Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Central Region

Damside

Land Management Plan

Approval date:

Plan Reference No:

Plan Approval Date:

Plan Expiry Date:

Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

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PEFC PEFC/16-40-1002 Promoting Sustainable Forest Management www.pefc.org

Land Management Plan Details			
LMP Name:	Damside		
Grid Reference:	NS 8812 5768	Nearest town or locality:	Allanton
Local Authority:		North Lanarkshire Council	
Land Management Plan area (hectares):		474.8	

Owner's Details				
Title:	Mrs	Forename:	Carol	
Surname:	McGinnes			
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Regional Manager	
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Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:			
LMP Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

Contents

1 Summary of Proposals

This land management plan sets out proposals to create a new productive and resilient mixed woodland on a former opencast coal mine site. The new woodland will be multipurpose, simultaneously providing an enhanced setting for recreational use, improving and diversifying habitat provision for wildlife, whilst also contributing a long-term sustainable supply of timber.

Damside is within both the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) and the Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) project areas. Regeneration of former industrial land such as Damside, to provide a high quality environment for the benefit of people and wildlife is a key theme common to both these projects. Proposals in this land management plan will deliver such transformation. The plan will also contribute towards Scottish Government woodland expansion targets.

This land management plan covers woodland creation and forestry operations to be undertaken by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). Land forming and soil restoration operations have already been delivered by Hargreaves Ltd., and were thus covered by a separate planning process.

The Current Land Use map illustrates the starting condition at which FLS acquired the site and the inception of this plan. The Concept and Future Habitat and Species maps illustrate the long-term vision for the site's transformation.

2 FCS Regulatory Requirements

2.1 Summary of planned operations

Planned Operations	2021-2031
Felling	0 ha
Thinning	0 ha
Restock	0 ha
Woodland Creation (afforestation)	292.5 ha
Habitat Restoration (deforestation)	0 ha
Road Construction	0 ha
Quarry expansion	0 ha

2.2 Proposed felling in years 2021 - 2031

There are no felling works proposed within the 10 year period of this plan.

2.3 Proposed restocking in years 2021 - 2031

There are no restocking works proposed within the 10 year period of this plan.

2.4 Woodland Creation 2021 - 2031

292.5 ha of woodland creation is proposed in this plan. This is on remediated former mine ground. Species prescriptions are described in section 7.2 and the spatial layout is illustrated in the Planting map.

Stand type	Area (ha)	Area (%)
Broadleaf	40.2	13.7
Conifer	166.5	57.0
Mixed (75% broadleaf, 25% conifer)	85.8	29.3
Total	**292.5**	**100**

2.5 Access and roading 2021 - 2031

There are no road works proposed within the 10 year period of this plan.

2.6 Departure from UKFS Guidelines

The UKFS standards will be met through the delivery of this plan.

2.7 Standards and guidance on which this LMP is based

This land management plan 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 here: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/links

2.8 Tolerance table

	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Wind throw response	Adjustment to road lines	Designed open ground
SF Approval not normally required (record and notify SF)	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	<10% of coupe size.	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling (allowing fallow periods for hylobius).	Change within species group E.g. Scots pine to birch, Non-native conifers e.g. Sitka spruce to Douglas fir, Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy).			Location of temporary open ground e.g. deer glades if still within overall open ground design Increase by 0.5 ha or 5% of area - whichever is less
Approval by exchange of letters and map	Y		10-15% of coupe size.	5 years +	Change of coupe objective that is likely to be consistent with current policy (e.g. from productive to open, open to native species).	Up to 5 Ha	Departures of greater than 60 m from the centre of the road line	Increase of 0.5 ha to 2 ha or 10% - whichever is less Any reduction in open ground
Approval by formal plan amendment	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2nd 5 year period	>15% of coupe size.		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy, E.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native,	More than 5 Ha	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 2 ha or 10% Any reduction in open ground in sensitive areas Colonisation of open Areas agreed as critical

3 EIA Screening Determination for forestry projects

3.1 Proposed deforestation

There is no deforestation proposed within the 10 year period of this plan.

3.2 Proposed forest road works

There is no forest road works proposed within the 10 year period of this plan.

3.3 Proposed forest quarries

There are no proposals to develop forest quarries within the 10 year period of this plan.

3.4 Proposed afforestation

292.5 ha of woodland creation is proposed in this plan.

4 Introduction

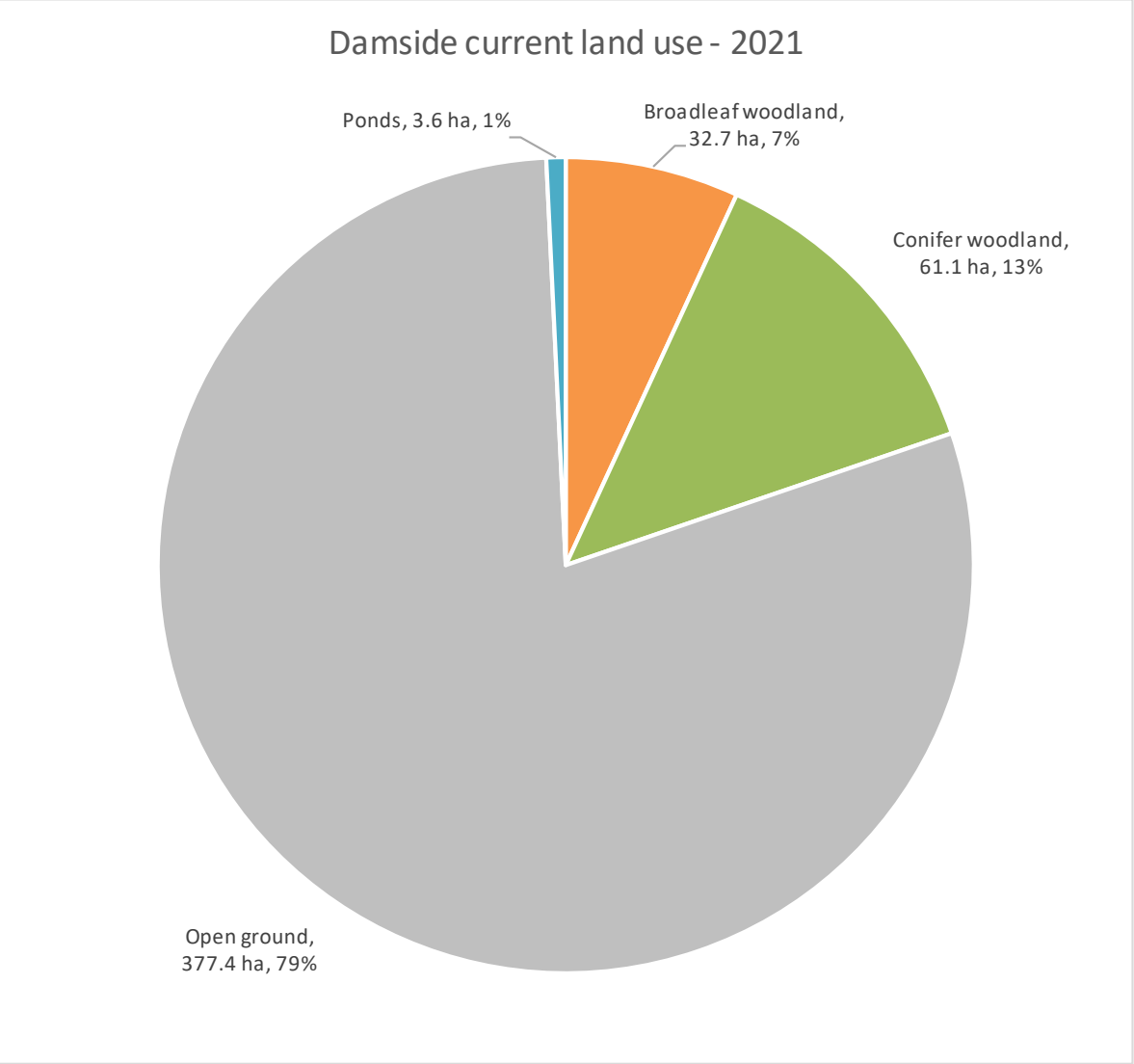
Damside is a 474.8 ha former opencast coal mining site situated south off the A71 near Shotts, North Lanarkshire. The former land owners, Scottish Coal restored some elements of the site to rough grazing land and some plantation woodland, before ceasing operations in 2002. Hargreaves Ltd. subsequently acquired the site and undertook restoration and remediation of soils across the remainder of the mined ground. This process included mechanical soil de-compaction, nutrient enrichment and drain installation. FLS monitored and consulted upon the soil remediation operations to ensure that the end product was fit for woodland establishment and sustainable tree growth. With land forming and soil remediation phases complete, FLS have acquired the site with the intention to progress the woodland creation phase of the site's restoration.

4.1 The existing land holding

The spatial distribution of each land use at the outset of this plan is depicted in the Current Land Use map.

As illustrated in the chart below, the current land at Damside is largely open (79%). This open ground consists of 141 ha recently remediated former mining soils, 158 ha formerly remediated (Scottish Coal) or land-formed mining ground, 36 ha natural peat, 32 ha of access infrastructure and 14 ha of agricultural pastures, of which a proportion has also been historically disturbed by coal mining and related infrastructure operations.

The existing conifer woodland on site is in a consolidated block to the south east. It is established on restored former mining ground, which appears to be suffering from impeded drainage and possible sub-surface compaction. Existing broadleaf woodland is somewhat fragmented, distributed in patches around the fringes of site, and is also on former mining ground.



4.2 Setting and context

Consistent with its Plateau Moorlands Landscape Character Type (described in Appendix II), ground to the south of the Damside site is of large scale, exposed and smooth rolling uplands with an abundancy of windfarms and upland plantations. To the north of site the landscape is more diverse and gently undulating. Here shallow valleys of pastoral farmland are interspersed with hedgerows and shelterbelts. The local villages of Shotts (1.0 km from site), Hartwood (2.3 km) and Allanton (0.2 km) all occupy prominent positions in the landscape. Damside is within a Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) zone associated with Shotts, and within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) project area.

4.3 LMP Presentation

Given the relatively small scale of the site there is no requirement for zoning.

5 Plan Objectives

The Land Management Plan Brief (Appendix III) illustrates objectives derived from the Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan 2019-2022 and how these relate to Damside. Management Objectives listed in section 5.3 will deliver the LMP action points listed in the Land Management Plan Brief, with the following site specific Issues and Key Challenges considered.

5.1 Issues

The key features and management considerations for Damside are illustrated in the Current Land Use and Location maps. They are summarised in the following list:

- Landscape impacts of conifer woodland and former industrial brownfield sites in the local landscape.
- Forestry and Land Scotland's contribution to Scottish Government woodland expansion targets.
- Forestry and Land Scotland's contribution to recreational access and local environment improvements associated with the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) and the Woodland In and Around Towns projects (further detail in Appendix III).

5.2 Key challenges

Key challenges associated with this site and the LMP Objectives as detailed in the Plan Brief (Appendix III) and below, revolve around the legacy of opencast mining. These include:

- Appropriate species selection with tolerance to recovering soils, including compromised soil functionality and localised variability, as described in 7.2.1.
- Timely establishment of trees on restored soils to minimise risks associated with erosion, compaction and rapid weed growth.
- Variable performance of existing conifer woodland, establish circa 1995 on former mining ground.

5.3 Management objectives

Establish a new productive, diverse and resilient woodland, which contributes to the long term recovery of former mining ground for the sustainable supply of timber.

Increase biodiversity provision through well-connected forest habitat networks, and improved structural and species diversity.

Provide an interesting, diverse and accessible setting for gradual recreational uptake and local community engagement, in accordance with Woodland In and Around Towns and Central Scotland Green Network project objectives.

6 Analysis and concept

6.1 Analysis

Table 1: Illustration of how analysis of the opportunities and constraints of each objective leads to the plan concept

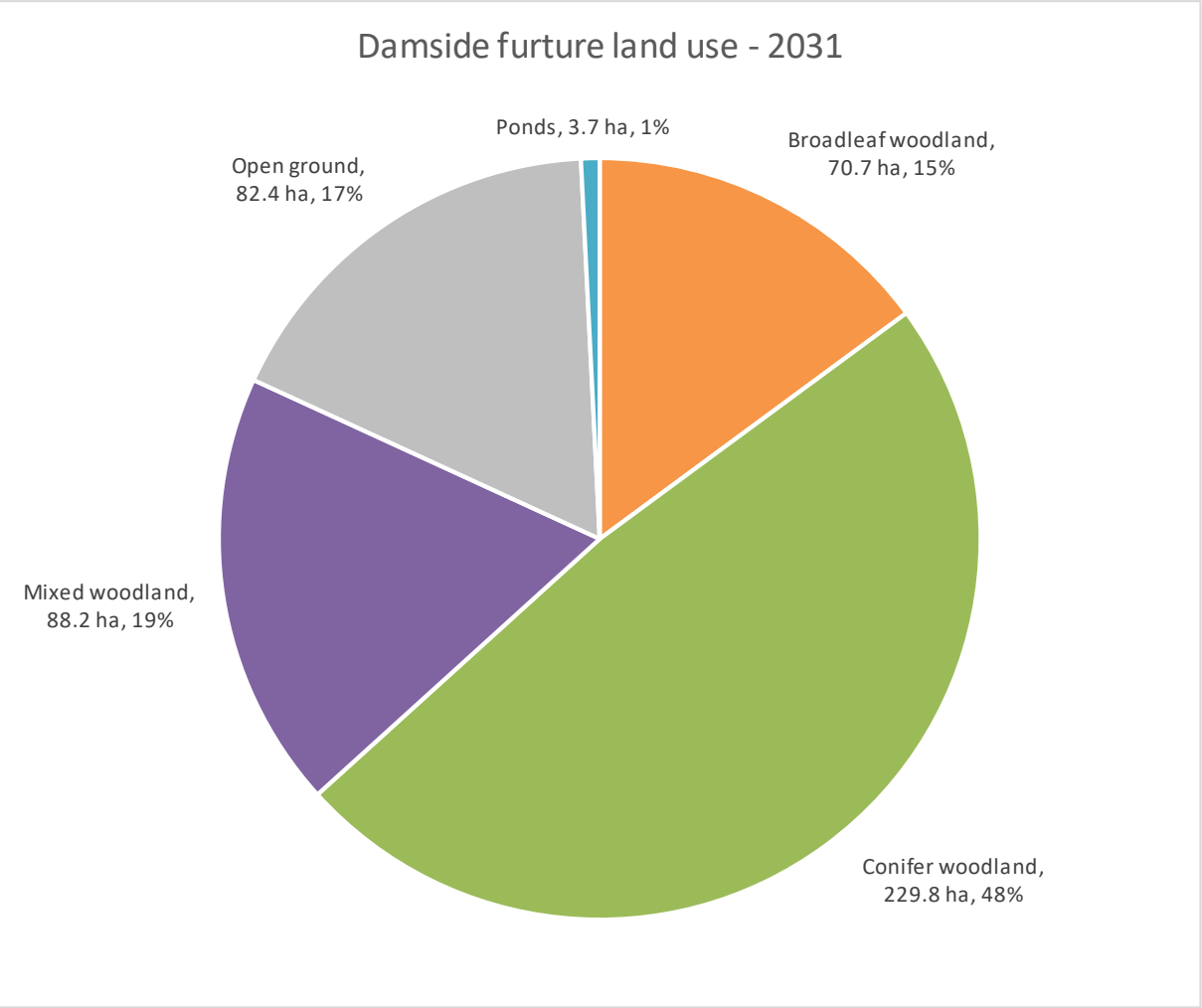
Management Objective	Opportunities	Constraints	Concept
Establish a new productive, diverse and resilient woodland, which contributes to the long term recovery of former mining ground for the sustainable supply of timber.	Soils restoration operations on the site have provided an adequate substrate for new woodland creation, through mechanical de-compaction and enrichment. New woodland creation on previous industrial sites will contribute to Scottish Government woodland expansion on Vacant and Derelict Land (VDL) targets. Bringing Damside into formal deer management will protect new woodland from browsing damage and improve opportunities for natural regeneration of both herbaceous and woody species.	Restored soils generally suffer from impeded functionality and altered nutrient availability, due to destruction of natural soil structure. The range of site suitable tree species and the initial productivity potential of the soil is subsequently altered. Tree planting area must be balanced with open space and to contribute toward other habitat, water and recreation objectives and to fulfil UKFS and UKWAS requirements. Landscape scale buy-in is required to achieve effective deer control.	Productive conifer mixes on restored ground will be established with a nurse of pioneer species which will improve soil nutrient regime, structure and microbiology. Alternative conifer species will be established in the northeast of the site on former agricultural fields, where exposure levels and soils types are more favourable. Damside will be subject to formal and strategic deer management programme, guided by population surveys and Herbivore Impact Assessment.

Management Objective	Opportunities	Constraints	Concept
Increase biodiversity provision through well-connected forest habitat networks, and improved structural and species diversity.	Approximately 80 ha of pre 2002 land-formed area is naturally regenerating with mixed woodland of largely willow, birch, pine and spruce. Densities are patchy, often relatively open and ground flora is diverse and well established. Approximately 30 ha of former mining ground has been set-aside during soil remediation works. This was earmarked for potential development of bird breeding habitat during the remediation planning phase. Existing broadleaf woodland onsite and in the surrounding landscape will benefit from improved connectivity through the site. There are currently 22 mapped ponds on site. Some of these are square-edged built settling ponds, associated with the former mine. Others are more naturally shaped, but created during post-mining land forming operations. Most are already set in mixed woodland or favourable surrounding vegetation for amphibian habitat. Waterfowl have colonised some of the larger ponds. There is 22 ha of open, original open peatland along the southern fringe of the site. This has been subject to some historic agricultural drainage, and is linked to similar habitat in the neighbouring land holding.	The breadth of tree species and silvicultural systems that are suited to the site is largely limited by high levels of exposure and poor nutrient availability associated with recently restored former mining. Habitat provision is balanced with productivity and access objectives across the site, to ensure financial and social sustainability.	Naturally regenerating mixed woodland of suitable stocking density will be left to mature naturally, where it is effectively contributing towards improved habitat diversity and connectivity across the site. The 30 ha of un-remediated former mining ground set-aside for potential bird habitat, will be monitored to assess its use and inform future management. Existing broadleaf woodland will be connected to the core of the site via new areas of naturally regenerating mixed woodland and broadleaf planting. New wet woodland will also be established in areas where water is naturally accumulating, due to local topography and soil conditions. Ponds onsite will be enhanced and protected by the establishment of native broadleaf, wet woodland buffers, where these are not already present. The peatland area will be assessed for potential improvements that may be deliverable through a bog restoration operations, in the context to national priorities.

Management Objective	Opportunities	Constraints	Concept
Provide an interesting, diverse and accessible setting for gradual increase recreational use and local community engagement, in accordance with Woodland In and Around Towns and Central Scotland Green Network project objectives.	Damside is within a Woodlands In and Around Towns zone associated with Shotts village. The western outcrop of Damside site extends to the fringes of Allanton village. An established network of internal tracks and rides link this part of the site to a core circuit and to routes extending into the wider landscape. The varied nature of the topography, established habitats and opportunities for planting throughout the site, will provide an interesting setting for recreational access on the established forest road network. FLS have a Community Ranger working in the area, with established relations with local schools and community groups.	Pedestrian and vehicular access from Shotts is limited by poor path connectivity and lack of suitable parking places. Local FLS woodland are subject to particularly high rates of anti-social behaviour, including fly tipping and illegal motor vehicle use. The main tarmac entrance from the A71 and the hardstanding within the north-western corner of the site is outside of Forestry and Land Scotland's ownership. There are therefore no appropriate opportunities to provide public car parking onsite. Provision of access routes is limited by installation and maintenance costs, and must be balanced with forest operations access requirements.	Pedestrian access will be enhanced at the westernmost point of the site, to link Allanton village to the internal network of tracks and forest roads. New woodland creation will complement and enhance the diversity and aesthetics experienced from the existing forest road network, and view from adjacent roads and properties. Opportunities and permissions for community lead projects and site use for learning by local schools and community groups will be enabled where appropriate, through existing FLS channels.

6.2 Concept

The accompanying Concept Map spatially illustrates the strategies to deliver the plan objectives with the site specific opportunities and constraints detailed above taken into account. The chart below illustrates the site's land use breakdown once proposals in this plan have been delivered.



7 Land Management Plan Proposals

This section provides detail on land management proposals for the site. Activities scheduled for the current planning period and long-term management prescriptions are both covered.

The accompanying Future Habitat and Species map illustrates the vision towards which the prescriptions below are working. The Planting map illustrates how we will work towards this vision in the first ten years, through new woodland creation.

7.1 Management of existing woodland

Existing woodland on site consists of 61 ha of even-aged Sitka spruce/Lodgepole pine plantation, and 33 ha of mixed broadleaf woodland. The plantation woodland is situated on a 1990s phase of restored former mining ground. The drainage and soil quality here is variable. Current crop growth rates reflect this variability.

7.1.1 Clear felling

The current Sitka spruce/Lodgepole pine crop is of circa 1995 planting, and is of yield class 8 – 20. Where it is growing well, the crop is beyond first thinning stage. It is therefore appropriate to wait until these elements of the crop reach their optimum economic maturity before commencing felling. At this point the surface drainage network can be improved, and compaction alleviation through sub-surface ripping can be investigated for the less productive areas. The success of these operations will determine the long-term productivity of this ground and direct the choice of species for the subsequent rotations.

It is likely that this clear felling operation can be arranged to co-inside with the first thinning of the current woodland creation areas (detailed below).

7.1.2 Other Tree Felling in Exceptional Circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LMP 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 LMP 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 covered by this approval is 40 cubic metres per Land Management Plan per calendar year. A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five year Land Management Plan review.

7.2 Woodland creation

7.2.1 Woodland creation planting proposals

The accompanying Planting Design map illustrates the spatial distribution of the planting mix prescriptions below.

Selection of the species and mixtures have been made with consideration of local climate data (via the Ecological Site Classification Decision Support Tool) and the continued recovery processes of disturbed soils associated with the sites coalmining past. The latter is a particularly strong driver and accounts for the proliferation of pioneer species on restored areas, such as common alder, birch and pine. These pioneer species will serve a critical role in tolerance and improvement of the depleted soil nutrients and structure. This will benefit accompanying species in the current species mix prescriptions and future rotations.

The species mixtures as described below may be subject to further enrichment during beat-up phases, with species that fulfil the objectives and prescriptions of each area and are suitable to changing site conditions, such as increasing local shelter from establishing surrounding crop. It is important to design such an element of species flexibility into new planting on restored soils as localised variations in texture and nutrient availability (as described further in Appendix II) may become more apparent as the site settles. Such flexibility falls within the parameters detailed in the LMP Tolerance Table (Section 2.8).

Planting Prescription	Local site type	Indicative Species	Target Density (Stems/ha)	Planting design	Area (ha)
Productive conifer, mix 1	Restored ground, exposed	Sitka spruce, common alder/downy birch/Lodgepole pine (nurse)	2500	Intimate mix	95.8
Productive conifer mix 2	Restored ground, locally sheltered, flat	Sitka spruce, Western Hemlock, common alder/downy birch/Lodgepole pine (nurse)	2500	Line mix. Minimum 3 rows of each species alternating. Nurse mixed as line or intimate	41.8
Productive conifer mix 3	Restored ground, locally sheltered, slopes	Sitka spruce, Pacific silver fir, common alder/downy birch/Lodgepole pine (nurse)	2500	Line mix. Minimum 3 rows of each species alternating. Nurse mixed as line or intimate	6.7
Productive conifer mix 4	Restored ground, stony slope	Scots pine, downy/silver birch	2500	Blocky mix, minimum group size of 49 trees (7 x 7)	6.9
Productive conifer mix 5	Brown gley, some local shelter	Mix 5: Noble fir, Norway Spruce, birch/common alder (nurse)	2500	Line mix. Minimum 3 rows of each species alternating. Nurse mixed as line or intimate	11.9
Native mixed broadleaf (NVC – W11)	Restored ground	downy birch, aspen, rowan, oak, hawthorn, hazel, holly	2500	Blocky mix, minimum group size of 49 trees (7 x 7)	16.5
Native wet woodland (NVC – W4, W7)	Riparian and wet ground, locally sheltered	Common alder, downy birch, willow (grey, goat) Occasional hawthorn, rowan, hazel, bird cherry on drier spots	800	2.5 x 2.5 m tree spacing. 50% open	14.3
Native shrubs (NVC – W11, W7)	Restored ground, high amenity	Hazel, hawthorn, guelder rose, bird cherry, holly, dog rose. Occasional crab apple	800	2.5 x 2.5 m tree spacing. 50% open. Patchy dispersal, with more open space at top of slopes, adjacent to neighbouring properties.	7.4
natural regeneration areas. Enrichment planting.	Natural regeneration areas on pre-2002 remediated mining ground.	Natural regeneration: willow, birch, hawthorn, Sitka spruce Lodgepole pine, Scots pine. Enrichment Plant (circa 8 ha): Common alder, downy birch Occasional oak, hawthorn, hazel.	800	Plant groups in gaps, where necessary. Natural regeneration density sporadic by nature.	85.8
Planting buffers	Riparian/infrastructure buffers zones	No planting	N/A	Successional natural regeneration acceptable in some areas	5.6

7.2.2 Crop Protection

As with all FLS deer management programmes, deer management at Damside will be guided by a Region specific Deer Management Strategy, which is underpinned by a national code of practice and industry best practice guides.

An operational strategy for protection of new planting and restock at Damside will be informed by on-site deer population monitoring and Herbivore Impact Assessment. Additional considerations such as tree species palatability, local topography and other operational constraints will be taken into account. In practice a combination of tactics will be implemented, including deer management, tree tubes and fencing across the site.

The Deer fencing plan map illustrates a concept of the scale, site and alignment at which fencing is considered applicable across the site. However this may be subject to change once population surveys are complete.

7.3 Long Term Silvicultural Prescriptions

Management interventions covered in this current ten year planning are associated with creating a new woodland at Damside. Detail on the indicative long term silvicultural prescriptions for these new woodlands are covered below. These may be subject to change in subsequent land management plans.

7.3.1 Clear fell, restock

New planted productive areas are stratified based on topographic and productivity variables, and demarked with open rides. These will allow windfirm edges to develop for timely felling of future coupes.

7.3.2 Thinning

Areas of restored former mine ground within the site which benefit from localised topographic shelter, and more coarse, free draining soils, will be established with species mixtures that respond well to thinning. These mixtures will be selected to encompass species that have complimentary silvicultural characteristics, such as rooting structures , growth rates and shade tolerances. This will improve the potential for application of thinning in the long-term, which may lead to gradual felling and restock at the end of rotation or Low Impact Silvicultural Systems.

7.3.3 Minimum intervention

Once established, native wet woodland areas will be managed under a minimum intervention prescription. The primary long-term intention of these areas is to provide ecological benefits

associated with this habitat type. These include deadwood accumulation, protection of water quality and provision of habitat niches for associated species.

7.4 Biodiversity & Environment

7.4.1 Flood management

Damside is in the Shotts Potentially Vulnerable Area (11/20), within the wider Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District as defined in the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) Flood Risk Management Strategy. Within the associated Local Flood Risk Management Plan (Glasgow City Council, 2016), there are no known actions or objectives relating to land management at Damside. Rather, local objectives are focused on awareness raising and strategic mapping and modelling. The site is also upstream of SEPA Objective target areas at Bothwellhaugh and Lower Clyde.

Forestry and Land Scotland are keen to Collaborate with Flood Risk Management partners and others to understand flooding and consider opportunities on the state. At Damside, soil restoration and establishment of woodland across the former mining elements of the site will improve the site's water regulation capabilities, including interception, slowing and filtration of surface water flows through increased layers of vegetation and stabilised soils.

7.4.2 Water bodies & riparian zones

There are several former mine settling ponds and an abundance of more naturalistic ponds formed during phases of land forming within the site. These are now functioning as valuable habitat for water fowl, amphibians and associated species. These ponds will be retained as permanent water features. Adjacent habitat of low density native woodland and scrub will be retained where already established and planted where it is currently absent (see Planting Design map). Riparian and pond-side woodland will be managed long-term as minimum intervention.

A tributary to Coal Burn initiates as a ground water spring in an existing area of mixed broadleaf woodland in the far west end of Damside, leaving site towards Allanton. Lingore Linn originates in the natural peaty ground on the southern boundary of the site. It hugs the western boundary and leaves the site from the north western most extremity, to the west. In riparian areas on this western boundary, new native wet woodland will be established where soils are mineral types. Furthermore, new native wet woodland will be planted adjacent to major drains on site and other particularly wet areas across the rest of the site, to improve habitat diversity and hydrological functionality (see Planting map and Future Habitat and Species map).

Associated with the legacy of coal mining on site, there are ground water sources which are rich in iron. This is an issue that has been considered and addressed in previous phases of land

forming and restoration, by both Scottish Coal (1990s) and more recently Hargreaves in consultation with SEPA. Existing settling pond infrastructure associated with water conditioning (as described in Appendix II) are situated in existing woodland and will remain un-effected by works proposed in this plan.

Forestry and Land Scotland comply with current industry best practice guidance and UKFS stipulations in order to protect water quality throughout all forest operations.

7.4.3 Open ground

Under the previous ownership, 30 ha of former mining ground was excluded from soil remediation works with the intent of leaving it un-planted, in order to attract wading bird species to use the site. This area is illustrated on the Future Habitats and Species map attached. This ground will be allowed to develop naturally and monitored over the life span of this management plan, to see if it functions as intended and to inform future management decisions.

The planting design includes designed open space. The majority of which is a network of substantial roadside open space corridors (see planting map). This will provide the time and space for herbaceous and forest edge vegetation to establish, providing habitat for associated woodland edge wildlife.

7.4.4 Peat restoration and carbon sequestration

22 ha of original peat soils is present along the southern boundary of the site. Opportunities for peatland restoration operations here, such as ditch blocking, will be investigated and pursued if appropriate, in the context of funding availability and prioritisation of priority habitats managed by FLS nationally. In the context of this LMP period, the area will remain as unplanted open habitat regardless of the outcomes from peatland restoration feasibility studies. If deemed unsuitable for restoration purposes, this are provides an additional area of open habitat which will be of benefit to many species.

7.4.5 Priority habitat and species

Independent environmental surveys were commissioned by the former land owner prior to commencing each phase of soil remediation works. Data from these surveys and public sources have been scrutinised in a desk based assessment by FLS Environment team. This was complimented with FLS Environment team site walk overs and an assessment of the sites ornithological interests by an external contractor in June 2021. The results of which are detailed in Appendix II.

As illustrated in the Planting map, afforestation planting is focused on remediated mining ground, recently disturbed by full mechanised excavation as part of the soil remediation

operations carried out by the former land owner (completed August 2020). Habitat and species value on afforestation areas at the inception of this plan is thus inherently low. A photograph illustrating the appearance of recently remediated mining ground is in Appendix II.

As with all FLS forest operations, planting operations and design will be subject to a Work Plan process with includes an up-to-date assessment of site constraints and the making of any required adjustments, undertaken shortly before operations start. This ensures species considerations and mitigations are kept up-to-date and to operational best practice and legislative compliance.

7.5 Operational Access

The main operation site access is via 800 m of private road from the A71. This road is owned by a third party. FLS have an access agreement to this section of road for operational use in perpetuity.

Within the site, a network of forest roads are established as a legacy from the previous mining land use. These require minor maintenance activities only. There are therefore no proposals within this plan for new forest road or track building.

7.6 Management of public access

It is anticipated that recreational activity within the Damside site will gradually increase as the new woodland becomes established. Development within this management plan is therefore primarily focused on encouraging use by local communities, rather than attracting forest users from afar.

As with all FLS woodlands, Damside will be open to public access in accordance to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, 2005. Occasional area closures or diversions may be put in place to manage public safety around forest operations, such as tree felling. The affected areas and duration of such closures will be kept to a minimum.

As illustrated in the Access map, Damside benefits from an established internal network of forest roads and tracks. It is expected that these will be the main focus of recreational access on site. Safe access to the site from the north is limited by fast moving traffic on the A71. However, pedestrian connectivity to Allanton in the west and Kitchen Rig in the east is more favourable.

7.6.1 Woodland Management in Visitor Zones

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. These are mapped on the Access map.

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.

7.6.2 Potential Ministry of Defence (MOD) training

Initial discussions have taken place with MOD in regard to using the site for low level military training exercises. Such a presence on site may have a peripheral benefit of deterring anti-social behaviour on the site, such as illegal vehicle access.

7.7 Heritage features

Almost the entirety of the Damside site has been subject to soil, geology and land form disturbance by several phases of opencast coal mining. This is true for the entire woodland creation area and existing woodland areas, as illustrated in the Current Land Use map. Heritage features associated with the site's historic land use (illustrated in historic Ordinate Survey maps, Appendix II) have thus been destroyed during opencast coal mining activities. One exception to this is a stone bridge that has been retained at the end point of the disused railway line which arrives on site from the southwest. The bridge is situated in an area of existing broadleaf woodland and will be unaffected by proposals in this plan. Its condition and location will be recorded for consideration as a constraint for future forest operations.

8 Critical Success Factors

The critical success factors listed below relate to delivery against the management objectives listed in section 5.3. They are:

- Successful establishment of the new woodland areas to the target stocking densities listed in section 7.2.1 and illustrated in associated LMP maps.
- Improved habitat networks and foraging opportunities via establishment of new woodland, forest edge and open space as designed and illustrated in the Future Habitat and Species map.
- Proposed recreational routes and connections delivered and maintained in a condition suitable for intended use.

Appendix I: Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Consultee	Date	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland response
Allanton Residents Association	22/12/20	1. Recreational access: the route within the site leading to Allanton is labelled 'ATV track'. Public ATV use on site would be unwelcome. Illegal ATV use is a prevalent problem locally. 2. Tree species choice: We would like to be kept informed about trees species being selected. 3. Water quality: concerns about ochreous outflows from the site. 3 local examples flow onward to the Clyde, 2 of which are attributable to Damside, and 1 to Kingshill colliery (managed by North Lanarkshire Council (NLC)). a. Southern boundary of Damside, adjacent to old railway, flowing to Auchter Water. b. Coal Burn tributary leaving Damside at west end near Allanton. c. In the field above Hartfield- there is a treatment system for ochreous water flowing to Coal Burn (managed by NLC).	1. The 'ATV track' refers to FLS operational access only, i.e. not open to public motorised access. The labelling on the maps has now been changed, to avoid misinterpretation. Anyone seeing anti-social behaviour or illegal vehicle use should report this to Police 101 (999 if an emergency) giving details of location, time and description of anyone involved. 2. Tree species selection has remained unchanged into the final draft. Accompanying information is detailed in section 7 of the plan document. 3. The existence of iron-rich ground water springs is noted in section 7.4.2 and in Appendix II. SEPA have been made aware of these features by the previous land owner. Settling ponds and reed beds installed during land forming phases, are excluded from new woodland creation areas and will remain unaffected by proposals under this plan.
Blackhall Cottage, Dura Road.	28/12/20	1. Do not want to lose views to the north from the property, with concerns that trees planted may obscure these. 2. Horses graze the Blackhall property paddocks, therefore concerned that trees planted are not poisonous to horses, especially those in reach from fence line. 3. Concerned about pedestrian access on Damside up to the property boundary, with regards to people	1. Shrub species for planting in this area have been chosen and planting boundaries designed, in consultation with the FLS Landscape Architect, specifically to reduce conflict with views from neighbouring properties on the spur from Jura road. By nature shrub species are shorter in stature and often slower growing, than other tree alternatives. The native shrub planting area will also encompass circa 50% open space, including a buffer offset from the fence and strips between planted shrub patches.

Consultee	Date	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland response
		feeding the horses and dogs accessing the paddocks. Boundary fence is only post and wire, i.e. will not deter dogs. 4. Will there be vehicular access from Jura Road spur? Concerns over public vehicular or pedestrian access due to lack of lighting, condition of verges and potholed road surface. 5. Are 'ATV tracks' as marked on map for FLS or public use? If the latter, concerns about anti-social behaviour. Fence braking and abuse from people on motor bikes/quads has been experienced in the past, despite the site being closed to public access mine works.	2. There will be a planting buffer from the fence to maintain machinery access to the fence line. This will also put planted trees and shrubs out of reach of the horses. Tree and shrub species selected are not poisonous to horses. Furthermore, the planting of woody shrubs and trees will inhibit colonisation of the ground by poisonous herbaceous species, such as ragwort. 3. There will be no new paths directing access directly adjacent to your property, however the land will be managed in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. 4. There will be no public vehicular access to the west end of site. The Jura road spur is likely however to be used occasionally by FLS vehicles, and those of associated contractors. 5. The 'ATV track' refers to FLS operational access only, i.e. not open to public motorised access. The labelling on the maps has now been changed, to avoid misinterpretation. Anyone seeing anti-social behaviour or illegal bike use should report this to Police 101 (999 if an emergency) giving details of location, time and description of anyone involved. FLS continue to work with local authorities and Police Scotland to develop a consistent approach to this ongoing problem, this will look to cover the following topics: a. Educate other site users how to report offenders, without putting themselves at risk. b. Educate offenders that the activity is not permitted through signage and engagement where appropriate. c. Enforcement: confiscation of bike, fines etc.
Ministry of Defence	8/12/20	1. The plan looks good. Interested in using the site for training in the future.	1. FLS will continue to work with the MOD to see what opportunities there are on sites to facilitate training events.
Online consultation respondent 1	10/12/20	1. There is a lot of wildlife on site, so glad that there is no housing development and new woodland instead.	1. Glad to hear support of habitat and biodiversity enhancement that will be delivered through this plan. 2. Glad to hear support for the recreational access proposed.

Consultee	Date	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland response
		2. Like the pedestrian access, which is important for local people for walking and exercise.	
Online consultation respondent 2	10/12/20	1. Most interested in recreation.	1. Noted
Online consultation respondent 3	10/12/20	1. Like the wildlife elements and recreational access with grandkids and dogs. Very important to keep wildlife in the area. The kids love seeing deer, foxes, rabbits, buzzards, ducks, pheasants, birds and insects. 2. Could there be an area planted for bees and butterflies? 3. Against quads and motorbike use, as they don't care about the environment. 4. Very excited to see trees being planted. Could some water be kept for wildlife?	1. We are glad to hear positive feedback about how the site is already a valued recreational and wildlife resource. This plan will enhance both of those aspects. 2. Areas of establish heather on natural deep peat soils will be retained for the benefit of pollinators and the wider ecosystem. Additionally, insect pollinated tree species proposed as part of the new woodland on site will include willow, rowan, hawthorn and bird cherry. 3. FLS continue to work with local authorities and Police Scotland to develop a consistent approach to this ongoing problem, this will look to cover the following topics: a. Educate other site users how to report offenders, without putting themselves at risk. b. Educate offenders that the activity is not permitted through signage and engagement where appropriate. c. Enforcement: confiscation of bike, fines etc. 4. Glad to hear support of new woodland creation. There are over 20 ponds mapped on site, which will all be retained and managed for the benefit of wildlife.
Online consultation respondent 4	10/12/20	1. Most interested in recreation.	1. Noted
Online consultation respondent 5	11/12/20	1. Glad to see tree planting to offset carbon emissions. Sad to see trees removed at neighbouring Hartwood. 2. How will the area be protected from off-road driving, that our local forests are plagued with?	1. We are glad to receive support for our new woodland creation proposals. 2. Anyone seeing anti-social behaviour or illegal bike use should report this to Police 101 (999 if an emergency) giving details of location, time and description of anyone involved. FLS continue to work with local authorities and Police Scotland to develop a

Consultee	Date	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland response
			consistent approach to this ongoing problem, this will look to cover the following topics: a. Educate other site users how to report offenders, without putting themselves at risk. b. Educate offenders that the activity is not permitted through signage and engagement where appropriate. c. Enforcement: confiscation of bike, fines etc.
Online consultation respondent 6	11/12/20	1. The site has great potential for wildlife. I that that what is proposed should improve biodiversity. I have seen ringed plover, brown hare and cuckoos on site. 2. Path and track improvements for recreational use would be welcome, including a link to Blacklaw windfarm and a path around the boundary. 3. I look forward to seeing the site change over the coming years. Could there be some conservation volunteer opportunities to help manage the site going forward?	1. Glad to hear engagement in wildlife on sight and acknowledgement of benefits to be delivered through this plan. 2. There is an existing pedestrian link to Blacklaw windfarm in the south east of Damside, via a good forest road. Recreation routes take advantage of the established forest road network on site. 3. FLS are open to approaches by volunteer groups with common objectives. Space and opportunities can often be found to facilitate community lead groups.
Online consultation respondent 7	13/12/20	1. Interested in tree species choice. Would prefer to see more native Scots pine, trees that provide food for wildlife and less Sitka spruce.	1. The tree species on site have been chosen to balance habitat and foraging provision, economic productivity and landscape impacts, whilst ensuring that selected trees are suited to the often challenging conditions associated with recently restored ground. This process is detailed further in section 7 of the Land Management Plan. There are some areas of Scots pine prescribed on site. However, Scots pine is not locally native. The native Caledonian pine zone is indeed restricted to the Highlands. Further information is available on https://forestry.gov.scot/ .
Nether Hall Farm, phone call	17/02/21	1. Generally supportive of new woodland creation on site, especially with regards to improvements for wildlife.	1. Glad to hear support for the plan. 2. Shrub species for planting in this area have been chosen and planting boundaries designed, in consultation with the FLS Landscape Architect, specifically to reduce conflict with views

Consultee	Date	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland response
		2. What are the details of the native shrub planting directly to the north of our property, with regards to concern with landscape views? 3. The fields adjacent to our property are very wet and have a lot of rushes. Is this OK for tree planting?	from neighbouring properties on the spur from Jura road. By nature shrub species are shorter in stature and often slower growing, than other tree alternatives. The native shrub planting area will also encompass circa 50% open space, including a buffer offset from the fence and strips between planted shrub patches. 3. The clay rich soils in this area are compacted. This has led to surface water accumulation and the dominance of soft rush. Prior to planting we intend to alleviate soil compaction with subsurface ripping, which will both improve drainage and knock back the rushes. We will continue to manage the rushes until the point at which the trees and shrubs have overtopped them, and begin to shade them out.

Appendix II: Supporting Information

Background information

History of the land holding

The figures below are taken from historic Ordinate Survey maps. They illustrate the land use change over the last 120 years. Most notable is the expansion of forest cover, coal mining and most recently windfarms, on what was predominantly rough grazing historically.

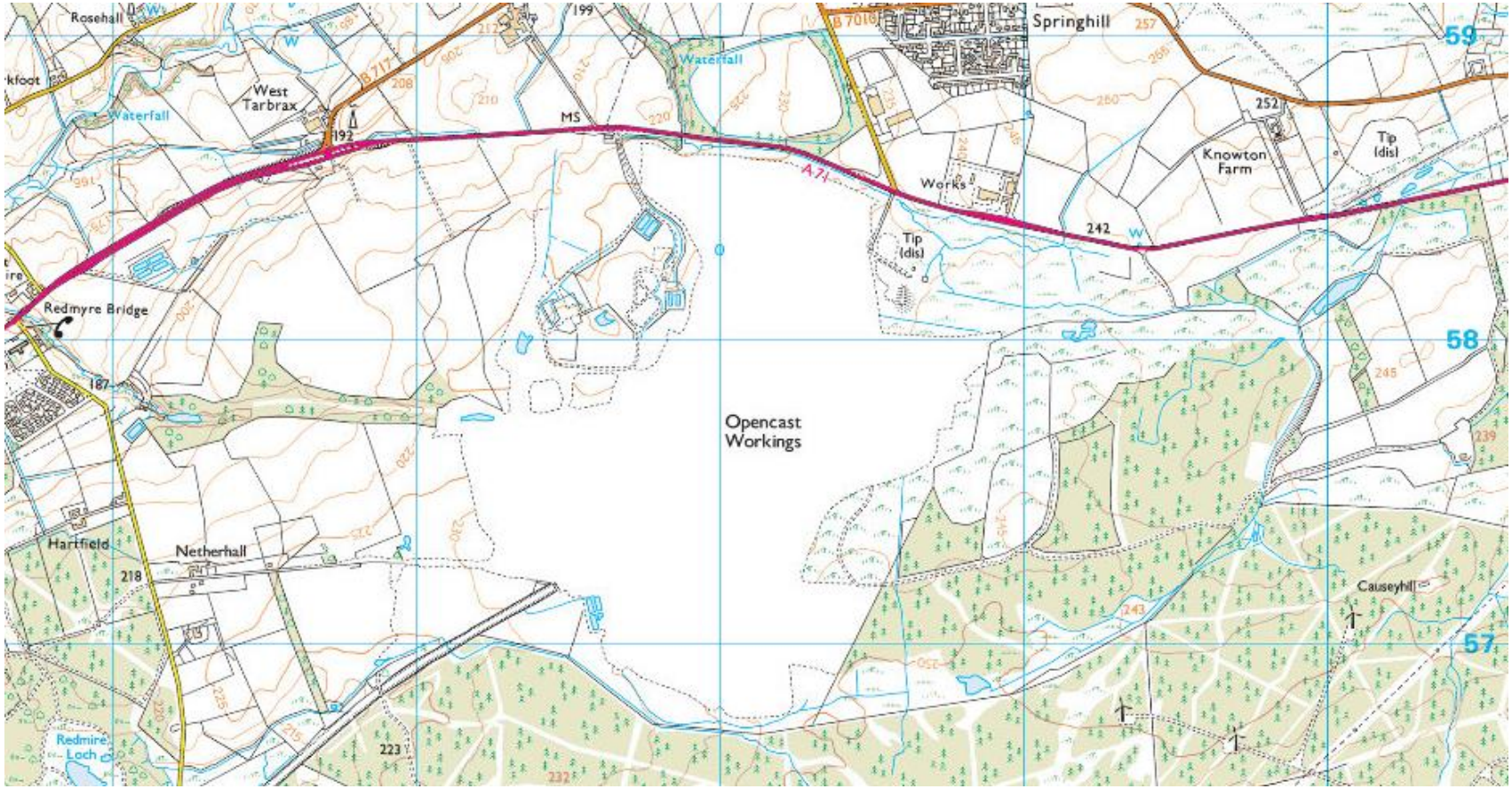


Figure 1: Ordinate Survey. Contemporary.

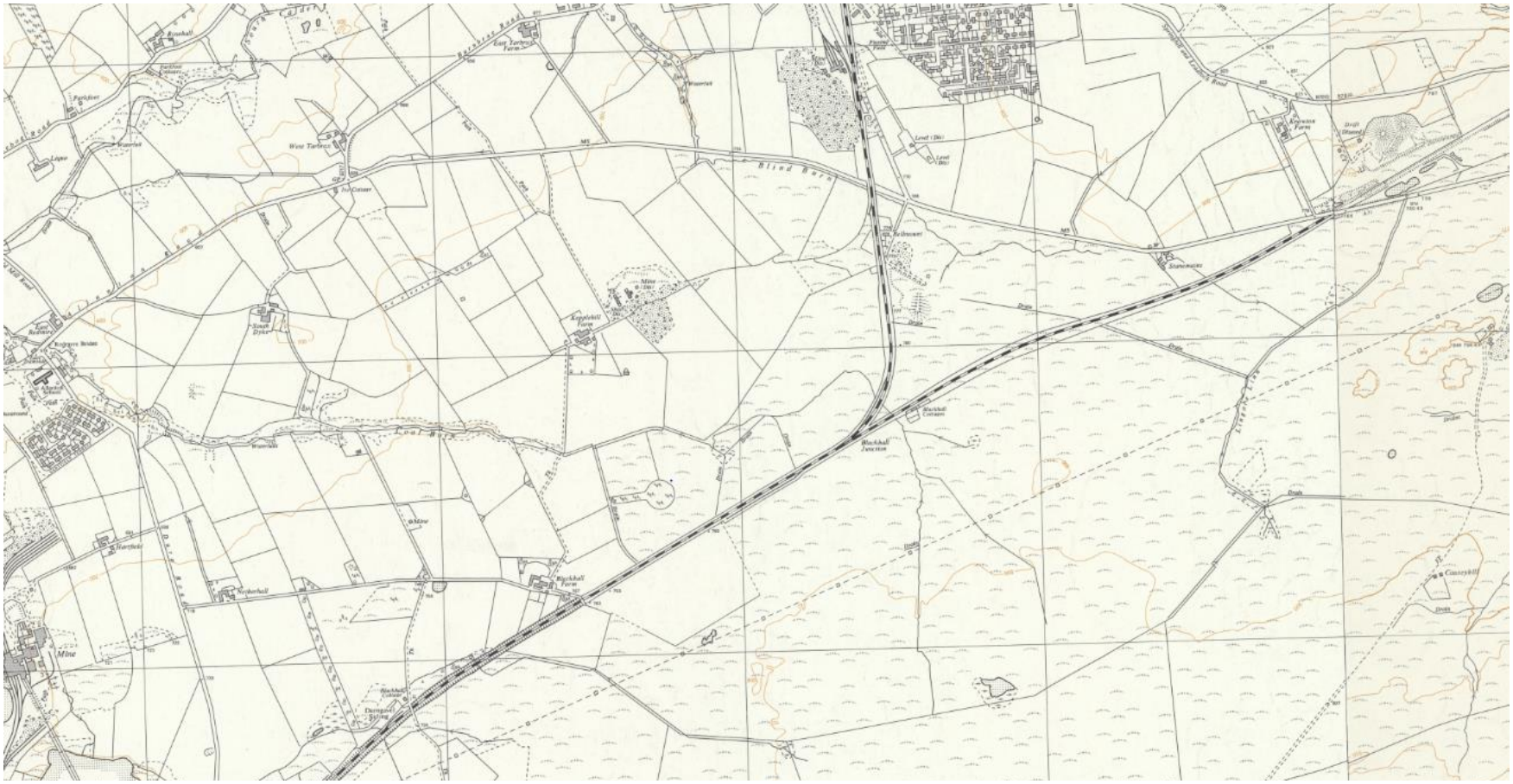


Figure 2: Ordinate Survey. Surveyed/revised 1956 to 1967, Published 1987.

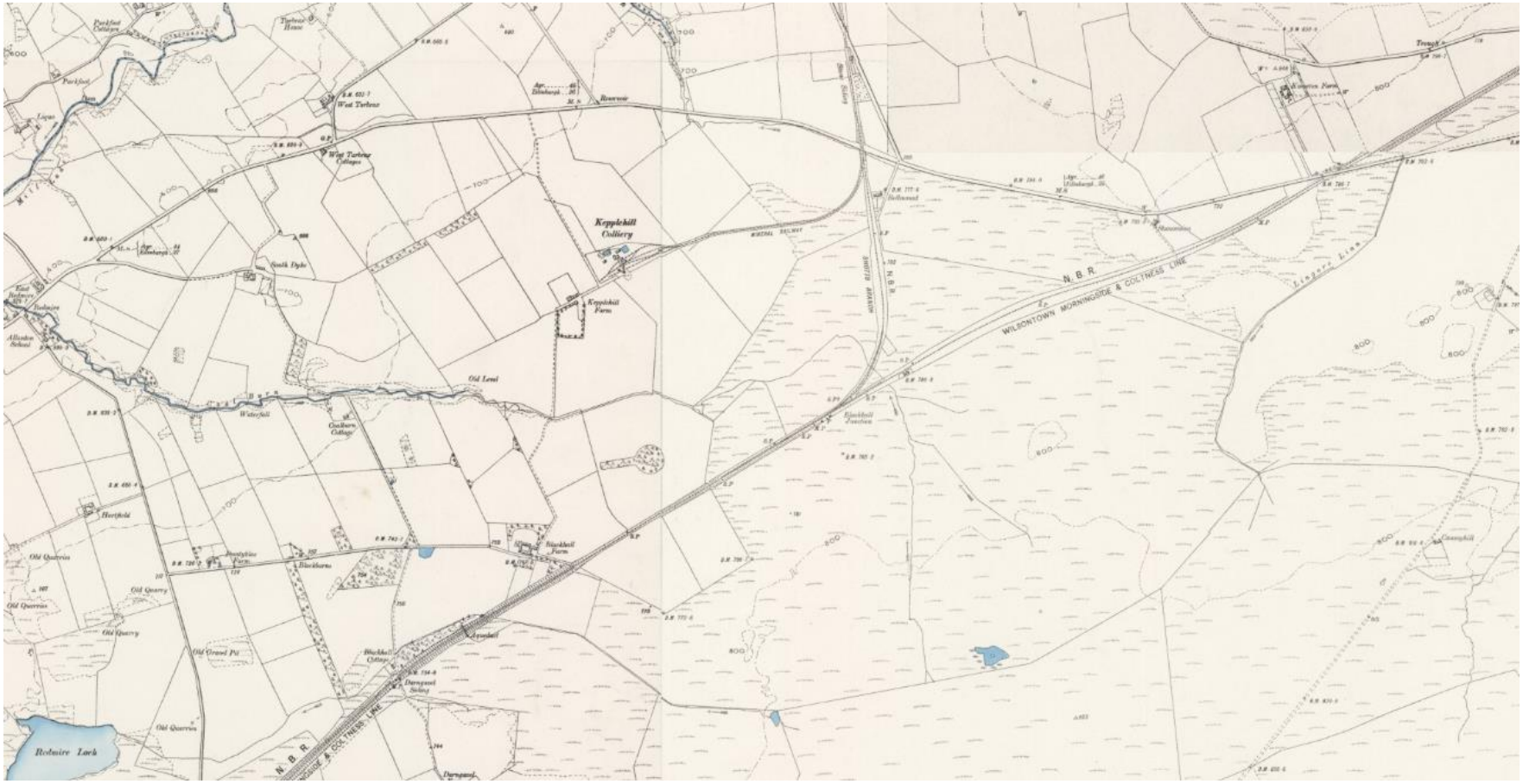


Figure 3: Ordinate Survey: Surveyed 1897, Published 1899.

Physical site factors

Geology, soils and landform

Underlying geology at Damside is largely classified as Scottish Lower Coal Measures Formation by the British Geological Survey. This is characterised by sequences of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. In the restored opencast elements of the site these sequences have been amalgamated and mixed during removal and redistribution of overburden.

Soils on the restored opencast mine areas have been subject to stripping, storage, redistribution and recent mechanical de-compaction and enrichment with organic material. They are therefore mixed and disturbed in nature. Restored soils do not act as natural soils due to disturbance of structure and microbiological function. It has been documented by studies conducted by Forest Research that such disturbed soils are characterised by impeded drainage, a lack of cohesion with underlying layers and a heightened vulnerability to compaction. Restored soils at Damside are generally of clay (2m) or coarse stone (2s) texture and have been de-compacted to a depth of 70 – 100 cm and enriched with sewage material.

There are two relatively discreet areas of original soils, that were not disturbed during mining operations. These are an area of deep peat and peaty gley (6) along the southern boundary, and two former grazing fields of brown surface water gleys (7b) in the north eastern most outcrop of the site.

Onsite topography is extensively influenced by historic mining activity. Slopes are generally relatively short and gently rolling. An extensive basin in the centre of the site, is surrounded by steeper slopes.

Picture 1: A typical view across recently remediated former mining ground at Damside. Man-made soils are of mixed clay and coarse stone, enriched and mechanically de-compacted.

Iron rich ground water

An iron rich spring is a pre-existing feature in the very northwest of Damside, in an area of existing broadleaf woodland (NS 8642 5778). It flows from source, 100 m west to an existing settling pond. The pond discharges to the west, to Coal Burn (see photo below). The land form, pond and woodland in this area were all created during an earlier phase of coalfield remediation in the 1990s.

Picture 2: taken from very northwest of site (NS 8614 5773), near Allanton. Looking east to iron rich spring in the background, flowing into existing pond and discharging in the foreground.

Biodiversity and environment

Habitats and species

Habitat and species survey carried out by third party provider for Hargreaves ahead of each phase of remediation works: January 2018, May 2019 and June 2019. FLS received and assessed the associated reports. Additionally, a desk based assessment of third party sources was made by FLS staff, including National Biodiversity Network Atlas Scotland data and FLS recordings from forest blocks in the local area. FLS Environment team undertook a site walk on 02/07/2020. Regular site work was carried out by FLS Woodland Creation staff from 2018 to date. The resulting species confirmations are:

- Badger and Ringed Plover are confirmed present and breeding on site.
- Great Crested Newt are recorded within adjacent landholdings. The site supports suitable habitat for the species.

As a result of consultations, a further ornithological survey was conducted in June 2021 to assess the sites potential for breeding birds, with a particular focus on concerns around habitat availability for ringed plover.

The results of this survey recorded 10 red-listed species of conservation concern: cuckoo, grasshopper warbler, herring gull, lesser redpoll, linnet, mistle thrush, ringed plover, skylark, song thrush and starling. Herring gull was not thought to breed at Damside and was only recorded flying over the survey area. A single record of ringed plover was recorded as part of this survey, it's unclear as to why there were far fewer records of the species than previously recorded prior to FLS ownership, however the dry weather conditions are a possible reason for the apparent reduction in numbers. The site remains suitable for the species and this will be monitored throughout the lifespan of the LMP.

A further 19 amber-listed species were recorded on the site over the two survey days: Black-headed gull, bullfinch, common gull, common sandpiper, dunnock, house martin, kestrel, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, meadow pipit, reed bunting, snipe, stock dove, swallow, swift, teal, wheatear, whitethroat, willow warbler. It is not thought that lesser black-backed gull, house martin, swallow or swift breed on site, but the latter three species were observed actively foraging over the site.
No Annex 1 of Schedule 1 species were recorded at Damside during the survey.

In order to maintain biodiversity and encourage the use of the site by these species, FLS are maintaining the area of approximately 85ha of currently establishing scrub habitat which with the exception of an approximately 8 ha area will be left to naturally establish. The proposed area for enrichment planting will be planted with a low density mixed woodland which will provide habitat for several of the species listed above.

It is accepted that the open habitat (non-remediated land) being left for ground nesting birds, is a successional habitat and this, without intervention would eventually be colonised by pioneer species. As this area has been identified as important areas for ground nesting birds, this will be monitored and maintained for the species through active management within the non-breeding season. It is also accepted that creation of woodland habitat will encourage predators into the area and consequently may reduce the likelihood of the land being used by ground nesting species. As discussed above, the land would, without intervention naturally revegetate over time and would become unsuitable. Never the less, the plantation will quicken the pace at which this would normally occur so to mitigate this, alongside the active management of the open area, plans have incorporated a minimum of 10m broadleaf edge planting before conifer stands around this area is proposed. The thought being that the broadleaf edge will encourage the site use. Further measures such as predator control if required will be considered where appropriate. If through monitoring it becomes clear the area is no longer suitable for ground nesting species by

the next LMP cycle, it will be discussed how his should be managed in the future to best benefit the existing biodiversity at the time.

The site contains 20 open water areas of varying size across the site which provide habitat for a number of species. The majority of these areas are situated within the native scrub/ establishing woodland areas and will remain unaffected by the proposal. Where these water bodies do not have currently support natural vegetation, buffers upwards of 20m (in accordance with UKFS guidance) are in place so that conifer stands are kept away. Low density mixed broadleaf (densities of less than 1600 stems per ha) will be planted with the intention of allowing a more naturalised riparian habitat with mosaics of open ground to allow natural regeneration to occur.

The proposed plans have been designed to balance the need to create woodland on a former OCCM site while maintaining habitat for species recorded pre FLS ownership. Over the course of this 10 year plan period additional surveys will be undertaken to identify FLS national and regional priority species and habitats on site, as the new woodland establishes and the site settles. The long term monitoring of the site will influence the future decisions on how best to manage this area.

Kingshill Local Nature Reserve

Kingshill Local Nature Reserve is situated 500 m west of Damside site (see location map). It is primarily managed by North Lanarkshire Council. It consists of mixed meadow, woodland and pond habitats, on a former mining site. it is noted especially for its assemblage of invertebrates, including circa 20 species of butterfly. North Lanarkshire Council and Green Action Trust have both had involvement in management of the site, including volunteer work days.

Landscape

Landscape character

Damside falls within the 'Plateau moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde valley' landscape character type, as defined by NatureScot. This landscape type is broadly described as a large scale landform, with distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth plateau landform and moorland vegetation. Windfarms are abundant throughout this landscape type, but settlements relatively sparse.

Further details can be accessed directly from NatureScot at:
https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions

Visibility

Despite its relatively close proximity to Shotts village (1.5 km) and Allanton (0.5 km), Damside is relatively discreet in terms of visibility. This is due to its sunken landform internally, and raised

adjacent ground. Most significant landscape impacts of afforestation at Damside will be on views from the A71, when traveling westward past the eastern most extent of the site, and on views from neighbouring properties directly adjacent to the western most outcrop of the site.

Statutory requirements and key external policies

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- A Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016-2021
- The UK Forestry Standard 2017
- UK Woodland Assurance Scheme 2018
- Central Scotland Green Network: The Vision 2011
- SNH National Landscape Character Assessment 2019

Appendix III: Land Management Plan Brief

Key background information

Introduction

- Damside is a 474.8 ha former opencast coal mining site situated south of the A71 near Shotts, North Lanarkshire.
- The site was owned by Scottish Coal, who ceased operations in 2002. Scottish coal had delivered restoration of parts of the site to rough grazing condition. Hargreaves have since undertaken restoration and remediation of soils across the remainder of the mined ground, including soil de-compaction, nutrient enrichment and drain installation. FLS have been a key consultee during these operations, providing specifications to ensure that resulting soils are fit for woodland establishment and sustained tree growth.
- The site falls within a Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) 2 km zone associated with Shotts, and within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) project area.

Silvicultural potential

- FR climate models classify the site as cool, highly exposed and wet. DAMS score is 17. Elevations 225 – 245 m.
- On the former mining areas most recently remediated by Hargreaves, soils are variable at sub-compartment scale across the site. They fall into one of two broad categories: mixed mineral clay dominant or mixed mineral coarse stone dominant. These soils have been mechanically de-compacted and enriched to a depth of 70 - 100 cm then seeded with a grass mix. The continued conditioning of such restored soils will be aided by a first rotation of mixed conifer and with broadleaf nurse.
- On former mining ground historically remediated by Scottish Coal (pre 2002), soils are generally clay rich towards the surface, with more coarse stone in lower strata. Theses soils appear to have been enriched with peat in a patchy distribution. These areas are being colonised by natural regeneration of mixed broadleaf and conifer. Stocking density will be assessed for suitability and potential enrichment planting where necessary.
- There is a minor component of former agricultural grazing ground in the north-eastern spur of the site, adjacent to the public highway. Soils here are largely brown gleys, which offer an opportunity for a wider selection of suitable conifer and broadleaf species.
- Remnants of original deep peat ground will remain open.

Strategic Drivers

To succeed in realising the vision as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, six 'Priorities for Action' been identified for implementation:

- ***Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed***
- ***Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives***
- ***Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets***
- ***Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands***
- ***Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands***
- ***Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands***

As detailed in Forestry and Land Scotland's Corporate Plan 2019-2022, we have developed five Corporate Outcomes to guide our work during this period. Each Corporate Outcome sets out a position statement of where we want to be by 2022. The Corporate Outcomes support the delivery of the Scottish Forestry Strategy Priorities for Action, listed above. In brief the FLS Corporate Outcomes are:

1. ***Supporting a sustainable rural economy***
2. ***Looking after Scotland's national forests and land***
3. ***National forests and land for visitors and communities***
4. ***A supportive, safe and inclusive organisation***
5. ***A high performance organisation***

In preparing the Brief and Objectives for this Land Management Plan (LMP) for Damside, site opportunities and constraints relating to delivery of the Corporate Outcomes were evaluated. Those most relevant to Damside are detailed below.

Draft LMP Objectives

Table 1: Relevant Corporate Outcomes and actions for their delivery derived from the FLS Corporate Plan 2019, leading to draft Damside LMP objectives

Corporate outcomes relevant to this LMP	Operational Actions for delivery of corporate outcomes, relevant to this LMP	LMP action points
Outcome 1: Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments.	• Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource • Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland's timber processing sector • Support the venison processing sector through our deer management • Bringing opportunities for further renewable energy projects to the market and helping to facilitate the development of projects which achieved planning consent	• Create a land management plan which meets UKFS/UKWAS requirements and where possible guidelines. • Enhance the long-term sustainable productivity and resilience of the site through selection of site and climate suitable species for new planting areas. • Optimise yield and timber quality through sound long-term silvicultural prescriptions and harvest coupe design, with site climate and site constraints considered. • Design open space and infrastructure to facilitate safe and efficient deer management operations to improve opportunities for natural regeneration and support the venison processing sector.

Corporate outcomes relevant to this LMP	Operational Actions for delivery of corporate outcomes, relevant to this LMP	LMP action points
Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land Scotland's national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.	• Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity • Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration • Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration • Taking specific conservation action for vulnerable priority species • Supporting policy development and research, and act as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management • Working with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of ground flora and improve habitats	• Design coupes and prescriptions in new planting areas to improve species and structural diversity. • Prescribe habitat types throughout the site, including open, native broadleaf and conifer woodland, to best complement existing site features and link neighbouring habitat areas. • Investigate priority habitat and peatland restoration opportunities in minor natural ground areas. • Follow best practice guidance for remediation and establishment of new woodland on former mining sites, including monitoring and recording outcomes for wider analysis and learning.

Corporate outcomes relevant to this LMP	Operational Actions for delivery of corporate outcomes, relevant to this LMP	LMP action points
Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland's national forests and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making.	• Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits • Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land • Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land • Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land • Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities	• Consider Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) and Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) objectives when designing access infrastructure. • Design new woodland areas to provide a diverse and interesting setting for pedestrian and bicycle access from local communities. • Consider access design that may best provide opportunities for use by local school and community groups. • Continue to consult with local communities, schools and stakeholders through Land Management Plan process.