

# Isle of Man Plantation Management Plans 2025 to 2045

## Overview

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) is responsible for the sustainable management of the Isle of Man's publicly owned plantations. These areas are managed to enhance the well-being of local communities and visitors, to contribute positively to the local economy, and to support and enhance biodiversity values.

DEFA is committed to managing all its plantations to the highest standards, meeting the requirements of the **Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)**. All our plantations are to be independently certified as sustainably managed, ensuring they continue to provide benefits for future generations.

Plantation Management Plans define the long-term vision for our Plantations and set out how management will move towards achieving this vision over the next twenty years. DEFA is in the process of developing new plans for its plantation estate. These plans will encompass an area of approximately 2,877 hectares (7,109 acres) and are designed to address key issues as well as long-term management objectives:

- Recognise the importance of public access and the involvement of the community in developing the future design
- Promote and sustain accessibility to the visually appealing plantation area to foster health and wellbeing, while offering an inviting environment for tourism
- Design and manage the plantations to deliver sustainable carbon management (adaptation, reduction, capture) throughout the rotation, while balancing productivity with resilience
- Biodiversity and habitat enhancement: promote the conservation and improvement of diverse habitats, with a particular focus on riparian zones, and seek opportunities to support a broad range of species, including birds, pollinators and insects
- Increase the resilience of the plantations and their ecosystems to future climate change and other threats
- Enhance native broadleaf species within riparian zones and along plantation boundaries to support the expansion and connectivity of native broadleaved habitats
- Review the appropriateness of conifer establishment in low Yield Class areas on wet soils, especially where peat is present, to minimise carbon loss and support habitat restoration
- Enhance resilience by diversifying tree species and age groups, and by increasing the representation of alternative conifers as well as native broadleaved species
- Implement timely thinning and manage Low Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS) / Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) where this is feasible
- Optimise softwood production from commercial conifer crops through coupe and access design and by reviewing options on steep and marginal ground
- Improve visual amenity and landscape impact of the plantations

Our goal is to manage these plantations and open spaces in an efficient and responsible way that provides comprehensive social, economic, and environmental advantages, while maintaining a safe setting for public use both now and in the future.

## Why your views matter

We would like to invite you or your organisation to leave some feedback on our **National Plantation Management, and District Management Plans**. This forms part of our consultation with stakeholders, that helps to ensure that we achieve an appropriate balance of objectives.

We welcome your feedback to help improve the proposals. Your insights will help us thoughtfully balance and consider the objectives for these plantations in the plans.

## Reasonable adjustments and alternative formats

The Department is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our documents easy to use and accessible to all.

We will take steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments and provide such assistance as you may reasonably require to enable you to access or reply to this consultation.

DEFA is aware that some or all PDFs provided for this consultation might not be accessible and as the consultation heavily relies on them, those who require assistance or alternative formats can contact them via email [forestry@gov.im](mailto:forestry@gov.im) or telephone +44 1624 695701.

## Responding to this consultation and questions

You can respond to this consultation online by clicking on the 'Online Survey' link below. Alternatively you can download a paper version of this consultation in the 'Related' section below and email it to [forestry@gov.im](mailto:forestry@gov.im) or post it to:

Jason Bolt,  
Head of Forestry, Amenity and Lands,  
Department of Environment Food and Agriculture,  
Thie Slieau Whallian,  
Foxdale Road,  
St John,  
Isle of Man,  
IM4 3AS

## Notice about consultation materials

This consultation relies on detailed PDF documents and maps to present the full scope of the proposed plans. We encourage all respondents to carefully review these materials before submitting their feedback, as they contain important background information, visual layouts, and supporting details. Hard copies of the plans and maps are also available to view at DEFA headquarters.

If you would prefer to discuss the plans in person or have questions that you would like to review directly with a member of our team, you are welcome to schedule an appointment. We are happy to meet with you to walk through the documents, explain specific elements, and answer any questions you may have.

To arrange an appointment, please email [forestry@gov.im](mailto:forestry@gov.im) or telephone +44 1624 695701.

## Introductory text

The supporting documents for this consultation are divided into three sections:

National Plantation Management Plan

North District Management Plan

South District Management Plan

You may choose to view all the documents and respond to all three sections or only the section(s) relevant to your area or interests.

The only mandatory question in the consultation is the response publishing question located on the About You / Your Organisation page. All other questions are optional.

After completing a section, you will be returned to the table of contents, where you can select another section to respond to or choose to finish your submission.

## About you / your organisation

### 1 What is your name?

Name

### 2 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

*Please select only one item*

- Yes
- No

Organisation

### 3 Please indicate which stakeholder category most accurately represents you or your organisation (you may select multiple options).

*Please select all that apply*

- Other Government department and agency
- Local authority
- NGO
- Parish council
- Neighbour
- Community group
- Local interest group
- Forest user / visitor
- Member of the public
- Other (please specify)

Other:

#### 4 Please score the following interests, in terms of their importance to you or your organisation.

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very unimportant	N/A
Biodiversity and Woodland Ecology (e.g. habitats, flora and fauna) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Communities and People (e.g. landscape, heritage and culture) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Climate Change (e.g. carbon capture and flood alleviation) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Forest Products and Services (e.g. timber, woodfuel and non-timber products) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Forest Protection (e.g. woodland structure, plant health and soil stability) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Income and Employment (e.g. game management, timber processing, tourism) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					
Recreation and Access (e.g. leases/permissions, trails, facilities) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>					

#### 5 May we publish your response?

Please read our [Privacy Policy](#) for more details and your rights.

##### More information

- Publish in full – your name, organisation name, along with full answers **may** be published on the hub (your email will **not** be published)
- Publish anonymously – only your responses **may** be published on the hub (your name, organisation and email will **not** be published)
- Do not publish – **nothing will** be published publicly on the hub (your response will only be part of a larger summary response document)

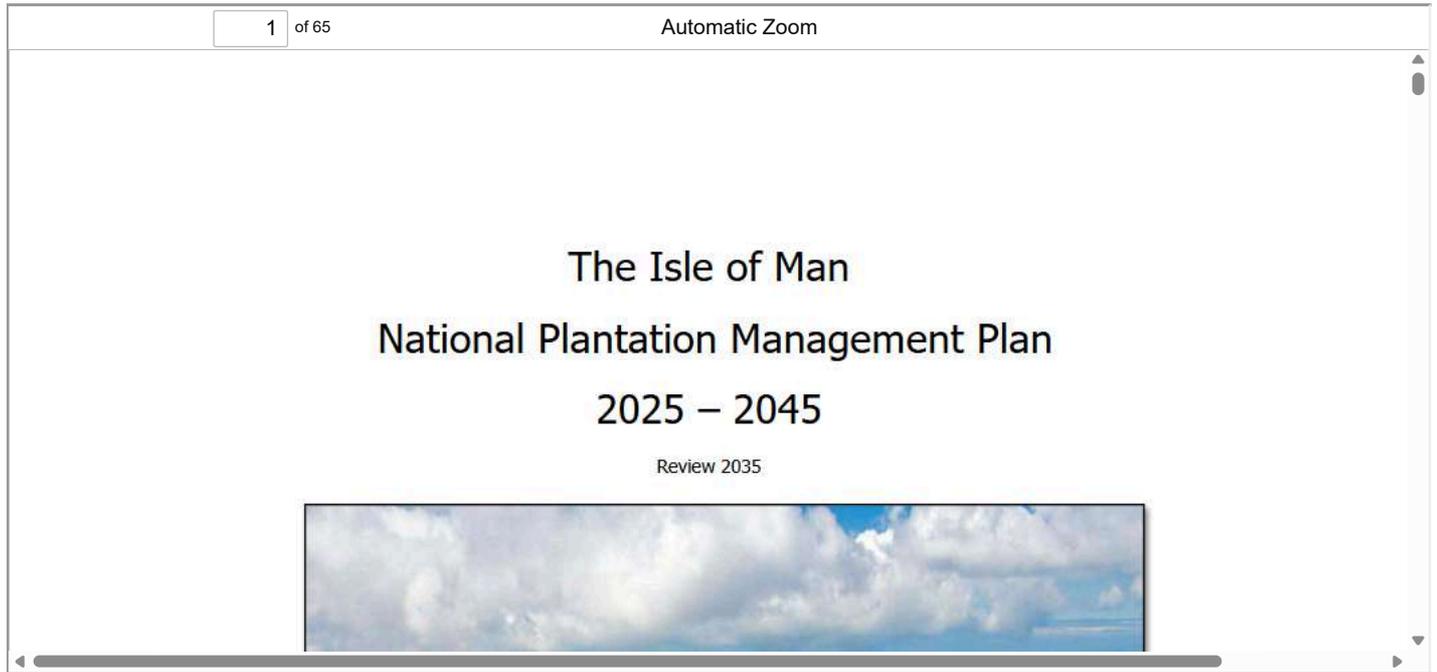
**(Required)**

*Please select only one item*

- Yes, you can publish my response in full
- Yes, you may publish my response anonymously
- No, please do not publish my response

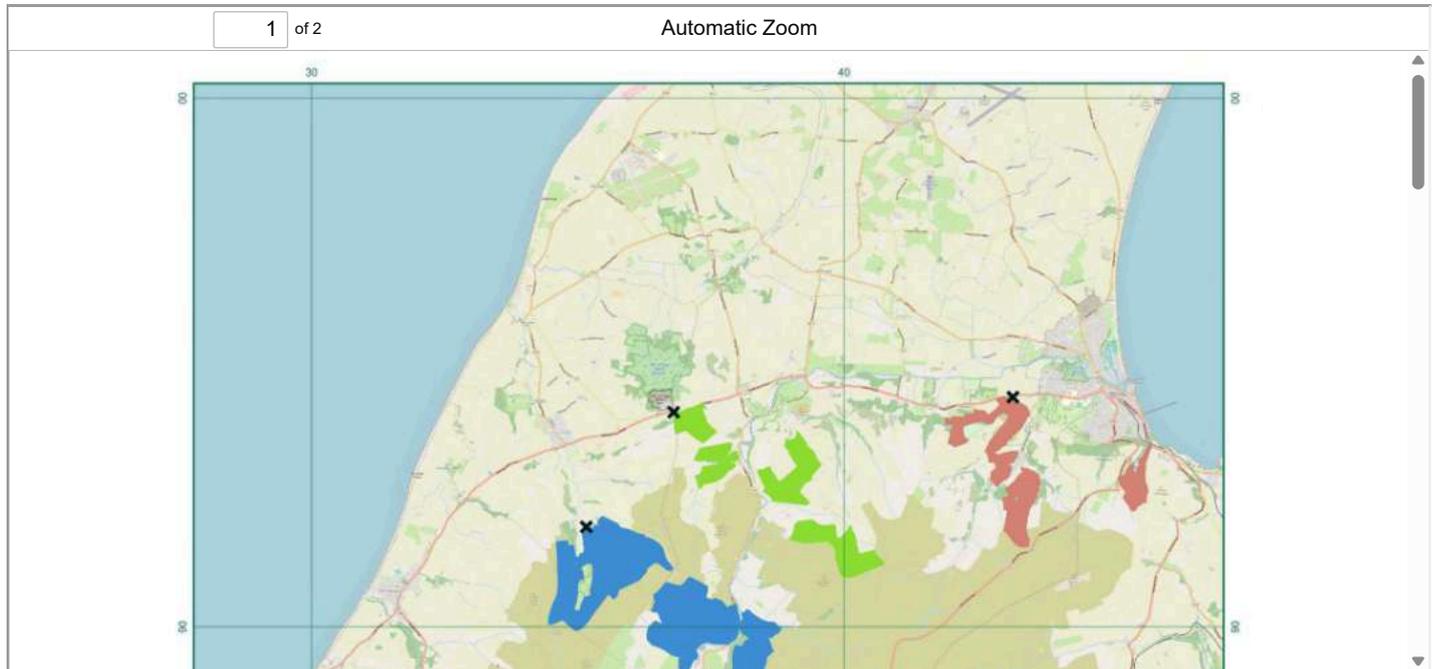
## National Plantation Management Plan

The National Plantation Management Plan (National Plan) explains how the Isle of Man's public forests will be managed over time to improve woodland health, support wildlife, protect landscapes, and keep people safe. It sets out a longterm, phased approach to tree management, including targeted thinning and felling, habitat enhancement, and gradual change in some plantations. Management is aligned with the UK Forestry Standard and UK Woodland Assurance Standard and supports the Island's ambition to achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) certification, ensuring forests are managed sustainably for people, nature, and future timber supply.



### Plantation Management Zones Map

These maps divide the Isle of Man's publicly managed plantations **large management zones**. Rather than showing individual tree species or detailed operations, they indicate **how different parts of the Island's plantations are grouped at a strategic level**.



**1** How well does the National Plan address your needs and interests or those of your organisation?

*Please select only one item*

- Very well
- Well
- OK
- Poorly
- Very poorly

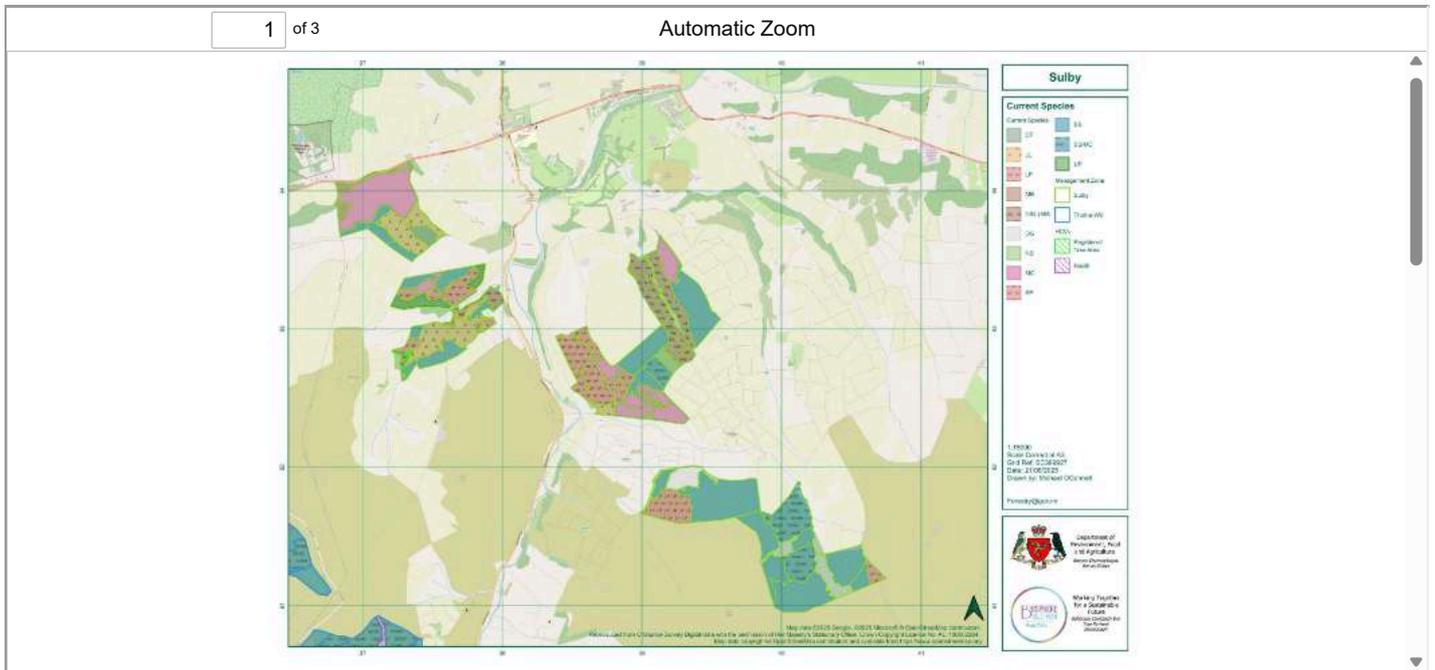
**2** Please share any additional thoughts about areas where you believe the National Plan do not meet your needs or those of your organisation, or where you have concerns about the proposals.

**3** Please comment on any aspects of the National Plan that do meet your needs or those of your organisation.

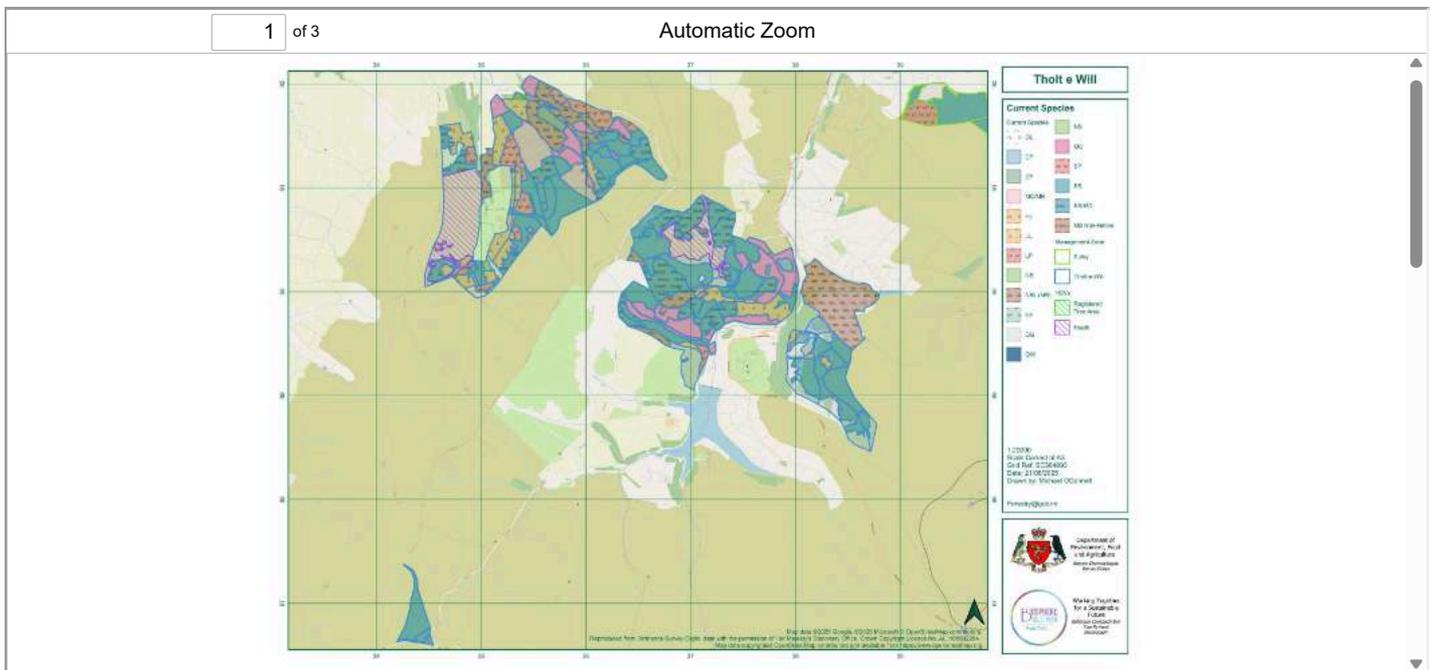
**4** Please use this space to add feedback or questions on the proposed National Plan.







Tholt-e-Will



1 How well does the North Plan address your needs and interests or those of your organisation?

Please select only one item

- Very well
- Well
- OK
- Poorly
- Very poorly

**2** Please share any additional thoughts about areas where you believe the North Plan do not meet your needs or those of your organisation, or where you have concerns about the proposals.

**3** Please comment on any aspects of the North Plan that do meet your needs or those of your organisation.

**4** Please use this space to add feedback or questions on the proposed North Plan.





**2** Please share any additional thoughts about areas where you believe the South Plan do not meet your needs or those of your organisation, or where you have concerns about the proposals.

**3** Please comment on any aspects of the South Plan that do meet your needs or those of your organisation.

**4** Please use this space to add feedback or questions on the proposed South Plan.