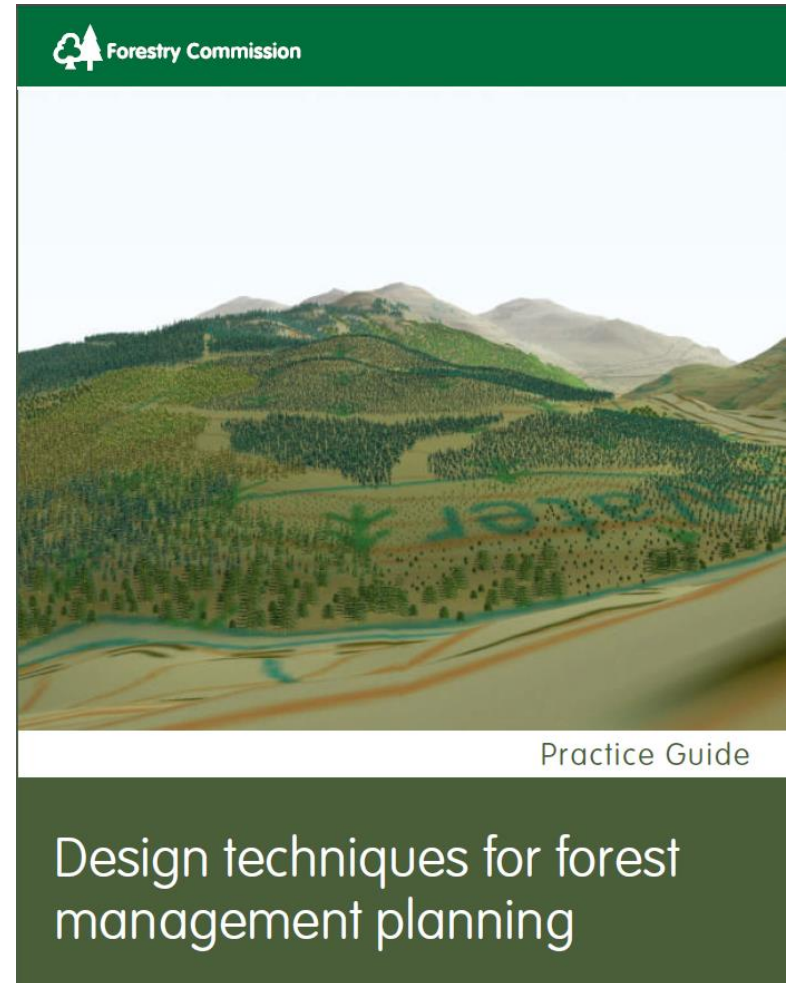


Woodland Creation – current non EU funded incentives

- Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)
- Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF)

Phil Wilson – Woodland Creation Officer

All new woodland should be planned according to UKFS design principles.



Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)

Key considerations:

- Objectives: productivity, environment, etc.
- Biodiversity: priority habitats and species, etc.
- Water: flood management and mitigation, etc.
- Historic environment: heritage assets, etc.
- Landscape: viewpoints, visual force analysis, etc.
- Silviculture: species choice and ground prep. etc.
- Access: public access, infrastructure, etc.
- Scheme open all year round – can apply anytime!

Woodland Design:

- At least 70% productive species (based on Yield Class for site 6 BL, 10 pine, 12 other conifers)
- Up to 20% designed open space
- At least 5% native broadleaves
- Stage 1 – Constraints & Opportunities Identified via simple Checklist
- Stage 2 – Site Appraisal Plan, Concept Plan and Woodland Design Plan

Woodland Design:

Stage 2

- **Site Appraisal Plan** – an annotated map(s) showing the constraints and opportunities relating to the woodland's design.
- **Design Concept Plan** – an annotated map(s) showing outline proposal(s) that has synthesised the scheme objectives, the site appraisal and any other relevant survey work and analysis.
- **Woodland Creation Design Proposal** – final output explaining how the woodland's design accounts for the constraints, identifying how adverse impacts will be avoided/mitigated in the scheme design. Outlining operational aspects, planting, species mix, ground preparation and maintenance for first 10-years after planting.

Design process:

1. Scoping

The scoping stage involves **drawing up a set of objectives** that describe the key factors that are to be covered by a forest management plan. These may be predefined or developed as a result of consultations with different interest groups.

2. Survey

The survey stage involves **collecting comprehensive site information** that covers all possible factors affecting the outcomes of forest management plan objectives.

3. Analysis

The analysis stage involves **analysing survey information to identify key factors which have the greatest influence on meeting plan objectives.** These are extracted from the collected survey information and their interrelationships are considered together.

4. Synthesis

The synthesis stage involves developing one or more potential forest design solutions that have the potential to meet the objectives from the outcome of the analysis. These are then evaluated and the most appropriate design is worked up in more detail to provide the basis for the forest management plan.



**SITE
APPRAISAL
PLAN**

Site Appraisal Plan (Analysis: Overview of large site)

1. Elevated northern point of the site, accessible from public bridleway, providing: extensive views across landscape (including the river valley), forest moorland fringe, and 'spirit of place'.
2. Hillside of 'improved' grazed rush pasture suitable for productive forest development. Careful detailed design required to sensitively integrate: access routes, priority habitats (including broadleaved woodland), views, and buffers to historic and landscape features.
3. Site boundary to be unplanted, corresponding to the ancient earthworks of historic importance along the national border. Detailed landscape design required within this zone to integrate major river headwaters (open or dappled shade) and monument marking the source of the river into forest edge.
4. Small settlement with farmstead and setting of small drystone enclosed fields with short views across road to former railway station; to be left unplanted, providing 'spirit of place'. The road dividing them is a scenic route between England and Scotland. Scope for carefully 'naturalistic' mixed woodland with well-developed ecotone on fringes of the road, cycle route and the natural floodplain.
5. Natural floodplain of a major river with mosaic of wetland priority habitats, wildlife and attractive meandering course. Unsuitable for commercial planting due to its wet conditions. The floodplain is an important landscape feature, being adjacent to a long distance footpath and cycleway on a former railway line.



6. Large scale sloping hillside broken into smaller compartments by a number of natural watercourses running east into major river valley. Careful design responding to these natural compartments will assist in the new forest's integration within the landscape. 'Improved', free draining sheep pasture, suitable for extensive productive forest creation.
7. Cross border moorland fringe provides an opportunity to develop a 'naturalistic ecotone edge zone' suitable for black grouse and other important forest edge species.
8. A large area of deep peat with associated priority habitat mosaic and border wall. Area is unsuitable for planting and requires a buffer and carefully shaped forest edge. This zone, with good design, could deliver key multi-benefits for the scheme, including: access routes, habitat network, operational access, wild fire break, and a wind firm forest edge.
9. Small portion of the site is within Scotland and land falls to an attractive, natural burn with waterfalls, mature native broadleaves, an historic chapel site, circular sheepfold, and attractive views to regenerating and newly planted broadleaves. There is scope for productive woodland, but need for careful design to integrate and protect important features.

NB. Compartments 5-9 are CROW Open Access land. It is necessary to include in the forest design attractive access opportunities (including attractive routes and open space), connecting features of interest across the site.

Design process:

1. Scoping

The scoping stage involves drawing up a set of objectives that describe the key factors that are to be covered by a forest management plan. These may be predefined or developed as a result of consultations with different interest groups.

2. Survey

The survey stage involves collecting comprehensive site information that covers all possible factors affecting the outcomes of forest management plan objectives.

3. Analysis

The analysis stage involves analysing survey information to identify key factors which have the greatest influence on meeting plan objectives. These are extracted from the collected survey information and their interrelationships are considered together.

4. Synthesis

The synthesis stage involves developing one or more potential forest design solutions that have the potential to meet the objectives from the outcome of the analysis. These are then evaluated and the most appropriate design is worked up in more detail to provide the basis for the forest management plan.

→ **DESIGN
CONCEPT
PLAN**

Design Concept for discussion

Upland, large scale productive forest on complex site

1. Extensive mixed conifers on free draining slopes, broadleaf planting reducing scale along watercourses and forest edges

7. Low density 'naturalistic' broad leaves permeable for access and black grouse habitat

5. Deep peat and mire priority habitats on wet plateau, unsuitable for planting

9. Broad leaved woodland to mirror planting off site

10. Viewpoint into attractive valley retained providing visual connectivity between forest's 'open ground' network

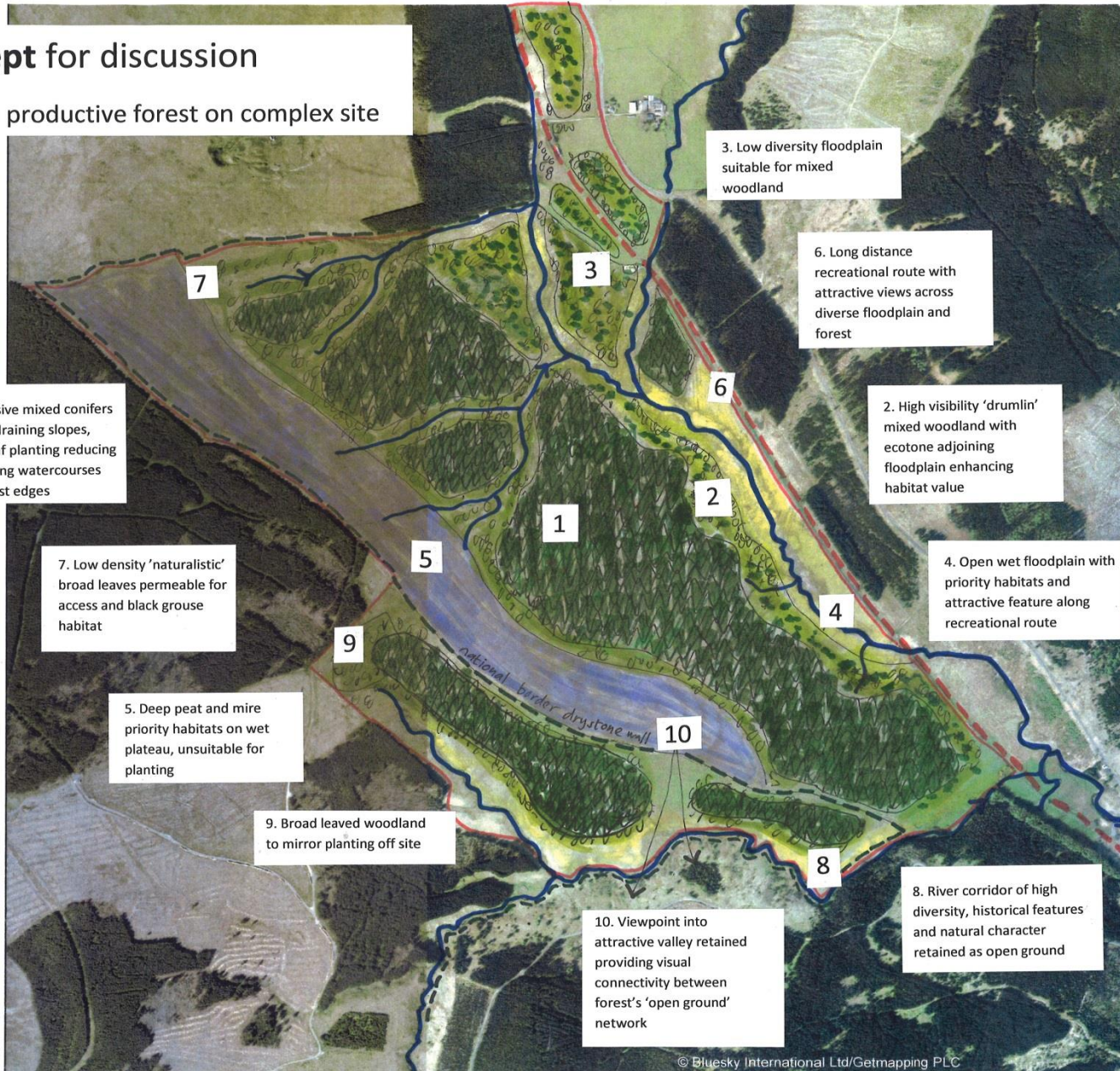
3. Low diversity floodplain suitable for mixed woodland

6. Long distance recreational route with attractive views across diverse floodplain and forest

2. High visibility 'drumlin' mixed woodland with ecotone adjoining floodplain enhancing habitat value

4. Open wet floodplain with priority habitats and attractive feature along recreational route

8. River corridor of high diversity, historical features and natural character retained as open ground



Design process:

Final product –

Woodland Creation Design Plan



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graph TD; A[Woodland Creation Design Plan] --> B[Written document]; A --> C[Final design plan (incorporating a planting map)]; B --- D[+]; D --- C
```

Written document + Final design plan
(incorporating a
planting map)

Application

- Word application form
- Proposed boundary map
- AO performs LIS check
- WCO looks for any showstoppers

Stage 1

- Stage 1 checklist on key considerations.
- Need for extraordinary payments (for extensive surveys) identified.
- WCO identifies any need for additional analysis (e.g. viewpoints)
- Feasibility established: can the proposal proceed to Stage 2?

Stage 2

- Site Appraisal Plan
- Design Concept Plan (for final consultation with stakeholders)
- Completed Woodland Creation Design Plan template
- Woodland Creation Design Plan Map (including planting)
- Any additional materials identified at Stage 1 as being required

£1,000

£150/
ha
(less the
£1,000
from
Stage 1)

Payment cap: £30k

1. WCPG agreement holders are under no ***obligation*** to plant.
2. WCPG applicants do not have own or have management control over the land; ***speculators may apply***.
3. Minimum block sizes (at least one of 10+ ha, and others of 5+ ha) apply to ***contiguous*** woodland, as for WCF

Woodland Carbon Fund (WCF)

Key Features

- Open all year round
- Intended to support carbon sequestration and productive large-scale planting (10+ ha) with natural capital benefits
- Wholly administered and inspected by FC
- No requirement for RLR registration
- Simple application process, reviewed by a panel
- Agreement holders can keep BPS payments for up to 10 years

What is eligible?

- No land in ES can come into WCF before ES expires
- No targeting applied, but peri-urban schemes with community access will be prioritised

Woodland Design:

- At least 70% productive species (YC 6 BL, YC 10 pine, YC 12 other conifers)
- Up to 20% designed open space
- At least 5% native broadleaves
- Minimum stocking density of 2,000 SPH (net)

Minimum gross area & block sizes:

- Proposals that connect or expand existing woodland:

YES



NO



What is included in the offer?

- The same capital items for planting and establishment as in CS WCG
- Capital item intervention rate the same as in CS WCG (i.e. 80% of standard costs: £1.28 per tree, etc.)

UNLESS application is at least 30% within a PP
→ 100% of standard costs

- Public footpaths: paid at 80% of actual costs, capped at 10% of value of application
- Second stage capital payment for vigorous establishment: £1,000 per gross ha, paid in year 5
- Forest roads and tracks: paid at 40% of actual costs (currently subject to *de minimis* State Aid rules)

Applications vs. Expressions of interest

Approvals:

- An expression of interest will receive an **in principle** decision within **1 month**.

→ Full approval depends on:

- (1) receiving a signed-off WCDP (i.e. a **full application**; and
- (2) a successful EIA determination

Applications vs. Expressions of interest

Approvals:

- A full application (submitted with a **WCDP**) will trigger the EIA process and receive a **full** decision within **3 months***.

→ Full approval depends on:

(1) a successful EIA determination

- * There will be a 1 month “in principle” fast track approval option available where required to support forestry investment.
- * EIA consent (if required) may take longer than 3 months

- Questions?