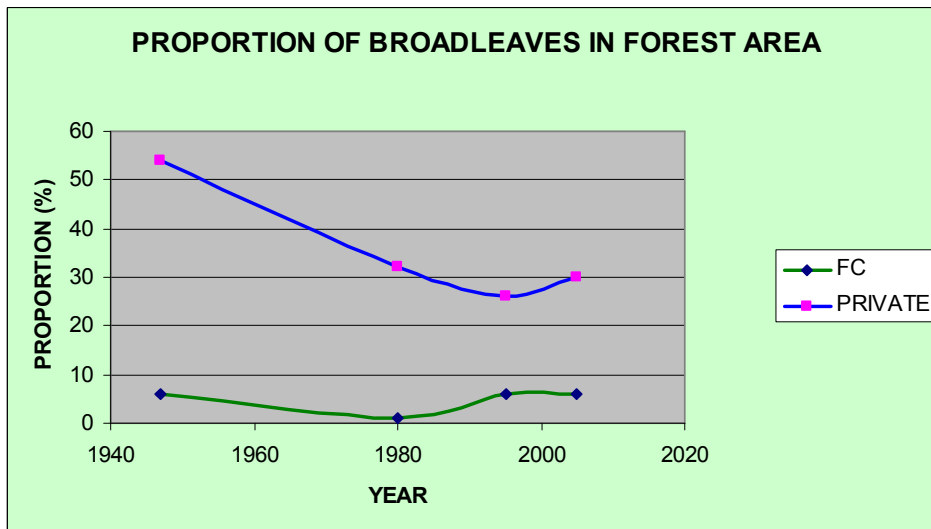
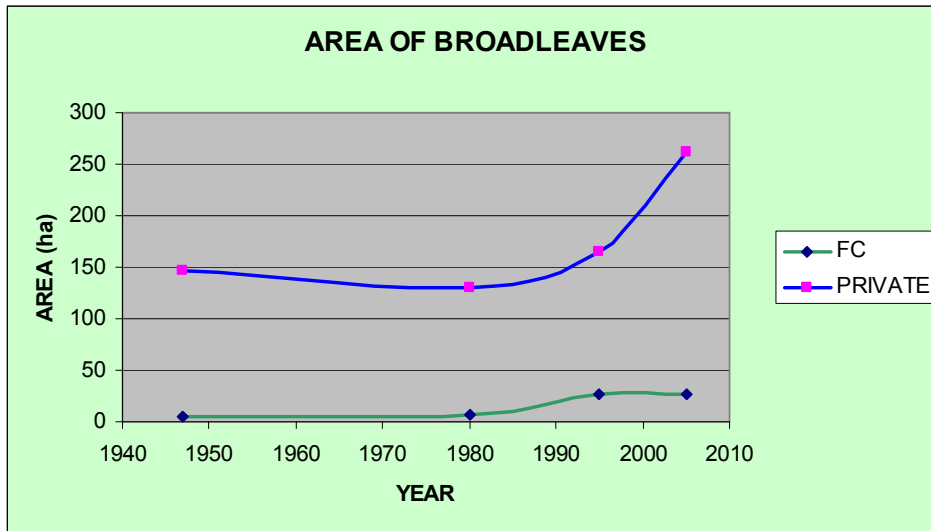


TRENDS IN THE FOREST RESOURCE – CONTRIBUTION OF BROADLEAVES AND NATIVE SPECIES

Aim

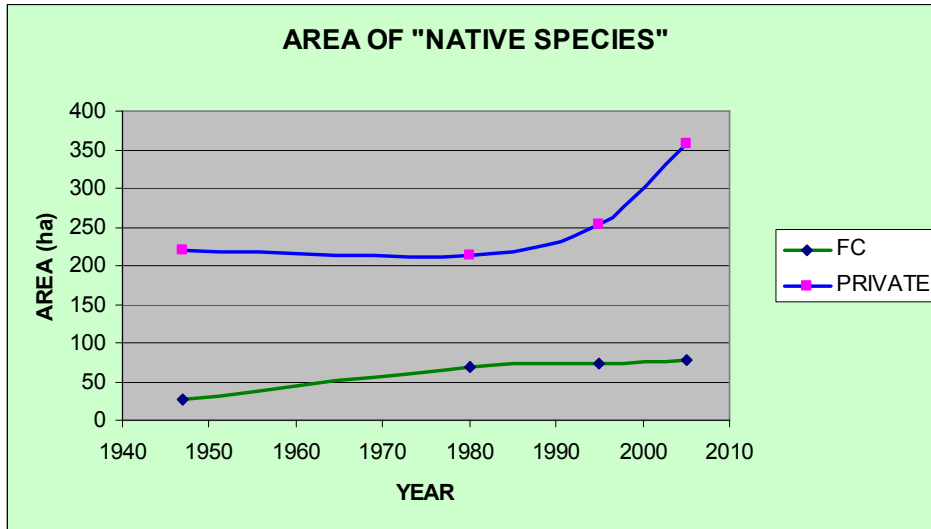
The aim of this document is to inform a discussion about the current species composition in the forest estate. The graphs of historic trends are for “all Scotland” and for recent trends are for Perth and Argyll Conservancy (the only information I have access to – but a good indication of trends across Scotland as a whole).

1. HISTORIC TRENDS - ALL SCOTLAND

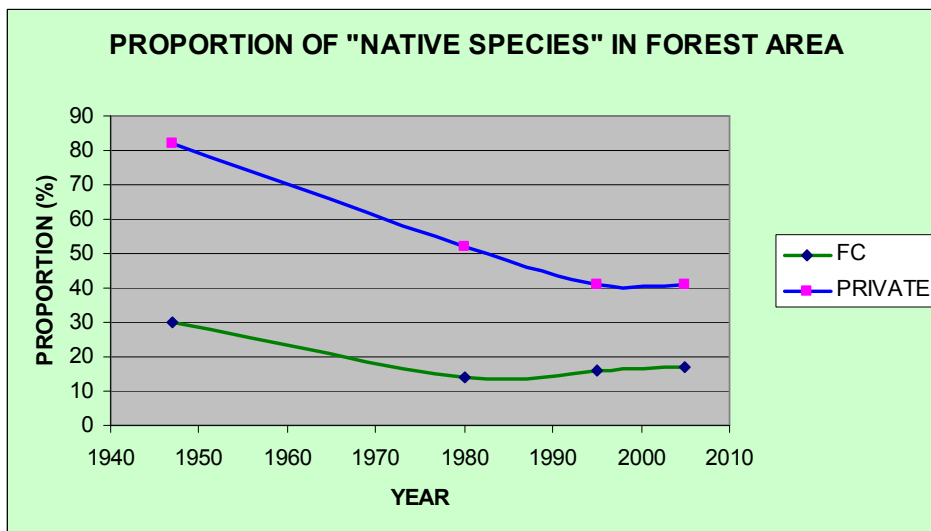


- The area of broadleaved woodland in the private sector has increased markedly since 1995. In the public forest estate the area is low but has increased somewhat since 1980.

- The proportion of broadleaves in the resource has fallen over the decades but has recently steadied at about 30% in the private sector and 6 % in the public forests



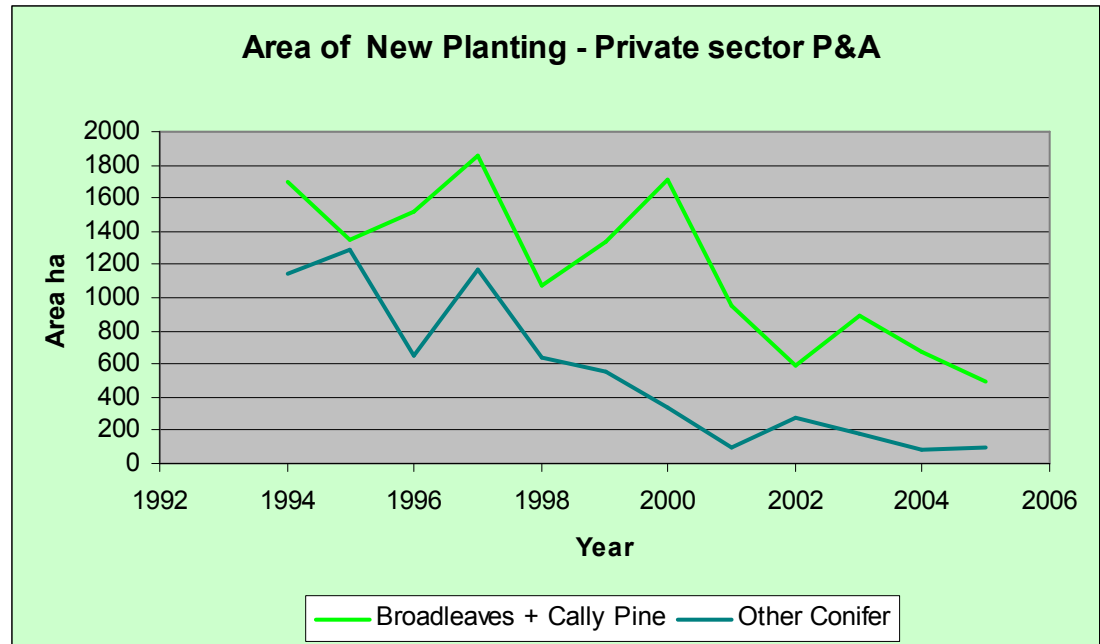
“Native species” = all broadleaves plus all Scots pine



- The area of native species (=all broadleaves plus all Scots pine) has increased markedly since 1995 in the private sector.
- The proportion of native species in the private sector has fallen over the decades, but has steadied at about 40%.
- The area of native species woodland and the proportion of native species in the public forests is low.

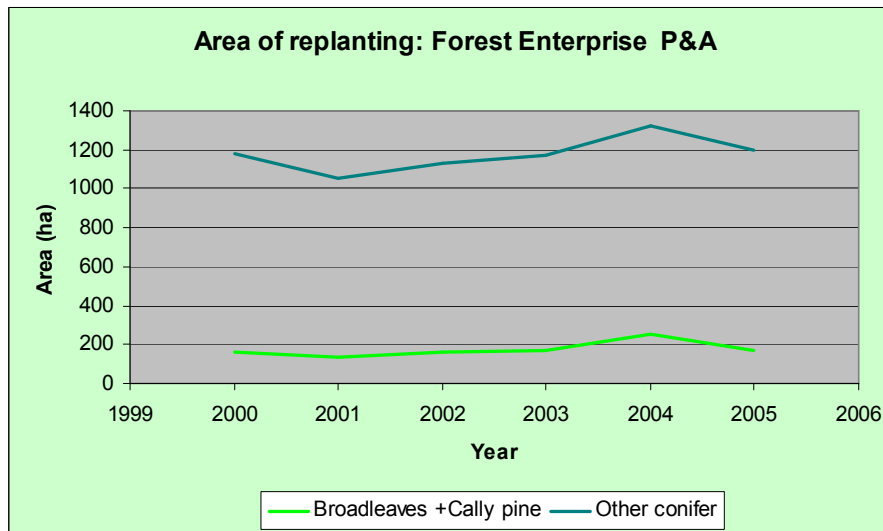
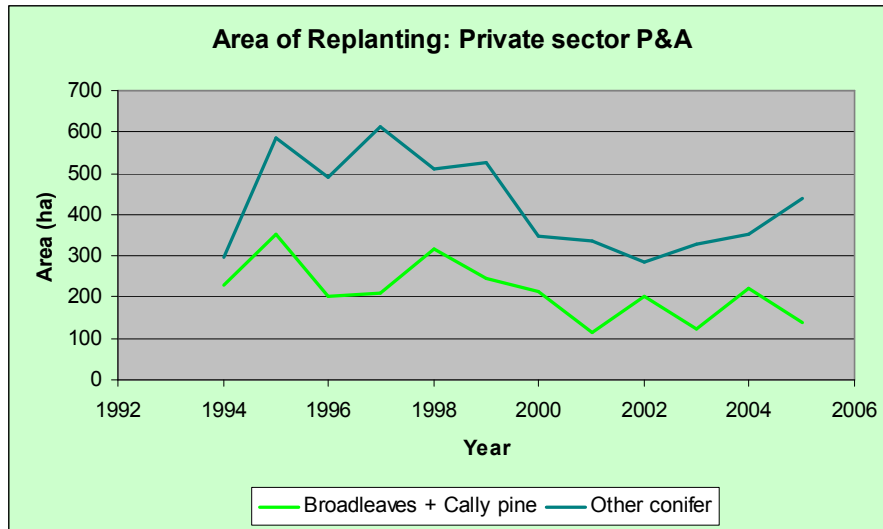
2. RECENT TRENDS IN PLANTING PERTH AND ARGYLL CONSERVANCY

2.1 Area of new planting P&A Conservancy

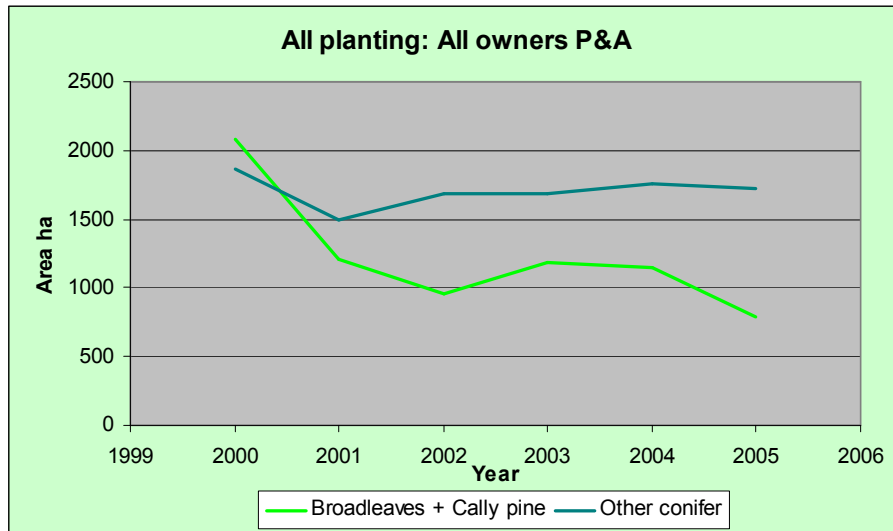


- New planting is effectively confined to the private sector.
- It has fallen since 1995 to present.
- New planting of broadleaves and Cally pine is higher than that of “other conifers” New planting of conifer has been at low levels since 2001.

2.2 Replanting (=restocking) P&A Conservancy

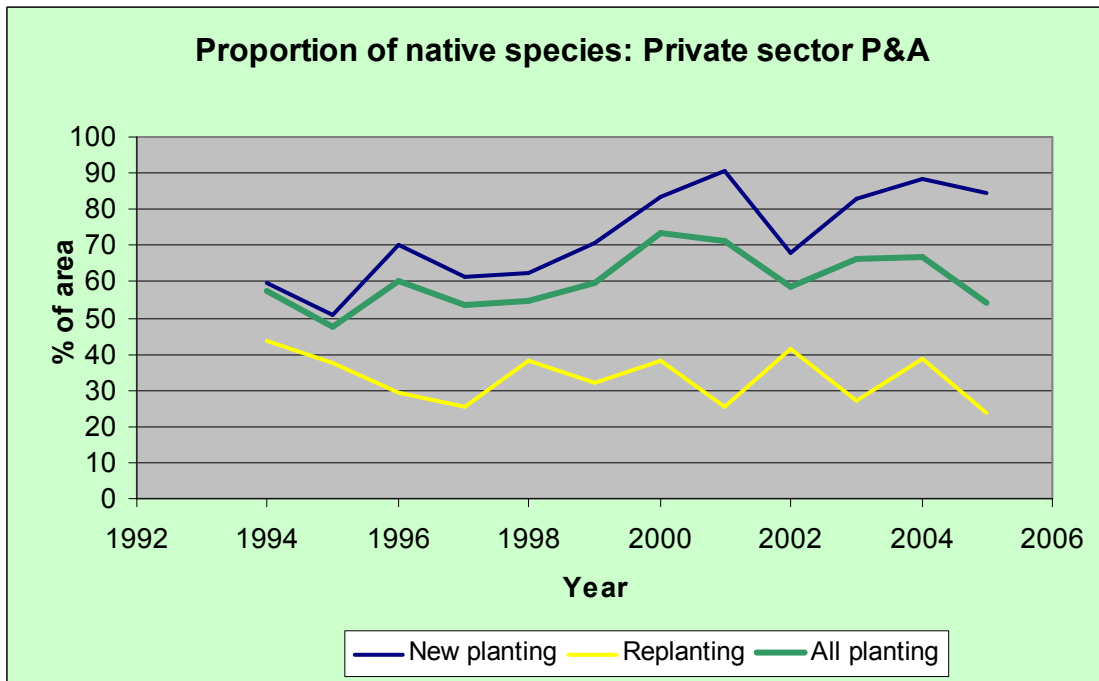
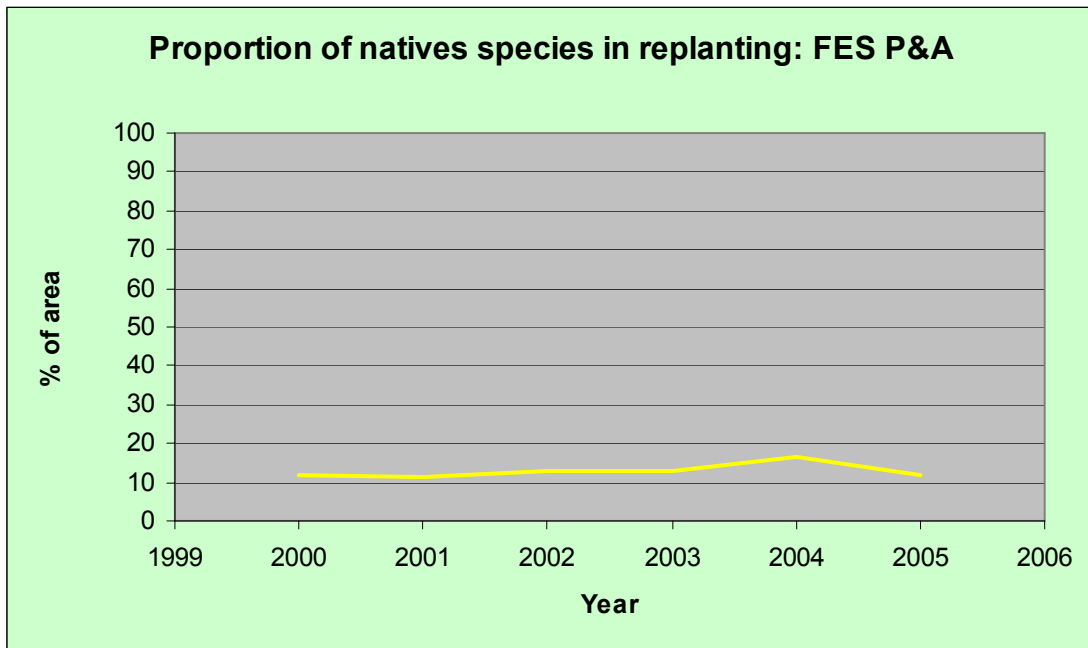


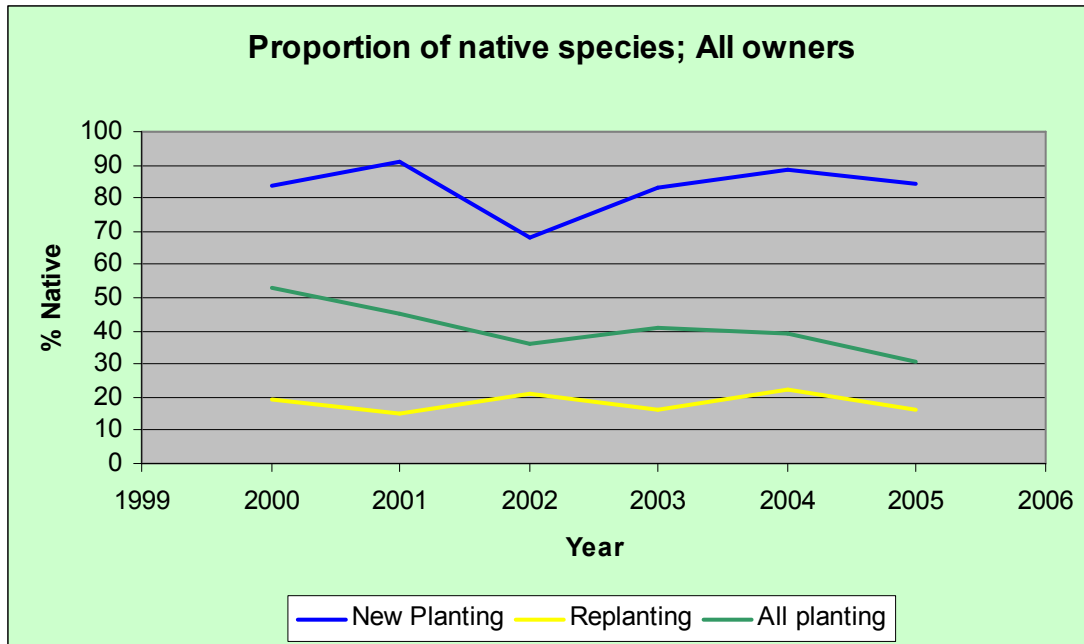
2.3 All planting (new planting plus restocking)



- The area of all planting (new planting plus replanting) has diminished in the private sector, mainly as a result of falling new planting.
- Taking the private and public sectors together, the area of all broadleaved planting (new planting plus replanting) has diminished (in line with new planting) and the area of conifers has remained stable (in line with replanting).

2.4 Proportion of native species (all broadleaves plus Cally pine)





- The proportion of native species in all private planting is about 60%; being high in new planting (90%) and lower in replanting (30%)
- The proportion of native species in replanting in public forests is about 13% (split more or less equally between broadleaves and Cally pine).
- The proportion of native species in all planting has diminished from about 50% in 2000 to about 30% in 2005, in line with the reduction in new planting.
- The proportion of native species in all replanting is about 18% (being higher in the private sector and lower in public forests).

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

1. Activity in establishment of broadleaves / native species is surprisingly low in the FE estate and this has not yet started to turn around (though the recent tranche of Forest District Strategies provide grounds for some hope).
2. Because native species have figured highly in new planting and poorly in replanting (esp in FE restock), the recent reduction in new planting has meant that the proportion of native species being planted has dropped in recent years.
3. We need to watch this situation.....!