Kilpatrick Hills Land Management Plan 2025-35		
Management Objective	**Theme**	**Key Considerations**
Improve resilience through appropriate silviculture, species choice and careful forest design.	Forest resilience and sustained timber productivity	• Future predicted climates within the forest. • Threats to tree health. • Available tree species and provenances. • Present condition of individual stands (age structure, growth rates, ESC compatibility, stability to wind). • Distribution and abundance of Larch & compliance with Scottish Forestry's '*Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch Action Plan'. • Design of windfirm forest edges and ride networks to improve restructuring potential. • Coupe operational design and access. • Current herbivore pressures and wildlife management strategy. • Rationalisation/development of existing forest quarries. • Wildfire resilience. • Alternative commercial opportunities that are sympathetic to overall forest design.
Pre-emptively remove Larch species (where appropriate), adhering to FLS National Strategy.	Forest resilience	
Maintain small roundwood, pallet, log and biomass production through appropriate silviculture, species choice and careful forest design.	Sustained timber productivity	
Promote responsible use of the forest by visitors.	Access	• Working with partners to target anti-social behaviour hotspots. Providing information to help visitors report crime. • Maintenance of current recreational infrastructure including paths and associated heritage features. • 'Kilpatrick Hills and Surrounding Area Strategic Framework' – review objectives, their relevance and future viability.
Maintain attractive woodlands, trails and other recreational opportunities to promote visitor health and well-being.	Access	
Improve the visual amenity of the forest.	Landscape design	• Internal and external views of the forest. • Amenity woodland along access routes. • Planned infrastructure and mitigation. • Building on forest design improvements delivered in previous plans. • Projected changes in forest appearance, structure and composition based on the proposed future species and habitats plan.
Protect water quality and plan to mitigate against excessive water run-off in catchments.	Hydrology and catchment management	• Potentially vulnerable flooding areas (PVAs) and their catchments. • Drinking water assets and their catchments. • Opportunities for 'Natural Flood Management' features. • Phasing of harvesting programme to minimise hydrological effects. • Design of productive forest stands to mitigate effects on water quality and surface water run-off. • Creation of riparian filter zones and wet woodlands.
Maintain biodiversity value through appropriate management and design.	Biodiversity	• Implementation of the bog transition plan to the west of Burncrooks reservoir. • Review restoration techniques to bring in-line with current best practice. • Review forest stands managed as long-term retention, minimum intervention or natural reserves to ensure they are meeting their intended objectives. • Opportunities to improve habitat resource for priority species across the forest. • Protection and enhancement of existing UK priority habitats, national & local nature conservation sites.
Protect heritage features.	Heritage	• Ensure management prescriptions continue to protect and enhance important heritage features.