

## Equipment:

- Pruning saw
- Measuring tape of at least 10 metres long
- DBH tape (or 'girthing tape')
- Calculator
- Secateurs
- Pen and paper

## Procedure:

1. Establish inspection paths in your Sitka spruce forest
2. Establish a square plot measuring 10 metres by 10 metres.
3. Brush all trees within this square plot
4. Using the form below,
  - a. Count number of all live trees over 7cm DBH in plot.
  - b. Measure the DBH of all live trees over 7cm DBH in the plot.
5. Use results to read from the table overleaf if your Sitka spruce forest is ready for thinning

Count <b>number</b> of all live trees over 7cm DBH in plot:	(A)
Number of stems per hectare: Multiply (A) X 100 =	(B)
Measure the <b>Diameter at Breast Height</b> (DBH) of all live trees over 7cm DBH in the plot.  <i>Please note: DBH is measured at exactly 1.3 metre from ground level</i>	(C)
Sum of (C)	(D)
Average DBH Divide (D) / (A) =	(E)

Use **number of stems per hectare (B)** and **average Diameter at Breast Height (E)** to read from the table overleaf if your Sitka spruce forest is ready for thinning.

*Remember, this is only a guide and you should seek professional forestry advice prior to thinning.*

DBH cm	Stems per hectare									
	2500	2400	2300	2200	2100	2000	1900	1800	1700	
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										
20										

Not suitable for thinning      Get ready for thinning      Suitable for thinning