

British Woodlands Survey: a case study of long-term engagement between science, policy and practice

SNS-EFINORD network meeting and international workshop: Tools for improving science-policy interaction in forestry
Biri, Norway, May 15-16, 2018

Gillian Petrokofsky¹, Gabriel Hemery²

¹Oxford Long-term Ecology lab, University of Oxford, OX13B, UK contact: gillian.petrokofsky@zoo.ox.ac.uk.

²Sylva Foundation, Long Wittenham, Oxon, OX14 4QT UK

forestry



*supporting people who manage woodlands to do so sustainably -
benefitting the environment, the economy and society*



wood



*encouraging the use of home-grown wood by supporting skills, enterprise
and innovation*

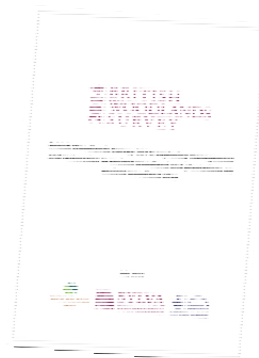
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SNS-EFINORD, Biri, Norway

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Government Chief Scientific Adviser's guidelines on use of evidence in policy

- identify early the issues which need scientific and engineering advice and where public engagement is appropriate;
- draw on a wide range of expert advice sources, particularly when there is uncertainty;
- adopt an open and **transparent** approach to the scientific advisory process and publish the evidence and analysis as soon as possible;
- work collectively to ensure a joined-up approach throughout government to integrating scientific and engineering evidence and advice into policy making



2017 | BRITISH WOODLANDS SURVEY

The *British Woodlands Survey* series provides an evidence base on which future policies and practice can be developed to support further sustainable forest management for multiple ecosystem services in Britain. We plan to conduct regular major surveys every five years, our first being 2012 (which built on an existing series), interspersed by smaller surveys on particular themes.

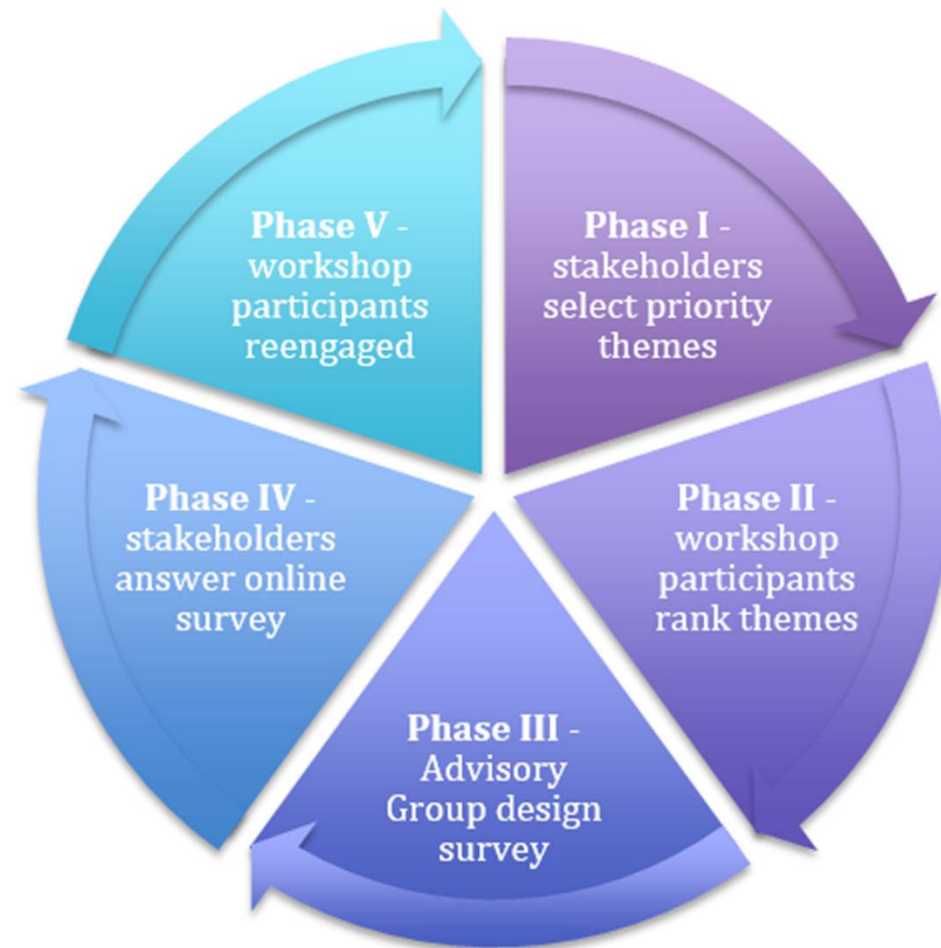


BWS2017 is led by researchers from Forest Research, Sylva Foundation, University of Oxford and Woodland Trust. Funding is provided by Scottish Forestry Trust, Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland.

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Method

‘360-degree’ research



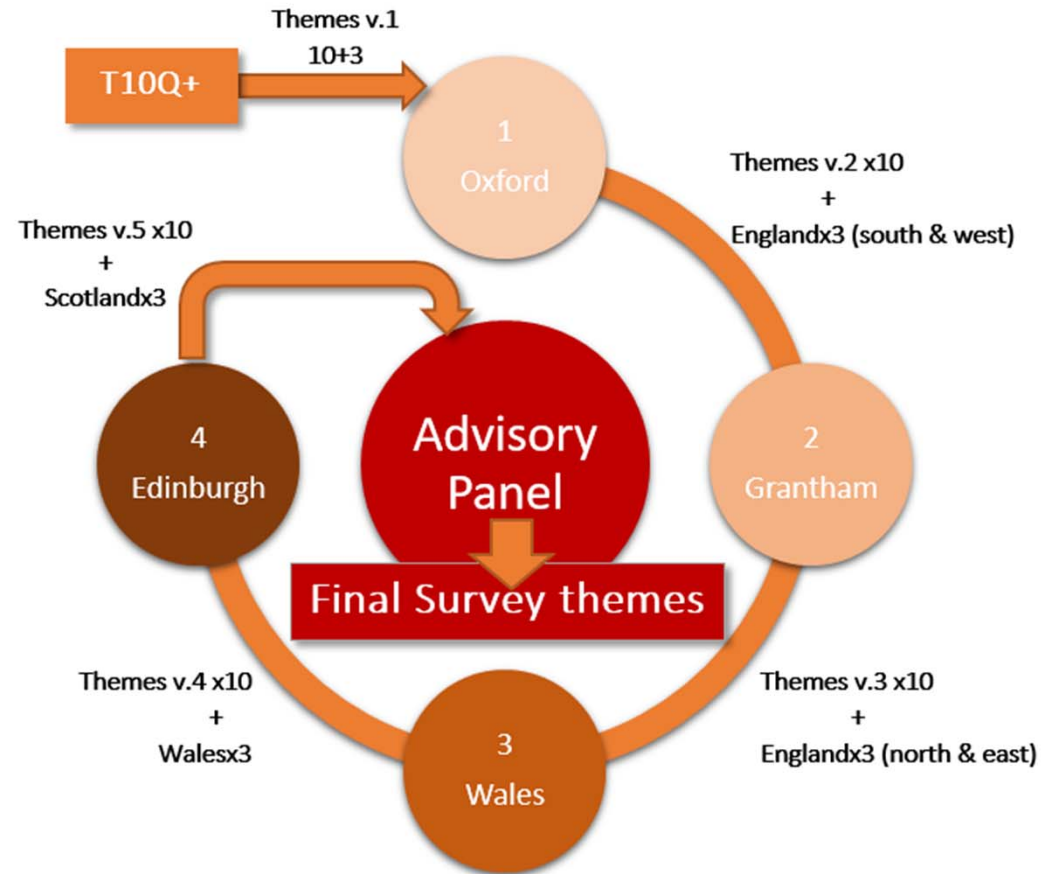
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Additional evidence collected from Active Listening



2017 BRITISH WOODLANDS SURVEY

Workshops Spring 2017

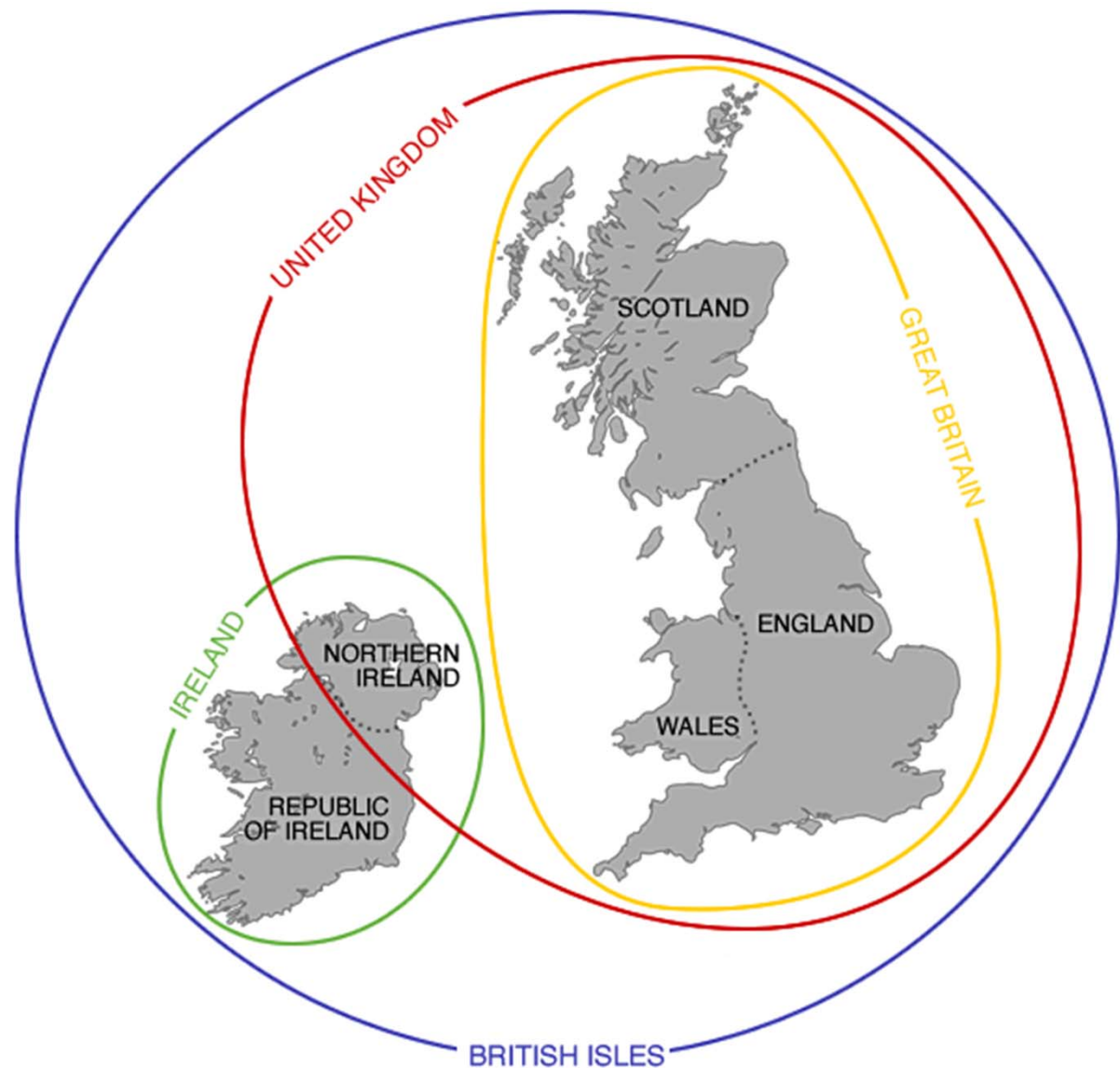


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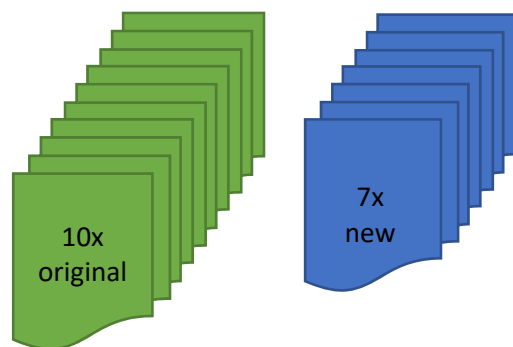
Forestry is a devolved matter in the UK, with each of the four constituent countries responsible for their own policies.

But...

Science and Innovation Strategy meets the needs of forestry policies across the UK
(Forestry Commission 2014)

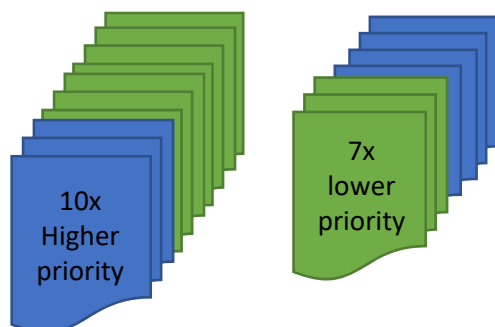


Agreeing 10 GB Themes for BWS2017



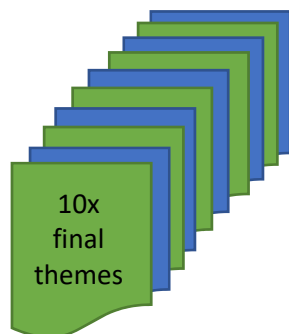
Phase 1

10 'original' themes from T10Q
+
7 'new' themes from online survey



Phase 2a – four workshops

10 high priority themes
+
7 themes of lower priority



Phase 2b –final results

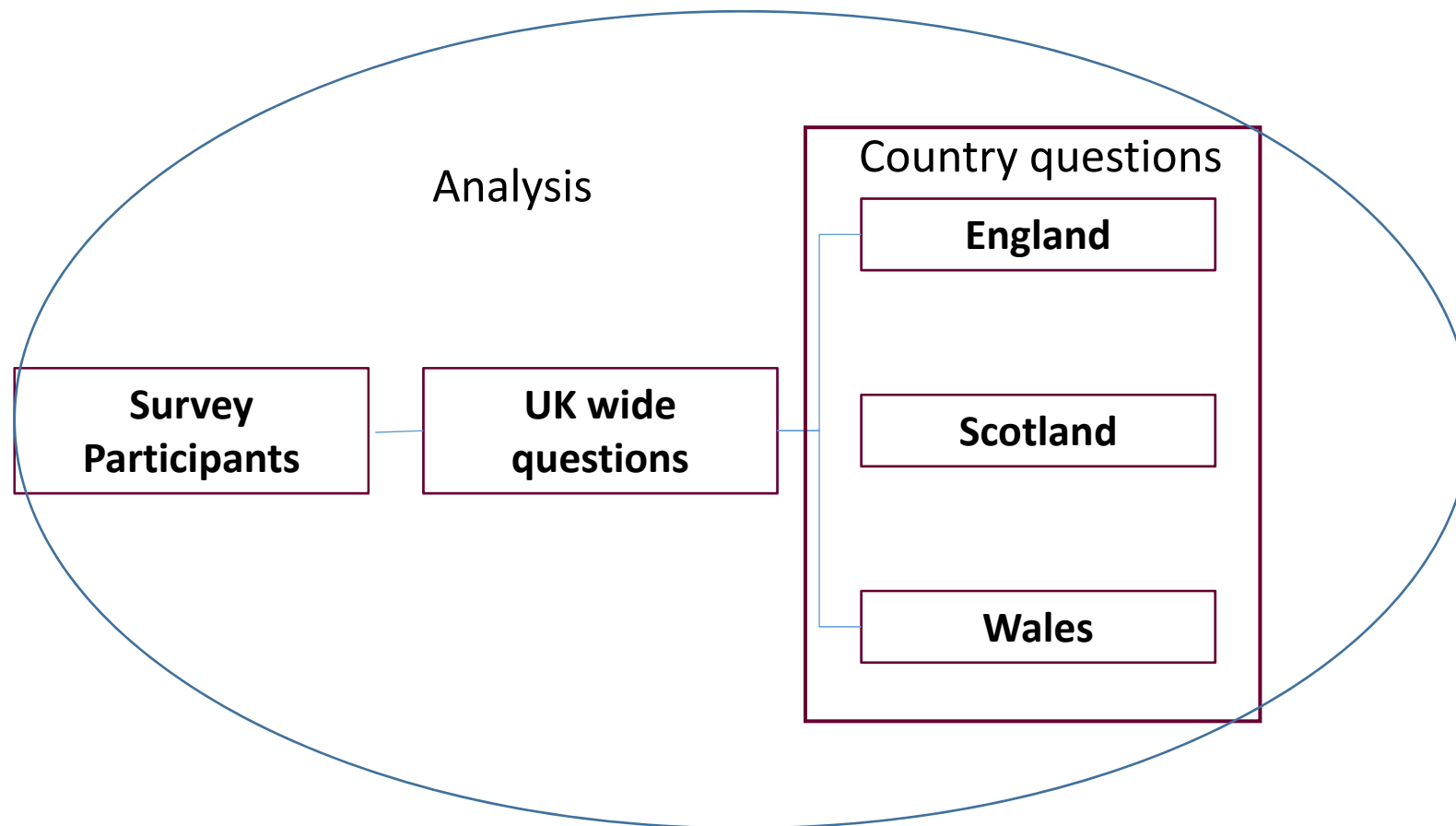
10 GB priority themes

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | What are the most technically and cost effective ways of identifying, monitoring, and controlling invasive species, pests and disease? | Pests & Diseases |
| 2 | How can we achieve better understanding between foresters and other parts of society? | Societal issues |
| 3 | What are the most effective landscape planting schemes to ensure connectivity between woodland fragments whilst maintaining connectivity between other landuse types? | Landscape connectivity |
| 4 | How will climate change affect both natural forest ecosystems and forestry and how should management be adapted to minimise adverse impacts and optimise benefits? | Climate change adaptation |
| 5 | What is the value of forestry to human health and well-being? | Human health & wellbeing |
| 6 | Who are the private woodland owners and how can they be engaged and influenced? What are their concerns? | Private woodland owner engagement |
| 7 | Which parts of forest ecosystems form the largest and most stable carbon pools and how are these impacted by forest management and climate change? | Managing forests for carbon |
| 8 | How can we address the economic, environmental, social and institutional constraints of expanding woodfuel in the UK? | Woodfuel |
| 9 | What species or provenances should we be considering in relation to a range of forestry systems including urban and agroforestry, in the light of climate change? | Genetic diversity |
| 10 | What are the barriers to knowledge transfer in forestry from research to practice and how can they be removed? | Knowledge transfer |

Workshop participants

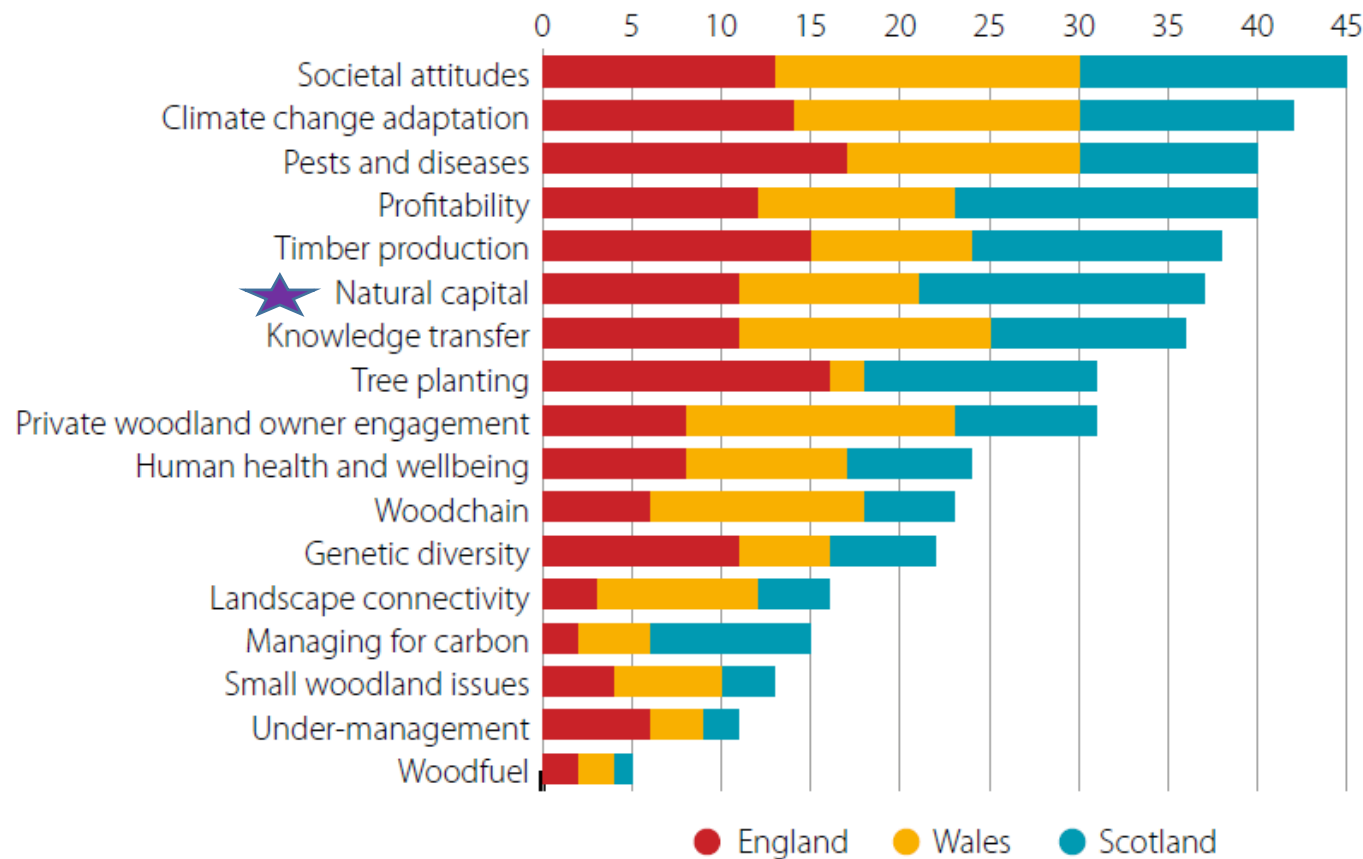
Participant sector	England Oxford	England Grantham	Wales	Scotland	Total
Landowner	4	3	3	4	14
Forestry business	2	1	2	1	6
Forestry professional	0	3	1	1	5
NGO	2	2	3	3	10
Other	1	1	1	1	4
Research	1	0	2	2	5
Government	1	0	2	1	4
TOTAL	11	10	14	13	48

BWS2017 online survey



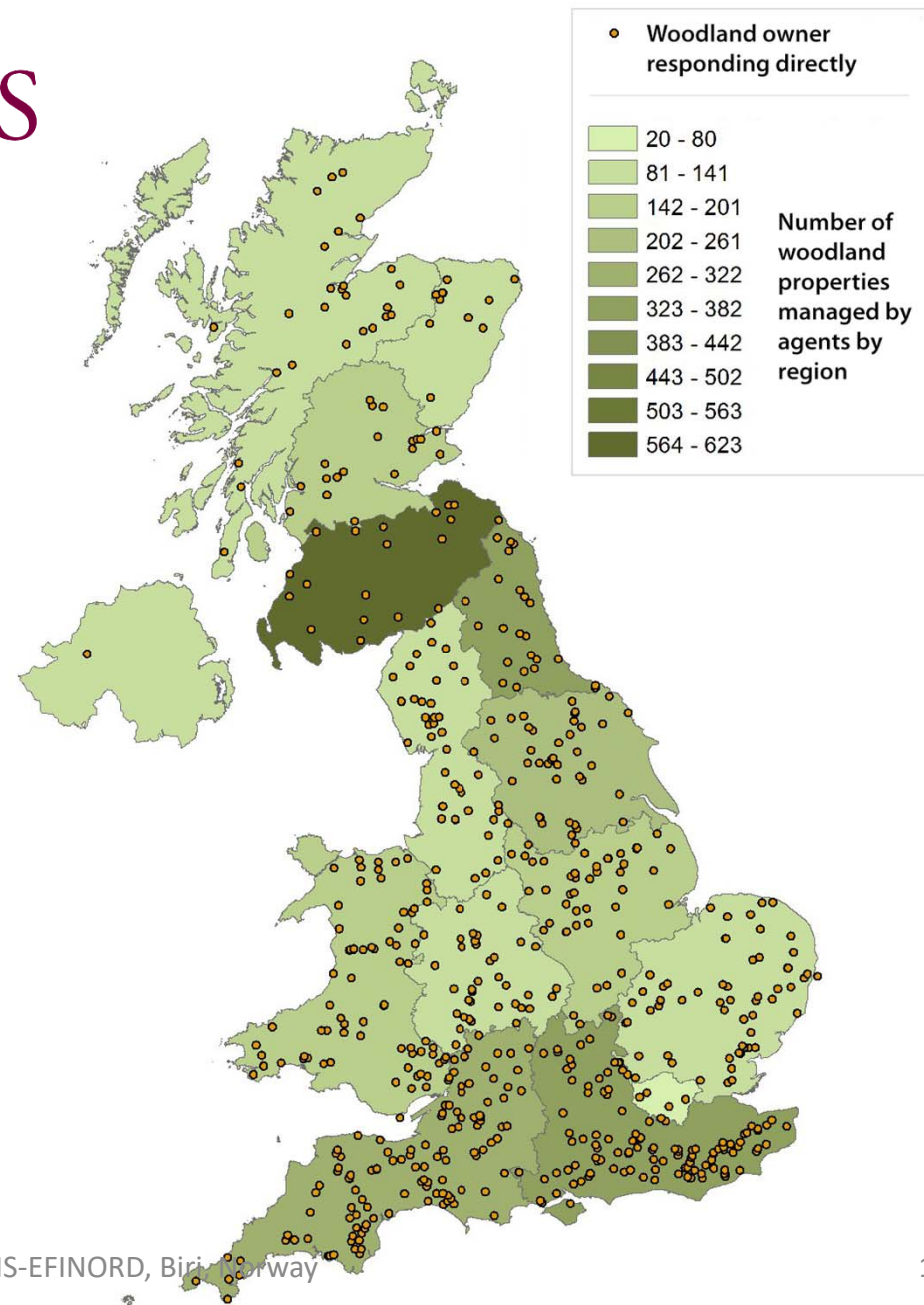
Rank	Oxford	Grantham	England (combined)	Wales	Scotland	ALL
1	Pests and diseases	Pests and diseases	Pests and diseases	Societal attitudes	Profitability	Societal attitudes
2	Climate change adaptation	Timber production	Tree planting	Climate change adaptation	Natural capital	Climate change adaptation
3	Knowledge transfer	Tree planting	Timber production	Private woodland owner engagement	Societal attitudes	Pests and diseases
4	Tree Planting	Societal attitudes	Climate change adaptation	Knowledge transfer	Timber production	Profitability
5	Profitability	Under-management	Societal attitudes	Pests and diseases	Tree planting	Timber production
6	Human health and wellbeing	Profitability	Profitability	Woodchain	Climate change adaptation	Natural capital
7	Genetic diversity	Small woodland issues	Genetic diversity	Profitability	Knowledge transfer	Knowledge transfer
8	Timber production	Private woodland owner engagement	Knowledge transfer	Natural capital	Pests and diseases	Private woodland owner engagement
9	Natural capital	Natural capital	Natural capital	Human health and wellbeing	Managing for carbon	Tree planting
10	Woodchain	Climate change adaptation	Human health and wellbeing	Landscape connectivity	Private woodland owner engagement	Human health and wellbeing
11	Private woodland owner engagement	Genetic diversity	Private woodland owner engagement	Timber production	Human health and wellbeing	Woodchain
12	Societal attitudes	Woodchain	Under-management	Small woodland issues	Genetic diversity	Genetic diversity
13	Managing for carbon	Human health and wellbeing	Woodchain	Genetic diversity	Woodchain	Landscape connectivity
14	Landscape connectivity	Landscape connectivity	Small woodland issues	Managing for carbon	Landscape connectivity	Managing for carbon
15	Woodfuel	Knowledge transfer	Landscape connectivity	Under-management	Small woodland issues	Small woodland issues
16	Small woodland issues	Woodfuel	Managing for carbon	Tree planting	Under-management	Under-management
17	Under-management	Managing for carbon	Woodfuel	Woodfuel	Woodfuel	Woodfuel

Themes ranked at Workshops in order of perceived importance



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Respondents



Respondents

1,630

People
across UK

645,370ha

Woodland
represented

1/5

of all UK
woodland area

180

Forestry
agents

660

Woodland
owners



1/3

England

interested in helping devise future forestry strategy

8

Wales

fold increase interest in collaborating to share profits

1/3

Scotland

in favour of rewilding

No. 1 theme: Social attitudes

2 Climate change adaptation

3 Pests and diseases

No. 1 woodland owner motivation
Protecting/
improving nature



Two thirds of woodland owners provide public access



Majority think society values woodland most for its wildlife



Biosecurity

Only **13%**

woodland owners offer disinfecting facilities



Pathogens

76%

people observed damage in last five years

2017 **BRITISH WOODLANDS SURVEY**

www.sylva.org.uk/bws

Does the sector feel well-represented?

Woodland owners felt that their views were poorly represented in **policy** formulation, development of **practice** guidance, and in the setting of **research** priorities

Professionals and businesses felt better represented, especially among members of sector membership organisations

Reflections for future actions

- **Societal attitudes** - Improve qualitative research to understand better the attitudes of woodland owners towards the general public, and vice versa.
- **Ecosystem services** - Target outreach to owners and practitioners, plus tools and services to assist with valuation.
- **Collaboration within the sector** - Explore opportunities and constraints to collaborative working, and highlighting potential for formalised co-operatives.
- **Tree species diversity** - Explore barriers to diversifying, gathering more evidence, and improve guidance for practitioners.
- **Biosecurity** - Explore constraints and opportunities for the forestry sector in proactively reducing/mitigating current and future threats.
- **Engagement with policy and research** - Realise potential to increase meaningful engagement with more owners and practitioners in policy development and research prioritisation.
- **Policy** - Policy makers to ensure that forestry is more deeply integrated in broader land management strategies.
- **Competitiveness** - Explore barriers to a competitive home-grown timber market, and develop policy innovations to improve profitability

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