



Forestry and Woodlands' Contribution to Government Missions

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- Social
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- Non-Timber Forest Products
- Timber in Construction
- No Net Loss

FC's Contribution to Government Missions



Kickstart economic growth

- Get UK **timber into 1.5M new homes**
- Timber is one of first **circular economies**
- **Rural job creation:** planting, management, harvesting, processing, research as well as vertically integrated industries such as manufacturing and construction using a carbon neutral product
- Woods and forests attract **tourism and recreation spend**, trees in towns increase spend
- Farm agroforestry diversification can **increase financial and environmental resilience**



Make Britain a clean energy superpower

- **80% of UK timber is imported** – we are the **3rd largest importer** in the world and one of the **least forested** in Europe
- Forestry England potential **green energy** provider and storage opportunities
- Sustainable forestry can provide a renewable source of **biomass/waste products for energy production** - reducing reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to a cleaner energy mix



Build an NHS fit for the future

- **£20.2bn** Forestry England **physical health** benefits
- **£1.3bn** Forestry England **air quality** benefits
- Nation's forests (252kha) are the single largest **accessible greenspace** for people in England (86% within a 30-minute drive) - 296m visits in 2022/23.
- **Forestry England forests supporting 152 million active visits and provided £565.6million in avoided medical costs (22/23)** easing pressure on the NHS
- Trees in hospital grounds **speed up recovery** and improve **staff wellbeing**
- Urban forests filter air pollutants, **reducing respiratory illnesses and lowering NHS burden**



Take back our streets

- Urban trees **reduce anti-social behaviour**
- Urban trees increase **property values**
- Green streets attract businesses, leading to **more vibrant, active communities**
- Green spaces bring people together, **building social connections** and a sense of shared ownership of public spaces
- Trees and vegetation can act as natural **sound barriers**, creating a more peaceful street environment



Break down barriers to opportunity

- **Rural economy** - timber industry (£2Bn pa and 33k jobs)
- Forestry sector can provide **opportunities for workers** transitioning from declining industries
- Forest schools and outdoor programs/ apprenticeships can **build confidence and skills** in young people, broadening their horizons and prospects
- Unlock the financial benefits of **natural capital** (green finance)
- WCC into ETS – **increase private investment up to £21M**

FC's Contribution to Defra Priorities



1. Clean up Britain's rivers, lakes and seas to restore pride to people's communities

- Trees, woods and forests **improve water quality** by acting as natural filters, trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants before they reach water bodies
- 'Riparian buffers' **reduce erosion**, filter runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife
- Shade from trees keeps river water temperatures cooler, **improving conditions for aquatic life** and reducing algal growth



2. Create a roadmap to transition Britain to a zero-waste economy, boosting regional economic growth and cutting our carbon emissions

- Growing trees are the **fastest way of capturing carbon** to contribute to net zero targets
- Tree targets represent **13% UK's total modelled carbon sequestration** (24M tonnes by 2050)
- Wood-based building materials dramatically **reduce the carbon footprint of construction**
- Timber use can **reduce embodied emissions** by 20% in a single building



3. Support our farmers to boost Britain's food security

- Farm **productivity**
- **Shelter/ temperature moderation**
- **Soil health**
- **Diversify income**
- **Nutrient cycling** (from lower soil layers)
- **Erosion protection**
- Support to **pollinators**

What about Timber Security?



4. Turbocharge nature's recovery to protect the beauty of Britain's landscapes and wildlife

- **68,000ha SSSIs** in the nation's forests - 98% in favourable or recovering condition
- **Species recovery** – White tailed eagle, pool frog, Wildcat...
- Homegrown, sustainably managed wood **reduces tropical deforestation**
- England's woodlands are nearly **40% of our priority habitats**
- Support critical **ecosystem services** for wider **biodiversity**
- FC's prevention, tracking and responding to **pests and diseases** and their harmful effects



5. Protect communities from the dangers of flooding

- Tree canopies intercept rainfall, reducing the amount reaching the ground, delaying and reducing peak flows and help slow water runoff and increasing absorption in soil - afforestation could **reduce average recharge and runoff by 51 - 62%**
- **£1.2bn** Forestry England **flood damage mitigation** benefits
- Woodland Water Code

Trees and Water



- Natural flood management
 - Reduce flooding by up to 25%
- Help prevent soil erosion
- Improve water quality:
 - Reduce pollutants reaching water, reduce spray drift, decrease sediment runoff, reduce pesticide loss, decrease nutrient loss
- Riparian planting
 - Provide shade, keep rivers cool

• Pollution from sewage and waste water works affects 36% of waterways

• Pollution from farms affects 40% of waterways

Natural Capital Value of Nation's Forests

- Turning ethereal concepts into real money
 - How?
- Nation's forests (252kha) are the single largest accessible greenspace for people in England
 - Forestry England funded by Government at £44 per ha pa
 - Private woodland owners should be getting around £300 per ha pa
- Flood damage mitigation benefits estimated at £1.2bn
- Air quality benefits £1.3bn
- Physical health benefits estimated at £20.2bn
- Nature
 - 68,000ha SSSIs in the nation's forests, 98% in favourable or recovering condition
 - Landscape scale species recovery – White tailed eagle, pool frog, through to Wild cat

Forestry England Financial Benefits of Social Forestry

- Forestry England forests supported 296 million visits in 2022/23
- Total annual revenue generated by leaseholders on Forestry England sites was estimated to be between £78 million and £100 million in 2022/23
- Total annual revenue for businesses with permissions was estimated at £13.4 million for 2023
- Together, these activities could have associated employment in the order of 2,576 people

Economic Contribution of Woodlands

Around 32,000 jobs in the forestry and timber processing sectors estimated to generate £2Bn revenue each year

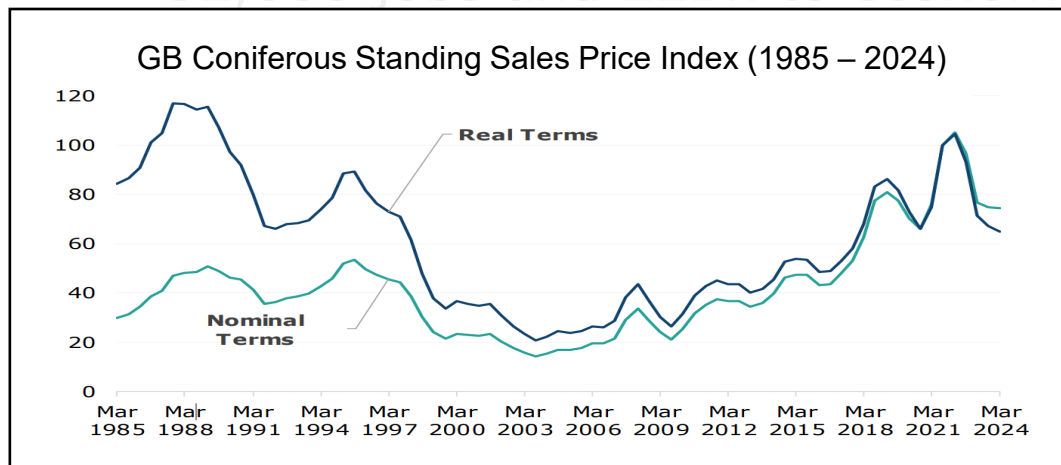
Around 8,400 leisure and tourism businesses located directly inside woodlands are estimated to generate £1.8 billion in revenue each year, providing jobs for 29,000 employees in Great Britain

Over 70% of these businesses are in England generating £1.3bn in revenue and providing 21,000 jobs

Wood Products and Jobs

“Securing our future wood supply might not seem as pressing as securing the food we need to eat and survive. But wood is just as integrated within our daily lives and we need to develop strategies to ensure both food and wood security into the future.”

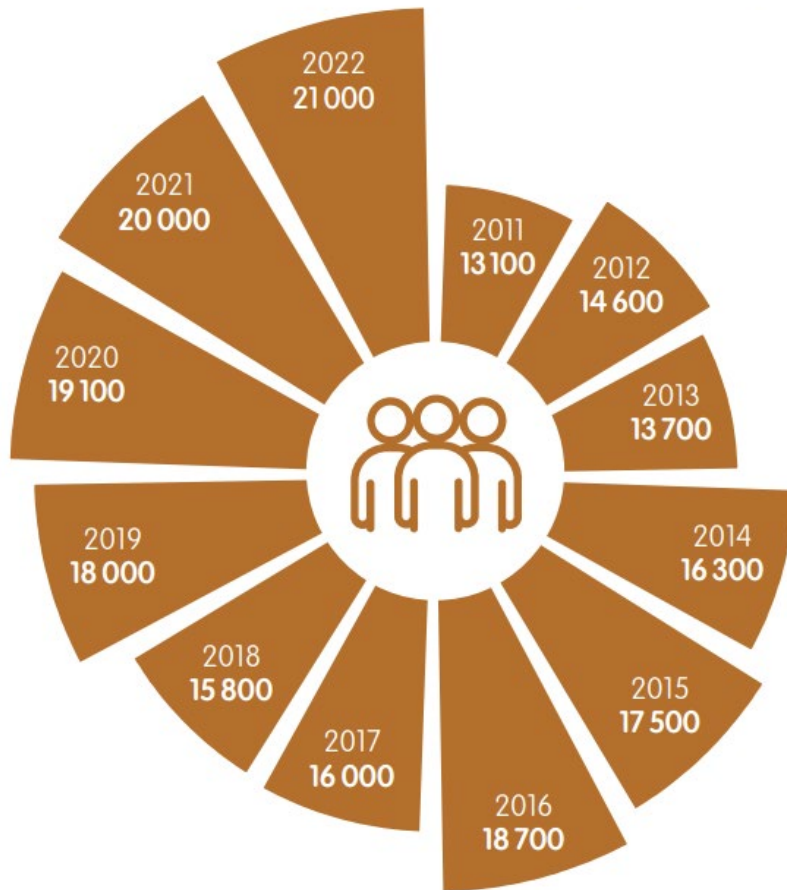
Cambridge University study - 29 Aug 24



3 Ss of timber

- Sequester
- Substitute
- Store

Employment



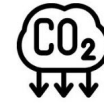
UK Forestry
employment has
increased by **7900**
in the past **12 years**

Employment in UK forestry and wood processing

UK Woodland Carbon Code



35,000 hectares

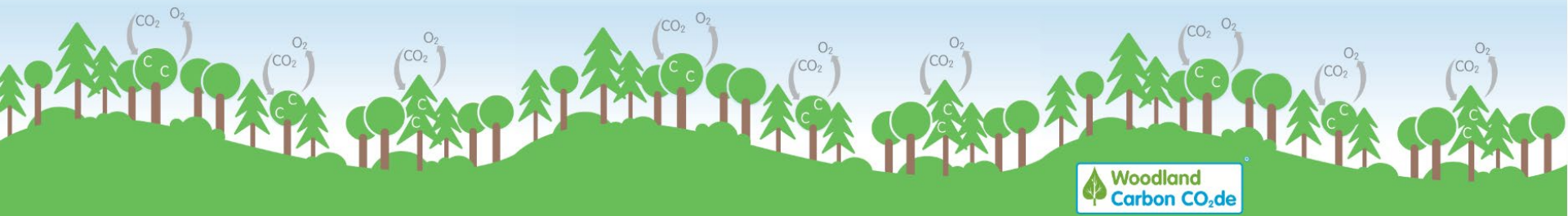


11.7 million tonnes



656 projects

- The quality assurance standard for woodland carbon projects in the UK
- Range of other environmental, social and economic benefits
- Informed by the latest science, the code is backed by government, the forest industry and carbon market experts
- Generates high integrity, independently verified carbon units, here in the UK
- Woodland Carbon trading at £20-£30 per tonne
- Issues being worked on:
 - Additionality
 - Cost of validation and verification



Forest Products



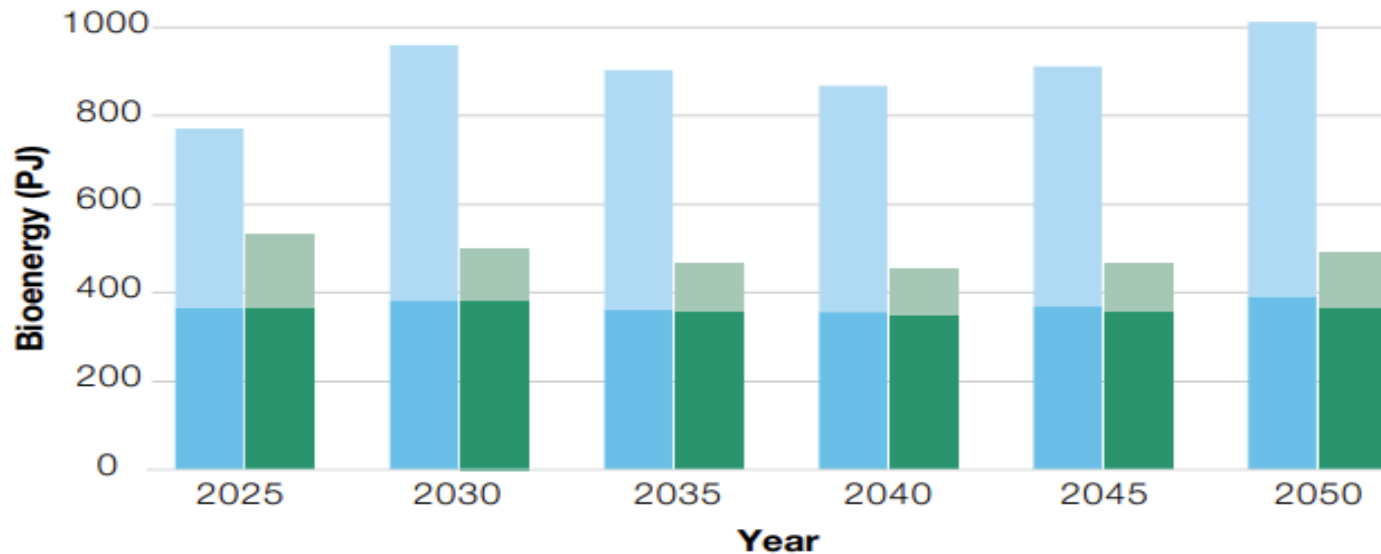
Wood Fiber Insulation



Aviation Fuel

New Zealand could meet 25% of domestic jet fuel needs with Sustainable Aviation Fuel from wood waste

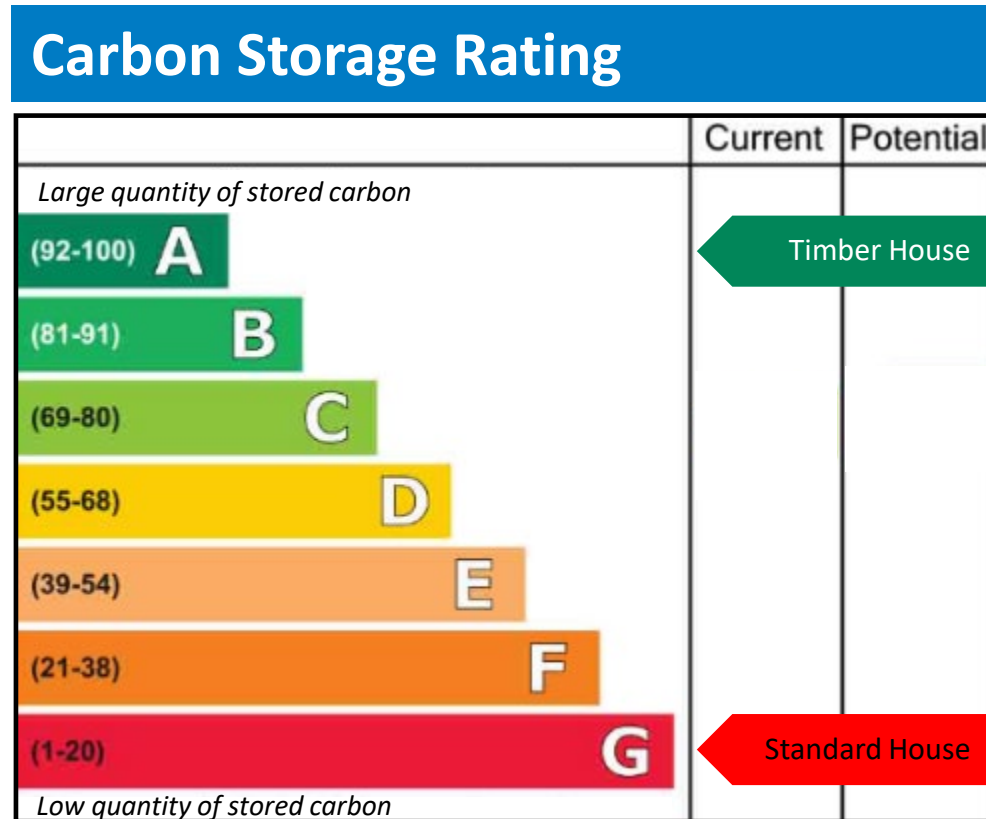
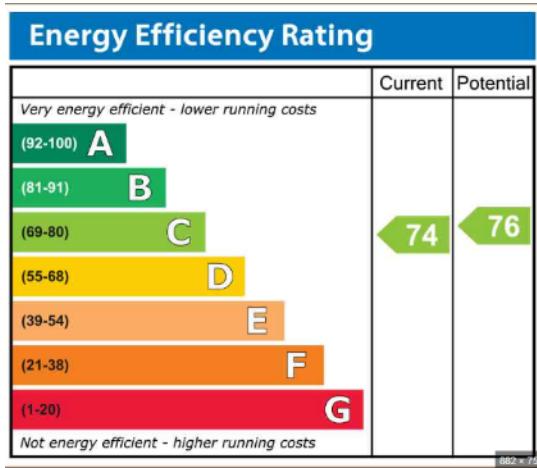
Total Potential Future Availability of Biomass Feedstock to the UK



■ Total imports - Ambitious ■ Total imports - Restricted
■ UK resources - Ambitious ■ UK resources - Restricted

mission

Embedded Carbon in Construction



Embedded Carbon – Britain's oldest door ~1050



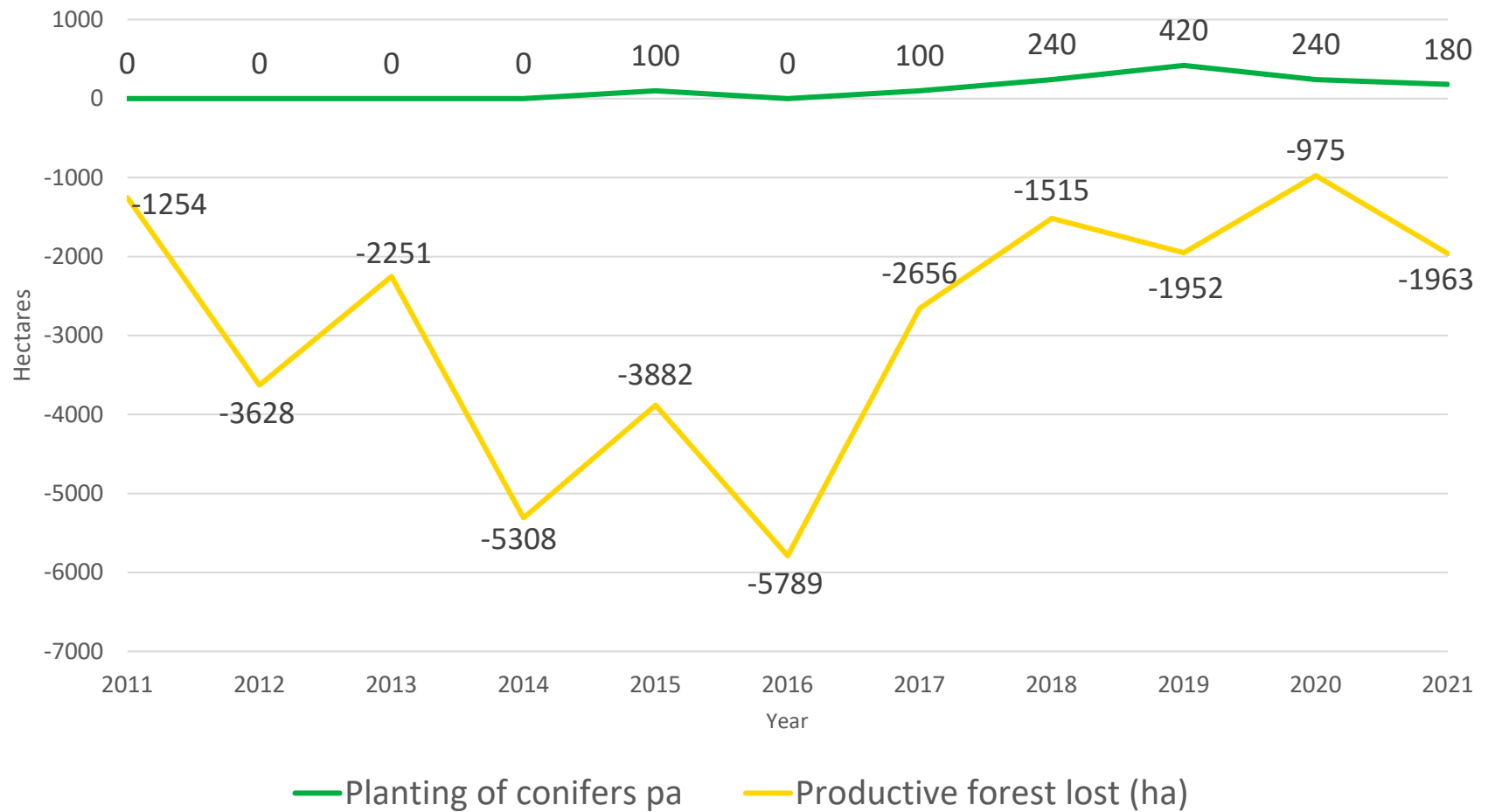
Productive Forestry Loss in England

- Since 2010 work has started to remove ca. 36,000 ha of conifer
 - Restoration of PAWS - ca. 29,000 ha
 - Restoration of open habitat - ca. 6,000 ha
 - Response to pest and disease under SPHNs - ca. 1000 ha



- Based on current trajectories, it is estimated 72,000ha of conifer will be removed by 2050
- So, we need ca. 150,000 ha of conifer to be planted in the next 26 years

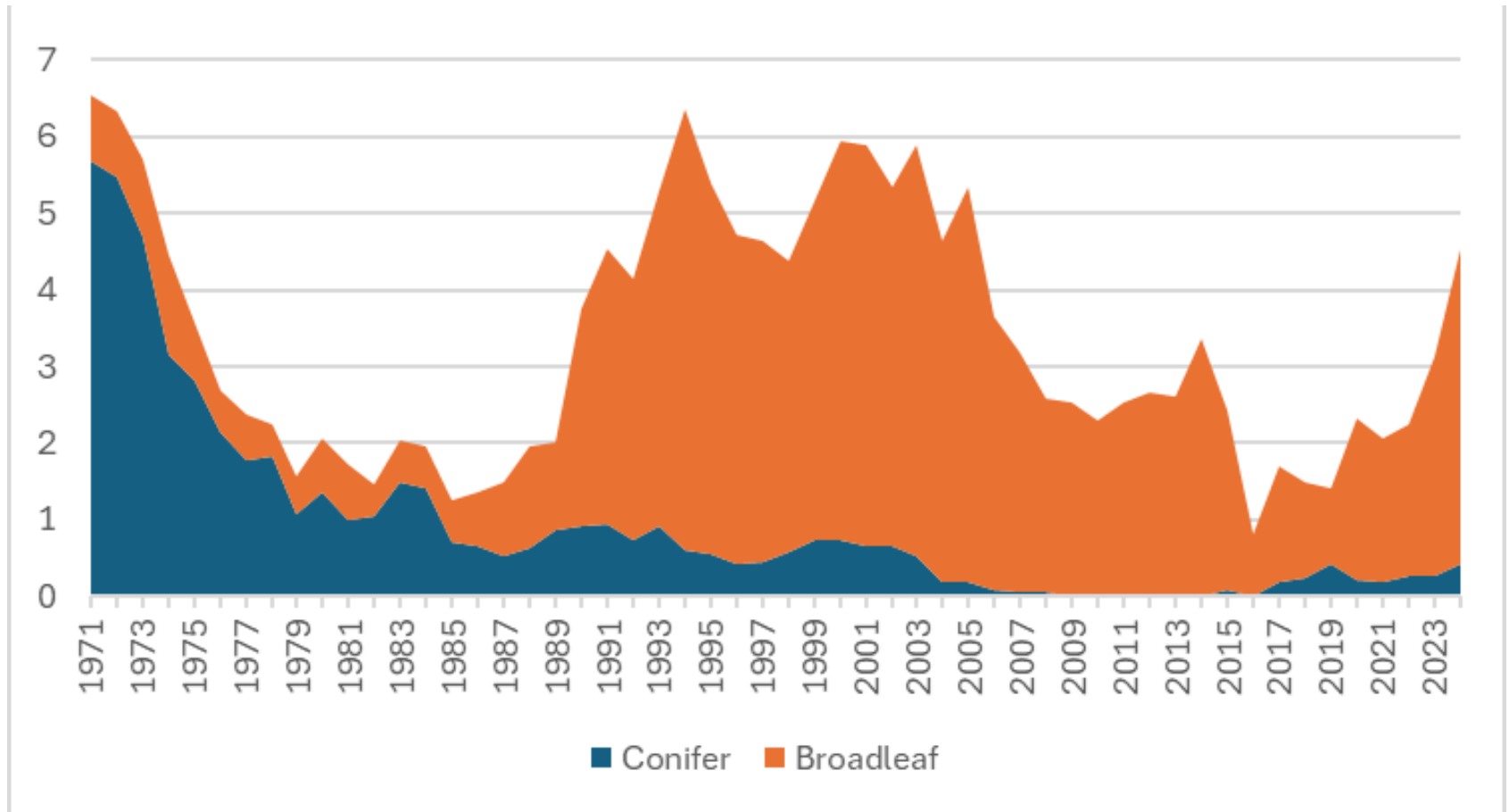
Productive Woodland Lost and Created in England 2011-2021



Over the last ten years public policy has resulted in the loss of large areas of productive forest (and no compensatory planting), while little new productive forest has been created.

Sources: FC's Key Performance Indicators Report 2020-21 (July 2021) and Forest Research's Forestry Facts and Figures 2021.

Historic Tree Planting Rates (UK) 1971-2024



Conclusion

- Woodland and forestry has multiple contributions to Government missions and Defra priorities
 - Wide range of financial benefits from woodlands for owners and local businesses
 - Timber is only one
 - Social and rural benefits probably not properly taken into account
 - Who is championing timber security?
 - Open habitat and PAWs restoration are the right thing to do
- IF**
- There is compensatory planting