

Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
30 September 2025

Forestry Commission

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 30 September 2025

Key findings

In the first half of 2025-26, 1 April to 30 September 2025, 1,612 hectares of new tree planting was reported as undertaken in England (2.3 million trees).

Of this, 1,574 hectares (2.2 million trees) were in the form of woodland creation, and 30,000 trees (38 hectares equivalent) as trees outside woodland.

At 30 September 2025, 57% of all woodland in England was considered sustainably managed.

In the year to 30 September 2025, 99.83% of known tree felling in England was carried with Forestry Commission approval.

An estimated 30% of adults in England visited a forest or woodland in 2024-25 (monthly average).

In 2024-25, 53% of tree planting funded through the England Woodland Creation Offer increased the species diversity of England's woodlands.

In the ten-year period between 2015-24, three tree pests and diseases became established in England.

In 2023, 8.418 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent was sequestered by woodland in England.

The natural capital value of England's forests and woodlands was £276.1 billion in 2022 (at 2023 prices).

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Introduction

1. The Forestry Commission are government's forestry and woodland experts and increase the value of woodlands to society and the environment. Our aims and objectives are described in Thriving for the Future: Forestry Commission Strategy 2023-28¹. This Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators: Headline Performance Update at 30 September 2025 report contains our mid-year interim update report on our corporate performance in the first half of 2025-26, providing updates on the Forestry Commission's ten headline indicators.
2. The most recent update on our full set of all Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were most recently reported in the Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators: Report for 2024-25², published in June 2025. That includes annual reports for the Forestry Commission's ten headline indicators, Forestry England's six headline indicators and 23 further indicators for Forest Services.
3. Produced with a view to adhering to the standards of the Code of Practice for Statistics this is an Official Statistics publication. Further information is on the [Forestry Commission key performance indicators web pages](#) on gov.uk.

Economics, Evidence and Analysis
Strategy and Transformation
Forest Services
Forestry Commission

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¹ Forestry Commission (2023) Thriving for the Future: Forestry Commission Strategy 2023-28, Bristol: Forestry Commission, 44 pages, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/forestry-commission-strategy-2023-2028>

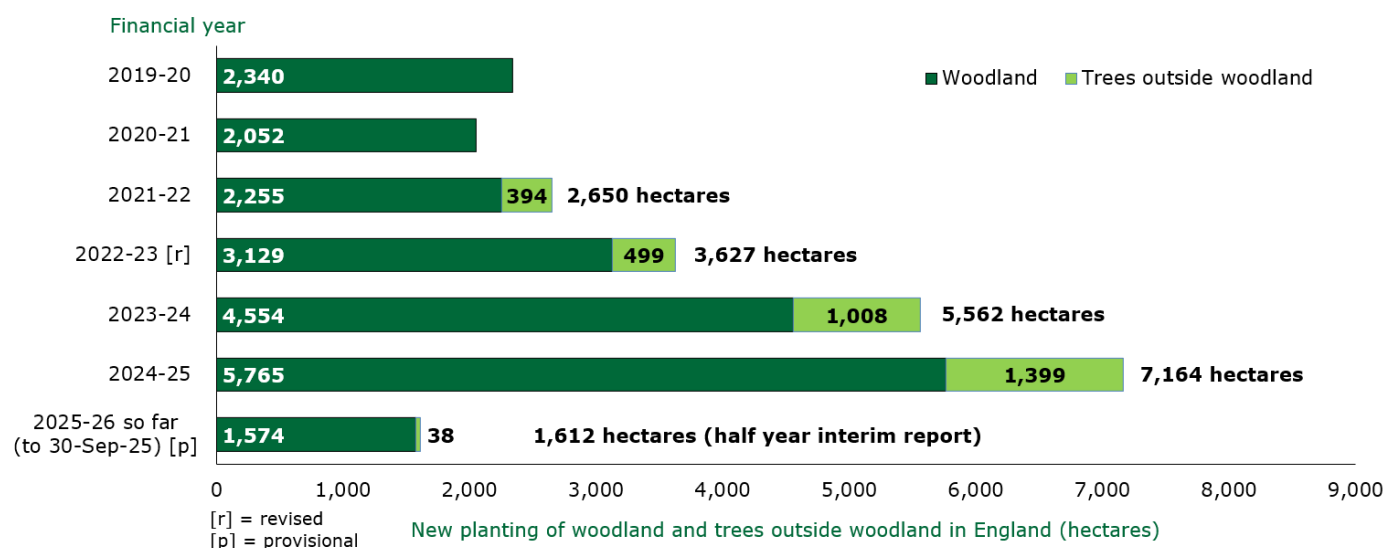
² Forestry Commission (2025) Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators: Report for 2024-25, Bristol: Forestry Commission, 58 pages, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-commission-key-performance-indicators-report-for-2024-25>

Forestry Commission headline key performance indicators

New planting of woodland and trees in England

4. Summary: In the first half of 2025-26, 1 April to 30 September 2025, 1,612 hectares of new tree planting was reported as undertaken in England (2.3 million trees). Of this, 1,574 hectares (2.2 million trees) were in the form of woodland creation, and 38,000 trees (38 hectares equivalent) as trees outside woodland (Figure 1). The outturn for the first half of 2025-26 is slightly greater than the same period in 2024-25 when 1,324 hectares of woodland and 24,000 trees outside woodland (22 hectares equivalent) were established.

Figure 1: New planting of woodland and trees in England, 2019-20 to 30 September 2025



Note: Statistics until 2021-22 are for planting of new woodland and from 2022-23 onwards for planting of new woodland and trees outside woodland.

Source: Forestry Statistics 2025 (Forest Research) and Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators.

5. In 2024-25, 5,765 hectares of new woodland were established in England, of which 5,450 hectares received government funding, mostly through the Nature for Climate Fund. The Forestry Commission's 'England Woodland Creation Offer' and England's Community Forests 'Trees for Climate programme' were the largest contributors. Woodland creation rates in 2024-25 were 27% higher than the revised figure for 2023-24, and 156% greater than achieved in 2021-22.
6. In addition, 888,000 trees were planted outside woodland, equivalent to 1,399 hectares, bringing the total area of tree canopy established and numbers of trees planted to 7,164 hectares and 10.4 million trees, respectively. This represents a 29% increase in the total area of tree and woodland canopy established, and a 46% increase in the number of trees planted compared to the previous year's revised figures.

Table 1: New planting of woodland and trees in England, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

New planting of woodland by type of support	Area of woodland newly planted, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 (hectares)	Area of woodland newly planted, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 (equivalent in number of trees)
Woodland^{1,2,4}		
Government-supported		
England Woodland Creation Offer	1,453	2,078,000
High Speed 2 Woodland Fund	10	18,000
Forestry England	69	82,000
Countryside Stewardship: other tree planting options	22	35,000
Environment Agency	20	30,000
Countryside Stewardship woodland	0	0
Northern Forest	0	0
National Forest Company	0	0
Community Forests	0	0
Forest of Cornwall	x	x
Great Northumberland Forest	x	x
Shared Outcomes Fund	x	x
Sub-total Government-supported	1,574	2,243,000
Other support and non-governmental organisations		
Woodland Carbon Guarantee	0	0
Woodland Trust	0	0
Sub-total	0	0
Total woodland	1,574 hectares of woodland	2,243,000 trees within woodland

Table 1 continued: New planting of woodland and trees in England, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

New planting of trees outside woodland by type of support	Canopy equivalent area of trees outside woodland newly planted, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 (hectares)	Number of trees outside woodland newly planted, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 (number of trees)
Trees outside woodland^{2,3,4}		
Government-supported		
Countryside Stewardship single trees ^a	23	18,000
Environment Agency ^a	15	12,000
Northern Forest ^a	<1	<1,000
England Woodland Creation Offer	0	0
Forestry England	0	0
National Forest Company	0	0
Community Forests	0	0
Coronation Living Heritage Fund	x	x
Forest of Cornwall	x	x
Great Northumberland Forest	x	x
Shared Outcomes Fund	x	x
Local Authority Treescapes Fund	x	x
Urban Trees Challenge Fund	x	x
Sub-total Government-supported	38	30,000
Other support and non-governmental organisations		
Woodland Trust	0	0
Sub-total	0	0
Total trees outside woodland	Approx. 38 hectares	30,000 trees outside woodland
Total woodland and trees outside woodland	Approx. 1,612 hectares within and outside woodland	2,274,000 trees within and outside woodland

Notes to Table 1:

1. The statistics are interim estimates for the first half of 2025-26 where data available at mid-year. They may include some new planting that took place in winter 2024-25 and that has been verified since then. The density of tree planting in numbers of trees planted per hectare of land varies between planting schemes. Statistics in the table may not sum due to rounding. Areas of woodland are rounded to the nearest hectare and tree numbers are approximate and rounded to the nearest 1,000 trees.

2. Statistics for woodland are for new planting that is estimated to meet the National Forest Inventory (NFI) definition of woodland, namely as land with a minimum area of 0.5 hectare under stands of trees, and tree crown cover of at least 20%, or the potential to achieve this. The minimum width for woodland is 20 metres. Statistics are largely based on contributions that satisfy both the criteria of a gross area of ≥ 0.5 hectare and stocking density of ≥ 400 stems per hectare. Where we otherwise identified planting that was not woodland this was excluded. Statistics for woodland include agroforestry schemes where we identified these and where they have a ≥ 100 stems per hectare stocking density.

3. Statistics for trees outside woodland have been converted to an approximate equivalent gross area in hectares based on (a) the professional advice of the Trees and Woodland Scientific Advisory Group at an assumed stocking density of 800 trees to 1 hectare or (b) records of new planting.

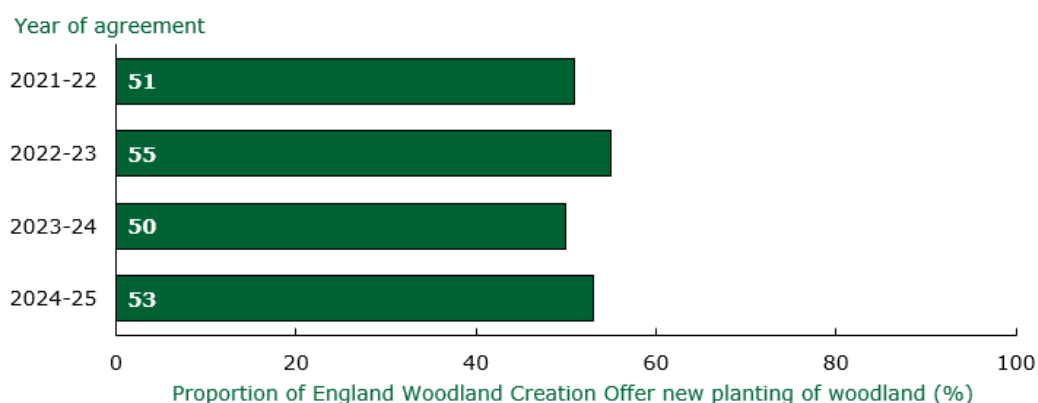
4. [x]= data not available.

5. This indicator at present includes returns received for new planting either supported by government or that facilitated by the Woodland Carbon Guarantee or supported by the Woodland Trust. It is anticipated that future reports will include further new planting in England.

Proportion of England Woodland Creation Offer new planting of woodland that is contributing to diversity of tree species in England

7. Summary: In 2024-25, 53% of tree planting funded through the England Woodland Creation Offer increased the species diversity of England's woodlands (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Proportion of England Woodland Creation Offer new planting of woodland that is contributing to diversity of tree species in England, 2021-22 to 2024-25



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

8. Updates to this indicator are reported annually after year-end³. The most recent report is as follows.

9. In 2024-25, 53% of tree planting funded through the England Woodland Creation Offer were 'non-core' species, increasing the species diversity of England's woodlands. This compares with 50% in 2023-24, although no obvious trend is evident over the four years that we have data for this new indicator; indeed, 53% of non-core species planted in 2024-25 is almost identical to the average over the four years for which data are available.

Table 2: Principal tree species in England included as core species in this indicator

Broadleaf	Conifer
Oak – sessile and pedunculate only	Sitka spruce
Birch – downy and silver only	Corsican pine
Beech – only <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Scots pine
Ash – only common ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)	Douglas fir
	Larches (all)
	Norway Spruce
	Lodgepole Pine

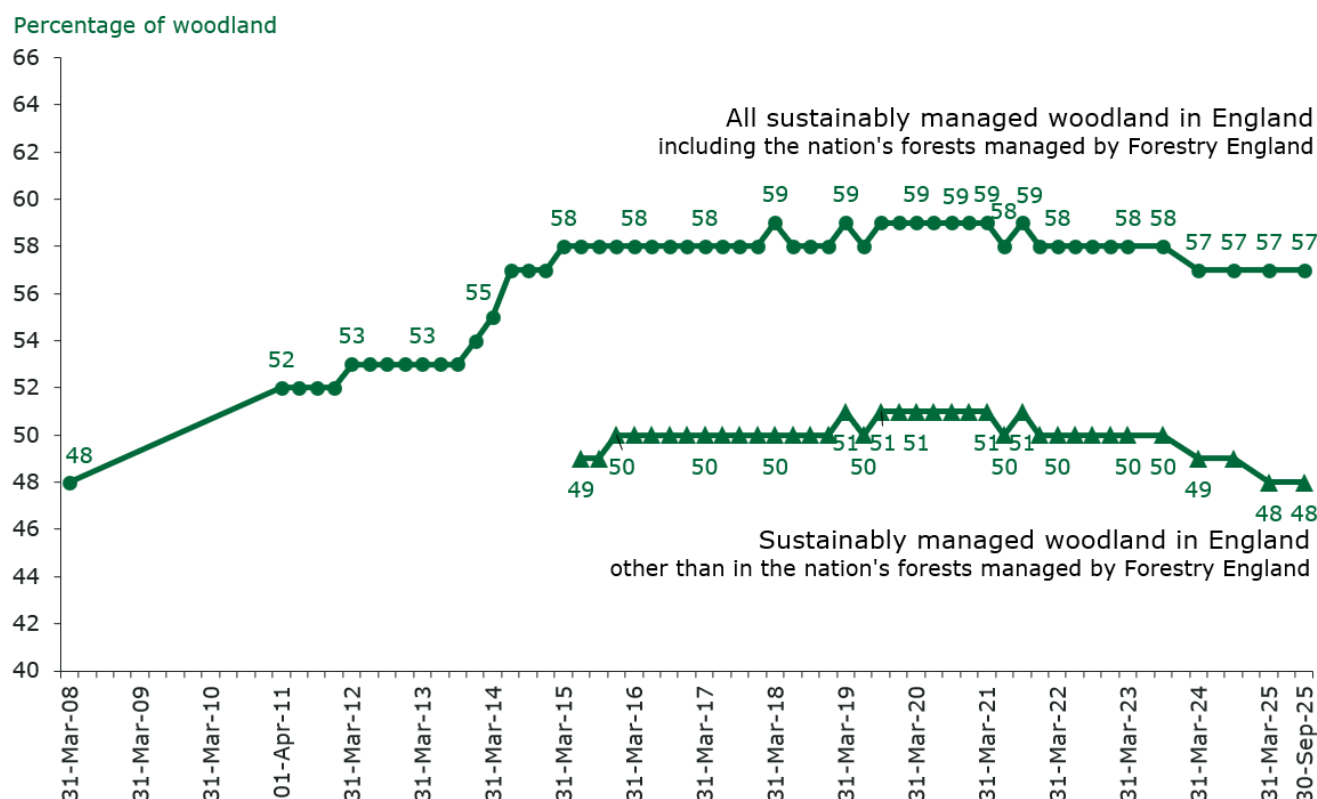
Note to table: At present, the indicator is based on the year that agreements were signed and only includes agreements when fully planted and claimed. As such, the data point for 2024-25 (and previous years) may change as a larger proportion of agreements are planted.

³ Forestry Commission (2025) Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators: Report for 2024-25, Bristol: Forestry Commission, 58 pages, at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forestry-commission-key-performance-indicators-report-for-2024-25>

Proportion of woodland in England sustainably managed

10. Summary: At 30 September 2025, 57% of all woodland in England was considered sustainably managed; totalling 755,000 hectares of woodland in management (at this date, when rounded) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proportion of woodland in England sustainably managed, March 2008 to September 2025



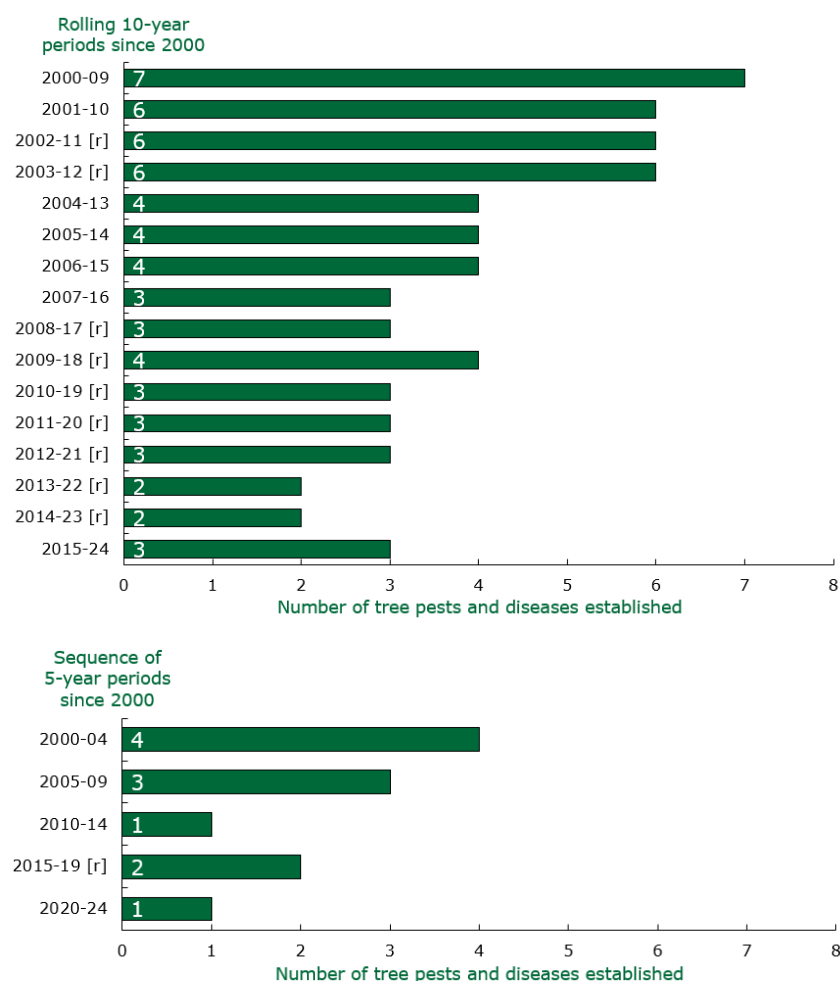
Source: Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory (Forest Research).

11. This indicator is reported twice per annum at 31 March and 30 September.
12. Our definition of 'sustainably managed' is woodland managed to the UK Forestry Standard that has a Woodland Management Plan, or for which we have made a grant or felling licence approval in the last 15 years. It also includes all woodland in the nation's forests managed by Forestry England, and all woodland on Defence Infrastructure Organisation training areas. The area in management has remained stable since the last reporting period.

Number of additional tree pests and diseases becoming established in England

13. Summary: In the ten-year period between 2015-24, three tree pests and diseases became established in England (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Number of additional tree pests and diseases becoming established in England, 2000-09 to 2015-24



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

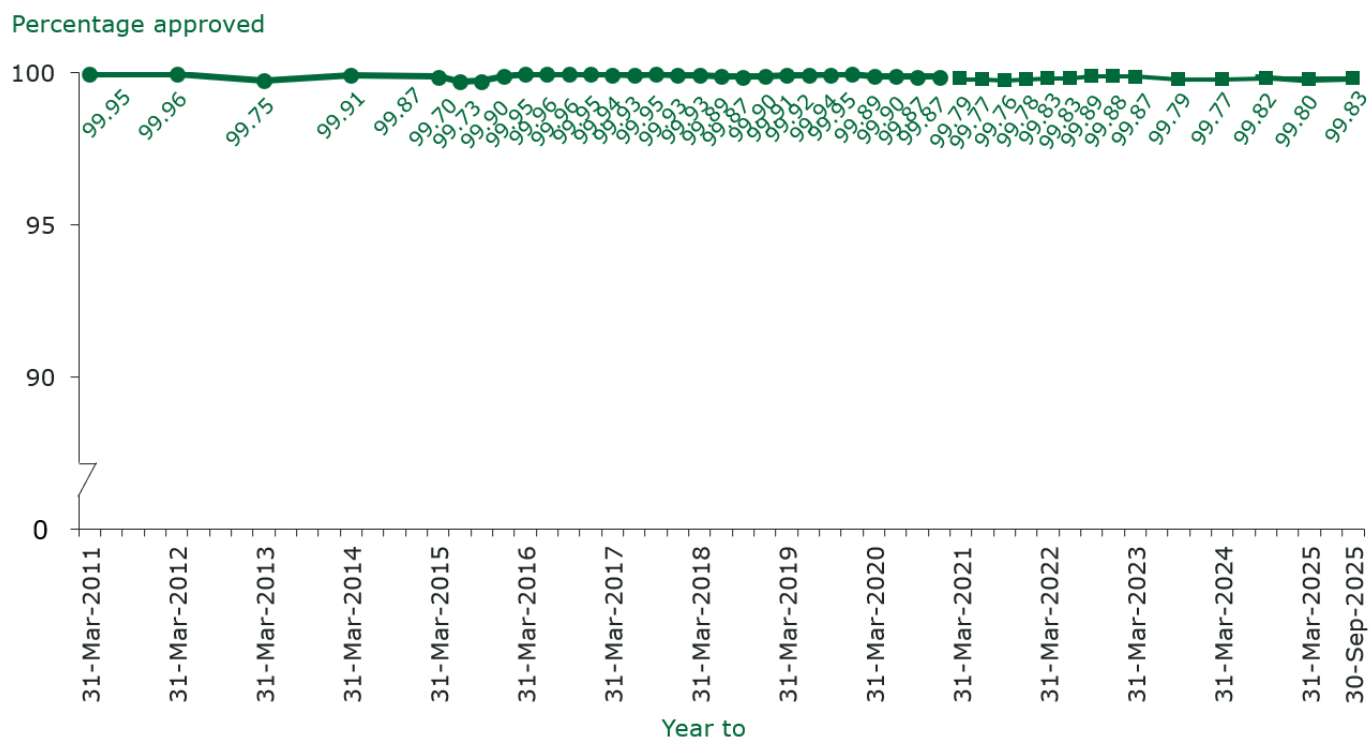
14. Updates to this indicator are reported annually after year-end. The most recent report is as follows. In the most recent ten-year period (2015-24), three tree pests and diseases became 'established' in England. These are oriental chestnut gall wasp (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*), elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*) and, most recently, plane lace bug (*Corythucha ciliata*). Forestry Commission confirmed findings of plane lace bug in central London in 2024, and although it is not a regulated pest which means there is no requirement to take statutory action, people are encouraged to remain vigilant for signs of this pest and to report any suspected findings using our online portal TreeAlert. As part of our extensive surveillance programme, Forestry Commission continues to conduct surveillance for a range of pest and diseases, including a number of priority pest and diseases.

15. The time-series has been revised to now exclude sweet chestnut blight to reflect the assessment in the UK Plant Health Risk Register.

Proportion of known tree felling in England carried out with Forestry Commission approval

16. Summary: In the year to 30 September 2025, 99.83% of known tree felling in England was carried with Forestry Commission approval (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Proportion of known tree felling in England carried out with Forestry Commission approval, March 2011 to September 2025



Source: Forestry Commission administrative data.

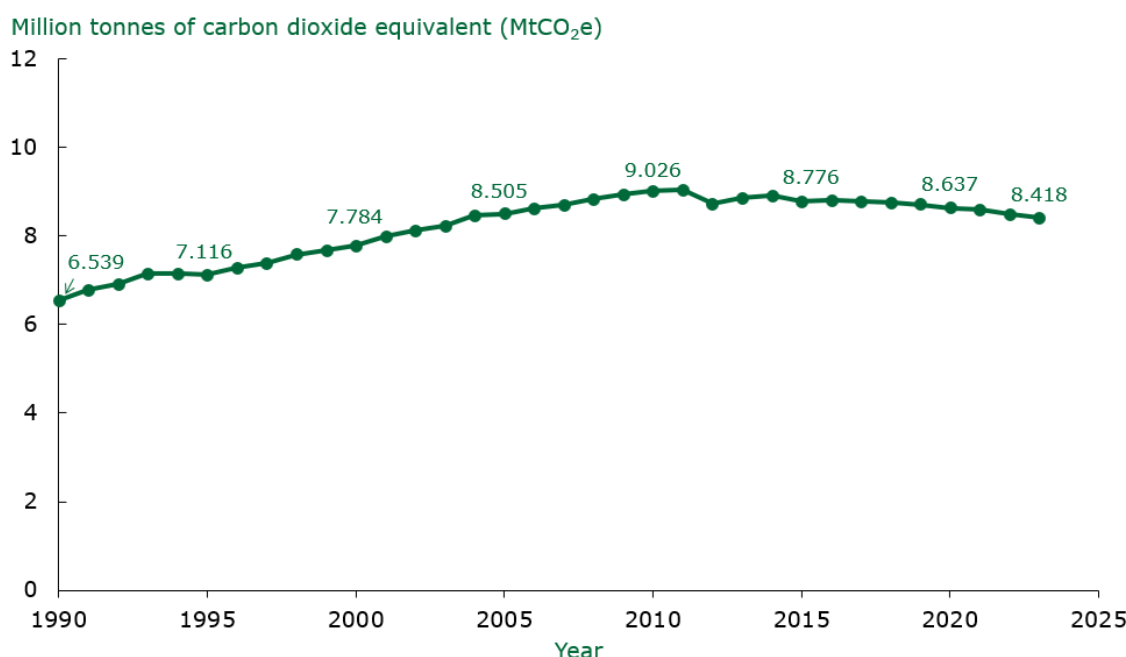
17. This indicator is reported twice per annum at 31 March and 30 September.

18. The overall figure of legal felling remains at a consistently very high level.

Carbon sequestered by England's woodland

19. Summary: In 2023, 8.418 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent sequestered by woodland England (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Carbon sequestered by England's woodland, 1990 to 2023



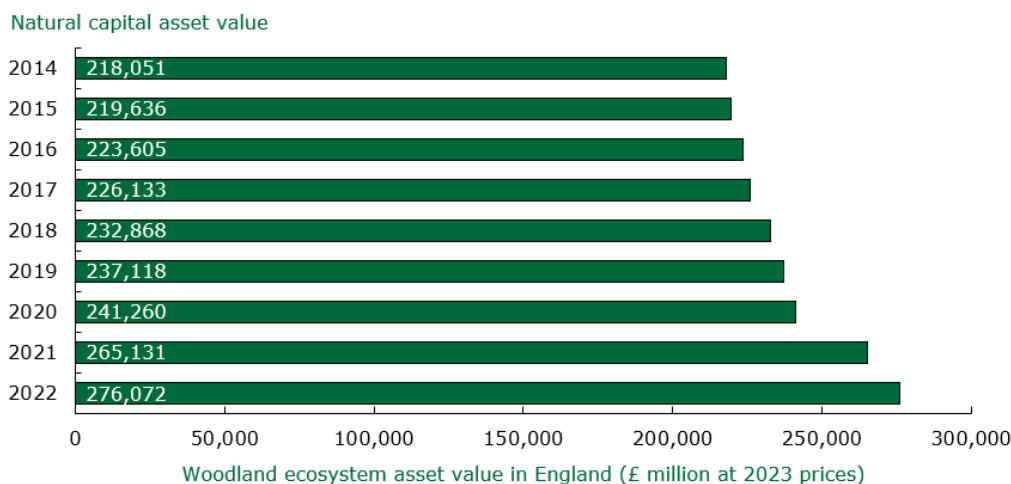
Source: Data from the UK greenhouse gas emissions statistics (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero).

20. Updates to this indicator are reported annually after year-end. The most recent report is as follows.
21. The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England's woodlands decreased slightly from 8.500 MtCO₂e in 2022 to 8.418 MtCO₂e in 2023 (based on the updated time-series), but remained broadly stable; however, it is expected to decline in the medium term as the greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past planting rates and subsequent harvesting activity. No further update is available.
22. A removal (or sink) of 8.418 MtCO₂e is equivalent to 2.2% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2023, or 18.1% of agricultural emissions (for UK total GHG emissions and UK Agricultural emissions see Table 1.2 of <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67e3e460e8428b01705de02f/final-greenhouse-gas-emissions-tables-2023.xlsx>).

Natural Capital Value of England's forests and woodlands

23. Summary: The natural capital value of England's forests and woodlands was £276.1 billion in 2022 (at 2023 prices) (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Natural Capital Value of England's forests and woodlands, 2014 to 2022



Source: Woodland natural capital accounts, UK: 2025 (Office for National Statistics, 2025).

Note: Statistics shown include the same eight ecosystem types for 2014 to 2020 inclusive and nine for 2021 and 2022. Full comparable statistics for 2023 are not yet available and are planned to be provided in the next report.

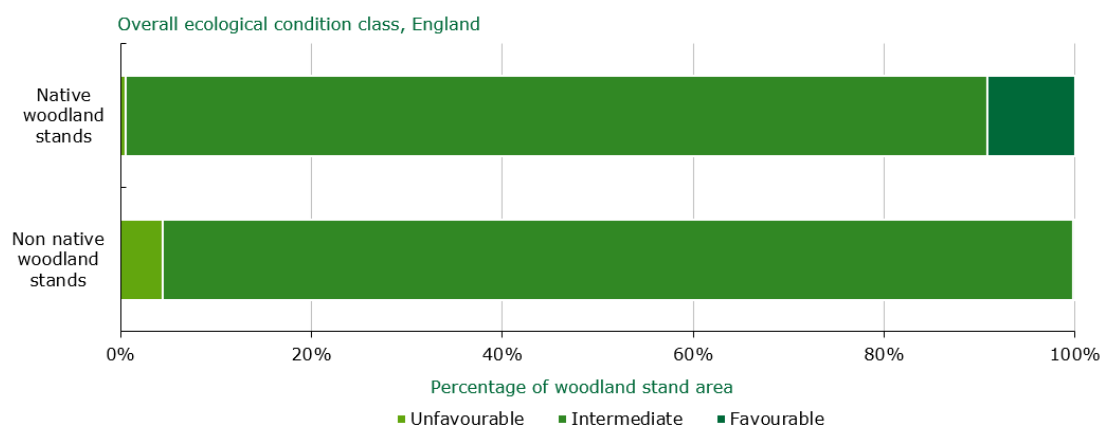
24. Updates to this indicator are reported regularly after the statistics become available. The most recent report is as follows.

25. The Office for National Statistics' "woodland natural capital accounts 2025" provide the financial and societal value of the woodland natural resource in England, from the range of ecosystem services that they provide. These include timber production, greenhouse gas regulation and the value from recreation and tourism. These accounts are designated as official statistics in development and are being continually revised to produce the best statistics with the available data and methods. The analytical method and range of services valued has changed over time, and so the accounts cannot be directly compared over the full assessment period. The overall value of natural capital from England's woodlands is estimated at £276 billion in 2022, an increase of 4% on 2021 when the asset values of the same nine ecosystem services were reported. This partly reflects an increasing level of woodland cover in England associated with new planting. No further update is available. The largest contributions in 2022 were 30% from air pollution regulation, 26% from greenhouse gas regulation and 18% from the health benefits of recreation.

Ecological condition of woodland in England

26. Summary: Some 99.5% of native woodland and 95.6% of non-native woodland, is in favourable or intermediate condition in 2010-15 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Ecological condition of woodland in England, 2010-15 (percentage of woodland stand area)



Source: Forestry Commission (2020) National Forest Inventory woodland ecological condition in England: classification results, National Forest Inventory. No further update is available.

27. Updates to this indicator are reported regularly after the statistics become available. The ecological condition surveys have been repeated and it is expected that updated statistics will be published next year. The most recent report is as follows.
28. Woodland ecological condition (WEC) measures a range of characteristics of woodland that are related to its capacity to support wildlife or provide other environmental, social or economic benefits. There are 15 characteristics or features of woodland in the indicator, including size of woodland parcel, vertical structure, age distribution of tree species, nativeness of occupancy and tree pests and diseases (for details, see: [NFI Woodland Ecological Condition - Forest Research](#)). Improved condition of woodlands will increase their contribution to government commitments to recover biodiversity and to increase resilience of woodlands to climate change.
29. There are 914 thousand hectares of native woodland in England (around 68% of all woodland), 398 thousand hectares of non-native woodland (30%), and 29 thousand hectares identified as 'near native and fragments' (2%); plus a small area that was not determinable. Of this, 99.5% of native woodland and 95.6% of non-native woodland, is in favourable or intermediate condition, based on the latest available National Forest Inventory (2010-15) survey cycle data (Figures 9 and 10). Sites have been re-surveyed and further updates will be included in future.

Figure 9: The proportion of each woodland ecological condition (WEC) class, for each WEC indicator type in native woodland stands in England

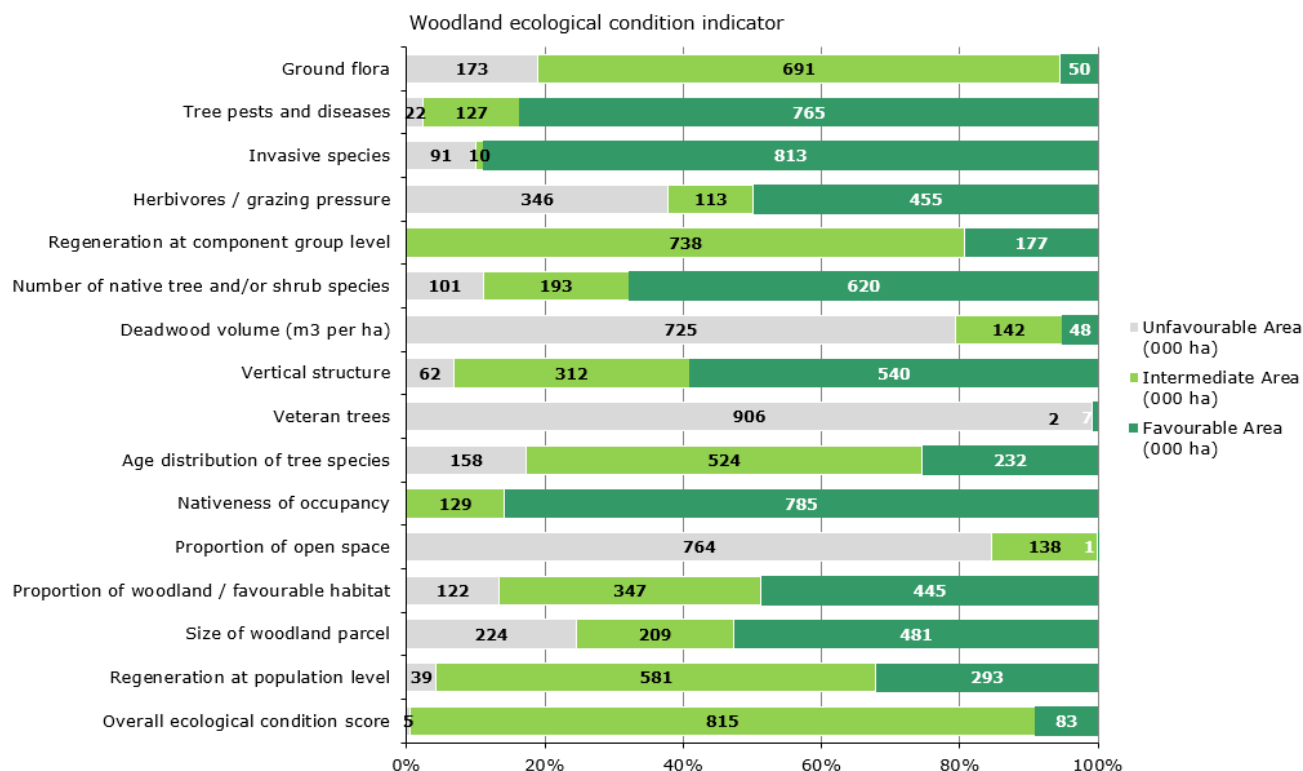
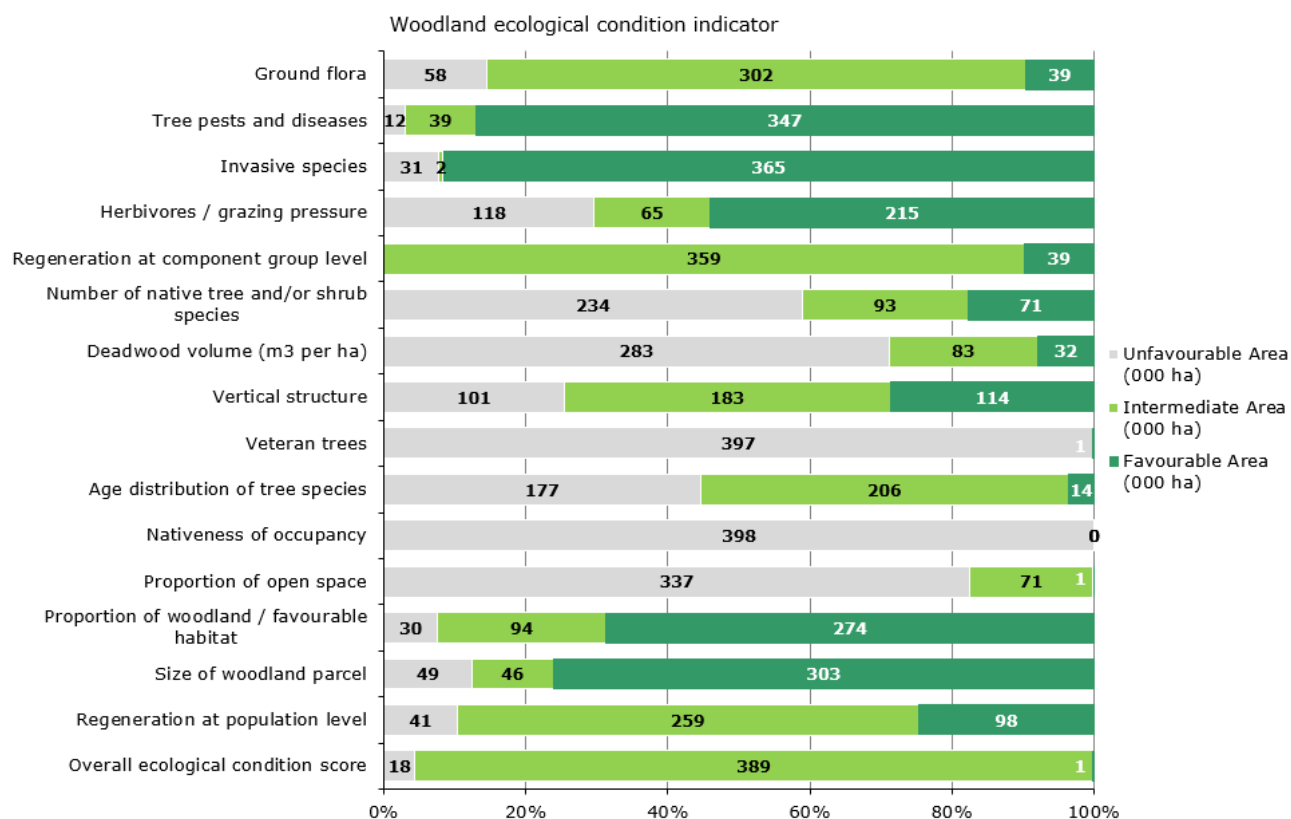


Figure 10: The proportion of each woodland ecological condition (WEC) class, for each WEC indicator type in non-native woodland stands in England



Notes on woodland ecological condition in England

Note 1: Native woodland

Native woodland is defined as stands with 50% or more native tree species occupancy in the upper canopy that either:

- form a discrete woodland parcel with a minimum area of 0.5 ha.
- form a woodland stand with a minimum area of 0.1 ha that is part of a woodland that is 0.5 ha or larger.

Note 2: Non-native woodland

Non-native woodland is defined as stands with less than 40% native tree species occupancy sitting within a woodland of any size.

Note 3: Definition of the indicators:

The woodland ecological condition classification categories and indicators are defined in the methodology report: Forestry Commission (2020), NFI woodland ecological condition in Great Britain: Methodology National Forest Inventory.

Note 4: Classifications for each indicator and overall scoring

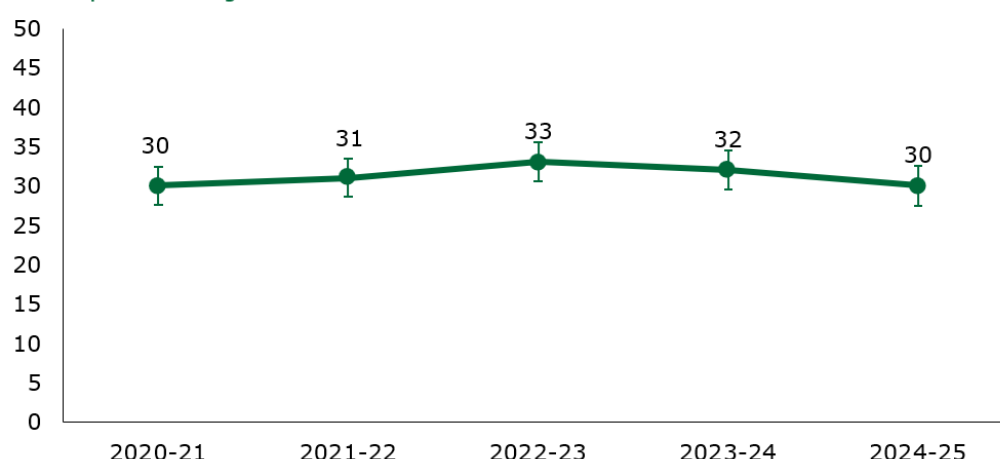
The National Forest Inventory woodland condition classifications for each of the 15 separate WEC indicators shown are shown in the Table 11.1 classification threshold summary (page 32) in the NFI woodland ecological condition in England: classification results. This also shows the overall scores that determine whether woodland habitat is in unfavourable, intermediate or favourable condition. [NFI Woodland Ecological Condition - Forest Research](#)

Proportion of adults in England who visited a forest or woodland

30. Summary: An estimated 30% of adults in England visited a forest or woodland in 2024-25 (monthly average) (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Proportion of adults in England who visited a forest or woodland, 2020-21 to 2024-25

Average monthly percentage of adults (aged 16+) in England who reported having visited a woodland or forest



Source: People and Nature Survey for England (Natural England).

31. Updates to this indicator are reported regularly after the statistics become available. The most recent report is as follows.
32. The estimate of the percentage of adults in England who visited a forest or woodland has remained broadly steady with no statistically significant change. For 2024-25 it has returned to the level last seen in 2020-21, at 30%. Over the same four years the estimate of the proportion of respondents in England who visited woodland in the last few years (Public Opinion of Forestry Survey⁴, Forest Research) showed statistically significant changes from 69% (2021) up to 74% (2023), the highest level since 2009, and then returning to 69% (2025). The longer-term trend in the Public Opinion of Forestry Survey results is a statistically significant increase over the last decade.

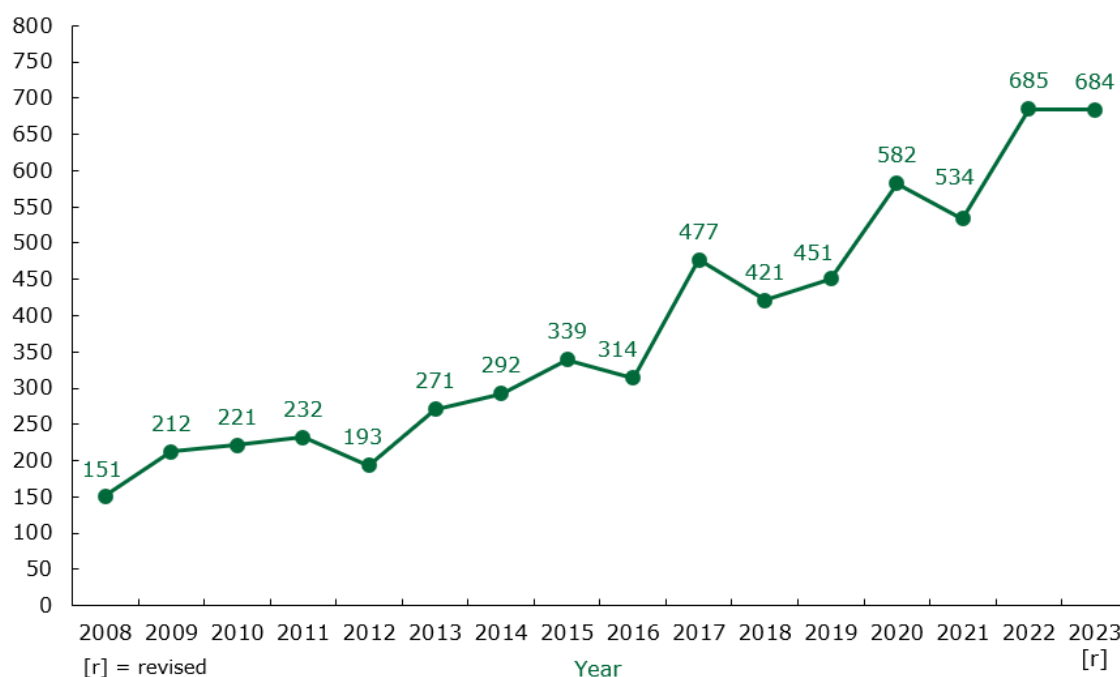
⁴ Forest Research (2015 to 2025) Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys: UK and England. Edinburgh: Forest Research, at: <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/publications/public-opinion-of-forestry/>

Gross Value Added of forestry sector for the economy in England

33. Summary: An estimated £684 million was the Gross Valued Added of the forestry sector for the economy in England in 2023 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Gross Value Added of forestry sector for the economy in England, 2008 to 2023

Approximate gross value added (England, £ million)



Source: Annual Business Survey 2023 (Office for National Statistics). No further update is available.

34. Updates to this indicator are reported regularly after the statistics become available. The most recent report is as follows.

35. The Gross Value Added from forestry continues the long-term upward trend of significant positive contribution to the UK economy, and government support for productive forestry and use of domestic timber in construction will help this trend, while also boosting the environmental and social benefits of sustainable forest management.

