



## Trees planted and woodland created since 2019

The Great Northumberland Forest was [announced](#) in autumn 2019. It is just about a more tree-d county, not a single big forest!

How much tree planting has taken place since then?

The first phase is the creation of three new forests covering a total of 500 hectares.

**Rushy Knowe** near Leaplish and Kielder Water was the first of these three woodlands to get underway. It will be 145 hectares and planting began in 2019 and 2020, with a mix of broadleaf and conifer species. Rushy Know represents about 14% of the area planting since 2019. It was partly funded by the Woodland Carbon Fund.

**Monkridge** - The second site is a planting scheme for [land at Monkridge](#) near Elson. A 100-hectare planting scheme started in winter 2021 – 2022 (this land was bought by Forestry England in April 2020).

The third site is still in development.

Since 2019, over 932 hectares (or 2,303 acres) of woodland has been created. Which is more than 1,743 football fields! (Or 0.18% of the county).

**Plus**, over 2.9 million individual trees or hedge plants in smaller schemes.

These totals include tree planting that has been funded in the following ways:



- Countryside Stewardship – over 627 hectares in the years 2019-2023. It is about 38% of the area total. More detail is on page 3.
- Woodland Carbon Fund scheme, about 17% of the area total. See pie chart on page 5.
- The Woodland Trust's grant schemes (MOREWoods, MOREHedges, Trees for Schools & Communities and Trees for your Farm) as well as three bigger sites have been funded in the past two years. This has totalled 71,529 trees
- 9.54 ha through the DEFRA fund in 2022-23, on a total of 23 sites, (this fund started in October 2022) and over 29 ha currently being delivered on a further 46 sites (in the Oct 2023- March 2024 planting season).

- Northumberland County Council – tree planting through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, the Local Authority Treescapes Fund and the Free Tree Scheme every year since 2020 (free saplings for 15,000 every year for residents & community groups)
- Rivers Trusts – sometimes funded through private companies, sometimes as part of a Landscape Partnership Scheme such as Revitalising Redesdale
- Trees planted as part of planning applications and development (at least 10,500 trees)
- The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme, in both the National Park and the two AONBs
- The Green Recovery Challenge Fund at Wallington (National Trust)
- Private landowners self-funding small-scale tree planting / donations.

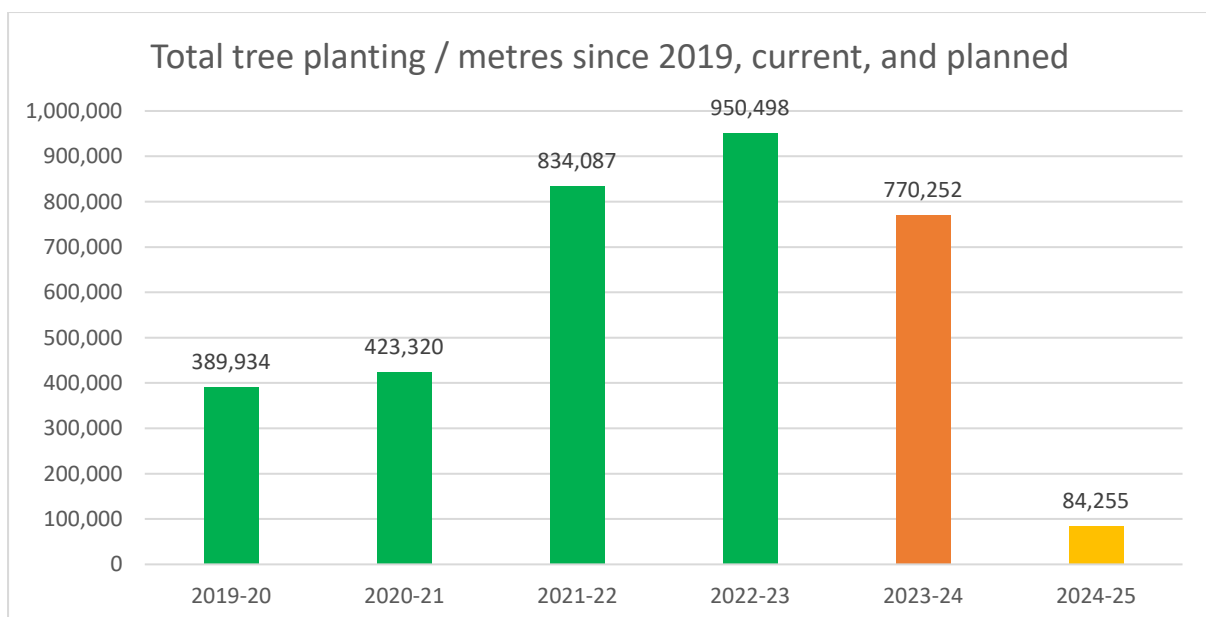
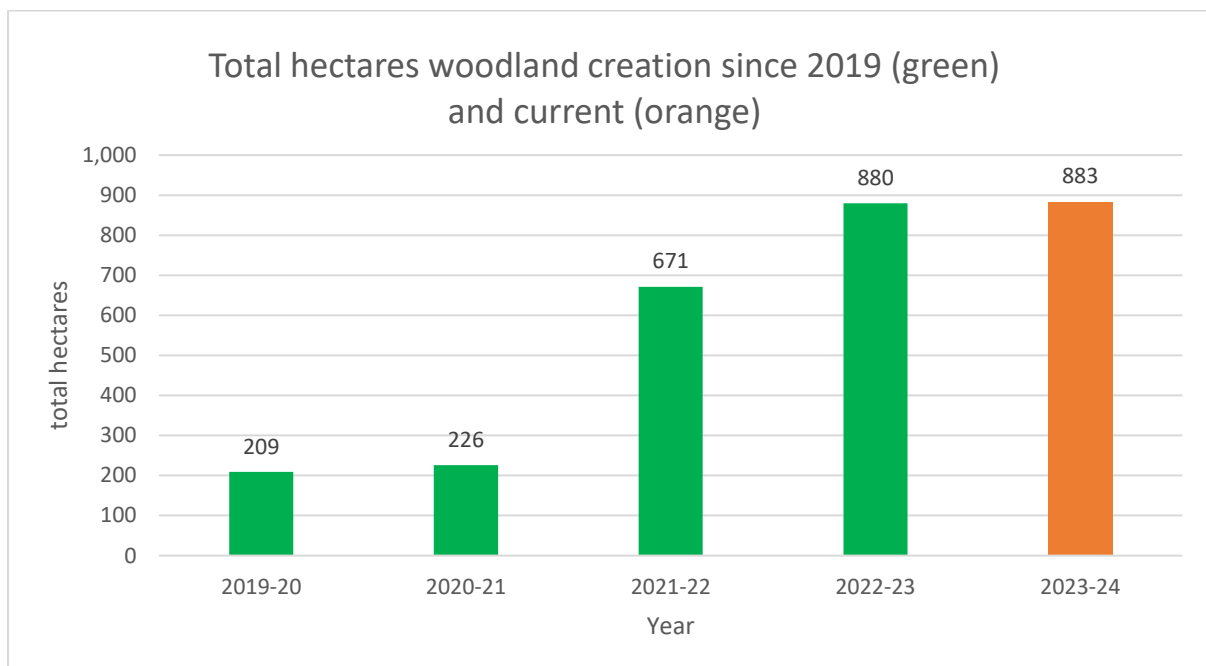


Figure 1 - Two graphs showing the hectares, or the individual trees planted since 2019, or current year, or planned in the next year

The tree planting activity since 2019 is shown in green in the graphs. Some of the datasets measure woods in area (hectares) and some are individual trees or metres, so two graphs are needed.

The second graph is not meant to illustrate a decline, it is just a reflection that much of the data it draws on is not known until it is published.

## Countryside Stewardship

Under Countryside Stewardship (this scheme has run since 2016 onwards) a range of planting types can be funded. They include hedgerow planting, standard trees in hedgerows or parkland, the creation of wood pasture and livestock exclusion. Since 2019, and including agreements that started in January 2023, the following tree planting has taken place:

Stewardship Option	totals	units
BN11 - Planting new hedges	367	km
BN7 - Hedgerow Gapping	103	km
TE1 - Planting Standard Hedgerow Tree	2,219	trees
TE2 - Planting Standard Parkland Tree	193	trees
TE4A - Woodland Tree Planting - Biodiversity	41,441	trees
TE4B - Woodland Tree Planting - Improving water quality or reducing flood risk	24,436	trees
TE4D - Woodland Tree Planting - Hedges and clumps	19,860	trees
WD12 - Creation of upland wood pasture	28	hectares
WD3 - Woodland edges on arable land	3	hectares
WD6 - Creation of wood pasture	189	hectares
WD8 - Creation of successional areas and scrub	239	hectares
WD9 - Livestock exclusion supplement - scrub and successional areas	169	hectares

*Table 1 - the figures for the several types of stewardship item*

This totals over **470 km of hedges**, over **88,000** individual trees and **627 hectares** of woodland creation / tree planting.

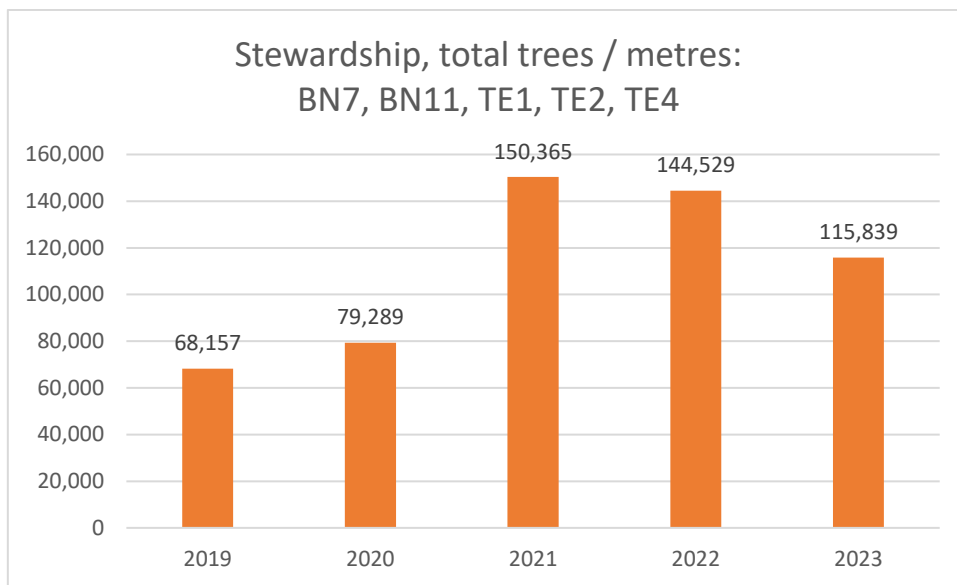
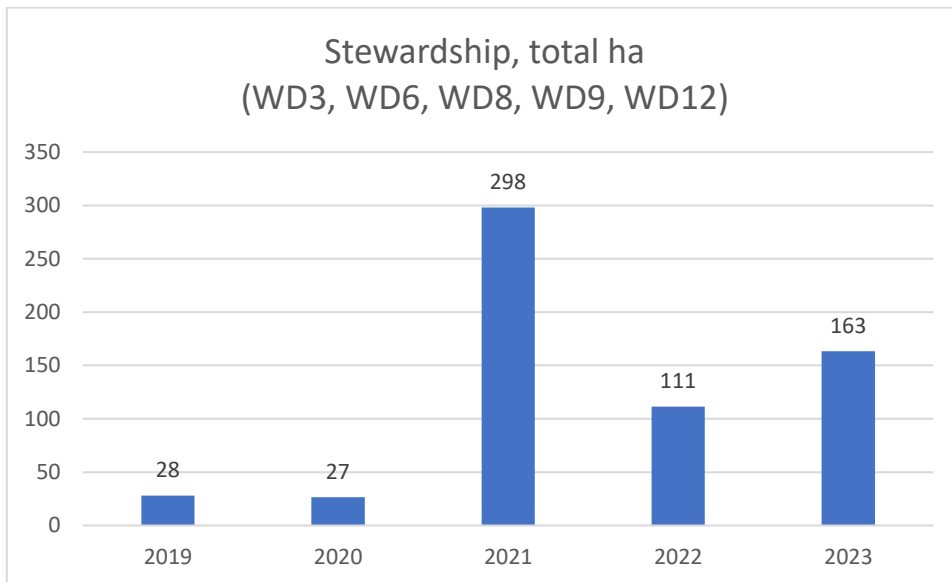


Figure 2 - the area or the numbers of trees / hedges funded through stewardship since 2019 (for agreements that started in January 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 or 2023)

Some of the data measure woods in area (hectares) and some are individual trees or metres, so two graphs are needed.

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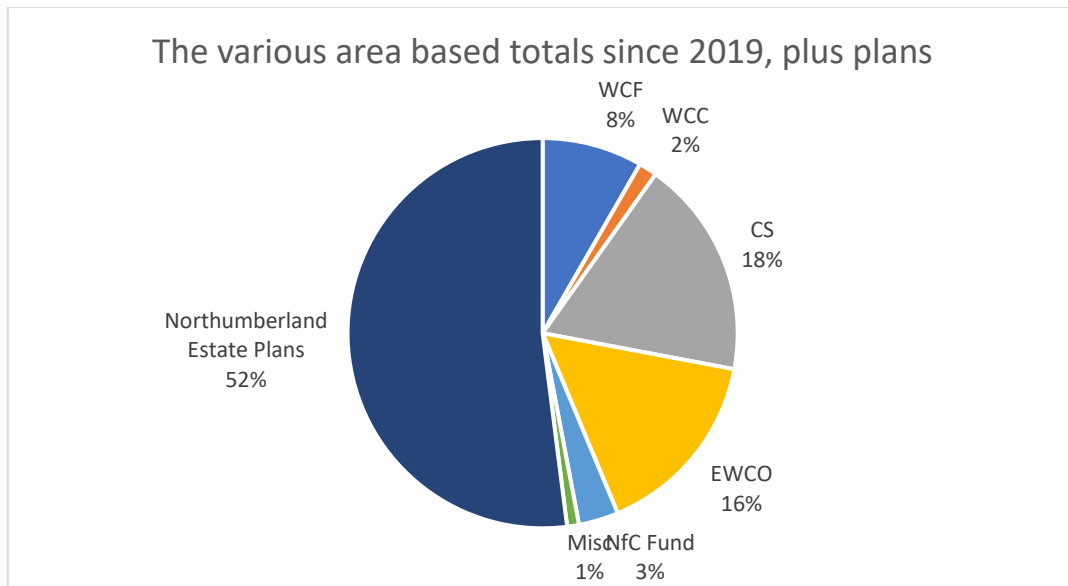


Figure 3 - pie chart showing how the main different funding sources contribute to the total. Taking away the Northumberland Estate Plans the % become: Woodland Carbon Fund 5%; Woodland Carbon Code 10%; Countryside Stewardship 20%; EWCO 30%

## The Future

At the same time, there are some woodland creation or tree planting schemes in the pipeline, that will take place over the next few years.

We think that over the next two years there are over **3,000 hectares** in the planning. Added to the woodland created since 2019 this equals nearly 0.8% of the county with more woodland cover. (See the graphs on page 2). The tree planting for the future is shown in yellow.

Details of these plans include:

- There are over 10 sites throughout the county at an early stage of the Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG), which may total over 1,800 hectares. This represents 65% of the planned total over the next two years. Although we have not placed it into a future year yet on the graphs.
- 400 hectares being created through the Wilder Wallington project, plus 40km of new hedgerows
- Schemes in development by the Rivers Trusts, a possible total of 30 hectares
- The Woodland Trust expects to distribute around 17,000 trees and hedge plants every year in Northumberland through the MOREWoods, MOREHedges and the Trees for your Farm or Trees for Schools and Communities scheme
- Community projects, like the [Cresswell Pele Orchard project](#)
- Every year until 2030, Northumberland County Council are running the popular “free tree scheme” for local residents.



- The Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) in the season 2024-2025.