



"Seeing the Opportunity for More Trees in the Landscape"

- **Title:** Seeing the Opportunity for More Trees in the Landscape
- **Presented by:** Ian E Brown CF
- **Date:** 5th November 2025
- **Organisation:** For Rural Services Network – Rural Planning Seminar

Introduction



Brief personal background:



3rd Generation tenant farmer and Chair of Ouseburn City Farm, Newcastle upon Tyne



Regional Chair, Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee (North East)



Churchill Fellow (2019) – Agroforestry and Farming



Purpose of the talk: Planning nature!

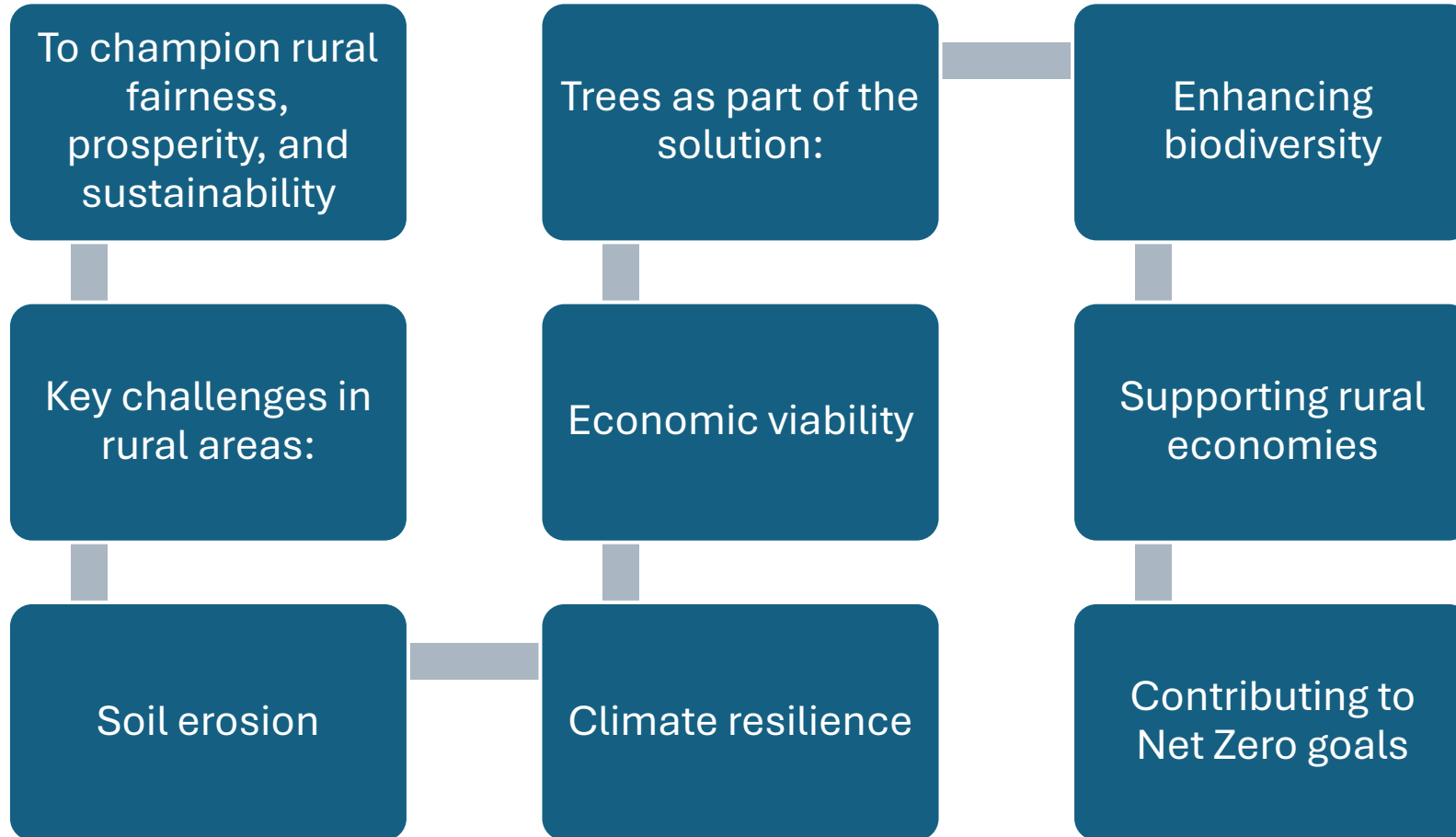


To explore how trees can transform rural landscapes



To highlight agroforestry as a solution for rural sustainability

My 'Rural Vision'



What Is Agroforestry?

- Definition: Integrating trees into farming systems
- Ancient practice with modern relevance
- Benefits:
 - Improved soil health
 - Increased crop yields (5–40% uplift)
 - Enhanced biodiversity and carbon sequestration



Lessons from the Churchill Fellowship

- Travel and research insights:
- Agroforestry trials at Cockle Park (Newcastle University)
- International models of permaculture and tree integration
- Key takeaway: “Almost whatever your problem in agriculture, trees are the solution.”



Why Now?



Post-Brexit agricultural reform:



Freed from the Common Agricultural Policy



Opportunity to reshape land use policy – natural company



Climate urgency:



Trees mitigate flooding, drought, and carbon emissions



Public support for greener landscapes

Case Studies



My Northumberland:
Deciduous tree planting
since 1989



Arable farming systems with
tree rows, parkland in
pastoral



Wildlife corridors and
pollinator habitats

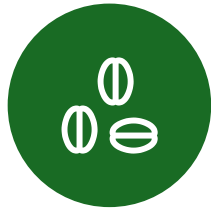


Community engagement
through city farms and pro
public landowners - LEAF

Policy & Funding Opportunities



RSN'S ROADMAP FOR
RURAL PROSPERITY



GOVERNMENT
INCENTIVES FOR TREE
PLANTING AND
AGROFORESTRY



COLLABORATION WITH
ALL LANDOWNERS



SOIL ASSOCIATION



FORESTRY COMMISSION



LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND
PARISH COUNCILS

Challenges to Overcome



Farmer skepticism and cultural resistance



Land tenure and planning constraints



Need for training and demonstration sites

Vision for the Future

- A landscape where trees are integral to farming
- Rural communities thriving through sustainable land use
- Agroforestry as a mainstream practice



Call to Action

01

Encourage Mayoral
Combined/Planning
Authorities and
farmers to explore
agroforestry

02

Advocate for fairer
funding and policy
support

03

Join RSN's network
to amplify rural
voices, encourage
CPRE in their
advocacy work

Thank You



Contact: Ian E Brown



Email: ian@chestnut.bio



Let's plant the seeds for a greener,
more resilient rural future 🌱

Trees and me

