



# Accessible text from Map 3 – Analysis & Concept

- Craig Dhu Open Hill

## Concept

Habitat enhancement through increase native woodland fringe, the maintenance of current open space on hill tops of Craig Dhu and Tairlaw plantation and restock species diversity are priorities.

## Analysis

Tairlaw has populations of Black grouse with known leks on the some of the higher open hill tops. Considerations for black grouse habitat in Tairlaw area will provide links other leks to the south of the block extending in to the Galloway Forest Park, a core priority area for Black Grouse and help maintain the present species range.

- Biodiversity Enhancement

## Concept:

Improve forest structure and visual setting through the use of appropriate Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) and increase species diversity, to increase habitat connectivity through the block.

## Analysis:

Opportunities to thin the woodland and enhance riparian zones, maintaining positive landscape views both externally and internally. Whilst still within UK Forestry Standard guidelines there are options in this area to increase species diversity away from the majority Sitka Spruce plantation due to the more fertile soil types.

- Core Production

## Concept:

Ensure sustainable timber production from the block with a plantation that is predominantly upland Sitka Spruce and mixed conifer species with mixed broadleaves. Continue to maintain infrastructure for future operations.

## Analysis:

Depending on specific site objectives the majority of this area will be managed through commercial clearfell and restock forestry with some broadleaf areas. There is a good forest road network, which will need to be maintained. Opportunities to thin crops, extend rotation length and reduce coupe size may be limited by exposed site types in this area.

- Landscape & Alternative Silviculture

Concept:

Increase the area within the forest block which is part of the regional thinning programme to maintain setting in the landscape, enhance timber quality, improve forest structure and forest resilience. Enhance forest road infrastructure to facilitate operations.

Analysis:

Design appropriate areas of minimum intervention, long-term retention and low intensity Continuous Cover Forest areas to develop the forest user experience along the public road, the impact on the local landscape views and to provide permanent tree cover for important UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species.

- Loch Bradan Reservoir

Concept:

Protect the Drinking Water Protected Areas of Loch Bradan Reservoir and Tairlaw Burn as drinking water supply sources. Forest design to maintain positive effects on the Water of Girvan catchment to ensure continued water quality while also supporting flood risk management and aquatic ecosystems.

Analysis:

Improve quality of water catchment through species diversity, with the focus on establishment of broadleaved species and increased open space, including the linking of riparian zones along extensive watercourses and a mixed broadleaved with minor conifer species buffer zone along the loch shore.

- Water Quality and Amenity

Concept:

Maintain and enhance positive effects on water bodies to ensure continued water quality while also supporting flood risk management and aquatic ecosystems, to support habitats of priority UKBAP species such as Atlantic Salmon, Otter and Water Vole. Provide a varied woodland experience for forest users ensuring continued use of the forest under Scotland's Outdoor Access Code.

Analysis:

Restock design to focus on establishment of broadleaved species and increased open space, including the linking of riparian zones along extensive watercourses. Targeting a permanent

matrix of open space and native broadleaved establishment. Retain access along forest roads for walking, cycling and horse-riding, using visitor zone areas to design alternative low-impact forest management and species diversity, where appropriate, to enrich the forest user experience and visual amenity from the Carrick Forest Drive.

- Draft Objectives

1. Manage the woodland under appropriate silvicultural systems to produce sustainable quality timber products.
2. Maintain and enhance structural and species richness of the woodland to benefit biodiversity, in particular Black Grouse habitats.
3. Continue working to forestry best practice to safeguard water, soil and air quality, strengthening the resilience of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

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