Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Craik

Land Management Plan 2025-2035 South Region-V1.0

Plan Reference No:
Plan Approval Date: 31/07/2025
Plan Expiry Date: 31/07/2035

We manage Scotland's national forests and land to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.

FSC
www.fsc.org
FSC® C123223
The mark of responsible forestry

PEFC
PEFC/16-40-1002
Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
www.pefc.co.uk

A. Description of Woodlands

A.1 Property Details

Property (LMP) Name:	**Craik**
Grid Reference (main entrance):	NT 3531 0794
Nearest town or locality:	Hawick
Local Authority:	Scottish Borders

A.2 Location and Background

Craik land management plan (LMP) area comprises some 4251 hectares of largely coniferous upland plantation forest, west-south-west of Hawick, and is part of the much larger Eskdalemuir Forest. It includes five forest blocks: Gair, Grey Hill, Craikhope, Meadshaw, and Crooked Loch.

The LMP area 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.

It was planted between the 1950's and 1990's, having previously been predominantly agricultural land used for grazing sheep and cattle.

See Map 1.

A.3 Existing Schemes and Permissions

Type: Forest Design Plan
Ref. No: FDP 227
Details: Valid 02/12/2015 – 01/12/2025

Type: EIA Screening Opinion
Ref. No: Craik LMP dated 06/10/2022
Details: Road proposals to access coupes 63006 and 63016 – EIA consent not required. Work to start within 5 years of 06/10/2022 and be completed within 10 years.

Type: EIA Screening Opinion
Ref. No: FDP 293 Craik dated 06/02/2025

Details: Change in location of new proposed road C206f in Craikhope coupe 65058 – EIA consent not required. Work to start within 5 years of 06/02/2025 and be completed within 10 years.

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Summary of the main points raised by stakeholders during Scoping (and where they are addressed in the plan). The full consultation record can be found in Appendix I.

1. Recreation provision and public access. Many of the local community in Craik were unhappy with the condition of the car park and waymarked trails at Craik, and wished to see formal trails, notably the Wolfcleuch Waterfall Trail, reinstated. Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council and Borthwick Water Community Development Trust both sought plans and timescales for maintaining/improving/re-opening the following:
    a. the existing 3 waymarked walks;
    b. the lower (disabled) and upper car parks;
    c. bird and bat boxes (which may be destroyed in the current felling operations), but in any event, are very old and now need replacing;
    d. reinstating forest roads near the car parks and removing brash and debris from the 3 walks and local vicinity, that will result from current felling operations;
    e. any proposals by FLS to create new walks or to reinstate old walks e.g. the beech wood walk.
    f. NatureScot highlighted the Romans and Reivers core path and other rights of way, and opportunities to improve accessibility and landscape. (Section C.2.9)

2. Wildlife habitat. Members of the local community were keen to see more wildlife habitat management in what is seen as a mainly commercial conifer plantation. (Section C.2.11)

3. River Tweed SAC. NatureScot highlighted the importance of enhanced buffer design to protect watercourses from silt run-off. They requested wider buffers (than UKFS recommended) where silt run-off may be greater, such as below steeper slopes, and appropriate native broadleaf planting in the buffer zones. (Section C.2.11)

4. Kingside Loch SSSI. NatureScot noted the importance of Kingside Loch SSSI immediately adjacent to Crooked Loch block, requesting a buffer of at least 100m from the SSSI and better connectivity with other wetland habitat within the plan area, such as Crooked Loch. (Section C.2.11)

5. Alemoor West Loch and Meadow SSSI. NatureScot noted that, although this is well outside the LMP area, the catchment includes a large part of the forest, and that adequate riparian buffers will be required to protect water quality in the SSSI. (Section C.2.11)

6. Deep peat. NatureScot highlighted areas of deeper peat in the northern part of the LMP area, encouraging peatland restoration or alternative ecological restoration. (Section C.2.11)

7. Black grouse. NatureScot and RSPB noted black grouse lek sites to the north of the LMP area and proposed suitable habitat management in the northern part of the forest. (Section C.2.11)

8. Landscape Scale Approach. NatureScot suggested a landscape approach to ecological restoration. (Section C.2.11)

9. Archaeology. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) gave general guidance and specific advice on managing the following designated sites:

   a. SM2115 Meadowshaw, earthwork;
   b. SM1709 Craik Cross Hill-Borthwick Water, Roman road;
   c. SM675 Mid Raeburn to Craik Cross Hill, Roman road & watch tower

A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

Vision

Craik will be a resilient, healthy, and productive forest, providing a sustainable contribution to the South Region's softwood timber production and income. The riparian habitat network at the heart of the forest will be rich in biodiversity, protecting watercourses and associated wildlife. The forest will be an attractive setting for local people and visitors to enjoy informal recreation.

Management Objectives

Objective 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.

Indicator of objective being met: Delivery of the clearfell harvesting programme in the plan period and indicative felling coupes in subsequent phases. Development and delivery of a first thinning programme.

Objective 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.

Indicator of objective being met: On-going forest restructuring through clearfelling and restocking, prioritising harvesting severely windblown coupes in LMP Phase 1. Successful establishment of a more diverse range of species, as pure crops and in mixtures, selected using Ecological Site Classification (ESC), local knowledge and an understanding of future markets.

Objective 3: Biodiversity
Improve the biodiversity value of the forest, caring for priority habitats and species. Enhance the overall biodiversity value through expansion and management of riparian broadleaf areas supporting water quality improvements. Develop better connectivity between habitats of biodiversity value, and where it will add best value to accumulate deadwood.

Indicator of objective being met: Successful establishment of native broadleaves through restocking and natural regeneration in core riparian areas, as part of on-going forest restructuring. Monitoring and removal of excessive non-native conifer regeneration in core riparian areas. Retention of older conifer stands where these offer greatest habitat value and remain sufficiently stable.

A.6 General Site Description

A.6.1 Topography and Landscape

Craik falls within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 96 – Southern Uplands with Forest – Borders. This LCT is characterised by large-scale rolling landform with higher dome or cone-shaped summits. Conifer forest cover dominates and is characterised by Sitka spruce plantations with occasional areas of pine and larch. The landscape is simple and uniform in character.

A.6.2 Geology and Soils

Underlying geology is sandstone bedrock from the Silurian Period. The plan area comprises a mosaic of typical upland soils. On the western upper slopes and tops these are dominated by blanket bog, with large patches of peaty surface water gley and smaller patches of ironpan. Surface water gleys and brown earths in the central, southern and eastern parts of Craik offer more scope for species diversity. See Map 8.

A.6.3 Climate

The current climate in Craik varies from warm, moist and sheltered to cool, wet and severely exposed, most of the forest being cool, wet and highly or moderately exposed. Both accumulated temperature and moisture deficit are predicted to rise, making it warmer with potentially drier summers and wetter winters. Extreme weather events are also likely to become more frequent. Summer drought could lead to reduced tree growth, and wetter, windier winters could lead to increased windblow on more exposed sites with saturated soils.

A.6.4 Hydrology

The plan area is within the Solway Tweed River Basin District, and falls into three river catchment areas, all within the wider Tweed Catchment:
Teviot Water
Ettrick Water
Ale Water

Water quality:
Bodies of surface waters are listed below, with data taken from SEPA's 2021 update to the Water Environment Hub (https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/RBMP3/)

Borthwick water	Overall condition: Good
Rankle Burn	Overall condition: Moderate (fish ecology)
Northhope Burn	Overall condition: Good
Ale Water	Overall condition: Poor (access for fish – outside FLS land)
Tima Water	Overall condition: Good

Flooding:
Downstream of Craik, Hawick has been identified by SEPA as a Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA). The main source of flooding is the River Teviot and its tributaries including Borthwick Water, which is fed by numerous watercourses in the plan area. Forest cover occupies less than 40% of the catchment so there is minimal risk of felling contributing to flooding downstream.
Further information is available in SEPA's Flood Risk Management Plan:
https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/

Water supplies:
The catchment for Alemoor Reservoir includes all of Crooked Loch block. The associated drinking water protected area does not extend as far as the plan area.

There are several private water supplies (PWS) within the plan area. Refer to Appendix IV – Private Water Supplies.

A.6.5 Windthrow

Over 50% of Craik is highly exposed, with DAMS scores between 17 and 20. This has significant implications for stand stability and therefore rotation length and the ability to carry out thinning. Although less impacted than elsewhere in the region, several older first rotation coupes were badly windblown by Storm Arwen in late 2021, including some planned long-term retentions. The majority of remaining windblow is older first rotation coupes that will be felled in this plan period.

A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

Craik is part of the expansive Eskdalemuir Forest, and most of the neighbouring land use is coniferous plantation forestry. The land to the north of Crooked Loch forest block is predominantly upland farmland.

A.6.7 Access

FLS provides a public car park and three short way marked trails close to Craik village. The core path running through the forest from the Meadshaw entrance to Craik Cross Hill is part of the Romans and Reivers Route, a long-distance trail promoted by the British Horse Society. The wider forest road network provides extensive informal access under SOAC.

A.6.8 Historic Environment

There are four scheduled monuments in or bordering the plan area:

SM2115	Meadowshaw, earthworks
SM2534	Black Rig, linear earthworks
SM1709	Craik Cross Hill – Borthwick Water, Roman road
SM675	Mid Raeburn – Craik Cross Hill, Roman road and watch tower

Details of these and all other undesignated features are provided in Appendix II and shown on Map 9.

A.6.9 Biodiversity

Designated Sites

There are no designated sites in the plan area, but the following are of importance to the plan area:

1. All watercourses in the plan area eventually feed into the **River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**, designated as a habitat for several species: river lamprey, brook lamprey, sea lamprey, Atlantic salmon and otter, as well as floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot. More information can be found at: River Tweed SAC.

2. **Kingside Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** sits on the western boundary of Crooked Loch on a neighbouring property. The SSSI is designated for the nutrient poor oligotrophic loch itself and surrounding basin fen habitat and the bryophyte assemblage. More information can be found at: Kingside Loch SSSI. There is a small area of blanket bog on FLS ground adjacent to the loch, this is of interest for lepidoptera. The recently felled conifers in this area will be restocked with downy birch and grey willow.

3. **Alemoor West Loch and Meadshaw Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** sits just to the north-east of Crooked Loch block and is connected to the forest by Ale Water. It is designated for its flood-plain fen, rare in the Scottish Borders, and the vascular plant assemblage, including several nationally and regionally rare plant species. More information can be found at: Alemoor West Loch and Meadow SSSI.

Priority Habitats
There are few priority habitats.

1. M9 and M27 upland flush fen and swamp UKBAP priority habitat along the riparian corridor of Back Burn, Back Loch and Bellendean Burn, on the northern boundary of Crooked Loch block.

2. The small lochs and lochans in Crooked Loch block are important for their associated fen and blanket bog habitat, all be it at small scale. They support a variety of wetland wildlife species including otters.

3. Given the lack of designated priority habitats in Craik, the riparian forest habitat network is central to delivering LMP biodiversity objectives.

Priority Species
While Craik is no longer considered a red squirrel 'stronghold', it is still important for the conservation of this key woodland species.

A.6.10 Invasive Species

The main threat of 'invasive' species is from non-native conifers, mainly Sitka spruce, naturally regenerating in open habitat or riparian corridors, at the expense of native broadleaves.

A.7 Woodland Description

See Map 2 which shows the current tree species composition and pattern.

Craik is a predominantly coniferous plantation forest, dominated by Sitka spruce which currently accounts for 57% of the total plan area. Having been first planted between the 1950s and 1980s, most of the forest has already been felled and restocked. Much of the remaining first rotation is severely windblown and will be felled and restocked in Phase 1 of this plan. Removal of larch following infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* and subsequent issue of Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) has resulted in premature felling of several coupes previously earmarked for LTR or LISS management. An area in Meadshaw block planted in the early 1990s was previously earmarked for LISS management and first thinned, but larch removal and windblow has led to this no longer being suitable, and remaining trees will be clearfelled and restocked over the next few phases.

Table 1: Area by species

Plan area by species						
Species	Current Area (ha)	%	Year 10 Area (ha)	%	Year 20 Area (ha)	%
Sitka spruce	2431.9	57.2	2392.8	56.3	2337.2	55.0
Other conifers	605	14.2	612.2	14.4	662.2	15.6
Native broadleaves	220.7	5.2	241.6	5.7	257.4	6.1
Other broadleaves	3.8	0.1	3.5	0.1	2.4	0.1
Open ground	936.5	22.0	959.6	22.6	948.5	22.3
Fallow	53.3	1.3	41.2	1.0	43.4	1.0
Total	4251.2	100	4250.9	100	4251.1	100

Chart 1: Area by species

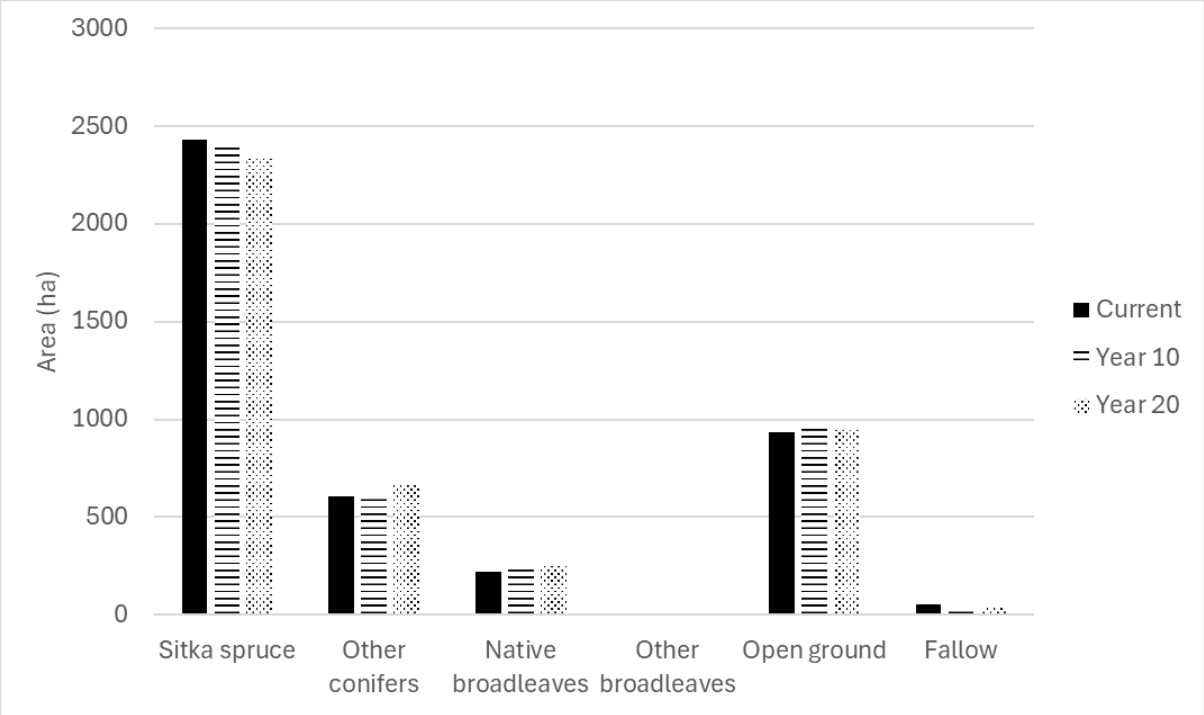
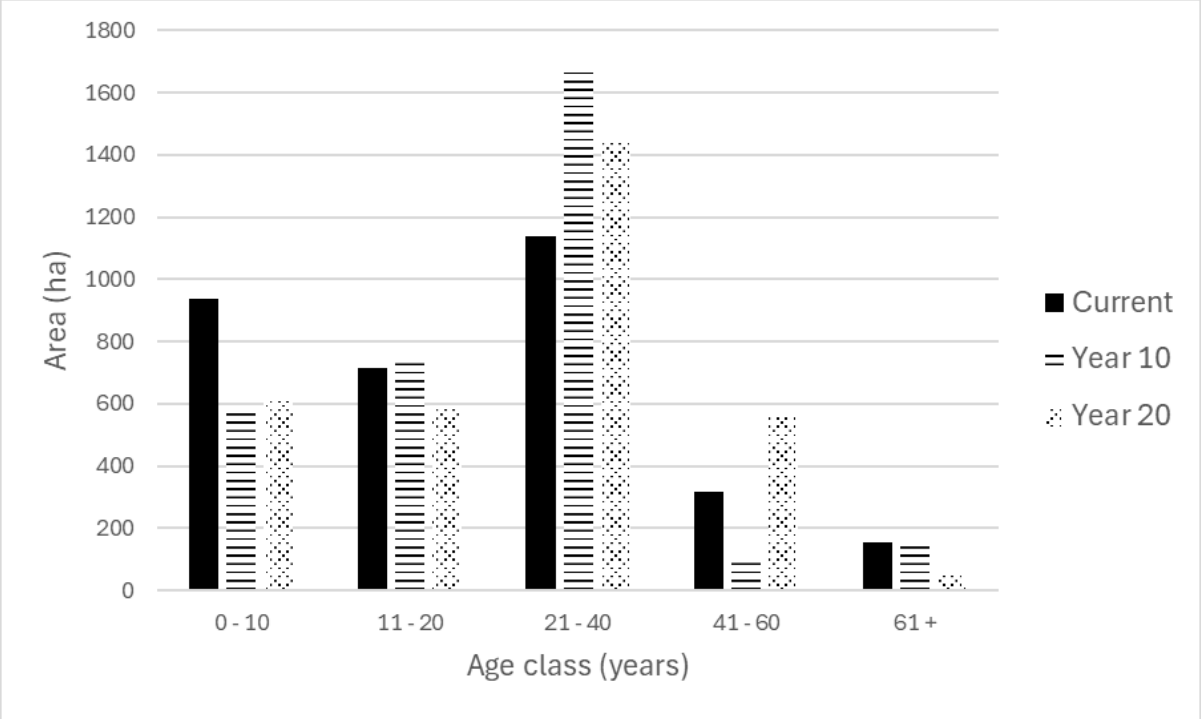


Table 2: Area by age

Plan area by Age						
Age Class (years)	Current Area (ha)	%	Year 10 Area (ha)	%	Year 20 Area (ha)	%
0 – 10	937.7	22.1	585.2	13.8	618.6	14.6
11 – 20	713.2	16.8	749.2	17.6	585.2	13.8
21 – 40	1137.6	26.8	1671.3	39.3	1438.2	33.8
41 – 60	318	7.5	89	2.1	562.3	13.2
60+	154.8	3.6	155.6	3.7	54.8	1.3
Open ground (including fallow)	989.7	23.3	1000.8	23.5	991.9	23.3
Total	4251	100	4251	100	4251	100

Chart 2: Area by age



A.8 Plant Health

Phytophthora ramorum has had a major impact on Craik in the previous plan period, with several large areas of larch felled to comply with Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN), notably in Meadshaw and Craikhope blocks. Further larch felling will be required in this plan period.

The great spruce bark beetle, *Dendroctonus micans*, is becoming more widespread in South Region. Where new sites have been confirmed, the predator beetle, R*hizophagus grandis*, has been released to control the spread of *D.micans*.

B. Analysis of Information

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities – and Concept

Constraints and Opportunities		
Factor	Constraints	Opportunities
Soils	The soils in Gair and Grey Hill are dominated by deep peats, with peaty surface water gleys also abundant, significantly limiting choice of tree species.	Extensive brown earths and surface water gleys in Meadshaw, Craikhope and north-east Crooked Loch offer greater scope for tree species diversity.
Climate and windiness	Much of Craik is cool, wet, and highly to severely exposed, with DAMS scores in excess of 16, limiting silvicultural options. Future climate may result in warmer drier summers, wetter milder winters and more extreme weather events.	Parts of Meadshaw and the lower-lying valleys elsewhere in the plan area are more sheltered and provide better opportunities for thinning and potential future management under LISS.
Water	Forest operations could have an impact on the extensive network of watercourses and associated riparian areas, the burns feeding into River Tweed SAC.	As coupes are felled and restocked there are opportunities to widen and enhance riparian corridors to reduce the risk of siltation from forest operations, improve overall water

	Crooked Loch block is within the catchment for Alemoor Loch public water supply catchment. Several private water supply catchments in the forest, along with some waterpipes and tanks, could be restrictive on some forest operations.	quality and enhance riparian habitat for wildlife.
Tree Health	In the last five years Phytophthora ramorum has spread throughout the plan area. Subsequent harvesting following issue of SPHNs has removed much of the larch, leaving mostly younger stands in mixture with spruce.	
Deer	High deer numbers present a challenge to successful restocking, especially softer alternative conifers, where these are an option, and native broadleaves. Lack of clear lines of site in riparian areas due to excessive natural regeneration (mainly Sitka spruce but also willow), and overgrown extraction routes, makes for challenging deer management.	Proactive management of riparian zones, by removing excessive natural regeneration, will facilitate more effective deer management. Improved collaboration between forest management, environment and deer management teams, along with targeted resourcing, will be mutually beneficial.
Biodiversity	Sitka spruce regen is an on-going challenge in areas of planned open habitat and broadleaves, notably the riparian forest habitat network.	Opportunity to enhance connectivity between Kingside loch SSSI, Crooked Loch and Alemoor West and Meadow SSSI in the north of the plan area, developing the mosaic of open

	Decreasing area of older conifer stands with corresponding loss in habitat for red squirrels and raptors.	habitat and native broadleaves along the various connecting riparian corridors.
Historic environment	There are still trees within the Meadshaw earthworks Scheduled Monument that will be challenging to remove.	
Public Access	Trails and visitor parking susceptible to disruption due to harvesting operations and windblow (and therefore further harvesting). The range and length of formal trails provided has diminished in recent years due to low visitor numbers (relative to other sites in the Borders), resource limitations and changing priorities in the Region.	Once the remaining windblow and most vulnerable trees have been felled, there is an opportunity to restock with suitable broadleaves and conifers, and to re-develop attractive welcome and interactive visitor zones around the car park and trails.
Community		Opportunity to work with the local community to redevelop and maintain attractive core visitor zones (see above), as well as supporting community initiatives to develop access beyond core recreation infrastructure that FLS can commit to.

Concept

Sustainable timber production remains the primary objective; achieved through on-going forest restructuring. In the older forest blocks most of the first rotation conifer plantation has been felled and restocked, remaining coupes having become increasingly unstable, with

extensive windblow. Harvesting during this plan period will therefore target these coupes, leaving a few long-term retentions to meet biodiversity objectives.

Opportunities will be sought to first thin coupes to improve longer term timber quality and tree stability. Previously thinned coupes have already been felled (due to infection by *Phytophthora ramorum* or windblow) or are no longer sufficiently stable to continue thinning.

Although species choice is limited by poorer soils and climatic factors across much of the plan area, restocking proposals will include suitable alternative productive conifers where these meet plan objectives.

The biodiversity enhancement focus will be on improved connectivity between important habitats, notably in Crooked Loch forest block between Kingside Loch SSSI and Alemoor West and Meadow SSSI. By continuing to develop the network of native broadleaves and open habitat, and ensuring adequate riparian buffers, watercourses and private water supplies will be protected form potential impacts of forest operations.

Map 3 illustrates how the plan concept incorporates the important constraints and opportunities into the management objectives.

C. Management Proposals

C.1 Silvicultural Practice

Craik will continue to be managed through clearfell and restock, making use of natural regeneration where appropriate. In keeping with the large-scale rolling landscape, bigger hilltop coupes will continue to be a feature. As forest restructuring progresses through the second rotation, and the impacts of climate change take effect, shorter rotation lengths are more likely.

Parts of Meadshaw, on better soils and in more sheltered positions, were previously earmarked for management under Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS). However, larch felling and windblow means the remaining stands have become unstable, so will be clearfelled and restocked over the next four felling phases. Future management could include a fresh approach to LISS.

C.2 Prescriptions

C.2.1 Felling

Sites proposed for clear felling in the plan period are identified as Phase 1 and Phase 2 management coupes on Map 4. Refer to Table 3 for scale of felling.

Stands adjoining felled areas will be retained until the restocking of the first coupe has reached a minimum height of 2m. Phase 1 and 2 clearfell coupes identified in this plan with known adjacency issues are listed below with the planned approach to achieving height separation. For any future clearfell coupes where adjacency is not possible, and there is no exemption under the Scottish Forestry Act, an amendment will be discussed and agreed with Scottish Forestry before the coupe is felled.

Phase	Coupe No	Adjacency issues	Mitigation
1	65064	65058 65063	65054 and 65058 are both heavily windblown (>50%). Both need to be felled as soon as possible to avoid further degradation of the timber, so felling is planned early Phase 1, effectively as one coupe. Realistically these two coupes will be restocked together and adjacency will have to be addressed in the second rotation. 65063 was restocked in 2024 (with some natural regeneration from 2019). A 2-3 year delay in restocking 65064/65058 will address adjacency issues.
1	65038	65066	65038 is approved for felling as an amendment to the previous plan, and 65066 is felled windblow waiting to be restocked. There will be a 2-3 year delay in restocking 65038, but it is proposed to fully address any adjacency issues in the second rotation. The 90 metre shared coupe boundary is relatively short (compared to coupe boundaries) and bordered either side by P1918 SS.
1	65080	65095	65080 is almost completely windblown so needs to be felled as soon as possible. Being close to a walking trail it is proposed to restock soon after felling. 65095 is a much larger coupe, restocked in 2025, and the two coupes

Phase	Coupe No	Adjacency issues	Mitigation
			can effectively be treated as one. Any perceived adjacency issue will be addressed in the second rotation.
1	67053	67043 and 67060	67053 is a windblown coupe, approved for felling as an amendment to the previous plan and is partially felled. 67043 and 67060 were restocked in 2024-2025. 67053 restock will be delayed to ensure adequate separation.

Any other planned tree felling (e.g. selective felling, felling of individual trees, or felling of coppice) is shown on Map 5.

Other tree felling in exceptional circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LMP process.

However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances:

Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage, or impeded drainage.

*Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities and services, and drains.

The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances over the plan area covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per calendar year.

A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five year Land Management Plan review.

[N.B. Trees may be felled without permission if they: are of less than 10 cm diameter at breast height (1.3 m); pose immediate danger to persons or property; are completely dead; or are part of Authorised Planning Permission works or wayleave agreements].

C.2.2 Thinning

Potential sites for thinning in the plan period are identified on Map 5. Table 4 indicates the potential area.

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum MAI, or YC, per year). Higher intensities (no more than 140 % of maximum MAI, or YC, per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger tree sizes are being sought or as part of a LISS prescription. In all cases work plans will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried out and operations will be monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

C.2.3 Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Areas previously identified for LISS management have been significantly affected by windblow and SPHNs (following infection of larch by *Phytophthora ramorum*). Remaining trees are judged to be too unsuitable for further thinning, so LISS management will no longer be carried out in the first rotation.

C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves

Stands identified as LTR and Natural Reserve are shown on Map 4.26 management coupes have been identified as LTR, ranging in size from 0.8 ha to 14.8 ha, 129 ha in total. These are mostly older first rotation conifer stands, notably Norway spruce, many thinned in the past. With much of the first rotation now felled and restocked these provide valuable wildlife habitat, particularly for raptors and red squirrels. They are mostly in or close to riparian zones and areas of medium to high deadwood potential.

There is no change to the areas previously identified as natural reserve:

1. 63015 consists of P1970 Lodgepole pine in an area of the forest with little deadwood or other retentions.

2. 63101 is a smaller area of P1958 Scots pine and Norway spruce close to the Rankle Burn.

3. 67020 consists of P1951 Scots pine, Norway spruce and Lodgepole pine that ties in with other retentions and future minimum intervention along the Aithouse Burn corridor. It includes an area where larch was felled (as part of an SPHN), that will be left to naturally regenerate.

4. 67045 consists of P1956 conifers along the Borthwick Water corridor and ties in with other retentions and minimum interventions. It includes a scheduled monument where some trees need to be felled to protect the site.

C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

Planned restocking of felled areas, and proposals for the future habitats and tree species over the whole plan area are shown on Map 6. See Table 5 for areas, establishment, and mix proportions. Timing of restocking will comply with the plan tolerance table shown in section C.4.

Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Stocking densities will be at least 2500 stems per ha for conifers and 1600 sph for broadleaves unless justified elsewhere in this plan. If the restock or natural regeneration should fail to reach these levels the site will be beaten-up to the required planting density. This will be assessed at year 3 and year 5 after planting with beat-up by at least year 5.

There will be a preference for natural regeneration of native woodland areas. Any non-productive broadleaf planting will be native to the area and will complement existing naturally growing scrub and woodland to give the most ecological value.

The Restocking Strategy for Scotland's National Forest Estate explains that we will minimise chemical usage in restocking (insecticides and herbicides) by considering options at the site scale, and using tactics such as delayed planting to achieve this.

Table 3: Felling (gross figures)

Scale of Proposed Felling Areas										
Total Plan Area			4251 ha							
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	LTR	%
Area (ha)	352.2	8.3	138.8	3.3	181.4	4.3	171.6	4.0	129.0	3.0

Note: Phase 1 area appears disproportionately high because it includes coupes under way or due to start in 2025, as approved or amended in the 2015 – 2025 LMP. It also includes significantly windblown coupes that cannot be delayed beyond Phase 1.

Table 4: Felling by species by phase

Species	**Phase**	
	Phase 1 (ha)	Phase 2 (ha)
Conifers	318.5	132.7
Broadleaves	0	0

Table 5: Thinning

Thinning over the first 10 years of the plan		
Coupe	Prescription	Area (ha)
63003	For all thinning coupes, the intention is to first thin at 10 – 12 m top height. Some areas identified may have exceeded that by the time harvesting is programmed and may be removed from the thinning programme. The overall objective for all thinning coupes is to develop stand stability and improve future timber quality.	17.4
63004		14.7
64001		21.0
64009		3.1
64057		2.4
65028		16.2
65042		32.2
65043		13.8
65049		11.2
67003		10.1
67004		4.0
67007		11.4
67008		30.5
67030		7.9
67095		3.8

68007		12.2
68014		4.2
68015		7.8
68023		11.1
68040		12.4
Total area where thinning may be undertaken during the plan period		**247.4**

Table 6: Restocking

Felling Phase	Map Identifier (coupe number)	Species to be planted - or established through natural regeneration (nr)	Area (ha)*
1 (fallow)	63001	SP (Low density - 1600 stems/ha) 50% NMB/50% open	3.4 1.5
1 (fallow)	63020	SS/LP (70%/30%) 50% NMB/50% open	17.4 0.6
1 (fallow)	63063	NS SP 50% NMB/50% open	0.8 0.4 0.7
1 (fallow)	64011	SS NS	27.9 2.9
1 (fallow)	64012	70% NS/30% SS SP NS 50% NMB	0.9 0.6 1.0 0.2
1 (fallow)	64031	NS SP 50% NMB	1.35 0.37 0.65
1 (fallow)	64028	70% SS/30% LP (nurse) SP (low density – 1600 stems/ha) 50% NMB	18.9 4.7 4.1
1 (fallow)	65045	50% SP/50% SBI	14.7
1 (fallow)	65066	60% NS/30% MC/10% SBI	3.6
1 (fallow)	65085	40% NMB/10% SP	0.6

Felling Phase	Map Identifier (coupe number)	Species to be planted - or established through natural regeneration (nr)	Area (ha)*
1 (fallow)	67002 (part)	NF NS 50% NMB	5.2 1.9 0.2
1 (fallow)	67029	60% DF/40% MC 50% NMB	3.9 0.4
1 (fallow)	67142	70% SP/30% SBI 50% NMB	4.2 2.1
1	63006	NS S 70% SS/30% LP (nurse) 50% NMB	13.1 16.9 2.5 2.3
1	63013	SP NS 50% NMB	5.3 2.5 2.1
1	63014	SP 50% NMB	5.4 3.2
1	63016	70% SS/30% LP (nurse) 50% NMB	49.0 5.07
1	64008	SP 50% NMB	5.2 0.3
1	64053	50% NMB NS	3.5 1.3
1	65036	NS	0.4
1	65038	60% NS/40% MC	7.4
1	65054	SS	64.5
1	65058	70% SS/30% LP (nurse) 50% NMB	41.5 0.4
1	65064	SS 70% SS/30% LP (nurse)	12.1 5.1

Felling Phase	Map Identifier (coupe number)	Species to be planted - or established through natural regeneration (nr)	Area (ha)*
1	65072	SS NS	2.5 1.0
1	65073	60% SS/40% MC 50% NMB	0.8 1.0
1	65078	60% NS/30% MC/10% SBI 40% NMB/10% SP	1.2 0.3
1	65080	NS	0.7
1	65091	NMB	0.7
1	65092	NMB	0.5
1	67044	70% SP/ 30% SBI 50% NMB	7.5 0.7
1	67053	60% NS/ 40% MC 60% DF/40% MC NS 50% NMB	14.9 7.8 1.4 0.5
1	67055	SS 50% NMB	15.5 0.2
1	68019	SS	0.3
1	68021	70% SS/30% LP (nurse)	4.2
1	68036	SS	27.0
1	68047	70% SS/30% LP (nurse) SP 50% NMB	0.6 0.4 0.4
1	68060	50% NMB	2.1
2	63018	70% SS/30% LP (nurse) 50% NMB	50.4 4.4
2	65023	SS 60% SS/40% MC	9.7 2.0

Felling Phase	Map Identifier (coupe number)	Species to be planted - or established through natural regeneration (nr)	Area (ha)*
2	65033	SS 60% NS/40% MC 50% NMB	8.8 10.7 0.9
2	67022	SS 50% NMB	25.8 0.2
2	67038	60% NS/40% MC 50% NMB	17.7 0.5
2	68011	SS NS 70% SS/30% LP (nurse)	0.7 1.9 1.0
2	68033	SS 70% SS/30% LP 50% NMB	21.1 1.6 0.9
		Total Restocking Area (ha)	624.9

*net area to be planted excluding designed open ground

C.2.6 Protection

Management of deer is an underpinning activity essential for the delivery of benefits from Scotland's National Forests and Land. The aim is to manage healthy wild deer populations and manage deer impacts across the Estate consistent with the carrying capacity of the land and successful delivery of FLS land management objectives. Deer Management Plans direct the priorities for management and are available on request.

Spring mean roe deer density for 2025 was approximately 9/km². In the last full five-year culls from April 2020 to April 2025, FLS have culled 1256 roe and 37 sheep. Culling is ongoing with targets set based on population modelling, cull data and site evidence.

C.2.7 Fence erection / removal

No fencing work proposed.

C.2.8 Road Operations

Map 7 shows the existing forest road network and any associated quarries, timber haulage egress points, and any local 'Agreed Timber Transport Routes'. Any planned new roads or quarry expansions in the plan period are also indicated on this map. The lengths of planned new roads are given on the map and are reflected in the EIA determination submitted with the plan.

C.2.9 Public Access

Visitors are welcome to explore Scotland's National Forests and Land (managed by FLS) and will only be asked to avoid routes while certain work is going on that will create serious or less obvious hazards for a period (e.g. tree felling). Scotland's outdoors provides great opportunities for open-air recreation and education, with great benefits for people's enjoyment, and their health and well-being. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ensures everyone has statutory access rights to most of Scotland's outdoors, if these rights are exercised responsibly, with respect for people's privacy, safety and livelihoods, and for Scotland's environment. Equally, land managers must manage their land and water responsibly in relation to access rights, and FLS will only restrict public access where it is necessary and will keep disruption to a minimum.

The car park and formal trails mentioned in section A.6.7 will be cleared and repaired once felling and restocking operations have been completed in these areas. Facilities will be maintained in accordance with trail grading, for example, more strenuous trails such as the Aithouse Burn trail will still have an uneven surface.

There are no plans to re-instate former trails or create new ones. FLS will engage with the local community if they wish to develop proposals for additional recreation infrastructure that will benefit the community.

The Romans and Reivers route will continue to be managed in partnership with Scottish Borders Council Access Team.

Woodland Management in Visitor Zones

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 will 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.

C.2.10 Historic Environment

The Regional Historic Asset Management Plan includes conservation management intentions for designated historic assets on Scotland's National Forests and Land. Details of all known historic environment features are held in FLS's Heritage Dataset and included within work plans for specific operations to ensure damage is avoided. Significant historic environment features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps. Areas of historic environment interest will be checked both on FLS's records and also with the Council's HER prior to the commencement of forestry activities. Any upstanding features will be clearly marked, both on the ground and on operational maps. Care will be taken to avoid any damage to surviving structural elements.

Map 9 and Appendix II provide more information about the historic environment features within and adjacent to the plan area.

Harvesting work in coupe 67052 has been programmed in Phase 1 to remove windblow and clear a buffer around Meadowshaw (SM2115). The scheduled monument will be regularly monitored for natural regeneration and tree removal programmed as necessary.

When coupes 65054, 65058 and 65064 are felled in Phase 1, any infringing windblow, including roots, will be removed from Craik Cross Hill-Borthwick Water, Roman road (SM1709) and associated buffer area. Restocking will ensure that an adequate buffer is maintained in the future. The scheduled monument will be regularly monitored for natural regeneration and tree removal programmed as necessary.

HES will be consulted ahead of any works associated with scheduled monuments and scheduled monument consent applied for.

C.2.11 Biodiversity

UK Forestry Standard guidance is to manage a minimum of 15% of the forest management unit with conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective. The figure for this plan is 15%, including LTR, NR, MI and open management coupes. The actual figure is much higher if open habitat in clearfell coupes is included.

The main focus for conserving and enhancing biodiversity is continuing to develop the network of native broadleaves and open habitat in the riparian corridors. Several coupes due to be felled in the plan period are adjacent or close to main watercourses and, following clearfelling, riparian buffers will be widened where necessary and suitable native broadleaves planted.

The northern part of Crooked Loch has been identified as a priority area to improve connectivity between important open and wetland habitats, notably between Kingside Loch SSSI, Crooked Loch, and Alemoor West and Meadow SSSI. There are no forest operations planned in this area, but FLS will explore options to significantly enhance open and woodland habitats for biodiversity. There is potential to take more of a landscape approach to ecological restoration, working with neighbouring land managers and other stakeholders.

Coupe 68058, adjacent to Kingside Loch SSSI has recently been restocked with native broadleaves, leaving a buffer of open habitat between the forest boundary and the loch. This area will be monitored for conifer regeneration and excessive broadleaf regeneration, which will be removed as necessary.

As per section C.2.4, LTRs provide valuable wildlife habitat, notably for red squirrels and raptors. Most of the LTRs are also connected to the wider riparian habitat network.

The area of minimum intervention along the Back Burn and Bellendean Burn, on the northern boundary of the plan area, provides an extensive buffer of up to 500 metres of native broadleaves and open habitat. Natural regeneration will be monitored to ensure this remains as an open woodland habitat, suitable for black grouse.

Deadwood

Opportunities for retaining or creating deadwood will be identified during the planning of all felling works, favouring areas with the highest deadwood ecological potential (typically within riparian corridors). Valuable deadwood and deadwood areas will be marked on contract maps. Where it is safe to do so, and does not compromise LMP objectives, standing

mature dead trees will be retained as these offer excellent potential for a range of species. Riparian areas present the best ecological potential for deadwood retention.

C.2.12 Tree Health

Craik is within the Risk Reduction Zone (RRZ). Felling of larch in 'live' SPHNs has been incorporated into felling proposals in the plan period. There is little larch remaining in Craik, and it is mostly younger (under 25 years old), in mixture with spruce, and non-thinnable. If tree health monitoring identifies further infection by *Phytophthora ramorum*, LMP amendments may be required to deal with subsequent SPHNs.

C.2.13 Invasive Species

There are no invasive species removal plans.

C.2.14 New Planting

There is no new planting in this plan.

C.2.15 Other

Wildfire

FLS continues to work closely with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to prevent and tackle wildfires that threaten Scotland's National Forests and Land. FLS support SFRS in their lead role for fire prevention and suppression through creating annual fire plans, maintaining a duty rota, and providing additional logistical support. FLS's primary objective is always to protect people's health, safety and wellbeing.

Soils

Brash mats (or alternative measures) will be used to protect sensitive soils. There will be minimal soil disturbance and machine movement on sites with clayey soils to reduce the risk of compaction or damage to the soil structure. Felling residue will usually be left on site to allow nutrient recycling, with consideration for the practicalities of restocking. Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Although there are extensive areas of deep peats, in the western side of the plan area, these are generally not priority soils for peatland restoration. Predominantly 11b (*Calluna, Eriophorum vaginatum*) Blanket Bog, these are suitable for restocking with Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine (nurse species). There are a few small pockets of 10b (upland *Sphagnum* Bog), notably between Crooked Loch and Windy Loch in the north of the plan area. These areas are open or native broadleaves and will form part of the habitat network connecting Kingside Loch SSSI and Alemoor West and Meadow SSSI referred to in section C.2.11.

Utilities, Renewables and other developments

Refer to Appendix IV for private water supplies.

C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Permitted Development Notifications

Table 6 – EIA projects (in Phase 1)

Total area (hectares) for each project type and details by sensitive or non-sensitive area.					
Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
Afforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	ha
Deforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	ha
Forest Roads	ha		1.3 ha		1.3 ha
Quarries	ha		ha		ha
Provide further details on your project if required.					
Map 7 shows four planned new forest roads, all of which currently have approval either in the previous LMP or by amendment, and have all been through EIA screening. Road construction may continue into Phase 1 of this LMP, so they are included here. Details will be included in the separate screening opinion request.					

C.4 Tolerance Table

See Appendix III.

Appendices

Map 1 – Location
Map 2 – Current tree species
Map 3 – Concept
Map 4 – Management
Map 5 – Thinning
Map 6 – Future habitats and species
Map 7 – Timber haulage
Map 8 – Soils
Map 9 – Historic environment
Map 10A – Private Water Supplies (CONFIDENTIAL)
Map 10B – PWS 1 - Ropelawshiel
Map 10C – PWS 2 - Craik Village and PWS 3 Craik Farm
Map 10C – PWS 4 - Meadshaw
Appendix I – Consultation record
Appendix II – Historic environment records
Appendix III – Tolerance table
Appendix IV – Private Water Supplies (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix I: Consultation record

See section A.4 for a summary of the main points raised below by stakeholders and where they are addressed in the plan.

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
A community drop-in session was held at the Forman Memorial Hall, Roberton, on 3rd December 2025, and an on-line questionnaire was provided on the FLS LMP website until 20th December. The on-line questionnaire was also available at the drop-in to complete manually. The following is a summary of the main issues raised.		
Public access and recreation	Local residents	Several comments on the state of the forest following recent storms and the length of time to deal with the wind damage and re-instate forest trails.
Public access and recreation	Local residents	Several requests for access improvements to existing trails as well as re-instatement of the Wolfcleuch Waterfall trail and cycling trails.
Public access and recreation – trails maintenance	Local residents	Drainage issues on grass paths making them difficult to walk.
Conservation and wildlife	Local resident	Diversity of plant life and terrain leading to diversity of habitat leading to diversity of wildlife. The plan allows for retaining as many of the hardwoods within the policy woodlands but doesn't seem to allow for retaining valuable conifers such as very mature fir trees.
Public access and recreation	Local residents	Poor access – paths usually closed or impossible to pass, signposting is lacking, and the forest is unwelcoming.
Conservation and wildlife	Local residents	Concerns over the scarcity of wildlife in a mainly commercial forest, and a wish to see more wildlife habitat management.
Anti-social activity	Local resident	Would like to see forest rangers back and a ban on motorbikes.
Conservation and wildlife	Local resident	Protection of wildlife habitats, more broadleaf planting, protection against overuse by motorsports, electric pylons and windfarms.
Public access and recreation	Local residents	Clearer signage needed to forest car park.

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		Lots of visitors still looking for the waterfall trail which is still shown on other maps such as Google.
Tree species	Local resident	Encouraging “bravery and creativity” with species selection, showing the private sector how it’s done!
The following issues are from other stakeholders		
Forest Research sites	Forest Research	Confirmation that two FR plots are no longer live (removed from FR experiments layer) and that the forest health plot Craik SS132 (OS Grid ref: NT 3068 0519) has no related management restrictions.
Drinking Water Protected Areas and Scottish Water Assets	Scottish Water	Drinking Water Protected Areas A review of our records indicates that there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected by the proposed activity. Scottish Water Assets A review of our records indicates that there are no Scottish Water assets (including water supply and sewer pipes, water and waste water treatment works, reservoirs, etc.) in the area. In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC) at Hauc.diversions@scottishwater.co.uk. It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.
River Tweed SAC	Nature Scot	The SAC is designated for its fish species, otter and as a river habitat type. Craik forest interacts with the SAC along the Borthwick Water at the eastern edge and the Rankle

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		Burn to the west. The UK Forest Standard gives guidance on buffer design adjacent to rivers and lochs, 20 m being the minimum width next to rivers greater than 2 m wide. The UKFS states that wider buffers may be required where there are ecological sensitivities, such as salmon spawning grounds. As such, the SAC should be considered a sensitive site with a requirement for wider buffers. Buffers should also be designed according to landform, with wider buffers in places where silt run off may be greater, e.g. steeper slopes. Historic planting policies mean that some stretches of the SAC have very narrow buffers. Similarly, some of the tributaries of the SAC have very narrow buffers and could release silt into the SAC, particularly at harvest. Buffer design should be enhanced with subsequent harvesting and restocking. NatureScot encourages buffers to be planted with native broadleaved species to provide the best quality riparian habitat. Species such as willow, downy birch, rowan, blackthorn and aspen are all appropriate. Ideally, watercourses will eventually have riparian woodland covering about 50% of the riverbank. In order to achieve this, a greater planting density may be required at the initial stages.
Kingside Loch SSSI	NatureScot	Kingside Loch is notified for its loch and fen habitats and for its bryophyte assemblage. The SSSI is adjacent to the northwestern boundary of Craik Forest and is completely surrounded by forestry. We are keen for the SSSI to become reconnected with the wider countryside, and especially with other nearby wetlands such as Crooked Loch. As a general rule, we would seek a buffer of about 100 m around wetland SSSIs. Such a buffer is important to reduce seeding of non-native conifers into the wetland (particularly Sitka spruce, which tends to thrive on wetter ground) and to protect the quality of water entering the wetland. This level of buffer could be implemented at the next harvesting rotation.
Alemoor West Loch & Meadow SSSI	NatureScot	This site is notified for its floodplain fen and its vascular plant assemblage. The SSSI is over 500 m to the east of the northern boundary of Craik Forest, so is comfortably beyond the 100 m boundary described for Kingside Loch SSSI. A significant part of the catchment of the SSSI is within the forest, however, including the Bellendean Burn and

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		the Byrelee Burn. Adequate buffers are required along all connected watercourses in order to protect water quality within the SSSI and thereby the ecological value of the fen and meadow.
Deep Peat	NatureScot	The James Hutton Institute has mapped the distribution of peat depth across Scotland, based on modelling. This identifies areas of peat greater than 50 cm depth in the north of the site (broadly between Black Rig, Kingside Sike and Crooked Loch) and a larger area in the southwest of the forest (between Long Tae and Hay Sike). Some of these modelled peat areas are over 1 m deep. Such locations present opportunities for peatland restoration, or at least alternative ecological restoration that will become a long-term carbon sink, and we would encourage Forest & Land Scotland to consider such an approach.
Black Grouse	NatureScot	Five black grouse leks are recorded to the north of the forest, within 2 km of the boundary. Populations of black grouse are in serious decline across the Borders, with a very real risk of regional extinction. We therefore encourage all land use proposals close to leks to implement conservation measures to benefit the species. Woodlands of typical density, whether conifer or broadleaved, are not accessible to black grouse. Around the northern perimeter, therefore, it would be extremely beneficial if very low-density (100 stems per ha) broadleaved shrubs could be created, grading into commercial forestry over a width of up to 200 m. Such habitat will provide food year-round and shelter, particularly for winter months. In some places, this appears to be established already, either through river buffers or other locations where planting is not advised. NatureScot welcomes this diversity and would encourage its use elsewhere.
Recreation	NatureScot	A number of rights of way and core paths extend through the forest, along with the Romans and Reivers route. We would welcome measures to improve accessibility to such paths and improvements to the landscape quality along the paths.

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
Landscape Scale Approach	NatureScot	This collection of habitats presents an absolutely golden opportunity for imaginative ecological restoration on a landscape scale. We would strongly encourage FLS to consider this approach, as a demonstration project. Such a project would help deliver the recommended buffers and management principles for the SSSIs and SAC and could address issues of water quality and ecological fragmentation, all within the context of a commercial forest.
General LMP Advice	SEPA	Generic advice/guidance (not specific to Craik) – available on request.
Black grouse habitat	RSPB	Black Grouse is a red-listed, UK BAP species which is undergoing significant declines in southern Scotland and is now considered to be at risk of local extinction. Our records show that there are three recently active Black Grouse lek sites within 3km of the northern part of Craik Forest, the closest of which is c.850m away. We also have records of three historical lek sites to the north and two to the east of this forest, all within 2.5km. The area north of the B711 is particularly important for Black Grouse in this area. The current species map shows that the majority of the northern area is Sitka Spruce, with small areas of mixed broadleaves, Larch, and other conifers. Black Grouse require a mixture of open upland habitats and low-density native broadleaves for lekking, feeding, nesting, and brood-rearing. Due to the proximity of this area to multiple active Black Grouse leks, we recommend that suitable native broadleaves (Willow, Alder, Rowan, Hawthorn, Birch) are planted at a low density (c.500 stems/ha) or variable density in the northern part of the forest to enhance the habitat for this priority species. Scots Pine can also be useful for Black Grouse if not planted at too high a density, and including this species would also be beneficial. Ideally, we would like to see all of the area north of Kingside Loch to Byreleehaugh planted with a mixture of species suitable for Black Grouse. If this is not possible, suitable species should be focussed towards the forest edges where they will be most accessible to Black Grouse. Deer fences present a collision risk for Black Grouse, and therefore we recommend that no deer fences are used in the northern part of this forest to prevent fatalities through bird strike.

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
Archaeological sites	Historic Environment Scotland	General guidance provided for forest owners and managers (available on request), plus specific advice for designated assets. **SM2115 Meadowshaw, earthwork** The monument is a circular earthwork is defined by a bank and external ditch. You can find further information including the legal documents here: http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM2115 We last visited the monument in 2019 when we noted that the planting around the monument was mature, and that the outer edge of the ditch had been planted. The interior of the earthwork was clear, apart from a willow which occupied the wetter ground on the south side of the clearing. There had been some windblow on either side of the willow, which was lying across the earthwork banking. The windblow on the south-eastern side was lying across the entrance. At that time there is no regen within the enclosure. At the time, we recommended that the monument would benefit from a larger cleared area around it and from being cleared of windblow. **SM1709 Craik Cross Hill-Borthwick Water, Roman road** The monument is the remains of a section of Roman road. The monument runs northeast from Craik Cross Hill and is entirely within the land management plan area. You can find further information including the legal documents here: https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM1709 We last visited the monument in 2019 when we noted that there was little regen along its entire length. There had been some windblow of the trees on the west side of the road, coinciding with felling on its eastern side. However, the windblown trees were rooted well outside the scheduled area, so that only their tops were lying within the scheduled area. One such affected section was a deep cutting, where the fallen trees obscured the banking. At the time, we recommended that the monument would benefit from being monitored for regen, and that any windblow of trees rooted within the scheduled area should be cleared.

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		SM675 Mid Raeburn to Craik Cross Hill, Roman road & watch tower The monument comprises the remains of a Roman road and watchtower, possibly of late 1st or mid-2nd century AD date. On the summit of Craik Cross Hill, approximately 10m west of the road, stands a mound approximately 11m in diameter and 1m in height surrounded by a shallow ditch some 1.8m wide. This feature is interpreted as either a Roman watch tower associated with the road or a late prehistoric burial cairn. The putative watch tower marks the north-eastern extent of the monument. This feature either lies within the boundary of the land management plan area or immediately adjacent to it. You can find further information including the legal documents here: https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM675 We last visited the monument in 2017 when we noted that parts of the scheduled area were planted with mature forestry. Felling of trees in a forestry compartment adjacent to the road was due to take place at that time. **Our Advice** We welcome the inclusion of heritage assets within and adjacent to the land management plan area in the key features map. In particular we note that Black Rig, Linear Earthwork N Of Kingside Loch (SM2534) is clearly marked adjacent to the plan area north-western boundary. Wolfcleuchhead enclosures scheduled monument is shown on the key features map between Muckle Knowe and Knowebog Hill. Although there are unscheduled archaeological features at this location, Wolfcleughhead enclosures is a previous name for Prehistoric settlement, 200m ENE of Northhope Haugh (SM2529). This monument is correctly marked on the key features map approximately 1300m further east on the northern bank of the Northhope Burn, outside the land management plan area. We recommend that a distinction is made between scheduled and unscheduled heritage features, and that the locations and boundaries of all scheduled monuments are checked via our online resources (for more information see the Annex). As the forest plan is developed, we recommend that the locations and extents of the monuments are shown

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		on all forest maps to ensure that no accidental damage occurs within the scheduled areas in the course of forest operations. The scheduled area of SM2115 Meadowshaw, earthwork would benefit from the careful removal of trees and the creation of an appropriate unplanted buffer zone around it, in line with UKFS guidance. Given the risk of serious damage to the archaeological remains in the event of trees being windblown, we recommend that this work is programmed early in the term of the management plan. We recommend that the importance of consultation with Historic Environment Scotland is highlighted in the land management plan. An application for scheduled monument consent (SMC) will be needed for any works affecting the monuments, such as felling or thinning trees within the scheduled areas. We welcome pre-application discussion before submitting an application. Applicants should allow at least 8 weeks to obtain SMC after they submit their application. There is more information about SMC in the Annex. We also recommend that the management plan makes provision for regular monitoring and control of regenerating trees, other woody growth and bracken on monuments and within their buffer zones. It is important to manage and maintain open ground in line with UKFS guidance. The area covered by the forest plan includes a number of unscheduled archaeological sites. These are the responsibility of the local authority's archaeological advisors, and we recommend that you seek their advice if you have not done so already. Their contact details are Archaeology Officer, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA; Tel: 01835 824 000 ext. 8886; Email: archaeology@scottishborders.gov.uk
Various	Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council	Prior to the submission of your Management Plan to Scottish Forestry, please can you let us know your plans and timescale for maintaining/improving/re-opening: -

Issue	Raised by	Requirement / Recommendation / Concern / Aspiration
		a) the existing 3 waymarked walks; b) the lower (disabled) and upper car parks; c) bird and bat boxes (which may be destroyed in the current felling operations), but in any event, are very old and now need replacing; d) the overgrown pond and gravel paths near the lower car park; e) reinstating forest roads near the car parks and removing brash and debris from the 3 walks and local vicinity, that will result from current felling operations; and f) any proposals by FLS to create new walks or to reinstate old walks e.g. the beech wood walk. We would welcome the opportunity to make further comments on the Land Management Plan once we are clear on your recreation proposals and timescale. (full letter available on request)
	Borthwick Water Community Development Trust	As per CC letter above.
The following stakeholders responded with no comment or no issues: • Southern Upland Partnership		
The following stakeholders were contacted during scoping but did not respond: • Scottish Borders Council (forestry consultation, archaeology, access, ecology, flooding, landscape) • South Scotland Red Squirrels/Teviot and Borthwick Red Squirrels • British Horse Society • Ramblers • Scottish Wildlife Trust		

Appendix II: Historic Environment records

Historic Environment Records						
Map ref	Designation	Name	Feature Description	Grid Reference	Importance	Area (ha)
1	Scheduled Monument SM2115	Meadowshaw, earthworks	A scheduled settlement measuring internally 140ft from E to W by 155ft. A ditch with counterscarp up to 1.3m high and a bank. Interior split into a N part entered from the E arc across a causeway. The S part entered from the S. Sheepfold lies 38m to NE.	NT 3780 0971	National	0.55
2	Scheduled Monument SM2534	Black Rig, linear earthworks	Linear Earthwork, Black Rig: The N end of this work rests on the left bank of the Back Burn where the parish boundary fence comes down to it from Goose Knowes; from there it pursues a somewhat sinuous course SW and then S along the flank of Black Rig **Note**: most of the SM lies outside the plan area	NT 3424 1419	National	4.37
3	Scheduled Monument SM1709	Craik Cross Hill – Borthwick Water, Roman road	Known line and discovery line of the Roman road.	NT 3110 0532	National	6.32
4	Scheduled Monument SM675	Mid Raeburn – Craik Cross Hill, Roman road and watch tower	A Roman watch tower beside the Roman road. It measures 11m in diameter and 1m in height, and surrounded by a shallow ditch 1.8m broad. No finds when excavated and it may be a burial cairn.	NT 3036 0472	National	17.26

Historic Environment Records						
Map ref	Designation	Name	Feature Description	Grid Reference	Importance	Area (ha)
			Note: Only the north eastern end of the Roman road and the watch tower sit partly within the plan area.			
5	Undesignated	Bellendean Burn, field system	A field, shown as pecked lines is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Selkirkshire 1862-3, sheet xviii).	NT 3595 1488	Local	3.22
6	Undesignated	Bellendean Burn, enclosure	An enclosure with a small structure attached to the inside of the E wall of the enclosure.	NT 3725 1511	Regional	0.15
7	Undesignated	Main drove roads	A line of a drove road	NT 3407 1366 to NT 3605 1254 & NT 3374 1142 to NT 3597 1191	Local	14.55
8	Undesignated	Girnwood Hill, north	A linear earthwork comprises a bank c.4m wide and 0.3m high: and a ditch is c.3m wide and 0.3m deep. It appears to have been destroyed by forestry ploughing. One suggestion is that it was part of the Catrail, but others say not. **Note**: most of the feature is outside the plan area.	NT 3676 1297	Local	0.29

Historic Environment Records						
Map ref	Designation	Name	Feature Description	Grid Reference	Importance	Area (ha)
9	Undesignated	Quarry Rig	A linear earthwork extends for some 400 yards comprising a ditch and bank to E. It may have been destroyed by ploughing for forestry. Suggested that it is part of the Catrail, but may be a linear boundary between two natural landmarks.	NT 3528 1234 to NT 3556 1194	Local	1.01
10	Undesignated	Coutlair Knowe	Line of a road or track. Isolated fragment can be traced for 800m from E shoulder of Black Knowe Head to E flank of Coutlair Knowe.	NT 3394 1124	Uncategorised	1.0
11	Undesignated	Otterhole Sike	An earthwork measures 210ft from N to S by 140ft within a bank and external ditch. Bank measures 1ft 3ins above the interior and the ditch 18ft in width and 1ft deep, with an upcast mound on the W arc of the ditch. Possible entrance in the S.	NT 3553 1007	Regional	0.44
12	Undesignated	Flake Hill	The remains of a rectangular enclosure, measuring 42.0m N-S by 34.0m E-W. Only the outer scarp of a turf bank is a c.3.5m wide is visible. The enclosure has 2 rounded and 2 right angled corners. Probably a stock enclosure. Similar turf banks found to NW.	NT 3587 1018	Uncategorised	1.0
13	Undesignated	Torwood – Raeburnfoot - Newstead	Roman road is thought to pass near here, but no evidence has been recorded other than a possible bridge mound can be seen at NT 386	NT 3500 1000	Uncategorised	100

Historic Environment Records						
Map ref	Designation	Name	Feature Description	Grid Reference	Importance	Area (ha)
			104, and the possible road runs through a field at NT 388 106.			
14	Undesignated	Hare Sike	A circular enclosure or sheepfold.	NT 3474 0935	Local	0.02
15	Undesignated	Deanburnhead - Northhopehaugh	A line of a road or track, which runs from NT 355 096 runs up right bank of Dirthope Burn to NT 342 103.	NT 3554 0964	Uncategorised	1.0
16	Undesignated	Deanburnhead - Northhopehaugh	A road or track, descends from NT 346 092. At NT345 084 heavily marked tracks seen running to Northope Haugh before afforestation.	NT 3443 0849	Uncategorised	1.0
17	Undesignated	HLA relict area	Site identified by HLA – no further information	NT 3448 0808	Uncategorised	14.61
18	Undesignated	HLA relict area	Site identified by HLA – no further information	NT 3248 0830	Uncategorised	3.0
19	Undesignated	Wolfcleuchhead	An enclosure measures c.10.5m NW-SE by c.6.0m and is formed by a bank 3.5m wide by 0.6m high, with a possible entrance in its NW side. A bank extends NW from the NE side for c.10.0m, where it runs into the NE side of a small mutilated mound.	NT 3245 0799	Local	0.02
20	Undesignated	Wolfcleuchhead Loupin Stone	A mounting stone is 0.8m long by 0.35m wide at top, narrowing to a point at bottom, and is only 0.05m thick. On one side two heads and	NT 3138 0834	Regional	0.01

Historic Environment Records						
Map ref	Designation	Name	Feature Description	Grid Reference	Importance	Area (ha)
			lettering are inscribed; on the other the name 'Wolfcleuchead'.			
21	Undesignated	Hazely Sike	Two or three conjoined enclosures. Recorded as a farmstead by the SMR. The location by a Roman road does offer the possibility of a Roman roadside cemetery.	NT 3118 0543	Regional	0.05
22	Undesignated	Hazely Sike	An enclosure beside the Roman road. May have rig and furrow associated with it.	NT 3129 0547	National	0.02

Only include the information exported from the Forester Web 'Heritage' layer + any additional features identified by HES or local authority. Annotate Map 9 with reference number.

Appendix III: Tolerance table

	Maps Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period *	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries **	Timing of Restocking	Changes to Restocking species	Changes to road lines	Designed open ground ** ***	Windblow Clearance ****
SF Approval normally not required	N	• Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met.	• Up to 10% of coupe area.	• Up to 3 planting seasons after felling.	• Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves.		• Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of letters and map	Y	• Advance felling of Phase 2 coupe into Phase 1	• Up to 15% of coupe area	• Between 3 and 5 planting seasons after felling, subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised.		• Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan. • Departures of > 60m in either direction from centre line of road	• Increase by up to 10% of coupe area • Any reduction in open space of coupe area by planting.	• Up to 5ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	Y	• Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period. • Advance felling (phase 3 or beyond) into current or 2nd 5 year period.	• More than 15% of coupe area.	• More than 5 planting seasons after felling, subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised.	• Change from specified native species. • Change Between species group.	• As above, depending on sensitivity.	• In excess of 10% of coupe area. • Colonisation of open space agreed as critical.	• More than 5ha.

NOTES:

* Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS, in particular felling coupe adjacency

** *No more than 1ha, without consultation with SF, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) 1999 Regulations (EIA)*

*** *Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum 20% open space*

**** *Where windblow occurs SF should be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on where clearance of any standing trees is required*

Larch Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to Felling period	Timing of Restocking and species component	Felling of larch within a mixed coupe	Changes to Road Lines
SF Approval normally not required	Fell date for phase 2 can be moved forward where larch comprises 50% or more of the coupe species component.	changes to restocking proposal that exclude larch and closely related species in the same genus, eg Sitka and Norway Spruce. Up to 3 planting seasons after felling		
Approval normally by exchange of letters and map	Felling moved between phases 1 and 2 where larch comprises less than 50% of the coupe species component	Changes to restocking proposals that include larch or closely related species in the same genus, eg Sitka and Norway Spruce. Between 3 and 5 planting seasons after felling	Areas of pure larch up to 20% of coupe area within phase 1 and 2 can be felled to remove the sporulating host, with restocking deferred until the rest of the crop is felled. Where the Larch constitutes more than 20% of the coupe component, then the whole coupe must be felled and restocked together.	New road lines (subject to EIA screening opinion) or tracks within existing approved plans necessary to allow the extraction of Larch material. Where necessary Prior Approval should be dealt with directly with the relevant Regional Council
Approval by formal plan amendment is required	Advance felling into current or 2nd phase for pre-emptive larch removal			Where a new public highway entrance or exist is required. Where necessary Prior Approval should be dealt with directly with the relevant Regional Council

Larch felled in the autumn and winter, when the presence of P ram cannot assessed visually must be treated as infected and will therefore require a movement licence. When carrying out operations where the clearance has not been on the Public Register or through the consultation procedure it is important that due diligence is undertaken to identify sites that will require to be protected.