

## NEWBOROUGH FOREST RESOURCE PLAN – PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

- Restore and maintain the SAC dune habitat interest features along the coast, to favourable condition in accordance with the conservation objectives. These include embryonic, shifting and fixed dunes, dunes with *Salix repens* and humid dune slacks habitats which support a diversity of rare flora and fauna. This will involve removing conifers from interest features and surrounding areas, to allow for more room for the sand dune system to develop over time and adapt to sea level rise resulting from climate change. There will also be more controlled grazing of open habitats to maintain these interest features.
- Restore and maintain habitats through appropriate woodland management so that they support other SAC/SSSI interest features in the forest. These include Shore dock, Medicinal Leech, Great crested newt, and Raven roosts.
- Manage areas around the UNESCO Pre-Cambrian rock ridge geo-park, an SSSI feature and a regionally important geological site. Expose and make accessible key geological features for research study and educational use along a newly proposed geological trail.
- Maintain a diverse and permanent forest ecosystem that includes both mixed conifer and native woodland, suitable as red squirrel habitat (red list and UK BAP species), with more successional woodland, woodland glades and open habitats along forest roads and rides. The woodland ecosystem will continue to provide habitats for numerous bird species, mammals such as bats and owls, as well as invertebrates and a diverse range of associated flora.
- Increase the quantity of deadwood in the forest, which supports a diverse biota within the forest ecosystem.
- Manage Invasive Non-Native species (INNS) such as Cotoneaster, Montbretia and Black cherry.
- Continue to use Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) and plan smaller felling coupes where possible, to help minimise the impact on water quality in the wider marine SAC area, by reducing the risk of sedimentation, peak flows, and acidification, as well as reducing the visual impacts in the forest landscape which is visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

- Ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Regulations 2017 when undertaking operational activities by following best practice as outlined in the 'UK Forest Standard - Forest and Water Guidelines' to protect water quality and freshwater ecosystems within the forest.
- Improve the internal structure of the forest by developing age class diversity, varieties of tree size and mixtures of species where possible. This can be achieved by continuing forest management using low impact silvicultural systems. These may include small strip felling, group felling and continued thinning of conifer crops.
- Maintain and reinstate canopy connectivity where possible for the benefit of red squirrel. Long term-retentions, Natural Reserves and delayed thinning in mature pine crops and new conifer planting in appropriate areas, will help achieve this.
- Diversify the species composition of the forest by promoting a more diverse restocking strategy, which will include more varieties of broadleaves and natives as well as productive conifers. Scot's pine, some fir species, hazel and beech are also suitable for red squirrel food provision.
- Increase Coastal Dune Woodland in the forest. It has been chosen as a suitable site for this rare habitat as part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Continue to provide the extensive access and recreation provision to a unique forest landscape and coastal destination which is economically important as well as delivering well-being benefits for the visitors and communities of Newborough, Anglesey and North-West Wales.
- Manage the forest accordingly to help provide open and least restrictive access and an interactive and fulfilling visitor experience whilst minimising the impacts of visitor numbers on the biology, heritage and landscape of the site.
- Continue to provide access to a unique sporting event venue and film location
- Explore opportunities for new strategic and active travel links to the forest.
- Consider the visual impact on visitors of forest management operations and long-term changes within the forest. A soft touch approach to forest management should be taken.
- Protect all monuments and historical features when carrying out forest management operations. Additional consultation may be necessary in archaeologically sensitive areas identified by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

- Improve the visual and sensory and landscape habitat value of the forest by increasing natives and diversifying the woodland.
- Maintain woodland/forest cover as far as possible whilst meeting other objectives namely around SAC/SSSI interest features, management for Red Squirrel and recreation provision in Newborough forest.
- Look for opportunities to create new woodland around the current forest and to compensate potential long-term losses due to sand dune habitat restoration.
- Work co-productively with communities and stakeholders and delivery partners to help develop and deliver a sustainable long-term 'People Plan' for future site use, local economy, access and recreation for the forest and surrounding area.
- Continue working in partnership with Llyn Parc Mawr community woodland group and allow for further management agreements which may cover a larger forest area.
- Be a good neighbour
- Allow natural processes to become more dominant across the whole site.
- Continue to provide access to this unique venue for education and a variety of research. Work with other research groups and partners to provide further evidence for the continuing sustainable management of the forest and all its ecosystems.
- Continue commercial activity and management of the current mature Corsican pine crop. Ensure the future commercial viability of the forest, by restocking the next generation of mixed conifer crops in appropriate locations.