

Social barriers to woodfuel production from farm woods

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Introduction

1. Outline Forest Research Social and Economic Research Group's woodfuel research programme
 - Identify policy relevance & drivers
 - Identify some key barriers
2. Outline primary research project recently conducted in Fife, looking at factors influencing private landowners' decisions relating to woodfuel production

What is 'woodfuel'? (terminology - barrier #1 !)

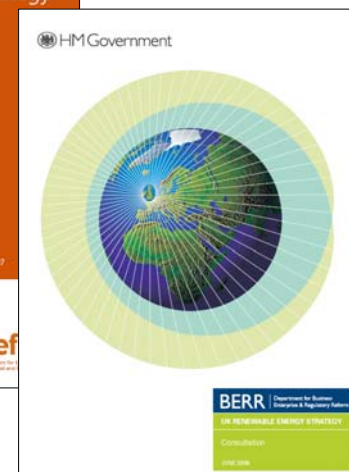
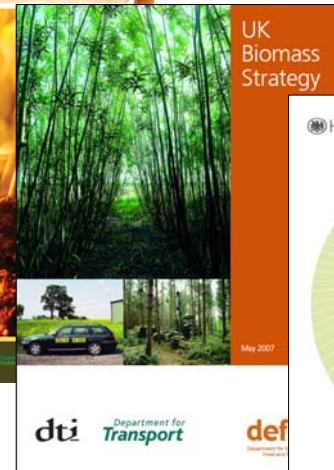
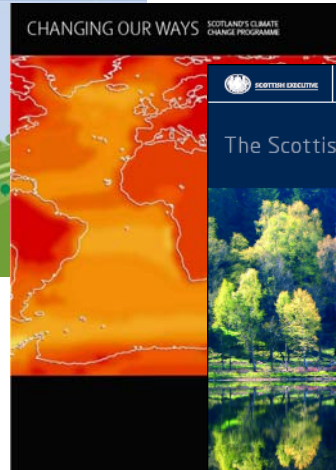
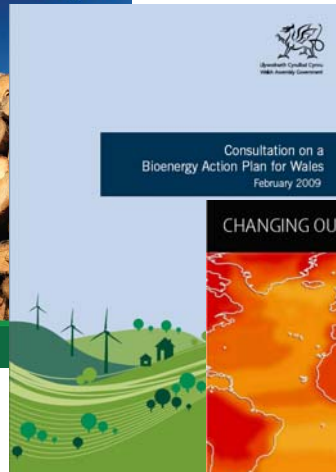
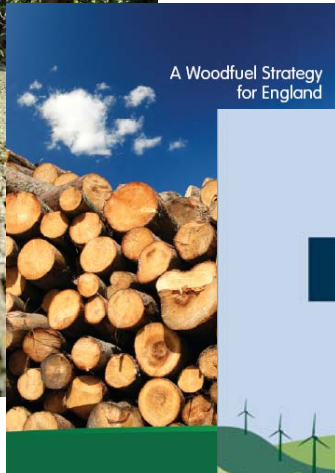
Title	Process	Species	Product	Form	
Biomass	Forestry	<i>Various</i>	'Clean' wood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Non-timber stemwood (low diameter; tips; poor quality) •Branch wood •Stumps 	Wood-chips Pellets Logs	
	Short rotation forestry (SRF)	Eucalyptus Poplar Ash Southern Beech others			
	Short rotation crop (SRC)	Willow Poplar			
	Energy crop	Miscanthus	High-energy grasses	Bales	
	Arboriculture	<i>Various</i>	Woody 'waste' ('contaminated' & 'clean')	Wood-chips Pellets	
	Commercial & industrial activities	-			Food 'waste'
	Agriculture	-	-	Biogas	Fuel gas
				Solid residue (e.g. straw; poultry litter)	Fuel
					Liquid residue (e.g. animal slurry)
	Biofuel	Agriculture	Oil seed rape	Biodiesel	Transport fuel
Grains, beets & others			Bioethanol		

Objective: an increasing resource

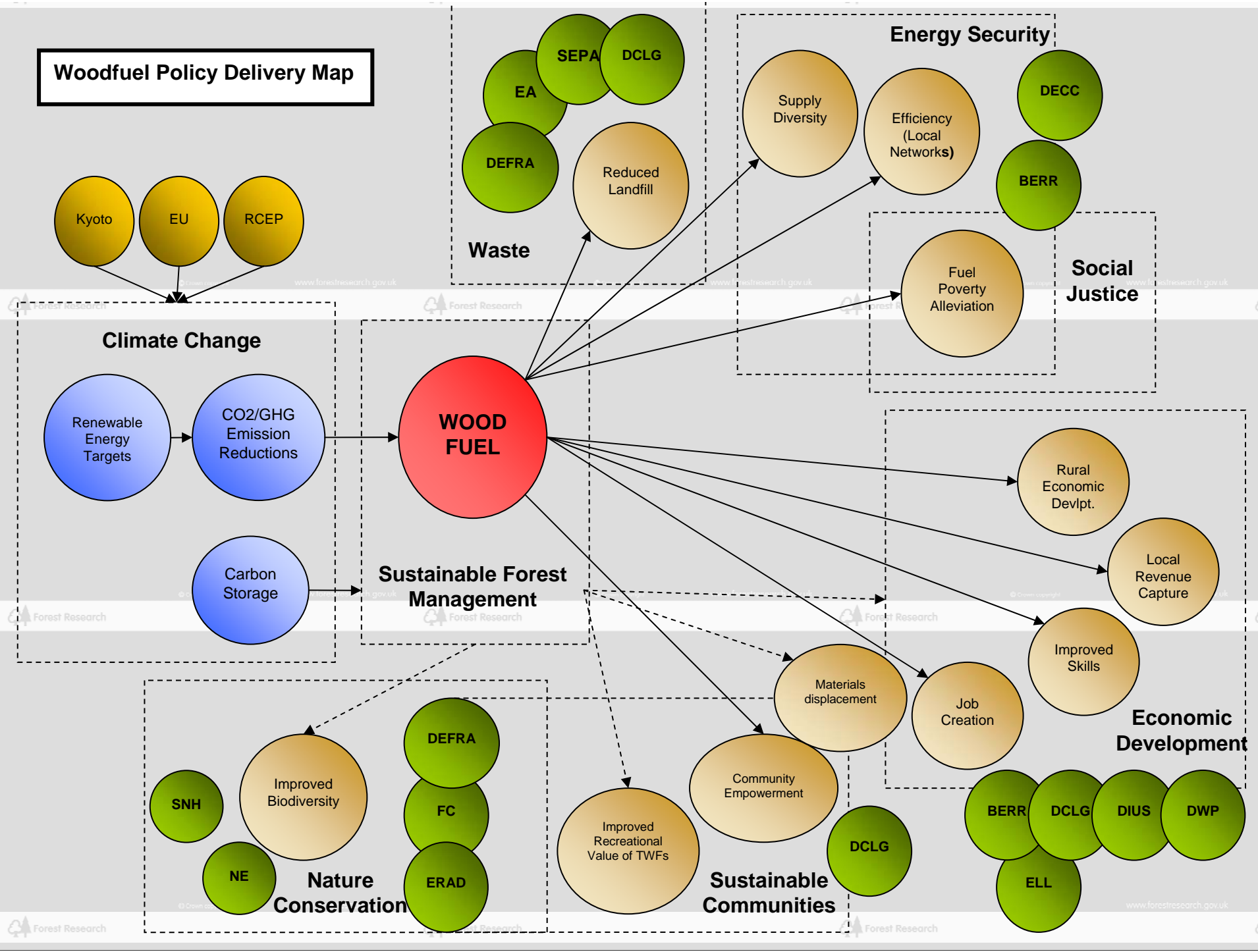
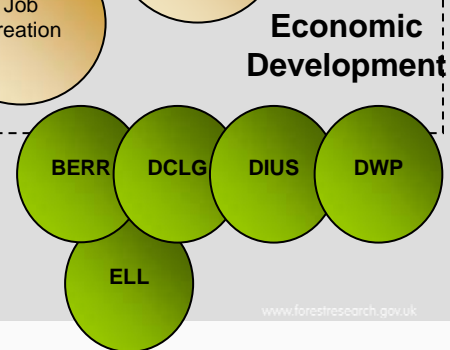
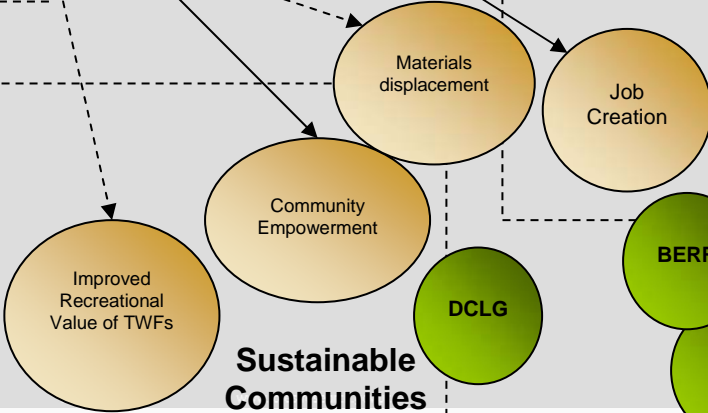
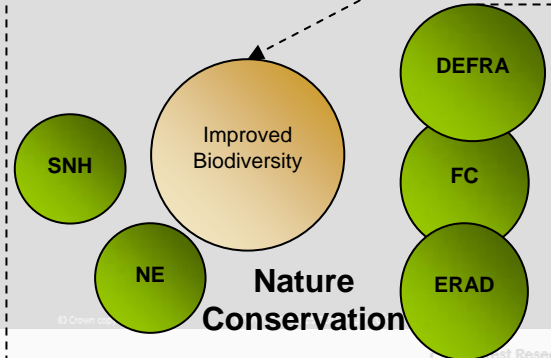
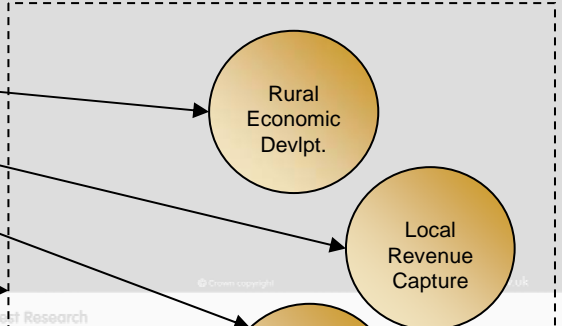
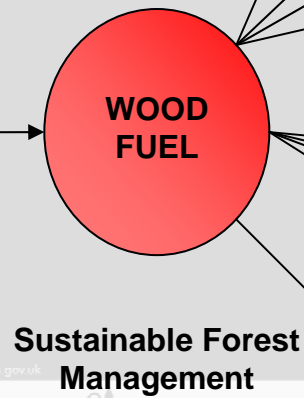
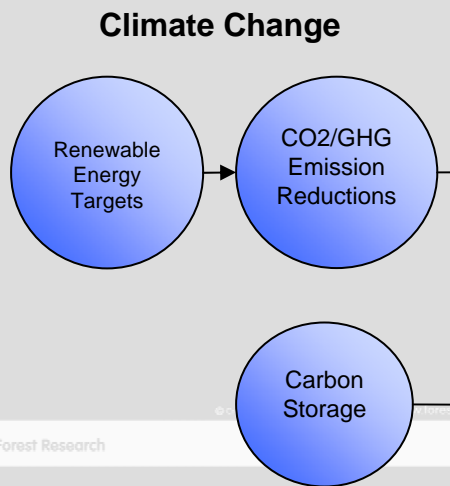
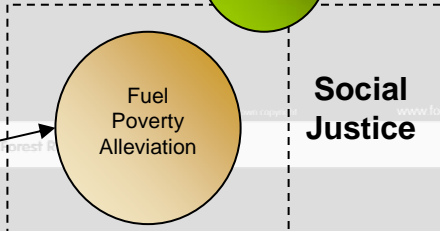
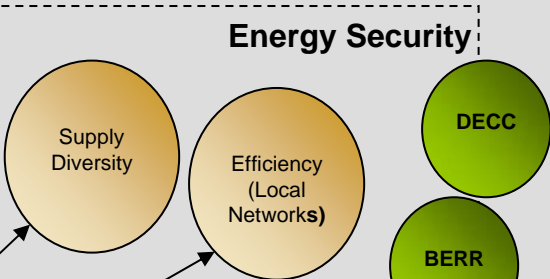
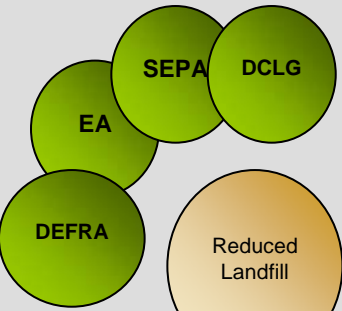
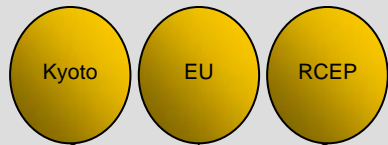
- Each of the devolved Commissions have the objective to increase the woodfuel resource through:
 - *improved and increased* woodland management
 - new planting
- Targets not easy to compare as they include various types of material and have differing objectives:
 - Wales ⇒ **0.692m ODt/y** ‘clean wood’ (251MW) – currently 0.183m ODt/y *available*
 - England ⇒ 2m GMt/y (c. **1m ODt/y**), 50% of ‘unharvested’ resource (by 2020)
 - Scotland ⇒ 1m GMt/y (c. **0.5m ODt/y**) (by 2020) – currently 0.41m ODt/y



Policy – barrier #2 ?



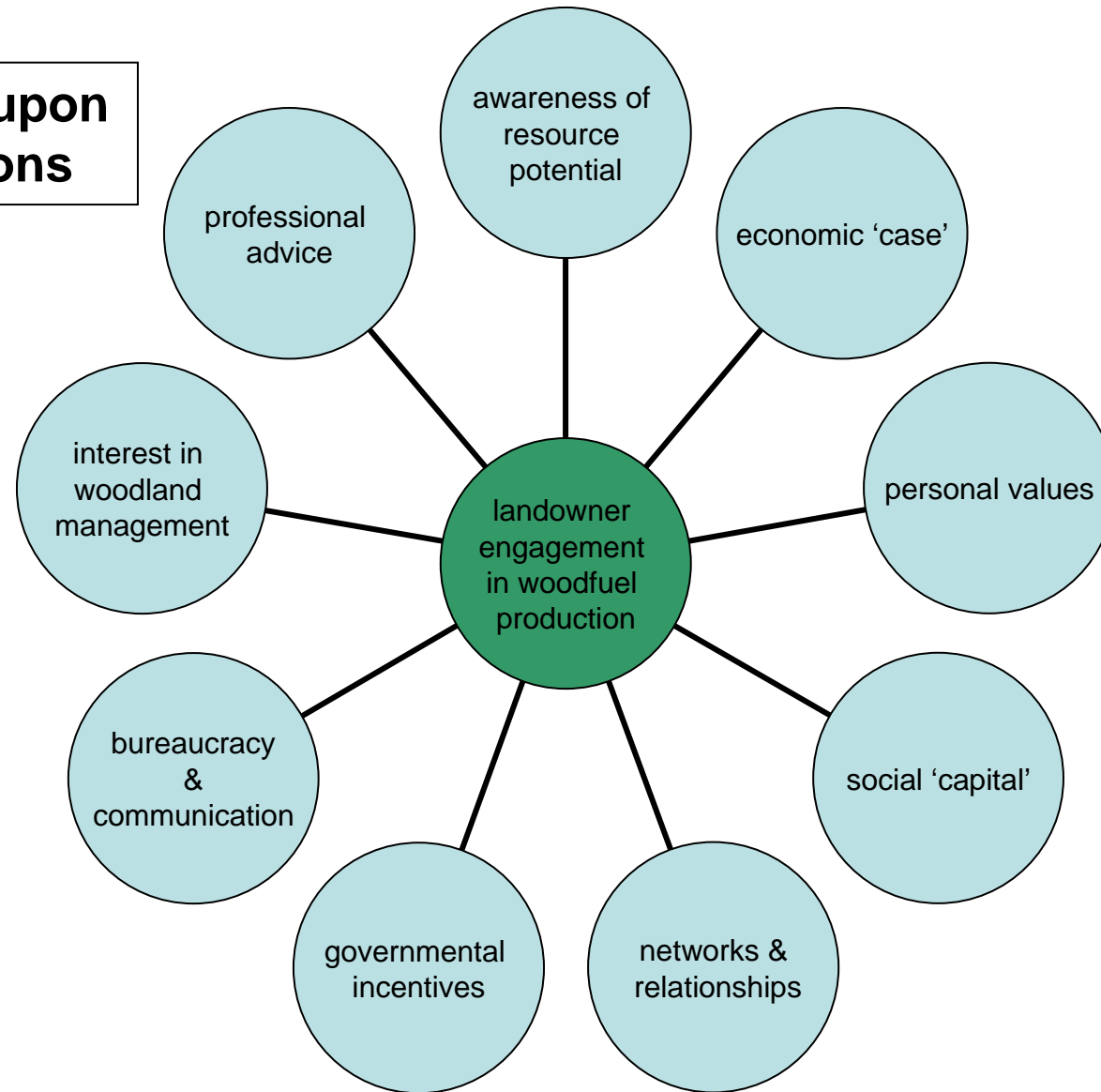
Woodfuel Policy Delivery Map



Research Focus

1. What influences private landowners decisions regarding woodfuel production?
e.g. barrier = lack of landowner engagement
2. What forms of partnerships are appropriate to the establishment of an effective woodfuel sector? (and what is the role of the Forestry Commission?)
e.g. barrier = ineffective or contradictory working
3. How do 'the public' understand and perceive the use of woodfuel, and woodland management for woodfuel?
e.g. barrier = public opposition?
4. What skills are necessary to support an effective woodfuel sector and what changes in employment will there be?
e.g. barrier = lack of skilled workforce

(Some) Influences upon landowner decisions





Methodological challenges

- Can woodfuel be treated as a discrete product / issue for social & economic research?
- Landowners – who are they and how to categorise? (are farm woods a discrete sector?)
- Woodfuel as a system – what to look at? Where do partnerships start and finish?
- Understanding relative change – interaction of markets and employment?