



Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Grampian Conservancy

Forestry in Grampian

NESAAG Nov 29th 2023

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

forestry.gov.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Aim – to inform you of the current situation in Grampian and the process for woodland creation

- **Background** – How did we get here?
- **Context** – What's driving woodland creation?
- **Current situation** - What is happening at the moment?
- **Process** – How do we go about creating new woodland?



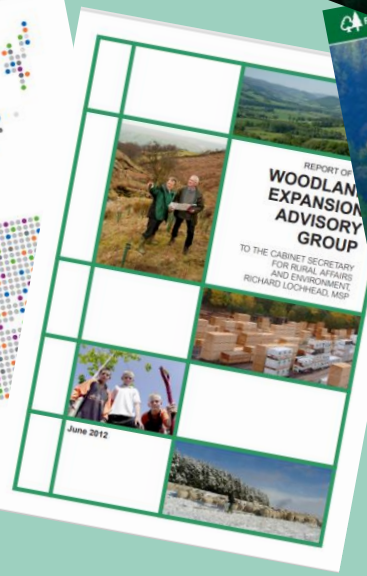
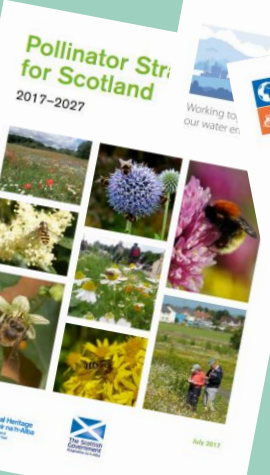
A brief history;

- **Strategic importance – then and now**
- **5% forest cover**
- **Forestry - a success story**
- **The ice age???**



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Policy rich environment





Scotland's Forestry Strategy

» 2019–2029 overview

VISION

» In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodlands, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient, adaptable resource, with greater natural capital value, that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment, and healthy and flourishing communities.

OBJECTIVES

» Increase the contribution of forests and woodlands to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth

» Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment

» Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, well-being and life chances

PRIORITIES

» Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed

» Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands

» Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives

» Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands

» Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets

» Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands



Forestry in Scotland: overview

- **Scotland's** Scotland's woodland cover is c. 1.45 million hectares (1/3 owned by Scottish Ministers and the rest privately or community owned): 19% of the land area of Scotland. Three-quarters are conifers.
- **Forestry is a net carbon sink**, absorbing 7.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2020, equivalent to about 14% of Scotland's gross GHG emissions

25,000

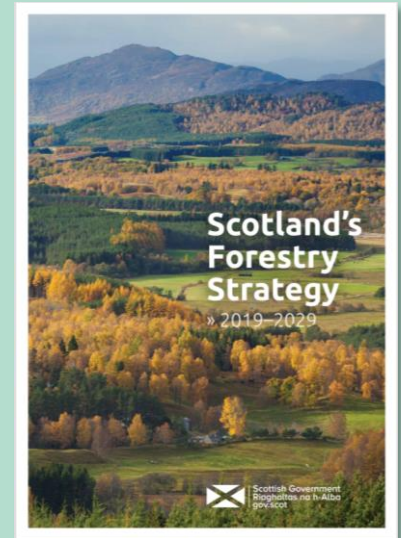
Jobs Supported in the sector

7.8 million m³

Softwood logs produced

33,000 ha

New Woodland created in last 3yrs



- **Species mix:** 50%/50% native/non-native trees in last decade. 40%/60% in last 3 years.
- **Woodland creation targets:** 81,000 hectares over the five years of this Parliament. 18 000ha/yr (Grampian trad 500ha this year over 1 500ha)
- In Scotland, we are currently creating over **60%** of all the new woodland in the UK.
- Scotland's forests represent 46% of the UK forest area and 60% of the UK timber harvest (approx. 7.8 million tonnes of round timber per year – enough to fill a train 1000 miles long).



Who does what?



Forestry and Land Scotland

- Executive Agency of Scottish Government established 1 April 2019
- 1,000 employees, 5 regions
- Responsible for managing national forests and land on behalf of Scottish Ministers
- Funded primarily by commercial trading activities - some Scottish Government funds (ASL)



Scottish Forestry

- Executive Agency of Scottish Government established 1 April 2019
- Over 200 employees, 5 conservancies
- Responsible for forestry policy, regulation and support (including grants)
- Funded through Scottish Budget.

Chief Forester for Scotland

- New role established by the 2018 Act
- Professional advisor to Ministers, Head of Profession and sector champion



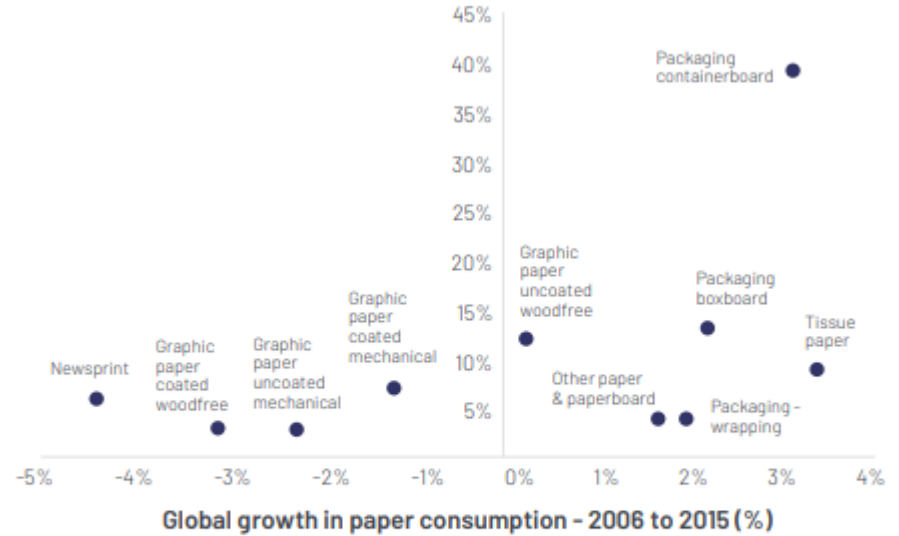
Scottish Forestry - what do we do?

- **Woodland creation** - EIA – UKFS Compliance – Grant Scheme
- **Forest Management** – Longterm Forest Plans, Felling Permissions
- **Plant Health** – disease control and management
- **Forestry Policy** – UKFS, Forestry Strategy (2019-2029) Regional Plans, Guidance



Demand is growing;
World Bank estimates that global timber demand will quadruple by 2050

Share of global paper consumption - 2015 (%)

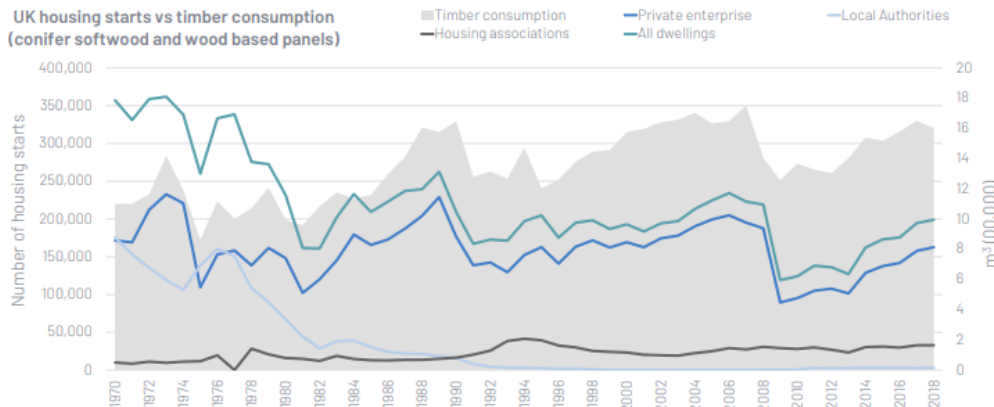


Global growth in paper consumption - 2006 to 2015 (%)

Source: RISI, Westpac: Industry Insight - Forestry and Wood Products - May 2018

Total global market pulp demand has increased at a CAGR of 2.5% since 1999, driven by the containerboard market, which has grown at 3.3% per annum.¹

UK housing starts vs timber consumption (conifer softwood and wood based panels)

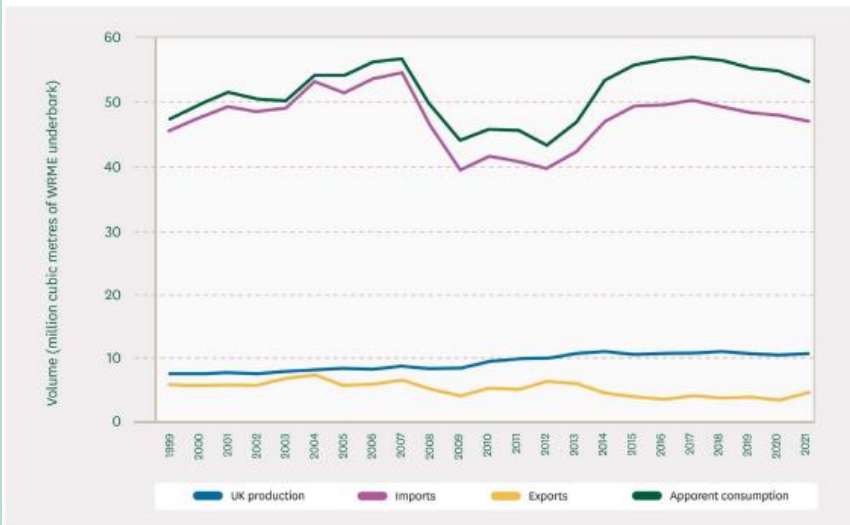


Source: UK Government Department for Communities, UK Housing Statistics, and FAO Forest Product Statistics 2018



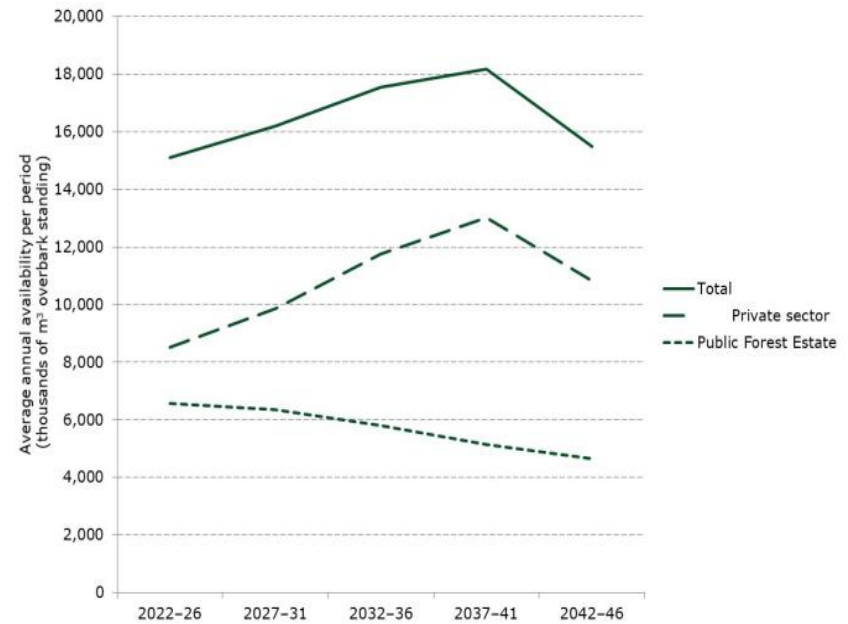
Timber supply/consumption

Figure 5: Apparent consumption of wood in the UK, against import, export and UK produced quantities, 1999 to 2021



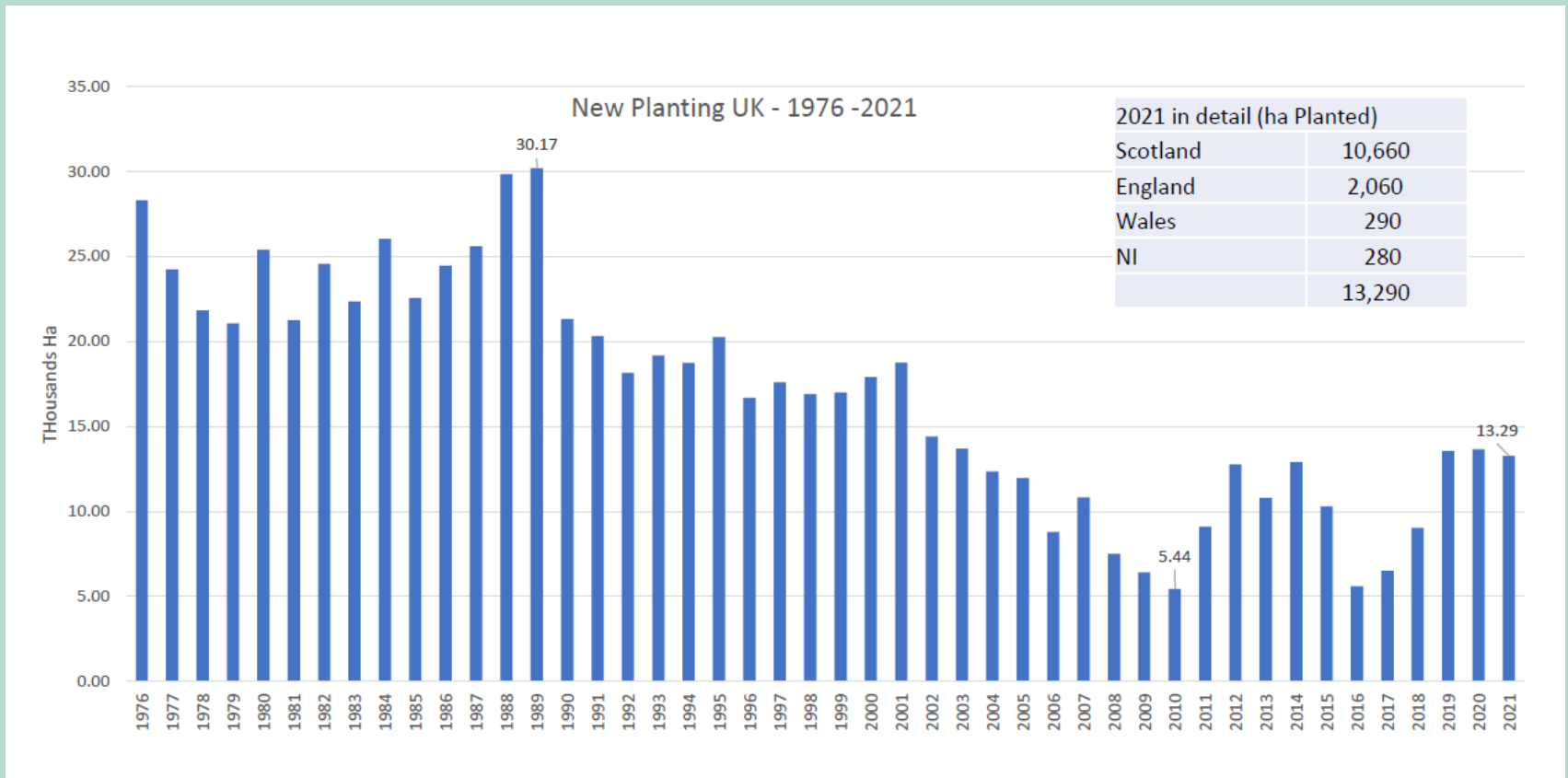
Source: Forest Research, [Forestry Statistics 2022](#), September 2022: Chapter 3: Trade, p.8. Apparent consumption is the amount of timber used as wood and wood products by people and industries in the United Kingdom. It is calculated as total domestic production plus imports, minus exports. Apparent consumption differs from actual consumption by the extent of changes in the level of stocks. It is not practical to collect information on actual consumption. WRME is Wood Raw Material Equivalent.

Figure 1. Summary of the 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability for the public forest estate and private sector estate in the UK





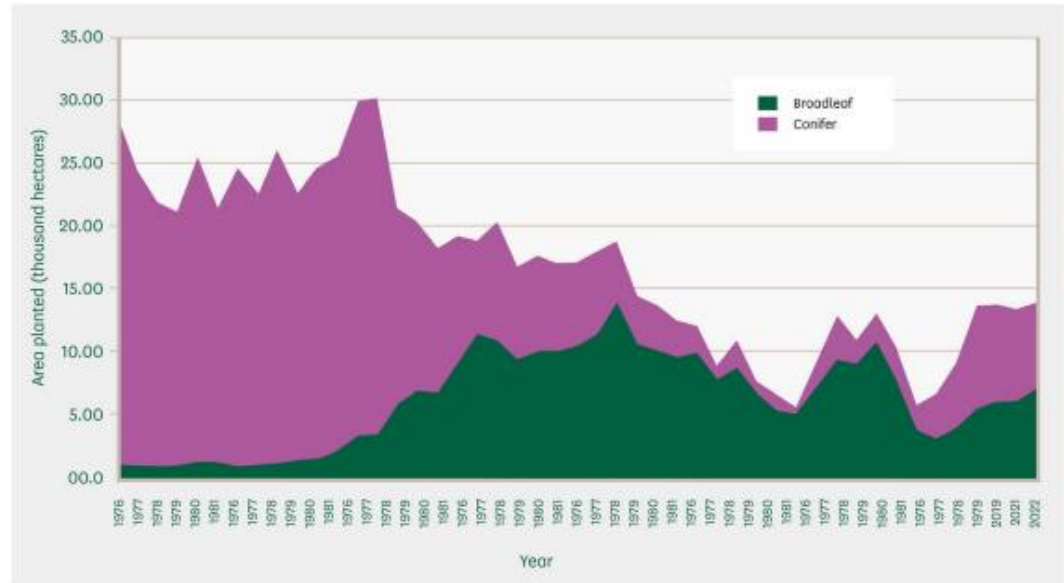
Planting figures





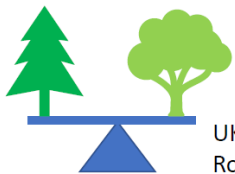
What are we planting?

Figure 2: New tree planting in the UK, by type, 1971–2022

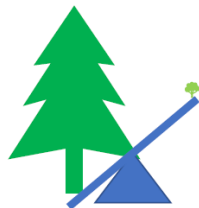


Source: House of Commons analysis of Forestry Research, [Provisional Woodland Statistics 2022, supplementary data set C](#).

This data includes planting by the public and private sectors.



UK Forest Area 3.2m ha
Roughly 50:50 Conifer to Broadleaf



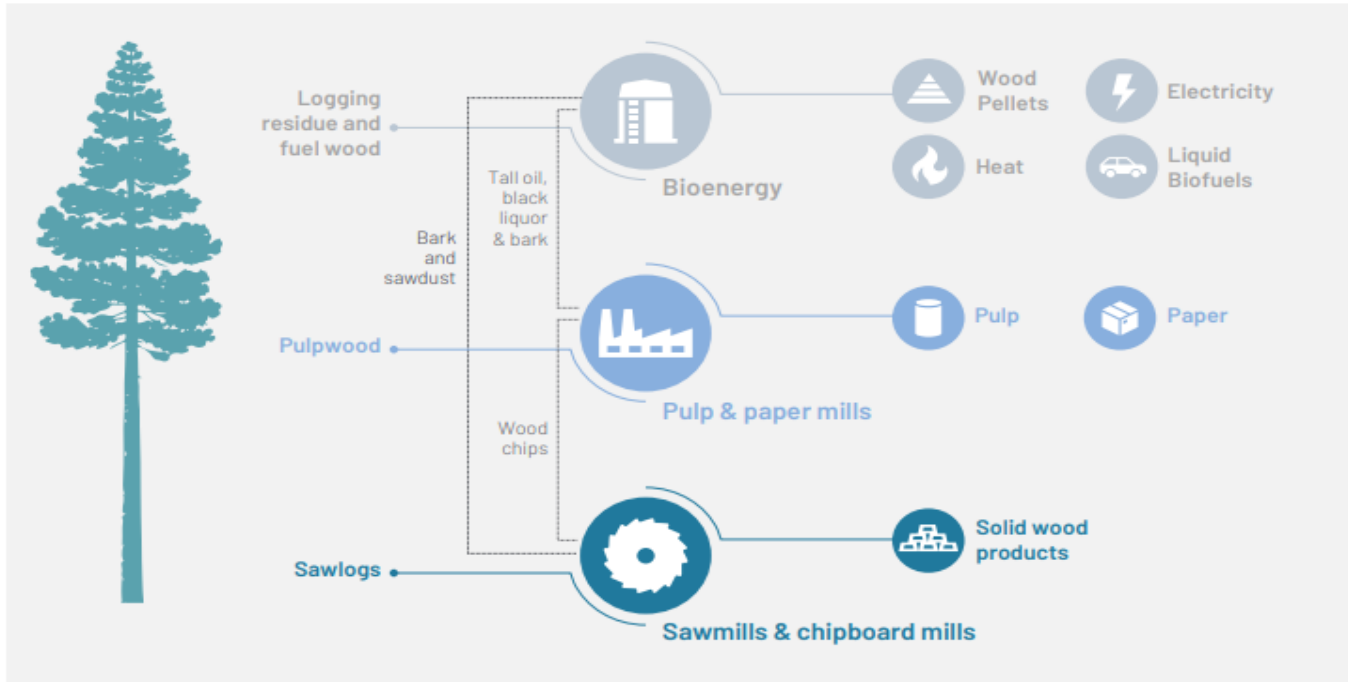
Timber Production
1.6m ha Conifer = 10.2m t of timber per year (92.2%)
1.6m ha Broadleaf = 869,000t (7.8%)



Although less than 5% of the total world forest area, plantations account for nearly 35% of the world's wood products (FAO, 2011).



Uses of timber



Timber Consumption¹

Construction	35%	Structural timber, joists, plywood and veneers
Chipboard	15%	Particle board, OSB, MDF
Decking / Sheds	10%	Planks, plywood
Fencing	10%	Poles
Pallets	5%	Small cuts of straight wood
Construction & Ancillary Products	75%	
Biomass / Energy	15%	Wood chips and pellets burned instead of coal
Pulp - paper & packaging	10%	Paper, tissue, and cardboard
Total	100%	



Mjosa Tower, Norway

Currently the world's tallest timber building, at 85.4 metres, using laminated veneer lumber.



Credit
Daniel Shearin

Dalston Works, Shoreditch, London

A completed 155,000 sq ft, 121 dwelling plus retail, restaurant and workspace CLT construction.

More than 50% less CO₂ emissions of equivalent concrete structure.

3,756 tonnes of CO₂ sequestered.

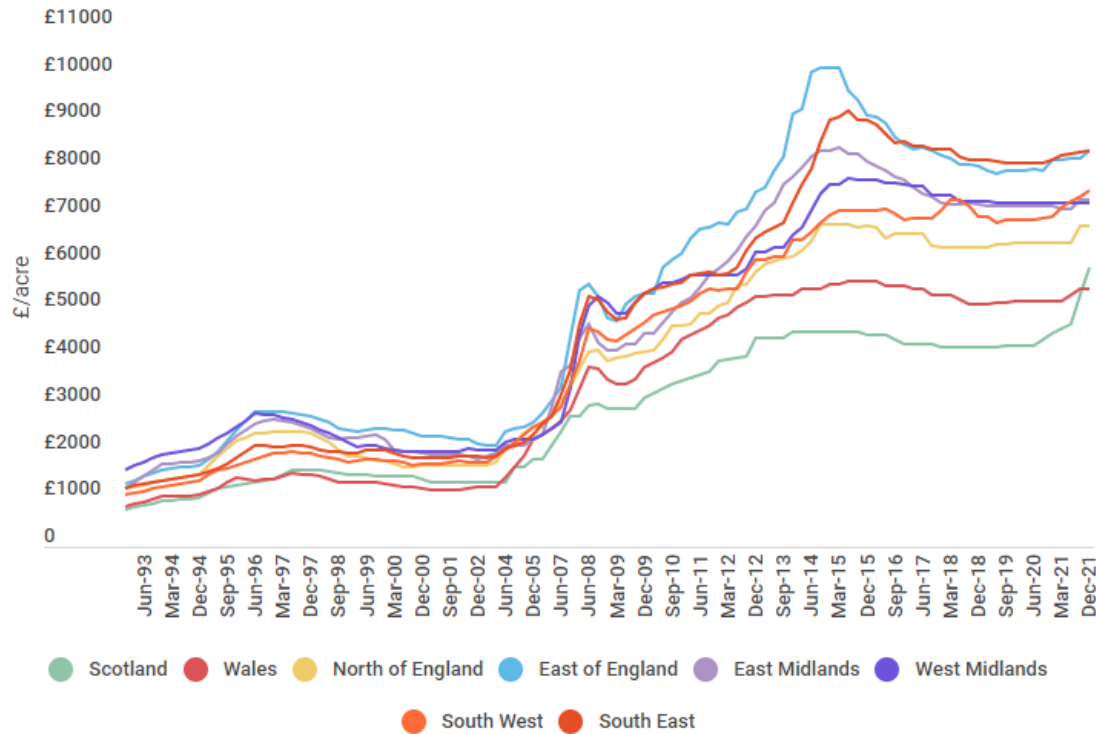
111 deliveries compared to circa 700 for concrete equivalent.



Land values

LAND VALUES BY REGION SINCE 1992

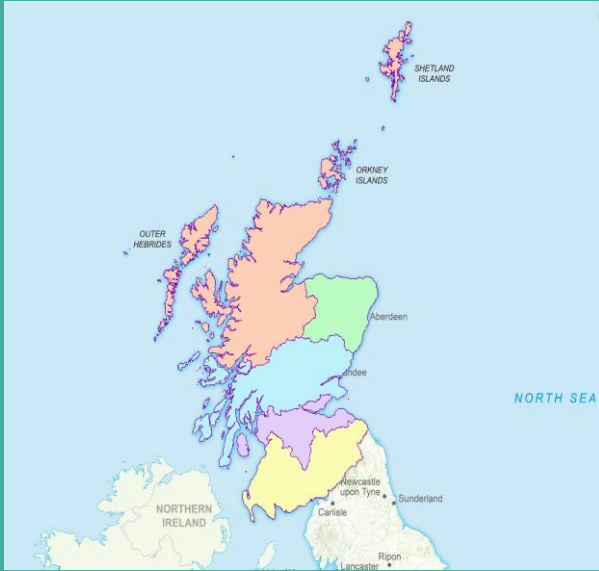
Regional trends of average farmland values as recorded by the Savills Farmland Values Survey.



Source: Savills Research



Grampian



Conservancy	Total Land Area Ha	% of Scotland	Existing Woodland Cover Within Conservancy Ha	% of woodland in Scotland	% of region Woodland Cover
Grampian	880,115	11%	Approx 185,000	12%	21%
Aberdeenshire	631,000	7.86%	Approx 121,000	8%	19%
Moray	224,000	2.79%	Approx 63,000	4.2%	33%
Aberdeen	18,830	0.08%	Approx 2,410	0.03%	13%



Grampian key data

- There is 185,000 hectares of woodland in Grampian.
 - 70% is in private ownership;
 - 30% is owned by or leased to Forestry and Land Scotland.
- Conifer is the dominant forest type at 73%
 - The predominant conifer species is Scots pine
 - The main broadleaved species is birch
- To bring Grampian to 21% forest cover will require planting 17,600ha of woodland





FGS

Approved

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Forest Infrastructure	6	4	4	5	2	21
Harvest & processing	2	3	26	8	2	41
SMF	2		1	5	2	10
Tree Health	1					1
WIG	30	18	34	18	30	130
Woodland Creation	26	27	33	28	22	136
TOTAL	67	52	98	64	58	339

Felling Permissions

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
FPA	152	154	133	155	354	211	1159

Forest Plan Amendment

LMP Amendment	17	15	30	24	54	10	150
LTFP Amendment	12	10	36	39	68	17	182

Forest Plans

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
LMP	5		2	3	1	11
LTFP	6	7	5	10	7	35
Management Plan	21	14	9	11	12	67
UWMP				1		1
WIAT			1			1
TOTAL	2050	2040	2037	2046	2042	115





Grampian

Woodland Creation (*multiple options may be included within a single WC)

Totals

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
Woodland Creation (total ha)	428	680	1,075	782	1,492	4,457
Woodland Creation (number)	26	27	33	28	22	136
Woodland Creation (av. ha)	16	25	33	28	68	

% WC Options

Agroforestry	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Broadleaves	5%	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%
Conifer	20%	53%	77%	45%	23%	44%
Diverse Conifer	37%	24%	8%	14%	43%	26%
Native Broadleaves	8%	11%	6%	23%	21%	15%
Native Low Density	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%
Native Scots Pine	23%	3%	2%	13%	3%	6%
Native Upland Birch	4%	0%	2%	1%	4%	2%
Small or Farm Woodland	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%

Cat.	ha
Conifer	4,910
Broadlead	2,439

Pipeline

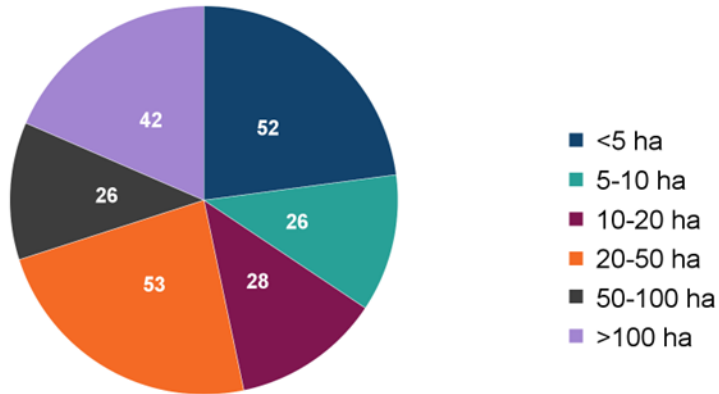
Year	2023	2024	TOTAL
Area	2,621	3,281	5,902





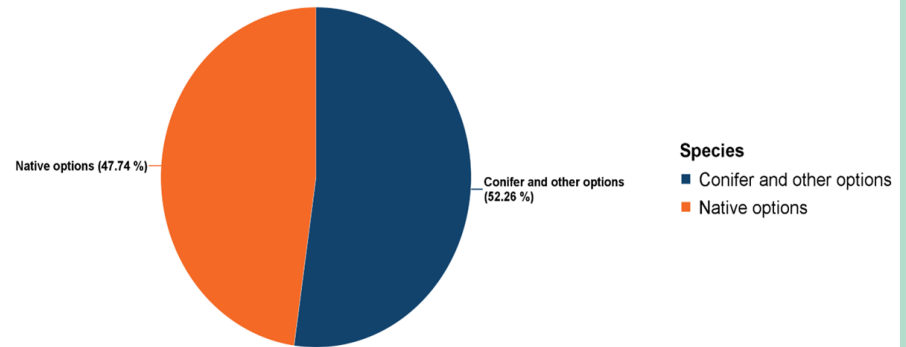
Scotland data

**Approved Woodland Creation Projects, by Size Category
Planting Year 2023**



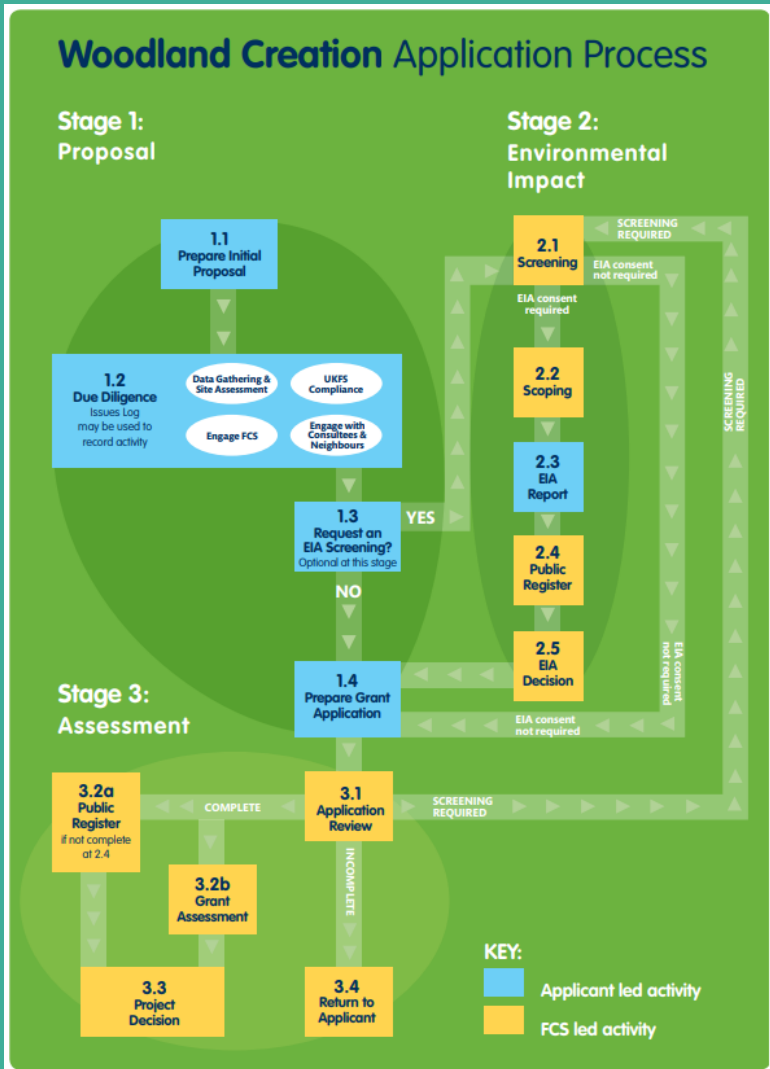
Number of Schemes
(Total 227 schemes)

Woodland Creation - Conifer & other options vs Native





Woodland Creation



- Consultation is key –especially engagement with the community
- UKFS/FGS Compliance – a given
- Environmental Impact Assessment – Screening or full assessment where there is significant impact
- Community/Economy/Climate/Biodiversity



Forestry Engagement and Consultation Processes

Roles and responsibilities during the forestry application approval process

	Applicant	Scottish Forestry	Communities / local stakeholders
Proposal preparation	<p>Engage with local stakeholders and communities.</p> <p>Begin a record or log of application process, detailing considerations and any actions taken.</p>	<p>On request, provide advice to the applicant on appropriate organisations and people to engage with and scale of engagement required.</p>	<p>Use the opportunities presented in this stage of the process to liaise and work with the applicant to help improve the plan/proposal, raise any concerns and highlight opportunities.</p>
Application assessment	<p>If EIA process initiated after application then where EIA consent is required, engage with stakeholders via a scoping meeting to identify significant effects and considerations.</p> <p>Inform stakeholders engaged with during proposal preparation stage that the plan or proposal is being formally consulted on via a Public Register.</p>	<p>Consider whether application meets UKFS and other requirements and assess log of considerations.</p> <p>Consult publicly for four weeks on forestry plans and proposals using one of three Public Registers.</p> <p>Provide maps and information on the plan/proposal to interested parties, as requested.</p>	<p>During this period anyone can comment on a plan/proposal but the best opportunity to express concerns and make suggestions is directly to the applicant during the proposal preparation stage.</p>
Decision making	<p>Respond to Scottish Forestry's advice and direction and amend proposals as necessary.</p> <p>Provide a final proposal to Scottish Forestry and update them on how their suggestions have been incorporated and what changes have been made.</p>	<p>Provide advice to applicant on any changes required to address relevant points raised during consultation.</p> <p>Make a decision on approval and inform applicant of outcome.</p>	<p>Where requested, discuss and explain consultation response with Scottish Forestry.</p>
Decision review and complaints	<p>If application rejected – discuss any concerns with Conservancy office in the first instance. Possible to request formal review by contacting the Scottish Forestry Head of Operations.</p>	<p>Review requests to be handled by senior officer, not involved in original decision. Aim to respond in writing within 28 days. Scottish Forestry follows a Complaints Handling procedure when dealing with complaints about how an application has been handled.</p>	<p>Complaints about how a specific plan or proposal has been dealt with by Scottish Forestry can be made directly to the relevant Conservancy office.</p>



Public support for Forestry

- Around four fifths (81%) of respondents believed that there was at least one benefit from forestry worth supporting with public money.
- Over one half (55%) of respondents would have liked to see more trees in their part of Scotland.



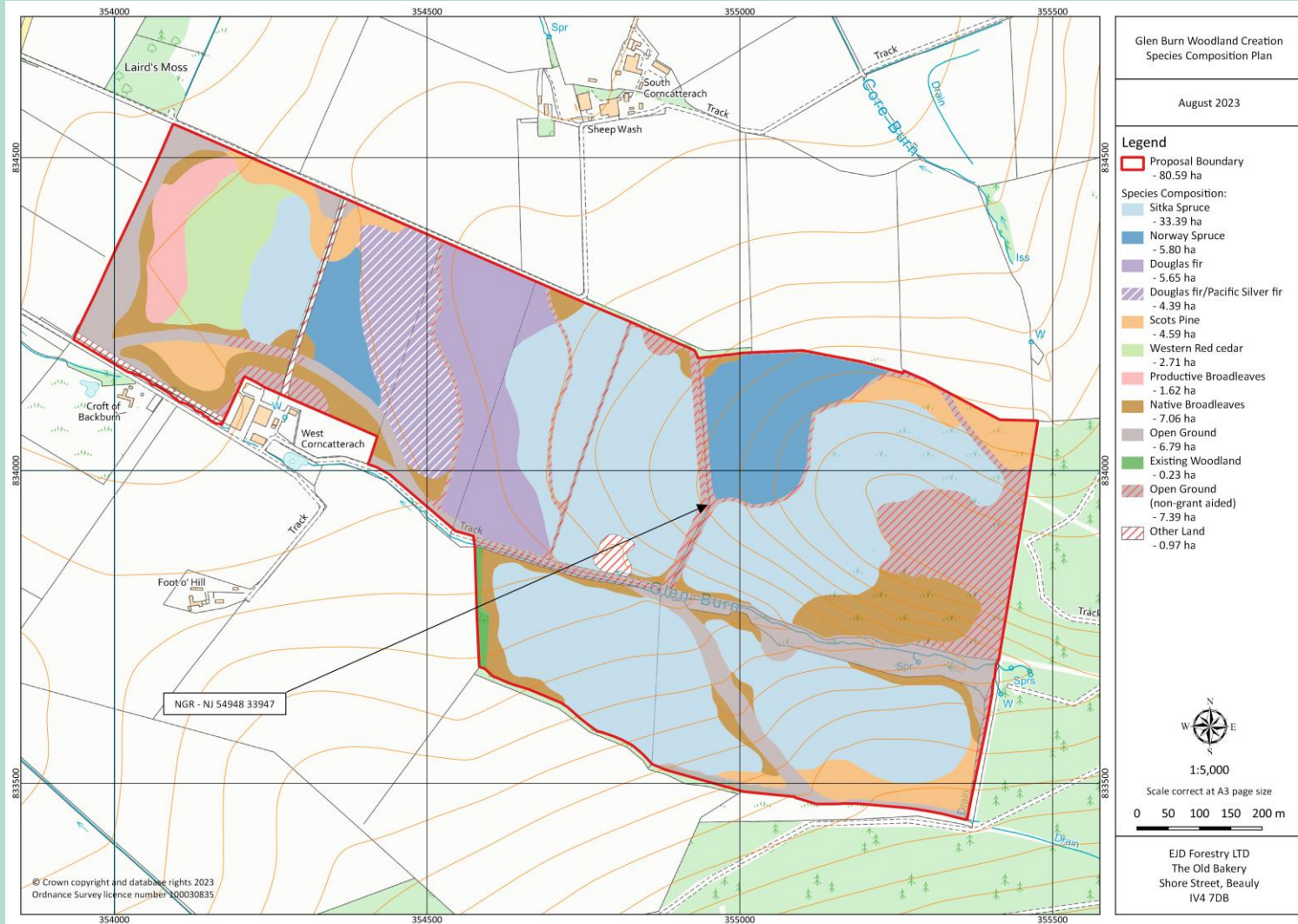
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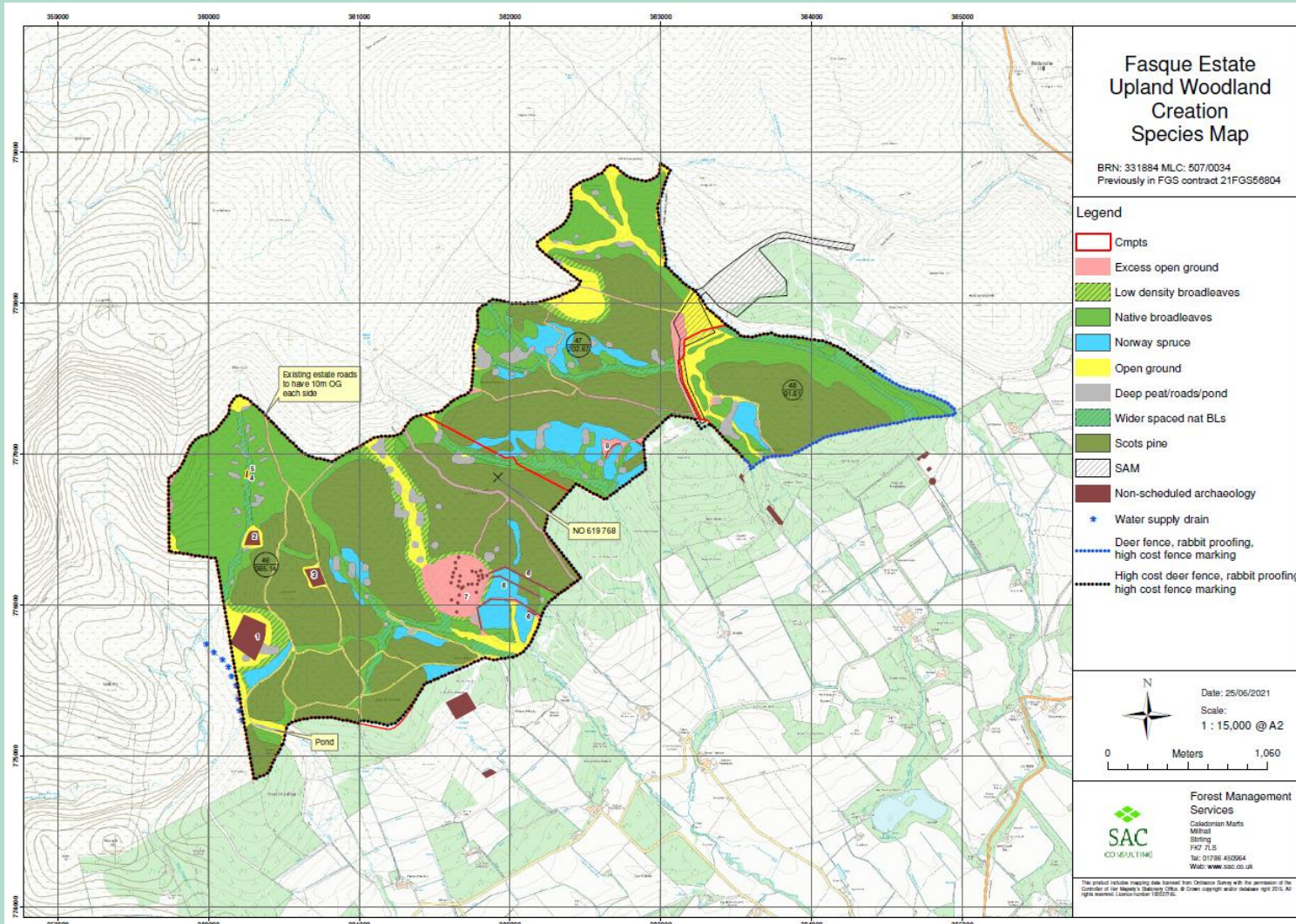


Glenburn





Fasque





Challenges

- **Land Use** – forestry is the squeezed bit in the middle
- **Skills** – do we have the people to deliver the targets?
- **Informed debate** – how well informed are we on the challenge ahead
- **Support mechanisms** – FGS “evolution”



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Natural Regen – Mar Lodge





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