

THE NATIONAL FOREST COMPANY  
QUANTIFICATION OF THE FOREST RESOURCE  
UPDATE REPORT

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June 2009

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## 1. Introduction and scope

This document reports on analysis work carried out by Eamonn Wall & Co on behalf of the National Forest Company. The report is an update of the Resource Quantification Report produced in 2004.

The key tasks which this report seeks to address are:

- (i) Information on the amount of new woodland (planted after 2003) within The National Forest.
- (ii) Revised information concerning the age class distribution and type of the new and existing woodland
- (iii) The amount (in terms of hectares) of the overall and utilisable woodland resource.
- (iv) Modelled information on the growth and yield of woodland within The National Forest and the amount of yield (m<sup>3</sup>/year) that could be sustainably harvested over the next 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years time.
- (v) Consideration of the availability of resources for a hypothetical wood-chip powered heating system based at the National Forest Company offices and estimates of the number of small installations (100kw) which can be supported by wood-chips sourced from the Forest in future years.

Each section of the report details the analysis of the above items. The final summary section draws together the key results and tables from each section.

It should be noted that all the figures calculated and derived in this report relate to the technically feasible potential of the forest resource. They do not make any allowance for willingness of owners to manage their woodlands or availability of the necessary expertise to do so to achieve the technical potential. Neither do they take account of the economics of management or the availability of markets.

## **2. Input data**

There are several key datasets that provide input to the project, most provided in GIS format. Each was examined in the context of the others to determine what information it could contribute. All data-sets contained only data within The National Forest boundary. GIS analysis was undertaken using ArcView 9.2.

### 2.1 NIWT-plus

This is a dataset created during the 2003 project, which combined information from the NIWT and 2004 NFC existing woodlands datasets. In 2003 it was believed to be the best estimate at the time of woodland cover in the National Forest. It contains 1259 items and has a total polygon area of 5586ha. The NIWT-plus dataset is shown in Figure 1.

As this data was believed to be the best estimate of woodland cover at that time it was not analysed. The data-set was however used to overlay other data-sets to ensure duplication of polygons was avoided.

### 2.2 WGS3 dataset

This was provided by the Forestry Commission, and contains scheme outlines for WGS contracts from February 2004 to July 2005. Polygon sizes range from 0.1 to 85.9ha with a total polygon area of 1823ha. The data-set contains no information on type of woodland, but does hold brief details of the type of scheme i.e. new planting, restocking, thinning, felling etc.

For young woodlands, a negligible area of 4ha was found to not coincide with other polygons.

This data-set was also used in the 2004 report and its distribution in relation to NIWT-plus is shown in Figure 1.

### 2.3 Woodlands

This dataset was supplied by NFC in GIS format, and shows outlines of woodlands in The National Forest. The data-set has been up updated since 2003 to include new woodlands and previously unrecorded areas of woodland, identified from aerial photographs and other records. Whereas the 2003 data-set contained 405 items down to 0.11ha, with a total area of 3383ha, the revised data-set contains 762 records, totalling 6444ha down to a minimum of 0.01ha. The data-set is shown in Figure 2. There is considerable overlap with the NIWT-plus and WGS3 data-sets.

### 2.4 NFC Tender Scheme spreadsheet

This non-GIS data supplied by the NFC holds all records of new planting undertaken via the former National Forest Tender Scheme (NFC TS). The data shows that a total of 192 sites were planted under the TS, with a total area of 3635ha.

### 2.5 FC EWGS data

This data-set was also provided by the Forestry Commission and covers the period April 2006 to February 2009. The data-set holds 221 records, totalling 889ha with a minimum area of 0.02ha and maximum of 61ha.

The data-set does not hold details on operations, but does differentiate between the six strands of the EWGS: woodland creation, woodland regeneration (restocking), woodland management, woodland improvement, woodland planning and woodland assessment.

The data was filtered in the first instance to show only those records pertaining to woodland creation and restocking, then compared to the Woodlands data-set, with over-lapping polygons subsequently filtered out. The data-set is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 1

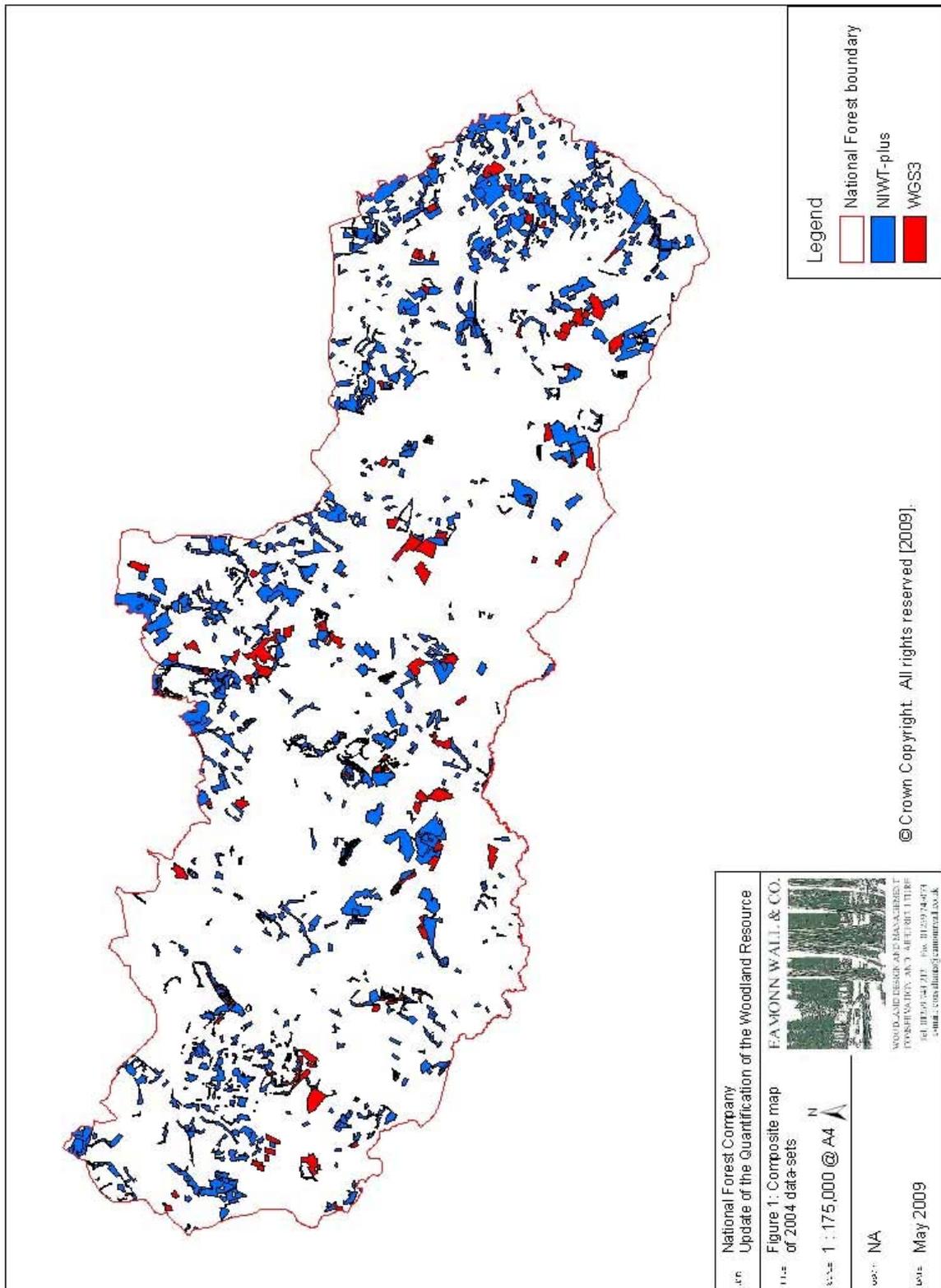


Figure 2

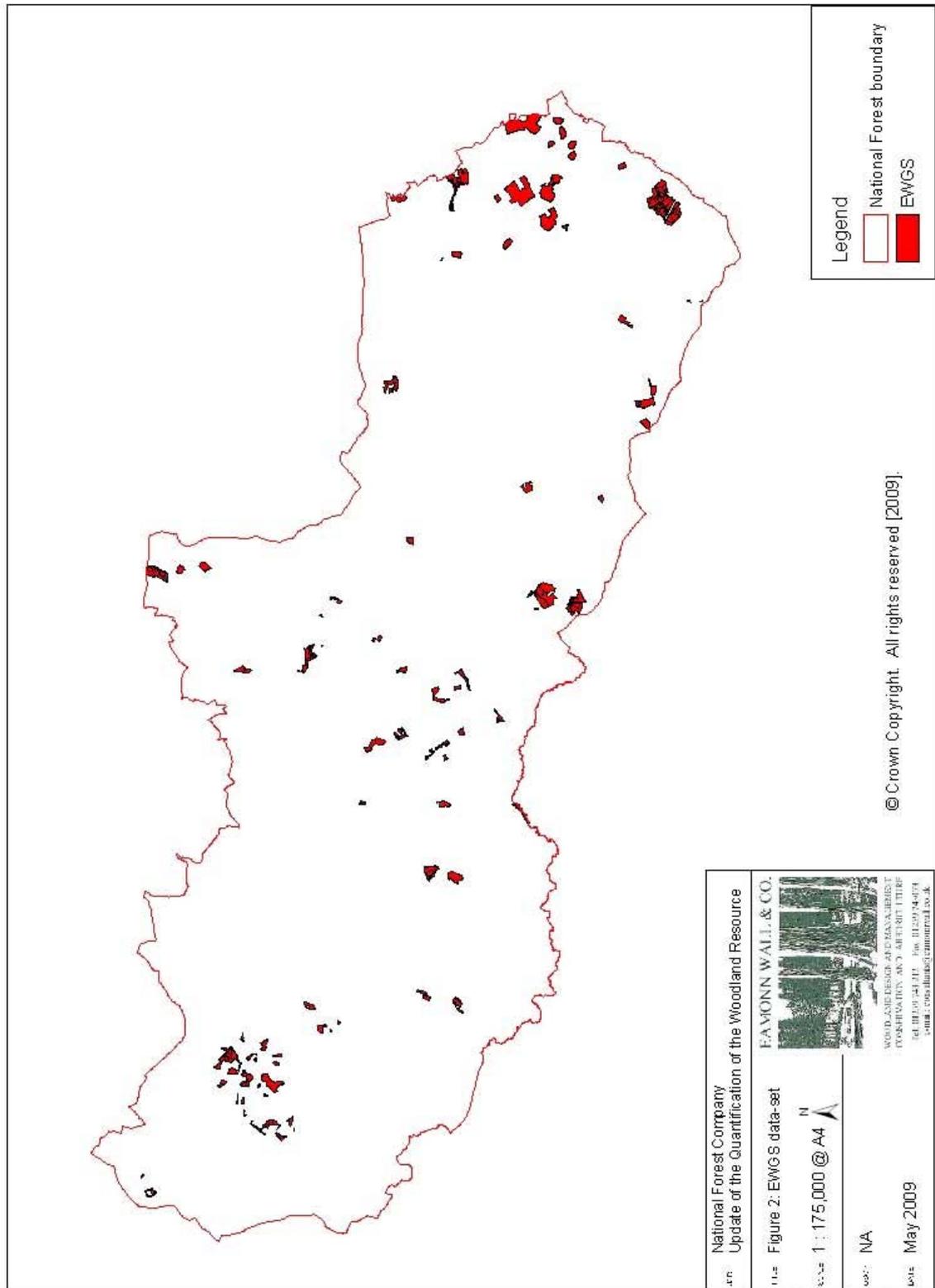
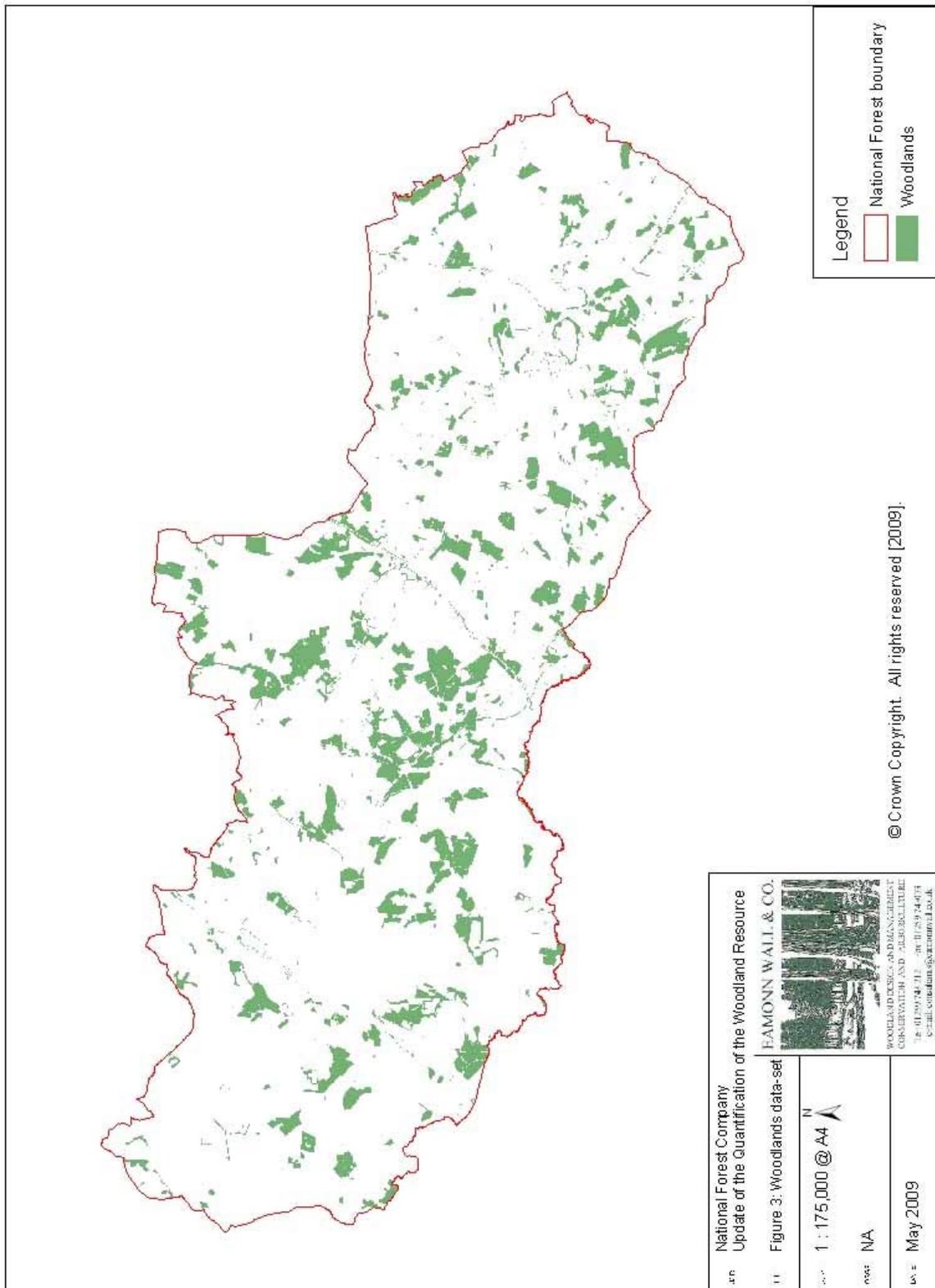


Figure 3



## 2.8 Definitions

Within the following analysis, woodlands were divided into :

- Established woodlands: Using a datum of 2009, established woodlands were assumed to be at, or close to, the age at which they were becoming productive in terms of thinnings or felling, assumed to be at least 20 years old.
- Young woodland: Using a datum of 2009, young woodlands would not on average have reached the age of first thinning (ie. less than 20 years old), and thus are not currently productive.

### 3. Young woodland

#### 3.1 Area of young woodland

The total area of young woodland at 2003 was estimated to be 3297ha.

The NFC TS spreadsheet gives a total woodland area of 1097ha planted since 2003/04. Although the Woodlands data-set holds details of NFC woods, the total area was found to differ from that given in the NFC spreadsheet and therefore the latter source was used for this category of young woodland.

The Woodlands data-set recorded planting dates and this permitted the filtering of young woodlands planted since 2003/04, outwith the NFC grants. Other unplanted or established sites were included in the Woodlands data-set, however detailed records combined with aerial photo analysis identified those polygons, allowing them to be removed from estimates of young woodland area.

Woodland creation and restocking polygons from the EWGS data-set which did not coincide with Woodlands amounted to 94ha.

It should be noted that 37ha of new planting was completed in March 2009 via the new Changing Landscapes Scheme (CLS), however this has not been included in any the report.

Figure 4 shows the locations of the above data-sets for young woodlands.

The final aspect to be taken into consideration is the migration of woodlands from the 'young' to 'established' categories since 2003. This was calculated using the following information:

- Yield modelling in the 2004 report split the young woodlands into 5 year cohorts.
- Two cohorts pre-dated 1995 i.e. cohorts 1987 and 1982, both with the same area, accounting for all the pre-1995 woodlands.
- The 1982 cohort (half of the pre-1995 woodland) will have migrated into the 'established' woodlands category, accounting for a loss of 310ha to the 'young' woodlands category.

The derivation of the total area of young woodlands is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Derivation of total area of young woodland.

Dataset	Ha
Young woods area as at 2004	3297
NFC grant aided planting since 2003/04	1097
Woodlands post-03/04 data	175
EWGS new planting & restocking	94
Less 1987 cohort migration to established woods	- 310
<b>Total young woodland</b>	<b>4353</b>

This shows an increase in area of young woodlands since 2003 of 1056ha.

The total area of young woodlands can be split between pre-1995 and post-1995 woods, due to large differences in annual planting rate and woodland size. As the pre-1995 woodland area has been halved due to age-class migration, only 310ha remains. The remaining 4043ha comprises woodlands planted under the NFC grants, EWGS, WGS3 and other woodlands including landscaping, screening (identified from the Woodlands data-set).

Table 2: Breakdown of young woodland by age class.

Young woodlands category	Area (ha)	% of young woodland	Estimated average annual planting rate (ha/yr)
Pre-1995	310	7	62
Post-1995	4043	93	289
<b>Total</b>	<b>4353</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>351</b>

### 3.2 Species composition of young woodland

Information on the break-out between broadleaved and conifer planting prior to 1995 is not available. The assumptions used in the 2004 report (i.e. a 50/50 split) has been used. Analysis of the NFC data indicated an average split of 85% broadleaves to 15% conifers, and this has been applied to all post-1995 woodlands.

Table 3: Detailed breakdown of young woodland

Category	Total area (ha)	Species	% by area	Area (ha)	Years in period	Ave. annual planting rate (ha/yr)
Pre-1995 (1989 – 1995)	310	Broadleaves	50	155	5	31
		Conifers	50	155	5	31
Post-1995 (1995 – 2009)	4043	Broadleaves	85	3437	14	246
		Conifers	15	606	14	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>4353</b>			<b>4353</b>		<b>351</b>

### 3.4 Area-class distribution of young woodland

The area-class distribution of pre-1995 woodland (in terms of woodland numbers and areas per age-class) has been assumed to remain unchanged. The only change is to the total area, representing the migration of 310ha out of the age-class.

The age-class distribution (see Table 4 and Figure 5) indicates a large area of medium-sized woods. The smallest woods (0-2ha) are greatest in number but represent the smallest contribution to the total woodland area.

Table 4: Estimated area class distribution of pre-1995 young woodland

Area range (ha)	% of woodland number	% of woodland area	Area of woodlands (ha)
0-2	54	4.7	15
2- 5	12	6.4	20
5 - 10	12	14.1	44
10 - 20	6	33.2	103
20 - 50	3	20.1	62
50 - 100	2	21.5	66
100+	0	0.0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>310</b>

Post-2003 woodland areas from the Woodlands, EWGS and NFC data-sets were collated and analysed independently of the existing post-1995 data, which would remain unchanged. The area per age-class from the post-2003 data was added to the post-1995 data.

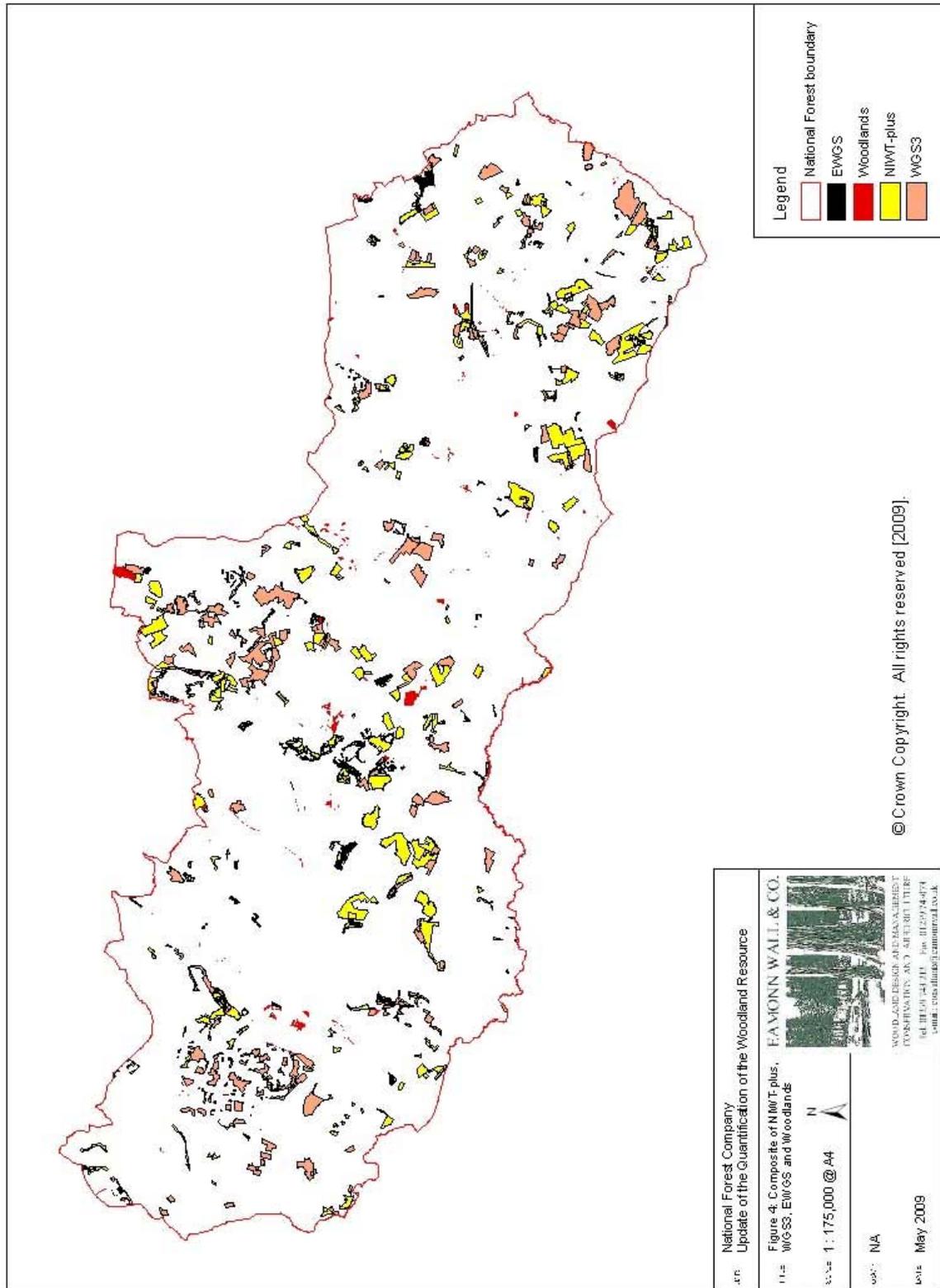
Percentage of woodland number was taken to be the average values of the two periods of data.

Similarly to the pre-1995 woodlands, the smallest area class exhibits a high number of woods but a very low area (see Table 5), accounting for only 2.3% of the post-1995 young woodland area. The general trend is a skewed bell-shaped curve (see Figure 6), with a large number of larger woods. The 20-50ha area range has increased the most compared to the pre-1995 young woodlands, suggesting that the introduction of the NF grants encouraged the establishment of larger woods.

Table 5: Estimated area class distribution of post-1995 young woodland

<b>Area range (ha)</b>	<b>% of woodland number</b>	<b>% of woodland area</b>	<b>Area of woodlands</b>
0-2	30	2.3	87
2- 5	15	4.8	172
5 - 10	20	13.5	532
10 - 20	17	22.7	928
20 - 50	15	41.3	1691
50 - 100	3	15.4	633
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4043</b>

Figure 4



## 4. Established woodland

### 4.1 Area of established woodland

The 2004 data for established woodlands was used as base data for this exercise. Factored in was the migration of 310ha from young woodlands and 68ha of clear-fells, identified from EWGS data.

Mixed woodland was taken to be a 50%/50% mix between broadleaves and conifers. The area of mixed woodland has been split between broadleaved and coniferous categories to give a total estimate of those areas, as demonstrated in Table 6.

Table 6: Detailed breakdown of established woodland

Woodland type	Data source					
	2004 data	Cohort migration	Less clearfells	Subtotal	Adjust for mixed	% by area
Established Broadleaved woodland area (ha)	2137	155	34	2258	2651	70%
Established Coniferous woodland area (ha)	620	155	34	741	1134	30%
Established mixed woodland area (ha)	786		0	786	0	
<b>Total established woodland</b>	<b>3543</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>3785</b>	<b>3785</b>	<b>100</b>

Broadleaved woodland can clearly be seen to dominate, covering an estimated 70% of the gross woodland area. Established woodland can be seen to have increased in area by 242ha since 2004, this figure representing the net effect of age-class immigration (young woods growing older) and emigration (clear-fell and restock).

### 4.2 Area distribution of established woodland

The 2004 established woodland data was used as the base data. Added to this was the net migration of 242ha between young and established woodlands. As the 242ha is a theoretical application of data, no individual woodland size data exists. The percentage distribution of woodland by area class was applied to the incoming 242ha and the resultant area added to each area class (see Table 7 and Figure 7).

Table 7: Size distribution of established woodland

Area range (ha)	% of number of woodlands	% of woodland area	Area of woodlands (ha)
0-2	33%	5%	196
2-5	30%	11%	428
5-10	18%	15%	570
10-20	10%	17%	617
20-50	4%	16%	592
50-100	3%	29%	1114
100+	2%	7%	268
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3785</b>

The table indicates that there is a large number of small woods, but only representing a small proportion of the total established woodland area. The total area within each of these area classes forms a broad bell-shaped curve as seen in Figure 7. The 50-100ha area class has a notably high area and comprises only a very small number of woods.

Figure 5: Area distribution of pre-1995 young woodlands by area

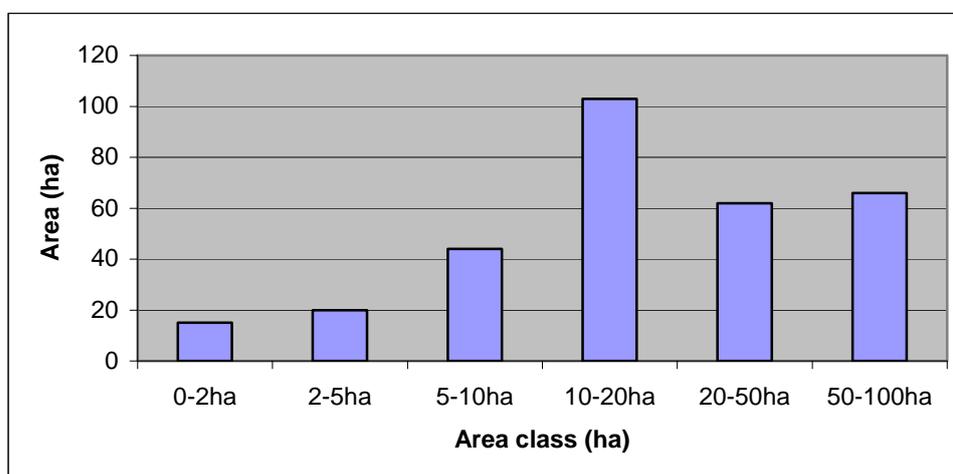


Figure 6: Area distribution of post-1995 young woodland by area

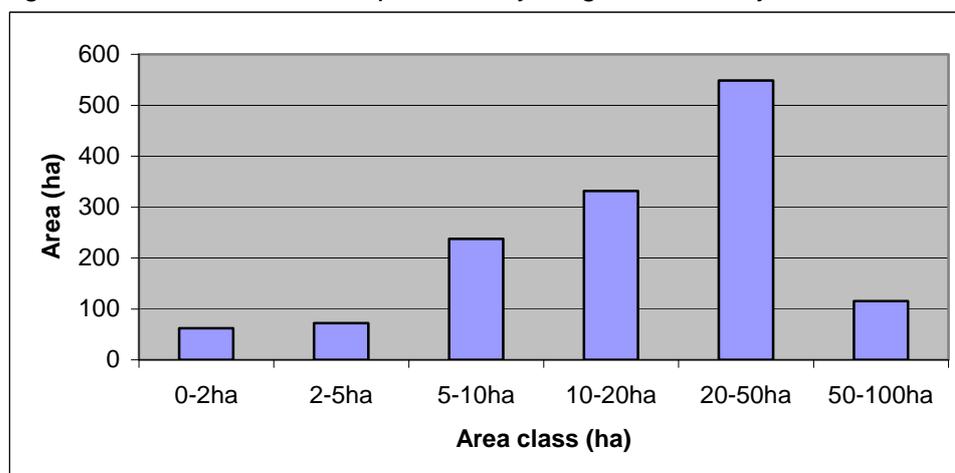
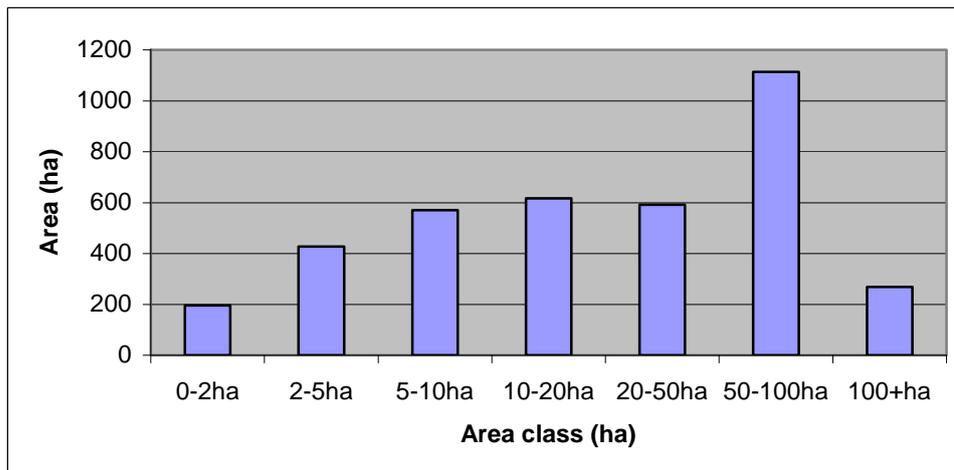


Figure 7: Area distribution of established woodland by area



## 5. Summary of existing woodland

### 5.1 Summary of Data

The data from previous sections were combined in the summary in Table 8. The gross area is converted to a net planted area using an estimate of *percentage planted* to account for open ground within the woodland boundaries:

- For young woodland planted under the NFC grants, EWGS and WGS3 it is assumed that the typical net planted area of these woods would be 80% (e.g. 20% open ground).
- For established woodland, the same percentage is applied as in the 2004 report, given that little will have changed: GIS polygons in the NIWT dataset tend to be quite closely defined around the woodland boundaries and do not contain much open ground. A percentage planted figure of 90% is therefore assumed, based on a visual estimate from the air photography

Table 8: Summary of existing woodland

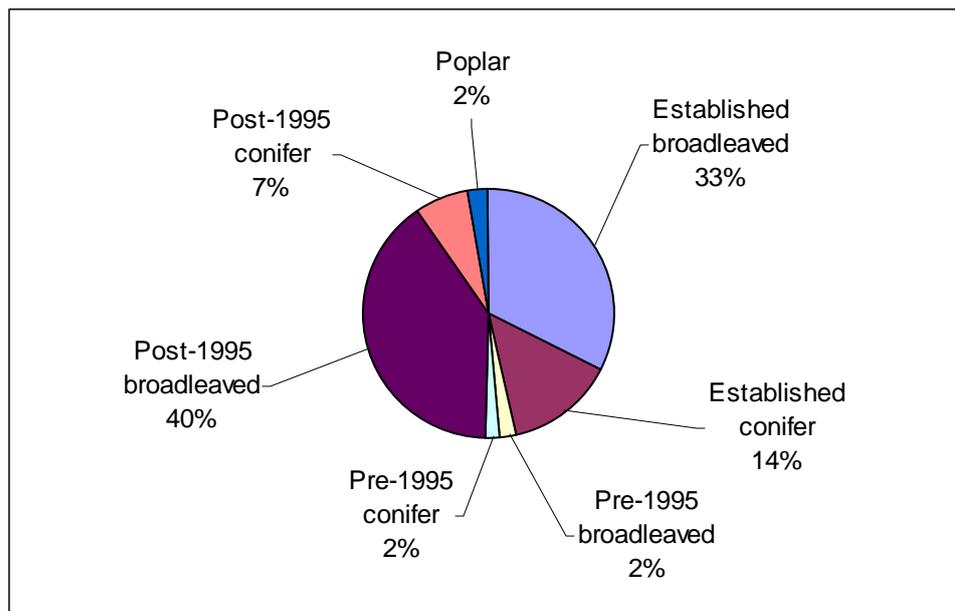
Category	Category totals (ha)	Species type	% of category	Gross area (ha)	% of NFC area (50425ha)	Estimated % planted	Net planted area (ha)	% of net woodland area
Established	3785	Broad-leaved	70	2651	5.3	90	2386	34.6
		Conifer	30	1134	2.2	90	1021	14.8
Young pre-95	310	Broad-leaved	50	155	0.3	80	124	1.8
		Conifer	50	155	0.3	80	124	1.8
Young post-95	4043	Broad-leaved	81	3275	6.5	80	2620	38.0
		Conifer	14	566	1.1	80	453	6.6
		Poplar	5	202	0.4	80	162	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8138</b>			<b>8138</b>	<b>16.2</b>		<b>6890</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 8 indicates an increase in gross woodland area of 1298ha since 2004.

Figure 8 shows the breakdown of gross woodland area as a pie chart. This clearly shows the following noteworthy facts:

- Broadleaved woodlands (young & established) dominate in the area, occupying a proportion of 77% of the total against 23% for conifers, indicating a large shift towards broadleaves since 2004 (when broadleaves accounted for 70%).
- Young woodlands now represent over half of the current woodland area, occupying 54% of the total, against 46% for established woodlands.
- Post-1995 broadleaved planting has risen from 29% of the woodland area to 40%.

Figure 8: Breakdown of existing woodland by gross area



## 5.2 Potential sources of data bias

The biases highlighted in the 2004 remain, so this section seeks to indicate those biases which have occurred in the analysis of post-2003 data.

It was considered that the NFCTS spreadsheet held the most detailed information. This data source does not however hold spatial data, preventing it from being interrogated via GIS. Woodlands data-set represented the next most complete source of information available and held records of most (but not all) NFC grant schemes. The data-set was updated as recently as March 2009 and includes previously unrecorded young woodlands. Descriptive records were also found to be accurate, having undertaken brief aerial photo analysis. Relatively minor contributions were made to the overall information available by the EWGS data-set.

The most likely single largest source of bias lies in the migration of woodlands from young to established categories. The area is a theoretical area and assumes an even planting rate over the five year period of the cohort. Furthermore, no information is available regarding the area distribution of these woods. This cohort migration impacts on pre-1995 young woodlands and established woodlands. In the absence of hard data it is however a best estimate.

In summary, it is likely that:

- Established woodland estimates are fairly accurate
- Young woodlands are considered to be fairly accurate.

The degree of inaccuracy is difficult to estimate. In general the data used were those that were known to be most up to date and reliable, and the methodology for advancing cohorts is consistent with the 2004 modelled projection.

## 6. Utilisable woodland resource

Of the net planted area, only a certain proportion will be capable of utilisation. In calculating the utilisable area, several categories were excluded. These are listed below and where derived figures are not available, values assumed for each, based on experience:

- Areas of woodland less than 2ha in size. The percentage of area in this category was derived in the previous area distribution analyses for each of young and established woodland.
- Areas of shrubs and unproductive species
- Areas without management potential, e.g. conservation or amenity planting that it would not be desirable or practical to manage for wood or timber output
- Areas which may fail to establish.

Table 9: Utilisable woodland area : Detailed breakdown

	<i>Species type</i>	<i>Net planted area (ha)</i>	<i>% greater than 2ha</i>	<i>% area of productive species</i>	<i>% area with management potential</i>	<i>% area not failed</i>	<i>Compound %</i>	<i>Utilisable area (ha)</i>
Established	Broad-leaved	2386	95	90	80	100	68	1632
	Conifer	1021	95	100	90	100	86	873
Young pre-95	Broad-leaved	124	95	90	90	95	73	91
	Conifer	124	95	100	100	98	93	115
Young post-95	Broad-leaved	2620	97	90	90	95	75	1956
	Conifer	453	97	100	100	98	95	431
	Poplar	162	97	100	100	98	95	154
<b>Total</b>		<b>6890</b>					<b>76</b>	<b>5252</b>

From Table 9 it can be calculated that the total utilisable area of 5252ha is on average 76% of the net planted area, and 65% of the gross woodland area.

It is worth reiterating that the utilisable area does not take into account willingness or ability of owners to manage their woodlands in a productive way, and also does not consider the economics of management. It is intended solely as an estimate of technical potential.

It is worth commenting that the total area of woods less than 2ha is 283ha. Collectively, this area-class can potentially make a reasonable contribution to woodchip and log supply if markets are strong (providing sufficient incentive to the woodland owners), although this is tempered by the fragmented distribution of such woods, impacting on logistics.

## 7. Modelling of yield

### 7.1 Young woodlands – General approach

Although the young woodlands were, by definition, not productive in 2009, many of them would become so during the subsequent 25 years.

The general approach used was to divide the utilisable area of young woodlands into age-classes (or cohorts) each covering 5 years (see Table 10). Each cohort is identified by its middle planting year. For instance, the 1997 cohort contains woodlands planted in the 5-year period from 1995 to 1999 inclusive. To assign an area to each cohort an average rate of establishment was assumed over the periods defined. The *period* is the number of years that the utilisable area category is assumed to cover (i.e. young woodlands category spans a period of 19 years).

Due to the difference in average annual planting rates before and after 1995, Table 10 splits the young woodlands into pre and post 1995 categories.

Table 10 shows the utilisable area per year that was assigned to each cohort.

Table 10: Derivation of woodland area in each 5-year cohort

	Species type	Utilisable area (ha)	Period (years)	Utilisable area (ha/yr)	Area per 5-year cohort (ha)
Young pre-95	Broad-leaved	91	5	18.2	91
	Conifer	115	5	23.0	115
Young post-95	Broad-leaved	1956	14	139.7	699
	Conifer	431	14	30.7	154
	Poplar	154	14	11	55
<b>Total</b>		<b>2747</b>			

Future cohorts have also been derived. For instance, conifer cohort 2013 (P-years 2010-2015) will yield its first thinning in the final modelled period. The utilisable area in future cohorts was calculated assuming that the average rate of establishment for broadleaves and conifers stays at its current rate.

The assignment of cohorts is explicitly shown in Table 12. Note that the cohorts are defined in terms of utilisable area.

For the purposes of future modelling, a number of 5-year periods have been defined. Each period is named by its middle year, and this year is the datum used when applying yield model data to each cohort. The final period is 2030 - 2034 (datum 2032).

### 7.2 Growth model for young broadleaves

The key young broadleaves in The National Forest having productive potential were assumed to be mainly oak, ash, sycamore and birch. As no species breakdown is available a mean Yield Class (YC) of 6 was assumed, with 25 as the age of first thinning. These figures are based on averages from FC yield tables.

The yield for trees of productive age is assumed to be the marginal thinning intensity of 70% x YC6 = 4.2m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr. This is the yield used in the model for each cohort once age 25 is reached.

The annual yield data for the cohorts of young broadleaves are shown in Table 12, with modelled yields shown in Table 13.

### 7.3 Growth model for young conifers

Discussion with local Forestry Commission offices suggested that the dominant conifer in The National Forest area is Corsican pine, and mean yield classes of 16-18 were quoted. To err on the side of caution a mean yield class of 16 was used in this study, with 20 years as the age of first thinning (based on FC yield tables).

The yield for trees of productive age is assumed to be the marginal thinning intensity of 70% x YC16 = 11.2m<sup>3</sup>/ha/yr. This is the yield used in the model for each cohort once age 20 is reached.

The annual yield data for the cohorts of young conifers are shown in Table 12, with modelled yields shown in Table 13.

### 7.4 Growth model for young poplars

The inclusion of poplars in the model needs to be treated with care for several reasons:

- Historically, planting of poplar has tended to be sporadic due to uncertainties over markets and disease resistance. It is therefore difficult to predict future establishment rates.
- The early age of first thinning (10 years) means that cohorts up to 2022 (2020-2024) must be considered to calculate the yield for the period centred on 2032.
- The very high volume yields mean that relatively small amounts of poplar planting can have a significant impact on modelled figures. Consequently any error in the poplar figures causes a disproportionate degree of error in the woodland total.

Little confidence can be put in predictions of poplar establishment rates to the year 2032 given the above points. Therefore to err on the side of caution, only the two cohorts 1997 and 2002 have been included in the model.

The following assumptions were made regarding growth, based on suggestions by NFC and information from the Poplar Tree Company:

- Two-thirds of each cohort was established at final spacing of 8m x 8m and will not be thinned. A yield class 14 is assumed and felling will occur at year 25. FC yield tables predict approximately 300 m<sup>3</sup>/ha on felling.
- One third of each cohort was established at 4m x 2m spacing, and a 50% thin carried out at years 7, 11 and 14 to leave 8m x 8m spacing at the final felling at age 25.

Table 11 shows the yields expected from the thinned case, as supplied by the Poplar Tree Company. In the model, the year 7 and 11 felling have been included as a combined yield for year 10. The year 14 felling is shown at year 15.

Because FC yield models for poplar were defined at wide spacing, the effective yield classes attainable at closer spacing can be much higher, and usually in excess of YC20. For the 4m x 2m portion of each cohort, an effective yield class of 20 is obtained.

The annual yield data for the cohorts of poplars are shown in Table 12, with modelled yields shown in Table 13.

Table 11: Poplar yields, 4m x 2m initial spacing

<i>Operation</i>	<i>Age of thinning</i>	<i>m3/ha</i>	<i>Nominal age in model to which yield attributed</i>	<i>m3/ha</i>	<i>cohort m3/ha/yr</i>
Thin 1	7	28	10	106	21.2
Thin 2	11	78			
Thin 3	14	80	15	80	16
Fell	25	300	25	300	60
<b>Total yield</b>		<b>486</b>		<b>486</b>	

Table 12: Assignment of cohorts for modelling of yield from young trees

<b>Broadleaves</b>			
Year	Ave. Utilisable ha/yr	Cohort	Area (ha)
2014	140		
2013	140		
2012	140	2012	700
2011	140		
2010	140		
2009	140		
2008	140		
2007	140	2007	700
2006	140		
2005	140		
2004	140		
2003	140		
2002	140	2002	700
2001	140		
2000	140		
1999	140		
1998	140		
1997	140	1997	700
1996	140		
1995	140		
1994	18		
1993	18		
1992	18	1992	90
1991	18		
1990	18		

<b>Conifers</b>			
Year	Ave. Utilisable ha/yr	Cohort	Area (ha)
2014	31		
2013	31		
2012	31	2012	155
2011	31		
2010	31		
2009	31		
2008	31		
2007	31	2007	155
2006	31		
2005	31		
2004	31		
2003	31		
2002	31	2002	155
2001	31		
2000	31		
1999	31		
1998	31		
1997	31	1997	155
1996	31		
1995	31		
1994	23		
1993	23		
1992	23	1992	115
1991	23		
1990	23		

<b>Poplars</b>			
Year	Ave. Utilisable ha/yr	Cohort	Area (ha)
2004	11		
2003	11		
2002	11	2002	55
2001	11		
2000	11		
1999	11		
1998	11		
1997	11	1997	55
1996	11		
1995	11		

Table 13: Modelled yields for cohorts of young trees

**Modelling of young broadleaves**

Datum range		2007 2005-2009			2012 2010-2014			2017 2015-2019			2022 2020-2024			2027 2025-2029			2032 2030-2034		
Cohort	Area (ha)	Age	m3/ha/yr	m3/yr															
2012	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0
2007	700	0	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	4.2	2940
2002	700	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	4.2	2940	30	4.2	2940
1997	700	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	4.2	2940	30	4.2	2940	35	4.2	2940
1992	90	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	4.2	378	30	4.2	378	35	4.2	378	40	4.2	378
Total				0			0			378			3318			6258			9198

**Modelling of young conifers**

Datum range		2007 2005-2009			2012 2010-2014			2017 2015-2019			2022 2020-2024			2027 2025-2029			2032 2030-2034		
Cohort	Area (ha)	Age	m3/ha/yr	m3/yr															
2012	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	11.2	1736
2007	155	0	0	0	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	11.2	1736	25	11.2	1736
2002	155	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	11.2	1736	25	11.2	1736	30	11.2	1736
1997	155	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	11.2	1736	25	11.2	1736	30	11.2	1736	35	11.2	1736
1992	115	15	0	0	20	11.2	1288	25	11.2	1288	30	11.2	1288	35	11.2	1288	40	11.2	1288
Total				0			1288			3024			4760			6496			8232

**Modelling of poplars**

Datum range		2007 2005-2009			2012 2010-2014			2017 2015-2019			2022 2020-2024			2027 2025-2029			2032 2030-2034		
Cohort	Area (ha)	Age	m3/ha/yr	m3/yr															
Unthinned																			
2002	55	5	0	0	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	60	3300	5	0	0
1997	55	10	0	0	15	0	0	20	0	0	25	60	3300	5	0	0	10	0	0
Thinned																			
2002	55	5	0	0	10	21	1155	15	16	880	20	0	0	25	60	3300	5	0	0
1997	55	10	21	1155	15	16	880	20	0	0	25	60	3300	5	0	0	10	21	1155
Total				1155			2035			880			6600			6600			1155

### 7.5 Established woodlands

The yield modelling of established woodlands assumes an approximately even age class distribution. This means that both thinning and felling are ongoing, and the overall woodland area is constant. Hence in ideal circumstances potential annual yield per hectare, when averaged over the whole utilisable area, could be equal to the Yield Class.

In reality, there may be various factors that may prevent this from being achieved, even if all owners were willing to attempt management. In particular, previous under-management would be likely to constrain what may be achieved. This has been modelled as a management efficiency, as indicated in Table 14. Although its values are estimates it is thought likely that mature broadleaved stands will suffer most from under-management.

The likely yields are constant, as the overall area of woodland remains constant.

Table 14: Modelled yield from established woodlands

<b>Species</b>	<b>Mean YC</b>	<b>Utilisable area (ha)</b>	<b>Potential yield (m3/yr)</b>	<b>Management efficiency</b>	<b>Likely yield (m3/yr)</b>
Broadleaves	6	1632	9792	75	7344
Conifers	16	873	13968	90	12571
<b>Total</b>			<b>23760</b>		<b>19915</b>

### 7.6 Summary of yield data

Table 15 summarises the yield information from both young and established woodlands, and data are illustrated in Figure 9.

Table 15: Summary of yield data (m3/yr)

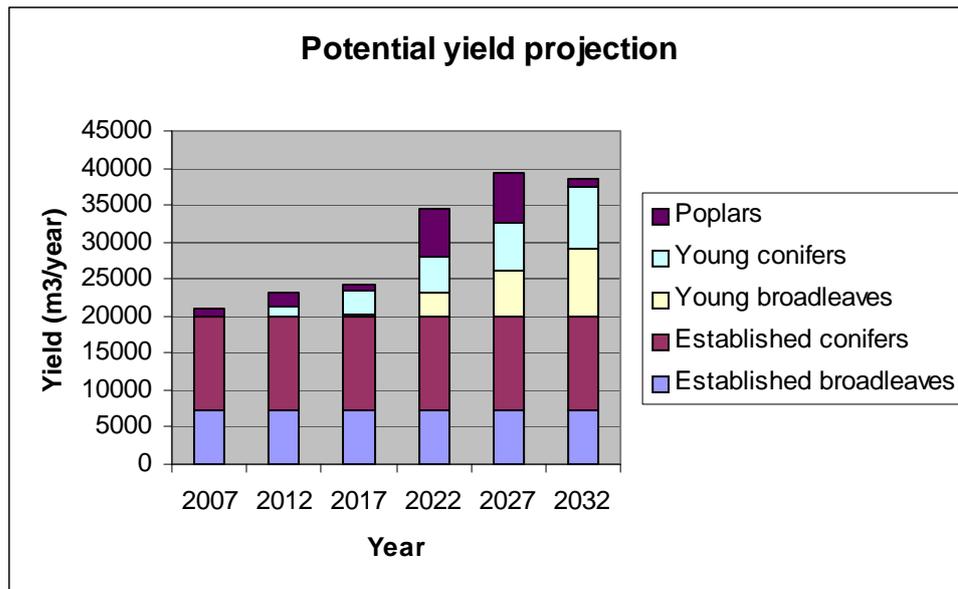
<b>Species</b>	<b>Datum</b>					
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2032</b>
Established broadleaves	7344	7344	7344	7344	7344	7344
Established conifers	12571	12571	12571	12571	12571	12571
Young broadleaves	0	0	378	3318	6258	9198
Young conifers	0	1288	3024	4760	6496	8232
Poplars	1155	2035	880	6600	6600	1155
<b>Total</b>	<b>21070</b>	<b>23238</b>	<b>24197</b>	<b>34593</b>	<b>39269</b>	<b>38500</b>

Several points of interest can be drawn from this:

- The current yield (for 2009) would be as per the modelled year 2007, and is based on the contribution from established woodlands and poplars, totalling 21070 m<sup>3</sup>/yr.
- Established conifers provide the single greater part of the current yield potential (42%). This is mainly due to the higher mean yield class for conifers, despite the greater net area of established broadleaved woodland.
- Over the modelled period the total potential yield almost doubles to 38500 m<sup>3</sup>/yr as cohorts of young planting reach the age of first thinning.
- Young conifers provide yield in greater quantity and sooner than broadleaves, despite the larger net area of young broadleaves in the model. This is mainly due to their higher yield class.

- The contribution from young conifers is first apparent in 2012, as the 1992 cohort reaches productive age (20 years). However, it only begins to become significant in 2022, when the enhanced planting rates of the 2002 cohort reach age 20.
- The contribution from young broadleaves is first apparent in 2017, as the 1992 cohort reaches productive age (25 years). However, it only begins to become significant in 2027, when the enhanced planting rates to the end of the 2007 cohort reach age 25.
- Poplars make a significant contribution in 2012, when the post-1995 plantings begin to reach felling age at 25 years. The yield falls in 2017 as poplar sites are restocked. Due to their high yield rates, their contribution to yield is large (10%) compared to their contribution to gross woodland area (2%).

Figure 9 : Potential yield projection



## 8. Availability of resources for a wood-chip power system

### 8.1 General approach

The aim of this part of the study was to assess the resources available within the National Forest for a hypothetical woodchip heating system, based at the National Forest Company offices. This calculation was based on a modified version of a simple model presented by Austin Brady (East Midlands Conservator, FC) in a conference paper entitled '*Woodland & Energy Crops – Resources in the East Midlands: An assessment of the supplies of wood fuel that can be produced in the East Midlands*' at Beaumanor Hall, 22/2/03. This model was based on the following assumptions:

- Woodfuel supplies would be a by-product of thinnings.
- Thinning would take place at the marginal intensity (70% of YC / year)
- For conifers, 20% of yield would on average be available as woodchip, with other products making up the remainder.
- For broadleaves, 50% of yield would on average be available as woodchip, with other products making up the remainder.
- For conifers, 0.44 dry tonnes are obtainable per m<sup>3</sup> of timber.
- For broadleaves, 0.57 dry tonnes are obtainable per m<sup>3</sup> of timber.

The conversion factors from m<sup>3</sup> to dry tonnes were derived from the calculations in Brady's paper, although he did not quote them explicitly. They refer to oven-dry weight.

In the analysis below, only the established woodland would contribute to the currently available (2007 datum range) woodfuel resource. As we look forward to future modelled periods, then the thinnings from cohorts of young trees start to make a contribution, and this has also been modelled.

Figure 10 shows the woodlands within the National Forest as represented by the NIWT-plus, WGS3, EWGS and Woodlands data-sets (both established and young woodlands).

### 8.2 Contribution from existing woodland

The area of established utilisable woodland within the National Forest is 1632ha for broadleaves and 873ha for conifers, as indicated in Table 9 in Section 6. Substantial areas of woodland lie adjacent or close to the National Forest (Duchy of Lancaster woodland in Needwood and Charnwood Forest) which could potentially add to the projected resource, however these have not been included in the calculations.

The process used by Brady (see above) was used to calculate the potential yield of dry tonnes per year and per day: An average per hectare yield of 70% of yield class per year is assumed, and percentage woodfuel proportion is applied. This process is shown in Table 16. The woodfuel proportion percentages are those used by Brady, and the dry tonnes/m<sup>3</sup> conversion factor is derived from his figures.



Table 16: Woodfuel yield from established woodlands

Woodland type	Utilisable area (ha)	YC	Thinning intensity (% of YC)	% woodfuel proportion	Woodfuel yield (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	Dry tonnes/m <sup>3</sup>	Dry tonnes/yr	Dry tonnes/day
Broad-leaved	1632	6	70	50	3427	0.57	1954	5.4
Conifer	873	16	70	20	1956	0.44	860	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2505</b>				<b>5383</b>		<b>2814</b>	<b>7.7</b>

Table 16 shows that the established woodlands' yield of dry tonnes of woodfuel is dominated by material from broadleaved woodlands (70%). This figure is down from 75% in 2003, likely due to the removal from analysis of woods outside the National Forest which had a high broadleaved composition.

### 8.3 Contribution from young trees

Some of the cohorts of young trees will reach the age where their thinnings will be available for use as fuel within the 25-year timescale of this analysis. This was dealt with separately for broadleaves and conifers, tables 17 and 18 show the calculation of woodfuel yield from young broadleaves and conifers respectively.

A woodfuel proportion is applied to the total yield to give a woodfuel yield. In Brady's paper a woodfuel proportion was chosen that was intended to reflect the surplus low value material averaged over thinnings from all age classes of established woodlands (20% for conifers, 50% for broadleaves). In the calculation of woodfuel yield from young trees a much high proportion has initially been chosen, which fall of with time. This is because the earlier periods contain only cohorts at point of first thinnings, which will contain a much higher proportion of material suited for woodfuel (e.g. less likely to be suited for other markets). As the analysis progresses, the earlier cohorts are becoming older and so correspondingly more of their thinning yield will be available for other markets. Hence the woodfuel proportion gradually declines towards the average for established woodlands.

Finally, Brady's conversion factors are used to convert the yield in m<sup>3</sup>/yr into dry tonnes/yr and then into dry tonnes/day.

Table 17: Woodfuel yield from young broadleaves

	Datum range					
	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Yield in whole NF area (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	0	0	378	3318	6258	9198
Woodfuel proportion %	0	0	100	90	80	70
Woodland fuel yield (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)	0	0	378	2986	5006	6439
Dry tonnes/m <sup>3</sup>	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57
Dry tonnes/yr	0	0	215	1702	2854	3670
Dry tonnes/day	0	0	0.6	4.7	7.8	10.1

Table 18: Woodfuel yield from young conifers

	Datum range					
	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Yield in whole NF area (m3/yr)	0	1288	3024	4760	6496	8232
Woodfuel proportion %	0	70	60	50	40	30
Woodland fuel yield (m3/yr)	0	901.6	1814	2380	2598	2470
Dry tonnes/m3	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
Dry tonnes/yr	0	397	798	1047	1143	1087
Dry tonnes/day	0	1.1	2.2	2.9	3.1	3.0

#### 8.4 Summary of potential woodfuel availability

Tables 19 and 20 sum the contributions to woodfuel yield of established and young woodlands and these data are illustrated in Figure 11. The contribution from existing woodlands stays constant, with the increment in later years being due to thinnings from the young woodland cohorts.

The following observations can be made:

- Today's potential resource of 7.7 dry tonnes/day could be expected to almost triple to 20.7 dry tonnes/day based on this model. This shows that by 2032, 63% of potential production could come from young woodlands (vs 37% from existing woodlands). This figure is down from 67% for 2027 as modelled in the 2004 report, and can be attributed to the exclusion of non-National Forest woods which have a high broadleaved component and the migration of the 1987 cohort into the established woods age-class..
- As discussed in section 8.2, broadleaves contribute 70% to the 2007 (i.e. potential current) fuelwood yield.
- Young conifers start to make a contribution from first thinnings in 2012 (1992 cohort reaches 20 years of age). This becomes significant quite early on, nearly equalling the contribution from existing conifers by 2017. This is due to the assumed high fuelwood percentage of early thinnings.
- Young broadleaves begin to make a contribution from first thinnings in 2017 (1992 cohort reached 25 years of age). By 2022 they have significantly outstripped the yield from young conifers and are approaching a similar level to the yield from established broadleaves. This is a combination of the greater planting rate of broadleaves and the higher fuelwood yield.
- By 2032, potential fuelwood yield from young broadleaves provide the greatest contribution to the total, at 48%. The next biggest contributors are established broadleaves at 26% and young conifers at 14%.

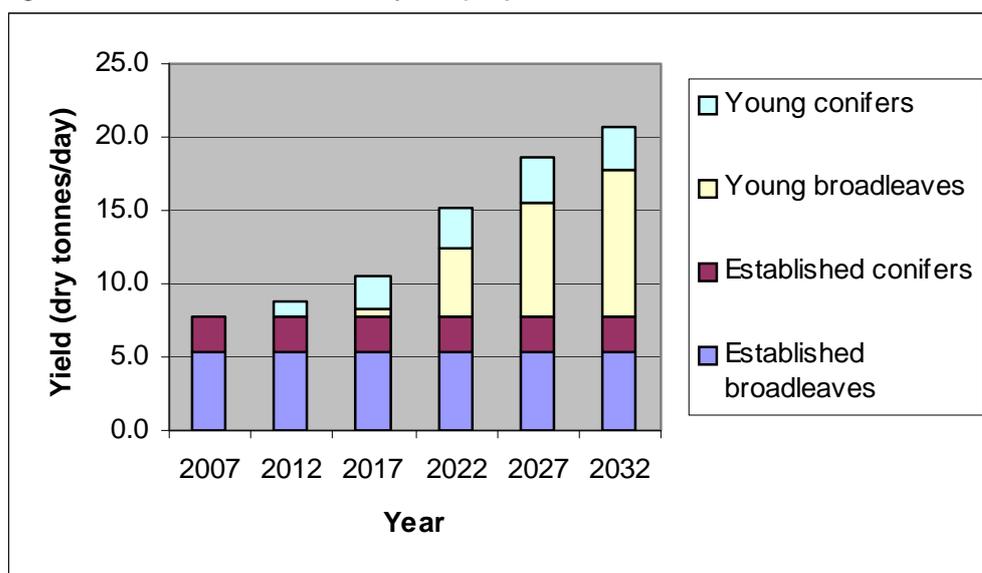
Table 19 : Summary of potential woodfuel availability (dry tonnes/year)

	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Established broadleaves	1954	1954	1954	1954	1954	1954
Established conifers	860	860	860	860	860	860
Young broadleaves	0	0	215	1702	2854	3670
Young conifers	0	397	798	1047	1143	1087
<b>Total</b>	<b>2814</b>	<b>3211</b>	<b>3828</b>	<b>5563</b>	<b>6811</b>	<b>7571</b>

Table 20: Summary of potential woodfuel availability (dry tonnes/day)

	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Established broadleaves	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
Established conifers	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Young broadleaves	0.0	0	0.6	4.7	7.8	10.1
Young conifers	0.0	1.1	2.2	2.9	3.1	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>20.7</b>

Figure 11 : Potential woodfuel yield projection



It should be noted that due to uncertainties regarding the future establishment rates and markets for poplar, they have not been included in the woodfuel model. However, it is likely that woodfuel may provide an excellent market for first thinnings of poplar.

Should the market for woodchip strengthen, there arises opportunities for the harvesting of mature woods with poor quality stock, thereby increasing yield over and above that modelled from thinnings.

Conversely, should the market for lower quality logs (such as pallet wood) strengthen, the potential chipwood yield (particularly amongst later thinnings and mature woods of poor quality tree stock) may fall as lower quality tree stock is redirected towards other products.

Based on information from the Lovat Arms Hotel, Inverness, their 100kW wood-chip boiler requires 100t of wood-chips per year (0.27t/day). Should wood-chip systems of similar size be implemented in the National Forest, the potential wood-fuel resource would be sufficient to supply up to 10 such systems in the 2007 datum range, 32 in 2012, 38 in 2017, 55 in 2022, 68 in 2027 and 75 in 2032.

## 9. Summary

The purpose of this section is to clarify the key results relating to the key areas in the study, as listed in section 1. To this end, it summarises the results from the previous analyses, and refers to the relevant Tables and Figures where appropriate.

It should be reiterated that all the figures calculated and derived in this report relate to the technically feasible potential of the forest resource. They do not make any allowance for willingness of owners to manage their woodlands or availability of the necessary expertise to do so to achieve the technical potential. Neither do they take account of the economics of management or the availability of markets.

(i) Information on the amount of existing (pre-1995) and new (planted after 1995) woodland within The National Forest.

Table 21 summarises the key results for the amount of woodlands, divided into pre- and post-1995. The balance between categories has changed considerably since 2003, moving from a 61%/39% split to a 50%/50% split. This is due to a sustained period of woodland creation, heavily out-weighing the migration of woods between age-classes. This is due, in part, to the high rate of planting under the National Forest Company Tender Scheme from 1995 to 2007. Further detailed analysis and interpretation of this data is given in sections 3, 4 and 5; Tables 1 to 8; and Figures 5 to 8.

Table 21: Summary of amount of existing woodland pre-1995 and post-1995

	<i>Gross woodland area (ha)</i>	<i>% of area</i>	<i>% of NF area</i>
Pre-1995 woodland (young and established)	4095	50%	8.1%
Post 1995 woodland	4043	50%	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8138</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>

(ii) Information concerning the age class distribution and type of the new and existing woodland

The detailed analysis divides the woodland into 3 categories and Table 22 summarises the key results concerning the breakdown of age class between them.

- Established woodlands (at productive age) – The category was assumed to have been planted before 1985, and is assumed for the purposes of this study to have an even age-class distribution.
- Young pre-1995 woodlands - not at productive age as at 2009, planted 1990-1994.
- Young post-1995 woodlands - not at productive age, planted 1995 onwards

Table 22: Summary of age class distribution

<i>Category</i>	<i>Gross area (ha)</i>	<i>% area</i>
Established (planted pre-1985)	3785	47
Young (pre-1995)	310	4
Young (post-1995)	4043	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>8138</b>	<b>100</b>

Due to the rapid rate of establishment in recent years, the age class distribution is heavily skewed towards the post-1995 young woodlands, now accounting for 49% of the total woodland area (against 39% in 2004).

The summary breakdown by woodland type is shown in Table 23. In both pre- and post-1995 woodlands, it can be seen that broadleaves occupy the greater gross area. This is particularly the case for the post-1995 woodlands. It was assumed that the area poplar plantations were negligible before 1995, but that 5% of post-1995 planting was poplar.

Table 23: Summary of woodland type

Category	Species type	Gross area (ha)	% of area	% of NFC area (50425ha)
Pre-1995 woodlands	Broad-leaved	2806	34.5	5.6
	Conifer	1289	15.8	2.6
Post 1995 woodlands	Broad-leaved	3275	40.2	6.5
	Conifer	566	7.0	1.1
	Poplar	202	2.5	0.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>8138</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16.2</b>

Further detailed analysis and interpretation of this data is given in sections 3, 4 and 5; Tables 1 to 8; and Figures 5 to 8.

(iii) The amount (in terms of hectares) of the overall and utilisable woodland resource.

Table 24, shows the key results for overall and utilisable woodland resource. The quantities shown are:

- The gross woodland area includes open ground within the woodland boundary.
- The net planted area includes only trees (no open ground).
- In calculating the utilisable area, the following categories were excluded:
  - Areas of woodland less than 2ha in size
  - Areas of shrubs and unproductive species
  - Areas without management potential, e.g. conservation or amenity planting
  - Areas which may fail to establish.

Thus the utilisable area is that which could be expected to be productive according to a yield model-based system.

Table 24: Summary of existing woodland

Category	Species type	Gross area (ha)	Net planted area (ha)	Utilisable area (ha)
Pre-1995 woodland	Broad-leaved	2806	2510	1723
	Conifer	1289	1145	988
Post 1995 woodland	Broad-leaved	3275	2620	1956
	Conifer	566	453	431
	Poplar	202	162	154
<b>Total</b>		<b>8138</b>	<b>6890</b>	<b>5252</b>

- The gross woodland area is 8138ha
- The net planted area of 6890ha is estimated on average to be 85% of the gross area.

- The technically utilisable area of 5252ha is estimated on average to be 65% of the gross area. This is down from 66% in 2004 and can be accounted for by the increase in young post-1995 broadleaved woodland, which has a low compound percentage reduction of 75% to ascertain utilisable area.

Further detailed analysis and interpretation of this data is given in sections 5 and 6, Tables 8 and 9; and Figure 8.

(iv) Modelled information on the growth and yield of woodland within The National Forest and the amount of yield (m<sup>3</sup>/year) that could be sustainably harvested over the next 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years time.

The method employed used a yield-class (YC) based model to look at potential production from the utilisable resource. This assumed:

- Broadleaves had a mean YC of 6, first thin 25 years
- Conifers (mainly Corsican pine) have a mean YC of 16, first thin 20 years
- Poplars are planted :     2/3 at 8mx8m no thin, YC 14, fell at 25 years  
                                  1/3 at 4mx2m, thinned, YC20, fell at 25 years

Current rates of planting were used to 2009 to model future yield. Table 25 is a reproduction of Table 15 and summarises the yield model results for five-year periods centred on the given years. Note that the young woodland categories include all currently (2009) unproductive woodlands (i.e. all planted since 1992).

Table 25: Summary of yield projection (m<sup>3</sup>/yr)

Species	Datum					
	2007	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032
Established broadleaves	7344	7344	7344	7344	7344	7344
Established conifers	12571	12571	12571	12571	12571	12571
Young broadleaves	0	0	378	3318	6258	9198
Young conifers	0	1288	3024	4760	6496	8232
Poplars	1155	2035	880	6600	6600	1155
<b>Total</b>	<b>21070</b>	<b>23238</b>	<b>24197</b>	<b>34593</b>	<b>39269</b>	<b>38500</b>

- The current potential yield totals 21070 m<sup>3</sup>/yr.
- Established conifers provide the greater part of the current yield potential (60%). This is mainly due to their higher YC, despite the greater area of broadleaved woodland.
- By 2032 the total potential yield almost doubles to 38500 m<sup>3</sup>/yr, as young woodlands reach productive age.

Further detailed analysis and interpretation of this data is given in section 7; Tables 10 to 15; and Figure 9.

(v) Consideration of the availability of resources for a hypothetical wood-chip powered heating system based at the National Forest Company offices.

The woodfuel resource within the National Forest boundary was examined, and an estimate made of the potential woodfuel resource. The key model assumptions are that woodfuel supplies would be a by-product of thinnings and that these are at marginal intensity (70% of YC / year) of the utilisable resource. Assumptions were also made as to the proportion of

yield that would be available as woodfuel, and this varied with both woodland type and age-class. Table 26 shows the summarised results of the model.

Table 26 : Summary of potential woodfuel availability

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2032</b>
Dry tonnes/yr	2814	3211	3828	5563	6811	7571
Dry tonnes/day	7.7	8.8	10.5	15.2	18.7	20.7

Key results are:

- Today's potential resource of 7.7 dry tonnes/day could be expected to almost treble to 20.7 dry tonnes/day by 2032.
- By 2032, potential fuelwood yield from young broadleaves provide the greatest contribution to the total, at 48%. The next biggest contributors are established broadleaves at 26% and young conifers at 14%.

Further detailed analysis and interpretation of this data is given in section 8; Tables 16 to 20; and Figure 11.

It is estimated that the potential wood-fuel resource would be sufficient to supply up to 10 100Kw. systems in the 2007, 32 in 2012, 38 in 2017, 55 in 2022, 68 in 2027 and 75 in 2032.

It is clear that adequate resources lie within the National Forest. The key issues in setting up an operational system are therefore likely to be either; technological, economic or logistical in terms of encouraging management of woodlands and securing a steady supply of suitable material.