Forestry Commission

First Release

Forestry Statistics 2017

Chapter 1: Woodland Areas and Planting

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Issued by: IFOS-Statistics, Forest Research,
231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries: Jackie Watson 0300 067 5238
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician: Sheila Ward 0300 067 5236

Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

Contents

Introduction

This chapter contains statistics on:

- UK woodland area;
- certified woodland area;
- areas of new planting and restocking; and
- felling.

Estimates for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are included in addition to UK totals. International comparisons are provided in the International Forestry chapter. Further information on the data sources and methodology used to compile the figures is provided in the Sources chapter.

Figures on woodland area and certified woodland area at March 2017 and on new planting and restocking for the period 2016-17 were previously published in "Woodland Area, Planting and Publicly Funded Restocking: 2017 edition", released on 15 June 2017. Some figures for previous years have been revised from those previously published. For further details on revisions, see the Woodland Areas and Planting section of the Sources chapter.

A copy of all woodland area and planting tables is available to download as an Excel spreadsheet from the Tables for Download page. Longer time series are also available for some tables. These can be accessed from our Woodland Area and Planting Statistics web page at www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7aqknx.

Key findings

The main findings are:

- The area of woodland in the UK at 31 March 2017 is estimated to be 3.17 million hectares. This represents 13% of the total land area in the UK, 10% in England, 15% in Wales, 18% in Scotland and 8% in Northern Ireland.
- Of the total UK woodland area, 0.86 million hectares (27%) is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission (in England and Scotland), Natural Resources Wales (in Wales) or the Forest Service (in Northern Ireland).
- The total certified woodland area in the UK at 31 March 2017 is 1.39 million hectares, including all Forestry Commission/Natural Resources Wales/Forest Service woodland. Overall, 44% of the UK woodland area is certified.
- Seven thousand hectares of new woodland were created in the UK in 2016-17, with conifers accounting for over one half (54%) of this area.
- A total of 196 sites were served with a Statutory Plant Health Notice in 2016-17, requiring a total of 0.7 thousand hectares of woodland to be felled. (This excludes areas felled within the Phytophthora ramorum management zone in south west Scotland, where a Statutory Plant Health Notice is not required.)

1.1 Woodland Area

Woodland is defined in UK forestry statistics as land under stands of trees with a canopy cover of at least 20% (25% in Northern Ireland), or having the potential to achieve this. The definition relates to land use, rather than land cover, so integral open space and felled areas that are awaiting restocking are included as woodland. Further information, including how this UK definition compares with the international definition of woodland, is provided in the Sources chapter.

Statistics on woodland area are used to inform government policy and resource allocation, to provide context to UK forestry and land management issues and are reported to international organisations. They are also used in the compilation of natural capital accounts.

Increases in woodland area result from the creation of new woodland. This can be achieved through new planting or by natural colonisation of trees on land near existing woodland. Further information is available in the section on New Planting.

Decreases in woodland area result from the conversion of woodland to other land uses. Regulatory approval is usually required before trees can be felled. Felling approval will normally require the area to be restocked, but there are some cases in which trees may be permanently removed, generally for environmental reasons. The permanent removal of trees may also be authorised under planning regulations, to enable development.

Most public sector woodland is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission (FC) in England and Scotland, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Wales and the Forest Service (FS) in Northern Ireland. Other public sector woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) is included with privately owned woodland as “private sector” in this release.

The Natural Resources Wales woodland areas and land areas shown in this release relate to areas previously owned or managed by Forestry Commission Wales. They exclude any areas previously owned or managed by other parts of Natural Resources Wales, such as the former Environment Agency in Wales and the former Countryside Council for Wales.

1.1.1 Area of Woodland: 2017

The area of woodland in the UK at 31 March 2017 is estimated to be 3.17 million hectares (Table 1.1). Of this total, 1.4 million hectares (45%) is in Scotland, 1.3 million hectares (41%) is in England, 0.3 million hectares (10%) is in Wales and 0.1 million hectares (4%) is in Northern Ireland.

Conifers account for around one half (51%) of the UK woodland area, although this proportion varies from around one quarter (26%) in England to around three quarters (74%) in Scotland.

Table 1.1 Area of woodland by ownership & forest type at 31 March 2017

Forest type and ownership [1,2]	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
Conifers					
FC/NRW/FS woodland	151	98	429	56	733
Private sector woodland	189	53	632	11	885
Total	**340**	**151**	**1 061**	**66**	**1 618**
Broadleaves[5]					
FC/NRW/FS woodland	63	19	40	7	130
Private sector woodland	903	137	338	39	1 418
Total	**967**	**156**	**378**	**46**	**1 547**
Total					
FC/NRW/FS woodland	214	117	470	62	863
Private sector woodland	1 092	190	970	50	2 303
Total	**1 306**	**307**	**1 440**	**112**	**3 166**

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, National Forest Inventory.

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England and Scotland), NRW: Natural Resources Wales, FS: Forest Service (Northern Ireland). NRW estimates only relate to woodland formerly owned/managed by FC Wales.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Figures for England, Wales and Scotland are based on data obtained from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and adjusted for new planting, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland recently converted to another land use. Further information on how the figures have been estimated is available in the Sources chapter.
4. Figures for Northern Ireland are obtained from the Northern Ireland Woodland Register.
5. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

1.1.2 Area of woodland: changes over time

The 3.17 million hectares of woodland in the UK in 2017 represents 13% of the total land area. This comprises 10% in England, 15% in Wales, 18% in Scotland and 8% in Northern Ireland (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2 Woodland area in the United Kingdom

Year	England		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland[2]		UK	
	Area (000 ha)	%[1]	Area (000 ha)	%[1]	Area (000 ha)	%[1]	Area (000 ha)	%[1]	Area (000 ha)	%[1]
1086	..	~15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
c1350	..	~10	..	..	..	~4	..	..	..	;..
17thC	..	~8	..	..	..	~4	..	~1.5	..	..
1905	681	5.2	88	4.2	351	4.5	15	1.1	1 140	4.7
1924	660	5.1	103	5.0	435	5.6	13	1.0	1 211	5.0
1947	755	5.8	128	6.2	513	6.6	23	1.7	1 419	5.9
1965	886	6.8	201	9.7	656	8.4	42	3.1	1 784	7.4
1980	948	7.3	241	11.6	920	11.8	67	4.9	2 175	9.0
1995-99	1 097	8.4	287	13.8	1 281	16.4	81	6.0	2 746	11.3
2017[3,4]	1 306	10.0	307	14.8	1 440	18.5	112	8.3	3 166	13.1

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, National Forest Inventory.

Notes:

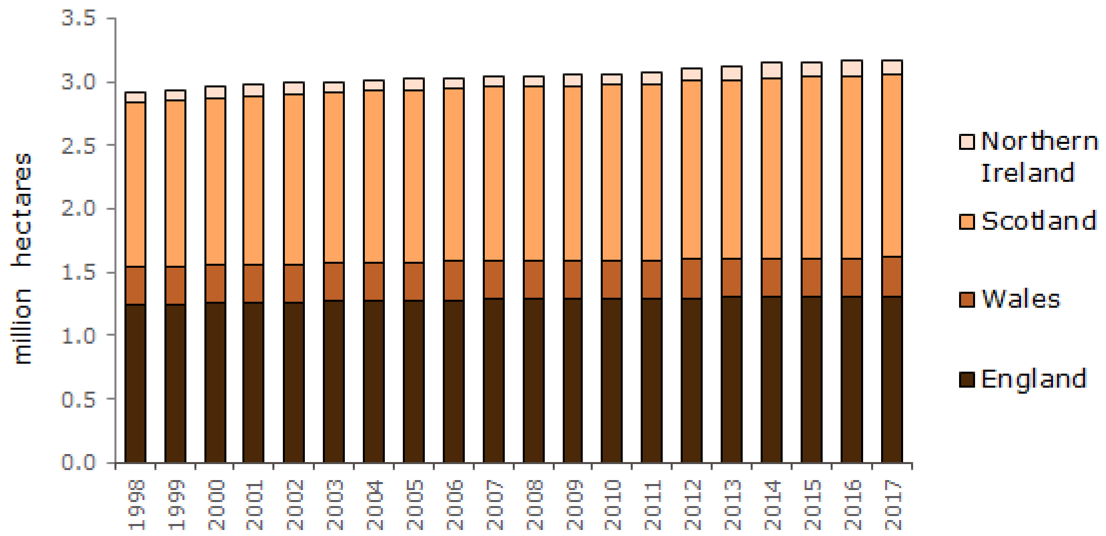
1. Percentage of the total surface area excluding inland water. The total surface areas, excluding inland water, are taken from the UK Standard Area Measurements (published by the Office for National Statistics).
2. For Northern Ireland, 17th century figure is estimate for all Ireland, 1905 figure is estimate for Ulster 1908, 1947 figure assumes no change from 1939-40 Census.
3. Figures for England, Wales and Scotland are based on data obtained from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and adjusted for new planting, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland recently converted to another land use. Further information on how the figures have been estimated is available in the Sources chapter.
4. Figures for Northern Ireland are obtained from the Northern Ireland Woodland Register.

.. Denotes data not available.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

Figure 1.1 shows woodland area by country since 1998. Figures for 1998 to 2009 for England, Wales and Scotland have been revised from those initially published, to produce results that are consistent with the National Forest Inventory and enable comparisons over time. The chart indicates that the UK woodland area has risen by around 250 thousand hectares since 1998, an increase of 8% over the period.

Figure 1.1 Area of woodland, 1998-2017



Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, National Forest Inventory.

Notes:

1. Woodland areas for England, Wales and Scotland shown in this figure are based on data from the National Forest Inventory. The trends shown take account of areas of new planting and identifiable permanent woodland loss. Areas of woodland loss that are not yet identifiable (e.g. conversion of woodland for the restoration of open habitats) are not accounted for. Further information on the National Forest Inventory is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.1.3 Woodland area by ownership

The Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service owned or managed 27% of the total woodland area in the UK in 2017 (Table 1.3). This proportion ranged from 16% of the woodland area in England to 55% in Northern Ireland.

Table 1.3 Area of woodland in the UK by ownership, 2013-2017

Ownership	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
FC/NRW/FS woodland[1]					
2013	214	117	481	62	874
2014	215	117	477	62	871
2015	215	117	478	62	871
2016	215	117	470	62	864
2017	214	117	470	62	863
Private sector woodland[2]					
2013	1 084	188	930	49	2 252
2014	1 087	189	947	50	2 273
2015	1 091	189	954	50	2 283
2016	1 091	190	965	50	2 295
2017	1 092	190	970	50	2 303
Total woodland					
2013	1 298	305	1 411	111	3 125
2014	1 302	306	1 424	111	3 143
2015	1 305	306	1 432	112	3 155
2016	1 305	307	1 435	112	3 159
2017	1 306	307	1 440	112	3 166

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, National Forest Inventory.

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England and Scotland), NRW: Natural Resources Wales, FS: Forest Service (Northern Ireland). NRW estimates only relate to woodland formerly owned/managed by FC Wales.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Figures for England, Wales and Scotland are based on data obtained from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and adjusted for new planting, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland recently converted to another land use. Further information on how the figures have been estimated is available in the Sources chapter.
4. Northern Ireland figures are obtained from the Northern Ireland Woodland Register.
5. Areas as at 31 March.

1.2 Certified woodland area

Certified woodland in the UK has been independently audited against the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Forestry certification schemes are owned by international non-governmental organisations and exist to promote good forest practice. They offer product labels to demonstrate that wood or wood products come from well-managed forests.

Figures for certified woodland areas are often used as an indicator of sustainable forest management. However, it should be noted that woodland that is not certified may also be managed sustainably.

Most changes to the certified woodland area figures over time are a result of new areas being certified or certificates not being renewed upon expiry. Temporary changes can also occur if there is a time lag between expiry and renewal.

1.39 million hectares of woodland in the UK were certified in March 2017 (Table 1.4). This represented 44% of the total UK woodland area, 26% in England, 47% in Wales, 58% in Scotland and 58% in Northern Ireland.

Table 1.4 Woodland area certified, March 2017

Ownership	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
FC/NRW/FS woodland[1]	214	117	470	62	863
Private sector woodland[2]	122	28	371	3	525
Total woodland area certified	**337**	**145**	**841**	**65**	**1 388**

Source: Forest Stewardship Council, Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, National Forest Inventory.

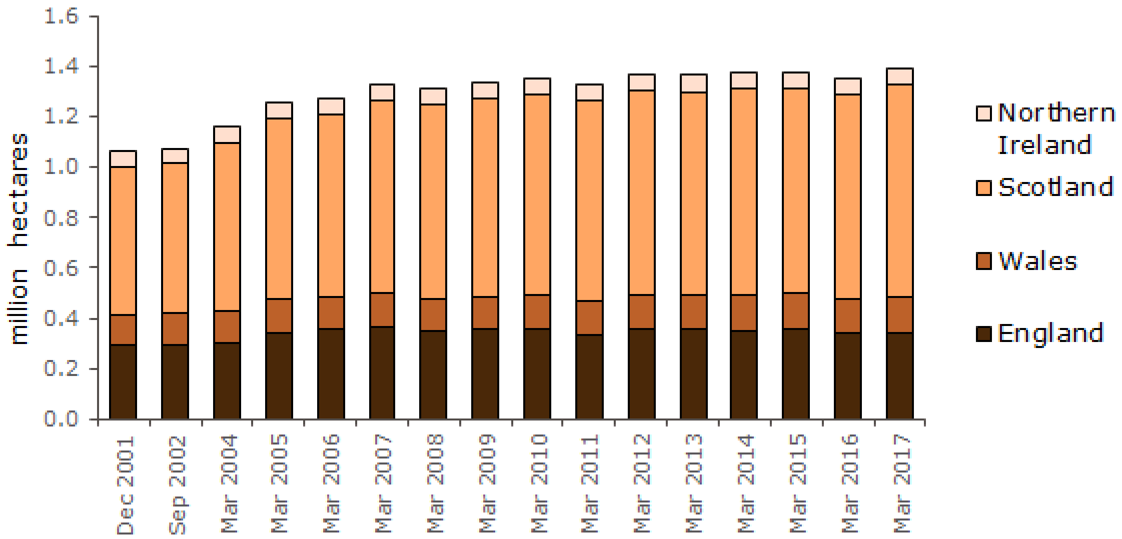
Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England and Scotland), NRW: Natural Resources Wales, FS: Forest Service (Northern Ireland). NRW estimates only relate to woodland formerly owned/managed by FC Wales.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. All certified woodland in 2017 is certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. Some of these woodlands are also certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme.
4. The estimates are based on UK data published by FSC, supplemented by data from individual certificates and other sources. Where possible, figures are for the woodland area certified, rather than the land area certified.
5. All FC/NRW/FS woodland is certified. The FC/NRW/FS areas are the latest areas, as shown in Table 1.1, rather than the areas shown on the certificates.

Data: Longer time series of the above table are available from the Data Downloads webpage.

Figure 1.2 presents certified woodland area by country since December 2001, with figures for earlier years revised for consistency with results from the National Forest Inventory. This shows that area of woodland certified has increased by 3% between March 2016 and March 2017 and by around 330 thousand hectares (31%) from December 2001 to March 2017.

Figure 1.2 Area of certified woodland, 2001-2017



Source: Forest Stewardship Council, Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service.

Notes:

1. All certified woodland is certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme. Some of these woodlands are also certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme.
2. The estimates are based on UK data published by FSC, supplemented by data from individual certificates and other sources. Where possible, figures are for the woodland area certified, rather than the land area certified.

Figures showing volumes of certified timber and Chain of Custody certificates are provided in tables 2.28 and 2.29.

1.3 Land use

Not all land that is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service in Northern Ireland is woodland; other land uses include agricultural land, mountain areas and moorland.

The woodland areas and land areas shown for Natural Resources Wales relate to areas previously owned or managed by Forestry Commission Wales. They exclude any areas previously owned or managed by other parts of Natural Resources Wales, such as the former Environment Agency Wales and the former Countryside Council for Wales.

Woodland accounted for 79% of all Forestry Commission/Natural Resources Wales/Forest Service land in the UK at 31 March 2017 (Table 1.5). This proportion was highest in Wales (95%) and lowest in Scotland (74%).

Table 1.5 Land use of the FC, NRW and FS[1], 2013-2017

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
Woodland					
2013	214	117	481	62	874
2014	215	117	477	62	871
2015	215	117	478	62	871
2016	215	117	470	62	864
2017	214	117	470	62	863
Other land[2]					
2013	38	7	171	14	230
2014	38	7	170	14	228
2015	38	7	171	13	229
2016	38	7	170	13	228
2017	39	7	169	13	227
Total FC/NRW/FS land area					
2013	253	124	652	75	1 104
2014	253	124	647	75	1 099
2015	253	124	649	75	1 100
2016	253	124	640	75	1 092
2017	253	124	638	75	1 090

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service.

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England and Scotland), NRW: Natural Resources Wales, FS: Forest Service (Northern Ireland). NRW estimates only relate to woodland formerly owned/managed by FC Wales.

2. "Other land" includes agricultural land and areas of moorland and mountain.

3. Areas as at 31 March.

1.4 National Forest Inventory

This section contains interim results from the National Forest Inventory (NFI). The statistics are based on field survey data combined with information from the NFI woodland map, which is a spatial representation of woodland areas in Great Britain.

The first cycle of the NFI field survey began in 2010 and was completed in 2015. Analysis is ongoing and therefore full field survey results from the NFI are not yet available. Figures presented in this chapter are interim estimates at 31 March 2012, published in the NFI "50-year forecast of softwood timber availability" and "50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability" reports, released in April 2014. Both reports are available at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory.

The figures presented in Tables 1.6 to 1.9 (and Figures 1.3, 1.4a and 1.4b) relate to stocked areas. These differ from the woodland areas presented in earlier tables, as stocked areas exclude felled areas and (for non-FC land) areas of integral open space.

The figures on growing stock presented in Tables 1.10 and 1.11 form the basis for the Forestry Commission's availability forecasts (see Tables 2.4a and 2.4b).

Further information on the National Forest Inventory is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory

1.4.1 Woodland area by age: conifers

Table 1.6 presents the area of conifers, broken down by age class, ownership and country.

Sixty-one percent of the coniferous woodland area in Great Britain was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger (Table 1.6). A further 9% of stands were aged over 60 years.

Table 1.6 Stocked woodland area in GB by ownership and age class: Conifers

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				thousand hectares
FC[1]				
0-20	33	24	76	134
21-40	38	25	145	208
41-60	39	25	111	176
61-80	12	7	25	44
81-100	4	1	6	11
100+	1	0	3	4
All age classes	**128**	**82**	**367**	**576**
Private sector[2]				
0-20	17	8	126	151
21-40	54	22	231	306
41-60	83	15	116	214
61-80	19	1	18	38
81-100	3	2	6	11
100+	3	1	9	12
All age classes	**179**	**47**	**505**	**732**
Total				
0-20	51	32	202	285
21-40	92	46	376	514
41-60	123	39	227	389
61-80	31	8	43	82
81-100	7	2	12	22
100+	3	1	12	16
All age classes	**307**	**129**	**872**	**1 308**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014), (supporting data).

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.2 Woodland area by age: broadleaves

Table 1.7 presents the area of broadleaves, broken down by age class, ownership and country.

Around one half (53%) of the broadleaved area was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger (Table 1.7). More than one quarter (28%) of stands were aged over 60 years.

Table 1.7 Stocked woodland area in GB by ownership and age class: Broadleaves

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				thousand hectares
FC[1]				
0-20	8	7	11	25
21-40	6	2	5	13
41-60	13	2	4	19
61-80	13	2	4	19
81-100	4	1	2	7
100+	10	3	5	18
All age classes	**54**	**16**	**32**	**102**
Private sector[2]				
0-20	217	30	84	332
21-40	227	33	84	344
41-60	145	22	58	225
61-80	117	15	22	154
81-100	92	11	9	112
100+	51	10	7	67
All age classes	**849**	**121**	**265**	**1 235**
Total				
0-20	225	37	95	357
21-40	232	36	90	357
41-60	157	24	63	244
61-80	130	17	26	173
81-100	97	12	11	119
100+	61	12	12	85
All age classes	**902**	**137**	**297**	**1 337**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014), (supporting data).

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).

2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.

3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.

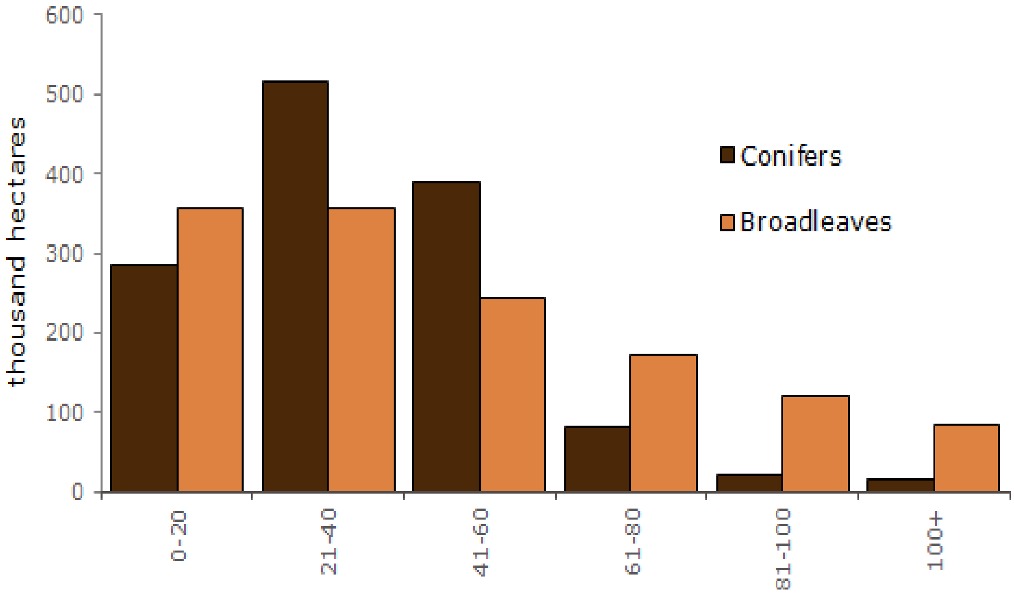
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.3 Woodland area by age: Summary

Figure 1.3 presents the age profile of woodland in Great Britain for conifers and for broadleaves. It shows that broadleaves are more evenly distributed across the age classes than conifers.

Figure 1.3 Age profile of woodland in GB



Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014), National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014), (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
2. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.4 Woodland area by species: conifers

Table 1.8 presents the area of conifers, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

Sitka spruce accounts for around one half (51%) of the conifer area in Great Britain (Table 1.8), followed by Scots pine (17%) and Larches (10%). Sitka spruce is less dominant in England, accounting for just one quarter (26%) of the conifer area there.

Table 1.8 Stocked woodland area in GB by ownership and principal species: Conifers

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				thousand hectares
FC[1]				
Sitka spruce	49	50	225	323
Scots pine	17	2	45	64
Corsican pine	27	2	2	30
Norway spruce	7	5	11	23
Larches	10	12	26	48
Douglas fir	10	5	5	20
Lodgepole pine	4	3	49	56
Other conifers	5	3	3	11
All conifers	**128**	**82**	**367**	**576**
Private sector[2]				
Sitka spruce	32	27	282	341
Scots pine	45	1	109	154
Corsican pine	14	0	1	15
Norway spruce	21	3	15	38
Larches	30	8	39	78
Douglas fir	15	3	7	25
Lodgepole pine	3	1	39	44
Other conifers	19	2	8	29
All conifers	**179**	**47**	**505**	**732**
Total				
Sitka spruce	80	77	507	665
Scots pine	61	3	154	218
Corsican pine	40	2	3	46
Norway spruce	27	8	25	61
Larches	40	20	66	126
Douglas fir	25	9	12	46
Lodgepole pine	8	4	88	100
Other conifers	24	5	11	40
All conifers	**307**	**129**	**872**	**1 308**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.5 Woodland area by species: broadleaves

Table 1.9 presents the area of broadleaves, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The most commonly occurring broadleaved species in Great Britain are Birch (accounting for 18% of broadleaf woodland), Oak (16%) and Ash (12%) (Table 1.9). Birch is more dominant in Scotland, accounting for 43% of the broadleaf area there.

Table 1.9 Stocked woodland area in GB by ownership and principal species: Broadleaves

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				thousand hectares
FC[1]				
Oak	16	3	3	21
Beech	13	2	1	15
Sycamore	1	0	0	2
Ash	3	1	0	4
Birch	6	2	11	19
Sweet chestnut	1	0	0	1
Hazel	0	0	0	1
Hawthorn	0	0	0	0
Alder	1	0	1	1
Willow	0	0	0	0
Other broadleaves	14	9	15	38
All broadleaves	**54**	**16**	**32**	**102**
Private sector[2]				
Oak	151	23	23	198
Beech	59	5	15	78
Sycamore	74	9	21	105
Ash	120	18	15	153
Birch	90	11	116	217
Sweet chestnut	28	0	0	28
Hazel	64	14	8	86
Hawthorn	57	8	8	73
Alder	30	10	16	56
Willow	41	11	13	65
Other broadleaves	133	12	29	174
All broadleaves	**849**	**121**	**265**	**1 235**

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Total				
Oak	167	26	26	219
Beech	72	6	15	94
Sycamore	75	9	22	106
Ash	123	19	16	157
Birch	96	12	128	236
Sweet chestnut	28	0	0	29
Hazel	65	14	8	87
Hawthorn	57	8	8	73
Alder	31	10	17	58
Willow	41	11	13	65
Other broadleaves	146	21	44	212
All broadleaves	**902**	**137**	**297**	**1 337**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).

Notes:

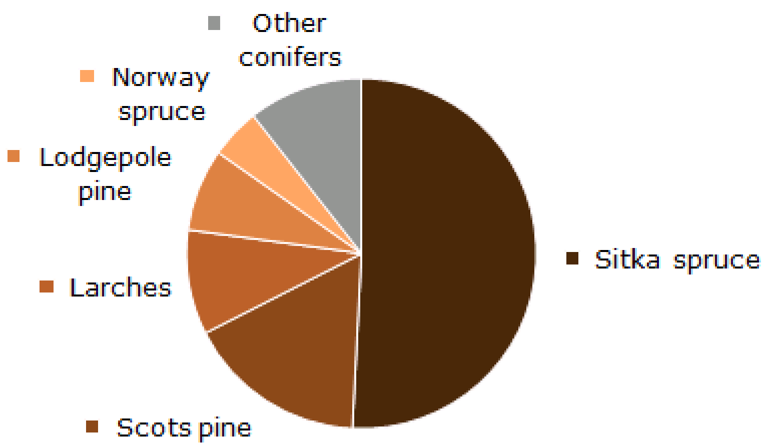
1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.6 Woodland area by species: summary

Figures 1.4a and 1.4b show that, whilst the conifer area is dominated by a small number of species (Sitka spruce and Scots pine together account for around two thirds of the conifer area), broadleaves are more varied.

Figure 1.4a Principal tree species in GB by stocked area: Conifers



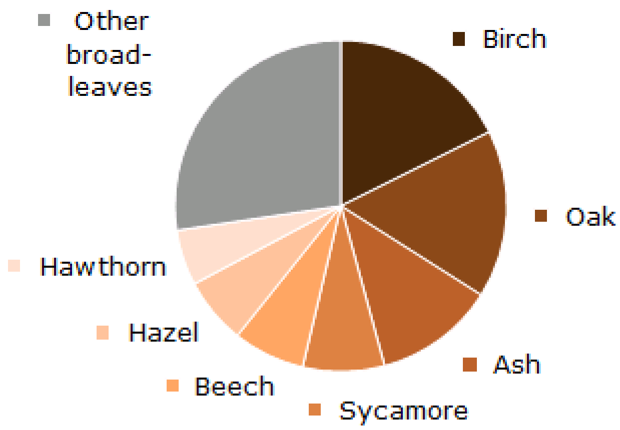
Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).

Notes:

1. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
2. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

Figure 1.4b Principal tree species in GB by stocked area: Broadleaves



Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).
Notes:
1. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
2. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.7 Growing stock by species: conifers

Growing stock is the volume of timber in living trees. It is also often referred to as the standing volume.

Table 1.10 presents the volume of coniferous growing stock, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The total volume of coniferous growing stock in Great Britain in 2012 was 355 million m^3 overbark standing (Table 1.10).

Sitka spruce accounted for around one half (51%) of the conifer growing stock, followed by Scots pine (15%) and Larches (10%). This largely reflects the distribution of species by area (see Table 1.8).

Table 1.10 Growing stock in GB by ownership and principal species: Conifers

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				million cubic metres overbark standing
FC[1]				
Sitka spruce	8.9	11.1	52.1	72.0
Scots pine	4.0	0.5	8.8	13.3
Corsican pine	5.5	0.6	0.4	6.4
Norway spruce	1.7	1.5	3.5	6.7
Larches	1.7	2.7	4.8	9.2
Douglas fir	2.7	1.3	1.4	5.4
Lodgepole pine	0.8	0.6	8.2	9.6
Other conifers	1.5	1.1	1.0	3.6
All conifers	**26.8**	**19.4**	**80.2**	**126.4**
Private sector[2]				
Sitka spruce	11.4	9.5	88.0	108.9
Scots pine	14.7	0.3	24.5	39.4
Corsican pine	4.7	0.2	0.3	5.3
Norway spruce	7.1	1.3	5.9	14.4
Larches	10.7	3.3	12.3	26.3
Douglas fir	6.4	1.6	3.5	11.5
Lodgepole pine	1.0	0.3	7.4	8.7
Other conifers	7.6	1.1	3.0	11.7
All conifers	**63.7**	**17.9**	**146.7**	**228.4**
Total				
Sitka spruce	20.3	20.6	140.0	180.9
Scots pine	18.6	0.8	33.3	52.7
Corsican pine	10.2	0.8	0.7	11.7
Norway spruce	8.8	2.8	9.4	21.1
Larches	12.4	6.0	17.1	35.6
Douglas fir	9.1	2.9	4.9	16.9
Lodgepole pine	1.8	0.9	15.5	18.3
Other conifers	9.1	2.2	4.1	15.4
All conifers	**90.5**	**37.4**	**226.9**	**354.7**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.4.8 Growing stock by species: broadleaves

Table 1.11 presents the volume of broadleaved growing stock, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The total volume of broadleaved growing stock in Great Britain in 2012 was 245 million m^3 overbark standing (Table 1.11).

Oak (28%), Ash (16%) and Beech (12%) accounted for the majority of the broadleaved volume. To some extent, this reflects the distribution of species by area (see Table 1.9).

Table 1.11 Growing stock in GB by ownership and principal species: Broadleaves

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
				miilion cubic metres overbark standing
FC[1]				
Oak	3.3	0.5	0.6	4.4
Beech	2.8	0.4	0.1	3.4
Sycamore	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Ash	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5
Birch	0.5	0.1	1.7	2.3
Sweet chestnut	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hazel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hawthorn	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Alder	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Willow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other broadleaves	1.3	0.8	1.2	3.3
All broadleaves	**8.7**	**1.9**	**3.9**	**14.5**
Private sector[2]				
Oak	51.7	7.7	5.6	65.0
Beech	19.8	1.6	5.2	26.6
Sycamore	16.2	2.4	4.8	23.4
Ash	30.1	6.9	2.8	39.8
Birch	11.3	1.2	8.5	20.9
Sweet chestnut	7.7	0.2	0.0	7.9
Hazel	5.0	0.9	0.4	6.4
Hawthorn	2.8	0.4	0.3	3.4
Alder	6.8	2.1	1.9	10.8
Willow	4.9	0.8	0.9	6.5
Other broadleaves	16.0	1.1	2.6	19.6
All broadleaves	**172.3**	**25.4**	**32.9**	**230.6**
Total				
Oak	55.0	8.1	6.3	69.4
Beech	22.6	2.0	5.3	29.9
Sycamore	16.4	2.4	4.9	23.6
Ash	30.5	7.0	2.8	40.3

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
Birch	11.8	1.3	10.1	23.2
Sweet chestnut	7.8	0.2	0.0	8.0
Hazel	5.1	0.9	0.5	6.5
Hawthorn	2.8	0.4	0.3	3.4
Alder	6.9	2.2	1.9	11.0
Willow	4.9	0.8	0.9	6.5
Other broadleaves	17.2	1.8	3.8	22.9
All broadleaves	**181.0**	**27.3**	**36.8**	**245.1**

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, April 2014).

Notes:

1. FC: Forestry Commission (England, Scotland and Wales).
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland previously owned/managed by the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency in Wales, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately owned woodland.
3. Areas at 31 March 2012.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.5 Area of Farm Woodland

Agricultural Censuses run by Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and the devolved administrations collect annual information on the land-use of farms. Table 1.12 below shows the area of woodland on farms.

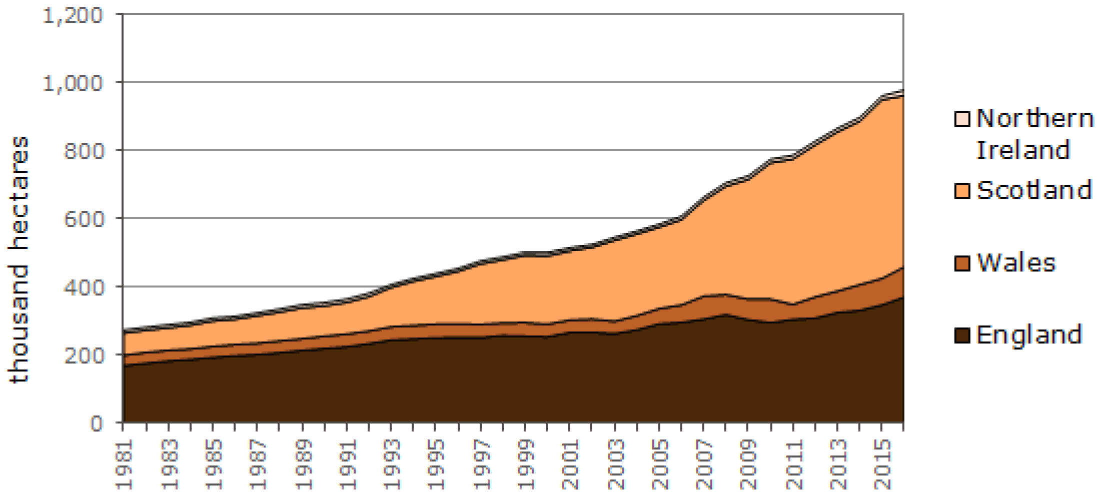
The area of farm woodland in the UK has increased from 663 thousand hectares in 2007 to 978 thousand hectares in 2016 (Table 1.12). Around one half (51%) of all farm woodland was in Scotland in 2016, with a further 38% in England, 9% in Wales and the remaining 2% in Northern Ireland.

Table 1.12 Area of farm woodland, 2007-2016

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
2007	305.4	67.9	279.9	9.9	663.1
2008	318.8	59.2	317.3	9.9	705.3
2009	303.7	60.8	350.8	10.3	725.7
2010	295.3	69.1	399.8	10.2	774.0
2011	304.9	44.2	426.1	10.8	785.9
2012	308.4	62.6	445.4	11.0	827.5
2013	324.9	63.4	466.8	10.3	865.4
2014	331.3	75.7	479.4	11.1	897.5
2015	347.6	78.0	524.0	11.1	960.6
2016	370.5	89.2	502.4	16.1	978.2

Source: June Agricultural Census - Defra, The Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive.

Figure 1.5 Area of farm woodland, 1981-2016



Source: June Agricultural Census - Defra, The Scottish Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive.

1.6 New planting and publicly funded restocking

New planting

New planting is the creation of new areas of woodland by planting trees on land that was not previously woodland. The statistics presented here also include new woodland that is created by natural colonisation of trees on land near existing woodland. Statistics on new planting are used to inform government policy and resource allocation, and are used in producing annual estimates of woodland area.

There are a number of factors that can affect the level of new planting in the UK. These include:

- choices by landowners reflecting their own motivation and needs;
- the costs and availability of land for conversion to woodland;
- the availability of grants for new planting, the level of grant payments available and the awareness of grants among potential recipients;
- the tax benefits available from owning woodland;
- expected future markets for wood products such as timber and woodfuel;
- income from payments for ecosystem services, particularly carbon storage;
- national and local initiatives, for example on biodiversity, green infrastructure and water management.

Restocking

Restocking is the replacement of trees on areas of woodland that have been felled; this can be done either through replanting or natural regeneration. The statistics presented here include felled areas that have been restocked by both natural regeneration and replanting.

As restocking takes place on woodland that has been previously harvested and it is a condition of most felling licences that the area is restocked, restocking rates are mainly driven by harvesting levels (with a time lag, usually of around 2 years, between harvesting and restocking). Figures for timber harvesting (wood production) are available in the UK-Grown Timber chapter.

Economic factors, including grant rates, may have some effect on the species choice at restocking. In addition, the precise timing of restocking may be affected by weather conditions.

The figures presented here relate to restocking that took place on woodland that is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales and the Forest Service, and restocking that took place on private sector land with public funding.

Grant support for restocking of conifers has changed with the introduction of Rural Development Contracts in Scotland in 2008. As a result, grant aid was no longer available for restocking with Sitka spruce in many cases. No estimate has been included for restocking of Sitka spruce in Scotland that is no longer supported by grants. It is therefore likely that conifer restocking in Scotland in recent years is under-reported in this release and other statistics. A new Forestry Grant Scheme was launched in Scotland in March 2015.

Grant support in England is now provided by the Countryside Stewardship scheme, which opened for applications in early 2016. No funding is provided for restocking under Countryside Stewardship. No estimate has been made for restocking in England that is no longer supported by grants and it is therefore likely that restocking in England is under-reported in this release.

1.6.1 New planting and restocking by forest type

Seven thousand hectares of new woodland were created in the UK in 2016-17. In addition, 17 thousand hectares of woodland restocking were reported (Table 1.13). Conifers accounted for over one half (54%) of the new planting area and 78% of the reported restocking area in 2016-17.

Table 1.13 New planting & publicly funded restocking by forest type

Year (ending 31/3)	New planting			Restocking			Total		
									thousand hectares
	Conifers	Broad-leaves	Total	Conifers	Broad-leaves	Total	Conifers	Broad-leaves	Total
England									
2012-13	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	1.8	4.0	2.2	4.4	6.6
2013-14	0.0	3.3	3.3	2.6	1.9	4.5	2.6	5.2	7.8
2014-15	0.1	2.3	2.4	2.0	4.4	6.4	2.1	6.7	8.8
2015-16	0.0	0.8	0.8	2.2	1.1	3.3	2.2	2.0	4.1
2016-17	0.1	1.0	1.1	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.1	2.0	4.1
Wales									
2012-13	0.1	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.6	2.0	1.5	1.4	2.9
2013-14	0.1	0.8	0.9	1.4	0.8	2.3	1.6	1.6	3.2
2014-15	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.9	1.3	0.7	2.0
2015-16	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.6	1.8	1.2	0.7	1.9
2016-17	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.5	1.7	1.3	0.8	2.1
Scotland									
2012-13	1.7	5.3	7.0	5.1	0.9	6.0	6.8	6.3	13.1
2013-14	2.0	6.3	8.3	6.5	1.4	7.9	8.5	7.7	16.2
2014-15	2.5	5.1	7.6	6.6	1.9	8.5	9.1	7.0	16.0

Year (ending 31/3)	New planting			Restocking			Total		
2015-16	1.9	2.7	4.6	6.0	1.8	7.8	7.9	4.6	12.5
2016-17	3.2	1.5	4.8	9.1	2.0	11.1	12.3	3.5	15.8
Northern Ireland									
2012-13	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.4	1.4
2013-14	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.4	1.5
2014-15	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.3	1.3
2015-16	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.9
2016-17	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.2	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.5
UK									
2012-13	1.9	8.9	10.8	9.7	3.4	13.1	11.6	12.3	23.9
2013-14	2.2	10.7	12.9	11.6	4.2	15.8	13.8	14.9	28.7
2014-15	2.6	7.7	10.3	10.8	7.0	17.8	13.4	14.7	28.1
2015-16	1.9	3.7	5.6	10.1	3.6	13.7	12.0	7.3	19.4
2016-17	3.5	3.0	6.5	13.4	3.7	17.1	16.9	6.7	23.6

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, grant schemes.

Notes:

1. Private sector figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year and, for England, includes new planting supported by The Woodland Trust and (to 2014-15) by Natural England and land acquired by the National Forest Company. Figures for grant-aided planting under Rural Development Contracts in Scotland relate to calendar years.
2. No estimates of areas planted without grant aid are included. As a result, the reported figures are likely to under-estimate the true level of planting activity. Restocking figures cover restocking that took place on FC/NRW/FS land, and restocking that took place on private sector land with public funding.
3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
4. Includes natural colonisation and natural regeneration.
5. Restocking by natural regeneration in non-clearfell areas may be under-represented in the above table.

Data: Longer time series of the above table are available from the Woodland Statistics web page.

1.6.2 New planting and restocking by ownership

In 2016-17 most new planting (84%) took place on private sector land (Table 1.14). In contrast, over two thirds of reported restocking (69%) took place on FC/NRW/FS land.

Table 1.14 New planting & publicly funded restocking by ownership

Year (ending 31/3)	New Planting			Restocking			Total		
									thousand hectares
	FC/NRW/ FS	Private sector	Total	FC/NRW/ FS	Private sector	Total	FC/NRW/ FS	Private sector	Total
England									
2012-13	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.2	1.7	4.0	2.2	4.3	6.6
2013-14	0.0	3.3	3.3	2.1	2.4	4.5	2.1	5.8	7.8
2014-15	0.0	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.2	6.4	2.3	6.6	8.8
2015-16	0.0	0.8	0.8	2.3	1.0	3.3	2.3	1.8	4.1
2016-17	0.0	1.1	1.1	2.4	0.6	3.0	2.4	1.7	4.1
Wales									
2012-13	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.3	0.6	2.0	1.3	1.6	2.9
2013-14	0.0	0.9	0.9	1.6	0.7	2.3	1.6	1.6	3.2
2014-15	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.4	1.9	1.6	0.5	2.0
2015-16	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.3	1.8	1.5	0.5	1.9
2016-17	0.0	0.4	0.4	1.4	0.2	1.7	1.4	0.6	2.1
Scotland									
2012-13	0.8	6.2	7.0	4.7	1.3	6.0	5.6	7.5	13.1
2013-14	0.6	7.7	8.3	6.2	1.7	7.9	6.8	9.4	16.2
2014-15	0.4	7.2	7.6	6.5	2.0	8.5	6.9	9.1	16.0
2015-16	0.7	3.9	4.6	6.6	1.3	7.8	7.3	5.2	12.5
2016-17	1.1	3.7	4.8	6.7	4.4	11.1	7.7	8.1	15.8
Northern Ireland									
2012-13	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.4	1.4
2013-14	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.4	1.5
2014-15	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.4	1.3
2015-16	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.9
2016-17	0.0	0.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	1.3	1.3	0.3	1.5
UK									
2012-13	0.9	9.9	10.8	9.3	3.8	13.1	10.2	13.8	23.9
2013-14	0.6	12.3	12.9	10.9	4.9	15.8	11.5	17.2	28.7
2014-15	0.4	9.9	10.3	11.0	6.6	17.8	11.6	16.5	28.1
2015-16	0.7	4.9	5.6	11.1	2.7	13.7	11.8	7.6	19.4
2016-17	1.1	5.5	6.5	11.7	5.3	17.1	12.8	10.8	23.6

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, grant schemes.

Notes:

Private sector figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year and, for England, includes new planting supported by The Woodland Trust and (to 2014-15) by Natural England and land acquired by the National Forest Company. Figures for grant-aided planting under Rural Development Contracts in Scotland relate to calendar years.

No estimates of areas planted without grant aid are included. As a result, the reported figures are likely to under-estimate the true level of planting activity. Restocking figures cover restocking that took place on FC/ NRW/ FS land, and restocking that took place on private sector land with public funding.

3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.

Includes natural colonisation and natural regeneration.

5. Restocking by natural regeneration in non-clearfell areas may be under-represented in the above table.

Data: Longer time series of the above table are available from the Woodland Statistics web page.

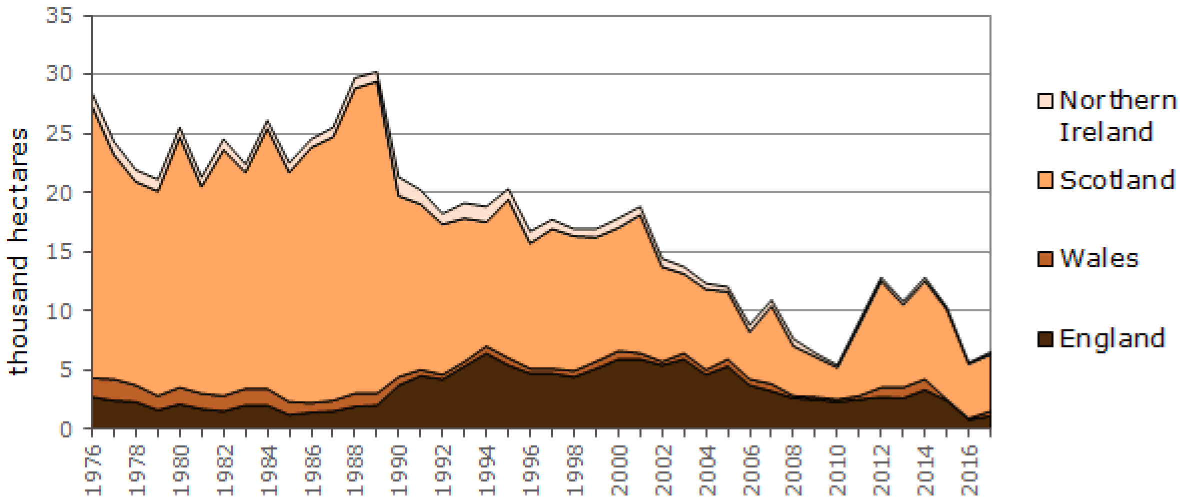
1.6.3 New planting and restocking: time series

Figure 1.6 shows areas of new planting by country since the year ending March 1976. UK new planting rates have fallen from the late 1980's, decreasing by 82% between 1988-89 and 2009-10. This followed changes to the tax benefits from owning forestry in the UK, introduced in the 1988 Finance Act (www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/39/contents).

The area of new planting in the UK between 2010-11 and 2014-15 was around twice the level of that reported in 2009-10. This increase was largely driven by increases in Scotland following the introduction of Rural Development Contracts. New planting decreased in 2015-16 to levels similar to that reported in 2009-10. This decrease is likely to have been influenced by recent changes in grant schemes across the UK.

At 6.5 thousand hectares in 2016-17, the current level of new planting represents a 16% increase from the 5.6 thousand hectares achieved in 2015-16. For further information, see the New Planting and Restocking section of the Sources chapter.

Figure 1.6 New planting in the UK, 1976-2017



Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, grant schemes.

Notes:

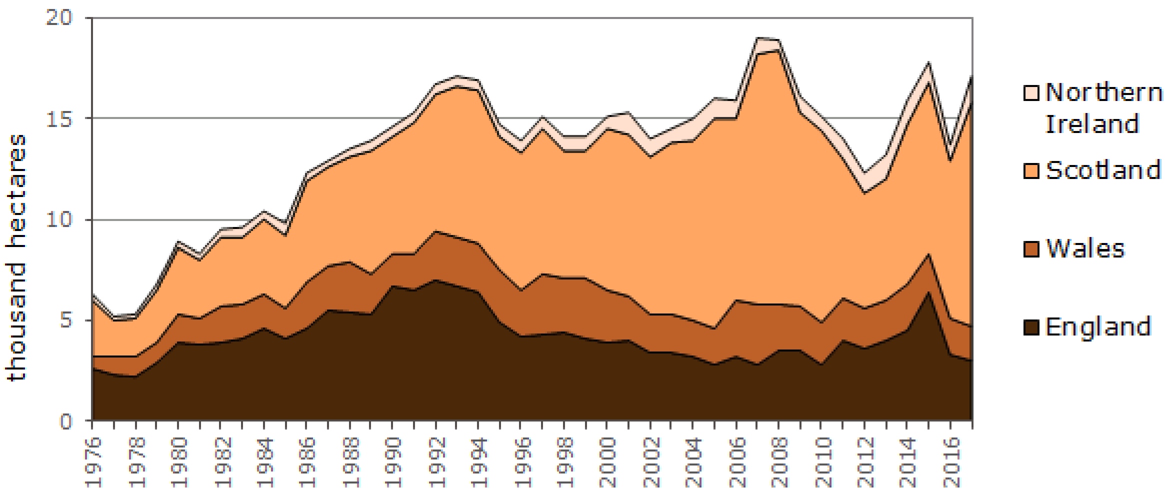
1. Private sector figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year and, for England includes new planting supported by the Woodland Trust, and (to 2014-15) by Natural England and land acquired by the National Forest Company. Figures for grant aided planting under Rural Development Contracts in Scotland relate to calendar years.
2. Estimate of areas planted without grant aid are also included (where possible) up to 2009-10, but no estimates are available since then. As a result, the reported figures are likely to under-estimate the true level of planting activity.
3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
4. Includes woodland formed by natural colonisation.

Figure 1.7 shows areas of restocking by country since the year ending March 1976. It indicates an increase in restocking rates over most of the period. Over the same period, there has been a general increase in UK wood production (see UK-Grown Timber chapter).

The reported area of restocking fell significantly after a peak of 19 thousand hectares in 2006-07. This followed changes to grant support for restocking in Scotland, that resulted in some non-grant aided Sitka spruce restocking being excluded from the estimates. Results from the Forestry Commission's Nursery Survey (an annual survey of forest nurseries in Great Britain) indicate that, despite a dip in the 2009/10 planting year, sales of Sitka spruce plants to Scotland have been relatively stable in recent years.

The chart shows that the reported area of publicly funded restocking in 2016-17 represents a 24% increase from the previous year, and is now similar to the level achieved in 2014-15. The dip in 2015-16 followed changes to grant schemes across the UK. For further information, see the New Planting and Restocking section of the Sources chapter.

Figure 1.7 Restocking in the UK, 1976-2017



Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service, grant schemes.

Notes:

1. Private sector figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year. Figures for grant aided planting under Rural Development Contracts in Scotland relate to calendar years.
2. Estimate of areas planted without grant aid are also included (where possible) up to 2009-10, but no estimates are available since then. Figures from 2010-11 therefore only cover restocking that took place on FC/NRW/FS land and restocking that took place on private sector land with public funding. As a result, the reported figures are likely to under-estimate the true level of planting activity.
3. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
4. Includes woodland restocked by natural regeneration.

1.7 Felling

Felling

Approval for the felling (cutting down) of trees in the UK is granted through felling licences issued by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service.

Felling licences may be conditional (where felling approval is granted subject to restocking) or unconditional (where tree felling is approved without the requirement to replant). Unconditional licences are routinely issued for silvicultural thinning operations and in these cases no woodland loss takes place. However, an unconditional felling licence may be issued if there are overriding environmental considerations, for example to enable the restoration of important habitats.

The removal of trees may be authorised under planning regulations, to enable development (including for windfarms). In this case, a felling licence is not required.

The removal of trees might also be required through a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN). A SPHN may require the felling and destruction of infected trees or containment of infested material on site, and is issued by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. Similar actions are also required within woodland owned or managed by these organisations. There is no legal requirement for woodland to be restocked after felling under a SPHN.

Since 2010/2011, SPHNs have mainly been issued to attempt to slow down the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum*, first found in the UK in 2002 on viburnum, and in 2009 on Japanese larch, a significant sporulating host resulting in a dramatic upsurge in the disease.

Statutory felling of infected *P. ramorum* infected larch does not apply within a specially designated *P. ramorum* management zone in south west Scotland where the high levels of infection and proportion of larch in the area make this unfeasible. However, felling licences are still required, and movement licences are required to stop spread out of this area. In Wales' *P. ramorum* Core Disease Zone SPHNs are still served to contain material on site, but felling still requires a felling licence.

Further information on felling and Statutory Plant Health Notices is provided in the Sources chapter.

Woodland loss

Information on unconditional felling licences that do not relate to thinning may be seen as an indication of the level of woodland loss on land that is not owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service. However, the data relates only to felling licences issued, so does not provide information on whether the felling actually took place (or the timing of the felling). In addition, felling licences do not cover woodland loss that is authorised under planning regulations.

The National Forest Inventory report "Preliminary estimates of the changes in canopy cover in British woodlands between 2006 and 2015" (August 2016) has reported:

- 3.3 thousand hectares of observed permanent woodland loss between 2006 and 2015;
- a further 0.7 thousand hectares of ground under development and 0.2 thousand hectares of newly established habitats;
- 69% of the clearfelled area observed in 2006 had been restocked by 2012, leaving around 33.9 thousand hectares of woodlands in transition and open areas;
- 63% of the area observed as clearfelled between 2006 and 2009 had been restocked by 2012, leaving around 28.6 thousand hectares of woodlands in transition and open areas.

These are interim estimates that are likely to underestimate the final position; updated estimates from NFI second cycle field survey are scheduled to be available by 2020.

Further information is available in the report at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory.

1.7.1 Felling licences

Table 1.15 shows the area covered by unconditional felling licences issued by the Forestry Commission in England and Scotland since 2007-08. The figures do not include unconditional felling licences issued to permit thinning of woodlands. The table covers woodland in England and Scotland that is not owned or managed by the Forestry Commission only; it does not cover felling that is exempt from felling licence approval (such as authorisations for felling under planning regulations, felling required under a Statutory Plant Health Notice or felling that is approved on condition that the area is restocked).

A total of 0.2 thousand hectares of woodland in England was covered by unconditional felling licences (with no requirement to restock) in the year to March 2017. The level in Scotland was under 50 hectares.

Table 1.15 Area of private sector woodland covered by unconditional felling licences[1], 2007-08 to 2016-17

Year	England	Scotland
		thousand hectares
2007-08	0.4	0.1
2008-09	0.4	0.2
2009-10	0.5	0.2
2010-11	0.5	0.1
2011-12	0.6	0.1
2012-13	0.3	0.2
2013-14	0.4	0.1
2014-15	0.2	0.1
2015-16	0.2	0.2
2016-17	0.2	0.0

Source: Forestry Commission

Notes:

1. Felling licences issued in the period. Excludes areas exempt from felling licence approval or under Forestry Commission grant, and licences issued for thinning.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

1.7.2 Statutory Plant Health Notices

Table 1.16a shows the number of sites where a Statutory Plant Health Notice has been served in the UK since 2010-11 and Table 1.16b shows the area required to be felled under these Notices. The tables cover all woodland, including sites owned or managed by the Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales or the Forest Service. As Statutory Plant Health Notices are not issued in the Phytophthora ramorum management zone in south west Scotland, the figures presented here do not cover all felling of infected larch.

A total of 196 sites were served with Statutory Plant Health Notices between April 2016 and March 2017.

Table 1.16a Number of sites where a Statutory Plant Health Notice has been served[1], 2010-11 to 2016-17

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
2010-11	114	46	1	10	171
2011-12	131	90	14	16	251
2012-13	167	89	123	15	394
2013-14	224	272	76	28	600
2014-15	140	71	9	17	237
2015-16	77	57	34	3	171
2016-17	76	53	67	0	196

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service

Note:

1. The number of sites where infection of larch by Phytophthora ramorum has been confirmed, or where there is sufficient suspicion of infection, and a Statutory Plant Health Notice has been served on the landowner.
2. Excludes felling within the Phytophthora ramorum management zone in south west Scotland, where Statutory Plant Health Notices are not issued.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics

Areas requiring felling under Statutory Plant Health Notices totalled 0.7 thousand hectares in 2016-17. Almost two fifths (38%) of the area to be felled in 2016-17 was in England, 32% was in Scotland, and 30% in Wales.

Table 1.16b Felling areas under Statutory Plant Health Notices[1], 2010-11 to 2016-17

Year	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
					thousand hectares
2010-11	1.2	0.8	0.0	0.3	2.3
2011-12	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.1
2012-13	0.5	1.5	0.4	0.2	2.5
2013-14	0.8	4.6	0.3	0.5	6.2
2014-15	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.7
2015-16	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.0	1.8
2016-17	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7

Source: Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service

Note:

1. The area that is required to be felled within the Statutory Plant Health Notice.

2. Excludes felling within the Phytophthora ramorum management zone in south west Scotland, where Statutory Plant Health Notices are not issued.

These figures are outside the scope of National Statistics.

Estimates of the volume of softwood removed in 2016 as required by plant health legislation can be found in the Wood Production Summary section of Chapter 2.