



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# Newtyle Land Management Plan 2026 - 2036

LMP-02-2026



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



Applicant:	<b>Forestry and Land Scotland</b>
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I hereby apply for permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application.
- I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of Forestry and Land Scotland.
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained.
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas.
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at [www.forestry.gov.scot](http://www.forestry.gov.scot).
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate.
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.
- I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at <https://forestry.gov.scot/privacy-complaints-freedom-of-information-and-requests-for-information>.

Signed, Pp Regional Manager		Signed, Pp Conservator	
FLS Region		SF Conservancy	
Date		Date of Approval	
		Date Approval Ends	
		Plan Ref. No.	

## A. Description of Woodlands

### A.1 Property Details

Property (LMP) Name:	<b>Newtyle</b>
Grid Reference (main entrance):	NJ 0526 5536
Nearest town or locality:	Forres
Local Authority:	Moray Council

### A.2 Location and Background

The Newtyle Land Management Plan (LMP) area is made up of a single forest block, located roughly three miles to the south of Forres in Moray, with a total area of 717 hectares (ha) (see **Map 1 - Location**).

Parcels on plantation forestry within the current boundary are visible on maps as early as the 1905 edition of Bartholomew’s Half Inch to the Mile Maps of Scotland with the Forestry Commission taking ownership of the area in two major acquisitions in 1931 and 1952.

Most of the mature trees present in the forest were planted over a 20-year period between the mid-1930s and 1950s and mostly consist of Scots pine and Larch. There are also areas of forest established in the 1980s and 1990s which have a higher proportion of species such as Sitka spruce and Douglas fir present.

### A.3 Existing Schemes and Permissions

Type: Land Management Plan

Ref. No: LMP - 02

Details: The current Newtyle LMP was approved on 22/02/2015 and expired on 22/02/2025.

### A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Please see **Appendix 1 – Consultation Record** for full details of consultation carried out during the LMP renewal, all issues raised by consultees, and how they have been addressed in the new LMP.

### A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

#### Vision

The Newtyle forest block will continue to be a valuable source of sustainable timber for the local area by continuing to manage large areas under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) and targeted clearfells where suitable. A range of commercial conifer species will be

established in resilient mixes where conditions allow, with species matched based on soil types and the local environment, helping to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

All suitable areas will be continuously thinned to ensure crop stability, provide timber to local markets and to reduce the need for clearfell systems. The use of continuous cover systems will also benefit recreational use by reducing the intensity of forest management and retaining canopy cover.

In and around watercourses, along forest edges and near infrastructure, corridors of native broadleaves will have been established to safeguard these features, improve forest stability and improve environmental value. Tree species chosen for the restocks will match site conditions to ensure good growth as well as meeting the demands of species such as red squirrel.

Areas of deep peat suitable for restoration will be restored to functioning peatland ecosystems and areas previously restored will be monitored and additional operations carried out if needed. This will deliver increase the biodiversity value of the forest and increase carbon capture potential.

### Management Objectives

#### **Primary Objective 1: Continue to manage the forest as a sustainable timber resource.**

Indicator of objective being met: Areas suitable for commercial forestry will be harvested at a suitable age and restocked with species resilient to challenges caused by future climate change. LISS areas will have the next planned interventions applied, including further small group fellings and the instigation of a strip felling system on Romach Hill.

#### **Primary Objective 2: Protect and improve the water environment.**

Indicator of objective being met: Riparian zones around watercourses are identified in the LMP and suitable broadleaf species are prescribed for restocking. Any riparian areas felled within the upcoming plan period have open space buffers applied, and native broadleaves established at restock.

#### **Primary Objective 3: Complete peat restoration operations**

Indicator of objective being met: Peat restoration operations are completed on Romach Hill and the previously completed scheme at Bogawood is monitored to ensure successful restoration. Both areas should be functioning as peatland ecosystems by the end of the plan period.

#### **Secondary Objective 1: Protect private water supply infrastructure in and around the forest.**

Indicator of objective being met: All reasonable efforts are taken to identify and map private water supplies in the area, with suitable buffers applied to all infrastructure and catchments identified for all surface fed supplies.

## Secondary Objective 2: Improve how the forest fits into the landscape.

Indicator of objective being met: Where operations are taking place near boundaries or visible in the local landscape, efforts are made to soften the forest edges and avoid rigid, geometric shapes.

## A.6 General Site Description

### A.6.1 Topography and Landscape

The land rises steadily from around 50 meters (m) at the northern end to 300 m at the summit of Romach Hill to the South. The forest also features a deep, steep sided valley with Romach Reservoir, a large historic drinking water source, situated in the base. The LMP area consists of one large forest block, with an area of 720 hectares (ha).

In the northern end of the block, at lower altitudes, the surrounding landscape is dominated by agriculture but is also relatively heavily forested. As the altitude rises to the south, agriculture, forestry, and rough grazing still dominate the landscape, but areas of open moorland also form some of the adjacent land use. Most of the forest is not particularly visible to the surrounding populations, although Romach Hill forms part of the horizon when looking south from parts of Forres and sections of the A96 trunk road. The area is mostly rural with a low population.

### A.6.2 Geology and Soils

**Geology** – A small portion of the northern part of Newtyle is underlain by red sandstone and siltstone with some conglomerate. The bigger portion of the block is situated on sedimental soils such as psammite with quartzite units, this gives rise to overlying soils that have a low level of nitrogen available.

**Soils** – See **Map 8 - Soils** for a map showing the soil types present within the LMP area.

### A.6.3 Climate

Newtyle is suitable for a range of commercial forestry species due to the relatively wide range of conditions between the higher summits and the valley bottoms. The climate of the site is primarily defined by assessing the Accumulated Temperature and the Moisture Deficit, as described below.

The current local climate is described below and highlighted on Figure 1.

- **Accumulated Temperature (AT)** is a measure of the “warmth” of a site. Specifically, it is the sum of “day-degrees” above 5 °C — i.e., how much (and for how long) the temperature exceeds 5 °C. For Newtyle, the AT ranges from 935 to 1216, defining the climate as ‘cool’.

- Moisture Deficit (MD)** is an index that reflects the dryness of the growing season. It is calculated as the difference between *potential evaporation* and *precipitation*. Higher MD values indicate drier sites. For Newtyle, the MD ranges from 60 to 120, indicating a climate ranging from ‘wet’ to ‘moist’.

The north-east of Scotland is predicted to see a change in climate in the future which will impact forest management. According to the Forest Research Climate Matching tool, the accumulated temperature and the moisture deficit will both have increased slightly by 2050 matching most closely with the current climate of northern Germany, the Netherlands and the east coast of England (Forest Research, 2024).

Furthermore, UK Climate Projections indicate the climate is expected to become more extreme with increased summer drought, winter flooding and storm events (UKCP, 2024).

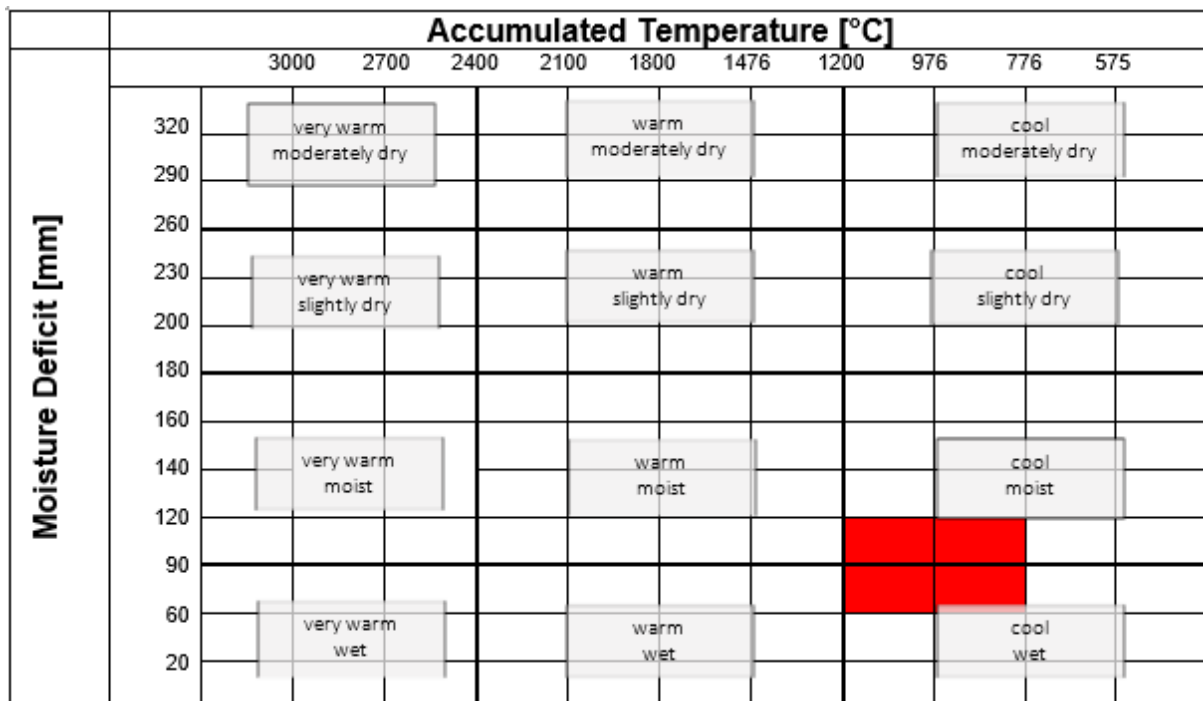


Figure 1: Local climate for Newtyle highlighted in red.

#### A.6.4 Hydrology

Newtyle forms part of the catchment for two locally important watercourses: Altyre Burn, renamed as the Mosset Burn as it passes through Forres en route to Findhorn Bay, and Black Burn which flows east before joining the River Lossie near Elgin. Via the Mosset Burn, the LMP area has connectivity to the Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Romach Reservoir, which feeds Black Burn, was historically a main water source for Forres but is now abandoned and used primarily for recreational activities although some Scottish Water infrastructure remains.

### A.6.5 Windthrow

Windthrow is not currently a major concern in Newtyle, and the forest has not been severely affected by storms in recent years, because so much of the block consists of well-thinned, mature Scots pine. There are small patches of blown crops on exposed areas of Romach Hill and in some spruce which is reaching its terminal height which will be recovered during thinning and Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) operations.

Windthrow risk can be calculated by assessing the Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (DAMS) figures for the forest. DAMS is a measure of site windiness and exposure derived from factors such as local wind zone, elevation, aspect, and topographic shelter. It was originally developed using field indicators of wind exposure, such as tatter-flagging of vegetation, combined with terrain-based modelling. Higher DAMS values indicate increasingly exposed and wind-prone conditions.

The DAMS in the blocks is ranges between 17 (highly exposed) on the summit of Romach Hill and 8 (sheltered) in in the valley bottom associated with Romach Reservoir. Much of the forest area is classed as moderately exposed to sheltered.

### A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

The LMP area is mostly surrounded by agricultural land, used for both grazing and arable farming. There is a large area of moorland to the south of the block, and a grassy valley bottom associated the Romach Burn on the southern boundary. There are several areas of private forestry with significant lengths of shared boundary, particularly on the western side of the forest.

### A.6.7 Access

The main access points into the forest blocks are via two entrances, one at the northern end at Lyneside and one in the south-west at Burntack. Both these access points exit onto agreed timber transport routes.

There are several other access points around the boundaries of the forest, some suitable for vehicular access and some more informal, primarily for recreational use. See **Map 9 – Timber Haulage** for more details

There are two core paths which pass through the forest:

- The Dava Way passes along the north-eastern boundary for around one mile.
- CP-FR62 also passes through the northern end of the forest and connects Rafford with the Dava Way.

There are no formal waymarked trails within Newtyle but there are several informal tracks which are well used by the nearby residents, particularly the local equestrian community. The forest roads are also relatively heavily used for recreation, with the route up to Romach Reservoir becoming increasingly popular in recent years.



### A.6.8 Historic Environment

There are no scheduled monuments located within the plan area or in the immediate vicinity.

There several heritage features located throughout the LMP area, predominantly old farmsteads and their associated infrastructure such as wells, bridges and fords. These features can be seen mapped on **Map 2 – Key Features**.

### A.6.9 Biodiversity

The Newtyle LMP area does not contain any designated conservation sites. Large areas of the blocks are however designated as LEPO sites (long-established plantation origin) in the ancient woodland inventory (AWI).

Red squirrels are regularly sighted within the blocks as well as several raptor species, badgers and their sets and wood ants. There are historical records of Capercaillie in the area, but the last known siting was in 2017.

### A.6.10 Invasive Species

*Rhododendron ponticum* is the only recorded invasive species within Newtyle.

## A.7 Woodland Description

**Map 3 – Current species** shows the current tree species composition and pattern.

The area awaiting restock at present consists of two restock coupes carried over from the previous LMP period and several areas on Romach Hill which are regenerating at present but have not yet reached the threshold to be considered established.

Scots pine, larch and Sitka spruce are the most common tree species, making up over 70% of the forest cover. These main species are complimented by other productive conifer species such as Firs, Norway Spruce and Western Red Cedar but in much smaller proportions. Broadleaf coverage is currently at 4.7%, slightly below the UKFS minimum target of 5%.

Table 2: LMP Area by species

Species	Current Area (ha)	%	Year 10 Area (ha)	%	Year 20 Area (ha)	%
Scots Pine	314.3	43.8	334.4	46.6	326.5	45.5
Larch	105	14.6	87.6	12.2	71.9	10.0
Sitka Spruce	84.6	11.8	83.2	11.6	83.4	11.6
Other Conifers	22.7	3.2	28.8	4.0	29.5	4.1
Native Mixed Broadleaves	17.8	2.5	32.7	4.6	35.7	5.0
Birch	15.5	2.2	26.1	3.6	23.4	3.3
Norway Spruce	12.3	1.7	12.7	1.8	32.7	4.6
Douglas Fir	10.1	1.4	10.1	1.4	9.7	1.4
Open Space	90.7	12.7	101.3	14.1	104.1	14.5



Felled Awaiting Restock	43.9	6.1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100</b>

Chart 1: Area by species

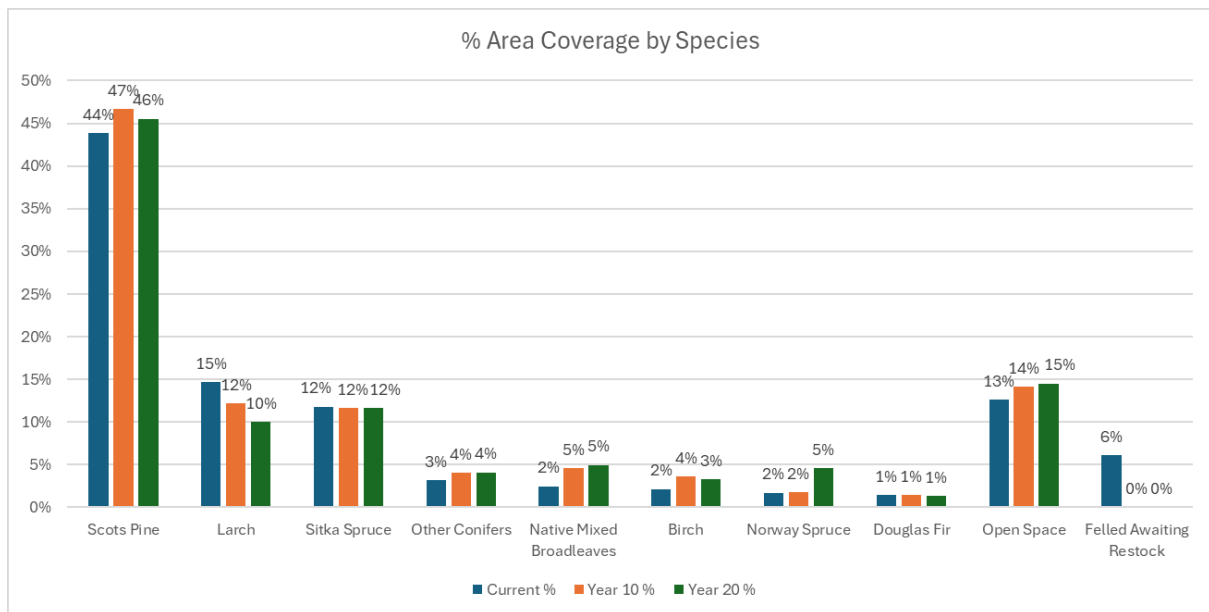
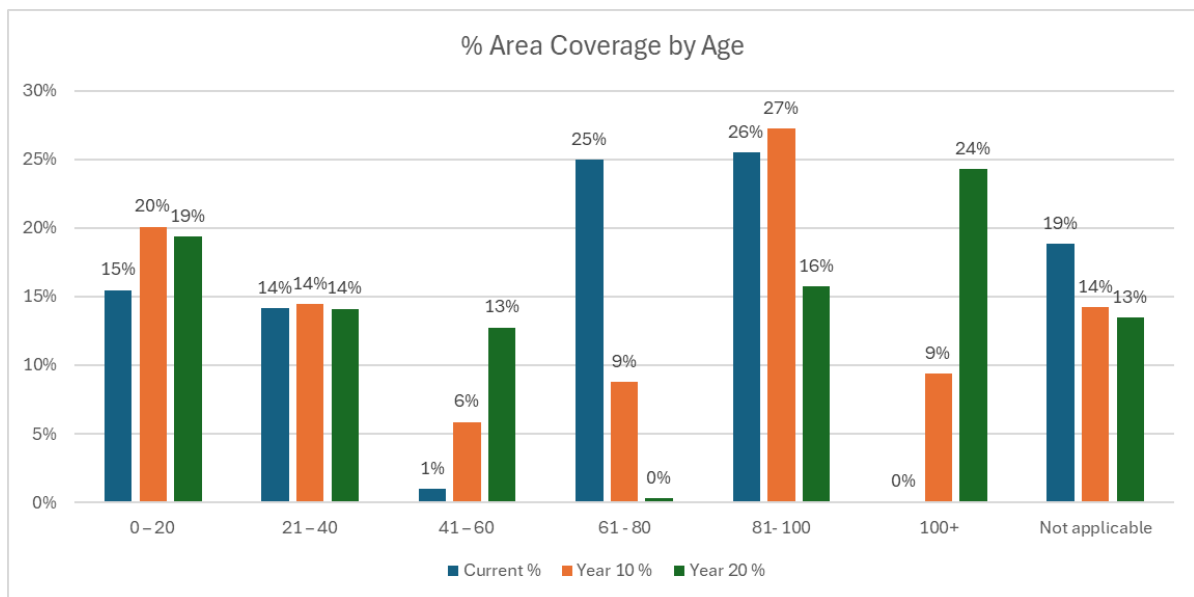


Table 3: LMP area by age

Age Class (years)	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
0 – 20	111.0	15.5%	144.03	20.1%	138.9	19.4%
21 – 40	101.3	14.1%	103.63	14.5%	101.16	14.1%
41 – 60	6.8	1.0%	42.07	5.9%	91.44	12.8%
61 - 80	179.2	25.0%	62.78	8.8%	2.26	0.3%
81- 100	182.9	25.5%	195.47	27.3%	112.6	15.7%
100+	0.6	0.1%	67.1	9.4%	174.11	24.3%
Not applicable	135.1	18.8%	101.82	14.2%	96.43	13.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Chart 2: Area by age



## A.8 Plant Health

There are no major plant health issues within Newtyle. There are no records of recent statutory plant health notices (SPHNs) because of *Phytophthora ramorum* or *Dendroctonus micans* in the area.

The LMP area sits within the Priority Action Zone (PAZ) for larch (Scottish Forestry, 2022) meaning SPHN's require a swift follow-up. In the long-term it is however expected that larch can continue to be grown this far east.

Within the Forestry and Land Scotland Larch Strategy the blocks are found in the PAZ 'less vulnerable zone'. In this zone pre-emptive felling will be the exception rather than the rule. There are no felling targets set or strategic access provision proposals for these areas.

Considering the history of woodland cover, the fertility and the pH level, butt rot, particularly *Heterobasidion annosum*, is likely to be an ongoing concern some areas of the forest. Forest management will need to be mindful of the risks of butt rot and limit spread through careful thinning and application of urea on cut stumps.

## B. Analysis of Information

### B.1 Constraints and Opportunities – and Concept

Table 4: Constraints and Opportunities by factor

Factor	Constraints	Opportunities
Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)	<p>A group selection management system was started successfully around 15 years ago, with very few further groups felled since.</p> <p>Suitable areas of Romach Hill were designed as a strip felling system in the previous plan but the operations were not instigated.</p>	<p>Opportunity to add new groups or expand existing ones to further diversify age structure and biodiversity in relevant areas.</p> <p>Opportunity to begin strip felling management system in the plan period by felling first set of strips in Scots pine and Larch on Romach Hill.</p>
Peat Restoration	<p>Large area of Romach Hill was designed and approved for peat restoration during the previous plan period but the operation was not carried out.</p>	<p>Opportunity to restore the suitable area of Romach Hill to a functioning peatland habitat and monitor completed area at Bogawood to design further operations if needed.</p>
Water Environment	<p>Constraints around working near watercourses and private water supplies,</p>	<p>Potential to improve species composition of riparian corridors and provide connectivity throughout the forest via restock. Suitable buffers around private water supply infrastructure can be added where it does not currently exist.</p>
Species Diversity	<p>The LMP area currently has a low percentage of coverage with broadleaved species.</p>	<p>Opportunity to add areas of broadleaves in suitable areas to increase biodiversity and amenity value of the forest.</p>
Landscape	<p>Constraints on felling coupe size and phasing due to impact on local landscape.</p>	<p>Take opportunities to reduce impact on landscape through sympathetic felling and restock design.</p>

## Concept

The primary objective for this LMP is to maintain Newtyle as a sustainable timber resource, but with the addition of peat restoration schemes, and continuing to expand the areas managed under LISS, the forest should also act as a valuable resource for biodiversity and recreational activities.

The majority of the LMP area will continue to be managed under LISS, including group selection and strip felling, with a focus on ensuring the sustainability of the forest going forward, particularly in areas which are mostly composed of native species. Targeted clearfell operations will also be carried out in some areas which have not already begun the transition to LISS or where a change to a different species is desirable. Opportunities to steer some of the younger areas of the crop towards LISS will be taken where possible by ensuring thinning interventions are taken regularly and first thinnings are programmed at a suitable time.

Where felling and/or restocking is still to take place, species choice is guided by long-term viability and productivity of the species, soil conditions, tree health issues, a changing climate and the presence of notable species such as red squirrel. Where mature crops can be retained this will be done for the benefit of environmental and recreational values.

We will continue to increase the area of functioning peatland habitat within the forest by carrying out peat restoration operations on Romach Hill and ensuring any further operations needed on the existing Bogawood scheme are carried out if needed.

We will ensure that known heritage features are included within our land management and operational plans and are managed in line with UK Forestry Standard.

When felling takes place near heritage features or utilities infrastructure, the restock will safeguard the infrastructure in the long-term through low density planting with the aim of moving this towards a minimum intervention management system. Similarly, felling along watercourses will facilitate the establishment of riparian zones which will improve environmental value and water quality.

Recreational access will be protected where possible during forest operations, with advance notice given where there are likely to be impacts on visitors to the forest. The core paths present within the forest will be sympathetically managed to ensure they can continue to be used by the local community.

## C. Management Proposals

### C.1 Silvicultural Practice

Most of the LMP area will be managed using LISS to encourage regeneration of native species which has already shown to be an effective system in the forest. Considering the terrain and exposure all the forest is thinnable and access using harvester/forwarder combinations is possible throughout. Where clearfell and restock is a more suitable management system, these areas will be restocked at productive densities with a majority conifer species unless there are features such as watercourses or deep peat present.

Restocking will in general require ground preparation in the form of hinge or inverted mounding on the gleys and scarification on the podzols. Lower density planting of broadleaved species will be carried out along watercourses, where habitat connectivity is possible, and to establish windfirm edges around the block and along key infrastructure. A focus of the restock is to divide the forest into windfirm, manageable units to reduce impacts of climate change and to establish the right species for continuous cover forestry.

### C.2 Prescriptions

#### C.2.1 Felling

Sites proposed for clear felling in the plan period are identified as Phase 1 and Phase 2 management coupes on **Map 4 – Management Coupes**. **Table 6** sets out the scale of felling.

Table 6: Scale of Proposed Felling Areas

Total Plan Area = 716.8 ha

Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	LTR (including CCF)	%
Area (ha)	36.6	5.1	14.3	2	40.2	5.6	14.5	2	366.9	51.2

Table 7: Species to be felled in plan period

Felling phase	Coupe Number	SS	NS	SP	LP	Larch	BI	Total (ha)
1	02001*	9.1						9.1
1	02003					0.4		0.4
1	02601	1.2		7.1	1.8		0.3**	10.4
1	02987		0.6	1.4		14.7		16.7
2	02152			10		0.2		10.2
2	02469		2.3	1.3		0.5		4.1
<b>Total (ha):</b>		<b>10.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>50.9</b>

\* Young Sitka spruce regeneration in check, to be mulched as part of peat restoration operation.

\*\* Birch will be retained wherever possible but included in-case some felling is required for operational reasons.

Stands adjoining felled areas will be retained until the restocking of the first coupe has reached a minimum height of two meters. Phase 1 and 2 clearfell coupes identified in this plan with known adjacency issues are listed below with the planned approach to achieving height separation. For any future clearfell coupes where adjacency is not possible, and there is no exemption under the Scottish Forestry Act, an amendment will be discussed and agreed with Scottish Forestry before the coupe is felled.

Coupe 02152 has a potential adjacency issue (see **Map 4 – Management Coupes**). The adjacent coupe to the north was felled in 2022 and is due to be restocked in the 25/26 planting season. Felling of coupe 02152 will be planned for late in phase 2 to ensure the surrounding crop will have grown to an average of two meters in height.

In addition to the above coupe, the strip felling system planned for coupe 02214 on Romach Hill may be impacted by adjacency. Strips on the eastern edge of the coupe will not be felled until restock of the surrounding area to the east has also reached two meters in height.

Considering the geomorphology, soils and access, all coupes are expected to be worked using harvester/forwarder combinations. An element of hand felling might be required for the felling of large edge trees or oddly shaped trees and/or near infrastructure.

Brash mats (or alternative measures) will be used to protect sensitive soils. There will be minimal soil disturbance and machine movement on sites with clayey soils to reduce the risk of compaction or damage to the soil structure. Felling residue will usually be left on site to allow nutrient recycling, with consideration for the practicalities of restocking.

### 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 75 cubic metres per calendar year. A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five-year 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].



### C.2.2 Thinning

Potential sites for thinning in the plan period are identified on **Map 6 – Thinning Coupes** and **Map 7 – Thinning Approvals**. **Table 8** indicates the potential area.

Table 8: Thinning Areas

Species	Thinning (ha)
Scots Pine	298.8
Larch	88.8
Sitka Spruce	58.7
Other Conifers	20.8
Native Mixed Broadleaves	16.8
Birch	13.4
Norway Spruce	9.2
Douglas Fir	10.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>516.8</b>

Wherever possible the region will continue to maximise the area managed through thinning. FLS policy assumes that all productive conifer crops will be thinned. The only exceptions are where:

- Thinning is likely to significantly increase the risk of windblow.
- A single thinning operation is likely to require an unacceptably large initial investment in relation to the potential benefits due to access or market considerations.
- Thinning is unlikely to improve poorly stocked or poor-quality crops.

There are several areas of young conifer plantation within the plan area which would benefit from thinning as soon as possible, therefore carrying out thinning activities throughout the area in phase 1 is a priority. The areas of broadleaves highlighted for thinning approval are unlikely to require full thinning operations within this plan period, but approvals have been sought to allow negative selection respacing operations to be carried out if necessary.

The thinning coupes within the plan area will be worked at a seven-year interval.

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 mean annual increment (MAI), or Yield Class (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.

### C.2.3 Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Areas identified for LISS management are shown on **Map 4 – Management Coupes**.

Many of the areas identified as LISS to the north of Romach Reservoir will continue to be managed under a group selection system. The first groups which were felled in 2010 are now successfully established with a mixture of native broadleaves and conifers, depending on the surrounding crop. Much of the standing crop in these areas was uniformly thinned recently and is unlikely to need much further thinning. The next intervention will be to establish new group fellings of around 0.2ha or expand and merge existing groups where feasible.

Coupe 02214 on Romach Hill will be managed under a strip shelterwood system going forward, with the first strips to be felled within this plan period once any issues with adjacency are resolved. Strips of roughly 50m width will be cut, with 200m of standing crop left between strips to allow four more operations before the entire area has been worked. Adjacent strips will be felled at ten-year intervals to allow the crop in the previously felled area to reach two meters in height.

Several other areas of conifer in the main blocks have the potential to be managed under LISS in the future and opportunities will be taken to increase the area managed under these systems once further thinning interventions have been carried out and the success of regeneration assessed, these areas have been designated as uniform shelterwood at present to encourage thinning interventions.

### C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves

Several Long-Term Retentions are found in the LMP area. (See **Map 4 – Management Coupes**). Some of these consist of mainly broadleaf species planted with the main objective being to provide environmental benefits or in riparian areas.

There is also a large area of LTR on the steep valley sides of Romach Reservoir. It is difficult to carry out felling operations in this area due to the steep ground and the maturing crops provide both a valuable habitat for wildlife and a nice setting for the reservoir itself, improving the recreational value.

No areas in Newtyle are designated as Natural Reserve.

### C.2.5 Restocking Proposals

Planned restocking of felled areas, and proposals for the future habitats and tree species over the whole plan area are shown on **Map 5 – Future Habitats and Species**. See **Table 8** and **Appendix 3 – Restock Prescriptions** for areas, establishment, and mix proportions. Timing of restocking will comply with the plan tolerance table shown in **Section C4 – Tolerance Table**.

Table 9: Restocking

Felling phase	Coupe Number	SS	NS	SP	LP	NMB	BI	RC	Open	Total (ha)
Felled	02002			3.8		6.6	5.7			16.1
Felled	02004			7.2			4.8			12.0
Felled	02364	3.7			1.6					5.3
Felled	02365	5.2			2.2					7.4
Felled	02500					3.0				3.0
1	02001								9.1	9.1
1	02003								0.4	0.4
1	02601			6.0		3.4			1.0	10.4
1	02987		3.3	13.4						16.7
2	02152			8.2		2.1				10.3
2	02469			1.3			0.4	2.3	0.2	4.1
<b>Total (ha):</b>		<b>8.9</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>94.8</b>

Stocking densities will be at least 2,500 stems per ha for conifers and 1,600 stems per ha for broadleaves unless stipulated otherwise in **Appendix 3 – Restock Prescriptions**. If the restock should fail to reach these levels the site will be beaten-up to the required planting density. This will be assessed at year 3 and year 5 after planting with beat-up by at least year 5.

Hot planting (i.e. 6-12 months post felling) will be the default position with other factors (Hylobius, weed growth, regeneration, resources etc.) accounted for in decision making to decide the most appropriate establishment window. Sites must be planted within 2 years of felling.

Native broadleaves of local origin such as birch, aspen, oak, and willow will be preferred if available. If not available, then trees from an alternative origin will be used provided this origin makes them suitable to grow and thrive in the prevailing site conditions. Where Sitka spruce is to be used for restocking, we will endeavor to use improved SS transplants, provided the nurse is able to supply them in sufficient quantities. If appropriate sites present themselves, i.e., good soils, minimal risk of Hylobius attack and the potential of yield class 14 or higher crops, then VPSS will be used if available. Over and above this, only certified material will be used for species covered by the Forest Reproductive Material Regulations.

All areas identified for restocking by natural regeneration will be recorded and programmed for inspection in accordance with the East Region Policy on Restocking Felled Ground. This policy sets out that, for Natural Regeneration, the sites are to be under effective

management by year 4 after felling. At this point it is necessary to have trees across the site at a suitable density with a reasonable expectation of establishment to 30cm within 2 years. Where this is unlikely to occur after monitoring at years 3-4, the site will be changed to restocking by planting. If there is a clear indication that regeneration is likely to reach the required densities but out with the five-year limit, permission will be sought from the regulator for an extension to the establishment period.

Enrichment planting might be used to ensure the target stocking densities of minimum 2,500 stems per ha for conifers and 1,600 stems per ha for amenity broadleaves are achieved if, on inspection, it is thought there is insufficient natural regeneration present to achieve restocking without intervention.

The choice of ground preparation for each site will be decided at the operational planning stage by the relevant establishment forester. Ground preparation techniques can vary greatly even across individual sites, so the most up to date advice will be applied at the time of the operation to ensure that soil structure and water quality is preserved whilst also providing an optimal environment for establishment depending on the species and site conditions. Forest and Water Guidelines, UK Forest Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) can all be used to help with the decision-making process if required.

Forest Research's Field Guide to Soil Cultivation (Jens Haufe, 2019) and Scottish Forestry's Cultivation for upland productive woodland creation sites will be referenced where necessary to help aid in the specific choice applied across any restock sites. The below table is a good indication of what ground preparation techniques will be applied, with the "Best Practice" option the target if possible. Rstock operations within the plan period take place on a wide range of soil types, best practice options for these soil types set out below:

- Podzolic brown earths: Scarification, mulching or no cultivation if site conditions are suitable.
- Podzols: Disk scarification or mulching if weed competition is high, no cultivation if site conditions suitable.
- Surface water gleys: Inverted mounding or no cultivation, depending on nutrient availability on individual sites.
- Peaty gleys: Inverted mounding, mulching or no cultivation.

Table 10: Soil types and preferred ground preparation methods

Legend:  
 +++ ... recommended best practice  
 ++ ... possible alternative  
 + ... acceptable under certain circumstances, e.g. on small areas  
 \* ... manual screening only  
 \*\* ... clay soils only

		← least intensive → most intensive →									
		No cultivation	Subsoiling / Ripping	Inverted mounding	Patch scarification	Disc scarification (linear)	Mulching	Hinge mounding	Trench mounding	Shallow strip ploughing (linear)	Deep complete ploughing
↑ freely draining	Brown earth SNR Poor or Medium	++			+++	+++	++				+
	Brown earth SNR Rich or Very Rich	+++			+	+					
	Podzol	++		++	++	+++	+++	+			+
	Ironpan Pan poses no obstacle to rooting	++	++	+++	+	+	+	+			+
	Ironpan Pan limits root growth		+++	+++							+
	Ironpan Pan is out of reach		Treat like gley / peaty gley depending on presence of organic layer								
↓ waterlogged	Ranker	+++			++*						
	Gley SNR Poor or Medium	++	++**	+++	+		+	+	+		
	Gley SNR Rich or Very Rich	+++	++**	+	+			+	+		
	Peaty gley	+		+++			+				

FLS is following a chemical reduction strategy. This involves limiting chemical applications only to occasions when they are essential. To allow this strategy to be followed the Hylobius Management Support System will be applied and the minimum recommended fallow period is used prior to restocking. This reduced fallow period will also reduce the potential need for herbicide applications to restocked areas.

### C.2.6 Protection

Management of deer is an underpinning activity essential for the delivery of benefits from Scotland’s National Forest Estate. The aim is to manage healthy wild deer populations and manage deer impacts across the Estate consistent with the carrying capacity of the land and successful delivery of FLS land management objectives. Deer Management Plans direct the priorities for management and are available on request.

The deer population in Newtyle consists mostly of roe deer because of the surrounding farmland, however, red deer are known to access the southern end of the forest from the neighbouring estate. Browsing of young trees does take place and palatable species have struggled to establish in the Romach Hill area recently. Deer control will be carried out by FLS employees and/or contractor stalkers, and a mix of daytime and night-time stalking will be used.

Please see **Appendix 4** for a detailed Deer Management Plan for the LMP area.

### C.2.7 Fence erection / removal

There are currently no plans for perimeter fencing Newtyle. Small scale enclosures or tubes might be used to establish particularly palatable species. These protection measures will be of a temporary nature and will be removed once the broadleaves have sufficiently established. The protection measures will be sited where access, and construction is easiest and where the benefits of broadleaves are highest. FLS will regularly check protection measures to ensure they provide sufficient protection. Where fencing is used in areas known to be accessed by the public for recreational use, pedestrian access gates will be included in the fence design.

Materials will be removed from site once no longer necessary and where possible recycled on other sites. If they cannot be recycled, they will be disposed of through appropriate waste channels.

### C.2.8 Road Operations

**Map 9 -Timber Haulage** shows the existing forest road network, timber haulage egress points, and any local 'Agreed Timber Transport Routes'.

Where forest roads join the public road network, visibility splays will be cleared of shrubs, self-seeded trees, and low branches to provide a 2.5m x 120m visibility in both directions to a height of 2.5m prior to haulage commencing.

As part of FLS's responsibilities, during haulage activities they will:

- Monitor the condition of all roads during the haulage operations and advise Moray Council Roads Maintenance of any concerns about road surface condition as soon as possible.
- Monitor the public road and ensure that any mud or other detritus on the public road because of timber extraction operations is swept up as soon as reasonably possible and as a minimum by the end of each working day.
- Notify Moray Council Roads Maintenance at least 4 weeks in advance of proposed haulage commencement dates.

There is one additional spur road of 300m planned to aid extraction of coupe 02152, shown on Map 9.

Road upgrades will be carried out to facilitate forest operations if needed in the future. Material for road maintenance and upgrades will be bought in from local quarries. In case of a changes to the footprint of the road a detailed workplan will be created and **C4 – Tolerance table** and the EIA Scoping Opinion Request (EIA SOR) thresholds will be adhered to.

### C.2.9 Public Access

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 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code ensure 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 must manage their land and water responsibly in relation to access rights, and FLS will only restrict public access where it is necessary and will keep disruption to a minimum.

This plan area is not heavily used for recreation when compared to other FLS landholdings nearby and there are no formal car parks or way marked trails within the forest. However, the forest is well used by several local groups such as the local equestrian community, orienteering groups and community outreach charities. Desire lines found within felling coupes and other informal paths will be protected during operations where this is operationally feasible.

Long term informal recreation will be managed by providing a diverse age and species structure throughout the forests. Recreational usage itself will ensure the maintenance and development of informal paths. Where operations result in a change of forest structure recreational use will adapt to the changed structure.

There are two Core Paths passing through Newtyle, shown in **Map 2 – Key Features**. Any operations which may disrupt the use of these paths and any mitigations required will be discussed with the local authority in advance. Advance notice of any operations which could impact recreational use of the forest will be given where possible. Reference will also be made to the Moray Council Core Path Plan when planning operations in these areas.

### C.2.10 Historic Environment

Our Land Management Planning Process is informed by desk-based assessment, stakeholder consultation and professional archaeological walkover surveys where required.

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring, and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver *Our Past, Our Future: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* and *Scotland's Archaeology Strategy*. Significant heritage features will be protected and managed following the *UK Forestry Standard 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* (2024) and *UKWAS* (2024).

Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken to ensure that upstanding heritage features can be marked out and avoided. At establishment and restocking, work prescriptions remove relevant heritage features from ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant heritage features are recorded by archaeological measured survey, see active conservation



management and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated historic asset).

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

### C.2.11 Biodiversity

UK Forestry Standard guidance is to manage a minimum of 15% of the forest management unit, the LMP area, with conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective. The figure for this plan is currently 16.7%, rising to 21.3% over the LMP period.

There are several key species located within the plan area including: schedule one birds of prey, red squirrels, pine martens and badgers, all of which will be protected as per UKFS and NatureScot guidance.

The plan also helps to support the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy by:

- helping forests regenerate naturally
- planting a wider mix of tree species
- improving woodland cover and understorey
- connecting forest habitats and other land uses

### Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

As per **Map 2 – Key Features**, large areas of the LMP area are designated as LEPO.

As part of forming a more robust approach to our management of LEPO areas and to ensure they are being managed as per guidance in the relevant section of the UKFS, we will be carrying out several management steps as detailed below.

All areas designated as PAWS and LEPO will be assessed using the criteria in the table below to ensure that the current LMP proposals are appropriate and any additional LEPO areas that are known but not covered in existing databases will be added.

Table 11: Assessment criteria LEPO

Ecological potential	Old plantation features only	Old semi-natural features included
High		A few remarkable ancient/veteran trees/notable woodland flora and/or frequent c. 150-year-old native trees and other old woodland remnants (e.g., abundant woodland specialist flora) within the plantation. And/or, in a substantial native woodland network
Medium	Frequent c. 150-year-old non-native trees embedded within younger plantation	Occasional c. 150-year-old native trees, occasional patches of woodland specialist flora and / or in a fragmented native woodland network. <sup>1</sup>
Low	Rare or occasional c. 150-year-old non-native trees embedded within younger plantation <sup>2</sup>	No obvious signs of old semi-natural woodland and isolated from a native woodland habitat network <sup>1, 2</sup>

1. For Medium and Low Ecological Potential sites with native/semi-natural features, there could be old plantation features as well.
2. Those LEPO that were in the HCV sub-set and have been added to the PAWS layer, can be managed conventionally if they have Low Ecological Potential. If there are rare or occasional c.

After assessment, the future management is decided based on the following advice from FLS' Native Woodland Ecologist:

“There is no imperative to convert to native species if the LEPO is currently dominated by non-natives. As with PAWS restoration, there is a strong preference for LISS management to maintain woodland conditions – avoiding huge changes to light levels, loss of humidity and increase in the water table – all consequences of clear-felling. The guiding principle should be to undertake sustainable management that will protect features of interest in the long-term.

As with PAWS restoration, sites with High Ecological Potential and Critical threats are the priority for management. LEPO with High Ecological potential will include features normally associated with ancient woodland sites and an increase in native species over time will normally be appropriate to embed veteran native trees and other flora in a wider native woodland matrix. This will be best achieved by favouring interesting features in repeated thinning operations.

The Ecological Potential of LEPO with frequent non-native veteran trees and no other features of biological interest will be Medium, therefore management of these sites should not take precedence over the highest value LEPO and true PAWS with frequent semi-natural veteran trees/rare native woodland flora.”

For this plan, a general assessment has been made by the regional environment teams and planning staff to ensure the LMP proposals are appropriate.

Any areas of high or medium ecological potential will be assessed as part of the pre-felling checks carried out by FLS staff and any opportunities for retentions of high ecological value trees, habitats or deadwood reserves will be identified and built into the work planning process for any upcoming operations.

Restock species with LEPO designated areas in Newtyle have mostly been chosen with a long rotation in mind and are planned to be managed under LISS systems in the future. The exception being where the coupe has been assessed as being of low ecological potential and the restock prescription is for standard rotation commercial conifer planting.

### Deadwood

Deadwood will be managed in accordance with the FCS Practice Guide: Managing Deadwood in forests and woodlands (Humphrey and Bailet, 2012) and supplemented by the FLS Guidance note: Deadwood Management – Summary Guidance for FLS Staff (Kortland, 2021).

Key principles applied:

- Retain and create as much deadwood as possible and create new deadwood on a continuing basis.
- Retain and create as many kinds of deadwood as possible.
- Favour native tree species when creating and retaining deadwood.
- Favour the retention and creation of large-diameter deadwood.
- Retain and create high stumps and snags (standing deadwood) within woodland and permanent open areas (but not on clear fells that will be restocked).
- Design the distribution of deadwood to maximise connectivity at the woodland management unit and coupe scale, ensuring they are not in obtrusive locations within the landscape.

**Map 10 – Deadwood Ecological Potential** shows the ecological deadwood potential of Newtyle, based on the following criteria:

Table 12: Description of Deadwood Ecological Potential classes

<b>Deadwood Ecological Potential (DEP) class</b>	<b>FES woodland management categories included in this DEP class</b>
High	Natural reserves, ancient semi-natural woodlands, native pinewoods, riparian buffers along watercourses, PAWS with high ecological potential, wood pasture.
Medium	Minimum intervention areas of broadleaved woodlands, PAWS, LEPOs, long-term retentions, LISS coupes.
Low	All other stands (i.e. stands where timber production is the priority).

Table 13: Description of management prescriptions for each DEP class

<b>(DEP) class</b>	<b>Deadwood Management Prescription</b>
High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain all existing veteran trees and deadwood apart from that which is a health and safety risk or where it would be highly obtrusive in the landscape</li> <li>2. Retain all wind blow apart from that which is a health and safety risk</li> <li>3. Deadwood distributed throughout the coupe</li> <li>4. Seek opportunities to create particularly valuable deadwood e.g. import some large-diameter logs from nearby coupes when they are thinned or clear felled.</li> </ol>
Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain all existing veteran trees and deadwood apart from that which is a health and safety risk</li> <li>2. Only harvest windblow of significant value or which poses a health and safety risk</li> <li>3. Seek opportunities to create particularly valuable new deadwood e, g when felling big trees, retain some large diameter logs at the edge of the coupe</li> <li>4. Where windblow is harvested, retain some blown trees in a group as 'future deadwood' where not obtrusive in the landscape</li> </ol>
Low	NA

### C.2.12 Tree Health

There are few specific concerns around tree health in Newtyle. Therefore, tree health will largely be managed through improving species and age diversification, continued thinning and ensuring appropriate species selection taking soils and climate change into account. As set out in **C.1** tree species will be carefully matched to soil type, this ensures resilience and reduces the opportunities for pathogens.

As noted in **A.8** there is a presence of butt and root rot fungi. To minimise the impact of these pathogens, forest management, including civils operations, will take care to minimise damage to stems and roots during operations. Furthermore, urea will be sprayed on stumps during felling or thinning operations to inhibit colonisation by *Heterobasidion annosum*.

DNB has historically been prevalent within the local area but targeted felling of Lodgepole pine in the locality has largely reduced the impact to zero within Newtyle.

There are sporadic occurrences of *Peridermium pini* infections within individual pine trees which are causing some instances of mortality but this not currently at a worrying level and infected trees will be targeted during thinning operations in the future.

### C.2.13 Invasive Species

*Rhododendron ponticum* is the only invasive non-native species (INNS) reported within the plan area and is already subject to a regular monitoring and removal programme. This will continue during this plan period.

Monitoring will continue to be carried out and in case of colonisation by another invasive species, removal/treatment will take place. Where the presence of INNS crosses into neighbouring properties contact with neighbours will be sought to jointly remove INNS where possible.

### C.2.14 New Planting

Not applicable.

### C.2.15 Other

#### Wildfire

FLS continues to work closely with 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.

As part of the LMP review process a risk analysis has been carried out and some factors have been identified as increasing the likelihood of wildfire within Newtyle, focused primarily along southern boundary and adjacent to Romach Loch:

- The primary external wildfire risk is via spread from moorland and forestry to the south of Newtyle. Fires in recent years have come within three miles of the forest boundary in this area.

- There is known recreational pressure at Romach Loch, with campfires occasionally found at points along the lochside.
- Large areas of the plan area consist of mature Scots pine with heather dominated ground flora which is at a higher risk of ground level wildfire. Group selection systems have potentially provided a vector for wildfire to spread to the canopy via 'laddering' up the younger trees in the regenerated group felling areas.

The design of the forest and future management proposals help mitigate these risks in several ways:

- Newtyle is generally well structured, with a range of tree species, age classes and silvicultural systems present.
- Existing open areas around watercourses and plans to extend riparian zones will help increase their effectiveness as firebreaks.
- The extensive road network provides excellent access for firefighting equipment and provides regular opportunities for fire breaks to be established.
- As peat restoration schemes continue to re-wet, they will provide opportunities for excellent natural firebreaks.
- The southern boundary of the block is largely protected by the presence of the Romach Burn and wet, peaty ground.

Some more general factors which reduce the likelihood of serious wildfire impact within Newtyle include:

- There are no designated heritage features requiring additional fire protection.
- Much of the surrounding land use is for agriculture and is a low fire risk.
- Romach Loch is an excellent water source for helicopter firefighting techniques.

Please see **Map 12 – Wildfire Risks and Mitigations** for an illustration of the risks and mitigations identified for the Newtyle LMP area.

Analysis of the risks and mitigations present has led FLS to classify Newtyle as currently being at a medium risk of wildfire. At the 5-year review of this LMP, the risks and mitigations will be reassessed to ensure the current classification is still suitable and identify any additional measures required if necessary.

### Private water supplies

As part of the design process for this LMP, a concerted effort has been made to identify any private water supply sources either within the plan area or within approximately 2km of the boundaries.

This was done by setting up an indicative “private water supply screening zone” around the LMP blocks and within this area checking against all relevant water supply data currently available including:

- FLS local private water supplies data.
- Data provided by the local authority.
- Drinking Water Protected Area data provided by SEPA.
- Using a database of addresses to identify all residents of rural properties within 2km which are not located near a water main.

There are private water supplies located in the vicinity of the plan area and some infrastructure such as pipes and storage tanks located within the block boundaries. Although none of the supplies registered are likely to be impacted by forest operations in this plan period, suitable buffers have been applied to the future restock species plan and catchment maps have been created for all PWS which have the potential to be affected by operations in the future.

### Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA)

Newtyle does not fall within any DWPA's or contain any active distribution water assets.

### Hydrology

Where operations along the main watercourses take place opportunities will be sought to naturalize watercourses by removing non-native species from the banks and re-establishing with open grown riparian woodland.

Surface water drains will not discharge directly into the water environment. East Region staff will remediate legacy drains of this type to avoid siltation problems during and after forestry operations by using tree roots and other natural methods to install anti siltation devices during harvesting operations and addressing the drains permanently during subsequent ground preparation operations. When natural means are not available plastic dams or semi-permeable netting might be used temporarily. When operations are finished this will be removed and reused.

Where opportunities exist to deliver environmental improvement by the alteration or removal of inappropriately designed or redundant structures - for instance upgrading of a culvert to allow fish passage or removal of a redundant weir - this will be undertaken in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, and we will register the operation on the SEPA website. Opportunities for morphological and ecological improvements may also be considered.

Where specific operations produce waste material not detailed above, East Region staff will liaise directly with SEPA to establish the level of permission/licensing required on a site-by-site basis.

### Peat Restoration

Please see **Appendix 2 – Peat Restoration** for the scope of restoration planned during this plan period.



### C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Permitted Development Notifications

Total area (hectares) for each project type and details by sensitive or non-sensitive area.					
Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	
Afforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	ha
Deforestation	%Con	%BL	100% Con	%BL	35.5ha
Forest Roads	ha		0.3ha		0.3ha
Quarries	ha		0.4ha		0.4ha
Provide further details on your project if required.					
<p>The planned spur road falls below threshold for EIA scoping or planning permission. The quarry expansion brings the total quarry area to 0.81ha, below the threshold for EIA scoping.</p> <p>The deforestation for peat restoration was previously screened and approved on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The scale of the planned deforestation has since been reduced from 36.7 ha to 35.5 ha and therefore the environmental impact will be lower than was previously screened and a new EIA screening is not necessary; an updated version of the EIA screening form has been provided for reference. See <b>Appendix 2 – Peat Restoration</b> for further details.</p>					

## C.4 Tolerance Table

**EAST REGION TOLERANCE TABLE - 2025**

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

## EAST REGION TOLERANCE TABLE - 2025

<b>Tree Felling in Exceptional Circumstances</b>	<p>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 separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying felling.</p> <p>Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances: Individual, rows or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure ( ie. Forest roads, footpaths, access routes (vehicular, cycle, equestrian or pedestrian), Buildings, Utilities and services and drains) either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage or impede drainage.</p> <p>The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per Land Management Plan per calendar year.</p> <p>A record of the volume felled in this manner will be maintained and will be considered during the five year LMP review.</p>
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- \* Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS in particular felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5 year review.
- \*\* No more than 1 ha, without consultation with SF, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) 1999 Regulations (EIA).
- \*\*\* Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground
- \*\*\*\* Where windblow occurs, SF must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees

## Appendices

- Map 1 – Location
  - Map 2 – Key Features
  - Map 3 – Current Species
  - Map 4 – Management Coupes
  - Map 5 – Future Habitats and Species
  - Map 6 – Thinning Coupes
  - Map 7 – Thinning Approvals
  - Map 8 – Soils
  - Map 9 – Timber Haulage
  - Map 10 – Deadwood Ecological Potential
  - Map 11 – Peat Restoration Plan
  - Map 12 – Wildfire Risks and Mitigations
  - Map 13 – Private Water Supplies (confidential)
- 
- Appendix 1 – Consultation record
  - Appendix 2 – Peat Restoration
  - Appendix 3 – Restock Prescriptions
  - Appendix 4 – Deer Management Plan