

## **A design brief for Creetown LMP**

The Creetown management unit, covering around 98.3ha, comprises two remote forest blocks lying around 6km to the east of Newton Stewart Dumfries and Galloway. It is part of Scotland's national forests and land owned by the Scottish Ministers on behalf of the people of Scotland and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

The Creetown Land Management Plan (LMP) will define our management prescriptions for the next 10 years (2020-2030) and presents the vision for the long term management of the area.

The main management objectives in this small scale, essentially a town wood plan focus on further Community involvement, access and health and biodiversity (restoration of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland).

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.

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

- Scotland's Forestry Strategy
- 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.

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Outcomes from the FLS corporate plan	Operational Actions for delivery under Outcomes include:	LMP Actions / Prescriptions
<b>Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable rural economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land</li> <li>Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland's timber processing sector</li> <li>Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy</li> <li>Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions</li> <li>Supporting commercial activity on the national forests and land including</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Create</i> a land management plan which meets UKFS/UKWAS requirements and where possible guidelines.</li> <li><i>Meet</i> modest production forecast commitment through revised management (felling) and thinning plans.</li> <li><i>Enhance</i> the plan area by selecting the correct species for site type restocking in line with district goals for species diversity and Ancient Woodland restoration.</li> <li><i>Focus</i> on the area within the forest block which is part of the district thinning programme to enhance/ ensure stand stability, timber quality and provide a wider range of products.</li> <li><i>Implement</i> road maintenance programme required to service proposed harvesting operations (establish Timber Haulage Management plan in mitigation)</li> <li><i>Manage</i> resident deer population with wildlife team resource and external contractors to facilitate successful woodland establishment</li> </ul>

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	<p>agricultural management, rural housing and renewable energy opportunities, all of which help to sustain rural communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the venison processing sector through our deer management</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity</li> <li>• Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration</li> <li>• Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape scale approaches to habitat management and restoration</li> <li>• Taking specific conservation actions for vulnerable priority species (e.g. red squirrel)</li> <li>• Delivering an increased contribution towards the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets</li> <li>• Supporting policy development and research and act as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improve</i> general resilience (including flooding) principally through increased use of woodland managed under alternative to clearfell i.e. LISS and other continuous cover systems where appropriate and potentially an <i>increase</i> in the use of natural regeneration in our establishment.</li> <li>• <i>Control</i> invasive species (Rhododendron and others) as per FLS and regional INNS guidelines.</li> <li>• <i>Continue</i> with <i>P. ramorum</i> management as per district guidance, including felling of dead trees to reduce risk of <i>Ips cembrae</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase</i> area of native BL throughout plan area for added biodiversity, targeting a permanent BL woodland infrastructure along riparian zones and connecting to external Ancient Semi Natural Woodland mainly to the south.</li> <li>• The southern edges of block are visually prominent as a backdrop to Creetown as viewed from A75(T) road that runs west of the block. The remainder of the plan area is viewed from with surrounding county roads network (unclassified roads Creetown to Laurieston and Gatehouse); <i>maintain and enhance</i> local landscape through additional species diversity,</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land</li> <li>• Working with neighbouring land managers to undertake landscape-scale control of ground flora and improve habitats</li> </ul>	<p>open space integrated management and revised coupe shapes to better suit landform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Manage</i> watercourses and private water supplies within LMP unit in keeping with UKWAS standards, Water Framework Directive and Forest and Water guidelines to <i>maintain and improve</i> water quality.</li> <li>• The block is not part of the priority area for Red squirrel (priority species); <i>maintain and enhance</i> area for Red Squirrel</li> <li>• <i>Manage</i> minor heritage features as per FES guidelines and agreed asset management plan</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to <i>consult</i> with local communities and stakeholders (specifically Balloch Wood Community Ventures SCO46678 in respect of Balloch Wood) through their agreed 25yr management agreement (or any subsequent agreement document) and the established Land Management Plan process.</li> <li>• <i>Maintain and Enhance</i> views of and from the forest along Core path routes especially through Ballochanamour Wood.</li> <li>• <i>Maintain</i> general accessibility to the block.</li> <li>• <i>Facilitate</i> renewable energy infrastructure as required by national policy.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Facilitating renewable energy opportunities in order to encourage community benefits</li><li>• Incentivising renewable developers to offer community ownership opportunities in renewable energy developments on the national forests and land</li><li>• Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land</li><li>• Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities</li></ul>	
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