

# Ladybank Land Management Plan

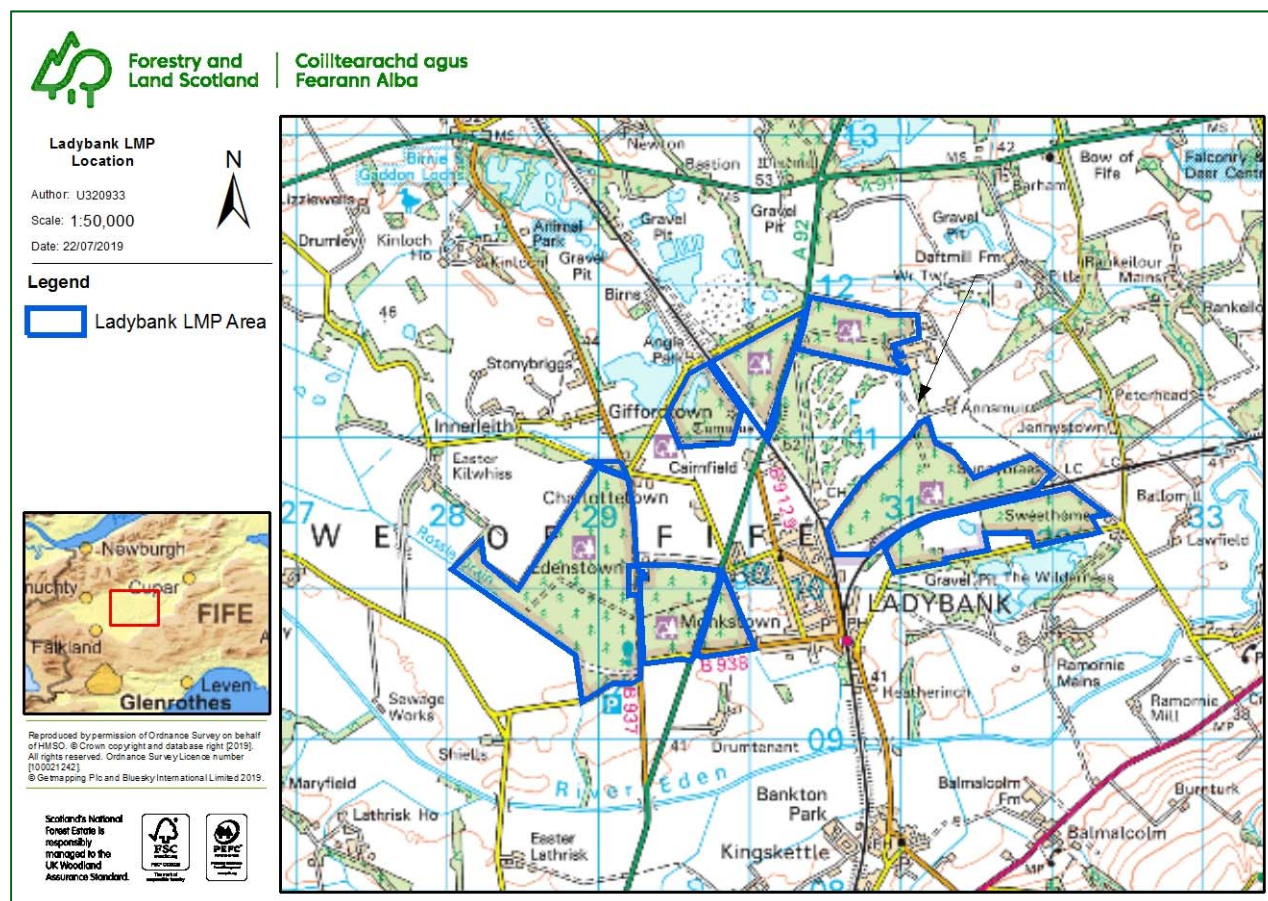
## 1. Introduction and summary

### 1.1 Location

Ladybank is situated in the geographical area known as the Howe of Fife; a largely flat, agricultural landscape, overlooked by the Lomond hills approximately 10km to the south west. The forest displays no significant landforms, sitting, almost entirely uniformly, at 45 metres above sea level. There are transitory views of the forest from the railway line and the various roads that pass beside and through the blocks but there are no significant overviews that help to place the forest within the wider landscape.

### 1.2 The site

The forest consists of a number of dispersed compartments, surrounding the town of Ladybank in Fife. The blocks are separated by the East Coast Mainline and Perth branch line railways, the A92 and B937. The forest covers a total area of 281 ha and predominantly consists of stands of mature Scot's and Corsican pine. The extent of the plan area and location is defined in map 1 below.



### 1.3 Certification

The management of the woodland is certified and at all times we seek to adhere to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

### 1.4 Key Issues

The key issues in this plan are:

- High visitor numbers are causing issues with litter and dog waste.
- Regeneration of beech and western hemlock is outcompeting other desirable species in parts of the block.
- Beech seed is a favoured food for grey squirrel, which are now endemic throughout most of Fife with the exception of Ladybank and some other significant areas of conifer forests where red squirrels are still present.
- Tree disease – Dothistroma needle blight has affected much of the pine plantations in the forest.
- Access to the site for management operations is restricted by poor roading.

### 1.5 Proposals in Brief

- Fell 11.11ha of conifer woodland.
- Thin 220.03ha of conifer woodland.
- Restock felled areas with 5.56ha of productive broadleaves, 3.14ha with Scots Pine and 0.99ha with broadleaf species as part of an intimate mixture.
- Upgrade 1770m of forest road to improve management access.
- Plant open wayleaves adjacent to the railway with native shrub and hedgerow species.
- Management of open water and surrounding areas to increase biodiversity.

### 1.6 Timing

This plan presents in detail the management, felling, thinning and restocking proposals for the next 10 years (2020-2029). This first ten year period is particularly important because it relates to the part of the land management plan that requires specific approval from Scottish Forestry. Longer term management of Ladybank is included in the plan but mainly to provide an indication of the direction of travel and to provide context.

### 1.7 Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted with the local community and statutory and other interested stakeholders.

For further information on the plan please contact:

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# Ladybank

## Land Management Plan

### 2. Scottish Forestry Regulatory Requirements

This section provides a summary of the elements of the Land Management Plan which are regulated by Scottish Forestry. In line with approvals sought, this focusses on relevant operations and activities proposed for the first 10 years of this plan.

#### 2.1 Summary of Planned Operations

Proposed Operations	2020 - 2029
Felling	11.11
Thinning	220.03
Restocking	11.11
New Road Construction	60
Road Upgrade	1770m

##### 2.1.1 Proposed Felling in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Felled (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2020 - 2024	7.18	2.6
2025 - 2029	3.93	1.4

Details of Clearfell by Coupe for phase 1

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56006	2022/23	SP	6.46	MB	0.72	0.00	7.18

Changes in Age Class over plan period

Age of Trees	Growth Stage	Percentage of Class at Given Year			
		2020	2024	2029	2039
0-10	Establishment	2.4	2.1	3.0	1.4
11 - 20	Thicket	0.3	1.2	2.2	3.0
21 – 40	Pole	33.6	30.3	7.6	2.5
41 - 60	Maturing High Forest	5.0	5.4	26.3	29.3
61+	Old High Forest	50.1	49.8	50.5	54.7
Integral Open Ground	N/A	8.6	11.1	10.4	9.1
Open Hill Ground	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

##### 2.1.2 Proposed Thinning in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Thinned (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2020 - 2024	53.98	19.2
2025 - 2029	177.19	63.1

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	Area (ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Species 3	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56001	2023/24	SP	8.76	MC	4.72	MB	3.00	1.07	17.55
56006	2023/24	SP	6.46	MB	0.72	-	-	0.00	7.18
56019	2022/23	SP	22.75	CP	1.41	MB	4.61	0.48	29.25

##### 2.1.3 Proposed Restocking in Years 2020-2024

Proposed Phase	Area to be Restocked (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2020 - 2024	-	-
2025 - 2029	7.18	2.6

Proposed Restocking by Coupe

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
56006A	2023/24	SBI	5.56	-	-	0.62	6.18
56006B	2023/24	MB	0.20	-	-	0.80	1.00

Species Change Over Plan Period

Species	2020		2024		2029		2039	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Scots pine	180.8	64.3	174.3	62.0	172.3	61.3	174.3	62.0
Corsican pine	30.4	10.8	30.4	10.8	29.2	10.4	30.4	10.8
Other conifers	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7	21.6	7.7
Birch (Downy/Silver)	2.4	0.8	2.4	0.8	8.0	2.8	8.0	2.8
Other Broadleaves	22.7	8.1	22.0	7.8	21.5	7.6	22.3	7.9
Open/awaiting restock	23.4	8.3	30.6	10.9	28.7	10.2	24.7	8.8
Total	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0	281.3	100.0

##### 2.1.4 Access and Roding in Years 2020-2024

# Ladybank

## Land Management Plan

Period of Works	Proposed Length for Construction (m)	Proposed Length for Upgrade (m)
2020 – 2024	60	1600
2025 – 2029	0	170
Beyond 2030	0	0

### 2.2 Departure from UKFS Guidelines

The Land Management Plan seeks to follow the UKFS in all requirements. No felling will take place until any neighbouring restock areas have achieved two metres in height. If this is not achieved the separation will be agreed with Scottish Forestry.

### 2.3 Tolerance Tables

Refer to Appendix III.

## 3. EIA Determination

### 3.1 Deforestation

No deforestation is planned in the duration of this plan.

### 3.2 Forest Roding

There will be one section of new roading proposed during this plan period – an access and stacking area approximately 50m long with a 10m spur to allow turning. This will be located in the Cairnfield Muir coupe and will join the public road at grid reference NO 297 115. Approximately 1600m of road upgrades and five turning areas will be required in phase I with a further 170m or upgrade and two turning areas in phase II to allow for safe extraction of timber. As these are upgrades to existing facilities there will be no net forest area removal.

There are no site designations impacted by the proposed works.

### 3.3 Quarries

It is not anticipated that new quarries will be required.

### 3.4 Afforestation

No new woodland creation is proposed within this plan.

## 3.5 Additional Regulatory Requirements

### 3.5.1 Water Framework

Given the scale of the proposal, as long as SEPA general binding rules are adhered to, a construction site licence will not be required.

### 3.5.2 Prior Notification

Maintenance of roads will be carried out in line with Timber Transport Forum document “The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads (2014)”. Prior notification will be sought for the area of new road that is greater than 25m from the public road. As all remaining proposed roading works in the scope of this plan are classed as maintenance of existing infrastructure no prior notification should be required. If the need arises, prior notification will be sought at the time of work planning.

### 3.5.3 Planning Consent

Planning consent will be sought for the portion of new road construction within 25m of the public road mentioned in section 3.2.

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.



The mark of responsible forestry

