

Trees on Farms and Fells			
Module Code:	HSOR4015	CAT credits:	10
Mode of delivery:	Blended Learning	NQF Level:	4
Owning Institute:	Institute of Science and Environment	HECoS Code:	100517
Validation Start Date:	May 2024		

Aims of the Module
<p>The aims of this module are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop your knowledge of the opportunities for integrating trees into agriculture on upland farms in England, utilising hedges, agroforestry, wood pasture and woodlands. to equip you to apply this knowledge to produce a basic tree action plan for an upland farm, with awareness of where to gain further information and advice.

Intended Learning Outcomes
On successful completion, you will be able to:
1. Describe a range of benefits of trees on farms and fells in the English uplands.
2. Identify opportunities for trees in the local upland farmed landscape.
3. Describe relevant management strategies including planting schemes.
4. Describe constraints on changing the upland treescape and the trade-offs that may arise, including practical, financial, environmental trade-offs and regulatory constraints.
5. Identify suitable funding options and key organisations to contact for advice and permissions, including for common land.
6. Evaluate practical options 'on the ground' and create a justified action plan for trees on an upland farm.

Indicative Module Content
<p>These aspects of your module content are shown as indicative of the approach planned and as such might reasonably be expected to change and be updated over time.</p>
<p>This module introduces the benefits, trade-offs, options, constraints, and processes involved in planned tree growth on England's upland farms and fells. The module will build knowledge of the types of tree planting and care which is possible, practical, and justified in terms of environment (particularly climate considerations, biodiversity impacts, soil health), heritage and the farm business. Content will focus on principles and processes to make informed decisions and generate familiarity with reliable resources for future reference. Site visits will demonstrate the principles and processes and provide opportunities to apply learning to create a realistic tree action plan for a real upland farmed landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope of the course, what we mean by trees on farms and fells: agroforestry, wood pasture, planting and regeneration, hedgerows, farming your trees, regenerative farming (not forestry or arboriculture). Benefits of trees on farms and fells, including environmental, agricultural, business, shade and shelter, animal welfare, feed and browsing, cultural and heritage, climate change resilience, timber and other tree products, soil stabilisation and nutrition, flood

risk reduction, access to grants, business resilience, cost savings. Knowing what's there and why it's an asset.

- Context in England: ways things are changing in farm business, land use policy, environment, agri-environment schemes (particularly ELMs, EWCO), climate and biodiversity, drivers for quality vs. quantity in upland livestock farming and opportunities for profit vs. yield, land tenure including tenanted farms and common land constraints.
- Managing woody growth of various types in the uplands, key relevant species, growth/planting patterns, scheme aesthetics, Thinking long term - schemes at different stages.
- Grant funding for trees on farms & fells: an understanding of the options and application processes for grant funding, implications of the various grant schemes, signposting specific, relevant grant options. ELMs, EWCO. Wood pasture option through Natural England. Other (non-government) funding sources.
- Constraints on planting trees: regulatory impacts and regulators (Natural England, Forestry Commission, Rural Payments Agency and Defra), environmental/ecological constraints (including peatland, wading birds, protected landscapes, timing of surveys), cultural constraints.
- Planning and decision-making: identifying objectives of a scheme, what's suitable where, design of a planting scheme across a landscape, timescales, and environmental impact assessments.
- Grazing and woodland: integrating trees into agricultural systems, quality product, profitability, product story, direct sales, improving soil quality, realism about where the money comes from
- Action planning: tree action plan (establishment and management), case studies, apply learning to a specific land area in practice.

Indicative Student Workload (hours)

Tutor Led Live	15
Fieldwork	9
Guided Independent Study	76

Formative Assessment –

Formative assessment provides an opportunity for you to receive feedback on work as part of your learning for the module. Formative work does not have marks awarded that contribute to the final module mark.

1. A self-assessment exercise will be provided upon registration for the module, to be completed prior to the first taught session. This will guide the student through an audit of the key skills and knowledge encountered in the module. The outcomes will assist the student to select the most appropriate reference resources and allocate independent study time effectively. The outcomes will also assist the tutor in pitching and differentiating the teaching according to the needs and prior experiences of the cohort and individuals.
2. The module tutor will provide formative verbal feedback during practical classes/workshops and fieldwork and/or written formative comments on interim tasks (not forming part of the summative assessment).
3. Opportunities for formative feedback through peer discussion will be provided at times during workshops and live tutor-led sessions online.

Summative Assessment –

Summative assessment provides the opportunity for you to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for the module.

Length/size of the assessment	ILOs assessed	% Weighting	Is anonymous marking possible?	Core element?#
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CORE Module Descriptor

Set Exercise	1500-word equivalent	All	Pass/Fail	No	Yes
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‡ By default, your final module grade will be an aggregated mark. However, if this box is marked 'yes,' then you *must also* successfully pass this element of assessment in order to pass the module, regardless of the overall aggregated mark. If core element(s) of assessment are failed, the module will not be eligible for compensation. Further information on module compensation is available in the Academic Regulations.

Marking

The Programme Team have taken the following steps to remove unconscious bias from the assessment process:

- Diversity of prior experience, academic attainment and academic confidence among students joining this module is expected.
- Opportunities to develop the further skills and knowledge required to pass assessment will be provided within the module to all students.
- The assessment methods are chosen to allow flexibility in how students demonstrate the learning outcomes.
- An assessment rubric will be developed to assist in deciding the extent to which learning outcomes are demonstrated, limiting the subjectivity of assessment decisions.

Reassessment

Reassessment in the failed component(s) will be undertaken as stated in the Academic Regulations.

Compensation

This module is not eligible for compensation as a marginal fail within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations.

Indicative Core Bibliography

One List

https://cumbria.leganto.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/44UOC_INST/lists/7233404860002701?auth=SAML

Most of the recommended reference resources for this module, listed below are publicly available, free of charge, online. This allows for the continued use of the resources after completion of studies. Any books listed are held at the Ambleside Campus library.

Ben Raskin and Simone Osborn (Eds.) (2019) *The Agroforestry Handbook*. Soil Association Limited. Available at: <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/19141/the-agroforestry-handbook.pdf>.

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Cumbria Woodlands Guidance (no date). Cumbria Woodlands. Available at: <https://www.cumbriawoodlands.co.uk/working-with-individuals/guidance/>.

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Defra Farming Blog team (2024) *Spotlight on new actions: agroforestry and improvements to our trees and woodland offer*. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Available at: <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/23/spotlight-on-new-actions-agroforestry-and-improvements-to-our-trees-and-woodland-offer/>.

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Farm Wildlife (2024). Farm Wildlife. Available at: <https://farmwildlife.info/>.

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Hibberd, B.G. (ed.) (1988) *Farm woodland practice* . London : HMSO.

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Scottish Forestry (no date) *Woodland Grazing Toolbox*. Available at:
<https://forestry.gov.scot/woodland-grazing-toolbox>.

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Soil Association (2023) *The case for regenerative farm-scale forestry: A farmer led approach to the regenerative management of farm woodlands as a farm-scale forestry enterprise*. Soil Association Limited. Available at: <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/26401/reforestation-report-digital-aug23.pdf>.

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Additional Notes

Set Exercise

Based on a specified upland farmed site:

1. Conduct an audit to include what trees exist, constraints and opportunities for further planting and woody growth.
2. Prepare an action plan including a site map and rationale for the future management of existing and new assets. This action plan will be the assessed output.

Stand-Alone Study

Students who successfully complete this module as a stand-alone module will be eligible for a University transcript of credit.