



Optimal placement of trees

Presented by Natural England

The planting of trees could be one of the best ways to help contribute to combatting climate change and the flooding which come with it.

Some estimates suggest that the UK needs to “plant 1.5 billion trees if it is to meet its pledge to reach net zero emissions by 2050”.

Study group challenge

This challenge considers how one might approach defining a robust methodology for spatial placement of a large number of trees, and a strategy for implementing the planting in different environments.

Variables such as ground type, absorptive capacity, aesthetics, climate conditions, land use, land ownership, environmental sensitivity, current carbon storage, etc. could be considered to develop an “optimal” layout.

Variable such as planting rates, weather patterns and other temporal factors might be considered to develop a planting strategy.