Forestry Commission

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2019

Forestry Commission

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2019 (First Release)

Introduction

The Forestry Commission publishes a range of 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 reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. They display some of the contributions Forestry England makes to people, nature and the economy through the nation's forests. As such they show part of how we are contributing to delivery of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan[1].

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 policies and operational decisions. We publish:

- Updates on the six headline indicators quarterly[2].
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* twice a year, and presented separately[2].
- Reports on our full suite of about 60 indicators in this *Indicators Report* annually.

This *Indicators Report 2019* provides the eighth annual monitoring report on indicators we first named in our Corporate Plan 2011-15 and have developed and reported since.

- Part 1 provides the six headline key performance indicators, from page 11.
- Part 2 contains the other Forest Services indicators, from page 27.
- Part 3 has the other Forestry England indicators, from page 61.

Most of the indicators are based on statistical and geographical analysis of Forestry Commission administrative data, the National Forest Inventory, surveys conducted for us by the Forest Research Statistics team, and data available from other parts of Defra Group. Throughout the report we show the statistical sources drawn upon and signpost to undergirding geospatial data on our map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Reports in this statistical series are available from the Forestry Commission Corporate Plan Performance Indicators web pages on GOV.UK.

The outturns of the indicators have been assured by the Government Internal Audit Agency (see Annex 1). We also acknowledge with thanks the wide range of contributions made by the Forestry Commission senior managers, indicator managers and data managers, and the statistical and geospatial analysts who made this report possible.

Responsible Statistician: David Cross
david.f.cross@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Evidence and Analysis
Strategic Development, Forest Services
Bristol, 13th June 2019
Contact: kerry.ward@forestrycommission.gov.uk

[1] 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

[2] Available from the Forestry Commission Indicators webpage: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forestry-commission-corporate-plan-performance-indicators

Short term trends in the indicators

Method of assessment

A proper review of this *Indicators Report 2019* is best made by reading each report in full, ideally alongside other contextual information on that aspect of the forestry sector. To provide a summary, however, we also provide a simple assessment of short term trends in each indicator using a set of 'traffic lights'. The traffic lights show change in the indicator over time. They do not show whether the indicator has reached any actual or implied targets nor whether the current status is 'good' or 'bad'.

This assessment is a simple one made only by comparing the difference between the value of the indicator in the most recent single year for which data is available with the data for the single year 5 years earlier. They do not account for unusual year(s) nor reflect fluctuations during intervening years. The assessment made is against a simple standard 'rule of thumb' threshold of 3% per 5-year period; see Table 1.

Table 1: Traffic light categories and what they represent

Traffic light	Short term trend	Threshold
✓	Improving	>3% positive change over 5 years
≈	Little or no overall change	Less than 3% change over 5 years
x	Deteriorating	>3% negative change over 5 years
•••	Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data	Not applicable

Note: In many cases 'little or no overall change' is actually reported where strong performances have been maintained.

For some indicators we don't have a time series covering at least 5 years. In these cases it is not possible to produce meaningful trend assessments. These assessments need to be treated with special caution and this is shown by the use of grey text for the assessment at the end of the relevant indicator report. In these cases the assessment covers the longest period available: 1, 2, 3 or 4 years. If change exceeds at least 1% per annum the direction of change is given simply as an acknowledgement of very recent trends and as a possible early indication of a more substantive direction of change that may be found at a later date.

The approach is simplistic but broadly consistent in principle with the more sophisticated approach used for the England Natural Environment Indicators (Defra, 2017, 2018).

Where the above approach is not feasible, trends have been assessed by a sensible comparison with our measure of 'what success looks like' for that indicator.

Readers are recommended not to place much weight on the simple trend assessments alone, and rather to consider the entire report for each indicator presented elsewhere in this document.

Table 2: Short term trends in the indicators

Indicator	Short term Trend[1]	Pg
Part 1. Headline Performance Indicators		**11**
FOREST SERVICES		
PROTECT		
Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)	✗	12
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)	≈	17
IMPROVE		
Percentage of woodland in active management (including in the nation's forests)	✓	18
EXPAND		
Area of woodland and rate of new planting of trees	≈	20
FORESTRY ENGLAND		
ECONOMY		
Number of businesses operating in the nation's forests	✗	24
ORGANISATIONAL		
Cost of managing the nation's forests (per hectare)	✗	25

✓ = Improving ≈ = Little or no overall change ✗ = Deteriorating
··· = Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Note 1: See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.

Indicator		Short term trend[1]	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			**27**
PROTECT			
Pests and diseases			
Number of additional tree pests and diseases becoming established in England within a rolling 10-year period		✗	28
Other protection indicators			
Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape		≈	32
IMPROVE			
Economic and environmental gain			
Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed		✗	33
Number apprentices, those with work based diplomas, and university students entering forestry	Apprentices and those with work based diplomas	✓	34
	University students	✗	34
Annual increment in England's forests		•••	35
Area of felling licences issued		✓	36
Gross Value Added from domestic forestry		✓	38
Percentage of the annual growth of trees in English woodlands that is a harvested		≈	39
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than from the nation's forests		✓	40
Places for wildlife to prosper			
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in woodland other than in the nation's forests	PAWS in woodland other than in the Nation's forests	✗	41
	Open habitat in woodland other than in the Nation's forests	✗	41

Note 1: See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.

Indicator		Short term trend[1]	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			**27**
Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data		≈	42
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than in the nation's forests	Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	≈	44
	Favourable condition	✓	44
Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory		···	46
People's health and enjoyment of woodland			
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than that in the nation's forests		≈ (Note 2)	47
Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)		✓	48
Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland		X	49
EXPAND			
Government supported new planting of trees in England(Note 3)		✓ (Note 2)	50
Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal		X (Note 2)	51
Contribution to carbon abatement			
Carbon captured by English woodlands		≈	54
Projected carbon capture in 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects		✓	55

✓ = Improving ≈ = Little or no overall change X = Deteriorating
··· = Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Note 1: See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.
Note 2: The short term trend assessment of this indicator covers less than 5 years; treat with more caution.
Note 3. Published separately at: Forestry Commission (2019) *Government supported new planting of trees in England: Report for 2018-19*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, 9 pages.

Indicator	Short term trend[1]	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)		**27**
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND BUSINESS METRICS		
Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	✗	56
Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied	✗ (Note 2)	57
Number of employees (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) in Forest Services and the Forestry Commission Director's Office	•••	58
Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services	✓ (Note 2)	59
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services	✗ (Note 2)	60

✓ = Improving ≈ = Little or no overall change ✗ = Deteriorating

••• = Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Note 1: See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.

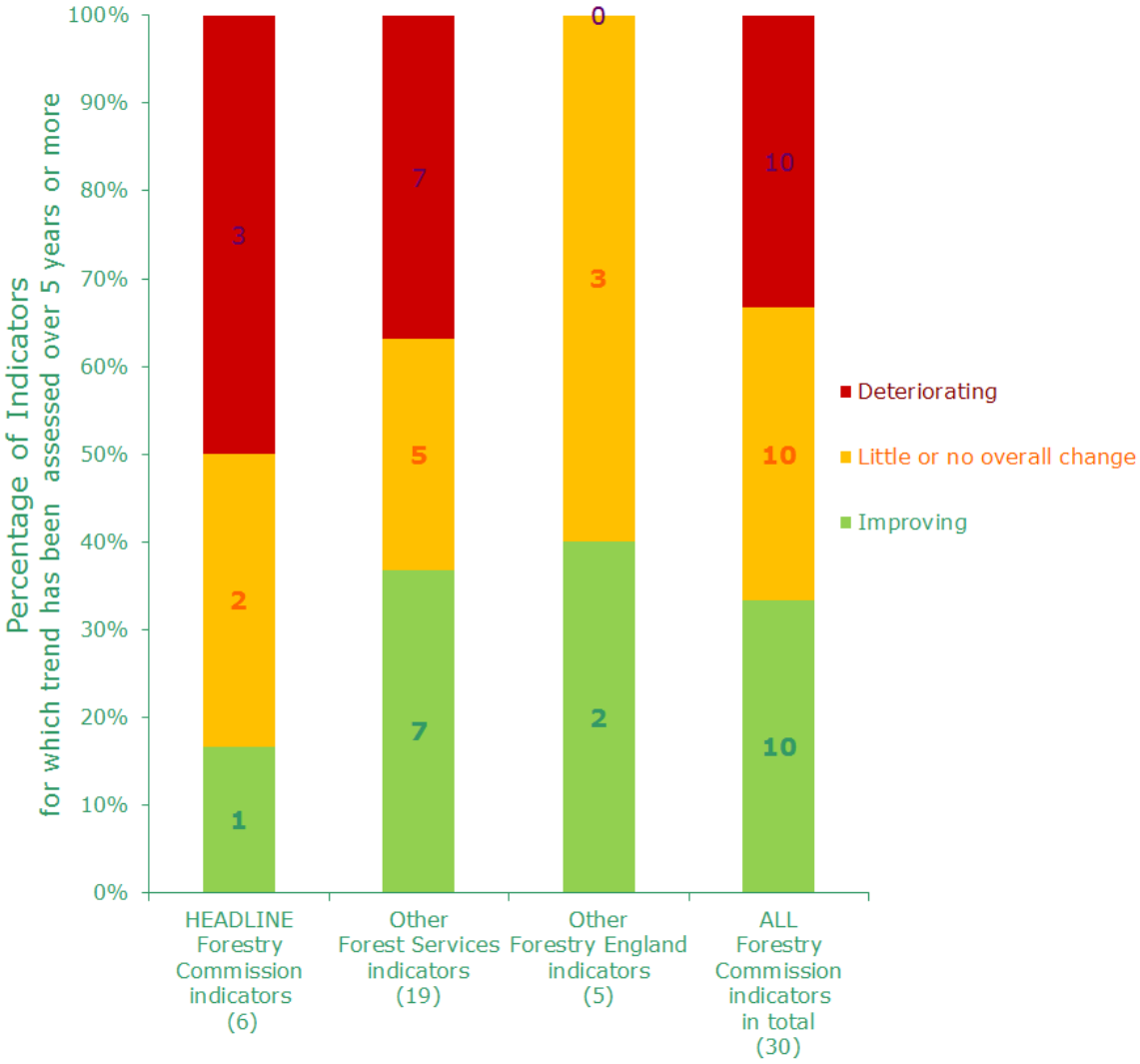
Note 2: The short term trend assessment of this indicator covers less than 5 years; treat with more caution.

Indicator		Short term trend[1]	Pg
Part 3. Forestry England Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			**61**
PEOPLE			
People's health and enjoyment of woodland			
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland in the nation's forests		≈ (Note 2)	62
Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities in the nation's forests		✓	64
Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the nation's forests		✓ (Note 2)	65
Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification for the nation's forests		≈	66
NATURE			
Places for wildlife to prosper			
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in the nation's forests	PAWS on the Public Forest Estate	≈ (Note 2)	67
	Open habitat on the Public Forest Estate	≈ (Note 2)	67
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition in the nation's forests	Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	≈	68
	Favourable condition	✓	68
ECONOMY			
Economic and environmental gain			
Percentage of woodland in active management (Forestry England contribution)		≈ (Note 2)	70
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the nation's forests		≈ (Note 2)	71
ORGANISATIONAL			
Customer service and business metrics			
Number of employees (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) in Forestry England		···	72
Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forestry England		✓ (Note 2)	73
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forestry England		x (Note 2)	74

Note 1: See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.

Note 2: The short term trend assessment of this indicator covers less than 5 years; treat with more caution.

Summary of assessment of short term trends (of five years or more) in Forestry Commission Corporate Plan Performance Indicators at 31 March 2019



This graph includes only those 30 Forestry Commission England indicators (out of 48 indicators in total) which trend has been assessed over a period of 5 years or more, and for which this simple assessment is more useful. See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators. Readers are recommended not to place much weight on the simple trend assessments alone, and rather to **consider the entire report for each indicator** presented elsewhere in this document.

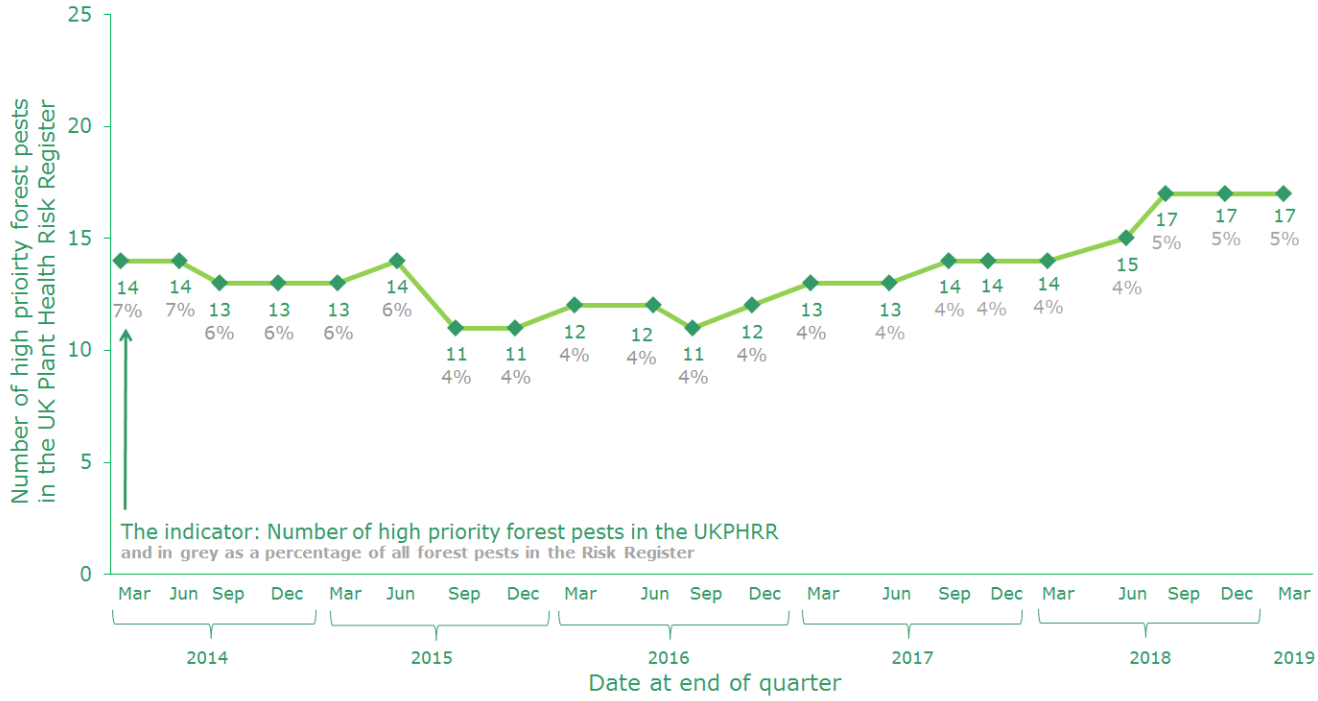
Forestry Commission

Part 1 Headline Performance Indicators

Part 1. Headline Performance Indicators

Forest Services

Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR).



Source: UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)[3] data.

Report at end March 2019: There are now 350 forest pests on the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR), **17 (5%) of which are considered high priority.**

Pests are ranked as high priority if they have a mitigated relative risk rating of 15 or more (see Table 2 and Note A below). 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.

Phytophthora ramorum and *Chalara* dieback of ash *(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)* continue to have a landscape scale impact. Work continues in an effort to eradicate the newly found population of the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) in

[3] https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/

Kent. While this particular 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[4].

Table 3: 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 March 2019

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	*Melampsoridium hiratsukanum*	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	*Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Shoot blight on cedar/Tip blight on eastern hemlocks	*Sirococcus tsugae*	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
n/a	*Agrilus fleischeri*	Insect	Absent	4	5	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	*Phytophthora ramorum*	Oomycete	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	*Aromia bungii*	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora disease of alder	*Phytophthora alni*	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Thousand cankers disease	*Geosmithia morbida*	Fungus	Absent	4	4	16

[4] 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
Walnut twig beetle	*Pityophthorus juglandis*	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	*Aproceros leucopoda*	Insect	Present: unknown distribution	5	3	15
Emerald ash borer	*Agrilus planipennis*	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	*n/a*	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15
Two spotted oak buprestid	*Agrilus biguttatus*	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	*Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum*	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle	*Polygraphus proximus*	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Cypress jewel beetle or juniper buprestid	*Lamprodila festiva*	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 March 2019 is 58 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 17.

Erratum:

We have revised the figure for the percentage of forest pests in the Risk Register that were high priority at 31 December 2018 from 4% to 5%, to correct for an inadvertent administrative error we identified and rectified in a regular quality review.

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[5] (page 6).

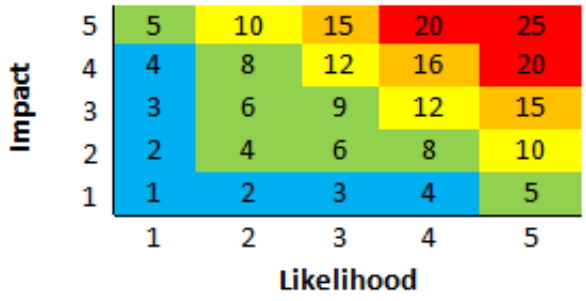
C) **'Impact'** is an indication of the relative consequence of the pest for the host plant or sector, should the risk materialise. It does not take account of the size or value of the host or sector. Where the pest is already present, the impact is that caused by further spread, against a baseline of 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:



[5] 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, 31st December 2018, and 31st March 2019.

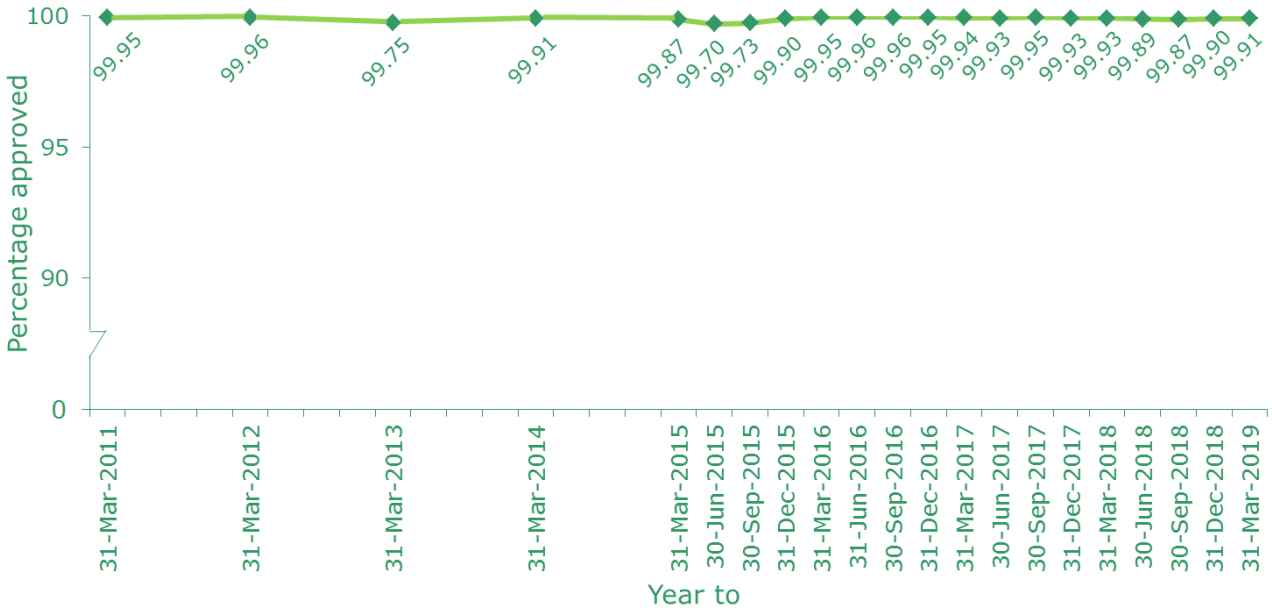
Source: UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)[6] data.

Open Data: Source spreadsheet data is available from the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR).

Assessment of change in *Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR).*	
Five year trend, Mar-19 compared to Mar-14	Deteriorating

[6] https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/

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).



Report for year to 31 March 2019: **99.91% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

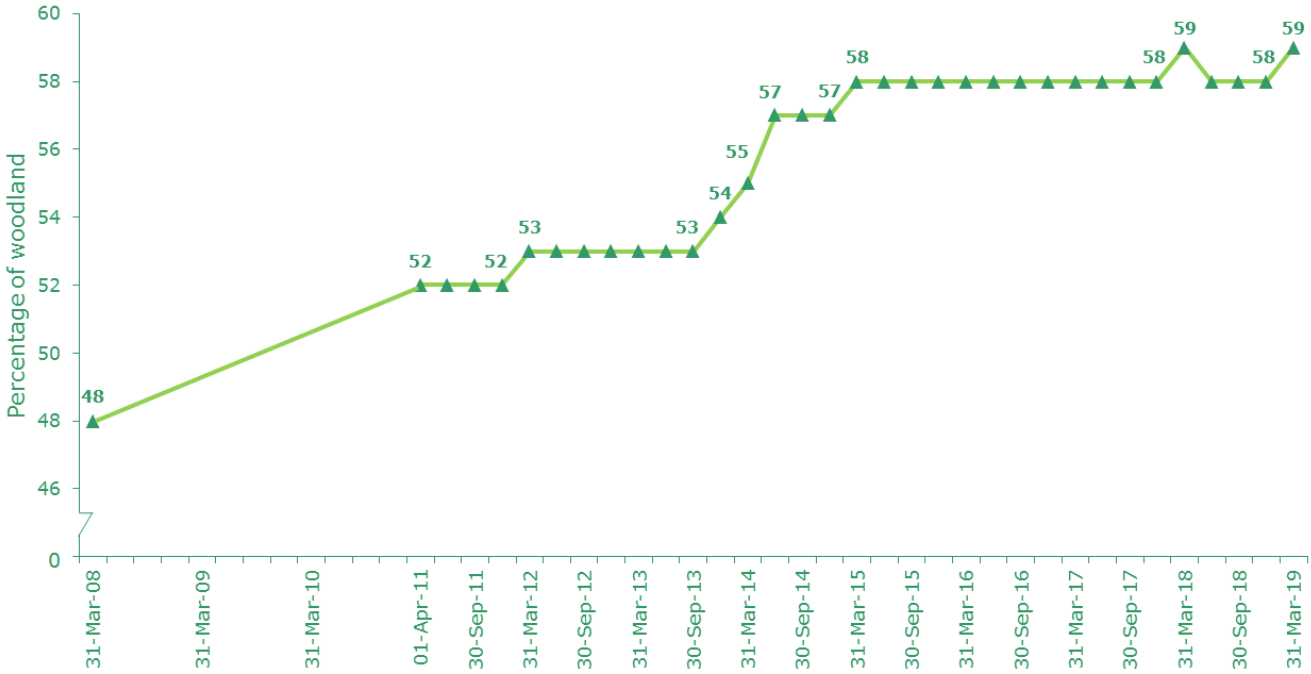
The overall figure of legal felling remains at a consistently very high level.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Little or no overall change ≈

Percentage of woodland in active management (including the nation's forests)



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory

Position at 31 March 2019 is that 59 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 766,000 hectares of woodland in management (at this date, when rounded).

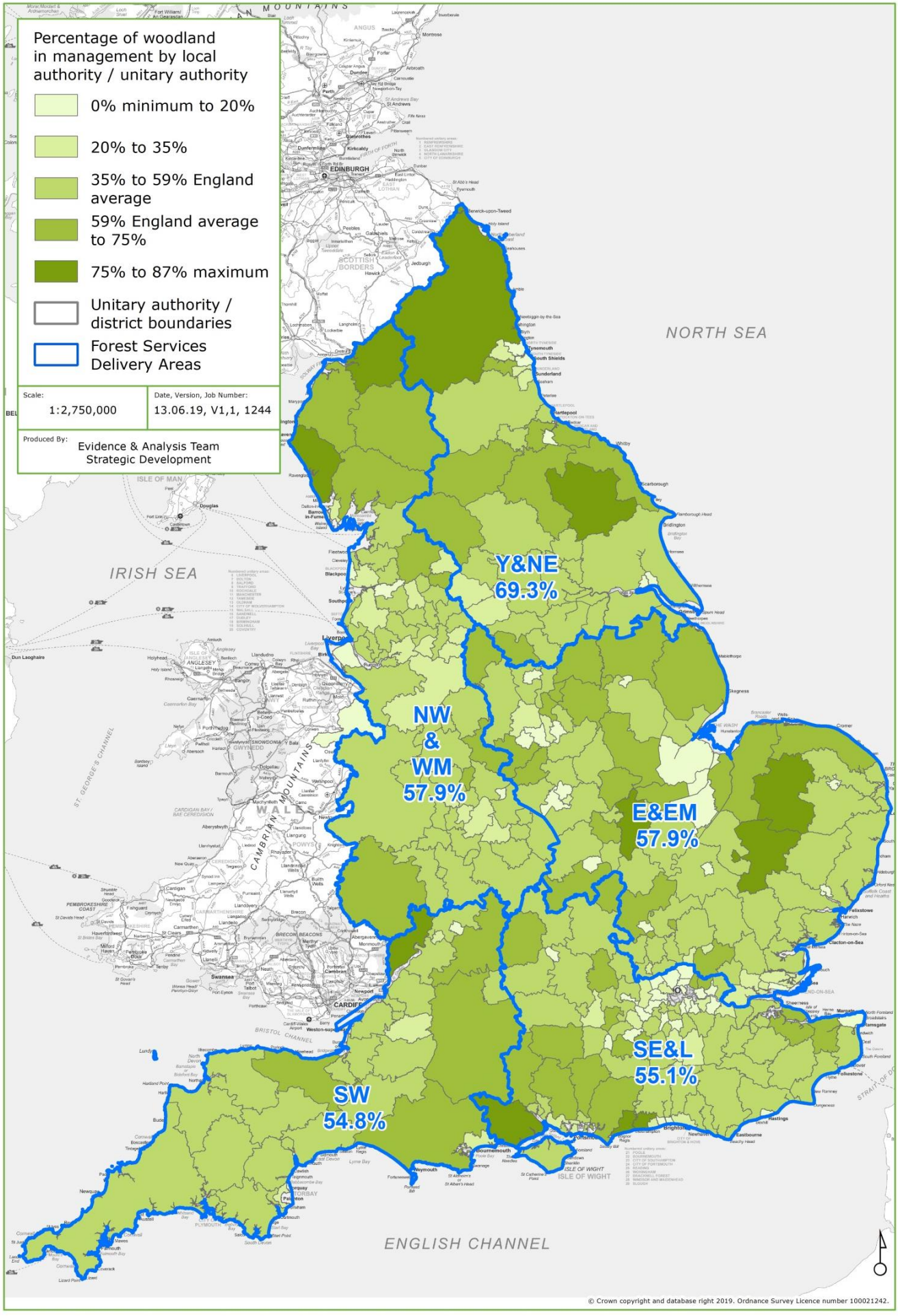
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed has increased slightly to 59%. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to meet demand for UK grown timber, to help manage tree pests and diseases and to improve woodland resilience.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory.

Open Data: Locations of 'managed woodland' in England are available from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

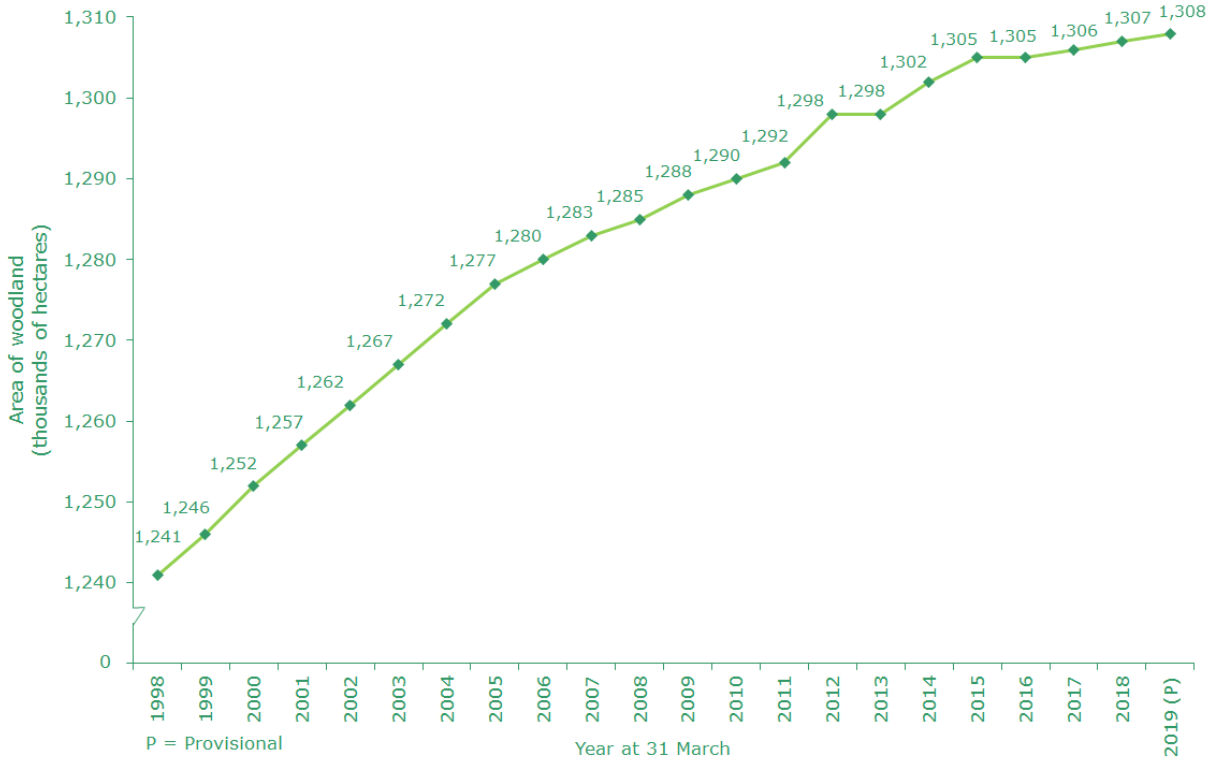
Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland in active management (including the nation's forests)*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Improving ✓

Map 1
Percentage of woodland in management
31 March 2019



Area of Woodland

A. Area of Woodland in England Headline Indicator: Annually Updated



Provisional figure at 31 March 2019: 1,308 thousand hectares (ha) of woodland in England that equates to 10.0% of the land area of England. This is an increase of 1 thousand ha over the position a year before. 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 provisional figure is the most up-to-date information available. Confirmation or revision of the 2019 figure is scheduled to be published in Forestry Statistics 2019 (Forest Research) on 26th September 2019.

Over the last 10 years the area of woodland has increased by an average of 2.0 thousand ha per year. Over the 20 year period from 1999 to 2019 the area of woodland has increased from 9.6% to 10.0% of the land area of England.

Note: Figures for this indicator are rounded to the nearest 1,000 hectares.

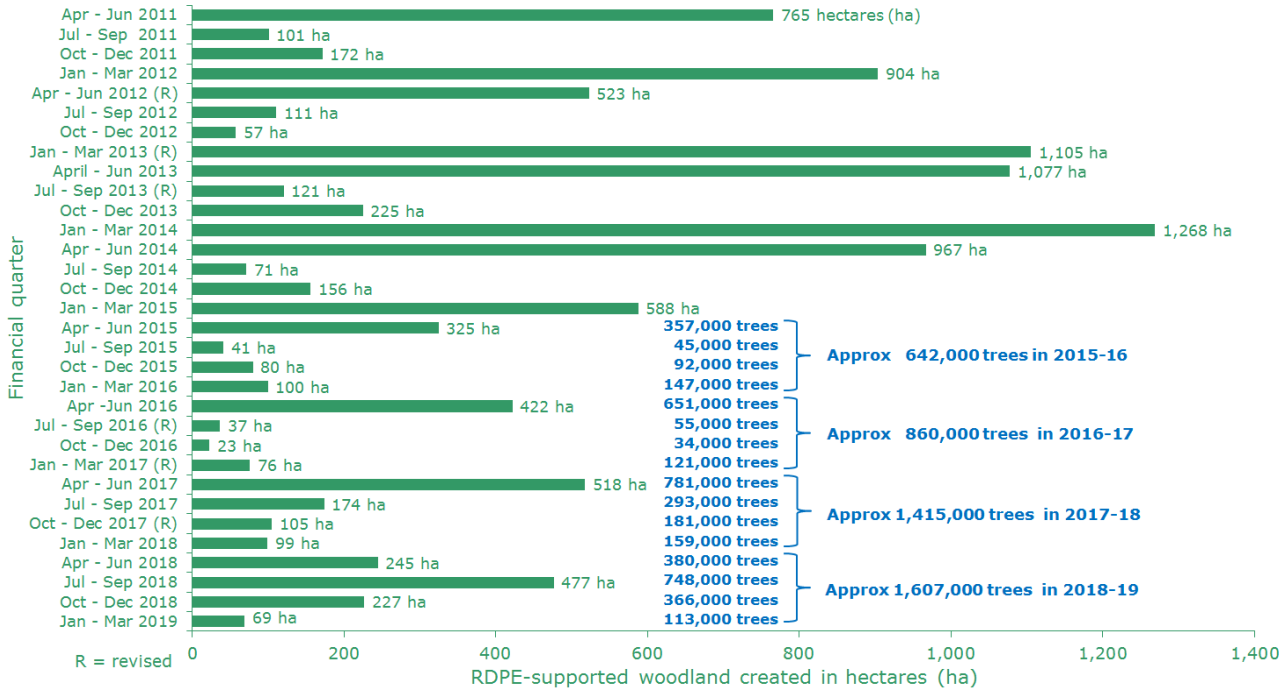
Source: Provisional Woodland Statistics 2019 (Forest Research) based mainly on the National Forest Inventory woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Area of woodland*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Little or no overall change ≈

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 statistics in this section report on new planting of woodland in England supported by the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Woodland Creation Grant incentives, that are a part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). They are based on the area (in hectares) of grant claims sent for payment to woodland owners in each quarter.

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



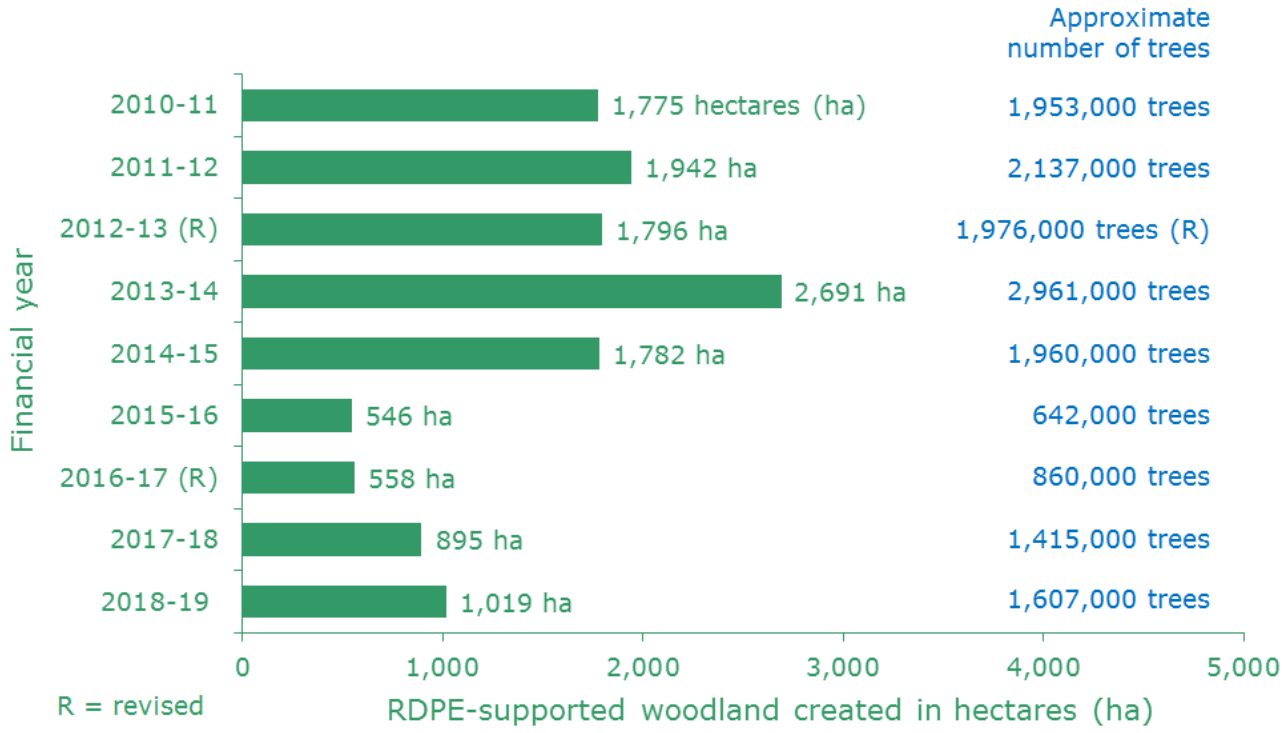
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum to annual totals due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support January to March 2019 inclusive:
69 hectares, equating to approximately 113,000 trees in this quarter.

Although the area of woodland created with RDPE grant support in this final quarter of 2018-19 is less than that reported for the same period last year, the cumulative total for the 2018-19 year (as shown in the bar chart below) is 1,019 hectares, which is 10% more than last year, and nearly double that of each of the previous two financial years.

This headline indicator reports quarterly counts of the number of trees newly planted with grant support from the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant for which claims for payment, have been both a) submitted by or on behalf of the woodland owner, and b) sent for payment. Since most new planting of trees takes place in the winter to promote their successful establishment, a seasonal trend has been observed in the statistics in recent years, with more payments made and counted a few months after the winter planting season (as can be seen in the bar chart above). We expect greater levels of new planting in the reports for the April to June, and July to September quarters.

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



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 geospatial data from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

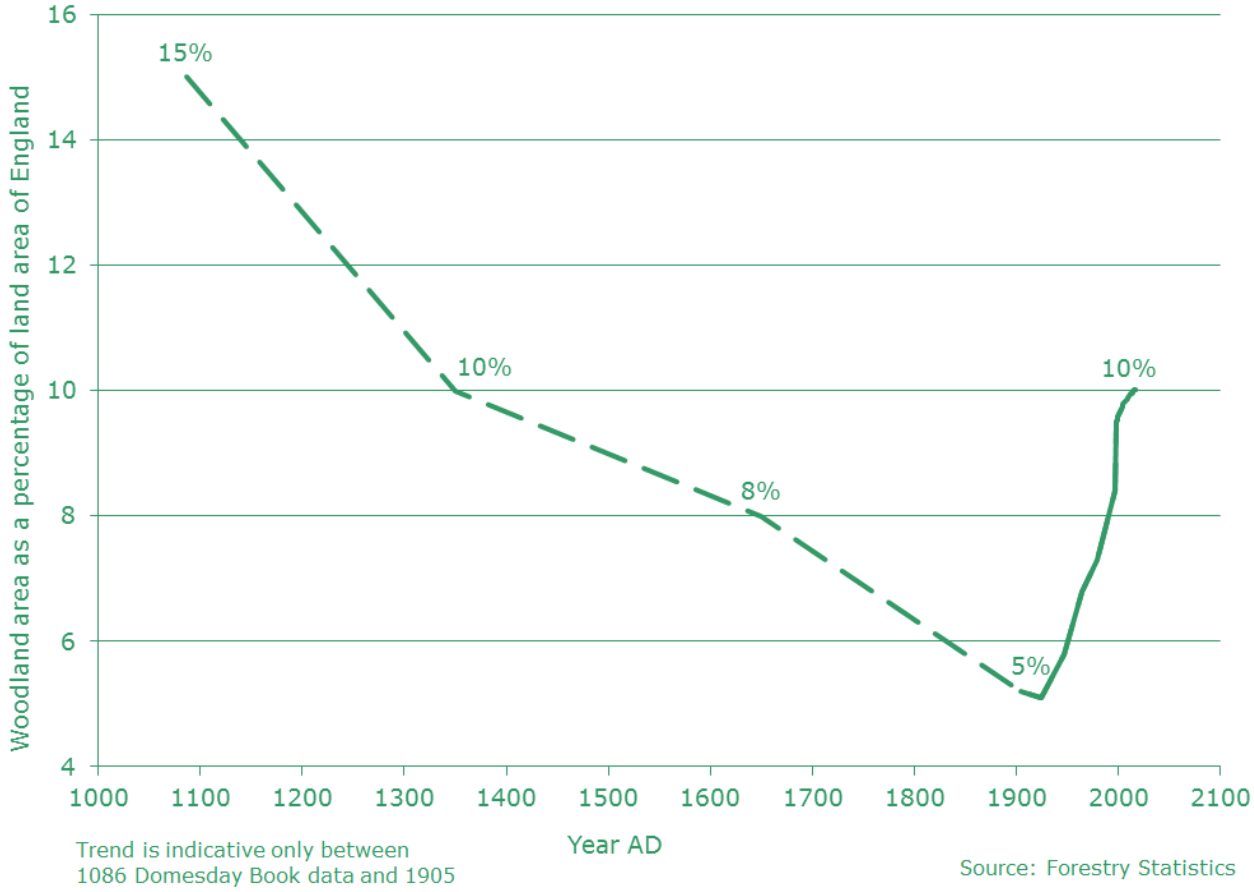
C. Government supported new planting of trees in England

Statistics on the new planting of trees towards the Government's manifesto commitment to plant 11 million trees in the 2017-22 parliament, that include trees newly planted with RDPE support - as shown in sections B i) and B ii) above) - plus the nine other forms of central government support counted, are reported separately in the Forestry Commission's *Government supported new planting of trees in England* statistical series. The latest report available is the *Government supported new planting of trees in England: Report for 2018-19* published on 13th June 2019. Publication of the next update, an interim one, for new planting in the first half of the 2019-20 year (where data is available at the mid-year point) is planned for publication in November 2019.

D. Total for **all** new planting of trees in England

The most recent statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England in 2018-19, also including that without direct government support, were published in Provisional Woodland Statistics 2019 (Forest Research) on 13th June 2019. These are due to be confirmed (or amended in) Forestry Statistics 2019 (Forest Research) on 26th September 2019.

E. Long term trend in woodland as a percentage of land area of England

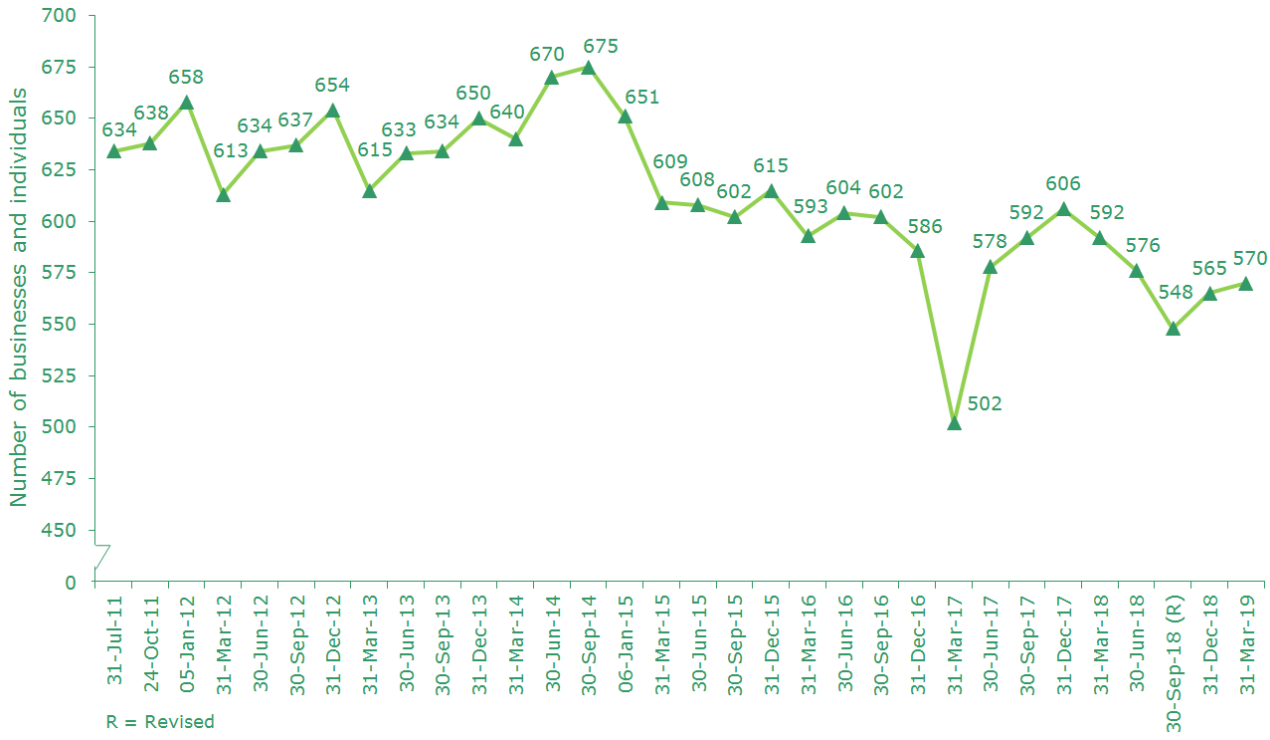


Note: The report for, *A. Area of Woodland in England Headline Indicator: Annually Updated* has been updated since first published in our *Forestry Commission Corporate Plan Performance Indicators: Headline Performance Indicators Update at 31 March 2019*, in April 2019.

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

Forestry England

Number of businesses operating in the nation's forests



Source: Forestry England administrative data.

Position at 31 March 2019: **570 businesses and individuals**.

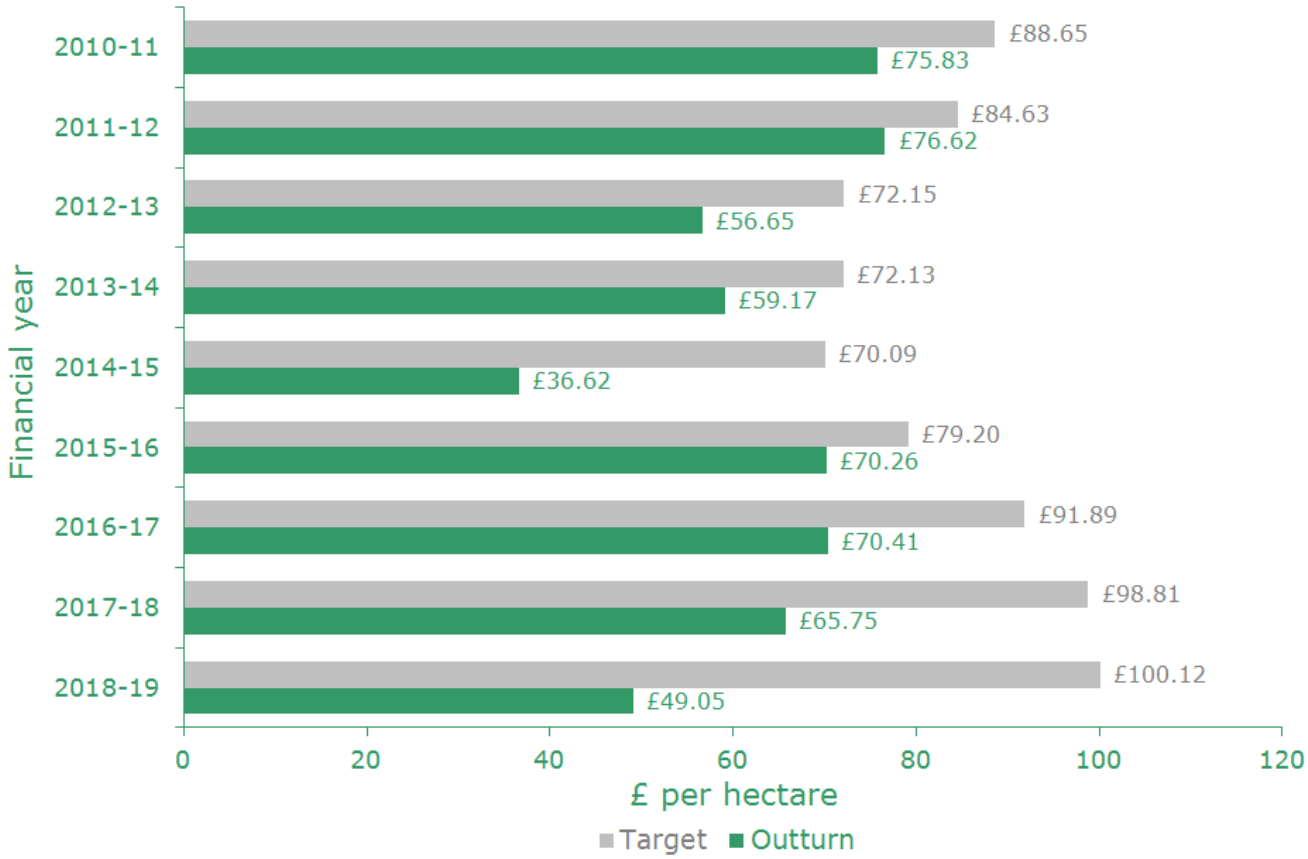
There has been a net increase of five businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate in the most recent quarter. This is mainly a result of new café and bike hire franchises and mineral extraction agreements.

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

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of businesses operating in the nation's forests*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Deteriorating

Cost of managing the nation's forests (per hectare)



The outturn for 2018-19 financial year is **£49.05 per hectare**, subject to audit and finalisation, against a target of £100.12 per hectare.

The difference between the outturn and the target is £51.07 per hectare. This is due to income being higher than target which has the impact of reducing the net cost by £45.29 per hectare, and costs being lower which has reduced the net cost by £5.78 per hectare. The main driver for the income increase is the strong rise in timber prices over the last half of the year.

Note: This report has been updated since the first published in our *Forestry Commission Corporate Plan Performance Indicators: Headline Performance Indicators Update at 31 March 2019*, in April 2019.

Source: Forestry England accounts.

Assessment of change in *Cost of managing the nation's forests (per hectare)*	
Five year trend, 2018-19 compared to 2014-15	Deteriorating

Map 2
Distribution of all woodland, and woodland managed by Forestry England, April 2019

Forestry Commission

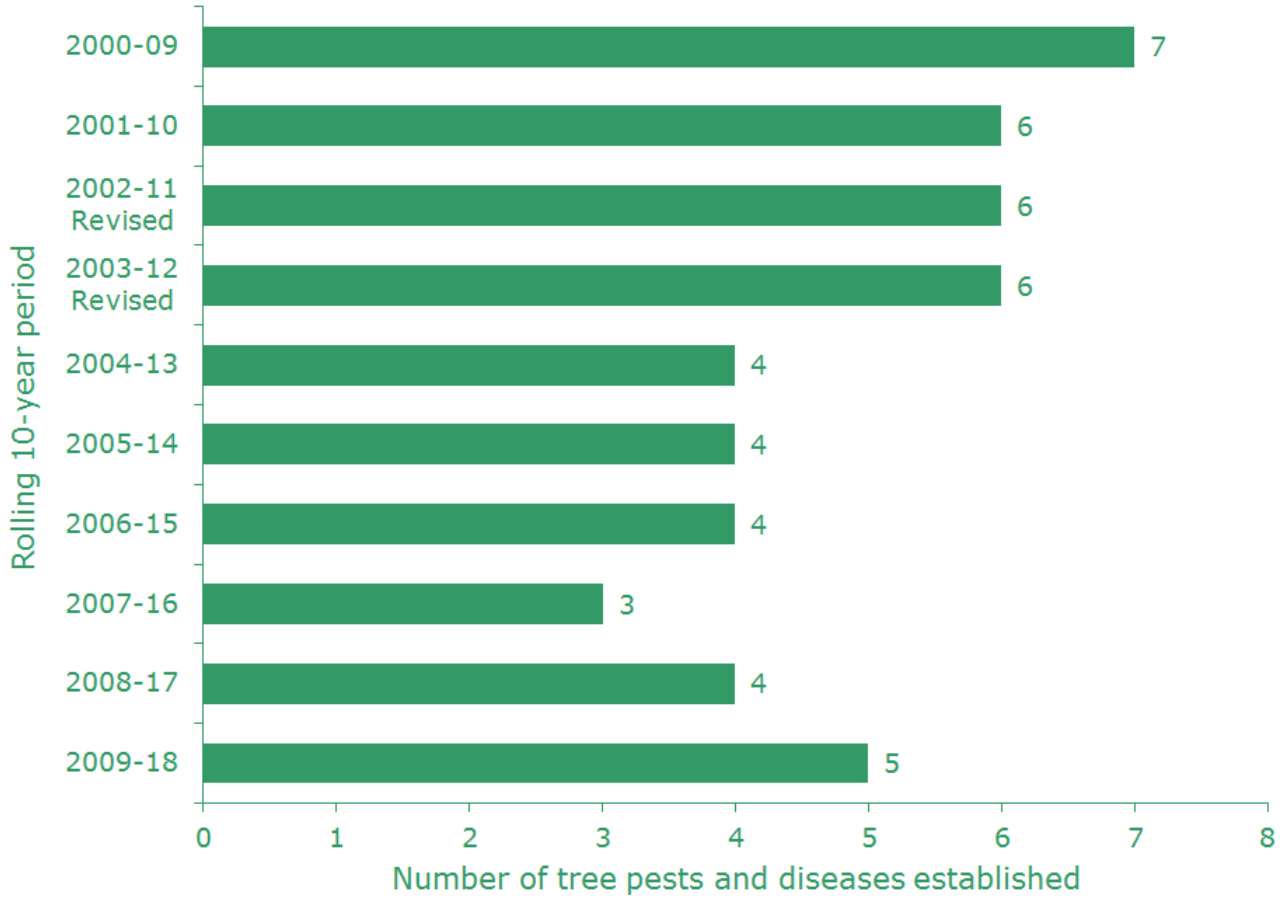
Part 2 Other Forest Services Indicators

Part 2. Other Forest Services Indicators

PROTECT

Pests and Diseases

Number of additional tree pests and diseases becoming established in England within a rolling 10-year period



Five tree pests and diseases became 'established' in England in 2009-2018, namely:

1. Alder rust (*Melampsoridium hiratsukanum*), considered established in 2009.
2. *Chalara* dieback of ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), considered established in 2012. The accompanying Map 3 shows confirmed infection sites at April 2019. Most parts of England are now experiencing the impacts of ash tree decline, although some regions have had widespread infection for longer periods. Impacts can vary on a local level depending on factors including age, location, soil type, genetic makeup, management practices and presence of additional pathogens.
3. Oriental chestnut gall wasp, considered established in 2016. There are now in excess of 50 known sites in the South East of England centred on and around London.

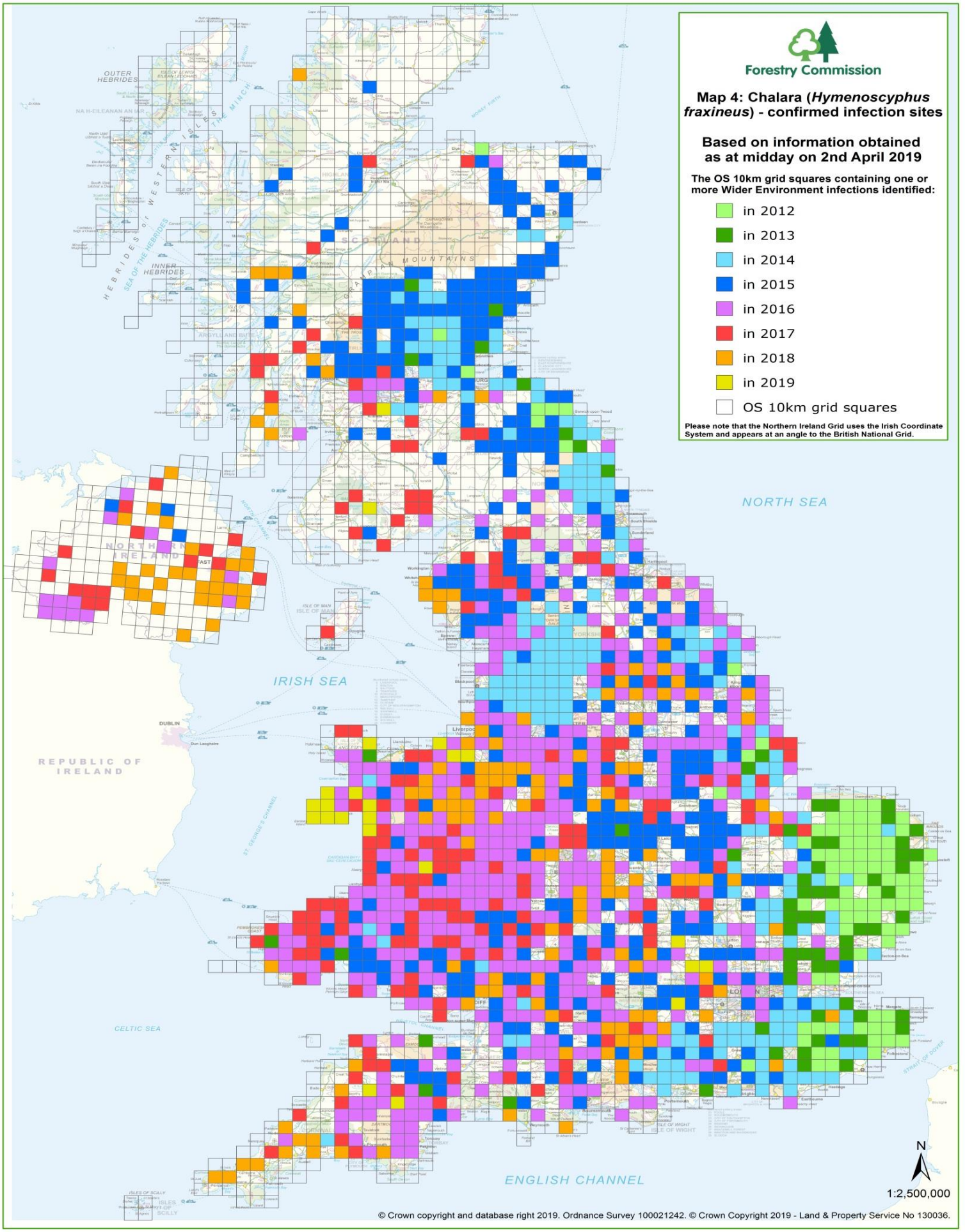
4. Sweet chestnut blight caused by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica,* and considered established in 2017. Areas affected include parts of each of: the National Forest, parts of the South West, South East London, Berkshire and Derbyshire.
5. The Elm zigzag sawfly, *Aproceros leucopoda,* considered established in 2018, following a rapid expansion across Europe from eastern Asia. How the sawfly made it to Britain is unknown. The full extent of its distribution in Great Britain is also not yet known, but it is evident in a wide area of South East England and the East Midlands, and expected to spread. Authorities have been quick to encourage reporting of possible findings.

Other pests and diseases are considered established in England. As an example, Map 4 shows the confirmed infection sites for *Phytophthora ramorum*, considered established in 2003.

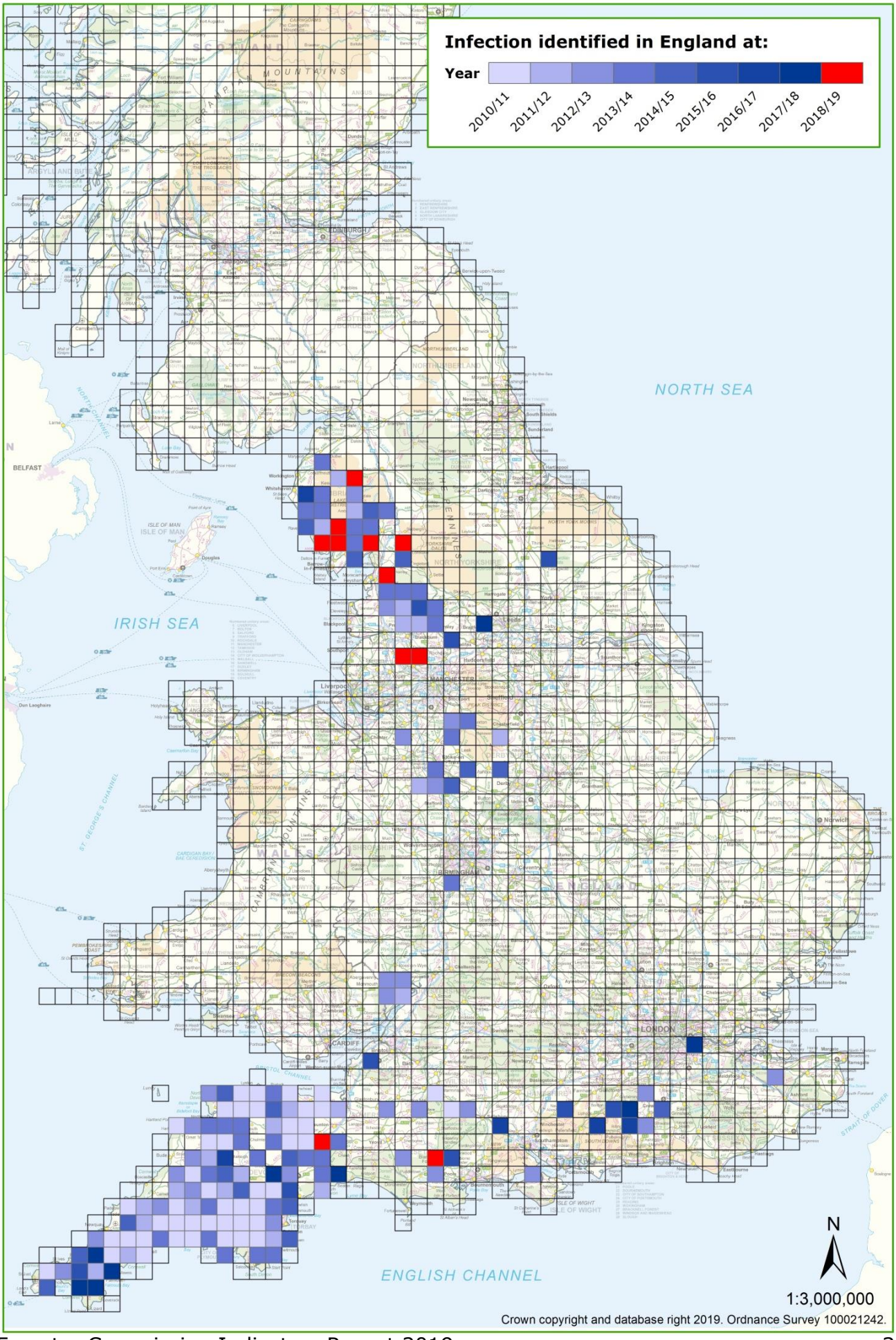
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years*	
Five year trend, 2009-2018 compared to 2004-2013	Deteriorating

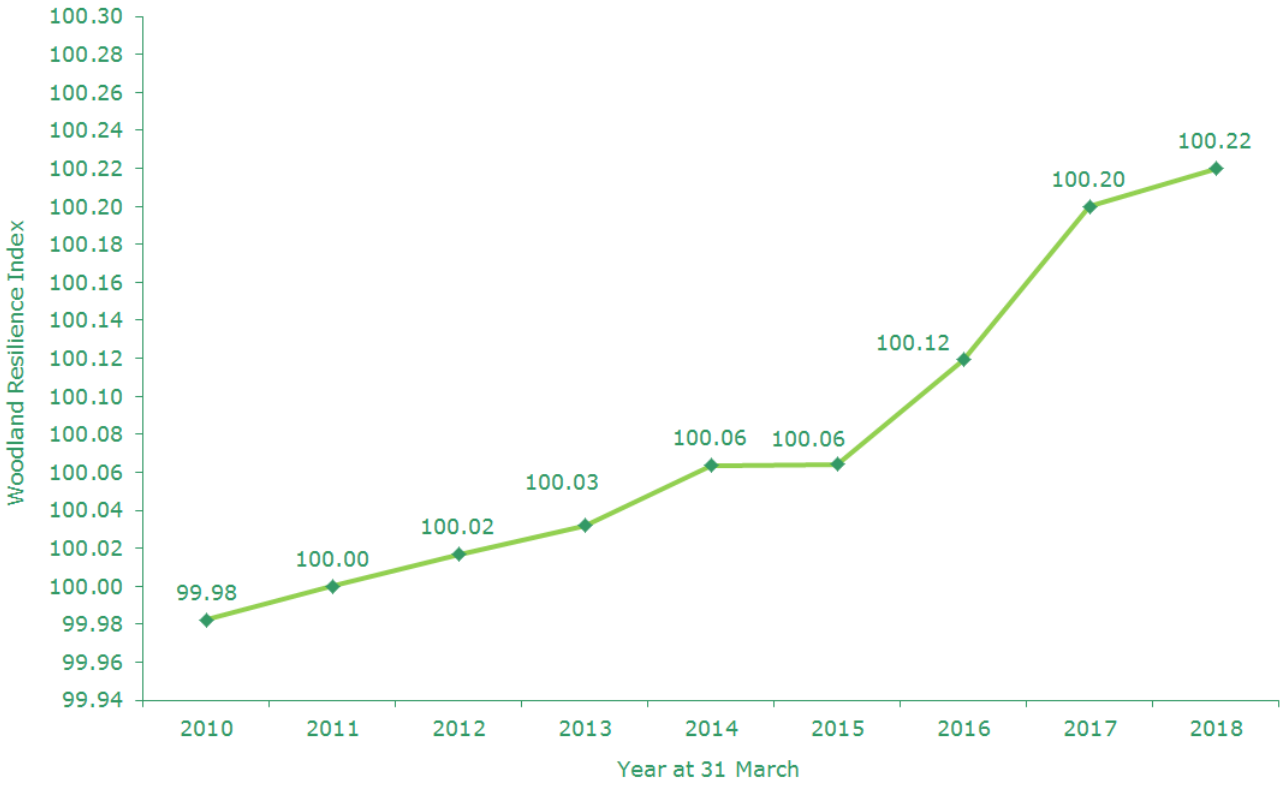
Map 3
Chalara dieback of ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) confirmed infection sites at 2 April 2019



Map 4
Phytophthora ramorum confirmed infection sites, March 2019



Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape



Maintaining and improving connectivity is important in promoting biodiversity in a fragmented landscape, especially under a changing climate. In this indicator, connectivity is a measure of the size and distribution of patches of forests and woodlands, relative to a value of 100 assigned to 2011.

This indicator shows an increase in connectivity for forests and woodlands in England between 2011 and 2018.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory woodland map, modelled by the Forest Research Urban Forest Research Group.

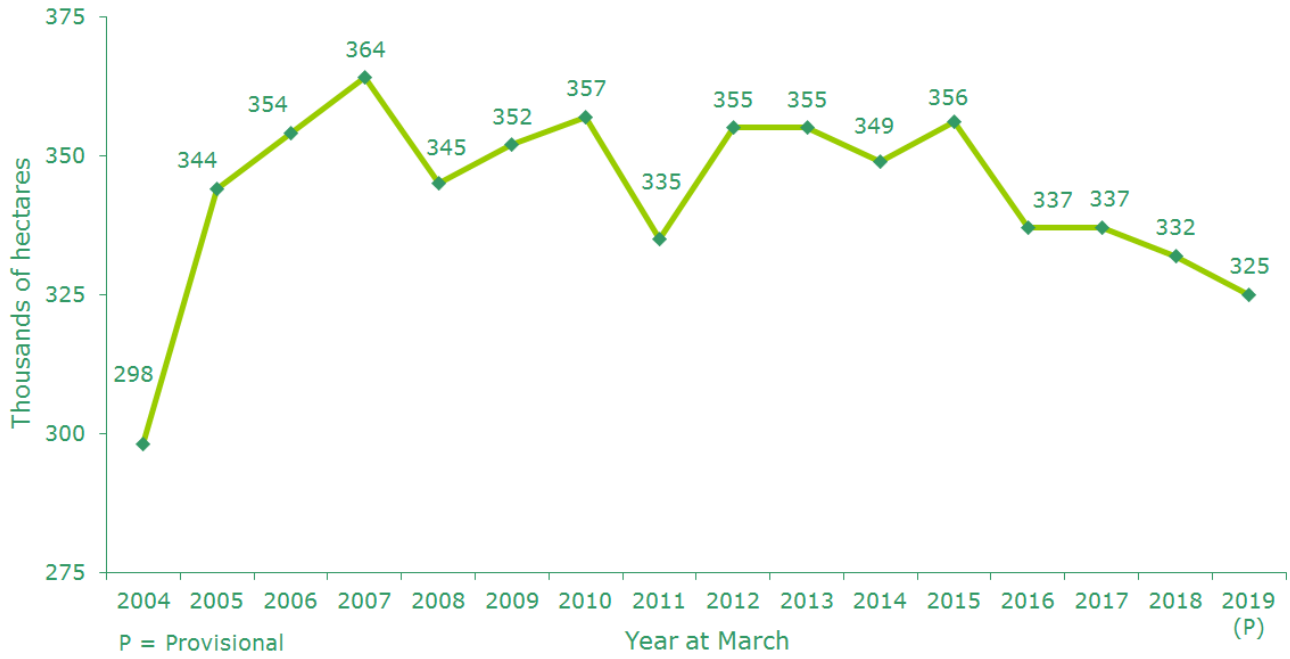
Open Data: The National Forest Inventory woodland map is available from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Assessment of change in *Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13	Little or no overall change ≈

IMPROVE

Economic and environmental gain

Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed



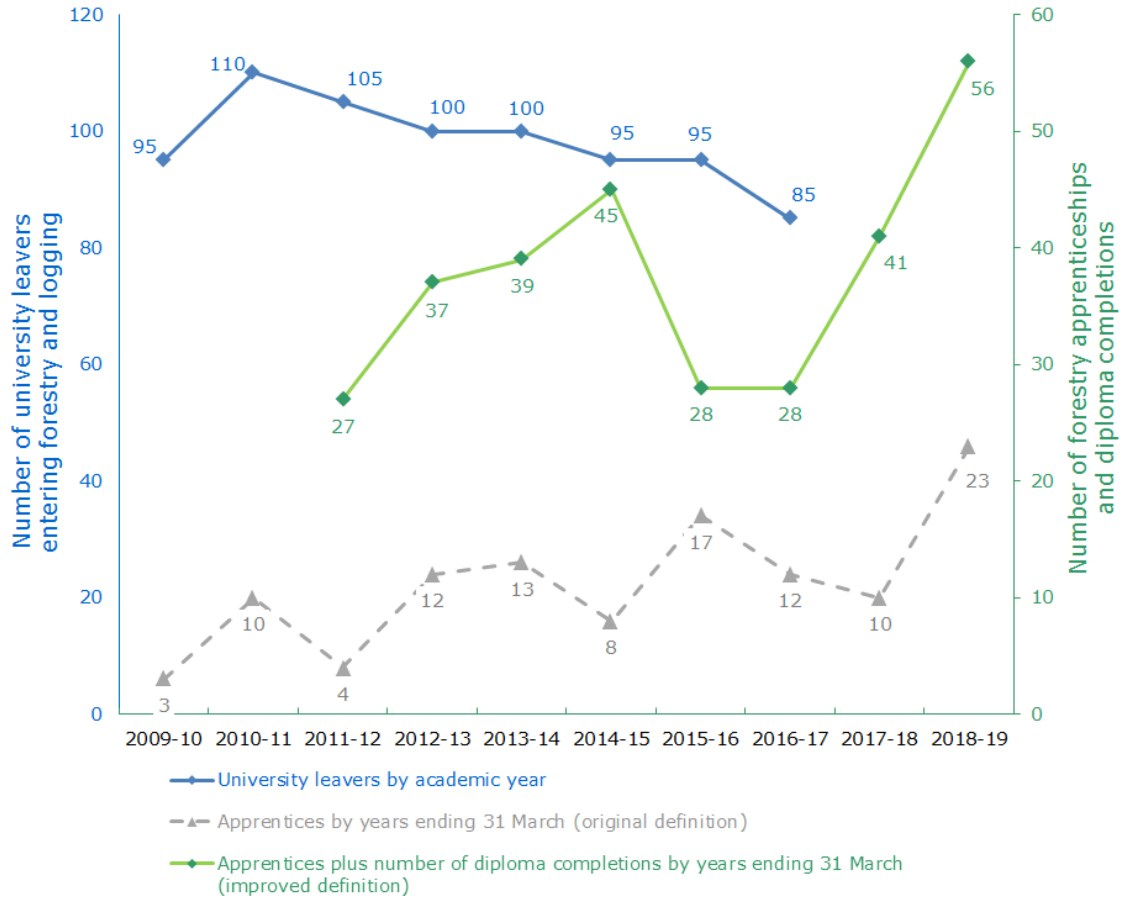
Demand for wood products from woodlands managed in accordance with voluntary certification schemes remains high. Many owners of larger (typically, softwood) woodlands and other businesses in the supply chain respond to this demand by joining internationally recognised schemes such as Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Local supply chains may not receive sufficient economic gain to make joining voluntary schemes worthwhile. This may limit the area of woodland certified by international schemes in England. Irrespective of woodland being certified, almost all felling is covered by a Forestry Commission (FC) felling licence or FC approved management plan in line with the UK Forestry Standard.

Source: Provisional Woodland Statistics 2019 (Forest Research). This statistic is based on Forest Stewardship Council data and Forest Research Statistics team follow up with certificate holders.

Open Data: More detail on certified woodland areas is available from the Forestry Statistics webpages of the Forest Research website.

Assessment of change in *Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Deteriorating

Number of apprentices, those with work based diplomas, and university students entering forestry



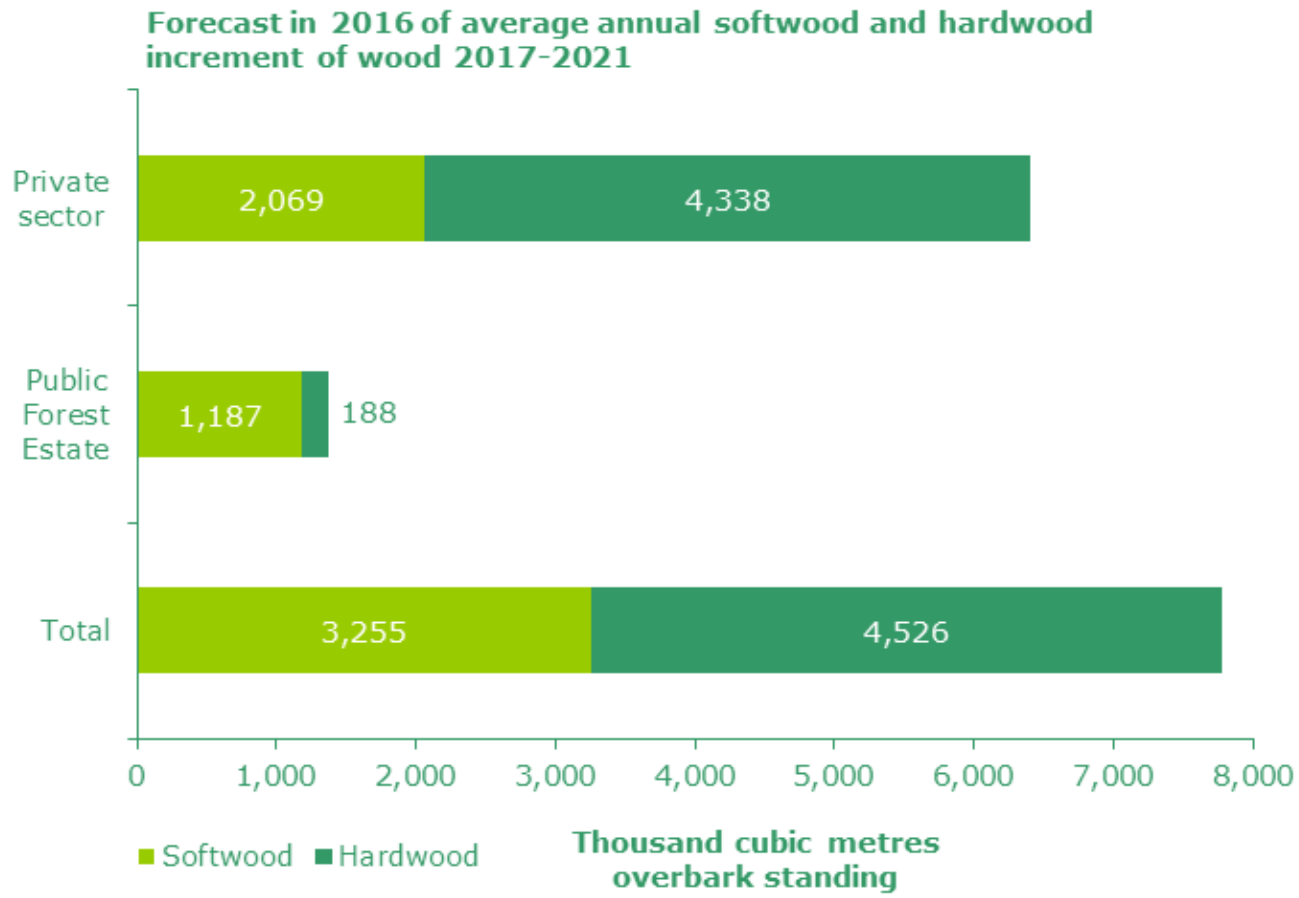
The number of university leavers with forestry qualifications has reduced to 85 in 2016-17. This is probably due to only one UK university now offering a forestry degree, with other education institutions combining forestry with other land-based qualifications and leavers not recorded as holding a forestry qualification.

Completed apprenticeships and diplomas are at 56 in 2018-19, which shows a continued upturn. However, as the Trees & Timber framework will be discontinued, we expect a future downturn, reflecting the slow rate at which training providers have started offering the new Forest Operative standard.

Source: Data from LANTRA and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Destination of Leavers of Higher Education survey.

Assessment of change in *Number of apprentices, those with work based diplomas, and university students entering forestry*	
Apprentices and diploma completions, five year trend, 2018-19 compared to 2013-14	Improving ✓
University leavers, five year trend, 2016-17 compared to 2011-12	Deteriorating ✗

Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests



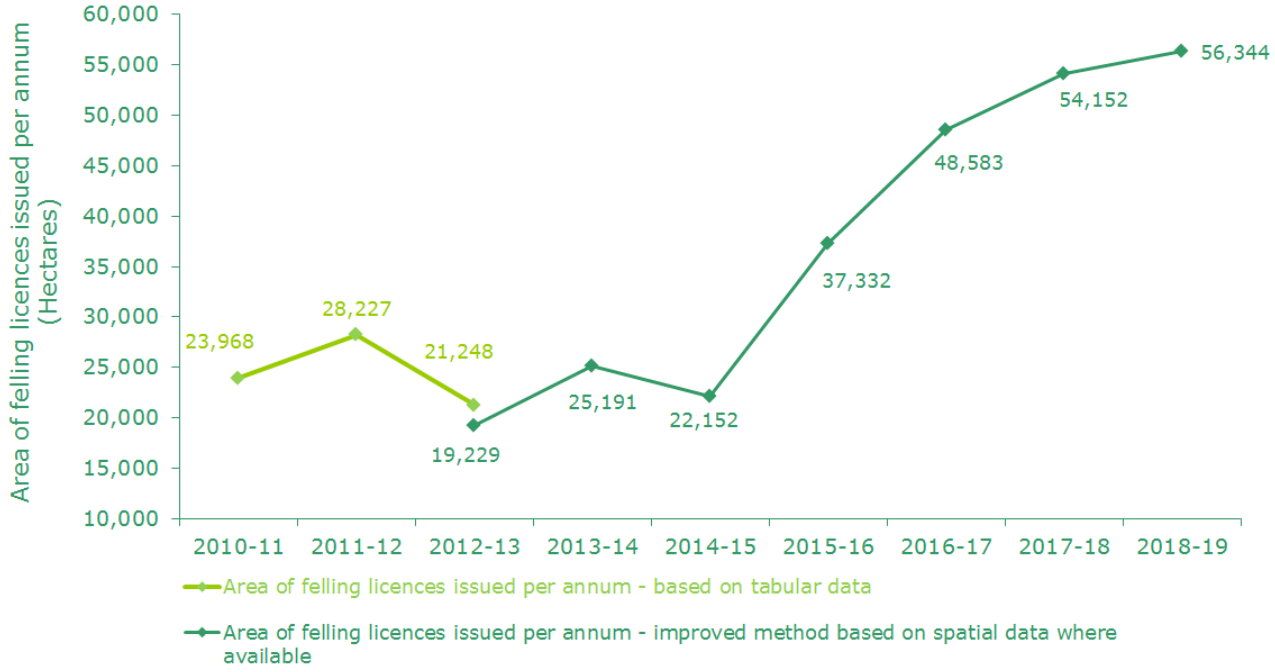
The average annual softwood increment is forecast for the period 2017-2021 to be 3.3 million cubic metres overbark standing. This is made up of 1.2 million cubic metres from the nation's forests and 2.1 million cubic metres from 'private' woodland (i.e. woodland not within the nation's forests).

The average annual hardwood increment is forecast for the period 2017-2021 to be 4.5 million cubic metres overbark standing. This is made up of 0.2 million cubic metres from the nation's forests and 4.3 million cubic metres from 'private' woodland.

Source: National Forest Inventory team forecasts (Forestry Commission). The softwood and hardwood estimates shown use consistent assumptions about woodland management.

Assessment of change in *Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests*	
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data ···

Area of felling licences issued



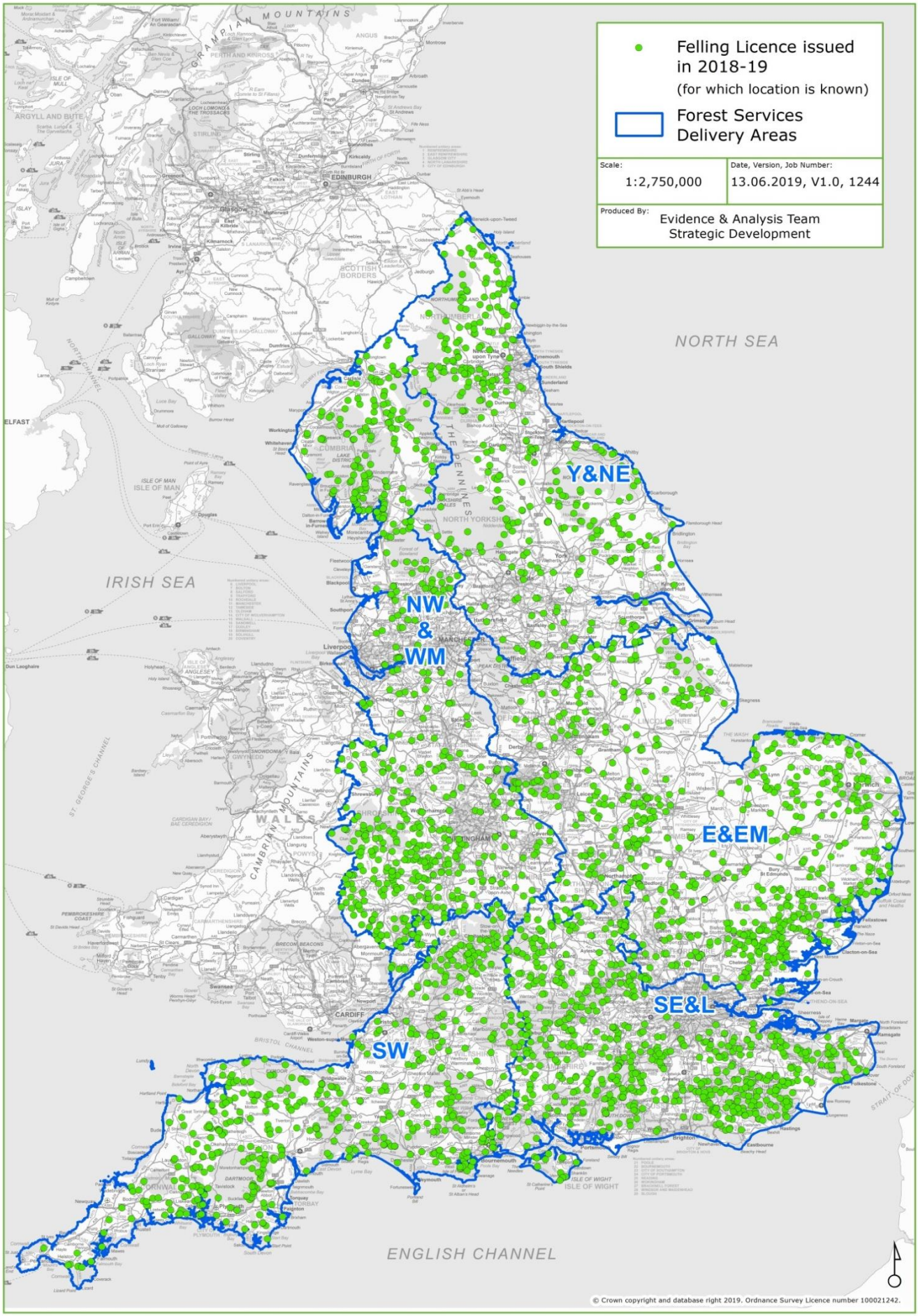
This indicator, presenting one way of measuring woodland owners' intent to actively manage their woodland, shows a small improvement, suggesting that felling licences have been issued for an additional 2,192 hectares of woodland compared to last year. The number of licences has increased from 2,250 issued in 2017-18 to 2,680 in 2018-19.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

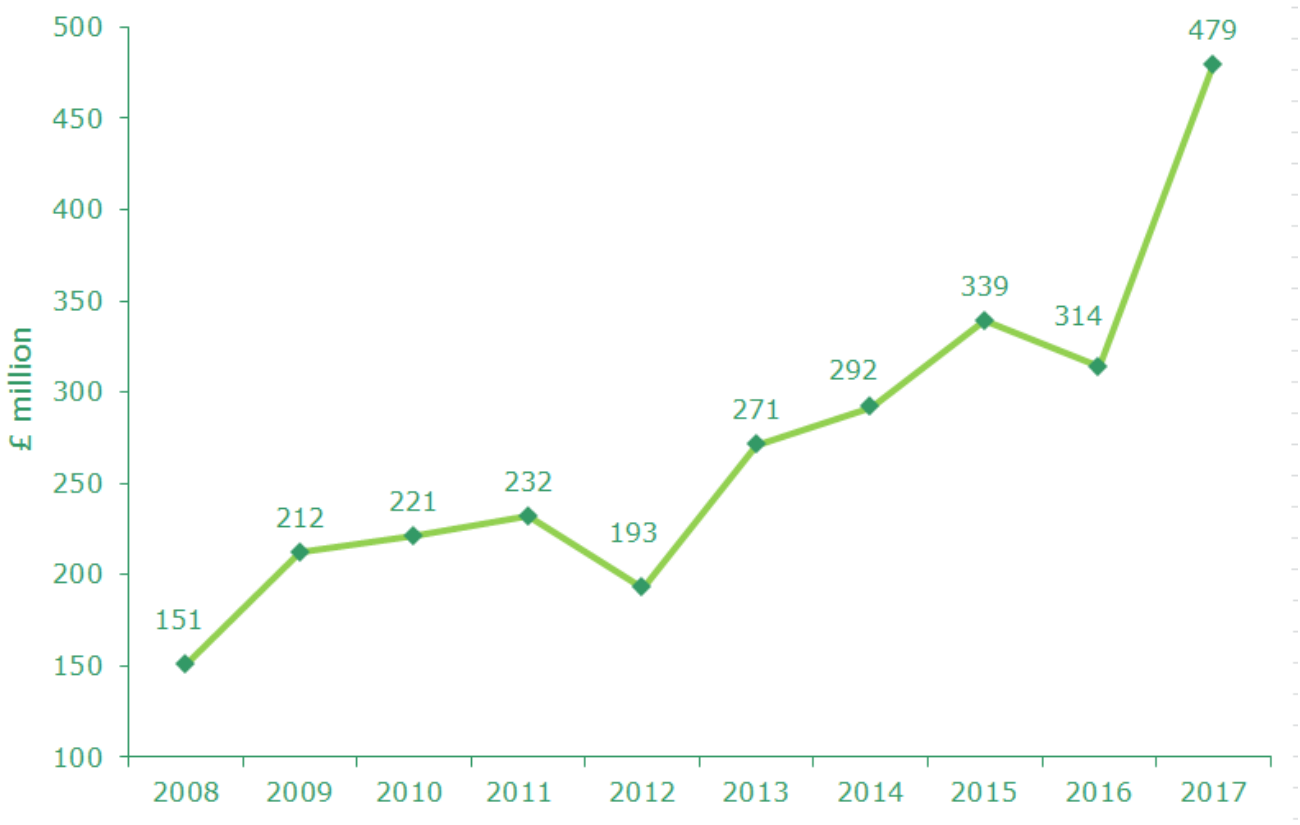
Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications are available as geospatial data from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Assessment of change in *Area of felling licences issued*	
Five year trend, 2018-19 compared to 2013-14	Improving

Map 5
Locations of felling licences issued in England, 2018-19



Gross Value Added from domestic forestry

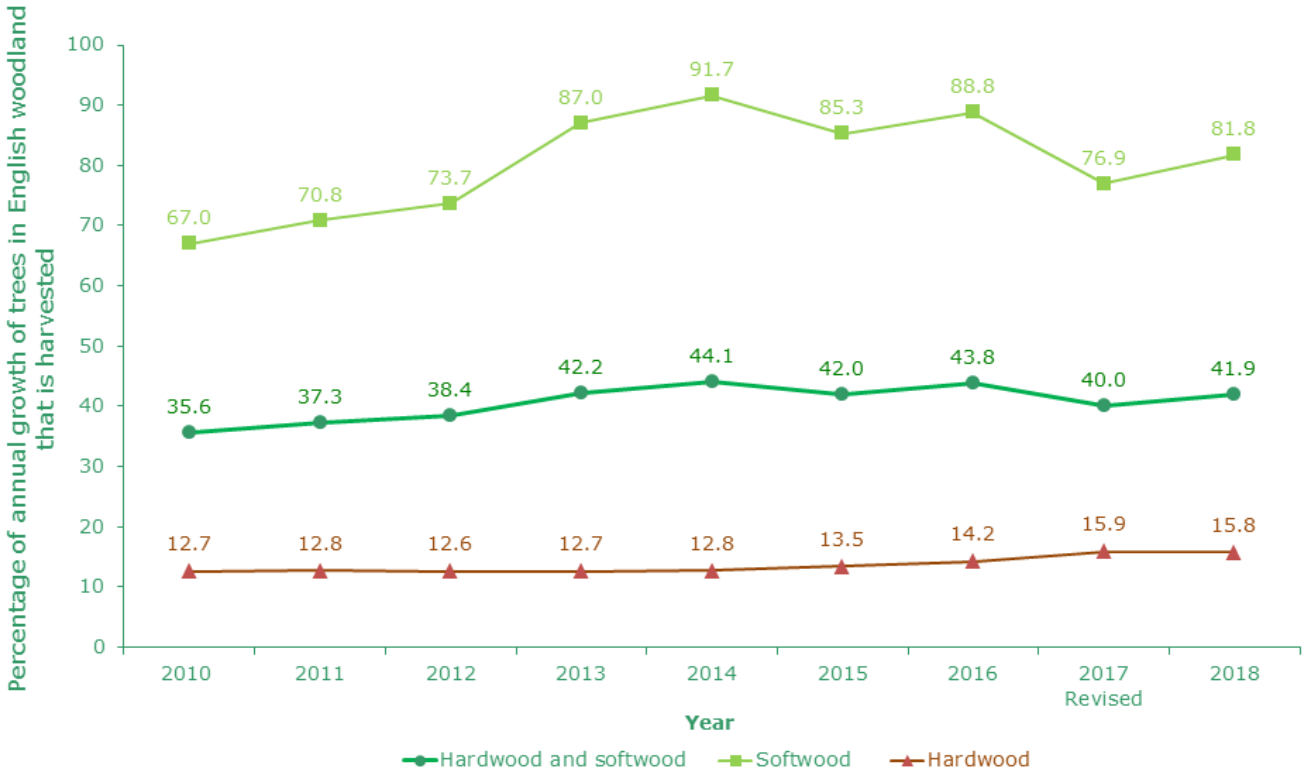


The contribution made to the economy by forestry and logging has increased as a result of strong demand for wood products and generally favourable trading conditions.

Source: Annual Business Survey 2017 regional results (Office for National Statistics).

Assessment of change in *Gross Value Added from domestic forestry*	
Five year trend, 2017 compared to 2012	Improving ✓

Percentage of the annual growth of trees in English woodlands that is a harvested

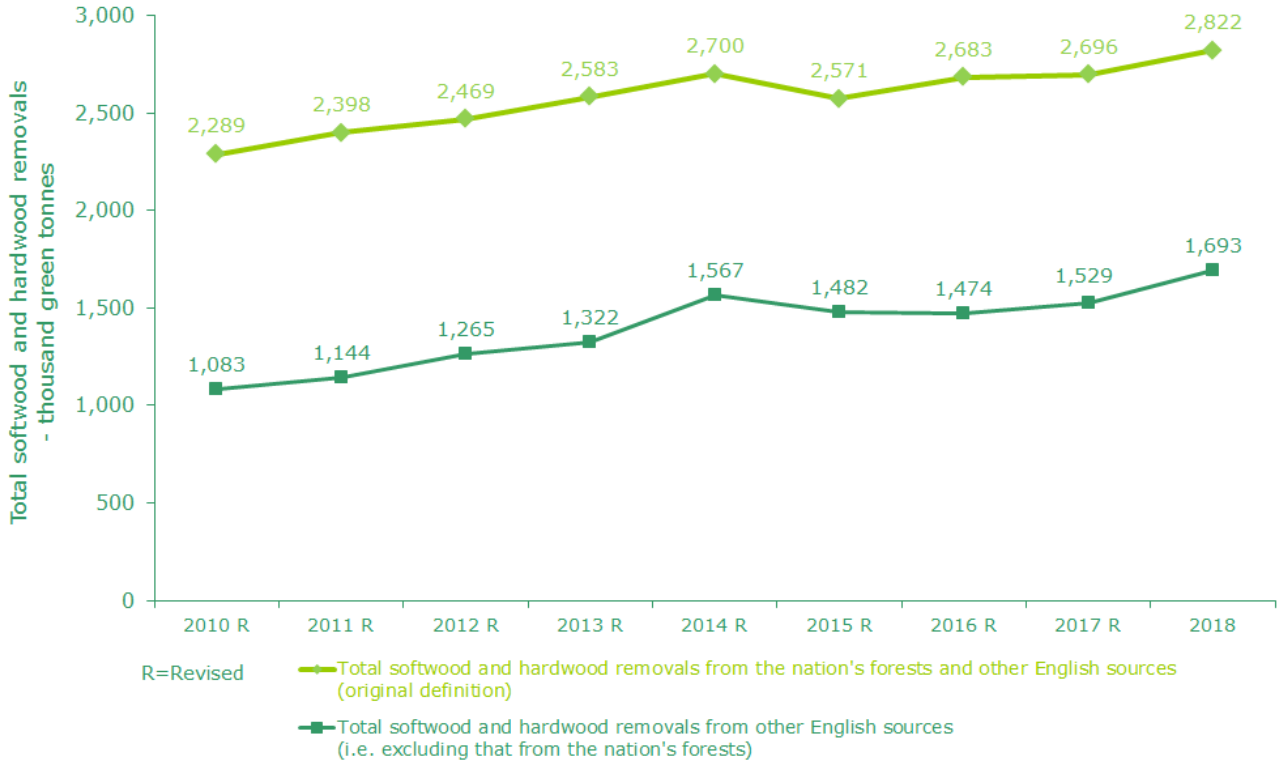


Harvesting of conifer trees for softwood remains strong at over 80% of annual growth. There is potential to further increase production by bringing more woodlands into management, and harvesting trees that have gone beyond their maximum mean annual increment age. Increasing hardwood production through active management of more broadleaved woodlands can also improve habitat condition and biodiversity. Active management provides woodland owners with an opportunity to appropriately remove and replace trees affected by pests and diseases, most notably *Chalara* dieback of ash.

Source: Forest Research statistics on UK wood production and trade and National Forest Inventory team forecasts.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of the annual growth of trees in English woodlands that is a harvested*	
Five year trend, 2018 compared to 2013 (hardwood and softwood element)	Little or no overall change ≈

Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the nation's forests



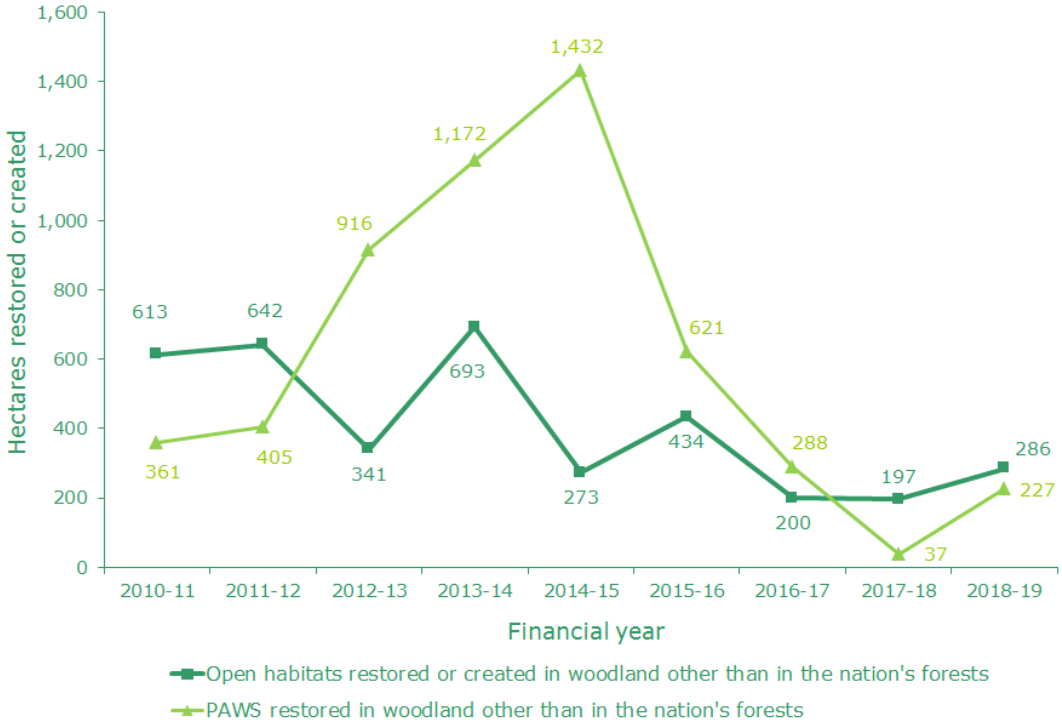
Demand for softwood remains strong and prices are very high, maintaining relatively high levels of timber production from privately owned conifer woodlands. There is some uncertainty around estimated hardwood production, especially volumes of hardwood delivered to energy markets.

Source: Forest Research statistics on UK wood production and trade.

Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the nation's forests*	
Five year trend, 2018 compared to 2013	Improving ✓

Places for wildlife to prosper

Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in woodland other than in the nation's forests



The original target set for restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) both in the nation's forests and in other woodland by 2020 (8,000 hectares) has been met, however the rate of restoration of PAWS in woodland other than in the nation's forests remains low.

We believe that this is partly due to:

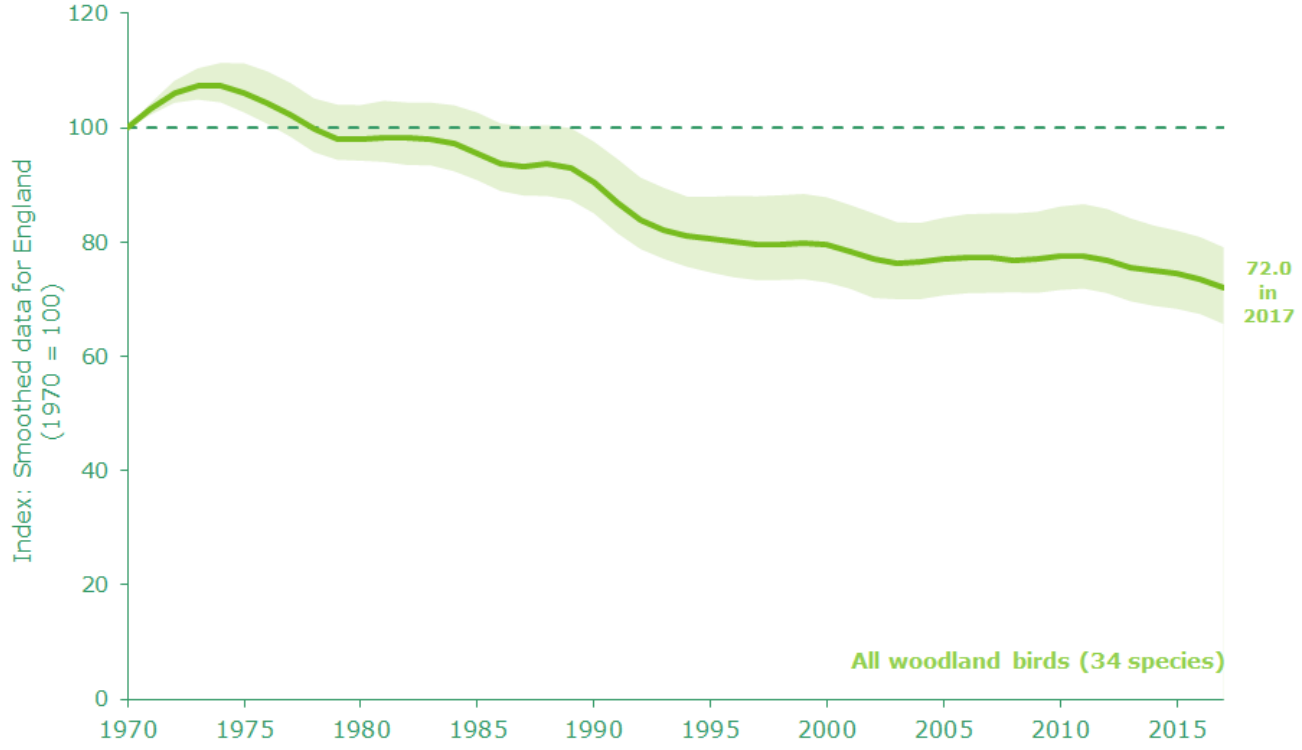
- Countryside Stewardship (CS) not offering grant for conversion from conifer to broadleaves anymore, compared to its predecessor scheme EWGS;
- challenges with the uptake of grants available as part of Countryside Stewardship.

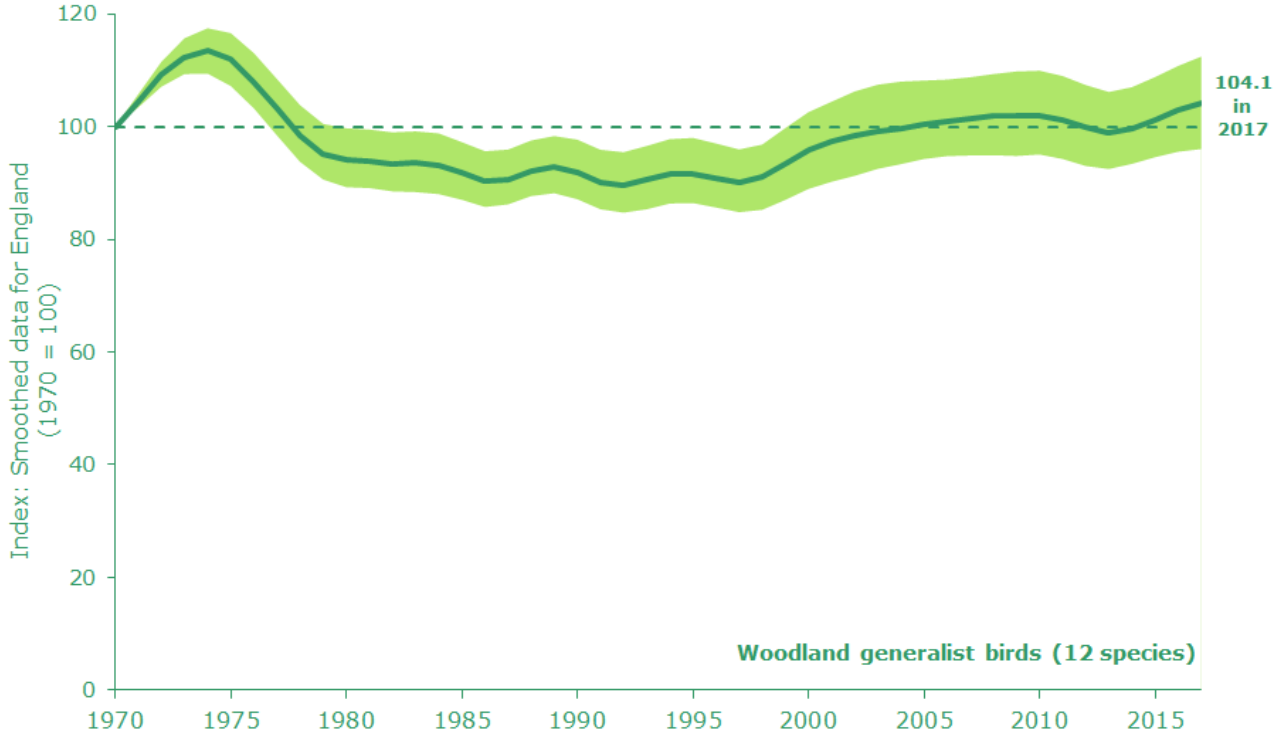
Open habitat restoration remains low – this is in line with government open habitat policy, which ensures a balance between woodland creation and woodland removal for open habitat restoration.

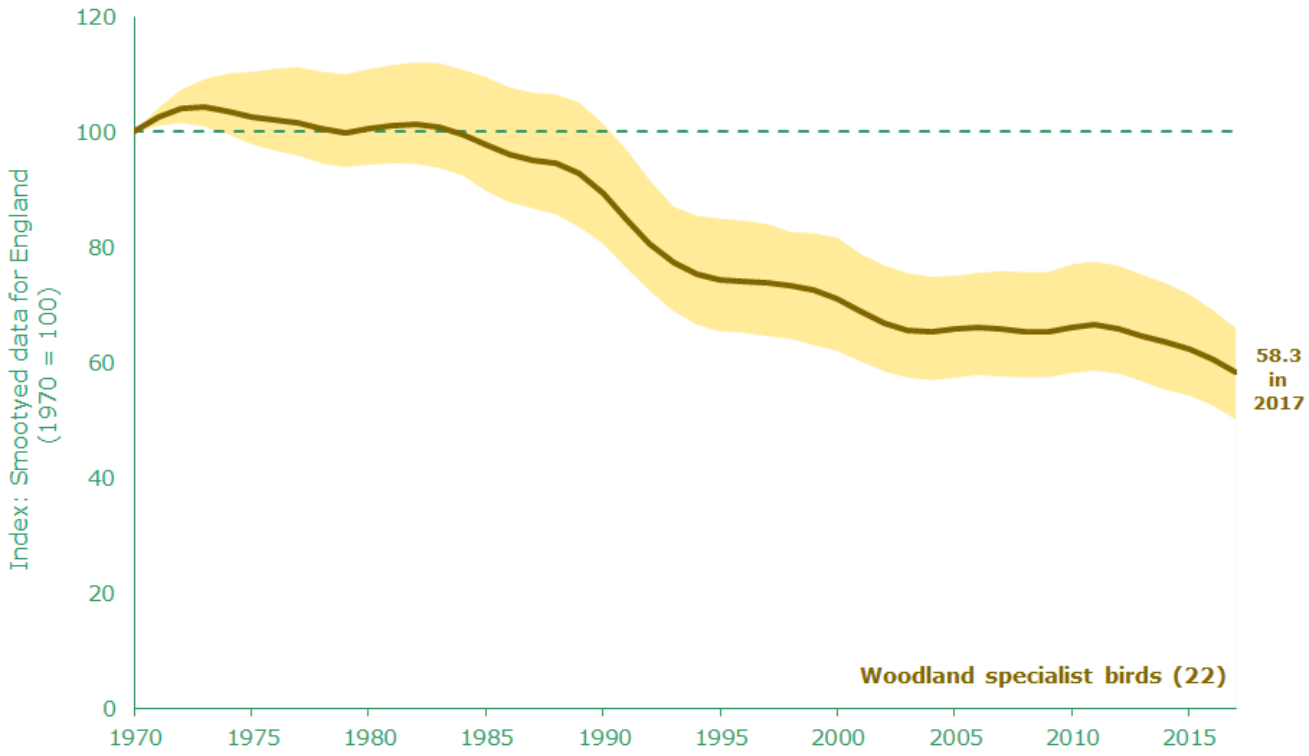
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in woodland other than the nation's forests* – Five year trends, 2018-19 compared to 2013-14	
PAWS: in woodland other than in the nation's forests	Deteriorating
Open habitats: in woodland other than in the nation's forests	Deteriorating

Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data







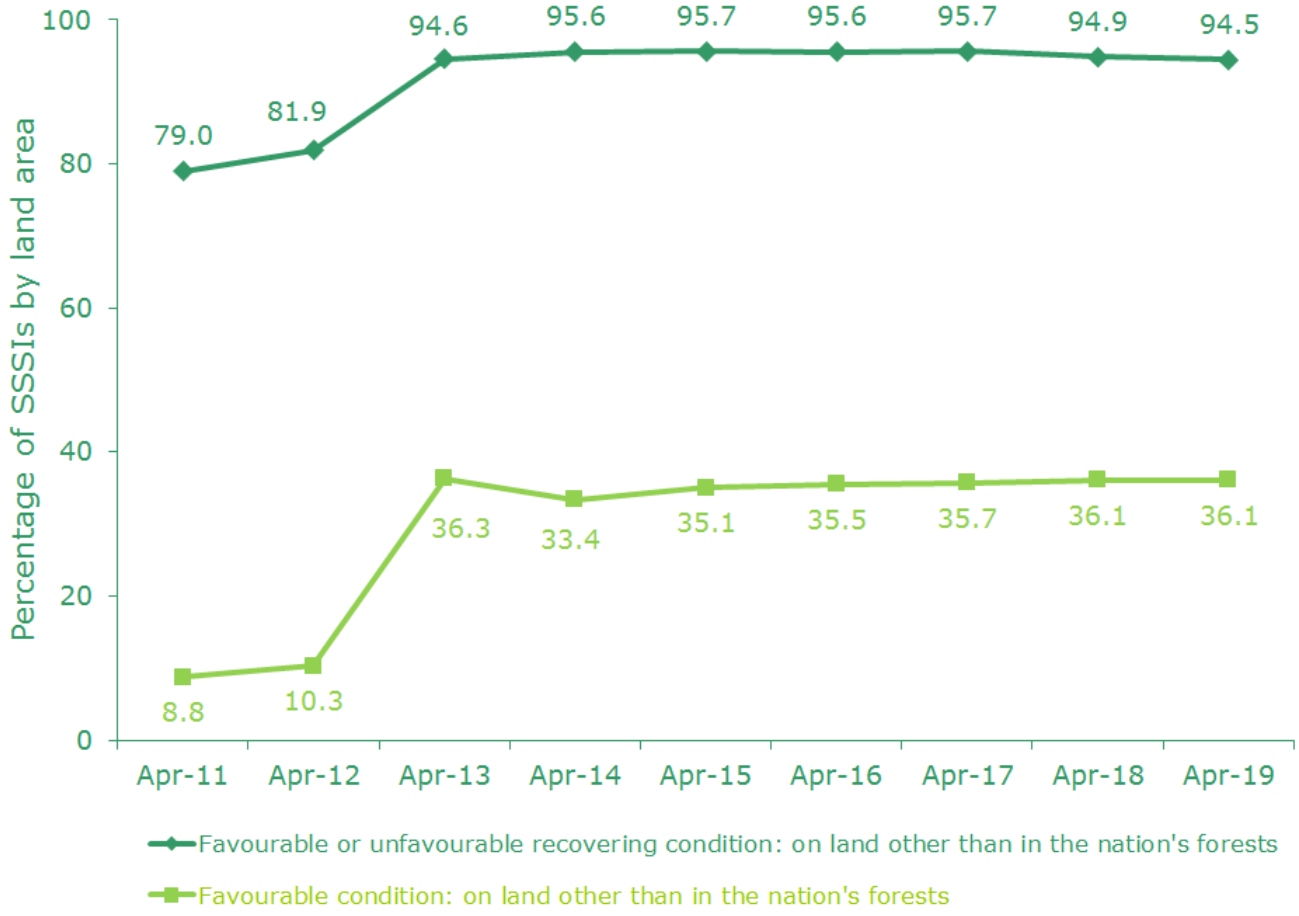
Each of the three graphs shows a smoothed, unstandardised woodland bird index and its 95% confidence interval.

In 2017 the all woodland bird index for England was 28% lower than in 1970 (smoothed data). The greatest decline occurred between the early 1980s and the mid-1990s. All three indices show some slight variation compared to the 2016 figures (decrease for all woodland birds and specialist birds, increase for generalist birds), but none of those are statistically significant.

Source: Smoothed, unstandardised Woodland Bird Index data (Defra).

Assessment of change in *Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data*	
All woodland birds index (England), fifteen year trend, 2017 compared to 2002	Little or no overall change ≈

Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than in the nation's forests

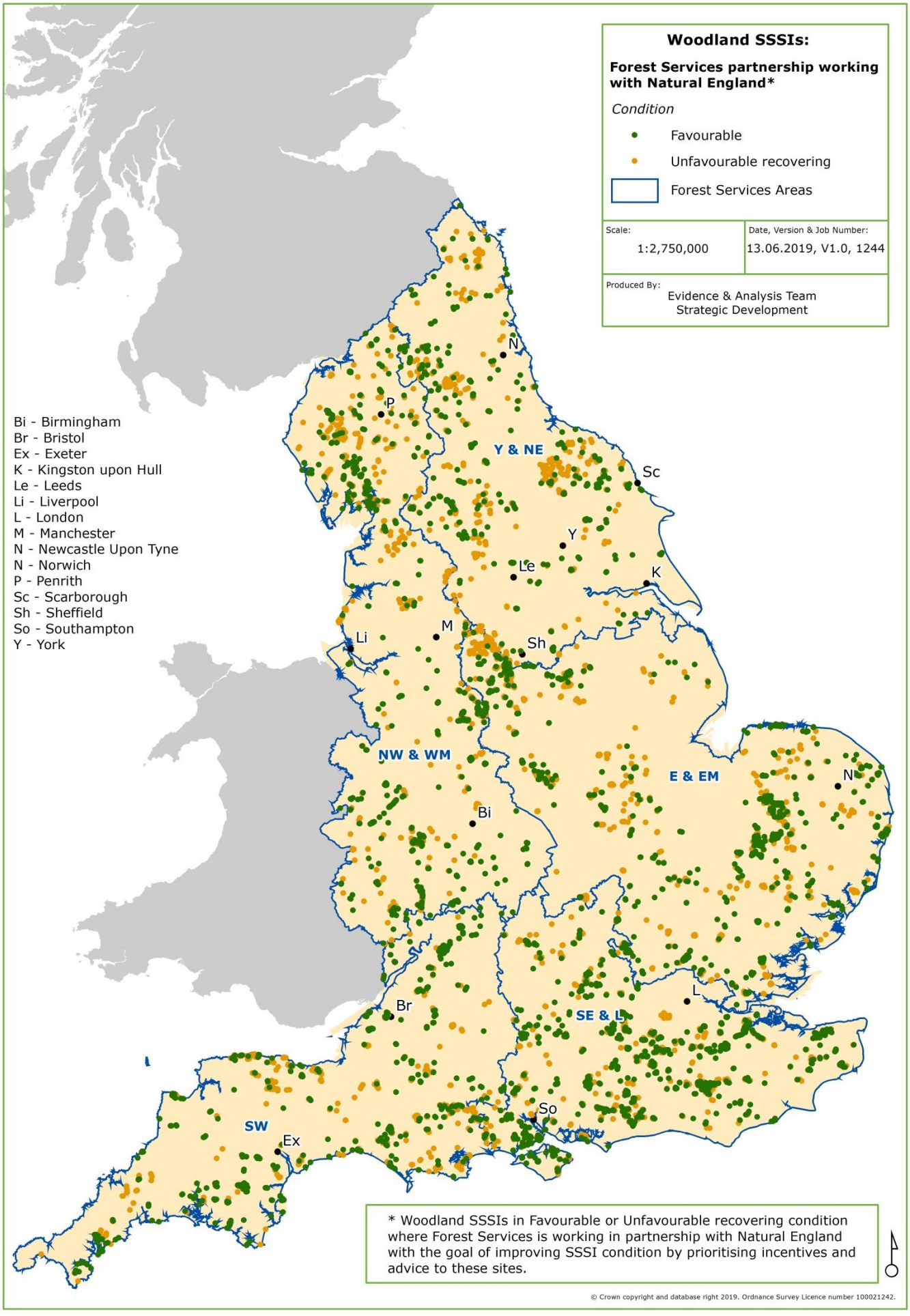


The percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in either favourable or unfavourable recovering status has slightly decreased whereas the percentage of woodland SSSIs in favourable condition has remained stable. Woodland SSSIs are condition assessed by Natural England at regular intervals, with the condition status amended as required.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data on grant schemes and Natural England data on SSSIs.

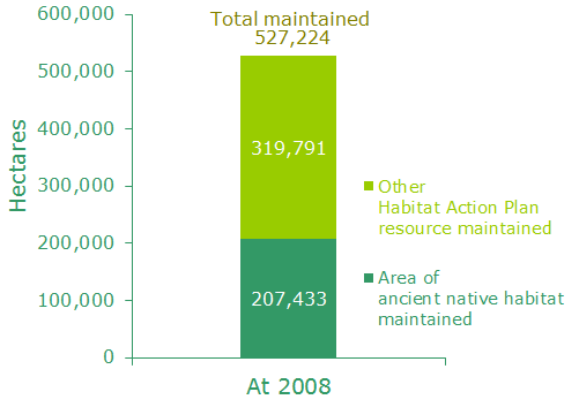
Assessment of change since in *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than in the nation's forests*	
Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, five year trend, Apr-19 compared to Apr-14	Little or no overall change ≈
Favourable condition, five year trend, Apr-19 compared to Apr-14	Improving ✓

Map 6
Woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest managed by Forest Services via partnership working, in target condition, April 2019

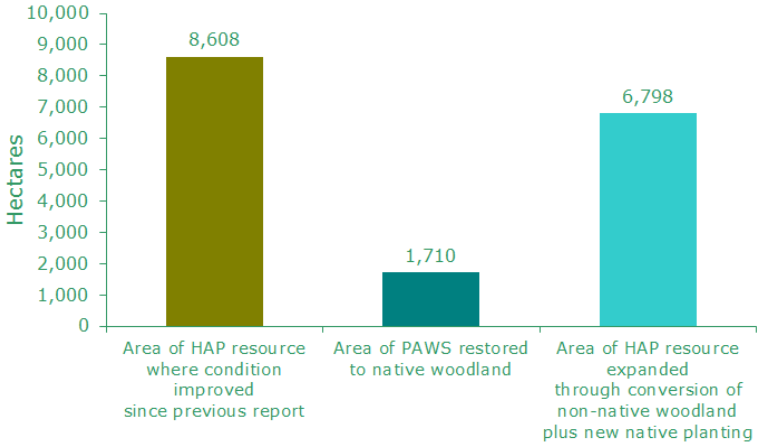


Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory

Maintained areas



Progress since 2005



Position at 31 March 2019: 49% of broadleaf woodland in England is in active management.

Conservation condition involves the assessment of many attributes of woodland, work is underway to analyse and agree the condition status of England's woodland. While this methodology is in development a proxy of broadleaved woodland in management is being used to assess progress towards the government's biodiversity strategy.

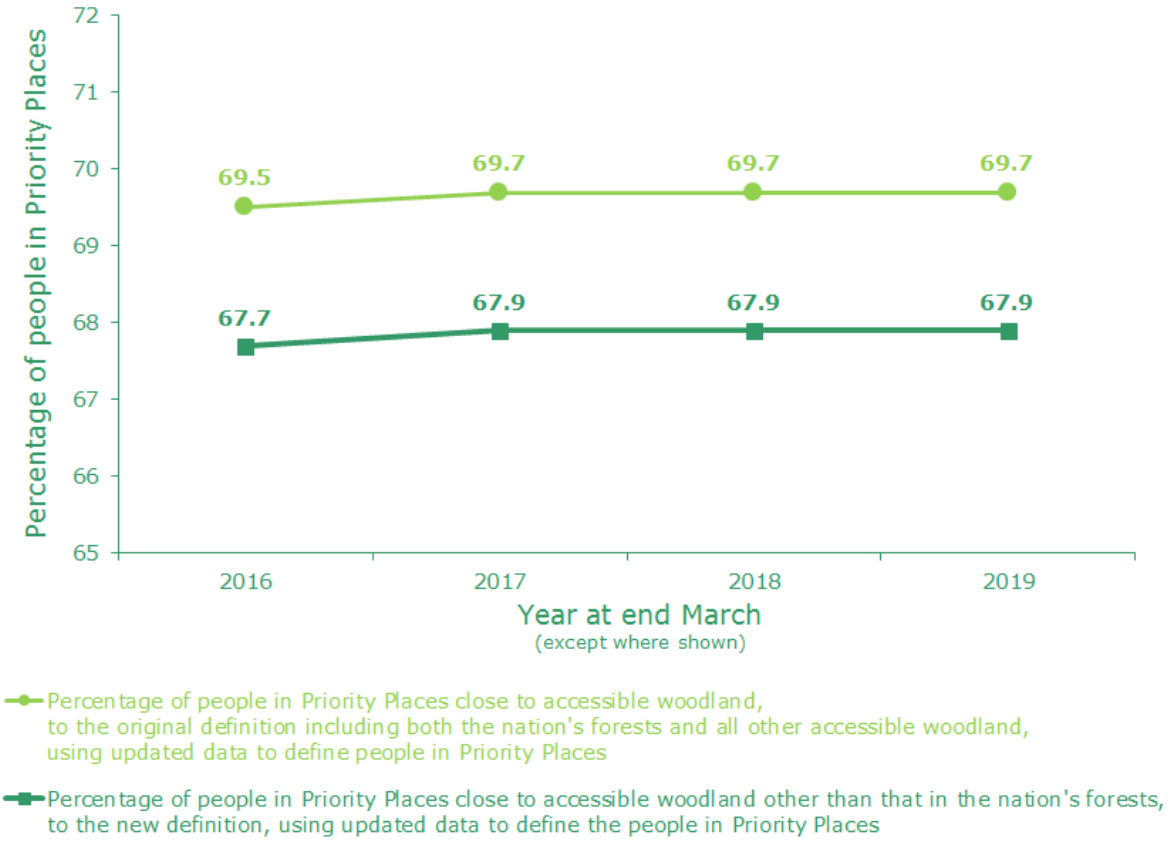
We have seen an increase in the area of broadleaf woodland in management from 43% to 49% since 2013.

Source: i) Maintained areas based on Natural England data, ii) Forestry Commission managed woodland headline indicator.

Assessment of change in *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*	
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data

People's health and enjoyment of woodland

Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than that in the nation's forests



The percentage of people living in Priority Places with access to woodland *other than* the nation's forests managed by Forestry England remains unchanged in 2019, as the underlying data that the analysis is based on has not been updated since 2017.

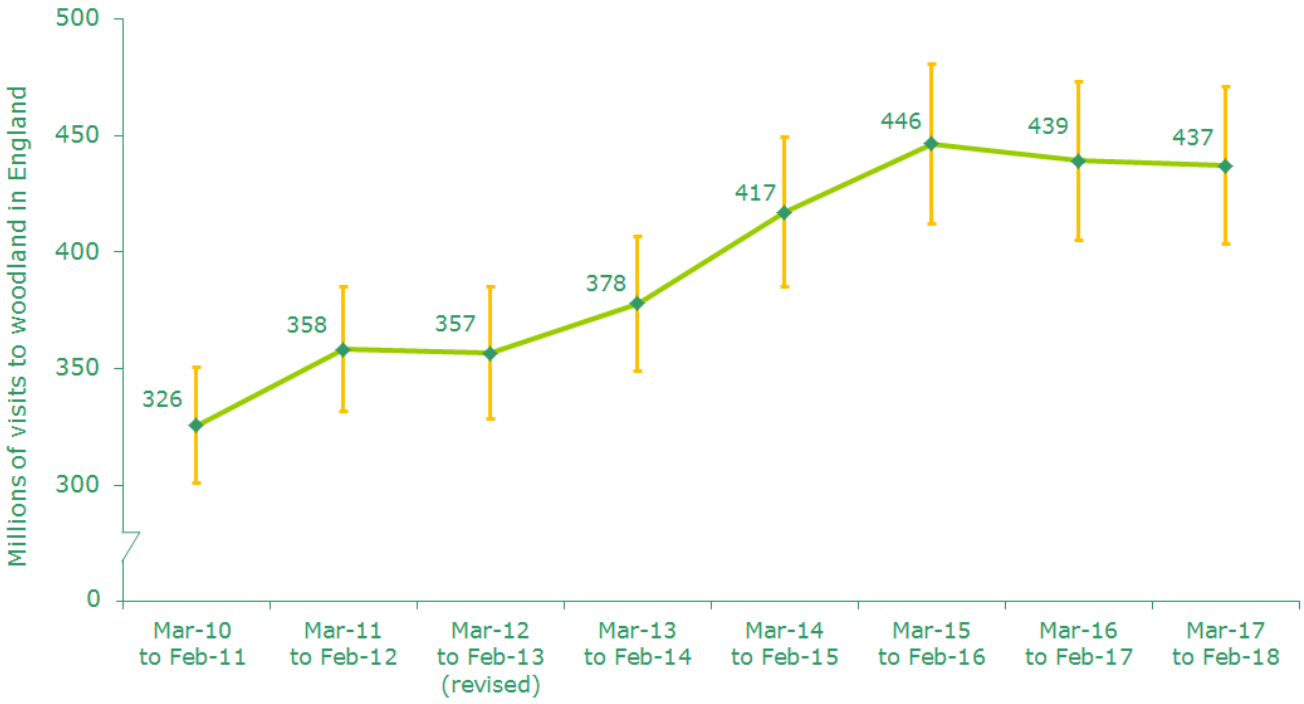
The contribution of the nation's forests, is shown on page 62 of this report, but the total including them is also shown above for reference.

Note: Priority Places are defined as those within the most deprived 40% of places on the Index of Multiple Deprivation also in built up areas of >10,000 population. Access is defined as residence within 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) of one or more accessible woodlands >20 hectares in size.

Source: Based on Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), Census of Population (Office for National Statistics) and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than that in the nation's forests*	
Three year trend **only**, Mar-19 compared to Mar-16	Little or no overall change ≈

Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)



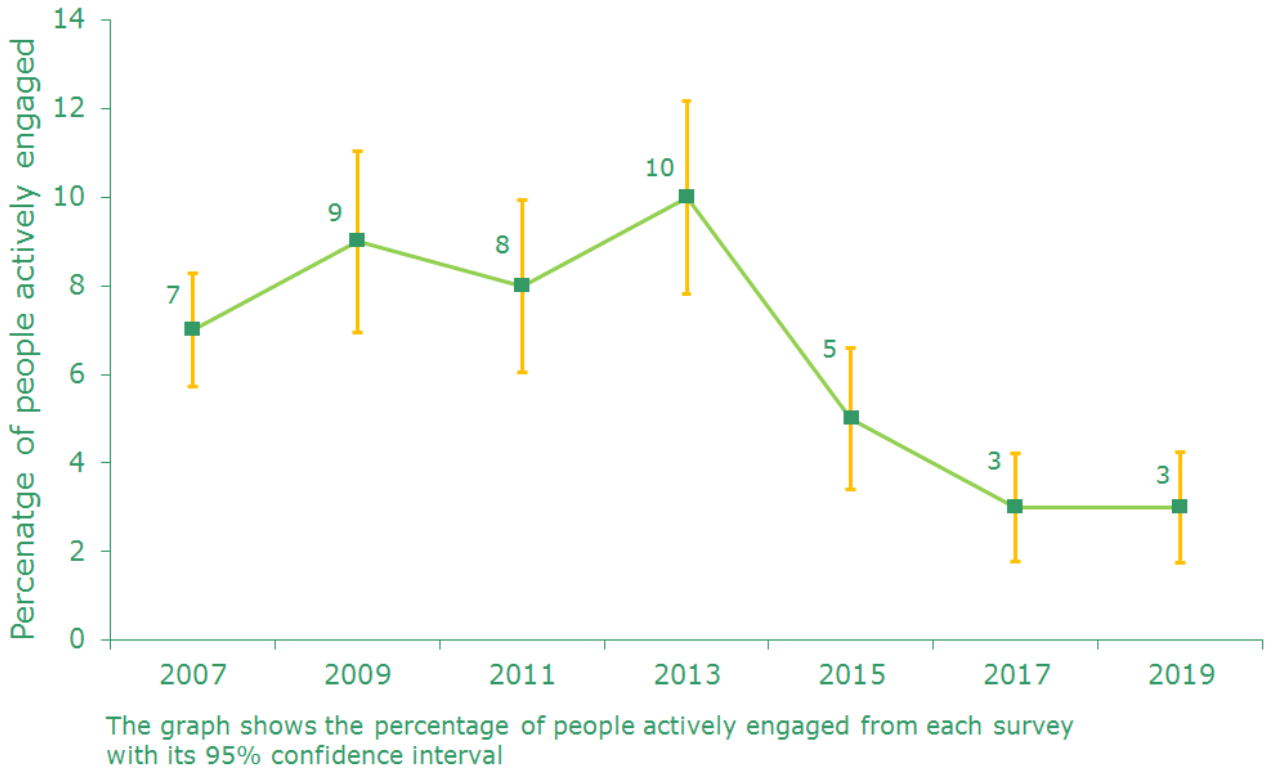
The graph shows the number of visits to woodland from each annual MENE survey with its estimated 95% confidence interval

Although there has been a slight reduction in the numbers of adults visiting woodland reported in the most recent year of the MENE survey compared to the previous year, this change is not statistically significant, and was not reflected in the numbers visiting the nation's forests managed by Forestry England. There has been a statistically significant increase in the number of visits to woodland by the English adult population, compared to the position 5 years ago.

Source: Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) (Natural England).

Assessment of change in *Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)*	
Five year trend, Mar-17/Feb-18 compared to Mar-12/Feb-13	Improving ✓

Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland



The graph shows the percentage of people actively engaged from each survey with its 95% confidence interval

This indicator draws on data from the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (POFS) and measures active engagement with *all* woodland by the adult residents of England. This covers involvement such as volunteering and membership of a community woodland group. The latest figure for 2019 remains the same from previous year of reporting in 2017. This is still a relatively small percentage figure. The levels of engagement across the nation's forests managed by Forestry England are good – see page 64.

Source: Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (Forestry Commission).

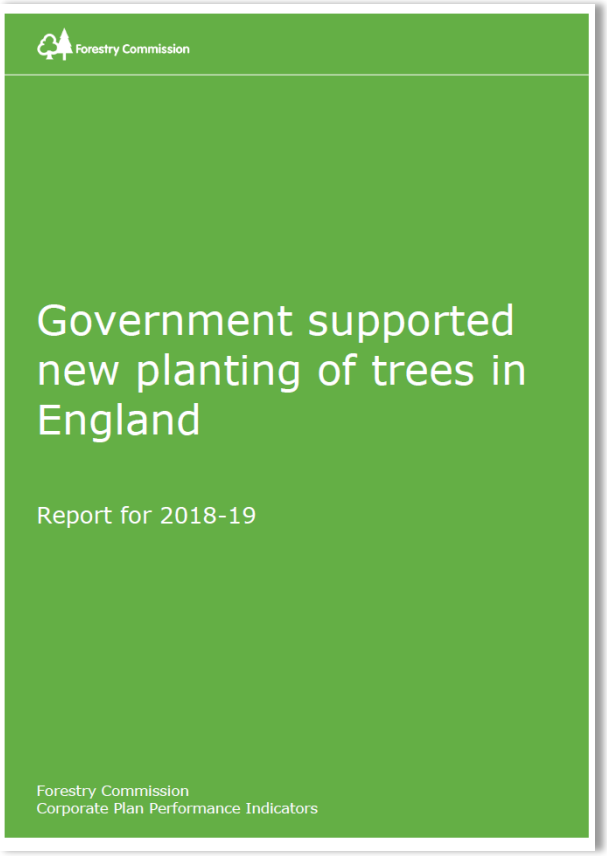
Assessment of change in *Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland*	
Six year trend, 2019 compared to 2013	Deteriorating

EXPAND

Government supported new planting of trees in England

Please see the separate full report for this indicator published as:

Forestry Commission (2019) *Government support new planting of trees in England: Report for 2018-19*, Bristol: Forestry Commission, 9 pages.

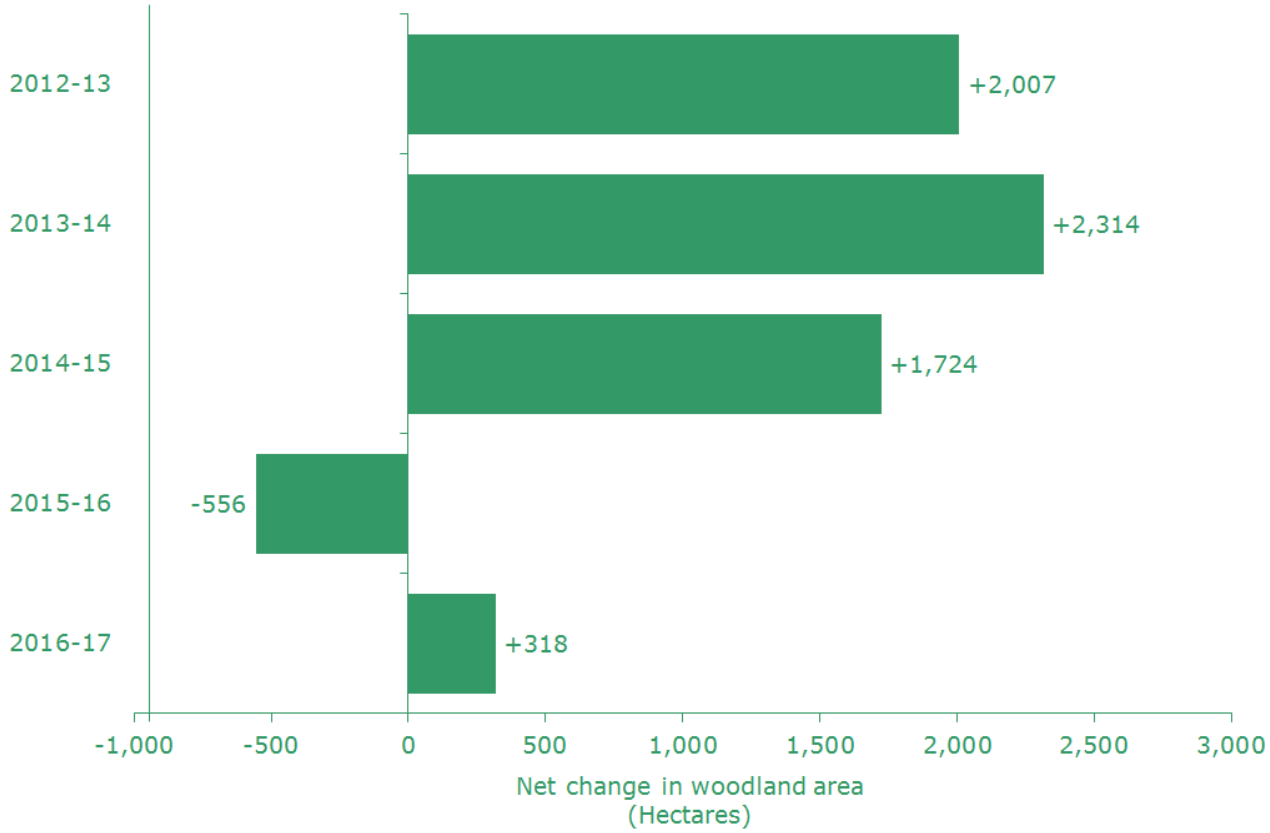


This is available from the Forestry Commission Corporate Plan Performance Indicators webpage on GOV.UK.

Source: Data from the Forestry Commission, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the National Forest Company and the Woodland Trust.

Assessment of change in *Government supported new planting of trees in England*	
One year trend **only**, 2018-19 compared to 2017-18	Improving

Experimental Statistics: *Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal*



Note: See Table 4 for the additions and subtractions that combined result in this net change in woodland area in England.

During 2016-17, the most recent year for which we have data, there was a net increase in woodland area of 318 hectares, once woodland removal for open habitat restoration and woodland loss to development is accounted for. This reverses the short term position of net decrease of woodland reported for 2015-16, and brings the total area of net increase of woodland over the five most recent years reported to 5,807 hectares (an average of 1,161 hectares per annum).

Table 4: Components of net change in woodland area in England, 2012-13 to 2016-17 (Experimental Statistics)

Contribution to change in woodland area (Hectares)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Average per annum over the five years 2012-13 to 2016-17
Woodland creation (+)						
a. Total new planting of trees in England (Source 1)	**2,587**	**3,340**	**2,425**	**821**	**1,140**	**2,063**
Woodland removal (-)						
Open habitat restoration other than in the nation's forests (Source 2)	341	693	273	434	200	**388**
Open habitat restoration in the nation's forests (Source 2)	119	213	70	116	85	**121**
Attributable to development (Source 3, Note 1)	120	120	358	827	537	**392**
b. Total woodland removal	**580**	**1,026**	**701**	**1,377**	**822**	**901**
c. Total net change in woodland area (a. minus b.)	**2,007**	**2,314**	**1,724**	**-556**	**318**	**5-year total: 5,807 hectares**
d. Average net change in woodland area per annum 2012-13 to 2016-17 (c÷5)						**Average per annum over these 5 years: 1,161 hectares**

Sources

1. Forestry Commission (2018) *Forestry Statistics 2018*, Edinburgh: Forestry Commission.
2. Forestry Commission (2019) *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2019*, Bristol: Forestry Commission, 76 pages.
3. Forestry Commission (2016) *Preliminary estimates of the changes in canopy cover in British woodlands between 2006 and 2015*, Edinburgh: Forestry Commission, National Forest Inventory. Table 14 on page 53. Plus unpublished sample-based updates for 2015-16 and 2016-17 from the National Forest Inventory team.

Note 1

A single figure for woodland loss attributable to development was available for 2012-13 and 2013-14 combined. This was simply split evenly between these two years.

Summary of methodology

Purpose

The aim is to have an indicator that combines all relevant known sources of woodland creation (gross) and woodland removal (gross), to show the balance between these (net) over the short term. This is to add to the fuller picture of change provided by the area of woodland in England statistics that incorporate methodological improvements such as better recognition techniques and more detailed sources of satellite remote sensing data.

Principles of what is counted

The indicator generally reports woodland creation and loss in England that conforms to the National Forest Inventory definition of woodland (of at least 0.5 hectare in area with a minimum width of 20 metres, and that have at least 20% canopy cover (or the potential to achieve this)). Creation of integral open space of less than 1 hectare within existing woodland is not reported as woodland loss within the National Forest Inventory woodland loss data, but some of the losses to achieve open habitats restoration recorded as a part of open habitats in the nation's forests and elsewhere can be of smaller areas of woodland.

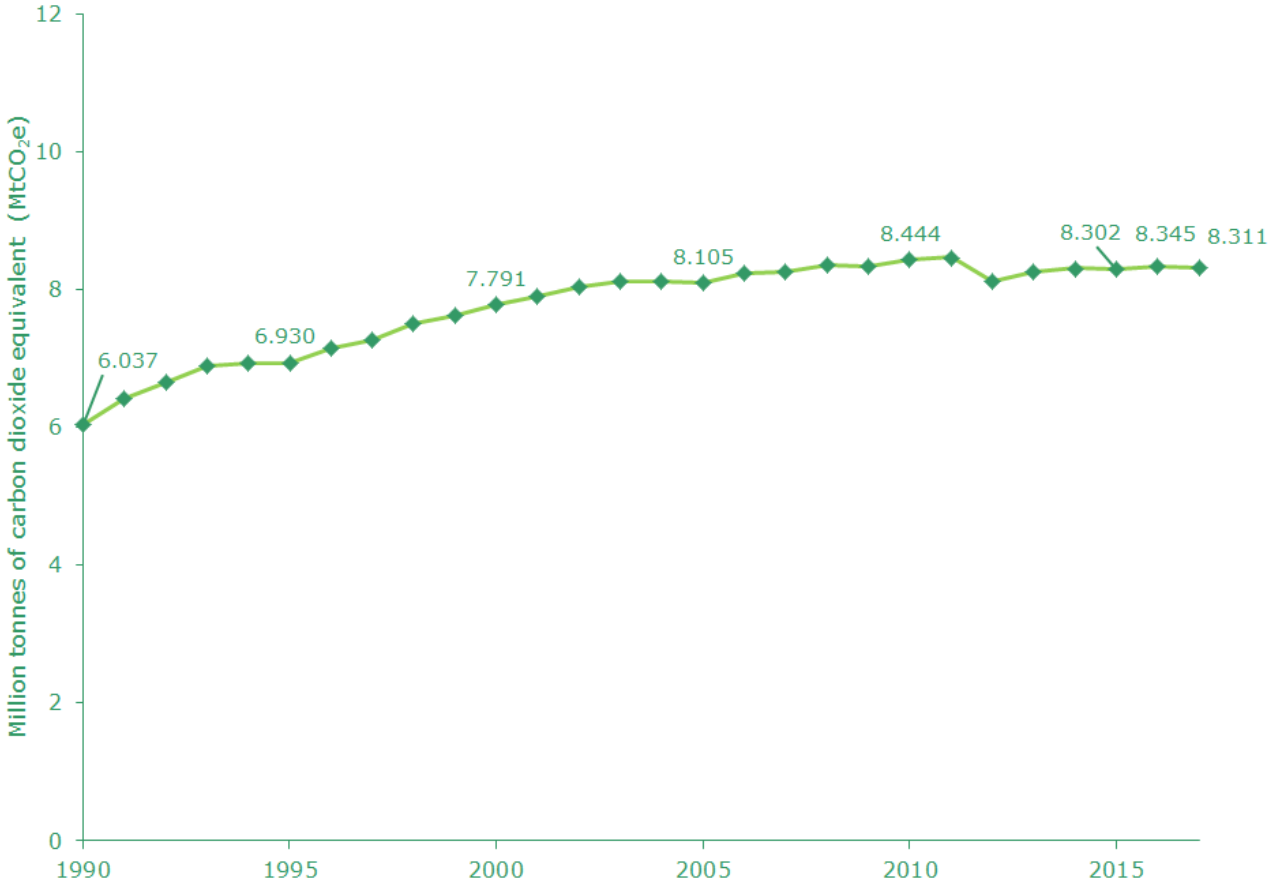
In this indicator figures are largely for financial years to 31 March except figures for area of woodland removal attributable to development that are for years June to June.

Figures are by year of records, not necessarily the year of woodland creation or woodland removal. In particular unconditional felling licences allow private woodland owners a number of years over which to conduct open habitat restoration.

Assessment of change in *Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal* (Experimental Statistics)	
Four year trend **only**, 2016-17 compared to 2012-13	Deteriorating x

Contribution to carbon abatement

Carbon captured by English woodlands



The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England's woodlands has decreased slightly from 8.345 $MtCO_2e$ in 2016 to 8.311 $MtCO_2e$ in 2017, remaining broadly stable; however, it is expected to decline in the medium term as the greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past tree planting rates and subsequent harvesting activity.

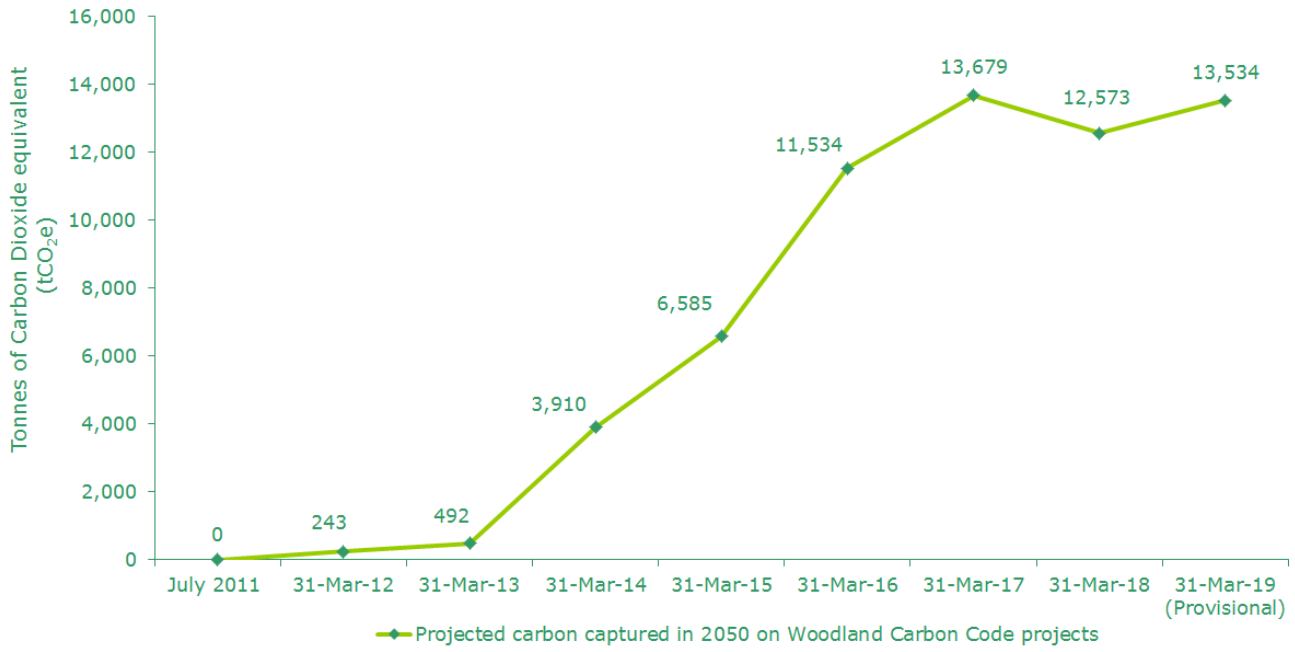
Note: The figures represent the net exchange of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane, corrected for their global warming potential and expressed as million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent.

There is a continual programme of improvements to the methodology used to prepare the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory. When the methodology is changed, the entire time series of the inventory is updated: the most recent data is shown in the graph above.

Source: Data from the Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy.

Assessment of change in *Carbon captured by English woodlands*	
Five year trend, 2017 compared to 2012	Little or no overall change ≈

Projected carbon capture in 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects



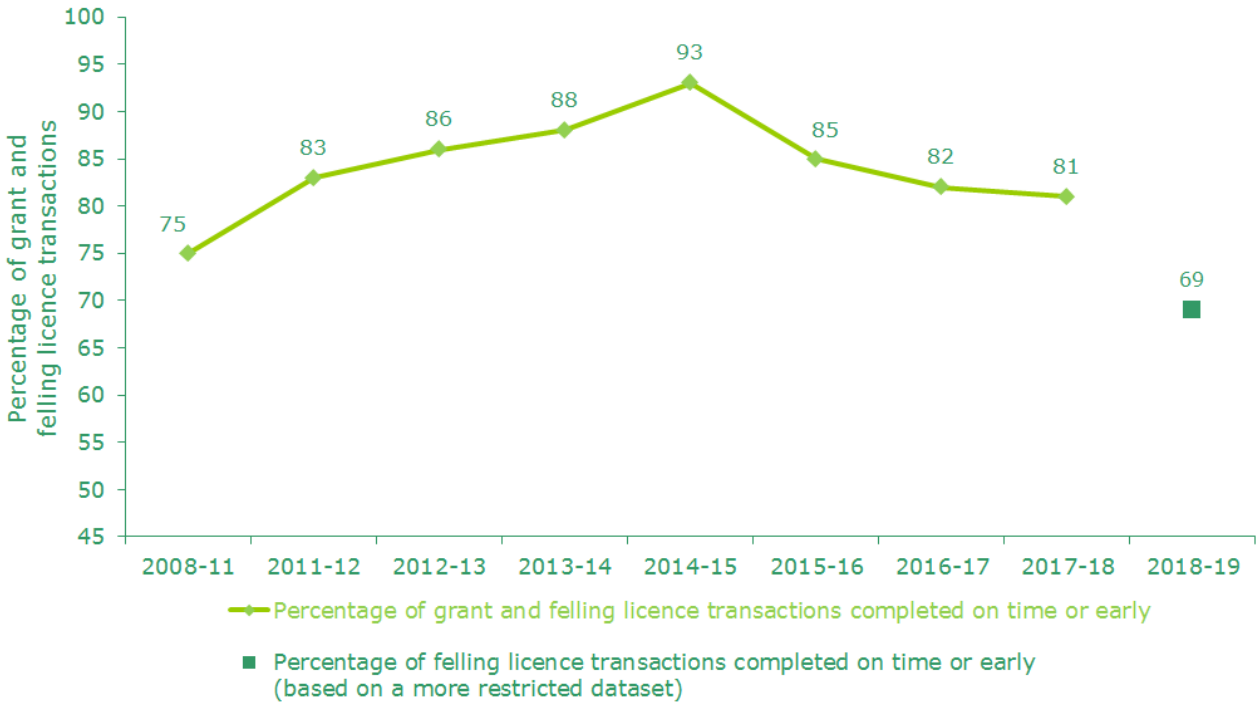
At March 2019, 78 projects were validated to the Woodland Carbon Code, compared to 68 in March 2018. The 78 projects are expected to sequester 13,534 tCO_2e in 2050 (compared with 12,573 tCO_2e reported in 2018). Of the validated projects, 27 have also been verified/checked at year 5 to ensure they are well established and on track to deliver the predicted carbon savings. A further 18 projects are currently registered and going through the validation process. Together the projects validated and registered are predicted to sequester 1.0 million tonnes of CO_2e over their lifetime (of up to 100 years).

Source: Woodland Carbon Code statistics (Forest Research).

Assessment of change in *Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects*	
Five year trend, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-14	Improving ✓

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND BUSINESS METRICS

Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early



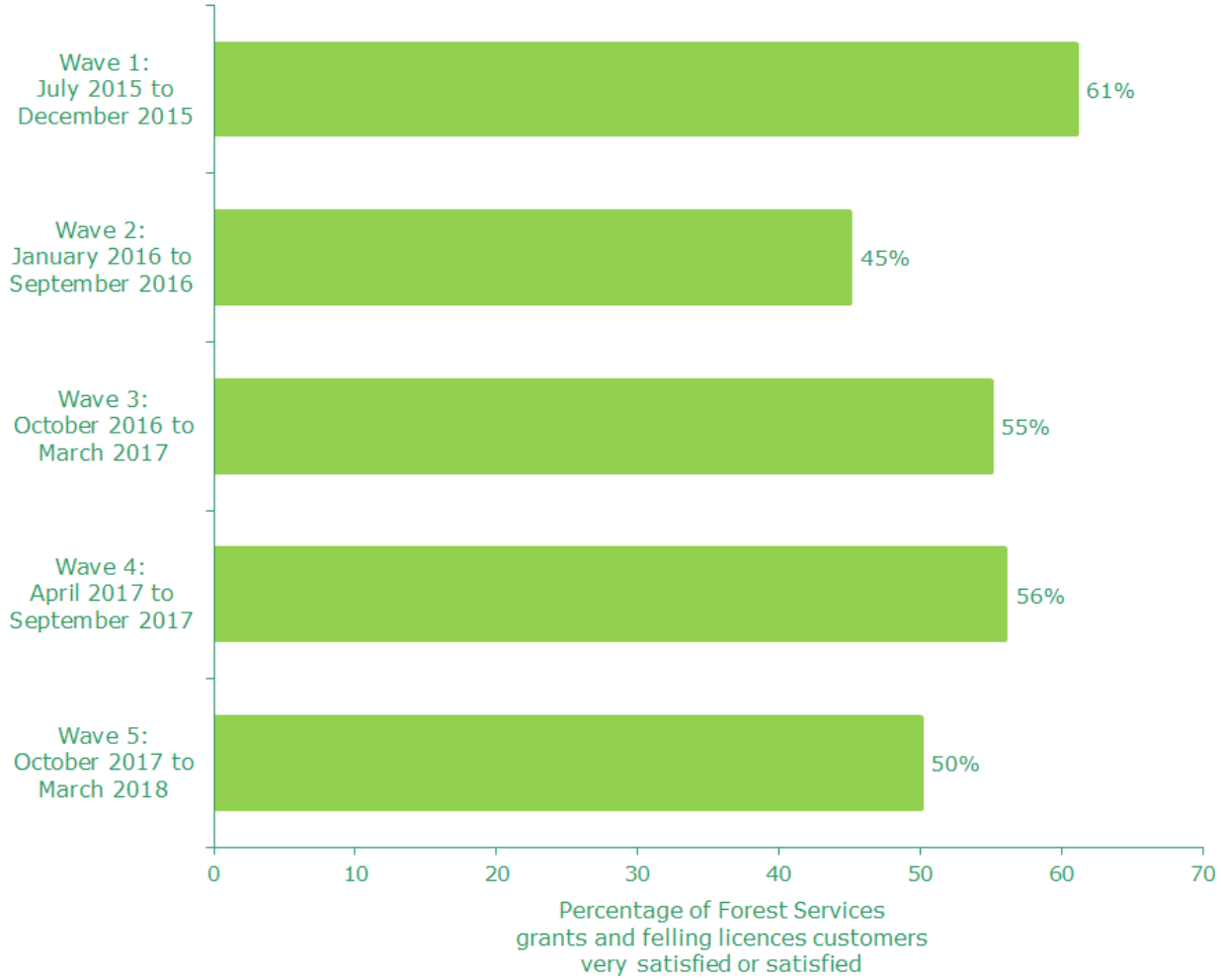
In 2018-19 some 69% of the measured felling licence transactions were completed on time or early, a fall compared to the year before. During 2018-19 we introduced a new online system, Felling Licence Online , for felling licence applications - replacing the Felling Licence Database that could no longer be supported. There was a deterioration of operational performance when the new system was introduced. Since then we have improved business processes and staff and applicants have gained confidence in using the system. Further developments are in hand, and applicants are being encouraged and supported to make their applications online, rather than using paper forms.

In 2018-19 this indicator did not measure performance for the payment of Title 2 (annual revenue) or Title 4 (capital) grant claims by the Forestry Commission due to changes in payment processes that no longer support meaningful measurement. This indicator will be reviewed next year.

Notes:
Title 2 claims are for payments made annually for maintenance work or agricultural income forgone.
Title 4 claims are for payments for completed capital works.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early*	
Five year trend, 2018-19 compared to 2013-14	Deteriorating

Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied.

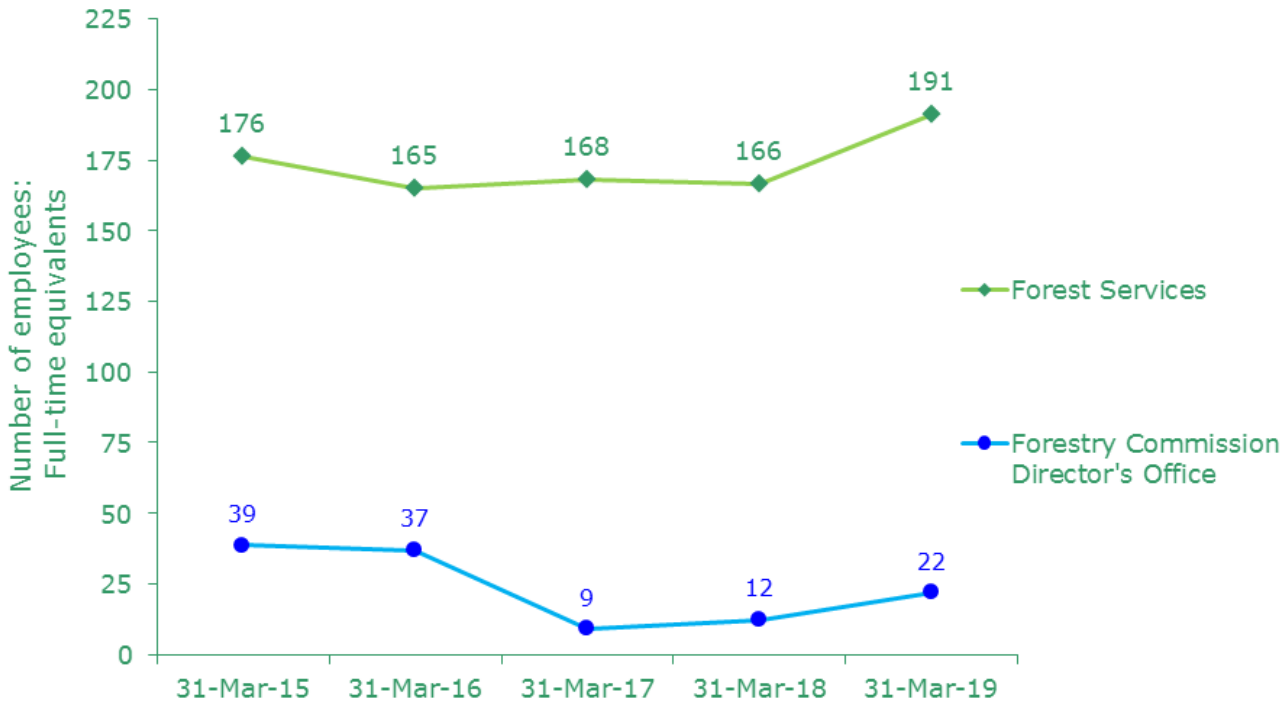


The result for most recent survey, October 2017 to March 2018, is disappointing. We have some understanding, from the feedback received, of the reasons for the figure, and work is already underway to improve the experience for customers who apply for either a woodland grant or felling licence. Since the Wave 5 survey our customers can now apply for a felling licence online - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-online-for-a-felling-licence.

Source: Forestry Commission customer survey conducted with the help of the Rural Payments Agency Customer Insight team.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied.*	
Trend for just over two years **only**: Oct-17/Mar-18 compared to Jul-15/Dec-15	Deteriorating

Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and the Forestry Commission Director's Office



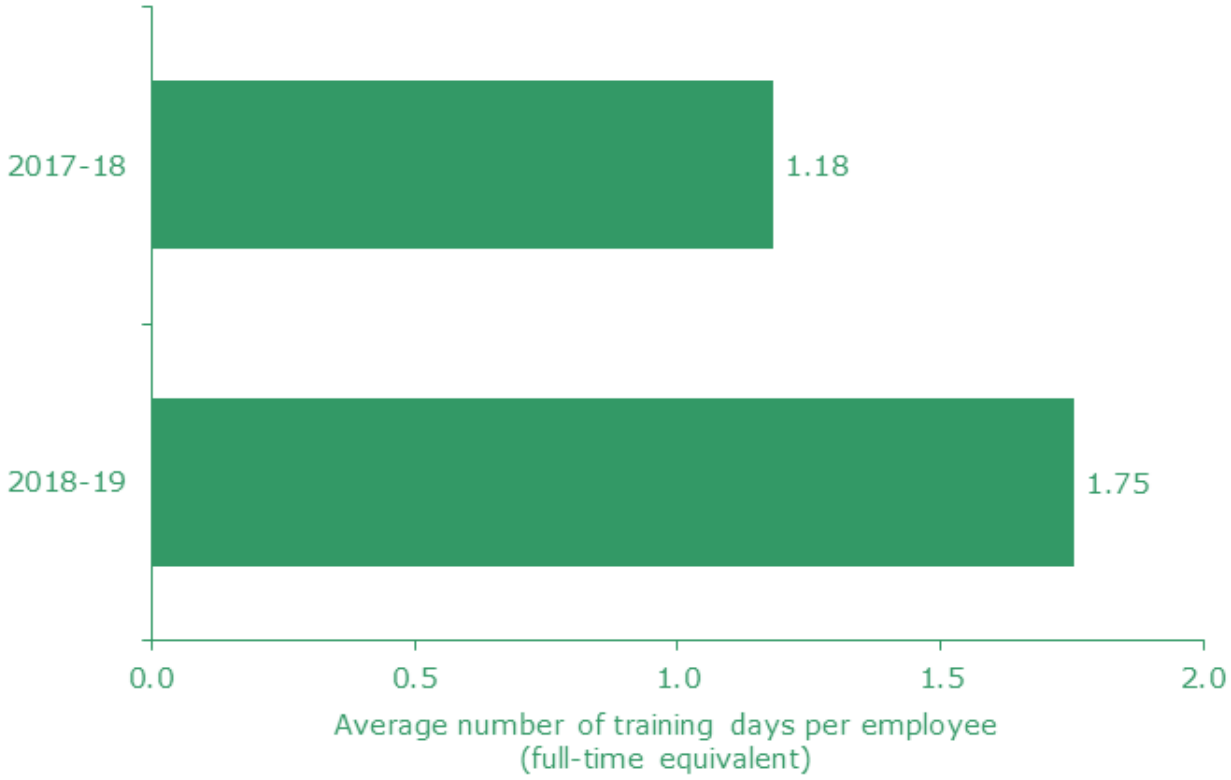
The number of actual employees (full-time equivalents (FTEs)) in Forest Services has increased by 25 in the year to 31 March 2019. Over half of this is due to the transfer of the Plant Health department from Forestry Commission Central Services in Silvan House, Edinburgh (from 1 April 2018). The rest of the increase corresponds to additional EU Exit resources as well as resources in Areas and admin teams to manage sustained Countryside Stewardship and regulatory pressures.

The number of actual employees (FTEs) in the Director's Office has increased by 10 in the year to 31 March 2019. This reflects the resourcing of the Centenary project to celebrate 100 years of forestry in the country, counted within the Director's Office. This project has a finite scope, with the majority of roles within this team due to cease by 2020. The Director's Office is also due to increase its FTE following the closure of Central Services in Edinburgh. On 1 April 2019 the Director's Office transformed into the Commissioners' Office, and is now responsible for the overarching governance, corporate finance and central government correspondence for Forest Services, Forestry England and Forest Research.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and the Forestry Commission Director's Office*	
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data •••

Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services

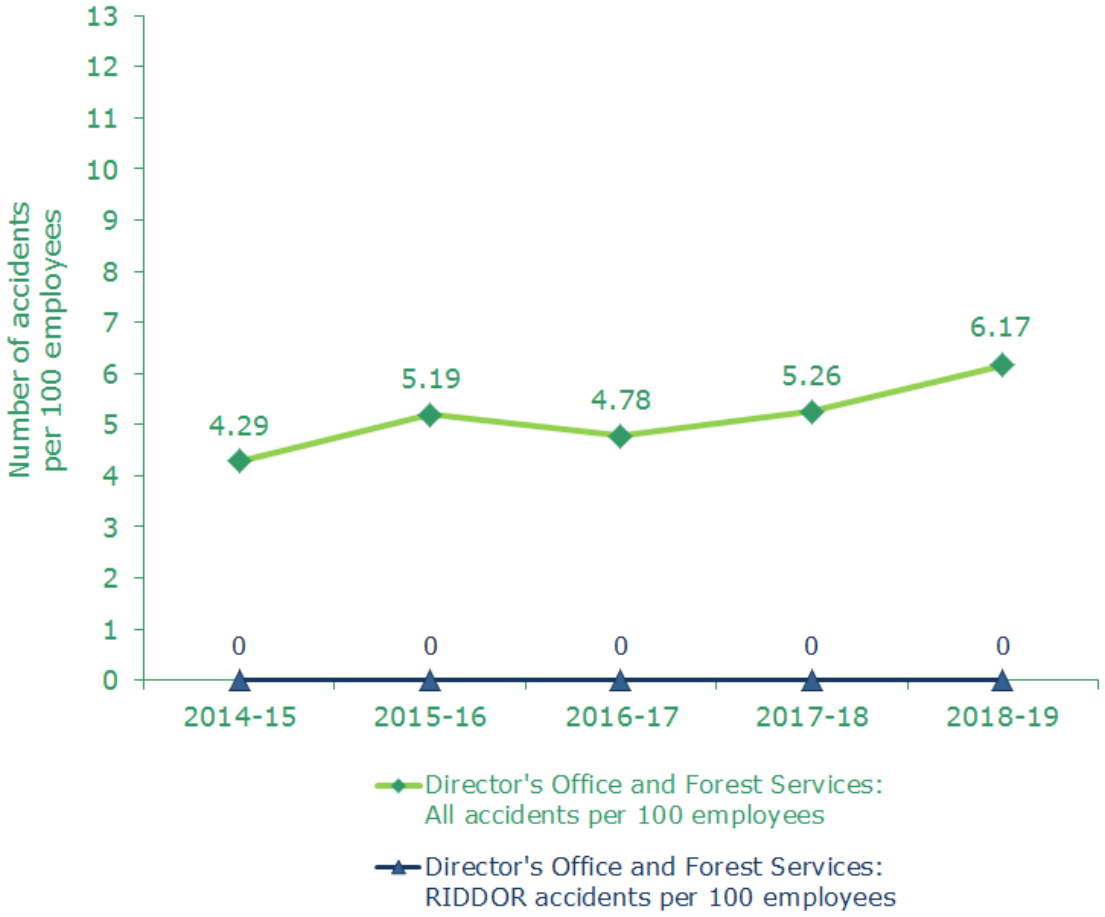


The average number of training days per actual employee (full-time equivalent) in Forest Services has increased by nearly 50% to 1.75 days in 2018-19 since the year before. The indicator includes training arranged by the Forest Services' Business Support team, Human Resources and provided through the Health Safety and Technical training team. Training organised locally by teams in Forest Services is not included as the data for those is not currently available. We plan to consider how this indicator could be enhanced to capture this kind of activity in the future.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Average number of training days organised by the central internal learning and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services*	
One year trend **only**: 2018-19 compared to 2017-18	Improving

Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services



The accident rate is slightly greater than last year. The number of accidents reported this year is greater than last, however the zero number of RIDDOR reportable accidents for 2018-19 is consistent with last year.

Note: 'RIDDOR accidents' are incidents of a type that must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services*	
Four year trend **only**: 2018-19 compared to 2014-15 (all accidents element)	Deteriorating

Forestry Commission

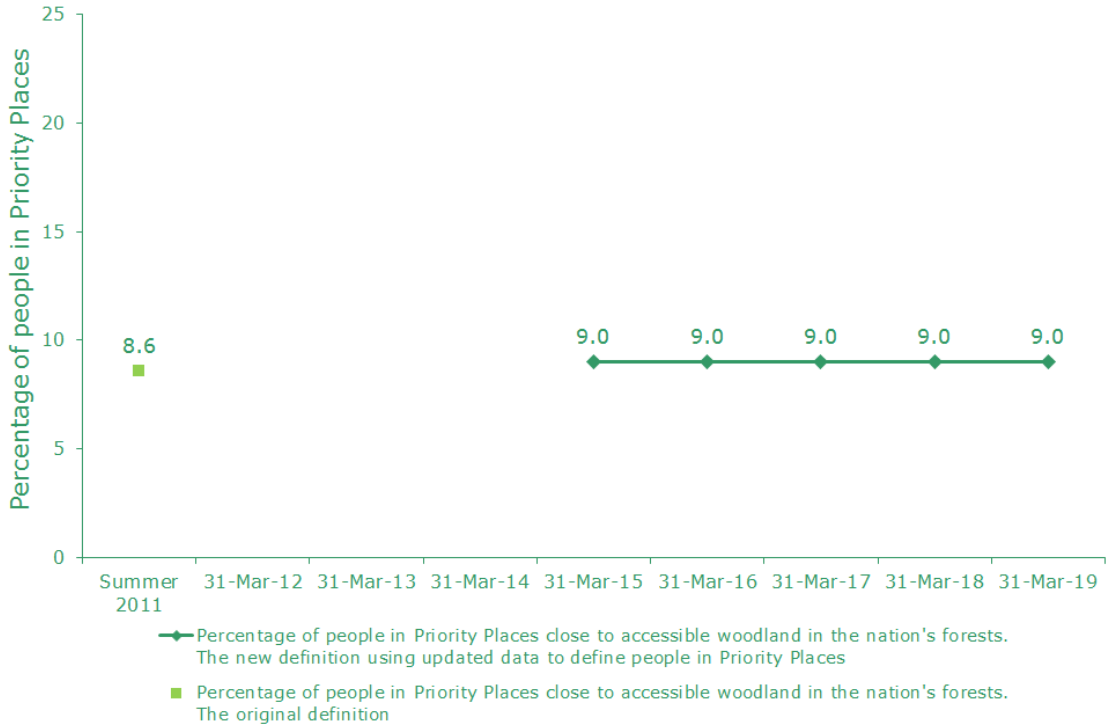
Part 3: Other Forestry England Indicators

Part 3. Other Forestry England Indicators

PEOPLE

People's health and enjoyment of woodland

Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland in the nation's forests



Some 9% of the people living in Priority Places are close to accessible woodland in the nation's forests managed by Forestry England, as at 31 March 2019. This figure reflects both the extent and locations of the accessible woodlands managed by Forestry England. The figure remains static.

Looking more widely about 85% of the entire population of England lives within a 30 minute drive time of accessible parts of the nation's forests (see Map 7).

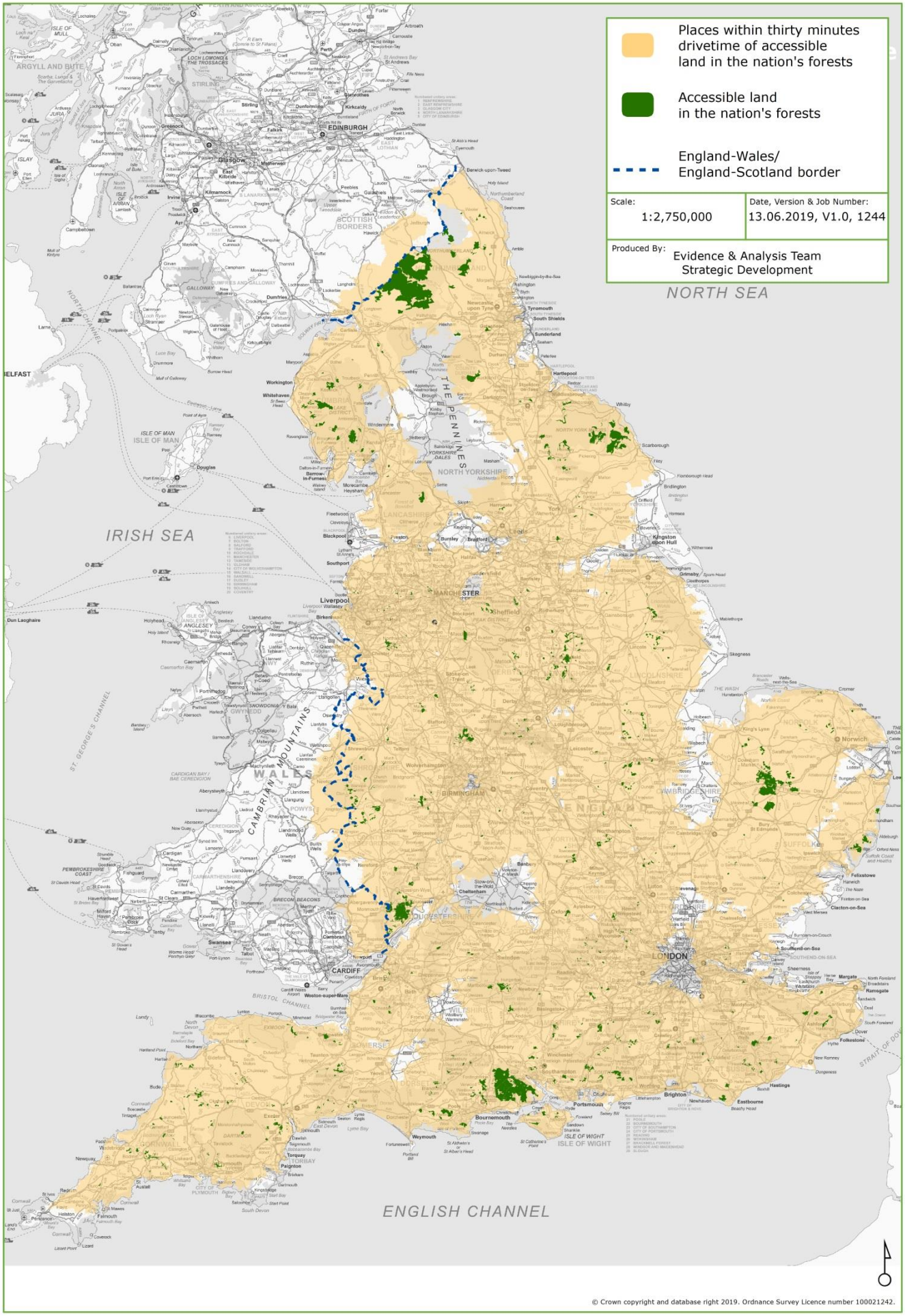
Notes

1. The contribution of woodland other than in the nation's forests managed by Forestry England, and of all accessible woodland, is shown in the Other Forest Services Indicators part of this report.
2. Priority Places are defined as those within the most deprived 40% of places on the Index of Multiple Deprivation also in built up areas of >10,000 population. Access is defined as residence within 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) of one or more accessible woodlands >20 hectares in size.

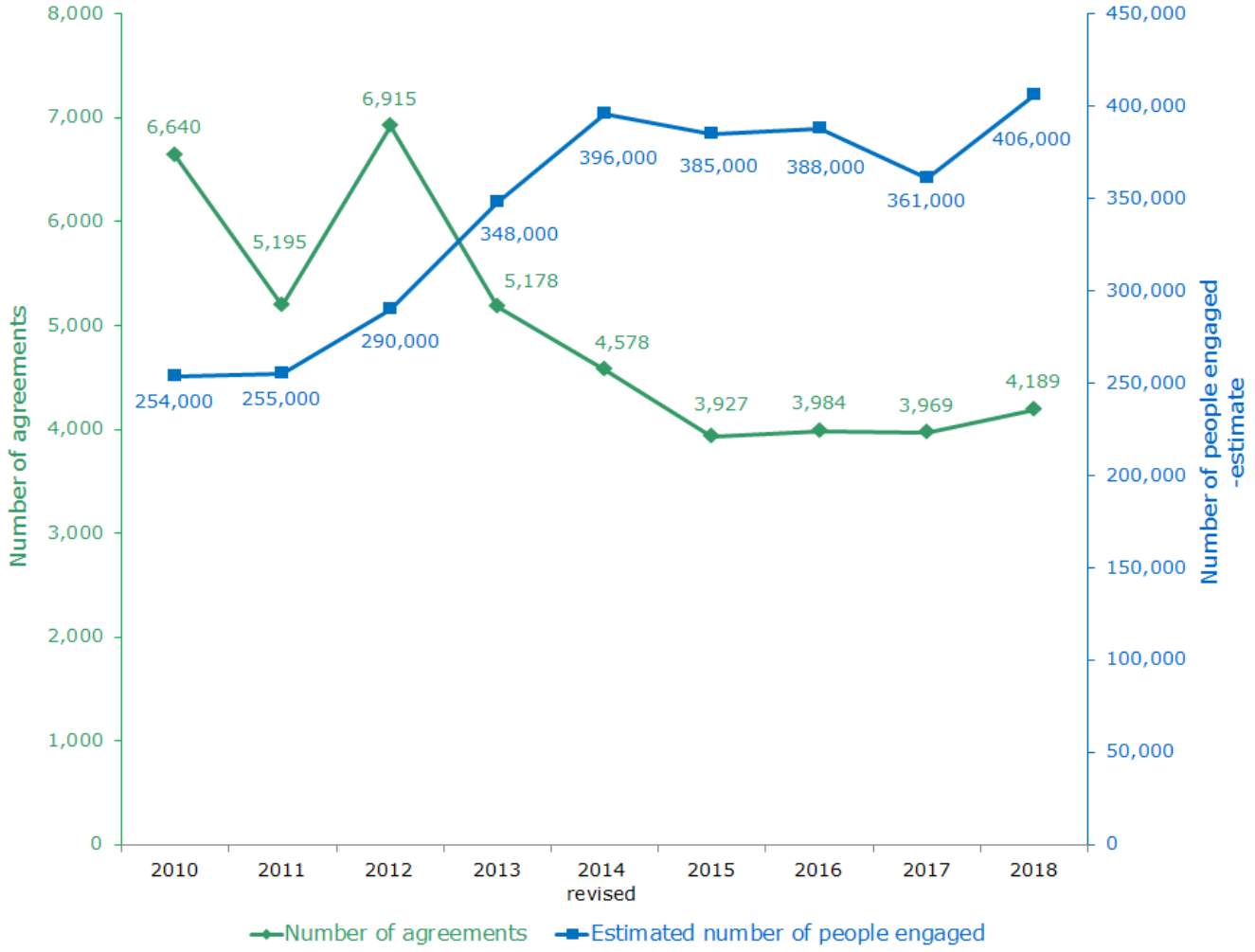
Source: Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), Census of Population (Office for National Statistics) and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland in the nation's forests*	
Four year trend **only**: 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-15	Little or no overall change ≈

Map 7
Places within 30 minutes drive time of accessible land in the nation's forests, 2018



Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities in the nation's forests

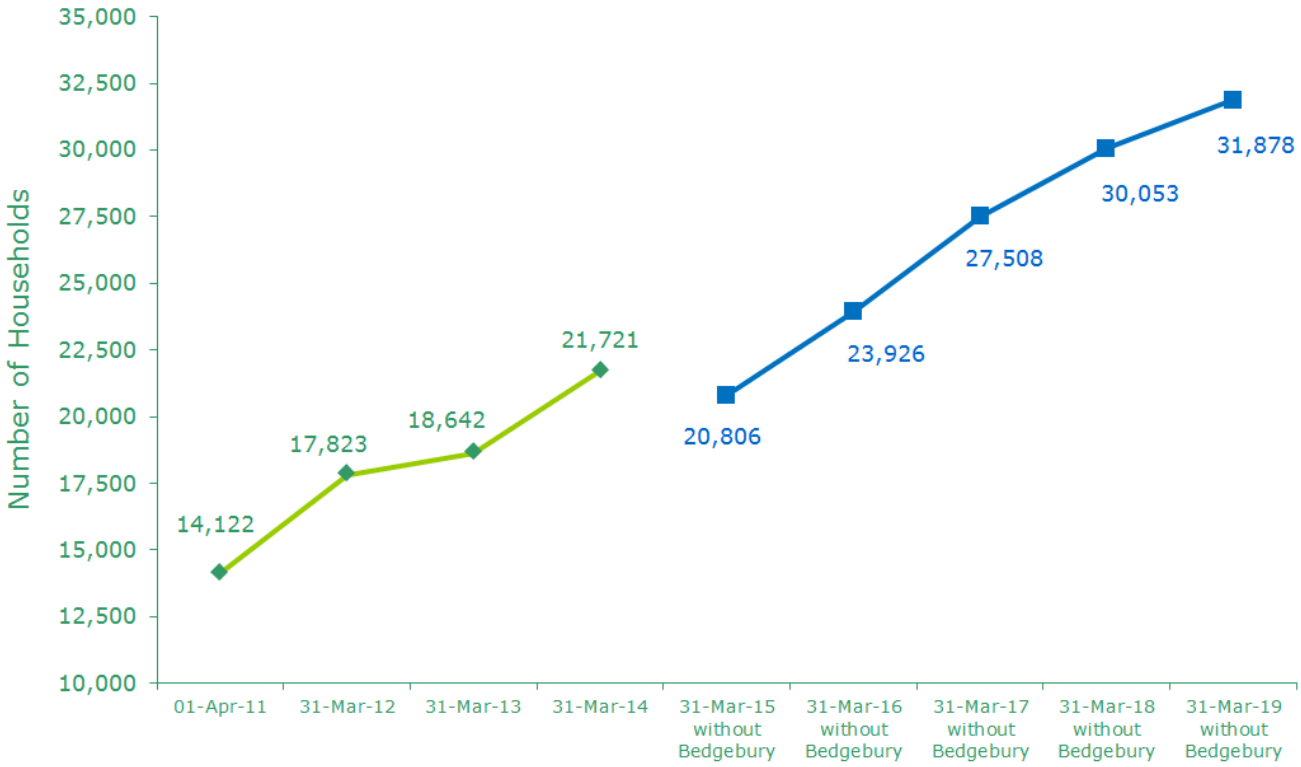


The number of permissions provided for locally led events and activities has increased by just over 200 in 2018 compared to the previous year. The number of participants has also increased, by nearly 45,000 people in that most recent year. This is a healthy increase and reflects the continued interest by individuals, charities, organisations and businesses to run events and activities in the nation's forests across England.

Source: Forestry England administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities in the nation's forests*	
Five year trend, 2018 compared to 2013 (number of people)	Improving

Number of households in the Discovery Pass Scheme for the nation's forests



Sales of the Forestry England Discovery Pass in 2018-19 have increased by more than 6% compared to the previous year (2017-18). This continues the trend seen in all preceding years of the scheme. There have been increases across a large number of the participating visitor sites, with totals for 17 of 29 locations exceeding those of the previous year (to varying degrees). During the year, two visitor sites introduced ANPR parking management system (vehicle recognition) and this has assisted Discovery Pass sales at these locations. We have also been proactive in promoting Discovery Pass membership as a helpful alternative to daily parking charges. These local activities, combined with an increased presence in popular campaigns, and the opportunities for people to purchase from the Forestry England website, have helped us both attract new customers to the scheme, and engender loyalty to the membership.

Note: The figures are now shown without the inclusion of Bedgebury as that is now a Friends of Bedgebury Pinetum Membership.

Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the nation's forests*	
Four year trend **only**, 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-15	Improving

Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification for the nation's forests

	1 April 2011	31 March 2012	31 March 2013	31 March 2014	31 March 2015	31 March 2016	31 March 2017	31 March 2018	31 March 2019
UKWAS Certification Held?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Forestry Commission was the world's first state forest service to have its entire estate certified by the Forest Stewardship Council in 1999, and we have maintained this certification since. We have also held certification from the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) since 2010 for the entire area of the nation's forests managed by Forestry England.

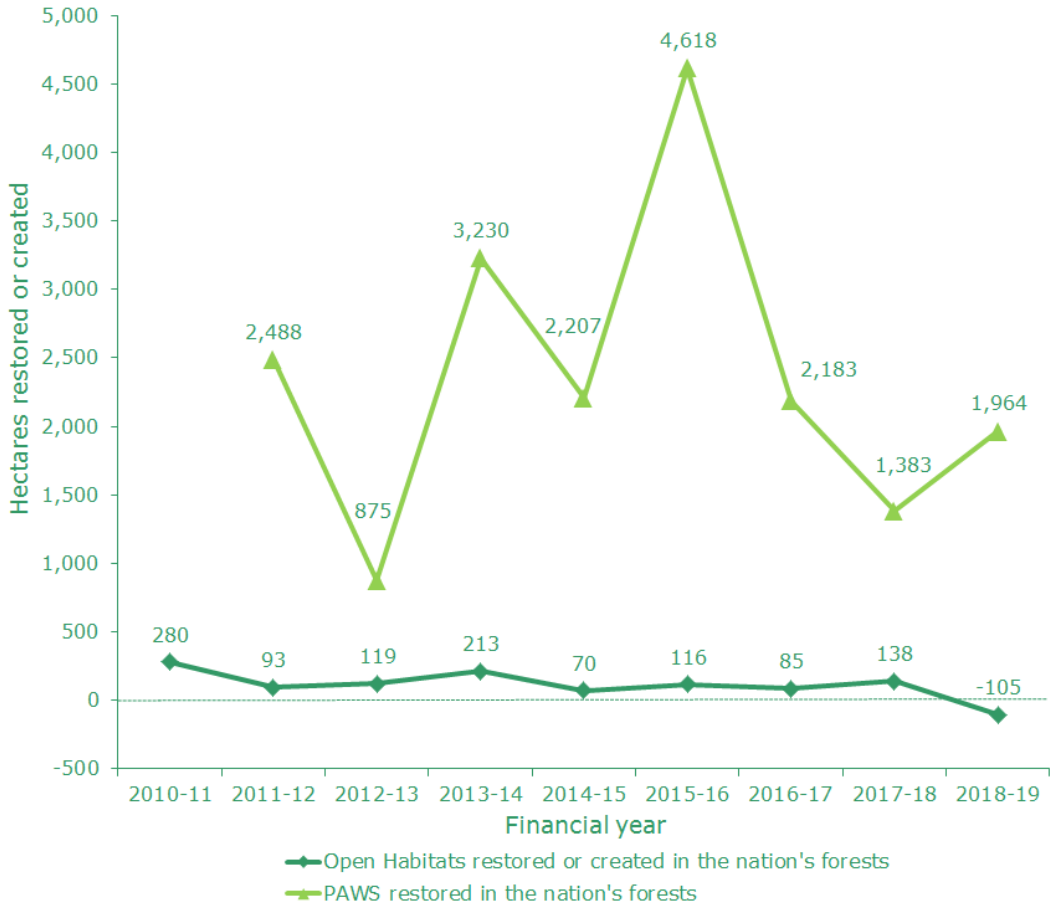
Source: Based on the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

Assessment of change in *Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification for the nation's forests*	
Five year trend, Mar-19 compared to Mar-14	Little or no overall change ≈

NATURE

Places for wildlife to prosper

Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in the nation's forests

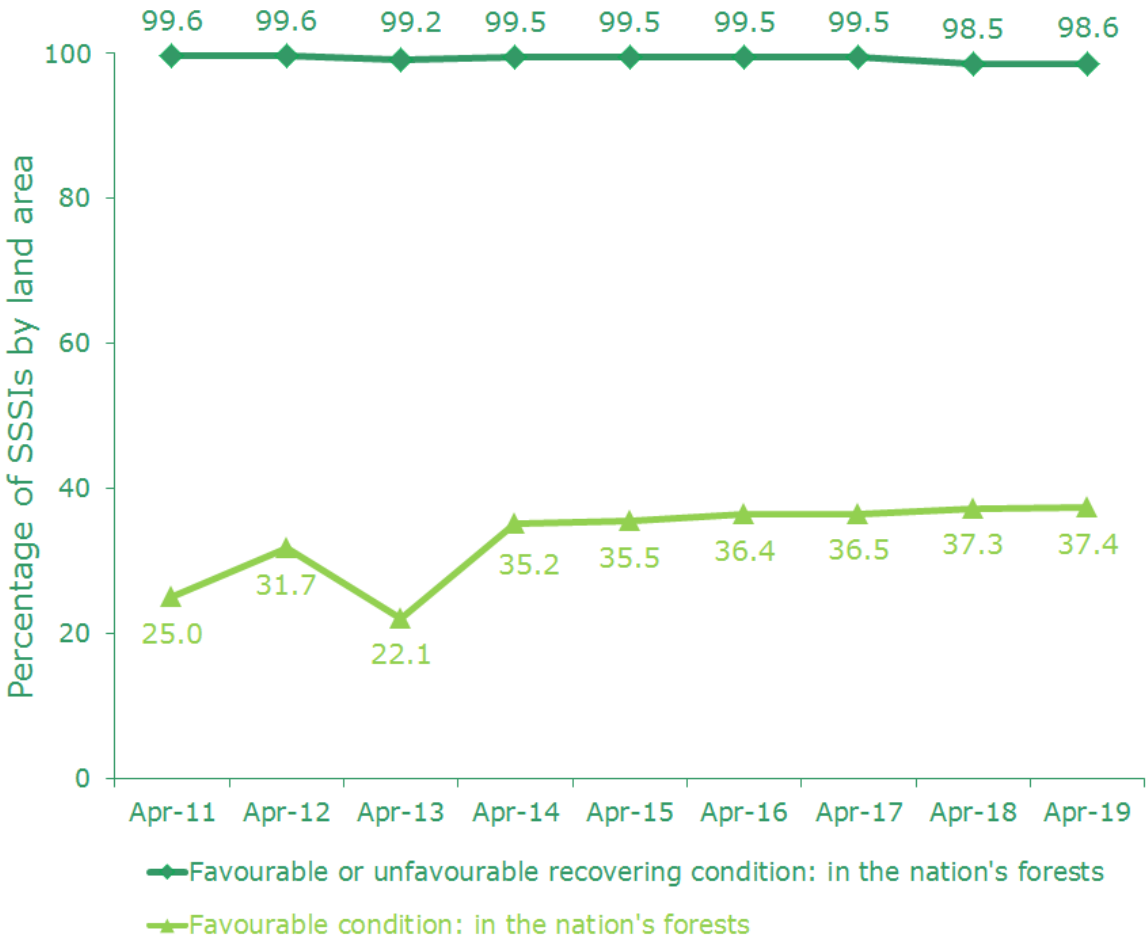


Work continues steadily on the thinning and restoration work across the Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) managed by Forestry England. There was a small loss of 105 hectares of priority open habitat across the nation's forests in 2018-19. This requires further investigation, but was partially due to the natural regeneration of spruce trees in previously open upland areas.

Source: Forestry England administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in the nation's forests* revised so in comparison with Forest Design Plans	
PAWS: in the nation's forests	On track: Little or no overall change ≈
Open Habitats: in the nation's forests	On track: Little or no overall change ≈

Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition in the nation's forests

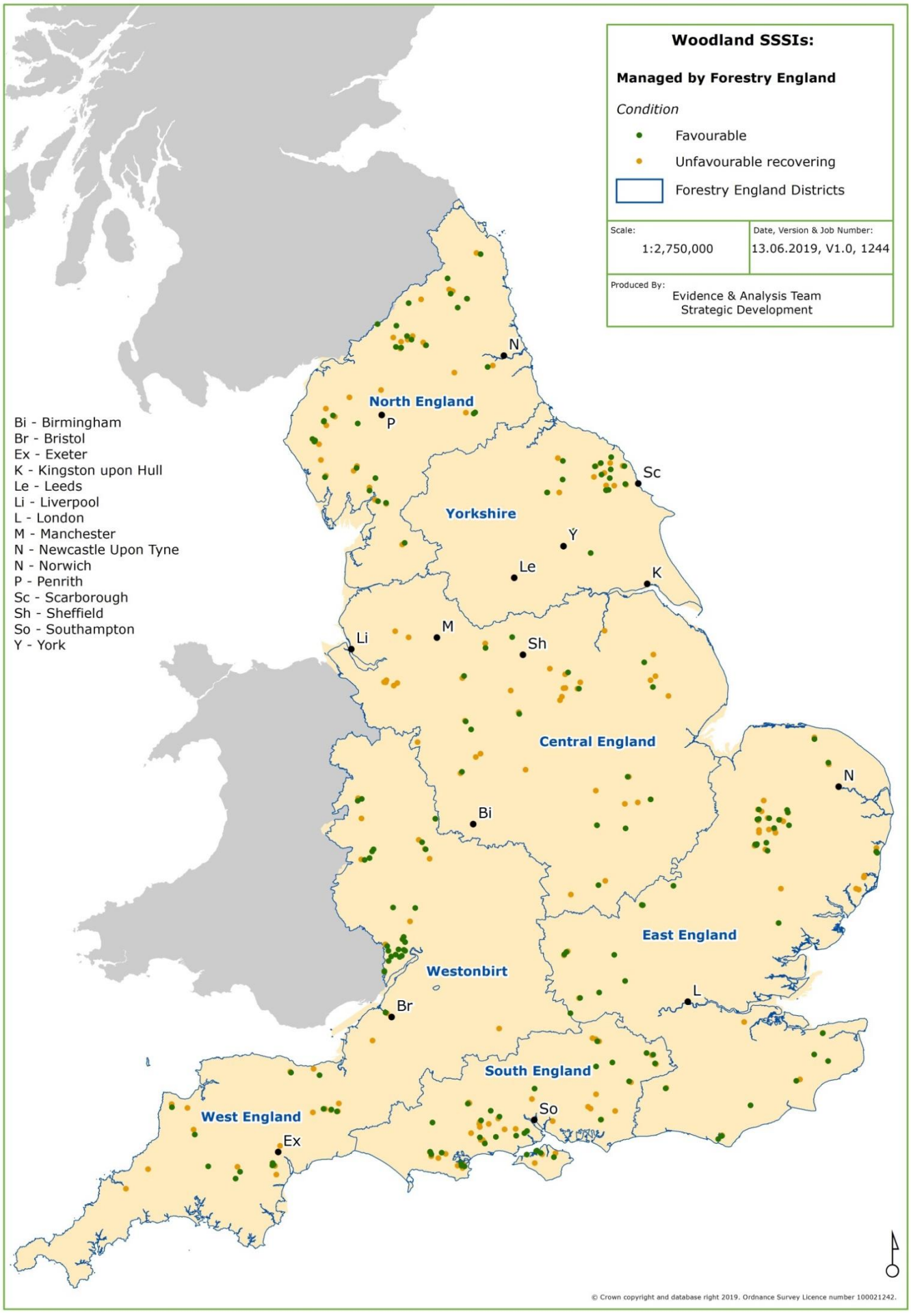


Work continues towards the restoration of favourable condition across the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) suite managed by Forestry England. Unfortunately Natural England have much reduced the number of condition assessments they complete. This means changes in the condition of SSSIs will be more slowly identified. We are currently working with Natural England to explore options to remedy this.

Source: Natural England data on SSSIs.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition in the nation's forests*	
Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition: Five year trend, Apr-19 compared to Apr-14	Little or no overall change ≈
Favourable condition: Five year trend, Apr-19 compared to Apr-14	Improving ✓

Map 8
Woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest managed by Forestry England in target condition, April 2019



ECONOMY

Economic and environmental gain

Percentage of woodland in active management (Forestry England contribution)

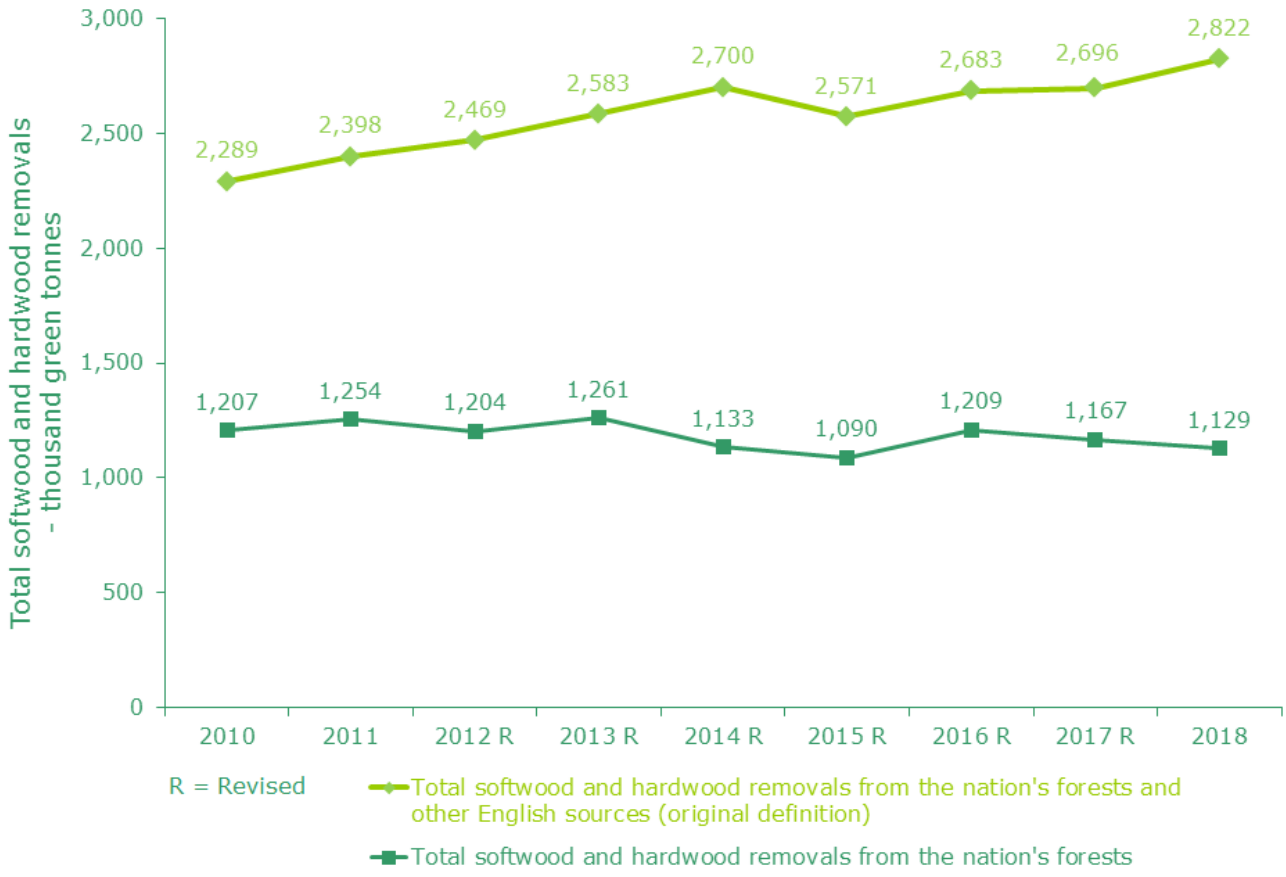
Some 16.4% of all woodland in England is managed in the nation's forests cared for by Forestry England as at 31 March 2019. They are independently certified under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are therefore classified as in active management (a small proportion of the nation's forests are not classified as 'forestry' and are therefore not certified under UKWAS). This area in management represents about 28% of all the woodland in management in England.

Source: Geospatial data underlying the Forestry Commission's managed woodland headline indicator (Forest Services), and that showing the location and extent of the nation's forests (Forestry England).

Open Data: The National Forest Inventory and geospatial data showing the landholding managed by Forestry England are available from the Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland in active management (Forestry England contribution)*	
Four year trend **only**: 31-Mar-19 compared to 31-Mar-15	Little or no overall change ≈

Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the nation's forests



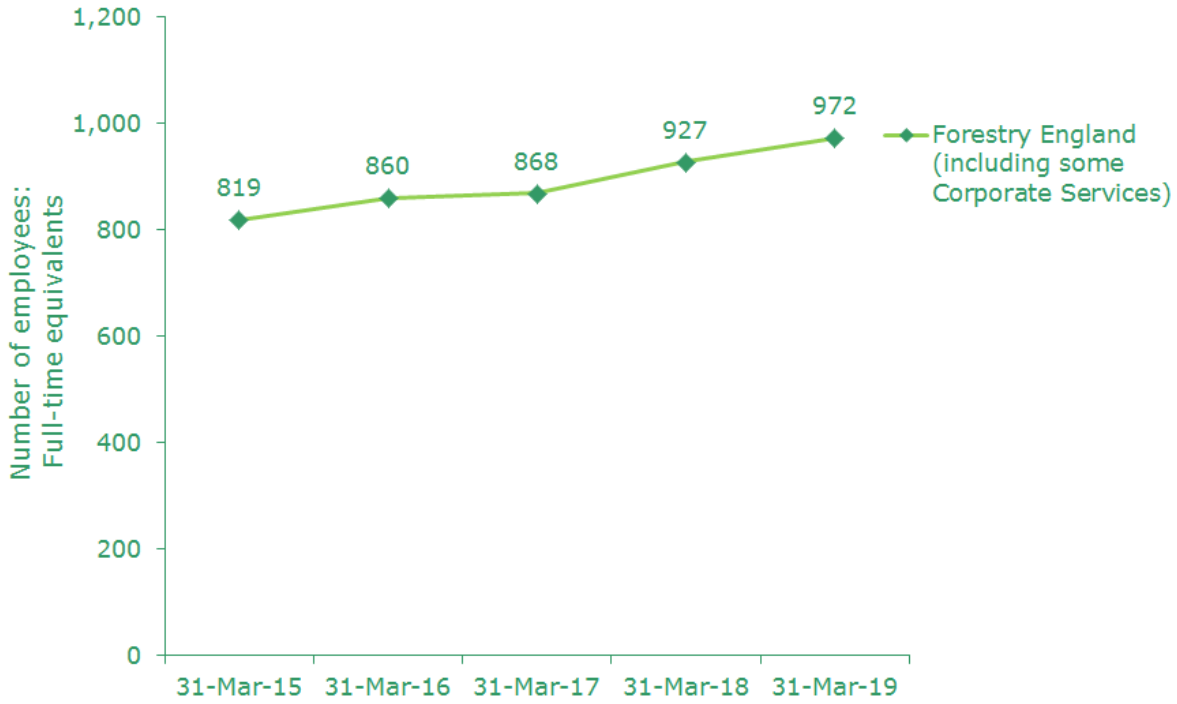
Forestry England offered to market the volume of wood from its production forecast and retained independent certification.

Source: Forest Research statistics on UK wood production and trade.

Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the nation's forests*	
This indicator compared to Forestry England timber production plan	Little or no overall change ≈

ORGANISATIONAL

Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forestry England



The number of actual employees (FTEs) in Forestry England has increased by 44 since the snapshot taken at 31 March 2018. This is a smaller increase than the previous year.

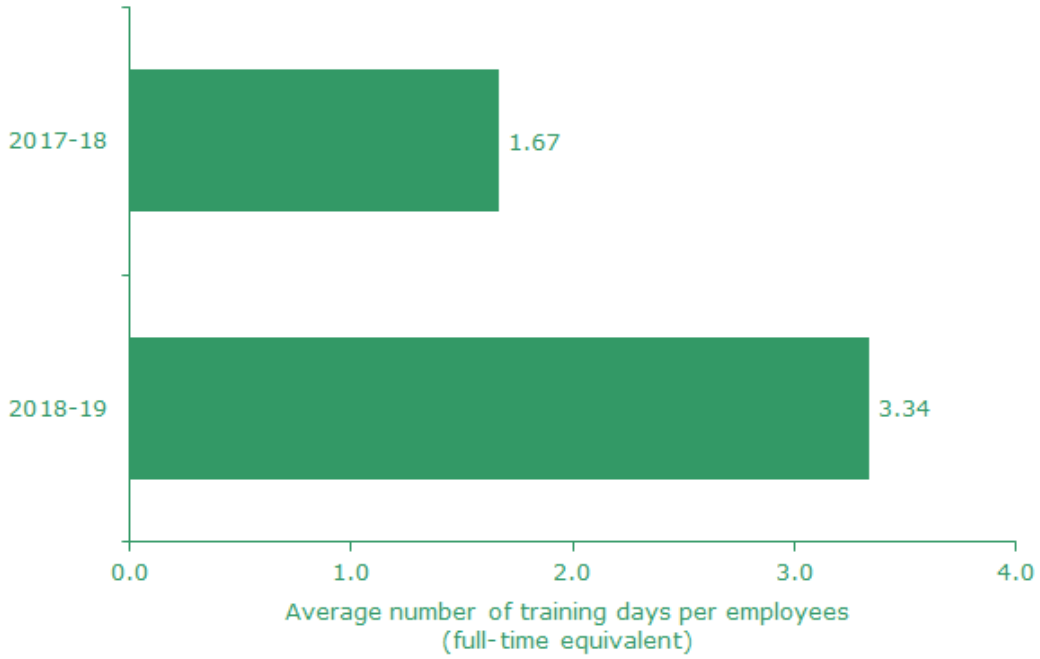
Forestry England has continued to incorporate functions previously undertaken by Silvan House Central Services, primarily IT, HR & Finance corporate services. 19 new posts have been created in the past 12 months as the new corporate service teams have developed. Silvan House Central Services are due to completely close by September 2019.

This year has seen an intake of 3 Trainee Wildlife Rangers and 11 Apprentice Forest Craftspeople. This fits in with Forestry England's long term aim to ensure organisational resilience in the face of an ageing workforce with many Forestry and Wildlife employees nearing retirement age. The Active Forests programme, where posts are partially funded by Sport England, has expanded this year. This programme accounts for 5 new roles being introduced into Forestry England.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forestry England*	
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data ⋯

Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forestry England



The average number of training days per actual employee (full-time equivalent) in Forestry England has doubled to 3.34 days in 2018-19 since the year before. The indicator includes training arranged by Human Resources, by the Health & Safety and Technical training team, and by Forest Services' Business Support.

We have continued to refine training processes, and the expertise of industry partners has continued to be understood and harnessed, resulting in more training delivered and increased efficiency.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Average number of training days organised by the central internal learning and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forestry England*	
One year trend **only**: 2018-19 compared to 2017-18	Improving

Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forestry England

There has been no significant change in the number or type of injury incidents reported. Plans are in place to deliver a number of workshops to managers to increase the awareness of the type of activities that will drive behavioural change, including Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Leading Safely training.

Note: 'RIDDOR accidents' are incidents of a type that must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forestry England*	
Four year trend **only**: 2018-19 compared to 2014-15	Little or no overall change ≈

Government Internal Audit Agency

INTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATE OF ASSURANCE

Forestry Commission (FC) Corporate Plan Performance Indicators for the year ended 31 March 2019 have been subject to independent audit by the Government Internal Audit Agency.

We have reviewed the overall governance, risk and control framework for the preparation of the indicators. For each headline indicator, and a sample of other indicators, we have:

- conducted interviews to obtain an understanding of the systems and controls used to generate, aggregate and report on the key data; and
- reviewed the completeness and accuracy of the key data by:
  - assessing relevant supporting documentation used to report the indicators;
  - assessing significant assumptions and judgements where used;
  - testing the documentation which supports the measurement, calculation and estimation; and
  - assessing and testing the source data used to generate the indicators where available.

For the indicators based on information from outside of the FC, we relied on information supplied by other organisations including ONS, Defra, Natural England and the Environment Agency. We did not carry out any independent verification procedures on the information provided to the FC, other than conducting interviews to obtain an understanding of the external information used and the level of information available to support the indicators.

As a result of the procedures carried out and evidence provided, we have obtained reasonable assurance that the indicators are free from material misstatement, and we consider the overall arrangements for the production of the Performance Indicators for the year ended 31 March 2019, to be effective and appropriate.

Sally Flett

Sally Flett FCPFA, ACFS, IIA(Aff)
Head of Internal Audit, Forestry Commission
Government Internal Audit Agency
31 May 2019

Official Statistics

This is an Official Statistics publication, produced to meet the standards of the *Code of Practice for Statistics* (Office for Statistics Regulation and UK Statistics Authority, 2018) available from https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/. More information about Official Statistics is available from www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk.

Forestry Commission

We will consider all requests to make publication content available in alternative formats. For this, and all other enquiries about this publication please contact:
Strategic Development
Forest Services
Forestry Commission
620 Bristol Business Park
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1EJ
Tel: 0300 067 4077
Contact: kerry.ward@forestrycommission.gov.uk
https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission

Photo credits: Jill Jennings, Ben Thomas and the picture library of the Forestry Commission






Forestry Commission Indicators Report 2019
Published by the Forestry Commission 13th June 2019