

# A Draft Design Brief for Ladyurd Forest Land Management Plan

Ladyurd Forest comprises 288 Ha of mainly upland conifer plantation, originally planted by the Forestry Commission between the late 1950s and late 1970s. It is located 12 km north west of Peebles along the A72 and 2 km to the south of the small village of Blyth Bridge in the Scottish Borders. 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).

Ladyurd Land Management Plan (LMP) defines the management prescription for the next ten years (2020-30), and presents the vision for the long-term management of the forest. The main management objective in this plan is a focus on sustainable timber production.

An Analysis and Concept map has been produced to complement this design brief, highlighting the opportunities and constraints relating to 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 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
<b>Outcome 1: Supporting a sustainable rural economy</b>	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	Design a land management plan for Ladyurd which meets the UK Forestry Standard and UKWAS requirements and (where feasible) guidelines.
	Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland's timber processing sector	<p>Meet production forecast commitment through revised felling and thinning plans.</p> <p>Identify opportunities for growing productive broadleaves (including for firewood production).</p> <p>Increase areas for thinning to enhance stand stability, improve timber quality, provide a wider range of products and increased silvicultural flexibility.</p>
	Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy	<p>Enhance the productive yield by selecting the correct species for the site, restocking in line with regional goals for diversity, especially in larch restock sites.</p> <p>Increase use of natural regeneration in our restocking.</p>
	Support the venison processing sector through our deer management	Continue deer management as per FLS regional strategy – there are large populations of roe and Sika deer in Ladyurd and the surrounding area.
<b>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land</b>	Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity	<p>Target the expansion of native woodland on the main riparian corridors, in particular along Hope's Burn and Ladyurd Burn.</p> <p>Enhance the biodiversity value of the forest through the retention and improved connectivity of a variety of habitat types, including "old" growth stands, deadwood/windblow and open areas.</p>

		<p>Control non-native invasive species for the benefit of forest management and the enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>Identify suitable opportunities for Continuous Cover Forestry silvicultural systems to maximise the value of stands to deliver benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
	Taking specific conservation actions for vulnerable priority species (e.g. red squirrel, capercaillie, black grouse)	<p>While not a 'stronghold area' for red squirrel, maintain and continue to provide suitable habitat.</p> <p>Whilst not within the black grouse "Core Area" consider opportunities to provide foraging habitat through targeted broadleaf planting.</p> <p>Retain older, well thinned stands that provide suitable nesting sites for Schedule One raptors.</p>
	Supporting policy development and research and act as a testbed for new and innovative approaches to forestry and land management	Provide support and opportunities to facilitate new potential Forest Research experimental sites in Ladyurd.
	Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land	Support Historic Environment Scotland and other stakeholders in the conservation and promotion of archaeological assets in Ladyurd forest.
	Continue to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of Phytophthora ramorum	Continue with P. Ramorum management as per FLS Larch Strategy guidance. Ladyurd falls within FLS Larch Strategy Zone C (GB PR risk zone 2).
<b>Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities</b>	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	Maintain general accessibility of the block.
	Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land	Support and help facilitate interest shown in using the forest for learning and community engagement.

	Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land	Consult with local communities and stakeholders through the Land Management Plan review process.
	Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities	Consider the aspirations of the local community in using the forest, and how the LMP can support them.