Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Beattock

Long Term Plan (LTP)
2027 – 2037

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Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.

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Table of Contents

A. Description of Woodlands 3
A.1 Property Details and Declaration 3
A.2 Location and Background 5
A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions 5
A.4 Stakeholder Engagement 6
A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives 7
A.6 General Site Description 8
A.7 Woodland Description 11
A.8 Plant Health 12
B. Analysis of Information 15
B.1 Constraints and Opportunities 15
C. Management Proposals 18
C.1 Silvicultural Practices 18
C.2 Prescriptions 18
C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications 36
D. Production Forecast 38
Maps 38
Appendices 38
I. Stakeholder Consultation Record 38

Version History

Version	Date	Comments

A.1 Property Details and Declaration

A.1 Property Details				
Property Name:	Beattock			
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NT 030 060	Nearest town or locality:	Beattock	
Local Authority:		Dumfries and Galloway Council		
LTP plan area (hectares):		3672		
Applicant Details				
Regional Manager:	John Dougan			
Planner:	John Ogilvie			
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	South Region	
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Address:	Weavers Court, Forest Mill, Selkirk			
Postcode:	TD7 5NY	Country:	Scotland	
Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:				
LTP Reference Number:				
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:		
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)		

Declaration

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of Forestry and Land Scotland.
- I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas.
- I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which SF agreed must be included.
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice.
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion request form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for road building /quarries /afforestation /deforestation.
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate.
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.
- I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice.

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your land? Delete as appropriate.		**YES**			
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. **This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable**					
Signed, Planning Manager:		Print:		Date:	
Signed, Area Manager		Print:		Date:	

A.2 Location and Background

Beattock Long Term Plan (LTP) covers 3,672 hectares of largely coniferous upland plantation forest on the western edge of the Lowther Hills, above the M74 corridor and west of the communities of Moffat and Beattock. The LTP incorporates five forest blocks: Greskine, Rivox, Earshaigs, Longbedholm and Blacklaw. The forest area comprises a mixture of first, second and third rotation conifer plantation, dominated by Sitka spruce. Original planting ranges from 1930s to 1990s, the majority planted in 1970s and 1980s.

See Map 1 - Location.

A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

The purpose of the Long Term Plan (LTP) is to outline felling and thinning proposals over 20 years with the first 10 years (2027-2037) in detail along with restocking proposals for the whole plan area. This first 10-year period is particularly important because it relates to the part of the LTP that requires specific approval from Scottish Forestry (SF), including operations which may require screening for a determination on whether Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Where plans include woodland creation, deforestation, roads and quarries, an accompanying EIA Screen Opinion Request will be submitted to SF. Longer term management of Beattock is included in the plan but to provide an indication of the direction of travel and to provide context.

The plan will be reviewed after five years to ensure the objectives set out in the LTP are still appropriate for the management of the forest in the current conditions. All operations, both planned and completed, will also be reviewed to ensure they are still necessary to achieve the stated objectives.

The management of the woodland is certified and will always adhere to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

This LTP has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs. A full list of these standards and guidance can be found on our website.

Table: Existing Schemes & Permissions

Type	Ref. No.	Details
Land Management Plan	232	Valid 17/09/2017 - 17/09/2027
EIA SOR		New forest road to access coupe 23088 – EIA not required. SF signed 03/08/2023
EIA SOR determination		New forest road to access coupe 23033 – EIA not required. SF signed 26/03/2025

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

A full record of comments raised during public consultation is available in Appendix I.

Table: Stakeholder Engagement Summary	
Scoping – Main Points	LTP Reference (section/page):
Historic Environment – protection of scheduled monuments and other heritage features.	A.6.8 C.2.10 Map 9 Appendix II
Water quality – protection of public and private water supplies.	A.6.4 C.2.16 Maps 10A, 10B and 10C Appendix IV
Utilities – 400kV OHPL	C.2.16 Map 3
Public access – importance of forest for walking, horse riding and cycling.	A.6.7 C.2.9 Map 3
Biodiversity – nature conservation and wildlife protection.	A.6.9 C.2.11
Landscape	A.6.1 C.2.16

A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

Vision

Beattock will be a resilient, healthy, and productive forest, providing a sustainable contribution to the South Region's softwood timber production and income. Over the next 20 years opportunities will be taken to increase conifer species diversity, and to develop a thinning programme (where appropriate) to improve timber quality and crop stability. Conservation Area Networks will be enhanced through improved riparian habitat management, better connecting Areas of High Conservation Value. The forest will be an attractive setting for local people and visitors to enjoy informal recreation.

Management Objectives		
Number	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
1	Timber Production: provide a sustainable supply of high-quality softwood timber, supplying local timber markets, securing timber income, and providing secure employment in the timber industry.	Delivery of the clearfell harvesting programme in the plan period and indicative felling coupes in subsequent phases. Development and delivery of a thinning programme. Restocking the backlog of felled areas to safeguard future timber production.
2	Forest resilience: plan and design a resilient and healthy forest, mitigating the risks posed by climate change and a growing number of pests and diseases. Ensure the plan area makes a positive contribution to mitigating the broader climate emergency by locking up carbon in trees and soils.	On-going forest restructuring through clear-felling and restocking, prioritising harvesting severely windblown coupes in LMP Phase 1. Successful establishment of a more diverse range of species, as pure crops and in mixtures, selected using Ecological Site Classification (ESC), local knowledge and an understanding of future markets.

Management Objectives		
Number	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
3	Natural and cultural heritage: improve the biodiversity value of the plan area, caring for priority habitats and species, and enhancing the overall biodiversity value by developing conservation area networks, linking areas of high conservation value such as ancient woodland sites. Protect scheduled monuments and other heritage features.	Successful establishment of native broadleaves through restocking and natural regeneration in core riparian areas, as part of on-going forest restructuring. Monitoring and removal of excessive non-native conifer regeneration in core riparian areas, prioritising PAWS areas. Retention of older conifer stands where these offer greatest habitat value and remain sufficiently stable.
4	Landscape: develop a more attractive forest landscape along the M74 corridor, and visitor zones surrounding long distance trails through the forest.	Delivery of felling and restocking within these zones, in the plan period, creating greater structural and species diversity where appropriate.

A.6 General Site Description

A.6.1 Topography and Landscape

Four of the five forest blocks (Greskine, Rivox, Earshaigs and Longbedholm) that make up the Beattock LTP area sit just to the west of the Evan Water Valley, the fifth (Blacklaw) sitting on the east side of the valley.

Most of the plan area falls within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 176 Foothills with Forest - Dumfries and Galloway. This LCT is characterised by generally undulating land with rounded peaks, with predominantly forest land cover, the landscape dissected by many streams which have cut incisions in the landform. It is steep on the lower slopes of the M74 corridor, opening out to rolling hills at higher elevation. The western side of the plan areas falls within LCT 177 Southern Uplands – Dumfries and Galloway. This large-scale landscape is characterised by large smooth domed or slightly conically shaped hills.

Although not within either, the plan area sits between Leadhills and Lowther Hills, Thornhill Uplands, and Moffat Hills Local Landscape Areas.

A.6.2 Geology and Soils

Underlying geology is predominantly sandstone from the Silurian Period, with some narrow bands of mudstone aligned southwest to northeast.

The plan area is a mosaic of upland soils, predominantly peaty gleys and blanket bog, but with large areas of surface water gleys and ironpans, as well as some brown earths. Most soils are characteristically low nutrient and high moisture content.

See Map 8 – Soils.

A.6.3 Climate

Climate in the plan area varies from warm, moist and sheltered on the lower slopes of the M74 corridor to cool, wet and severely exposed on the hill tops along the western boundary.

The climate data for Beattock was obtained from the Ecological Site Classification system (ESC). The results of interrogating this system gave the following data.

AT5 (Accumulated Temperature) is the accumulated total of the day-degrees above the growth threshold temperature of 5°C, which provides a convenient measure of summer warmth. AT5 ranges from 912 to 1239 using baseline climate scenario, increasing to between 1840 to 2174 under medium-high climate scenario.

MD is the Moisture Deficit for the area. Moisture deficit reflects the balance between potential evaporation and rainfall and therefore emphasises the dryness of the growing season (rather than the wetness of the winter or entire year). MD ranges from 44 to 102 using baseline climate scenario, increasing to between 98 and 135 under medium-high 2080 climate scenario.

Each tree species has tolerances for these, and other factors, and they can be used to identify species suitable for the site conditions. The results above will be used to help assist in the choice of tree species for restocking in this plan.

Further information on these criteria and the application of ESC can be found in Forestry Commission Bulletin 124 - An Ecological Site Classification for Forestry in Great Britain.

A.6.4 Hydrology

The plan area is within the Solway Tweed River Basin District, and falls into four river catchment areas within the wider River Annan Catchment:

- Evan Water
- Cloffin Burn
- Garpol Water
- Kinnel Water

A small area falls within Daer Reservoir Catchment, and the northeast corner of Blacklaw forest block falls within Moffat Groundwater Risk Zone.

Water quality:
Bodies of surface waters are listed below, with data taken from SEPA's 2021 update to the Water Environment Hub:

- Evan Water Overall condition: Poor (fish barrier off FLS land)
- Cloffin Burn Overall condition: Poor (fish barrier off FLS land)
- Garpol Water Overall condition: Good

Flooding:
There are no potentially vulnerable areas (PVAs) in the Solway Local Flood Risk Management Plan affected by watercourses in the plan area. Evan Water flows into Annan Water downstream of Moffat PVA.

Water supplies:
There are several private water supplies (PWS) within the plan area (see Appendix 4).

A.6.5 Windthrow

DAMS in the plan area ranges from 11 to 19, with about 25% DAMS 17 or above. The first rotation has been susceptible to windthrow in more exposed areas and where restructuring through clear-felling has opened unstable, brown edges. Changing climate is likely to result in less predictable and more frequent and violent storms. This will influence management coupe design, felling rotation length, silvicultural interventions and species choice.

A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

There are large-scale conifer forests to the north and south of Beattock, with sheep grazing on the hills to the west and mixed agriculture on the lower slopes around Beattock village.

A.6.7 Access

Dumfries and Galloway Council's Access Team manage a trail and picnic site at Earshaigs Ponds, but there are no formal FLS recreation facilities. The Southern Upland Way and Romans and Reivers long distance footpaths both pass through the forest, and the Annandale Way passes just to the southeast. A core path runs on forest roads through Earshaigs and Rivox forest blocks. Sustrans Route 74 runs along the B7076, just below the forest.

A.6.8 Historic Environment

Scheduled Monuments
There are four scheduled monuments in or bordering the plan area:

- SM8659 Blacklaw Tower, associated buildings and enclosures.
- SM12655 Kinnelhead Cottage, cairn.
- SM8566 Garpol Water, Motte and Bailey
- SM4057 Stanshielrig, homestead, enclosures, field systems and clearance cairns.

Details of these and all other undesignated features are provided in Appendix 3 and shown on Map 9.

A.6.9 Biodiversity

Designated Sites
There are no designated sites within the plan area.

Priority Habitats
The last extensive habitat survey was carried out in 2014 and identified several priority habitats but in small, fragmented patches across the plan area. These were generally in open areas along riparian corridors and unplanted areas on the higher ground. They include upland heathland, purple moorgrass and rush pasture, upland flush, fen and swamp, fen marsh and swamp, lowland fen, wet woodland and blanket bog.

Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland (ASW) and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
There are several fragmented areas of ASW on the lower slopes of the forest, above the Avon Water valley, including four areas of PAWS. These areas offer the greatest scope for developing conservation area networks (CAN) linking areas of high conservation value (HCV) via riparian corridors.

Priority Species
The plan area is important for several raptor species including golden eagle, goshawk, red kite, buzzard and barn owl. Black grouse have been sighted in the forest in the past (not in last 10 years). The forest also provides habitat for mammals including red squirrel, badger, otter, pine martin and bats. Dragonflies and damsel flies Earshaigs ponds have been recorded around Earshaigs ponds.

A.6.10 Invasive Species

Rhododendron ponticum is present all-around Auchencastle Hotel, both on and off FLS land, making it difficult to control. Removal of this invasive species is a priority within the PAWS areas.

A.7 Woodland Description

Beattock is a predominantly coniferous plantation forest, dominated by Sitka spruce which currently accounts for 62% of the total plan area. Other conifers are found mainly on the better brown earth and surface water gley soils on the lower slopes above the M74. Broadleaves are

also concentrated on the lower slopes, in particular near Auchencastle in Longbedholm, in Blacklaw, and in some riparian corridors.

Having been first planted between planted the 1930s and 1980s, most of the forest has already been felled and restocked. Much of the remaining first rotation, which includes significantly windblown areas, will be felled and restocked during this plan period. Most of the forest is unthinned although there has been some thinning in Longbedholm, and more may be possible.

Map 2 shows the existing tree species composition and pattern.

A.8 Plant Health

Phytophthora ramorum has had a major impact during the previous plan period. Over 20 Statutory Plant health Notices (SPHNs) were issued, resulting in the removal of all but 2 ha of larch in Beattock.

Table 1 - Area by species

This shows the current and future species composition within the entire plan area.

Area by species						
Species	**Current**		**Year 10**		**Year 20**	
(Add relevant species groups, or OG/OL)	**Area (ha)**	**%**	**Area (ha)**	**%**	**Area (ha)**	**%**
Sitka spruce	2297	62.6	2270	61.8	2216	60.3
Other conifers	310	8.4	363	9.9	371	10.1
Native broadleaves	201	5.5	228	6.2	238	6.5
Other broadleaves	16	0.4	13	0.4	12	0.3
Open ground	660	18.0	710	19.3	700	19.1
Fallow (felled)	188	5.1	87	2.4	135	3.7
Total*	**3672**	**100**	**3672**	**100**	**3672**	**100**

* Differences between report and LTP plan area are due to presence of multiple storeys in the sub-compartment database resulting in a correct double count of species. Difference between current and Year 10 and Year 20 areas are due to inability to account for multiple storeys in the future restock areas layer.

Table 2 – Area by age

This shows the woodland area broken down by age class and will show how well the woodland is distributed across the age classes.

Age class (years)	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
0 - 10	1019	27.8	588	16.0	345	9.4
11 - 20	912	24.8	870	23.7	588	16.0
21 - 40	430	11.7	1234	33.6	1745	47.5
41 - 60	367	10.0	109	3.0	96	2.6
61 +	96	2.6	74	2.0	62	1.7
Open ground (including fallow)	848	23.1	797	21.7	835	22.7
Total*	**3672**	**100**	**3672**	**100**	**3672**	**100**

* Differences between report and LTP area are due to presence of multiple storeys in the sub-compartment database resulting in a correct double count of species. Difference between current and Year 20 areas are due to inability to account for multiple storeys in the future restock areas layer.

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities		
Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Soils and climate	Most soils are characteristically low nutrient and high moisture content, and much of the forest is wet and exposed, limiting choice of tree species and silvicultural management options. Future climate may result in warmer drier summers, wetter milder winters and more extreme weather events.	Greater scope for species diversity, thinning and lower impact silviculture on better soils on lower, less exposed slopes. Consider alternatives to Sitka spruce, such as western hemlock, on more demanding sites.
Water	Forest operations could have an impact on the extensive network of watercourses and associated riparian areas. There are several private water supply (PWS) catchments in the plan area. Careful planning and adherence to Forest and water Guidelines is essential.	As coupes are felled and restocked there are opportunities to widen and enhance riparian corridors to reduce the risk of siltation from forest operations, improve overall water quality, and enhance riparian habitat for wildlife. PWS can be better protected in the future by enhancing and expanding riparian zones around water courses and PWS sources.

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities		
Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Biodiversity	Areas of High Conservation Value (HCV), including PAWS, are generally small and fragmented. HCV areas are threatened by non-native regeneration, notably Sitka spruce, as well as *Rhododendron ponticum* in the Auchencastle area. Most of the original plantation has been felled, leaving few older conifer stands. Restrictions associated with protected bird species	Prioritise PAWS restoration, removing non-native conifers and planting or encouraging natural regeneration of native broadleaves. Improve connectivity between HCV areas by enhancing and expanding Conservation Area Networks (CAN) between HCV areas, especially along riparian corridors. Identify older conifer stands to retain indefinitely, where they will add most biodiversity value and cause fewest operational issues. Reconsider management coupe design and restock species to enhance buffers around important wildlife and reduce future disruption to forest operations.
Historic environment	Two of the scheduled monuments have some larger single trees and regenerating saplings growing within the scheduled area.	Enhance the settings of key heritage features through forest re-structuring and active management (removing trees, shrubs and bracken).
Public Access	Limited formal recreation facilities. Long distance trails are susceptible to diversions and temporary closures due to forest operations.	Enhance welcome and interactive visitor zones around key forest access points and trails, notably Earshaigs Ponds and the Southern Upland Way, by targeting structural and species diversification in these areas (site conditions allowing).

Concept

Sustainable timber production remains the primary objective, to be achieved through on-going forest restructuring, largely by clearfell and restock. Most of the original first rotation conifer plantation has already been felled and restocked, with remaining coupes becoming increasingly

unstable. Most of the remaining first rotation will be clear-felled and restocked during this plan period, leaving a few longer-term coupes to meet biodiversity and landscape objectives.

Beyond the ten-year plan period, some future felling coupes will be brought forward to smooth the longer-term felling programme. Earlier felling of more exposed and vulnerable coupes will help develop greater resilience to the impacts of climate change. Opportunities will be sought to first thin coupes to improve longer term timber quality and tree stability. This will also help develop future longer-term retentions to benefit biodiversity and landscape.

Species choice is limited by poorer soils and climatic factors across much of the plan area, but restocking proposals will include alternative conifers where suitable and where they meet plan objectives.

Biodiversity enhancement will focus on improving conservation habitat networks connecting areas of higher conservation value, especially key riparian corridors and, on the lower slopes, connecting and expanding PAWS areas.

Map 3 illustrates how the plan concept incorporates the important constraints and opportunities into the management objectives.

C.1 Silvicultural Practices

Beattock will continue to be managed primarily by clearfell and restock. A thinning programme will be reinstated where appropriate, aiming to initiate early first thinning on suitable sites. This will in due course create opportunities to consider management under Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS), in line with LTP management objectives. Restocking will be achieved largely through planting, making use of natural regeneration where possible.

C.2 Prescriptions

C.2.1 Felling

Sites proposed for clear felling in the plan period are identified as Phase 1 and Phase 2 management coupes on Map 4. Refer to Table 3 for scale of felling. Any other planned tree felling (e.g. selective felling, felling of individual trees, or felling of coppice) is shown on Map 5.

Other tree felling in exceptional circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LTP process.

However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LTP approval period to cover the following circumstances:

- Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage, or impeded drainage. *Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities and services, and drains.
- The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances over the plan area covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per calendar year.

A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five-year plan review.

[N.B. Trees may be felled without permission if they; are of less than 10 cm diameter at breast height (1.3 m); pose immediate danger to persons or property; are completely dead; or are part of Authorised Planning Permission works or wayleave agreements].

C.2.2 Thinning and Respacing

Potential sites for thinning in the plan period are identified on Map 5. Table 4 indicates the potential area.

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum MAI, or YC, per year). Higher intensities (no more than 140 % of maximum MAI, or YC, per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger tree sizes are being sought or as part of a LISS prescription. Where trees need to be removed to accommodate facilities to support approved thinning and CCF, including stacking areas, ramps and access racks within adjacent management coupes, this should ideally be identified in thinning maps and thinning plans as part of the LTP submission. Where this is not the case, additional felling necessary for reasonable infrastructure can be agreed by exchange of email. In all cases work plans will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried out and operations will be monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

C.2.3 Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

There are no areas identified for LISS management in this plan. Once a thinning programme has been initiated there may be scope to develop some areas under LISS management.

C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves (NR) / Minimum Intervention (MI)

Stands identified as LTR, Minimum Intervention (MI) and Natural Reserve are shown on Map 4.

Long Term Retention
There are 28.8 ha of LTR or 0.8% of the total plan area. These areas have been selected due to their age, species, and location to provide maturer habitat for raptors and other wildlife in a forest where most of the first rotation has been felled, and much of what remains is windblown or highly vulnerable to windblow in the next 5-10 years.

Natural Reserve (NR)
Five distinct areas were previously designated as NR, and these remain unchanged. They have a combined area of 27.9 ha or 0.8% of the total plan area. They are all in areas with high deadwood ecological potential, and are connected to varying degrees with the wider CAN.

- 18007: Standing and windblown P61 LP and SS and P84 SS on the northwestern boundary of Greskine.
- 18019: older NS, SP, SS and MB in the riparian corridor along Dow Linn towards the northern end of Greskine,
- 41063: P66 LP some windblown, in a riparian zone on the upper slopes of Rivox.
- 41062: P66 NS, a little downstream of 41063.

- 43022: P54 SP, P00 SS and MB at the southeastern end of Blacklaw. P54 EL was felled following infection with Phytophthora ramorum, and replaced with SS.

Minimum Intervention
MI areas, where conservation of biodiversity is the main objective, total 385.7 ha or 10.5% of the total plan area. These are mostly areas of mixed broadleaves and open habitat along riparian corridors but also include broadleaf and conifer areas of high conservation value.

C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

Planned restocking of felled areas, and proposals for the future habitats and tree species over the whole plan area are shown on Map 6. See Table 5 for areas, establishment, and mix proportions. Timing of restocking will comply with the plan tolerance table shown in section C.4.

Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Stocking densities will be at least 2,500 stems per ha (sph) for conifers and 1,600 sph for broadleaves unless justified elsewhere in this plan. If the restock or natural regeneration should fail to reach these levels the site will be beaten-up to the required planting density. This will be assessed at year 3 and year 5 after planting with beat-up by at least year 5.

There will be a preference for natural regeneration of native woodland areas. Any non-productive broadleaf planting will be native to the area and will complement existing naturally growing scrub and woodland to give the most ecological value.

Table 3 – Felling

This shows the scale of felling within the felling phases in the context of the whole LTP. This includes any areas of 'LISS – Fell' (i.e. removal of final overstorey). * (see Map 4).

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total LTP Area:		3672	hectares									
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention*	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	249	6.8	153	4.2	169	4.6	264	7.2	32	0.9	1749	47.6

* As all areas of proposed LISS management will have some overstorey trees retained over the next 20 years, no areas of 'LISS – Fell' are listed.

Table 4 – Thinning

This shows the area of thinning over the first 10 years of the LTP (see Map 5).

Thinning Coupe	Species*	Prescription	Thinning area (ha)
18006	SS	1st thin P2005 crop	10.1
18009	SS	1st thin P2012 crop	12.8
18012	SS	1st thin P2012 crop	6.5
18014	SS	1st thin P2013 crop	5.2
18020	SS/BI/ROW/GF/WIL/WRC	1st thin P2013 conifers in mixed crop, removing conifers from PAWS area	3.4
18029	SS/MC	Remove SS and other non-native conifers from riparian broadleaf area (Conservation Area Network)	16.5
18030	SS	1st thin P2012 crop	10.1
18043	SS	1st thin P2016 crop	14.1
18045	SS	1st thin P2007 crop	18.0
18049	SP	1st thin P2005 crop	1.7
18063	SS	1st thin P2015 crop	35.6
18067	SS/SP	1st thin P2014 crop	86.0
41003	SS	1st thin P2011 crop	34.0

Thinning Coupe	Species*	Prescription	Thinning area (ha)
41026	SS/SP/NMB	1st thin P2017 crop	33.2
41034	SS	1st thin P2013 crop	33.5
41040	SS	1st thin P2003 crop	37.0
23008	SS	1st thin P2011 crop	24.9
23021	NS/SS/BI	1st thin P2017 crop	6.4
23022		Remove SS and other non-native conifers	4.9
23027	SS	1st thin P2011 crop	6.0
23028	SS	1st thin P2004 crop	55.2
23030	SS	1st thin P2013 crop	8.7
23040	SS/MC/NMB	Remove SS and other non-native conifers from riparian broadleaf area - Conservation Area Network (CAN)	27.6
23042	SS/NS	1st thin P2010 crop	8.6
23046	SS	1st thin P2004 crop	26.0
23047	SS/SP	1st thin P2010 crop	35.4
23058	SS/SP/NS	1st thin P2013 crop; remove SS from CAN	9.0
23083	SS	1st thin P2018 crop	18.7
23089	SS	1st thin P2018 crop	18.0

Thinning Coupe	Species*	Prescription	Thinning area (ha)
23090	SS/SP	1st thin P2013 crop	12.8
25004	SS	1st thin P2017 crop	37.2
25011	SS	1st thin P2016 crop	46.9
25014	SS/GWL/BI/ROW	1st thin P2019 SS,	9.6
25015	SS	1st thin P2008 & P2011 crop	19.3
25021	NMB/SS	Remove SS and other non-native conifers from CAN	18.4
25024	NS/SS	1st thin P2007 crop	12.8
25028	NS/SS	1st thin P2007 crop	14.9
25032	SS	2nd thin P1996/97 crop	44.2
25034	SS	1st thin P2003 crop	11.0
25036	SS/DF	1st thin P2009 crop	11.4
25038	MNB/SP/SS	1st thin P2019 mixed crop to favour NMB, and remove SS and other non-native conifers	20.4
25039	DF/SS/JL	1st thin P2006 crop	4.2
25042	GWL/SP/SP/BI	Thin SS and other non-native conifers to favour NMB and SP	3.8
43001	SS/NS/SP	1st thin P2007 crop	42.1
43004	SS	1st thin P2008 crop	24.7

Thinning Coupe	Species*	Prescription	Thinning area (ha)
43013	NS/SS/SP/WRC	1st thin P2019 crop	15.4
43014	SS/SP	1st thin P2015 crop	15.7
43016	SS	1st thin P2006 crop	15.0
43017	SS	1st thin P2006 crop	8.0
43020	SS/NS/NF/DF	2nd thin P2000 crop	9.9
Total area			**1004.8**

Table 5 – Restocking

This table provides information on the restocking proposals for the first 10 years of the LTP listed on a coupe-by-coupe basis (see Map 6).

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Previously felled	18002	MC 80% / MB 20% (NR) MB 100% (NR) MB 80% / Open 20% (NR)	1.6 1.9 1.0
Previously felled	18003	MB 80% / Open 20% (NR)	0.5
Previously felled	18039	SS 100%	30.0
Previously felled	18042	SP 100%	1.3
Previously felled	18046	SS 100%	17.3
Previously felled	18072	SS 100%	3.2
Previously felled	18074	SS 100%	14.7
Previously felled	18055	OK 100%	0.9
Previously felled	18056	NS 100% OK 100%	1.6 4.4
Previously felled	18057	NMB 50% / Open 50% (NR)	0.5
Previously felled	41006	DF 60% / WH 40%	10.1
Previously felled	41022	SP 70% / SBI 30%	11.0

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Previously felled	41059	SS 70% / LP 30% (nurse species)	36.7
Previously felled	41069	SS 100%	2.9
Previously felled	23007	SS 100%	15.7
Previously felled	23018	NS 100% SP 100%	4.2 3.6
Previously felled	23024	SP 70% / SBI 30% SS 100%	17.4 2.4
Previously felled	23031	SS 100%	25.7
Previously felled	23035	SS 100% SP 70% / NMB 30%	10.5 9.4
Previously felled	23037	NS 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	6.1 1.6
Previously felled	23043	SS 85% (NR) / ASP 15% SP 70% / NS 30% NMB 50% / Open 50%	13.0 3.7 7.8
Previously felled	23051	SS 100%	14.4
Previously felled	23055	NS 60% / SS 30% / SP 10%	10.6

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Previously felled	23065	SP 70% / NS 30% NMB 50% / Open 50%	8.5 4.6
Previously felled	23068	NS 60% / SS 30% / SP 10% NMB 50% / Open 50%	3.2 1.4
Previously felled	23079	SP 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	4.2 1.4
Previously felled	23081	SS 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	14.0 5.4
Previously felled	25005	NMB 80% (NR) / MC 20%	5.0
Previously felled	25008	NMB 80% (NR) / MC 20%	8.1
Previously felled	25012	NMB 80% (NR) / MC 20%	22.0
Previously felled	25035	NS 60% / DF 40%	2.5
Previously felled	25039	NMB 60% / MC 20% / Open 20% (NR)	1.1
1	18024	SS 100% NS 60% / MC 40% MB 50% / Open 50%	6.6 9.1 1.84
1	18035	SS 100%	15.0

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
1	18065	SS 70% / LP 30%	11.0
1	41052	SS 100%	10.4
1	41050	SS 100%	9.4
1	41066	SS 100%	10.1
1	23033	SS 100%	63.1
1	23077	SS 100% MB 50% / Open 50%	32.3 2.4
1	25003	SS 100% NS 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	11.4 5.6 3.6
1	25041	NMB 100%	2.5
1	43006	SS 100% SP 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	12.7 1.6 3.8
2	18028	NMB 100%	2.2
2	18040	SS 100%	13.9
2	18047	SS 100%	13.8

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
2	41025	SS 100%	24.1
2	41045	NS 100%	12.2
2	41067	NS 100%	6.7
2	23026	NS 70% / SS 20% / SBI 10% NMB 50% / Open	3.7 0.6
2	23038	SS 100% NS 70% / SS 30%	8.7 3.3
2	23056	NS 60% / SS 30% / SP 10% NMB 50% / Open 50%	13.0 1.1
2	23063	SS 100%	8.4
2	23069	SS 100% NMB 50% / Open 50%	22.5 0.3
Total Restocking Area			**714.3**

*Establishment is expected to be by planting unless otherwise stated (NR = Natural Regeneration)

**net area to be planted excluding designed open ground

C.2.6 Protection

Management of deer is an underpinning activity essential for the delivery of benefits from Scotland's National Forests and Land. The aim is to manage healthy wild deer populations and manage deer impacts across the estate consistent with the carrying capacity of the land and successful delivery of FLS land management objectives. The FLS Deer Management Strategy directs the priorities for management (copies are available upon request).

The plan area is part of Ae Main Block/Auchencastle Deer Management Unit (as denoted in the FLS Deer Management Strategy): Spring mean deer density for 2026 is approximately 5/km2. In the last full five-year culls from April 2021 to April 2025, FLS have culled: 884 roe, 250 fallow, and 20 Sika. Culls are ongoing with targets set based on population modelling, cull data and site evidence.

C.2.7 Fence Erection / Removal

No fencing work is proposed.

C.2.8 Road Operations and Timber Haulage

Map 7 shows the existing forest road network and any associated quarries, timber haulage egress points, and any local 'Agreed Timber Transport Routes'. Any planned new roads or quarry expansions in the plan period are also indicated on this map. The lengths of planned new roads are given on the map and are reflected in the EIA Screening Opinion Request submitted with the plan.

C.2.9 Public Access

FLS welcome responsible public access in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Where trails are affected by forestry operations, appropriate temporary closures will be implemented and, where possible, suitable diversions provided to maintain access while ensuring public and operator safety. Access to key routes such as core paths and rights of way will be maintained and restored as required after operations. Liaison with the Local Authority Access Officer will continue to be carried out as appropriate.

Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes.

In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views.

Woodland in these zones will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

Several coupes along the Southern Upland Way and Romans and Reivers long distance paths are due to be felled and restocked during the plan period. The opportunity will be taken to enhance the visitor experience through restocking with a wider range of conifer and broadleaf species, where site conditions allow, along with appropriate open habitat. Where thinning is possible close to these paths, and Earshaigs Ponds trails, thinning in the plan period will create the potential for management under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS).

C.2.10 Historic Environment

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver Our Past, Our Future: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland and Scotland's Archaeology Strategy. Designated historic assets and significant heritage features will be protected and managed following the UK Forestry Standard (2023) and UKWAS (2024). Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken to ensure that upstanding heritage features can be marked out and avoided. At establishment and restocking, work prescriptions remove relevant heritage features from ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant heritage features are recorded by archaeological measured survey, see active conservation management and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated historic asset).

The Regional Historic Asset Management Plan includes conservation management intentions for those designated historic assets on Scotland's national forests and land. Details of most known heritage features are held within the Forester Web Heritage Data (built using national and regional historic environment records) and included within operational planning to ensure damage is avoided. Designated historic assets and significant heritage features will be depicted on the supporting Heritage Map. Designated historic assets, significant heritage features and relevant heritage features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps.

Map 9 and Appendix 2 provide more information about the historic environment features within and adjacent to the plan area.

Following recommendations form HES, the sites at SM8659 Blacklaw Tower and SM8566 Garpol water, Motte-and-Bailey will be surveyed and where practicable work programmed to remove larger single trees, scrubby vegetation and bracken.

C.2.11 Biodiversity

UK Forestry Standard guidance is to manage a minimum of 15% of the forest management unit with conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective. LTR, MI, MI(NR) and Open coupes, where conservation of biodiversity is a major objective, account for 575 ha or 15.7% of the plan area. This does not take into account other areas within clearfell coupes such as riparian corridors and other open habitat, so the actual proportion will be much greater.

Opportunities for retaining or creating deadwood will be identified during the planning of all felling, favouring areas with the highest deadwood ecological potential. Valuable deadwood and deadwood areas will be marked on contract maps. Areas of minimum intervention and riparian corridors will offer some of the best opportunities for the development of standing and fallen deadwood. Where it is safe to do so, standing mature dead trees will be retained as these offer excellent potential for a range of species.

The broad approach to conserving and enhancing biodiversity is to improve Conservation Area Networks by continuing to develop the network of native broadleaves and open habitat in riparian corridors, as coupes are felled and restocked. A particular focus will be improving connectivity between PAWS areas in Greskine and Longbedholm forest blocks, and expanding the area being managed primarily for biodiversity.

The northeast part of Greskine has a diverse range of tree species and ages, including some of the original 1930s conifer plantation. It has two PAWS areas, along Mellingshaw Burn and Dow Linn, as well as designated Natural Reserve. Much of this area will be managed as long term retention, minimum intervention or open habitat.

An extensive area of Longbedholm forest block between PAWS sites at Auchencastle and Middlegill, some 150 ha in all, is already developing into a richly diverse woodland with a high proportion of native broadleaves. Currently ‘felled’ areas will be monitored with a view to restocking by natural regeneration and enriching with native broadleaves and some Scots pine as necessary. It is proposed to carry out some thinning of younger conifer areas towards the end of this plan period, with a view to gradually removing non-native conifers and promoting establishment and development of species such as oak and Scots pine.

Protecting raptor species and their nesting habitat remains a high priority. This will be achieved through a combination of retaining suitable conifer buffer areas and careful programming of forest operations, working closely with local raptor experts. Across the plan area, there are few stable more mature stands, and as younger crops are first thinned it is planned to identify suitable future long-term retentions.

C.2.12 Tree Health

Virtually all larch in the plan area has been felled following infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* and subsequent issue of SPHNs, only approximately 2 ha remains. Larch remains off the menu

for restocking, but there are no plans to remove any remaining larch. The forests will continue to be monitored for all tree health threats.

C.2.13 Invasive Species

Forestry and Land Scotland will explore opportunities to work with local conservation organisations, adjacent landowners and stakeholders to achieve common objectives to protect and enhance priority species and habitats wherever possible.

Control of invasive non-native species will be carried out as resource allocation allows with areas for control being identified and prioritized by FLS Planning and Environment staff on a regional basis.

It is planned to carry out further removal of *Rhododendron ponticum* close to Auchencastle Hotel in Longbedholm forest block. Much of the R. *ponticum* is off FLS land so long-term success will depend on working with the adjacent landowner.

C.2.14 New Planting

No new planting is planned.

C.2.15 Wildfire

FLS work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to ensure a safe and consistent approach to help tackle wildfires on Scotland's national forests and land. FLS support SFRS in their lead role for fire prevention and suppression through creating annual fire plans, maintaining a duty rota, and providing additional logistical support. FLS's primary objective is always to protect people's health, safety and wellbeing.

The general approach to managing fire risk will be to maintain suitable access to key areas of the woodland for fire control purposes and to avoid management actions which would further exacerbate fire risk, especially where the threat to key assets is particularly high. Fire risk has been assessed in accordance with *Forestry Commission Practice Guide 22: Building Wildfire Resilience into Forest Management Planning*; including consideration of forest management and restocking proposals.

Fire risk for Beattock LTP area has been assessed as low to medium based on the context of the forest. Key factors contributing low to medium risk include public access through the area, a 400 kV OHPL and the west coast railway line running along the eastern edge of the plan area, and the extent of young plantation and fallow ground.

Proposals within this plan aim to reduce the risk through increasing the restock programme to reduce the amount of fallow ground, brash removal on suitable sites, and increasing species diversity in restock plans.

Additional measures will be considered at the operational planning stage (i.e. forest road maintenance and brash recovery).

C.2.16 Other

Soils

Brash mats (or alternative measures) will be used to protect sensitive soils. There will be minimal soil disturbance and machine movement on sites with clayey soils to reduce the risk of compaction or damage to the soil structure. Felling residue will usually be left on site to allow nutrient recycling, with consideration for the practicalities of restocking. Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Landscape

The management proposals outlined in Section C.2.11 to benefit biodiversity will also build on previous work to develop a diverse and attractive landscape along the M74 corridor. As outlined in Section 2.9 above, the visitor zones around long-distance footpaths and Earshaigs Ponds trail will be enhanced through planned felling, restocking and thinning operations.

Utilities, Renewables and other developments

Overhead Powerlines. The 400 kV overhead powerline (OHPL) running along the lower slopes of Greskine forest block has some mature conifers that Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) assess as being too close to the line. SPEN will carry out detailed survey to identify trees that need to be removed, including some P1930s conifers to the west of the line. Large scale clear-felling will be unnecessary, so the area with trees to be removed has been included in Map 5 - Thinning.

Private Water Supplies (PWS). Refer to Appendix IV and Maps 10A, 10B and 10 C for PWS.

C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications

Total area (hectares) for each project type and provide details as requested by sensitive or non-sensitive area.

Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
Afforestation	0% Con	0% BL	0% Con	0% BL	0 ha
Deforestation	0% Con	0% BL	0% Con	0% BL	0 ha
Forest Roads	0 ha		0.63 ha		0.63 ha
Quarries	0 ha		0 ha		0 ha

Tolerance Table

	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**	Timing of Restocking	Changes to Restocking species	Changes to road lines	Designed open ground ***	Windblow Clearance****
FC Approval normally not required	N	Fell date can be moved within 5-year period where separation or other constraints are met	Up to 10% of coupe area	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of email and map	Y		Up to 15% of coupe area	Between 2 and 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised		Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of more than 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase by up to 10% Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5-year period Advance felling into current or 2nd 5-year period	More than 15% of coupe area	More than 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised	Change from specified native species Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 10% of coupe area Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical	More than 5 ha

Note

*Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5-year review.

** No more than 1 ha, without consultation with Scottish Forestry, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

*** Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

****Where windblow occurs, Scottish Forestry must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees.

D. Production Forecast

Not applicable. FLS provide this nationally to Forest Research as per agreement with Scottish Forestry.

Maps

Item number	Title
1	Location
2	Current tree species
3	Concept
4	Management (Felling)
5	Thinning
6	Future habitats and species (Restock)
7	Timber haulage
8	Soils
9	Historic Environment
10A	Water Supplies
10B	Private Water Supplies 1 - 4
10C	Private Water Supplies 5 - 6

Appendices – refer to separate document

I. Stakeholder Consultation Record
II. Historic Environment Record
III. Larch Tolerance Table
IV. Private Water Supplies - CONFIDENTIAL