

National Forestry Conference 2020

Session 2: Threats to the Forestry and Forest Products Sector

Brian Murphy – *As the sawmiller sees it.*

October 2020

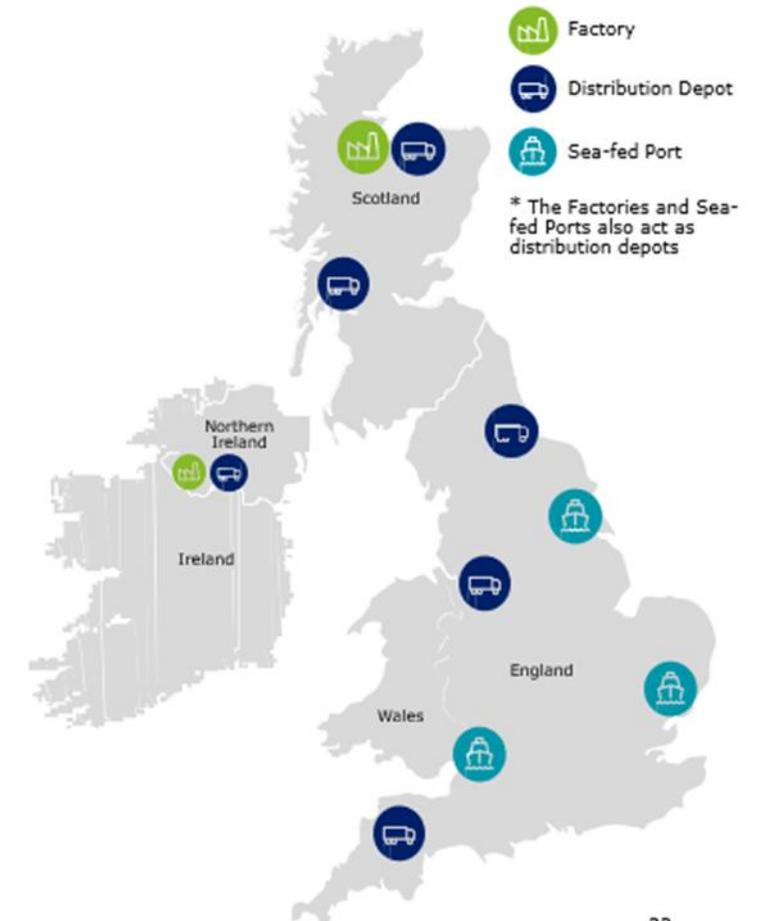


“We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.”

Oscar Wilde

Balcas

- Est. 1962. A business of generations
- ISO 45001
- Sales of c.£110m
- 1 million tonnes raw material (600E / 400 Inv)
- **Process the whole tree**
 - 300k+ m³ sawn
 - 165k tonnes wood pellets and c.50k tonnes pellets imported
 - 11.4MWh electricity generated
- Employment
 - 380 FTE's
 - Direct wages £15m
 - Direct employment 90% rural / Female (49) – 13%
 - Indirect – a further 300+ FTE's.
- Capital Investment since 2000 - £100m



So what? Who cares? Why should we care?

- The world needs wood – 3.4 billion m³ each year and growing. New plantation forests are essential
- Plantations. Utilising well managed plantations reduces the pressure on natural old growth forests (helping preserve vital reserves of biodiversity)
- David Attenborough “*Wood is an extraordinary renewable resource and taking it from well managed forests benefits forests and the planet, but on their own natural forests can't supply all the wood we need. So we have to farm trees, and create a new generation of plantations.*”
- Local timber is best

Just Balcas

- 300,000m³ ... is nearly 300,000 tons of CO₂ locked up in buildings or timber products for many years and repeated every year
- Wood pellets for heating ... is 100 million litres of oil not burned each year and all of the heat instead being carbon neutral
- Since Balcas introduced wood pellets to these islands - our contribution is that **3 supertankers** – or 6 million barrels of oil did not get used
- Almost twice as much electricity is generated as is used

...part of solution to climate change grows “in” trees

