

Tay Forest District

Five Mile Wood and Taymount Forest Design Plan

Approval date: ***

Plan Reference No: ****

Plan Approval Date: *****

Plan Expiry Date: *****

Five Mile Wood & Taymount Forest Plan 2012-22

CSM 6 Appendix 1b

FOREST ENTERPRISE - Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals in Scotland

Forest Enterprise - Property

Forest District:	Tay Forest District
Woodland or property name:	Five Mile Wood and Taymount
Nearest town, village or locality:	Stanley
OS Grid reference:	NO
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Perth & Kinross Council

Areas for approval

	Conifer	Broadleaf
Clear felling	7HA	0HA
Selective felling	0	0
Restocking	6HA	1HA
New planting (complete appendix 4)	0	0

1. I apply for Forest Design Plan approval*/~~amendment approval~~* for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.

2. * I apply for an opinion under the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 for ~~afforestation*/deforestation*/ roads*/ quarries*~~ as detailed in my application.

3. I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FC staff on

17/7/12

4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.

5. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included.

6. I confirm that consultation and scoping has been carried out with all relevant stakeholders over the content of the of the design plan. Consideration of all of the issues raised by stakeholders has been included in the process of plan preparation and the outcome recorded on the attached consultation record. I confirm that we have informed all stakeholders about the extent to which we have been able to address their concerns and, where it has not been possible to fully address their concerns, we have reminded them of the opportunity to make further comment during the public consultation process.

7. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed
Forest District Manager

Signed.....
Conservator

District

Conservancy.....

Date

Date of Approval

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Summary of Proposals

The next ten years...

The intention of this forest plan is to continue, and build on, the proposals of the previous plan.

There is one clearfell of 7 hectares planned in Five Mile Wood to clear up windblow caused by the storms of winter 2011/12.

Thinning will continue in the older sections of Five Mile Wood and Taymount, converting stands to Low Impact Silvicultural Systems and reducing the adverse impact of Dothistroma Needle Blight in Scots pine.

Younger birch regeneration will be re-spaced and thinned to produce a productive crop.

Entrances to the forests will be managed to make more welcoming to users, appear safer and discourage dumping of refuse.

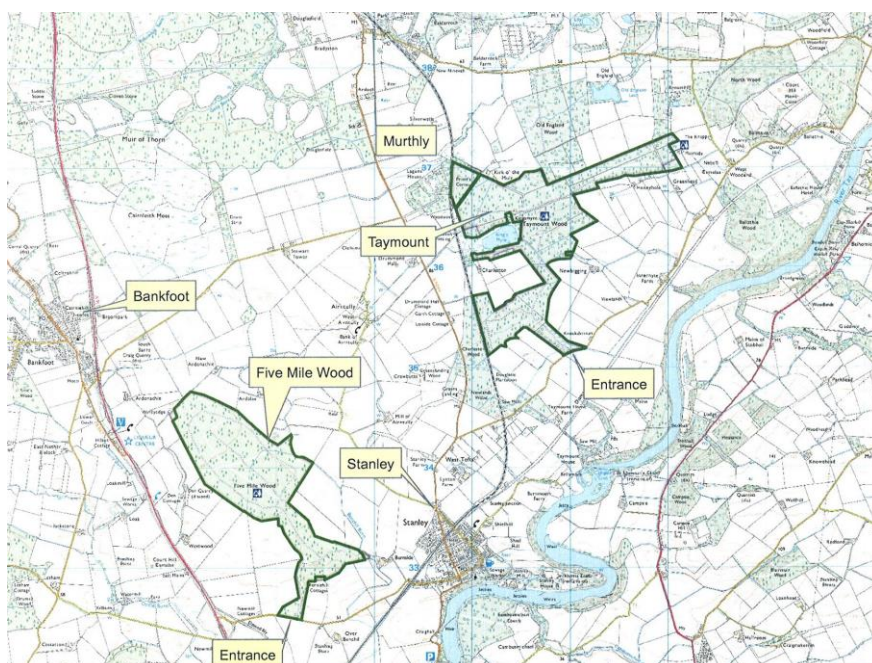
Self-closing gates will be installed on core path accesses.

Five Mile Wood & Taymount Forest Plan 2012-22

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Setting and context

Both woods lie to the east of the A9, about 5 miles north of Perth, with the communities of Stanley, Murthly, Luncarty and Bankfoot all being within easy travelling distance.



Five Mile Wood and Taymount: location map

1.2 History of the forest

Five Mile Wood was purchased in 1943 from Strathord estate. Taymount was acquired in 1956 with a small section south-east of Kirk o' the Muir being added two years later.

Both forest blocks are set in a rolling agricultural landscape, surrounded by productive arable farmland and estates.

Whilst some areas of Taymount were felled and subsequently restocked or allowed to regenerate naturally, there has been no large scale felling in Five Mile Wood until now when windblow has left no alternative.

2.0 Analysis of previous plan

2.1 Aims of previous plan and achievements

The main aims were to

- ❖ minimise landscape impact on the edge of Five Mile Wood visible from the A9
- ❖ increase the proportion of land in Taymount allocated to wetland and native broadleaved woodland
- ❖ develop a diverse structure in Five Mile Wood and gradually make the entrance and first section more attractive
- ❖ maintain a diverse structure in Taymount and improve the entrance
- ❖ maintain an area of high quality Scots pine in Five Mile Wood
- ❖ continue to thin Scots pine and birch in Taymount to improve quality, and introduce improved Sitka spruce into restock sites (this latter plan was not fully actioned due to the profuse regeneration of birch and its acceptance as a suitable crop tree)
- ❖ use Continuous Cover Forestry practices to produce a more balanced forest structure over time

2.2 How previous plan relates to today's objectives

The previous plan has proved to be fairly robust in the face of changing local and national objectives and the proposed plan is more or less a continuation of its original objectives.

3.0 Background information

3.1 Physical site factors

3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

The underlying rocks in the area are of Lower Old Red Sandstone age but have been covered by glacial deposits left by the receding glaciers of the last ice age. Surface water gleys (some imperfectly drained) make up the great majority of the soils in both Five Mile Wood and Taymount. The terrain is slightly rolling, and lies about 80 metres above sea level.

3.1.2 Water

The flat agricultural landscape means that main drains and burns through the woods are an essential part of the local drainage system. The Benchil Burn is important for spawning fish.

Observance of the Forest and Water guidelines during forest operations will safeguard the water quality.

3.1.3 Climate

Mean annual temperatures in this region are about 7-8 degrees centigrade, with January the coldest month and July is the warmest month. Much of eastern Scotland is sheltered from the rain-bearing westerly winds. The average annual rainfall for eastern Scotland varies between 700mm and 1500mm, considerably drier than the west coast of Scotland.

Five Mile Wood and Taymount are flat but are relatively open and exposed.

Based on accumulated temperature and moisture deficit maps produced by *Pyatt et al.*, climatic conditions are 'warm, moist'.

3.2 Biodiversity and environmental designations

There are no statutory designations within the boundaries of the forests but King's Myre, Site of Special Scientific Interest, is surrounded on three sides by Taymount.

The River Tay Special Area of Conservation has an impact on the forest blocks as all watercourses eventually flow into this designated watercourse.

Both woodlands are currently of interest to Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels, a national strategy, managed by SWT, to try and protect red squirrels by stopping the spread of grey squirrels.

3.3 The existing forest:

3.3.1 Age structure, species and yield class

Scots pine dominates both Five Mile Wood and Taymount. In Five Mile Wood, the native species covers 75% of the ground with the remainder comprising Sitka spruce, larch then broadleaves. Over 80% of the trees are currently aged over 60 years.

Taymount is more diverse with only half being Scots pine, followed by spruces (Sitka and Norway) but with broadleaves making up nearly a quarter of the total. These are mostly young naturally regenerated birch stands which have already been re-spaced to improve crop quality.

Growth rates in both forests are similar with Scots pine attaining a very high (for Scots pine) Yield Class of 10-14 on average and Sitka spruce averaging YC 12-16, at the poorer end of spruce yields. Firs (Douglas and Noble) have Yield Classes in the mid to high teens. Birch and oak yields are in single figures.

Dothistroma Needle Blight has been positively identified in Scots pine in both forests (July 2012) and will have an impact on growth potential and the resulting need for heavy thinning.

3.3.2 Access

Access to Five Mile Wood is from a minor road linking Stanley to the A9. There is only one entrance. Taymount similarly only has one vehicle access point for haulage purposes, from the minor road that links Stanley to Ballathie. There is also a track into the wood which uses a level-crossing over the Perth- Inverness railway line. This has rarely been used by FCS.

3.3.3 LISS potential

Virtually all of both woods are managed under LISS, whether older trees being regularly thinned or younger stands of regeneration which have been re-spaced and are now nearing thinning. The poorly drained soil should preclude this but the Scots pine in particular seems to thrive and is comparatively stable, little having been lost in the storms of the winter of 2011/12.

3.3.4 Current and potential markets

The current markets for logs from Tay Forest District include James Jones Ltd (Aboyne and Kirriemuir), Windymains (Humbie, East Lothian), James Callander & Son (Falkirk), BSW (Kilmallie, Boat of Garten, Petersmuir) and Ridings (Dumbarton).

Smaller size material serves the palletwood market for James Jones Ltd at Lockerbie and Perthshire Timber Company at Dunkeld.

Small roundwood goes to Norbord (Cowie and Inverness), Iggesund (Workington) and for export. Future markets for small roundwood include Tullis Russell's new Biomass plant at Markinch.

Some hardwood timber goes to the firewood market either commercially (Gatehouse, Aberfeldy) or to individuals.

Non-timber products include venison, with some income also coming from the lease of stalking.

3.4 Landscape and landuse

3.4.1 Landscape character and value

Five Mile Wood and Taymount are both mature, even-aged, mainly coniferous forests. They are neither particularly interesting nor offensive, internally or externally. Since nearly all of both are managed as Low Impact Silviculture, this will not change significantly over the period of the plan.

3.4.2 Visibility

Although Five Mile Wood sits on a minor ridge, it is not very visible in the landscape except at close quarters, or from a considerable distance. Likewise, Taymount does not have a major impact on its surroundings.

3.4.3 Neighbouring landuse

The area around both woods is a mixture of agricultural land used for both arable and grazing and small, mixed estate woodlands, similar in character and appearance to Five Mile Wood and Taymount.

3.5 Social factors

3.5.1 Recreation

Whilst there are no formal recreation facilities in either wood, both are well used by local dog-walkers, joggers and cyclists. There are a number of Core Paths within the forests, linking them to a wider network of routes. Recently, local voluntary youth workers have laid out a small mountain bike circuit in Five Mile Wood which can be accessed via Burnside Farm by local children.

3.5.2 Community

Five Mile wood and Taymount are loosely encircled by the communities of Stanley, Murthly and Bankfoot. Although there are many local users, there does not appear to be any great interest in increasing community involvement in the woods.

3.5.3 Heritage

There are no scheduled or unscheduled ancient monuments in either wood. Local sources mention a disused ice-house in Five Mile Wood. Taymount has a deep anti-tank ditch and other concrete structures which were originally part of the Command Line constructed during World War Two to slow up invaders.

3.6 Statutory requirements and key external policies

Taymount Forest encloses King's Myre SSSI on three sides.

The River Tay Special Area of Conservation has a major impact on the forest blocks as all watercourses eventually flow into this designated watercourse.

4.0 Analysis and Concept

4.1 Analysis

The Analysis and Concept maps show the factors which, through our consultation and development periods, have significantly influenced the design and long term vision of this forest.

4.2 Concepts of the plan

The design concept has been graphically presented in the site analysis and design concept maps (Map 3 and Map 4).

The intention with this plan is to produce woodland that meets the demands of timber production, landscaping, biodiversity and recreation in a sustainable manner while retaining flexibility to adapt to priority changes in both the short and long term as well as any opportunities that present themselves.

The concept encompasses 5 core areas, each of which is briefly outlined below

Timber Production

It is intended to thin both forests on a regular rotation to allow conversion to LISS and to ensure steady production of timber. This will produce a good mix of products from the larger, mature stands. The younger birch in Taymount is nearing first thinning stage.

Only one clearfell is proposed during the plan period. This area of Sitka spruce on the western edge of Five Mile Wood was blown over in the severe gales of the winter of 2011/12.

Over the period of the plan, the expected production from felling will be about 3000m³ (from the wind-blown area), and from thinning, about 7500m³ per thinning cycle (planned for every 5 years) once begun.

Landscaping

Neither forest has a large presence in the surrounding landscape, and as the only felling is the clearance of windblow from Five Mile Wood, there should be no significant visual change, internally or externally.

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Recreation

There are no formal recreation facilities in Five Mile Wood or Taymount. Both are, however, well used by local dog-walkers, runners and cyclists. The access points to each wood for the public are at the forest gates. These are not particularly welcoming currently and often attract fly-tipping. By making the entrances more attractive and open, and perhaps increasing the parking area, more positive users would be encouraged and anti-social users discouraged.

The walking routes in Taymount are felt to be boring and 'there and back' by local users who would like a greater variety and some more loops made available. Clearance of the sporadic windblow behind Honeyhole will make the (aspirational) Core Paths more likely to be used.

Similarly, the planned removal of the windblow on Five Mile Woods' circuit will restore its use to the less intrepid walker and runner. The northern exit from the Core Path that follows the old north road should be made easier with the installation of a self-closing gate.

Conservation

The designated sites (Kings Mire SSSI and River Tay SAC) both have an impact on how these woodlands might be managed. Water quality of these important sites may be influenced by forestry and so strict adherence to best practise water management, including fertiliser and chemical use, will be followed.

The extensive areas of Scots Pine and CCF/LISS have a generally beneficial effect on biodiversity, particularly the population of red squirrels (note that these woods are currently being monitored by Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels; a national programme of targeted grey squirrel control and red squirrel monitoring, focusing on the impact to red squirrels along the line of interface between these two species, in order to promote the conservation of the native species).

Increasing amounts of deadwood (where this does not cause a conflict with recreational use of the forest), particularly in some of the mature stands of Scots Pine and broad leaved woodland, will further enhance biodiversity.

Areas of mostly native broad leaved woodland will have suitable habitat links created under the moderate expansion of the broadleaved component.

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Heritage

There are no Scheduled or unscheduled ancient monuments in either Five Mile Wood or Taymount. There are no RCAHMS listed finds. In Taymount, there is a deep anti-tank ditch and other anti-tank structures which were part of a Command Line constructed during World War Two to deter invaders. Kirk o' the Muir, an impressive but ruined early Secession church lies just to the north of Taymount.

5.0 Forest Design Plan Proposals

5.1 Management

Five Mile Wood and Taymount are similar forests with mature conifers and hardwoods which will be managed as Low Impact Silvicultural Systems to maintain the recreation and landscape value, and bio-diversity.

Commercial areas of the forest will be marketed and harvested in such a way as to maximise return on the initial investment whilst maintaining a district-wide steady rate of production.

Restocking will be done by selecting the species that best suit the ground conditions and the objectives of management. These are assessed after felling using a combination of plant indicator species and soil pits to gauge soil moisture and fertility.

Management prescriptions for areas of continuous cover forestry are outlined in Appendix III, but detailed prescriptions form part of the Coupe Work Plans produced for internal approval two years before an operation is to take place.

Work on the ancient and long established native restoration is outlined in the management prescriptions for areas of continuous cover forestry and more detailed prescriptions in Coupe Work Plans.

5.2 Future habitats and species

With most of the forests under a LISS prescription, there is only one area where restocking will take place within the plan period. The windblown area on the western edge of Five Mile Wood will be restocked with a mixture of Scots pine and larch.

Areas of long term retention and LISS will continue to be thinned with the thinning intensity and choice of species removed being used to favour preferred species and reduce unsuitable species. This will mean that Scots pine, larch and birch will be retained while Sitka spruce and Noble fir will gradually diminish in area.

5.3 Restructuring

There is no restructuring proposed in the current plan. Where there are mature trees, most will be kept as long term retentions or LISS.

5.4 Future management

Other than the clearance of windblow in Five Mile Wood, the major activity will be the continuance of thinning in both woods, picking up sporadic windblow where present and the maintenance of younger restocks.

The confirmed presence of Dothistroma Needle Blight in both forests in July 2012 will result in more intensive thinning in the pine to open up the canopy and produce less favourable conditions for the pathogen to flourish.

Maintenance of boundary fences (including internal ones) to exclude deer and stock will continue.

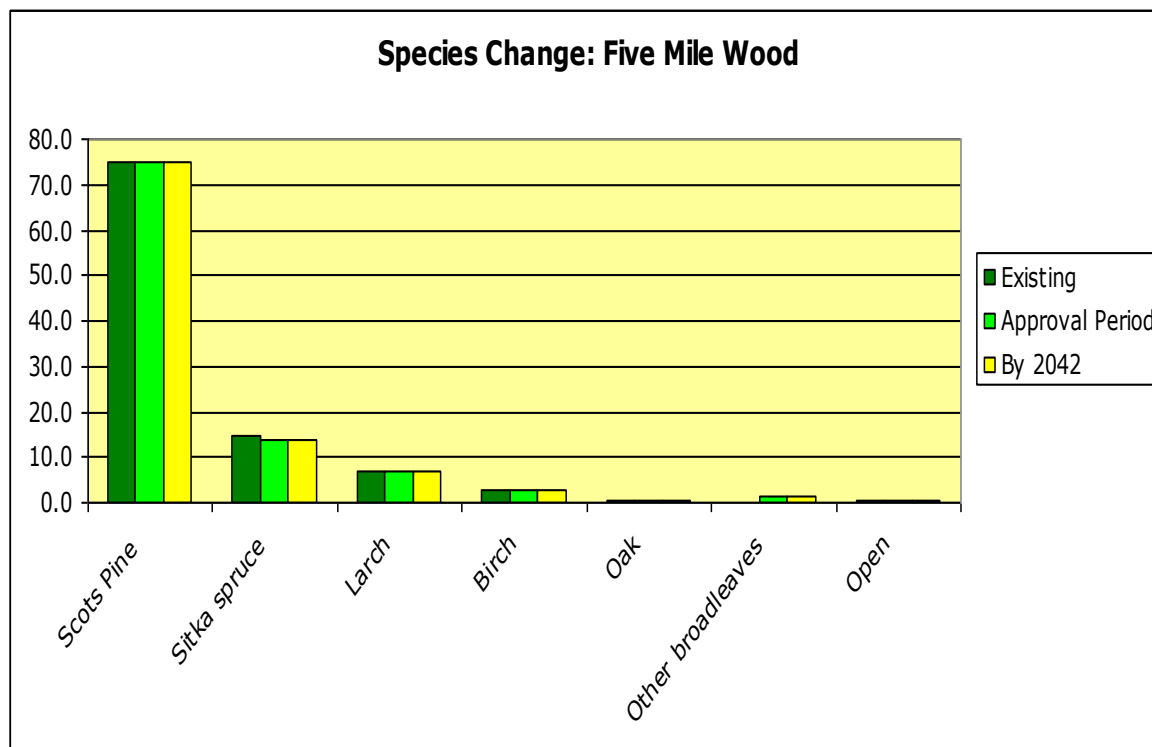
Control of Rhododendron and any other undesirable exotics will continue where they are present.

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5.5 Species tables

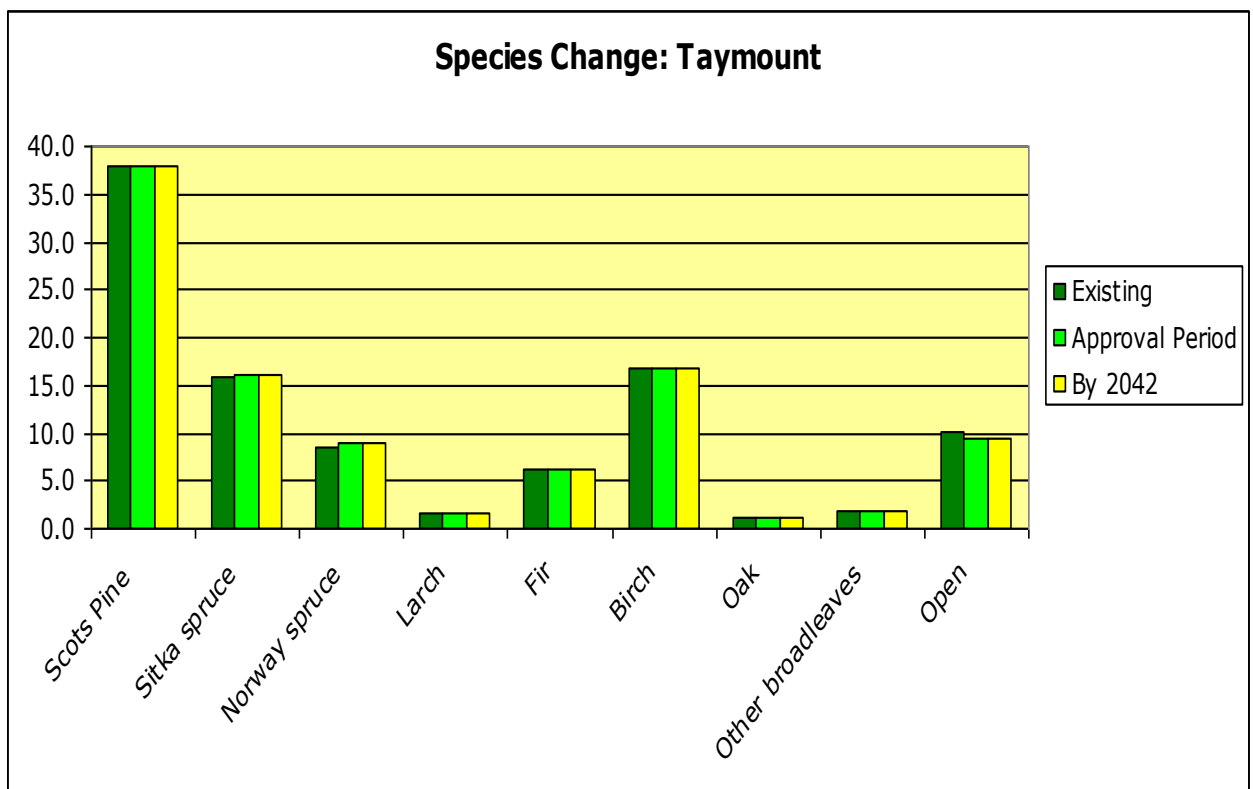
As can be seen from the tables and graphs below, due to the amount of younger crops and to the amount of natural reserve and LISS, there are no significant changes in the species mix in any of the blocks. There is a slight reduction in the percentage of spruces (mostly Sitka) and a slight rise in open space and 'other conifers'.

Five Mile Wood	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
Scots pine	74.8	74.8	74.8
Sitka spruce	14.7	13.6	13.6
Larches	6.8	6.8	6.8
Birch	2.6	2.6	2.6
Oak	0.4	0.4	0.4
Broadleaves	0.2	1.3	1.3
Open	0.5	0.5	0.5
	100	100	100



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Taymount	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
Scots pine	38.0	38.0	38.0
Sitka spruce	15.8	16.1	16.1
Norway spruce	8.5	8.9	8.9
Larches	1.6	1.6	1.6
Fir	6.2	6.2	6.2
Birch	16.8	16.8	16.8
Oak	1.1	1.1	1.1
Other broadleaves	1.9	1.8	1.8
Open	10.1	9.5	9.5
	100	100	100

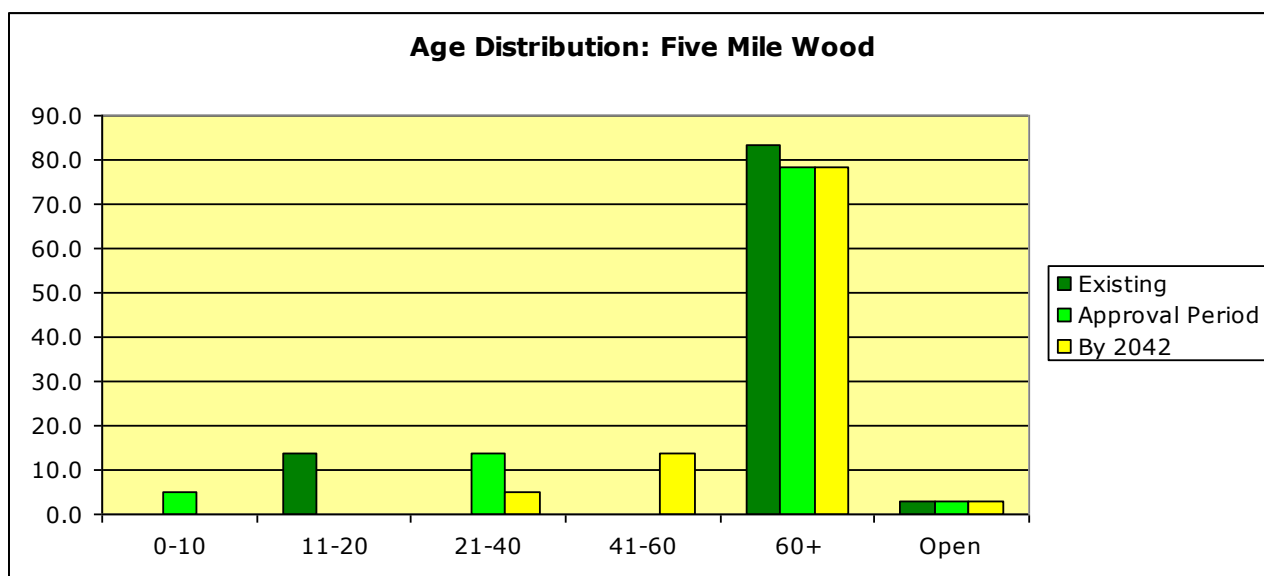


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5.6 Age structure

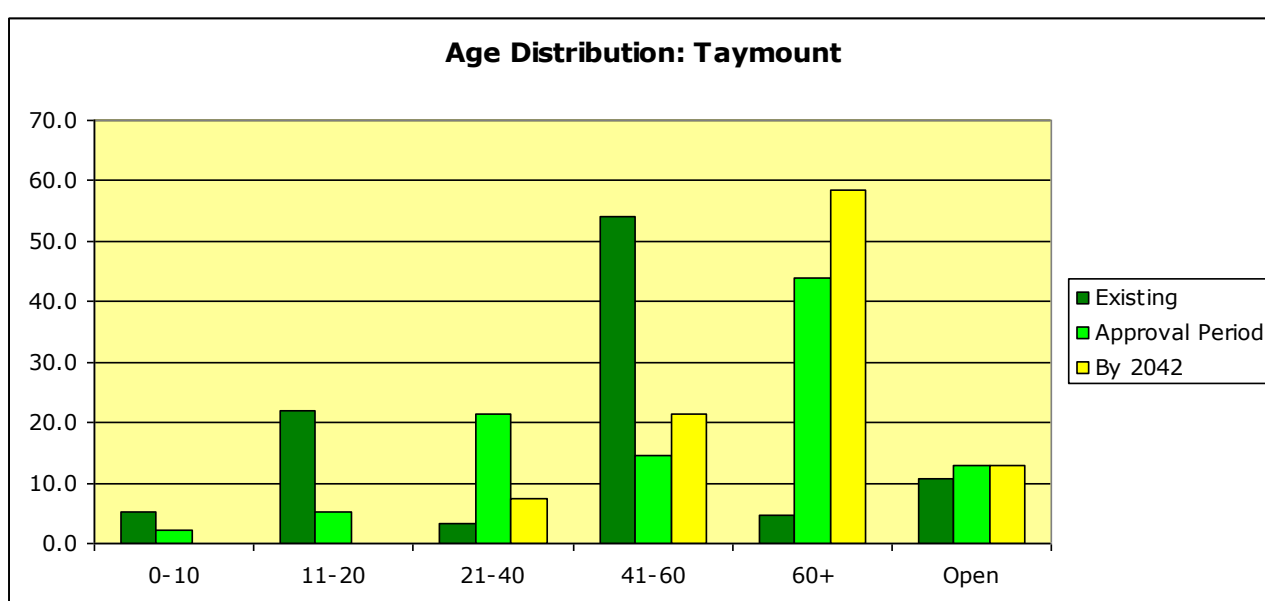
For the same reason that there is little change in the species mix (as can be seen from the tables and graphs below), due to the amount of LISS, and consequent lack of major fellings, there are no significant changes in the relative age structure in any of the blocks, apart from aging.

Five Mile Wood	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
0-10	0	5	0
11-20	14	0	0
21-40	0	14	5
41-60	0	0	14
60+	83	78	78
Open	3	3	3
	100	100	100



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Taymount	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
0-10	5	2	0
11-20	22	5	0
21-40	3	21	7
41-60	54	15	21
60+	5	44	59
Open	11	13	13
	100	100	100



5.7 PAWS restoration

Both Five Mile Wood and Taymount are Long Established Woodlands of Plantation Origin but there is no Ancient Woodland present.

5.8 Management of open land

There is only a very small amount land listed as open in Five Mile Wood, being within stands that are not fully stocked. Taymount has a higher percentage and again is due to stands that have regenerated but are not fully stocked.

5.9 Deer management

The forests of Five Mile Wood and Taymount cover nearly 300ha. The predominant species is roe deer, with some fallow and occasional red deer. The forests are enclosed by stock fences of various ages. Both woods are surrounded by rolling agricultural land and mixed woods. Much of this land is also used for mixed sporting interests and with only stock fences, there is medium to high migration of deer across boundaries. A Deer Management Permission is used to control the deer in the woods with the current annual cull being around 50 roe and 15 fallow.

The overall plan will be to continue to monitor deer populations and trends by dung counts and culls to reduce densities to less than 10/100ha. In addition, we will monitor impact of deer on young restocking, areas of natural regeneration and important habitats. There is no Deer Management Group in the area but close collaboration exists between FCS and local land-owners.

The Forest District maintains a Forest Deer Management Strategy for all its forest blocks as a mechanism for identifying deer management issues at both strategic and operational level. Feeding into the strategy is captured data from cull records, boundary fence condition, browsing impacts, and estimated deer population figures within forest blocks and on neighbouring land. This information is collected by local staff and external bodies to give a holistic view of deer dynamics effecting individual forest blocks.

5.10 Access

Both forests blocks are accessed directly from unclassified minor roads but lie within 3 miles of the A9. There are no plans to alter this.

5.11 Critical success factors

Production: Failure to carry out the re-spacing, thinning and felling proposed within the period of the plan would compromise the conversion to LISS. Thinning will also be important to reduce the effects of Dothistroma Needle Blight in the pine.

Recreation: Poor management of the proposed thinning and felling could compromise the current recreational interest and quality.

Landscape: minimising the landscape impact of the forests by felling then restocking the planned coupes and by thinning with variable intensities and extending the area of native species depends on carrying out the proposed thinning and felling.

Biodiversity: the proposed biodiversity benefits depend on the appropriate operational guidelines being adhered to when working in the forests.

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Appendix I: Forest Design Plan Consultation Record

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response

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Public Consultation Meeting, Stanley Village Hall. 14.00-20.00, 17th July 2012

Public Consultation Meeting	Issue raised	Forest District Response
	Would like more links in the path network to provide a number of circular routes	Opportunities may arise for further links when thinning
	Would like windblow removed to improve access for walking and running (both Five Mile Wood and Taymount)	Removal of major area already planned, sporadic windblow will be picked up when next thinned
	Would like improved (bigger) car parking areas at entrances	Intended to improve these areas
	Mentioned presence of a possible ruined ice house in the north-east of Five Mile Wood	Will notify archaeologist and mark on constraints maps
	Gave background information on the Command Line structures in Taymount	Will notify archaeologist and mark on constraints maps
	Raised concern regarding the water management and maintenance of drains and the effect on neighbouring farmland	Forest drainage will be monitored, particularly during and after operations
	Would like locked gate at north end of Five Mile Wood replaced with something allowing easier access	Self-closing gates on order
	Would like the surface of core paths improved and their presence indicated more obviously	Responsibility of Perth & Kinross Council

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Appendix II: Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Windthrow response
FC Approval not normally required	0.5 ha or 5% of coupe – whichever is less.	Variation of less than 2 planting seasons from standard restock year, 4 years post-felling.	Up to 5% species exchange	Up to 1.0 ha.
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5 ha to 2.0 ha or 10% of coupe – whichever is less.		>15% species change	1.0 ha to 5.0 ha – if mainly windblown trees. Between 5.0 ha to 10.0 ha in areas of low sensitivity.
Approval by formal plan amendment	Greater than 2.0 ha or 10% of coupe.	Variation of greater than 2 planting seasons from standard restock year, 4 years post-felling.	Change from broadleaf to Conifer	Greater than 5.0 ha in areas of medium to high sensitivity.
			Reduction in native broadleaves by >5%	
			Reduction of >10% of productive net area	

Appendix III. Design Plan Brief

The management of the Forestry Commission Scotland's national forest estate is guided by Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) 2006, which sets out seven key themes:-

- **Climate change**
- **Timber**
- **Business development**
- **Community development**
- **Access & Health**
- **Environmental quality**
- **Biodiversity**

Table 1. Relevant issues under the SFS and Tay Forest District Key Themes

SFS Key Themes	Relevant issues identified for Five Mile Wood and Taymount FDP
Climate Change	Opportunities for contributing towards national targets for renewable energy via woodfuel. Carbon sequestration increased by extending low impact silvicultural systems (continuous cover forestry). Continuous Cover Forestry will be the default management option in both woods unless good reasons not to. Good quality broadleaves acceptable as a final crop.
Timber	Continue to grow quality timber sustainably. Increase the future quality broadleaved resource. Use Continuous Cover Forestry and favour Birch when regenerating.
Business Development	Through timber harvesting, woodland establishment and maintenance.
Community Development	Encourage communities who wish to become more involved in the management of, or outputs from, their local forest. Mountain bike route/play area for local youngsters being looked at.
Access and Health	Informal access routes. Proposed core path through Five Mile Wood. Local dog walking, rubbish dumping. Visitor zone not required.

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Environmental Quality	<p>Maintain landscape by extending low impact silvicultural systems (continuous cover forestry).</p> <p>Appropriate coupe size, shape and sequencing.</p> <p>Alternative species may be required if Red Band Needle Blight has an impact on current species.</p> <p>Continue to work with local archaeologists and Historic Scotland to protect the ancient monuments in our care. (No known historical artefacts.)</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Continue to expand the area of native woodland. Continue to work with SNH to protect and enhance the scheduled (adjacent) and locally important sites in our care.</p> <p>King's Mire SSSI is adjacent- though in poor condition due to nitrate and phosphate run-off.</p> <p>Red squirrels present- both woods monitored for grey squirrel control.</p>

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Table 2. Initial brief and objectives for developing management proposals

Brief	Objectives
Minimise impact of forestry on the landscape	Appropriate coupe size, shape and sequencing. Continuous Cover Forestry will be the default management option in both woods unless good reasons not to. Good quality broadleaves acceptable as a final crop.
Maintain production of quality timber	Continuous Cover Forestry will be the default management option in both woods unless good reasons not to. Good quality broadleaves acceptable as a final crop.
Maintain and enhance existing natural habitats	Convert plantation conifer to native woodland on PAWS sites. Protect statutory sites according to agreed guidelines. Extend locally important habitats as opportunities arise through other forest operations.
Community Development	Work with local groups to increase forest use and community benefits.
Environmental Quality	CCF/LISS will be the main means of maintaining or improving environmental quality. Increasing the deadwood volume (standing and fallen) will be beneficial Careful observation of water (-course) management will be important.
Preserve historic features	Protect all known features including Unscheduled Ancient Monuments.