Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Central Region
Lennox Forest
Land Management Plan 2020-2030

Approval date:

Plan Reference No:

Plan Approval Date:

Plan Expiry Date:

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate 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.

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Land Management Plan Details

LMP Name:	Lennox Forest		
Grid Reference:	NS 599 768	Nearest town or locality:	Lennoxtown
Local Authority:		East Dunbartonshire	
Land Management Plan area (hectares):		306	

Owner's Details

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Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:

LMP Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

Contents

Version History

Version	Date	Comments
1.0		Initial Draft layout
1.1	07/02/2019	Amended layout
1.2	01/10/2019	Updated text
1.3	13/11/2019	Updated text

1.0 Summary of proposals

Lennox Forest has served as an important productive forest within Central Region, producing significant volumes of standard quality timber. The intention is to maintain this purpose whilst continuing to diversify the structural and biological makeup of the block. Recent tree health concerns over various pine and larch species have necessitated a re-evaluation of further planned species diversification for the block supporting the continued judicious use of Spruce both Sitka and Norway both as pure crops and in mixtures with species such as Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir.

The proportion of native broadleaves within the forest will be increased and the move, initiated in previous plans, to create semi natural Forest Habitat Networks along the riparian corridors continues.

The primary objectives for the plan area are to continue the sustainable production of timber, enhance native woodland habitat networks and to develop and maintain high quality access and recreation infrastructure.

Table 1 - Woodland changes

Species Breakdown	2020	2030	2040
Primary species: Sitka spruce	154	129	134
Secondary species: other conifers	42	54	54
Broadleaves	28	31	32
Open, Successional, Felled, Other	81	92	86
Total Plan Area:	306	306	306

2.0 FCS Regulatory Requirements

2.1 Summary of planned operations

Table 2 - Summary of planned operations

Planned Operations	2020-2030
Felling (afforested area)	55 Ha
Thinning	0 Ha
Restock (replanted area)	52 Ha
Road Construction	0.2 Ha

2.2 Proposed felling in years 2020-2030

Table 3 – Clearfelling Phase 1 & 2

Phase 1 (2020-2024)												
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Volume (M^3)**	**Spp by Ha (SS)**	**Spp by Ha (SP)**	**Spp by Ha (LP)**	**Spp by Ha (NS)**	**Spp by Ha (Larch)**	**Spp By Ha (X con)**	**Spp by Ha (BLeaf)**	**Open Land by Ha**	**Restock Year**	**Monitoring Comments**
30	7.18	3507.5	3.66			3.52				0	2023	ongoing via Programme Manager and at mid-term review
23	0.73	442.18	0.73							0	2024	"
29	9.95	5027.83	9.58		0.18					0.19	2024	"
40	5.21	2041.23	0.08		3.29	0	1	0.84		0	2025	"
49	6.55	2911.88	2.16			0.23	3.64	0.01		0.51	2026	"
Totals	**29.62**	**13930.62**	**16.21**		**3.47**	**3.75**	**4.64**	**0.85**		**0.7**		
Phase 2 (2025-2029)												
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Volume (M^3)**	**Spp by Ha (SS)**	**Spp by Ha (SP)**	**Spp by Ha (LP)**	**Spp by Ha (NS)**	**Spp by Ha (Larch)**	**Spp By Ha (X con)**	**Spp by Ha (BLeaf)**	**Open Land by Ha**	**Restock Year**	**Monitoring Comments**
52	7.92	3446.04	4.61				0.7	0.34		2.27	2027	ongoing via Programme Manager and at mid-term review
18	6	4428.7	5.96							0.04	2028	"
20	0.72	533.09	0.72							0	2028	"
25	3.58	1467.97	1.03		0.27	1.14				1.14	2028	"
33	5.63	3710.66	5.62							0.01	2028	"
34	5.8	3702.21	5.8							0	2030	"
Totals	**29.65**	**17288.67**	**23.74**		**0.27**	**1.14**	**0.7**	**0.34**		**3.46**		

2.3 Proposed restocking in years 2020-2030

Table 4 – Restocking of felled areas 2020-2030

Proposed Restocking of areas felled 2020-2030												
Coupe No.	**Total Area (Ha)**	**SS (Ha)**	**LP (Ha)**	**SP (Ha)**	**NS (Ha)**	**Larch (Ha)**	**Other Con. (Ha)**	**Native Mixed B/Leaf**	**Open (Ha)**	**Year**	**Restock Method & Density (Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)**	**Monitoring Comments (Including any reason not to restock)**
30	7.18	6.2						0.3	0.68	2023	Planting	SDA
23	0.73								0.73		Open	GCN Habitat
29	9.95						4.97	2.88	2.1	2024	Planting	SDA
40	5.21	4.83							0.38	2025	Planting	SDA
49	6.55				5.42		0.16	0.37	0.6	2026	Planting	SDA
52	7.92				4		1.72	1.55	0.65	2027	Planting	SDA
18	6						5.16		0.84	2028	Planting	SDA
20	0.72							0.72	0	2028	Planting	SDA
25	3.58						3.32		0.26	2028	Planting	SDA
33	5.63	3.69					1.49		0.45	2028	Planting	SDA
34	5.8	3.76					1.41		0.63	2030	Planting	SDA
Totals	**59.27**	**18.48**	**0**	**0**	**9.42**	**0**	**18.23**	**5.82**	**7.32**			

2.4 Access and roading 2020-2030

Table 5 – Required new roading 2020-2030

Required new roading (2020-2030)			
Coupe No.	**Total Length (m)**	**Total Area (Ha)**	**Monitoring Comments**
52	550	0.20	ongoing civil engineering maintenance programme
Totals	550	0.20	"

2.5 Departure from UKFS Guidelines

This LMP adheres to UKFS Guidelines.

2.7 Standards and guidance on which this LMP is based

This land management plan has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs. A full list of these standards and guidance can be found here: https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning/links

2.8 Tolerance table

Table 6

	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Wind throw response	Adjustment to road lines	Designed open ground
SF Approval not normally required (record and notify SF)	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	<10% of coupe size.	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling (allowing fallow periods for hylobius).	Change within species group E.g. Scots pine to birch, Non-native conifers e.g. Sitka spruce to Douglas fir, Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy).			Location of temporary open ground e.g. deer glades if still within overall open ground design Increase by 0.5 ha or 5% of area - whichever is less
Approval by exchange of letters and map	Y		10-15% of coupe size.	5 years +	Change of coupe objective that is likely to be consistent with current policy (e.g. from productive to open, open to native species).	Up to 5 Ha	Departures of greater than 60 m from the centre of the road line	Increase of 0.5 ha to 2 ha or 10% - whichever is less Any reduction in open ground
Approval by formal plan amendment	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2nd 5 year period	>15% of coupe size.		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy, E.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native,	More than 5 Ha	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 2 ha or 10% Any reduction in open ground in sensitive areas Colonisation of open Areas agreed as critical

3.0 EIA Screening Determination for forestry projects

3.1 Proposed deforestation

N/A

3.2 Proposed forest road works

N/A – Proposed new road extension is below the threshold

3.3 Proposed forest quarries

N/A

3.4 Proposed afforestation

N/A

4.0 Introduction

4.1 The existing land holding

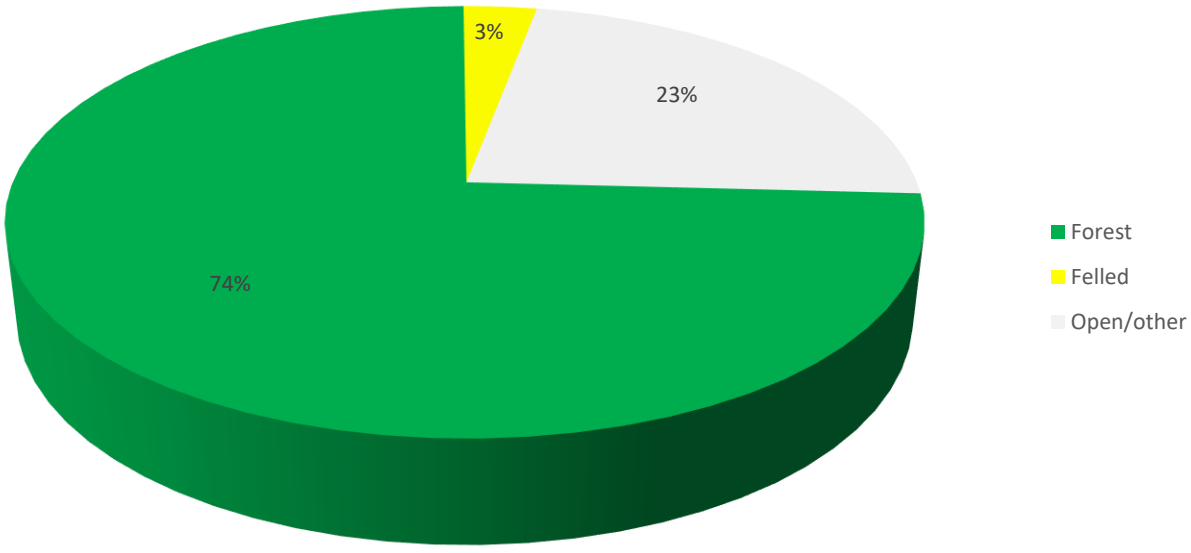
See **Appendix I: Supporting Information** sections 1.0 & 3.0

The current land matrix is as follows:

Table 7 – Current Forest Block land usage

Land use	Area (Ha)
Forest	226
Open land/other	70
Felled awaiting restock	9

Figure 1 – Lennox Forest Current Land Usage



4.2 Setting & Context

Lennox Forest (~ 306 Ha) lies on the low ridge between the southern escarpment of the Campsie Fells and the northern outskirts of Glasgow, adjacent to Lennoxtown village in East Dunbartonshire. It is part of a larger block of forestry, which includes the grounds of the former Lennox Castle Hospital, a mix of private forestry forming the more visible frontage above the village. The ridge rises to 231 m above sea level (asl) with gentle slopes, so it is largely the edges which are seen from close-to. With the Campsie Fells climbing to the north this side is more overlooked and there are some prominent straight edges between farm and forest. (see **Maps 1 – Location & 2 - Setting & Context**).

The forest primarily functions to produce construction grade timber, quality pulpwood and other timber products from typical commercial conifer species for local and national markets.

4.2 LMP Presentation

The Lennox Forest LMP has not been divided into any particular zones and therefore the objectives relevant to the whole plan are referred to in Section 5 with Sections 6 to 8 presenting the analysis of key issues and challenges and the management proposals for the site as a whole.

5.0 Plan Objectives

Following the review of the previous plan (See **Appendix I** Section 2) and consideration of the initial scoping internal FLS responses, **Appendix II** details the key issues and challenges faced as well the management objectives identified for Lennox Forest.

6.0 Analysis & concept

6.1 Analysis

Through survey work and research, a broad range of factors have been identified which are potentially relevant to the future makeup and management of the land. These have been analysed in order to better understand the way these interact, and to draw out the most important features and trends (see **Map 4a - Key Feature Opportunities & Constraints**).

6.2 Concept

The analysis was used to develop an initial design concept highlighting general themes and outlining key considerations and activities which are likely to be most relevant during the plan period, and which formed the basis for these plan proposals for consultation with both the general public and key stakeholders (see **Map 4b - Initial Design Concept**)

7.0 Long Term Land Management Plan Proposals

7.1 Management

All proposals have been designed in accordance with sound silvicultural and environmental principles, falling within the framework outlined by the UK Forestry Standard, the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, FC Bulletin 112 Creating New Native Woodlands, FC Bulletin 115 Alternative Silvicultural Systems, FC Bulletin 124 Ecological Site Classification for Forestry and the current FC edition of Forest & Water Guidelines. This plan has consider the natural and historic environment as well as green network opportunities.

Patch clear-felling remains the most appropriate silvicultural system for most of Lennox Forest and it is the intention to facilitate a move toward generally smaller coupe sizes in the future by judicious planting design. This will allow for further restructuring of the block and for a more structurally and biologically diverse forest as well as imparting greater flexibility for future management options (see **Map 5a – Management**)

7.1.1 Clear felling

Wherever possible, the size of clearfells will be in keeping with the scale and topography of the landscape, with smaller coupes in the more visually prominent areas, and larger coupes located in less visible areas of the site and where a larger scale approach is more appropriate.

During the 10 years of the plan period, a total of 55 ha, with a projected volume of 31,220 m^3, are designated for clear felling (see **Tables 8 & 9 as well as Figure 2** below).

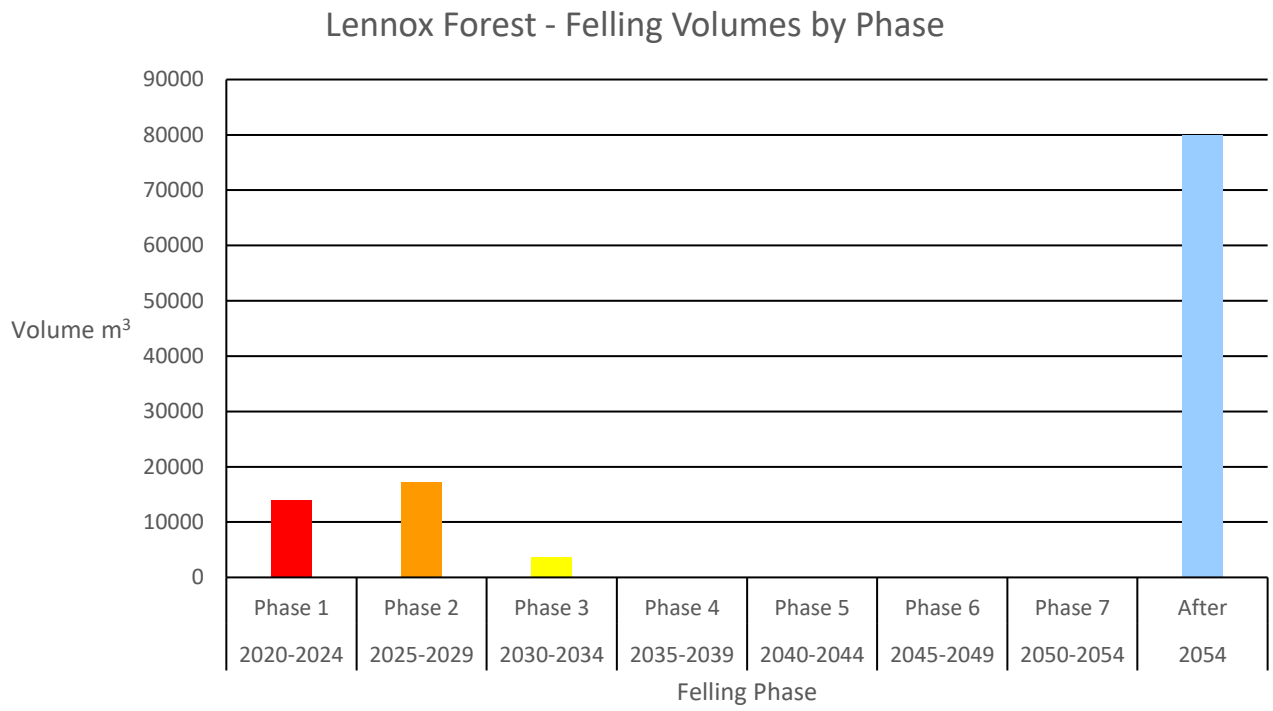
Table 8 – Phase Felling Area

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total Forest Plan Area:	306	hectares										
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	28.9	9	26.2	9	6.77	2	0	0	2.09	1	156.79	51

Table 9 – Projected Felling Phase Volumes

Phase 1 2020-2024	Phase 2 2025-2029	Phase 3 2030-2034	Phase 4 2035-2039	Phase 5 2040-2044	Phase 6 2045-2049	Phase 7 2050-2054	After 2054
13,931	17,289	3,682	0	0	0	0	79,957

Figure 2 – Projected Felling Phase Volumes



7.1.2 Thinning

FCS policy generally assumes that all productive crops will be thinned, unless:

- Thinning is likely to significantly increase the risk of wind blow;
- Operations are likely to require an unacceptably large investment in relation to the potential benefits due to access or market considerations;
- Thinning is unlikely to improve poorly stocked or poor quality crops.

Local regional policy is not to thin crops on areas with a DAMS score greater that 15; In the case of Lennox Forest, as described in section 3.1.2, most of the forest is 'highly exposed' which means thinning operations would likely significantly increase the risk of wind throw. Not only this but as the soils are predominantly wet and soft, thinning operations would likely lead to significant ground damage. The north and south eastern edges of the forest however are more sheltered with better soils and drainage and therefore do offer potential for future thinnings and we will explore and consider where and when we might thin in these areas based on site constraints such as access and terrain.

7.1.3 Alternative to Clearfell Forestry (CCF)/LISS

As mentioned in the previous section the majority of the site isn't suited for thinning as the intended benefits of enhanced crop stability, increased tree volume and improved regenerative potential would be

negated by the risks to the crop from wind throw and therefore not conducive for management through Alternative to Clearfell methods such as LISS or Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF). Where there is the potential opportunity to thin along the north and south eastern edges it may be possible to eventually transform these areas to CCF however this will be conditional on operational practicalities such as future access from the forest road network and sensible access to the various crops.

7.1.4 Restructuring

As mentioned in the Section 7.1 judicious planting design of the restock areas will facilitate more wind firm green edges within the future crop. This will allow for more flexibility to create new smaller coupes in the future allowing for the further age diversification of the forest. Alongside the age restructuring, further use of broadleaf species will also enable species restructuring.

7.1.5 Minimum Intervention and Natural Reserves

For various areas of the forest biodiversity will be the primary objective and we are prepared to commit such areas of land to minimum intervention management or leave as natural reserves. This minimum intervention classification need not apply in perpetuity and these areas may be reviewed and revaluated for alternative management in future plans.

7.2 Restocking proposals, future habitats and species

Taking into account all the survey and analysis information, and the objectives set out in the brief, a mix of productive conifer, semi-natural broadleaved woodlands are proposed, along with areas of open ground.

This plan has considered the design and location in relation to the natural and historic environment and green network opportunities.

The woodlands will be matched to the soils and ground vegetation, using the guidelines set out in the Forestry Commission's Ecological Site Classification (ESC) Bulletin 124, which uses climatic zone, exposure, soil moisture, and soil nutrient levels to inform the type of woodland most suited to particular areas within the site.

7.2.1 Proposed Restock Species

Broadly this plan proposes continued use of Sitka spruce as the predominant productive conifer species particularly on the areas of peat or peaty gley and poorer mineral soils. On the drier more nutrient rich soils Pacific silver fir, Norway Spruce and Douglas fir will be used. This plan also improves the habitat network links chiefly through the development of semi-natural woodland along the riparian corridors. These forest habitat networks will be comprised of a matrix of native broadleaves and open space.

When considering restocking on areas of deep peat FLS will follow the guidance in 'FCS Practice Guide - Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland' i.e. where the current crop and ESC indicates clearly that the site will not produce second rotation good growth (SS ≥ YC 8 LP ≥ YC 6) we would

look to either create peat edge woodland or restore to open peatland however the current crop would suggest average yield classes above these thresholds suggesting we will restock with commercial conifer.

This plan continues to build on work of previous plans to diversify the forests' age structure. This is achieved, where appropriate, by reducing the size of existing coupes and, when restocking, designing in more wind firm edges to increase the stability of neighbouring coupes and therefore allow for a greater range of options for future management decisions (see **Maps 5b – Future Species & Habitats**).

Table 10 – Proposed Restock Species

Species	Net area (ha)	%
Sitka spruce	18.48	36
Pacific silver fir	16.51	32
Norway spruce	9.42	18
Douglas fir	1.72	3
Broadleaves	5.52	11

Detailed restocking information is available in Section 2.3 Table 4 – Restocking of felled areas 2020-2030

7.3 Prescriptions

7.3.1 Productive Conifers

The primary function of the forest is to produce high volumes of softwood timber of relatively standard quality, predominantly providing for the small round wood and wood fuel market rather than the saw-log market.

As such and as per the Regional restocking strategy a reduced management input will generally be employed; meaning:

- lower cost or alternative ground prep methods
- restocking at average initial density of 2,700 stems/ha to achieve a final density of between 2,250 and 2,500 stems/ha with an emphasis on achieving overall stocking
- only top-up spraying or weeding as an absolute necessity
- a restricted SDA process to ensure that the objectives that are set for the site are being met and to inform any future management

Sitka spruce will continue to form the primary component of the productive conifer as it is well suited to the site with generally higher yield classes. Sitka will be planted pure where the soils are better but on the poorer deep peat areas it will be planted in intimate mixture with Lodgepole pine where the pine will act as a nurse. Elsewhere where there are more fertile and freely draining mineral soil alternative conifer species such as Pacific silver fir, Norway spruce and Douglas fir will be planted.

Although Scots pine and larch were prescribed in various areas in the previous plan, due to the threat posed by (respectively) DNB and *P. ramorum* detailed in Appendix II: Supporting Information Section 3.2.5.2 *Phytophthora ramorum (P. ramorum)* there will be no further restocking carried out using these species.

7.3.2 Semi-natural woodland

Various areas of the sites are potentially suitable to support Native woodland (as classified in *FC Bulletin 112 Creating New Native Woodlands*), the woodland type, locations and species are listed in Table 11 below:

Table 11 – Native Woodland Type

Woodland Type	Location	Species
W4 (Upland birch woodland)	Poorest ground, typically along riparian corridors.	Downy birch, grey willow
W7 (Alder wet woodland)	On less fertile, predominantly mineral soils where there is little peat accumulation	Alder, silver birch, grey willow, hazel, hawthorn
W9 (Upland mixed broadleaved woodland)	On more fertile soils.	A wide range of broadleaved species including oak, birch, rowan, hazel elm.

Riparian areas will generally be lower density incorporating around 30% of open space. It is expected that a conifer component may develop in these areas through natural regeneration; this can be accepted however should be managed to ensure it remains a minor component.

7.4 Biodiversity & Environment

7.4.1 Habitat & Species Management

The various woodland and open priority habitats as well as the species they support will continue to be conserved and developed as per the management detailed below.

Woodland – FLS will maintain semi-natural and new native broadleaved woodlands, we shall retain / create deadwood habitats within forest and we will retain old Grey alder avenues through active management. LEPO has had rhododendron removed and follow up control. LEPO is retained as a long term retention.

Ponds, Lochs and Reservoirs – FLS will maintain and monitor all current ponds and associated open wetland around ponds and maintain the new great crested newt woodland habitat around ponds.

Blanket bog – The Blanket bog has been surveyed and we shall continue small scale tree regen removal of conifers from wettest part of blanket bog.

Upland Flushes, Fens and Swamps – This habitat has been surveyed and the small patches of this habitat that exist in the woodland will be maintained.

Great Crested Newts - Continue to use and update the Great Crested Newt management plan. See actions for ponds, lochs and reservoir. Maintain areas of broadleaved woodland and open wetland around the ponds. Carry out operations using the Great Crested Newt EPS operational guidance. These actions also cover **palmate newt, smooth newt, common frog**.

Pine marten, Bats (all species), Badger - Continue to keep records of sightings for these species and follow operational guidance to survey and protect known breeding and resting sites.

Black grouse - No known nearby Black Grouse but the new mixed native and broadleaved woodland and open space will benefit any black grouse as alternative food sources, with long vegetation in some areas and the whole woodland could provide shelter.

Green hairstreak, Small pearl-bordered fritillary - maintain blaeberry cover and open wet space by in mosaic e.g. around Great Crested Newt habitat area.

Song thrush, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker - Follow regional deadwood policy and carry out pre-operational surveys. Long term retentions and grey alder avenue & older beech trees provide large and veteran trees and new native and broadleaved woodland will develop additional deadwood potential in future.

7.4.2 Riparian Areas

We will establish or maintain appropriate riparian buffers along watercourses providing an open woodland canopy with half the watercourse open to sunlight and the remainder under dappled shade. Distribution and management of the taller vegetation elements will reflect the stream orientation, ensuring that sufficient light reaches the stream and banks to support the development of a vigorous cover of ground and marginal vegetation. Conifer natural regeneration is also expected to establish within these buffers which we will accept as a minor species component.

7.4.3 Deadwood

The aim is to use natural processes by retaining dead, windblown or snapped stems or those created during previous operations. Deadwood can be trees or limbs in the early stage of decomposition, e.g. veterans or dying individual trees. These should be retained wherever possible to create an even mix of standing, fallen or stacked deadwood.

Deadwood will be concentrated in areas where it will provide the highest ecological benefit, such as;

- Riparian and wet woodland areas
- Natural reserves and long-term retentions
- Ancient semi-natural woodland
- Areas of significant existing deadwood

The UKWAS target is for an average of 20 m^3/ha, although it is expected that actual concentrations will vary widely across the site.

Table 12 – Assessed Deadwood Ecological Potential (DEP)

Assessed DEP	Area (ha)	Future Volume Estimate (m^3/ha)	Total Future Volume (m^3)
High	32	72	2,304
Medium	23	63	1,449
Low	174	57	9,918

Total future potential is thus estimated at **60** m^3/ha.

Given that a relatively high total volume of deadwood is expected to come from Low DEP areas, in line with FLS Deadwood Policy the following additional actions should be adopted in the remaining High and Medium DEP areas:

- Retain small groups of live trees and/or single large trees to develop into deadwood, identify these from trees lacking commercial value or areas with bryophytes.
- Leave one very large fallen stem if possible on each site (>20cm dbh).

7.4.4 Invasive Species

Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) - As Lennox Forest is not within a Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) stronghold they are not deemed a threat to this species here and therefore this is not a driver for controlling them. Tree species with the potential to be affected by grey squirrel currently only form a minor component of the forest however we intend to increase the area of Norway spruce, Pacific silver and Douglas fir so future Grey squirrel control may be required. With the confirmation of Pine marten in the forest we can expect these to act as a natural control of Grey squirrel.

7.4.5 Wildlife (Deer Management)

Full details of proposed deer management can be found within Central Region Deer Management Strategy but in summary the main objectives within Lennox Forest are:

- To enable restocking to take place without the need for deer fencing and to achieve a stocking density of 2500 stems per hectare at year five in accordance with OGB 4.

- The region aim for damage allowance is to keep leader damage levels below 10% on all commercial plantations.
- Ensure all Biological resources on the National Forest Estate remain in favourable condition (as per SNH guidelines).
- To maintain a sustainable deer population.
- To slow the expansion of Red deer heading south.

7.4.6 Landscape

In producing this LMP FLS has considered the landscape character of the area and the guidelines outlined in SNH's landscape character assessment. FLS has also considered the impact our proposals would have on the wider landscape and it is our view that this impact would not be significant given the relatively small coupe sizes and the screening effect of both FLS and other neighbouring woodland (see **Appendix II section 3.3 Landscape & Landuse**).

7.4.7 Hydrology

All operations will follow best practice as detailed in the current Forest and Water Guidelines. Timber extraction will normally avoid crossing burns or main drains, but, where necessary, each crossing point will be piped or bridged. Branches will be kept out of watercourses and trees will generally be felled away from the watercourses.

Natural Flood Management Opportunity (NFM)

We recognise that Lennox Forest sits within catchments which are subject to NFM studies (in Flood Risk Management) for Kirkintilloch Glazert Water and West and North Glasgow. If NFM is indicated as a solution and if there is a part for FLS to play in that (inside Local FRM plan actions), then FLS will be happy to work with other agencies and partners to be part of the flood solution.

7.5 Heritage

The forest design illustrated in **Map 5b - Future Habitats & Species** considered the various heritage features, many currently hidden under trees and our future management intends to gradually reveal some of these going forward providing enhanced context to them and also improving our ability to access and manage these features in the future.

Appropriate buffers have been applied by our Environment & Heritage Forester to all the different features across the sites e.g. kilns, sheepfolds, cairns, farm buildings, memorial stone, which are recorded within our heritage database. This is done in accordance with the guidance provided in the Forests and Historic Environment guidelines (2011), the SF policy document: Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment (2008) and the supporting FLS Historic Environment Planning Guidelines. Features generally have buffers ranging from 5-10 metres depending on their nature but these can be wider or even have no

buffer. Such constraints are identified and surveyed by Forest Regional staff prior to any work being undertaken in order to ensure that upstanding historic environment features can be marked and avoided. For operations, work prescriptions protect relevant historic environment features apportioning appropriate buffers clear from ground disturbing operations and planting. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites are considered on a case-by-case basis.

The following sub-sections provide further detail as to some features which will see specific management or work on them during the life of this plan.

7.5.1 Non-scheduled Archaeology

Appropriate buffers will be applied and maintained around pertinent non-scheduled archaeological features, these will be kept open and free of trees. All operations in the vicinity of such features will be conducted in accordance with UK Forestry Standard Guidelines on Forests and the Historic Environment, with suitable steps taken to ensure their protection.

7.6 Operational Access

7.6.1 Forest Roads

We will require a new internal road in order to access felling coupes 52 planned during this land management plan period (see **Map 5a - Management**). The road measures 550 m which with a running width of 4 metres equates to 0.2 Ha and therefore this falls below the threshold for an EIA screening determination.

7.7 Management of Public Access & Core Paths

FLS regional staff will continue to liaise with local communities to promote and encourage use of the forest and Community Rangers will continue to seek opportunities to develop new and forge existing links with schools, community and user groups to increase awareness and enjoyment of it. FLS will continue to maintain and, where appropriate, improve trails and paths.

In order to manage trees along the core path and public rights of way for tree safety considerations or to open views and improve the overall visitor experience we have applied a 10 metre buffer along these sections of the access network which covers approx. 3.2 Ha, 6,148 trees with an estimated volume of ~ 1,040 m^3 (see **Map 5c - Public Access & Core Path Management**). Some of these areas will be felled as part of the proposed felling coupe phasing but others coupes not due for felling within the life of this plan may need trees along this buffer zone removed for the reasons described. We only envisage requiring to do this intermittently when necessary and therefore wouldn't expect to impact significantly on the forest.

Mountain Biking

A mountain bike facility proposed by a local community group as part of a community asset transfer (CAT) is a possibility but until further progress in made on that this plan assumes continued management of the existing forest resource.

Dog walking

FLS will continue to work with East Dunbartonshire Council's Community Safety Team as well as dog walking companies to encourage responsible conduct as contained in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) and act within the following legislation: Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010; Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003; Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Section 49; Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006; Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

The region will continue to liaise with the local access officer particularly should any future operations affect any core path or public right of way with appropriate site notice, maps, information and diversion plans provided as usual.

8.0 Critical Success Factors

The success of this plan will be based on whether the objectives set out in the **Management Plan Brief** (see **Appendix II**) are achieved. The table which forms **Appendix IV: Objective Appraisal, Monitoring & Evaluation** details how each objective will be appraised, where and when each objective will be monitored; by who and where it will be recorded. This will enable an evaluation of success as part of the mid and end of plan reviews.