



National Forest Inventory

Description of attributes

Woodland_S: Woodland source

(a) NFI base map - These are the NFI base map features and have been attributed as 'Woodland' or 'Non-woodland'. The woodland polygons represent the extent of woodlands 0.5 hectares and over and are differentiated by Interpreted forest type (IFT). The non-woodland polygons represent open areas completely enclosed by woodland and are differentiated by Interpreted open areas (IOA)

(b) Comparison - these are polygons identified by the NFI / NIWT comparison analysis. They were identified as woodland areas mapped as NIWT but not originally mapped as NFI. Further investigation of the latest images showed evidence of woodland or a stage in the woodland cycle such as ground prep or felled. These polygons have been mapped in accordance with the NFI mapping rules.

(c) Supplied grant scheme - paid new planting polygons from 1990 to 2011, which were not identified as woodland as a result of interpretation of the aerial imagery, either as part of the mapping exercise or the comparison analysis. These polygons are the result of an erase process and the resultant polygons have not been cleaned or mapped in accordance with the NFI mapping rules. They have been included for monitoring purposes and will be evaluated as part of future updates. They can be easily identified with the attributes Woodland_S = 'Supplied grant scheme' + Woodland_T = 'Assumed woodland'

(d) Forestry Commission supplied new planting - New planting polygons from 1990 to 2010, derived from the FC sub compartment database, which were not identified as woodland as a result of interpretation of the aerial imagery, either as part of the mapping exercise or the comparison analysis. These polygons are the result of an erase process and the resultant polygons have not been cleaned or mapped in accordance with the NFI mapping rules. They have been included for monitoring purposes and will be evaluated as part of future updates. They can be easily identified with the attributes Woodland_S = 'FC supplied new planting' + Woodland_T = 'Assumed woodland'

(e) 2006 Remote sensing and 2009 Remote sensing - These are clear fell polygons identified through the remote sensing change detection analysis, based on 2006 and 2010 RS imagery. This is an update to the base map features as these polygons would have originally been mapped as mature trees. These polygons have been mapped in accordance with the NFI mapping rules.

	<p>(f) 2010 AP Update - These are additional areas of woodland identified whilst working through the comparison and remote sensing analyses</p> <p>(g) Get mapping 1999-2009 - These are areas of low density confirmed as areas of previously higher density woodland by reference to get mapping archive imagery.</p>
Woodland_T: Woodland type	<p>(a) NFI base map features have been attributed as 'woodland' or 'non-woodland'</p> <p>The woodland polygons represent the extent of mapped woodland 0.5 hectares or greater and the 'non-woodland' polygons represent open areas completely surrounded by woodland also 0.5 hectares or greater</p> <p>(b) NFI comparison features have been attributed as 'woodland' or 'low density'. The woodland polygons in this category, were identified as woodland that had been mapped by NIWT but missed by the NFI mapping exercise. The low 'density' polygons are areas that were mapped by NIWT but not mapped by NFI but investigation of the archive images shows a higher density than at present. These have been included for future monitoring.</p> <p>(c) The Supplied grant scheme polygons and supplied FC new planting polygons have been attributed as 'assumed woodland' as these areas have not been checked against the latest images and will be monitored in future updates and either updated to reflect forest type or removed from the dataset.</p>
Woodland Interpreted Forest Types	
Broadleaved	<p>The canopy of broadleaved woodland is generally more uneven than that of coniferous woodland being made up of rounded crowns but with variations according to species, age, height, and season. Boundaries with adjacent internal polygons are generally less clearly defined than with conifers and naturally occurring stands may grade into adjacent ones with no sharp division. Some coniferous trees may be present but greater than 80% of the area will consist of broadleaved trees.</p>
Conifer	<p>Coniferous woodland often occurs as large plantations with trees in regular rows and the stand edges may be regular and sharply defined. Some broadleaved trees may also be present but greater than 80% of the area will consist of conifers.</p>

<p>Felled</p>	<p>Areas of woodland where the trees have been harvested or felled. Stumps or felled trees may be visible and there may be long heaps of felling debris ('windrows'). Some standing trees within this limit may also be present but should be disregarded. This category should not be confused with Coppice. The areas concerned may also have been re-stocked but the new trees are not yet visible.</p>
<p>Ground prepared for new planting</p>	<p>Land in this category is area recently converted from some other land use to woodland and will show plough furrows or mounding but the new planting (if present) cannot yet be discerned</p>
<p>Mixed - mainly broadleaved</p>	<p>predominantly broadleaved The interpretation of Mixed woodland can be very difficult as it exhibits intermediate characteristics between Conifer and Broadleaved woodland. There can be several types of mixed woodland. A plantation of alternate rows of conifer and broadleaves may produce a 'striped' appearance. You may see conifer and broadleaves planted in blocks, and there may be general intersperse woodland. The proportion of the Broadleaves will be more than 50% of the area and less than 80%.</p>
<p>Mixed - mainly conifer</p>	<p>predominantly conifer The interpretation of Mixed woodland can be very difficult as it exhibits intermediate characteristics between Conifer and Broadleaved woodland. There can be several types of mixed woodland. A plantation of alternate rows of conifer and broadleaves may produce a 'striped' appearance. You may see conifer and broadleaves planted in blocks, and there may be general intersperse woodland. The proportion of the Conifer will be more than 50% of the area and less than 80%.</p>
<p>Young trees</p>	<p>Areas where planting is clearly visible but the trees cannot yet be allocated between Conifer and Broadleaved due to their immaturity. These areas can be on either land new to woodland or where a felled crop has been replaced.</p>

Coppice	The most important characteristic of coppice areas on aerial photographs is its very even, smooth appearance. The coppice area may be made up of a patchwork of different ages (heights) but all show this very even character. Areas recently cut may appear to have a very clear floor with little felling debris.
Coppice with standards	Some areas of coppice also include larger broadleaved trees set in the coppice matrix. These broadleaved trees, often oak, are known as standards and show very clearly over the even coppice as large rounded crowns. The distribution of the standards may also be fairly scattered with approximately 25 per ha.
Shrub	This category is intended to include areas that may possibly be woodland, where the growth is close to the ground and shows a rough character but no clear differentiation between Conifer and Broadleaved can yet be made. Areas being colonised by woody species may fall into this category. The cover will be at least 20%.
Uncertain	Where the interpreter is uncertain of the IFT/IOA to be used X will be designated. The rate of use of this category should decline over time as operators become more proficient and better at recognising IFT/IOAs. As part of the QA procedures X's will be checked and operators found using this code frequently will be subject to more intensive QA procedures and possibly more training.
Cloud or shadow	If cloud or shadow areas obscure woodland detail and it is difficult to allocate one of the above IFTs, then digitise a new boundary line feature around the area of uncertain forest type.
Low density	NFI comparison features have been attributed as 'woodland' or 'low density'. The woodland polygons in this category, were identified as woodland that had been mapped by NIWT but missed by the NFI mapping exercise. The low 'density' polygons are areas that were mapped by NIWT but not mapped by NFI but investigation of the archive images shows a higher density than at present. These have been included for future monitoring.

Assumed woodland	The Supplied grant scheme polygons and supplied FC new planting polygons have been attributed as 'assumed woodland' as these areas have not been checked against the latest images and will be monitored in future updates and either updated to reflect forest type or removed from the dataset.
Non-Woodland	
Interpreted open areas (IOA)	<p>Open water (W) Normally labelled within OSMM, areas of even colour</p> <p>Grass (Gs) A predominantly grassy area - may be agricultural or not.</p> <p>Agricultural land (Ag) May contain a cereal crop or pasture.</p> <p>Urban/Building (U) Buildings within woodland areas, may include gardens surrounding the building</p> <p>Forest road, track (Ro) Linear feature, often fairly straight with gentle bends or turning circles.</p> <p>River (Ri) Linear feature, depending on location can be fairly straight or meander through woodland.</p> <p>Power-line (L) Possible shadow evidence of poles, pylons or even the cable/lines.</p> <p>Quarry (Q) Show change in vegetation to geology, sand, slate, rock etc. Active quarries could have buildings, heavy plant tracks leading into the quarry.</p> <p>Bare (Ba) Bare ground/rock</p> <p>Wind farm (Wf) Possible shadow evidence of turbines, normally in groups</p> <p>Other vegetation (V) Not covered by the above, e.g. Gorse, Rhododendron, Bracken, Heather etc.</p>

For further information please contact the NFI GIS Manager

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