

# A new woodland at Newball

## Consultation report and our response to key issues raised

June 2025



## Contents

1. Executive summary .....	3
2. About the Consultation.....	4
2.1 Introduction .....	4
2.2 Objectives of the new woodland .....	4
2.3 Consultation purpose.....	4
2.4 Early Engagement .....	5
2.5 Feedback to early engagement.....	5
2.6 Who we consulted .....	6
2.7 Dates and Duration .....	7
2.8 What we asked .....	7
2.9 Methods of responding .....	7
2.10 Consultation materials and publicity .....	8
2.10.1 Consultation materials.....	8
2.10.2 Consultation activity .....	8
2.10.3 Analysis of consultation responses .....	9
3. About the responses .....	10
3.1 Overview of consultation responses .....	10
3.2 Consultation response by theme .....	11
3.3 Positive comments .....	12
3.4 Negative comments/concerns .....	12
3.5 Questions, comments and suggestions.....	13
3.6 Feedback from the consultation drop in event.....	14
4. Summary of stakeholder responses.....	15
5. Our responses to issues raised .....	17
Appendices .....	22
Appendix A: Our response to frequently asked questions - new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball .....	22
Appendix B: Consultation Information Exhibition Boards .....	26
Appendix C: Consultation questionnaire .....	37
Appendix D: Letters/emails announcing the launch of the consultation (Mickleholme and Newball) .....	39
Appendix E: Code frame .....	43
Appendix F: Stakeholders contacted.....	45

# 1. Executive summary

Between 10th March and 6th April 2025, we held a consultation on proposals for the designs of two new woodlands in Lincolnshire, at Mickleholme, near Dunholme and Newball, next to the village of Langworth.

This report focuses on the feedback we received and our response to the key issues raised during the consultation to our proposals for the new woodland at Newball. The Mickleholme consultation report and response to issues raised can be viewed on our website [here](#).

We received 21 responses to the Newball consultation. Whilst we received many broadly supportive comments, some were negative, and others raised questions and made suggestions.

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

- Adjustments to our planting plans to accommodate archaeological findings
- Modification to the buffer zone between the ditches and our woodland planting
- Changes to the locations and proportions of species in response to Natural England
- Amendment to our design to mitigate privacy concerns about the proximity of the woodland to a neighbouring landowner

Over the coming weeks, we will be finalising our designs to reflect these changes, ahead of 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 132-hectare woodland on land we have bought at Newball, near Langworth in Lincolnshire. The former agricultural land has been bought by Forestry England to create a thriving woodland which will be planted with mixed conifer and broadleaf trees, specially selected to be resilient to future climate conditions.

The new woodland will be 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:

- **Thriving habitats for wildlife:** increase connectivity between the SSSI and other woodlands nearby, creating a mosaic of habitats to enhance biodiversity.
- **Public access for health and wellbeing:** create low-key public recreation opportunities with new areas for people to walk in the woodland.
- **Benefits for the wider landscape:** capture carbon, supporting net zero emissions targets.
- **Future forest resources and resilience:** plant a mix of trees for a lasting supply of sustainable timber.

### 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 26 November 2024 and 17 December 2024, we sent letters to over 2000 addresses within a 1500 metre boundary of the proposed new woodland at Mickleholme and Newball. We also wrote to local elected representatives, including the local MP, ward members at Lincolnshire County Council and West Lindsey District Council, as well as local Parish Councils (Cherry Willingham, Bullington, Newball and Stainton by Langworth) advising them of the early engagement.

The letters included a map of the new woodland areas and asked people to share their thoughts through an online survey about what we should consider as we develop our woodland designs.

We received 82 responses with comments about Newball, including responses from the Butterfly Conservation (member), Lincolnshire Dormouse Group (volunteer) and Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

In addition to the feedback from the online survey, we met with a local landowner to discuss a land swap arrangement which led to a change in the boundary for the new woodland.

## 2.5 Feedback to early engagement

Feedback to our early engagement included many general positive comments as well as questions and concerns around the following themes:

- **Access, paths and trails:** suggestions for wheelchair and pram friendly paths accessible all year round and suitable for walking, running and cycling, as well as suggestions for new paths and bridleways into the new woodland. Concern about visitors wandering onto private land.
- **Communication and signage:** suggestions for the labelling of trees, information signage, user guides and signs for walking and dog walking routes.

- **Community and recreation facilities:** suggestions for the inclusion of facilities for volunteers and education as well as a café, secure bike parking, picnic areas, a children's play area and a community garden space.
- **Traffic and parking:** suggestions for the inclusion of parking, and concern about visitors parking in the layby and deer crossing the A158.
- **Tree species and planting:** suggestions for planting to be in keeping with nearby existing woodlands, to include broadleaf and native species, as well as suggestions for specific tree species such as oak, willow, elm, small leaved lime and ash.
- **Use of agricultural land:** concern about an increase in pests and diseases due to the new woodland and planting woodland on agricultural land.
- **Users of the new woodland:** suggestions to exclude dogs, include dog friendly areas and not to allow bloodsports or hunting in the new woodland.
- **Wildlife diversity and habitat:** suggestions to include no-go zones for wildlife and birds, bat boxes and insect hotels, specific planting for butterflies and dormice and the creation of wildlife corridor linkages with neighbouring woodlands.
- **Woodland design:** suggestions for the inclusion of meadows, wildflowers, colour through the season, quiet areas for contemplation, sculptures, seating and shelters for birdwatching.

**Appendix A** Sets out our response to the key themes in this feedback. This, together with further design and survey work, and engagement with other stakeholders such as Natural England, helped to shape the design proposals we presented for public consultation in March 2025.

## 2.6 Who we consulted

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

We focused our publicity on people living in the local area, as well as stakeholders from Lincolnshire County Council, West Lindsey District Council and the local Parish Councils (Cherry Willingham, Bullington, Newball and Stainton by Langworth).

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

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

## 2.7 Dates and Duration

The consultation for each of the woodlands was open for four weeks from 10<sup>th</sup> March to midnight on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## 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 Newball.

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 between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April by:

- Completing the questionnaire included on our website at : <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange/>
- Giving comments by email to [Woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk](mailto:Woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk)
- Leaving comments at the public consultation drop in event on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 4.00 pm - 7.00pm; Dunholme Old School Community Centre, 8 Market Rasen Road, Dunholme.
- Feedback received at the drop in event is summarised separately in section 3.5 of this report.

## 2.10 Consultation materials and publicity

### 2.10.1 Consultation materials

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

- An overview of the new woodland creation programme and tree planting objectives.
- A site appraisal - with photographs and maps to give context.
- An overview of the surveys undertaken, our objectives and principles, that have informed our design proposals for the new woodland.
- An overview of planting types included in the proposals.
- Visuals of how the new woodland might look soon after planting and, in the future.
- Information on how to respond to the consultation.

### 2.10.2 Consultation activity

We publicised the consultation in the following ways:

- **Media release:** distributed to local news outlets.
- **Dedicated web page:** on the Forestry England website [New woodland at Newball | Forestry England](#).
- **Citizen space consultation portal:** [New Woodlands - Mickleholme & Newball - Forestry Commission - Citizen Space](#).
- **Emails:** to local residents.
- **Letters/emails:** to stakeholders.
- **Posters:** a poster publicising the consultation and drop in event was put up in several locations near each of the sites. Posters were also shared with the local parish councils for inclusion on their noticeboards/websites.
- **Consultation drop in event:** we held a drop in event at the Dunholme Old School Community Hall. The event showed the information already published on the website on large posters around the venue and Forestry England staff were on hand to talk about the proposals, answer questions or queries, and listen to any concerns from those attending.

Attendees were also encouraged to leave immediate feedback on the comments board and to respond to the consultation formally via the online survey, 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**

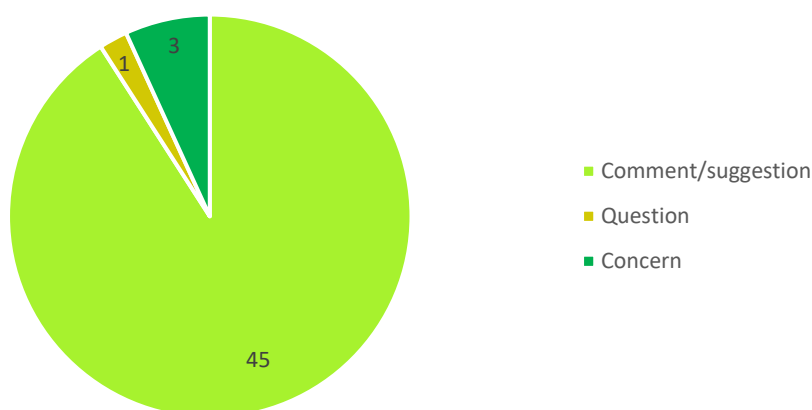
Responses received to the consultation were analysed by assigning (or coding) the points made by each respondent to one or more codes within a code frame. Codes were organised by theme and separated into positive, negative and questions or suggestions. Each code reflects a point raised by multiple individuals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

## 3. About the responses

We received a total of 21 individual responses to the Newball consultation including 9 from stakeholders (listed in **Appendix F**).

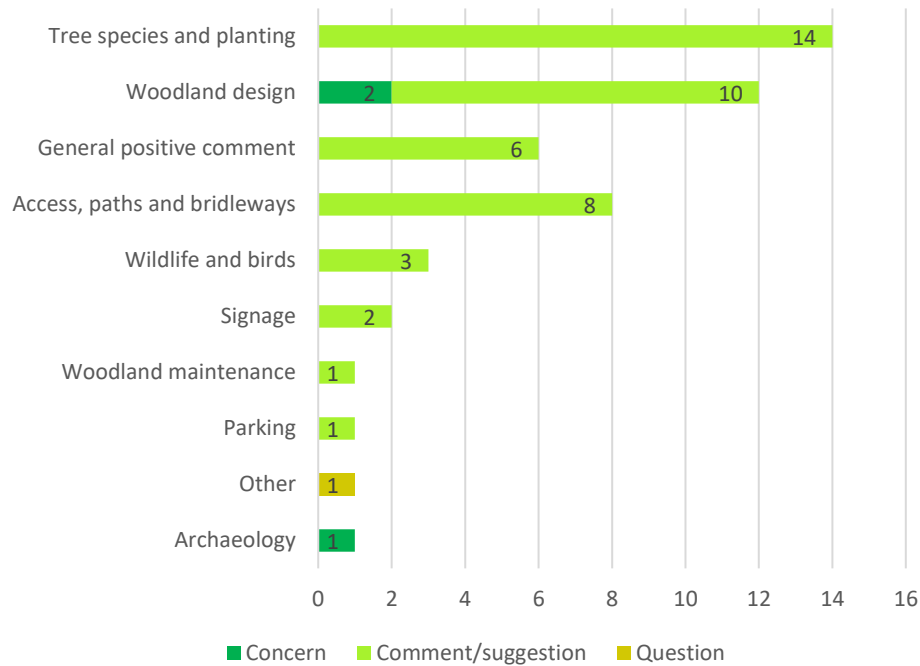
### 3.1 Overview of consultation responses

The 21 responses were coded into 49 comments/suggestions, questions and concerns.



## 3.2 Consultation response by theme

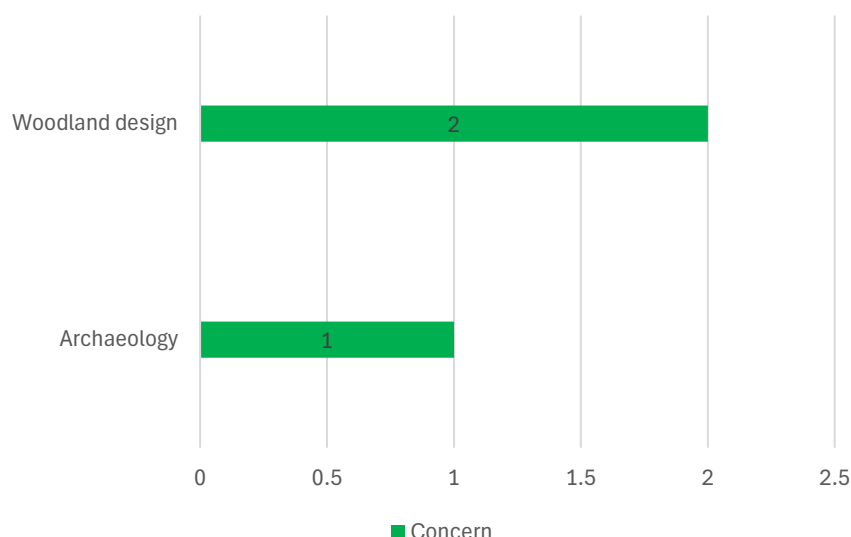
The 49 comments were each categorised into 10 themes and sub-categorised into concern, comment/suggestion or question:



### 3.3 Positive comments

We received 6 general supportive comments. These included: ‘Fantastic idea which will become something for current and future generations to cherish’; ‘I support this proposal - it is logical to connect the existing woodlands to expand wildlife corridors and give nature a chance on overcultivated Lincolnshire’; ‘These proposals are a great asset for the local community and will complement existing woodlands in the area’; ‘I am pleased and excited about this proposal’.

### 3.4 Negative comments/concerns

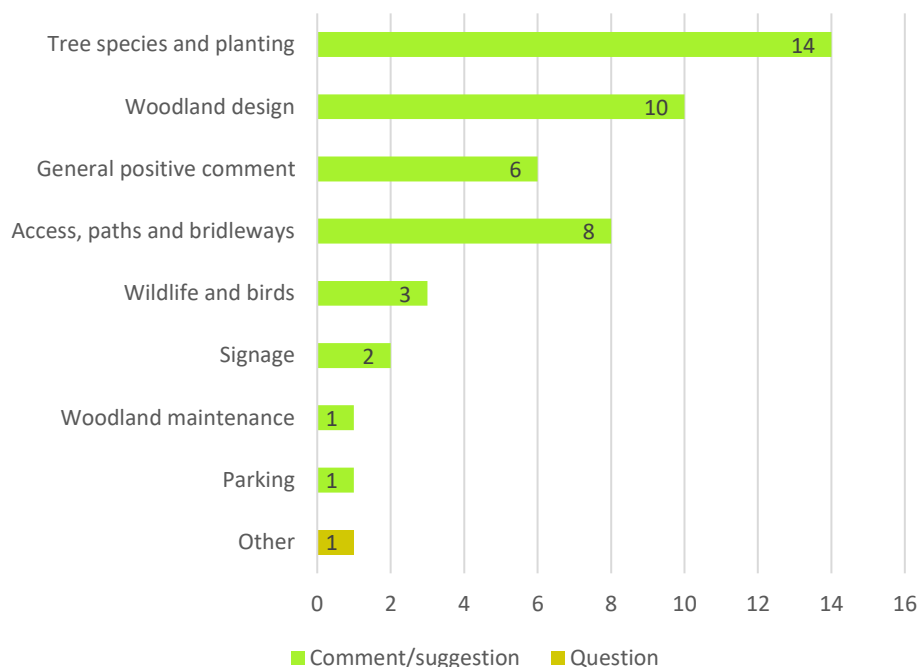


We received 3 negative comments/concerns, including:

**Woodland design:** concerns about the potential impact of the new woodland on a neighbouring property.

**Archaeology:** concern about the presence of crop marks and probable medieval or post medieval boundaries and enclosures, with recommendation to do further surveys so these can be considered in the design.

## 3.5 Questions, comments and suggestions



We received 46 questions, comments and suggestions. These included:

### **Tree species and planting** - Suggestions for specific tree species including:

- Use only native species near the SSSI, such as oak, birch, small-leaved lime, wild service, willow, poplar, elm, rowan, field maple and hazel.
- Avoid non-native species like sweet chestnut, hornbeam and black walnut in SSSI buffer areas.
- Avoid sweet chestnut and hornbeam within the blocks or buffer close to the SSSI.
- Plant native willows (crack, goat, and white willows) along watercourses.
- Include blackthorn, wych elm, and sallows to support butterflies like Brown and White Hairstreak and Purple Emperor.

### **Woodland design:** Suggestions included:

- Buffer mature and veteran trees by planting new trees no closer than 30 meters from them.

- Create a buffer of native species around the SSSI, maintaining it as permanent woodland Retain and buffer existing hedgerows that are tall and mature.
- Allow ancient woodland buffer areas to naturally colonise.
- Include a new 5 acre meadow area.

**Access, Paths and bridleways:** Specific suggestions for new access points, paths and bridleways including:

- Provide access to Newball Wood via the existing track next to Newball Wood House; Add an access point into the new wood from the A158 layby; Create an access point into the woodland opposite the existing bridleway from Rand Wood.
- Link new paths within the site to existing public rights of way; Include a main surfaced track connecting the woodlands, with grassy tracks branching off.
- Create a through route between bridleways Newball 99 and Fulnetby 64, passing through Hardy Gang Wood and Newball Wood, extending north to Snelland; Build a clear surfaced route through the new woodland to the A158 for safe crossing to the bridleway on the other side.

**Wildlife and birds:** There should be a greater emphasis on birds and suggestion that the proposal should have no negative impact on the nearby populations of non-woodland breeding wading birds.

**Signage:** Install signage to indicate public access to Newball Wood near the entrance to the wildlife park and information boards for walkers at the laybys on the A158.

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

### 3.6 Feedback from the consultation drop in event

The drop in event held on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Dunholme Old School Community Centre exhibited the proposals for the new woodlands at both Newball and Mickleholme. Consultation feedback specific to our proposals at Mickleholme are documented in a separate consultation report.

Over 45 people attended the event which showed the information already published on the website on large posters around the venue. Forestry England staff

were on hand to talk about the proposals, answer questions or queries and listen to any concerns from those attending.

Attendees were also encouraged to leave immediate feedback on the comments board. 24 sticky notes were left on the comments board - see summary below of the comments specific to the Newball proposals. Attendees were also able to respond to the consultation formally by completing a paper copy of the survey, via the online survey or by email.

- Include dedicated parking - laybys are already heavily used
- Woodland planting would be better targeted in areas that flood
- Give more consideration to horse riders
- Concern about planting land that could be used for agriculture

We also asked attendees to leave their contact details if they would like to be kept updated about the proposals.

## 4. Summary of stakeholder responses

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

Newball stakeholder responses
Butterfly Conservation (Lincolnshire Branch)
British Horse Society
Lincolnshire County Council, Historic Places
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
Lincolnshire Access Forum
Natural England
Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
West Lindsey District Council, Planning
Witham and Humber Drainage Board

**Butterfly Conservation (Lincolnshire Branch)** - suggestions for specific planting species including blackthorn for Brown Hairstreak; Sallows for Purple Emperor and wych elm for the White-letter Hairstreak

**The British Horse Society** - concern about the lack of provision for horse riding and suggestion to connect a through route between existing bridleways Newball 99 and Fulnetby 64.

**Lincolnshire County Council, Historic Places** - concern about the presence of crop marks and probable medieval or post medieval boundaries and enclosures, with recommendation to do further surveys.

**Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust** - supportive of the location of the woodland at Newball as it will connect existing areas of Lincolnshire Limewoods. Suggestion that native species are planted adjacent to the existing Newball Wood to maintain its character and composition.

**Lincolnshire Access Forum** - welcomes the proposals - includes suggestions for paths to ideally link to the existing PROWs and access via the existing track alongside Newball Wood. Suggestions for a bridleway link from the north to the south through Newball Wood and bridleway access to the south opposite the existing bridleway through Hardy Gang Wood.

**West Lindsey District Council, Planning** - questions about the potential impact of woodland planting on the existing ancient woodland areas at Newball and the risks of introducing non-characteristic tree species to the area.

**Natural England** - confirms the proposals should have no negative impact on any populations of non-woodland breeding wading birds and recommends that the project should maximise opportunities for nature recovery. Recommends buffers for mature and veteran trees and suggestions for tree species to include or avoid in the planting and to allow natural colonisation in the buffers adjacent to the ancient woodland.

#### **Witham and Humber Drainage Board**

Advised that the woodland site at Newball is within the Witham 3rd IDB boundary and set out the applicable requirements for Byelaw consents and maintenance strips for the Claybridge/Torrington Beck that cuts through the site. Also advised of the consent requirements for the watercourses owned by Forestry England within the woodland site.



## 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:

- Adjustments to our planting plans to accommodate archaeological findings.
- Modification to the buffer zone between the ditches and our woodland planting.
- Changes to the locations and proportions of species in response to Natural England.
- Amendment to our design to mitigate privacy concerns about the proximity of the woodland to a neighbouring landowner.

### 1. Access, paths and bridleways

Suggestions for new access points, paths and bridleways including:

- **Paths: link new paths within the site to existing public rights of way; Include a main surfaced track connecting the woodlands, with grassy tracks branching off.**

Once the new trees are established, visitors will be welcome to explore the new woodland on foot using existing public rights of way and the grass rides and the surfaced tracks we are creating to provide access for woodland management.

- **Provide access to Newball Wood via the existing track next to Newball Wood House; add an access point into the new wood from the A158 layby.**

The existing tracks into the new woodland near Newball Wood House and close to the Layby on the A158 are for operational purposes. Once the new trees in the woodland are established, visitors will be welcome to explore the new woodland on foot using existing public rights of way and the grass rides and the surfaced tracks we are creating to provide access for woodland management.

- **Create an access point into the woodland opposite the existing bridleway from Rand Wood.**

We are planning to create an additional new access point for visitors, to connect Hardy Gang Wood via the existing bridleway.

- **Bridleways: Create a through route between bridleways Newball 99 and Fulnetby 64, passing through Hardy Gang Wood and Newball Wood, extending north to Snelland; Build a clear surfaced route through the new woodland to the A158 for safe crossing to the bridleway on the other side.**

We have no plans or resources to create new surfaced paths, public rights of feedback, we are reviewing how cycling or horse riding infrastructure could be provided in the future in the surfaced areas of our new woodlands where appropriate.

Forestry England do not own or manage adjacent land and improving access in the wider area is not within the project's scope or funding.

## 2. Archaeology

- **Concern about the presence of crop marks and probable medieval or post medieval boundaries and enclosures, with recommendation to do further surveys.**

We have incorporated expert advice and archaeological surveys into our designs and have included open spaces where prehistoric enclosures and settlements have been found.

## 3. Parking

- **Suggestions to include dedicated parking or informal parking spaces for 2 or 3 cars at access points from public roads**

We have no plans to include visitor or other recreational facilities and therefore our proposal does not include public parking. We want to avoid a significant increase to car traffic on local roads. We anticipate that most visitors to the new woodland will do so on foot via the existing public rights of way, paths and grass rides and we have no plans or funding to include parking.

## 4. Signage

- **Install signage to indicate public access to Newball Wood near the entrance to the wildlife park and information boards for walkers at the laybys on the A158.**

We want visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, so we plan to keep signage in the new woodland to a minimum. Where public access points connect with our land, we will assess the need for signs as part of our overall signage strategy. At this stage, we have no plans or resources to design or install additional signs within the woodland or beyond its boundaries during the establishment phase.

## 5. Tree species and planting

- **Suggestions for specific tree species including:**

**Use only native species near the SSSI, such as oak, birch, small-leaved lime, wild service, willow, poplar, elm, rowan, field maple, and hazel**

Species planned close to the SSSI currently comprise native shrubs and a mixture of oak, small-leaved lime, hawthorn, silver birch and field maple. Native species will be planted closer to the priority habitats, with any natural colonisation being accepted if it is conducive to the overall site objectives.

- **Avoid non-native species like sweet chestnut, hornbeam, and black walnut in SSSI buffer areas**

Planting of sweet chestnut and hornbeam within the areas adjacent to the SSSI will be planted outside the 50m buffer zone

- **Include blackthorn, Wych Elm, and Sallows to support butterflies like Brown and White Hairstreak and Purple Emperor.**

Our objectives for this new woodland include creating diverse and resilient ecosystems that will benefit a broad spectrum of wildlife.

We plan to include a wide range of native trees and shrubs including broadleaved trees such as oak and small leaved lime which will benefit a wide variety of animals and vertebrates, including butterflies.

- **Include understorey species such as hazel, hawthorn, holly and alder**

We will include shrub and small broadleaf trees on the edges of the mixed woodland and coniferous woodland blocks to add biodiversity and create transitional habitats.

## 6. Wildlife and birds

- **Give greater emphasis to birds in the woodland design.**

The presence of woodland in a predominantly arable landscape will create additional habitats for various bird species. Through the Local Environmental Records Centre, and consultation with Natural England and Forest Services, we have identified the bird species present on the site. Before starting work on the site, we will assess potential impacts on wildlife and take site-specific measures to avoid disturbing nests and protect special species.

## 7. Woodland designs

- **Concern about the proximity of the new woodland to neighbouring property and the potential impact on light and privacy**

We have met with the neighbouring property owner and have proposed design revisions to mitigate these concerns.

- **Buffer mature hedgerows and veteran trees by planting new trees no closer than 30 meters from them**

We will retain a buffer zone of at least 5m beyond the edge of the tree's branches (drip line). This follows guidance drawn up in co-operation with the Woodland Trust, Forest Research and the Ancient Tree Forum.

- **Create a buffer of native species around the SSSI, maintaining it as permanent woodland**

We will include a minimum buffer of 50m of edge shrubs and native species around the edges of the SSSI

- **Allow the adjacent ancient woodland buffer areas to naturally colonise**  
Ancient woodlands will have a shrub buffer planted on the edges at 1000 stems per hectare, providing opportunities in the future for natural colonisation.

- **Include a new 5 acre meadow area**

Our planting in the woodland is focused on woodland creation rather than meadow establishment and we have no plans to reseed this area with meadow species. Currently, more than 5 acres of the site is grassland which will provide rich habitats for pollinators, birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

## 8. Woodland maintenance

- **Watercourses (Claybridge and Torrington Beck) are within Witham 3IDB boundary and must comply with Byelaw consent and include a 9m maintenance strip.**

Forestry England will include maintenance strips in our designs. We will conduct periodic ditch maintenance on the ditches we are responsible for to maintain suitable conditions for tree growth and liaise with the Witham 3rd IDB to allow access for their general maintenance work.

## 9. Other

- **Opportunities for volunteering opportunities for local residents**

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.

# Appendices

## Appendix A: Consultation information: Our response to frequently asked questions - new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball

The questions and answers below, are responses to some of the themes we are frequently asked about when creating new woodlands:

### 1. Public access

The new woodlands will be open to the public. Once the woodlands are established, we will dedicate them under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the sites.

At Mickleholme, an existing public footpath runs west to east across Dunholme Beck and through the site, connecting the new woodland to Dunholme. A bridleway also runs west to east from the village, entering the southeastern part of the site. At Newball, we propose to include a new entrance off Bardney Road to the southwest to connect the existing bridleway from Hardy Gang Wood to the new woodland.

These public footpaths will give access for walkers to enjoy the new woodlands. A network of new unsurfaced grass routes will allow access for woodland maintenance and for people to enjoy the new woodland, connecting to existing woodlands, nature reserves and the wider countryside. There are no plans to create new surfaced trails or provide specific infrastructure for horse-riding or cycling.

Our draft designs include open spaces perfect for peaceful picnics and quiet areas for people to enjoy wildlife and nature. The woodlands are being designed as quiet areas, and we have no plans to include new amenity or recreational facilities. Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodlands, but we won't put a fence around the whole woodland. Dog owners must be responsible and keep their pets under control in all the forests and woodland we care for, following signs and our Forest Dog Code.

### 2. Traffic and parking

The new woodlands have been designed for local people to enjoy; the woodlands can be accessed on foot, using the existing paths or the new routes we will create into the new woodlands and our proposals do not include car parking. We will consider signs to discourage inappropriate parking if necessary.

To manage the new woodlands, we need road access for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use the existing entrance off Market Rasen Road into the woodland at Mickleholme. At Newball, we will use the existing entrance and track off the A158

and are considering a second access off Bardney Road. We will add barriers close to these entrances to stop unauthorised access and antisocial behaviour.

### 3. Design, landscape and views

The new mixed woodland will enrich the landscape by boosting biodiversity and enhancing the natural environment. We have done surveys at each of the new woodland sites to tell us more about the plants, wildlife, archaeology and ecosystems.

These surveys, along with landscape and visual appraisals have guided our draft designs. For both woodlands, we will keep existing hedgerows to create diverse habitats for wildlife and connectivity beyond the woodland and to benefit biodiversity such as butterflies and birds.

By planting a range of trees and shrubs and creating open spaces with grass routes, the woodlands will connect to nearby woodlands, creating a tapestry of new natural quiet spaces for people to enjoy. Mickleholme will seamlessly link to Ashing Lane nature reserve. At Mickleholme we will also plant riparian (riverside) woodland along Dunholme Beck to create a habitat corridor along the watercourse and plant a seed stand to ensure a future supply of healthy tree seeds for our woodlands. Newball will connect to Newball Wood and Hardy Gang wood. The design for the new woodland will reflect the planting of these woods, helping to increase the habitat for the important butterflies already found here.

Our designs sensitively consider how close the new woodlands will be to our new neighbours. Where properties are close to our boundaries, we will include open space with wide-spaced shrub and broadleaved tree species to soften the views of the woodland edge and add colour and texture.

### 4. The trees we will plant

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 woodlands. This would include mixtures of conifer and broadleaf trees at both sites. These might include Macedonian pine, Scots pine, Corsican pine, European larch, pedunculate oak, red oak, small leaved lime, rowan, and wild cherry. We will also plant a range of shrub species such as hawthorn, spindle, blackthorn and guelder rose

## 5. Establishing and managing the woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 25/26. 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. Forestry England will develop a Forest Plan to make sure that future timber production is sustainable. As part of our ongoing management of the woodlands, we will begin to remove some trees after about 20-25 years - this will provide a sustainable supply of UK grown timber and help the woodlands thrive for many years to come.

## 6. Protecting the new woodland from deer

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

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

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

## 7. 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 be wonderful places for people to enjoy.

The sites have been individually and carefully assessed so they are suitable for woodland creation and sensitive to the local landscape. Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Mickleholme and Newball is graded at 3. 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.



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.

## Appendix B: Consultation Information Exhibition Boards

to view online go to [bit.ly/panelsmn](https://bit.ly/panelsmn)



 **Forestry England**

# Growing the nation's forests

## Proposed new woodlands near Dunholme and Langworth in Lincolnshire

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

We are planning new woodlands at Mickleholme near Dunholme and at Newball near Langworth, 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 these woodlands using the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Nature for Climate Fund.

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

**forestryengland.uk**



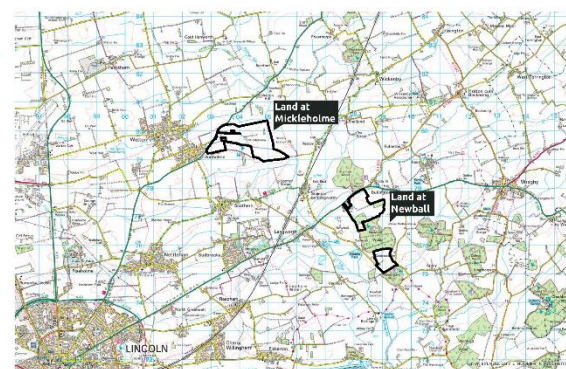




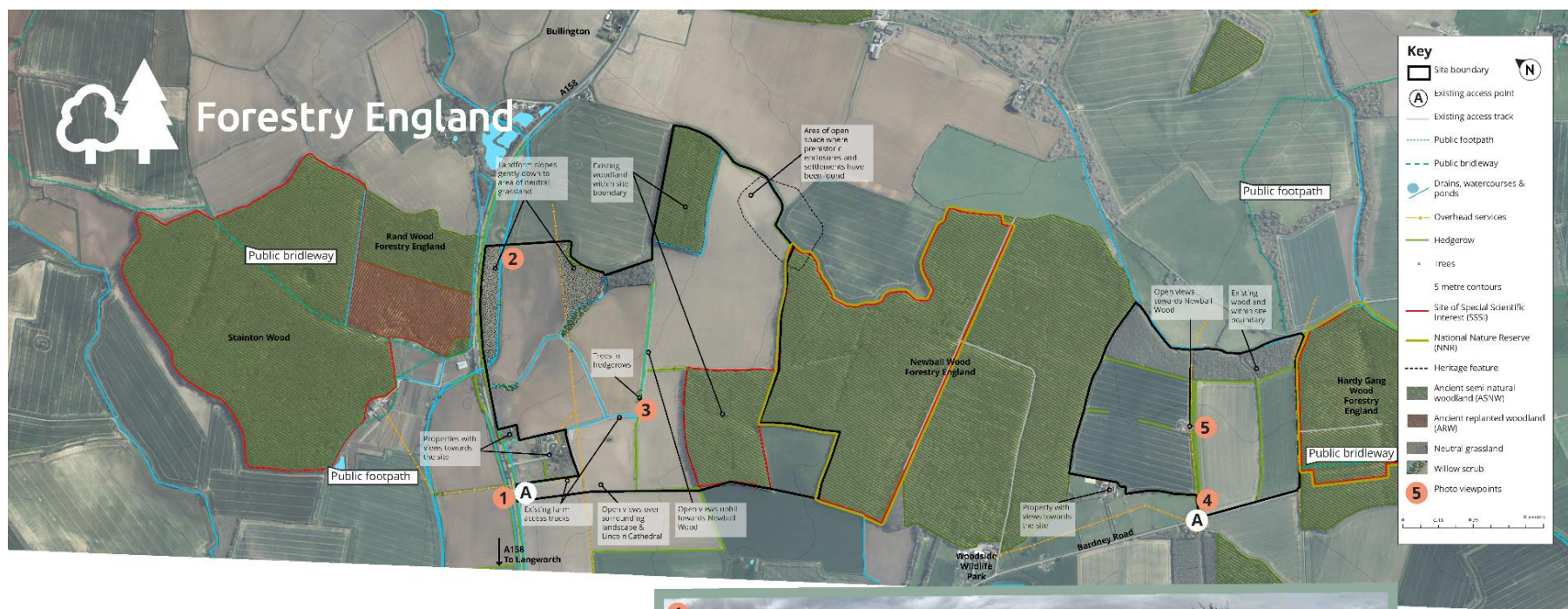
## Site locations & context

The proposed new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball are in Lincolnshire close to the villages of Dunholme and Langworth. The area falls within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 44 Central Lincolnshire Vale. The land at Newball provides an opportunity to connect two existing woodlands managed by Forestry England.

The area is a predominantly broad, low-lying, very gently undulating vale. Woodland cover is variable with little on the central and northern clay soils, and much more on the Coversands and Fen Edge Gravels; 8% of the NCA area is woodland. Land is used mostly as arable farmland with pasture on the heavier clays and around villages. In general, there is a regular pattern of medium to large-sized arable fields with hawthorn-dominant hedgerows enclosing most fields and with few hedgerow trees. The landscape is rich in medieval sites with remnant ridge and furrow, deserted medieval villages. (Natural England, 2013)







## The existing site: Newball

The site at Newball is mostly former arable farmland with large fields, some hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are several woodland blocks that stand out in the landscape. Nearby are Newball Wood and Hardy Gang Wood, designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Some of the adjacent sites are covered by Site of Special Scientific Interest status (Central Lincolnshire Limewoods SSSI) and are also part of the 'Bardney Limewoods' National Nature Reserve. This is a group of 9 Lime woodlands that have been high forest or managed as coppice since the 11th Century. The area is notable as having the greatest concentration of woodland dominated by small leaved lime in Britain.

1: Wide view south over site from A158 field access point. 2: View south and west over watercourse and toward Newball Wood in the distance. 3: Wide view east and south into field with ASNW woodland visible beyond. 4: View east and south toward deciduous woodland on site and Hardy Gang Wood. 5: View north through break in woodland and hedgerow towards Newball Wood.







## How the new woodlands could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

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

### Artist's impressions:

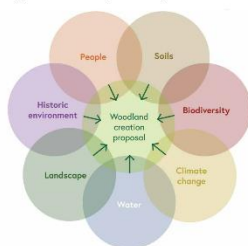






## How the new woodland at Newball could look

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



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

- Preliminary ecological appraisal
- Historic environment records & geophysical survey
- Landscape and visual appraisal
- Local environment records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological site classification
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

## Objectives for the new woodland



**Thriving habitats for wildlife:** increase connectivity between the SSSI and other woodlands nearby, creating a mosaic of habitats to enhance biodiversity.



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



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



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

## Types of woodland we could plant



**1** Scots pine with corsican pine, norway maple, red oak, small leaved lime



**2** Pedunculate oak with sweet chestnut, small leaved lime



**3** Low density rowan, hawthorn, dogwood, spindle



**4** Low density fruiting trees, cherry, crab apple, pear, damson



Norway maple



Hawthorn



Red oak



Small leaved lime



Sweet chestnut



Crab apple

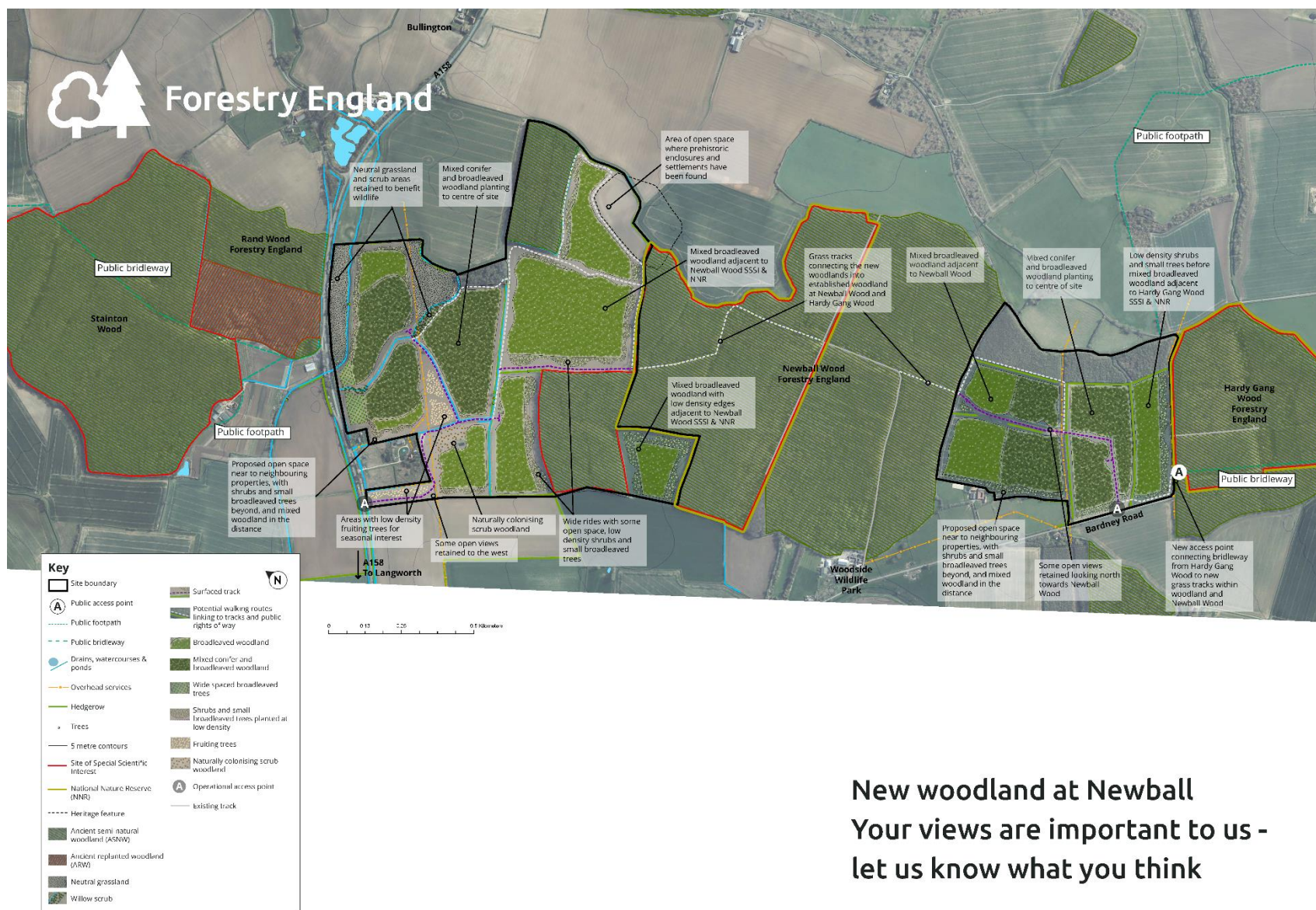


Spindle



Dogwood





**New woodland at Newball**  
**Your views are important to us -**  
**let us know what you think**



Forestry England

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

### Responding to this consultation

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

- <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange>

- If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at [woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk](mailto:woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk)

All views should be received by midnight on Sunday 6th April

### What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Initial planting (Winter 2025/26)


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

**forestryengland.uk**





## Event poster



The top section of the poster features the Forestry England logo, which consists of a stylized tree and a cloud-like shape, followed by the text 'Forestry England'. Below this is a photograph of a group of people, including children and adults, standing in a forest with autumn foliage. The people are looking towards the right side of the frame.


# NewWoodlands at MH & NBG

**public consultation event on  
our proposed designs**

20th March 4-7pm Dunholme Old School  
Community Centre, Market Rasen Road, Dunho

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


For more information and to respond to the consultation  
visit: [bit.ly/consultMNG](https://bit.ly/consultMNG)



The consultation closes at midnight Sunday 4th April 2025

You can also contact us at:  
[woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk](mailto:woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk)

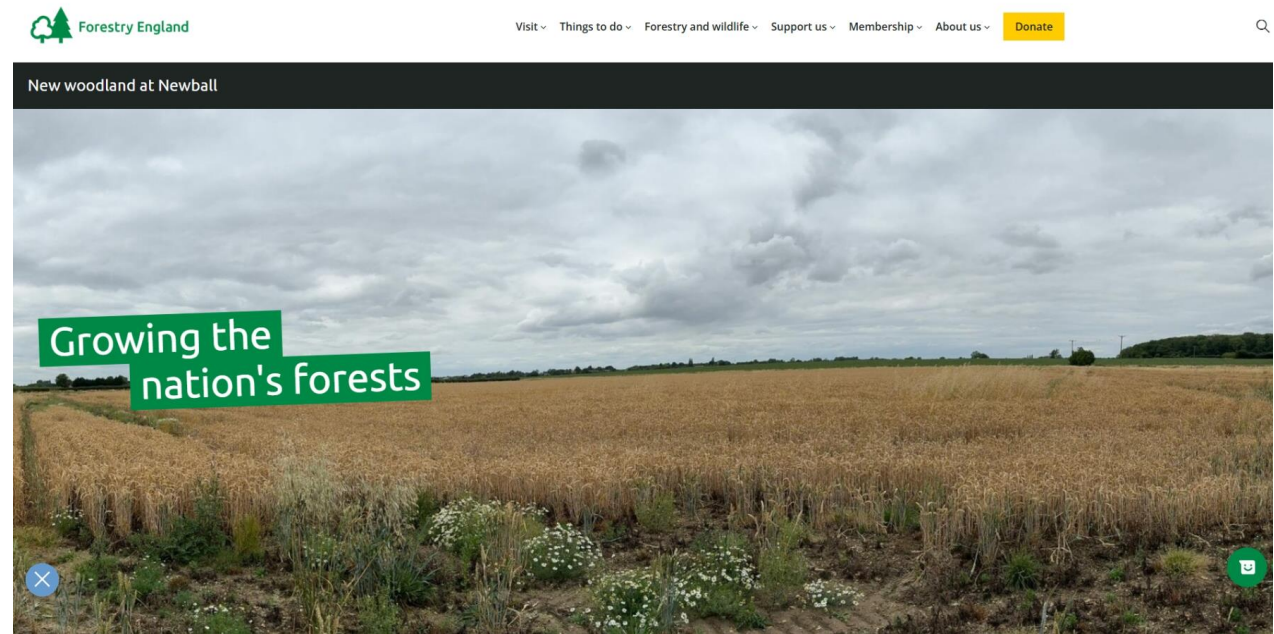
**forestryengland.uk**



A detailed line drawing of an oak leaf is positioned on the right side of the poster, partially overlapping the text area.

## Forestry England Website

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/article/new-woodland-newball>



At Forestry England, we're expertly creating a new woodland on land at Newball, next to the village of Langworth in Lincolnshire.

The new 132 hectare woodland will become a new green space for you to explore and enjoy, whilst also being a valuable habitat for wildlife and producing sustainable timber for a greener economy.

We'll carefully choose tree species that will both thrive at this new site now, and be resilient to future climate conditions as they grow and mature. The land will be planted with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer species, chosen to match local soil types. The landscape design will also incorporate open space for conservation and visual diversity.

### Newball public consultation

The draft design proposals for the new woodland are now complete and we invite your comments on them. You can comment online until Sunday 6 April via the button below.

We'll also be holding a public drop-in event in March - details can be found on the consultation page too.

[View the plans](#)

### New woodlands in Lincolnshire

This new woodland is one of the many we're creating to grow the nation's forests, with support from the Nature for Climate Fund. In Lincolnshire alone, we're creating 854 hectares of new woodland at four sites across the county. Lincolnshire is currently the least wooded county in the East Midlands.

The other new woodlands we are creating in Lincolnshire are [Cadney](#), [North Carlton](#), and [Mickleholme](#).

### Frequently asked questions about the new woodland at Newball

#### What types of trees will you plant?

We'll carefully plan in detail the trees that will be planted in the new woodland. Using a mix of tree and shrub species will help make the wood resilient to climate change and tree diseases, whilst also supporting a wider range of wildlife.

Some areas will be planted with a mix of trees, including broadleaved trees and conifers. This will complement the local landscape, provide seasonal colour and increase resilience.

#### When will works start and finish?

We're in the early stages of creating our designs for the new woodland. Public feedback and surveys will inform our detailed plans for the new woodland. Our aim is to create the new woodland over the next couple of years with initial planting beginning in winter 2025/26.

#### How do I stay in touch about the project?

We will post key updates on this webpage as the project progresses.



## Consultation Event images





Forestry England

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

Remove the fence  
between the  
new woodland  
and the  
existing  
woodland

Just consider  
the fence  
between the  
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and the  
existing  
woodland

Remove the fence  
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Remove the fence  
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Please don't forget to  
remove the fence  
between the  
new woodland  
and the  
existing  
woodland

### Responding to this consultation

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

- <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange>

- If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email at [woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk](mailto:woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk)

All views should be received by midnight on Sunday 6th April

### What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Initial planting (Winter 2025/26)

Scan the QR code  
to find out more:

[forestryengland.uk](https://forestryengland.uk)



## Appendix C: Consultation questionnaire



### Proposed new woodlands at Mickleholme & Newball

#### Overview

Forestry England would like to share with you our proposed plans for the new woodlands near Mickleholme and Newball

#### Why your views matter

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

#### Introduction

Thank you for taking part in this consultation on the design proposals for the new woodlands.

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 - Please tick which site you are responding about**

Mickleholme ☐ Newball ☐ Both ☐

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

Return form to: FAO Forestry England Woodland Creation Team, Central England Sub-office Delamere Forest, ~~Linnere~~, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2JD

## Appendix D: Letters/emails announcing the launch of the consultation (Mickleholme and Newball)

Dear neighbour

### **Public consultation on draft design proposals for new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball**

Thank you for your response to our early engagement survey about our new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball.

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

These are available to view and comment upon until midnight on Sunday the 6th April:  
<https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange>

While we continue with our detailed planning for the woodland, (survey and maintenance work is currently underway at the site), we are keen to hear your views on our initial design proposals. These have been informed by site surveys as well as the valuable insights gained from you and other local people late last year.

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

### **Public drop-in event**

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

Thursday 20th March, 4.00 pm - 7.00pm  
Dunholme Old School Community Centre, 8 Market Rasen Road, Dunholme, Lincoln,  
Postcode: LN2 3QR

The new woodlands will be one of many that Forestry England is planting to increase tree planting across the UK.

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

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team

### **Responding to the consultation**

The consultation will be open from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April.



**Online:** We encourage you submit your response online.

You can view our plans and submit your views here

: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange>

Or: [bit.ly/consultMNG](https://bit.ly/consultMNG)

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

### **Next steps**

The consultation will close on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report along with our response to the key issues raised and published on our website. Consultation feedback and further surveys will help shape the final design proposal we will submit to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

The Woodland Creation Team

### **Forestry England**

Email: [woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk](mailto:woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk)

[www.forestryengland.uk](https://www.forestryengland.uk)





## Email to Parish councils

### Public consultation on draft design proposals for new woodlands at Mickleholme and Newball Grange

Dear Parish Council

We recently contacted you about our proposals for new woodlands at Mickleholme, near Dunholme and Newball.

I am now writing to let you know about the launch of a public consultation on our draft design proposals for the new woodland. Full details are available to view on our website here: <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/mickleholme-newball-grange>

While we continue with our detailed planning for the woodlands, (survey and maintenance works are currently underway at the sites), we are keen to hear views on our initial design proposals.

### Public drop-in event

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

Thursday 20th March, 4.00 pm - 7.00pm  
Dunholme Old School Community Centre, 8 Market Rasen Road, Dunholme, Lincoln,  
Postcode: LN2 3QR

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 parish website or notice boards where available. I also attach a copy of the email we have sent to those that responded to our early engagement to notifying them of the consultation.

Whilst we are encouraging all responses to be submitted online (please see below), 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

Woodland Creation  
Forestry England  
[www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation](http://www.forestryengland.uk/woodland-creation)

### Responding to the consultation

The consultation will be open from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

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

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

### **Next steps**

The consultation will close on 6<sup>th</sup> April. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report along with our response to the key issues raised and published on our website. Consultation feedback and further surveys will help shape the final design proposal we will submit to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

## Appendix E: Code frame

Theme	Total
<b>Archaeology</b>	<b>1</b>
Presence to the northeast of the Newball site of cropmarks of probable medieval or post medieval boundaries and enclosures and recommendation to undertake further surveys to allow adjustments to the planting	1
<b>General positive comment</b>	<b>6</b>
General positive	6
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>
Share survey results	1
<b>Parking</b>	<b>1</b>
Include informal parking spaces for 2 or 3 cars at access points from public roads (e.g. entrance on the east side of Hardy Gang Wood)	1
<b>Paths and bridleways</b>	<b>8</b>
Connect a through route between bridleways Newball 99 and Fulnetby 64 (through Hardy Gang Wood and the existing and new Newball Wood, north to Snelland).	2
Create a clear surfaced route through the new woodland to the A158 to allow safe crossing to the bridleway on the other side of the A158	1
Include an access point into the new wood from the A158 layby	1
Include an access point into the woodland opposite the existing bridleway from Rand Wood	1
Include one surfaced main track connecting the woodlands with grassy tracks off them	1
Link new user paths within the site boundary to existing public right of way	1
Provide PROW access to the existing Newball Wood via the existing track alongside Newball Wood House	1
<b>Signage</b>	<b>2</b>
Include information boards for walkers on the laybys on the A158	1
Include signage to indicate public access to the existing Newball Wood alongside the entrance to the wildlife park	1
<b>Tree species and planting</b>	<b>14</b>
Avoid non-native species like sweet chestnut, hornbeam and black walnut in SSSI buffer areas	2
Avoid sweet chestnut and hornbeam within the blocks or the buffer close to the SSSI	1
Include blackthorn, Wych Elm and Sallows for butterflies such as Brown and White Hairstreak and Purple Emperor	1
Include fruit trees in area adjacent to the watercourse	1

Theme	Total
Include honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> ) in the areas planted with native trees	1
Include riparian native strips with native willows along watercourses (crack, goat and white willows)	2
Include shrub and small broadleaf tree strips around the mixed woodland and coniferous woodland blocks to add biodiversity	1
Include understorey species such as hazel, hawthorn, holly and alder	1
Plant disease resistant Elms, <i>U japonica</i> as part of the species mix around the edges of the woodblock	1
Take care that the new planting does not negatively impact the adjacent Deciduous Woodland or Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland	1
Use only native species adjacent to the SSSI (e.g. Oak, birch, small-leaved lime, wild service, willow, poplar elm, rowan, field maple and hazel)	2
<b>Wildlife and birds</b>	<b>3</b>
Provide a greater emphasis on native species	1
The proposal should have no negative impact on any nearby populations of non-woodland breeding wading birds	2
<b>Woodland design</b>	<b>12</b>
Allow the adjacent ancient woodland buffer areas to colonise naturally	1
Buffer recommendations for mature and veteran trees - the nearest planted tree should ideally be no closer than 30m stem to stem	2
Include a new 5 acre meadow area to replicate the rare meadow at Chamber Farm Wood	1
Include a suitably sized buffer of native species sympathetic to those within existing SSSI and maintain as permanent woodland	1
Include a wider buffer around existing ancient woods/allow area to regenerate naturally	1
Maximise Nature Recovery opportunities	2
More emphasis on natural regeneration	1
Proximity of woodland boundary to property	2
Retain and buffer the existing good quality, tall and mature hedgerows enclosing some of the fields	1
<b>Woodland maintenance</b>	<b>1</b>
Watercourses (Claybridge and Torrington Beck) are within Witham 3IDB boundary and must comply with Byelaw consent and include a 9m maintenance strip.	1

## Appendix F: Stakeholders contacted

<b>Stakeholder</b>
<b>Elected representative</b>
Parliamentary MP for Gainsborough
Lincolnshire County Ward Councillors - Bardney and Cherry Willingham
West Lindsey District Ward Councillors - Cherry Willingham Ward
<b>Land owners</b>
Blankney Estate
<b>Lincolnshire County Council</b>
Lead local flood authority
Lincolnshire Historic Environment Records
<b>Parish Council</b>
Bullington Parish Council
Newball Parish Council
Stainton By Langworth Parish Council
<b>Statutory body</b>
Natural England
Environment Agency
Lincolnshire CPRE
<b>Utilities</b>
Witham Third District Drainage Board
North East Lindsey Drainage Board
Witham First District Internal Drainage Board
Anglian Water
BT Openreach
<b>West Lindsey Local Authority</b>
Planning
<b>Wildlife and special interest groups</b>
Nettleham Woodland Trust
Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership
Bat Conservation Trust
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Lincolnshire Deer Group
Lincolnshire Naturalist Union
Woodland Trust
National Farmers Union