



## **Afforestation**

It is without doubt that the UK must significantly increase its tree cover in order to tackle the nature and climate crises. Tree planting can be an effective nature and climate friendly on-farm solution, but needs to be done well to ensure positive benefits. Ensuring the increase in tree cover meets both climate and nature aspirations, as well as working in harmony with farmers and food production, will require a radically different approach than has been taken in the past with inappropriate blanket afforestation.

NFFN encourages farmers to create woodier landscapes, alongside and within farmland, with native trees that do not damage other habitats or soils. Woodland grants for farmers should support both the management of existing woodland resources and new tree planting in appropriate locations which can even benefit farm businesses.

Silvopasture, silvoarable and agroforestry systems are also positive options which can diversify and spread risk by providing an alternative tree crop in the form of fruit, nuts or timber, and provide shade, shelter and fodder for livestock. Such systems can deliver environmental goods: preventing soil erosion, improving water management and providing habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. Such systems should be rewarded by future farming schemes and farmers should be supported to implement these.