Continuous cover forestry in Herefordshire broadleaved woodlands

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A presentation from the CCFG National Conference 2014
CCF in Herefordshire
Broadleaved Woodlands

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Pryor and Rickett Silviculture
CCFG – Understand Local Conditions

- Soil
- Climate
- Competition (weeds / shrub)
- Felling in anticipation of NR fails
- NR sporadic, notably OK & SC
- Strong growth = GS damage
- Deer browsing pressures / implications
- Intimate MB mixtures often result in failure
- Declining workforce
- Modest scale Group selection works
CCFG – Pre-requisite Management tools

• Most spp GS susceptible – control that works is essential
• Deer control / protection essential
• Weed control in an ‘FSC’ environment
• Develop canopy to promote seeding
• Some species unsuitable / undesirable
• NR alone will fail / planting must continue
• Employed staff for responsiveness
• Understand species interactions
CCFG - Silvicultural systems in Herefordshire

- Single Tree selection
- Shelterwood – Irregular / regular
- Group Selection - irregular
  - Group selection defined by target dimension / maturity
  - Group size defined by cpt / wood size/ pace of change/ canopy height
- ‘Proactive approach’
- ‘Reactive approach’
- All other stands – graduated density thin / clean
CCFG – Observable Benefits

• Enhanced growth rates
• Diverse habitat
• Reduced windthrow
• Reduced exposure
• Conservation - coppice / birds/ dormouse
• Sporting enhanced
• Capital valuation
• +VE PR
CCFG – Changes to FM Practices

• Deer
  • asset or liability
  • multi species
  • landscape scale

• Harvesting techniques
  • Coppice
  • Mechanised +
  • Marking
  • Directional felling

• Managing NR infrequency
  • Seed Collection (FTT)
CCFG in Herefordshire Broadleaves

- Transformation is a **very** long process
- Diverse / stimulating/ pleasing / complex
- Reduction in regeneration costs
- With MB – GS / Deer risk high
- ‘Post MAI’ values
- Basal area maintained
- Reliant on a ‘high value’ commodity
- Re-appraisal of coppice / fencing markets
Continuous Cover Forestry: Delivering sustainable and resilient woodlands in Britain

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