

2 Land Use

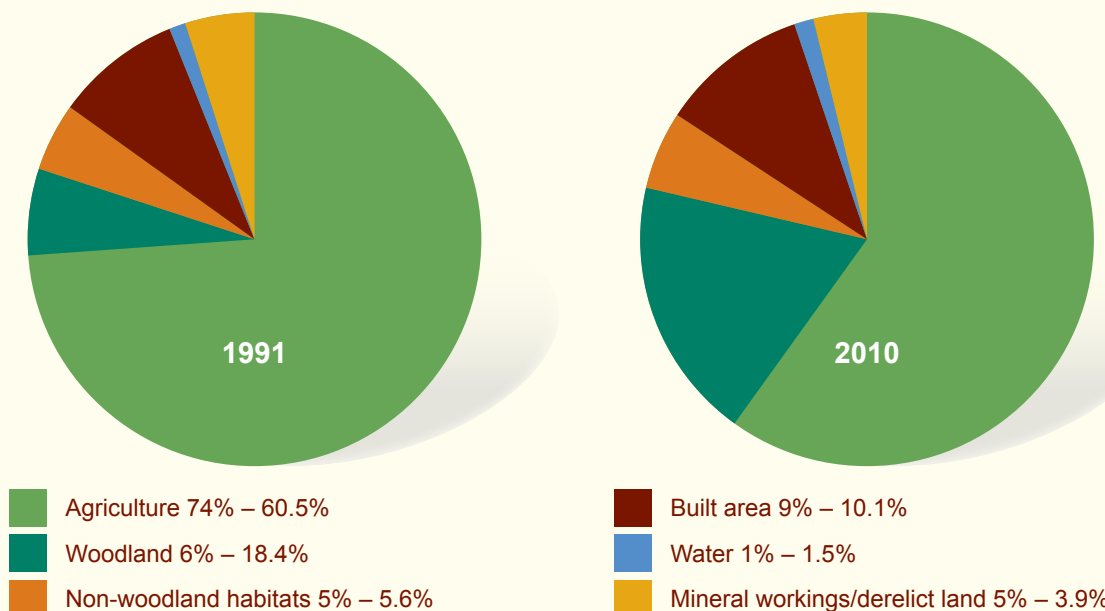


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This contextual indicator shows change over time in the area's land use¹. The data measures National Forest Strategy land use change in relation to woodland cover, biodiversity, agricultural diversification and mineral/derelict land restoration.

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Land use change 1991 – 2010



- Land used for agriculture has reduced from 74% to 60.5% between 1991–2010, while woodland cover has increased from 6% to 18.4%.¹ The National Forest Company's approach to agricultural land diversification can be found at www.nationalforest.org/forest/faq.
- The main changes over the period 2007–2010 are an increase in woodland cover (0.9%), a decrease in land used for agriculture (-1%) and a slight increase in non-woodland habitats (0.1%).
- Land use change has been tracked by monitoring progress against the National Forest Strategy objectives and through independent audits since 1994^{2,3,4,5}. This data is reliant upon outside sources and figures for agriculture, water and built-up areas are indicative.

* ACTION:

- 1) Continue to promote mechanisms to achieve the mix of land uses required to deliver the National Forest Strategy and landscape-scale change.
- 2) Monitor land use change annually.
- 3) Keep abreast of current policy thinking about landscape-scale habitat connectivity and delivery of ecosystem services in relation to land use change in the Forest.

DATA SOURCES:

- 1) NFC annual monitoring [2010].
- 2) The National Forest Strategy Audit, 1994-2002 – National Forest Company [2002].
- 3) The National Forest Strategy Review – Entec UK Ltd. [2002].
- 4) National Forest Landscape Character Assessment update – Sheils Flynn [2004].
- 5) National Forest Strategy 2004-14, audit of progress – National Forest Company [2008].

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