

Forestry Facts & Figures 2026

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

3,298,000

hectares of
UK woodland

Public sector (000 ha)



England	144	71	215
Wales	89	26	115
Scotland	411	58	469
Northern Ireland	53	9	62
UK	697	164	861

Private sector (000 ha)

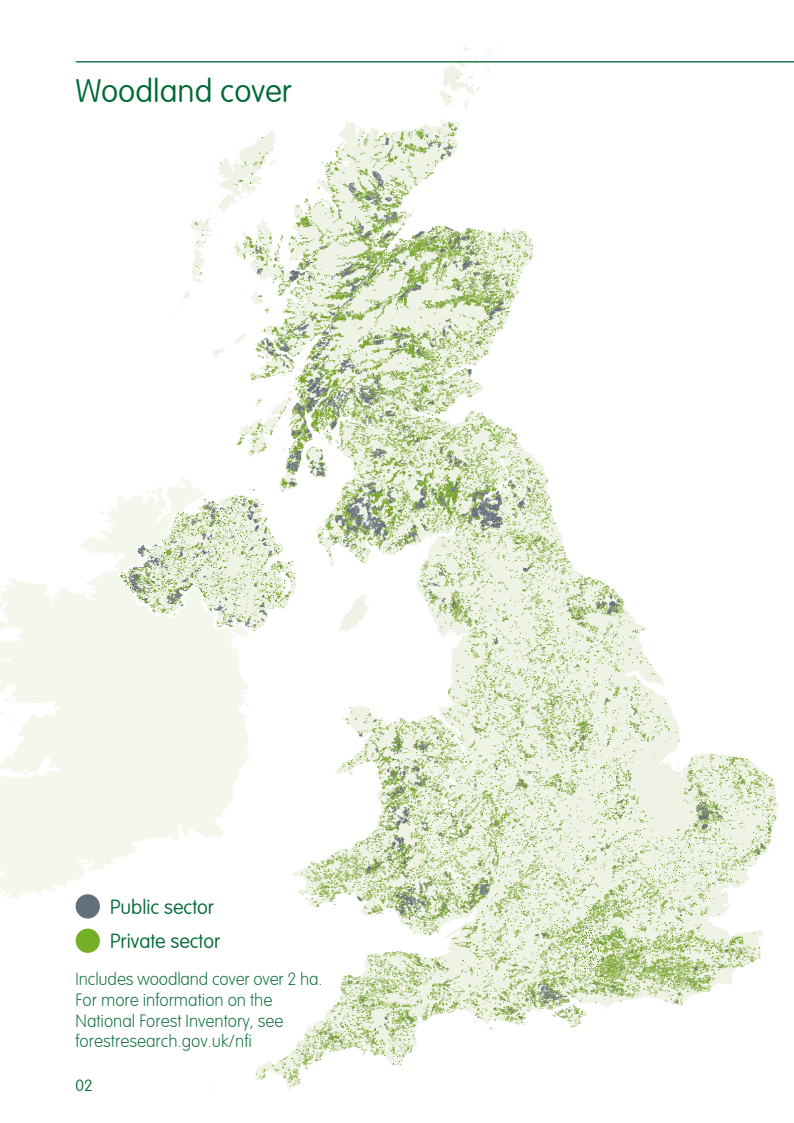
England	163	970	1132
Wales	51	149	199
Scotland	663	386	1049
Northern Ireland	9	48	57
UK	885	1552	2437

All woodland (000 ha)

England	306	1041	1347
Wales	140	174	314
Scotland	1074	444	1518
Northern Ireland	62	57	119
UK	1582	1716	3298

Areas as at 31 March 2026.

Woodland cover

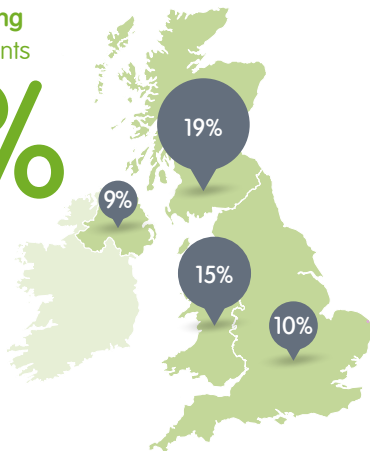
- 
- Public sector
 - Private sector

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

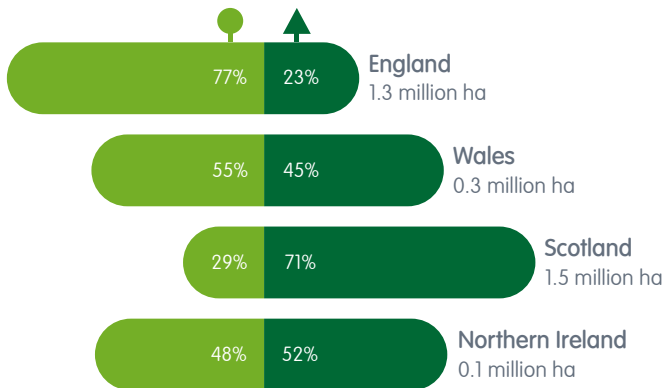
Woodland area is **increasing**
in the UK and now represents

13.6%

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 forest. The trees are mostly green, with some yellow and brown patches, suggesting autumn or a mix of tree species. The forest is dense, with a clear path or clearing visible in the lower left.

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

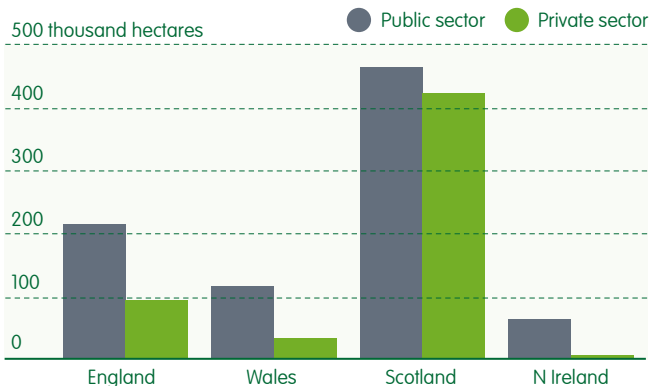
Certified woodland area

43%

UK woodland area certified
to FSC/PEFC schemes*

100%
Public sector

23%
Private sector



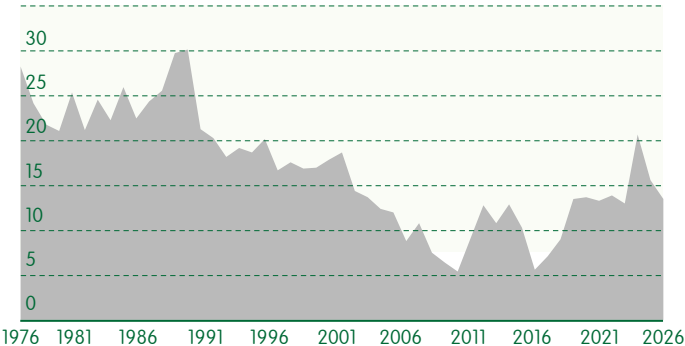
*FSC = Forest Stewardship Council; PEFC = Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

New planting

13,460 hectares of new woodland were created in the UK in 2025/26

New planting from 1976 to 2026

35 thousand hectares



New planting by country (000 ha)

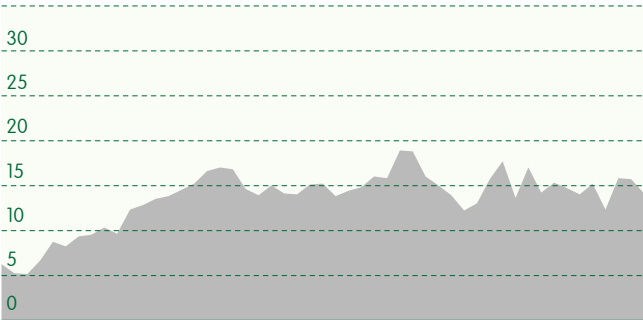
	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		Total	
	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●
2022	0.3	2.0	0.2	0.4	6.3	4.1	0.1	0.4	6.9	7.0	13.9	
2023	0.3	2.9	0.5	0.7	5.5	2.7	0.1	0.4	6.3	6.6	13.0	
2024	0.4	4.2	0.3	0.4	8.7	6.3	0.0	0.4	9.5	11.2	20.7	
2025	0.7	5.1	0.3	0.6	4.6	3.9	0.1	0.4	5.6	9.9	15.6	
2026	0.7	4.6	0.3	0.4	3.9	3.3	0.0	0.3	4.9	8.5	13.5	

Publicly funded restocking

14,210 hectares of publicly funded **restocking** were reported in the UK in 2025/26

Restocking from 1976 to 2026

35 thousand hectares



1976 1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016 2021 2026

Restocking by country (000 ha)

	England		Wales		Scotland		NIreland		UK		Total	
	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●
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	0.2	7.6	2.4	0.6	0.0	11.9	3.9	15.8	
2026	2.0	0.8	1.0	0.2	7.7	1.8	0.6	0.0	11.3	2.9	14.2	

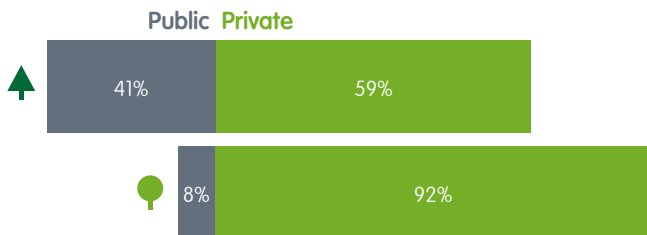


There was a **14% decrease** in new planting
and a **10% decrease** in restocking in the
UK in 2025/26

Timber and wood products

UK wood production

59% of the softwood produced in 2025 came from **private sector** forests



Wood production

Softwood

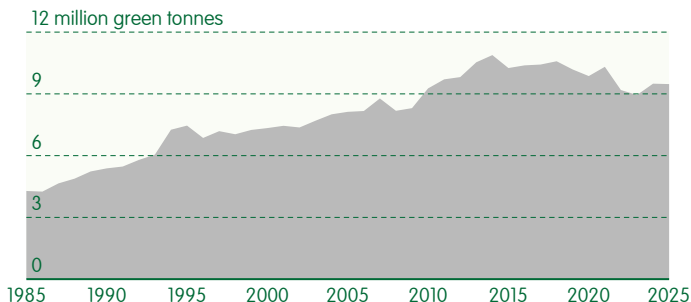
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Public sector	4019	3709	3972	4613	4032
Private sector	6407	5484	5124	5278	5908
Total	10 426	9193	9096	9891	9940

Hardwood

Public sector	96	90	86	69	68
Private sector	726	744	730	754	823
Total	822	834	815	822	892

UK deliveries

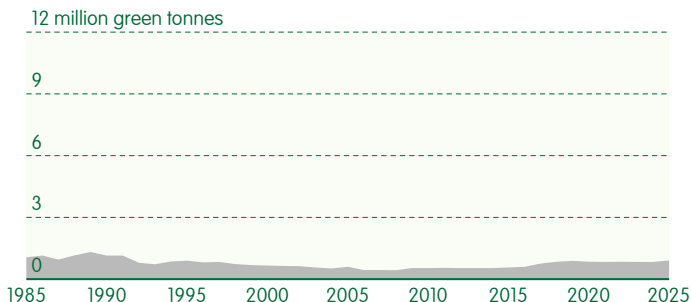
Softwood deliveries from 1985 to 2025



(000 green tonnes)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sawmills	6237	5423	4819	5426	5390
Pulpmills	399	403	413	350	335
Wood-based panels	1508	1229	1389	1282	1391
Fencing	247	232	224	224	174
Woodfuel	1600	1600	1700	1700	1700
Other	176	176	209	209	209
Roundwood exports	168	132	207	324	292
Total	10 334	9195	8961	9515	9491

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 2025



(000 green tonnes)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sawmills	59	58	52	58	59
Wood-based panels	3	5	0	0	1
Woodfuel	700	700	700	700	700
Other	60	70	63	64	132
Total	822	834	815	822	892

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 2025

Sawnwood

3.3 million m³



Paper & paperboard

3.2 million tonnes



Wood-based panels

3.1 million m³

	Sawnwood (000 m ³)	Wood-based panels (000 m ³)	Paper & paperboard (000 tonnes)
2021	3595	3486	3642
2022	3131	3110	3456
2023	2895	2984	3223
2024	3236	2913	3287
2025	3321	3079	3175

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 **3% increase** in sawnwood and a **6% increase** in wood-based panels production between 2024 and 2025



Imports and exports

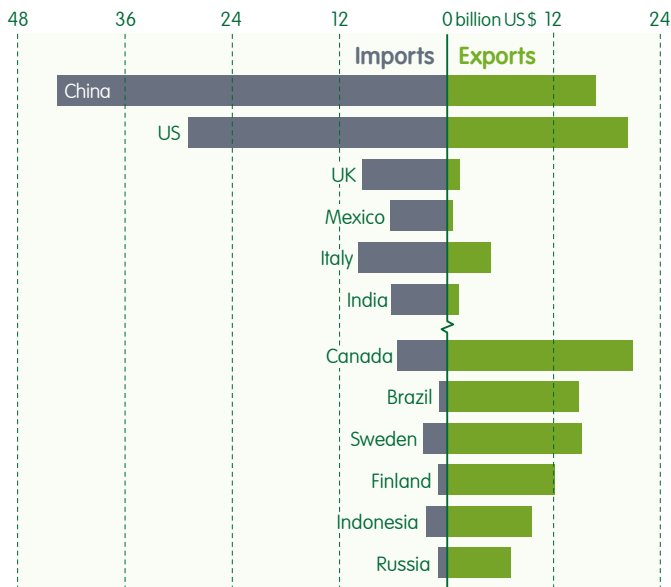


\$9.5 billion
imported to UK

\$1.4 billion
exported from UK



Largest net importers and exporters of forest products in 2024



3rd The UK was the 3rd largest **net importer** of forest products in the world in 2024

Values are expressed in US dollars. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2026).

Volume (000 m³)

Imports

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sawnwood	8159	6294	6210	6243	6231

Pellets & other wood	15 111	12 914	11 124	15 736	16 273
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Wood-based panels	3794	3230	3143	3134	3363
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Pulp & paper (000 t)	5114	5452	4708	5005	4965
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Exports

Wood (sawn & other)	581	521	810	1154	1053
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Wood-based panels	321	370	294	324	324
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Pulp & paper (000 t)	5352	4861	4667	4530	4721
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Value (£ million)

Imports

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sawnwood	2668	2247	1820	1830	2028

Pellets & other wood	1467	1609	1506	1920	2002
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Wood-based panels	1313	1583	1370	1251	1164
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Pulp & paper	3088	5209	4322	4256	3943
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Exports

Wood (sawn & other)	139	142	145	158	172
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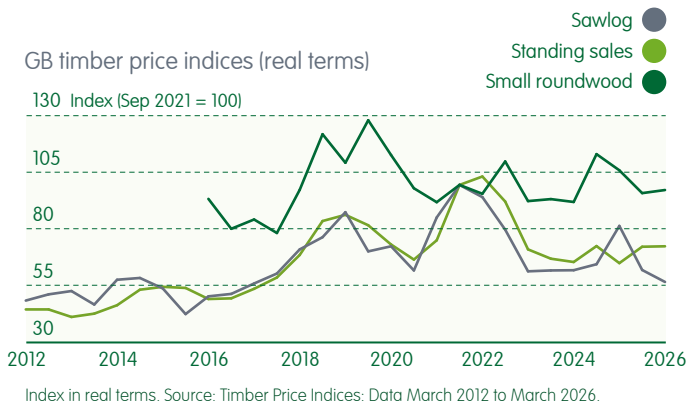
Wood-based panels	158	172	157	138	132
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Pulp & paper	1674	1923	1460	1468	1394
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'Other wood' includes roundwood, wood charcoal, chips, particles, and residues.

'Pulp and paper' includes paperboards and recovered waste paper. 'Wood-based panels' includes veneer sheets. 'Sawnwood' includes sleepers.

Economics



Gross value added in forestry and primary wood processing in 2024



£0.97 billion
Forestry

£2.43 billion
Primary wood
processing



(£ million)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Forestry	866	738	1043	778	967
Primary wood processing	1494	2047	2381	1916	2432
Sawmilling	456	782	703	603	794
Panels	396	526	615	569	662
Pulp & paper	642	739	1063	744	976

Excludes secondary wood processing and other wood-using industries.
Source: Annual Business Survey (2026), Office for National Statistics. *Estimated.



The Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index was **12% higher** in real terms in the year to March 2026, compared with the previous year

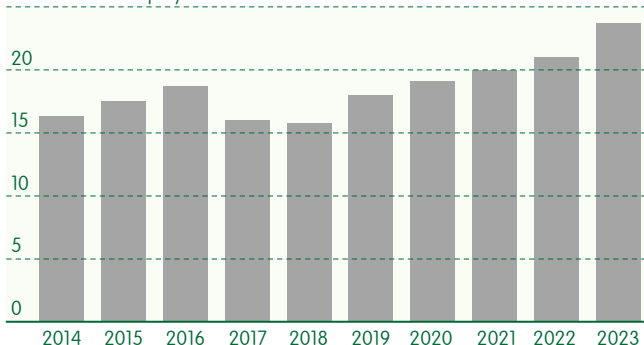
Around **23,700 full-time equivalent staff** were employed by the forestry sector in the UK in 2023



Employment

UK forestry employment

25 thousand employees



7400 UK forestry employment has increased by 7400 in 9 years

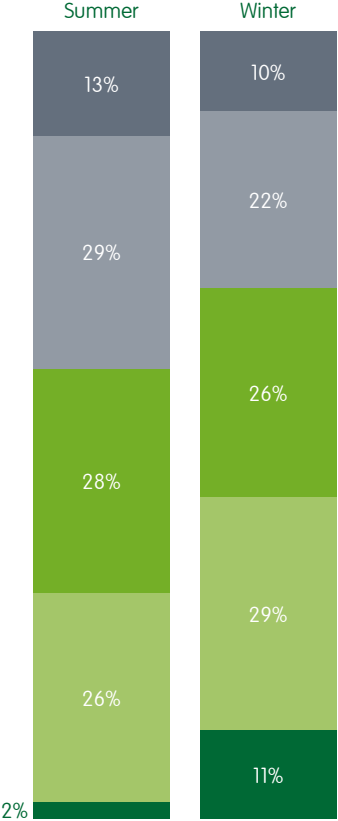
Employment in UK forestry and wood processing

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Forestry	18 000	19 100	20 000	21 000	23 700
Sawmilling	7000	8000	8000	[c]	[c]
Panels	5000	5000	5000	[c]	[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 exclude those that answered 'don't know'.

In 2025, 84% 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

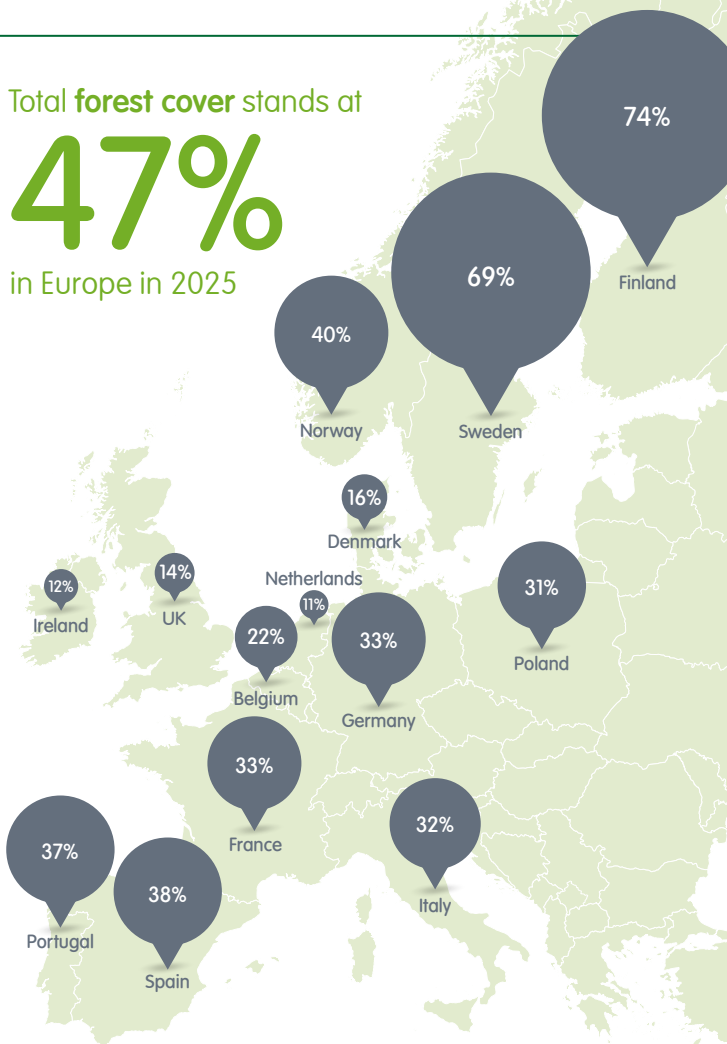
	Forest area (million ha)	Total land area (million ha)	Forest cover (%)
Europe	1039	2213	47
UK	3	24	14
EU	162	396	41
Denmark	1	4	16
Finland	23	30	74
France	18	55	32
Germany	11	35	33
Ireland	1	7	12
Italy	9	30	32
Spain	19	50	38
Sweden	28	41	69
Other EU	52	145	36
Russia	833	1638	51
Africa	649	2953	22
Asia	630	3110	20
North & Central America	776	2120	37
Oceania	184	850	22
South America	849	1746	49
World	4127	12 993	32

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 (2026).

Total **forest cover** stands at

47%

in Europe in 2025



International wood removals

4 billion m³

of wood was removed from forests
in the world in 2024, of which:

**Industrial
roundwood**
2 billion m³



Woodfuel
2 billion m³

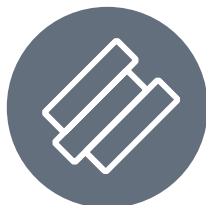
(million m ³)	Industrial roundwood	Woodfuel	Total roundwood
Europe	591	173	764
UK	8	2	10
EU	350	128	478
Africa	79	742	821
Asia	481	683	1163
North & Central America	450	149	599
Oceania	64	10	74
South America	290	188	478
World	1956	1949	3905

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2026).

International production of wood products

Production of wood products from world forests in 2024 was:

Sawnwood
445 million m³



Wood-based panels
393 million m³



Paper & paperboard
423 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	111	83	79	94	84
UK	3	9	3	6	3	7
EU	101	101	56	56	76	76
Africa	12	15	3	7	3	9
Asia	125	170	238	231	228	232
North & Central America	119	119	45	55	78	77
Oceania	8	7	3	3	3	3
South America	24	18	20	16	17	17
World	445	441	393	393	423	423

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (2026).

In 2025, 92% 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

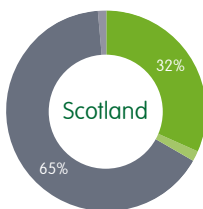
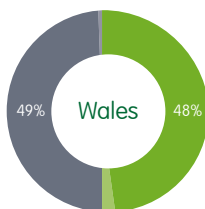
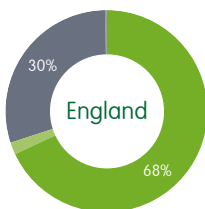
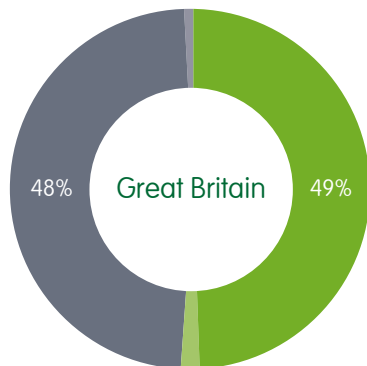
Native trees account for around **one-half** of total woodland area in Great Britain, but this varies in each country.

Native

Near native & fragments

Non-native

Not determinable



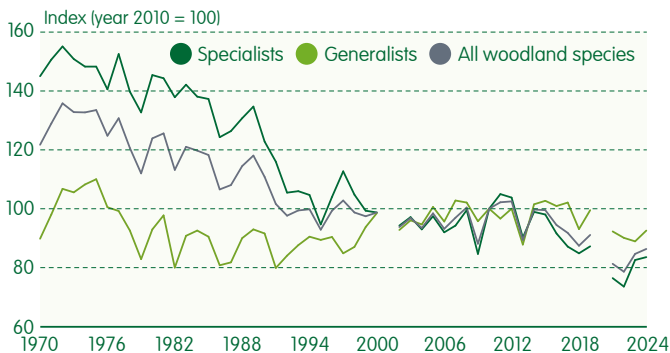
The total area of native woodland in Great Britain is estimated to be around

1.5 million hectares

Source: National Forest Inventory (2020).

Woodland bird populations

The woodland bird population has **fallen by 29%** 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.

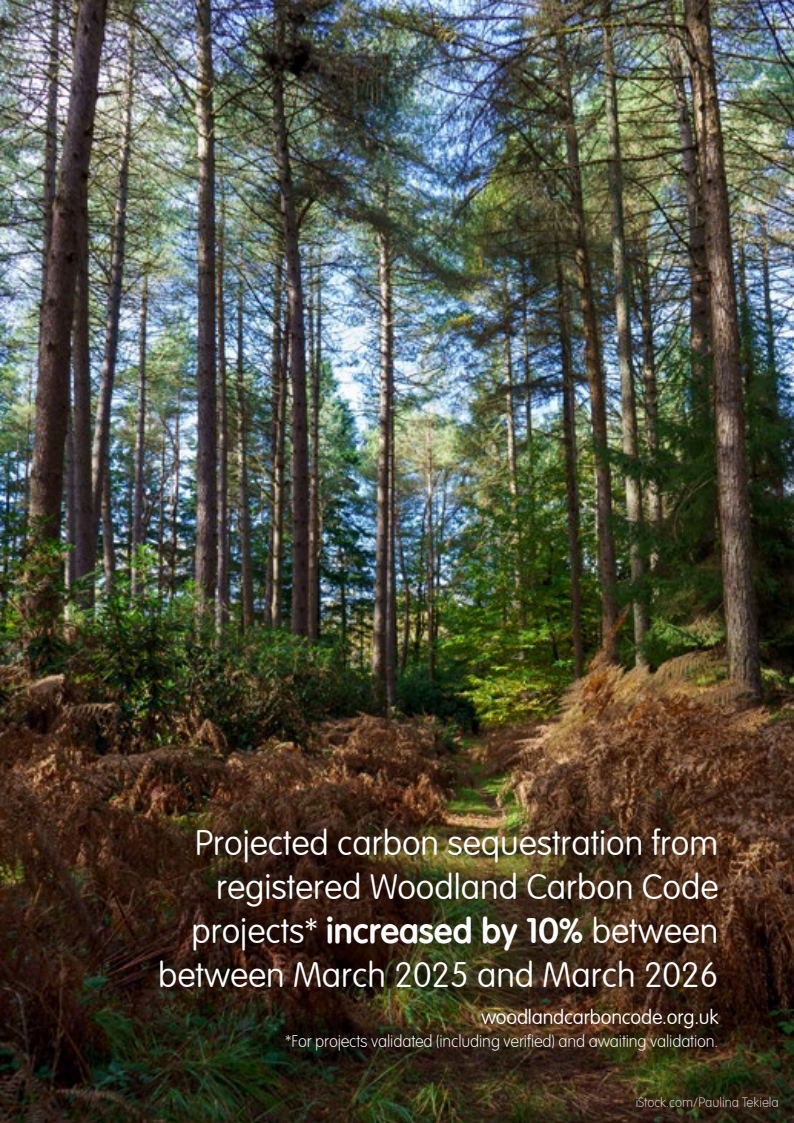
Carbon

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 10%** between
between March 2025 and March 2026

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 2026 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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