

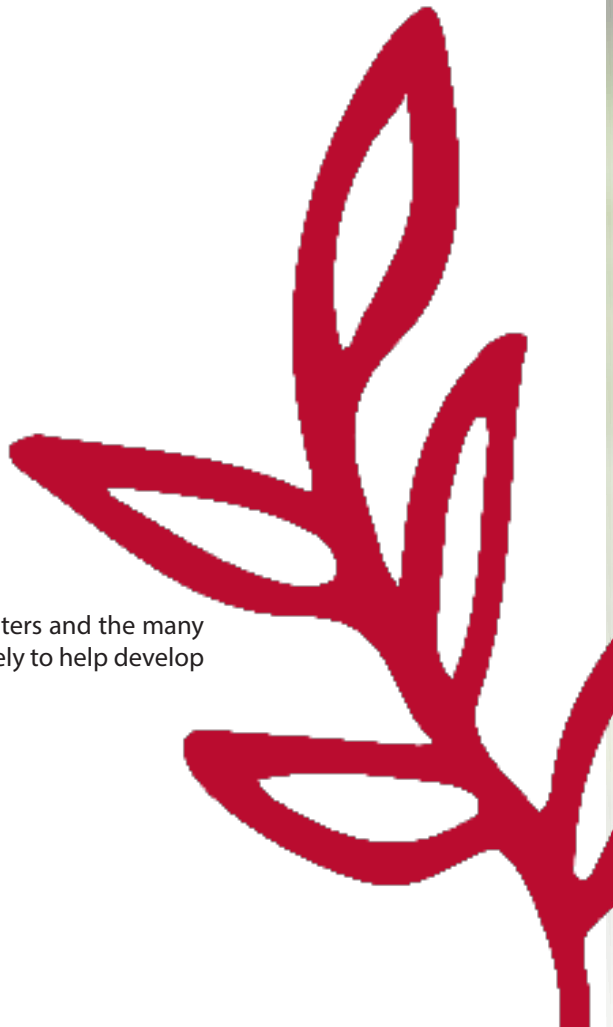
Inspiring excellence
in woodland
management

OUR
STRATEGY
to 2035

The Royal Forestry Society

With thanks

With thanks to our members, supporters and the many stakeholders who gave their time freely to help develop and shape this strategy.



Contents

Inspiring excellence in woodland management	4
What we do	6
Our vision	6
Our purpose	7
Our mission	7
Our values	7
Creating new & more resilient & productive woods	9
Raising the profile of forestry	10
Developing career pathways	12
Sustaining a well-run Society	15

Inspiring excellence in woodland management

Trees and woodlands are crucial in tackling some of the biggest challenges that we face today; combatting climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, as well as providing many wider socio-economic benefits. At the same time however, threats to our woods from environmental change, pests, diseases and neglect, are greater than ever before. More must be done to create and actively manage woods so they are resilient to these threats and can provide for our future.

For over 140 years, the RFS has been committed to the advancement of forestry, silviculture and arboriculture and is well-placed to inspire the needed change across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Our work brings together professionals, landowners, academics and educators, ensuring understanding of forestry continues through the generations.

We believe that by significantly increasing tree cover and bringing more woods into active management, we will improve the UK's environmental footprint and enhance opportunities for biodiversity.

We need to increase the reliability and volume of homegrown timber to reduce the country's reliance on imports, and replace less sustainable materials with wood

products.

"Threats to our woods from environmental change, pests, diseases and neglect, are greater than ever before"

Better management will make our woods more resilient to environmental change, pests and diseases, richer in wildlife, more productive and more welcoming to visitors. To meet these challenges, we need greater value to be placed on woodland and its management, and to attract more skilled people into forestry and arboriculture.

This Strategy describes our direction over the next ten years to achieve these aspirations, and has been produced in line with our vision and values. It was prepared after consultation with RFS members and Divisions, internal and external stakeholders, to all of whom we are grateful for their input. To deliver our plan, we need your help, so please support us.





What we do

Our foundation as a learned society was the sharing of knowledge and dissemination of evidence based research. Over a century later, we continue to host a wide variety of Divisional woodland meetings as well as study tours in the UK and overseas.

We publish the acclaimed Quarterly Journal of Forestry and provide members with access to a wealth of resources through our media. We encourage discussion and debate through events, workshops and conferences.

We welcome, connect and enthuse individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common passion and love for trees and

woods. Our national awards inspire people to engage in the world of trees, help build forestry careers and celebrate excellence.

We offer traineeships, professional certification, training events, bursaries, grants, and manage our own demonstration woods. Working alongside other organisations

“We welcome, connect and enthuse individuals who share a common passion and love for trees ”

we strive for a common goal of safeguarding and enhancing the health and productivity of woods and trees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our vision

Resilient, productive and diverse woodland and trees are at the heart of a vibrant, sustainable landscape, supported by dedicated people.





Our purpose

To inspire continuous learning in forestry and arboriculture at every level through challenge, debate, demonstration and education.

Our mission

To support the creation and management of a resilient multipurpose treescape.

Our values

Our core values reflect the things we care about most. They guide our work and underpin our culture.

Commitment

We are committed to the wise management of woods and trees, for the benefits they provide.

Knowledge

We encourage and facilitate sharing knowledge on the management of woods and trees, for people of all ages and abilities.

Excellence

We aspire to achieve excellence in all aspects of our work, to ensure that our actions have lasting, positive impacts.

Respect

We respect the diversity within our community and foster an inclusive environment where all voices are heard and valued.

Integrity

We conduct our work with honesty, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that our actions align with our values and mission.





Creating new & more resilient & productive woods

We will support ground-breaking forest research and host discussions, seminars, workshops and conferences to help shape a confident future for forestry, and seek out the most promising new technologies and practices to share with our members.

We will encourage effective agroforestry, promote the recovery of wildlife, and transformation to sustainable practices such as continuous cover and the use of sustainably-sourced timber products.

We will continue to promote control of deer, grey squirrels and other pests and diseases, support relevant networks and respond quickly to pest outbreaks by informing RFS members and the public.

Investment in our Divisional woodland meetings, study tours, training courses, the Quarterly Journal and online resources will enable us to reach new audiences and inspire the creation and active management of productive and resilient woods.

Our annual awards will celebrate excellence in woodland management and education, and demonstrate how passion and commitment establishes and maintains resilient woods and trees on estates, farms and within

communities.

We will build on our members' experiences to showcase silvicultural best practice with inspiring stories, evidence, and case studies. We will expand our publications and media presence to reach new audiences and develop access to our rich archive of

**"We will help to shape
a confident future for
forestry."**

resources.



Raising the profile of forestry

As a relatively unforested nation, we urgently need to extend tree cover and ensure our woods are actively managed to provide timber and respond to the practical challenges generated by climate change and biodiversity loss. This can only be achieved through Government and public backing.

We will build partnerships with organisations who share our goals to forge a positive profile for forestry and

“We urgently need to extend tree cover and ensure our woods are actively managed.”

address cross-sectoral challenges. With others, we will compile expert testimony, convincing evidence and compelling stories for policymakers and wider audiences that illustrate the many economic, environmental and societal benefits we know well-managed woods provide.

We will co-host events, workshops and conferences, and deliver public lectures, media campaigns and support relevant research.

Our learning programmes will align with sector strategies and

meet the needs of our members, and those new to forestry. We will

“We will deliver inspirational forest education programmes to new and existing audiences.”

develop public understanding of forestry and create resources to promote forest education. We will also seek to extend our membership by reaching out to farmers, landowners and environmentalists, and work with them to broaden our support.

We will seek out funders who share our aspirations, exploring opportunities to deliver inspirational forest education programmes to new and existing audiences.





Developing career pathways

Ensuring more people have the skills, qualifications and experience needed for a career in forestry or arboriculture is critical for the future of our woodland. From classroom to boardroom, we will encourage and develop people who are enthused by the need to care for trees.

We will highlight clear career pathways which match diverse skill sets to the range of disciplines needed for a

“We will encourage and develop people who are enthused by the need to care for trees.”

modern high-performing sector. We will provide advice to help individuals navigate career options and identify suitable opportunities. We will run careers workshops and engage with schools, colleges, and universities to encourage people into the sector.

For those starting their career, or moving from another sector, we will provide training and bursaries to support learning. We will promote the RFS Certificates in Forestry and Arboriculture raising awareness of them as a mark of distinction for practitioners. For those already engaged in forestry, we will promote the Forestry Jobs Board

and develop our platform for Early Career Foresters, encouraging networking, career development and wellbeing support.

We will promote diversity, inclusion and wellbeing. We will endeavour to make RFS events as accessible as possible, and highlight the achievements of a range of role models in forestry through RFS publications and media. We will also run campaigns which focus on wellbeing and removing barriers to inclusion in the sector.







Sustaining a well-run Society

For the RFS to prosper, we must have good governance, ensure that our people are supported, and be financially secure.

We will recruit Trustees with relevant expertise from diverse backgrounds. We will ensure that the RFS Council, Board, and Divisional Committee members understand their roles and

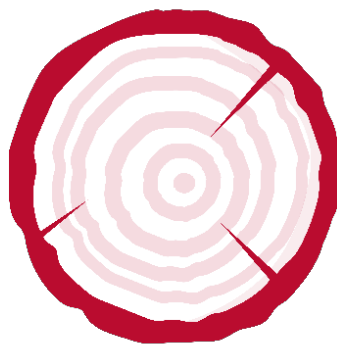
“We must have good governance, ensure that our people are supported, and be financially secure.”

endorse our Strategy. We will develop and maintain clear, up to date policies and procedures, and regularly review

our performance against the strategy. There will be an effective induction for new staff and volunteers. We are a welcoming organisation, offering flexible work arrangements, wellness support and professional development. We celebrate contributions, encourage open communication, and address concerns promptly.

of the Society, we will develop our membership. We will also apply for appropriate grants and run fundraising campaigns to solicit donations from individuals and businesses. Robust processes will ensure financial probity, and we will maintain adequate financial reserves for the running of the Society.

We will implement systems which



enable the organisation to grow while ensuring that activities remain relevant to our Strategy. We will explore opportunities to improve operational efficiency, communication, and data management. Collaborative projects and strong networks will enhance knowledge sharing, and resource mobilisation. Rigorous reporting and evaluation will be used to assess the effectiveness of our programmes.

To strengthen the financial health

Contact us

If you would like to make a donation to one of our programmes,
or if you would like to find out more about the work of the RFS
please contact us.

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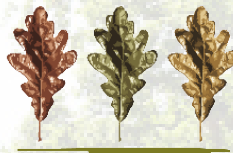
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RFS

ROYAL FORESTRY SOCIETY



The RFS is a charitable company limited by guarantee
incorporated in England and Wales.

Company Reg: No. 5306975.

Charity Reg: No. 306093.

RFS 2025