Wood… you believe it!

London, 7 December 2023

Welcome!

- Across the UK, public funding for tree planting is primarily predicated on achieving net zero

- Home-grown wood can play a valuable role, but public policy and delivery has been patchy:

    - England hasn't recognised its value until recently

    - Scotland has, but seems to be downgrading its significance

    - Wales has recognised its value for some years, but needs more delivery

    - NI is dominated by public ownership and doesn't have a legal net zero target

- Giving wood production its 'proper place' in policy and delivery will have wide benefits

- So how do we make that happen?

Where's Wood?

UK **Forestry** Standard
England **Trees** Action Plan
Scottish **Forestry** Strategy
Woodlands for Wales
Northern Ireland **Forestry** Strategy
Tree planting targets

Confor
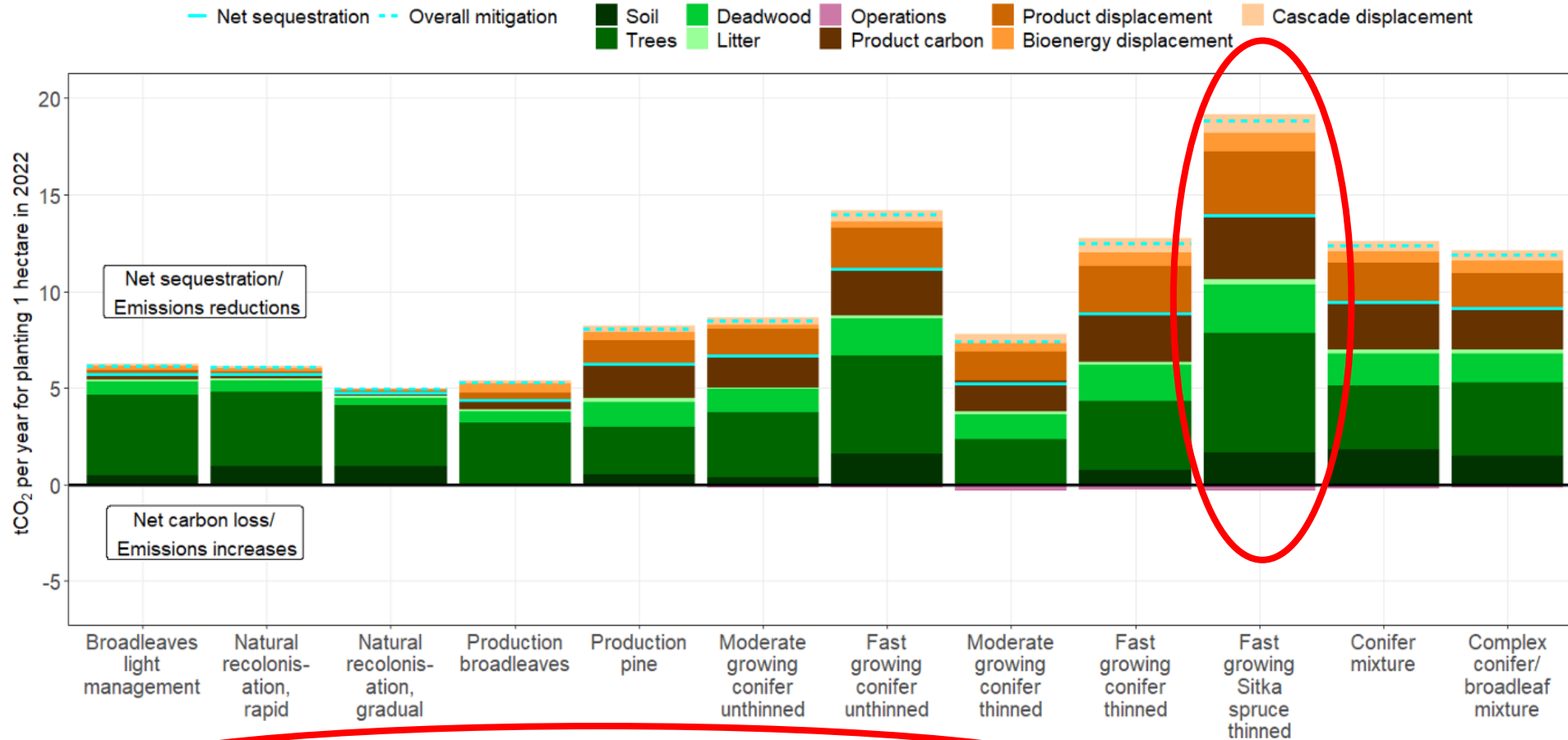Promoting forestry and wood

COP28

The UK Government, in coalition with 16 other countries, has endorsed the following statement:

"Recognizing that wood from sustainably managed forests provides climate solutions within the construction sector, we commit to, by 2030, advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction and increase the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment. Such policies and approaches will result in reduced GHG emissions, and an increase in stored carbon."

Trees and wood for carbon

Legend: Net sequestration · Overall mitigation · Soil · Trees · Deadwood · Litter · Operations · Product carbon · Product displacement · Bioenergy displacement · Cascade displacement

Y-axis: tCO₂ per year for planting 1 hectare in 2022

Net sequestration/ Emissions reductions

Net carbon loss/ Emissions increases

X-axis categories: Broadleaves light management · Natural recolonisation, rapid · Natural recolonisation, gradual · Production broadleaves · Production pine · Moderate growing conifer unthinned · Fast growing conifer unthinned · Moderate growing conifer thinned · Fast growing conifer thinned · Fast growing Sitka spruce thinned · Conifer mixture · Complex conifer/ broadleaf mixture

Figure S1. Annualised CO₂ uptake and GHG emissions avoided, estimated over the period 2022 to 2100 for 12 illustrative woodland options, assuming 1 hectare of woodland planted in 2022.

https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/quantifying-the-sustainable-forestry-carbon-cycle-report-download-page/
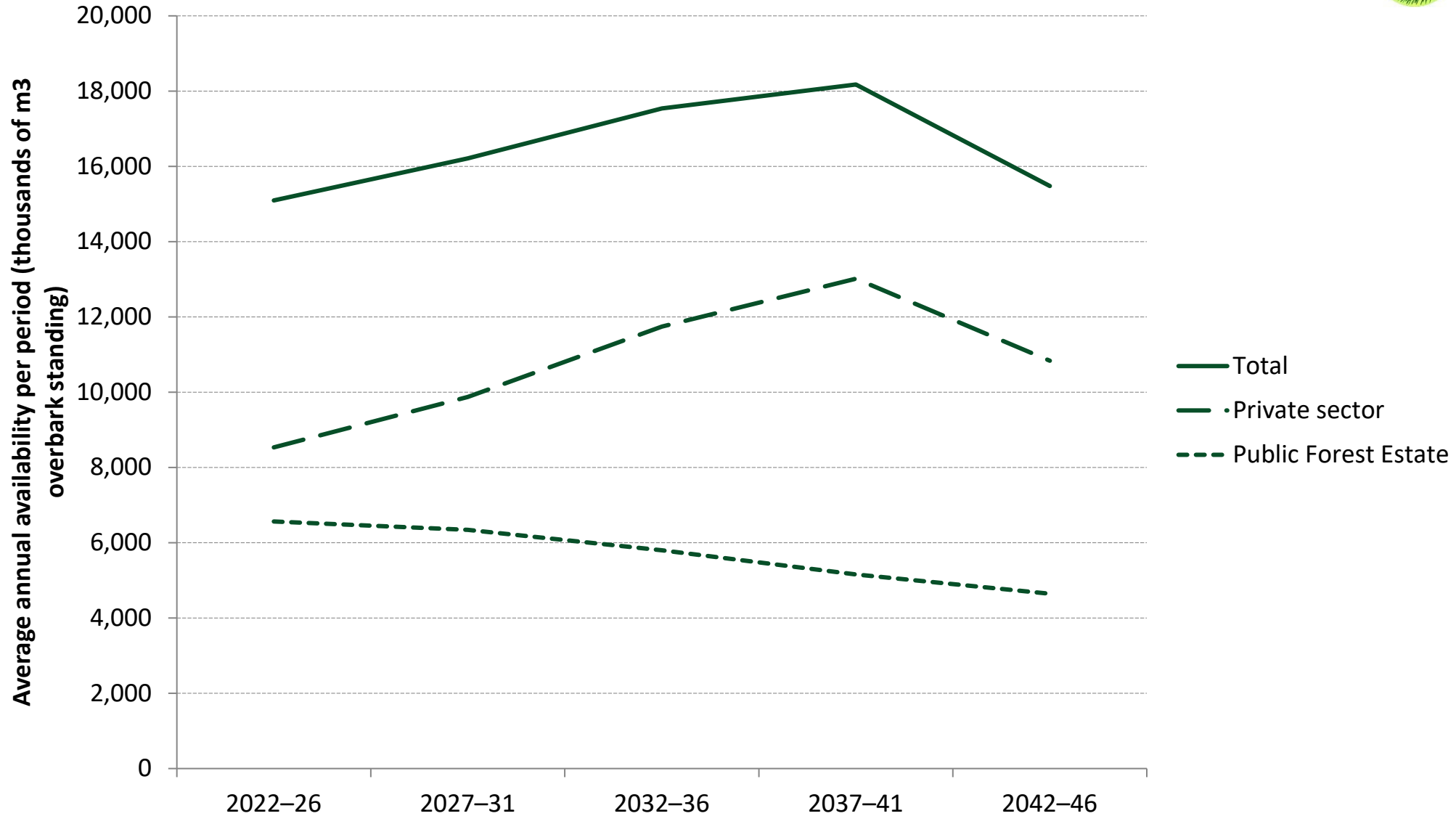
Net Zero by 2050

Report author Robert Matthews has highlighted:

"All types of woodland have important roles to play, although rates of CO2 uptake vary across different species, locations and timescales"
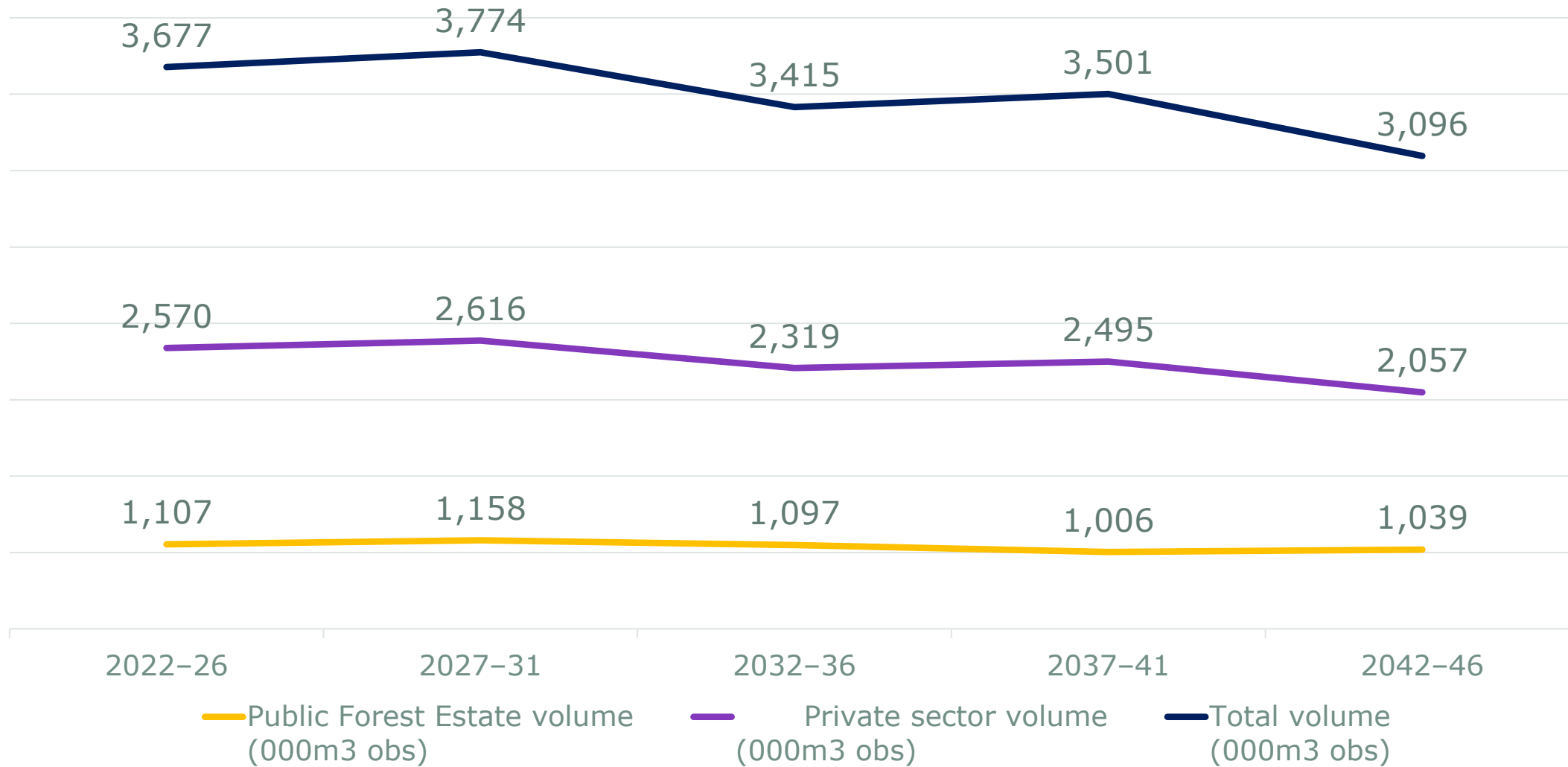
"Differences between different woodlands are most apparent in the period up to 2050 when fast-growing conifers can achieve the fastest rates of CO2 uptake"

"Wood products from harvested woodlands can make an important contribution, by storing carbon and avoiding GHG emissions where they substitute for other materials that would require significant energy inputs for their manufacture. Such effects can be almost as important as CO2 uptake within woodlands, albeit some time into the future when timber extraction takes place"
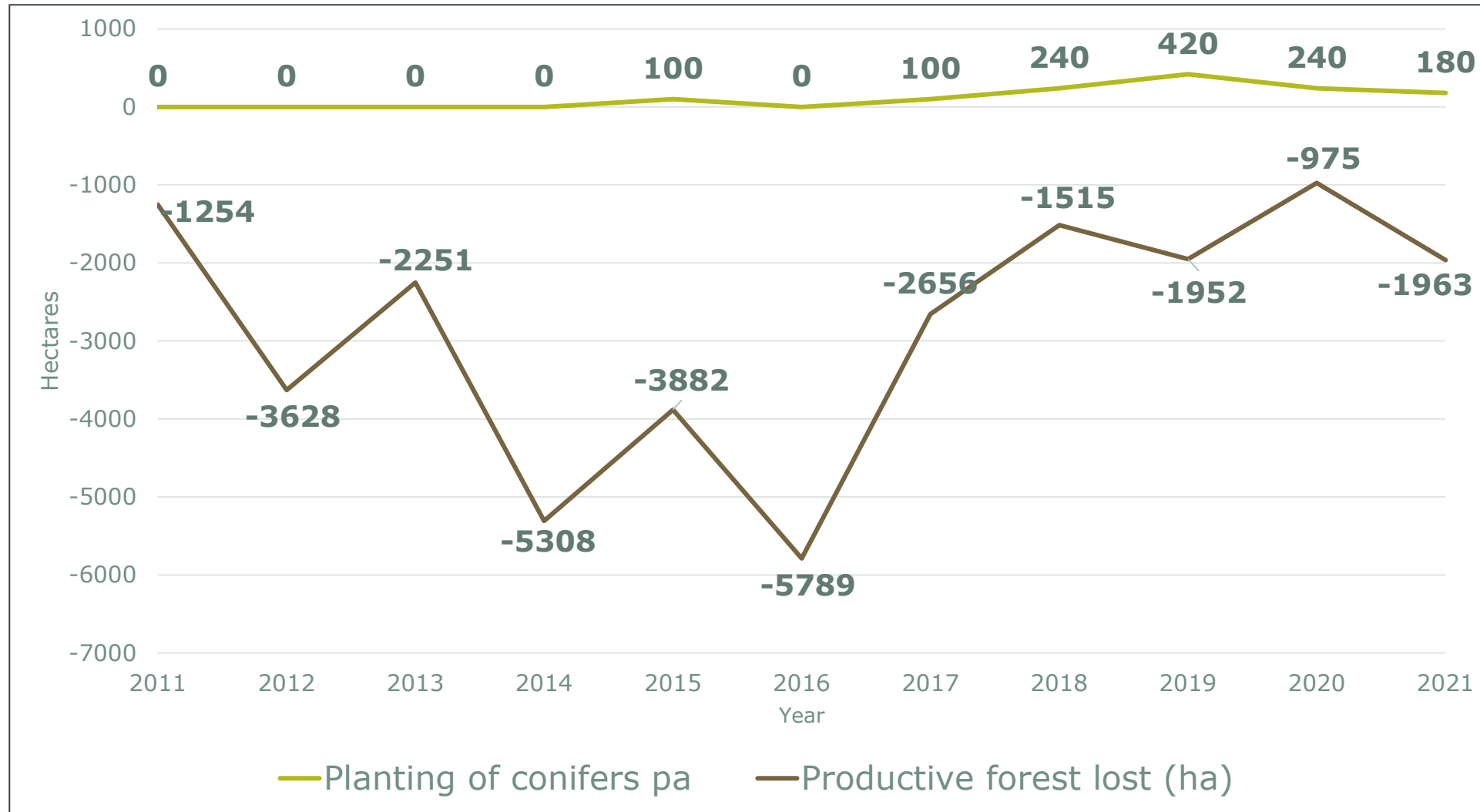
25-year forecast of softwood availability for UK

25-year forecast of softwood timber availability for England

Productive woodland lost and created in England 2011-2021

Net zero and climate change – are we the global leader we claim to be?

Without planting hundreds of thousands of hectares of new woodland and using millions of tonnes more wood **we will not achieve net zero**

If we keep relying on ever increasing imports of wood we **will betray** the principles of the *Glasgow Declaration on Forests* signed at COP26

Issues to consider today…

- Establish why wood production is important, who needs to know that and how do we communicate with them
- Potential audiences include – politicians, influencers like the CCC, construction sector, farmers/land-owners, people creating new woodland
- How do we get more wood production?
- How do we secure future supply? And ensure that public policy doesn't inadvertently undermine that?

Thanks for listening!