



Accessible text from Map 2 - Features, Issues & Challenges

- Priority habitats include upland heathland which supports 2 black grouse leks that provide connectivity to larger Leks in the wider Carrick Hills area.
- Tairlaw Forest is cited within the Western Southern Uplands environmentally Sensitive Area.
- Priority species within the plan area include; various raptors, black grouse, red squirrel, otter, bats, pine marten, water vole and great crested newts.
- Tairlaw is within the groundwater body of the Water of Girvan whose condition is currently rated 'Good' by SEPA. As is the Water of Girvan (d/s Loch Bradan to Palmullan Burn waterbody catchment. The Loch Bradan catchment is currently rated 'Moderate'.
- Part of the SEPA drainage area for Straiton and Girvan Objective Target Areas for flood risk.
- Opportunities for diversification will be investigated with the majority of conifer species being spruce. However site conditions, such as soils, which are mainly peaty gleys, may limit future species choice.
- 275KW runs through the block, areas designed to mitigate the effects on views from within the forest are proving positive.
- Consultation timber transport routes along public roads around Tairlaw. Majority of timber can be hauled along forest roads to the Stration to Glen Trool public road.
- An Oligotrophic loch is present near the summit of Craig Dhu and is an important UKBAP habitat and its protection is also part of the Galloway Biosphere objectives that also covers this area.
- Windblown and infected larch management coupe with challenging access issues.
- Loch Bradan water treatment works adjacent to site consultation with Scottish Water will be completed.

- Potential area for low impact management to create a diverse area of broadleaves and conifer along burn removing future operational issues with access for management.
- Review future management of mature conifer with difficult access issues. Unofficial cycle path has a circular route around Tairlaw and provides access to neighbouring FLS blocks such as Finlas.
- Two Drinking Water Protected areas cover the LMP area from two existing water bodies. Loch Bradan and Tairlaw Burn, where the forest design will be managed sensitively in these catchments.
- Area around the loch could be improved for visitor access through future ongoing management.
- Utilities on site include overhead powerlines, underground powerlines, emergency radio mast and water pipelines, mainly associated with the public roads within the block. Some public water supplies within the plan area to be investigated.
- Moderate public use around this area, with picnic site and car park adjacent to site and alongside the loch. The site also includes Welcome, Interactive and Passive visitor zones in the block.
- Currently managed through clearfell and restock, but areas have been thinned previously. Low impact options in most areas will be prohibited by wind hazard which moderate to high in most areas.
- Area of mature thinned spruce with the opportunity to convert to Continuous Cover Forestry for environmental and landscape reasons.
- Ancient (of semi-natural origin) woodland along the riparian zone, which is also designated as a natural reserve to secure this habitat for the future.
- Landscape Character Areas of Ayrshire Pastoral Valleys, Ayrshire Foothills, as delineated by South Ayrshire Local Authority Plan.
- The forest is also within the Local Landscape area of the High Carrick Hills
- Views can be seen from the Carrick Forest

End of text.