Deadwater Forest Design Plan

Introduction

The Deadwater forest design plan covers 2045 hectares of the forest to the West of Kielder village. The terrain is mix of the south-facing slope of Deadwater fell north of the Kielder to Newcastle road and more rolling terrain to the south. The wind hazard class of the plan area also reflects the variation in altitude, the lower slopes presenting more stable sites. Opportunities therefore exist to employ continuous cover forestry on the more stable sites, though the some crops are beyond a point where conversion is practical and high wind hazard class 5 of the upper slopes limits the ability to manage crops other than through clearfelling and restocking. 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 the majority 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. Ancient monuments: The scheduled ancient monuments of Bell Hunkin (smr no 251 09, Romano British settlement) and Kershope Castle (smr 32716 remains of a medieval tower) no works carried out since last review
2. Lower slopes: Present more stable site types and therefore greater opportunities for employing continuous cover forestry (CCF), and management through CCF silviculture is now taking place where the site and the crop's status suitable
3. Ancient semi natural (ASNW) and ancient replanted woodland (PAWs): Areas of ancient semi natural and ancient replanted woodland exits adjacent to Kielder. It is proposed to roll over PAWs sites to native broadleaves slowly through continuous cover forestry. Though only at early stage of conversion process
4. Link to southern Scotland forests: The whole of Kidder forest has long term value for the conservation of red Squirrels however the links between Deadwater and the Scottish forest of Wauchope. Significantly increases the area of contiguous suitable habitat. Connectivity maintained with suitable continuous habitat.
5. Upper restocking boundary: Three Pikes (Deadwater): Adjust the restocking proposals to account for the natural regeneration whilst maintaining a acceptable upper boundary within the wider landscape now implemented
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
7. Lower slopes: Present more stable site types and therefore greater opportunities for employing continuous cover forestry (CCF), and management through CCF silviculture is now taking place where the site and the crop's status suitable
8. Boundary: an element of open woodland is being established at the forest open moor interface

Alteration to felling and restocking proposals

Felling proposals: some minor changes to coupe boundaries

Restocking proposals: 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
View From C200 at Mounces

Felling Proposals

Restocking Proposals
View From Skyspace

Felling Proposals

Restocking Proposals

Scale
Date
1:60,000
Jan 2011