



Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and Woodland Indicators

2015

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and Woodland Indicators 2015

(First Release)

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Introduction

Forestry Commission England's [Corporate Plan 2011-15](#) set out our Key Performance Indicators to show our contribution towards the wider State of England's Woodlands. The Indicators are also covered in our more recent [Corporate Plan 2014-15](#).

This Indicators Report provides the fourth annual monitoring report on all the Indicators which we defined and developed through 2011-12. The most recent [previous report](#) was published in May 2014.

It reflects our key priorities of Protection, Improvement and Expansion of England's woodlands, as set out in the recent [Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement \(January 2013\)](#). Progress since then has been reported in the [Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement Implementation Plan - One Year On \(January 2014\)](#)

This report includes our six Headline key performance indicators (from pages 9). These are reported quarterly and were first published on 28 April 2015 on our [Indicators](#) page. This document also reports on a further 14 Impact indicators (from page 20) and 4 Input indicators (from page 35), by which Forestry Commission England measures its performance. The final section of the document reports on a further 16 State of England's Woodlands indicators that are intended to provide a barometer of trends in the wider forestry sector in England (from pages 41).

All the outturns against these indicators have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

Through 2014-15 we reviewed our full suite of indicators to confirm they remain appropriate to their purpose, and properly reflect the Government's priorities in English forestry.

For recent and future related reports, please visit our website at www.forestry.gov.uk > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

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Evidence and Analysis
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Bristol, 21 May 2015

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Summary of Indicator Assessments

Traffic light assessments of trends have been determined by comparing the value of each indicator at two points in time. The first is the Baseline, normally at 1 April 2011, the start of the Spending Review 2010 period, or as close to that as possible. This value has been compared with the most recently available value, normally at 31 March 2015, four years on. Where indicators are known to be seasonal values for all seasons have been considered. However, only a simple 'rule of thumb' threshold method has been applied to assessments of trends. The standard threshold used is three percent per 4 year period. The traffic lights assessments reflect the overall change in the indicator from the Baseline year to the latest year and do not reflect fluctuations during intervening years. Where the above approach is not feasible, comparison is with the measure of 'success' agreed by the Forestry Commission when the indicator was developed. The assessments reflect only trends over time; there is no assessment of 'position'. In most cases 'little or no overall change' is actually reported where strong performances have been maintained. The approach is simplistic but broadly consistent in principle with the more sophisticated approach used for Defra's [England Natural Environment Indicators](#) (Defra, May 2014).





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

Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 1. Headline Performance Impact and Input Indicators		
Impact Indicator 1: Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)		9
Impact Indicator 4: Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)		11
Impact Indicator 6: Hectares of woodland created (gross)		13
Impact Indicator 13: Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate		15
Input Indicator 4: Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services		16
Input Indicator 6: Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)		18






Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 2. Performance Impact Indicators		
14		
Impact Indicator 2: 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)		20
Impact Indicator 3: Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate		21
Impact Indicator 5: Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat	PAWS on the Public Forest Estate	
	PAWS on other woodland	
	Open Habitat on the Public Forest Estate	
	Open Habitat on other woodland	
Impact Indicator 7: Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects		24
Impact Indicator 8: Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland		25
Impact Indicator 9: Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive "rate my visit" facility		26
Impact Indicator 10: Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate		27
Impact Indicator 11: Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate		28
Impact Indicator 12: Hectares of woodland brought into management by Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant		29
Impact Indicator 14: Area of felling licences issued in the period		31
Impact Indicator 15: Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents)		33
Impact Indicator 16: Number of training events provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees		34
Impact Indicator 17: Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees		35
Impact Indicator 18: Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early		36





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Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 3. Performance Input Indicators		
Input Indicator 1: Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest 1,000)	⋯	37
Input Indicator 2: Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant	✓	38
Input Indicator 3: Grant paid for woodland creation (total and £ per hectare)	✗	39
Input Indicator 5: Amount of grant paid for woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants	✓	40

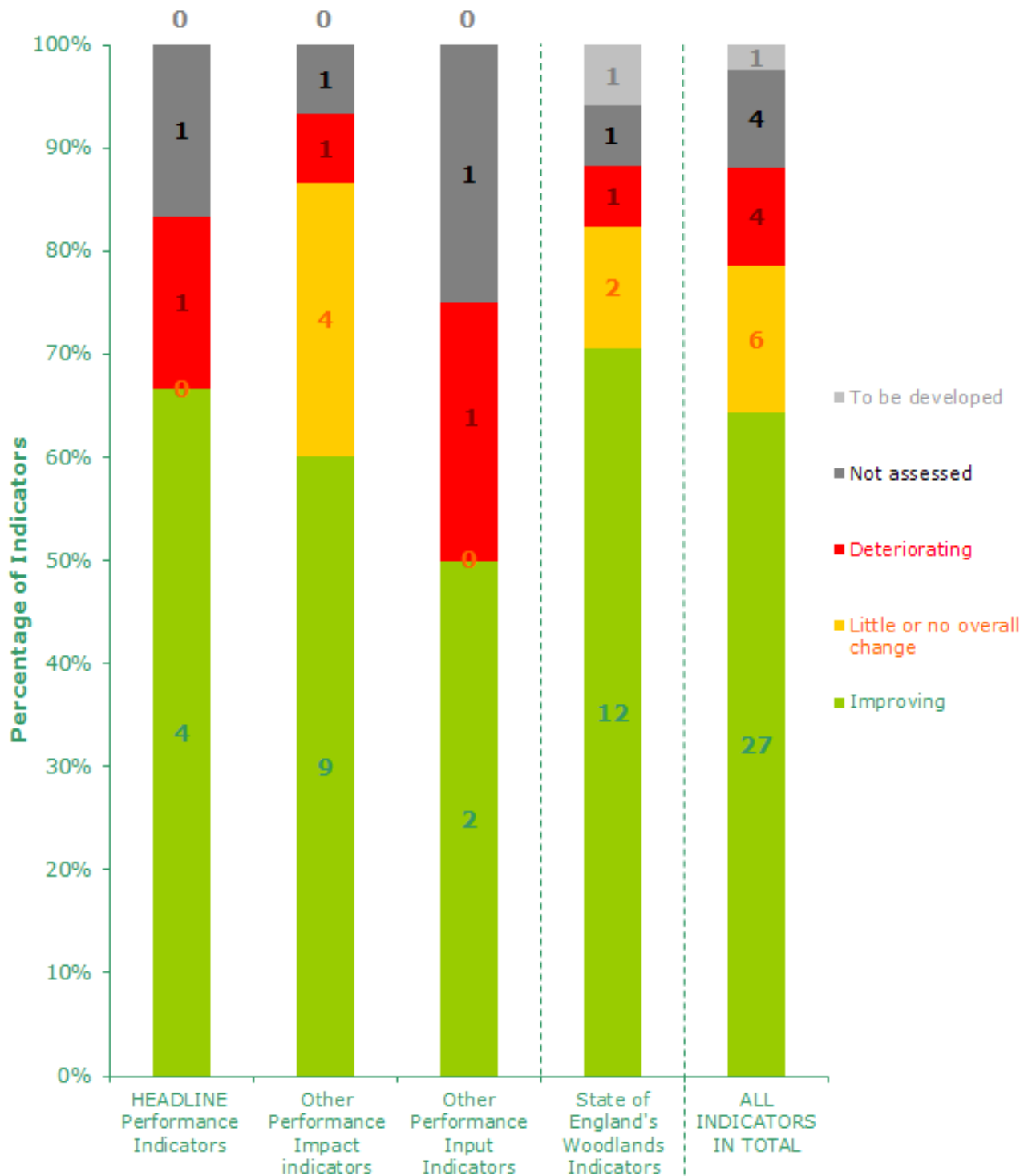
 = Improving
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Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 4. State of England's Woodlands Indicators		
Woodlands Indicator 1: Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years	✓	41
Woodlands Indicator 2: Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape	✓	43
Woodlands Indicator 3: Annual increment in England's forests	⋯	45
Woodlands Indicator 4: Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory	⋯	46
Woodlands Indicator 5: Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition	✓	47
Woodlands Indicator 6: Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data	≈	48
Woodlands Indicator 7: Area of woodland (total and change over time)	✓	49
Woodlands Indicator 8: Carbon captured by English woodlands	✗	52
Woodlands Indicator 9: Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland	≈	53
Woodlands Indicator 10: Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)	✓	54
Woodlands Indicator 11: Number apprentices and university students entering forestry	Apprentices	✓
	University students	✓

Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Woodlands Indicator 12: Gross Value Added from domestic forestry		56
Woodlands Indicator 13: Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources		57
Woodlands Indicator 14: Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested		58
Woodlands Indicator 15: Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)		59
Woodlands Indicator 16: Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed		60

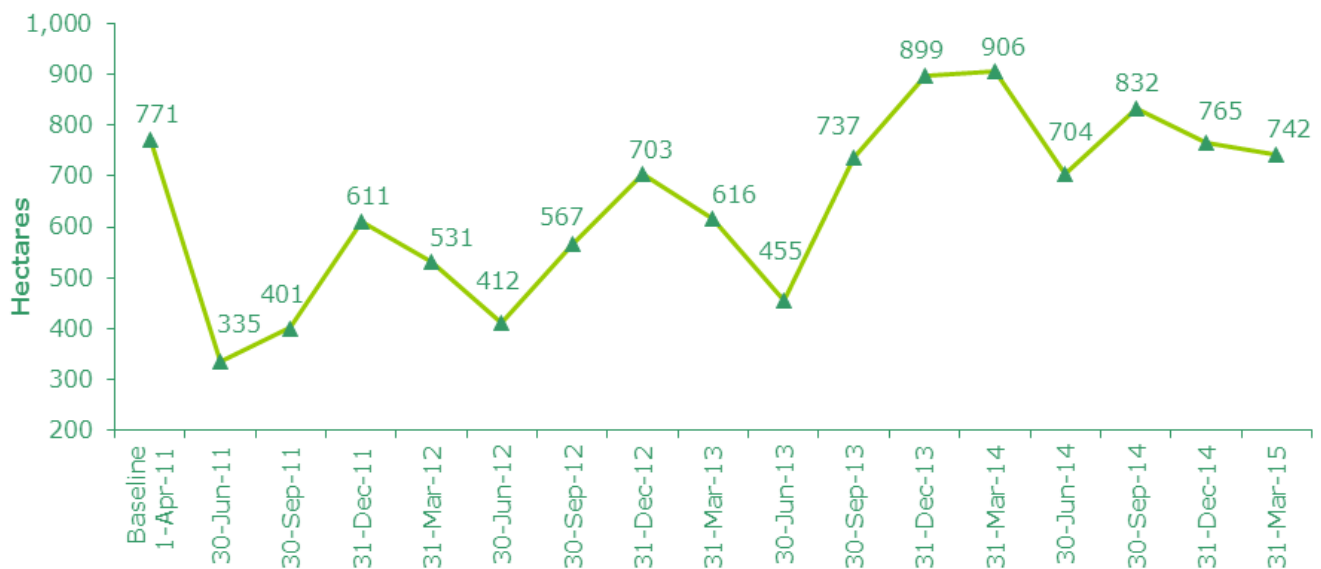
 = Improving
  = Little or no overall change
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Trend Assessments since Spending Review 2010 Baseline: Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and State of England's Woodlands Indicators



Part 1. Headline Performance Impact and Input Indicators

Impact Indicator 1: *Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)*



Position at 31 March 2015: 742 hectares of land requiring treatment.

With no additional findings and increased clearance activity in the period there has been a small reduction in the net area of Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) outstanding.

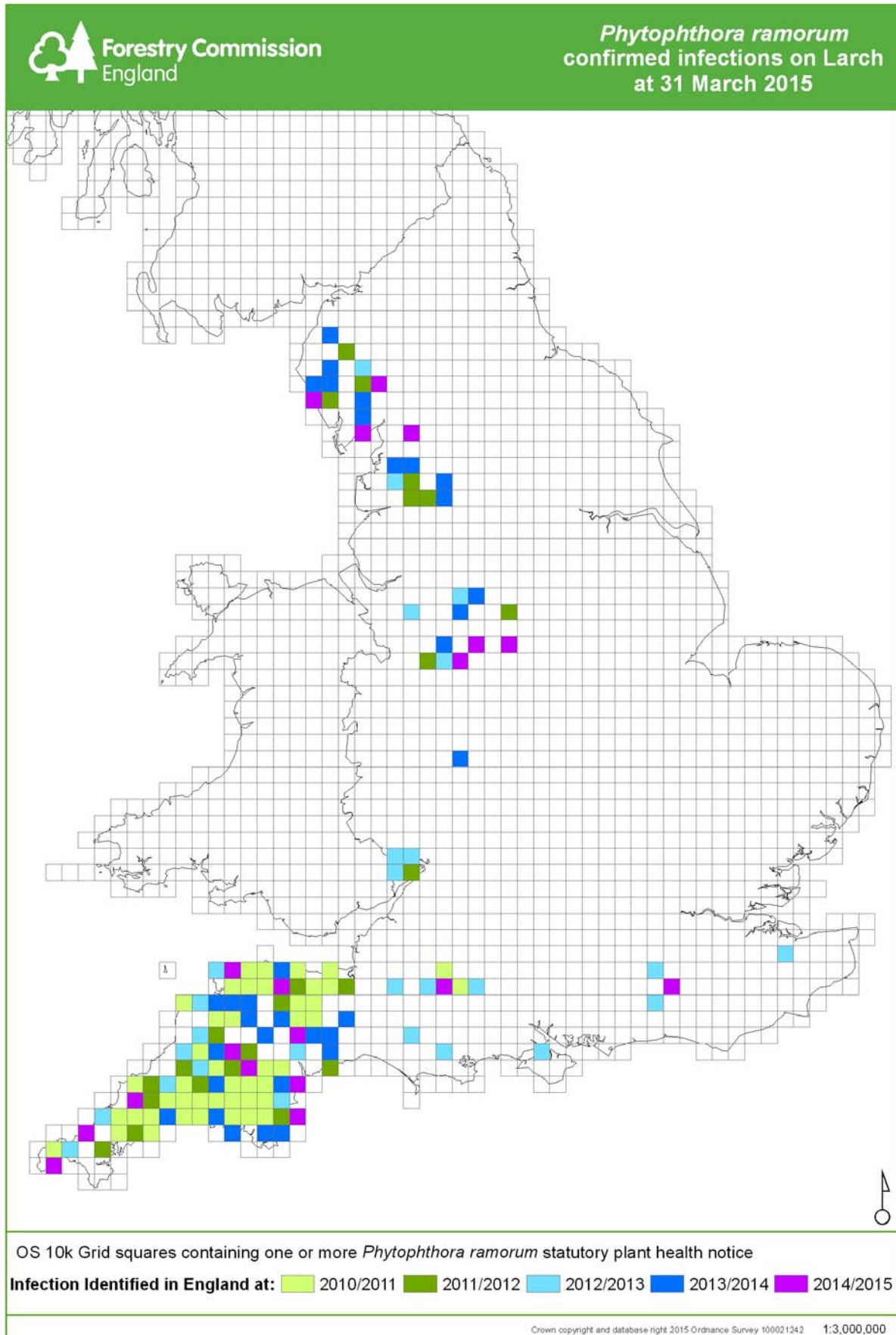
Figures for [ash dieback \(*Chalara fraxinea*\)](#) are not included in this key performance indicator (KPI) report due to Statutory Plant Health Notices not being issued for this.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

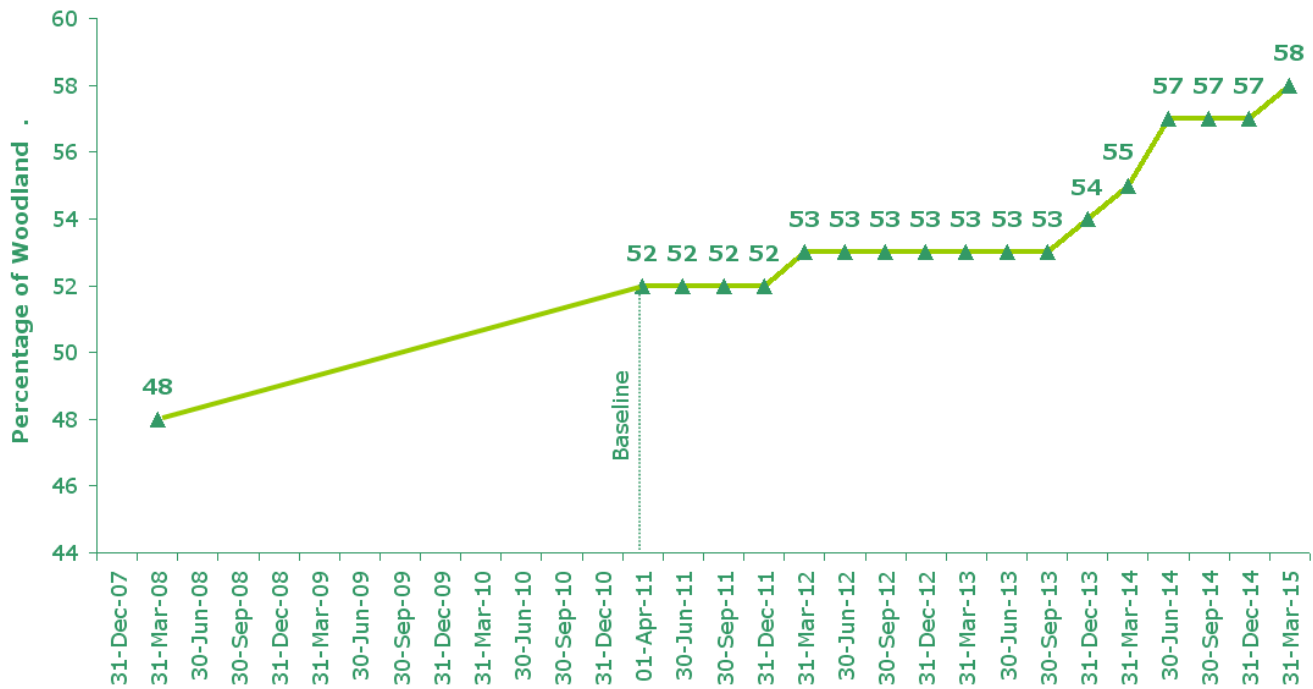
Assessment of change since baseline in *Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)*

This indicator when seasonally adjusted

Deteriorating 



Impact Indicator 4: Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)



Position at 31 March 2015: 58%.

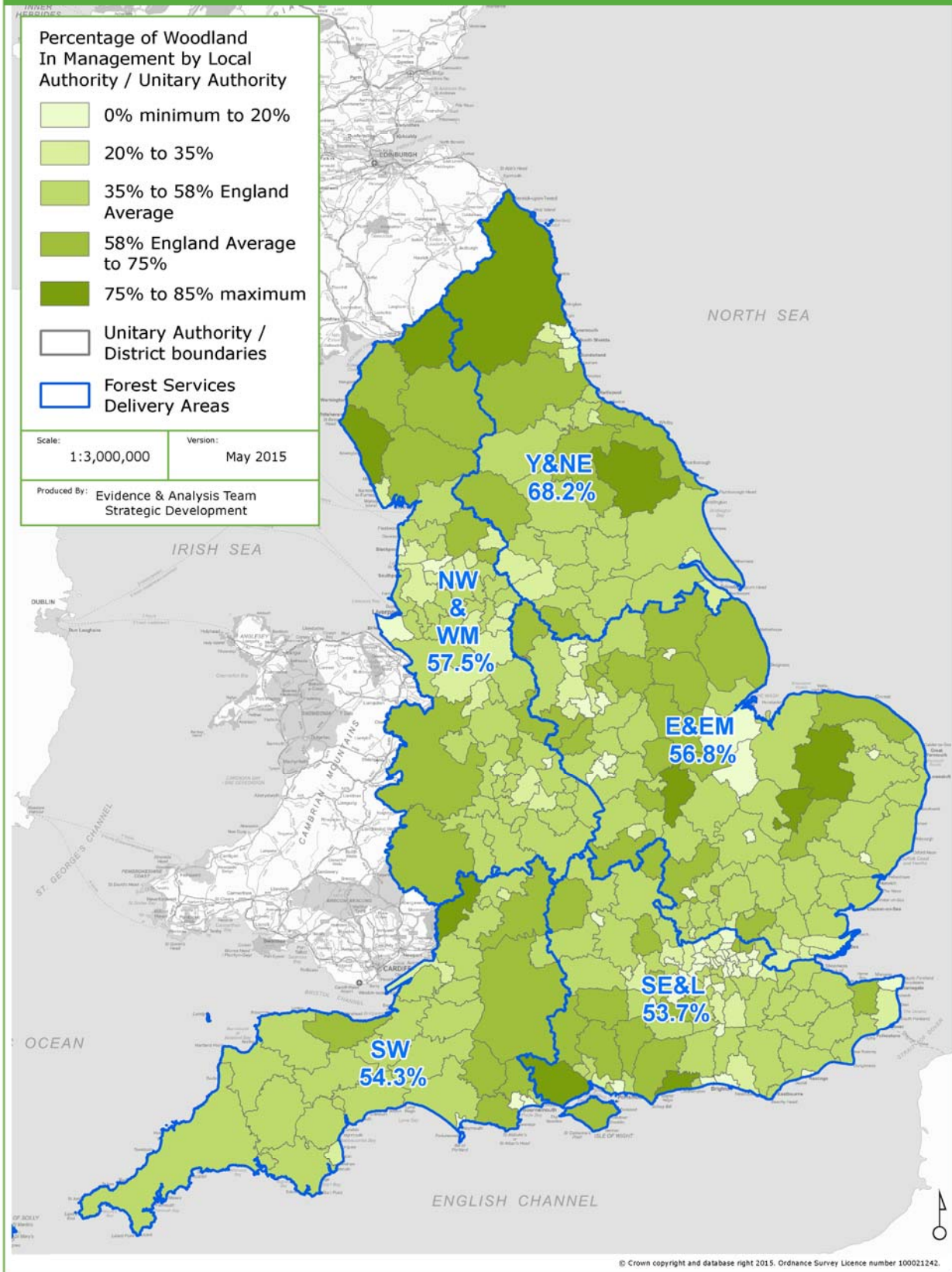
The percentage of woodland in active management has gradually increased since the April 2011 baseline (52%) and has increased since the last quarterly measure. This indicator of woodland in management includes woodlands where there has been Forestry Commission England grant or felling licence activity typically in the previous 15 years – it is recognised that other woodlands might be considered as managed as well.

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

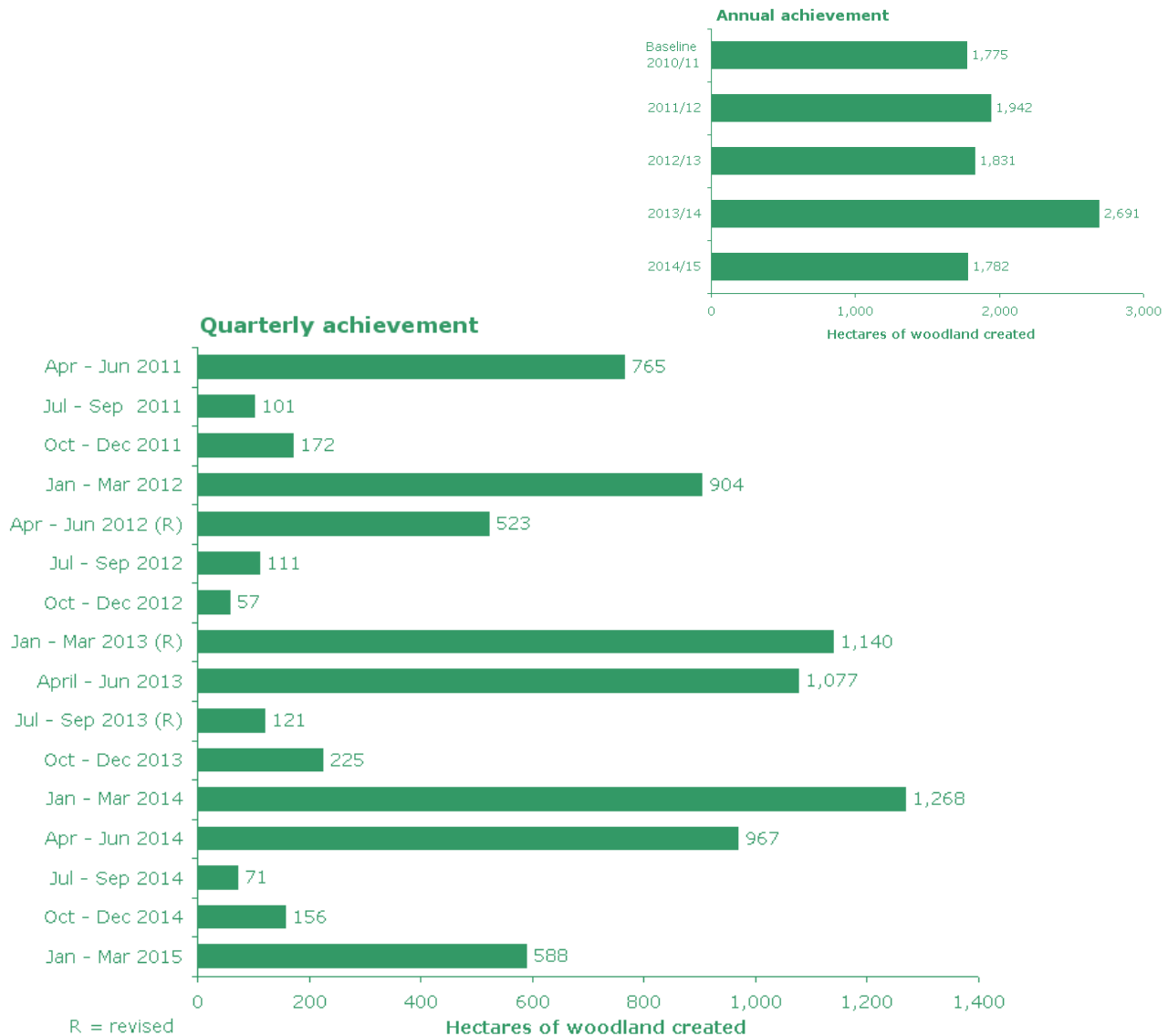
Assessment of change since baseline in *Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)*

This indicator

Improving 



Impact Indicator 6: *Hectares of woodland created (gross)*




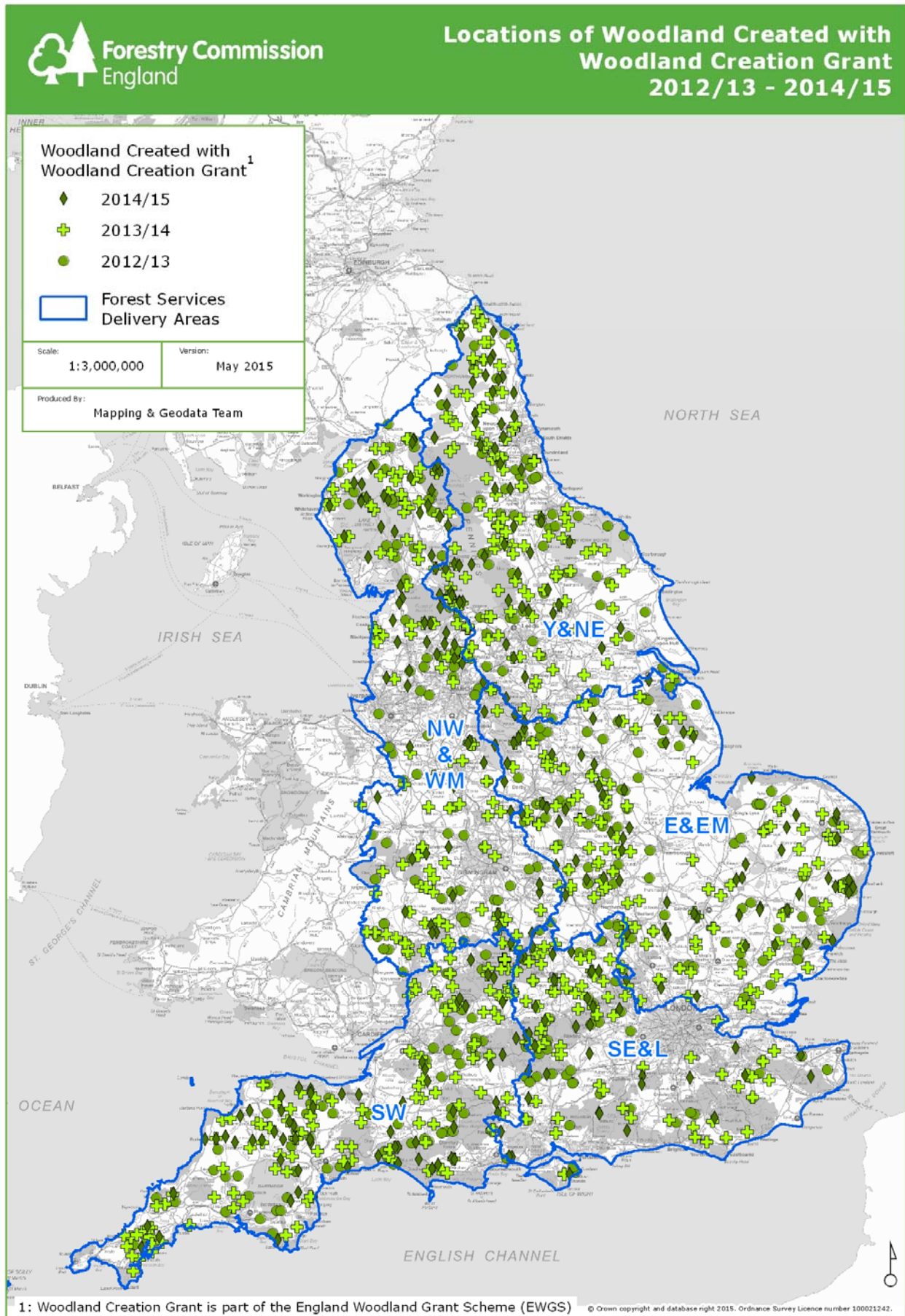
Report for year 2014/15: 1,782 hectares of woodland created, of which some 588 hectares were created during January to March 2015. This annual total of 1,782 hectares created for 2014/15 is in line with the 2010/11 baseline but is a readjustment from the exceptionally strong performance of 2013/14. 2014/15 is the last full year of the English Woodland Grant Scheme before the start of the new Rural Development Programme and Countryside Stewardship. This indicator shows only woodland creation funded through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS). There may be additional woodland creation through other means. Our Area of Woodland indicator includes such woodland creation.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

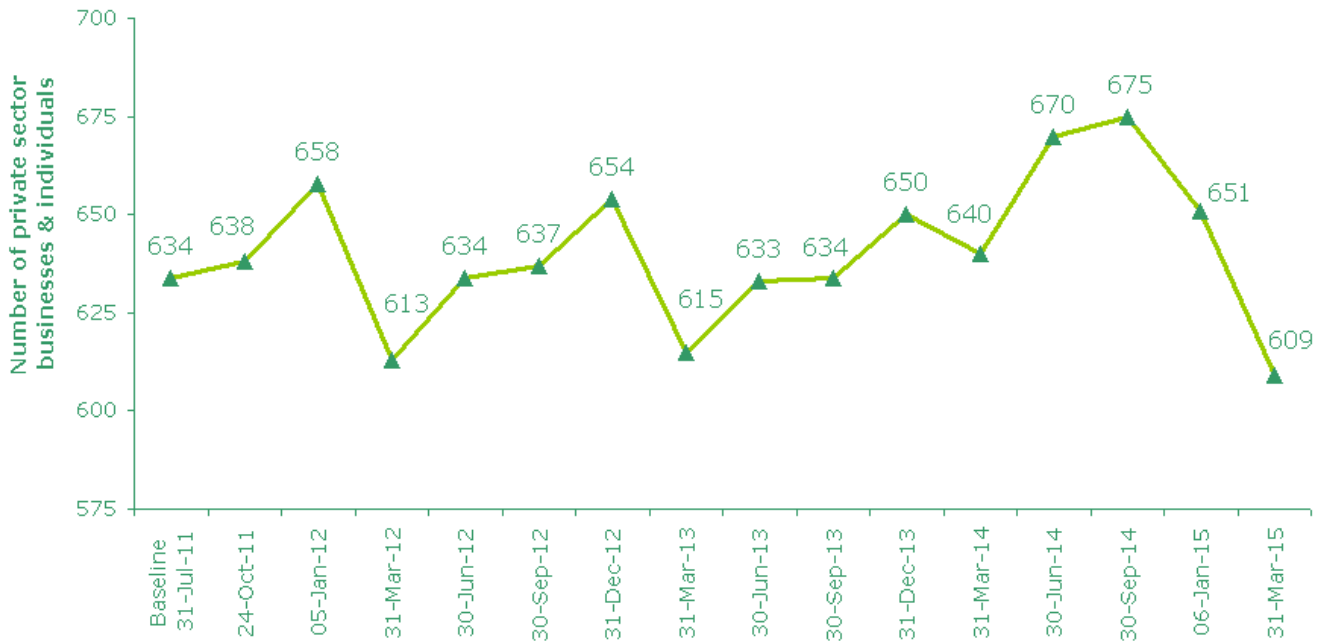
Assessment of change since baseline in *Hectares of woodland created (gross)*

This indicator

Improving 



Impact Indicator 13: *Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate*




Position at 31 March 2015: 609 private businesses and individuals.

This indicator has consistently identified seasonal variation with an underlying trend of improvement in the overall number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate. The March 2015 measure has recorded an increased and unexpected reduction in the normal pattern. Specific reductions have been seen in the category of individual Licences and Permissions, especially sporting agreements which ended in January 2015 and have yet to be renewed. These are low turnover operations with minimal impact on jobs and the rural economy.

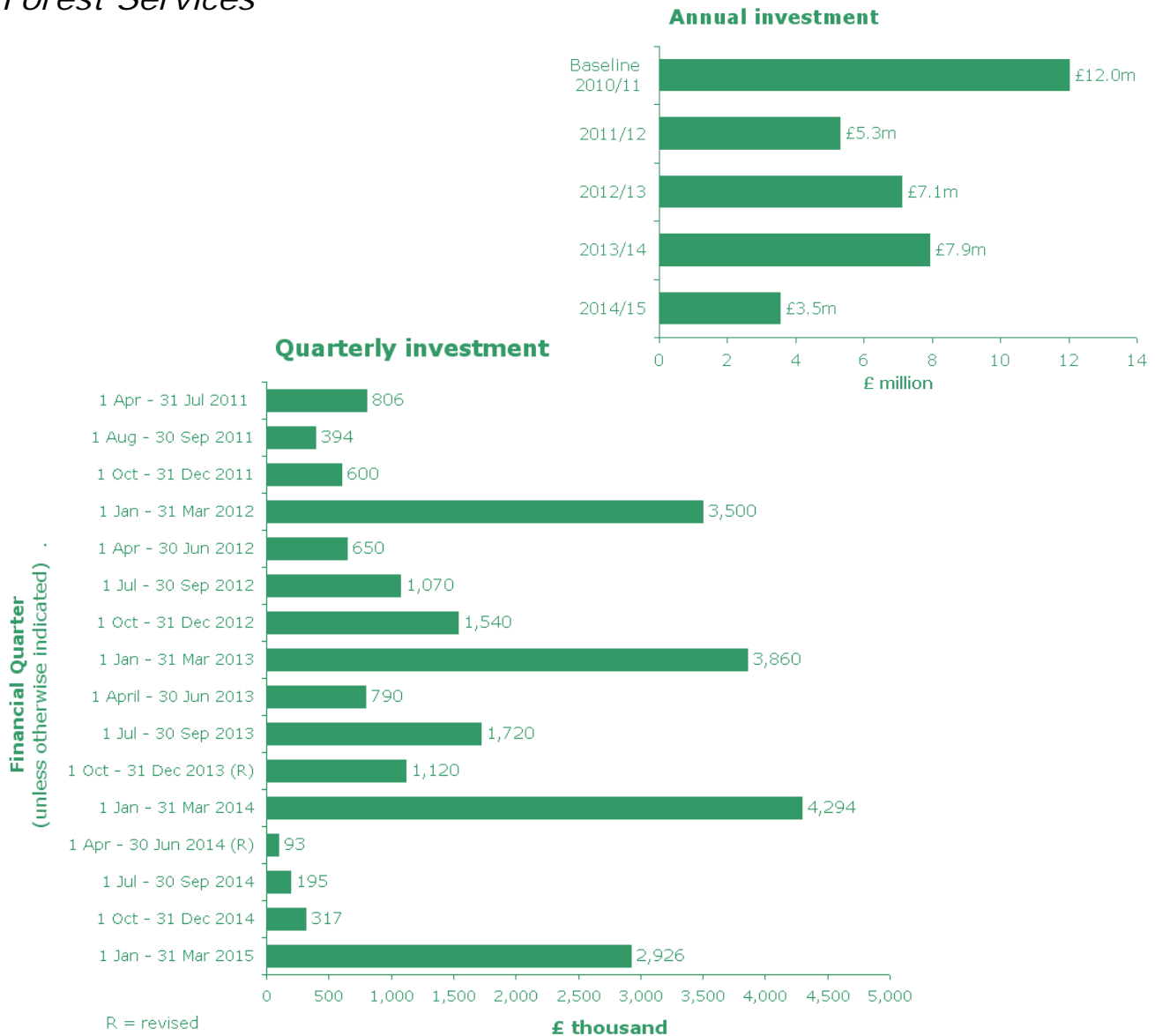
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change since baseline (allowing for seasonality) in *Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate*

This indicator when seasonally adjusted

Improving 

Input Indicator 4: *Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services*

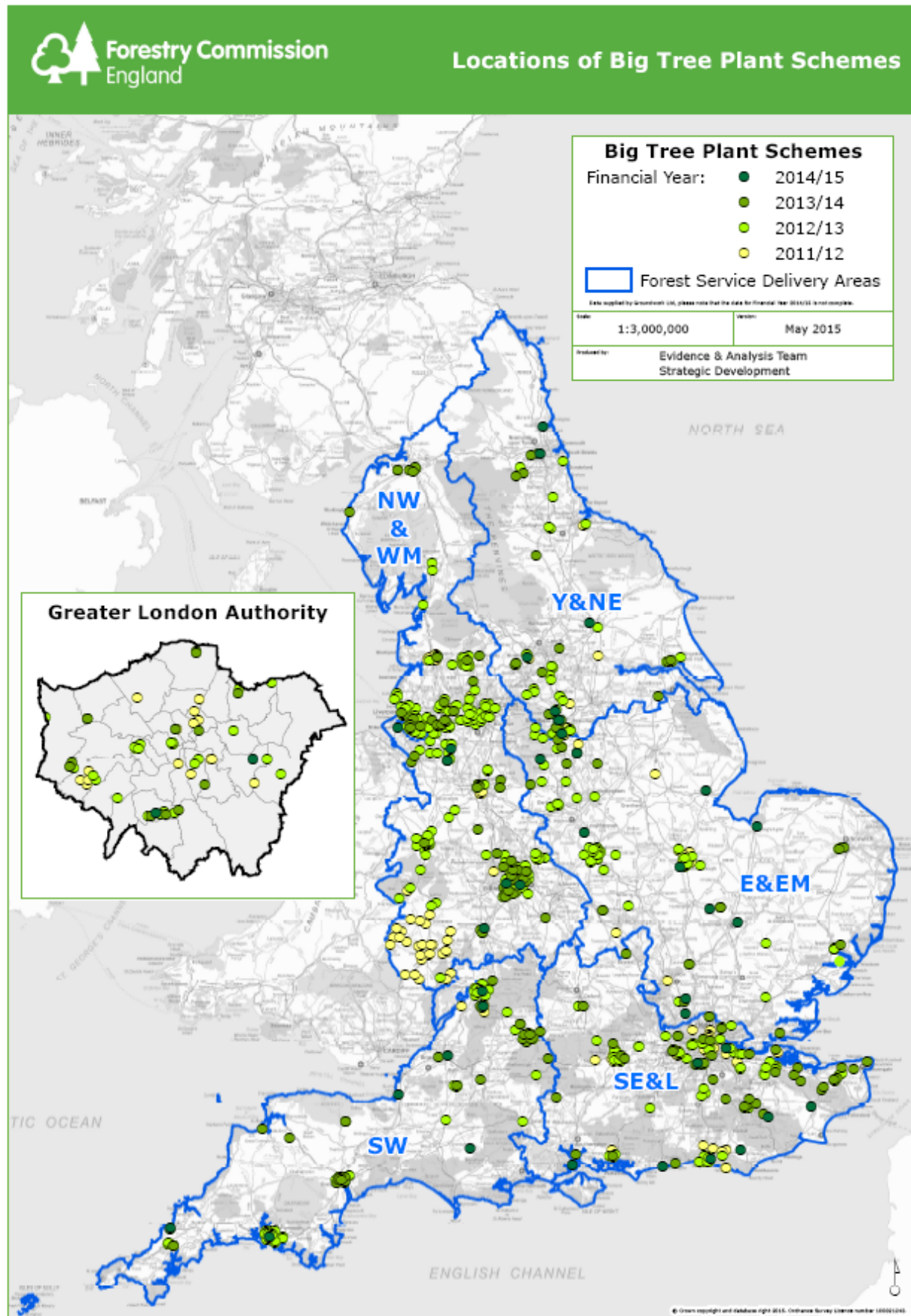


Position at 31 March 2015: £3.531 million invested. The main areas of investment this year were the Newlands 2 Project (£1.2m), the London Mayor's Street Trees Initiative (£738k), the final year of the Big Tree Plant (£930k), managing sustainable deer populations (£239k), a Forestry Productivity Initiative (£159k) to develop sector capacity to benefit from business support funding and the Forestry Skills Initiative (£75k). Other investments have included Grown in Britain (£35k), Atlantic Gateway (£10k), Ward Forester (£10k) and the support for the Timber Transport Forum (£2k).

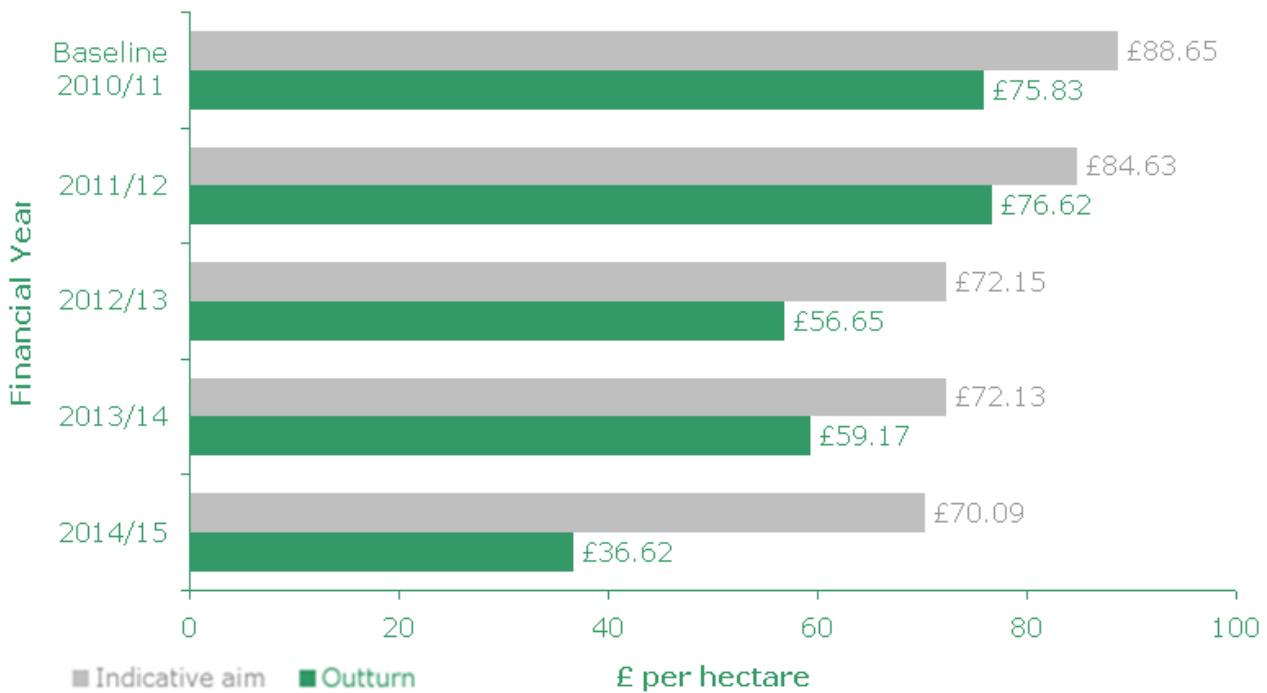
Source: Based on Forestry Commission accounts.

Assessment of change since baseline in *Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services*

This indicator	Not assessed due to ongoing changes in Forest Services finances
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Input Indicator 6: *Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)*



Forecast performance is better than plan as Forest Enterprise England is forecasting a net operating cost of £9.2m against a plan cost of £17.8m. The forecast net operating cost is lower than plan due to current trading conditions.

The forecast figure of £36.62 per hectare for 2014/15 is better than the 2013/14 outturn figure as a result of the current trading conditions relative to 2013/14.

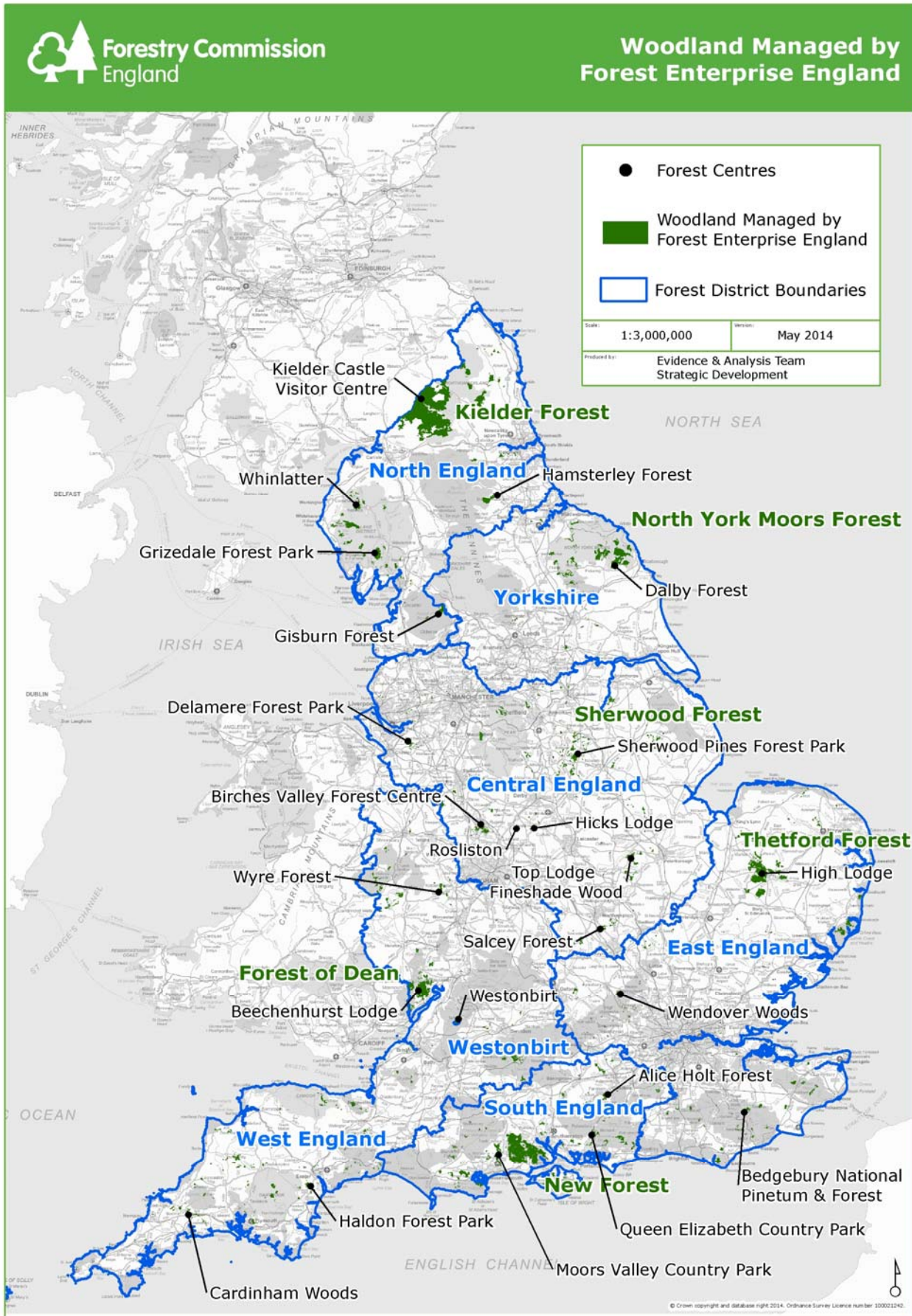
Final adjustments to the *Annual Report and Accounts* may change the outturn.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission accounts.

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

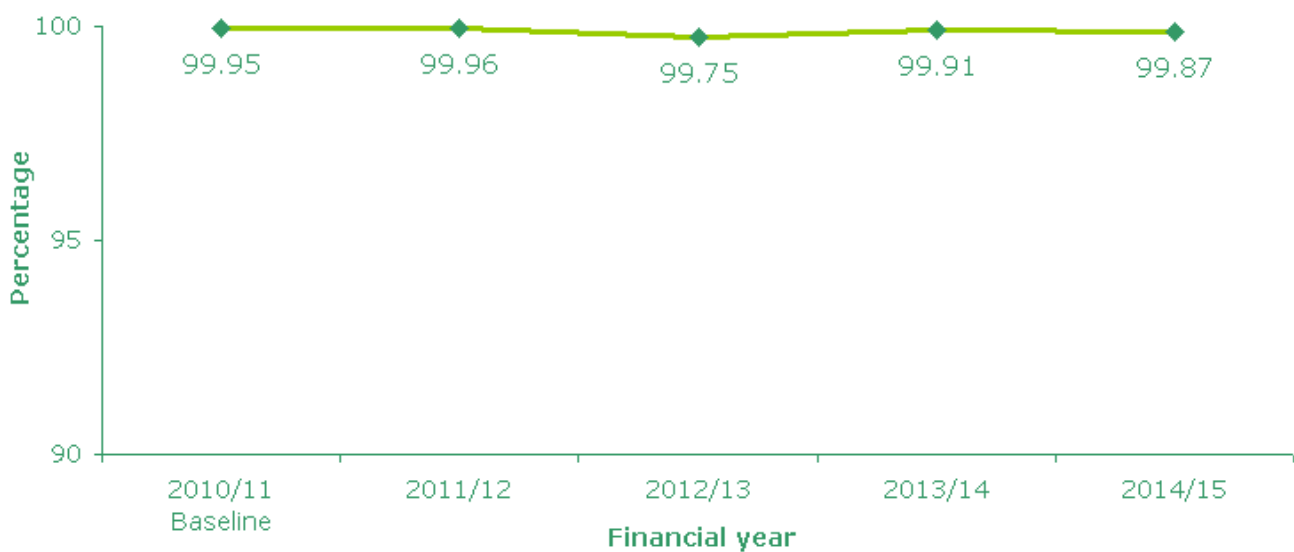
This indicator

Improving 



Part 2. Performance Impact Indicators

Impact Indicator 2: *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)*



Very strong and consistent performance. This high level of compliance with the Forestry Act is an indicator of the public's understanding of the legislation and the quality of advice and guidance given by the Forestry Commission's Woodland Officers and [website](#).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

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

This indicator


Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 3: *Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate*

	1 April 2011 Baseline	31 March 2012	31 March 2013	31 March 2014	31 March 2015
UKWAS Certification Held?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Forestry Commission was the world’s first state forest service to have its entire estate certified by the [Forestry Stewardship Council](#) in 1999; we have maintained this certification since.

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

Assessment of change from baseline in <i>Maintain UKWAS certification on the Public Forest Estate</i>	
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 5: *Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat*

	Baseline 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)					
On the Public Forest Estate	Not available as methodology new for 2011/12	2,488 hectares worked between 1 April 2011 and 31 December 2011	875 hectares worked between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012	3,230 hectares worked between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013	2,207 hectares worked between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014
On other woodland	361 hectares restored	405 hectares restored	916 hectares restored	1,172 hectares restored	1,432 hectares restored
Hectares of open habitats restored or created					
On the Public Forest Estate	A gross increase of 280 hectares of Priority Open Habitat, taking the total to 17,329 ha at 31 Mar 2011	93 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats	119 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats	213 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats	70 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats
On other woodland	Estimated 613 hectares allowing for tree cover in one large open habitat restoration scheme	642 hectares approved for open habitat creation	341 hectares approved for open habitat creation	692.5 hectares approved for open habitat creation	273 hectares approved for open habitat creation

On the Public Forest Estate:

We remain on track to deliver agreed areas (or actions aimed at progress towards) both PAWs restoration and open habitat restoration as found in Forest Plans across the Public Forest Estate.

On Other Woodland:


- 1) The area of PAWs restored (1,432 hectares) has increased from that in 2013/14 (1,172 ha) sustaining the increase in year on year performance. This positive

trend is supported by a buoyant timber and fuel wood market in combination with the incentives promoting conversion to native broadleaved trees.

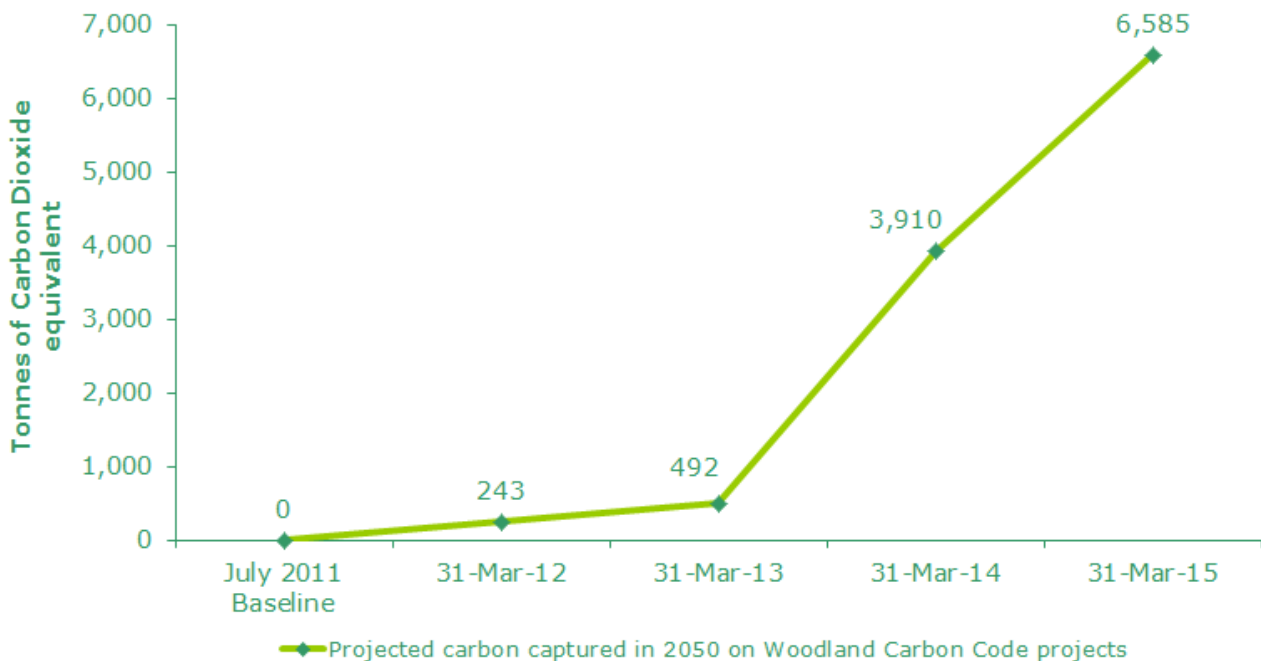
- 2) The 273 hectares of open habitat creation marks a decrease from the 692.5 hectares in 2013/14. The average for the last five years (including the baseline year) is 512 hectares per year. This work contributes to the objectives of the [Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement](#) (published in January 2013 and which reaffirmed the Open Habitats Policy).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat

PAWS: On the Public Forest Estate	Improving 
PAWS: On other woodland	Improving 
Open Habitats: On the Public Forest Estate	Improving 
Open Habitats: On other woodland	Improving 

Impact Indicator 7: Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects



At 31 March 2015, 43 projects were validated to the Woodland Carbon Code, compared with 18 in 2014. The 43 projects are expected to sequester 6,585 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2050 (compared with 3,910 tCO₂e in 2014), and a total of 324,000 tCO₂e up to 2050 (compared to 197,000 tCO₂e last year). A further 68 projects are currently registered and going through the validation process. Together the projects registered and validated will sequester almost 1.3 Million tCO₂e over their lifetime (up to 100 years).

Note: All figures indicate total sequestration of projects (ie the amount claimable plus the amount set aside in a pooled buffer in case of future loss).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

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

This indicator	Improving 
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Impact Indicator 8: *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland*



The total priority population with access to a woodland of more than 20 hectares in size within 4 km (2.5 miles) remains fairly static compared to last year. This follows a positive increase of about 4% in the percentage with such access since the baseline in 2011. As a result now approximately two out of every three people living in priority places – the more deprived parts of English towns and cities - have access to at least one such woodland.

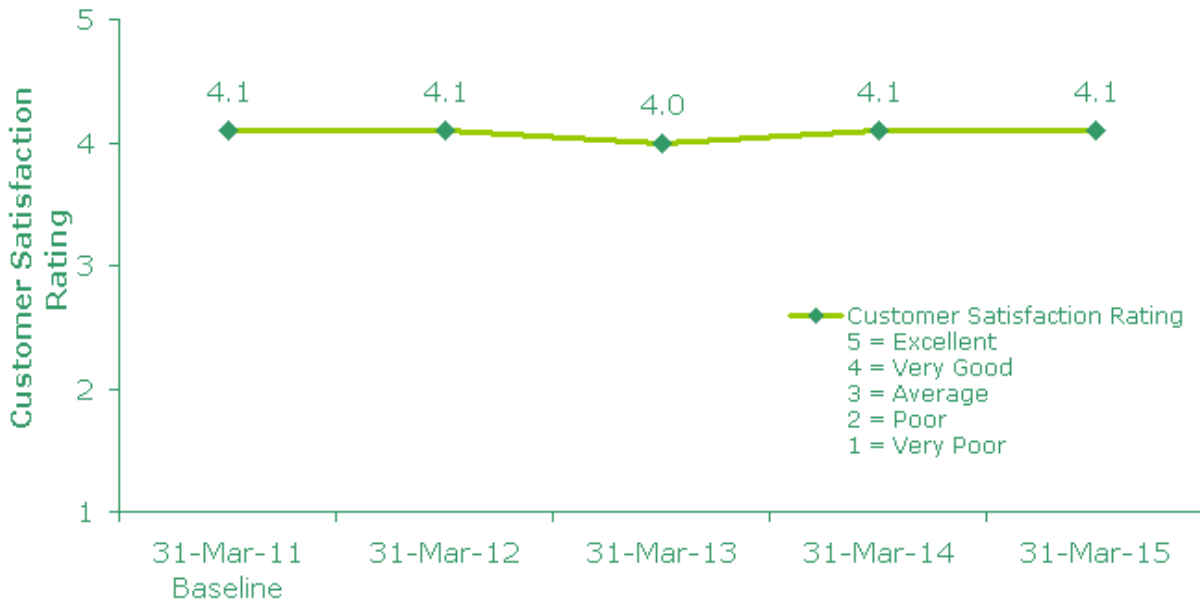
Source: Based on Woods for People (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), Census 2001 (Office for National Statistics) and the [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (Communities and Local Government)

Assessment of change since baseline in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland*

This indicator

Improving 

Impact Indicator 9: *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 the same as the 2014 figure. This is a high figure and demonstrates the continued high quality offer at our [visitor centres](#).

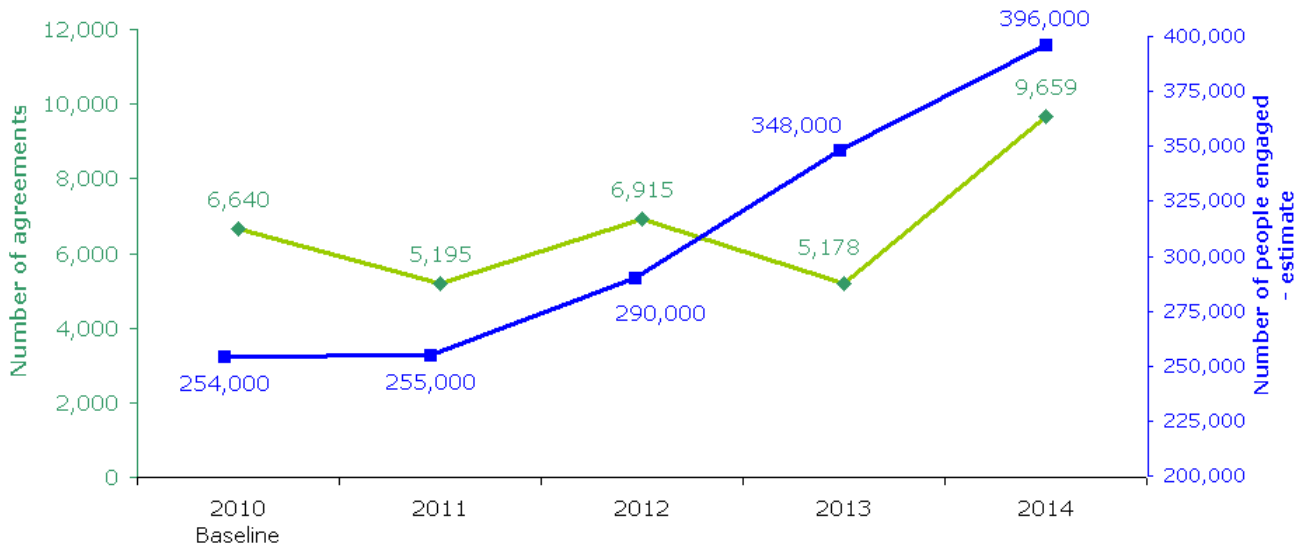
Source: Based on Forestry Commission England administrative data

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

This indicator

Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 10: Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate



Forestry Commission England issues permissions to groups and individuals for a wide range of activities from large sporting events to small scale research studies. This third party activity provides a measure of the wealth of activity and in 2014 we issued 9,659 permissions involving 396,124 people in activity on the Public Forest Estate.

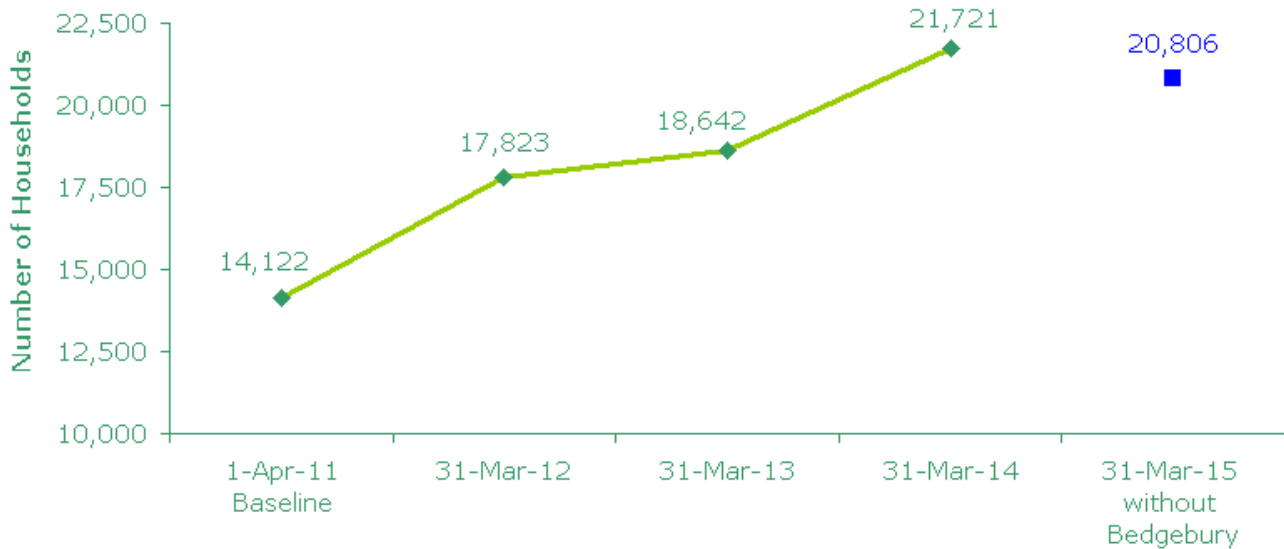
Source: Based on Forestry Commission England administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate*

This indicator – number of agreements element assessed.
The number of people engaged element is also Improving.

Improving 

Impact Indicator 11: *Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate*




There has been a 47% increase in the number of households in the [Discovery Pass](#) scheme since the 1 April 2011 baseline, with some 20,806 passes sold in the year to 31 March 2015. The figures shown have been revised this year so as to exclude [Bedgebury](#), that is now instead a Friends of Bedgebury membership.

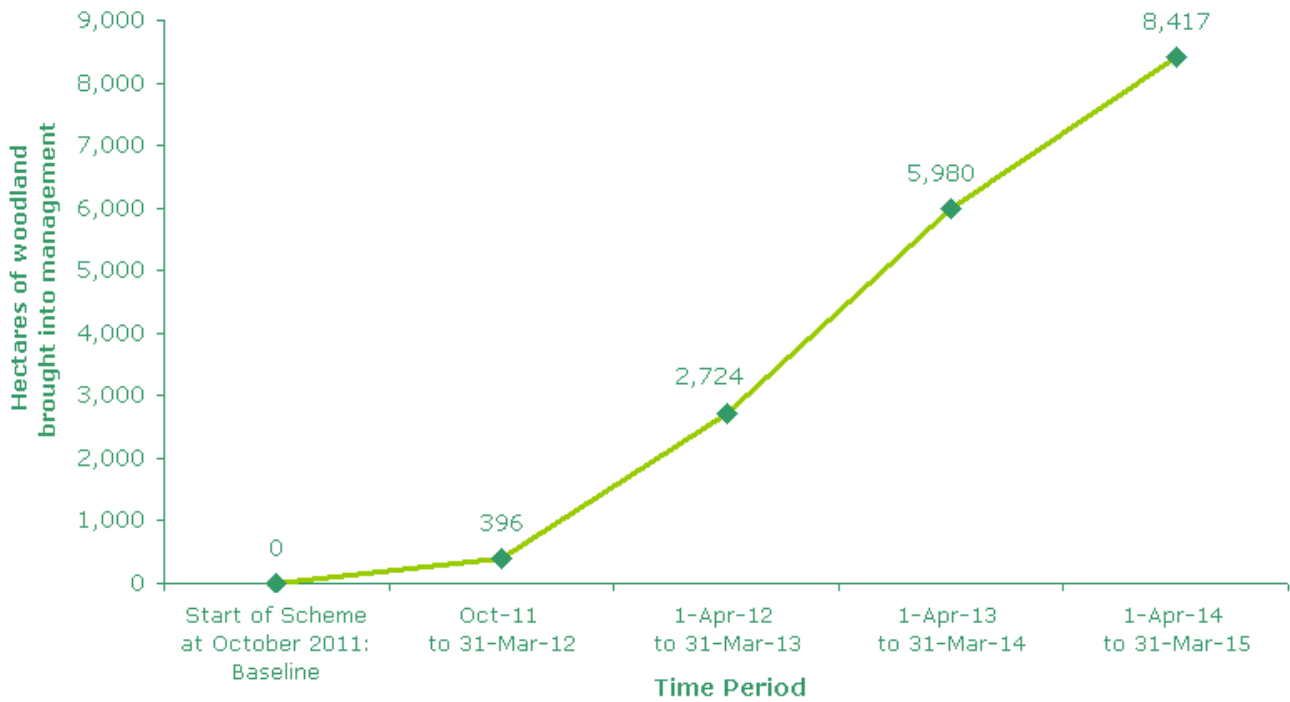
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate*

This indicator


Improving 

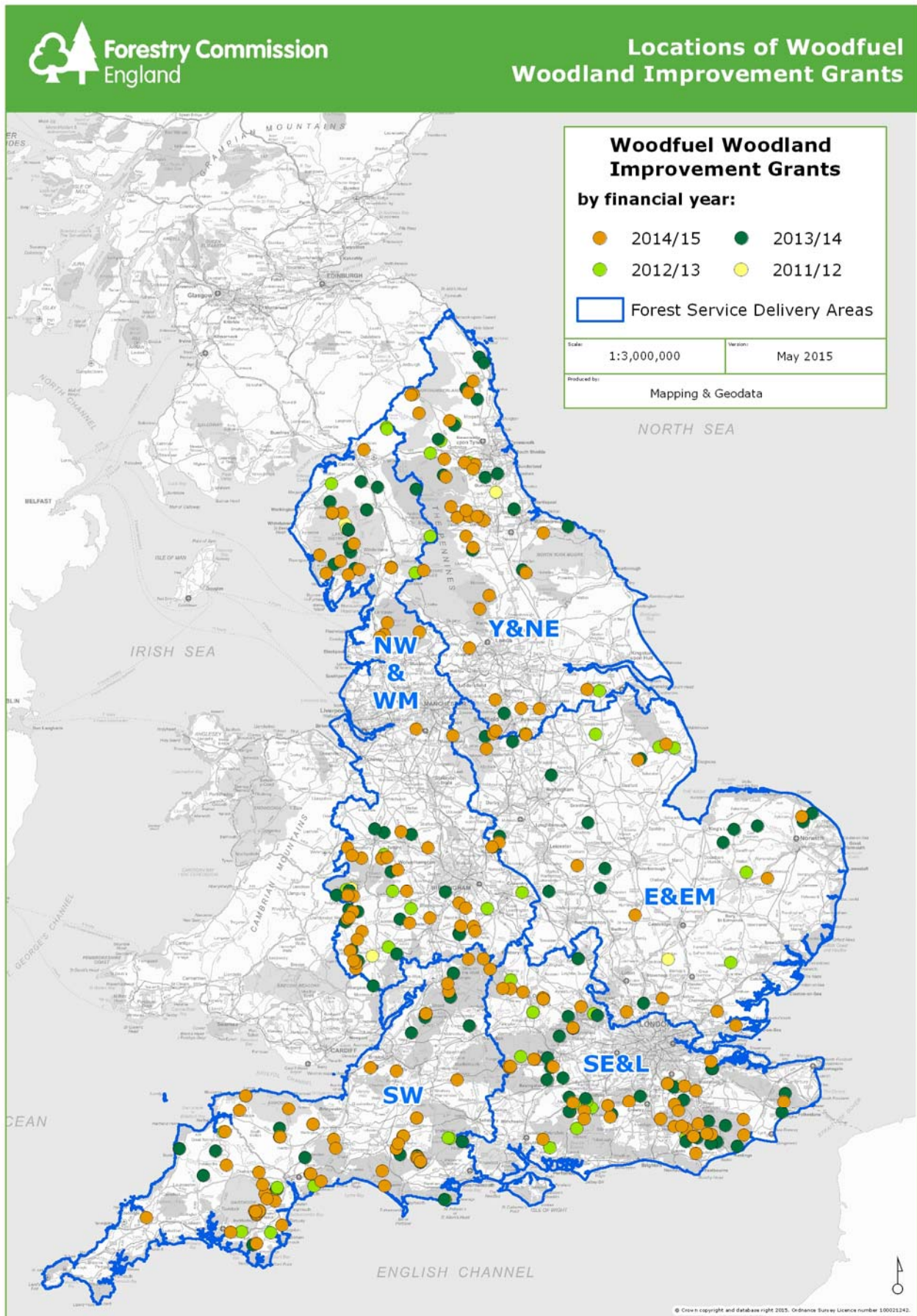
Impact Indicator 12: Hectares of woodland brought into management by Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant



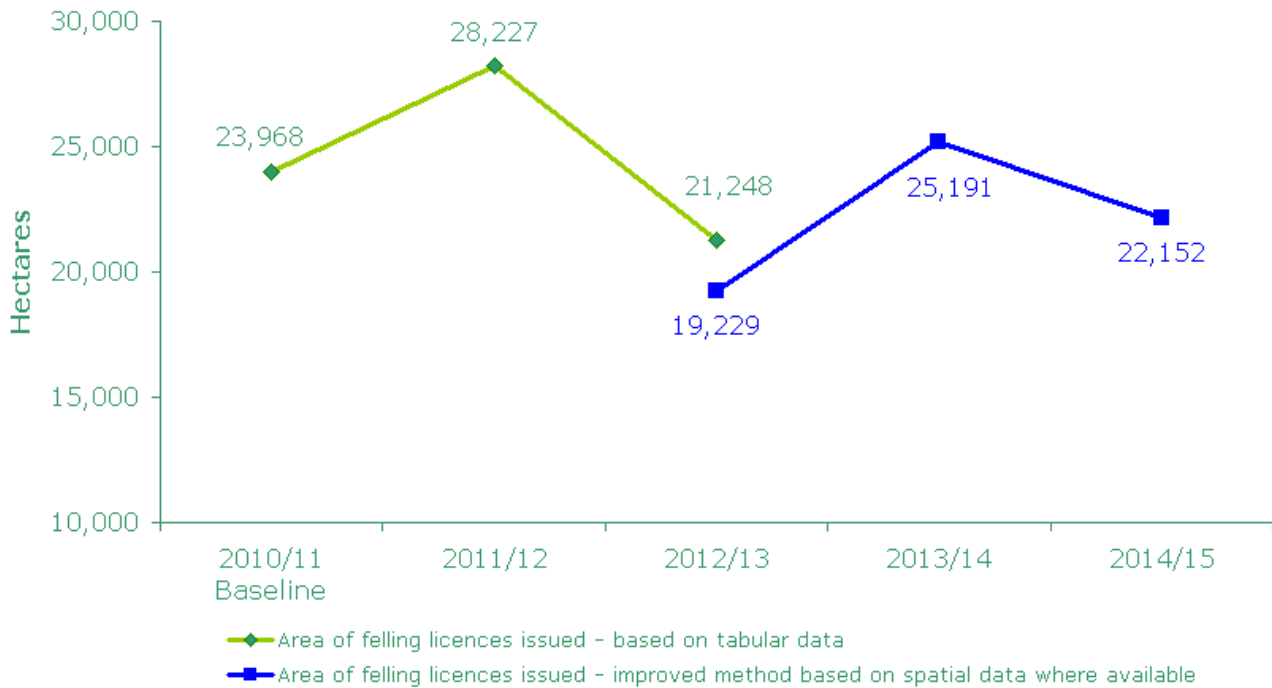
The extension of the period for which this grant was available for application until the end of July 2014 has meant that the original target has been achieved, albeit over a slightly longer period than was envisaged.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in <i>Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant</i>	
This indicator	Improving 



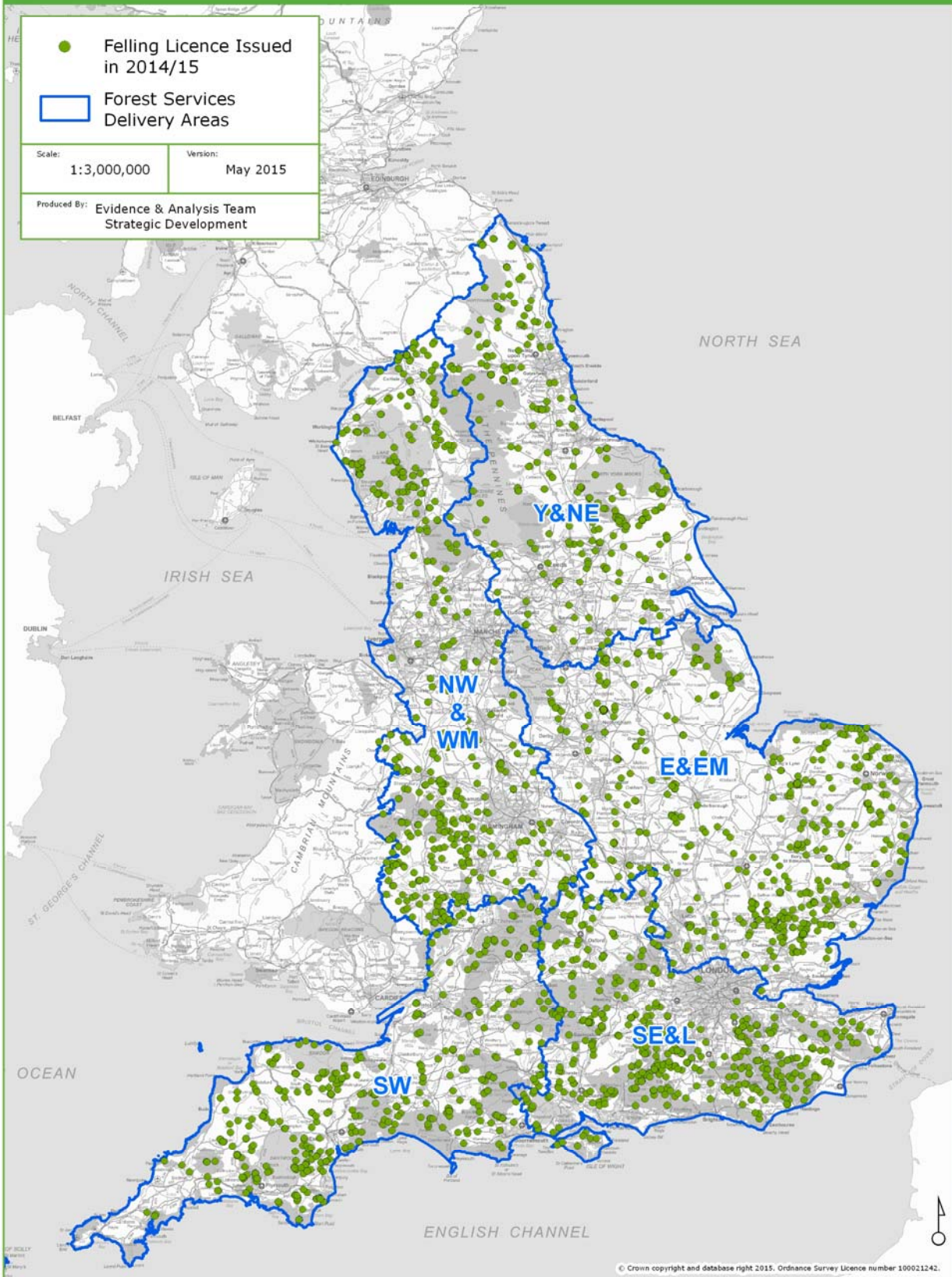
Impact Indicator 14: *Area of felling licences issued in the period*



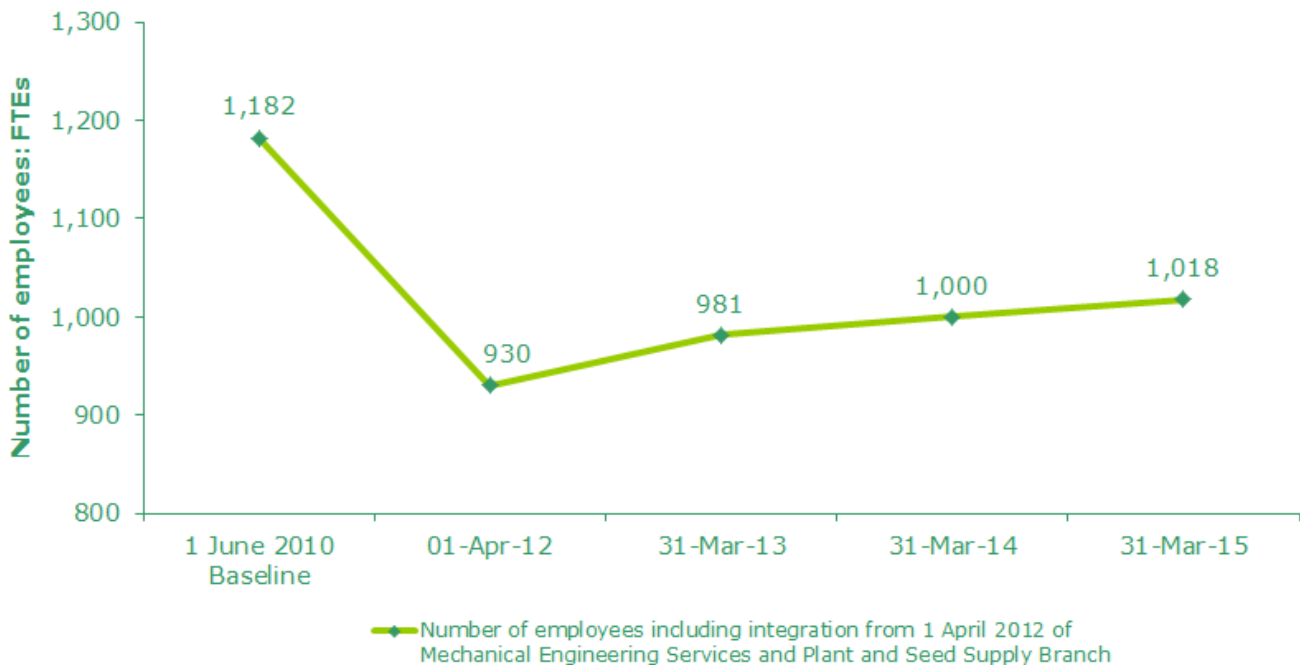
Stand alone felling licences - those outside woodland management plans - were issued for 22,152 hectares during the year. This represents a 12% reduction on the previous year and an 8% reduction on the 2010-11 baseline.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in <i>Area of felling licences issued in the period</i>	
This indicator	Deteriorating ✘




Impact Indicator 15: *Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents)*

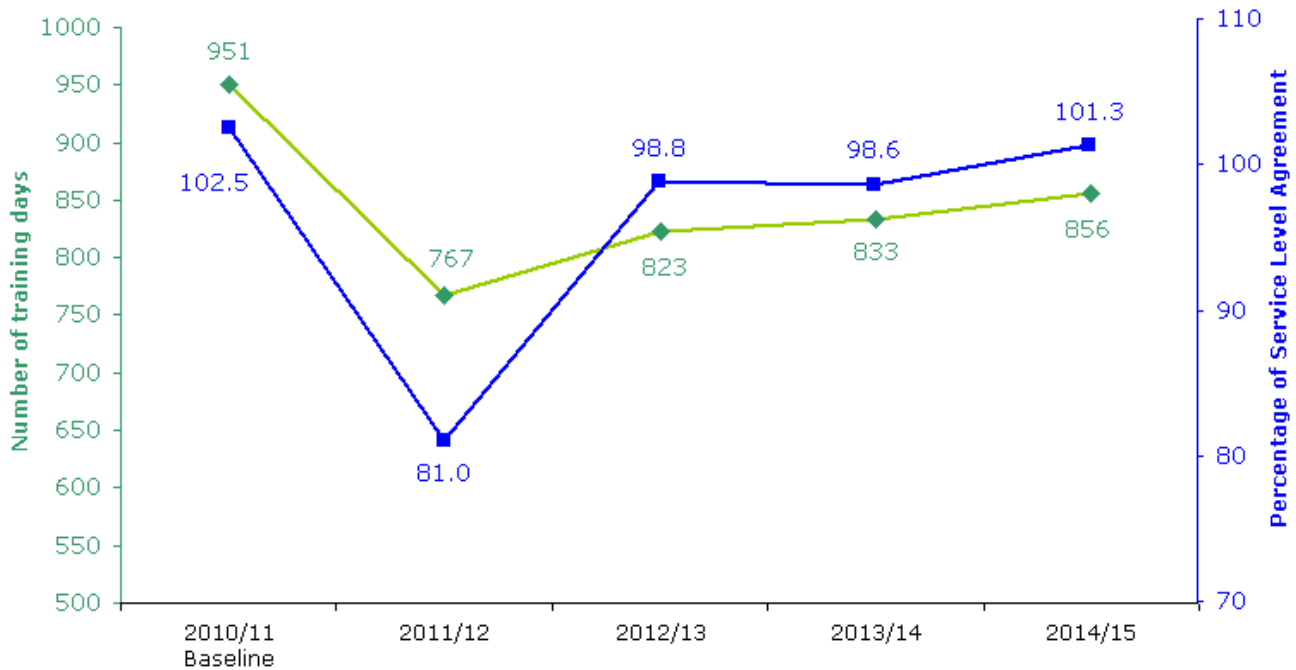


Whilst the target reduction in staff has been achieved in previous years, over the past twelve months restructures across Forestry Commission, with the resultant devolution of functions (Finance, Communications) coupled with the need to plan for the future of Forest Enterprise England in line with the recommendations of the [Independent Panel on Forestry](#) in England, has caused a lower rate of reduction against baseline figures. However, most new posts associated with both the [Woodland Policy Enabling Programme](#) and Forest Enterprise England Plus initiatives have been authorised on a fixed term basis only to address interim staffing needs.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in <i>Number of employees (FTEs)</i>	
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 16: *Number of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees*




Forestry Commission England has managed to fully utilise its allocation of learning and development activities during 2014-15 and this is seen as a very positive indicator of meeting the ongoing development needs of our staff. Of the training days available, staff took up more development training opportunities this year than had been allocated, which is a contrast to the previous year, when the need for technical training was in greater demand. An outturn of 101% is an excellent outcome.

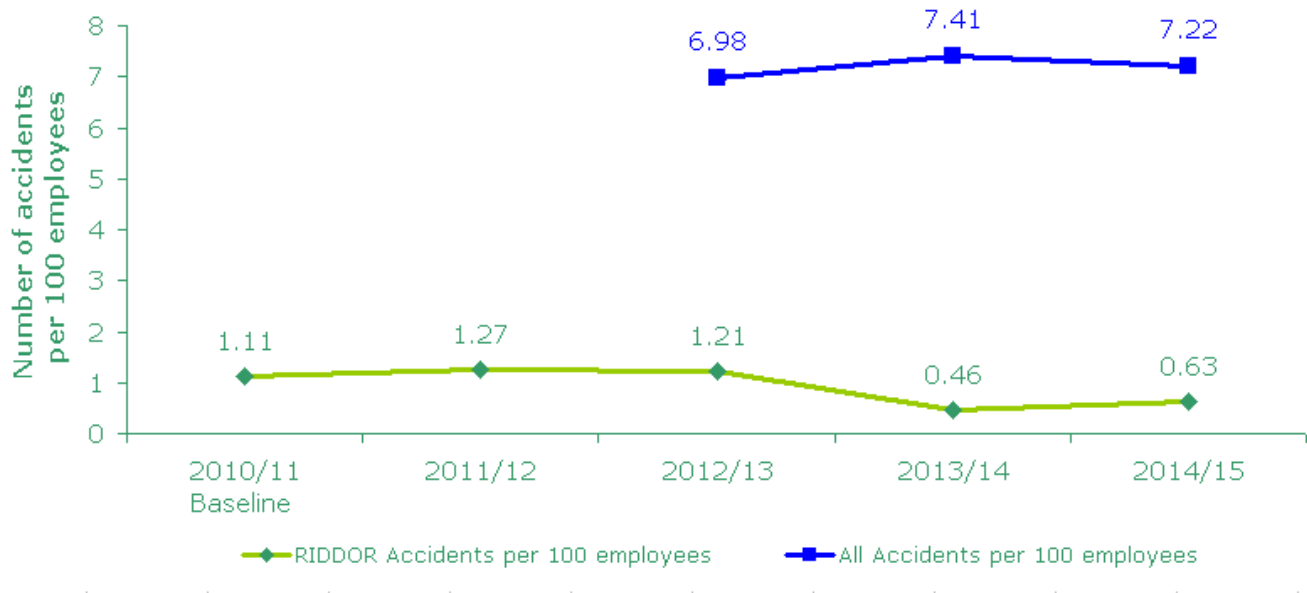
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees*

This indicator – percentage of Service Level Agreement element

Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 17: *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees*



The number of reported accidents is slightly greater than last year both in total and per 100 employees. This is not encouraging but it is still believed that our effort to raise Health and Safety awareness within the Forestry Commission is possibly leading to greater reporting. Raising the importance of H&S must continue to remain a key priority for all staff.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

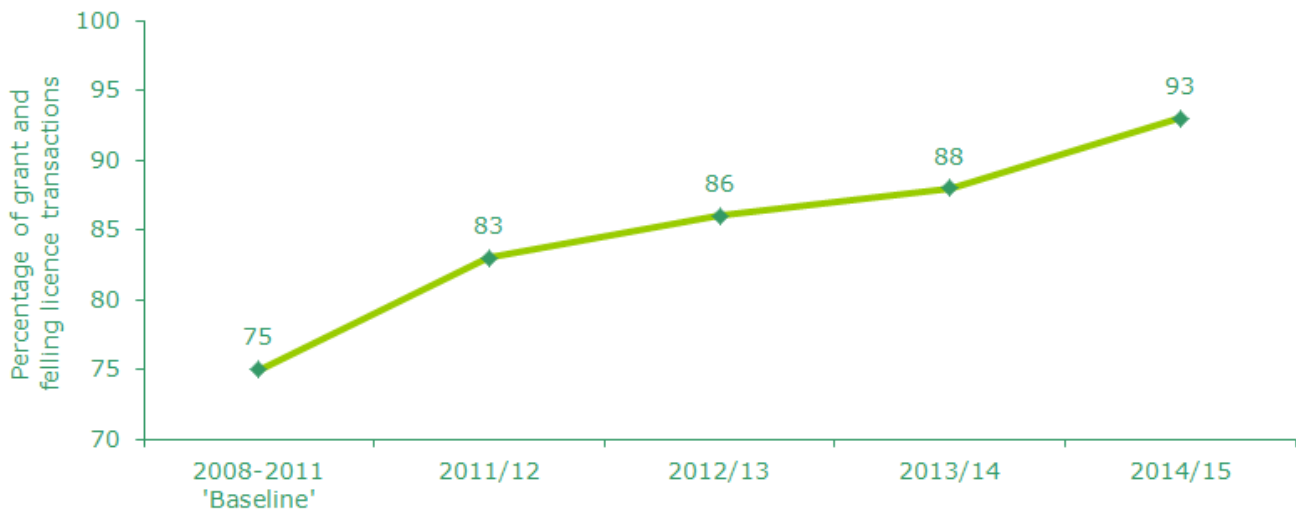
Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data¹ 

Note 1: The trend has not been assessed as the All Accidents measure was new for the 2012/13 financial year, and therefore no data collected for the 2010/11 Baseline year.

Impact Indicator 18: *Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early*




Overall performance of 93% was strong, and better than the previous year, particularly given the pressures within the year of closing of the English Woodland Grant Scheme and preparation for opening of woodland capital grants within Countryside Stewardship. Volumes of [felling licence applications](#) continues to be high.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

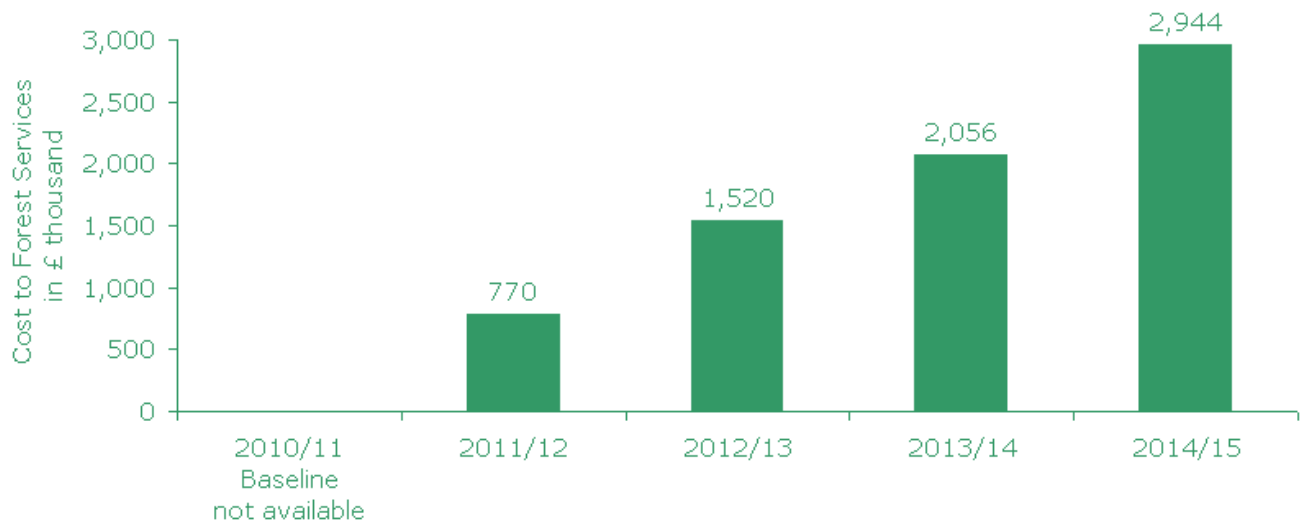
Assessment of change since baseline in *Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early*

This indicator

Improving 

Part 3. Performance Input Indicators

Input Indicator 1: *Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest 1,000)*



There has been another increase in expenditure compared to the previous year as Forest Services received direct funds from Defra plant health budget increasing outturn and delivery. The main areas of support were for assessments of tree health from helicopter surveillance, and ground survey work. This has included a surveillance and control programme for [Oak processionary moth](#) and programmes monitoring [Phytophthora ramorum](#), [Dothistroma needle blight](#), [Chalara dieback of ash](#) and [Sweet chestnut blight](#), as well as an England-wide survey for [Asian longhorn beetle](#) associated with wood packaging material.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

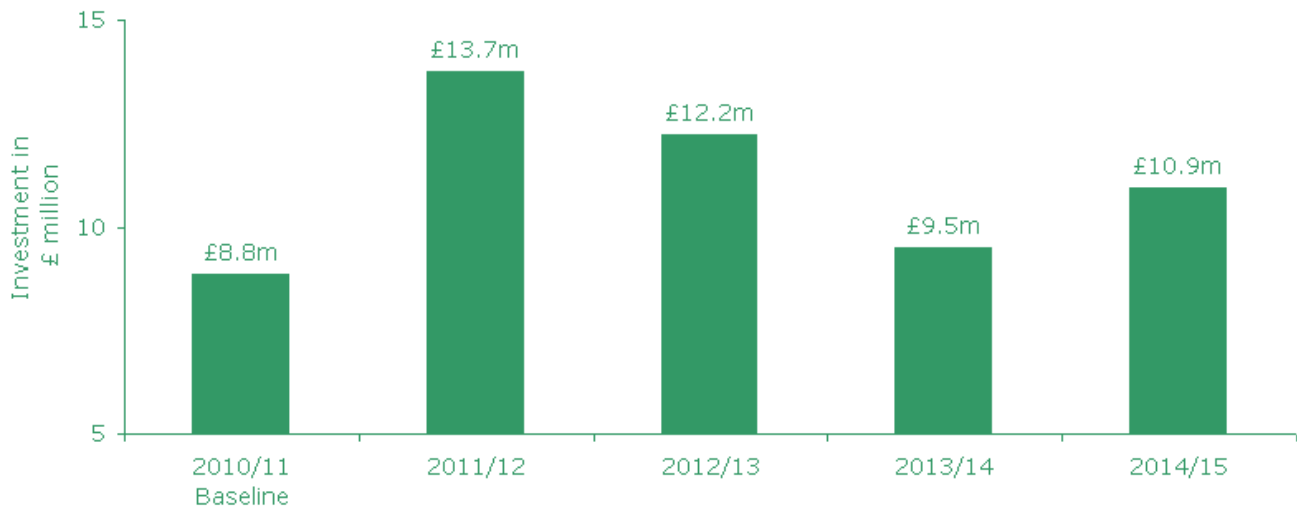
Assessment of change since baseline in *Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest £1,000)*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data¹ 

Note 1: The trend has not been assessed as the indicator was new for the 2011/12 financial year, and therefore no data collected for the 2010/11 Baseline year.

Input Indicator 2: *Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant*



When compared to the previous year there was a increase of 15%. Axis II Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) spend increased by £1.063m (15%) directly due to the outturn for Woodland Creation Grant reducing and more budget being available for WIG and Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG). WRG increased by £0.454m (20%) as rate changes bedded in and supplements for regeneration on plant health affected areas was promoted and taken up.

Note: Figures exclude Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant

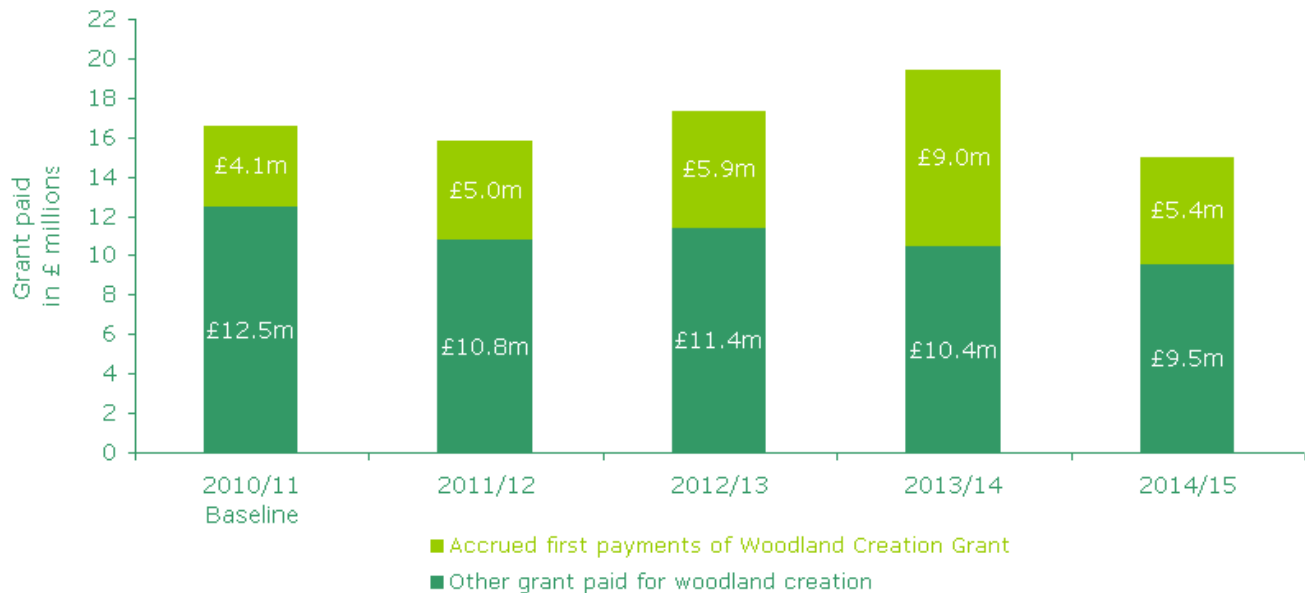
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant*

This indicator

Improving 

Input Indicator 3: Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)



The results show a decrease in Woodland Creation Grant (WCG) spend of 39% against the exceptionally high spend of the previous year. Year 2014/15 is the last full year of the English Woodland Grant Scheme before the start of the new [Rural Development Programme for England](#) and Countryside Stewardship.

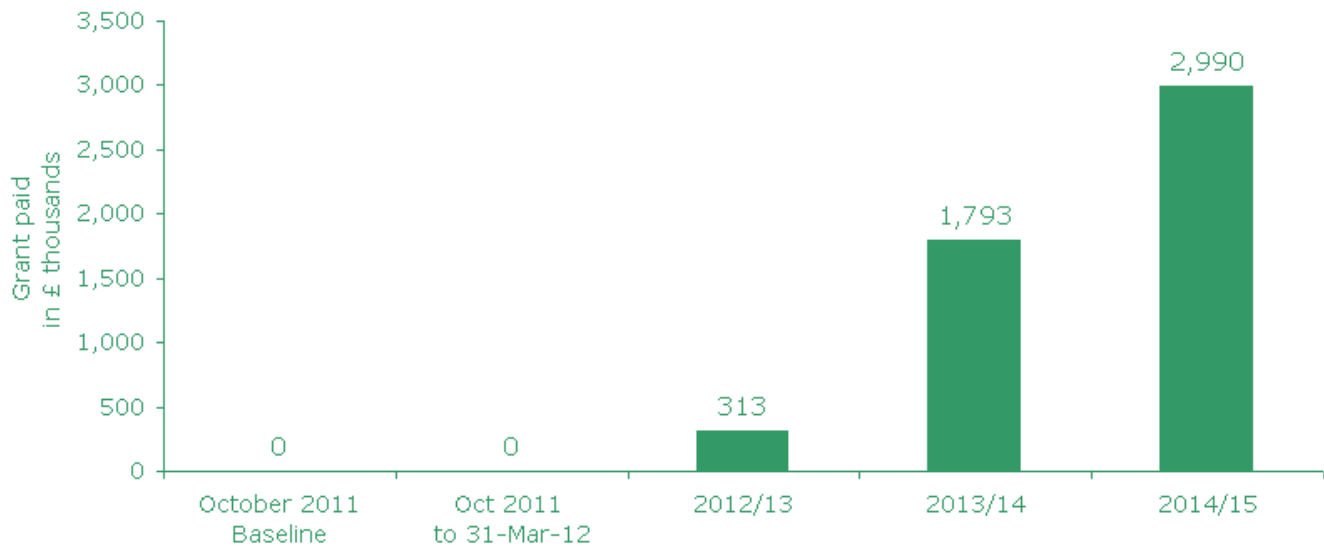
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)*

This indicator

Deteriorating 

Input Indicator 5: Amount of grant paid for Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants




The Woodfuel project has a budget spend of £8m. Project spend to date is £5.1m with approved commitments of £9.5m.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Amount of grant paid for Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants*

This indicator

Improving 

Part 4. State of England's Woodlands Indicators

Woodlands Indicator 1: Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years




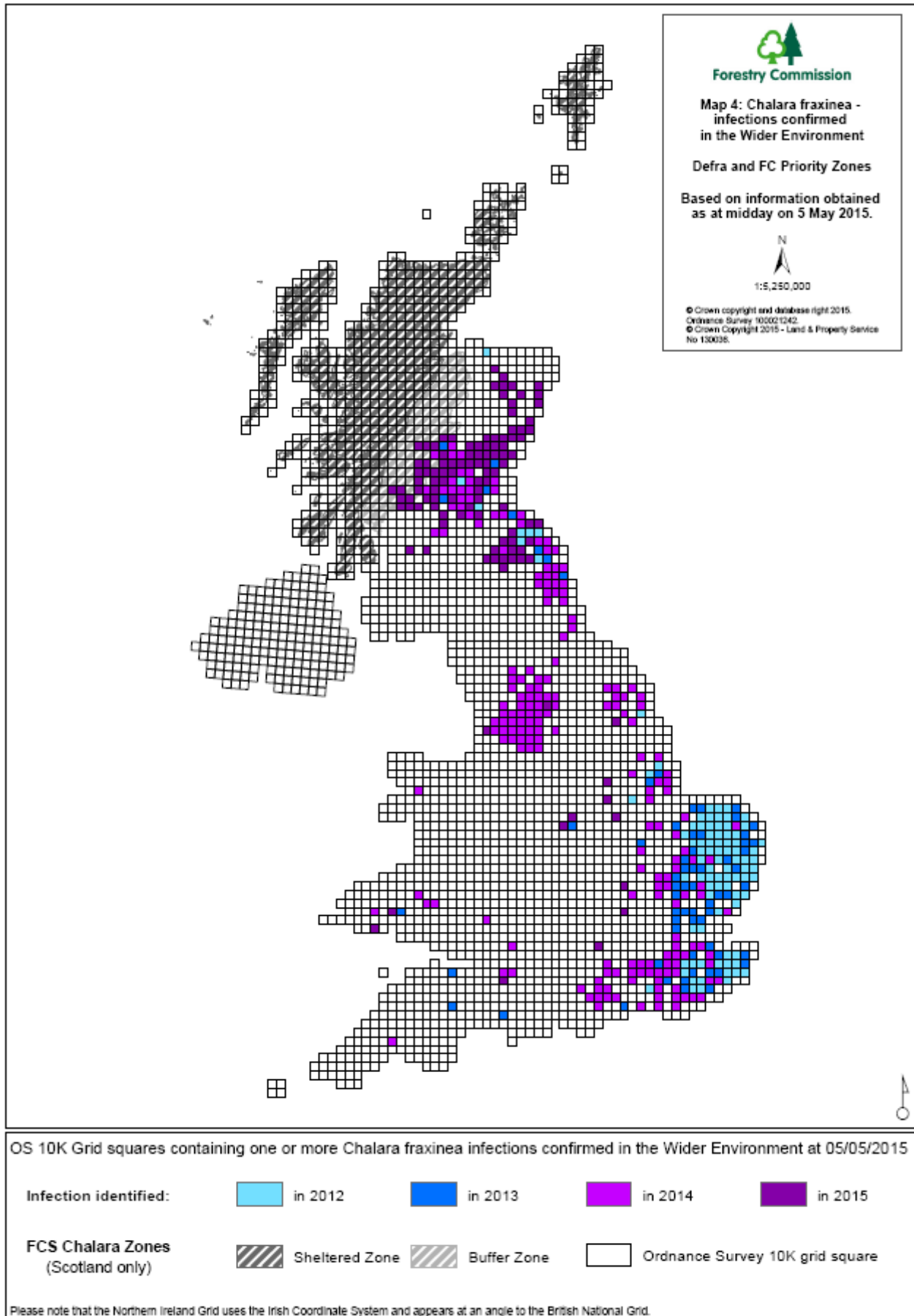
Position at 31 March 2015; 4 tree pests and diseases established since 2005 in England. The 4 are oak processionary moth, alder rust, acute oak decline and *Chalara* dieback of ash. The total remains less than in the 10 years preceding the 1 April 2011 baseline point. New findings of [Elm yellows phytoplasma](#) (*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*), *Phytophthora siskiyouensis*, and Shoot tip blight (*Sirococcus tsugae*) do not warrant additions as established high risk tree pests and diseases.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

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

This indicator

Improving 



Woodlands Indicator 2: 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. Maintaining and improving connectivity is important in ensuring the long-term survival of 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 an improvement in the most recent year. The indicator shows an increase in connectivity for forests and woodlands in England between 2010 and 2014. 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 woodland size and changes in woodland pattern, or both.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data, [National Forest Inventory](#), modelled by [Forest Research](#)

Assessment of change since baseline in *Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape*

This indicator

Improving 

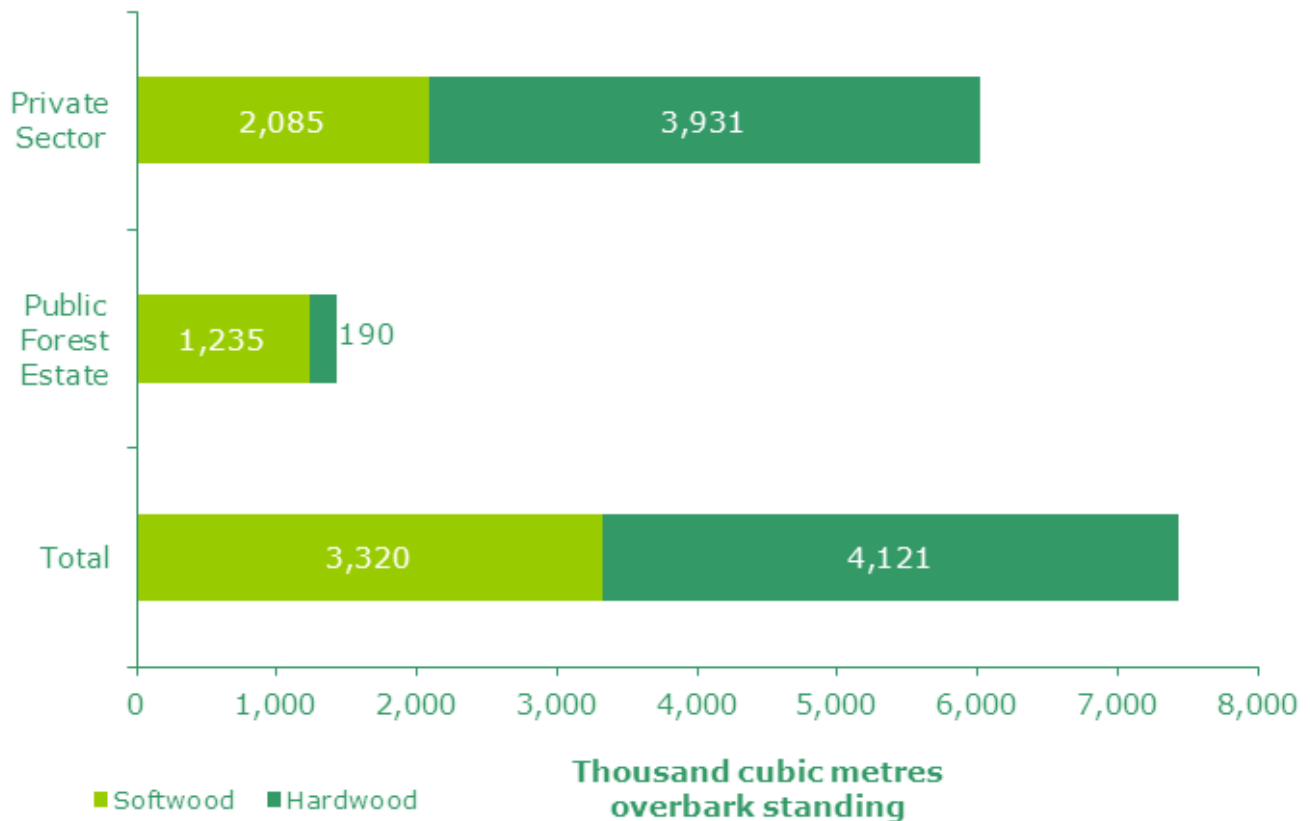
Improved Habitat Connectivity for Plants and Animals

EWGS Woodland Creation supported by the Rural Development Programme for England



Woodlands Indicator 3: Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests

Forecast in 2014 of average annual broadleaf and coniferous increment of wood 2013-2016



Over the next 20 years the average annual coniferous increment is forecast to reduce to 2.5 million cubic metres in the period 2032-36.

Over the next 20 years the average annual hardwood increment is forecast to increase to a maximum of 5.0 million cubic metres and then fall back to 4.7 million cubic metres in the period 2032-36

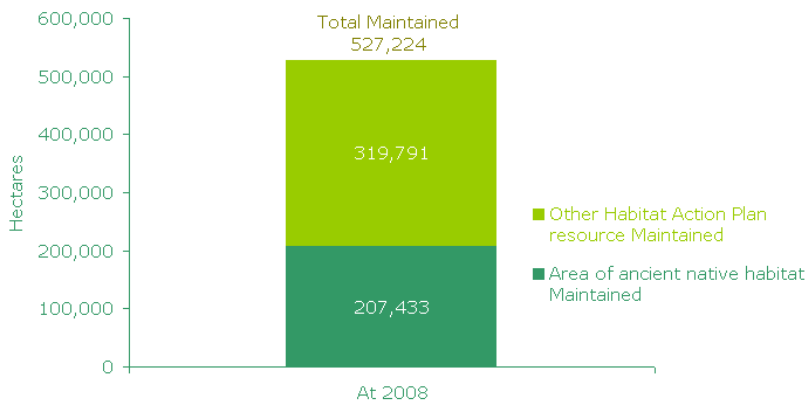
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

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

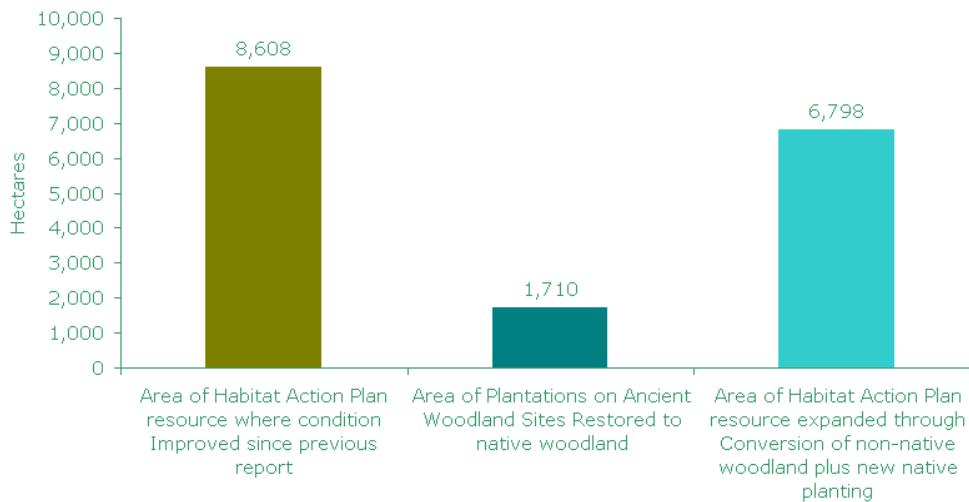
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data ⋮
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Woodlands Indicator 4: *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

Maintained Areas



Progress Since 2005



The interim indicator for woodland condition draws on data produced for reporting on Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) delivery. The data used here reflects that submitted for the last round of BAP reporting in 2008. This data has not been recalculated since and the anticipated sample data has not been analysed to date. 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 agreed.

Source: Based on Natural England data

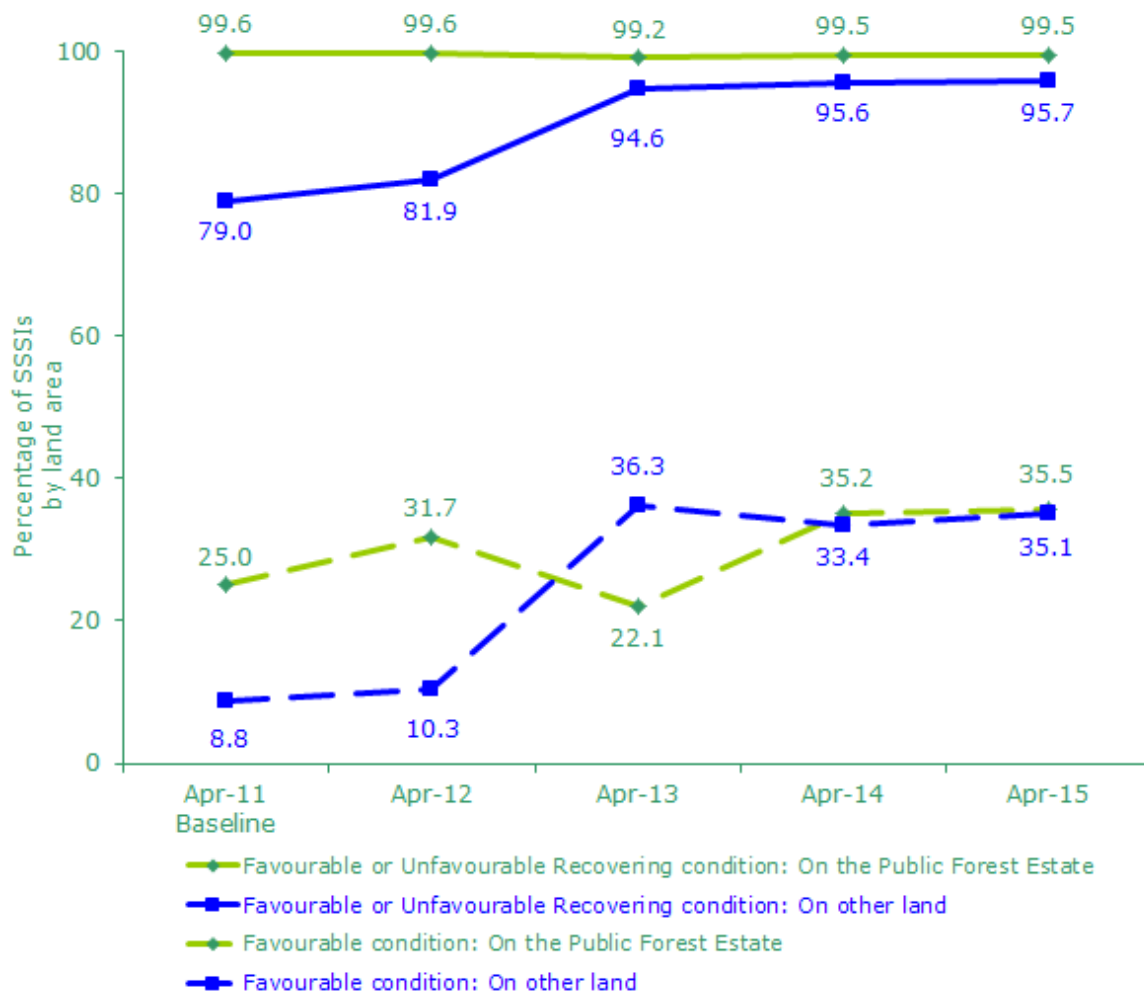
Assessment of change since baseline in *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

This indicator

Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data



Woodlands Indicator 5: *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition*



The percentage of woodland [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSIs\)](#) in either favourable or unfavourable recovering status has, as aimed for, been maintained since last year, across woodland on the Public Forest Estate, and slightly improved elsewhere. The percentage of woodland SSSIs in favourable condition has been maintained since last year, and in itself has been increased, as aimed for, since the Baseline in 2011. Woodland SSSIs are condition assessed by Natural England at regular intervals, and at least once every 6 years 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 in condition for a variety of reasons including increasing impacts of grazing and browsing animals and diffuse pollution issues.

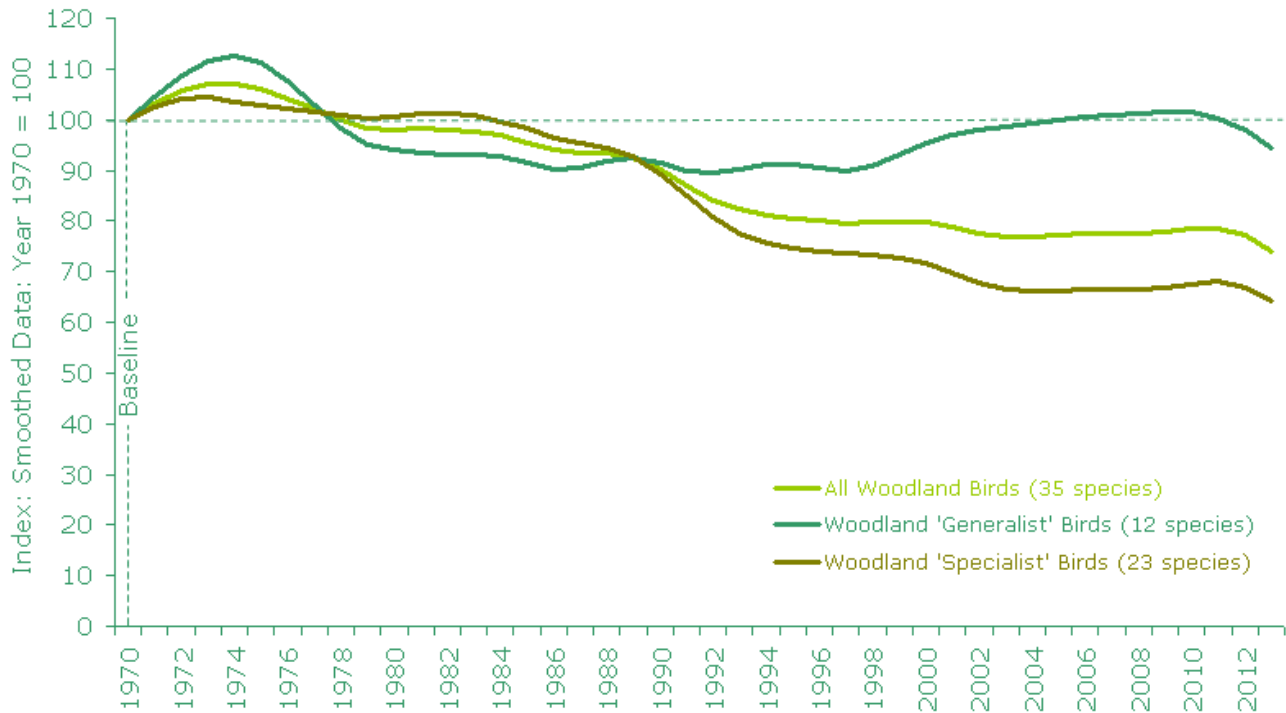
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data on grant schemes [Natural England](#) data on SSSIs

Assessment of change since baseline in *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition*

This indicator – both measures

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 6: Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data



Our aim, in support of England’s biodiversity strategy, has been to halt the loss of woodland birds and consequently reverse the declines in the three woodland birds indices observed from the early to mid 1970s as monitored by the British Trust for Ornithology. The most recent data for 2013 are lower index values than in the last 3 or 4 years but do not represent a statistically significant change. Annual figures are susceptible to a range of factors and therefore trends should be assessed from analysis of data over a number of years. Trends in the index over the most recent 15 years suggest a stabilisation in the indices, that is in itself an improvement compared to earlier declines. It should be noted that the indices are made up of species groups doing dramatically well and some in decline.

Note: One species, the hawfinch, has been removed from the Indices this year as its population trend was felt to be unreliable, The entire time series from 1970 onwards has been revised accordingly to allow for this.

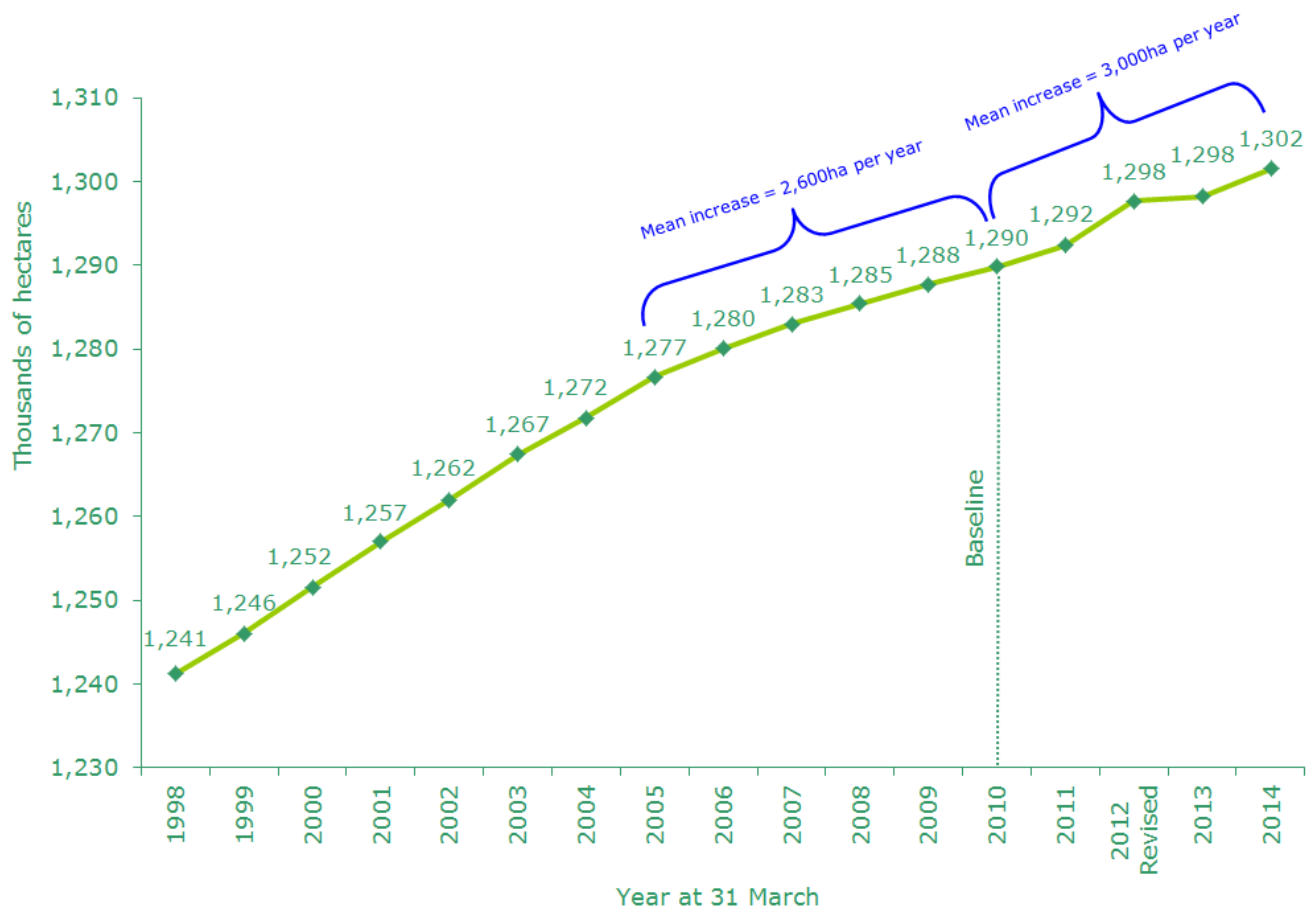
Source: Based on Smoothed [Woodland Bird Index](#) data ([Defra](#))

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

This indicator:
All woodland birds index, since year 2000

Little or no overall change 

Woodlands Indicator 7: Area of woodland (total and change over time)



Position at 31 March 2014: 1,302,000 hectares (subject to revision).

As at 31 March 2014, the area of woodland in England is 1,302,000 hectares (ha), an increase of 4,000ha on the previous year subject to revision of the 2014 figure. Since the 2010 baseline, the area of woodland has increased at a mean rate of 3,000ha per year. This compares to a mean rate in the 5 years prior to that of 2,600 ha per year. To increase woodland cover in England from 10% to 12% by 2060, an area of 1,563,000ha, a rate of woodland creation of 5,000ha per year would be required.

The graph and map on pages 50 and 51 show the long term positive upward trend in woodland area since the formation of the Forestry Commission early in the 20th century; and the distribution of woodland in England in 2013.

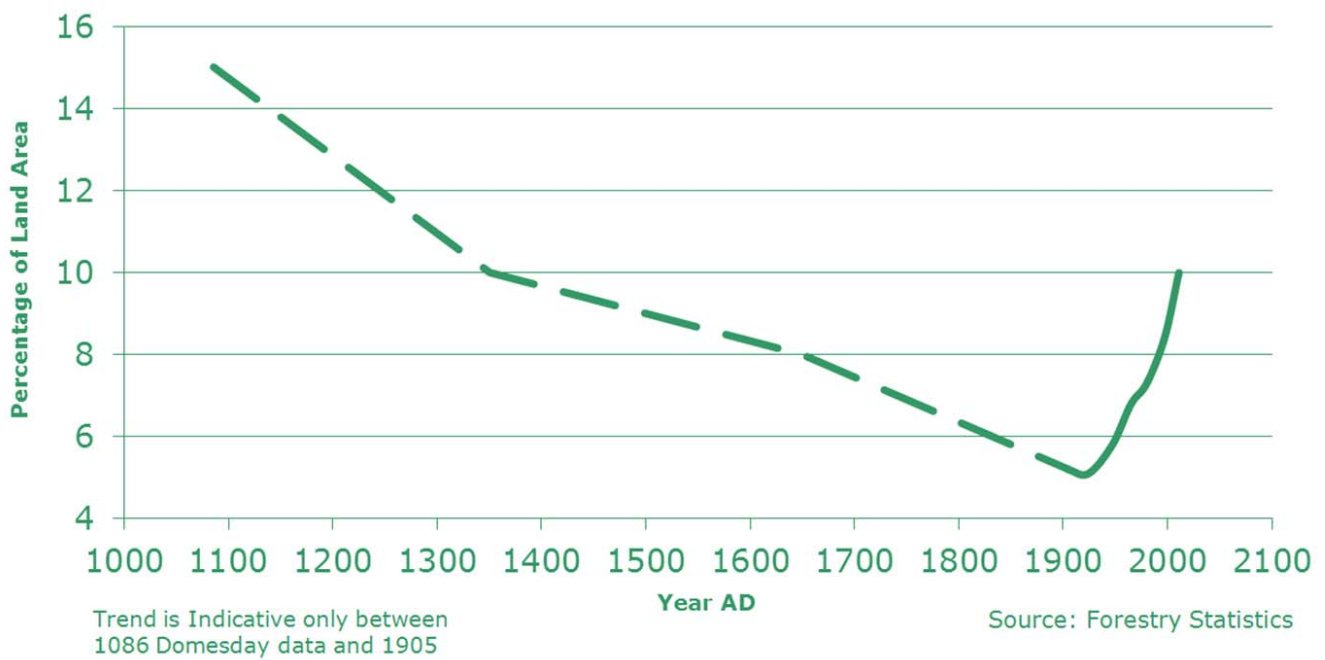
Indicator source: Based on [National Forest Inventory](#) and Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Area of woodland (total and change over time)*

This indicator

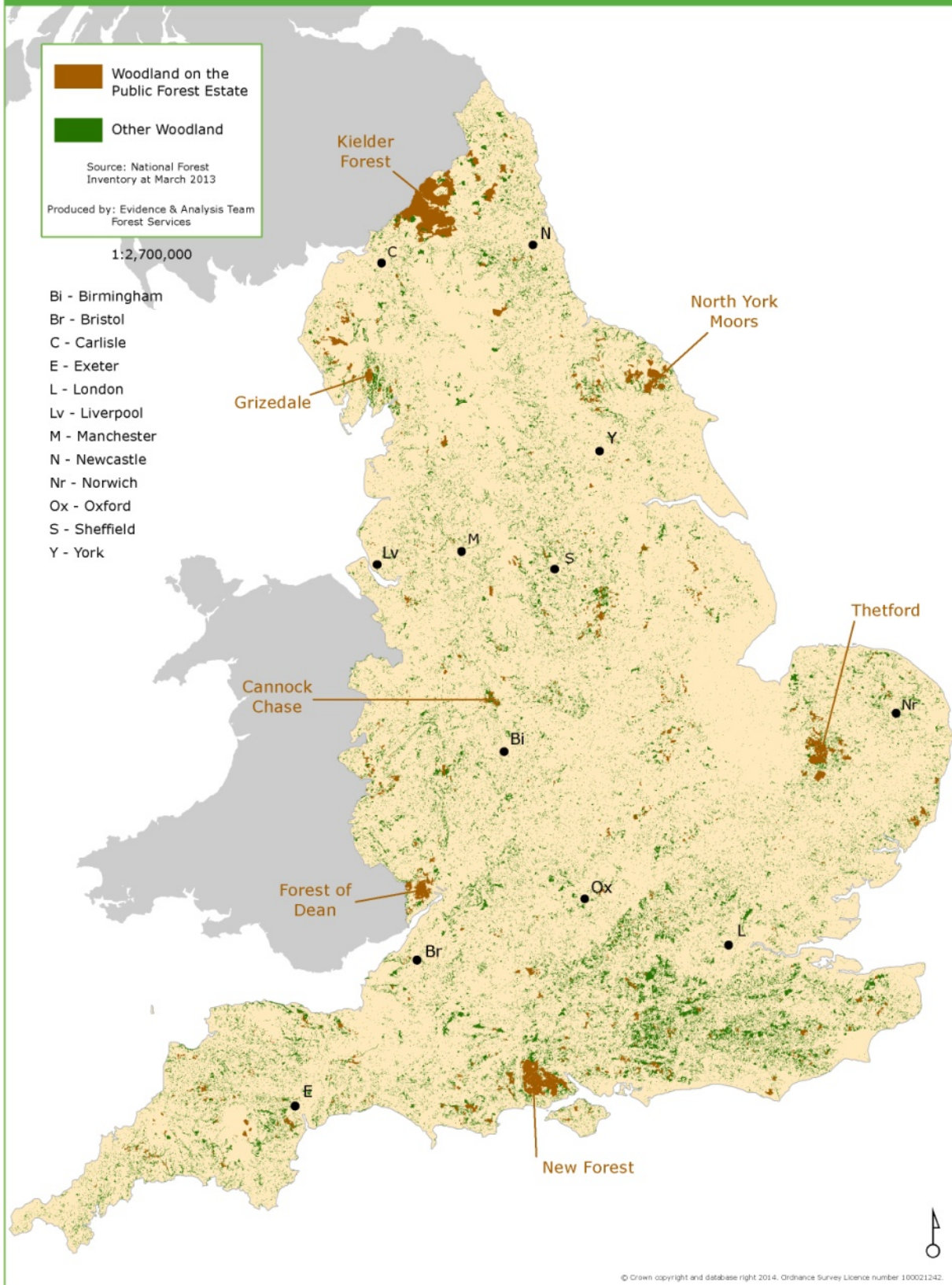
Improving 

Woodland as a percentage of land area in England from 1086AD

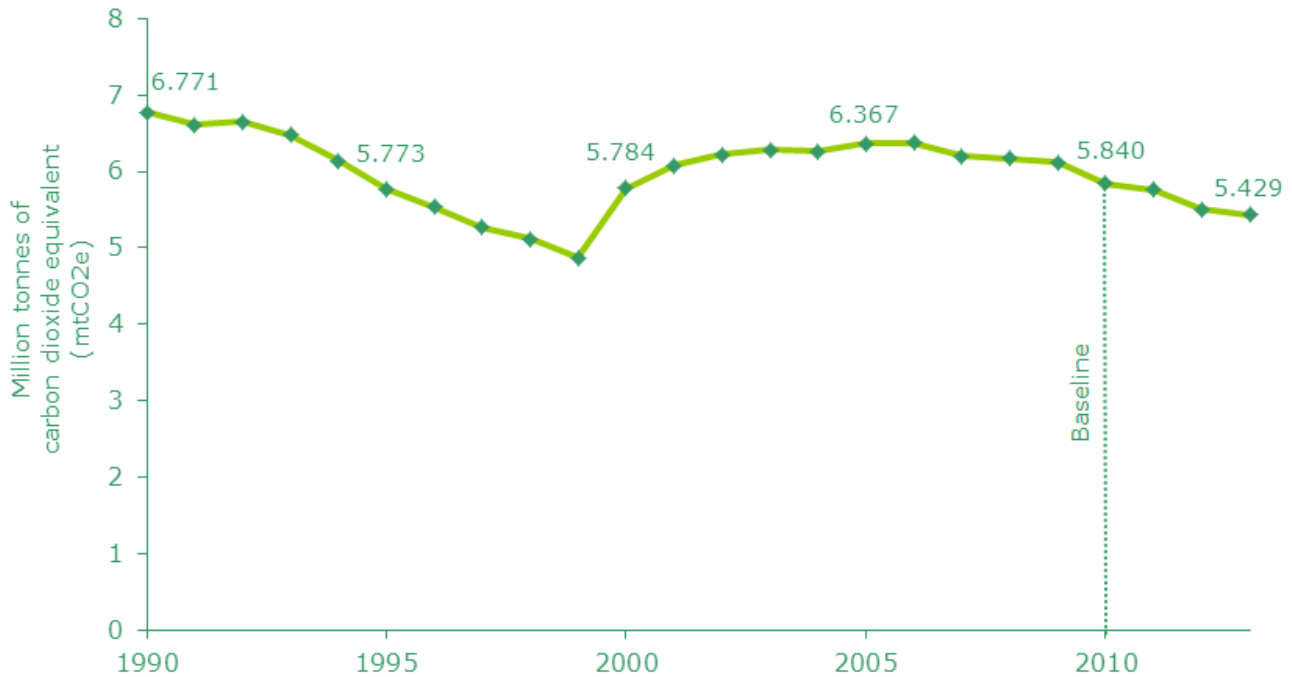


Source: [Forestry Statistics](#)

Distribution of Woodland in England



Woodlands Indicator 8: Carbon captured by English woodlands



The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England's woodlands decreased from 5.51 MtCO₂e in 2012 to 5.43 MtCO₂e in 2013. This continues the slight downward trend seen in recent years as a result of increased harvesting rates and relatively low levels of new planting, but England's woodlands remain a significant sink. The greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past planting rates and subsequent harvesting activity.

Note: The figures for previous years are different to those previously published 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 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.

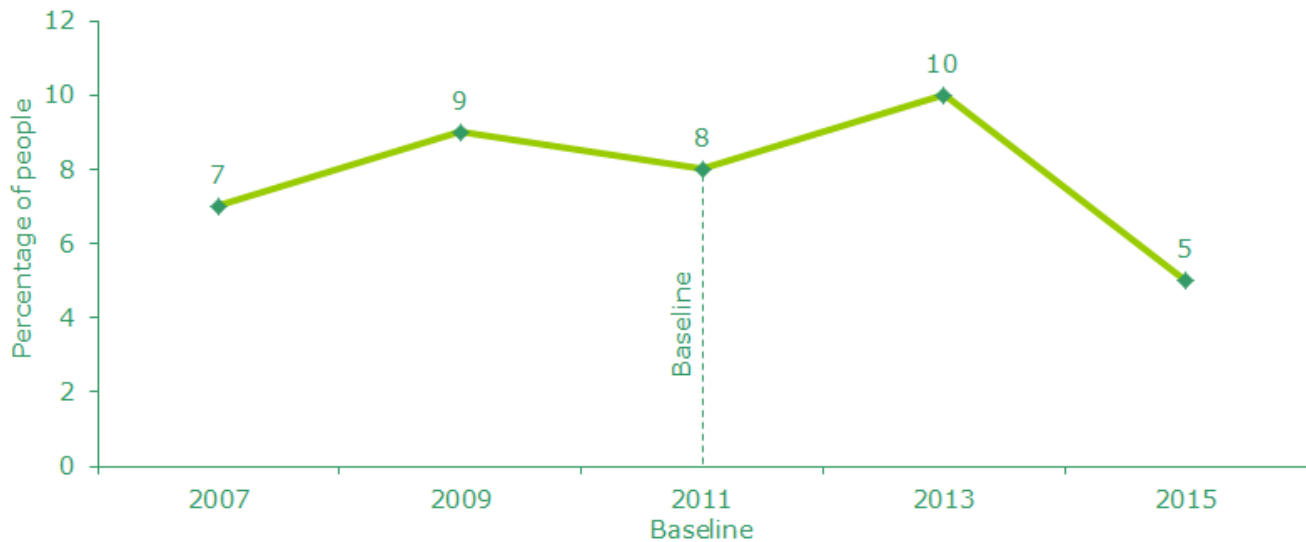
Source: Based on [Centre for Ecology and Hydrology report](#) for the [Department of Energy and Climate Change](#).

Assessment of change since baseline in Carbon captured by English woodlands

This indicator

Deteriorating 

Woodlands Indicator 9: *Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland*



There has been a reported downturn in 2015 in the percentage of people actively engaged in woodland, that is not quite statistically significant at the 95% significance level. Some 5% of respondents reported involvement in one or more of the types of engagement measured such as woodland volunteering and woodland consultations. Fuller details can be found in the [Public Opinion of Forestry Survey](#) 2015 results due to be published in summer 2015.

Source: Based on the [Public Opinion of Forestry Survey](#) (Forestry Commission)

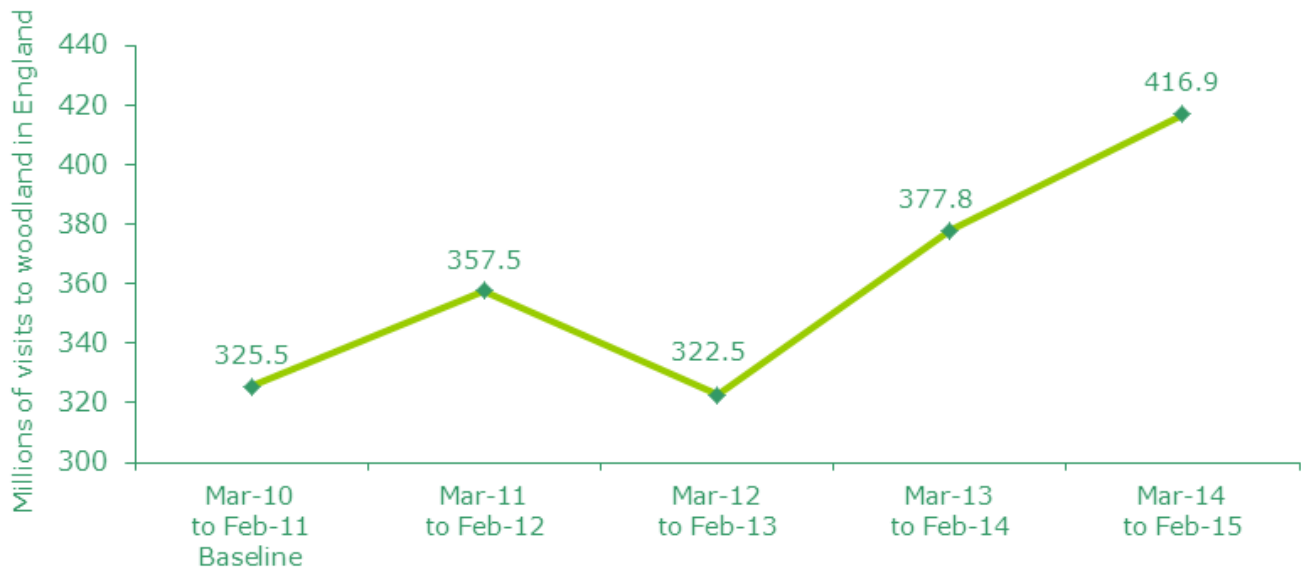
Assessment of change since baseline in *Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland*

This indicator

Little or no overall change



Woodlands Indicator 10: *Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)*



The trend for number of visits to woodlands has increased at a greater rate than the target for the reporting period.

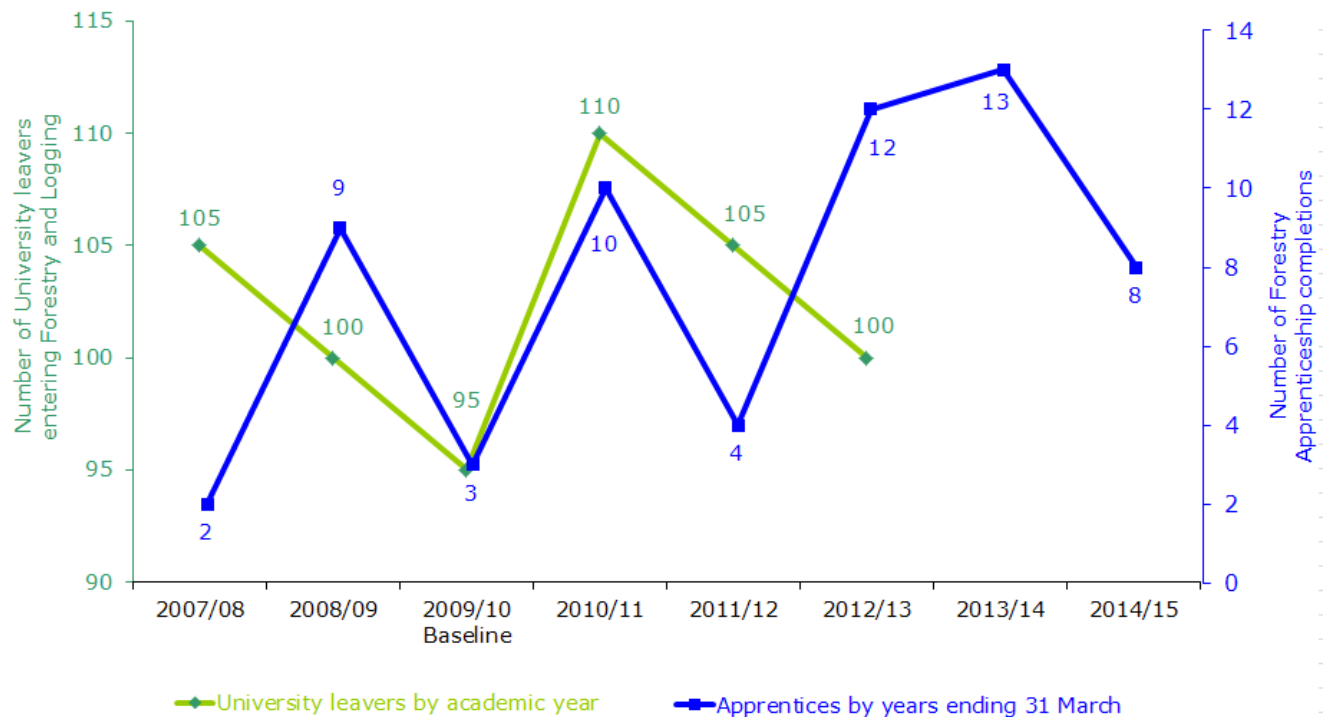
Source: Based on Natural England's [Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment](#) data

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)*

This indicator

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 11: *Number apprentices and university students entering forestry*



The number of apprentices and university leavers entering forestry has increased. The [Forestry Skills Initiative](#) supported over 50 new apprentices. However, it appears that the apprentices were mostly completing the Work-Based Diploma, which is not counted towards the Apprenticeship completions figure. We will review this indicator to test whether we can make it a better measure of progress.

Source: Based on [LANTRA](#) and the [Higher Education Statistics Agency](#) (HESA) – Destination of Leavers of Higher Education

Assessment of change since baseline in *Number apprentices and university students entering forestry*

Apprentices	Improving ✓
University leavers	Improving ✓

Woodlands Indicator 12: *Gross Value Added from domestic forestry*



Progress towards £227 million of Gross Value Added (GVA) from English domestic forestry by 2015 is still on track, despite the 2012 downturn in the GVA figure. The domestic forestry sector remains buoyant and future years should see an improving GVA contribution as the effect of programmes such as [Grown in Britain](#), which had not started in 2012, start showing in the figures.

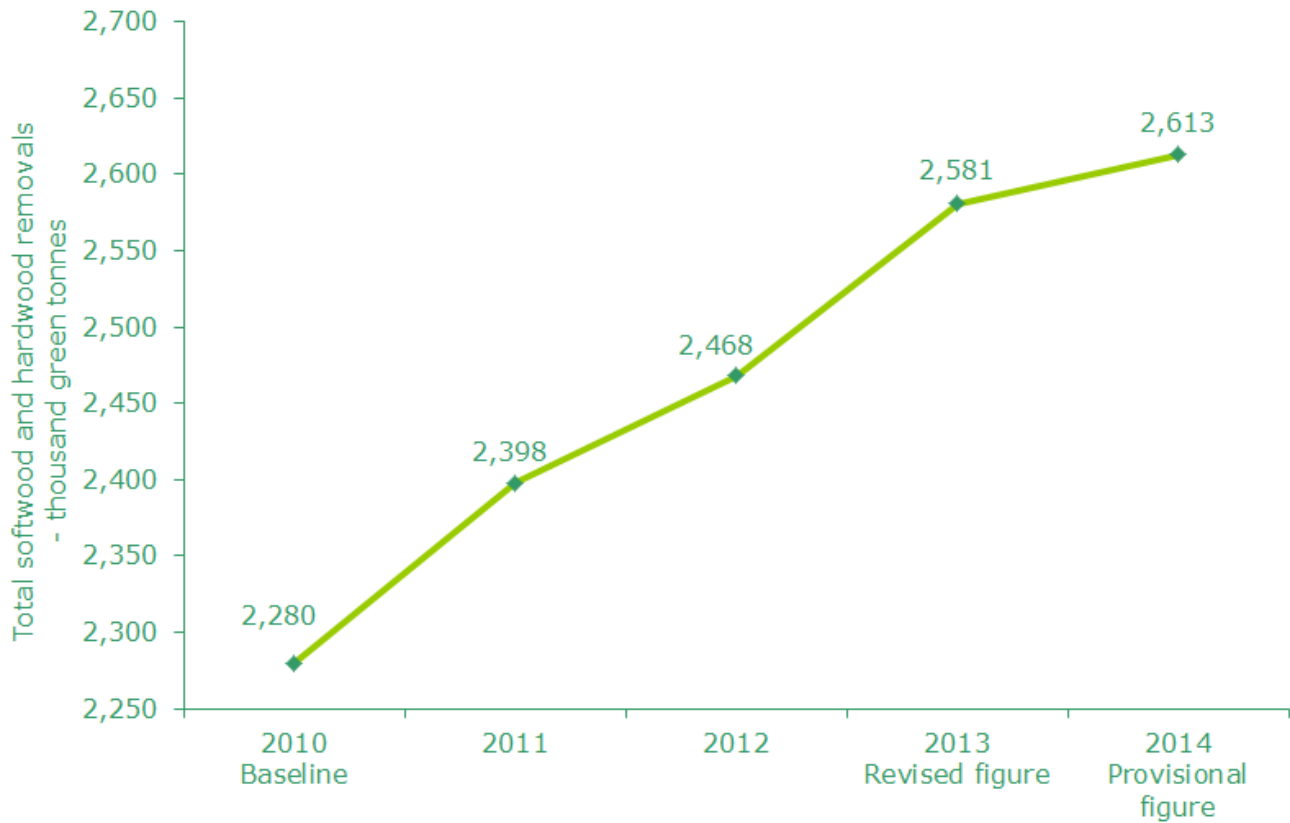
Source: Based on [Office for National Statistics Annual Business Survey](#)

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

This indicator

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 13: *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources*



The Public Forest Estate worked its sales plan and retained independent certification. Private woodland owners continue to be motivated by buoyant markets for timber, resulting in a continued increase in volume to market.

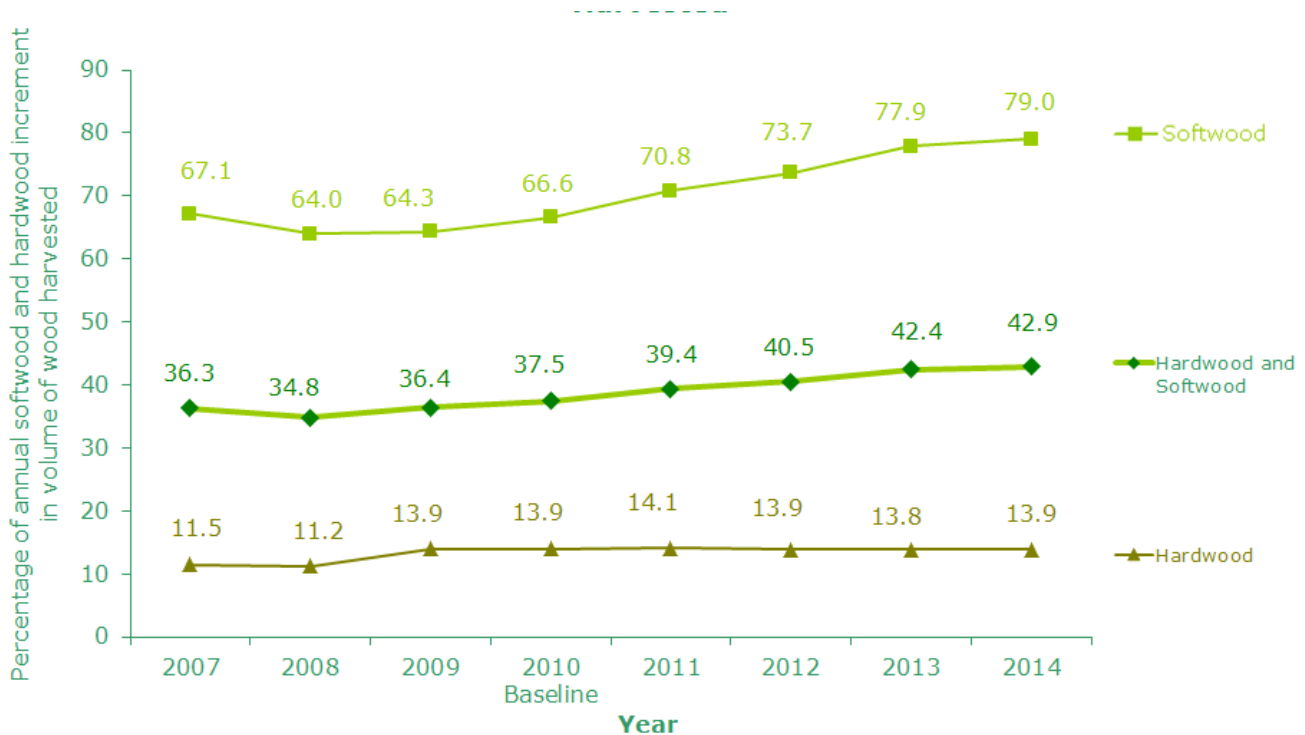
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data and FC Surveys of the UK timber industry

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

This indicator

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 14: Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested




Private woodland owners continue to be motivated to bring un-managed and under-managed woodland back into management, reacting to demand-side initiatives, such as [Grown in Britain](#), and the [Renewable Heat Incentive](#). The result is a continued increase in the volume of wood coming to market.

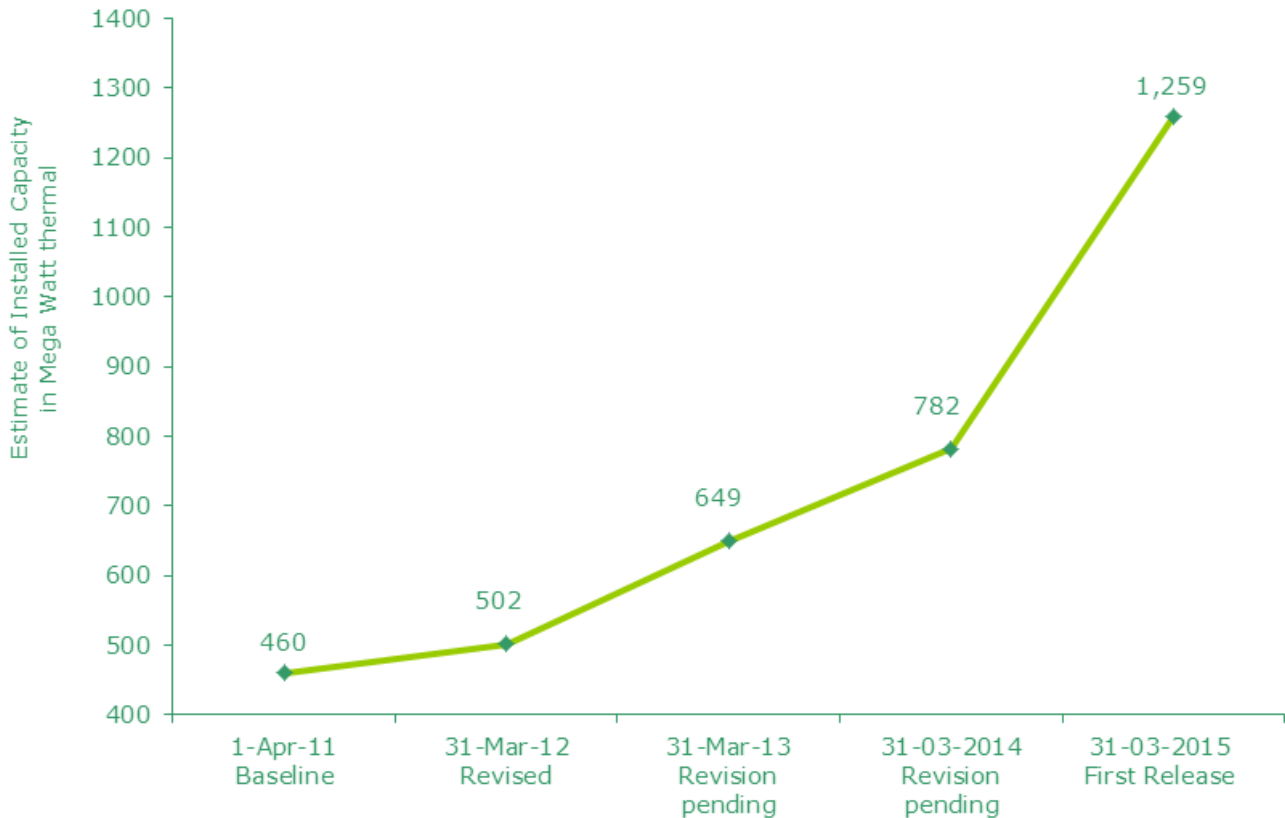
Source: Based on Forestry Commission surveys of the UK timber industry and on inventory forecasts

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

This indicator – hardwood and softwood element

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 15: *Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)*



The [Renewable Heat Incentive](#) has promoted the installation of further medium-sized non-domestic wood-fuelled boilers. Installed capacity increased significantly in 2014/15. This represents good progress on the [Woodfuel Implementation Plan](#). Wood as a fuel has become a mainstream element of the renewable heat market.

Note: Figures from Ofgem are based on the commissioning date of Renewable Heat Incentive schemes, with the exception of that for 31-03-2015 that is based on the effective date, and that is due to be revised, at the next release.

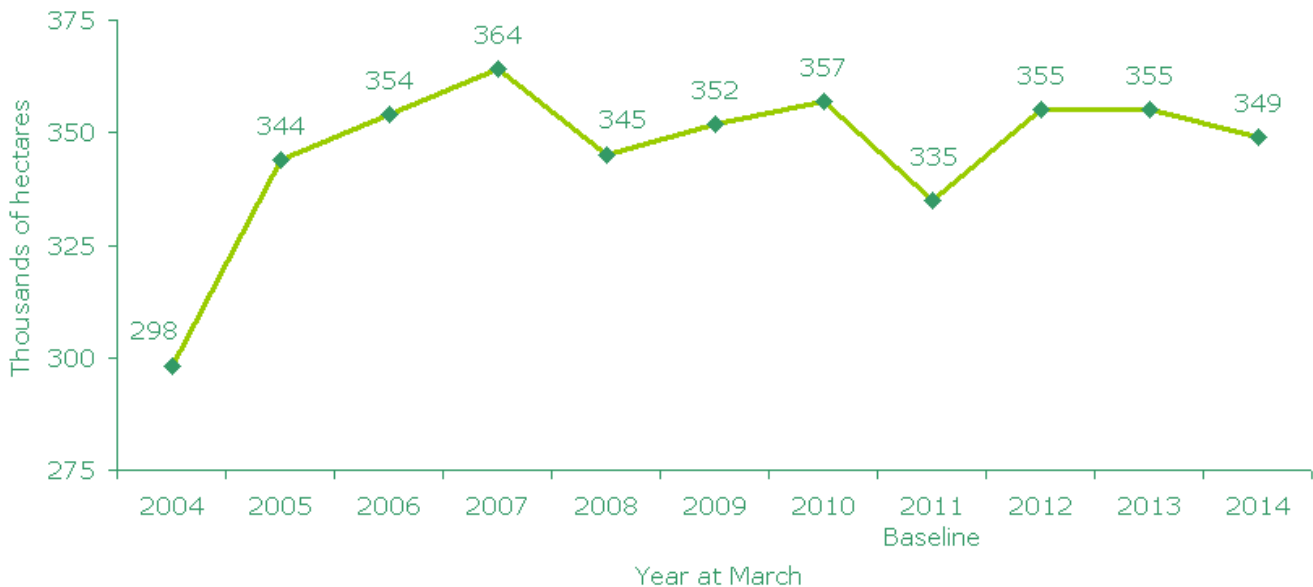
Source: Based on a Survey for Forestry Commission England conducted by [The Renewable Energy Association Ltd \(REA\)](#) and [Office of Gas and Electricity Markets \(Ofgem\)](#)

Assessment of change since baseline in *Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)*

This indicator

Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 16: 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 certification schemes such as those of the [Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC) and [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC). Other woodlands that are not formally certified may also be sustainably managed.

Source: Based on [Forest Stewardship Council](#) and [Forestry Commission Central Services Statistics Team](#) survey of Woodland Owners

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

This indicator

Improving 

Images, except where otherwise stated, are from the [Forestry Commission Picture Library](#)

Frontispiece: Actively managed woodland with bluebells. Photo © Butterfly Conservation

Back cover: main image then clockwise from top left:

Mixed conifer woodland

Giant [Gruffalo](#) sculpture at [Bedgebury Pinetum](#), Kent
[Forest Live](#) concert at [Sherwood Pines Forest](#), Nottinghamshire

Dog walking at [Chopwell Woods](#), Tyne & Wear

Heathland open habitats at [Sherwood Pines Forest](#)

Sparrow hawk chick in the [New Forest](#)

[Giggle Alley](#) wood, Eskdale, Cumbria

v3



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