

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Trees and Woodland Scientific Advisory Group (TAW-SAG)

Meeting 21 Minutes: 10 July 2024 10am to 12pm

Attendees

- **Rob MacKenzie** (RMK) - [Chair], School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences University of Birmingham; Birmingham Institute of Forest Research.
- **Ruth Mitchell** (RM) - Biodiversity and Ecosystems Group, Ecological Sciences Department, James Hutton Institute.
- **Julie Urquhart** (JU) - Environmental Social Science, University of Gloucestershire.
- **Richard Buggs** (RB) - [Observer], Kew Gardens, Plant Health Group.
- **Paul Burgess** (PB) - Sustainable Agriculture and Agroforestry, Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute, Cranfield University.
- **Keith Kirby** (KK) - Department of Biology, University of Oxford.
- **Mike Morecroft** (MM) - [Observer], Principal specialist on climate change, Natural England and Visiting Professor, University of Reading.
- **Chris Quine** (CQ) - [Observer], Chief Scientist, Forest Research.
- **Ian Bateman** (IB) - Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute. University of Exeter.
- **Maggie Roe** (MR) - Landscape Planning Research & Policy Engagement, University of Newcastle.
- **Martin Lukac** (ML) – Professor of Ecosystem Science, University of Reading.
- **John Healey** (JH) – Professor of Forest Science, Bangor University.
- **Daisy Ellis** (DE) - Head of Strategy, Engagement and Analysis, Trees/Forestry Defra.
- **Rebecca McIlhiney** (RMI) - Evidence and Analysis Team Leader for Trees/ Forestry, Defra
- **Rhiannon Leyden-Preece** (RLP) - Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Iain Dummett** (ID) - Evidence and Analysis Team Leader for Trees/ Forestry, Defra
- **Chris McGurk** (CM) - Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Alex Elsy** (AE) - Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/ Forestry, Defra.
- **Hugh Loxton** (HL) - Policy Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Amy Crossley** - Policy Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Jodie Daniel** (JD) - Policy Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Stephen Nelson** (SN) – Senior economic advisor, Environment Strategy, Defra.
- **Andrew Gilbert** (AG) – Finance Lead for Trees/Forestry, Defra.

Apologies

- **Patricia Thornley** (PT) - School of Engineering and Applied Science, Aston University.
- **Stephen Cavers** (SC) - Ecology Evolution and Environmental Change - Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- **Clive Potter** (CP) - Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London.
- **Bella Murfin** (BM) - Director Nature for Climate Tree Programme, Defra.
- **Gideon Henderson** (GH) – Chief Scientific Advisor, Defra.
- **Emily Walker** (EW) - Evidence and Analysis Team for Trees/Forestry, Defra.
- **Dan Doherty** (DD) - Head of Policy, Trees/Forestry Defra.

Item 1: Welcome and introductions

1. RMK welcomed everyone to the 21st meeting of the TAW-SAG and introduced AG.

Item 2: Review minutes from previous meeting

2. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and the actions were reviewed:

| From | Number | Action | Owner | Status |
|------------|--------|---|----------|---|
| 12/03/2024 | 1 | CW to share the Analysis of uptake of different grants with TaW-SAG when possible | CW | In progress – will be shared as part of the M&E reporting |
| 15/05/2024 | 1 | RMI to set up NetZeroPlus teach in for Defra | RMI | In progress |
| 15/05/2024 | 2 | TaW-SAG members to send any written comments to Defra. | TaW-SAG | Complete |
| 15/05/2024 | 3 | Defra to update the Temperate Rainforest Research and Development Strategy and recirculate. | RMI & SB | In progress |
| 15/05/2024 | 4 | Defra to circulate the draft specifications for the research fellows' projects for comment once completed. | RMI | In progress – Fellows to introduce themselves at Sept meeting |
| 15/05/2024 | 5 | TaW-SAG to send papers on urban hedgerows to Defra | TaW-SAG | Complete |

Item 3: Election and Programme Board update

3. DE presented an update on the new Ministerial team (as of 10 July) and the first 100 days including the Land Use Framework and Spending Review.
4. DE provided an update on the last NCF Programme Board.

Item 4: Woodland Management: policy context and advice

5. RMI introduced this item and TaW-SAG offered verbal advice on the paper. TaW-SAG were asked to provide any further comments by email.

Action 1: TaW-SAG to send Defra comments on the paper.

Action 2: Defra to update the paper and bring it back to TaW-SAG.

Item 5: Woodland Management: woodland management categorisation

6. AG introduced this item and asked for TaW-SAG advice on how woodland management (green infrastructure) compares to grey infrastructure management. TaW-SAG discussed and provided verbal feedback on the paper.

Action 3: TaW-SAG to send Defra comments on the paper.

Item 6: Monitoring and Evaluation: survival rates and compliance

7. RMI introduced this item and asked TaW-SAG for verbal advice and for any evidence they were aware of which could help Defra.

Action 4: TaW-SAG to send Defra any further comments on the paper.

Item 7: Long Established Woodlands advice

8. RMI introduced this item and asked TaW-SAG for advice on Long Established Woodlands.

Action 5: TaW-SAG to send Defra any further comments on the paper.

Item 8: AOB

9. SN introduced himself to TaW-SAG.
10. RMI discussed the plan for the September in-person meeting and November meeting date.
11. RMI requested TaW-SAG advice on the Hasler et al (2023) paper on albedo and if this has an impact on our targets.
12. TaW-SAG discussed how best to coordinate replies to Defra and minimising email traffic. Defra have set up a shared folder.

Action 6: In person meeting invite to be sent to TaW-SAG by 19 July.

Action 7: Defra to send poll for November TaW-SAG meeting by end July.

Trees and Forestry, Strategy Engagement and Analysis Team July 2024

Date of the next two meetings - 24 September 2024 (in person) and 20 November.