

Welcome

**How and where should Scotland grow
the timber & fibre we need for a lower
carbon economy?**

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personal views from

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Outline

- The how
- The where
- Are we being successful
- If not, why not

The How

Fast growing conifers

Tried and tested silviculture

Established processing industry- 10 mn tonnes/yr, 34,000 jobs in Scotland

Grown to meet UKFS, de facto UKWAS (FSC/PECF) global sustainability standards

Private capital ready and willing to invest in productive forestry

80% reliant on timber imports for domestic demand

The Where

In the uplands of the UK

The poorest 20% land in the UK produces 3%
of our food and requires substantial agri
subsidy

1 or 2 lambs/ha/yr or 20 tonnes of
timber/ha/yr

Political Background

All UK governments have forest expansion targets

UK 30,000ha/yr

Scotland 18,000ha/yr

Land use strategies and climate targets

Climate Change Committee support

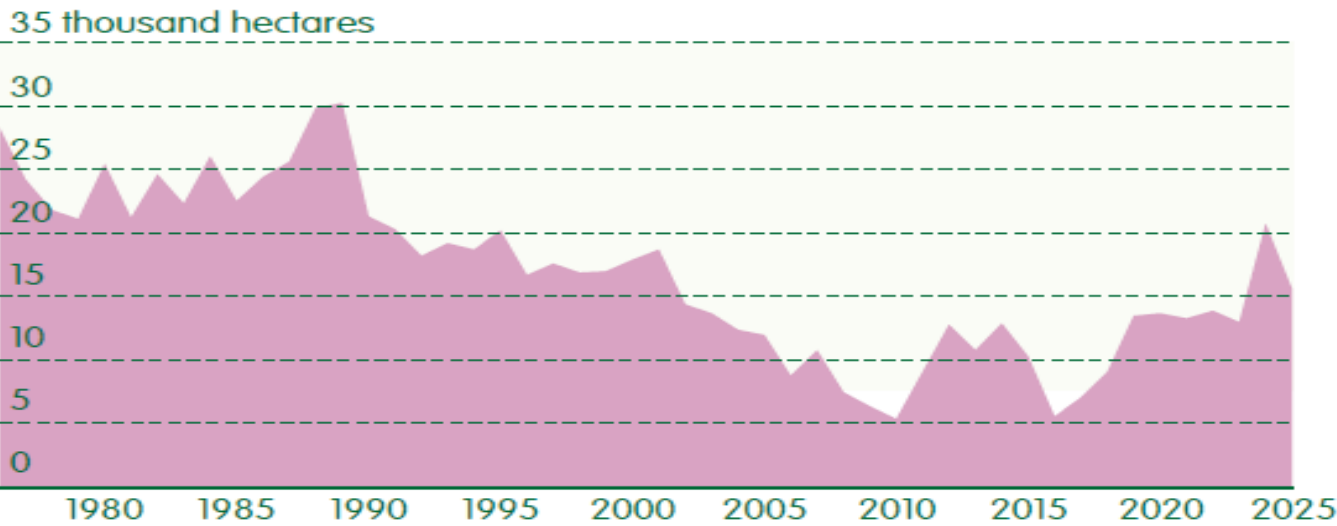
World Bank predict quadrupling of global timber demand by 2050

New planting

15,580

hectares of **new woodland** were created in the UK in 2024/25

New planting from 1976 to 2025



New planting by country (000 ha)

	England		Wales		Scotland		N Ireland		UK		Total	
	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●	▲	●
2021	0.2	1.9	0.1	0.2	6.9	3.7	0.1	0.2	7.3	6.0	13.3	
2022	0.3	2.0	0.2	0.4	6.3	4.1	0.1	0.4	6.9	7.0	13.9	
2023	0.3	2.9	0.5	0.7	5.5	2.7	0.1	0.4	6.3	6.6	13.0	
2024	0.4	4.1	0.3	0.4	8.7	6.3	0.0	0.4	9.5	11.2	20.7	
2025	0.7	5.1	0.3	0.6	4.6	3.9	0.1	0.4	5.6	9.9	15.6	

Why are we failing to implement economic land use and meet government climate and biodiversity priorities?

It is far too difficult, expensive and risky to secure planting approval.

Why is it so difficult?

The National Governments are not serious about climate change.
Lack of commitment to meeting planting targets at Ministerial level.
Civil servants under no obligation to meet targets.
Continued support of unsustainable upland agriculture.
Well-funded anti conifer lobbying by special interest groups- often birds.
Tortuous application process with uncertain costs, timelines and outcomes.

So, what happens?

Private capital buys existing woodland or goes into another asset.

And we continue to import 80% of our timber needs from overseas.

To summarise

*We have huge potential
But we are squandering the opportunity in the
crucial window moving towards net zero
2050.*

*Success requires a sea change in political
support for timber growing in the UK.*