



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Central Region

Appendices

Lesmahagow Land Management Plan 2023-2033

Brocketsbrae, Lesmahagow, Auchlochan, and Coalburn blocks.



Approval Date: 9th May 2023

Plan Reference No: 032/23/02

Plan Approval Date: 09/05/2023

Plan Expiry Date: 09/05/2033

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

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.



The mark of
responsible forestry





Land Management Plan Details			
LMP Name:	Lesmahagow		
Brocketsbrae sub-block Grid Reference:	NS 8283 4051	Nearest town or locality:	Brocketsbrae
Lesmahagow sub-block Grid Reference:	NS 8244 3647	Nearest town or locality:	Lesmahagow
Auchlochan sub-block Grid Reference:	NS 7935 3627	Nearest town or locality:	Lesmahagow
Braehead sub-block Grid Reference:	NS 8232 3408	Nearest town or locality:	Coalburn
Local Authority (All Blocks):	South Lanarkshire		
Land Management Plan area (hectares):	1079.93		

Owner's Details			
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Surname:	McGinnes		
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Regional Manager
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Appendix I: Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Consultation so far has been with FLS staff and advisors, representing the various operational teams responsible for the ongoing management, monitoring and maintenance of the sites.

Statutory Consultees will be have site of the plan when placed on the public register, FLS staff involved in the drafting of this plan maintain regular contact with many Statutory Consultees such as NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland. However, it will be important to identify other key stakeholders when the draft plan is ready. Key consultees are likely to include: -

- NatureScot
- Scottish Power
- Timber Transport Forum
- RSPB
- Neighbours and wider communities
- Community Councils
- Local Angling Associations
- Peatland Action

Below is a record of consultation during the plan production and approval process.



Table 35 Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
Internal Consultation with FLS management teams	Sept-Oct 2021	n/a – Input received from FLS Teams	Various issues identified to be identified in the draft Plan	N/A
Historic Environment Scotland	05/10/2022	N/A	<p>Thank you for your consultation. We have considered your consultation and comment as follows:</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment. Our comments here concentrate on our statutory remit for world heritage sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their settings, and historic battlefields and gardens and designed landscapes appearing in their respective Inventories.</p> <p>We note that there are no scheduled monuments, category A-listed buildings or Inventory gardens and designed landscapes within the boundary of the Lesmahagow Land Management Plan and therefore we have no locus regarding this consultation.</p> <p>You may also wish to seek information and advice on matters including impacts on unscheduled archaeology and category B and C listed buildings</p>	Thank you for your comments.



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>from your local authority's archaeology and conservation services if you have not already done so.</p> <p>If we can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.</p> <p>Yours faithfully</p> <p>Historic environment Scotland</p>	
<p>South Lanarkshire Council - Access Officer</p>	<p>05/10/2022</p>	<p>10/10/2022</p>	<p>Hi - I wish to comment on the Lesmahagow Land Management Plan with particular reference to public access. There seems to be little mention of public access in the documents (and nothing in detail). I appreciate that this only one element of the plan but I would have thought it would generate the most interest from public.</p> <p>EXISTING PUBLIC ACCESS:</p> <p>1. There are a number of paths in the woodland blocks, including adopted core paths and rights way. These should be protected and upgraded where appropriate, preferably to multi-use capability (including equestrians) where appropriate. Understandably, some paths may have to be closed during felling and other operations that could impact on public safety.</p> <p>2. Mention is made of visitor zones where 'FLS encourage and manage access or where the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Recreational and community use of the forest is covered in Section 7.11 (Long Term Management Proposals) & Sections 5 and 11 within Appendix II - Supporting Information.</p> <p>I have discussed your feedback with the Visitor Services team and subsequently updated the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have included more information in Section 7.11 (management proposals) and in Section 11 (Appendix II). • We have identified the two interactive visitor zones along higher specification paths, I apologise for the omission of these in the first draft.



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes’ but I cannot find maps or more details of these in the documents.</p> <p>FUTURE PUBLIC ACCESS: 1.The plan states ‘Although public access is available and visitors to Lesmahagow Forest are welcome, there is no formal provision made within the Lesmahagow Forest block. As such there are no Welcome or Interactive zones present. It is anticipated that as the forest develops and infrastructure is put in place to facilitate forest management access, the woods will become more of a visitor attraction and there will be a need to formalise, control and manage public access within the Forest. It is not anticipated that this need will arise during the current plan period but is likely to require consideration in subsequent Forest Plans.’ I would recommend a more proactive approach and not wait until after the plan period, this would benefit public and help FLS have better management of public access. This may involve some path construction and signage. Paths should be capable of multi-use (including equestrians) where appropriate. 2.It is acknowledged that as one of its plan objectives it will ‘Investigate opportunity to provide links to the Active Travel plan project for South Lanarkshire’.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have added an additional visitor zones map (Map 15) showing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our currently assigned visitor zones (namely interactive zones). 2. Core path networks throughout and in the vicinity of the forest. 3. Sustrans National Cycle Network routes in the vicinity of the forest. 4. Scotways ‘rights of way’ - recorded by the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society. <p>These changes should provide a more informative picture of our management proposals, challenges & the existing recorded access routes within and around the forest.</p> <p>We will update the consultation website (to reflect the above) shortly.</p> <p>FLS actively promote responsible access to our sites under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the management plan area also has an extensive network of ride systems and informal desire lines that can be used by the public for responsible, non-motorised informal access.</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			I hope the above is useful and I am happy to be contacted if beneficial.	Due to the fragmented nature of forest blocks within Lesmahagow plan area, further development of recreational provision would require a joined up approach from multiple landowners and partners which FLS are happy to contribute to, and facilitate on our land, but cannot take the lead on this at the current time. It is anticipated that as the forest develops and infrastructure is put in place to facilitate forest management access, there will be greater potential for this development in the future.
South Lanarkshire Council - Economic Development Officer.	10/05/2022	10/10/2022	<p>I am the Economic Development Officer for the Douglas Valley Initiative, covering Coalburn and Lesmahagow and focussed on the delivery of the Hagshaw Energy Cluster Development Framework.</p> <p>I know that some FLS representatives have been involved in the consultation process due to locality of a number of the sites including Lesmahagow and Coalburn Moss and overlapping themes highlighted in the Development Framework and management of your sites.</p> <p>I was particularly interested to see the access proposals put forward as part of the LMP as the community are working on two pathway projects where there is potential overlap – Amanda, Coalburn Development Worker is CC'd in here.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Yes our Visitor Services team and, in particular, our Community Rangers work closely with local communities around Lesmahagow forest & we actively promote responsible access to our sites under SOAC. I've consulted the team regarding your feedback and provided a response to each point below.</p> <p>Response to point 1. These routes pass through numerous land ownership boundaries including land managed by Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS). FLS have been involved in consultation meetings regarding this upgrade but as far as we are aware this project has not progressed to the</p>



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			<p>1.A proposed upgrade and slight realignment of core paths CL/5735/4, CL/5735/1, CL/5735/2, CL/5735/3 from the Wallace’s Caves to the cemetery south of Westerhouse, following the path south to the biomass boiler on the old dismantled railway and improving access to Douglas. Do you have a timeline for proposed works and to what standard would they be created?</p> <p>2.Coalburn Miner’s Welfare are awaiting a decision for Sustrans Places for Everyone funding Stages 0-2 which would scope all possibilities of an active travel path linking Coalburn to Lesmahagow, most likely following the road alignment and to either side of the road between the settlements, or via the dismantled railway heading north east from Coalburn to the B7078. Again, is there a timeline for proposed works and how might FLS and community access ambitions complement each other?</p> <p>I’m also interested to see the future habitats and species plan. As you know, there are nature enhancement opportunities highlighted in the Development Framework which the developers will want to progress with soon and there may be opportunities that FLS would like to coordinate on, such as peatland restoration, a landscape scale land management plan, priority species conservation plans, improved access, an agri-environment</p>	<p>point of implementation and we currently have no formal plans to upgrade the sections within FLS management. We would be happy to work with South Lanarkshire Council & associated partners in the future to consider how these plans could be progressed as part of the Hagshaw Energy Cluster Project.</p> <p>Response to point 2. Again this route passes through numerous landownership boundaries, some of which have unknown/unconfirmed ownership status. A significant proportion of the route passes through Coalburn Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest. We would be happy to work with South Lanarkshire Council, NatureScot & other associated partners to consider how this route could be sustainably improved.</p> <p>With regard to the future habitats and species plan we would be happy to discuss our decision making process for tree species choice, habitat types and proposed management. We would also be happy coordinate in the longer term on cross boundary habitat connectivity and management. There are currently extensive areas of open ground within the plan area</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			network, nature education and shared survey and monitoring data bank.	<p>which may present opportunity for a wider agri-environment networking.</p> <p>If you would like to discuss this further with our Visitor Services and Planning teams please contact enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot</p>
South Lanarkshire Council – Countryside Ranger	27/10/2022	01/11/2022	<p>I wish to comment on the Lesmahagow Land Management Plan with particular reference to biodiversity and woodland creation. https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/consultations/lesmahagow-land-management-plan-consultation</p> <p>Welcome the pre-operative checks, and on-going monitoring regarding Protected Species before the proposed work to avoid disturbance, but would recommend an update of the Breeding Birds Survey – text refers to the survey dating back to 2009.</p> <p>We would be interested in any evidence of water vole activity you find in the area.</p> <p><i>FLS will continue to follow Scottish Forestry Guidance Note 32: Forest operations and birds in Scottish forests and as such we will continue to carry out systematic Pre-operational checks to search for active nests of important birds at least two weeks before operations start and act in cognisance with current</i></p>	<p>Many Thanks for your comments,</p> <p>We will look to formally update the species survey data for Coalburn Moss SAC and adjacent woodlands at some point within the lifetime of this Land Management Plan.</p> <p>However our resources are limited at present and we are forced to target our efforts on operational areas and woodland creation sites. As such I cannot confirm exact timings or give an accurate estimate for the surveys to be undertaken.</p> <p>Species records will be updated on an ad-hoc basis as part of our site condition monitoring of the Coalburn Moss SAC and through staff records. Habitats will continue to be managed in line with NatureScot guidance and UKWAS standards.</p>



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			<p><i>legislation. Following national guidance we will continue to mitigate the effects of forestry operations on protected species throughout the length of this plan following Scottish Forestry Guidance Note 31: Forest operations and wildlife protection. Ongoing monitoring of populations and habitats will inform and direct operations through the work plan process, allowing site specific mitigation to be developed and implemented Badgers. Ongoing monitoring of populations and habitats will inform and direct operations through the work plan process, allowing site specific mitigation to be developed and implemented.</i></p> <p>Breeding Birds The most recent breeding bird survey was been carried out by in the 2009 breeding season. The survey identified a number of species of conservation interest, including both Red and Amber listed species. Forest operations will be timed to avoid disturbance to breeding birds.</p> <p>Overall welcome the proposals within the Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map 8 – The addition of the nature reserves will provide an important link creating wildlife corridors to stands of ancient and long-established	<p>We are happy to share any species records and data with external partners through a formal data request for scientific, research and educational purposes. Data requests can be made through the central enquiries email address.</p> <p>enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot</p>



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			<p>woodland located to the north in Lesmahagow and to the south in Auchlochan and the wider landscape. Table 15 – Concept development through analysis of constraints and opportunities 5. To contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the site’s biodiversity value through appropriate design and management. Key opportunities identified relate to the potential for woodland expansion, particularly of native woodland along riparian corridors.</p> <p>6. To protect and manage Coalburn LRB SSSI – currently under a under management programme, including an assessment of re-wetting opportunities and grazing management. The LRB SSSI is currently being actively and positively managed under a management Plan coordinated by NatureScot.</p> <p>7. To establish a methodology for the monitoring and management of the Native woodland forest habitat network management. Opportunity to record and monitor native woodland areas in terms of their composition and contribution to the existing native woodland habitat network and adjacent areas of habitat interest Record and monitor areas of native woodland planting.</p> <p>8. To review the management of PAWS areas and assess the implementation of management recommendations and the need for further works.</p>	



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			<p>10. To review management options for open ground. Extensive areas of open ground are present within the forest, serving a number of purposes, including nature conservation, access, service wayleaves, agricultural use, woodland pasture, and maintenance of views. Opportunity to review land-use in relation to open ground areas, and to identify opportunities for alternative and more beneficial use.</p> <p>7.4.2 Minimum Intervention areas make up 71.54 hectares of the plan area. The majority of these (55.8ha) will be managed as Minimum Intervention (Natural Reserves) and primarily incorporate ancient woodlands and plantations with good semi-natural characteristics. They have been expanded to include some existing young planted broadleaved stands where this improves ecological connectivity between the existing natural reserves and areas of ancient woodland.</p> <p>7.4.3 Long-Term Retentions - A large proportion of the broadleaved stands will be managed as Long-Term Retention (293.49ha) with the primary aim of improving age class and structural diversity over the plan area.</p> <p>7.9 Woodland Creation – Proposed Woodland Creation Opportunities for woodland creation amounting to 13.43 hectares have been identified as part</p>	



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			<p><i>of the plan review process in consultation with FLS teams.</i></p> <p>7.13 Biodiversity & Environment 7.13.1 Habitat & Species Management <i>The various woodland and open priority habitats as well as the species they support will continue to be conserved and developed as per the management detailed below. Woodland. There are areas identified Ancient Woodlands present within Lesmahagow Forest. These include LEPO (Long Established of Plantation Origin) and ASNW (Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands), and PAWS sites. There are also elements of Wood pasture Parkland HAP at Stockbriggs. These areas have been surveyed by FES Native Woodland Ecologist and are managed in accordance with their recommendations. FLS will maintain semi-natural and new native broadleaved woodlands. Areas of Ancient Woodland in general have limited accessibility and little need for management intervention. PAWS areas have been recently surveyed and assessed, with recommendations for halo thinning to help steer the woodland composition towards a more native type, and to encourage natural regeneration.</i></p> <p>7.13.2 Deadwood <i>can be trees or limbs in the early stage of decomposition, e.g. veterans or dying individual trees. The UK Woodland Assurance</i></p>	



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			<p><i>Standard (UKWAS) target is for an average of 20m³ of deadwood/hectare of woodland. Opportunities for the retention and creation of deadwood habitat will be offered through thinning and felling operations proposed under the LMP. Creation of deadwood habitat will be concentrated in areas where it will provide the highest ecological benefit.</i></p>	
NatureScot	11/11/2022	30/11/2022	<p>Many thanks for consulting NatureScot on the Lesmahagow Land Management Plan 2022 – 2032. Please find our comments below.</p> <p><u>Impacts on Designated Sites</u></p> <p>Coalburn Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We welcome the plan’s intention to create new native broadleaved woodland. However, with respect to the proposed planting at Johnshill and in the vicinity of the Fauldhouse and Coal burns, we would strongly recommend that no birch be planted. This pioneering species would rapidly spread to the neighbouring designated lowland raised bog with the result that it would contribute to the drying out of the bog, which is contrary to our objectives for the site. 	<p>Many Thanks for your comments.</p> <p>In relation to Coalburn Moss SAC and SSSI, I have now updated our planting specification stating clearly that Birch should not be planted. I’ve attached the most up-to-date woodland creation map.</p> <p>With regard to the northern woodland creation proposal at Glendevon/Brocketsbrae. I have consulted our wildlife management team to discuss deer control options and they concur with your assessment this has potential to become a deer ‘trap’. We have agreed to remove this area of woodland creation from the plan proposals and I have asked our environment team to investigate managing the grassland for conservation purposes.</p> <p>I have recorded your comments on other aspects of management. These will be noted in</p>



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			<p>2. All areas of peat within the forest should be retained as open habitat as described at 7.10.1 in the main document.</p> <p><u>General observations</u></p> <p>3. Woodland Creation/ Wildlife (Deer) Management. With regard to the northern location for new woodland creation (the Glendevon / Brocketsbrae coupe) consideration should be given to the possibility of creating a habitat which ‘traps’ roe deer in a small area demarcated by the M74 and the two adjacent roads (which effectively form a small triangle). This eventuality is perhaps unlikely, but it merits consideration at this early stage.</p> <p>4. Again with regard to the Glendevon / Brocketsbrae proposed planting, it should be ascertained prior to planting that the existing habitat is not of nature conservation value (e.g. species rich grassland).</p> <p>5. We welcome your proactive approach to the challenges presented by Chalara ash dieback.</p>	<p>our operational workplans and the LMP mid-term review of management.</p> <p>If you have any other concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to the Central Region Planning Team.</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>6. It may be necessary to consult SEPA with respect to any proposed riparian / watercourse works.</p> <p>7. We welcome your approach to responsible public access and recreation and would hope that more coordinated access networks with neighbouring communities could be established over time.</p> <p>8. 3.1 Proposed Deforestation ‘The Future Habitats and Species plan does however propose an area of Lowland raised bog restoration after felling phase 3. This will be reviewed following Scottish Forestry policy in the following LMP renewal’. NatureScot would hope that this area of lowland raised bog could be effectively restored subsequent to felling – we would be happy to be further consulted at that time.</p> <p>9. All works should pay due heed to any protected species and the relevant legislation (including, but not limited to, badgers - all works should be carried out in accordance with Forest Practice guide 9 – Forest Operations and Badger Setts, and act in cognisance with current legislation).</p>	



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			Hopefully, the above will be self explanatory, but please get back to me if anything is unclear.	
Member of Community	11/11/2022	14/11/2022	<p>Good afternoon, I received a link to the LMP Consultation in my inbox on 24th October from Community Action Lanarkshire. I was simultaneously grateful and disappointed. Grateful to learn that such a comprehensive and biodiversity plan was in development and disappointed to learn that the closing date was 11th November. I hope to be grateful for a second time when I hear your response for this request for an extension until 9am on Monday 14th November.</p> <p>I am particularly interested in your proposals for Woodland Pasture and Active Travel Corridors. I have lived in Lesmahagow since 1990 and am currently the Sustainability and Ecology lead at Krishna Eco Farm a project of Iskcon Scotland. This year our global minister for agriculture gave series of lectures on agroecology and requested that I champion this system in the course of my networking with local animal sanctuaries and conservation initiatives. With this task in mind I have been actively studying and responding to the Hagshaw Hill Cluster Development Plan.</p>	<p>If helpful I can give until Friday 25th November to comment?</p> <p>Please respond directly to me.</p> <p>Regards Central Region Planning Team</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	03/10/2022		1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in?	



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>Establishment of permanent campsite</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why? Community interaction</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how? Establishment of permanent camp site with secure access & egress to discourage fly tipping (gates agreed with owner planned for old road on each end)</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>3. We constantly review our provision across the region and balance this with resources we have available. We are always happy to work with partners to deliver multiple objectives where possible.</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	06/10/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in? Recreational access</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why? The diversity of the plan is good</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how? More recreational opportunities</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>3. We constantly review our provision across the region and balance this with resources we have available. We are always happy to work with partners to deliver multiple objectives where possible</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
Website Consultation Feedback Response	24/10/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in? Landscape impacts</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why? Has broad understanding of the area.</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how? The plan needs to assist the community with employment growth. this is an opportunity for the commission to work with South Lanarkshire Council and businesses to match everyone's needs.</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here? The area has seen vast areas of high quality farm land being utilized for forestry use. there needs to be a reintroduction, especially with the world economy in such a state that good quality farm land back to arable or pasturable land. taking the poorer quality land in to forestry for climate redress.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>3. Anyone interested in joining FLS can view vacancies here: Current opportunities - Forestry and Land Scotland</p> <p>4. Thank you for submitting feedback on our land management plan for the area, we appreciate your input on this subject area. Forestry and Land Scotland do not plan to remove any existing areas of forestry at Lesmahagow for returning to solely agricultural use. We do maintain a number of agricultural leases within the plan area, and are looking at ways we can further integrate land uses for mutual benefit.</p> <p>Forestry and Land Scotland understands the importance of ensuring that farming and forestry work together, for our rural economy and for our environment. We need to ensure</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
				<p>food production can flourish at the same time as we aim to expand our woodland cover. Woodland expansion is a critical element of our plans to address climate change and help achieve net-zero. Woodland creation proposals are subject to a wide range of measures to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place.</p> <p>In response to feedback during this consultation process we have revised our proposals for additional woodland creation. These revisions include changing species composition of some areas and removing others from the proposals. Our revised proposals now cover 8.1 hectares or 0.75% of the total plan area.</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	26/10/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in? Community events</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why?</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>4. Many thanks for your comments.</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here?</p> <p>There is an annual Lesmahagow agricultural show held on the land identified at Brocketsbrae. The plan should be amended to take this into account, or the community will be adversely impacted upon with no other alternative land to hold the event.</p>	<p>The Lesmahagow Agricultural Show is located on the north-west side of the M74 in an area currently used for community activities, including the Agricultural Show and Scouts events. We are not proposing to plant new woodland in this area. Please contact our enquiries team if you would like to discuss this further: enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	02/11/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in?</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why?</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how?</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here?</p> <p>The road below our house at 263 bellfield road coalburn is collapsing into the burn which is our septic tank outlet. Can this be looked at asap</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p>4. Please contact our enquiries team (e-mail address above) providing a contact address and number. We can then arrange for a member of staff to visit. enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	08/11/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in?</p> <p>wildlife</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p>



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why? emphasis on biodiversity</p> <p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how? Access roads need appropriate gates and there also needs more attention to boundary maintenance. Hedge maintenance should have a higher prominence</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here? I am part of an active litter picking group called Love Gow and Forest and Land Scotland sites with poor boundaries and fences are easy targets for fly tipping. there are examples of good practice but sadly many of the gates and boundaries are poorly maintained.</p>	<p>3. Illegal motorised access and fly tipping can be a problem here. Requests for new access gates and/or barriers, and boundary repairs are carefully considered and usually discussed with local residents prior to installation. There is currently an annual hedge cutting regime; this is usually carried out Oct-Nov to avoid nesting birds.</p> <p>4. Please contact our enquiries team (e-mail address above) providing a contact address and number. We can then arrange for a member of staff to visit. enquiries.central@forestryandland.gov.scot</p>
Website Consultation Feedback Response	11/11/2022		<p>1. What aspects of the proposed Land Management Plan are you most interested in? landscape impacts</p> <p>2. What do you most like about the plan, and why? Detail</p>	Thank you for your comments.



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
			<p>3. Is there a part of the plan that you would like to see improved, if so how?</p> <p>I like the exhaustive documentation and presentation. The consultation however was not widely shared. I received it only 7 days ago and therefore request more time to offer feedback. This weekend will be my first opportunity to study it in detail.</p> <p>4. Please add any further comments relating to the plan here?</p> <p>I would like to know what your relationship is with the Hagshaw Hill Cluster Development Plan which also has an active public consultation.</p>	<p>3. Thank you for your comments, your concerns have been noted for future plans. The consultation was publicised through local press, we also wrote to all community groups that we are aware of in the local area and posters were put up across the site entrances to let local users know about the consultation. We provide 28 days for consultation and, where requested, we have extended this period by another 14 days. The plan is also placed on Scottish Forestry's Public Register for 28 days: Scottish Forestry - Register of felling permission proposals within Forest Plan applications</p> <p>4. We are currently in communication with South Lanarkshire Council with regard to the Hagshaw Energy Cluster Development Framework. We are investigating potential opportunities for joint working and delivery where this benefits local communities and compliments the objectives of both the project and FLS forests in the area.</p>
Modhachidh Residence Lintfieldbank, Coalburn	14 th November (Royal Mail Tracked Letter)	30 th November 2022	Letter sent and FLS site visit to potentially affected resident adjacent to proposed new planting area in LMP renewal.	



Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry & Land Scotland Response
MLL ONJ, NGR: NS 8329 3569	18 th November (FLS staff site visit) 2022		Proposed Woodland Creation Areas - Site Visit & Resident Response <u>FLS Staff Record:</u> I visited this property on Friday 18th November a.m and spoke with Christine Hutton. I explained the area in front of her property would be planted with native broadleaves and we agreed to have a strip of smaller shrubs where the planting is closest to the house - then have the larger trees (Oak/Cherry) further into the field (~50 metres away). She had no further issues. I have changed the design - with scrub/edge woodland to the east of the property and also along overhead powerlines. Birch will not be planted in these areas (see NatureScot Consultation above). <u>Resident responded Wednesday 30th November:</u> Thank you for attending site last week to confirm where the Forestry are looking to plant their tree. I discussed with my neighbours about behind them and they say it will not affect them. I will be in touch if we require further assistance.	
Netherton Croft ML11 ONH, NGR: NS 8285 3447	14th November (Royal Mail Tracked Letter) 18th November (FLS staff site visit) 2022		Proposed Woodland Creation Areas - Site Visit <u>FLS Staff Record:</u> I visited this property on Friday 18th November a.m and spoke with Mr & Mrs Drennan. They did not like the existing conifers planted in 2012 and stated they would rather have broadleaves in the proposed new planting area. We agreed the planting would not extend beyond the temporary fence they have erected. I have changed the planting mix to small trees and shrubs. In the longer term, I have changed the wider design in this area (to the east of the overhead powerlines) to soften the boundary of this forest edge (future habitats and species plan). Mr Drennan raised the issue of a drain next to their new horse stable on the boundary. I have discussed this with our estates team and the issue is under investigation. <u>No further response received from residents.</u>	



Appendix II Supporting Information

NOTE: An internal Scoping meeting was undertaken by FLS prior to the preparation of this plan. At that meeting it was suggested by FLS teams that the previous name of “**Auchlochan Forest**” did give rise to confusion, both at a local level, and in terms of broader public recognition. Subsequent internal discussions were held resulting in the Forest being officially renamed as “**Lesmahagow Forest**”.

1.0 History of the land holding at Lesmahagow

Lesmahagow Forest is a collection of 7 former farms properties forming part of Auchlochan Estate, situated east and south of Lesmahagow in South Lanarkshire.

The plan area originally purchased was 1086 hectares. The land was acquired over the period 2008 to 2012 and planting was carried out in 2012, with a significant proportion (~45%) of the land retained as open ground.

The Forestry Commission, at the time, had two key reasons for buying the land: -

- As part of the Woodlands In and Around Towns initiative allowing access in areas other than the north of Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway.
- As part of the Government’s environmental policy of carbon fixing.

The site encompasses approx. 964 hectares of rough grazing, improved grazing, semi-improved grazing, riparian woodland, parkland, lowland raised bog, opencast coal restoration and ancient semi-natural woodland.

Table 36 - Land matrix at time of acquisition (2008 - 2012)

Land Use	Area
Open Space / Agriculture/SSSI	863.55
Woodland / Forest	98.27
Open Water	0.38
Buildings	2.46

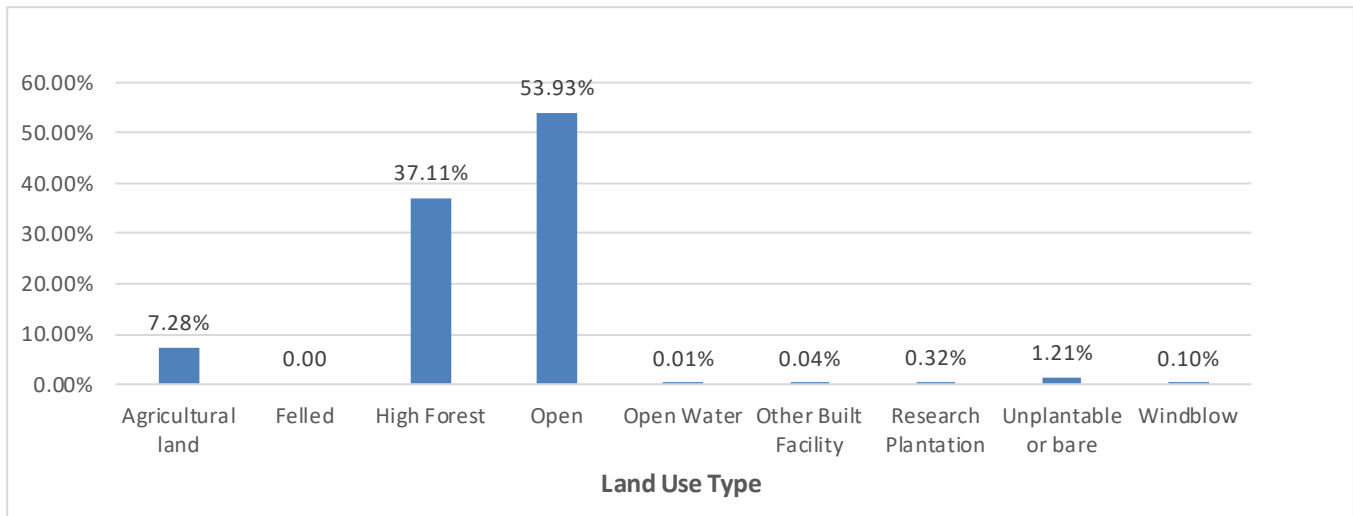


2.0 The existing land holding

Table 37 – Existing Land Use within Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)

Land Use	Area(ha)	%
Agricultural land	78.6	7.28%
Felled	0	0.00%
High Forest	400.7	37.11%
Open	582.4	53.93%
Open Water	0.1	0.01%
Other Built Facility	0.4	0.04%
Research Plantation	3.5	0.32%
Unplantable or bare	13.1	1.21%
Windblow	1.1	0.10%
Total	1079.93	100.00%

Figure 5 Land Use as a % of Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)





The recent sale of land to Scottish Power to accommodate expansion of the electricity station at Lesmahagow has reduced the overall Forest area which now extends to 1079.93 ha

The majority of the plan area is open ground, with a significant proportion of this being Coalburn Moss lowland raised bog SSSI.

Remaining open areas are composed of:

- Enclosed agricultural grazing land.
- Open grassland habitat surrounding the new woodland planting and mature shelterbelts.

The woodland areas are composed of roughly even proportions of coniferous and broadleaf planting, both of which contribute to the productive aspect of the forest.

The main focus of the last Forest Plan was that of productive forestry in the wooded areas. Specific silvicultural systems were not proposed for the new planting areas. The established conifer shelterbelts purchased with the agricultural land had not been previously thinned so they were proposed for clearfell once mature.

Minimum intervention (natural reserves) management was proposed for ancient and semi-natural woodlands within the Nethan Valley. They were also proposed for many of the mature beech hedgebanks spread throughout the proposed new planting areas. This management designation is deemed impractical and unnecessary for the purposes of future management. These beech hedgebank features will, for the most part, be retained and protected, but may need future management for safety and access purposes.

Lastly there are small areas of parkland and the community orchard managed to maintain their existing characteristics.

In order to better present these proposals the plan area has been divided into four geographically distinct sub-blocks as follows: -

- Brocketsbrae
- Lesmahagow (including Coalburn Moss)
- Auchlochan (Nethan Valley)
- Braehead

The extent of each of these sub-blocks is shown in Map 1A (Location) and listed in the following table: -



Table 38 Sub-blocks making up Lesmahagow LMP Area

Forest Sub-block	Area (Ha)
Brocketsbrae	164.12
Lesmahagow (including Coalburn Moss)	603.11
Auchlochan (Nethan Valley)	163.20
Braehead	149.50
Total LMP Area	1079.93

A more detailed description of each sub-block is provided in Appendix II, Section 1.0.

A brief description of each sub-block is provided in this section with supporting Map 1A & 1B Location, WIAT & Landscapes, & Map 5 Existing Forest.

- **Brocketsbrae (164.1 ha)**

Brocketsbrae is located mainly to the east of the settlement of Lesmahagow and to the east of the M 74 Rd corridor with one smaller satellite area next to Lesmahagow, located to the west of the M74, and on the eastern edge of the B7086. This sub-block sits on the lower slopes of Dillar Hill and fringes the Brocketsbrae area of Lesmahagow.

The Brocketsbrae sub-block extends to an area of 164.1 hectares. Prior to FLS's Purchase of the site in 2012 the area was in agricultural use and consisted of a series of geometric fields with linear field boundaries. The boundaries were fringed by hedgerows and avenues of trees, with most of these field edge features retained and incorporated into the woodland design, with open ground forming edge rides separating the areas of planting.

The composition of the woodland consists of large blocks of mixed conifer planting forming the main central mass of the area, with mixed woodland and broadleaf planting focused on the woodland edges and along water courses.

To the north and east of Brocketsbrae the land rises to an elevation of 311 metres at the summit of Dillar Hill and forms a fringe to the settlement of Brocketsbrae and adjacent farms.



- **Lesmahagow (603.3 ha including Coalburn Moss)**

The Lesmahagow sub-block extends to 603.3 ha and extends from the south of Lesmahagow to the edges of the Braehead and Coalburn Burn settlements to the south and west. A key feature of this part of the forest is the presence of Coalburn Moss, a large and largely intact lowland raised bog which has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area for Conservation (SAC). The majority, but not all, of the designated area lies within Forestry and Land Scotland's ownership. There is an existing management plan for Coalburn Moss which is produced by NatureScot who also oversee the management of the site.

To the west of Coalburn Moss are areas of associated habitats in the form of wet heath, marshy grassland and fen. These areas of conservation interest were identified at the forest design stage and have been left as open ground, with small groups of native wet woodland planted on the fringes to provide habitat diversity, amenity and screening.

North of Coalburn Moss is land that was formally farmed and has been planted with groups of mixed Productive broadleaves, native broadleaves and coniferous planting. As with Brocketsbrae there are areas of mature woodland which form part of the farm landscape, and which were incorporated within the planting design. The northern edge of the Lesmahagow sub-block abuts Coalburn Road. In the north-western edge of the area and west of Coalburn Road is a woodland area forming part of the site and located in the River Nethan Valley.

To the south of Coalburn Moss the sub-block extends to Bellfield Road, and consists of better quality former agricultural land farmland, which has been planted with a range of woodland types with substantial areas of productive conifers.

On the north-eastern edge of Coalburn Moss is a large electricity substation owned and managed by Scottish Power. A number of overhead electrical services feed into the substation from various directions, and wayleaves have been incorporated within the planting design.

A new electricity transmission line is proposed which will be routed through parts of the Forest and requires an upgrading of the substation. To accommodate these developments Scottish Power have acquired land extending to 5.29 hectares land from FLS.

The eastern edge of Coalburn Moss Fringes B7078 at the extent of FLS's ownership. The southeast corner of the area is a small area of former agricultural land fringing the Fauldhouse Burn which has been planted.



- **Auchlochan /Nethan Valley (163.2 ha)**

The Auchlochan sub block is located to the west Lesmahagow and forms a wide strip of woodland formed either side of the River Nethan which flows Southwest to North East towards Lesmahagow.

The valley slopes of the river comprise of mature areas of ancient woodland forming a relatively narrow riparian strip. The more level upper slopes of the river valley were formally in agricultural use and has now largely been planted with mixed broadleaves dominating the woodland composition to the northeast, on better soils, and a more mixed woodland composition with broadleaf and conifer planting to the southwest.

The areas of mature semi natural ancient woodland along the river corridor include Sections identified as Plantations On Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).

From the Nethan Valley, the extent of the sub-block is defined by minor road corridors to the east and west. The roadsides are lined for the most part line with hedges which are cut annually to maintain a clear road corridor.

As with other sections of the forest the planting is laid out in groups of planting separated by wide rides which accommodate access through the areas and provide wayleaves strips for services where present.

- **Braehead (112 ha)**

Braehead extends to 122ha and is located on the southern edge of Coalburn and Braehead, to the south of Bellfield Road. To the southwest is the former Dalquhandy opencast coal site and to the south the land is occupied by Hagshaw Hill Windfarm.

Planting on the western portion of the site is in the form of groups of native woodland composed primarily of pioneer species, which has been established on ground restored following opencast operations.

These native woodland groups lie adjacent to an area of peatland habitat which occupies the central portion of the Braehead sub-block, characterised by a slightly domed area of wet heath habitat. The peatland was last surveyed in 2013 and was recorded as Blanket Bog (NVC M19a/ M17a mire habitat) and was reported to be in good condition.

There are two semi-mature conifer groups located on the south-eastern edge of the heath



which have been planted in the past on areas of deep peat and which are suffering from poor growth and wind damage.

Better quality former agricultural land is present to the north and east of the central heath area. These areas have been planted with a mix of conifers and mixed broadleaf groups.

There is a series of mature coniferous shelterwoods present to the east towards the Westerhouse Farm Road, which are again suffering from wind damage, with one area having already suffered from windthrow. In addition, some of these areas contain larch as part of their composition.

The sub-block spans both sides of the Westerhouse Road and forms an eastern boundary with the flood Plain of the Poniel Water. Electric and water services are present through the area with wayleaves, and part of the land to the east of the road is let for grazing as a result.

The sub-block is laid out with a network of grass rides, but as with the other areas of the Forest, there are currently no management roads or tracks in place to facilitate thinning and harvesting operations.

3.0 Aims of the Previous Plan

The previous plan was written as a 'Forest Design Plan' in 2010 and was approved up to April 2020.

Forest Plan Priorities

The 2010 to 2020 Forest Design Plan aimed to deliver the following: -

1. Quality timber production of both conifers and broadleaves, with fast growing conifers helping to meet carbon sequestration targets as well as timber supply.
2. Native woodland planting to enhance existing native woodland and help connect to wider woodland habitat networks whilst improving riparian zones and water quality.
3. A matrix of open space and woodland cover providing and improving habitat for a wide range of species.
4. Provide opportunities for recreation including long and short distance walks.
5. Develop the communities of Coalburn and Lesmahagow by providing community areas and spaces for people, whilst working closely with all local communities



Operations Completed: -

Since the production of the Forest Design Plan in 2010 the area has been planted with variety of woodland types which fall into six groups: -

- Existing Woodland
- Productive Conifer
- Productive Broadleaves
- Native Woodlands
- Amenity Woodland
- Forest Research Woodland (short rotation)

Productive broadleaves and conifer planting aimed to achieve the first priority. Native woodland planting has been carried out targeting priority locations, and open ground retained to achieve priorities 2 and 3. Under priority 4, open space and access routes have been retained to cater for access in the area and provide opportunities for linkage. Management rides have been formed expanding the available access network in the area. Community woodland areas and areas catering for local activities and interest have been identified to meet priority 5. In addition engagement with local people is ongoing.

4.0 How previous plan relates to new plan’s objectives

Table 39 - Previous Objectives Forest Design Plan

Brief	Objectives	Activity
Maximise plantable ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish woodland of native species not limited by timber requirement on marginal ground and establish productive woodland 	<p>Woodland successfully established in accordance with the Forest design Plan.</p> <p>Some further structural planting is proposed under this plan.</p>
Work with current and potential users of the site to sustain recreational opportunities through access rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain clean access points 	<p>Recreational areas identified and maintained for amenity and recreational access.</p> <p>Areas with a recreational focus will continue to be managed</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the access opportunities to the lower and mid areas 	<p>Woodlands have substantially extended the areas of available public open space around the nearby settlements.</p>



Brief	Objectives	Activity
		Although these areas are not subject to heavy use, they will be monitored for activity, and FLS will respond to local feedback relating to management and levels of provision
Preserve important landscape and historic features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the most important views within the site 	<p>Planting design has incorporated extensive areas of open ground which preserves views and features within the Forest</p> <p>Designed open space will be retained to preserve open views.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the landscape backdrop 	<p>Planting has been carried out in accordance with the FDP design to form a varied and attractive backdrop to views within the area.</p> <p>Woodland diversity will be managed and maintained</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect known historic features 	<p>Historic features have been identified and preserved as part of the planting design</p> <p>Historic features will continue to be protected from forest operations</p>
Agree the requirements to protect and enhance Priority Habitat Types (PHTs) and Species Action Plan (SAP) species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve quality of blanket bogs and minimising impact of planting 	<p>Blanket bog areas were identified at the Forest design stage and protected.</p> <p>Enhancement works have been carried out on SSSI bog habitats in accordance with NatureScot's SSSI Management Plan covering the area, and under appropriate licences.</p> <p>FLS will continue to work with NatureScot to protect and enhance identified bog habitats. Areas of bog restoration carried out in the previous management period will be monitored and maintained.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance other PHTs, including expansion of native woodland 	<p>Other PHT's have been identified within the Forest design plan and retained as open ground. Some areas of associated native woodland planting have been planted to enhance these habitat types.</p> <p>Identified areas of conservation interest will continue to be managed as to preserve and enhance biodiversity values</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop improved habitat for Species Action Plan (SAP) species including Black Grouse, adding feed and shelter species 	<p>Areas of open habitat and woodland edges were created as part of the original Forest Design Plan to support and favour SAP species.</p> <p>Created edge habitats and open space areas will continue to be managed to favour SAP species</p>
Maximise plantable ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish woodland of native species not limited by timber requirement on 	<p>Areas for productive native woodland planting were identified within the FDP and have been successfully implemented.</p>



Brief	Objectives	Activity
	marginal ground and establish productive woodland	Productive native woodland planting will continue to be managed to meet both biodiversity and productive objectives

5.0 Main Considerations for Plan Renewal

Larch and *Phytophthora ramorum*

- Larch has been established as a component of mixed conifers within the young plantings carried out at Lesmahagow. For the most part the proportions of larch present within the mixes are limited to 30%, and distributed in mixture as small groups or partial rows within the crop. In general there is also a concentration of larch towards the outer visible edges of the planting groups.
- Larch is also present in mature established policy woodland areas and shelterbelts located in the Braehead sub-block where it is present in large distinct groups forming part of a mixed conifer shelterwood system.
- Mature larch is also present in one area of mature mixed woodland within the Lesmahagow sub-block. Here the larch forms component of a mixed policy woodland part located within an area identified as being of community use.
- Due to the increased likelihood of infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* (PR) in this area, the strategy for the management is that of a targeted removal of larch from the woodlands. This will be carried out as part of a felling and thinning programme and is proposed for early implementation.
- Thinning of areas of young conifers is unlikely to result in complete removal of Larch during the first operation but will establish a system of machine access racks throughout the crop. This will allow a quicker response time should PR be identified and facilitate subsequent thinning operations.
- In areas where mature larch is being felled in large groups and blocks this will generally be undertaken alongside other felling operations as part of a felling coupe to maintain windfirm edges. Restocking of these areas will be carried out, with alternate species to larch being selected.
- Larch removal will influence various other considerations, including site access, habitat management, harvesting operations, crop stability, and appropriate



restocking.

Chalara Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)

- The woodland composition making up the Forest area consists of a significant proportion of young broadleaf planting aged ~7-10 years. The broadleaf planting mixes used are varied but are largely based on appropriate native woodland types, with ash being present in varying proportions within many of the mixes, ranging from 10% - 55% in some areas.
- The presence of CAD within the young ash at Lesmahagow has been identified and the impact of the disease in terms of landscape and biodiversity interests is anticipated to be significant. Actions to manage the issue will be guided by the framework set out in the Ash-Dieback: Action Plan Toolkit for Scotland (June-2021)
- The results of monitoring indicates an increasing impact on ash at Lesmahagow, both in terms of numbers of trees impacted and the severity of impact. The impacts are also having a significant visual impact on the planted areas.
- Control options are limited given the airborne nature of transmission of the disease, and current advice is to monitor ash within the crop, with a view to identifying natural resistance within the ash population for future propagation.
- In most locations ash has been planted in intimate mix with other species, either in groups or in partial rows, and the effect of CAD on these areas is likely to have a similar impact to that of an early thinning. Where the mixes affected have a high proportion of ash forming part of the species mix, gaps are appearing in the canopy, which are likely to require some replacement planting to be carried out.
- The anticipated levels of restocking required have been estimated based on the proportions of ash present in each of the affected planting mixes, and the requirement to achieve required stocking densities, with significant gaps being defined as those exceeding 5m x 5m where regeneration is anticipated to occur, and over 2.5m x 2.5m can be left where no viable seed source in close vicinity. It is estimated that 11.2ha of replacement planting will be required within the plan period.

Peatland Habitats

- Coalburn Moss SSSI and SAC is a large area of lowland raised bog and the largest and most significant conservation feature present within Lesmahagow Forest.



- Part of the site has recently had restoration works carried out in the form of drain blocking to help re-wet the bog. The site is being managed under a separate SSSI Management Plan which is controlled and monitored by NatureScot.
- Outwith of the SSSI area there are a number of smaller peatland areas present with no conservation designation. Some of these have undergone planting, both historically, and in more recent times.
- One area of historic coniferous planting has been identified within the Braehead block, on which tree growth is poor and suffering from wind damage. This area has been identified for potential woodland removal in the longer term - with potential for future habitat restoration (subject to operational priorities and capacity). The adjacent open area was surveyed in 2013 by FLS ecologists. The existing blanket bog was identified as being NVCM19a/ M17a NVC mire habitat. It was recorded as being in "good condition with an abundance of *Eriophorum vaginatum*, some Heather and a high cover of *Sphagnum papillosum* and *Sphagnum capillifolium*."

Management Access

- Lesmahagow forest is provisioned with an extensive network of forest rides put in place at the forest design stage and incorporating and building on a network of service wayleaves, field boundary features, and water courses and drainage.
- Much of the forest is made up of areas of young planting which have successfully established to thicket stage and are starting to close canopy. Many of these areas were protected by deer fencing which has now been removed, further increasing accessibility through the forest area.
- Up until this stage, there has been little requirement for machinery access, but it is anticipated that thinning and felling operations will be carried out within this plan period. In order to facilitate safe operational access, new forest road access will need to be established and existing routes upgraded.
- For most of the forest access onto public roads is problematic. There are a number of existing accesses serving the forest but most have issues in terms of with surfacing, size, and sightlines.

Timber Transport Routes

- Most of the routes leading to and from the forest consist of narrow country roads with a range of restrictions.



- The timber Transport Road classification system is as follows
 - **Agreed Route** – Used for timber haulage without restriction
 - **Consultation route** – Recognised as key to timber extraction but which are not up to Agreed Route standard. Consultation with the Local Authority is required to agree timing, allowable tonnage etc.
 - **Severely Restricted** - Not normally to be used for timber transport in their present condition. These routes are close to being excluded routes. Consultation with the local authority is required to achieve an agreed management regime.
 - **Excluded Route** - Should not be used for timber transport in their present condition. These routes are either formerly restricted or are close to being formally restricted. To protect the network from damaging loads.
- The timber transport map for Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire indicates that most of the local roads are classified as Consultation Routes, with others classified as either Severely restricted or Excluded Routes
- The Timber Transport Group and South Lanarkshire Council Roads Department will have to be consulted regarding the proposed use of many of these roads in relation to the transportation of timber. This will be undertaken as part of FLS's 'Prior Notification' planning applications to the Local Planning Authority and will take place prior to forest road and bellmouth construction.

Encroachment

- There are several issues relating to encroachment across the forest area. These vary in terms of impact, but all have implications in terms of site management.
- One form of encroachment relates to the unauthorised presence of livestock in some woodland blocks. In some cases, this encroachment is intentional, but often it relates to poor maintenance of stock fencing.
- Other instances of encroachment take the form of the movement of boundary fencing or internal fencing to accommodate of a range of activities. In some cases this results in land take from the forest area.
- There have also been instances where building has been carried out on FLS land without prior approval.
- Unauthorised use of for activities such as ATV bikes, horse riding, camping, and anti-social behaviour such as outdoor drinking, impact both on the amenity and recreational enjoyment of the site for other users.



- Other activities such as fly tipping occurs at various points, often on woodland edges, but sometimes within woodland blocks. Such activity is limited by the lack of vehicular access or surfaced paths but, as the Forest Access Network develops over time, there is a risk of these activities increasing in scale and frequency. This will in turn will require a degree of control at key access points.
- One other more benign type of unauthorised site use is the adoption and management of some sections of the woodland without managements awareness or consent. (one instance was noted during the recent site survey work where mowing of a forest ride to form a manicured path had been undertaken, leading to a viewpoint at which a rest bench had also been installed.)
- In all these cases there are implications in terms of staff time to resolve matters.

Recreational Access

- The main recreational use of the Forest is for walking and dog exercising & once within each forest block there is an extensive forest ride network and system of desire lines. That said, visitor numbers are generally low, and concentrated at a few locations.
- Due to the fragmented nature of forest blocks that make up Lesmahagow longer distance circular walking links from the main settlements are currently poor, with pedestrians often required to make use of the narrow country roads to gain access.
- There are a limited number of surfaced paths present within the forest area, and these are the main focus for recreational use.
- **Map 15** shows currently assigned FLS interactive visitor zones within the forest and also the wider recorded path network.
- The installation of more permanent forest road infrastructure over the next ten year period may provide opportunities for linking paths and creating circular waling routes.
- There are currently no formal parking facilities in the forest, and none proposed within this plan period.

Community

- Community engagement is undertaken by the Visitor Services Team and Community Rangers. Two key projects which progressed in the last plan, a community orchard and the community allotments, both located within the Brocketsbrae area. The Community Orchard has had less interest from local stakeholders and will be left to develop naturally. Both projects are managed on land allocated for the purpose by Forestry and Land Scotland.
- Regular consultation is undertaken with the local communities, community groups. and schools within and around the forest area.



- Management issues, which are frequently raised by the public include the maintenance and management of roadside hedging, and issues relating to road drainage.

Ancient Woodland/PAWS Management

- Ancient Woodland sites and PAWS woodland areas are present within the forest. These are largely associated with mature valley woodland along the River Nethan, but other outlying areas of woodland are also recorded.
- The safeguarding and appropriate management of these important conservation features is a key management objective. The aim is to consolidate minimum intervention management areas to further this objective whilst allowing some flexibility to carry out PAWS operations such as veteran tree halo thinning.

Parkland/ Woodland Pasture

- Areas of Wood Pasture Parkland were identified at Stockbriggs. and subsequently been surveyed by an FLS Native Woodland Ecologist. These areas are being managed in accordance with their recommendations.

Other

- Lesmahagow forest has good potential for sustained timber production, being designed and planted with a significant proportion of timber producing species (both conifers and broadleaves). Therefore, producing a sustained supply of timber will continue to be a core management objective.
- Wildlife management is currently working well across these blocks. A combination of deer control and physical protection measures will be utilised to ensure successful restocking within the forest.
- FLS will seek to actively restrict unpermitted incursion by livestock through the following actions:
 1. Working closely with adjacent landowners and tenants to maintain boundary stock fencing.
 2. Localised woodland creation in open areas, where historical livestock encroach has been recorded.
 3. In addition to these small woodland creation areas, FLS propose to expand existing productive woodland in certain parts of the forest as stands are harvested and restocked. This will help improve operational access & productive capacity in the long term, whilst maintaining a network of open ground habitat.



6.0 Physical site factors

Geology, soils and landform

The solid geology at Brocketsbrae comprises sedimentary rocks consisting mainly of sandstones with some limestone deposits to the south of the area. A narrow igneous intrusion forms a sill through the areas running north to south.

Soils are predominately Typical brown earths and surface water gleys.

The landform at Brockets brae is that of a shallow valley with the ground gently rising to the west and east of the shallow valley formed by the Dillar Burn, with the slopes rising more steeply to the east towards Dillar Hill.

The Lesmahagow sub-block is underlain by sandstone deposits to the north with the lower-lying central area consisting of limestones, with some fluvial sedimentary deposits extruding into the area from the southwest.

The soils to the north and the southeast of the area are of better quality and are composed of Brown earths and surface water gleys. The central and western areas of the area are composed predominately of groundwater gleys, peaty gley and deep peat soils.

The landform of the Lesmahagow sub-block is generally level with little topographic variation.

The underlying geology within the Auchlochan sub-block consists of limestone deposits along the valley of the river Nethan, with sandstone deposits underlying the upper valley slopes

Soils consist of Typical brown earths with ground water gleys present on the lower-lying and wetter ground to the southwest of the block.

The topography at Auchlochan is typical of a river valley with steep sided slopes in the vicinity of the watercourse and shallower but incised slopes forming the upper sections of the river valley.

The land at Braehead is underlain by .to the south by sedimentary rocks composed of limestones and coal deposits. The sedimentary bedrock forming the upper sections to the south of the area are of fluvial and shallow- marine origin dating from the Carboniferous period.

Soils vary from Brown earths representing the bulk of the area and extending west from the eastern edge of the sub-block. To the east the soils are ground-water gley with localised areas of deep peat. Intruding into the southwest corner is a small area of Podzol, which appears to be strongly associated with a rocky outcropping ridge through this section of the Forest.

The landform at Braehead is that of gently sloping ground gradually rising from Bellfield Road and the Poneil Water valley to the east and south forming a shallow domed area of land.



Water

In terms of water, the main feature is the Nethan River, which flows south-west to north-east, along the Nethan Valley and through Lesmahagow, eventually joining the River Clyde at Crossford.

This watercourse is a spawning tributary for Salmon and Brown Trout, whose numbers are now recovering after drastic number declines during industrialisation in the 19th and 20th centuries. Fishing is carried out under permit along the Nethan.

The Poniel Water, a minor watercourse, runs south to north past West Toun and Crowhill to join the Coal Burn and Fauldhouse Burn which run east into the Douglas Water then the River Clyde. The Coal Burn, runs through Coalburn, joining the Poniel Water and Fauldhouse Burn.

SEPA's Scotland River Basin Management Plan identifies water quality issues on the Nethan due to Livestock Farming and Poniel Water due to Mining. The Nethan's current status according the RBMP is poor and Poniel Water is moderate.

RBMP recommends both water bodies would benefit from a change in land use and Forestry can assist this by "planting to establish well-structured vegetation cover to form buffer zone along banks and shore".

Concerns over loss of water yield and potential loss of water quality, particularly to the River Nethan was expressed by angling concerns at the Forest Design Stage.

A hydrological assessment of the likely impacts was carried out by Forest Research. From their calculations for the affected catchment of the River Nethan Valley, calculations indicated that there is likely to be little difference between the water use of broadleaved woodland and grass (in line with expectations).

The pre-existing woodland cover was calculated as reducing the water yield, compared to if it was under complete grassland. The effect of the proposed planting is estimated to further reduce the catchment water yield, but only by a mere 0.2 percent (1 mm), which was not considered significant. The assessment also took account of changes in the canopy as the woodland areas grew, indicating a net reduction of annual runoff compared to grass at canopy closure.

The assessment concluded that that the proposed woodland planting will have an insignificant/minimal impact on catchment.



Climate, Elevation and Exposure

Lesmahagow is mainly within the ‘Cool Wet’ climatic zone, with some pockets lying within the ‘Cool Moist’ zone.

In general the climatic conditions across the Central Belt of Scotland and encompassing the Lesmahagow Forest Area is typified by a rainfall range from 1700mm/annum in the west, to 800mm/annum in the east.

High winds occur, predominantly from the south-west. The frequency of strong winds and gales is higher than in other parts of the United Kingdom.

There is generally higher than average cloud cover with ~1,400 hours of sunshine per year. The mean annual air temperature in the Forest District is 9°C with an average daily maximum temperature at Glasgow in July of 19°C.

Table 40 – Elevation range and DAMS scores for forest blocks in plan

Block/Area	Elevation (AOD)	DAMS
Brocketsbrae	220-295m	15-16
Lesmahagow	200-235m	15-17
Auchlochan	230-260m	15-17
Braehead	245-270m	16-17

DAMS Scores (See supporting Map 4)

Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (DAMS) is a measure of windiness of a site, with scores ranging from 0 – 20: The higher the score, the greater the exposure.

DAMS on the site lie between 15 and 18, showing a generally high level of exposure across the area, although there are areas with localised shelter provided by existing woodland, mainly in the river valleys.

The lowest DAMS scores are along the Nethan Valley, where soils are reasonably good and exposure is lower. The higher DAMS scores are on the Coalburn block, where soils are poor and there is little shelter, and the upper reaches of the Brocketsbrae block, the highest point of the property.

FLS launched a Climate Change Plan in December 2021 and will continue to enhance its work in key areas of forestry so that Scotland’s forests and land contribute more towards climate



action. Its conservation management will –

- Reduce biodiversity loss and carbon loss
- Increase productive and native woodland creation and
- Capture - and store - more carbon emissions.

Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer, with drier summers and wetter winters. The impacts of climate change are already being felt in many areas of forestry and need to be considered in relation to future management options.

Soils (See supporting Map 3)

Limestone, Limestone Coal formation and Swanshaw Sandstone underlie the majority of the site with the sandstone being predominately to the North and the Limestone to the South. This is overlaid with a variety of Glaciofluvial deposits, Till, Peat and Alluvium.

The land at Lesmahagow consists mainly of Brown earths and gley soils, with areas of deep peat mainly associated with Coalburn SSSI and man-made restored ground relating to previous mining and quarrying activities.

Table 41 – Soils types present for forest blocks in plan

Block/Area	Soils
Brocketsbrae	Typical Brown earth (FC Soil Type 1) Brown surface water gley(FC Soil Type 7b)
Lesmahagow	Brown earth (FC Soil Types 1, 1a, 1s, 1vs) Typical Ground Water gley (FC Soil Type 5v) Podzolic peaty surface water gley(FC Soil Type 6z) Deep peat (FC Soil Types 8c, 11b)
Auchlochan (Nethan Valley)	Brown earth(FC Soil Types 1, 1g, 1s, 1v) Brown surface water gley (FC Soil Type 3b) Typical ground water gley FC Soil Type 5v) Podzolic peaty surface water gley (FC Soil Type 6z)
Braehead	Brown gley (FC Soil Types 1, 1a, 1s, 1vs) Typical ground water gley FC Soil Type 5v) Podzolic peaty surface water gley(FC Soil Type 6z) Deep peat (FC Soil Type 11b)

The Soil Moisture Regime is varied for the site, from Wet to Very Moist to Moist, depending on geology, soils, slope, aspect and drainage.

In terms of Soil Nutrient Regime, the soils range from Medium-Poor through to Medium and Rich. The brown earths and gleys are moderately fertile, so that planting is constrained more by factors such as altitude and exposure.

Soils are a key factor in determining the appropriate the future management of the sites,



and in particular those sites which have been afforested on deep peat soils and have low yield. On these soil types, trees have generally fared poorly, and suffer from stability issues.

Conservation Interests

Coalburn Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is one of the best examples of raised bog in the country, covering 156.1ha, and is of national importance.

In addition to its national importance the Moss is also of international importance, recognised through the European Habitats and Species Directive as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for its lowland raised bog, active raised bog, and degraded raised bog.

Lowland raised bog is a European Protected Habitat and degraded raised bog is seen as important as it has the potential to return to being active. The lowland raised bog and active raised bog is considered to be in favourable condition. The degraded raised bog is in unfavourable and recovering condition.

Recent drain-blocking work has been carried out on the degraded bog areas Coalburn Moss to improve its condition.

There are a number of identified Ancient Woodlands on the site from both SNH and FES records as identified on Maps 2A-2D - Designations. These include LEPO (Long Established of Plantation Origin) and ASNW (Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands).

There are also elements of Wood pasture Parkland HAP at Stockbriggs. These areas have been surveyed by FES Native Woodland Ecologist and are managed in accordance with their recommendations.

7.0 The existing forest

7.1 Age structure, species, yield class & land capability

Age Structure

The woodland areas making up Lesmahagow Forest can generally be divided into two main types:

1. Mature policy woodland formerly associated with the agricultural landscape of Auchlochan estate and incorporated into the Forest design Plan for Lesmahagow Forest. These areas make up a significant proportion of the forest and account for ~98ha of the forest area.
2. Young mixed woodland planting established from 2012 onwards in accordance with the Forest design plan These areas have been established in blocks on former agricultural land and are aged ~10 years.

As Lesmahagow is a recently purchased and planted area, it is unsurprising that the majority



of the woodland is young, even-aged plantation woodland. Within the new planting areas two main phases of planting have been carried out (2012 and 2015) providing some limited structural diversity to the younger plantations.

The mature woodland is comprised of intensively managed conifer shelterbelts and broadleaved woodland planted in the 1950's and 1980's developing good semi-natural characteristics. A small proportion of the latter are the single line beech hedgebanks which traverse much of the plan area and delineate the old agricultural field boundaries.

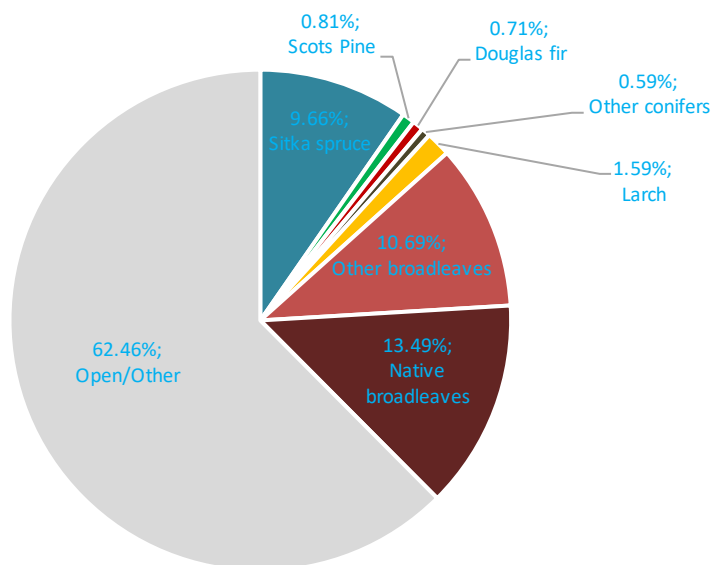


Table 42 – Forest composition of Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)

Species mix	Area (ha)	%
Sitka spruce	104.3	9.66%
Mixed broadleaves	52.98	4.91%
Native Mixed broadleaves	36.42	3.37%
Birch (downy/silver)	24.23	2.24%
Oak (robur/petraea)	20.1	1.86%
Mixed conifers	15.26	1.41%
Sycamore	21.07	1.95%
Common alder	19.3	1.79%
Other broadleaves	14.6	1.35%
Beech	11.4	1.06%
European Ash	45.7	4.23%
Scots pine	8.8	0.81%
Douglas fir	7.7	0.71%
Other Conifers	6.4	0.59%
Larch	17.14	1.59%
Open/Other*	674.53	62.46%
Total	1079.93	100.00%

*Open/Other = Agricultural Land, Open, Open Water, Other built facility, Unplantable/Bare

Figure 6 Pie-chart: Forest composition as a % of Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)



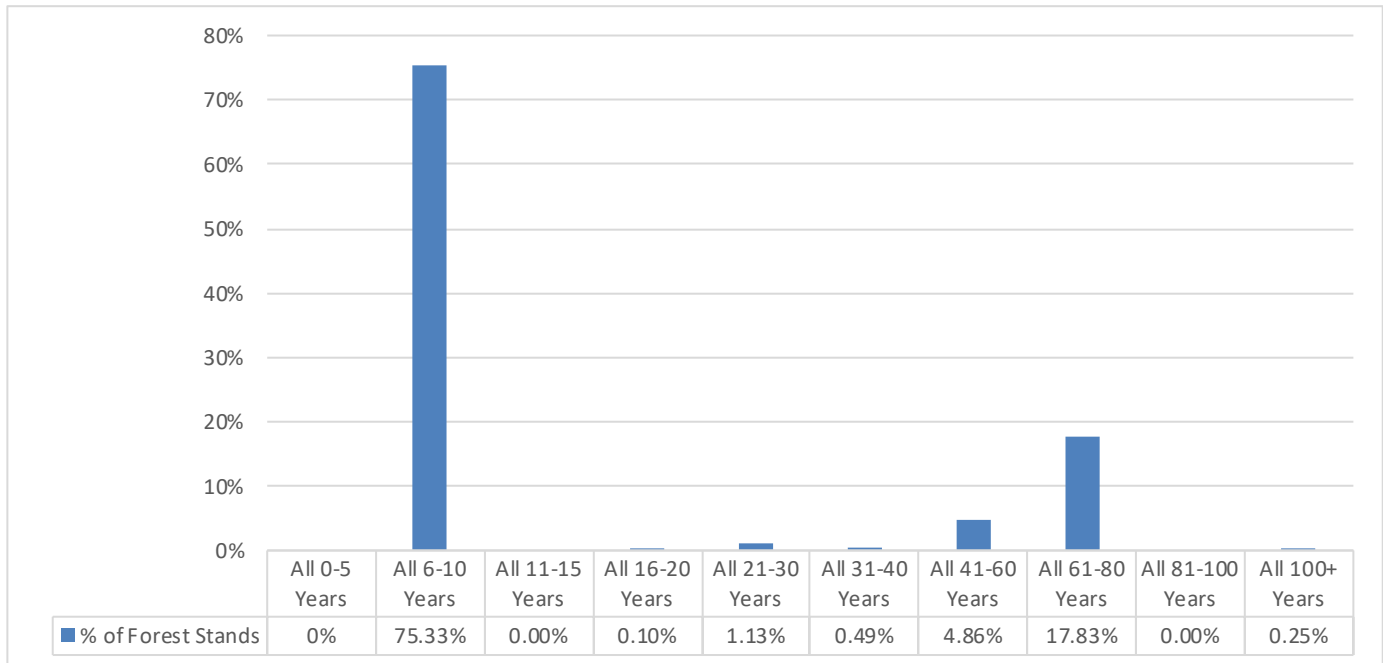
■ Sitka spruce ■ Scots pine ■ Douglas fir ■ Other Conifers ■ Larch ■ Other Broadleaves ■ Native Broadleaves ■ Open/Other*



Table 43 – Forest Age Class Distribution within Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)

Age Class	Area (ha)	%
0-5 Years	0	0.00
6-10 Years	305.4	75.33
11-15 Years	0	0.00
16-20 Years	0.4	0.10
21-30 Years	4.6	1.13
31-40 Years	2	0.49
41-60 Years	19.7	4.86
61-80 Years	72.3	17.83
81-100 Years	0	0.00
100+ Years	1	0.25

Figure 7 Bar chart: Forest Age Class Distribution within Lesmahagow Plan Area (2022)





Yield Class & Land Capability

The yield classes represented on site vary considerably dependent mainly on soils and levels of exposure. The yield class ranges from 2-8 for broadleaf species and 8-16 for conifers.

Table 44 - Lesmahagow Current Forest Yield Classes by Forest Sub-Block (Broadleaves & Conifers)

	Brocketsbrae	Lesmahagow	Auchlochan	Braehead	Lesmahagow Plan Area
Yield Class	% of forest stands	% of forest stands	% of forest stands	% of forest stands	% of forest stands
2	5.70	11.30	8.70	15.14	10.31
4	8.23	24.30	43.67	7.36	22.87
6	5.60	18.48	13.42	4.51	12.42
8	21.48	21.89	21.17	28.59	22.82
10	55.68	2.32	2.33	16.72	14.89
14	3.32	21.71	10.70	10.45	13.69
16				17.23	3.02

N.B.

- *These are predicted yield classes from the FLS sub-compartment database.*
- *The yield classes vary according primarily to the woodland composition, with the higher yields reflecting coniferous planting, and with broadleaf dominated blocks reflecting a generally lower yield.*
- *Yield class figures will be updated as crops approach commercial timber age*

The Land Capability for forestry (LCF) for the forest ranges Class 4 and Class 5 – (Land with limited flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops).

Land capability for Agriculture classes the land at Lesmahagow as follows :-

Class 3.2 - (Land capable of producing a moderate range of crops) – 0.27%

Class 4.1 – (Land capable of producing a narrow range of crops) – 43.83%

Class 5.1 – (Land suited only to improved grassland and rough grazing) – 0.04%

Class 5.2 – (Land suited only to improved grassland and rough) – 32.71%

Class 5.3 – (Land suited only to improved grassland and rough) – 14.77%

Class 888 – (Built up areas, quarries, gravel workings, collieries & bings) – 3.38%

Better quality land is Class 3.2 (Non-prime agricultural land capable of producing a moderate range of crops.) This better quality land is located to the north of the forest area and is focused along the M74 road corridor. A significant proportion of the forest area is Class 4.1 (Non-prime land capable of producing a narrow range of crops), with this land being largely associated with the River Nethan and Poniel Water Valleys.

Land associated with Coalburn Moss and the adjacent lower-lying and wetter soils as Class 5 (Non-prime land suitable for improved grassland but unsuitable for arable cropping)



Land Capabilities for Forestry across the Forest range from F4 to F5, with the majority of the land falling within the F4 land classification, with some limitations in terms of species choice and tree growth.

Class F5 soils include peaty gleys and peat, with greater limitations on species choice.

Table 45 Lesmahagow land capability for forestry and agriculture

Forest Block	LCF	Land capability	LCA	Land capability
Brocketsbrae	F4 (most of the site)	Land with moderate flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	3.2	Non-prime agricultural land capable of producing a moderate range of crops Non-prime land capable of producing a narrow range of crops Land capable of use as improved grassland.
	F5 (north-east/ higher ground)	Land with limited flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	4.1	
			5.2	
Lesmahagow	F4 (north and south)	Land with moderate flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	4.1	Non-prime land capable of producing a narrow range of crops Land capable of use as improved grassland. Land capable of use as pasture.
	F5 (central and west)	Land with limited flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	5.2	
			5.3	
Auchlochan	F4 (all)	Land with moderate flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	4.1	Non-prime land capable of producing a narrow range of crops Land capable of use as pasture.
			5.3	
Braehead	F4 (east)	Land with moderate flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	4.1	Non-prime land capable of producing a narrow range of crops Land capable of use as improved grassland
	F5 (west)	Land with limited flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops	5.2	



7.2 Management Access

There are a number of accesses from the minor road system serving the areas into the various forest blocks. These accesses are however limited in terms of provision and suitability for forest management operations.

Proposals for the block include tree felling and removal which will require the provision of new and improved site access to facilitate operations. These access points will also offer improved management access for other site operations, such as restocking, wildlife management, and ongoing maintenance and monitoring operations.

7.3 Wildlife (Deer) management

The forest blocks within the Lesmahagow Forest currently consist mainly of fully established trees which are at low risk of suffering severe damage for deer browsing. Deer management nonetheless remains an important concern requiring on-going monitoring and management.

Deer browsing levels will impact areas of semi-natural woodland and areas proposed for management under a Low Impact Silvicultural system (LISS) and/ or continuous cover forestry, particularly successional woodland layers are reliant on natural regeneration or under-planting.

Proposals for restocking following felling operations will also require protection from, and the control of deer numbers, to ensure successful tree establishment.

High numbers of deer give rise to issues relating to the health of the population, incidences of deer-vehicle collisions, and is likely to impact on adjacent woodland properties.

Deer management at Lesmahagow is currently managed under contract. This will be kept under review to ensure adequate deer control. Deer numbers are currently viewed as being manageable.

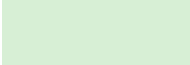
Figures relating to deer damage and cull requirements are monitored by FLS and deer management targets are authorised through NatureScot.


The figures are illustrated in the following table for the lowlands area of Central Region:



Table 46 – Historical and projected figures for deer populations and control 2016 to 2026.

Financial Year (FY)	¹ Pop ⁿ . at 1st April (Start of FY)	Recruit-ment ²	Pop ⁿ . at 31st Aug	FY Cull 1st Apr - 31st Mar	Set % Cull	% Cull achieved.	Pop ⁿ . at 31st Mar (End of FY)
2017/18	6156	2155	8311	1785	0	21	6526
2018/19	6526	2284	8810	1739	0	20	7071
2019/20	7071	2475	9545	1860	0	19	7685
2020/21	7685	2690	10375	2041	0	20	8334
2021/22	8334	2917	11251	2925	26	26	8326
2022/23	8326	2914	11240	3372	30	30	7868
2023/24	7868	2754	10622	3186	30	30	7435
2024/25	7435	2602	10037	3011	30	30	7026
2025/26	7026	2459	9485	2846	30	30	6640

 Recorded data

 Data projections

¹ Figures relate to FLS owned land in the Lowland area of Central Region

² Recruitment levels estimated as constant at 35%. No recent Census data is currently available to indicate the impacts of deer migrations/movements on FLS properties

³ Targets are based on damage levels which are independently assessed by Strath Caulaidh on various selected plots each year.



7.4 Thinning potential

The majority of the woodland areas are aged 10-15 years, and first thinnings are anticipated to be undertaken within the plan period. Early thinnings are also proposed to facilitate the treatment of plant health issues through the removal of larch, and where required, ash affected by CAD.

The arising timber is likely to be of little value, but the remaining crop is anticipated to benefit from the operation in terms of health and quality.

Thinning operations could be undertaken alongside scheduled felling and extraction operations which would help to balance costs.

7.5 LISS potential

Areas of native woodland regeneration, semi-natural birch, and mixed birch and pine woodland all have potential to be managed under a low intervention silvicultural system. In particular areas of woodland located on the steep valley slopes along the River Nethan, many of which are identified as Ancient woodland and PAWS woodland, are well suited to management under LISS

7.6 Current and potential markets

A range of timber sizes is anticipated to result for the proposed felling of mature conifer shelterwoods at Braehead. Timber quality is likely to be low but sawlogs may be output along with lower value timber suitable for the pulp, chipwood, and firewood markets.

A significant proportion of the arisings from proposed early thinning operations proposed under this plan are likely to be undersized trees, and will most likely be cut to residue and let in situ, with only a small percentage of suitably sized timber being extracted to market.

8.0 Land Uses

The majority of the plan area is open ground, with a significant proportion of this being Coalburn Moss lowland raised bog SSSI.

Remaining open areas are composed of:



- Enclosed land leased for agriculture and equestrian use.
- Open grassland habitat surrounding the new woodland planting and mature shelterbelts.

Many of these areas are associated with wayleaves for services and as such unsuitable for forestry use. However, a few areas have been identified as providing potential for small-scale woodland planting, and in particular offer opportunities for native woodland expansion.

The existing woodland areas are composed of roughly even proportions of coniferous and broadleaf planting, both of which contribute to the productive aspect of the forest.

The main focus of the last Forest Plan was that of productive forestry in the wooded areas. Specific silvicultural systems were not proposed for the new planting areas. The established conifer shelterbelts purchased with the agricultural land had not been previously thinned so they were proposed for clearfell once mature.

Minimum intervention (natural reserves) management was proposed for ancient and semi-natural woodlands within the Nethan Valley. They were also proposed for many of the mature beech hedgebanks spread throughout the proposed new planting areas. This management designation is deemed impractical and unnecessary for the purposes of future management. These beech hedgebank features will, for the most part, be retained and protected, but may need future management for safety and access purposes.

Small areas of parkland and the community orchard managed to maintain their existing characteristics.

8.1 Neighbouring land use

Most of the neighbouring land use adjacent to the plan area is agricultural land. To the south of Coalburn is a large windfarm (Douglas West Windfarm).

There are few residences fringing the forest these being mainly farmsteads or small-holdings. There is also little in the way of adjoining woodland areas linking to the Forest at present.



9.0 Biodiversity and environmental designations

9.1 Designations

In 2011 FLS purchased an area of Coalburn Moss SSSI called Merchanthall, taking the total FLS area of SSSI to 219 Ha (See Maps 2A – 2D – Designations). Coalburn Moss is the only designated site present within the Forest area and is both a SSSI and an SAC. The site is one of the best examples of lowland raised bog in the United Kingdom for its actively-growing Sphagnum-rich vegetation.

The raised bog habitat is extensive and subtle variations in nutrient conditions within the bog affect the distribution of the individual species and gives rise to the distinctive undulating, and often colourful, surface pattern characteristic of raised bogs.

These patterns consist of well-defined hollows, (dominated by *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and common cottongrass), within a mosaic of ridges and hummocks of Sphagnum mosses. High ridges are characterised by bog mosses (*Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S papillosum* and *S magellanicum*) together with other typical vegetation (hare's-tail cottongrass, round-leaved sundew, cranberry and the lichen *Cladonia portentosa*). Lower ridges are characterised by *S papillosum* and *S tenellum*, indicating a surface recovering from past burning and drainage. The higher hummocks are dominated by heather with a mixed ground layer of mosses and lichen.

Around the margins of the raised bog is a secondary lagg or modified vegetation, dominated by soft rush and tufted hair grass with birch woodland in places. There are also areas of wet and dry grassland within the boundary. The grassland that lies over peat is considered to be part of the same hydrological unit as the active raised bog and is important in maintaining the hydrological condition of the site as a whole.

Site condition monitoring was undertaken in 2012 to establish the current condition of the notified natural features.

The results were:

- Active bog SAC - Favourable maintained
- Degraded bog SAC - Unfavourable recovering
- Raised bog SSSI - Unfavourable recovering

Bog Restoration Work

- In 2012 FLS installed 138 plastic piling dams across the bog to block up ditches. This work was carried out under NatureScot (then, SNH) consent: SIT/SSSI/372/CON, dated 10 January 2012.



- In 2012/13 regenerating trees were felled and stumps treated with herbicide under NatureScot (then, SNH) consent: SIT/SSSI/372/CON/118415 dated 29 October 2012.
- Works to block ditches and drains within Merchanthall area of Coalburn SSSI were completed in 2015. Dam works were assessed in 2016 and failed dams were repaired and replaced as necessary.
- A grazing lease was established in 2013 to restart grazing across the SSSI after existing fence lines were consolidated.
- An agreement with the owner of the remaining SSSI ground near Auchlochan Bing is in place and FLS is grazing this area.
- John Muirhead, Auldton Farm, has grazed the FLS ground with 100 sheep since May 2013.
- Discussions with NatureScot (then, SNH) in 2018 confirmed that the grazing regiment has been beneficial to site condition and should continue with a planned review in 5 years.
- It was agreed that grazing could be increased by up to 50% as necessary, with continued site condition monitoring to ensure no localised overgrazing or erosion occurs.
- In 2018 it was agreed with NatureScot (then, SNH) that weed wiping was the preferred method of scrub control around grid reference NS831363 with works implemented in 2020. Monitoring of the area will continue and grazing levels may be increased to further offset scrub succession in this area.
- It is worth noting there have not been any records/notes of burning on the site.

9.2 Woodland Designations

There are a number of Ancient woodland areas recorded within the Forest area.

The following **Table 47** is an extract from the Ancient Woodland Inventory listing the recorded woodland features: -

SQUARE	SITE_ID	WOOD_ID	SITE_NO	MAP_ORIGIN	ANTIQ_CODE	HECTARE
NS83	3	31311	0	ASNO1860	2a	2.38
NS73	4	29934	0	LEPO1860	2b	4.65
NS83	7	31309	3213	LEPO1860	2b	10.03
NS83	8	31322	0	LEPO1860	2b	6.89
NS73	8	29936	3212	LEPO1860	2b	2.12
NS73	8	29932	3212	ASNO1750	1a	5.21
NS73	9	29928	3212	LEPO1860	2b	1.88
NS73	9	29929	3212	ASNO1750	1a	1.16
NS73	9	29927	3212	LEPO1860	2b	1.71
NS73	9	29931	3212	ASNO1750	1a	1.29
NS73	10	29926	3212	LEPO1860	2b	27.25
					Total	64.57



The Native woodland Survey for Scotland identifies some PAWS woodland areas within Lesmahagow Forest. These are again largely associated with the mature woodland areas present along the River Nethan Valley

The following **Table 48** lists the identified PAWS woodland areas: -

Sub cpt ID	Type	Dominant Habitat type	Dominant habitat %	Canopy layers	Dominant structure	Canopy cover %	Native %	Area (ha)
950297428	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	100	5	Mature	70	15	1.16
950297371	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	85	5	Mature	80	30	1.15
950297437	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	100	5	Mature	80	5	1.34
950297050	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	100	5	Mature	80	30	2.53
950297048	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	50	5	Mature	70	25	0.90
950297431	PAWS	Unidentifiable type	75	5	Mature	70	25	1.70
							Total	8.80

A recent survey and assessment of the PAWS woodlands has identified a number of operations for the improvement of these areas

- halo thinning to open space in the canopy
- removal of all non-native regeneration
- removal of all Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) from both the PAWS areas and the adjacent riparian corridor

9.3 Habitats and species

Breeding Birds

A pre-planting breeding bird survey was been carried out by in the 2009 breeding season. The survey identified a number of species of conservation interest, including both Red and Amber listed species.

European Protected Species

Assessments carried out in 2009 noted the following: -



- Otters are present at the River Nethan and Poniel Water and are also using associated tributaries and are known to frequent Coalburn Moss in the spring to feed on amphibians.
- Bats are known to be present around Stockbriggs, Westoun and a number of other locations in areas of mature woodland.
- A number of badger setts have been identified, in the vicinity of Stockbriggs, Westoun and The Neuk.
- Water Voles are expected to be present on both the Nethan and Poniel Water and tributaries.

9.4 Riparian habitat

The Nethan River, which flows south-west to north-east, along the Nethan Valley and through Lesmahagow, is the main watercourse within the forest. The river is a tributary of the River Clyde with its confluence at Crossford.

Sections of the forest occupy the river valley, and in particular mature areas of mixed and broadleaf plantation woodland are located within the riparian corridor.

Many of these woodlands occupy sites recorded as ancient woodland and are particularly valued for their biodiversity and habitat benefits.

The Poniel Water is another key watercourse present within the forest, with part of the Forest area at Braehead fringing the northwestern edge of its valley.

The Dillar Burn is another key water feature which flows through the Brocketsbrae area in a shallow wide valley with gently sloping sides.

The presence of these features were accounted for at the Forest Design Plan stage and planting in the vicinity of these features has aimed to complement the high conservation values associated with the river corridors, with native woodland planting mixes being favoured.

9.5 Invasive species

There are very few issues relating to invasive non-native invasive species (INNS) within Lesmahagow Forest. Only one small patch of Japanese knotweed was recorded during a recent site survey, which was mapped and will be scheduled for treatment



and eradication.

9.6 Pests and diseases

There is larch present within both the mature farm woodland features which were acquired at the time of the original land purchase, and also was incorporated in a proportion of the coniferous woodland mixes planted subsequently.

Due to the increased likelihood of infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* (PR) in this area, a strategy for the management, removal and restocking of larch needs to be agreed upon in this plan.

This will tie into various other considerations, including ensuring access, managing the habitat within these blocks and working with standard harvesting operations.

Chalara Ash Dieback is a significant concern with Lesmahagow forest given that significant proportions of both the mixed and native broadleaf woodland planting established recently comprise of ash, with up to 55% of some mixes being ash.

Monitoring of ash for the presence and impact of CAD is being carried out with the forest. This monitoring has demonstrated a significant increase in both the proportions of trees affected and the severity of impact of the disease on the young ash crops.

There is a significant proportion of pine present within the forest block, represented by recent mixed conifer plantings and established mixed policy woodland planting. *Dothistroma Red-band Needle Blight* (DNB) is a recognised risk in terms of plant health. There is no record of DNB currently within the site, and the anticipated impact of the disease is a periodic loss of annual yield class. Considering this, no action is proposed to monitor or control the presence of the disease at this time.

10.0 Landscape

10.1 Landscape character

Landscape Character is created by the way the physical components come together and can be defined as "a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another". Although landscape character is also about experience and sense of place it is not about opinions or judgements on whether one landscape is considered better or worse than another.



Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) identifies, describes and maps variation in landscape character in a systematic way.

Between 1994 and 1999, NatureScot commissioned, in partnership with others, a series of 30 regional LCA studies. Together, these identified, mapped and described the landscape character of all of Scotland (mostly at a scale of 1:50,000). This resulted in the creation of Landscape Character Types - areas of consistent and recognisable landscape character.

These have provided the landscape foundation for natural heritage and planning policymaking. The studies have been used widely in the development planning system.

This information was updated in 2019 as a result of advances in digital technology, additional complementary datasets produced, and changes in development patterns and pressures.

Lesmahagow Forest is spread across three Landscape character types (See Map 1B – WIAT Areas and Landscape Types)

The majority of the forest sits within the ‘Plateau Farmlands’ LCA, with key characteristics including “Hills and undulating slopes, smooth slopes, steep valley slopes and broad shallow valleys”

At the southern edge of the forest the southern portion of the Braehead block is located within the ‘Plateau Moorlands’ LCA, characterised by “Grass and heather moorland, areas of peatland, and coniferous plantations”

The following tables provides a summary description of each character type the plan area sits within: -

Landscape Character Type (LTC)	LCT 201 Plateau Farmland
Description	The Plateau Farmland - Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Type occurs on the lower slopes of all the Plateau Moorland areas encircling Glasgow and the Conurbation.



Landscape	LCT 201
Character	Plateau Farmland
Type (LTC)	

They are characterised by their transitional location between the sheltered landscapes of Rolling Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley and Broad Valley Lowland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley, and exposed uplands and moorlands.

The Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley is present in the Central Plateau area, including areas within the South Lanarkshire Local Authority area.

Landform

The underlying geology of the Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley is predominantly carboniferous millstone gr and carboniferous limestone, bands of which encircle the Glasgow coal basin. The Plateau Farmlands landscape also encircles the city, being at the edge of the uplands which define the basin in which Glasgow has developed.

The landform is predominantly flat, gently sloping or slightly undulating. The Plateau Farmlands are higher than the Rolling Farmlands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley. In contrast to the more sheltered valleys and gorges and the Rolling Farmlands, this is an exposed landscape, the uniformity of landform offering very little shelter from wind. Drainage in the Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley often takes the form of very meandering streams through broad and shallow valleys. Streams on the Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley have little visual impact on the landscape. A few fluvio-glacial features exist on the lower edges of the plateau farmlands. Landcover

Agricultural land use is fundamental to the character of this landscape, dominated by pastoral farming consisting mostly of sheep farming with some cattle farming. Some important mosses and patches remain unreclaimed and unimproved. Recent initiatives, have restored areas of degraded raised bog.

Because of the uniformity of the landform, fields tend to be large, rectilinear and evenly spaced, suggesting rationalisation and improvements during the 18th and 19th Centuries. Field boundaries are increasingly defined by post and wire fences. However, many older beech and hawthorn hedges still exist in various states of repair. In higher areas, drystone dykes and ditches can be found. landscape. The general trend in the tree population is towards over-maturity.



Landscape	LCT 201
Character	Plateau Farmland
Type (LTC)	

Large areas of forestry occur in several areas of the Plateau Farmland – Glasgow & Clyde Valley. Many more recent commercial forestry areas are located on higher, less productive ground.

The extensive agricultural use of the plateau farmlands means that there are few areas of conservation significance. Exceptions include a number of raised bogs/mosses in South Lanarkshire (including Coalburn Moss) which are both Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation.

Settlement

Settlement in this Landscape Character Type tends to be sparse and confined to a scatter of farmsteads which are often identifiable from a distance by their sheltering woodlands. Again, these woodlands tend towards over maturity and are often in decline. A few larger settlements exist on these plateaux, most notably the new towns of Cumbernauld and East Kilbride. The few existing settlements are extremely prominent in the landscape because of the height of the land and the lack of sheltering/screening landform. Some are visible over a wide area, including from parts of the Clyde Valley.

Transport and communication routes also tend to favour this uniform and accessible landscape and it houses major roads, rail lines, pylons and telegraph poles, all of which have considerable impact in the exposed landscape.

Areas of opencast coal mining, both restored and unrestored, are usually prominent, and occasional landfill sites, also occur in this area. There are numerous single and small-scale wind turbines which, in this open transitional landscape, can be seen from adjacent moorland and hills, roads and settlements within the Landscape Character Type, and from within the Clyde Valley where the edges form the backdrop to the valley lowlands.

Tree cover is generally limited to a few windblown trees along field boundaries. However, there are also patterns of deciduous and coniferous shelterbelts which define and shelter the fields, sometimes enclosing them altogether. Some of these are remnants of policy landscapes and designed landscapes and where these occur they make an important contribution to landscape character, providing valuable screening in the otherwise open transitional landscape, can be seen from adjacent moorland and



Landscape	LCT 201
Character	Plateau Farmland
Type (LTC)	
<p>hills, roads and settlements within the Landscape Character Type, and from within the Clyde Valley where the edges form the backdrop to the valley lowlands.</p> <p>Perception There are wide views across this open, transitional Landscape Character Type, but few visual foci. The area appears in the foreground when seen in views from or towards adjacent moorland and hills. The edges of this landscape are visible from within the Clyde Valley, forming the backdrop to the valley lowlands. There are some rural areas which have a tranquil character.</p>	

Landscape	LCT Type 207
Character	Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley
<p>Description</p> <p>The Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde Valley Landscape Character Type is found where tributaries of the Clyde have cut shallow valleys into the plateau moorland and farmland between the Clyde Basin and the Ayrshire Basin. This Landscape Character Type is present in the South Lanarkshire local authority areas.</p> <p>Key Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of valleys formed along faultlines through the Plateau Moorlands • South-west to north-east orientation of the valleys. • Strong contrast between the wooded and settled character of the valleys and the • exposed enclosing uplands. • Transition from the exposed upper reaches to more sheltered lowland areas. 	



Landscape	LCT Type 207
Character	Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley

Description

Landform

While the Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde Valley landscapes do not form breach valleys through the upland mass, they tend to follow fault lines generally with a south-west north-east trend, and are often mirrored by similar valleys to the west of the Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley watershed.

To the north, the valleys cut through basalts and millstone grits. Further south, they cut through the complex mixture of sandstones, limestones, millstone grits and coal measures which lie along to the north of the Southern Upland Fault.

Although each of these valleys has its own distinctive character, they share a number of common features, largely as a result of their small scale, orientation, contained nature and relationship with neighbouring areas of moorland.

Landcover

There has been loss and decline of mature farm and policy woodlands which help to integrate valley floor and side slopes and which provide contrast with the moorland hills which are often visible on higher ground. The characteristic pattern is that of lines of field boundary trees (often beech), together with small to medium scale woodland belts (often coniferous) which extend up the slopes often following drainage channels, hugging gullies and framing terraces.

The woodlands are predominantly broadleaf, although small conifer plantations (usually distinctive pine belts), occupy sites on the valley slopes. In the lower parts of some of these valleys, conifer woodlands form policies as part of designed landscapes. The upper parts of these valleys have been forested in some areas. Generally, the large scale of



Landscape	LCT Type 207
Character	Upland River Valley – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley
<p>these semi-upland landscapes, and the visual links with moorland plantations means that the effect of these woodlands is relatively limited.</p> <p>This landscape is predominantly agricultural, encapsulating a transition from arable cultivation on some lower parts of the valley floor to grazing of diminishing quality on the valley sides. The resulting combination of colours and textures, together with the pattern of woodland and tree cover, make an important contribution to landscape character.</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Settlement within the valleys is comparatively limited and influence of the conurbation decreases as one moves south. The valleys provide important transport corridors through the moorland hills. Although several modern road links (or sections thereof) pass over the moorland itself rather than following these valleys, their importance remains, e.g. for the A70 which follows the Douglas Water.</p> <p>There are extensive mineral workings through the Douglas Valley, including the now spent open cast coal sites, some of which are still to be restored. Although there are no operational wind farms in this Landscape Character Type, several wind turbine developments appear on skylines in views from within these valleys.</p> <p>Perception</p> <p>The influence of settlement decreases through the valleys moving north to south, away from denser areas of population. Some parts of the upper reaches are undeveloped, perceived as having wild character.</p>	

Landscape	LCT Type 213
Character	Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley
Location and Context	



Landscape	LCT Type 213
Character	Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley
<p>The Plateau Moorlands - Glasgow & the Clyde Valley Landscape Character Type occurs in extensive areas in two parts of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley – including the Central Plateau on the eastern boundary of North and South Lanarkshire.</p> <p>Key Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large scale landform • Undulating hills and sloping ridges in the western areas; a more even plateau landform in the east. • Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth plateau landform, moorland vegetation. • Predominant lack of modern development. • Extensive wind turbine development. • Sense of apparent naturalness and remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands, although this has been reduced in places by wind energy development. <p><u>Description</u></p> <p>Landform</p> <p>The areas making up the Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley grow in scale as they approach the Southern Uplands.</p> <p>The moors along the Central Plateau rise from about 250 metres in the north to about 350 metres in the south. Here, the topography is rather less varied and it forms a more level plateau.</p> <p>This Landscape Character Type is distinguished geologically. The Central Plateau is underlain by coal measures, though a number of significant igneous intrusions and dykes are present. River valleys are less significant features.</p> <p>Landcover</p> <p>The Plateau Moorlands consist of blanket bog, heather and grass moorland. The large-scale topography is comparatively level and regular,</p>	



Landscape	LCT Type 213
Character	Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley
<p>with extensive shallow basins rising to soft contoured ridges. Farmland, often with wind bent trees and thorn hedges, extends onto the lower slopes, particularly on the Central Plateau where altitude and exposure is less extreme. The landscape is of an open, exposed and rather remote character despite occasional isolated hill farms, and sheep and cattle grazing. Mosses, comprising areas of extensive peatland, form an important ecological and landscape component of the plateau moorlands.</p> <p>Historically extensive conifer plantations, although areas of these have been felled to accommodate wind farm development. The afforestation has significantly modified the original character in terms of colour, textures and the length of views possible. However, there is a general lack of elevation which means that the forests create dark horizons, rather than being visible in their full extent. New plantations appear as dark speckled landscapes from a distance. The open ground and surrounding moorland contrasts with this, with its mosaics of brown and ochre colours.</p> <p>Settlement Settlement within these exposed landscapes has been historically sparse, although several cairns exist on higher ground.</p> <p>Historically villages and towns usually favoured more sheltered valley locations. Within the central plateau, the lower altitude, together with a series of important transport corridors linking Glasgow and Edinburgh, means that settlement is more extensive.</p> <p>The moorlands provide long views across the Glasgow conurbation, emphasising the contrast between the more remote upland and the developed lowlands. Many of the villages in the area have grown incrementally over time.</p> <p>Modern development in these areas takes a number of forms and can be very prominent in this otherwise open, expansive and simple landscape. Tall structures are often visible over a</p>	



Landscape	LCT Type 213
Character	Plateau Moorlands – Glasgow & Clyde
Type (LTC)	Valley

considerable distance.

There has been significant wind energy development on the Plateau Moorlands, taking advantage of their upland exposure, yet relative proximity to large centres of population.

The presence of coal reserves and, to a lesser extent, hard rock deposits, has had a major effect on the landscape within the Central Plateau area. Coal working has experienced a number of clear phases of development. Historically it would have been worked on a small scale with surface pits, drift mines and shallow pits. Up until recent decades deep mining also took place, though this has been replaced by open-cast working, often on a very large scale. Extensive commercial peat extraction has also been carried out.

Cumulatively, these activities have had a major influence on the landscape in the form of bings and tips, areas of derelict land, operating open-cast workings and associated Industrial infrastructure including disused railway embankments. Hard rock quarries are also visible features in some areas.

Perception

The landscape has an exposed and relatively remote character where wind turbines are not present, although enclosure within the forests can be well defined. Wind farms have reduced the perception of undeveloped character, although this is still associated with higher, exposed areas of remoter moorland. However, there have been signs of human activity in most areas of this Landscape Character Type now. Wildness levels on the western plateau are slightly higher than those in the Central Plateau.

Where forestry permits, views tend to be relatively open across the surrounding valleys and adjacent hill groups. There are a number of man-made features visible, particularly road corridors and electrical infrastructure, though few visual foci are present.



Key landscape issues identified in the Landscape Character Assessment include:

- The fragmentation of land use and ownership at the urban edge resulting in a decline in the landscape quality;
- The effect of alternative activities and land uses such as mineral working and commercial forestry, together with the decline of farming in some of the more marginal areas, resulting in a reduction in traditional forms of landscape management;
- A decline in management means that there has been loss of field boundary trees, hedges and walls;
- In areas where there has been coniferous afforestation, existing landscape character has been modified;
- Conservation and management of historic gardens and designed landscapes, together with surviving historic houses and castles;
- The visual and landscape impacts of communication infrastructure within this open upland landscape;
- The visual effects of past industrial activities and the importance of striking a balance between reclamation, enhancement and the conservation of features of greatest cultural heritage importance.
- Recommendations arising from the Landscape Character Assessment included: -
- Planning and management should aim to restore the rural landscape character by increasing appropriate tree cover particularly in relation to non-rural landscape elements.

10.2 Landscape designations

There are no landscape designations present at Lesmahagow

10.3 Visibility

Although the estate extends over a considerable area, the landform and topology help to reduce its prominence in the landscape.

Since 2012 areas of new planting have generally established well and are developing as significant feature in the wider landscapes, with Brockettsbrae being particularly prominent due to its elevated location.

The forest fringes a number of the minor roads serving the area and is located close to the edges of a number of local settlements.



11.0 Social factors & Recreation

11.1 Recreation

Map 15 shows currently assigned FLS interactive visitor zones within the forest and also the wider recorded path network.

The main recreational use of the Forest is for walking and dog exercising & once within each forest block there is an extensive forest ride network and system of desire lines. That said, visitor numbers are generally low, and concentrated at a few locations.

Due to the fragmented nature of forest blocks that make up Lesmahagow longer distance circular walking links from the main settlements are currently poor, with pedestrians often required to make use of the narrow country roads to gain access.

There are a limited number of surfaced paths present within the forest area, and these are the main focus for recreational use.

Those surfaced routes present in the Brocketsbrae area are mostly located with areas of existing open land, but some sections have mature edge trees forming avenues alongside the route. The high specification path leading north from the core path on Eastwood road to Brockets brae road has been assigned as an interactive visitor zone due to higher public usage and linkage with an orchard planting project.

Similarly the existing path route at Lesmahagow which links from Coalburn Road at Turnburn Brae westwards to New Trows Road (and crossing the river Nethan via a footbridge), is fringed by a mature avenue of trees. This high specification path has been assigned an interactive visitor zone as it links with a number of longer distance walking routes through the Nethan Valley.

The only other surfaced path has recently been constructed by the local community council at Braehead, and links Brom Bellfield Road, through the Forest block to link with the access infrastructure serving Douglas West Windfarm to the south.

FLS carries out regular inspections of path condition and for tree safety.

There are currently no formal parking facilities in the forest, and none proposed within this plan period.

FLS plan to install more permanent access infrastructure in the next ten years and this may present opportunities to improve access and connectivity in the future.

National Cycle Route No.74 runs parallel to the B7078, close to the edge of the Forest Block and there is an extensive network of core path routes serving the area, some of which link to and pass through the Forest.



11.2 Community

Lesmahagow Forest is located in South Lanarkshire, and occupies the land lying generally to the south and east of Lesmahagow (population roughly 8,150).

The forest extents fringe smaller settlements adjacent to Lesmahagow including Brocketsbrae, Auchlochan, Coalburn, and New Trows.

In terms of Community activity FLS have regular contact with the local community Councils and local schools regarding projects within the Forest.

Two active community projects are ongoing at Brocketsbrae, these being a community orchard, and community allotments, both located within the Forest and both run by the community with FLS support.

In terms of anti-social behaviour and its impacts on the forest, the main issues relate to fly-tipping which occurs in a number of areas, usually around gate entrances or roadside laybys, and access to the site by quad bikes and motorbikes.

12.0 Heritage

An archaeological survey was commissioned by FCS in Spring 2009.

The area surrounding the estate is rich in cultural heritage from local communities, agriculture, and the mining activities of the past and present. There are a number of structural remains on the site; from post medieval farmsteads to the Victorian Gothic Revival styled Stockbriggs House. There are also the sites of standing stones long since removed at Crowhill, and the locally well known Wallace’s cave.

Table 49 (below) A list of the recorded historic features present within or in the vicinity of Lesmahagow Forest and shown on Maps 2A-2D Designations are listed in the following table;

CLASS	TYPE	LAIID	NUMLINK	LINK
AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE	RIG AND FURROW (MEDIIEVAL)		255098	https://canmore.org.uk/site/255098/
UNASSIGNED, MONUMENT (BY FORM)	BUILDING(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), ENCLOSURE(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)		180200	https://canmore.org.uk/site/180200/
INDUSTRIAL	COLLIERY(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)		131573	https://canmore.org.uk/site/131573/
INDUSTRIAL	COLLIERY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)		255097	https://canmore.org.uk/site/255097/



CLASS	TYPE	LAID	NUMLINK	LINK
AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	4128 2	180177	https://canmore.org.uk/site/180177/
MONUMENT (BY FORM), DOMESTIC	COUNTRY HOUSE (19TH CENTURY)		316733	https://canmore.org.uk/site/316733/
TRANSPORT	RAILWAY STATION (19-20TH CENTURY)		199913	https://canmore.org.uk/site/199913/
INDUSTRIAL	COLLIERY(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	4103 9	132018	https://canmore.org.uk/site/132018/
INDUSTRIAL	COLLIERY(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	4103 9	132018	https://canmore.org.uk/site/132018/
UNASSIGNED, MONUMENT (BY FORM)	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)		180198	https://canmore.org.uk/site/180198/
MONUMENT (BY FORM), TRANSPORT	ROAD BRIDGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	1011 9	46495	https://canmore.org.uk/site/46495/
AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	4125 3	180206	https://canmore.org.uk/site/180206/
AGRICULTURE AND SUBSISTENCE	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)	4128 4	180175	https://canmore.org.uk/site/180175/
INDUSTRIAL	MINE WORKINGS (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)		266012	https://canmore.org.uk/site/266012/
Cultural				http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM3907

13.0 Statutory requirements and key external policies

Coalburn Moss is a SSSI and SAC. The site will continue to be managed under the Management Plan for the SSSI area. Proposals for the areas adjacent to the SSSI/SAC are likely require consultation with NatureScot with respect to any potential impacts on the designated areas.

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.

All operations will be conducted in accordance with Forest Industry Best Practice Guidance and the UK Forestry Standard.



Appendix III List of Maps

Map Title	Scale	Size
Map 1A Lesmahagow forest location & sub-blocks	1 : 60,000	A3
Map 1B – WIAT & Landscapes	1 : 60,000	A3
Maps 2A – 2D Designations (by sub-block)	1 : 12,500	A3
Map 3 Soils, Hydrology & Terrain	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 4 DAMS (Wind Exposure)	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 5 Existing forest stands	1 : 12,500	A1
Maps 6A – 6D Analysis	1 : 12,500	A3
Maps 7A – 7D Concept	1 : 12,500	A3
Map 8A Management Coupes – coupe number	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 8B Management Coupes – sub-compartments	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 9 Ten year thinning plan	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 10 Future habitats & species	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 11 Proposed woodland creation/expansion	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 12 Proposed forest access	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 13 Ten year timber haulage	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 14 Presence of Ash	1 : 12,500	A1
Map 15 Visitor Zones & Path Networks	1:12,500	A1



Appendix IV Management Objectives 2023-2033

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Management Objective
<p><u>Outcome 1:</u></p> <p>Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy</p> <p>[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.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long- term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land. Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland’s timber processing sector Support the venison processing sector through our deer management. Work proactively with our tenants and stakeholders to identify potential added-Value opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine thinning requirements & timings for both mature and recently established woodland over the plan period. To assess the economic and practical viability of these operations. To assess additional roading or access requirements for management of the woodland over the plan period.
<p><u>Outcome 2:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To pre-emptively remove larch as an early thinning or restructuring operation.



Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Management Objective
<p>Looking after Scotland’s national forests and land</p> <p>[Scotland’s national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration. Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland’s forests and land Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess the impact of Chalara on ash and the potential options for intervention and mitigation measures. To contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the site’s biodiversity value through appropriate design and management. To protect and manage Coalburn LRB SSSI – currently under a under management programme, including an assessment of re-wetting opportunities and grazing management. To establish a methodology for the monitoring and management of the Native woodland forest habitat network management. To review the management of PAWS areas and assess the implementation of management recommendations and the need for further works. To examine options for alternative restocking, including woodland expansion. To review management options for open ground. <p>To appropriately manage existing features of cultural interest including woodland pasture.</p>
<p><u>Outcome 3:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to provide a facility for the allotments and maintain liaison with the local community. To review the current management requirements for maintaining this facility.



Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Management Objective
<p>National forests and land for visitors and communities</p> <p>[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.]</p>	<p>experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to maintain the showground area as open ground and review the cropping let associated with this area. To investigate opportunity to provide links to the Active Travel plan project for South Lanarkshire. To review and assess access provision within the Visitor Zones in terms of their management and development.