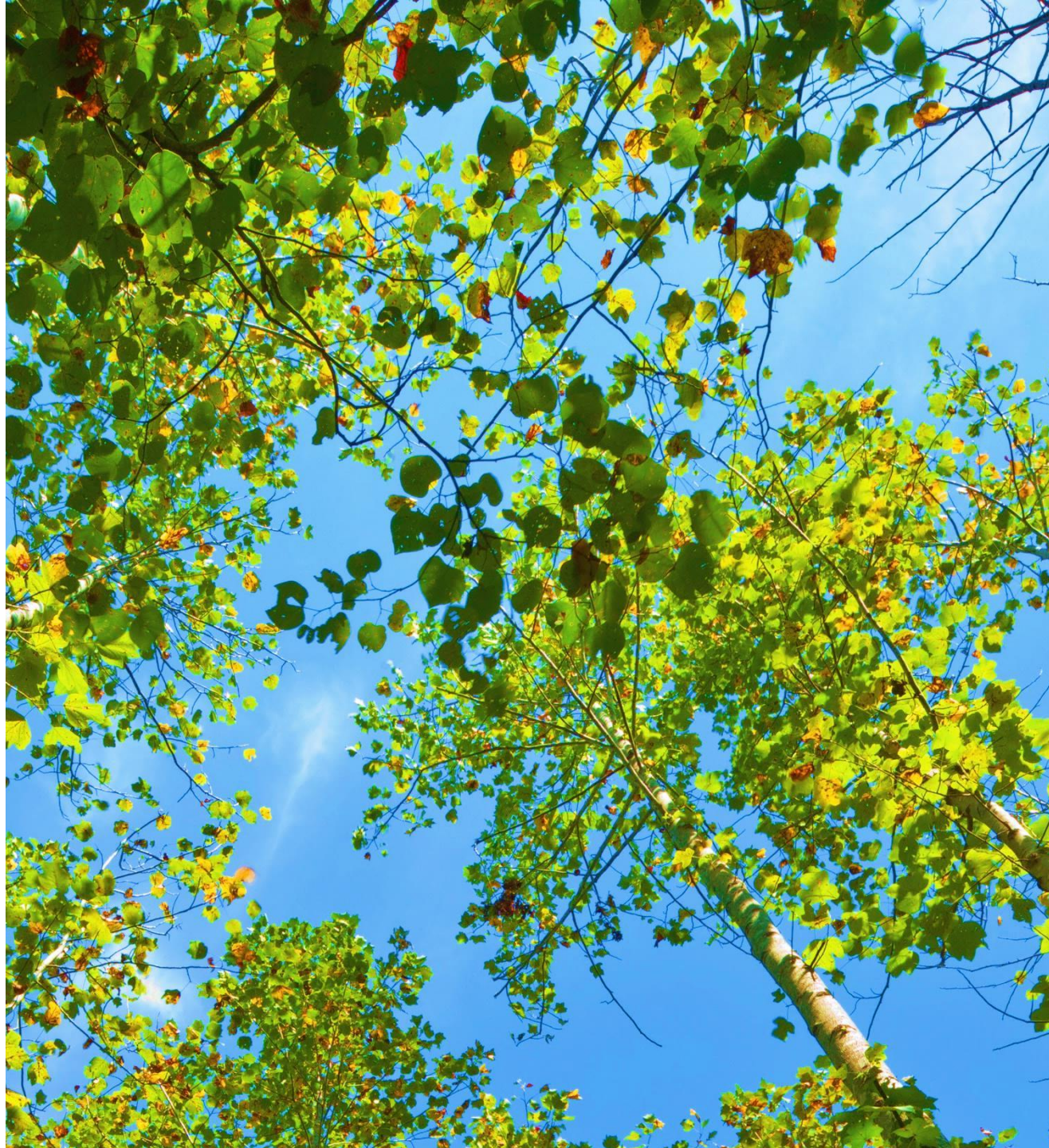




**Fountains  
Forestry**  
AN F&W COMPANY



**WOODLAND**  
TRUST



# Who are we?

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- Fountains Forestry is an independent UK-wide forestry management company, helping clients maintain and maximise the value of their woodland assets.
- At Fountains Forestry, we manage a range of forests, estates and farm woodlands across the UK, from Caithness to Cornwall, From Pure spruce to mixed broadleaved woodland, from 2ha to 4000ha
- The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity. We champion trees at all levels – both practically and in policy and government - whether these are in our irreplaceable ancient woods, in fields or in towns and cities. We own 50,000 acres of woods and land and we provide support to others who wish to plant native trees on their own land.

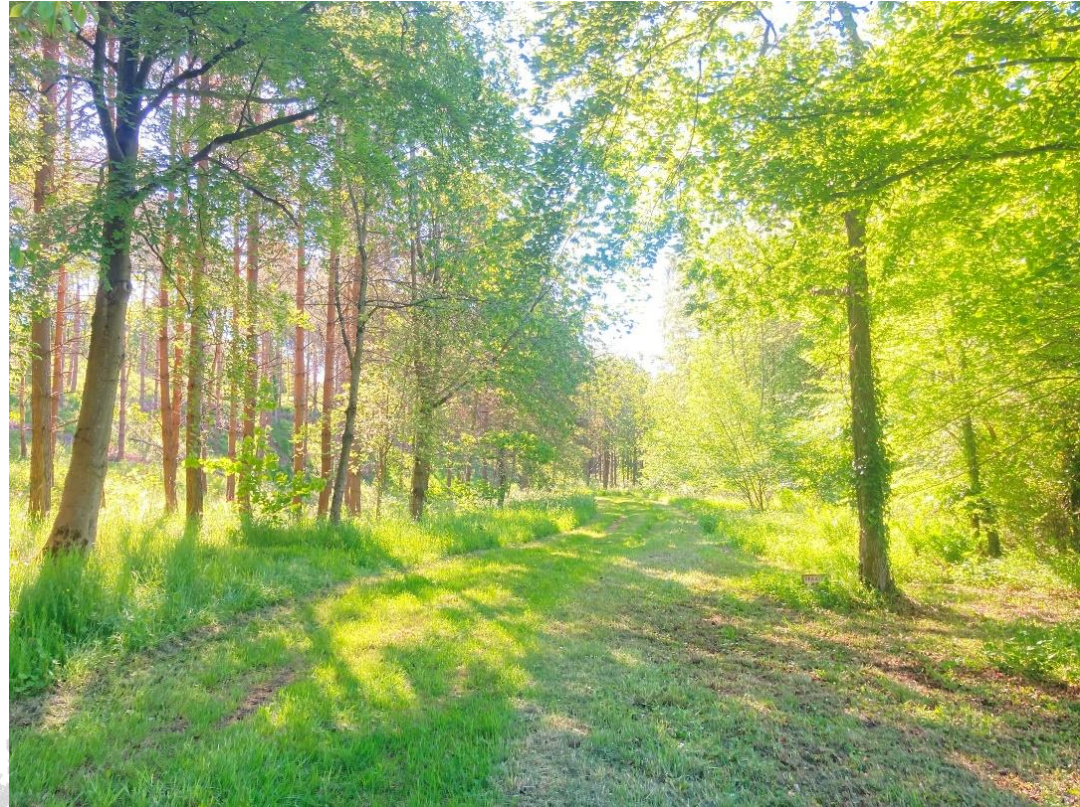


# Our Presentation

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“The best time to plant a tree is twenty years ago. The second-best time is now.”

— Chinese proverb



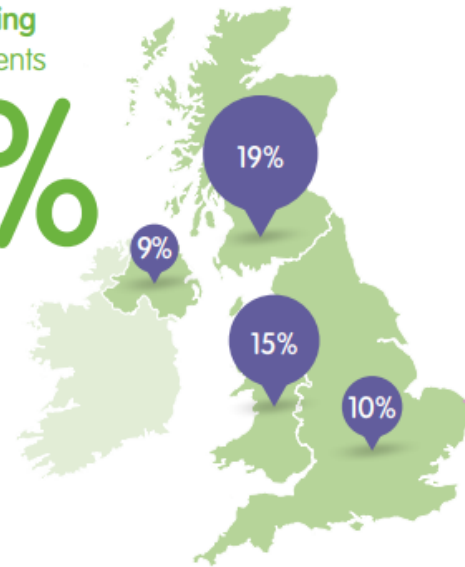
# Why Woodlands?

Did you know that UK forest cover is just 13.4%, compared to Europe where it averages 46%.

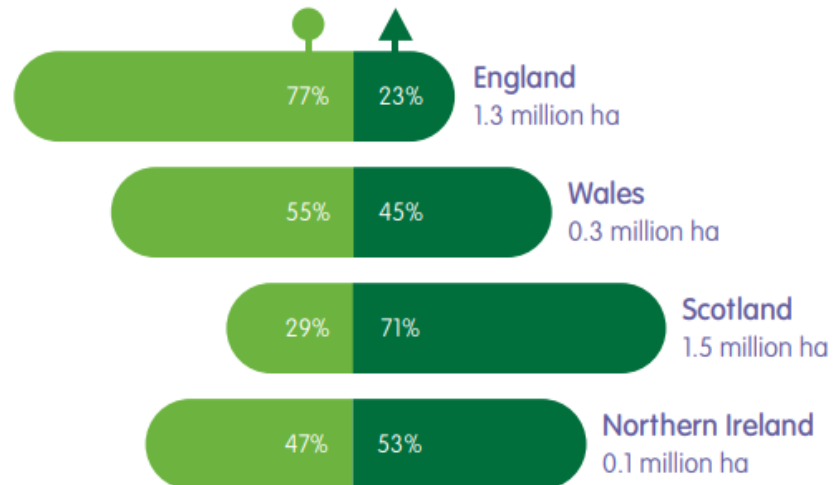
Woodland area is **increasing** in the UK and now represents

# 13.4%

of total land area



Broadleaves account for just over **one half** of the woodland area in the UK, but the proportion varies in each country.



# Why Woodlands?



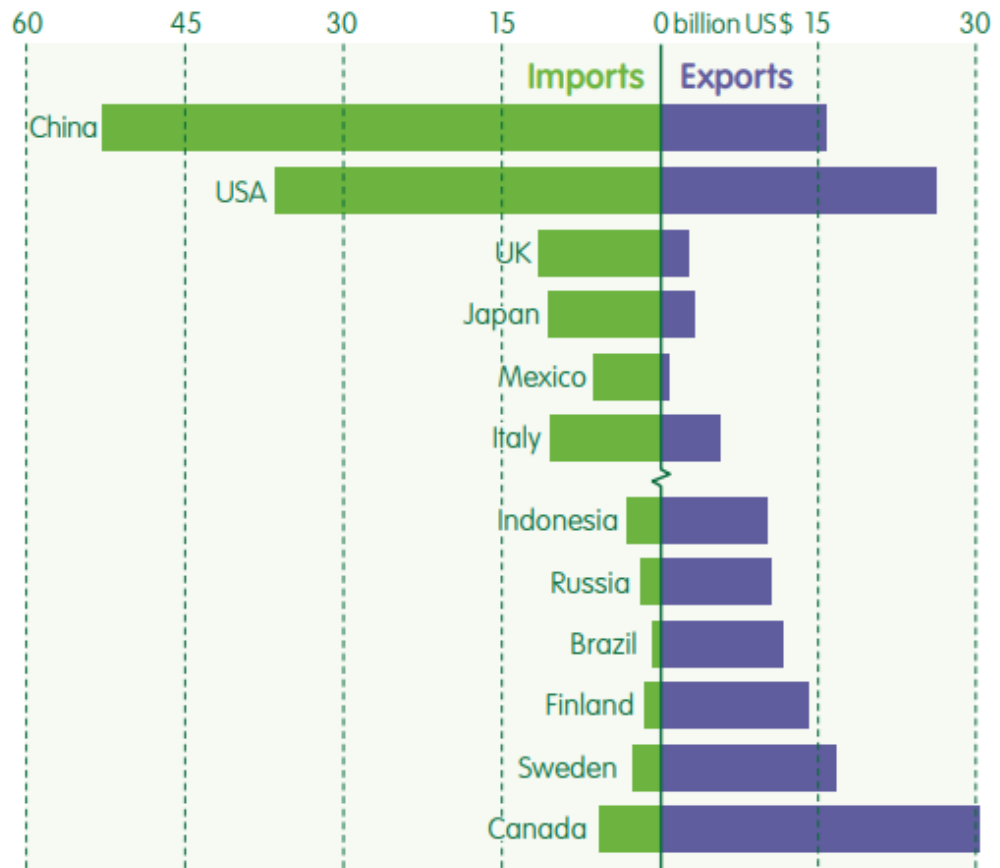
**\$11.7 billion**  
imported to UK

**\$2.7 billion**  
exported from UK



The UK is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest net importer of forest products in the world.

Largest net importers and exporters of forest products in 2021



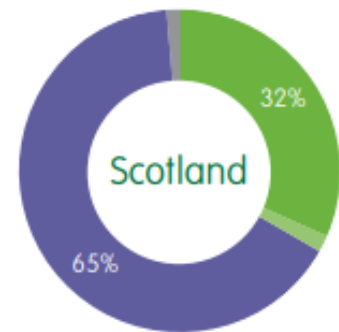
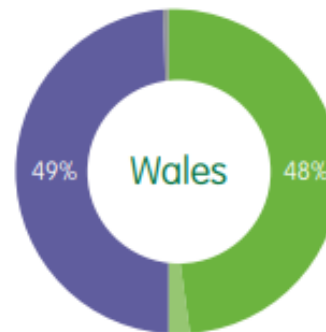
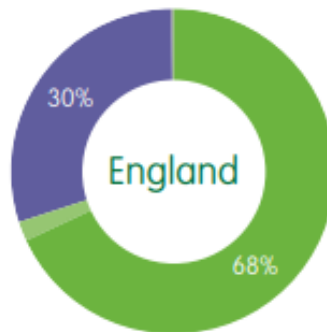
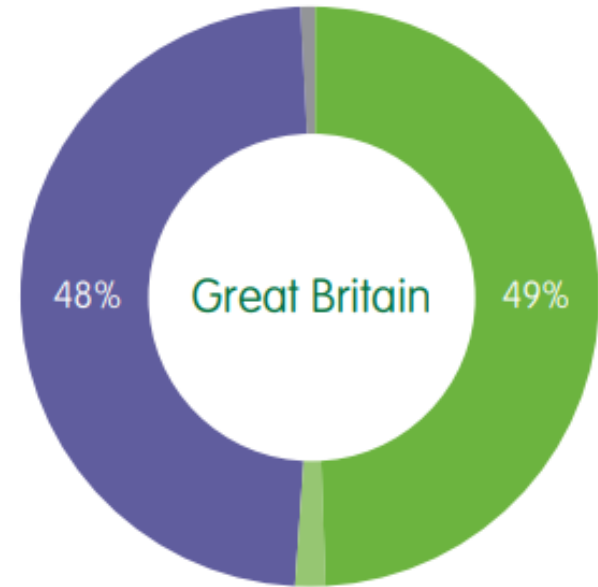
# Why Woodlands?

The total area of native woodland in the UK is estimated to be around 1.5million hectares

## Woodland type

Native trees account for around **one half** of total woodland area in Great Britain, but this varies in each country.

Native  
Near native & fragments  
Non-native  
Not determinable



# Why Woodlands?

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The Government has a target to increase tree cover from 14.5% in 2023 to 16.5% by 2050. Forestry Commission and Natural England's joint vision is to create a more resilient, nature-rich and productive landscape framed by a diverse range of forests, woodlands, copses, hedges and trees outside woods including treescapes in our towns and cities.

They want to increase tree cover to help nature recovery, to sequester carbon from the atmosphere and to help reduce our reliance on other countries to supply the timber we use to build homes, make furniture, packaging and paper, and to generate heat and power. They want to help landowners plant trees and create woodlands that can be enjoyed by more people and provide mental and physical health benefits to a larger proportion of society.

## Benefits of a 20ha farm forest

Biomass from  
thinnings could  
power **120**  
homes, saving  
**840 tonnes**  
CO<sub>2</sub>

Air quality  
benefits  
worth almost  
**£900,000**

Over  
**£300,000**  
carbon  
sequestration  
benefit

Diversified farm  
income,  
enhanced farm  
bio security,  
improved shelter

Almost  
**£200,000**  
leisure  
benefit

Over  
**£400,000**  
added value  
to Local  
economy

**Profitable  
land use**  
without the need  
for ongoing  
government  
subsidy

Enough wood  
to build  
**1,600** timber  
frame houses

Improved  
**biodiversity**  
and **habitat  
connectivity**

Improved  
**water  
quality** and  
**reduced  
flooding**



**Confor**  
Promoting forestry and wood  
Hyrwyddo coedwigaeth a choed



# Benefits of New Woodlands

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## Trees on your farm:

Much research has effort has been poured into looking at the value of trees, hedges and other woody vegetation on farms. We might now call trees on farms something like “agroforestry” but in reality we have always had trees on farms and they have been used for many purposes. We now have more knowledge and may include modern needs – carbon, water, reducing loss e.g. pollution / fertility / ammonia.



# Benefits of New Woodlands

## Present thinking about trees, hedges etc:

- *Clare Whittle* – healthy animals in healthy ecosystems [aka weekend poo fiddler] – using climate predictions by 2050 of periods of 2 weeks + at 40 degrees – effect on cattle of not having shade and shelter = loss of fertility, condition, yield and body condition. Climate change may be the best reason you have for changing **now**.
- *Multi-land* – finding that animals without shade or shelter use 10% to 15% more energy staying warm or keeping cool.
- *Pontbren* – using shelters belts and hedges to extend seasonality in grasses
- *Multiple* – value of browse to animal health – fibre, protein, sugars, nutrients
- *Multiple* – relationship between tree roots, plant roots, mycorrhizal fungi, nutrients and soil moisture
- *Multiple* – resilient cropping – Stephen Briggs (fruit trees in arable), Dartington (tree / arable, tree / vegetable systems).
- *Multiple* - water and soils – reducing soil and water loss by interrupting flows
- *Martin Wolfe* Disease control – using theory of polycultures and break crops e.g. Wakelyns

# Benefits of New Woodlands



**Trees and shrubs can have multiple benefits within a farm system.**

In livestock systems:

- Shade and shelter – critical in a warming world
- Browse – leaves provide animals with roughage, sugars and protein (protein in leaves can be higher than in grass]
- Seasonality in grasses
- Soil health through reducing panning, nutrient cycling, leaf fall and earthworm counts
- Soil fertility – e.g. alder / nitrogen fixing
- Water management
- Reducing impacts of diffuse pollution
- Reducing soils and sediment loss
- General animal welfare
- Provide biomass



# Benefits of New Woodlands



## In arable systems:

In arable systems Hedgerows / Trees / Fruit alleys

- provide better water management – reduce transpiration and water loss, increase water retention in soils – increased percolation [create pathways for water to reach deeper into the soil]
- reductions in soil panning
- Increase soil fertility e.g. alder / nitrogen fixing
- create beneficial pollinator / pest relationships and
- Alternative cash crops - increase business resilience by providing fruit crops, timber or biomass



# Benefits of New Woodlands

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## **Please consider:**

- Whether you would benefit now and in the future from having more hedges or trees on your farm – inside or outside woods.
- Seeking advice from people like me – we have small budgets that can help you get started. Small can be beautiful if done well.

## *And funding:*

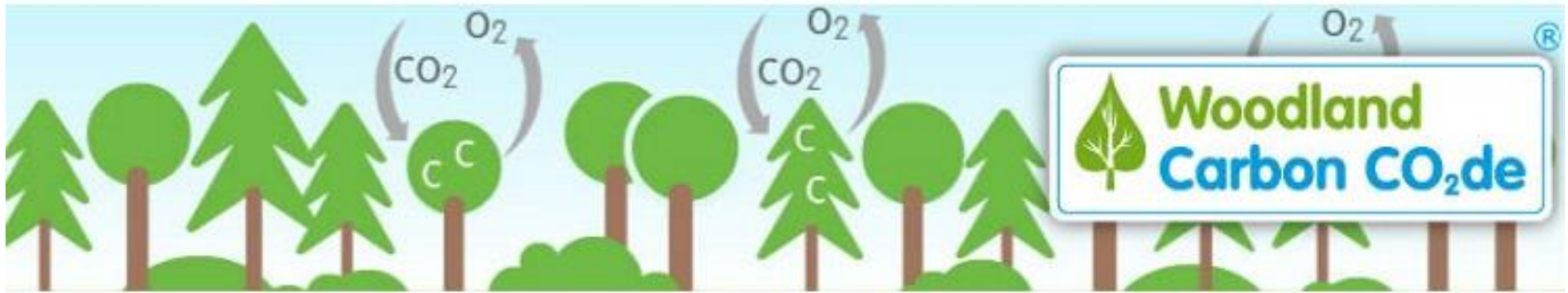
- Looking at the new SFI, CS and EWCO rates around woods, trees, hedges and other conservation farm features.
- Looking at the considerable research on agro-forestry and the new agroforestry grants available from DEFRA / FC
- Support from Woodland Trust / Fountains / FC or NE colleagues



# Woodland Carbon Code

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The Woodland Carbon Code (WCC) is the quality assurance standard for woodland creation projects in the UK, and generates high integrity, independently verified carbon units. Backed by the Government, the forest industry and carbon market experts, the Code provides woodland carbon units right here in the UK. Both Fountains Forestry and the Woodland Trust are recognised Project Developers within the Woodland Carbon Code.



# Conclusion

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- Diversify your income stream
- Improve shelter on your landholding
- Increase biodiversity
- Help to mitigate climate change
- Reduce downstream flooding and improve water quality
- Reduce input costs for land management
- Provide amenity or recreational areas
- Provide sporting opportunities
- Generate a healthy investment

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

– Nelson Henderson





# Fountains Forestry

AN F&W COMPANY