



Scotland's Forest Resource

Forest Policy Group
Briefing Paper

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1. Forest area by selected tree species (1995)

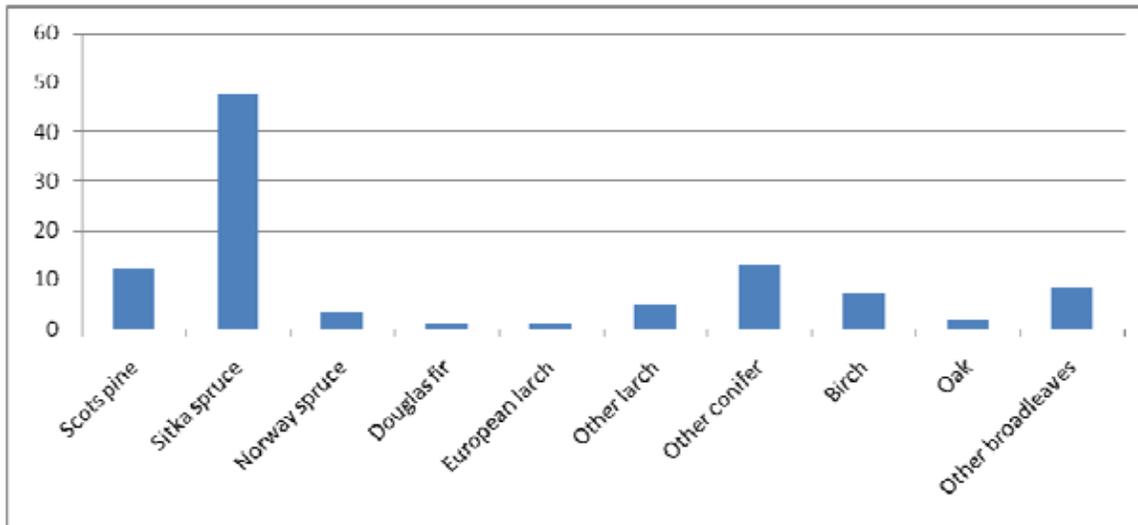


Fig 1. Percentage of area of forest occupied by selected tree species at last inventory (1995).

Main messages:

- Dominance of Sitka spruce (48% of forest area)
- Small proportion of broadleaves (17% of forest area- see 1a below)
- Small proportion of durable quality softwoods Douglas Fir and European larch (see 1c below)

1a Proportion of broadleaves

1995 (National Inventory of Woodland and Trees¹)

All ownerships:	Broadleaves 18%	Conifers 82%
Forestry Commission:	Broadleaves 5%	Conifers 95%
Private :	Broadleaves 26%	Conifers 74%

2008 (FC Statistics):

All ownerships:	Broadleaves 22%	Conifers 78%
Forestry Commission:	Broadleaves 6%	Conifers 94%
Private :	Broadleaves 30%	Conifers 70%

Main messages:

- An increase of 4-5% in proportion of broadleaves took place between 1995 and 2008 mainly as a result of planting of new native woodland and farm woodlands.
- Proportion of broadleaves in FC forest area is still very low – 6% in 2008.

¹ Figure for all ownerships include area of small woodlands. Figures for FC and private use only values from main woods survey (as areas of small woods are not specified by ownership).

1b. Native and Non-native species

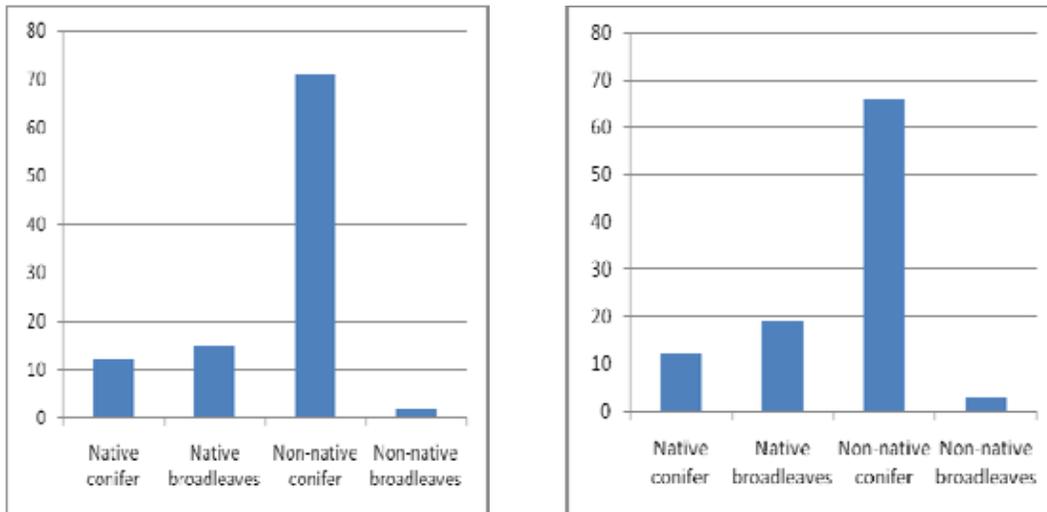


Fig 2. Percentage of forest area according to native species / non-native species: left - at last inventory 1995; right in 2007 (source National Inventory of Woodland and Trees and Forestry Commission Statistics Branch²).

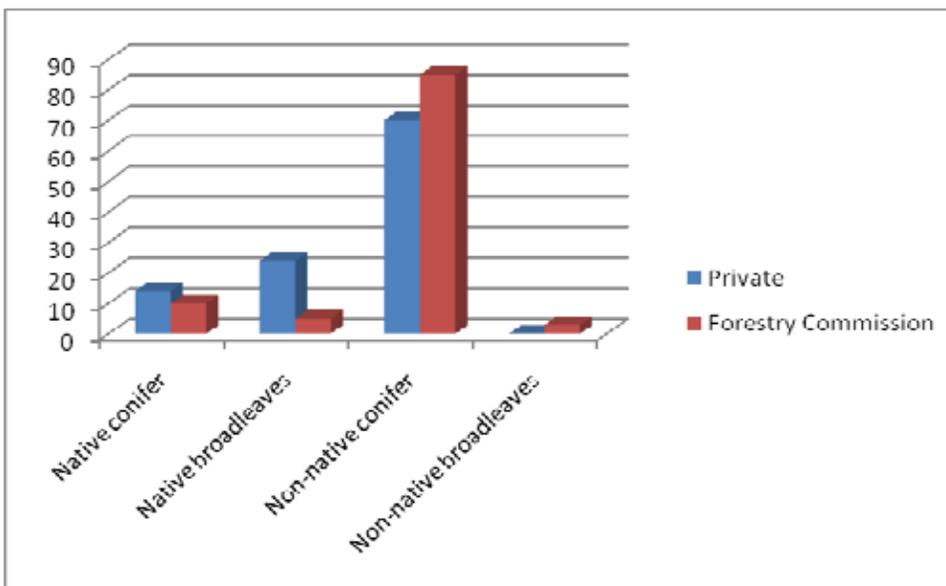


Fig 3. Proportion of forest area (%) according to native / non-native species and Private / Forestry Commission ownership at last inventory (1995).

Main messages

- Continuing dominance of non-native species (ca.70% of forest area)
- Most native species are in private ownership with poorer representation in Forestry Commission woodlands. FC forests contain about 17% native species.
- Percentage of area of native species has increased by 4-5 % since 1995.

² Inventory categories "mixed broadleaves" and "other broadleaves" are assumed to be 90% native

1c. Quality durable softwoods (Douglas fir and European larch)

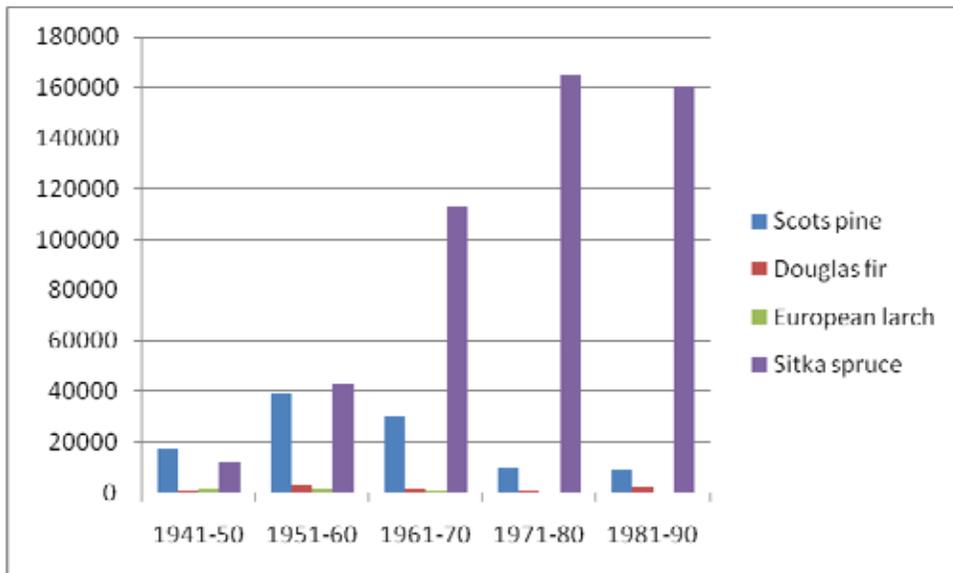


Figure 4. Area occupied by 4 principal conifers according to planting year at last inventory in 1995 (using full 10 year age classes up to 1990). Douglas fir and European larch are considered as quality durable softwoods.

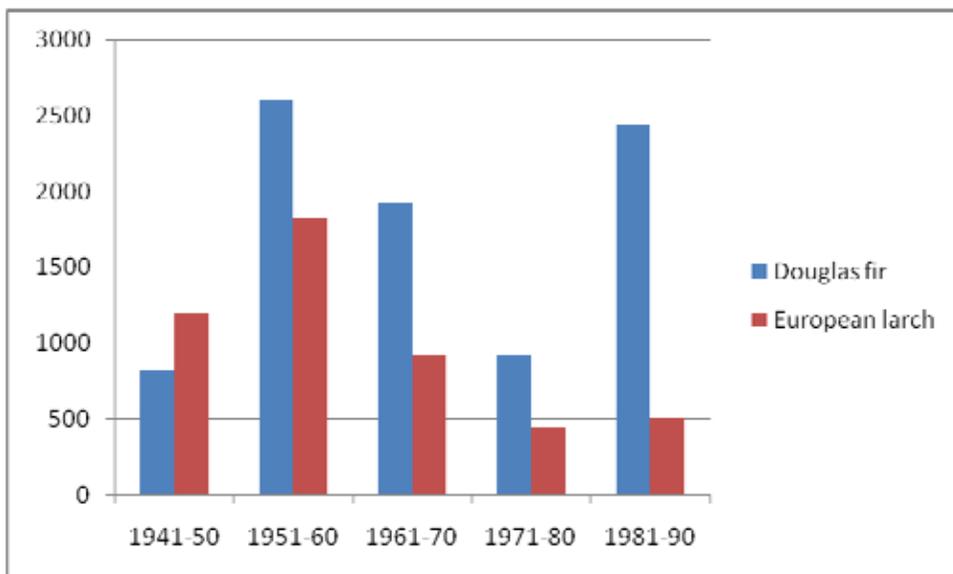


Fig 5. Area of durable conifers Douglas fir and European larch according to planting year at last inventory in 1995 (using full 10 year age classes up to 1990).

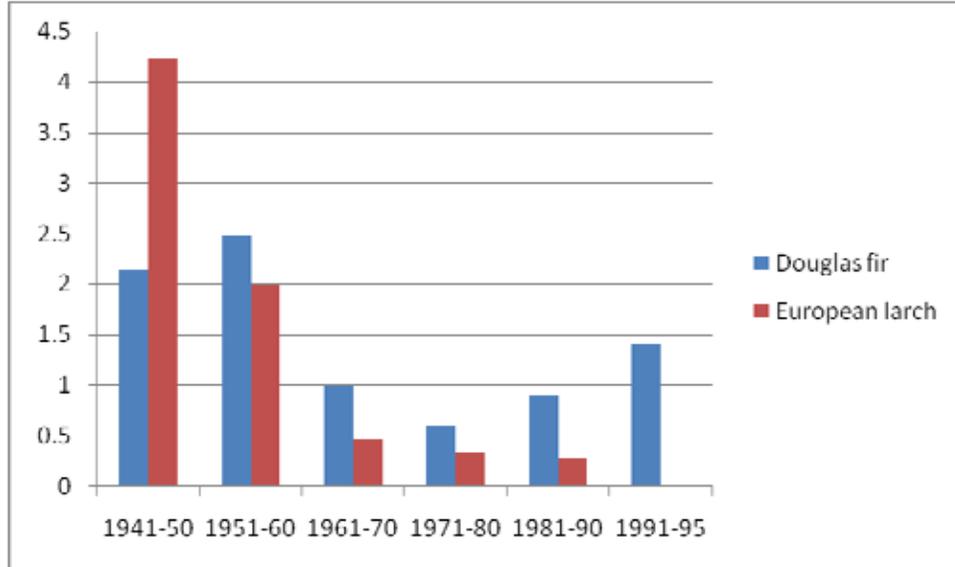


Fig 6. Percentage of forest area occupied by durable conifers Douglas fir and European larch according to planting year at last inventory in 1995.

Oak

Oak occupies only 2% of the forest area. 62% of this was planted pre-1900 and only about 1000 ha was planted in the period 1960-1995.

Main messages

- *Small area of European larch and Douglas fir (each occupied about 1% of the forest area at the last inventory).*
- *Diminishing planting of Scots pine (for timber), European larch and Douglas fir in period 1950 - 1995.*
- *Planting of European larch almost ceased by 1995.*

2. Annual area of forest planted

2a. New Planting

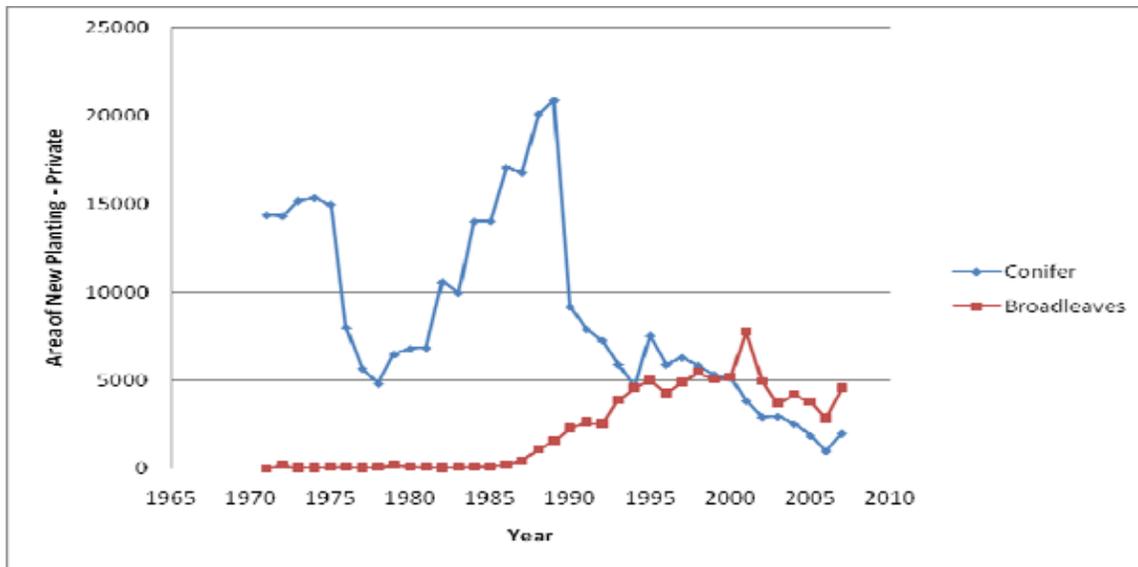


Fig 7 Annual area of new planting in private forests

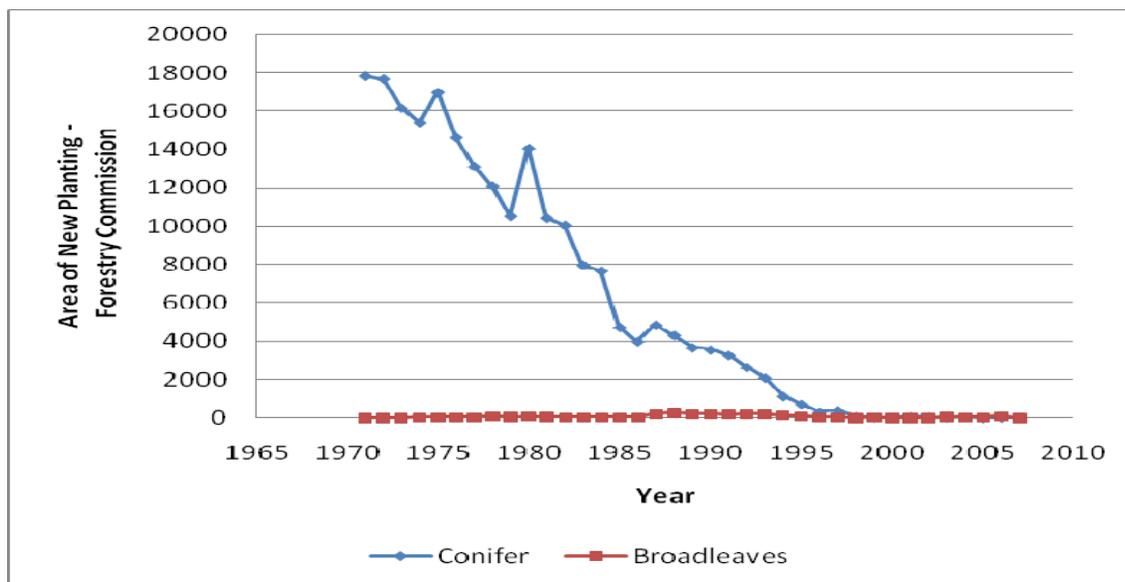


Fig 8 Annual area of new planting in Forestry Commission forests

Main messages:

- *Decrease in area of new planting in all ownerships since about 1990.*
- *Decrease in area of new planting of conifers.*
- *Increased area of new planting of broadleaves in private forests since 1990.*
- *Lack of new planting of broadleaves by Forestry Commission.*

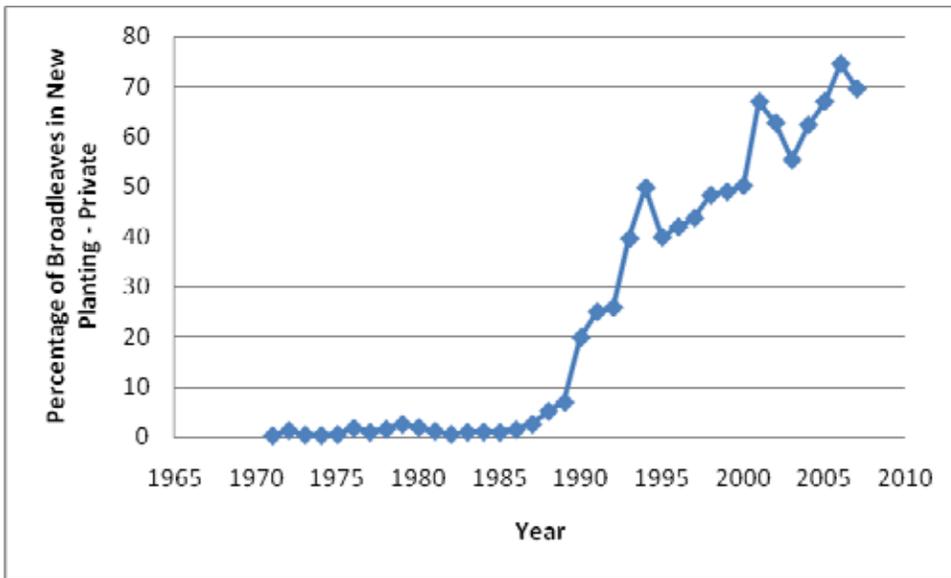


Fig 9 Percentage of broadleaves in new planting in private sector. Note Forestry Commission new planting has been negligible in recent years and is omitted. (source Forestry Commission Statistic Branch).

Main message

Increasing dominance of broadleaves in new planting in private forests.

2b. Restocking (= replanting after felling usually of conifer forest)

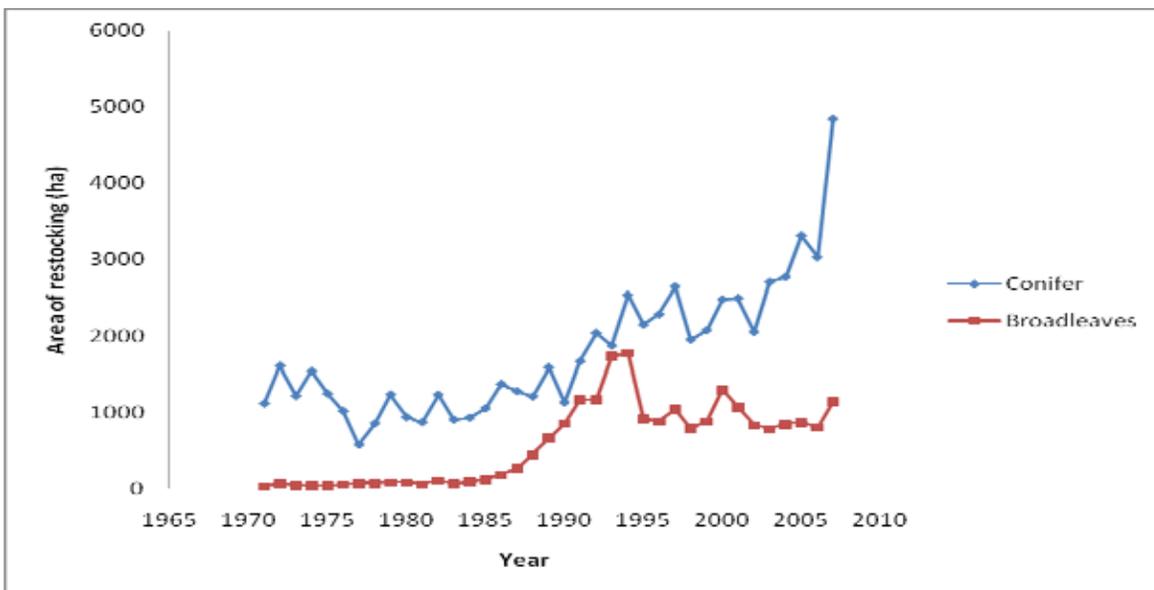


Fig10. Area of restocking in private woodlands (Source: FC statistics branch)

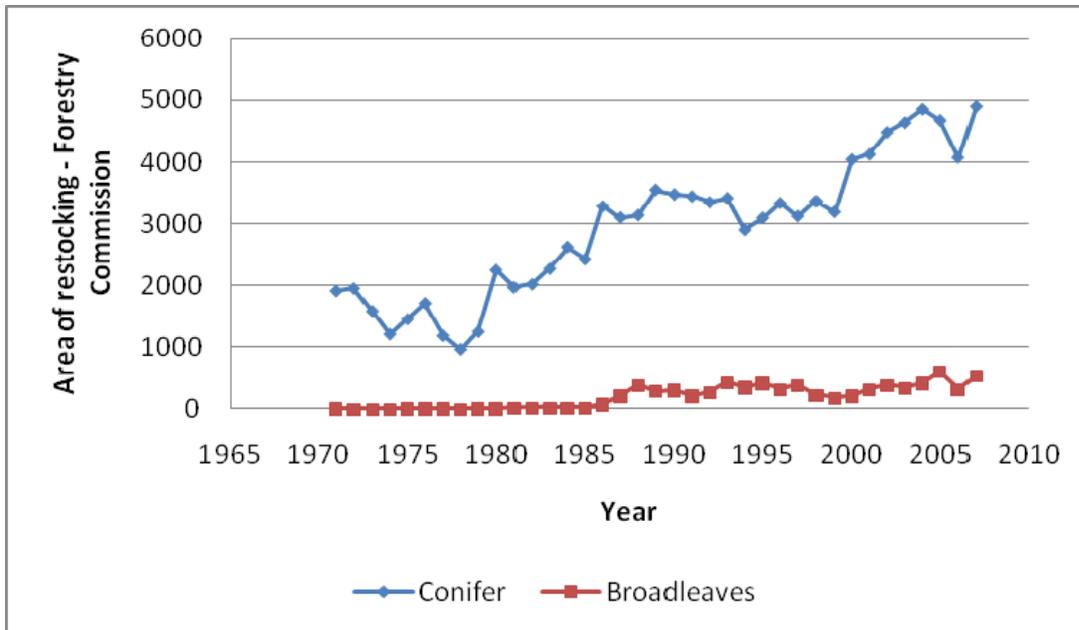


Fig. 11 Annual area of restocking in Forestry Commission forests (Source: FC Statistics Branch)

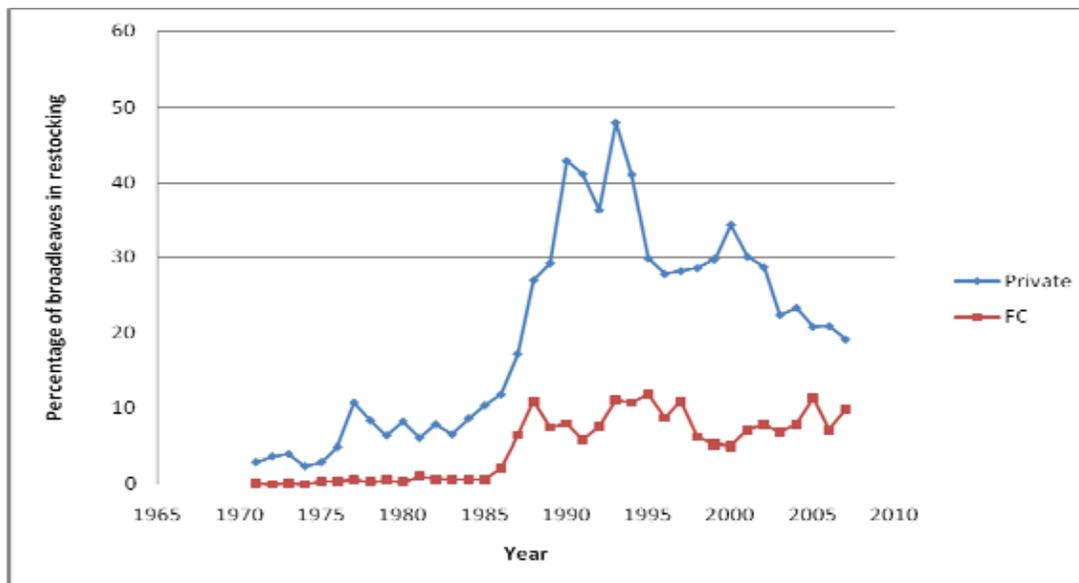


Fig 12. Percentage of area of restocking planted with broadleaves in private and Forestry Commission forests (Source: FC Statistics Branch)

Main messages

- *Area of restocking is increasing as more forests reach maturity and are felled.*
- *Decreasing proportion of broadleaves in restocking in private sector forests since ca. 1995 (down from 48% to 19%)*
- *Low proportion of broadleaves in restocking in Forestry Commission forests (<10%).*

2c All planting (private plus Forestry Commission)

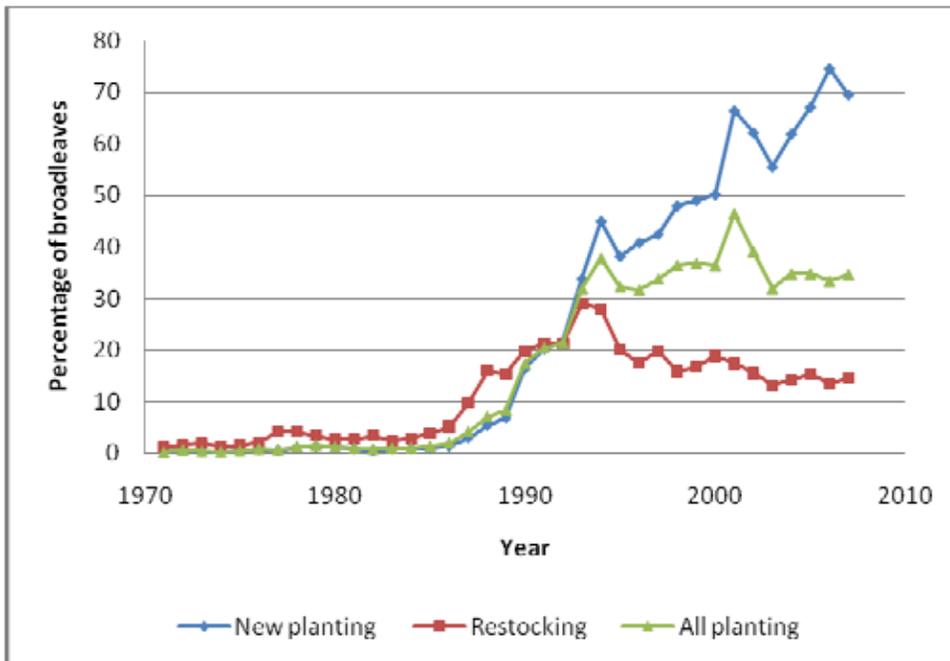


Fig 13. Percentage of total annual area of planting planted with broadleaves (Source: FC Statistics Branch)

Main messages

- *Increasing proportion of broadleaves in new planting since 1990*
- *Decreasing proportion of broadleaves in restocking since 1993*
- *Proportion of broadleaves in all planting has been fairly steady at about 33% since 1993*

4. Native species in resource – trend over time

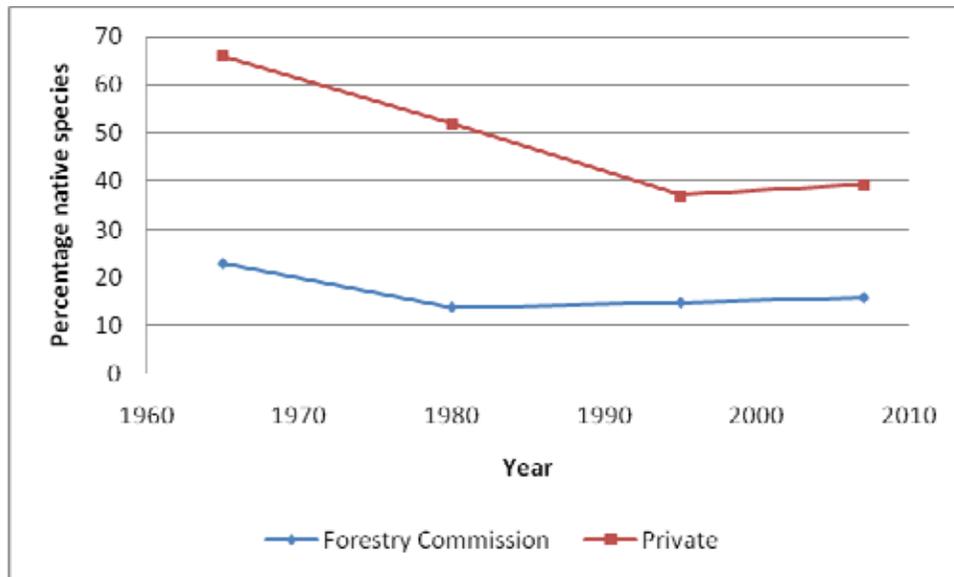


Fig 14. Percentage of “native species” (= all Scots pine plus all broadleaves) in the forest area over time. (Note: This over-estimates the proportion of native species by including all broadleaves, and by treating Scot spine plantations over the whole of Scotland as native. The real values are probably be 2-4% lower, but this can only be estimated properly when the next inventory is published.).

Main messages:

- *The increased planting of native species in recent years (i.e. since 1995) has resulted in an increase of ca 4% in the percentage of native species in the forest area.*
- *The percentage of native species in Forestry Commission forests remains small (ca 15-17%), whereas it is higher in the private forests (ca 35-40%).*

Acknowledgements

The Forest Policy Group would like to thank the Forestry Commission Statistics Branch for providing data on the areas of planting and restocking for the period 1970-2007 and for giving advice on estimating the proportion of native species in the forest area.