



Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2018

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2018 (First Release)

Report Part	Indicators Report 2018 Contents	Page
	Introduction	3
	Short term trends in the indicators	4
1	Forestry Commission England headline indicators, also reported quarterly	11
2	Other Forest Services indicators	27
3	Other Forest Enterprise indicators	59
Annex 1	Internal Audit Certificate of Assurance	74

No	List of maps	Page
1	Percentage of woodland in management, 31 March 2018	18
2	Locations of woodland created with Woodland Creation Grant, 2015-16 to 2017-18	23
3	Distribution of all woodland in England and woodland managed by Forest Enterprise in England	26
4	Chalara dieback of ash (<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>) confirmed infection sites, 1 June 2018	29
5	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> confirmed infection sites, March 2018	30
6	Locations of felling licences issued, 2017-18	36
7	Thirty minute drive times from accessible Public Forest Estate in England	61
8	Woodland SSSIs in target condition in England, April 2018	67

Introduction

Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2018-19¹ 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 Plan² 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 quarterly³.
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* twice a year, and presented separately⁴.
- Reports on our full suite of about 50 indicators in this *Indicators Report* annually.

This *Indicators Report 2018* provides the seventh 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 Forest Enterprise indicators, from page 59.

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 the undergirding spatial data on our map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site.

Future reports are available from forestry.gov.uk > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

All of the outturns against these indicators have been verified by the Government Internal Audit Agency. We also acknowledge with thanks the wide range of contributions made by the Forestry Commission senior managers, indicator managers and data managers, and the spatial and statistical analysts who made this report possible.

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

Evidence and Analysis
Strategic Development, Forest Services
Bristol, 14th June 2018

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

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.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5e4g6a>

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

³ Available from the Forestry Commission Indicators webpage: <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INF-D-8kmhu6>

⁴ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Government supported new planting of trees in England*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-5e4g6a>





Short term trends in the indicators

Method of assessment

A proper review of this *Indicators Report 2018* 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 an 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 year for which data is available with that 5 years earlier. They do not reflect any fluctuations during intervening years. The assessment made is also against only a simple 'rule of thumb' threshold. The standard threshold used is 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
	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 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).


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

Readers are recommended to consider the entire report for each indicator and not place too much weight on the simple trend assessments alone.

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)	 (Note 2)	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)		16
IMPROVE		
Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)		17
EXPAND		
Area of woodland and rate of new planting		19
FOREST ENTERPRISE		
ECONOMY		
Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate		24
ORGANISATIONAL		
Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (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.





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

Indicator		Short term trend ¹	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			27
PROTECT			
Pests and diseases			
Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years			28
Other protection indicators			
Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape			31
IMPROVE			
Economic and environmental gain			
Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed			32
Number apprentices, those with work based diplomas, and university students entering forestry	Apprentices and those with work based diplomas		33
	University students		33
Annual increment in England's forests			34
Area of felling licences issued			35
Gross Value Added from domestic forestry			37
Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested			38
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the Public Forest Estate			39
Places for wildlife to prosper			
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in woodland other than the Public Forest Estate	PAWS in woodland other than the Public Forest Estate		40
	Open habitat in woodland other than the Public Forest Estate		40

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 caution.






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			41
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than the Public Forest Estate	Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition		43
	Favourable condition		43
Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory			44
People's health and enjoyment of woodland			
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than the Public Forest Estate		 (Note 2)	45
Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)			46
Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland			47
EXPAND			
Government supported new planting of trees in England ^(Note 3)			48
Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal		 (Note 2)	49
Contribution to carbon abatement			
Carbon captured by English woodlands			52
Projected carbon capture in 2050 by Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects			53





 = 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 caution.















Note 3. Published separately at: Forestry Commission England (2018) [Government supported new planting of trees in England: Report for 2017-18](#), 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		54
Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied	 (Note 2)	55
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Director's Office		56
Average number of training days organised by Forest Services Business Support attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services		57
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services	 (Note 2)	58

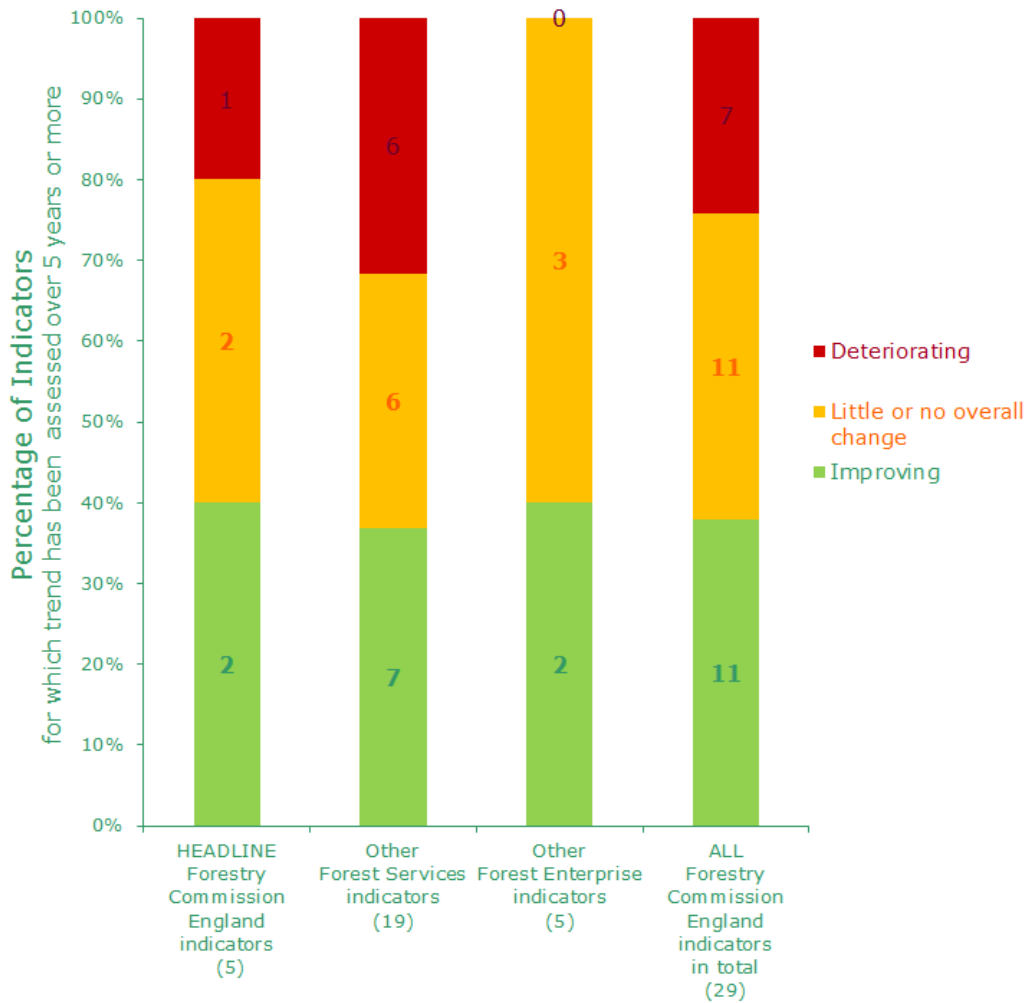
 = Improving
  = Little or no overall change
  = Deteriorating
 = Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

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 caution.

Indicator	Short term trend ¹	Pg
Part 3. Forest Enterprise Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)		
PEOPLE		
People's health and enjoyment of woodland		
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to Public Forest Estate accessible woodland	 (Note 2)	60
Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate		62
Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate	 (Note 2)	63
Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate		64
NATURE		
Places for wildlife to prosper		
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat on the Public Forest Estate	PAWS on the Public Forest Estate  (Note 2)	65
	Open habitat on the Public Forest Estate  (Note 2)	65
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on the Public Forest Estate	Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition 	66
	Favourable condition 	66
ECONOMY		
Economic and environmental gain		
Percentage of woodland in active management (Forest Enterprise contribution)	 (Note 2)	68
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate	 (Note 2)	69
ORGANISATIONAL		
Customer service and business metrics		
Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive 'rate my visit' facility		70
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise		71
Average number of training days organised by the England internal training and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Enterprise England		72
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Enterprise	 (Note 2)	73

Summary of assessment of short term trends (of five years or more) in Forestry Commission England Corporate Plan Performance Indicators at 31 March 2018



Note: This graph includes only those 29 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 too much weight on the simple trend assessments alone, and rather to consider the entire report for each indicator presented elsewhere in this document.

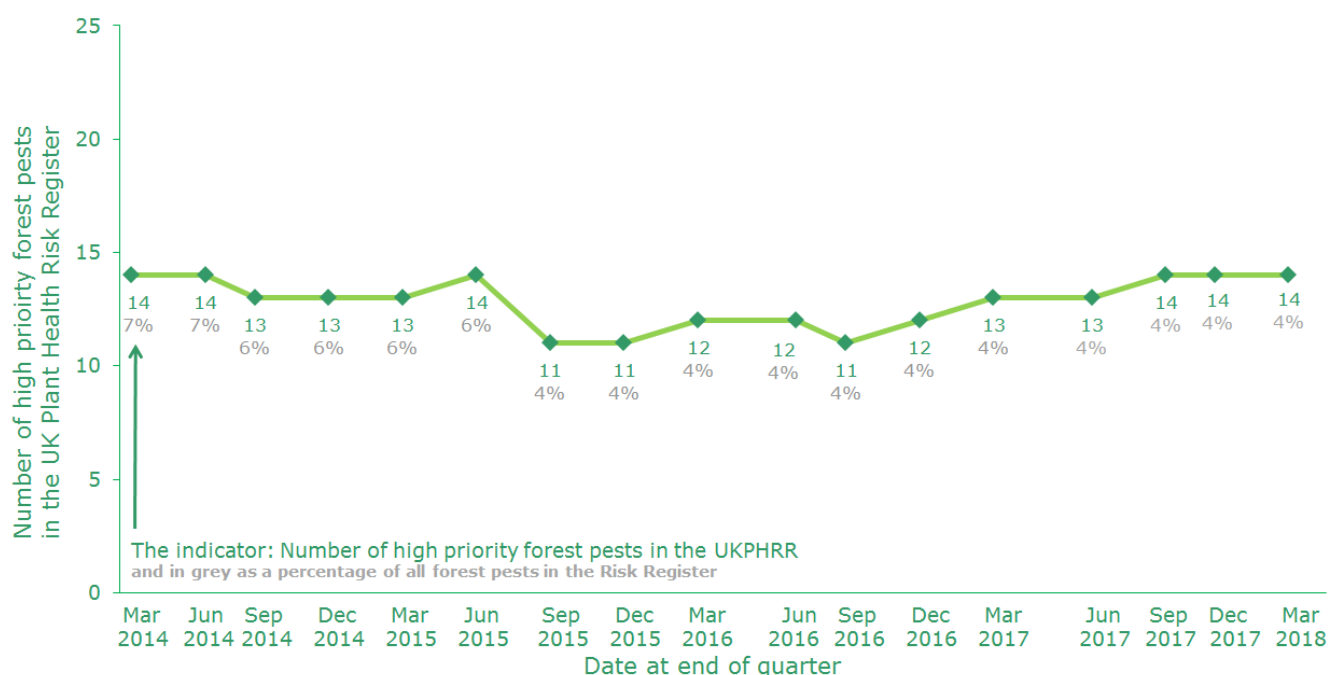


Part 1 Headline Performance Indicators

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 \(UKPHRR\)](#)⁵ data.

Report at end March 2018: There are **14 high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)**, that require actions – in addition to mitigations already implemented – to prevent them having a potentially substantial negative impact on England’s woodland. There has been no change since December 2017.

Fourteen (4%) of the 320 forest pests in the UKPHRR are ‘high priority’ because their mitigated relative risk rating is 15 or more (see Note A and Table 3). The list and number of high priority forest pests is the same as at the end previous quarter.

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

⁵ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

Table 3: The 14 high priority forest pests in the UKPHRR with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end March 2018

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Alder rust	<i>Melampsorium hiratsukanum</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	<i>Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi</i>	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Shoot blight on cedar/Tip blight on eastern hemlocks	<i>Sirococcus tsugae</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
n/a	<i>Agrilus fleischeri</i>	Insect	Absent	4	5	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Oomycete	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora disease of alder	<i>Phytophthora alni</i>	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	n/a	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Two spotted oak buprestid	<i>Agilus biguttatus</i>	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	<i>Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum</i>	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle	<i>Polygraphus proximus</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of March 2018 is 54 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 14.

Notes:

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

B) **'Likelihood'** provides an assessment of the probability of entry and establishment of a pest for those pests that are absent from the UK which, when combined, can result in the introduction of the threat to a new area. Some pests on the UKPHRR are already present in the UK. In these cases the risk is that of the pest spreading to its maximum extent in the UK. The likelihood scale has a minimum value of 1 (lowest risk) through to 5 (highest risk). There is more information on the factors taken into account in the [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#)⁶ (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.

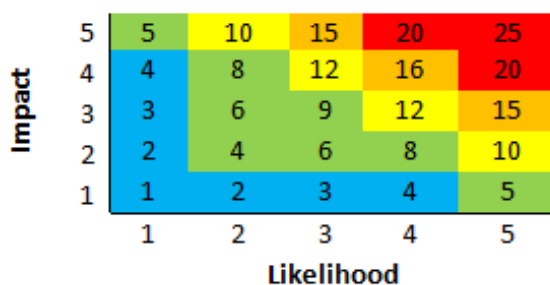
⁶ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

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, and 31st March 2018.

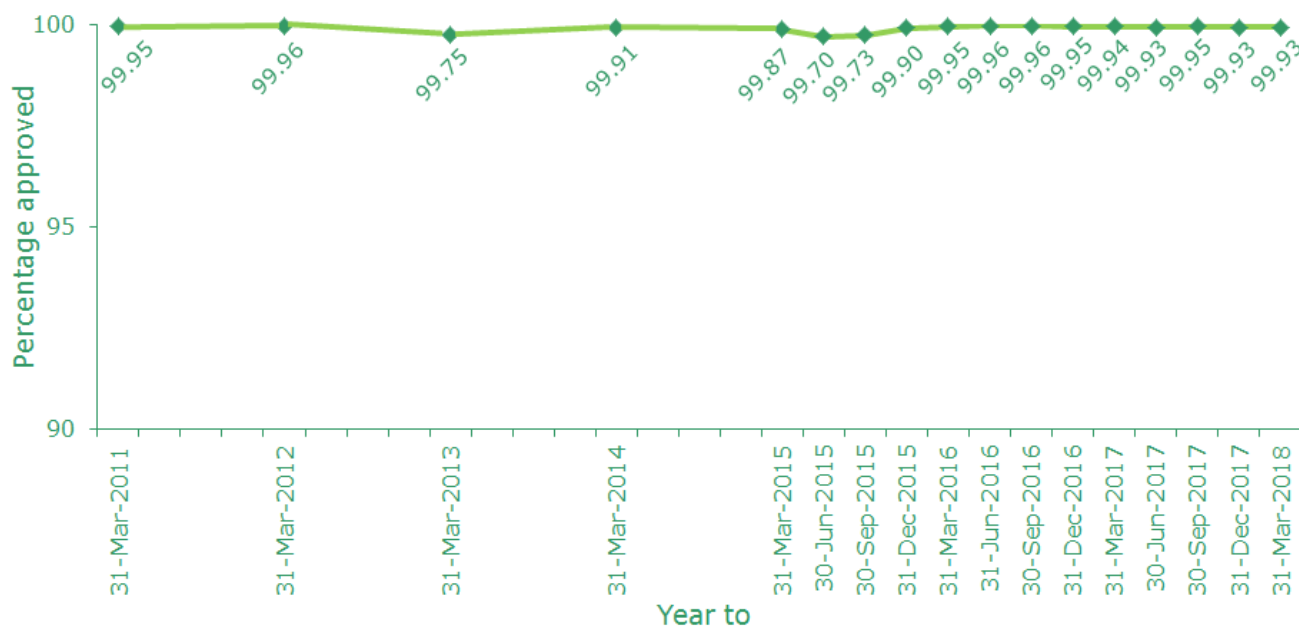
Open Data: Source spreadsheet data is available from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).

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

Four year trend **only**, Mar-18 compared to Mar-14

Little or no overall change 

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



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 31 March 2018: **99.93% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

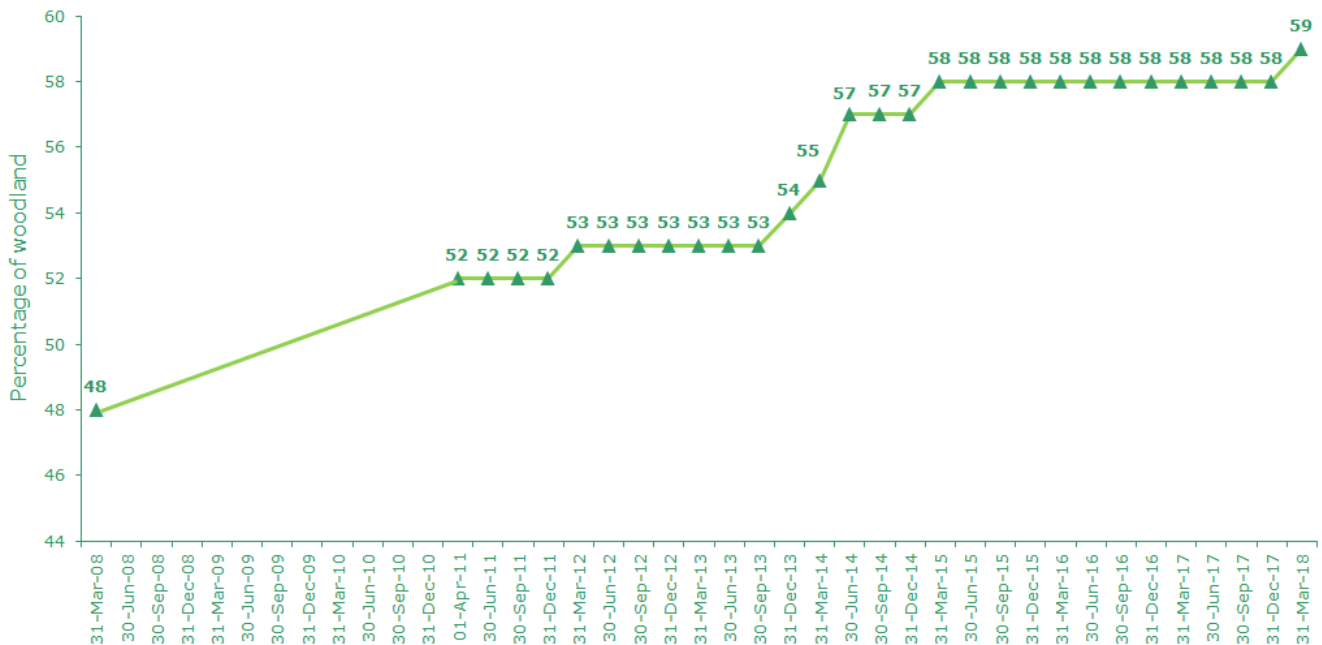
Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval*

Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Little or no overall change 

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



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

Position at 31 March 2018 is that **59 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 764,000 hectares of woodland in management.**

The percentage of woodland that is actively managed has increased to 59%. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to further increase the multiple benefits delivered by woodland, including increased timber production, and to help improve woodland resilience.

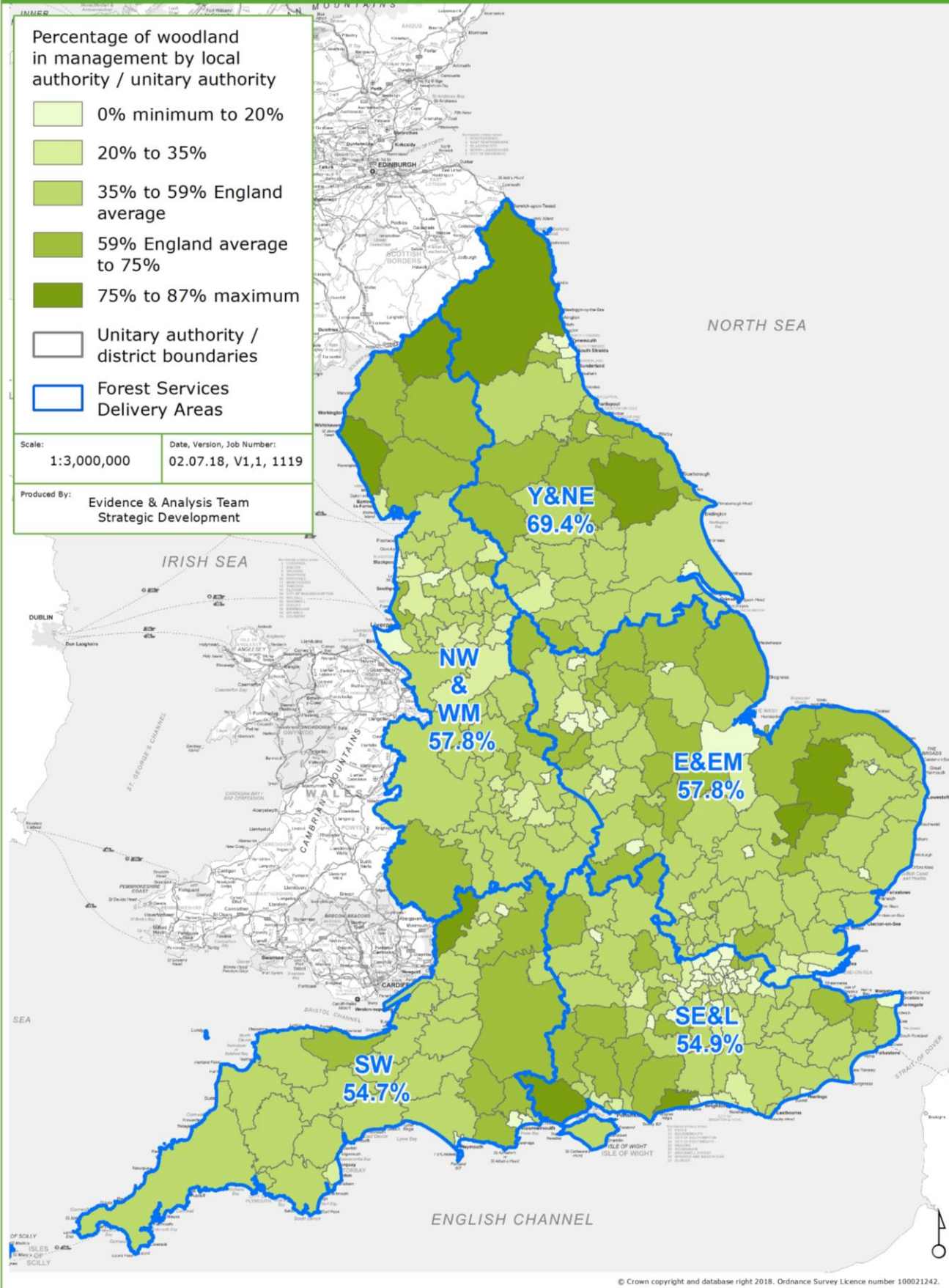
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the [National Forest Inventory](#).

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 Public Forest Estate)*

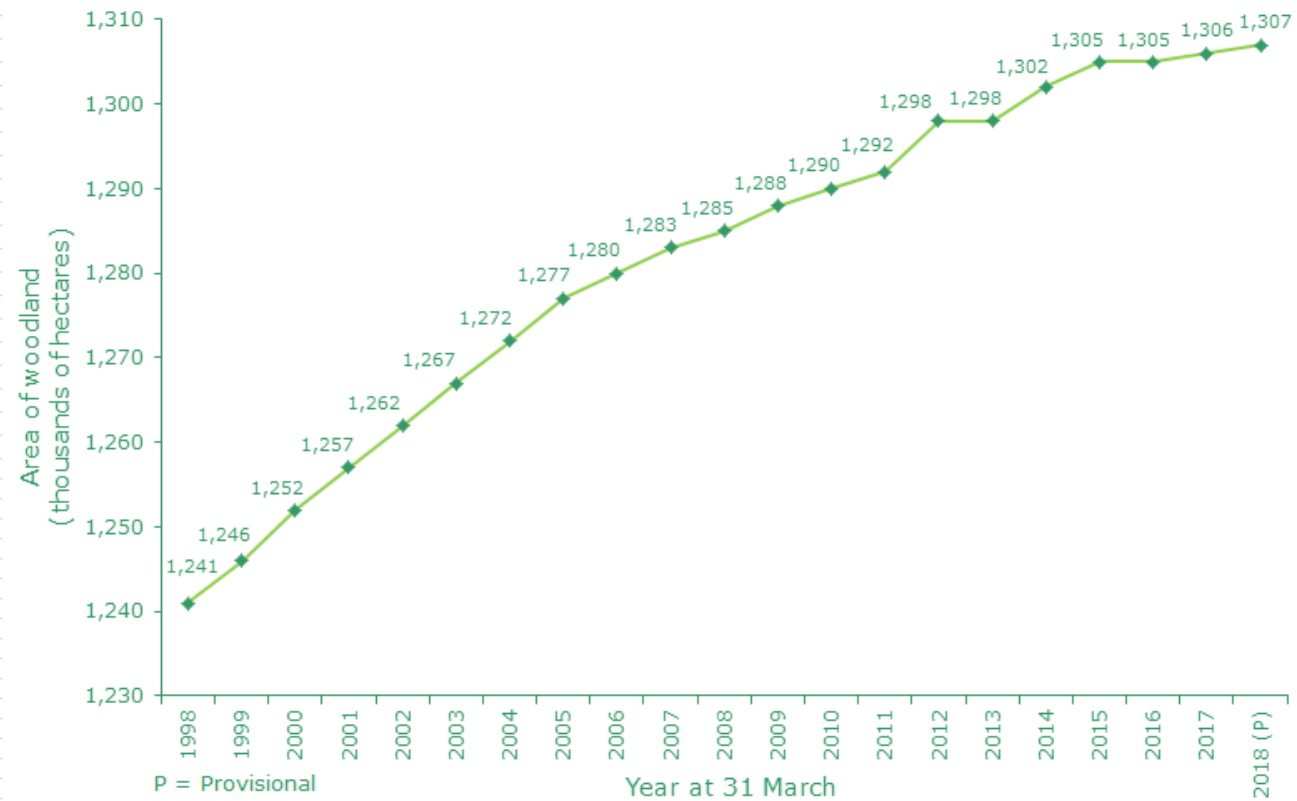
Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Improving 



Area of Woodland

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



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](#) 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.

Source: This is a [National Statistic](#) published in [Forestry Statistics 2017 \(Forestry Commission\)](#), and [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2018](#), 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-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Little or no overall change 

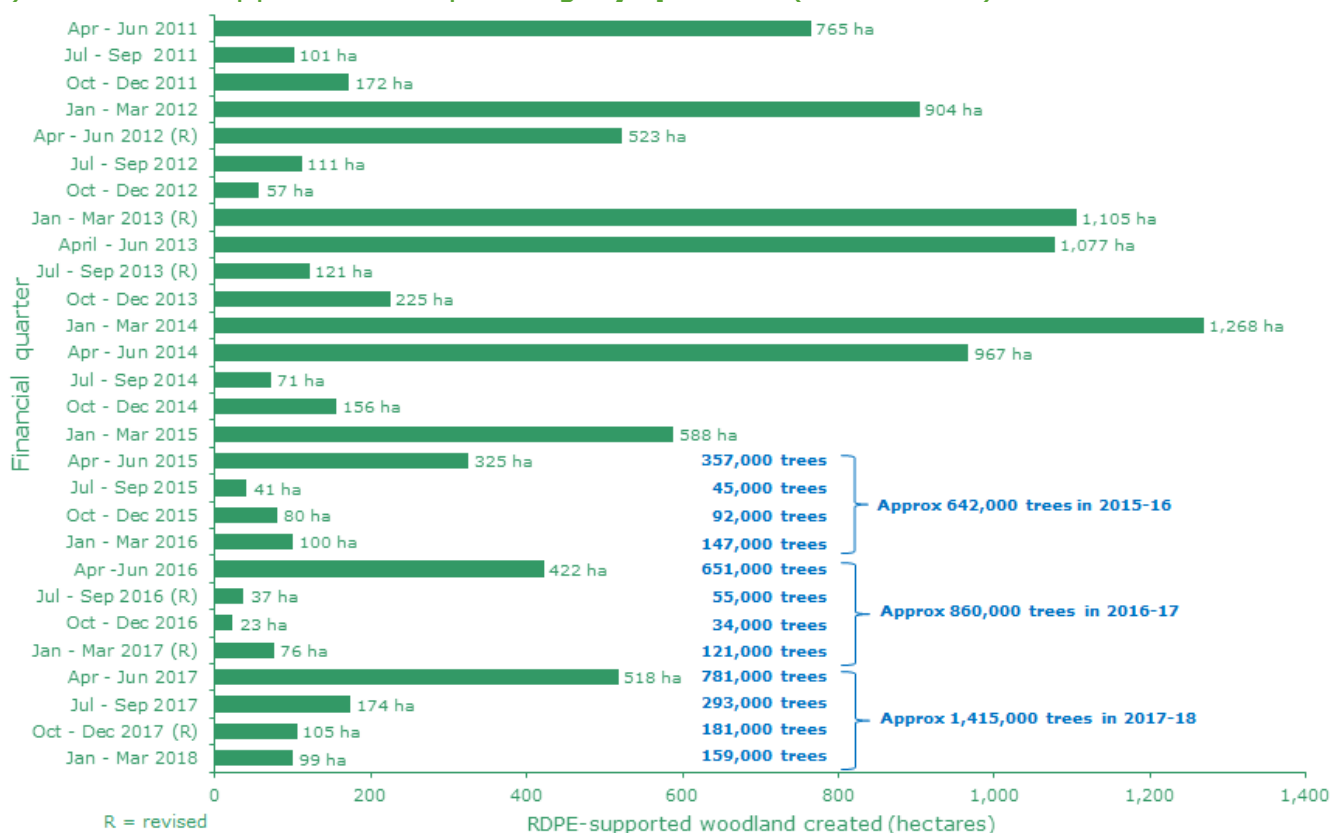
B. Hectares of woodland created (gross) specifically with the grant support of the Rural Development Programme for England, and the approximate number of trees that represents – **quarterly** updated

The 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, also including trees planted with other forms of government support, is reported separately in [Government supported new planting of trees in England](#).

The most recent National Statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England, also including that without direct government support, have been published in [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2018](#) (provisional figures). They are due for confirmation or revision in [Forestry Statistics 2018](#) due for publication in September 2018.

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

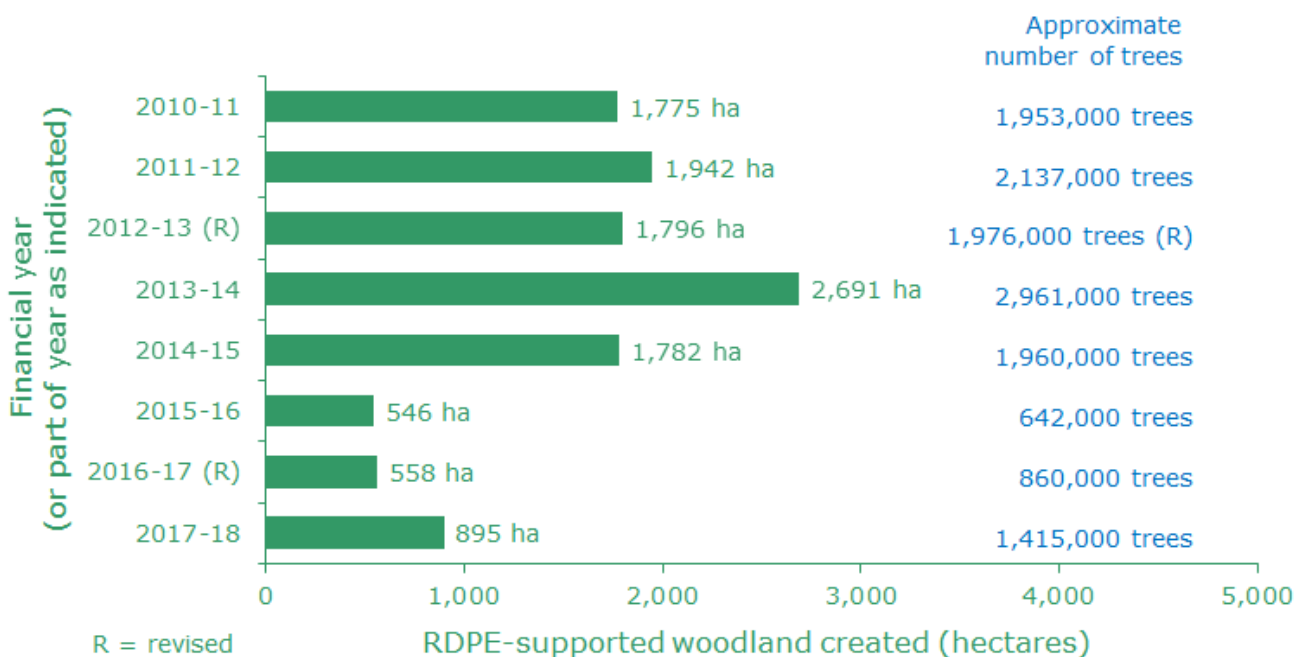


Source: Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support January to March 2018: **99 hectares, equating to about 159,000 trees in this quarter.**

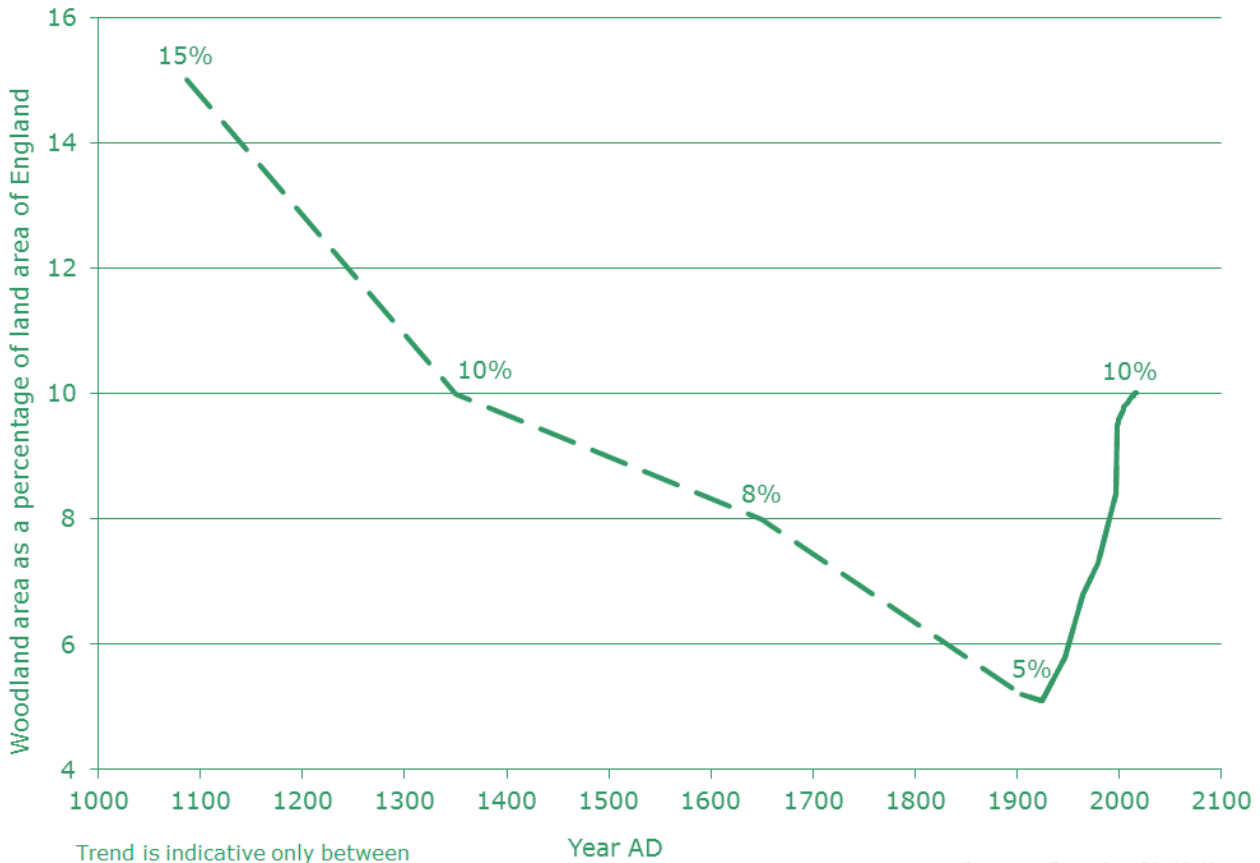
The area of new planting of woodland counted in this quarter is slightly greater than in the equivalent period in 2017, but significantly less than in recent previous years; this reflects Countryside Stewardship replacing the English Woodland Grant Scheme, which introduced changes in the timing of agreements being signed and processed, while poor weather conditions for planting this spring may have delayed planting activity.

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

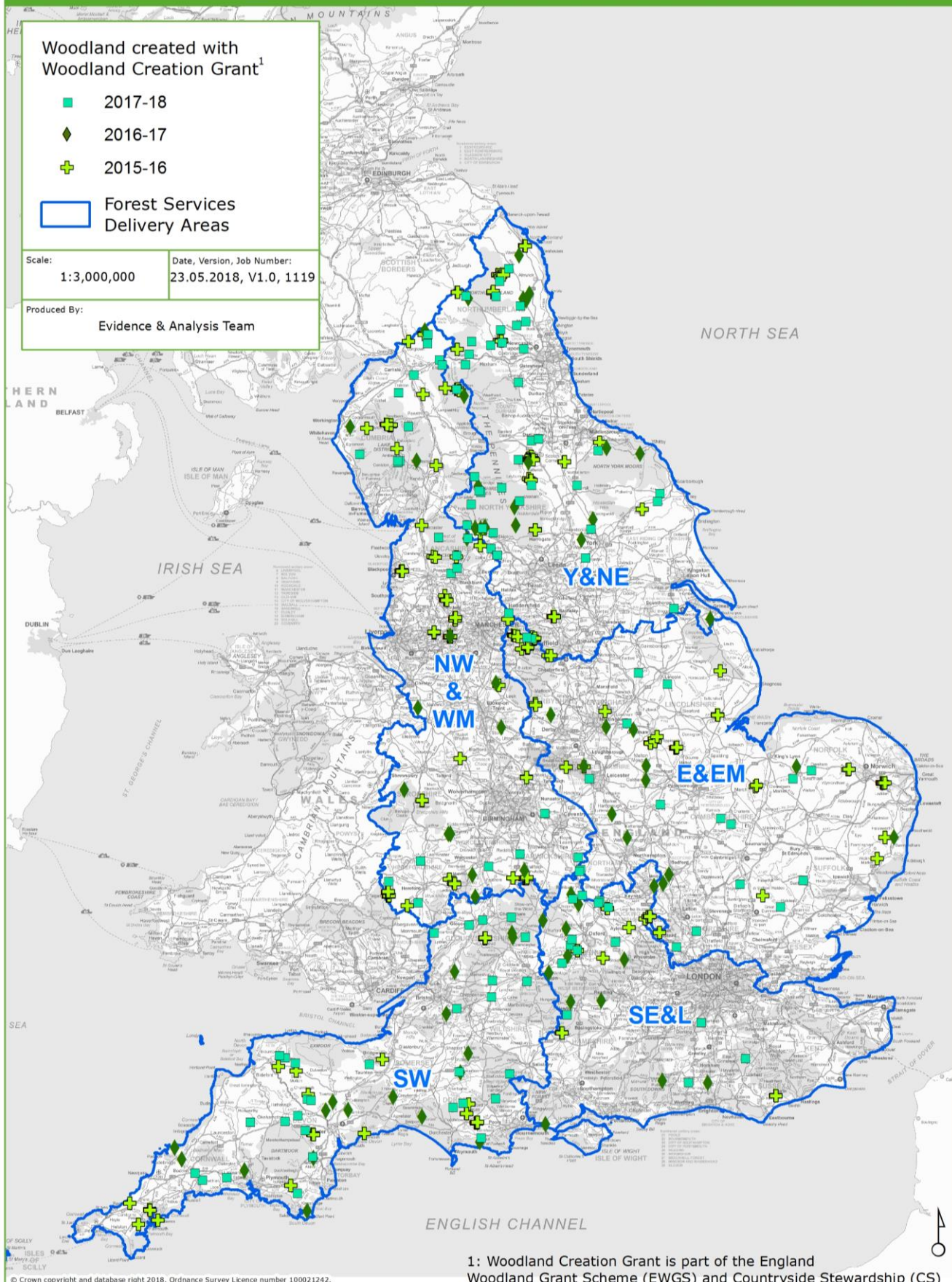


Open Data: The [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and locations of RDPE grant supported woodland creation in England are available as spatial data from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

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



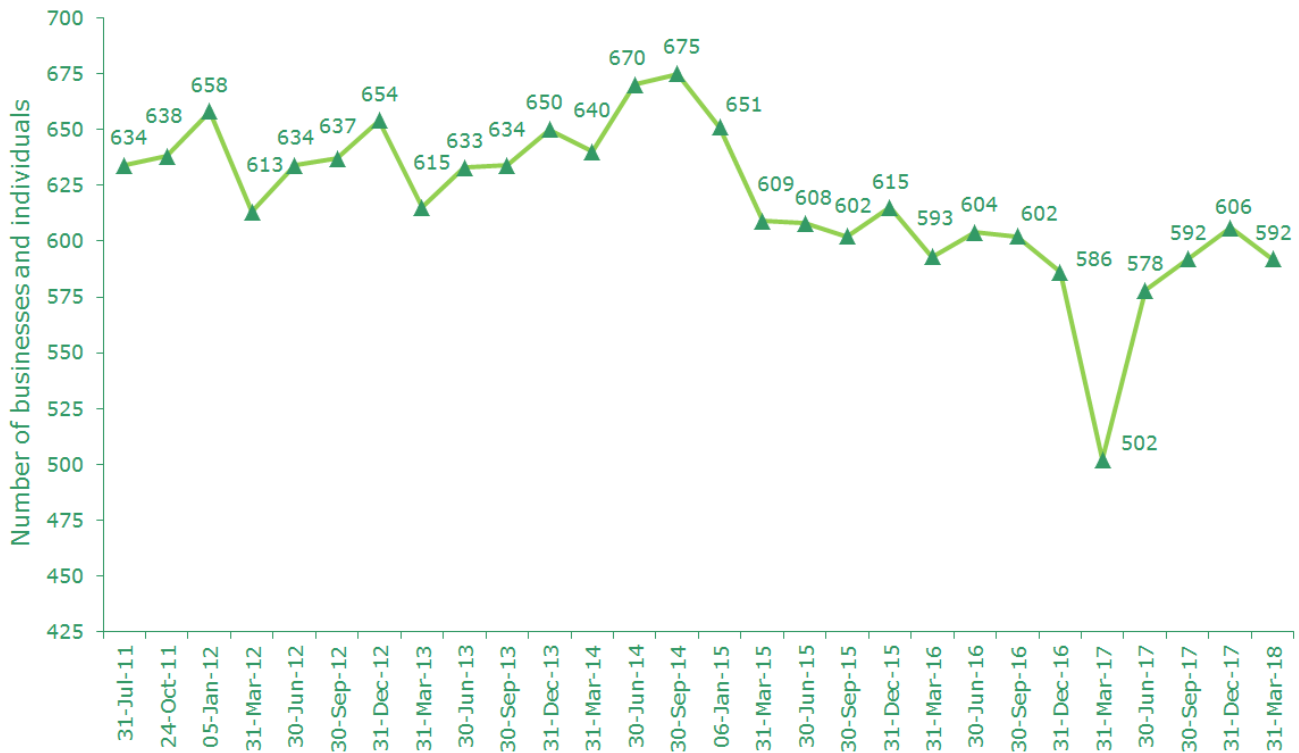
Locations of Woodland Created with
Woodland Creation Grant
2015-16 to 2017-18



1: Woodland Creation Grant is part of the England Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and Countryside Stewardship (CS)

Forest Enterprise

Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 31 March 2018: **592 businesses and individuals.**

The end of year total shows an 18% increase from the March 2017 figure and this has remained stable during 2017-18. Notable increases in businesses operating on the nation's forest include 5 brand new radio mast sites for the new Government Emergency Services Network run by EE Limited.

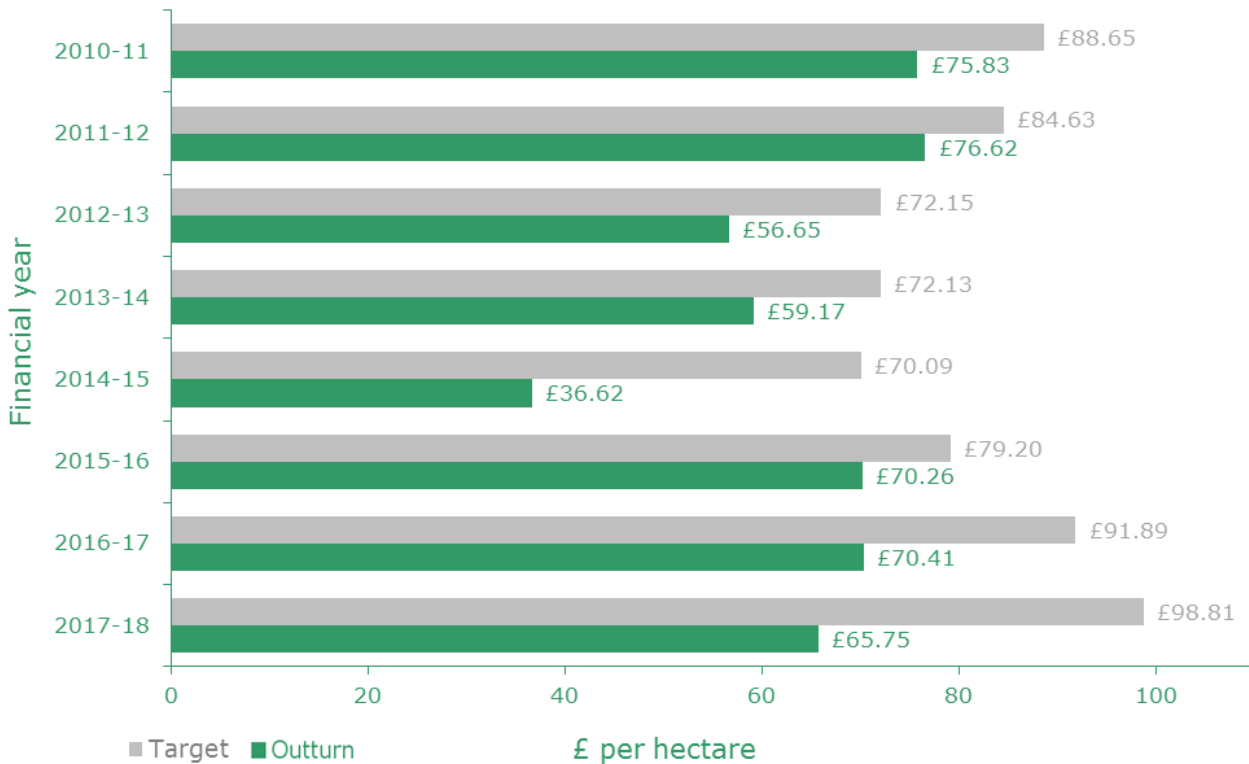
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate*

Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Deteriorating 

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)



Outturn for 2017-18: **£65.75 per hectare**, subject to audit and finalisation, 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.

Source: Forest Enterprise England accounts.

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

Five year trend, 2017-18 compared to 2012-13

Improving 

Distribution of All Woodland, and Woodland Managed by Forest Enterprise in England





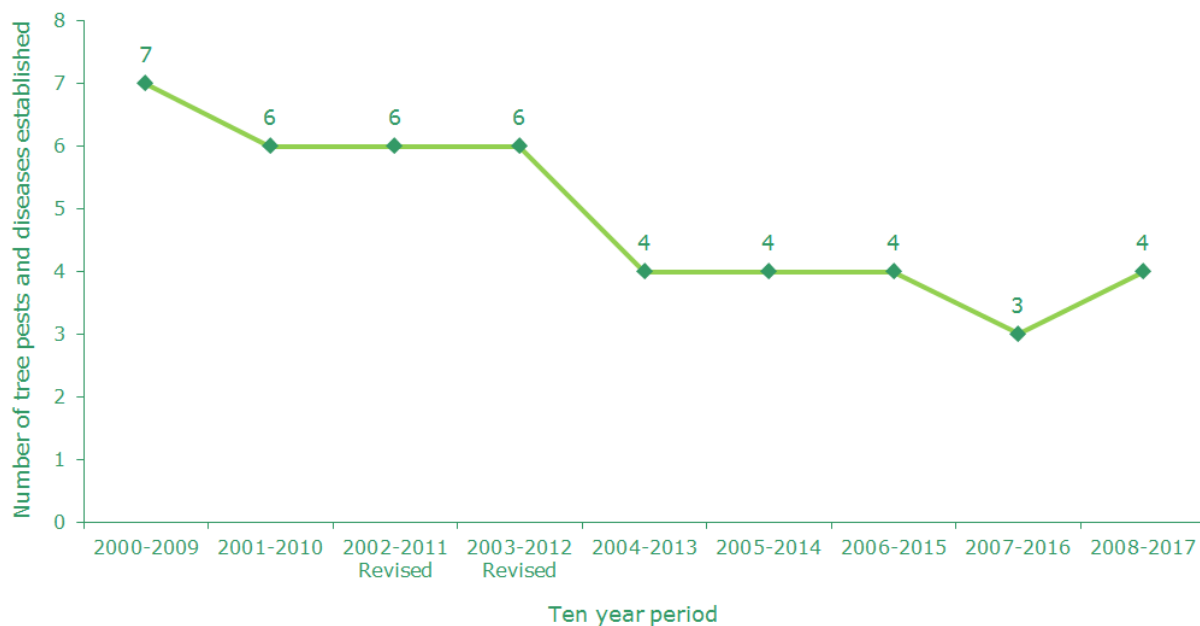
Part 2
Other
Forest Services
Indicators

Part 2. Other Forest Services Indicators

PROTECT

Pests and Diseases

Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years



Four tree pests and diseases became 'established' in England in 2008-2017, namely:

1. [Alder Rust](#) (*Melampsorium hiratsukanum*)
2. [Chalara dieback of Ash](#) (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). The accompanying Map 4 shows confirmed infection sites at May 2018.
3. [Oriental chestnut gall wasp](#)
4. [Sweet chestnut blight](#) caused by the fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica*, and considered established in 2017.

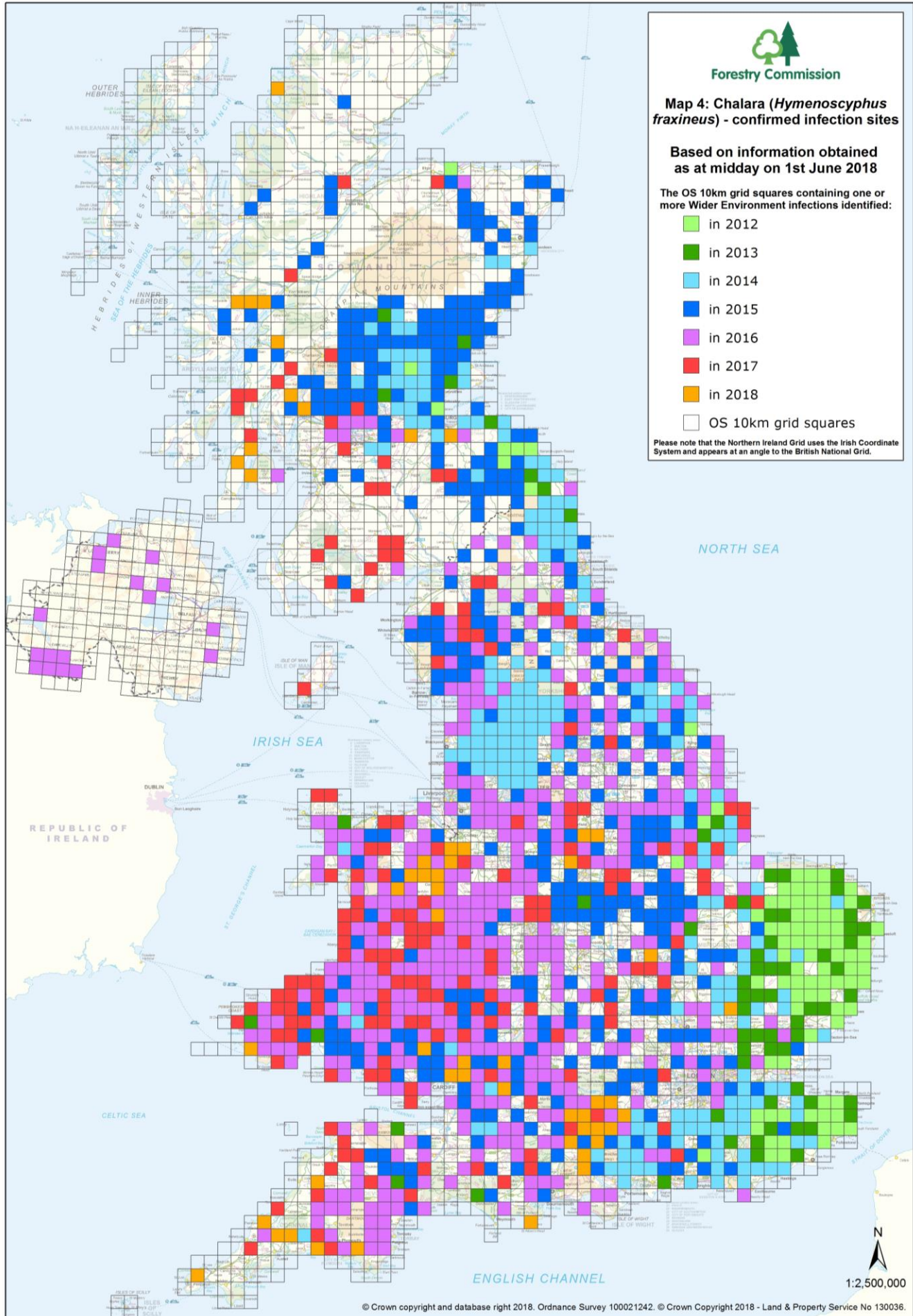
Other pests and diseases are considered established in England. As an example, Map 5 shows the confirmed infection sites for [Phytophthora ramorum](#), established in 2003.

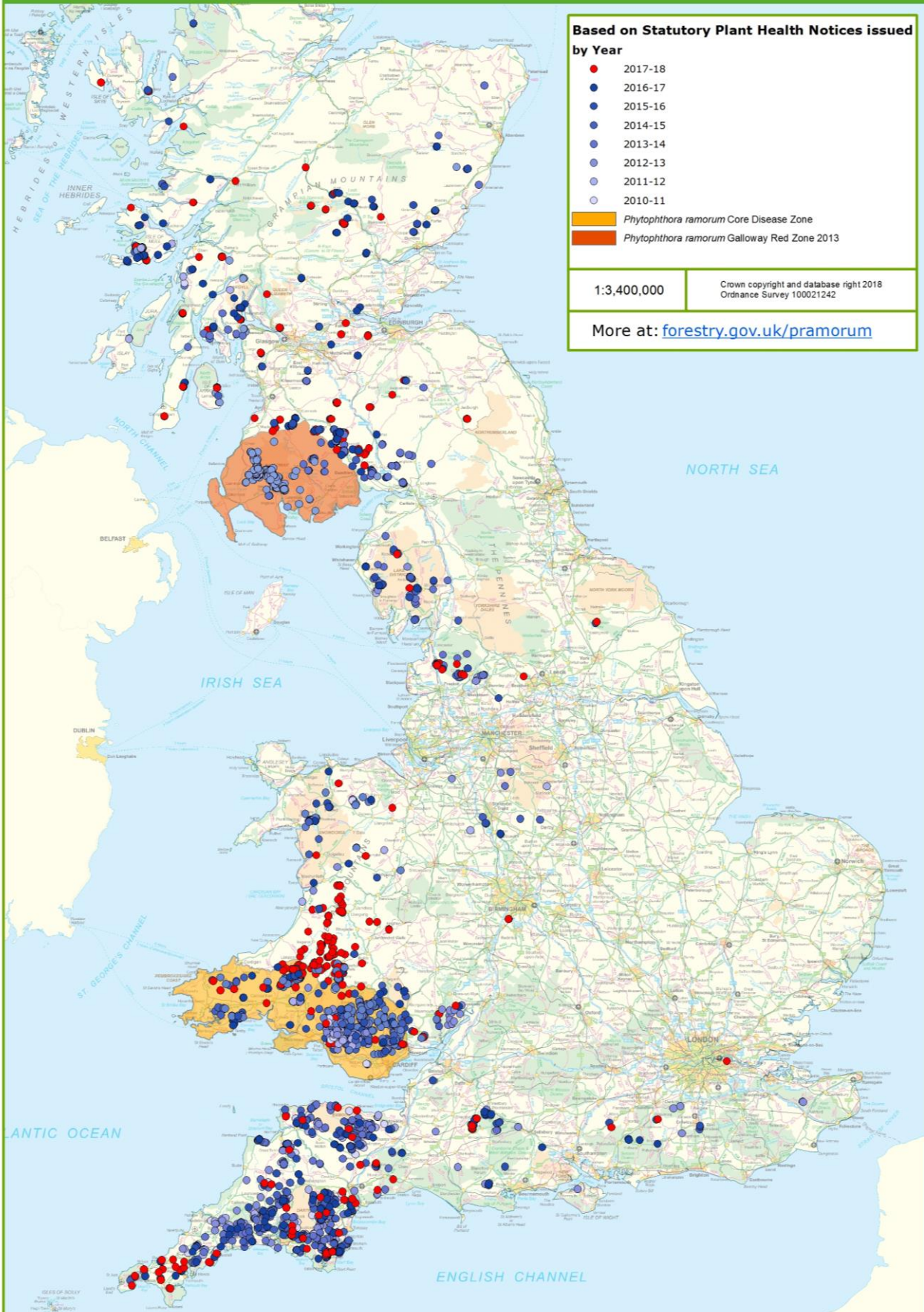
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years*

Five year trend, 2008-2017 compared to 2003-2012

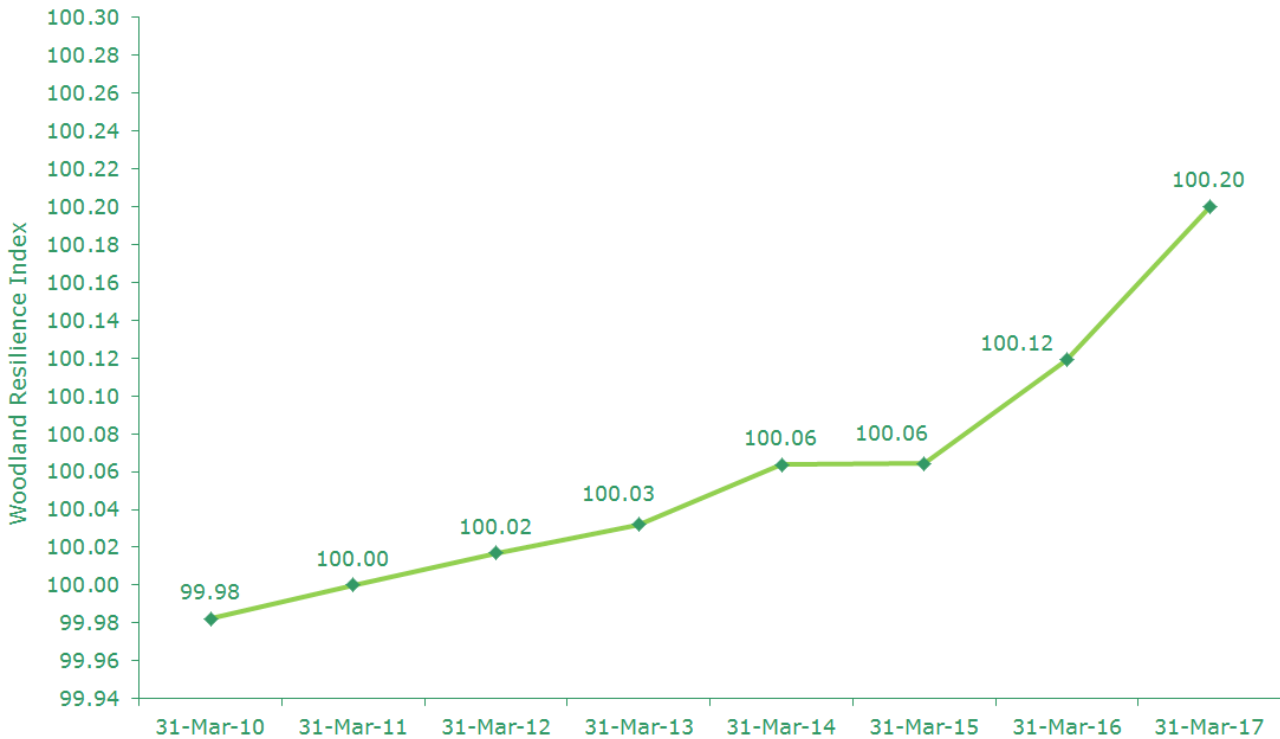
Improving 





Other Protection Indicators

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



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. Maintaining and improving connectivity is important in promoting biodiversity in a fragmented landscape, especially under a changing climate. The indicator shows an increase in connectivity for forests and woodlands in England between 2011 and 2017. Over the same period there has been a corresponding increase in the area of forests and woodlands. The change in connectivity may be related to the overall increase in the woodland resource, the location in which new woodlands have been planted (i.e. in relation to existing woodland), or both. Much of the new planting that has occurred is funded by [Countryside Stewardship](#) where targeting encourages applicants to consider connectivity in their plans.

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*

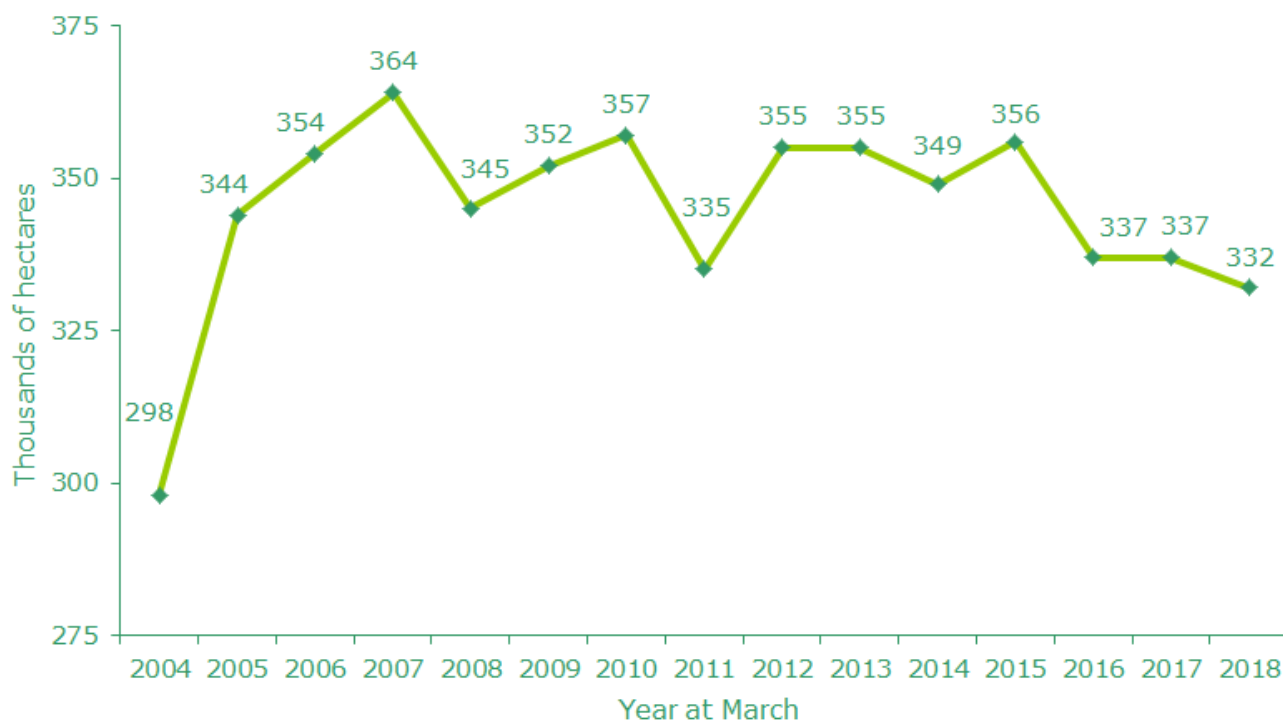
Five year trend, 31-Mar-17 compared to 31-Mar-12

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 or environmental benefit to make joining voluntary schemes worthwhile. This may limit the area of certified woodland in England and contribute to the reduction in total woodland area certified.

Source: This is a [National Statistic](#) published by the Forestry Commission as a part of [Forestry Statistics](#). It is based on [Forest Stewardship Council](#) data and [Forest Research Statistics team](#) follow up with certificate holders.

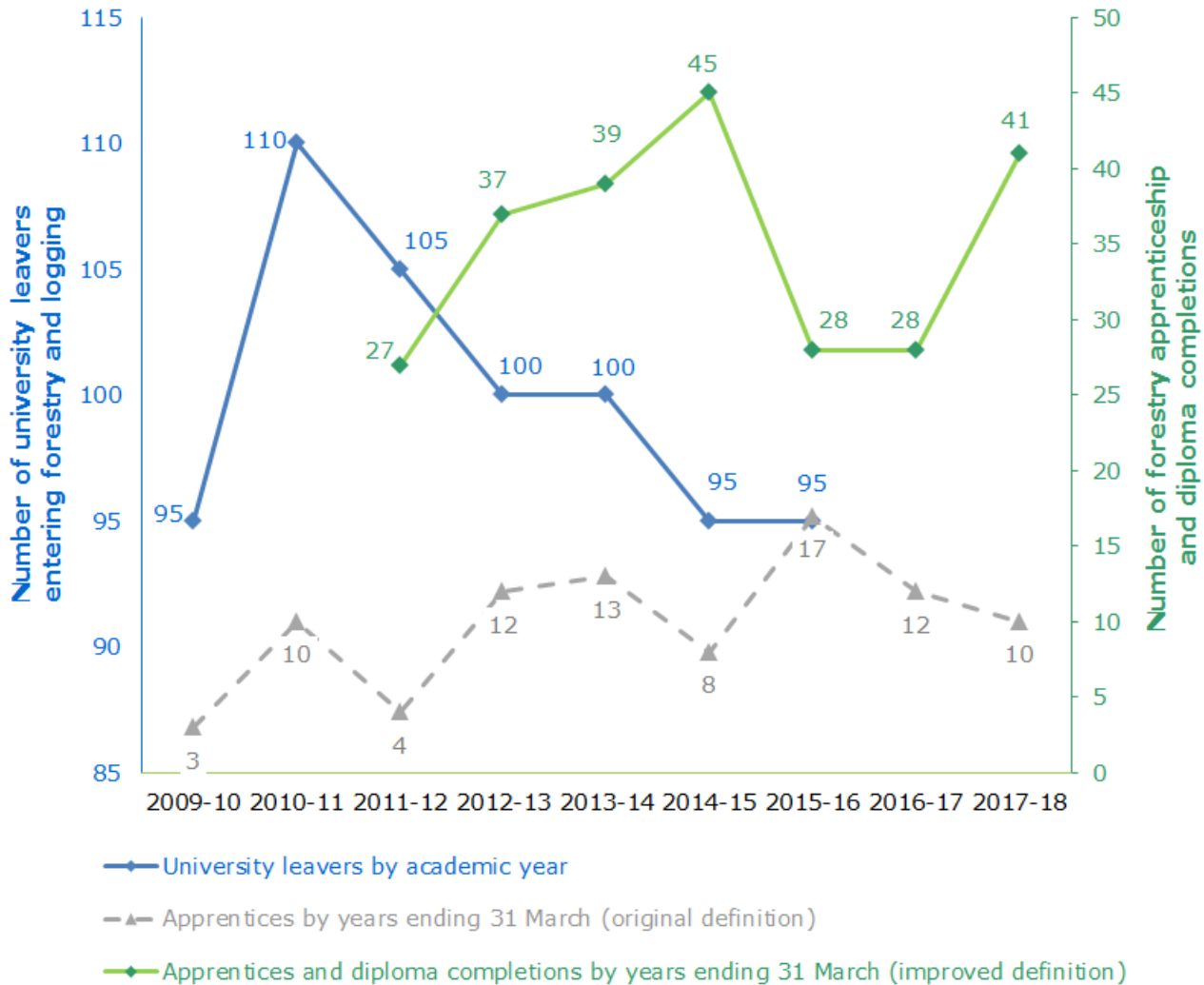
Open Data: Certified woodland areas are available from the Forestry Commission [Forestry Statistics](#) pages.

Assessment of change in Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed

Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Deteriorating 

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



The number of university leavers is stable at 95 in 2015-16. Completed apprenticeships and diplomas are 41 in 2017-18, which shows a marked upturn, rather than the expected downturn as apprenticeships transition between the Trees and Timber Framework and 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*

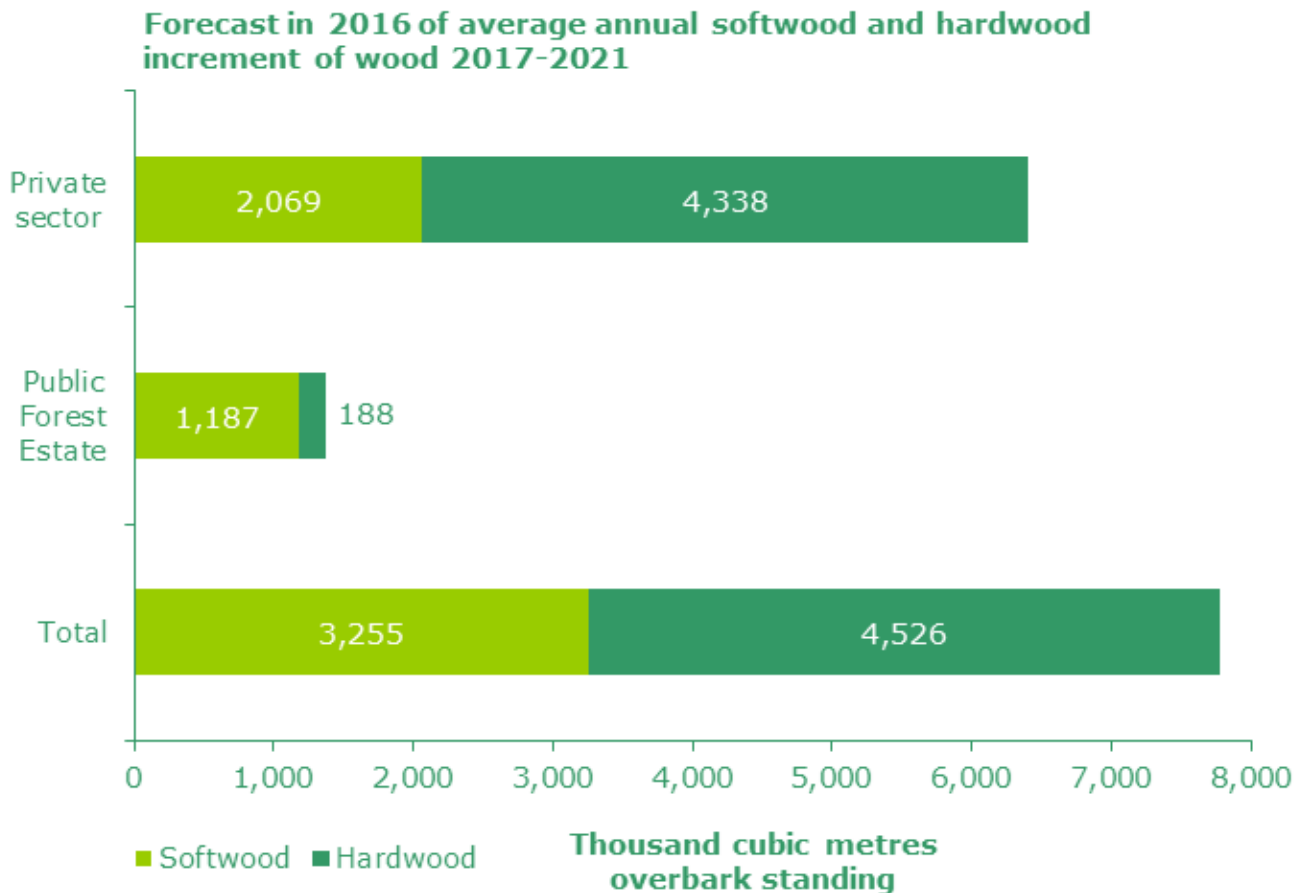
Apprentices and diploma completions, five year trend, 2017-18 compared to 2012-13

Improving 

University leavers, five year trend, 2015-16 compared to 2010-11

Deteriorating 

Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests



In the period 2017-2021 annual softwood increment is estimated to be 3.255 million cubic meters and annual hardwood increment is estimated to be 4.526 million cubic meters.

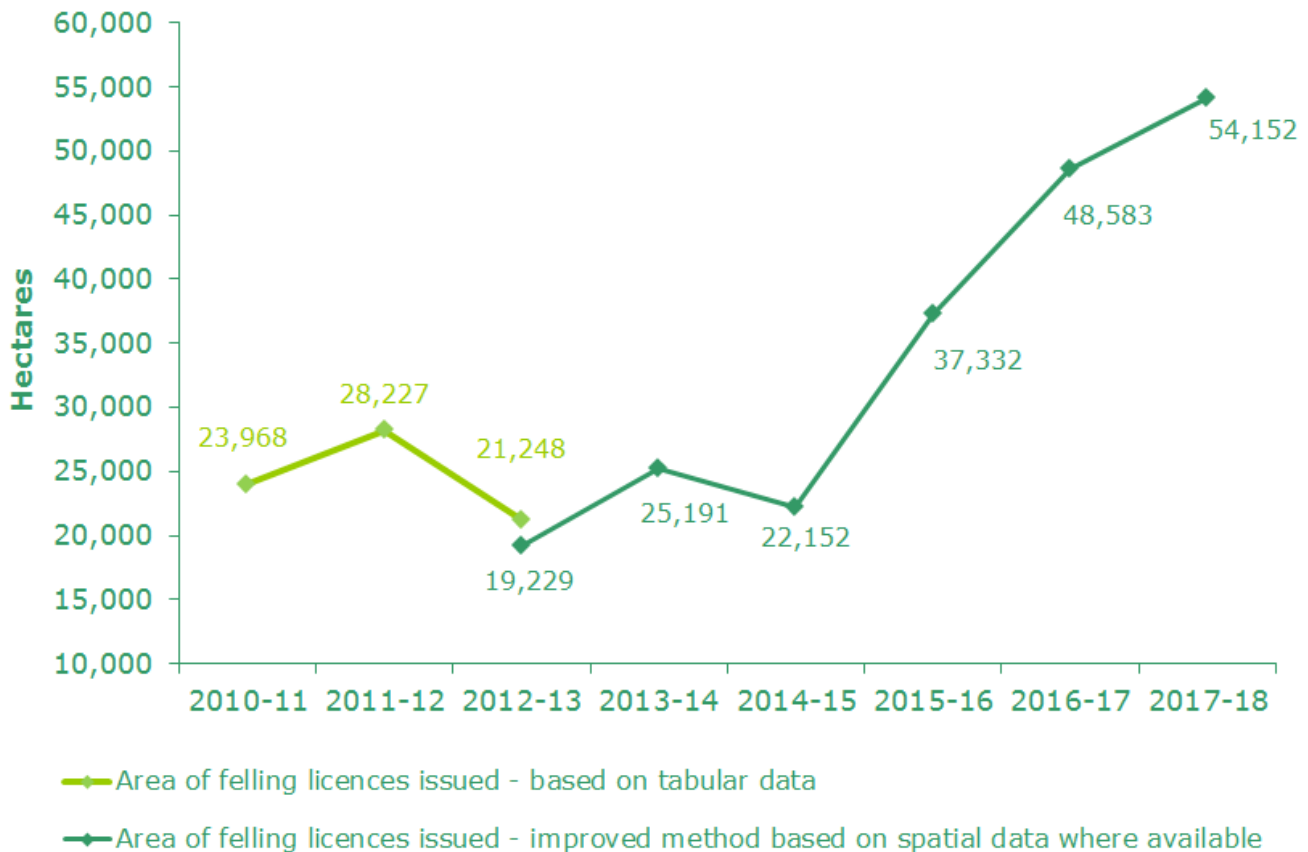
Source: [National Forest Inventory team forecasts](#) (Forestry Commission). The softwood and hardwood estimates shown use consistent assumptions about woodland management.

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 which shows one form of owner's intent to actively manage their woodland shows a continued improvement. In 2017-18 an additional 5,569 hectares of woodland is being actively managed through approved felling activity compared to the previous year.

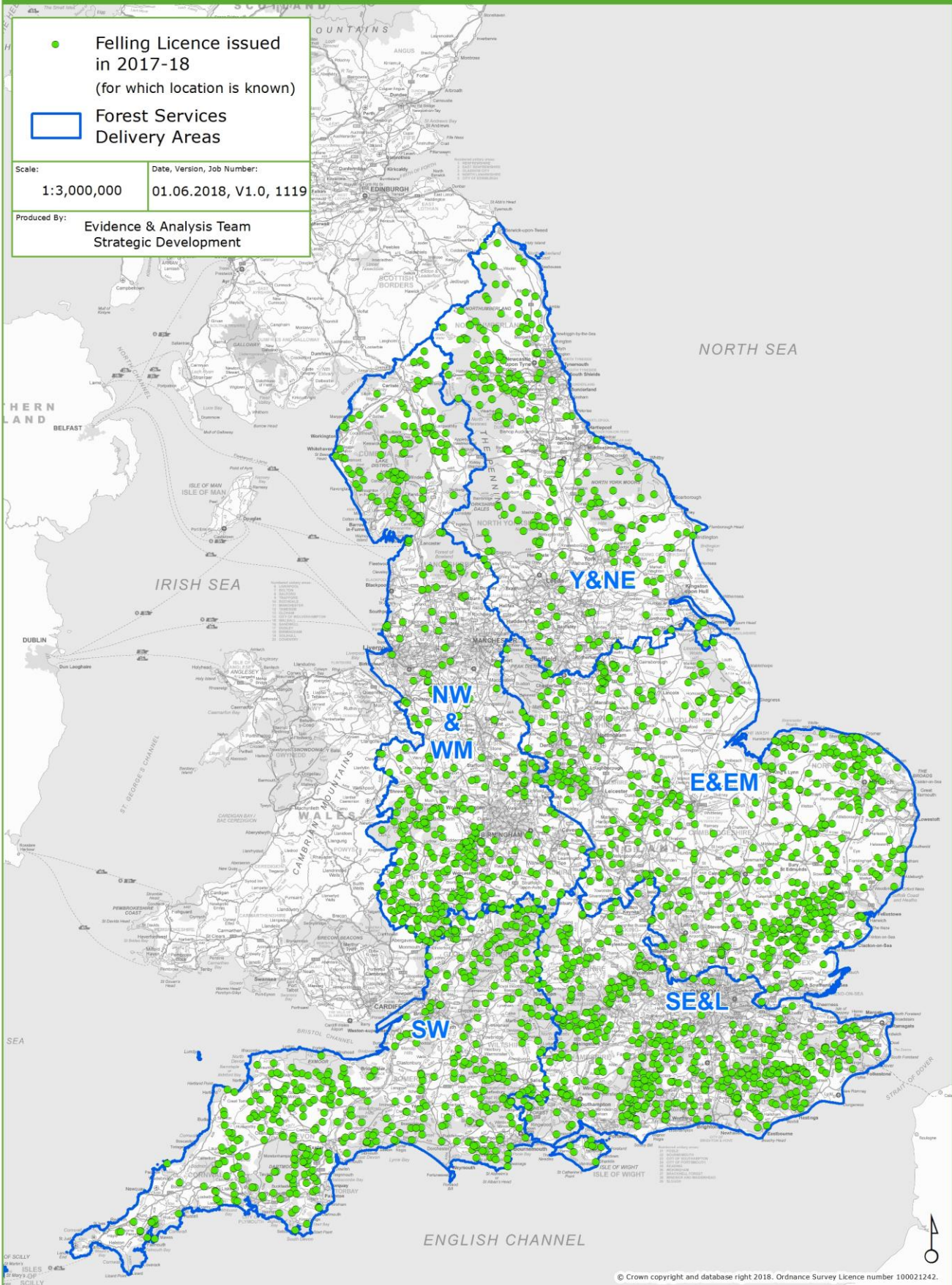
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

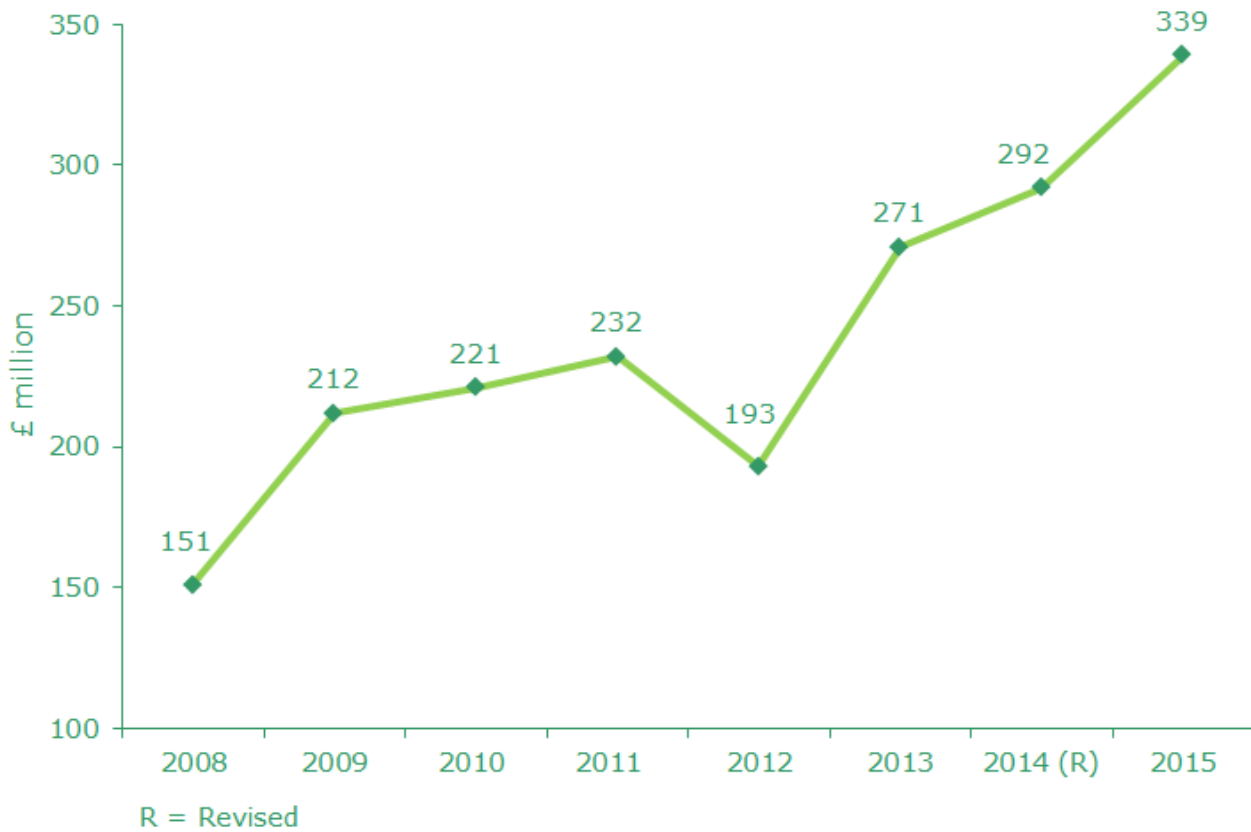
Assessment of change in *Area of felling licences issued*

Five year trend, 2017-18 compared to 2012-13

Improving 



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.

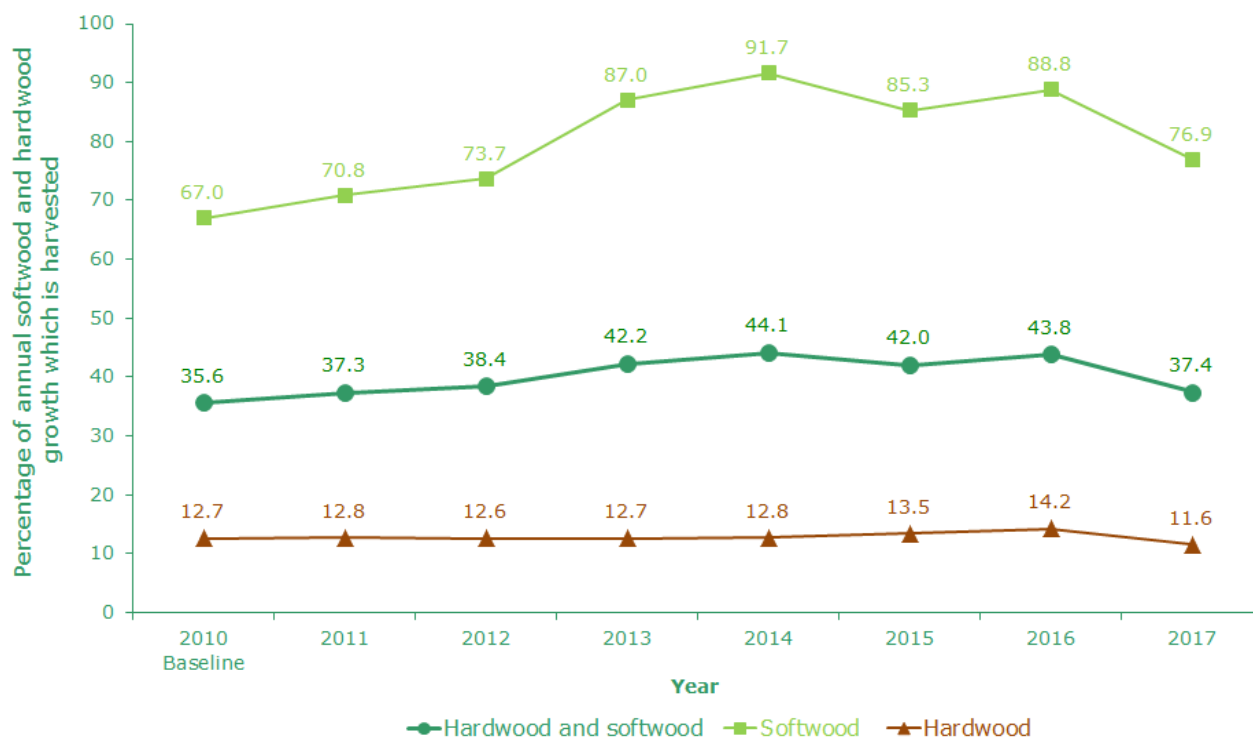
Source: [Annual Business Survey 2015 regional results](#) (Office for National Statistics).

Assessment of change in *Gross Value Added from domestic forestry*

Five year trend, 2015 compared to 2010

Improving 

Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested



The percentage of softwood growth which is harvested remains high, reflecting sustained strong activity in the softwood sector. The percentage of hardwood growth which is harvested remains low, reflecting a low level of active management in broadleaved woodland.

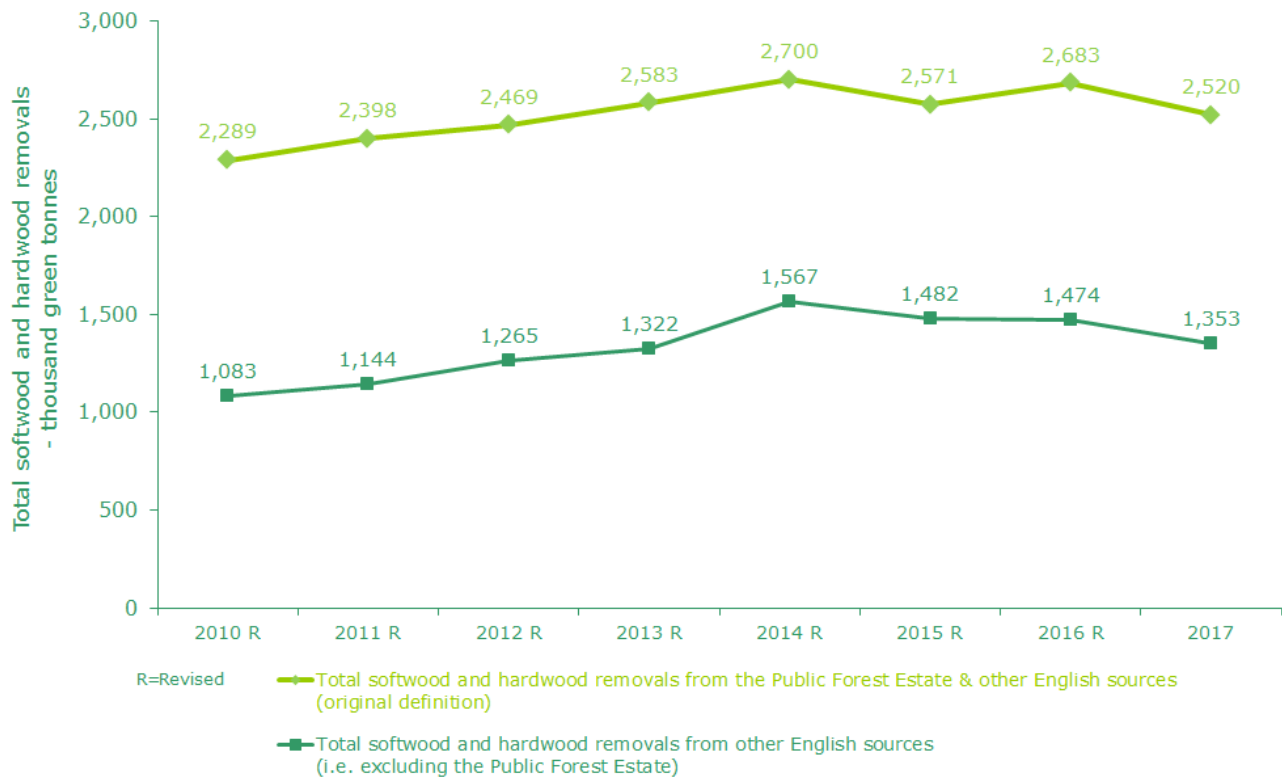
Source: Forestry Commission [National Statistics](#) on [UK wood production and trade](#) and [National Forest Inventory team forecasts](#).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested*

Five year trend, 2017 compared to 2012
(hardwood and softwood element)

Little or no overall change 

Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the Public Forest Estate



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

Source: Forestry Commission [National Statistics](#) on [UK wood production and trade](#).

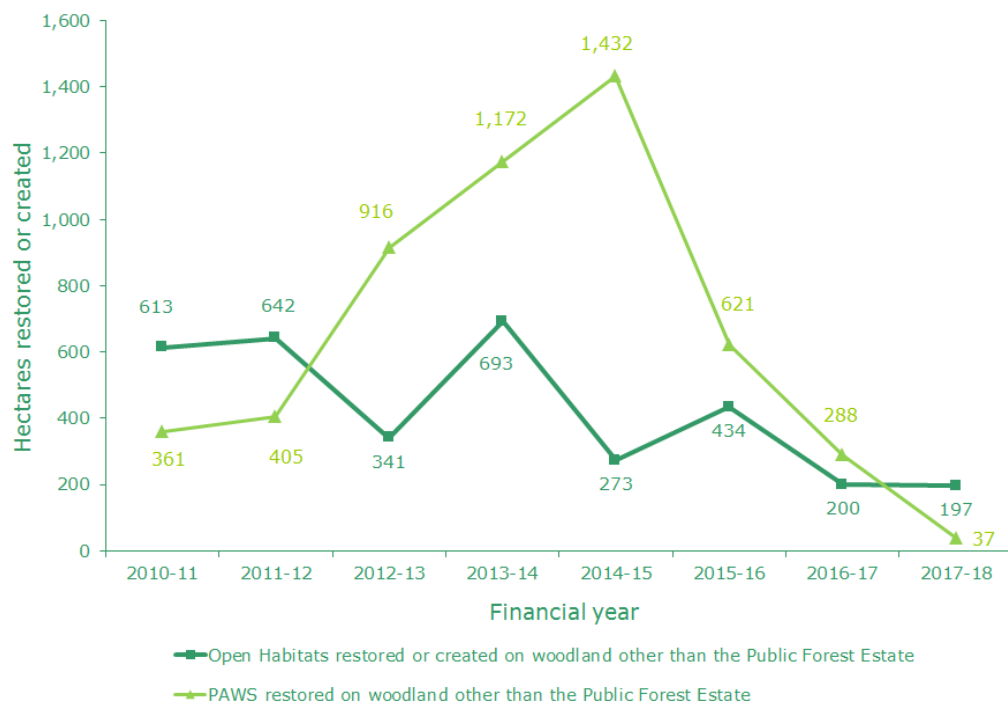
Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the Public Forest Estate*

Five year trend, 2017 compared to 2012

Improving 

Places for wildlife to prosper

Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat in woodland other than the Public Forest Estate



The original target set for restoration of [Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites](#) (PAWS) both on and off the Public Forest Estate (PFE) by 2020 (8,000 hectares) has been met, however the rate of restoration of PAWS in woodland other than the PFE has continued to decline.



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](#) to support conservation management of these sites.

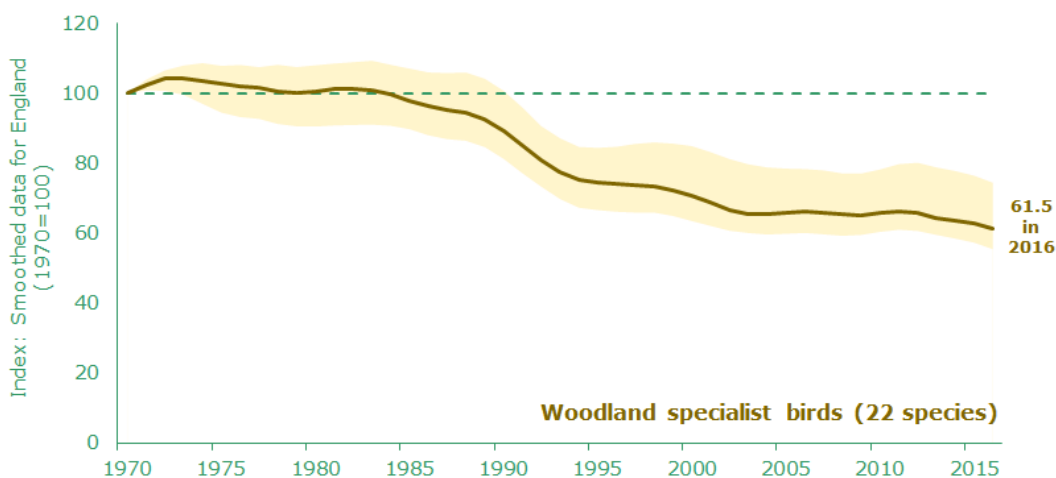
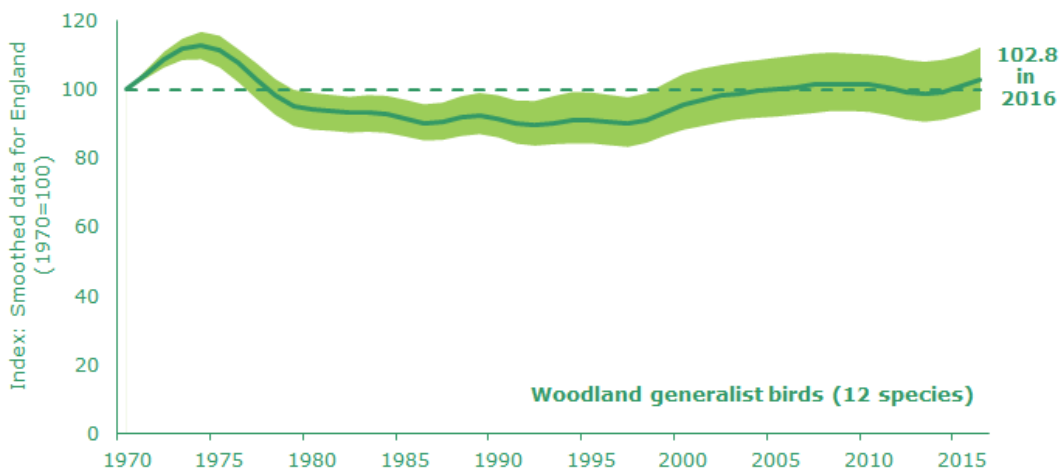
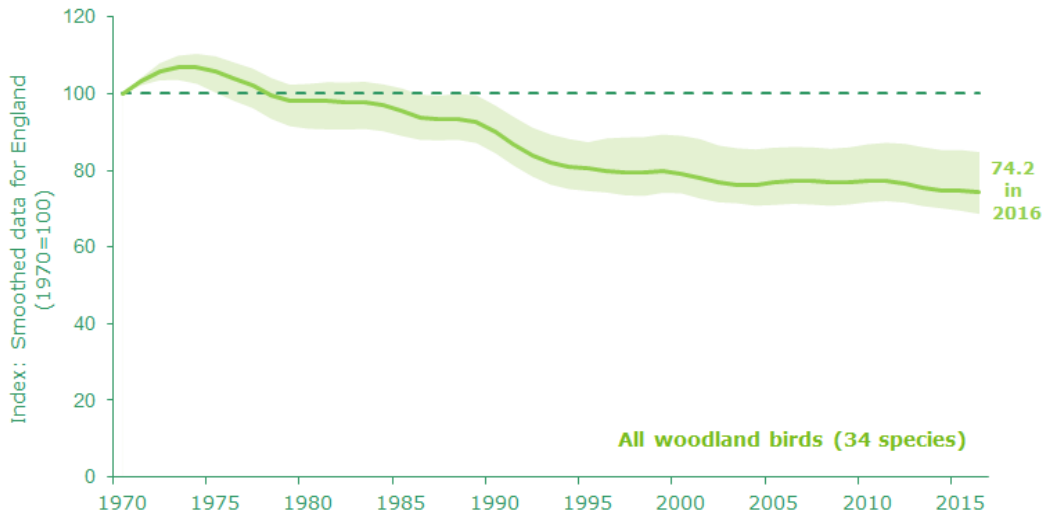
Open habitat restoration has reduced slightly in the last year. This is in line with the amount of woodland creation in 2017-18, which influences the rate and conditions under which woodland removal for open habitat will be permitted, in line with government policy. Challenges with the uptake of grants available as a part of CS have also adversely affected rates of 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 Public Forest Estate* – Five year trends, 2017-18 compared to 2012-13

PAWS: On woodland other than the Public Forest Estate	Deteriorating 
Open Habitats: On other woodland other than the Public Forest Estate	Deteriorating 

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



Each graph shows a smoothed, unstandardised woodland bird index and its 95% confidence interval.

In 2016 the all woodland bird index for England was 26% lower than in 1970 (smoothed data). The greatest decline occurred between the early 1980s and the mid-1990s. Since then the index has been more stable. Over the past 10 years the woodland bird index has fluctuated but showed no significant change overall.

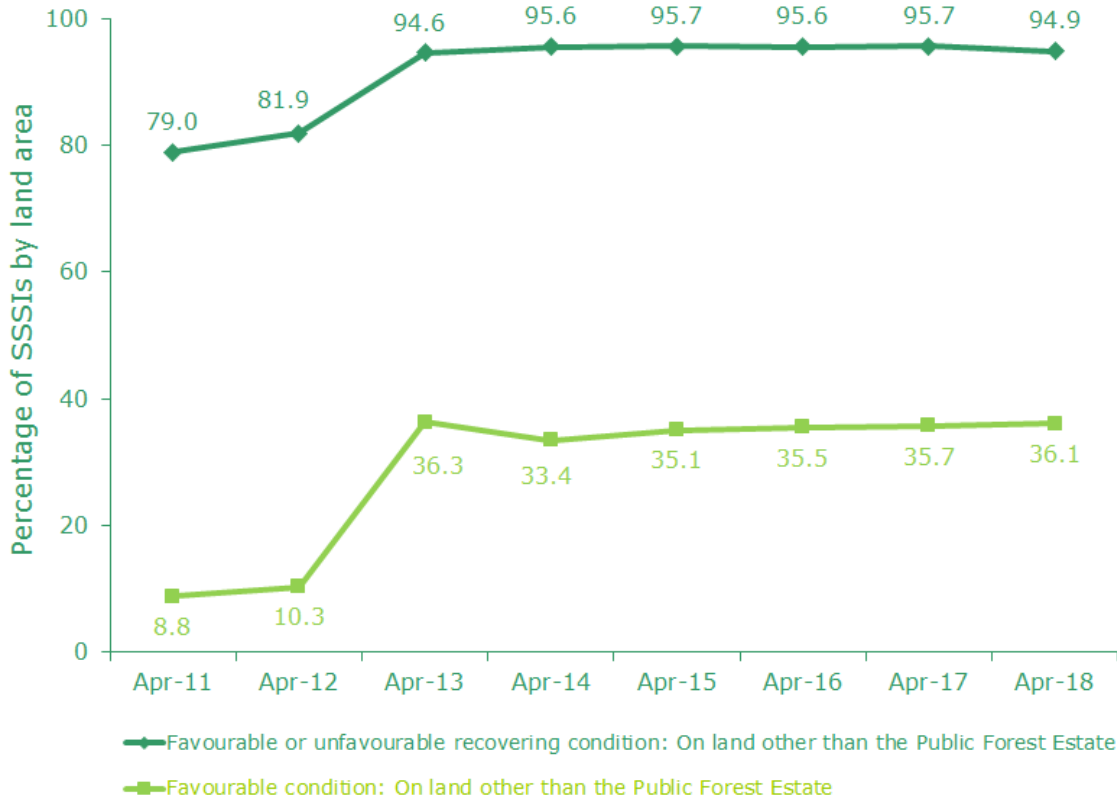
Source: Smoothed, unstandardised [Woodland Bird Index](#) data ([Defra](#)).

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, 2016 compared to 2001.

Little or no overall change 

Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than the Public Forest Estate



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 increased. Over the period of the indicator the absolute area in target condition has increased but so has the area of designated woodland (+5%) leading to a slight drop in the percentage in target condition overall.

Woodland SSSIs are condition assessed by [Natural England](#) at regular intervals, with the condition status amended as required. While significant progress has been made in bringing more woods in to favourable or recovering condition during the indicator period this has been offset by some sites declining or not recovering in condition as expected for a variety of reasons including increasing impacts of grazing and browsing animals, additional management requirements and diffuse pollution issues.

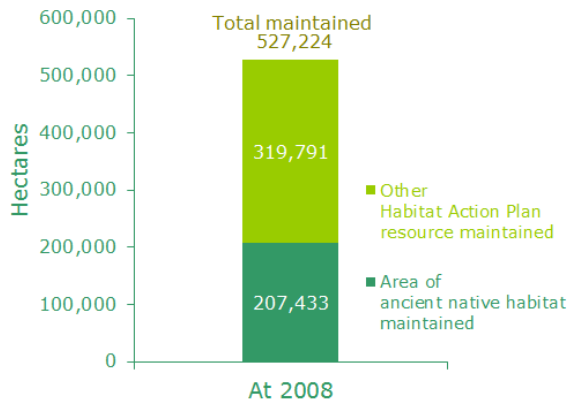
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data on grant schemes and [Natural England](#) data on SSSIs.

Assessment of change since in Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on land other than the Public Forest Estate

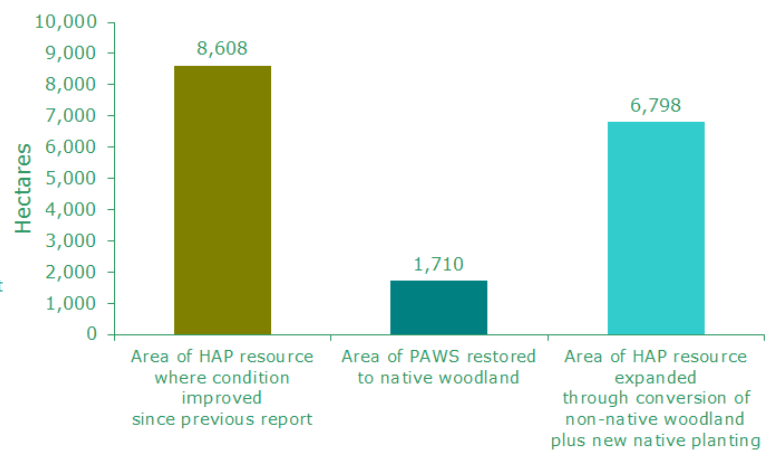
Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, five year trend, Apr-18 compared to Apr-13	Little or no overall change ≈
Favourable condition, five year trend, Apr-18 compared to Apr-13	Little or no overall change ≈

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

Maintained areas



Progress since 2005



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.

Source: i) Maintained areas based on [Natural England](#) data, ii) [Managed Woodland Headline Indicator](#) (Forestry Commission England).

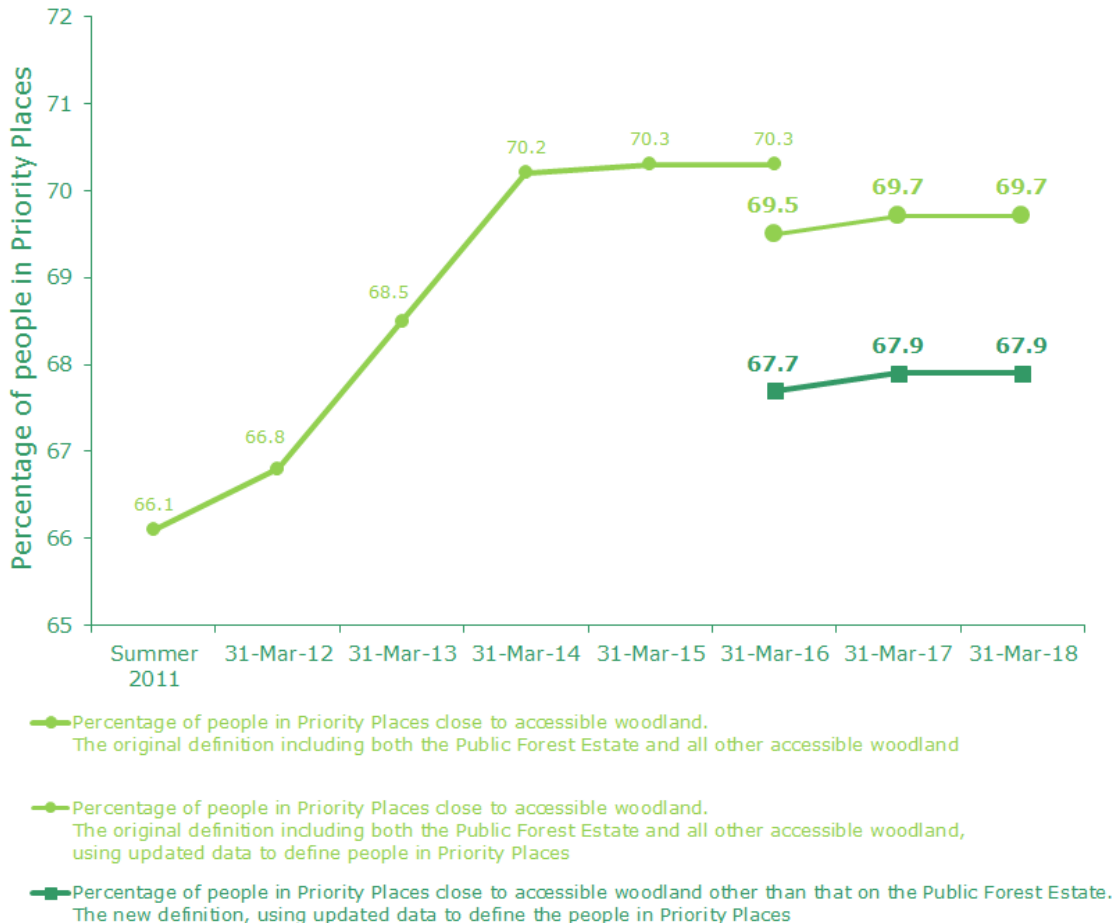
Assessment of change in *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

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 on the Public Forest Estate



The percentage of people living in Priority Places with access to woodland *other than* the Public Forest Estate (PFE) remains relatively static.

The contribution of the *Public Forest Estate* is shown in the Other Forest Enterprise Indicators part of this report, but the total including the PFE is 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 of one or more accessible woodlands >20 hectares in size.

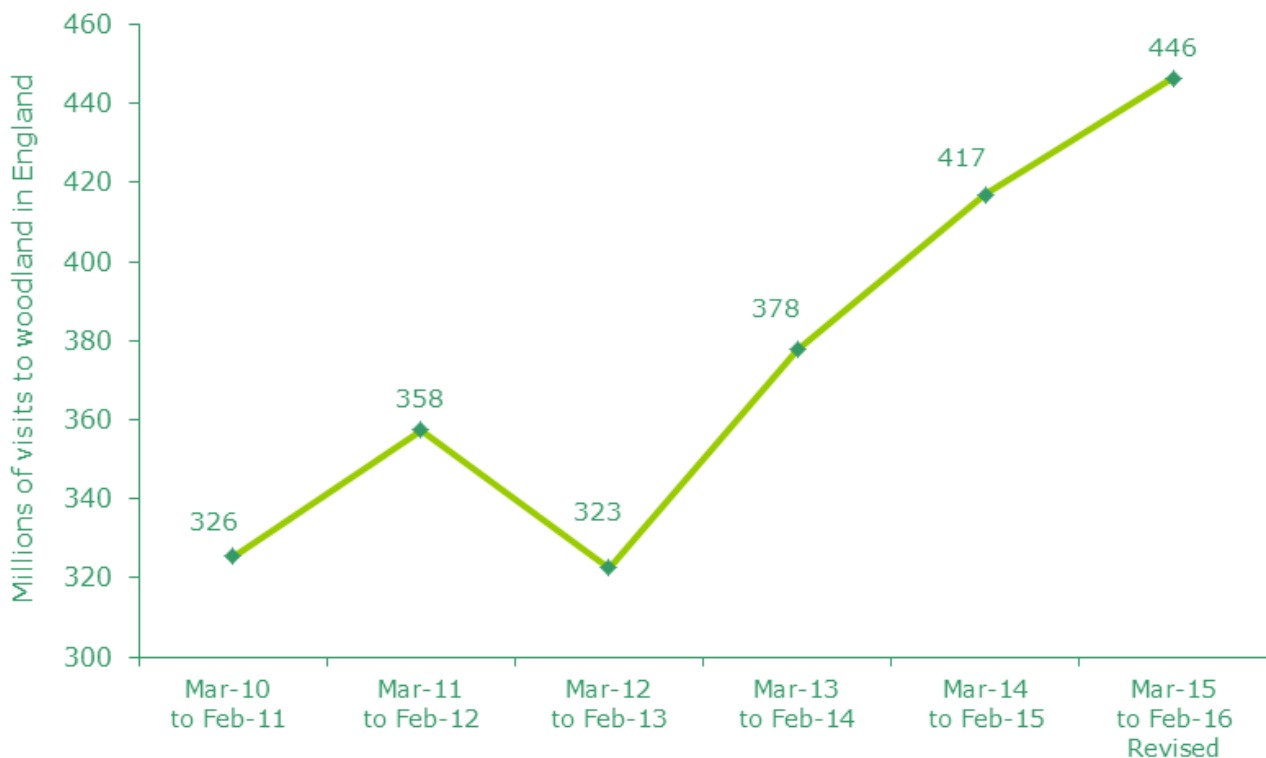
Source: Based on Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), [Census of Population](#) (Office for National Statistics) and the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (Communities and Local Government).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland other than that on the Public Forest Estate*

Two year trend **only**, Mar-18 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)



This indicator shows a small non-statistically significant increase in the number of visits to woodland by English adults since the previous reporting year. This maintains a rate of increase at least equal to that over the previous two reporting periods. Evidence from surveys and monitoring on the Public Forest Estate supports this small continued upward trend in visitor numbers.

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-15/Feb-16 compared to Mar-10/Feb-11

Improving 

Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland



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 results show there has been a decline in 2017 compared to the results of the previous surveys from 2007 to 2013. Given the relatively small numbers involved (less than 60 respondents to the 2017 sample survey reported any form of engagement with woodland), it is not possible to undertake more detailed analysis of this data to explore possible factors that may be influencing this decrease.

The declining trend is not evident in data on woodland volunteering from Forest Enterprise relating to the Public Forest Estate, where a notable increase in the number of volunteers has been recorded in the year to 2016-17, in part reflecting new initiatives such as [The Foresters' Forest](#) in the Forest of Dean.

The declining trend is also not evident in data on all environmental volunteering from the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey. This shows that the percentage of adult residents of England who volunteer to help care for the environment has remained steady throughout the period from 2009-10 to 2015-16 when it was 5%.

Source: [Public Opinion of Forestry Survey](#) (Forestry Commission, 2017).

Reference: [Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Headline Report from the 2015-16 Survey](#) - Figure 2.5 ([Natural England](#), 2017).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland*

Six year trend, 2017 compared to 2011

Deteriorating 

EXPAND

Government supported new planting of trees in England

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

Forestry Commission England (2018) [Government support new planting of trees in England: Report for 2017-18](#), Bristol: Forestry Commission England, 9 pages.



This is available from the [Indicators page of the Forestry Commission England website](#).

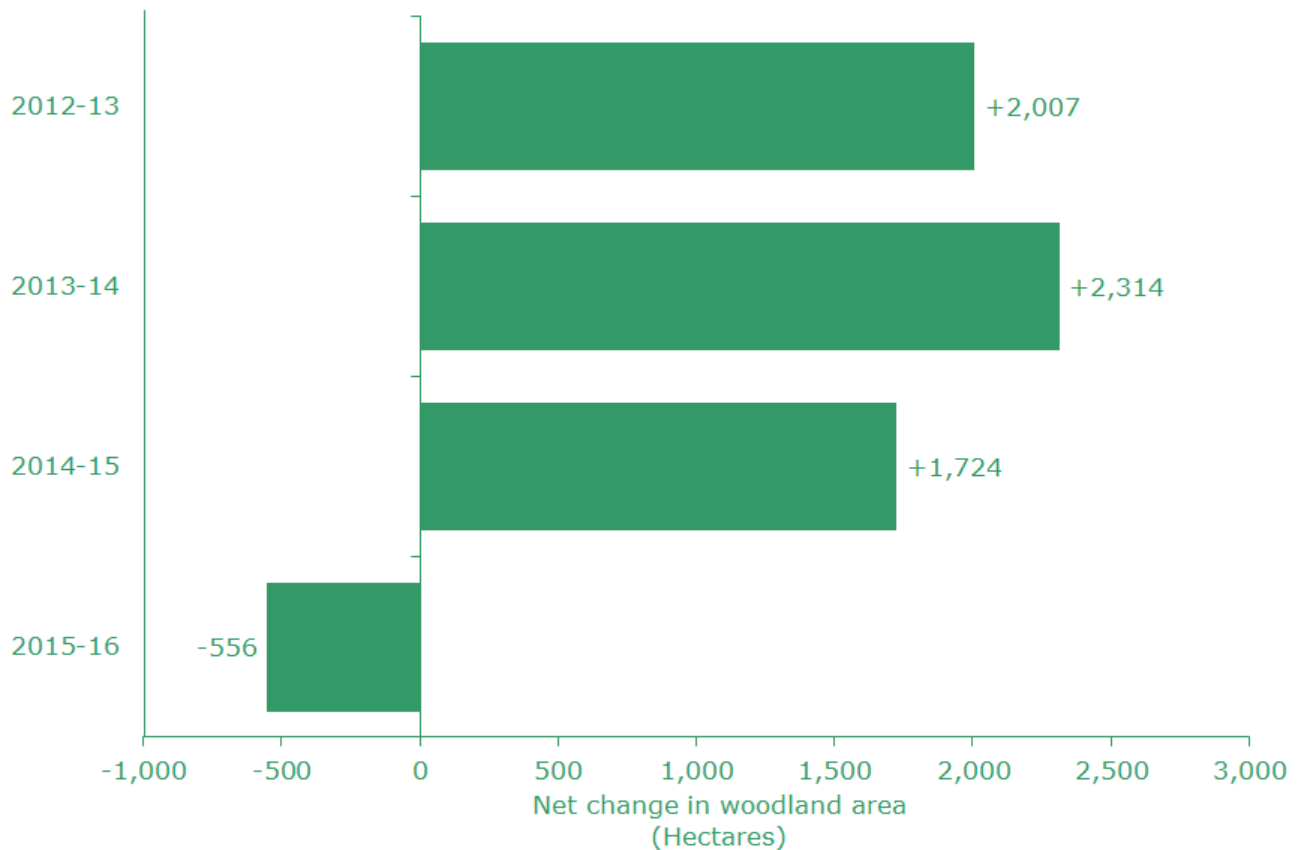
Source: Data from [Forestry Commission England](#), [Natural England](#), the [Environment Agency](#) and [The National Forest Company](#).

Assessment of change in *Government supported new planting of trees in England*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data 

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.

Between 2012-13 and 2015-16, there was a net increase in woodland area of 5,489 hectares after all known sources of woodland creation and woodland loss were accounted for. In the most recent year for which data are available (2015-16), there was a net loss of 556 hectares of woodland as a result of the combination of low levels of new planting and a large area of woodland loss mostly associated with development.

Table 4: Components of net change in woodland area in England, 2012-13 to 2015-16 (Experimental Statistics)

Contribution to change in woodland area (Hectares)	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Average per annum over the four years 2012-13 to 2015-16
Woodland creation					
a. Total new planting of trees in England (Sources 1 and 2)	2,587	3,340	2,425	821	2,293
Woodland removal					
Open habitat restoration other than on the Public Forest Estate (Source 3)	341	693	273	434	435
Open habitat restoration on the Public Forest Estate (Source 3)	119	213	70	116	130
Attributable to development (Source 4, Note 1)	120	120	358	827	356
b. Total woodland removal	580	1,026	701	1,377	921
c. Total net change in woodland area (a. minus b.)	2,007	2,314	1,724	-556	4-year total 5,489
d. Average net change in woodland area per annum 2012-13 to 2015-16 (c÷4)					Average per annum 1,372

Sources

1. Forestry Commission (2017) [Forestry Statistics 2017](#), Edinburgh: Forestry Commission.
2. Forestry Commission (2018) [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking 2018](#), Edinburgh: Forestry Commission.
3. Forestry Commission England (2018) [Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2018](#), Bristol: Forestry Commission England.
4. 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 comparable previously unpublished updates for 2015-16 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 on the Public Forest Estate 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.

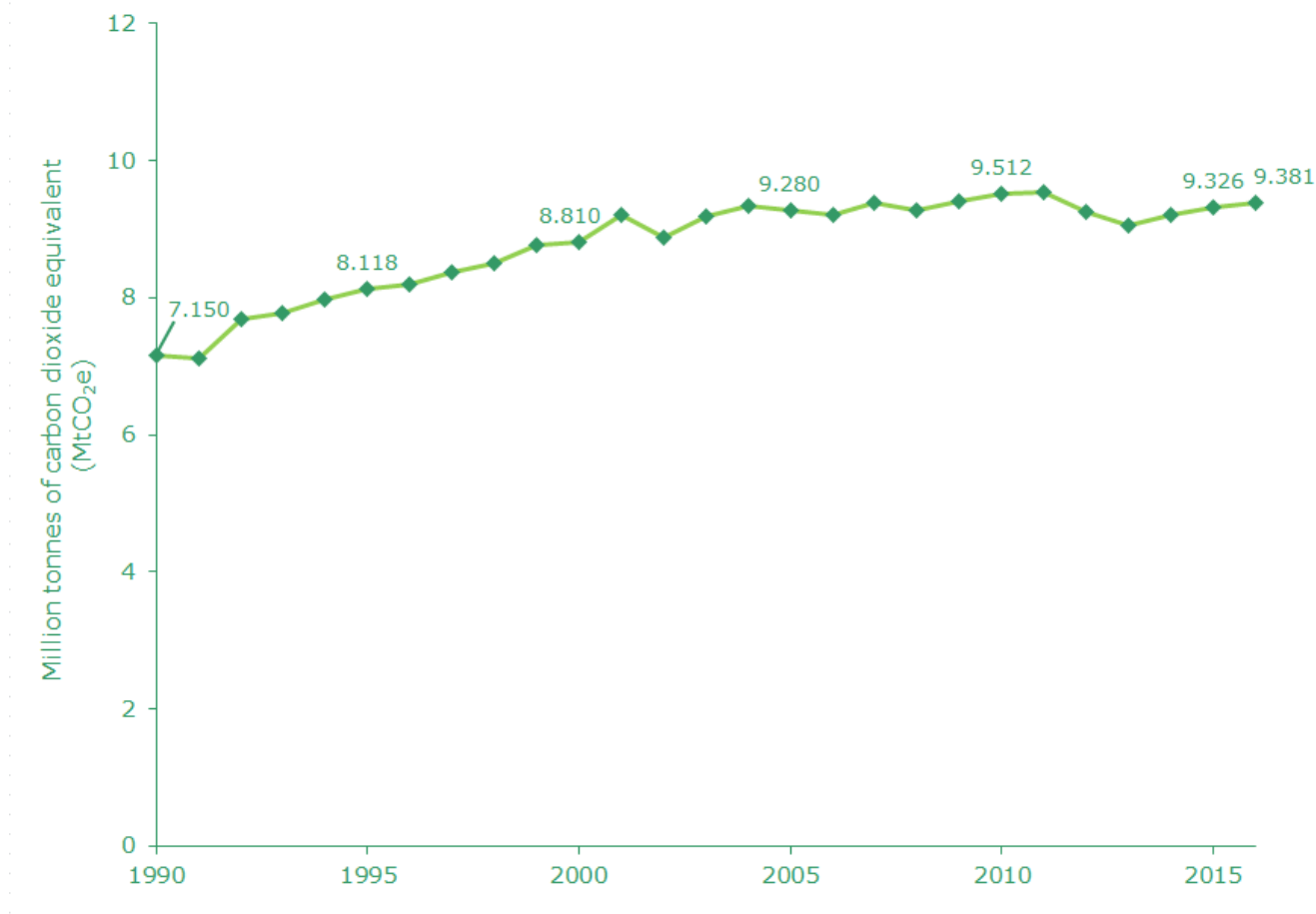
Assessment of change in *Net change in woodland area, based on the balance between new planting of woodland, and woodland removal* (Experimental Statistics)

Three year trend **only**, 2015-16 compared to 2012-13

Deteriorating 

Contribution to carbon abatement

Carbon captured by English woodlands



The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England’s woodlands has increased slightly from 9.326 MtCO₂e in 2015 to 9.381 MtCO₂e in 2016. The indicator remains broadly stable, but is expected to decline in the medium term as the greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past high tree planting rates and subsequent high 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.

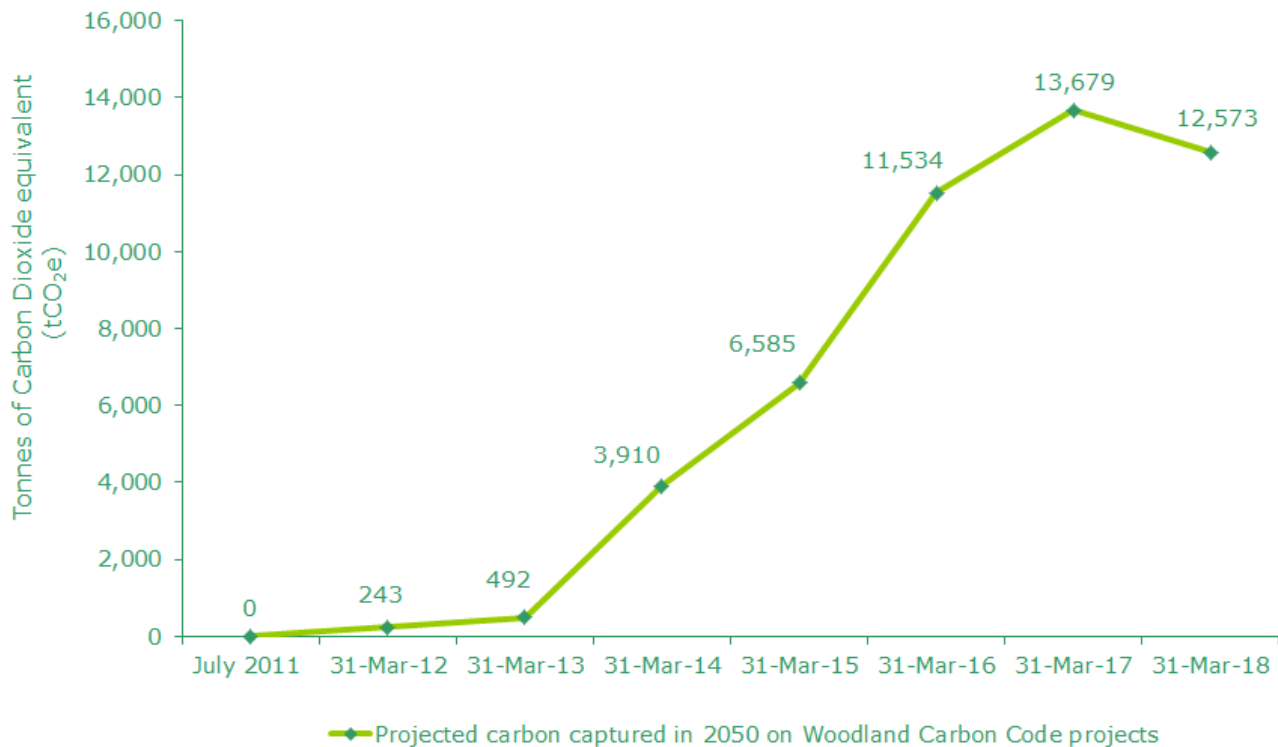
Source: Data from the [Department for Business Energy & Industrial Strategy](#).

Assessment of change in *Carbon captured by English woodlands*

Five year trend, 2016 compared to 2011

Little or no overall change 

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



At March 2018, 68 projects were validated to the [Woodland Carbon Code](#), compared to 66 in March 2017. During the last year four new projects were validated, but two validated projects were removed as they did not proceed to verification. The 68 projects are expected to sequester 12,573 tCO₂e in 2050 (compared with 13,679 tCO₂e reported in 2017), as a result of the projects removed from the register being larger than the new projects validated. A further 18 projects are currently registered and going through the validation process. Together the projects registered and validated are projected to sequester 0.8 million tonnes of CO₂e over their lifetime (of up to 100 years).

Source: [Woodland Carbon Code statistics](#) (Forestry Commission).

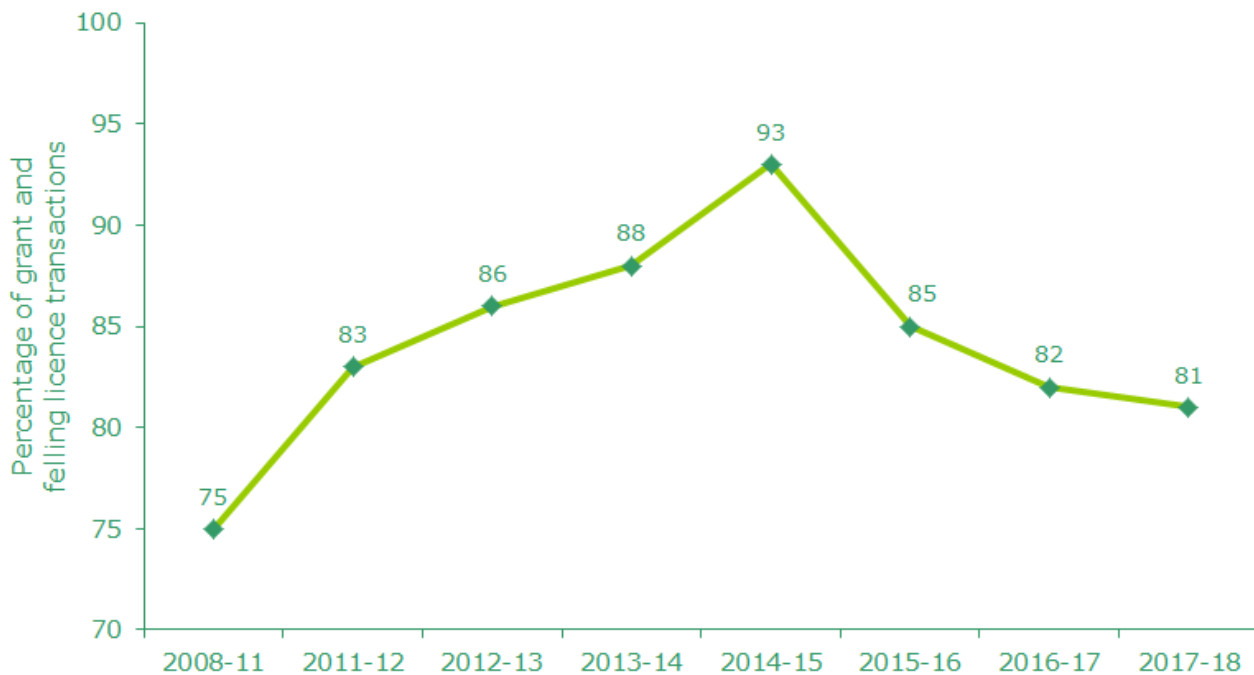
Assessment of change in *Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects*

Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-13

Improving 

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND BUSINESS METRICS

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



The performance in 2017-18 was similar to the previous year's figure of 82% and it is in the context of the following:

- The continuing transition of Forest Services administration hubs with transfer of work based as Santon Downham to other sites in 2017-18;
- Although all new Countryside Stewardship (CS) processing moved into Natural England, ongoing applications and capital claims were still handled by Forest Services;
- Ongoing high volumes of regulatory work in relation to felling licence and management plan approvals, and necessary delay in the introduction of the new Felling Licence Online system;
- Ongoing significant workloads associated with legacy inspections and annual claim processing.

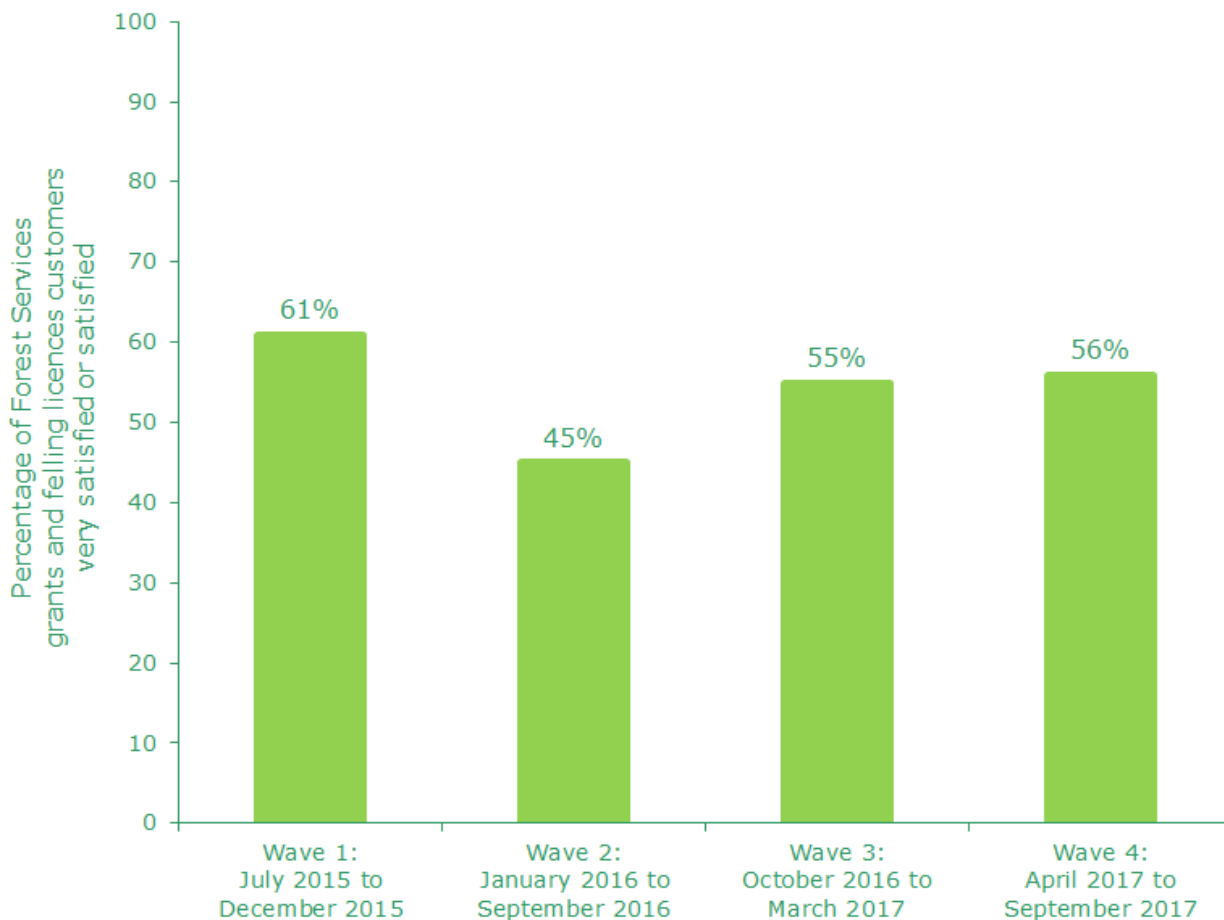
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

Five year trend, 2017-18 compared to 2012-13

Deteriorating 

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



Since our last report we have conducted surveys of customers who had received an incentives or regulatory decision from Forest Services between October 2016 to March 2017, and April 2017 to September 2017. There has respectively been a 10 and 11 percentage point improvement in satisfaction rates compared to the January 2016 to September 2016 period, although these increases are not statistically significant. We have had an improvement plan in place focusing on issues mentioned that are within Forest Services' control. We are now working with Rural Payments Agency and Natural England to address the wider feedback.

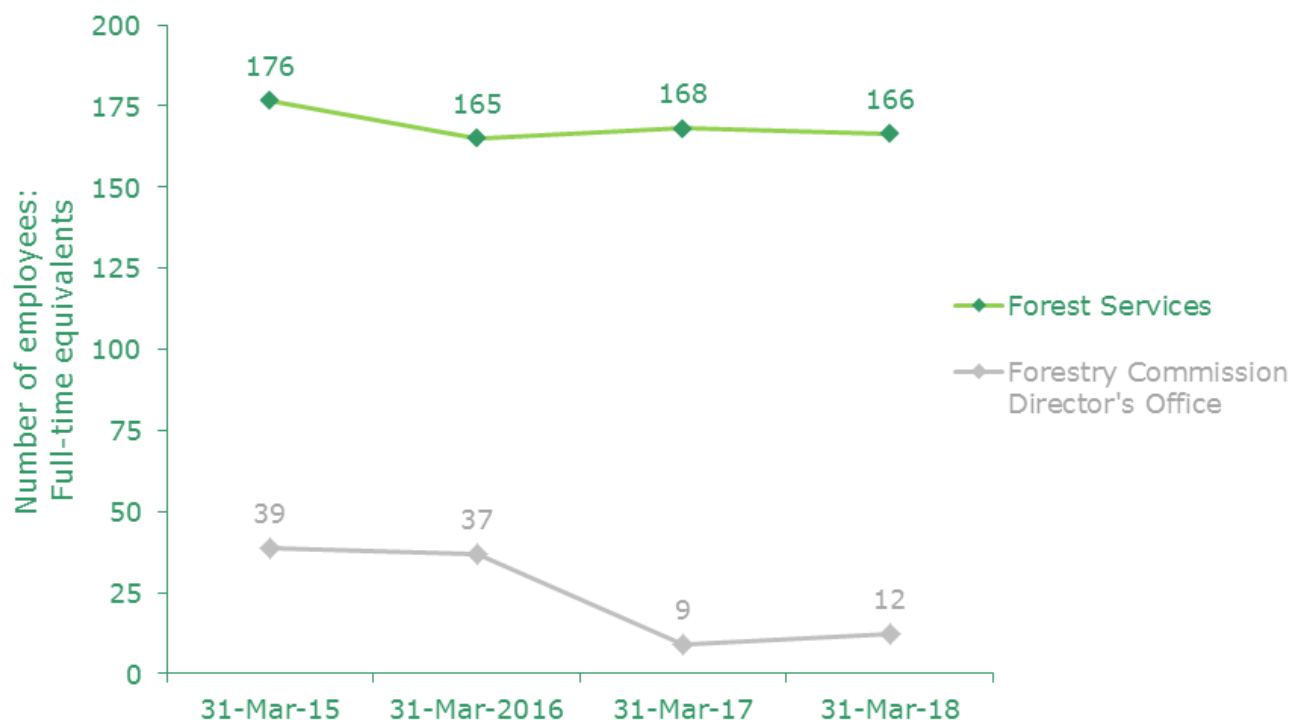
Source: Forestry Commission customer survey conducted with the help of the [Rural Payments Agency](#) Customer Insight team.

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 almost two years **only**:
Apr-2017/Sep-2017 compared to Jul-2015/Dec-2015

Little or no overall change 

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



Forest Services have seen a decrease of 1% in the number of employees (FTEs) between March 2017 and March 2018. This change is not significant and reflects usual staff turnover at the point the data was measured.

The budgeted number of employees (FTEs) within the core FC England Director's office shows a net reduction from 51.9 at 31 March 2015 to 8.0 at 31 March 2018 due to a number of internal restructuring exercises within FCE/Central Services. These include the transfer of the FCE corporate service functions to Forest Enterprise England (FEE) during 2016-17, as well as a switch of resource cover to FEE for corporate affairs and the transfer of the Communications function to Defra. In addition to the core team as at 31 March 2018 the Director's Office also included 4.5 FTE relating to the Centenary Team which is expected to decommission after April 2019. The total budgeted complement of the Director's Office as at end March 2018 was 12.5 FTE.

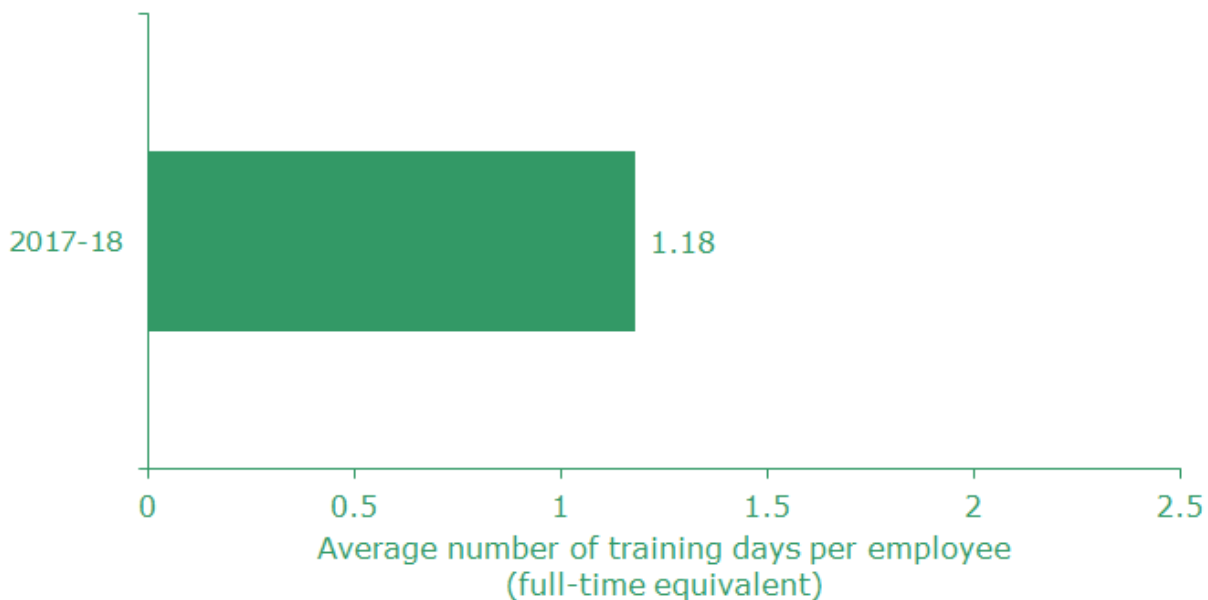
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Director's Office*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data 

Average number of training days organised by Forest Services Business Support attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Services



From the start of 2017-18 in-house learning and development for Forest Services (FS) transferred from Central Shared Services to the Business Support Team in FS, and this new indicator developed.

The indicator accounts for training days delivered or arranged by Forest Services, and delivered or arranged by Forest Enterprise England.

Training organised by other teams in Forest Services, [Forest Research](#), or through external providers are 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.

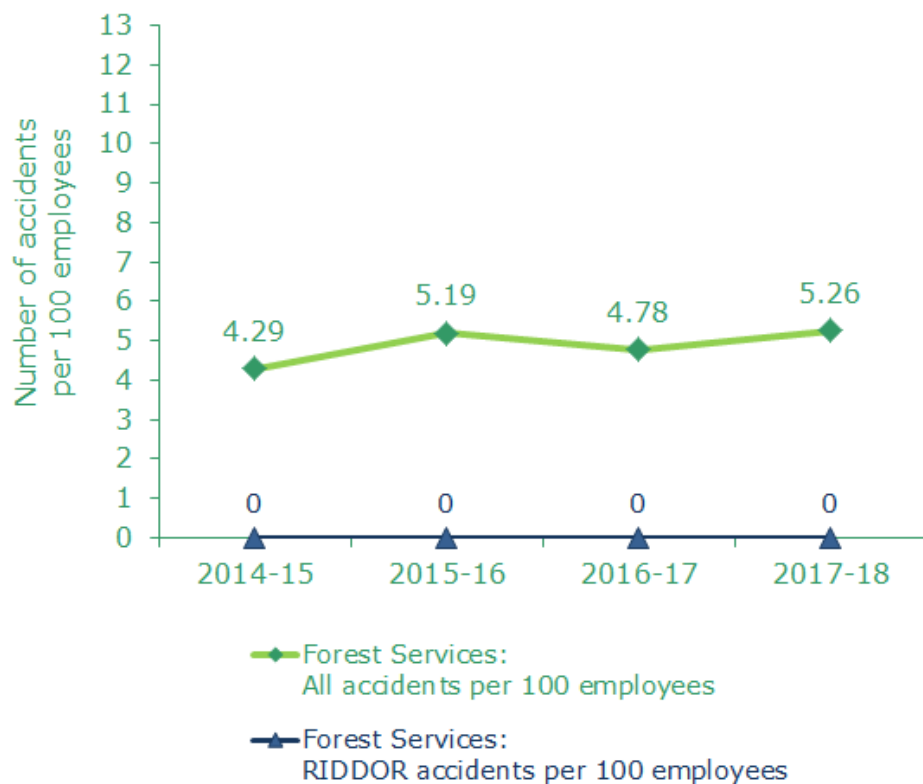
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data 

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



The number of non-RIDDOR accidents per 100 employees in the course of Forest Services business activities has remained broadly stable/slightly increased in 2017-18 compared to 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*

Three year trend **only**: 2017-18 compared to 2014-15
(all accidents element)

Deteriorating 

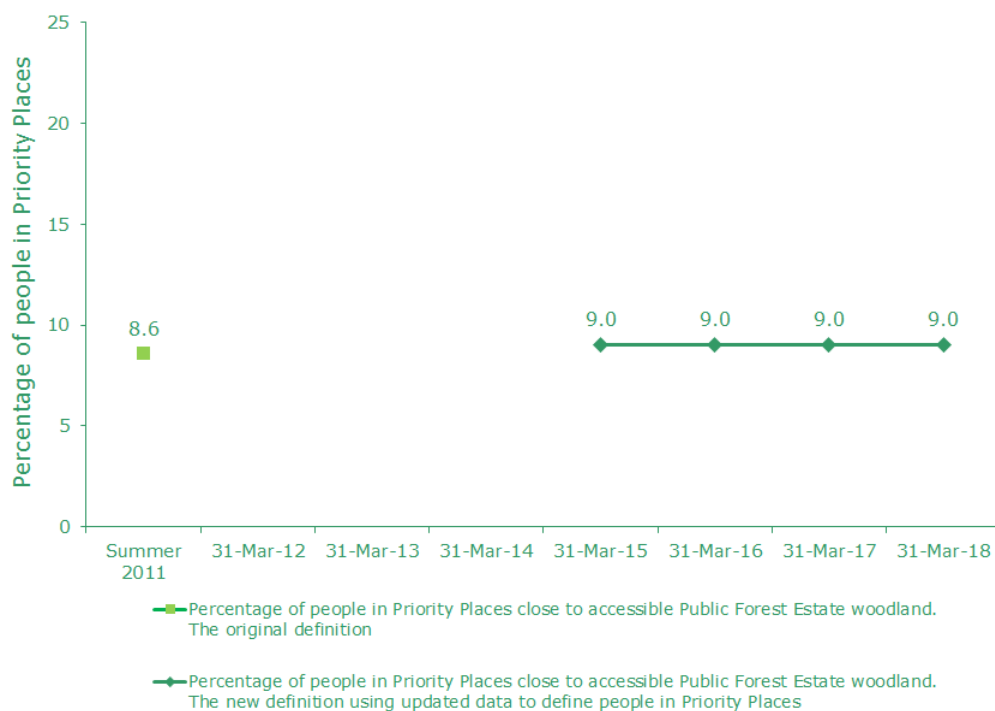


Part 3. Other Forest Enterprise Indicators

PEOPLE

People's health and enjoyment of woodland

Percentage of people in Priority Places close to Public Forest Estate accessible woodland



This indicator measures the percentage of England's adults living in Priority Places with access to one or more Public Forest Estate (PFE) woodlands of more than 20 hectares in size within 4km (2.5 miles). Some 9% of such people have access (1.7 million people), reflecting the proportion of the **all** accessible woodland that is part of the PFE. The figure remains static. Looking more widely about 85% of the total population of England lives within a 30 minute drive time of accessible parts of the Estate. The accompanying map shows all the places this close to accessible PFE woodland.

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.

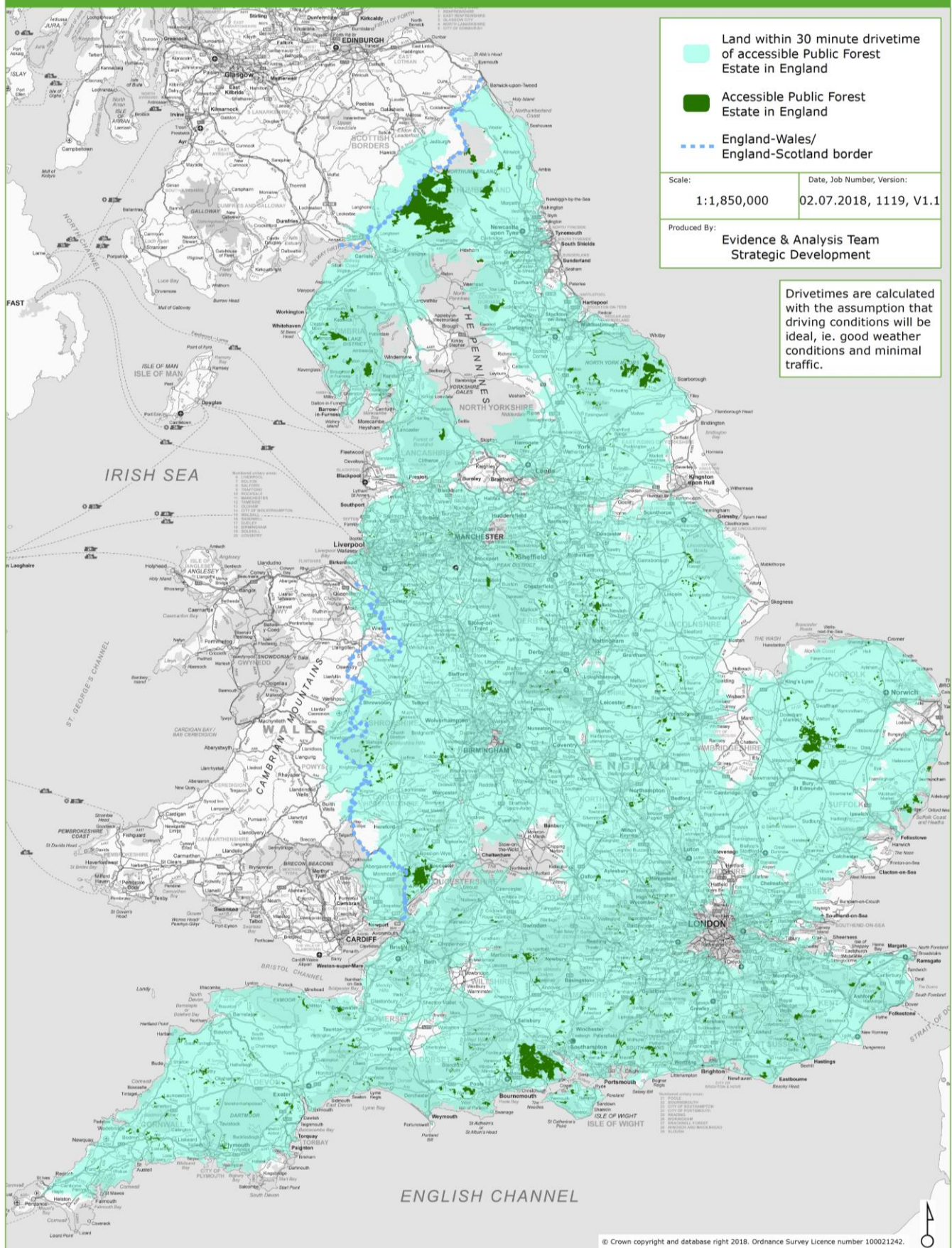
Source: Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), [Census of Population](#) (Office for National Statistics) and the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (Communities and Local Government).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to Public Forest Estate accessible woodland*

Three year trend **only**: 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-15

Little or no overall change 

Thirty Minute Drivetimes from Accessible Public Forest Estate in England



Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate



The number of permissions and participants has not changed significantly from previous years. The number of permissions expected has been exceeded whilst the number of participants is lower than the estimate. We are continuing to look at ways of simplifying the process for granting permissions whilst ensuring data is managed appropriately and due diligence is undertaken to manage risk.

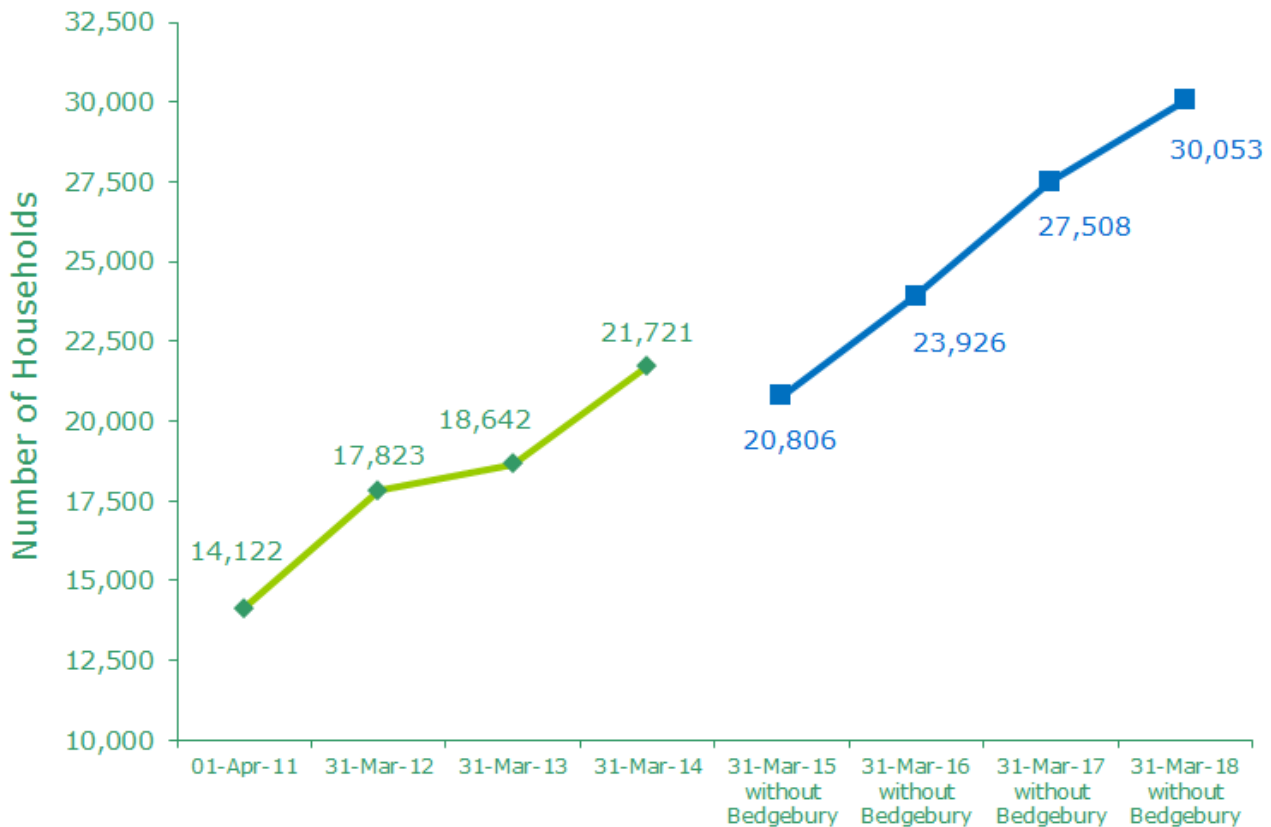
Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate*

Five year trend, 2017 compared to 2012
(number of people)

Improving 

Number of households in the Discovery Pass Scheme for the Public Forest Estate



Sales of the Discovery Pass in 2017-18 have increased by more than 9% compared to previous year (2016-17). Increases have been seen across a large number of participating sites which has resulted in a very positive increase in sales. In particular, sales have increased for sites which have introduced automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) car parking management system during the year and some other sites which having been particularly proactive in promoting the membership as an alternative to daily parking charges. These activities are combined with an increased presence in popular campaigns, attracting repeat visitors.

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 Public Forest Estate*

Three year trend **only**, 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-15

Improving 

Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate

	1 April 2011	31 March 2012	31 March 2013	31 March 2014	31 March 2015	31 March 2016	31 March 2017	31 March 2018
UKWAS Certification Held?	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](#) FSC in 1999, and we have maintained this certification since. We now also hold certification from the [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC) for the entire [Public Forest Estate](#).

Source: Based on the [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#).

Assessment of change in *Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate*

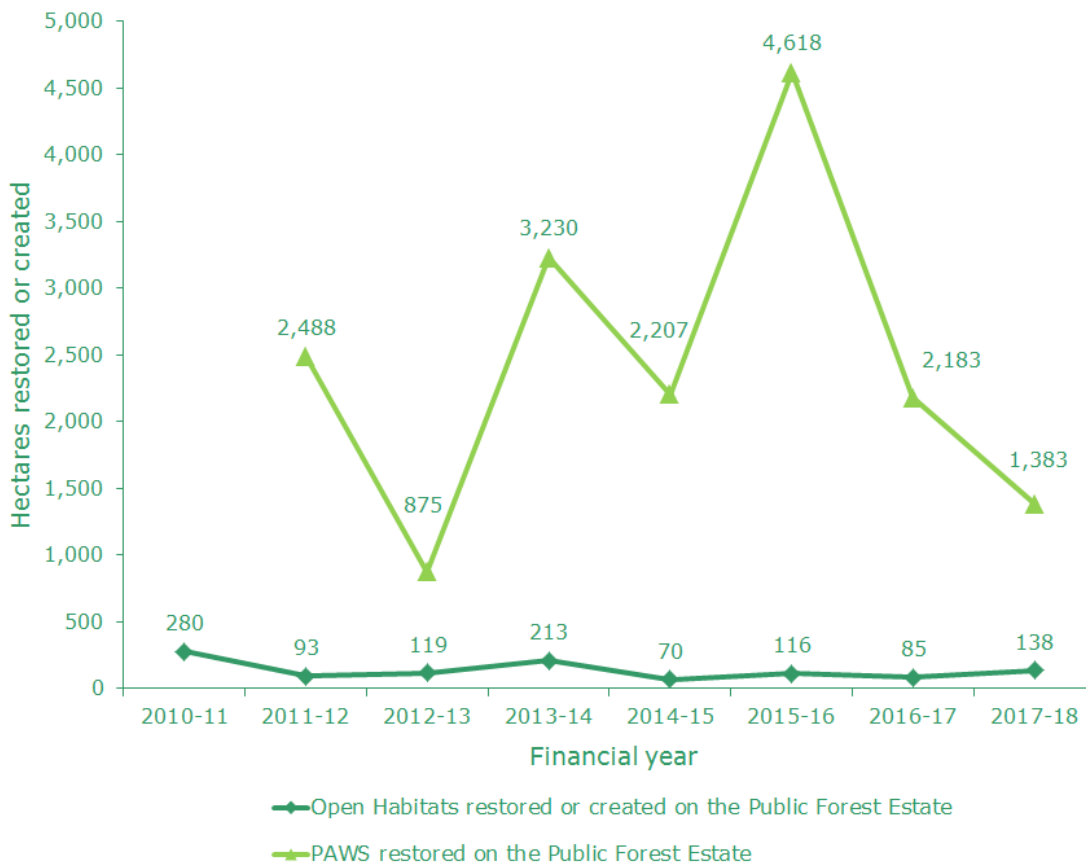
Five year trend, Mar-18 compared to Mar-13

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 on the Public Forest Estate




Work continues steadily on the thinning and restoration work across the [Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites \(PAWS\)](#) managed by Forest Enterprise England, and on open habitats restoration on the estate.


Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and of open habitat on the Public Forest Estate* revised so in comparison with Forest Design Plans

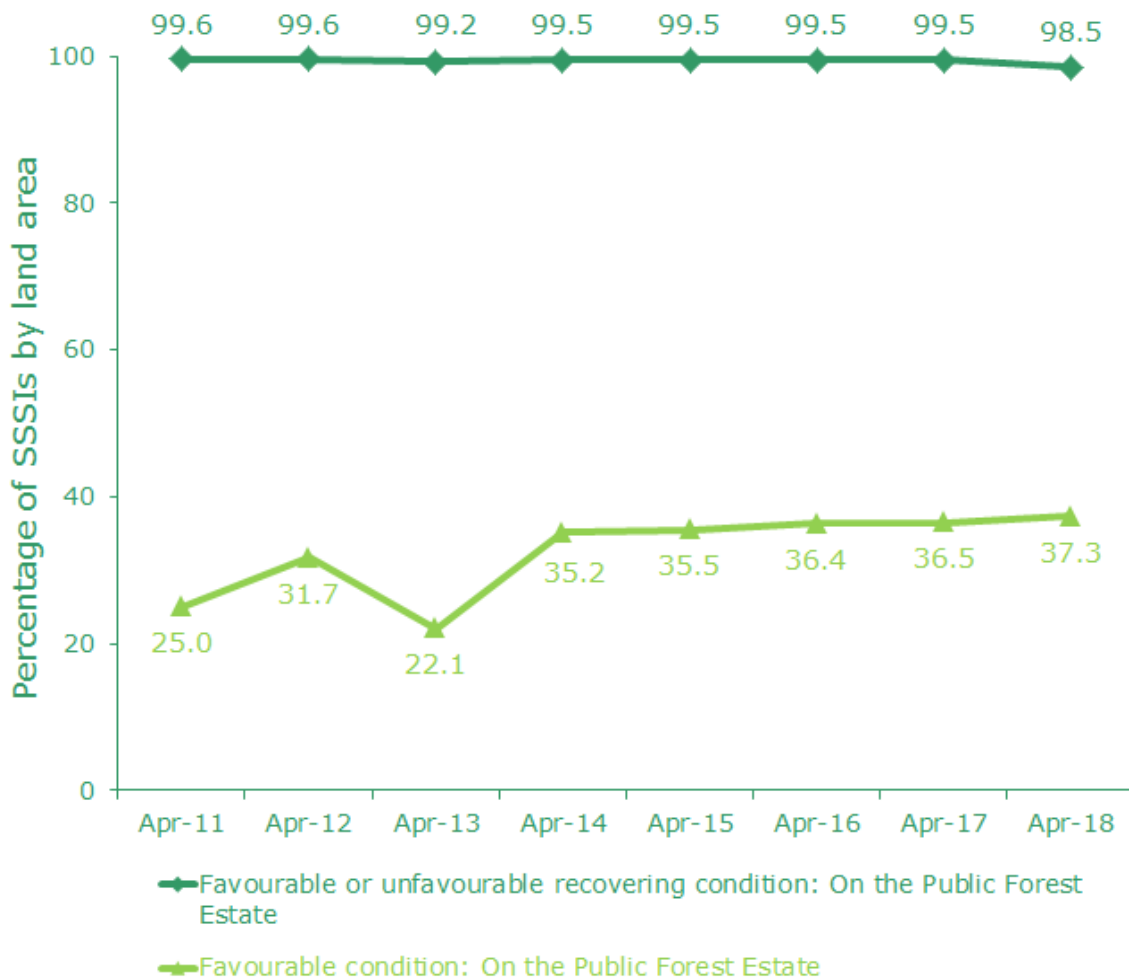
PAWS: On the Public Forest Estate

On track: Little or no overall change 

Open Habitats: On the Public Forest Estate

On track: Little or no overall change 

Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on the Public Forest Estate



Work continues towards the restoration to favourable condition across the Sites of Special Scientific Interest suite managed by Forest Enterprise England. The slight drop in the percentage reaching target condition has resulted from reappraisal of some of the plans aimed at the recovery of SSSI, dropping them from unfavourable recovering to unfavourable condition.

Source: [Natural England](#) data on SSSIs.

Assessment of change in Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on the Public Forest Estate

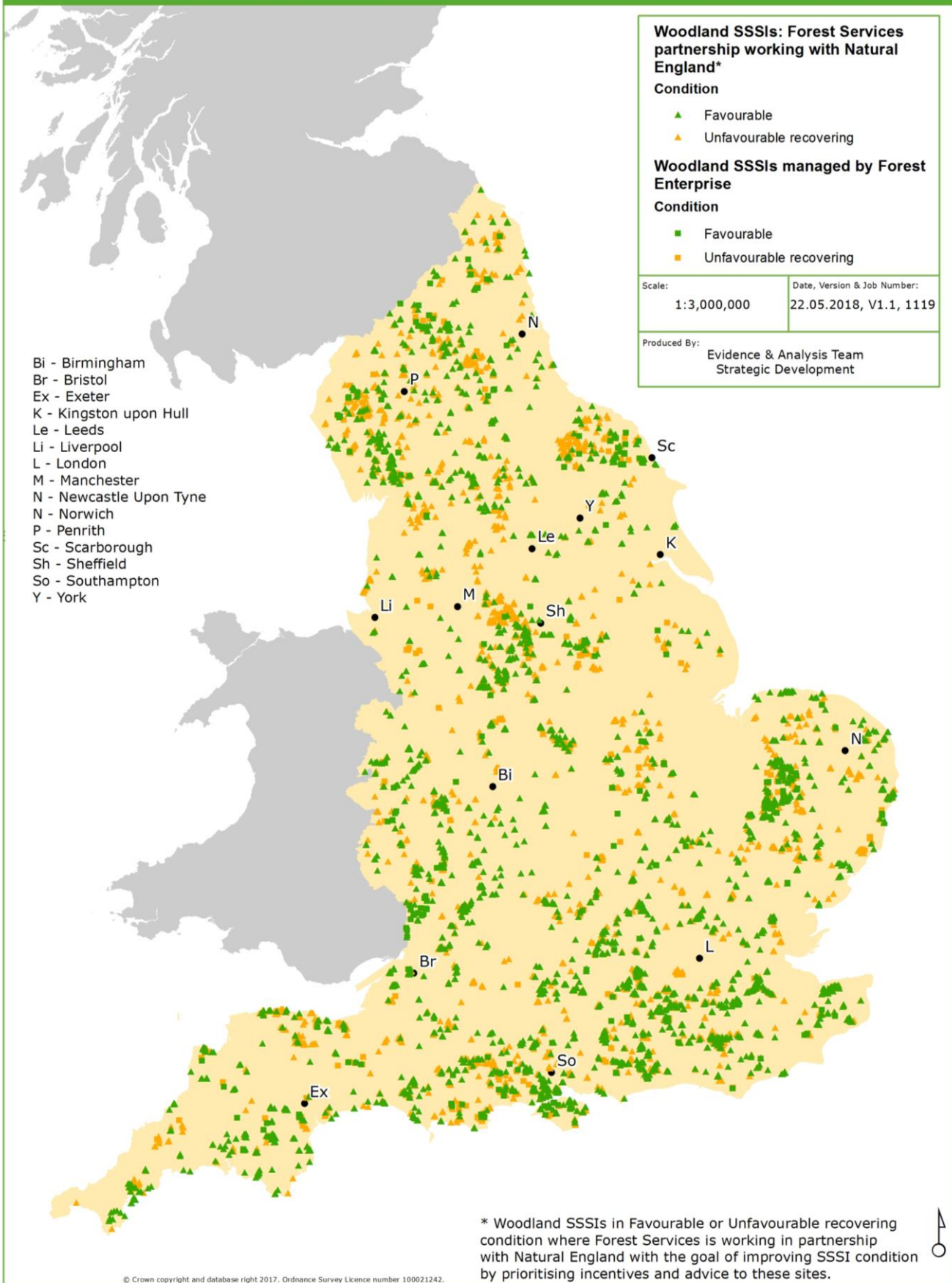
Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition:
 Five year trend, Apr-18 compared to Apr-13

Little or no overall change 

Favourable condition:
 Five year trend, Apr-18 compared to Apr-13

Improving 

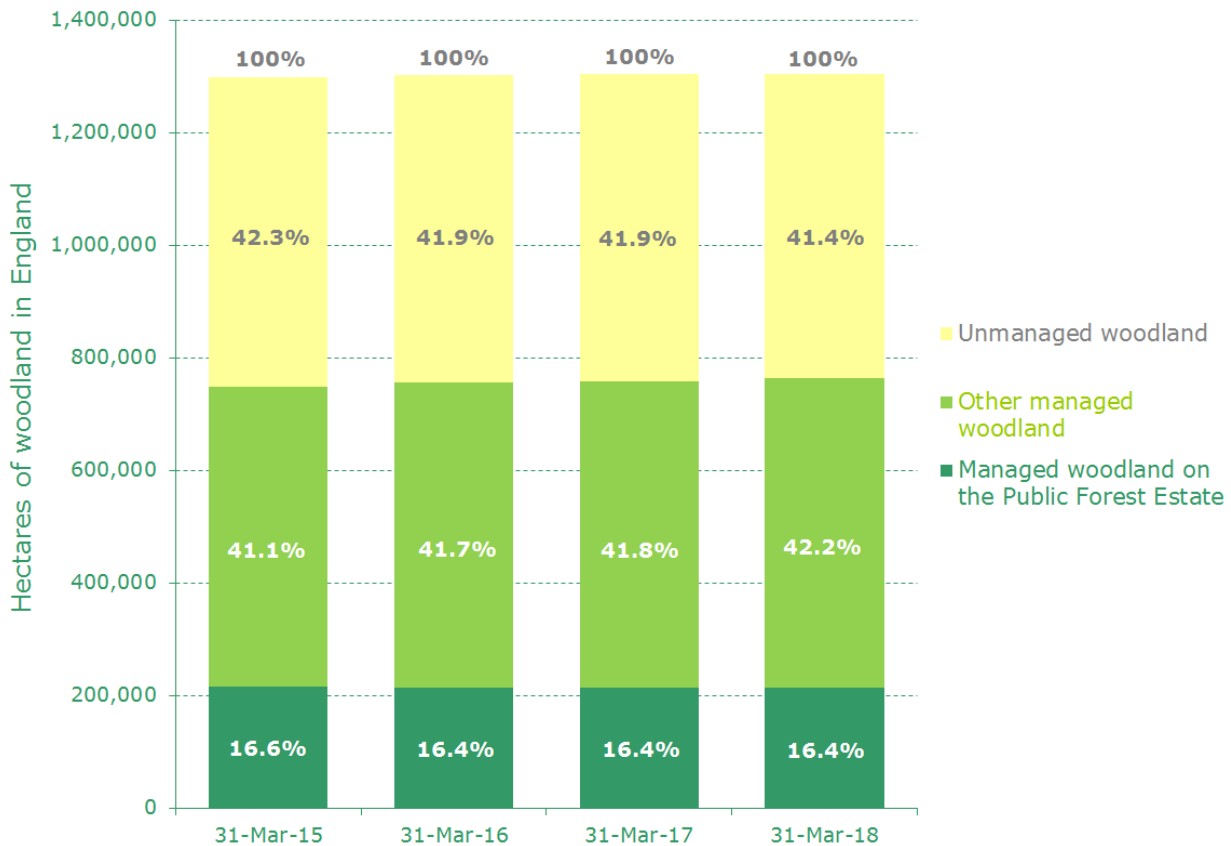
**Woodland SSSIs in Target Condition
in England, April 2018**



ECONOMY

Economic and environmental gain

Percentage of woodland in active management (Forest Enterprise contribution)



The [Public Forest Estate](#) (PFE) is independently certified under the [UK Woodland Assurance Standard \(UKWAS\)](#) and is therefore classified as under active management. A small proportion of the PFE is not classified as 'forestry' and is therefore not certified under UKWAS. The certified estate amounts to 245,193 hectares (ha) out of a total landholding of 253,328 ha at 1 April 2018.

Source: Managed Woodland Headline Indicator (Forest Services) and Public Forest Estate spatial data (Forest Enterprise).

Open Data: The [National Forest Inventory](#) and Public Forest Estate landholding spatial data are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland in active management (Forest Enterprise contribution)*

Three year trend **only**: 31-Mar-18 compared to 31-Mar-15

Little or no overall change 

Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate



The Public Forest Estate offered the volume from its production forecast to market and retained independent certification.

Source: Forestry Commission [National Statistics](#) on [UK wood production and trade](#).

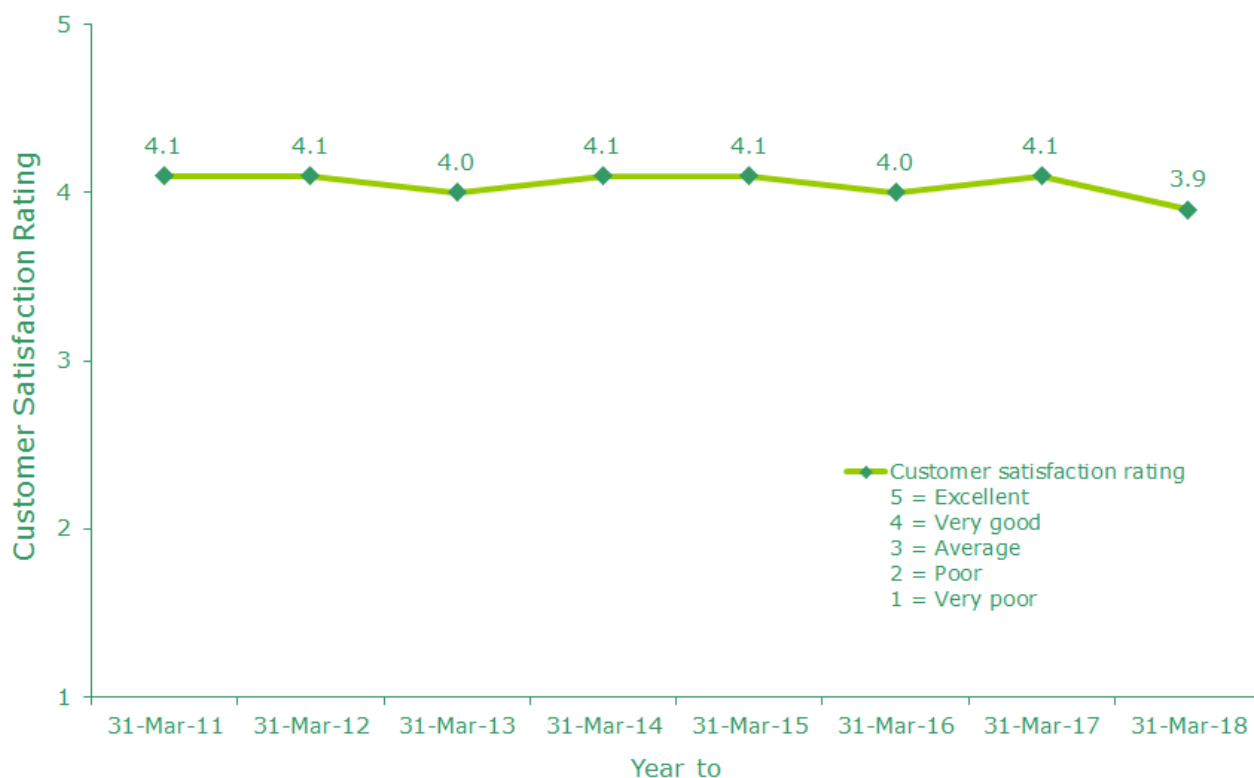
Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate*

This indicator compared to Forest Enterprise timber production plan

Little or no overall change 

ORGANISATIONAL

Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive 'rate my visit' facility



The online customer rating of the Forestry Commission recreation facilities and services was 3.9 for 2017-18; this is a small decrease on the 2016-17 figure which was a record equalling 4.1. There were a total of 714 comments over the course of 2017-18.

The small percentage decrease this year appears to be due to low ratings given to smaller woodlands where forest management works have taken place during the year. There were some unfavourable comments about dog owners leaving dog waste in the wrong place. Also, there were a number of negative comments about the removal of access along a forest road to protect people during Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) improvement works.

There are no specific trends that can be highlighted at a site or Forest District level and local staff are working hard to respond to all the comments we receive.

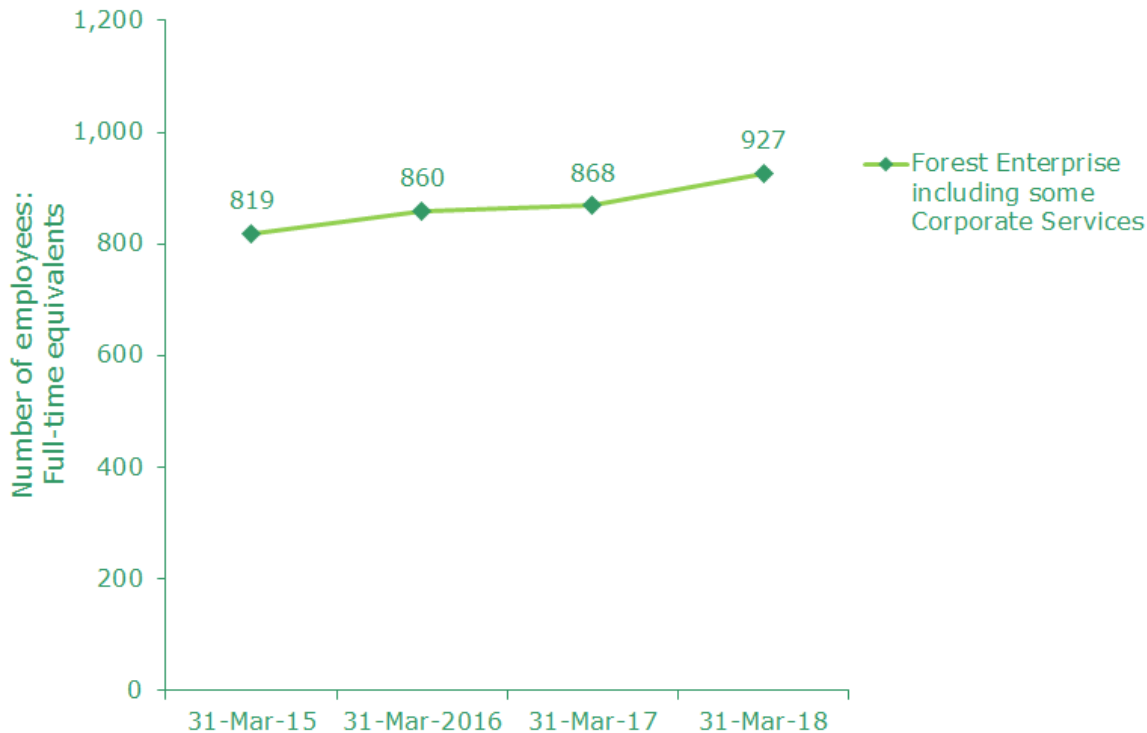
Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

Assessment of change in Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive 'rate my visit' facility

Five year trend, 31-Mar-18 compared 31-Mar-13

Little or no overall change 

Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise



The number of employees (FTEs) in Forest Enterprise England (FEE) has increased since last year by 59. This is a result of the ongoing devolution of corporate functions (Finance, HR, IT and Communications) which were previously part of Central Services and have been transitioned into FEE. It is also a result of some restructuring of FEE to match plans for the organisation.

There has been some increase in recruitment over the past 12 months alongside the transfer of key posts from Central Shared Services in Scotland to FEE in England. A number of new fixed term appointments have been created in order to support the change management programme and transitioning arrangements. In addition there has been an increase in headcount within key National Office functions such as Finance, HR and IT. From 1st April 2018 FEE has taken on responsibility for their own HR, payroll and finance systems.

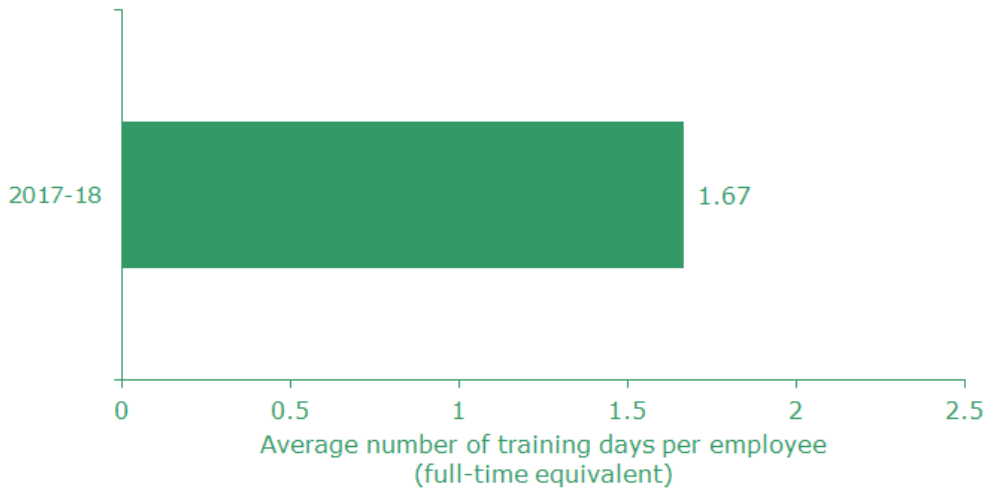
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise*

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 Enterprise England



Following the transition of in-house learning and development from Central Shared Services to England, this is a new indicator replacing the former count of training events delivered. 2017-18 was a development period for the newly established Forest Enterprise Technical Training and Learning and Development teams where new ways of drawing on expertise have started to be introduced and alternative means of delivering training were developed and assessed.

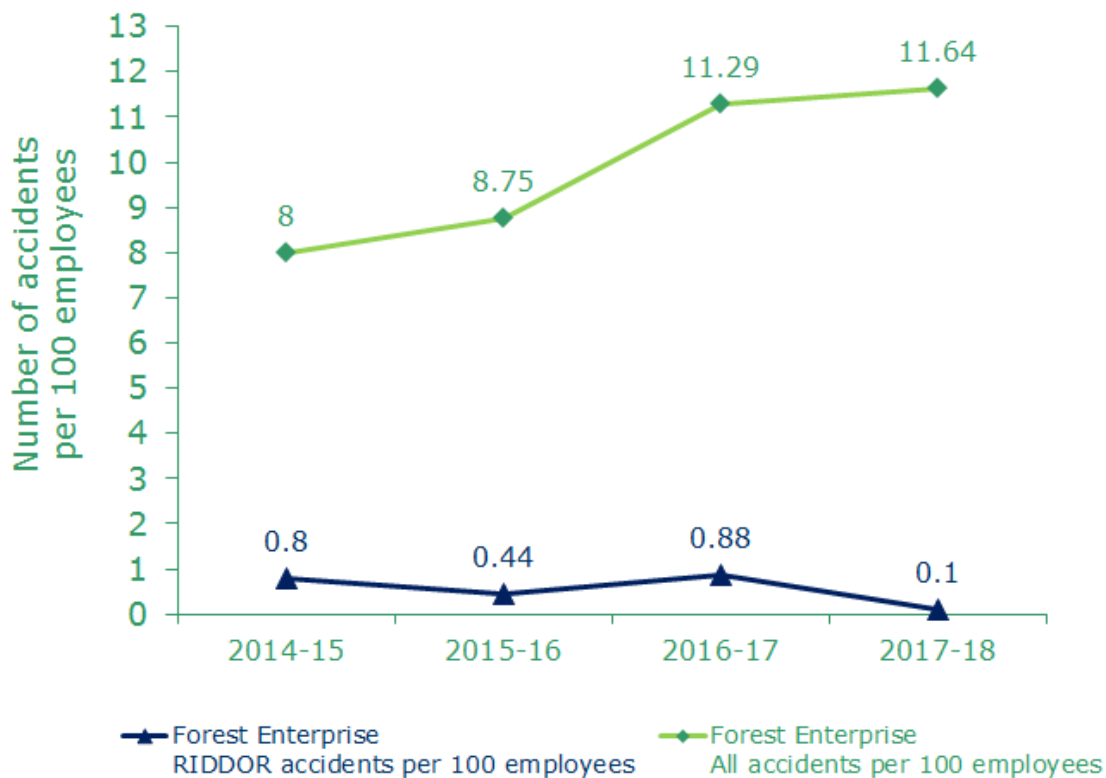
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in Average number of training days organised by the central internal learning and development teams attended per employee (FTE) in Forest Enterprise

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient comparable data 

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



There has been a marginal increase in employee accidents in 2017-18 compared with 2016-17. There has been a welcome decrease in RIDDOR accidents, and this may be as a result of better reporting and better understanding of RIDDOR requirements. We are working with every unit in Forest Enterprise England to understand better the root causes of accidents and to improve the organisation's safety culture, with specific focus on refreshing manual handling training and risk assessment.

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*

Three year trend **only**: 2017-18 compared to 2014-15

Deteriorating 



Government
Internal Audit
Agency



INTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATE OF ASSURANCE

Forestry Commission England (FCE) Corporate Plan Performance Indicators for the year ended 31 March 2018 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 and for each indicator, 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 FCE, 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 FCE, 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 2018, to be effective and appropriate.

Sally Flett

Sally Flett FCPFA, ACFS, IIA(Aff)
Head of Internal Audit, Forestry Commission
Government Internal Audit Agency
6 June 2018

Official Statistics

This is an [Official Statistics](#) publication. More information on Official Statistics is available from the [UK Statistics Authority](#).

Images are from the [Forestry Commission Picture Library](#)

Front cover: Sunlight through trees in [Mortimer Forest](#) on the Shropshire/Herefordshire border

Part 1, page 11: Spring in the [Forest of Dean](#)

Part 2, page 27: Beech trees in Mark Ash Wood, [The New Forest](#)

Part 3, page 57: Clockwise from top:

- [The Holford Ride, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum](#), Gloucestershire
- Forwarder extracting pine trees during harvesting from Ringwood Forest, South Forest District
- The [new café](#) at [Alice Holt Forest](#), Hampshire, South Forest District
- Children and families having fun on a play sculpture trail
- Logs split for drying

Back cover: Main image then clockwise from top left:

- View from Leith Hill over a wooded landscape in Surrey, South East England and London Delivery Area
- New Forest pony in heather on heathland, [The New Forest](#), South England Forest District
- People enjoying a coffee at the café on the green, [Alice Holt Forest](#), Hampshire, South Forest District
- Walkers in [Mortimer Forest](#) on the Shropshire/Herefordshire border
- Riders on a single track section of a mountain bike trail
- A stack of sawn timber
- Young tawny owl in the hands of a Forest Enterprise Wildlife Ranger, [Grizedale Forest](#), Cumbria, North England Forest District

14th June 2018 (v1.1)



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 England

620 Bristol Business Park

Coldharbour Lane

Frenchay

Bristol BS16 1EJ

Tel: 0300 067 4077

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

forestry.gov.uk/england

