

20 June 2002

**Coverage**

Great Britain

**Theme**

Agriculture, Fishing and  
Forestry

---

## Woodland area, planting and restocking

Data for the year to March 2002

This release contains data for new woodland creation (new planting) and replanting of woodlands that have been felled (restocking), in the year to 31 March 2002. The figures cover all types of woodland, planted by both the Forestry Commission and private woodland owners.

Using the new planting statistics for private woodland owners, (together with Forest Enterprise disposals data – to be published in the 2001/02 FE Annual Report) estimates are made of the area of private woodlands in Great Britain at 31 March 2002 by projecting forward results of the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.

The main findings are:

- The estimated woodland area in Great Britain, at 31 March 2002, is 2,716 thousand hectares (11.8% of the surface area of GB). Of this 1,922 thousand hectares is owned by private woodland owners and non-FC public sector bodies.
- Over 13,000 hectares of new woodland were created in Great Britain in the year to 31 March 2002
- Most new planting is broadleaf species (over 9,500 hectares, compared to just over 3,500 hectares of coniferous species)
- Over 13,000 hectares of land was restocked after felling.

**Issued by:**

Economics & Statistics Unit  
Forestry Commission  
231 Corstorphine Road  
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

**Enquiries:**

Alister Henderson 0131 314 6337  
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Statistician:**

Sheila Ward 0131 314 6475  
sheila.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

**Website:**

[www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics)

**Table 1: AREA OF WOODLAND**

Most public sector woodland is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. There is also woodland owned by local authorities, the Ministry of Defence, and other public sector bodies but in the following table all non-FC woodland is shown as 'private woodlands'.

	thousands of hectares		
	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>	<b>Total Woodland</b>
<b>Forestry Commission</b>			
England	156	50	206
Wales	102	11	113
Scotland	450	25	475
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>794</b>
<b>Private Woodlands</b>			
England	215	682	898
Wales	64	111	175
Scotland	603	246	849
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,922</b>
<b>Total</b>			
England	371	733	1,104
Wales	166	122	288
Scotland	1,053	271	1,324
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>2,716</b>

## Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2002
2. Private woodland figures are based on data obtained from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and trees and adjusted to reflect subsequent changes. They include non-FC publicly owned woodland.
3. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

**Table 2: NEW PLANTING 2001-02**

The table below shows the area of new woodland that has been created in the year to 31 March 2002.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Forestry Commission</b>				
Conifers	52	0	81	133
Broadleaves	96	0	19	115
<b>Total</b>	148	0	100	248
<b>Private woodlands</b>				
Conifers	467	30	2,933	3,430
Broadleaves	4,274	240	5,002	9,516
<b>Total</b>	4,741	270	7,935	12,946
<b>All new planting</b>				
Conifers	519	30	3,014	3,563
Broadleaves	4,370	240	5,021	9,631
<b>Total</b>	4,889	270	8,035	13,194

Notes:

1. Private woodlands figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year, together with an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
2. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
3. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration

**Table 3: RESTOCKING 2001-02**

The table below shows the area of restocking that took place in the year to 31 March 2002.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Forestry Commission</b>				
Conifers	2,179	1,097	4,494	7,770
Broadleaves	135	35	380	550
<b>Total</b>	2,314	1,132	4,874	8,320
<b>Private woodlands</b>				
Conifers	398	510	2,056	2,964
Broadleaves	659	247	828	1,734
<b>Total</b>	1,057	757	2,884	4,698
<b>All restocking</b>				
Conifers	2,577	1,607	6,550	10,734
Broadleaves	794	282	1,208	2,284
<b>Total</b>	3,371	1,889	7,758	13,018

Notes: as above

## **Background**

### **Area of woodland:**

The area of Forestry Commission woodland comes from the FC's administrative systems.

The estimates from private woodlands are based on results from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted to reflect subsequent changes.

The Forestry Commission has been carrying out national woodland surveys since 1924. The latest National Inventory of Woodland and Trees was completed in July 2000.

Survey results are currently being published as a series of Inventory Reports and wallcharts for Scotland, England, Wales and Great Britain.

For further information regarding the Inventory contact:

Steve Smith

Head of Woodland Surveys

Forest Research

231 Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

Telephone: 0131 314 6122

Email: [woodland.surveys@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:woodland.surveys@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### **New planting and restocking:**

New planting is the creation of new areas of woodland. Restocking is the replanting of areas of woodland that have been felled. Both new planting and restocking can use planting/ seeding or natural regeneration. The figures here are for all types of woodland.

Information about Forestry Commission new planting and restocking comes from administrative systems. Private sector information comes principally from the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS); the areas are those for which the *second* instalment of grant has been paid during the year – the second instalment is approved when woodland reaches a certain stage and density of growth, so this information corresponds approximately to the amount of new and restocked woodland created.

Local estimates for areas of planting and restocking which are not FC and which are not grant-aided are included for England, Scotland and Wales. These estimates are relatively small (less than 500 hectares in total), and it has been assumed that all of this area is broadleaves.

### **National Statistics:**

This is a National Statistics publication. Official statistics bearing the National Statistics logo are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference.