

16 June 2005

Coverage

Great Britain

Theme

Agriculture, Fishing and
Forestry

Woodland area, planting and restocking

Provisional data for the year to March 2005.

This release contains provisional data for new woodland creation (new planting) and replanting of existing areas of woodland (restocking), in the year to 31 March 2005. 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 2005 by projecting forward results of the 1995-1999 National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.

The main findings are:

- The estimated woodland area in Great Britain, at 31 March 2005, is 2.74 million hectares (12.0% of the surface area of GB). Of this, 1.96 million hectares is owned by private woodland owners and non-FC public sector bodies.
- Around 12 thousand hectares of new woodland were created in Great Britain in the year to 31 March 2005.
- Most new planting is broadleaf species (over 9 thousand hectares, compared with around 2 thousand hectares of coniferous species)
- Around 14 thousand hectares of woodland was restocked in Great Britain in the year to 31 March 2005.

Issued by:

Economics & Statistics
Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

Enquiries:

Alister Henderson 0131 314 6337
statistics@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Statistician:

Sheila Ward 0131 314 6475

Website:

www.forestry.gov.uk/statistics

Table 1: AREA OF WOODLAND 2005

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
Forestry Commission			
England	153	52	205
Wales	97	12	109
Scotland	437	26	463
Great Britain	687	91	778
Non-FC			
England	217	698	915
Wales	64	113	177
Scotland	613	258	871
Great Britain	894	1,069	1,963
Total			
England	370	751	1,121
Wales	161	125	286
Scotland	1,050	284	1,334
Great Britain	1,581	1,159	2,741

Notes:

1. Areas as at 31 March 2005. 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 2004-05

The table below shows the area of new woodland that has been created in the year to 31 March 2005.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Forestry Commission				
Conifers	12	0	0	12
Broadleaves	34	0	35	69
Total	46	0	35	81
Non-FC				
Conifers	176	13	1,865	2,054
Broadleaves	5,098	521	3,782	9,401
Total	5,274	534	5,647	11,455
All new planting				
Conifers	188	13	1,865	2,066
Broadleaves	5,132	521	3,817	9,470
Total	5,320	534	5,682	11,536

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 colonisation/ regeneration
4. Figures are currently provisional.

Table 3: RESTOCKING 2004-05

The table below shows the area of restocking that took place in the year to 31 March 2005.

	hectares			
	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Forestry Commission				
Conifers	1,373	1,009	4,686	7,068
Broadleaves	231	333	597	1,161
Total	1,604	1,342	5,283	8,229
Non-FC				
Conifers	337	158	3,322	3,817
Broadleaves	605	112	871	1,588
Total	942	270	4,193	5,405
All restocking				
Conifers	1,710	1,167	8,008	10,885
Broadleaves	836	445	1,468	2,749
Total	2,546	1,612	9,476	13,634

Notes: as 1-4 above, and:

5. Restocking by natural regeneration in non-clearfell areas may be under-represented in the above table.

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.

For further information regarding the Inventory contact:

Justin Gilbert
Woodland Surveys
Forest Research
Northern Research Station
Roslin
Midlothian
EH25 9SY
Telephone: 0131 445 6996
Email: woodland.surveys@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

New planting and restocking:

New planting is the creation of new areas of woodland. Restocking is the replanting of existing areas of woodland. Both new planting and restocking can use planting/ seeding or natural colonisation/ 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) and the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS). For natural colonisation/ regeneration, 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.

The use of natural regeneration in non-clearfell systems is increasing substantially - particularly with regard to broadleaves in England. These systems are not satisfactorily represented by measuring 'restocking area' within any given year, and so broadleaf planting is likely to be under-reported in this First Release.

National Statistics:

This is a National Statistics publication. For more information about National Statistics visit www.statistics.gov.uk.