



Kilkerran Estate

Location:

Kilkerran Estate is located in the Girvan Valley, between Crosshill and Dailly, approximately 7km south of Maybole, South Ayrshire. The Estate woodlands occupy fragmented locations on both sides of the valley with many access points, however most of the woodlands can be accessed from the B741 Girvan to Maybole Road.

Site Summary

This traditional Estate extends to 474ha and dates back to the 17th Century. The estate exists within a Scottish lowland setting where mixed woodlands are typical amongst agricultural land. The majority of the commercial plantations were created in the mid to late 1900's, with smaller blocks of older mixed plantations and semi natural woodlands. Felling and restructuring of the estate woodlands has been ongoing since 2001. Around 122 ha of land is leased for commercial forestry purposes. These areas are outwith the control of Kilkerran Estate currently but will return to the Estates control when the leases end.

The surrounding land use is a mixture of forest plantations including new woodland creation, rough grazing and open agricultural land. The landscape comprises a number of hills, which transition between forestry and open hill ground down to good agricultural land in the bottom of the valley.

There are no ecological designations within or adjacent to the forest. One Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), the Lady Chapel, is present within the forest area. Future operations will establish a suitable buffer of open ground around this feature to protect it for the future. A number of locally registered features are also present within the forest and will be managed in line with Forest and Historic Environment guidance and provided with appropriate protections and buffer zones during operations. Several buildings within the estate are Listed properties, and the majority of the forested area south of the Water of Girvan falls within the Gardens and Designed Landscape area designated around the main house. Restructuring will seek to maintain and enhance the existing woodland shapes within this area.

The production of a Forest Plan for this woodland will continue a strategic overview of restructuring operations to ensure the management of the forest meets the standards set out in the UK Forest Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and progresses positively towards the management objectives.

Kilkerran is FSC certified under the Scottish Woodlands group scheme, gaining certification in June 2010. Certification is a commitment by the landowner to manage their forests and woodlands in a manner that is sustainable socially, ecologically and economically in compliance with UKWAS standards.

Key Issues to be Addressed

Feature	Mitigation
Timber Haulage	Consult with local roads authorities and inform neighbours prior to haulage.
Wildlife and Protected Species	Survey for wildlife before operations and implement appropriate buffer zones if any sensitive species are identified. Focus native broadleaved planting on Provisional Wildlife Sites.
Archaeology	Establish appropriate buffer zones at restocking. Get Scheduled Monument Consent before working near scheduled sites.
Landscape	Preserve specimen trees and maintain a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees across the woodland area. Utilise low-impact silvicultural systems where appropriate.



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Access	Access will continue to be available to the public in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (2005). Operations will aim to avoid disruption to access if possible. Where disruption is unavoidable for health and safety reasons closures or diversions will be signposted and for the minimum duration required to safely undertake works.
Invasive Species	Removal will be considered where practical and economically viable.
Ancient Woodland	Operations will aim to maintain or enhance the condition of areas of ancient woodland or plantations on ancient woodland sites.
Private Water Supplies	Locations of private water supplies have been identified and discussed with SEPA and SAC Environmental Health.

Management Objectives

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

- To maximise the financial return 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 maintaining 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.

