



Forestry England

Forest resilience strategy

Introduction

England's forests are facing unprecedented pressures. Climate change is bringing hotter, drier summers, more intense storms, and an increasing risk of wildfire. At the same time, pests and diseases such as ash dieback and *Phytophthora* continue to spread, while high populations of deer and grey squirrels place additional strain on young trees. These factors combine to threaten the health and future of our woodlands.

The forest resilience strategy and action plan sets out Forestry England's co-ordinated response. It describes the steps being taken between now and 2027 to ensure the nation's forests are better able to withstand shocks, adapt to change, and continue to deliver for people, nature, and the economy.

Resilience in this context means forests that remain strong and productive in the face of pressure. It is about creating woodlands that can recover from disturbance, support biodiversity, provide timber, capture carbon, and offer spaces for people to enjoy, whatever challenges the future may bring.





Our approach

Three guiding principles underpin this approach:

Assess

Each forest is different. Local soils, climate, wildlife, and surrounding landscapes all shape how it should be managed. Management decisions are therefore tailored to suit the specific conditions of each site.

Diversify

Variety is central to resilience. Forestry England is increasing tree species diversity, encouraging a range of forest structures and ages, sourcing seed from a wide variety of places, and combining tree species with complementary characteristics. Different approaches are being applied across the landscape to avoid shared vulnerabilities.

Restore

Resilient forests depend on healthy ecosystems. From soil organisms and fungi to insects and birds, biodiversity underpins long-term forest function. Efforts to restore nature at scale are central to maintaining forest health and resilience.

By embedding these principles into all aspects of management, Forestry England is strengthening the foundations of the nation's forests. This work builds on over a century of experience and reflects the urgency of acting now, recognising that forests take generations to grow.



England's forests provide extraordinary benefits: sustainable timber, carbon storage, priority habitats for wildlife, and spaces for millions of visitors each year. Building resilience ensures these benefits can be sustained, creating forests that are diverse, productive, and adaptable to changing conditions.