



# Glenrickard Analysis and Concept Map: Accessible Text

## **Core Timber Production Zone (blue zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

Core plantation areas which contribute to the region's commercial timber production through revised felling, thinning and restock plans. Larch species will be removed in line with our commitments to plant health and sustainable forest management.

### **Concept:**

Incorporate remaining larch into clearfell coupes, then restock with predominantly coniferous species to ensure a sustainable supply of quality timber.

## **Woodland Fringe Habitat (green zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

A transitional zone between open moorland within the SPA / SSSIs, and the woodland areas within the block would benefit resident species such as Hen harriers.

### **Concept:**

A mosaic of habitats is required to provide the breeding and feeding opportunities for Hen harriers and other wildlife. Target creation of low density woodland edge habitat which will include diversity of both species and structure using natural regeneration where possible, and accepting some conifer species.

## **Open hillside / moors (pink zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

Significant area of open hillside & moorland habitats. The SPA and SSSIs have been designated for breeding bird populations and for rare plant assemblages.

### **Concept:**

Continue to manage as per Designated Site Management Plans to maintain suitable habitats / open ground.

## **Biodiversity enhancement Zone (orange zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

A mosaic of habitats benefit wildlife and improve resilience of the woodlands through inclusion of a variety of species and structures.

### **Concept:**

This area will contain a diverse species mix, including conifers and native tree species (mostly broadleaves with some Scots pine) and will be managed for biodiversity and conservation objectives. Restocking will be achieved through both planting and natural regeneration. Opportunities for adopting Low Impact Silvicultural Systems will be investigated within this zone.

## **Recreation and Visual Amenity Zone (yellow zone on map)**

### **Analysis:**

This area attracts high visitor numbers for use of various walking trails and offers fantastic viewpoints of mountains and coastal scenery. The Clachland Hills are visible from the neighbouring towns and provide woodland views from major transport routes including ferry routes.

### **Concept:**

Maintain viewpoints and recreational facilities within this zone. The area will be managed for timber production but on a smaller scale to account for visitor access and landscape considerations, and to minimise the impact of operations on visitors. Present a variety of species, age, colour and textural experiences, and open areas to maintain views from ridge-top recreational trail.

## **Key Objectives**

- 1) Maintain Sustainable timber production
- 2) Target removal of remaining larch species and restock with appropriate species
- 3) Maximise and enhance plan area for priority species (e.g. Hen harrier, Grouse etc) through creation of low-density forest edge habitat
- 4) Enhance species and structural diversity to benefit biodiversity and to increase potential resilience to climate change, pests and diseases
- 5) Minimise flood risks through appropriate phasing and implementation of all operations