

Small scale harvesting; state of play and perspectives

Duncan Ireland
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Technical Development

“Technical Development evaluates and develops forestry methods and machinery for greater efficiency, improved ergonomics and safety and reduced environmental impact.

Topics range from farm and small scale woodland operations to large scale upland forestry.”

What is small scale harvesting? Definitions?

It can be applied to...

... small trees



... small machinery



... small operations



... combinations of all/any of the above!

Why is it interesting?

- Because historically undermanaged woodlands - at the small scale.
- Under - or unexploited timber resource.
- Associated consequences on biodiversity, timber quality and yield, stability.



What are the specific constraints of small scale harvesting?

Small operations



overall economics !

Small trees



- unit costs
- handling of small material

How could this be addressed ?

Small operations

- easier access
- potential limited impact
- ... that also is versatile



Small trees

Small(er) equipment

- Lower capital costs
- Designed for small material

Do the solutions exist?

Yes...

Versatile small to medium scale combinations

Small diameter accumulating harvesting heads





New scales - Operational best practice and efficiency



New scales - Operational best practice and efficiency









‘Low tech.’ - Operational best practice and efficiency

... but they're not readily available...yet!

- the equipment and the expertise are still sparse
- there still is precious little information about performance, outputs and costs in UK conditions



So what do we do next?

Two things required:

- assess systems to confirm suitability in UK conditions
- disseminate the information



publications?



presentations?



outdoor
workshops/
demonstrations?



'exchange'
programmes
tours for
contractors
and woodland
owners?

Thank you

duncan.ireland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk