Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Agroforestry plan (PA4)

Template

Use this plan to help create a new agroforestry system or improve an existing one.

You should have an agroforestry plan for each of your land holdings. You must:

- complete the plan in English
- provide any financial values in Sterling (£)
- provide all measurements in metres (m) or hectares (ha)

Only the person who completes this plan can apply for capital and agroforestry support.

If an agent completes this plan on your behalf, they must be:

- registered on the Rural Payments service
- have an up to date agent authority form in place with the correct permissions

If your land covers different geographical locations (is dispersed land), you may need more than one plan. Contact the Forestry Commission for advice on how to treat this type of land holding.

If you are not able to create a map due to accessibility reasons, provide a description of your land holding in as much detail as possible in Section 3. We reserve the right to recover funding if you do not create a map but are able to.

Section 1 – Applicant details

Applicant name

Email address

Telephone number

SBI number

Business name

Field parcel numbers you are applying for

Section 2 – Record any changes to your plan

You should keep a record of any changes or updates you make to your plan. Use this table to keep track of which version of the plan you are using and to show what changes or updates have been made over time.

Version history (use continuation sheet A if you run out of room)

Version number	Date	Details of any changes or updates	Adviser comments	Date

Section 3 – Describe your land holding

Use this space to describe the landscape or character of your land holding and how it sits within the wider landscape. Include:

- the aspect of the land (for example, south facing)
- the physical features of the wider landscape (for example, slopes, valleys, and plains)
- artificial features (for example, buildings, tracks, hedges, walls)

Example: Our holding is 120 hectares of mostly grazing land on rolling low hills with 2 small valleys cut deeply across the eastern part. Most slopes are south facing. The soils are generally free draining with some wetter areas towards the lower slopes. The highest parcels are moorland, we have numerous small areas of woodland, some natural, some planted. The field boundaries are mostly older hedges with fences. Some stone walls near to the farmstead and on lower fields. There are 3 access tracks across the farm with hedges bordering them.

Features and habitats

Provide details of any features and habitats on your land holding (measurements can be approximate).

Length of existing hedges (m)

Hectares of existing woodland (ha)

Hectares of existing agroforestry (ha)

Number of existing trees outside woodland

Number of veteran trees outside woodlands (these are older trees that have cultural, aesthetic, or biological value)

Existing scrub (m or ha)

Arable land (ha)

Grazing land (ha)

Water features

Streams (number and length)

Open ditches (number)

Waterways (number and length)

Wetlands (ha)

Historic environment

Are there any designated heritage assets?

For example:

- world heritage sites and their buffer zones
- scheduled monuments
- conservation areas
- listed buildings
- registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens

Priority habitats (including good quality semi-natural grassland and no main habitat)

Use this space to list any priority habitats

You can use Defra's MAGIC map to check these, or find protected areas of countryside on GOV.UK.

Other features

Provide details of any other features on your land holding (measurements can be approximate).

Semi-natural habitats (for example, heathland, unimproved grassland, moorland)

Boundaries (for example, dry stone walls, fences, tracks)

Infrastructure (for example, farm tracks, pylons, buildings)

Any invasive species or biosecurity issues?

Adjacent land use?

Use this space to describe any other features you think should be highlighted

Map 1: Create a map of your land holding showing its features and habitats

Use this map to identify where agroforestry will be best placed on your land holding – consider features that may complement the benefits you are targeting.

Your map must:

- show your business name and SBI number
- have a 6-figure Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference for the centre of the map
- show the entire land holding you are including in your plan
- indicate parcel boundaries and rural land register (RLR) numbers
- clearly display the location and boundaries of any habitats and features (including environmentally sensitive features)
- include a key which explains all shorthand, symbols and codes used

You should label all the features and habitats you have described in the overview of your land holding at the start of section 3.

You can use your own map if it clearly shows all features and habitats. You can create a map digital map using Forestry Commission Map Browser, Defra's MAGIC map, Natural England's Green Infrastructure mapping layers, Land App, or other providers.

You can also contact the Forestry Commission's map request service for a blank base map to label by hand. If you make a mistake, you should strike through instead of using correction fluid.

We will not accept screenshots from internet map browsers.

Maps must be based on a scale of 1:2,500 or 1:5,000, or for larger schemes 1:10,000.

You may include additional maps, for example:

- watercourses and open water
- an access map public rights of way or wayleaves

Map 2: Create a map of your land holding identifying constraints and opportunities

Use this map to record sensitive features and opportunities so you are aware of how agroforestry might impact them. Examples include:

- powerlines
- buildings
- watercourses and ponds
- wetlands and scrub
- roads and tracks

You should take account of designations and priority habitats when planning your agroforestry system.

Label any designations (protected areas of countryside). You can use Defra's MAGIC map to check these or find protected areas of countryside on GOV.UK. Designations include:

Protected Sites

- sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) or proposed SSSI (PSSSI)
    - if the land is above the moorland line or within a 1,000m buffer zone
    - if the land is below the moorland line or within a 250m buffer zone
- site of protection areas (SPAs), or within a 2,000m buffer
- special areas of conservation (SAC):
    - if the land is above the moorland line or within a 700m buffer zone
    - if the land is below the moorland line or within a 250m buffer zone
- Ramsar sites, or within a 700m buffer zone

Protected landscapes

- national parks
- national landscapes

World heritage sites, including their designated buffer zone

Other designations and features of interest

- national nature reserves
- priority habitats
- peat
- breeding waders
- commons
- local nature reserves, including local wildlife sites

Section 4 – Describe how agroforestry can support your business

Use this space to provide a summary of your land holding, business, and environment. Give brief objectives for your agroforestry proposals and how they will fit in the wider picture on your holding.

What does the land or farm produce now?

What other business activity is carried out on the land or farm?

What are your business objectives?

Identify any ecosystem service (natural benefit) objectives agroforestry will provide for your land holding

Tick the objectives you expect to meet using your agroforestry plan.

Regulating

Objective: (tick all that apply)

- [ ] capture carbon in the tree biomass
- [ ] reduce erosion, surface runoff, leaching from the land
- [ ] improve resilience to drought and floods
- [ ] improve water quality on the farm
- [ ] improve air quality on the farm

Provisioning

Objective: (tick all that apply)

- [ ] deliver better animal welfare (for example, shade, shelter, fodder for livestock or poultry)
- [ ] enhance food production potential (for example, meat, dairy, crops, fruit and nuts from trees)
- [ ] grow high value hardwood timber

Supporting

Objective: (tick all that apply)

- [ ] provide habitat to maintain, support and enhance species biodiversity

Cultural

Objective: (tick all that apply)

- [ ] improve landscape aesthetics
- [ ] offer environmental and rural education
- [ ] provide environmental recreation (for example, walks)

Other (use this space to give details of other natural benefits you expect to achieve)

Section 5 – How will you plan and manage your agroforestry parcels?

Create a map to show the agroforestry you have planned for each field parcel.

Use the field parcel template to create a detailed agroforestry plan for each of your field parcels. We have provided an example here.

Description of field parcel

Field parcel number	Field name	Parcel size in ha	Field use	Field detail (including soil type)	Features and constraints
12345	Field bordering road	4ha	Grazing (set)	Grade 3a/ brown grey soil. Improved grassland. SE corner is particularly wet.	Small woodland along south edge of field parcel.

Planned agroforestry

Agroforestry type and description of planned agroforestry system	Trees per ha	Total trees per parcel	Agroforestry objectives
Silvopasture rows Silvopasture rows made of central Silver Birch with a row of Willow planted either side. Stock fenced around rows. Planted North-South orientation. Rows 4m wide, SBI planted centrally, each tree 3m apart. Willow planted 0.5m away from internal fence edge, 3m spacing between Willow in row. 30m spacing in between row edges.	378	1710	Mix of quality timber from Silver Birch and firewood for farmhouse. Willow for browse for livestock and improving pollinator biodiversity. Shade and shelter provided for livestock by whole row system, allowing mob grazing of rows in future.

Management plan

Growth stage or number of years from planting	Management activities
Planting year	• 2024 to 2025
Establishment	• Deer guard for Silver Birch (1.2m to 1.8m guards dependant on other species) • Vole or rabbit guard for Willow • Weed suppression around saplings (wood chip or mulch mats)
Up to 3 years	• Monitor and protect Silver Birch against animals and plants as necessary • Willow should get to a height to be browsed from this point
4 to 8 years	• Formative pruning of Silver Birch side branches before they get thicker than 2.5cm, carried out in either June, September or October – maintain live canopy at about half the trees total height • (Optional) Start coppice regime for Willow, cutting every third Willow in row each year for a 3-year cycle
8 to 35 years	• Continue pruning regime of Silver Birch, aiming for at least 4 to 6m of clean trunk • Continue established coppice regime of Willow, focusing particularly on removing any competitive growth to the Silver Birch • Remove dead Silver Birch and Willow where necessary with natural regeneration
Timber harvesting	• Harvest Silver Birch when average breast height diameter 25cm to 35cm (35 to 40 years old on good quality land or up to 65 years old on poor quality land) • Harvested material needs to be removed from the site promptly as Birch can tend to deteriorate rapidly if left on the ground
Restocking	• Cut back all Willow before planting Silver Birch to avoid competition
Notes	• For any other relevant information

Section 6 (optional) – How will you manage other agroforestry systems on your land holding?

You should consider how different agroforestry systems interact across your entire land holding. Use this table to plan and manage other types of agroforestry on your land. Use continuation sheet B if you need more space.

Other agroforestry types	Field parcel number	Description of planned agroforestry	Management of the features	Intended outcomes
Other 'in-field' agroforestry such as greater density planting than included in section 5				
Hedges with trees 1 to 5m wide features				
Wider 'agroforestry hedges' or windbreaks 5 to 10m wide features				

Other agroforestry types	Field parcel number	Description of planned agroforestry	Management of the features	Intended outcomes
Shelterbelts, and shelterbelt networks 10 to 19m wide				
Shelterbelts, and shelterbelt networks 20m wide and above				
Open tree planting: informal arrangement, rows, along boundaries				
Non-traditional orchards				
Traditional orchards				

Other agroforestry types	Field parcel number	Description of planned agroforestry	Management of the features	Intended outcomes
Riparian corridor buffers				
Field corners, copses, and small farm woodlands				
Other types (for example, browse agroforestry, short rotation coppice)				
Wood pasture and parkland				

Section 7 – Identify impacts of agroforestry on your land holding

Find out if you need a historic environment check

You must plan your agroforestry around any historic features to prevent any disturbance.

You can contact your Local Environment Record Centre (LERC) or local archaeology officer to check for any habitats or features that may be affected by your proposal.

You can also use Defra's MAGIC map or find protected areas of countryside on GOV.UK.

Historic Environment Farm Environment Record Portal provides advice on how to protect and enhance your land holding.

Have you contacted your local Historic Environment office for advice:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Check if you need an environmental impact assessment (EIA)

You may need to apply for a forestry EIA from the Forestry Commission or an agriculture EIA from Natural England before planting trees on your land. You can use section 7 to support your EIA application.

You need to consider each parcel of land separately.

Find out when you need a forestry EIA and how to apply.

Find out when you need an agricultural EIA and how to apply.

You do not need an adviser to complete this plan, but we have provided space to record their comments and approval if you do use one.

Record potential risks and how you plan to mitigate them (record can be used to support a forestry EIA)

Use appendix A to identify features which may be at risk.

Environment category	Describe the feature	What risk has been identified?	Measures in place to mitigate risk	Adviser approval? Add comments if necessary
Biodiversity				
Climate change				
Historic environment				
Landscape				
People				
Soils				
Water				
Wildfire				

Record potential risks and how you plan to mitigate them (record can be used to support an agricultural EIA)

Under EIA regulations for agriculture, you must apply for an agricultural EIA to assess the environmental impact of tree planting on uncultivated land or semi-natural areas where the planting will increase the agricultural productivity of the land.

You might also need a screen application if you plan to restructure rural landforms (for example, installing fencing to protect trees).

Find out:

- when you need permission to change uncultivated semi natural and rural land
- how to apply for a screening decision

Use these forms to consult with organisations that hold information about the land.

Consider the impact of your proposed agroforestry system on your land

Is the project within a semi-natural area?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Is the project on uncultivated land?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Does the project restructure land?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, complete this table.

Environment category	What risk has been identified?	Measures in place to mitigate risk	Adviser comments	Adviser approval?
Biodiversity				
Historic environment				
Landscape				
Water				
Soil				
Climate				
Population and human health				
Common land				
Access				

Appendix A: Identify features which may be at risk

Biodiversity

Use these websites to help identify biodiversity features on your land holding:

- Forest Research
- Manage and protect woodland wildlife
- Defra MAGIC Map – look under 'Habitats and Species' to check whether your site has been mapped as a priority habitat
- Forestry Commission Map Browser

Climate change

You should choose tree species that are appropriate for your local area that will be resilient to the seasonal extremes. These may include drought conditions, extended periods of high rainfall, or areas exposed to high winds.

Seasonal extreme weather events are expected to be more frequent, and this should be considered when planning your system.

You can use these websites to help choose appropriate tree species and find guidance on climate change:

- Ecological Site Classification (ESC) (Forest Research)
- The Climate Change Hub (Forest Research)

Historic environment

You must contact your local Historic Environment office to get approval for your plans. Provide evidence of your communications when you submit your plan for approval.

You can use these websites to help identify features which may be at risk and get advice on how to protect or enhance your land holding:

- Historic Environment Farm Environment Record Portal (HEFER)

- Local Environment Record Centre (LERC)
- Historic Environment Record Centre (HERC)
- Defra MAGIC Map

Landscape

You may be in an area where your landscape has protected characteristics with additional requirements for tree planting.

You can use these websites to consider the landscape and sites your plan may affect:

- Defra MAGIC Map – look under ‘Landscape’ to identify national character areas
- Local Environment Record Centre (LERC)

People

You may have access features, such as a public footpath, that you must maintain.

You can use Defra MAGIC Map and look under ‘Access’ to check for:

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act, Section 15 Land
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Registered Common Land

Soils

In some areas, trees must be established carefully to avoid impacting the soil.

You can use these tools to help identify peaty soils and soil type on your land:

- Forestry Commission Map Browser
- Land Information System (LandIS) Soilscapes Viewer

The peat map does not cover all peaty areas, so you should also conduct a walkover of your site or a soil survey, particularly where peaty soils are known to be nearby.

Water

In some areas, water resources (such as groundwater) are particularly sensitive to being impacted by above ground actions (such as tree planting). You may need to consider tree species with low water needs or preventing run off into nearby resources.

You can use these websites to identify whether you are located near a sensitive water resource and consider how you can prevent any impact from your agroforestry system:

- Drinking Water Inspectorate – to identify public or private drinking water supplies which your plan may affect
- Forestry Commission Map Browser – look under 'Data':
    - for areas where groundwater is at poor qualitative status
    - for areas that are 'failing to meet good status' and 'at risk of failure'
    - to check if your land is next to a water course and if your plan may affect flood defence structures or facilities
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and Drinking Water Safeguard Zones

Wildfire

Planting more trees can increase risk of wildfire.

You can read about building wildfire resilience to help you carry out a risk assessment and demonstrate effective control measures for your land.