



Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

and Woodland Indicators
2013

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and Woodland Indicators 2013 (First Release)

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Introduction

Forestry Commission England's [Corporate Plan 2011-15](#) sets out our key Impact and Input Indicators to show our contribution towards the wider State of England's Woodlands. The Indicators are also covered in our more recent [Corporate Plan 2012-13](#).

This Indicators Report provides the second annual monitoring report on all the Indicators which we defined and developed through 2011-12. The first report was published in May 2012.

It reflects our key priorities of Protection, Improvement and Expansion of England's woodlands, as set out in the recent [Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement \(January 2013\)](#).

This report includes our six Headline key performance indicators (pages 8 to 13). These are reported quarterly.

This document also reports on a further 14 Impact indicators (pages 14 to 28) and 4 Input indicators (pages 29 to 32), by which Forestry Commission England measures its performance.

The final section of the document reports on a further 16 State of England's Woodlands indicators that are intended to provide a barometer of trends in the wider forestry sector in England (pages 33 to 48).

The outturns against these indicators have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

For all these reports, please visit our website at www.forestry.gov.uk > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

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www.forestry.gov.uk/england







Evidence & Analysis, Strategic Development, Forest Services

23 May 2013





Summary of Indicator Assessments

Traffic light assessments of trends have been determined by comparing the value of each indicator at two points in time. The first is the Baseline, normally at 1 April 2011, the start of the Spending Review 2010 period, or as close to that as possible. This value has been compared with the most recently available value, normally at 31 March 2013, two years on. However, only a simple 'rule of thumb' threshold method has been applied to assessments of trends, in comparison with what success would like for each indicator where this is feasible. The traffic lights assessments reflect the overall change in the indicator from the Baseline to the latest year and do not reflect fluctuations during intervening years. The assessments reflect only trends over time; there is no assessment of 'position'. In some cases therefore 'little or no overall change' is reported where the strong performances have been maintained. The approach is simplistic but broadly consistent in principle with the more sophisticated approach used for Defra's [England Natural Environment Indicators](#) (Defra, May 2013).





-  = Improving
  = Little or no overall change
  = Deteriorating
 = Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data

Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 1. Headline Performance Impact and Input Indicators		8
Impact Indicator 1: Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)		8
Impact Indicator 4: Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)		9
Impact Indicator 6: Hectares of woodland created (gross)		10
Impact Indicator 13: Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate		11
Input Indicator 4: Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services		12
Input Indicator 6: Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)		13

Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 2. Performance Impact Indicators		14
Impact Indicator 2: Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e. the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)	≈	14
Impact Indicator 3: Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate	≈	15
Impact Indicator 5: Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat	PAWS on the Public Forest Estate	✓
	PAWS on other woodland	✓
	Open Habitat on the Public Forest Estate	✓
	Open Habitat on other woodland	✓
Impact Indicator 7: Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects	✓	18
Impact Indicator 8: Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland	✓	19
Impact Indicator 9: Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive "rate my visit" facility	≈	20
Impact Indicator 10: Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate	✓	21
Impact Indicator 11: Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate	✓	22
Impact Indicator 12: Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant	✓	23
Impact Indicator 14: Area of felling licences issued in the period	✗	24
Impact Indicator 15: Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents)	✓	25
Impact Indicator 16: Number of training events provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees	≈	26
Impact Indicator 17: Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees	≈	27
Impact Indicator 18: Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early	✓	28

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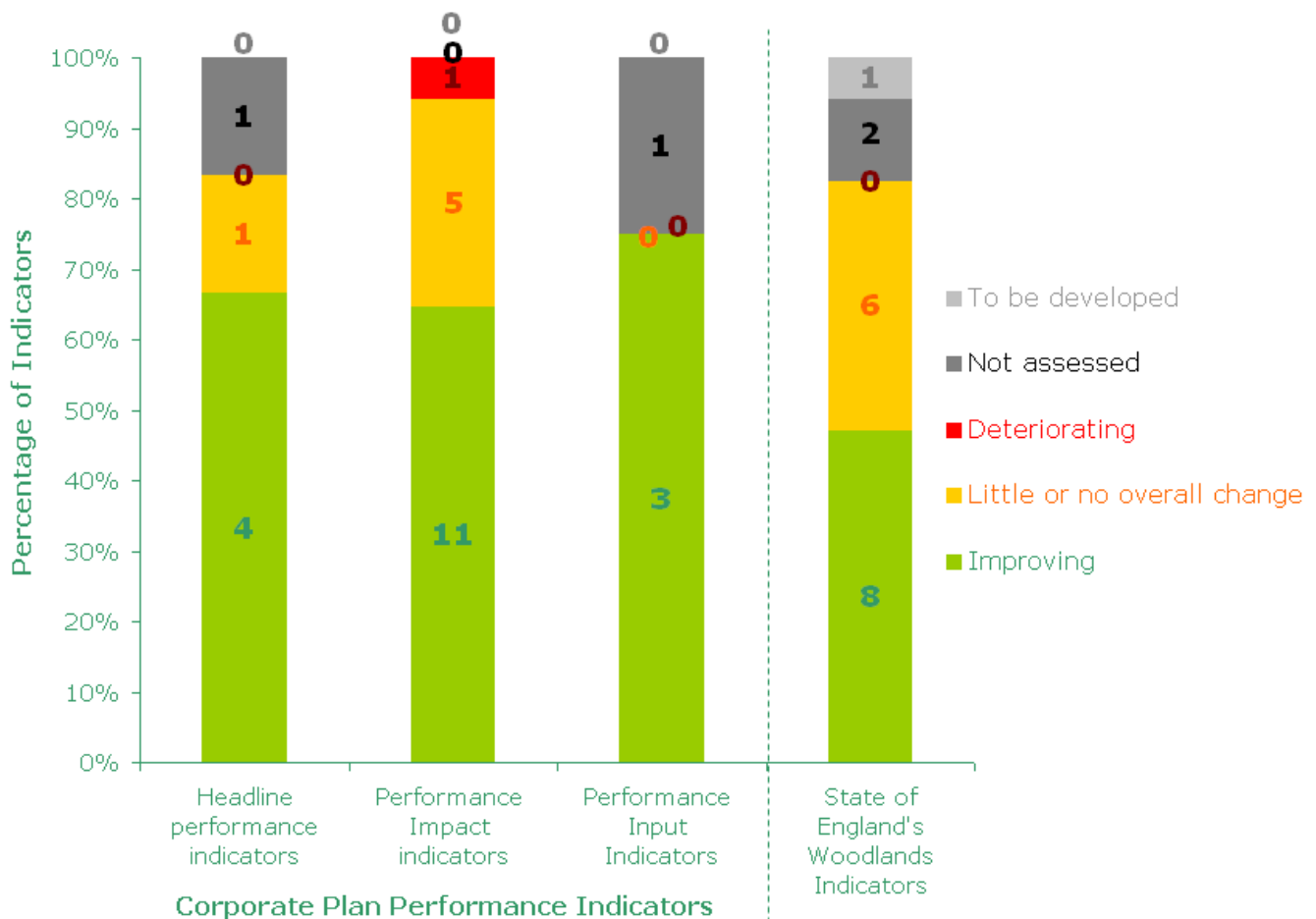
Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Part 3. Performance Input Indicators		29
Input Indicator 1: Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest 1,000)	⋯	29
Input Indicator 2: Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant	✓	30
Input Indicator 3: Grant paid for woodland creation (total and £ per hectare)	✓	31
Input Indicator 5: Amount of grant paid for woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants	✓	32

 = Improving
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Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg	
Part 4. State of England's Woodlands Indicators		33	
Woodlands Indicator 1: Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years	≈	33	
Woodlands Indicator 2: Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape	n/a	34	
Woodlands Indicator 3: Annual increment in England's forests	⋯	35	
Woodlands Indicator 4: Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory	⋯	36	
Woodlands Indicator 5: Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition	≈	37	
Woodlands Indicator 6: Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data	≈	38	
Woodlands Indicator 7: Area of woodland (total and change over time)	✓	39	
Woodlands Indicator 8: Carbon captured by English woodlands	≈	40	
Woodlands Indicator 9: Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland	✓	41	
Woodlands Indicator 10: Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)	≈	42	
Woodlands Indicator 11: Number apprentices and university students entering forestry	Apprentices	≈	43
	University students	✓	43

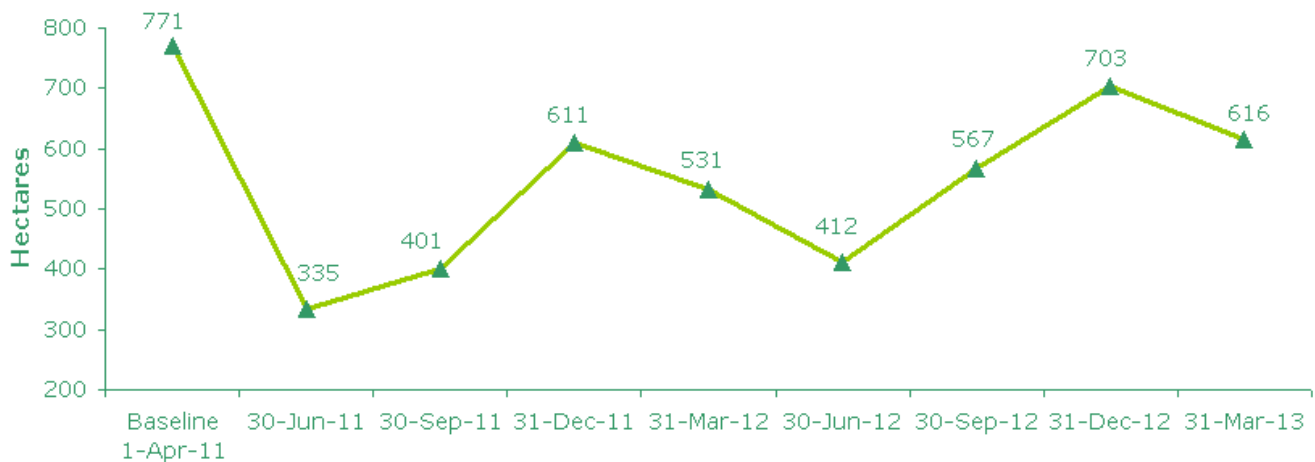
Indicator	Trend since Baseline	Pg
Woodlands Indicator 12: Gross Value Added from domestic forestry	✓	44
Woodlands Indicator 13: Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources	✓	45
Woodlands Indicator 14: Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested	✓	46
Woodlands Indicator 15: Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)	✓	47
Woodlands Indicator 16: Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed	✓	48

Trend Assessments since Spending Review 2010 Baseline: Corporate Plan Performance Indicators and State of England's Woodlands Indicators



Part 1. Headline Performance Impact and Input Indicators

Impact Indicator 1: *Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)*




Position at 31 March 2013: 616 hectares of land requiring treatment.

The fall of area under Notice this quarter is in line with what was expected as action is implemented.

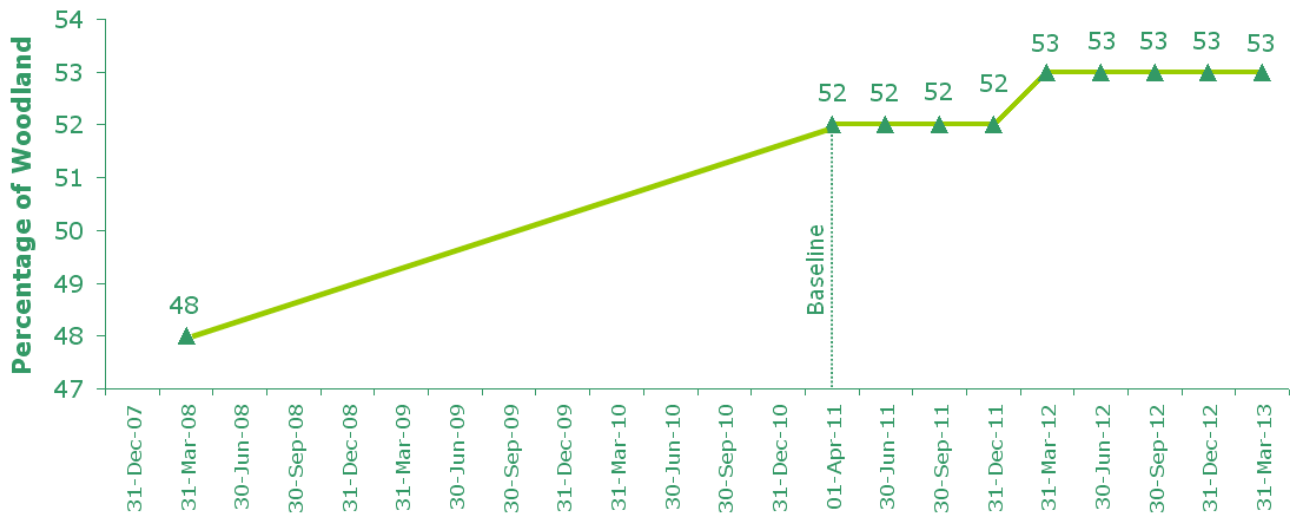
No additional Notices were issued for sites infected with *Chalara fraxinea* during this period in line with our decision to await further development of the [Chalara Management Plan](#).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Hectares of woodland covered by plant-health notices (includes notices issued on the Public Forest Estate)*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 4: *Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)*



Position at 31 March 2013: 53%.

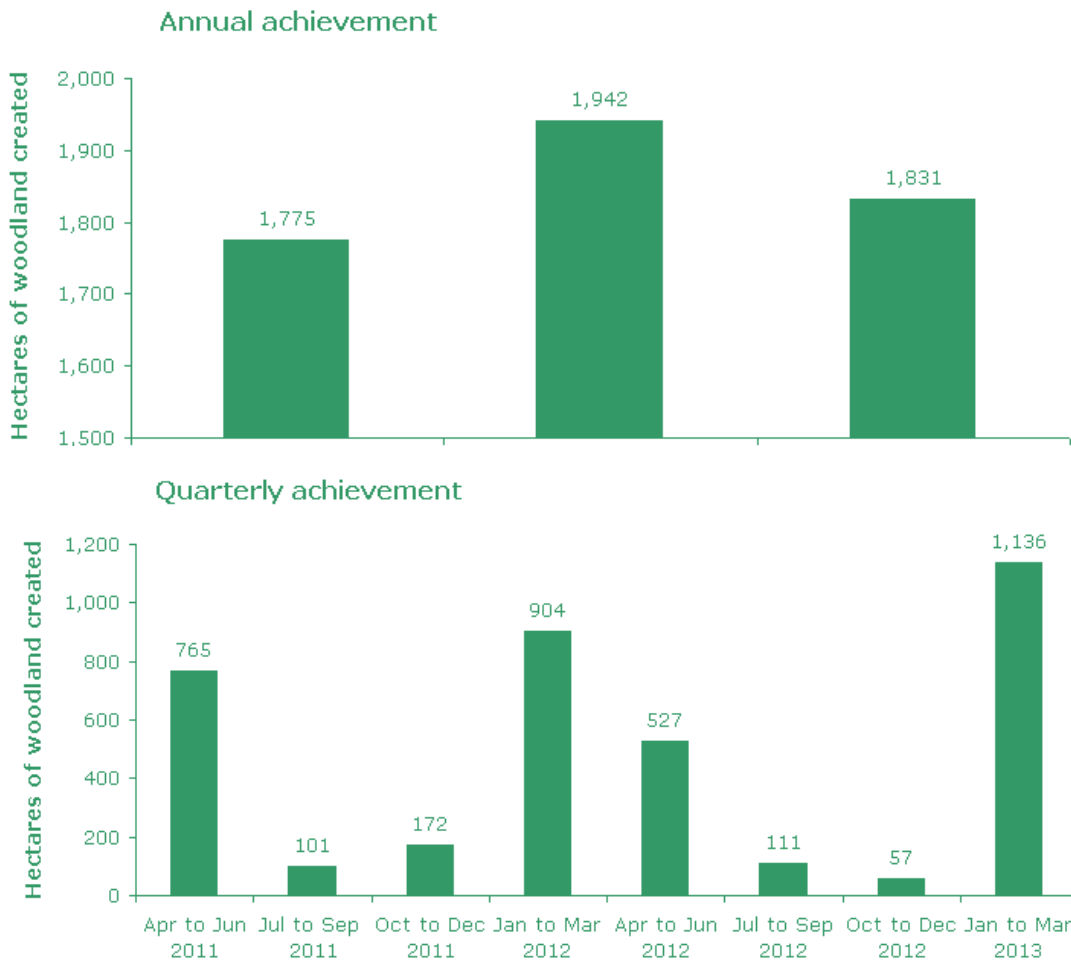
The percentage of woodland in active management has gradually increased since the April 2011 baseline (52%). This indicator of woodland in management includes woodlands where there has been FC England grant or felling licence activity typically in the previous 5 to 10 years – it is recognised that other woodlands might be considered as managed as well.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data and the National Forest Inventory.

Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 


Impact Indicator 6: *Hectares of woodland created (gross)*



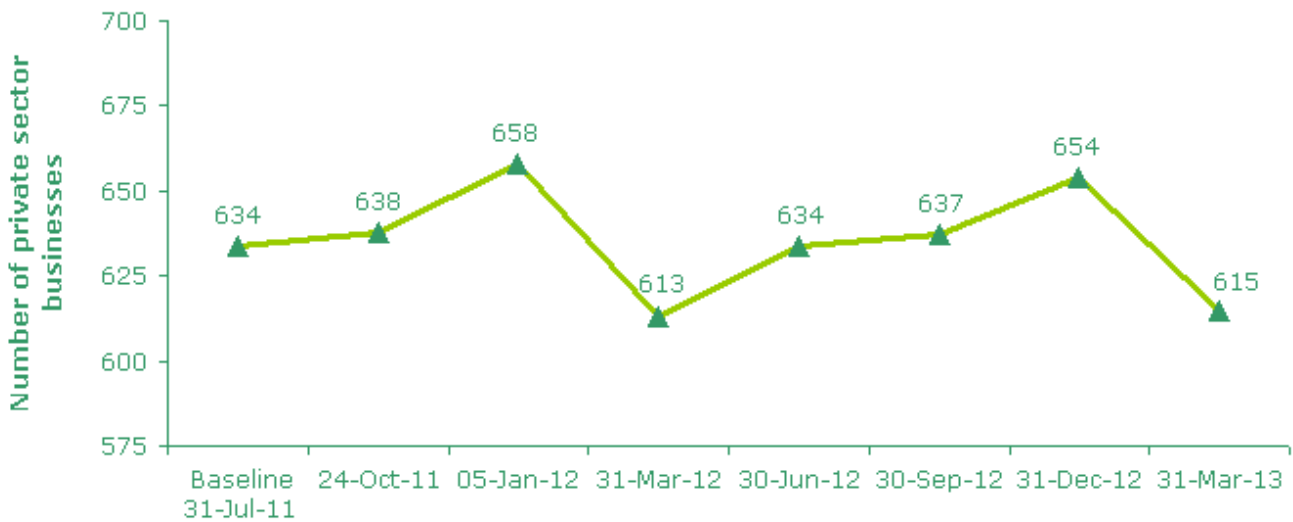
Report for January to March 2013: 1,136 hectares created.

A total of 1,831 hectares of woodland were created in the 2012/13 financial year; as shown by this measure based on grant payments made by the Forestry Commission in-year. This annual total is 6% less than the 2011/12 performance. This represents a reasonably robust performance as this was achieved in the context of the outbreak of *Chalara* die-back of ash and the associated need for woodland owners and managers to select and source alternative species. The 2012/13 performance is still 3% greater than the 2010/11 baseline. There is work to do yet to increase woodland creation rates to the levels aspired to in the [Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement \(January 2013\)](#).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in <i>Hectares of woodland created (gross)</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 13: Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate




Position at 31 March 2013: 615 private businesses and individuals.

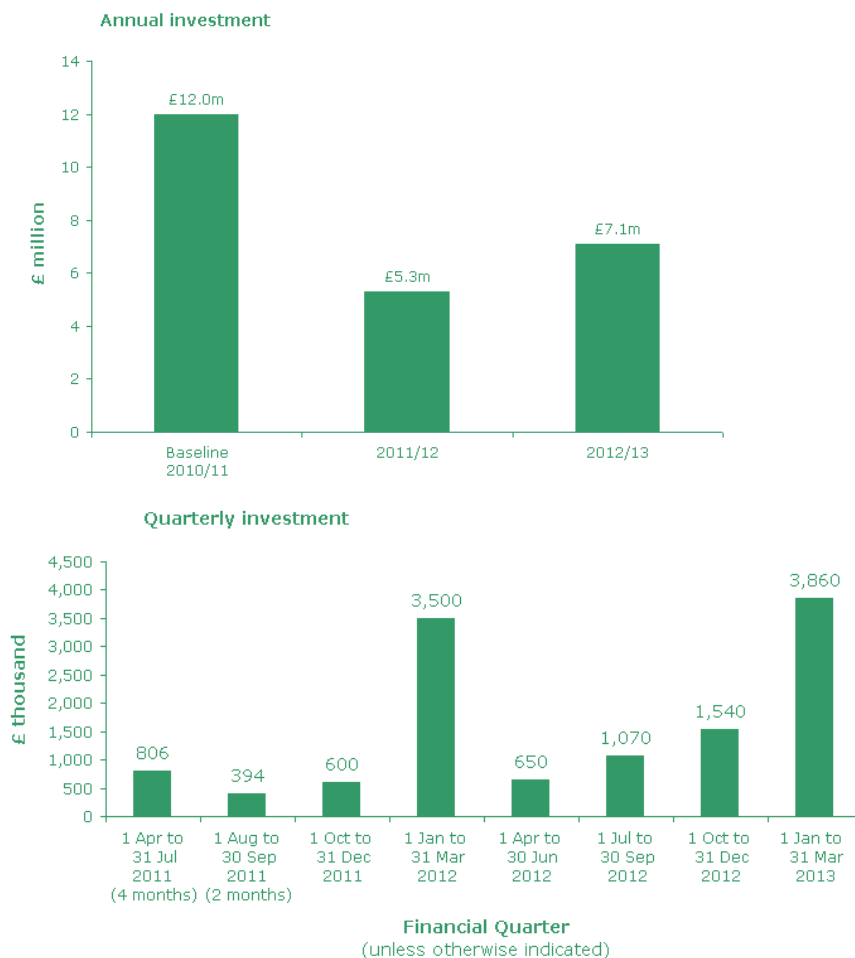
The figures are 2 lettings up on the same stage date last year; a very nominal increase. The trend indicates a stable use of the estate over a twelve month period which removes the seasonal fluctuations. Commercial lettings of fairly poor quality rural premises remain difficult. Cheap office space is plentiful in towns and cities. Franchise lets have not yet reflected the start of the new season.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Assessment of change in *Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 


Input Indicator 4: *Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services*



Position at 31 March 2013: £7.12 million spent in the financial year 2012/13. The partnership spend for 2012/13 has been consistent with the Spending Review 2010 programme reductions. A total spend of £7.12m includes partnerships programmes such as dealing with major plant health issues; the Big Tree Plant; and a number of high profile woodfuel projects. Spend still tends to focus towards the final quarter of the year and new systems and processes are in place to more evenly spread this throughout the year so that we further improve the way our spend enables the sector to protect, improve and expand England’s woodland.

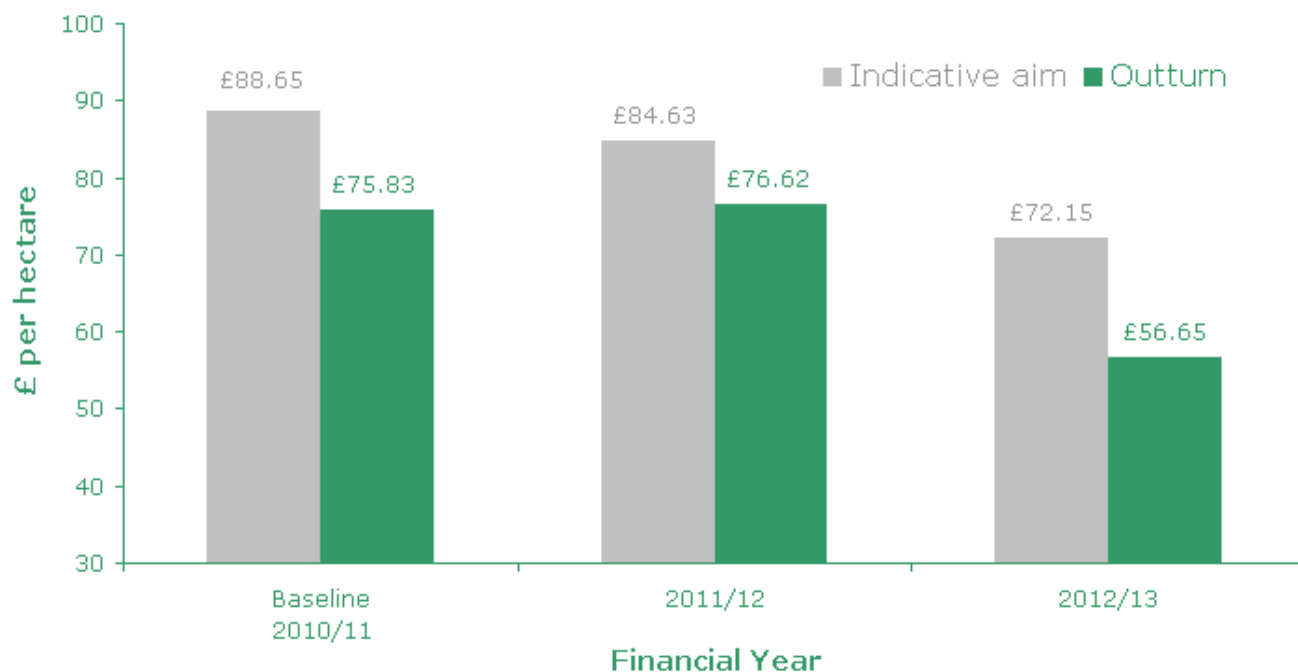
Source: Based on Forestry Commission accounts.

Assessment of change in *Cash spent on partnerships and engagement by Forest Services*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data ¹ 

Note 1: The trend is not assessed due to ongoing changes in Forest Services finances.


Input Indicator 6: *Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)*



Outturn for the 2012/13 financial year: £56.65 per hectare, which is below the indicative figure aimed for of £72.15 per hectare.

The improved performance against plan was the result of income being higher than plan by c. £2.2m and costs being lower than plan by c. £1.6m. Income improvements mainly arose from timber sales and estate income, such as income from minerals. Cost improvement arose as pay was under spent by c. £1.1m from plan while other costs under spent by c. £0.5m. The pay under spend reflects the delivery of the Spending Review 2010 staffing changes ahead of plan. Other cost under spend against plan was mainly due to the bad weather; preventing some restocking and other maintenance programmes taking place across parts of the country. These programmes naturally resume when the weather improves. (The report for this indicator is subject to National Audit Office audit).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission accounts.

Assessment of change in <i>Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Part 2. Performance Impact Indicators

Impact Indicator 1: *Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval (i.e. the % of felling that is licensable by the Forestry Commission that is not illegal felling. This excludes felling with development approval)*



Very strong and consistent performance. This high level of compliance with the Forestry Act is an indicator of the public's understanding of the legislation and the quality of advice and guidance given by Forestry Commission's Woodland Officers and website. A new on-line form will support members of the public to report alleged illegal felling.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Percentage of known tree felling that is carried out with Forestry Commission approval*


	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 3: *Maintain UK Woodland Assurance Standard certification on the Public Forest Estate*

	1 April 2011 Baseline	31 March 2012	31 March 2013
UKWAS Certification Held?	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Forestry Commission was the world's first state forest service to have its entire estate certified by the Forestry Stewardship Council in 1999; we have maintained this certification since.

Source: Based on UK Woodland Assurance Standard

Assessment of change in <i>Maintain UKWAS certification on the Public Forest Estate</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 5: Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat



	Baseline 2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)			
On the Public Forest Estate	Not available as methodology new for 2011/12	2,488 hectares worked between 1 April 2011 and 31 December 2011	875 hectares worked between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012
On other woodland	361 ha restored	405 hectares restored	916 hectares restored
Hectares of open habitats restored or created			
On the Public Forest Estate	A gross increase of 280 hectares of Priority Open Habitat, taking the total to 17,329 ha at 31 Mar 2011	93 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats	119 hectares increase in Priority Open Habitats
On other woodland	Estimated 613 hectares allowing for tree cover in one large open habitat restoration scheme	642 hectares approved for open habitat creation	341 hectares approved for open habitat creation

On the Public Forest Estate: The trend in movement towards restored native woodland across PAWS sites remains positive as sites are felled and thinned according to a structured management programme across the PAWS on the estate. The pace is measured and steady because of Forest Enterprise's approach of a structured thinning and harvesting programme. Open habitats restoration and management proceeds fully in line with agreed Forest Design Plans.

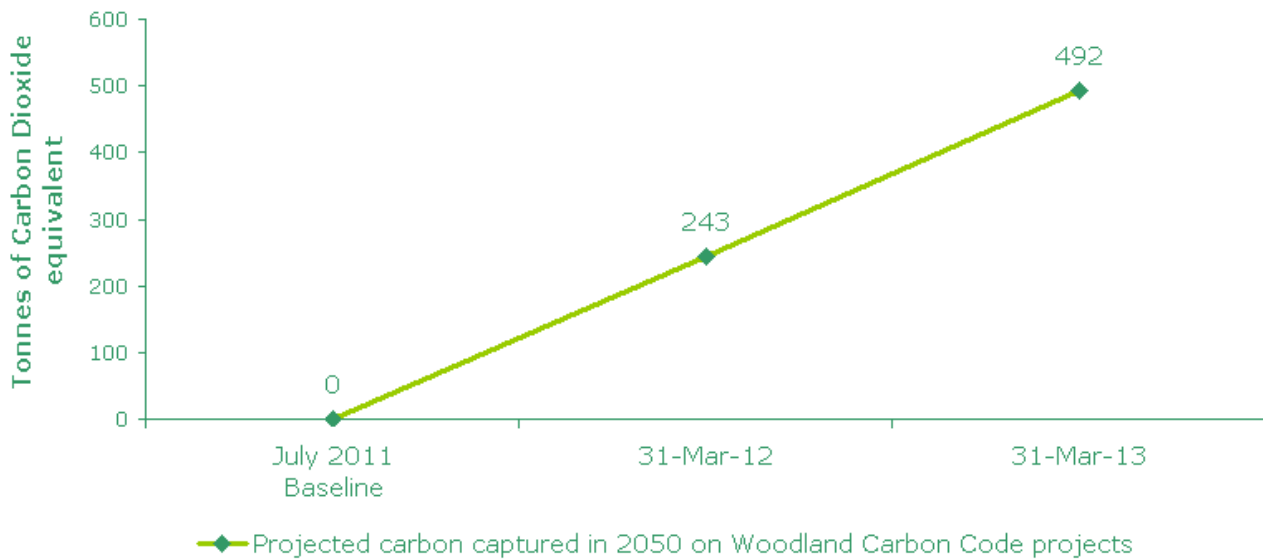
On Other Woodland: For PAWs restored on other woodland the area restored in 2012/13 (916 ha) is a significant increase on the previous year's performance (405 ha). This may be due to a buoyant timber and fuelwood market and the incentives promoting conversion to native broadleaves. For Priority Open Habitat on other woodland, a total of 341 ha were approved for open habitat creation – this was a decrease from the 642 ha of the previous year. The average for the three years including the baseline year is 531 ha per year.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in Hectares of restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and open habitat

	Since Baseline
PAWS: On the Public Forest Estate	Improving 
PAWS: On other woodland	Improving 
Open Habitats: On the Public Forest Estate	Improving 
Open Habitats: On other woodland	Improving 

Impact Indicator 7: *Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects*



At 31 March 2013 six projects have been validated with the Woodland Carbon Code, compared with one at 31 March 2012. The six projects are expected to sequester 492 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2050 (compared with 243 tCO₂e at 31 March 2012) and a total of 31,218 tonnes CO₂e between now and 2050. A further 45 projects are currently going through the validation process which, over their lifetime (up to 100 years) are projected to sequester 748,000 tCO₂e.

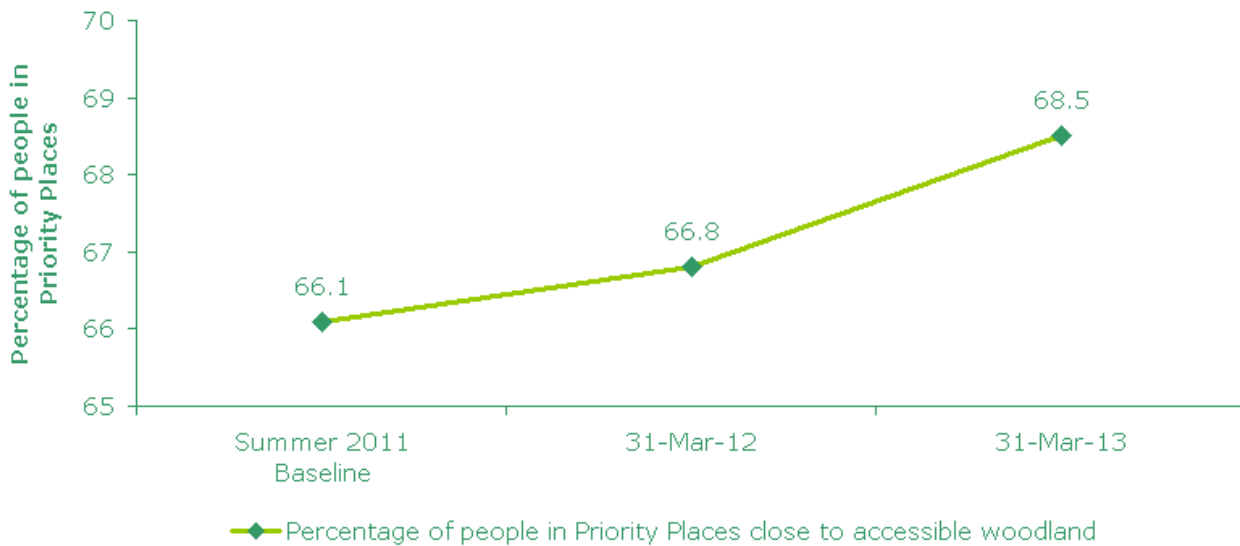
Note: All figures indicate total sequestration of projects (i.e. the amount claimable plus the amount set aside in a pooled buffer in case of future loss).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Projected carbon capture in 2050 on Woodland Carbon Code woodland creation projects*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 8: *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland*



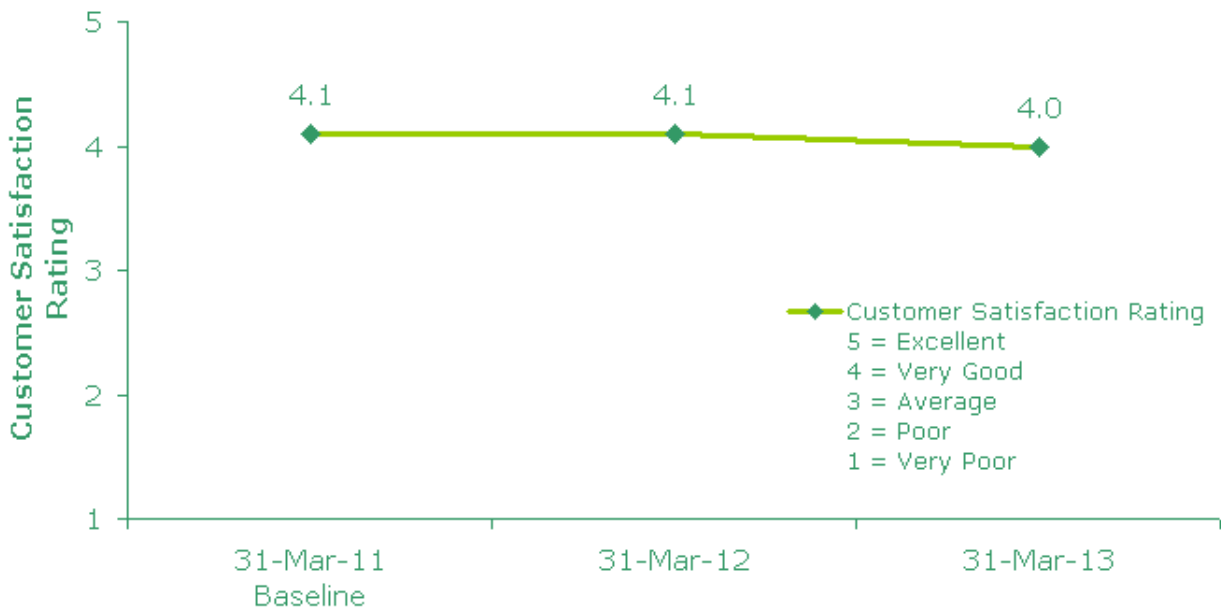
The Indicator demonstrates the progressive trend towards increasing access in Priority Places, through the work undertaken by Forest Services Area teams in deploying Sustainable Forest Management incentives. The addition of Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Section 15 land to the most recent underlying data set may have had a small effect; the significance of this is not understood and would require further analysis.

Source: Based on Woods for People (The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission England), Census 2001 (Office for National Statistics) and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Communities and Local Government)

Assessment of change in *Percentage of people in Priority Places close to accessible woodland*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 


Impact Indicator 9: *Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive “rate my visit” facility*



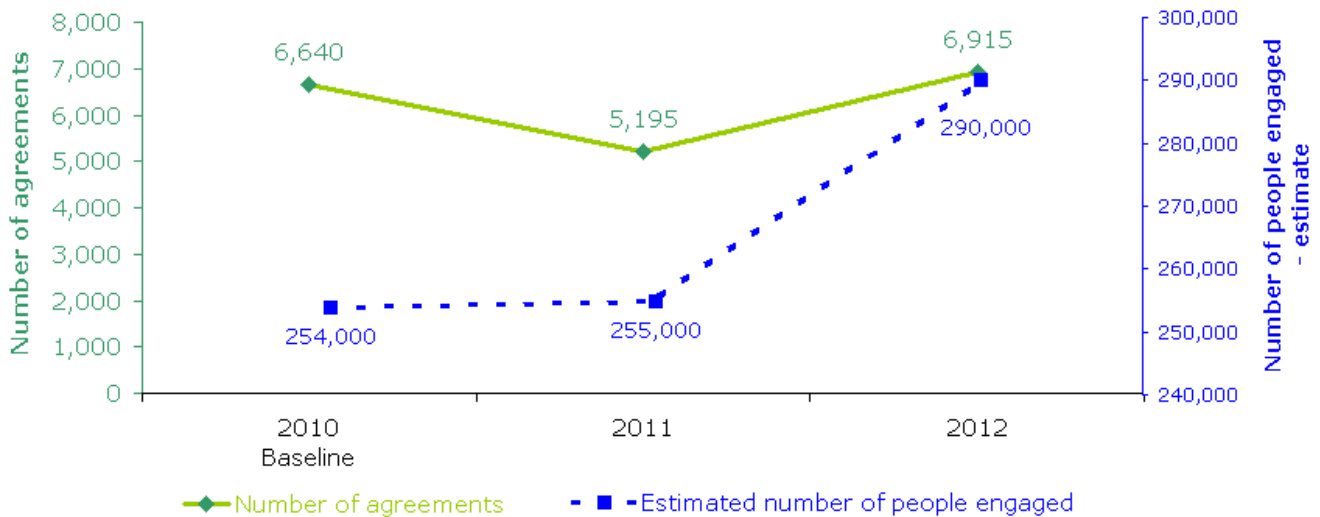
Online user comments demonstrate that Forestry Commission visitor services and facilities perform well against the expectations of visitors with an average rating of 4.0 out of 5 based upon the last 12 months data; a ‘very good’ performance.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Customer satisfaction rating for visits to the Public Forest Estate from the interactive “rate my visit” facility*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 10: Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate



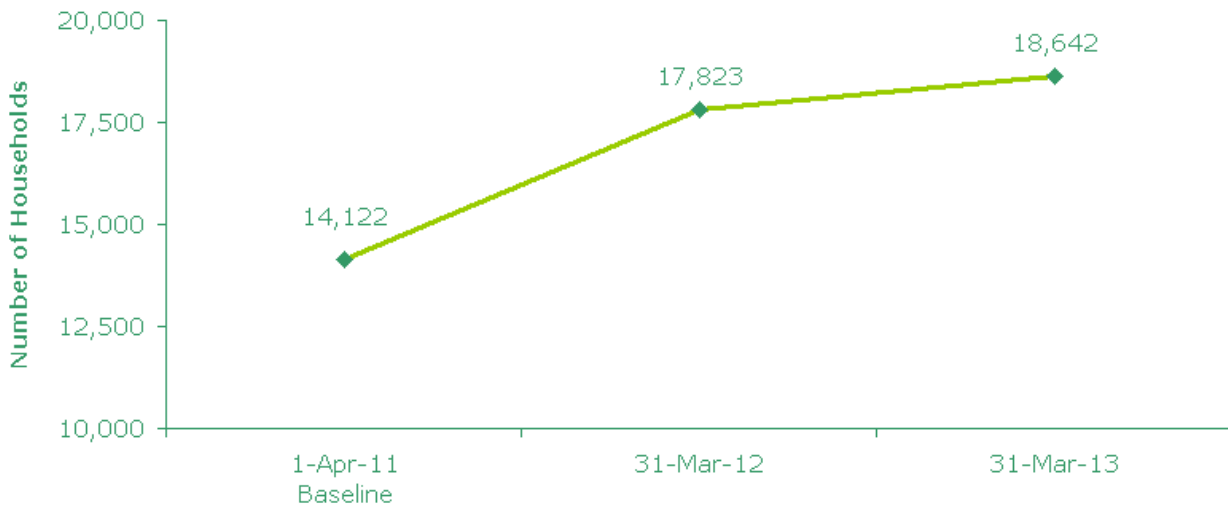
Forestry Commission England issues permissions to groups and individuals for a wide range of activities from large sporting events to small scale research studies. This third party activity provides a measure of the wealth of activity and in 2012 we issued 6,915 permissions involving very nearly 290,000 people in these activities on the Public Forest Estate.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in Number of agreements for locally led events and activities on the Public Forest Estate

	Since Baseline
This indicator – number of agreements element	Improving 

Impact Indicator 11: *Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate*



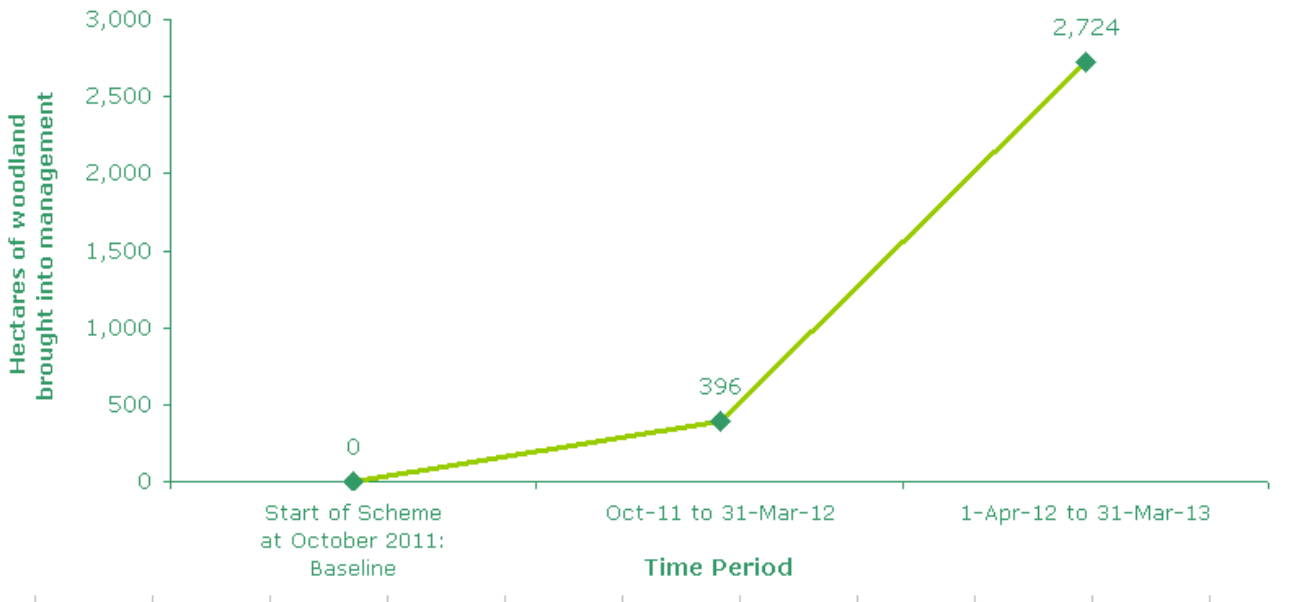
The number of Discovery Pass sales for 2012-13 has increased by 4.6% on the previous years position at 31st March 2012 of 17,823 passes sold in the year.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Number of households in the Discovery Pass scheme for the Public Forest Estate*


	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 12: Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant

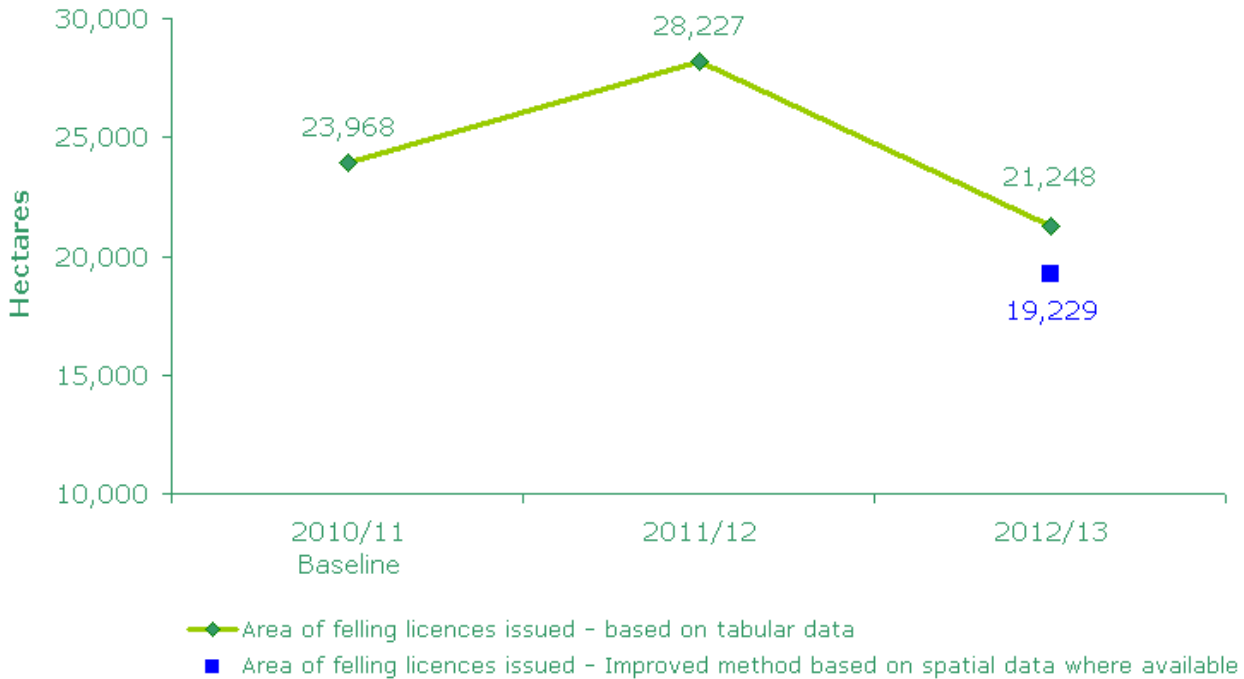


Although uptake to-date is below the anticipated level it is probably in keeping with what could be expected as the commencement of the grant was delayed by about nine months. This is the first full year performance has been reported.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data


Assessment of change in <i>Hectares of woodland brought into management by woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Impact Indicator 14: *Area of felling licences issued in the period*

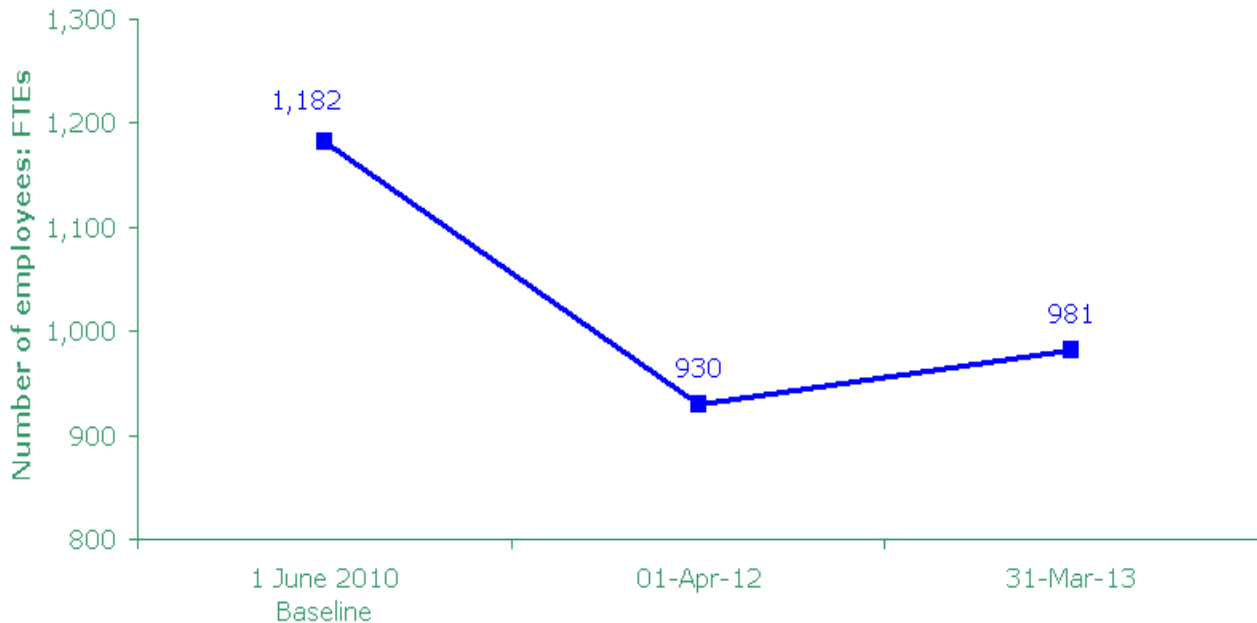


Following an increase during 2012/13 of 18% against the 2010/11 baseline there has been a net decrease against the baseline of 25% during 2012/13. This may be due to a reduction in firewood demand due to the mild 2011/12 winter and the take up of Woodland Planning Grant and the associated long-term management plans that have integrated felling permissions (as these are issued in the grant system without measurable areas).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in <i>Area of felling licences issued in the period</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Deteriorating 

Impact Indicator 15: *Number of employees (Full Time Equivalents)*



■ Number of employees including integration from 1 April 2012 of Mechanical Engineering Services and Plant and Seed Supply Branch. The figures for the Baseline and 1 April 2012 have been revised to reflect this.

Forestry Commission England has reduced expenditure on human resourcing. This has been achieved despite the need to provide resources and expertise to address the increased incidence of plant diseases such as *Chalara* dieback of ash and *Phytophthora Ramorum* that are affecting the forestry sector.

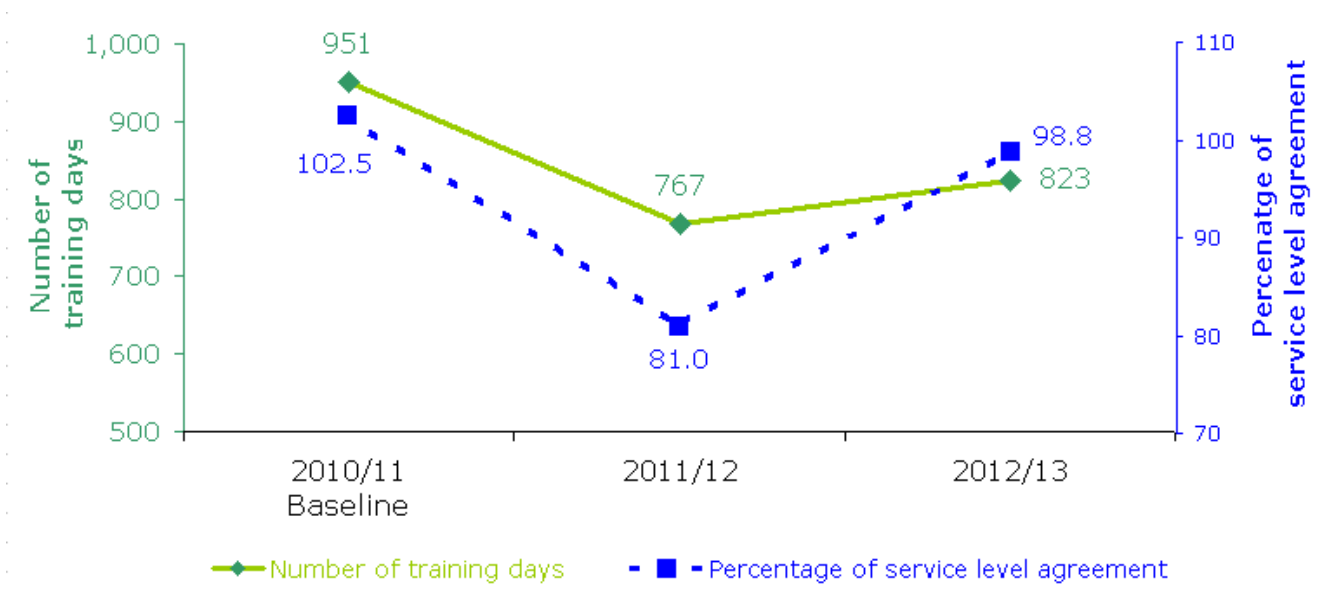
Over all, a reduction in Full Time Equivalents of 17% has been achieved in the first two years of the five year Spending Review 2010 programme; this is well within the targets set for this point in the business cycle, with further planned staffing reductions due to take place during 2013 / 14. Current trends mean we are on target to achieve the levels of savings required.

At the same time, initiatives have been put into place to address labour shortages faced by the forestry sector and in support of Government's drive to reduce unemployment by re-skilling the labour resource, particularly amongst the younger strata of the population. Recruits to the Forest Craft Apprenticeship Programme scheme commenced work with Forestry Commission England during February and March 2013.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data


Assessment of change in <i>Number of employees (FTEs)</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving ✓

Impact Indicator 16: *Number of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees*

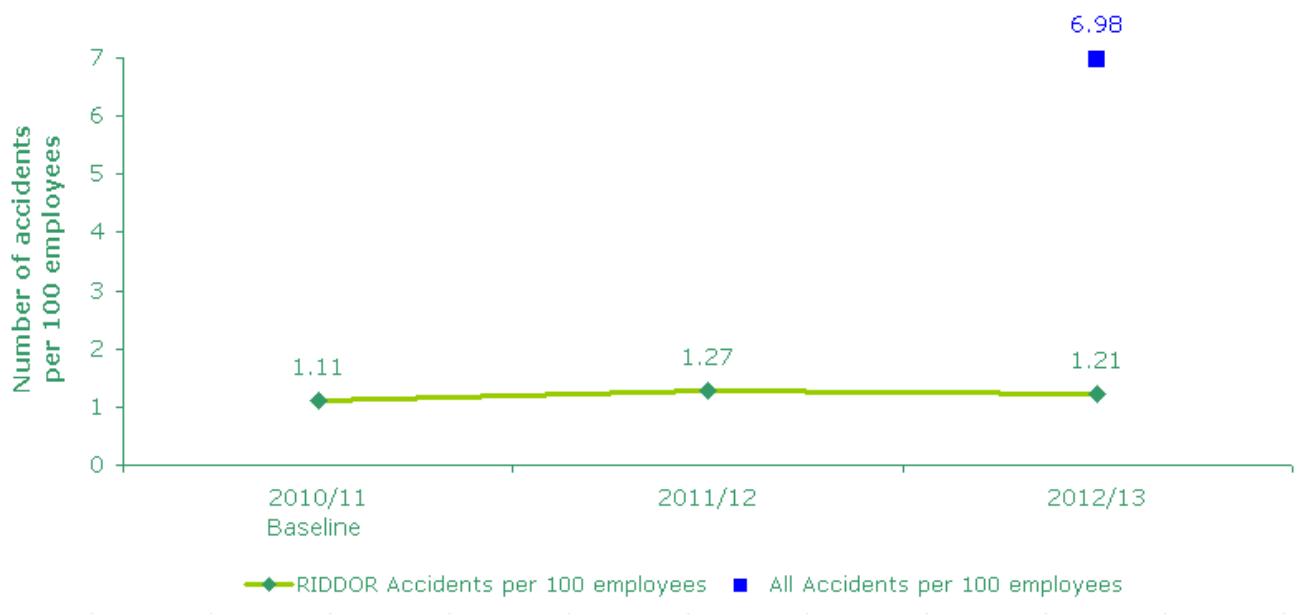


With Forestry Commission England having gone through significant downsizing, restructuring and a loss of staff maintaining learning and development activities is seen as a key indicator of support for the ongoing development needs of our staff. Of the training days available, staff took up more technical training opportunities than had been allocated, which is probably a reflection in the staff changes that have taken place out in the field since last year. 98.8% is an exceptional result in the circumstances.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in <i>Number of training days provided by the internal Human Resource Learning & Development team taken up by employees</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator – percentage of Service Level Agreement element	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 17: *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees*



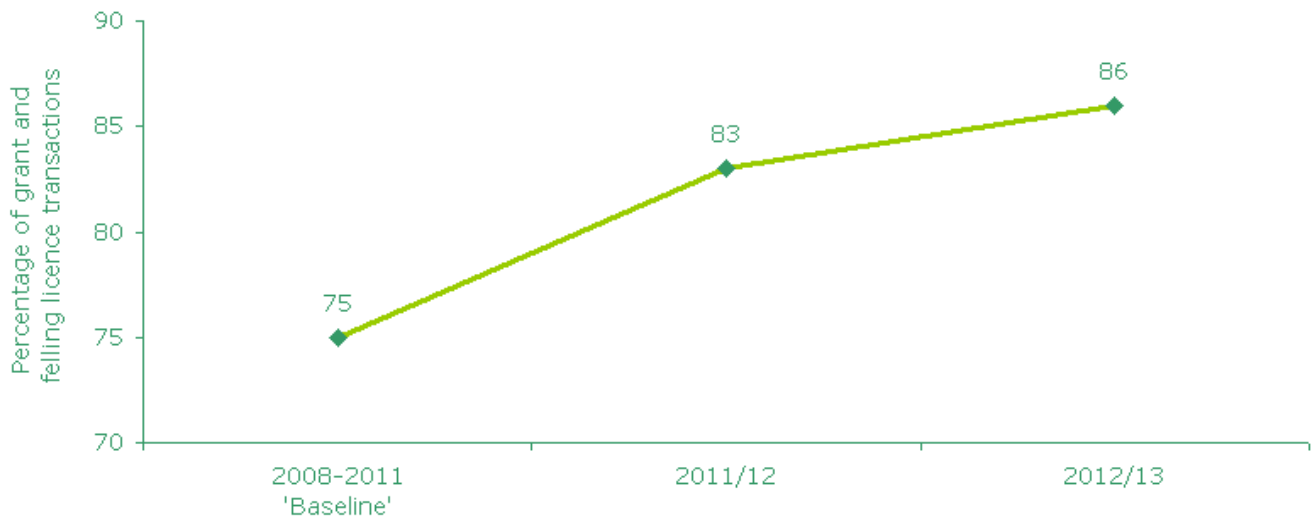
This year is first year of new measure for this indicator that reports the number of ALL accidents not just the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 1995 (RIDDOR) accidents. For comparison the RIDDOR figure is 1.21/100 employees (13 accidents), which compares with the 2011/12 figure of 1.27/100 employees (12 accidents). The figures are still unacceptably high, and more needs to be done. It is hoped that the recent launch of the Forest Industry Safety Accord (FISA) and the higher profile of Health & Safety within the whole of the Forestry Commission will result in a downward trend in these figures.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Number of significant work-related accidents per 100 employees*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Impact Indicator 18: *Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early*



Overall performance of 86% was strong, an improvement on the previous year (83%), particularly given the pressures within the year: embedding new business processes and locations related to the implementation of administration hubs and the direct and indirect impacts of the *Chalara* dieback of ash outbreak. The performance for grant applications was below our overall expectation for the same reasons and priority being given to addressing customers' claims for payment.

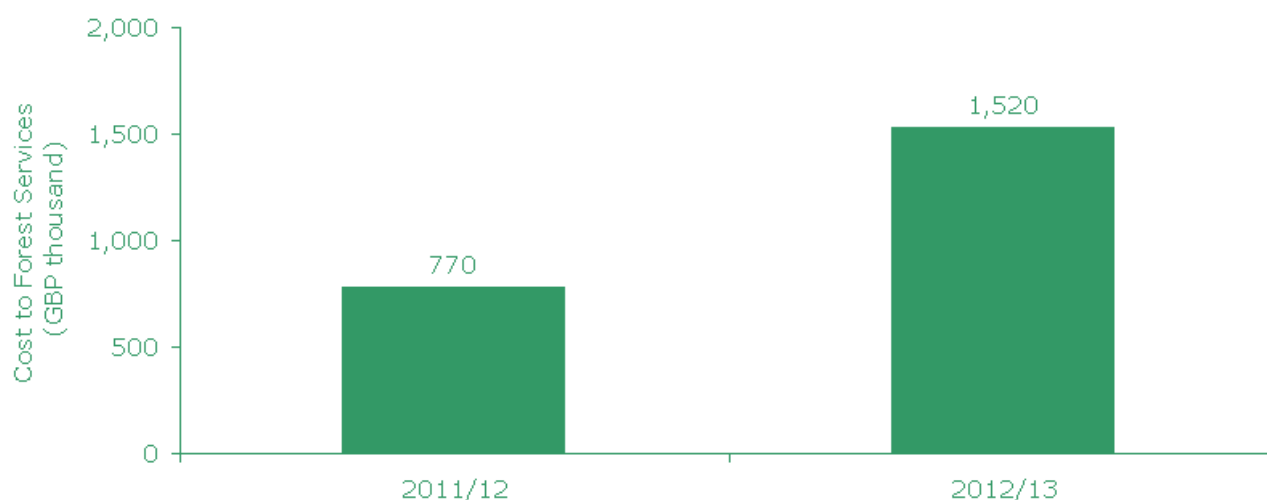
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Percentage of grant and felling licence transactions completed on time or early*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Part 3. Performance Input Indicators

Input Indicator 1: *Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest 1,000)*




The significant increase in expenditure since last year is due to our responses to an Asian longhorn beetle outbreak in Kent, increased surveillance of oak processionary moth in London and to *Chalara* dieback of ash. This also reflects plant health becoming one of Defra's top 4 priorities. Expenditure in other areas is proving very cost effective (i.e. aerial survey).

Note: The figures for this indicator include estimate of the time Woodland Officers invested in plant health.

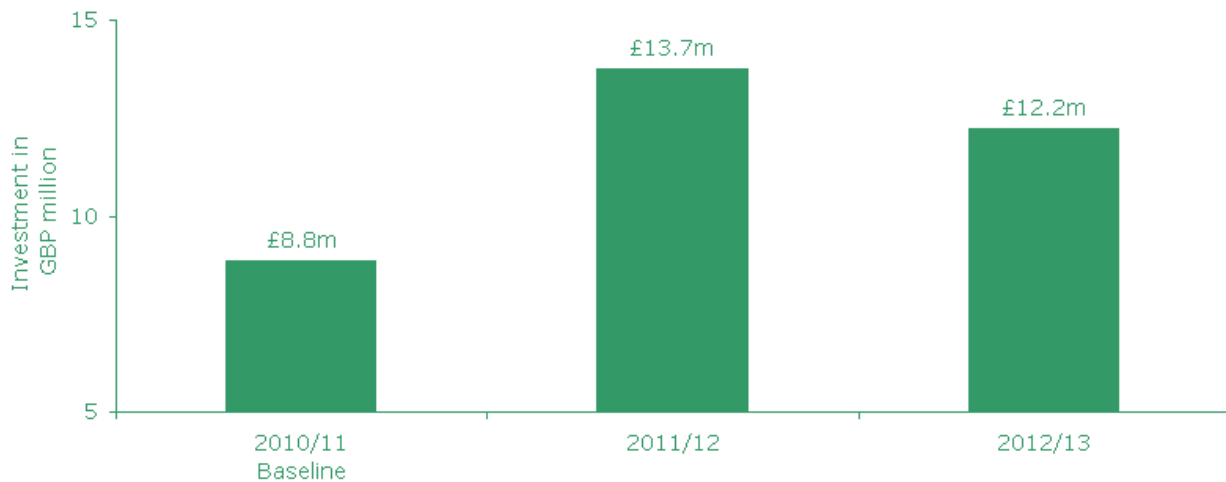
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Cost to Forest Services of providing tree health service including surveys and staff time (rounded to the nearest 1,000)*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data ¹ 

Note 1: The trend has not been assessed as the indicator was new for the 2011/12 financial year, and therefore no data collected for the 2010/11 Baseline year.

Input Indicator 2: *Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant*



When compared to the previous year there was a reduction of 11% - Axis II Woodland Improvement Grant spend reduced by £2.148m (18%) directly due to budget limits having been reached and a management decision been taken to prioritise funding in support of Plant Health (Woodland Regeneration Grant (WRG), Woodland Planning Grant (WPG) and Woodland Creation (WCG). WRG increased by £0.66m (40%) as rate changes bedded in and supplements for regeneration on plant health affected areas was promoted and taken up.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Value of Woodland Improvement Grant and Woodland Regeneration Grant*


	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Input Indicator 3: *Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)*

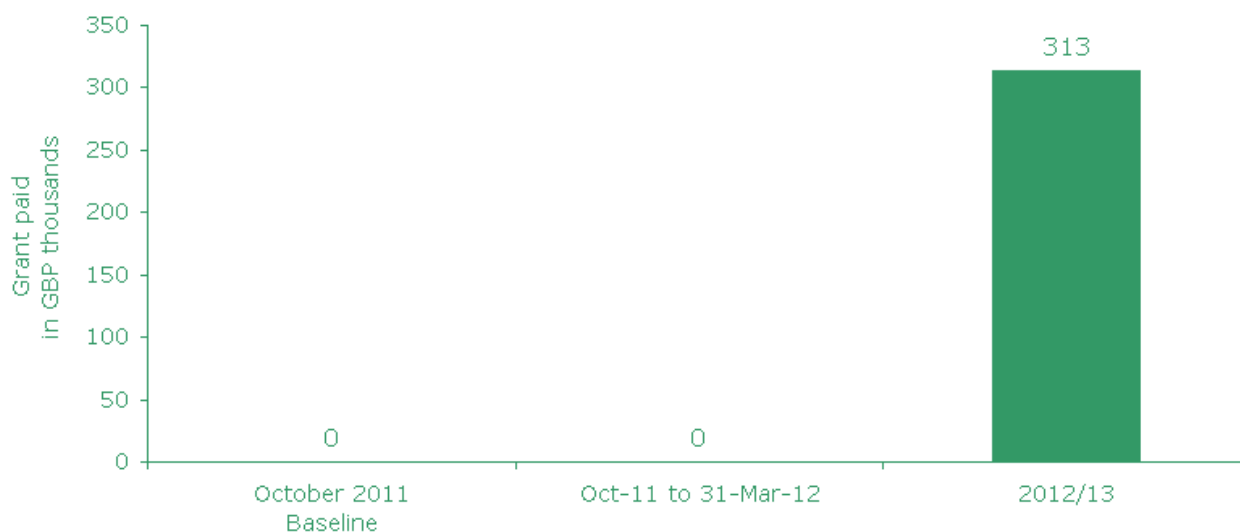


The results show an increase in Woodland Creation Grant 1st installment spend of 18% against the previous year. This strong result for Woodland Creation in 2012/13, notwithstanding the negative impact of uncertainty created by the outbreak of *Chalara* dieback of ash, and uncertainty about the next Rural Development Programme for Europe (RDPE) programme, is due to strong promotion with the Forestry Sector and an increase in base rates. The slight reduction in the area of woodland creation reported in the headline indicator (when compared against the year earlier) would seem to be at odds with the positive trend of this indicator. However this is explained by the effect of increased rates per hectare being paid.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in <i>Grant paid for woodland creation (total and GBP per hectare)</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Input Indicator 5: *Amount of grant paid for woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants*



There is increasing interest in this grant with system commitments having increased to £3.0m at 31st March 2013 against a figure of £0.8m at 31st March 2012. There will continue to be close consultation with business partners, internal colleagues and Defra to monitor uptake including considering all avenues of communication and to maximise uptake. There is still a steep challenge to spend the £10m programme budget by the end of 2015.

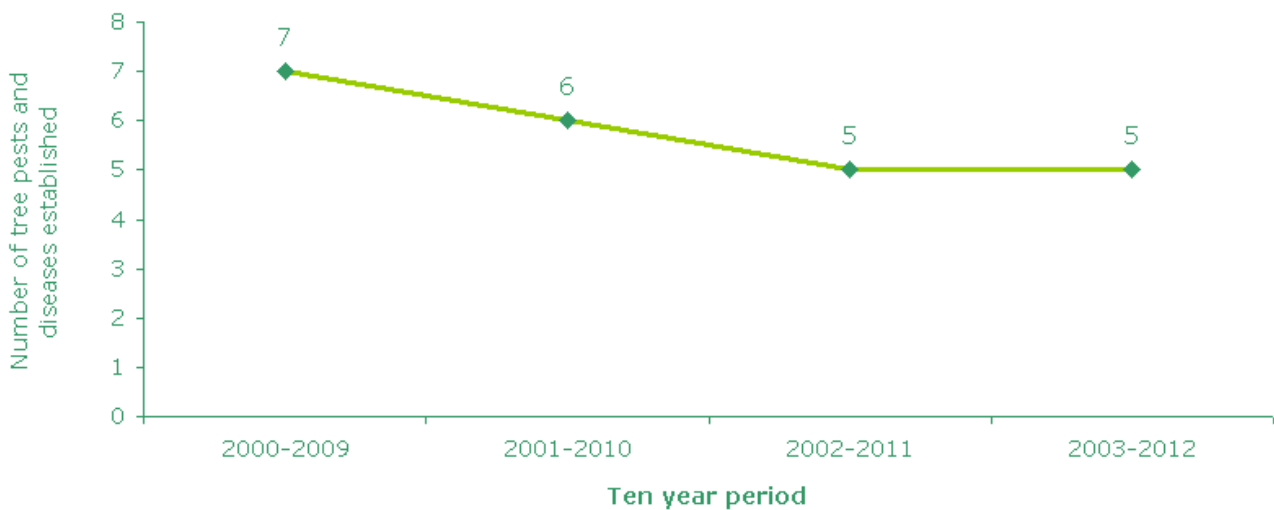
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Amount of grant paid for woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grants*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Part 4. State of England's Woodlands Indicators

Woodlands Indicator 1: *Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years*



Position at 31 March 2013; 5 tree pests and diseases established since 2003 in England. This includes *Chalara* dieback of ash in 2012. The total is one less than in the 10 years preceding the 1 April 2011 baseline point, as two earlier diseases have fallen out of the series and only *Chalara* dieback of ash added during the last year. While surveillance and monitoring identified the previously unencountered Asian longhorn beetle it was found early enough for eradication action to be taken during the year.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Number of tree pests and diseases established in England in the last 10 years*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Woodlands Indicator 2: *Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape*

The indicator is under development with Forest Research and is based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape, with the assumption that larger woodlands which are near other woodlands are more resilient to change and other impacts.

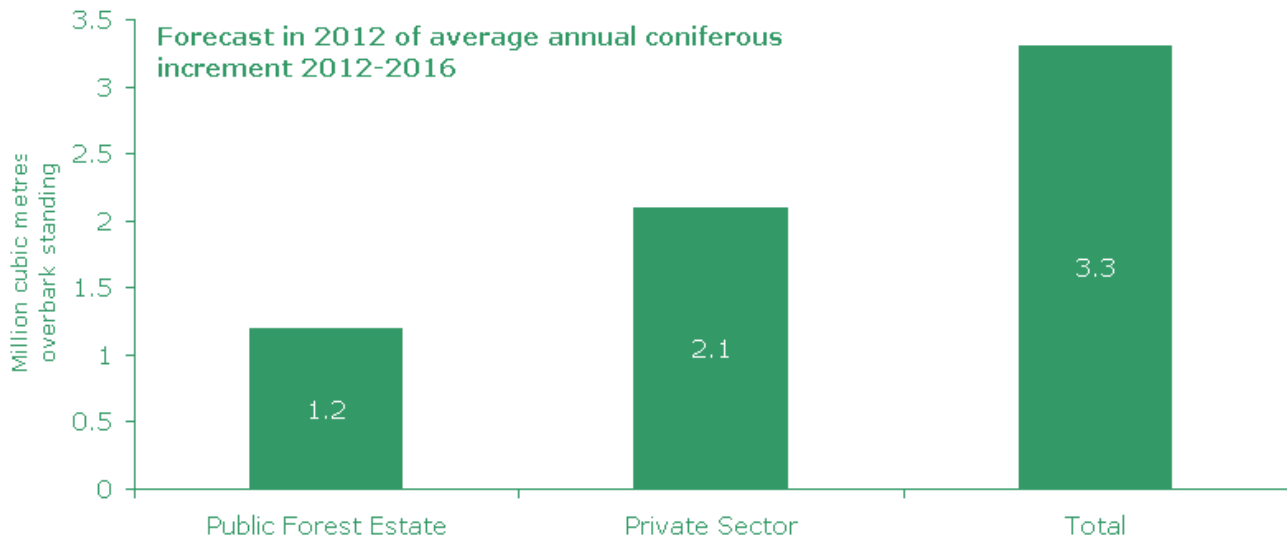
The new approach, to be tested, will use the National Forest Inventory woodland map for 31 March 2011 as a fixed baseline and will measure any change in connectivity as a result of our policy interventions within the reporting period in terms of woodland creation and open habitat creation.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Measure of woodland resilience to climate change based on the size and spatial configuration of woodland patches within the landscape*


	Since Baseline
This indicator	Not applicable

Woodlands Indicator 3: *Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests*



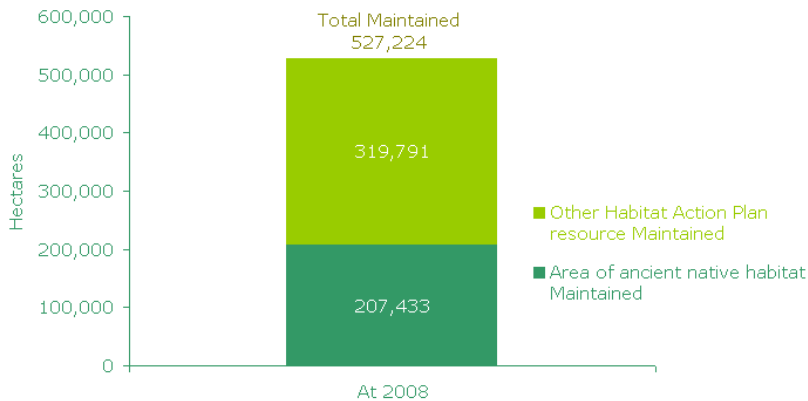
Over the next 20 years the average annual coniferous increment is forecast to reduce to 2.8 million cubic metres in the period 2032-36. This is largely due to uneven annual areas of planting since the Second World War and the relatively low levels of conifer planting in the last 25 years. Many of those older woodlands coming up to maturity are being harvested and replaced with younger crops that initially will have lower annual increment. This trend is likely to move to an overall increase as these young plantations mature but this is not expected until after 2035. Additional information on the forecast of the increment for broadleaves will be reported in future.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

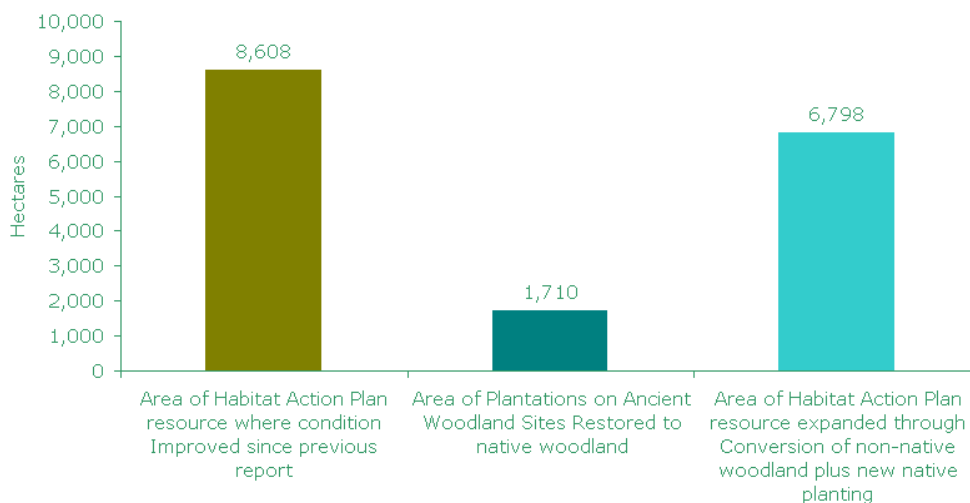
Assessment of change in <i>Annual increment of volume of wood in England's forests</i>	
Since Baseline	
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data 

Woodlands Indicator 4: *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

Maintained Areas




Progress Since Report Previous to 2008



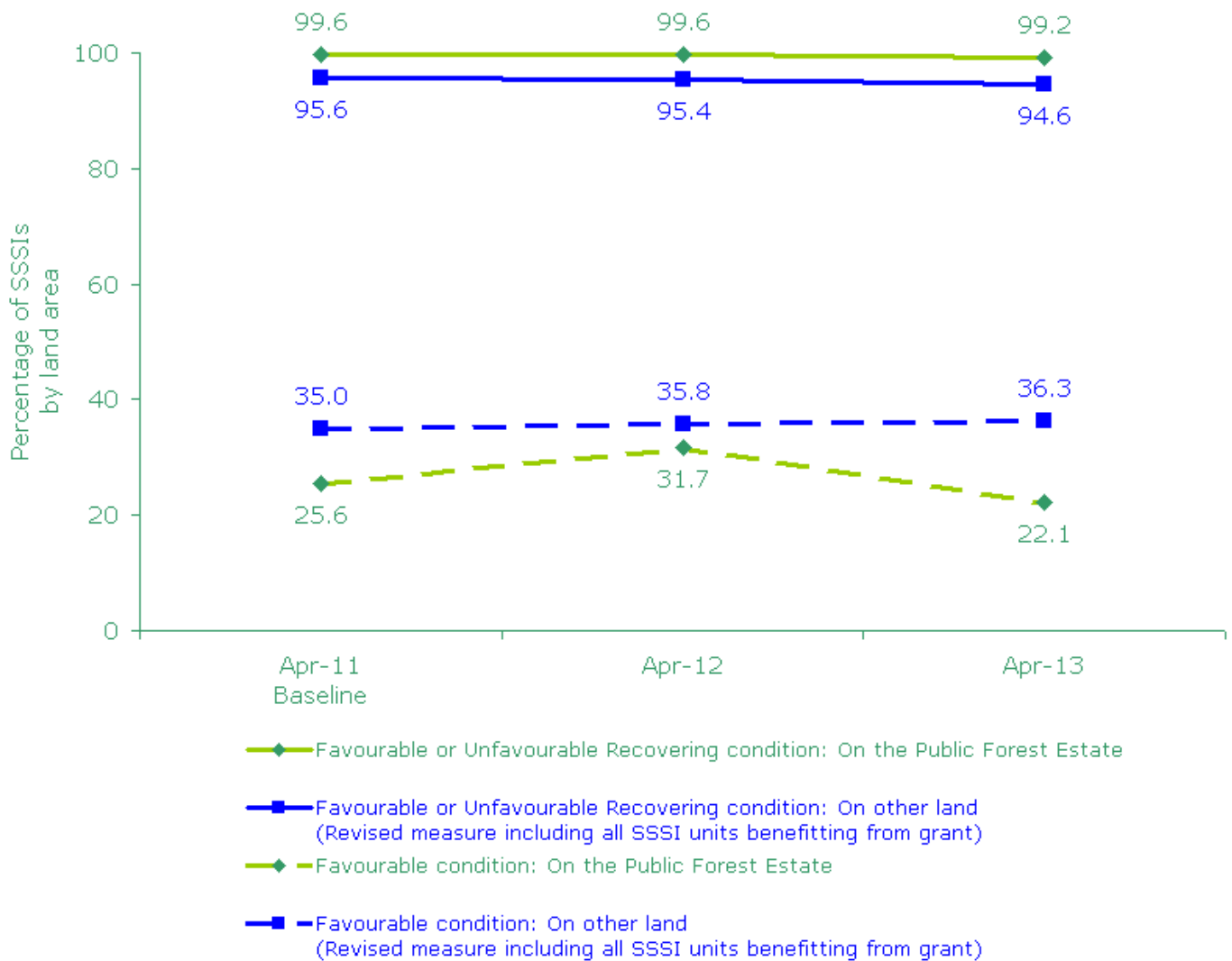
The interim indicator for woodland condition draws on data produced for reporting on Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) delivery. The data used here reflects that submitted for the last round of BAP reporting in 2008. This data has not been recalculated since and the anticipated sample data has not been analysed to date. The full indicator will be reported once data becomes available from the National Forest Inventory sample survey and other data sources in development.

Source: Based on Natural England data

Assessment of change in *Measure of the conservation condition of woodlands using information from the National Forest Inventory*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Not assessed due to insufficient or no comparable data 


Woodlands Indicator 5: *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition*



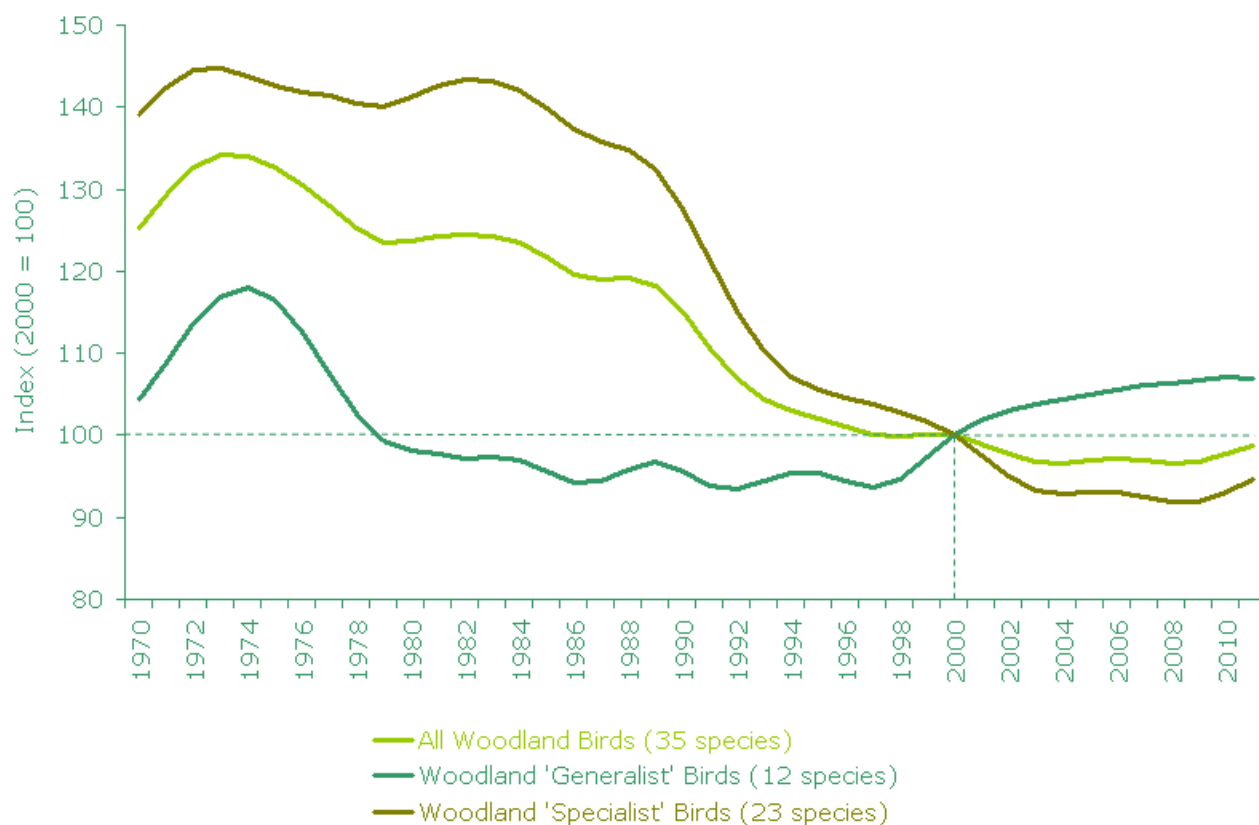
The percentage of woodland SSSIs in either favourable or unfavourable recovering status has, as aimed for, been almost entirely maintained since the April 2011 baseline. Over 99% of woodland SSSIs on the Public Forest Estate meet this measure of success (the graph above shows woodland and non-woodland habitats for the Public Forest Estate).

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data on grant schemes
 Natural England data on SSSIs

Assessment of change in *Percentage of woodland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (by land area) in desired condition*

	Since Baseline
This indicator – both measures	Little or no overall change 


Woodlands Indicator 6: Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data



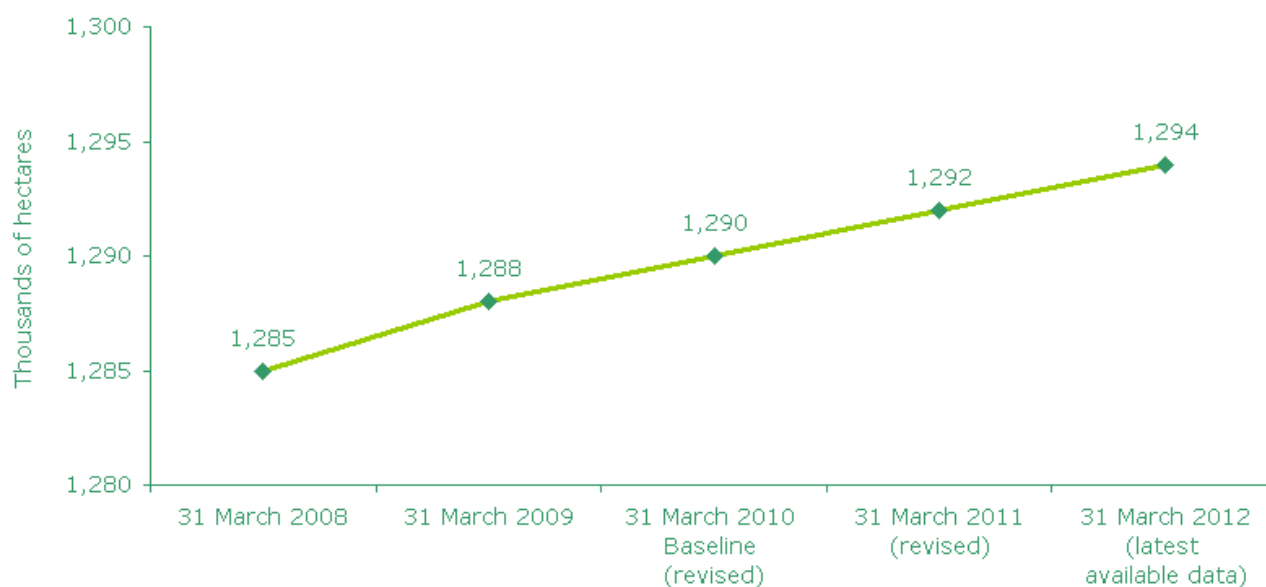
In 2011 the breeding woodland birds index for England was around 21 per cent lower than its 1970 level: this was its highest level since 2000. The long term decline of woodland birds in England was mostly driven by the decline of specialist woodland birds; the index of generalist woodland birds increased by 3 per cent between 1970 and 2011 while the index of specialist woodland birds decreased by 32 per cent over that same period. The greatest decline of woodland birds occurred from the late eighties until the mid nineties and the index has been relatively stable in recent years – the smoothed index showed a non-significant increase of 1 per cent between 2005 and 2010. The smoothed index of the woodland generalist showed a shallow non-significant increase of 2 per cent between 2005 and 2010, whereas that of the woodland specialists showed virtually no change over that same period (Defra 2012).

Source: Based on Smoothed Woodland Birds Index data (Defra)

Assessment of change in Measure of what is happening to the number and variety of species that live in woodland; using Woodland Birds data

	Since Baseline
This indicator – all three measures	Little or no overall change 


Woodlands Indicator 7: *Area of woodland (total and change over time)*



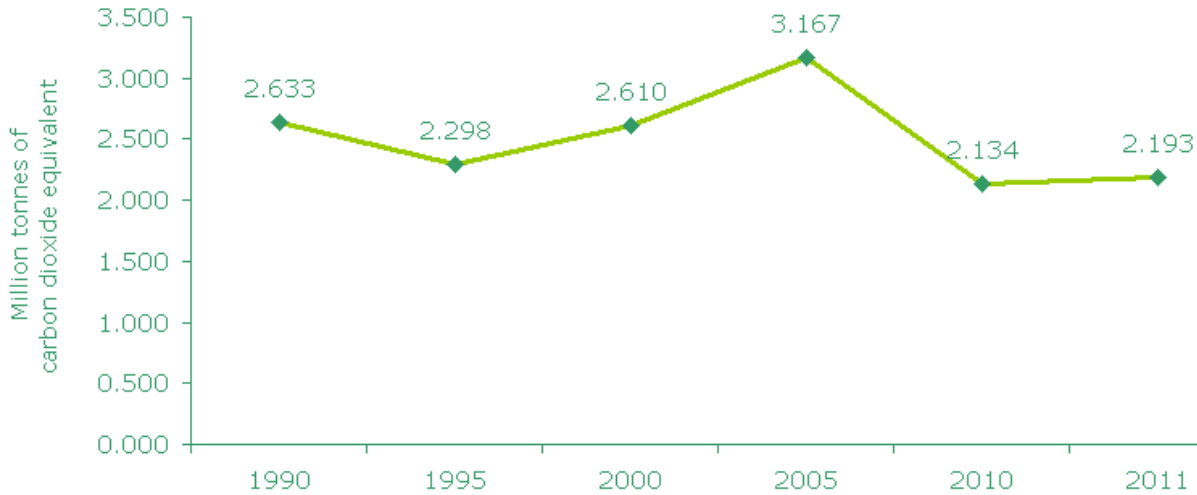
[Government's Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement January 2013](#) sets out an approach that if successful would result in an increase in woodland cover from 10% to 12% of England's land area by 2060. 12% woodland cover is a total woodland area of 1,565,186 hectares. As at 31 March 2012, the area of woodland in England is 1,294,000 hectares, an increase of 2,000ha on the previous year. Achieving 12% requires a rapid acceleration in the rate of woodland creation to about 5,000 hectares per year. The area of woodland continues to increase year on year. There are a range of measures in development to accelerate this that are promising, see www.forestry.gov.uk/england-wctf. However, the area of woodland is not yet increasing at the rate implied by forestry policy.

Note: Figures for 2010/ 2011 have been revised since the Indicators Report 2012.

Source: Based on National Forest Inventory and Forestry Commission administrative data


Assessment of change in Area of woodland (total and change over time)	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 8: *Carbon captured by English woodlands*



The net greenhouse gas sink strength of England's woodlands has increased from 2.13 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) in 2010 to 2.19 MtCO₂e in 2011. This is a slight reversal of the downward trend that started in 2005 when planting rates started to decline. The greenhouse gas sink strength is dominated by past planting rates and subsequent harvesting activity; the reversal in the trend is likely to reflect past inter-annual variability in the rate of planting, although the small increase in planting rate in 2011 compared to 2010 is a positive sign that the long-term downward trend might be reversed.

Source: Based on Centre for Ecology and Hydrology report for the Department of Energy and Climate Change


Assessment of change in <i>Carbon captured by English woodlands</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Woodlands Indicator 9: *Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland*

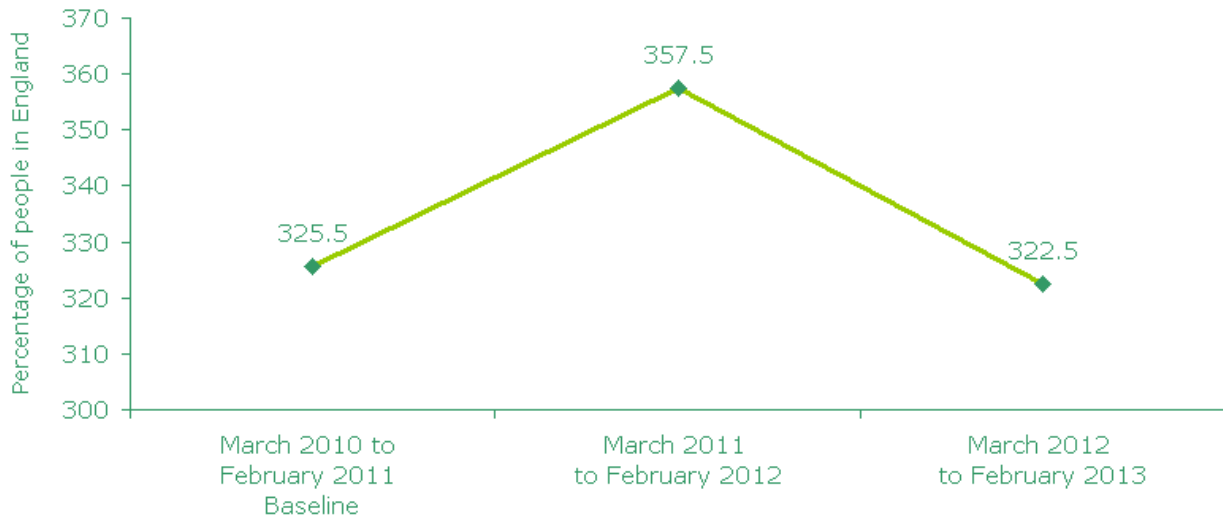


This indicator demonstrates a positive upward trend from 2007 to 2013, with 10% of people now reporting their involvement in woodland consultations and organised events. This may reflect the increased interest shown by the public in forestry issues due to the Independent Panel on Forestry’s report (2012) and increased activity by woodland civil society groups.

Source: Based on Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (Forestry Commission)


Assessment of change in <i>Percentage of people actively engaged in woodland</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 10: *Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)*

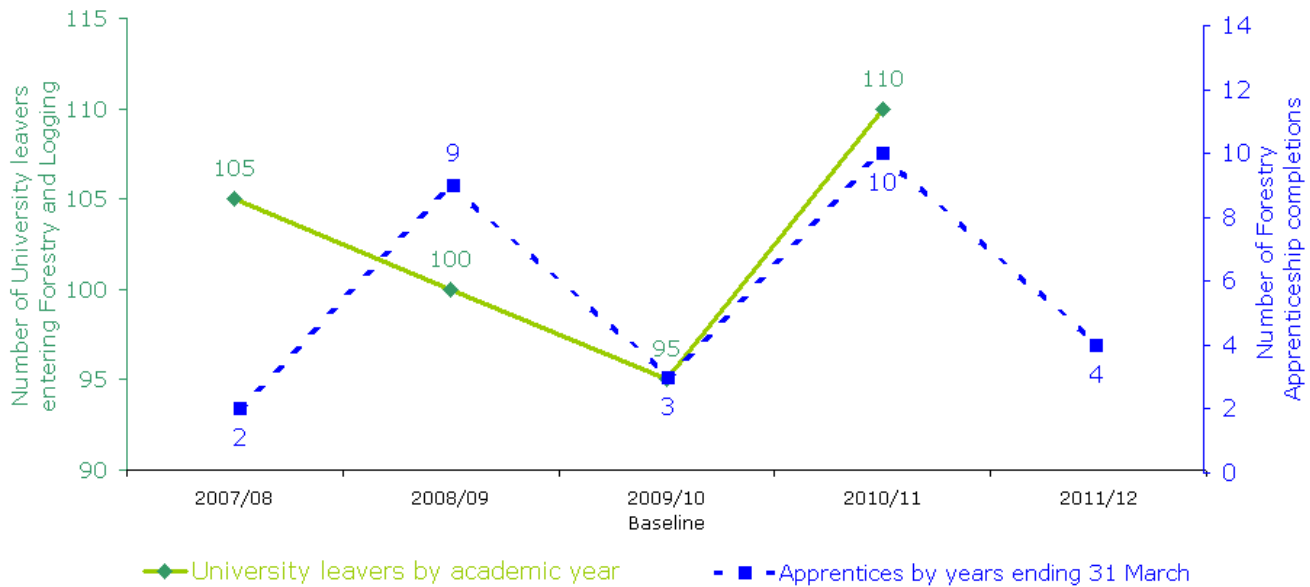


The trend for this indicator is slightly downwards, with less people appearing to visit woodlands in the most recent year reported. As noted previously this indicator can be easily affected by a number of external factors, most notable being the inclement weather experienced in the year. The trend of visits is known to fluctuate.

Source: Based on Natural England data



Assessment of change in <i>Number of visits to woodland from Natural England's Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey (MENE)</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Little or no overall change 

Woodlands Indicator 11: *Number apprentices and university students entering forestry*

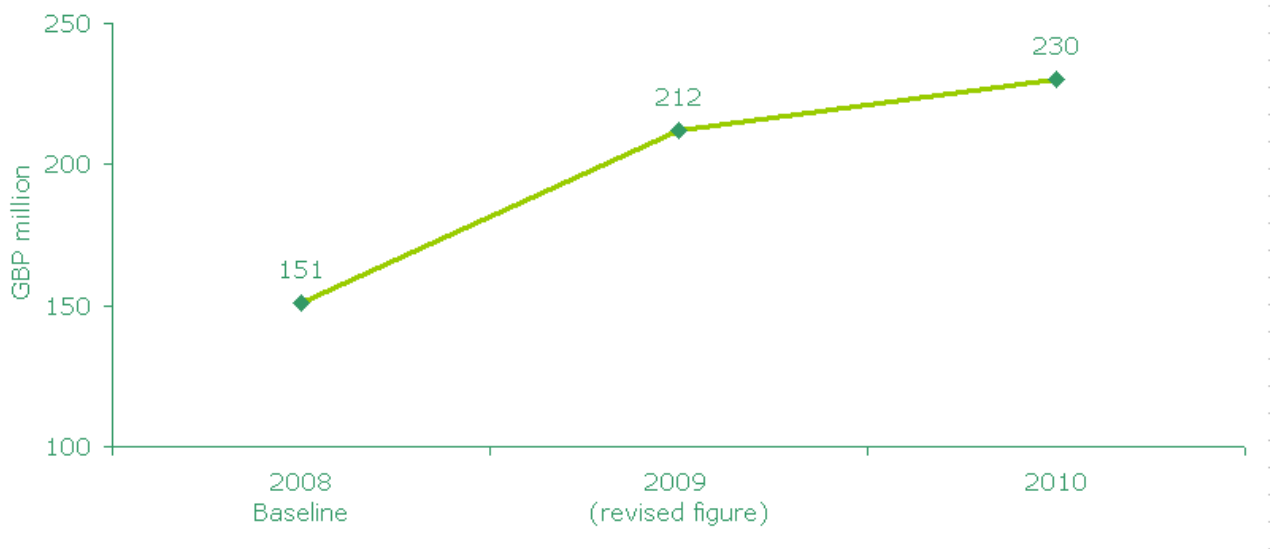


The Forestry Skills Initiative should bring about a marked increase in apprenticeship figures, as it supports 45 new apprentices over two years, but there will be lag in registering this as the Lantra data records *completions*, and the average apprentice takes eighteen months to complete the apprenticeship. In parallel Forest Enterprise England has also taken on 20 apprentices in 2012/13 to work in its Forest Craft Apprenticeship Programme; an investment in the rural economy and the younger section of the working population.

Source: Based on Lantra and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) – Destination of Leavers of Higher Education


Assessment of change in <i>Number apprentices and university students entering forestry</i>	
	Since Baseline
Apprentices	Little or no overall change 
University leavers	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 12: *Gross Value Added from domestic forestry*

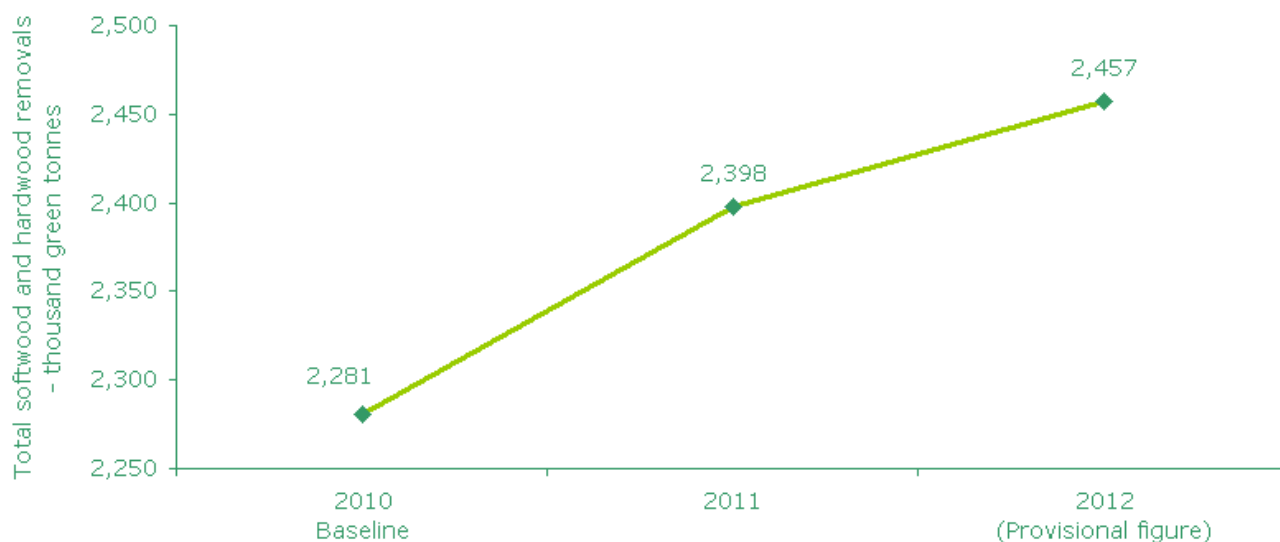


The expected Gross Value Added (GVA) increase to £227m by 2015 has already been exceeded, as the domestic forestry sector remains buoyant. Future years should see an improving GVA contribution as programmes such as *Grown in Britain* drive demand and supply of home-grown timber and timber products.

Source: Based on Office for National Statistics

Assessment of change in <i>Gross Value Added from domestic forestry</i>	
	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 


Woodlands Indicator 13: *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources*



The Public Forest Estate achieved its Sales Plan volume and retained independent certification. As demand for woodfuel continues to increase private woodland owners are making use of interventions such as the Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant to begin or increase production. Many woodland owners now heat their businesses with wood grown on their own land. The Grown in Britain initiative could result in additional volumes of timber coming to market in the short to medium term.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in *Volume of timber brought to market per annum from the Public Forest Estate and other English sources*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 14: *Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested*



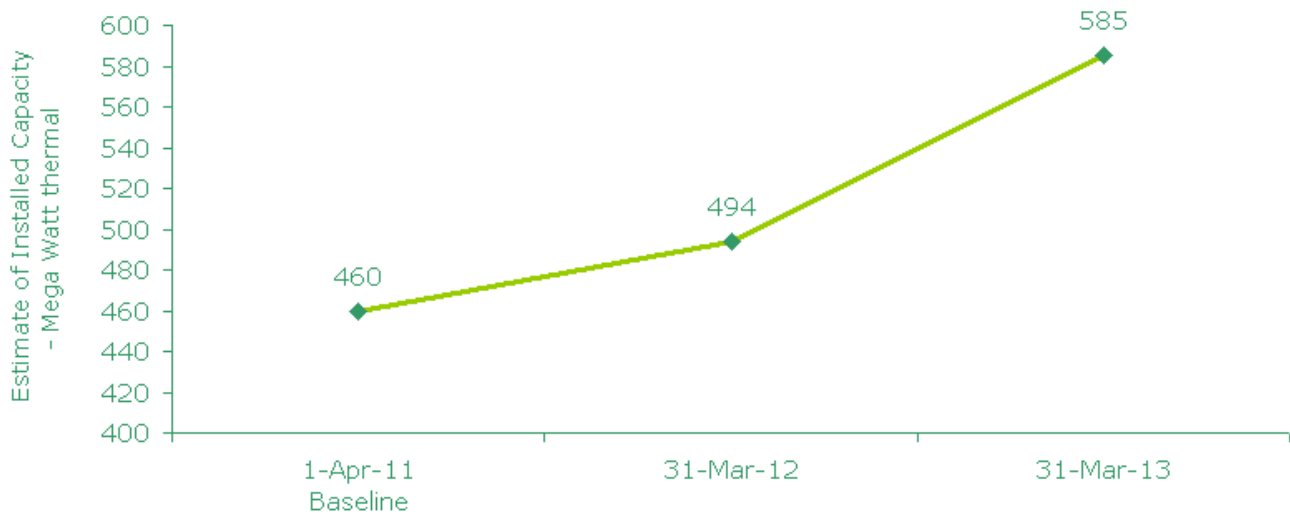
Private woodland owners are increasingly motivated to bring un- and under-managed woodland back into management, reacting to supply-side interventions, e.g. Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant. Demand-side initiatives such as *Grown in Britain* should result in an increase in timber coming into the market from privately-owned woodlands in future years. Demand is expected to increase significantly and be maintained over the long term.

Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Assessment of change in Percentage of the total amount of wood that grows in English woods that is harvested

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 15: *Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)*



The Renewable Heat Incentive has helped drive the increase in installed capacity during 2012/13 and has added momentum to projects and actions highlighted in the Woodfuel Implementation Plan. Woodfuel is becoming a mainstream element of the wider forestry and renewable heat sectors.

Source: Based on a Survey for Forestry Commission England conducted by The Renewable Energy Association Ltd (REA) and Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OfGEM).

Assessment of change in *Installed capacity of medium sized wood fuelled boilers (Mega Watt thermal)*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Woodlands Indicator 16: *Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed*



Demand for wood products from woodlands managed in accordance with voluntary certification schemes remains high. Woodland owners and other businesses in the supply chain respond to this demand by joining internationally recognised schemes such as Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Source: Based on Forest Stewardship Council and Forestry Commission Central Services Statistics Team survey of Woodland Owners

Assessment of change in *Area of woodland in England that is certified as sustainably managed*

	Since Baseline
This indicator	Improving 

Images are from the Forestry Commission Picture Library.

Frontispiece: Lake District landscape, North West & West Midlands Delivery Area

Back cover: main image then clockwise from top left:

Forest Services Woodland Officer inspecting a new native woodland at Bleasby, Nottinghamshire supported by Woodland Creation Grant through the English Woodland Grant Scheme

Cyclist on Altura trail, Whinlatter Forest Park

Autumn shades at Westonbirt Arboretum

Blackcaps feeding young

Constructing fence panels, New Forest

Woodfuel stacked for drying

Low Redford Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest, Hamsterley Forest



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