

A design brief for Lanehead farm

Lanehead Farm is a c. 58 ha of potential New Woodland Creation that lies approximately 6 – 7 km west of New Cumnock, East Ayrshire. Lanehead Farm will be incorporated into the nearby North Kyle Land Management Unit that lies north of the B741 Dalmellington to New Cumnock road in East Ayrshire at the next renewal date in 2023. It 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 (FLS).

The North Kyle Land Management Plan (LMP) defines the management prescription for the ten year period between (2013-23), and presents the vision for the long-term management of the area. The main management objectives for Lanehead Farm support the wider LMP objectives and focus on:

- Establish a new productive and resilient woodland for the sustainable supply of timber.
- Increase biodiversity provision through well-connected forest habitat networks of native broadleaf species and riparian zone improvements.
- Protection and conservation of heritage features in accordance with the Regional Historic Asset management plan.

An Analysis and Concept map has been produced to complement this design brief. It presents the draft management objectives, and highlights the opportunities and constraints for key issues within the Lanehead Farm area.

The concept for the LMP focuses on delivering relevant national policy and has been developed around the following key drivers:

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan 2019-2022

The plan will contribute to the first three outcomes of the Forestry and Land Scotland Corporate Plan (Outcomes 4 and 5 relate to the organisational structure and business performance of FLS) as shown in the following table (operational actions not relevant to this plan have been greyed out):

Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable rural economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource • Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land • Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland’s timber processing sector • Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy • Support Scottish Government woodland expansion policy • Supporting commercial activity on the national forests and land including agricultural management, rural housing and renewable energy opportunities, all of which help to sustain rural communities • Contribute to the local economy by maintaining core timber production and providing an appropriate roads infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet small production forecast commitment through new felling plan; • Increase area of native broadleaves (NBL) for biodiversity and riparian zone improvements; • Enhance the productive yield by selecting the correct species for site type new planting in line with district goals for diversity; • Implement road construction programme required to service proposed adjacent harvesting operations and proposed new planting

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the venison processing sector through our deer management 	
Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity • Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration • Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape scale approaches to habitat management and restoration • Taking specific conservation actions for vulnerable priority species (e.g. red squirrel, capercaillie, black grouse) • Delivering an increased contribution towards the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets • Supporting policy development and research and act as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management • Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land • Working with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of rhododendron to conserve ground flora and improve habitats • Continue to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new areas of wet woodland adding to species and habitat diversity within the North Kyle forest block area; • Contribute to regional carbon sequestration through new planting; • Improve resilience through use of alternative conifer species; • Manage watercourses in keeping with UKWAS standards and Forest and Water guidelines to maintain and improve water quality; • Control invasive species as per FES guidelines. • Maintain important priority habitats of upland flush fen and swamp, and lowland acid grassland (7.35 ha) through protection from planting / drainage and appropriate management; • Increase the broadleaf area through native woodland species, targeting riparian zones and adjacent areas to tie-in with local landscape and increase connectivity (with consideration of protection from deer browsing); • Contribute to the creation of red squirrel-suitable habitat by avoiding large-seeded broadleaf species in planting scheme; • Protect water courses in accordance with UKFS and UKWAS guidelines; • Manage minor heritage features as per FES guidelines (Sunnyside Farm locally important farmstead ruin)
Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with local communities to ensure access and existing rights of way are managed to correspond with the visitor demand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land• Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land• Facilitating renewable energy opportunities in order to encourage community benefits• Incentivising renewable developers to offer community ownership opportunities in renewable energy developments on the national forests and land• Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land• Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities	
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