



Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2017

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2017 (First Release)

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Introduction

[Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2016-17](#) 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 continue to reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. They also display some of the contributions [Forest Enterprise England](#) makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate.

We report our [headline indicators](#) in a series of quarterly updates, and report of our full suite of indicators annually. This Indicators Report 2017 provides the sixth annual monitoring report on these indicators which we named in our Corporate Plan 2011-15 and have defined and reported since then.

Most of the indicators are based on analysis of Forestry Commission administrative data, the National Forest Inventory, or surveys conducted for us by the Forest Research Statistics team. Other indicators re-use data available to us from other parts of Defra.

- Part 1 provides the most recent quarterly update of our six headline key performance indicators (page 11 onwards)
- Part 2 provides reports on the other Forest Services indicators (page 27 onwards)
- Part 3 provides reports on the other Forest Enterprise indicators (page 55 onwards).

Our use of indicators reflects Forestry Commission England's 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 also help Defra provide Open Data. We publish much of the data that these reports are based upon and specific Open Datasets are signposted throughout this report. You can obtain our spatial data from <http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/> and statistical tables and spreadsheets from the www.forestry.gov.uk/Statistics. The most recent [previous Indicators Report](#) was published in June 2016. Past, present and future reports are available from www.forestry.gov.uk > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

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

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Bristol, 15th June 2017

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Short term trends in the indicators

Method of assessment

A proper review of this Indicators Report 2017 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 or no 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, 2016).

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		20
FOREST ENTERPRISE		
ECONOMY		
Number of private sector 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





Notes















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

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

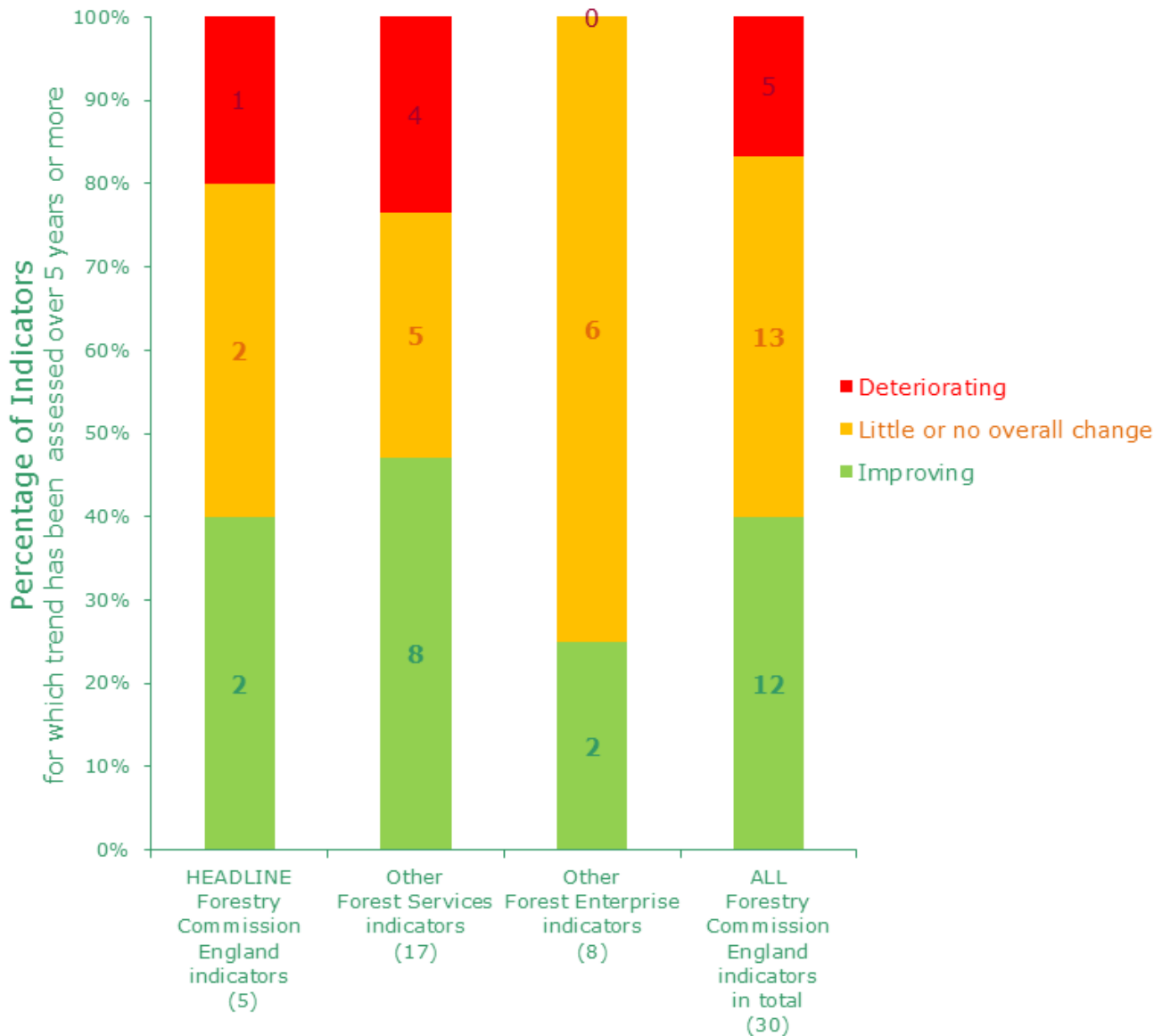
Indicator		Short term trend ¹	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			27
PROTECT			
Pests and diseases			
Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years			28
Other protection indicators			
Measure of woodland resilience to climate change 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 in the period ^(Note 2)			35
Gross Value Added from domestic forestry			37
Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested ^(Note 2)			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
Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data			41

Indicator	Short term trend ¹	Pg
Part 2. Forest Services Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)		
27		
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		
Carbon storage to help reduce climate change		
Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects	✓	48
Carbon captured by English woodlands	≈	49
CUSTOMER SERVICE AND BUSINESS METRICS		
Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	≈	50
Percentage of Forest Services grants and felling licence customers who report their customer satisfaction as either very satisfied or satisfied ^(Note 2)	✗	51
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Corporate Services	...	52
Percentage of trainer events provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Services ^(Note 2)	✗	53
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Services ^(Note 2)	✗	54

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

Indicator		Short term trend ¹	Pg
Part 3. Forest Enterprise Indicators (other than Headline Indicators)			55
PEOPLE			
People's health and enjoyment of woodland			
Percentage of people in Priority Places close to Public Forest Estate accessible woodland ^(Note 2)			56
Number of people engaged in permitted locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate			58
Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate ^(Note 2)			59
Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate			60
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		61
	Open habitat on the Public Forest Estate		61
Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition on the Public Forest Estate	Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition		62
	Favourable condition		62
ECONOMY			
Economic and environmental gain			
Percentage of woodland in active management (Forest Enterprise contribution) ^(Note 2)			64
Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate			65
ORGANISATIONAL			
Customer service and business metrics			
Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive 'rate my visit' facility			66
Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise			67
Percentage of trainer events provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Enterprise ^(Note 2)			68
Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees in Forest Enterprise ^(Note 2)			69

Summary of assessment of short term trends (of five years or more) in Forestry Commission England Corporate Plan Performance Indicators at 31 March 2017



Note: This graph includes only those 30 Forestry Commission England indicators (out of 46 indicators in total) whose trend has been assessed over a period of 5 years or more, and for which this simple assessment is more useful. Readers are recommended to consider the entire report for each indicator and not place too much weight on the simple trend assessments alone. See page 4 for the method of assessment of short term trends in the indicators.

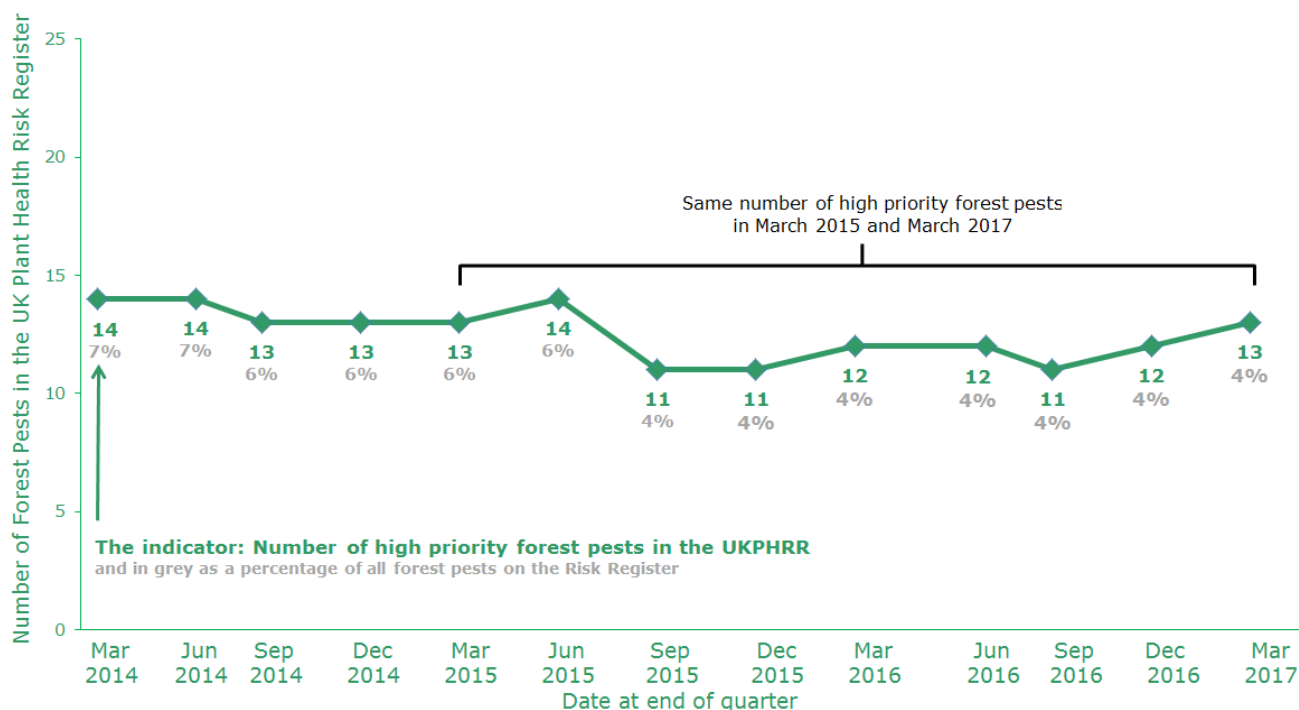


Part 1
Headline
Performance
Indicators

Part 1. Headline Performance Indicators

Forest Services

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



Source: Derived from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#)¹.

Report at end March 2017: There are **13 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.

Thirteen (4%) of the 299 forest pests in the UKPHRR are ‘high priority’ because their mitigated relative risk rating is 15 or more (see Note A and Table 1). This is an increase of one high priority pest since the report at end December 2016, namely shoot blight on cedar, also known as tip blight on eastern hemlocks (*Sirococcus tsugae*). This is due to an increase in the rating of its possible impact in a recent pest risk analysis. *Sirococcus tsugae* is present in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and has potential for further geographical spread within the UK. Within England most cases have been observed in the north west of England.

¹ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

Table 1: The 13 high priority forest pests in the UKPHRR with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end March 2017

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
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	-	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15
Two spotted oak buprestid	<i>Agrilus biguttatus</i>	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	<i>Ophiognomonia clavignenti-juglandacearum</i>	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle	<i>Polygraphus proximus</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of March 2017 is 52 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 13 as mentioned.

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](#)² (page 6).

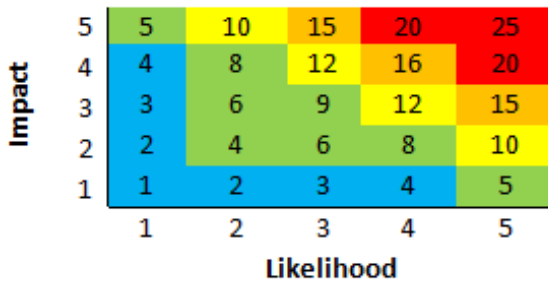
C) **'Impact'** is an indication of the relative consequence of the pest for the host plant or sector, should the risk materialise. It does not take account of the size or value of the host or sector. Where the pest is already present, the impact is that caused by further spread, against a baseline of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

² <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

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, and 30th March 2017.

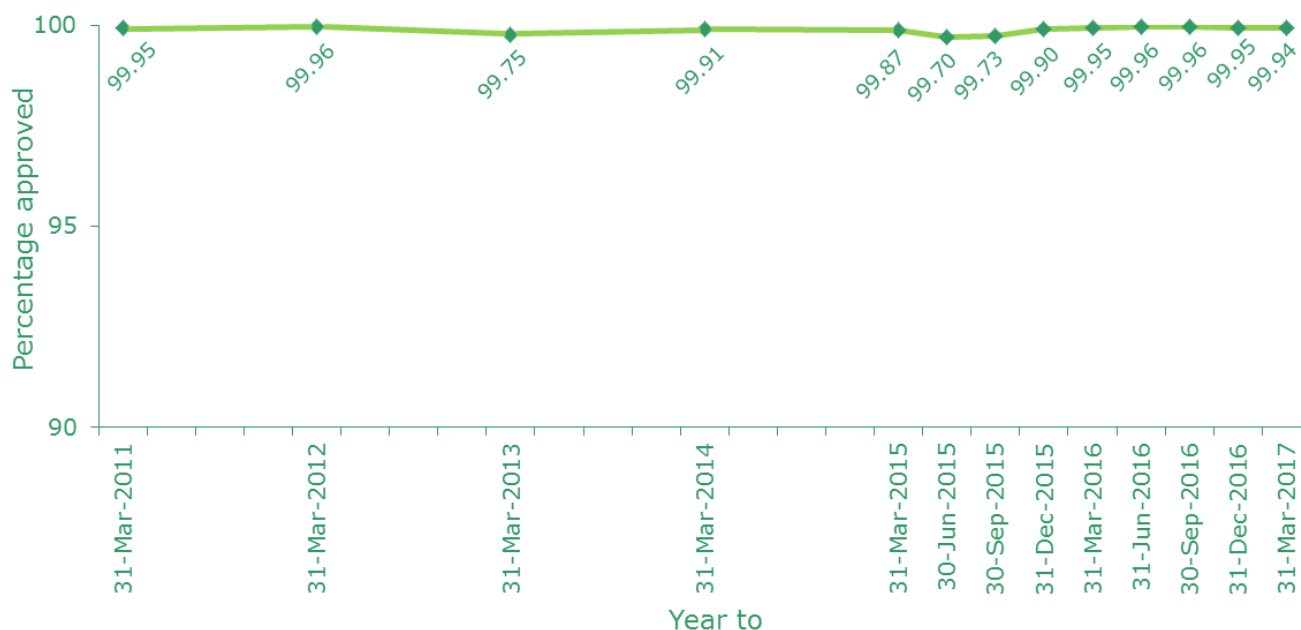
Open Data: Source spreadsheet data is available from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).

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

Three year trend **only**, 31-Mar-17 compared to 31-Mar-14

Improving 

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



Report for year to 31 March 2017: **99.94% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

The overall figure for the proportion of all felling that is not illegal felling remains at a very good level.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

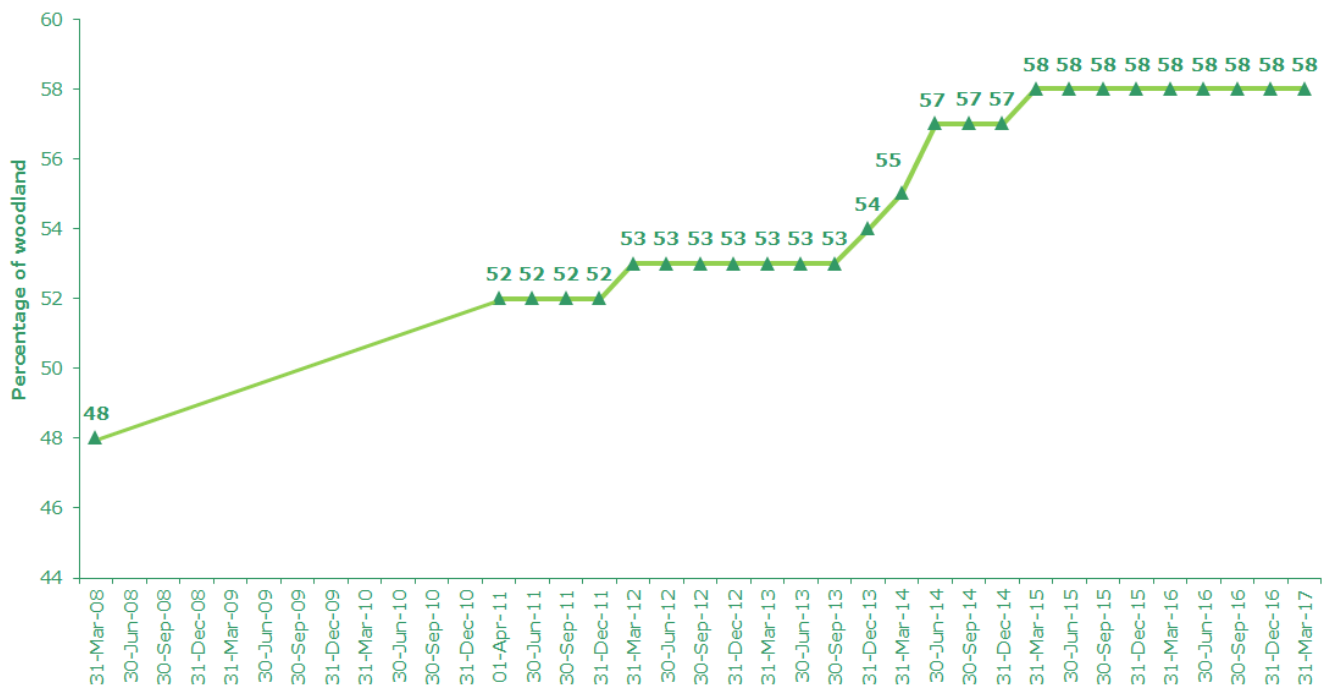
Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

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

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

Little or no overall change 

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



Position at 31 March 2017 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed.**

The percentage of woodland that is actively managed remains at 58%. The aspiration is that two thirds of woodland is in management by the end of 2018.

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

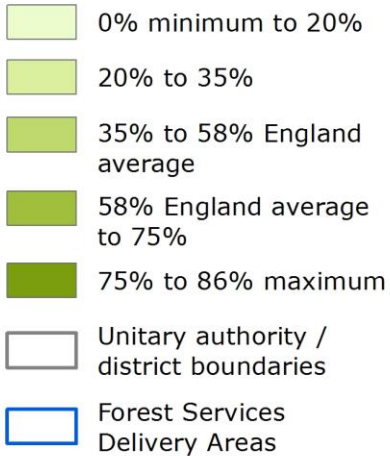
Open Data: Locations of 'managed woodland' in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

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

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

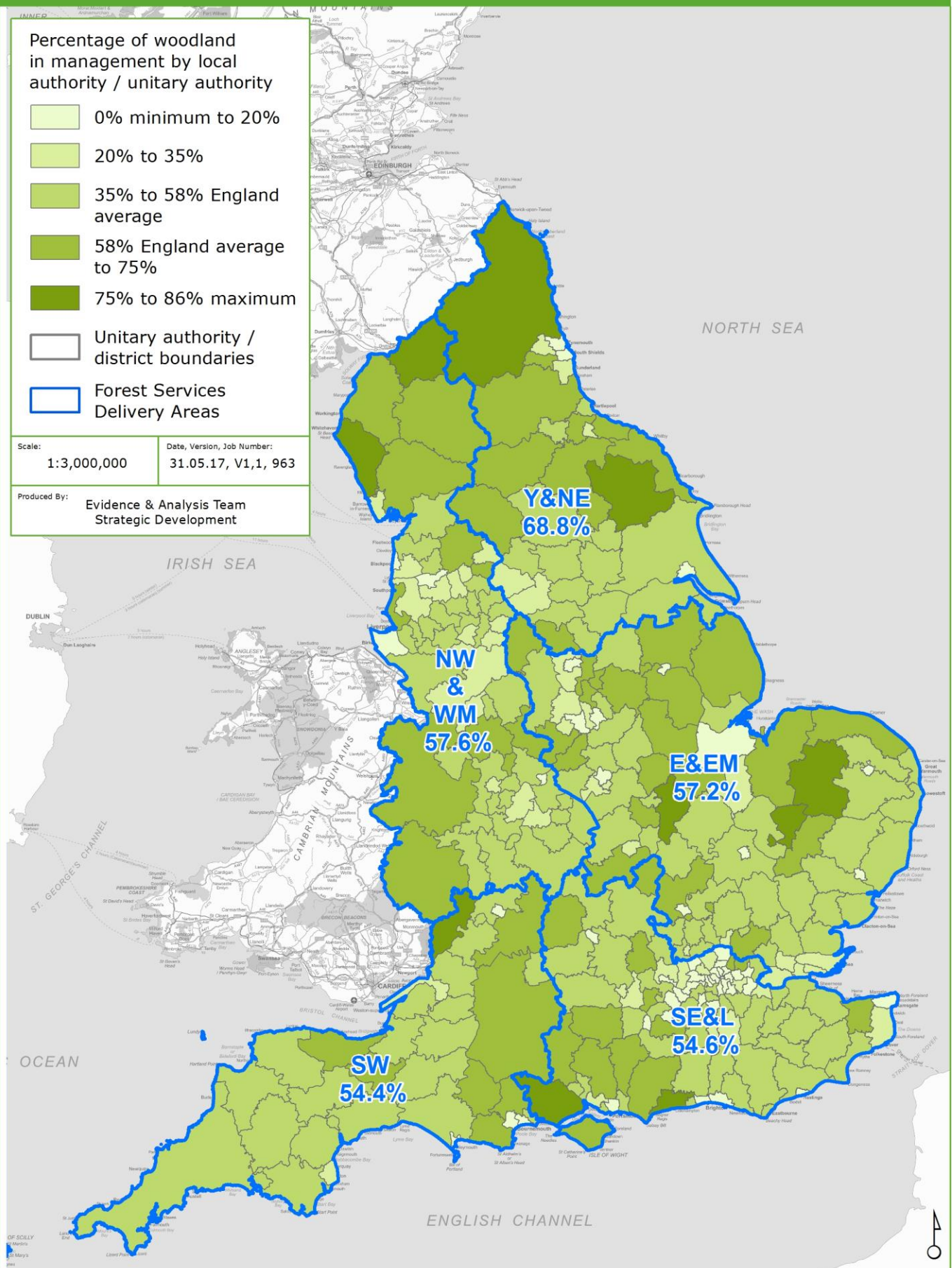
Improving 

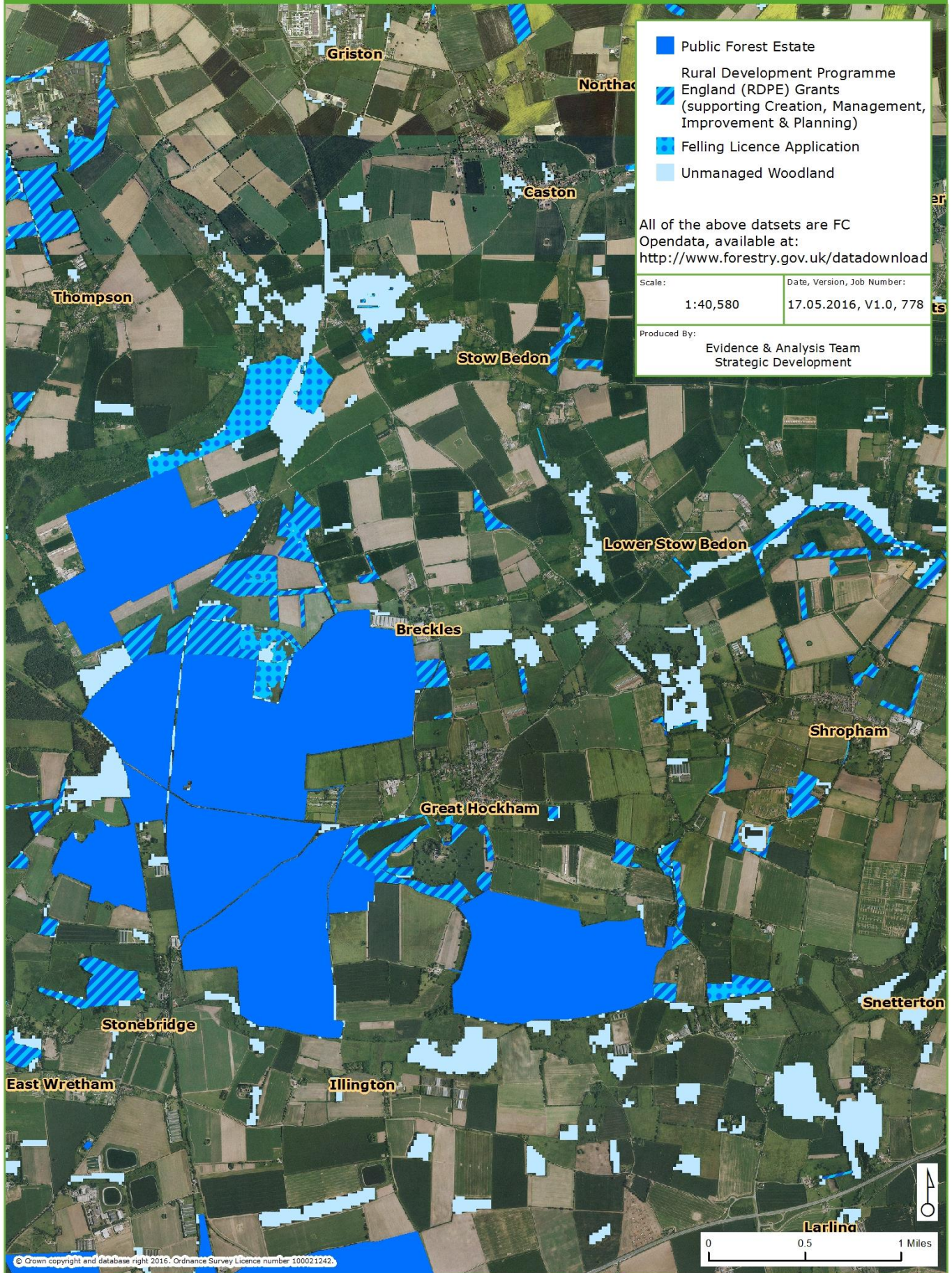
Percentage of woodland in management by local authority / unitary authority



Scale: 1:3,000,000
Date, Version, Job Number: 31.05.17, V1,1, 963

Produced By: Evidence & Analysis Team
Strategic Development





	Public Forest Estate
	Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) Grants (supporting Creation, Management, Improvement & Planning)
	Felling Licence Application
	Unmanaged Woodland

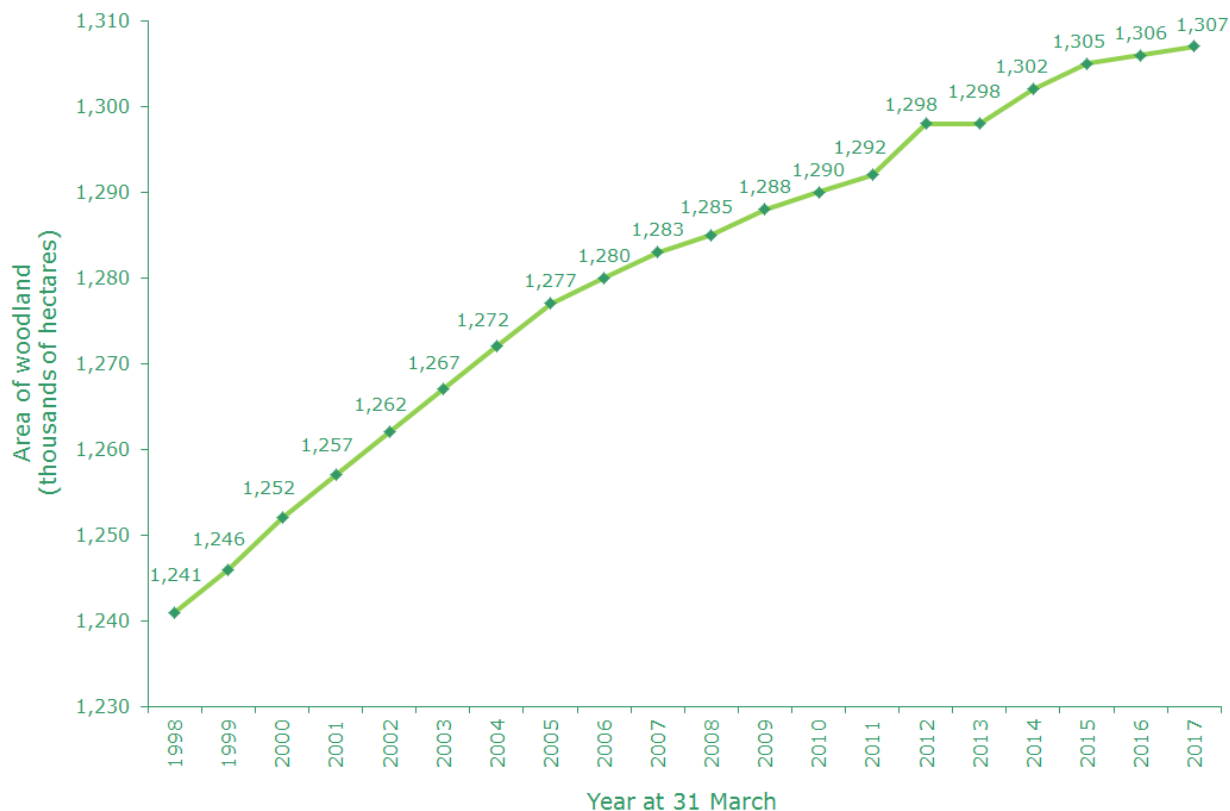
All of the above datasets are FC
Opendata, available at:
<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/datadownload>

Scale:	Date, Version, Job Number:
1:40,580	17.05.2016, V1.0, 778

Produced By:
Evidence & Analysis Team
Strategic Development

Area of Woodland

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



Provisional report at 31 March 2017: **1,307 thousand hectares (ha) of woodland in England**. The aspiration is to achieve 12% woodland cover by 2060, equating to 1,566 thousand hectares.

Increase in this Area of Woodland indicator includes both woodland created with the support of the Rural Development Programme for England and all other measured sources and is reported on **an annual basis**. The March 2017 statistic is due to be confirmed in [Forestry Statistics 2017](#) in September 2017. The figure for the area of woodland in England at 31 March 2017 is in rounded terms an increase of 1 thousand ha on the previous year.

Over the last 10 years the area of woodland has increased by an average of 2.4 thousand ha per year. Over the 19 year period from 1998 to 2017 the area of woodland has increased by 5.3%.

Source: This is a [National Statistic](#) published in [Forestry Statistics \(Forestry Commission\)](#), based mainly on the [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Area of Woodland*

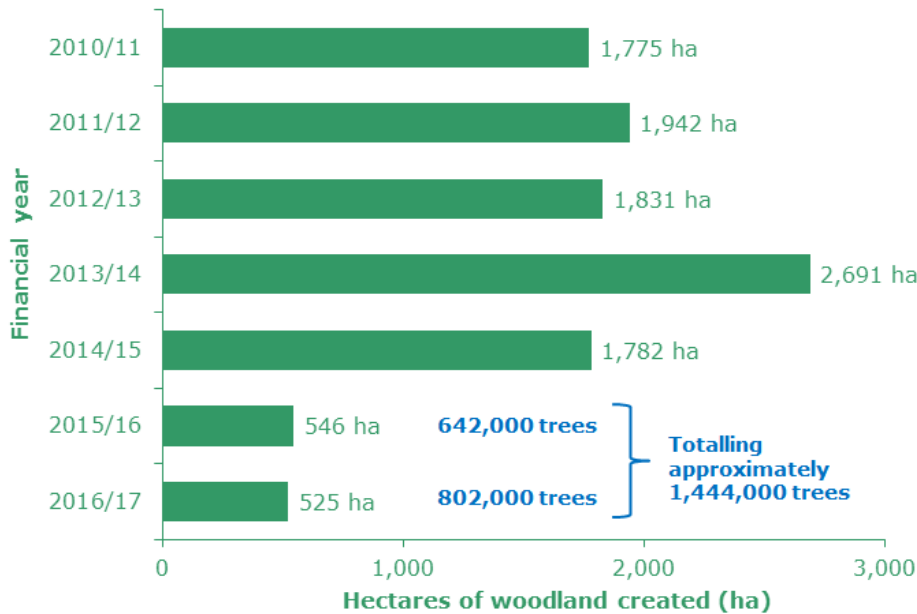
Five year trend, 31-Mar-17 compared to 31-Mar-12

Little or no overall change 

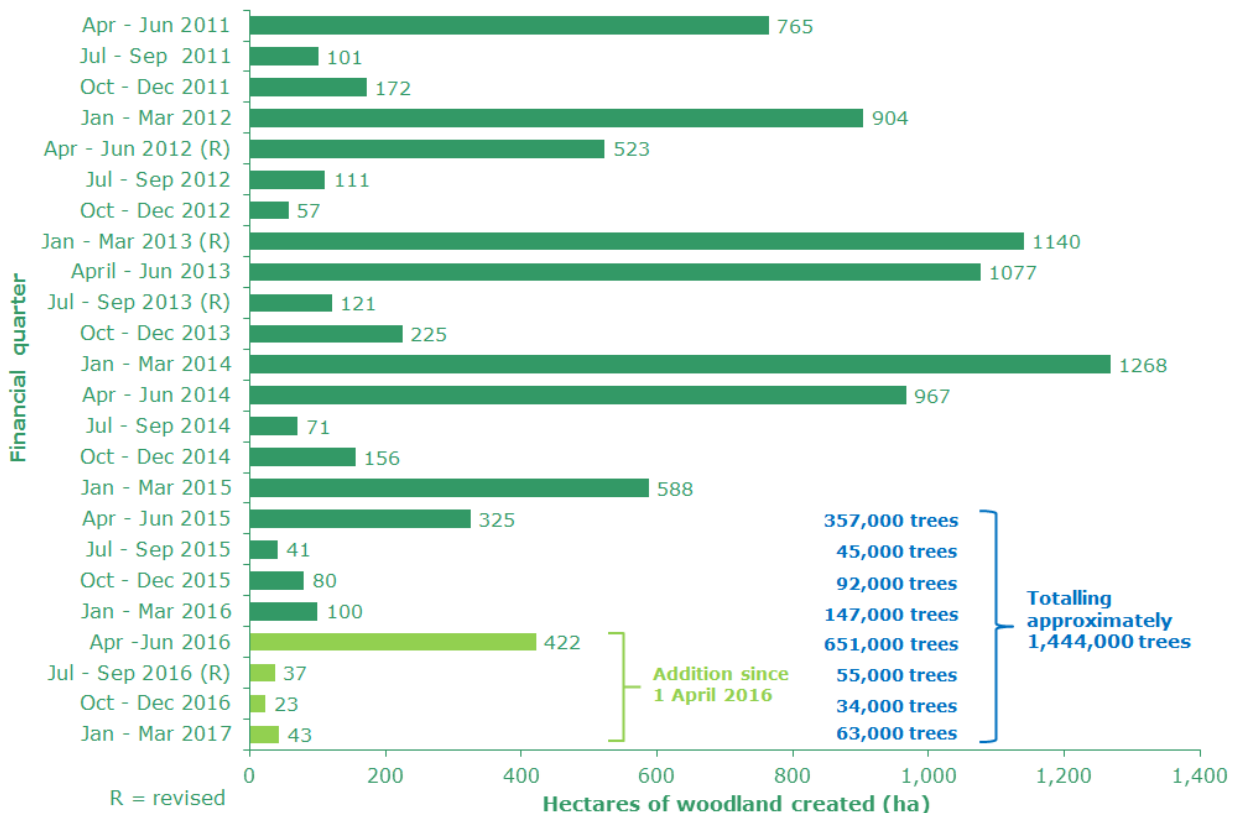
B. Hectares of Woodland Created (Gross) and Approximate Number of Trees that Represents – Quarterly Updated

Area of woodland created with support from the Rural Development Programme for England: both the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and Countryside Stewardship incentives.

i) Annual Achievement



ii) Quarterly Progress



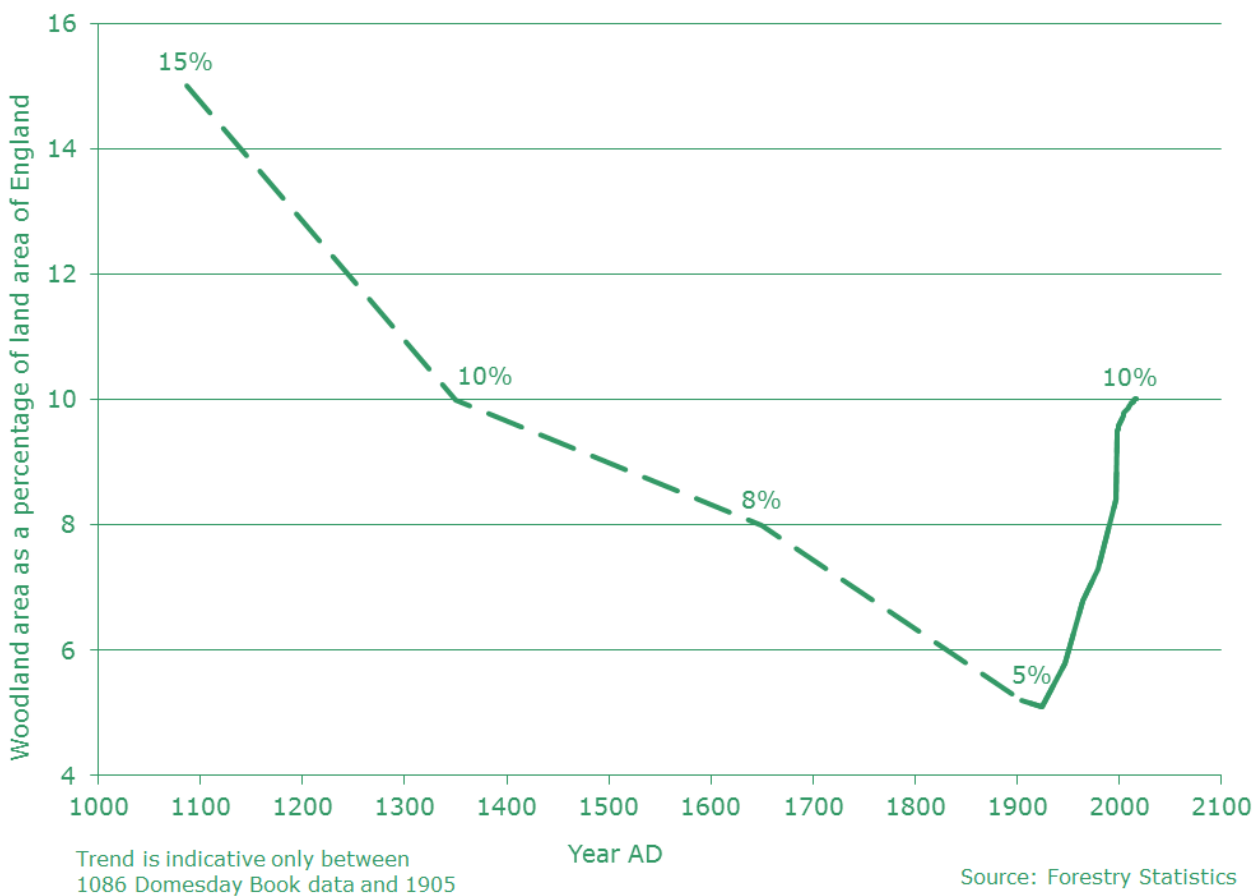
Woodland created January to March 2017: **43 hectares**, equating to approximately 63,000 trees.

The area of woodland created this quarter is less than that in the same quarter last year. Overall, the area of woodland created in 2016-17 is slightly less than in 2015-16 but the estimated number of trees planted this year is greater than last as the planting density (trees per hectare) on average is greater under Countryside Stewardship than under EWGS. Most recorded new planting in 2016-17 has been supported by Countryside Stewardship.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

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



Locations of Woodland Created with Woodland Creation Grant 2014-15 to 2016-17

Woodland created with
Woodland Creation Grant¹

- 2016-17
- ◆ 2015-16
- + 2014-15

Forest Services
Delivery Areas

Scale:

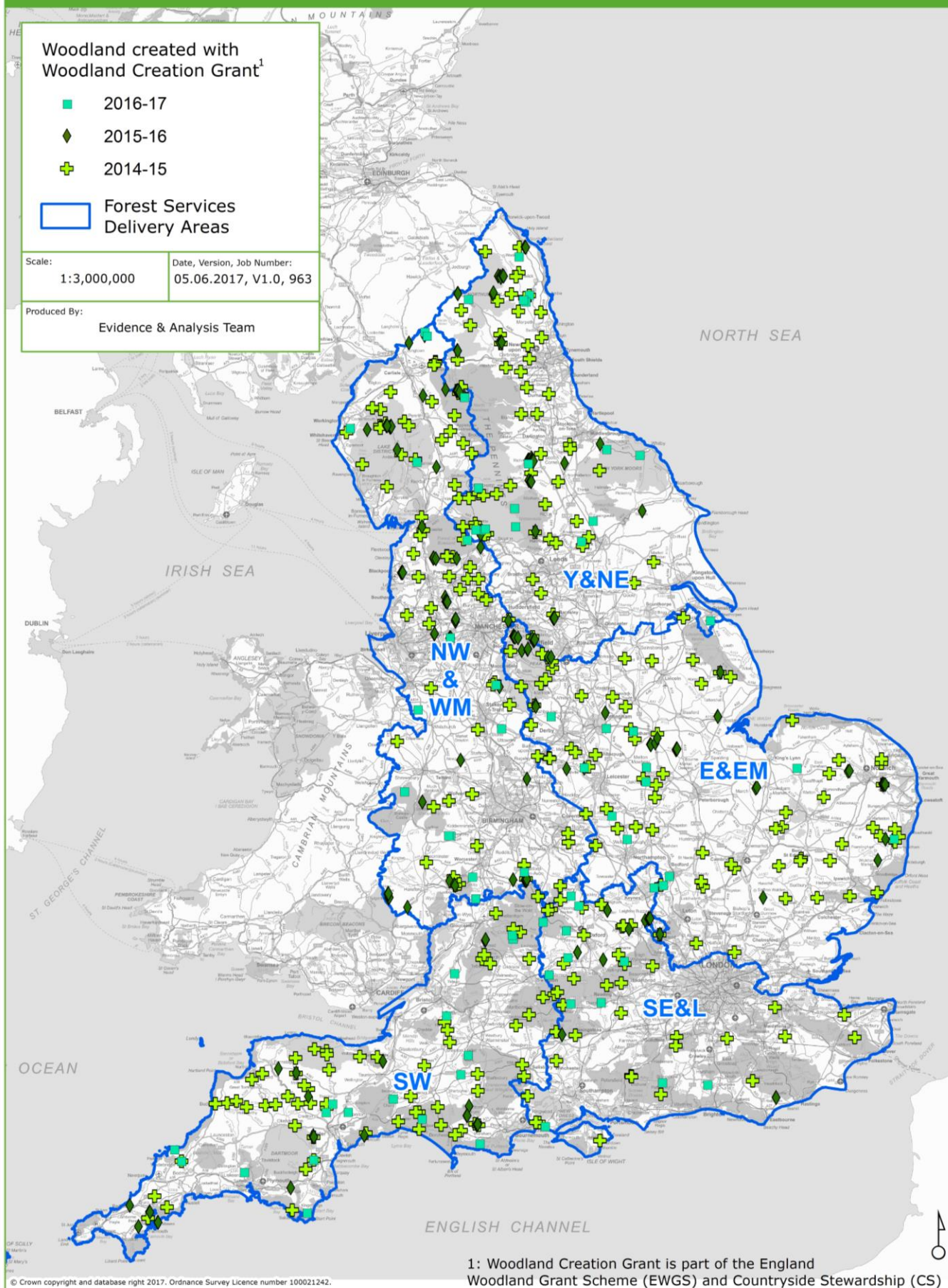
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Date, Version, Job Number:

05.06.2017, V1.0, 963

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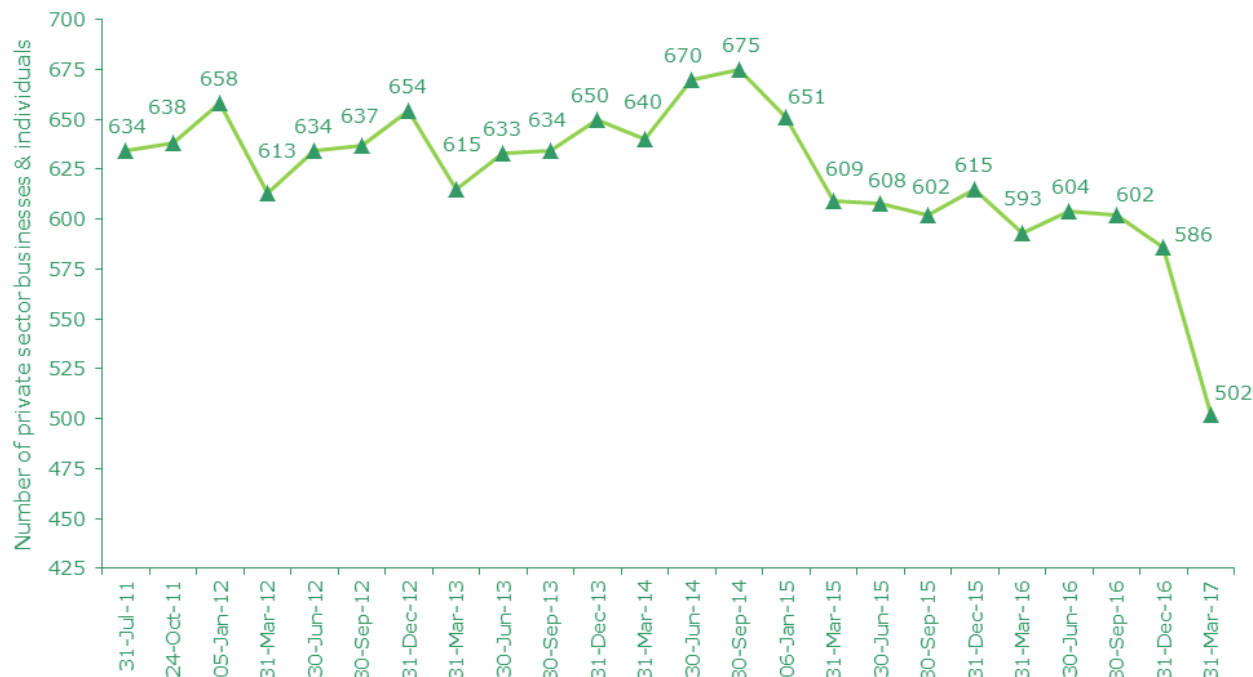
Evidence & Analysis Team



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

Forest Enterprise

Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate



Position at 31 March 2017: **502 private businesses and individuals.**

The indicator figure for 31 March 2017 has recorded an anomalous one-off reduction not consistent with the previous data pattern. Further investigation has identified that at the beginning of April date of collection a number of contracts were in the process of renewal and therefore not recorded in the indicator. This has been confirmed by a recollection of the data in the middle of April 2017 showing in net terms 124 more active contracts with external businesses.

Therefore the underlying position is actually positive compared to the indicator report for the last quarter, with continuing strong growth in the core commercial partners of Adventure Forests, Forest Holidays and Camping in the Forest. In addition we identified over 50 education providers including Forest Schools across England who are using the Public Forest Estate following a successful drive by the Education Teams to promote the Estate to external operators. These businesses are not currently included in the indicator due to the nature of their contracts, however in 2017-18 we plan to review the definition of the indicator to include these important business partners.

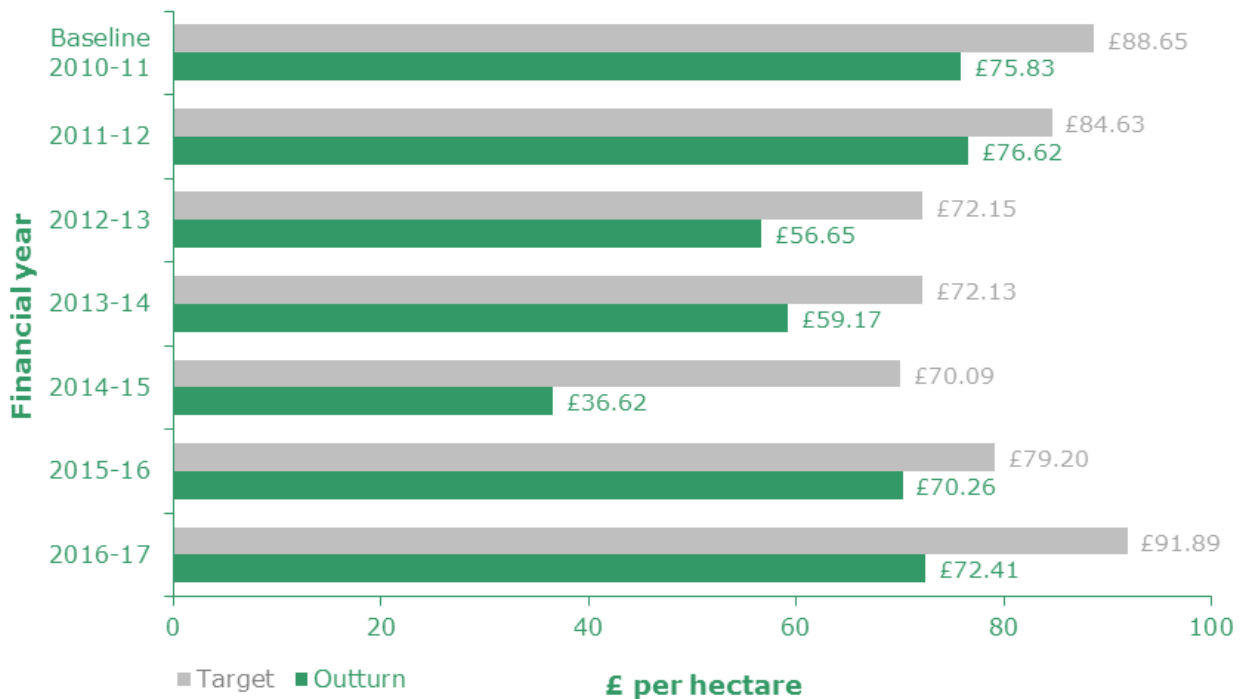
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

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

Deteriorating 

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)



Draft Outturn for 2016-17: **£72.41 per hectare**, subject to audit and finalisation, against a target of £91.89 per hectare.

Operating revenues have increased since last year and are above the plan for 2016-17, with very strong growth in the recreation business. The growth in revenue has exceeded the planned cost increases for 2016-17 meaning the outturn is comfortably below the target for 2016-17.

The increase in net cost compared to last year reflects the transfer of back office functions from Forestry Commission England to Forest Enterprise England.

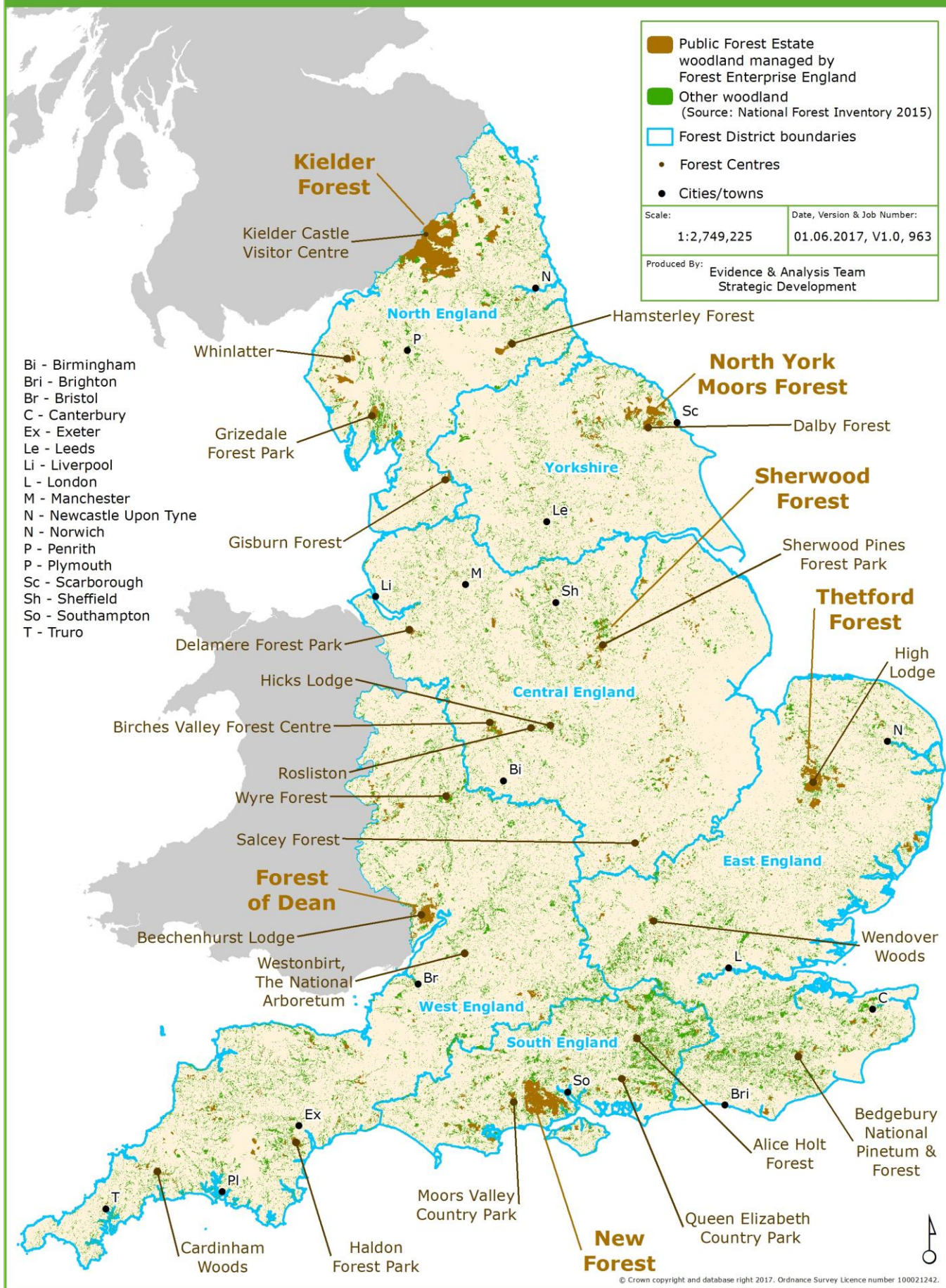
Source: Forestry Commission accounts.

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

Five year trend in outturn, 2016-17 compared to 2011-12

Improving 

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





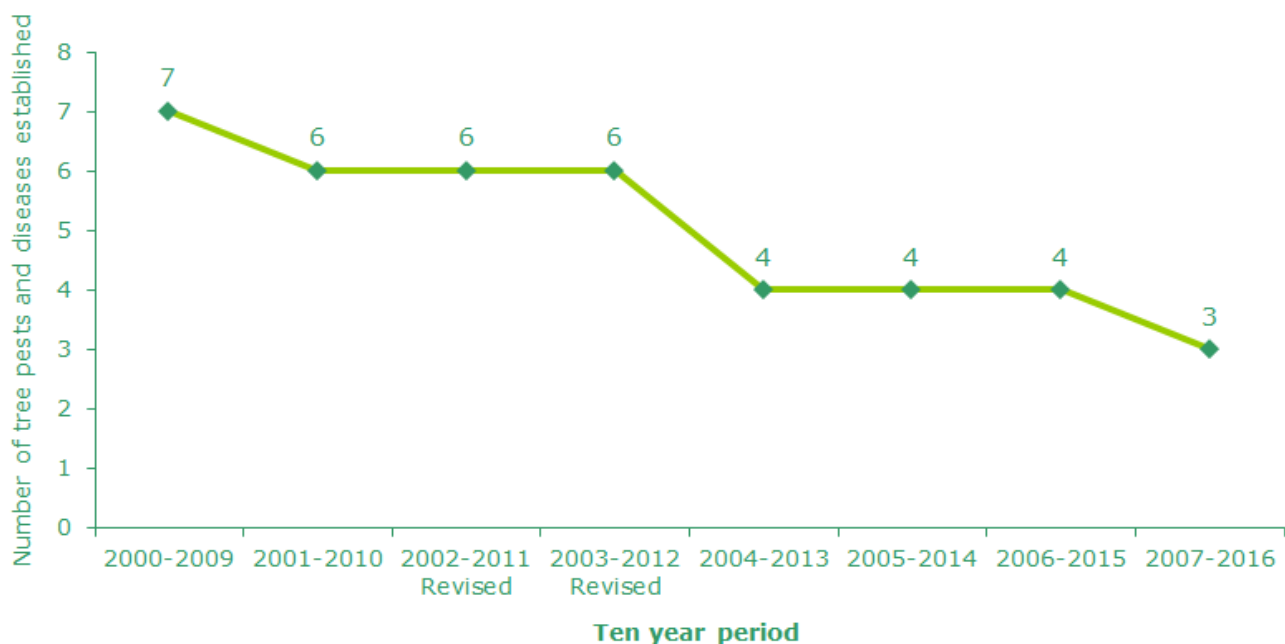
Part 2
Other
Forest Services
Indicators

Part 2. Other Forest Services Indicators

PROTECT

Pests and Diseases

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



Some **three** tree pests and diseases became 'established' in England in 2007-2016:


1. **Alder Rust** (*Melampsoridium hiratsukanum*) - Originating from East Asia this has spread to Europe over the last two decades and has been observed in the British Isles on the leaves of various species of Alder; namely *Alnus glutinosa*, *Alnus cordata* and *Alnus incana*. Potential environmental and economic impacts are unclear. There are also some limited records of infection on Birch; two on *Betula pubescens*. There is currently no existing legislation in relation to this pest and no active surveillance. There was a Pest Risk Analysis produced in 2013; targeted surveys and research are suggested in the UK plant health register listing for this disease.
2. **Chalara dieback of Ash** (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) – As at 3 April 2017 some 58% of the 10km by 10km grid squares of England have confirmed Chalara infection sites. A wider environment surveillance plan was drafted and agreed with Defra for 2017-18. Now that we have improved visualisation and data source for modelling coverage of Chalara infection and a communications line on management of infected Ash trees, it will be beneficial to obtain further data on variations in symptom progression across England. This would give a more balanced view of expected Ash loss and give the modelling team data for predictions that take account of environmental suitability.

3. **Oriental chestnut gall wasp** (considered established in 2016) – This is a quarantine pest giving national plant health authorities powers to take measures to contain or eradicate it. The UK currently has Protected Zone (PZ) status for this pest. Since the initial 2015 finding another 10 outbreak sites have been identified. Our tree health team continue to survey for the pest each year and also use pest and disease reports to identify further outbreak areas.

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, 2007-2016 compared to 2002-2011

Improving 



Forestry Commission

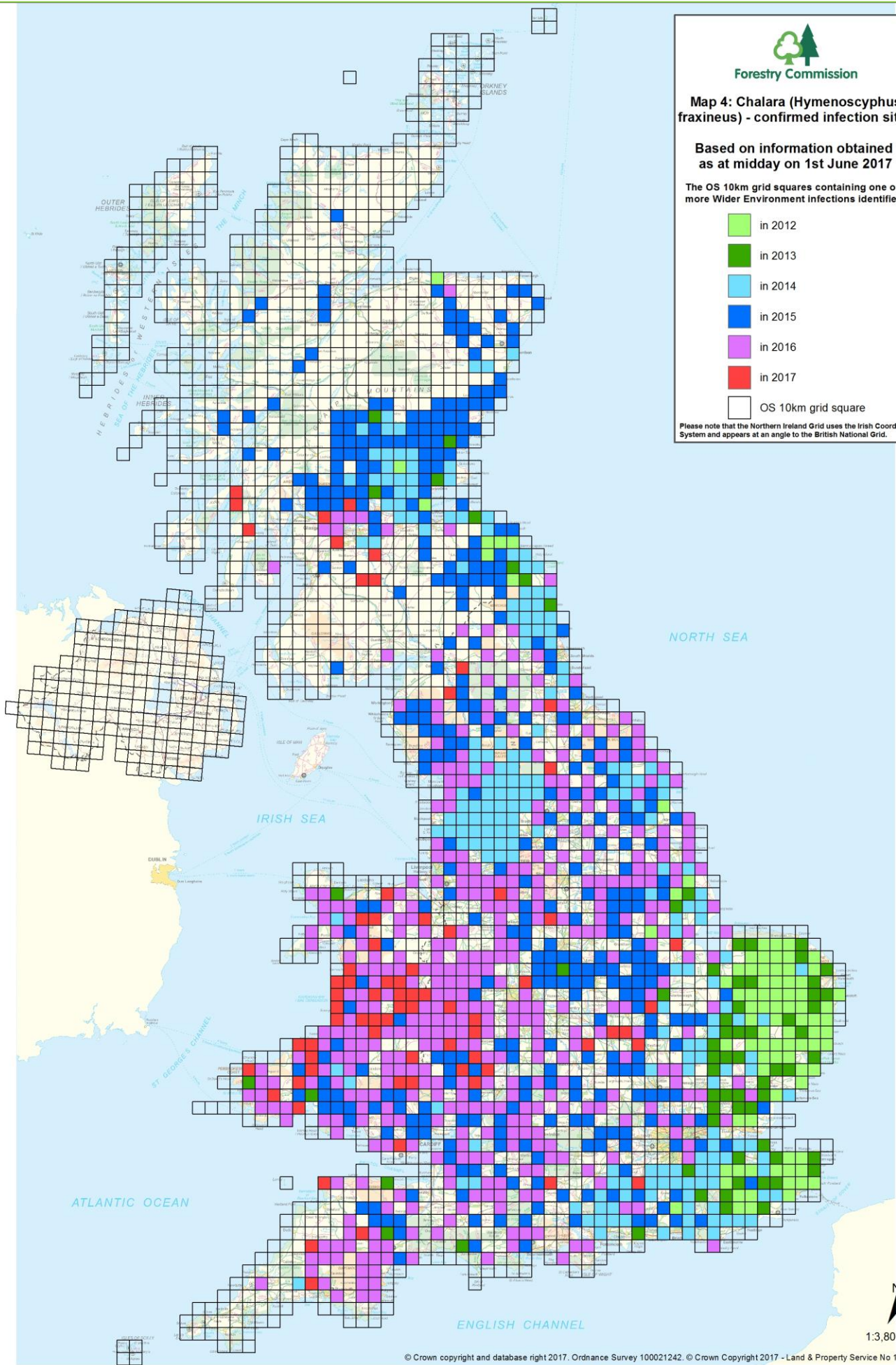
Map 4: Chalara (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) - confirmed infection sites

Based on information obtained as at midday on 1st June 2017

The OS 10km grid squares containing one or more Wider Environment infections identified:

- in 2012
- in 2013
- in 2014
- in 2015
- in 2016
- in 2017
- OS 10km grid square

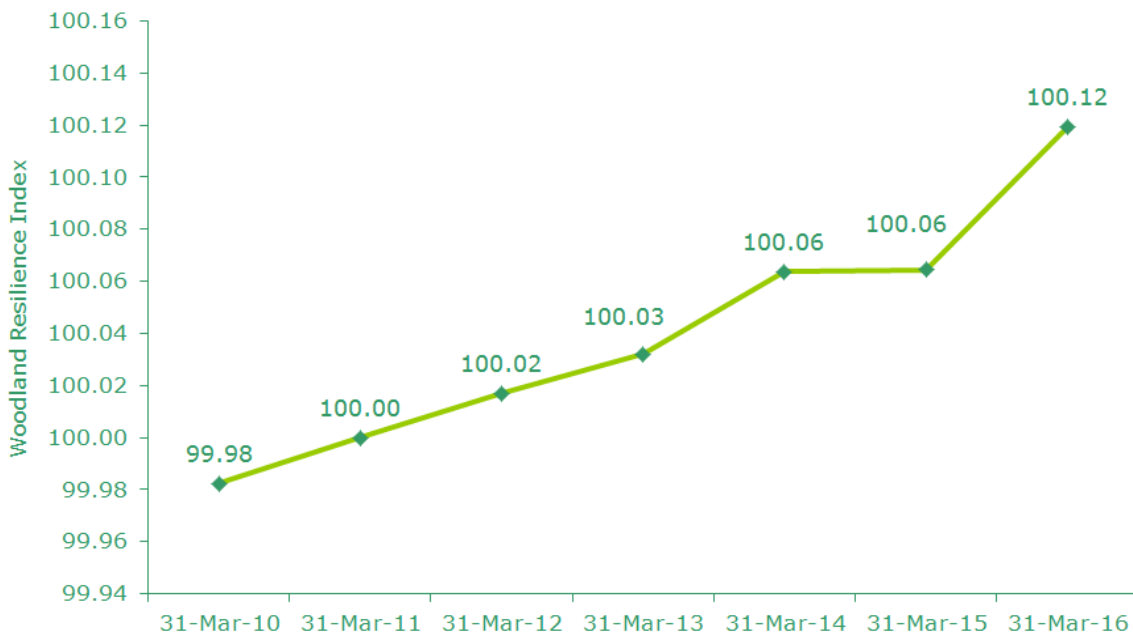
Please note that the Northern Ireland Grid uses the Irish Coordinate System and appears at an angle to the British National Grid.



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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 2010. Maintaining and improving connectivity is important in promoting biodiversity in a fragmented landscape, especially under a changing climate. This indicator of the resilience of English woodland to cope with climate change has gradually improved since March 2010 including in the most recent year. The indicator shows an increase in connectivity for forests and woodlands in England between 2010 and 2016. 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. The increase in the indicator reported for 2016, is interesting given the annual increase in woodland area was similar to the previous year, but resulted in a larger increase in connectivity compared to previous years. This may demonstrate the impact of the targeting of [Countryside Stewardship](#).

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

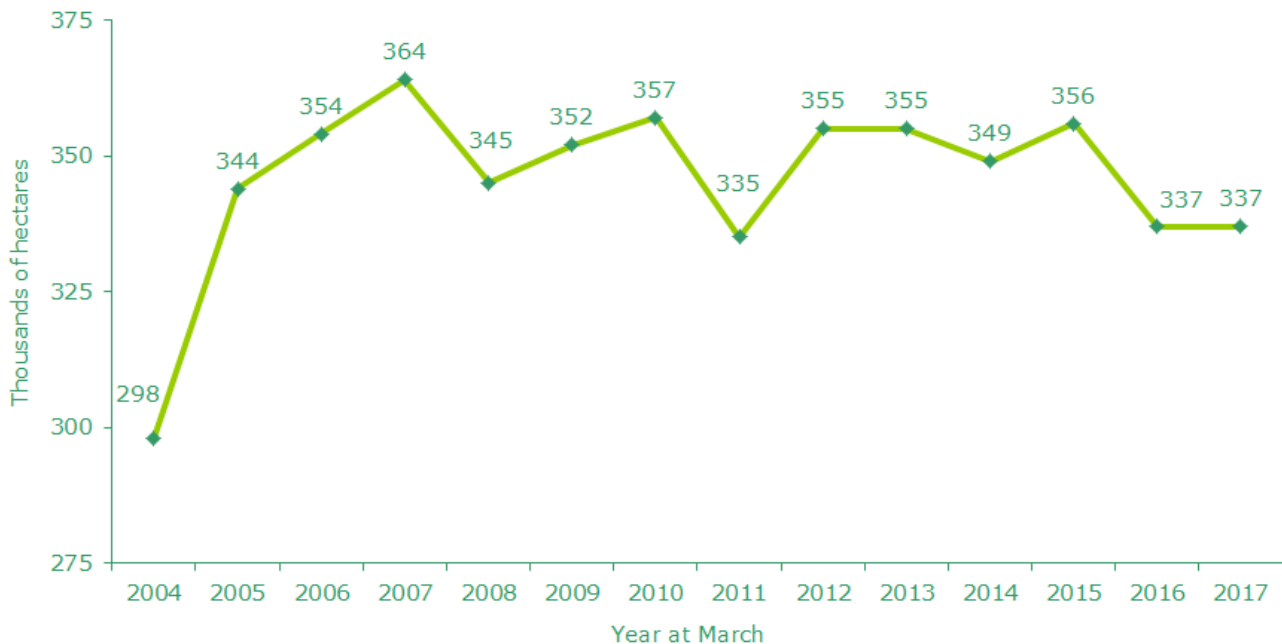
Five year trend, 31-Mar-16 compared to 31-Mar-11

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 significant economic benefit from joining these voluntary schemes. This may limit the area of certified woodland in England and contribute to the recent 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](#) and [Forest Research Statistics team](#) follow up with certificate holders.

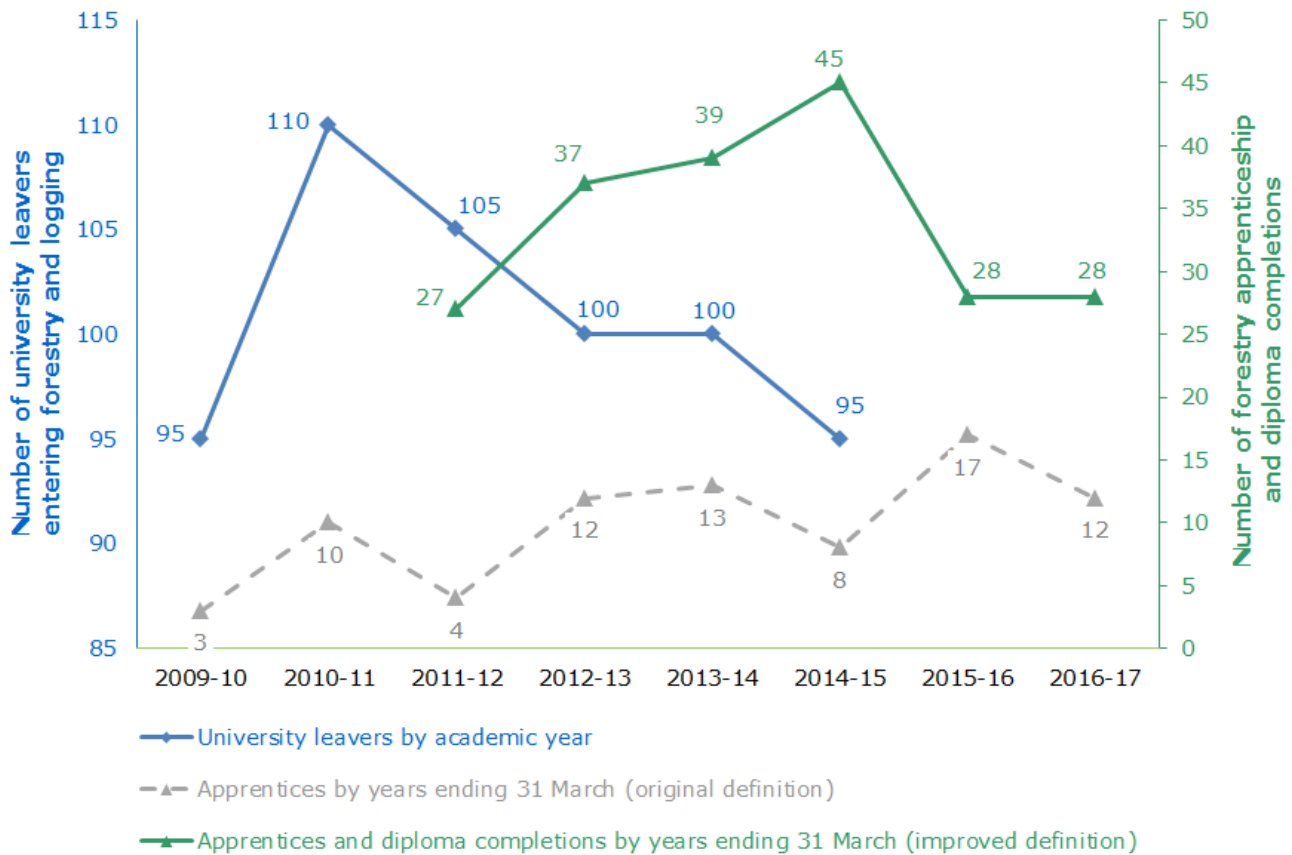
Open Data: Certified woodland areas are available from the Forestry Commission [Forestry Statistics](#) pages.

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

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

Deteriorating 

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



The end of the Forestry Skills Initiative funding initiative is reflected in a downturn in completions in 2015-16. The expected inception of the new Trailblazer forestry apprenticeship standard in 2017 should result in an upturn in completions but not until the first candidates start to complete in 2018.

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*

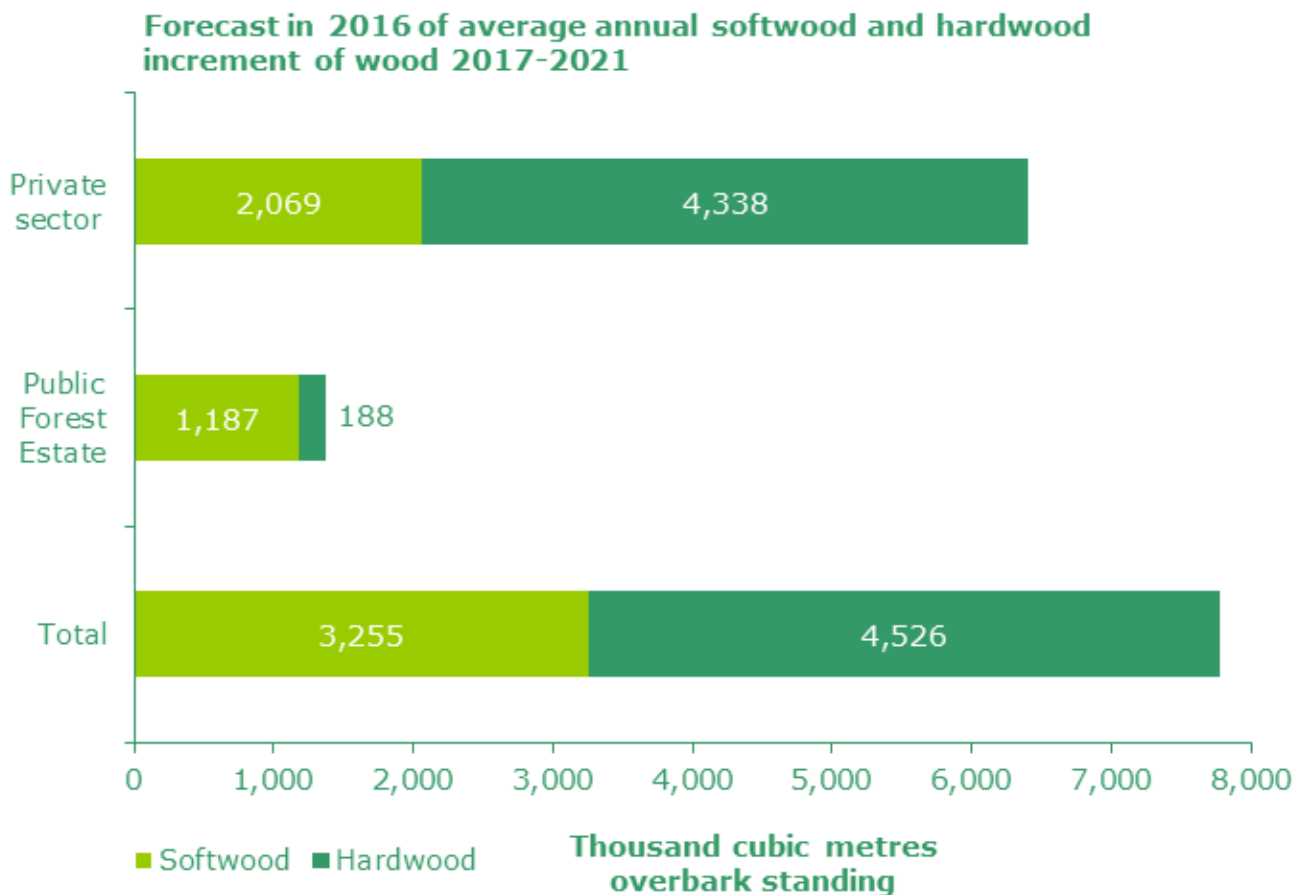
Apprentices and diploma completions, five year trend, 2016-17 compared to 2011-12

Improving 

University leavers, five year trend, 2014-15 compared to 2009-10

Little or no overall change 

Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests



Over the next 20 years the average annual coniferous increment is forecast to reduce to 2.5 million cubic metres in the period 2037-41.

Over the next 20 years the average annual hardwood increment is forecast to increase to a maximum of 4.7 million cubic metres in the period 2027-31 and then fall back to 4.5 million cubic metres in the period 2037-41.

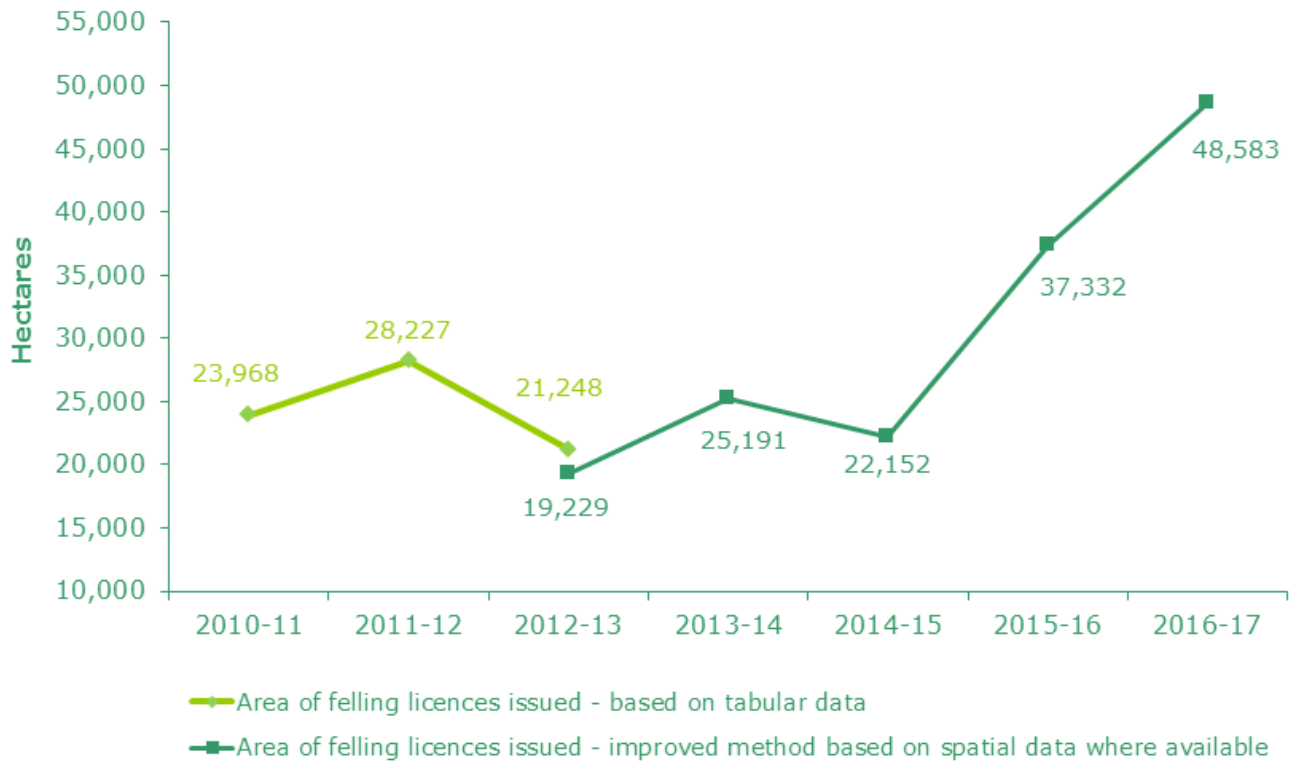
Source: [National Forest Inventory team forecasts](#) (Forestry Commission). The softwood and hardwood estimates shown use consistent assumptions about woodland management.

Assessment of change in *Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data 

Area of felling licences issued



This indicator, which relates to owners' intent to actively manage their woodlands shows a continued improvement. Felling licences were issued for 11,000 hectares more woodland in 2016-17 compared to the previous year.

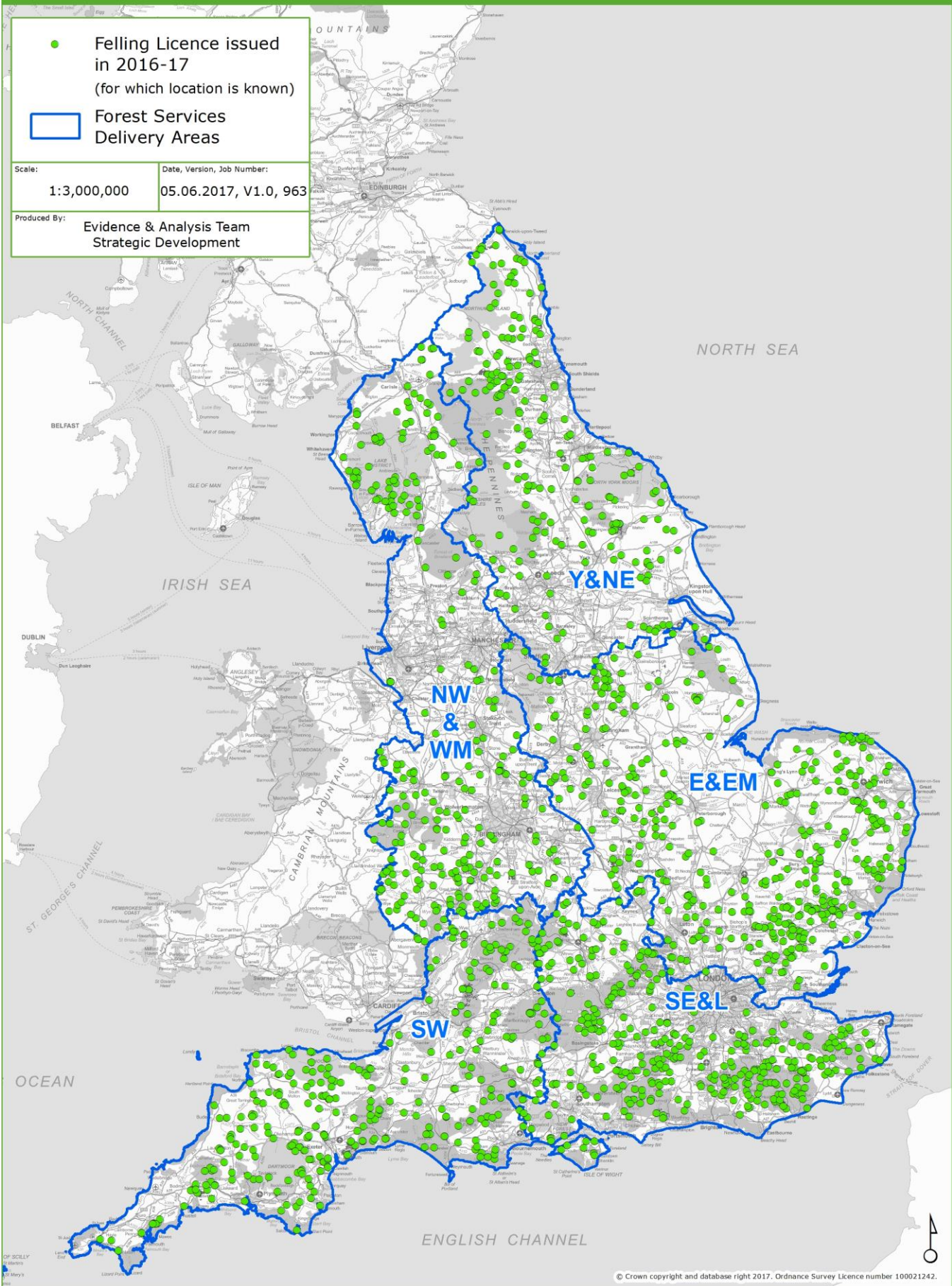
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

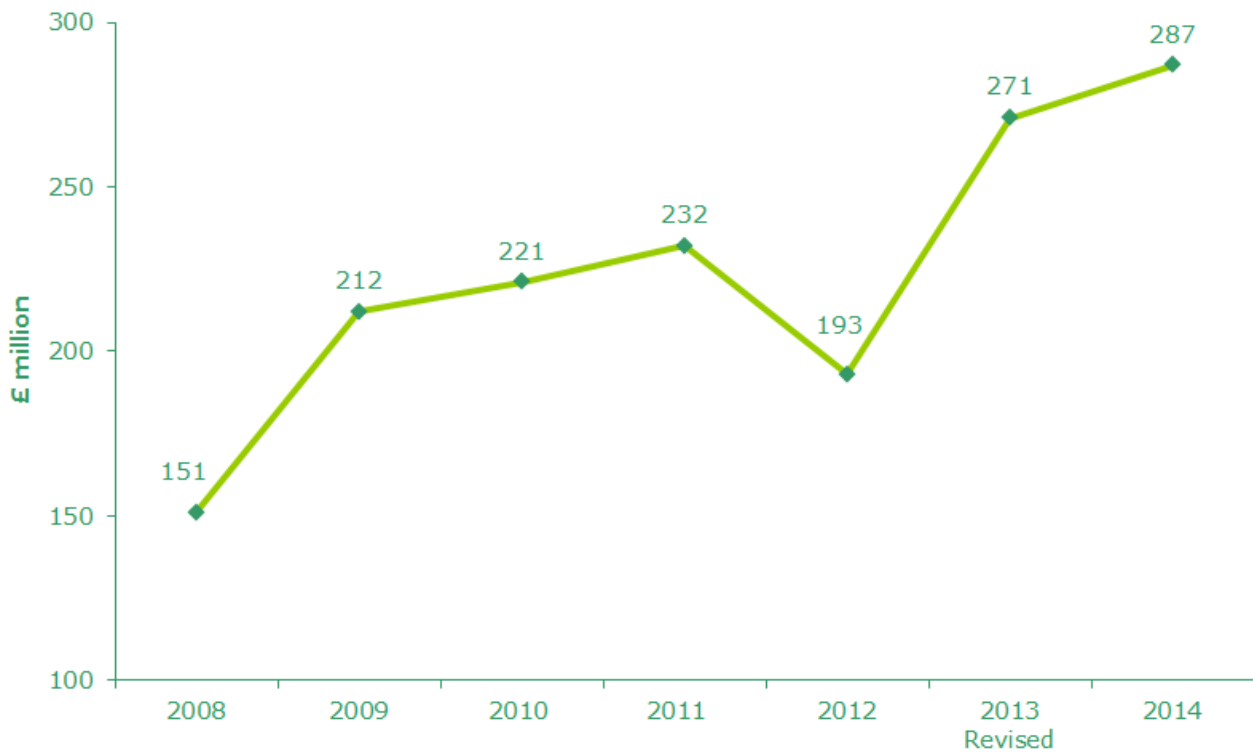
Assessment of change in *Area of felling licences issued*

Four year trend **only**, 2016-17 compared to 2012-13

Improving 



Gross Value Added from domestic forestry



The expected increase in Gross Value Added to £227m by 2015 has already been well exceeded, as the English domestic forestry sector remains buoyant.

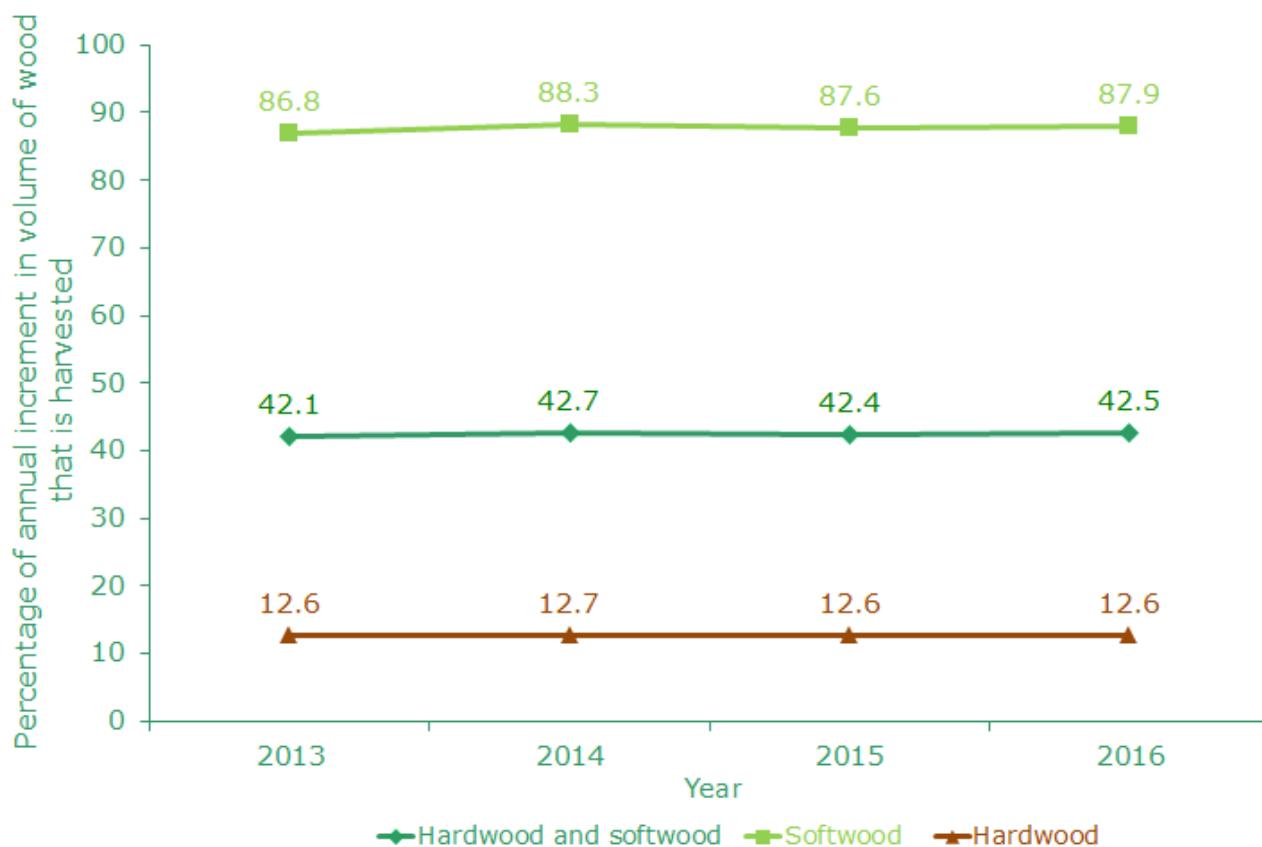
Source: [Annual Business Survey 2014 regional results](#) (Office for National Statistics).

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

Five year trend, 2014 compared to 2009

Improving 

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



Market conditions remain generally favourable, encouraging owners to harvest. Activity in the softwood sector remains particularly strong. If hardwood markets are developed there is potential to significantly increase timber production in broadleaved woodlands.

Note: All figures for previous years have been revised to incorporate more up-to-date information from the National Forest Inventory 2016 softwood forecast.

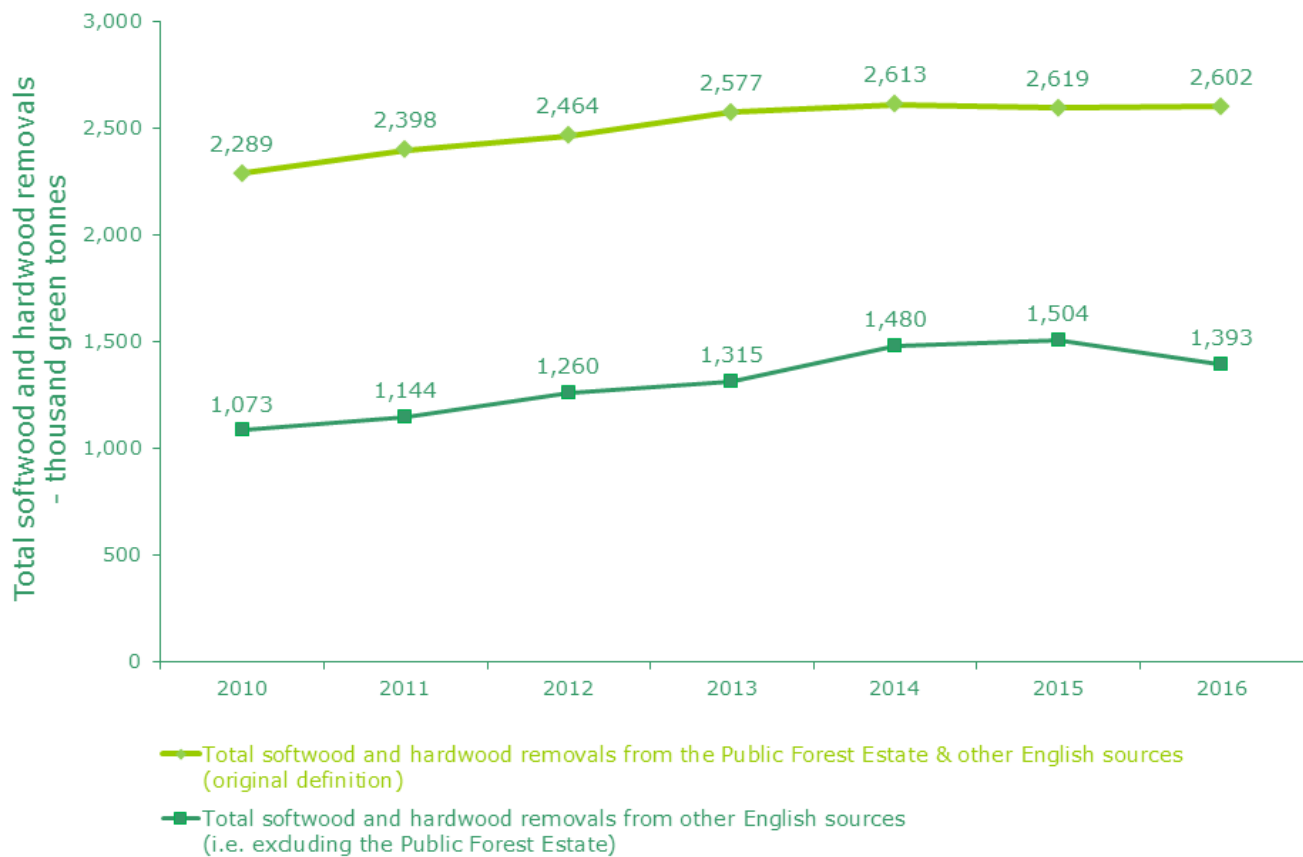
Source: Forestry Commission [National Statistics](#) on [UK wood production and trade](#) and [National Forest Inventory team forecasts](#).

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

Three year trend **only**: 2016 compared to 2013
(Hardwood and softwood element)

Little or no overall change 

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



Private woodland owners continue to be motivated to bring un-managed and under-managed woodland back into management, reacting to both supply-side interventions, e.g. Woodland Management Planning Grant, and demand-side initiatives, e.g. [Grown in Britain](#) and the [Renewable Heat Incentive](#). The figure for 2016 is slightly less than that for 2015 but nonetheless this trade supports and encourages further investment in the forestry sector of England.

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

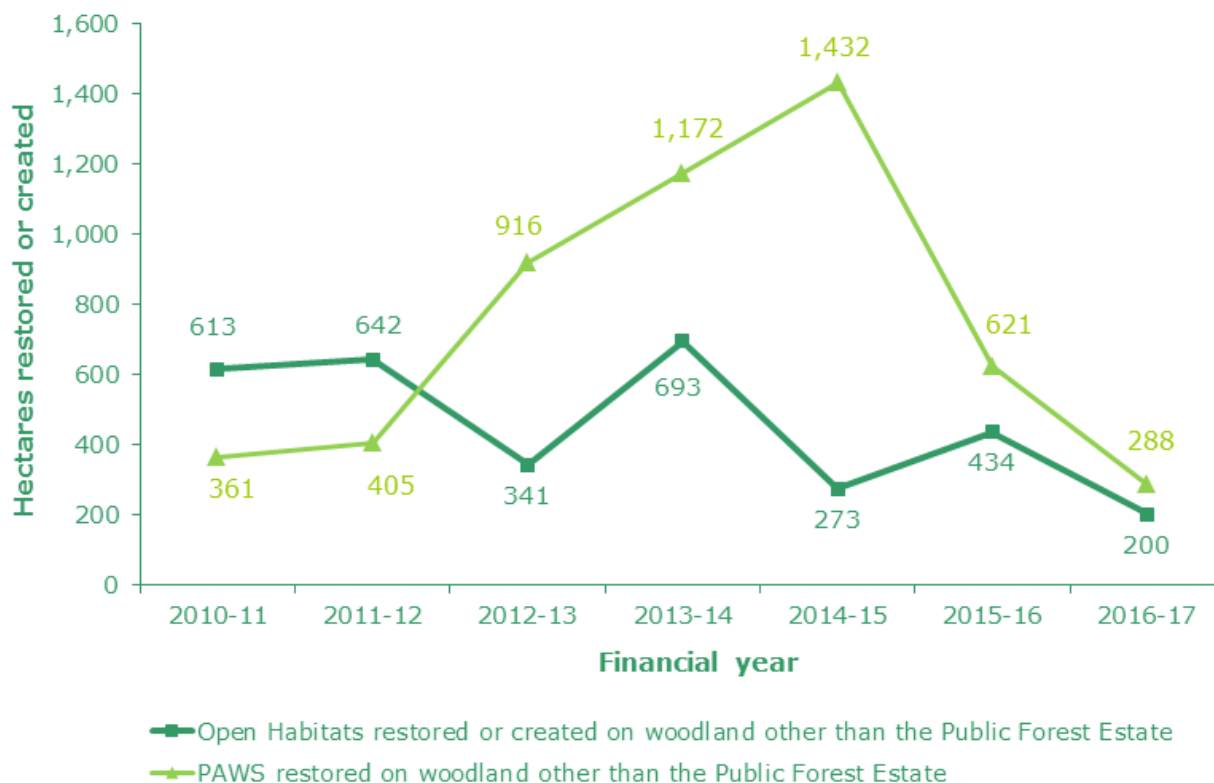
Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from English sources other than the Public Forest Estate*

Five year trend, 2016 compared to 2011

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



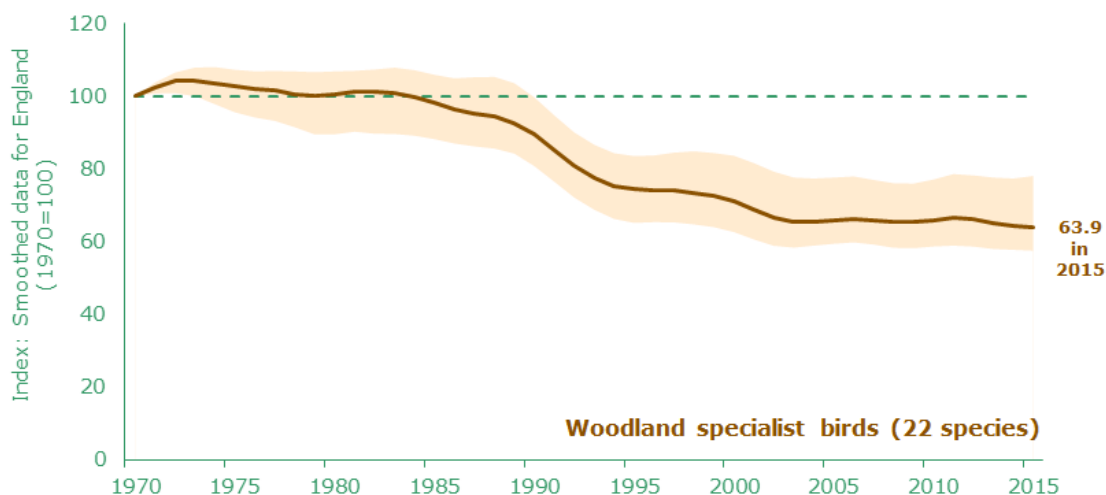
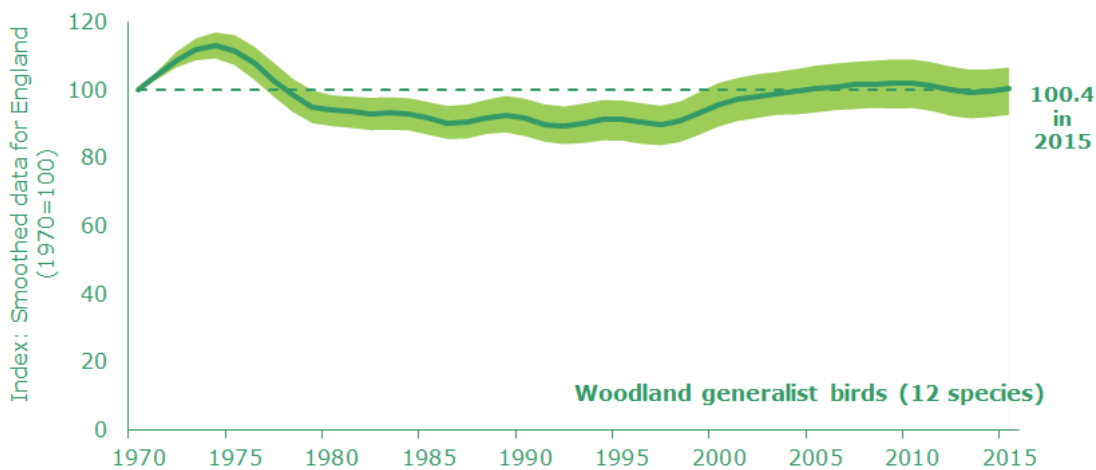
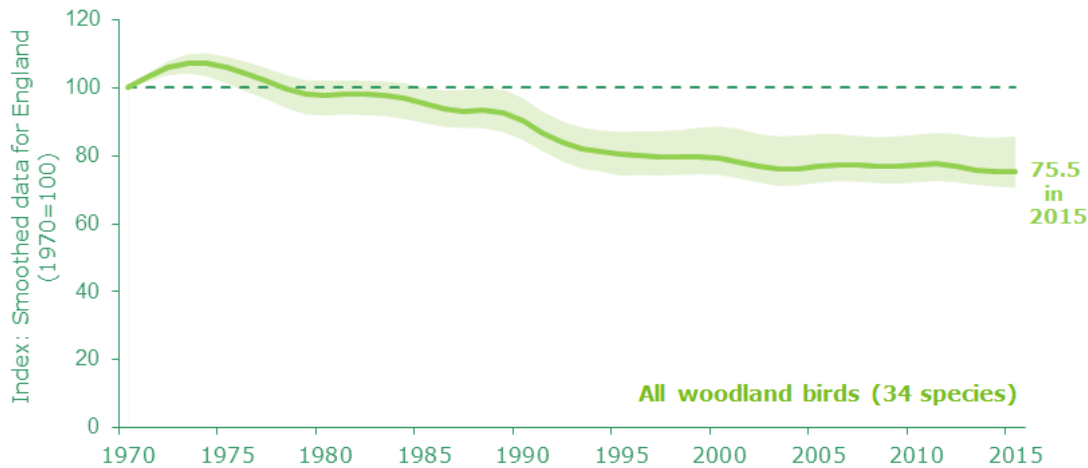
The level of recorded restoration of [Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites](#) (PAWS) has continued to decline. [Countryside Stewardship](#) offers a different kind of support for PAWS restoration that the earlier English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and applicants are still adjusting to the new grant regime. Open habitat restoration is reducing although this is in line with the amount of woodland creation in 2016-17 that is the balancing measure.

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, 2016-17 compared to 2011-12

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 2015 the all woodland bird index for England was 25% lower than in 1970 (smoothed data). The greatest decline occurred between the start of the mid 1980s and the mid 1990s. Since then the index has been more stable. Over the past 10 years there has been no significant change in the three woodland birds indices despite some fluctuations.

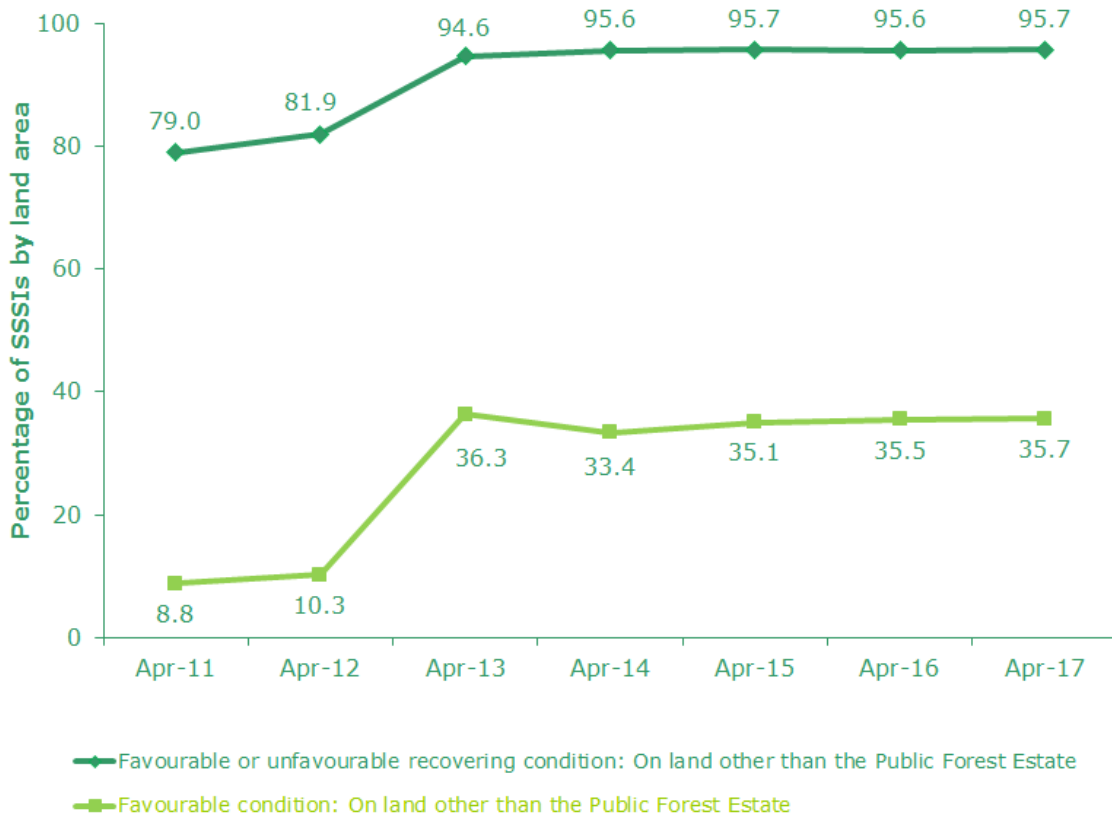
Source: Smoothed, unstandardised [Woodland Bird Index](#) data ([Defra](#)).

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, 2015 compared to year 2000

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 increased as has the percentage of woodland SSSIs in favourable condition. The indicator overall has increased, as intended, since 2011.

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 woodland SSSIs into 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.

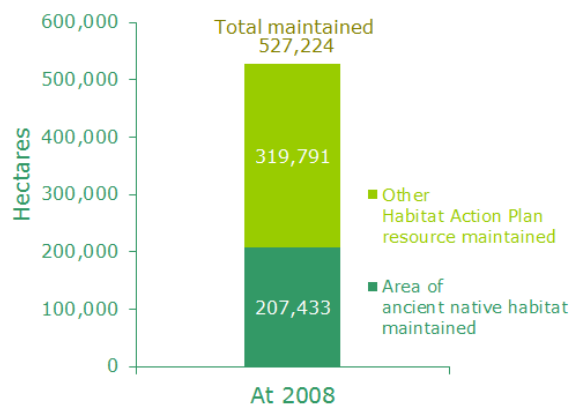
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data on grant schemes and [Natural England](#) data on SSSIs.

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

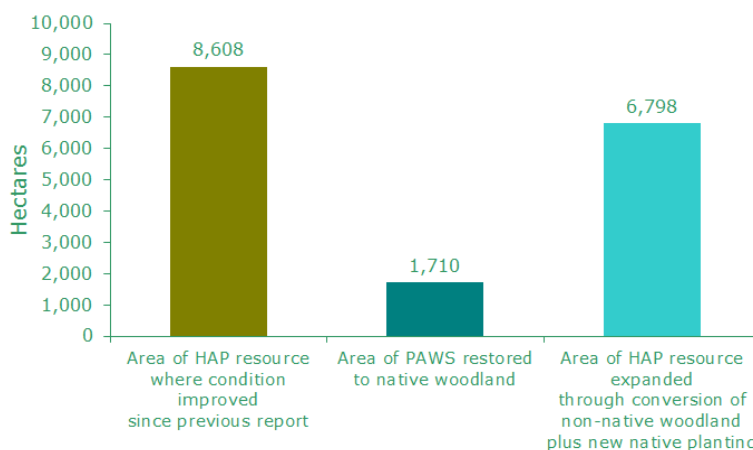
Favourable or unfavourable recovering condition, five year trend, Apr-17 compared to Apr-12	Improving ✓
Favourable condition, five year trend, Apr-17 compared to Apr-12	Improving ✓

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

Maintained areas



Progress since 2005



The interim indicator for woodland condition draws on data produced for reporting on Biodiversity Strategy delivery. The data used here reflects that submitted for progress with delivery of Biodiversity 2020 outcomes. Current biodiversity strategy interim reporting of condition draws on the Sites of Special Scientific Interest data and the area of priority habitat in management (measured for woodland as the broadleaf component of the percentage of woodland in active management). We have seen an increase in the area of broadleaf woodland in management from 43% in 2013 to 46% at 31 March 2017.

The full indicator will be reported once data becomes available from the [National Forest Inventory](#) sample survey and the assessment protocol in development with [Forest Research](#) has been finalised. The analysis will show the state of each of the different factors considered important for woodland condition. Initial analysis shows a diversity of states across our native woodland resource, some of which appear to be in good condition while others are not.

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

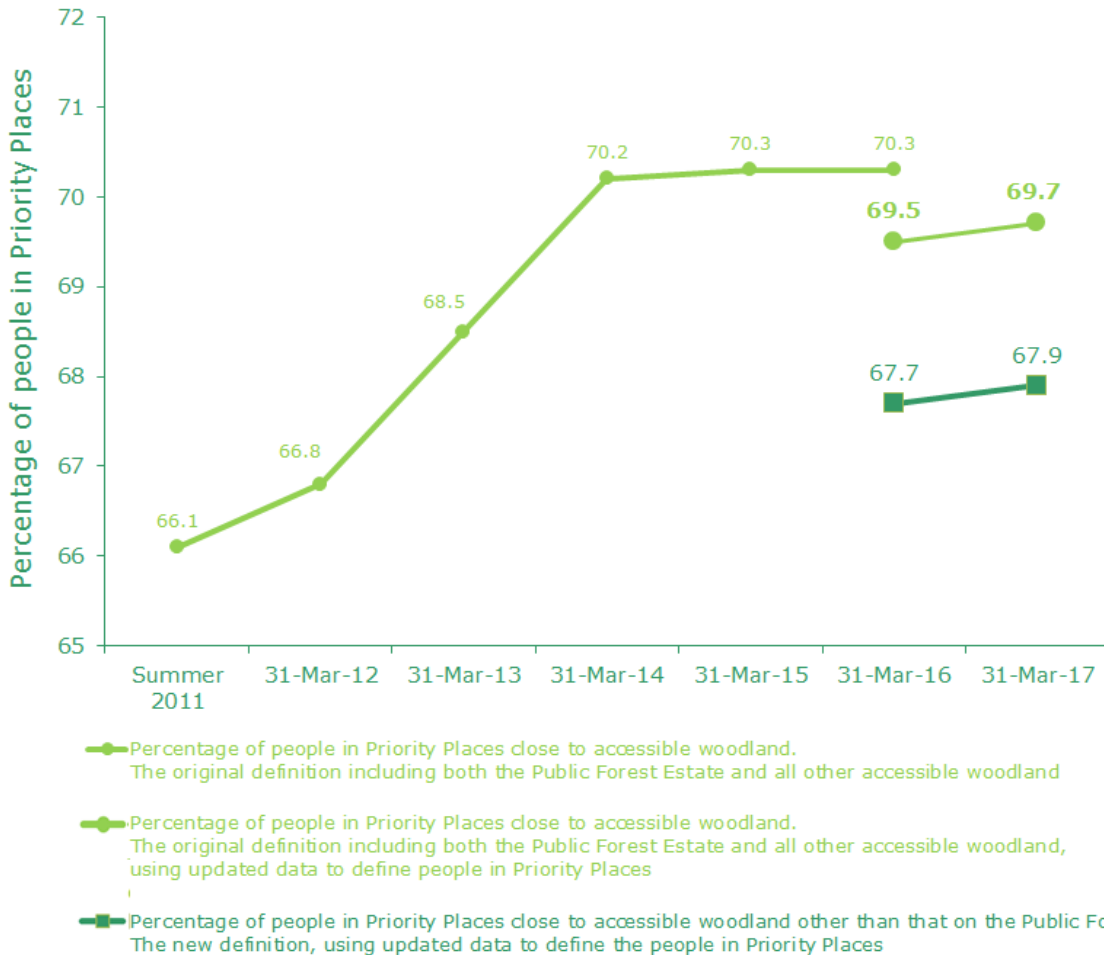
Assessment of change in *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no 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 in Priority Places with access to one or more accessible woodlands of >20 hectares in size, *other than* the Public Forest Estate shows a slight increase to 67.9% in 2017 (12.8 million people having access). The contribution of the *Public Forest Estate* is shown in the Other Forest Enterprise Indicators part of this report.

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.

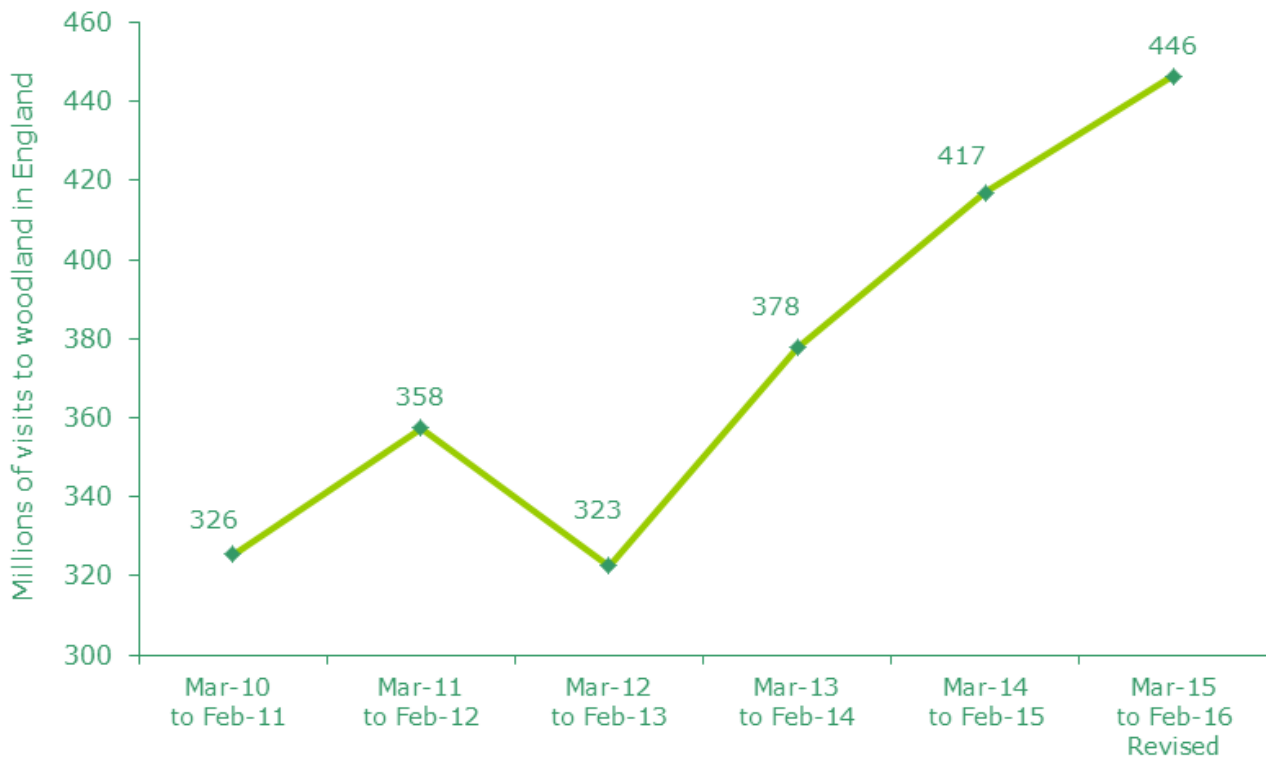
Source: Based on Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), [Census of Population](#) (Office for National Statistics) and the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (Communities and Local Government).

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

One year trend **only**, Mar-17 compared to Mar-16 (accessible woodland other than the PFE)

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 7% increase in the numbers of visits to woodland by the English adult population in the most recent available reporting year (to February 2016). This adds to the increases in the previous two reporting years.

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



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

This indicator draws on data from the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (POFS) and measures active engagement with *all* woodland by the adult residents of England. This covers involvement such as volunteering and membership of a community woodland group. The 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*

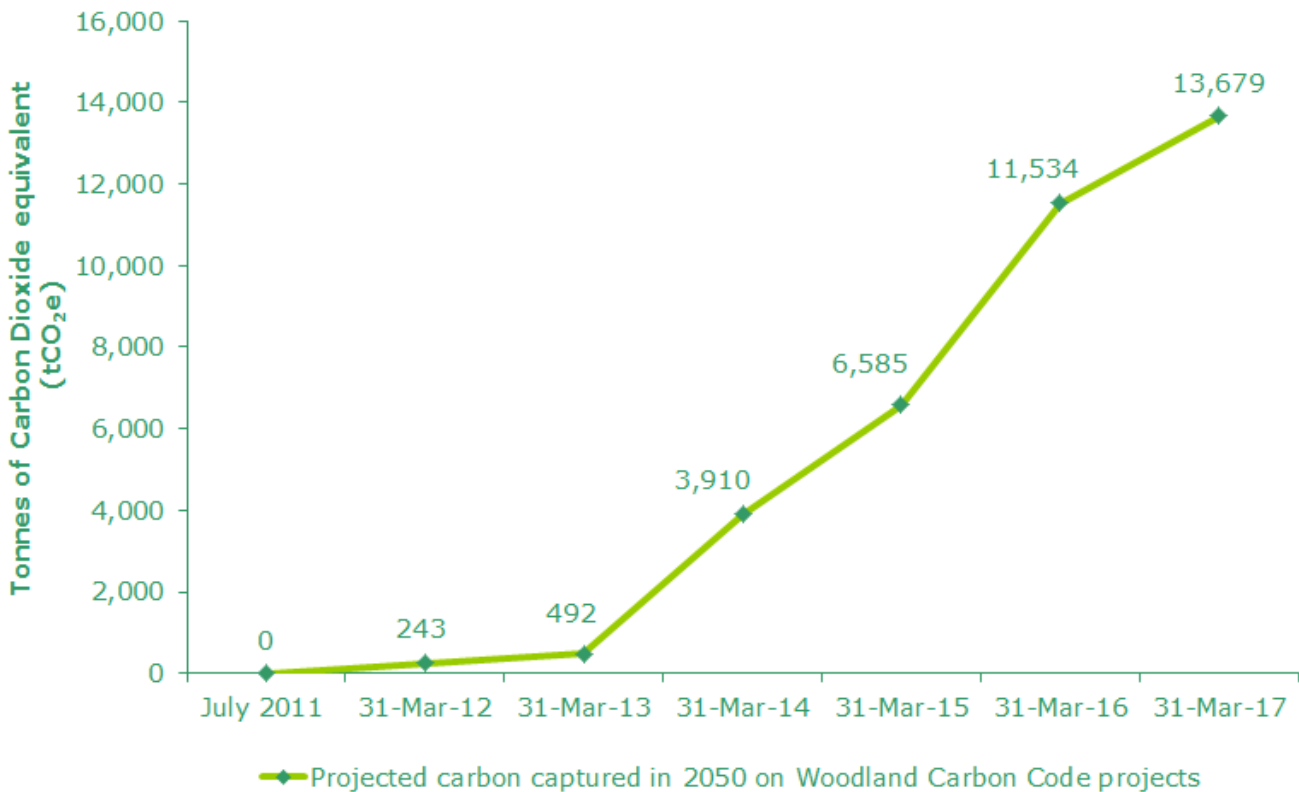
Six year trend, 2017 compared to 2011

Declining ✘

EXPAND

Carbon storage to help reduce climate change

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



At March 2017, 66 projects were validated to the [Woodland Carbon Code](#), compared with 54 a year before in March 2016. The 66 projects are expected to sequester 13,679 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) in 2050 (compared with 11,354 tCO₂e in 2016), and a total of 571,000 tCO₂e up to 2050 (compared to 513,000 tCO₂e in 2016). A further 63 projects are currently registered and going through the validation process. Together the projects registered and validated will sequester almost 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂e over their lifetime (of up to 100 years).

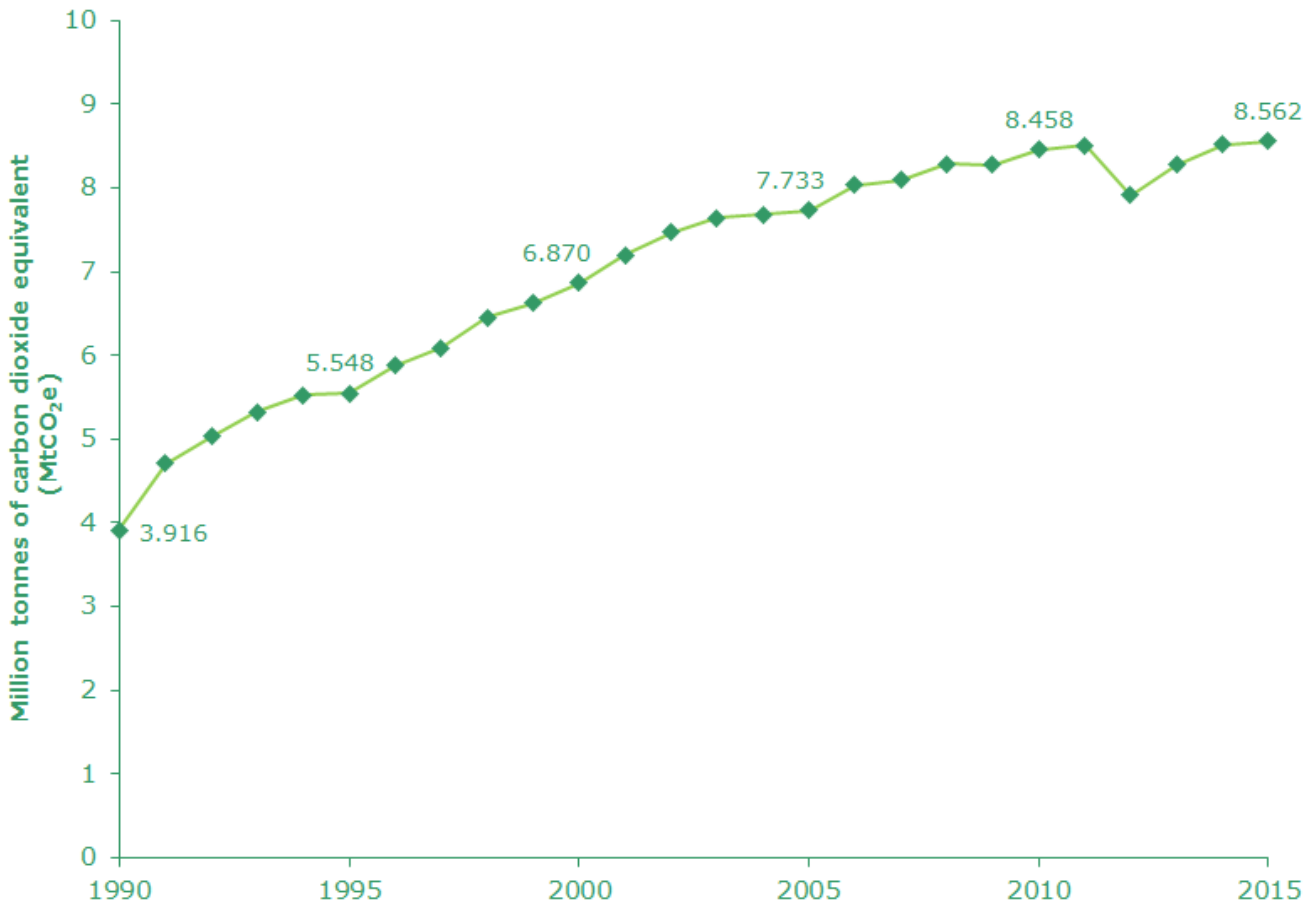
Source: [Woodland Carbon Code statistics](#) (Forestry Commission).

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

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

Improving 

Carbon captured by English woodlands



The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England’s woodlands has increased slightly from 8.520 MtCO₂e in 2014 to 8.562 MtCO₂e in 2015. The indicator remains broadly stable, but is expected to decline in the medium term as the greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past planting rates and subsequent harvesting activity.

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.

The sink strength for 2015 is not consistent with (and should not be compared with) the sink strength reported for 2014 (or previous years) in the [Indicators Report 2016](#), as a result of the 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](#).

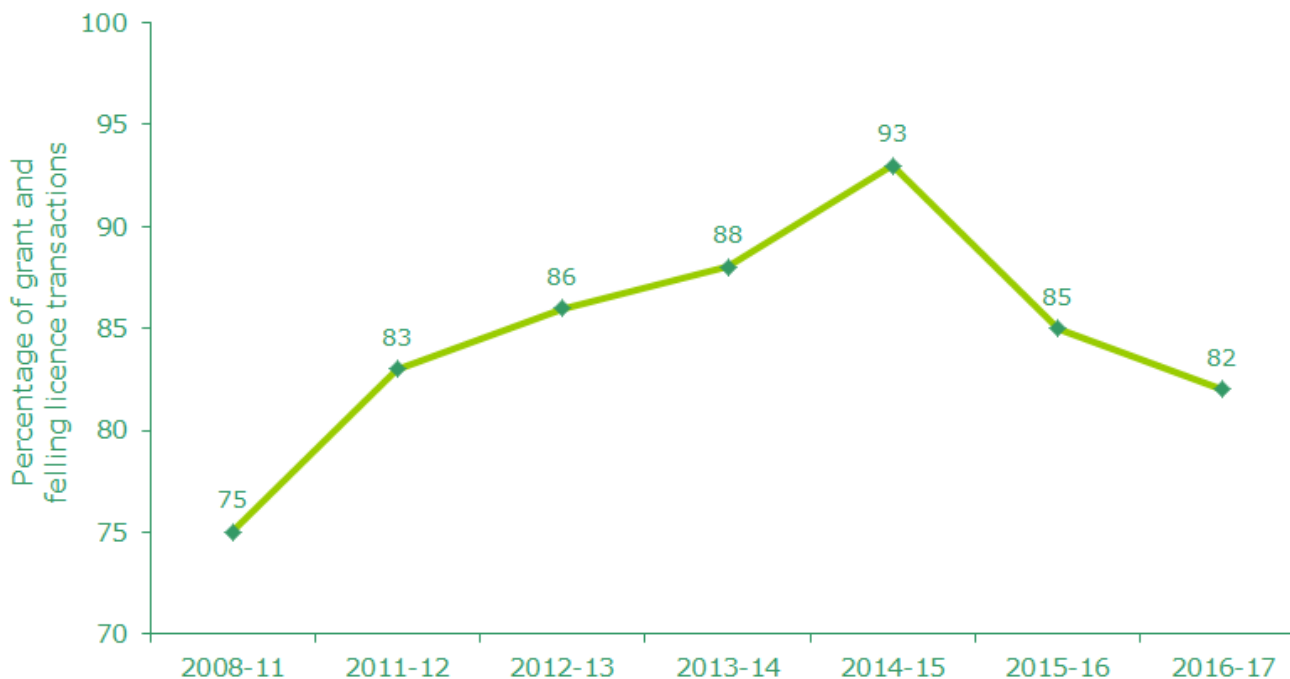
Assessment of change in *Carbon captured by English woodlands*

Five year trend, compared to 2010

Little or no overall change 

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND BUSINESS METRICS

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



Whilst the 2016-17 outturn is for a lower percentage of transactions completed on time or early than that of the 85% in 2015-16 it is in the context of the following:

- The continuing transition to three Forest Services administration hubs for the processing of grant and regulatory work
- The delay in transferring all Countryside Stewardship (CS) processing to Natural England
- Increase in the volumes of transactions of regulatory work in relation to felling licence and management plan approvals
- Unanticipated workloads associated with inspections for legacy grant agreements and annual claim processing.

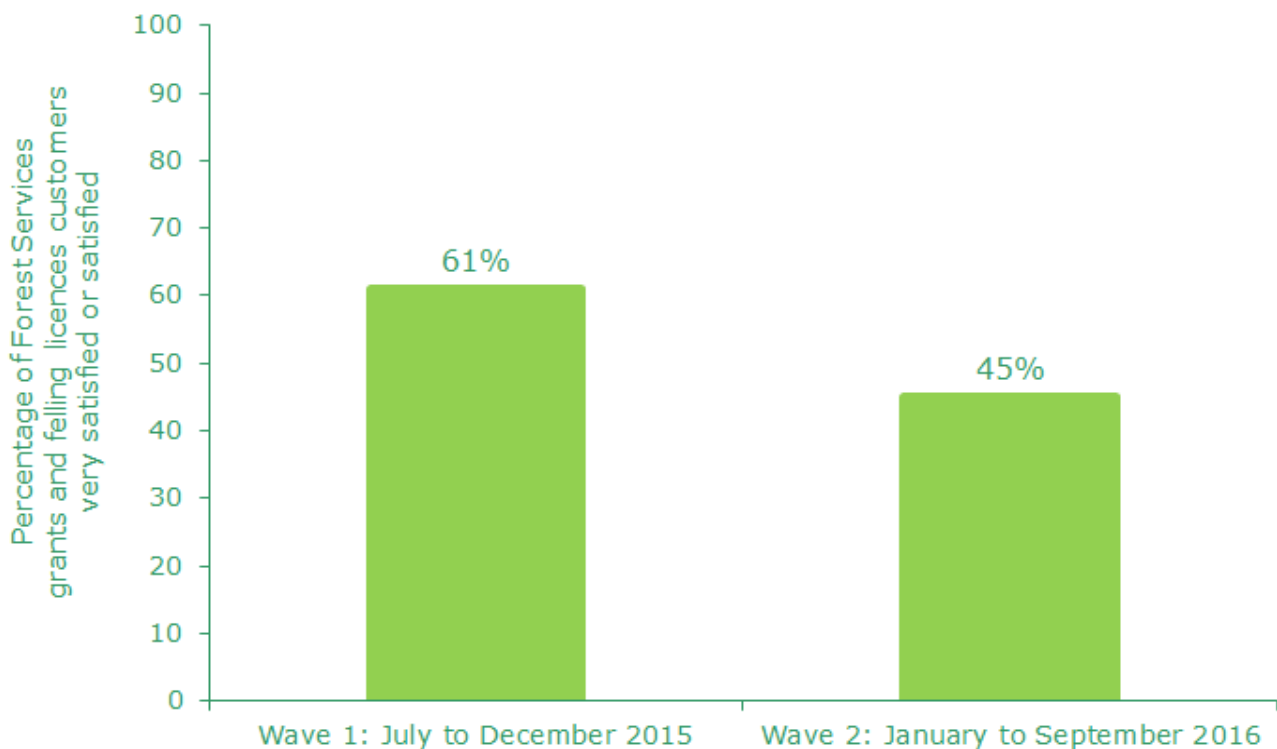
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

Five year trend, 2016-17 compared to 2011-12

Little or no overall change 

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



This update reports the satisfaction of customers who had received an incentives or regulatory decision from the Forestry Commission between January 2016 and September 2016 (Wave 2 of the survey). It shows that there has been a 16% point reduction in this summary satisfaction measure compared to the period we monitored last year (Wave 1). Forest Services are putting in place an improvement plan in response, focusing on the issues within our control, and also raising the elements of this valued feedback with the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England where this is of more relevance to them.

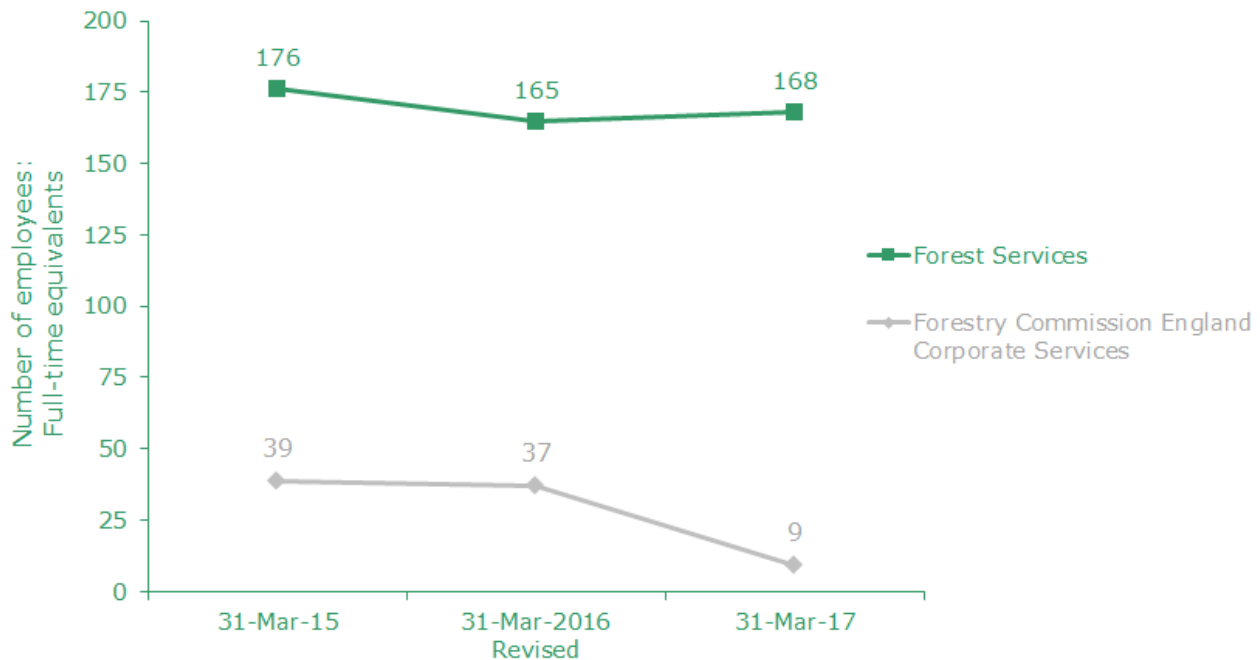
Source: Forestry Commission customer survey conducted with the help of the [Rural Payments Agency](#) Customer Insight team.

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

One year trend **only**: Jul-Dec 2015 compared to Jan-Sep 2016

Declining 

Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Corporate Services



There has been a 2% increase in the number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services in the year to 31 March 2017 which is no material change.

The numbers of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forestry Commission England Corporate Services has reduced to nine at March 2017. Within the year some corporate services staff transferred to Forest Enterprise England. Communications staff transferred to Defra through Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (COSOP) procedures.

Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

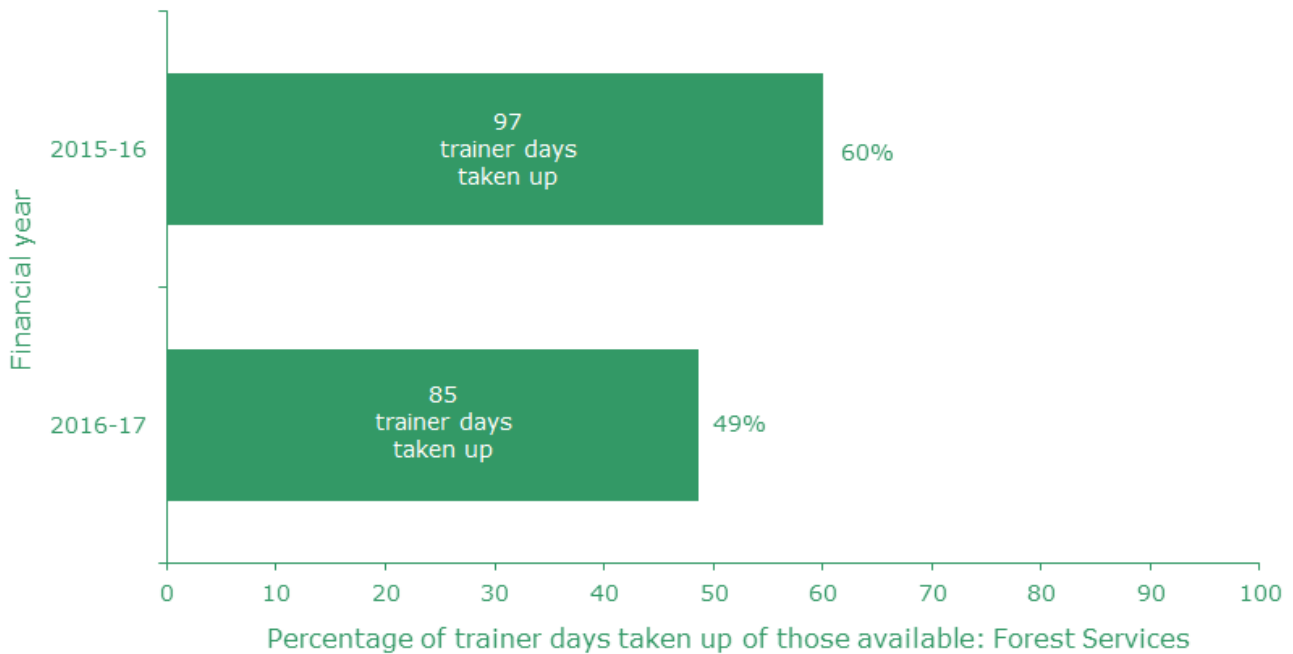
Assessment of change in *Number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Services and Forestry Commission England Corporate Services*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data



Percentage of trainer days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Services



The 2016-17 year was one of transition for the Learning and Development team as it was commissioned out of Central Services. Part of the team helped set up and form the new Health Safety and Technical Training team serving Forestry Commission England only from 1 April 2017. The assimilation process this involved and other project work to support the transition meant that a reduced training and development service was available.

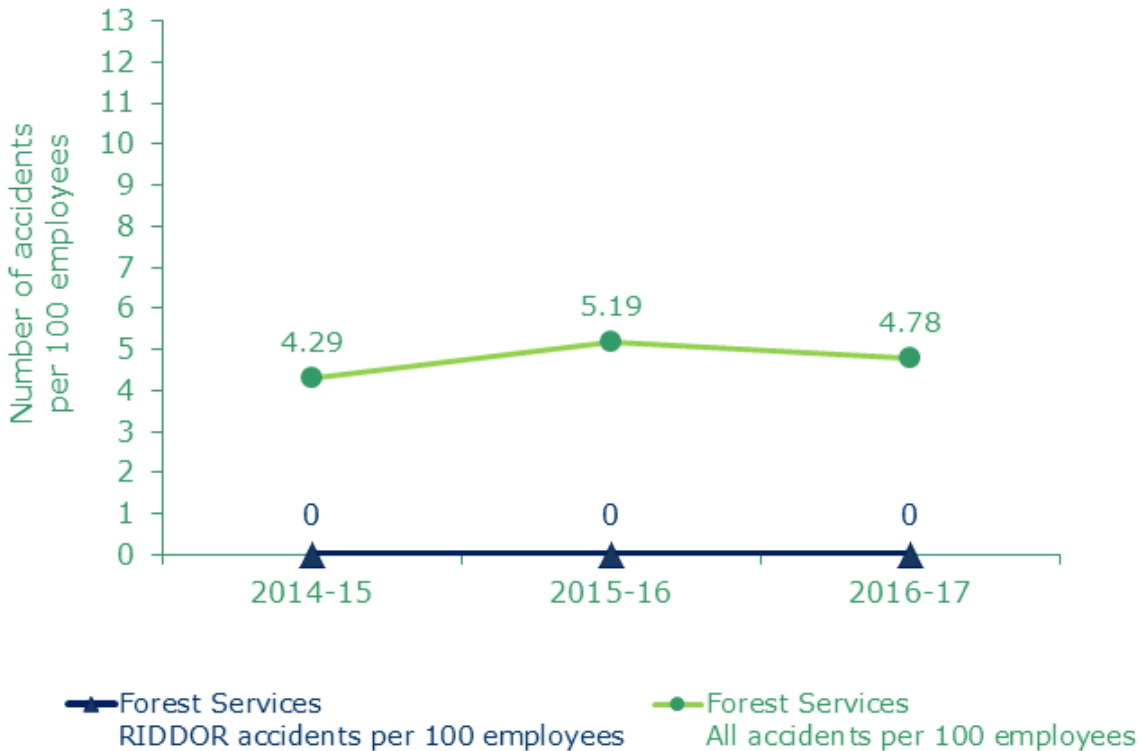
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Services*

One year trend **only**: 2015-16 compared to 2016-17

Declining 

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



The number of non-RIDDOR accidents in the course of Forest Services business activities has slightly decreased in 2016-17 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*

Two year trend **only**: 2016-17 compared to 2014-15

Declining 

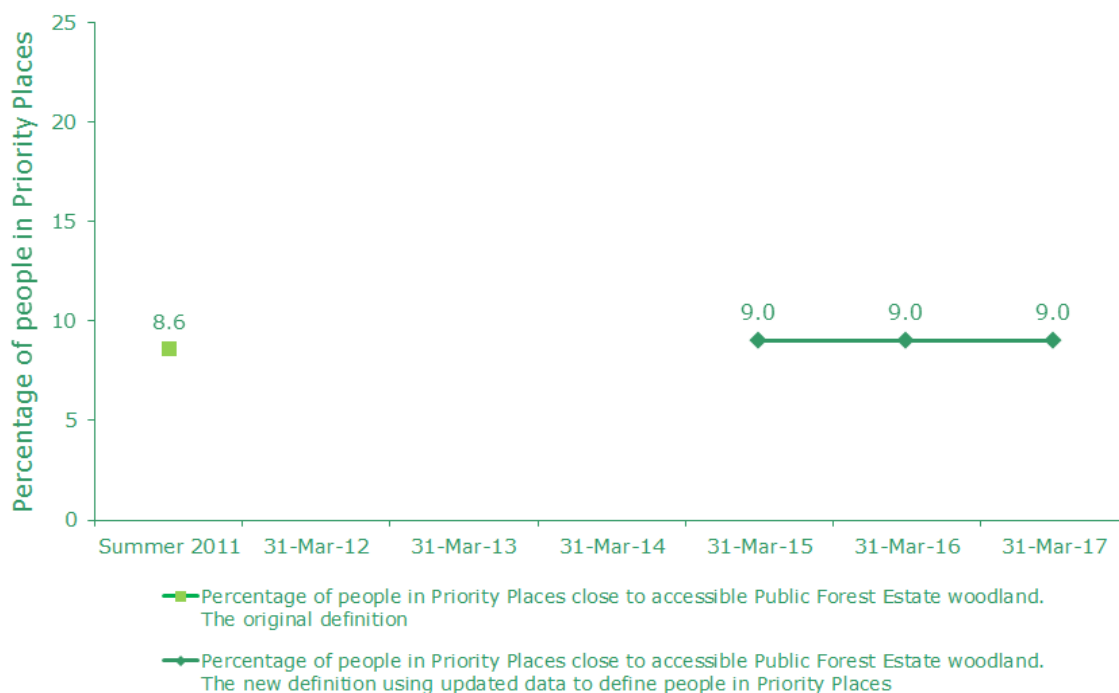


Part 3. Other Forest Enterprise Indicators

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 proportion of people 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), a figure that has remained fairly static. Looking more widely 41% of the *total* population of England lives within a 15 minute drive time of accessible parts of the Estate. The accompanying map shows 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.

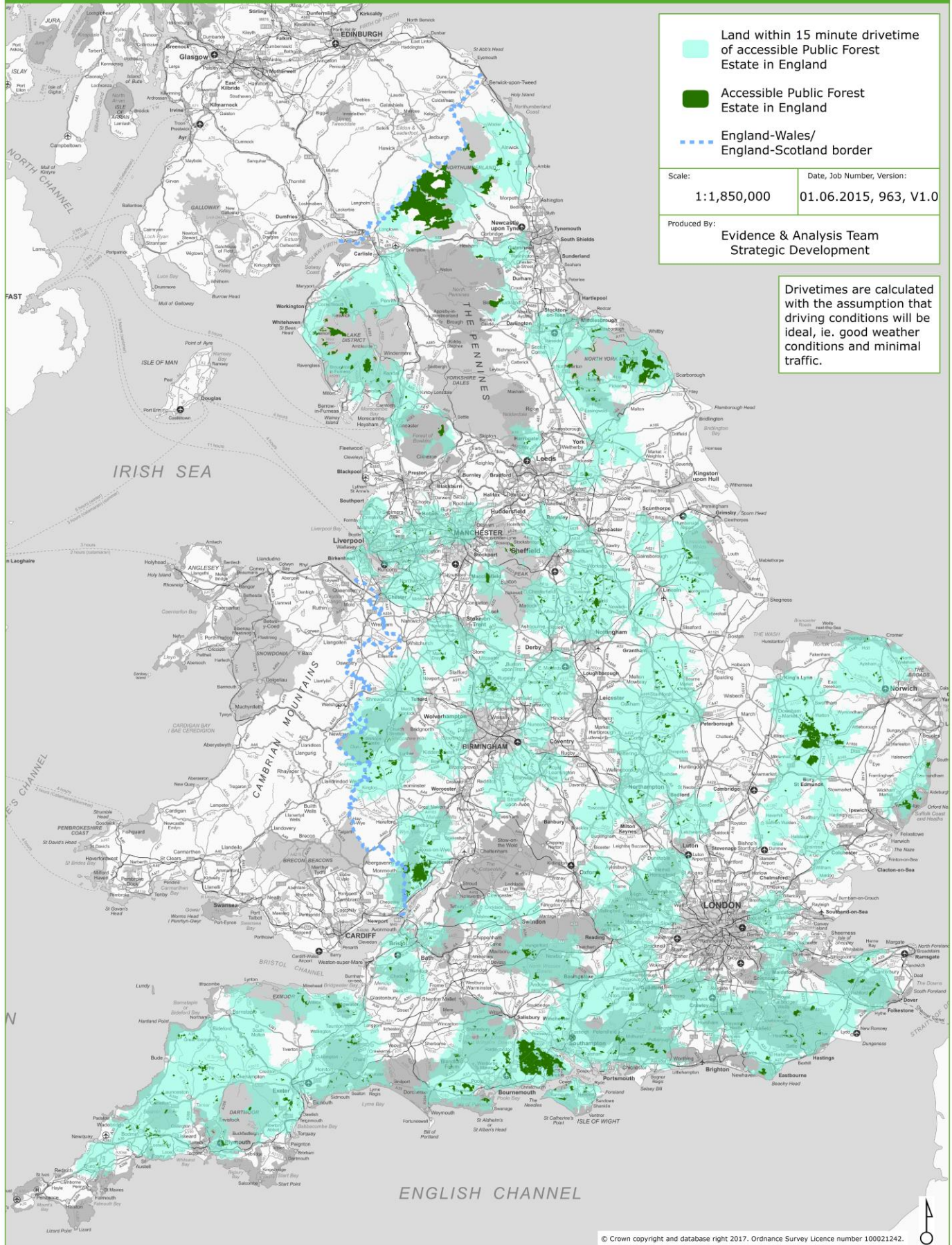
Source: Woods for People dataset (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), [Census of Population](#) (Office for National Statistics) and the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (Communities and Local Government).

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

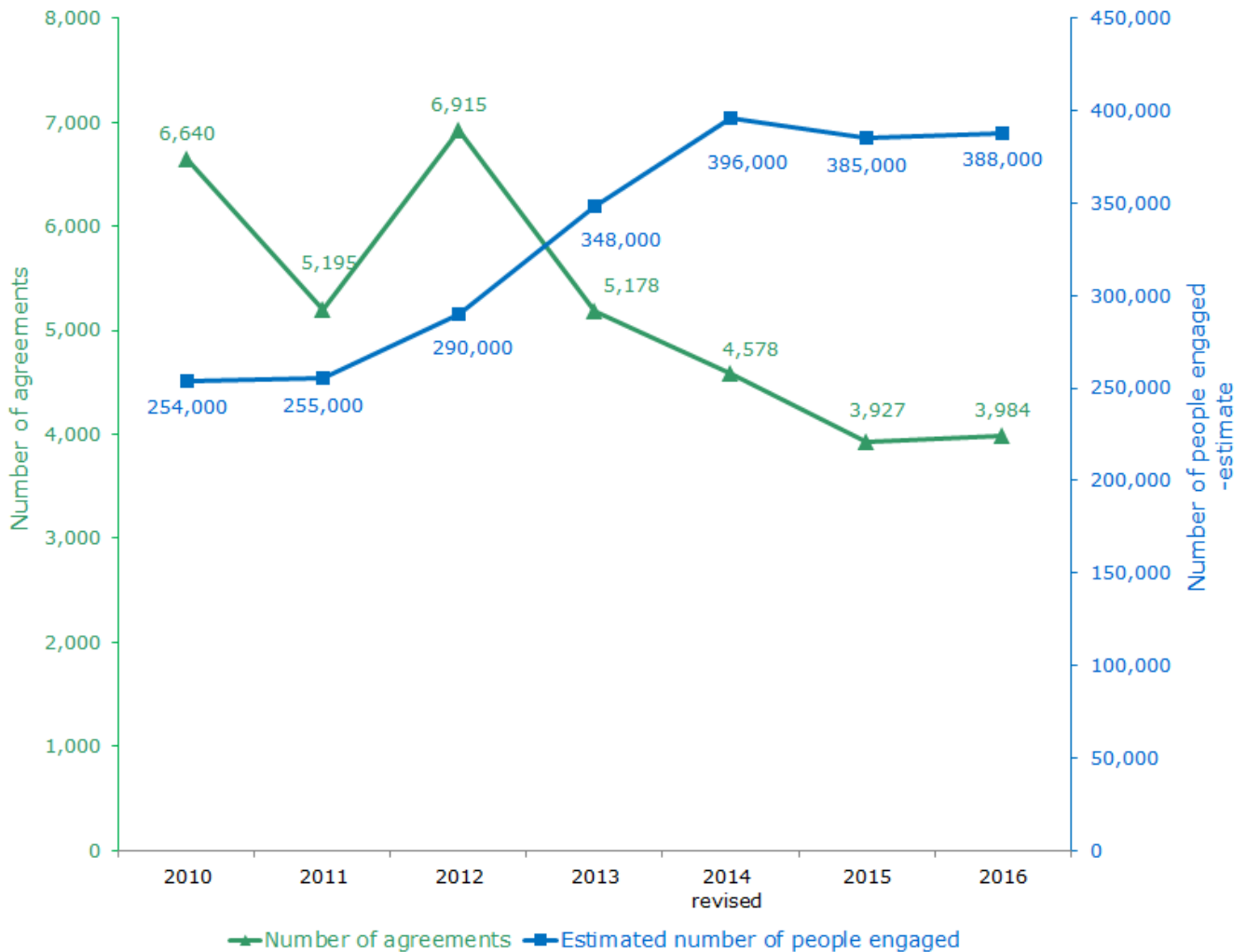
Two year trend **only**: 31-Mar-17 compared to 31-Mar15

Little or no overall change 

Fifteen 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 related estimates of people participating in these events and activities was marginally greater in 2016 compared to the year before. Forest Enterprise are continuing to look at learning more about our customers.

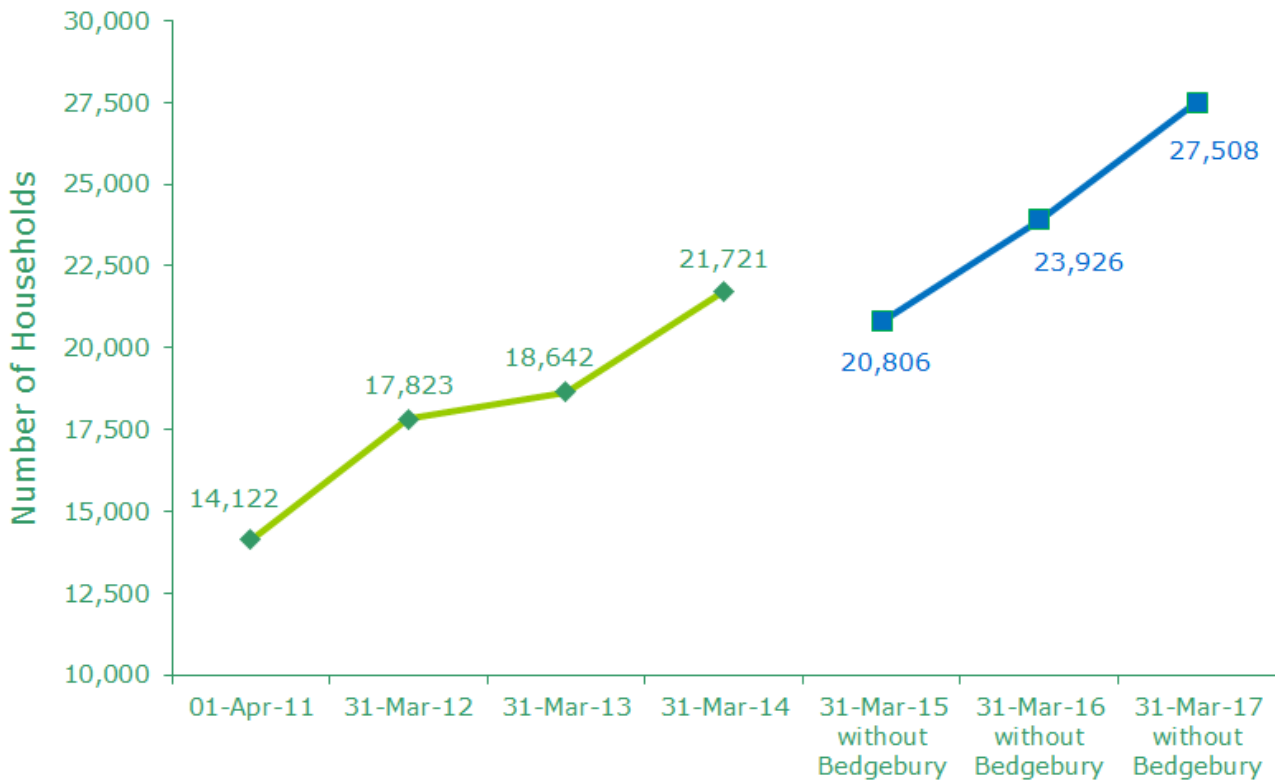
Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

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

Five year trend, 2016 compared to 2011

Improving 

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



Sales of the [Discovery Pass](#) in 2016-17 have increased by 15% compared to 2015-16. There have been increased sales at a large number of participating Public Forest Estate sites which has resulted in this significant increase in sales across England overall. Increases at many sites are likely to be due to increased active promotion of the Discovery Pass as a good alternative to daily parking charges suitable for our regular visitors, combined with an increase in popular campaigns that attract 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*

Two year trend **only**, Mar-17 compared to 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
UKWAS Certification Held?	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-17 compared to Mar-12

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



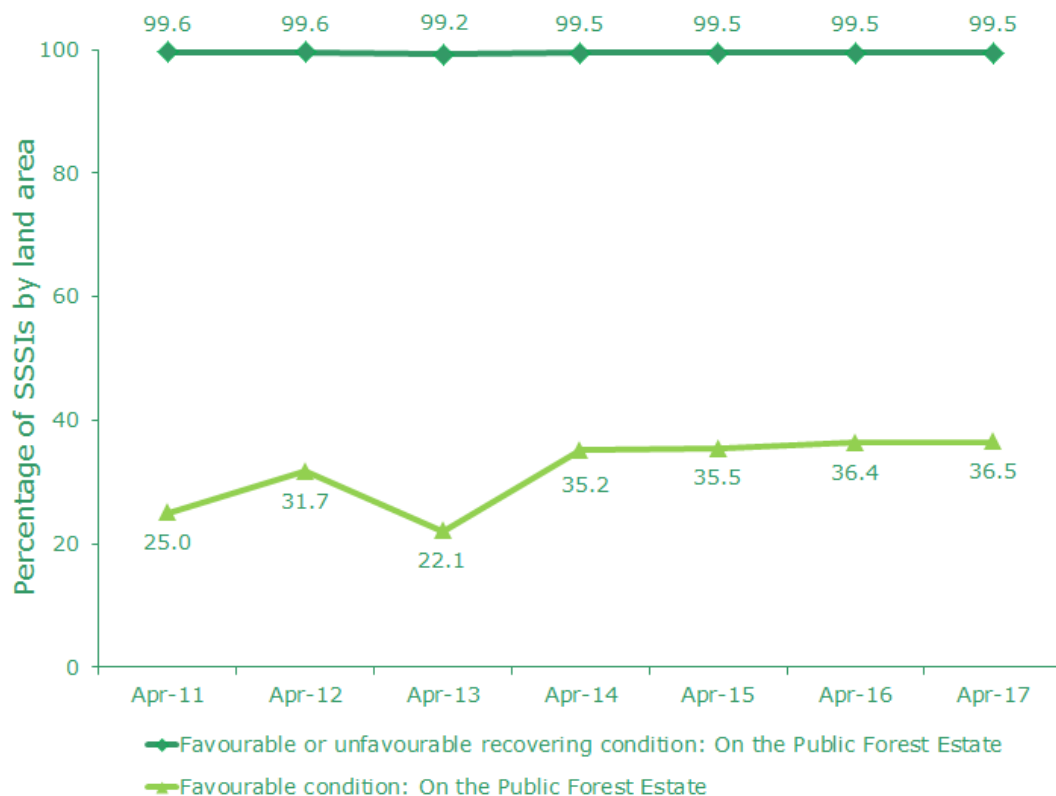
We continue to make steady progress towards the restoration of [Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites \(PAWS\)](#) to native woodland and towards the creation of other priority habitats from plantation stands across the country in accordance with agreed Forest Plans. Whilst the area of PAWS worked is less than last year a significant body of work has been undertaken by Forest Districts in 2016-17 to record the condition of PAWS and to prioritise work programmes to ensure work takes place where it is of most impact and therefore ensure that the indicator is met in future.

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

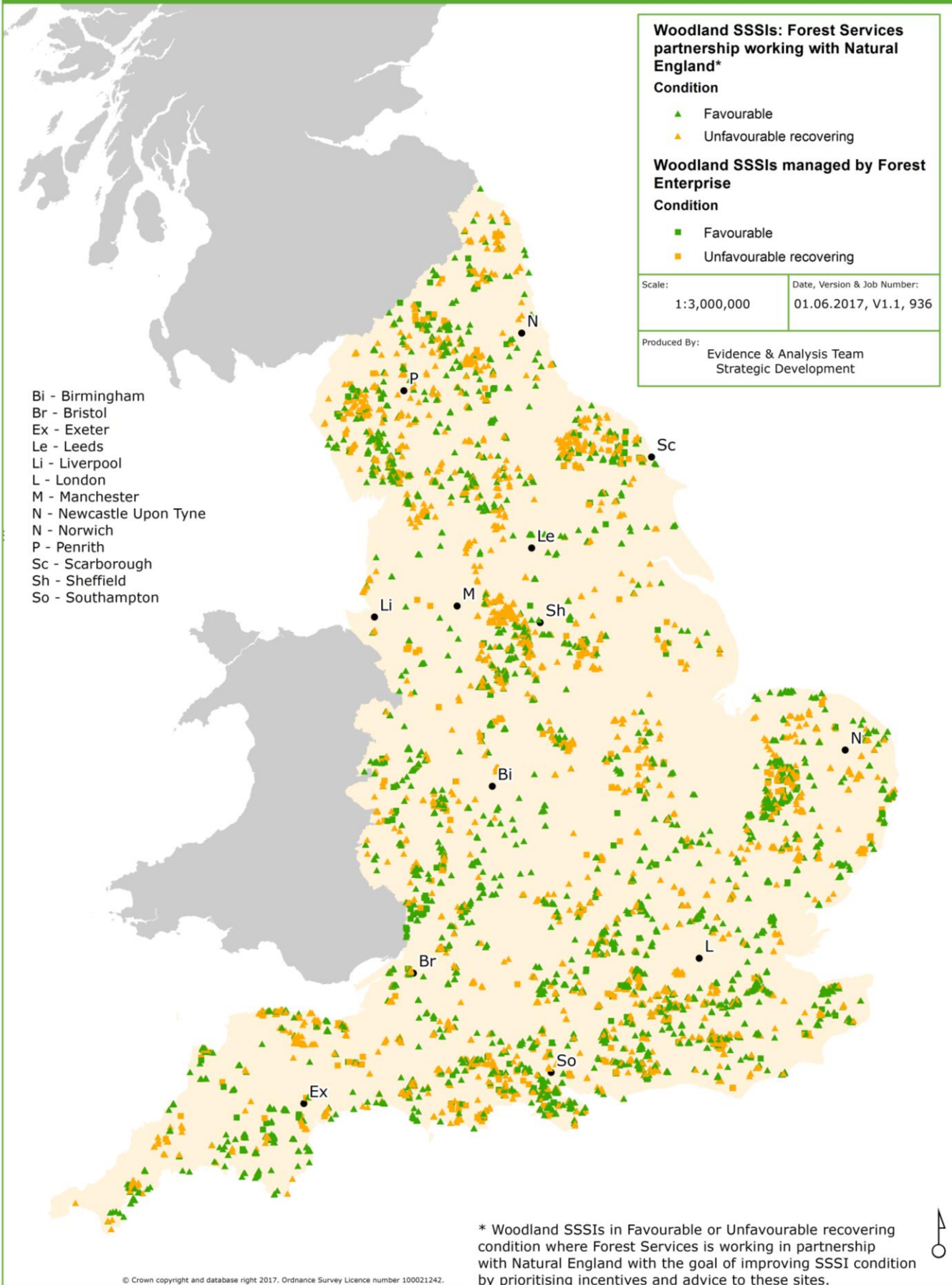


We continue to maintain the high percentage of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in target condition as a result of continued conservation management and attention to issues that might lead to a decline in condition. The area in favourable condition continues to steadily improve and we remain on track to reach 50% by area in this condition status by 2020. This steady improvement is the combined result of natural recovery following key actions allowing for recovery (such as drain blocking in peat mires or the accrual of deadwood in important forest locations) and a sufficient passage of time to allow for natural recovery of condition, alongside a more active programme that continues to address dysfunctional aspects of sites such as river and stream restoration in the New Forest or the reinstatement of appropriate management systems. The levels of professional commitment and expertise across Forest Enterprise England underpin the steady and very satisfactory progress towards reaching, and likely exceeding, the Biodiversity 2020 goals across the Public Forest Estate in England.

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-17 compared to Apr-12	Little or no overall change 
Favourable condition five year trend, Apr-17 compared to Apr-12	Improving 



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 245,659 hectares (ha) out of a total managed land area of 253,334 ha at 1 April 2017.

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

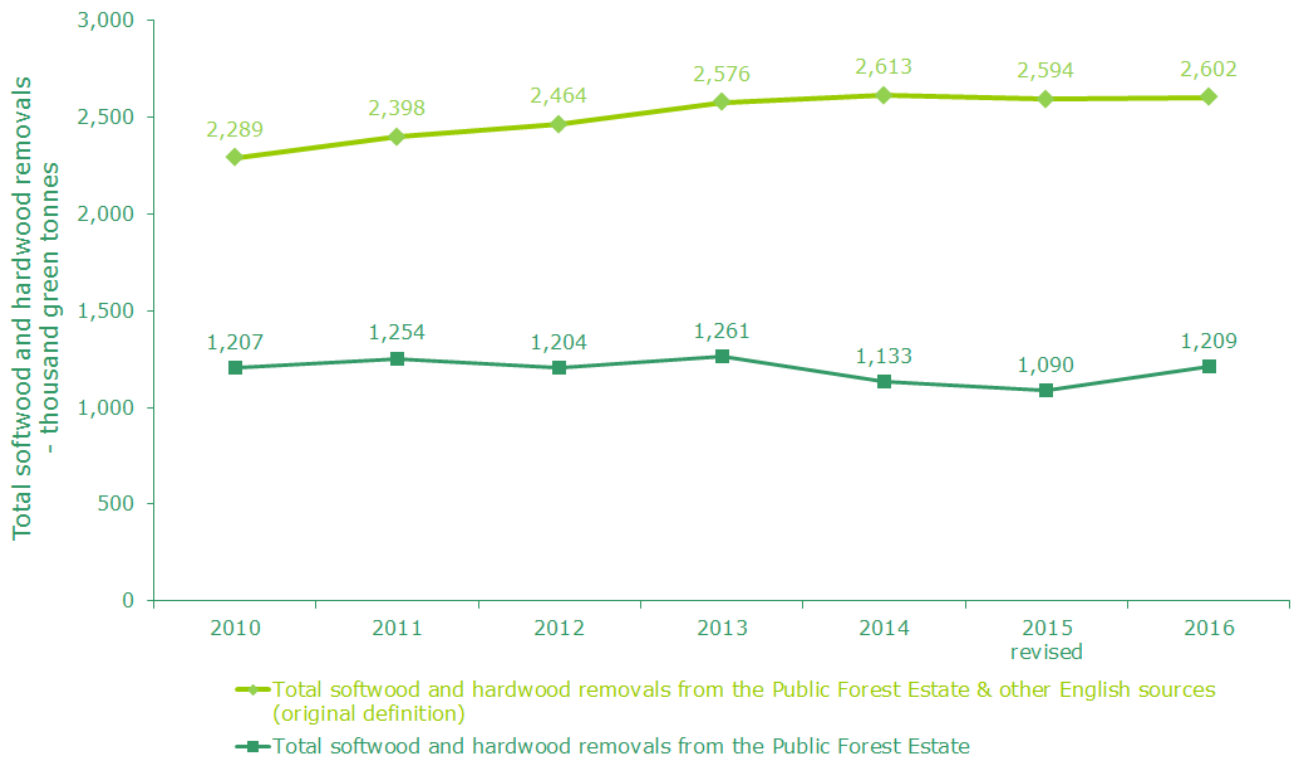
Open Data: The [National Forest Inventory](#) and Public Forest Estate landholding spatial data are available from the [Forestry Commission Open Data site](#).

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

Two year trend **only**: 31-Mar-17 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*

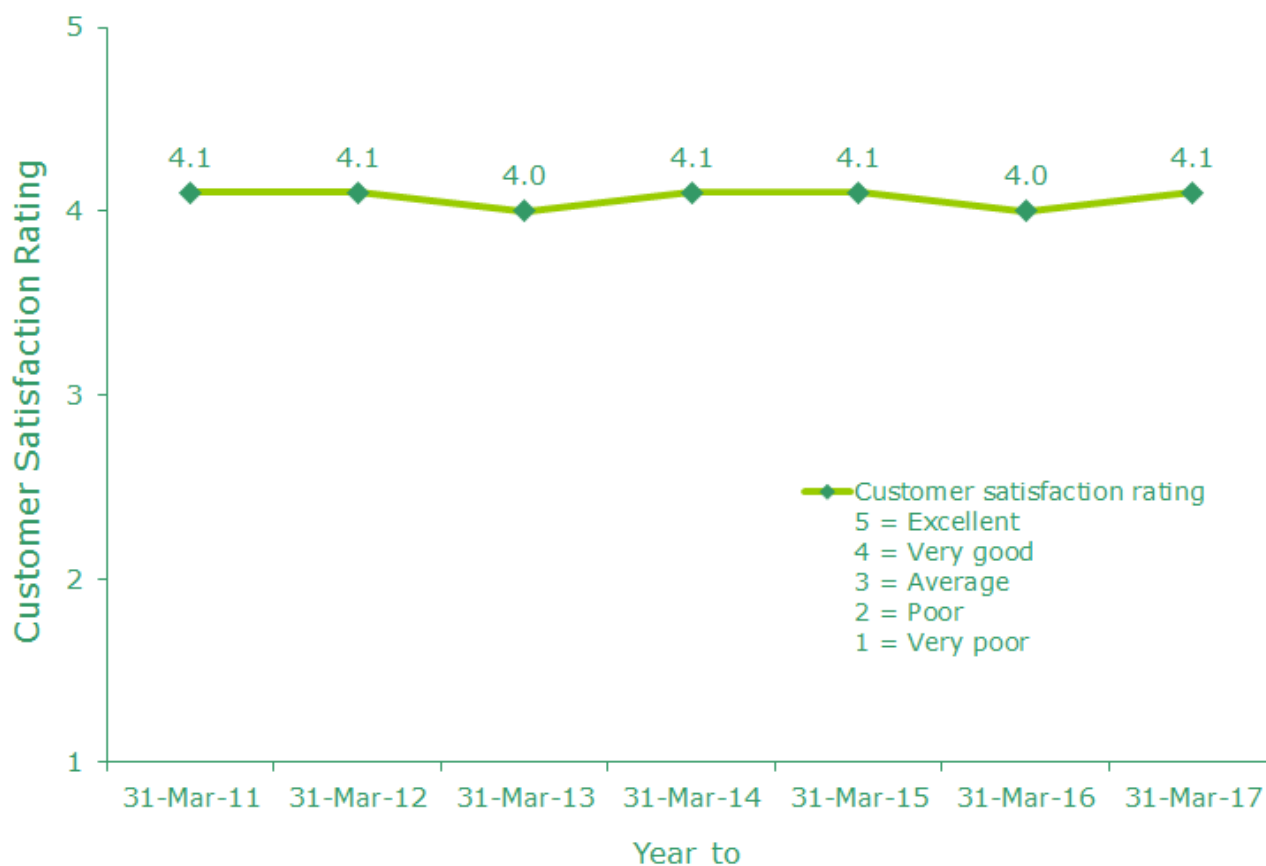
This indicator compared to Forest Enterprise timber production plan

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 Forestry Commission recreation facilities and services was 4.1 in 2016-17, a small improvement on the figure of 4.0 in 2015-16. This is a high figure and demonstrates the continued high quality offer at our [visitor centres](#).

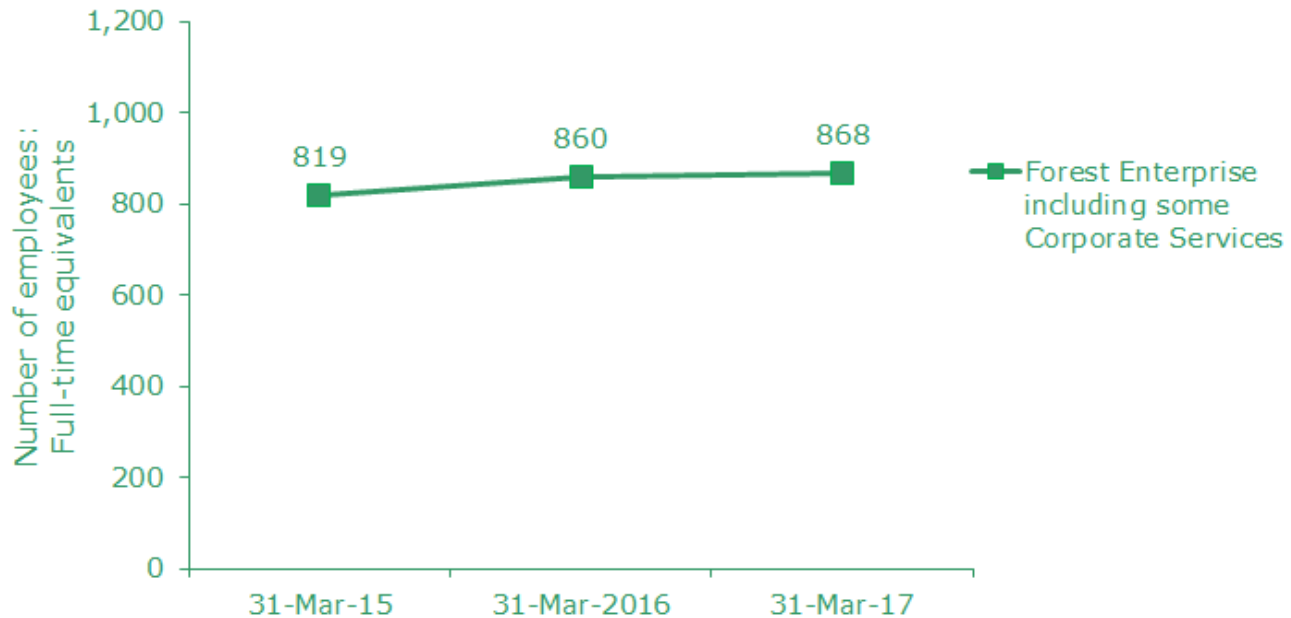
Source: Forest Enterprise administrative data.

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

Five year trend, Mar-17 compared Mar-12

Little or no overall change 

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



The number of employees (full-time equivalents) in Forest Enterprise has increased by 1% to 868 FTEs in the year to 31 March 2017. This is due to the recent ongoing restructuring of the Forestry Commission that is resulting in the devolution of corporate functions (Finance, Human Resources, and Communications) from Forestry Commission England (FCE) to Forest Enterprise England (FEE). The 2017 figure for FEE therefore incorporates staff previously shown within FCE who transferred over on 1 April 2016.

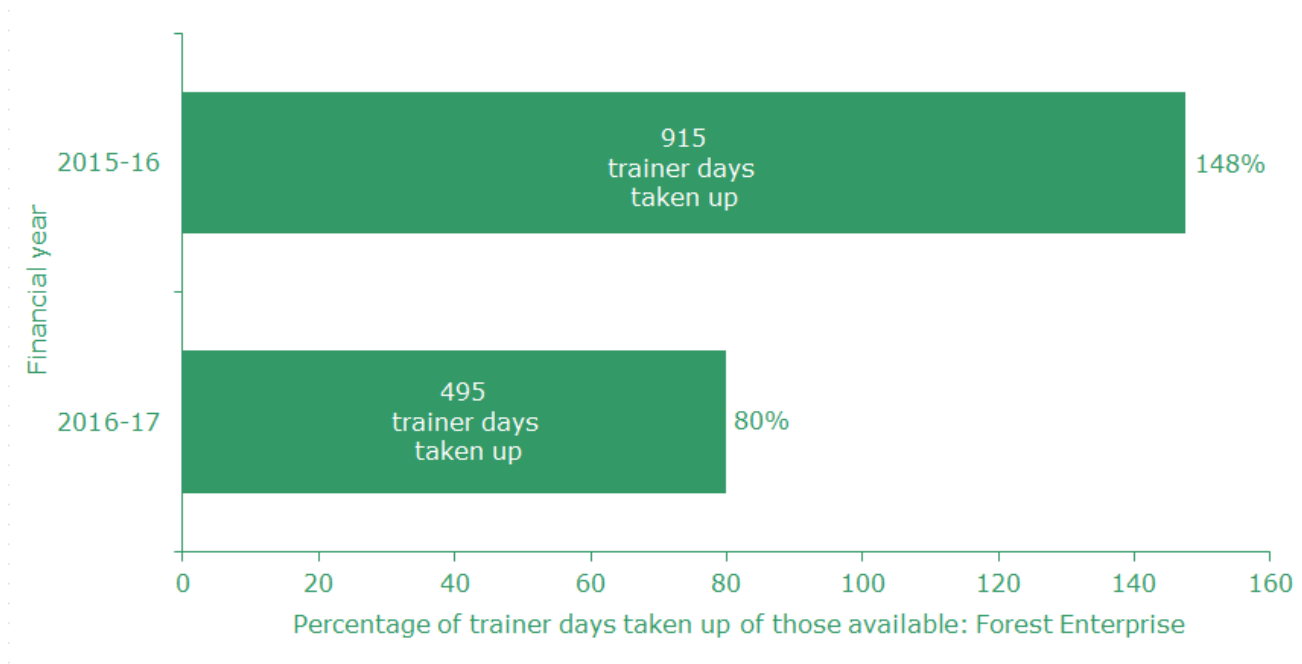
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

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

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data 

Percentage of trainer days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Enterprise



The 2016-17 year was one of transition for the Learning and Development team as it was commissioned out of Central Services. Part of the team helped set up and form the new Health Safety and Technical Training team serving Forestry Commission England only from 1 April 2017. The assimilation process this involved and other project work to support the transition meant that a reduced training and development service was available.

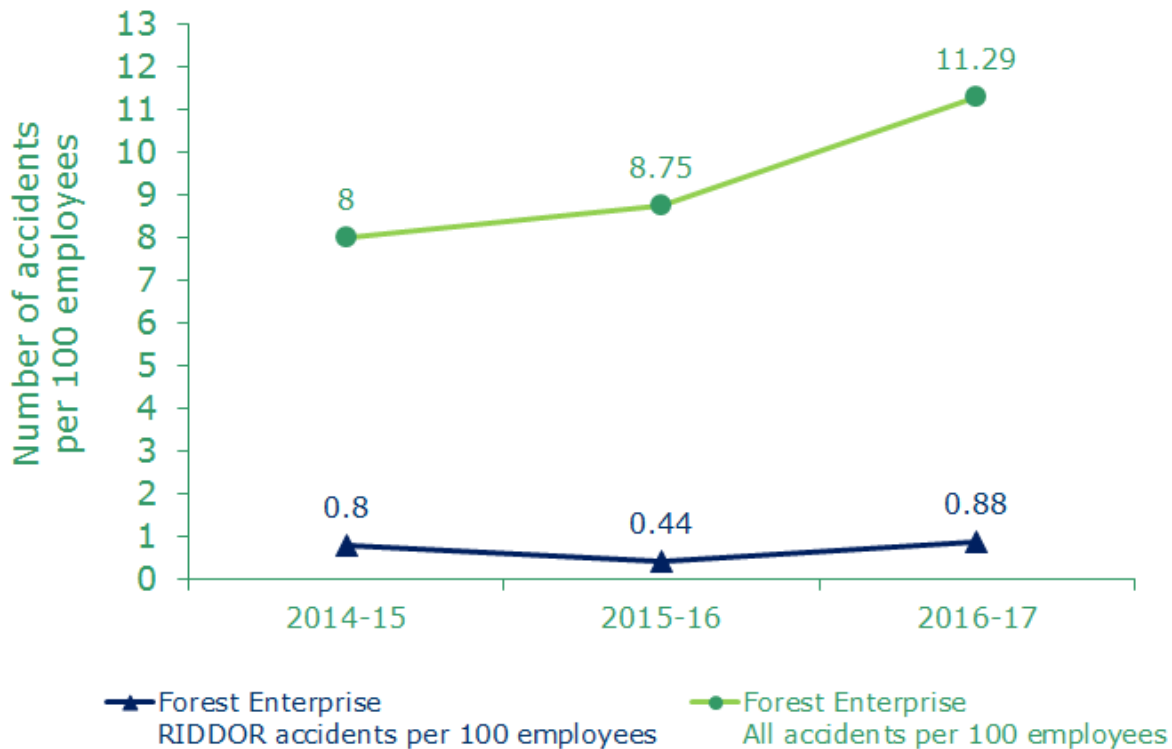
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees in Forest Enterprise*

One year trend **only**, 2016-17 compared to 2015-16

Deteriorating 

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



The number of reported accidents are greater in 2016-17 than the previous year. We believe that, in part, these figures reflect a greater level of accident reporting which is to be welcomed. However the significant increase in RIDDOR accidents is of concern; 7 of these arose from slips, trips, and laceration, while the 8th arose as a result of an employee developing [Lyme disease](#). 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. During 2016-17 we introduced tick repellent clothing for our most 'at risk' staff groups, which should reduce the incidence of tick bites.

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*

Two year trend **only**: 2016-17 compared to 2014-15

Deteriorating ✘

Annex 1: Internal Audit Certificate of Assurance



INTERNAL AUDIT CERTIFICATE OF ASSURANCE

Performance against the Forestry Commission England Annual Indicators for the year to 31 March 2017 has been subject to independent audit by Defra Group Internal Audit, Government Internal Audit Agency.

The reported outturns have been validated by tracing the values of the indicators proposed for publication to relevant source data, to the extent that this was reasonably feasible within the timescale available for the work, or by other appropriate methods, including methodological review, analytical review, reperformance of calculations and interview, in those cases where the former method was not reasonably feasible.

As a result of our work, I am satisfied that the achievements reported by the audited values of these indicators present a true and fair view of the performance of Forest Services England and Forest Enterprise England performance during the year to 31 March 2017 or, where these are different, to the relevant indicators' reporting periods.

Nathan Paget

Nathan Paget - CMIIA, CIA, QiAL, CISA, CISSP, CGEIT, MSc Internal Audit & Mgt.
Acting Head of Internal Audit, Forestry Commission, and
Group Chief Internal Auditor, Defra Group, GIAA.
30 May 2017

Official Statistics

This is an [Official Statistics](#) publication. More information about Official Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority is available from <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.

Forestry Commission England Statistician: David Cross.

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

Front cover: View from [Grizedale Forest](#) over Coniston Water and Coniston in the Lake District, North England Forest District

Part 1: Woodland in South East England

Part 2: Mature oak trees in early autumn

Part 3: Clockwise from top:

- Japanese maple and pine trees in [Giggle Alley](#), Eskdale Green, Cumbria, North England Forest District
- Timber stacks at Highland Water, [The New Forest](#), South England Forest District
- Mountain biker at [Moors Valley Country Park and Forest](#), East Dorset District Council and Forestry Commission
- Children playing at [Alice Holt Forest](#), Hampshire, South Forest District
- Harvester felling oak and ash in Temple Wood, South Lincolnshire, Central England Forest District

Back cover: main image then clockwise from top left:

- Broadleaf woodland adjacent to the all ability trail, [Wendover Woods](#), Buckinghamshire, East England Forest District
- The [Cyril Hart Arboretum](#) (established 1915), [Forest of Dean](#), West England Forest District
- Enjoying the [Go Ape](#) zip wire at [Grizedale Forest](#), Cumbria, North England Forest District
- The [Tree Top Way](#), [Salcey Forest](#), Northamptonshire, Central England Forest District
- Walkers map reading at Long Slade Bottom, [The New Forest](#), Hampshire, South England Forest District
- Families with a Forest Enterprise Recreation Ranger on the New Forest Safari, Hampshire, South England Forest District

15th June 2017/v1

We will consider all requests to make publication content available in alternative formats.

For this, and all other enquiries about this publication please contact:

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