

Scots Pine Timber Quality in North Scotland

Task 3: Survey of Scots pine timber quality



Objective

- To undertake a strategic assessment of the end-use properties of the standing Scots pine resource in North Scotland, using the assessment methods developed in Task 2



Approach

1. Survey of Scots pine stands in Grampian and Highland, targeted on stands likely to be harvested before 2030
2. Acoustic assessment of logs from across north Scotland – mapping mechanical properties of the resource

1. Survey

- Will provide assessment of timber quality of Scots pine likely to be marketed in next 20 years – linked to GIS
- Data will be analysed to quantify effects of site conditions and silviculture on timber quality
- With results of SFT funded PhD → increased understanding of factors controlling Scots pine timber quality
- Improved guidance for Scots pine management

Survey design

- Include stands planted up to 1970
- Weighted to reflect pattern of ownership and geographical distribution:

	Grampian	Highland
FC	14%	23%
Other	28%	35%

- Private owners – ask for participation of those who took part in utilisation survey

Resource stratification

- Planting Year:
 - 1961-70
 - 1951-60
 - 1950 and earlier (cut-off at 1920?)
- Growth rate or site soil type/nutrient status:
 - Slower growing
 - Faster growing

Assessments

- Location
- Planting year
- Standing tree timber quality assessment (ST300 acoustic, stem straightness, height of lowest dead branch)
- Yield class
- Stocking density
- Thin/no thin
- Elevation
- Exposure (DAMS score)
- Measure of soil type/nutrient status

2. Acoustic assessment of logs

- In south Scotland HM200 log acoustic tool has been used to start mapping resource characteristics
- Possibility of similar exercise with Scots pine mills in north Scotland (Jones in Mosstodloch and Gordons in Nairn?)
- Assess sample of logs and link to site location and stand characteristics
- Could also assess logs at roadside
- Key will be ascertaining site/stand data