

# To Garsdale Parish Council

## Dandra Garth Woodland, Garsdale - Forest Management Plan

The tree crop on Dandra Garth is approaching the height where environmental conditions, particularly wind, play a major factor in crop stability and management. It is therefore important we plan for this and formulate our felling and restocking designs. To this end we are producing a Forest Management Plan, through the Forestry Commission, which encompasses the UK Forest Standard regulations.

It is important that we consult with our stakeholders, making them aware, when a forest is being evaluated and they are able to engage with the forest manager to tease out any issues.

A draft Forest Plan is being produced and I attached a copy of the draft felling and restocking plans for your information.

There are a number points worth clarifying at this stage which include :

### 1. Structural Diversity / Red Squirrels

Red squirrels are a European Protected Species, are present in the Dale and on this property. Coniferous woodland tend to be even aged and the major species at Dandra Garth is Sitka Spruce (SS).

The longevity of the standing crop is dictated by a number of environmental constraints that affect tree stability and windblow. These include exposure, terrain, wind severity, rainfall, soil type, crop height and rooting structure. The SS root systems are not deep but develop along the surface soil layers making tree stability poor. As the trees gain height the risk of wind blow increases eventually leading to large areas of the crop blowing over.

The site is small, very exposed with an even aged crop. This makes the felling design very difficult. Best forestry practice fells areas of trees to wind firm edges giving the adjacent crop its best chance of avoiding wind blow. This is not possible at dandra Garth, in this rotation, and as a consequence improvements to structural design may be possible to engineer in subsequent rotations where species, age class, shape and habitat are built into the next rotation.

The draft felling plan has been produced with these constraints incorporated and .

### 2. Long term retention

The long term retention shown on the felling plan is on the least exposed part of the woodland, is mixed conifer and broadleaf and will be retained for its habitat value.

The adjoining fell on the eastern boundary has new planting which will contribute to a larger woodland area in the landscape.

### 3. Water and diffuse pollution

There are no known streams taking water directly from the property into Clough River. Forestry best practice will be followed to control and contain any diffuse pollution.

Part of this consultation is to determine that the current held information on such matters is correct, and any necessary amendments to the current information will be taken up in the final plan. Our records show no domestic water is sourced from the property

#### 4. Species

Larch will be felled and not restocked because of fungal disease Phytopthera. This is normal practice and substitution of larch is encouraged.

Broadleaves will be planted, where the Larch is currently growing, to provide the most advantageous landscape effect.

Sitka Spruce will be replaced by SS. This will eventually provide habitat for Red Squirrels.

Open space will be increased as part of the restructuring process, which will help provide opportunities for management flexibility in the future and also improve habitat for ground flora and fauna.

I would very much appreciate a response as early as possible.

If you have any questions issues or suggestions please contact me.

Yours sincerely

George Hay  
Senior Forest Manager  
Tilhill Forestry  
Underley Business Centre  
Kearstwick  
Kirkby Lonsdale  
LA6 2DY

Encl  
Location Plan  
Felling Plan  
Restocking Plan