

NOTE -
The concept or strategy in each zone relates to future species & habitats as shown in the 'future species and habitats' map.

In the short-term a different strategy may be used. For example there are currently windblown conifer stands in areas planned for LISS broadleaved management. These must be cleared and replanted with broadleaves before the long term strategy can be delivered.

**Blairadam Forest
and management plan (2024-2034)**

**Concept Design - management zones
& long-term vision for forest**

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Scale @ A1: 1:12,500

Date: 07/10/2024

- Legend**
- ▭ Blairadam Plan Boundary
 - Future Concept Zone**
 - LISS (principally broadleaves)
 - LISS (principally conifer)
 - Diverse productive forest
 - Transition to larger scale upland forests
 - Upland productive forests & wetlands
 - Woodland creation
 - WIAT_Boundary**
 - 0.5km around 15% most deprived communities
 - 1km buffer around settlements > 2000 people
 - Core Paths
 - ⊕ Water Supply Points
 - Blairadam_Watercourses
 - ⊕ Masts/Aerials
 - ✕ Overhead powerline
 - - - Underground powerline
 - Open Water within or bordering forest
 - Gas Pipelines
 - Overhead telephone or fibreoptic
 - - - Underground telephone or fibreoptic
 - == Existing_forest_roads
 - == St Ninians post opencast tracks
 - Planned Roads

Upland productive forest & wetlands:

Larger coupe sizes reflect the more expansive landscape of upland hills. A wetter, more exposed climate & poorer soils restricts options for alternative tree species. The west, however, provides many important services - key strategic objectives:

Peatland restoration & expansion of open habitats.
Native woodland expansion in riparian zones & fringing open habitats.
Timber production using core species (Spruce & Pines).
Production of stone to service access requirements in local forests.
Retaining or creating internal viewpoints & improving forest visual design from surrounding locations.

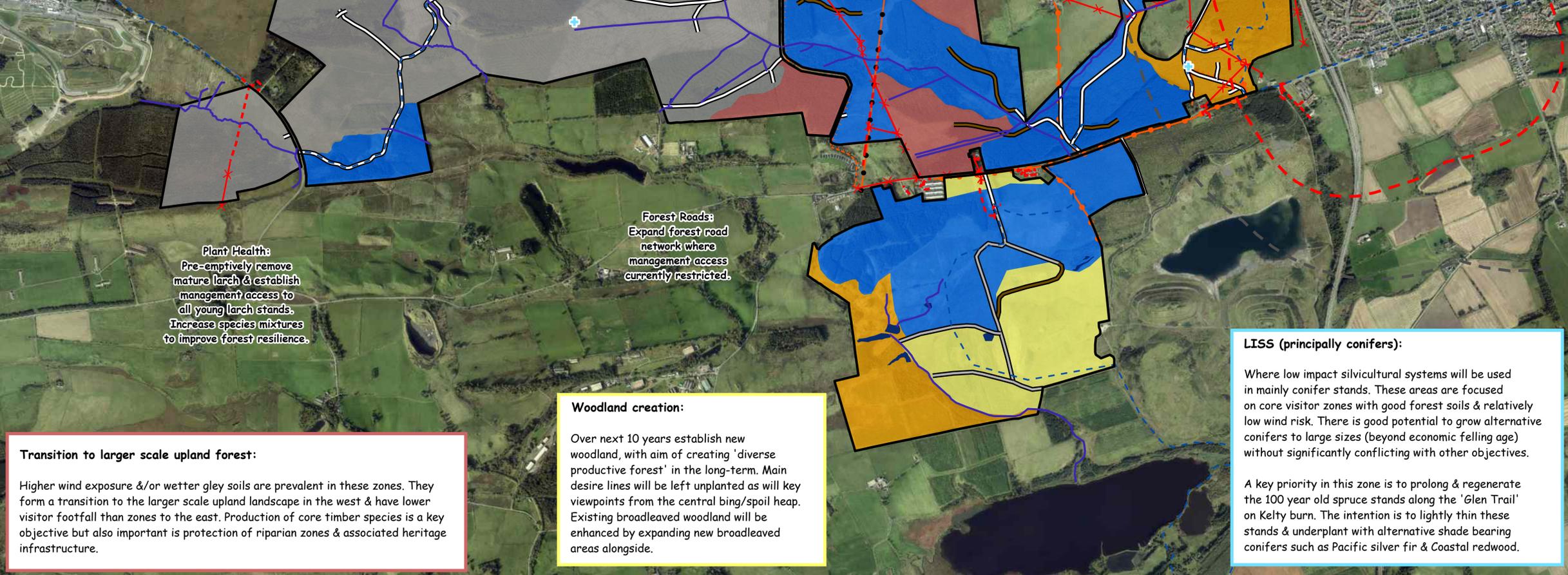
A key short-term objective is the phasing of harvesting in the west of forest. Windblow of mature stands is most prevalent here. The draft felling plan aims to re-structure affected stands over a 15 year period. This will allow some continuity of mature conifer forest for raptors & red squirrel whilst younger surrounding stands develop.

Diverse productive forest:

These zones often form a backdrop to LISS and Visitor Zones. In these zones a greater range of productive species & localised thinning operations will be used. Clearfell management is the most achievable forest regeneration strategy. A key constraint has been the lack of windfirm boundaries in tree stands. This resulted in larger coupe sizes, loss of control over felling time & reduced stand retention opportunities.
The future species & habitats plan aims to improve resilience to wind, reduce coupe size & increase opportunities for stand retention.
Some key mechanisms to achieve this:
Strategic planting of slow growing 'wind break' crops.
Increasing no. of tree species & intimate crop mixtures.
Thinning of 2nd rotation crops where conditions suitable.

LISS (principally broadleaves):

Where low intensity management will be used in mainly broadleaved stands. They are generally proposed on good forest soils where low intensity management is more compatible with other key objectives: Recreation & visitor zones. Designed landscape. Residential/commercial usage. Conservation.
They do not exclusively contain native broadleaved woodlands - as the latter is proposed in all zones to ensure a more connective native woodland network (e.g. riparian & peat fringe native broadleaves).



Forest Riparian Zones:
Increase native & mixed woodland under low intensity management.

Services/Utilities:
Retain/expand wayleaves, Review adjacent tree species.

Forest Roads:
Expand forest road network where management access currently restricted.

Plant Health:
Pre-emptively remove mature larch & establish management access to all young larch stands. Increase species mixtures to improve forest resilience.

Transition to larger scale upland forest:

Higher wind exposure &/or wetter gley soils are prevalent in these zones. They form a transition to the larger scale upland landscape in the west & have lower visitor footfall than zones to the east. Production of core timber species is a key objective but also important is protection of riparian zones & associated heritage infrastructure.

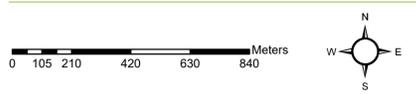
Woodland creation:

Over next 10 years establish new woodland, with aim of creating 'diverse productive forest' in the long-term. Main desire lines will be left unplanted as will key viewpoints from the central bing/spoil heap. Existing broadleaved woodland will be enhanced by expanding new broadleaved areas alongside.

LISS (principally conifers):

Where low impact silvicultural systems will be used in mainly conifer stands. These areas are focused on core visitor zones with good forest soils & relatively low wind risk. There is good potential to grow alternative conifers to large sizes (beyond economic felling age) without significantly conflicting with other objectives.

A key priority in this zone is to prolong & regenerate the 100 year old spruce stands along the 'Glen Trail' on Kelty burn. The intention is to lightly thin these stands & underplant with alternative shade bearing conifers such as Pacific silver fir & Coastal redwood.



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