

Introducing...

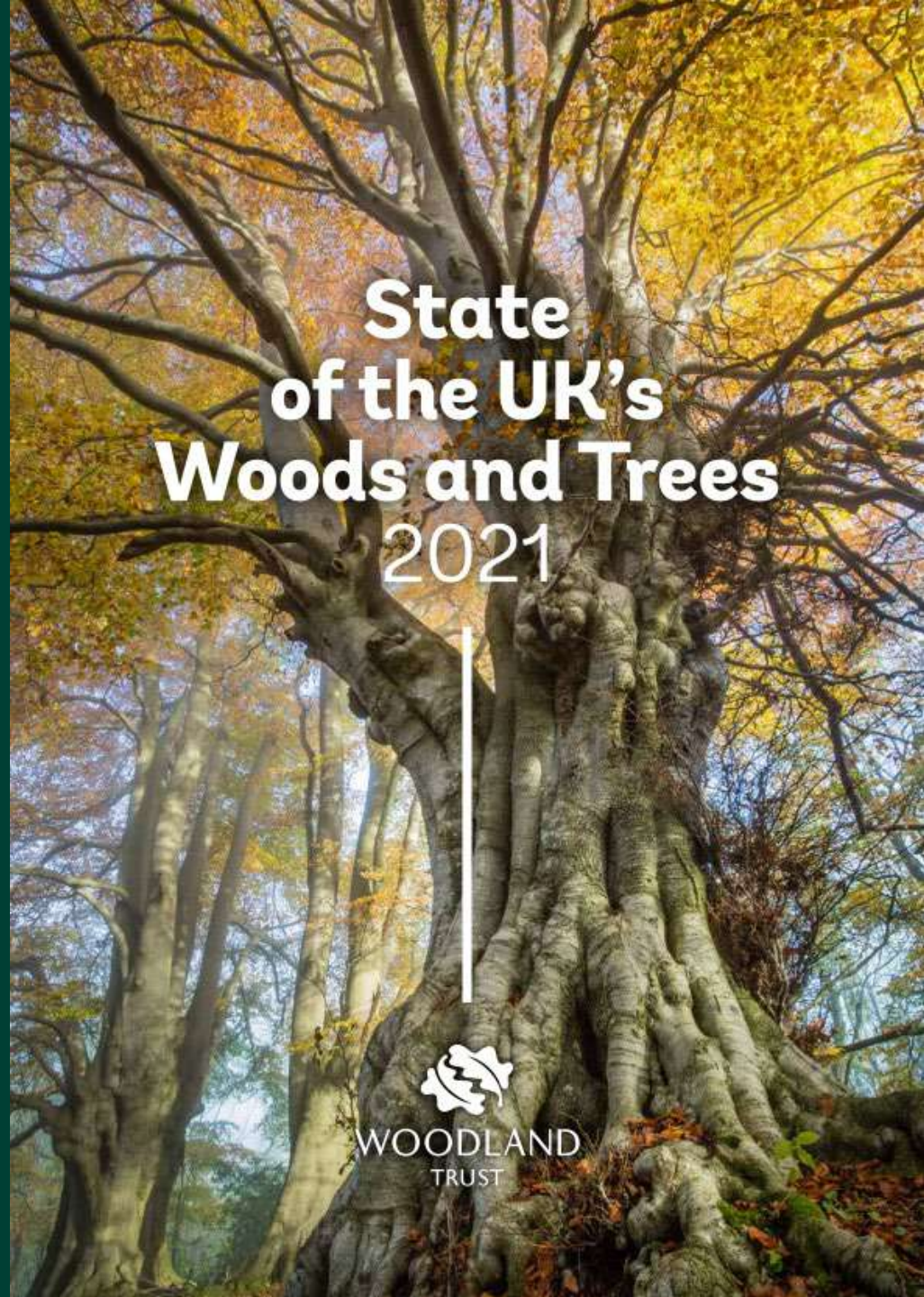
We'd like to:

- Share the key evidence and findings
- Answer your questions
- SoWT report: woodlandtrust.org.uk/report
- Wood Wise *Evidence for Action*: woodlandtrust.org.uk/woodwise

State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021



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4 big themes identified:

- Extent, condition and wildlife value
- Benefits to people
- Threats and drivers of change
- What is being done?

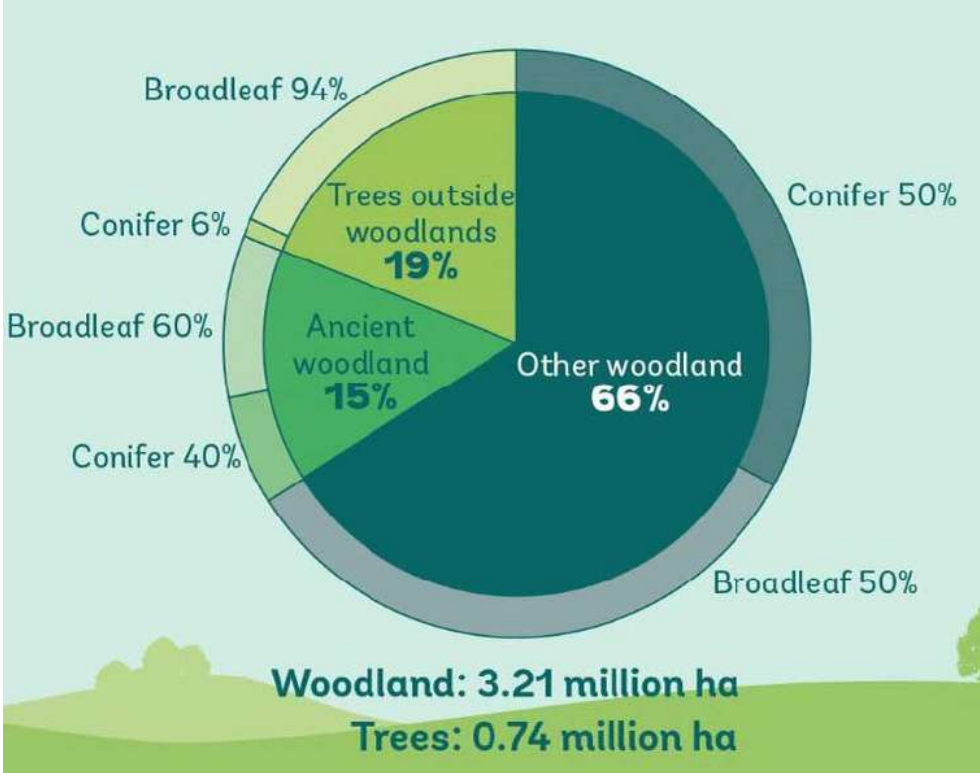
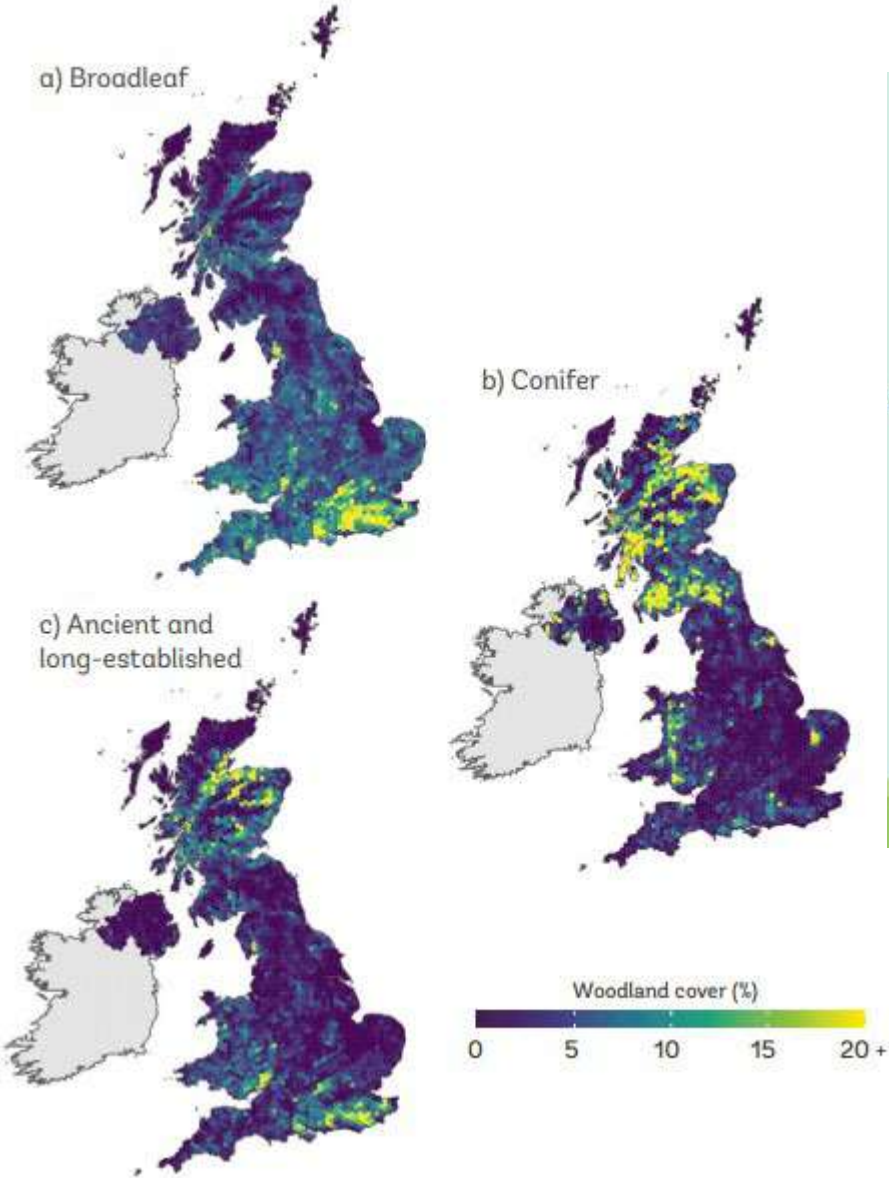


Extent, condition and wildlife value

Key finding:

- **Although woodland cover is gradually increasing, woodland wildlife is decreasing.**
- **The UK's woodland cover has more than doubled in the last 100 years, but from very low baselines, and much of this increase is in non-native trees.**
- **Existing native woodlands are isolated and in poor ecological condition.**
- **Widespread loss of 'trees outside woods' from the landscape, including treasured ancient trees.**

Woodland and tree cover



Woodland biodiversity indicators



Woodland birds
declined by 29% since 1970

Woodland butterflies
declined by 41% since 1990

Woodland plants
declined by 18% since 2015



Condition of all native woodland

Only 7% native woodland in good overall condition



Mix of tree sizes and ages



Standing and fallen large-diameter deadwood



Diverse ground flora



Abundant natural regeneration

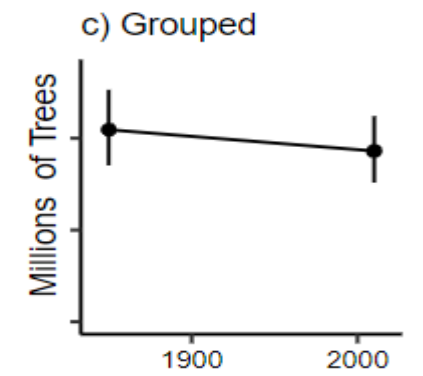
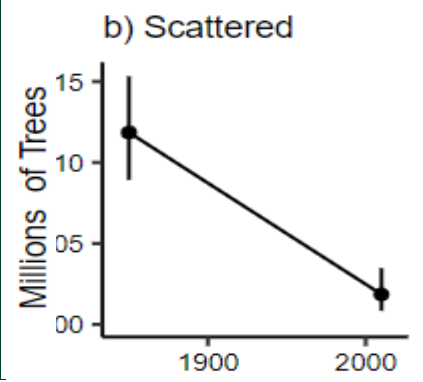
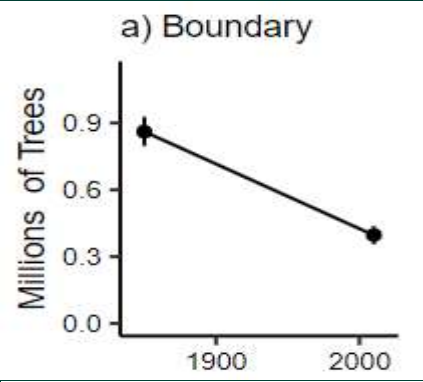
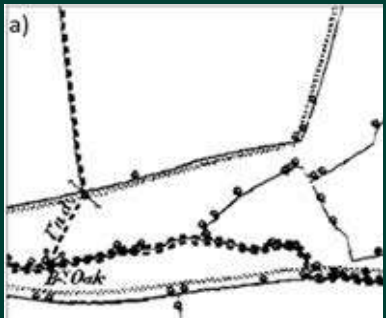


Mix of tree species

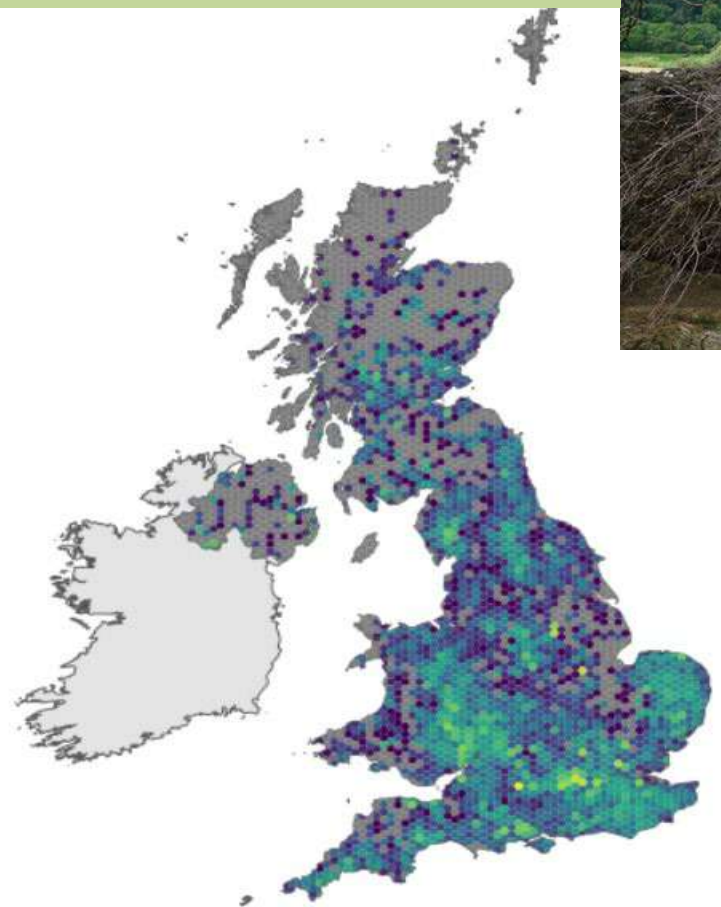


Open habitats/glades and rides

Case Study: Trees Outside Woods



Ancient trees



Ancient and veteran tree records per km²

0.1 1.0 10.0



UK's top 10 biggest trees

Local name	Girth (m)	Species	County
Marton Oak	14.02	Sessile oak	Cheshire
Canford Chestnut	14	Sweet chestnut	Dorset
Lydham Manor Oak	12.88	Pedunculate oak	Shropshire
Gospel Oak	12.8	Pedunculate oak	Herefordshire
Three Sisters	12.7	Sweet chestnut	Sir Ddinbych - Denbighshire
Queen Elizabeth Oak	12.67	Sessile oak	West Sussex
Bowthorpe Oak	12.3	Pedunculate oak	Lincolnshire
Majesty	12.16	Pedunculate oak	Kent
Melbury Park Oak "Billy Wilkins"	11.92	Pedunculate oak	Dorset
Cowdray Park Sweet Chestnut	11.8	Sweet chestnut	West Sussex

Benefits for people

A young boy with light brown hair, wearing a green jacket, blue jeans, and red boots, is running through a field of white flowers. In the background, a man in a plaid shirt and a woman in a dark jacket are walking. The scene is set in a lush green forest with large trees.

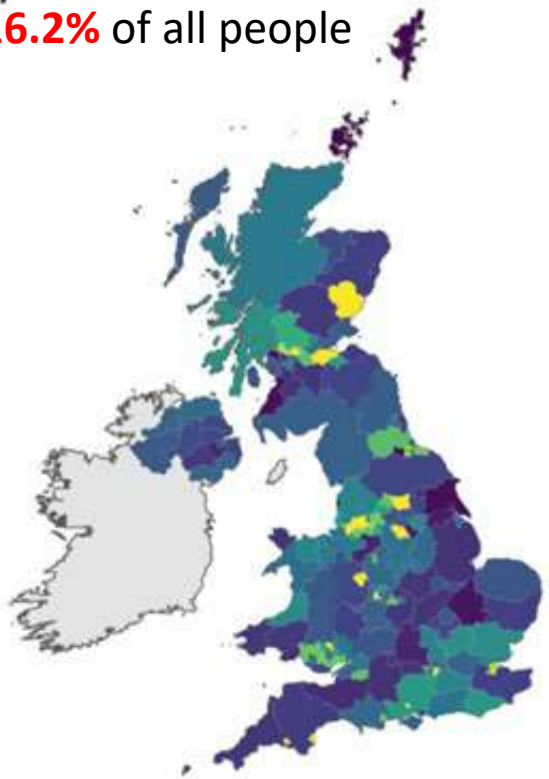
Key finding:

- Woods and trees are vital for a healthy, happy society.
- They lock up carbon to fight climate change; improve our health, wellbeing and education; reduce pollution and flooding, and support people, wildlife and livestock in adapting to climate change in towns and countryside.

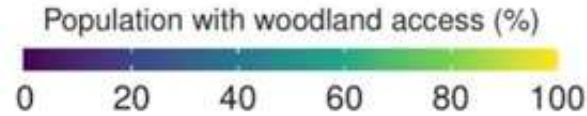
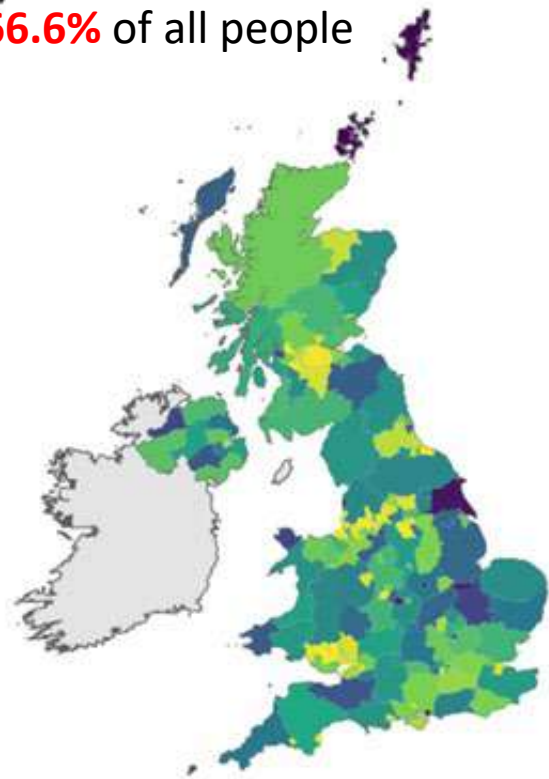
Access to woods



a) Within 500m
16.2% of all people



b) Within 4km
66.6% of all people



Carbon in ancient & long-established woodland

STORAGE

- Average carbon stocks per ha are **37% higher** in ancient woodland than the average for all woodland
- **62%** of ancient woodland carbon is stored within **broadleaf tree species**

SEQUESTRATION

- Carbon stocks in ancient woodland are **set to double** over the next 100 years (77 Mt to 152 Mt)



Case study: Slowing the flow in Cumbria

- Trees planted
- Livestock excluded
- Degraded peat bog habitats restored using wooden dams
- After just 8 years
 - Decreased water flow
 - Increased black grouse, plant diversity, owls, tree sparrow



Rare species such as black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) have shown signs of flourishing.



The urban forest

Towns and cities have on average 16% canopy cover e.g. Greater Manchester i-tree survey

Assets		Services (only those easily measured)	
Number of trees	11.3 mil.	Carbon storage	1.6 Mt
Tree canopy cover	15.7%	Carbon sequestration	0.6 Mt
Shrub canopy cover	7.8%	Pollution removal	0.8 Mt
No. species	192	Avoided runoff	1.6 mil. m ³
Replacement cost	£4.7 billion	Total annual benefits	£33.3 million

Threats and drivers of change

Key findings:

- **Woods and trees are subject to a barrage of coinciding threats** from direct loss to more insidious influences from climate impacts, imported diseases, invasive plants, deer browsing and air pollutants.
- These threats diminish the benefits of woods and trees for people and for wildlife.

Phenology and climate change impacts

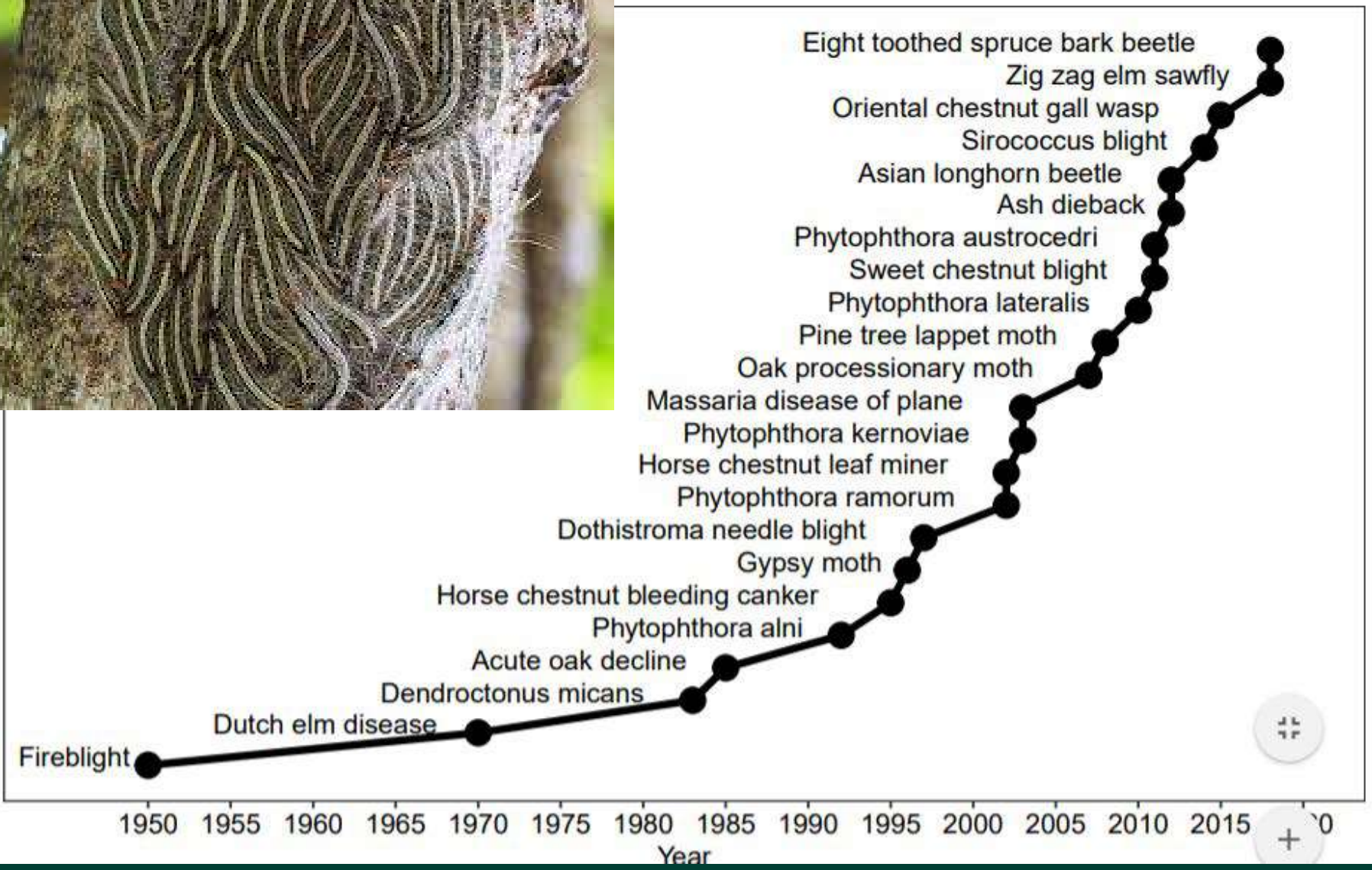
“Spring Index”








Spring is now **8.4 days** earlier

Creates a mismatch in the timing of seasonal events – so breeding birds and their food supply become out of sync.

Pests and diseases



Ancient and native woodland under threat

<p>1. Development</p>	<p>1,225 AW under threat from housing, roads and railways</p>	
<p>2. Nitrogen air pollution</p>	<p>100% England's woods exceed safe N levels for lichens and plants</p>	 
<p>3. Expanding deer populations</p>	<p>All six deer species increasing</p>	
<p>4. Plantations on ancient woodland sites Rhododendron & other invasive plants</p>	<p>50% AW damaged by conifer plantations and/ or invasive plants</p>	

What's being done?

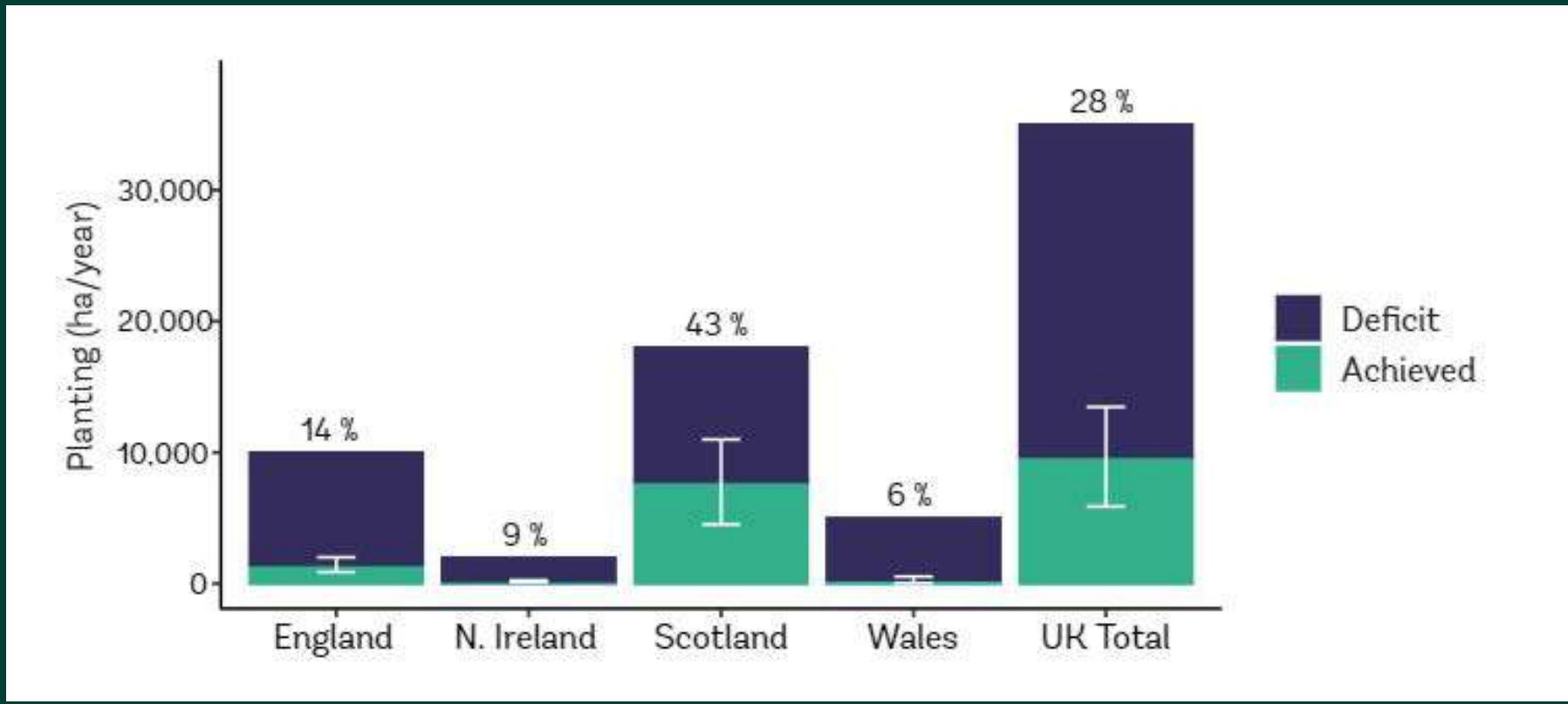
Key findings:

- **We need to do much more** to create networks of resilient native woodland; to put individual trees back in the landscape; and to restore the condition of existing woods.
- **There is hope**, if we can learn from and extend the many inspiring local initiatives, build a stronger evidence base and collaborate for success.

What's being done?

Woodland creation

Actual planting as a percentage of required



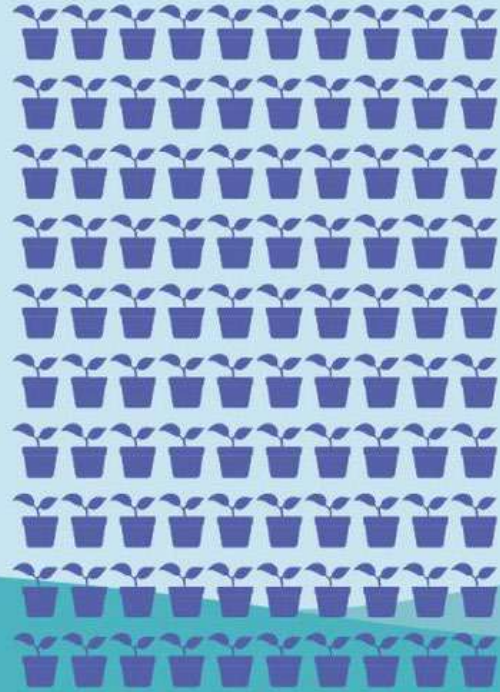
What's being done?

Biosecurity in tree planting

27 million UKISG* trees **grown** over 10 years



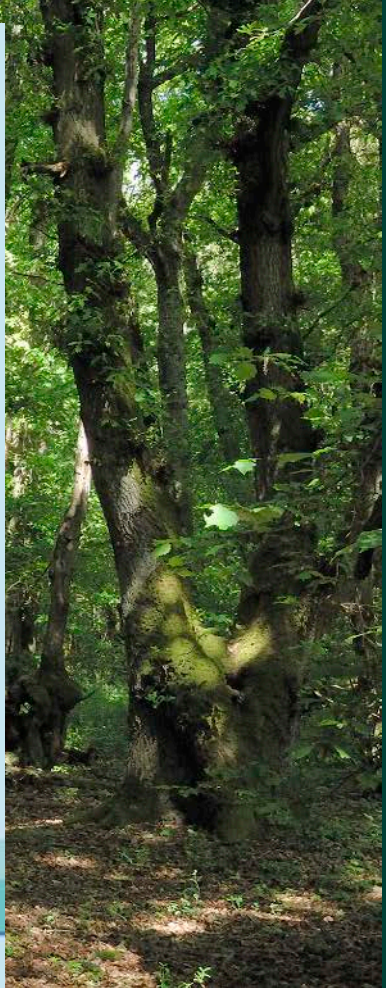
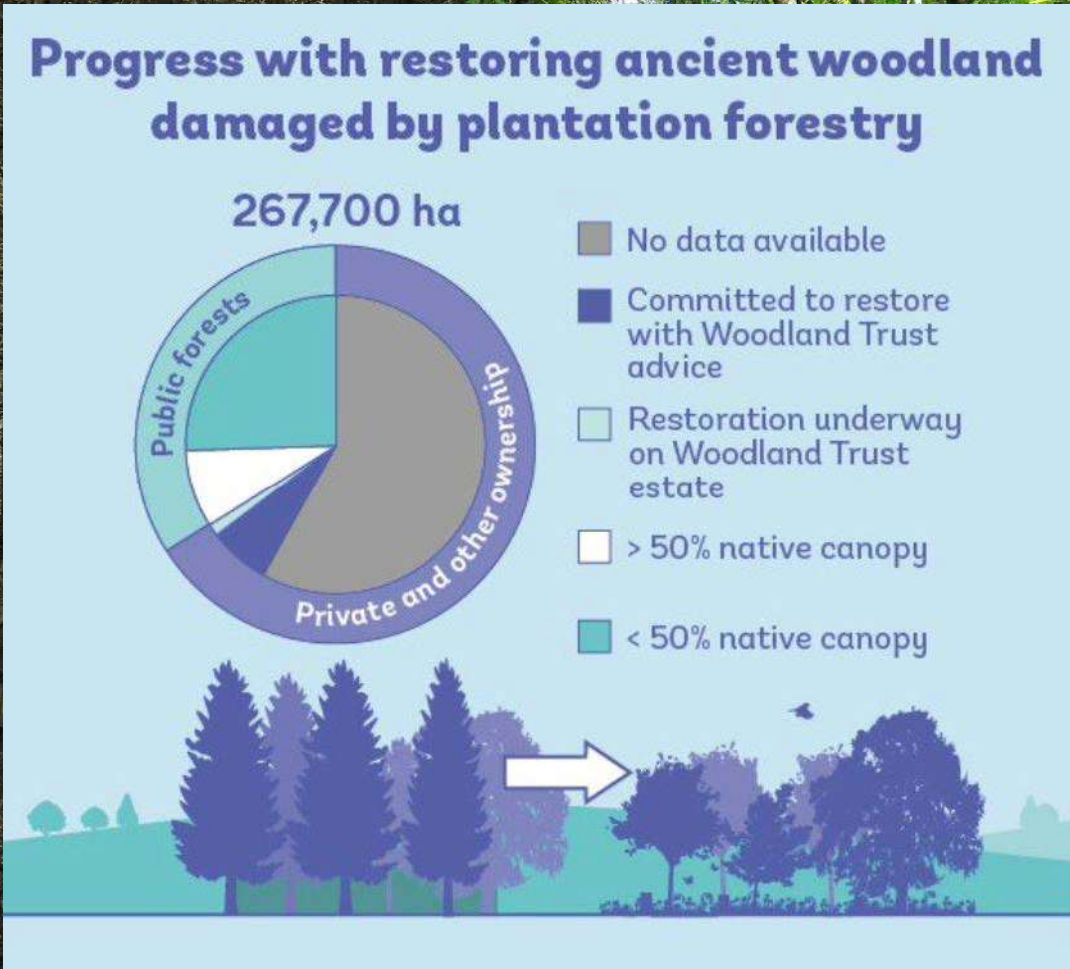
500 million UKISG* trees **required** to meet woodland expansion targets



* UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown assurance scheme

What's being done?

Progress with restoring ancient woodland damaged by plantation forestry (PAWs)



What needs to happen?

Our recommended priority actions

Expand woodland and tree cover

We need to **quadruple** the current rate of woodland creation



Saplings should be sourced and grown in the UK

Enhance and protect existing woods and trees

Enable native woods and trees to become a source of widespread nature recovery and improve people's lives

Improve the evidence

- Complete and update inventories of ancient woods and trees
- Regular assessments of important wildlife sites
- Fill data gaps
- Systematic woodland and tree monitoring

Invest in the future

Time, money, people and innovation are needed to take on the challenge and create opportunities for more and better woods and trees

State of the UK's Woods and Trees 2021



Thank-you and Questions

Read the report here:

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/report



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