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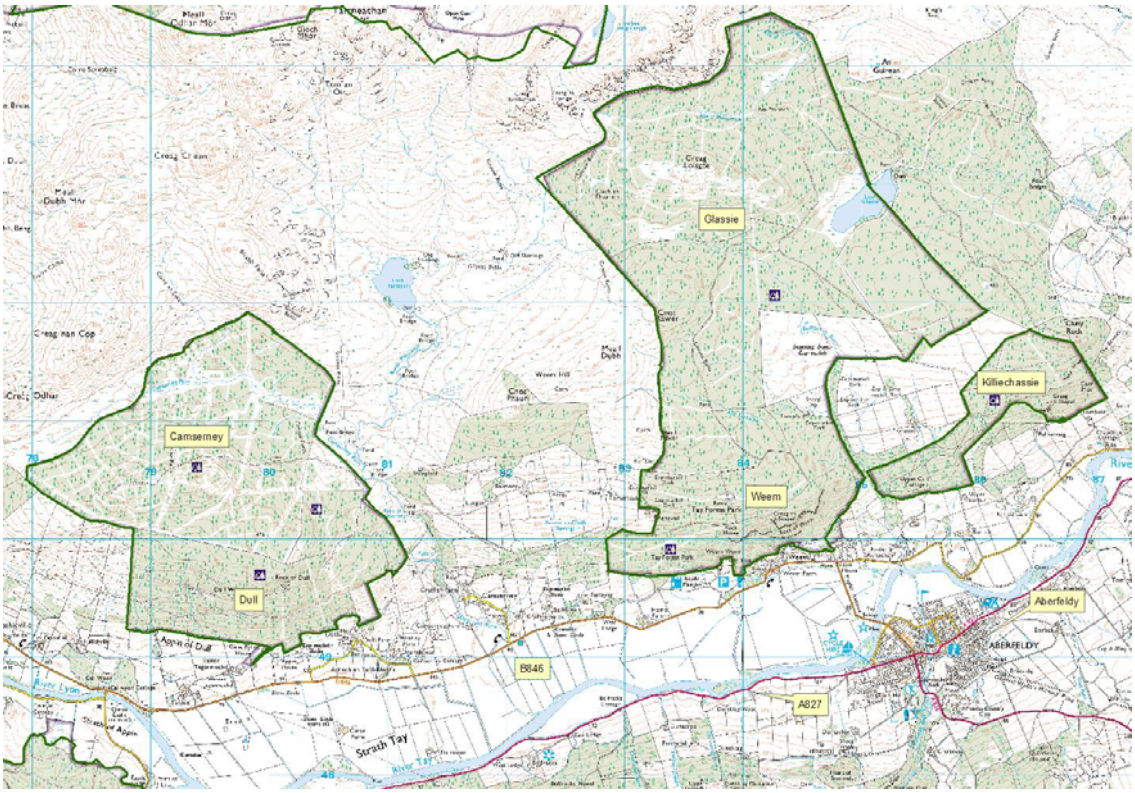
1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Setting and context

Dull Forest (including Camserney) is a patchwork of acquisitions and excambions from a variety of estates made between 1933 and 1987. Weem and Glassie (including Killiechassie) were similarly purchased over exactly the same long period but from different vendors.

All the forests sit on the slopes on the north side of the River Tay, north and to the west of Aberfeldy in Highland Perthshire. Dull and Weem are on the steep, rocky south facing slopes so are in plain view from the strath while Glassie and Camserney are on the flatter ground above and therefore mostly hidden.



Dull, Weem and Glassie: location map

1.2 History of the forest

The forest blocks split into two main parts- the older valley sides comprising of older mixed species and the younger even-aged much younger trees on the flatter ground above.

The older sections of Weem are the remnants of the Castle Menzies policy woodland, a mix of native broadleaves and specimen conifers, acquired during the travels of Archibald Menzies, plant collector, who worked in the gardens of Castle Menzies.

The Rock of Dull, though of a similar form to Weem, has few remnants of earlier crops, now being a mix of 1930's and 1990's conifer plantings.

The area behind Weem Rock, Glassie, was acquired in the 1980's and originally planted in parts with a Sitka spruce, Scots pine mix but grazing by sheep removed most of the pine leaving large areas understocked. The pure spruce areas survived better, but only after significant input to counter-act nitrogen deficiency.

Camserney, behind Dull, was planted in the early 1990's, again with mostly Sitka spruce.

Both Camserney and Glassie are now close to thinning, where the stocking and shelter will allow.

3.0 Background information

3.1 Physical site factors

3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

Dull, Weem and Glassie are underlain by metamorphic schist- part of the large group of schists comprising the Dalradian series. These schists around Strath Tay have been recrystallised from fine sediments and show a well developed foliation of thin layers. Overlying the solid geology there are deposits of glacial till left by the receding glaciers of the last ice age.

Most of the soils in Dull, Weem and Glassie are derived from the glacial till though this is mostly the ground down debris of the local rocks. They tend to have a fairly loose structure and contain a mix of angular and smooth stones of all sizes. The more mature soils at lower elevations can be reasonably fertile though they are very rocky below the Rock of Dull, Weem Rock and Cluny Rock due to historical rockfall. The soil moisture regime is generally fresh at best tending towards wet. Surface water gleys, peaty gleys, peats and ironpans make up the bulk of the flatter, high elevation portions of Glassie and Camserney. The lower slopes, as well as often having large boulders on the surface, can have fertile brown earths or heavy gleys, depending on drainage.

3.1.2 Water

Glassie has a number of burns: Allt a' Phruneich which flows into Loch Glassie, and Allt Tarsuinn which joins the Boltachan Burn to flow to the Tay via the east edge of Weem.

Camserney has the Camserney Burn in its northern portion.

Loch Glassie is the only large area of open water in the forest though there are a number of smaller lochs on the surrounding estates.

The very fractured nature of the underlying rocks in Dull and Weem result in very little water flowing on the surface in either block unless in periods of exceptionally heavy rainfall. These can cause springs to appear on the surface where normally none would be present. Recent years have seen a few incidents of unusually heavy and intense deluges resulting in localised flooding and erosion.

There are still some private water supplies taken from burns. The Camserney Burn has a 'run of the river' hydro scheme in place, below the point where it leaves the forest.

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

3.1.3 Climate

Dull, Weem and Glassie are relatively open and exposed due to their situations on south facing slopes and high valley plateaux. They receive moderate rainfall averaging around 1000mm per year.

Based on accumulated temperature and moisture deficit maps produced by *Pyatt et al.*, climatic conditions range from ‘warm, moist’ to ‘cool, wet’.

DAMS scores range from ‘sheltered’ for the lower slopes of the forests to ‘severely exposed’ for the upper parts.

Overall, the blocks can be averaged at ‘cool, wet and moderately exposed’.

3.2 Biodiversity and environmental designations

All the forests lie within the Breadalbane Environmentally Sensitive Area.

The west face of Weem Rock is part of the Castle Menzies Garden and Designed Landscape designation.

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

3.3 The existing forest:

3.3.1 Age structure, species and yield class

The forests covered by this plan are different and diverse. Dull and Weem occupy the steep craggy slopes above the flat valley floor.

Weem was originally the policy wood for Castle Menzies and the pinetum at the castle (now felled) contained Picea, Pseudotsuga, Tsuga, Thuja, Calocedrus, Cupressus, Sequoia, Cedrus and Cryptomeria. There are still scattered specimens of more unusual conifers on the crags, as well as recent plantings of Araucaria, Abies pinsapo and Prumnopitys, part of iCONic’s project to preserve conifers endangered in their native environment. The main species in Weem are broadleaves: mostly ash, sycamore and oak but again with a number of interesting species scattered through the mixture. Elm was originally an important part of the mix but was devastated by Dutch Elm disease in the early 1980’s. Ages range from at least 150 years old to young natural regeneration.

Much of the older parts of Dull were felled in the 1930’s and then restocked but remnants of Scots pine of similar age to the ash and oak at Weem remain around the crags. Some of the thirties plantings of Douglas fir and Norway spruce were felled in the eighties and were restocked with Sitka spruce and Douglas fir. Intruded birch has been respaced to fill any gaps in the conifer crop. These stands are now nearing thinning stage.

Glassie and Camserney are both extensive products of 1980's forestry, consisting of mostly Sitka spruce on poor, exposed, wet, high altitude ground sandwiched between the steep, rocky valley sides and the higher peaks. The less exposed areas are now approaching the thinning stage but some parts of Glassie were heavily browsed by sheep early on and have effectively already had their first thinning.

There is a range of yield classes with good volume growth on the fertile sheltered lower slopes (YC20 plus for Sitka spruce and Douglas fir) to poorer, slower growth (YC6 to YC8) on exposed, poor, wet, ground approaching 500 metres.

3.3.2 Access

Access to Dull and Camserney is via a part-owned, shared road from the B846. The initial section is owned by a local farmer whilst the second section is owned by FCS. Seven private residences share the use of this road..

Weem and Glassie are similarly accessed from the county road system by a stretch of non-FCS road. However, ownership of this 700 metre section of road is unclear and if known, is unacknowledged.
The road networks in both Dull/Camserney and Weem/Glassie consist of a single road through the older section up to the younger plantings. The upper area of Weem is reached eventually after looping through the younger trees for a distance of 9 km.

3.3.3 LISS (Low Impact Silvicultural Systems)potential

Most of the older stands on the valley sides are already designated as LISS or are natural reserves and can continue to be managed as such.

The younger, higher crops are too exposed for the most part for LISS, but developing native woodland in the riparian zones will contribute LISS areas.

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 rough shooting) and tourism and recreation, in the form of adventure holiday activities and 4x4 off-roading.

3.4 Landscape and landuse

3.4.1 Landscape character and value

Both Dull and Camserney, and Weem and Glassie occupy a similar position on the south-facing slopes overlooking the broad strath of the River Tay, west of Aberfeldy. The steep slopes of the forests blend with the neighbouring mixed woodlands and rough grazings, often making the join difficult to discern. This mixture of broadleaved, conifer and mixed woodland, alongside and between rough grazing, is very typical of Highland Perthshire and the forests sit comfortably within their context.

The flatter upper areas of more uniform young conifers either adjoin similar large areas of commercial private forestry or bound by rough hill ground mainly used for grazing or for sporting purposes. Although these blocks are currently rather bland, they remain mostly unseen from those who live in, or pass through, the area.

3.4.2 Visibility

Both the Rock of Dull and Weem Rock are visible from a large stretch of the road between Aberfeldy and Drummond Hill, only being obscured by intervening trees. The ground and trees behind these two prominent features is generally more hidden, only being seen from a few points and then, often, only fleetingly.

3.4.3 Neighbouring landuse

Dull, Weem and Glassie lie to the north of the River Tay, near Aberfeldy. All are surrounded by a mix of open hill (used for grazing and sporting purposes) and private forestry on the upper margins, and mixed farming and scattered residential uses below.

3.5 Social factors

3.5.1 Recreation

Weem has a formal forest walk, constructed around 1990, but based on an estate path from Castle Menzies to St David's Well. The walk is access from a car park near Castle Menzies. This has bespoke stone picnic tables and an interpretation panel.

There are a number of core paths which cross and link the forest blocks, and integrate them into a greater Aberfeldy area path network.

Weem Rock has nearly eighty sport and bouldering climbs spread over a number of crags.

Highland Safaris, based in the village of Dull, use all the blocks for Landrover wildlife safaris, 4x4 driving experiences and 'drop at the top' mountain bike trips.

There is a small network of mountain bike routes used by the local community for cross-country and downhill runs, including night-time rides.

3.5.2 Community

Although the Aberfeldy/Dull/Weem area has many active community groups, there are none, as yet, that appear to want to get involved with these forests other than through their own specialist interest groups, particularly walking and cycling.

3.5.3 Heritage

There are two scheduled Ancient Monuments in Weem and Glassie (both cup-marked stones) and one in Camserney (a group of hut circles). There are numerous other unscheduled archaeological features ranging from ruined buildings to further cup-marked stones.

The wooded slopes of Weem Rock form part of the Historic Garden and Designed Landscape of Castle Menzies.

3.6 Statutory requirements and key external policies

All the forest blocks fall within the Breadalbane Environmentally Sensitive Area.

The west face of Weem Rock is part of the Castle Menzies Garden and Designed Landscape designation.

The River Tay Special Area of Conservation has a major impact on the forest blocks as all watercourses 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

The lower slopes of Dull were felled about twenty years ago and produced good quantities of quality timber, mostly Norway spruce and Douglas fir. On the upper slopes are older crops of Scots pine and larch which will be thinned and ultimately converted to Continuous Cover. The eastern block of Sitka spruce will be felled in 2013 then restocked.

The main face of Weem consists of mixed broadleaves and some specimen conifers, either as individuals or in small groups. The easier slopes to the east will continue to be managed with a view to conversion to LISS while the remainder will be natural reserve.

The lower slopes of Killiechassie, behind Tombuie, are due to be felled soon. Although the ground is steep and with large boulders and all the timber will have to be secondary-extracted, this should prove less troublesome if done now rather than left until the trees become even larger. The larch currently averages 3 cubic metres per tree. The younger areas of Killiechassie will be thinned at least once more, where exposure allows.

The upper flats of Camserney and Glassie will be thinned where of reasonable growth rates and sheltered enough to avoid wind damage. Previous grazing damage will reduce the out-turn from thinnings for at least the first cycle.

Over the period of the plan, the expected production from felling will be about 20000m3 and from thinning, about 30000m3 per thinning cycle (planned for every 5 years) once begun.

Landscaping

Dull and Weem are the most visible parts of these forests. Although a large felling has recently taken place in Weem behind Castle Menzies, this will be allowed to regenerate with native broadleaves

A large coupe of Sitka spruce will be felled during the plan period on the eastern edge of Dull. This will allow the angular nature of the current coupe to be modified with a more natural outline and increased broadleaves and open space.

Also due to be felled are the large conifers below Cluny Rock. The mature broadleaves through this crop will remain and will eventually be supplemented by natural regeneration.

The large areas of comparatively young trees in Camserney and Glassie have little landscape impact from most viewpoints. Early fellings to restructure these even-aged blocks are not scheduled for the current plan period.

Recreation

Weem has a picnic area, car park and a way-marked trail to St David's Well. These facilities will continue to be promoted.
Dull and Camserney are well used by Highland Safaris for wildlife watching, 4x4 driving experiences, 'drop at the top' cycle safaris and corporate events. Highland Safaris hold a Gold Award for sustainable tourism from the Green Tourism Business Scheme, but must continue to be monitored to avoid excessive ground damage from over-use by off-road vehicles.
All the blocks are linked by a number of core paths which form part of the Aberfeldy local paths network. A number of gates between the forest and open land on these routes are not suitable for the passage of bikes or horses. These should be replaced with a more appropriate style of gate.
A round of the Scottish Downhill Association was held in Dull in 2008 but mountain bike use is now mainly of the forest road system. Local riders make regular use of 'Chraggs Direct', a route down the east side of Weem, terminating at the Ailean Chraggan Hotel, even through the winter months. Weem also has nearly eighty bolted 'sport' climbs and bouldering routes, with five rated as 'three star'. The ongoing removal of rhododendron from the crags of Weem may result in more outcrops becoming available to climbers. Trees at the base of climbs should be removed if they are causing an obstruction.

Conservation

Significant parts of the lower slopes of all of these blocks are classed as ancient woodland and particularly in Dull much of this is currently planted with non native conifers or PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland sites). Over the period of the previous design plan, considerable work has taken place to improve the condition of these sites, particularly in Weem. This work will continue with the planned removal of Rhododendron and conversion of some areas, currently under exotic conifer crop, to native woodland. The well developed flora on the cliff ledges at Weem will also benefit from the planned management of Rhododendron (this is a notable site for species such as Sticky Catchfly). There is some potential conflict with the climbing interest, but this risk will be continue to be monitored and managed and to date the climbers have been cooperative and refrained from irresponsible “cleaning” of potential routes.

The upper parts of Dull and Camserney/Glassie provide good habitat for Black grouse, the planned softening of some of these highly productive spruce areas will maintain the area of this habitat while ongoing deer management will help to improve its quality. Deer management will also be important when maintaining and improving the condition of the riparian zones within these blocks, providing a network of quality mixed and native woodland with open spaces suitable for a wide range of Biodiversity. In Dull there are some areas of older Scots pine plantation that were previously used by Capercaillie. The population of these birds has suffered a severe decline in Tayside and they are no longer regularly found in Dull, however these areas of long established pine still provide high quality woodland habitat and will continue to be managed using Low Impact Silvicultural Systems and/or as Natural Reserve.

At Glassie there are two significant areas of open ground. Both are dominated by heath. The upper area is within the forest perimeter and will benefit from reduced grazing, perhaps resulting in a gradual succession towards native woodland and upland scrub. The lower section is currently leased for grazing and provides good habitat many species, including Hen Harrier (part of the home range). This apparently polarised approach to heath land will continue and should provide a benefit to habitat and species diversity.

Heritage

Weem Wood forms a backdrop to Castle Menzies and was part of the castle's designed landscape. A large block of Norway spruce has recently been felled on the face and this will be allowed to revert to native broadleaves, supplemented by some additional planting, if required. Very small groups of rare and endangered conifers have been planted on the face in conjunction with iCONic. These will continue to add to the previous owners' plant hunting legacy.

There are three Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's) within the forests, but there are also a large number of other sites ranging from cup-marked stones to ruined houses and buildings. A number of these have only recently been rediscovered as the dense rhododendron vegetation has been removed. The SAM's will be managed according to the agreed plans with Historic Scotland. All other sites will be treated carefully to avoid any unnecessary damage or disturbance but will be made safe if likely to prove hazardous. As more Rhododendron is removed, it is possible that further lost features will appear.

2.0 Analysis of previous plan

2.1 Aims of previous plan and achievements

The main aims were to

- commence re-structuring the even aged plantings in Weem, Killiechassie and Glassie
- felling coupes to be quite large to minimise risk of extensive windthrow
- the older parts of Dull Forest were to be retained
- the area of even-aged spruce on the eastern edge of Dull was planned to be felled in 2014
- conifer areas in Weem and Killiechassie were designated for long-term retention for conversion to continuous cover forestry
- extend the broadleaved area on the lower slopes of Weem.
- increase the amount of broadleaves in Weem at the expense of Sitka spruce
- no plan to extend the formal recreation facilities in the forests

2.2 How previous plan relates to today's objectives

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

5.0 Forest Design Plan Proposals

5.1 Management

The forest blocks split into three zones. Firstly, mature hardwoods and conifers which will managed either as Low Impact Silvicultural Systems or natural reserves to maintain the landscape value and bio-diversity. Secondly, first and second rotation crops on the valley sides which will eventually convert to a LISS regime and thirdly, the more extensive young plantations on the upper plateau which will, where possible, be thinned then felled and restocked. These will also be sequenced to increase the structural diversity of the forest, but since these areas are hidden from most views, this does not have to begin until the crops are closer to maturity.

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 or still too young to clearfell, there are only a small number of areas where restocking will take place within the plan period. The area felled east of Rock of Dull will be restocked with another crop of Sitka spruce, but also with a mixed conifer/broadleaf edge to link with adjacent crops. This will increase texture, seasonal diversity as well as biodiversity. The area below Cluny Rock will not be planted but will be encouraged to regenerate naturally although some enrichment may be required.

Areas of long term retention and LISS will continue to be thinned and under-planting and regeneration used to blur the sharper edges between dominant species.

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. Despite both Camserney and Glassie having large areas of even-aged, mostly single species crops, it would be wasteful to intervene too quickly to increase crop diversity. Some restructuring fellings are proposed in Glassie for Phase 4 of the plan. These will not be seen from most external viewpoints.

5.4 Future management

Other than the small number of clearfells planned, the major activity will be the commencement of thinning of the large areas planted in Glassie and Camserney in the late ‘80’s and ‘90’s.

Maintenance of boundary fences to exclude deer and stock will continue,

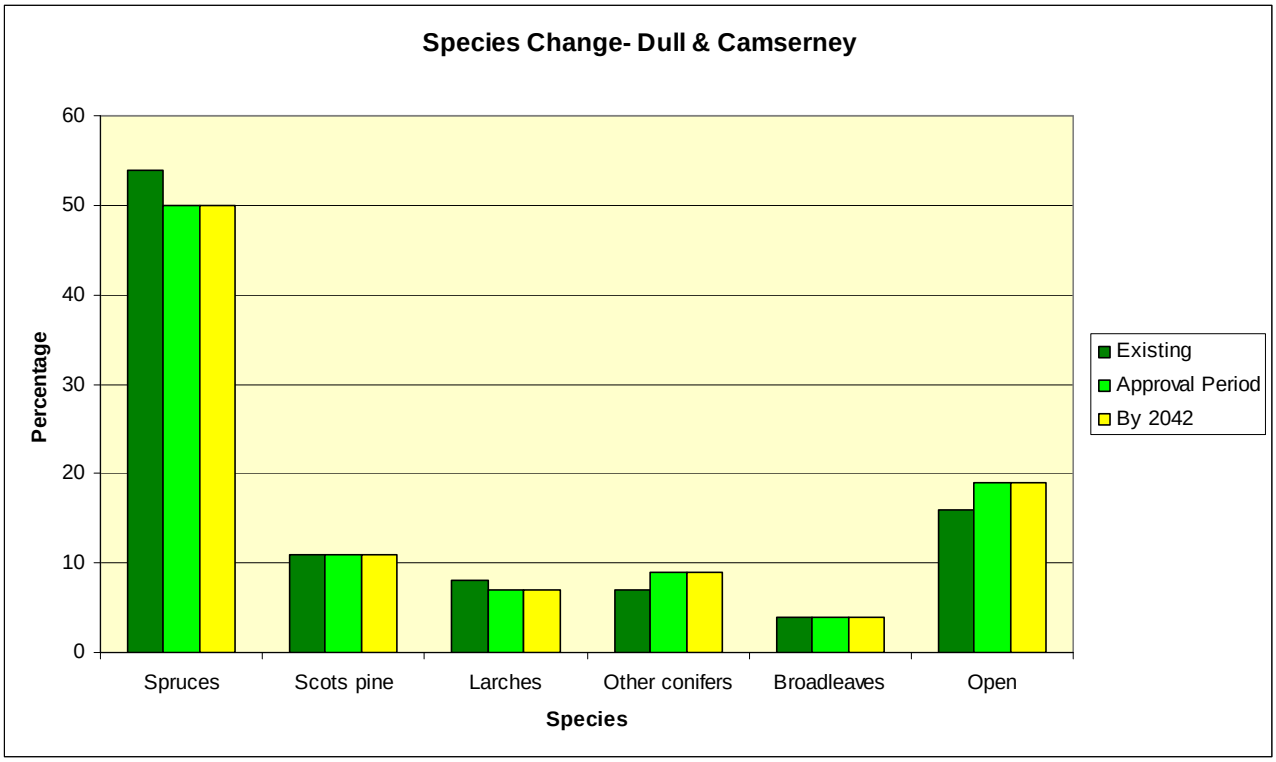
The riparian zones of both Glassie and Camserney will be improved by enrichment plantings of native broadleaves in small fenced groups.

Control of Rhododendron and other undesirable exotics will continue.

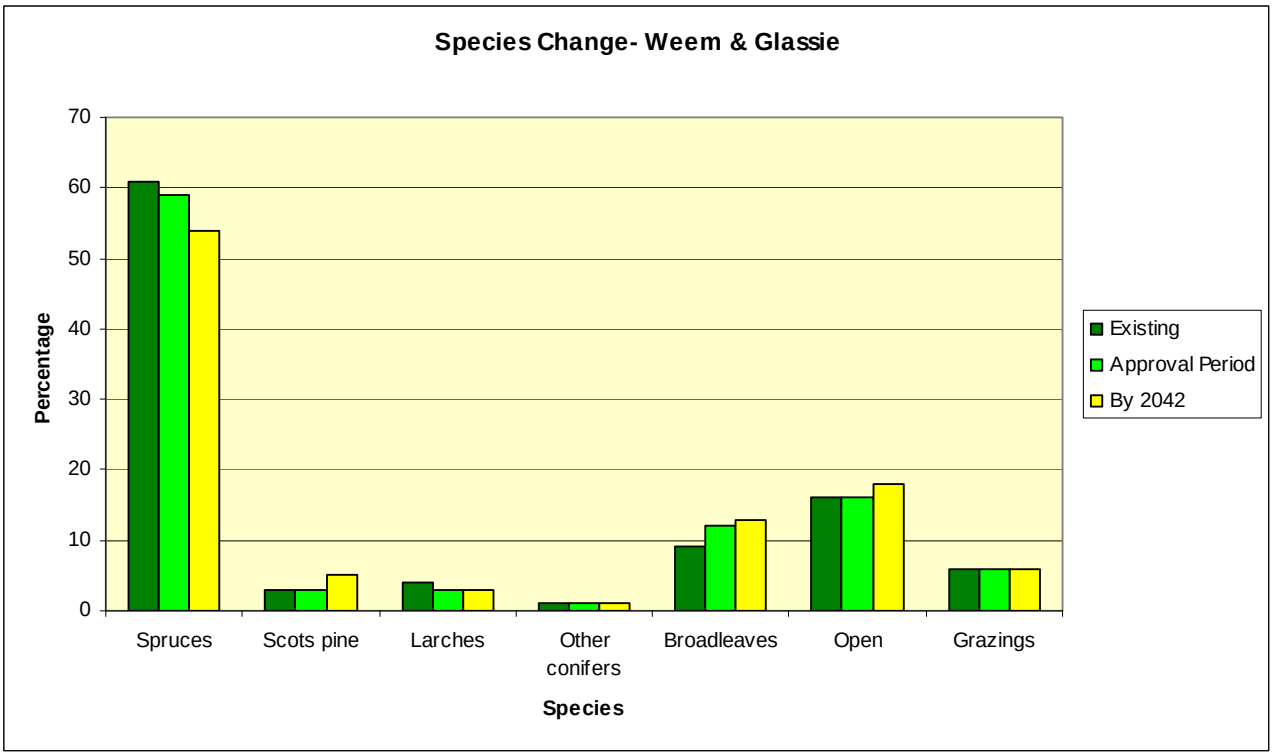
5.5 Species tables

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'.

Dull/Camserney	Existing %	Approval Period	By 2042
Spruces	54	50	50
Scots pine	11	11	11
Larches	8	7	7
Other conifers	7	9	9
Broadleaves	4	4	4
Open	16	19	19
	100	**100**	**100**



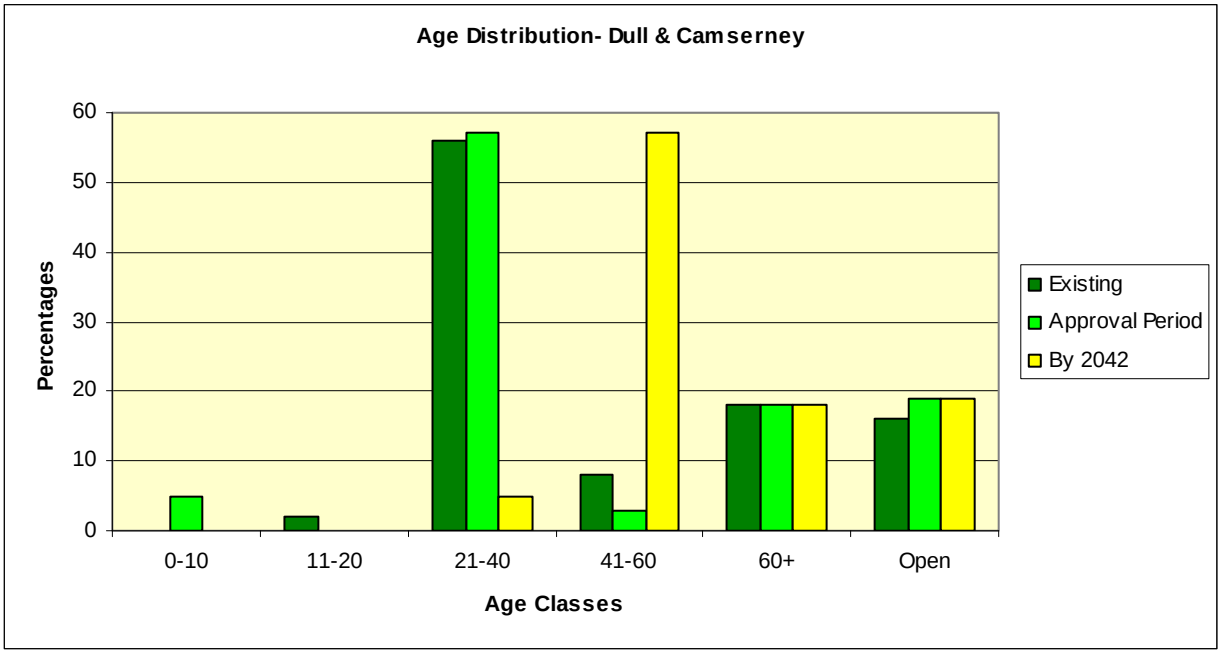
Weem / Glassie	Existing %	Approval Period	By 2042
Spruces	61	59	54
Scots pine	3	3	5
Larches	4	3	3
Other conifers	1	1	1
Broadleaves	9	12	13
Open	16	16	18
Grazings	6	6	6
	100	**100**	**100**



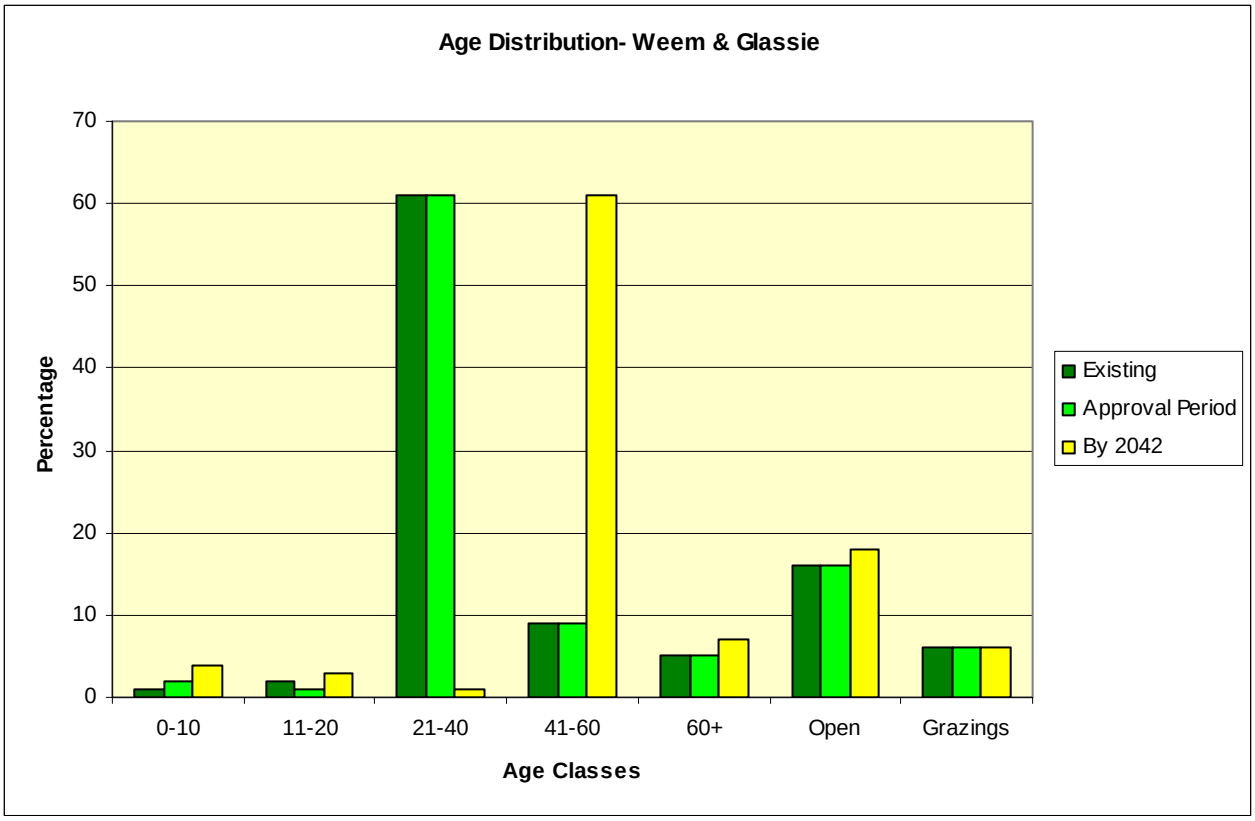
5.6 Age structure

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 younger crops and to the amount of natural reserve and LISS, and consequent lack of major fellings, there is no significant changes in the relative age structure in any of the blocks, apart from aging.

Dull/Camserney	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
0-10	0	5	0
11-20	2	0	0
21-40	56	57	5
41-60	8	3	57
60+	18	18	18
Open	16	19	19
	100	**100**	**100**



Weem / Glassie	Existing	Approval Period	By 2042
0-10	1	2	4
11-20	2	1	3
21-40	61	61	1
41-60	9	9	61
60+	5	5	7
Open	16	16	18
Grazings	6	6	6
	100	**100**	**100**



5.7 PAWS restoration

Maintenance and expansion of PAWS areas is an important component of this plan and one taken as a rule in conjunction with programmed operations like clearfell. Dull (around Rock of Dull) has a core area of PAWS surrounded by a larger area of long-established woodland of plantation origin. Weem has a larger area of PAWS and along with Killiechassie, further areas of long-established woodland of plantation origin.
As a general rule the restoration of PAWS is a slow process which takes a series of thinning cycles to effectively expose fragile remnant trees and provide conditions suitable for regeneration to occur. The long term vision for all PAWS areas within Dull, Weem and Killiechassie is to restore native woodland gradually through scheduled harvesting operations and deer management. In Weem, the main management activity will be the removal of invasive non-native species (rhododendron, Japanese knotweed) although, because of the rich diversity inherited from the Castle Menzies Designed Landscape some non-natives will be tolerated, at least in the short-term (sycamore, beech) or even encouraged (Buddleia, hornbeam, yellow azalea) and planted (conifers as part of the iCONic project). Felled areas would ideally regenerate from nearby seed sources but will also be enriched by planting native species.

5.8 Management of open land

The open land in the forests falls into three main types. There is open hilltop in both Camserney and Glassie. The sites are exposed, the soil is poor and these areas will remain as open ground. There may be opportunities in the future to extend them further for landscaping reasons. Again, within both Camserney and Glassie there are reasonably large open areas of riparian zone. These were planted with broadleaf groups at the same time as the conifer species in the 1990's but have mostly failed due to exposure and grazing by deer, hare and sheep. It is proposed to enrich these areas with more native broadleaf species, giving additional protection from browsing using small fenced exclosures. Finally, there is an area in Glassie of rough grazing. It is proposed to continue letting this annually for agricultural purposes. It is also useful as an area for controlling deer. It could however be partly planted with native broadleaf species to soften the edges of the rather square field.

5.9 Deer management

The forests within the Dull, Weem and Glassie Design Plan cover some 1500ha. The predominant species are red and roe, with sika deer expanding their range on the periphery of the area from the West. The forests are enclosed with a mix of stock and deer fence of various ages. The open hill ground to the north, east and west of the blocks holds a high density of red deer and so the deer fences adjacent to this area must be maintained to prevent serious incursions.

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. All wider deer management issues will be discussed at deer management group level.

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 affecting individual forest blocks.

5.10 Access

Both main forests blocks are mostly accessed by similar means. There is an initial stretch of non-FC road from the county road to the block boundary (which also serves as access to a number of private properties) then by a long forest road that serves as a main haul route. There are very limited options for timber haulage. The planned felling at Killiechassie necessitates the use of a poor access route which even after upgrading will have strict limitations on use. However, once used, it will not be required for a considerable period of time. The shared accesses at both Dull and Glassie have caused problems in the past when damaged by either usage or severe water erosion.

5.11 Critical success factors

Production: Failure to carry out the thinning and felling proposed within the period of the plan would compromise the conversion to LISS and successful PAWS restoration.

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

Landscape: amelioration of the occasional harsh edges 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 continued the removal of rhododendron and undesirable exotics and extending the area of native species by natural regeneration and enrichment planting.

Appendix I: Forest Design Plan Consultation Record

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

Public Consultation Meeting, Camserney Village Hall. 12.30-19.30, 12th June 2012

Public Consultation Meeting	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Jean MacLeod	Interested local (and hall-keeper). Pleased to see an amount of clearfelling to open up views.	
Donald Riddell	Would like to see linking path between top road and middle track in Dull cleared/constructed once block of Sitka spruce felled in 2013/14. This would allow circular route for mountain bikers and walkers.	Opportunities may arise for further links after fellings are completed.
Mr & Mrs Thomas	Would like to see common trees labelled in Weem to educate walkers. Would like some of the network of Victorian paths re-instated, particularly up to Rock House. Could utilise voluntary groups, e.g. local school, outdoor centres?	No current plans to extend walk network in Weem but may review situation as more old routes are revealed after rhododendron is removed. Tree labelling could be done quickly and easily, possibly as a schools project.
Councillor Mike Williamson (Perth & Kinross Council)	Interested in possibilities for bio-fuel fired community heating systems using, among other options, birch from FCS plantations.	Interesting idea but outwith scope of the plan.
Jane Ramage	Would like increased provision of networked trails for walkers and horse-riders.	Opportunities may arise for further links after fellings are completed.

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 Dull, Weem & Glassie 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).
Timber	Continue to grow quality timber sustainably. Increase the future quality broadleaved resource. Potential to favour Birch in broadleaf/conifer mixes on lower slopes of Dull when thinning commences. Douglas fir in Dull should be high pruned to benefit future log quality. Continue to thin where possible. Consider broader species palette.
Business Development	Through timber harvesting, woodland establishment and maintenance. Continue to consider the landscape value of woodlands to tourism/recreation. Ensure that Highland adventure Safaris operate sustainably, particularly use of tracks. Potential to provide woodchip to Breadalbane Community

	Campus. Deer permissions bring income to the area.
Community Development	Encourage communities who wish to become more involved in the management of, or outputs from, their local forest Some special interest groups (mountain bike riders, sport climbers) but little local drive for more involvement.
Access and Health	Informal access routes. Local dog walking, core paths, informal routes, mountain bike routes. Limited potential for recuperative routes.
Environmental Quality	Maintain landscape by extending low impact silvicultural systems (continuous cover forestry). Continue to work with local archaeologists and Historic Scotland to protect the ancient monuments in our care. Weem Historic Landscape. Various SAM's (cup-marked stones, hut circles). Old buildings (Rawer, Castle Menzies ice house and water tanks, follies). Consider alternative species for sites if Red Band Needle Blight impacts current species.
Biodiversity	Continue to expand the area of native woodland. Continue to work with SNH to protect and enhance the scheduled and locally important sites in our care. PAWS- gradual enhancement on slopes of Dull Rock and Weem Rock. Enrichment and protection of broadleaves in upper riparian zones. Black grouse- key area- manage upper margins. Red squirrels.

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. Riparian corridors. Continuous Cover Forestry will be the default management option in both lower woods unless good reasons not to. Good quality broadleaves acceptable as a final crop. Maintain internal views by managing 'windows'.
Maintain production of quality timber	Continuous Cover Forestry will be the default management option in both lower woods unless good reasons not to. Good quality broadleaves acceptable as a final crop. Potential for reasonable quality SS on higher ground if thinned.
Maintain and enhance existing natural habitats	Gradually convert plantation conifer and introduced broadleaves to native woodland on PAWS sites. Protect statutory sites according to agreed guidelines. Extend locally important habitats (riparian zones, forest margins for black grouse) as opportunities arise through other forest operations. Continue to remove/eradicate rhododendron on Weem Rock.
Preserve historic features	Protect all known features including Unscheduled Ancient Monuments. Maintain and enhance Weem historic landscape by continuing to plant endangered conifers in conjunction with iCONic.