



Marches Timber Study Ground Truthing Survey

Worcester Race Course

24th June 2014

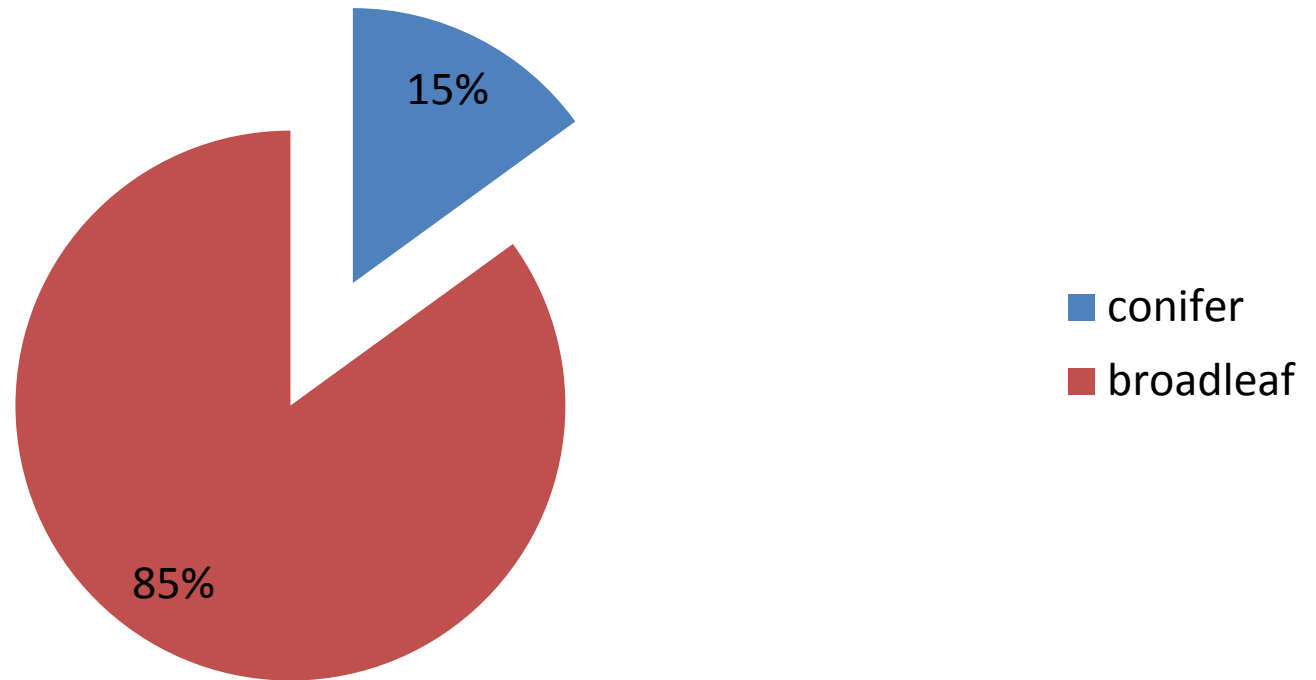
Introduction

- MTS identified over 30k ha undermanaged woodland and scored it in terms of potential (size, access, terrain)
- Purpose of Ground Truthing = verify undermanaged status & scoring, and gather additional information
- Additional information = species, tree size, standing volume, timber quality, age class and owner attitudes
- Why? - To provide credible, field-based evidence on the extent and nature of the undermanaged resource
- Why? – To attract attention to the opportunity and strengthen the case for investment

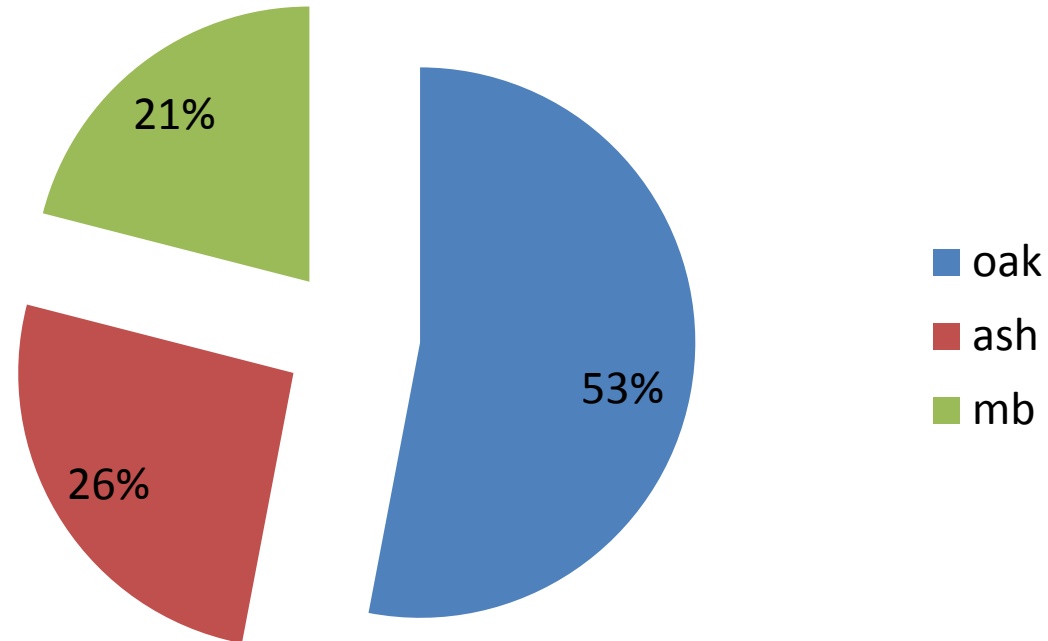
Status and Scoring

- GT identified evidence of increased levels of management from MTS 2011/2012 base (up by 4% of total Marches woodland area)
- New estimate of undermanaged area = 28,000ha (50% of total Marches woodland area)
- Desk based scoring system used by MTS was perfectly adequate and reasonably accurate for the purpose of highlighting the strategic potential

GT conifer:broadleaf by m3 standing



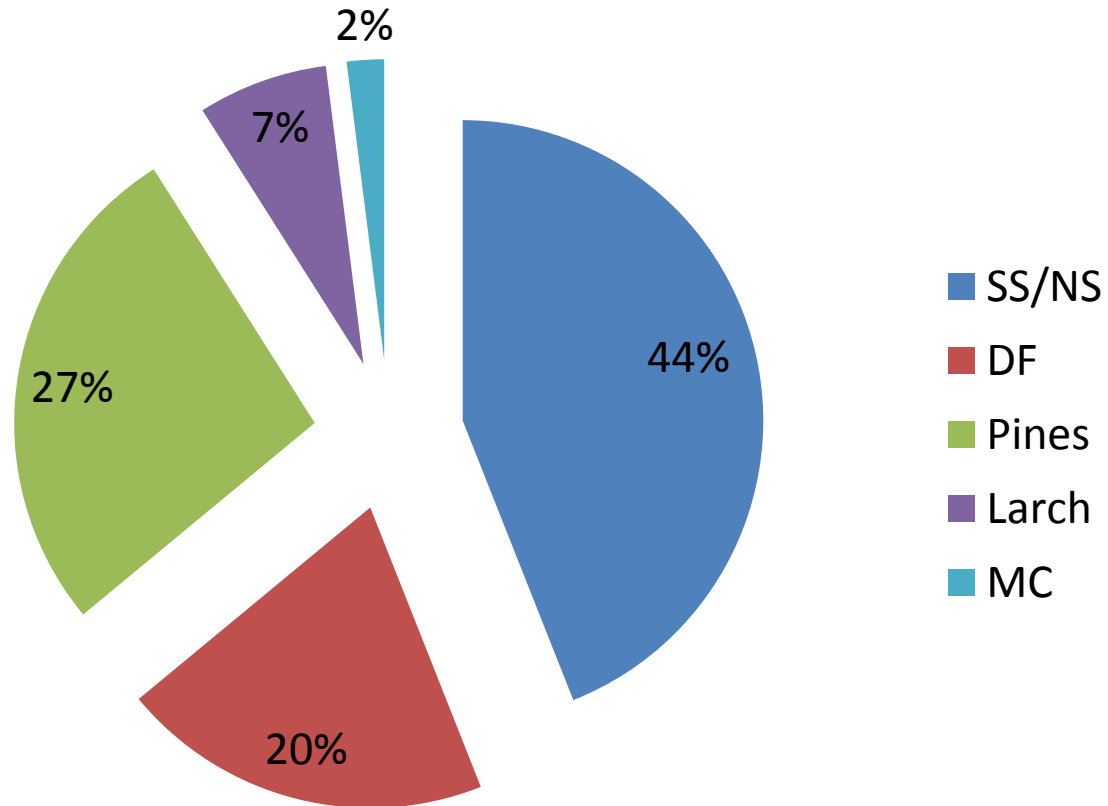
GT Broadleaf species by m3 standing



- mb = birch, alder, cherry, beech, swch, syc



GT conifer species by m3 standing



GT mean tree size m3 ob standing

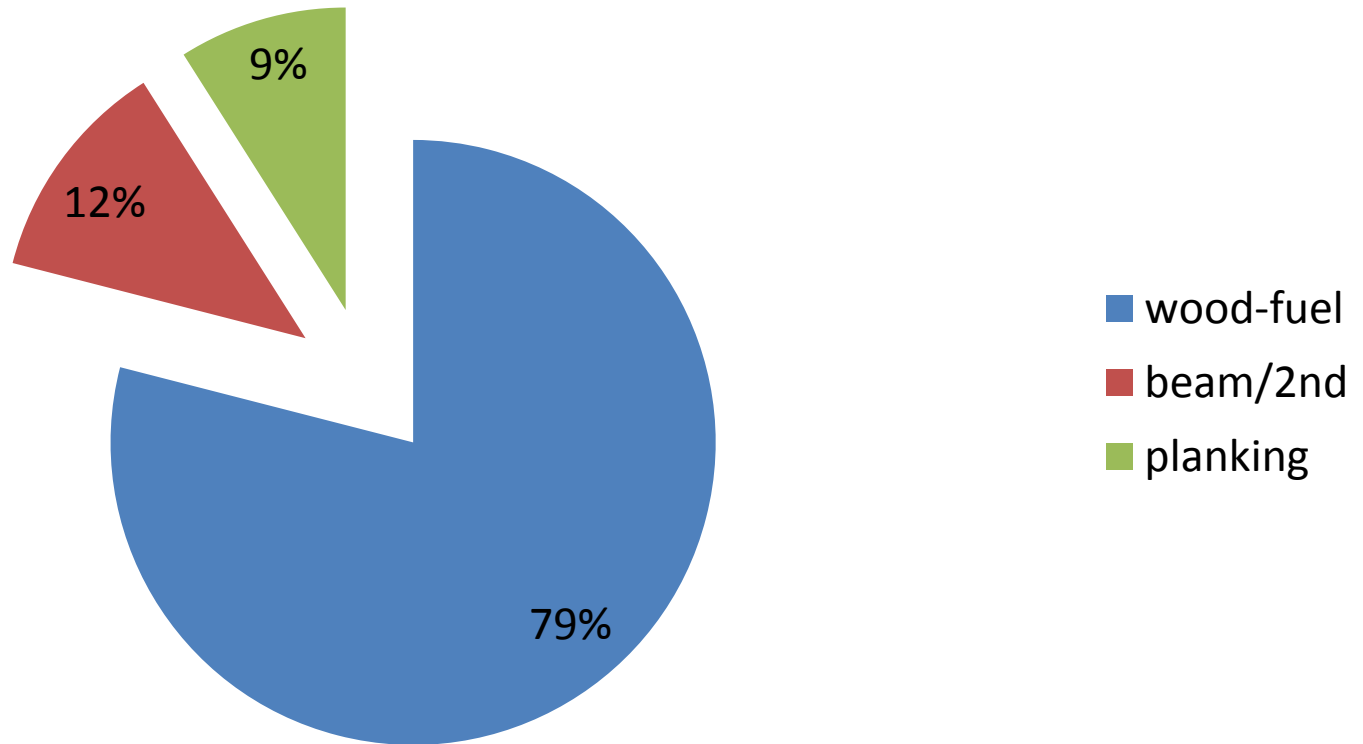
- Oak 0.92
- Ash 0.43
- MB 0.52
- SS 0.74
- NS 0.31
- DF 0.61



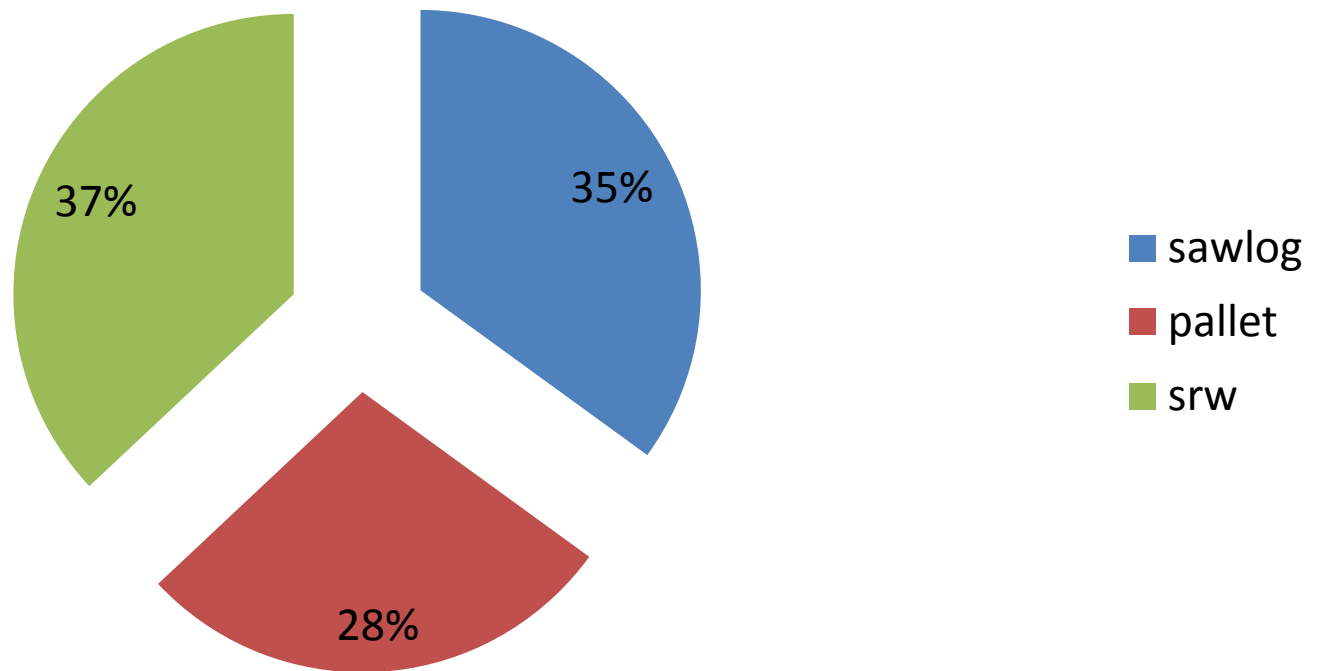
GT standing volume m³ obs

- Combined Volume/ha = 185m³
- Broadleaf volume/ha = 179m³
- Conifer volume/ha = 215m³

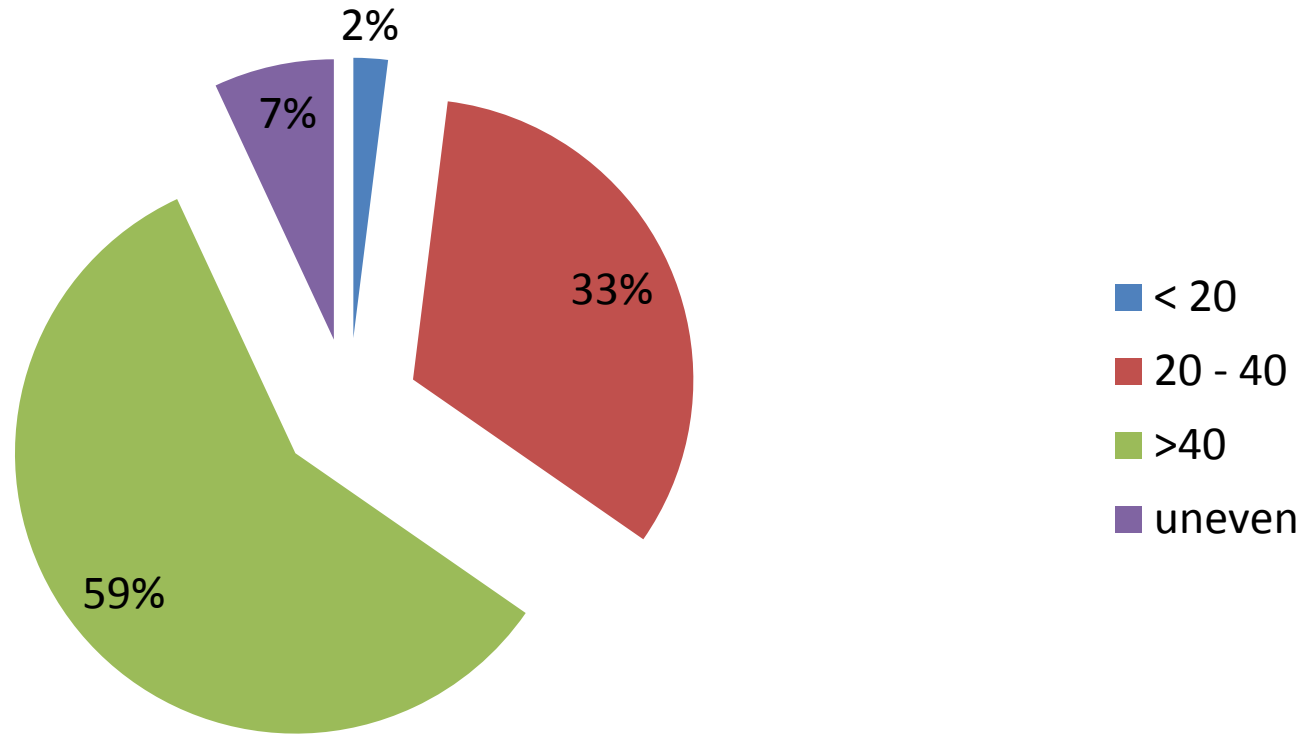
GT broadleaf timber quality



GT conifer timber quality



GT age class by area



GT summary of findings

- 28,000 ha undermanaged woodland standing at 185m³obs/ha = 5.18million m³
- 85% broadleaf (of which 79% wood-fuel)
- 59% of area 40+ years old & 33% 20-40 years = 92% productive
- Poor species diversity - ash & oak = 79% of broadleaf timber volume
- Poor age diversity – only 8% under 20 years old

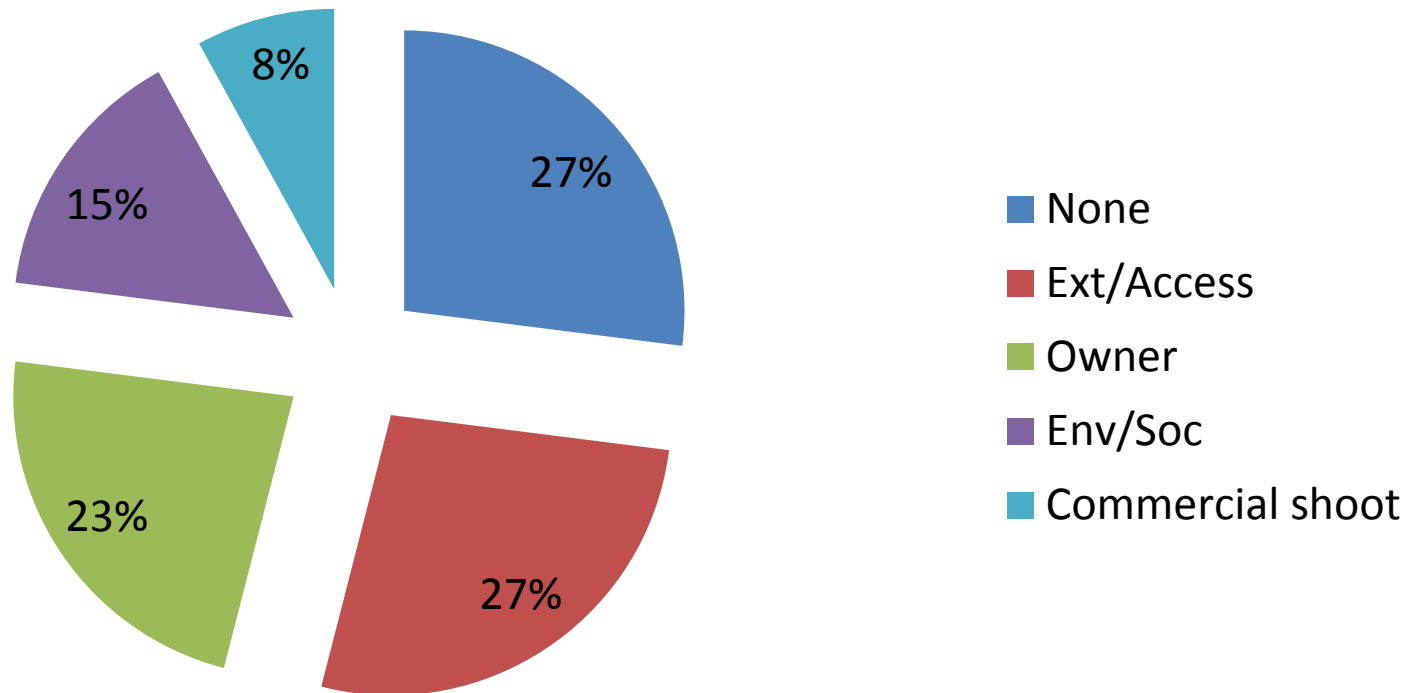


GT Assumptions & Conclusions

- Target figure of 1400ha/year needed for 6-7 years to meet FC/govt. aspiration of 66% of all woodlands being managed
- 1400ha @ 185m³/ha thinned by 30% = 77,700m³ per year
- £12/m³ for broadleaves and £ 20/m³ for conifers
- 85% broadleaf 15% conifer = weighted standing value of £13.20/m³obs
- £13.20 x 77,700m³ = £1.026 million



GT Barriers to timber production



38% of the sites host informal shooting activity – barrier or opportunity?

Barriers to timber production

- **Access** – being picked up in NELMS/RDP
- **Owner Engagement**; to improve owner's:
 - knowledge of the benefits of management
 - awareness of market opportunities/prices
 - awareness of a professional sector capable of dealing with the regulations, doing the work, leaving a tidy site, and returning a profit
- **Sector Capacity**
 - How many more foresters, contractors, harvesters, chainsaws, forwarders, lorries?

Ground truthing undermanaged woodlands in the Marches

- Thank you for listening
- Any questions ?

