Forestry Commission England

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
30 June 2017

Corporate Plan
Key Performance Indicators
Headline Performance Update
at 30 June 2017 (First Release)

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 six headline indicators in this series of quarterly updates, and report of our full suite of indicators annually. Our Indicators Report 2017 (June 2017) provides the latest position. Our six headline performance indicators are shown in Table 1 below.

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 2016-17 outturns of these headline indicators have been assured by the Government Internal Audit Agency and also the systems in place by which these reports have been produced have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

Past, present and future reports are available from www.forestry.gov.uk > England > About us > Indicators.

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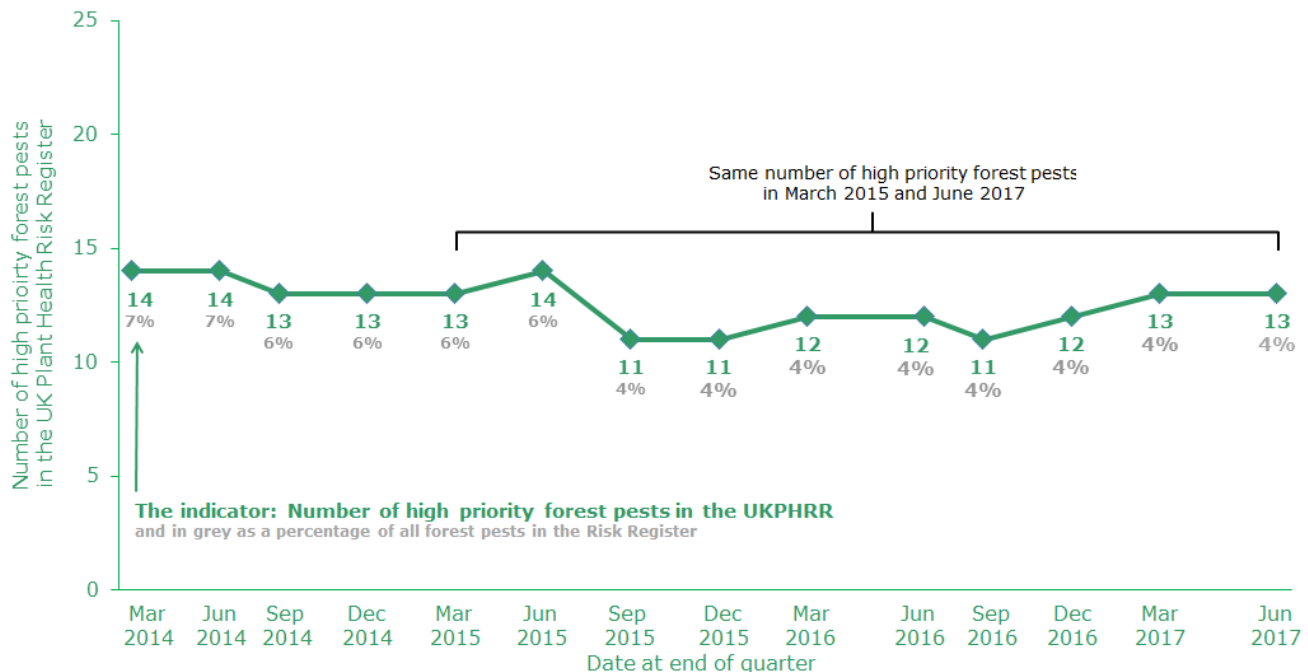
Source: Derived from the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)[1].

Report at end June 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 308 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 the same number as at the end of March 2017.

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[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 June 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	*Melampsoridium hiratsukanum*	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	*Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi*	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Shoot blight on cedar/Tip blight on eastern hemlocks	*Sirococcus tsugae*	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
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 March 2017 is 52 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 13 as mentioned.

Erratum: As a result of an administrative error the update as at end March 2017 showed there were 299 forest pests in the UKPHRR at that date. This should have showed there were 297 at that date.

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.

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[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.
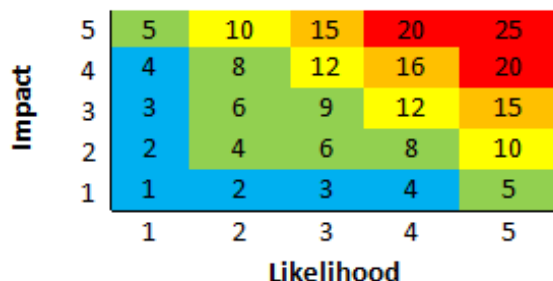

G) **Other forest pests and diseases affecting English woodland.** The indicator is only based on the pests included in the UKPHRR. In so doing it effectively captures the major non-native pests threatening UK forestry together with a limited selection of native pests that are the subject of major Government 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, 30th March 2017, and 4th July 2017.

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)*
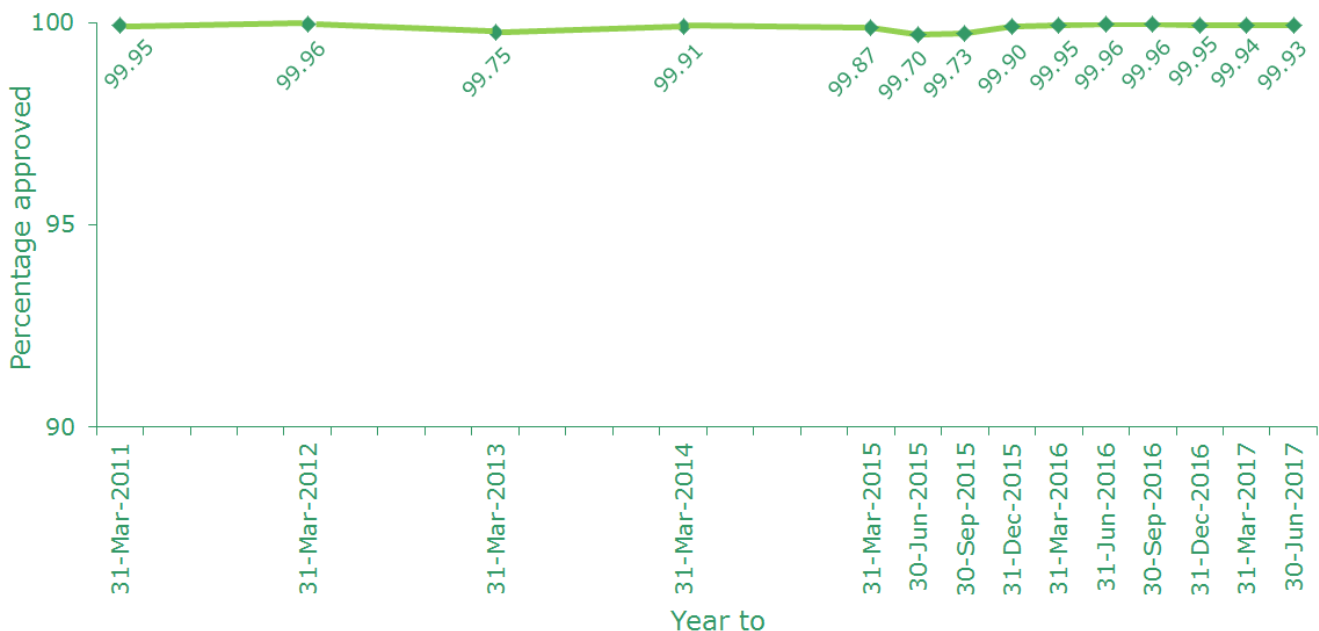
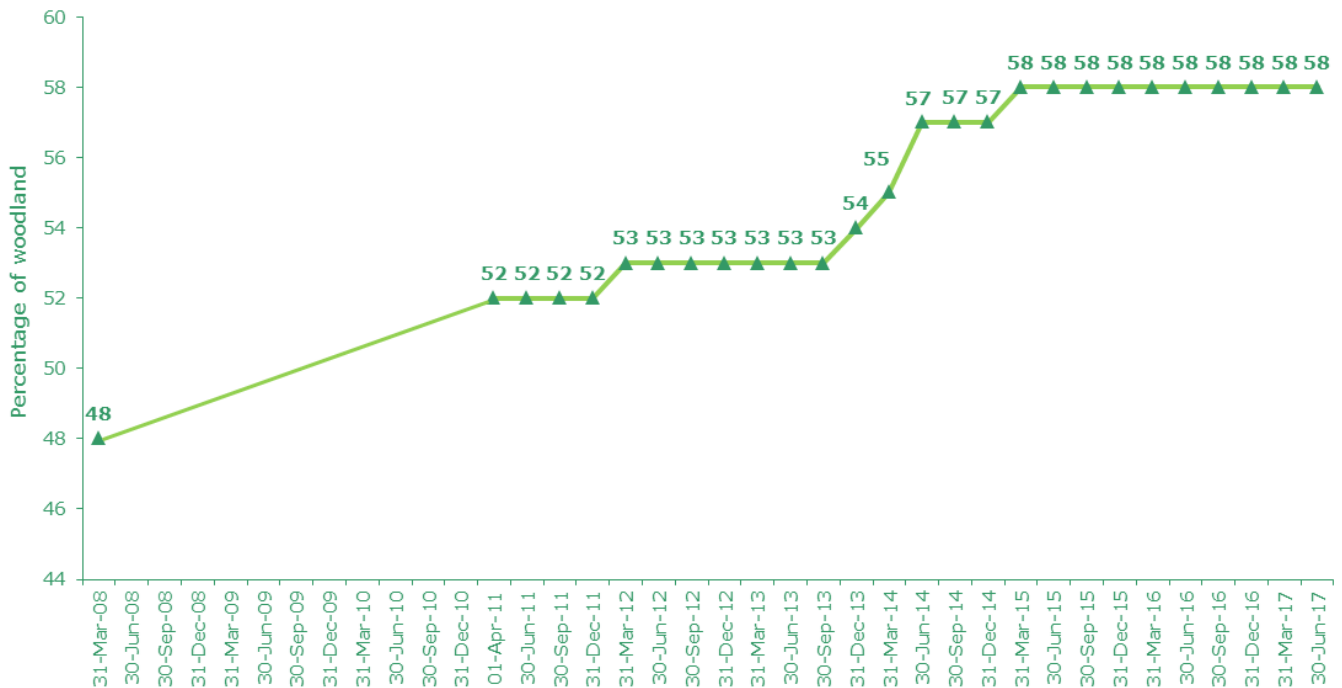Source: Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 30 June 2017: **99.93% 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.

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

Improvement

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

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

Position at 30 June 2017 is that **58 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed.**
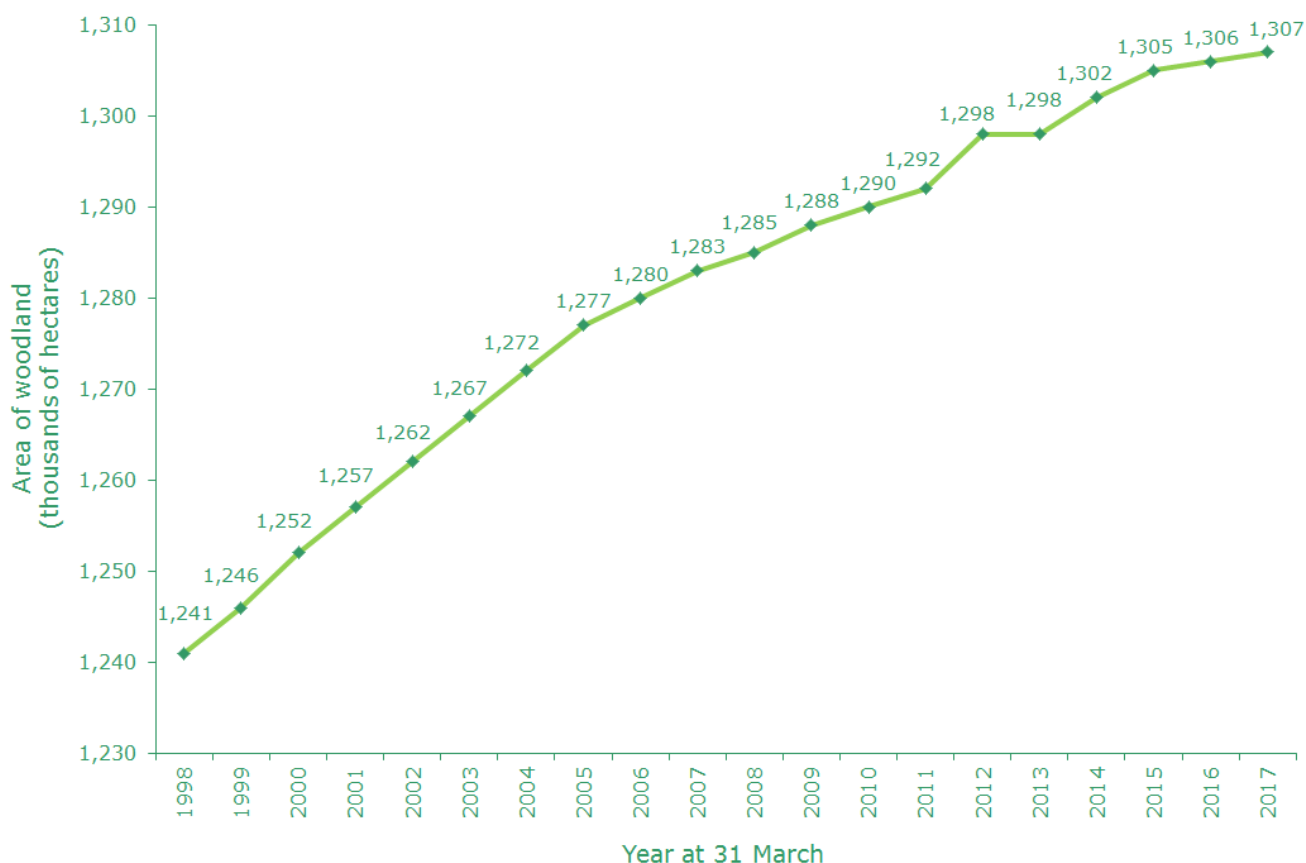
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed remains at 58%. The aspiration is that two thirds of woodland is in management by the end of 2018.

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

Expansion

Area of Woodland

A. Area of woodland in England headline indicator: **annually** updated

Source: This is a National Statistic now first published in Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking (Forestry Commission), based mainly on the National Forest Inventory woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

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%.

B. Hectares of woodland created (gross) and approximate number of trees that represents – **quarterly** updated

The graphs and table in this section show new planting of woodland in England supported by the Rural Development Programme for England: both the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) and Countryside Stewardship (CS) incentives. The most recent statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England are published separately in the Forestry Commission's [Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking – 2017 edition](#) publication.

i)   New planting by financial year (in hectares)
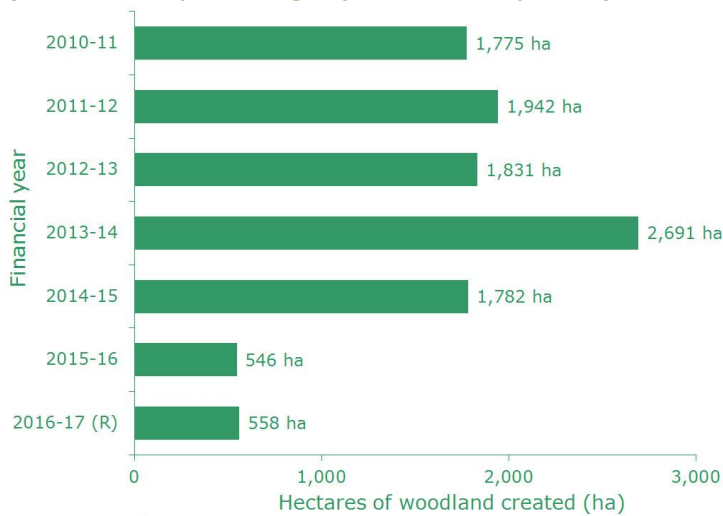
R = revised

ii)   New planting by quarter (in hectares)
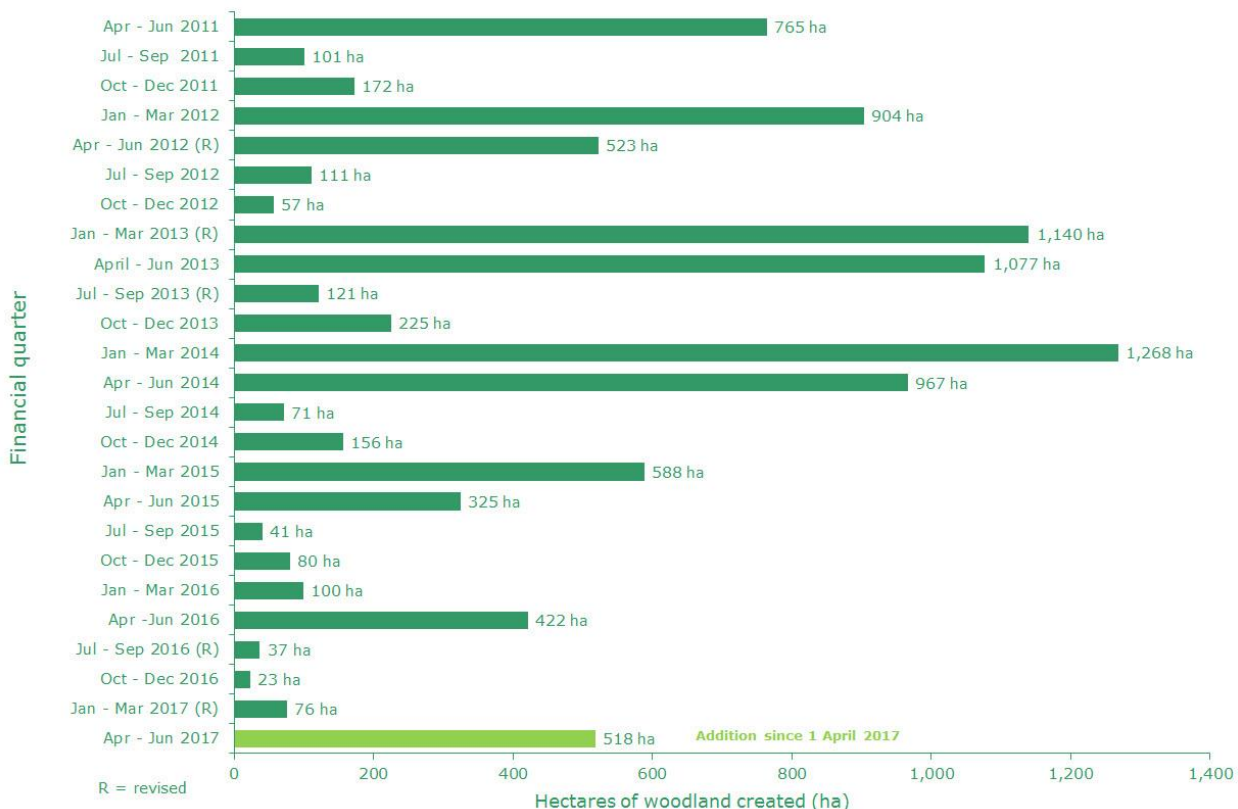
R = revised

Woodland created April to June 2017: **518 hectares**.

The area of woodland created this quarter is greater than that in the same quarter the previous year.

The methodology has changed for the production of the latest figures to include planting recorded on the Forestry Commission's system (EWGS and 2015 CS applications) as before and also now, planting recorded on the Rural Payments System (2016 CS applications). This methodology has also been applied to the previous quarter to enable direct comparison of the two figures.

The change in methodology has revised the figures for the previous quarter up by 76%, from 43 ha (as provided in the previous edition of this release) to 76 ha. Further amendments are likely in future as improvements are made to the methods available for recording and reporting these figures.

The approximate number of trees planted within the new planting recorded since April 2015 is presented below.

Table 2: New planting of trees in England supported by the Rural Development Programme for England

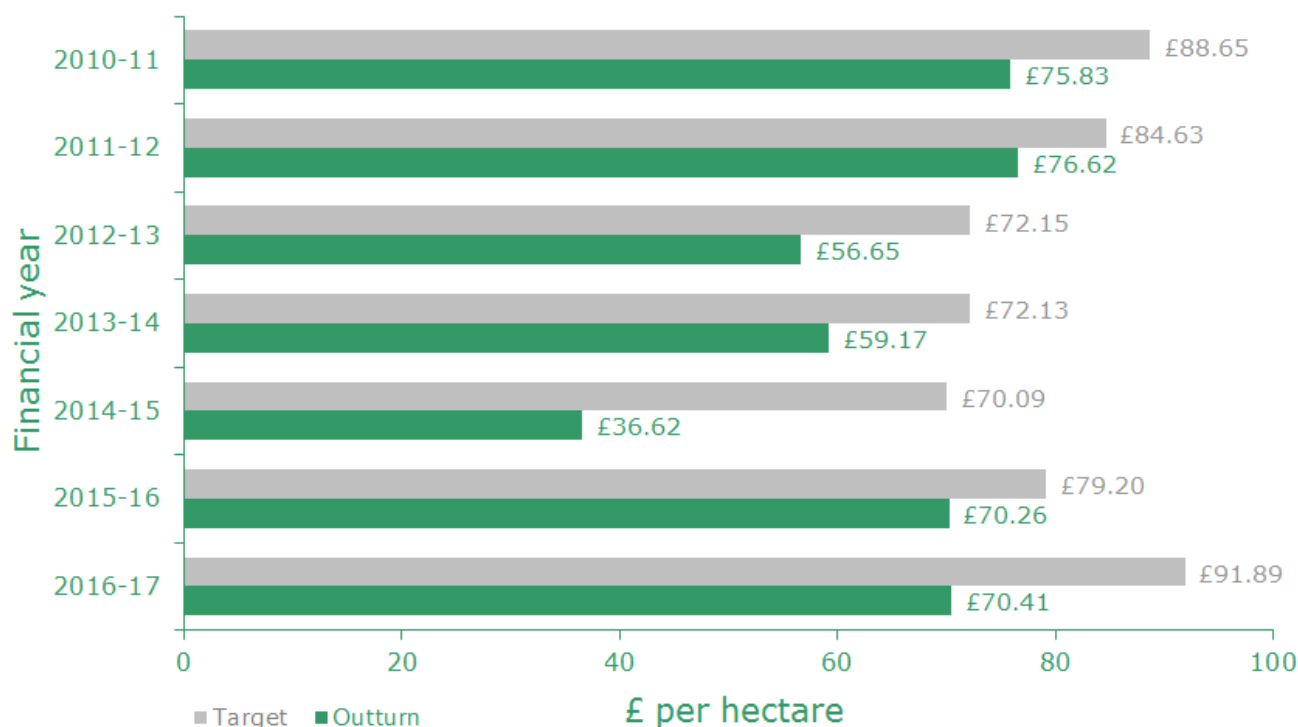| Time period	New planting (hectares)	Trees planted (approximate number)
Apr – Jun 2015	325	357,000
Jul – Sep 2015	41	45,000
Oct – Dec 2015	80	92,000
Jan – Mar 2016	100	147,000
2015-16 year	**546**	**642,000**
Apr – Jun 2016	422	651,000
Jul – Sep 2016	37	55,000
Oct – Dec 2016	23	34,000
Jan – Mar 2017	76	121,000
2016-17 year	**558**	**860,000**
Apr – Jun 2017	518	781,000
Total from Apr 2015 to Jun 2017	**1,622 hectares**	**2,283,000 trees**

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

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)

Financial year	Target	Outturn
2010-11	£88.65	£75.83
2011-12	£84.63	£76.62
2012-13	£72.15	£56.65
2013-14	£72.13	£59.17
2014-15	£70.09	£36.62
2015-16	£79.20	£70.26
2016-17	£91.89	£70.41

£ per hectare

Source: Forestry Commission accounts.

Reports for this indicator are published as at 31 March and 30 September each year. The most recent report as at 31 March 2017 is as follows.

The outturn for 2016-17 was **£70.41 per hectare**, 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.

Economy

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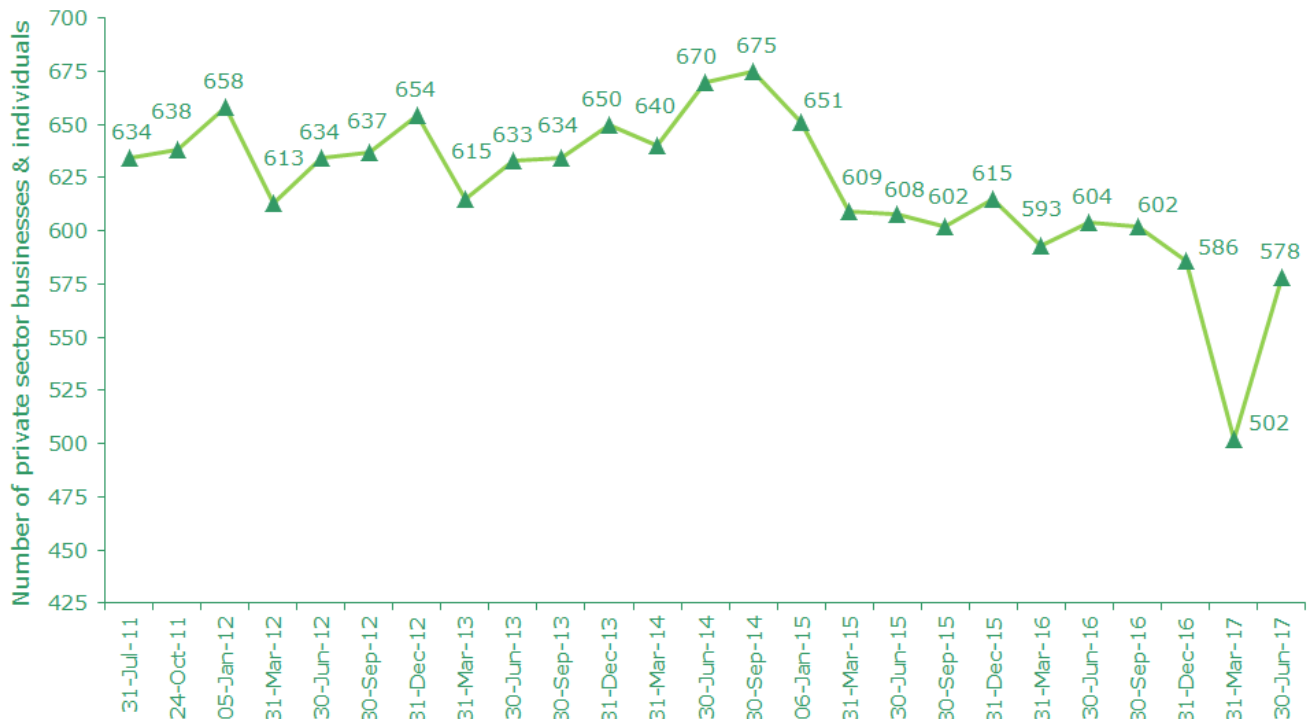
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

Position at 30 June 2017: **578 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 the overall number of businesses active of the public forest estate has recovered significantly from March 2017 and is now within 10% of the 2016 numbers at the same period. The main increases have been in the area of seasonal activity and educational 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.