

Response to online consultation

Firstly, we thank everyone who contributed to the consultation. We received both constructive and positive comments on the plan.

There have been positive comments towards the move towards greater diversity and improved species and structural diversity within the woodland areas.

However, there were several comments around the removal of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS), and specifically Rhododendron Ponticum, this will be managed under standard forest management, and our guidance for management of Ancient Woodland Sites therefore is not set as an objective within this FRP.

Other comment were made on species restock, when we are preparing a site for restock, the indicative forest types gives the restocking manager an indication of what species are suitable, these then will be cross referenced with the soil types and site specifications, before the trees are selected.

The choice between clearfelling and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) is selected due to the site conditions, resources available, previous thinning, management, and infrastructure. If these aren't suitable then its likely a LISS area will be difficult to manage and likely fail or be exposed to wind blow damage through the coupe. Therefore, in many areas Clearfelling is still the management type selected. Furthermore, in young coupes they will not be assigned to LISS until they have had a first thinning which will occur roughly between 18 and 25 years old, this again is to see how the trees respond to the thinning.