



Morvern Issues and Design Concepts Summary

Disease

Issues

- Many larch stands infected or will be infected with *Phytophthora ramorum*
- SPHNs require FLS to fell infected trees + buffer zone – large areas to be felled impact on approved felling coupes and the rest of the felling programme

Design Concepts

- Design new felling coupes and consider new roading to access and remove larch
- Increase rotation lengths where possible, to even out timber supply
- Long term retention of trees (non-larch species) for structural diversity

ASNW and PAWS

Issues

- Restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites to native woodland and protection of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodlands

Design Concepts

- Restore PAWS to native woodland
- Protect ASNW – buffer from SS and other invasive commercial species
- Control Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) particularly *Rhododendron*
- Strengthen broadleaves along riparian corridors, potentially taking in areas of deep peat unsuitable for peat restoration
- Link areas of broadleaves to other areas of native woodland on neighbouring land

Water Quality

Issues

- Forestry operations can significantly impact water quality for aquatic species (especially salmonids) and drinking water supplies

Design Concepts

- Identify and protect all private water supplies and associated catchments in proximity to and within FLS forested areas
- Maintain buffer zones along riparian zones – developing native broadleaved woodland along larger watercourses and open ground buffers on minor watercourses

Silviculture

Issues

- Clearfelling
- Continuous Cover Forestry – maintain certain % of tree cover and encourage natural regeneration
- Natural reserves – limited intervention to maintain ecological and structural benefits
- Long term retention – rotation length is lengthened to help improve age and structural diversity

Design Concepts

- Continue CF in most of the forest, where appropriate
- Implement CCF where conditions are suitable
- Identify any areas suitable as natural reserves
- Identify wind-sheltered areas of conifer diversity which may be suitable for LTR

Peat Restoration

Issues

- Deep peat is generally unsuitable for commercial timber production and may be considered for restoration or creation of peatland edge habitat

Design Concepts

- Target peatland restoration in areas of hagged deep peat on open ground
- Consider areas of deep peat within the forest for restoration or native woodland
- Use soil survey data to identify forested areas of deep peat scheduled to be felled within the next 10 years

Deer Management

Issues

- High levels of deer browsing affect floristic diversity and prevent establishment of young, planted trees and natural regeneration
- Fencing is expensive and can hinder access, but may be considered as a tool to aid deer management

Design Concepts

- Maintain strategic fencing
- Achieve cull levels sufficient to allow tree establishment, especially for very palatable species, reducing the need for internal fencing

Public Access

Issues

- Popular area amongst the local community for recreation
- Forestry operations may impede or prevent public access to some areas

Design Concepts

- Identify popular recreation areas during the public consultation phase
- Recognise the importance of public access and the involvement of the community in developing the future design
- Facilitate public access where possible

Landscape

Issues

- Forestry operations can affect landscape and visual amenity Landscape design can affect biodiversity and timber production

Design Concepts

- Strengthen natural features in the landscape at restocking phase and focus on riparian zones
- Following larch removal, consider new species to maintain visual diversity (autumn colours)
- Where possible, improve upper forest margins and create woodland edge habitat

Biodiversity and Protected Species

Issues

- Wide range of protected species including Schedule 1 raptors
- Numerous conservation sites identified

Design Concepts

- Protect ASNW / restore PAWS
- Create buffers around ASNW – native broadleaves or non- invasive alternative conifers
- Close monitoring of felling and restocking in areas close to designated sites

- Control of invasive species

Timber Production

Issues

- Suitable area for producing high volumes of quality timber
- Important to local economy and employment

Design Concepts

- Maintain commercial timber production
- Increase proportion of alternative conifer species where appropriate

Heritage

Issues

- Range of archaeological features including a Scheduled Monument
- Forestry operations can impact the preservation of such sites

Design Concepts

- Maintain heritage buffer zones around protected sites
- Improve and maintain public access to heritage sites