

A close-up photograph of a pine branch with vibrant green needles, serving as the background for the text.

The National Wood Strategy

A path towards a sustainable
forest products industry in England

Tom Barnes



Strategic Goals

1.

Stabilise and then increase the timber resource in England

2.

Exceed the statutory government target for tree and woodland cover

3.

Increase the use and lifespan of English wood

4.

Create a predictable and consistent investment environment

5.

Develop a consistent and positive message on productive woodlands

6.

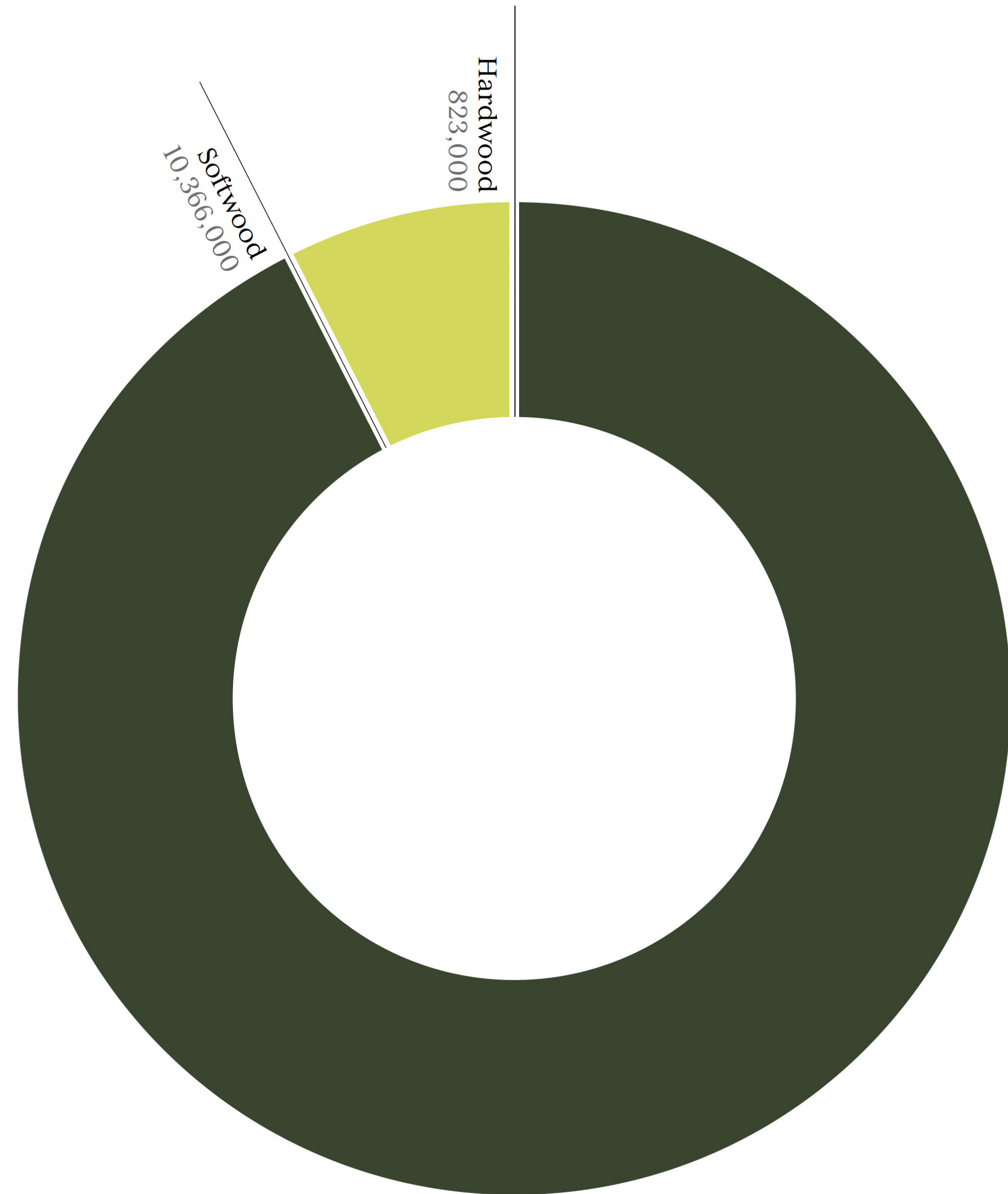
Develop a skilled workforce

Why?

**Government's statutory target of
16.5% tree and woodland cover by 2050**

Timber deliveries to UK processors, 2021

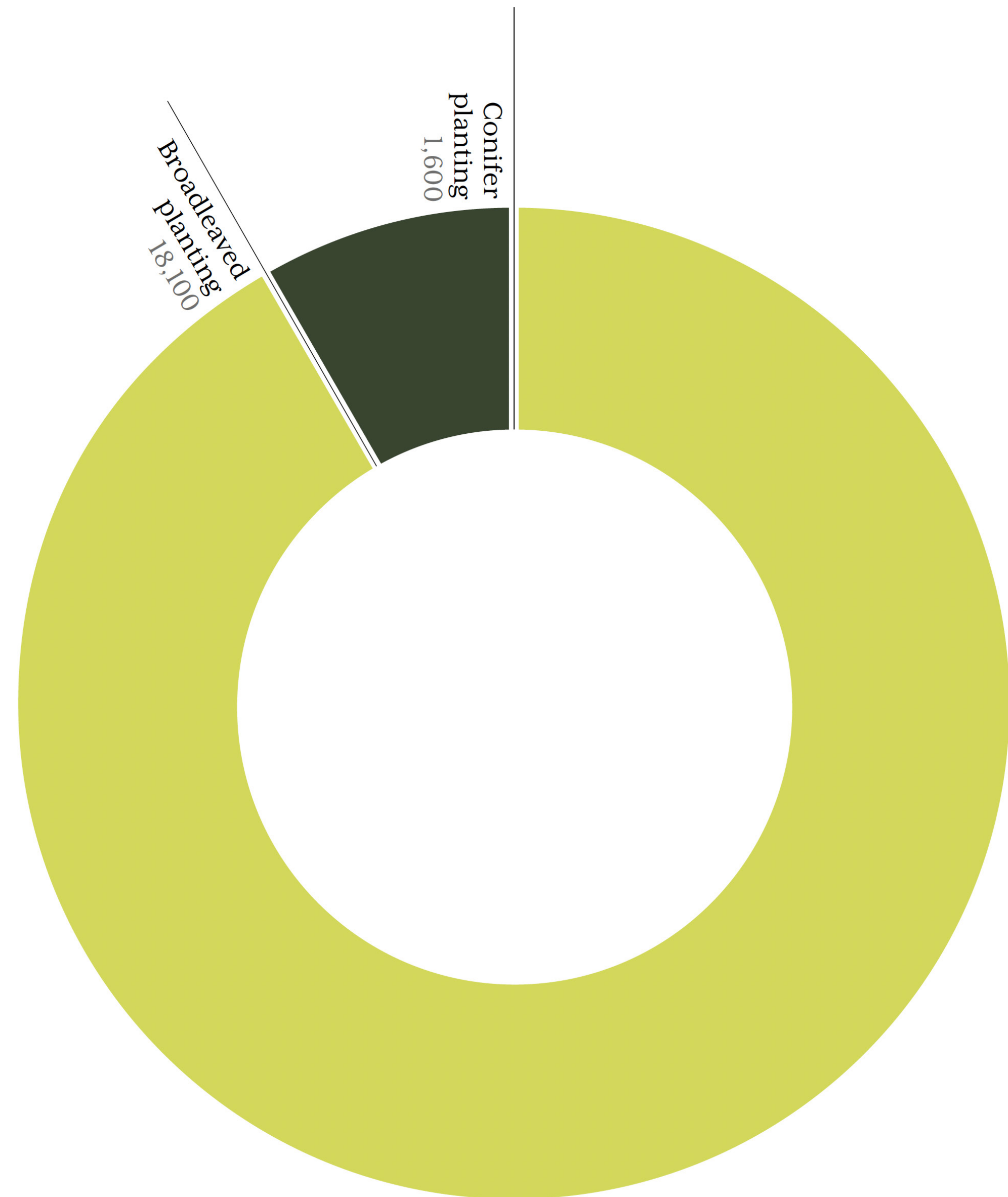
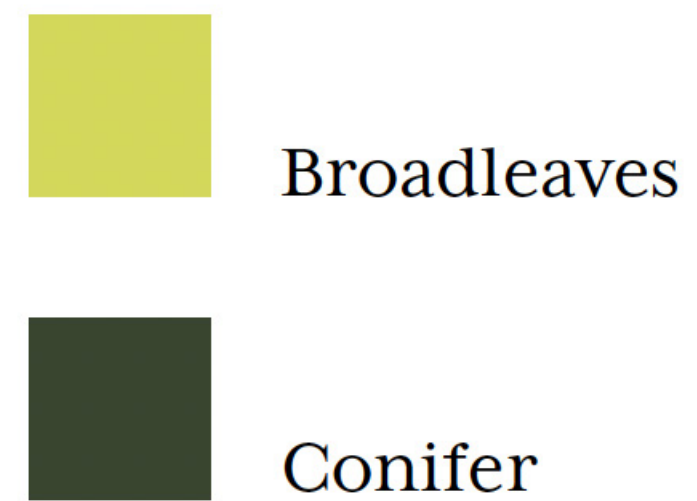
Measured in green tonnes



(Produced from data in: Forest Research (2022).
Forestry Statistics 2022 Chapter 2: UK-Grown Timber (9b).)

New planting by woodland type, England, 2012–2022

Measured in ha



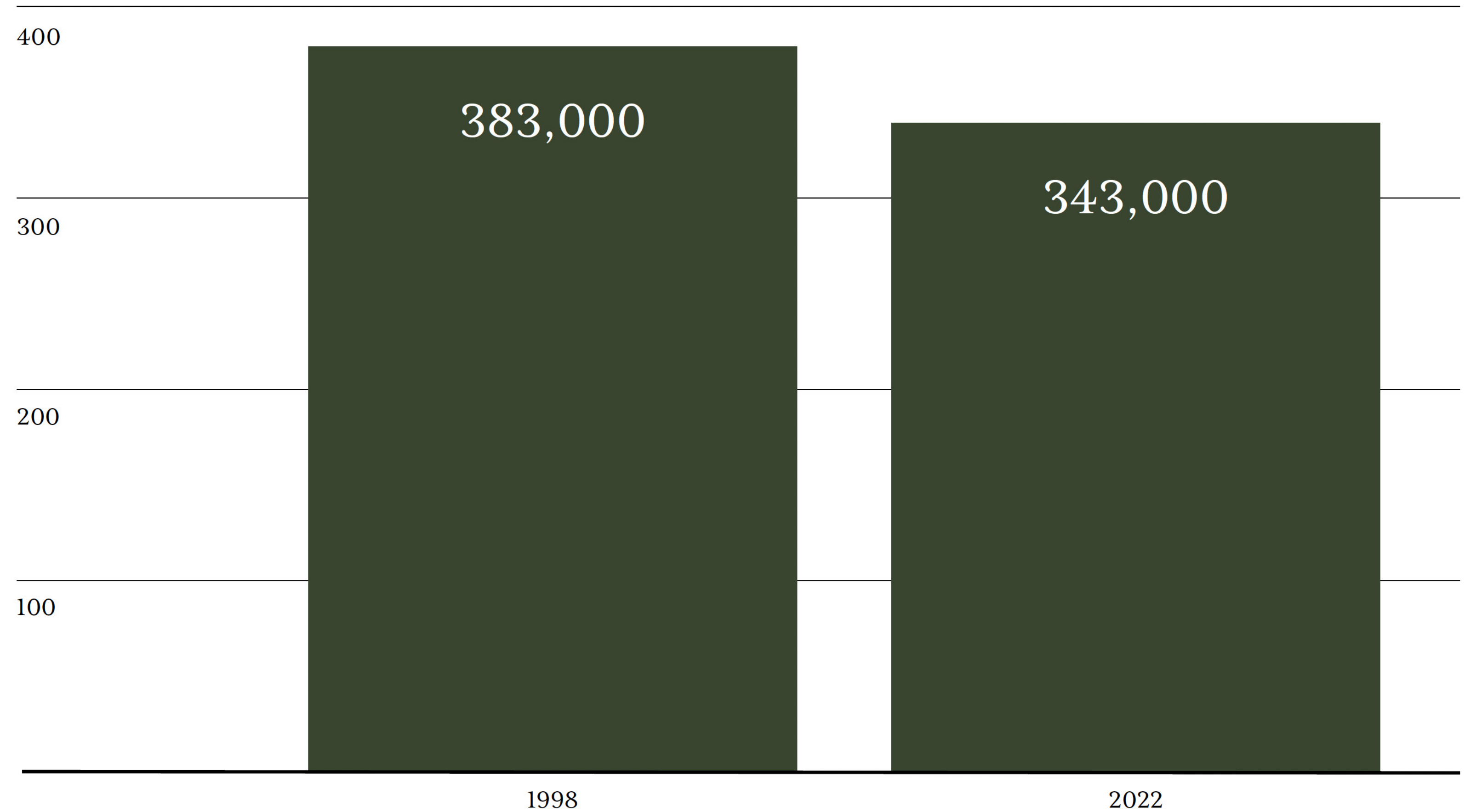
(Produced from data in: Forest Research (2022) Forestry statistics 2022. Chapter 1. Woodland area and planting (9a); and Forestry Commission (2016). Forestry statistics 2016. (48))

The shrinking area of conifer in England

Measured in ha

Since 1998, the area of conifer forest in England has decreased by

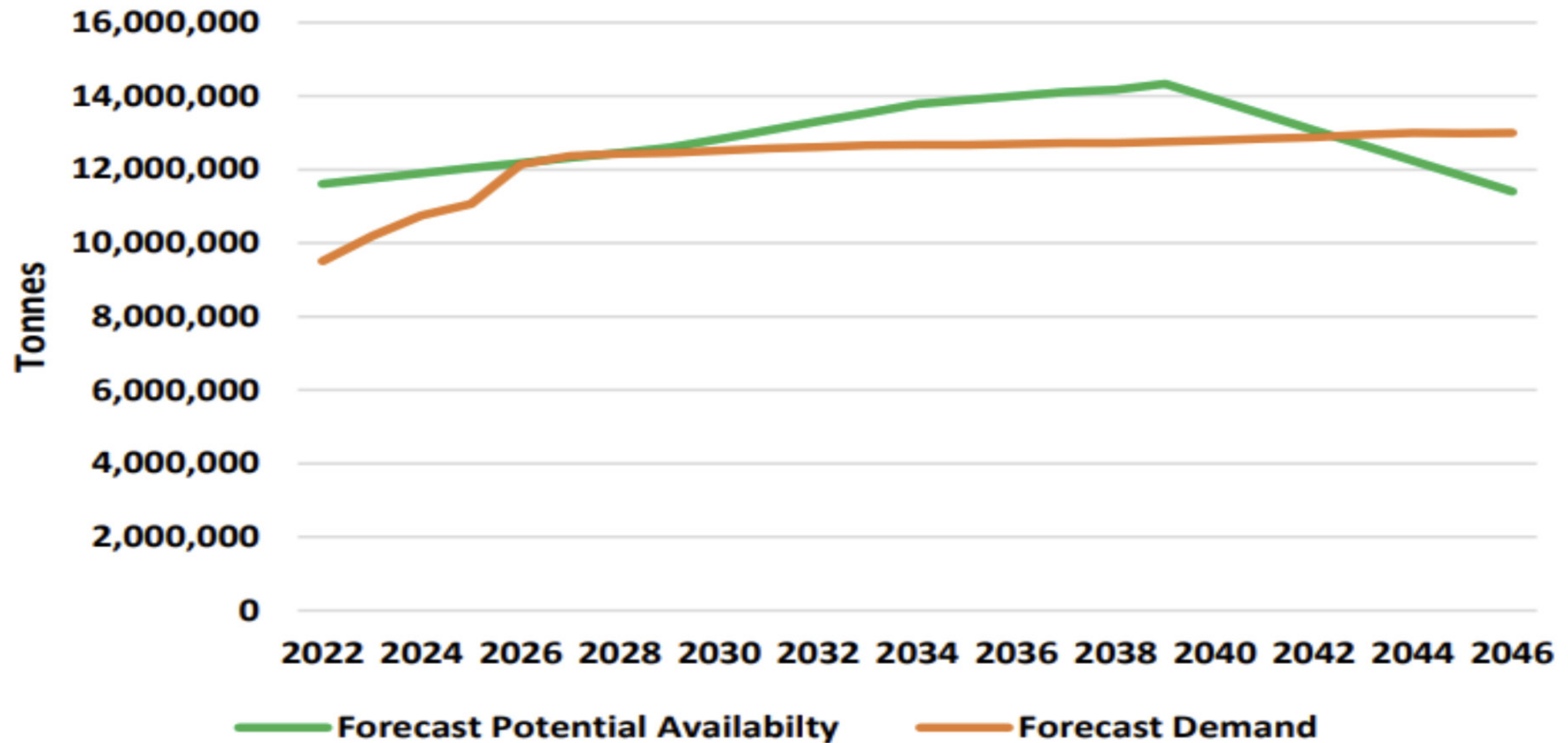
40,000 ha



 Coniferous Woodland

(Based on Forestry Commission (1998) FICGB Yearbook. Hardcopy (21); and Forest Research (2022) Forestry statistics 2022. Chapter 1. Woodland area and planting (9a).)

The Forecast potential Availability and Demand balance for Coniferous Roundwood in Britain 2022 – 2046



Deliveries of hardwood logs to UK processors, 2021

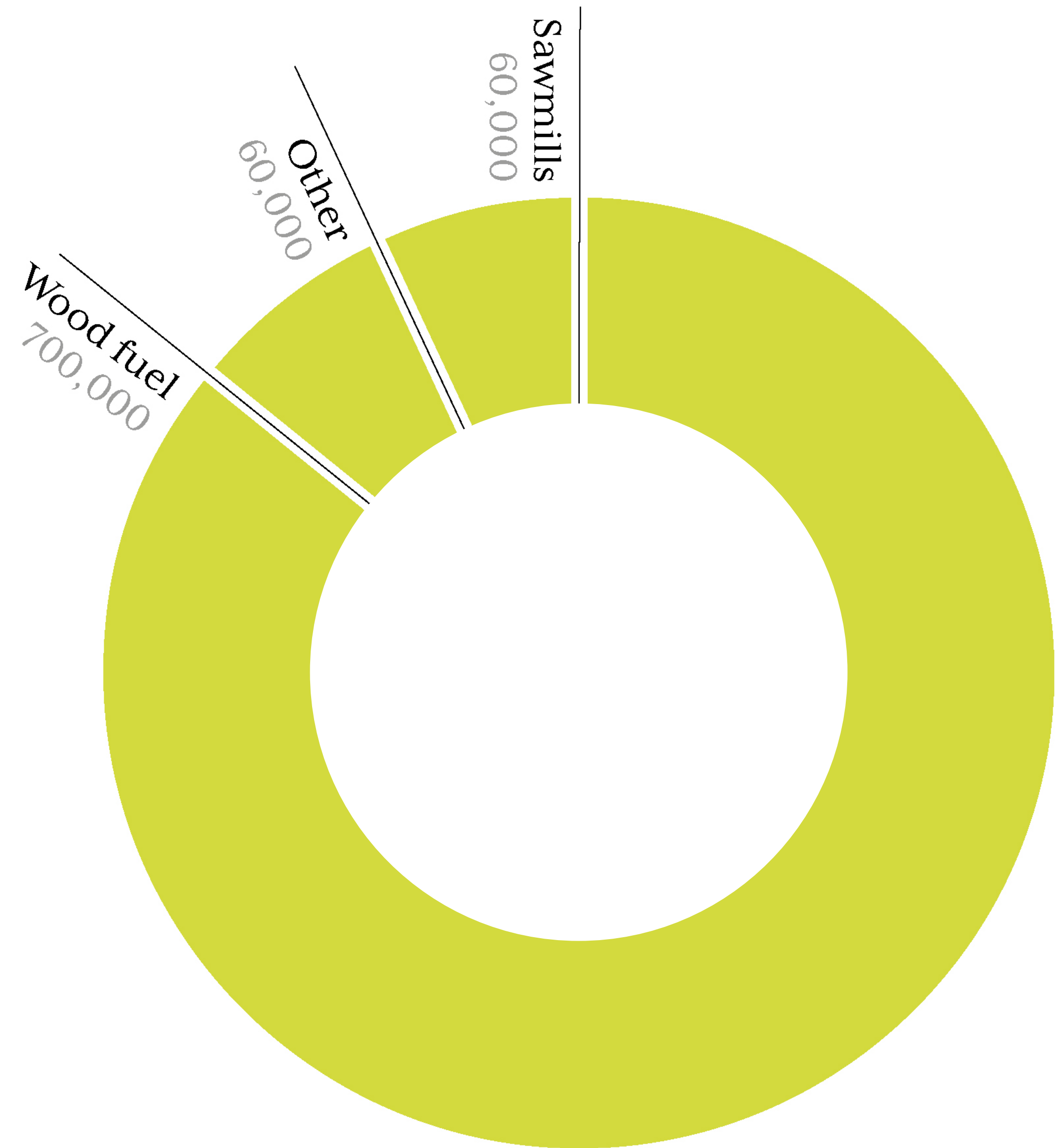
Measured in green tonnes

85%

of harvested hardwood
is burnt as woodfuel

 Hardwood

(Produced from data in: Forest Research (2022). Forestry Statistics 2022 Chapter 2: UK-Grown Timber (9b).)



Progress

UK and England woodland creation figures are the highest in a generation

- 20,660ha woodland created in UK
- 4550ha woodland created in England (2023/2024)

But...

- Represents half of that needed to reach the statutory target
- Less than 10% of productive conifer

- Woodland creation fast track created for low sensitivity areas
- Capital & maintenance windows increased from 3 & 15 years and funding increased
- FC expressed a desire to increase conifer planting to at least 30% of total





- An industry leadership group (ILG) is active
- Reference groups being formed
- Awaiting Defra renewed involvement
- Confor have set up Forestry Training UK Ltd
- ICF developing technical membership

What's Next?

22 weeks since the election. We urge the new Government to:

1. Communicate its policies and priorities for forestry and wood
2. Give Defra the green light to re-engage with Industry through the ILG
3. Engage with Private Capital

Cross Sector Collaboration

1. Build a stronger sense of self-purpose and direction for forestry in England
2. Develop communication to achieve a social license for the management and expansion of woodlands and forests

Industry's Role

1. Step up activity of ILG
2. Activate reference groups
3. Select conifer species for improvement
4. Focus on developing long-life timber products

nationalwoodstrategy.co.uk