Setting the scene

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Roots to Prosperity – a partnership

Private and public sector bodies working together to develop the sector.

A growing industry

- Over £250 million invested by timber processors in the North of England during the last decade

- The region has a globally competitive forest products sector with real potential for growth. Across the UK timber processors have increased market share in recent years, replacing both imported timber products and more carbon intensive materials.
- The industry provides good quality sustainable jobs across a broad range of skills.
- With substantial recent investment and the ability to call on a growing forest resource in the north of England and south of Scotland, the sector is uniquely able to deliver substantial carbon lean, sustainable economic growth across rural and urban communities in the north of England.
- **The main concern for processors is to ensure a continued supply of raw material and the ability to deal with this under changing market conditions.**

Concerns over timber supply

The great concern to many in the sector is **'Peak Wood'**

– the point in time when the maximum rate of potential timber availability is reached. Current estimates put Peak Wood at about 2030. Maintaining continuity of raw material supply beyond this point in time - and indeed the scope to increase it - is the most commonly cited barrier to the future growth of the sector. It also has significant implications for employment and economic growth in the supply chain.

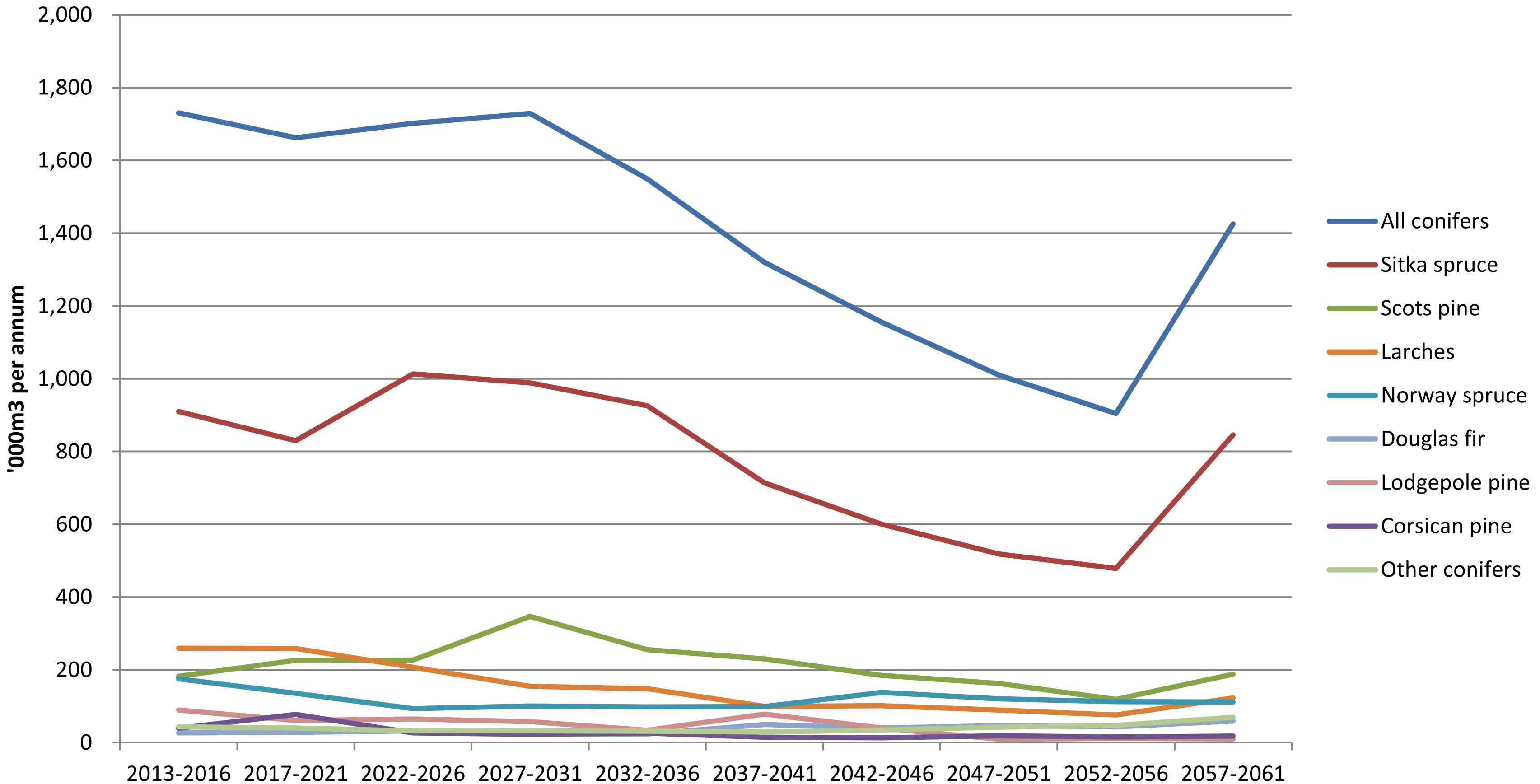
The facts

- **40% REDUCTION IN AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL TIMBER OVER 20 YEARS FROM 2030 TO 2050.**
- 1.7 million m3 per annum harvest falls to 0.9 million m3 per annum.
- Similar scenario in South Scotland reduces ability to import supplies.
- Business confidence is eroded, investment stalls, jobs are under threat.
- Significant threat to the emergence of new businesses

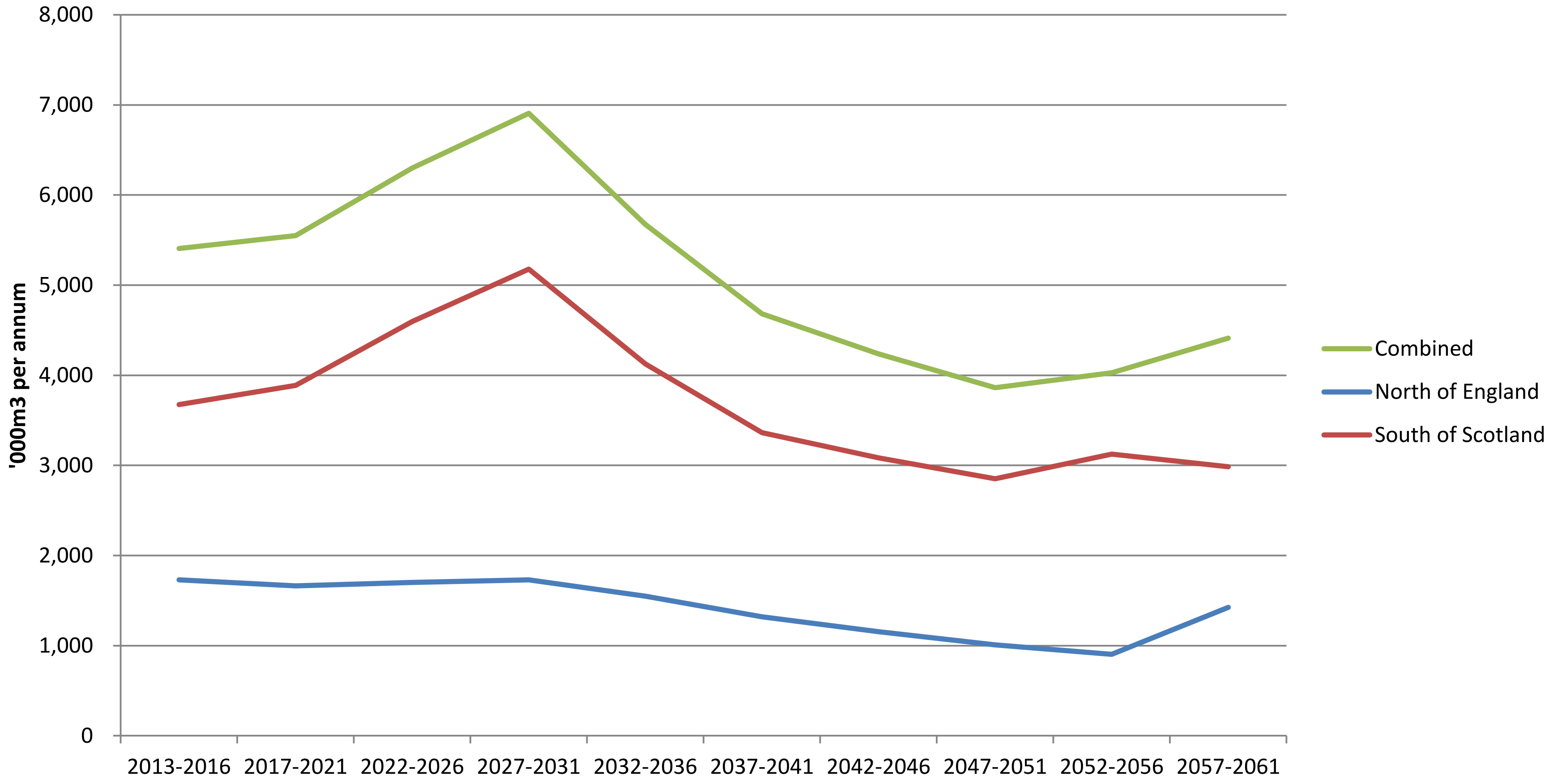
"The biggest single issue facing the wood processing sector!"

Promoting forestry and wood

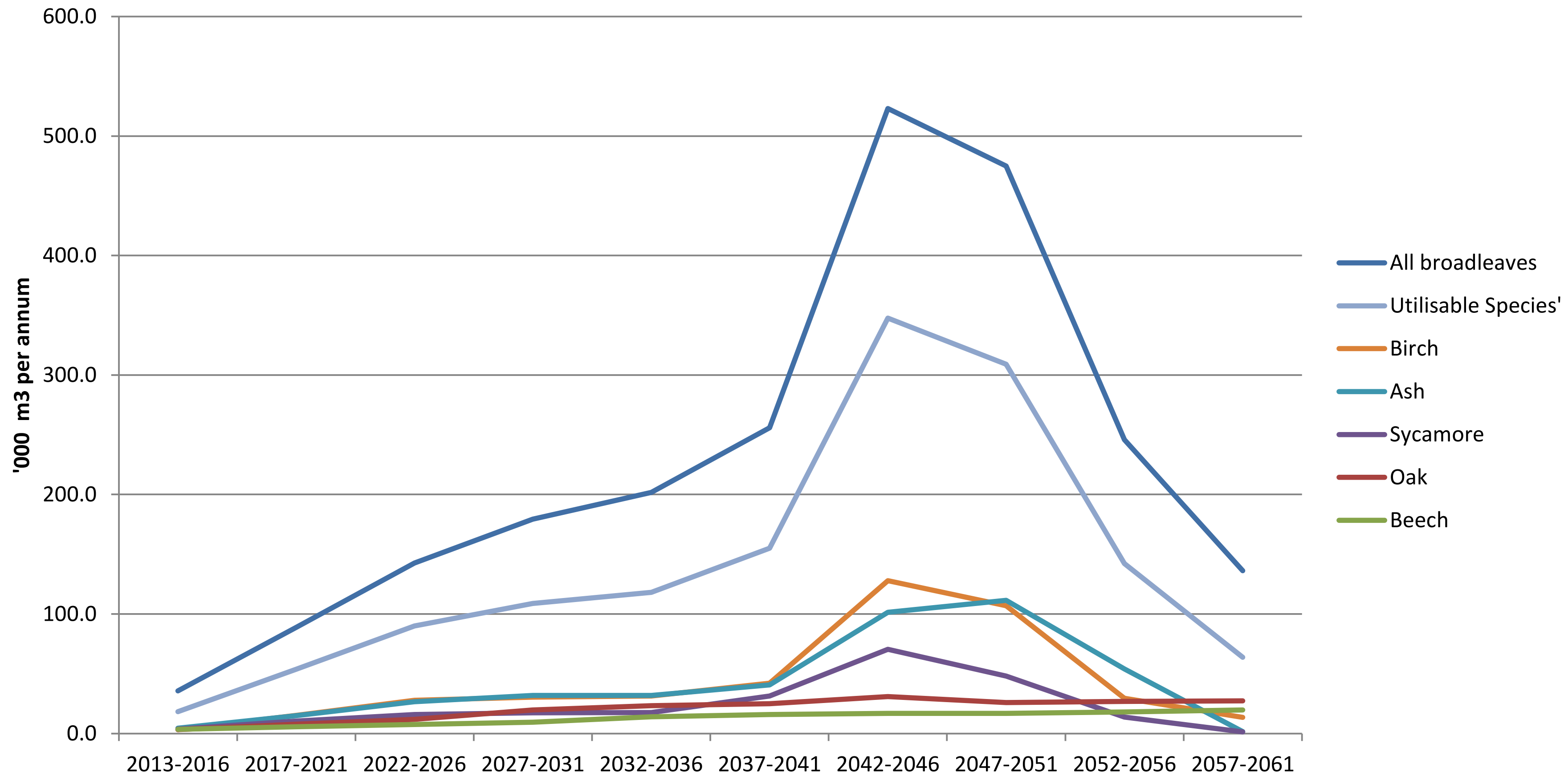
North of England
Softwood Availability by Species



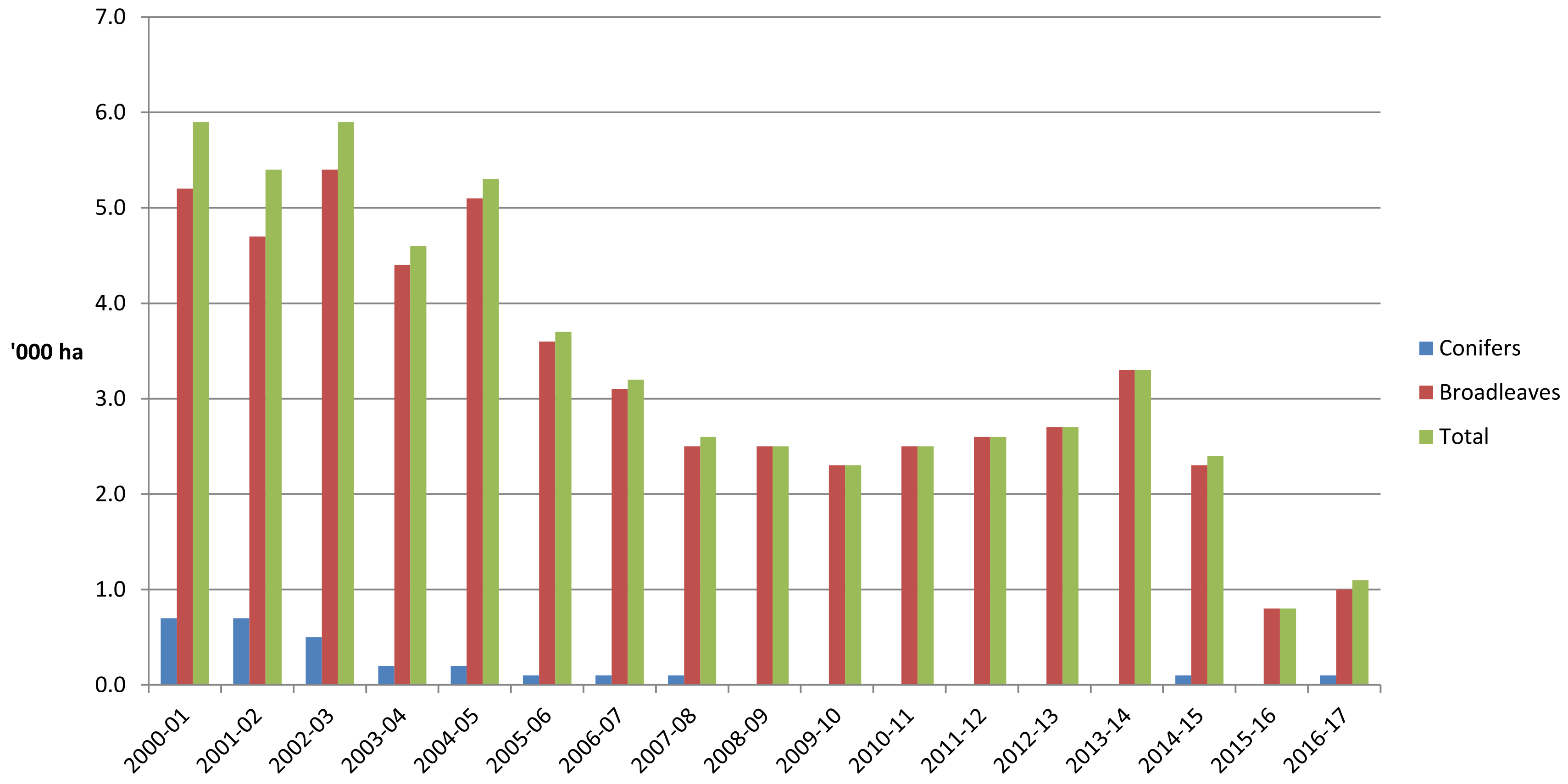
Forecast Softwood Availability North of England and South of Scotland Combined



North of England
Hardwood Availability by Species



England New Planting



How sustainable are we?

- Production from our forests is falling,
- Wood demand and consumption is increasing,
- Woodland creation is declining,
- Woodland cover may be declining.
- **<u>Forest policy is at best confused</u>**
- We are encouraged to plant exotic untested species,
- We are encouraged to replace highly productive species with unproductive ones,
- Stagnation due to consultation, regulation and designation,
- **<u>CLEAR, CONSISTENT, COHERENT POLICY IS REQUIRED.</u>**

Short term solution?

- In the short term we may be able to import roundwood from South Scotland.
- This will last 5 to 10 years at the most until the production in Scotland starts to fall.
- Scotland has its own processors and a government that actively promotes forestry
- **Why should Scotland allow roundwood to be exported when they can process it themselves, add value and secure jobs?**
- Fiddling whilst Rome burns! "To occupy oneself with unimportant matters and neglect priorities during a crisis"

Get better at what we already do?

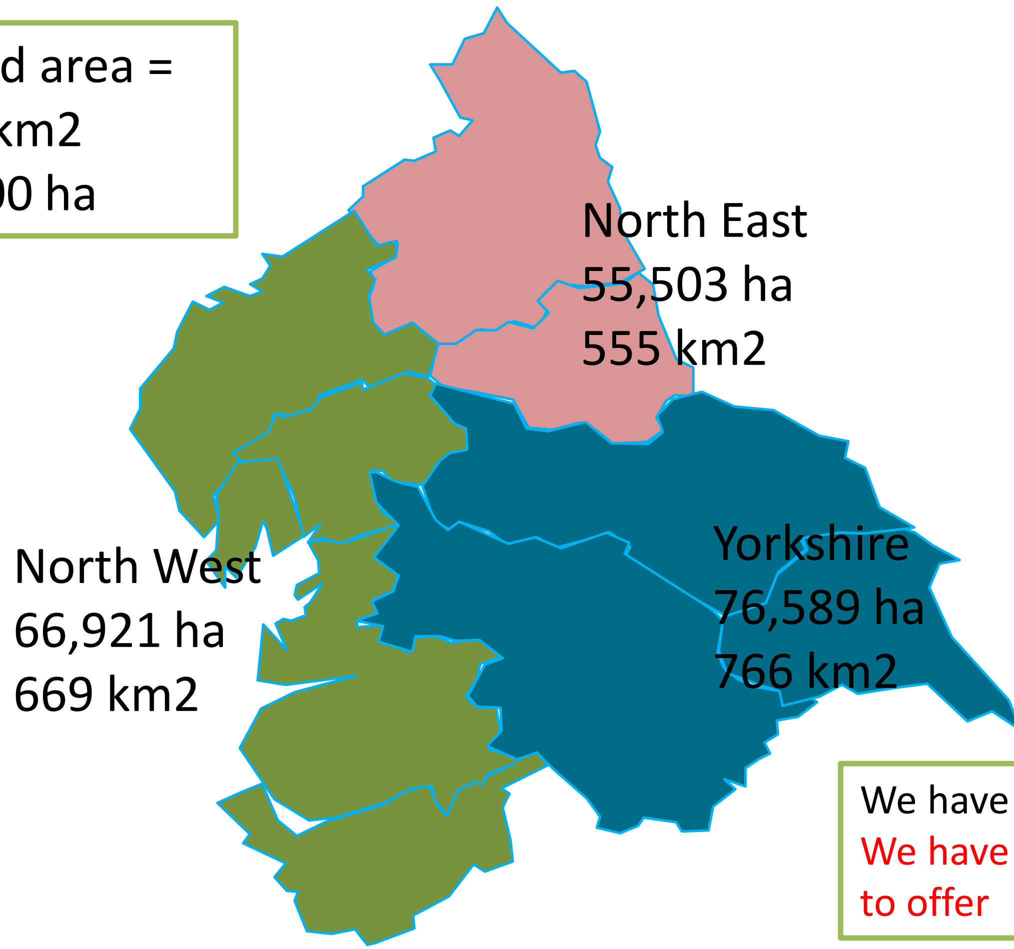
- Since the 1950s we have seen the second agricultural revolution, farm outputs have increased by 200 to 300%
- In 2000 the average US farmer produced 12 times as much per hour as farmers in 1950.
- **We have to make better use of what we have already got.**
- Can marginal gains of 1 or 2% at each stage of the cycle deliver 15 to 20% gains over the rotation?
- Better policy, better planning, better site preparation, better plants, better planting, better maintenance, better silviculture.
- Can we increase the productivity of every site by 1 yield class?

We also need a real solution?

- We need to create 2150 hectares of new commercial woodland per annum over the next 10 to 15 years to **MAINTAIN** timber supplies!!
- 199,900 hectares of potentially suitable land
- This is approximately 10% of the potentially suitable land, **it is not major land use change**.
- This needs to be highly productive commercial species that the market requires.
- 25 year lead time from planting to production.
- There are landowners / investors wanting to start!

Where can it be delivered?

Total land area =
39, 157 km2
3,915,700 ha



Total potential suitable land available for planting trees =
1,990 km2, 199,000 Ha

Lots of constraints
Crowded landscape

But times are changing
There is real desire to create new woodlands
Northern Upland Chain

We have to work together
We have a great product to offer

What trees do we want?

- A range of fast growing commercial species; <u>Predominantly conifer</u>
- **Core species; Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Scots pine, Douglas fir.**
- Minor species; Western Hemlock, Western red cedar, Grand fir, Serbian spruce, Corsican pine.
- <u>Productive broadleaves</u>
- **Core species; Oak, Birch, Beech, Sycamore.**
- Minor species; Red Oak, Aspen, Alder,

We have to give the nurseries and chance.

The current situation is unsustainable for them

Keep things simple, build some continuity and allow them to prepare.

Some real barriers

- ***We can move towards better economic, social and environmental sustainability through better integration of traditional land uses;***
- "Historically the different land uses in hill and upland areas have been seen as being in competition with each other – it is either farming or forestry or game management or conservation management," he said. "This has effectively meant that the land has been limited to a single product coming from it – be it sheep or trees, game or conservation."
- "Deeply held perceptions and historical barriers between different land uses have to be broken down to give those living in these areas the ability to become involved in – and benefit from – a wider range of income streams"

- **Davy McCracken head of SRUC hill research centre 02/03/2016**

Time to move forward

- ***Society wants more trees,***
- ***Government wants to see more trees planted,***
- ***Industry needs more trees,***
- ***Investors want to plant more trees,***
- **Now we need to work out;**

1. Where we are going to be allowed to plant the trees?
2. What we need to do get approval to plant them?
3. What we need to do to speed the process up?
4. What we have to do to remove barriers?

WE NEED TO ENGAGE AND WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER NEW PLANTING