

Ae Forest District
Screel FDP
FDP text

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**FOREST ENTERPRISE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF FOREST DESIGN
PLAN APPROVAL OF FELLING AND RESTOCKING**

FC Reference No

1. Plan area identification:
 - a. Name: Screel forest
 - b. Forest blocks: Screel and Potterlands
 - c. Forest District: Ae
 - d. Local Planning Authority: Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council
 - e. Ordnance Survey: Sheet No 84 Grid Ref. NX 790550

2. Areas of plan that has some type Protected Status designation

Most of the block is within the East Stewartry Coast NSA

No scheduled monuments

Three unscheduled sites

No formally designated conservation areas in the Design Plan area

Two Category 2a Ancient Woodland Sites,

- Chapelyard
- Potterlands Burn

3. Sensitivity Classification, based on FE National Sensitivity Classification system (refer to Ae FD Strategy Appendix II for more details)

Sensitivity Classification	Score	Most Significant Factor
Landscape sensitivity	4	Screel and Potterlands hills
People Sensitivity	3	Community interest & public access
Conservation Sensitivity	2	Ancient Woodland Sites

4. Long-term management objectives.

	High	Priority Medium	Low
Wood production	✓		
Conservation or regeneration of forests and woodlands		✓	
Landscape enhancement	✓		
Creation of new wildlife habitats		✓	
Public recreation		✓	
Restoration of derelict land			✓

Other supporting documents No

5. Date of commencement of plan or felling May 2008

Date of completion of restocking (fell/restock applications only) May 2018

(ha)	Conifers	Broadleaves	Open Space
New Planting	-	-	-
Felling	135		
Restocking*	130	14	60

**Restocking includes 15 ha. of recently felled coupes*

Other woodland 242 ha

Other Land 90 ha (current open hilltop & agricultural land)

Total plan area 522 ha

6. Location map, planting map and/or felling and restocking maps, descriptions of sensitive sites and their treatment are attached.

Signed _____ Approved _____
Forest District Manager Conservator

Date _____ Date _____

FOREST DESIGN PLAN PRINCIPLES AND OUTLINE PROPOSALS

1. BACKGROUND

- a) The plan comprises 522 ha of predominantly south & southeast facing conifer forest, mostly planted between 1955 and 1965.
- b) Access is only possible via the forest road system; the current HGV access points are passed the car park in the Screel block and off the Gelston public road into the Potterlands block.
- c) Most of the site falls into WHC 2 and 3.
- d) Soils are predominantly upland brown earths except on the higher ground where peaty soils predominate.
- e) The plantation is subject to moderate, formal and informal recreational use by the local residents of Auchencairn village which lies approximately 3 mile south of the plantation, but it is also attracts visits from all around the region. Any development of the recreational facilities in this plan area will be carried out in partnership with local community groups.
- f) There are no scheduled or unscheduled archaeological sites of particular value in these blocks.
- g) This plan covers the operational proposals for the next 10 years of a rolling 35-year plan. The complete outline is attached for context, with supporting maps, long term felling and restocking proposals with relevant tables detailing future age structure and species composition.
- h) These two forest blocks are part of the Bengairn Coastal Granite uplands. SNH Landscape Character Type 20. Both these blocks are in the Stewartry Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA), the southern part is in the proposed East Stewartry Coast Region National Scenic Area (NSA).

2. LONG TERM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

a) Economic

This forest was planted as commercial conifer plantation, this plan proposes to maintain the economic value of the forest.

b) Sustainability

The restructuring process that was begun through the existing FDP will be continued, but it will take at least two rotations before this process is completed. Increased use of Alternative To Clearfell (ATC) management practices where practical on the lower slopes

c) Biodiversity

The main objectives of developing the biodiversity potential of these blocks will be:

- Improve the suitability of the blocks for Black grouse, this will be done by protecting the existing habitats and improving the external forest edge.
- Protect areas of existing Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS), and extending the areas of native woodland along associated riparian zones.
- Continue to increase the area managed under a variety of coppice regimes.

d) Recreation

There are limited opportunities to develop recreation in the forest but where appropriate this plan will support the objectives described in the Ae FD Recreation strategy:

- Increase opportunities for walking, cycling, riding and active sports for people of all abilities based on demand.
- Encourage more use to be made of the forest by a wider range of people, and for a wider range of uses.
- Develop the “sense of place” and improve the quality of forest visits.

e) Landscape sympathy

The forest lies within the D&G Council landscape types **Coastal Granite Uplands**, the key features of these landscape types, as far as forest planning is concerned, are

- Conserve the distinctive character of the granite hills and open summits, especially those seen from surrounding area.
- Diversity should gradually decrease with elevation
- Woodland shapes should relate strongly to the landform, with irregular, interlocking patterns. These shapes should apply both to overall woodland form and to the patterns of species and open ground within them.

Scree forest is in the East Stowrtry Coast National Scenic Area (NSA).

f) Archaeology

No particular development related to the archaeological features in Screele or Potterlands is included in these proposals. During all forest operations all known archaeological features will be protected and access maintained.

These objectives will be achieved through felling and restocking operations. At every stage management decisions will be taken to ensure progress towards these objectives. It is not expected to meet all these ambitions within one rotation, but during each five-year period we would expect to make significant progress.

This initial restructuring phase made the existing crop exposed; thus more susceptible to windblow. When significant windblow does occur the whole Forest Design Plan will be reviewed to consider whether the plan is still appropriate.

All operations will be carried out to the internationally recognised forestry standard as required under the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

3. OVERALL INTENTIONS TO ACHIEVE MULTIPLE FOREST FUNCTIONS

a) Felling, Regeneration and Forest Age Structure

The intention is to continue to restructure the forest by spreading the impact of felling and restocking with the advance or delay of operations. A minimum 7-year age gap or a minimum of 2 m height growth will normally separate adjacent coupes. This will produce a more diverse age structure better able to sustain an appropriate multi-purpose forest, table 1 illustrates the way that the age structure is expected to change through the period of the FDP.

It may be necessary to reduce the normal minimum separation between adjacent coupes due to considerations such as the practicalities of windblow. Where appropriate clearance of windblow and subsequent restocking will be used as an opportunity to introduce more diversity in shape and species.. Any special circumstances will be agreed at the time of felling with the Forestry Commission.

TABLE 1 - Age Structure Diversity

Age of Trees (Yrs)	Stage	Change in age structure over period of FDP					
		Pre-restructuring	2008	2013	2018	2028	Post restructuring
O Space	Open Space	17%	20%	23%	27%	29%	32%
0-9	Establishment	12%	25%	36%	25%	16%	1%
10-19	Early thicket	2%	1%	6%	24%	19%	4%
20-29	Thicket	20%	4%	3%	1%	23%	9%
30-39	Pole	19%	4%	5%	3%	1%	21%
40-49	Mature	12%	38%	5%	1%	3%	20%
50-59	Mature	12%	2%	15%	15%	1%	0%
Over 60	Over mature	6%	5%	7%	4%	8%	12%

b) Production of Timber

Over the next 10 years of this plan the average annual clearfell area will be 15 hectares. This will produce approximately 6,700 cubic metres of timber per annum.

The products will be comprised of approximately 75 % sawlogs and pallet, and 25 % chip and pulpwood. This produce will primarily go to customers within 100 miles of the forest but a significant volume travels to customers throughout Great Britain.

The next rotation will provide opportunities for further restructuring to take place, which are not available now.

c) Tree Species Diversification

The FE has a strategy of increasing the age diversity of every forest compared to the original planting (Ref. Local FD Policy 2, Species Choice). Increasing the biodiversity potential for the FDP will be achieved by decreasing the proportions of commercial conifers, and increase the percentage of native broadleaf tree species and by appropriate use of more open space.

Sitka spruce will produce the highest return for capital invested on the higher more exposed slopes, but the more sheltered valley sides within better soils will allow a much big variety of commercial species, including broadleaves in some few locations. Other commercial tree species have been be considered where they will:

- produce a higher return
- enhance the landscape
- or can significantly improve the conservation value of the plan

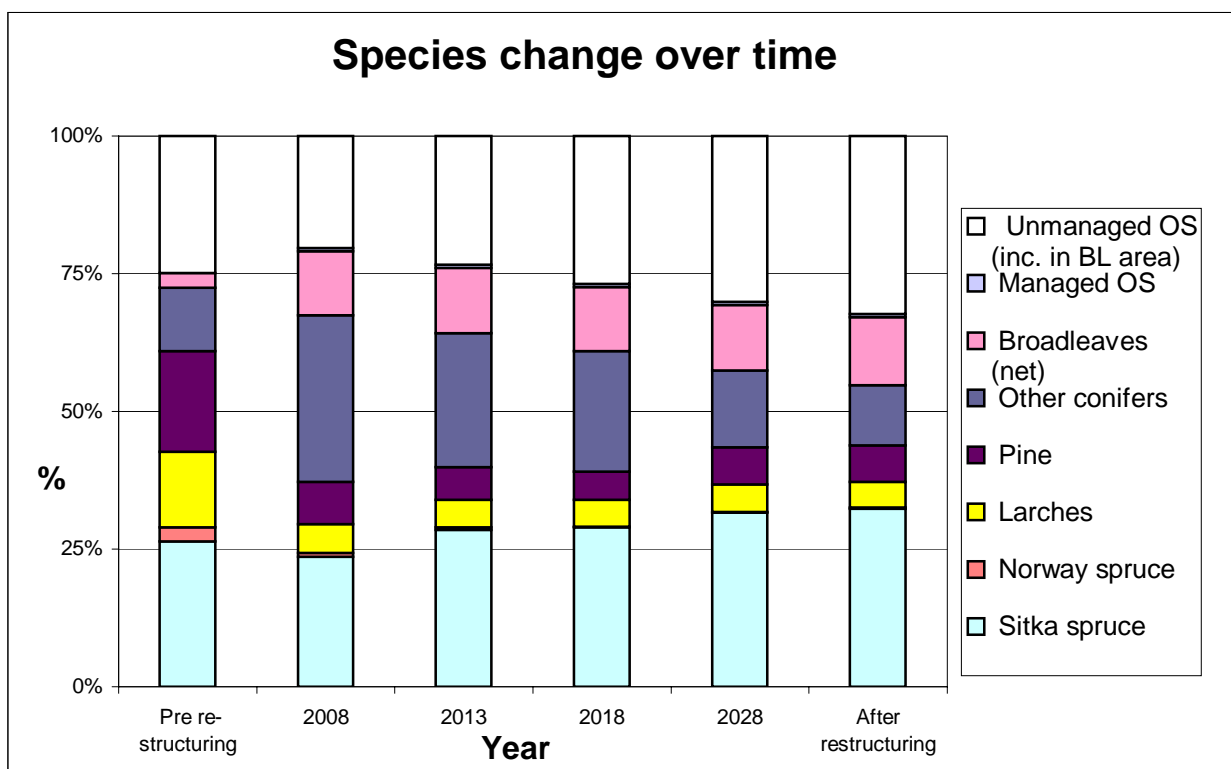
The area of permanent Open Space (OS) will increase over the period of the plan. The open space will be targeted in four site types:

- Landscape OS – will be maintained as OS; e.g. Hill of Screel, roadsides etc.
- Non productive OS – unmanaged OS; mainly coupe boundaries
- Biodiversity –in and around broadleaf groups, managed and unmanaged
- Deer lawns – aids for deer management
- Archaeological – managed OS as appropriate when uncovered

The planned change in the species and open space for the composite FDP area over the next 30 years is shown in table 2.

TABLE 2 - Species Distribution

	Pre restructuring	2008 (Ha)	2013 (Ha)	2018 (Ha)	2028 (Ha)	Post restructuring
Sitka spruce	138	123	149	151	165	169
Norway spruce	13	4	2	1	1	1
Larches	72	27	26	25	26	24
Pine	95	40	31	27	35	35
Other conifers	60	158	127	114	73	57
Broadleaves (net)	14	61	62	61	62	64
Managed OS	0	3	3	3	3	3
Unmanaged OS (inc. in BL area)	130	106	122	140	157	169



The area of minimal intervention will increase over time from some of the current and proposed broadleaf areas and some of the long-term retentions (LTR) that will be allowed to develop a more varied structure through natural succession. These LTR will be targeted at areas where we hope that they will be of maximum conservation benefit. When the low density plantings on exposed upper margins and pine retention areas become established/self sustaining they will not be managed further, allowing natural processes to create a diverse environment including standing and fallen deadwood. As the age diversity of the commercial forest increases we expect to see an increase in the range of wildlife habitats.

Alternative To Clearfell silvicultural systems (ATC areas)

There are four areas of proposed ATC management in this Forest Design Plan, each with their own management objectives and management prescriptions.

1) Coupe 06 - Area of mixed conifers around entrance to Screel

This ATC area has been modified since the first FDP, in the north windblow has created a large open space that will be attached to coupe 29 and will be fenced and restocked with broadleaves to produce high quality hardwood timber. The southern end of the coupe has now been designated as a clearfell coupe, 43, which will be felled at the next thinning intervention in approximately 6 years and restocked with broadleaves.

The management objective for the remainder of this coupe remains the same: to create a mixed wood incorporating the Ancient Woodland Site (AWS) which will have a varying proportion of broadleaved and conifer species. There will be a significant number of very big trees giving a 'cathedral grove' feel to the forest entrance

The prescription will be to thin to normal silvicultural intensity favouring particular stable trees. Small areas will also be felled to increase the rate at which structural diversity develops each clearfell area will be no larger than one hectare. Each area to be felled will be identified prior to a thinning operation and Approval will be sort from the Forestry commission in advance of the operation.

Restocking will be by natural regeneration initially and then enriched through planting to ensure the desired species proportions develop

2) Coupes 11 and 12 - Environs of AWS alongside public road to Gelston

The management objective here is to reinstate the AWS and develop a stable environment.

The management prescription is to thin regularly selecting to favour the native broadleaves in the AWS. Elsewhere thinning will be used to maintain an intimate mixture of commercial conifers and native broadleaves.

3) Coupe 15 – Slope beside Gelston road in the Potterlands block

Creation of a productive hazel coppice woodland.

This area used to be coppiced; some remnant stools still exist. The prescription will be to clearfell small areas to re-establish a sustained yield from coppice. The remainder of the existing crop will be thinned to favour the native broadleaves. Before any felling commences Approval will be sort from the Forestry Commission.

4) Coupes 18 & 19 – Eastern slope of Potterlands

The objective here is to eventually create a predominantly native broadleaf link from the AWS around the lower slopes of Potterlands and link into the broadleaf areas outside the FE ground.

The prescription will be to continue to thin the conifer areas, favouring the broadleaved trees and enrich with broadleaf species as and when appropriate.

Open space management

This FDP proposes to maintain the current amount of transitory (felled awaiting restock) and permanent open space, but the proportion of permanent open space will increase. The unmanaged element of open space can be divided into three categories:

1. Transitory open space – this is mainly made up of areas that have been clearfelled and are awaiting restocking (over time varying between 20% and 50% of total open space)
2. Unmanaged open space
 - Roads and rides
 - Associated with watercourses
 - Between clumps of broadleaved species
3. Landscape design
 - Upper margins, by not restocking certain areas and restocking at low density (1000 trees per hectare) further down will create a ‘natural’ tree line effect.
 - More organic and sympathetic shapes in restock design

It would be difficult to quantify the actual areas in each of these categories because many areas will fall into more than one category, for example open space associated with broadleaves in a riparian zone.

Managed Open space (over 15% of total open space in **FDP** area); in order of priority these areas can be classified as

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (**LBAP**) Black grouse
- Landscaping, eg top of Potterland Hill
- Other conservation areas eg Screel hilltop

The restock map indicates a modest increase in managed open space; some of this will not appear for many years. These are areas that we hope to be able to maintain as open space. Until partnership funding is in place FE resources will be allocated in order of priority and where the potential benefit will be greatest. The areas of managed open space in each coupe has been assessed for priority as follows:

1. Local Biodiversity Action Plan. As part of our commitment to these plans, but long term funding will need to be available to maintain all these areas as open, e.g. Management of the heather moorland on some of the hilltops.
2. Open space as part of developing a more sympathetic landscape, e.g. not restock the very top of Potterland hill
3. Areas surrounding Unscheduled Ancient Monuments. Each site will be assessed to decide what appropriate management intervention is required to protect the site.

Broadleaf policy

Much of these forest blocks are sheltered SW facing slopes with freely drained nutrient rich soils (upland brown earths). This FDP revision indicates an increase in the area for broadleaves, much of this will be for producing high value commercial species such as Beech Ash and Oak. These areas have been selected not just because of their current suitability, but also because many Climate

Change predictions indicate that within 50 to 80 years time this part of the SW Scotland will become more suited to commercial broadleaf production.

After clearfell and before restocking, each coupe plan will be critically reviewed and any opportunity to plant more broadleaves will be taken. Any broadleaved species that naturally regenerate in the areas designated as managed open space will be retained, and the FDP revised to reflect these addition areas at the next Formal review

Most of the broadleaf areas shown in the restock proposals are not suitable for commercial broadleaf plantations; these broadleaved species are to be established to meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Biodiversity
 - Existing native species areas will be maintained and increased to enhance existing habitats, which will allow more varied ecosystems to develop:
 - Associated with Chapelyard Ancient Woodland Site (AWS) at the southern end of the forest.
 - The small areas of broadleaves beside the internal watercourses and drains will be used as focus for broadleaf planting generally only below the 300m contours.
- Landscape
 - To increase the texture and colour of the landscape:
 - From the external edge and up the Kildow Glen
- Amenity
 - In many areas, particularly in recreational zones, an element of broadleaf species will enhance the 'spirit' of the place:
 - Around the forest entrance and car park.
- To support small scale local industry
 - Where appropriate, broadleaf areas will be managed to produce material, which meet local market needs; e.g. fencing, charcoal and firewood. There is currently very limited scope for this because of the small amount of mature or semi mature trees, but as the broadleaf species mature, this is expected to become more significant.

The restocking proposals shown on the FDP map and schedule of operations are indicative of where broadleaves are to be planted. It is impractical to give a precise prescription for each coupe before felling, however these proposals are based on the Local Forest District broadleaf policy (ref. Local FD Policy 3) using site factors, such as soil type, altitude, and NVC classification. The schedule of operations shows the minimum number of broadleaf trees that will be planted in each coupe. After felling a detailed site plan will be drawn up which will take into account factors that only become visible after felling.

If this detailed plan is significantly different from the Approved FDP then an amendment will be passed to the FC for Approval, before restock operations begin. Table 3 shows the broadleaf species that are appropriate to these forest blocks; some or all of which will be used in each broadleaf area.

TABLE 3 - Preferred broadleaf Species for planting in Screel & Potterlands

Soil type	Species	Comment
Brown Earths, Imperfectly drained Brown Earths & Surface Water Gleys	Sessile Oak	Main tree species
	Ash	Main tree species
	Downy birch	Main tree species
	Rowan	Main tree species
	Pedunculate oak	Minor tree species
	Silver birch	Minor tree species
	Wych elm	Minor tree species
	Alder	Minor tree species
	Aspen	Minor tree species
	Bird Cherry	Minor tree species
	Crab Apple	minor proportion
	Holly	minor proportion
	Hazel	Shrub species
	Hawthorn	Shrub species
	Guelder Rose	Shrub species
	Elder	Shrub species
Grey Sallow	Shrub species	

The predicted change climatic conditions suggest that Beech may become one of the main preferred species for broadleaf production in Screel. Some additional very low density planting of native broadleaves will be undertaken along roadsides, coupe boundaries and beside watercourses.

d) Enhancement of Landscape

The Site Sensitivity and Landscape Character Type as shown in section 3 indicates that the landscape design should be a significant factor in the formation of this FDP. The proposal is to leave the top of Potterlands hill unplanted after felling and change the top line for planting on Screel to reflect the underlying landform. To soften the interface between the planted and unplanted area the trees will be planted at normal spacing but no further management will be undertaken in the expectation that a feathering of the top line will naturally develop over time.

The top of Potterlands Hill has been designated by SNH as a Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO) with semi-natural origin, there are broadleaves present including exotic species planted by the Forestry Commission. The potential ecological benefit of attempting to establish a native broadleaf wood on the top of this hill is likely to be limited.

The landscape and amenity benefit of creating an open hilltop in this particular site outweighs the possible ecological benefits of retaining tree cover. SNH, Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council, RSPB and the Auchencairn Community Council have all welcomed the removal of trees from the top of Potterlands.

The management prescription for this coupe will be to fell all conifers trees at the time of clearfell, and any broadleaved species within the managed open space area. The rate of regeneration will be monitored and enough removed to maintain the open nature of the hilltop.

e) Provision for Public Recreation

In line with Scottish Access Legislation Forestry Commission Scotland encourages people to enjoy all parts of the forest for walking, horse riding and cycling. In exceptional circumstances when there are compelling reasons such as motor rallies or conservation reasons, we will have to apply for an exclusion order to exclude people. These reasons may include factors such as Health and Safety, environmental sensitivity of the site.

Screel Forest will continue to provide opportunities for a variety of formal and informal recreational activities. There are no plans to significantly change recreational facilities through this FDP but opportunities to improve the visitor experience will be developed with user groups and local communities.

There is one waymarked and managed walk in the forest which is a circular route from the car park to the top of Screel and back. There are several other informal routes that are used to a varying degree in both the Screel main block and Potterlands. Forest operations will take note of these routes but we do not propose to enhance or carry out any maintenance on them.

Official Facilities

Waymarked routes	2, totaling 8.0 kms
Official car park at Screel entrance	1
Unofficial car parks	2, both in Potterlands beside public road

Other Regular Usage

Horse riders and walkers also use the forest roads within these blocks.

f) Provision for Shooting

FCS wildlife rangers and shooting lets are used to manage the wildlife.

Venison sold from all FCS woods is certificated under a sustainability quality assurance scheme.

g) Conservation of Archaeological and Historic Sites

FCS will continue to work with other organizations, notably the Dumfries and Galloway Regional council and Historic Scotland, to ensure that all significant archaeological features are protected and made accessible to as many people as possible.

FCS actively seeks any archaeological, cultural and ecological information about all the land it that manages. When new information comes to light the FCS may consult appropriate experts to assist making an informed judgement as to whether a change is required to the management prescription for that area.

The features held on the Historic Scotland unscheduled monument database, the D&G Council's Sites and Monuments Record, and the FCS archaeological database; all these features have been marked on the associated archaeological feature map and database. Where applicable the proposed FDP felling and restock will be modified to ensure appropriate management is carried out on and around these sites; after felling the site prescription will be reviewed to ensure that the environs of all archaeological features are managed appropriately.

h) Sensitive Conservation Sites

As with archeological sites the Forest Enterprise has a register of sensitive conservation sites, these include data such as; location of badger setts, formally designated sites (SSSI, DAC, Forest Nature Reserves) and sites which are confidential. The two Ancient Woodland Sites, Chapelyard, and Potterlands are both SNH category 2a sites, which will be treated by FCS in the same way as category 1 site. The management prescription for these two areas is to restore the native woodland element as well as expand them to create a permanent network of stable environments over the next sixty years.

Ancient Woodland sites.

Chapelyard 8.4Ha – Expand native broadleaf area of Oak, Ash, Rowan, and shrubs Elder, Hazel, Hawthorn and Holly through natural regeneration. The more mature Birch could be chemically treated or ring barked to act as standing deadwood to enhance biodiversity. Potential to expand the small area of wet woodland (Willow) adjacent to the water course. Gorse should be controlled throughout the site.

Potterland Burn 1.2Ha – The majority of the site has the Potterland burn running through with non native broadleaf (Beech and Sycamore) dominating the site. Non native Broadleaf and conifers should be thinned in favour of native broadleaf on the site. Potential to plant with local Oak seed source adjacent to the site on the private sector and expand existing site area. Gorse should be controlled throughout the site.

As with archaeological sites FCS has a register of sensitive conservation sites, these include data such as; location of badger setts, formally designated sites (SSSI, DAC) and sites which are confidential that will not be discussed in this document.

i) Roads

Existing forest roads	13.5 km
Forest tracks not suitable for vehicles	< 2.0 km (to be upgraded within 10 years)
Proposed roads to be constructed within 10 years	< 0.5 km (to access coupes 13 & 14)

The lines of the proposed roads have been marked on both the felling and restock plans. These lines are indicative and will be more accurately mapped nearer to their construction dates when a full civil engineering assessment will be undertaken. As part of the Approval process we invited comments on the next ten years of roads, and will not seek further Approval, unless the actual roadlines deviate significantly from those shown on the felling and restock maps.

j) Provision for Employment

The felling, restocking, and haulage work should provide work for people skilled in all aspects of forestry, from ground preparation, through planting and maintenance to felling.

Scree FDP 06

4. WORKING AREAS - OUTLINE OF PROPOSED OPERATIONS

Design Plan Period
1 May 2009 to 30 April 2019

Compartment Details			Felling		Proposed work	Establishment		
Coupe number	Compartment number	Coupe Area (Ha.)	Species	Area (Ha.)		Species	Area	
01		12.5	SS	2.8	Restock	SS	10.1	
			Other conifers	4.0				
			Larch	0.7				
			LP	2.0				
03		51.4	LP	20.0	Restock	SS	24.8	
			SS	6.8			SP	15.1
			Larch	4.0			BL (net)	0.2
			Other conifers	11.0				
13		13.9	SS	2.7	Restock	SS	9.8	
			Larch	1.0			BL (net)	0.7
			NS	1.9				
			Other conifers	8.1				
14		27.0	SS	14.7	Restock	SS	18.1	
			NS	0.5				
			Larch	0.5				
			Other conifers	9.2				
16		19.7	Recently felled		Restock	SP	0.8	
							BL (net)	0.7
20		14.4	SS	1.0	Restock	SS	1.8	
			Other conifers	6.7			DF	9.7
22		12.0	Recently felled		Restock	DF	7.8	
							BL (net)	1.4

WORKING AREAS – Contd.
OUTLINE OF PROPOSED OPERATIONS

Design Plan Period
1 May 2009 to 30 April 2019

Compartment Details			Felling		Proposed work	Establishment	
Coupe number	Compartment number	Coupe Area (Ha.)	Species	Area (Ha.)		Species	Area
24		18.6	SS	6.6	Restock	Larch	10.5
			Larch	3.6		SS	3.7
			NS	0.9		BL(net)	1.2
			Other conifers	4.3			
29		3.1	Mixed conifers	1.8	Restock	BL (net)	2.6
42		3.7	Recently felled		Restock	SS	3.1
43		9.3	SS	3.3	Restock	BL(net)	8.0
			DF	2.7			
			Larch	0.7			

Appendix I – Broadleaves to be Planted

The broadleaves to be planted over this ten year Approval period will be:

Coupe 03 - Upland Brown Earths

The broadleaves in this coupe are to be planted (for conservation benefit only) on the lower slopes where the soils are predominantly freely drained ironpans and brown earths.

Species	Number	Net area
Ash	100	0.1
Rowan	100	0.1
TOTAL	200	0.2

Coupe 13 - Surface Water Gley

The broadleaves in this coupe are to be planted on the brown earths and associated with the riparian zone.

Species	Number	Net area
Ash	300	0.3
Rowan	200	0.2
Alder	100	0.1
Hawthorn	100	0.1
TOTAL	1,000	0.7

Coupe 22 Upland Brown Earth

The broadleaves in this coupe will be used to enrich and enlarge the areas of existing broadleaves on the brown earths and skeletal soils associated with rocky knolls.

Species	Number	Net area
Ash	500	0.5
Sessile Oak	200	0.2
Rowan	500	0.5
Hazel	200	0.2
TOTAL	1,000	1.4

Coupe 24 - Imperfectly drained Brown Earth

The broadleaves in this coupe are to be planted for conservation improvement within the riparian zone and the external edge.

Species	Number	Net area
Sessile Oak	100	0.1
Ash	300	0.3
Rowan	300	0.3
Hazel	200	0.2
Hawthorn	100	0.1
TOTAL	1,000	1.0

Coupe 29 - Upland Brown Earth

This is an area where we propose to establish a crop of high timber quality broadleaf crop, planted at high density to encourage straight stems.

Species	Number	Net area
Sessile Oak	16,000	2.6
TOTAL	16,000	2.6

Coupe 43 - Upland Brown Earth

This is an area where we propose to establish a crop of high timber quality broadleaf crop, planted at high density to encourage straight stems.

Species	Number	Net area
Sessile Oak	46,000	8.0
TOTAL	46,000	8.0

Appendix II Assessment of previous FDPs

Review of previous Approval period (2001 to 2007) of the Forest Design Plan

Was the plan implemented properly?

Windblow has compromised the Design plan over the whole block; coupe 22 was brought forward by 15 years, about 30% coupe 3 was blown down and cleared, about 50% of coupe 24 blown, all of coupe 5 was cleared after windblow.

Coupe 19 was modified because of the clearance of coupe 22 so as to retain mature trees on this face.

Coupe 16 failed to sell due to market conditions, but is expected to be felled in 2008.

Coupe 15 coppice restoration has been poor mainly due to browsing pressure from deer.

Has implementation of the plan to date met the stated objectives?

- Economic - Scree forest has continued to produce a surplus on all sales
The area of productive conifers has reduced in line with the FDP, but the productivity of the crop is greater.
- Sustainability and Biodiversity - The impact of the increased use of broadleaves and open space will not become evident until these crops are established.
- Diversification of age structure

	FDP expected 2006	2008 actual %	Actual area
O space	42	20	106
0-9	3	25	133
10-19	3	1	7
20-29	3	5	19
30-39	4	4	20
40-49	41	38	197
50-59	1	2	13
60+	3	5	27
TOTAL	100	100	522

The extended first Approval period and a consequence of the windblow clearance is that restocking appears to have occurred marginally before that predicted, so the area of transitory open space is reduced and the area of young plantation is increased. Another effect of clearing so much windblow is that the restructuring of the forest will depend more on the restock delay and felling of the next rotation than was envisaged in the original FDP.

Are the aims and objectives of the plan still appropriate?

Generally yes, but FCS policy towards protection against deer damage (fencing as well as deer control) and a predicted climate changes over the next 80 years has meant that there are more opportunities for growing productive broadleaves.