

ed new woodland in the past two years but 42 per cent were planning to do so in the next five years.

Simon Lloyd, the society's chief executive, said that landowners were worried about the reduction in the value of land when converting agricultural fields to woodland. There were also widespread concerns about the complexity and timing of obtaining grants

to support woodland creation. "The government risks putting off private landowners from potential woodland creation unless administrative processes are greatly simplified," he said.

Emi Murphy, of Friends of the Earth, said: "Our government talks the talk on fighting climate breakdown, but these figures show that planting of new

trees, and replacing those felled, in England remains extremely low.

"During the coronavirus lockdown it's become clearer than ever how vital access to trees and green spaces is for people's health and wellbeing, so for the sake of people as well as the planet we need to see a huge improvement in how quickly trees are being planted, with the right trees in the right places."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "Tree planting remains at the heart of our ambitious environmental programme, which is why we have committed to increase tree planting across the UK to 74,000 acres per year by 2025, working closely with devolved administrations, communities and landowners to make this happen." ■

