

Project Proposal

Business Reference Number:		Case Number:	
Application name:	Forestry and Land Scotland: North Kyle Amendment - Lanehead Farm Site		

Introduction

The Woodland Creation Operational Plan allows you to show that you have carefully considered all of the relevant impacts and effects that the work you are proposing might have on the environment, and where appropriate the measures you intend to take to mitigate any adverse effects.

The Operational Plan, including the issues log at Annex 2, can be used to record any pre-application work completed ahead of submitting your woodland creation application (e.g. discussions with stakeholders, site assessment results, etc.).

The Woodland Officer will take account of the details you have given in this Plan when they assess your application and it will also help them to decide on a score for your application.

General Details

You must complete this Woodland Creation Operational Plan and submit it with your Forestry Grant Scheme Woodland Creation application.

The amount of supporting information you give will depend on the scale, location and nature of your application. You should give sufficient detail so that we can properly assess the work you propose. Your local Scottish Forestry (SF) [Conservancy office](#) will be able to provide you with further advice about this.

Please note that the Woodland Officer who will assess your application may request further information or clarification about the details you give in this Operational Plan, especially those that may have an environmental impact on the site.

When you have completed your Woodland Creation Operational Plan, save the document to your computer and then upload to your on-line application.

General Assessment

The information in your Operational Plan should be based on a thorough assessment of the site. Please complete the following:

Describe the management objectives for the site.

The management objectives for this new planting as an amendment to the North Kyle LMP are to:

1. Modestly increase the area of productive conifer within the block under clearfell-restock silviculture for timber production;
2. Contribute to the native broadleaf woodland planting targets on the National Forest Estate;
3. Improve important habitats on the site.
4. Protection and conservation of heritage features in accordance with the Regional Historic Asset Management Plan.

See **Appendix 1** for the Management Plan Brief and **Appendix 2** Analysis and Concept map.

Provide a description of the planting site.

The Lanehead Farm site is 58.29 ha of proposed new woodland creation site to be established wholly within the Lanehead Farm boundaries acquired by Forestry and Land Scotland in 2019. It is located approximately 6 – 7 km west of New Cumnock, East Ayrshire.

The site is former agricultural land of improved or semi-improved grassland, south of an opencast coal mine, due for remediation. The area sits within a landscape of enclosed fields and large plantation forestry. The North Kyle forestry block is 1.5 km west of the site and it is envisioned that the Lanehead Farm site will be amalgamated with the North Kyle Land Management Plan area at the date of the next renewal in 2024. The land adjacent to the south of this site has been recently acquired privately for productive forestry. A small area of ancient woodland lies to the west and wholly out with the Lanehead site as recorded on the 1750 Roy map.

There are some important habitat considerations within the Lanehead Farm site that include small areas of priority habitats of upland flush fen and swamp and lowland acid grassland. One small watercourse, Lanehead Burn traverses the site with small pockets of natural wet woodland. Priority habitats will be protected or enhanced throughout this woodland creation proposal.

One historic site, Sunnyside Farmstead and ancient trackways as well as an unmapped ancient sheep pen are contained within the Lanehead Farm site. These will be protected and conserved in accordance with the FLS Regional Historic Asset Management Plan.

Provide details of discussions with neighbours, local communities and consultees. For Community Councils and neighbours please evidence who was contacted, date and method of contact used (e.g. meeting, leaflet drop, letter etc.) Where reasonable, you may just identify street names (e.g. larger urban areas).

Discussions with the owners of Lanehead Farm have been conducted in person and by phone, and no issues have arisen from these. A consultation email was sent out to all relevant stakeholders, and their responses are detailed in the attached table (**Appendix 3**).

Consultation between with Scottish Forestry, RSPB and FLS slight changes to the design plan have ensued to increase Mixed broadleaves and open land and a reduction in Sitka Spruce and Norway spruce. In summary, there are no issues arising from stakeholders that require any amendments to the proposed planting.

You must carry out a site-based assessment of soil and vegetation to match species choice with the particular site. Refer to [\(ESC-DSS\)](#) during this process.

List the site surveys undertaken to inform tree species selection. For example: soil survey, soil depth survey, vegetation survey.

The site was initially surveyed with ESC, but as the soil survey resolution for the area is not detailed (JHI 1:250 000), the site information provided by ESC has limited value.

A soil survey of the proposed planting site was carried out in 2019. No sensitive soils are present on the site (e.g. peat), and soils are predominantly surface water gleys, with smaller areas of brown earth and ground-water gleys. A map detailing the soils is appended (**Appendix 4**).

An open habitats survey was completed by the FES Open Habitats Ecologist in 2019 which is appended to this document (**Appendix 5(a) and 5(b)**). The survey identified areas of priority habitat Upland flush fen and swamp, Lowland acid grassland and Wet woodland, all of which will be protected or enhanced as part of this proposal.

Please indicate the climatic suitability of the site for the tree species you have chosen. Use the [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer](#) - see the 'FGS Climatic Site Suitability' data.

With reference to the FGS Climatic Site Suitability data, soils survey and expert opinion from local FM foresters the proposed planting indicates the following species suitability:

Very suited/suitable (depending on location): Sitka spruce. W4, W9 and W18 native woodland.

Suitable/marginal (Depending on location): Norway spruce, Downy birch, Wild cherry, Rowan and Common Alder.

Woodland Strategy: Describe how your proposal fits with the Local Authority woodland strategy.

The proposal site lies within the Ayrshire and Arran Forestry and Woodland Strategy area, which is highly supportive of appropriate woodland expansion.

The majority of the site lies within the 'more accessible preferred land' classification of the strategy. The Lanehead Farm area lies within an area identified as 'wider range of opportunities' for energy forests, due to its relatively low economic distance between biomass source and potential users. Therefore, short rotation softwood could contribute to maintaining biomass supply. The plan area also lies within areas identified as 'areas with the potential to contribute to woodland habitat networks' as well as 'opportunities for new mixed woodland'. Small areas of isolated ancient woodlands exist in the vicinity of the plan area. Incorporation of native woodland or mixed species within the plan area will create and enhance woodland habitat networks.

In areas where wildfire is a risk to the woodland describe how you will address the risks and how this has been considered in the woodland design. Refer to [Building wildfire resilience into forest management planning](#) for information.

Wildfire risk for the Lanehead Farm site is currently low.

Climate Change guidance for the south west of Scotland suggests that significant change to this rating over the period of the plan is unlikely. However, the proximity of a dwelling (Lanehead Farm house) to the proposed plan area requires suitable wildfire risk management. The dwelling will be surrounded on three sides by forest. Therefore, to minimise the risk to human life and property from fire, smoke and heat, mitigation options have been considered in the proposed plan. Open spaces surround the dwelling as part of the design plan that incorporate habitat management, connectivity to the riparian corridor with low density broadleaf plantation. These areas will also act as an appropriate firebreak in the low likelihood of a wildfire starting and maintain an overall low wildfire risk for the plan area.

Our long term aims within the North Kyle LMP to reduce the conifer area, increase the area of broadleaf and open space, to increase the use of LISS and to create wider riparian corridors should reduce the overall Wildfire risk.

If applying for the productive conifer options please use the Timber Transport Forum –

[Agreed Routes Map](#) and confirm the sites timber route classification i.e. agreed, consultation, severely restricted, excluded or no classification.

Lanehead forest will require minor road construction to access the site from the House of Water Open Cast site. Timber extraction will follow the North Kyle haul route along agreed public and consultation routes and it is assumed that it will not affect the current use of surrounding public roads for timber transport.

If applying for the Native Woodland options please use the 'Native Woodland Habitat Network' map in the 'FGS Target and Eligibility' folder on the [Scottish Forestry Map Viewer](#) and describe the habitat network zones your application is within i.e. primary, secondary or out with the habitat network.

Sensitive Areas & Potential Impacts

Sensitive Areas:

- National Nature Reserve or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Park
- World Heritage Site
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- National Scenic Area
- Natura sites – Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Area of Conservation (SPA)
- Land on which there is a Nature Conservation Order
- Deep peat soil

Potential Impacts:

- Population & Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soil, Water, Air, Climate
- Material Assets, Cultural Heritage, Landscape

List any **Sensitive Areas** and any **Potential Significant Impacts** relating to your site, including appropriate mitigation (**refer to Annex 1**). Detail any surveys completed to inform this assessment.

*For complex cases the Issues Log (**Annex 2**) can be used to record this instead.*

(Scotland's Environment Web Land Information Search

<https://www.environment.gov.scot/maps/land-information-search/> is a useful resource which may help you identify some of the constraints within your site).

There are no Sensitive Areas as listed above within or adjacent to the proposal site.

Please ensure that any maps or survey reports that have been produced to support your application are uploaded to the online application system.

Management Operations

All Applications

Having assessed the site please provide information about how you are going to establish the new woodland.

Ground Preparation: Describe the method that you will use, including dimensions. Where you propose multiple ground preparation techniques then you must identify these on a map.

Ground preparation will comply with the Forestry Commission Guidelines 'Cultivation of Soils for Forestry' (Bulletin 119).

The aim is to provide a suitable planting location for tree establishment and growth while minimizing visual and hydrological impacts.

All areas will have individual (discontinuous) mounding where machine access is possible. Manual planting will be utilised in any areas unsuitable to machine access such as riparian native woodland.

Drainage: Identify any existing drains/watercourses and provide information relating to new drains.

Existing watercourse is detailed on the concept map. Lanehead Burn runs approximately west-east though the site with a few unmapped smaller channels feeding into it, possibly only seasonally active, these will all be protected from cultivation operations and chemical applications as per UKFS Forest & Water and Forestry & Water Scotland guidelines (stand-off distances determined by watercourse width). Flat planting will be used in the areas identified as native riparian woodland buffer planting.

Given the dominant soil types, it is anticipated some drainage will be required, though will be kept to a minimum. Where new drains are required, these will be installed to no greater than 3.5% slope and run across the slope. No drains shall discharge directly into watercourses as per UKFS Forest & Water guidelines.

Protection: Describe how the site will be protected. For example: fencing, tree guards/shelters and pest management.

Append a deer management plan if required. You should refer to the [Deer Management Best Practice Guide](#) and the [Joint Agency statement on deer fencing](#). You may be asked to submit a checklist from the Joint Agency guidance (May 2010).

Roe deer and rabbit are potential browsing pests in the locale. Deer numbers will be controlled through the FLS regional deer management plan.

Planting; please provide the following:

- Species to be planted and percentage of each. (Please use the components area table to record hectares planted).
- Describe the nursery stock and planting method to be used.

- Confirm if you will be planting vegetatively propagated Sitka spruce.
- For native woodland creation specify the [Seed Source Zone](#).

This woodland creation proposal will not be subject to grant application and therefore the category under which these fall for the purposes of grant receipt is not included.

Species percentages:

Species	Area	
	Ha	%
Sitka Spruce	27.6	47.3
Mixed Broadleaf	5.0	8.6
Norway Spruce /Sitka Spruce	3.7	6.3
Norway Spruce	2.4	4.1
Other conifer (pre-existing onsite)	2.8	4.9
Managed Open	16.8	28.8
Total Area	58.3	100.0

Planting specifications

- Native broadleaved plants will have provenance of a suitable region. In this instance this will be 107, 108, 109 or 301.
- Where a native broadleaf compartment runs contiguous to a conifer area, there will have a buffer of 6-8m to ensure that they are not overshadowed by the surrounding conifer
- Broadleaf stock will generally be transplanted or undercut stock of 45-60cm tall
- Conifer stock will generally be 2-3 year old transplanted or undercut stock 20-40cm tall
- Planting of conifer will be at 1.9 m x 1.9 m spacing to achieve 2500 stems per hectare stocking density.

Area 1 (27.6 ha) as defined on **Appendix 6: Future Habitats and Species Map**

This area will be mounded at 1.9 m x 1.9 m to achieve 2500 stems per hectare stocking density. Species: 98.4% Improved Sitka Spruce (SS) with 1.6 % area of mixed native broadleaf planted with a 1.89 m x 1.89 m spacing at 1600 stems/ha stocking density.

Area 2 (3.68 ha)

1.9 m x 1.9 m mounding; 50 % NS and 50 % SS in a non-intimate mix

Area 3 (2.4 ha)

1.9 m x 1.9 m mounding; 100 % NS

Area 4 (1.42 ha)

The native broadleaf areas will be planted with a 1.89 m x 1.89 m spacing at 1600

stems/ha stocking density. The valley complex and western edge will be planted as clumps up to 25 % with denser clumps of up to 75% in the eastern side of area 5.

These areas will be planted to with a blocky mix of native broadleaves in an intimate mix with open ground. An indicative mix will be:

- 60 % mixed broadleaf (PBI, XWL, ASP, ROW, HAW, WCH, CAR with possibly some SOK)
- 40 % open ground

Area 5 (3.15 ha)

The native broadleaf areas will be planted with a 2.5 m x 2.5 m at 2800 stems/ha with intention of reaching a density of 1600 stems per hectare.

These areas will be planted to with a blocky mix of native broadleaves in an intimate mix with open ground. An indicative mix will be:

- 75% mixed broadleaf (PBI, XWL, ASP, ROW, HAW, WCH and possibly some BE)
- 25% open ground

Area 6 (2.83 ha)

An area of standing conifer of mixed species, planted circa 1990's prior to land acquisition is to be retained within the plan area with no additional planting.

Species: 100% other conifer

Open Ground (16.8 ha)

This includes managed open areas with areas left to:

- To enhance riparian margins by watercourses
- To create accessible rides for future woodland management
- To soften woodland edges
- To create wayleaves for utilities (see **Appendix 7**: Lanehead Constraints)

Maintenance: Describe the maintenance regime for the site (e.g. monitoring, weeding, beat-up, etc.).

There are no deer fences in the area, however, new stock fences will be maintained to a stock proof standard.

All plants will be maintained in a wind firm position.

Plants will be monitored for signs of disease, nutrient deficiency and damage. Appropriate action will be taken as required to ensure stocking density and plant health.

The site will have ongoing monitoring, with standard stocking density measurements taken at year one and five as per operational guidance for woodland creation and beat up conducted as required to meet stocking densities.

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Fertilisation: Where applicable, describe the proposed fertiliser regime e.g. application rate, timing, etc.

No fertilisation is required for this site.

Other: Please include any other silvicultural detail here.

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Annex 1

Assessment of Potential Impact

Please use the following guidance to assist with describing any potential significant impacts and any mitigation which is proposed:

- **Population & Human Health:** Detail any discussions which you have had with neighbours, local communities or other stakeholders and explain how this has influenced your proposal. Explain what public access is currently undertaken on the site and what provisions you plan to make to continue or improve this in adherence with the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#).
- **Cultural Heritage:** Indicate what survey work has been undertaken and describe how archaeology will be protected.
- **Soil:** Provide an accurate assessment of the soil on site and describe how you will manage the quality of the soil including any effects from erosion and compaction.
- **Water:** Detail the nature of the likely impacts on water bodies or water supplies from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts.
- **Air:** Detail the nature of the likely impacts on air quality or the impacts on light provision.
- **Biodiversity:** Detail the nature and extent of high value habitats such as those listed on the [Scottish Biodiversity List](#) and describe how you will protect these habitats. Detail the nature of the likely impacts on wildlife from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts. Refer to [European Protected Species](#) for guidance.
- **Landscape:** Provide details of how the impact on the landscape has been assessed and how the application has been designed to minimise any impact.
- **Climate:** Provide details on the vulnerability of the project to climate change and how this impact was mitigated.
- **Land:** Does your application have an impact or an effect on prime agricultural land (defined as land use classes 1, 2 and 3.1), or the local land use balance with agriculture?
Detail the nature of the likely impacts on agriculture from your activities and how you will mitigate these impacts and integrate with forestry.
You should refer to the [Guidance About Woodland Creation on Agricultural Land](#), located in the further information and technical guidance section of the [FGS woodland creation](#) web page.
- **Material Assets:** Identify and describe all built and natural assets that are relevant to the site and which could be adversely impacted by the proposal e.g. utilities, minerals. Describe any mitigation proposed for these features.

Annex 2 Issues Log

Issue (include date and raised by)	Applicant's Comments	FCS Comments	Agreed Mitigation	Status (Open, Closed)	Significance of Impact (High, Medium, Low)
<i>e.g. Archaeology – Scheduled Monument at NS123456. HES, 23/10/16.</i>	<i>e.g. Scheme design includes OG to buffer Scheduled Monument as per UKFS. John Smith, 25/10/16</i>	<i>e.g. Applicant has taken on board HES feedback and designed the scheme in accordance with best practise. Susan Jones, 27/10/17.</i>	<i>e.g. 20 metre OG buffer around SAM.</i>	<i>e.g. Closed</i>	<i>e.g. Low</i>
Population & Human Health					
Water Supplies	<p>One private water supply to Lanehead Farm is sourced out with the plan area but a pipeline traverses part of the plan site (Appendix 6, Area 4). The pipe location has been mapped in consultation with the dwelling owner and planting will be buffered away from the pipeline. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020</p> <p>There is no current or active recreational access across the site outside of the provisions within the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> <p>Notification and consultation with all neighbouring landowners or land managers has taken place. No objections have been raised by any neighbouring landowners/ managers from our external consultation process. Additionally, the land to the North of the proposed woodland owned by Hargreaves is currently part of an LTA for consideration for purchase by FLS.</p> <p>See Appendix 7: Lanehead Constraints Map for mapped location of Private Water Supply. LB 11/12/2020</p>	<p>Proposal does not record current or proposed recreation access across the site. Clarification required on identification and notification of neighbouring land managers. Mapping doesn't clearly identify private water supply in legend. Further information and clarification required JP 4/12/20</p> <p>Additional information noted and discharges issues however LMP should be</p>	<p>One private watersupply located within plan area and will be protected by wayleave buffer. No recognised recreational use of the site and no issues raised by neighbouring landowners during consultation. Impacts will be mitigated through compliance with UKFS</p>	Closed	Low

		updated to incorporate detail JP 28/01/21			
Cultural Heritage					
Archaeology of local importance	<p>One WOSAS site, Sunnyside Farmstead, depicted in 1st edition of OS 6-inch map, of local importance. Also one sheep enclosure has been located and mapped. These features have been identified and will be appropriately buffered. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020</p> <p>A desk based search of heritage features and records was undertaken followed by dialogue with our National archaeological adviser Matt Ritchie for FLS. His comments have been taken on board with provisions for a suitable buffer around all archaeological features in line with regulatory standards.</p> <p>The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and describes the legal requirements in the relevant subsection for the sustainable management of heritage features within the plantation area. LB 11/12/2020</p>	<p>Proposal not clear as to whether or not any archaeology assessment has been carried out over and above HRS records or how operations will mitigate risks to archaeology</p> <p>JP 04/12/20</p> <p>Additional information noted and discharges issues however LMP should be updated to incorporate detail JP 28/01/21</p>	No further mitigation required, Any impacts will be mitigated through compliance with UKFS	Closed	Low
Soil					
Sensitive soils	<p>Soil survey completed in September 2019 – predominantly surface water gleys, and no sensitive soils within scheme area. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020</p> <p>Please see amended map, Appendix 4. Lanehead soils.</p>	<p>Soils map provided does not show legend. Proposal would benefit from brief description of survey method and soils as they present on site (SMR/rooting depth) Absence of peat soils is noted.</p> <p>JP 04/12/20</p>			

	<p>Soil surveys where undertaken by an independent surveyor following standard forestry soils surveying methodology.</p> <p>LB 11/12/2020</p>	<p>Additional information noted and discharges issues however LMP should be updated to incorporate detail</p> <p>JP 09/03/21</p>			
Biodiversity					
Important habitats	<p>Open habitats survey completed by FLS open habitats ecologist September 2019 which identified 1.7 ha of important upland flush, fen and swamp (M23a/M6b, M6c), 0.52 ha lowland dry acid grassland (U4), several small areas of wetwoodland (W7) totally 0.88 ha.</p> <p>Identified priority habitats have been imported to the FES GIS Conservation Layer, and will be protected and managed (remain unplanted and protect from drainage).</p> <p>Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020</p> <p>A walkover survey was undertaken by our Environmental Forester. No EPS have been identified. FLS does not carry out Black Grouse predator control as research has not shown this to be effective. The proximity of a main road 350 m south of the proposed plantation area and low topography suggests that this site would not be a preferred location for Black Grouse. However, within the submitted plan and in consultation with our Environmental Forester and Open Habitats Ecologist both open space and mixed native broadleaf planting have been incorporated into the proposals that will benefit native species and contribute to the woodland habitat networks of the local area.</p> <p>LB 11/12/2020</p>	<p>Priority habitats have been identified and excluded from planting. No reference to the presence or absence of EPS. Site is in area identified as eligible for predator control for black grouse so further detail required on the need for mitigation to reduce impacts on any local populations</p> <p>JP 04/12/20</p>			

	<p>FLS has under gone direct consultation with RSPB with revisions made to the design plan See Appendix 6. Amended Jan 2021_Future Habitats and Species Map – also the written response “FLS response to RSPB 14 Jan 2021” attached to the email sent to SF on 15/01/2021. Changes to the planning scheme area sizes have also been updated within the operational plan, ‘planting’ section.</p> <p>LB 05/03/2021</p> <p>FLS has compiled a site appraisal for Waders and other potential breeding birds in a local and regional context. Several documents have been submitted to SF on 23/01/2021 collectively referred to as Appendix 9: Site Appraisal</p> <p>LB 05/03/2021</p>	<p>See correspondence with RSPB for black grouse issues. Further detail required on presence or absence of breeding birds with an assessment of abundance; local, regional and national significance and the likely impacts of afforestation along with details of any proposed mitigation.</p> <p>JP 17/12/20</p> <p>FLS provided response to RSPB request (14/12/20) for bird survey data. Emailed by SF to RSPB 07/01/21 (JP)</p> <p>RSPB made final response to proposal by email on 21/01/21. SF requested that FLS carry out a BBS in the spring or supply SF with an appraisal of the site by someone with sufficient knowledge of the populations of BB in the local area who could say whether in their opinion it is likely or not that BB are present and could address the questions of abundance, significance, likely impact and proposed mitigation. On 25/01/21 FLS confirmed they would provide a site appraisal based on own data and bird census. This</p>			
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	<p>All changes to design plan updated throughout the operational plan text and on the plan design map (Appendix 6).</p> <p>LB 12/03/2021</p>	<p>information was provided to SF on 23/02/21</p> <p>On review of Appendix 9: Site Appraisal and Appendix 6 Amended Future Habitats and Species, proposal now provides sufficient detail on breeding birds to conclude that likely impacts are low and suitable additional mitigation has been provided through design changes in response to RSPB response</p> <p>Additional information noted and discharges issues however LMP should be updated to incorporate detail JP 09/03/21</p>			
Landscape					
	<p>Site visit carried out 08/07/2020 by Planning Forester (Lena Boueklia) and FLS HM, FM Stewardship Manager (Colin Saunders), Forest Management and Stewardship Forester (Mike Ridley) and FLS Planning Manager (Andrew Jarrott). The site has a low elevation with a rising slope north and north-east within the site. The local area is characterised by undulating hills and stands of forest, with North Kyle forest clearly visible at the highest elevations behind Lanehead. The most prominent views into the proposed plantation area are looking North East from the B741 driving west from Dalleagles. Planting designs will incorporate features of the landscape and good practices (i.e. broadleaf edges) to ensure protection of landscape values, with the new woodland creation scheme blending well with the current landscape. The proposed scheme will result in a negligible impact on the landscape.</p> <p>Neighbouring properties: potential medium-scale woodland creation (circa. 220 ha) from the disused quarry at Craighouse to Knockburnie Farm and adjacent area (communication received July 2020) which would adjoin the proposed new planting at Lanehead Farm site on the southern boundary of the site.</p> <p>Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020</p> <p>Please view Appendix 8 a and 8 b for two local photographs taken from internally within the proposed</p>	<p>Please provide any site visit images or landscape visualisations generated during the planning process to illustrate landscape impact JP 04/12/20</p>			

	<p>plantation area.</p> <p>The main views into the site are from passing traffic on the B741. The new woodland has been designed to fit into the existing matrix of woodland - a mature shelterbelt forms the majority of the NW boundary and young, replanted area of woodland forms the entire western boundary. In addition to this, an approved, private woodland creation scheme (Knockburnie Woodland, granted 2020) will be planted up between our FLS landholding at Lanehead and the B741. Mature, existing, woodland forms part of the eastern boundary. Overall the woodland block has been designed to fit into the local landscape of permanent grazing and shelterbelts. LB 11/12/2020</p> <p>Regarding recent felling of PAWS, the Lanehead site is over 1.5 km away from the main North Kyle block which will be looked at / revised at the time of plan approval. There is a small section of "Other from Roy map" on privately owned land adjacent to the Lanehead site on the western edge. This area of other AW has been under conifers but as it is private land we have no control on the operations that take place. Lena Boukelia 12/01/2021</p> <p>All changes to design plan following consultation have been updated throughout the operational plan text and on the plan design map (Appendix 6). LB 12/03/2021</p>	<p>PAW in adjacent North Kyle block which may be PAWS and has been recently felled. Future habitat and species plan for this block required to check restock species/PAWS status and restoration plans and then look at how this will work with new WC in the landscape. Is NBL required in new planting adjacent to PAWS DG 17/12/20</p> <p>FLS response discharges issue as adjacent AW under private ownership and is managed under conifer</p> <p>Additional information and Appendices 8a and 8b noted and discharges issues however LMP should be updated to incorporate detail JP 09/03/21</p>			
Material Assets					
	<p>No comment</p> <p>Please see Appendix 7: Constraints Map that outlines the position of utilities and infrastructure across the site.</p>	<p>Proposal doesn't record presence or absence of utilities or infrastructure across the site. Further information required JP 04/12/20</p>			

	11/12/2020 Wayleaves referenced in Ops Plan and incorporated into the design plan (Appendix 6) LB 12/03/2021	Unplanted wayleaves for utilities will be required. Both utilities should be referenced in the Ops Plan with proposed mitigation and marked as OG in the design along their complete length JP 09/03/21			
Water					
	Watercourses to be protected to UKFS recommended buffer distances. Removal of grazing and planting/ enhancement of native woodland, including wet woodland types around riparian zones should enhance habitat. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020	No further comment JP 04/12/20	No further mitigation required, Any impacts will be mitigated through compliance with UKFS	Closed	Low
Air					
	No comment	No further comment JP 04/12/20	No further mitigation required, Any impacts will be mitigated through compliance with UKFS	Closed	Low
Climate					
	New planting on surface water gley soils will provide carbon sequestration toward reduction in atmospheric CO2. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020	No further comment JP 04/12/20	No further mitigation required, Any impacts will be mitigated through compliance with UKFS	Closed	Low
Land					
	All planting will be within poor quality agricultural parcels of Lanehead Farm land holding. Lena Boukelia 12/08/2020 A review by Senior Agricultural Officer, Rural Payment and Inspections Division SGRPID was carried out as part of the original "Land Transaction Appraisal" (LTA) at time of land acquisition by FLS (a standard procedure when we purchase land.) His comments were as follows; "The availability of a relatively small area with grazing value such as this may have some limited importance at an individual farm business level if it has been let for	Proposal doesn't describe what percentage of whole farm is being planted and net impact of permanent change of land use on wider landuse (this may have been addressed at acquisition stage) JP 04/12/20			

	<p>seasonal grazing and sheep wintering. Woodland creation as a change in land use may raise interest among potential or actual lessors, purchasers, neighbours, grazing tenants or other interested parties</p> <p>District farming context: The change in land use of 50 Hectares of agricultural grazing land in the Cumnock area from agriculture to forestry would not be significant to agriculture in the district.</p> <p>Regional farming context: The change in land use of 50 Hectares of class 4 and 5 land in the Cumnock area from grazing to forestry will not have a significant effect on farming in the region.”</p> <p>Proposed plantation as a percentage of total area: Managed open ground = 26 % (minimum) Sitka spruce = 52 % Norway spruce = 8 % Mixed broadleaves = 9 % Existing other conifer plantation 5%</p> <p>Lena Boukelia 15/12/2020</p> <p>Ops plan and plan maps (Appendix 6) have been updated to account for all changes as per the consultation.</p> <p>Finalised species percentages of the New Woodland at Lanehead are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="575 1310 1252 1696"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Species</th> <th colspan="2">Area</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Ha</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sitka Spruce</td> <td>27.6</td> <td>47.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Broadleaf</td> <td>5.0</td> <td>8.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norway Spruce /Sitka Spruce</td> <td>3.7</td> <td>6.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norway Spruce</td> <td>2.4</td> <td>4.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other conifer (pre-existing onsite)</td> <td>2.8</td> <td>4.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Managed Open</td> <td>16.8</td> <td>28.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Area</td> <td>58.3</td> <td>100.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>LB 12/03/2021</p>	Species	Area		Ha	%	Sitka Spruce	27.6	47.3	Mixed Broadleaf	5.0	8.6	Norway Spruce /Sitka Spruce	3.7	6.3	Norway Spruce	2.4	4.1	Other conifer (pre-existing onsite)	2.8	4.9	Managed Open	16.8	28.8	Total Area	58.3	100.0	<p>Additional information noted and discharges issues however LMP should be updated to incorporate detail JP 09/03/21</p>			
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