

Major expansion of woodlands for communities across England

Communities all across England will see millions more trees planted thanks to Government investment to expand woodlands.

The investment will create larger, well-designed and more diverse woodlands which will be more resilient to climate change, as well as natural hazards such as wildfires and storms – playing an important role in helping us adapt to a warmer world. They will help to reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas, provide sustainable UK grown timber and provide more places for nature and biodiversity to thrive.

England's 13 Community Forests, including the Humber and Mersey Forests as well as partners including the Northern Forest and Great Northumberland Forest, are all set to benefit from the funding. As part of the Government's £750 million Nature for Climate Fund, these projects will expand woodlands near our cities, towns, villages and rivers – giving more people greater access to nature and improving health and wellbeing.

Collectively around 2,300 hectares of trees – equivalent to around 3,220 football pitches – will be planted as part of this year's £44.2 million funding allocation, playing an important role in Government ambitions to treble tree planting rates by the end of this Parliament and reach net zero. It is estimated the planting announced today will see 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide absorbed by 2050, valued at nearly £100 million.

The funding will also create more green jobs within the forestry and environmental sectors, helping spread economic growth across the country.

Lord Zac Goldsmith, Forestry Minister, said:

Our economies, livelihoods and wellbeing all rely on nature.

As well as tackling the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, this significant funding will create diverse treescapes across the country and improve the health and wellbeing of local communities by giving them more opportunities to enjoy nature on their doorstep.

Sir William Worsley, Forestry Commission Chair, said:

The social, environmental and economic benefits of being in woodlands are well-documented, helping local communities to be happier, healthier and more pleasant places to live.

It is a personal mission of mine to make sure as many people as

possible get to experience these benefits. This funding will ensure we plant trees in areas close to where people live, as well as providing job opportunities in new woodland creation through planting, establishing and managing trees.

Paul Nolan, Chair of England's Community Forests, said:

England's Community Forests welcome the opportunity to establish even more new woodlands close to people to deliver all the benefits that we know they provide.

Over the past two years, England's Community Forests have worked closely with Defra, Forestry Commission, Natural England, over 70 local authorities and a huge range of landowners to establish more than 1000 hectares of new woodland. We are looking forward to continuing this joint endeavour and helping the country reach our net zero goal.

Community Forest plans contribute to the planning and regeneration strategies of the local authorities they work with, providing the green infrastructure needed to support regional growth. These plans are targeted to areas where woodland cover is lowest and focus tree planting towards more deprived communities – helping to level-up environmental benefits across the whole of England.

Local authorities will also benefit from further support announced today for the development of the new LA Tree and Woodland Strategies toolkit, launching in September in partnership with the Tree Council, Fera, Forestry Commission and Forest Research. This will help to build local capacity to plan for new trees and woodlands.

This announcement forms part of wider Government action to recover and restore nature, as part of the 25 Year Environment Plan, and commitments to reach net zero by 2050.

To see what grants are available from our partners, please visit [Regional woodland grants and incentives](#).

[Giant sand sculpture urges holidaymakers to stay safe on MOD](#)

training grounds

Ahead of the busy summer holiday season, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), is urging holidaymakers and locals to take extra care and check military firing and training times when accessing MOD sites shared with the public. This includes a number of popular coastal locations.

Depicting an oversized military vehicle, the sand drawing was brought to life on Saunton Sands beach in Devon, an area steeped in military history and adjacent to the Braunton Burrows Training Estate.

A member of Sand In Your Eye works to create the giant Chinook (Crown Copyright).

The artwork launches the next phase of the Respect the Range campaign, a public safety initiative to warn visitors about the very real risks they face when entering shared land used by the MOD for training. Risks include:

- live firing
- unexploded ordnance
- fast-moving military vehicles

Accessing military training estate areas when it is not safe to do so, not only places visitors in harm's way, but can also put service personnel at risk and interrupt vital training exercises designed to prepare the Armed Forces' to deploy in real-life situations.

The MOD wants to raise awareness of the risks to the general public, especially any holidaymakers or day-trippers heading to coastal hotspots this summer.

The Sand In Your Eye Team set to work at Saunton Sands beach in Devon (Crown Copyright).

There are a large number of MOD training locations across the UK, but Respect the Range highlights the following key sites with shared public access that could pose significant risk to locals and tourists: Lulworth, Holbeach, Donna Nook, Barry Buddon, Lydd & Hythe, Salisbury Plain and Aldershot.

To protect themselves and stay safe while using military land, the MOD is encouraging visitors to:

- check training times before traveling
- stick to public access routes
- observe safety information including red flags, fences, signs and by-laws while on military land

- don't touch any ordnance they come across, and report it

Brigadier Jonathan Bartholomew, DIO's Head of Overseas Region and the Defence Training Estate, said:

With the summer holidays now upon us, it's an important time for us to raise public awareness about MOD training estate locations and how the public can stay safe when visiting them. Whilst last year's Respect the Range campaign targeted the countryside of Salisbury Plain and Aldershot, this year we are focusing on protecting tourists and visitors on our coastline.

These beauty spots are shared land, where families, tourists and locals spend time. But it's also where our Armed Forces practise live-fire training, so it can go from tranquil to treacherous by the hour, 24 hours a day.

The MOD supports public access to much of the military estate and encourages visitors to explore the beauty of Britain's beaches, but this should be done in accordance with military guidance and with caution. We ask that the public do not cross into areas that are prohibited, stick to public paths and always check live firing times. This will help protect yourself, your loved ones and military personnel. It's key that we work together to share these spaces with respect and consideration.

Respect the Range highlights the dual use of each location by using memorable photography and design, and targeting the most popular types of land usage in the hotspots. This phase of the campaign builds on last year's pilot, which focused on MOD's landlocked locations, by bringing in coastal locations too. The dangers differ but are equally as dangerous between the distinct terrains, and it is important that the public are aware of these in order to stay safe.

Please note that Braunton Burrows Training Estate is not an area used for live firing exercises.

For more information on how to access military estate safely, visit:
www.gov.uk/guidance/safe-access

Recruitment vacancy for an Efficacy Assessor

News story

Details of a vacancy in our Efficacy Team



This exciting and interesting job puts you at the heart of authorising veterinary medicines in the UK.

You will be a veterinary assessor within the Efficacy Team, which is part of the VMD's Authorisations Division.

You will assess efficacy and target species safety data submitted in support of applications for the authorisation of pharmaceutical products.

You will also provide advice from a veterinary perspective both within the VMD and to external stakeholders including veterinary surgeons and members of the public.

Job Title

Efficacy Assessor

Grade

SS0

Salary & Pension

£38,751 – £43,847 per annum with Pension Scheme

Annual Leave entitlement

Commencing at 25 days

Role

You will be responsible for the assessment of efficacy and target species safety data for applications for:

- new marketing authorisations for pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products
- variations to existing marketing authorisations
- veterinary aspects of animal test certificates to conduct clinical field trials

This work will contribute to assuring the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical veterinary medicinal products to assist the VMD in protecting animal health, public health and the environment.

How to apply

You must make your application via [Civil Service Jobs -Efficacy Assessor 221630](#)

where you will find a full job description including salary details.

Closing Date – 1 September 2022

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[UK Minister visits Japan ahead of Osaka Expo 2025](#)

- Minister Adams spoke to senior Japanese politicians and leading British businesses about the opportunities presented by Expo 2025.
- He is the first UK Minister to pay a bilateral visit to Osaka since 2017.
- Japanese investment in the UK totalled £102.3 billion in 2020, directly supporting 150,000 jobs.

Cabinet Office Minister Nigel Adams visited Tokyo and Osaka last week to confirm the UK's commitment to the Osaka Kansai Expo 2025, a major international conference which will highlight British businesses on the global stage.

The Minister met senior Japanese politicians, as well as a range of influential representatives of Japanese and UK businesses and organisations, to discuss partnership opportunities at the Expo and the potential to strengthen the ever-growing relationship between Japan and the UK.

The World Expo is an international event for nations across the world to showcase products, expertise and sources of national pride. In November 2018, the General Assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) decided that the World Expo 2025 will take place in Osaka, Kansai, Japan.

Minister Adams met with Minister for World Expo 2025, Kenji Wakamiya, and executives from the Japan Association for 2025 World Exposition, using the visit to reiterate the UK's participation and next steps for both countries to help make the event a success.

Cabinet Office Minister Nigel Adams said:

It has been great to visit Osaka, see the site for the 2025 Expo and learn more about the historic ties between Japan and the UK.

Expo 2025 will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase the best of British innovation and culture and further enhance our deepening partnership with Japan.

My conversations with stakeholders this week have underlined the deep interest and shared values between the UK and Japan and the scope for us to work more closely together in the coming years on key global challenges in life sciences, sustainability and digital technology.

Minister Adams also spoke to business leaders from UK companies and the British Chamber of Commerce in Japan about the scope for businesses in both the UK and Japan to work together on the exhibition. During his visit the Minister spoke to Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) negotiators to underline the UK's commitment to free trade and joining this world-leading plurilateral trade grouping.

During his trip Minister Adams also spoke to representatives at Astrazeneca's Tokyo branch about bolstering the UK's leadership in global healthcare manufacturing and their strong presence across Japan.

Notes for Editors

The Osaka Kansai Expo 2025 will run from 13 April to 13 October 2025 in Osaka, Japan. The overall theme is "Designing future society for our lives", with sub-themes of saving lives, empowering lives and connecting lives. This will be the biggest international event this decade with around 140 countries and regions already committed to participating. The Prime Minister confirmed UK participation to then Japanese Prime Minister Suga in June 2021, a message reiterated to PM Kishida during his visit to the UK in May this year.

Total trade in goods and services between the UK and Japan was £23.1bn at the end of 2021, with trade largely evenly balanced between both countries (UK exports to Japan £11.5bn, UK imports £11.6bn).

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

is a trade agreement between 11 countries (Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam), covering 500 million people.

CPTPP countries accounted for £110 billion-worth of UK trade in 2019 and its rules remove tariffs on 95% of goods traded between members. UK accession could cut tariffs in vital UK industries like food and drink and the automotive sector, as well as creating new opportunities in areas like digital, data, and across services. Joining CPTPP will deepen our access to fast-growing markets and projected major economies of the future, including Mexico, Malaysia and Vietnam.

AstraZeneca is a global, science-led biopharmaceutical company that focuses on the discovery, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines in Oncology, Rare Diseases, and BioPharmaceuticals, including Cardiovascular, Renal & Metabolism, and Respiratory & Immunology. Based in Cambridge, UK, AstraZeneca operates in over 100 countries. In Japan, AstraZeneca's primary focus is on Oncology, Cardiovascular, Renal & Metabolism, and Respiratory & Immunology fields.

[New acting traffic commissioner for the west Midlands appointed](#)

News story

Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps has appointed an acting traffic commissioner for England and Wales.



Miles Dorrington will be taking on the role as acting traffic commissioner, under paragraph 5A of Schedule 2 to the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981, following the decision by Nick Denton to retire from the role.

Where the office of any traffic commissioner becomes vacant, the Secretary of State may appoint a person to act as a traffic commissioner for England and

Wales pending the appointment of a new traffic commissioner.

The Senior Traffic Commissioner, Richard Turfitt, has deployed Miles Dorrington as traffic commissioner for the west Midlands from 22 August 2022. This temporary appointment will terminate once a new traffic commissioner takes up the post on a permanent basis.

The role of the traffic commissioners

Traffic commissioners are responsible for the [licensing and regulation of bus, coach and goods vehicle operators, and registration of local bus services](#).

Where appropriate, they can call operators to a public inquiry to examine concerns about vehicle and driver safety.

They also deal with professional drivers at conduct hearings.

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