



Durris: LMP Summary

This plan is a review of Forestry and Land Scotland’s (FLS) management of the Durris LMP area, which encompasses a collection of forest blocks situated between Banchory and Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire. The plan area extends to 2290ha.



Forestry and
Land Scotland

Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Durris LMP 2024

Map 1: Location

Scale @ A2: 1:100,000

Date: March 2024

Legend

Block Boundaries



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Scotland's National
Forest Estate is
responsibly
managed to the
UK Woodland
Assurance Standard.



Figure 1: Durris forest block location.

Analysis of the available information has led to the following objectives for the Durris LMP area.

Primary objectives

- **Continue to manage the Durris LMP area to produce a sustainable timber supply.** There are opportunities to produce a significant amount of timber during this plan period through a combination of windblow clearance, standard clearfelling of suitable crops, regular thinnings and the application of appropriate LISS prescriptions. A future timber resource can also be guaranteed by restocking with productive species suitable to the ground conditions and which are likely to be resilient to future climatic challenges.
- **Increase the future resilience, biodiversity value and carbon capture potential of the LMP area.** By selecting suitable restock species in clearfelled areas, continuing work to convert PAWS and LEPO designated areas, identifying areas suitable for peat restoration and maintaining suitable habitat for priority species, the future health of the forest should be improved and the LMP area will more fully contribute to climate change mitigation targets.

Secondary Objectives

- **Protect and improve the water environment.** Redesigning the existing future restock plans to include suitable riparian buffer zones along any watercourses present within the plan area, with particular focus on designated SAC tributaries to the River Dee, will help maintain or improve water quality both within the forest and in the surrounding areas. Creation of functioning riparian buffers will also help improve habitat connectivity and reduce the likelihood of flooding downstream.
- **Ensure all areas requiring proactive management in the near future have suitable access in place.** Many areas of the forest require felling, thinning, LISS management activities or restock within this plan period or the near future, and some of these areas do not currently have any roading or roadside access in place. It will be a priority to ensure this plan includes details of all future access requirements and permissions gained where necessary.
- **Reduce any potential for negative impacts on adjacent landowners and local community by ensuring forest design takes impact on landscape and boundaries into consideration.** By effectively designing the felling and restock plans in landscape sensitive areas such as Mundernal Hill, along the newly expanded pylon wayleave and our boundaries with neighbouring estates, any impact on the surrounding community can be reduced or a positive change can take place.
- **Protect all scheduled monuments and other archaeological features from damage and improve setting where possible.** All scheduled monuments within the plan area should be identified and managed as per current guidance from HES and the UKFS to protect them from forest operations and ensure they are accessible and visible to any visitors.
- **Maintain or increase levels of recreation within the LMP area.** By protecting the existing informal paths and road network during forest operations and applying LISS systems in

high use areas, the woodlands can continue to be a pleasant place for recreational use by the local community.

The proposed management operations that will result from the objectives are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: proposed management operations 2024-2034

Proposed Operations	2024 – 2034
Clearfell	294.6ha
Thinning	1013.4ha
Restock	384.2.6ha
Woodland Establishment	5.7ha
Road construction (transfer points)	200m
Peat restoration	88.9ha
Quarry expansion	0.3ha

Felling within the Durriss LMP area includes 83.3ha of deforestation for Blanket Bog peatland restoration.

As a result of our objectives, tree species and the area they cover will change over the next 10 years (2024 – 2034) and is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: change in species composition over the next 10 years (2024 - 2034).

Species	Area (ha)	% Cover	Area (ha)	% Cover
	2024	2024	2034	2034
Sitka spruce	1174.8	51.3%	1005.3	43.9%
Japanese larch	178.8	7.8%	159.1	6.9%
Scots pine	155.5	6.8%	251.9	11.0%
Birch	130.7	5.7%	188.9	8.2%
Lodgepole pine	55.2	2.4%	51.5	2.2%
Hybrid larch	56.4	2.5%	52.6	2.3%
Norway spruce	48.4	2.1%	56.1	2.4%
Mixed broadleaves	55.3	2.4%	127	5.5%
Douglas fir	36.4	1.6%	48.6	2.1%
European larch	16.2	0.7%	16.2	0.7%
Beech	14.6	0.6%	13.7	0.6%

Mixed conifers	11.9	0.5%	13.6	0.6%
Oak	11.2	0.5%	20.6	0.9%
Sycamore	6.3	0.3%	5.6	0.2%
Grand fir	4	0.2%	0.9	0.0%
Felled	185.2	8.1%	0	0%
Open/Unplantable	149.1	6.5%	278.4	12.5%
Total	2290	100%	2290	100%