



## What is the project?

This project is a partnership between **Borders Machinery Ring (BMR)**, **Leader** and **Scottish Enterprise** to encourage and demonstrate the benefits of improving management of woodlands on farms and estates in the Borders. It is based on the Management of Farm Woodland Pilot Project developed by SAOS in conjunction with Ringlink and the Forestry Commission Scotland (Grampian Conservancy) where 55,000m<sup>3</sup> of timber was identified as available through thinning and felling work. The timber had an estimated value of £1.5million at roadside and offered a value to local contractors of £800,000 for thinning, harvesting and extraction work.

## Project Opportunities

There will be increasing opportunities for local businesses to expand their skills and tender for work. As training needs are identified, courses will be organised to meet demand.

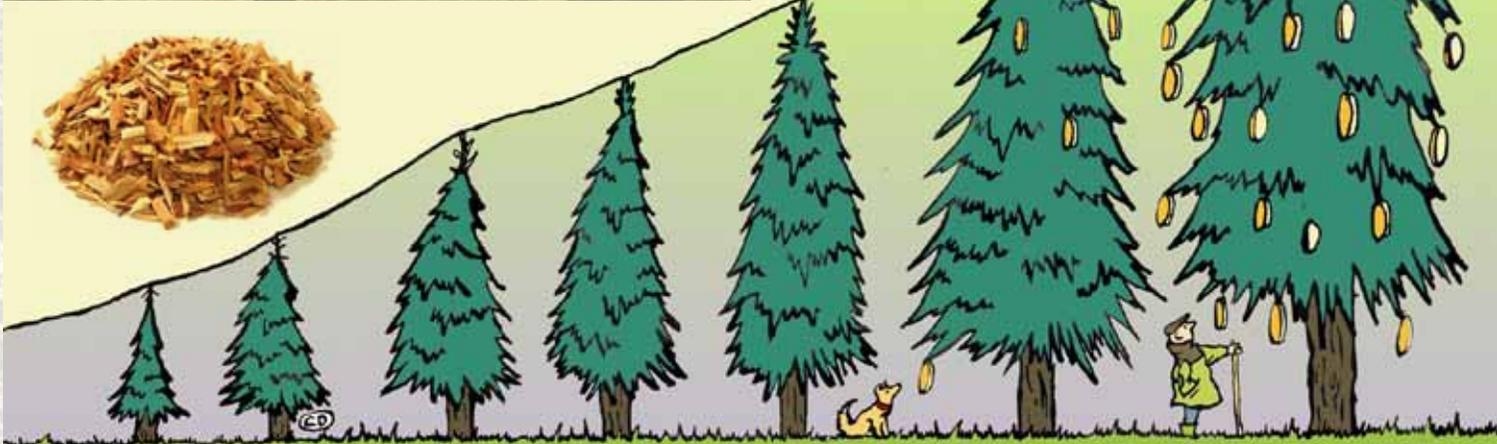
## How does it work?

The **BMR** Farm Woodland Management Project seeks to assist farm woodland owners in managing their woodlands. We can provide free advice, quotes and bespoke woodland management plans for **BMR** members. We can also organise felling and marketing of timber, as well as replanting and woodland creation, and can apply for government funding and felling licences on members' behalf. **BMR** is in the process of creating a Borders Farm Woodland Management Plan and seeks to co-ordinate woodland operations across neighbouring properties. This holistic approach to management will reduce operational and haulage costs.

**“Take the hassle out of growing and managing your woodlands...”**



# Management of Farm Woodlands



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**“Enjoy your woods and see long-term cash returns for your efforts”**



# 'If you go down to the woods today...'

## How much farm woodland is there?

Surprisingly, farm woodland makes up about 26% of all Scottish woodland and a good part of that is generally under-managed and could be producing greater income and other benefits for Scottish farmers.

## Is there income to be made from farm woodlands?

As with other commodities, the price of wood has increased significantly over the past few years, some of this price rise has come from increasing demands for fuel wood. Farm woodland will most often have a mixture of trees, some of which might be good for fuel wood, some for saw logs and there might be some specialist quality hardwood where the right tree can be worth a good deal of money – into a few thousand pounds for a single tree.

## I am considering a Biomass heating system, can I purchase biomass fuel (or sell surplus) locally?

BMR has a location based database and is filing the location and harvesting date of timber that is being offered for the biomass fuel market. By stacking the fuel wood on bearers in an exposed location, it will dry from 60% mc to 30-35% mc in approximately 18 months which can double the energy content per tonne. Dry timber can therefore command a



premium price over low grade green timber, simply adding value by providing outdoor storage space. When the timber is dry, it can be sold, or processed further into logs or wood chip. The database can be used to source the nearest dry timber for the product required, and can also offer local contractors to process or haul it as required.

## I would like to plant trees but it seems too costly and complicated

The project is also working out how to reduce some of the fixed costs for tree planting through bulk purchase. BMR can arrange for a woodland consultant to organise a review for planting and to advise on the grants available.

## Are there other benefits for farmers?

The right species of tree in the right part of the farm, where cropping or grass production is poor, can effectively increase the amount of 'productive' land on the farm. Trees can also provide shelter and sporting amenity. An additional benefit is to lock-up carbon from the atmosphere making the farm more carbon neutral.



## What is BMR's objective?

As well as BMR's traditional role of helping members share machines, labour and provide the right training, BMR will also look to find the best timber markets, share loads and purchase requisites such as trees, tubes, fencing etc. Over the longer term BMR may be able to accumulate 'carbon credits' for new planting so that an additional



income stream for members can be developed. BMR will help to take the hassle out of growing and managing your woodlands leaving you to enjoy them and see a long-term cash return for your efforts.