

15th October 2024

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Stakeholder Engagement Request – Airies Long-Term Forest Plan and UKWAS Certification

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowner to prepare a Forest Plan for Airies Forest in Dumfries and Galloway. This Forest Plan will set out the objectives of the forest and operations planned over the next 20 years.

The forest will be managed in line with UKFS (United Kingdom Forestry Standard) and UKWAS (United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard) to produce FSC and/or PEFC certified timber. Alongside the new Forest Plan, the certification status of the Forest will be updated.

We have provided background information and included known constraints of the woodland. We would please ask you to review the attached information and raise any other relevant interests and/or comments that may be useful in the preparation of this plan. If you are able to comment, or have any other information that may assist us, please write, or email us by **Friday 22nd November 2024**. If this date is not suitable, please advise in advance or we will assume you are happy with the proposals and have no comment to make.

Feedback received during this stakeholder engagement process will assist with preparation of the plan and will be included within the final documentation that will be submitted to Scottish Forestry for approval.

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

Yours sincerely



Rowan Cunningham
Assistant Forest Planner

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Forest Summary

Airies Forest is located approximately 16.5km west of Newton Stewart in Dumfries and Galloway (D&G). The forest is situated within the 'Plateau Moorland with Forest' D&G Landscape Character Area. The total area of the forest is 130.65 hectares (ha).

The majority of the forest is composed of coniferous tree species with some smaller areas of native broadleaf planting. Sitka spruce is the most dominant tree species, with some Lodgepole Pine in the north-west.

See Airies Forest Concept Map, to view the forest species.

The forest was planted in 1973. Clear felling and restocking have taken place within the forest resulting in some age diversity. Trees within the forest are 51, 19, 14 and 7 years old. The remaining trees that have not been felled, are at their maturity. The establishment of the Forest Plan will create a felling proposal that can open the opportunity to remove areas of windblow and restructure the forest to ensure it is meeting the requirements of UKFS and UKWAS whilst also achieving the management objectives. (See table at the bottom of the page)

The forest sits at an elevation between 145m - 220m above sea level (asl). The general landscape surrounding the forest is undulating. Some of the larger hill tops within the surrounding areas are, Artfield Fell (272m asl), Green Top (244m asl), and Eldrig Fell (226m asl). There are a number of similar sized, productive forests within proximity to Airies Forest. There are some small, scattered areas of agriculture and large areas of open moorland. There are also a number of Wind farms within proximity to the forest.

There are 3 environmental or landscape designations sit in proximity to the forest.

- River Bladnoch SAC – designated for the protection of quality Atlantic Salmon.
- Kirkcowan Flow SAC – designated for the protection of its blanket bog network.
- Kirkcowan Flow SSSI – designated for the protection of its blanket bog network.

There are a number of Historic features (scheduled monuments and recorded historic features) within proximity to the forest.

The forest is situated within an acidified catchment named 'Tarf Water us Drumpail Burn' The designation has not been included on the concept map as it covers the entirety of the forest.

Further information regarding the forest can be viewed on Airies Forest Concept Map.

Forest Management Objectives

	Objectives	Indicator of objective being met
1	Production of Sustainable, High-Quality Timber to Meet Market Demand	Actual harvested volumes and breakout relate reasonably to production forecast.
2	Achievement of Satisfactory Restocking	Species and stocking densities at 5 years as per Forest Plan
3	Control Deer to Allow Satisfactory Restocking	Less than 10% leader loss at year 5
4	Restructure Woodlands to Diversify Woodland Composition and Structure and increase Forest Resilience	Species by P-Year distribution changes as per Forest Plan