



Benhar & Fauldhouse – Summary of Proposals (2024 mid-term review & amendment)

The Benhar & Fauldhouse Land management plan brings together the forest blocks of West Benhar and Fauldhouse. These blocks have served as productive forests within the Central Belt, producing adequate volumes of standard and low quality timber.

The plan was approved in 2018 and the primary objectives were to continue the sustainable production of timber, enhance and manage transitional woodland areas, restore an area of intermediate bog, manage water vole habitats and maintain existing access and recreation infrastructure.

We are now at the 5 year mid-term review stage and although the plan objectives are largely unchanged some significant developments have required adjustment to these objectives to meet current Government policy:

- Rapid spread of a plant disease called *Phytophthora ramorum* and the susceptibility of Larch species.
- Completion of windfarm construction in West Benhar.
- Improved techniques in restoring priority open habitats.

Updated operations ([below](#)) principally relate to open habitat expansion on deep peats. Revised ‘management’ and ‘future species and habitats’ maps reflect these changes. The latter:

1. Replaces Larch replanting with more resistant tree species.
2. Incorporates the new windfarm development and turbine buffer zones.

Total Plan Area	596 Ha
10 year operations	2018-2028 plan period
Net Felling Area (original 2018 plan)	95.8 Ha
Net felling Area (updated plan - 5 year mid-term review)	147.1 Ha
Restock (original 2018 plan)	79.0 Ha
Restock (updated plan - 5 year mid-term review)	71.22 Ha
Bog Restoration (original 2018 plan)	16.8 Ha
Bog Restoration updated plan (5 year mid-term review)	148.66 Ha (incl. successional open ground additional to net felling area)

A comparison of woodland changes between the original plan (2018) and updated version is provided on the webpage document ‘Woodland Changes 2025-2045’.