

Forestry Statistics 2026

Chapter 1b: Woodland Composition & Growing Stock

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Forestry Commission

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Introduction

This chapter contains information from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) on:

- Stocked woodland area by age class, for conifers and broadleaves;
- Stocked woodland area by principal species, for conifers and broadleaves; and
- Growing stock by principal species, for conifers and broadleaves.

Estimates relate to Great Britain, with breakdowns for England, Wales and Scotland. Figures on woodland area, certified woodland area, new planting, restocking, felling and canopy cover are provided in Chapter 1a: Woodland Area & Planting. Further information on the data sources and methodology used to compile the figures is provided in Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

The figures presented in this chapter are NFI estimates and are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. Public sector conifer estimates relate to 31 March 2025 and private sector conifer estimates to 31 March 2021. Broadleaf estimates relate to 31 March 2012; the reference dates differ because the underlying softwood and hardwood availability forecasts were produced at different times.

Stocked areas presented here differ from the woodland areas in Chapter 1a, as they exclude felled areas and (for private sector land) areas of integral open space.

Figures in tables have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown. Percentage changes quoted in this release are based on unrounded figures.

Key findings

The main findings are:

- Of the total coniferous woodland area in Great Britain, 58% was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger. A further 14% of stands were aged over 60 years.
- Around one-half (53%) of the broadleaved area was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger. More than one-quarter (28%) of stands were aged over 60 years.
- Sitka spruce accounts for around one-half (54%) of the conifer area in Great Britain, followed by Scots pine (17%) and larches (8%). Sitka spruce is less dominant in England, accounting for over one-quarter (28%) of the conifer area there.
- The most commonly occurring broadleaved species in Great Britain are birch (accounting for 18% of broadleaf woodland), oak (16%) and ash (12%). Birch is more dominant in Scotland, accounting for 43% of the broadleaf area there.
- Sitka spruce accounted for over one-half (56%) of the conifer growing stock, followed by Scots pine (14%) and larches (9%). This largely reflects the distribution of species by area.

1. National Forest Inventory

This section contains interim results from the National Forest Inventory (NFI). The statistics are based on field survey data combined with information from the NFI woodland map, which is a spatial representation of woodland areas in Great Britain.

For conifers, the data presented in this chapter are estimates at 31 March 2025 for the public sector and at 31 March 2021 for the private sector, published in the NFI [50-year forecast of softwood timber availability](#) report in 2026. For broadleaves, the data presented in this chapter are interim estimates at 31 March 2012, published in the NFI 50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability report in 2014. Both reports are available from the [National Forestry Inventory homepage](#).

The data presented in Tables 1.12 to 1.15 (and Figure 1.5a and 1.5b) relate to stocked areas. These differ from the woodland areas presented in earlier sections, as stocked areas exclude felled areas and (for private sector land) areas of integral open space.

The data on growing stock presented in Table 1.16 form the basis of the softwood availability forecast (Table 2.4a), and the data on growing stock presented in Table 1.17 form the basis for the hardwood availability forecast (Tables 2.4b).

Further information can be found on the [National Forest Inventory homepage](#).

2. Woodland area by age

2.1 Woodland area by age: conifers

Table 1.12 presents the area of conifers, broken down by age class, ownership and country.

58% of the coniferous woodland area in Great Britain was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger (Table 1.12c). A further 14% of stands were aged over 60 years.

Table 1.12a Stocked coniferous woodland area under public sector ownership by age class, Great Britain, 2025

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0 to 20	28	20	79	127
21 to 40	37	25	79	141
41 to 60	24	16	80	119
61 to 80	20	12	43	75
81 to 100	6	2	10	18
100+	1	0	4	5
All age classes	116	75	294	485

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.

2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2025.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.12b Stocked coniferous woodland area under private sector ownership by age class, Great Britain, 2021

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0 to 20	25	11	145	181
21 to 40	40	14	198	252
41 to 60	57	16	141	215
61 to 80	22	4	25	51
81 to 100	5	1	5	11
100+	4	0	2	7
All age classes	153	47	518	718

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.

4. Areas at 31 March 2021.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.12c Total stocked coniferous woodland area by age class, Great Britain

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0 to 20	53	31	224	308
21 to 40	77	39	277	393
41 to 60	82	32	221	335
61 to 80	42	17	68	126
81 to 100	11	3	15	29
100+	5	1	6	12
All age classes	269	122	812	1,203

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector estimates at 31 March 2025 and private sector estimates at 31 March 2021.
2. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
3. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
4. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

2.2 Woodland area by age: broadleaves

Table 1.13 presents the area of broadleaves, broken down by age class, ownership and country.

Around one-half (53%) of the broadleaved area was occupied by stands of 40 years old or younger (Table 1.13c). More than one-quarter (28%) of stands were aged over 60 years.

Table 1.13a Stocked broadleaf woodland area under public sector ownership by age class, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0-20	8	7	11	25
21-40	6	2	5	13
41-60	13	2	4	19
61-80	13	2	4	19
81-100	4	1	2	7
100+	10	3	5	18
All age classes	54	16	32	102

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.

3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.13b Stocked broadleaf woodland area under private sector ownership by age class, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0-20	217	30	84	332
21-40	227	33	84	344
41-60	145	22	58	225
61-80	117	15	22	154
81-100	92	11	9	112
100+	51	10	7	67
All age classes	849	121	265	1,235

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. See Table 1.13a for more information.

Table 1.13c Total stocked broadleaf woodland area by age class, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Age class (years)	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
0-20	225	37	95	357
21-40	232	36	90	357
41-60	157	24	63	244
61-80	130	17	26	173
81-100	97	12	11	119
100+	61	12	12	85
All age classes	902	137	297	1,337

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. See Table 1.13a for more information.

3. Woodland area by species

3.1 Woodland area by species: conifers

Table 1.14 presents the area of conifers, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

Sitka spruce accounts for around one-half (54%) of the conifer area in Great Britain (Table 1.14c), followed by Scots pine (17%) and larches (8%). Sitka spruce is less dominant in England, accounting for over one-quarter (28%) of the conifer area there.

Table 1.14a Stocked coniferous woodland area under public sector ownership by principal species, Great Britain, 2025

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	44	50	191	285
Scots pine	17	3	41	61
Lodgepole pine	2	2	23	28
Larches	7	4	16	27
Corsican pine	21	2	1	24
Norway spruce	6	6	11	23
Douglas fir	11	6	5	23
Other conifers	7	3	5	14
All conifers	116	75	294	485

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2025.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.14b Stocked coniferous woodland area under private sector ownership by principal species, Great Britain, 2021

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	31	27	306	364
Scots pine	37	1	102	140
Larches	21	8	38	68
Lodgepole pine	4	1	45	50
Norway spruce	18	3	12	32
Douglas fir	12	4	7	23
Corsican pine	10	0	0	11
Other conifers	19	2	7	28
All conifers	153	47	518	718

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.

2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2021.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.14c Total stocked coniferous woodland area by principal species, Great Britain

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	75	77	497	650
Scots pine	54	4	143	201
Larches	29	12	54	95
Lodgepole pine	7	3	68	78
Norway spruce	24	8	23	55
Douglas fir	24	10	12	46
Corsican pine	31	2	2	35
Other conifers	26	5	11	42
All conifers	269	122	812	1,203

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector estimates at 31 March 2025 and private sector estimates at 31 March 2021.
2. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
3. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
4. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

3.2 Woodland area by species: broadleaves

Table 1.15 presents the area of broadleaves, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The most commonly occurring broadleaved species in Great Britain are birch (accounting for 18% of broadleaf woodland), oak (16%) and ash (12%) (Table 1.15c). Birch is more dominant in Scotland, accounting for 43% of the broadleaf area there.

Table 1.15a Stocked broadleaf woodland area under public sector ownership by principal species, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Oak	16	3	3	21
Birch	6	2	11	19
Beech	13	2	1	15
Ash	3	1	0	4
Sycamore	1	0	0	2
Sweet chestnut	1	0	0	1
Hazel	0	0	0	1
Alder	1	0	1	1
Hawthorn	0	0	0	0
Willow	0	0	0	0
Other broadleaves	14	9	15	38
All broadleaves	54	16	32	102

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
4. Areas at 31 March 2012.

5. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.15b Stocked broadleaf woodland area under private sector ownership by principal species, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Birch	90	11	116	217
Oak	151	23	23	198
Ash	120	18	15	153
Sycamore	74	9	21	105
Hazel	64	14	8	86
Beech	59	5	15	78
Hawthorn	57	8	8	73
Willow	41	11	13	65
Alder	30	10	16	56
Sweet chestnut	28	0	0	28
Other broadleaves	133	12	29	174
All broadleaves	849	121	265	1,235

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. See Table 1.15a for more information.

Table 1.15c Total stocked broadleaf woodland area by principal species, Great Britain, 2012

thousand hectares

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Birch	96	12	128	236
Oak	167	26	26	219
Ash	123	19	16	157
Sycamore	75	9	22	106
Beech	72	6	15	94
Hazel	65	14	8	87
Hawthorn	57	8	8	73
Willow	41	11	13	65
Alder	31	10	17	58
Sweet chestnut	28	0	0	29
Other broadleaves	146	21	44	212
All broadleaves	902	137	297	1,337

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

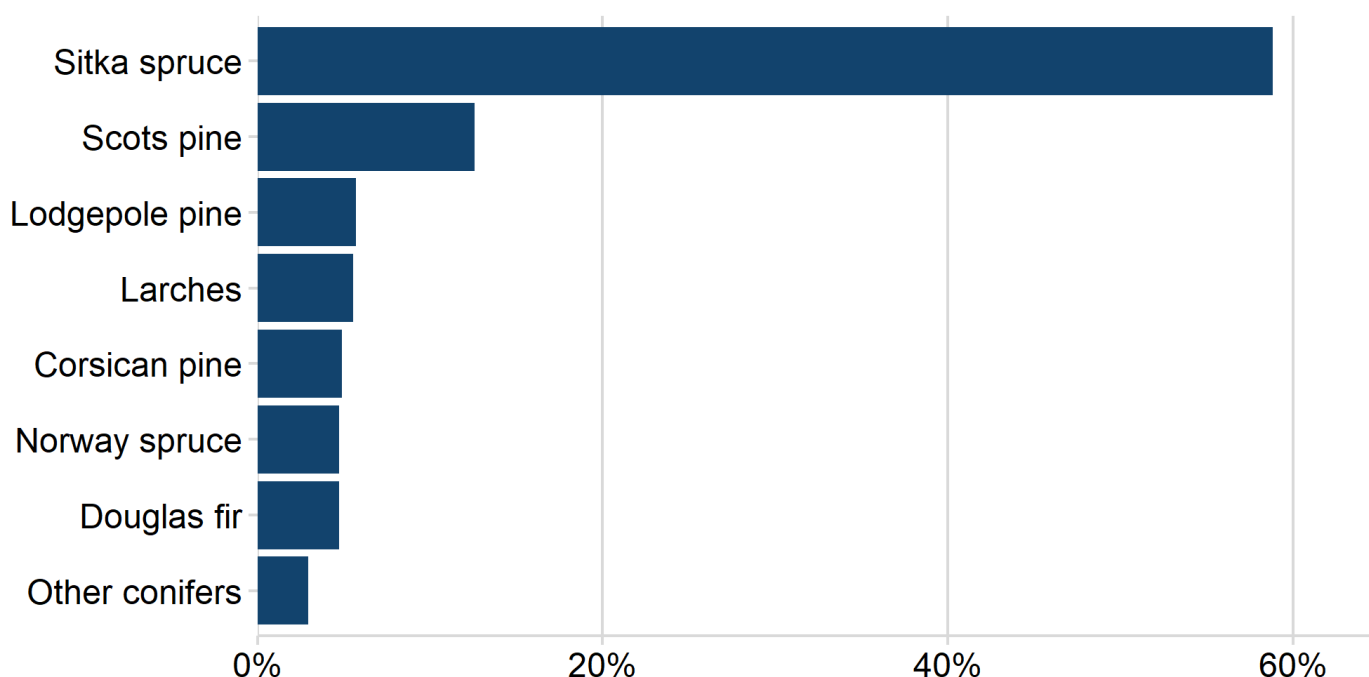
Notes:

1. See Table 1.15a for more information.

3.3 Woodland area by species: summary

Figures 1.5a and 1.5b show that, whilst the conifer area is dominated by a small number of species (Sitka spruce and Scots pine together account for over two thirds of the conifer area), broadleaves are more varied.

Figure 1.5a Percentage of coniferous woodland area by principal species, Great Britain, 2025

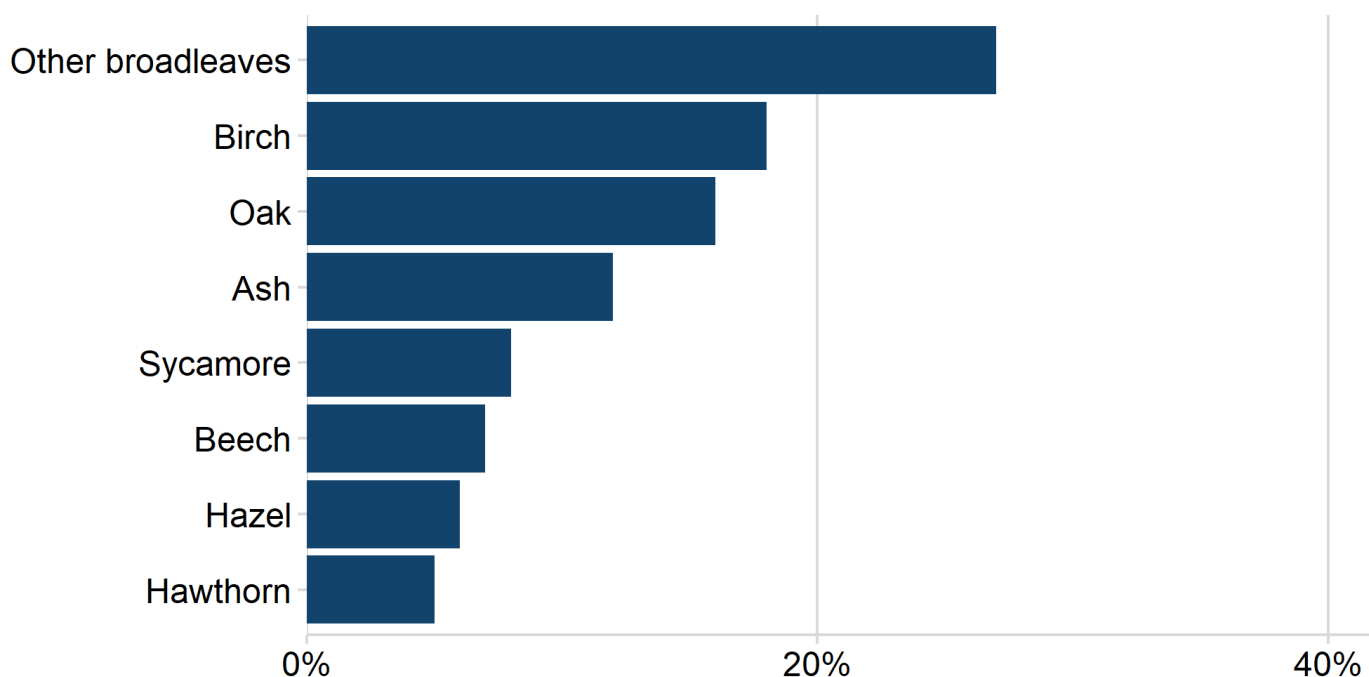


Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
2. Areas at 31 March 2025.
3. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Figure 1.5b Percentage of broadleaved woodland area by principal species, Great Britain, 2012



Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. Stocked area only: excludes felled areas and (for private sector land) open space.
2. Areas at 31 March 2012.
3. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

4. Growing stock by species

4.1 Growing stock by species: conifers

Growing stock is the volume of timber in living trees. It is also often referred to as the standing volume.

Table 1.16 presents the volume of coniferous growing stock, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The total volume of coniferous growing stock in Great Britain was 408 million m³ overbark standing (Table 1.16c), based on public sector estimates at 31 March 2025 and private sector estimates at 31 March 2021.

Sitka spruce accounted for over one-half (56%) of the conifer growing stock, followed by Scots pine (14%) and larches (9%). This largely reflects the distribution of species by area (see Table 1.14).

Table 1.16a Growing stock under public sector ownership by principal conifer species, Great Britain, 2025

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	10.9	16.1	57.0	84.0
Scots pine	3.4	0.5	8.7	12.7
Douglas fir	3.8	1.9	1.6	7.2
Corsican pine	6.3	0.5	0.4	7.2
Larches	1.8	1.2	3.9	6.8
Norway spruce	1.6	1.7	2.9	6.2
Lodgepole pine	0.4	0.7	4.3	5.5
Other conifers	1.5	1.0	0.9	3.5
All conifers	29.6	23.6	79.7	133.0

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Areas at 31 March 2025.
4. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.16b Growing stock under private sector ownership by principal conifer species, Great Britain, 2021

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	12.5	10.2	120.0	142.7
Scots pine	15.1	0.5	28.8	44.4
Larches	9.1	4.1	15.1	28.3
Norway spruce	7.7	1.5	6.2	15.5
Lodgepole pine	1.2	0.2	12.8	14.3
Douglas fir	6.7	2.1	3.5	12.3
Corsican pine	4.6	0.2	0.2	5.0
Other conifers	8.2	1.1	2.8	12.1
All conifers	65.3	20.1	190.0	275.4

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Areas at 31 March 2021.
4. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.16c Total growing stock by principal conifer species, Great Britain

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Sitka spruce	23.4	26.3	177.0	226.7
Scots pine	18.5	1.1	37.5	57.1
Larches	10.9	5.3	18.9	35.1
Norway spruce	9.3	3.3	9.1	21.7
Lodgepole pine	1.6	0.9	17.2	19.7
Douglas fir	10.5	3.9	5.1	19.6
Corsican pine	10.8	0.7	0.6	12.2
Other conifers	9.7	2.2	3.7	15.6
All conifers	95.0	43.7	269.7	408.4

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of softwood timber availability (Forest Research, 2026) (supporting data).

Notes:

1. Public sector estimates at 31 March 2025 and private sector estimates at 31 March 2021.
2. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
3. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
4. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

4.2 Growing stock by species: broadleaves

Table 1.17 presents the volume of broadleaved growing stock, broken down by principal species, ownership and country.

The total volume of broadleaved growing stock in Great Britain in 2012 was 245 million m³ overbark standing (Table 1.17c).

Oak (28%), ash (16%) and beech (12%) accounted for the majority of the broadleaved volume. To some extent, this reflects the distribution of species by area (see Table 1.15).

Table 1.17a Growing stock under public sector ownership by principal broadleaf species, Great Britain, 2012

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Oak	3.3	0.5	0.6	4.4
Beech	2.8	0.4	0.1	3.4
Birch	0.5	0.1	1.7	2.3
Ash	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.5
Sycamore	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Alder	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
Sweet chestnut	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hazel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hawthorn	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Willow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other broadleaves	1.3	0.8	1.2	3.3
All broadleaves	8.7	1.9	3.9	14.5

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. Public sector: Forestry England, Forestry and Land Scotland and Natural Resources Wales. NRW estimates only relate to the WGWE.
2. Private sector: all other woodland. Includes woodland managed by NRW outside the WGWE, other publicly owned woodland (e.g. owned by local authorities) and privately-owned woodland.
3. Areas at 31 March 2012.
4. These figures are outside the scope of Accredited Official Statistics. For further information see Chapter 10: Sources and Methodology.

Table 1.17b Growing stock under private sector ownership by principal broadleaf species, Great Britain, 2012

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Oak	51.7	7.7	5.6	65.0
Ash	30.1	6.9	2.8	39.8
Beech	19.8	1.6	5.2	26.6
Sycamore	16.2	2.4	4.8	23.4
Birch	11.3	1.2	8.5	20.9
Alder	6.8	2.1	1.9	10.8
Sweet chestnut	7.7	0.2	0.0	7.9
Willow	4.9	0.8	0.9	6.5
Hazel	5.0	0.9	0.4	6.4
Hawthorn	2.8	0.4	0.3	3.4
Other broadleaves	16.0	1.1	2.6	19.6
All broadleaves	172.3	25.4	32.9	230.6

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. See Table 1.17a for more information.

Table 1.17c Total growing stock by principal broadleaf species, Great Britain, 2012

million cubic metres overbark standing

Principal species	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Oak	55.0	8.1	6.3	69.4
Ash	30.5	7.0	2.8	40.3
Beech	22.6	2.0	5.3	29.9
Sycamore	16.4	2.4	4.9	23.6
Birch	11.8	1.3	10.1	23.2
Alder	6.9	2.2	1.9	11.0
Sweet chestnut	7.8	0.2	0.0	8.0
Hazel	5.1	0.9	0.5	6.5
Willow	4.9	0.8	0.9	6.5
Hawthorn	2.8	0.4	0.3	3.4
Other broadleaves	17.2	1.8	3.8	22.9
All broadleaves	181.0	27.3	36.8	245.1

Source: National Forest Inventory: 50-year forecast of hardwood availability (Forestry Commission, 2014).

Notes:

1. See Table 1.17a for more information.

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