

Picklescott

Consultation report and our response to issues raised

September 2024



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1. Executive summary

Between 22 July and 18 August 2024, we held a consultation on proposals for the designs of a new woodland at Picklescott. The new 54.4 hectare woodland will have public access providing a high-quality green space for people to explore and enjoy, a valuable wildlife habitat, and a sustainable source of timber for a green economy. The woodland will also connect to the existing public rights of way network.

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

We received 75 responses to the consultation which included 152 comments. Whilst many comments were supportive, others highlighted concerns about our proposals, raised questions or made suggestions.

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

1. In response to requests to include a community orchard, we are now including an area of fruiting trees in the design.
2. In response to suggestions to include a pond on the wet field near Pogan Hall, we have included small scrapes (small shallow ponds) in this location.
3. In response to concerns about views we have made amendments to the design proposals. We have included open space with an area of fruit trees and other broadleaf planting and retained long distance views towards Caer Caradoc and the Wrekin where possible.
4. In response to the suggestion that there may be a long barrow on the site, our Lead Historic Environment Advisor visited the site and confirmed the remains are of a historic field boundary with no regional or national significance. We will however leave a 2m buffer around it.
5. In response to a suggestion to include a path route from the western most high point of the woodland site, we have included a proposed grass path in this area. We have also added two more pedestrian access points to the new woodland and a new grass path. These make use of existing access points into the site and are marked in yellow dots on the updated design proposals.
6. In response to the presence of a water supply near the site, we have included a 50m buffer around the well.
7. After conducting more detailed soil surveys, we've rearranged some of the broadleaf and conifer areas to ensure each species has the best growing conditions. This change has increased the proportion of broadleaf trees to around 66.5%.

These changes are reflected in our updated design proposals and can be viewed [here](#). We are now finalising our designs to reflect these changes, ahead of an application to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review before we can begin to create the new woodland.

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

2. About the Consultation

2.1 Introduction

Forestry England is creating a new woodland on land we have bought at Picklescott in Shropshire. The land was previously used for pasture farmland and will provide a thriving woodland which will be planted with a mix of tree and shrub species, including mixed conifer and broadleaf trees, specially selected to be resilient to future climate conditions. The new woodland will be a 'Coronation Wood' to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. It will connect into the existing public rights of way network and will be managed by Forestry England.

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

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

Feedback will help to shape and inform our final designs which will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review before we can create the new woodland.

2.2 Purpose

The aims of the consultation were to:

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

2.3 Early engagement

In April 2024, we wrote to local people at 27 addresses close to the new woodland at Picklescott. We also contacted Picklescott Parish Council and Pulverbatch Parish Council. The letter invited people's views on the issues important for us to consider as we develop our designs for the creation of a new woodland on land in Picklescott. The letter included a map showing the boundary of the new site and invited responses via an online survey.

We received 121 responses, from residents and businesses. As part of the early engagement, we also had one to one meetings, email or telephone conversations with owners of two neighbouring properties about the proposals.

The feedback to this early engagement is summarised in **Section 2.4**, and together with further design and survey work and engagement with stakeholders, this has helped to shape the design proposals we presented in the July/August 2024 public consultation.

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

Feedback to our early engagement included many positive comments, as well as questions and concerns about issues including:

- Accessibility and paths in the new woodland
- Traffic and parking - particularly in narrow lanes
- Concerns about the use of agricultural land for woodland
- Environmental impact
- Woodland management
- Suggestions for tree species, planting and choices
- Wildlife and birds - including concerns about deer and presence of existing wildlife and birds
- Woodland design suggestions

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

2.5 Public consultation - who we consulted

We invited local people who responded to our initial early engagement survey, as well as representatives from Shropshire County Council, and the local Picklescott and Pulverbatch parish councils. We also contacted stakeholders such as local political representatives (district and county ward councillors, MP for South Shropshire), local interest and wildlife groups, Natural England, the Environment Agency and Shropshire Hills National Landscapes.

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

2.6 Dates and duration

The public consultation was initially open for 3 weeks from 22 July until midnight 11 August 2024. In response to requests to allow more time for people to respond to the consultation and in light of the peak summer holiday period, the consultation was extended by a week and closed at midnight on Sunday 18 August.

2.7 What we asked.

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

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

2.8 Methods of responding

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

- Completing the questionnaire included on our website at: [New woodland near Picklescott - Forestry Commission - Citizen Space \(forestryengland.uk\)](#)
- Email at: Woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk (where responding via the survey was not possible)

- Leaving comments or suggestions at the public information event held at Picklescott Village Hall (comments from these events have been summarised separately in **Section 3.4** of this report).
- Completing a paper survey at the public information event

2.9 Overview of consultation responses

We received 75 responses to the consultation. 51 were submitted by completing the consultation online and 25 were submitted by email, letter or hard copy response received at the consultation drop in event. The responses were categorised as either general positive comment, negative/concerns, questions or suggestions.

2.10 Consultation materials and publicity

2.10.1 Consultation materials

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

- An overview of the new woodland creation programme and Government tree planting objectives
- A site appraisal of the existing site - with photographs and maps to give context
- An overview of the surveys undertaken and the objectives and principles that have informed our design proposals for the new woodland
- An overview of planting types included in the proposals
- Visuals of how the new woodland might look soon after planting and, in the future
- An overview of how feedback received to our early engagement had been incorporated into the designs presented in the consultation
- Information on how to respond to the consultation
- Comment boards at the consultation information drop in events inviting attendees to use sticky notes to leave comments about the proposals

2.10.2 Consultation activity

We publicised the consultation in the following ways:

- **Media release:** Distributed to local news outlets
- **Dedicated web page:** On the Forestry England website at [New woodland at Picklescott | Forestry England](#)
- **Emails** to over 100 people in the local area
- **Emails** to stakeholders
- **Posters:** Posters publicising the consultation were put up in public areas around Picklescott. We also shared the poster with Picklescott Parish Council.
- **Consultation drop in event:** We held a public information drop-in event on Tuesday 30 July from 4 - 7pm at Picklescott Village Hall, SY6 6NR

2.10.3 Analysis of consultation responses

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

3. About the responses

We received a total of 75 responses to the consultation, including 12 responses from stakeholders (**Appendix G**). Comments were analysed into different codes which were then summarised into 16 overarching themes.

Theme	General positive	Concern	Question	Suggestion comment
Agricultural land and the new woodland		11		1
Access to the new woodland				2
Communications and consultation		2		2
Deer management		2		2
Fencing and boundary treatments		2		
Flooding and water supply		3		1
Footpath suggestions and bridleways				11
General positive	35			
Other		1	1	3
Traffic and parking		7		4
Tree species and planting		3		11
Users of the new woodland and paths		5		3
Views		5		1
Wildlife and biodiversity		7	1	11
Woodland design				12
Woodland planting maintenance				3
Total	35	48	2	67

The comments contained in paper copy responses to the consultation are included in the tables above. Comments posted on the comment boards at the drop in event have been summarised separately in **Section 3.4** of this document.

3.1 Positive comments

We received 35 general positive comments. These included mentions of the benefits the new woodland would have on wildlife, nature and the environment, and general positive comments for example ‘Looks stunning - really look forward to visiting here and watching it grow’; ‘Very supportive’; ‘The plans look fantastic and very carefully considered’; ‘I think this is a wonderful idea, the more woodlands the better’.

3.2 Concerns/ negative comments

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

Theme and concern	Mentions
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Agriculture and the new woodland - Concern about the use of agricultural land for new woodland and its impact on food security (8 mentions). The potential impact of the new woodland on crops, water use, and hedgerows near farm boundaries, potential future restrictions on neighbouring farmers, and issues related to health, safety, and public access.	12
Traffic and parking - Concern about the limited access to the woodland via narrow lanes (3 mentions), increased visitor numbers leading to parking issues (2 mentions), the need to consider timber transport routes (1), and a concern that parking facilities are not included in the proposals (1).	7
Wildlife and biodiversity - Concern about badgers and deer spreading TB (2 mentions) and the impact of timber production on biodiversity (2 mentions). Additional concerns include the effect of the new woodland on existing wildlife and the presence and location of Curlews.	7
Users of the new woodland and paths - Concern about dogs and sheep worrying (3 mentions) and the lack of paths for horse riding and cycling (2 mentions)	5
Views - Concern about the impact on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (1 mention) and the possibility of surrounding views being obscured (1 mention) including views to Caer Caradoc, Wrekin, and Lawley (2 mentions) and concern about views from a specific property (1 mention)	5
Flooding and water supply - Concern about well drying up/being contaminated	3
Tree species and planting - Concern about proportion of softwood/conifers	3
Communications & consultation - Concern about the time allowed for consultation	2
Fencing and boundary treatments - Concern about the lack of boundary fencing for the new woodland	2
Deer management - Concern about use of high deer fencing and effect on birds; Concern about the impact of deer on crops and wildlife	2
Other - Privacy concern of nearby property	1
Total	49

3.3 Questions & suggestions

We received 69 questions and suggestions about the proposals. Those most frequently mentioned within each theme have been summarised in the table below.

Theme and suggestion/question	Questions and suggestions
Woodland design - Include a community orchard (5 mentions), include a pond on the field close to Pogan Hall (2 mentions).	12
Tree species and planting - Include flowering shrub (4 mentions); Include non-native tree species as a smaller proportion of the planted area (2 mentions). Other suggestions included: avoid planting hornbeam or beech; ensure there is enough space around hedges for them to grow (shrub out), use only broadleaf trees and plant blocks of mixed woodland with mainly native species.	11

Wildlife and biodiversity - Include bat boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, and den boxes for Pine martens (3 mentions), Provide better habitat and guidance for Curlews (3 mentions). Other suggestions included monitor predator numbers, protect rare butterfly species.	12
Footpath suggestions - Suggestions for specific path routes (4 suggestions), suggestion to create new rights of way and bridleways to connect to existing ones; Liaise with PROW team if creating new or improving public rights of way, surfaces or installing gates and stiles. Surface the picnic areas and footpaths for best drainage.	11
Traffic and parking - Provide parking/include informal parking for a few cars	4
Users of the new woodland and paths - Include paths for horse riding and cycling	3
Woodland maintenance - Maintain the footpaths with grass cutting, employ local people and provide welfare facilities for workers	3
Access to the new woodland - Include gates in the deer fencing once woodland is established in 5 years	2
Communications and consultation - Include community tree planting	2
Deer management - Plans for deer management in the area	2
Other - General advice re planting near assets; Timing for the project? Why Coronation Wood?	4
Flooding and water supply - Consider if flooding will have an effect on some of the local Ordinary Watercourse with Shropshire Council	1
Use of agricultural land - Existing grassland is good for carbon sequestration	1
Views - Retain some views of the surrounding hills	1
Total	69

The code frame summarising the comments received to the consultation are included in **Appendix E**. Our response to the key issues and questions raised are set out in **Section 4** of this document.

3.4 Feedback from the consultation drop in event.

Over 40 people attended the public information drop in event at Picklescott Village Hall (4.00pm-7pm), on Tuesday 30 July.

The event displayed the information already available to view on the website on large posters around the venue and Forestry England staff were on hand to talk about the proposals, answer questions or queries, and listen to any concerns from those attending. In addition, visitors were invited to leave immediate feedback on comment boards and to respond to the consultation formally via the online survey or, if this was not possible, by completing a paper copy at the event, or by email.

Attendees were asked to leave their contact details if they would like to be kept updated about the proposals.

Feedback from the event generally mirrored the feedback from the formal consultation responses, with many positive responses. Key discussions and concerns were focused on the following issues:

Summary of discussion points

- Use of agricultural land and the new woodland
- The woodland will attract an increase in visitors to the area and concerns about parking
- Provision of paths for horses and cycling
- Include fruit trees and an orchard
- Discussions specific to neighbouring properties about views, water supply and boundary fencing
- Presence of Curlews in the area
- Include community tree planting

Six sticky notes were posted on the feedback boards:

Comments	Total
General supportive comments	3
Concern about the use of agricultural land and the impact on food production and the rural community	2
Concern about the impact on the AONB	1

We also received 16 paper consultation responses at the event. Comments included in these responses are included in **Section 3** of this report.

4. Our response to issues raised

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

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

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

1. In response to requests to include a community orchard, we are now including an area of fruiting trees in the design.
2. In response to suggestions to include a pond on the wet field near Pogan Hall, we have included small scrapes (small shallow pond) in this location.
3. In response to concerns about views we have made amendments to the design proposals. We have included open space with an area of fruit trees and other broadleaf planting and retained long distance views towards Caer Caradoc and the Wrekin where possible.
4. In response to the suggestion that there may be a long barrow on the site, our Lead Historic Environment Advisor visited the site and confirmed the remains are of a historic field boundary with no regional or national significance. We will however leave a 2m buffer around it.
5. In response to a suggestion to include a path route from the western most high point of the woodland site, we have included a proposed grass path in this area. We have also added two more pedestrian access points to the new woodland and a new grass path. These make use of existing access points into the site and are marked in yellow dots on the updated design proposals.
6. In response to the presence of a water supply near the site, we have included a 50m buffer around the well.
7. After conducting more detailed soil surveys, we've rearranged some of the broadleaf and conifer areas to ensure each species has the best growing conditions. This change has increased the proportion of broadleaf trees to around 66.5%.

These changes are reflected in our updated design proposals and can be viewed [here](#).

Appendix A: Our response to key issues raised - Picklescott

1. Access to the new woodland

1.1. Include gate access in the deer fencing once woodland is established so we can walk among the trees after they have established in 5 years.

Visitors to the new woodland will be free to walk on the grass paths between the deer fenced areas of the woodland blocks. To avoid instances where gate failures lead to deer getting into the new woodland and damaging the young trees, we do not install gates in deer fencing unless it is an existing right of way. Once the trees are established and no longer threatened by browsing wildlife, the deer fence will be taken down, allowing people to explore the whole site.

2. Communications and consultation

2.1. Include the local community in tree planting.

Whilst we have limited resource to support long term volunteering opportunities on the site, we may host a community planting day when we begin planting the new woodland for local people to join in creating this special place.

2.2. Concerns about the length of time allowed for consultation

In response to feedback and the consultation period was during the busy summer holiday season, we extended the consultation by an extra week, ending on August 18th.

3. Deer management

3.1. Concern about use of high deer fencing and its detrimental effect on birds and the environment.

When considering our options for deer fencing in the new woodland, and the risk of bird collisions, we need to strike a balance between the creation of a highly visible barrier, the practicality of sustaining the fence for its principal purpose and the overall cost. Birds with low-flying habitats such as black grouse and capercaillie are rare in the area of Picklescott, so we have no plans to amend our proposals for the deer fence. More information about Forestry Commission Guidance is [here](#)

3.2. Concern about the impact of deer on crops and wildlife and the unintended consequences on surrounding agricultural land - ensure a landscape approach to deer management in the area.

The site at Picklescott is designed with small blocks of planting with space between which would allow wildlife movement through the site. There are deer nearby but not in extensive numbers or large herds. This means the fences will protect the trees while they establish without displacing large populations to elsewhere. Once the woodland is established the deer population will be [managed](#) to prevent adverse effects on trees and wildlife.

The deer in the area are mainly roe and smaller numbers of muntjac which do not form large herds, resulting in lower impacts on crops and grassland than large herds.

We understand the importance of landscape level management but are not aware of any coordinated management taking place in this area. We would be happy to engage with any discussions if coordinated landscape scale groups are formed.

4. Fencing and boundary treatments

4.1 Concern about fence line boundary with grazing land

We will meet our legal duties for boundary maintenance and ensure our boundary meets our management objectives for the site. We would expect our neighbours to do the same. Typically, it is the landowner's responsibility to fence their own property to protect their animals or ensure privacy.

We will be fencing the woodland compartments to protect the young trees until they are established, but we won't be putting up a fence around the whole of the new woodland. Our local forestry team has visited the site to review the stock fencing and have confirmed this is generally in a good state of repair.

5. Flooding and water supply

5.1 Concern about water supply from well (drying up and water contamination).

We've adjusted the design to create a buffer around the water supply, following [UK Forestry Standard Best Practice](#). No ground preparation, fertilisers or herbicides will be used within 50m of the well to prevent siltation or contamination. Any trees planted within the 50m buffer zone around the well will be low density planting of native broadleaves that are suitable for the environment and climate.

We are in ongoing communication with the property owners who raised this as a concern, and we have also requested further information from the local authority to help inform our response.

5.2 Consider if tree planting would affect local ordinary watercourses with Shropshire Council.

We have contacted Shropshire County Council to seek an opinion.

6. Footpath suggestions and bridleways

6.1 Create new rights of way and bridleways to connect to existing ones.

Visitors are welcome to explore the new woodland using existing public rights of way and the new grass paths. We have no plans to create new rights of way or bridleways. Once the new trees in the woodland are established, the land will be dedicated as open access for people to explore and enjoy.

6.2 Liaise with the Public Rights of Way team regarding the creation of new or improving public rights of way, changing surfaces, or installing gates and stiles.

We'll be using the current access points to the new woodland. If there's already a gate and public footpath, we won't be making any changes. However, we'll take care of maintaining them, and this will be part of our annual maintenance plan.

6.3 Surface the picnic areas and footpaths for best drainage.

Visitors are welcome to enjoy picnics in the new woodland. However, we don't plan to add formal picnic areas, tables, or benches.

6.4 Suggestions for new footpaths and bridleways include:

6.4.1 Include a route from the westernmost high point of the site.

We have included a proposed grass path in this area.

- 6.4.2 Put in route from your planned public access point on the Picklescott / Wilrack Farm road directly west to your operational access point and a route going directly from this same road west to meet your planned path.**

We are introducing two new pedestrian access points, making use of existing access points into the site. The first is on the road between Wilrack Farm and Picklescott, and the other is from the track into the site from the west - the pedestrian access points are marked in yellow dots [here](#).

7 Traffic and parking

- 7.1 Provide parking - concerns about an increase in visitors to the area and parking and access to the woodland via very narrow lanes.**

The new woodland has been designed as a quiet area for everyone to enjoy, especially local residents. While there won't be a designated parking area, the woodland can be reached using the existing public footpaths. All of our woodlands have operational access for maintenance which usually allows for a few cars to park informally.

- 7.2 Concern that junction at Picklescott will be too tight for harvesting and maintenance vehicles - consider transport routes for timber now.**

We have considered our maintenance and harvesting access as part of our planning for the new woodland, and these do not include the transport of timber through Picklescott village.

8 Tree species and planting

- 8.1 Concern about the proportion of large commercial softwood/conifers included in plans and suggestions that non-native tree species should form a smaller proportion of the planted area/not in keeping with local area.**

Around 66.5 % of our woodland is made up of broadleaf trees, mostly native species. This doesn't include the research area where we're testing the future viability of non-native trees. To meet our diverse woodland objectives, which include sustainable timber production, we will be planting conifers as well.

- 8.2 Include sufficient space around existing hedges to allow these to shrub out.**

We are planting shrubs on the edges of all our woodland planting blocks and have included open spaces next to the hedgerows. The hedgerows will be managed as part of our annual maintenance plan.

- 8.3 Plant blocks of mixed woodland made up of predominantly native and tree shrub species and include flowering shrubs.**

The majority of our planted areas are mixtures of native broadleaf and conifer. The planting plans includes flowering shrubs, and we propose to include spindle, dogwood, hawthorn and wild cherry.

- 8.4 Areas of poor soil health should be aerated/decompacted to help restore water infiltration and soil aeration.**

We have done a soil survey and found that the soil isn't compacted enough to need aeration or decompaction. We also know the land drains are old, and planting trees will help reduce any remaining compaction.

8.5 Include flowering shrubs and recommendations for tree species, including: wild cherry, damson, crab apple, dogwood, and bird cherry.

We propose to include these species in our planting and a specific area for fruiting trees in our designs.

9 Agricultural land and the new woodland

9.1 Concern about use of agricultural land and food security.

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

Currently the UK imports over 80% of its timber and we are more reliant on imported timber than imported food (40% of food is imported)ⁱ. 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 grade 1 and 2. The land at Picklescott is graded using [Natural England's agricultural land classification criteria](#) at 3 and 4. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.

9.2 Concern the new woodland will lead to future restrictions on neighbouring farmers.

There are no material restrictions on continued farming adjacent to the site.

9.3 Concern about the use of taxpayers' money to buy land for woodland.

The land at Picklescott was purchased on the open market using funds from Defra's Nature for Climate fund, the principal funding source for nature-based actions to mitigate climate change in England for the period up to 2025.

9.4 Concern about the impact of tree planting near farmland boundaries on crops, water use, and hedgerows;

We will plant trees at least 5 metres away from the boundary of the new woodland and graduate the woodland edge with broadleaf and shrub planting. We will also carefully manage our hedgerows as part of our woodland maintenance plan to mitigate the potential for any change to the condition of farmland adjacent to the new woodland. We expect the new woodland will help reduce soil erosion and improve water infiltration in the area. The Pulverbatch/Picklescott groundwater catchments are not at risk from this woodland creation.

9.5 Existing grassland is good for carbon sequestration.

As they grow, trees capture more carbon and more quickly than grass. The soils of permanent pasture may have more carbon stored away than woodland soils, particularly of young woodland, but these stores have taken a long time to build up. Woodland is considered a permanent land use change in the UK, so even when productive forests are felled, trees will be replanted and their carbon stocks will build up again over the following decades. Sustainable home-grown timber can store carbon for many years while in use and also avoid fossil fuel emissions from products it replaces such as concrete.

9.6 Questions about the land categorisation

Based on the [Natural England agricultural land classification](#) the majority of the site at Picklescott is categorised as grade 4 with a small area to the east (less than

20% grade 3). Further information is included at: [Natural England Access to Evidence - Regional Agricultural Land Classification Maps](#)

10 Users of the new woodland and paths

10.1 Concern about dogs and sheep worrying.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, we do not intend to fence the whole woodland. We expect all dog owners to be responsible and to keep their pets under control in all the forests and woodlands we care for, following signs and our [Forest Dog Code](#).

10.2 Suggestions to include paths for horse riding and cyclists.

The new woodland will include informal grass paths and the existing public footpath. We will not be including new hardstanding paths or bridleways or horse or cycling specific infrastructure.

11 Views

11.1 Concerns about the impact of the new woodland on views of the surrounding area and from specific properties.

In response to concerns about views from specific properties, the designs have been updated using tools that visualise the current and future sight lines, as well as information gathered from site visits to the new woodland and the surrounding area. We have amended the designs to include open space, areas of fruiting trees and other broadleaf planting to retain long distance views towards Caer Caradoc, the Lawley and the Wrekin where possible.

12 Wildlife and biodiversity

12.1 Concern about badgers and the spread of TB

We understand concerns around badgers and are aware that badgers are already present in the area. All woodland creation schemes are approved by the Forestry Commission and we have consulted with Natural England and other statutory stakeholders to inform our proposals at Picklescott. [Defra](#) has recently announced the launch of work on a new Bovine Tuberculosis eradication strategy refresh.

12.2 Impact of woodland on existing wildlife; concern about the impact of timber production on biodiversity.

The habitats on the site are typical of the surrounding farmed landscape, mainly made up of improved pastures with commercial seed mixes. Detailed studies have been done on areas within the woodland site that have the potential to support greater wildlife interest, and these areas will be kept and included in the new woodland design. Replacing the improved pasture with diverse woodland will improve the area for native species and compliment the retained habitats. Harvesting wood is good for forests. It ensures they are well looked after and increases their value to society. We manage our forests to balance the benefits they offer by providing habitats for wildlife to thrive and spaces for people to enjoy.

12.3 Presence of Curlews on the site; Monitor predator numbers before, during, and after tree planting.

Natural England has confirmed that the nearest Curlew nesting site is far enough away not to be affected by woodland planting at Picklescott. In line with recommendations from Natural England, we have included a low-density

woodland on the west side of the site which will minimise predator pressure on breeding birds. We have no plans to monitor the presence of predators.

12.4 Maximise the extent of edge habitat through scrub planting around the periphery of open spaces and the boundary of woodland compartments.

This is included in the plan.

12.5 Include bat boxes, bird boxes, and hedgehog boxes; Den Boxes for Pine martens; rare butterfly species opportunity; retain existing habitats and species diversity as far as possible.

We will include bird boxes, habitats for hedgehogs as we progress with our plans for the new woodland.

13 Woodland design

13.1 Presence of long barrow on the site (a type of ancient monument typically comprised elongated mounds made from earth, timber, or stone, and they often served as burial sites).

We have visited the site with our Lead Historic Environment Advisor who has confirmed the remains are of a historic field boundary with no regional or national significance. We will however leave a 2m buffer around it.

13.2 Preserve existing species-rich grasslands.

We have undertaken a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and the majority of the grassland present on the site does not constitute species-rich grassland. However, the rush pasture, while not identified as priority habitat, will be retained between the woodland planting blocks in the open areas of the woodland and managed for its wildlife interest.

13.3 Amend the woodland designs to create lower density woodland to the West of the site (closest to known curlew nesting site)

Natural England has confirmed that the nearest Curlew nesting site is far enough away not to be affected by woodland planting at Picklescott. In line with their recommendations, we have included a low-density woodland on the west side of the site which will minimise predator pressure on breeding birds.

13.4 Fewer trees would give more diversity

We have sought to balance our objectives for the new woodland by using a mix of planting strategies. Our design aims to create a sustainable source of timber while also promoting wildlife diversity. To achieve this, we have incorporated open spaces and broadleaf edges and planting at a range of densities, which provide a variety of habitats.

13.5 The higher area of the woodland could be small fields and flower meadows

To balance our objectives for the new woodland we will leave the high point of the site more open and planted with wider spacing to fit better with the surrounding landscape.

13.6 Include a community orchard

We have revised our designs to include an area of fruiting trees.

13.7 Include a pond on the very wet rough field close to the entrance to Pogan Hall

In response to suggestions to include a pond on the wet field near Pogan Hall, we have included small scrapes. These are shallow ponds, typically less than 500mm in

depth, that hold rain or flood water seasonally but remain damp for most of the year. They support a variety of wildlife, including wetland plants, insects, amphibians, and birds.

13.8 Include seating

We have no plans to include formal seating in the new woodland.

13.9 Incorporate a diversity of canopy tree, sub-canopy, and shrub species;

The plan includes a diversity of canopy and shrub edges. When considering the design of the new woodland we have remained mindful of our woodland objective for a sustainable source of timber.

14 Woodland planting and maintenance

14.1 Maintain the footpaths with grass cutting

Path grass cutting will be included in our 5 year annual maintenance plan, twice a year.

14.2 Employ local people as part of your hiring strategy

Although the woodland at Picklescott is relatively small scale it will support regional employment through the contractors and staff we will employ to help with planting, fencing, and maintenance.

14.3 Include welfare provision for workers

It is a legal requirement to provide welfare provisions for workers, including those working on new woodlands. In the UK, employers must ensure that adequate welfare facilities are available for their employees. This includes providing access to toilets, washing facilities, drinking water, and a place to rest and eat.

15 Other

15.1 What is the timing for the project?

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 2024/25. It will take approximately five years to establish and maintenance during this time is important to ensure its long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and local contractors.

The woodland will eventually provide a small supply of sustainable timber. We anticipate beginning to thin out the trees in approximately 20 - 25 years.

15.2 Why are we calling the new woodland a Coronation Wood?

The new woodland is called a Coronation Wood to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. Further information is available to view on our website at: <https://www.forestryengland.uk/news/commemorations-leave-lasting-coronation-legacy>

15.3 Trees do not contribute to net zero carbon credits;

Trees planted within the new woodland will be registered as part of the Woodland Carbon Code. This is a UK quality assurance standard for woodland carbon projects. Further information about zero carbon credits can be viewed at www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk

Appendix B: Consultation information



Growing the nation's forests

A proposed new woodland at Picklescott, Shropshire Hills

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

We are planning a new woodland at Picklescott, Shropshire. We would like your comments and feedback on our initial ideas. Your input will help shape our final designs.

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

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

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

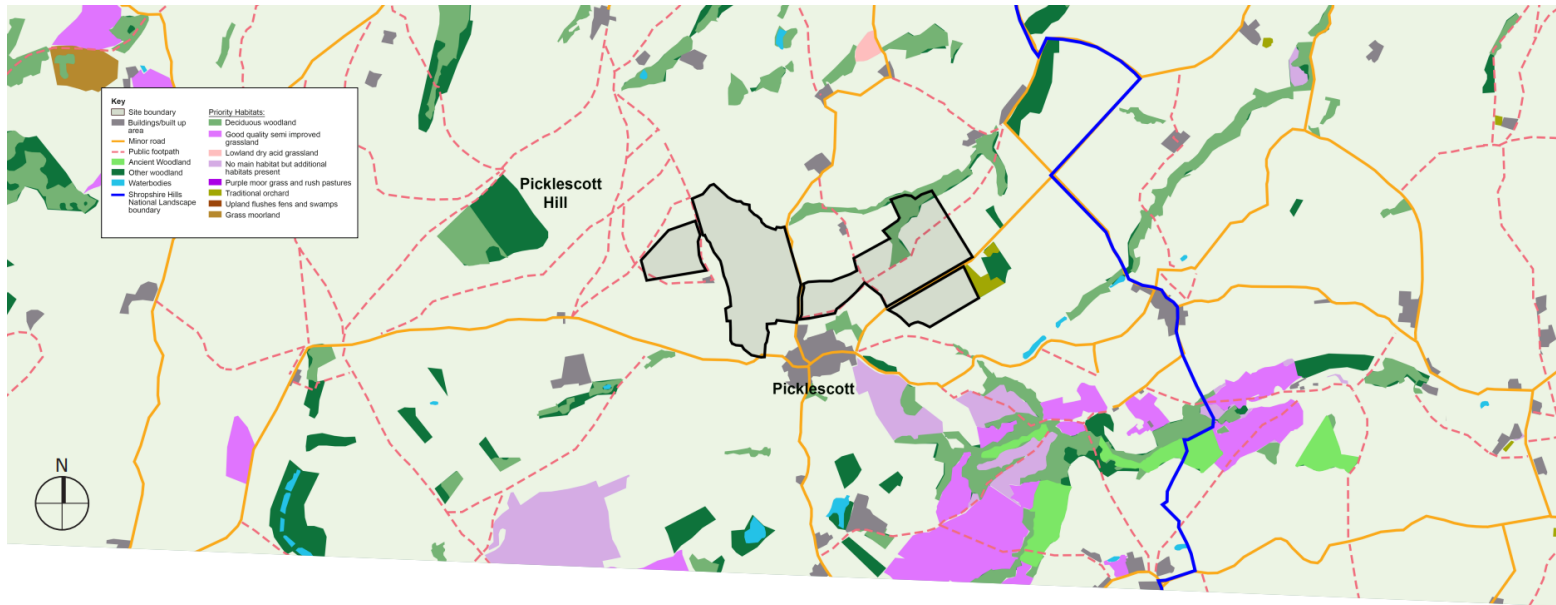
In time, each new woodland will provide sustainable timber, contributing to a rural economy. And they'll have wider environmental benefits including absorbing carbon, improving soil health and air quality, and combating flooding.

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

Scan the QR code to find out more:

forestryengland.uk



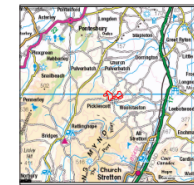
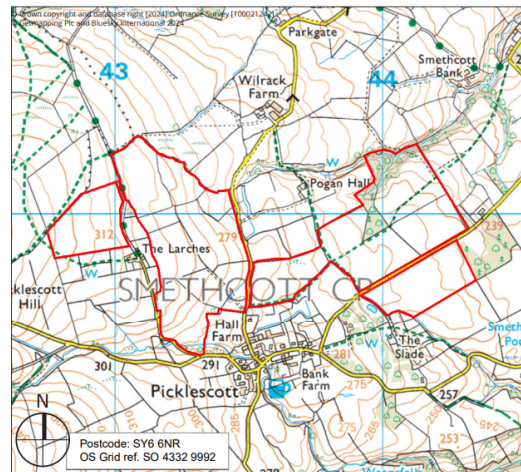


Site Location & Wider Context

The proposed new woodland is in the northern part of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, just within the designation's boundary. The site is approximately 10 miles south of Shrewsbury, directly north of the village of Picklescott.

The site for the proposed woodland lies within Natural England's National Character Area (NCA) 65 Shropshire Hills. The landscape is rugged with mostly bare-topped hills contrasting with mixed agriculture in intervening valleys and dales. The Shropshire Hills are characterised most strongly by a series of relatively wild hills and ridges that lend the area its name. The Stiperstones National Nature Reserve rises to 536m, 4 miles to the west of the site and the moorland plateau of the Lond Mynd lies 2.5 miles to the south.

The landscape at Picklescott is sensitive by virtue of being in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and considerable thought has been given to protect the landscape character throughout the design process.





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

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

Public access

The new woodland at Picklescott will be open to the public. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

Existing Public Rights of Way running through the site, and new unsurfaced grass paths will give walkers access to much of the new wood and link it to the wider countryside. Our draft design includes open spaces and glades that would provide peaceful picnic spots. We are not proposing to create new surfaced trails or specific infrastructure for horse-riding or cycling.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, 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.

Traffic and parking

The new woodland has been designed for local people to enjoy the site and we are mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic, particularly as the roads in the area are narrow. Our proposals therefore do not include public parking. We will consider signs in appropriate locations to discourage parking should this be necessary.

So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use existing access points and to create one new access point with 150m of forest road, to manage the site (see draft design plan). It will be about 20-25 years before any timber can be harvested from the site. Transport routes for the sustainable timber will be agreed with the local highways authority as required.

Design

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and how close the new woodland is to nearby properties. We will keep the existing deciduous woodland and watercourses and plant native broadleaf trees next to them. The design links the existing deciduous woodland on the site to the woodland east of Picklescott. In the eastern part of the site and along the southern edge, there are two public footpaths. We have focussed our broadleaf and mixed woodland planting in this area and created an additional grass path. This provides an attractive backdrop to the village.

In the western part of the site, we will focus more on producing timber. We will plant a mix of conifer trees along with some oak and sycamore. The edges of the woodland have been carefully designed to reduce visual impact and create habitats for wildlife.

We want to keep the existing hedges and trees as part of the design where possible, as well as creating glades and rides with trees planted away from the road. Trees will be planted away from the hedgerows and shrubs will be planted along the edges of the woodland blocks providing additional space for hedgerows to thrive, which will benefit biodiversity such as butterflies.

We are doing ecology surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystem at Picklescott. This will help shape our final design for the new woodland.

We have used our experience to design the woodland to discourage antisocial behaviour where we can, such as minimising secluded areas and improving visibility. Regular maintenance activities can discourage vandalism and littering, as will regular use by the local community. If we get reports of anti-social behaviour, we monitor them to assess ways of preventing or minimising them.

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

- Create mixed productive and resilient woodland that delivers benefits for people, nature and the economy
- Improve woodland connectivity in the landscape
- Provide additional opportunities for informal access to the countryside
- Sequester atmospheric carbon, supporting wider commitments in achieving net zero emissions targets
- Establish research trials to understand how our broadleaf trees grow and store carbon in a changing climate

The trees we will plant

We are using years of experience and the latest scientific evidence to plan in detail for the trees we will plant for the new woodland. Our surveys help us to choose the trees most suitable for the site now and as the climate changes.

Our professional foresters carefully choose what trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the soil, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species and geographical features nearby. We also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to keep woods as healthy as possible.

All the trees planted on the site will be UK grown.

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

We propose to plant a range of species at Picklescott, including spruces, pines, silver fir and coast redwood and native broadleaves such as oak, hornbeam, silver birch, rowan, wych elm, common alder and hazel. A mix of broadleaves, native shrubs and naturalised conifers will complement the local landscape, provide seasonal colour and increase resilience.

Landscape and Views

We will design our woodland carefully to maintain the views into the surrounding countryside. Where there are key views from properties or public footpaths, we have left open space and have shrub planting at the edges of the woodland for visual diversity. We will have more broadleaf trees in these areas because they are shorter than some conifers, generally live longer and need managing less often.

We clearly heard that views towards The Lawley, Caer Cradoc and the Wrekin are important from Picklescott. Where possible, our design will frame and enhance existing views and we will establish open spaces between the new woodland and key viewpoints.

Establishing the new woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 24/25. It will take approximately five years to establish and maintenance during this time is important to ensure its long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and local contractors.

The woodland will eventually provide a supply of sustainable timber. We plan to manage the woodland as "continuous cover" without cutting down larger areas of trees before replanting them. This approach maintains tree cover and biodiversity and allows for the gradual removal of individual trees or small groups of trees, leaving the majority of the canopy intact. We anticipate beginning to thin out the trees in approximately 25 years.

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





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/picklescott-consult>

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

- woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

All views should be received by Sunday 11th August

What's next ?

- Review of consultation feedback
- Further design work to refine our proposals
- Application to the Forestry Commission for permission to create the new woodland
- Initial planting (Winter 2024)

Scan the QR code
to find out more:

forestryengland.uk





The existing site

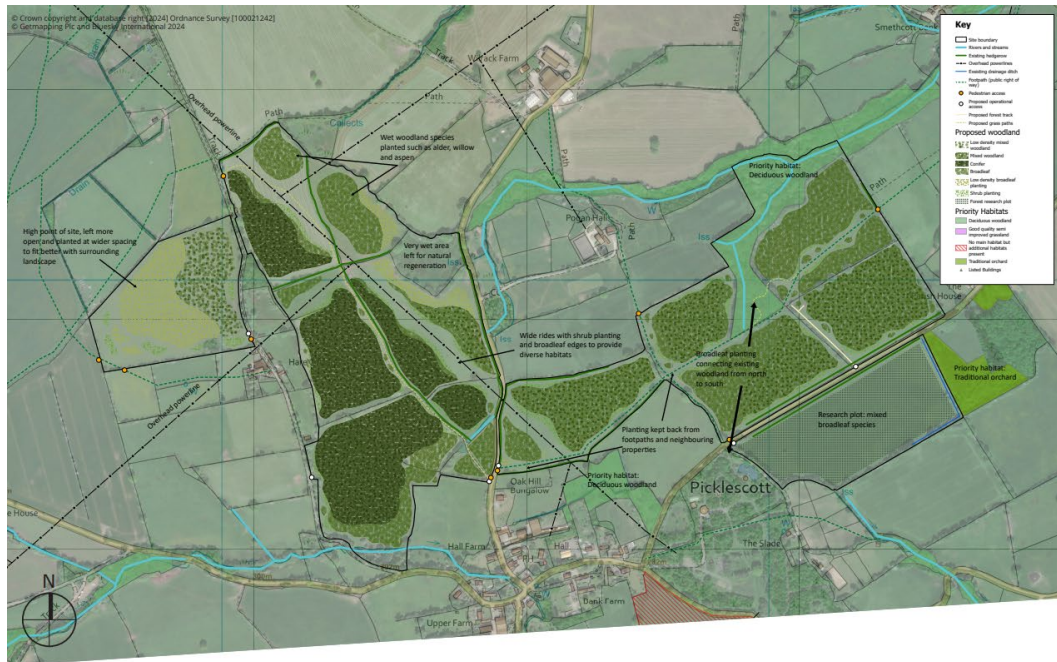
The site is farmland of improved and permanent pasture. The general landform is undulating with several small stream valleys cutting through the area. The aspect is mostly to the east with very long views to the River Severn valley.

Trees and woodlands are a feature of the wider landscape, associated with stream corridors, as hedgerow trees, or in small copses of broadleaf and conifer mixes. Hedges are extensive throughout the area, well maintained and with occasional mature trees.

The topography of the site and its immediate surroundings means that there are no high vantage points in close proximity. The presence of hedges, trees and woodland blocks result in the existing farmed landscape already appearing to be well wooded.

Photos: 1. View from the public footpath towards broadleaf woodland. 2. View from within the site towards the east at powerline junction. 3. View north from within the site along well-trodden path. 4. Stream and woodland within the site showing heavily grazed understorey. 5. View towards east showing conifer and broadleaf planting at the field boundary.





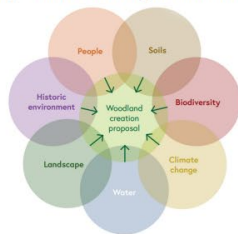
Tree species we could plant

1 English oak with hornbeam, silver birch and rowan	2 Hornbeam with oak, silver birch and rowan	3 Scots pine with English oak, silver birch and hazel	4 Pacific silver fir with Norway spruce and coast redwood
5 Shrubs including guelder rose, rowan, spindle, elder, alder buckthorn, hazel	6 Small leaved lime with English oak, sycamore, wych elm and tulip tree	7 Common alder with white willow and aspen	8 Sitka spruce with Norway spruce, English oak and sycamore

Draft design

How we design new woodland

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



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

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
- Historic Environment Records
- Landscape and Visual Appraisal
- Local Environment Records
- Soil mapping
- Ecological Site Classification
- Climate matching tools
- Utilities searches
- Responses to initial consultation

Objectives for the new woodland



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



Improve woodland connectivity and enhance existing woodland: link adjacent woodlands at a landscape scale to improve habitat connectivity. Maintain hedges and create open space within the woodland for wildlife to thrive.



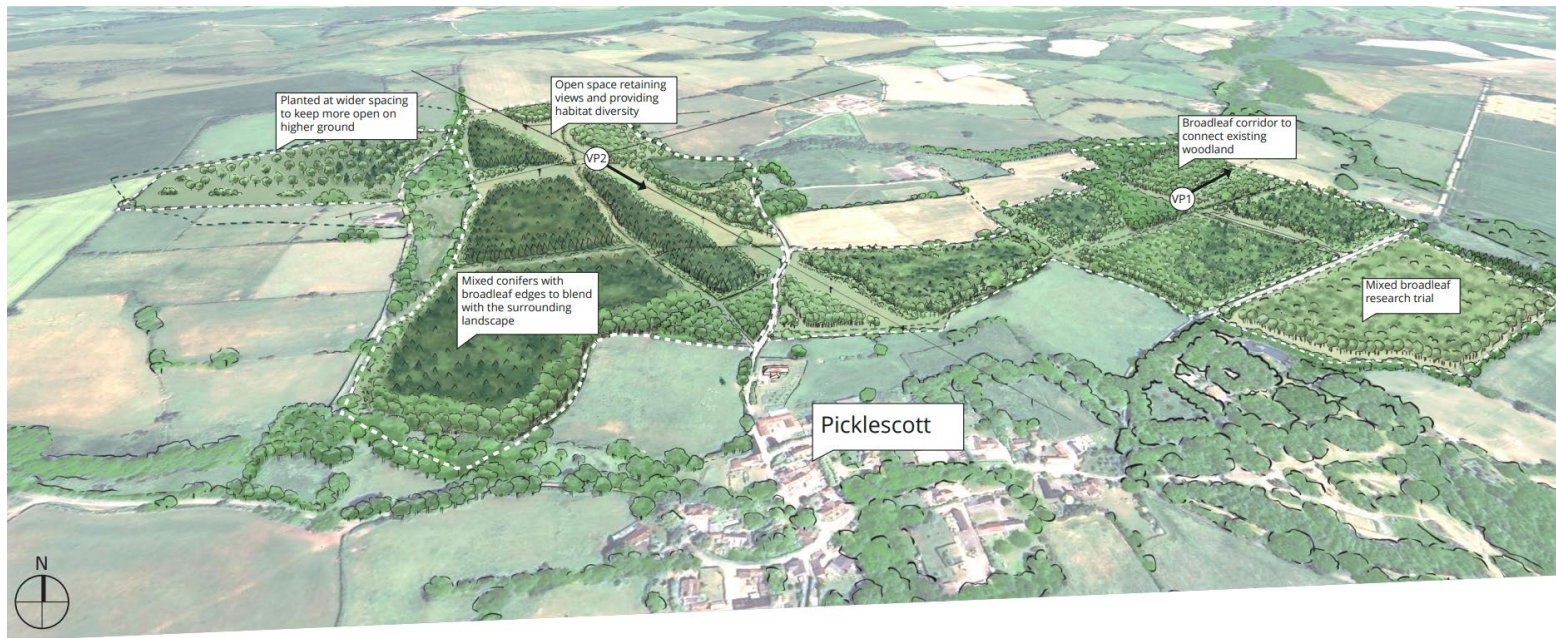
Public access for health and wellbeing: create low-key public recreation opportunities by increasing access to the countryside.



Sequester atmospheric carbon: support Government net zero emissions strategies by planting and managing woodland that will thrive in future climate scenarios and creating new carbon sinks or storage.



Include research trials: to better understand how trees produce timber and capture carbon in a changing climate



How the new woodland could look

Our initial designs include proposals to:

- Plant a mixture of conifer, mixed and broadleaf woodland sensitively placed within the landscape to provide both timber security and biodiversity.
- We have created open corridors by providing buffers around hedgerows and powerlines. Along these open spaces we will be planting shrubs at the edges of the woodland to create areas for wildlife to thrive.
- Plant wet woodland species such as alder, willow and aspen in areas that are more waterlogged to create a mosaic of diverse habitats.
- Create grass paths to add to the network of public rights of way for walkers.

- Retain key views from properties adjacent to the site by leaving areas of open space at boundaries or planting shrubby species in lower densities.
- Include a research trial for mixed broadleaves to improve our understanding of how these species will grow and capture carbon in a changing climate.





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

[New woodland at Picklescott | Forestry England](#)

New woodland at Picklescott



Forestry England are creating a new woodland at Picklescott in Shropshire. The 54-hectare woodland is on land at Picklescott, close to the existing woodlands at Eastridge and Hughton, and will be a valuable place for timber, wildlife and local communities. This new [Coronation Wood](#) will commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.



Work in progress at Picklescott

The land at Picklescott will be planted with a mixture of broadleaf and conifer tree species, chosen to match local soil types and expected future climate conditions.

The woodland design will be sympathetic to its unique setting within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape and a peaceful place for local people to enjoy. The woodland will also connect to the existing public rights of way network.

The woodland at Picklescott will be an important part of the work that Forestry England is doing to expand the nation's forests and will be created through the Nature for Climate Fund.

Picklescott public consultation

We invite you to comment on our draft design proposals for the new woodland. You can comment online until Sunday 11 August.

We will be holding a public drop-in event in July - find out more on our [consultation page](#).

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

[View the plans](#) ▶

Appendix C: Coronation Wood at Picklescott - our response to key themes from early engagement

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

Public access

The new woodland at Picklescott will be open to the public. Once we have finished creating the woodland we will dedicate it under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act so people can explore the site.

Existing Public Rights of Way running through the site, and new unsurfaced grass paths will give walkers access to much of the new wood and link it to the wider countryside. Our draft design includes open spaces and glades that would provide peaceful picnic spots. We are not proposing to create new surfaced trails or specific infrastructure for horse riding or cycling.

Visitors will be welcome to walk their dogs in the new woodland, 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.

Traffic and Parking

The new woodland has been designed for local people to enjoy the site and we are mindful of not significantly increasing car traffic, particularly as the roads in the area are narrow. Our proposals therefore do not include public parking. We will consider signs in appropriate locations to discourage parking should this be necessary.

So we can manage and maintain the new woodland, we need access from the road for our forestry vehicles. We plan to use existing access points and to create one new access point with 150m of forest road, to manage the site (see draft design plan). It will be about 20-25 years before any timber can be harvested from the site. Transport routes for the sustainable timber will be agreed with the local highways authority as required.

Design

Our draft design has considered the existing field pattern, the wider landscape character and how close the new woodland is to nearby properties. We will keep the existing deciduous woodland and watercourses and plant native broadleaf trees next to them. The design links the existing deciduous woodland on the site to the woodland east of Picklescott. In the eastern part of the site and along the southern edge, there are two public footpaths. We have focussed our broadleaf and mixed woodland planting in this area and created an additional grass path. This provides an attractive backdrop to the village.

In the western part of the site, we will focus more on producing timber. We will plant a mix of conifer trees along with some oak and sycamore. The edges of the woodland have been carefully designed to reduce visual impact and create habitats for wildlife.

We want to keep the existing hedges and trees as part of the design where possible, as well as creating glades and rides with trees planted away from the road. Trees will be planted away from the hedgerows and shrubs will be planted along the edges of the woodland blocks providing additional space for hedgerows to thrive, which will benefit biodiversity such as butterflies.

We are doing ecology surveys to tell us more about the plants, wildlife and ecosystem at Picklescott. This will help shape our final design for the new woodland.

We have used our experience to design the woodland to discourage antisocial behaviour where we can, such as minimising secluded areas and improving visibility. Regular maintenance activities can discourage vandalism and littering, as will regular use by the local community. If we get reports of anti-social behaviour, we monitor them to assess ways of preventing or minimising them.

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- Establish research trials to understand how our broadleaf trees grow and store carbon in a changing climate

The trees we will plant

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Our professional foresters carefully choose what trees to plant and where to plant them. They understand the soil, how quickly the trees will grow, and the important habitats, species and geographical features nearby. We also consider tree pests and diseases and future climate conditions to keep woods as healthy as possible.

All the trees planted on the site will be UK grown.

The species will be a mix of broadleaf and conifer, planted together in mixtures, with shrub species along edges to increase the variety and provide

seasonal colour and texture. Species have been chosen to produce a future source of sustainable softwood timber. This supply of homegrown wood products will support the wider British timber and forestry industry, helping to reduce the demand for imports from other countries.

We propose to plant a range of species at Picklescott, including spruces, pines, silver fir and coast redwood and native broadleaves such as oak, hornbeam, silver birch, rowan, wych elm, common alder and hazel. A mix of broadleaves, native shrubs and naturalised conifers will complement the local landscape, provide seasonal colour and increase resilience.

Landscape and views

We will design our woodland carefully to maintain the views into the surrounding countryside. Where there are key views from properties or public footpaths, we have left open space and have shrub planting at the edges of the woodland for visual diversity. We will have more broadleaf trees in these areas because they are shorter than some conifers, generally live longer and need managing less often.

We clearly heard that views towards The Lawley, Caer Cradoc and the Wrekin are important from Picklescott. Where possible, our design will frame and enhance existing views and we will establish open spaces between the new woodland and key viewpoints.

Establishing and managing the woodland

We aim to plant the new woodland in winter 24/25. It will take approximately five years to establish and maintenance during this time is important to ensure its long-term success. The woodland will be managed by the Forestry England team and local contractors.

The woodland will eventually provide a supply of sustainable timber. We plan to manage the woodland as “continuous cover” without cutting down larger areas of trees before replanting them. This approach maintains tree cover and biodiversity and allows for the gradual removal of individual trees or small groups of trees, leaving the majority of the canopy intact. We anticipate beginning to thin out the trees in approximately 25 years.

What are the research trials you are planning?

Climate change and the increase in tree pests and diseases means we must diversify forests to make them more resilient. One way to do this is by planting a wider variety of tree species. Planting a mix of trees, rather than a single type, is preferred to avoid monocultures. We also need to work out which species will thrive in the future. At Picklescott, we are experimenting in small areas of the new woodland with broadleaved species that haven't been widely planted in the UK before, will thrive in a changing climate and produce a sustainable supply of timber.

We will be trialling 15 broadleaf species, planted in three small plots, and randomly spaced. Once established, further research will focus on forestry management techniques to ensure healthy growth in the long term with the

aim of creating a sustainable supply of timber for the construction and furniture industries.

Protecting the new woodland from deer and rabbits

The UK is home to six species of deer and they are not controlled by natural predators, such as bears, lynx and wolves which are no longer present in the UK. Without predators, deer populations become unnaturally big, and their browsing can damage young trees and wildlife habitats. In the short-term, this can kill some trees and in the longer-term, it can reduce the resilience of the new woodland to climate change, reduce plant and animal diversity and lower the carbon captured from the atmosphere.

Forestry England is part of the [Deer Initiative](#)¹, a partnership that promotes sustainable deer management in England and Wales. We will use deer fencing to protect larger blocks of new planting and tree tubes in smaller areas. Our highly skilled wildlife rangers replace the role of Britain's missing predators by safely and humanely controlling deer populations in our woodlands, working to the highest standards whilst undertaking other vital conservation works to protect and increase the numbers of other threatened species. More information about how Forestry England manage deer can be found [here](#)².

Deer fencing would be removed and where possible recycled after the trees become established.

Why are you planting agricultural land?

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

Currently the UK imports over 80% of its timber³ and we are more reliant on imported timber than imported food (40% of food is imported)⁴. Forestry England understands concerns around food security and keeping the best land in agricultural production. Our woodland creation programme seeks to avoid the most productive land (grades 1 & 2). The land at Picklescott is graded at 3 and 4. All landowners choose how they should best manage their land to suit their business.

Will the woodlands capture more carbon than grassland?

As they grow, trees capture more carbon and more quickly than grass.

The soils of permanent pasture may have more carbon stored away than woodland soils, particularly of young woodland, but these stores have taken a long time to build up.

Woodland is considered a permanent land use change in the UK, so even when productive forests are felled, trees will be replanted and their carbon stocks will build up again over the following decades.

Sustainable home-grown timber can store carbon for many years while in use and also avoid fossil fuel emissions from products it replaces such as concrete.

thedeerinitiative.co.uk

² forestryengland.uk

¹ [Forestry Facts and Figures 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Appendix D: Consultation questionnaire

A proposed new woodland at Picklescott

Overview

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

Why your views matter

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

Your feedback

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

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

2. Are you responding as:
Please select all that apply

A local resident

A local business

A political representative

Other: please describe:

Your details

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

1. What is your address?

2. What is your postcode?

3. What is your email address?

Appendix E: Code frame

Access to the new woodland
Include gates in the deer fencing once after 5 years not 15
Communications and consultation
Time allowed for consultation
Include community planting
Deer Management
Management of deer in the area
Concern about use of high deer fencing and detrimental effect on birds and the environment
Concern about deer on crops and wildlife
Fencing and boundary treatments
Fencing and boundary treatment - concerns
Flooding and water supply
Consider if tree planting would have an effect on some of the local Ordinary Watercourse with Shropshire Council
Concern about water supply from well (drying up and water contamination)
Footpaths and bridleways
Include a route going directly West to meet your planned path
Include a route from the westernmost high point of the site, which is currently very poorly served by access
Plant 'the loop' footpath less densely (safety)
Liaise with PRoW team about new or improving public rights of way, changing surfaces or installing gates and stiles.
Create new rights of way and bridleways to connect to existing ones
Surface the picnic areas and footpaths for best drainage
Include a route from your planned public access point on the Pickelscott/Wilrack farm road directly West to your operational access point
General positive comments
Other
Timing for the project
Why Coronation Wood
Include local community in tree planting
Trees do not contribute to Net Zero carbon credits
Privacy concerns of properties nearby
Traffic and parking
Do not provide parking
Include informal parking for a few cars/provide parking
Consider transport routes for timber - junction at Pickelscott too tight for large vehicles
Concern about an increase in visitors to the area and parking
Access to the woodland via very narrow lanes

Tree species and planting
Tree species suggestion
Do not plant Hornbeam or Beech
Include sufficient space around existing hedges to allow these to shrub out
Plant blocks of mixed woodland made up of predominantly native and tree shrub species
Include broadleaf trees only
Non-native tree species should form a smaller proportion of the planted area/not in keeping with local area
Include flowering scrub species to maintain invertebrate habitat
Areas of poor soil health should be aerated/decompacted to help restore water infiltration and soil aeration
Include flowering scrubs and include wild cherry, damson, crab apple, dogwood and bird cherry
Concern about proportion of large commercial softwood/conifers included in plans
Use of agricultural land
Existing grassland is good for carbon sequestration
Concern that new woodland will lead to future restrictions on neighbouring farmers - ie some form of designation
Use of taxpayers money to buy land for woodland
Impact of tree planting near farmland boundaries on crops, water and use and hedgerows
Public access and safety
Agricultural land/food security
The land is not poor - it is suitable for livestock grazing
Users of the new woodland and paths
Paths for horses and cyclists
Dogs and sheep worrying
Utilities
General advice re planting near Severn Trent assets
Views
Retain some of the views the surrounding hills
Impact on AONB
Views of the surround area will be obscured
Impact on views -including Caer Caradoc , Wrekin and Lawley
Concern about views from specific property
Wildlife and biodiversity
Monitor predator numbers before and during and after tree planting
Rare butterfly species including Small Pearl bordered Fritillary (SPBF) in area - opportunity to work together
Include bat boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes for Wildlife and biodiversity' Den Boxes for Pine martens
Retain existing habitats and species diversity as far as possible
Trees, woodland and hedgerows important for willow tit

Impact of woodland on existing wildlife
Presence of Curlews guidance/location of Curlews, provide better habitat
Concern about badgers and TB
Concern about the impact of timber production on biodiversity
Maximise edge habitats through shrub planting around the periphery of open spaces and the boundary of woodland compartments
Woodland design
Incorporate a diversity of canopy tree, sub canopy and shrub species areas of open space
Amend the woodland designs to create lower density woodland to the west of the site (closest to known Curlew nesting site)
Presence of long barrow on the site
Include a community orchard
Plant fewer trees to enhance diversity
Higher area could be small fields and flower meadows
Include seating (maybe informal such as fallen tree trunks)
Include a pond on the very wet rough field close to the entrance to Pogan Hall.
Preserve existing species rich grasslands
Woodland planting and maintenance
Maintain the footpaths with grass cutting
Welfare provision for workers
Employ local people as part of your hiring strategy

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

From: Woodland Creation <woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2024 09:11
Subject: Public consultation on draft proposals new woodlands near Picklescott

Dear neighbour,

Public consultation on draft design proposals for a new woodland at Picklescott

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

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

These are available to view and comment upon [here](https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/picklescott-consult) until midnight on the 11th August 2024 - <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/picklescott-consult>

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

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

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

Public drop-in events

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

Date: Tuesday 30th July 2024 **Time:** 4pm - 7pm **Location:** Picklescott Village Hall, Church Stretton, SY6 6NR

The new woodland at Picklescott will be one of many that Forestry England is planting and will form part of wider plans to increase tree planting across the UK.

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

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team

Responding to the consultation

The consultation will be open from 22nd July to 11th August.

Online: We encourage you submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views here:

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

If you are unable to do this, you can respond via email, typing 'Picklescott 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 11th August 2024. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report along with our response to the key issues raised and published on our website. Consultation feedback and further surveys will help shape the final design proposal we will submit to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

The Woodland Creation Team

Forestry England

Email: woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk

www.forestryengland.uk

From: Woodland Creation <woodland.creation@forestryengland.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2024 09:18
To: church.pulverbatch@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Public consultation on draft proposals new woodlands near Picklescott

Dear Church Pulverbatch Parish Council,

Public consultation on draft design proposals for a new woodland at Picklescott

I am contacting you about the launch of a public consultation on our draft design proposals. These are available to view and comment upon [here](https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/picklescott-consult) until midnight on the Sunday 11th August - <https://consult.forestryengland.uk/forest-districts/picklescott-consult>

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

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

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

Public drop-in events

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

Date: Tuesday 30th July 2024 **Time:** 4pm - 7pm **Location:** Picklescott Village Hall, Picklescott, SY6 6NR.

The new woodland at Picklescott will be one of many that Forestry England is planting and will form part of wider plans to increase tree planting across the UK.

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

Kind regards

The Woodland Creation Team

Responding to the consultation

The consultation will be open from Monday 22nd July to Sunday 11th August.

Online: We encourage you submit your response online. You can view our plans and submit your views here:

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

if you are unable to do this, you can respond via email, typing 'Picklescott 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 11th August 2024. All responses will be summarised and included in a consultation report along with our response to the key issues raised and published on our website. Consultation feedback and further surveys will help shape the final design proposal we will submit to the Forestry Commission for regulatory review ahead of planting the new woodland.

The Woodland Creation Team
Forestry England

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

Appendix G: Stakeholders contacted and consultation responses received

Stakeholders	Contacted	Responded
County, district and parish councils		
Church Pulverbatch Parish Council	✓	
Stretton, Smethcott and Woolstaton Parish Council	✓	
Shropshire County Council: Historic environment records	✓	✓
Planning decisions	✓	
Private water supply	✓	
Public rights of way	✓	✓
Statutory stakeholders		
Environment Agency	✓	✓
Natural England	✓	✓
Shropshire Hills National Landscapes	✓	✓
Elected representatives		
MP (South Shropshire)	✓	✓
Ward Councillor (Burnell Ward)	✓	
Special interest and wildlife groups		
Butterfly conservation	✓	✓
Curlew Conservation Society		✓
CPRE	✓	
Curlew County		✓
Dinky Donkeys	✓	
National Trust - stepping stones project	✓	✓
National Farmers Union		✓
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	✓	
Shropshire local access forum	✓	
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	✓	
Utilities		
National Grid	✓	
Severn Trent -Water	✓	✓