

Administrative Datasets Used for National Statistics:

National Forest Inventory woodland map

Name of National Statistic and contact:	The dataset contributes to statistics on woodland area, providing figures for England, Wales and Scotland in: • Woodland Area, Planting and Restocking. • Forestry Statistics. • Forestry Facts & Figures.
	 The dataset is also used in the following non-National Statistics outputs: National Forest Inventory Woodland Area Statistics. The source has been used to select the sample for the National Forest Inventory field survey and is being used to uprate the field survey results to national estimates. The source will be used for tables of forest area in international reporting Forest Resources Assessment and State of Europe's Forests, via the annual statistics in NS publications. The source is/ will be used in Forestry Commission corporate publications (including indicators produced by National Offices). Contact: Sheila Ward, e-mail Sheila.ward@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, tel 0300 067 5236; Alan Brewer, e-mail alan.brewer@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, tel 0300 067 5030
Name of contributing dataset and what it contributes:	The National Forest Inventory woodland map provides data on the area and location of woodland. Comparison with the woodland map produced for the previous National Inventory of Woodland and Trees also enables the identification of areas of observable permanent woodland loss.

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Brief description of data and dataset:	The National Forest Inventory woodland map is a digital map of all woodland of 0.5 hectares or more in Great Britain. The map and underlying GIS database are owned and maintained by the Inventory Forecasting and Operational Support (IFOS) unit. Data held includes area, location and interpreted forest type.
How the data is collected:	The data is compiled from aerial photography and satellite imagery of Great Britain. Areas of new planting (that are difficult to detect from remote sensing) are added using GIS data from grant schemes and the Forestry Commission subcompartment database.
	Data can be updated whenever new aerial photography, satellite imagery or new planting data are available. There is no formal audit after the data are passed to statisticians, but any surprising results are queried with IFOS.
Original purpose of dataset and any other publications from the data:	The National Forest Inventory is the Forestry Commission's principle strategic forest monitoring programme.
Security of the data – how it is managed:	The NFI map is published on the Forestry Commission website at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory Editing of the data is done through a bespoke software interface subject to the relevant 'permission' being granted. An edit/audit log is maintained. Access to the underlying oracle database is restricted to a small number of trained database administrators.
Is supporting metadata available for this dataset?:	Metadata are available on the Forestry Commission website at www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory
How do we get access?:	There is an agreement with the Inventory Forecasting and Operational Support (IFOS) unit to provide results from the NFI woodland map for input to annual statistical publications. The data are provided in spreadsheet format.

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Quality assurance:	IFOS undertake a range of validation checks during the production of the map. In addition, the Statistics team compare the summary data with the figures for previous years and any apparent inconsistencies are queried.
Additional information:	Further information on the NFI woodland map and on the National Forest Inventory in general are available at http://www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory . Downloadable GIS data and metadata are available at www.forestry.gov.uk/datadownload