

## **Wall Shield - Afforestation Scheme design and prescriptions expected under the EIA Opinion**

Please refer to Map 1.

- Creation of the woodland and its subsequent management will comply with all relevant UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) requirements and guidelines.
- Ground preparation for tree planting will be by shallow ploughing (up to 30cm depth). Otherwise cultivation follows normal forestry practice as detailed in line with UK Forestry Standard requirements and guidelines, seeking to minimise the soil disturbance necessary to secure the management objectives.
- Open ground will be located as per (Map1): along the side of access tracks and existing roads to create a ragged edge (on average 10m to 15m wide). Otherwise the open ground will be located on the edges of woodlands to soften the plantation edge and provide internal site access for establishment.
- Conifer species will be planted as shown on the planting design map (Map 1) to ensure species are compatible with the soil types (Scots pine, grand Fir and Norway spruce are to be planted on the drier soils and Sitka spruce on the wetter parts of the site). Along the northern boundary and the eastern side of the woodland clumps of Scots pine will be planted on the rocky knolls and around entrances of the woodland, The Scots pine will be planted in clumps to soften the woodland edge and break up the Sitka spruce planting.
- Permissive access will be accommodated along the existing track that runs roughly east west through the woodland to provide a route to access the Open Access Land east and west of the woodland. Where the woodland is fenced and this blocks access pedestrian access stiles will be erected as gates to provide access on foot across woodland along footpaths and existing tracks.
- A riparian zone will be created between the Tipalt Burn (location shown on Map 1) and the conifer woodland edge. The riparian zone will consist of open ground and mixed native broadleaves. The width of the riparian zone will vary from 20m to 60m depending on the landform. The mixed native broadleaves are to be planted in the open ground. The clumps of mixed native broadleaves are to be planted adjoining the conifer woodland and in the open ground. The broadleaved planting will include sessile oak, common alder, downy birch and goat willow,
- The areas of native broadleaf woodland will be planted in the locations shown on Map 1. Trees will be planted at varied spacing to mimic natural colonisation and the principles of the FC Booklet 'Do You Manage Ancient' and the FC Bulletin 110 - Creating New Native Woodlands.

- The species will match those which naturally occur on the site according to the National Vegetation Classification (NVC): W17 – Upland Oak-Birch Woodland with Bilberry, and, in places, W4 – Birch Woodland with Purple Moor Grass. The woody shrub element of the planting will include hazel, elder, holly and hawthorn.
- On the western edge of the woodland beside Burndivot Common the trees will be planted at a lower density (an average of 650 stems per hectare) to create black grouse habitat. Tree density will decrease towards the moorland edge. Tree clumps will be planted at 3 to 6 metre spacing between with open ground between clumps.
- The native tree planting will incorporate 40% of open ground. This will be located along watercourses and riparian zones to create a buffer zone between woodland and water. Open ground will also be located along the woodland edges to soften the plantation's edges.
- Tree species will be planted in groups (of at least six per species). Species groups will be planted in clusters reflecting the tree type and soil type. Trees will be planted at random spacing with four to five metres on the edges of clusters and two to three metres in the centre.

Forestry Commission England  
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