

**Walkerburn and District Community Council**  
**West Bold Management Plan**  
**Comments on Tree Species as at 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Reference FLS Species Map**

**GREEN - MIXED BROADLEAVES**

It is not yet known exactly what will be planted but given the ground we would expect well-spaced trees from a number of species.

It is suggested that these trees will not be harvested and will be allowed to grow naturally. This would be good for carbon capture and wildlife.

Some residents simply do not want any planting here.

**WHITE – OPEN SPACE**

The white fields belong to Glenmead Farm. With the exception of part of the field next to Glenbenna, these grassland fields are not seen from the village.

There are concerns that wildlife will suffer from the reduction in open hill ground.

**HATCHED WHITE - UNPLANTED**

The very steep, rocky slope on Shiel Craig above Plora Burn. This is being left unplanted.

**PALE YELLOW – EAST OF GLENBENNA**

Wood pasture. Well spaced mixed species trees presumably planted in tree boxes. No adverse comments received to date.

**LIGHT BLUE – CONIFER/SOME BEECH**

Adverse comments from residents about planting on Shiel Craig. Some also do not want to see this planting on Plora either.

Norway Spruce. Used in UK as a commercial soft wood. Dark green but with tips highlighted in late spring. Almost as fast growing as Sitka and reaches 25 metres. In a mixed woodland, good for red squirrels, who eat the cones, goldcrests, beetles, weevils and hoverflies. Less useful for wildlife when planted in blocks.

Beech Mature trees grow to a height of more than 40 metres and develop a huge domed crown. Lightish green leaves, turning golden in autumn then brown in winter. Slow growing compared to conifers. Need space to grow – not usually planted amongst Spruce and Fir which are fast growing – intention might be to plant on edges? Very good for wildlife.

European Silver Fir Dark green. One of the tallest and fastest growing conifers reaching a height of 67 metres. It prefers moist soil, best planted in sheltered positions on north facing slope, vulnerable to frost and not drought tolerant.

A strange choice to grow with Norway Spruce and Beech?

**The Community Council believes nothing should be planted on the Shiel Craig fields but if these good fields are planted then it should be with mixed broadleaf.**

## **DARK BLUE – CONIFER**

Lots of adverse comments about the species mix chosen. Fewer adverse comments about the principal of planting these areas.

**Sitka Spruce** . A dark green tree, Sitka spruce was introduced to Britain in 1831 and has been grown for timber ever since – around 50% of commercial plantations. Very fast growing, as much as 1.5 metres per year, and it can reach 80+ metres in maturity. The trees are grown close together, forming a dense canopy which few plants can grow beneath. However, the dense foliage provides cover from the wind and rain for larger mammals, while birds of prey and smaller birds, such as crossbill, tree creeper, coal tit and siskin, may use Sitka spruce for nesting. Not good for environmental diversity.

**There are increasing questions about its ability to withstand climate change in Scotland and in terms of carbon capture. It is no longer included in Scottish Government grant schemes. Norway Spruce, Western Red Cedar, Scots Pine are alternatives**

**Douglas Fir**. A dark green tree, Douglas Fir was brought to the UK in 1827. It is not a true fir. Almost as fast growing as Sitka and reaches about 55 metres in maturity. A denser wood than Sitka so better for carbon capture. Douglas Firs are considered better for eco diversity because they develop deadwood cavities which birds and bats shelter in and provide good nesting sites for buzzards and sparrowhawks. Provided they are not planted too close together, they provide good habitats for finches, red squirrels and pine martens.

**Good choice in mixed woodland eg with Scots Pine, Birch, Norway Spruce and a small amount of broadleaf which would be the Community Council preferred solution for these areas.**