

Forestry Statistics 2022

Sources: Social

Release date:

29 September 2022

Coverage:

United Kingdom

Geographical breakdown:

None

Issued by: Forest Research, Northern Research Station,
Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9SY

Enquiries: statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk

Statistician: Simon Maxwell, 0300 067 5997

Website: www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics/



The Research Agency of the
Forestry Commission

Forest Research is the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission and is the leading UK organisation engaged in forestry and tree related research.

The Agency aims to support and enhance forestry and its role in sustainable development by providing innovative, high quality scientific research, technical support and consultancy services.

11.7 Sources: Social

Introduction

The data presented in the Social chapter of Forestry Statistics 2022 are based on general population surveys of individuals. This approach is employed for the People and Nature Surveys that run in Scotland and in England, the National Survey for Wales and the Public Opinion of Forestry surveys. (Tables 6.1 to 6.5).

Data Sources and Methodology

Household surveys

The information shown in Table 6.1 has been obtained from the following general population household surveys.

- Scottish Recreation Survey (to 2012)
- Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey (2011, 2014)
- Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (England 2009/10 onwards)
- Scotland's People and Nature Survey (2013 and 2017/18)

The [Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment](#) has also been used to provide information on visitor characteristics in table 6.2. The [People and Nature Survey](#) has now replaced the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment.

Scotland's People and Nature Survey has replaced the Scottish Recreation Survey. Further information on both surveys are available at [the NatureScot website](#).

The [National Survey for Wales](#) has replaced the Welsh Outdoor Recreation Survey and provides statistics on visitor characteristics (Table 6.3).

Public Opinion of Forestry Surveys have been run, usually every 2 years, by Forest Research on behalf of the Forestry Commission/Forestry England/Defra, Scottish

Forestry, Welsh Government/ Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Forest Service. The surveys cover public attitudes to forestry and forestry-related issues, including visits to woodland (Tables 6.4 to 6.5 and Figure 6.1).

Quality

It is notable from Table 6.1 that different surveys have provided some quite different estimates of the aggregate number of visits to woodlands. It is likely that differences in survey design and methodology have contributed to a considerable proportion of the differences in results between these surveys. As the scope of the surveys has evolved over time, the figures in Table 6.1 should not be interpreted as time trends but instead as separate results from each survey.

In common with all sample based surveys, the results from each survey are subject to the effects of chance, depending on the particular survey method used and the sample achieved, thus confidence limits apply to all results from these surveys. For example, the range of uncertainty around the estimated 357 million visits to woodland in England (by English residents) in 2012, should be within $\pm 8\%$, i.e. the true figure is likely to be between around 328 and 385 million.

Technical reports, providing further information on household surveys run or commissioned by other organisations, are available from relevant websites (see above).

Revisions

All of the statistics in the Social chapter have been previously released in other publications. Figures for earlier years have not been revised from those published in Forestry Statistics 2021.

Our revisions policy sets out how revisions and errors to these statistics are dealt with, and is available on our [Quality of Official Statistics web page](#).

Further information

Further information is available from the Forest Research website on the [social statistics](#) and the [Public Opinion of Forestry](#) pages.

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 2023, with results available in summer 2023.

"Forestry Statistics 2023" and "Forestry Facts & Figures 2023" will be released on 28 September 2023.

Alice Holt Lodge

Farnham
Surrey, GU10 4LH, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5600**

**Northern Research
Station**

Roslin
Midlothian, EH25 9SY, UK
Tel: **0300 067 5900**

**Forest Research in
Wales**

Environment Centre
Wales
Deiniol Road, Bangor
Gwynedd, LL57 2UW,
UK
Tel: **0300 067 5774**

info@forestresearch.gov.uk

www.forestresearch.gov.uk

Forest Research will consider all requests to make the content of our documents available in alternative formats.

Please send any such requests to: research.info@forestresearch.gov.uk

© Crown copyright 2022