

Linking sustainable forestry goals with woodland development in Scotland

Forests and woodlands provide a number of social, environmental and economic benefits from production of timber, recreation, as well as a wildlife habitat. It is important to manage and develop woodlands to achieve a balance between these three benefits.

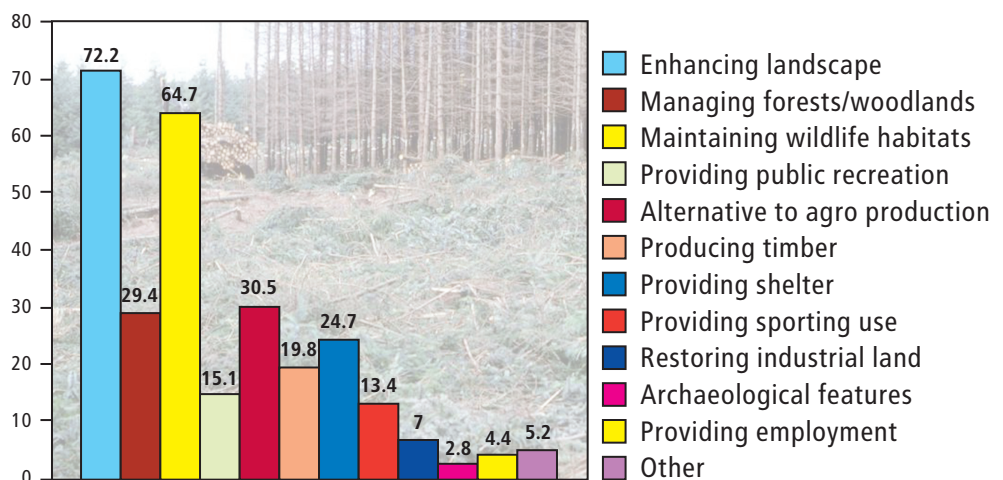
Woodland can:

- **Support a sustainable forest products industry** by providing consistent and reliable timber for timber processing and wood fuel enterprises
- **Help to manage ecosystem services** such as sustainable flood management and protection of soil and water resources
- **Support rural development** by supporting local business and farm diversification
- **Provide community benefits** by offering welcoming and well-managed woodland in and around communities
- **Enhance urban areas and improve landscapes** by improving derelict or neglected land, improving degraded environments and diversifying farm landscapes



Under the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme, the main objectives of woodland development were to enhance landscapes and maintain wildlife habitats. By doing so, the knock on effects could benefit recreation as well as timber production.

Whether you use woodland areas for recreational activities, or you just like to see a wooded landscape within the countryside, you may think it's more important to plant trees for timber production, to improve landscapes or to protect nature, conservation and biodiversity. The challenge for policy makers is to translate public attitudes towards woodlands into policy design that balances the economic, environmental and social aspects of forestry and its role in sustainable rural development.



High priority objectives of woodland development defined in applications for subsidies under the Woodland Grant Scheme. 1995 – 2002, %.
Based on data from UK Forestry Commission