

30th April 2024

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To whom it may concern,

You are invited to participate in the Stakeholder Engagement Process as part of the **Forest Plan Renewal and Certification of Culzean Estate Forestry**.

We invite you to consider the project and raise any issues which you see as being key to the management of the forest going forward so they can be appropriately addressed.

The following pages and accompanying maps provide some background information and context regarding the estate. We have included known issues in the information attached but would ask that you please raise any other interests that we may have overlooked at this stage such as recreational interests, rights of access, known wildlife sensitivities, private water supplies, or archaeological interests. The Forest Plan will align with the UKWAS (United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard) to produce FSC and/or PEFC certified wood. We also ask for any comments you may have regarding certification of the forest.

If you are able to comment or have any other information that may assist in the preparation of our proposals, please write, or email us by the 31st May 2024. If this date is not suitable, please advise in advance or we will assume you have no comment to make.

Feedback received during this consultation process will be included and assist with preparation of the final plan which will be submitted for approval by Scottish Forestry.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Rowan Cunningham
Assistant Forest Planner

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Culzean Estate Forestry - Forest Plan Renewal and Certification

Location and Background

Culzean Estate is located approximately 2km west of Maybole in South Ayrshire. The woodland area covers a total of 586.21 ha (hectares) and is split up into smaller compartments spread across the land between Maybole, Maidens, Turnberry and Kirkoswald. The estate is situated within the low hills of the north-east region of the Water of Girvan Valley.

Site Summary

The estate is privately owned with most of the woodland being managed as a commercial investment, however a large percentage of the woodland area consists of policy woodland and broadleaf riparian corridors. The main conifer species throughout the woodland is Sitka Spruce, however there is also a diverse range of other species such as Norway Spruce, Larch, Dougals Fir. There are also several areas of mixed woodland, Broadleaf and Native Broadleaf Planting.

Constraints and Opportunities

Some of the main constraints across the estate can provide certain restrictions to the management proposals whilst also offering opportunities to enhance the environment and recreational opportunities. Some of the main constraints, designations and cultural features have been listed below. See accompanying maps for further information and location of features.

- **Maidens to Doonfoot SSSI** (Site of Special Scientific Interest) is designated for its nationally important geological features from the Lower Carboniferous and Lower Devonian age, as well as for its biological features which include one of the best examples of maritime cliff in Ayrshire, nationally rare shingle habitat, and the best example of ash woodland in South Ayrshire.
- **Long Established (plantation origin) woodland** covers a large percentage of the estate.
- **Culzean Castle Garden and Designed Landscape** is one of the foremost surviving picturesque landscapes in Scotland its is designated for its prominent buildings and extensive woodlands contribute scenic interest along the Ayrshire coast, while the varied garden grounds contain an important horticultural collection. Scheduled archaeological monuments and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, meanwhile, provide outstanding archaeological and nature conservation interest.
- **Scheduled Monuments** – There are no scheduled monuments within the woodland boundary and will not be impacted by this Forest Plan Proposal.
- There is one other **Historic Features** within the Woodland boundary - Mochrum Hill Cairn. 4.2m in diameter and 0.5m in height.
- There are no **Listed Buildings** within the woodland boundary and therefore will not be impacted by the Forest Plan Proposal.
- A network of **Core Paths** surround and pass through the boundary of the woodland.
- There are a number of **Powerlines** that pass through the boundary of the woodland.

Management Objectives

Management Objective	Indicator of Objective Being Met
To optimise the financial return from the sustainable production of timber while adhering to the UK Forestry and UKWAS standards of woodland management.	Comparison of harvested volumes with production forecasts. Restocking of felled areas within 3 years of harvesting to achieve required stocking densities.
To consider the full impacts of productive forestry on the environment by managing the forest in accordance with good environmental practice as laid down in the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.	Restocking will be to the proposed restructuring plan which is designed to meet the requirements of UKFS and UKWAS. Increase in area of NBL within the forest to a minimum of 5%.
To contribute positively to climate and environmental targets through the capture and storage of carbon in trees.	High proportion of fast-growing species and improved planting stock for early carbon sequestration to produce high quality timber products with embedded carbon and a longer lifecycle. (e.g. timber construction) Maintain or expand areas of native broadleaves for long-term carbon capture and biodiversity.
To maximise timber production at a sustainable level in the long-term.	Estimated sustainable cut maintained based on Species, YC and area.