



Laggish Forest Plan & FSC Certification Scoping

Introduction:

Laggish lies 5 km to the south of the village of Barrhill in South Ayrshire. The IACS registered extent of the property covers an area of 153.74 hectares. Laggish Forest is comprised of predominantly commercial conifer with some smaller sections of broadleaves, all planted in 1987. The only exception is 3.67 Ha of Sitka in the north west of the property planted in 2017. The plantation is primarily Sitka spruce with very minor numbers of any other conifers noted. Several blocks of mixed broadleaves make up a smaller component of the planted area which are situated along the edges of the main conifer crop.

Several areas of the coniferous woodland are now approaching commercial maturity. The creation of the forest plan will lay out the planned programme of felling and restocking for the woodlands to ensure the timely and economic extraction of marketable timber and maintenance of the productivity and diversity of the forests for the future.

The FP will provide a long term (10-20 years) strategic overview to ensure that the re-design and management of the forest meets the standards set out in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). This property may also elect to be managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and become a member of the Scottish Woodlands FSC Group Certification Scheme. The FP will encompass the majority of the landholding which will enable all management issues to be fully addressed.

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Management Objectives



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The Owners' objectives of management can be summarised as follows:

- To maximise the financial return to from the sustainable production of timber while adhering to the UK Forestry and UKWAS standards of woodland management.
- To consider the full impacts of commercial 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.

This will involve:

1. Maximising timber production and maintain the productivity of the forest
2. Diversifying the woodland composition and structure to benefit species and habitat diversity and improve/maintain forest resilience and landscape interests.
3. Considering and monitoring designated sites, species and habitats during strategic planning and operations.

