

Map 4 - Analysis & concept
Borgie & Rosal

Scale @ A1 1:25,000

Legend

- Core paths
 - Forest road
 - Planned roads
 - Ancient Monument (S)
 - Ancient Monument (U); Unscheduled
 - Unknown
 - Possible woodland expansion areas
 - Overhead powerline
 - Currently felled
 - Currently open
 - Currently planted with native species
 - Currently productive conifers
 - LISS
 - Long term retention
- Future habitats**
- -
 -
 -
 -
 - Watercourses
 - SPA
 - SAC
 - SSSI
 - North Sutherland LMP area
 - National Forest Estate

The top boundary of commercial restock will be moved down the slope. We will encourage natural regeneration to help to create more natural forest margin higher up the slopes.

We will maintain recreational facilities to allow for public access to, and enjoyment of the forest

Forest road network in Borgie is adopted as a core path and provides access for recreational forest users.

Caitness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) RAMSAR West Borgie Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Caitness and Sutherland Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) RAMSAR West Strathnaver Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

River Borgie SAC & SSSI

Archaeology will be given appropriate protection during forest operations. Protective buffers of open ground will be maintained (created if required).

Water quality is a high priority for Borgie, as the watercourses within the block are River Borgie (SAC) tributaries. We will create substantial areas of riparian woodland along watercourses to enhance the aquatic environment and to create a protective buffer between productive forestry and watercourses.

Areas where soil conditions allow for good tree growth rate will be restocked with conifers. Some of the sites might be identified as sufficient to grow only biomass/woodfuel grade crop. On these sites lower planting densities might be considered.

Existing native woodland

We will explore possibility of creating native montaine woodland south of the existing forest edge. The woodland will be created by establishing groups of mainly willow species in small (5mx5m) exclosures. Precise location of exclosures within the woodland expansion areas marked on map will be determined by habitat and soil survey results. Efforts within next 5-10 years will concentrate on survey work and on finding suitable seed sources.

Upper forest boundary re-designed with help from FES Land Architect to make the forest appear more natural in the landscape.

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Current situation:

- Significant areas of unsightly wind-damaged conifers, which need to be harvested relatively quickly to prevent income losses due to timber deterioration and to improve the visitor experience;
- Watercourses with no or little broadleaves around, suffering from overshadowing due to conifer crops planted right up to the banks, or, when banks were left unplanted, with no organic matter or shading required to improve aquatic environment;
- Unsightly big clearfell coupes – result of extensive felling undertaken to remove wind damaged and/or infected crop (by Dothistroma Needle Blight - DNB);
- Conifers planted high up the slopes, appearing as geometric shapes with no connection to landform;
- Low representation of native species.

What we want to achieve:

- Productive conifer coupes with wind firm edges, designed to sit well within the landscape and using existing and/or designed open ground, watercourses and land form as natural boundaries;
- Watercourses with wide protective buffers of riparian woodland, screening them from any possible negative impact of future forest operations and improving the aquatic environment and overall water quality;
- Well-designed restock coupes, which will act as visitor zones on sites of high recreational value and significant visitor numbers (Rosal);
- Increased area of native tree and shrub species, improving habitat linkage and overall biodiversity.

Detailed restock proposal will be consulted with FES Landscape Architect at workshop stage. Area around Rosal Clearance Village is a visitor zone and restocking the area after clearance of the wind damaged conifer crop should be used to enhance visitor experience in the future.

We will restock majority of the area with conifers. The main species will be Scots pine. The restock sites will be planned to make them more windfirm and to make them attractive and safe for visitors.

Riparian woodland will be created to contribute positively to quality of water in River Naver (SAC) and to create buffer between the watercourses and the productive forestry.

Archaeology will be given appropriate protection.

Rosal Clearance Village will remain main tourist destination in the area. We will manage with both the archaeology and the visitor experience as main focus.

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