



National Association of Local Councils

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Aim

- How do we grow more trees in England?



Why?

We are facing a global climate crisis and a nature emergency



Trees, woods and forests provide a cheap, proven and effective way of helping to tackle both issues



Trees and your responsibilities

We are in an emergency, and this needs an emergency response - it is everyone's responsibility to be a good ancestor



ENGLAND NEEDS

YOU

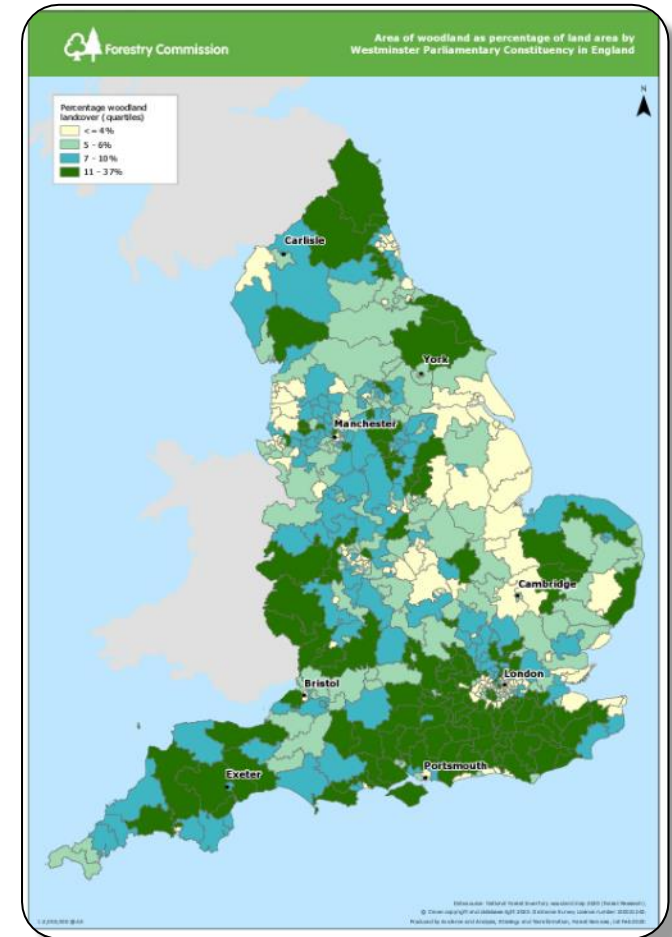
 Forestry Commission



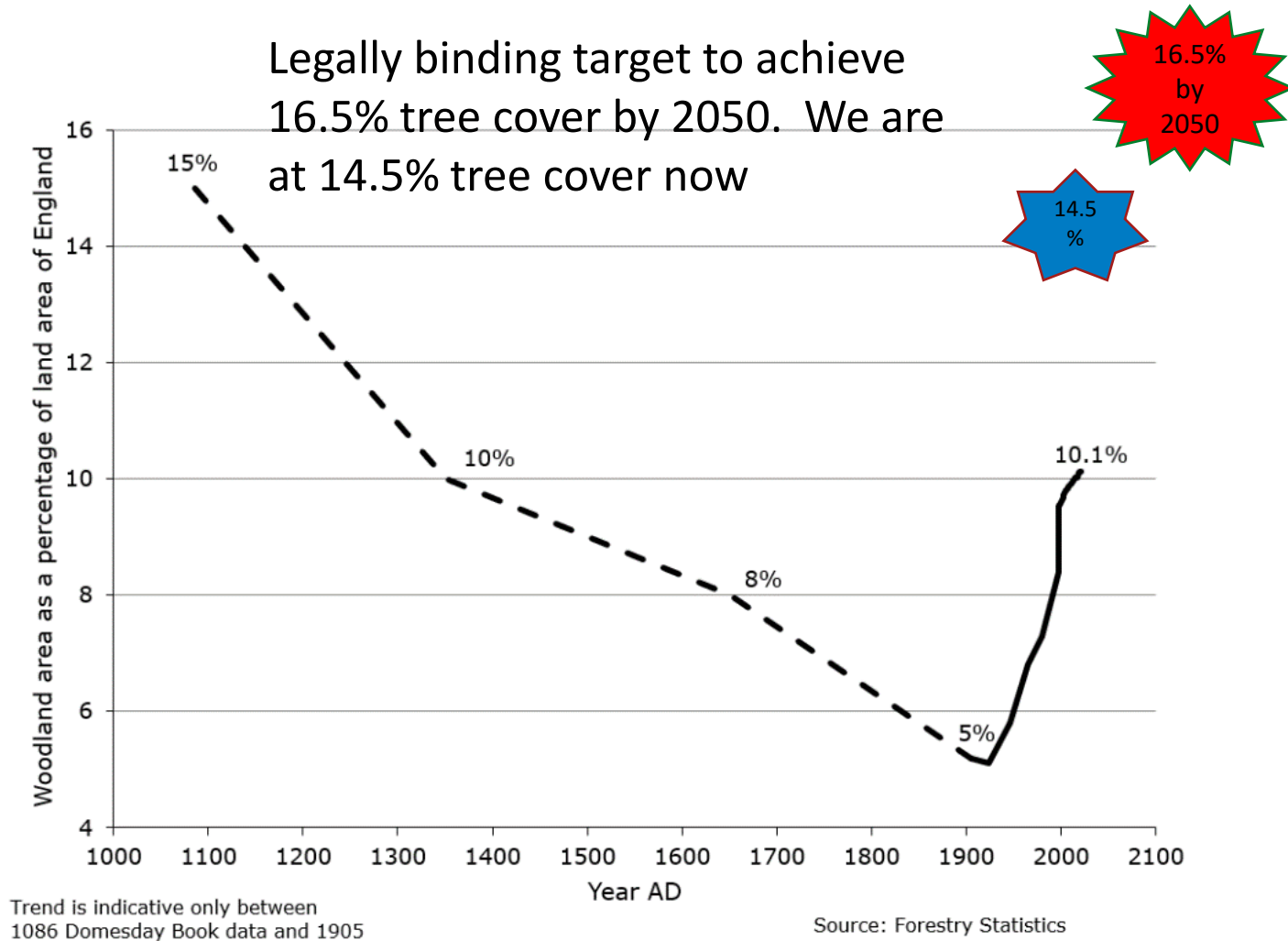
The why and where of trees

Forestry Facts

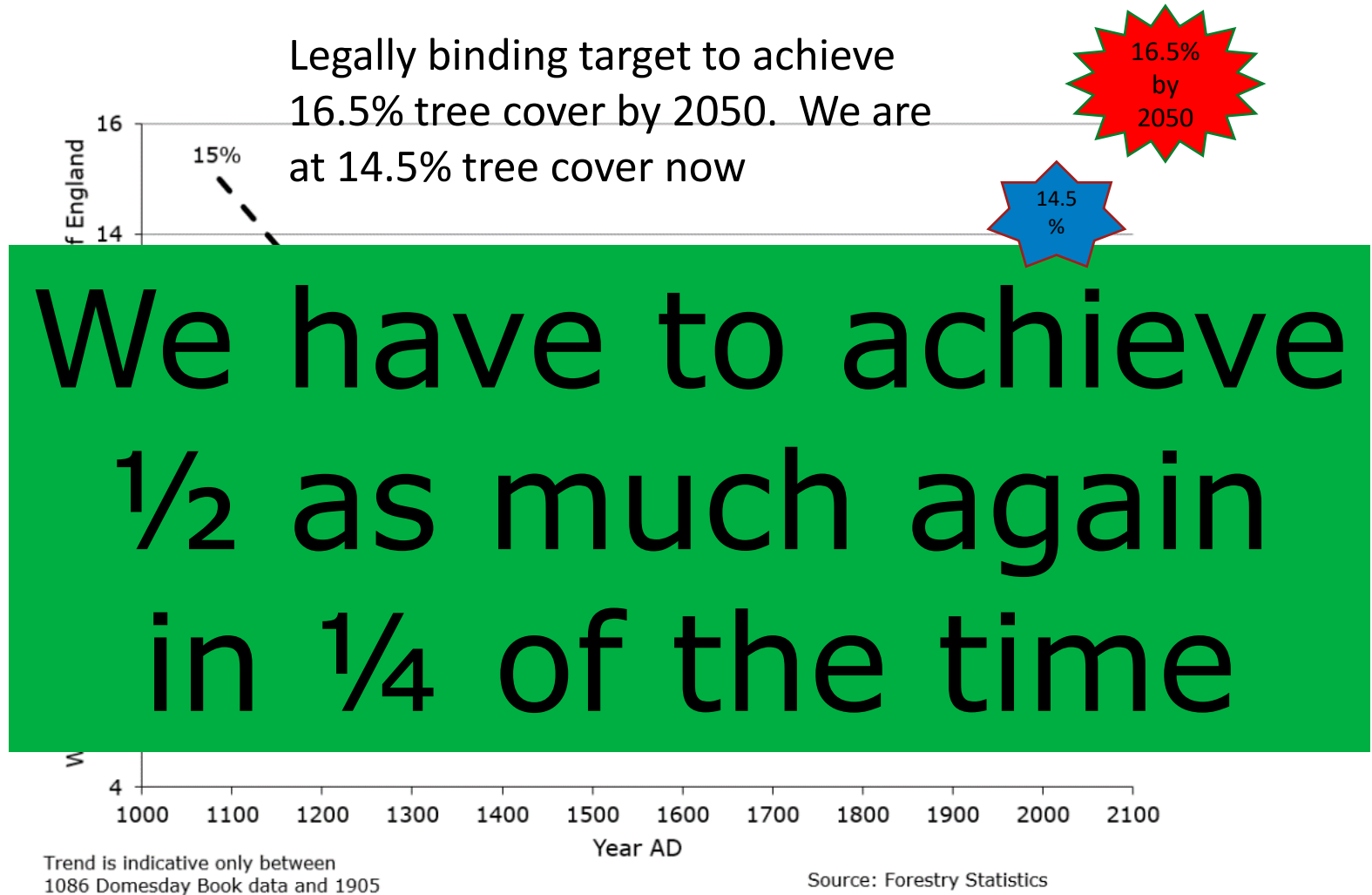
- 10% of England is wooded area – we are the least forested country in Europe
- 74% of trees in England are broadleaf
- 81% of UK timber is imported (worth £8.5 bn.) – we are the 2nd largest importer by volume in the world (only after China).



Long-term Trend of Woodland Cover in England



Long-term Trend of Woodland Cover in England





Trees are good

We need more....

Forests, Woods and Trees

Growing forests, woods and trees is a good thing:



CARBON



BIODIVERSITY



SOIL



TIMBER

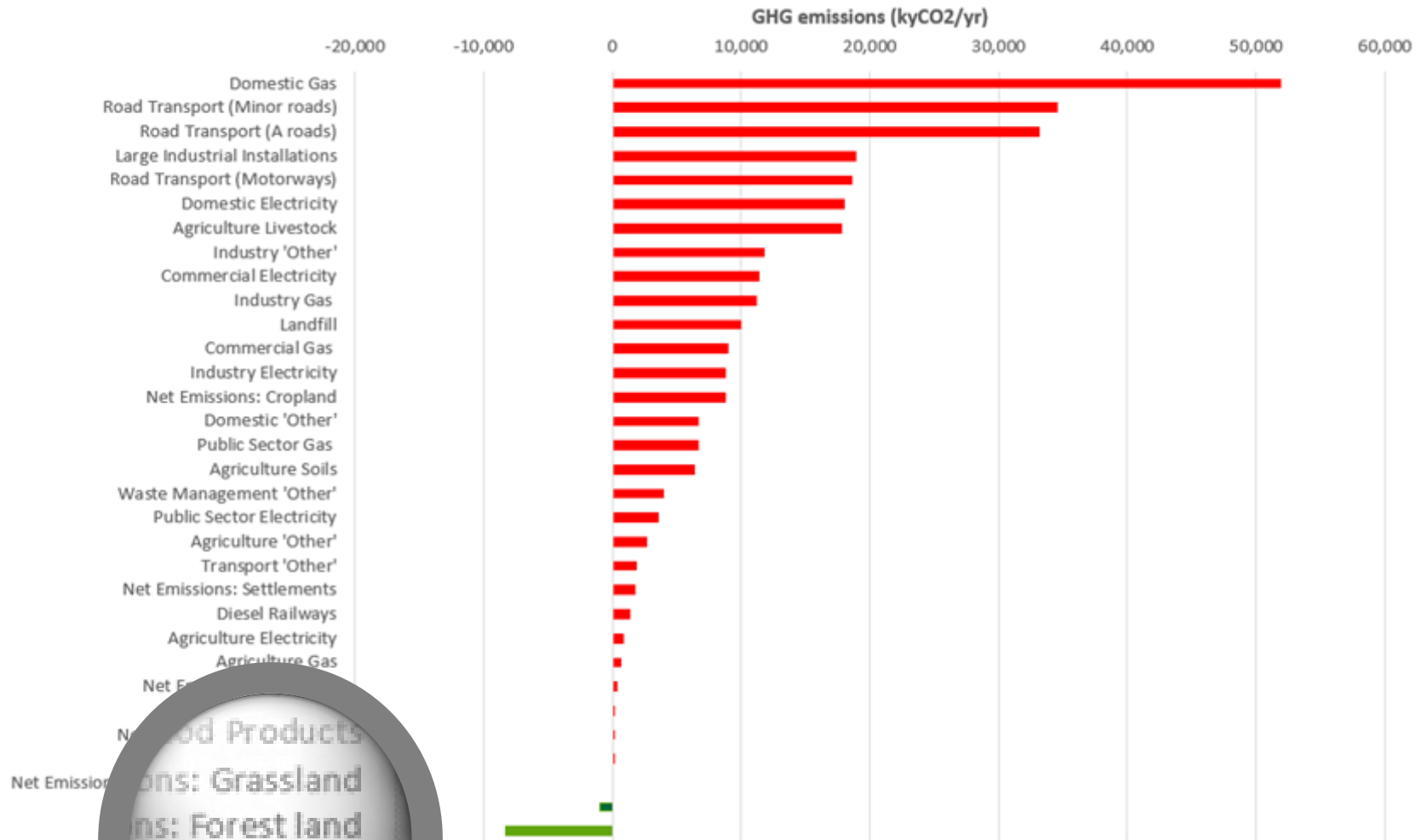


PEOPLE

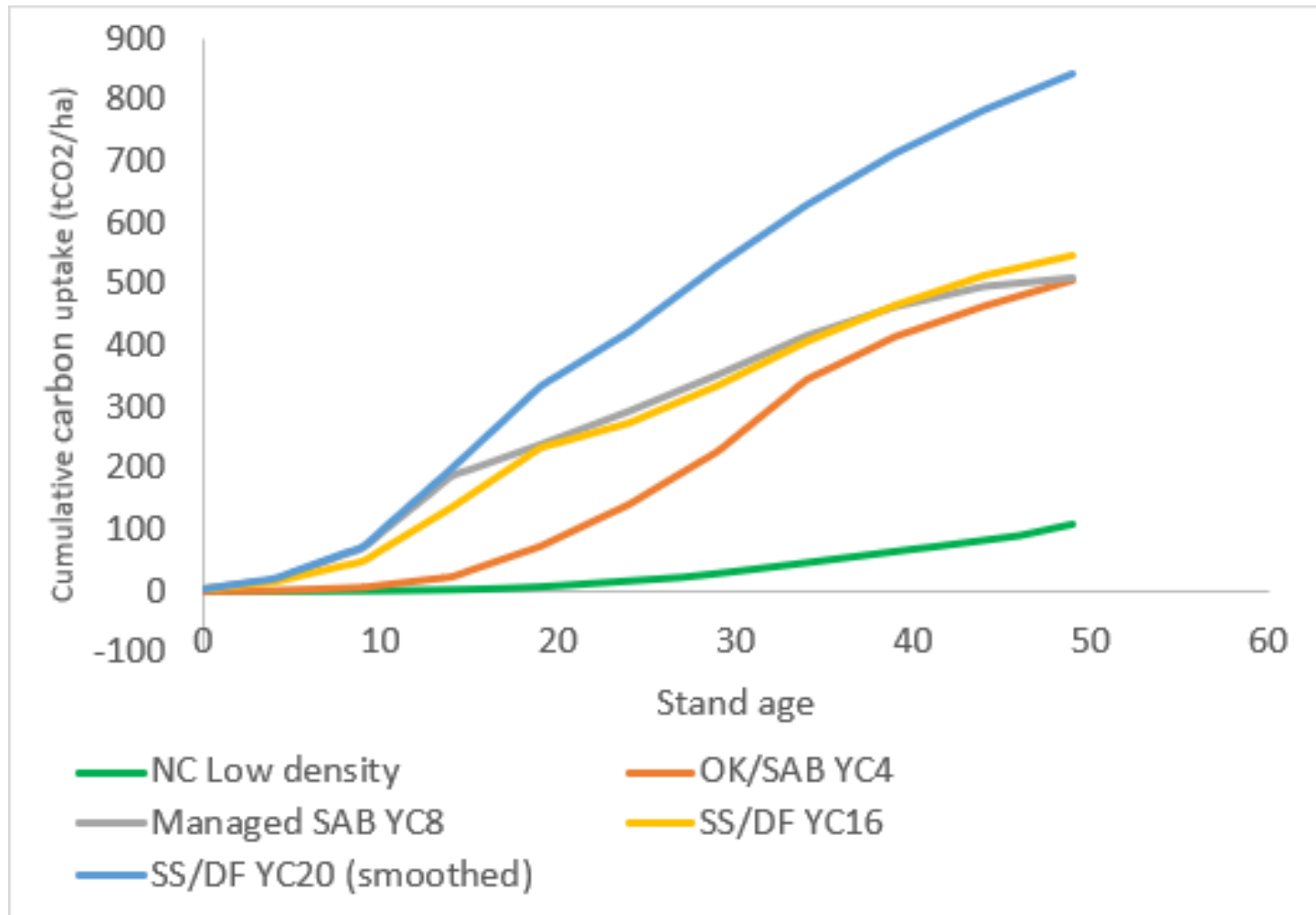


WATER QUALITY

Trees and GHG Capture



Carbon Capture of different tree species

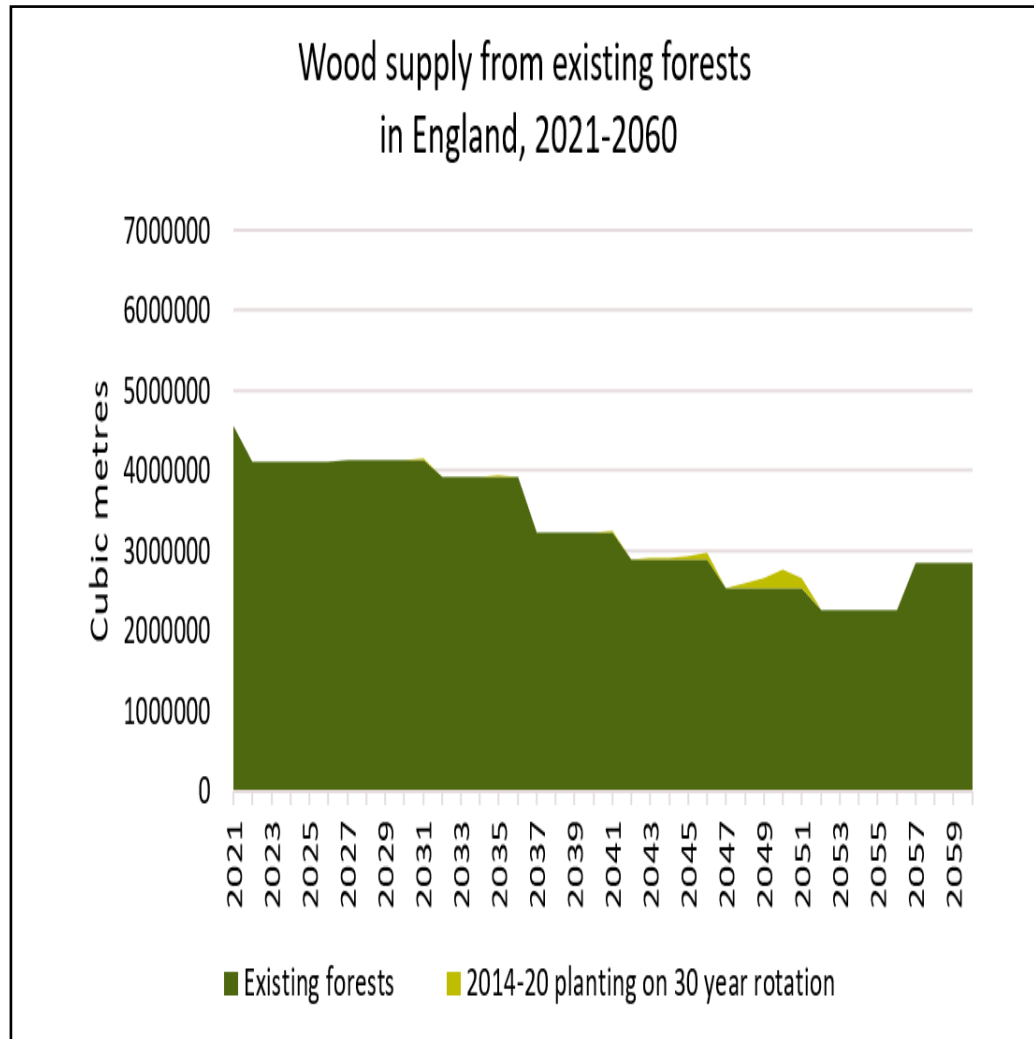


Data from Forest Research

Carbon Capture by UK Forests

**The net annual rate of carbon dioxide accumulation by UK forests was
21 million tonnes in 2020.**

The Softwood Gap – We need timber



England currently produces ~4 million cubic metres of softwood per year

This is forecast to drop significantly from 2030

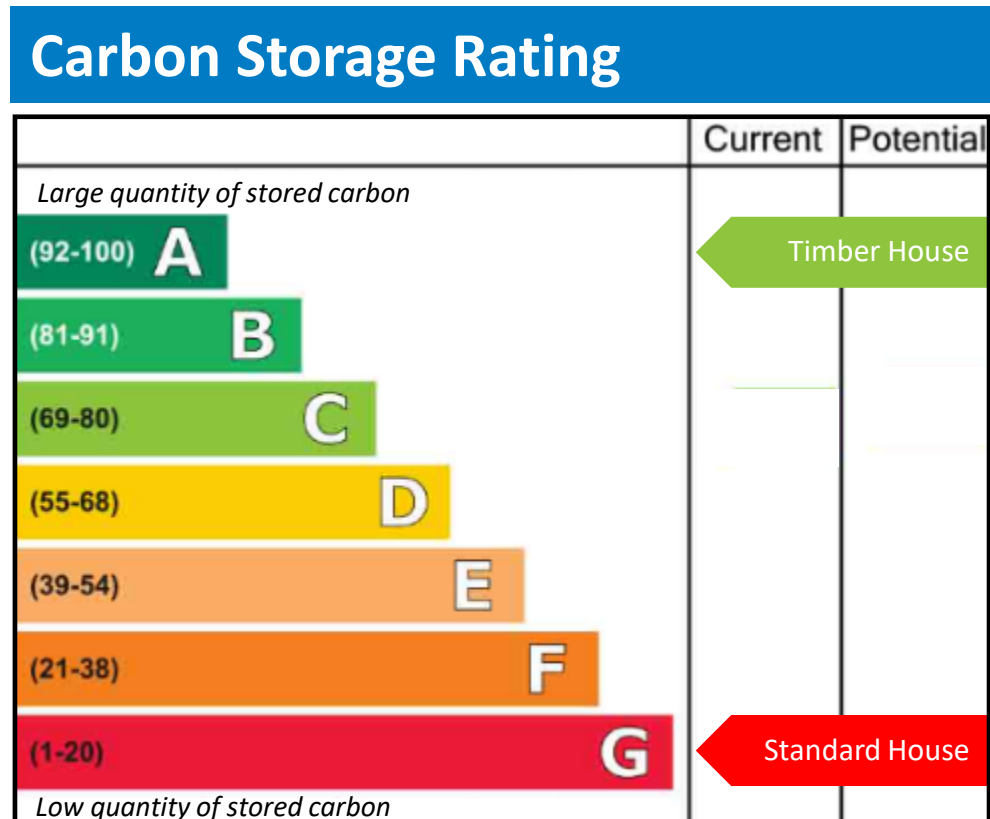
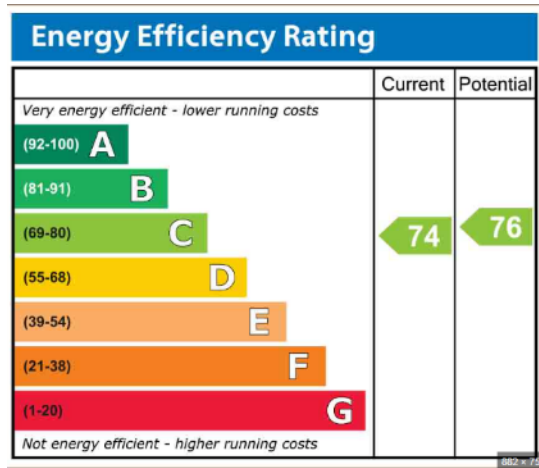
The FAO estimate that global demand for primary processed wood products will increase by 37% by 2050

Wood products and jobs

- Timber security is as important as food security
- Construction is one of largest emitting industries
 - timber framed houses
 - panel board
 - Wood fibre insulation
- 32,000 jobs and £2Bn to economy
 - Comparable to dairy products sector
 - More value than UK fishing fleet
 - Jobs in rural areas



Sunk Carbon in Construction



Urban Trees

- Urban greenspace with trees
 - Research is conclusive – well managed greenspaces with trees leads to better health and less crime
- We also need more urban and street trees
- Range of grants for
 - Local Authority Treescapes Fund
 - Urban Tree Challenge Fund

Grants for Urban and semi-urban trees

Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF)

- While there is no requirement for a LA to contribute additional funds to the project, they are encouraged to do so because this will bring down the LATF cost per tree, which is likely to make the bid more successful (as a result of the bid scoring methodology)
- LATF is a criteria-based competitive scheme - capital funding is offered on a first-come, first-served basis
- Capital funding will be provided for tree planting, aftercare and to support natural colonisation
- LAs may opt for one or two years of planting
- Each year, LAs will be paid 50% of their grant value in advance, with the subsequent 50% paid after evidence of the tree planting has been shared
- Maintenance payments will be made annually for three years retrospectively

Grants for Urban and semi-urban trees

Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF)

– Who may apply?

- Borough, District and City Councils, as well as County Councils, Unitary and Metropolitan Boroughs may apply individually or in groups
- Town and parish councils **may not apply directly**, but can apply as part of a group application i.e. it must be a 'Lead LA' leading the bid (making the application). The Lead LA must be one of those mentioned above

Grants for Urban and semi-urban trees

Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf)

- The fund provides 80% of published standard costs for the planting and establishment of trees. The remaining costs of planting and establishing trees supported under the UTCf must be met through match funding, either in the form of money or labor

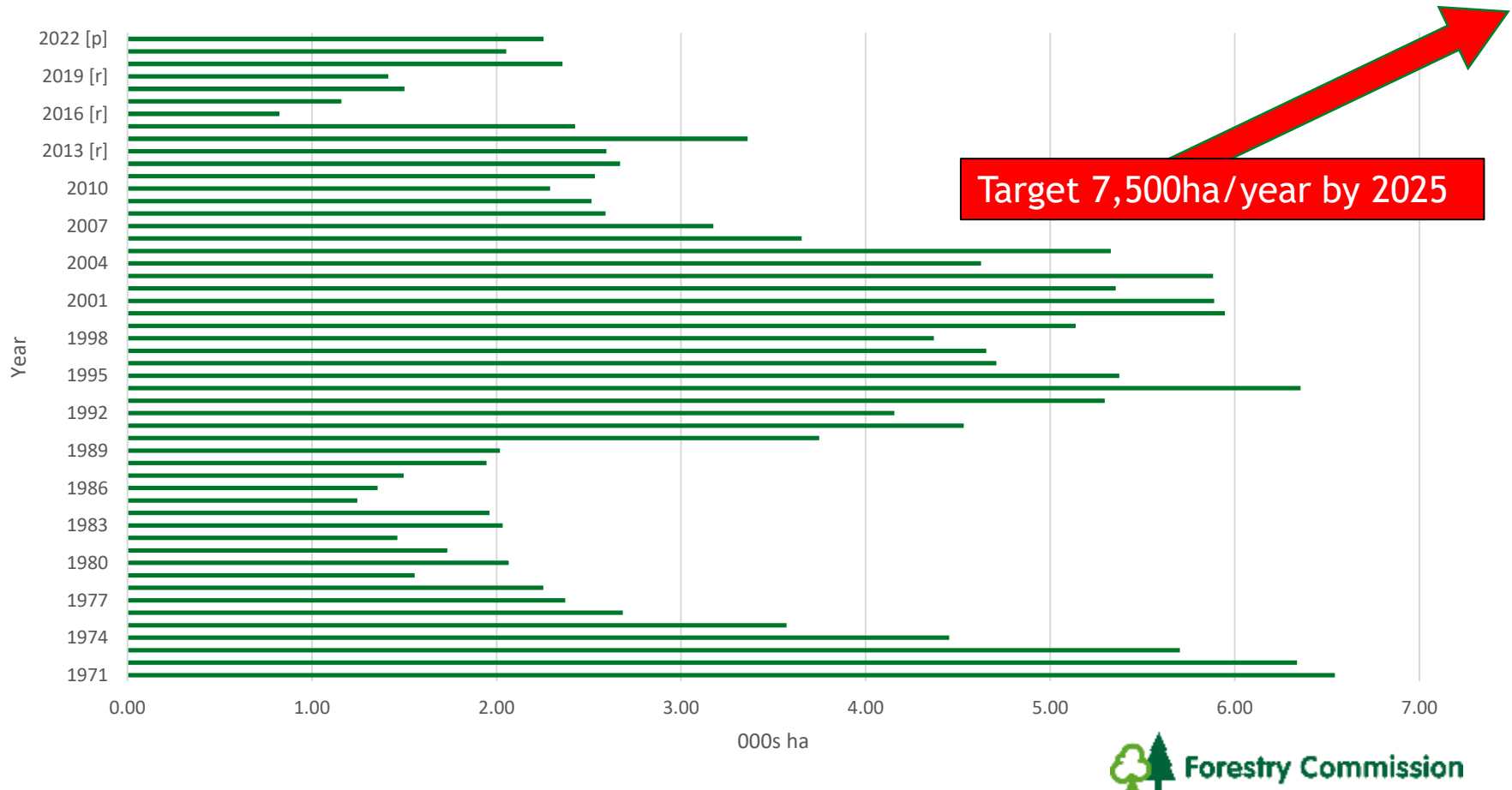
- Who may apply?

- Anyone with management control of the land (or signed consent for the duration of the agreement from those with management control of the land) may apply
- There is a minimum requirement of 10 trees and minimum grant value of £10,000 per application



The how to plant and manage for resilience

England Tree Planting rates since 1971



England Tree Planting programme - Grants by Numbers

Up to
£10,200
Per ha, to establish a woods

Annual Maintenance Payments
£350
Per ha, for 10 years

Close to Settlements
£500
Per ha

Public Access
£2,200
Per ha

Nature Recovery £1,1000 to
£2,800
Per ha

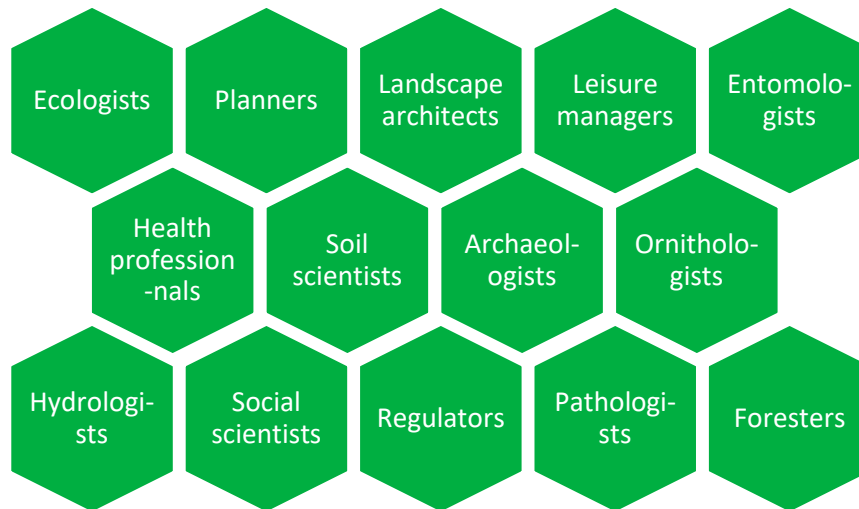
Riparian Buffer
£1,600
Per ha

Reduced Flood Risk
£500
Per ha

Water Quality
£400
Per ha

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS)

- Woodland is the most regulated form of land use in England
- No other land use type has such an exacting technical standard
- Ensures all planting is 'the right tree, right place'



**Input from lots
of 'ologists'!**

Woodland Resilience

- Management of pests and diseases
- Mix of species – ‘native’ and ‘non-native’
- Mix of age classes at landscape scale
- Sourcing seeds from warmer latitudes
- Growing trees for the climate of 50-100 years time.
- Whither native trees?

Woodland management = better resilience, biodiversity and carbon capture – a range of grants to help with this

Threats to trees

Forests, Woods and Trees

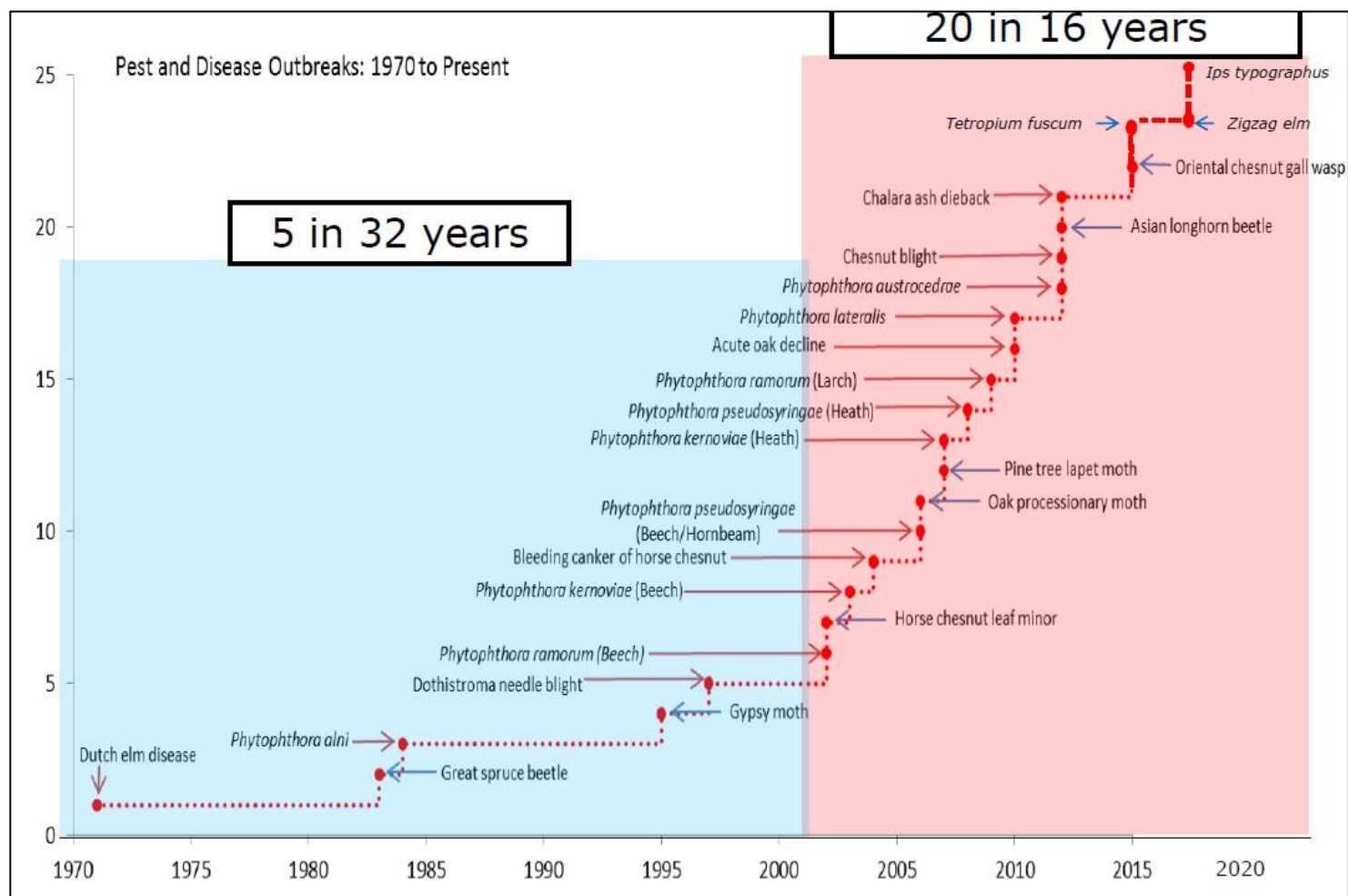
But there are considerable threats:



Threats to woodlands/importance of management

- **Pests, diseases and climate change** (increasing fires and storms)
 - Between 2018-2021 Germany lost 2.5% (300k ha) of their forests to pests and climate issues (drought)
 - Storm Arwen blew down 0.2% of England's forests for comparison
- **Grey squirrels and deer**
 - A recent report by UK Squirrel Accord estimates in England and Wales the cost of grey squirrel damage to trees is at least £37m a year (ESI closer to £40 million):
 - Deer Vehicle Collisions: 10-20 human fatalities pa, 700 injuries and circa £17m in vehicle damage

Tree Pests and Diseases 1970 - today



Grey Squirrel

- A [recent report](#) by UK Squirrel Accord estimates in England and Wales the **cost of grey squirrel damage to trees is at least £37m a year** (ESI closer to £40 million):
 - Lost timber value
 - Reduced carbon capture
 - Damage mitigation
 - Trees to replace those that died



Grey Squirrel control measures

- Shooting
- Trapping
- Species re-introductions / expansion
 - Pine Marten
 - Goshawks
- Contraception
- Gene editing

Deer

- As part of EWCO we estimate that with 7,500ha of woods grown per year the cost of deer fencing and tubes will be £14.5M per year.
- Deer Vehicle Collisions:
 - 10-20 human fatalities pa
 - 700 injuries
 - circa £17m in vehicle damage



Wild venison



Wild Venison on the Menu

- Examples of wild venison from Forestry England in hospitals and schools
 - How many and where
 - Lancashire NHS trust
 - An education authority somewhere
- Food banks
 - Supporting the Country Food Trust

How can NALC members help

- Inform rural councils and land managers of the need for trees and opportunities for generous grants for woodland creation and urban trees
- Councils to look favourably on woodland creation schemes
 - Everyone says they love trees BUT
 - No one seems to like it when they are harvested next to them
 - No one seems to like it when a woodland is proposed next to them
 - Support consultations and change of land use
- Support the promotion and use of wild venison in schools and hospitals as the healthy and carbon positive meat of choice

Emergency Response needed

- Certainty of ELM payments
- Economic case for woodlands
 - Increase price of woodland carbon
 - WCC into ETS
- Reduce regulation on woodland creation
 - Presumption to plant
 - EIA Reform in LURB

Economic Case for Woodlands

- Understand what the value of future ELM grants
- Understand the value of woodland grants
- Understand the potential income stream of woodland carbon code credits – re valued every 5 years

We need more trees

- Debate and discussion should not be either nature or carbon/climate it has to be all outcomes
- We need all types of woodland designed to UKFS
- Emergencies and crises require emergency crisis response
 - Pragmatism and delivery over purists and prevarication
- The default setting for all must be to grow trees



Forestry Commission

Forestry isn't about trees.....
Trees are easy (ish!)

It's about people – including
behavioural change

Annex

Additional Information

The following material may be of interest:

[UTCf and LAFT FAQs.](#)

[Tree & Woodland Strategy Toolkit](#) aims to help all tiers of local authorities in protecting, growing and managing a healthy and resilient treescape across public and private land, to meet the needs of local people and help the natural environment to recover, adapt and thrive.

[GI Framework](#) includes a wealth of advice and guidance on developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy – including guidance specifically for [incorporating GI into Neighbourhood Plans.](#)

Case Studies:

[Helping Local Authorities respond to biodiversity emergency case study.](#)

[UTCf case study 2022.](#)