

Grizedale Forest - a UK example of a multi-purpose forest

Many of the forests created in the early days of the Forestry Commission are ready for felling. The foresters, in those early days had to plant the forests quickly in response to national needs after the two world wars. The forests therefore generally have a uniform and even aged appearance.

The challenge for today's foresters is to modify forests through management and design to meet the needs of the present day whilst keeping the options open for future generations. This is known as multi-purpose sustainable forestry.

Grizedale Forest Park, part of the Lakes forest district, is situated in the Lake District National Park. Foresters use a forest design plan to balance the needs of the timber industry with recreation, conservation and landscape design.

Grizedale Fact File

Area:	2,445 hectares 65% coniferous 12% broadleaved 10% agricultural 2% wildlife management areas 11% open areas
Staff:	32, plus contractors
Harvesting:	20,000 cubic metres (Approx 18,000 trees) 65% sawlogs 35% small roundwood
Conservation:	Various habitats - ponds, meadows, glades 300 bird & bat boxes, red squirrel feeding stations, four observation hides, archaeological sites.
Recreation:	400,000 visitors per year. Visitor Centre, sculpture project, 10 waymarked trails and picnic areas, 4 cycle trails.
Climate:	wet, but often lengthy droughts in spring or summer; snow infrequent, gales common.
Geology:	Silurian slates & shales.