

Lowther Park Forest Design Plan

Spring 2009 Review – General Features Survey



General Features Survey



Whilst not renowned for wildlife the forest is home to species such as this Common Meadow Brown, Red Squirrel and Roe Deer.



The three main access points to the forest provide walking access. The Cold Fell entrance shown above is wired to deter vandalism & illegal motor bike access.



Mountain biking is an increasing sport across Forestry Commission forests however the gradients and surfacing of forest roads make them unsuitable as formal routes. Informal usage is accepted.



Regular visitors to the forest clearly enjoy seeing local wildlife. Future plans to diversify the forest species and structure should ensure opportunities for visitors to see wildlife continue.



North West England

Lowther Park

Forest Design Plan

General Features Survey



Alongside providing wildlife habitats and opportunities for informal recreation the forest provides a valuable source of timber.



Following felling most sites are replanted within a few years. To reduce the need for chemical weeding and speed up establishment the soil is mechanically prepared to produce weed free planting positions.



Having small stone quarries within the forest keeps down the cost of road maintenance and reduces the volume of lorries on local roads.



To enable future thinning in Uldale Valley a new extraction route was constructed during 2007. The route was chosen to minimise visibility from outside the forest.



North West England
Lowther Park
Forest Design Plan

General Features Survey



Some areas of the forest have suffered localised damage from motor biking and mountain biking. These are continual monitored to limit these to a minimum.



The forest does suffer from rubbish being left and dumped, sometimes people do bag it up which does make for easier collection.



The storm of January 2005 blew down a number of areas of forest. Incorporating them into the harvesting programme has taken time. Priority was given to making safe and open routes such as the Coast to Coast path.



In 2007 significant improvements were made to a stretch of road in Lowther Park which has enabled timber from Uldale Valley to be transported out of the forest via Cold Fell thus avoiding long standing problems with a narrow bridge in Wilton.



North West England
Lowther Park
Forest Design Plan

General Features Survey



There is good evidence of larch regeneration in Uldale valley which has supported the move from clear felling to continuous cover management



Open habitats being allowed to develop on Dent fell are benefitting walkers and have removed a number of harsh boundaries.



A number of harsh boundaries still require attention.



Areas of replanting have been successfully established and have incorporated more open habitats and mixed species to generate a more attractive and robust forest.



Forestry Commission
England

North West England

Lowther Park

Forest Design Plan