



# Accessible text from Map 3: Analysis and Concept

Text begins from uppermost box in the centre of the map working clockwise. The box at the bottom of the map appears last in this list.

- **Habitat to promote biodiversity**

Analysis:

SSE's habitat management plan area managed as open/scrubland with native broadleaves provides opportunities to increase black grouse habitat. Significant SS regen and some deer pressure present challenges in this area. Riparian corridors present opportunity to link native broadleaved areas throughout the forest block. The block is a priority red squirrel woodland and provides nesting sites for raptors.

Concept:

Liaise with SSE to manage conifer regen and continue deer management. Use riparian zones to create habitat links through the site. Provide small seeded tree species and mature crop refuges for red squirrels.

- **Sustainable timber production**

Analysis:

Mostly poor to very poor ironpan/podzolic soils or surface water gleys. Elevated site (300-500m), DAMS scores of 14-23. No thinning has taken place. Remaining mature crop now mostly un-thinned 45 year old SS and becoming unstable. Road network requires expansion in certain areas. Accessible site, close to motorway and sawmills.

Concept:

Retain mature SS in sheltered areas in short to medium term to allow increasing age diversification. Restock with SS and soil appropriate alternative species incorporating mixtures to improve rooting stability. Utilise regeneration where possible. Increase rotation lengths and introduce thinning on lower slopes. Thin early in restocked areas below DAMS 18.

- **Water quality**

Analysis:

Three burns run into the River Clyde and a fourth runs into the Evan Water (a tributary of the River Annan). Overall status of the Clyde catchment is moderate, although water quality is good. Overall status of the Evan Water is poor although water quality is good.

Concept:

Adhere to UKFS Forest and Water guidelines. At restocking continue to widen riparian corridors and plant with native broadleaves.

- **Management of the historic environment**

Analysis:

Opportunity to protect and promote scheduled monuments and additional archaeological features; Bodsberry Hillfort, Fall Kneesend cremation cemetery, Bodsbury Hill to Little Clyde Roman road and the Little Clyde Roman Camp.

Concept:

Maintain and where beneficial increase buffer zones around all four scheduled monuments. Any possible impacts must be assessed prior to operations and if necessary scheduled monument consent sought.

Consider options for increasing preservation of features surrounding Fall Kneesend cemetery cairn.

- **Landscape design**

Analysis:

Little Clyde very visible from the south, specifically the M74 and A702. Highlighted on the map within the:



SPHN clearfells have interrupted the felling sequence negatively impacting the landscape design.

Concept:

Redesign some coupe structures more sympathetically to landscape and introduce more diversity on the lower slopes. Continue to plant alternative species and broadleaves on some lower sections of the site and along riparian corridors.

- **Resilience to climate change**

Analysis:

Majority of mature crop due for felling and majority of larch has been removed providing opportunity for diversification to improve resistance and resilience. Age and species diversification is limited by high exposure, poor soils and the 2m adjacency rule.

Concept:

Diversify to best suit soils conditions, exposure levels and future climate. Increase the use of alternative species and longer rotations on the lower slopes and consider alternatives to clearfell on mineral soils in more sheltered areas in subsequent rotations.

- **Draft Objectives**

1. Sustainable timber: Maintain a supply of sustainable timber via site suitable species selection when restocking, continuing to diversify the age and species structure of the forest within the restrictions of exposure and stand stability.
2. Historic environment and landscape: Protect the historic environment, specifically the four scheduled monuments on the site. Continue to improve landscape value of the block, especially along the highly visible lower slopes.
3. Biodiversity: Expand native broadleaf cover along riparian edges, linking the broadleaf area in the north of the site to the mixed broadleaved areas in the south. Promote red squirrel habitat by restocking with small seeded species and provide squirrel refuges via the retention of mature coupes in sheltered locations. Improve black grouse habitat by expanding open heath areas along northern boundary of the site.

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