

Forestry Statistics 2020

Sources: Environment

Release date:

24 September 2020

11.5 Sources: Environment

Introduction

The statistics presented in the Environment chapter of this release cover:

- populations of wild birds;
- public opinion on tree health;
- woodland types and habitats.

Data sources and methodology

Populations of wild birds

Population indices for wild birds are a framework indicator for sustainable development. The data published here are based on those published in the Wild bird populations in the UK, 1970-2018 statistical release (Defra, November 2019), rescaled here to give year 2000 = 100 instead of year 1970 = 100.

The index for woodland specialists was recalculated in 2007 to include 4 additional species; this affected the indices for total woodland birds and (to a lesser extent) all birds. A further change in 2015 resulted in the removal of one woodland specialist species from the index.

Public opinion on tree health

Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys have been run every 2 years by Forest Research (on behalf of the Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry, Welsh Government/ Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland Forest Service). The surveys cover public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues. A question asking about tree health was included for the first time in the 2013 surveys (Figure 5.2). Further information on the surveys is available in the Sources: Public Opinion of Forestry page.

Woodland types and habitats

Data on woodland types and habitats comes from National Forest Inventory (NFI) report on Woodland Ecological Condition Statistics, released in February 2020. The accompanying report on NFI Woodland Ecological Condition Scoring Methodology provides more detailed information on definitions and methodology.

References

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2019) "Wild bird populations in the UK, 1970-2018", National Statistics Release (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/wild-bird-populations-in-the-uk>).

NFI woodland ecological condition in Great Britain: Statistics (<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/what-our-woodlands-and-tree-cover-outside-woodlands-are-like-today-8211-nfi-inventory-reports-and-woodland-map-reports/nfi-woodland-ecological-condition/>)

Quality

Limited data are currently available on the environmental aspects of woodlands. Other than Wild Bird Populations, all of the statistics in this chapter are outside the scope of National Statistics, but are included here to give a broad indication of the woodland environment.

Revisions

Statistics on the environment obtained from others are subject to revision whenever the source data are revised.

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and can be found at:

www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/4355/FCrevisions.pdf.

Release schedule

For information on the release schedules of statistics produced by others, see relevant websites (above).

The next Public Opinion of Forestry survey is expected to run in early 2021, with results available in summer 2021.

"Forestry Statistics 2021" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2021" will be released on 30 September 2021.