

Forestry Facts & Figures 2025

A summary of statistics
about woodland and
forestry in the UK

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- Public sector = Forestry England (FE), Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and Northern Ireland Forest Service (FS).
Private sector = all other woodland, including some other publicly owned woodland.
- ▲ = Conifers ● = Broadleaves
- 1 ha = 1 hectare (approximately 2.47 acres).
- Figures in the tables are individually rounded, so the constituent items may not sum to the total given.
- One green tonne is equivalent to approximately 0.98 m³ underbark softwood or 0.88 m³ underbark hardwood, and to approximately 1.22 m³ overbark standing softwood or 1.11 m³ overbark standing hardwood.

Woodland area

3,286,000

hectares of
UK woodland

Public sector (000 ha)



England	144	71	214
Wales	89	26	115
Scotland	410	58	468
Northern Ireland	53	9	62
UK	697	163	860

Private sector (000 ha)

England	162	968	1130
Wales	50	148	198
Scotland	658	383	1041
Northern Ireland	9	48	57
UK	879	1547	2427

All woodland (000 ha)

England	306	1039	1345
Wales	139	174	313
Scotland	1068	441	1510
Northern Ireland	62	56	119
UK	1576	1710	3286

Areas as at 31 March 2025.

Woodland cover

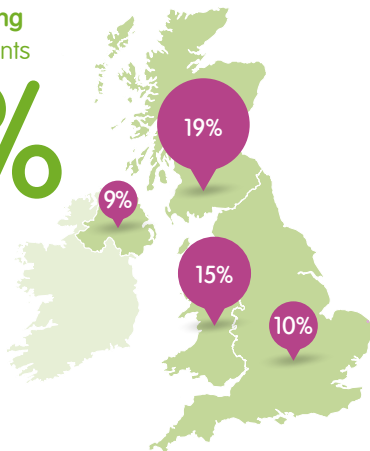
- 
- Public sector
 - Private sector

Includes woodland cover over 2 ha.
For more information on the
National Forest Inventory, see
forestresearch.gov.uk/nfi

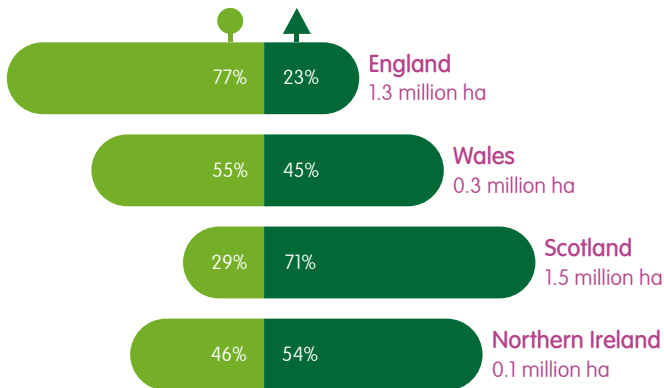
Woodland area is **increasing**
in the UK and now represents

13.5%

of total land area



Broadleaves account for just over **one-half** of the woodland area in the UK, but the proportion varies in each country.



An aerial photograph of a dense forest, showing a vast expanse of trees with varying shades of green, from deep forest green to bright lime green, indicating different tree species and canopy heights. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, mosaic-like appearance from above.

1.44 million hectares of woodland in the UK
are **FSC/PEFC certified**

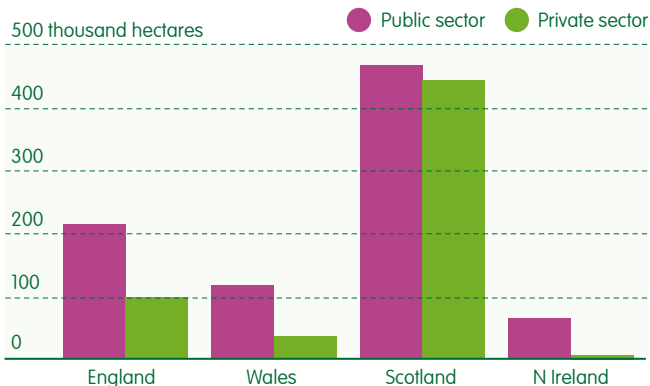
Certified woodland area

44%

UK woodland area certified
to FSC/PEFC schemes*

100%
Public sector

24%
Private sector



*FSC = Forest Stewardship Council; PEFC = Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

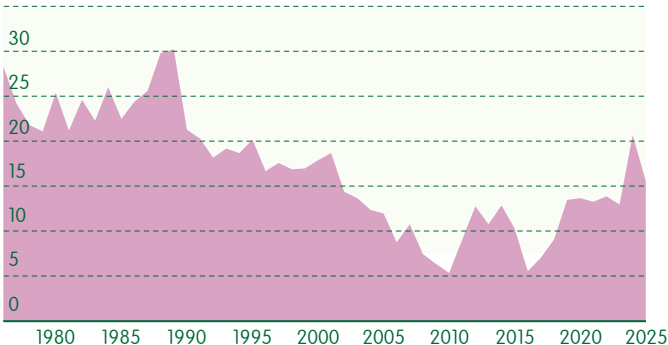
New planting

15,580













hectares of **new woodland** were created in the UK in 2024/25

New planting from 1976 to 2025

35 thousand hectares



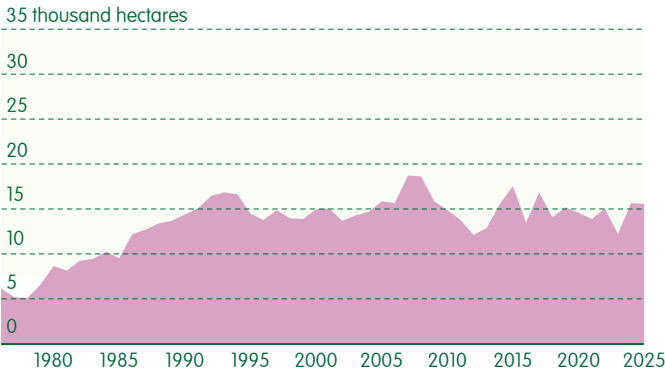
New planting by country (000 ha)

	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		Total
											 
2021	0.2	1.9	0.1	0.2	6.9	3.7	0.1	0.2	7.3	6.0	13.3
2022	0.3	2.0	0.2	0.4	6.3	4.1	0.1	0.4	6.9	7.0	13.9
2023	0.3	2.9	0.5	0.7	5.5	2.7	0.1	0.4	6.3	6.6	13.0
2024	0.4	4.1	0.3	0.4	8.7	6.3	0.0	0.4	9.5	11.2	20.7
2025	0.7	5.1	0.3	0.6	4.6	3.9	0.1	0.4	5.6	9.9	15.6

Publicly funded restocking

15,820 hectares of publicly funded **restocking** were reported in the UK in 2024/25

Restocking from 1976 to 2025



Restocking by country (000 ha)

	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		Total	
	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●
2021	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.7	8.0	1.2	0.6	0.0	11.5	2.6	14.1	
2022	2.3	0.8	0.9	0.5	8.3	1.6	0.8	0.0	12.4	2.9	15.3	
2023	2.0	0.7	1.1	0.3	6.2	1.3	0.8	0.1	10.1	2.3	12.4	
2024	2.4	1.1	1.3	0.3	7.9	2.2	0.7	0.0	12.3	3.6	15.9	
2025	2.4	1.3	1.2	0.3	7.6	2.4	0.6	0.0	11.9	4.0	15.8	

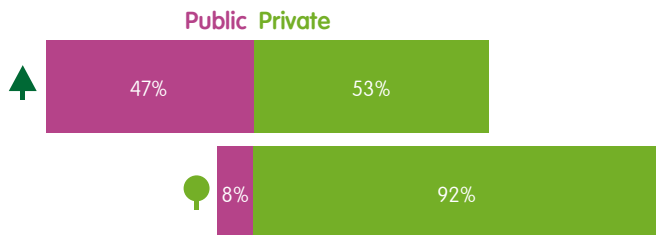
There was a **25% decrease** in new planting and a **slight decrease** in restocking in the UK in 2024/25



Timber and wood products

UK wood production

53% of the softwood produced in 2024 came from **private sector** forests



Wood production

Softwood

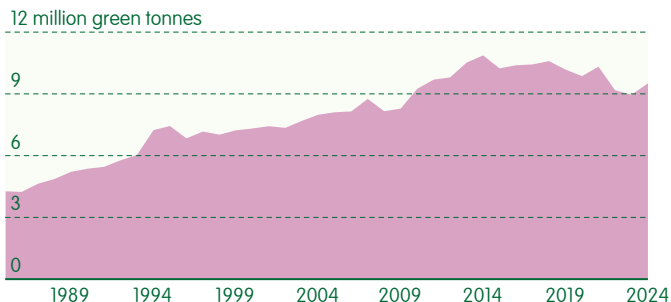
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Public sector	4626	4019	3709	3972	4613
Private sector	5437	6407	5484	5104	5249
Total	10 062	10 426	9193	9076	9862

Hardwood

Public sector	87	96	90	86	69
Private sector	742	727	745	730	745
Total	829	823	834	816	814

UK deliveries

Softwood deliveries from 1985 to 2024

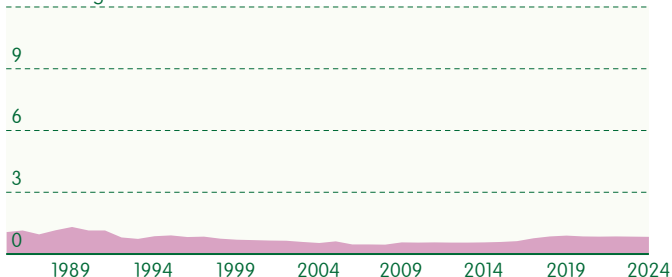


(000 green tonnes)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawmills	5837	6264	5452	4845	5461
Pulpmills	383	399	403	413	350
Wood-based panels	1248	1508	1229	1389	1282
Fencing	258	247	232	224	224
Woodfuel	1850	1600	1600	1700	1700
Other	188	176	176	209	209
Roundwood exports	140	168	132	207	324
Total	9903	10 362	9224	8986	9550

Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of softwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood and includes estimated roundwood for biomass energy. 'Other' includes shavings and poles.

Hardwood deliveries from 1985 to 2024

12 million green tonnes



(000 green tonnes)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawmills	62	60	59	53	59
Pulpmills	0	0	0	0	0
Wood-based panels	2	3	5	0	0
Woodfuel	700	700	700	700	700
Other	66	60	70	63	55
Total	829	823	834	816	814

Figures are based on processing industries' purchases of hardwood grown in the UK and estimates for woodfuel and other uses. Woodfuel reported here is derived from stemwood and includes estimated roundwood use for biomass energy. 'Other' includes round fencing and roundwood exports.

UK production of wood products

Wood products in 2024

Sawnwood

3.3 million m³



Paper & paperboard

3.3 million tonnes



Wood-based panels

2.9 million m³



	Sawnwood (000 m ³)	Wood-based panels (000 m ³)	Paper & paperboard (000 tonnes)
2020	3348	2952	3631
2021	3611	3486	3642
2022	3145	3110	3456
2023	2908	2984	3223
2024	3254	2913	3287

Total production from UK mills, including products using imported material. Excludes other wood products (e.g. fuelwood and roundwood fencing), roundwood, and intermediate products (e.g. sawmill, pulp, and recovered paper).

There was a **12% increase** in sawnwood and a **2% decrease** in wood-based panels production between 2023 and 2024



Imports and exports



\$9.4 billion

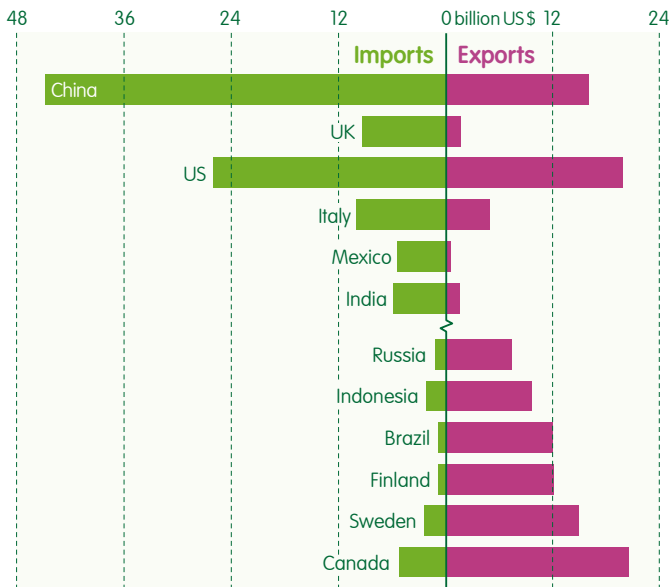
imported to UK

\$1.5 billion

exported from UK



Largest net importers and exporters of forest products in 2023



2nd The UK was the 2nd largest **net importer** of forest products in the world in 2023

Values are expressed in US dollars. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2025).

Volume (000 m³)

Imports	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawnwood	7218	8159	6294	6210	6313
Other wood	15 571	15 111	12 895	11 072	15 696
Wood-based panels	3267	3794	3230	3183	3134
Pulp & paper (000 t)	5329	5114	5452	4709	5076
Exports					
Wood (sawn & other)	538	581	502	753	901
Wood-based panels	389	321	370	311	348
Pulp & paper (000 t)	4617	5352	4861	4667	4531

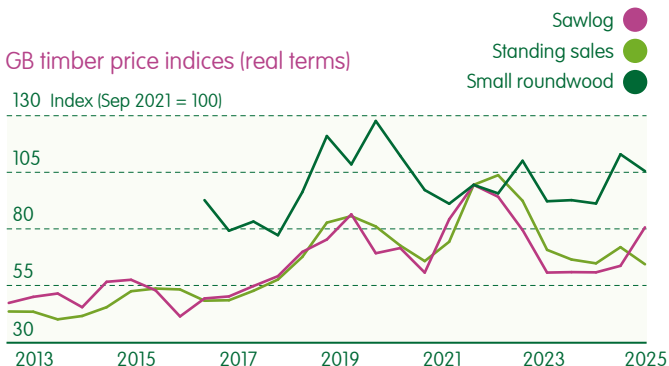
Value (£ million)

Imports	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sawnwood	1587	2668	2247	1820	1817
Other wood	1537	1467	1605	1502	1915
Wood-based panels	970	1313	1583	1367	1247
Pulp & paper	3388	3088	5209	4322	4256
Exports					
Wood (sawn & other)	99	141	143	145	158
Wood-based panels	114	158	172	138	136
Pulp & paper	1336	1674	1923	1460	1470

'Other wood' includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, residues, and wood pellets. 'Pulp and paper' includes paperboards and recovered waste paper. 'Wood-based panels' includes veneer sheets. 'Sawnwood' includes sleepers.

Economics

GB timber price indices (real terms)



Index in real terms. Source: Timber Price Indices: Data March 2012 to March 2025.

Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing (£ million) in 2023




£0.88 billion
Forestry

£1.93 billion
Primary wood processing



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Forestry	724	866	738	1043	875
Primary wood processing	1562	1494	2047	2381	1928
Sawmilling	496	456	782	703	611
Panels	379	396	526	615	569
Pulp & paper	687	642	739	1063	748

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries.
 Source: Annual Business Survey (2025), Office for National Statistics.



The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index was **1% lower** in real terms in the year to March 2025, compared with the previous year

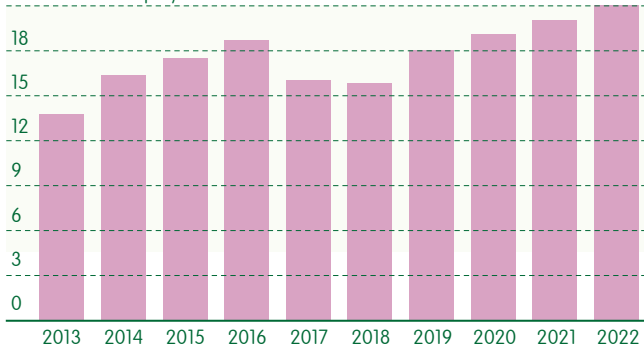


Around **21,000 full-time equivalent staff** were employed by the forestry sector in the UK in 2022

Employment

UK forestry employment

21 thousand employees



7300 UK forestry employment has increased by 7300 in 9 years

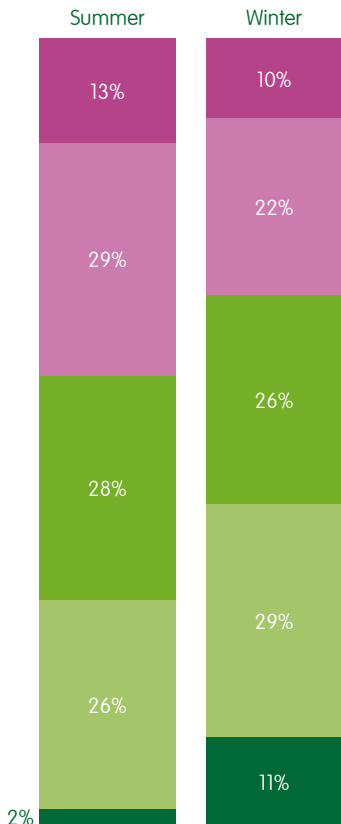
Employment in UK forestry and wood processing

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Forestry	15 800	18 000	19 100	20 000	21 000
Sawmilling	10 000	7000	8000	8000	[c]
Panels	6000	5000	5000	5000	[c]

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey, Nomis Official Census and Labour Market Statistics, Office for National Statistics. Note: [c] = confidential.

Woodland visits

Frequency of visitors to UK woodland



70%

of the UK population
visited woodlands
in the last few years
(surveyed in 2025).

Several times per week
Several times per month
About once a month
Less often
Never

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (2025). Results for Summer and Winter are based on those who had visited woodlands in the last few years. Results for those who answered 'don't know' are not presented.

In 2025, 76% of the UK public agreed that a lot more trees should be planted in response to the threat of **climate change**

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (2025).



International comparisons

International forest area

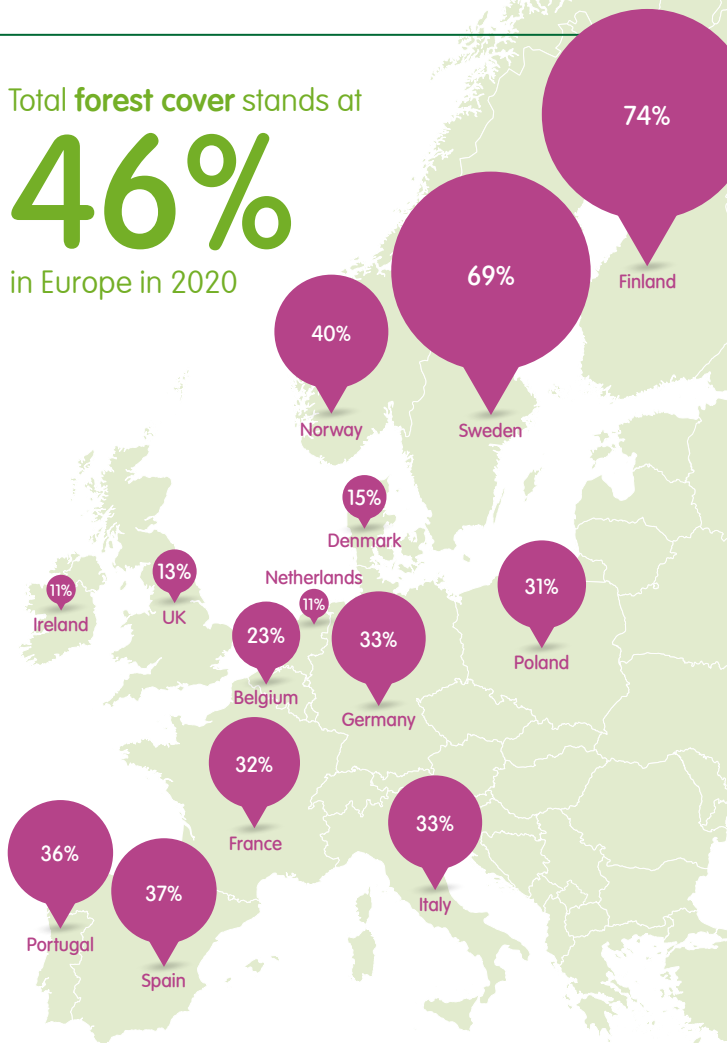
	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest cover (%)
Europe	1017	2213	46
UK	3	24	13
EU	159	400	40
Denmark	1	4	15
Finland	22	30	74
France	17	55	32
Germany	11	35	33
Ireland	1	7	11
Italy	10	29	33
Spain	19	50	37
Sweden	28	41	69
Other EU	51	148	34
Russia	815	1638	50
Africa	637	2989	21
Asia	623	3109	20
North & Central America	753	2133	35
Oceania	185	849	22
South America	844	1746	48
World	4059	13 039	31

EU excludes the UK. Cyprus is included in EU total but is part of FAO's Asia region. These figures are outside the scope of Official Statistics. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2025).

Total **forest cover** stands at

46%

in Europe in 2020



International wood removals

4 billion m³

of wood was removed from forests
in the world in 2023, of which:

**Industrial
roundwood**
2 billion m³



Woodfuel
2 billion m³

(million m ³)	Industrial roundwood	Woodfuel	Total roundwood
Europe	578	176	754
UK	7	2	10
EU	353	128	481
Africa	79	741	820
Asia	441	690	1132
North & Central America	489	150	640
Oceania	66	10	76
South America	270	188	458
World	1925	1961	3886

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2025).

International production of wood products

Production of wood products from world forests in 2023 was:

Sawnwood
445 million m³



Wood-based panels
381 million m³



Paper & paperboard
401 million tonnes



	Sawnwood (million m ³)		Wood-based panels (million m ³)		Paper & paperboard (million t)	
	● Production	○ Apparent consumption	● Production	○ Apparent consumption	● Production	○ Apparent consumption
Europe	156	113	86	83	88	79
UK	3	9	3	6	3	6
EU	102	77	56	53	72	61
Africa	12	16	4	7	3	8
Asia	122	164	227	219	214	219
North & Central America	121	121	44	53	75	75
Oceania	9	8	3	3	3	3
South America	25	18	18	15	16	16
World	445	441	381	381	401	401

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2025).

In 2025, 85% of the UK public agreed that **forests and woodlands are important places for wildlife**

Source: UK Public Opinion of Forestry Survey (2025).



Environment

Woodland type

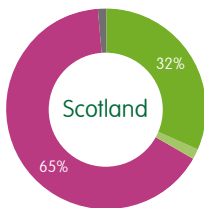
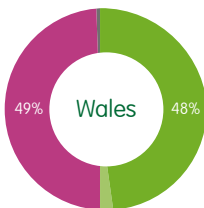
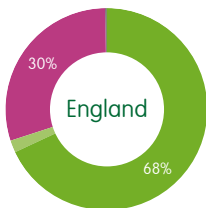
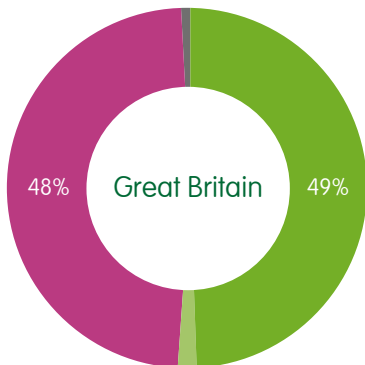
Native trees account for around **one-half** of total woodland area in Great Britain, but this varies in each country.

Native

Near native & fragments

Non-native

Not determinable



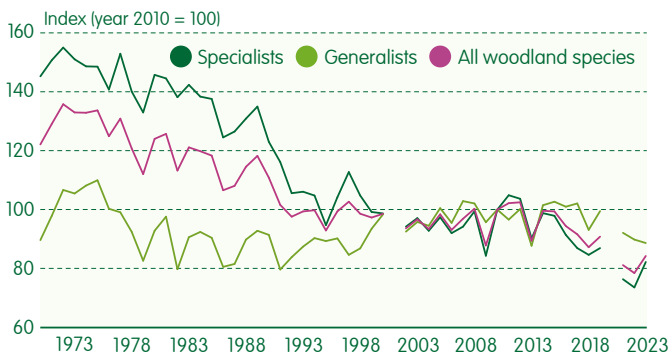
The total area of native woodland in Great Britain is estimated to be around

1.5 million hectares

Source: National Forest Inventory (2020).

Woodland bird populations

The woodland bird population has **fallen by 31%** since 1970



Source: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, British Trust for Ornithology (2025). Data for 2001 and 2020 are not available.

Carbon

The carbon stored in UK forest **soils** accounts for over two-thirds of forest carbon stock.

Soil
Living trees
Deadwood & litter



Carbon stock in UK forests is estimated to have increased from around **3.2 billion tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent in 1990 to **4.1 billion tonnes** of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2025.



Projected carbon sequestration from
registered Woodland Carbon Code
projects* **increased by 8%** between
between March 2024 and March 2025

woodlandcarboncode.org.uk

*For projects validated (including verified) and awaiting validation.

Forestry Facts and Figures is an annual summary of forestry statistics compiled by Forest Research on behalf of the forestry authorities in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

The full 2025 publication, including details of the sources used and downloadable spreadsheets of data, can be found online at **www.forestresearch.gov.uk/statistics**

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as Accredited Official Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics. For more information visit **www.statistics.gov.uk**

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