

Timber Flow Forecasting within Grampian



Presentation to the Timber Transport Seminar

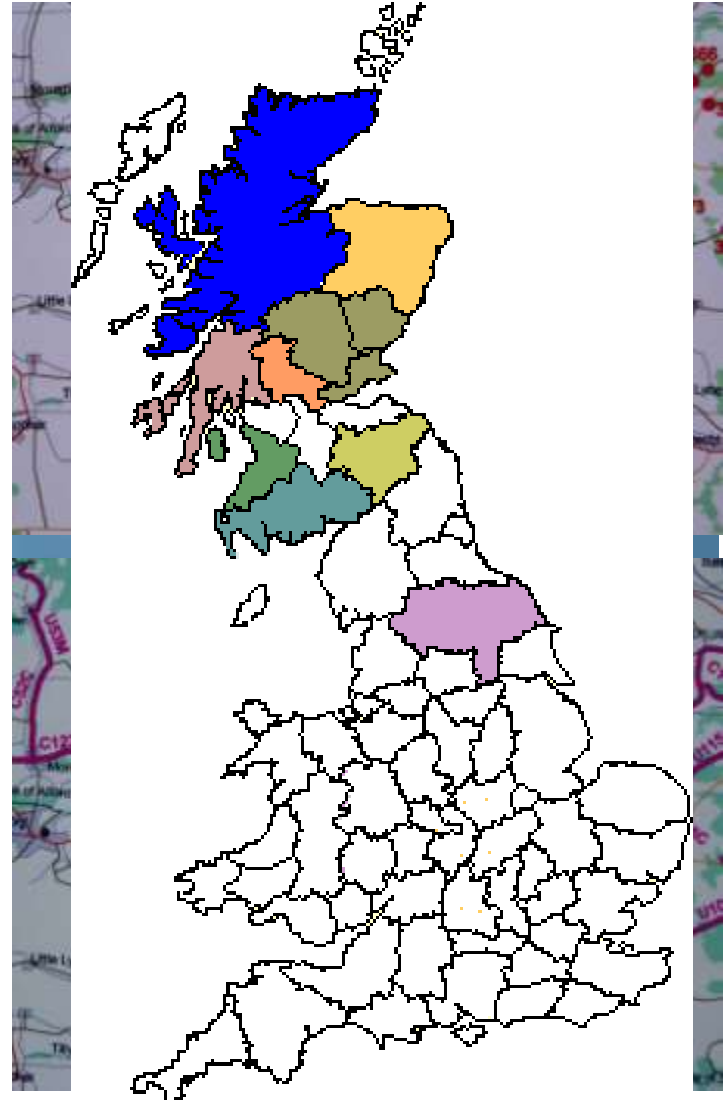
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Background to the Study

- The Grampian Timber Transport Group was established in 1996 to undertake a survey of timber traffic in Aberdeenshire
- The resultant Timber Traffic Survey and Timber Haulage Agreed Routes Map are now overdue for updating
- ConFor is proposing to collect timber traffic flow data on a national basis
- The GTTG review would be carried out as a pilot study using an agreed protocol that would inform and contribute to the gathering of national timber traffic data



Objectives of the Study

- To gather revised and robust information on planned timber production for the next five years in conjunction with predicted access points to the public road network and direction of transport to market
- Using updated timber production data, to help facilitate the update of the Agreed Routes Map for Grampian
- To support collaborative planning and working between growers and other industry partners
- To assist Moray and Aberdeenshire Councils in prioritising works on public road to accommodate the forecasted timber production
- To identify timber transport and related infrastructure issues for discussion and resolution, including bids into the STTF

Methodology

1. Pre-consultation with ConFor and Client Group to agree protocol
2. Discussions with private and public sector growers and/or agents to elicit updated information
3. Electronic data capture to include:
 - Exit point ID, NGR & road number
 - Annual production figures per exit point for 2006 - 2010 and five yearly production figures per exit point for 2011 - 2015 & 2016 - 2020
 - Direction of traffic flow on public road network
 - Processor destination & estimated annual consumption
 - Significant timber transport issues post 2020
4. Update GIS maps with relevant exit points of planned timber production onto the public road network
5. Data collection during mid Jan - early March 2006 with summary report produced mid March 2006
6. All data collected during the study will be held in confidence by ConFor



Observations so far

- Councils primarily focused on current year information but have indicated they would appreciate future figures to assist with forward planning
- Recognition by Councils of the important role that the GTTG plays in providing opportunities for discussion and problem resolution
- Owners/agents acknowledge potential benefits of providing information in alleviating future timber transport issues but would like to see the “fruits of their labour”
- The role of the GTTG, other RTTGs and the TTF in keeping industry informed of progress made following such studies/reports etc. should not be underestimated
- Preferred method of data collection to date has been initial contact to provide background to study and confirm requirements, followed by issue of blank spreadsheet for completion and return at own convenience

Questions

1. What, if any, other timber transport data would be worthwhile collecting as part of this study?
2. How frequently should such timber traffic flow data be updated?
3. How easy will it be to replicate this study methodology in other regional timber transport group areas?

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