

The 'concept' or strategy for each zone describes future management aspirations. It takes into account local qualities, resources and sensitivities.

Core sustainable timber production zones.

We will continue to restructure forest stands to....
Maintain a core supply of marketable timber products;
Improve operational & visual design;
Protect water supply infrastructure & enhance catchment zones;
Extend ride networks & windfirm coupe boundaries - to improve forest resilience & age restructuring potential;
Expand the network of mixed woodlands managed at lower intensity for conservation, water quality & amenity;
Protect &, where practical, enhance the setting of heritage features & important path networks (e.g. core paths, John Muir Way).
To deliver these outcomes we will maintain a number of forest quarries supplying stone for management access.

Ancillary objectives will be delivered based on site specific factors:
Diversify timber producing tree species;
Expand & maintain native woodlands;
Thin forest stands & use alternatives to clearfell;
Restore priority open habitats.

Duncolm Hills

Continue to manage as a remote upland landscape of low density native woodland & successional open space. Gradually remove deer fencing & control deer populations to allow establishment of young native woodland.
Protect heritage features & public access routes, enhancing immediate setting through forest design where practical.
Investigate access improvements to facilitate management across the plan area with possible forest road linkage between Auchineden & Auchentorlie sub-blocks.

Protect dry heath habitat on Lang Craigs plateau.
Sensitive forest design considering visible forest edges, open habitats & geological formations.

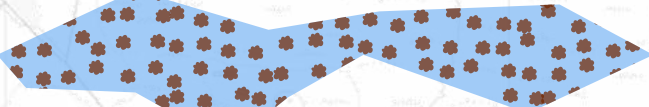
Diversify productive species in more sheltered zones with brown earth soils.

Continue to maintain native woodland & minimum intervention zones to protect ancient semi-natural habitats & nationally designated conservation sites.

Young broadleaved woodlands to be managed at lower intensity as a more permanent link between LEPO & ancient woodland habitats.

Riparian zones of main water bodies & their immediate setting

Tailor restock design to reflect the ecological sensitivity & amenity value of these zones with a focus on UKFS & 'drinking water supply' best practice;
Maintain &, where budgets allow, enhance visitor services infrastructure;
Investigate opportunities for riparian native woodland expansion in the longer term.



Expand native woodland restocking to link with existing ancient woodland.

Continue to enhance forest design along John Muir Way.

Whole plan area - Windblow & Larch

The 10 year plan of operations will aim to:
Restructure remaining mature conifer plantations with spreading windblow.
Manage the threat of Phytophthora ramorum by removing mature larch & securing access to pre-commercial larch stands.
(A proportion of mature conifer areas, without Larch, will be retained as long-term retentions to improve age class diversity & for conservation)

Whole plan area - Deer Management

The deer management plan's objective is to regulate browsing levels to ensure regeneration of forest stands.
Current control levels will be reviewed & adjusted annually based on deer population and tree condition surveys.
Deer fencing will be removed to allow more active deer control operations to progress.

Dumbarton Muir & Saughen Braes

Continue to manage as a remote upland landscape of open habitats & occasional peat fringe woodland.
Continue peat restoration to connect & enhance existing priority habitats. Control deer populations & gradually remove deer fencing. Protect & maintain the John Muir Way. Protect heritage features & carry out agreed management to protect nationally important conservation sites, namely Dumbarton Muir & Lily Loch SSSIs.
Review existing riparian woodlands & explore opportunities for longer term expansion.

Sensitive forest design to soften visible forest edges & accentuate volcanic landforms.

Kilpatrick Braes & Cochno Hill - upper slopes & summits

Recognising the value of this zone for landscape & recreation we will use minimum intervention management:
1. Summits & higher slopes will be left as successional open & scrub habitats;
2. Lower slopes left as low density native woodland habitat.

Kilpatrick Braes, Cochno Hill & Old Kilpatrick - lower slopes.

Recognising the value of this zone for landscape, recreation, heritage & conservation we will retain existing woodlands under lower intensity management systems. Tree species composition will be primarily native with some mixed LEPO stands, & alternative conifers. Except for the removal of Larch, LEPO stands will be managed through minimum intervention. Minor access facilities will be installed to allow thinning of alternative conifers for their long term stability. The 'Antonine Wall' & its immediate setting will continue to be managed in compliance with the WHS management plan. Visitor services infrastructure will be maintained &, where budgets allow, enhanced.

We will work with external partners to target anti-social behaviour hotspots in the plan & highlight the need for resources to control such activities. We will improve forest signage to help forest users & residents report crime & unauthorised activities. We will continue public interpretation & outreach work in local schools to educate on responsible use of the forest.

DRAFT

Legend

Forestry & Land Scotland Boundary

Timber Haulage

▲ High

▲ Low or none

Concept (Strategy) Zones

Core sustainable timber production zones

Dumbarton Muir & Saughen Braes

Duncolm Hills

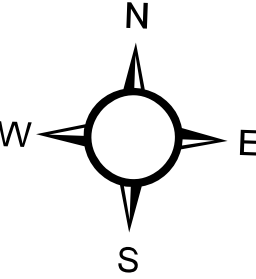
Main reservoir riparian zones & setting

Kilpatrick Braes & Cochno Hill - upper slopes & summits

Kilpatrick Braes, Cochno Hill & Old Kilpatrick - lower slopes

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0 0.17 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 Kilometers



Kilpatrick Hills
land management plan (2026-2036)

Concept Design - Management Zones

Author: Central Region Planning Team

Scale @ A 0: 1:15,000

Date: 16/09/2025

Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

