Wark Forest Design Plan

Introduction

The Wark Forest design plan covers 10,467 hectares of the southern area of the Kielder Forest. The terrain of the area is generally of rolling hills running East to West through the plan area. The dominant view is external to the forest, it being the view look North from Hadrian’s wall to the southern boundary of the forest. The forest by effectively surrounding Stonehaugh village act as both a gate way and backdrop to the village. The wind hazard class of the plan area is generally high (the majority being design as class 5), opportunities to employ continuous cover forestry are therefore limited. The majority of crops are growing well (achieving yield class 12), and are a mixture of younger second rotation crops, and first rotation crops of which a significant proportion are at or past the date of economic maturity. The following table lays out the main features driving the revision of the design plan, and their influence on the felling and restocking plans

Achievements since last revision

1. View from Hadrian’s Wall world heritage site: the restructuring of the southern boundary visible from the Wall continues to be restructures as felling and restocking take place. As can be seen the forest boundary is no longer the harsh straight line of the original forest and will be soften further as restructuring progresses

2. Ancient monument: the two scheduled ancient monument, Blackaburn shelter (smr 25123) and Small burn shelterings (smr 25134, 25135), continue to be protected.

3. Moorland boundary: Moorland Boundary: an element of open woodland is being established at the forest open moor interface

4. Area of Ancient semi natural woodland (ASNW) and ancient replanted woodland (PAWs): The ANSW site at Stonehaugh remain as native woodland

5. Border mires: SSS1 border mires that where afforested have now been clear of forest cover drains blocked and cleared of any natural regeneration. All are now in unfavorable recovering condition and meet the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 2010 target

6. Right of way are being left unplanted at restocking, the width of the unplanted land along rights of way will be varied, but never less than 3m for footpaths and 4m for bridleways. Trees planted adjacent to public rights of way will be pruned as required to maintain free access

Alterations to felling and restocking proposals

Felling proposal: some minor changes to coupe boundaries, and the scheduled felling of two coupe has been altered to smooth production, and the area previously designated for management as continuous cover at Pundershow rationalized due to the onset of windthrow.

Restocking proposal: Redistribute the restocking of Sitka spruce and other conifer in light of the moratorium on restocking with Lodgepole pine due to the disease Red Band Needle Blight
The main watercourses running through the Forest form the main structural feature. Additional open space and broadleaf planting can emphasise these. Consider regenerating will be allowed in small pockets so long as this does not affect the overall visual and ecological integrity.

The ancient monuments are present within the plan area; these can be opened up by clear-felling and maintained as open space through subsequent rotations.

Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LABEL</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient woodland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadrians wall setting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest moorland interface</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non FC woodland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main recreation zone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border mires</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main watercourses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>archaeology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forestry Commission
Kielder Forest

Design Concept

Scale: 1:60,000
Date: Jan 2011

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey, reissue by the Crown through the Ordnance Survey Office. Copyright vests in Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved. No use may be made of this map or any part thereof for profit or gain. Forestry Commission 00662489

Forester

Black grouse

Though ari clearing, diversifying the forest edge, the introduction of a proportion of open woodland, and transient open space through clear-felling. Look to provide a forest structure with the potential to support a black grouse.

Red squirrel

Ensure that the clear-felling and restocking proposals do not compromise the potential red squirrel conservation value of Spadeadam.

Ancient woodland

A number of ancient overwoods are present within the plan area; these can be opened up by clear-felling and maintained as open space through subsequent rotations.

Non-Forestry Commission plantation which obscures views of part of Whin Forest

Approximate zone of greatest recreational use in Whin Forest. The mean stable sites take opportuinity to employ continuous cover management, notably around the Scone high area. Consider the shape of felling coupes especially where the Pennine Way traverses the forest.

Ancient woodland site

Maintain or re-establish native broadleaf trees for wildlife.

Area of highest visibility from Household section of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. Felling here needs to be carefully considered within the constraints imposed by wind hazard and coupe age. Restocking to include open space and broadleaves, and provide great degree of interlock and relation to landform and scale for future felling.
The southern section of Wark forest is visible from the Roman wall notably from the popular attraction of Housesteads Roman fort. The harsh straight external boundaries of the original first rotation forest are now being broken by the restructuring at restocking, this will continue as the remaining first rotation crops are harvested.