

1st April 2025

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowner to prepare a Forest Plan for Isles 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 within the forest area and surrounding landscape. 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 **Wednesday 30th April 2025**. 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.

If you have a Private Water Supply in proximity to the forest, please make us aware of its location, so that it can be protected during the period of the Forest Plan.

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

Isles Forest is located approximately 2.5km east of Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway (D&G). The forest is situated within the 'Coastal Uplands' D&G Landscape Character Area. The total area of the forest is 385.86 hectares (ha).

The majority of the forest is composed of a range of coniferous tree species with some areas of native broadleaf planting. Sitka spruce is the most dominant tree species, with Scots Pine, Lodgepole Pine, Larch and Douglas Fir as secondary diverse conifers within the forest.

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

The creation of this Forest Plan will allow the opportunity to restructure the forest, create a more sympathetic forest footprint, implement appropriate tree species for the next rotation of the forest that are mandatory to meet the requirements of UKFS and UKWAS, provide an outline for relevant forestry operations for the period of the plan, all whilst achieving the management objectives of the forest owner. (See table at the bottom of the page)

The forest has a mix of age ranges from the 1980s, through to the early 2000s and some later restocking in 2017 and 2019. The Forest Plan will propose a phased programme of clear felling and restocking of the mature forest coupes to keep this range of age diversity through the forest.

A large portion of the forest area is located on Clawbelly Hill, 234m above sea level (asl) and the most southern area of the forest is situated at 60m asl where the forest sits adjacent to the B793. The surrounding landscape is characterised by its rugged granite hills, forested hills, and mixture of improved pasture and areas of rough grazing.

There are a small number of recorded historic features within the forest plan area and in proximity to the forest.

Further information regarding the forest can be viewed on Isles 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