

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
31 December 2018

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 31 December 2018 (First Release)

Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2018-19¹ sets out our key performance indicators against which we assess our contribution to the delivery of the Government's priorities for forestry and woodlands in England, and identify trends in the wider forestry sector in England. These indicators reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. This includes some of the contributions that Forest Enterprise England makes to people, nature and the economy through its management of the Public Forest Estate. What's more they indicate part of our contribution to the delivery of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan².

Our use of indicators reflects our commitment to evidence based working and to ensuring that there is a robust evidence base available to the forestry sector to underpin policy and operational decisions. We publish:

- Updates on these six headline indicators quarterly³. They are listed in Table 1.
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* annually with a mid-year interim update⁴. The latest report is the interim update to 30 September 2018.
- Reports on our full suite of around 50 indicators in our *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report* annually⁵. The latest report is for 2018.

Each of these six headline indicators are based on statistical and geographical analysis of Forestry Commission administrative data, the National Forest Inventory or data available from other parts of the Defra Group.

¹ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Corporate Plan 2018-19*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forestry-commission-corporate-plan-2018-to-2019>


² HM Government (2018) *A Green Future: Our Plan to Improve the Environment*, London: Defra, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

³ Available from the Forestry Commission pages at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission>

⁴ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Government supported new planting of trees in England: Interim update for the half year April to September 2018*. Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/government-supported-new-planting-of-trees-in-england-interim-update-for-the-half-year-april-to-september-2018>

⁵ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2018*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-commission-england-fce-corporate-plan-performance-indicators-2018>

Table 1: Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators

Aim	Headline Indicator	Page
Forest Services		
Protection	Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR).	4
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)	9
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	10
Expansion	 Area of woodland; and rate of new planting	11
Forest Enterprise England		
Organisational	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)	14
Economy	Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	15

Throughout this report we show the statistical sources drawn upon and signpost the underlying spatial data on our map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site⁶.

This is an Official Statistics report, and each of the headline performance indicators are Official Statistics, except the *area of woodland* indicator that is a National Statistic. drawn from *Forestry Statistics* (Forest Research).

Previous, current and future editions of Forestry Commission indicators reports are available from the Forestry Commission webpages on the GOV.UK³ web site.

The year-end outturns of these headline indicators, and the systems in place by which these reports have been produced, have been assured annually by the Government Internal Audit Agency.

Responsible Statistician: David Cross

david.f.cross@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Evidence and Analysis
 Strategic Development, Forest Services

Bristol, 19th February 2018

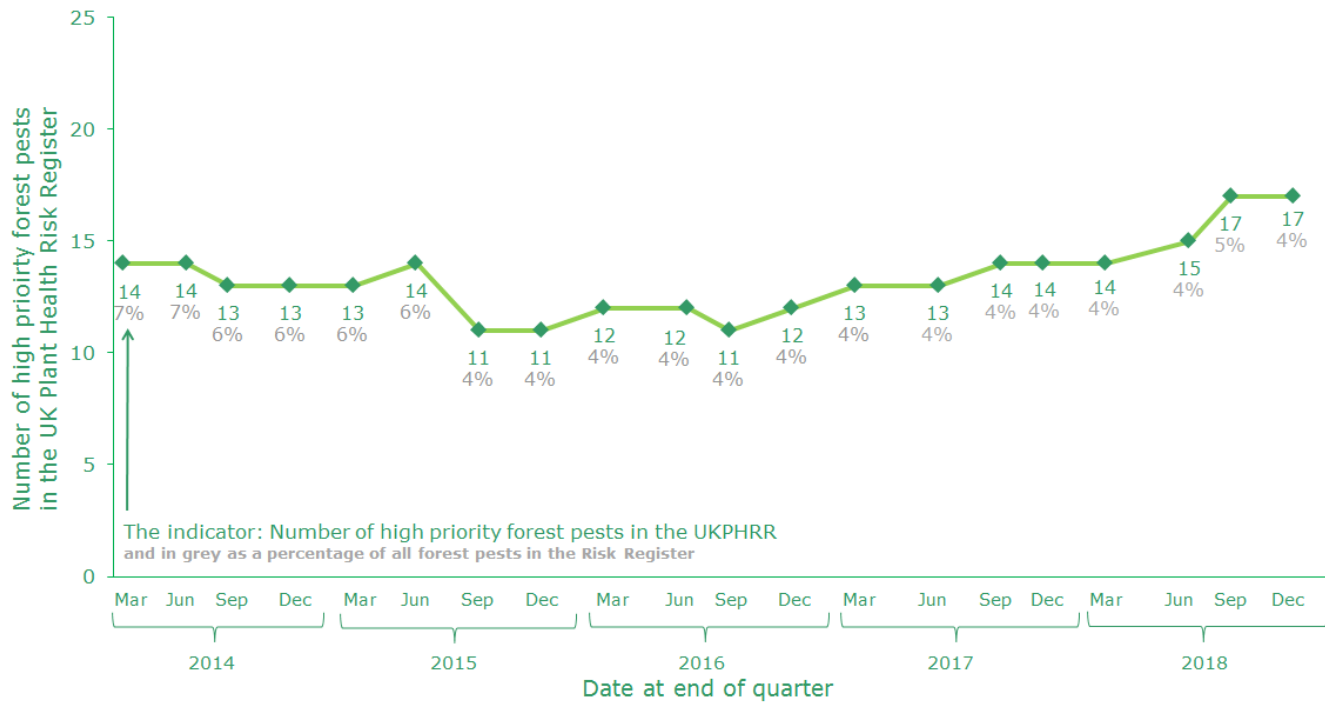
Contact: kerry.ward@forestrycommission.gov.uk

⁶ Forestry Commission geospatial Open Data is available from <http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Forest Services

Protection

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



Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#)⁷ data.

Report at end December 2018: There are 348 forest pests on the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#), **17 (5%) of which are consider high priority**. This is the same number as at the end of September 2018.

Pests are ranked as high priority if they have a mitigated relative risk rating of 15 or more (see Table 2 and Note A). These high priority pests require actions, in addition to current mitigation measures, to help prevent them having a potentially substantial negative impact on England’s woodland.

Of the 17 pests and diseases listed, nine are currently present in England, with only two being classed as widespread; namely *Phytophthora alni* which affects all alder species in Great Britain and *Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*, that causes horse chestnut bleeding canker.

⁷ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

Phytophthora ramorum and *Chalara* dieback of ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) remain significant risks. Both continue to spread and have significant landscape scale impacts. However, recommended biosecurity good practices⁸, and in the case of *P. ramorum* felling of the trees producing spores that distribute the disease, do help slow the spread and impact of the pathogen⁹.

A breeding population of the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) was confirmed in Kent in December 2018. Although previous interceptions have been made, this is the first wider environment finding of this pest in the UK. While this pest does not meet the definition as 'high priority' for this indicator, this is a quarantine (notifiable) pest considered to be a major risk to Norway spruce trees in particular. A robust control programme is underway, including the introduction of local movement restrictions on spruce with bark¹⁰.

Table 2: The 17 high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end December 2018

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>Melampsorium hiratsukanum</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	<i>Pseudomonas syringae pv. 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

⁸ For guidance on preventing the introduction and spread of tree pests and diseases see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases>

⁹ Pathogen: an organism that causes disease.

¹⁰ There is more information on the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eight-toothed-european-spruce-bark-beetle-ips-typographus>

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Red-necked longhorn beetle	<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora disease of alder	<i>Phytophthora alni</i>	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Thousand cankers disease	<i>Geosmithia morbida</i>	Fungus	Absent	4	4	16
Walnut twig beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Insect	Present: unknown distribution	5	3	15
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
Cypress jewel beetle or juniper buprestid	<i>Lamprodila festiva</i>	Insect	Absent	5	3	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of December 2018 is 58 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 17.

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](#)¹¹ (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.

Possible Relative Risk Ratings:

Impact	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				

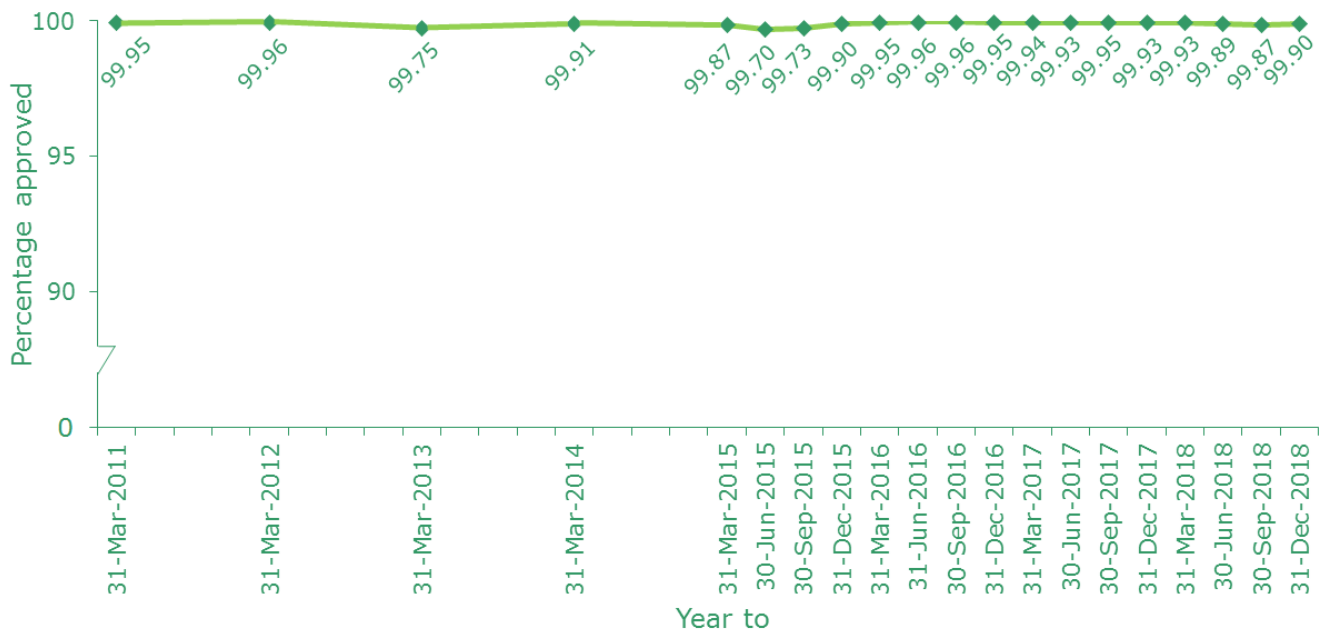
¹¹ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

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, 27th December 2017, 31st March 2018, 2nd July 2018, 30th September 2018, and 31st December 2018.

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

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)



Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

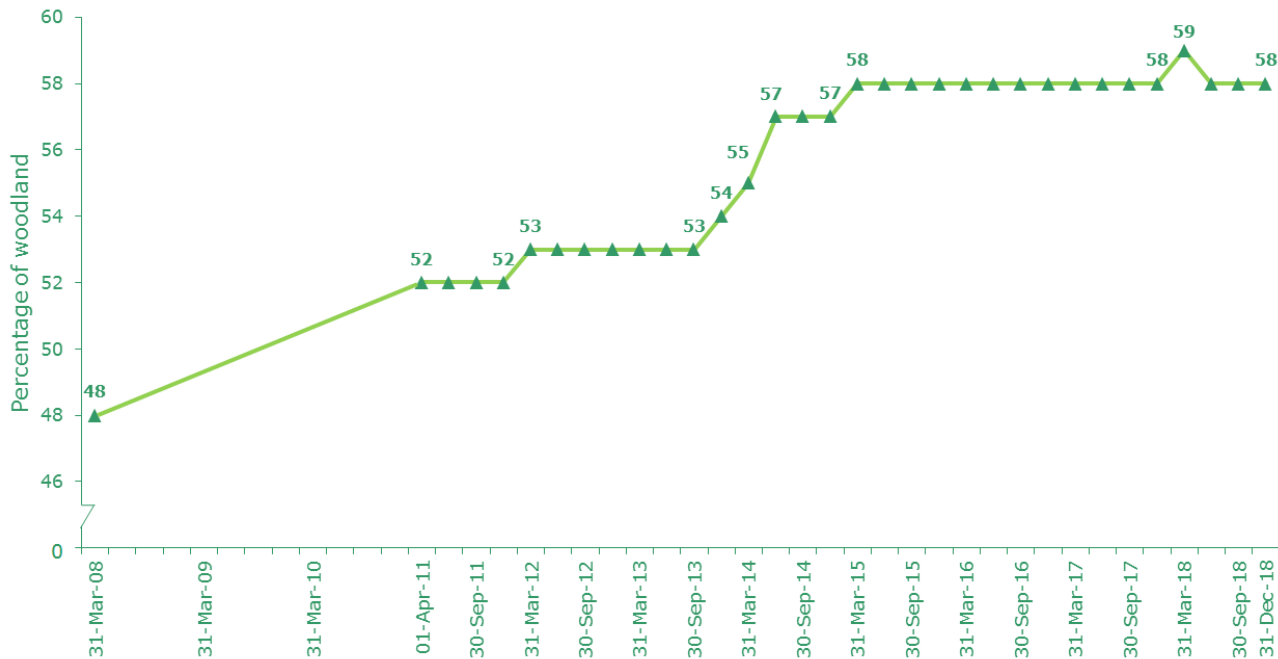
Report for year to 30 December 2018: **99.90% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

The overall figure of legal felling remains at a consistently very high level.

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)



Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the [National Forest Inventory](#).

Position at 31 December 2018 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 763,000 hectares of woodland in management (at this date, when rounded).**

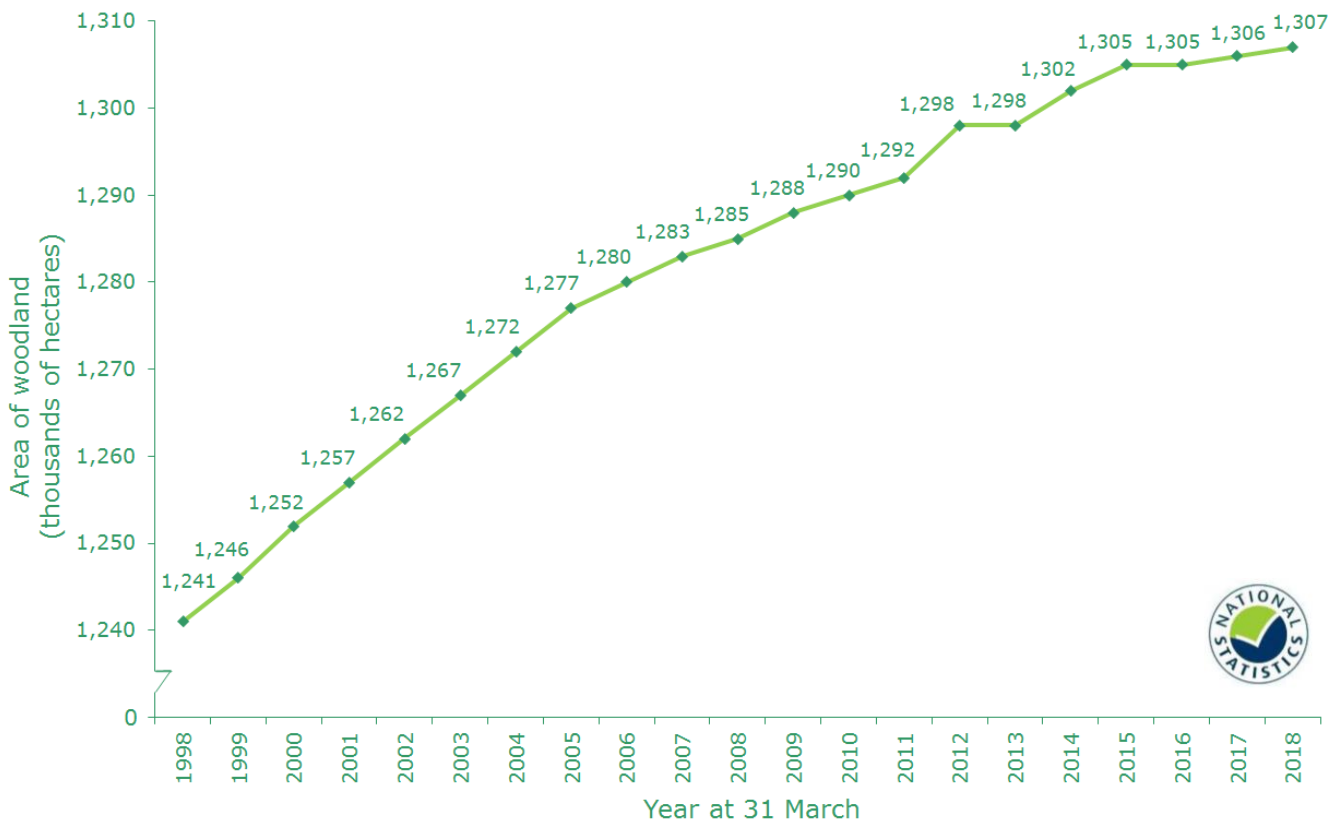
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed has remained at 58%. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to meet demand for UK grown timber, to help manage tree pests and diseases and to improve woodland resilience.

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

Expansion

Area of woodland, and rate of new planting

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



Note: This indicator is a [National Statistic](#). Source: [Forestry Statistics 2018](#) (Forest Research) based mainly on the [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

Confirmed figure at 31 March 2018: **1,307 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.

This indicator includes all woodland in England and is reported on an annual basis. This report is the most up-to-date information available and reflects the timing of updates of these National Statistics. The next report, giving provisional figures for the position at 31 March 2019 is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2019](#) (provisional figures) in June 2019.

Over the last 10 years the area of woodland has increased by an average of 2.2 thousand ha per year. Over the 20 year period from 1998 to 2018 the area of woodland has increased from 9.5% to 10.0% of the land area of England.

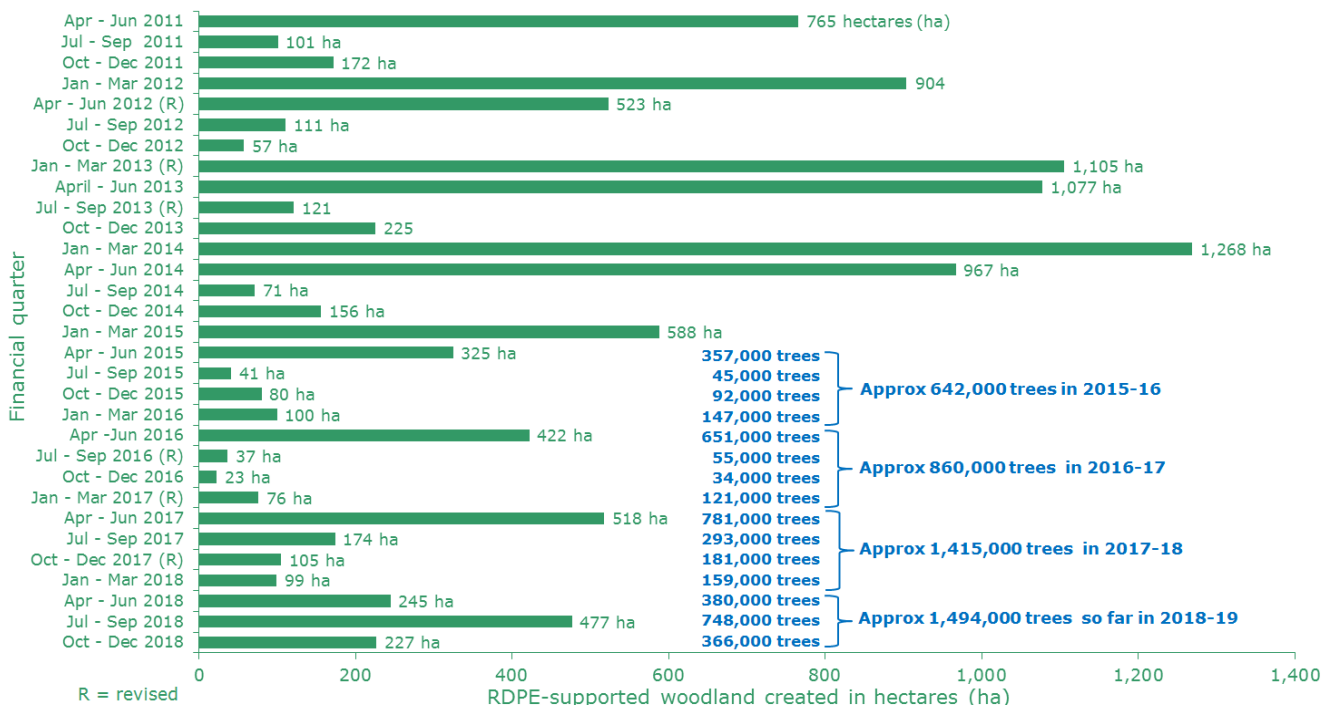
B. Hectares of woodland created (gross) specifically with the grant support of the Rural Development Programme for England, and the approximate number of trees that represents – **quarterly** updated

The latest figures in this section show new planting of woodland in England supported by the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Woodland Creation Grant incentives. This is based on the area (in hectares) of grant claims sent for payment 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, including trees planted with other forms of government support, are reported separately in [Government supported new planting of trees in England](#). The latest report available is the [interim update](#) for the half year from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018. Publication of the next update, for new planting in the full 2018-19 year is planned for June 2019.

The most recent National Statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England in 2017-18 and previous years, also including that without direct government support, were published in [Forestry Statistics 2018](#). Publication of the next update, for new planting in the 2018-19 year is scheduled for publication in [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2019](#) (provisional figures) in June 2019.

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

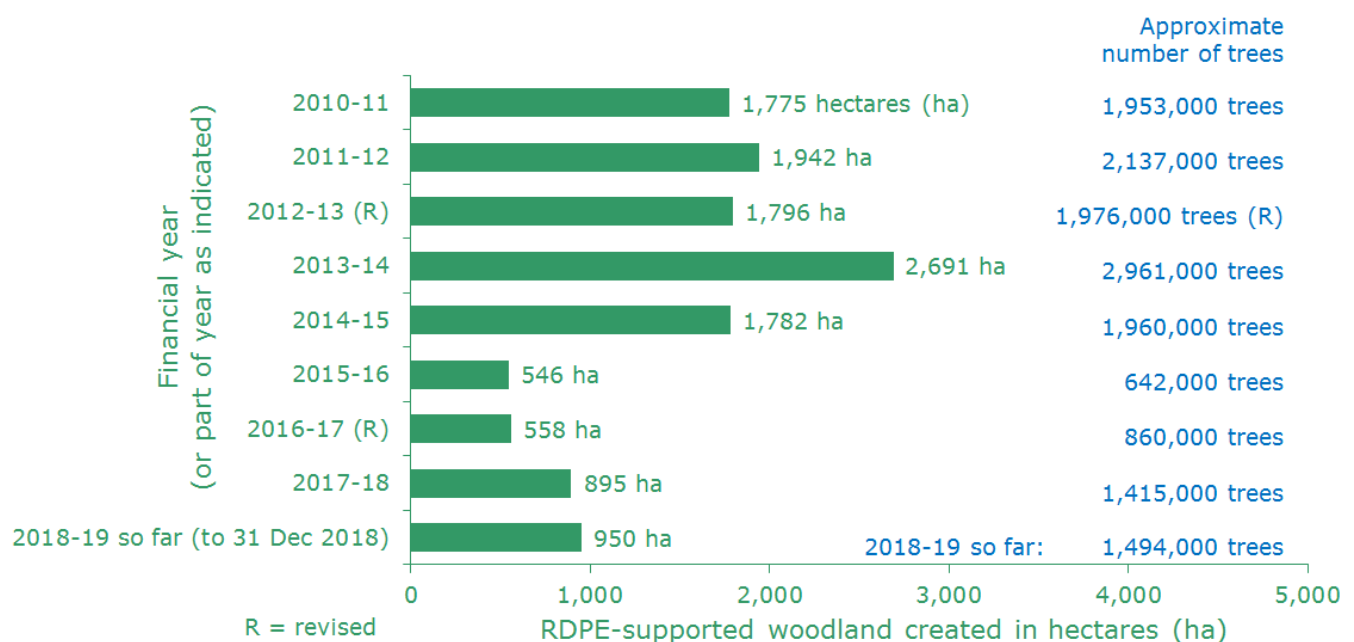


Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support October to December 2018 inclusive: **227 hectares, equating to approximately 366,000 trees in this quarter.**

The cumulative total for the year to-date is almost 20% greater than in the same period in 2017-18, and around double that of each of the previous two years. This number reflects both tree planting in the winter of 2017-18 for which payments have been made from April 2018, and tree planting during the winter of 2018-19 for which payments are starting to be made.

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



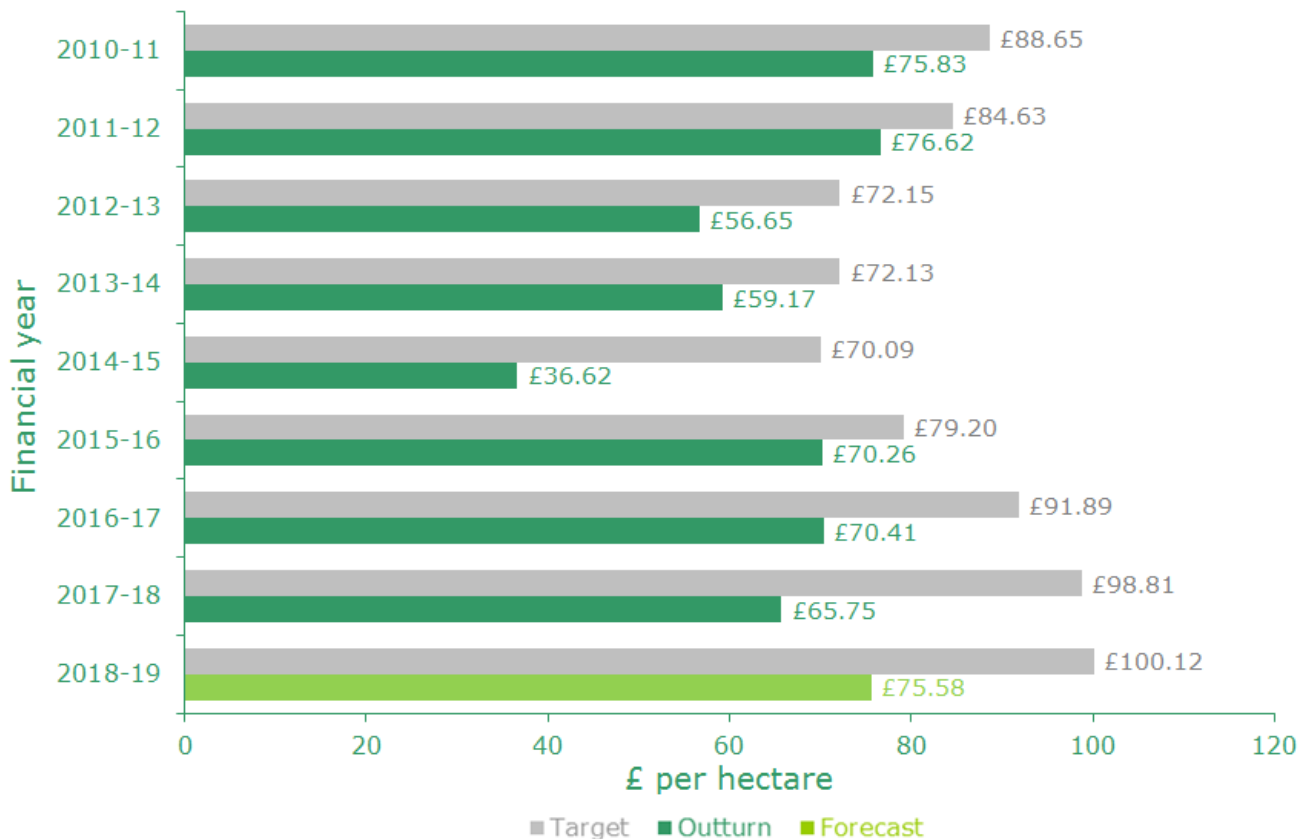
Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

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)



Note: This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). 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 2018 is as follows.

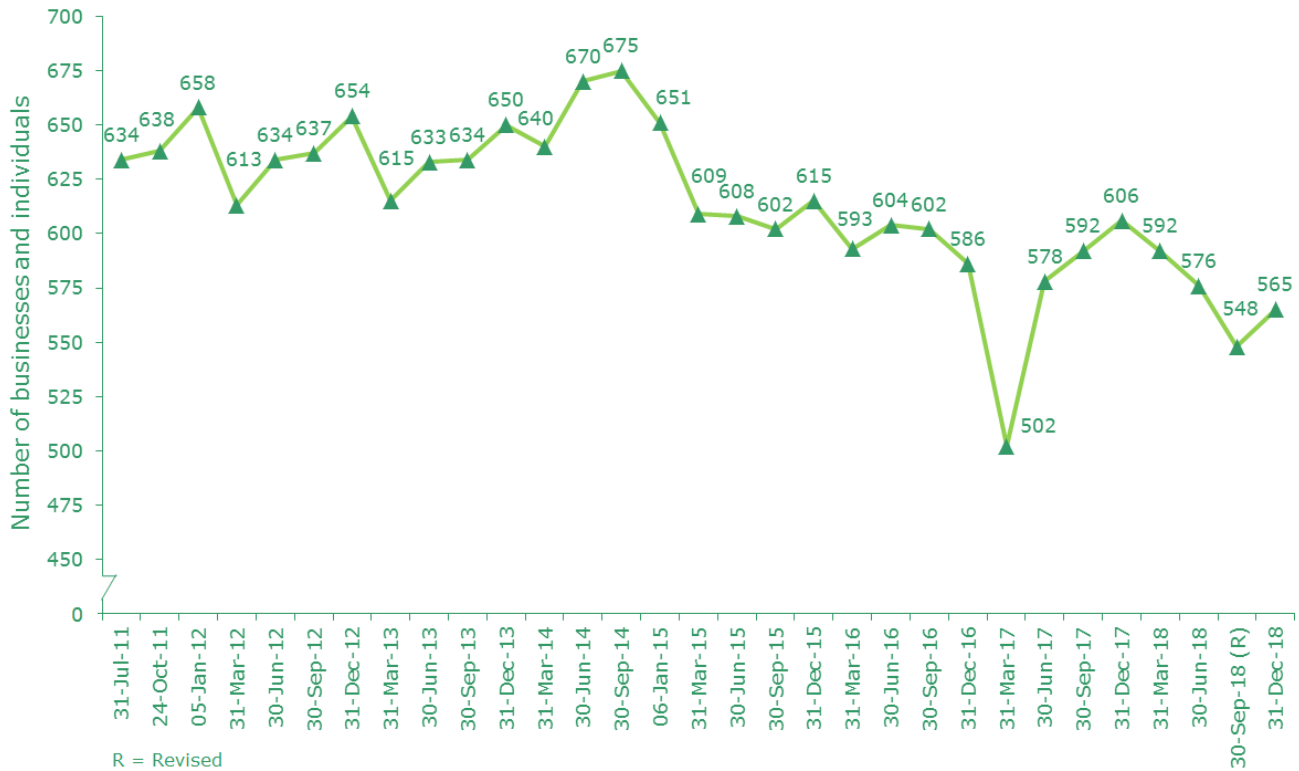
Forecast for the 2018-19 financial year, as at 30 September 2018 is: **£75.58 per hectare**, against a target of £100.12 per hectare.

The target for 2018-19 is greater than the previous year due to Forest Enterprise England's (FEE) planned project expenditure on the transfer to FEE of shared services from Edinburgh in line with completing the devolution of forestry for April 2019. It also reflects the carry-over of programmes from 2017-18 that were necessarily put back due to bad weather. 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 financial year. FEE has seen stronger than expected growth in income for the year, which has caused the improvement against target.

Economy

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



Erratum: We have revised the indicator figure for 30 September 2018, to correct an inadvertent computational error we identified and rectified in a regular quality review.

This indicator is an [Official Statistic](#). Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 31 December 2018: **565 businesses and individuals.**

There has been a net increase of 17 businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate in the most recent quarter. This is mainly a result of new or renewed seasonal sporting agreements as well as café and bike hire franchise agreements.

Information shows there are many businesses that remain keen to operate from, as well as expand their offering on, the Public Forest Estate.