

25-year projection of timber availability in the Highland Council Area (2022)

NFI Forecast Report

The Research Agency of the Forestry Commission

Summary

This report provides a detailed picture of the 25-year forecast of timber availability in the Highland Council Area. These estimates are a subset of those published as part of the 25-year forecast estimates presented in the National Forest Inventory (NFI) 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022). NFI reports are published at National Forest Inventory - Forest Research.

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Approach

The approach taken in the derivation of these results and to be used in their interpretation is described in the full suite of forecast reports which can be found at National Forest Inventory - Forest Research.

The methodology and interpretation underlying the forecast in this report are discussed in the NFI report 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022) and the 50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability (2014) which can be referred to for the wider Scotland and Great Britain context.

The estimates reported here are based upon field samples assessed between 2015 and 2020, the results of which have been subjected to rigorous data quality assurance procedures.

25-year forecast of timber availability

Refer to the NFI report 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022) for a description of the underlying methodology and interpretation of the softwood forecast, and also for the Scotland and GB context.

Refer to the NFI report 50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability (2014) for a description of the underlying methodology and interpretation of the hardwood forecast, and also for the Scotland and GB context.

The timber availability estimates for Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) are derived using the harvesting regimes described in the approved land management plans as of 31 March 2020.

The softwood timber availability estimates for the private sector are based on a scenario which assumes conifers are felled at a target diameter. The full description can be found in Appendix A of the NFI report 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022) which includes a decision tree showing how felling ages are derived. The hardwood timber availability estimates are derived only from those areas where there is evidence of thinning in broadleaves. This is a conservative assumption but more closely reflects current practice than assuming all broadleaved stands will be managed. Those broadleaved stands that are assumed to be subject to future management under this scenario are felled at age of maximum mean annual increment with moderate wind risk measures being taken.

Where standing conifers are already larger than the target diameter (in this context, they are called 'overdue'), the forecast assumes that a proportion will be felled during the forecast period. The prescriptions for handling the overdue can be found in full in Appendix D of the NFI report 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022). Where standing broadleaves are already beyond the age of maximum mean annual increment, the forecast assumes that a proportion will be felled during the forecast period. The assumptions can be found in full in the section 'Overdue timber' starting on Page 20 of the NFI report 50-year forecast of hardwood timber availability (2014).

Restocking assumptions for conifer stands clearfelled during the forecast period have been implemented that provide for:

 a 20% reduction in the area of conifers on the subsequent rotation of which half is allocated to open space and half is stocked with broadleaved species.

- Land currently clearfelled at the start of the forecast is restocked
- · a change in the composition of conifer species on restocking

Restocking assumptions for broadleaved stands clearfelled during the forecast period have been included that provide for:

- No reduction in stocked area
- Like for like species choices
- That 50% of the land associated with the reduction in conifer stocked area after felling of conifers is converted to broadleaved species

A full description of the restocking assumptions can be found in Appendix B of the *NFI 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability* (2022). The same restocking assumptions have been applied to both the FLS and private sector forecasts. Woodland that is classed as currently clearfelled will be restocked according to the restock prescription.

It should be noted that a small amount of thinning volume arising from restocking is included in the timber availability estimates for later periods of the forecast.

Results

The results presented in this report are estimates of the 25-year forecast of softwood and hardwood availability under the harvesting scenario as described, for the Highland Council Area.

The convention in this report is to define the year 2021 as starting on 1 April 2020 and ending on 31 March 2021. This convention applies to all forecast years or periods quoted. The forecast reports on five-year cycles of production, starting with 2022-2026.

All volumes are given in cubic metres (m³) overbark standing (obs) and, as in previous forecasts, all volumes available for harvesting include thinnings and fellings. Volumes are presented as average annual volume for each five-year period.

The values in the tables have been independently rounded, so may not add to the totals shown. In some breakdowns of private sector estimates, the estimates in the body of the table may not sum to the quoted total because each individual value, including the total, has been estimated independently.

Sampling standard errors (SE) attached to private sector estimates are expressed in relative terms (%) to the right of the relevant estimate. Due to biological and sampling constraints, for example where there is a very small population of a species within a particular region, the estimates may have a high associated standard error. Since this indicates a high level of uncertainty around those estimates, caution should be used when drawing any conclusions from these values as the estimate may not be representative of the real population. Such estimates have been shown in amber in the tables.

Other than the estimates in Table 1 the estimates are forecast values determined by applying growth and yield models to current assessments.

Results for the Highland Council Area

Map 1 Highland Council area



Table 1 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 – Highland Council area

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	74.9	135.7	3	210.6
All broadleaves	11.9	80.3	4	92.2
All species	86.8	216.1	2	303.0

Tables A1 and A2 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 1 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability – Highland Council area

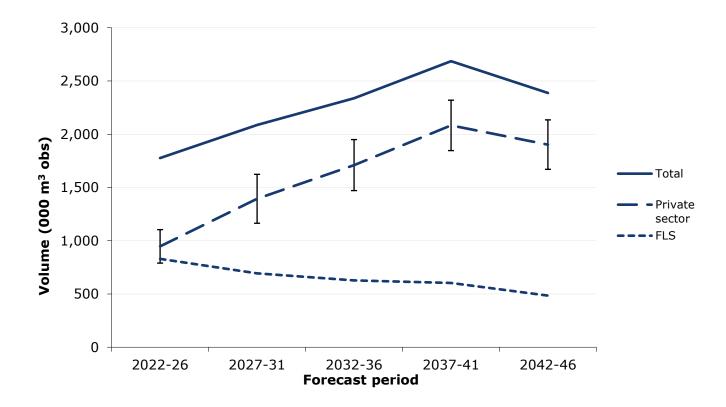


Table 2 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability - Highland Council area

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	829	947	17	1,776
2027-31	694	1,393	16	2,087
2032-36	627	1,710	14	2,337
2037-41	603	2,083	11	2,685
2042-46	484	1,902	12	2,387
Hardwood				
2022-26	1	110	39	111
2027-31	1	42	21	43
2032-36	1	22	30	24
2037-41	4	43	34	47
2042-46	4	39	61	44
Total				
2022-26	830	1,059	15	1,889
2027-31	695	1,420	16	2,115
2032-36	629	1,739	14	2,368
2037-41	607	2,133	11	2,741
2042-46	489	1,949	12	2,438

Figure 2 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Highland Council area

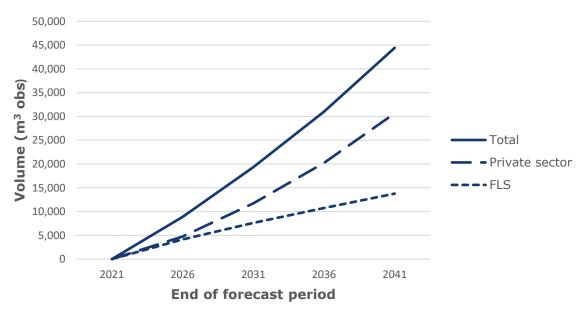


Table 3 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Highland Council area

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Total
	volume	volume	volume
	(000 m ³	(000 m ³	(000 m³
	obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood			
2022-26	4,147	4,733	8,880
2022-31	7,614	11,700	19,315
2022-36	10,751	20,250	31,001
2022-41	13,765	30,663	44,428
2022-46	16,188	40,174	56,362
Hardwood			
2022-26	5	550	555
2022-31	11	759	770
2022-36	17	871	888
2022-41	39	1,085	1,124
2022-46	61	1,282	1,342
Total			
2022-26	4,151	5,294	9,446
2022-31	7,625	12,396	20,022
2022-36	10,768	21,092	31,860
2022-41	13,804	31,759	45,563
2022-46	16,248	41,503	57,751

Results for Badenoch and Strathspey

Map 2 Badenoch and Strathspey

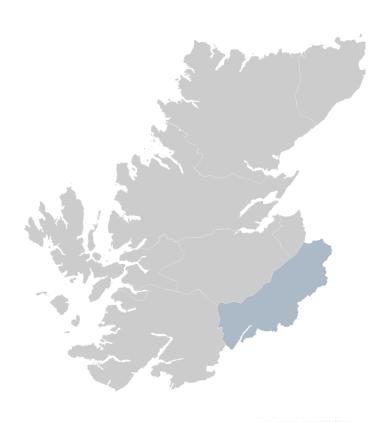


Table 4 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 - Badenoch and Strathspey

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	5.8	23.6	4	29.3
All broadleaves	0.2	8.5	9	8.7
All species	6.0	32.4	3	38.4

Tables A3 and A4 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 3 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability - Badenoch and Strathspey

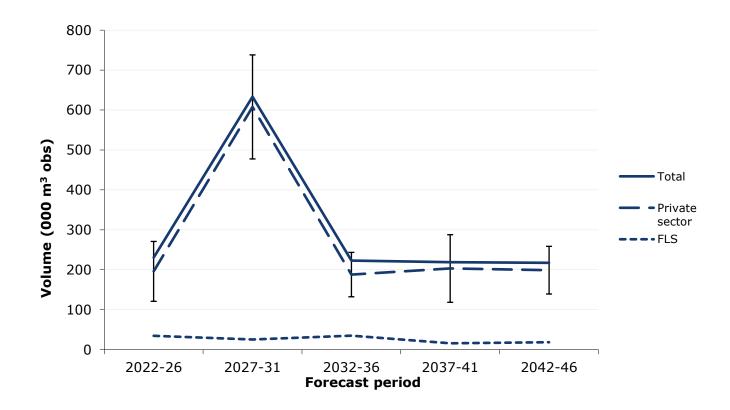


Table 5 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Badenoch and Strathspey

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	35	196	38	231
2027-31	26	608	21	633
2032-36	35	188	30	223
2037-41	16	203	42	219
2042-46	18	199	30	217
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	7	52	7
2027-31	0	9	47	9
2032-36	0	8	44	8
2037-41	0	8	69	8
2042-46	0	3	47	3
Total				
2022-26	35	209	37	243
2027-31	26	631	21	657
2032-36	35	196	29	231
2037-41	16	176	45	192
2042-46	19	197	30	216

Figure 4 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Badenoch and Strathspey

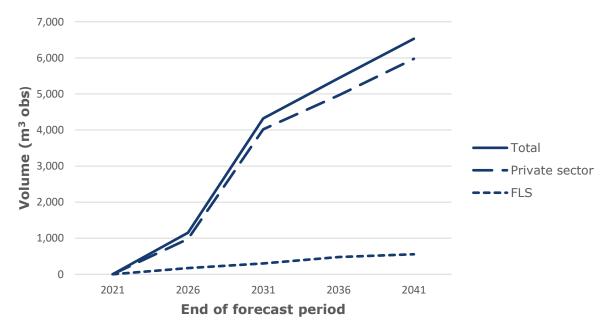


Table 6 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Badenoch and Strathspey

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Total
	volume	volume	volume
	(000 m ³	(000 m ³	(000 m ³
	obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood			
2022-26	173	980	1,153
2022-31	301	4,018	4,319
2022-36	476	4,958	5,434
2022-41	555	5,974	6,529
2022-46	647	6,969	7,616
Hardwood			
2022-26	0	37	37
2022-31	0	81	81
2022-36	0	122	122
2022-41	1	159	160
2022-46	3	174	177
Total			
2022-26	173	1,044	1,217
2022-31	301	4,201	4,502
2022-36	476	5,181	5,657
2022-41	556	6,060	6,617
2022-46	650	7,047	7,698

Results for Caithness and Sutherland

Map 3 District - Caithness and Sutherland



Table 7 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 - Caithness and Sutherland

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	16.4	41.1	7	57.5
All broadleaves	1.8	10.9	9	12.6
All species	18.2	52.0	6	70.2

Tables A5 and A6 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 5 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability – Caithness and Sutherland

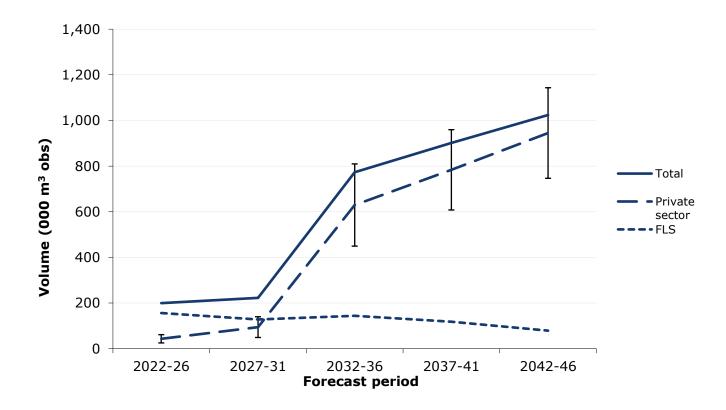


Table 8 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Caithness and Sutherland

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	156	43	42	200
2027-31	128	95	48	223
2032-36	144	630	29	773
2037-41	118	784	22	902
2042-46	79	945	21	1,024
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	2	71	2
2027-31	0	2	69	2
2032-36	1	1	101	2
2037-41	1	3	54	4
2042-46	1	2	63	4
Total				
2022-26	156	45	40	202
2027-31	128	97	47	225
2032-36	145	631	29	775
2037-41	119	786	22	905
2042-46	80	947	21	1,028

Figure 6 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Caithness and Sutherland

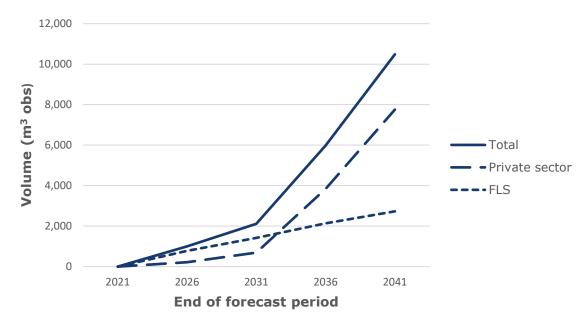


Table 9 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Caithness and Sutherland

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Total
	volume	volume	volume
	(000 m³	(000 m^3)	(000 m ³
	obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood			
2022-26	781	217	998
2022-31	1,421	689	2,111
2022-36	2,141	3,837	5,978
2022-41	2,731	7,755	10,486
2022-46	3,126	12,480	15,606
Hardwood			
2022-26	1	10	11
2022-31	1	21	22
2022-36	4	28	33
2022-41	9	42	51
2022-46	16	53	69
Total			
2022-26	782	227	1,009
2022-31	1,423	711	2,133
2022-36	2,145	3,865	6,010
2022-41	2,740	7,797	10,537
2022-46	3,142	12,533	15,675

Results for Inverness and Nairn

Map 4 District - Inverness and Nairn



Table 10 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 - Inverness and Nairn

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	16.4	25.4	4	41.8
All broadleaves	3.1	19.6	6	22.7
All species	19.5	45.0	3	64.6

Tables A7 and A8 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 7 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability - Inverness and Nairn

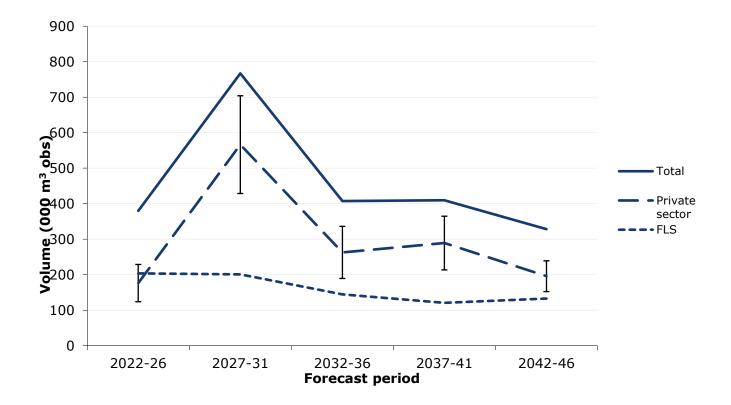


Table 11 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Inverness and Nairn

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	204	176	30	380
2027-31	201	566	24	767
2032-36	144	263	28	407
2037-41	121	289	26	410
2042-46	133	196	22	328
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	42	<i>57</i>	42
2027-31	0	13	39	13
2032-36	0	6	33	6
2037-41	1	8	28	9
2042-46	1	6	40	7
Total				
2022-26	204	221	26	425
2027-31	201	572	24	773
2032-36	145	273	27	418
2037-41	121	303	25	424
2042-46	134	205	21	338

Figure 8 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Inverness and Nairn

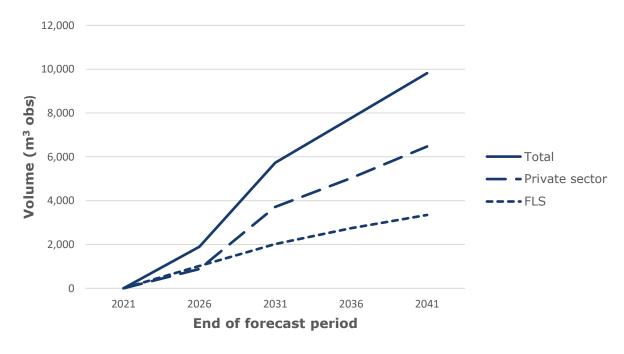


Table 12 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Inverness and Nairn

Forecast period	FLS volume (000 m³	Private sector volume (000 m³	Total volume (000 m³
	obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood			
2022-26	1,018	881	1,900
2022-31	2,021	3,713	5,734
2022-36	2,744	5,026	7,770
2022-41	3,347	6,471	9,818
2022-46	4,009	7,450	11,460
Hardwood			
2022-26	2	209	211
2022-31	3	276	279
2022-36	3	307	310
2022-41	7	348	355
2022-46	12	380	392
Total			
2022-26	1,020	1,104	2,125
2022-31	2,024	3,967	5,991
2022-36	2,747	5,333	8,080
2022-41	3,353	6,847	10,200
2022-46	4,021	7,870	11,891

Results for Lochaber

Map 5 District – Lochaber



Table 13 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 – Lochaber

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	17.4	19.4	4	36.8
All broadleaves	3.8	18.7	11	22.4
All species	21.2	38.1	6	59.2

Tables A9 and A10 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 9 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability – Lochaber

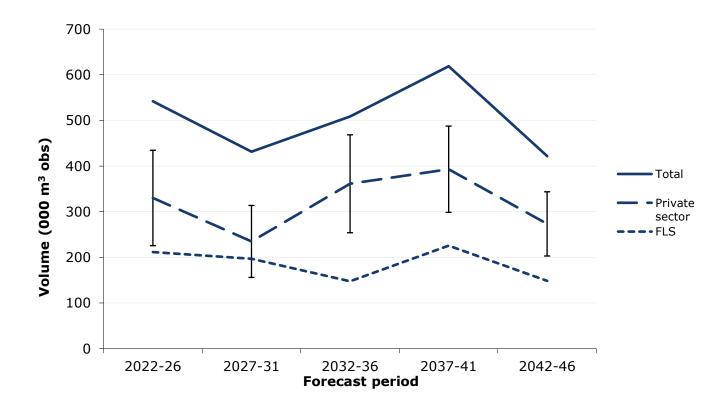


Table 14 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Lochaber

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	212	330	32	542
2027-31	197	235	34	432
2032-36	148	361	30	509
2037-41	226	393	24	619
2042-46	149	273	26	422
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	0	107	1
2027-31	1	1	53	2
2032-36	0	2	32	2
2037-41	2	3	30	5
2042-46	1	4	33	5
Total				
2022-26	212	331	32	543
2027-31	198	236	33	434
2032-36	148	363	30	511
2037-41	228	396	24	624
2042-46	150	277	25	426

Figure 10 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Lochaber

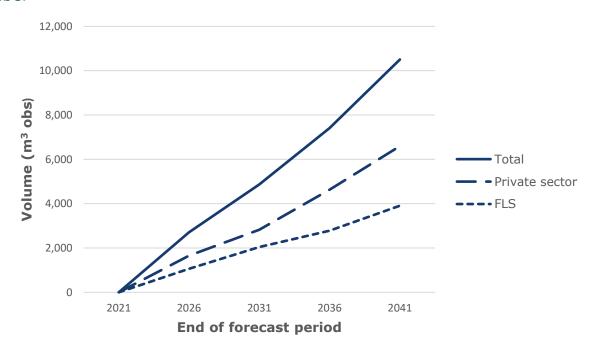


Table 15 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Lochaber

Forecast period FLS Private sector Total volume (000 m³ (000 m³ (000 m³ obs) obs) Softwood 2022-26 1,059 1,651 2,70 2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,80 2022-36 2,780 4,631 7,43	09
(000 m³ obs) (000 m³ obs) (000 m³ obs) Softwood 1,059 1,651 2,70 2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,80	09
obs) obs) obs) Softwood 2022-26 1,059 1,651 2,70 2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,80	09
Softwood 1,059 1,651 2,70 2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,80	
2022-26 1,059 1,651 2,70 2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,80	
2022-31 2,042 2,825 4,8 6	
	67
2022-36 2,780 4,631 7,4 :	
	11
2022-41 3,908 6,596 10,5 6	05
2022-46 4,651 7,963 12,6 5	14
Hardwood	
2022-26 2 2	4
2022-31 6 10	16
2022-36 7 20	27
2022-41 18 34	52
2022-46 24 52	76
Total	
2022-26 1,060 1,653 2,7 :	13
2022-31 2,048 2,835 4,8 8	83
2022-36 2,787 4,650 7,4 3	38
2022-41 3,926 6,631 10,5 5	57
2022-46 4,674 8,015 12,6 8	89

Results for Ross and Cromarty

Map 6 District – Ross and Cromarty



Table 16 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 - Ross and Cromarty

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	14.9	17.9	5	32.8
All broadleaves	1.8	16.2	6	18.0
All species	16.7	34.1	3	50.8

Tables A11 and A12 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 11 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability - Ross and Cromarty

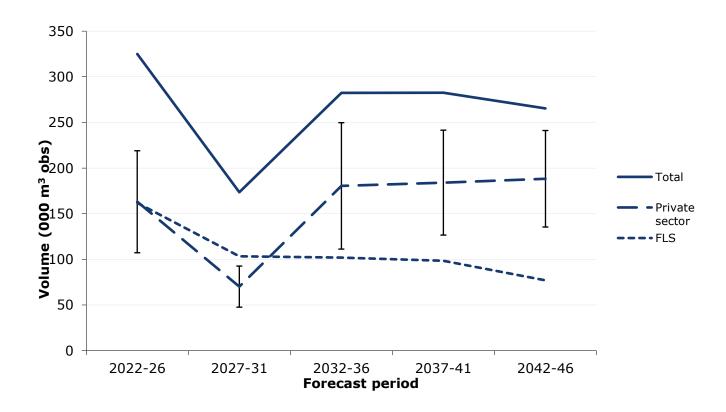


Table 17 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Ross and Cromarty

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	162	163	34	325
2027-31	103	70	32	174
2032-36	102	180	38	282
2037-41	98	184	31	283
2042-46	77	188	28	265
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	47	61	47
2027-31	0	13	36	13
2032-36	0	3	76	3
2037-41	0	21	53	21
2042-46	0	19	100	19
Total				
2022-26	162	210	30	372
2027-31	104	83	28	187
2032-36	102	183	38	285
2037-41	99	205	28	304
2042-46	77	207	27	284

Figure 12 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Ross and Cromarty

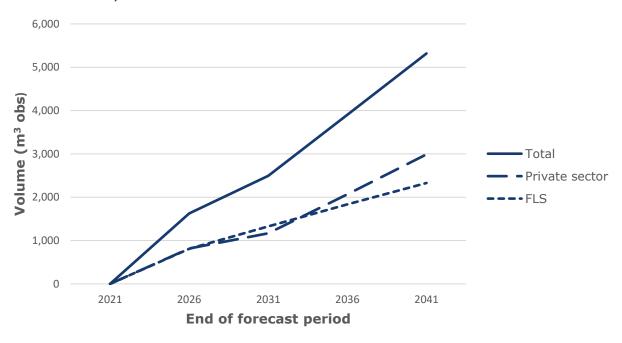


Table 18 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Ross and Cromarty

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³	volume (000 m³	volume (000 m³
	obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood			
2022-26	809	816	1,625
2022-31	1,326	1,166	2,493
2022-36	1,836	2,069	3,905
2022-41	2,328	2,989	5,317
2022-46	2,713	3,931	6,644
Hardwood			
2022-26	0	233	233
2022-31	1	297	298
2022-36	1	310	311
2022-41	2	416	418
2022-46	4	510	514
Total			
2022-26	810	1,048	1,858
2022-31	1,327	1,463	2,791
2022-36	1,837	2,379	4,216
2022-41	2,330	3,406	5,736
2022-46	2,717	4,441	7,159

Results for Skye and Lochalsh

Map 7 District – Skye and Lochalsh

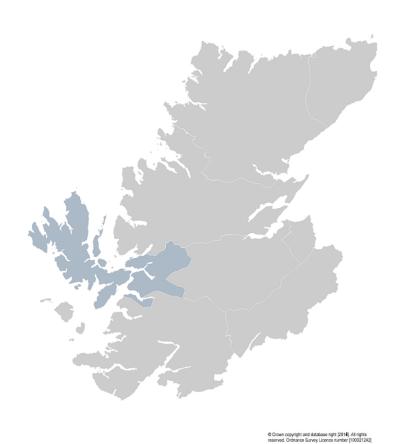


Table 19 Summary of stocked area 31 March 2021 – Skye and Lochalsh

	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	area (000 ha)	area (000 ha)	SE%	area (000 ha)
All conifers	4.1	7.6	11	11.7
All broadleaves	1.2	5.9	10	7.1
All species	5.3	13.5	7	18.8

Tables A13 and A14 showing the 25-year forecast broken down by time period, top diameter class and principal species groups can be found in the associated spreadsheet.

Figure 13 Summary of 25-year forecast of annual softwood timber availability – Skye and Lochalsh

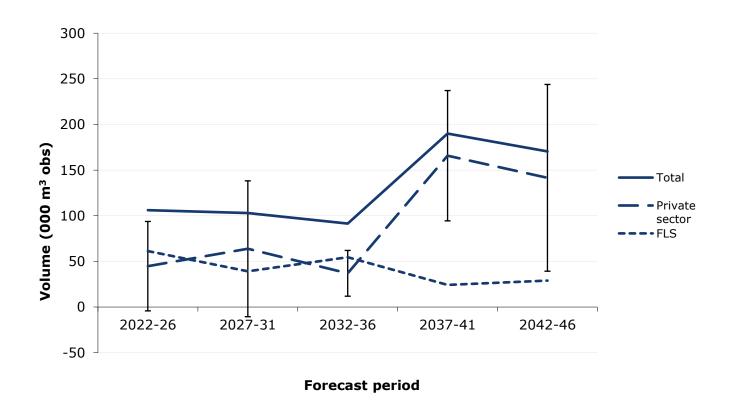


Table 20 Summary of 25-year forecast of average annual timber availability – Skye and Lochalsh

Forecast period	FLS	Private sector	Private sector	Total
	volume (000 m³ obs)	volume (000 m³ obs)	SE%	volume (000 m³ obs)
Softwood				
2022-26	61	45	109	106
2027-31	39	64	117	103
2032-36	54	37	68	91
2037-41	24	166	43	190
2042-46	29	142	72	170
Hardwood				
2022-26	0	0	127	0
2027-31	0	0	127	0
2032-36	0	0	76	0
2037-41	0	0	76	0
2042-46	0	0	44	0
Total				
2022-26	61	45	109	106
2027-31	39	64	117	103
2032-36	55	37	68	91
2037-41	24	166	43	190
2042-46	29	142	72	171
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Figure 14 Cumulative softwood timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Skye and Lochalsh

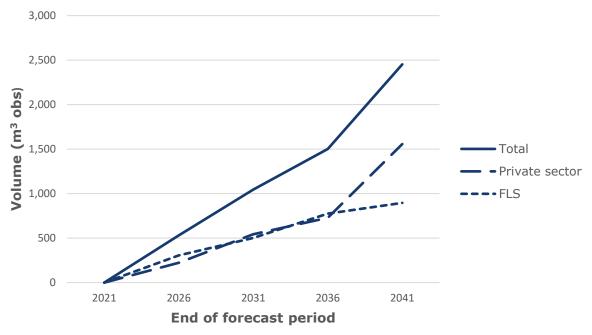


Table 21 Cumulative timber availability over the 25-year forecast – Skye and Lochalsh

FLS	Private sector	Total
volume	volume	volume
(000 m ³	(000 m ³	(000 m ³
obs)	obs)	obs)
Softwood		
306	224	530
502	543	1,045
775	728	1,502
896	1,557	2,452
1,041	2,264	3,305
0	0	0
1	0	1
1	0	1
2	1	2
3	1	3
307	224	531
503	543	1,046
775	728	1,504
898	1,557	2,455
1,043	2,265	3,308
	volume (000 m³ obs) 306 502 775 896 1,041 0 1 1 2 3 307 503 775 898	Volume (000 m³ obs) volume (000 m³ obs) 306 224 502 543 775 728 896 1,557 1,041 2,264 0 0 1 0 2 1 3 1 307 224 503 543 775 728 898 1,557

NFI national reports and papers

This inventory report is one of a series of publications reporting the outputs of the Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory. It forms part of the 25-year forecast of softwood availability series, which includes the following reports:

- Standing timber volume for coniferous trees in Britain (April 2012)
- 25-year forecast of standing coniferous volume and increment (2012)
- 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (July 2012)
- 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2014)
- 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2016)
- 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022)

Supporting technical documentation for these reports is available in:

- National Forest Inventory survey methodology
- National Forest Inventory forecasts methodology overview
- Interpreting National Forest Inventory timber volume forecasts

The woodland map and areas derived from it can be found in:

 National Forest Inventory woodland area statistics (for Great Britain, England, Scotland and Wales).

Full details are available from the NFI web pages.

The National Forest Inventory supports sustainable forest management in Great Britain. For more information see the <u>UK Forestry Standard</u> and its supporting Guideline

Glossary

A glossary of terms is presented in section 7 of NFI 25-year forecast of softwood timber availability (2022).

Enquiries relating to this publication should be addressed to:

Lesley Halsall

Forest Information and Statistics

Forest Research

Northern Research Stations

Roslin

Midlothian

EH25 9SY

nfi@forestresearch.gov.uk

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