East Kielder Forest Design Plan

Introduction

The East Kielder forest design plan covers 3698 hectares of the forest to the North of Kielder village including the Arehercleugh and Ewehill areas of Kielder Forest. The terrain of the area is a slope generally to the west, with the lower slopes dominating views to the East of Kidder village and castle. 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 lower slopes, though the high wind hazard class (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. Visually prominent forest edge: The western edge of Ewe hill forms a prominent straight edge running against the landform. Some restructur of the forest edge has take place since the last review though process not complete
2. Ancient monuments: The following schedule ancient monuments fall within the plan area, Mid Fell Round Cairn (smr 25108) and Brian’s wall Romano British Settlement (smr 25110). The monuments have been physically checked since the last plan review, and condition has not deteriorated.
3. Moorland Boundary: an element of open woodland is being established at the forest open moor interface
4. Williams Cleugh Scots pine: Williams Cleugh is a small group of old Scots pine predating the current forest and thought potentially to be of native origin. Some young seedling produced from seed from the trees have been planted since last review. However, the germination rate of seed collected has been very poor.

Alterations to felling and restocking proposals

Felling proposal: some minor changes to coupe boundaries

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.
Forester

William's Clough

An area of Scots pine at the head of the clough may well be of native origin. The area has been supplemented through the planting of seedlings grown from collected seed. Look to extend presence of this pine up the clough.

Upper boundary

At present the upper boundary does not respond to landform. Restock at restocking, mainly to bring the productive plantation tree line down the hill. Sustain the forest edge between the SSSI moorland and forest at restocking through the introduction of open woodland.

Ancient monuments

A number of ancient monuments are present within the plantation area here they can be spread up at clearfelling and maintained as open space through subsequent rotations.

Ancient woodland site

Maintain as a native woodland site, through natural regeneration where possible.

Visually Prominent Forest Edge

Look at restocking to establish a more appropriate forest edge that responds to landform.

Kielder Barn

The main watercourse running through the area (Kielder burn) is a site of particular interest for its fish communities. Notably as a location of the national rare Northern Pike Rush.

Lower Zone

Sensitive in terms of recreational use, landscape and conservation interest. No large scale felling, and a wide variety of species to be planted, and opportunities for management through continuous cover forest.

Middle Zone

Sensitive in terms of landscape interest and forest structure. A tree mainly associated with the watercourses provide opportunities for a wider range of species.

Recreational Use

The main recreation interest in the area is associated with the forest drive and mountain bike routes, small-scale diversity in these areas can add to the experience of visitors.

Legend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient woodland site</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kielder burn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower zone</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle zone</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Margin</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Visually prominent forest edge</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>William's clough</td>
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</tbody>
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Design Concept

Scale

1:40,000

Date

Jan 2011