



Accessible text from Gala Lane land management plan 2024-34 DRAFT Maps 1, 2 and 3

DRAFT Map 1 – Location

- Map shows the location and boundary of the Gala Lane land management plan area
- Land management unit entry points are at OS grid references NX 4766 9402 and NX 4725 8648.

DRAFT Map 2 – Key Features

- Map shows the key features within and near to the land management plan area
- Loch Doon Castle (original) Scheduled Monument & Loch Doon Castle (re-erected) Scheduled Monument on loch bank
- Loch Doon Gunnery School (undesigned)
- Loch Head farmstead (undesigned)
- Carlin's Cairn (undesigned)
- Loch Doon Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an important habitat for Arctic Char, lies downstream of the Gala Lane block
- Merrick Kells SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Extensive areas of open hill top in the east and west encompass the Merrick Kells SSSI/SAC
- Priority peat soils are predominantly open
- UKBAP priority habitats and species are present within the block
- Forest views from the public road, Carrick Forest Drive & car park
- Majority of productive stands are first rotation and sheltered along the valley floor. The primary productive species is Sitka Spruce
- Areas of plantation that are highly visible from the forest drive and public road are uniform in colour and lack structural diversity
- Wildfires caused by anti-social behaviour have resulted in several understocked and unproductive areas
- Timber Transport Consultation Route (public road)
- Timber haulage along forest road network in the south to Agreed Route
- Shared access to single private residence with on-site water supply
- Loch Dee to Loch Doon Core Path
- Carrick Lane (SEPA ID:10439)
- Gala Lane (SEPA ID:10448)
- Riecawr catchment & pipeline
- Gala Lane is contiguous with a significant area of the Galloway Forest Park to the east, south and west: Back Hill of Bush Forestry and Land Scotland block, Carrick Forest Drive Forestry and Land Scotland block, Castlemaddy Forestry and Land Scotland block, and Shalloch Forestry and Land Scotland block.



DRAFT Map 3 – Concept

- Map shows the design and management concept for the land management plan area
- Key management objectives for Gala Lane land management plan 2024-2034: 1. Sustainable timber production, 2. Improve general woodland resilience by enhancing species richness and structural diversity, and 3. Management of the Merrick Kells SSSI / SAC as per the Designated Site Management Plan
- Timber production: Promote sustainable timber production through revised felling and restocking plans that continue to diversify the woodland's age structure and species composition in line with the UK Forestry Standard. Expand and maintain the existing forest road network to facilitate timely forest management intervention
- Open hill top: Manage the Merrick Kells SSSI / SAC as per the Designated Site Management Plan. Maintain adjacent hill tops as open space and continue to soften the forest edge by restocking with a range of site suitable tree species and by conforming to land form
- Riparian zone: Manage catchments to help meet the objectives of the Loch Doon SSSI Designated Site Management Plan. Increase open space and broadleaf establishment, using natural features to enhance habitat linkage for species such as Black Grouse. Investigate the potential for peatland restoration and/or peatland edge woodland in areas where the environmental benefit will be greatest
- External woodland views: Gradually improve views and visitor experience along the Carrick Forest Drive by presenting a range of colours, textures, and a varying forest structure. Restock with a variety of tree species and alter the upper forest edge to achieve better landscape fit. Where site conditions allow, target conversion to Low Impact Silviculture Systems.

End of text.