

Carron Valley 2026 LMP Appendix II – LMP Objective Review

Original (2015) Land Management Plan (LMP) Objectives	Land Management Plan Mid-Term (5 year) Review (2021/22) – comments, and action taken.	LMP renewal (2025) – review of previous LMP Objectives 1 little or no progress 2 some progress 3 progress as per LMP
Sequester carbon in woodland and timber products, whilst developing a forest resilient to the impacts of climate change (e.g. through increased species diversity).	<i>Objective met – Phytophthora ramorum impact on species diversity will be addressed through larch amendment</i>	2 – Carron Valley continues to produce a significant volume of timber products within FLS Central Region. An increased diversity of species are now being re-established, although there have been challenges in achieving some of the species proposals put forward in the 2015 plan. The new plan retains the ambition to establish greater species diversity, but with more focused species selection and placement.
Increase riparian woodland buffer areas, and utilise appropriate species during restocking of adjacent ground, to safeguard water quality.	<i>Objective not yet met, no work completed on riparian buffers to date. Additional approvals required since 2019 will be put in place through amendment. Work programmed for remainder of plan period.</i>	2 – some work has been carried out to manage riparian zones but this has been somewhat limited by budget constraints, and by changes to felling regulations. However, restocking is always carried out with the required buffers in place which has received positive feedback from Scottish Water regarding water quality. The implementation of riparian buffers will remain important going forward and is addressed both in the LMP and at an operational planning (i.e. work plan) level.
Where climate and soils are suitable, maximize the area of the forest managed under lower impact silvicultural regimes and/ or conventional thinning regimes.	<i>The area proposed for LISS in the original plan was overambitious given the lack of thinning, soil types and exposure considerations in some of the proposed areas. Good operational access and a timely thinning program must be followed to achieve LISS objectives going forward.</i>	2 – the area of thinning carried out has been significantly less than proposed in the original LMP. Thinning operations have typically been commenced too late and as a result thinned stands have often succumbed to windthrow; while wet soils present delivery challenges. The new LMP has revised thinning prescriptions with a reduction and reprioritisation of the areas managed through thinning and under LISS.
Produce construction grade timber, quality pulpwood and other timber products for local and national markets.	<i>The volume of quality (saw-log) timber will reduced in the second phase due to premature felling of crops to remove larch due to Phtophthora ramorum infections.</i>	3 – despite reductions in timber volume production due to early removal of larch stands, and the potential impacts of reduced thinning on timber volume, the LMP area remains a significant producer of timber volume in this area. Creative timing and marketing of young stands containing larch is allowing for fiber recovery from these sites. The new LMP renews the focus on softwood timber production.
Increase the proportion of timber suitable for niche markets through increased diversification of productive species (conifer and broadleaf),	<i>The area of diverse conifer species has increased slightly compared to what was planned for this period. The impact of P. ramorum means</i>	2 – some areas of more diverse productive conifer and broadleaf species have been established largely as per the LMP, however there

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maximization of thinnable areas and management of stands beyond the normal rotation age where feasible.	<i>that most larch will now be removed, including areas suitable for thinning and LISS, similarly some areas of LTR will also be removed. A small increase in productive broadleaves and alternative conifers have been proposed for areas where larch is being removed.</i>	has been a noticeable lack of thinning compared to the 2015 plan proposals and some older stands and areas of diverse species (e.g. larch) have been removed due to <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> . The new LMP does not focus on niche marketing but retains the commitment to establish a diverse forest with a variety of stand types.
Sustainably manage the deer population in order to minimize leader browsing on new crops.	<i>Objective met and relevant for remainder of plan period</i>	2 – although population modelling suggests the current deer populations are being maintained at a sustainable level (c.3 deer/km ²), there are several records of deer damage exceeding target levels (10%) over the past 10 years. Sustainable deer management will remain key to achieving the new LMP objectives and therefore both the management of suitable deer glades, rides and open ground, and the placement of soft conifers and broadleaves to enable effective protection, has been considered in the new LMP as appropriate.
Build on the 2012 Visitor Experience Plan to explore how best to add value to visitors appreciation and understanding of Carron Valley.	<i>Objective on track and appropriate for remainder of LMP. A new carpark with associated footpath is proposed for the North end of the forest. This will reduce increasing parking pressure at the Todholes entrance, and serve walkers accessing Meikle Bin.</i>	3 – demand for parking in the Todholes area has reduced since a post-Covid peak in visitor numbers, therefore the new carpark proposals for the area have not been progressed at this time. FLS have partnered with Scottish Water to provide additional ranger provision and visitor interpretation in the local area. Selected bike trails were refurbished in 2024/25 with positive feedback received from users. Regular routine maintenance is carried out in the main visitor areas.
Develop contacts within, and involvement of, the local communities.	<i>Objective on track and appropriate to remainder of plan period. CATS successfully completed on woodland area near main carpark; pilot project with Scottish Water focussed on visitor safety and responsible behaviours around reservoir. FLS staff maintain good contact with local communities and residents.</i>	3 – see comments provided at MTR. Local stakeholders have been engaged as part of the LMP development and will continue to be engaged with primarily via delivery staff and the local Visitor Services teams.
Work with the Clanranald Trust to develop the potential of the historic fort project from both an educational and tourism perspective.	<i>Objective met. Conversations ongoing between Clanranald Trust and FLS estates about extension of existing lease/new agreement for the purposes of a car park.</i>	3 – see comments provided at MTR. The Clanranald Trust have a lease agreement with FLS and the new LMP proposals have been developed with consideration of this area.
Manage open and native woodland habitats to benefit important existing species such as black grouse, osprey, pine marten and red squirrel.	<i>No open ground management carried out to date; management planned for remainder of plan period with approval submitted via amendment.</i>	2 – some habitat management has been carried out although this has been limited to date. Black grouse are no longer present within the forest; however osprey (and other raptors), pine marten and red squirrel are all continuing to benefit from both native and plantation woodland habitats. Osprey platforms have been erected in several locations and the population appears to have expanded in recent years. The development of a permanent habitat network (including

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		native woodland, coniferous plantation and open habitats) is a major focus of the new LMP; and includes both the targeted management of existing habitats, and the creation of new habitats
Maintain the woodland as mainly conifer to benefit red squirrel.	<i>Objective met, with majority of restocking being coniferous species as per approved plan. There is currently little data available on the populations within Carron Valley but the most recent survey (January 2022) indicated the carrying capacity of the woodland is currently 200 animals.</i>	3 – the majority of restocking is with coniferous species and going forward the continued use of diverse conifer species such as Norway spruce, at a significant scale, together with significant areas of LTR, will help to maintain and improve the carrying capacity of the forest.
Maintain Long Term Retentions and Minimum Intervention areas to create future veteran trees for the benefit of osprey, pine marten, red squirrel and the deadwood network.	<i>Objective met, however some areas of LTR will be removed due to the presence of larch and stability issues. Alternative areas of MI and LTR will be identified in next LMP. Environment team will investigate installing artificial nest/den sites where required.</i>	2 – while some areas of LTR have been removed due to <i>P. ramorum</i> , alternative areas have been retained which were scheduled for felling during Phase 2 of the plan. Going forward, significant areas of long-term retentions, minimum intervention and natural reserves have been identified. All veteran trees are recorded and protected.
Maintain open and riparian links from the moorland to open space within the woodland for the benefit of black grouse.	<i>Active management unlikely to be delivered within plan period.</i>	2 – although there are some areas where Sitka spruce regeneration is encroaching on open habitats, there are still numerous areas of open ground, and native broadleaf/mixed open woodland bordering the open hill and moorland habitats. Although black grouse are no longer present in the LMP area, the new LMP has considered habitat management (as per above) which may benefit the species in future.
Preserve the most important views to, and within, the site and enhance where possible through coupe shape design, species diversification and judicious use of open space.	<i>Landscape Architect input provided on Amendment to remove larch species during Phase 2 – minor changes to restocking design to improve landscape.</i>	2 – forest management has generally preserved or enhanced views where possible and coupe design has taken consideration of landscaping. Some landscaping issues which may arise from the felling of larch coupes will be addressed through the new LMP.
Protect known historic features, including both scheduled and unscheduled archaeological remnants.	<i>Objective met – JDG Castle and Standing Stones both under active management.</i>	3 – heritage features have been preserved or enhanced through the LMP and during operations, and both Scheduled Ancient Monuments are maintained through active management. Going forward, all heritage features will continue to be considered in planning and protected during operations with a specific focus on high priority sites.
Work in partnership with Scottish Water to maintain the main water bodies, including controlling invasive species.	<i>Good working relationships maintained with Scottish Water, machinery washed down as per UKFS/UKWAS requirements.</i>	3 – good working relationships are maintained between Scottish Water and FLS. Scottish Water and other stakeholders (e.g. SEPA) have been engaged throughout the LMP development and will continue to be suitably engaged with going forward.

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Maintain and improve key features and habitat condition at the Endrick Water SSSI site and within suitable areas of blanket bog priority habitat.	<i>Yearly monitoring undertaken and no requirement for work identified for SSSI. Blanket bog management planned for remainder of 5 year period.</i>	2 – as per MTR comments, no specific management currently identified for SSSI. Circa 6.4ha of management (SS regen removal) has been carried out on blanket bog habitat at Drumbouy Hill. Further works are planned for the next 10 year LMP period.
Increase the semi-natural Forest Habitat Networks within the site, primarily through development of riparian woodland.	<i>No management to date but on track to be delivered within plan period – see comments about riparian management above.</i>	2 – some riparian management has been undertaken and suitable areas are being restocked with native species. The next LMP identifies strategic areas to establish and manage as a robust habitat network.