

## Trees planted and woodland created since 2019



The Great Northumberland Forest was [announced](#) in autumn 2019.

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 Leapliph and Kielder Water is 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 Knowe represents about 20% of the area planting since 2019. It was partly funded by the Woodland Carbon Fund.

The other two sites are still in development but include a planting scheme for [land at Monkridge](#) near Elson. A 100-hectare planting scheme will take place in winter 2021 – 2022 (this land was bought by Forestry England in April 2020).

Since 2019, over 716 hectares (or 1,769 acres) of woodland has been created. Which is more than 1,388 football fields!

Plus, over 150,000 individual trees in smaller schemes. These totals include tree planting that has been funded in the following ways:



Countryside Stewardship – nearly 89 hectares in the last two years, or about 12% the area total, with more planned – more detail is below.

- Woodland Carbon Fund and Woodland Carbon Code schemes, together about 62% of the area total
- Northumberland Wildlife Trust, with the Kielderhead [Wildwood partnership project](#), over 3% of the area total
- 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 39,000 trees
- Northumberland County Council – tree planting through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and the Free Tree Scheme in 2020 and again in 2021 – free saplings for 15,000 residents and 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 3,180 trees)
- Private landowners self-funding small-scale tree planting.

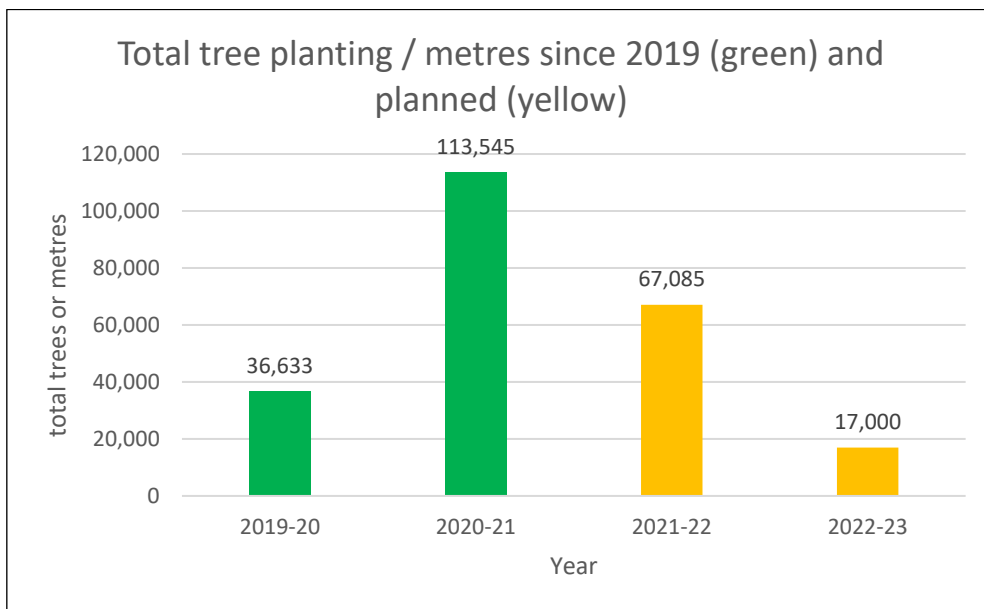
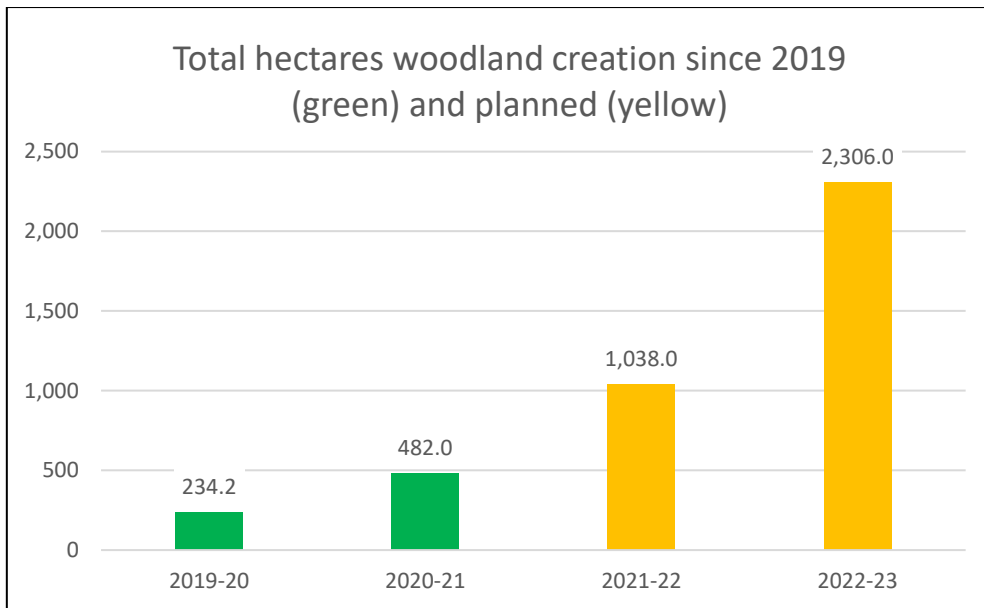


Figure 1 - Two graphs showing the hectares, or the individual trees planted since 2019 or planned in the next two years

The tree planting activity for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 are 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, the following tree planting has taken place:

Stewardship option	Total	Units
BN11 - Planting new hedges	71.94	km
TE1 - Planting Standard Hedgerow Tree	258	units
TE2 - Planting Standard Parkland Tree	63	trees
TE4A - Woodland Tree Planting - Biodiversity	3,469	trees
TE4C - Woodland Tree Planting - Restock after a tree health issue	247	trees
TE4D - Woodland Tree Planting - Hedges and clumps	12,059	trees
WD3 - Woodland edges on arable land	0.64	hectares
WD6 - Creation of wood pasture	179.34	hectares
WD8 - Creation of successional areas and scrub	96.3	hectares
WD9 - Livestock exclusion supplement - scrub and successional areas	56.7	hectares

Table 1 - the figures for the different types of stewardship item

This totals nearly **72km** of hedges, over **16,000** individual trees and nearly **333 hectares** of woodland creation either in place or being planted winter 2021-22.

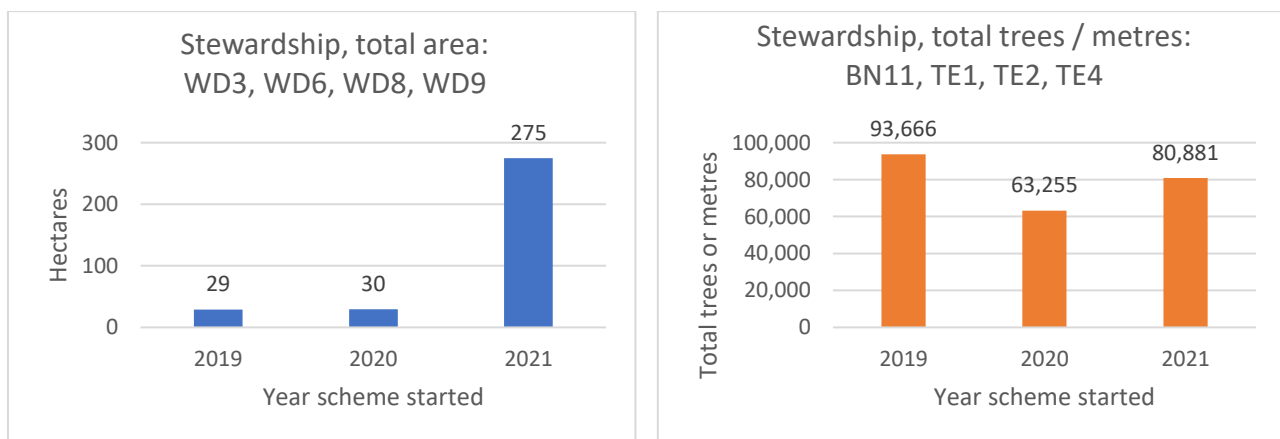


Figure 2 - the area or the numbers of trees / hedges funded through stewardship since 2019 (for agreements that started in 2019, 2020 or 2021)

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

## 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 1% of the county with more woodland cover.

(See the graphs on page 2). The tree planting for the next two years is shown in yellow.

This includes a planting scheme for land at Monkridge near Elsdon where a 100-hectare scheme will take place in winter 2021. Also:

- 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 71% of the planned total over the next two years
- As part of the Woodland Carbon Fund, a 16.2-hectare site at Gibshiel Farm will be planted in winter 2021-22 (it was agreed before the new England Woodland Creation Offer was announced)
- The new EWCO grant it is hoped will plant the next phase of Shiel Dyke Wood, about 100 hectares, as well as several new site applications that have been enquired about in the past couple of months
- There are plans for around 318 hectares of woodland creation coming up through the Countryside Stewardship scheme
- The Wildlife Trust will continue with [the Wildwood project](#) over the next two years, with approximately 30 hectares still to plant. This is funded through the National Heritage Lottery Fund and is mostly planted by amazing volunteers
- Northumberland County Council's [free tree scheme](#) starts again in autumn 2021 as well as the Local Authority Treescapes Fund and a "Platinum Grove" created as part of the [Queen's Green Canopy](#)
  - 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
  - The National Trust at Wallington is going to plant 75,000 trees to create 12 hectares of new deciduous woodland, with the ambition to plant over 500,000 trees over the next decade. The whole National Trust aims to plant 20 million trees by 2030. [Wallington will be planting](#) 18,000 hedgerow trees, creating 7.3km of new hedge, to link habitats and species.

