats, hydrology, native/diverse species, connectivity, scale, structural complexity) along with the potential constraints for the Hagworthingham site.

Local wildlife sites: It does not consider the proposal likely to affect Mavis Enderby Valley SSSI and notes that the scheme should complement existing woodland habitats, including areas of deciduous woodland priority habitat (DWOOD).

Recommendations include strengthening woodland buffers around existing habitats, providing additional buffering to Hagworthingham Meadow Local Wildlife Site, retaining suitable setbacks from species-rich hedgerows and mature trees, and investigating opportunities to restore a pond within the woodland area.

Natural England also welcomes the retention of the Arrhenatherum neutral grassland and suggests further habitat survey work to confirm whether fen habitat is present. The response notes that protected and notable species, including water vole, brown hare and breeding waders, are unlikely to be significantly affected, although the breeding bird survey results should be reviewed and advice from the Badger Trust may be helpful given the presence of several badger setts.

In relation to hydrology, Natural England highlights the presence of Priority River Habitat ditches and recommends minimising disturbance in these areas. Overall, the response concludes that the proposals align well with its habitat creation principles and are likely to deliver positive environmental outcomes with some minor refinements to the design.

9. National Farmers Union (NFU)

The NFU recognises the ambition to increase woodland cover in Lincolnshire but raises concerns about the cumulative loss of productive agricultural land and the potential implications for domestic food production. It notes that parts of the site have historically supported arable farming and highlights concerns that this is the fifth woodland acquisition in the local area since 2024.

The response also identifies concerns about the potential impact of increased public access on neighbouring farms, including parking pressures, obstruction of farm access, littering and fly-tipping, and calls for clear plans to manage visitors and protect local farm operations.

The NFU also highlights the need for effective deer management, raising concern that new woodland and associated fencing could displace deer onto surrounding farmland, leading to increased agricultural and environmental impacts.

More broadly, members would like greater clarity on the long-term management objectives for the woodland and are seeking more detailed information on how land suitability has been assessed, how woodland creation will be balanced with food production, and how Forestry England will engage with local stakeholders throughout the life of the project.

5. Our responses 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.

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 ensured the buffers along the watercourses comply with [UKFS](#) standards
- Shown the boundary of the Hagworthingham Meadow local wildlife site on the woodland design plan
- Updated the alignment of the forest road to the north east of the site

Further amendments to the design will be considered pending:

- Feedback from the breeding bird survey
- Discussions with the Lincolnshire County Council Public Rights of Way team

Our responses to the key issues raised are set out below:

1. Agricultural land and food security

Concern about the use of farmland for new woodland and request for further information about how land suitability is assessed, how decisions are made to prioritise woodland over farming and the quality of the arable land being converted to woodland.

We recognise the importance of protecting productive farmland and supporting domestic food production. Site selection has been informed by detailed land suitability assessments, including agricultural land classification, soil characteristics, and environmental surveys, to ensure woodland is not prioritised over the most productive agricultural land or environmentally sensitive habitats. Where possible, lower-grade or less economically viable land is targeted for

woodland creation, alongside areas that offer wider environmental benefits such as restoring biodiversity, water management and landscape connectivity.

Lincolnshire is currently the least wooded county in the East Midlands, and increasing tree cover will help prepare for a changing climate, capture carbon, restore and connect habitats, enhance biodiversity, supply sustainable, homegrown timber and create new spaces for people to enjoy.

The site at Hagworthingham has been carefully assessed and is considered suitable for woodland creation while remaining sensitive to the local landscape. Forestry England understands concerns around food security and our approach seeks to avoid areas of the most productive agricultural land (grades 1 and 2). The land at Hagworthingham is graded at [3a](#). Further information about land classification can be viewed [here](#).

Forestry England's role is to manage and expand the nation's forests to ensure they are healthy and sustainable and benefit people, wildlife, and the economy. Timber is a crucial material for the UK's green 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 and manufacturing practices. Currently the UK imports over [80%](#) of its timber.

2. Archaeology and historic buildings

Undertake further surveys to understand presence of historical features and ways to mitigate disturbance within the planting.

We have undertaken a proportionate programme of archaeological investigation including desk based assessment (HER data, aerial mapping, LiDAR) and a targeted geophysical survey (November 2025).

The surveys identified two areas of archaeological significance (prehistoric to Romano-British) in the north and south of the site and confirmed the absence of remains at Gravel Pit Farm. These findings informed the designs presented in the public consultation and, in line with the UK Forestry Standard, include the following mitigations:

- Archaeologically sensitive areas will be protected by excluding them from planting with 20 m buffers.
- The site of the demolished farmsteads will also be excluded from planting, with 5 m buffers.
- We will keep a watching archaeological brief where the access track crosses the former Gravel Pit Farm site.
- Low-impact construction methods will minimise disturbance, including a low impact approach to track construction (building up tracks rather than excavating) and using shallow drainage where this is required.

3. Community involvement and partnership working

Interest in educational and volunteering opportunities at the new woodland.

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

While some of our larger forests across the country have a range of facilities for educational forest visits, this will not be possible at Hagworthingham. Our funding for this project is from the Defra Trees Programme and does not include funding for any visitor infrastructure, including educational facilities. However, Forestry England offers a wide range of downloadable educational resources that are linked to the national curriculum, cover a variety of core subjects and can be easily adapted for different age groups and learning settings. For further information visit: [Learning resources | Forestry England](#)

Engage with the Chalk Stream project and the Wolds Countryside Services and work in partnership with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT).

Forestry England are working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project. As part of this collaboration, a series of natural flood management features have been integrated into the woodland design along the existing water courses on the site. These measures include the creation of a seasonal pond to temporarily store water during wetter periods, a bund to slow and hold surface runoff, and a shallow scrape designed to capture and attenuate flows. Together, these features will help to reduce peak flows, improve water retention, and enhance local habitat diversity, while supporting the long-term resilience and function of the chalk stream environment. The new woodland will also help to increase water infiltration and reduce runoff over time as the trees become established and continue to grow.

Land-holdings nearby could be a source of green hay of local provenance if needed for reseeding bare or damaged areas of the new woodland planting area.

Forestry England aims to work with local partners wherever this is possible/viable. If there is a future need to increase species diversity of grassland areas within the new woodland, the opportunity to use locally sourced green hay, including from nearby landholdings, could be explored at that time.

4. Dogs and the new woodland

Include dog friendly paths and position scrapes and ponds away from dog walking areas.

The new woodland will be open for people to enjoy, and visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs. While we are not planning to provide a dedicated dog exercise area or paths, the site will offer a natural space for local people to spend time outdoors. The primary focus of the project is to create a healthy, resilient

woodland, with public access provided as an added benefit for the community. The scrapes and ponds have been positioned to maximise their effectiveness as natural flood management features connecting with the existing watercourses on the site and helping to slow, store and manage water naturally. Dog owners must be responsible and keep their pets under control in all the forests and woodlands we care for, following signs and our [Forest Dog Code](#).

5. Fencing

Clarify the fencing that will be included in the design and suggestion to include fencing initially or hedging on the boundary between the woodland and the A158 boundary road to deter deer crossings and potential road accident.

We will use deer fencing to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in small areas. This will protect the young trees from browsing by deer and rabbits. Deer fencing and tree tubes will be removed and recycled after the trees become fully established.

Fencing has been designed specifically to protect the new tree planting blocks, while maintaining movement on and around the wider site for wildlife species such as hare, badger and deer. It would be an impossible task to prevent wildlife using and crossing the road. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers also replace the role of Britain's missing predators across our woodlands by safely and humanely controlling deer populations where necessary. England is part of the [The Deer Initiative](#), a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. More information on how Forestry England manages deer can be found here: www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests

6. Horse-riding in the new woodland

Include safe, off-road access for horse riders—particularly from Raithby Road, to connect with the existing bridleway network around Bag Enderby, Hagworthingham and Harrington, reducing reliance on dangerous roads.

We understand how important horse-riding is to many people in this part of Lincolnshire, and we have thought carefully about what provision we might be able to offer at Hagworthingham.

Our funding for the new woodland comes from the Defra Trees Programme, which does not cover the cost of additional horse-riding or cycling infrastructure such as bridle gates or the creation of new surfaced trails. As a result, we're unable to provide dedicated horse-riding or cycling routes at this time.

7. Parking

Requests to include a small car park. If this is not possible, provide further information on how the impact of an increased number of visitors to the area will be managed? Consider signs to discourage inappropriate parking if necessary. Sign post nearby parking if allocated parking is not included in the proposals?

While the new woodland will be open for the public to enjoy, our funding for this project does not extend to the creation of new car parking, visitor or other

recreational facilities. We therefore do not anticipate a significant increase in visitors by car and expect that most visitors to the new woodland will do so on foot via the existing public rights of way, paths and grass rides.

If inconsiderate parking does become an issue, we will consider signs in appropriate locations to discourage this.

For those wishing to visit a woodland by car, Snipe Dales Country Park is just a few minutes' drive away from Hagworthingham and offers public parking along with a range of visitor facilities.

Move the existing gates to the back of the concrete for a ready-made car park
Access through this gate to the new woodland will be restricted to forestry maintenance and other authorised vehicles only. The hardstanding in this location will be required to support woodland establishment and ongoing maintenance activities.

We will monitor reports of inappropriate parking by visitors to the new woodland. Should this become a significant concern, we will reassess our current position on the matter. Instances of inappropriate parking by visitors to the new woodland can be reported to central.district@forestryengland.uk.

8. Paths and public access

Include accessible paths for all; circular walks; accessible gates and a route that takes visitors to the highest point in the woodland.

The woodland will be dedicated under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act, allowing the public free access to explore the site. Visitors will be able to move around the woodland using the existing public footpaths and informal grass routes. This will offer several circular walks and access to the highest point within the woodland.

While visitors will be welcome to use the surfaced tracks created for woodland management, at this stage, there are no proposals for surfaced accessible paths or dedicated accessible gates. The woodland is intended to provide a natural environment with opportunities for informal recreation and exploration, while maintaining its focus on woodland creation, biodiversity and landscape enhancement.

Provide reassurance that existing footpaths will remain open, safe, and accessible throughout the woodland establishment and once the scheme is complete. (potential enclosure of an existing footpath?)

We will carefully plan and co-ordinate the creation of the new woodland to minimise any impact on existing public rights of way. All existing public rights of way will remain open.

We will follow all relevant rules for public rights of way. In the unlikely event works to manage and maintain the new woodland temporarily obstructs a public footpath, this will be clearly marked, with signs to let people know what is happening and if there are any temporary changes to the pathway.

Once the woodland is established, the footpaths will remain open, forming part of the new woodland for people to enjoy.

Include a link to the public footpath 211 that is currently a dead end

We are engaging with the Public Rights of Way team to assess the situation and explore opportunities to improve connectivity at this location, taking into account land ownership, existing rights of way and any relevant legal or practical considerations.

Where Public Footpath 46 runs along the north-west edge of the woodland within a grass ride, the ride should be a minimum of 5 metres wide.

This section of the public right of way will run alongside a woodland access track, together creating an open corridor approximately 7 metres wide along the north-western edge of the woodland.

Gain permissive links or purchase land to the northwest and to the east to allow longer routes to join with existing rights of way, including a footpath to Stockworth Mills and PF 45.

Our funding for this new woodland is from the Defra Trees Programme and does not allow for the funding of new footpaths outside of the land we own. We are therefore unable to consider the acquisition of additional land to extend or connect existing footpaths as part of this project.

The CROW designation is supported but a firm timescale would be clearer, 5 or 10 years rather than the broad open ended when the wood is established. This gives certainty and focuses minds and resources.

Visitors will be able to use the existing public footpaths, forestry tracks and grass rides to access the new woodland while it is being created and established. Full open access rights under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act will be introduced later, once the woodland is well established and wider public access will not affect its growth or management. We expect this to happen in around 10 years, although the timing may change depending on how well the different tree species establish and grow.

9. Planting and tree species

What are the priority objectives for the new woodland ?

The woodland is being designed to deliver a range of environmental, social and

economic benefits. Key objectives include creating thriving habitats for wildlife, increasing public access to nature, capturing carbon, and supporting the aims of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. A central aim is also to establish a diverse and resilient woodland that can provide a sustainable supply of timber in the future. Balancing the production of sustainable timber with biodiversity enhancement, landscape benefits and public access will help ensure the woodland continues to provide long-term benefits for years to come.

Avoid planting trees in rows

When creating large new woodlands, planting in rows makes the best use of space and ensures each tree gets enough sunlight, water and nutrients for healthy growth. Consistent spacing also creates clear paths for easy maintenance, like monitoring, weeding, mowing and future thinning. As the woodland matures, natural regeneration and undergrowth, respacing and thinning, will make the rows less noticeable, giving the new woodland a more natural look.

Avoid conifers and concern about tree groupings including the inclusion of Macedonian pine (non-native, suffers from drought, susceptible to squirrel and deer damage and produces low quality wood) and Scots pine (do not like being close to other species).

Our professional foresters carefully choose which trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the local soils, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species, and geographical features nearby. They also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to ensure our new woods are as healthy as possible. Creating diverse, resilient woods is important for timber, biodiversity and capturing carbon. We propose to plant a range of species at the new woodland at Hagworthingham including aspen, red oak, Scots pine, silver birch, small leaved lime, sycamore, beech and wild service tree.

Conifers are included because they play an important role in creating resilient, productive and sustainable woodlands. Different tree species provide different benefits, and a mixed woodland can support biodiversity, sequester carbon and produce timber more effectively than relying on a single type of tree. Forestry Commission and Natural England guidance supports the use of a range of tree species in woodland creation, including both broadleaved and conifer species, where they are appropriate to the site and the objectives of the woodland. Well-designed woodlands often include a mix of species to deliver benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience, carbon storage and sustainable timber production.

Undertake further mapping of the grassland area in the woodland as the presence of a fen type habitat may presently be unmapped. Leave existing habitat areas such as willow grass, grasslands, gorse slopes, grassy and boggy areas unplanted

Ecological surveys have been carried out to identify and map the habitats on the site using current best-practice survey standards ([UK Habitat Classification](#)).

Habitats with ecological value, including damp grassland and wetland areas, will be retained and protected as part of the design.

Provide more information about the planting mix - will it be predominantly broadleaf or conifer?

The planting mix at Hagworthingham will be approximately 75% broadleaf and 25% conifer species. A range of shrub species will also be included in the planting to increase biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife. Different species will be mixed within woodland stands where appropriate, creating a more diverse, resilient and visually attractive woodland.

Include a few standard trees such as oak and leave to grow; Include tree species suitable for coppicing in discrete small coppicing areas and use local foresters to coppice in lieu of wood.

Oak is included within the proposed planting mix. At this stage, whilst we will keep all existing trees of special interest and additional trees may be selected for long-term retention as the woodland matures, there are no plans to keep scattered standard trees to maturity from the outset. Woodland management will include rotational felling to create a varied age structure and promote woodland resilience.

Trees usually need about 10 years of growth before they can be coppiced, so we will review the most appropriate management approach at that time. Sweet chestnut has been included in the planting mix to allow for future coppicing if this is considered suitable.

Provide more information about the distance from the boundary close to properties and the main woodland planting; Provide a buffer zone next to neighbouring properties for fire protection and to help manage public access.

The planting area closest to the nearest properties will have a soft, wavy edge, with a buffer between the woodland boundary and tree planting varying from 10 to 22 metres. This buffer will include shrub edge, scrub and neutral grassland with low-density planting creating a gradual transition between the woodland and adjacent properties.

The proposed woodland design incorporates a diverse mix of broadleaved and conifer species, together with shrubby edge habitats, which can help reduce the potential for fire to spread rapidly through the woodland. The buffer area also provides a separation between the main woodland and neighbouring property. We will include a fire risk assessment as part of our submission to the Forestry Commission for regulatory approval to plant the new woodland.

Will there be an opportunity to bring back elm trees to the countryside?

Forestry England does plant elm trees in some of our woodlands, but this is usually in a targeted way rather than as a major woodland species. Because of the devastation caused by Dutch elm disease, Forestry England generally avoids large-

scale planting of traditional elms. Instead, it has supported and undertaken projects using disease-resistant elm varieties, particularly where they can benefit wildlife. At Hagworthingham, we are not proposing elm as a principal woodland species. However, depending on availability, we will consider the inclusion of disease-resistant elm varieties in appropriate locations where they can support biodiversity and provide habitat benefits.

The SHINE (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England) area is directly adjacent to the boundary of the new woodland - this area, is larger than shown on the Forestry England design plans - confirm the correct extent.

Forestry England has reviewed the extent of the relevant SHINE records with the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) team. The SHINE polygons are derived from the corresponding HER monument records and identify areas of known archaeological interest. To inform the woodland design, Forestry England commissioned a geophysical survey to better understand the extent and significance of the archaeological remains associated with the recorded probable Romano-British settlement and Iron Age enclosure. The survey results indicated that the extent of the probable Romano-British settlement is smaller than the existing HER/SHINE polygon. The woodland design has therefore been based on the more detailed site-specific survey evidence. An area of open space has been retained around the identified archaeological remains, together with a 20-metre protective buffer, to ensure the archaeology is appropriately protected in accordance with UK Forestry Standard.

Forestry England is satisfied that the archaeological resource has been appropriately considered and protected within the woodland design. The difference between the SHINE polygon extent and the area shown on the design reflects the incorporation of more recent survey data rather than any reduction in the protection afforded to the heritage assets.

10. Views and landscape

Retain views of the Wold and the Lymn Valley from the footpaths and where possible create viewpoints - with a suggestion to leave the knoll at the bottom of the valley free from tree planting; Where views exist include sensitive planting .

Public Right of Way (Hagw46/1) along the northern boundary will continue to provide views across the Lincolnshire Wolds. Views towards the Lymn Valley will also be available from some sections of this footpath as well as from the grass rides within the site, particularly towards the eastern boundary.

Opportunities to enjoy views of the surrounding landscape will be available from various locations throughout the woodland, although these will not be designated as formal viewpoints. To help maintain views, no planting is proposed on the knolls, although some natural regeneration may occur over time.

11. Water and flood management

Undertake a water use assessment - an abstraction licence will be required if >20 m³/day is required

Forestry England's approach when creating new woodlands is to design resilient, rain-fed woodlands that protect water quality, flows and catchments rather than abstracting water for irrigation. Our tree species for the new woodland have been matched to local soil and climate conditions so they can thrive without artificial watering.

Explore further opportunities to improve natural flood management and create wet grassland habitats; Include ponds along the stream that enters the River Lymn. How will previous EA/LCC work around the River Lymn and chalk streams be incorporated?

Forestry England are working in partnership with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP). As part of this collaboration, a series of natural flood management features have been designed by LCSP and integrated into the woodland design along the existing water courses on the site. These measures include the creation of a seasonal pond to temporarily store water during wetter periods, a bund to slow and hold surface runoff, and a shallow scrape designed to capture and attenuate flows. Together, these features will help to reduce peak flows, improve water retention, and enhance local habitat diversity, while supporting the long-term resilience and function of the chalk stream environment.

Creating a woodland on the former agricultural land will help reduce and remove run-off and spray drift into the water courses longer term. As the woodland and associated habitats establish and develop these will aid in natural flood management and help protect the connecting chalk streams and River Lymn for the future.

Creating a woodland on the former agricultural land will help reduce and remove run-off and spray drift into the water courses longer term. As the woodland and associated habitats establish and develop these will aid in natural flood management and help protect the connecting chalk streams and River Lymn for the future.

12. Wildlife and birds

Presence of badger setts on site - consult with the Badger Trust to establish what may/may not disturb the setts when planting the new woodland

Forestry England follow current Forestry Commission and Natural England guidance in relation to badgers, ensuring that all operations are compliant with relevant legislation and good practice standards. Site-specific advice is provided through consultation with qualified and experienced third-party ecologists at the design stage, supported by Forestry England's own environmental specialists and experienced ecologists, who assess conditions on the ground and provide recommendations on appropriate buffer zones and safe working distances around any identified setts or areas of activity.

At Hagworthingham, the land has been historically managed for agriculture and has therefore been subject to ongoing and regular disturbance from activities such as cultivation, machinery use and stock movement. The proposed planting operations are considered to be of a comparable or lower intensity than these existing land uses, both in scale and duration. As such, the potential for additional disturbance is relatively limited. Nevertheless, all works will be carefully planned and implemented in accordance with ecological advice, ensuring that any risks to badgers are appropriately avoided or mitigated through timing of operations, adherence to buffer distances and use of low-impact methods where necessary.

Investigate the viability of restoring the pond in the DWOOD area to benefit biodiversity

The potential to restore the pond within the deciduous wood area will be considered, subject to available funding and resources. The existing wet flush has ecological value, supporting marsh marigold and other wetland species. Any restoration would need to take a sensitive approach to enhance this habitat.

Include wide rides through the trees for habitat for woodland flora, insects, butterflies etc to colonise

A network of wide rides have been incorporated into the woodland design. These will support woodland management while also creating opportunities for woodland flora to thrive and providing valuable habitat for insects, butterflies and other wildlife.

Forestry England should take the lead to manage deer populations, mitigate displacement and adopt a landscape approach to deer management

We will use deer fencing to protect larger sections of the new woodland, and tree tubes in smaller areas. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers also replace the role of Britain's missing predators across our woodlands by safely and humanely controlling deer populations where necessary, contributing to landscape scale management in the wider area. England is part of the [The Deer Initiative](#), a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. More information on how Forestry England manages deer can be found here: www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-deer-the-nations-forests

How will grey squirrel be managed

Grey squirrels can pose serious threats to young woodlands. While natural predators like pine martens may help to balance grey squirrel numbers in the long term, their populations currently need to be monitored and controlled where necessary. Our wildlife rangers carry out grey squirrel control across our woodlands where it is needed to protect the trees. You can read more on our position here: www.forestryengland.uk/article/managing-grey-squirrels

Include south facing bee banks to support mining bee populations

South-facing bee banks will be considered as part of the detailed design, recognising their value in supporting mining bee populations and wider pollinator diversity.

Woodland amenities

Include a sculpture trail, public seating, signage and landscape interpretation boards and waste bins.

Our aim is to create a quiet, natural space where local people can experience a more informal woodland setting, supporting tranquillity, wildlife and landscape character, rather than a more managed or recreational environment. We have no plans to include public seating, dedicated trails, signage (other than at the entrance to the new woodland) or waste bins. We will expect visitors to the new woodland to follow the [forest code](#) and take their litter home with them.

13. Woodland design

Include a 250m buffer around the Local Wildlife Site

The project design includes a 20m buffer to the Local Wildlife Site area and around the existing adjoining woodland habitats. The woodland creation project links habitats by planting trees and managing the grass rides, helping to repair past fragmentation and loss of habitats - turning low ecological value agricultural land into more natural habitats. The buffer areas allow for natural colonisation and create a gentle transition while also linking to the areas retained open for heritage.

Include a 5 -metre buffer from each hedgerow tree's drip line ; Leave a distance of 5 metres from each individual tree's drip line be left clear to allow for future growth and potential veteranisation .

We will leave at least 5 metres between new planting and existing trees and hedgerows.

Expect all planting areas to have softened edges with a reduction in planting nearer the edges and with a mixture of shrubs

The proposed woodland has been designed with softened, natural edges creating a gradual transition between the woodland and surrounding habitats. Woodland edges will include a mix of native shrubs, scrub and lower-density tree planting, providing valuable habitat for wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the woodland within the landscape.

Include open spaces and leave some areas for natural regeneration

Open space and opportunities for natural regeneration have been incorporated into the design. The proposals include approximately 23 hectares of open space within the 102-hectare woodland creation area, representing around 23% of the site. This exceeds the 10-20% open space typically recommended by the UK Forestry Standard for well-designed woodlands. The open areas include retained heritage features, woodland rides, buffers and other open habitats, which will help

enhance biodiversity, maintain landscape diversity and provide opportunities for natural regeneration where appropriate.

Bolster the perimeters of the DWOOD area on the southeast boundary of the site and include a broadleaved buffer of 50metres as a minimum width ideally retained as permanent woodland

A 17-metre-wide grass ride has been included alongside the existing woodland to provide access, buffering the woodland edge. Planting beyond this will feature native broadleaved species such as Rowan, Hornbeam and Birch. Options for managing this ash-dominated area will be considered once the new woodland is established as a Forest Plan is developed. The aim will be to ensure the woodland remains healthy, resilient and well managed over the long term.

14. Woodland management and maintenance

Have a long term management plan to ensure successful woodland establishment

The first five years of woodland management are particularly important, as this is when young trees become established. During this period, management focuses on controlling competing vegetation, replacing trees that fail, and maintaining guards and fencing. These measures help improve tree survival rates and support the successful establishment of the woodland.

We have budgeted for maintenance like weeding, fence repairs and replacing any damaged trees over the first five years to ensure our new wood is established successfully. As the wood grows its maintenance needs will change. Once the woodland is well established Forestry England's expert team will develop and consult on a Forest Plan to steer long term management. Timber production is one of our many objectives for the new wood and will help meet the costs of future management.

The first thinning will happen when the trees are about 25 years old. Most trees will stay and grow to economic maturity. Different types of trees will mature at different times and will be cut for timber when ready, but never all at once. After cutting, new trees will be planted to keep the cycle going. Over time, the woodland will have trees of different ages, which is good for wildlife.

Actively manage (eg grazing or cutting), existing scrub or grassland to prevent areas overgrowing

Key areas of open space, including those around archaeological features, public rights of way and forest tracks, will be managed to maintain their open character and contribute to a diverse mosaic of habitats across the site. As the woodland develops, our management approach for these spaces will be set out in our woodland maintenance plan.

Will access routes to public rights of way from the grass rides be maintained?

Grass rides will be managed through periodic mowing as part of our woodland

maintenance programme. Visitors will be welcome to explore the wider site using these grass rides, which will provide informal walking routes through a more natural setting for walks.

Minimise the use of herbicides; when using herbicides near areas of water, permission from the Environment agency required

We use herbicides where necessary to aid woodland establishment and control invasive or competing vegetation, but their use will be kept to a minimum and applied only where appropriate and by qualified operators. This will complement the mechanical management of vegetation competing with the young trees. No herbicides will be used along the 10-20 metre buffer zones left alongside the on-site watercourses and vegetation will only be controlled where necessary, with important areas of habitat in unplanted areas retained to benefit wildlife and protect archaeological features. Any use of herbicides on the site will comply with the [The UK Forestry Standard](#) and relevant legal and regulatory requirements.

15. Other

Concern about litter and antisocial behaviour and how this will be managed

We understand the importance of maintaining a safe and welcoming environment in our new woodlands for everyone to enjoy. We are not proposing to include litter bins in the new woodland to help maintain the woodland's natural feel and quiet character. We will review any reports of anti-social behaviour and assess any actions that Forestry England may need to take.

Appendix A: Our response to key themes from early engagement

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

Access to the new woodland

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

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

Dogs will be welcome, but the woodland will not be fully fenced, and we do not plan to install dog waste bins. We expect all dog owners to act responsibly and keep their pets in sight and close by at all times in the new woodland, following our Forest Dog Code¹.

Parking and traffic

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

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

Design, landscape and views

The new mixed woodland will enrich the landscape by boosting biodiversity, enhancing the natural environment and protecting heritage features. We have done surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife, soil conditions and archaeology at Hagworthingham. These surveys, along with a landscape and visual appraisal, and local feedback have guided our draft designs. We have planned the woodland layout to protect heritage features and respect views from neighbouring properties. We will keep open space next to these properties, with conifer and broadleaf planting set further back.

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

The trees we will plant

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

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

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

Establishing and managing the new woodland

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

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

Community Involvement

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

Protecting the new woodland from deer

The UK is home to six species of deer. As their natural predators (bears, lynx and wolves) are no longer present in the UK, our wildlife management team have to manage the deer populations. Without predators or management, deer populations become

unnaturally large, and their browsing can damage or kill young trees and wildlife habitats, reducing the resilience of the new woodland to the effects of climate change and lowering the carbon captured from the atmosphere.

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

Forestry England is part of the Deer Initiative², a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. Our highly skilled wildlife management team will safely and humanely control deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our website³.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

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

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

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

References:

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

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

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

Appendix B: Consultation information -

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



Forestry England

Growing the nation's forests

Proposed new woodland Hagworthingham Wood in Lincolnshire

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





Site location & landscape context

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

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





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



Forestry England

Hagworthingham Wood - our response to key themes from early engagement

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

Access to the new woodland

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

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

Dogs will be welcome, but the woodland will not be fully fenced and we do not plan to install dog waste bins. We expect all dog owners to act responsibly and keep their pets in sight and close by at all times in the new woodland, following our Forest Dog Code¹.

Parking and traffic

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

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

Design, landscape and views

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

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

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

The trees we will plant

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

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

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

Establishing and managing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 2021. Maintenance during the first five years is especially important to ensure the woodland's long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and our contractors.

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

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

Forestry England is part of the Deer Initiative², a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. Our highly skilled wildlife management team will safely and humanely control deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found on our website³.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

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

References:

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

2 <https://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/>

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



Forestry England

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

Responding to this consultation

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

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

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

What's next ?

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

**Scan the QR code
to find out more:**

forestryengland.uk





Forestry England

New Woodland in Hagworthingham

**Come along to our public
consultation event**

Thursday 30 April 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Stockwith Mill, Harrington Rd
Hagworthingham, PE23 4NE

Forestry England is planning to create a new woodland
called Hagworthingham Wood, in Hagworthingham,
Lincolnshire.

Please drop-in at our local consultation event to view our
proposed designs and speak to members of our team.
You can also share your views with us online by scanning
the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/hagworthinghamw>



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

forestryengland.uk

New woodland: Hagworthingham Wood | Forestry England



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[Support us](#)
[Membership](#)
[About us](#)
[Donate](#)


New woodland: Hagworthingham Wood



New woodland in Lincolnshire

Growing the nation's forests

We're planning to create a new 100 hectare woodland near the village of Hagworthingham, on the edge of the scenic Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape.

Hagworthingham Wood will provide lasting benefits for local people, wildlife, and the climate. It will be planted with a mix of different tree and shrub species to create diverse habitats for wildlife, supporting hedgehogs, bats, woodland birds like woodpeckers, and a wide variety of butterflies and other insects. As the trees mature, they will absorb carbon from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate against the climate crisis. In about 20 years, once the woodland is well-established, it will also begin to contribute to the UK's sustainable timber industry.

This is one of many new woodlands we're creating at Forestry England to help grow the nation's forests. The work has been made possible thanks to the government's Trees Programme.



Work in progress...

At the moment, we're still developing our plans for Hagworthingham Wood. We recently hosted a public consultation, where we invited local people and businesses to share their thoughts and ideas with us. We'd like to thank everyone who got involved in this process and who attended our local drop-in event. As your feedback will help us shape the final designs for the new woodland.

Right now, we're working through the comments from the public consultation, and we'll be sharing our final designs later this year. Subject to the approval of our final design plans, we hope to begin planting the first trees of this new woodland in winter 2024/25.

New woodlands across Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire is currently the least wooded county in the East Midlands, with woodland covering just 4% of land area. This is far below the national average of 14%. We're working hard to increase woodland cover across Lincolnshire, and Hagworthingham Wood is the 10th woodland creation site we've brought in this area since 2004. The other new woodlands are Gaddes, North Gullies, Mulbushes and Hootall. Together, this means we're creating a total of 463 hectares of new woodland in Lincolnshire.

[Find out about all our new woodlands >](#)





Appendix C:

Consultation questionnaire



A proposed new woodland in Hagworthingham

Overview

Forestry England would like to share with you our proposed plans for Hagworthingham Wood, the new woodland we are planning to create in Hagworthingham.

Why your views matter

Your feedback, as well as site surveys, will help shape what the new woodland could look like. Forestry England value your comments and feedback and welcome you to our consultation event.

Introduction

Thank you for taking part in this consultation on the design proposals for Hagworthingham Wood

You can submit information without completing the name and email details, but if you choose to do so they will be held by Forestry England as per our privacy policy [Privacy Policy | Forestry England](https://www.forestryengland.uk/privacy) (<https://www.forestryengland.uk/privacy>)

1. What is your name?

2. What is your address?

3. What is your postcode?

4. Are you responding as:

- ☐ A local resident
☐ A local business
☐ A elected official
☐ Other stakeholder: Please name below

5. If you're responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of your organisation?

6. What is your e-mail address?

7. Would you like to be notified about future consultation on these new woodland proposals?

- ☐ Yes (please make sure you have provided your e-mail address above)
☐ No

Feedback

8. Please use this space to add feedback or questions on the proposed plans

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

Parish Council

From: [Woodland Creation](#)
Bcc:
Subject: Public consultation on design proposals for Hagworthingham Wood, a new woodland in Lincolnshire
Date: 15 April 2026 10:32:50
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[Hagworthingham poster.pdf](#)
[Hagworthingham Wood Consultation - Email to Neighbours.pdf](#)

Dear Parish Council,

We recently contacted you about our early engagement on plans for a new woodland at Hagworthingham. We are contacting you today as we have now launched the public consultation on our draft design proposals for the new woodland. These are available to view and comment upon until midnight on Sunday the 17th May at: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/hagworthinghamw>

Promoting the consultation

I attach a PDF copy of a poster promoting the consultation and the drop-in event and would be grateful if you could include this on your website or notice boards where available. I have also included below, a copy of the email we have sent to those that responded to our early engagement and who indicated they would like to receive updates as we progress with our plans for the new woodland.

Whilst we are encouraging all responses to be submitted online, should any of your parishioners be unable to access a computer, or attend the event, responses can also be submitted by post at the address below:

Woodland Creation Team - Forestry England
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team

Forestry England

Email:

woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

Website: www.forestryengland.uk

More information about New Luckhurst Wood: [New Luckhurst Wood | Forestry England](#)



From: Woodland Creation <woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2026 10:23

Subject: Public consultation on design proposals for Hagworthingham Wood, a new woodland in Lincolnshire

Dear neighbour

Public consultation on design proposals for a new woodland near you

Thank you for your interest in the new woodland we are planning to create on land at Hagworthingham in Lincolnshire. We are now contacting you as we have today launched a public consultation on our draft design proposals for the new woodland.

Our proposals are available to view and comment upon **until midnight on Sunday the 17th May at:**

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

While we continue with our detailed planning for the new woodland, we are keen to hear your views on our initial designs. These have been informed by site surveys as well as valuable insights gained from you and other local people last year. This new woodland is one of many we're creating across the UK to grow the nation's forests. It will become a valuable habitat for wildlife and an important carbon store. In time, it will also provide a source of sustainable timber and become a new green space for you to explore and enjoy.

Public drop-in event

As part of the consultation, we will also be holding a drop-in event where you can view our initial designs for the new woodland in person and talk to members of the Forestry England team. This will be held at: **Stockwith Mill, Harrington Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, PE23 4NE on Thursday 30th April from 4pm - 7pm.**

Responding to the consultation

We encourage you to submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views here: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/hagworthinghamw>. If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email, typing 'Hagworthingham Wood' in the subject line of your email and including your name, address, and postcode in your response.

Next steps

The consultation will close at **11.59 on Sunday 17th May**. All responses will then 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 for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland. We will update our website as our plans for the new woodland progress. You can see the latest information here: www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation-hagworthingham

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team

Forestry England

Email: woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

Website: www.forestryengland.uk

More information about Hagworthingham Wood: www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation-hagworthingham

Appendix E: Code frame

Theme	Comment
Agricultural land and food security	Parts of the site have historically supported agricultural land
Agricultural land and food security	Provide further information on how land suitability is assessed and how woodland creation will be balanced with food production
Agricultural land and food security	Permanent conversion of woodland should be balanced against the need for domestic food production
Agricultural land and food security	What is the quality of arable land being lost?
Archaeology and historic buildings	No concerns in respect of the setting of designated assets, but presence of undesignated features that may have some sensitivity to planting - refer to Forestry England and County Council archaeological specialists
Archaeology and historic buildings	Undertake further surveys to understand presence of historical features and ways to mitigate disturbance within the planting
Archaeology and historic buildings	Woodland is in an area of archaeological potential and monuments - presence of crop marks, trackways and other features of potential Roman date.
Community involvement and partnership working	Involve Wolds Countryside Service
Community involvement and partnership working	Include Chalk Stream Project
Community involvement and partnership working	LWT could be a source of green hay of local provenance if needed for reseeded bare/damaged areas
Community involvement and partnership working	interested in volunteering and educational opportunities
Community involvement and partnership working	Work in partnership with the Lincolnshire Woodland Trust who have various land-holdings nearby
Deer and squirrel management	FE should proactively take the lead to manage deer populations and mitigate displacement/landscape approach to deer management
Deer and squirrel management	Deer fencing may displace growing deer populations
Deer and squirrel management	Deer and squirrel management will be essential for the woodland to establish successfully
Dogs and the new woodland	Dog friendly paths
Dogs and the new woodland	Support no dog bin approach

Theme	Comment
Dogs and the new woodland	Local new scrapes away from pedestrian routes to protect from dogs
Fencing	Provide clarity on the fencing that will be included - concern about impact on wildlife
Fencing	Concern about deer strike and road traffic accidents on A158 road, include fencing initially or hedging to deter deer from crossing
General overarching supportive comment	General supportive/positive comment
Horse-riding in the new woodland	Include access for horse-riders from Raithby Road allowing safe access from the bridleway network around Bag Enderby and Hagworthingham and Harrington
Horse-riding in the new woodland	Include horse-riding - dangerous roads
Parking	Sign post nearby parking is parking is not included in the proposals
Parking	Include a small carpark
Parking	Lack of car parking could lead to visitors using farmyards and gateways causing obstruction and safety risks
Parking	Provide further information on how visitor access and its impacts will be managed
Parking	Concern about lack of car parking
Parking	Suggestion to move the existing gates to the back of the concrete for a ready-made carpark
Paths and public access	Concern about an increase in visitors to the area and the impact on nearby farmers about effects on roads and their farm work.
Paths and public access	The potential enclosure of an existing footpath and the importance of maintaining a clear, continuous and accessible route
Paths and public access	Provide reassurance that existing footpaths would remain usable and uninterrupted during establishment of the new woodland and once the scheme is complete
Paths and public access	Gain permissive links to neighbouring land and wider rights of way to allow longer routes to join with existing rights of way
Paths and public access	Include circular walks
Paths and public access	Include accessible gates
Paths and public access	Link to public footpath 211 that is currently a dead end
Paths and public access	if additional land is purchased to the NW - additional links to Stockworth Mill and PF 45 would add great value
Paths and public access	Where footpath 46 along the NW edge is incorporated within a ride, make the ride at least 5m wide

Theme	Comment
Paths and public access	Purchase land owned by Hagworthingham Parish to the East to extend the project
Paths and public access	Include access to Stockwith Mill via a footpath
Paths and public access	Include a path that takes visitors to the highest point in the woodland
Paths and public access	Include a public foot bridge across the stream
Paths and public access	cycle paths that connect to the national network
Paths and public access	Include public access where appropriated that does not compromise ecology
Paths and public access	Accessible paths for all
Paths and public access	Include cyclists
Paths and public access	Limit to natural trails
Paths and public access	avoid tarmac and concrete trails
Planting and tree species	It is not expected that the proximity to Mavis Enderby Valley SSSI (1.4km away) will be impacted by the proposed woodland
Planting and tree species	Five local wildlife sites identified within 1km of site boundary, one of which, Hagworthingham Meadow is directly adjacent.
Planting and tree species	Welcomes the retention of the more southerly DWOOD area of Arrhenatherum neutral grassland
Planting and tree species	Further mapping of the grassland area is suggested area as the presence of a fen type habitat may presently be left unmapped
Planting and tree species	Presence of priority river habitat on the site and suggestion to minimise land disturbance when planting in these areas
Planting and tree species	Old tree trunks should not be cut down, let alone removed
Planting and tree species	Concern about tree grouping including Macedonian pine (not native; thin bark; suffer from drought; susceptible to squirrel and deer damage; knotted low quality wood.
Planting and tree species	Leave existing habitat areas such as gorse slopes, grassy areas, boggy areas etc unplanted
Planting and tree species	Include a few standard trees such as oak and leave to grow on
Planting and tree species	is there any chance of bringing back elms to the countryside
Planting and tree species	Avoid inclusion of conifers
Planting and tree species	What are the objectives of planting - another scheme to compensate for increased CO2 elsewhere (Heathrow)
Planting and tree species	Retain key existing habitats such as willow grass and grasslands

Theme	Comment
Planting and tree species	Will there be a buffer zone for fire precaution or boundary hedge to restrict public access to property
Planting and tree species	Impact of planting on neighbouring property - distance from neighbour boundary to main plantation
Planting and tree species	No plastic tubes
Planting and tree species	The SHINE area, although no more than 0.25 hectares, is larger than shown on the Forestry England plans.
Planting and tree species	No indication of peat on the site
Planting and tree species	it is not expected that the scheme will have a negative impact on the two areas of priority habitat within the scheme footprint.
Planting and tree species	Scots pine - do not like being close to other species of trees - planting close to Red Oak, silver birch and larch suggests the key priority for the woodland is commercial wood rather than natural habitat and biodiversity
Planting and tree species	Include a strong mix of native species suited to local conditions
Planting and tree species	Will mixed planting result in predominantly broadleaf or conifer woodland?
Views and landscape	Retain views of the wolds and plant sensitively where these exist
Views and landscape	The Wold should be preserved - not planted with trees
Views and landscape	View from PROW over Lymn valley
Views and landscape	Leave viewpoints
Views and landscape	Leave knoll at bottom of valley free from trees
Water and flood management	Further opportunities should be explored to improve natural flood management and create wet grassland habitats
Water and flood management	Site located within both surface water and groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) (Steeping Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (surface water) and Lincolnshire Chalk Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (groundwater).)
Water and flood management	For Hagworthingham, the adjacent waterbody is minor and any impact on flows or channel morphology likely to be insignificant on downstream features or activities
Water and flood management	Spilsby Sandstone groundwater body at poor status (over-abstraction concern)
Water and flood management	No new consumptive groundwater licences likely permitted
Water and flood management	Suggestions that EIA should address: Water supply for woodland establishment Mix of tree species and their water demand Timing of planting

Theme	Comment
Water and flood management	Water use assessment required, including modelling outputs
Water and flood management	Abstraction licence needed if >20 m ³ /day
Water and flood management	How will previous EA/LCC work around the River Lymn and chalk streams be incorporated?
Water and flood management	Include ponds along the stream that enters the River Lymn
Wildlife and birds	Confirms the proposal should have no significant impact on any nearby populations of non-woodland breeding waders.
Wildlife and birds	Interested in seeing the result of the breeding bird survey to clarify any unknowns related to the potential impact of other birds present on the site.
Wildlife and birds	Notes presence of water vole and brown hare on the site but confirms these species are unlikely to be impacted by the woodland proposal.
Wildlife and birds	Presence of multiple badger sets on site
Wildlife and birds	Consult with the Badger Trust to establish what is/isn't likely to disturb the setts
Wildlife and birds	Investigate the viability of restoring the pond in the DWOOD area to benefit biodiversity.
Wildlife and birds	Include south facing bee banks to support mining bee populations ahead of planting
Wildlife and birds	Include wide rides through the trees for habitat for woodland flora, insects, butterflies etc to colonise
Woodland amenities	Include waste bins
Woodland amenities	Include signage/interpretation boards
Woodland amenities	Include public seating
Woodland amenities	Include a sculpture trail
Woodland design	Include a 250 metre buffer around the Hagworthingham Meadow Local Wildlife Trust (Action 146 LNRS)-
Woodland design	To bolster the perimeters of the DWOOD area on the southeast boundary of the site and include a broadleaved buffer of 50metres as a minimum width ideally retained as permanent woodland
Woodland design	Leave a 50m buffer next to the species-rich (currently unmanaged) native hedgerow on the most westerly woodland boundary and a 5 -metre buffer from each hedgerow tree's drip line
Woodland design	A distance of 5 metres from each individual tree's drip line be left clear to allow for future growth and potential veteranisation

Theme	Comment
Woodland design	Initial proposals to enhance riparian habitats are supported
Woodland design	Expect all planting areas to have softened edges with a reduction in planting nearer the edges and with a mixture of shrubs
Woodland design	Existing scrub and grassland habitats should be retained
Woodland design	Include log piles for insect
Woodland design	Rather than scattering tree species suitable for coppicing suggest inclusion of small pockets of species in discrete small coppicing areas
Woodland design	Leave some areas for natural regeneration
Woodland design	Include open spaces
Woodland design	Include open spaces, rides and edge habitat
Woodland management and maintenance	Active management (e.g. grazing or cutting) of existing scrub or grassland will be required to prevent areas overgrowing
Woodland management and maintenance	Minimise herbicide use; prefer mechanical methods (cutting, strimming, mulching)
Woodland management and maintenance	Environment Agency permission maybe required for herbicide use near water
Woodland management and maintenance	Mitigate expense of coppicing by leaving 4 or 5 small coppice areas of woodland to be cut on a rotational basis and allowing a local forester to coppice for free in lieu of taking the timber
Woodland management and maintenance	Supportive of linking PROWS with grass rides but concern about ongoing maintenance - will access routes be maintained?
Woodland management and maintenance	Will Forestry England meet the same standards required under the EWCO scheme for private landowners
Woodland management and maintenance	Have a long term management plan to ensure successful woodland establishment/what is the long term woodland structure and management approach?
Woodland users	Littering and antisocial behaviour

Appendix F: Stakeholders contacted

Parliamentary MP
Louth and Horncastle constituency
Lincolnshire County Council
Elected representatives - Louth Wolds Division Officers - County Archaeologist/Historic places team - Highways - Local Joint Access Forum - Countryside Access/Public Rights of Way - Floodrisk
East Lindsey District Council
Elected representatives - Hagworthingham Ward Councillor Officers: - Local conservation/ecology - Tree protection - Planning - Water validation - private water supplies/local authority drinking
Parish Councils
- Hagworthingham Parish Council - Aswardby Parish Council - Harrington Parish Council
Statutory consultees
- Environment Agency - Historic England - Natural England - Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape
Wildlife and special interest groups
- Bat Conservation Trust - Butterfly conservation - Lincolnshire Chalk Stream project - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust - Lincolnshire Deer Group - Lincolnshire Nature Partnership

- Lincolnshire Naturalist Union
- Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery
- National Farmers Union
- RSPB
- Withiam IDB