

This plan sets out the strategic direction for management over the next 20 years and provides details of the operations proposed in the first 10 years.



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<sup>®</sup> 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.



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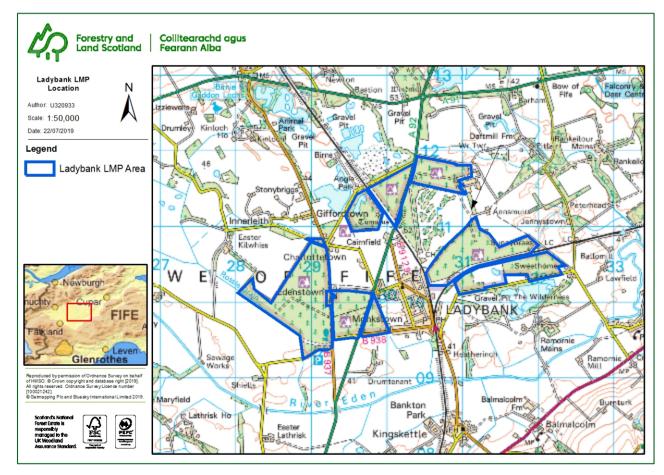
#### Introduction and summary 1.

#### 1.1 Location

Ladybank is situated in the geographical area known as the Howe of Fife; a largely flat, agricultural landscape, overlooked by the Lomond hills approximately 10km to the south west. The forest displays no significant landforms, sitting, almost entirely uniformly, at 45 metres above sea level. There are transitory views of the forest from the railway line and the various roads that pass beside and through the blocks but there are no significant overviews that help to place the forest within the wider landscape.

#### 1.2 The site

The forest consists of a number of dispersed compartments, surrounding the town of Ladybank in Fife. The blocks are separated by the East Coast Mainline and Perth branch line railways, the A92 and B937. The forest covers a total area of 281 ha and predominantly consists of stands of mature Scot's and Corsican pine. The extent of the plan area and location is defined in map 1 below.



## 1.3 Certification

The management of the woodland is certified and at all times we seek to adhere to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

### 1.4 Key Issues

The key issues in this plan are:

- High visitor numbers are causing issues with litter and dog waste.
- Regeneration of beech and western hemlock is outcompeting other desirable species in parts of the block.
- Beech seed is a favoured food for grey squirrel, which are now endemic throughout most of Fife with the exception of Ladybank and some other significant areas of conifer forests where red squirrels are still present.
- Tree disease Dothistroma needle blight has affected much of the pine plantations in the forest.
- Access to the site for management operations is restricted by poor roading.

#### Proposals in Brief 1.5

- Fell 11.11ha of conifer woodland. •
- Thin 220.03ha of conifer woodland.
- Restock felled areas with 5.56ha of productive broadleaves, 3.14ha with Scots Pine and 0.99ha with broadleaf species as part of an intimate mixture.
- Upgrade 1770m of forest road to improve management access.
- Plant open wayleaves adjacent to the railway with native shrub and hedgerow species.
- Management of open water and surrounding areas to increase biodiversity.

## 1.6 Timing

This plan presents in detail the management, felling, thinning and restocking proposals for the next 10 years (2020-2029). This first ten year period is particularly important because it relates to the part of the land management plan that requires specific approval from Scottish Forestry. Longer term management of Ladybank is included in the plan but mainly to provide an indication of the direction of travel and to provide context.

#### Consultation and Further Information 1.7

During the development of this plan we have consulted with the local community and statutory and other interested stakeholders.

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## 2. Scottish Forestry Regulatory Requirements

This section provides a summary of the elements of the Land Management Plan which are regulated by Scottish Forestry. In line with approvals sought, this focusses on relevant operations and activities proposed for the first 10 years of this plan.

## 2.1 Summary of Planned Operations

Proposed Operations	2020 - 2029
Felling	11.11
Thinning	220.03
Restocking	11.11
New Road Construction	60
Road Upgrade	1770m

#### 2.1.1 Proposed Felling in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Felled (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)				
2020 - 2024	7.18	2.6				
2025 - 2029	3.93	1.4				

#### Details of Clearfell by Coupe for phase 1

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56006	2022/23	SP	6.46	MB	0.72	0.00	7.18

#### Changes in Age Class over plan period

Age of Trees	Growth Stage	2020 %	2024 %	2029 %	2039 %
0-10	Establishment	2.4	2.1	3.0	1.4
11 - 20	Thicket	0.3	1.2	2.2	3.0
21-40	Pole	33.6	30.3	7.6	2.5
41 - 60	Maturing High Forest	5.0	5.4	26.3	29.3
61+	Old High Forest	50.1	49.8	50.5	54.7
Integral Open Ground	N/A	8.6	11.1	10.4	9.1
Open Hill Ground	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

#### 2.1.2 Proposed Thinning in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Thinned (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)				
2020 - 2024	53.98	19.2				
2025 - 2029	177.19	63.1				

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	Area (ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Species 3	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56001	2023/24	SP	8.76	MC	4.72	MB	3.00	1.07	17.55
56006	2023/24	SP	6.46	MB	0.72	-	-	0.00	7.18
56019	2022/23	SP	22.75	СР	1.41	MB	4.61	0.48	29.25

#### 2.1.3 Proposed Restocking in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Restocked (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2020 - 2024	-	-
2025 - 2029	7.18	2.6

#### Proposed Restocking by Coupe

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56006A	2023/24	SBI	5.56	-	-	0.62	6.18
56006B	2023/24	MB	0.20	-	-	0.80	1.00

#### Species Change Over Plan Period

Species	2020	2020	2024	2024	2029	2029	2039	2039
	Area (ha)	%						
Scots pine	180.8	64.3	174.3	62.0	172.3	61.3	174.3	62.0
Corsican pine	30.4	10.8	30.4	10.8	29.2	10.4	30.4	10.8
Other conifers	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7
Birch (Downy/Silver)	2.4	0.8	2.4	0.8	8.0	2.8	8.0	2.8
Other Broadleaves	22.7	8.1	22.0	7.8	21.5	7.6	22.3	7.9
Open/awaiting restock	23.4	8.3	30.6	10.9	28.7	10.2	24.7	8.8
Total	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0

#### 2.1.4 Access and Roading in Years 2020-2024

Period of Works	Proposed Length for Construction (m)	Proposed Length for Upgrade (m)
2020 – 2024	60	1600
2025 – 2029	0	170
Beyond 2030	0	0

#### 2.2 Departure from UKFS Guidelines

The Land Management Plan seeks to follow the UKFS in all requirements. No felling will take place until any neighbouring restock areas have achieved two metres in height. If this is not achieved the separation will be agreed with Scottish Forestry.

#### 2.3 Tolerance Tables

Refer to Appendix III.

### 3. EIA Determination

#### 3.1 Deforestation

No deforestation is planned in the duration of this plan.

#### 3.2 Forest Roading

There will be one section of new roading proposed during this plan period – an access and stacking area approximately 50m long with a 10m spur to allow turning. This will be located in the Cairnfield Muir coupe and will join the public road at grid reference NO 297 115. Approximately 1600m of road upgrades and five turning areas will be required in phase I with a further 170m or upgrade and two turning areas in phase II to allow for safe extraction of timber. As these are upgrades to existing facilities there will be no net forest area removal.

There are no site designations impacted by the proposed works.

#### 3.3 Quarries

It is not anticipated that new quarries will be required.

#### 3.4 Afforestation

No new woodland creation is proposed within this plan.

#### 3.5 Additional Regulatory Requirements

#### 3.5.1 Water Framework

Given the scale of the proposal, as long as SEPA general binding rules are adhered to, a construction site licence will not be required.

#### 3.5.2 Prior Notification

Maintenance of roads will be carried out in line with Timber Transport Forum document "The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads (2014)". Prior notification will be sought for the area of new road that is greater than 25m from the public road. As all remaining proposed roading works in the scope of this plan are classed as maintenance of existing infrastructure no prior notification should be required. If the need arises, prior notification will be sought at the time of work planning.

#### 3.5.3 Planning Consent

Planning consent will be sought for the portion of new road construction within 25m of the public road mentioned in section 3.2.

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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.



responsible forestry



# 4. Introduction4.1 Existing Land Holding

Ladybank forest consists of a single block, made up of a number of dispersed coupes, surrounding the town of Ladybank in Fife. The blocks are separated by the East Coast Mainline and Perth branch line railways, the A92 and B937. The forest covers a total area of 281 ha and predominantly consists of stands of mature Scot's and Corsican pine.

The age structure of the forest is reasonably diverse; approximately half the forest was planted prior to 1960 and the majority of the rest was planted during the 1980's. As mentioned, the forest is heavily dominated by stands of large mature pines with some areas of other conifers and broadleaves typically occupying some of the wetter sites. The forest is currently managed exclusively under continuous cover forestry (CCF) practices, aiming to maintain canopy cover through selective felling and natural regeneration. Pines are regenerating well in parts of the forest but are being out-competed by beech and western hemlock in certain areas.

The forest is of key importance for residents of Ladybank, being heavily used by local dog walkers. A woodland user group has taken interest in past management and the views of residents will be a significant factor in any plans going forward.

#### 4.2 Setting and Context

The compartments making up Ladybank forest surround the town of Ladybank in Fife. The town emerged with the arrival of the railway line in 1847 at the point where routes from Edinburgh diverged to either Perth or Dundee. The forests were established shortly after to provide firewood for the growing population and to supply local industry.

The forest is situated in the Howe of Fife; a largely flat, low-lying plain that follows the course of the river Eden. Local land use is predominantly agricultural with small interlocking shelterbelt woodlands. The area is also dotted with a number of active and disused gravel pits. The closest significant landforms are the Lomond hills, approximately 7km to the south west.

#### 4.3 Land Management Plan Management Objective Zones

The land holding is considered as a single unit in this LMP.

#### **Plan Objectives** 5.

#### 5.1 Issues

The pertinent issues to be considered within this land management plan are:

- High visitor numbers are causing issues with litter and dog waste.
- Regeneration of beech and western hemlock is outcompeting other desirable species in parts of the block.
- Beech seed is a favoured food for grey squirrel, which are now endemic throughout most of Fife • with the exception of Ladybank and some other significant areas of conifer forests where red squirrels are still present.
- Tree disease Dothistroma needle blight has affected much of the pine plantations in the forest. .
- Access to the site for management operations is restricted by poor roading. •

#### Key Challenges 5.2

- Maintaining community interest and engagement with the site. •
- Maintaining habitat for red squirrel.
- Creating access for management operations. .
- Controlling natural regeneration to create the desired future forest structure. •

#### Management Objectives 5.3

#### 5.3.1 National Spatial Overview (NSO)

To best manage the national estate as a whole an approach has been proposed that considers which national targets can be best met in any area. This moves away from the requirement to try to meet all objectives on every site. This exercise has led to the production of the NSO which zones the country and suggests which areas can best meet the various national corporate priorities.

The NSO suggests that the most significant contributions to national corporate policy for this area – North Fife are:

- Ecosystem services and public benefit,
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Recreation improving health and wellbeing.
- Other National Commitments
  - Protection of red squirrel strongholds
  - Investment in silvicultural practices
  - Management of tree diseases
  - Education and outreach.
- Contribution to financial stability
  - Production of high quality timber crops
  - Specialist timber markets.

The Forestry and Land Scotland NSO categorises this site within zone 3: Dornoch, Black Isle, North East, Lowland Angus and North Fife.

The aims and objectives identified that this area can best contribute to are:

Ecosystem services and additional public benefits – Secure carbon sequestration through CCF, High recreation use of NFE contributes to increased health and well-being, support for small sawmills and sustainable timber production.

Other National Commitments: Woodlands in and around towns, habitat management, investment in silvicultural practices, management of tree disease, education, outreach and community engagement.

Contribution to financial stability: High quality timber crops, high potential for sawlogs and specialist timber products.

#### 5.3.2 Objective 1

Secure carbon sequestration through the growth of high quality timber. - The site is well suited to the growth of high quality timber and is of an age that stability can be maximised enabling movement towards a highly diverse age structure.

#### 5.3.3 Objective 2

**Improve the wellbeing of the local population through recreational use of the site.** – The location of the site is easily accessed by foot from Ladybank. Travel from further afield is possible due to numerous formal and informal parking areas.

#### 5.3.4 Objective 3

Maintain and improve the ecosystem services provided by the site. - The forest is a stronghold for red squirrel in an area that is otherwise dominated by greys.

#### 5.4 Secondary objectives

In addition to the objectives driven by the NSO there are also additional aspirations that are locally significant to the LMP area.

- Ensure the historic environment is protected and accessible. The forest contains two scheduled monuments.
- Protect and enhance wetland features The block includes some areas of former gravel works • which have since filled with water.
- Improve open habitat adjacent to railway lines. Currently open ground along the railway line could be planted with low shrubs and hedgerow plants to create wildlife habitat and to soften the transition from commercial crops to open space.

# 6. Analysis and Concept

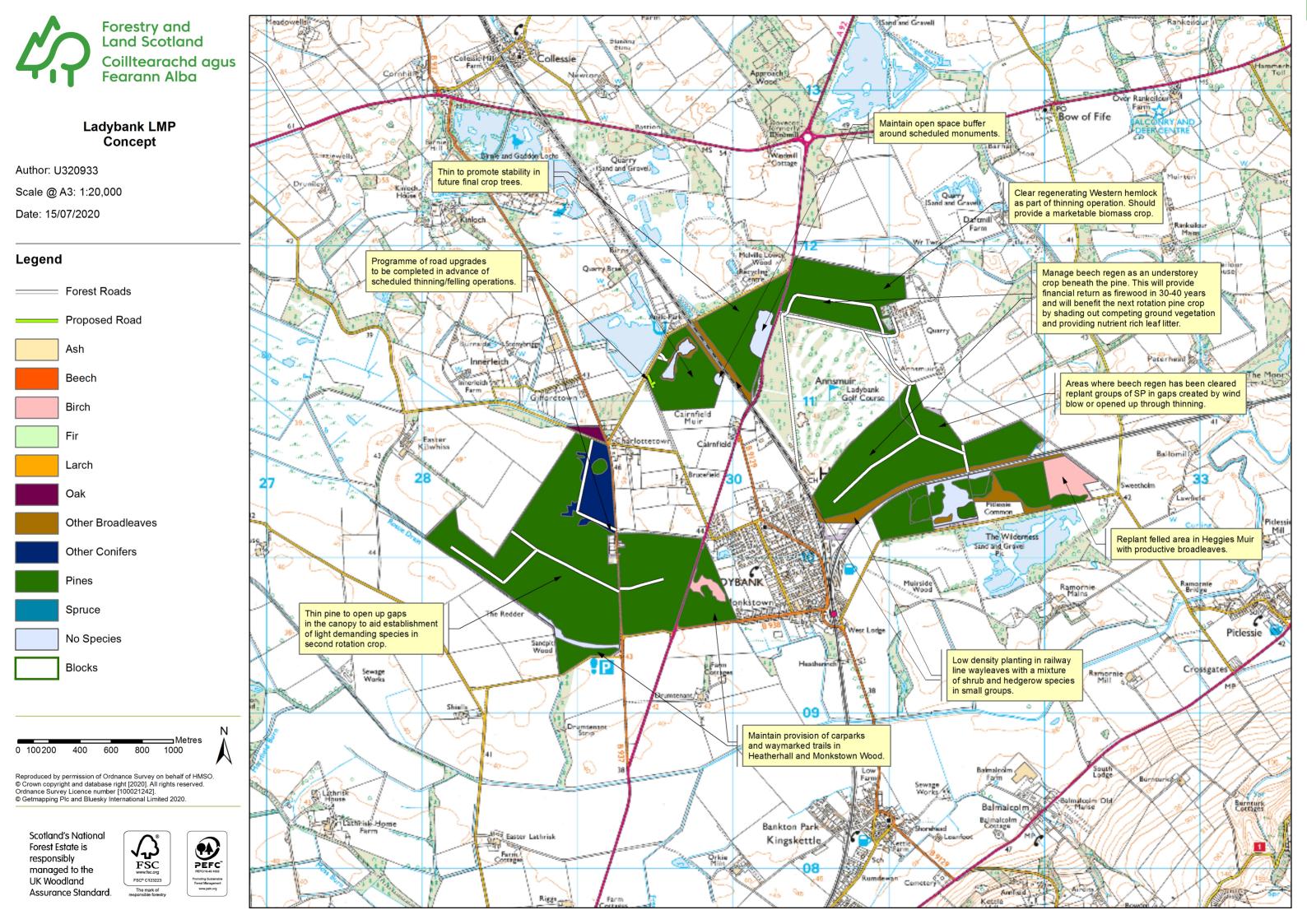
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Opportunity	Constraint	Concept	Ensure the historic	• 2 scheduled monuments – burial mound and iron age	<ul> <li>Natural regen threatens condition of</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation.</li> <li>4 way marked trails to explore.</li> <li>2 maintained carparks.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Informal trail network is extensive throughout the block.</li> <li>High usage brings problems with litter, dog mess and vandalism.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to maintain existing path network and car-parking facilities.</li> <li>Engage with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services manager to target persistent dog fouling offenders.</li> </ul>	protected and accessible.	<ul> <li>WWII defences – 2</li> <li>pillboxes and anti-tank</li> <li>ditches.</li> <li>Evidence of pre-industrial</li> <li>ridge and furrow</li> <li>agricultural system.</li> </ul>	some historic reatures.	
<ul> <li>Red squirrel populations have remained resilient in the block as greys have expanded territory across Fife.</li> <li>Good local awareness and active red squirrel conservation group.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Beech is favoured by grey squirrel.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue working with local groups to monitor squirrel populations.</li> <li>Active removal of beech regen will reduce future feed source.</li> <li>Removal of some mature, non- veteran beech in South Annsmuir will help to reduce the proportion of beech natural regen.</li> </ul>	Ensure access is suitable for felling/ thinning operations and appropriate stacking/ loading areas	<ul> <li>Coupes are small and have good access onto public roads.</li> <li>It would be possible to access most coupes from a roadside landing, internal roading would be unnecessary in most parts.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Proximity to roads/railway/utilities in several coupes.</li> <li>Internal road network largely unsuitable for heavy traffic.</li> <li>High recreation use will pose a hazard to</li> </ul>	     
<ul> <li>Mature pine stands have been well managed in the past.</li> <li>Ground is flat and firm enough to support</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Some crops have missed 1<sup>st</sup> thinning window.</li> <li>Regeneration of alternative species (BE,</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manage stands under irregular shelterwood system.</li> <li>In stands 50+ years old; crown thin to increase light levels for regen.</li> <li>In younger stands; low or</li> </ul>	are in place		operations. • Public may see timber loading areas as additional parking facilities.	
permanent extraction racks. • High numbers of people and dogs using the block means deer numbers are low.	SS and WH) are outcompeting pines in some areas. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration.	<ul> <li>intermediate thin to favour future crop trees.</li> <li>Utilise permanent racks to minimise ground disturbance across the site.</li> <li>Remove undesirable species during thinning operations where possible to reduce expenditure.</li> </ul>	Protect and enhance wetland features for environmental benefits.	<ul> <li>Ponds currently in Cairnfield Muir and Heggie's Muir coupes.</li> <li>Other former wetland sites in Heatherhall wood and South Annsmuir.</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>Forest is currently dominated by well managed mature pine crops.</li> <li>Natural regeneration of pine is evident, particularly in Heatherhall wood.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regeneration of alternative species (BE, SS and WH) are outcompeting pines in some areas.</li> <li>Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration.</li> <li>A number of mature, seed bearing beech trees are dispersed throughout the crop in</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Where light levels are suitable for regen; respace crops to favour pines.</li> <li>Scarify ground to remove vegetation and promote good growing conditions for pine.</li> <li>Plan to prioritise felling of seed bearing SS stands.</li> <li>Consider options to remove mature, non-veteran BE from South Annsmuir.</li> <li>Where BE regen is dominant open up canopy in small group selections and underplant with pine.</li> </ul>	Improve open habitat adjacent to railway line	<ul> <li>Planting on open ground will help transition the edge of the commercial conifer crops into the open ground.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tall tree species have the risk of blowing onto power lines or railway track and will require frequent management to maintain in a safe state.</li> </ul>	H k t
	<ul> <li>Opportunity</li> <li>Local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation.</li> <li>4 way marked trails to explore.</li> <li>2 maintained carparks.</li> <li>Red squirrel populations have remained resilient in the block as greys have expanded territory across Fife.</li> <li>Good local awareness and active red squirrel conservation group.</li> <li>Mature pine stands have been well managed in the past.</li> <li>Ground is flat and firm enough to support permanent extraction racks.</li> <li>High numbers of people and dogs using the block means deer numbers are low.</li> <li>Forest is currently dominated by well managed mature pine crops.</li> <li>Natural regeneration of pine is evident, particularly</li> </ul>	OpportunityConstraint• Local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation. • 4 way marked trails to explore. • 2 maintained carparks.• Informal trail network is extensive throughout the block. • High usage brings problems with litter, dog mess and vandalism.• Red squirrel populations have remained resilient in the block as greys have expanded territory across Fife. • Good local awareness and active red squirrel conservation group.• Beech is favoured by grey squirrel.• Mature pine stands have been well managed in the past. • Ground is flat and firm enough to support permanent extraction racks. • High numbers of people and dogs using the block means deer numbers are low.• Some crops have missed 1st thinning window. • Regeneration of alternative species (BE, SS and WH) are outcompeting pines in some areas. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • Regeneration of alternative species (BE, SS and WH) are outcompeting pines in some areas. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • A number of mature, seed bearing beech trees are dispersed	OpportunityConstraintConcept* Local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation.* Informal trail network is extensive throughout the block.* Continue to maintain existing path network and car-parking facilities. * Engage with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services manager to target persistent dog fouling offenders.* A way marked trails to explore.* High usage brings problems with litter, dog mess and vandalism.* Continue working with local groups to monitor squirrel populations. * Active removal of beech regen will reduce future feed source. * Removal of some mature, non- veteran beech in South Annsmuir will help to reduce the proportion of beech natural regen.* Good local awareness and activered squirrel conservation group.* Some crops have missed 1st thinning window. * Regeneration of alternative species (BE, S and WH) are out competing pines in some areas.* Manage stands under irregular shelterwood system. * In stands 50+ years old; crown thin to increase light levels for regen. * Inyounger stands; low or intermediate thin to favour future cropt ress. * Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration.* Mate regeneration of alternative species (BE, S and WH) are outcompeting pines in some areas. * Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regen: respace crops to favour pines. * Carity ground to remove wegetation also preventing good pine regen: respace crops to favour pines. * Carity ground to remove mature, non-veteran BE from South Annsmuir. * Where BE regen is dominant open up canopy in small group selections	Opportunity         Constraint         Concept           • Local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation. • 4 way marked trails to explore. • 2 maintained carparks. • Red squirrel populations have remained resilient the block as greys have expanded territory across Fife. • Good local awareness and active red squirrel of conservation group. • Mature pine stands have been well managed in the past. • Ground is flat and firm enough to support engeneration. • High numbers of people and dogs using the block means deer numbers are low.         • Some crops have engeneration of alternative species (BE, S S and WH) are outcompeting pines in s States op pines • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • Nature preventing of popula- intermediate thin to favour future. • Forest is currently dominated by well managed attraine areas. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • Nature preventing good pine regeneration. • Nature ingeneration. • Nature ingeneration. • Nature ingeneration. • Nature ingeneration. • Nature ingeneration. • Nature ingeneration of pinels evident, particulary in Heatherhall wood. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • Thick ground vegetation is also preventing good pine regeneration. • A number of mature, seed bearing besch vegetation satispecies (BE, S sand WH) are • Consider options to remove vegetation and promote good growing conditions for pine. • Consider options to remove vegetation and promote good growing conditions for pine. • Where BE regen is dominant open vegetation satispo preventing good pine regenerestion. • Nature ingenerat	Opportunity         Constraint         Concept           Local residents of Ladybank make extensive two of the block for dog walking and recreation.         • Informal trail network is extensive throughout is extensive throughout walking and recreation.         • Continue to maintain existing path network and car-parking facilities. • Engage with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services manager to target persistent dog dog mess and strong reup.         • WWI idences - 2           • Red squirrel populations. • Red squirrel populations. • Good local awareness and conservation group.         • Some crops have missed 1 <sup>21</sup> thinning window.         • Continue working with local groups to monitor squirrel populations. • Active removal of beech regen will reduce future feed source. • Removal of some mature, non- veteran beech in Stoth Annsmuir will help to reduce the proportion of beech natural regen.         • Some crops have missed 1 <sup>21</sup> thinning window.         • Some crops have missed 1 <sup>21</sup> thinning window.         • Manage stands under irregular shelterwood system.         • Ponds currently in coading areas are in place           • High unspecies (BEL, permanent extraction racks.         • Some crops have missed 1 <sup>21</sup> thinning window.         • Nanage stands under irregular shelterwood system.         • Ponds currently in cartineed Muir and Heggle's Muir coupes.           • High unspecies (BEL, permanent extraction racks.         • Some areas.         • Where ill phylevels for regen.         • Other former wetland sites ground distrubance across thesite. • Outcompeting pines in some areas.         • Where ill phylevels are suitable for regeneration.         • Ponds currently in cengeneration for preventing	OpportunityConstraintConceptI local residents of Ladybank make extensive use of the block for dog walking and recreation. 2-maintel carparks.* Informal trail network and car-parking facilities. * Engage with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services manager to target persistend og fouling offenders.bistoric means to metwork and car-parking facilities. * Engage with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services manager to target persistend og fouling offenders.bistoric means to move with community groups via contact with FLS visitor services * Continue working with local groups to monitor squirrel populations. * Active removal of beech regen will help to reduce the proportion of means der numbers are low.• Continue working with local groups to monitor squirrel populations. * Active removal of beech regen will help to reduce the proportion of beech nistud frammenur will help to reduce the proportion of statisds 50* years old; crown thin to increaselight levels for regen. * Instrume to species (8E, stand will area and working therantic species (8E, stand will area and working therantic species (8E, stand will area and working with years on the species (8E, stand will area and working with years on the species (8E, stand will area and working with years on the species (8E, stand will area and working with years on the species (8E, stand will area and working with years on the species (8E, stand will area and wears persons where persons where persons where possible to increaselight levels for regen. * Natore of population stalo species is and will area of the species difficience of preving most parts. * Utilise permanent carbot statis regeneration of and dogs using the block.• Some crops have the increase set species diffi

Objective

Opportunity

Constraint

Concept
<ul> <li>Maintain appropriate buffers and manage regen around heritage features.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Identify upcoming coupes and plan necessary road upgrades/timber handling areas in advance of operations.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Respace BL's around ponds in Cairnfield Muir.</li> <li>Helen's Myre will be assessed and considered for peatland restoration during phase 1 of the plan.</li> <li>Continue to manage as priority wet woodland.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Plant open space with a mixture of hedgerow species; e.g. hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel with some scattered oak and birch further from the railway line.</li> </ul>



#### Long Term Land management Plan Proposals 7.

#### 7.1 Management

The Ladybank Land Management Plan has been designed in accordance with sound silvicultural, legal and environmental principles set out within the UK forestry Standard and UK Woodland Assurance Standard and in line with the Forestry and Land Scotland National Spatial Overview.

Detail of all operations scheduled for the first phase of this plan can be seen in Section 2 and on maps on pages 21-23.

### 7.2 Silvicultural Systems

The location, soils, present species and climatic conditions all mean that continuous cover silvicultural systems are best placed to meet the management objectives. Where possible all present crops will be managed towards Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) systems. The precise system targeted will be tailored to suit the present and subsequent species.

#### 7.3 Harvesting Proposals

#### 7.3.1 Felling proposals

The plan area contains one phase I and one phase II coupes scheduled for felling in the period of the LMP. In both cases small areas of Scots pine that are now beyond their thinning windows and are at risk of blowing. The majority of the remaining area will be managed under CCF as a continuation of the previous plan.

#### 7.3.2 Thinning Proposals

Due to the high percentage of CCF management within the block it is expected that approximately 78% of the plan area will receive a thinning intervention during the next 10 years. The plan area has been split into seven thinning coupes, largely dictated by the physical barriers of roads and railways that separate the areas of the wood.

#### 7.3.3 Restock Proposals, Future Habitats and Species

Scots and Corsican pine will continue to be the dominant timber species with elements of native broadleaves emerging in a mixture with the pines as natural regeneration. Areas designated for clearfell will be restocked with productive broadleaves or Scots pine and broadleaf mixtures.

#### 7.3.4 Open Land management

Open space within the LMP area are infrequent, mostly concentrated adjacent to the mainline railway. The intention for these areas is to plant a mixture of native shrub and hedgerow species in small groups at low density with the aim of creating habitat and breaking up the hard lines of the mature forest behind. Using short, shrubby species should prevent any future safety issues arising with the neighbouring railway and overhead power lines.

#### **Critical Success Factors** 8.

- No reduction to red squirrel numbers during plan period.
- Management operations undertaken in all proposed coupes.
- Pine element of second rotation crop to be in excess of 50%. •
- No long-term impediment to visitor access. •
- All heritage features kept clear of trees and protected during management operations. •

## 9. Management Prescriptions

#### 9.1 Forest Management Types

All operations will be undertaken in line with UKWAS and UKFS requirements and as set out in FLS guidance. Appendix VI includes links to these documents.

#### 9.1.1 Stewardship

#### Beat-up

There are no intended beat-up operations proposed during this plan period.

#### Weed control

Areas of bracken in Heatherhall to be rolled.

#### Respacing

Respacing of naturally regenerating trees is required in two coupes, both within the Cairnfield Muir block:

- 56017 0.93 ha of native broadleaves surrounding the former gravel pits.
- 56018 6.02 ha of Scot's pine.

#### 9.1.2 Silvicultural System

The aim is to manage these woodlands under a continuous cover silvicultural system. The precise system used will depend on the intended desired species of regeneration.

#### 9.1.3 Restock / Regeneration

There is one proposed area of restock in this plan; coupe 56006 will be restocked with silver birch (*Betula pendula*) with the intention of developing a stand of productive hardwood. Planting will be at 1.5m spacing.

Currently open wayleaves adjacent to the mainline railway will also be planted with small groups of native hedgerow and shrub species; hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Cretaegus monogyna*) and blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), with some oaks (*Quercus petrea*) away from the railway line. Overall canopy density in these areas should be low, with more than 85% of the area remaining open. Groups to be positioned to break up sight lines and soften the edge of adjacent conifer plantations.

Natural regeneration is already establishing across much of the forest; in particular coupes 56015, 56016 and 56022. Careful consideration will need to be taken to ensure that desirable species are regenerating in these areas. If, in spite of the best efforts of the FM team, desirable species are not establishing in sufficient numbers the decision will be taken to underplant.

In coupes 56015 and 56016 the emerging beech regen is dominating the understorey. This will be managed to produce a biomass crop under the pine canopy with the aim of producing a financial return as well as improving soil conditions and suppressing ground vegetation for subsequent rotations. The beech understorey should be felled prior to the development of seed.

The requirement for and specification of ground preparation will be identified at the work planning phase. There are no conflicts over adjacency guidelines in this plan due to the disparate nature of the felling coupes.

#### 9.2 Future Habitats and Species

There is no significant change planned in the species composition of the forest during this plan period.

Where at the work planning stage species selection differ markedly from those identified in the LMP revised restock plans will first be agreed with Scottish Forestry. See tolerance tables in appendix III.

#### 9.3 Operational Access

Access for extraction to roadside has been identified in each felling/thinning coupe. Some improvements to the current road network will be required prior to working and there will be one new section of road construction, detailed in section 3.2. A full description of requirements is included in the schedule of works in section 2.1.4 and concept map in section 6.2.

Prior consultation on timber transport will be sought with Fife Council ahead of any planned operations.

#### 9.4 Herbivore Management

Deer numbers in the forest are not deemed to be significant problem for the establishment or regeneration of trees due to high visitor numbers. Rabbits may pose a threat to establishment of new planting along railway line wayleaves; planting groups should be protected with rabbit netting enclosures.

The proposed restock in coupe 56006 should be protected with a deer fence. This will result in restricted access for the duration of the establishment period but will be beneficial for the survival rates of young trees.

#### 9.5 Management of Open Ground

See section 9.1.3, paragraph 2 for details of proposed planting in open spaces.

#### 9.6 Public Access

The current provision of car-parking and waymarked trails in Heatherhall and Edensmuir are to be maintained but no new visitor services are proposed for the duration of this plan.

#### 9.7 Heritage Features

Scheduled and unscheduled monuments within the forest are to be protected during management operations and buffer zones are to be maintained free from regenerating trees in accordance with current FLS conservation plan guidance.

# Appendix I – Land Management Plan Consultation record I/1.0 Record of statutory consultation

Statutory Consultee	Date		Issues Raised	Forest
Statutory consultee	Contacted	Date response received	135025 Naiseu	Torest
Local community drop-in session	29/04/2019	Attended by local residents	See separate public consultation response in	See separate public
		and members of Ladybank	appendix I/1.1.	appendix I/1.1.
		Forest Users Group (LFUG)		
Fife Council	20/02/2019	No response received		
HES	20/02/2019	No response received		
Network Rail	16/06/2019	No response received		
Claire Smith - RSPB	20/02/2019	25/02/2019	RSPB Scotland does not hold any data on priority species for forested area of Ladybank. I have checked with Tayside Raptor Study Group and Ken Shaw and we are not aware of any rare nesting raptors using the wood. Gareth is aware of the kestrel and owl nest boxes that have been placed in the wood and can advise on where these are and on leaving areas that may provide good foraging e.g. open areas, understorey, some areas of brash etc.	
SEPA	20/02/2019	No response received		
SNH	20/02/2019	No response received		
Ladybank Forest Users Gorup	20/02/2019	29/04/2019	Comments received at drop in session	
Ladybank Golf Club	20/02/2019	No response received		
Hillary Munroe - Scottish Badgers	20/02/2019	No response received		
Ladybank Sand and Gravel Co.	20/02/2019	No response received		

t District Response				
ic consultation response in				
for nesting birds will be perational level.				

			Item	Action Required
14.4 Decended structure due			Please ensure that the	Follow guidance from environment
/1.1 Record of public dro			forest/woodland is maintained to	team on management for
Item	Action Required	Outcome	sustain wildlife.	biodiversity.
Plan required to manage the old firebreaks along the railway lines for	Plant a variety of native hedgerow species such as hawthorn,	Planting of way leaves will be included in the plan to be actioned		
iodiversity. Currently the wild	blackthorn, rosa rugosa in groups	by the FLS environment team.		
owers are being suffocated by	along railway line wayleaves to	by the rigo environment team.		
coarse grass.	provide habitat for insects, birds and	Environment team cannot action this,		
	mammals.	it will have to be delivered by the FM		
		& Stewardship team with the		
	The only way to manage the site to	environment team helping with the		
	remove the coarse grass dominance	species and identifying suitable		
	and increase wild flowers would be	planting sites. The main outcome	Maybe authorit the filler trace that	Clear windhlown troop from nother or
	to graze but the expense of fencing	will be a diverse matrix of grass and scrub land along the railway buffers	Maybe cut back the fallen trees that are blocking pathways.	Clear windblown trees from paths as and when they occur.
	is prohibitive, or possibly mow and remove the cut grass which we	improving overall biodiversity and	are blocking pailways.	and when they occur.
	currently don't have the capacity or	habitat quality	Allow more native species to	Respace regen to allow a wide
	funds to manage. Previous survey		generate and make a mixed	variety of native species to emerge
	work has identified wildflower		woodland.	in the next rotation crop.
	hotspots and the planting suggested			
	above will avoid these whilst			
	breaking up the grass dominated		Keep as natural as possible. Leave it	Maintain the current mature pine
	habitats and improving overall		alone. Support pines. Otherwise	overstorey with emerging
	biodiversity for invertebrates, birds		leave it.	regeneration of pines with mixed
tter, dog waste - respect for the	and mammals. Increase number of dog waste bins	FLS manage 5 dog bins at		broadleaves.
nvironment.	and frequency of emptying.	Heatherhall Woods in the main		
log dirt - but I'm not sure what you	Conduct local awareness campaign	carpark and a further two in the small		
an do. Did the highlighting have	to encourage responsible dog	car park off the B937. Ladybank		
ny effect? Most irritating are the	ownership.	Forest Users group (LFUG) manage		
bags of dog dirt left lying around!		two dog bins at the Golf Street		
Educate people on picking up after		entrance to South Annsmuir. Fife		
heir dog!! More bins within the wood		Council manage litter bins at the		
Heatherhall).		entrances to Monkstown Wood and		
Dog bins/dog poo solution .ess litter (although I don't know		Gravel Pit Wood. This level of bin provision is exceptional and we do		
ow you could achieve that).		not have the resources to increase		
Another dog poo bin by golf course		provision further. There is clearly a		
exit of South Annsmuir.		behavioural issue where some dog	Maintain the carparking area on the	Fill pot holes and resurface car
fonly dog walkers would clear up		owners are not picking up their dogs	Charlottetown road and by Heggies	parking area.
after their pets! - I know it's not your		waste or using the bins. FLS have	Muir which is now quite badly rutted	
esponsibility.		been working with LFUG members in	and potholed.	
sk people to take away their		a targeted campaign at key access		
ubbish and pick up dog poo.		points to highlight the dog fouling		
If possible more bins at North		issue using spray paint and		
Annsmuir.		behavioural signage.		

#### Outcome

I need to have a look at the plans, thinning rotations etc. to better answer this one, but short of including small clearfells to create small areas of stand initiation stage scrub at restock which will increase for example migrant bird diversity the answer is probably variable thinning densities, including not thinning some areas, and robust environment checks prior to any forestry operations to protect any important micro habitats and breeding wildlife. Clear windblown trees from paths as and when they occur.

Respacing of regen will aim to favour pines and native broadleaved species.

In order to maintain the current appearance of the forest it will be necessary to carry out some timely thinning operations to increase light levels and encourage regeneration. A small area of clearfell is planned in Heggies M uir to clear an unmanaged stand of pine which is infected with *Dothistroma*. This will be restocked with a suitable native species that is adapted to site conditions.

Retain standing and fallen deadwood where safe to do so away from paths and tracks. Vary thinning densities and rotations to create structural diversity in the blocks or stands. FLS have prioritised repairs to the main car parking areas of Heatherhall Wood and Monkston wood in FY 19/20. Other access points are not classed as formal car parks and any maintenance of these areas would be lower priority, only attracting maintenance when the opportunity and budget is available.

Item	Action Required	Outcome	ltem	Action Required	Outcome
Provide species that are beneficial for red squirrel retention.	Manage emerging regeneration to favour species that provide food and cover for red squirrels. Consider planting NS if possible? How shade tolerant is it? Could it be under-planted in small areas amongst well thinned SP	Red squirrel are a key priority species and Ladybank forest is a stronghold within region otherwise dominated by greys. Protection of red squirrel will be a key consideration when writing this plan.	High level crossing for red squirrels between Heatherhall and Eden's Muir.	Investigate with local council and highways department for permission. Currently looking at a similar project in Moray so we can look at taking this forward but no guarantees. What's the roadside vegetation like? If there are a lot of hazel for example it wouldn't do any good because the squirrels would	Further investigation required.
Make sure the wild flowers "up the field" are protected.	Protect and cultivate wildflower meadows for the benefit of pollinator species.	Unsure of the exact location but every effort will be made to preserve wildflower meadows within the forest for their biodiversity value.	Cut broom from pathway along B937 at edge of Heatherhall.	just continue to cross at road level. Include path clearance in FM maintenance program.	Path maintenance on non- waymarked routes will be carr where budget and resources a
I would like to see the silver birch removed as they seem to be everywhere. As an orienteer I would prefer that the woodland was open and runnable. Therefore prefer no young beech and birch.	Target silver birch regeneration and remove from the matrix of understorey growth.	As a native species silver birch is an important component of this woodland for ecological, landscape and habitat reasons, as well as being a key commercial tree for firewood and furniture making. There will be no plans to remove silver birch in the foreseeable future.	Gate has been bolted shut in fence around new planting in Heggies Muir.	Remove bolt to allow access.	The gates were initially shut be visitors were leaving it open ar allowing deer to enter and brow the young trees. There were a hygiene issues with dog waste contractors working within thes areas Due to the high number users it is intended to keep the closed off until the trees have
Fire prevention posters - Kids having BBQ's when the grass is tinder dry.	Erect fire warning posters during high risk seasons.	FLS local staff can put up signs when the fire risk is measured as high. This would be on a risk assessed basis.			This site has plenty of available around the enclosed areas for exercising as per the Scottish
Circular routes with fitness equipment. Designated MTB routes.	Consider proposal and respond.	Visitors are free to access Ladybank Woods as per the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Mostof our visitors are very local or from within Fife, and all the Ladybank woods are small and easy to explore. As such FLS decided that waymarked facilities are not appropriate for this location and hope that visitors can explore and discover the woods themselves.			Outdoor Access Code. FLS recognise the benefits to some owners of having an enclosed in which to exercise dogs, how at this time our primary objective these enclosures is to protect establish trees. There are a nu of private dog walking fields in Fife/Clackmannan area who of safe enclosed areas.
More information surrounding the paths - level of accessibility. Notice board telling people the different trees and birds to look for.	Install interpretation boards at key locations around the forest.	There are interpretation boards located in Heatherhall car park and Monkston car park which contain this kind of information.			

#### **Appendix II - Supporting Information** II/1.0 The Existing Forestry and Land Holding

#### II/1.1 History of the Land Holding

Managed forests have existed at Ladybank long before the creation of the Forestry Commission. The majority of the block is designated as 'Plantation Woodland of Ancient Origin', appearing on maps from 1860 with some areas dating back as far as 1750. The town of Ladybank grew up with the arrival of the railway in the 1840's and the forests no doubt developed as a resource to supply local industry as the town grew.

The previous plan for Ladybank was last approved on  $12^{th}$  June 2007 and was set to expire in 2017. It received a plan extension to allow completion, extending the approval period to  $12^{th}$  June 2018. Previous plan reference: 033/A/L/07 (1).

#### II/2.0 Analysis of Previous Plan II/2.0.1 Aims of Previous Plan and Objectives

The objectives set out in the previous plan are detailed below. It should be noted that at the point of the mid-term review in 2012 a significant change in thinning prescriptions was proposed to tackle the increasing presence of Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) in the block.

Objective	Assessment
Manage the forest under CCF through regular thinning interventions to increase structural diversity and encourage regeneration.	Partially success desirable species in some areas is western hemlock Not all coupes ha Following 2012 r received a sign reduce spread of
Plant low lying shrubs in railway line wayleaves.	Not achieved - N place to date.
<b>From 2012 amendment</b> - Plant on open ground surrounding former gravel pit in Heggies Muir.	Successful - Pla broadleaves in 2
Manage the forest for the benefit of local red squirrel populations.	Successful - Red steady for the d populations in th
Protect all known archaeological sites.	Partially success around the ear Cairnfield Muir.
All forest operations carried out in accordance with forest and water guidelines.	Successful.
Planning permission being sought for a sand and gravel works to be opened up in North Annsmuir.	Planning request

These objectives from the 2007 approved plan have largely been met although the emergence of DNB has caused some disruption to planned thinning cycles, which are crucial to the development of LISS in the block.

#### II/2.0.2 How previous plan relates to today's objectives

With the exception of the proposed gravel works the objectives laid out in the previous plan still remain relevant. Unsuccessful or partially completed items have been updated and brought forward in the new plan where relevant.

#### of objective during plan period

sful - Natural regen of a variety of es is evident in the understorey but s being outcompeted by beech and ck.

have been thinned as planned.

review a number of younger crops inificant thinning intervention to of DNB in the block.

No planting in wayleaves has taken

lanting of Scot's pine and native 2012 developing well.

d squirrel numbers have remained duration of the plan. Grey squirrel the wood have been kept in check.

sful - Some encroachment of trees arthworks of the iron-age fort in

st was unsuccessful.

#### II/3.0 Background Information II/3.0.1 Physical Site Factors

#### Geology, Soils and Landform

Soils are predominantly podzols and brown earth. There are a small number of isolated sites where conditions are wetter which has led to the formation of gleying. There is a small area identified as a raised bog at Helen's Myre in Heatherhall.

The geology of the area is made up of freely draining fluvioglacial sand and gravel deposits over sandstone.

#### Hydrology

There are no identifiable surface watercourses apparent within the forest itself. The most significant local water feature is the Rossie drain, which forms the southern boundary of Heatherhall.

Soil moisture regime (SMR): Environmental Site Classification (ESC) analysis shows:

- Moisture deficits are high (136 mm) i.e. the climate is dry.
- The available water capacity is low. ٠
- Moisture availability is limited by the free draining nature of the underlying geology.

ESC suggests Soil Moisture Regime ranging from wet to moderately dry throughout the block. This will be largely determined by local soil characteristics. Areas of Edensmuir and Monkstown Wood have been drained.

#### Climate

The climate of the site is described in ESC terminology as 'warm moist'. The ESC climate values are derived from a range of factors shown below. Due to the small size and uniform elevation of the forest there is practically no variation in readings across the block.

- Elevation: ~45m Above Sea Level •
- Accumulated temp: 1493°C •
- Moisture deficit: 136 mm •
- DAMS score (a measure of windiness and exposure): 11 •

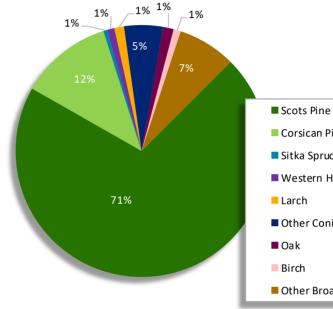
#### II/3.0.2 The Existing Forest

#### Age, Structure, Species and Potential Yield

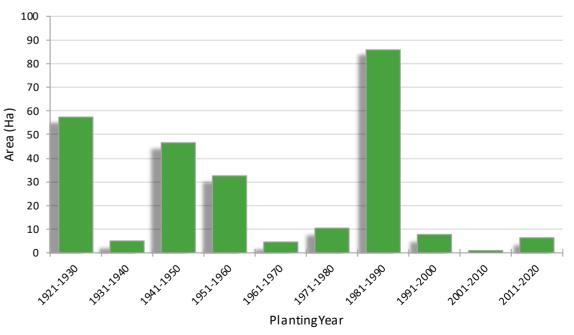
The age structure of the forest is reasonably diverse; approximately half the forest was planted prior to 1960 and the majority of the rest was planted during the 1980's. The forest is heavily dominated by stands of large mature pines with some areas of other conifers and broadleaves typically occupying some of the wetter sites. The forest is currently managed exclusively under continuous cover forestry (CCF) practices, aiming to maintain canopy cover through natural regeneration. Pines are regenerating well in parts of the

forest but are being out-competed by beech and western hemlock in certain areas. The species composition and age structure of the forest are detailed in graphs I and II.









- Corsican Pine Sitka Spruce Western Hemlock Other Conifer
- Other Broadleaves

#### Access

Road access within the block is fairly limited. Due to the small size and firm ground conditions of most coupes it is possible to forward timber to a roadside stacking and loading area instead of bringing haulage into the woods. There is a road access through North Annsmuir that crosses the edge of the golf course into South Annsmuir as this is the only practical access for this coupe. Upgrades will be required to all access routes and loading points to make them suitable for use in timber extraction. Access for timber lorries is directly onto the A92 meaning there are no restrictions on haulage routes.

#### **LISS** Potential

LISS is defined as "the use of silvicultural systems whereby the forest canopy is maintained at one or more levels without clearfell of areas over two hectares"

The forest is already managed under CCF prescriptions and a diverse matrix of regeneration is evident in the older crops. Regular and timely thinning in younger crops will be critical in their continued suitability for future transformation. Low DAMS scores coupled with firm flat ground and low browsing pressure make Ladybank an ideal site for CCF management.

#### **Thinning Potential**

Much as for the section above, the DAMS score is acceptable for thinning to be undertaken as long as thinning is commenced at a suitable age.

#### II/3.0.3 Land Use

The surrounding land use consists mainly of agricultural and residential property with some areas of light industrial and commercial development also; the aforementioned golf course, a caravan park, recycling depot and a gravel pit all share boundaries with the forest.

#### II/3.0.4 Biodiversity and Environmental Designations

The forest is a key stronghold for red squirrel in Fife in an area that has been largely overcome by greys. Raptor species and badgers are also known to be present in the block. Deer numbers are not significant in the block, most likely due to the high numbers of people and dogs that frequent the area.

#### II/3.0.5 Landscape

The forest is situated in the geographical area known as the Howe of Fife; a largely flat, agricultural landscape, overlooked by the Lomond hills approximately 10km to the south west. The forest displays no significant landforms, sitting, almost entirely uniformly, at 45 metres above sea level. There are transitory views of the forest from the railway line and the various roads that pass beside and through the blocks but there are no significant overviews that help to place the forest within the wider landscape.

#### II/3.0.6 Social Factors

Recreation and access will be key considerations when making planning decisions in Ladybank. The forest is heavily used by local residents as well as people from further afield, mostly for taking exercise and dog walking. Members of the public can access the forest via two maintained carparks which link to a network of four waymarked paths as well as a number of unofficial routes throughout the block. There are also a number of unsanctioned parking areas that are used to access popular walks. Sitting between the blocks known locally as North and South Annsmuir is the Ladybank golf course.

The forest contains two scheduled monuments (SM); the remains of a Bronze Age barrow and an Iron Age settlement. Visible at the two sites are remnants of former ditches and earthwork enclosures ranging from 0.6 to 1.0 metre in height. There are also a number of other heritage features including evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century field enclosures and the remains of a number of WWII defences that formed part of the Fife Stop Line.

II/3.0.7 Statutory Requirements and Key External Policies There are no statutory designations in place in Ladybank.

## Appendix III - Tolerance Tables

	Adjustment to Felling Coupe Boundaries	Timing of Restocking	Change to Species
FC Approval Not Normally Required	0.5ha or 5% of coupe – whichever is less	Planting up to 5 seasons after felling (allowing for fallow periods for Hylobius).	Change within species group, e.g. conifers: native broadleaves
		For natural regeneration up to 10 planting seasons after felling.	
Approval by Exchange of Email and Map	0.5ha to 2.0ha or 10% of coupe – which ever is first		Greater than 15% species change
Approval by Formal Plan Amendment	Greater than 2.0ha or 10% of coupe	Delay in excess of that described above.	Increased native woodland component. Increase in native broadleaves and open/bog restoration

Windthrow Response
Up to 5.0ha – if mainly windblown trees between 5.0ha to 10ha in areas of low sensitivity.
Greater than 5.0ha

#### Appendix IV - Land Management Plan Brief

IV/1.0 Previous plan objectives

See appendix II/2.0 - analysis of previous plan.

#### IV/1.1 Strategic Influence

The management of National Forest Estate is guided by The Forest Enterprise Scotland Corporate Plan (2017 - 2019), which identifies six key aspirations for the publicly owned forests:

- Healthy: achieving good environmental and silvicultural condition in a changing climate;
- Productive: providing sustainable economic benefits from the land;
- Treasured: as a multi-purpose resource that sustains livelihoods, improves quality of life and offers involvement and enjoyment;
- Accessible: local woodlands and national treasures that are well promoted, welcoming and open for all;
- Cared for: working with nature, respecting landscape, natural and cultural heritage;
- Good value: exemplary, efficient and effective delivery of public benefits.

#### IV/1.2 Key Issues and Constraints

- High visitor numbers is causing issues with litter and dog waste.
- Regeneration of beech and western hemlock is outcompeting other desirable species in parts of the block.
- Beech seed is a favoured food for grey squirrel, which are now endemic throughout Fife with the exception of Ladybank forest.
- Tree diseases Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) has affected much of the pine plantations in the forest.
- Access to the site for management operations is restricted by poor roading.

#### IV/1.3 Aims of new plan

Aim	Objective	Actions and Prescriptions
Continue to manage the site in line with silvicultural practices to maximise the sequestration	Identify areas where understorey regeneration is not succeeding and plan accordingly to increase	Make use of thinning, ground preparation and under planting to establish the next rotation
of carbon dioxide	seedling establishment.	crop.
Continue to manage the site in line with silvicultural practices	Identify suitable long term retentions in areas where timber	Monkstown wood and the Hazel coppice stand at the top of
to maximise the sequestration of carbon dioxide	production is a low priority.	Heatherhall are potential candidates.
Continue to manage the site in	Manage larch stands to minimise	Consider removal of mature
line with silvicultural practices	the risk of infection from	larch elements during thinning
to maximise the sequestration of carbon dioxide	Phytopthora ramorum.	operations.
Continue to manage the site in line with silvicultural practices to maximise the sequestration of carbon dioxide	Ensure access for timber harvesting operations is adequate.	Identify necessary roads and loading areas.
Improve the wellbeing of the local population through recreational use of the site	Work to as a minimum maintain the current level of recreational access.	Maintain current provision of paths and car parking facilities.
Improve the wellbeing of the local population through recreational use of the site	Ensure that alternate access provision is identified where woodland management works make it unreasonable to keep an existing route or provision open.	Provide advanced notification of intended works and suggest alternative areas for forest users during operations.
Improve the wellbeing of the local population through recreational use of the site	Manage the relationship with the local community to minimise any potential conflict.	Continue to engage with and assist local forest user group.
Manage the forest for the sustainable production of timber.	Continue CCF practices laid out in earlier plans.	Develop thinning programme to develop all identified areas towards multi-aged stands.
Maintain and improve ecosystem services provided by the site. Particularly those in areas of open ground.	Manage the site for the benefit of the local red squirrel population.	Promote favourable food species for red squirrel.
Maintain and improve ecosystem services provided by the site. Particularly those in areas of open ground.	Improve open habitat adjacent to the railway line.	Plant in wayleaves to provide habitat diversification and landscaping benefits.

Aim	Objective	Actions and Prescriptions
Maintain and improve ecosystem services provided by the site. Particularly those in areas of open ground.	Consider opportunities to add new flora species to the site, particularly pollinators to support the Scottish Pollinator Strategy.	Investigate opportunities to create new wildflower areas in railway line wayleaves.
Provide forest users with the opportunity to explore the cultural heritage of the site.	Create a plan for heritage features within the block.	Ensure all heritage features are open and accessible.

## Appendix V – Schedule of Works 2020-2024

Coupe	Area	Operation	Description	Programme
Reference	(ha)	operation		Year
56019	-	Road Maintenance	Upgrade turning circle and loading areas in coupe 56019.	2021/22
56019	-	Road Construction	Construct access with stacking and turning area for coupe 56019. Approx. length 50m + turning point. Cost £10- 12k.	2021/22
56019	0.93	Respacing	Respace BL regen around pond.	2021/22
56017	3.04	Environment	Ensure SM buffer zones are kept open.	2021/22
56018	6.02	Respacing	Respace un-thinned pine regen.	2021/22
56019	29.25	Thinning	Mixed age pine stand containing more mature elements around the edge and younger crops in the centre. LISS thin to promote stability and open space for crown development. Remove larch during thinning.	2021/22
56001	-	Road Maintenance	Upgrade turning and stacking areas in coupe 56001.	2022/23
56004 & 56005	8.03	New Planting	Plant hedge/shrub species along railway line wayleave. Plant in groups to break up sight lines. Protect with rabbit netting if appropriate.	2022/23
56006	7.18	Felling	Clearfell un-thinned SP.	2022/23
56001	17.55	Thinning	Majority pine stand with broadleaf and other conifer elements. LISS thin to promote stability and open space for crown development.	2022/23
56015 & 56016	-	Road Maintenance	Upgrade road to access thinning coupes 56013 &56015.	2023/24
56015	40.08	Thinning	Majority pine stand with broadleaf and other conifer elements. Open gaps from windblow and create others in non-blown areas to create good light conditions for SP establishment.	2023/24
56013	7.08	Thinning	Young SP stand. 1st thin at same time as 56015. Look for badger sets before commencing works.	2023/24

Coupe Reference	Area (ha)	Operation	Description	Programme Year
56015	32.74	Respacing	Respace regen post thinning – favour pine and oak/birch where present. Otherwise clean and single beech regen to manage as understorey firewood crop.	2023/24
56015	7.34	Restock	Plant groups of SP in gaps created during thinning.	2023/24
56006	-	Fencing	Deer fence to protect SBI planting – approx. 1,100m	2023/24
56006	7.18	Restock	Replant with SBI	2023/24*
56016	25.14	Thinning	Majority pine stand with broadleaf and other conifer elements. Open gaps from windblow and create others in non-blown areas to create good light conditions for SP regen. Remove larch and Western hemlock during thinning.	2024/25
56016	25.14	Respacing	Respace regen post thinning – favour pine and oak/birch where present. Otherwise clean and single beech regen to manage as understorey firewood crop.	2024/25

## Appendix VI – Links to Policy and Guidance Documents

### **UKWAS Certification Standard**

- <u>http://ukwas.org.uk/standard/background-and-purpose/</u>
- <u>http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/UKWAS-4-Appendix-</u> <u>References-v1.0-FINAL.pdf</u>

#### **UKFS Standard**

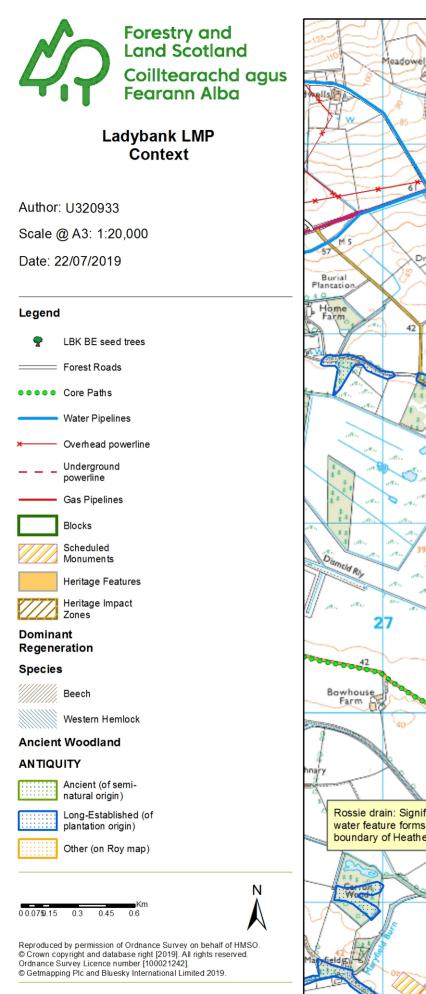
• https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland

#### Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

• <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/</a>

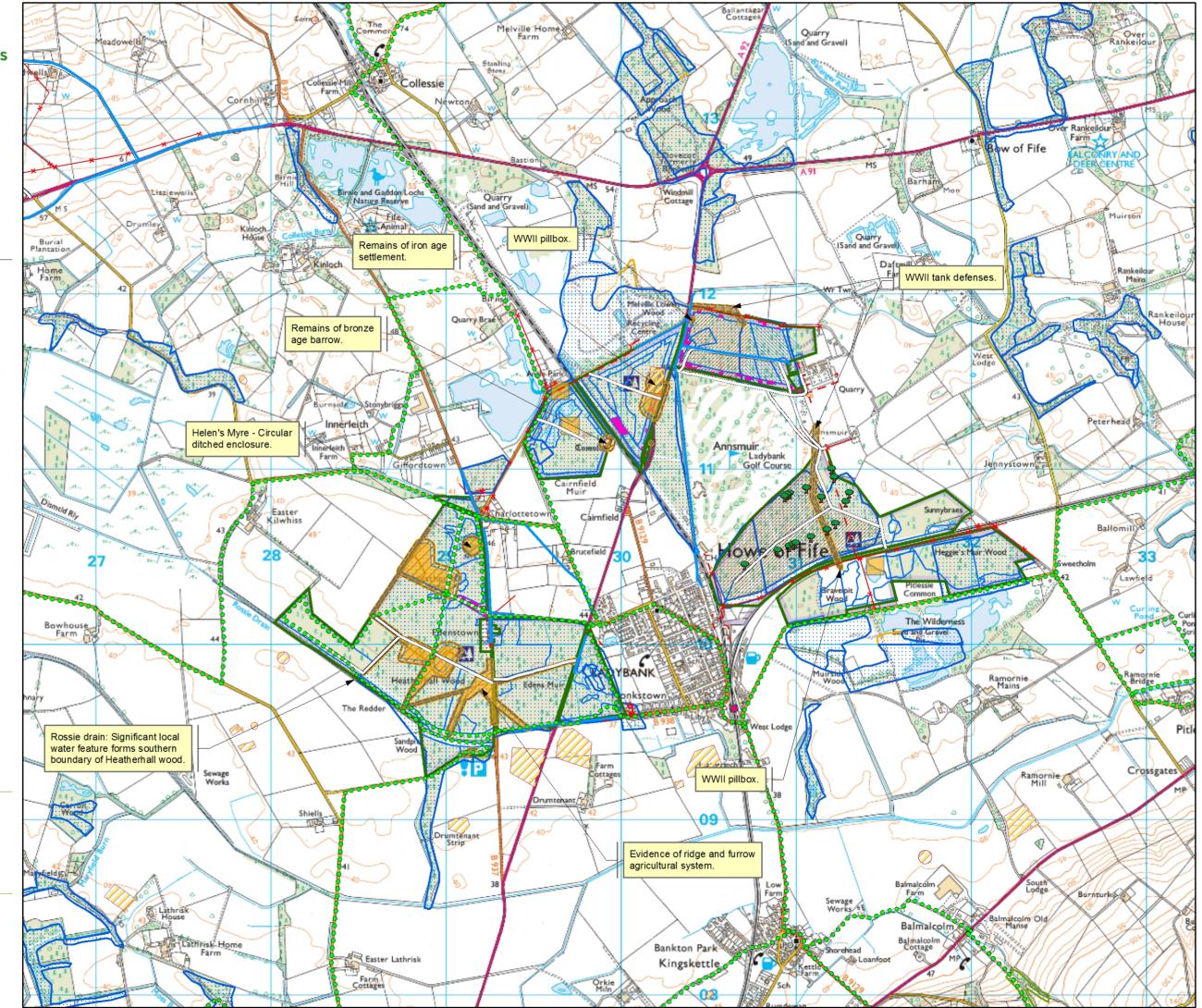
#### **FLS Corporate Strategies**

• https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/plans-and-strategies



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responsibly	
	FSC
managed to the	www.fsc.org
UK Woodland	FSC <sup>®</sup> C123223
Assurance Standard.	The mark of responsible forestry





Ladybank LMP Management Coupes

Author: U320933

Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

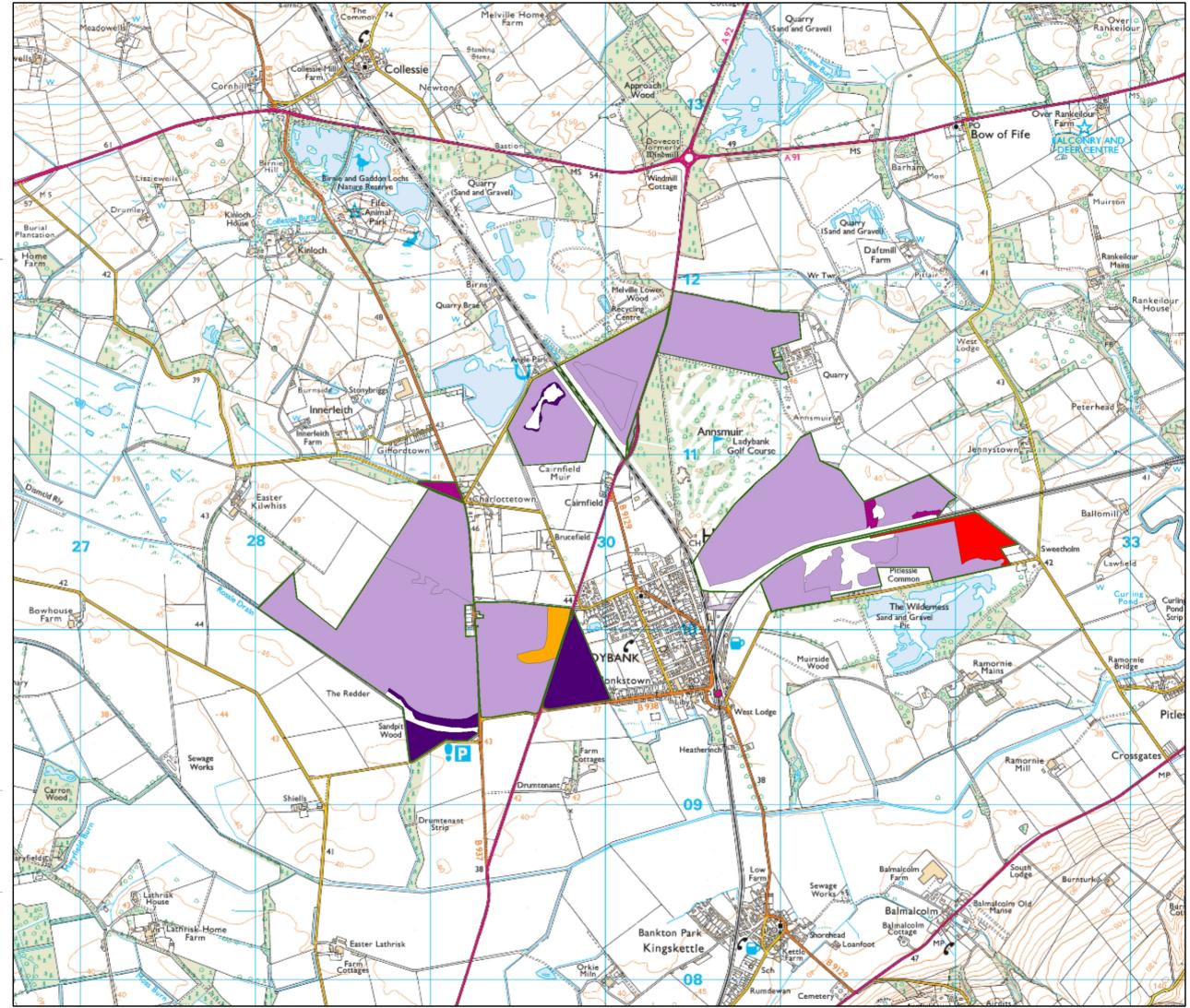
Date: 22/07/2019



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UK Woodland
Assurance Standard.







Ladybank LMP Future Species Composition

Author: U320933

Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

Date: 29/07/2019



0 0.07 **5**.15 0.3 0.45 0.6

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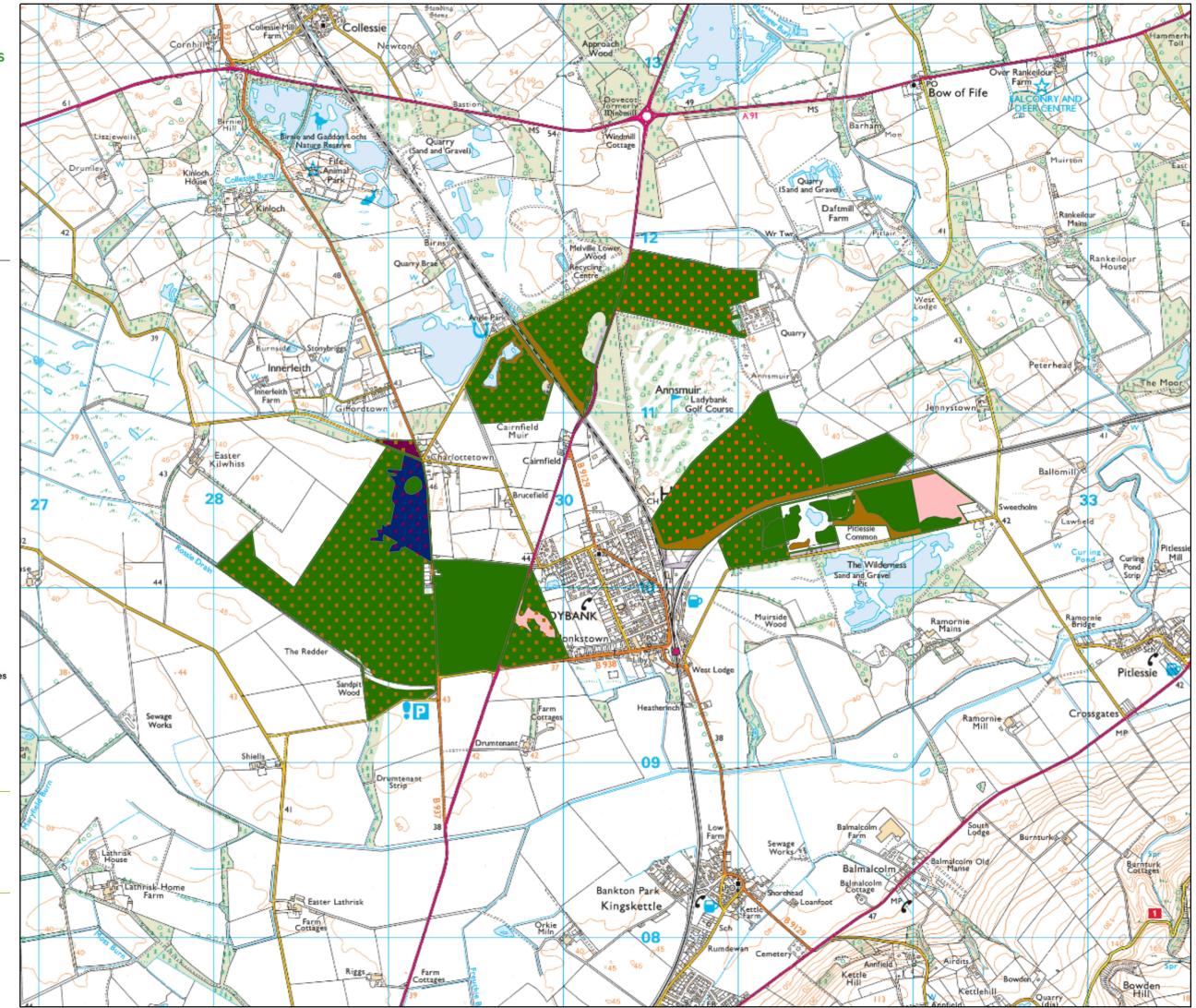
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#### Ladybank LMP Recreation Features

Author: U320933

Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

Date: 07/05/2020

#### Legend

P Formal Parking

Forest Roads

#### Waymarked Trails

••••• Alan Crawford Walk

#### ••••• Red

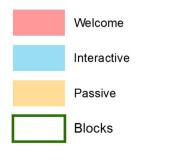
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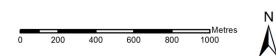
••••• Yellow

•••••• Core Paths

Scheduled Monuments

#### Visitor Zone





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