



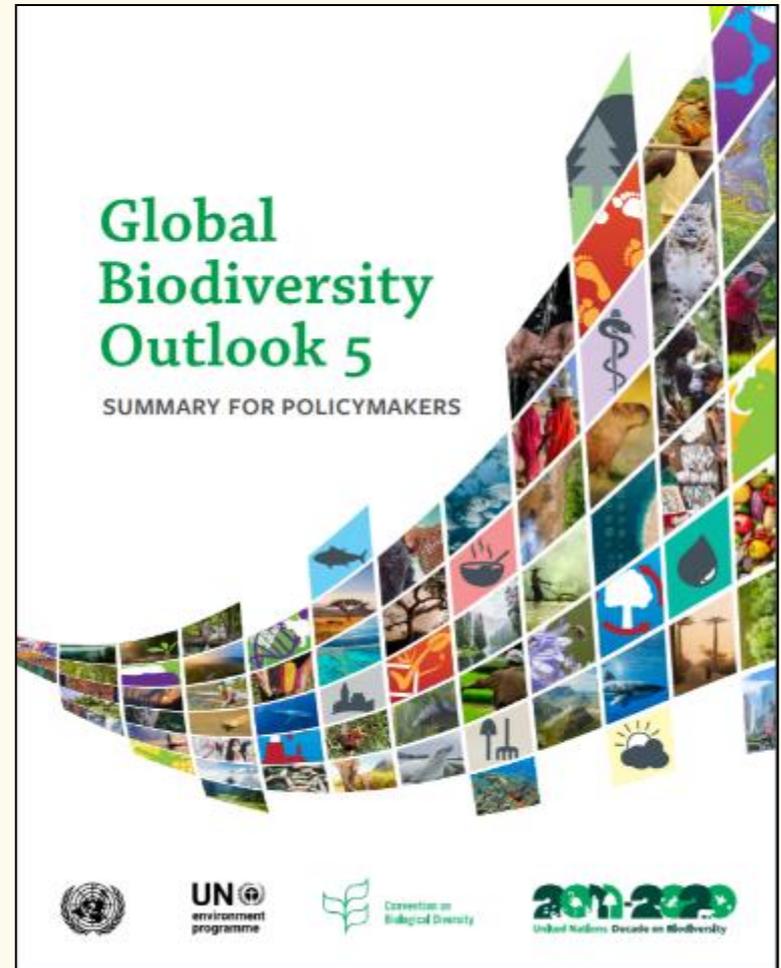
# England Tree Strategy

Ian Tubby



# Biodiversity crisis

*"Humanity stands at a crossroads with regard to the legacy it leaves to future generations. Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate, and the pressures driving this decline are intensifying. None of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will be fully met, in turn threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and undermining efforts to address climate change."*



# Environment Bill 2020

Policy paper

## 30 January 2020: Environment Bill 2020 policy statement

Updated 19 August 2020

### Contents

1. Why we need the Environment Bill
2. Environmental governance
3. A new direction for resources and waste management
4. Improving the air we breathe
5. Delivering sustainable water resources
6. Restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces
7. Chemicals regulation (REACH)
8. Delivering environmental ambition at the local level



- *“...acts as a key vehicle for delivering the bold vision set out in the 25 year environment plan”*
- *“...to increase tree planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares of trees per year by 2025.”*
- *“developing a new England Tree Strategy to increase tree planting....protect and improve our existing trees and woodlands, connect people with nature and support the economy”*
- *“developing plans to deploy the £640 million Nature for Climate Fund to increase tree-planting in England”*



# Environmental Land Management

  
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Environmental Land  
Management  
Policy discussion document  
February 2020

This document should be read in conjunction with "Farming for the future: policy and progress update"

The public goods ELM will pay for include:

- clean and plentiful water
- clean air
- protection from and mitigation of environmental hazards
- mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- thriving plants and wildlife
- beauty, heritage and engagement



# England Tree Strategy



- “The Budget announces the Nature for Climate Fund which will invest £640 million in tree planting and peatland restoration in England”
- 12,000 responses received, analysis ongoing
- Aim to publish the strategy in spring 2021
- Much of the strategy likely to be delivered by the England Tree Planting Programme being developed now

# What might ETS focus on?

- carbon removal and storage
- more, better and better connected habitats
- fibre and fuel
- access to nature (recreation, health and well-being)
- air quality, water quality, flood mitigation

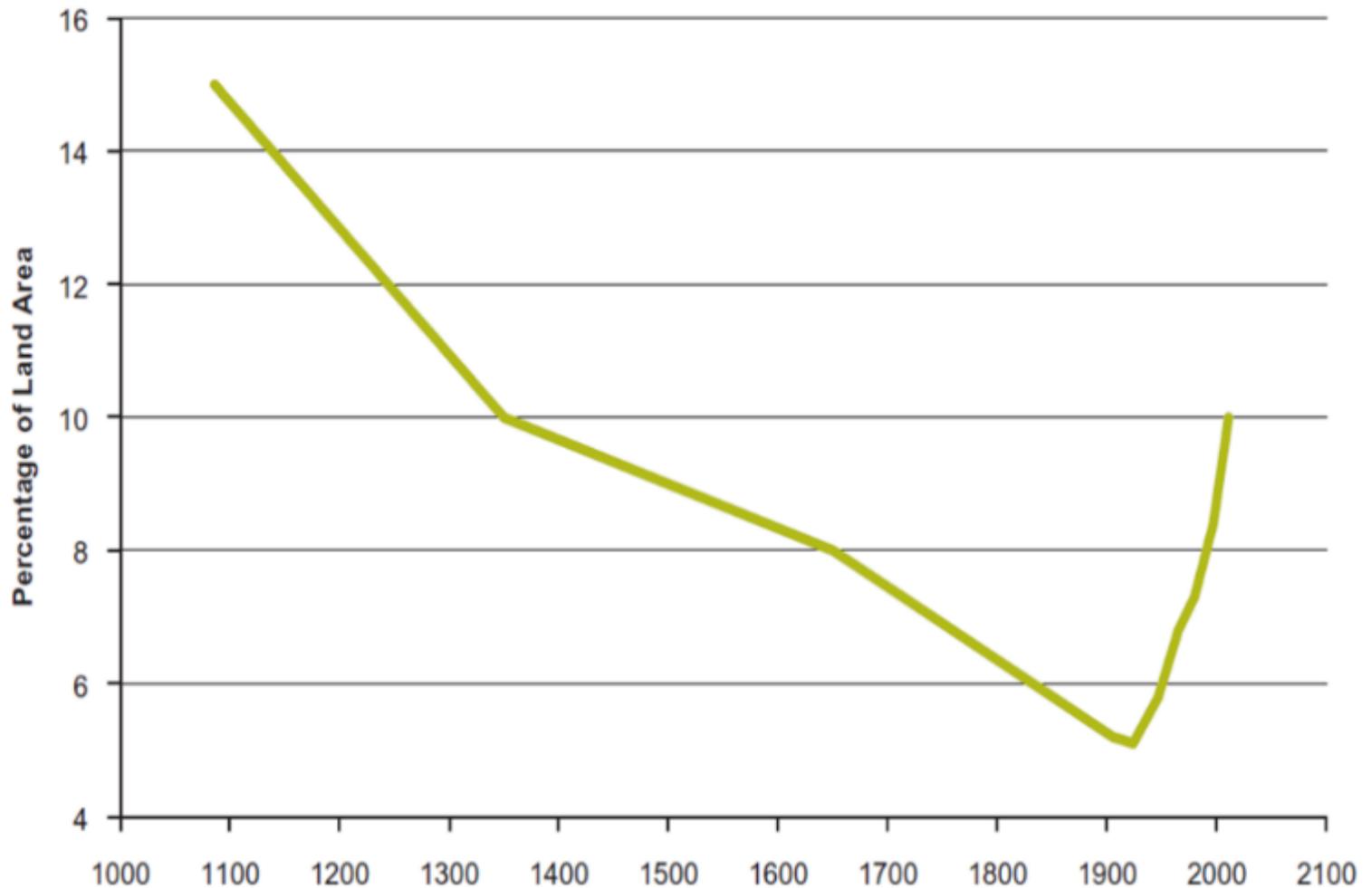
While adapting to climate change and new pests and diseases

# So how will we achieve this?

## **By making woodland creation and management an appealing proposition to (many more) landowners and managers**

- support diversity of woodlands and woodland creation routes
- support the development of thriving markets
- take a pragmatic approach to regulation and guidance
- improve our services
- maintain high standards in everything we do (continue to use and promote UKFS)
- communicate how our landscapes will change
- base policy and guidance on best available evidence

## Woodland as a percentage of land area in England



# What (some) farmers are planting



- Others will focus on rewilding (potentially great for wildlife, not optimum for carbon)
- Huge interest remains in commercial softwood forestry
- Growing quality broadleaves likely to remain challenging



# We need to manage what we have



# Managing carbon stocks



- Tree diseases and increasing deer populations could have a negative short term impact on carbon budgets (CB4 and CB5)
- Intervention required now to ensure woodlands contain species and provenances able to sequester carbon as climate disease pressure change.
- Balancing climate resilience and ecological condition essential but difficult.



Thank you!