

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
30 June 2014

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Headline Performance Update at 30 June 2014 (First Release)

[Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2011-15](#) set 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 [Corporate Plan 2014-15](#).

Our [Indicator Reports](#) provide an annual monitoring report on all the Indicators which we have defined and developed for the Spending Review 2011-15 period. The [Indicators Report 2014](#) was published in May 2014.

This document provides the **first** quarterly update on the six headline key performance indicators (KPIs) for the **2014-15** financial year. It reflects our key priorities of protection, improvement and expansion of England's woodlands, as set out in the [Government forestry and woodlands policy statement \(January 2013\)](#). Progress since then has been reported in the [Forestry and woodlands policy statement implementation plan - one year on \(January 2014\)](#)

These Forestry Commission England key performance indicators are based on our administrative data. The systems in place by which these reports have been produced have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission (FC).

Our headline performance indicators were reviewed in 2013-14 to ensure they are still the best we can offer. As a result it was agreed that from this 30 June 2014 report onwards we will implement an improvement to our Managed Woodland headline indicator that is described further on page 4 and Annex A of this report.

Through 2014-15 we will review our full suite of indicators to ensure they remain appropriate to their purpose, and properly reflect the Government's priorities in English forestry. For previous and future reports, please visit our website at www.forestry.gov.uk > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

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1. Protection

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



Position at 30 June 2014: 704 hectares of land requiring treatment.

The decrease in area under Notice this quarter is due to an increased rate of tree felling to control the disease.

Figures for ash dieback ([Chalara fraxinea](#)) are not included in this Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report due to Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) not being issued for this. SPHN are being issued for treatment of [oak processionary moth](#) in the London area. As these notices do not require felling of trees (except very occasionally individual trees), and are issued on an annual basis linked to the moth's lifecycle they are also excluded from the above analysis.

2. Improvement

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



Position at 30 June 2014: 57%.

The percentage of woodland in active management has gradually increased since the April 2011 baseline (52%) including this latest increase from the position of March 2013 (55%). We are developing this indicator so that it better reflects changes in the real-world. We judge this is a promising increase in the area of woodland in active management driven by a positive forestry economy, particularly demand for woodfuel for heating; the Rural Development Programme, particularly our focus on management planning; our cross-sector partnership to encourage more woodland owners to actively manage their woodland; and the favourable regulatory environment for forestry we have created.

Technically, it means that most of the increase in the percentage since March 2013 is due to the improvements to the definition of the indicator operative from this report onwards:

The improvements included from this report onwards are to:

- a) Standardise on a threshold of 15 years to determine whether to include woodlands where there have been incentives or felling licence activity. Fifteen years has been agreed because the majority of non-FC woodlands in England are broadleaved in nature where intervention cycles of 10 to 20 years are generally sufficient to maintain them to a minimal level of sustainable management. The thresholds

used in previous reports varied by incentive and licence type and were between 5 and 30 years. This contributes about 0.9%.

- b) Add in woodland in all approved management plans whose boundaries are recorded by the Forestry Commission. This woodland is additional to that already counted as in a Woodland Planning Grant.
- c) Add in woodland on military training areas of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. This contributes about 1%.

Other elements of this headline indicator remain as before and the entire new definition is set out at **Annex A**. It is recognised that other woodlands might be considered as managed as well.

3. Expansion

Impact Indicator: Hectares of woodland created (gross)



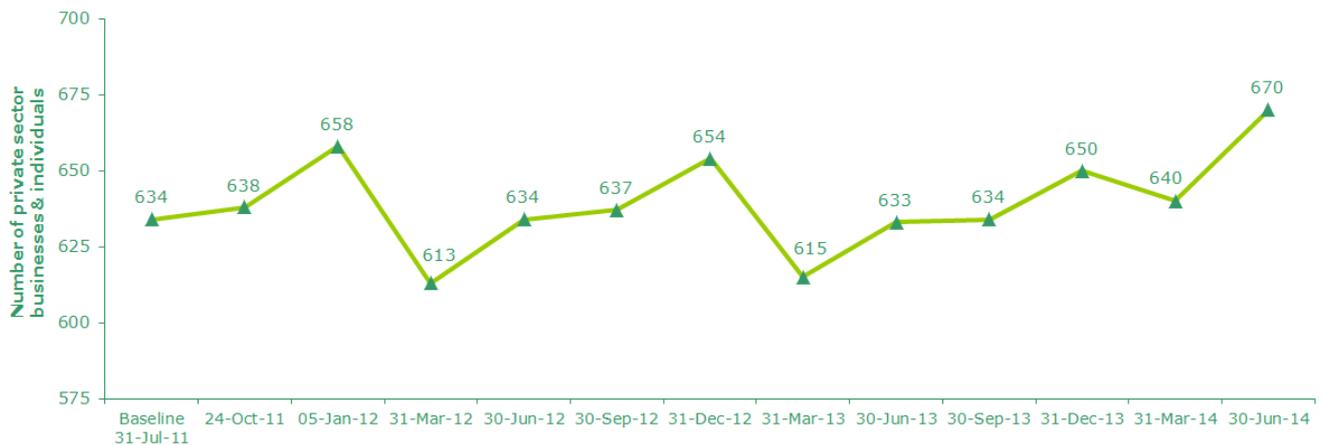
Report for April to June 2014: 967 hectares of woodland created.

This indicator demonstrates strong performance and remains markedly above the levels seen in 2011/12 and 2012/13 (765 hectares and 523 hectares). The current figure and the previous equivalent period figure reflect higher levels of activity. This is likely due to enhanced grant rates, favourable regulatory environment, more partnership working to promote woodland creation, strong performance of forestry in the economy and also increased interest in anticipation of the closure of the current Rural Development Programme (RDP).

Note: The quarterly achievement graph reports 3 minor revisions necessary to reconcile to full-year figures.

4. Customer Service

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

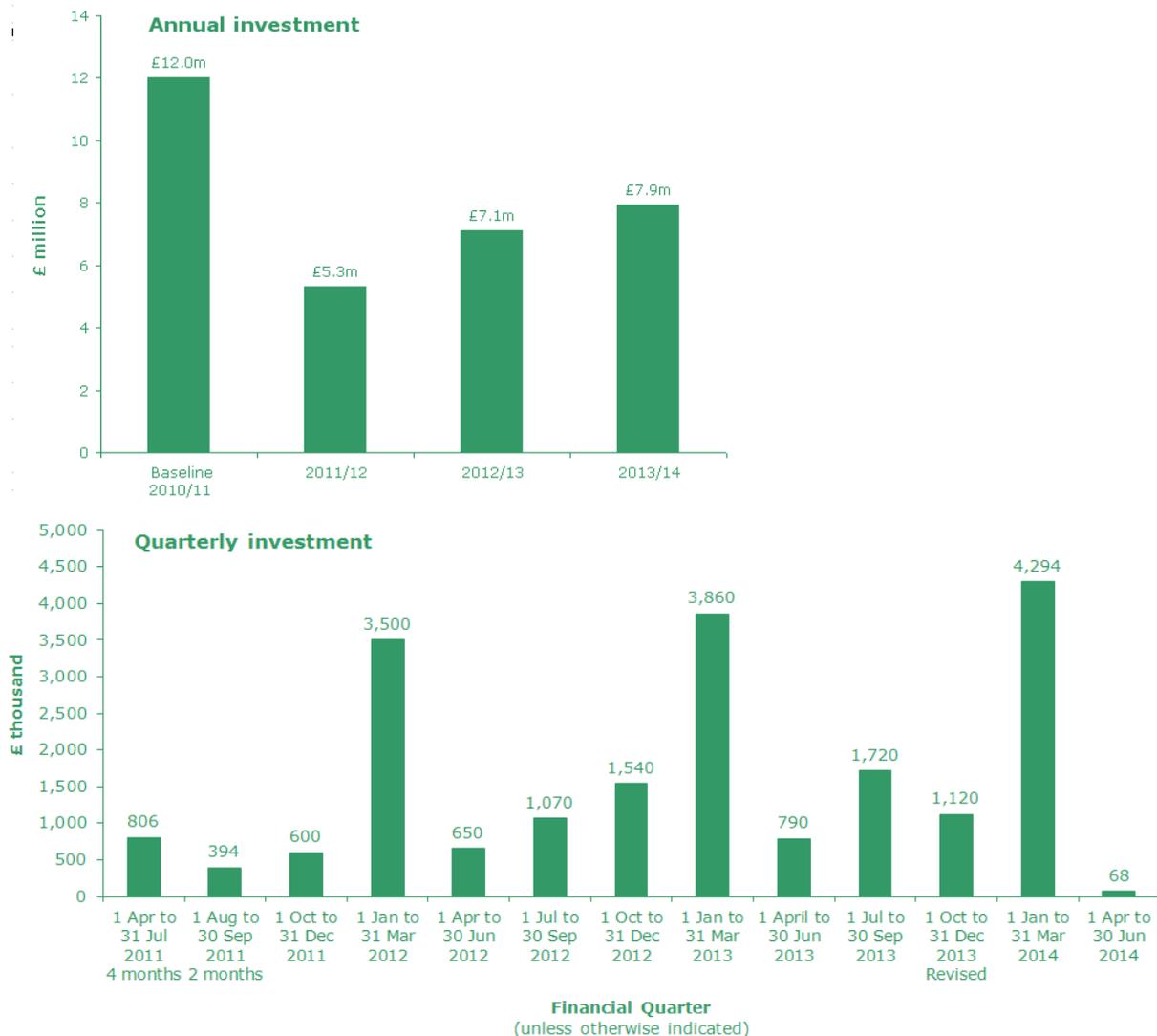


Position at 30 June 2014: 670 private businesses and individuals.

The growth in the number of businesses operating on the [Public Forest Estate](#) is continuing so there is a high probability of achieving the aspiration of an indicator value of 685 before March 2015.

5. Customer Service

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



Report for 1 April to 30 June 2014: £68 thousand invested.

Investment to-date in this financial year is less than in recent years owing to the reduction of the overall annual budget to £3.624 million for 2014/15. This reflects completion of projects in 2013/14 such as the [Woodfuel East](#) project, and the transfer of funding to tackle the [Oak Processionary Moth](#) pest to a centrally managed plant health fund. The principal areas of investment anticipated by year end are on [Newlands](#) (£1.2 million), [Big Tree Plant](#) (£1.037 million) and the [London Mayor's Street Trees Initiative](#) (£682 thousand). There is also due to be investment on smaller areas of spend such as the [Forestry Skills Initiative](#) (£75 thousand), a Forestry Productivity Initiative to develop sector capacity to benefit from the Rural Development Programme (£150 thousand) and managing sustainable deer populations (£239 thousand).

Note: The figure for 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2013 was revised to correct an error in the graph shown in a previous update.

6. Restructuring our Business

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



Reports for this indicator are published as at 31 March and 30 September each year. The most recent report as at 31 March 2014 is as follows:

Outturn for the 2013/14 financial year as published in the [Forestry Commission England/Central Services Annual Report and Accounts 2013-14](#): £59.17 per hectare. This is less than the indicative figure aimed for of £72.13 per hectare.

The improved performance compared to the aim is due to timber sales being greater than plan.

The indicative aim for 2014/15 is £70.09 per hectare.

Annex A: Definition of the Managed Woodland Indicator

Woodland¹ regarded as 'Managed' to the [UK Forestry Standard](#) for the purposes of the Managed Woodland Headline Indicator: *Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)*.

	Type of Management	Areas of Woodland ¹ Included
Public Forest Estate		
1	Public Forest Estate	all woodland on the Public Forest Estate
Current Forestry Commission Incentives		
2	Woodland Creation Grant	work areas on which 1 st instalment payments have been paid in the previous 15 years
3	Woodland Management Grant	
4	Woodland Planning Grant	
5	Woodland Improvement Grant	
Previous Forestry Commission Incentives		
6	Woodland Grant Scheme 3	work areas in contract at any point in the previous 15 years
Other Incentives: formerly provided by Natural England		
7	Farm Woodland Scheme	schemes on which 1 st instalment payments have been paid in the previous 15 years
8	Farm Woodland Premium Scheme	
Licences		
9	Felling Licence Applications outside of incentives activity	licence applications received and digitised in the previous 15 years
Management Plans³: above and beyond those included in 4. Woodland Planning Grant		
10	Management Plans recorded by the Forestry Commission	all approved management plans
Defence Infrastructure Organisation Training Areas³		
11	Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)	all woodland on DIO training areas

¹ The definition of 'woodland' used is that for the [National Forest Inventory](#).

² The time threshold is standardised at 15 years from the 30 June 2014 report onwards.

³ Rows 10 and 11 are additions to the definition from the 30 June 2014 report onwards.