

## Bowland Bioenergy - *Technical Information*

### ***Pdf 7. HARVESTING WOOD FUEL***

As woodland grows, some tree species and some trees of the same species will grow more rapidly than others. The resulting shade thrown by the bigger trees will suppress the less vigorous specimens and they will remain as poor quality 'under storey' trees or die out completely. There is a finite volume of timber which can be grown on a given area of land. Put simply, the woodland manager must decide whether this should consist of a large number of small trees or a smaller number of large trees. Once the trees reach 30 years of age they are capable of providing a range of products. Thus the larger diameter timber will go for sawmilling, medium sized logs for fencing and small diameter material for fence posts, paper or board making or as raw material for wood fuel.

True wildwood is a tangle of fallen and dying trees for much of its life cycle. In some cases none of the trees manage to establish clear dominance until there is a natural disaster such as storm or fire damage.

Management of woodland involves removing these less vigorous trees when the better quality trees require the growing space and ideally when they are capable of being used as a product. This allows the main body of the wood to grow and develop at its optimum capacity without any harmful side effects. Thus the volume of timber on a given area of land increases over time. This growing process absorbs carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, contributing to the carbon neutrality of the wood fuel.

When and if any areas of woodland are clear felled, they are replanted with four or five trees of appropriate species for each tree removed. These younger trees absorb large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> in growing to high forest. In Great Britain, the felling of trees is closely controlled with wide ranging consultation with all affected parties being required and an approved working method established before a licence is granted.

The photographs show our trees being felled and cut into lengths before being removed from the wood in accordance with the Forestry Commission approved Management Plan. This machine being used is a forwarder equipped with a hydraulic crane which is used to load and unload the trailer.

Once the logs are outside the wood they are stored until dry and then are processed into fuel by being fed through the chipper and are stored prior to dispatch to the customer by road vehicle.



Bowland Bioenergy, based in Lancashire, produces dried wood chips – and supplies wood pellets – for wood burning boilers. The company was founded in 2005 and has grown to be one of the North's leading biomass companies. Wood fuel of the highest quality (BS EN 14961) is produced year-round and the company was the first biomass supplier to achieve the prestigious HETAS Accreditation for wood chip.

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