

Craik LMP Management Objectives

1. Timber production: provide a sustainable supply of high quality timber, supplying local timber markets, securing timber income, and providing secure employment in the timber industry.
2. Forest resilience: plan and design a resilient and healthy forest, mitigating the risks posed by climate change and a growing number of pests and diseases. Ensure the forest makes a positive contribution to mitigating the broader climate emergency by locking up carbon in trees and soils.
3. Biodiversity: improve the biodiversity value of the forest, caring for priority habitats and species and enhancing the overall biodiversity value through expansion and management of riparian broadleaf areas. Develop better connectivity between habitats of biodiversity value.

Improve the habitat around and connectivity between the lochs in and adjacent to Crooked Loch Block, removing conifer regeneration where necessary and developing the correct balance between open habitat and native broadleaf woodland.

Ensure adequate protection of all watercourses and waterbodies through application of Forests and Water Guidelines. Safeguard all water supplies, paying particular attention to forest operations in associated catchments. Enhance future protection by careful restock planning, creating adequate buffers around water supply infrastructure.

Seek opportunities to retain older stands of first rotation conifers (original FC planting), where these are sufficiently stable, as valuable habitat for a variety of important species including red squirrels and raptors. Identify potential future retentions in younger stands.

Promote sustainable timber production through revised felling and restocking plans that continue to diversify the forest's age structure and species composition. Seek opportunities for thinning where appropriate, to improve longer term timber quality and tree stability.

Seek opportunities for greater species and structural diversity where soils and other site conditions are more accommodating, in particular in the Meadshaw block. Continue thinning where possible and identify first thinning areas to enable development of lower impact silvicultural management systems.

Improve the forest landscape ('visitor zones') around Craik village, visitor car park and waymarked trails, through appropriate felling, thinning and replanting with a diverse range of conifer and broadleaf species, along with areas of open habitat. Aim to develop future lower impact silvicultural management in these areas.

Continue to expand and enhance the riparian habitat network, planting native broadleaves where these can be successfully established. Remove non-native conifer regeneration where practicable to do so, and encourage natural regeneration of native broadleaves. Improve connectivity between riparian corridors and other habitat of high biodiversity value, including sites outside the plan boundary.

Protect scheduled monuments, heritage sites and other features of historical and cultural value, notably the route of the Roman road between Craik Cross Hill and Craik, and Meadowshaw Earthworks in Meadowshaw.

Craik Land Management Plan Map 3 - Concept

Scale @ A0: 1:15,000
Date: 23/07/2025
Author: John.Ogilvie

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Km
N

Legend

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| LMP Area | Forest Roads | Watercourses | Overhead powerline |
| FLS Walking Trails | Heritage Features | Riparian Zone | Underground powerline |
| Core Paths | Scheduled Monuments | Special Areas of Conservation | Potential long term retention |
| Scottish Ways Rights of Way | Scottish Water Catchments | Sites of Special Scientific Interest | |

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

