

# Corporate Plan Performance Indicators

Headline Performance Update  
30 September 2016

# Corporate Plan

## Key Performance Indicators

### Headline Performance Update at 30 September 2016 (First Release)

[Forestry Commission England's Corporate Plan 2016-17](#) sets 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 which we are working with others to move in the right direction.

We report our [Headline Indicators](#) quarterly, and provide a report of our full suite of indicators annually. Our [Indicators Report 2016](#) (June 2016) provides the latest position.

We have reviewed our six headline key performance indicators to ensure they are still the best we can offer and properly reflect the Government's priorities in English forestry. Our six headline performance indicators are shown in Table 1 below.

We aim with the indicators to continue to reflect our priorities to protect, improve and expand England's woodlands, as set out in our [Corporate Plan 2016-17](#). We also want them to display the contributions [Forest Enterprise England](#) makes to people, nature and the economy through the Public Forest Estate.

This is the second quarterly report on our headline indicators for the 2016-17 financial year. This includes the third report of our new headline indicator on tree health called *Number of high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)*. The other five Forestry Commission England headline indicators reported here are based almost exclusively on our administrative data.

The systems in place by which the quarterly-updated reports have been produced have been verified by Internal Audit at the Forestry Commission.

Forestry Commission England is committed to helping Defra meet its aspirations of making data available as Open Data. We publish much of the data our indicators are based on and specific relevant Open Datasets are signposted throughout this report.

For previous and future reports, and those for our full suite of indicators, please visit our website at [www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk) > [England](#) > [About us](#) > [Indicators](#).

**Table 1: Forestry Commission England Headline Performance Indicators**

Forest Services	
<b>Protection</b>	Number of high priority forest pests in the <a href="#">UK Plant Health Risk Register</a> (UKPHRR).
<b>Protection</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)
<b>Improvement</b>	Percentage of woodland in active management (including the Public Forest Estate)
<b>Expansion</b>	Area of woodland and rate of new planting
Forest Enterprise England	
<b>Customer service and business metrics</b>	Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)
<b>Economy</b>	Number of private sector businesses operating on the Public Forest Estate

David Cross

Evidence and Analysis  
 Strategic Development  
 Forest Services

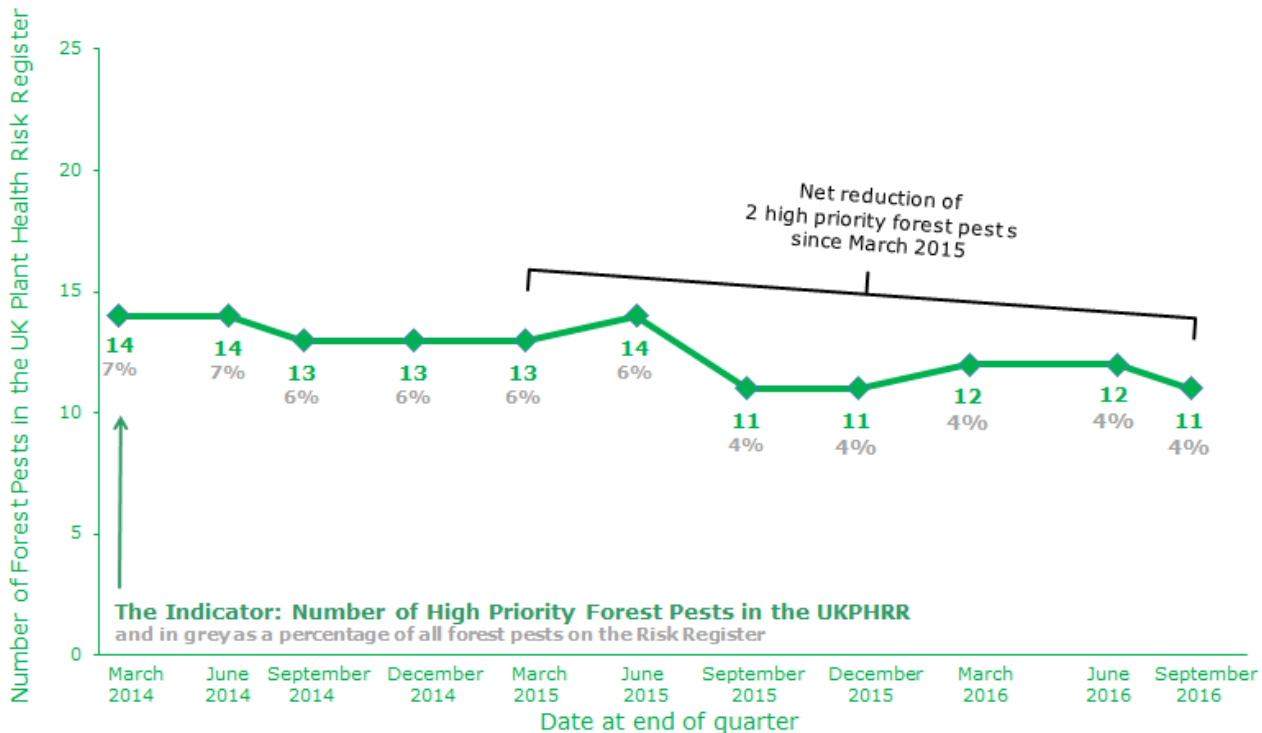
Bristol, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Contact: [kerry.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

# Forest Services

## Protection

### A. Number of high priority forest pests in the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).



Source: Derived from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#)<sup>1</sup>.

Report at end September 2016: There are **11 high priority forest pests in the UK Plant Health Risk Register (UKPHRR)**, that require actions – in addition to mitigations already implemented – to prevent them having a, potentially substantial, negative impact on England’s woodland.

Eleven (4%) of the 279 forest pests in the UKPHRR are ‘high priority’ because their mitigated relative risk rating is 15 or more (see Note A and Table 1). This is a net reduction of one pest from the position at the end of June 2016: Oriental chestnut gall wasp is no longer regarded as a high priority forest pest due to a reduction in its mitigated impact rating from 5 to 3, that results in its overall mitigated risk rating having been reduced from 15 to 9.

Over the last 3 month period to the end of September 2016 the total number of forest pests in the UKPHRR has increased from 271 to 279. Five of these new pests were added

<sup>1</sup> <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/>

due to findings in the UK and two were added following horizon scanning. Additionally one was added due to an outbreak in the EU; this was *Xylella fastidiosa subspecies fastidiosa*. Of these eight pests, six affect broadleaves and the remaining two affect conifers.

**Table 1: The 11 high priority forest pests in the UKPHRR with a relative risk rating (mitigated) of 15 or more at end September 2016**

Common name	Latin name	Type of pest	Present in the UK?	Mitigated Likelihood score	Mitigated Impact rating	Mitigated Likelihood multiplied by Impact risk rating
Alder Rust	<i>Melampsorium hiratsukanum</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	5	4	20
Bleeding canker of horse chestnut	<i>Pseudomonas syringae pv. aesculi</i>	Bacterium	Present: widespread	5	4	20
Sudden oak death; ramorum dieback	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Oomycete: an algae-like fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Chalara ash dieback	<i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i>	Fungus	Present: limited	4	4	16
Red-necked longhorn beetle	<i>Aromia bungii</i>	Insect	Absent	4	4	16
Phytophthora Disease of Alder	<i>Phytophthora alni</i>	Oomycete: an algae-like fungus	Present: widespread	4	4	16
Emerald ash borer	<i>Agilus planipennis</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15
Acute oak decline	-	Other	Present: limited	3	5	15
Two Spotted Oak Buprestid	<i>Agilus biguttatus</i>	Insect	Present: limited	3	5	15
Butternut canker	<i>Ophiognomonia clavignenti-juglandacearum</i>	Fungus	Absent	3	5	15
Sachalin fir bark beetle;	<i>Polygraphus proximus</i>	Insect	Absent	3	5	15

*Erratum: As a result of an administrative error the update as at the end of June 2016 showed Oriental chestnut gall wasp as Present: under eradication in Table 1. The table should have showed this pest as Present: limited, at that time.*

Nine of these eleven high priority forest pests are broad-leaved tree pests, one is a pest of conifers and one affects both broad-leaved and conifer trees. Seven of the eleven pests are present in the UK, the other four are currently absent.

### **Unmitigated risk ratings**

The number of forest pests with an unmitigated risk rating of 15 or more at the end of September 2016 is 100 (36%) of those on the UKPHRR. After mitigations the number is 11 as mentioned.

#### **Notes:**

A) **Definition, Source and Summary:** This indicator seeks to report trends in forest pests from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#) that records and rates risks to UK crops, trees, gardens and ecosystems from plant pests and pathogens. 'High priority' pests and diseases are defined for the purposes of this indicator as those with a mitigated relative risk rating (the mitigated likelihood score multiplied by the mitigated impact score) of 15 or more. The individual ratings for likelihood and impact are each on a scale from 1 to 5. Relative risk ratings therefore can have values from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 25. Taking into account the economic, environmental and social importance of the host species, these risk scores are used to help prioritise additional actions to combat the threats posed by the pests. It should be noted that the data are for the UK. Nearly all listed forest pests present in the UK will also be present in England and listed forest pests absent from the UK are very likely to pose a threat to England.

B) **'Likelihood'** provides an assessment of the probability of entry and establishment of a pest for those pests that are absent from the UK which, when combined, can result in the introduction of the threat to a new area. Some pests on the UKPHRR are already present in the UK. In these cases the risk is that of the pest spreading to its maximum extent in the UK. The likelihood scale has a minimum value of 1 (lowest risk) through to 5 (highest risk). There is more information on the factors taken into account in the [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#)<sup>2</sup> (page 6).

C) **'Impact'** is an indication of the relative consequence of the pest for the host plant or sector, should the risk materialise. It does not take account of the size or value of the host or sector. Where the pest is already present, the impact is that caused by further spread, against a baseline of damage already occurring. Thus for a pest which is already widespread, the additional impact of it spreading to its full potential distribution may be limited, even if the pest itself is very damaging or expensive to control. The impact scale has a minimum value of 1 (lowest risk) through to 5 (highest risk). There is more on the factors taken into account in the [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#) (page 6-7).

D) **'Value at risk'**. Value at risk is not taken into account in this indicator.

E) **'Mitigations'** can reduce likelihood, impact or both and the risks remaining after mitigation provide the basis for this indicator. Mitigations may reduce risk by enhancing regulation, surveillance, awareness and research, or by providing an industry scheme or a contingency plan. The difference between unmitigated and mitigated risk represents an expert judgement of the effectiveness of the current mitigations. See [Phase 1 UK Plant Health Risk Register – Summary Guide](#) (page 4) for details.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/phiw/riskRegister/Summary-of-Guidance-for-phase-1-Public-Ver2.pdf>

F) **Possible Relative Risk Ratings:** Relative risk ratings can take values from a minimum of 1 (lowest risk) through to 25 (highest risk). For the purposes of this indicator 'high priority' pests have been defined as those with a relative risk rating of 15 or more.

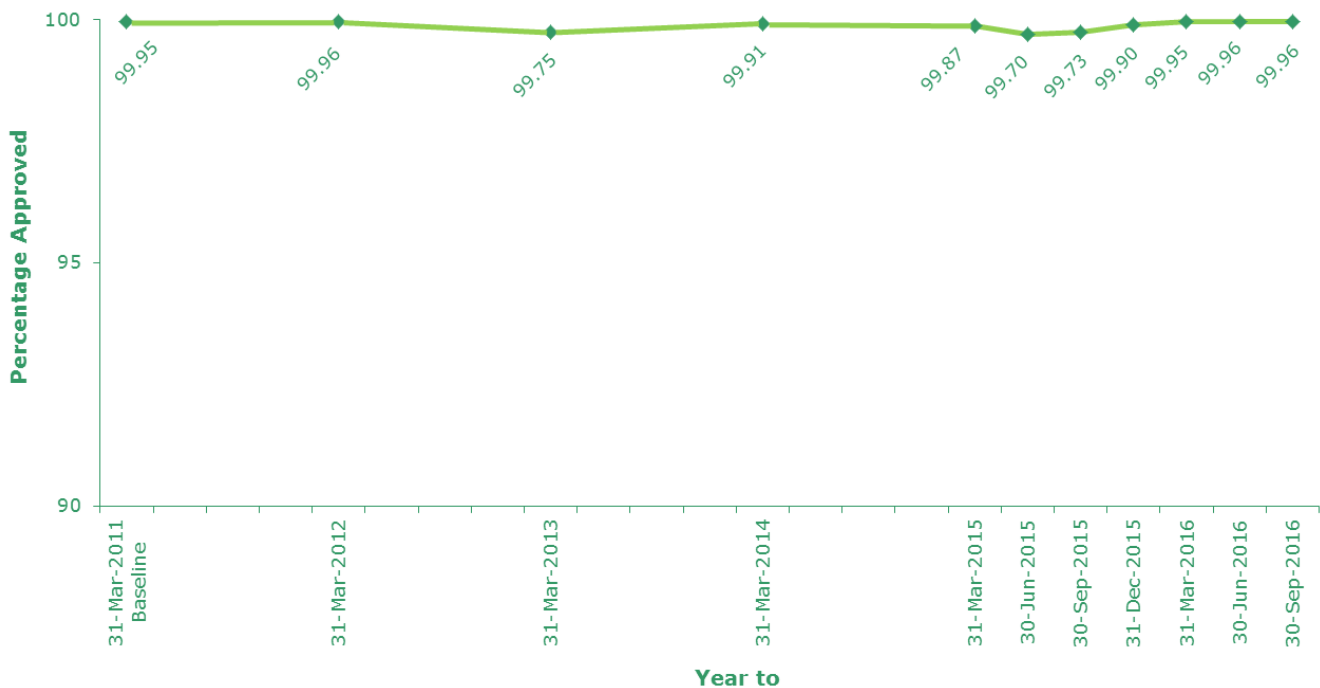
Impact	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
		1	2	3	4	5
		Likelihood				

F) **Other forest pests and diseases affecting English woodland.** The indicator is only based on the pests included in the UKPHRR. In so doing it effectively captures the major non-native pests threatening UK forestry together with a limited selection of native pests that are the subject of major Government campaigns of action. There are many native and non-native forest pests that are not included in the UKPHRR.

G) **Precise end of quarter report dates are:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015; 29<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Open Data: Source spreadsheet data is available from the [UK Plant Health Risk Register \(UKPHRR\)](#).

*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 2016: **99.96% of known tree felling was carried out with Forestry Commission approval.**

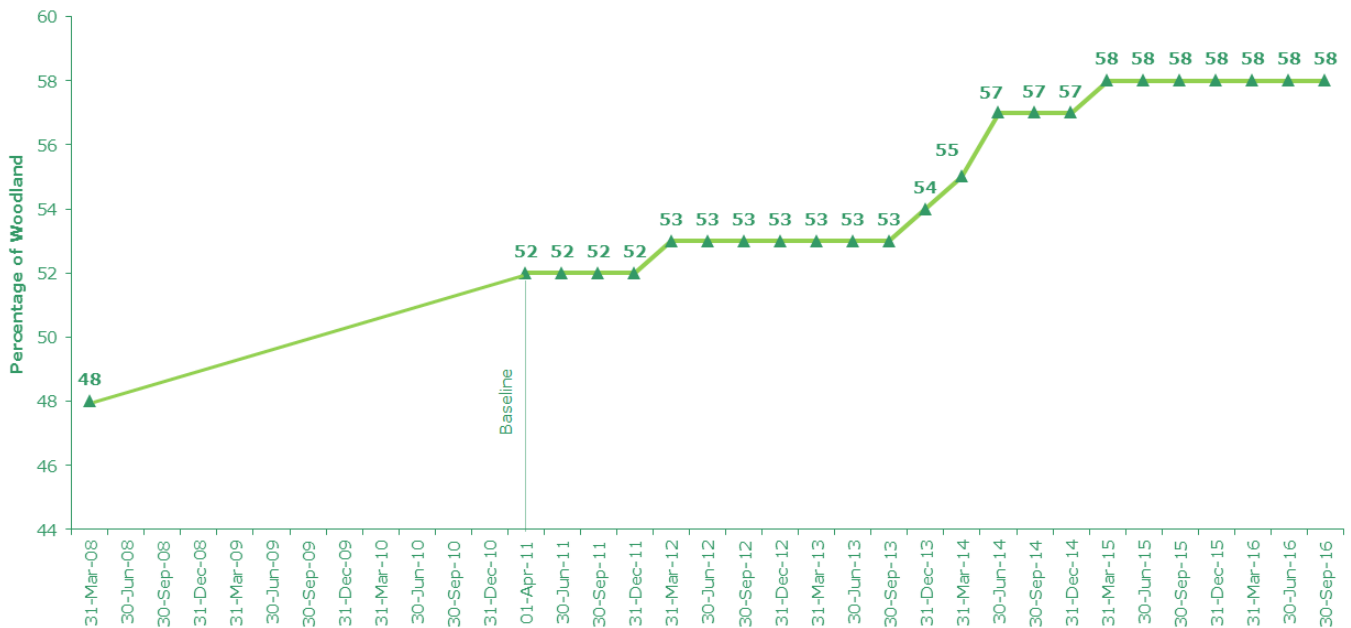
This consistently high figure continues to show a strong and consistent performance indicating a high level of compliance with the Forestry Act.

Open Data: Locations of approved felling licence applications in England are available as [Forestry Commission GIS Open Data](#).



## 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 2016: **58% of English woodland is actively managed.**

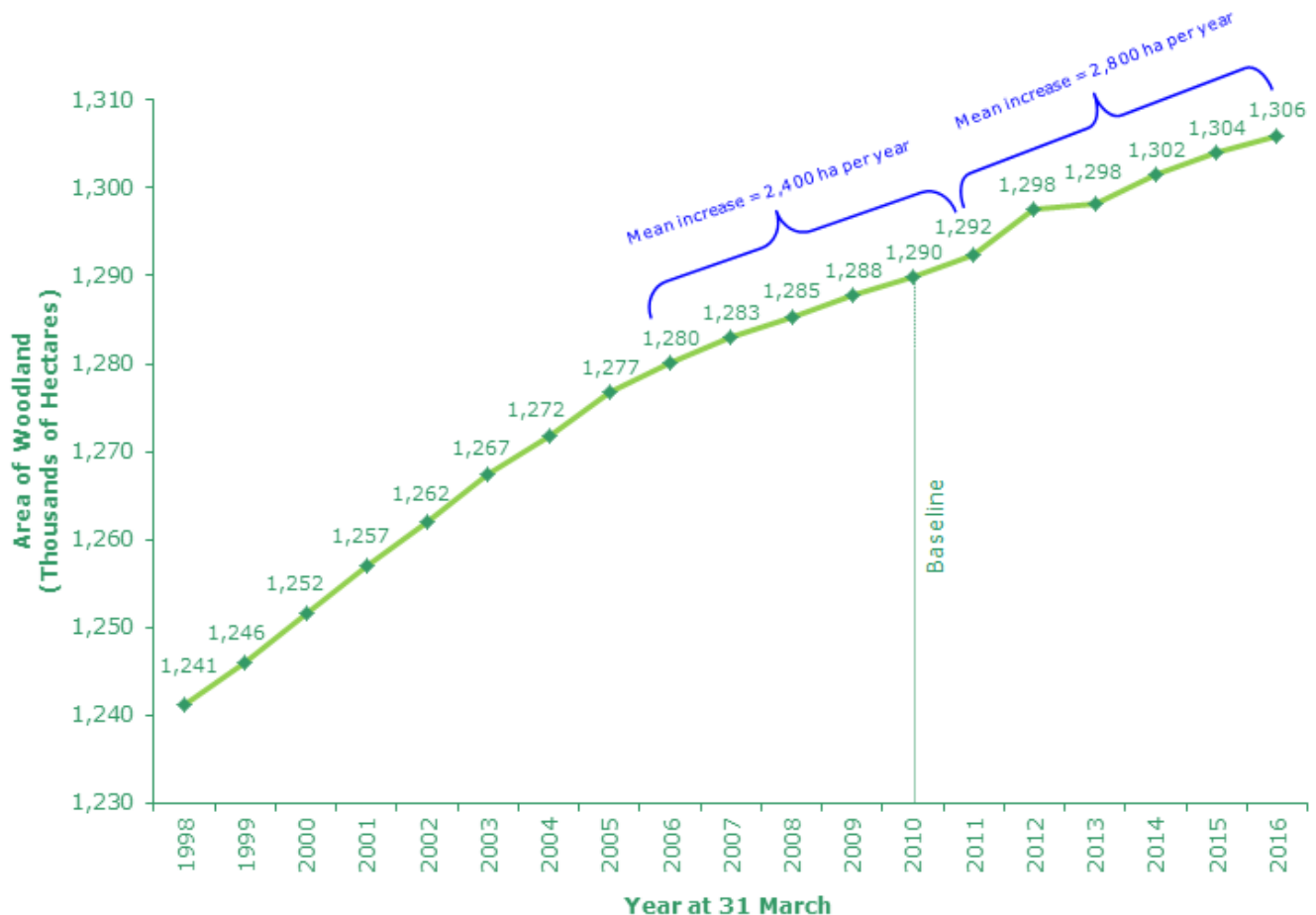
The percentage of woodland that is actively managed remains at 58%. A large number of Woodland Management Plan grant applications received by September 2016 will support improving this position closer towards the aspiration of two thirds of English woodland in management by the end of 2018.

Open Data: Locations of 'managed woodland' in England are available from the [Forestry Commission Data Download](#) site.

## 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 \(Forestry Commission\)](#)

Report at 31 March 2016: **1,306,000 hectares (ha) of woodland in England.**

As at 31 March 2016, the area of woodland in England is 1,306,000 hectares (ha), an increase of 2,000 ha on the previous year. Over the last five years the area of woodland has increased at a mean rate of 2,800 ha per year. This compares to a mean rate in the five years prior to that of 2,400 ha per year. Increase in this Area of Woodland Indicator includes woodland created from all measured sources and is reported on an annual basis.

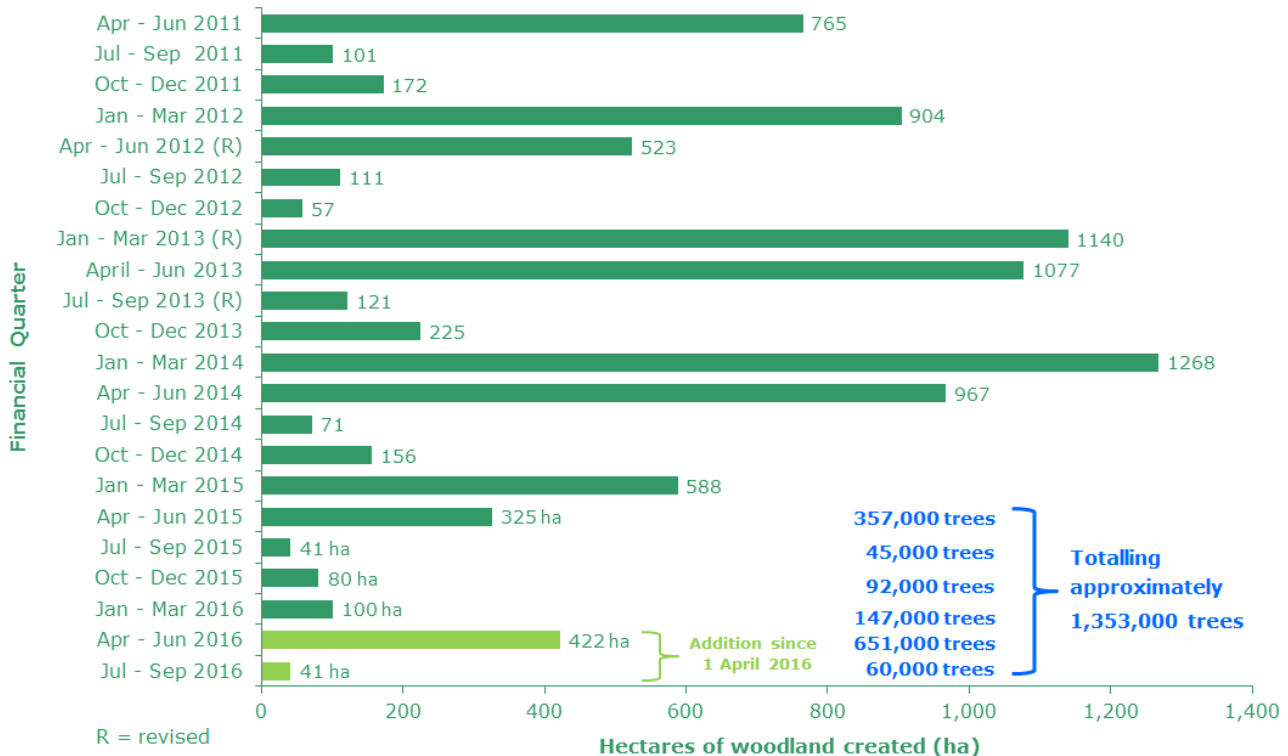
## B. Hectares of Woodland Created (Gross) and Approximate Number of Trees that Represents – Quarterly Updated

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

### i) Annual Achievement



### ii) Quarterly Progress



Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data.

Woodland created July to September 2016: **41 hectares**, equating to approximately 60,000 trees.

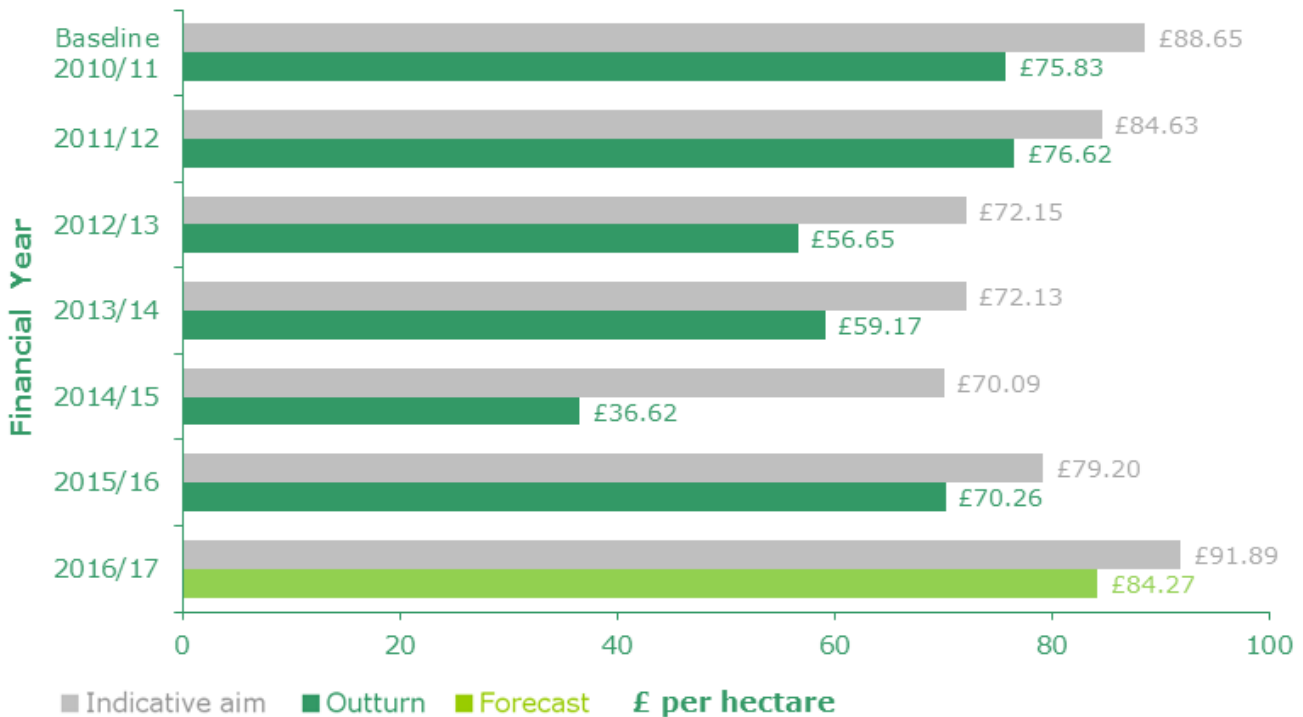
Woodland creation in the second quarter of 2016/17 equals that for the same quarter last year, but some 15,000 additional trees have been planted due to higher stocking densities encouraged by the new Countryside Stewardship scheme. Planting for the most recent season as a whole is low due to a slower rate of uptake of the new grant.

Open Data: The [National Forest Inventory](#) woodland map and locations of RDPE grant supported woodland creation in England are available as [Forestry Commission GIS Open Data](#).

# Forest Enterprise England

## Customer service and business metrics

*Cost of managing the Public Forest Estate (per hectare)*



Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

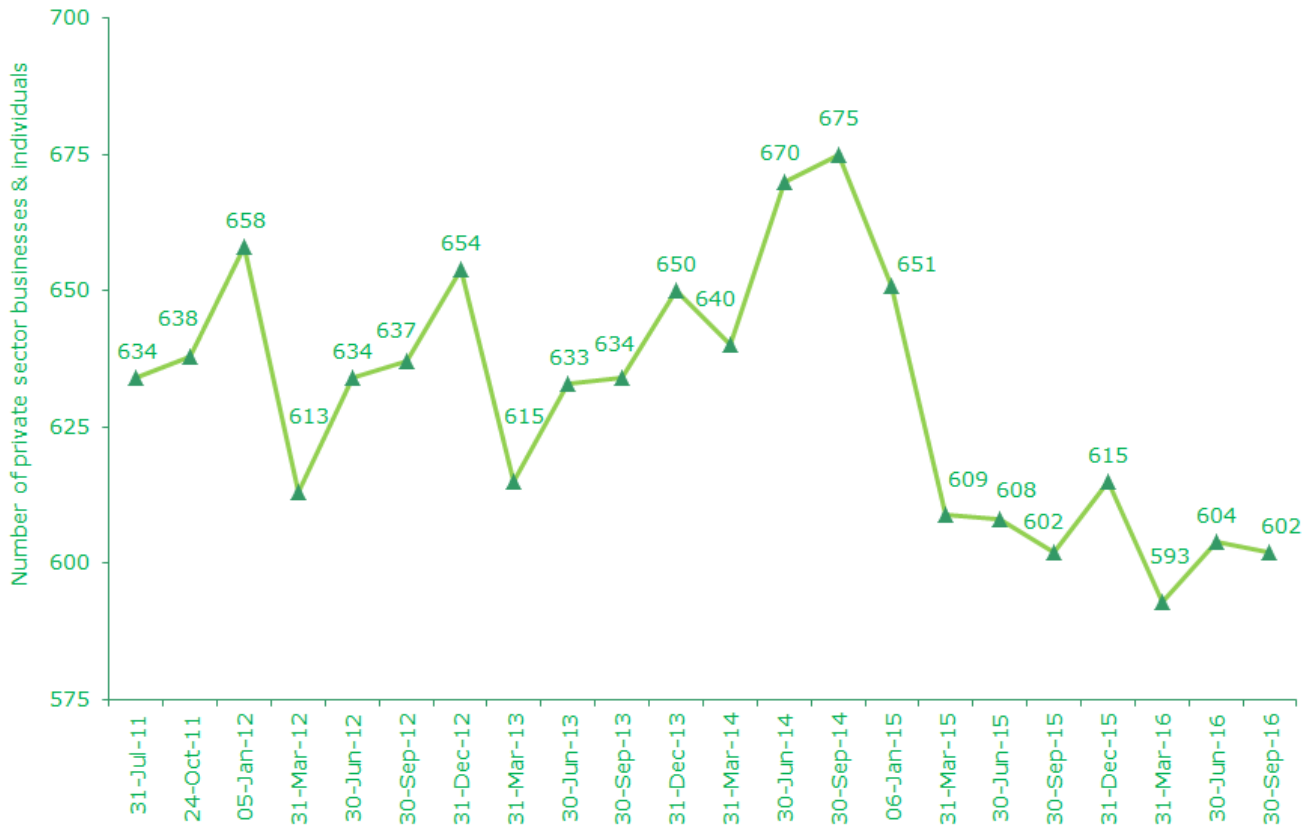
Forecast for 2016/17 financial year, as at 30 September 2016: **£84.27 per hectare**, compared to the indicative aim of £91.89 per hectare for the year.

The indicative value for 2016/17 is greater than 2015/16 due to work programme slippage brought forward from 2015/16, and additional costs associated with the transition of corporate functions to Forest Enterprise from England/Scotland Shared Services. Transition costs are expected to be a cost pressure over three years to the end of 2018/19.

Forecast performance as at 30 September 2016 is better than the indicative aim due to increased contributions from trading revenue.

## Economy

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



Source: Based on Forestry Commission administrative data

Position at 30 September 2016: **602 private businesses and individuals.**

There has been a minor reduction from the June 2016 position that is not materially significant. The latest figure is further evidence of stabilisation of the indicator at a new level since 2014/15.