Forestry Commission
England

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
31 December 2016

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
at 31 December 2016 (First Release)

Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2016-17 sets out our current key performance indicators to show our contribution towards forestry and woodlands in England.

We aim with the indicators to continue to reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. We also want them to display the contributions Forest Enterprise England makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate. Our six headline performance indicators are shown in Table 1 below.

Our use of indicators also reflects our commitment to evidence based working and ensuring people are clear about trends in the key indicators which we are working with others to move in the right direction.

We report our Headline Indicators quarterly in this series of Updates, and provide a report of our full suite of indicators annually. Our Indicators Report 2016 (June 2016) provides the latest position.

Forestry Commission England is committed to helping Defra meet its aspirations of making data available as Open Data. We publish much of the data our indicators are based on and specific relevant Open Datasets are signposted throughout this Update.

The systems in place by which these quarterly-updated reports herein have been produced have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

For previous and future reports, and those for our full suite of indicators, please visit our website at www.forestry.gov.uk > England > About us > Indicators.

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Bristol, 15th February 2017

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Table 1: Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators

Forest Services	
Protection	Number of high priority forest pests in the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](UKPHRR) (UKPHRR).
Protection	Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e. the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)
Expansion	Area of woodland and rate of new planting
Forest Enterprise England	
Organisational	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)
Economy	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate

Forest Services

Protection

*A. Number of high priority forest pests in the [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#)
(UKPHRR).*
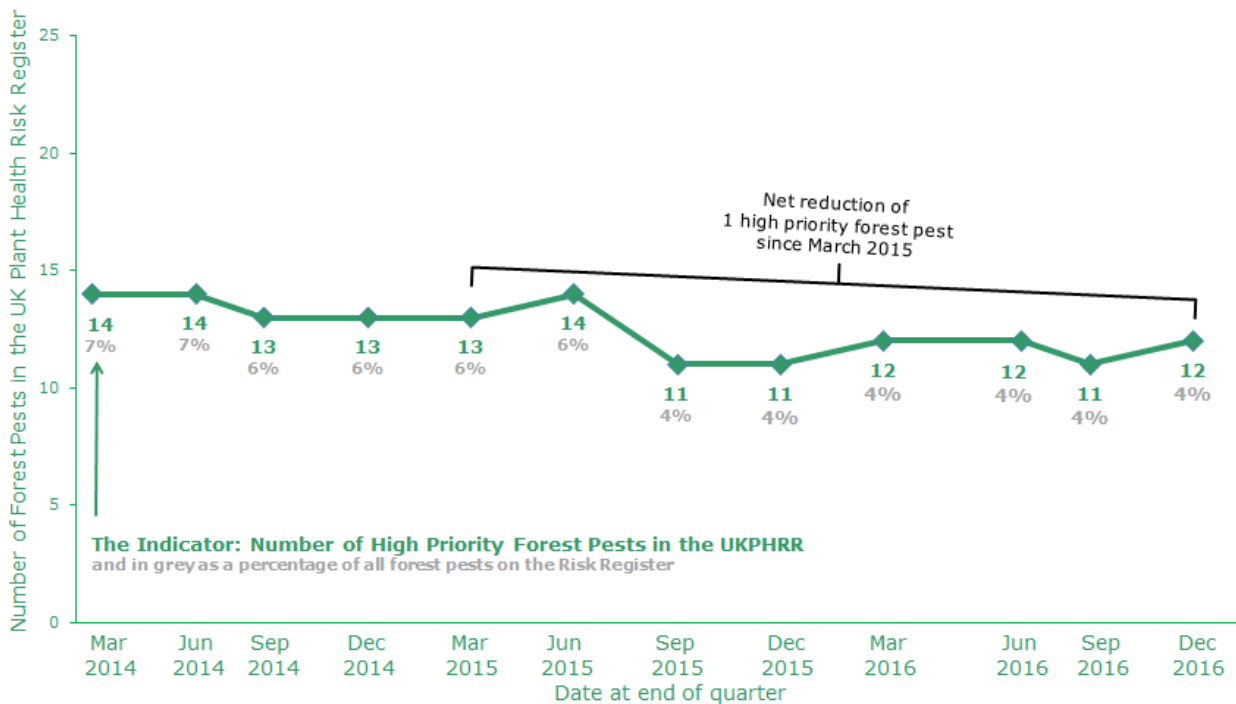
Source: Derived from the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)[1].

Report at end December 2016: There are **12 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.

Twelve (4%) of the 285 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 pest since the report at end September 2016, namely the zigzag elm sawfly, due to an increase in the rating of its possible impact.

The number of forest pests and diseases in the UKPHRR has also increased from 279 to 285 over the last three months. Of the six forest pests and diseases added in this period five are insects and one is a fungus. Five of them affect broadleaf trees and one affects both broadleaf and conifer trees. None of them are 'high priority' as defined by the UKPHRR.

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

Table 1: The 12 high priority forest pests in the UKPHRR with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end December 2016

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Alder Rust	*Melampsoridium hiratsukanum*	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	*Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	*Phytophthora ramorum*	Oomycete	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	*Aromia bungii*	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora Disease of Alder	*Phytophthora alni*	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	*Aproceros leucopoda*	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Emerald ash borer	*Agrilus planipennis*	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	-	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15
Two Spotted Oak Buprestid	*Agrilus biguttatus*	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	*Ophiognomonia clavigignenti-juglandacearum*	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle;	*Polygraphus proximus*	Insect	Absent	3	5	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of December 2016 is 52 (18%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 12 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.

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.

F) **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.

G) **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 and 30th December 2016.

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

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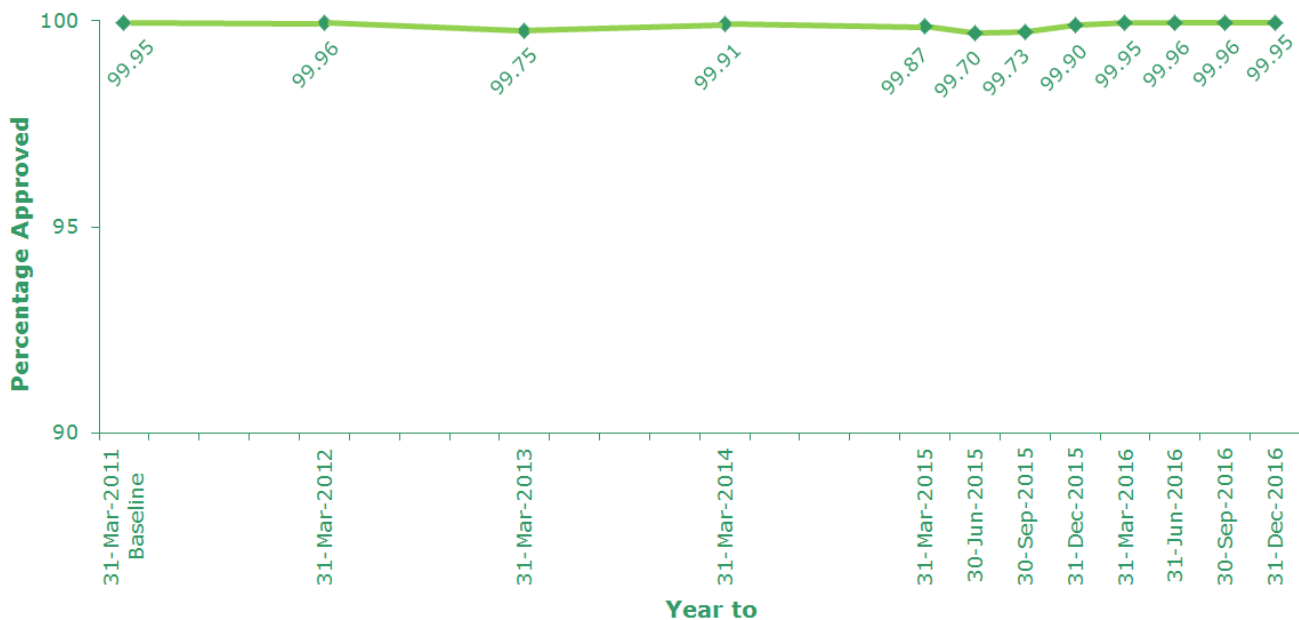
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 31 December 2016: **99.95% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.**
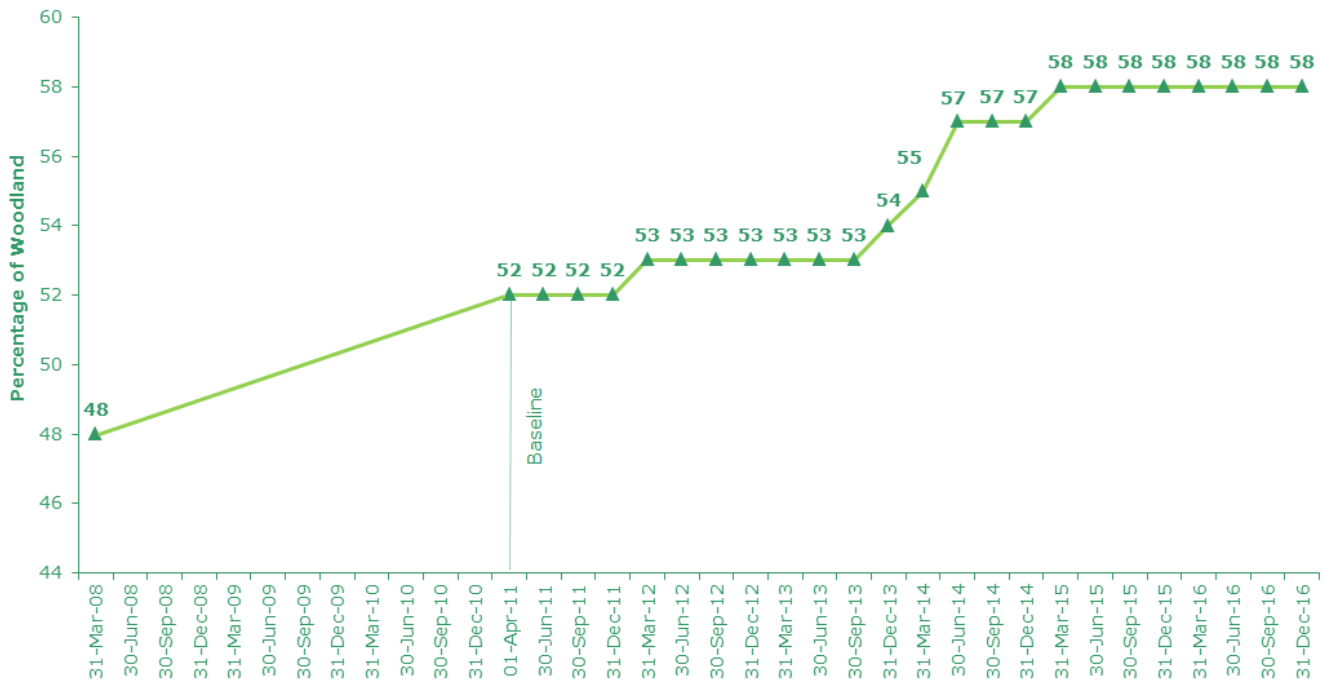
The figure for the proportion of all felling that is not illegal remains at a very good level.

Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available from the Forestry Commission Open Data Site.

Improvement

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

Source: Based on administrative data and the National Forest Inventory

Position at 31 December 2016 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed.**
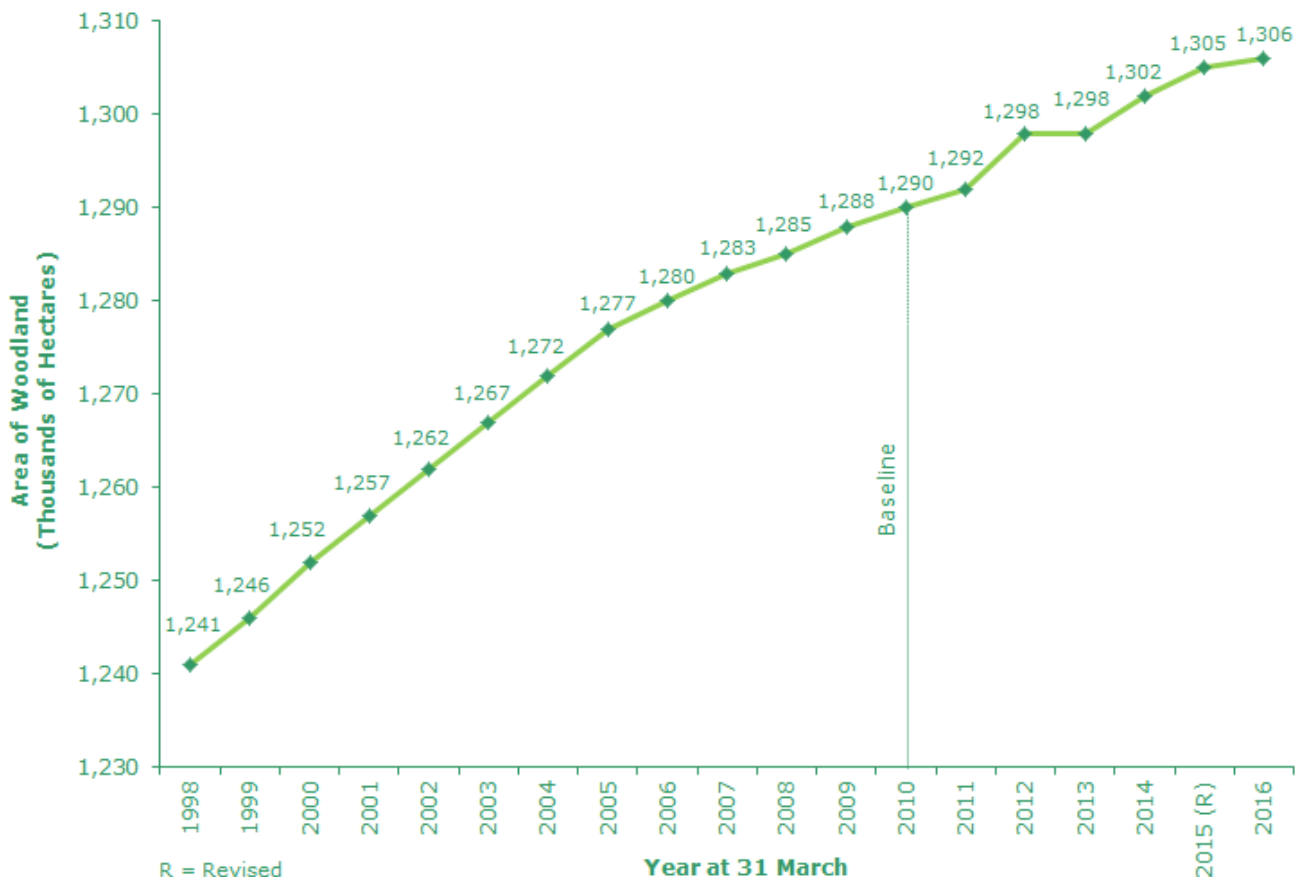
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed remains at 58%. The aspiration is that two thirds of woodland is in management by the end of 2018.

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

Expansion

Area of Woodland

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

Source: Based on National Forest Inventory and Forestry Commission administrative data.
See Forestry Statistics (Forestry Commission)

Report at 31 March 2016**: 1,306 thousand hectares (ha) of woodland in England**.

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 next update to this statistic is due in Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking 2017 in June 2017

As at 31 March 2016, the figure for the area of woodland in England is 1,306 thousand hectares (ha), 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 2.6 thousand ha per year.
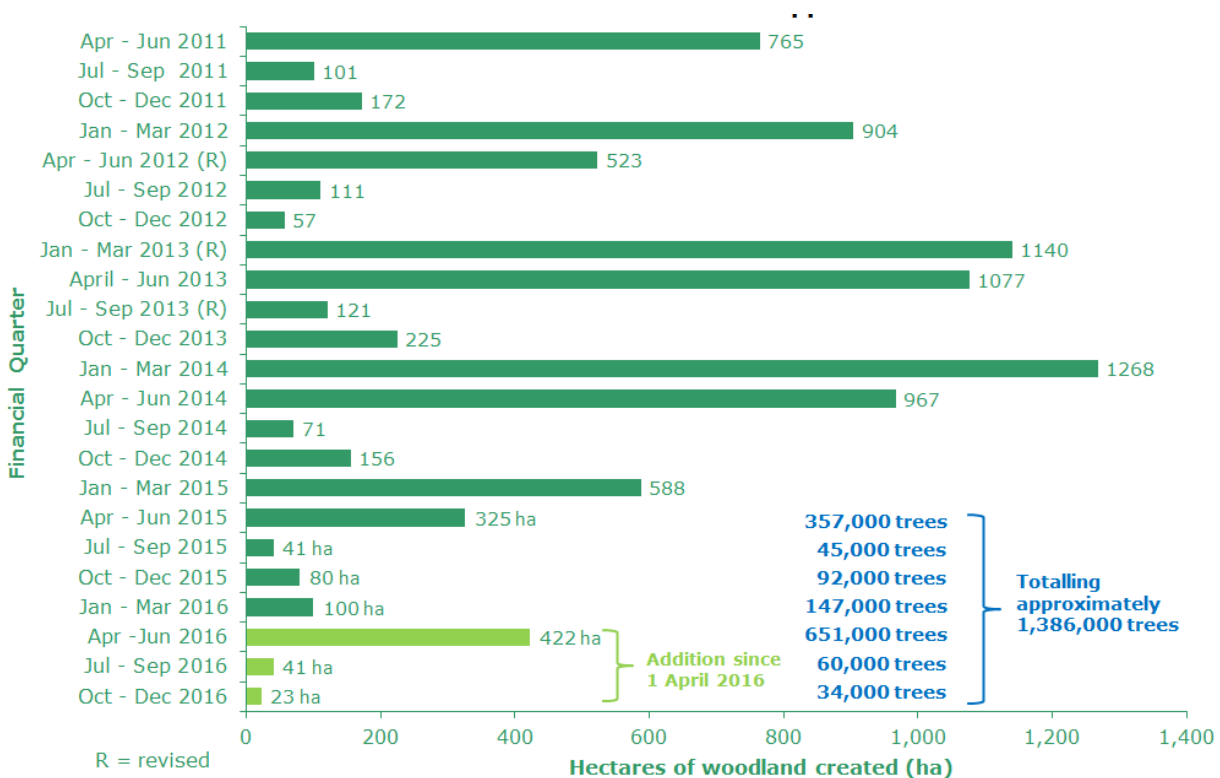
B. Hectares of Woodland Created (Gross) and Approximate Number of Trees that Represents – Quarterly Updated

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
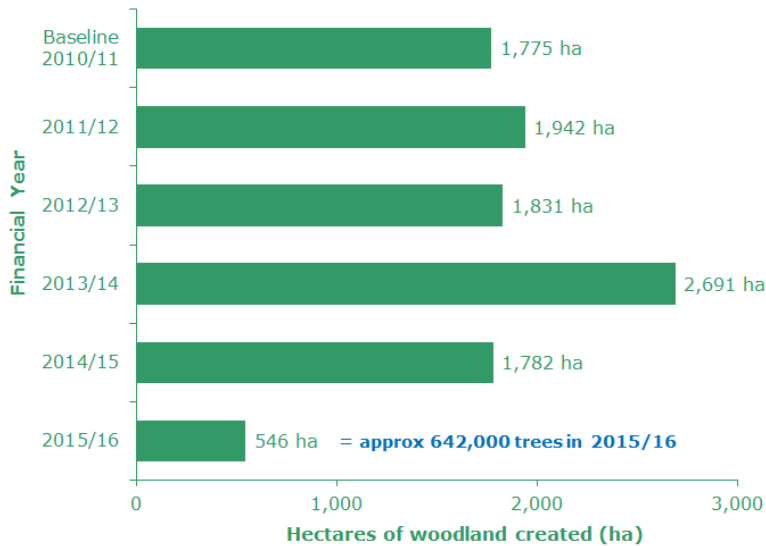
ii) Quarterly Progress

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Woodland created October to December 2016: **23 hectares**, equating to approximately 34,000 trees.

The area of woodland creation is less this quarter than for the same quarter last year. However woodland creation is counted on the basis of woodland creation claims being paid, and we do not expect many trees to be planted, thus many claims to be paid, as it is the start of the tree planting season.

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

Forest Enterprise England

Organisational

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)
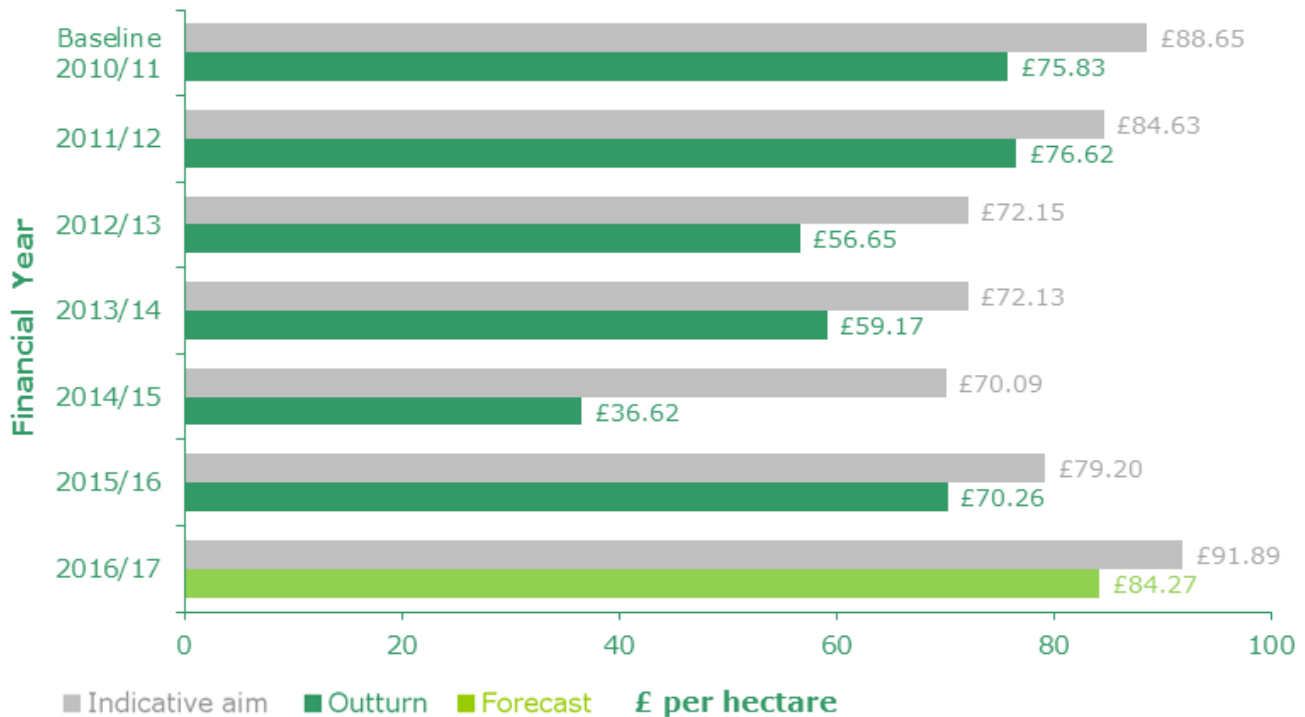
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

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

Forecast for 2016/17 financial year, as at 30 September 2016: **£84.27 per hectare**, compared to the indicative aim of £91.89 per hectare for the year.

The indicative value for 2016/17 is greater than 2015/16 due to work programme slippage brought forward from 2015/16, and additional costs associated with the transition of corporate functions to Forest Enterprise from England/Scotland Shared Services. Transition costs are expected to be a cost pressure over three years to the end of 2018/19.

Forecast performance as at 30 September 2016 is better than the indicative aim due to increased contributions from trading revenue.

Economy

Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate (PFE)
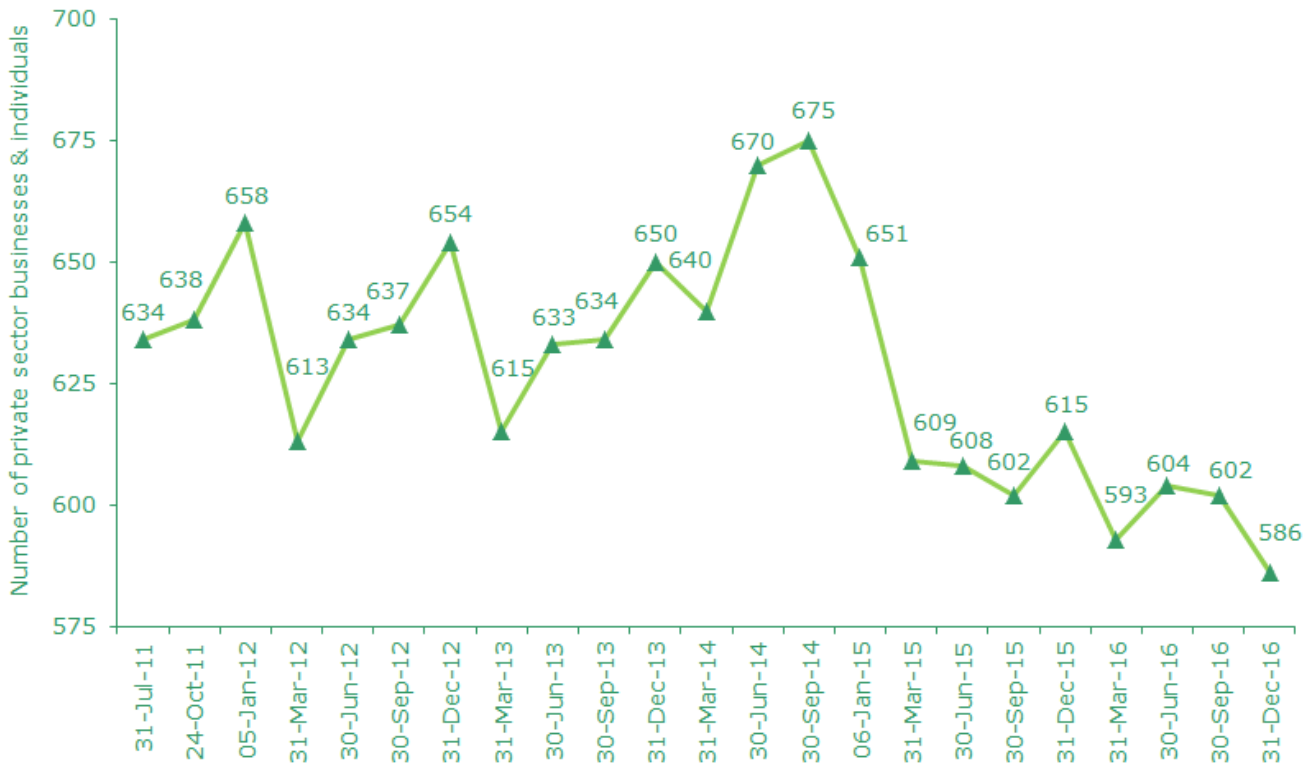
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Position at 31 December 2016: **586 private businesses and individuals**.

The latest update shows a small reduction in the quarter to the end December 2016; mainly as a result of a net reduction in typically smaller scale licences and permissions. By contrast the number and nature of larger scale business partnerships have remained largely steady, contributing to local income and employment. This includes Adventure Forest Ltd who provide Go Ape.