



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Central Region

Selm muir Land Management Plan 2022-2032 Summary of Proposals



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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:	Selm muir Forest		
Grid Reference:	NT 0870 6483	Nearest town or locality:	Livingston
Local Authority:	West Lothian		
Land Management Plan area (hectares):	91.5		

Owner's Details			
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1.0 Summary of Proposals

1.1 Key Background Information

This Land Management Plan or **LMP** covers Selm muir forest, an area of land covering 91.5 hectares which was acquired by Forestry and Land Scotland in 1952. It is located at the south-eastern corner of the Central Scottish Lowlands, within the local authority area of West Lothian Council. Livingston Town is the nearest large town, approximately 3 kilometres away, with a population of ~57,000 residents. Although not officially a WIAT woodland (*Woodlands In and Around Towns challenge fund*), Selm muir serves many local communities, providing a well-used outdoor resource for informal recreation. A privately owned water body (*Selm muir Reservoir*) exists within the forest boundary. This is run as a recreational fishing business.

The forest is also located within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) boundary and delivers toward several of the project themes or workstreams, as set out in the Delivery Plan 2030 (DP30), these being Natural Climate Solutions, Place-making, Health and Wellbeing, and Green Recovery. **Table 1** lists the DP30 Objectives which particularly relate to this LMP:

Table 1. How this plan contributes to the Central Scotland Green Network Project

Ref	Objective	Primary Workstream(s)
<i>Biodiversity and ecological coherence</i>		
HA5	Increase the quality/condition of habitats	Natural Climate Solutions Placemaking
HA6	Increase habitat connectivity	Natural Climate Solutions Placemaking
<i>Green Infrastructure</i>		
GI2	Increase the quality and functionality of greenspaces within the CSGN	Natural Climate Solutions Placemaking Health and Wellbeing Green Recovery

Key features within Selm muir include:

- The designed beech planted earth-banks which provide a historic connection to the surrounding agricultural landscape & are integral to the internal forest path network.
- The 100 year old Scots pine stands.
- Selm muir reservoir, a man-made waterbody out-with the ownership of Forestry and Land Scotland but completely within the forest boundary. This is used as a private fishing business.



The forest has good productive potential and many zones are able to produce high quality timber. The intention is to maintain this productive potential, whilst expanding native woodland and riparian habitat networks, and diversifying forest species and stands structures for greater resilience to climate change.

In the design process for future native woodland and open space, particular consideration has been given to the forest's well-used path network, heritage features, Selm muir Reservoir and internal and external habitat networks.

This LMP specifically covers the next ten years of forest management but also provides longer term proposals for future habitats and species.

- Main considerations during the drafting of the plan are listed in [Section 1.2](#).
- Overarching management objectives of the plan are provided in [Section 1.3](#).
- [Section 1.4](#) summarises key woodland changes of the proposed plan over the next 20 years - in the form of tables and charts.
- More detailed management proposals for the next ten year period are provided in [Section 7.0](#).
- Key UKWAS indicators related to the proposed plan are summarised in [Section 1.5](#)
- A range of supporting maps are found in [Appendix V](#) and specifically referred to where they support relevant Sections.



1.2 Main Considerations

Larch and *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. Ramorum*)

Larch currently comprises ~11.8% of the plan area. It is present both as a component mixture with other species and in pure stands. The forest sits within the 'Priority Action Zone' of Scottish Forestry's '*Phytophthora ramorum* larch Action Plan'. This zone is where actions will have the greatest impact on controlling the spread of *P. ramorum* and although infections have been limited they are gradually increasing. Ideally all Larch would be removed in the first phase of felling. This, however, must be balanced against achieving other sustainable forest management targets.

Silvicultural management of mature forest stands

This LMP will review silvicultural systems used to manage existing forest stands, taking account of site conditions, previous interventions and stand stability. Given the spread of windthrow in many areas, it is clear 'alternative to clearfell' management envisaged in the previous plan, & covering large areas of the forest, has to be reviewed. The LMP will aim to focus lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) and on areas showing the greatest potential for continued thinning and small scale regeneration felling.

Adjacency

Windblow has developed in a concentration of conifer stands planted in the 1950s & 1970s. This LMP will put in place a schedule for clearing these stands economically whilst reducing impacts of adjacency on landscape and hydrological features (*i.e. trying to avoid felling immediately adjacent stands in one operation*). The plan will also consider how the attractive 100 year old pine stands can be regenerated more gradually over a period of 30+ years, using small scale regeneration felling, which again avoids adjacency.

Future forest design

The following factors will be considered to design future habitats and species at Selm muir:

- Strengthening and expanding the forest habitat network.
- Enhancing and protecting riparian zones
- Diversifying forest species and mixtures to make the forest more resilient to climate change.
- Enhancing views along the forest path network by diversifying stand structure, species mixtures, and increasing open space.
- Zoning more intensive crop management systems away from Selm muir reservoir and fishing club to reduce future impact of forest operations and enhance the landscape around the reservoir.



Heritage & conservation

There are no statutory conservation or heritage designations within the forest. This plan will consider increasing protection to key conservation and heritage features through the targeted use of minimum intervention or long term retention management systems and/or through the creation of native woodland habitats in specific zones.



1.3 Selm muir Management Objectives 2022-2032

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy</p> <p>FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments.</p>	<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. Support the venison processing sector through our deer management. Work proactively with our tenants and stakeholders to identify potential added-value opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update silvicultural management prescriptions aiming for tree crop resilience and a sustained capacity to provide timber supplies. Key factors: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The present condition of individual stands, their response to past interventions & their past natural development. Current threats to tree health. Accelerated climate change, its impact on tree species suitability and stand management options. Continue to provide a sustained productive timber resource. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to supply a wide range of timber products & sizes. Maximise proportions of saw log quality timber where thinning does not jeopardise tree stability. Reduce the likelihood of windthrow and timber deterioration by gradually reducing the proportion of even-aged tree stands beyond normal rotation age. Increase species mixtures. Selm muir is a relatively small forest yet provides valued services to local communities and businesses. The plan will identify areas where the primary objective of timber production adversely impacts these other activities & adjust management prescriptions. In many cases this adjustment will be achieved at the restocks stage through updated design or a change in the intensity of management. During this process - proactively work with key stakeholders to mitigate impacts as these changes are implemented.



Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>Looking after Scotland's national forests and land</p> <p>Scotland's national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration. Developing an asset management approach to the historic environment within Scotland's forests and land. Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planting is used to regenerate stands, use tree species & provenances resistant to tree diseases & climate change. Remove larch pre-emptively during the term of the LMP. Protect & seek opportunities to enhance the forest's historical features, recognising their link to the surrounding 'lowland plain' landscape. Continue to protect species and habitats in the forest. The plan will have a particular focus on LEPO Woodland connectivity (Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin) and the link to Linhouse Water & associated ancient woodland. Retain standing and fallen deadwood wherever possible and protect veteran trees. Establish minimum intervention areas with the potential to become natural reserves in sensitive locations. Protect and enhance water features and filter zones. Work proactively with the private fisheries to minimise water siltation throughout the forest, taking active measures prior to and during operations.



Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>National forests and land for visitors and communities</p> <p>Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland's national forests and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making.</p>	<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. • 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. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current recreational infrastructure including paths & associated heritage features. • Re-establish the longer distance circular walking route to the north of the fisheries • Where feasible, continue to involve local community groups & organisations to develop informal recreational & educational activities such as forest schools. • Ensure management prescriptions protect and enhance recreational routes and heritage features. • Where visitor & recreation expansion is planned, consider resource capacity and interaction with other forest activities & users (e.g. residential & business interests within the forest).



1.4 Key Woodland Changes

Table 2 – Land use change within forest 2022-2042

Land Use	Area 2022 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2022	Area 2032 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2032	Area 2042 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2042
Felled/Fallow	0	0.0	3.1	3.4	1.8	2.0
High Forest ¹	78.9	86.2	77.1	84.3	76.8	83.9
Open/Unplanted streamsidess	8.2	9.0	9.5	10.4	11.2	12.2
Partially Intruded Broadleaf ¹	1.6	1.7	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Unplantable or bare	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4
Windblow ¹	1.6	1.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTALS	91.5	100	91.5	100	91.5	100

¹ These components combined make up the forest tree species in Table 3 below

Figure 1 – % Land use change within forest 2022-2042

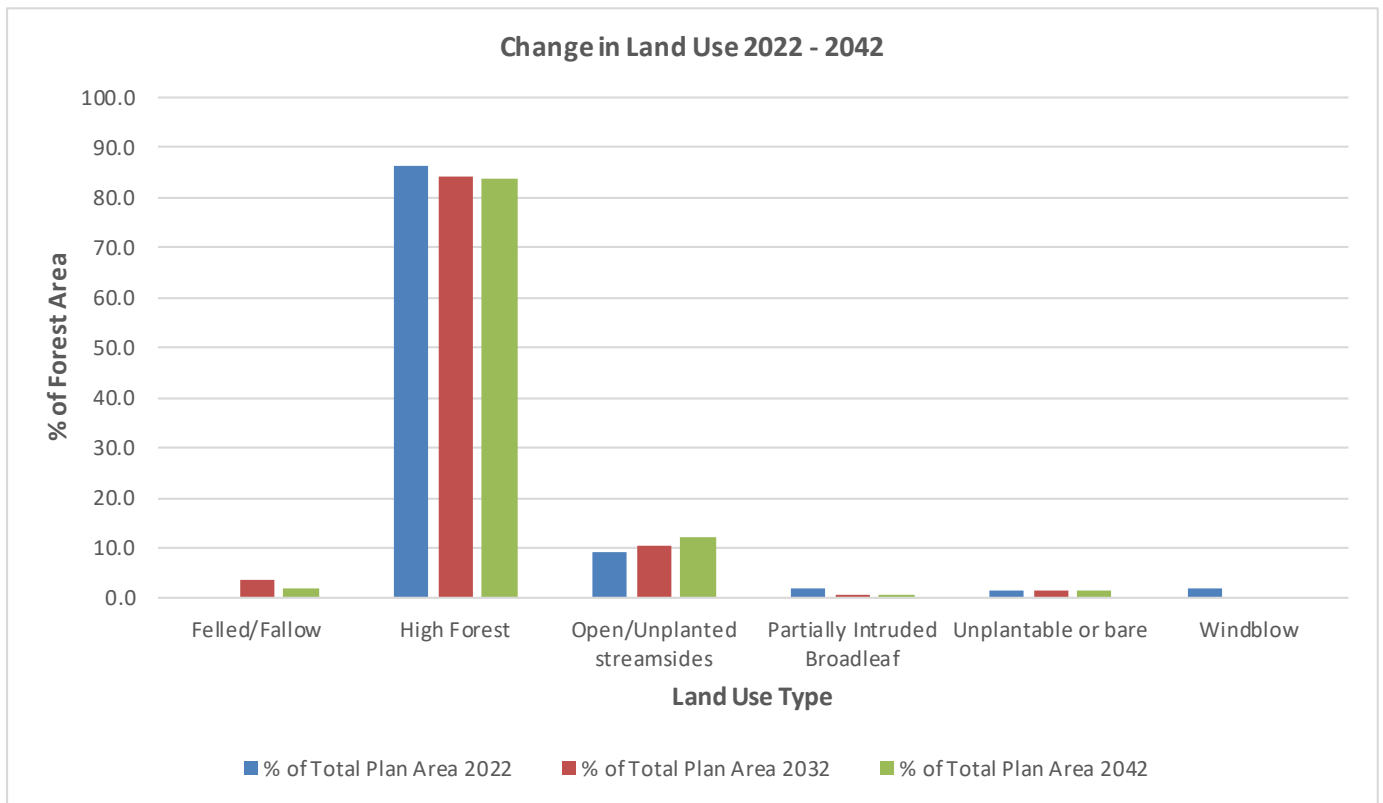




Table 3 Change in forest composition 2022-2042

Forest Component	Area 2022 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2022	Area 2032 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2032	Area 2042 (ha)	% of Total Plan Area 2042
Sitka spruce	32.2	35.2	30.6	33.4	24.9	27.2
Scots pine	17.8	19.5	17.2	18.8	17.2	18.8
Larch	10.8	11.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Native mixed broadleaves	9.1	9.9	13.9	15.2	15.7	17.2
Beech	4.9	5.4	4.9	5.4	4.9	5.4
Lodgepole pine	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.6
Macedonian pine	0	0.0	2	2.2	2.4	2.6
Birch (downy/silver)	1.8	2.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
Norway spruce	1.7	1.9	2.3	2.5	4.2	4.6
Western hemlock	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5
Corsican pine	0.3	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Oak (robur/petraea)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mixed broadleaves	0.2	0.2	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.7
Designed Open	8.2	9.0	9.5	10.4	11.2	12.2
Other*	1.2	1.3	4.4	4.8	3.1	3.4
TOTALS	91.5	100	91.5	100	91.5	100

*Other = awaiting restock (felled/fallow) & unplantable/bare

Figure 2 Change in forest composition 2022-2042

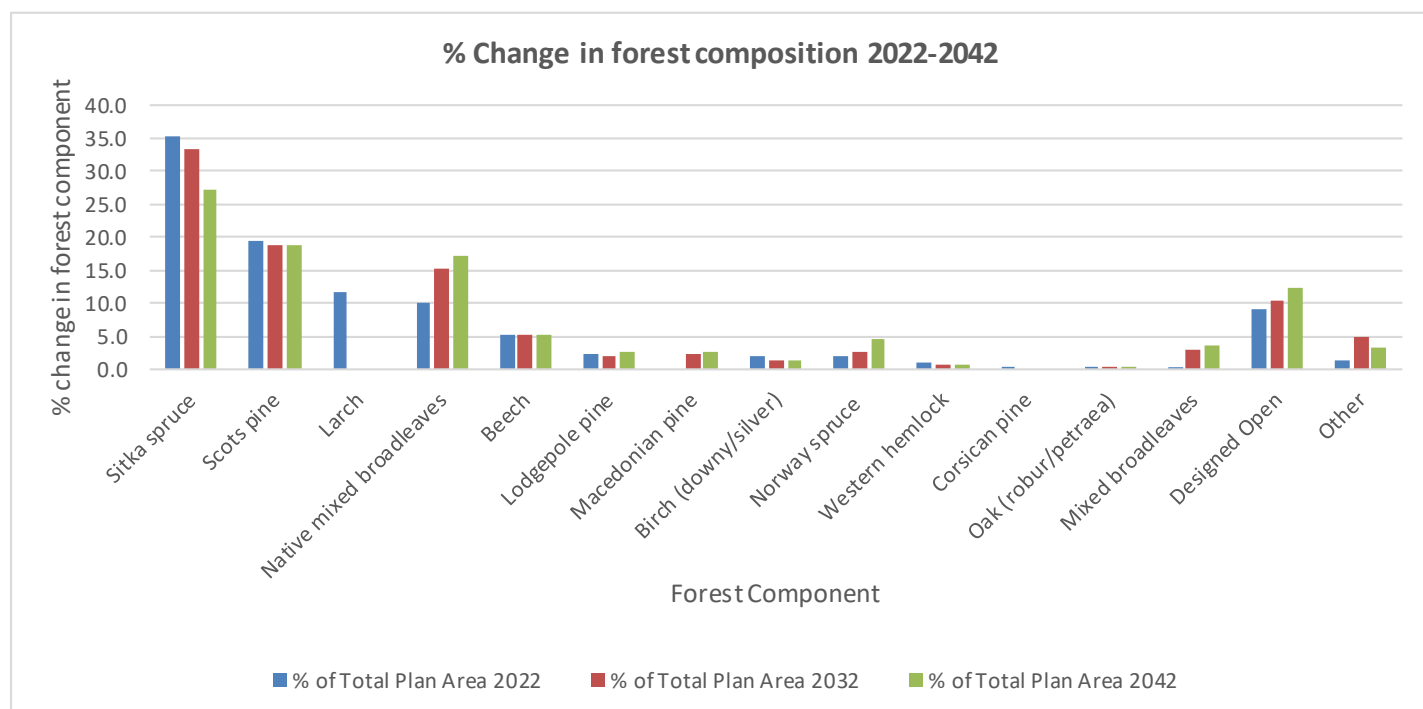
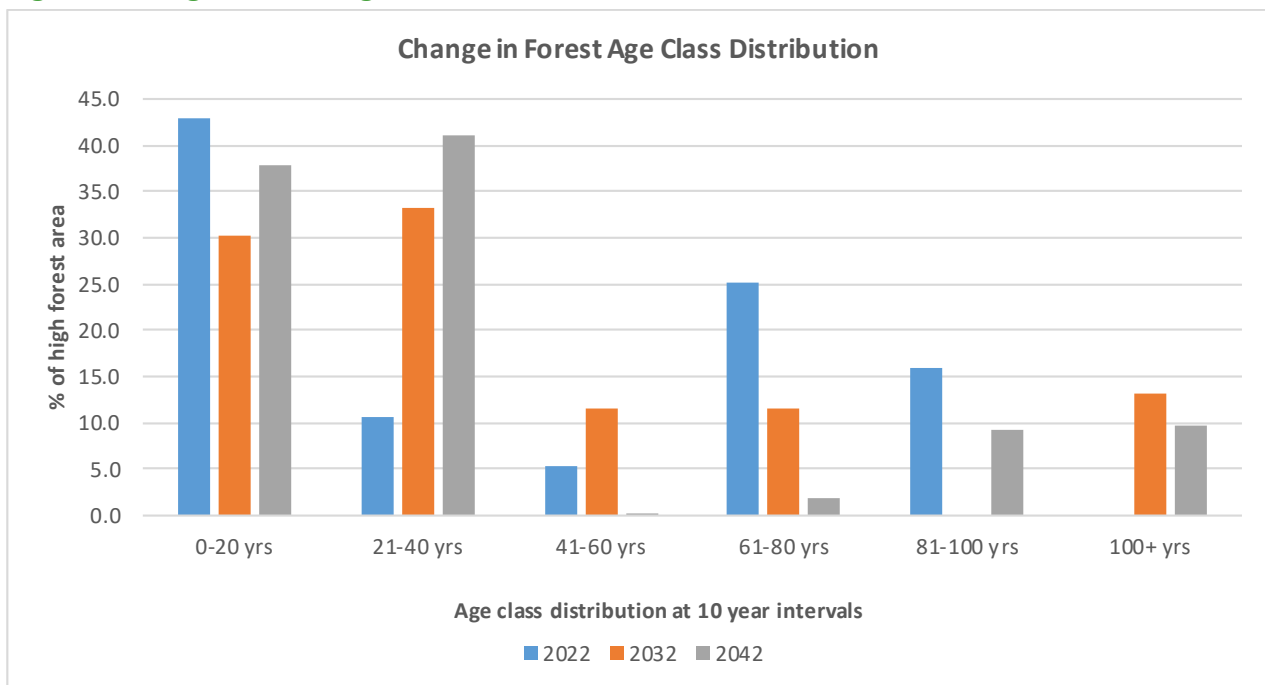




Table 4 Change in forest age class distribution of forest stands 2022-2042

Tree Age Class	% of Total Plan Area 2022	% of Total Plan Area 2032	% of Total Plan Area 2042
0-20	42.9	30.2	37.9
21-40	10.6	33.3	41.1
41-60	5.3	11.7	0.1
61-80	25.2	11.6	2.0
81-100	16.0	0.0	9.2
100+	0.0	13.3	9.7
TOTALS	100	100	100

Figure 3 Change in forest age class distribution of forest stands 2022-2042





1.5 UKWAS Indicators for this Land Management Plan

Table 5

UKWAS indicator	Description	Area (ha)	% of Plan Area
Total LM Plan Area	Total land area within plan boundary	91.52	
Total Current Woodland Area	Sub-cmpts with total trees in the sub-cmpt greater or equal to 20%: High forest (PHF), Windblow (PWB), Partially Intruded Broadleaves (PIB), Seed Stand (PSS), Seed Orchard (FMS), Research Plantation (PRP), Ancient and Ornamental (NAO), Arboreta (NAR), Worked coppice (PWC), Christmas trees (FMC), Felled (PFE) and Burnt (PBU).	78.9	86.2
Natural Reserves - Plantation	N/A	0	0
Natural Reserves - Semi-natural	N/A	0	0
Long term retention and areas managed under LISS and Minimum Intervention	Management coupes of type Group shelterwood , Irregular shelterwood, Uniform shelterwood , Group selection, Single tree selection, Strip shelterwood, Long Term Retention , Coppice with Standards, Pollarded coppice, Coppice, Minimum Intervention (Natural Reserve), Minimum Intervention . UKWAS requires at least 1% of the Woodland Management Unit	33.79	36.92
Area of Conservation value	Long term retention coupes (10.59ha) & minimum intervention areas (8.3ha)	18.89	20.64
Planned Open/Other	Derived from the Future Habitats & Species (Managed Open and Open Successional)	14.3	15.6



2.0 Scottish Forestry Regulatory Requirements

All proposals have been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs. A full list of current standards and guidance can be found [here](#)

2.1 Summary of Planned Operations

Table 6 Summary of Planned Operations

Planned Operations	2022-2032
Clearfell/Clearfell with seed tree (afforested area)	15.81 hectares
LISS Felling (afforested area)	5.88 hectares
Thinning	41.30 hectares
Clearfell Restock	15.81 hectares
LISS Restock (replanted area)	2.27 hectares
LISS Restock (natural regeneration)	3.61 hectares
Woodland Creation	0
Road Construction	110 metres
Road Upgrade	460 metres



2.2 Proposed felling in years 2022-2032

More detailed prescriptions for clearfell and LISS clearfell are provided in [Section 7.0](#) (Management Proposals). See also [Maps 10, 11 & 12](#).

Total felling phase 1 = 15.46 hectares (9.58ha clearfell & 5.88ha LISS clearfell).

Total felling phase 2 = 6.23 hectares.

Total Felling Plan Period = 21.69 hectares

Table 7 Clearfelling Phase 1 & 2

Felling Coupe	Proposed FY Year	Phase 1 Conifers 2022-2026 (gross ha)	Phase 1 Broadleaves 2022-2026 (gross ha)	% forest area	Phase 2 Conifers 2027-2031 (gross ha)	Phase 2 Broadleaves 2027-2031 (gross ha)	% forest area	Estimated Volume m ³
97002 (Larch Removal)	2023	0.98	0	1.07				93
97006 (windblown)	2023	4.27	0	4.67				811
97007 (part windblown)	2023	4.33	0	4.73				1104
97008 (part windblown)	2029				3.66	0	3.78	882
97016 (Larch removal)	2029				2.57	0	2.80	655
Totals		9.58 ha	0 ha	10.47 %	6.23 ha	0 ha	6.8 %	3545m³

Table 8 LISS felling Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Low Impact Silvicultural Systems)

(LISS or clearfelling areas are shown in [Map 11](#))

LISS Felling Coupe	Proposed FY Year	Phase 1 Conifers 2022-2026 (gross ha)	Phase 1 Broadleaves 2022-2026 (gross ha)	% forest area	Phase 2 Conifers 2027-2031 (gross ha)	Phase 2 Broadleaves 2027-2031 (gross ha)	% forest area	Estimated Volume m ³
97015	2023	1.95	0.32	2.48				578
97017	2023	3.61		3.8				814
Totals		5.56 ha	0.32 ha	6.55 %				1392m³



2.3 Proposed thinning in years 2022-2032

The different types of thinning prescriptions proposed at Selm muir are detailed in the Management Proposals **Section 7.6 Thinning**. Also see supporting **Map 12** which shows areas proposed for both commercial and non-commercial thinning.

Table 9 Proposed Thinning Breakdown by forest species over LMP period

Thinning by Forest Species (Area in Hectares)	
Tree species	Area (ha)
Sitka spruce	13.80
Scots pine	10.46
Broadleaves	8.67
Larch	5.77
Lodgepole pine	2.60
Total Area	41.30



2.4 Proposed restocking in years 2022-2032

Total restock phase 1 = 15.46 hectares

Total restock phase 2 = 6.23 hectares

Total Restock Plan Period = 21.69 hectares.

See supporting [Map 13 Future habitats and species](#)

See [Section 7.0 Restock Prescriptions](#) for the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) semi-natural woodland planting mixes and other restock specifications.

Table 10 & 11 Reference Notes:

1. Use QCI seed orchard Sitka spruce. Do not use vegetative propagated improved Sitka spruce (VPSS), as prone to late frost damage at Selmuir.
2. See FC Bulletin 112 Creating New Native Woodlands for recommended NVC species planting mixtures.
3. Productive conifer restock planting at full initial density of 2,700 stems/ha to achieve a final density of 2,500 stems/ha at year 5, with an emphasis on achieving overall stocking.
4. SDA = Stocking Density Assessment at growth year 1 and growth year 5



Table 10 - Phase 1 (2022-2026) Restocking of felled areas including LISS felled areas (Hectares)

Coupe Number	Total Area (ha)	Scots Pine (ha)	Norway spruce (ha)	Macedonian Pine (ha)	¹ QCI Sitka spruce (ha)	Alaskan Lodgepole Pine (ha)	Native mixed broadleaves/ Mixed broadleaves (ha)	² NVC Type	Open land (ha)	Restock year	Description, Restock Method & Density (Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)	Monitoring Comments
97002	0.98				0.36	0.36	0.13	W11	0.13	2024-25	Low impact cultivation & planting QSS/ALP 1:1 Productive Conifers ³ 2700 stems/ha (1.9 mx 1.9m) W11 Upland Oak/Birch Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)	SDA ⁴
97006	4.27						4.27	W11		2024-25	Low impact cultivation & planting W11 Upland Oak/Birch Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)	SDA ⁴
97007	4.33	1.75	0.67				0.47	N/A	1.44	2024-25	Low impact cultivation & planting SP/NS 2:1 Productive Conifers ² 2700 stems/ha (1.9 mx 1.9m) SP/ASP/SBI/ROW 1:1:1:1 Mixed Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)	SDA ⁴
97015 LISS felled area	2.27	1.37	0.68						0.22	2024-25	Low impact cultivation & planting SP/NS 2:1 Productive Conifers ² 2700 stems/ha (1.9 mx 1.9m)	SDA ⁴
97017 LISS felled area	3.61	0.54			0.36		2.71			2024-25	Respace existing understorey natural regeneration to promote mixed broadleaves (75%). Allow up to 25% conifers: Within this, Scots pine should be main component with no more than 10% of total LISS area Spruce or Hemlock. Target stocking density 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)	SDA ⁴



Table 11 - Phase 2 (2027-2032) Restocking of felled areas (Hectares)

Coupe Number	Total Area (ha)	Scots Pine (ha)	Norway spruce (ha)	Macedonian Pine (ha)	¹ QCI Sitka spruce (ha)	Alaskan Lodgepole Pine (ha)	Native mixed broadleaves/ Mixed broadleaves (ha)	² NVC Type	Open land (ha)	Restock year	Description, Restock Method & Density (Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)	Monitoring Comments
97008	3.66	1.94	0.48				0.52	W11	0.72	2030-31	<p>Low impact cultivation & planting SP/NS 3:1 Productive Conifers ³2700 stems/ha (1.9 mx 1.9m) SP/ASP/SBI/ROW 1:1:1:1 Mixed Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m) W11 Upland Oak/Birch Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)</p>	SDA ⁴
97016	2.57	0.1		1.96			0.3	NA	0.21	2030-31	<p>Low impact cultivation & planting Macedonian pine Productive Conifers ³2700 stems/ha (1.9 mx 1.9m) SP/ASP/SBI/ROW 1:1:1:1 Mixed Woodland 1600 stems/ha (2.5m x 2.5m)</p>	SDA ⁴



2.5 Forest road requirements 2022-2032

Table 12 forest road requirements 2022-2032

(See Map 10 Management coupes & proposed forest roads)

Planned forest road requirements 2022-2032					
Coupe Number	Type	Total length (metres)	Total Area (hectares)	Rationale	Monitoring Comments
97005/97001)	New spur road with hammer head	60	0.11	Timber haulage access for coupes 97006(fell), 97002(fell) & 97001(thin). Roadside timber will be stacked/loaded on this spur to reduce conflict with fisheries business traffic.	GIS Planned road layers
97005	Upgrade	270	0	Timber haulage access for coupes 97006(fell), 97002(fell) & 97001(thin)	GIS Planned road layers
97015	New spur road with welfare storage area	50	0.09	Welfare/storage area and additional LISS thinning access to coupe 97015	GIS Planned road layers
97015 / 97016	Upgrade	190	0	Additional haulage/stacking/loading access to coupes 97016 (fell) & 97015 (LISS thin)	GIS Planned road layers
Multiple Coupes	Maintenance	1580m		Maintenance work on existing main spine forest road to clean verges, check/repair culverts, level pot holes.	GIS Planned road layers



2.6 Departure from UKFS guidelines

This LMP adheres to UK Forestry Standard Guidelines. However, there will be several adjacent felling coupes during the plan period, this is due to the following factors:

1. The close proximity of severely windblown coupes, particularly those planted in the 1950s.
2. Reducing the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* and therefore removing Larch stands within the plan period.
3. Starting the process of restructuring and regenerating older pine stands planted in the 1920s.

Mitigation measures employed to reduce the impact of adjacency:

1. Felling coupes have been separated into two phases (phase 1 & phase 2), to avoid adjacent coupes being felled within the same five year period.
2. Where possible thin stands with Larch present as a component, rather than clearfelling the entire stand.
3. Manage the most stable older pine stands using lower impact silvicultural systems – taking advantage of natural regeneration (where this meets long term management objectives) and using smaller felling areas or ‘mini-coupes’.
4. Re-design replanting to protect and enhance sensitive features within the forest - such as the reservoir and its inlets, heritage and conservation features.

Key examples:

- The removal of unstable stands surrounding Selm muir reservoir. The northern stand (coupe 97006) will be removed in phase 1 (2022-26) and the southern stand (coupe 97008) will be removed in phase 2 (2027-31).
- The LISS management system used in coupe 97015 phasing the regeneration of the p1920 pine stands over four phases with the final clearfell in the 2050s.
- Thinning of younger Spruce/Larch stands - concentrating on removal of Larch (coupes 97003 and 97018).

It is important to note that implementation of these mitigation measures will be subject to the spread of windblow within retained stands and subsequent safety implications for forest users and the fishing business at Selm muir reservoir, particularly retained stands bordering the banks of the reservoir.



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://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/plans-and-strategies/land-management-plans/links>



2.8 Tolerance Table

Table 13 Regulatory tolerances for changes to the approved land management plan

Action Required	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
Scottish Forestry (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 2 nd 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