



WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND

Situated in the southern uplands, within Dumfries and Galloway, Loch Ree Forest is approximately 2km from the town of Cairnryan.

The forest is managed as a commercial conifer plantation with the production of timber as the main objective. It was first planted in 1983 with planting completed in 1992. Restructuring started in 2016.

The trees are predominantly pure Sitka Spruce, planted at 2,500 stems per hectare. Smaller areas comprise Norway spruce, larch and lodgepole pine, as well as mixed stands of Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine, or of Norway spruce and lodgepole pine at a 50:50 species ratio.

Woodland management has been undertaken from establishment and includes in-crop draining, fire prevention, broadleaf maintenance, deer control, and fence maintenance.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

F&W Forestry has been appointed to undertake a renewal of the Long-Term Forest Plan (LTFP) that sets out the intended forest management over the next 20 years, including felling and restocking proposals.

The forest is a typical upland forest of south-west Scotland, with a predominance of non-native conifers. Opportunities will be taken to improve the forest design by increasing structural diversity and the proportion of native broadleaves and other conifers where appropriate.

Felling and forest restructuring has been

ongoing for the past 10 years. The approach involves phased felling followed by restocking with suitable commercial conifers, with an increase in 'diverse' conifers and native broadleaves.

Open ground will improve access and deer management opportunities whilst also benefitting biodiversity. Space will be created or retained to develop a network of corridors and glades throughout the forest. It will also help to soften crop edges and open up watercourses and drains. Native broadleaves may be planted within an open ground matrix along watercourses to help develop a natural woodland cover.

Permanent natural reserves of secondary conifer or native broadleaves with minimal intervention will be identified to offer landscaping and biodiversity benefits. Where suitable areas do not currently exist, they will be created through restocking.

Continuous cover techniques may be employed in long-term retention or natural reserves where this helps improve biodiversity, while not conflicting with minimal intervention requirements. This may involve selective thinning, high pruning, encouragement of desired natural regeneration, and under-planting.

An average of three dead standing and fallen trees per hectare will be retained where possible, with brash waste from harvesting, stumps, and fallen debris, so that deadwood comprises around 5–10% of the average stand volume. A concentration of dead and windblown trees will be in long-term retention and natural reserves.

LOCH REE WOODLAND

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To produce high quality sustainable timber to all markets.
- ❖ Restructure the woodland by increasing the rate of clear-felling and restocking of non-native, over-mature stands.
- ❖ Improve overall resilience of the woodland through silvicultural interventions to increase age and species diversity.
- ❖ Monitor and enhance biodiversity through woodland condition assessments, ride management and retention of deadwood.
- ❖ Support and contribute to sustainable deer management in the area.
- ❖ Maintain and improve both the landscape and amenity value of the woodland.
- ❖ Maintain and protect important features associated with historical, archaeological and conservation areas.
- ❖ Protect and maintain public rights of way.



CONSULTATION & FEEDBACK

Part of forest management planning is to contact statutory bodies, neighbours and any other local interested parties to establish potential sensitivities, constraints or opportunities that could influence the future design, development and management of the woodlands.

The Long-Term Forest Plans and maps showing proposed felling and restocking plans for each area are available for viewing and download on our website: fwforestry.co.uk/Loch-Ree

F&W Forestry would value your input into this process and welcomes your feedback on these woodlands and the future proposals. Feedback forms can be accessed via the QR code:



<https://forms.office.com/r/zJk857xm6A>

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