

Legend

- FC Boundary
- Nether Horsburgh Design Area
- Forest roads
- water_courses
- Heritage_points

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 1) For tourism development and community benefit, create an exemplar countryside setting and exemplar landscape and expansion of Glentress.
- 2) To satisfy both local and national timber markets plant a variety of high yielding conifer and broadleaf trees whilst selecting species taking account of climate change predictions
- 3) Expand native woodlands and maintain or improve condition of priority open habitats to support important species
- 4) Enhance environment through good management of archaeology, water and soil
- 5) Create the opportunity for business development through woodland designed for tourism and access.
- 6) Support local community to develop local capacity and by providing access opportunities.
- 7) Provide open access throughout the woods for multi user groups

There is potential for future recreational developments or initiatives to help the local economy.

Future proof the design of the woodland to ensure potential developments can be integrated at a later date.

Design woodland to allow informal public access. Work with groups and access officers to identify appropriate opportunities for core path networks/other routes.

Priority open habitats exist on the East edge of the site with associated interesting priority species – Black Grouse

Avoid tree planting on much of this area. Improve priority open habitat condition through active land management. Also to help black grouse species, the design will create appropriate woodland edge habitats and consider and design existing and potential future fences to avoid bird strike.

In terms of tree growth the majority of the site includes favourable climate and soils

Select appropriate high yielding tree species for timber production. Select appropriate native woodland species to suit soils and climate in biodiversity areas.

Select appropriate productive broadleaved species to provide hardwood timber resource for the future.

Much interesting Archaeology throughout the site including scheduled ancient monuments

With local archaeologists and Historic Scotland identify and protect the heritage through use of buffers in forest design. Increased access opportunity though freedom to roam.

Nether Horsburgh is a very prominent site with high landscape sensitivity. Some existing landscape issues require fixing.

Design the woodland using photo montages and 3D modelling to ensure optimum species, shapes, colours and texture to create the perfect natural landscape.

Integrate the existing woodland and shelterbelts into the new woodland. Create a shop window for Glentress Forest through exemplar forest design.

Potential for native woodland expansion

Focus native woodland expansion in the East of the site where there is greater potential for biodiversity and more challenging timber access situations. Protect riparian zones throughout the site by establishing robust native woodland.

Stability issues of the land around Dirt Pot corner and safety issues on the public road.

Work with Scottish Borders Council to stabilise and protect against future landslips.

Best quality land by A72

Through consultation design this area to achieve the optimum benefits for people, the local economy and the environment

Interesting sites designated for their biodiversity including Nut wood SSSI and River Tweed SAC

Work with Scottish Natural Heritage to draw up appropriate management plans that will help these areas get to an improving or recovering condition.

Much interest by the local community in the forest design

Listen and understand the issues. Integrate ideas where appropriate. Consult throughout the design period. Build in requests where appropriate or consider at an alternative part of the National Forest Estate.

Current forestry access to Glentress is very busy including timber traffic and recreation users

Create a new forest road through Nether Horsburgh to remove Glentress timber traffic from Peel entrance. Enhance visitor experience and make safer.

Climate change may affect tree growth in the future.

Establish a trial plot with Forest Research GB to explore species adaption to climate change

The location is sensitive in terms of water. It includes the designated River Tweed and floodplain as well as its water catchment area.

Establish adequate buffer zones from the tweed and tributaries. Plant appropriate species to protect water quality and avoid acidity. Consider River Basement Management Plan. Avoid exacerbating peak flow through good woodland design.

