

Westfield

Land Management Plan

1. Summary

1.1 Location

Westfield is located on the edge of Strathmore in Perthshire just North West of Alyth town centre. The town of Alyth itself has a population of approximately 3,000 in a region where agriculture dominates the landscape.

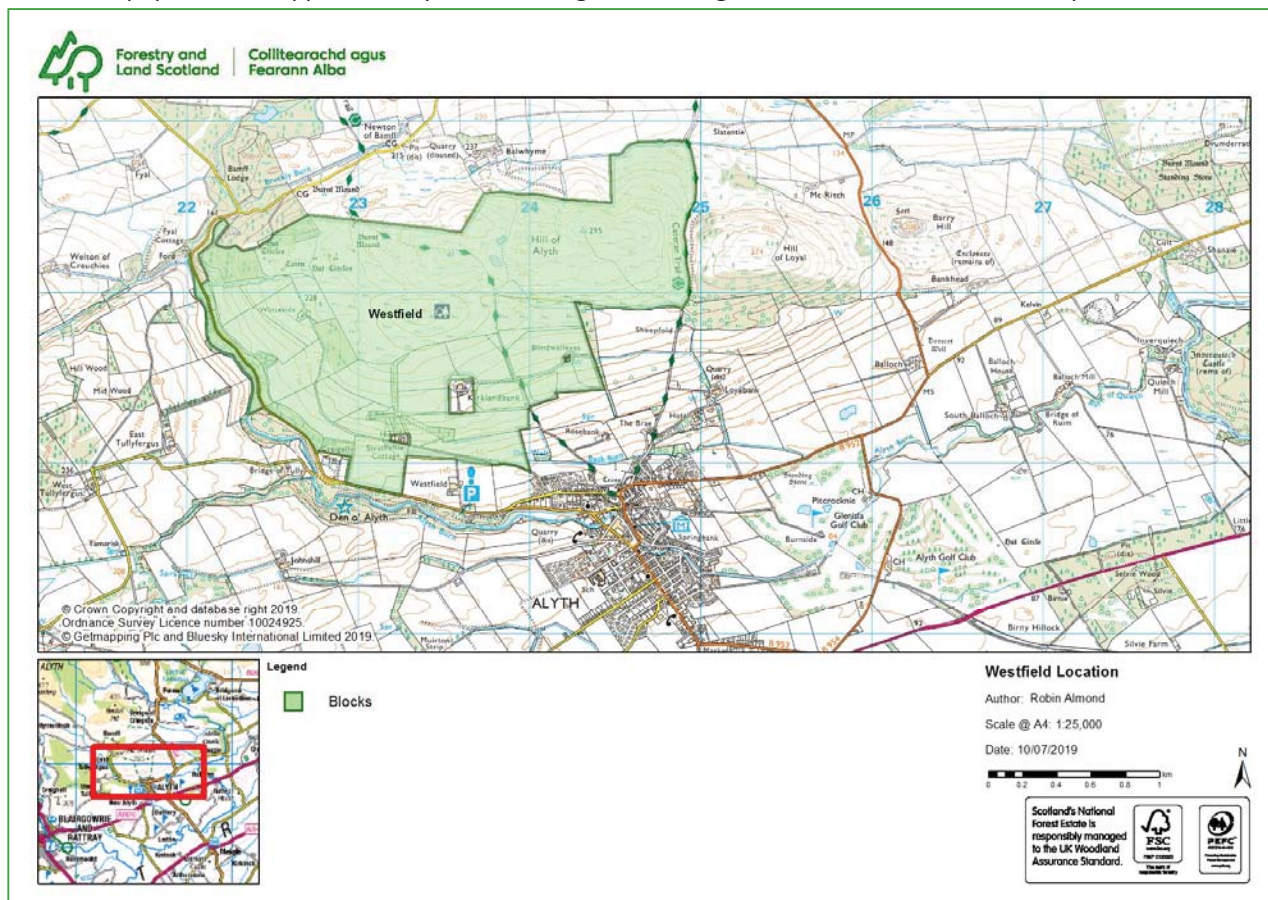


Plate 1: Westfield Land Management Plan Area

1.2 The site

The site totals some 333.82 hectares and comprises a mix of young mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland planted in 2010. There are some 13.93 hectares of pre-existing predominantly conifer shelter strips. The Hill of Alyth which is open land occupies approximately half the site. The woodland area includes approximately 1/3rd of the Den of Alyth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for upland mixed ash woodland and is part of the River Tay SAC.

1.3 Certification

The management of the woodland is certified and at all times seek to adhere to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

1.4 Key Issues

The key issues in this plan are:

- To maintain and improve the connection between the site and local community
- To continue to manage the crops towards the production of high quality timber.
- Manage the historic coniferous woodlands / shelter belts to better meet the overall objectives for the site.
- Improvement of the forest road network to enable forest management operations to be undertaken
- Look to maintain and further improve the biodiversity interest of the open hill ground.

1.5 Proposals in Brief

- Undertake works to manage the young crops to improve the timber quality.
- Fell 6.86ha of mature conifer woodland. Fell 1.23ha of young oak woodland to facilitate construction of the anticipated new road line.
- Restock felled areas with 6.37ha of broadleaf woodland, 1.53ha of Scots Pine
- Construct some 650m of new forest road and upgrade the existing section to Whiteside Farm to provide access for management.
- Management of scrub areas for biodiversity, landscape and safety.
- Management of grass land areas to increase biodiversity.
- Create 46.6ha of new native woodland, 2.0ha of shrubs and 650m of extended hedgerow to improve the biodiversity of the open ground.

1.6 Changes over Plan Period

1.6.1 Proportion of Species

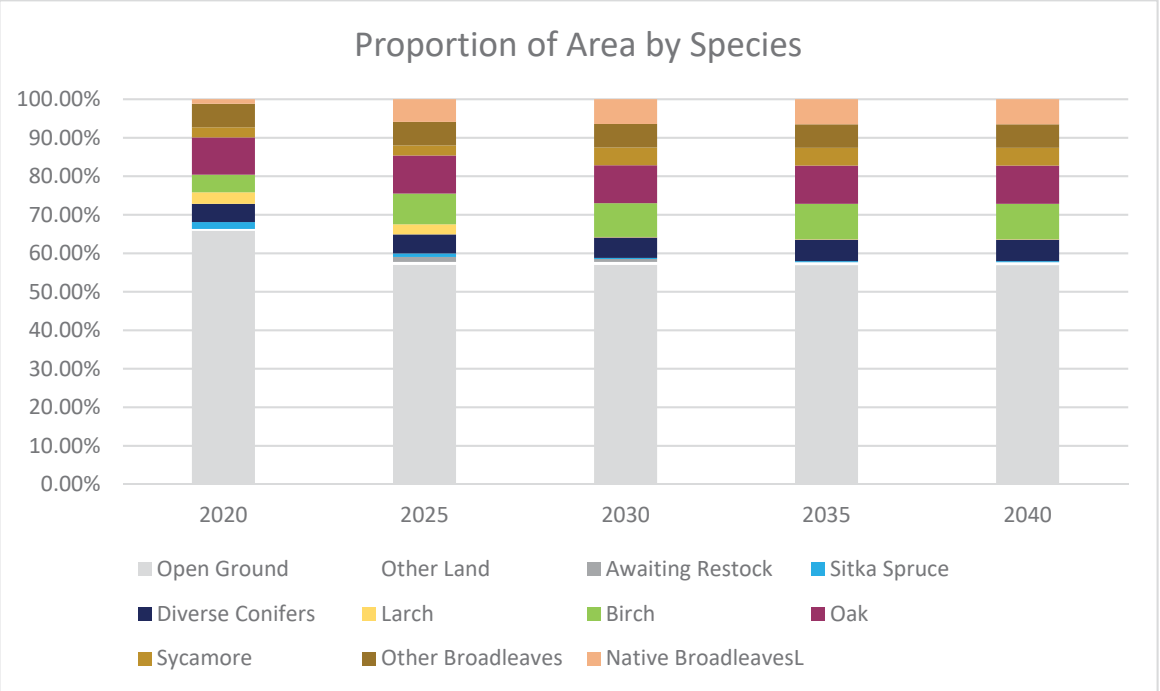


Chart 1: Proportion of species at Westfield by area. This shows the woodland is diverse but the site is still predominantly open.

Main points to take from the proportion of species is that the block is diverse with a spread of species with Birch and Oak dominating the net woodland area. As the plan proceeds the larch is removed and the Sitka spruce all but removed. In line with the objectives of the site the proportion of native woodland increases through the plan period.

1.6.2 Age Class Distribution

Due to the age of the woodland

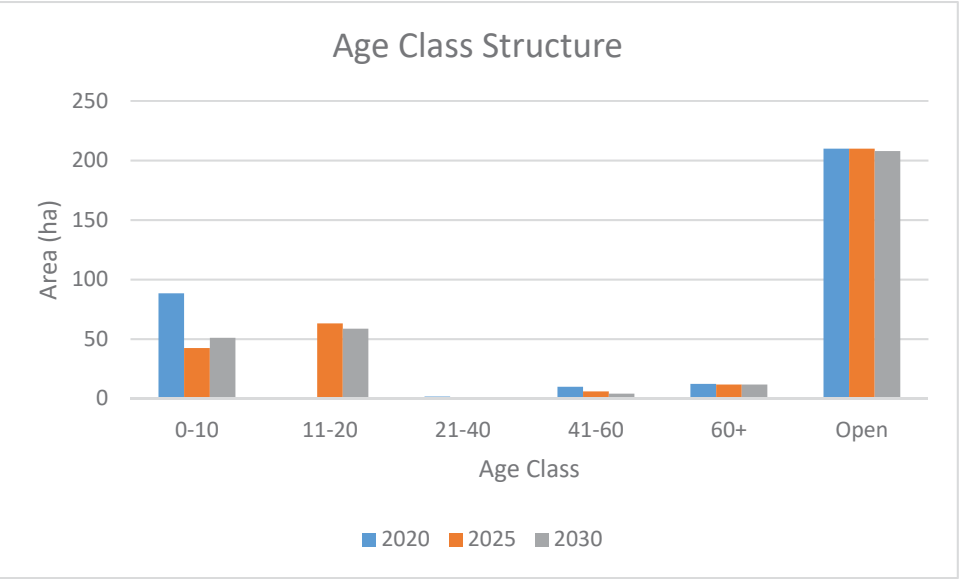


Chart 2: Chart showing the spread of age classes becoming more even as the plan progresses.

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1.7 Timing

1.7.1 Plan Period

This plan is for the twenty year period 2020 to 2039. This first ten year period (2020 to 2029) is particularly important because it relates to the part of the land management plan that requires specific approval from Scottish Forestry. Longer term management of Westfield is included in the plan to provide an indication of the direction of travel and to provide context.

1.7.2 Previous Plan approval

- Ref: 033/T/W/08 (16))
- Expiry date: 24th August 2020.

1.8 Consultation and Further Information

1.8.1 Scoping

During the development of this plan we have written to statutory consultees, neighbours and specific stakeholders. We held a public drop in event at the Airlie Street Halls on the 25th July 2019. At this event we were able to illustrate draft proposals and allow comment. This was advertised through posters at access points to the site and by advert in the Alyth Voice. A record of the above can be seen in Appendix 1 of this plan.

1.8.2 Felling Approval

This plan once submitted to Scottish Forestry will appear on the public register for a further period of 30 days allowing for comment to Scottish Forestry.

1.8.3 Further information

We remain open to dialogue regarding management of this site for further information on the plan please contact:

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East Region
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Perthshire
PH8 0JR

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E: enquiries.east@forestryandland.gov.scot

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the International Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.



The mark of
responsible forestry



Date: 13/02/2020

 Land Management
Plan Areas





M6: Future Species

Author: Robin Almond

Scale @ A3: 1:12,500

Date: 11/02/2020

Legend

Scenario Management
Coupes

Scenario Restock Areas

- Ash
- Beech
- Birch
- Oak
- Other Broadleaves
- Other Conifers
- Douglas Fir
- Larch
- Lodgepole Pine
- Norway Spruce
- Scots Pine
- Sitka Spruce
- Open

Core Paths (Scot.)

Core Paths (Scot.)

Land Management Plan Areas

Land Management
Plan Areas

OS 50k Contours (GB)

OS 50k Contours (GB)

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 km



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Scotland's national
forests and land
are responsibly
managed to the
UK Woodland
Assurance Standard.

