

# Broadleaf Forestry Research

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## Context

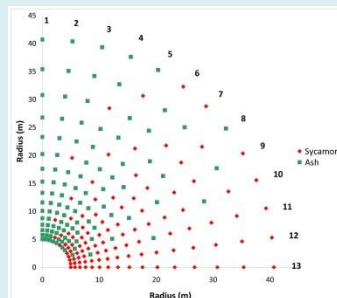
- The national forest estate  $\approx$  11% of land area.
- Industry main focus is on Sitka spruce
- $> \frac{1}{4}$  of forest area is broadleaf
- Broadleaf planting increased from mid 1990s, planted by private owners
- Broadleaf silviculture knowledge is limited

- Many broadleaf stands are poor quality
  - Incorrect species choice for site
  - Poor quality planting stock
  - Lack of timely management
  - Pests (e.g. squirrel), disease (e.g. 'Chalara' ash dieback)
- Management options
  - Thinning
  - Remedial silviculture

## RMIS project

*Management, monitoring and dissemination of long-term broadleaf silviculture trials*

- Establishment of broadleaf mixtures
  - Shelter-in-advance
  - Configuration
  - Spacing
- Tending/Thinning



- Remedial silviculture
  - Free-growth
  - Underplanting
  - Coppice-with-standards
  - Coppicing of oak

- Demo days for industry and farm-foresters



- Shade tunnels
  - Impact of light on tree growth
  - Four levels of shade
  - Previously planted with oak, beech and ash
  - Replanted with birch and sycamore

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