

5. Objectives and opportunities (p)

Woodland (Visions for each woodland block)

Abergwyngregyn

- Abergwyngregyn forest blocks will become less of a priority for productive conifer timber and has already started to move towards a predominately broadleaf forest that will enhance the existing broadleaves in the area, improve landscape stability and also bring wellbeing, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and retain existing recreational benefits.
- Mixtures of conifer and broadleaf will be expected and tolerated through natural regeneration; however, the conifer element will be targeted at each thinning intervention to favour the broadleaves.
- Consideration of native productive broadleaves within the site will be given. Ideally local provenance seed will be sourced and grown on at local nurseries for use.

Braichmelyn

- Braichmelyn will become less priority for productive conifer timber and will slowly move towards a broadleaf forest that will create a greater stability to the landscape and also bring wellbeing, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and retain existing recreational benefits.
- The forest will be allowed to regenerate after coupe felling with a mixture of conifer and broadleaf. Enrichment in subsequent years after felling may be necessary to achieve recommended stocking densities.
- Tree species that are currently susceptible to severe pathogen attack will need to be felled for the health of the forest and safety of its users. Larch will no longer be used as a component of the forest species.

Parc y Bwlch

- Parc y Bwlch will continue to produce a sustainable supply of timber production through design of felling coupes and choice of restock species to allow productivity through continuous cover forestry (CCF) in future rotations.
- Due to similar aged components within Parc y Bwlch, much of the crop is now approaching biological maturity and areas of clearfell are going to be needed to prevent extensive wind blow.
- A development of native woodland buffer along the upper side of Parc y Bwlch adjacent to Moel y Ci to minimise natural regeneration of Conifer seedlings that may affect features of the adjacent Eryi SAC.
- Opportunities will be taken to soften the coupe edges after felling operations by allowing, regeneration or if needed by enrichment, of broadleaf species for consideration of neighbouring properties.
- Tree species that are currently susceptible to severe pathogen attack will need to be felled for the health of the forest and safety of its users. Larch will no longer be used as a component of the forest species.
- The preferred timber sales option would be Direct production, this would allow local interests, the opportunity to purchase parcels of roadside timber.

General

- In all woodland blocks ensure thinning is done on time will improve the silvicultural management of the forest.
- Consideration to providing a more diverse species and age range to improve resilience where possible.
- Diversify the forest species composition to increase resilience to pests and diseases whilst building a robust forest for future generations.

Ancient Woodland

- Improve habitat connectivity by maintaining and enhancing areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and restoring plantations on ancient woodland sites, in line with strategic prioritisation policy.
- Thinning of Ancient woodland sites is essential for the maintenance and follows sound silvicultural guidelines.
- Where the main crop of conifer has been harvested, facilitation of native woodland expansion. Restocking of these areas is a key priority to ensure that there is no net loss of forest cover.

Water

- Development of Riparian corridors will improve the connectivity of the forests to create linkages with other habitats and help to minimise the impact of sediment run off from forestry operations.
- Maintenance of culverts and roadside drainage systems to meet current FRM and industry best practice.

Recreation

- Maintain and consider additional recreational benefits and minimise where possible disruption to current recreational areas.

Culture and Heritage

- Identify heritage and cultural features to avoid damage, particularly around identified hotspot areas.