



World Forum on
Urban Forests
Mantova 2018

PS 5.2 The Future - Changing Spaces and Places

The New Northern Forest in the UK...

Prof. Dr. Alan Simson
Leeds Beckett University, UK.





Outline...

- **The Northern Forest – a project designed to heal the wounds of post-industrial neglect by applying the concepts of the UN’s New Urban Agenda to a multi-regional urban / peri-urban forestry initiative in the UK**
- **Industrial background to the North of England**
- **Failed initiatives**
- **Current initiatives**
- **Rational behind the delivery of the Northern Forest...the largest environmental project in the UK...**

The UK - an urban country since 1851...



It's grim Up North

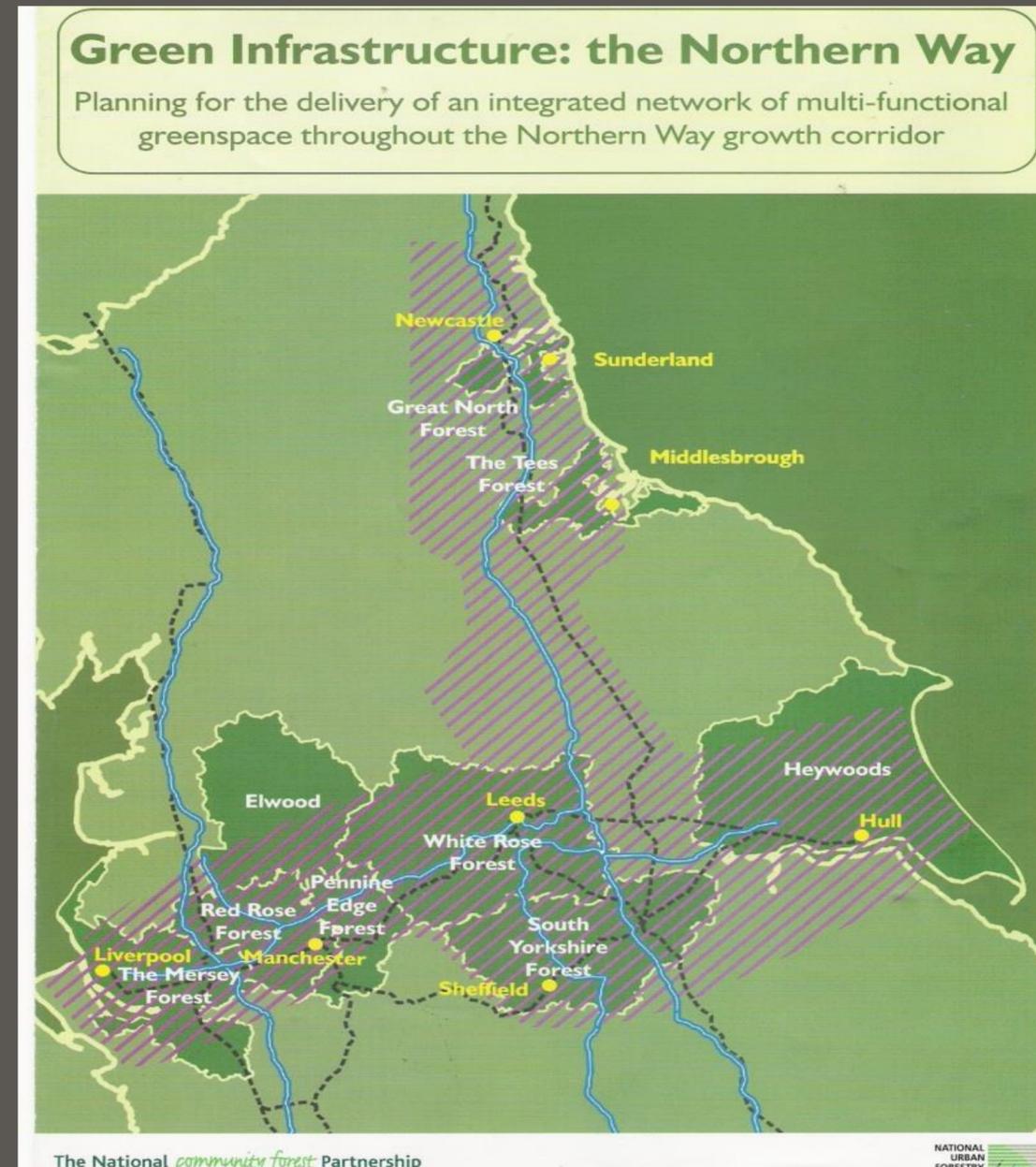


Urbanism in the UK...



- 1970 – 2005 : An additional 5 million + more people (35 years)
- 2005 – 2016 : A further addition of 5 million + people (11 years)
- Population currently : 66.5 million (2018)
- Will pass 70 million by 2029.

The Northern Way – a previous attempt to unity the North of England...



The Northern Powerhouse

**NORTHERN
POWERHOUSE** HM Government

**Northern Powerhouse
strategy**

November 2016

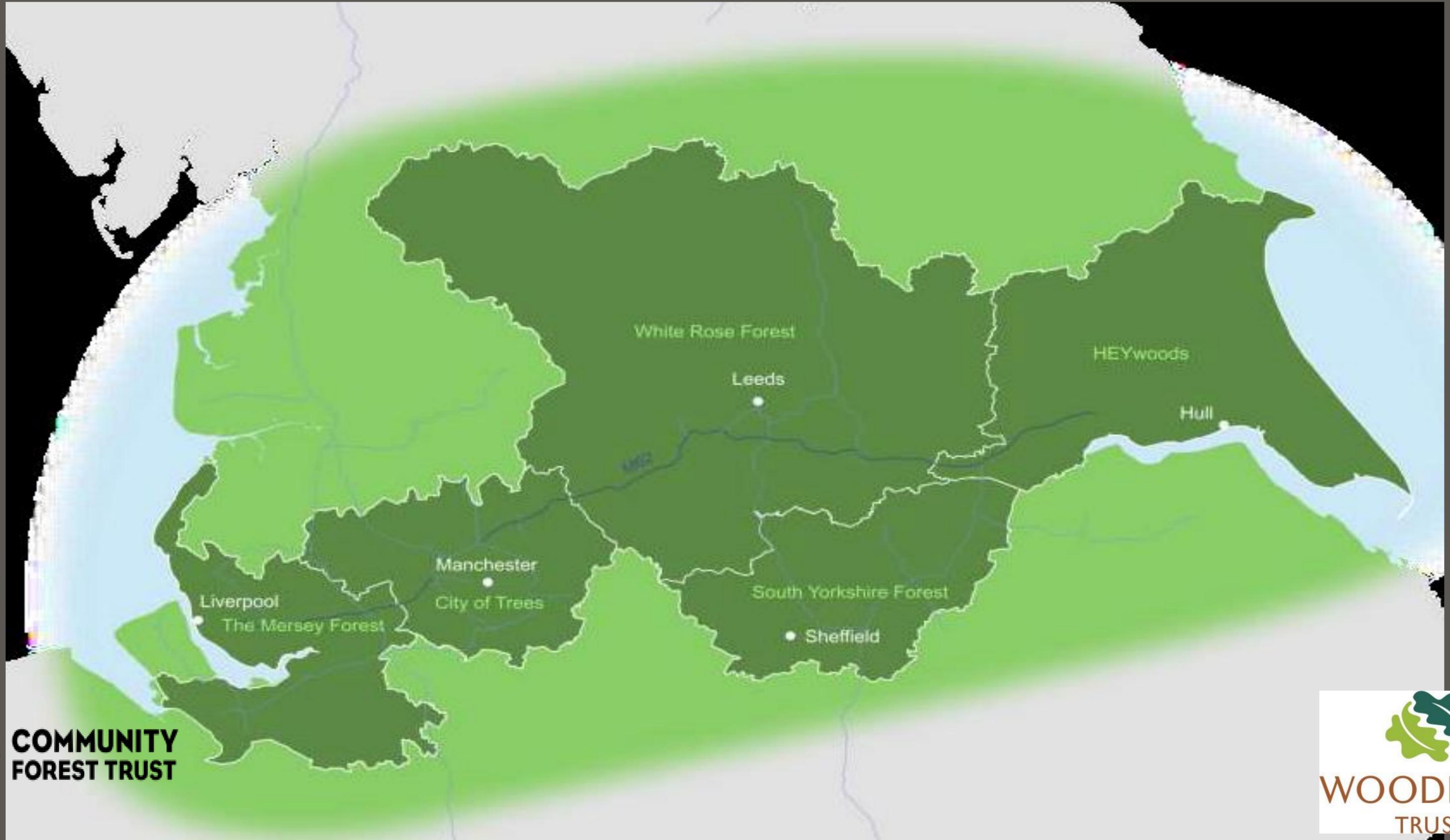
- Launched November 2016
- Its vision is to join up the North of England's great towns, cities and counties, pooling their strengths and tackling major barriers to productivity to unleash the full economic potential of the North.

The Northern Forest...a Community Forest Trust / Woodland Trust initiative...



- Let's plant a thought. We live in a time when it seems as if almost anything could happen.
- Technology, ecosystems, politics, economies, our everyday habits; change is ubiquitous. Some change is positive, some less so.
- Mutability is something we are learning to live and work with...

Northern Forest – re-balancing the British economy



**COMMUNITY
FOREST TRUST**



The Quantifiable Benefits that flow from a Viable Urban Forest. It can...

- Promote & retain inward investment & job creation
- Increase property values
- Improve our health & wellbeing
- Improve learning
- Provide focal points to improve social cohesion
- Improve air quality
- Promote biodiversity
- Limit the risk of flooding
- Cool our towns & cities
- Make us drive more safely
- Offset carbon emissions



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Guidelines on urban and peri-urban forestry



FAO
FORESTRY
PAPER

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BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES



Strategic placement of trees in urban areas can cool the air by between 2 °C and 8 °C.



Large urban trees are excellent filters for urban pollutants and fine particulates.



Mature trees regulate water flow and improve water quality.

A tree can absorb up to 150 kg of CO₂ per year, sequester carbon and consequently mitigate climate change.



Wood can be used for cooking and heating.



Trees can provide food, such as fruits, nuts and leaves.

Spending time near trees improves physical and mental health by increasing energy level and speed of recovery, while decreasing blood pressure and stress.



Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and save energy used for heating by 20–50%.

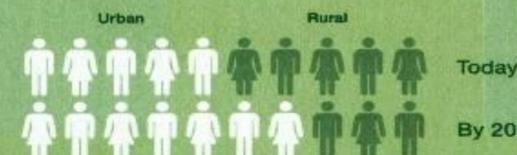


Trees provide habitat, food and protection to plants and animals, increasing urban biodiversity.



Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values by 20%.

World urban population is growing fast...



...planting trees today is essential for future generations!

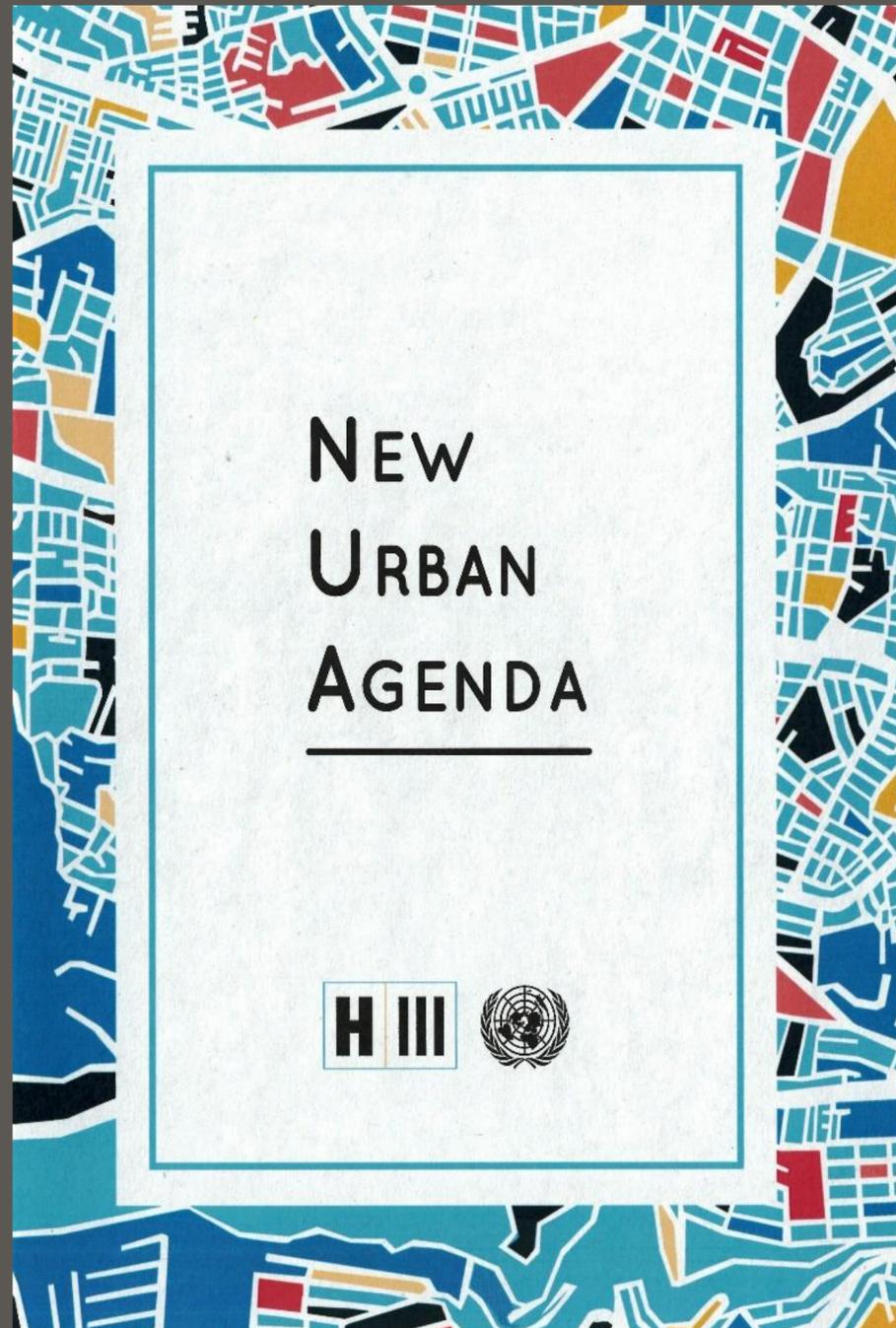


Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry



The Importance of Delivery - the UN's New Urban Agenda



- Promotes a shared vision of :
 - Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity
 - Opportunities for all
 - Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.
- **Urban Forestry can help to deliver this...**

More influences and a result!

The Tree Charter Principles
We believe in:

-  1. Thriving habitats for diverse species
-  2. Planting for the future
-  3. Celebrating the cultural impact of trees
-  4. A thriving forestry sector that delivers for the UK
-  5. Better protection for important trees and woods
-  6. Enhancing new developments with trees
-  7. Understanding and using the natural health benefits of trees
-  8. Access to trees for everyone
-  9. Addressing threats to woods and trees through good management
-  10. Strengthening landscapes with woods and trees



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)

News story

New Northern Forest gets Government backing

The Prime Minister has announced plans for a new Northern Forest as part of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan

Published 7 January 2018

From:

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>), The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/michael-gove>), and The Rt Hon Theresa May MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/theresa-may>)



Ambitious plans to create a new 'Northern Forest' along the M62 corridor have been kick-started today following an announcement by the Prime Minister Theresa May.

Following backing from the Environment Secretary Michael Gove, over the next 25 years the Woodland Trust and Community Forest Trust are aiming to plant more than 50 million trees from Liverpool to Hull, with the government today providing almost £6 million to launch the first project of its kind for more than a quarter of a century.

Spanning more than 120 miles between the cities of Bradford, Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool, the proposed Northern Forest will help boost habitats for woodland birds and bats and protect iconic species such as the red squirrel – alongside providing a tranquil space to be enjoyed by millions of people living in the area.

The announcement forms part of the government's upcoming 25 Year Environment Plan, which will set out how we can be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it.

'We will also draw upon the existing network of forests in and around our largest towns and cities under England's Community Forest programme'... DEFRA



25 Year Environment Plan

4. Focusing on woodland to maximise its many benefits

We will increase tree planting by creating new forests, and incentivising extra planting on private and the least productive agricultural land, where appropriate. This will support our ambition to plant 11m trees.

We will take the opportunities of other landscape scale interventions, including when scoping a Nature Recovery Network, to drive extensive woodland planting while enhancing our distinctive landscapes. We will also work with industry and support Grown in Britain to increase the amount of home grown timber used in England in construction, creating a conveyor belt of locked-in carbon in our homes and buildings. A wide range of economic and environmental benefits will flow from commercial afforestation to meet the growing demand for timber.

We will not focus solely on planting, however; we will also support increased protection of existing trees and forests. Pests and diseases threaten the wide range of benefits we derive from trees and plants. We want to make sure our trees can withstand future threats.

Beyond the economic benefits, the Government recognises the significant heritage value and irreplaceable character of ancient woodland and veteran trees. We are committed to ensuring stronger protection of our ancient woodlands, making sure they are sustainably managed to provide a wide range of social, environmental, societal and economic benefits.

i. Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest

We will support the planting of a forest that crosses the country in a belt of trees, using the M62 corridor as its spine. With £5.7 million of government funding, we will support the existing partnership of the Community Forests and the Woodland Trust to accelerate and further develop the Northern Forest. This will deliver accessible community woodland to a large swathe of England and at the same time help us to meet our statutory carbon budget requirements. This area has an increasing population, meaning that future generations will benefit from this new forest.



Looking up into the crown of an Ash tree (Photo Forestry Commission / Isobel Cameron)

We will make sure that landowners, farmers and key forestry stakeholders help lead the work, and that it balances the various environmental, social and economic benefits of forestry. We will explore the best use of innovative forms of private sector finance, including philanthropic, social and commercial investment.

The Northern Forest – the UK's largest environmental project - unifying and regenerating the North Country

Our area is changing — we need to respond

With below average woodland cover, but above average ambition, the North of England is perfectly placed to leverage huge value from renewed investment in community forests.

13m population  **9%** in the next 20 years

650k  new homes planned for the Northern Forest area

7.6% woodland cover  UK average = 13%
EU average = 44%

>£75bn infrastructure investment planned over the next 25 years

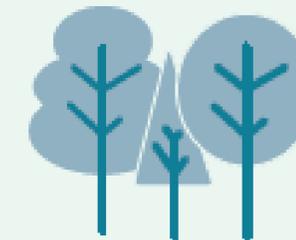
The area has an abundance of transport infrastructure, with key gateways served by

2 & 7 ports airports plus a new unified transport body, Transport for the North

1 million companies help the area generate over **£304bn**  (that's 18% of England's GDP)

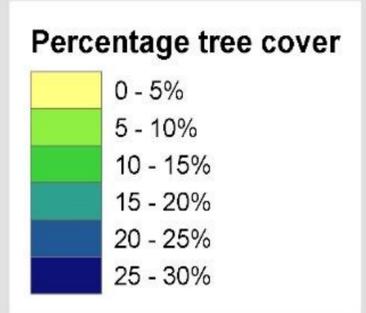
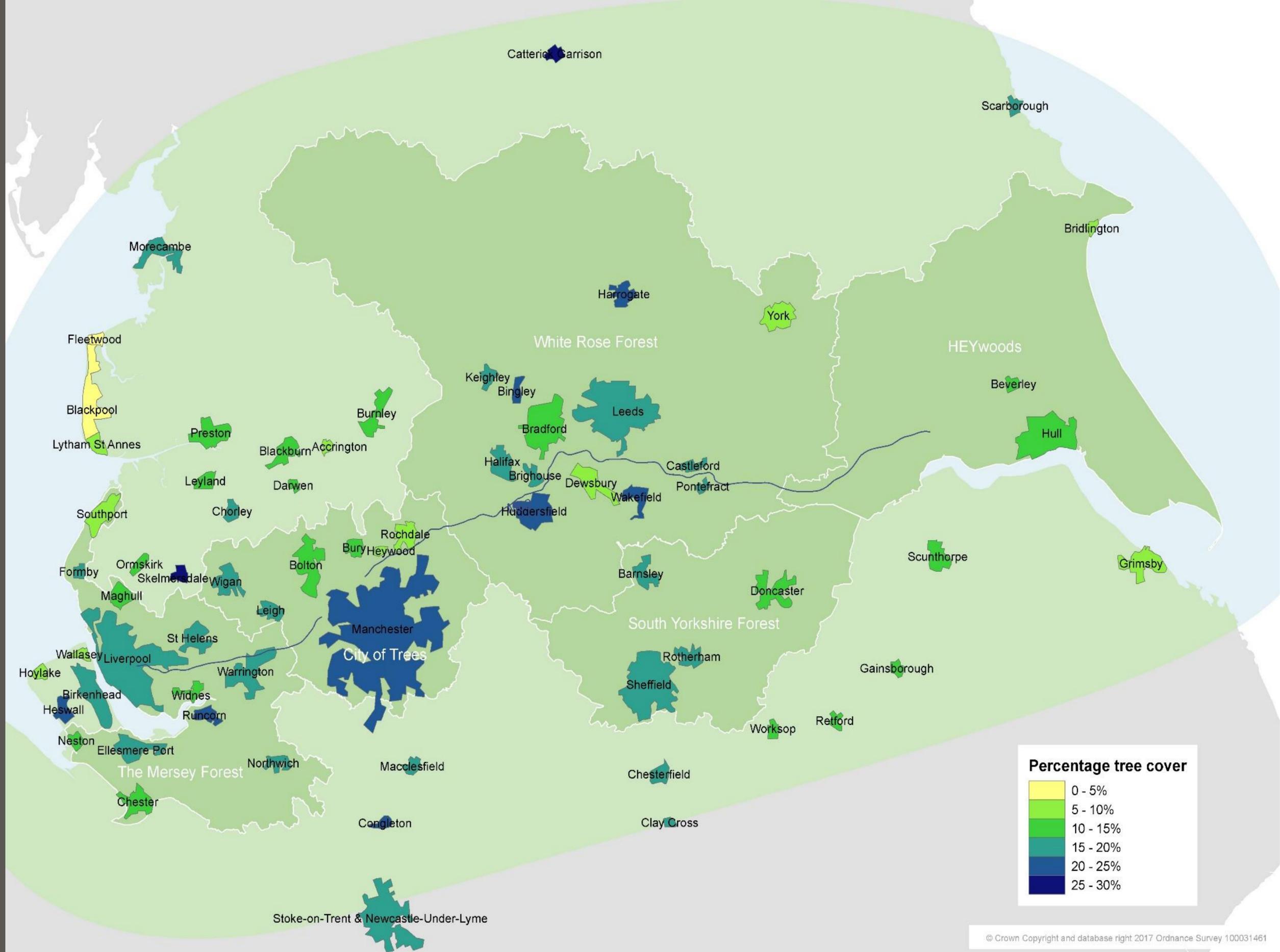


25 years



50m trees

The proposed National Forest shows a clear link between woodland cover and economic development. The UK Government has responded by voting £5.7 million to get the project rolling...



Design Domains in the Northern Forest...

- Urban Forestry
- Sub-Urban Forestry
- Peri-Urban Forestry
- Ex-Urban Forestry (Commuter Country)
- Rural Forestry

The New Forest must be resilient...

Species Selection for Green Infrastructure



A Guide for Specifiers



Trees & Design
Action Group
Award-Winning
Guidance Documents

SPONSOR
LOGO

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LOGO

Draft Version 29.06.2017

www.tdag.org.uk



Acer campestre (Field maple)

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- ▶ Environmental Tolerance
- ▶ Grown Form
- ▶ Ornamental Qualities
- ▶ Crown Density
- ▶ Use Potential

Use-potential



Tree size and crown characteristics



Mature height is typically <15 m but exceptionally may reach 20m.



Natural crown form is typically globular. Some cultivars provide alternative forms.



Forms a dense crown.

Example of planting

Acer campestre tree Westonbirt.jpg



Natural habitat



Occurs naturally in most of continental Europe (except Nordic countries) and parts of western Asia and north Africa. Can be found as an understorey tree, woodland edge species as well as an open grown tree on lower hillsides, plains, steppes (margins) and riverbanks. It commonly grows as a shrub in thickets. Prefers neutral to alkaline soils.

Environmental Tolerance



Moderately tolerant to shade.



Moderately tolerant to drought.



Moderately sensitive to waterlogging.

Ornamental qualities



Light green flowers borne in upright clusters in late spring. Fairly inconspicuous.



Samara fruits maturing in late summer.



Deciduous broadleaf tree. Simple, five-lobed leaves that turn a golden colour in autumn.



Single stemmed or as a multi-stemmed shrub with a grey-brown corky bark, vertically fissured on mature stems.

Issues to be aware of



Few problems associated with the species.

Notable varieties

Natural form

'Elsrijk'.

Narrow crown

'Baronne', 'Green column'.

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Visual interest

Acer campestre leaves Westonbirt.jpg



© Image provider, used with permission

Working with local people.....



The essence of the Northern Forest approach...

Go to the people, live with them, learn from them. Start with what they know; build with what they have.

But with the best leaders, when the work is done – the task accomplished, the people will say...

‘We have done this ourselves’

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Lao Tsu, China 700 BC

There are no more new frontiers – we have got to make it here...

- Thus the trees and the woodland of the Northern Forest, wherever we plant them, will demand better trans-disciplinary , integrated design and landscape structure planning to significantly improve the quality of the resilience of our towns and cities by creating better and more viable human and natural habitats than now exist...



- We must plant more trees in and around our towns and cities to connect, define and green our Poly-Centric City Regions – the right tree, in the right place, for the right reasons – and not be afraid of geometry...



- This must be part of a belief in the value and importance of our plural city regions as a nucleus of our culture, together with a more radical approach to post-industrialism – such as can be found in the concept of England's Northern Forest...



The Northern Forest – thank you for your attention...

