

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
31 December 2017

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 31 December 2017 (First Release)

[Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2017-18](#) sets out our key performance indicators to show our contribution towards forestry and woodlands in England, and to show barometers of trends in the wider forestry sector in England. The indicators continue to reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. They also display some of the contributions [Forest Enterprise England](#) makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate.

We report our six [headline indicators](#) in this series of quarterly updates, and report of our full suite of indicators annually. Our [Indicators Report 2017](#) (June 2017) provides the latest position. Our six headline performance indicators are shown in Table 1 below.

Our use of indicators reflects Forestry Commission England's commitment to evidence based working and to ensuring that there is a robust evidence base available to the forestry sector to underpin policies and operational decisions.

We also help Defra provide Open Data. We publish much of the data that these reports are based upon and specific Open Datasets are signposted throughout this report. You can obtain our spatial data from <http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/> and statistical tables and spreadsheets from www.forestry.gov.uk/Statistics.

The 2016-17 outturns of these headline indicators have been assured by the Government Internal Audit Agency and also the systems in place by which these reports have been produced have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

Past, present and future reports are available from www.forestry.gov.uk > [About us](#) > [Forestry Commission England](#) > [Indicators](#).

Responsible Statistician: David Cross CGeog
david.f.cross@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Evidence and Analysis
Strategic Development, Forest Services

Bristol, 14th February 2017

Contact: kerry.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

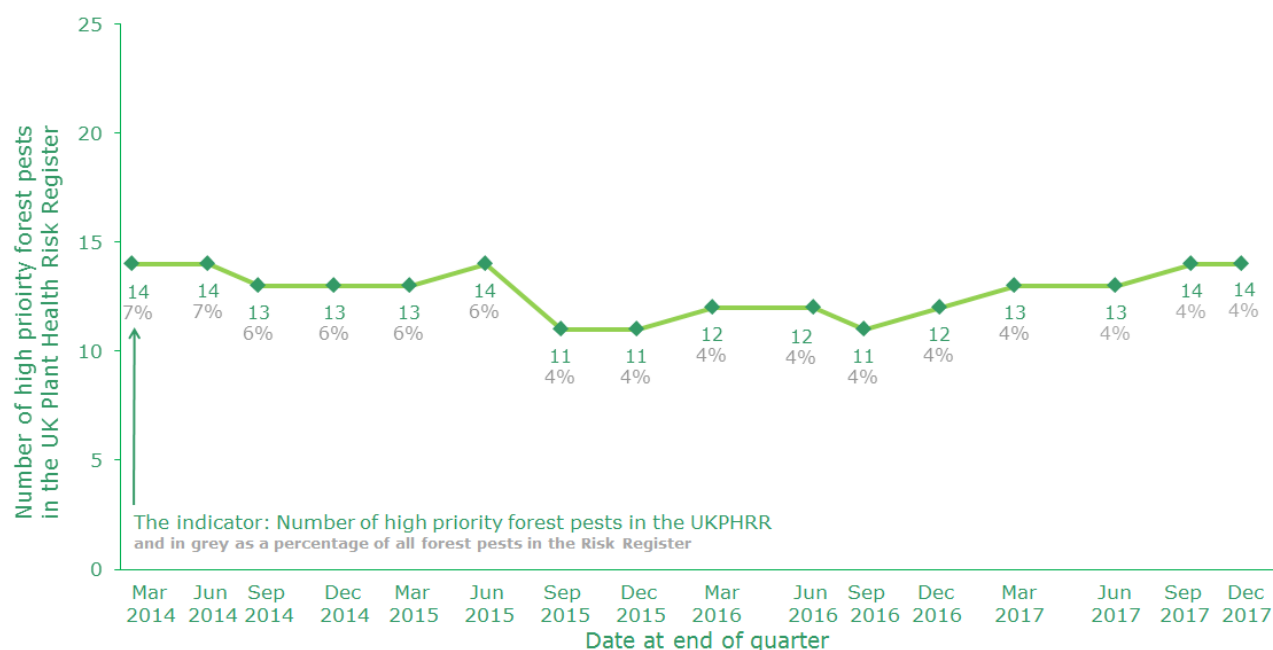
Table 1: Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators

Forest Services	
Protection	Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR).
Protection	Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e. the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)
Expansion	Area of woodland and rate of new planting
Forest Enterprise England	
Organisational	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)
Economy	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate

Forest Services

Protection

A. Number of high priority forest pests in the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).



Source: [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#)¹ data.

Report at end December 2017: There are **14 high priority forest pests in the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#)**, that require actions – in addition to mitigations already implemented – to prevent them having a potentially substantial negative impact on England’s woodland.

Fourteen (4%) of the 317 forest pests in the UKPHRR are ‘high priority’ because their mitigated relative risk rating is 15 or more (see Note A and Table 2). The list and number of high priority forest pests is the same as at the end previous quarter.

Of the 14 pests and diseases listed, 8 are currently present in England to varying extents, with only 2 of these being classed as widespread, namely *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi* that causes horse chestnut bleeding canker, and *Phytophthora alni* that affects all alder tree species in Britain.

¹ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

Phytophthora ramorum now represents a notable risk to sweet chestnut trees, and *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*Chalara* dieback of ash) continues to spread and cause death of many ash trees, particularly in the south east and east, which is having an impact at a landscape scale. Both are now considered widespread throughout Great Britain. Little can be done to prevent trees becoming infected and there is no known cure for either disease. Positively, however, following recommended [biosecurity precautions](#) does slow disease spread.

Fourteen is one greater than the report at the end of June 2017, due to the addition of *Agrilus fleischeri* that is a wood-boring insect, native to East Asia that can affect poplar trees. It is currently absent from the UK but represents a palpable risk. The pathway for movement is via wood packaging material such as pallets.

Table 2: The 14 high priority forest pests in the UKPHRR with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end December 2017

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Alder rust	<i>Melampsoridium hiratsukanum</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>aesculi</i>	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Shoot blight on cedar/Tip blight on eastern hemlocks	<i>Sirococcus tsugae</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
n/a	<i>Agrilus fleischeri</i>	Insect	Absent	4	5	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Oomycete	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Phytophthora disease of alder	<i>Phytophthora alni</i>	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	<i>n/a</i>	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15
Two spotted oak buprestid	<i>Agrilus biguttatus</i>	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	<i>Ophiognomonia clavignenti-juglandacearum</i>	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle	<i>Polygraphus proximus</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of December 2017 is 54 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 14.

Notes:

A) **Definition, Source and Summary:** This indicator seeks to report trends in forest pests from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#) that records and rates risks to UK crops, trees, gardens and ecosystems from plant pests and pathogens. 'High priority' pests and diseases are defined for the purposes of this indicator as those with a mitigated relative risk rating (the mitigated likelihood score multiplied by the mitigated impact score) of 15 or more. The individual ratings for likelihood and impact are each on a scale from 1 to 5. Relative risk ratings therefore can have values from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 25. Taking into account the economic, environmental and social importance of the host species, these risk scores are used to help prioritise additional actions to combat the threats posed by the pests. It should be noted that the data are for the UK. Nearly all listed forest pests present in the UK will also be present in England and listed forest pests absent from the UK are very likely to pose a threat to England.

B) **'Likelihood'** provides an assessment of the probability of entry and establishment of a pest for those pests that are absent from the UK which, when combined, can result in the introduction of the threat to a new area. Some pests on the UKPHRR are already present in the UK. In these cases the risk is that of the pest spreading to its maximum extent in the UK. The likelihood scale has a minimum value of 1 (lowest risk) through to 5 (highest risk). There is more information on

the factors taken into account in the [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#)² (page 6).

C) **'Impact'** is an indication of the relative consequence of the pest for the host plant or sector, should the risk materialise. It does not take account of the size or value of the host or sector. Where the pest is already present, the impact is that caused by further spread, against a baseline of damage already occurring. Thus for a pest which is already widespread, the additional impact of it spreading to its full potential distribution may be limited, even if the pest itself is very damaging or expensive to control. The impact scale has a minimum value of 1 (lowest risk) through to 5 (highest risk). There is more on the factors taken into account in the [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#) (page 6-7).

D) **'Value at risk'**. Value at risk is not taken into account in this indicator.

E) **'Mitigations'** can reduce likelihood, impact or both and the risks remaining after mitigation provide the basis for this indicator. Mitigations may reduce risk by enhancing regulation, surveillance, awareness and research, or by providing an industry scheme or a contingency plan. The difference between unmitigated and mitigated risk represents an expert judgement of the effectiveness of the current mitigations. See [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#) (page 4) for details.

F) **Possible Relative Risk Ratings:** Relative risk ratings can take values from a minimum of 1 (lowest risk) through to 25 (highest risk). For the purposes of this indicator 'high priority' pests have been defined as those with a relative risk rating of 15 or more.

Impact	5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20	
3	3	6	9	12	15	
2	2	4	6	8	10	
1	1	2	3	4	5	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Likelihood					

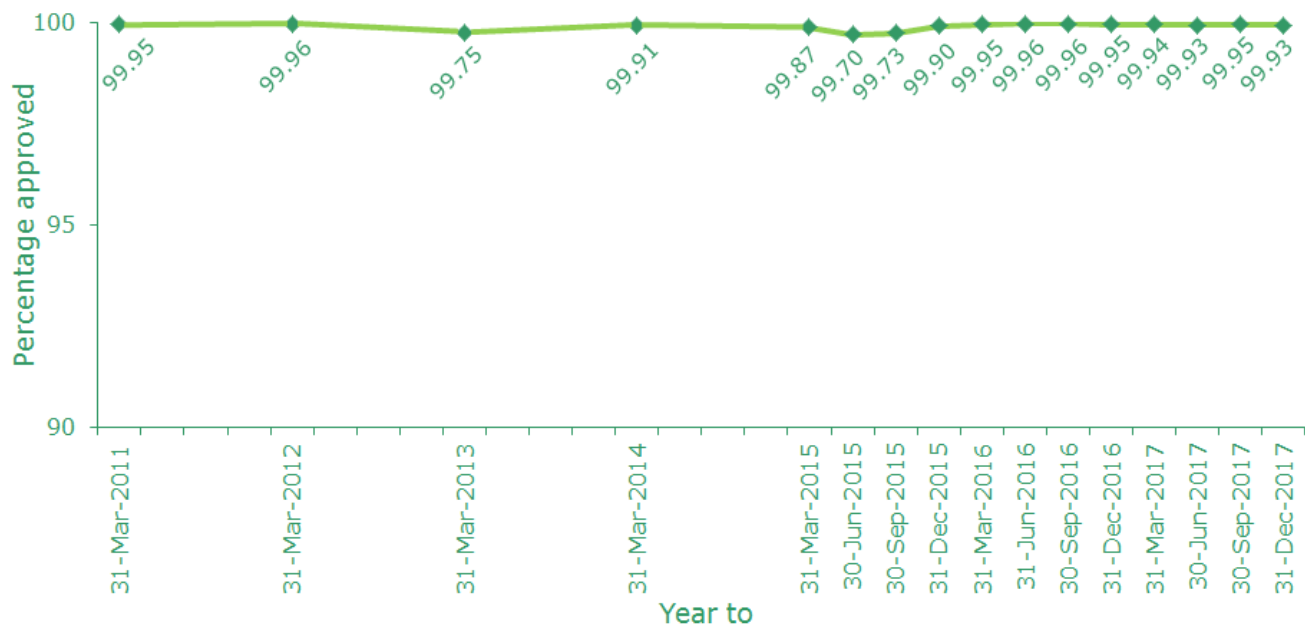
G) **Other forest pests and diseases affecting English woodland.** The indicator is only based on the pests included in the UKPHRR. In so doing it effectively captures the major non-native pests threatening UK forestry together with a limited selection of native pests that are the subject of major Government campaigns of action. There are many native and non-native forest pests that are not included in the UKPHRR.

H) **Precise end of quarter report dates are:** 9th April 2014, 2nd July 2014, 19th September 2014, 31st December 2014, 30th March 2015, 23rd June 2015, 24th September 2015, 29th December 2015, 30th March 2016, 7th July 2016, 30th September 2016, 30th December 2016, 30th March 2017, 4th July 2017, 2nd October 2017, and 27th December 2017.

Open Data: The spreadsheets of the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).

² <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

B. Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e. the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)



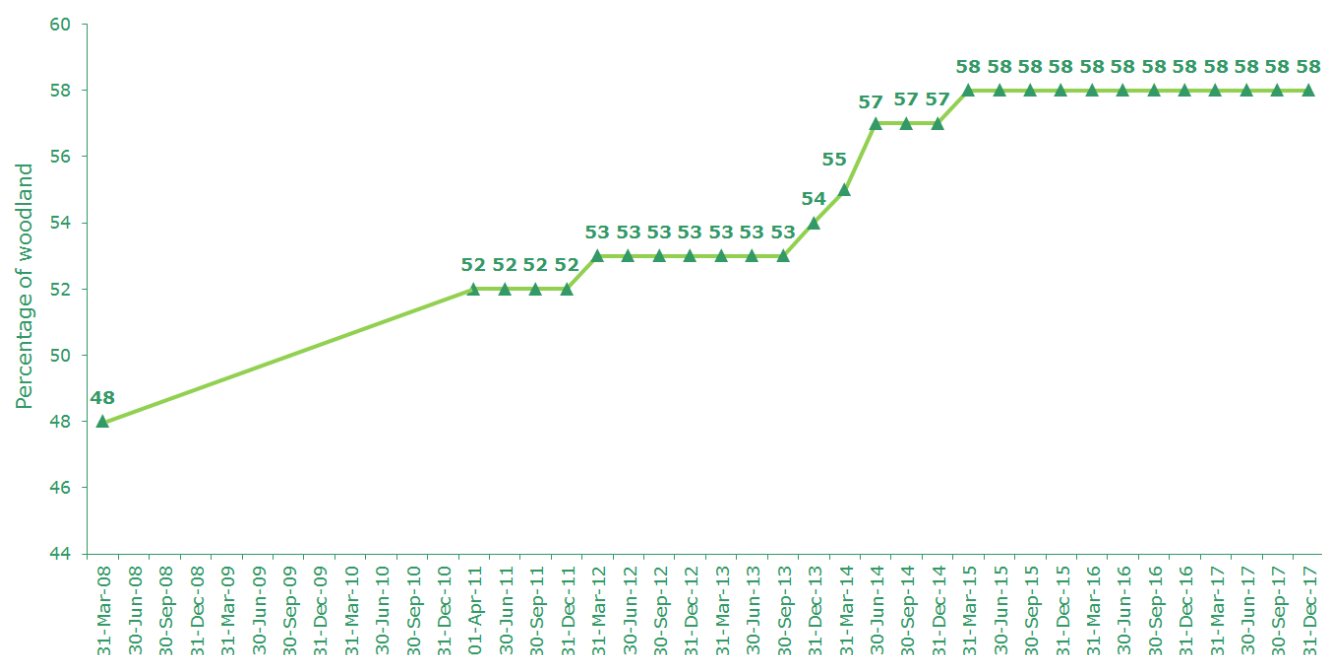
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 31 December 2017: **99.93% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

Improvement

Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the [National Forest Inventory](#)

Position at 31 December 2017 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 763,000 hectares of woodland in management.**

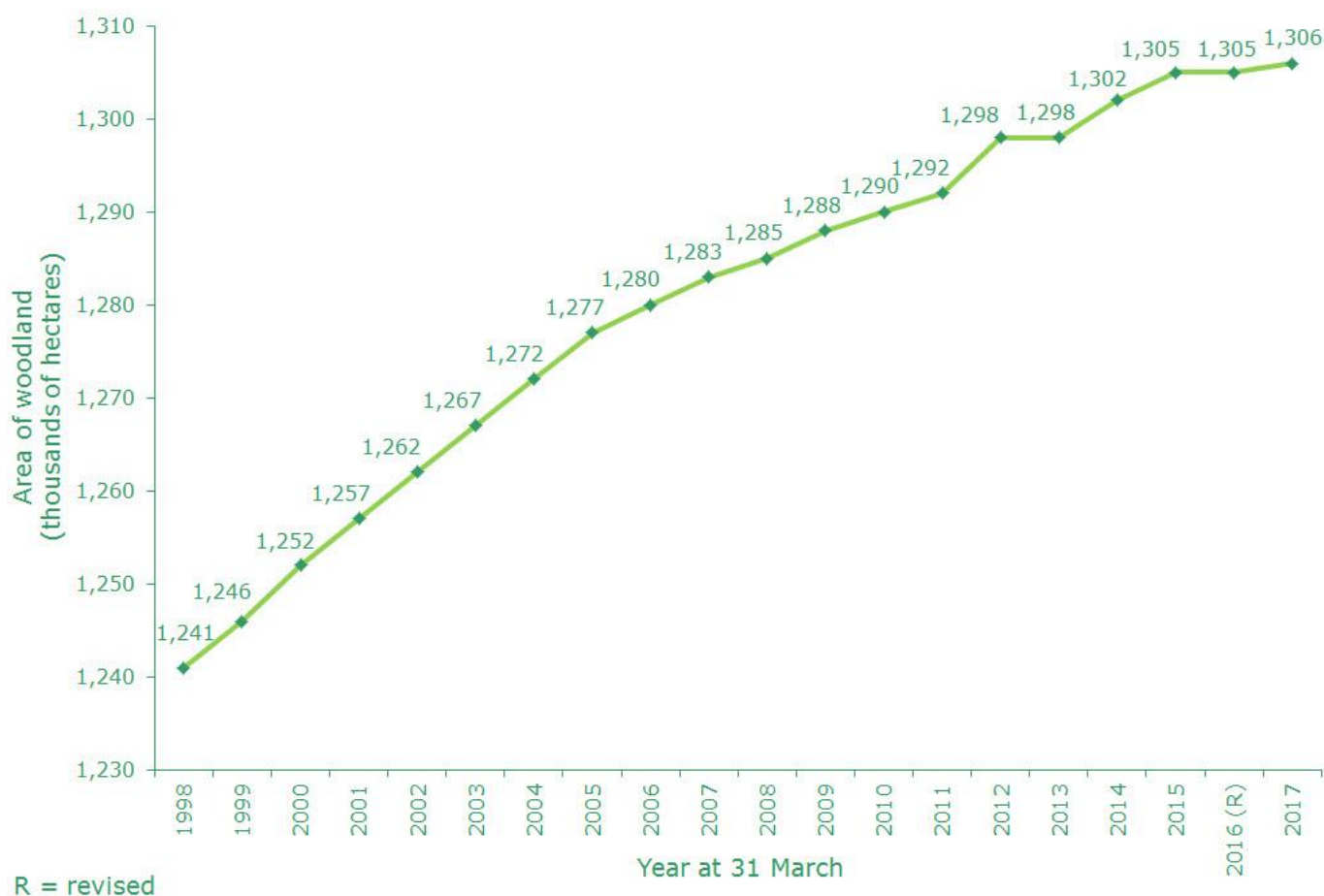
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed remains at 58%. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to meet the strong demand for UK-grown timber and to help address the impact of tree pests and diseases.

Open Data: Locations of 'managed woodland' in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

Expansion

Area of Woodland

A. Area of woodland in England headline indicator: **annually** updated



Source: This is a [National Statistic](#) published in [Forestry Statistics 2017](#), based mainly on the [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

Confirmed report at 31 March 2017: **1,306 thousand hectares (ha) of woodland in England that equates to 10.0% of the land area of England.** The aspiration is to achieve 12% woodland cover by 2060, equating to 1,566 thousand hectares.

Increase in this area of woodland indicator includes both woodland created with the support of the Rural Development Programme for England **and all other measured sources** and is reported on **an annual basis**.

Over the last 10 years the area of woodland has increased by an average of 2.3 thousand ha per year. Over the 19 year period from 1998 to 2017 the area of woodland has increased from 9.5% to 10.0% of the land area of England.

The next report of the overall area of woodland in England is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking](#) in June 2018.

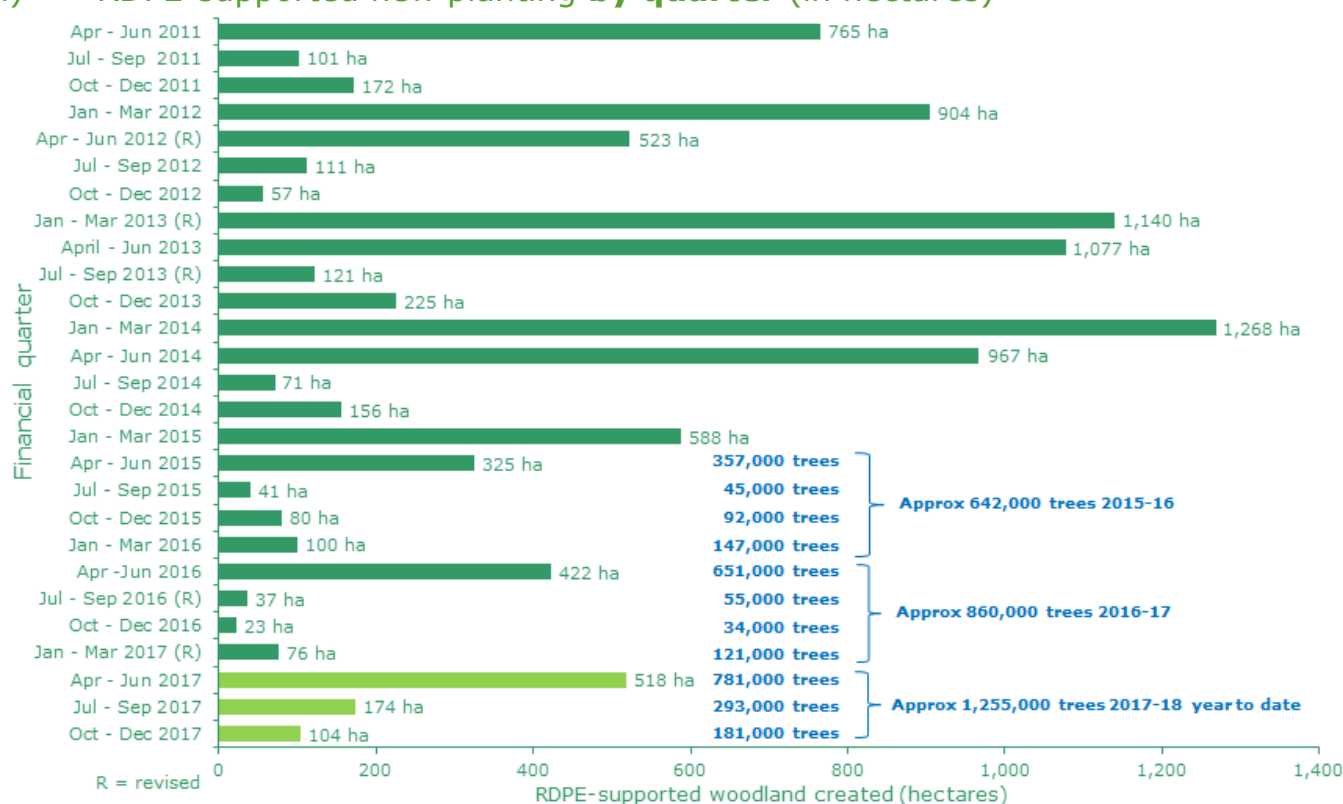
B. Hectares of woodland created (gross) specifically with the grant support of the Rural Development Programme for England, and the approximate number of trees that represents – **quarterly** updated

The figures in this section show new planting of woodland in England supported by the Rural Development Programme for England: both the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) incentives. This is based on the area (in hectares) of grant claims actually paid to woodland owners in each quarter.

Figures on the new planting of trees towards the Government's manifesto commitment to plant 11 million trees in the 2017-22 parliament, also includes trees planted with other forms of government support, and will be reported separately in [Government supported new planting of trees in England](#) in June 2018.

The most recent National Statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England, also including that without direct government support, were published in [Forestry Statistics 2017](#). The next report of this measure of **all** new planting in England is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking](#) in June 2018.

i) RDPE-supported new planting **by quarter** (in hectares)

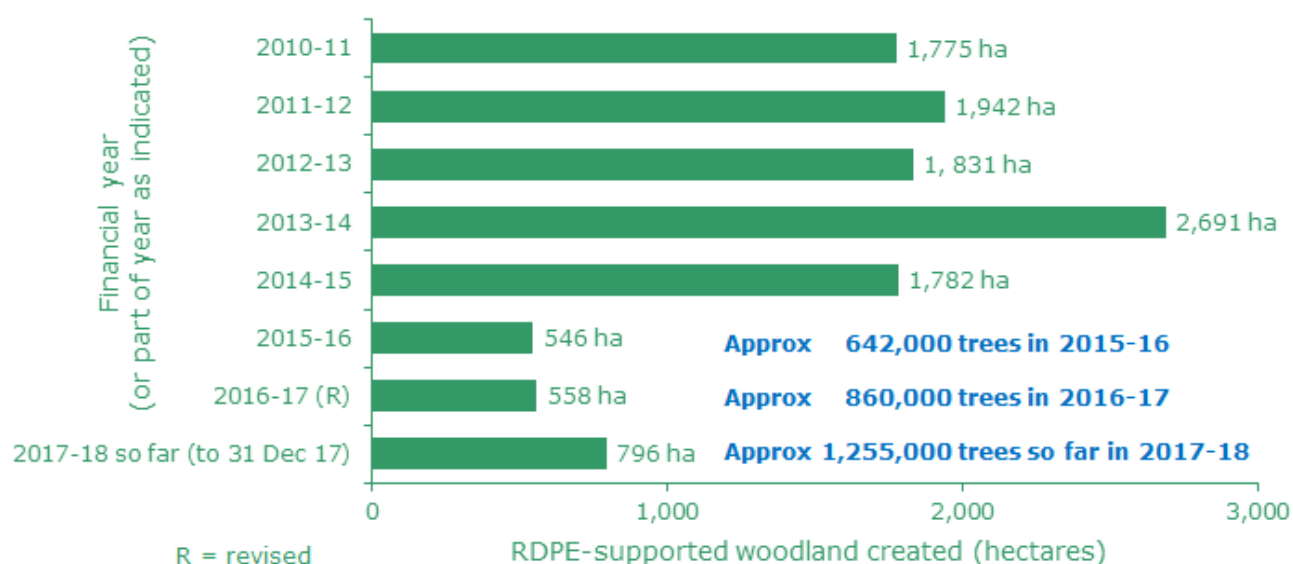


Source: Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support October to December 2017: **104 hectares, equating to about 181,000 trees in this quarter.**

The area of paid RDPE claims in this quarter is greater than the comparable quarter in each of the previous two years, but broadly comparable with the average for this quarter over the past six years.

ii) RDPE-supported new planting: summary **by financial year** (in hectares)

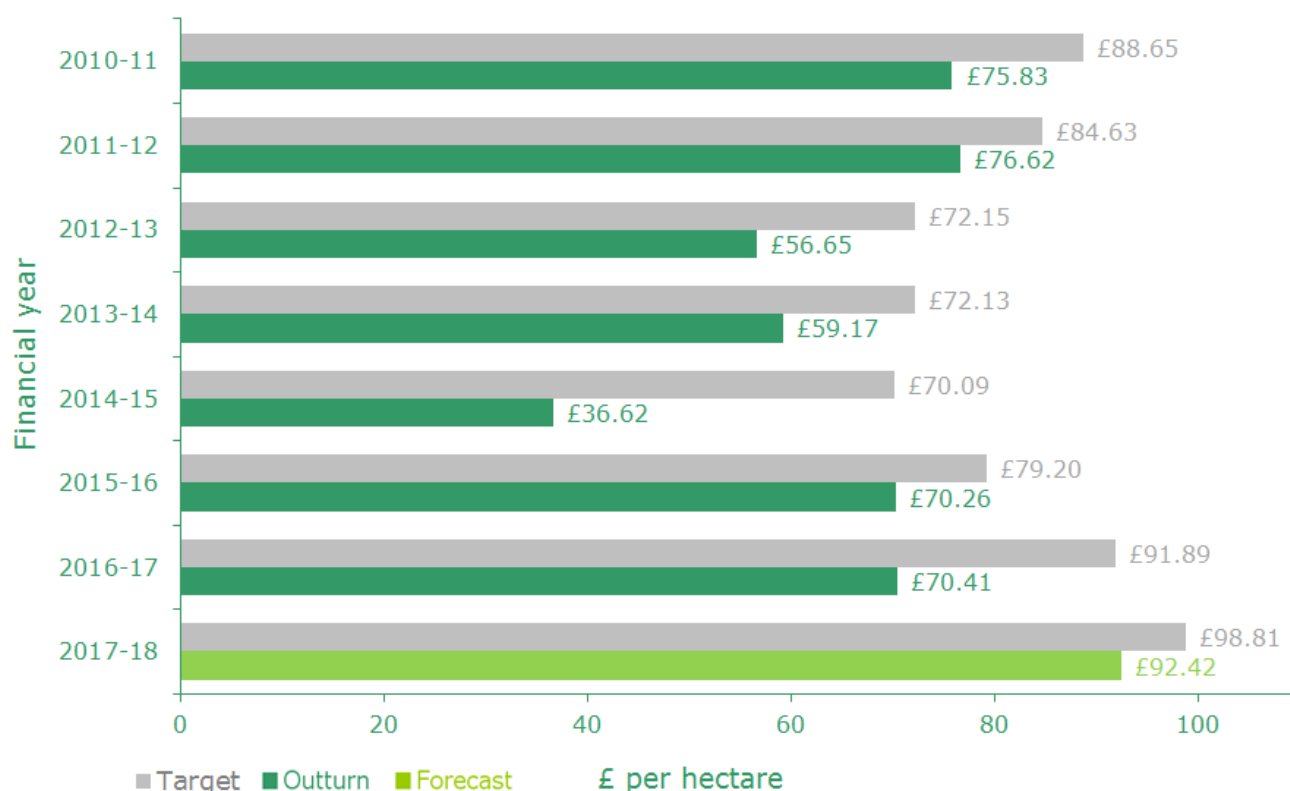


Open Data: The [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and locations of RDPE grant supported woodland creation in England are available as spatial data from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

Forest Enterprise England

Organisational

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)



Source: Forestry Enterprise England accounts.

Reports for this indicator are published as at 31 March and 30 September each year. The most recent report as at 30 September 2017 is as follows.

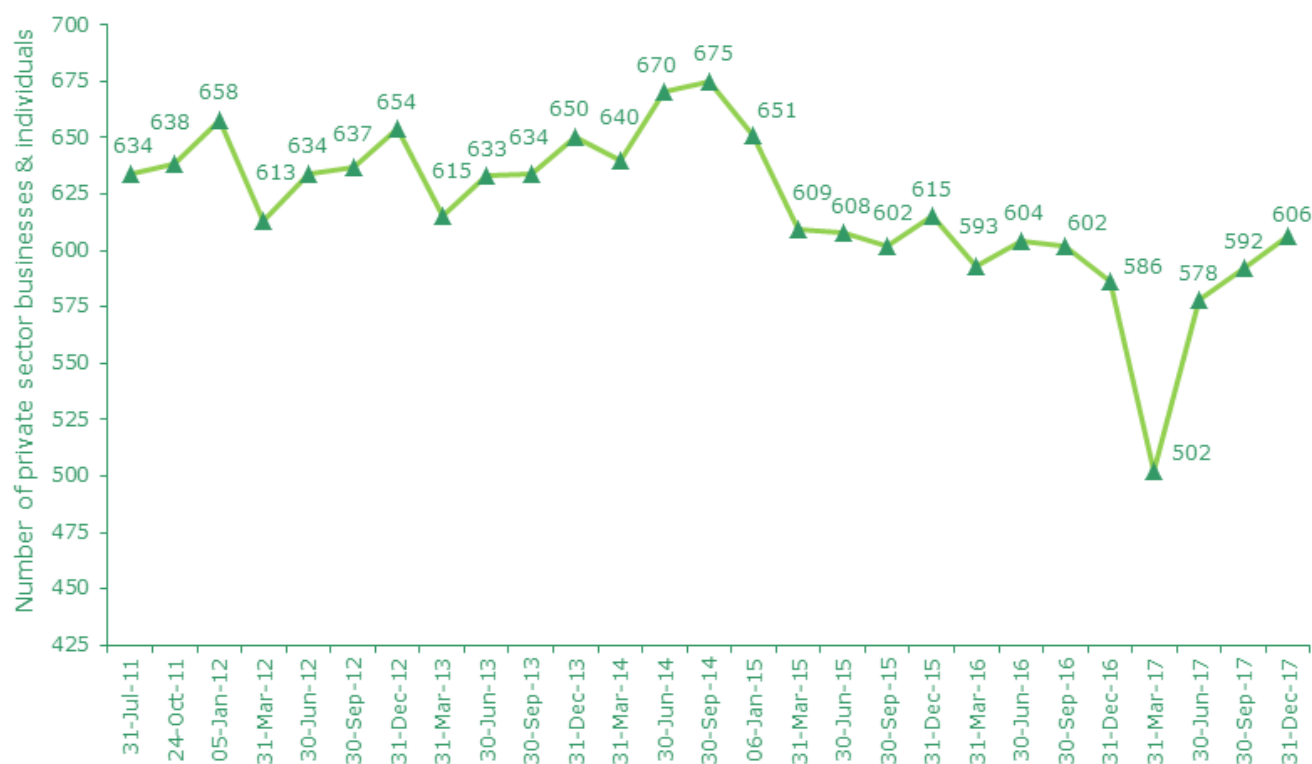
Forecast for the 2017-18 financial year, as at 30 September 2017: **£92.42 per hectare**, against a target of £98.81 per hectare.

The target for 2017-18 is greater than previous years due to Forest Enterprise England's (FEE) planned project expenditure on the transfer of shared services from Edinburgh because of devolution. This expenditure is funded from FEE reserves.

Current and projected performance indicates FEE performance on this indicator should be better than target for the full 2017-18 financial year.

Economy

Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate (PFE)



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 31 December 2017: **606 private businesses and individuals.**

There has been continued sustainable growth of the overall indicator, led by an increase in the number of licences and permissions for business activities since September 2017.