

Future of UK Treescapes

Dr Weihao Zhong
Senior Programme Manager (Terrestrial Ecosystems)
NERC

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Radical change in the UK landscape

- UK Treescapes are set to expand hugely...
 - 2050 Net Zero targets for UK and Devolved Governments
 - The 25 Year Environment Plan
 - The proposed Environment Bill and Agriculture Bill
 - Nature recovery & reversing long-term biodiversity decline
 - Post-pandemic 'green recovery'
- ...but also face an uncertain future due to unprecedented stresses and pressures:
 - Climate change
 - Air, water and soil pollution
 - Pests and diseases
 - Growing population
 - Competing land uses e.g. agriculture, renewable energy, housing

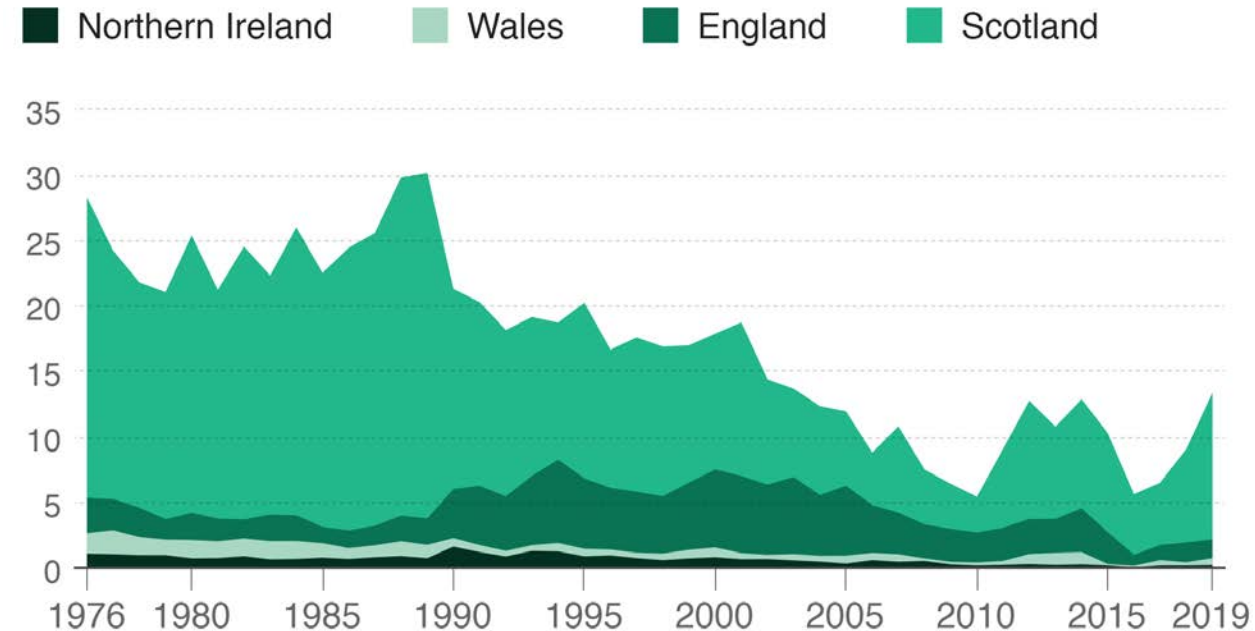


Radical change in the UK treescape

- The Committee on Climate Change recommends:
 - 30-50,000 hectares per year by 2030 at the latest
 - 90-120 million trees – broadleaf, mixed or conifer woodland – across 1.5m hectares
- Treescapes is set for expansion but we do not know:
 - What impact would it have on existing ecosystems, the wider environment, individuals, communities, culture, society and economy?
 - How will expanded treescapes adapt to environmental, cultural, social and economic changes and drivers?



New planting in the UK



Source: Forestry Commission

Future of UK Treescapes

- New five year £14.5m strategic programme led by NERC with co-funding from AHRC, ESRC, Defra, Scottish & Welsh Governments.
- NERC convened a scoping group of academics and research users in 2019 to develop the idea submitted by the community through our ideas process.
- *Aims to improve the **environmental**, **socio-economic** and **cultural** understanding of the functions and services provided by UK treescapes, in order to inform decision-making and assist their future expansion for the benefits of the environment and society.*
- Three calls planned in addition to appointing 2 programme ambassadors: large grants, smaller gap-filling grants and KE grants.



Future of UK Treescapes



- We expect the programme to deliver:
 - New understanding arising from new data, tools, methods and technologies
 - New approaches and measurements at landscape scale
 - Leading to a new evidence base that is interdisciplinary and relevant to a broad range of stakeholders

Future of UK Treescapes grant call



- Key details:
 - Closing date **4pm 8 December 2020**
 - Up to six projects are expected to be funded, each up to **£2m** (80% FEC) over **3 years**.
 - Normal UKRI individual eligibility criteria apply.
 - Investigator can be involved in 2 applications but can only be the PI on one application
 - Joint research proposals with Forest Research are welcome but not a requirement
- Proposal from multidisciplinary teams addressing at least one of three themes:
 - 1. Forms, functions and values of UK Treescapes**
 - how and why are different treescapes important, what benefits do they provide?
 - 2. Opportunities, barriers and pathways for expansion of UK Treescapes**
 - how and where could treescapes expand, what would it look like?
 - 3. Resilience of UK Treescapes to global change**
 - how could treescapes continue to flourish and deliver benefits over decades and centuries?

Summary

- Submission closing **4pm 8 December 2020**
- Finding solutions to complex problems demands not just a deep understanding of environmental science but an **interdisciplinary** and **whole-systems** approach, with engagement of a broad, diverse research community.
- Reminders:
 - Complete 'Collaborator finder' survey on NERC website by 14 Oct if possible
 - Programme webinar: 10:30-12:00 20 Oct (no registration)
 - ESRC-led workshop: 14:00-16:00 20 Oct (registration required)<https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/future-of-uk-treescapescapes/news/future-of-uk-treescapescapes-programme-webinar-and-collaborator-finder/>





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