

Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update
30 September 2015

Corporate Plan

Key Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update at 30 September 2015 (First Release)

[Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2015-16](#) set out our current key performance indicators to show our contribution towards forestry and woodlands in England. This also reflects our commitment to evidence based working and ensuring people are clear about trends in the key indicators we are working with others to move in the right direction.

Our [Indicator Reports](#) provide an annual report on all the indicators which we monitor and our [Indicators Report 2015](#), published in May 2015, provides the latest position.

We reviewed our six headline key performance indicators in 2014-15 to ensure they are still the best we can offer and properly reflect the Government's priorities in English forestry.

We aim with the indicators to continue to reflect our priorities of protection, improvement and expansion of England's woodlands, as set out in our Corporate Plan 2015-16. We also want them to display the contributions Forest Enterprise England makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate.

So our six headline performance indicators are now as shown in Table 1 below. This is the second quarterly report on these headline indicators for the 2015-16 financial year. The first publication of the indicator 'Percentage of England's woodland threatened by significant pests or diseases already present' will be published in our quarterly reports as soon as possible following further development of its methodology, which includes expert opinion. Current assessments about plant pests and diseases can be found in the published [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#).

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).

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

Table 1: Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators

Forest Services	
Protection	Percentage of England's woodland threatened by significant pests or diseases already present. The first publication of this indicator will be published in our quarterly reports as soon as possible following further development of its methodology, which includes expert opinion. Current assessments about plant pests and diseases can be found in the published UK Plant Health Risk Register .
Protection	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)
Improvement	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)
Expansion	Area of woodland
Forest Enterprise England	
Restructuring Our Business	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)
Customer Service	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate

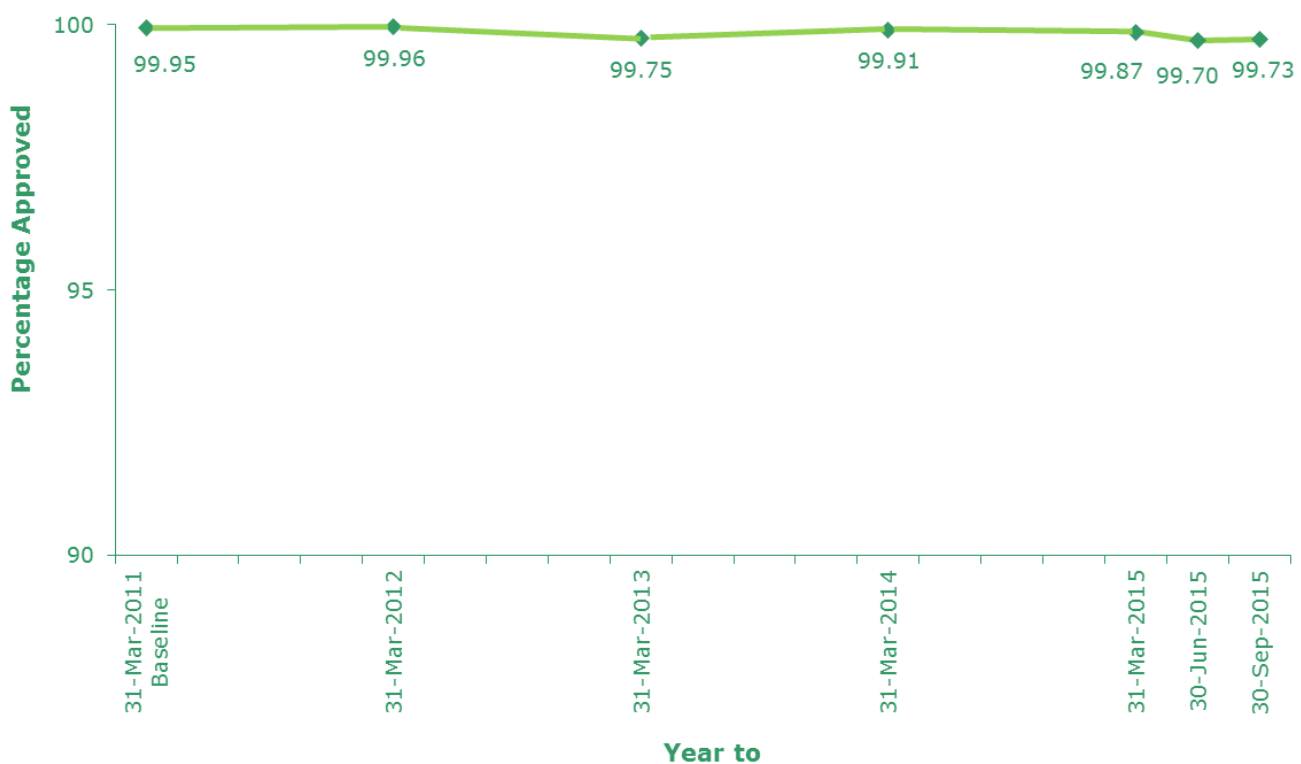
Contact: david.f.cross@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
 Evidence and Analysis
 Strategic Development
 Forest Services
 13th November 2015

Forest Services

Protection

A. *Percentage of England's woodland threatened by significant pests or diseases already present.* The first publication of this indicator will be published in our quarterly reports as soon as possible following further development of its methodology, which includes expert opinion. Current assessments about plant pests and diseases can be found in the published [UK Plant Health Risk Register](#).

B. *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)*



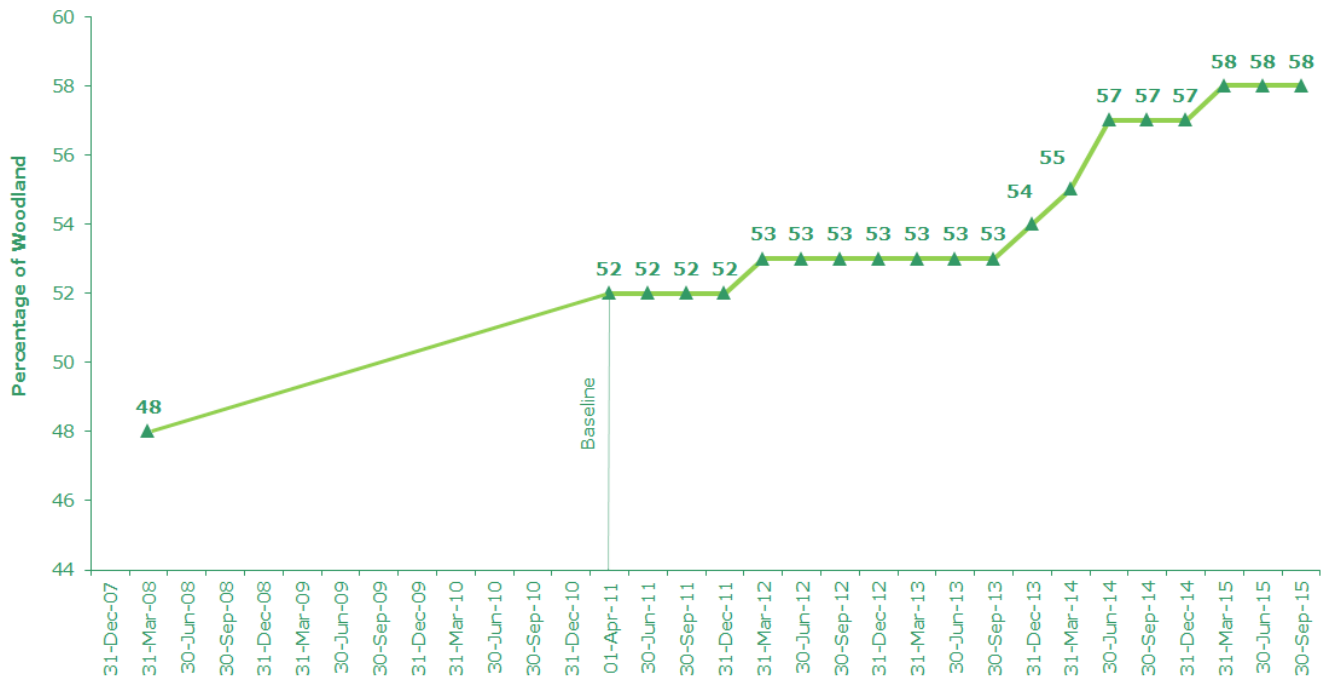
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Report for year to 30 September 2015: **99.73% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.**

The report for the most recent year shows continued 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 the Forestry Commission.

Improvement

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



Source: Based on administrative data and the [National Forest Inventory](#)

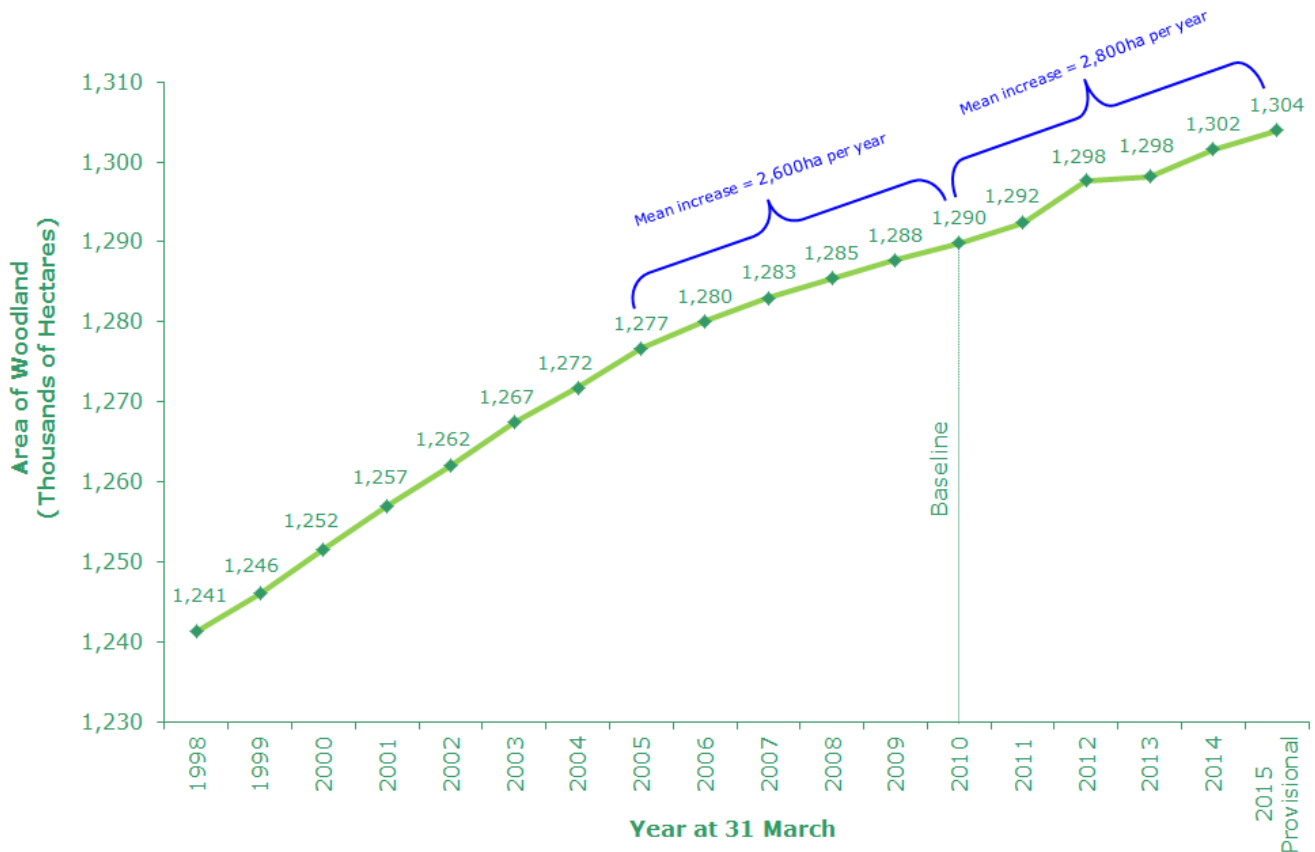
Position at 30 September 2015: **58% of English woodland is actively managed.**

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 Forestry Commission England grant or felling licence activity typically in the previous 15 years – it is recognised that other woodlands might be considered as managed as well.

Expansion

Area of Woodland

A. Area of Woodland in England Headline Indicator: Annually Updated



Source: Based on [National Forest Inventory](#) and Forestry Commission administrative data.
See [Forestry Statistics \(Forestry Commission\)](#)

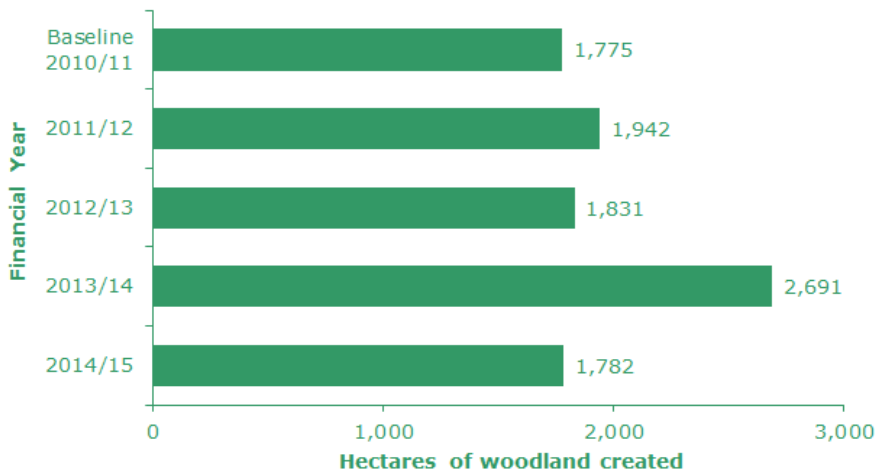
Position at 31 March 2015: **1,304,000 hectares of woodland in England.**

As at 31 March 2015, the area of woodland in England is 1,304,000 hectares (ha), an increase of 2,000ha on the previous year. Since the 2010 baseline, the area of woodland has increased at a mean rate of 2,800ha per year. This compares to a mean rate in the 5 years prior to that of 2,600ha per year. Increase in this Area of Woodland Indicator includes woodland created from all measured sources and is reported on an annual basis.

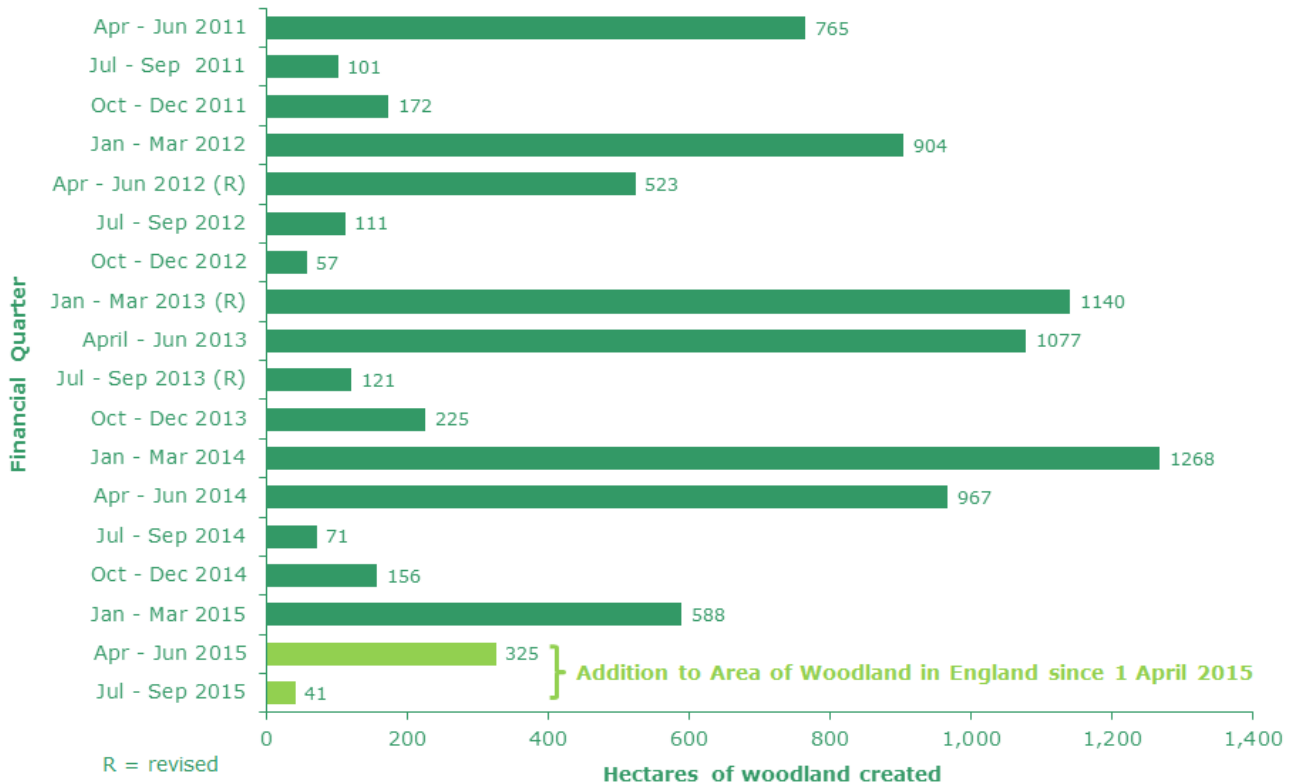
B. Hectares of Woodland Created (Gross) –Quarterly Updated

Area of Woodland Created with Support from English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) Incentives and Countryside Stewardship: each is part of the Rural Development Programme for England.

i) Annual Achievement



ii) Quarterly Progress



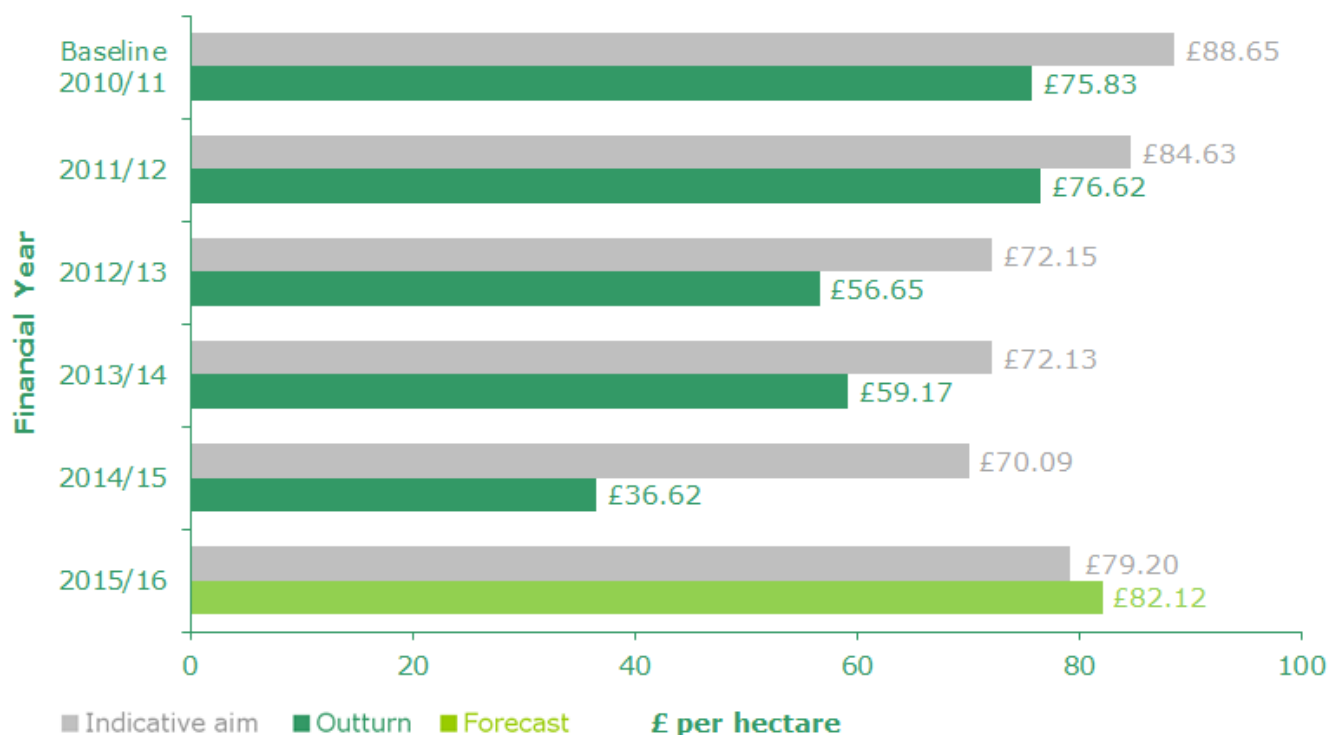
Note: Indicator previously referred to as Hectares of Woodland Created (gross)
Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

This measure provides quarterly figures on the contribution to, a) the Area of Woodland Headline Indicator, of woodland creation supported by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) delivered by Forest Services. This includes mainly English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) Woodland Creation Grant incentives. In the second quarter of 2015/16 there were 41 hectares of such woodland creation based on payments made to woodland owners in that period. The figure reflects that most tree planting takes place in the winter, and the resultant seasonality in the payment records (less in summer), as well as the wind down of the English Woodland Grant Scheme ahead of the new Countryside Stewardship scheme, progress on which will be included in future reports.

Forest Enterprise England

Restructuring our Business

Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)



Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

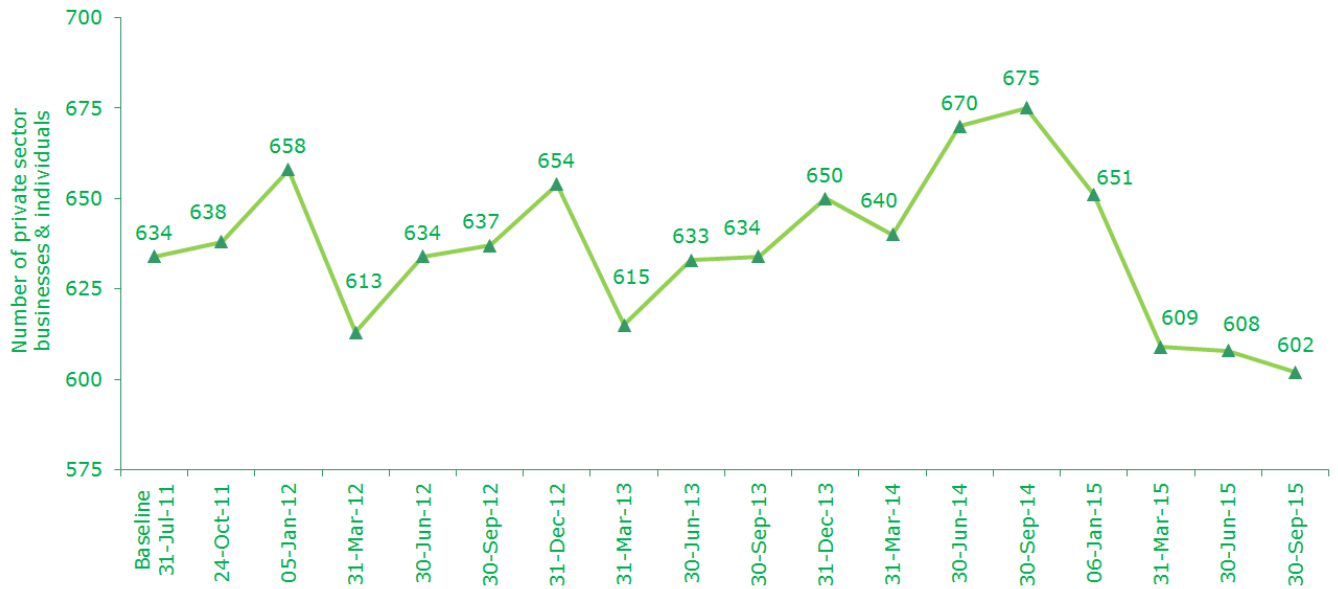
Forecast for 2015/16 at 30 September 2015: **Net cost of £82.12 per hectare** compared to the indicative aim of £79.20 per hectare.

The forecast cost is slightly greater than we wanted but within tolerance limits. Due to the adverse weather conditions in the north of the country in last quarter of 2014/15, replanting and other forest maintenance operations were delayed until the first quarter of 2015/16. The delay in cost in 2014/15 was one of the factors in having a significantly lower unit cost than plan in 2014/15; an outturn of £36.62 for that year.

The indicative aim for the cost per hectare of managing the Public Forest Estate has increased in 2015/16 to £79.20 per hectare. The upward adjustment compared to previous years, reflects Forestry Commission England corporate overhead charges now allocated to Forest Enterprise England. The inclusion of these costs better reflects the total cost of managing the estate. The costs are full funded by the FC and so do not change the overall cost to Defra.

Customer Service

Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate (PFE)



Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Position at 30 September 2015: **602 private businesses and individuals.**

The total indicator value remains depressed. The downturn in numbers is largely to do with the renewal of sporting leases, the majority of which are in the process of being renegotiated. In general these business agreements do not have great economic or employment consequences in the countryside.