Forestry Commission England

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update 30 June 2018

Forestry Commission England

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 30 June 2018 (First Release)

Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2018-19[1] sets out our key performance indicators to show our contribution towards forestry and woodlands in England, and to show barometers of trends in the wider forestry sector in England. The indicators reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. They display some of the contributions Forest Enterprise England makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate. As such they show part of how we are contributing to delivery of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan[2] launched in January 2018.

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[3]. These are shown in Table 1.
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* twice a year, and presented separately[3].
- Reports on our full suite of about 50 indicators in our *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report*[4] annually.

Each of the 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 to 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 time of this publication due to be published imminently at https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission

[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)	8
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	9
Expansion	Area of woodland and rate of new planting	10
Forest Enterprise England		
Organisational	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)	13
Economy	Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	14

Previous 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.

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Bristol, 16th August 2018

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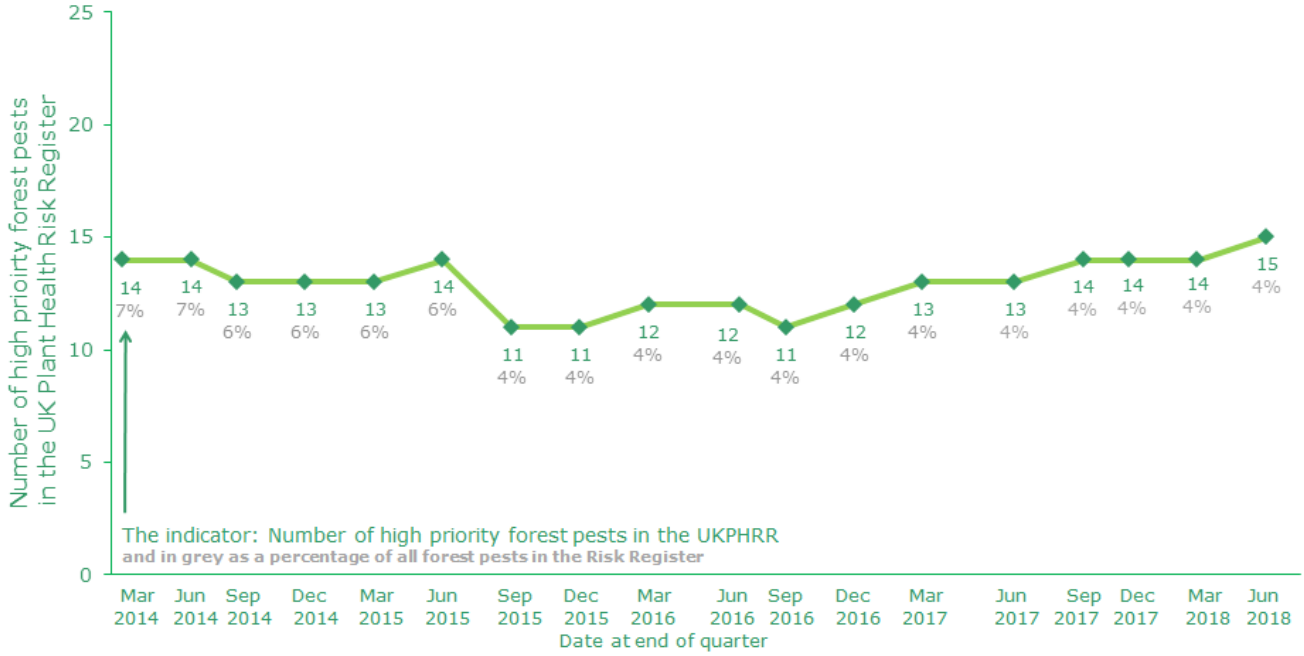
Forest Services

Protection

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



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

Report at end June 2018: There are **15 high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)**, that require actions – in addition to mitigations already implemented – to prevent them having a potentially substantial negative impact on England's woodland. This is one more than the position at the end of March 2018.

Fifteen (4%) of the 336 forest pests in the UKPHRR are 'high priority' because their mitigated relative risk rating is 15 or more (see Note A and Table 2). The addition is of *Lamprodila festiva* that is an insect, also known as the cypress jewel beetle or juniper buprestid. This beetle can affect some ornamental cypress and juniper trees. It is currently absent from the UK.

Of the 15 pests and diseases listed, eight are currently present in England, with only two being classed as widespread; namely *Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*, that causes horse chestnut bleeding canker, and *Phytophthora alni* which affects all alder species in Britain.

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

So far this year aerial surveys have shown that *Phytophthora ramorum* remains a significant risk particularly to sweet chestnut trees, and *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (*Chalara* dieback of ash) continues to spread and cause the death of trees throughout ash woodlands, particularly in the South East and East of England. Both these diseases continue to cause numerous tree losses and since both pathogens are now considered widespread throughout Great Britain, little can be done to prevent trees becoming infected and there is no known cure for either disease. Recommended bio-security practices, however, do slow the spread of disease.

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

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Zigzag elm sawfly	*Aproceros leucopoda*	Insect	Absent	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 June 2018 is 55 (16%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 15.

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.

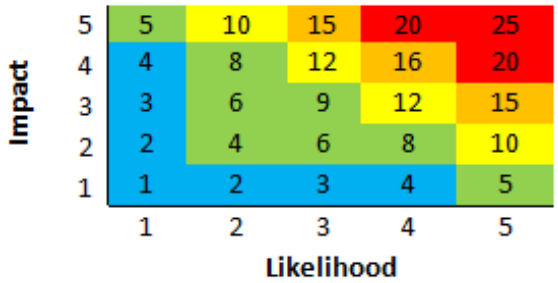
B) **'Likelihood'** provides an assessment of the probability of entry and establishment of a pest for those pests that are absent from the UK which, when combined, can result in the introduction of the threat to a new area. Some pests on the UKPHRR are already present in the UK. In these cases the risk 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[7] (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.



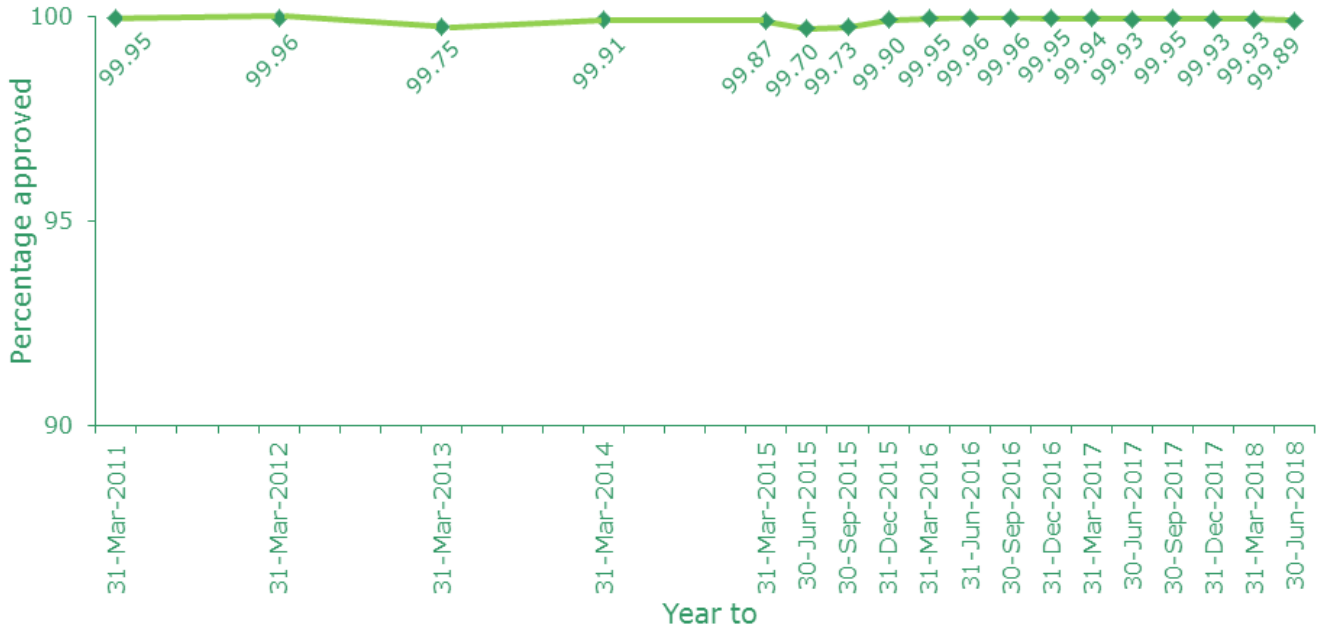
G) **Other forest pests and diseases affecting English woodland.** The indicator is only based on the pests included in the UKPHRR. In so doing it effectively captures the major non-native pests threatening UK forestry together with a limited selection of native pests that are the subject of major Government 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, and 2nd July 2018.

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

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

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



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

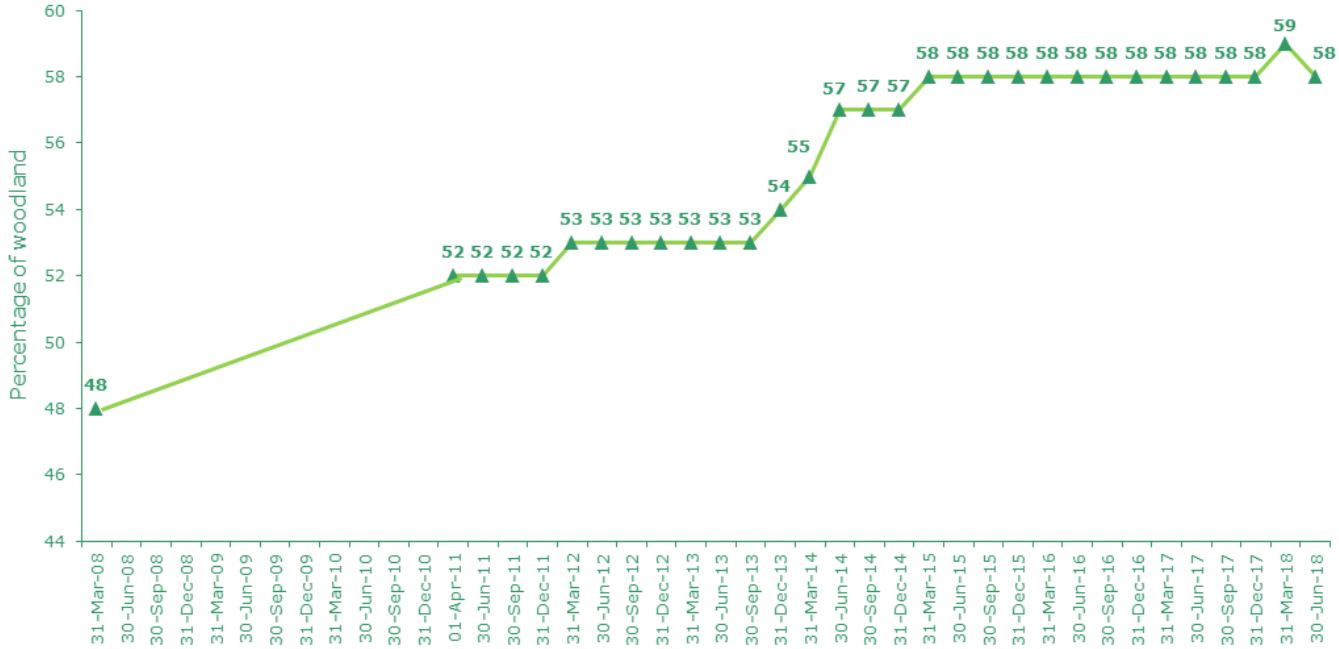
Report for year to 30 June 2018: **99.89% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

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 June 2018 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 759,000 hectares of woodland in management (when rounded).**

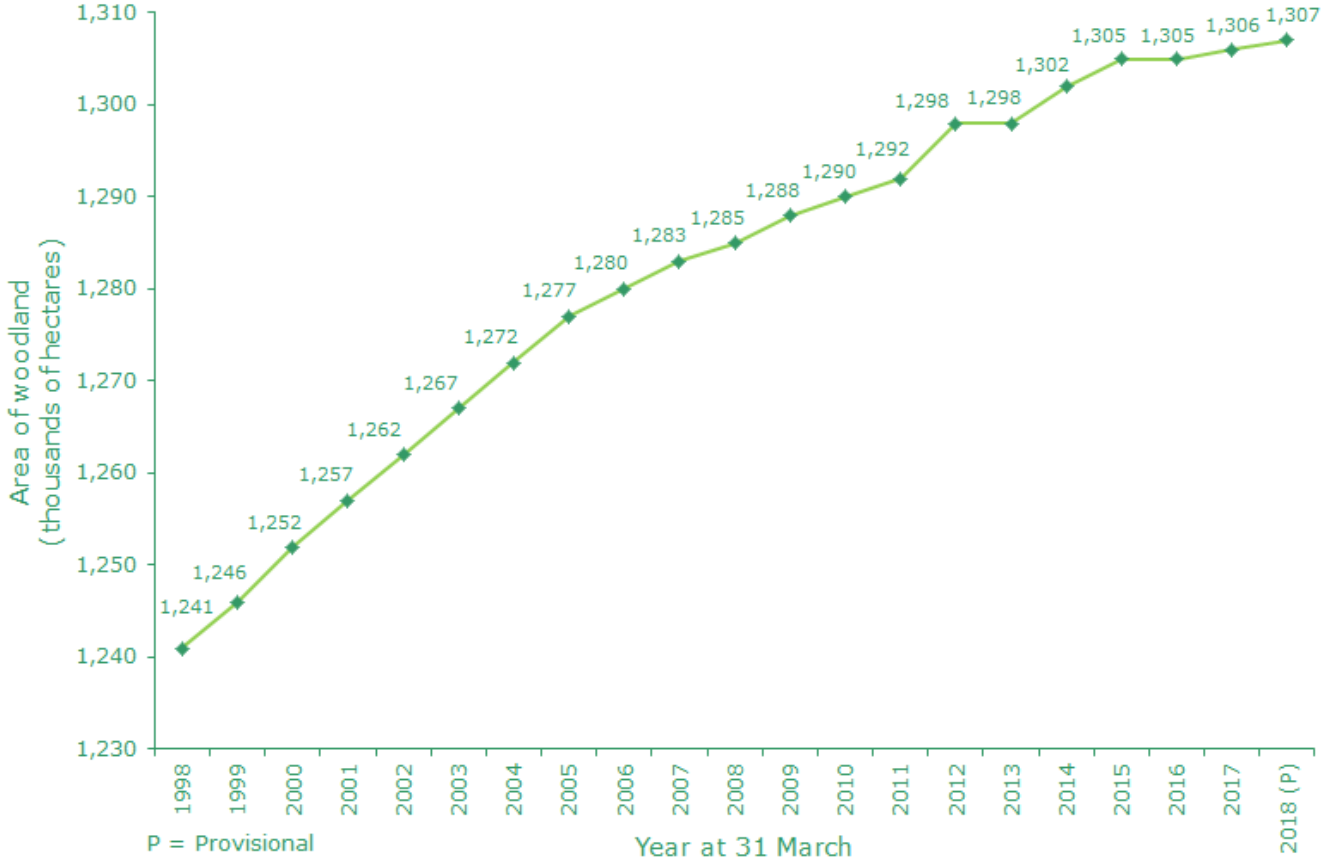
The small decrease this quarter in the percentage of woodland in management, from 764,000 hectares in the previous quarter (when rounded), mainly reflects a reduction in the area of woodland in grant schemes agreed within the last 15 years. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to 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.

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.

Provisional 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 of a provisional figure is the most up-to-date information available and reflects the timing of updates of these National Statistics. This March 2018 figure is due to be confirmed (or revised) in Forestry Statistics 2018 due to be published in September 2018. 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 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.

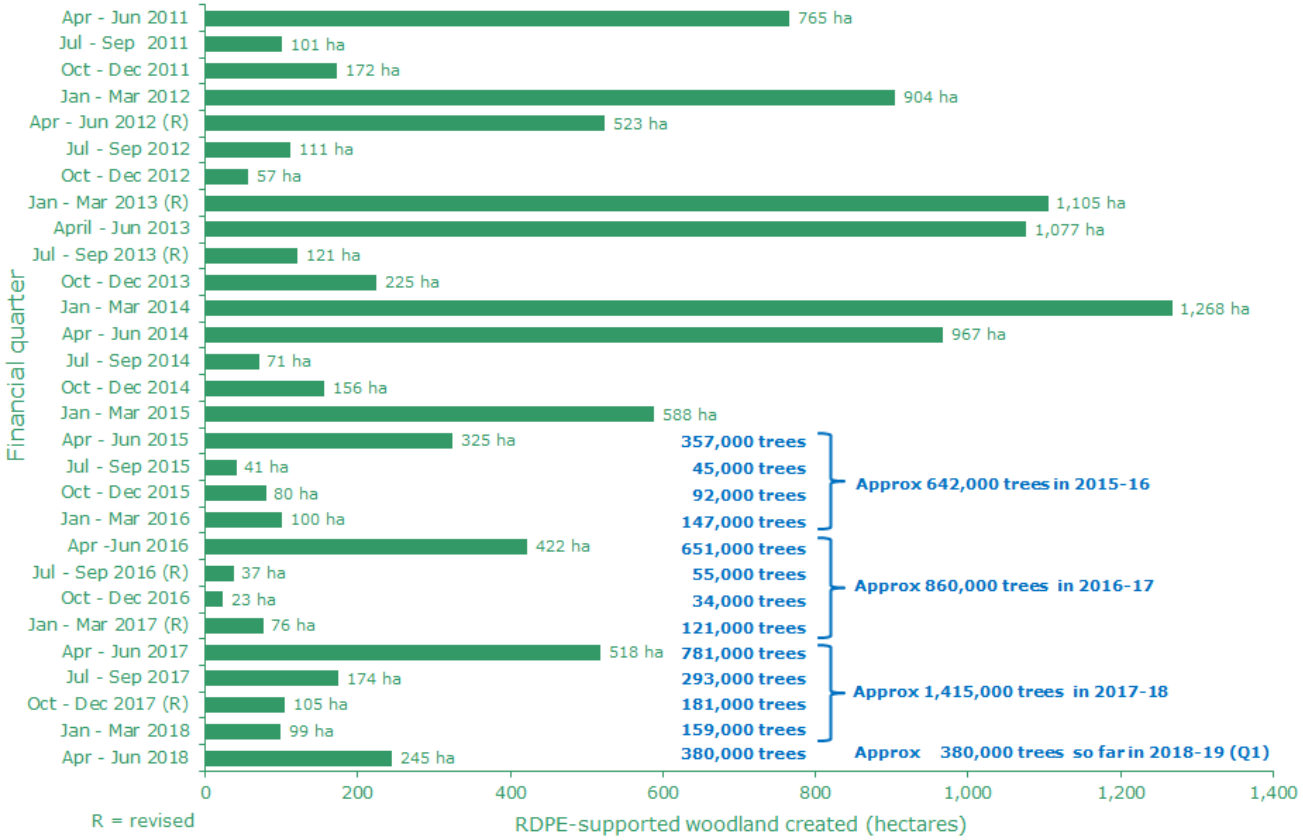
B. Hectares of woodland created (gross) specifically with the grant support of the Rural Development Programme for England, and the approximate number of trees that represents – **quarterly** updated

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 2017-18 year. Publication of the next update, for new planting between April and September 2018, is planned for November 2018.

The most recent National Statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England in 2017-18, also including that without direct government support, were published in Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2018 (provisional figures). These figures are due to be confirmed or revised in Forestry Statistics 2018, scheduled for publication in September 2018.

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

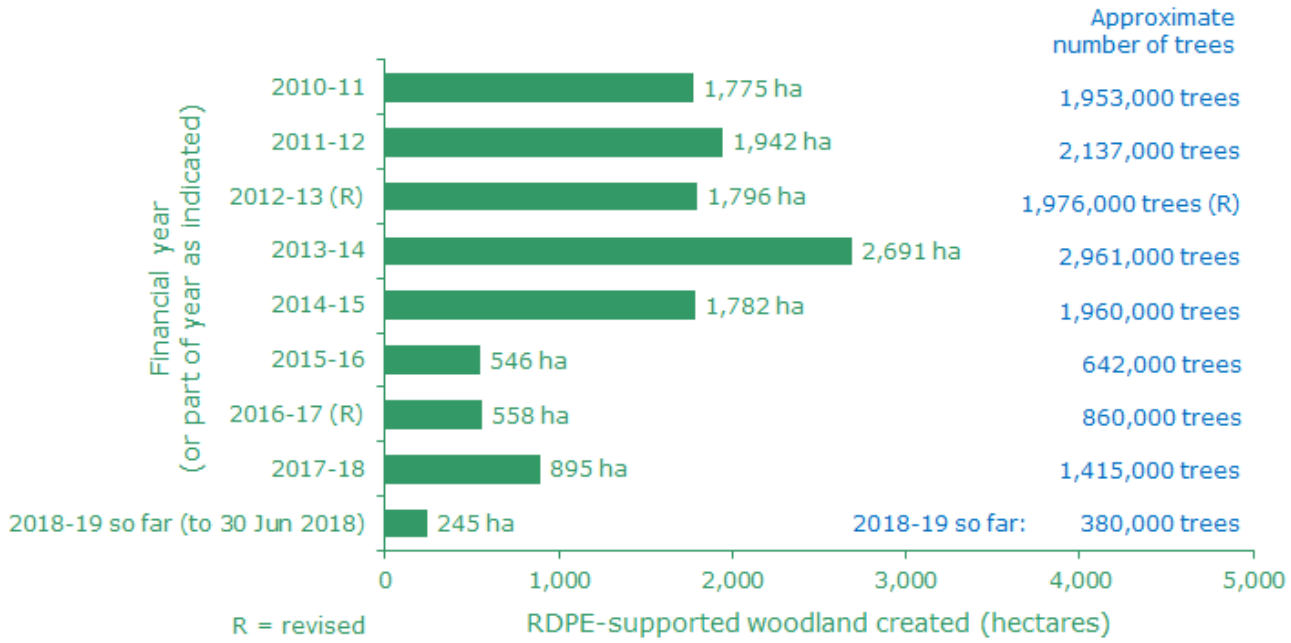


Source: Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support April to June 2018 inclusive: **245 hectares, equating to about 380,000 trees in this quarter.**

The new planting of woodland counted is slightly less than half the number of trees counted over the same period in 2017-18. This lower than expected planting rate may be a result of the challenging weather conditions during the last planting season in late 2017/early 2018.

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



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

Forest Enterprise England

Organisational

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)

Source: Forestry Enterprise England accounts.

Reports for this indicator are published as at 31 March and 30 September each year. The most recent report as at 31 March 2018 is as follows.

Outturn for 2017-18: **£65.75 per hectare**, against a target of £98.81 per hectare.

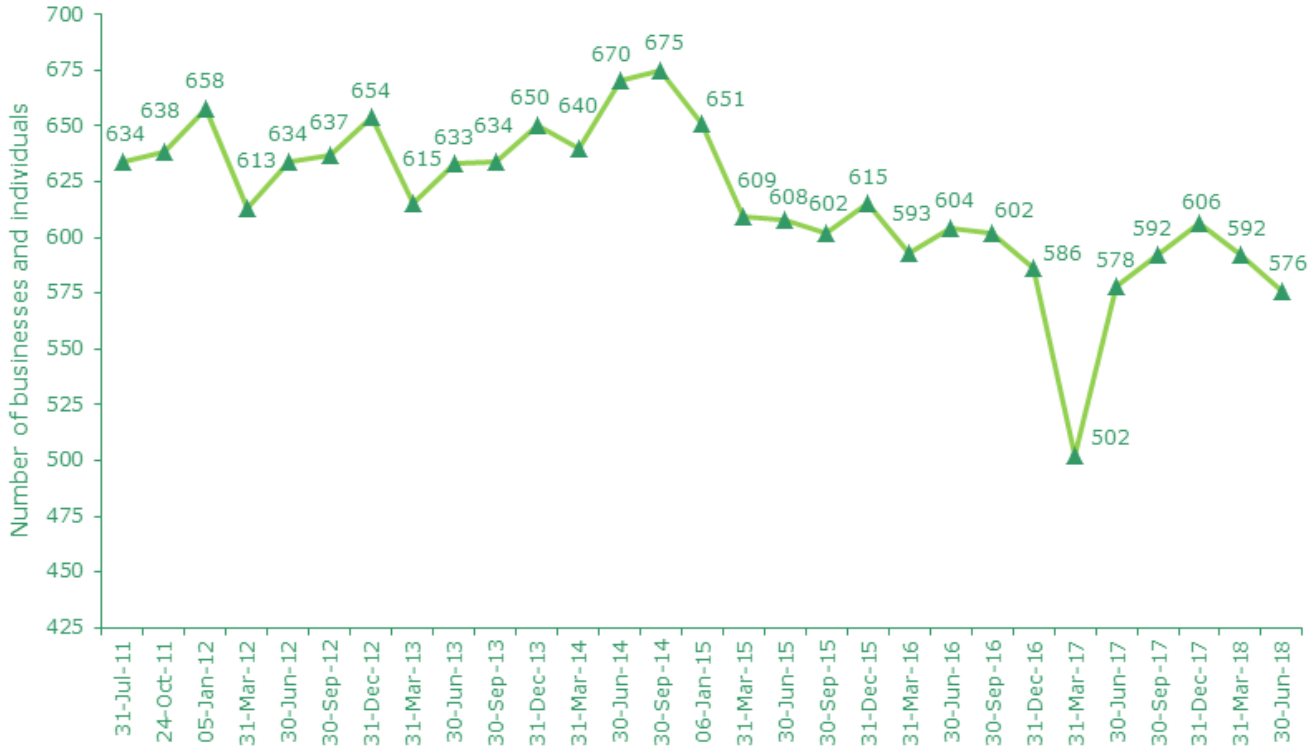
Due to Forest Enterprise England (FEE) project expenditure on the transfer of shared services from Edinburgh, the target for 2017-18 is greater than previous years. This expenditure is funded from FEE reserves.

The draft outturn indicates FEE's operational performance has been favourable compared to the target.

The main reasons for the net cost being lower than target are; timber prices and commercial revenues were better than plan, and poor weather in February and March delayed planned programme works (costs) into April 2018-19.

Economy

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



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 30 June 2018: **576 businesses and individuals**.

The reason that the indicator figure for the end of June 2018 has reduced is due to the change in the Forestry Commissions Chart of Accounts, which has improved the methodology in which the indicator no longer includes gate-access permissions, which has become an increasingly unreliable way of capturing some business activity.