



# Native Woodlands and Deer

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## **Native woods (>50% native species cover)**

- 6 priority woodland types and scrub types

## **Near-native woods (40-50% native species)**

## **Planted woods on ancient woodlands sites (PAWS)**

All with minimum area 0.5 ha.

# Priority woodland types

**Upland birchwoods**



**Native pinewoods**



**Wet woodland**



**Lowland mixed deciduous woodland**



**Upland oakwoods**



**Upland mixed ashwoods**



Scotland

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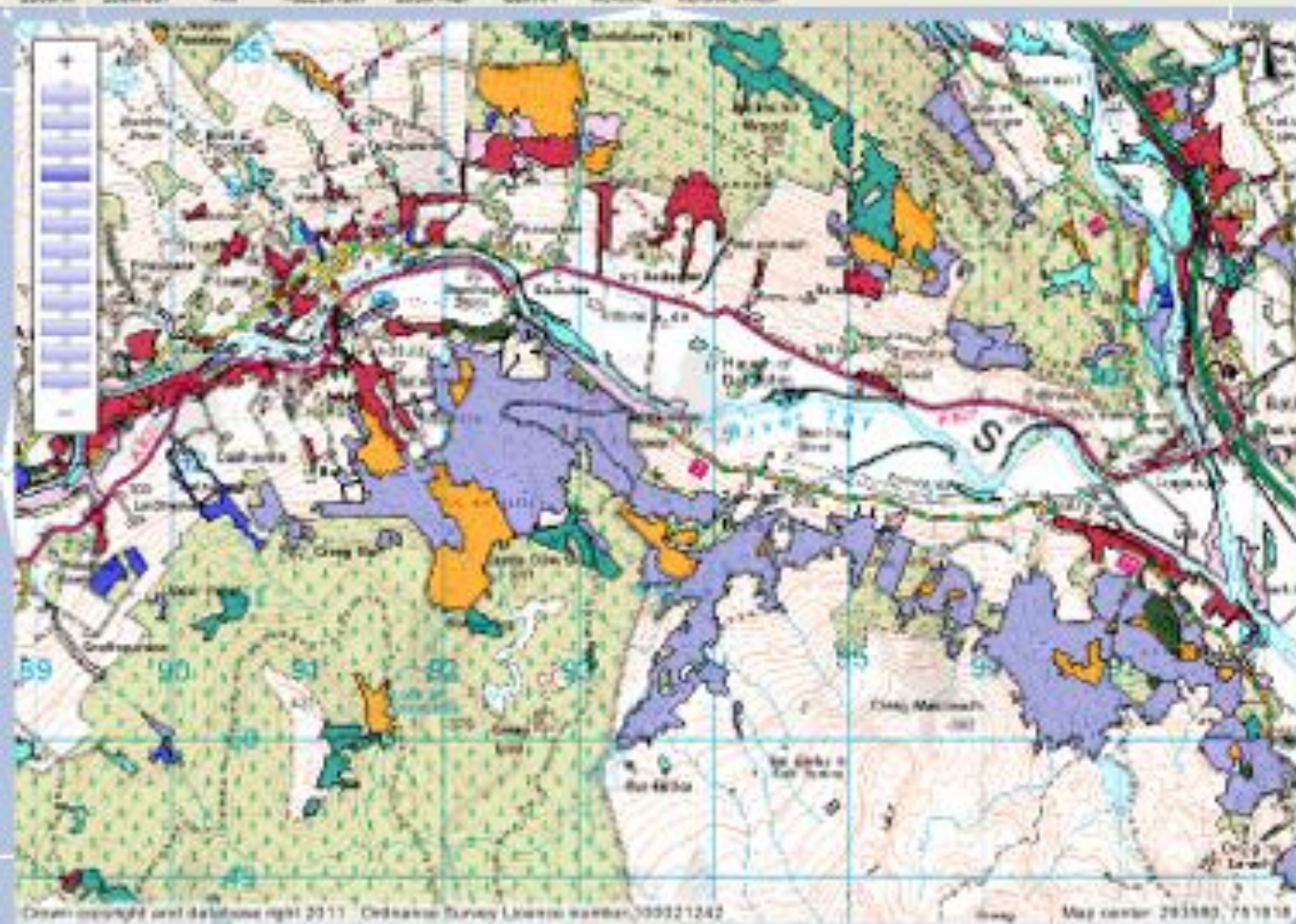
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Map Legend

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NWSE Habitat

-  Native pinewood
-  Upland birchwood
-  Upland mixed ashwood
-  Upland oakwood
-  Wet woodland
-  Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
-  Juniper scrub
-  Montane willow scrub
-  Hawthorn scrub
-  Blackthorn scrub
-  Unidentifiable type
-  Nox cutvie
-  Clear fall
-  Open land habitat



Drawn on a grid and dateline right 2011. Ordnance Survey Licence number: 100021242

Map center: 281583, 751818

Scale: 1:47,143

Quick View:

Map Tool

Pan

## **311,153 ha of native woodlands**

22.5% of all woodland

4.0% of land area of Scotland

## **13,383 ha of 'nearly-native' woodland**

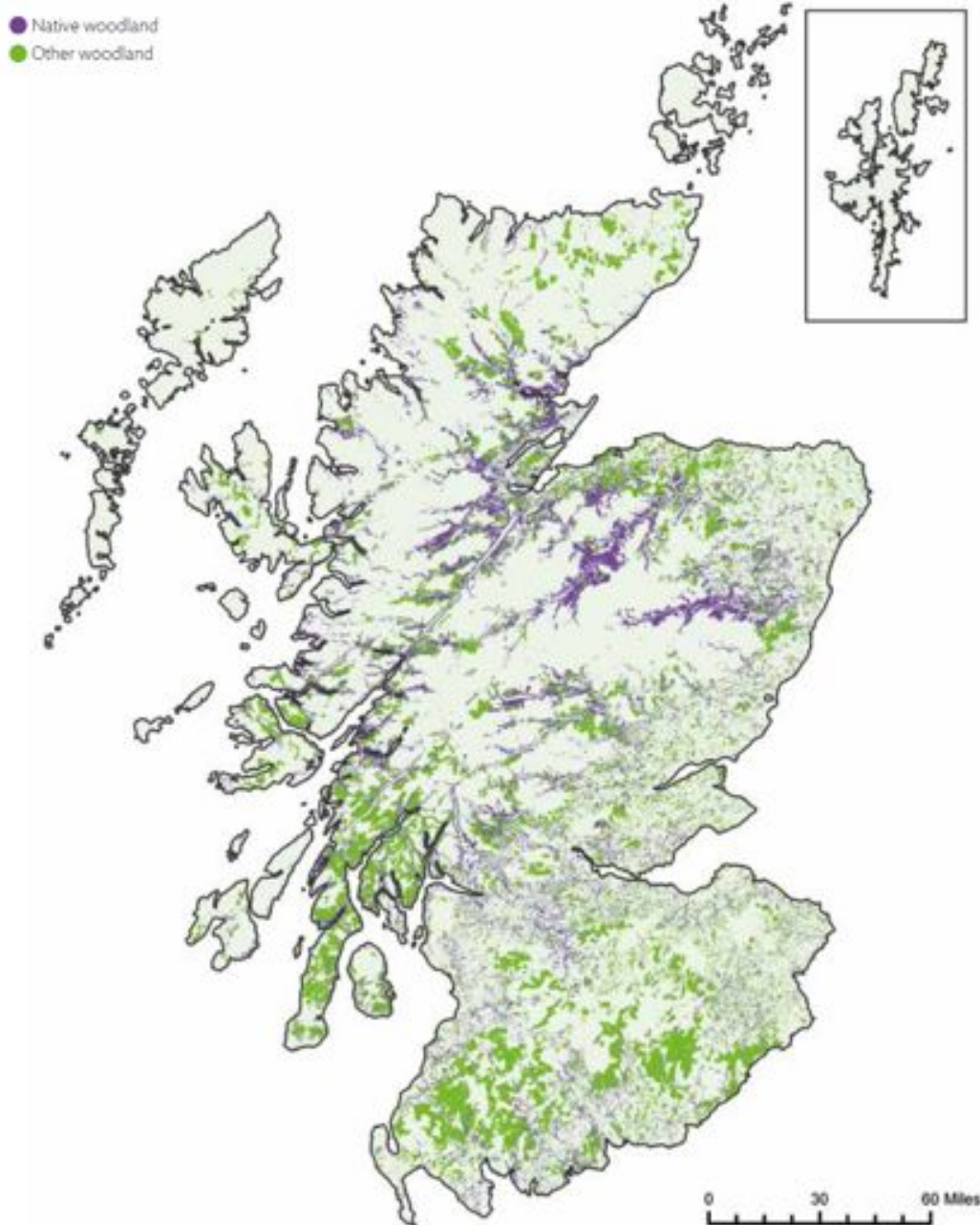
7,900 ha more native woods planted to 31.3.13

Area now **319,000 ha** (22.6% of Scottish woodlands)

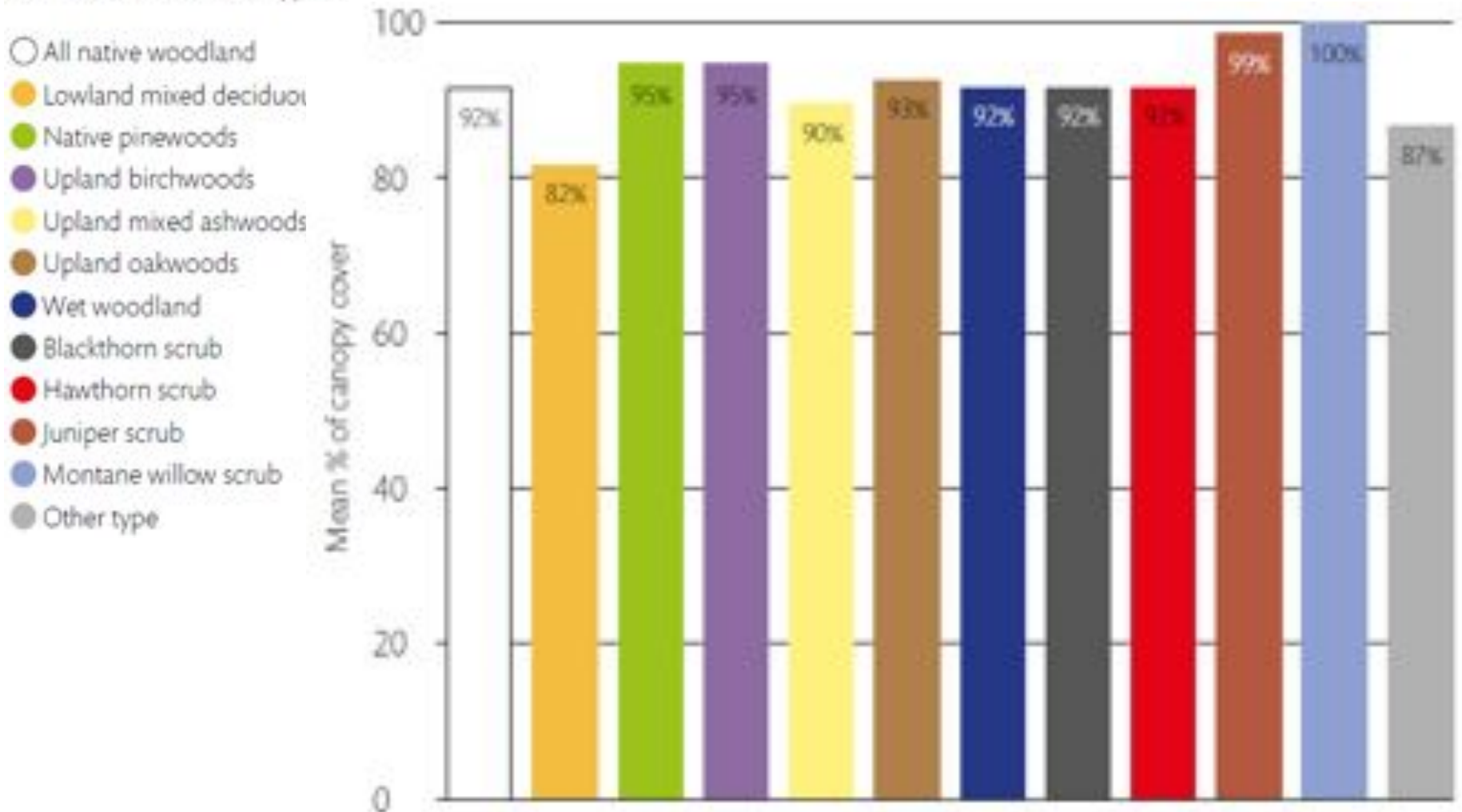
**Table 3.** Summary of native woodland area by type

Native Woodland Type <sup>1,2</sup>	Area (ha)	%
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland <sup>3</sup>	23,189	8%
Native pinewoods	87,599	28%
Upland birchwoods	91,235	29%
Upland mixed ashwoods	12,353	4%
Upland oakwoods	19,474	6%
Wet woodland	44,742	14%
Blackthorn scrub	152	<0.1
Hawthorn scrub	2,138	1%
Juniper scrub	1,482	1%
Montane willow scrub	10	<0.1
'Other' type <sup>4</sup>	28,779	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>311,153</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Distribution of native woods



**Figure 15.** Mean percentage of native species in the canopy for native woodland types





**Table 13.** Extent of recorded invasive non-native shrub and field layer species in native woods

Species	Area of invasives (ha)	%	% total native woodland area
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	3,691	65%	1.2
Other herbaceous invasive exotics	1,468	26%	0.5
Himalayan balsam	240	4%	0.1
Japanese knotweed	113	2%	<0.1
Giant hogweed	96	2%	<0.1
Snowberry	46	1%	<0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.8</b>

**Total loss over an average of 40 years up to 21kha (14%); but may be less\***

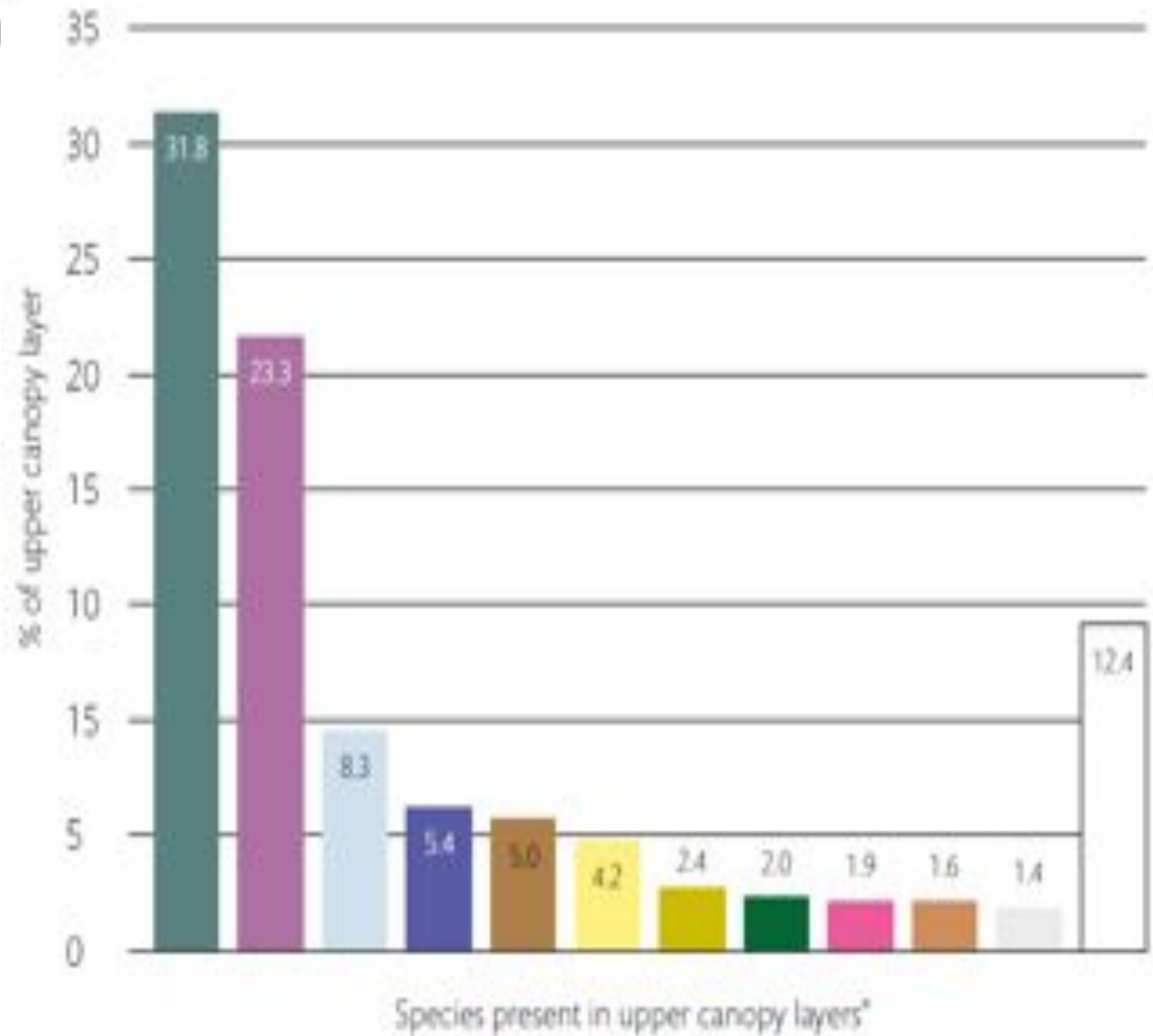
**90% of possible loss has been to open unenclosed uplands**

**Very low levels of loss to development, agriculture and estates/large gardens**

**\* Method limitations: eg does not allow for any woodland regeneration outside existing boundaries**

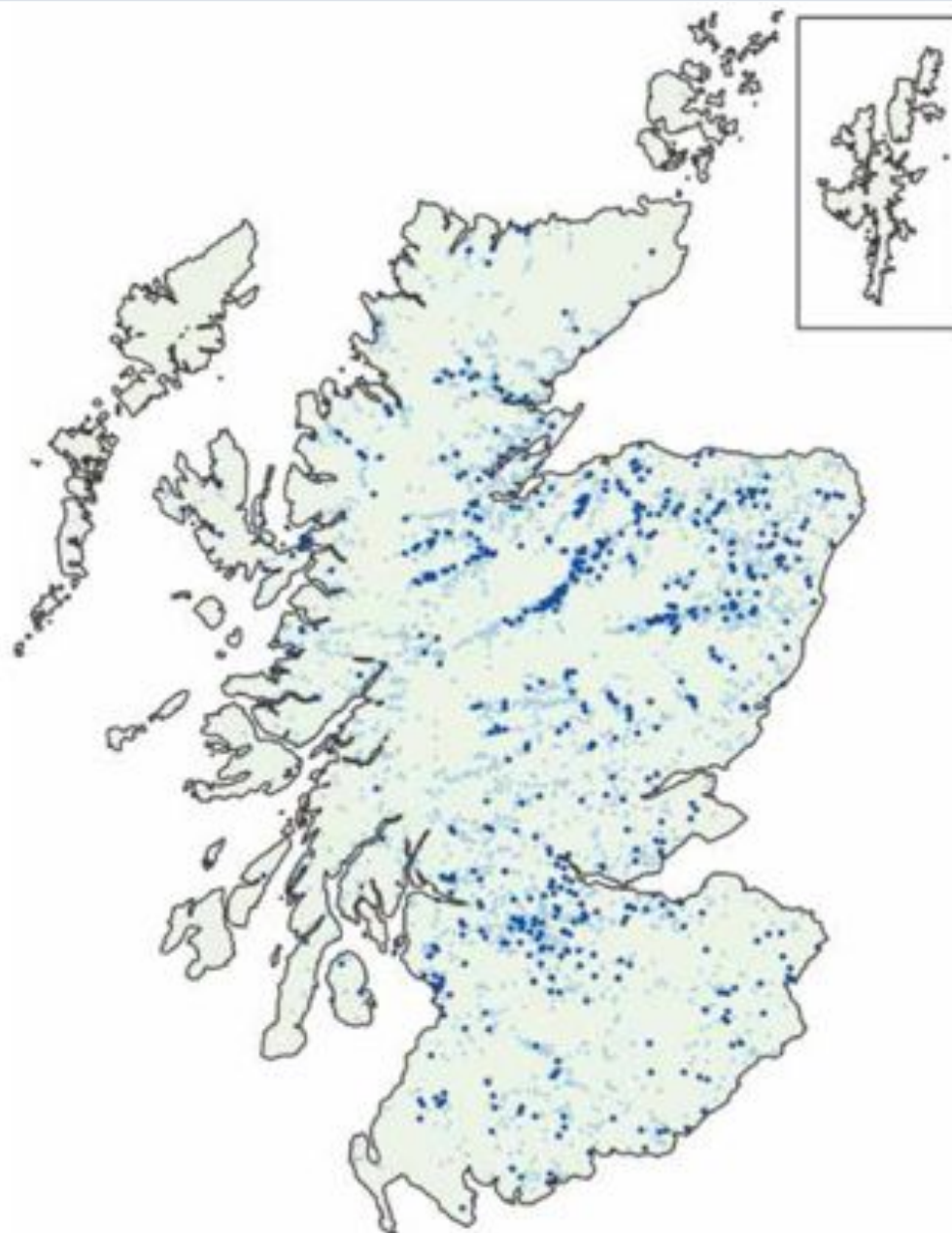
**Figure 7.** Species composition of the upper canopy layers of all native woodland

- Scots pine \*
- Downy birch \*
- Silver birch \*
- Common alder\*
- Pedunculate oak \*
- Ash \*
- Sessile oak \*
- Sycamore
- Hazel \*
- Intermediate oak \*
- Grey willow \*
- Other species ▲



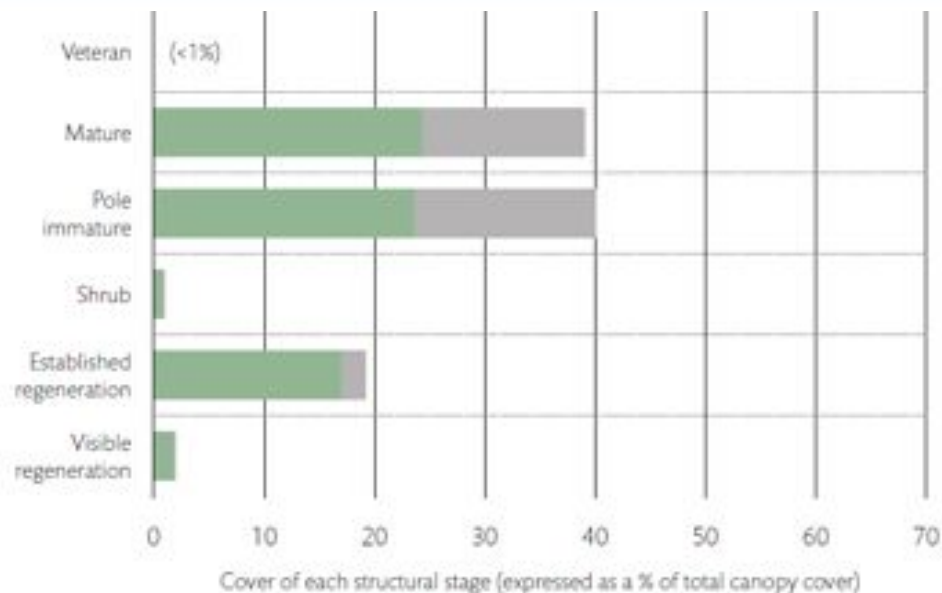
**Figure 11.** The distribution of aspen in all woodland surveyed for the NWSS

- Presence of aspen in the polygon
- A minimum canopy cover of aspen (across all structure stages) of 15%.



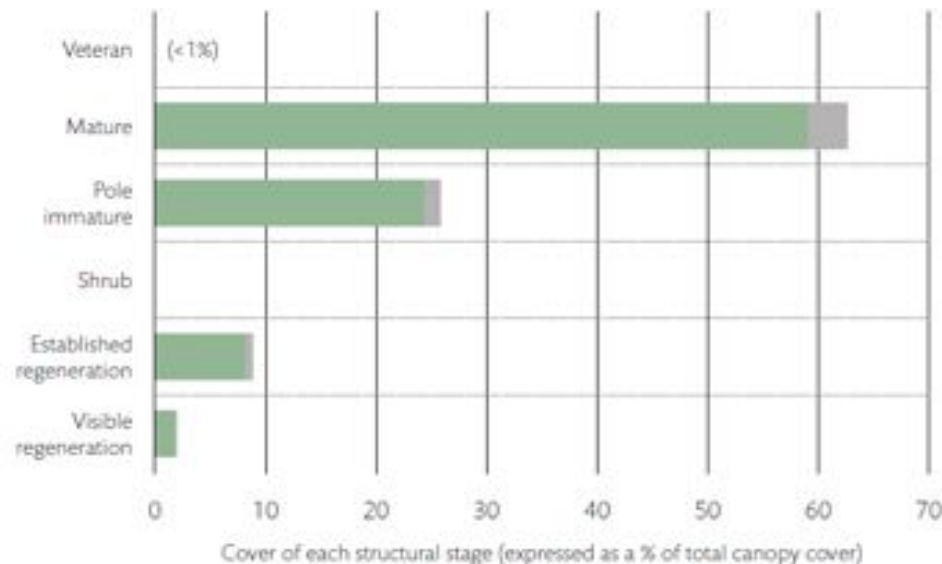
**Figure 42.** Proportions and composition of the main structural stages present in lowland mixed deciduous woodland

- Native species
- Non-native species

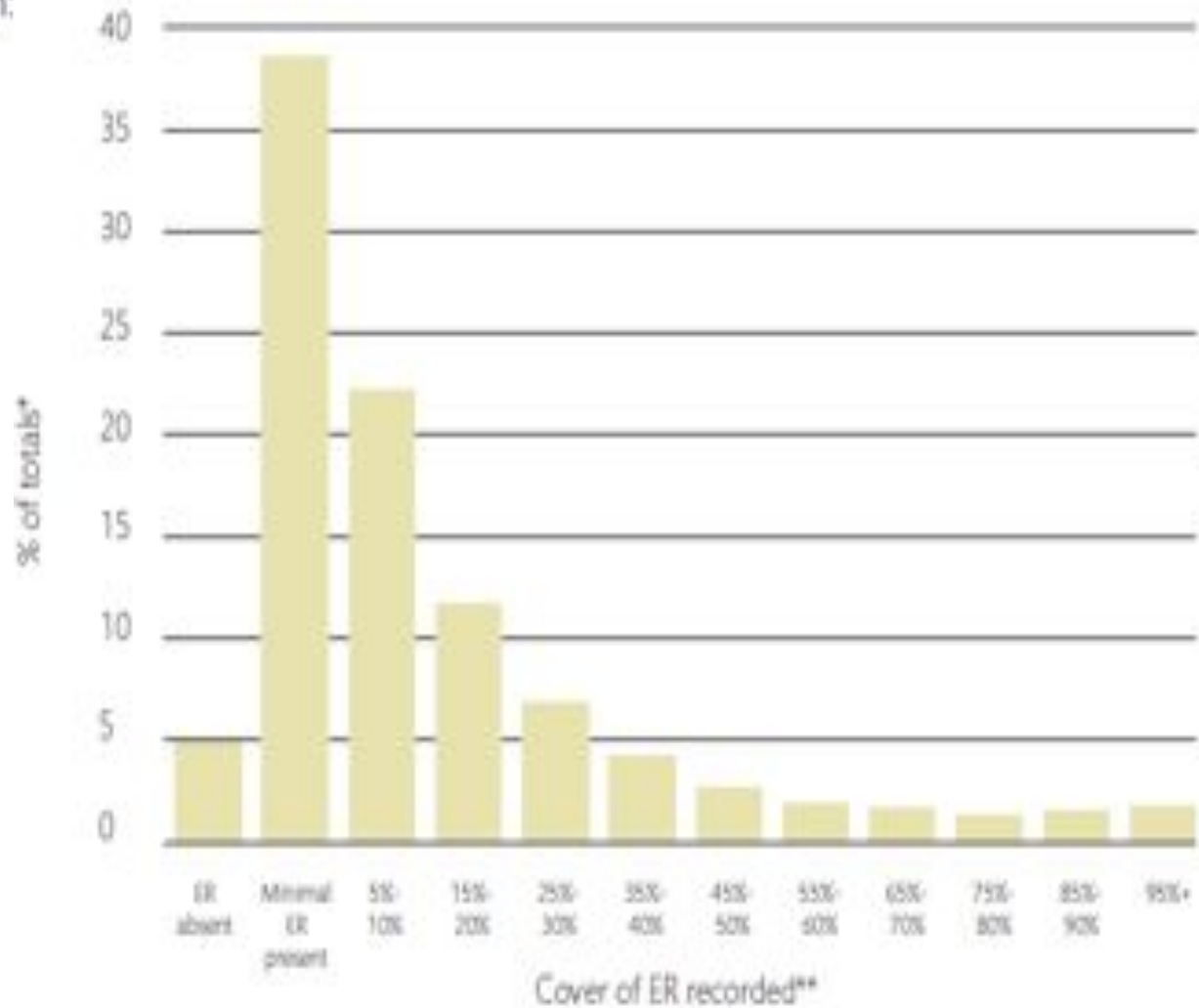


**Figure 46.** Proportions and composition of the main structural stages present in upland oakwoods

- Native species
- Non-native species



**Figure 17.** Natural Regeneration: frequency distribution of established regeneration cover classes for all native woodlands



Note: Excludes areas of planted Established Regeneration.

\* Area in each cover class expressed as a % of total native woodland area.

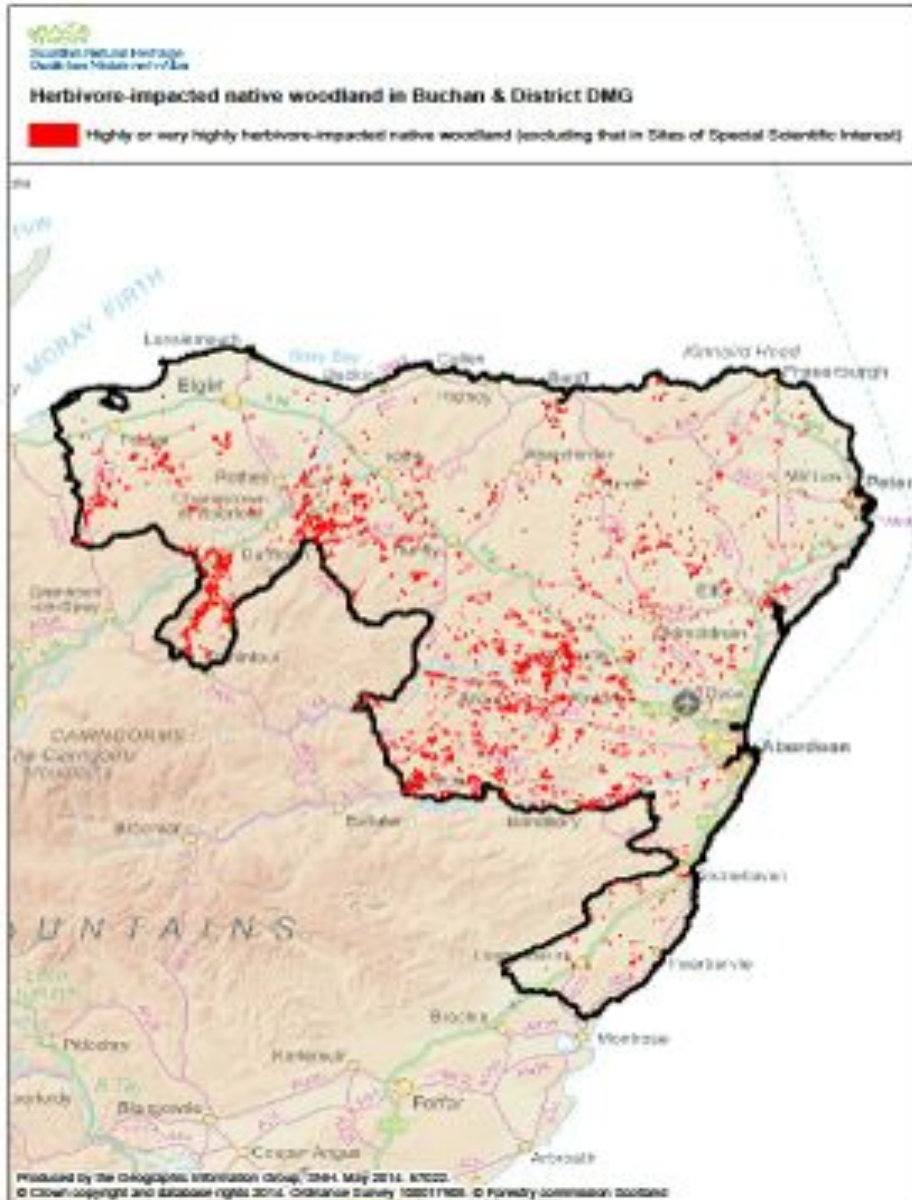
\*\* Expressed as a % of total canopy cover.

**33% of area high or very high impact:  
would prevent future regeneration if  
maintained**

**Type of animals recorded\*:**

- **Deer in 73% of native woodland areas,**
- **Livestock in 15%,**
- **Rabbits/hares in 3.5%**

**\*recorded as present in over 5% of the polygon  
area**





NWSS project developed an indicator score with 4 factors (each with desired range):

- **Canopy cover** (50-90%)
- **Native species** percentage in canopy (at least 90%)
- **Herbivore impact** rating (low, medium)
- **Invasive non-native** shrub/field layer plants (under 10% cover *and* less than 3 species)

**Figure 22.** Native woodland condition indicator values (all native woods combined)

- 4: 143,163 ha (46%)
- 3: 132,870 ha (43%)
- 2: 32,096 ha (10%)
- 1: 2,943 ha (1%)



Note: The chart shows the proportions of native woodland areas that scored 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 for condition factors i.e. the number of condition factors which are in the desired range.

**Figure 23.** Breakdown of condition factors which are outside the desired range (all native woods)

- Canopy Cover (12%)
- Native Species (31%)
- Herbivore Impact (50%)
- Invasives (7%)

Note 1: Figure shows the share of areas scoring 3 or less in the Condition Indicator which is sub optimal for each condition factor (see also Figure 22).

Note 2: Some areas are outside the desired range for more than one factor.



**Signs of recovery: many woods healthy**

**Condition moderate overall**

**Loss of ancient woods, limited regeneration**

**Herbivore impact the biggest single threat**

**NWSS data can inform action at national,  
regional and local scales**

## **Working together to understand and reduce deer impacts on native woods**

- Feed NWSS info into deer plans - local and strategic
- Identify hot spots for impacts (also for SSSIs)
- Capacity building: use and interpretation of data, training, guidance, etc
- Other ?

Look at the [NWSS webpages](#) for more info