Forestry and Land Scotland | Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Heritage features. There are 27 heritage features in the Upper Nithsdale forest blocks. All these features are undesignated. However, they reflect the rich legacy of the historic farming communities that lived and worked here. There are several drystane dykes and sheep stells, which are

There are eight waterbody catchments within this forest plan area: River Nith, Kello water, Euchan water, Water of Ken, Scar water, Chanlock burn, Shinnel water, Dalwhat water.

This forest is habitat for many priority species including: Red squirrels, Raptors, Bats, Badger and Atlantic Salmon. Upper Nithsdale is known to be a breeding and over wintering location for many priority bird species.

Several nationally scarce plants are also found in

Priority habitats. there is a mosaic of priority habitats found across this forest, including acid grassland and blanket bog, Upland flush fen and swamp, Upland heath. Corserig is the forest block with the highest concentration of priority habitats.

Ancient woodland. There is Ancient woodland in Corserig and Cairnhead. In Corserig the Kello water valley has remanent patches of Ancient Woodland. There are also areas of Long established of plantation origin (LEPO). Cairnhead also has a area of remanent Ancient woodland along the Glenjaan burn.

Rivers and flooding. There are two villages connected to this forest that have been identified by SEPA as 'Potentially vulnerable to flooding'; Moniaive and Kirkconnell Kelloholm. These villages are downstream of Cairnhead and Corserig respectively. This flood risk is managed by

Unroaded coupes. There are six unroaded coupes that are ready for felling.

Broadleaves currently cover 3.45% of this forest. There is opportunity to increase this above the 5% UKWAS minimum, especially in the riparian and valley areas.

There is a single Timber transport route through all five blocks of this forest. It is known as the Heads of the Valley road.

Phytophora ramorum is a disease that mostly affects larch trees. All five Upper Nithsdale forest blocks are within the within the risk reduction zone for this tree disease. Cainhead, Shinnelhead and Polskeoch are also within the Management Zone. There is a small number of larch trees remaining. There have been SPHN's issued in this forest since

Private water supplies. There are over 15 PWS within the forest and a further 7 in close proximity to the forest are potentially connected to this plan.

Utilities within the forest include:
Overhead powerlines and telephone focussed around the residential properties in all five forest blocks. There are also meterological masts, and some underground powerlines for the neighbouring windfarms and those in construction.

The Thornhill uplands local landscape area (LLA) overlaps the east of Shinnelhead and the Uplands and Moorlands LLA adjoins the western edge of Polskeoch.

The southern Upland Way long distance walking route, passes along the western edge of Cairnhead, and Shinnelhead. It then turns east into Polskeoch and at Allan's Cairn the path heads north and joins the forest road, passes the bothy and exits the forest in a north east direction towards Sanquhar.

The Striding Arches sculpture trail is in Cairnhead. This consists of four huge stone arches, one in a old byre, and three on the hilltops of Colt hill, Benbrack and Bail Hill.

There are several windfarms that are operational or under construction surrounding this forest, including Whiteside hill, Wether hill, Sanquhar 2. The Energy Consents Unit are currently reviewing an application to construct a windfarm across three of these forest blocks: Euchanhead,

Map 11 Key Features

Scale @ A1: 1:30,000

Date: 10/26/2026

0 265 530 1,060 1,590 2,120 Km

N

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Legend

CorePaths_Clip

HabitatMasterPolygons_Clip

Habitat Largest Percentage

FCS1	acid grassland
FCS2	BLANKET BOG
FCS5	bracken
FCS6	coniferous woodland
FCS9	UPLAND FLUSH, FEN & SWAMP
FCS12	UPLAND HEATHLAND
NBNSYS000c	other non priority broad habitat
NBNSYS0000000000	OTHER UKBAP PRIORITY HABITAT
NBNSYS0000004540	
FCS6	coniferous woodland
NBNSYS0000004542	
NBNSYS0000004544	
NBNSYS0000004545	
FCS1	acid grassland
FCS5	bracken
NBNSYS0000004549	
NBNSYS0000004550	
NBNSYS0000004551	
NBNSYS0000004555	
NBNSYS0000004556	
NBNSYS0000004557	
NBNSYS0000004558	
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NBNSYS0000004606	
NBNSYS0000004607	
NBNSYS0000004609	
NBNSYS0000004616	
NBNSYS0000004617	
NBNSYS0000004618	
FCS12	UPLAND HEATHLAND
NBNSYS0000004620	
FCS2	BLANKET BOG
NBNSYS0000004630	
NBNSYS0000008121	
NBNSYS0100000002	
NBNSYS0100000003	
FCS9	UPLAND FLUSH, FEN & SWAMP
NBNSYS0100000009	
NBNSYS0100000011	
NBNSYS0100000013	

AncientWoodlandInventor_Clip

Antiquity

Ancient (of semi-natural origin)	Ancient (of semi-natural origin)
Long-Established (of plantation origin)	Long-Established (of plantation origin)
Other (on Roy map)	Other (on Roy map)

Turbines

Type

Hydro (Power House)	Hydro (Power House)
Other	Other
Pumped Storage	Pumped Storage
Wind	Wind
Local Landscape Areas	
Heritage	
WATERCOURSES	
ForestRoads_Clip	
Forest Roads	

Declaration by FLS as an Operator.
All timber arising from the FLS National Forests and Land represents a negligible risk under EUTR (No 995/210).

Scotland's national forests and land are responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.

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