

**Blairadam Forest
land management plan (2024-2034)**

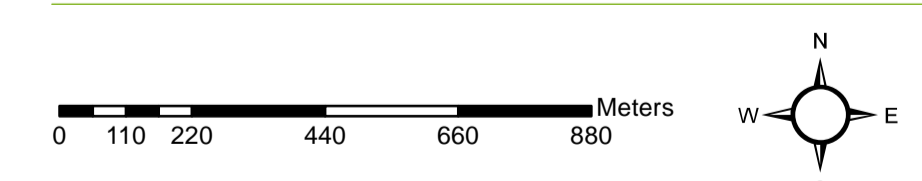
Analysis of Constraints & Opportunities

Author: Central Region Planning Team

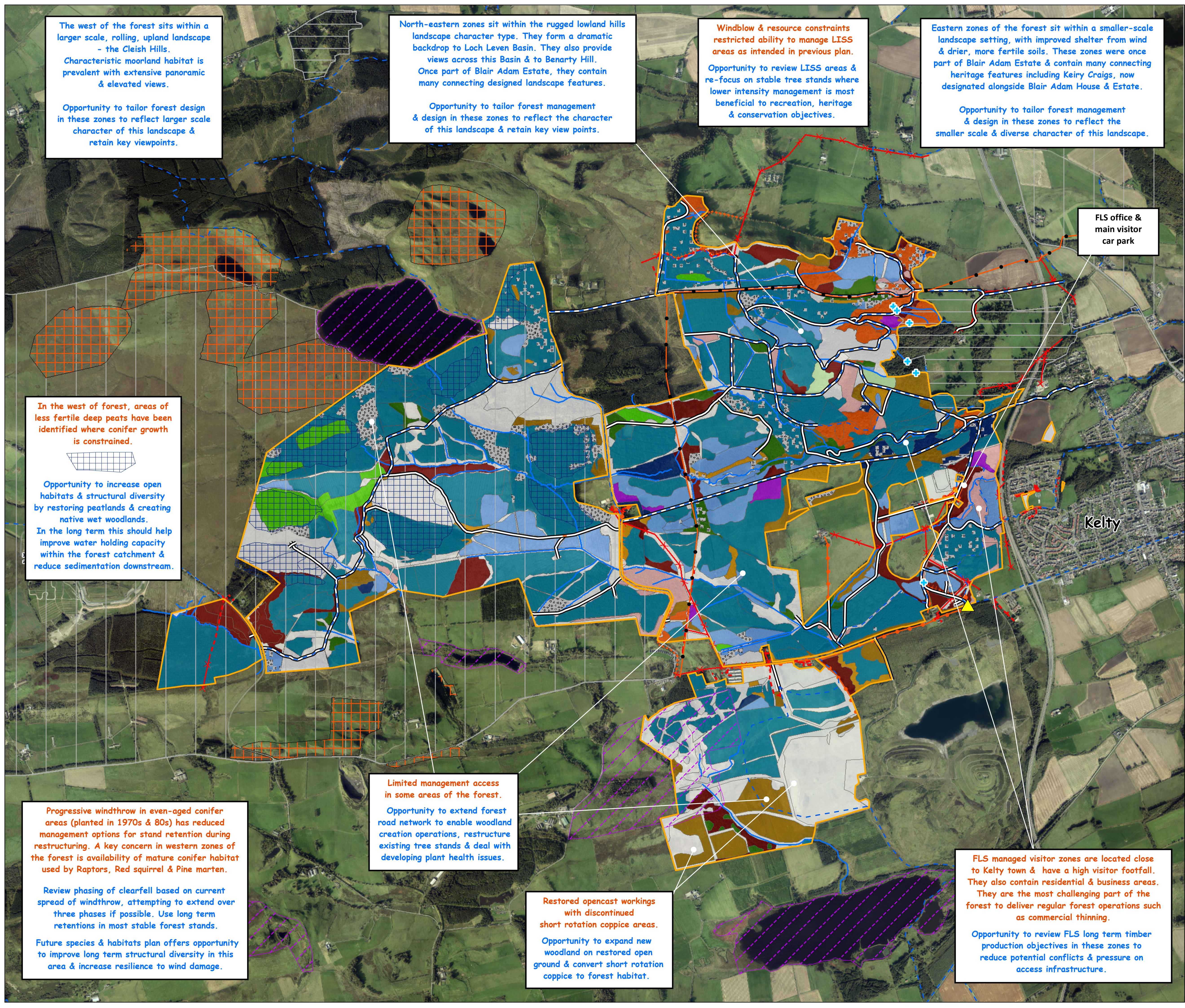
Scale @ A1: 1:12,500 **DRAFT**

Date: 03/12/2023 **PLAN**

- Legend**
-  Office & visitor carpark entrance
 -  Blairadam Plan Boundary
 -  Gas Pipelines
 -  Core Paths
 -  Existing forest roads
 -  Masts/Aerials
 -  Overhead powerline
 -  Underground powerline
 -  Overhead telephone or fibreoptic
 -  Underground telephone or fibreoptic
 -  Blairadam Watercourses
 -  Water Supply Points
 -  Peats with potential to restore
 -  Local Nature Conservation Sites
 -  Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 -  Gardens and Designed Landscapes
 -  Local Landscape Areas
 -  Windblow component visualisation
 -  Sitka Spruce
 -  Norway Spruce
 -  Other/Mixed Conifers
 -  Beech
 -  Birch
 -  Other/Mixed Broadleaves
 -  Native Mixed/Other Broadleaves
 -  Larch
 -  Lodgepole Pine
 -  Scots Pine
 -  Douglas Fir
 -  Oak
 -  No Species



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The west of the forest sits within a larger scale, rolling, upland landscape - the Cleish Hills. Characteristic moorland habitat is prevalent with extensive panoramic & elevated views.

Opportunity to tailor forest design in these zones to reflect larger scale character of this landscape & retain key viewpoints.

North-eastern zones sit within the rugged lowland hills landscape character type. They form a dramatic backdrop to Loch Leven Basin. They also provide views across this Basin & to Benarty Hill. Once part of Blair Adam Estate, they contain many connecting designed landscape features.

Opportunity to tailor forest management & design in these zones to reflect the character of this landscape & retain key view points.

Windblow & resource constraints restricted ability to manage LISS areas as intended in previous plan.

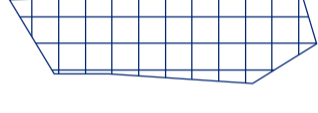
Opportunity to review LISS areas & re-focus on stable tree stands where lower intensity management is most beneficial to recreation, heritage & conservation objectives.

Eastern zones of the forest sit within a smaller-scale landscape setting, with improved shelter from wind & drier, more fertile soils. These zones were once part of Blair Adam Estate & contain many connecting heritage features including Keiry Craigs, now designated alongside Blair Adam House & Estate.

Opportunity to tailor forest management & design in these zones to reflect the smaller scale & diverse character of this landscape.

FLS office & main visitor car park

In the west of forest, areas of less fertile deep peats have been identified where conifer growth is constrained.



Opportunity to increase open habitats & structural diversity by restoring peatlands & creating native wet woodlands. In the long term this should help improve water holding capacity within the forest catchment & reduce sedimentation downstream.

Limited management access in some areas of the forest.

Opportunity to extend forest road network to enable woodland creation operations, restructure existing tree stands & deal with developing plant health issues.

Progressive windthrow in even-aged conifer areas (planted in 1970s & 80s) has reduced management options for stand retention during restructuring. A key concern in western zones of the forest is availability of mature conifer habitat used by Raptors, Red squirrel & Pine marten.

Review phasing of clearfell based on current spread of windthrow, attempting to extend over three phases if possible. Use long term retentions in most stable forest stands.

Future species & habitats plan offers opportunity to improve long term structural diversity in this area & increase resilience to wind damage.

Restored opencast workings with discontinued short rotation coppice areas.

Opportunity to expand new woodland on restored open ground & convert short rotation coppice to forest habitat.

FLS managed visitor zones are located close to Kelty town & have a high visitor footfall. They also contain residential & business areas. They are the most challenging part of the forest to deliver regular forest operations such as commercial thinning.

Opportunity to review FLS long term timber production objectives in these zones to reduce potential conflicts & pressure on access infrastructure.

Kelty