

14 June 2007

Coverage

Great Britain

Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and
Forestry

Woodland area, planting and restocking

Provisional data for the year to March 2007.
England, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain totals.

This release gives estimates of the area of Forestry Commission (FC) and non-FC woodlands at 31 March 2007. The non-FC areas are estimated by projecting forward results of the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.

This release also includes estimates for the certified woodland area at 31 March.

This release also contains figures for new woodland creation (new planting) and replanting of existing areas of woodland that have been harvested (restocking), in the year to 31 March 2007.

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In total for Great Britain:

- The estimated woodland area is 2.75 million hectares (12 per cent of the surface area of GB). Of this, 0.77 million hectares is owned or managed by the Forestry Commission.
- The total certified woodland area is 1.21 million hectares, including all Forestry Commission woodland. Overall, 44 per cent of the woodland area is certified.
- Ten thousand hectares of new woodland were created, mostly with broadleaved species.
- Seventeen thousand hectares of woodland were restocked, mostly with conifers.

Table 1: AREA OF WOODLAND 2007

Table 1 shows the total 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. In the following table all non-Forestry Commission public sector woodland and privately owned woodland is shown as 'non-FC'.

	thousands of hectares		
	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total Woodland
Forestry Commission			
England	149	53	202
Scotland	430	27	457
Wales	93	13	107
Great Britain	672	93	765
Non-FC			
England	218	704	922
Scotland	618	266	884
Wales	65	114	178
Great Britain	901	1,083	1,984
Total			
England	367	757	1,124
Scotland	1,048	293	1,341
Wales	158	127	285
Great Britain	1,573	1,176	2,750

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2007. Figures are currently provisional.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on data obtained from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use. They include non-FC publicly owned woodland.
3. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

Table 2: CERTIFIED AREA – MARCH 2007

Table 2 shows the area of certified woodland. The certification of a woodland area requires that forest management practices in that area are assessed regularly against an agreed standard – The UK Woodland Assurance Standard. If timber from certified woodland follows a Chain of Custody from forest to retail outlet that is also certified, then it can be marketed with a label showing it to be certified.

	thousands of hectares			
	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Forestry Commission	202	457	107	765
Non-FC	149	280	17	446
Total	351	737	124	1,212

Notes:

1. All certified woodland is under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) 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.
3. The Forestry Commission areas are the latest areas, as shown in Table 1, rather than the areas shown on certificates.

Table 3: NEW PLANTING 2006-07

Table 3 shows the area of new woodland that has been created in the year to 31 March 2007.

	hectares			
	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Forestry Commission				
Conifers	0	0	0	0
Broadleaves	230	7	0	237
Total	230	7	0	237
Non-FC				
Conifers	64	2,000	37	2,101
Broadleaves	2,880	4,586	388	7,854
Total	2,944	6,586	425	9,955
All new planting				
Conifers	64	2,000	37	2,101
Broadleaves	3,110	4,593	388	8,091
Total	3,174	6,593	425	10,192

Notes:

1. Non-FC 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 colonisation/ regeneration
4. Figures are currently provisional.

Table 4: RESTOCKING 2006-07

Table 4 shows the area of restocking that took place in the year to 31 March 2007.

	hectares			
	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Forestry Commission				
Conifers	1,584	4,910	1,211	7,704
Broadleaves	228	531	461	1,219
Total	1,811	5,440	1,672	8,923
Non-FC				
Conifers	208	4,846	671	5,725
Broadleaves	699	1,158	342	2,199
Total	907	6,004	1,013	7,924
All restocking				
Conifers	1,792	9,756	1,882	13,429
Broadleaves	927	1,689	803	3,418
Total	2,718	11,444	2,685	16,847

Notes: as 1-4 above, and:

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

BACKGROUND

Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the totals given.

Area of woodland:

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

The estimates for non-FC woodlands are based on results from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland. At present, no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use.

For further information regarding the Inventory contact:

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New planting and restocking:

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

Information about Forestry Commission new planting and restocking comes from administrative systems. Non-FC information comes principally from grant schemes: the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS), English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS), Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) and Better Woodlands for Wales (BWW). For natural colonisation/ regeneration, 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 (around 900 hectares in total), and it has been assumed that all of this area is broadleaves.

The use of natural regeneration in non-clearfell systems is increasing substantially - particularly with regard to broadleaves in England. These systems are not satisfactorily represented by measuring 'restocking area' within any given year, and so broadleaf planting is likely to be under-reported in this First Release.

Certified area:

The data on certified woodland areas are obtained from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), FC's administrative systems and contact with individual land owners and managers.

National Statistics:

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics visit www.statistics.gov.uk.