Redesdale Forest Design Plan

Introduction

The Redesdale Forest design plan covers 5,002 hectares and covers the northern section of Kielder Forest. The terrain is dominated by the valleys of the rivers Rede and Blakehope, and Spithope burns the sides of which form the main landform within the plan area, opening out to a plateau of the fells above. The A68 also runs through the plan area, it is the only primary traffic route running through the Kielder forest. The mixed forest that abuts the route is a significant feature of the journey along the route. The wind hazard class of the plan area are generally high (the majority being designated as class 5). It arises to reflect the increase in altitude moving up the valley sides, the valley bottoms and lower slopes present the most stable areas and opportunities to employ continuous cover forestry. 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.

Achievements/alterations since last revision

1. Moorland Boundary: an element of open woodland is being established at the forest open moor interface
2. Ancient monument: The 3 Kings four poster stones and round cairn (snr 25074), Dour hills Ing cairn (snr 25098) and round cairn on the western slopes of Dour hill (snr 28885) all have agreed management plans though no significant works since last review.
3. Ancient semi natural (ASNW) and ancient replanted woodland (PAWs): two ancient woodland sites are present Robs wood (PAWs) and Dead wood (ASNW) since the last revision restocking part of Robs wood, and extension planting at dead wood planting with native has taken place with native broadleaf species

Alterations to felling and restocking proposals

Felling proposals: some minor changes to coupe boundaries

Restocking proposals: Redeistribute 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.
Important Woodland Edge Habitat

Recent felling has provided a more mixed habitat, which among other things is being utilized by black grouse. Opportunities therefore exist to extend this habitat and maintain an element of immaturity within the woodland structure.

A68 Corridor

Visual sensitive area within the plan area, however the sheltered nature and better soils provide the greatest scope to utilize lower impact agricultural systems. Therefore in terms of enhance the visual diversity.

Ancient Woodland Site

Extend the area of native broadleaf woodland associated with the ancient planted and ancient semi natural woodland site at Fresh Wood. Look to link the two sites through nature regeneration.

Highly Visible Forest Boundaries

Opportunities need to be taken at restocking to replant the boundary more in keeping with the local area.

Forest Drive

A major recreational facility within the district. A need to introduce diversity into the route as keeping with the recreational use by vehicles.

Forest SSSI/NNR boundary

The Kielder and SSSI and NNR are an important moorland habitat, care therefore needs to be taken to ensure that the restoration not only conforms to land form but that also habitat links to the matrix of the forest block occur, utilizing the major water course.

Main Water Course

These provide areas with the greatest potential for the introduction of species diversity, due to the generally better soils and greater shelter associated with them.

Legend

Category
- Ancient woodland
- Forest drive
- Forest NNR/SSSI boundary
- Moorland edge
- A68 road corridor
- Recreation site
- Highly visible site edge
- Neighbouring forests
- Main watercourses

Scale: 1:50,000
Date: Jan 2011

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