

Central Scotland Green Network 2010 Forestry Baseline Survey

This study presents a baseline evaluation of forestry and woodland related activities in the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN). The evaluation focused retrospectively on 2010, the year in which the CSGN was launched. It quantified twelve forestry-related indicators covering a range of benefits to the local environment, society and economy. It is envisaged that the indicators and their baselines will be used by CSGN partners to provide a basis for monitoring changes and investigating the impact of new interventions carried out as a result of the partnership.



Background

The CSGN initiative was launched in 2010. It covers the entire area of 15 local authorities and parts of four other local authorities across the Central Belt of Scotland. It aims to provide a range of environmental, economic and social benefits by restoring and transforming the landscape of the area. The CSGN is of strategic importance to the Forestry Commission.

Objectives

A key goal of the present study is to supplement an existing baseline assessment of the CSGN with a more comprehensive suite of forest-related indicators, with a focus on economic values. The indicators will allow Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) to monitor changes to the forestry sector and help them to evaluate the impacts of forest-related interventions.

Methods

Where possible existing data were utilised, in particular from Forestry Commission Scotland, the Scottish Government and the Office for National Statistics. In several cases, adjustments were needed to ensure indicator values only covered the CSGN area. A description of the methods used for the individual indicators are provided in the main report of this study.

Findings

Indicators and headline values for the CSGN area for 2010:

Woodland cover and production forecast	
Total area of woodland (ha)	171,186
Area of grant-aided planting schemes (ha)	583.1
Area of woodland creation on Vacant and Derelict Land (ha)	0.0
Area of new woodland creation by Forest Enterprise Scotland in 2010 (ha)	203.5
Area of woodland removal on the national forest estate and private landholdings below 100 ha approved during 2010 (ha)	126.6
Forecast of wood availability (m ³ over-bark standing)	1,023,000
Forestry employment	
Number of people employed in forestry/primary wood processing	3431
Number of forestry and primary wood processing businesses	240
Number of people enrolled on forestry-related courses/qualifications	230
The economic contribution of the forestry sector	
Volume of timber produced (m ³ over-bark standing)	761,000
Woodfuel demand (green tonnes)	234,000
GVA of forestry and primary wood processing (£)	151,700,000

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Reports and Publications: Edwards, D., Saraev, V. & Valatin, G. (2014) CSGN 2010 Forestry Baseline Survey: Final Report. Forest Research.