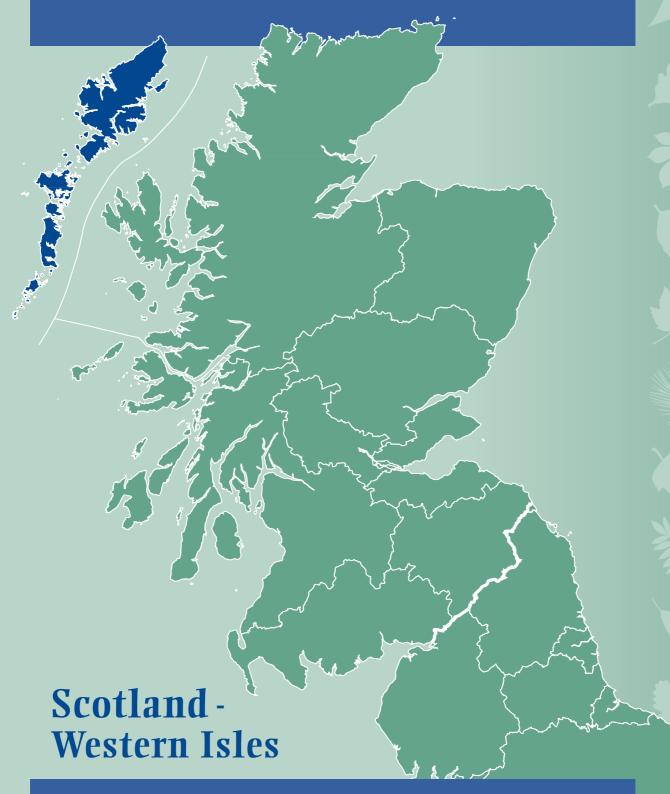


INVENTORY REPORT

National Inventory of Woodland and Trees



Part 1 - Woodlands of 2 hectares and over



INVENTORY REPORT

National Inventory of Woodland and Trees

Scotland - Western Isles

Part 1 - Woodlands of 2 hectares and over



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Enquiries regarding this report should be directed to:

Head of Woodland Surveys Forest Research Forestry Commission 231 Corstorphine Road Edinburgh EH12 7AT

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Staff concerned with the survey work were: Douglas Wright, Head of Woodland Surveys Branch (to Dec.1997), who was in overall charge. Alex Herd (Survey Officer) supervised the fieldwork which was undertaken by Peter Walling (Survey Forester) and Andrew Kennedy (Survey Assistant). Simon Gillam (Head of Statistics), provided valuable statistical advice.

Preparation of the digital cartography for the Region was carried out by Graham Bull, Woodland Survey Officer and Woodland GIS Officers Chris Brown, Esther Whitton and Robert Beck. Data analysis was carried out by Justin Gilbert and Shona Mackintosh.

The authors of this Report are Steve Smith, Head of Woodland Surveys and Justin Gilbert, Woodland Data Officer.

INTRODUCTION

The following report presents the results of the main woodland survey for Western Isles from the Forestry Commission National Inventory of Woodlands and Trees.

The Inventory consists of two parts:

Part 1: the main woodland survey covering woodlands of 2 or more hectares and

Part 2: the small woodland and trees survey covering small woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees.

The results which follow are for Part 1, the main woodland survey, with a reference date of 31 March 1995. Woodland Surveys Branch of Forest Research was responsible for carrying out the survey and for compiling the report.

Part 2 of the Inventory will be published separately.

BACKGROUND

The Forestry Commission has carried out a number of national woodland surveys since 1924 with the interval between surveys being 15–20 years. The most recent of these surveys was in 1979–82. With the statistics becoming increasingly out of date the Forestry Commission decided to undertake a new survey called the National Inventory of Woodland and Trees.

The survey for Great Britain was completed in May 2000. Priority for publishing results is being given to Scotland followed by Wales and England.

PILOT SURVEY

Grampian Region was selected as the pilot area for the main woodland survey. Preparatory work on methods and procedures started in 1993 with fieldwork beginning in Grampian during late 1993 and being complete by 1994.

SURVEY METHOD

In Scotland the main survey has been able to use the digital map from the Land Cover of Scotland (LCS) 1988 project.

For Western Isles, this digital map has been updated to 31 March 1995 and gives the extent of all woodland over 2 hectares. The total area of woodland in Western Isles was obtained from the digital map with ground sampling undertaken to evaluate a wide range of woodland information such as species, age and stocking.



From the digital map the area of each woodland was recorded and this information was used to determine the intensity at which any selected woodland would be sampled. The overall sampling scheme was as follows:

a) 2.0 ha - <100 ha : every fifth wood b) 100 ha - <500 ha : two woods in five

c) 500 ha and larger: all woods

1hectare square plots were used to sample the selected woodlands on the ground. This was a change of practice from all previous Census surveys, where whole woods have been selected for survey. For each of the three bands of woodland area a different sampling grid was used with the density of the squares being reduced as the woodlands increase in size. The overall aim was to sample 1% of the woodland in each size class. This sampling scheme is not ideally suited to the relatively small areas of woodland found on the Western Isles, but the methodology had to be kept consistent for the overall Scotland figures.

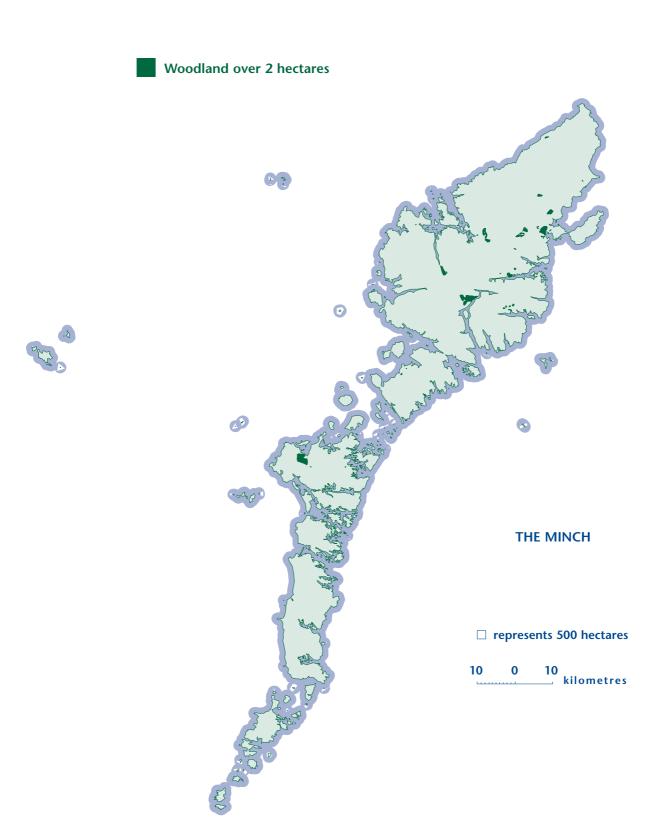
This is the first time a national woodland inventory has included an assessment of the Western Isles, and so it has not been possible to compare the current results to those from the 1980 Census of woodlands for this region.

MAIN POINTS FROM THE WESTERN ISLES RESULTS

- The total area of woodland in Western Isles is 2 418 hectares. This represents 0.8% of the land area. (Table 1)
- 709 hectares or 29% of woodland is owned by or leased to the Forestry Commission and 1 709 hectares or 71% of woodland is in Other ownerships. (Table 1)
- Conifer woodland is the dominant forest type representing 60% of all woodland. Broadleaved woodland represents 2%, mixed woodland 1% and open space within woodlands 37%. (Table 3)
- The main conifer species is Lodgepole pine covering 1 056 hectares or 71% of all conifer species. 76% of all conifers are within Other ownerships. (Table 4a)



MAP 1 - DISTRIBUTION OF WOODLAND WITHIN WESTERN ISLES

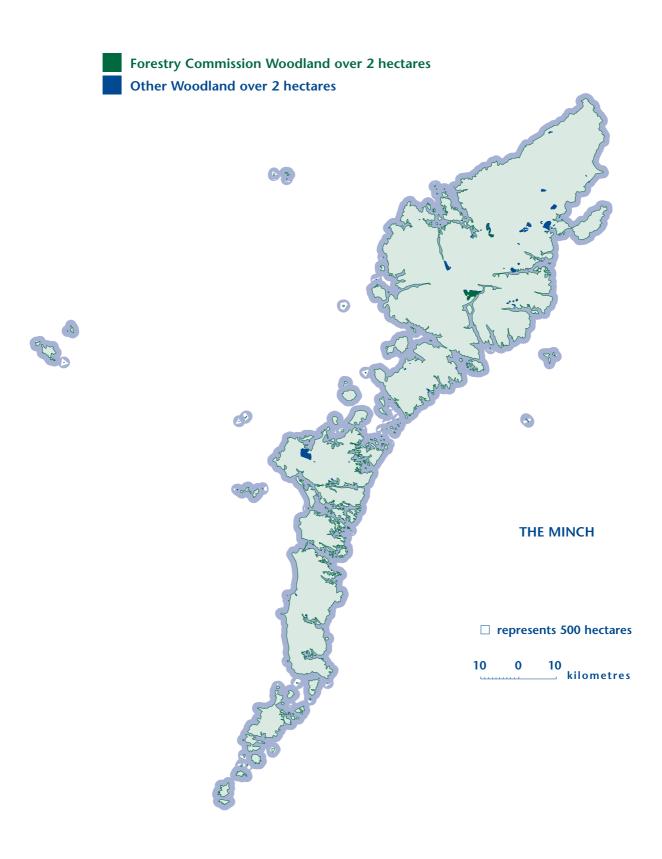


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MAP 2 - DISTRIBUTION OF WOODLAND BY OWNERSHIP WITHIN WESTERN ISLES



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Reference Date 31 March 1995

RESULTS

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF AREAS BY OWNERSHIP									
Area (including inland water) 313353 ha									
Ownership	% woodland								
Forestry Commission	709	29							
Other	1709	71							
Total Area of Woodland	2418	100							
% Woodland Land Cover	0.8								

NOTE (Table 1)

Area of Local Authority Unit based on digital boundaries used for 1991 Census of Population.

Woodland Area from LCS map updated to 31 March 1995.

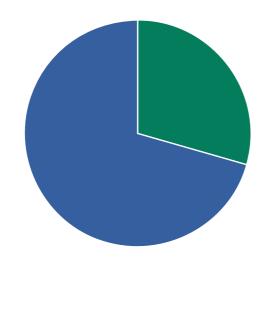
Ownership Categories:

Forestry Commission (FC) All woodland owned by, or leased to, the Forestry Commission.

Other

(O) Woodland other than FC woodland. Includes woodland owned by private individuals, partnerships trusts, business interests, local authorities, other government departments and agencies.

WOODLAND AREA BY OWNERSHIP



Note:

The figures in many of the tables may not add due to rounding.



FC 29%

Other 71%

TABLE 2a SIZE CLASS DISTRIBUTION OF WOODLAND										
Size Class	Number	Total Area	Percent of	Mean Wood						
(ha)	of Woods	(ha)	Total Area	Area (ha)						
0 - < 2	0	0	0	0.0						
2 - < 10	29	124	5	4.3						
10 - < 20	10	140	6	14.0						
20 - < 50	6	191	8	31.8						
50 - < 100	3	227	9	75.6						
2 - < 100	48	682	28	14.2						
100 - < 500	4	676	28	169.1						
500 - and >	2	1059	44	529.3						
All Woods	54	2418	100	44.8						

NOTE (Table 2a)

Some woods, over 2 hectares, are divided by the Regional boundary and only a part of their area falls within the Region. These part-woods are included above in the appropriate size category and are often less than 2 hectares.

TABLE 2b	TABLE 2b SIZE CLASS DISTRIBUTION OF WOODLAND BY OWNERSHIP UNITS									
Size Class (ha)	FC or Other	Number of Woods	Total Area (ha)	Percent of Total Area	Mean Wood Area (ha)					
0 - < 2	FC O	0 1	0 2	0	0 1.6					
2 - < 10	FC O	1 28	3 132	0 5	3.2 4.7					
10 - < 20	FC	0	0	0	0					
20 - < 50	O FC	11 0	142 0	6 0	12.9 0					
50 - < 100	O FC	6 1	191 74	8	31.8 74.2					
	0	2	153	6	76.3					
2 - < 100	FC O	2 47	77 616	3 25	38.7 13.1					
100 - < 500	FC O	1 3	127 550	5 23	126.7 183.2					
500 - and >	FC O	1	505 542	21 22	504.7 541.8					
Total	FC	4	709	29	177.2					
	Other	52	1709	71	32.9					
Grand Total		54	2418	100	44.8					



NOTE (Table 2b)

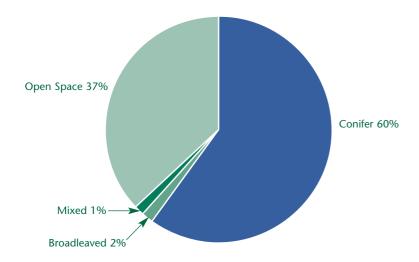
The data available from the digital map enable the identification of woodlands according to their ownerships, Forestry Commission or Other. The entries in the table cannot be added, to derive Table 2a, as some woods may consist of both FC and Other ownerships. For example, the Forestry Commission may own most of a large wood with some parts in Other ownership(s). In Table 2a the whole area would be treated as one wood and the area allocated to one size category. In Table 2b each of the ownership units would be allocated to the size category for that unit. Dividing woods by ownership can occasionally generate partwoods of less than 2 hectares.

TABLE 3 AREAS OF WOODLAND BY FOREST TYPE AND OWNERSHIP										
Forest Type	F	С	Otl	her	All Woods					
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%				
Conifer	355	50.0	1098	64.2	1453	60.1				
Broadleaved	0	0.0	41	2.4	41	1.7				
Mixed	0	0.0	33	1.9	33	1.4				
Coppice	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				
Copp-w-Stds	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				
Windblow	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				
Felled	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				
Open Space	355	50.0	537	31.4	891	36.8				
Total	709	100.0	1709	100.0	2418	100.0				

NOTE (Table 3)

Please refer to the Glossary on page 22 for definitions of forest types.

% FOREST TYPE BY AREA - ALL WOODLAND



The figures in many of the tables may not add due to rounding.

Note:



TABLE 4a AREAS OF HIGH FOREST BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND OWNERSHIP

	FC			Otl	her		All Ownerships		
Species	Area (ha)	cat %	spp %	Area (ha)	cat %	spp %	Area (ha)	cat %	spp %
Scots pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corsican pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lodgepole pine	355	100	100	702	62	60	1056	71	69
Sitka spruce	0	0	0	429	38	37	429	29	28
Norway spruce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jap/Hybrid larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas fir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total conifers	355	100	100	1131	100	97	1486	100	97
Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sycamore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poplar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other broadleaves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed broadleaves	0	0	0	41	100	3	41	100	3
Total broadleaves	0	0	0	41	100	3	41	100	3
Total - all species	355		100	1172		100	1527		100
Felled	0			0			0		
Total High Forest	355			1172			1527		



NOTE (Table 4a)

cat: species percentage of conifer or broadleaved in the ownership

spp: percentage of all species in the ownership category.

In addition to the areas shown there are 891 hectares of other areas integral to the woodland not stocked with tree species.

The standard errors of the area estimates for the most common species or species group are as follows:

Conifers 15% Sitka spruce 30% Lodgepole pine 19%

These standard errors are for the species areas in all woodland types.

Confidence Intervals: where the Standard Errors of these summary measures are 10% or less, the Confidence Intervals will be approximately symmetrical; the true value is expected to be within +/- one Standard Error for about 68% (or about two-thirds) of all cases, and within +/- two Standard Errors for about 95% of all cases. Where percentage Standard Errors are larger, e.g. for less common species or more variable species composition, the Confidence Intervals will be less symmetrical (and wider).

AREAS OF HIGH FOREST BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND OWNERSHIP

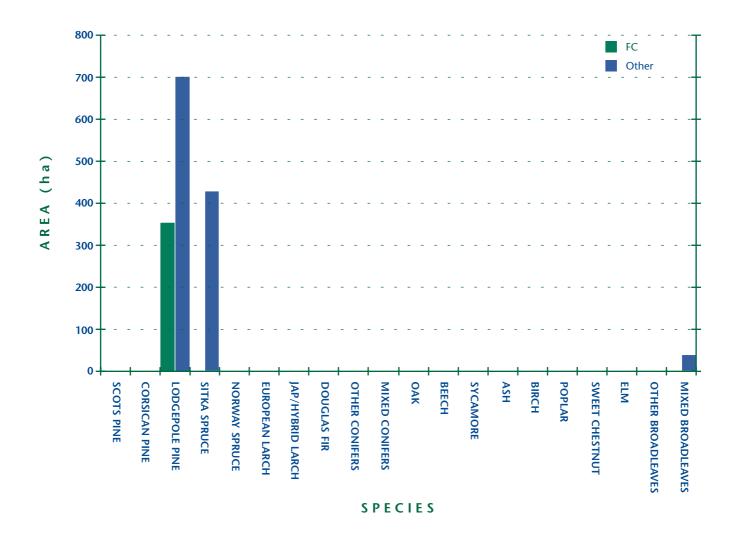




TABLE 4b AREAS OF HIGH FOREST BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES, OWNERSHIP AND CATEGORY

		FC			Other		All	Ownersh	nips
Species	Cat 1	Cat 2	Total HF	Cat 1	Cat 2	Total HF	Cat 1	Cat 2	Total HF
Scots pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corsican pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lodgepole pine	355	0	355	669	33	702	1023	33	1056
Sitka spruce	0	0	0	429	0	429	429	0	429
Norway spruce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jap/Hybrid larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas fir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total conifers	355	0	355	1098	33	1131	1453	33	1486
Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sycamore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poplar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other broadleaves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed broadleaves	0	0	0	41	0	0	41	0	41
Total broadleaves	0	0	0	41	0	41	41	33	41
Total - all species	355	0	355	1139	33	1172	1494	33	1527

NOTE (Table 4b)

The Standard errors of the area estimates for the most common species or species groups are as follows:

	Cat 1	Cat 2	Total HF
Conifers	15%	-	15%
Lodgepole pine	19%	-	19%
Sitka spruce	28%	-	30%

These standard errors are for the species areas in all woodland types.

Confidence Intervals: where the Standard Errors of these summary measures are 10% or less, the Confidence Intervals will be approximately symmetrical; the true value is expected to be within +/- one Standard Error for about 68% (or about two-thirds) of all cases, and within +/- two Standard Errors for about 95% of all cases. Where percentage Standard Errors are larger, e.g. for less common species or more variable species composition, the Confidence Intervals will be less symmetrical (and wider).

AREAS OF HIGH FOREST BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND OWNERSHIP

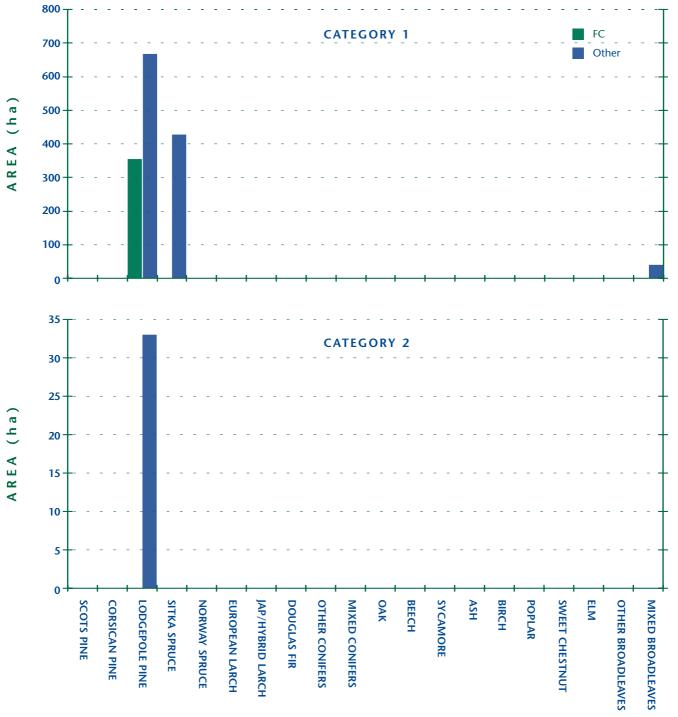


TABLE 5a HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - AREAS BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND PLANTING YEAR CLASSES

	PLANTING YEAR CLASS												
Species	1991 -1995	1981 -1990	1971 -1980	1961 -1970	1951 -1960	1941 -1950	1931 -1940	1921 -1930		1901 -1910	1861 -1900	pre - 1861	TOTAL
Scots pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corsican pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lodgepole pine	206	462	355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1023
Sitka spruce	248	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	429
Norway spruce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jap/Hybrid larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas fir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total conifers	454	644	355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1453
Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sycamore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poplar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other blvs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed blvs	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Total broadleaves	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Total - all species	454	644	355	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1494



NOTE (Table 5a)

Age determined from records where these were available. Where records were not available or were clearly inaccurate age-class was assigned by reference to similar crops of known age in the locality.

HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - AREAS BY PLANTING YEAR CLASS

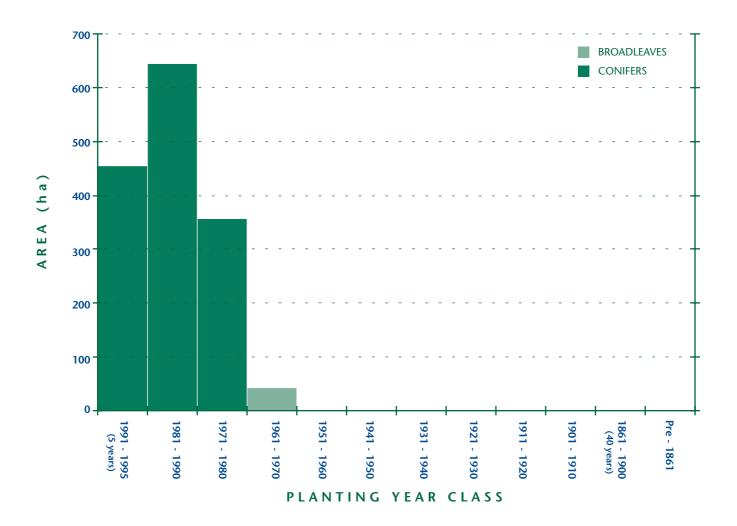


TABLE 5b HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - FORESTRY COMMISSION AREAS BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND PLANTING YEAR CLASSES

PLANTING YEAR CLASS 1941 1931 pre -**Species** -1995 -1990 -1980 -1970 -1960 -1950 -1940 -1930 -1920 -1910 -1900 **TOTAL** Scots pine Corsican pine Lodgepole pine Sitka spruce **Norway spruce European larch** Jap/Hybrid larch **Douglas fir** Other conifers **Mixed conifers Total conifers** Oak **Beech Sycamore** Ash n **Birch Poplar Sweet chestnut** Elm Other blvs Mixed blvs **Total broadleaves** Total - all species

•••••



NOTE (Table 5b)

Age determined from records where these were available. Where records were not available or were clearly inaccurate age-class was assigned by reference to similar crops of known age in the locality.

HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - FORESTRY COMMISSION AREAS BY PLANTING YEAR CLASS

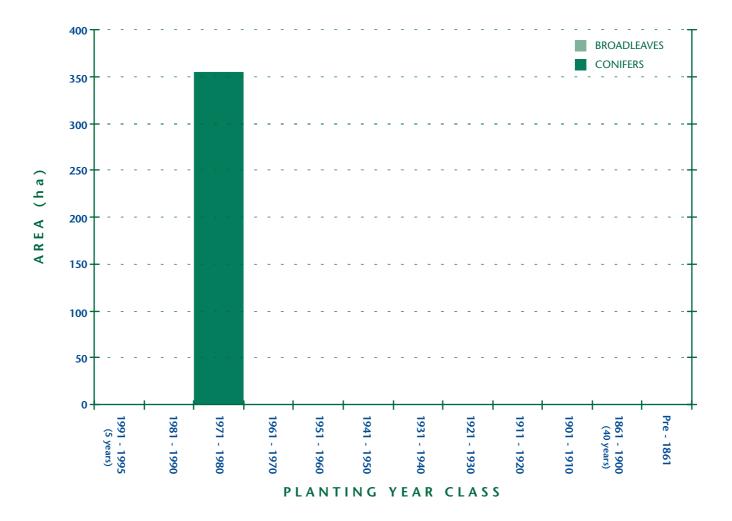


TABLE 5c HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - OTHER OWNERSHIPS
AREAS BY PRINCIPAL SPECIES AND PLANTING YEAR CLASSES

	PLANTING YEAR CLASS												
Species	1991 -1995	1981 -1990	1971 -1980	1961 -1970	1951 -1960	1941 -1950	1931 -1940	1921 -1930		1901 -1910	1861 -1900	pre - 1861	TOTAL
Scots pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corsican pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lodgepole pine	206	462	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	669
Sitka spruce	248	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	429
Norway spruce	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jap/Hybrid larch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas fir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed conifers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total conifers	454	644	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1098
Oak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beech	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sycamore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poplar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweet chestnut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other blvs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed blvs	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Total broadleaves	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Total - all species	454	644	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1139



NOTE (Table 5c)

Age determined from records where these were available. Where records were not available or were clearly inaccurate age-class was assigned by reference to similar crops of known age in the locality.

HIGH FOREST CATEGORY 1 - OTHER OWNERSHIPS - AREAS BY PLANTING YEAR CLASS





TABLE 6	TABLE 6 HIGH FOREST - PRINCIPAL SPECIES BY PLANTING YEAR CLASSES											
Planting Year Class	First	%	Second	%	Third	%						
1991-95	Sitka spruce	55	Lodgepole pine	45	-							
1981-90	Lodgepole pine	73	Sitka spruce	27	-							
1971-80	Lodgepole pine	100	-		-							
1961-70	Mixed broadleaves	100	-		-							
1951-60	-		-		-							
1941-50	-		-		-							
1931-40	-		-		-							
1921-30	-		-		-							
1911-20	-		-		-							
1901-10	-		-		-							
1861-1900	-		-		-							
Pre 1861	-		-		-							
All years	Lodgepole Pine	69	Sitka Spruce	28	Mixed Broadleaves	3						

TABLE 7 OWNERSHIP TYPE BY AREA AND PERCENTAGE									
Ownership Type	Area (ha)	%							
Personal	718	29.7							
Private Forestry or Timber Business	0	0.0							
Other Private Business	991	41.0							
Local Authority	0	0.0							
Other Public Body (not FC)	0	0.0							
Forestry Commission	709	29.3							
Charity	0	0.0							
Community Ownership or Common Land	0	0.0							
Unclassified	0	0.0							
Total	2418	100.0							

Note: The figures in many of the tables may not add due to rounding.

NOTE (Table 7)

Please refer to the Glossary on page 19 for definitions of ownership types.

COMPARISON OF RESULTS WITH THE 1980 CENSUS

The Western Isles were not assessed in the 1980 woodland Census, so unfortunately no comparisons can be made.



GLOSSARY

Woodland

In the United Kingdom woodland is defined as land under stands of trees with, or the potential to achieve, tree crown cover of more than 20%; areas of open space integral to the woodland are also included. Intervening land-classes such as roads, rivers or pipelines are disregarded if less than 50 m in extent. 'Scrubby' vegetation is not included as a separate category but as conifer, broadleaved or mixed tree types. There is additional information on the quality of woodland within the inventory database.

Woodland of 2 hectares and over, and with a minimum width of 50 m, is included in the main woodland survey, Part 1 of the Inventory; other woodland and trees are assessed in Part 2, the small woodland and trees survey.

High Forest

All woodland with the exception of stands managed as coppice or coppice with standards with, or the potential to achieve, a tree cover of more than 20%. Two categories of High Forest are recognised:

High Forest Category 1

Stands which are, or could become, capable of producing wood of a size and quality suitable for sawlogs and small roundwood.

High Forest Category 2

Stands of lower quality than High Forest Category 1.

Mixtures

Where possible the species in mixtures have been separately recorded. Where this has not been possible they were described as 'mixed conifers' or 'mixed broadleaves'.

FOREST TYPES

Conifer

Woodland containing more than 80% by area of coniferous species.

Broadleaved

Woodland containing more than 80% by area of broadleaved species.

Mixed

A combination of broadleaved and coniferous species where each category occupies at least 20% of the canopy (see note on mixtures above).

Coppice

Crops of marketable broadleaved species that have at least 2 stems per stool and are either being worked or are capable of being worked on rotation. With the exception of hazel coppice more than half the stems should be capable of producing 1m timber lengths of good form.

Coppice with Standards

Two-storey stands where the overstorey consists of at least 25 stems per hectare that are older than the understorey of worked coppice by at least one coppice rotation.

Felled

Woodland areas that have been felled or stands where the stocking has been reduced to less than 20% and where it is expected that these areas will be replanted.

Windblow

Areas of blown woodland which remain uncleared and not regenerated.

Open Space Areas within a woodland that are not covered by trees but are integral to

the woodland such as open areas, streamsides, deer glades, rides and forest

roads.

OWNERSHIP TYPES

Other Ownerships Woodland other than that owned by, or leased to, the Forestry Commission

Personal Types of private occupation, e.g. individuals, private family trusts and fami-

ly partnerships.

Private Forestry or

Timber Business

Owned by wood processing industry. This category does not include

forest management companies.

Other Private Business Occupiers, e.g. companies, partnerships, syndicates and pension funds.

Local Authority Region, County, District or other Council.

Other Public Body (not FC) Government department/agency, nationalised industry, etc.

Charitable Organisations funded by voluntary public subscription, e.g. National Trust,

churches and colleges.

Community Ownership or

Common Land

The common property of all members of the community.

Forestry Commission Land owned by or land leased to the Forestry Commission.



NOTES







