

Concept Map

Key Objectives for Southend area:

- 1) Maintain sustainable timber production
- 2) Management for priority species through increasing areas of low-density forest edge habitat and enhancing habitat connectivity
- 3) Address issues around forest stability by reviewing the management of exposed coupes, and coupes with windblown crops, to improve the resilience in light of the changing climate and increasing storm risk.

Key zones on the Concept Map:

Blue areas on map denote Timber Production Zones:

Analysis: Core plantation areas which contribute to the region's commercial timber production through revised felling, thinning and restock plans. Large areas of 1960s and 1970s coniferous planting, predominantly Sitka spruce, still remain and are now susceptible to windblow.

Concept: Carefully phase the felling of mature plantation areas over the coming years and restock with more diverse mix of appropriate species. Sitka spruce will still be a key species, however other productive conifer species will be planted wherever soil types and environmental factors are favourable to alternative species

Yellow areas on map denote Connected Native Habitats:

Analysis: A mosaic of connected habitats benefit wildlife and improve resilience of the woodlands through inclusion of a variety of species and structures.

Concept: These areas will include a diverse mix of species, they may include a small component of non-native conifers but will predominantly be native species (broadleaves and Scots pine) and will be managed for biodiversity and conservation objectives. This will include areas of native woodlands, riparian zones, open land and habitat corridors.

Lilac areas on map denote Low Impact Silvicultural Systems:

Analysis: These areas contain a diverse mix of species and structure and this will be maintained. The main objectives for these areas are conservation and amenity.

Concept: Species diversity and diversity of age / structure will be maintained through low-impact interventions, as opposed to the clearfelling which occurs in core timber-production zones.

Orange areas on map denote wet / peaty areas:

Analysis: These areas currently contain mature coniferous plantations however the ground conditions are wet and the soils are peaty.

Concept: These will be investigated by our peatland specialists before the future management is set. Whilst these areas are currently used for timber production, they may be suitable for bog restoration or creation of wetland habitats and these options will be carefully considered.

Pink areas on the map denote Open hillsides and moors:

Analysis: Significant area of open hillside & moorland habitats. The Arran Moors Special Protection Area, and Site of Special Scientific Interest have been designated for breeding bird populations, including Hen harriers, and for the upland habitats assemblage.

Concept: Manage as per Designated Site Management Plans to maintain suitable habitats / open ground