

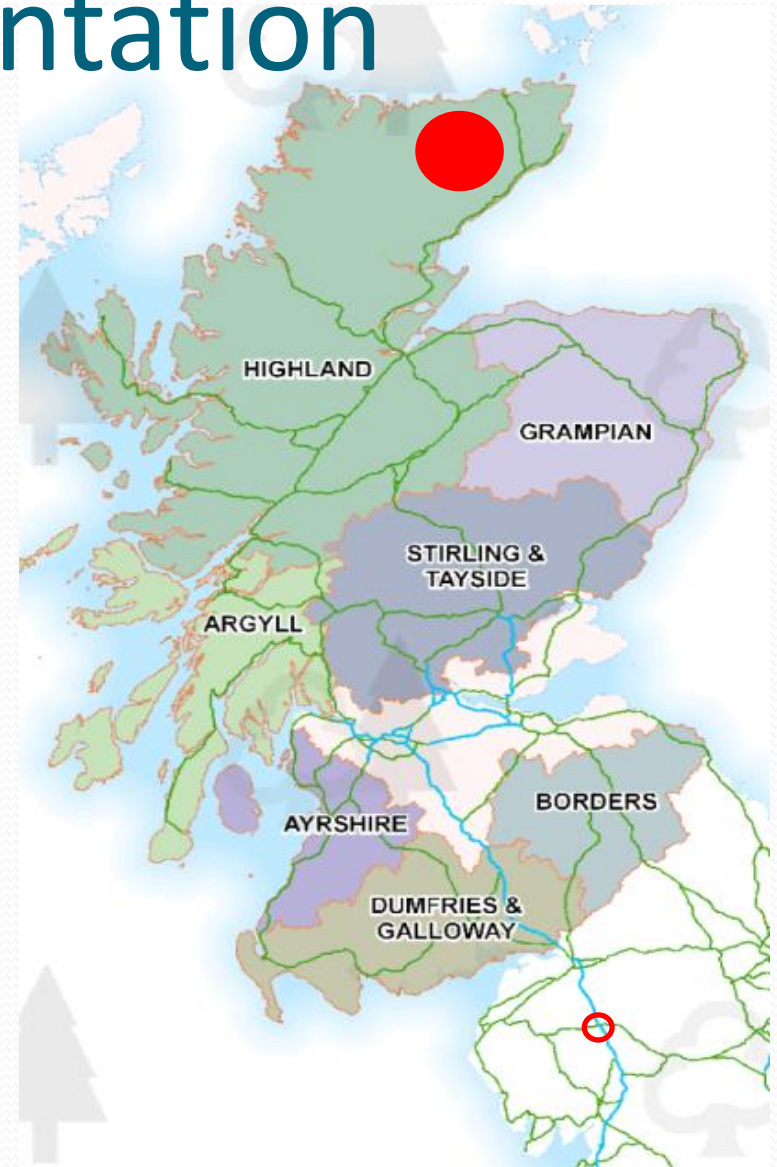
Transporting Timber from the Flow Country

Timber Transport Conference, Penrith
15 March 2012

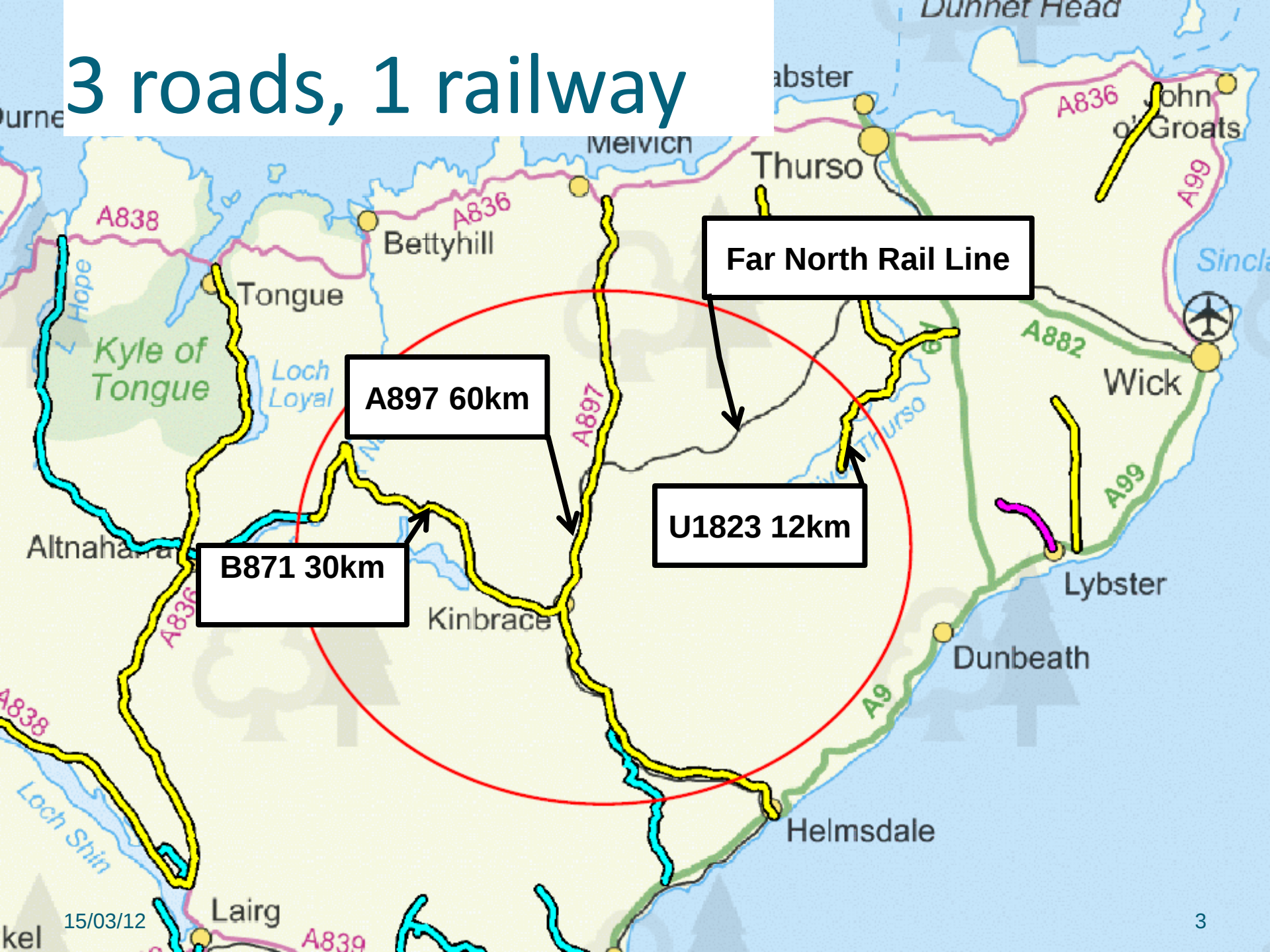
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Project Consultant to the Highland Timber Transport Group*

Structure of Presentation

- Personal background
- The environmental context
- Developing a strategy
- Road problems and solutions
- The challenge of rail



3 roads, 1 railway



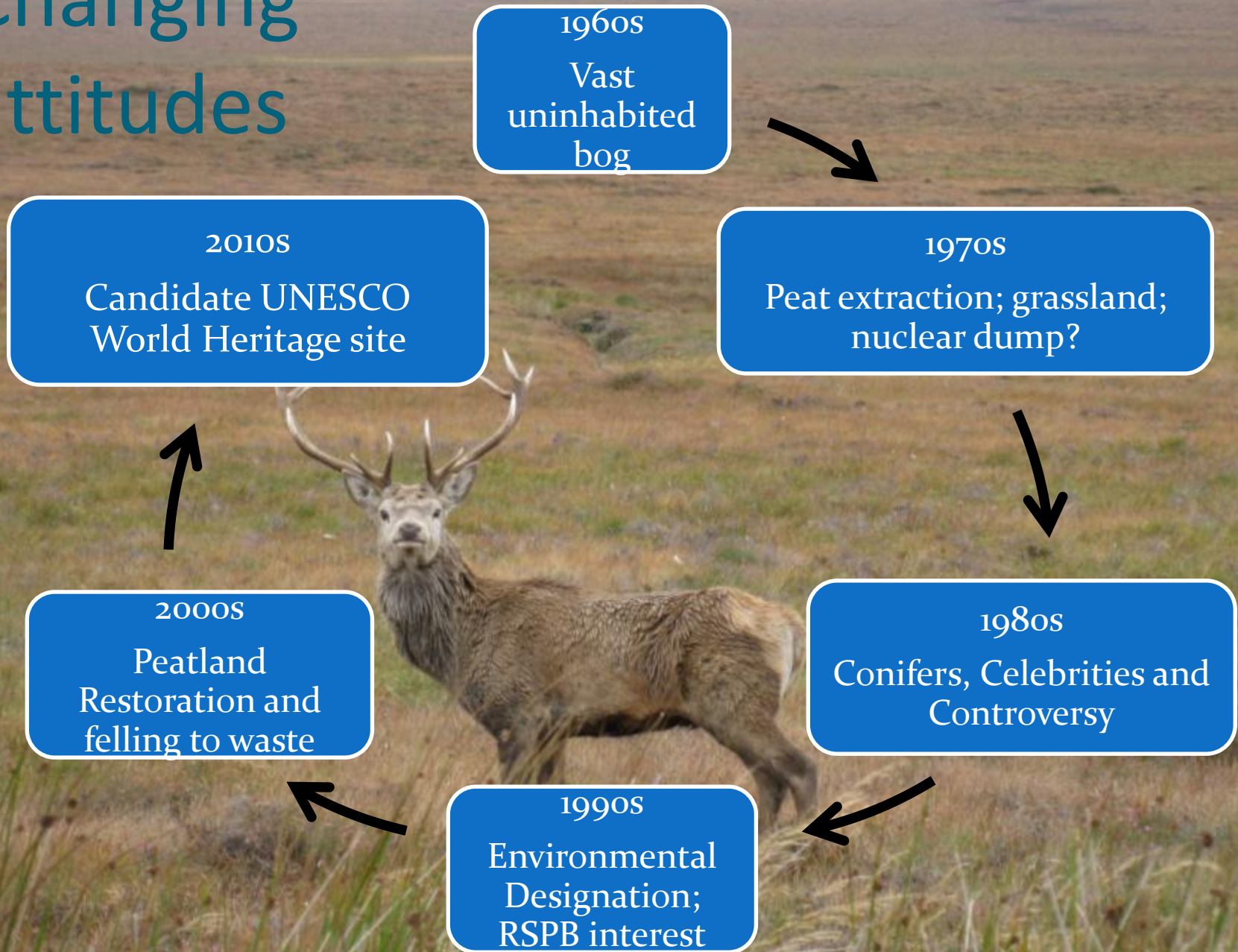
A897 single track road



B871 Kinbrace – Syre – a Roadex testbed

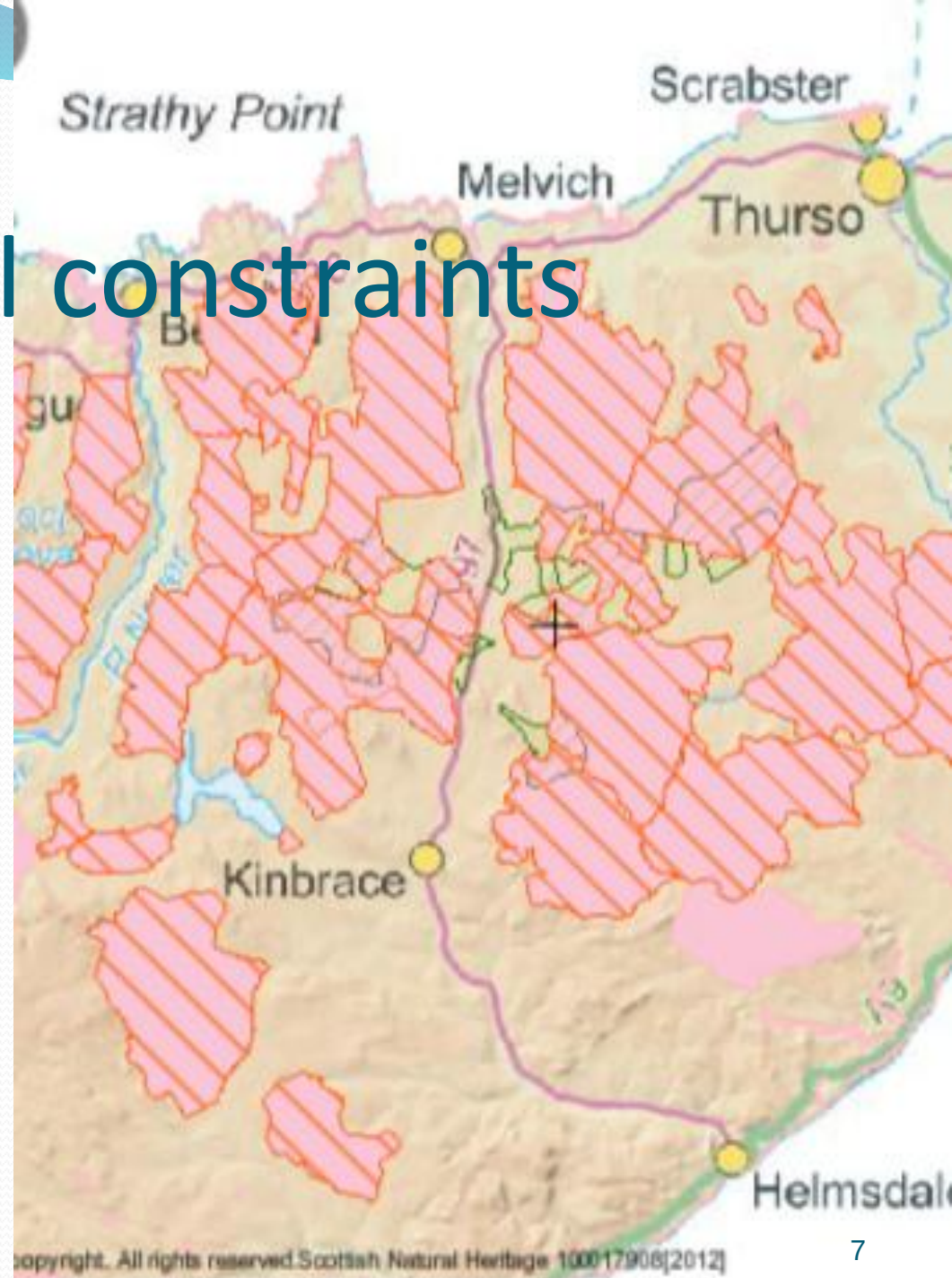


Changing attitudes



Environmental constraints

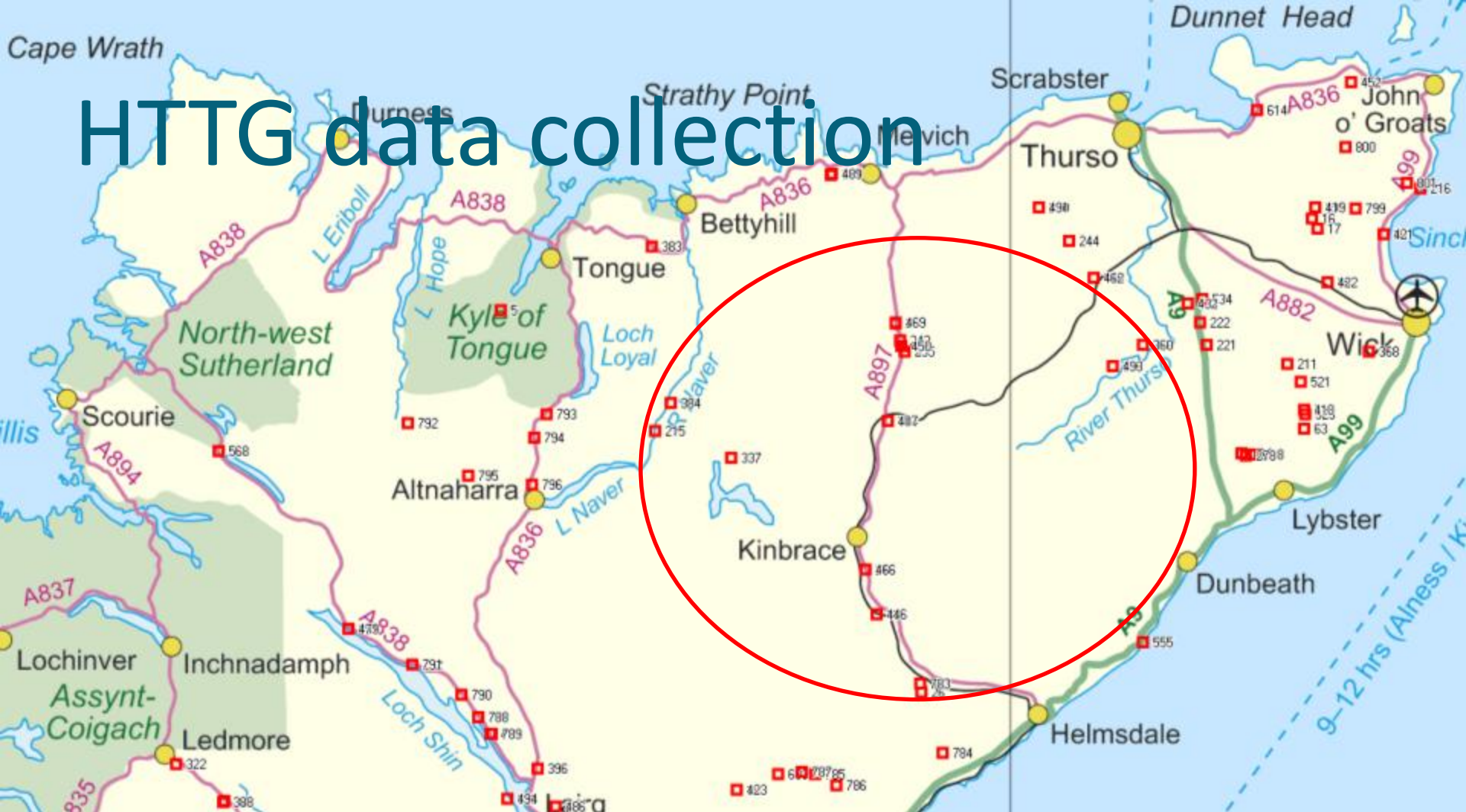
- Largest blanket bog in Europe
- Range of European designations
- These impact on:
 - Need to restore damaged peatland
 - Replanting
 - Ability to improve or alter access roads



Peatland restoration: RSPB felling to waste

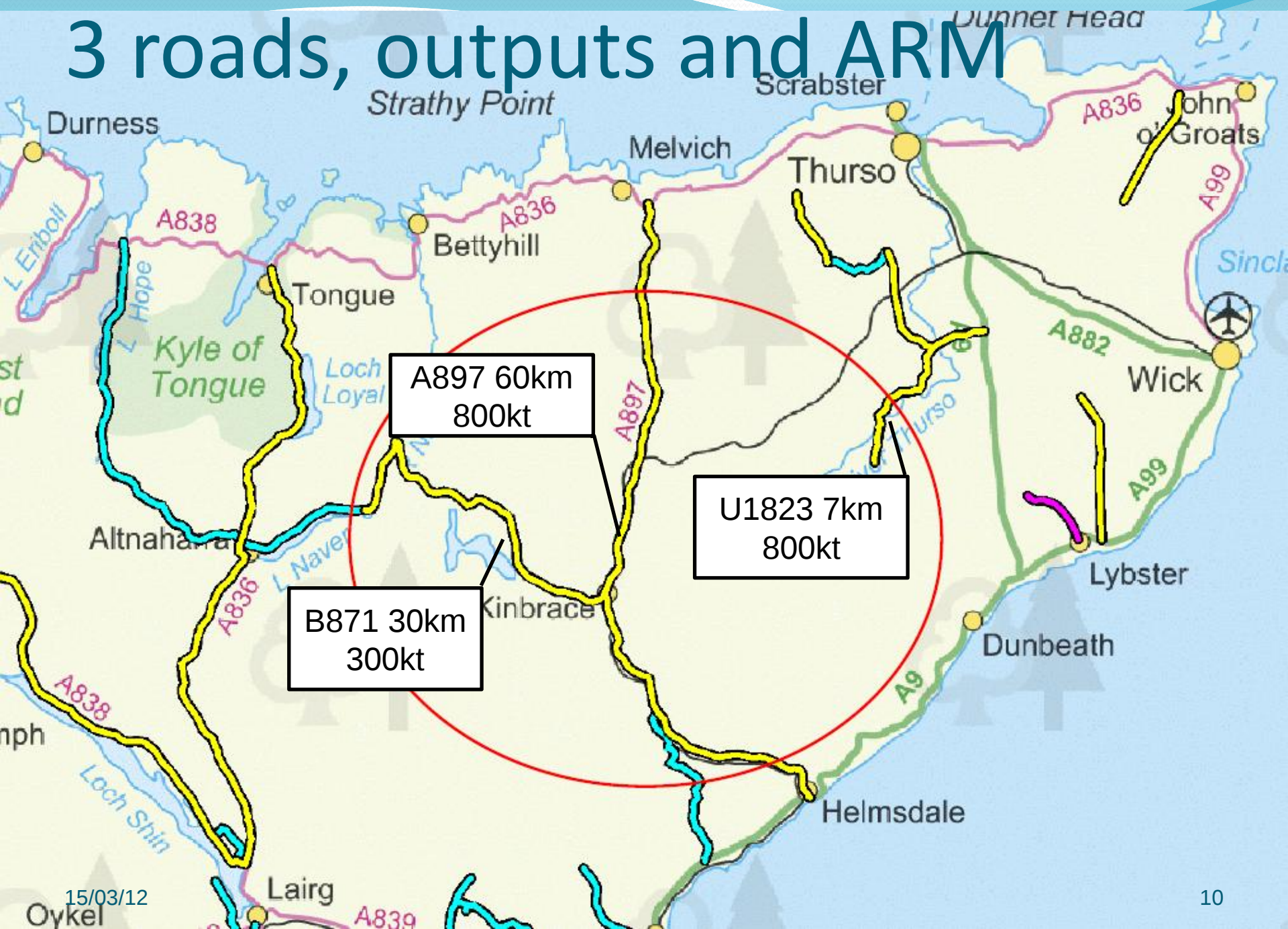


HTTG data collection

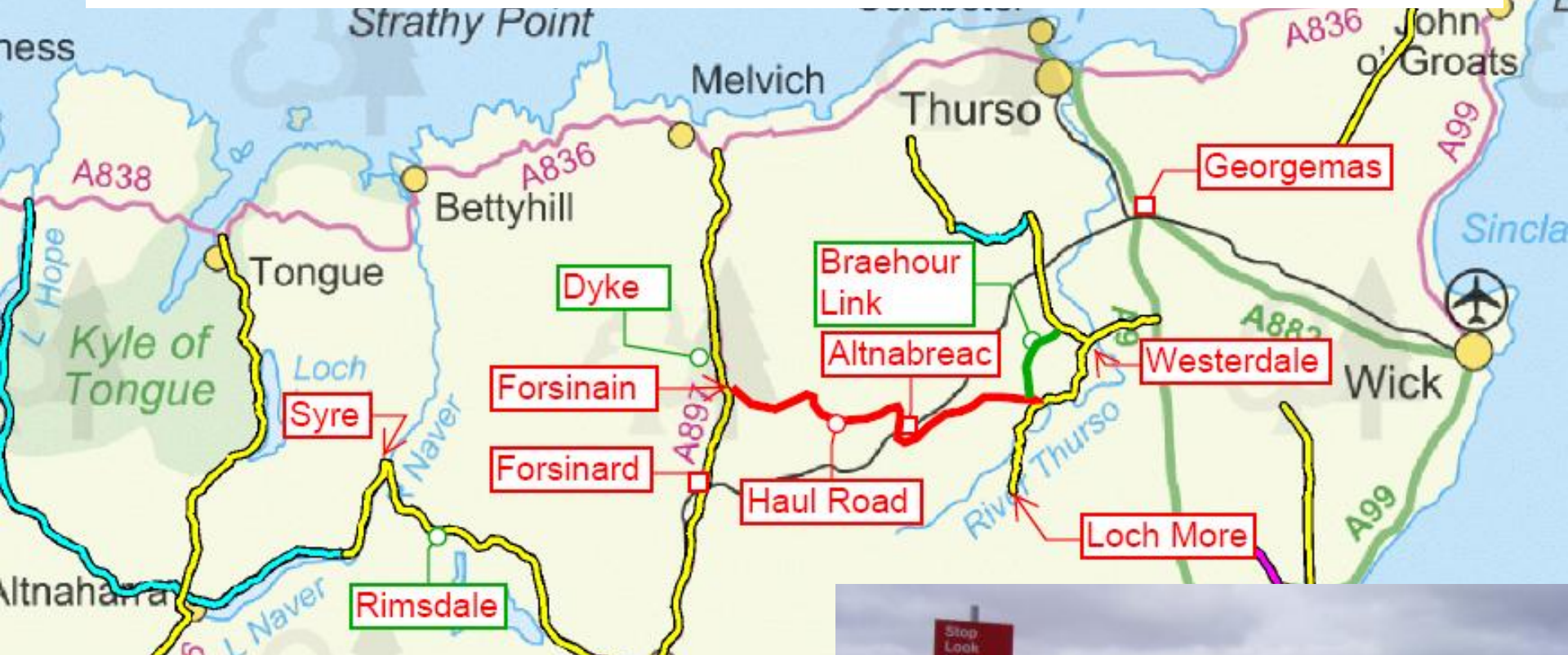


Exit Point Ref No	Year of data collection	Owner FCS or Pte	Forest District	THC Administrative Area	Locality or forest name	AREA (Ha)	NEW EXIT POINT - GRID REF	Tonne 2010-2014	Tonne 2015-2019	Tonne 2020-2024	15 Year Est Total
215	2007	FCS	Dor	North Sutherland	Syre	425	NC682414	27214	25686	10020	62920

3 roads, outputs and ARM



Developing a strategy



B871: The problem with peat



B871 Tyrebale embankment



B871 Double Surface Dressing



B871 Unbound surface

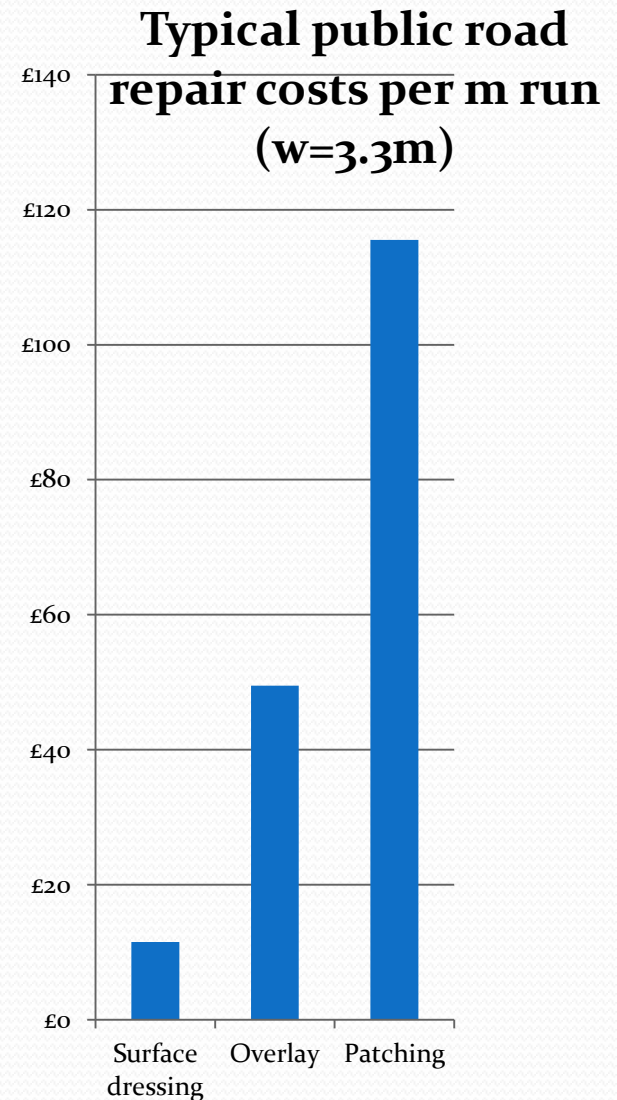


B871 CTI proving



B871 experience

- Partnership approach with FES and James Jones
- Approx £750k spent over last decade; 120kt of timber out
- Current condition very much worse than at start
- Indicative “subsidy” per tonne £5-10?
- Unaffordable for 2.1Mt!



How can public network survive?

- Divert in-forest where possible
- Improve drainage
- Run roads to failure?
- Strengthen from bottom up?
- Manage and ration the existing road resource
- Targeted investment (STTS)



The Challenge of Rail 2002

- Innovation: Kinbrace Railside Loading Bank
- Large Stockpile (30000t)
- Failed on Cost grounds; including double handling



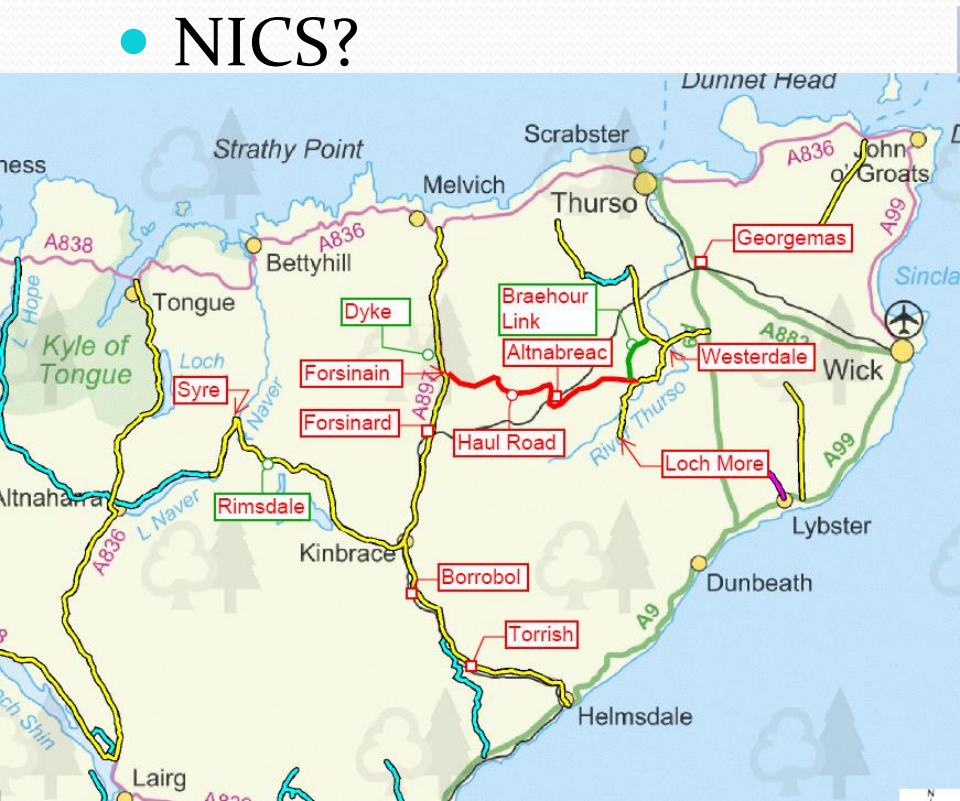
The Challenge of Rail 2012

- Led by private sector
John G Russell
assisted by SW and
HITRANS
- Novel use of modular
ISO flatracks
- Saving on use of
rolling stock and
handling



The Challenge of Rail 2012

- Concentrate on road-inaccessible forests
- Smaller stockpiles (500t?)
- Larger facilities with sidings
- NICS?



Key points

- Work in partnership and cooperation
- Traditional approaches to road maintenance unlikely to be sustainable
- Manage restricted usage of the road resource
- Rail transfer may need greater help to fully reflect societal benefits

A landscape photograph featuring a calm lake in the foreground, a dense line of green trees in the middle ground, and a bright rainbow arching across a grey, overcast sky. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in a large, light blue font on the right side of the image.

Thank you!

For more information on Roadex see www.roadex.org