

Resilience

- Increasing genetic, species and age diversity of phased restock/regeneration of native woodland will increase habitat resilience.
- Incremental and small-scale felling of mature, even aged plantation can increase windthrow on adjacent stands.
- Retention of woodland areas with larch is a potential disease risk (Phytopthera ramorum)
- Restructuring plantation to lower stature native woodland in vicinity of powerlines will increase resilience to increasing storm events.
- All woodland with larch trees – retained as 'old growth' habitat until restructured woodland matures - are accessible in the event of disease and consequent requirement to fell.
- Continue to routinely monitor built infrastructure for ability to accommodate effects of climate change.

Water Quality

- Woodland regeneration on extensive following ground increases rainfall interception/ground percolation, reducing surface run-off and watercourse flow peaks/troughs.
- Enhancing ecological condition and functionality of watercourse will in turn benefit designated loch and constituent species.
- Phase 1 felling proposed within 500 metres of loch with highest designation for low nutrient status and high water clarity.
- Protect integrity of all watercourses/bodies during management operations and long term by applying UKFS Forest and Water guidance.
- Establish restock sites with minimised ground disturbance. Manage restructuring woodland as Minimum Intervention to maximise recovery of natural inter-dependencies/cycles.
- Loch-side visitor facilities and shoreline native woodland provide a buffer to felling proposals. Site condition monitoring provides impartial assessment of loch's integrity and condition.

Restructuring - Felling

- Significant even-aged maturing conifer woodland with good timber volume and quality for cost-effective removal to initiate restructuring.
- Loch-side forest roading currently unsuitable for timber uplift and export haulage.
- Public road is an Approved timber transport route with no constraints on timber haulage volumes or frequency.
- Design coupes to encompass entire contiguous stands and/or schedule felling over relatively contracted timescale to minimise windthrow.
- Upgrade loch-side roading to allow timber export and minimise impacts on visitors and neighbours.
- Upgrade road & harvest timber outwith summer season to alleviate traffic; minimise negative visitor experience; maintain harvesting efficiency.

Landscape/Scenic Value (see also Map 3b)

- Clearfelling of woodland has a negative impact on local aesthetic and negatively affects designated landscape quality.
- Forest health issues may require unexpected tree felling to remove pathogens with no consideration for landscape impact.
- Reliance on natural regeneration in restructuring gives less control in future forest design.
- Ability to use visualisation software to assess (and adapt) future management for landscape sensitivity or impacts.
- Accept compromise to landscape character over short to medium term as long term ambition will restore landscape-appropriate vegetation in perpetuity.
- Control tree and INNS regeneration on Managed Open habitat to maintain integrity and visual character of upland heath.
- Develop and install new interpretation explaining long-term restructuring objectives and thus shorter term negative visual impact.

Public Access

- Visitor Zones are busy especially during summer making harvesting problematic. Increasing strain on forest roads to car parks & trailheads.
- Removal of conifer woodland at scale and near Visitor Zones will impact special qualities of local and wider landscape over short to medium term.
- Some species and habitat vulnerable to human disturbance. Misuse of site/visitor facilities can have significant impacts on wildlife and habitats.
- Maintain access to the forests under Outdoor Access Code. Install diversions where necessary to maintain access during forest operations.
- Integrate new passing places into loch-side roading. Lock timber stances when not in use to limit unsolicited parking and possible misuse.
- Inspect site proportionate to public use/instances of misuse. Lease facilities maintenance and inspections to responsive and competent providers.
- Develop interpretation to inform & encourage positive behaviours. Consider re-design of facilities to reduce misuse/disturbance.

Deer Management

- Good internal road and trails network with natural topography offering good vantage points for deer monitoring and control.
- Successful establishment of (more palatable, slower growing) broadleaved woodland in face of grazing pressure may be problematic.
- Clearfelling creates (short term) open areas to aid deer monitoring/control. Widespread woodland regeneration increases thickets and offers deer cover.
- Monitor deer population and site utilisation to inform present and future control effort. Manage population to enable regeneration and restocked sites to develop.
- Maintain/upgrade external fencing to assist in reducing additional grazing pressure.
- Continue to engage with Deer Management Group and neighbours to identify shared concerns & mutually beneficial actions/management.

Restructuring - Regeneration

- An increasing extent and connectivity of native habitats conserves and promotes indigenous biodiversity gains.
- Restriction on restocking with Scots pine due to risks associated with *Dothistroma* needle blight.
- Continued felling of maturing conifer woodland reduces proportion and extent of trees in this age class (i.e. structural diversity).
- Some following sites showing healthy recruitment of native trees, some less so. Non-native tree regen evident on felled plantation areas. Sites can easily be colonised by invasive non-native species.
- Routine survey of regenerating/restocked woodland will monitor non-native and INNS presence/extent & inform control measures.
- Investigate and establish supply of local provenance Scots pine compliant with potential DNB importation controls.
- Scarify failing regeneration sites to encourage establishment success. Enrich regeneration with under-represented minor species.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Building links and projects with local groups/organisations can help achieve objectives and may reduce costs.
- Neighbouring residences may be negatively affected by clearfelling e.g. visual impact, loss of shelter/privacy, increased exposure, loss of business.
- Keep neighbours/local stakeholders apprised of intended management. Remain responsive to alleviate unforeseen concerns.
- Remain open to new approaches by local groups wishing to be involved in local management and to working in partnership.
- Collaborate with wider tourism and activity providers to share good practice. Promote robust sites to discourage wildlife disturbance.

Map 3a - Analysis & Concept

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