

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
31 March 2019

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 31 March 2019 (First Release)

Our Corporate Plan for 2018-19¹ sets out the key performance indicators against which we assess our contribution to the delivery of the Government's priorities for forestry and woodlands in England, and use to identify trends in the wider forestry sector in England. These indicators reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands. This includes some of the contributions that Forestry England makes to people, nature and the economy through its management of the Public Forest Estate. What's more they indicate part of our contribution to the delivery of the government's 25 Year Environment Plan².

Our use of indicators reflects our commitment to evidence based working and to ensuring that there is a robust evidence base available to the forestry sector to underpin policy and operational decisions. We publish:

- Updates on these six headline indicators quarterly³. They are listed in Table 1.
- Reports on *Government supported new planting of trees in England* annually with a mid-year interim update⁴. The latest report is the interim update to 30 September 2018. The next update is scheduled to be published on 13th June 2019.
- Reports on our full suite of around 60 indicators in our *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators Report* annually⁵. The latest report is for 2018. The next update is scheduled to be published on 13th June 2019.

Each of these six headline indicators are based on statistical and geographical analysis of Forestry Commission administrative data, the National Forest Inventory or data available from other parts of the Defra Group.

¹ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Corporate Plan 2018-19*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forestry-commission-corporate-plan-2018-to-2019>

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

³ Available from the Forestry Commission indicators page on GOV.UK at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/forestry-commission-corporate-plan-performance-indicators>

⁴ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Government supported new planting of trees in England: Interim update for the half year April to September 2018*. Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/government-supported-new-planting-of-trees-in-england-interim-update-for-the-half-year-april-to-september-2018>

⁵ Forestry Commission England (2018) *Corporate Plan Performance Indicators 2018*, Bristol: Forestry Commission England, at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-commission-england-fce-corporate-plan-performance-indicators-2018>

Table 1: Forestry Commission Headline Performance Indicators

Aim	Headline Indicator	Page
Forest Services		
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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)	9
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)	10
Expansion	Area of woodland; and rate of new planting of trees	11
Forestry England		
Organisational	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)	14
Economy	Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate	15

Throughout this report we show the statistical sources drawn upon and signpost the underlying spatial data on our map-based Forestry Commission Open Data site⁶.

Previous, current and future editions of Forestry Commission indicators reports are available from the Forestry Commission indicators page on the GOV.UK³ web site.

This is an Official Statistics report, produced to adhere to the *Code of Practice for Statistics*⁷.

All of the year-end outturns for each of the headline indicators shown in this report, and the systems in place by which these reports have been produced, have been assured by the Government Internal Audit Agency.

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Bristol, 25th April 2019

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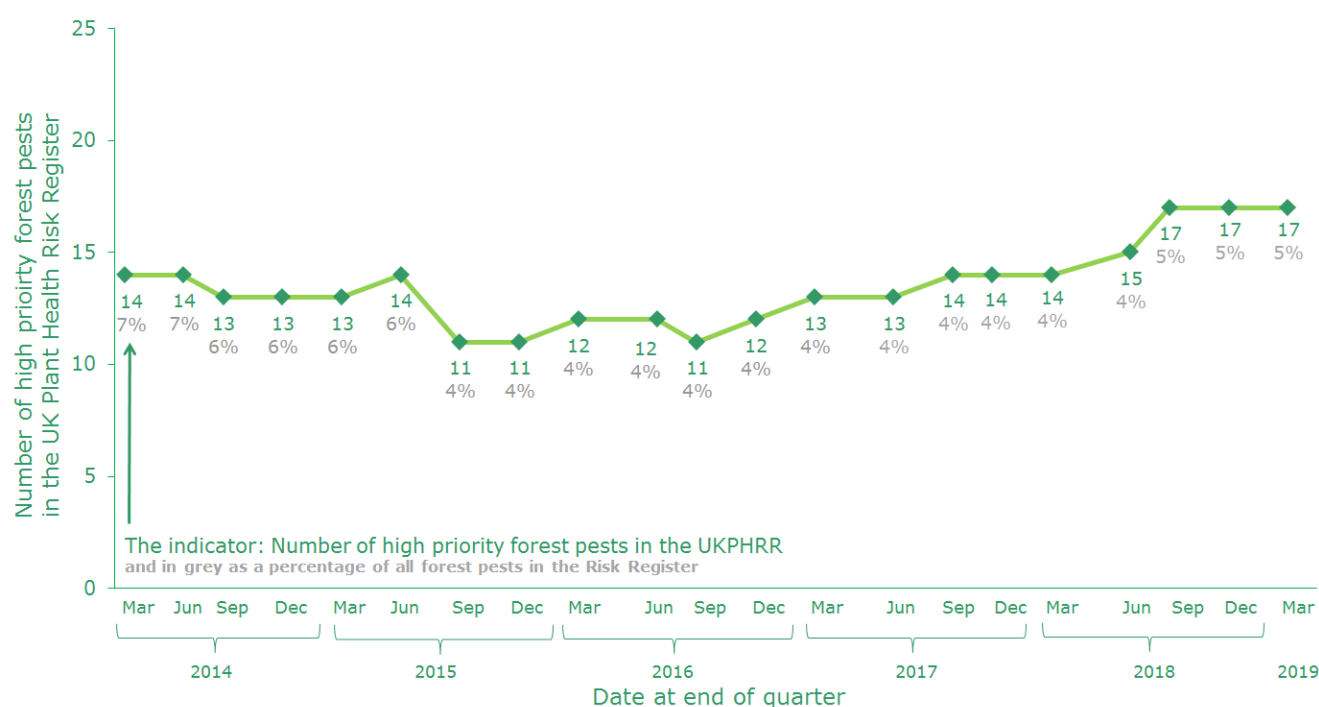
⁶ Forestry Commission geospatial Open Data is available from <http://data-forestry.opendata.arcgis.com/>

⁷ Office for Statistics Regulation and UK Statistics Authority and (2018) *Code of Practice for Statistics*, available from <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/the-code/>

Forest Services

Protection

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



Source: UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)⁸ data.

Report at end March 2019: There are now 350 forest pests on the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR), **17 (5%) of which are considered high priority**.

Pests are ranked as high priority if they have a mitigated relative risk rating of 15 or more (see Table 2 and Note A below). These high priority pests require actions, in addition to current mitigation measures, to help prevent them having a potentially substantial negative impact on England's woodland.

Of the 17 pests and diseases listed, nine are currently present in England, with only two being classed as widespread; namely *Phytophthora alni* which affects all alder species in Great Britain and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*, that causes horse chestnut bleeding canker.

Phytophthora ramorum and *Chalara* dieback of ash (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) continue to have a landscape scale impact. Work continues in an effort to eradicate the newly found population of the larger eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) in Kent. While this particular pest does not meet the definition as 'high priority' for this

⁸ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

indicator, this is a quarantine (notifiable) pest considered to be a major risk to Norway spruce trees in particular⁹.

Table 2: The 17 high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end March 2019

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</i> pv. <i>aesculi</i>	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Shoot blight on cedar/Tip blight on eastern hemlocks	<i>Sirococcus tsugae</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
n/a	<i>Agrilus fleischeri</i>	Insect	Absent	4	5	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Oomycete	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora disease of alder	<i>Phytophthora alni</i>	Oomycete	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Thousand cankers disease	<i>Geosmithia morbida</i>	Fungus	Absent	4	4	16

⁹ There is more information on the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eight-toothed-european-spruce-bark-beetle-ips-typographus>

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Walnut twig beetle	<i>Pityophthorus juglandis</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Zigzag elm sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Insect	Present: unknown distribution	5	3	15
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	<i>n/a</i>	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
Cypress jewel beetle or juniper buprestid	<i>Lamprodila festiva</i>	Insect	Absent	5	3	15

Unmitigated risk ratings

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of March 2019 is 58 (17%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 17.

Erratum:

We have revised the figure for the percentage of forest pests in the Risk Register that were high priority at 31 December 2018 from 4% to 5%, to correct for an inadvertent administrative error we identified and rectified in a regular quality review.

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 Guide¹⁰ (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.

Possible Relative Risk Ratings:

Impact	Likelihood				
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5

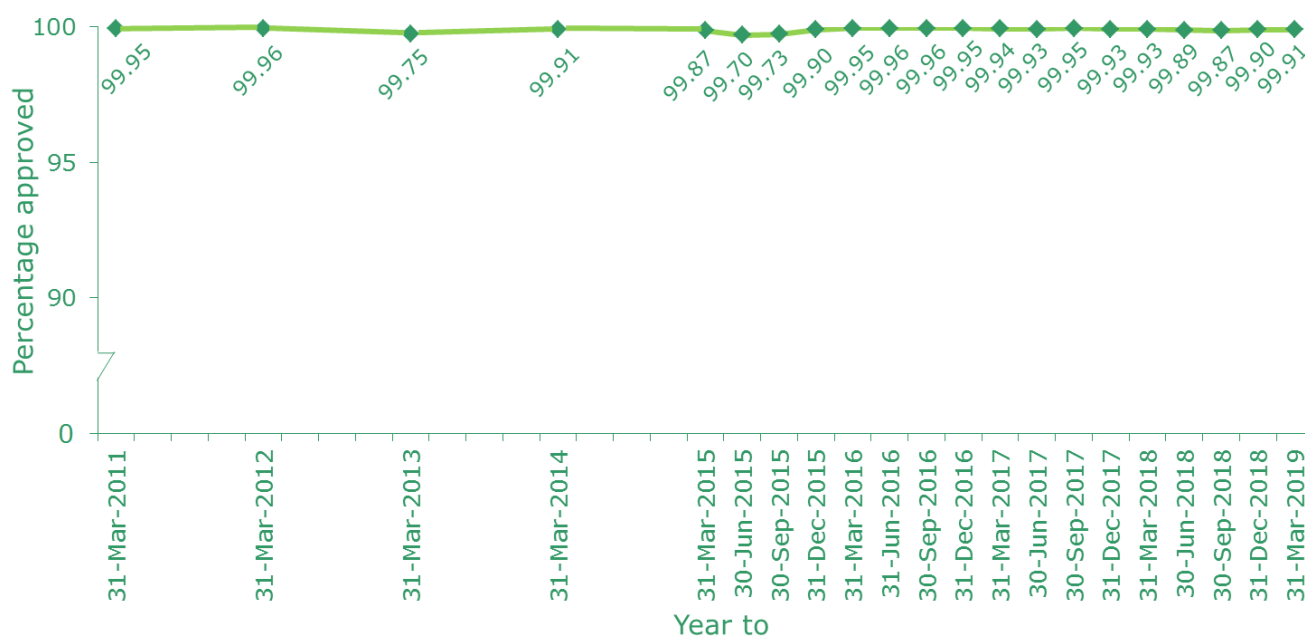
¹⁰ <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

G) **Other forest pests and diseases affecting English woodland.** The indicator is only based on the pests included in the UKPHRR. In so doing it effectively captures the major non-native pests threatening UK forestry together with a limited selection of native pests that are the subject of major Government campaigns of action. There are many native and non-native forest pests that are not included in the UKPHRR.

H) **Precise end of quarter report dates are:** 9th April 2014, 2nd July 2014, 19th September 2014, 31st December 2014, 30th March 2015, 23rd June 2015, 24th September 2015, 29th December 2015, 30th March 2016, 7th July 2016, 30th September 2016, 30th December 2016, 30th March 2017, 4th July 2017, 2nd October 2017, 27th December 2017, 31st March 2018, 2nd July 2018, 30th September 2018, 31st December 2018, and 31st March 2019.

Open Data: The spreadsheets of 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.

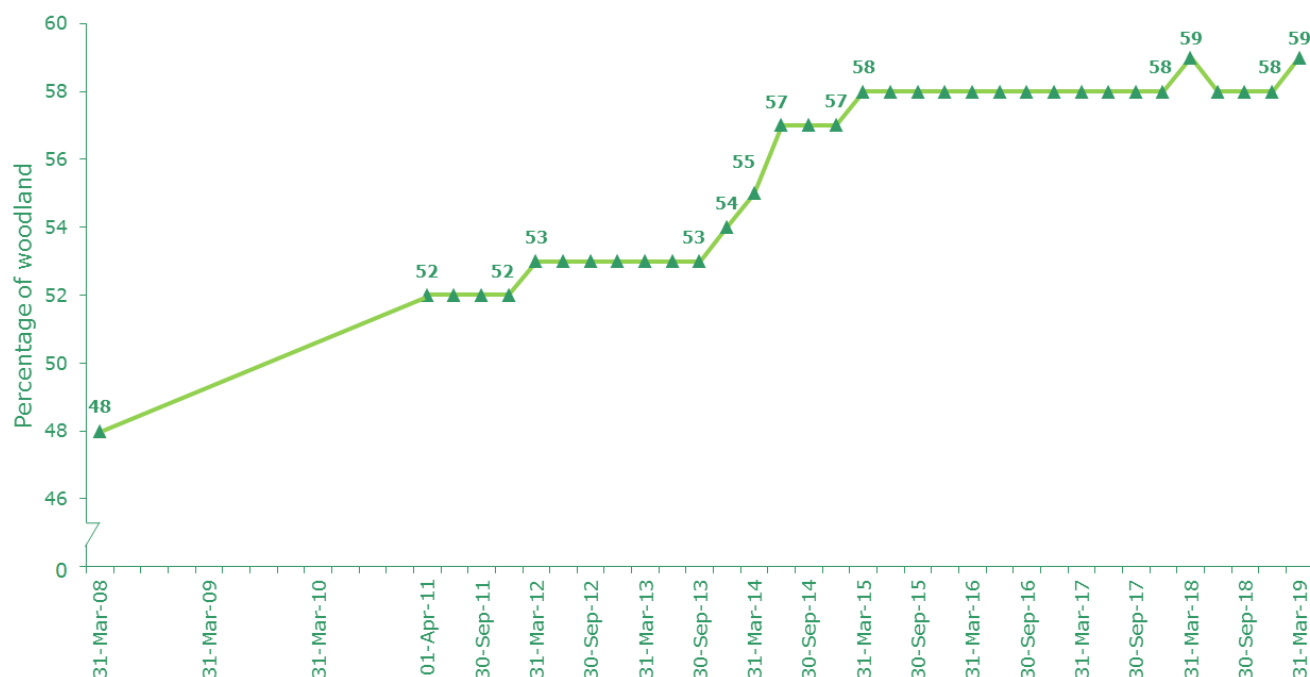
Report for year to 31 March 2019: **99.91% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.** The aim is to keep this indicator above 95%.

The overall figure of legal felling remains at a consistently very high 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 31 March 2019 is that **59 out of every 100 hectares of English woodland are actively managed, totalling 766,000 hectares of woodland in management** (at this date, when rounded).

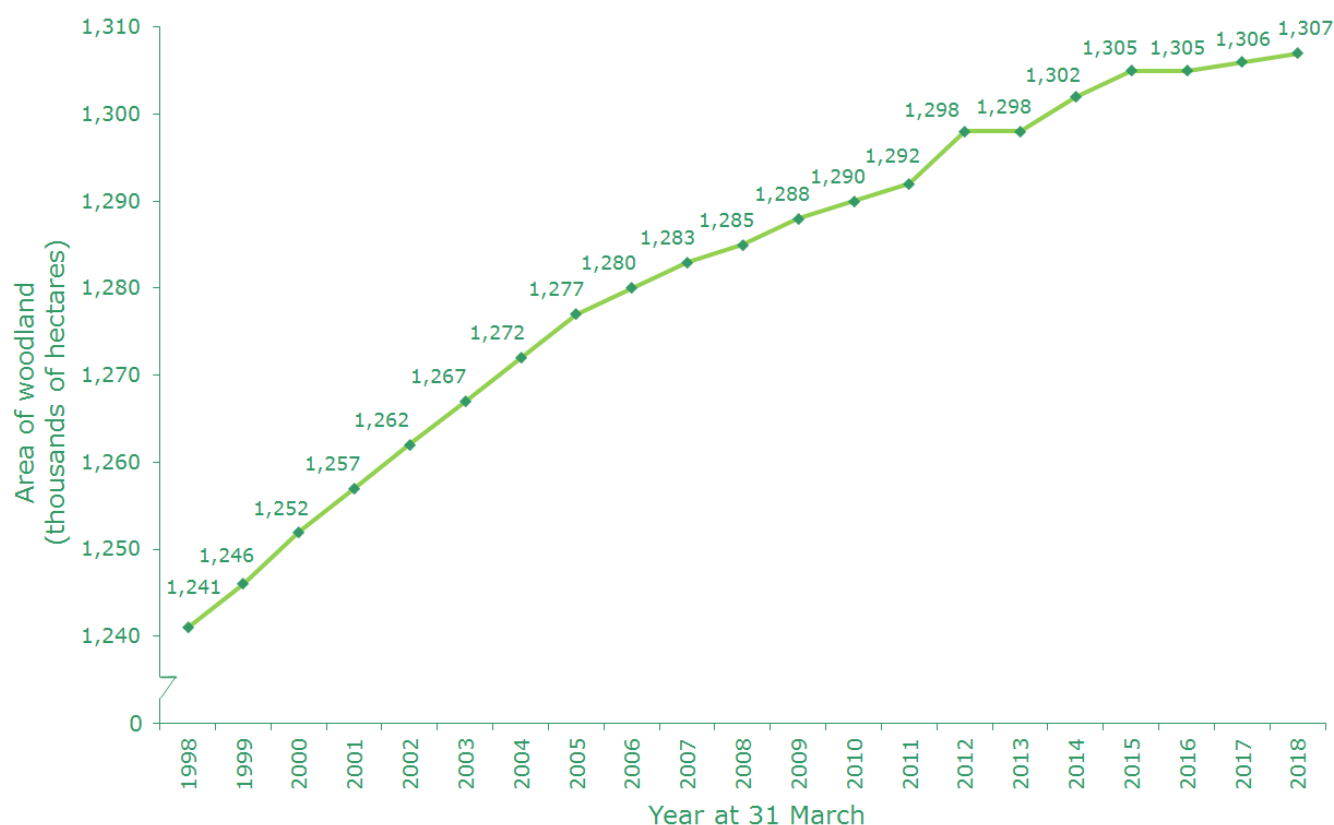
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed has increased slightly to 59%. There is scope to further increase the area of woodland in active management to meet demand for UK grown timber, to help manage tree pests and diseases and to improve woodland resilience.

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

Expansion

Area of woodland, and rate of new planting of trees

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



Source: *Forestry Statistics 2018* (Forest Research) based mainly on the National Forest Inventory woodland map and Forestry Commission administrative data.

Confirmed figure at 31 March 2018: **1,307 thousand hectares (ha) of woodland in England that equates to 10.0% of the land area of England**. The aspiration is to achieve 12% woodland cover by 2060, equating to 1,566 thousand hectares.

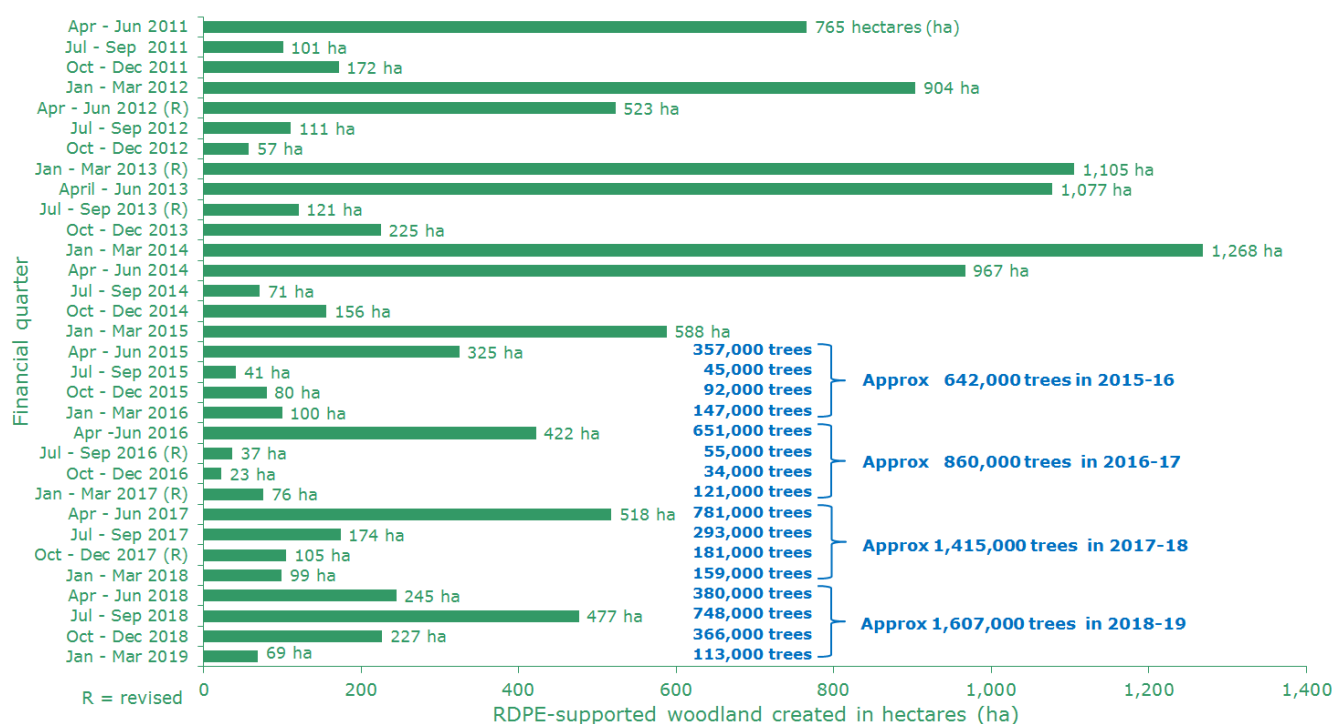
This indicator includes all woodland in England and is reported on an annual basis. This report is the most up-to-date information available and reflects the timing of updates of this National Statistics report. The next report, giving provisional figures for the position at 31 March 2019 is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's *Provisional Woodland Statistics: 2019 Edition* on 13th June 2019.

Over the last 10 years the area of woodland has increased by an average of 2.2 thousand ha per year. Over the 20 year period from 1998 to 2018 the area of woodland has increased from 9.5% to 10.0% of the land area of England.

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

The statistics in this section report on new planting of woodland in England supported by the Countryside Stewardship (CS) Woodland Creation Grant incentives, that are a part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). They are based on the area (in hectares) of grant claims sent for payment to woodland owners in each quarter.

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



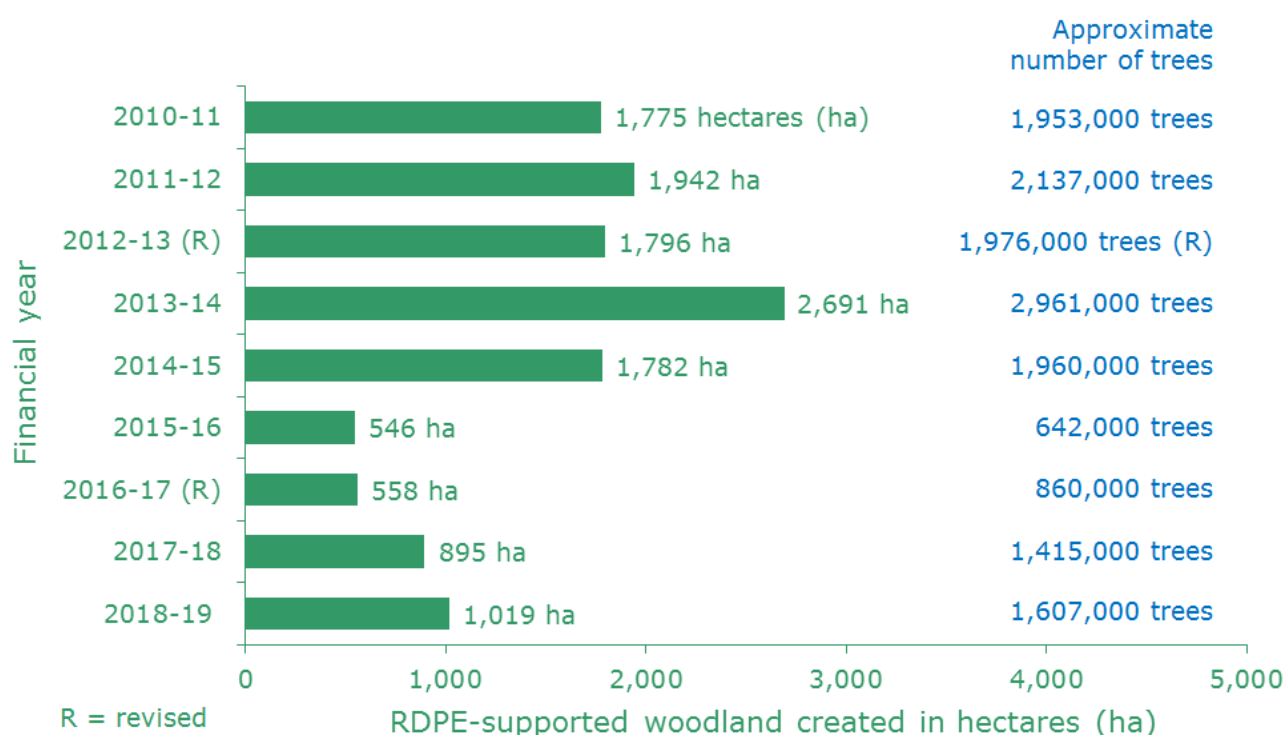
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data. Figures may not sum to annual totals due to rounding.

Woodland created with RDPE grant support January to March 2019 inclusive:
69 hectares, equating to approximately 113,000 trees in this quarter.

Although the area of woodland created with RDPE grant support in this final quarter of 2018-19 is less than that reported for the same period last year, the cumulative total for the 2018-19 year (as shown in the bar chart below) is 1,019 hectares, which is 10% more than last year, and nearly double that of each of the previous two financial years.

This headline indicator reports quarterly counts of the number of trees newly planted with grant support from the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant for which claims for payment, have been both a) submitted by or on behalf of the woodland owner, and b) sent for payment. Since most new planting of trees takes place in the winter to promote their successful establishment, a seasonal trend has been observed in the statistics in recent years, with more payments made and counted a few months after the winter planting season (as can be seen in the bar chart above). We expect greater levels of new planting in the reports for the April to June, and July to September quarters.

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



Source: Based on 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. Government supported new planting of trees in England

Statistics on the new planting of trees towards the Government's manifesto commitment to plant 11 million trees in the 2017-22 parliament, that include trees newly planted with RDPE support - as shown in sections B i) and B ii) above) - plus the nine other forms of central government support counted, are reported separately in the Forestry Commission's *Government supported new planting of trees in England* statistical series. The latest report available is the *interim update for the half year April to September 2018*. Publication of the next update, for new planting in the full 2018-19 year is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's *Government supported new planting of trees in England: Report for 2018-19* on 13th June 2019.

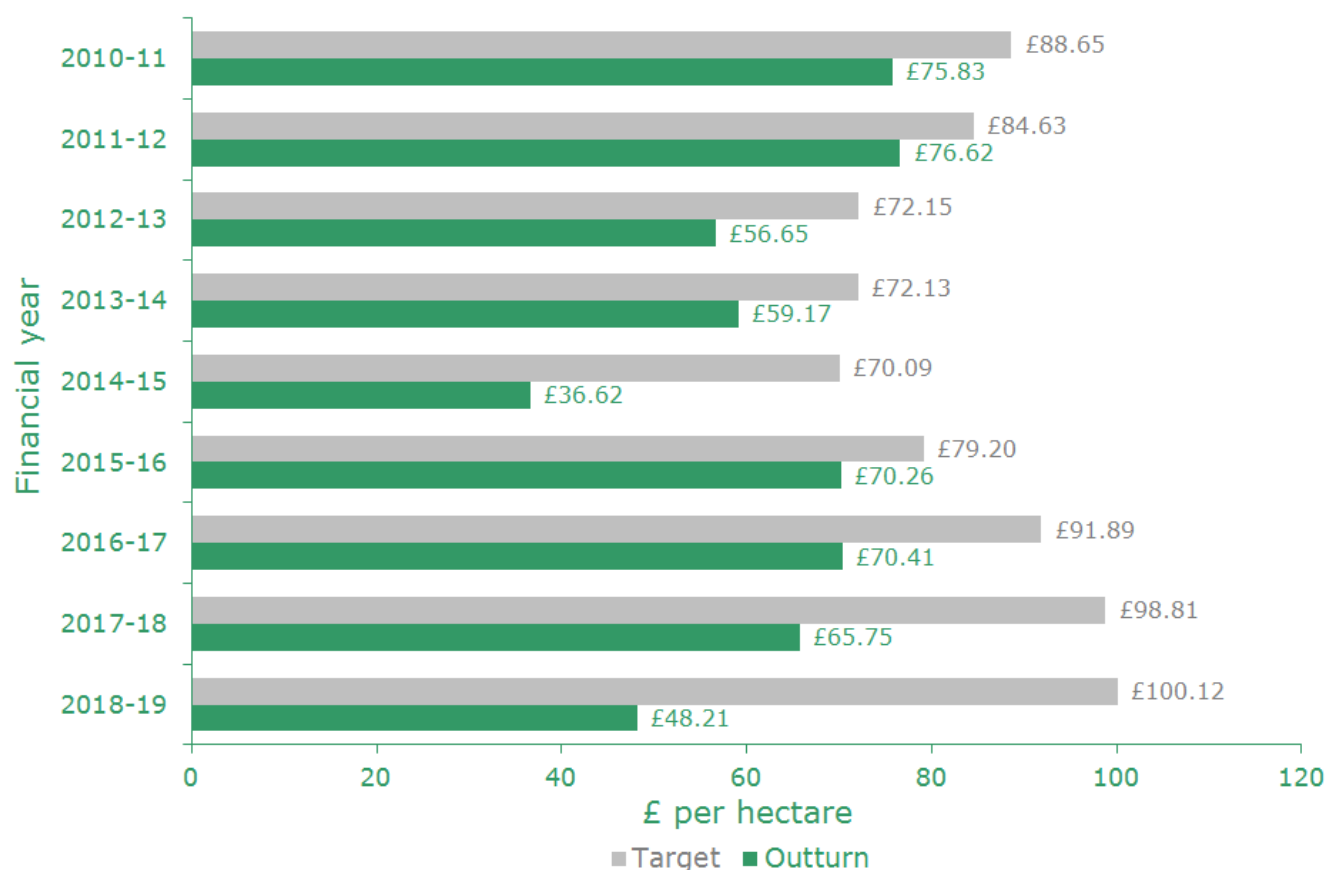
D. Total for **all** new planting of trees in England

The most recent statistics covering **all** recorded new planting of woodland in England in 2017-18 and previous years, also including that without direct government support, were published in *Forestry Statistics 2018*. Publication of the next update, for new planting in the 2018-19 year is scheduled for publication in the Forestry Commission's *Provisional Woodland Statistics: 2019 Edition* on 13th June 2019.

Forestry England

Organisational

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)



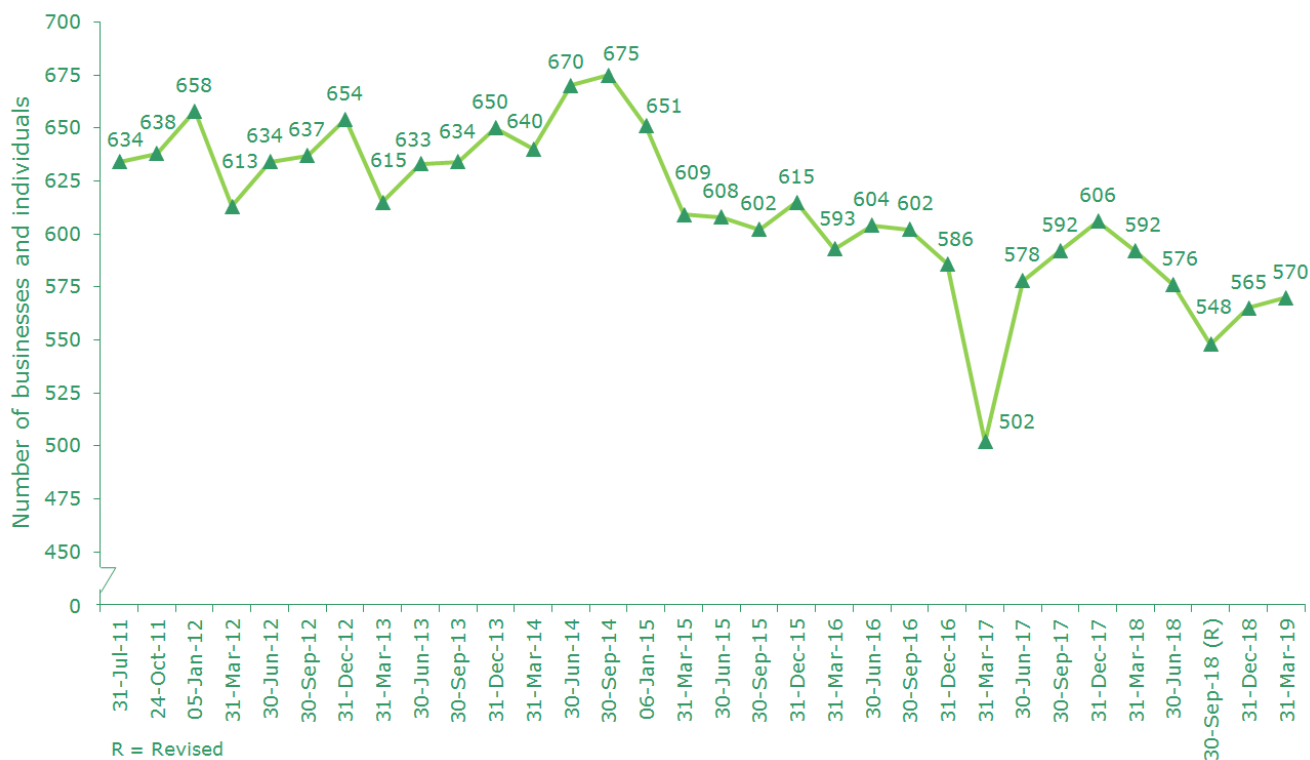
Source: Forestry England accounts.

The draft outturn for 2018-19 financial year is **£48.21 per hectare**, subject to audit and finalisation, against a target of £100.12 per hectare.

The difference between the outturn and the target is £51.91 per hectare. This is due to income being higher than target which has the impact of reducing the net cost by £44.25 per hectare, and costs being lower which has reduced the net cost by £7.65 per hectare. The main driver for the income increase is the strong rise in timber prices over the last half of the year.

Economy

Number of businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate (PFE)



Source: Forestry England administrative data.

Position at 31 March 2019: **570 businesses and individuals.**

There has been a net increase of five businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate in the most recent quarter. This is mainly a result of new café and bike hire franchises and mineral extraction agreements.

Information shows there are many businesses that remain keen to operate from, as well as expand their offering on, the Public Forest Estate.