



Accessible text from Map 3: Concept

Text begins from uppermost box in the centre of the map working clockwise. The box at the bottom of the map appears last in this list.

Climate

Constraints and Opportunities:

Soil types and exposed areas will limit suitable species choice. Future warmer drier summers likely to present seasonal water availability issues for drought prone, shallow rooting species on freely draining soils. Wetter winters may negatively affect the stability of shallow rooting species on sandy ironpans with shallow peat layers. There are opportunities to improve climate resilience via increased species diversification, thinning, and transitioning more areas to LISS.

Concept:

Improve climate change resilience via increased species diversification and implementation of thinning regimes and transition to LISS where appropriate. Reshape certain coupe shapes and felling orders to improve wind firmness and reduce exposure of young crops.

Timber Production

Constraints and Opportunities:

Some windblown areas require attention. Poor soils limit species diversification options. Higher wind levels in some areas reduce management options. More sheltered coupes provide opportunities for first thinnings. High levels of natural regeneration in certain areas presents options for LISS conversion. Opportunities for re-ordering and re-sizing coupes size to improve climate and wind resilience.

Concept:

Focus on quality timber production via undertaking first thinnings in suitable coupes and implementing thinning regimes going forward. Reshape and restructure coupes to increase wind firmness and mitigate climate change related impacts. Future proof the block via continued diversification and shifting were possible to LISS.

Landscape

Constraints and Opportunities:

Will take longer than the timescale of the plan to fully realise landscape improvements. Loss of larch reduces visual diversification options. Opportunity to use LISS in visible areas to maintain forest cover and increase diversity. Options to create transitional open-broadleaf zone when Round Fell area felled. Restocking should be sensitive to core path and visitor zones.

Concept:

Continue with diversification of species and age class. Introduce more broadleaved elements to compensate for the loss of the larch. Begin transition to LISS systems in suitable areas. Create softer edges on higher visible slopes.

Biodiversity

Constraints and Opportunities:

Deer numbers restrict the potential for establishment of palatable species. New roading requirements in woodland creation zone may negatively impact local biodiversity. Some areas difficult to access making future management difficult.

Extending rotation lengths of some coupes could improve forest structure. Maintenance of prescriptive grazing rights could help manage sensitive grasslands in woodland creation area. Increasing LISS management and

expansion of broadleaved riparian zones and maintenance of open areas would benefit numerous species.

Concept:

Improve overall biodiversity via implementation of thinning and LISS where possible. Expand broadleaved riparian corridors, specifically along Glaisters/Drumcow Burn and Southwick Burn. Provide habitat opportunities for black grouse and Peregrines via open habitat provision.

Water

Constraints and Opportunities:

There are a number of watercourses present across the Plascow block, additionally there are a number of PWSs with proximity to the block. Currently, Glaisters Burn and Southwick Burn are rated Good for water quality.

Concept:

Maintain good water quality rating of local watercourses and minimise pollution risks via adherence to guidelines. Introduce and expand broadleaved riparian zones to help maintain water quality and prevent run-off and acidification. Reduce clearfell sizes and implement LISS where suitable.

Roads and Haulage

Constraints and Opportunities:

Possible route restrictions on roading required to access woodland creation area. The public road is a Restricted Timber Transport Route thereby potentially limiting daily haulage limit. Good existing road network with on-site quarry. Opportunity to reduce coupe size to mitigate transport route limitations.

Concept:

Create new access road into woodland creation area to carry out thinnings. Continue road repairs as required. Reduce coupe size where possible.

Objectives

1. Resilience: Recover timber in a significant proportion of windblown coupes before further degradation and loss of income and redesign felling order and coupe shape to help prevent further windblow.
2. Sustainable timber: Continue to restructure the age class and diversify species. Initiate a transition to Low Impact Silvicultural Systems where wind, soils and crop age allow via implementation of a thinning program to ensure production of quality saw logs and other timber products.
3. Biodiversity: Maintain and enhance the species richness of the woodland and open habitats to benefit biodiversity and the landscape setting by continuing to create and maintain broadleaf riparian corridors and transitioning areas around Roundfell and Maidenpap to mixed woodland and open space.

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