



Accessible text from Map 3 – Analysis & Concept

- **Alternative To Clearfell Zone**

Concept:

Increase the area within the forest block which is part of the regional thinning programme to enhance timber quality, improve forest structure and forest resilience. Enhance forest road infrastructure to facilitate operations.

Analysis:

Opportunities for first thinning of second rotation conifers, to potentially begin within this plan term. Additional planned roads will be required to ensure long-term access to thinning sites whilst maintaining positive landscape views both externally and internally. Design to enable larch to be removed as per the FLS Larch Strategy for the 'Management Zone'

- **Ancient Woodland Zone**

Concept:

Enhance and maintain areas of existing Ancient and Semi-ancient woodlands. Within the block are Plantations on Ancient Woodland Site's (PAWS) of Minnoch Wood, Holm Wood, Brighton Wood and Manse Wood.

Analysis:

The design will look to strengthen connectivity, utilise native buffers, encourage native natural regeneration, remove of non-native species, and where viable, enrich these further through native broadleaved planting. Re-establishment and expansion of these areas will be a long term vision.

- **Core Plantation Zone**

Concept:

Ensure sustainable timber production from the block with a plantation that is predominantly second rotation, mixed conifer species. Continue to maintain infrastructure for future operations.

Analysis:

This area should be managed through commercial clearfell and restock forestry with some broadleaved areas, due to very moist content of soils. There is a good forest road network which will be maintained. Timber haulage will follow forest roads to the access on the A714. Consultation with the local authority may be required to use part of a severely restricted route for access to a single coupe.

- **Low Impact Silvicultural Zone**

Concept:

Improve forest structure and visual setting through the use of appropriate Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) focused around the peripheral local settlements of Bargrennan and Loch Trool Village, and the highly used visitor areas, including along the main entrance routes to the Loch Trool visitor centre and car park.

Analysis:

Design appropriate areas of minimum intervention, long-term retention and low intensity Continuous Cover Forest areas to develop the forest user experience, the impact on the local landscape views and to reduce the operational impact in some of the wet and steeper areas that have challenging access issues.

- **Riparian Zone**

Concept:

Maintain and enhance positive effects on the River of Doon and Girvan Water catchments to ensure continued water quality while also supporting flood risk management and aquatic ecosystems, to support habitats of priority UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species such as Atlantic Salmon, Otter and Water Vole.

Analysis:

Forest design to include species diversity, with the focus on establishment of broadleaved species and increased open space, including the linking of riparian zones along extensive watercourses. Targeting a permanent matrix of open space and native broadleaved establishment, reducing fragments conifer species left in the area after sanitation felling. Appropriate access to these areas will be established.

- **Communities**

Concept:

Support the local community surrounding the Minniwick block through community engagement about the forest. Provide a varied and enjoyable woodland experience for forest users ensuring continued use of the forest under Scotland's Outdoor Access Code and through the use of the core paths and the forest road network .

Analysis:

Maintained access from Loch Trool Village for walking, cycling and horse-riding through the forest roads networks and core path. Use of visitor zone areas to design alternative low-impact forest management and species diversity, where appropriate, to enrich the forest user experience and visual amenity adjacent to recreation facilities on site such as the Southern Upland way footpath.

End of text.