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## Woodland area, planting and restocking

Provisional data for the year to March 2004

This release contains provisional data for new woodland creation (new planting) and replanting of woodlands that have been felled (restocking), in the year to 31 March 2004. The figures cover all types of woodland, planted by both the Forestry Commission and other (non-FC) owners.

Using the new planting statistics for non-Forestry Commission owners, (together with Forestry Commission disposals data) estimates are made of the area of non-FC woodlands in Great Britain at 31 March 2004 by projecting forward results of the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.

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The main findings are:

- The estimated woodland area in Great Britain, at 31 March 2004, is 2.7 million hectares (11.9% of the surface area of GB). Of this, 2.0 million hectares is owned by private woodland owners and non-FC public sector bodies.
- Almost 12 thousand hectares of new woodland were created in Great Britain in the year to 31 March 2004.
- Most new planting is broadleaf species (over 9 thousand hectares, compared to almost 3 thousand hectares of coniferous species)
- Over 12 thousand hectares of land was restocked after felling in Great Britain in the year to 31 March 2004.

**Table 1: AREA OF WOODLAND 2003-04**

Most public sector woodland is owned and managed by the Forestry Commission. There is also woodland owned by local authorities, the Ministry of Defence, and other public sector bodies. In the following table all non-Forestry Commission public sector woodland and privately owned woodland is shown as 'non-FC'.

	thousands of hectares		
	Conifers	Broadleaves	Total Woodland
<b>Forestry Commission</b>			
England	154	52	205
Wales	98	11	110
Scotland	440	25	465
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>Non-FC</b>			
England	217	692	909
Wales	64	112	176
Scotland	611	254	865
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,950</b>
<b>Total</b>			
England	370	744	1,114
Wales	162	123	286
Scotland	1,051	280	1,330
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>2,730</b>

## Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2004. Figures are currently provisional.
2. Figures for non-FC woodland are based on data obtained from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland, but at present no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use. They include non-FC publicly owned woodland.
3. Broadleaves include coppice and coppice with standards.

**Table 2: NEW PLANTING 2003-04**

The table below shows the area of new woodland that has been created in the year to 31 March 2004.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Forestry Commission</b>				
Conifers	12	0	20	32
Broadleaves	46	0	93	139
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>Non-FC</b>				
Conifers	189	26	2,526	2,741
Broadleaves	4,367	443	4,177	8,987
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,556</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>6,703</b>	<b>11,728</b>
<b>All new planting</b>				
Conifers	201	26	2,546	2,773
Broadleaves	4,413	443	4,270	9,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,614</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>6,816</b>	<b>11,899</b>

Notes:

1. Non-FC woodlands figures are based on areas for which grants were paid during the year, together with an estimate of areas planted without grant aid.
2. The planting season lies both sides of 31 March, and the weather can cause planting to be advanced or delayed.
3. Includes woodland formed by natural regeneration
4. Figures are currently provisional.

**Table 3: RESTOCKING 2003-04**

The table below shows the area of restocking that took place in the year to 31 March 2004.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
<b>Forestry Commission</b>				
Conifers	965	1,133	4,663	6,761
Broadleaves	133	262	374	769
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,395</b>	<b>5,037</b>	<b>7,530</b>
<b>Non-FC</b>				
Conifers	328	222	2,775	3,325
Broadleaves	597	198	843	1,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>4,963</b>
<b>All restocking</b>				
Conifers	1,293	1,355	7,438	10,086
Broadleaves	730	460	1,217	2,407
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>1,815</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>12,493</b>

Notes: as above

## **Background**

### **Area of woodland:**

The area of Forestry Commission woodland is obtained from the FC's administrative systems.

The estimates for non-FC woodlands are based on results from the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and adjusted for new planting and sales of Forestry Commission woodland. At present, no adjustment is made for woodland converted to another land use.

The Forestry Commission has been carrying out national woodland surveys since 1924. The latest National Inventory of Woodland and Trees was completed in July 2000. Survey results are currently being published as a series of Inventory Reports and wallcharts for Scotland, England, Wales and Great Britain.

For further information regarding the Inventory contact:

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### **New planting and restocking:**

New planting is the creation of new areas of woodland. Restocking is the replanting of areas of woodland that have been felled. Both new planting and restocking can use planting/ seeding or natural regeneration. The figures here are for all types of woodland.

Information about Forestry Commission new planting and restocking comes from administrative systems. Non-FC information comes principally from the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS); the areas are those for which the *second* instalment of grant has been paid during the year – the second instalment is approved when woodland reaches a certain stage and density of growth, so this information corresponds approximately to the amount of new and restocked woodland created.

Local estimates for areas of planting and restocking which are not FC and which are not grant-aided are included for England, Scotland and Wales. These estimates are relatively small (around 700 hectares in total), and it has been assumed that all of this area is broadleaves.

### **National Statistics:**

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics visit [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).