



South Kyle Concept

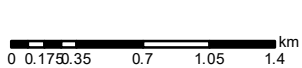
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Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

Date: 09/11/2022

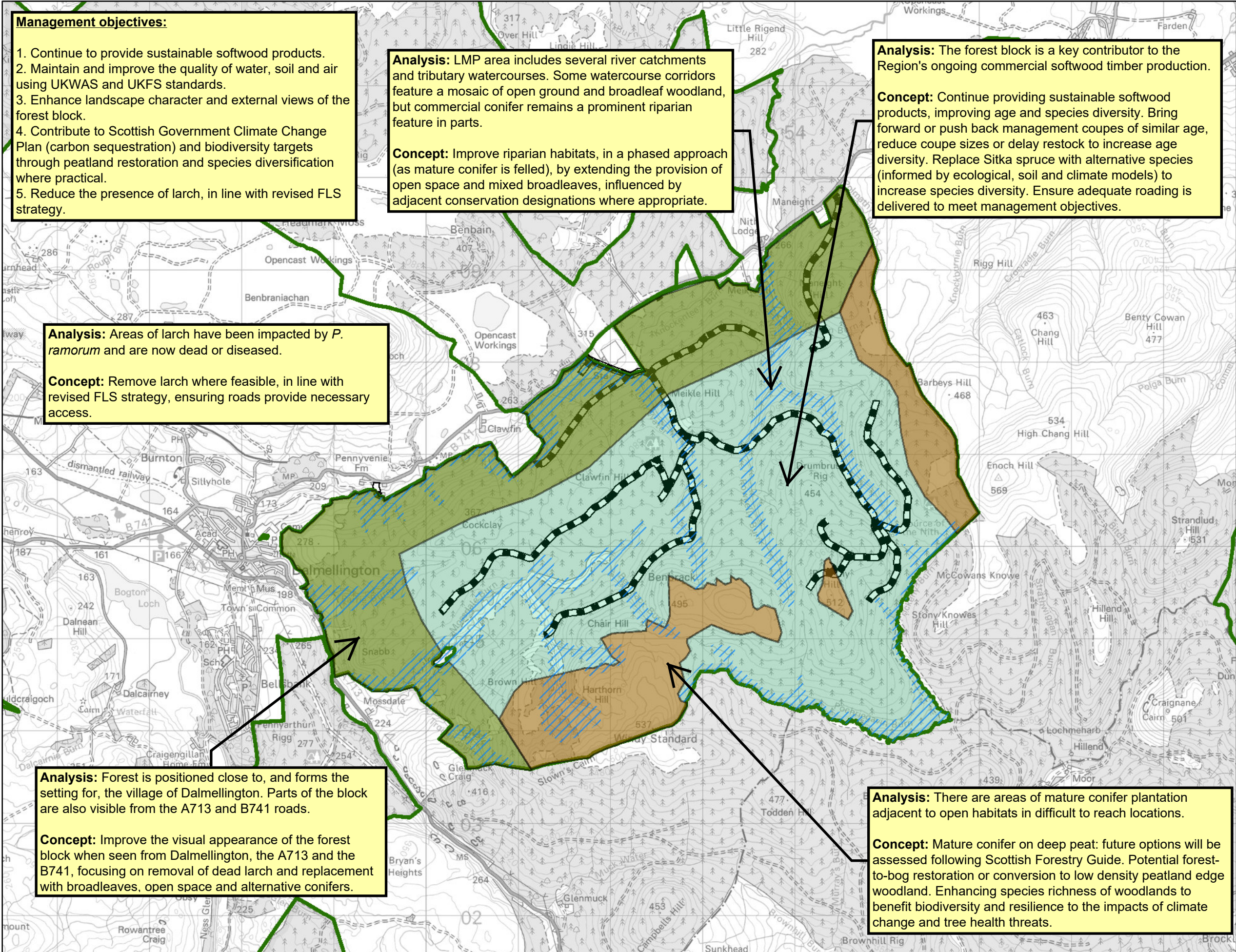
Legend

- Blocks
- Forest Roads
- Core timber production area
- Riparian habitat area
- Upland fringe habitat area
- Visual amenity corridors



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



**Management objectives:**

1. Continue to provide sustainable softwood products.
2. Maintain and improve the quality of water, soil and air using UKWAS and UKFS standards.
3. Enhance landscape character and external views of the forest block.
4. Contribute to Scottish Government Climate Change Plan (carbon sequestration) and biodiversity targets through peatland restoration and species diversification where practical.
5. Reduce the presence of larch, in line with revised FLS strategy.

**Analysis:** LMP area includes several river catchments and tributary watercourses. Some watercourse corridors feature a mosaic of open ground and broadleaf woodland, but commercial conifer remains a prominent riparian feature in parts.

**Concept:** Improve riparian habitats, in a phased approach (as mature conifer is felled), by extending the provision of open space and mixed broadleaves, influenced by adjacent conservation designations where appropriate.

**Analysis:** The forest block is a key contributor to the Region's ongoing commercial softwood timber production.

**Concept:** Continue providing sustainable softwood products, improving age and species diversity. Bring forward or push back management coupes of similar age, reduce coupe sizes or delay restock to increase age diversity. Replace Sitka spruce with alternative species (informed by ecological, soil and climate models) to increase species diversity. Ensure adequate roading is delivered to meet management objectives.

**Analysis:** Areas of larch have been impacted by *P. ramorum* and are now dead or diseased.

**Concept:** Remove larch where feasible, in line with revised FLS strategy, ensuring roads provide necessary access.

**Analysis:** Forest is positioned close to, and forms the setting for, the village of Dalmellington. Parts of the block are also visible from the A713 and B741 roads.

**Concept:** Improve the visual appearance of the forest block when seen from Dalmellington, the A713 and the B741, focusing on removal of dead larch and replacement with broadleaves, open space and alternative conifers.

**Analysis:** There are areas of mature conifer plantation adjacent to open habitats in difficult to reach locations.

**Concept:** Mature conifer on deep peat: future options will be assessed following Scottish Forestry Guide. Potential forest-to-bog restoration or conversion to low density peatland edge woodland. Enhancing species richness of woodlands to benefit biodiversity and resilience to the impacts of climate change and tree health threats.