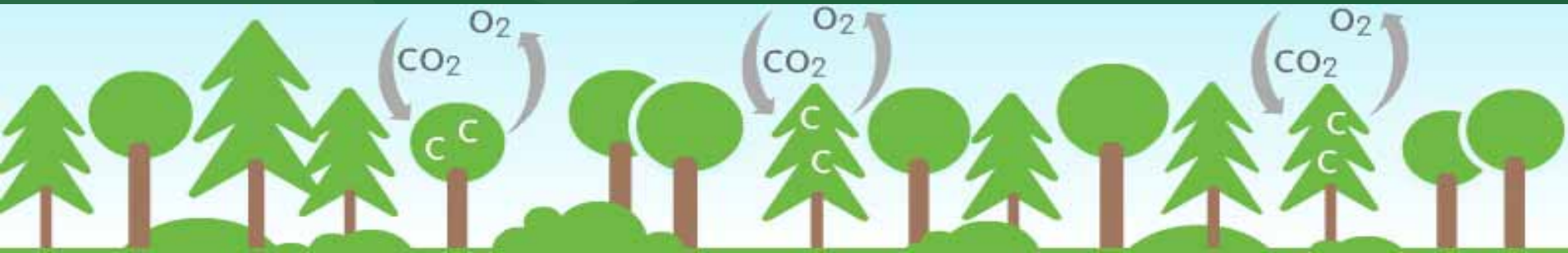


# Revised deforestation estimates for the United Kingdom



- Felling Licence Regulations: a felling licence is required if more than 5 cubic metres is to be felled in any calendar quarter.
  - legally enforceable
  - generally conditional felling licences are granted
  - unconditional (no-restock) for habitat restoration
- Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations: An EIA may be called if deforestation is deemed 'significant'.

But.....

- Deforestation for development (including windfarms) is responsibility of Local Authority Planning Departments (~400 in England)
- Deforestation on the National Forest Estates included in Forest Design Plans.

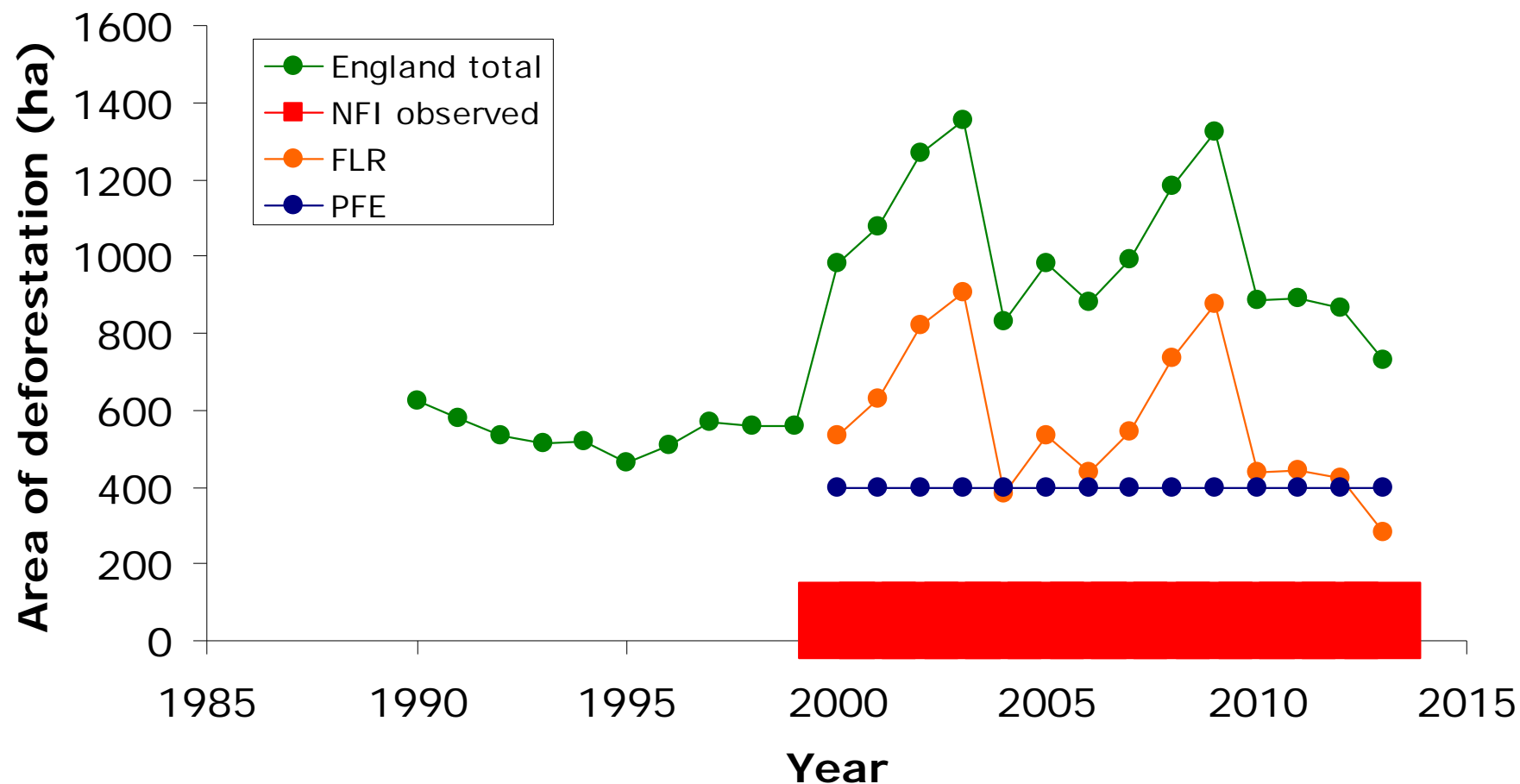
- Unconditional felling licence register (annual)
  - a proportion may not be permanent
- Illegal felling (assumed zero)
- Observed permanent change (eg car parks, buildings etc.)
  - National Forest Inventory
  - Ordnance Survey mapping
- Intended deforestation
  - windfarm development
  - National Forest Estates

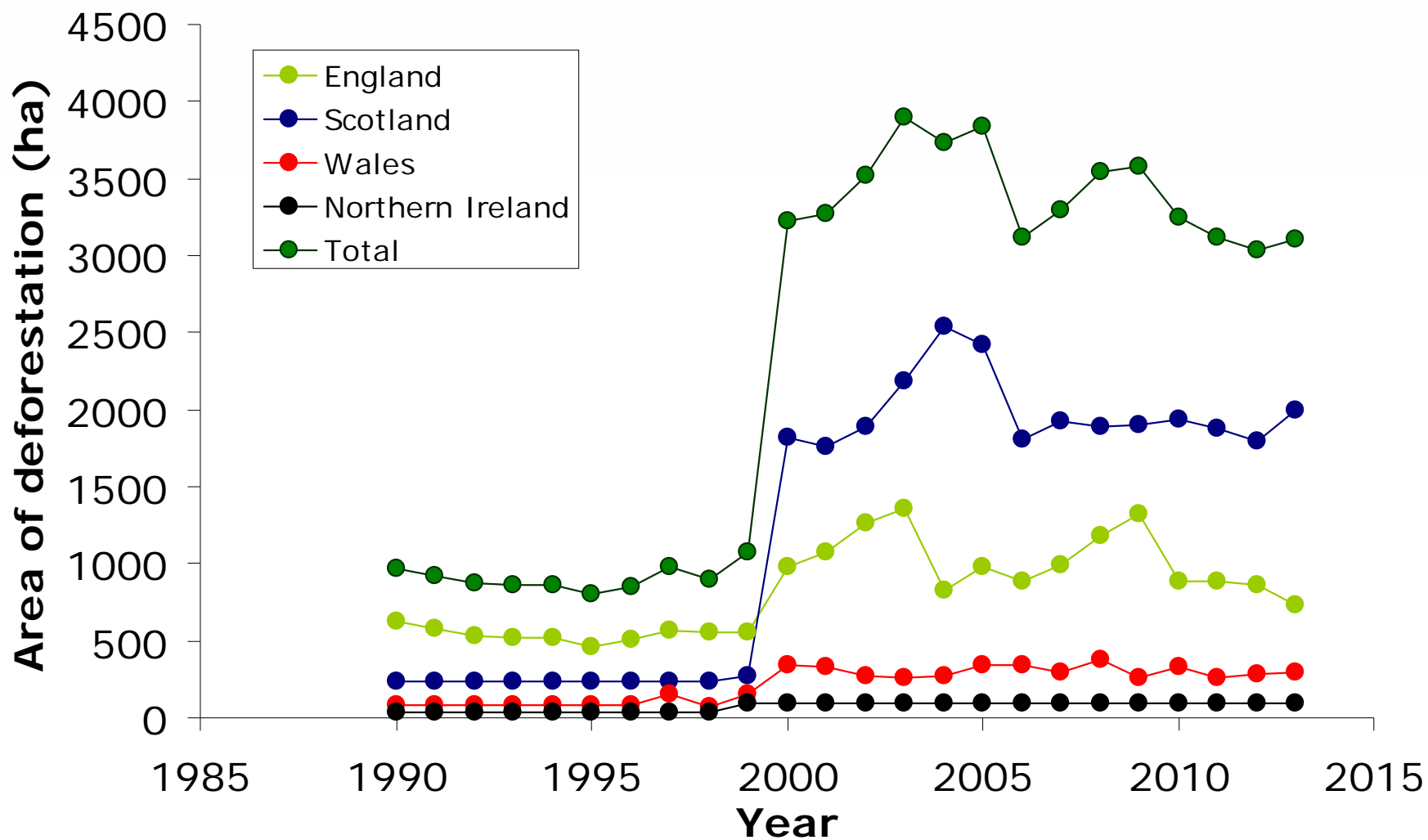
## Woodland Loss

- Woodland loss is defined here as an identifiable permanent removal of woodland cover to change the land use. Changes that leave the area as an open non-woodland habitat are not included until the permanent loss of minimum tree cover is established, which can take up to 10 years.

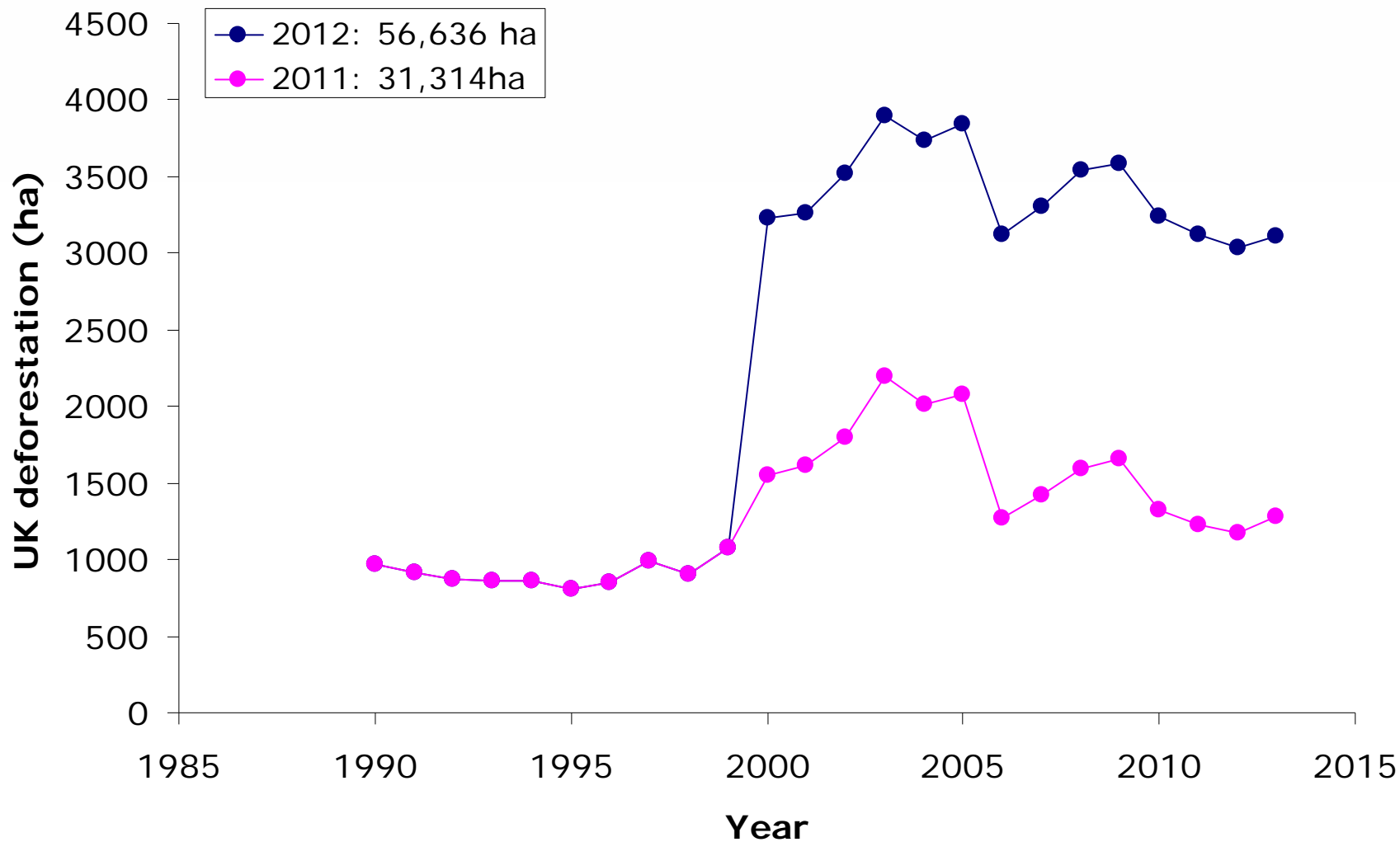
- ...and indicative management intentions for FC woodland was to convert **3,980 hectares** from woodland to open habitat between 2000 and 2010. Other restructuring may increase this area. [NFI Woodland Area Report for England, 2011]
- More recently, an assessment of woodland loss in Scotland has estimated that **19,000 hectares** of woodland were removed in Scotland in the 10 year period to March 2011, of which just over one half (54%) was on non-Forestry Commission land [Forestry Statistics 2013].
- Forestry Commission Wales have undertaken action between 1997-98 and 2009-10 intended to restore around **3,000 hectares** of such habitat [NFI Woodland Area Report for Wales, 2011].

- "the estimates of woodland removal for open habitat restoration and wind farm development are provisional and can only be confirmed during the second cycle of the National Forest Inventory (2015-2020). This is because, according to definitions used in the National Forest Inventory, land use change is classed as deforestation if the land has been clear of trees for 10 years, or if there is clear evidence of land use change (car parks, quarries, buildings).
- Only after this ten year period will it be possible to confirm that woodland regeneration has not occurred on land that was cleared for open habitat restoration/wind farm development, or that the action was undertaken across the entirety of a site subject to an unconditional felling licence".









- Are we right to report 'intended deforestation'?
- Are there alternative approaches?