



Forestry Commission
North West England

High Stand Forest Design Plan

Achievements

This map tries to illustrate the main achievements since the design plan was last approved in 2002.

The storm of January 2005 caused extensive damage across the forest, creating scattered swathes of fallen trees. Most of this timber has been gradually cleared leaving only small isolated pockets.

A programme of mulching has been carried out to prepare the ground for planting.









The conservation area has an ongoing programme of works to maintain & enhance the woodland & riparian habitats including:
Removing excessive woody regeneration & overhanging vegetation from dams & pool edges.
Maintaining open glades within the woodland, along the forest road edge & pond outflow channels.
Stacking logs for wildlife habitats & removing brush from waterbody edges.

This clearfell programmed for 2002 to 2006 Clearfell Period was delayed in order to deal with the aftermath of the 2005 storm & the windblow clearance.

A programme of cleaning out competing broadleaf regrowth amongst the young Douglas fir crop is currently underway.

Competing broadleaf regrowth has been cleaned out from the young Sitka spruce crop.

Forest roadside flailing is carried out annually to encourage & enhance a diverse floral & invertebrate population. This work also enhances the for visitors & maintains road integrity. Annual mowing of the outer roadside boundary of the woodland has similar effects & gives a tidy appearance.

-  Roadside Flailing
-  2002 to 2006 Clearfell Not Achieved
-  Post 2005 Windblow Clearance
-  2005 Cleaning of Young Spruce
-  2009 Cleaning of Young Douglas Fir
-  2009 Mulched for Restocking
-  Pond & Conservation Area Maintenance
-  Plan Boundary

Date Summer 2009
Scale 1:10,000
Contact Adrian Jones
07720700321



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Review Issues

This map tries to identify the main issues that have emerged since the plan was last reviewed & need to be resolved for the plan to successfully deliver the Forest District Strategic Plan.

High Stand is susceptible to catastrophic wind events & was severely affected by storms in 1998 & 2005. This has had a huge impact on the forest design.

The forest is regenerating prolifically with birch & to a lesser extent other broadleaves. This is having an adverse impact on recent restocking.

- Car Park
- Broadleaved Regeneration
- Restocking Area
- Existing Blue Clearfell Coupe
- Unstable Mature Forest
- Extent of Continuous Cover
- Plan Boundary

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The extent of continuous cover & 'biological retention' identified in the previous design plan is considered to be appropriate & the aim is to increase this coverage where suitable.

The depths of the fishing ponds need to be calculated as they may be subject to reservoir status.

Corsican Pine is affected by Red Band Needle Blight (RBNB) so future growth will be increasingly poor. Scots pine growth is also poor. Future thinning will not improve growth of either species but will encourage an already existing understorey of birch which isn't apparent on the map.

The existing blue clearfell coupe has been extended to include the area displayed by the blue hatching which represents the increasingly mature & unstable tree crop.

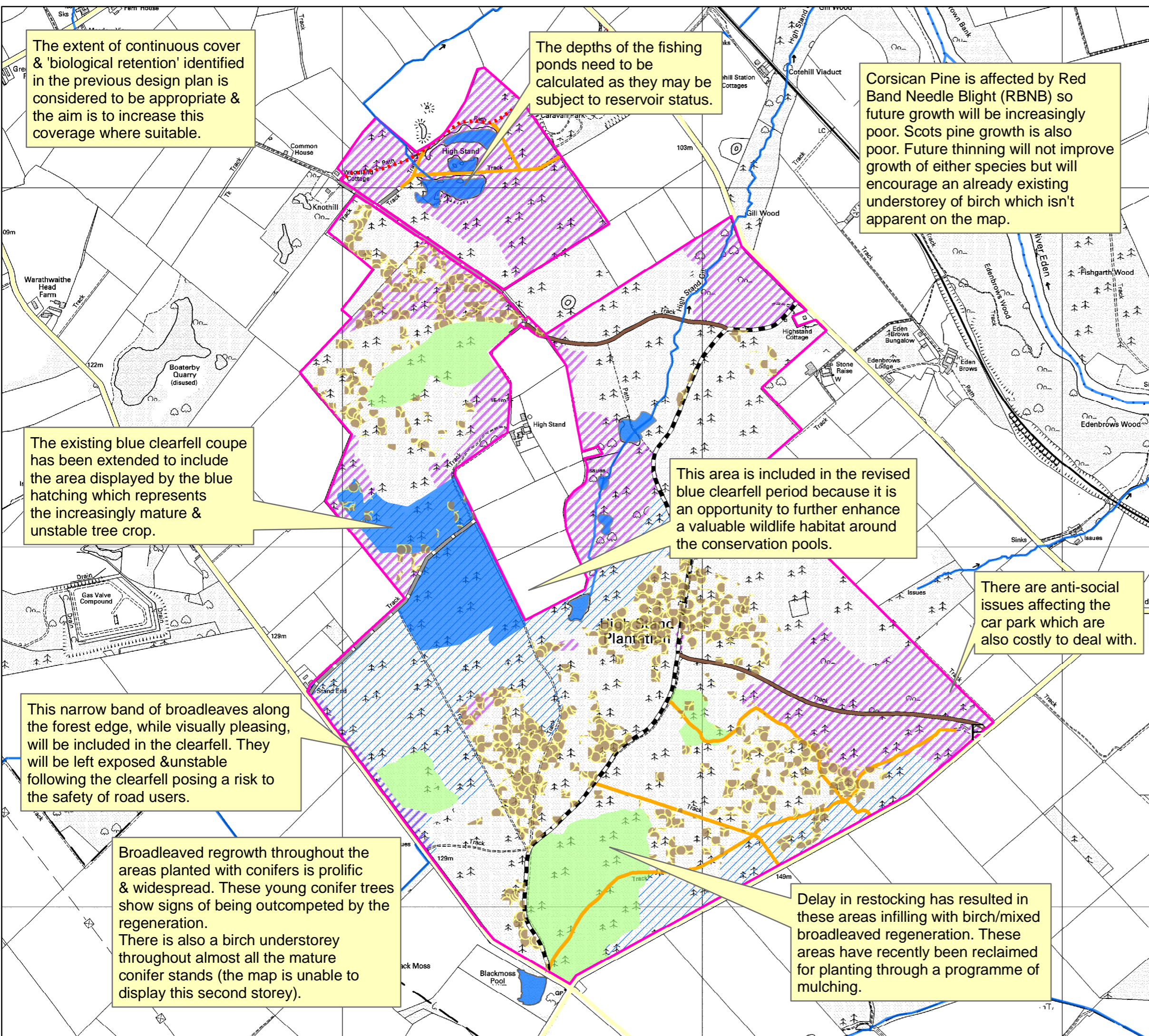
This area is included in the revised blue clearfell period because it is an opportunity to further enhance a valuable wildlife habitat around the conservation pools.

There are anti-social issues affecting the car park which are also costly to deal with.

This narrow band of broadleaves along the forest edge, while visually pleasing, will be included in the clearfell. They will be left exposed & unstable following the clearfell posing a risk to the safety of road users.

Broadleaved regrowth throughout the areas planted with conifers is prolific & widespread. These young conifer trees show signs of being outcompeted by the regeneration. There is also a birch understorey throughout almost all the mature conifer stands (the map is unable to display this second storey).

Delay in restocking has resulted in these areas infilling with birch/mixed broadleaved regeneration. These areas have recently been reclaimed for planting through a programme of mulching.







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Design Concept

This map draws together all the survey information illustrated in the previous maps & tries to zone the plan area into similar character areas with similar attributes, aims & objectives.

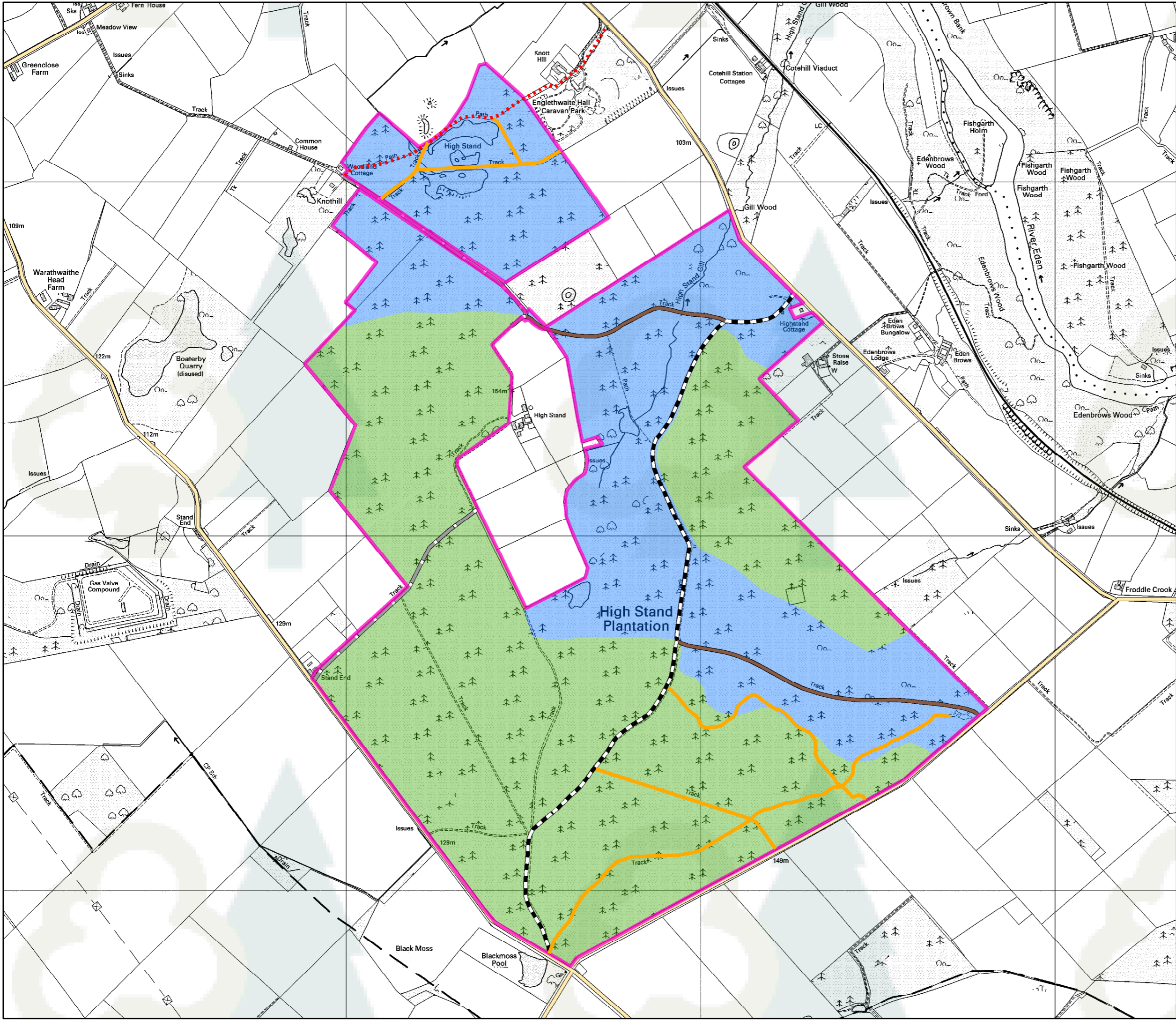
Over the next two maps each zone is described in more detail along with proposed actions over the next plan period.

	North Eastern Slopes
	South Western Slopes

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High Stand Forest Design Plan

Design Concept North Eastern Slopes

Description:

This zone is the most recreated with visitors entering from the Caravan Park to the north & from the main car park. This zone is more sheltered & offers the greatest opportunity to diversify forest species & maintain a stable woodland environment for existing valuable wildlife habitats through continuous cover management.

Aims:

Maintain & enhance existing wildlife habitats to benefit dependent species.

Develop the remainder of the zone not designated as minimal retention as continuous cover through regular thinning, releasing regeneration & underplanting.

Ensure safety & usability of all well-used paths & rights of way.

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Pine species to be replaced by larch at restocking & then managed under continuous cover. A proportion of other conifer species up to 20% but excepting pine, will be considered if suitable to the site.

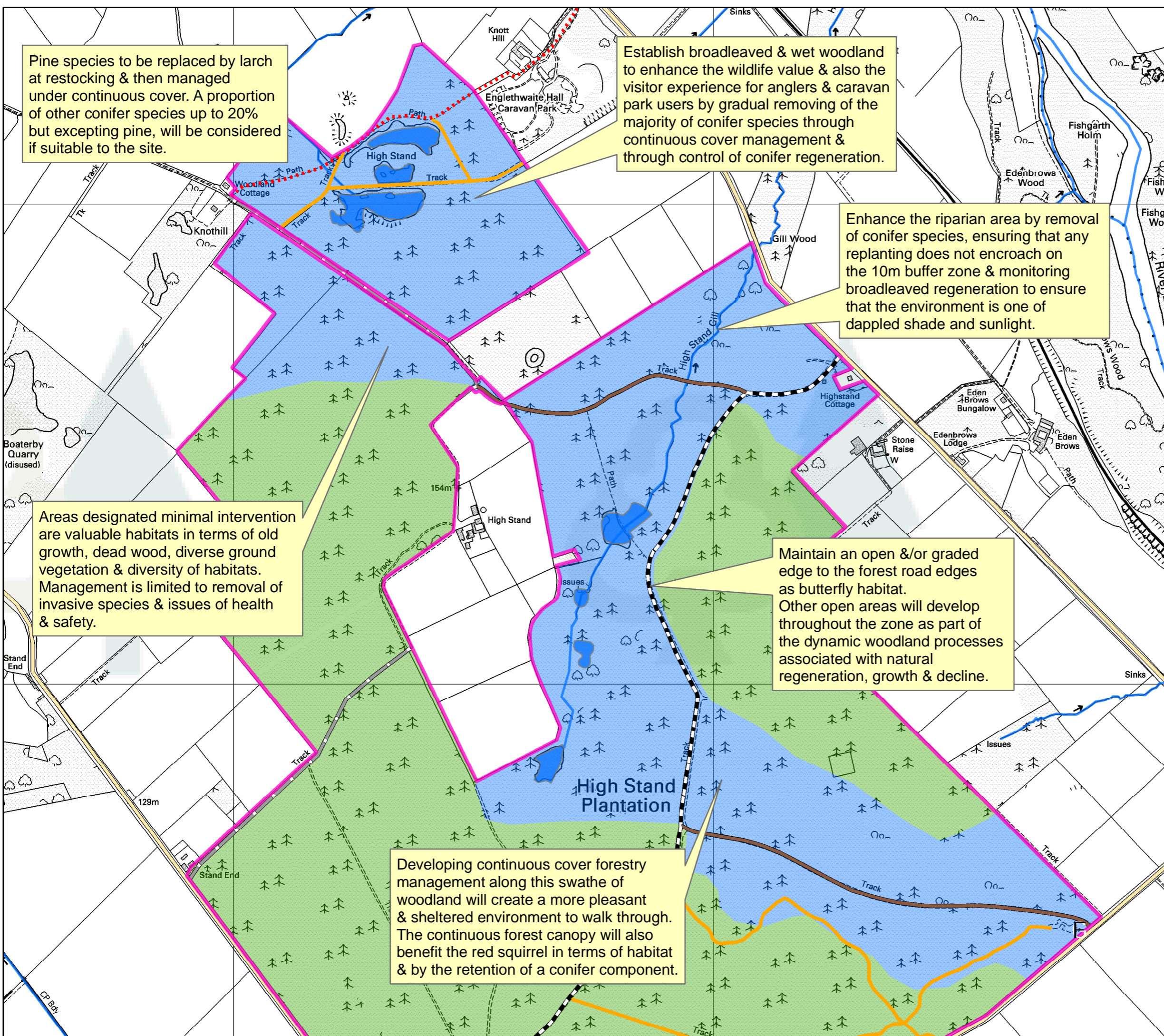
Establish broadleaved & wet woodland to enhance the wildlife value & also the visitor experience for anglers & caravan park users by gradual removing of the majority of conifer species through continuous cover management & through control of conifer regeneration.

Enhance the riparian area by removal of conifer species, ensuring that any replanting does not encroach on the 10m buffer zone & monitoring broadleaved regeneration to ensure that the environment is one of dappled shade and sunlight.

Areas designated minimal intervention are valuable habitats in terms of old growth, dead wood, diverse ground vegetation & diversity of habitats. Management is limited to removal of invasive species & issues of health & safety.

Maintain an open &/or graded edge to the forest road edges as butterfly habitat. Other open areas will develop throughout the zone as part of the dynamic woodland processes associated with natural regeneration, growth & decline.

Developing continuous cover forestry management along this swathe of woodland will create a more pleasant & sheltered environment to walk through. The continuous forest canopy will also benefit the red squirrel in terms of habitat & by the retention of a conifer component.





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High Stand
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Design Concept South Western Slopes

Description:

This zone is characterised by its exposed location. Subject to prevailing south-westerly winds & wetter soils, trees are more prone to windblow & therefore not suitable for continuous cover management. High Stand is a highly productive forest & this zone provides opportunities for growing quality conifers under a clearfell system.

Aims:

Continue to manage the tree crop under a clearfell & restock system ensuring the design minimises the impact of the prevailing SW winds.

Control broadleaved regeneration where it threatens to outcompete the conifer crop by ensuring planting & cleaning operations are not delayed.

Ensure thinning operations are prioritised to maximise crop stability & encourage optimal growth.

Enhance the visitor experience by maintaining a broadleaved edge on the conifer coupes.

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Opportunity will be taken to retain an element of mature & regenerating broadleaves & conifers, & open space providing a variety of habitats & structural diversity.

Restock felled areas with highly productive non-pine conifer species suited to the site conditions aiming to maintain a level of species diversity. This diversity will also improve the external & internal appearance of the forest.

Clearfell poor growing Corsican & Scots pine & restock with more productive species. There are minimal internal & external visual considerations in this area.

All the SW facing forest edges are highly prone to wind damage. Future felling patterns will need to reflect this to minimise its impact.

Walkers use this network of permissive paths regularly. Path edges will be fringed with broadleaves to soften the edges of the conifer planting.

