

# Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

First meeting, 6—7 September 2017

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**United Kingdom**

Climate Change Adaptation in England and Scotland



# *How do you contribute with your work in your country/organization to climate change adaptation activities?*

- Climate change policy in the UK - largely devolved to England, Scotland and Wales. England/Wales and Scotland each have climate change legislation (the Climate Change Act 2008, and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 respectively).
- FCE and FCS<sup>1</sup> contribute to adaptation plans required under this legislation, as well as implementing policies and guidelines to enable woodlands to adapt. Forest Research (part of the FC) carries out research on climate change adaptation, including pests and diseases, with a major focus on forest resilience, as well as decision support tools for assessing sites and future climate suitability.
- Economic work focusses on cost-benefit & cost-effectiveness of adaptation through planting & management of woodlands. Other colleagues provide advice on species choice & woodland management strategies. Colleagues also contribute to the Climate Change Risk Assessment required under the Climate Change Act 2008.

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechangeengland>

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2017-report-to-parliament-progress-in-preparing-for-climate-change/>

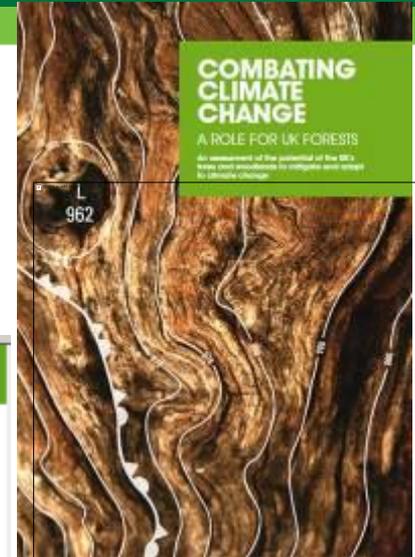
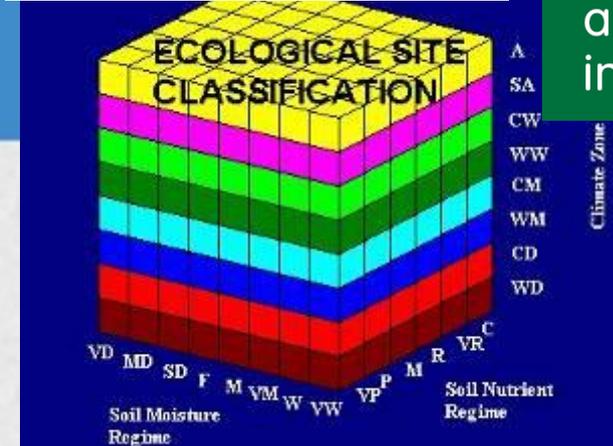
1. FCE – Forestry Commission England

FCS – Forestry Commission Scotland

# The knowledge to make informed decisions

Practice Guide

## Managing ancient and native woodland in England



# *Please describe a successful example of climate change adaptation measures implemented in your country/by your organization*

- The Climate Change Accord partnership (in England), recognising significant changes in silvicultural practices will need to be implemented
- Increased resources devoted to tackling tree health. Improving capacity in promoting tree health, including better biosecurity co-ordination (e.g. through the GB and Scottish Tree Health Advisory Groups).
- Contributing to national adaptation programmes in England and Scotland (e.g. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00518397.pdf> )

# *Is there a national strategy (does your organization have a strategy) on adaptation of forests to climate change?*

Across the UK, the FC seeks to increase forest resilience through the UK Forestry Standard (see <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/ukfs>), financial support provided to forest owners and advice and research which it makes available to the forest sector.

FC England:

- Climate Change Action Plan for woods it runs <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8macqb>
- cross-sector Climate Change Accord <https://sylva.org.uk/forestryhorizons/environmental-change>
- prepared a Climate Change Risk Assessment <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8seky>
- FC offers advice online <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechangeengland>

FC Scotland

- A Climate Change Programme which sets out actions to support the Scottish Government's Adaptation Programme <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/climate-change-programme.pdf>
- Joint statement on climate change with other government agencies <http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/FouragencystatementActiononClimateChange.pdf>
- Scottish Government has 'Climate Ready Scotland' the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Forestry policies are included in here.

# *What are major challenges related to climate change and forests in your country/organization?*

Climate change brings many challenges – these include:

- Managing impacts on woodlands through windthrow and drought (particularly in the south and east)
- Controlling pests and diseases
- Planting more woodland to mitigate climate change (carbon sequestration)
- Assessing and delivering the role of forestry in flood risk mitigation
- Making changes to accepted policy and management practice e.g. flexibility in native species policy and species provenance