

Summary of Forest Design Plan Proposals

Ben Aigan is situated in a very prominent position overlooking the river Spey and the communities of Rothes, Mulben and Craigellachie in Moray.

The main objective for Ben Aigan is the production of a sustainable timber crop while at the same time maximising its biodiversity value.

Dothestroma Needle Blight (DNB) has had a significant impact on the amount and timing of clearfelling in this block and on the species choice for restocking.

Advantage has been taken of the limited areas with better soils to plan the planting of other appropriate species, including broadleaves to increase the biodiversity of the block.

Much of the mature crops on the north face are planned to be managed under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) (417.1 ha).

Total plan area	1425 ha
------------------------	---------

Species breakdown	2013	2023
Primary species: Scots Pine	35.6 %	38.6 %
Secondary species:	25.3 %	25.7 %
Other conifers	20.6 %	15.8 %
Broadleaves	5.5 %	6.1 %
Open and felled areas	12.9 %	13.8 %

Planned operations	2013 – 2022
Felling	113.9 ha
Restock	157.5 ha

Critical success factors

- Undertake the planned thinning programme in order to allow suitable crops to be managed under LISS.
- Continue to manage the spread of DNB through clearfelling infected crops and subsequently restocking with appropriate, less susceptible, species.
- Undertake the felling of coupes as programmed to deliver the landscape improvements intended.
- Continue with the maintenance of the forest road network to allow forest operations to be successfully completed.
- Construct the planned forest roads to allow the currently inaccessible coupes to be managed.

Consultation and Further Information:

For further information on the plan please contact Mark Reeve, Planning Forester, Forestry Commission Scotland on 07990802079 or:

mark.reeve@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Ben Aigan Forest Design Plan

Map 1 Location

Scale: 1:50,000 @ A3

Date: July 2012

-  Ben Aigan
-  A road
-  B road
-  Minor road
-  River Spey

