



A design brief for Plascow Land Management Plan

Plascow Land Management Plan Unit 1039.76 ha is located in Dumfries and Galloway, approximately 2.5 km East of the village of Kirkgunzeon and forms part of FLS South Region. The composite is just south of Dumfries, southern Scotland's largest town and is surrounded by private woodland creation, open hill farm land, small settlements. It is part of Scotland's national forests and land, owned by Scottish Ministers on behalf of the people of Scotland, and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The Plascow Land Management Plan (LMP) defines the management prescription for the next ten years (2024-34), and presents the vision for the long-term management of the area. The main management objectives in this plan focus on sustainable timber production, landscape and habitats.

An Analysis and Concept map has been produced to complement this design brief. It presents the draft management objectives, and highlights the opportunities and constraints for key issues.

The concept for the LMP focuses on delivering relevant national policy and has been developed around the following key drivers:

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 - 2029
- Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan 2022 - 2025
- Climate Ready Scotland: climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024

The plan will contribute to the first three outcomes of the Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan (Outcomes 4 and 5 relate to the organisational structure and business performance of FLS) as shown in the following table:

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in the long term sustainable productivity and resilience of the national forests and land, in the face of a changing climate. • Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land. • Bringing a sustainable supply of timber to market through the Timber Marketing Framework. • Continuing the implementation of the new plant and seed supply strategy. • Investing in slope stabilisation at key points on the transport network such as the A82 and the A83, and in reducing flood risk in key catchments identified by SEPA. • Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions and quality recreation sites. • Delivering an increased contribution towards the Scottish Government’s renewable energy targets. • Continuing to work with Registers of Scotland to ensure the extent of the national forests and land are properly registered in the Land Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimise yield and timber quality through sound long-term silvicultural prescriptions and harvest coupe design, with future site climate conditions considered. • Enhance the long-term sustainable productivity and resilience of the site through selection of site and climate suitable species for new planting and restock areas. • Increase the area within the forest block which is part of the regional thinning programme to enhance timber quality and provide a wider range of products. • Improve forest structure and maintain production potential through optimal species selection, identifying opportunities for alternatives to clearfell systems for amenity and silvicultural on the periphery of local settlements and visitor zones. • Increase the use of natural regeneration in our restocking, particularly around connecting networks of broadleaves to ancient woodland sites and in riparian zones. • Implement a road maintenance programme and quarry development required to service proposed harvesting and other forest operations. • Edges of the block are visually prominent as viewed from surrounding county road network; maintain and enhance local

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling organised events and opportunities that support the national and/or local economy and deliver a positive financial return to reinvest in the national forests and land. • Creating opportunities for income generation through woodland carbon code projects and other income streams related to the provision of nature-based solutions. • Bringing opportunities for further renewable energy projects to the market and helping to facilitate the development of projects which achieved planning consent. • Marketing venison to offset some of the high costs of deer management. • Working to release value from rural development opportunities in areas of Scotland where this is needed, for reinvestment in the national forests and land e.g. rural housing. • Realising the economic contribution and opportunities that Scotland’s national forests and land can make towards tourism. • Continuing to operate mineral leases, providing important minerals to the industry such as Barytes and Silica sand. • Working proactively with our tenants and stakeholders to identify potential added value opportunities. • Engaging commercially with network operators to facilitate the delivery of priority power grid 	<p>landscape through species diversity, integrated open space, and revised coupe shapes to improve structural diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to maintain and enrich the forest user experience and visual amenity within visitor zones. • Work with external stakeholders and partners to support them, understand and, where practicable, realise their aims for the woodland. • Create open space and infrastructure to facilitate safe and efficient deer management operations to enable successful woodland establishment and support the venison processing sector. • Recognise the importance of this site in the local landscape and the local economy for its value of attracting visitors to this scenic part of Scotland. • Consult with stakeholders and the local community to explore added value options for the 10 year revision. • Continue to work with network operators to facilitate utilities infrastructure management and development, enabling access to services in remote rural communities. • Recognise the potential renewable energy opportunities, working with developers to facilitate renewable energy infrastructure development if applications are submitted and approved through the planning process.
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	<p>infrastructure and digital and mobile connectivity projects.</p>	
<p>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping the Scottish Government to meet forest and woodland creation targets. • Working in partnership to restore vacant and derelict land for woodland planting and wider beneficial use. • Increasing our contribution to the Peatland Action programme. • Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. • Taking targeted action to maintain and bring designated sites into favourable condition – and working beyond designated sites at the landscape scale with partners where we can – for example in Scotland's rainforests. • Taking targeted action for vulnerable priority species (e.g. red squirrel, capercaillie, and black grouse). • Implementing the asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land. • Increasing ancient woodland restoration. • Implementing a programme to improve the resilience of the national forests and land to the impacts of climate change and tree health threats. • Continuing to implement the FLS Deer Management strategy while working in partnership with others to support the Scottish Government's response to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage priority habitats appropriately, retaining bog habitats on open hill tops within the blocks. • Liaise with the appropriate stakeholders to best manage areas for conservation enhancement. • Manage and protect open waterbodies, watercourses and water supplies in keeping with the UKFS and Forest and Water guidelines to assist with maintaining and improving water quality. • Where appropriate, incorporate Riverwoods Initiative principles to improve and maintain riparian zones. • Maintain area of native broadleaves throughout plan area for added biodiversity, targeting a permanent broadleaved woodland and open space matrix along riparian zones and improved habitat connectivity. • Protect existing deadwood habitats focusing any expansion on areas where there is connectivity with existing old woodland and where the impact on biodiversity is greatest. • Contribute to the creation and retention of habitats supporting priority species including open hill tops for Black Grouse. • Preservation of unscheduled archaeological features within the site as per the UKFS, the regional historic asset management plan, and HES guidelines. • Mitigate future impacts of future climatic changes and tree health effects by selecting species matched to site conditions, diversifying species where possible, greater use of mixtures, and appropriate application of silvicultural systems.

	<p>Independent Panel’s recommendations on deer management in Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> to conserve ground flora and improve habitats. • Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>. • Continuing to respond to and pre-empt Statutory Plant Health Notices by taking action to monitor, contain and slowdown outbreaks of pests/diseases. • Maintaining healthy forests by applying biosecurity procedures and monitoring tree and plant health. • Analysing the cumulative impacts of current plans for managing the national forests and land and testing whether our management is on the right track given the potential impact of future scenarios (e.g. climate change). • Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration, using our capabilities to complement and support the work of others. • Supporting policy development and research, and acting as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interrogate various scenarios throughout the planning process to help safeguard the future forest from potential impacts from climate change. • Continued deer management through the methodologies set out in the South Region Deer Strategy 2021-2026. • Support the work of local Deer Management Groups (DMGs) in their efforts to foster collaboration and co-operation between neighbours and to deliver sustainable and effective deer management at local level. • Control invasive species as per FLS guidelines (specifically <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>) and investigate opportunities to work with neighbouring land managers. • Monitoring and management of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> as per FLS Larch Strategy. • Continue to apply biosecurity procedures as per FLS regional guidance. • Consult and work with partners through the planning process to identify feasible opportunities for landscape-scale habitat management and restoration. • Plan alongside the aspirations of the Dumfries and Galloways Councils Forest and Woodland Strategy. • Incorporate research and development into Land Management Plans, whilst welcoming and facilitating opportunities to support further exploration and investigation.
<p>Outcome 3: Scotland’s national forests and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and implementing a new Communities Strategy. • Implementing the Visitor Services Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage use of the forest by providing quality walking & cycling opportunities for all levels of fitness / experience through existing path and Forest Road network.

<p>land for visitors and communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a strategic approach to wider participation in the management of the national forests and land. • Work with partners such as VisitScotland to understand visitor profile and changing trends to ensure a responsible approach to visitor management. • Removing barriers to and actively encouraging broader participation with visits to the national forests and land by people who are care experienced, of low socioeconomic status and/or from protected characteristic groups. • Maintaining safe walking and biking trails and improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits. • Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging educational and community groups to make use of the national forests and land. • Engaging with communities to identify benefits in decision making relating to the management of the national forests and land. • Empower communities to make innovative use of the national forests and land including for social and economic recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic, contributing to a just transition to a new green economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a varied and enjoyable woodland experience for local communities. • Continue to consult with local communities, businesses, and stakeholders through the planning process and liaison with the Visitor Services team and our local Communities and Communication Manager • Encourage responsible public access through the Scottish Outdoor Access Code for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. • Consider the aspirations of the local community and how the Land Management Plan can support them.
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