



1.0 Summary of Proposals

To meet the UK Forestry Standard, this Land Management Plan (LMP) sets out proposals to be undertaken by Forestry and Land Scotland in Lesmahagow forest.

The forest (shown on Map 1) covers 1079.93 hectares. It was a collection of 7 former farms properties acquired over the period 2008 to 2012. Woodland creation planting was completed between 2012 and 2015, with a significant proportion (~60%) of the land retained as open ground.

Lesmahagow forest lies entirely within South Lanarkshire Council area. The closest settlement is Lesmahagow with a population of approximately 8,150 residents. Other fringe settlements include Brocketsbrae, Auchlochan, Coalburn, and New Trows.

Land Management Plan Objectives:

- 1 Determine thinning requirements & timings for both mature and recently established woodland over the plan period. To assess the economic and practical viability of these operations.
- 2 Assess additional roading or access requirements for management of the woodland over the plan period.
- 3 Pre-emptively remove larch as an early thinning or restructuring operation.
- 4 Assess the impact of Chalara on ash and the potential options for intervention and mitigation measures.
- 5 Contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity value through appropriate design and management.
- 6 Protect and manage Coalburn LRB SSSI – currently under a under management programme, including an assessment of re- wetting opportunities and grazing management.
- 7 Establish a methodology for the monitoring and management of the Native woodland forest habitat network management.
- 8 Review the management of PAWS areas and assess the implementation of management recommendations and the need for further works.



9. Examine options for alternative restocking, including woodland expansion.
10. Review management options for open ground.
11. Appropriately manage existing features of cultural interest including woodland pasture.
12. Continue to provide a facility for the allotments and maintain liaison with the local community. To review the current management requirements for maintaining this facility.
13. Continue to maintain the showground area as open ground and review the cropping let associated with this area.
14. Investigate opportunity to provide links to the Active Travel plan project for South Lanarkshire.
15. Review and assess access provision within the Visitor Zones in terms of their management and development.

Summary of Planned Operations:

Planned Operations	2023-2033
Clearfell/Clearfell with seed tree (afforested area)	10.38 ha
LISS Felling (afforested area)	0
Thinning	216.04 ha
LISS Restock (replanted area)	0
Restocking (Phase 1 coupes)	2.05 ha
Restocking (Phase 2 coupes)	8.33 ha
Enrichment Planting (Significant gaps formed by ash deaths/ removals) *	11.2 ha
Woodland Creation (New Planting)	8.1 ha
Road Construction	3225 m
Road Upgrade	295 m

**This planting is to replace trees that have died from Ash Dieback disease and not associated with any proposed felling in the land management plan.*