



Accessible Text: Annotations for Consultation Maps

Analysis Map for Heathland, Woodmuir and West Forth forests

Timber production at North Clydesdale is forecast to sharply fluctuate. Over the next 20 years there will be an initial decline followed by a sharp increase. There is opportunity to review coupe felling times to help reduce this fluctuation and promote a more balanced distribution of age-classes across the forest.

The sub-blocks of Heathland and Woodmuir account for nearly 70% of the plan and will be the most operationally active over the next 10 years. We expect to harvest and replant approximately 16% of these sub-blocks over this period.

We are removing larch from the forest for plant health reasons (*P ramorum*). A contingency plan is in place to allow harvesting of specific areas where larch shows symptoms of infection. This approach is intended to support the gradual phasing out of larch while continuing to restructure the forest to meet other management objectives.

We're currently restoring several large open mires within Heathland. There is opportunity to integrate these into the existing habitat network and improve connectivity across a broader range of habitat types.

At West Forth we have removed some forest stands early due to the presence of Larch trees. Remaining stands will not be restructured during the lifetime of this plan and the new planting approved in the previous plan will be postponed. Restocking felled larch areas offers an opportunity to test alternatives to Sitka spruce, improving our understanding of species suitability for future stand restructuring.

Visitor use is highest at Wilsontown car park and the adjacent trails. We can concentrate visitor service resources in these zones and manage surrounding woodland to support recreational usage.

Horberry, a restored coal mine, was originally planned as a community woodland but there's been limited interest due to its isolated location. It has significant levels of Larch vulnerable to *Phytophthora ramorum*. Opportunity to review the design and management of this area to



facilitate larch removal and utilise the productive potential of some conifer stands. Because the site still holds potential for informal community recreation, amenity woodland will be a key feature of its future design.

A windfarm proposal within Heathland has now received planning approval. Development is expected to start shortly and during the initial construction phase there may be some disruption to forest users. If this proposal goes ahead it will improve long term access and provide additional income to support other forest objectives.

Text Box points to an area of woodland in the north of Woodmuir: Ancient woodland with relatively poor semi-natural characteristics but some connective potential.

Text Box points to an area of woodland near Wilsontown: Ancient woodland with good semi-natural characteristics but limited connectivity.

Text Box points to the Scheduled Monument: 'Wilsontown Ironworks' scheduled monument and visitor zone.

Text Box points to open mire habitat in the south of Heathland: Opportunity to further enhance habitat networks.

Text Box points to open mire habitat and open water features adjacent to the A706 at Heathland: Opportunity to further enhance habitat networks.

Text Box points to open mire habitat and mixed natural reserve woodland in central Heathland: Opportunity to further enhance habitat networks.

Draft Future Concept Map for Heathland, Woodmuir and West Forth

Felling coupes across the plan will be designed to:

- smooth timber flows from the forest
- remove disease susceptible tree species
- increase forest age classes
- support the proposed windfarm
- reduce new forest road construction

Replanting design will aim to:

- increase windfirm edges



- diversify forest habitats and
- strengthen habitat networks
- soften the most visible forest edges
- maintain forest productivity and sawlog production using resilient tree species

We've worked closely with the windfarm developer to minimise future conflicts and avoid sensitivities within the forest. Once construction is complete, we'll review the final infrastructure footprint and update the plan if necessary.

Ensure forest design considers utilities and heritage features, using appropriate buffers.

Expand habitat networks surrounding open mire and riparian zones.

Continue to manage southern areas of heathland to support a broad range of objectives (recreation, heritage, amenity and conservation).

Continue to thin remaining conifer stands at West Forth over the next 10 years.

Replant recently felled areas at West Forth using some alternative conifers in mixture to test their future suitability.

At Horberry we will bring mixed conifer stands back into active management whilst retaining large areas of amenity woodland

Analysis Map for Kingshill

Timber production at North Clydesdale is forecast to sharply fluctuate. There will be an initial decline over the next 20 years followed by a sharp increase. There is opportunity to review coupe felling times to help reduce this fluctuation and promote a more balanced distribution of age-classes across the forest.

We are removing larch for plant health reasons (*P ramorum*). A contingency plan is in place to allow harvesting of specific areas where larch shows symptoms of infection. This approach is intended to support the gradual phasing out of larch while continuing to restructure the forest to meet other management objectives.

In the west of Kingshill there's opportunity to review management coupe boundaries and felling times to reduce the need for future road construction and broaden the range of forest age classes in the longer term.



We are managing commercial forest in the east of Kingshill on a shorter rotation to reduce impacts on existing wind turbines. We have reviewed tree heights and identified those stands at or close to the agreed height threshold. Opportunity to review harvesting schedules and coupe design to support compliance with the windfarm agreement. This will also allow us to balance timber flows across the plan.

In response to the above challenges, active forest operations will continue over the next 10 years and we anticipate harvesting and replanting about 23% of forest at Kingshill. This will be focused within the windfarm short rotation forestry zone.

Riparian zones along 'Auchter Water' retain strong potential to function as a 'mixed woodland' habitat network but contain large areas of larch susceptible to P ramorum. Much of this is difficult to access. There's opportunity to revise felling coupe design to improve current and future access to larch stands. Additionally, the restocking design can be reviewed to strengthen the long-term habitat network.

Moorland and scrub habitats are developing adjacent to the forest boundary. Opportunity to strengthen mixed woodland habitat networks along this boundary in the future species and habitats design.

Draft Future Concept Map for Kingshill

Felling coupes will be designed to:

- comply with the short rotation forestry agreement
- remove disease susceptible tree species
- increase forest age classes, over the longer term
- reduce the need for forest road construction

Replanting design will aim to:

- increase windfirm edges
- diversify forest habitats and
- strengthen habitat networks
- maintain forest productivity and sawlog production using resilient tree species

Ensure forest design considers utilities and heritage features, using appropriate buffers.

Retain mature woodland habitat in natural reserve area.
Strengthen riparian habitat networks in the longer term.

Analysis Map for Lewinside and The Mosses



Lewinside is a recent woodland creation and we're currently undertaking maintenance work to establish planted trees. There are no commercial harvesting operations planned over the next 10 years.

Lewinside is currently used by the local community for informal recreation. A network of informal desire lines are developing but visitor pressure is relatively low due to the absence of large surrounding settlements.

Text Box points to buildings adjacent to Lewinside: Residential properties have shared access along forest road.

Text Box points to a Scheduled Monument adjacent to Lewinside: Scheduled Monument - remains of limestone quarries.

Text Box points to woodland adjacent to Lewinside: Community woodland with small car park and circular core path.

The southern-most blocks (The Mosses) are split evenly between restored open mires and plantation forest with the open mires concentrated in eastern blocks. Visitor use across these areas is low as they're poorly connected to wider path networks. They adjoin and link several nationally protected conservation sites.

Points to Blackgate Moss: Mature forest in the west of this block is due for harvesting and replanting in the next 5 years. Some older (p54) mixed birch and pine woodland with good semi-natural characteristics. Opportunity to enhance and connect mixed riparian woodland when western plantations are restructured.

Text Box points to Whiteloch road: Historical flooding issue on council road.

Text Box points to eastern block at The Mosses: Scheduled Monument - remains of couthalley castle.

Text Box points to adjacent protected conservation site: Biological SSSI - raised bog

Text Box points to adjacent protected conservation site: Geological SSSI - glacial formation

Draft Future Concept Map for Lewinside and The Mosses

We'll ensure forest design across all blocks considers utilities and heritage features by applying appropriate buffers.



Over the next ten years low level maintenance work will be undertaken to establish the young woodland at Lewinside. The deer fence will be retained until planted trees are fully established. We'll continue to monitor recreational usage of Lewinside so that opportunities and constraints of such usage can be managed in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

We'll continue to strengthen riparian habitat networks as remaining mature plantations are restructured at Blackgate Moss. We will retain selected areas of mature mixed woodland that have developed semi-natural characteristics.

Over the next ten years, we will carry out maintenance work on open mire habitats to facilitate the development of mire vegetation. We'll continue to work with South Lanarkshire Council to address the flooding issue on Whiteloch Road.

Woodland Management in Visitor Zones Map

FLS 'Visitor Zones' have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes. In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views.

Woodland in these zones may also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.