**Forestry Commission England**

# Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

## Headline Performance Update 30 September 2018

# Corporate Plan
# Key Performance Indicators
## Headline Performance Update
## at 30 September 2018 (First Release)

Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2018-19[1] 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 Plan[2].

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 quarterly[3]. They are listed in Table 1.
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* twice a year. The latest report for the period to 30 September 2018 is presented separately[3].
- Reports on our full suite of around 50 indicators in our *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report[4]* annually.

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.

Throughout this report we show the statistical sources drawn upon and signpost the underlying spatial data on our map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site[5].

---

[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 via the Forestry Commission pages at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission

[4] 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

[5] Forestry Commission spatial Open Data is available from http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/

**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 |

Reports are available from the Forestry Commission pages on the gov.uk website.

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

<div align="right">

Responsible Statistician: David Cross

david.f.cross@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Evidence and Analysis
Strategic Development, Forest Services

Bristol, 13th November 2018

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

</div>

# Forest Services

## Protection

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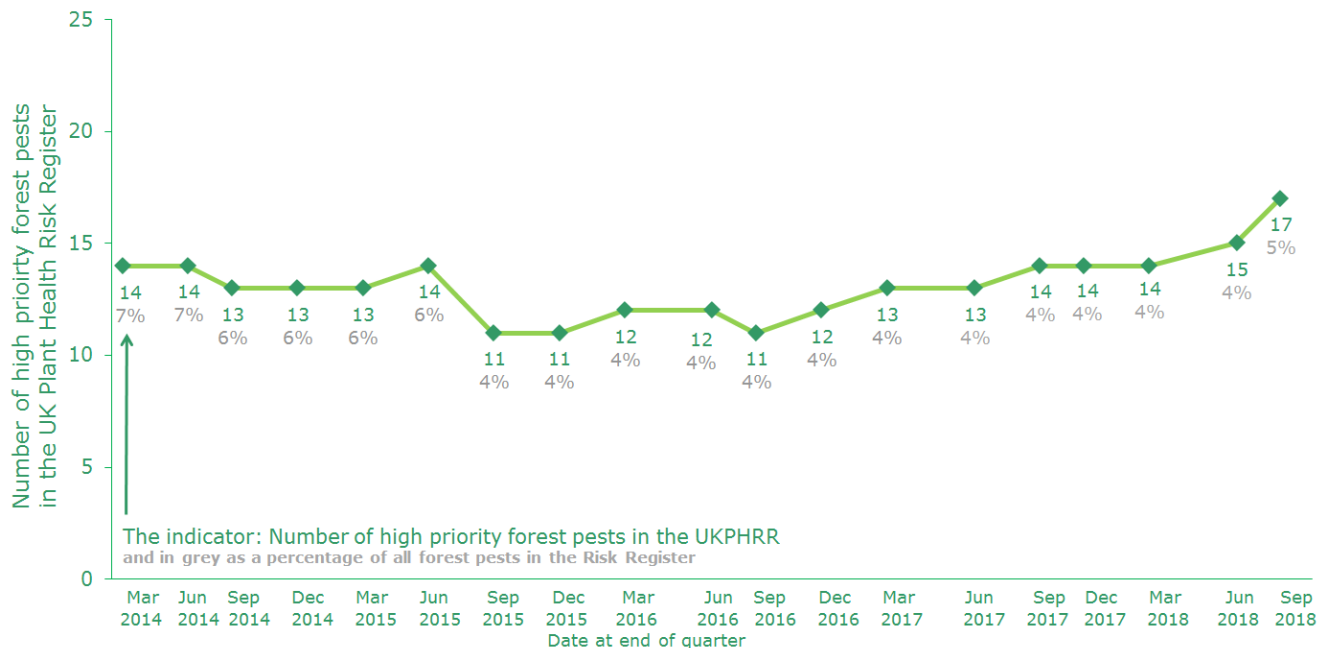


Source: [UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)](link)[6] data.

Report at end September 2018: There are 339 forest pests on the [UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)](link), **17 (5%) of which are consider high priority.** This is two more high priority pests than at the end of June 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.

The two new pests are the pathogen[7] *Geosmithia morbida*, and its vector[8], the insect *Pityophthorus juglandis* (walnut twig beetle), the combined activity of which result in 'thousand cankers disease' of walnut. Both are currently absent from the UK. Walnut trees (e.g. *Juglans regia*) are not widely grown for timber in the UK.

---

[6] [https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/](https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/)
[7] Pathogen: an organism that causes disease.
[8] Vector: an organism that does not cause disease itself but transmits infection by conveying pathogens from one host to another.

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* remains a significant risk, particularly to sweet chestnut trees and continues to spread on Japanese larch trees, with significant disease expansion observed in Scotland and Wales on the latter. In order to minimise disease spread and impact, statutory action to remove affected trees is undertaken.

*Chalara* dieback of ash *(Hymenoscyphus fraxineus)* continues to spread and cause significant death of trees throughout ash woodlands, particularly in the South East and East of England. In order to slow the spread, and help prevent the introduction of new strains of the pathogen, statutory import and movement restrictions for ash are in place.

Good biosecurity practices are recommended to help slow the spread of these pests and diseases that are already present in the UK.

**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 September 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 | *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 |

| Common name | Latin name | Type of pest | Present in the UK? | Mitigated Likelihood score | Mitigated Impact rating | Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Walnut twig beetle | *Pityophthorus juglandis* | Insect | Absent | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| Zigzag elm sawfly | *Aproceros leucopoda* | Insect | Present: unknown distribution | 4 | 4 | 16 |
| 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 September 2018 is 57 (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[9] (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.

---

[9] https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf

Possible Relative Risk Ratings:



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, and 30th September 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)*
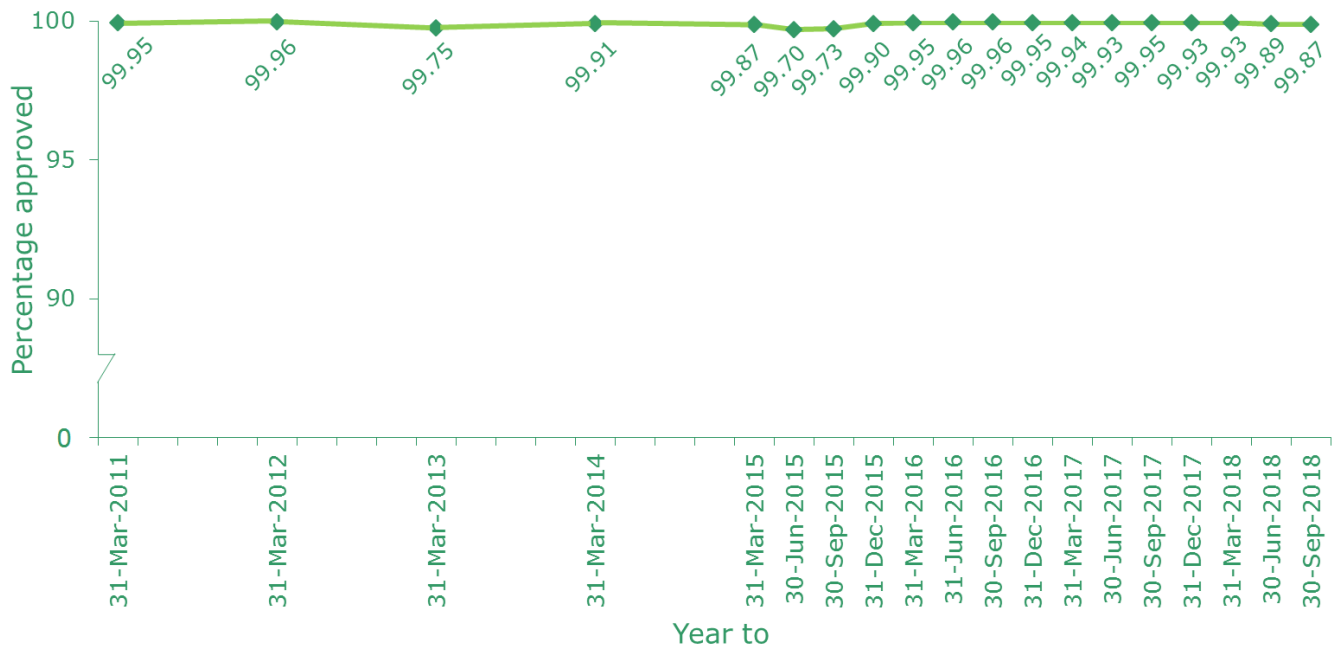


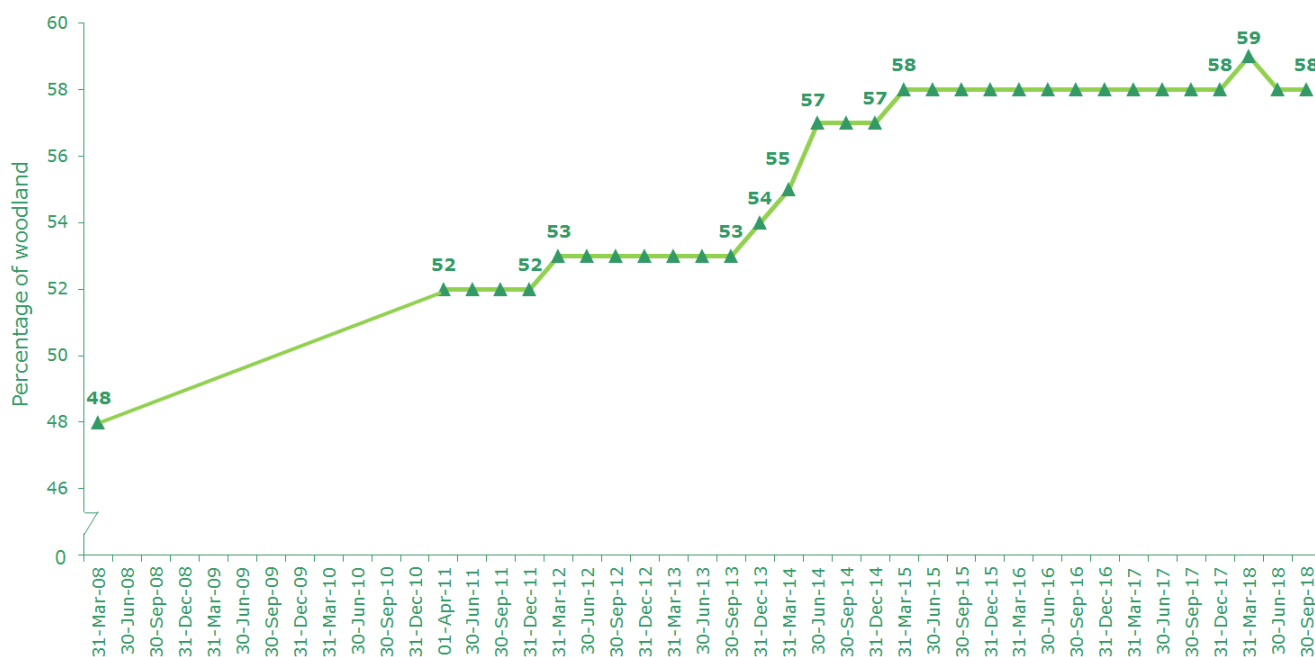Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 30 September 2018: **99.87% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

The indicator for legal felling remains at a 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)*



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory

Position at 30 September 2018 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 761,000 hectares of woodland in management (at this date, when rounded).**

The percentage of woodland that is actively managed has remained at 58%. In the six months to 30 September the combined area of woodland covered management plans, woodland grants and felling licences reaching the end of their life exceeded the combined area of woodland covered by new plans, grants and licences added to the count[10]. Through active woodland management there is scope to further increase the multiple benefits delivered by woodland, including increased timber production, and to help improve woodland resilience.

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

---

[10]For the definition of woodland included in the Managed Woodland Headline Indicator see page 10 at: Forestry Commission England (2014) *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Headline Performance Update 30 June 2014*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at: https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-8kmhu6.

# Expansion

*Area of woodland*

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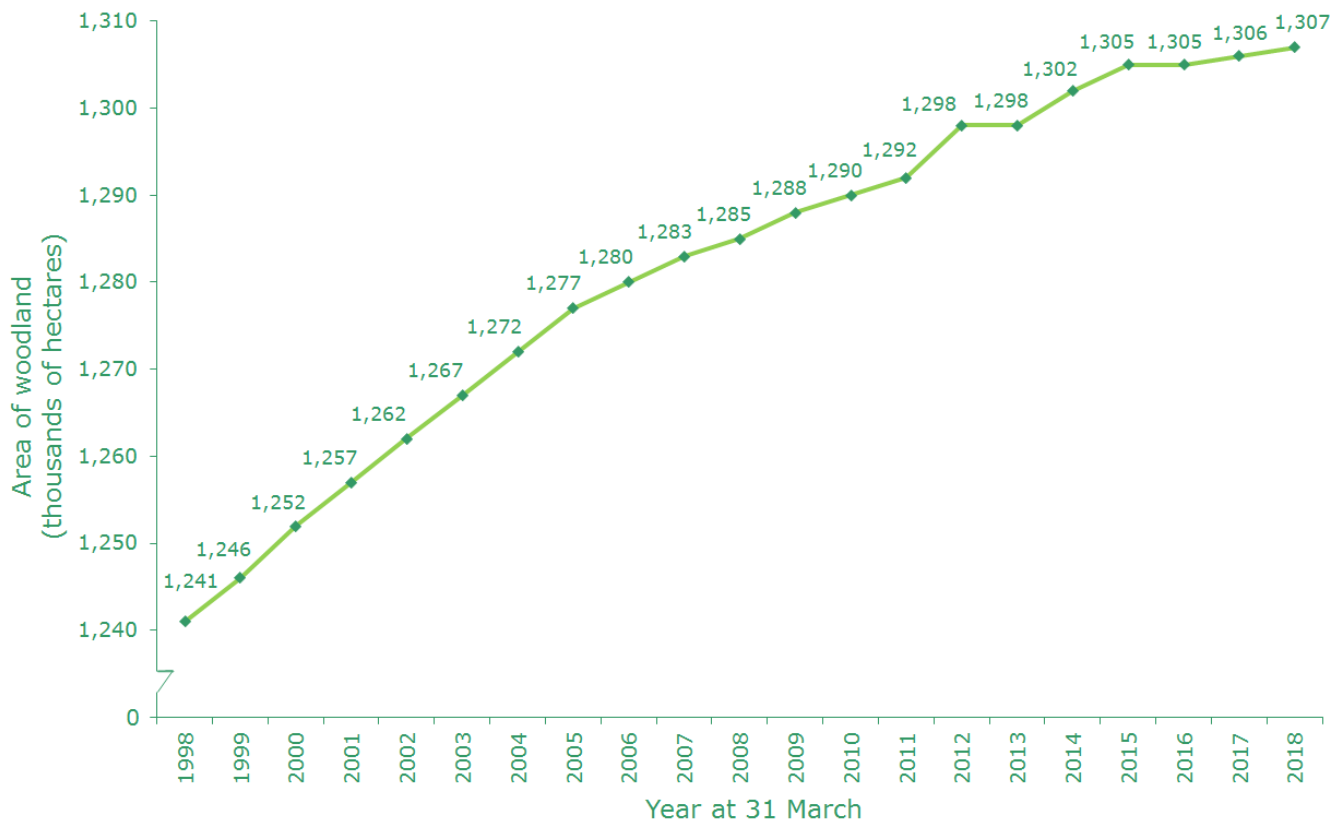


Source: This is a National Statistic published in Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2018, based mainly on the National Forest Inventory woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

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 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.

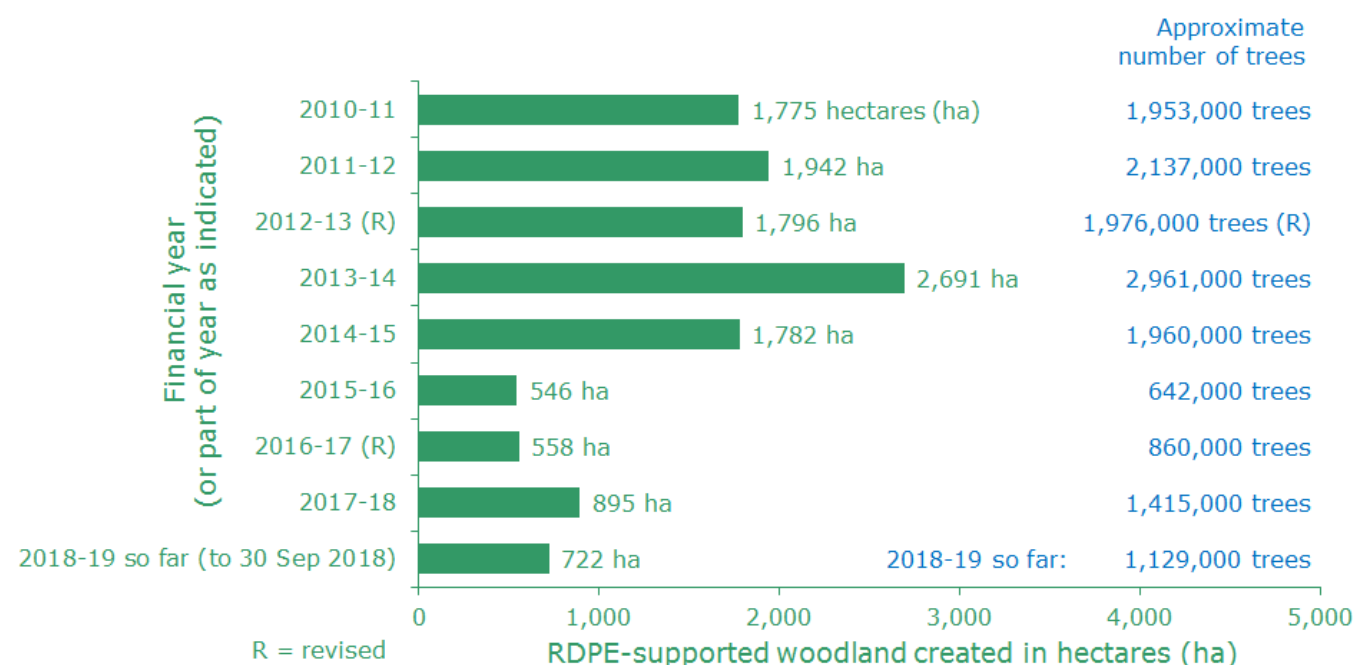### i)     RDPE-supported new planting **by quarter** (in hectares)
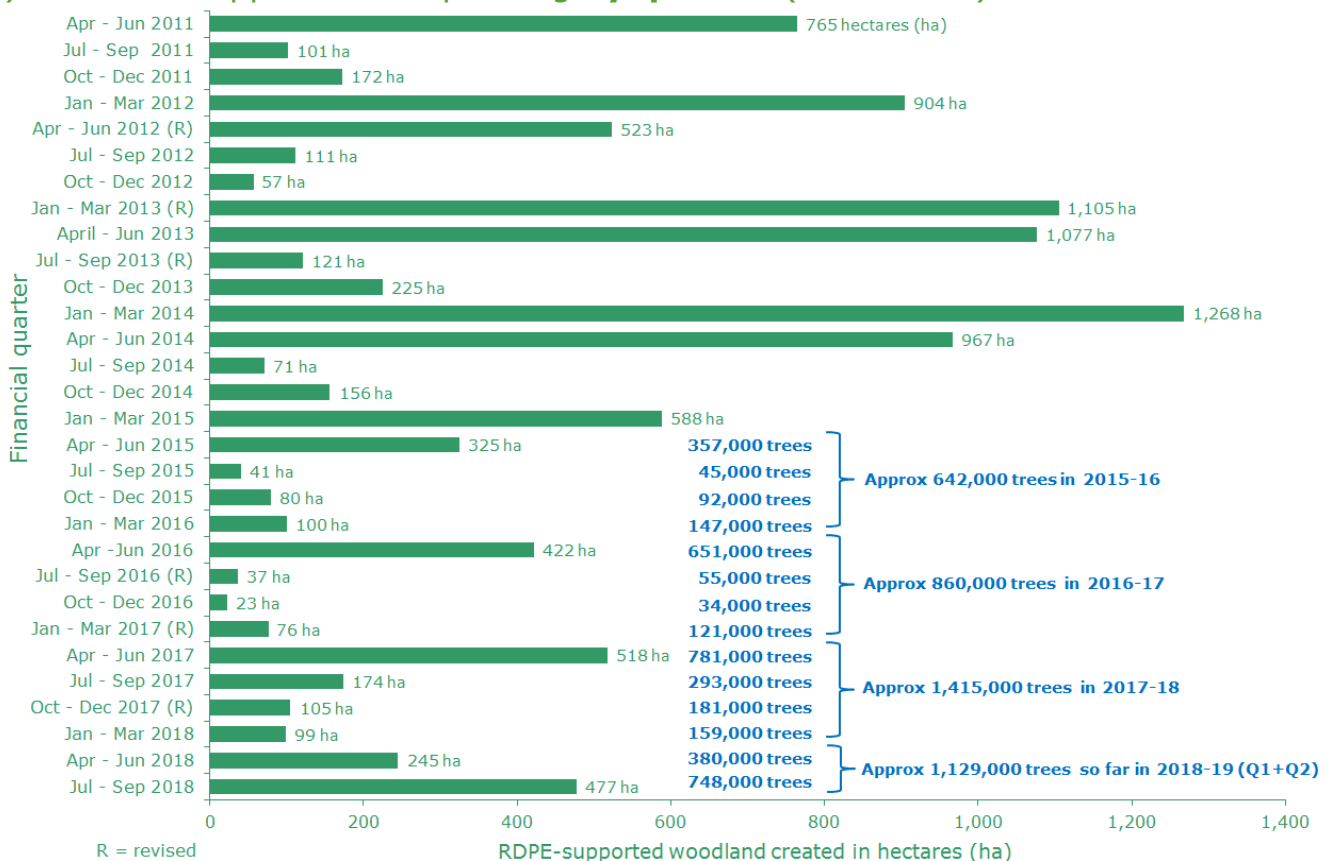


Source: Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support July to September 2018 inclusive: **477 hectares, equating to around 748,000 trees in this quarter.**

The new planting of woodland counted in this quarter (based on date grant claims sent for payment) is more than two and a half times more than in the same period last year. The cumulative total for the half year to 30 September, however, is almost the same this year as it was last year. The lack of a notable acceleration in planting rates compared to last year is in part because a notable number of signed grant agreements remain to be planted. This may be a result of challenging weather conditions during the 2017-18 planting season.

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

| Financial year (or part of year as indicated) | RDPE-supported woodland created in hectares (ha) | Approximate number of trees |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2010-11 | 1,775 hectares (ha) | 1,953,000 trees |
| 2011-12 | 1,942 ha | 2,137,000 trees |
| 2012-13 (R) | 1,796 ha | 1,976,000 trees (R) |
| 2013-14 | 2,691 ha | 2,961,000 trees |
| 2014-15 | 1,782 ha | 1,960,000 trees |
| 2015-16 | 546 ha | 642,000 trees |
| 2016-17 (R) | 558 ha | 860,000 trees |
| 2017-18 | 895 ha | 1,415,000 trees |
| 2018-19 so far (to 30 Sep 2018) | 722 ha | 2018-19 so far: 1,129,000 trees |

R = revise

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

# Forest Enterprise England

## Organisational

*Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)*
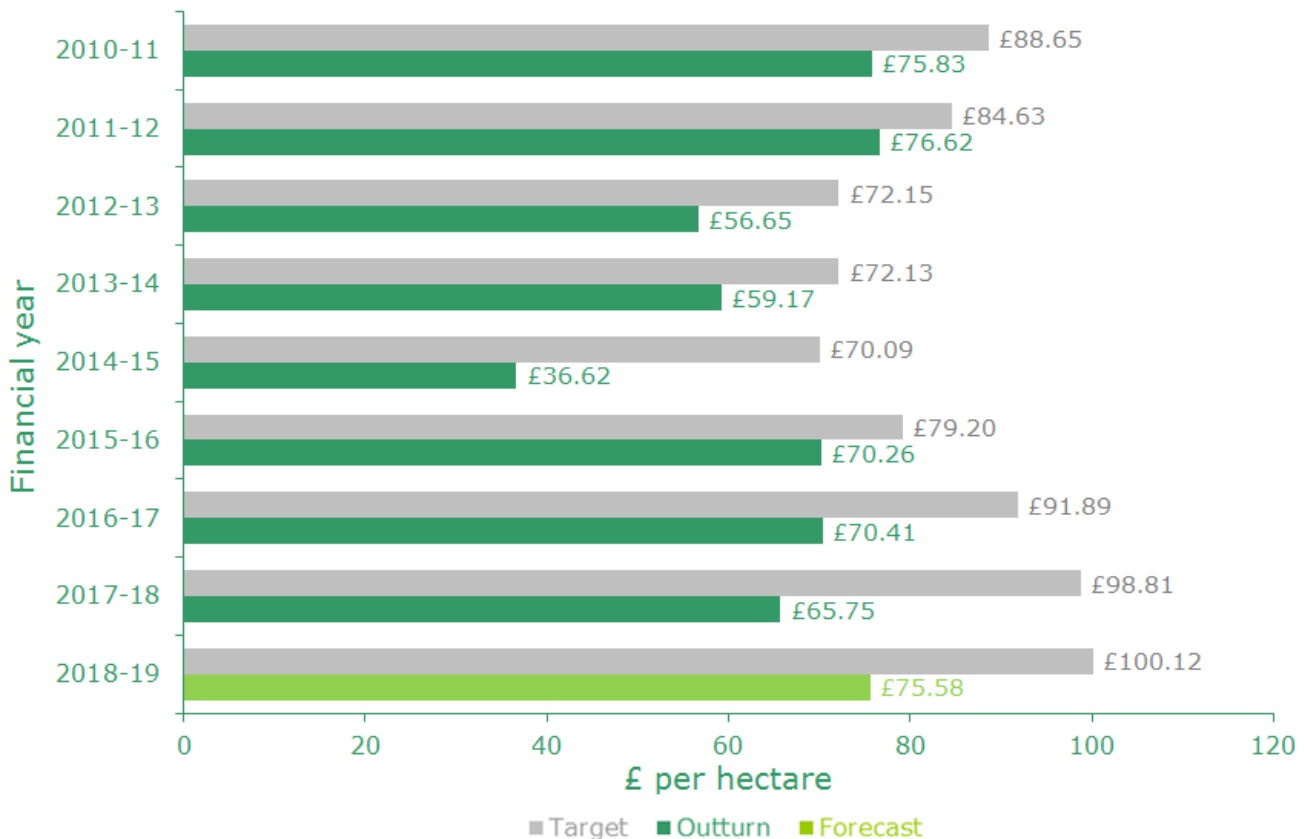


Source: Forestry Enterprise England accounts.

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.

Forestry Commission England logo

# Economy

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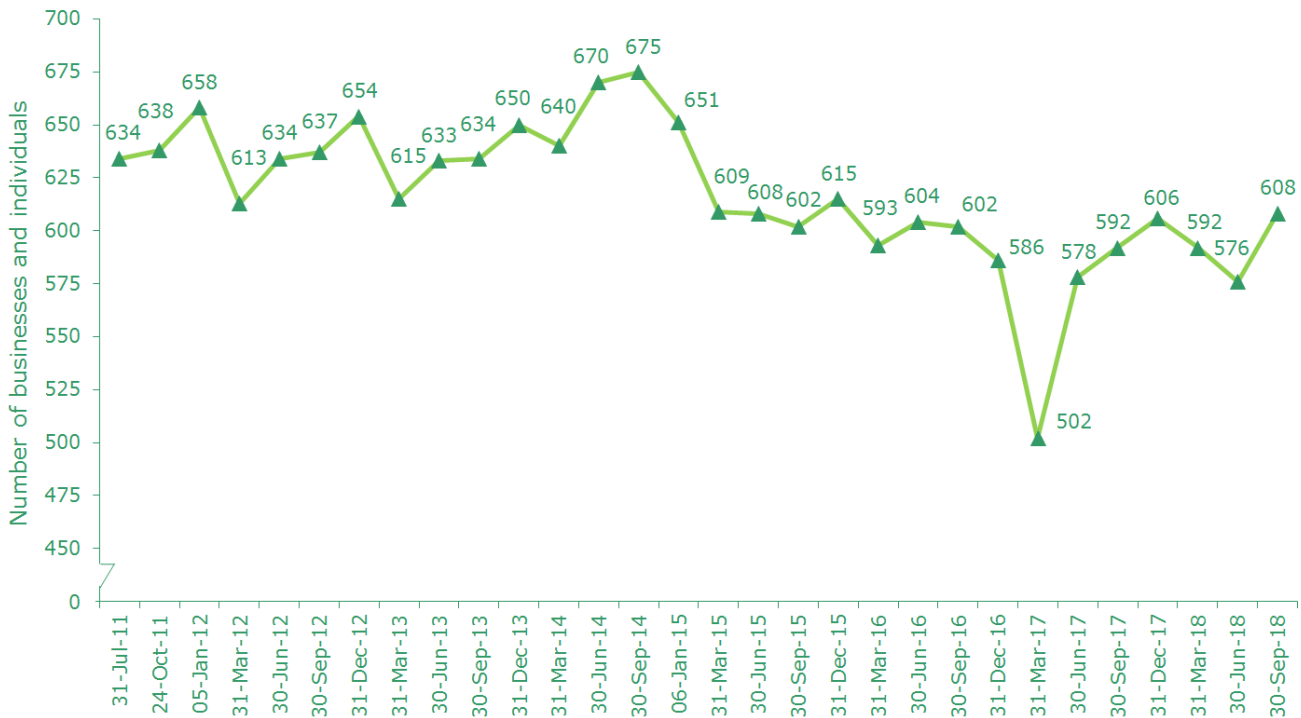


Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 30 September 2018: **608 businesses and individuals**.

The number of businesses and individuals operating on the Public Forest Estate at the end of September 2018 is 3% greater than it was at 30 September last year and now broadly the same as in each of the previous 2 years. Over the short-term the indicator has increased 6% since the report for 30 June 2018, mainly reflecting a net increase in the number of licences and permissions for activities on the Estate.