

Proposed bringing forward harvesting of coupes previously (2013) approved for felling in Phase 3 is driven by need to recover timber from area affected both by DNB infection and wind damage. NHFD assessed the situation and came to a conclusion that keeping to the previously agreed timing of felling will lead to timber deterioration, and, as a consequence, to a situation where some areas might get impossible to be accessed by machines due to lack of brush. NHFD has assessed the potential for retaining some crops, but due to the structure of the forest (all crops were uniformly planted in 1980 & 1981; lack of sheltered areas allowing for creation of long term crop retentions; ground conditions significantly reducing rooting depth) it is impossible to identify more stable group of trees that might be retained. Given the vast open landscape of the area, large scale clearfelling will not cause dramatic change. Removing the non-native conifers, planted in angular patterns, and replacing them with open bog and low density wet woodland (as per restock proposal), will improve the appearance of the forest block.

Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.



Braehour MTR - CSM6 Map
Planned operations

Scale @ A3 1:20,000

Legend

- Braehour FDP area
- Phase 1 felling
- Coupe 1 Restocking
- Forest road
- Braehour revised roadline - Copy

Coupe 1 Restocking
Productive conifers - 86.18 ha
Riparian woodland - 7.44 ha
Successional woodland - 30.9 ha
Peatland restoration - 9.93 ha

Coupe 3 Felling
Peatland restoration

Coupe 7 Felling
(brought forward from Phase 3)
Restock: successional woodland

Coupe 5 Felling
Restock successional woodland

Coupe 8 Felling
(brought forward from Phase 3)
Restock: successional woodland

Revised new roadline - 1540m

Coupe 4 Felling
Restock: successional woodland

Coupe 6 Felling
(brought forward from Phase 3)
Restock: successional woodland

Coupe 2 Felling
Peatland restoration

Coupe 1 Felling
Peatland restoration

Adjacency will not be an issue, as only limited area is to be restocked with productive conifers, with majority of the harvested area either restored to open bog, or to low density wet woodland. Faster than anticipated rate of felling will bring environmental benefits, allowing for carrying out drain and furrow blocking in areas approved for peatland restoration (benefiting adjacent designated peatland sites), and establishment of low density woodland in areas approved for successional and riparian woodland.