

Forestry Statistics 2020

Sources: Public Opinion of Forestry

Release date:

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Introduction

Forest Research (on behalf of the Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry, Welsh Government/ Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland Forest Service). has conducted similar surveys of public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues every two years since 1995. Three separate surveys were undertaken in 2019; in Northern Ireland, in Wales and across the UK as a whole. A survey for Scotland was most recently carried out in 2017.

Some questions were asked in all of the surveys conducted in 2017/2019 and in the surveys undertaken in earlier years, but an increasing number are survey specific. Questions are asked on a variety of topics including, public awareness of forestry, woodland-based recreation and community involvement, woodfuel and the relationship between forestry and climate change. Tree health was introduced in the 2013/2014 surveys and continued in more recent surveys. Questions on urban trees were introduced in 2017 surveys.

Data Sources and Methodology

The survey results were obtained by placing questions in omnibus surveys run by private market research companies. The four surveys undertaken in 2019 (and 2017) achieved representative samples of:

- 2,174 adults across the UK;
- 1,013 adults across Scotland (in 2017);
- 1,001 adults across Wales;
- 1,000 adults across Northern Ireland.

All of the surveys use quota sampling to ensure that the sample selected is representative of the population, and results are weighted to produce estimates for the population as a whole.

Further information on the methodologies used for each survey are provided in the individual survey reports, available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/.

Quality

All results are subject to the effects of chance in sampling, so a range of uncertainty (confidence interval) is associated with results from the surveys. The confidence intervals take into account the effect of clustering, weighting and stratification in the survey designs. For questions asked to the whole UK sample in 2019 of 2,174, the range of uncertainty around any result should be no more than $\pm 3.2\%$, while for questions asked to around 1,000 respondents, the corresponding range of uncertainty should be no more than $\pm 4.6\%$.

Revisions

Results from the Public Opinion of Forestry (POF) Surveys were previously released in the separate POF reports for each country. The statistics are not normally revised.

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors are dealt with and can be found at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/documents/4355/FCrevisions.pdf.

Further information

Latest reports for UK and England (using a subset of the UK data set) and for Wales were published on 27 June 2019, along with the full sets of data tables.

The latest report for Northern Ireland was published on 28 March 2019, along with the full set of data tables.

The latest report for Scotland was published on 13 July 2017, along with the full set of data tables.

Reports and data tables (including results for previous surveys) are available at www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/statistics/statistics-by-topic/public-opinion-of-forestry/.

Release schedule

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