



A design brief for Little Clyde LMP

The Little Clyde Land Management Unit is a forest block covering 667 ha and is located around 1.5 km to the east of Elvanfoot, South Scotland. It is part of Scotland's national forests and land, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the people of Scotland, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). The forest is on a south-facing slope overlooking the M74 motorway. Approximately 255 ha of the most elevated northern section of the site is part of the Little Clyde Wind Farm Development (13 turbines within the forest block) and managed by SSE as open habitat.

The Little Clyde Land Management Plan (LMP) defines the management prescription for the next ten years (2024-34) and presents the vision for the long-term management of the LMP area. The main management objectives in this plan focus on sustainable timber production, resilience to climate change, management of the historic environment, enhancing biodiversity and water quality.

An Analysis and Concept map has been produced to complement this design brief. It presents the draft management objectives and highlights the opportunities and constraints for key issues.

The concept for the LMP focuses on delivering relevant national policy and has been developed around the following key drivers:

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan 2022-2025

The plan will contribute to the first three outcomes of the Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan (Outcomes 4 and 5 relate to the organisational structure and business performance of FLS) as shown in the following table (operational actions not relevant to this plan have been greyed out):

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in the long-term sustainable productivity and resilience of the national forests and land, in the face of a changing climate. • Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land. • Bringing a sustainable supply of timber to market through the Timber Marketing Framework. • Continuing the implementation of the new plant and seed supply strategy. • Delivering an increased contribution towards the Scottish Government’s renewable energy targets. • Continuing to work with Registers of Scotland to ensure the extent of the national forests and land are properly registered in the Land Register. • Enabling organised events and opportunities that support the national and/or local economy and deliver a positive financial return to reinvest in the national forests and land. • Creating opportunities for income generation through woodland carbon code projects and other income streams related to the provision of nature-based solutions. • Bringing opportunities for further renewable energy projects to the market and helping to facilitate the development of projects which achieved planning consent. • Marketing venison to offset some of the high costs of deer management. • Working to release value from rural development opportunities in areas of Scotland where this is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a land management plan for Little Clyde which meets the UK Forestry Standard and UKWAS requirements and (where feasible) guidelines. • Meet production forecast commitment through revised sustainable felling and thinning plans. • Enhance the productive yield by selecting the correct species for site type restocking in line with regional goals for diversity, especially in larch restock sites. • Improve forest structure and maintain production potential through optimal species selection, identifying opportunities for alternatives to clearfell systems for amenity and silvicultural on the periphery of local settlements and visitor zones. • Increase use of natural regeneration in our restocking. • Increase areas for thinning to enhance stand stability, improve timber quality and provide a wider range of products. • Implement a road building and maintenance programme and quarry development required to service proposed harvesting and other forest operations. • Bringing opportunities for further renewable energy projects to the market and helping to facilitate the development of projects which achieved planning consent. • Create open space and infrastructure to facilitate safe and efficient deer management operations to enable successful woodland establishment and support the venison processing sector as per FLS regional strategy. • Continue to collaborate with SSE regarding land management of block as it relates to Little Clyde Wind Farm. • Work with external stakeholders and partners to support them, understand and, where practicable, realise their aims for the woodland.

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
	<p>needed, for reinvestment in the national forests and land e.g., rural housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realising the economic contribution and opportunities that Scotland’s national forests and land can make towards tourism. • Continuing to operate mineral leases, providing important minerals to the industry such as Barytes and Silica sand. • Working proactively with our tenants and stakeholders to identify potential added value opportunities. • Engaging commercially with network operators to facilitate the delivery of priority power grid infrastructure and digital and mobile connectivity projects. 	
<p>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland’s national forests and land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping the Scottish Government to meet forest and woodland creation targets. • Working in partnership to restore vacant and derelict land for woodland planting and wider beneficial use. • Increasing our contribution to the Peatland Action programme. • Manage the forests in line with the UK Forestry Standard and maintain UKWAS certification. • Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. • Taking targeted action to maintain and bring designated sites into favourable condition – and working beyond designated sites at the landscape scale with partners where we can – for example in Scotland’s rainforests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a land management plan for Little Clyde which meets the UK Forestry Standard and UKWAS requirements and (where feasible) guidelines. • Manage priority habitats appropriately and where suitable consider the restoration of peatland habitats. • Liaise with the appropriate stakeholders to best manage areas for conservation enhancement • Maintain area of native broadleaves throughout plan area for added biodiversity. Target the expansion of native woodland along the more sheltered riparian corridors, creating connectivity between the open/shrub habitat on the upper slopes and the broadleaved areas in the south and with the River Clyde and River Annan. • Maintained and improve the small areas of Long-Established (of plantation origin) and recovering native upland birchwood within the LMP.

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking targeted action for vulnerable priority species (e.g., red squirrel, capercaillie, and black grouse). • Implementing the asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland’s forests and land. • Increasing ancient woodland restoration. • Implementing a programme to improve the resilience of the national forests and land to the impacts of climate change and tree health threats. • Continuing to implement the FLS Deer Management strategy while working in partnership with others to support the Scottish Government’s response to the Independent Panel’s recommendations on deer management in Scotland. • Working with neighboring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> to conserve ground flora and improve habitats. • Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>. • Continuing to respond to and pre-empt Statutory Plant Health Notices by taking action to monitor, contain and slowdown outbreaks of pests/diseases. • Maintaining healthy forests by applying biosecurity procedures and monitoring tree and plant health. • Analysing the cumulative impacts of current plans for managing the national forests and land and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support conservation actions for Black grouse, especially in the northern upper slopes. • Contribute to the creation and retention of habitats supporting priority species (including Red squirrel, Pine marten, Otter, Water vole). • Manage watercourses and buffers around drinking water supplies to maintain and improve water quality for the Clyde valley catchment. • Manage and protect scheduled monuments and the historic environment within the management plan area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Kneesend enclosed cremation cemetery, • Bodsbury Hill to Little Clyde Roman Road, • Little Clyde Roman Camp (shared boundary only), • Bodsberry Hillfort (shared boundary only). • Preservation of unscheduled archaeological features within the site as per the UKFS, the regional historic asset management plan, and HES guidelines. • Continue to increase tree species and age diversification to improve resilience. • Control invasive species as per FLS guidelines (specifically <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>) and investigate opportunities to work with neighbouring land managers. • Continued deer management through the methodologies set out in the South Region Deer Strategy 2021-2026. • Continue with <i>P. ramorum</i> management as per FLS Larch Strategy guidance. • Continue to work with Scottish Forestry and respond timely to any SPHNs whilst continuing ongoing monitoring and reporting any tree health concerns to the relevant party. • Continue to apply biosecurity procedures as per FLS regional guidance.

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	<p>testing whether our management is on the right track given the potential impact of future scenarios (e.g., climate change).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration, using our capabilities to complement and support the work of others. • Supporting policy development, research and acting as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult and work with partners through the planning process to identify feasible opportunities for landscape-scale habitat management and restoration. • Work alongside SSE regarding the Habitat Management Plan within the windfarm lease area. • Incorporate research and development into Land Management Plans, whilst welcoming and facilitating opportunities to support further exploration and investigation. • Western and southern edges of the block are visually prominent as viewed from surrounding road network (M74, A702 and B7076); maintain and enhance local landscape through species diversity, integrated open space, and revised coupe shapes to improve structural diversity.
<p>Outcome 3: Scotland's national forests and land for visitors and communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing a new Communities Strategy. • Implementing the Visitor Services Strategy. • Developing a strategic approach to wider participation in the management of the national forests and land. • Work with partners such as VisitScotland to understand visitor profile and changing trends to ensure a responsible approach to visitor management. • Removing barriers to and actively encouraging broader participation with visits to the national forests and land by people who are care experienced, of low socioeconomic status and/or from protected characteristic groups. • Maintaining safe walking and biking trails and improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with local communities and stakeholders through the Land Management Plan review process. • Consider the aspirations of the local community, and how the LMP can support them. • Provide a varied and enjoyable woodland experience for local communities. • Consider the contribution Little Clyde makes to the local landscape. • Retain and enhance the landscape value of the southern edge of the block, to improve the visual impact from the M74 corridor. • Consider the aspirations of the local community and how the Land Management Plan can support them. • Continue to collaborate with SSE regarding the management of the forest and the Little Clyde Wind Farm.

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging educational and community groups to make use of the national forests and land. • Facilitating renewable energy opportunities to encourage community benefits/wealth building. • Engaging with communities to identify benefits in decision making relating to the management of the national forests and land. • Empower communities to make innovative use of the national forests and land including for social and economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, contributing to a just transition to a new green economy. 	