

Forestry Commission sale is a massive tax planning bona...

Published: January 13, 2026, 11:11 am

The government is planning to sell all the woodland owned by the Forestry Commission. [Johann Hari discusses](#) many of the issues involved here, but misses one, and that's that this is a massive opportunity for a tax planning bonanza for the rich.

As a commentator in the journal of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners [said in April this year](#):

Investing in woodland

Investing in commercial woodland attracts the following tax advantages:

- * *Capital Gains Tax.* As timber grows it will increase in value. This increase is exempt from capital gains tax, but any increase in the value of the land is not exempt.
- * *Income Tax.* Any income or profit generated from woodland is exempt from income tax.
- * *Inheritance Tax.* Commercial woodlands (including both land and timber) qualify for 100 per cent Business Property Relief provided they have been owned for at least two years.

Triples all round for a few then.

Pretty much tax free destruction of one of our most valuable natural resources is coming our way soon.