Accessible text from Map 3 – Analysis & Concept

* Landscape Zone

Concept:

Improve designated landscape characteristics of the forest block as a back drop to New Abbey within the National Scenic Area of the Nith Estuary. Retaining key viewpoints along the A710,

B793 and other minor public roads surrounding the composite.

Analysis:

Investigate whether thinning within the National Scenic Area to remove larch and regenerated conifer would be appropriate management to retain landscape character requirements which are in keeping with the Nith Estuary designation. Design restock, diversifying species where possible in areas around the block and investigate opportunities for Low Impact Silvicultural Systems for to develop the external views along the public roads and the impact on local landscape views.

* Core Production Zone

Concept:

Ensure sustainable timber production from the block with a plantation that is predominantly upland Sitka Spruce with mixed broadleaves.

Analysis:

Opportunities to maximise saw log content of the crop, will be investigated to increase the area which is part of the regional thinning programme and extend rotation length of 2nd rotation forest to future improved stand age structure. Clearfell will continue to be used in unsuitable sites, such as those that are exposed. There is a good forest road network and existing quarries providing site-won material that will help to facilitate this over the term of the plan.

* Open Habitats Zone

Concept:

Habitat enhancement and maintenance of current open space on hill tops of Kinharvie Hill, Tannoch Hill, Long Fell, Cuil Hill, Melkie Hard Hill and Abbey Fell. Retention of open areas, restock species diversity and retention of peatland habitats are priorities.

Analysis:

The Kinharvie Composite has historically had populations of Black Grouse on the some of the open hill tops. Considerations for providing habitat for black grouse to encourage their return and increase species range will be looked at in terms of providing suitable open space habitats and through increase native woodland fringe. Open hilltop to be retained as priority bog habitats.

Proposed objectives

1. Manage the woodland under appropriate silvicultural systems to produce quality saw logs and other timber products.
2. Establish future provisions for planned roads, timber facilities and ongoing roads maintenance to meet forestry operations programmes.
3. Ensure landscape design is sympathetic to surrounding landform of the block with particular focus being given to areas around the Nith Estuary, National Scenic Area.
4. Maintain and enhance the species richness of the woodland and open habitats to benefit biodiversity.

End of text.