



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# Cally Woods

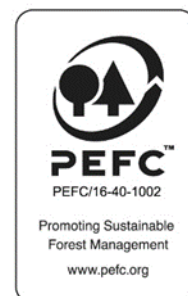
## Land Management Plan 2022 - 2032

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



| Property details                       |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Property Name:                         | Cally Woods         |
| Grid Reference (main forest entrance): | NX 605548           |
| Nearest town or locality:              | Gatehouse of Fleet  |
| Local Authority:                       | Dumfries & Galloway |

| Applicant's details |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Title / Forename:   | Stephen   |
| Surname:            | Stables   |
| Position:           | Planning Forester   |
| Contact number:     |   |
| Email:              | stephen.stables@forestryandland.gov.scot  |
| Address:            | Forestry and Land Scotland, South Region, Newton Stewart Office, Creebridge, Newton Stewart |
| Postcode:           | DG8 6AJ   |

| Owner's Details (if different from Applicant) |     |
|---|-----|
| Name:   | N/A |
| Address:                                      | N/A |

1. I apply for Land Management Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Land Management Plan.
2. I apply for an opinion under the terms of the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for **afforestation / deforestation / roads / quarries** as detailed in my application.
3. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included. Where it has not been possible to resolve specific issues associated with the plan to the satisfaction of the consultees, this is highlighted in the Consultation Record.
4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
5. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

|                                |       |                        |   |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------|---|
| Signed,<br>Pp Regional Manager |       | Signed,<br>Conservator | <i>L. Faralova</i><br>SF Operations and Tree Health Manager |
| FLS Region                     | South | SF Conservancy         | South   |
| Date                           |       | Date of Approval       | 21/09/2022  |
|                                |       | Date Approval Ends     | 21/09/2032  |

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# 1.0 Objectives and Summary

## 1.1 Plan overview and objectives

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Plan name</b>              | Cally Woods                       |
| <b>Forest blocks included</b> | Cally Woods                       |
| <b>Size of plan area (ha)</b> | 307.8ha                           |
| <b>Location</b>               | See Location map ( <b>Map 1</b> ) |

|  |
|--|
| <b>Long Term Vision</b>  |
| The long term vision is for the gradual conversion of almost all of the plan area to permanent broadleaf woodland (mixed species) to be managed under Low Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS) that both showcases the varied features of the Designed Landscape and facilitates a quality Visitor/Recreational experience.  |
| <b>Management Objectives</b>   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protect and enhance the Designed Landscape/ Historic Environment associated with the plan</li> <li>2. Maintain and enhance the LMP area as a recreation and community resource for locals and visitors</li> <li>3. Maintain and enhance (expand and link) existing native woodland remnants particularly those associated with PAWS areas</li> <li>4. Modest sustainable timber production subject to above</li> </ol> |
| <b>Critical Success Factors</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection and enhancement of all features of the Cally Designed Landscape features</li> <li>• Conservation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and other heritage features</li> <li>• Removal of Larch infected by <i>P ramorum</i></li> <li>• Control of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i></li> <li>• Establish alternative timber haulage access for section of LMP to the south of the trunk road</li> </ul>               |

## 1.2 Summary of planned operations

Table 1

| Summary of Operations over the Plan Period |         |
|--|---------|
| Clear felling (gross)                      | 17.7ha  |
| Thinning (potential area)                  | 290.1ha |
| Restocking (gross)                         | 17.7 ha |
| Afforestation                              | 0.0 ha  |
| Deforestation                              | 0.0 ha  |
| Forest roads                               | 600m    |
| Forestry quarries                          | 0.0ha   |

The forest is managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the *Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification*. Forestry and Land Scotland is independently audited to ensure that we are delivering sustainable forest management.

## 2.0 Analysis and Concept

The design concept forms the broad framework for the detailed design and is presented graphically in Map 4: Analysis and Concept.

### National Scenic Area

A significant part of the plan area lies within the NSA. Key management objectives for the NSA (“recognise, protect, conserve and enhance the landscape character, scenic qualities and local distinctiveness of the Fleet Valley”) underpin all planned operations.

### Designed Landscape – conserve and enhance features

Designed Landscape features are found throughout the block. Linked to the focal point that is Cally Palace, they significantly contribute to the local scenery and heritage. The Cally Designed Landscape Management Plan (prepared by Solway Heritage 2007) provides a baseline for managing the area.

### Visible roadside corridor - improve aesthetics

With the A75(T) cutting through the block, the woodland particularly on Bar Hill and Crow Hill is highly visible from both approaches and in passing. As far as possible maintaining permanent woodland cover and developing highly visible “character” trees is important.

### Ancient Woodland sites

Ancient Woodland sites (Syllodioc Wood and Bar Hill) and Long Established of Plantation Origin broadleaf woodland sites lie within and around the block. These sites will be managed as per agreed PAWS management plans with an overall long term aim to restore back to Native Oak Woodland and increase the overall area of native broadleaf species.

The planning process was informed by collecting information about the woodland, which is presented in **Appendix I** and on the Key Features map (**Map 2**). During the development of this plan we have consulted widely with the local community (including a ZOOM meeting) and other key stakeholders.

A Consultation Record is presented in **Appendix III**.

Below lists the objectives for the site and how the key features present opportunity or constraint. The Analysis of these form the concept for this Land Management Plan.

**Objective: Protect and enhance the Historic Environment / Designed Landscape associated with the LMP**

- **Opportunities:**
  - Focus on the wider highlighting/displaying and connectivity of elements of the Designed Landscape
- **Constraints:**
  - Potential removal of valuable broadleaf woodland to display old views (and maintenance thereof)
  - Gradual period of transformation
- **Concept:**
  - Increased thinning (small scale felling) should improve visitor access, internal views and appreciation of Designed Landscape

**Objective: Maintain and enhance the LMP area as a core recreation and community resource for locals and visitors**

- **Opportunities:**
  - Expansion of core facilities (alternative route options, enhanced car parking)
- **Constraints:**
  - Core funding
- **Concept:**
  - Enhanced thinning infrastructure could improve access options
  - Increased thinning should improve “feel” and visitor appreciation of block

**Objective: Maintain and enhance (expand and link) existing native woodland remnants particularly those associate with PAWS areas**

- **Opportunities:**
  - Gradual conifer removal and replacement with BL species could lead to a significant expansion of new mixed woodland throughout the block
- **Constraints:**
  - Effective deer control of restock areas
- **Concept:**
  - Consider biodegradable tree shelters and/or grouping restock species sensitive to deer browsing into areas where deer control can be effective



**Objective: Modest sustainable timber production and soft conifer establishment subject to above to meet UKFS requirements**

- **Opportunities:**
  - Modest restock areas of soft (non-spruce ) conifer
  - Increase levels of thinning to optimise broadleaf timber production and increase product specification
- **Constraints:**
  - Effective deer control of restock areas
  - Constrained timber haulage egress
- **Concept:**
  - Consider biodegradable tree shelters and/or grouping restock species sensitive to deer browsing into areas where deer control can be effective
  - Explore alternative timber haulage egress options south of the A75(T)

Different management options for achieving the plan’s objectives were considered against the constraints and opportunities identified during scoping and consultation. The preferred approach is summarised on the Analysis and Concept maps (**Map 3**).

## 3.0 Management Proposals - regulatory requirements

This land management plan was produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs, recognised at the time of its production. A full list of the current standards and guidance which guide the preparation and delivery of FLS Land Management Plans can be found using the link [HERE](#).

### 3.1 Designations

The plan area forms part of, includes, or is covered by the following designations and significant features.

Table 2.

| Designations and significant features      |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| Feature type                               | Present | Note   |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | No      |  |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR)              | No      |  |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)              | No      |  |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC)         | No      |  |
| World Heritage Site (WHS)                  | No      |  |
| Scheduled Monument (SM)                    | Yes     | <p>The main archaeological feature (SM) in the block is the Cally Motte, the remnants of a 12th Century Anglo Norman earthworks, currently managed as per FLS guidelines and our agreed asset management plan (the site was interpreted in 1999 as part of Solway Heritage's Archaeosites project).</p> <p>The main management objective for the motte is buffered open meadow around the feature blending into woodland.</p>  |
| National Scenic Area (NSA)                 | Yes     | <p>Fleet Valley NSA</p> <p>National Scenic areas are an important resource for Dumfries and Galloway attracting tourism, providing an attractive setting for business and contributing to the quality of life in the region.</p> <p>Key Woodland, Cultural and heritage issues within the NSA are the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for sensitive forest design (including key long views)</li> <li>• Provision of Recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Conservation and expansion of native and riparian woodland</li> <li>• Retention of Tree Avenues</li> <li>• Conservation of designed landscapes</li> <li>• Safeguarding of important archaeological sites from disturbance and damage</li> </ul> |

| Designations and significant features   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| National Park (NP)                      | No  |   |
| Deep peat soil (>50 cm thick)           | Yes | There are few examples of deep peat within the block, accordingly opportunities for peatland restoration are minimal.   |
| Tree Preservation Order (TPO)           | No  |   |
| Biosphere reserve                       | Yes | Galloway Hills and South Ayrshire Biosphere   |
| Local Landscape Area                    | Yes | Galloway Hills and Solway Coast   |
| Ancient woodland                        | Yes | As identified in the Ancient Woodland Inventory survey for Scotland the plan area contains significant areas of both Ancient and Semi Natural (ASNW) and Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) woodland. |
| Acid sensitive catchment                | No  |   |
| Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface) | No  |   |
| Environmentally Sensitive Area          | Yes | Western Southern Uplands (ESA 2)  |
| Designed Landscape                      | Yes | As identified in "An Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland Volume 2: Dumfries and Galloway and Strathclyde"  |

The Key Features map (**Map 2**) shows the location of all designated areas and significant features. Any deep peats are indicated on the Soils map (**Map 9**).

## 3.2 Clear felling

Sites proposed for clear felling in the plan period are identified as Phase 1 and Phase 2 coupes on the Management map (**Map 4**).

Table 3

| Clearfell Summary by Phase and Coupe Number |              |           |                 |
|---|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Phase                                       | Coupe Number | Fell Year | Gross Area (ha) |
| Phase 1                                     | 82005        | 2022/23   | 17.7            |
| <b>Total</b>                                |              |           | <b>17.7ha</b>   |

Table 4

| Clearfell by Species |           |  |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |    |    |             |
|----------------------|-----------|--|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-------------|
|                      |           | Net Area (ha) by Main Species >20% (or MC, MB) |     |     |     |    |    |    |     |    |    |             |
| Coupe Number         | Fell Year | CP   | DF  | EL  | JL  | LP | NS | SP | SS  | MC | MB | Coupe Total |
| 82005                | 2022/23   | -  | 8.6 | 5.4 | 2.7 | -  | -  | -  | 0.2 | -  | -  | 16.9        |
| Plan Area Total      |           | -  | 8.6 | 5.4 | 2.7 | -  | -  | -  | 0.2 | -  | -  | 16.9        |

NB Coupe totals: Table 3 shows gross coupe area / Table 4 shows net area of species

Table 5

| Scale of Proposed Felling Areas |         |     |          |   |         |   |         |   |                     |      |
|---------------------------------|---------|-----|----------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------------------|------|
| Total Woodland Area             |         |     | 308.0 ha |   |         |   |         |   |                     |      |
| Felling                         | Phase 1 | %   | Phase 2  | % | Phase 3 | % | Phase 4 | % | Long Term Retention | %    |
| NetArea(ha)                     | 16.9    | 5.5 | -        | - | -       | - | -       | - | 291.2               | 94.5 |

### 3.3 Thinning

The entire plan area is potentially available for thinning (identified on the thinning **Map 5**) with plantation on both sides of the A75(T) scheduled for thinning during the period of the plan (an area of 290.1ha).

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum MAI, or YC, per year). Higher intensities (no more than 140% of maximum MAI, or YC, per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger tree sizes are being sought or as part of a LISS prescription. In all cases work plans will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried out and operations will be monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

### 3.4 Other tree felling in exceptional circumstances

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

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

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

Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below\*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage, or impeded drainage.

*\*Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities and services, and drains.*

The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances over the plan area covered by this approval is 75m<sup>3</sup> per calendar year (ref. SF FLS working agreement).

A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five year Land Management Plan review.

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

## 3.5 Restocking

Proposed restocking is shown on the Future Habitats and Species map (**Map 6**).

Our restocking proposals for clearfell sites have been selected by ESC, on-site observations and the previous rotations. Where appropriate, species diversification has been undertaken utilising both BL and alternative conifers for species diversification. Species choice also meets the criteria for restocking under UKFS, UKWAS and internal FC policy.

Native small seeded broadleaves will comprise most of the proposed restocking as well as some native Oak for Ancient Woodland restoration.

**Table 6**

| Restocking |              |                 |                       |                 |          |                                 |      |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|------|
| Phase †    | Coupe Number | Gross Area (ha) | Proposed Restock Year | Species         | Method * | Minimum stocking Density (s/ha) | Note |
| 1          | 82005        | 10.5<br>7.2     | 2024                  | SP<br>Native BL | R<br>R   | 2500<br>1600                    |      |
|            | <b>Total</b> | 17.7            |                       |                 |          |                                 |      |

† recently felled awaiting restock (F) / Phase 1 (1) / Phase 2 (2)

\* replant (R) / natural regeneration (NR) / plant alternative area (ALT) / no restocking (None)

If the Restock or natural regeneration should fail to reach 1600 stems per hectare (Native Broadleaves) or 2500 sph (productive Conifers) the site will be beaten-up to the required planting density. This will be assessed at year 3 and year 5 after planting with beat up by at least year 5 for all species.

## 3.6 Species diversity and age structure

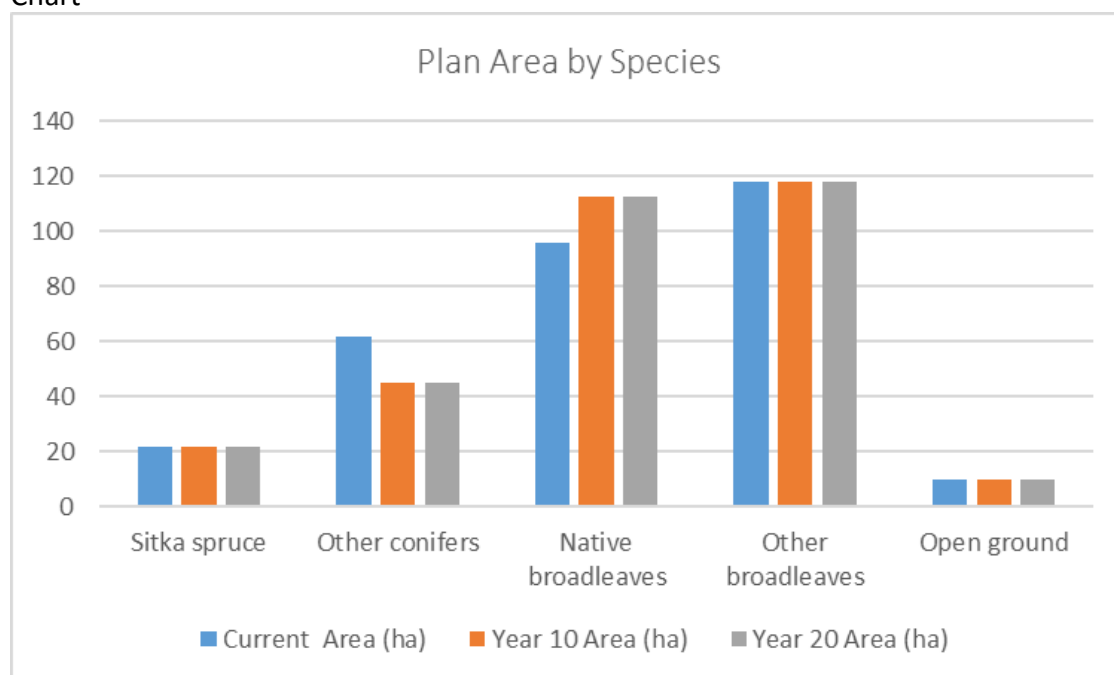
The following tables show how the proposed management of the forest will help to maintain or establish a diverse species composition and age-class structure, as recommended in the UK Forestry Standard. The current woodland composition is shown on **Map 8**.

Stands adjoining felled areas will be retained until the restocking of the first coupe has reached a minimum height of 2m. Where this is not possible (e.g. due to windblow risk), the planned approach to achieving height separation between adjacent coupes is outlined in section 4.1 – Clear felling.

Table 7

| Plan area by species |                   |              |                   |              |                   |              |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Species              | Current Area (ha) |              | Year 10 Area (ha) |              | Year 20 Area (ha) |              |
|                      | Area (ha)         | %            | Area (ha)         | %            | Area (ha)         | %            |
| Sitka spruce         | 22.1              | 7.2          | 21.9              | 7.1          | 21.9              | 7.1          |
| Other conifers       | 61.6              | 20.0         | 44.9              | 14.6         | 44.9              | 14.6         |
| Native broadleaves   | 95.9              | 31.2         | 112.8             | 36.7         | 112.8             | 36.7         |
| Other broadleaves    | 118.0             | 38.3         | 118.0             | 38.3         | 118.0             | 38.3         |
| Open ground          | 10.2              | 3.3          | 10.2              | 3.3          | 10.2              | 3.3          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> |

Chart



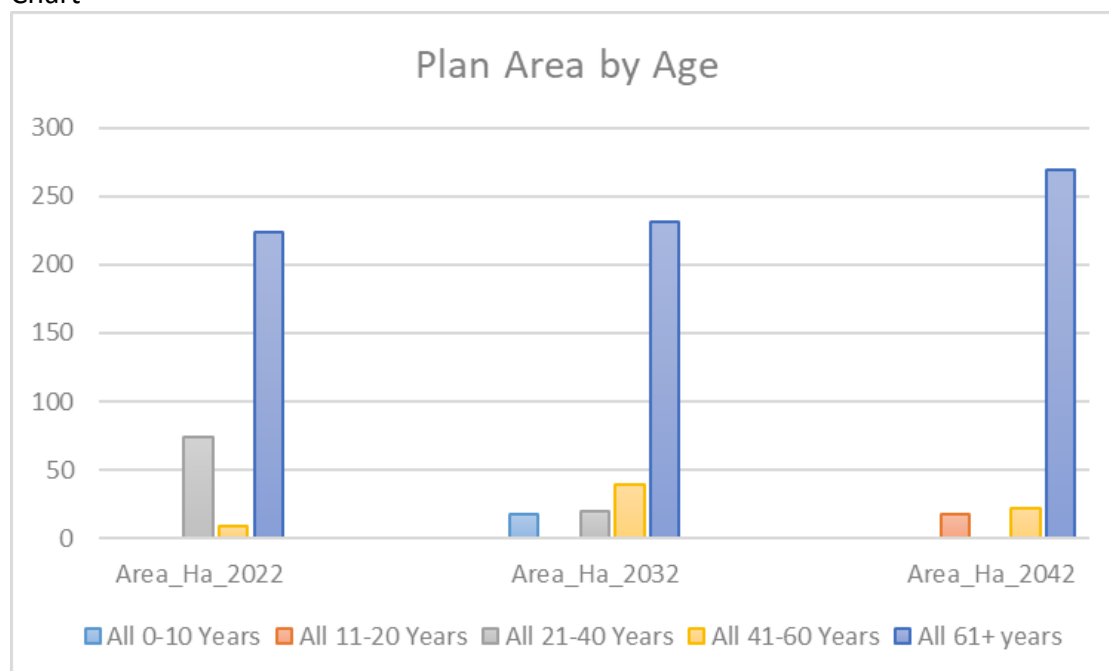
The initial plantation mix of broadleaf, Larch and other conifers has resulted in an essentially diverse woodland containing a range of broadleaf species; Oak, Ash and Beech with small pockets of conifer. Given the recent impacts on species such as *P ramorum* on Larch and

*Chalara* on Ash this relatively diverse species mix will be maintained through additional broadleaf restock.

Table 8

| Plan area by Age  |                   |              |                   |              |                   |              |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Age Class (years) | Current Area (ha) |              | Year 10 Area (ha) |              | Year 20 Area (ha) |              |
|                   | Area (ha)         | %            | Area (ha)         | %            | Area (ha)         | %            |
| 0 – 10            | 0.00              | 0.0          | 17.7              | 5.7          | 0.0               | 0.0          |
| 11 – 20           | 0.00              | 0.0          | 0.0               | 0.0          | 17.7              | 5.7          |
| 21 – 40           | 74.4              | 24.2         | 19.7              | 6.4          | 0.0               | 0.0          |
| 41 – 60           | 9.4               | 3.0          | 39.6              | 12.9         | 21.5              | 7.0          |
| 60+               | 224.0             | 72.8         | 230.8             | 75.0         | 268.6             | 87.3         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> | <b>307.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> |

Chart



Although age-class structure is, and appears in the future, to be skewed towards essentially a more mature woodland, planned regular thinning as part of LISS will over time introduce additional elements of younger crop that will improve the woodland structure.

### 3.7 Road Operations and Quarries

Planned new roads, road realignments, road upgrades, new quarrying, and timber haulage routes are shown on the Road Operations and Timber Haulage map (**Map 7**).

Table 9

| Forest Road Upgrades, Realignments, New Roads and New Quarrying |               |            |      |                           |
|---|---------------|------------|------|---------------------------|
| Phase   | Name / Number | Length (m) | Year | Operation                 |
| 1   | 82005         | 600m       | 2022 | Construct new forest road |
|   |               |            |      |                           |



## 3.8 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Any operations requiring an EIA determination are shown in the table below. If required, the screening opinion request form is presented in **Appendix II**.

Table 10

| EIA projects in the plan area |          |  |
|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Type of project               | Yes / No | Note   |
| Afforestation                 | No       |  |
| Deforestation                 | No       |  |
| Forest roads                  | Yes      | <p>Planned construction of a new section of road to access coupe 82005(600m) is scheduled for the period of the plan along with some possible upgrading and maintenance of the existing road network, up to around 5000m.</p> <p>An assessment of the roading network throughout the National Forest Estate has been undertaken to see if a Construction licence from SEPA is required for works; none of the planned roading projects within the forest block will exceed the threshold requirements.</p> <p>All road construction would adhere to best practice regarding protection of the water environment from contamination and maintain natural water pathways. Currently all timber haulage from the block uses existing forest road and the minor county road network north as a haulage exit route.</p> |
| Forestry quarries             | No       |  |

## 3.9 Tolerance table

Working tolerances agreed with Scottish Forestry are shown in **Appendix IV**.

## 4.0 Management Proposals – guidance and context

### 4.1 Silviculture

#### 4.1.1 Clear felling

Given the landscape and Recreational demands for the plan area, clear felling is not generally viewed as being appropriate management type. A single clearfell coupe centred on Bar Hill south of the A75(T) has however been identified to remove an area of dead and dying larch (including some associated other conifer). This coupe is scheduled for removal during phase 1 of the plan period (refer to **Map 4**).

Other larch within the plan area will be systematically removed via thinning operations scheduled for phase 2.

To achieve the UK Forestry Standard of separation between adjacent crops, adjoining coupes should not be felled before the restocking of the first area has reached an average height of at least two metres. We expect this to be achieved in 5 years following planting.

Any unforeseen reduction in separation during the period of the plan will be formally agreed with Scottish Forestry as an amendment. Felling will be undertaken once trees in adjacent restocked coupes have reached 2 m height.

#### 4.1.2 Thinning

Whilst thinning has previously taken place throughout the entire plan area it is some years since the last intervention. To address this two coupes covering the entire plan area to both sides of the A75(T) have been identified for thinning during phase 2 of the plan period (refer to **Map 5**).

Essentially broadleaf woodland, both sides of the trunk road contain small conifer sections resulting in a complex species mix that will inevitably require a range of silvicultural thinning treatments for example very light thinning in and around Laundry Cottage to maintain as far as possible a timber screen for noise abatement from the A75(T) (section 3.3 thinning intensities refer).

#### 4.1.3 Low Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS) / Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)

Apart from the Natural Reserve coupe 82002, the long term vision is for the remainder of the block (including the proposed clearfell area 82005) to be managed under a Low Impact Silviculture System (LISS) that will maintain a permanent and essentially broadleaf woodland cover.

With low to moderate DAMS scores (Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring) and site types that should accommodate management under LISS, Group Shelterwood will be the dominant management type and should, through regular thinning and occasional small-scale clearfells of <2ha (perhaps centred on windthrow and/or dying larch areas), provide spatial diversity and areas for either natural regeneration or targeted restock of small seeded native tree and shrub species (refer to **Maps 4 & 10**).

Group Shelterwood generally encompasses:

- progressive thinning
- clearance of windthrow patches
- small-scale felling patches of 0.5ha up to 2.0ha to stimulate restructuring and promote regeneration of target tree species

If there is a management requirement for any coupe greater than 2.0ha to be felled then that prescription will be initially agreed with the SF as per the Tolerance Tables in Appendix IV.

| Objective  | Implementation   |
|--|--|
| Cally woods are high public access areas where landscape and the need to maintain a permanent BL woodland cover are priorities                                 | Modify treatment intensities according to Visitor Zone priorities  |
| Public are uncomfortable with "dark" woodlands; favour BL (particularly Oak) and remove conifer species (Spruce, Western Hemlock and Lawson Cypress)           | Small-scale felling to respond to windthrow or removal of spruce crops up to 2.0ha.<br>Clearfell areas over 2.0ha will be by formal amendment to design plan<br>Create open space / thin / operate LISS to favour optimal species and remove sub optimal / non tolerated species |
| Favour native species and "character" conifers for species diversity and additional nature conservation benefit (habitat variety and Red Squirrel food source) | Wet areas adjoining burns may provide opportunities to create wet woodland with Willow, Alder and open space   |

Acknowledging the Designed Landscape and Community aims, all future operations work in the block must be supervised to ensure minimum site disturbance.

Survey work, prior to any operations, will be required to check for the presence / evidence of protected species like Red Squirrel, Otter and Badger.

All harvesting operations will conform to Forests and Water Guidelines (5th edition) and Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) regulations 2008.

#### 4.1.4 Long term retention (LTR) / Minimum intervention (MI) / Natural reserve (NR)

Identified as Long Established Plantation Origin (LEPO), an area comprising mature broadleaf planted between 1900 - 1936 (with a section of natural regeneration and associated Ancient Woodland vegetation), is to be managed as Natural Reserve (refer to **Map 4**). This single coupe (82002: 5.8ha) centred around the Bar Hill Lodge area south of the A75(T) will be managed as Natural Reserve due to the significantly older broadleaves present (see sections 4.2.2 & 4.2.3).

Natural Reserves are predominantly wooded areas managed in perpetuity by minimum intervention where conservation of biodiversity is the prime objective. Management will be essentially be restricted to:

- Wildlife management
- removal of invasive exotics/non-native tree regeneration that could reduce value for biodiversity
- actions to benefit specific species of conservation priority
- fire fighting

#### 4.1.5 Tree species choice / Restocking

Refer to **Map 6**.

Early planting and restock prescriptions across the block, based on the then existing mature crops and an objective assessment of site potential, resulted in an initial mix of broadleaf, Larch and other conifers ((40%:40%;20%). With much of the larch grown in mixture with the broadleaf and scheduled to be removed during the period of the plan to bequeath broadleaf woodland, the vision for the woodland would have been virtually 80% broadleaf cover with Oak, Ash and Beech the main species and open ground with or without a small conifer component. Given the recent impacts on species choice such as *P ramorum* on Larch and *Chalara* on Ash this original vision has not yet been achieved. Currently an alternate relatively diverse species mix of around 70% broadleaf and 30% conifer exists that, post proposed clearfell, will move the block towards an 80%:20% broadleaf conifer split, something more akin to the original vision.

All proposed broadleaf planting will be native to the area and should complement and/or enrich existing naturally growing scrub and woodland to give the most ecological value. The Restocking Strategy for Scotland's National Forest Estate explains that we will minimise chemical usage in restocking (insecticides and herbicides) by considering options at the site scale, and using tactics such as delayed planting to achieve this.

#### 4.1.6 Natural regeneration

Natural regeneration of the desired species in CCF areas will be recruited as the next rotation, and it will be important that thinning/CCF interventions avoid damage to young trees.

There should be a preference for natural regeneration of broadleaf areas (to maintain provenance and improve the chances of establishment) but where this is unlikely or has not been successful then these areas should be planted/beaten up to the required stocking density and site requirements.

There are some productive sites where conifer natural regeneration is occurring, these will be monitored and managed according to the approved land use and recorded in the FLS sub-compartment database. Where this is the desired species, we will endeavour to use it to establish the required stocking density which if too low, will be beaten up by year 5. If the natural regeneration is too dense it may be necessary to clear and/or respase. Where the natural regeneration is not the desired species or proposed land use (e.g. on managed open

ground or within broadleaf areas) it will be considered against the plan objectives and tolerance table and either accepted or removed (with a plan amendment if necessary). It is expected that some of the riparian zones, designed open ground and broadleaf areas will fill in with natural regeneration of both conifers and broadleaves. This will be managed in such a way as to ensure that, where practicable, it does not significantly impose a negative impact upon the objectives of the plan or create a negative impact upon the watercourse in terms of shading and acidification.

There is currently around 3% of open ground in the plan area so there is limited scope for increased woodland cover without compromising UKFS requirements.

#### 4.1.7 New planting

There is no new planting planned for the period of this plan.

#### 4.1.8 Protection

##### **Deer**

There is a significant challenge in establishing species palatable to deer such as soft conifers and broadleaves. Generally, within the South Region there is a presumption not to erect physical protections against deer with the current Regional Deer Management Strategy being to manage the deer population through achieving set annual cull targets (determined using integrated data i.e. population counts, fecundity/mortality rates, and damage levels) to meet land management objectives.

Proposed restock areas have been chosen primarily on the basis of site suitability in addition to accessibility for protection. At the work planning stage, we will re-assess all restock areas to determine site specific deer management requirements. If the potential occurrence of deer browsing is high, and where protection through deer population control alone is likely to prove difficult, alternative protection measures such as biodegradable plastic tree shelters may be used. Establishment will be assessed at year five upon completion of restock when, if tree shelters have been used, a plan for their removal and recycling will be put in place assuming the trees are satisfactorily established and less susceptible to continued browsing pressure.

##### **Fire**

FLS continues to work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to prevent and tackle wildfires that threaten Scotland's National Forests and Land. FLS support SFRS in their lead role for fire prevention and suppression through creating annual fire plans, maintaining a duty rota, and providing additional logistical support.

FLS's primary objective is always to protect people's health, safety and wellbeing.

##### **Tree Pests and Diseases**

See Appendix I for detail.

#### 4.1.9 Road operations, Timber haulage and other infrastructure

**Map 7** shows the existing forest road network, planned new roads, main egress points, and agreed Timber Transport Routes.

A short section of new standard forest road specifications construction has been identified to facilitate timber stacking for the planned phase 1 clearfell coupe to the south of the trunk road.

All stone material will be externally sourced from the nearby FLS Glengap quarry in the Laurieston LMP.

## 4.2 Biodiversity

### 4.2.1 Designated sites

The nationally important Designed Landscape is important both within the local landscape NSA and for the local community.

Management of the entire block is gradually moving towards a version of Low Impact Silviculture System (LISS). When conifer removal is complete, or reaches an acceptable level, a Minimum Intervention / Natural Reserve system to maintain permanent broadleaf woodland cover will generally operate to enhance the woodland and its designed landscape character. Areas identified for productive broadleaf will continue to be thinned.

#### Woodland:

Woodland, associated with Cally for centuries, was planted for economic as well as aesthetic purposes and remained generally unchanged throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. When the woodland was felled and replanted in the 1930s many of the parks were infilled. Whilst the extent of the woodland has increased by adopting similar restock species the essential mixed broadleaf character of the woodland has been retained and continues to provide an important element of the designed landscape character.

Whilst opportunities may exist to apply heavier thinning prescriptions in and around some of the woodland features (Cally Motte, Old Schoolhouse, Temple) the reinstatement of some famed local viewpoints and views may not be achievable due to the high level of clear-fell required.

#### Parkland:

Most of the open parkland element of the designed landscape is under private ownership e.g. the golf course but a variety of dry stone dykes and Ha-Has remain on FLS land as indicators of parkland enclosure. These features will be managed as per the Cally Designed Landscape Management Plan.

#### Gardens:

The gardens are the lawns, shrubberies and walled gardens associated with the house. None are on FLS land save the small-scale nursery.

#### Water bodies:

All of the watercourses have been manipulated to serve the estate, providing water to power mills, supplying water to estate houses and creating scenic features such as Cally lake or were used along with the walls and boundary fences to restrict stock movement.

#### Roads walks and Bridges:

Drives and walks have been developed both externally (the route from Girthon Parish Church to Gatehouse of Fleet) and within the policy woodland linking the house to the walled gardens and Temple for both pedestrian and horse drawn carriage use.

#### Buildings:

Buildings are an important feature of any designed landscape. Many buildings associated with Cally Woods have been included in a list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Historic Scotland publication). Only the Temple and old School House are on FLS land, both will be managed as per the Cally Designed Landscape Management Plan.

The local community have been very active accessing significant external funding to restore many elements of the designed landscape e.g. drystone dykes, Hahas, the Temple and old school house. Thinning around these areas in consultation with communities should continue and be a primary driver of the plan. Management prescriptions should include provisions to ensure thinning and future tree specimen selection for the long-term are retained.

#### 4.2.2 Native woodland

Whilst there is abundant evidence of long-established woodland due to a diverse ground flora and scattered remains of estate planting in the surrounding woodland, no obvious ancient woodland remnants are visible and there tends to be no clear distinction between the areas of LEPO and the area mapped as ancient woodland – indeed the latter area was dominated by Douglas fir and appears less diverse than most of the LEPO. Ground flora in the LEPO area includes species such as Wild Hyacinth (bluebell in England) and Enchanters Nightshade, species that are considered to be ancient woodland indicators in parts of England. Whilst these species are not in themselves of high conservation status they frequently occur in long-established woodland of the relevant types in Scotland with the woodlands effectively acting as a reservoir of woodland plants in a fairly intensively managed landscape. Consideration should be given to avoiding the most rich flora patches in any extraction routes or dense brush areas.

In sections, there is an abundant underwood of deciduous trees within the dying larch areas that should, if protected during harvesting operations, thrive once the larch canopy is thinned out / removed.

#### 4.2.3 Ancient woodland / Plantation on Ancient Woodland sites (PAWs)

The AWI has classified most of the woodland here as Long Established Plantation Origin (LEPO) (i.e. it appeared on the First Edition map as plantation) with small sections of ancient woodland sites (Syllodioch Wood and Bar Hill), reflecting the approximate position of woodland on the Roy map.

All of the woodland will be managed as per agreed PAWS management plans with an overall long term aim to increase the area of native broadleaf species.

#### 4.2.4 Protected and priority habitats and species

All forest management operations involve a planning process before work commences which includes checks for wildlife and important habitats. Work plans will be adjusted if necessary to avoid disturbance, and opportunities to further protect species or enhance habitats will be identified.

Red squirrel

FLS has a single licence to cover forest management activities that may affect red squirrels on the national forest estate (NFE). This is in accord with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy's aim

to resolve species management issues. All works within the Plan area will follow the assessment and mitigation actions set out as conditions of this licence.

Recent surveys confirm the presence of Red Squirrel (UKBAP priority species) throughout the block at healthy densities. Given the high proportion of existing large seeded broadleaf and moderate connectivity to surrounding broadleaf woodland the block is highly vulnerable to Grey Squirrel colonisation (populations of Greys have been confirmed throughout the plan area in recent years). The DP unit is not recognised as priority woodland and one of a small suite of “Red Squirrel Stronghold Sites” designated by the Scottish Government where Red Squirrel can be helped to survive but because of its local importance and its proximity to Fleet Basin “Red Squirrel Stronghold Sites” monitoring will take place. Our long term aim to restore extended rotation broadleaf woodland guarantees habitat that will however remain advantageous towards Red squirrel. Grey Squirrel has been detected close to the area with potential incursion in the block being monitored through sightings. Organisations such as Saving Scotland’s Red Squirrels (acting under Scotland Wildlife Trust) and local squirrel groups are subsequently notified and if seen as a significant threat, these groups may then initiate further monitoring and or control actions as required acting under FLS permission.

Other  
The wooded areas on both sides of the A75 (T) are important for both Otter and Badger a fact confirmed by high road mortality numbers.

Dipper, a good indicator of high quality watercourses and riparian zones, are also present within the LMP.

Several species of Bat (EPS species) are also present across the site. Numerous bat boxes have been erected to assist the species.

Local observation suggests that Pine Marten are present in the block (FLS do not have any confirmed records for Cally Woods however records are held for Laurieston and nearby Disdow block)

#### 4.2.5 Open ground

Current open ground represents a small percentage (3.3%) of the plan area and is presented in the table below.

| Open Ground          |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Type                 | Area (ha)   |
| Archaeological sites | 0.5         |
| Open                 | 2.3         |
| Open Water           | 0.2         |
| Other Built Facility | 0.9         |
| Research             | 1.2         |
| Unplantable/Bare     | 5.1         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>10.2</b> |

Despite apparently not meeting the UKWAS figure of 10%, because of the significant broadleaf component and non FLS areas of open space that are associated with and within



the block e.g. parts of the golf course, the cricket ground and other agricultural fields, most of the woodland within the plan area has an open and light aspect that will continue as thinning and LISS operations develop.

#### 4.2.6 Dead wood

As an area of primarily broadleaf woodland, Cally Woods has been identified as an area with medium to high Ecological Potential for deadwood. Where it is safe to do so, opportunities to retain standing mature dead trees (that already offer excellent potential for a range of species) and to create additional deadwood will be identified during the planning of all felling and thinning works. Favouring areas with the highest deadwood ecological potential, occasional large, old European larch individual stems (that do not appear to have suffered from *P. ramorum*. infection to the same degree as Japanese/hybrid larch) could be identified for retention as standing deadwood.

Deadwood and deadwood areas associated with wetland areas scattered throughout the block will be marked on contract maps for retention and potential expansion.

The objective of essentially transforming the block into primarily BL woodland provides the potential for a greater area of the block to be managed in the future under Natural Reserve. Natural reserve areas offer some of the best opportunities for the development of standing and fallen deadwood.

#### 4.2.7 Invasive species

Invasive non-native species (INNS) present in the woodland can impact directly on many environmental aspects of an area and are specifically recognised as a significant risk to water environments potentially causing problems for communities who rely on rivers and lochs for their livelihoods.

Whilst control measure treatments for areas of *Rhododendron ponticum* have previously taken place, monitoring is ongoing with this species and other persistent identified groups such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Yellow Archangel continuing to be treated as per the National FLS INNS Policy / Guidance.

## 4.3 Historic Environment

Refer to **Map 12**.

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring and archaeological recording at significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver Our Place in Time: the historic environment strategy for Scotland (2014) and Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (2015). Significant archaeological sites will be protected and managed following the UK Forestry Standard (2017) and the FCS policy document Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment (2008).

The Regional Historic Asset Management Plan includes conservation management intentions for designated historic assets on the National Forest Estate. Details of all known historic environment features are held within the Forester Web Heritage Data and included within

work plans for specific operations to ensure damage is avoided. Significant historic environment features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps. Areas of historic environment interest should be checked both on FLS's internal historic environment records and also with the Council's HER prior to the commencement of forestry activities. Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken in order to ensure that known upstanding historic environment features (including drystone dykes) are clearly marked on the ground and on operational workplan maps prior to the start of forestry operations. Care should be taken to avoid any damage to surviving structural elements. Machine operators are fully briefed on their responsibilities prior to all sites being worked. Heritage features coming to light during operations are reported and assessed and where appropriate preserved for inclusion, using the principles in the Forestry and Archaeology Guidelines, for future versions of the Land Management Plan (See Appendix V for details).

At establishment and restocking, work prescriptions will remove relevant historic environment features from any ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant historic assets are recorded by archaeological measured survey, see active conservation management and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated site).

#### 4.3.1 Designated sites

The designed landscape focuses on the immediate surroundings of Cally House and consists of the designated site north of the A75, identified in "An Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland Volume 2: Dumfries and Galloway and Strathclyde" compiled by the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Scottish Development Department Historic Buildings Directorate in 1987 (now Historic Environment Scotland) and a non-designated site to the south of the A75 extending to include the Deer Park.

The principal archaeological feature in the block is the Motte, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), that is the remnants of a 12th Century Anglo Norman earthworks. The site was interpreted in 1999 as part of Solway Heritage's Archaeosites project and is currently managed as per FLS guidelines and the Regional Historic Asset Management plan.

#### 4.3.2 Other features

Two high turreted Baronial lodges sit astride the entrance gate to the block at the head of the "Avenue" welcoming visitors to the magnificent Cally Palace House, equally impressive with its entrance marked by four massive locally quarried granite monoliths, both of these and many other buildings within and adjacent to the block, because of the Designed Landscape designation, are listed. The majority of buildings associated with the Designed Landscape are however privately owned and not on the FLS estate the exceptions being the Temple and old School House which are both on FLS land (see Appendix V for detail). Restoration work, essentially driven under partnership with the local Community, has taken place on both the

Temple and the schoolhouse with the areas around both them and the Motte being thinned more intensively to increase light levels and internal visibility.

## 4.4 Landscape

### 4.4.1 Designated areas

Cally Woods lies on the eastern slopes of the Fleet valley where the river joins Wigtown Bay and lies within the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area (NSA). Despite its relatively small mass the block is a distinctive feature in the landscape framing the relatively flat surrounding farmland with its estate walls and extensive mosaic of broadleaf woodland.

With the construction of the Gatehouse of Fleet bypass creating a cutting through the block views from the A75 (T) were greatly altered with the woodland edges now seen in both mid to long distance from the west and east and with the corridor itself through the block also a feature. Near distance views from the town and Cally drive are also important but most views from within the designed landscape (some recorded as paintings by HR Moule) are now obscured by forestry plantation.

In the SNH Landscape Character Assessment Areas, the parks and pleasure grounds of Cally are generally located within the area categorised as "Peninsula with Gorsey Knolls" however the surrounding landscape types also includes "Narrow Wooded Valleys", "Drumlin Pastures", "Coastal Flats" of the Fleet Estuary and undulating "Foothills" in the background. As shown in Map 11 it is the diversity of these landscape types that provide a landscape of such high scenic value and the designation highlights its national importance. Opportunities exist to develop an even more open and diverse landscape through the establishment of specimen, "character" trees within the block.

The principal aim of the Management Strategy for the Fleet Valley NSA is to "recognise, protect, conserve and enhance the landscape character, scenic qualities and local distinctiveness of the Fleet Valley NSA, with particular reference to its natural and cultural heritage".

Key issues for forests, woodlands and parkland trees within the NSA are the

- Conservation and expansion of native woodlands
- Conservation and expansion of riparian woodlands
- Recreational opportunities
- Loss of small woodlands and lack of woodland management
- Need for sensitive forest design replacement of tree avenues
- Tree loss and loss of hedgrows

### 4.4.2 Other landscape considerations

Lying essentially in a pastoral landscape the plantation is highly visible as viewed from the A75(T) Dumfries to Stranraer road that bisects the plan area.

As previously stated it constitutes a fairly dominant feature in the landscape as it is viewed in the near, mid and long distance from the surrounding public road network.

Through coupe design efforts have been made to minimise as far as possible the impact on the visible landscape by the proposed clearfell on Barhill.

## 4.5 People

### 4.5.1 Neighbours and local community

The general diversity of neighbouring land use can be gauged by the plan area bordering or enclosing a large Hotel and its grounds, a lake, a golf course, three farms, the local cricket pitch, a main trunk road, a river estuarine system and a collection of Forestry and Land Scotland and private residential properties not forgetting the proximity of Gatehouse of Fleet itself.

The local Community Council is in receipt of the latest version of our local Strategic Plan. Gatehouse Community Council and Gatehouse Initiative representatives, regular attendees at Designed Landscape meetings have been involved throughout the consultation process during preparation of this plan and their input appreciated.

Several neighbours have taken an active interest in the development of the plan and other ongoing operational considerations and, where they do not conflict with the objectives of the plan and are consistent with FLS's approach to land management, their aspirations have been incorporated (See Appendix III, Land Management Plan Consultation Record).

### 4.5.2 Public access

The Cally Woods plan area is recognised as being of local importance. Although not technically a WIAT (Woodland in and around Town), WIAT values of providing an attractive and good quality, accessible woodland at Cally Woods for the community around Gatehouse of Fleet apply.

Accordingly almost all of Cally Woods north of the A75(A) falls into the local FLS interactive visitor zones description. Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes and are mapped on **Map 13**. Whilst management interventions for the next ten years, specific to Visitor Services, are identified in the layer, there are no current plans for new development.

Cally Woods are heavily used by both visitors and locals and are easily accessed from Gatehouse through two main access points; the car park in the town near to the local Tourist Information Centre at Garries Wood and the Forestry and Land Scotland car park, just inside the gates to the "Avenue". Whilst the formal way marked trails emanate from both points of access and take in the Motte and mixed woodland and parkland of the area, other informal trails crisscross the woodland on both sides of the A75(T).

Part of the Sustrans National Cycle Route also features in the block.

A horse trail, with additional car parking, to provide a safe woodland riding experience with was created in the block in the 1990's. Whilst relatively well used the condition of the route (highlighted by a raft of comments from the general public during the consultation exercise) has resulted in the visitor attention being diverted to the wider area equestrian offer and often not specifically targeting the route. Remedial maintenance works and improved signage for the route are scheduled for phase 1 of the plan.

It is inevitable that these multi-recreational demands will impact greatly on our choice of operations with standard regimes heavily modified to improve the internal and external

views associated with the facilities. Accordingly single trees or small groups of trees in these areas will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views. The presence of known historic informal trails e.g. Gatehouse through Cally to Girthon Kirk and Lady Ann's Walk and other images presenting artistic impressions of historic views have been considered. Efforts will be made not only to preserve these tracks and views but also where practical to resurrect them. Woodland in these zones will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

### **Management in Visitor Zones**

Visitors are welcome to explore FLS land, and will only be asked to avoid routes while certain work is going on that will create serious or less obvious hazards for a period (e.g. tree felling). Scotland's outdoors provides great opportunities for open-air recreation and education, with great benefits for people's enjoyment, and their health and well-being. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ensures everyone has statutory access rights to most of Scotland's outdoors, if these rights are exercised responsibly, with respect for people's privacy, safety and livelihoods, and for Scotland's environment. Equally, land managers have to manage their land and water responsibly in relation to access rights and FLS will only restrict public access where it is absolutely necessary, and will keep disruption to a minimum.

#### 4.5.3 Renewables, utilities and other developments

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is working to develop the wind and hydropower potential of the land and forests that we manage for the Scottish Ministers. Our aim is to ensure that the potential of the National Forest Estate is developed and managed in ways that

- contribute to the Scottish Government's renewable energy target
- maximise financial returns from the National Forest Estate
- secure benefits for local communities and
- achieve a reasonable and sustainable balance with other FLS objectives

Currently there are no renewable developments planned for the Cally Woods LMP unit.

#### 4.5.4 Support for the rural economy

FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investment. As has been stated previously, the local community, businesses and other key stakeholders have been consulted during the LMP process resulting in FLS, as a good neighbour, exploring alternative options for timber haulage to reduce the impact on local residents and the business for the Cally Palace hotel and ensuring neighbouring properties are appropriately safeguarded.

Careful forest design with these factors in mind, along with responsible delivery of forestry operations will hopefully provide a positive visitor experience and encourage return visits to the area.

## 4.6 Soils

### 4.6.1 Protection and Fertility

Virtually all of the plan area is classified by the James Hutton Institute (formerly Macaulay) "Land Capability for Forestry" classification as F2, land with very good flexibility for the growth and management of tree crops.

Soils are generally mineral brown earth types but smaller areas of surface and ground water gleys are also present. Localised gleying is common and many of the soil profiles contain a strong induration at 30-45cm that is dense, compact and generally impervious to water and roots.

### 4.6.2 Cultivation

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

### 4.6.3 Deep peats

FLS is preparing a Peatland Restoration Strategy which will be published in April 2022. (incorporating the 'FES Lowland Raised Bog and Intermediate Bog Strategy', 2013). In the interim, we will take a precautionary approach to restocking on deep peat soils, following the principles laid out in the FCS practice guide 'Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland', in particular where there is a 'presumption to restore'.

Sites for which there is a 'Presumption to restore' are defined as:

- Habitats designated as qualifying features in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, or on Natura sites, Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserves (NNRs);
- Sites or parts of sites where restocking is likely to adversely affect the functional connectivity (hydrology) of an adjacent Annex 1 peatland habitat (as defined in the EU habitats Directive) or a habitat associated with one;
- Sites where deforestation would prevent the significant net release of greenhouse gases

Some peat types (8a, 8d, 9a, 10a, 10b, 14, 14h, 14w) are classed as 'Scenario A' soils: edaphically unsuited to woodland. Additionally, 10a and 10b peat types are associated with raised bog habitats. Lowland raised bog and blanket bog are UK BAP priority habitats and therefore a presumption to restore. In the LMP process, by default we will not commercially restock areas where Scenario A peat types dominate, and will include such areas for further assessment for either peatland restoration, or manage as native broadleaf or peatland edge woodland (PEW).

After areas for which there is a presumption to restore are identified, the remaining afforested peatlands will be investigated, looking for evidence to support replanting, as per the FCS Practice Guide. If evidence is found that they will clearly support good growth of Yield Class 8 or more, then they will be restocked. If no evidence is found, they will either be restored, if this is considered to be achievable, or if not, e.g. on slopes of greater than 5%, have a low density native woodland established (PEW).

With few deep peat areas, no peatland restoration is planned for the Cally Woods block.

## 4.7 Water

### 4.7.1 Drinking water

Mains water pipelines to Cally Mains farm, traversing the block to the south of the A75(T) and along the B727 roadside and woodland edge to the north east of the block to Enrick Farm and all other known private drinking water supply points and pipes are recorded as a layer in our Geographic Information System (GIS) (included in **Map 2**).

GIS is consulted during the work planning process for all forestry operations to aid their protection. Features will be clearly marked on all contract maps, as well as on the ground, and relevant neighbours will be consulted prior to any works commencing. Prior to operational commencement, a pollution prevention plan and site management rules will be established. Roles and responsibilities will be assigned with clear instructions on protocols and contactable people in the event of an incident.

All operations will comply with UKFS Forestry and Water guidelines, Forestry & Water Scotland Know the Rules booklet V2 and, where necessary, additional pollution prevention measures will be applied. In the event of water supply disturbance by operations, FLS will follow due procedure as per the UKFS and relevant legislation, which will involve informing the local authority's Environmental Health department and affected residents.

No impact on private water supplies is anticipated for planned clearfell areas.

### 4.7.2 Watercourse condition

The Water of Fleet (condition: Moderate(2014)) flows through Gatehouse but does not directly flow through the Cally Woods block.

Three major streams drain the block; the Bush Burn that flows into the Water of Fleet, the Waulk Mill Burn or Ass House Strand, a man made stream that flows into Cally Lake before joining the Bush Burn and the Kirk Burn that flows into the Enrick Burn. Interestingly, the Kirk Burn flows over the Waulk Mill Burn via an aqueduct as they flow in their different directions. Integral to the Cally grounds all of the water courses have been manipulated over time to serve the estate needs. Water quality across the burns is generally good.

All forestry operations will meet the requirements of the UKFS Guidelines on Forests and Water.

### 4.7.3 Flooding

There are no specific flood prevention considerations within the plan area at this time (see Description of Woodlands). The scale and timing of felling in the forest, along with an

increasingly diverse age structure is likely to have a beneficial impact on downstream flood risk and may contribute to flood alleviation.

FLS has considered flood risk of peak flows at the exit of the site and also further downstream.

Within the rural Water of Fleet catchment (comprising rough grazing, moorland and forestry) the plan area lies within the Gatehouse of Fleet Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA 14/18).

Although the majority of floods recorded in the area are river floods primarily attributed to the Water of Fleet (some recorded as recently as 2008), the Water of Fleet also has a significant tidal effect in the area. There are also known issues of surface water and river flooding interaction at the Mill Pond and Mill Lade to the east of the town.

A series of actions to manage flooding in the PVA, generally focusing on non-forest activities have been set by SEPA and agreed with flood risk management authorities and are identified in below.

Selected Actions

Strategic mapping and modelling

Maintain flood warning

Flood forecasting

Awareness raising

Self help

Maintenance

Emergency plans/response

Planning policies

It is appreciated that new planting with associated operations of draining and ploughing can give rise to a very slight increase in peak flow (up to 20% at site scale), however with no additional areas of new planting proposed for this LMP, a planned optimal clearfell programme, well designed and significant riparian buffers and where appropriate forest wetland creation to minimise this effect, no increase to the existing flooding risk is anticipated.



For enquiries about this plan please contact:

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# Appendix I: Description of Woodlands

| Description of woodlands   |
|--|
| <p>Topography and Landscape</p> <p>The block topography is mostly flat to moderately undulating, rising from around sea level up to just over 100m at Bar Hill where slopes may be slightly steeper.</p> <p><b>Map 11</b> shows the SNH Landscape Character Types that impact on Cally Woods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Foothills LCT 175</li> <li>▪ Drumlin Pastures LCT 169</li> <li>▪ Narrow Wooded River Valley LCT 160</li> <li>▪ Coastal Flats LCT 158</li> <li>▪ Peninsula with Gorse Knolls LCT 157</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Geology and Soils</p> <p>Soils types within the forest block are shown on <b>Map 9</b></p> <p>The underlying geology is sedimentary Silurian greywacke sandstones and shales. Bedrock is evident on the summit of Bar Hill and in the Deer Park block where it is characterised by parallel ridges of rock interspersed with associated shallow soil types. Lower elevations around Cally mains, Cally Park and Garries Wood have estuarine deposits of sand, clay and gravel with small areas of deep peat. All other areas are clothed in a coarse heavily indurated glacial till. These deposits have the potential for deep rooting but drainage can be an issue where the fluctuating water table, often influenced by tidal action, can restrict water flow. Historically the induration is thought to be a relic of the last Ice Age, the result of extensive periods of permafrost. Shallow soils on bedrock are found on the ridges of Bar Hill.</p> |
| <p>Climate</p> <p>The south west of Scotland has a predominantly mild windy oceanic climate heavily influenced by the Gulf Stream. Located near the R Fleet estuary, the block lies at around sea level and is moderately exposed to the prevailing south-westerly winds. Annual rainfall in the block ranges from 1100-1300mm mainly falling during the winter months October to February.</p> <p><u>Accumulated temperature (day-degrees above 5°C)</u><br/>           Min: 1436, Max: 1687, Mean: 1551</p> <p><u>Moisture Deficit (mm)</u><br/>           Min: 74, Max: 95, Mean: 85</p> <p>The climate of the LMP area is highlighted on the table below</p>   |

## Description of woodlands

|                       |         | Accumulated temperature (day-degrees above 5°C) |           |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|-----------------------|---------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|------------|---------|------|
|                       |         | >1800   | 1800-1475 | 1475-1200 | 1200-975 | 975-775 | 775-575 | 575-375    | 375-175 | <175 |
| Moisture Deficit (mm) | >200    |   |           |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 180-200 | Warm  | Dry       |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 160-180 |   |           |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 140-160 |   |           |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 120-140 | Warm  | Moist     |           | Cool     | Moist   |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 90-120  |   |           |           |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 60-90   |   | Warm      | Wet       |          |         |         |            |         |      |
|                       | 20-60   |   |           |           | Cool     | Wet     |         | Sub-Alpine |         |      |
|                       | <20     |   |           |           |          |         |         |            | Alpine  |      |

Climatic Zones in Great Britain (shading indicates combinations not present)

## Hydrology

**Map 2** shows all watercourses, open water, and recorded water supplies.

Cally Woods sits in the Solway Tweed river basin district.

### Water quality

Section 4.7.2 refers.

Bodies of surface waters (as identified by SEPA) in the plan area:

**Name:** Water of Fleet      **Overall Condition:** Moderate but projected good by 2021

### Flooding

Section 4.7.3 refers

### Water supplies

Section 4.7.1 refers

## Windthrow

With a relatively sheltered aspect, there is little windthrow damage of note across the block. **Map 10** illustrates the DAMS measurements for the Plan area.

## Adjacent land use

Generally surrounded by agricultural farmland pastures, Cally Woods LMP lies adjacent to and south east of the town of Gatehouse of Fleet and west of Fleet Bay and the Water of Fleet estuary in the scenic setting of the Fleet Valley.

Other land use associated within and around the woodland includes the Cally Palace Hotel and grounds, the local cricket club pitch and a range of other private residential and small business properties.

It is this intimate mosaic of diverse land use associated with the woodland that contributes towards the character and local distinctiveness of the Fleet Valley.

## Public access

**Maps 2** and **13** show the location of promoted trails and the FLS visitor zones.

|  |
|--|
| <b>Description of woodlands</b>  |
| There are several residential properties in and around the plan area. Residents have made representations to FLS both through the Community consultation and personal contact (See Appendix III, Land Management Plan Consultation Record).  |
| <b>Historic environment</b>  |
| <p>The town of Gatehouse of Fleet is intricately linked with the Cally Estate and the Murray family and its descendants. Growing through the years, by 1810 the town had an impressive portfolio of four cotton factories, a brass foundry, a wine company, a brewery, brickworks, a soap factory and a ship building and repair yard. In later years much of the woodland on the estate was managed for growing Oak and Sycamore coppice to supply the local bobbin mill, charcoal and bark industries.</p> <p>The Forestry Commission acquired the area in 1933 from Mrs Murray Usher as part of a larger acquisition (9645 Cally Estate). Mainly open parkland, a relatively small afforested area of mature broadleaf and Norway spruce was clearfelled almost immediately after purchase as part of the conditions of the sale. The majority of the restocking and new planting then took place between 1936 and 1939 bequeathing a relatively even aged mixed woodland only slightly modified through more recent restock.</p> <p>The construction of the Gatehouse of Fleet bypass in the 1980s caused major disruption to the larger Cally Park block opening up much of the woodland to public view where before there had been none.</p> <p>A local community consultation in the 1990s resulted in the name of the block changing from Fleet Oakwoods to Cally Woods. In 1998 Cally Woods won a Scottish Forests and Woodlands Award.</p> <p>Historic environment records for the forest are shown in <b>Appendix V</b> and on <b>Map 12</b>.</p> |
| <b>Biodiversity</b>  |
| <p>The woodland area lies within the Fleet Valley National Scenic Area and the Galloway Hills and South Ayrshire Biosphere (see section 3.1)</p> <p><b>Priority Habitats</b></p> <p>Priority Species Red Squirrel is present throughout the block (see section 4.2.4)</p> <p>Ancient Woodland sites (Syllodioch Wood and Bar Hill) and Long Established of Plantation Origin broadleaf woodland sites lie within and around the block (see section 4.2.3)</p> <p>A small area of mature broadleaf woodland is to be managed as Natural Reserve (see section 4.1.4)</p> <p>As a broadleaf woodland there is scope to develop areas of deadwood throughout the woodland (see section 4.2.6)</p> <p><b>Open ground</b></p>  |
| <b>Invasive species</b>  |
| See section 4.1.8  |
| <b>Woodland composition</b>  |
| See <b>Map 8</b> for the current species composition.  |

## Description of woodlands

The entire plan area is comprised of second generation maturing crop, primarily broadleaf with discreet areas of conifer plantation.

Yield class ranges from YC2 in the broadleaf up to areas of YC16 in the commercial conifer. Group Shelterwood is the preferred Management type (4.1.3 refers) however a small coupe of dead and dying larch has been identified for removal in phase 1.

## Plant health

### Tree Pests and Diseases

Whilst the foresters of the day have been shown to be quite prescient in their establishment of a relatively diverse species mix within Cally Woods and, to an extent, positively addressing modern day resilience issues, tree health issues remain.

Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) has been identified on Corsican and Scots Pine crops across the Region although at present is only causing mortality in CP. There is little evidence of DNB within the plan area (only small areas of pine present) however the pathogen has been identified in other nearby forest blocks and its wider presence in the block cannot be ruled out.

Hylobius, the Pine weevil, can cause extensive damage to young conifer crop (and at times young broadleaves) and is found throughout the region. As part of the regions chemical minimisation strategy, the Hylobius Management Support System (HMSS) is used to measure Hylobius numbers on clearfell sites. Using billet traps conifer restock areas are assessed, weevil numbers are recorded and along with other site data the optimum time for site restocking is determined. This more flexible fallow period between felling and re-stocking may result in restocking not taking place within two years of felling (see Tolerance table as agreed with SF).

Phytophthora ramorum infection has been confirmed on Larch across the region. Several infected areas in the plan area were initially felled to comply with the requirements of a Statutory Plant Health Notice (SPHN) but are now generally treated under a "Management zone / Risk Reduction Zone" agreement (removal to be carried out as soon as practical within the period of the plan). Areas of infected larch have been identified for removal in both phase 1 and phase 2 of the plan.

Heterobasidion annosum is not endemic in the block. Stump treatment with urea post felling may however be required in the areas of poorer site types.

Ash dieback Chalara fraxinea is present in the area around the LMP. Monitoring is ongoing and identified specimens will be treated as per the FCS published Chalara Action Plan for Scotland in 2013.

## Infrastructure

Cally Woods LMP is typical of an older estate woodland in that the plan area retains a series of internal footpaths and carriage tracks, some linking directly to the town, that generally make the plan area quite accessible. The only recognised FLS vehicle and timber haulage external access route however is the B727 public road (categorised "Consultation route" on Dumfries and Galloway Timber Transport Agreed Routes Map 2005) to Gatehouse of Fleet, entering the plan area through the Double Lodge gates onto the minor

## Description of woodlands

council road, also known locally as the “Avenue”, and running through the plan area to the Cally Palace Hotel. The tarred road then continues on under the A75 (T) towards Cally Mains farm where it reverts to a forest road and then on to Airds point on the coast at Sandgreen.

Heavily used by both visitors and locals the plan area is easily accessed from Gatehouse with a modest sized FLS car park, just inside the gates to the “Avenue” and a smaller car parking area at the start of the horse trail.

Concentrated use of this existing access **along the “Avenue”** during the proposed harvesting operations and the ongoing use of other routes within the block e.g. access road to sewage works has been flagged up by both residents and local businesses as having a significant negative impact on the condition of the routes, the local community use of the roads and the local business economy.

The Council have been involved in discussions with residents and the option of additional passing places has been explored however in addition to this as a long term solution, FLS as a good neighbour are currently exploring alternative options for timber haulage in the section of LMP south of the trunk road and regular maintenance programmes. As it is unlikely that the issue will be resolved in the near future, permission will be sought from SF by formal plan amendment for any future additional road and/or bridge construction that may potentially arise from any developments.

# Appendix II: EIA screening opinion request form

Overleaf if required

## Appendix III: Consultation record

| Consultee                     | Date contacted | Date of response    | Issues raised  | FLS response  |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|---|
| Graham Cowan, McMillan Hotels | 12 March 2021  | 23 Nov 2021 meeting | Frequency, speed and timings for proposed Timber haulage egress past hotel frontage  | Comments addressed in main text and Appendix VI Timber Haulage Management Plan                              |
| Barhill Lodge resident        | 24 Aug 2021    | 27 Aug 2021         | Diseased larch issues<br>Road maintenance and access issues  | Noted in main LMP text  |
| Laundry Cottage resident      | 22 Feb 2021    | 24 Feb 2021         | Boundary issue, land acquisition and treatment of FLS crop during thinning   | Boundary, land acquisition issue forwarded to our Area Land Agent to resolve. Thinning specification noted. |
| Nature Scot                   | 05 Jan 2021    | 12 Feb 2021         | LMP covers the main issues relevant to Nature Scot's remit.<br>It has identified the ongoing management with respect to Fleet Valley NSA.<br>The issues with P ramorum by necessity requires larch to be felled so we understand that there will be an associated temporary visual impact.<br>The long term goal to restock these areas with broadleaf and some small seeded conifers and to restore the semi natural woodland will be beneficial in terms of the special qualities of the NSA (the ongoing work is recognised as an integral part of this managed landscape.<br>No other significant effects on the NSA as a result of the proposals are anticipated. | Comments addressed in main LMP text   |



| Consultee                     | Date contacted | Date of response | Issues raised  | FLS response          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--|-----------------------|
|                               |                |                  | In the wider context, Nature Scot supports the principles of LISS, INNS control and the integration of Grey Squirrel and Deer management outlined. |                       |
| RSPB                          | 05 Jan 2021    | 02 Feb 2021      | No comments to make on this plan, other than the fact that we welcome and support the objectives and the proposed management of the block          | Noted                 |
| Scottish Forestry             | 05 Jan 2021    | 12 Jan 2021      | Nothing to add to outline  | Noted                 |
| Galloway Fisheries Trust      | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                       |
| Gatehouse Initiative          | 05 Jan 2021    | 10 Feb 2021      | ZOOM meeting minutes refer (See Appendix VII)  | Noted within LMP text |
| Gatehouse Community Council   | 05 Jan 2021    | 10 Feb 2021      | ZOOM meeting minutes refer (See Appendix VII)  | Noted within LMP text |
| Historic Environment Scotland | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                       |
| SEPA                          | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                       |
| Saving Scotland's Squirrels   | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                       |
| Dumfries & Galloway Council   | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                       |

| Consultee                                     | Date contacted | Date of response | Issues raised  | FLS response           |
|---|----------------|------------------|--|------------------------|
| Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere         | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                        |
| CONFOR  | 05 Jan 2021    | No reply         |  |                        |
| Various residents and other members of public |                |                  | Repeat generally appreciative comments requesting continuation and enhancement of existing horse riding facility | Noted in main LMP text |

| Consultee | Issues raised from LMP being on public register | South Region Response to consultee | SF consideration |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
|           | •   | •                                  |                  |

## Appendix IV: Tolerance table

|  | Maps Required (Y/N) | Adjustment to felling period *  | Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries **                                      | Timing of Restocking   | Changes to Restocking species  | Changes to road lines  | Designed open ground **<br>***  | Windblow Clearance ****  |
|--|---------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>FC Approval normally not required</b>                 | N                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10% of coupe area.</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 3 planting seasons after felling.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves.</li> </ul>          |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase by up to 5% of coupe area</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>Approval by exchange of letters and map</b>           | Y                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance felling of Phase 2 coupe into Phase 1</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 15% of coupe area</li> </ul>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 3 and 5 planting seasons after felling, subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised.</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan.</li> <li>Departures of &gt; 60m in either direction from centre line of road</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase by up to 10% of coupe area</li> <li>Any reduction in open space of coupe area by planting.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 5ha</li> </ul>      |
| <b>Approval by formal plan amendment may be required</b> | Y                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period.</li> <li>Advance felling (phase 3 or beyond) into current or 2nd 5 year period.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 15% of coupe area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 5 planting seasons after felling, subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised.</li> </ul>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change from specified native species.</li> <li>Change Between species group.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, depending on sensitivity.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In excess of 10% of coupe area.</li> <li>Colonisation of open space agreed as critical.</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 5ha.</li> </ul> |

### NOTES:

\* Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS, in particular felling coupe adjacency

\*\* No more than 1ha, without consultation with FCS, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) 1999 Regulations (EIA)

\*\*\* Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum 20% open space

\*\*\*\* Where windblow occurs FCS should be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on where clearance of any standing trees is required

### Table of Working Tolerances Specific to Larch

Table of working tolerances specific to larch and available for all approved Forest plans in the Risk Reduction Zone (RRZ) – including the MZ in order to help reduce sporulation of *Phytophthora ramorum* on larch spp.

| Approval process                                     | Adjustment to felling period  | Timing of restocking and species component   | Felling of Larch within a mixed coupe  | Changes to road lines   |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| SF approval normally not required                    | Fell date for phase 2 can be moved forward where larch comprises 50% or more of the coupe species component | Changes to restocking proposal that exclude larch and closely related species in the same genus e.g. Sitka and Norway spruce<br>Up to 3 planting seasons after felling         |  |   |
| SF approval normally by exchange of letters and map. | Felling moved between phases 1 and 2 where larch comprises less than 50% of the coupe species component     | Changes to restocking proposal that exclude larch and closely related species in the same genus e.g. Sitka and Norway spruce<br>Between 3 and 5 planting seasons after felling | Areas of pure larch up to 20% of coupe area within phase 1 and 2 can be felled to remove the sporulating host with restocking deferred until the rest of the crop is felled.<br>Where larch constitutes more than 20% of the coupe component then the whole coupe must be felled and restocked together. | New road lines (subject to EIA screening opinion) or tracks within existing approved plans necessary to allow the extraction of larch material.<br>Where necessary Prior Approval should be dealt with directly with the relevant Planning Authority. |
| Approval by formal plan amendment is required        | Advance felling into current or second phase for pre-emptive larch removal.                                 |  |  | Where a new public highway entrance or exit is required.<br>Where necessary Prior Approval should be dealt with directly with the relevant Planning Authority.  |

NB; Larch felled in the autumn and winter, when the presence of *P. ramorum* cannot be assessed visually must be treated as infected and will therefore require a movement licence. When carrying out operations where the clearance has not been on the Public Register or through the consultation procedure it is important that due diligence is undertaken to identify sites that will require to be protected. SPHNs will still be issued and should be complied with accordingly. This tolerance table is offered to assist in the pre-emptive early removal of the host species.

## Appendix V: Historic Environment records

Refer to Map 12

| Historic Environment Records |                  |  |                |            |           |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Designation                  | Name             | Feature Description  | Grid Reference | Importance | Area (ha) |
| Scheduled Ancient Monument   | Cally Motte      | 12thC Anglo Norman structure included in 1989 Archaeosites project by Solway Heritage.<br><br><b>Maintain in area of open space as per SAM management plan.</b>                        | NX606556       | High       | 0.5ha     |
| Designed Landscape           | Cally Policies   | Extent of the inventory and gardens and designed landscapes for Cally Park (includes area to south of A75(T)   | NX598548       | High       | 284.6ha   |
| Designed Landscape           | Temple           | Roofless tower in good condition, maintained and refurbished as part of Cally Designed Landscape Management Plan.<br><br><b>Maintain in an area of open space</b>                      | NX606543       | High       | 0.1ha     |
| Designed Landscape           | Old School House | Girl's charity school built around 1820 now a roofless building refurbished in 2010 as part of Cally Designed Landscape Management Plan.<br><br><b>Maintain in area of open space.</b> | NX600557       | High       | 0.1ha     |
| None                         | Deer Park        | Possible field enclosure system with one enclosure and one unroofed structure both annotated "Hay Ree"   | NX587532       | Local      | -         |

| Historic Environment Records |               |  |                |            |           |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|----------------|------------|-----------|
| Designation                  | Name          | Feature Description  | Grid Reference | Importance | Area (ha) |
| None                         | Syllodioch    | Farmstead comprising two unroofed buildings and two enclosures | NX591529       | Local      | -         |
| None                         | Enreck Bridge | 18 <sup>th</sup> century packhorse bridge                      | NX611545       | Local      | -         |

## Appendix VI: Timber Haulage Management Plan

### Requirement

Currently the unclassified minor public road that runs south from the B727 at Gatehouse of Fleet along the Cally Avenue to Cally Palace Hotel is the only available FLS access route for timber haulage to the part of Cally Woods plantation block that lies south of the A75(T) (none of these roads appear to be currently categorised in the Dumfries and Galloway Timber Transport Group Agreed Routes Map for Timber Haulage).

The route has previously been used for limited timber haulage however it is acknowledged that although currently in reasonable condition there are significant limitations and constraints present along the route that make it challenging for timber haulage.

Having considered the situation FLS are to take a sympathetic approach to timber extraction to both minimise disruption to the Cally Palace Hotel guests and other residents in the block and to avoid irresponsible roads damage and accordingly include this Timber Haulage Management Plan

within the Land Management Plan resubmission detailing the mitigation measures that we will place on haulage traffic for the 10-year approval period of the plan.

Note, it must be recognised that this plan will only refer to timber haulage / forest road construction traffic from Gatehouse of Fleet to the LMP area and that while timber traffic related low loader machinery deliveries and stone haulage to the block has of late been relatively infrequent there is the raised likelihood of our planned future operations inevitably becoming concurrent with other farm and HGV traffic that, over recent years, appears to be using this route at increasing frequencies.

### **Phasing of Felling operations**

As per requirements for sustainable forest management both Low Impact Silviculture Systems (LISS) Minimum Intervention and clearfelling management will take place across the Cally Woods LMP.

To minimise the timber volume produced during the proposed harvesting operations and therefore minimise the potential subsequent impact of timber haulage traffic on the surrounding county road infrastructure, only a single medium sized phase 1 coupe (P ramorum infected larch coupe) has been identified for clearfell. The remainder of the block will be managed under a version of Group Shelterwood or Minimum Intervention.

There will be a preference towards late summer / autumn working of the clearfell coupe when ground conditions may be at their driest and to also have timber ready for dispatch in advance of a restricted winter haul period.

### **Vehicle Specification**

"Standard" super-single configuration lorries will not carry out timber haulage unless they are equipped with Central Tyre Inflation (CTI) and are running at lower pressures, as on the forest roads, from Gatehouse on Fleet to the forest. Lorries with double wheel configurations will also be permitted.



Other “low ground pressure” configurations, which are appropriate for use on public roads, will be considered if their potential impact is not greater than those specifications identified above.

Consideration will be given to reduced weight loads if required.

### **Traffic Intensity**

Subject to any overriding constraints identified by the Roads department of the local Authority, lorries will not be allowed to approach or leave the site in tandem or in convoys.

There will only be one timber lorry onsite at any given time.

Uplift times will be controlled to ensure lorries are at least 1 hour apart to facilitate road recovery between loads.

### **Forest Road Construction**

There are no quarrying opportunities in the block.

The standard construction method for the forest road construction will apply using roadstone from nearby FLS quarries.

Lorry movements should not overlap on the Cally drive section of the route and will be subject to the same traffic intensity constraints as the timber lorries.

### **Monitoring**

Throughout any periods of haulage FLS will continue to liaise with Cally Palace hotel and other residents and monitor the timing of lorries via the issue of time restricted uplift permissions.

We will monitor the road condition via visual assessment from our civil engineers and should this raise any concerns we will discuss the matter with the local roads authority.

# Appendix VII: Community Zoom meeting notes

## Minutes

Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

To discuss the proposed 10 year plan for the Cally woodland.

**Present:-** David Richmond – Community Council & Chairman  
Peter Garson, Ron Forster, David Hawker, David Steel, Ken Smyth – GDI  
Stephen Stables, Lyndy Renwick – **Forestry & Land Scotland**

Kevin Hughes – **Cally Garden**, Roland Ascroft, Kevin Rigney, Mike Ashmore. - **Other interested parties.**

**Apologies:-** Suzette Harris, Lilian Raine, Robert Hope, David Cameron, Marijke O Van Drunen Littel.

1. The Chairman welcomed all present and explained that the current restrictions required the meeting to be held by ZOOM. He then invited Stephen Stables to outline the proposals contained in the draft 10 year plan for the Cally woodland which was the responsibility of **Forestry & Land Scotland**.
2. **Stephen Stables** explained that he was required to produce plan for the Cally Woodland covering the next ten years. The draft had been published on the website. <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/consultations> The main provisions of the plan were:-
  - a. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> plan of its kind and it would be submitted to Scottish Forestry for approval. It was required to meet with UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. The plan would include production plans including some clear felling and thinning work. It would identify appropriate native species, the necessary road work for the extraction of the timber and the control of invasive non-native species.
  - b. It would take into account the need to preserve all of the elements of the “Designed landscape” features on FLS land specifically the Temple, the Old School and the Motte but also a range of auxiliary features such as the dykes and HaHas.

It would recognize the importance of scenic views both external, particularly from the A75 and internal where possible (ref. Moule prints).

- c. The plan would recognize the need to maintain the footpaths, the existing NCR7 cycle track and horse trails. There are NO current plans to construct additional cycle routes within the Cally Woods plan area. Improvements to signage would also be implemented in the near future.
3. Stephen explained that he had received a good number of submissions concerning the draft plan.
    - a. Horse trails. Were much appreciated by the riding fraternity but drainage, signage, restricted parking and the lack of a range of alternative routes were highlighted.
    - b. It was hoped that the thinning operations would result in an increase in clearings which could be planted with low growing shrubs such as hazel, blackthorn, hawthorn, holly etc.
    - c. The question of rubbish had been raised and would be dealt with.
  4. The meeting was then opened for discussion / input from those present. A number of issues were raised.
  5. Pine Martens and Red Squirrels and bats. It was suggested that Pine Marten nesting boxes be erected. Monitoring of Pine Martens required a specific qualification and the boxes were required to meet the agreed design. The Gatehouse Red Squirrel Group could be involved. The Wildlife observation hide was in the process of construction. There were already a number of bat boxes in position. The Glenkens Bat Group would be consulted. There had been some incursion by Grey Squirrels.
  6. Specifically addressing points raised by the Position Letter received earlier in the day from several residents, Access for Timber Articulated Lorries was discussed. FLS would exercise their right of access and Access would be via the main Cally drive, the maintenance of which is the responsibility of D & G Council as far as the Cally Hotel, and onward under the A75(T) towards Cally Mains. Any decision on Additional laybys etc could only be provided by the Council. Currently there is No other access to the woodland. The Forest road from near Laundry Cottage up to and beyond the Temple would require improvement to allow for Articulated lorries access to the planned clearfell area on Bar Hill. There would be a need for traffic management during the extraction of timber, particularly from the Barhill plantation, which would be clear felled as the larch trees were infected with Phytophthora. It was pointed out that the Cally Drive was already used by large vehicles. Tractors,

milk lorries, refuse collection etc. It was agreed that as part of the workplan planning process FLS carried out prior to operations taking place, the Council would be consulted. When asked Stephen estimated that about 200 loads may be required to remove the timber. The Council would provide recommendations / instructions on the approved frequency of lorry loads per day. Maintenance of the Cally Drive road would be the responsibility of D&G Council. As regards the entrance gates to Cally Drive, that would have to be determined.

7. The question of noise from the A75 was raised and FLS agreed to consider that a strip up to 50 meters wide on both sides of the A75 would not be subject to any felling.
8. Kevin Hughes spoke concerning deer management and the paucity of other species including foxes and badgers as well as adders and slow worms. He also mentioned that wild flowers, particularly orchids were comparatively rare. The germination of sycamore and ash was creating problems relating to the understory. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the clear felling does not result in older hardwoods being left exposed to strong winds.
9. The question of water management and flooding was raised, particularly in relation to the lade from the Dalavan diverter. The diverter is in urgent need of repair.
10. Stephen explained that once the plan was agreed and finalized it would be submitted to Scottish Forestry. He made no apology for the limited ambition of the plan but stated that resource pressures were a constant issue for the organization.