

25th February 2026

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Stakeholder Engagement Request – Barchain and Kirkennan Long Term Forest Plans

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowner to prepare a Forest Plan for Barchain Forest and Kirkennan Forest in Dumfries and Galloway. These Forest Plans will set out the management objectives for each woodland and outline proposed forestry operations, including felling and restocking, over the next 20 years. Both forests will be managed in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS).

As part of the plan preparation process, we are undertaking stakeholder engagement. We have provided information on the forest, including maps and identified constraints and key features. We would be grateful if you could review this information and provide any comments or observations that may assist in the development of the plans.

If you have a private water supply within close proximity to the forest, it is really important that we are aware of this and the water supply intake location and route to your house, in advance to ensure that none of the Long-Term Forest Plan proposals impact your water supply.

If you wish to provide comments, or have relevant information to share, please respond in writing or by email by **Wednesday 1st April 2026**. If this deadline presents any difficulty, please let us know in advance. In the absence of a response, we will assume that you have no comments to make.

All feedback received during this consultation will inform the preparation of the final Forest Plans and will be documented within the submission to Scottish Forestry for approval.

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect of the proposals, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Rowan Cunningham
Forest Planner

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Forest Summary – Barchain

Barchain Forest is located approximately 4.1 km south-west of Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway, in the south-west of Scotland. The forest sits on Marnoch Hill within the Coastal Uplands Landscape Character Area. The surrounding landscape forms a transition between the low-lying coastline and the higher Southern Upland Hills, characterised by gently rolling terrain with a mix of commercial forestry, rough grazing, pasture, small farms and scattered woodland.

The forest extends to 42.69 hectares and was originally planted in 1989. It has since been restructured under the previous Long Term Forest Plan to improve its layout and resilience. Barchain comprises a mixture of conifer and broadleaf species. The dominant conifers are Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and Norway spruce, with a small area of hybrid larch also present.

See Barchain Current Species Map & Barchain Forest Concept Map

Forest Management Objectives

1. Production of High-Quality Timber to Meet Market Demand
2. Achievement of Satisfactory Restocking
3. Control Deer to Allow Satisfactory Restocking
4. Restructure Woodlands to Diversify Woodland Composition and Structure and increase Forest Resilience

Key Issues

Feature	Opportunity
Ancient Woodland	The small areas of Ancient Woodland (of semi natural origin) within the forest provide an opportunity to restore and enhance the ancient woodland characteristics through long-term restructuring, the gradual removal of non-native species, and the promotion of natural woodland processes.
Historic Features	The presence of historic features within the forest provides an opportunity for the Forest Plan to propose protection measures to ensure that the features are not damaged during proposed operations and safeguard the features for the future.
Timber Transport	The B736 public road is categorised as a Consultation Timber Transport Route. This provides an opportunity to engage with Dumfries and Galloway Council’s Roads Department to agree appropriate arrangements for timber extraction following harvesting operations.
Watercourses	The main watercourse along the western boundary of the forest, together with the small ecological pond within the Forest Plan area, provides opportunities for restructuring to enhance water quality through the creation of open-ground buffer zones and the establishment of native broadleaf riparian corridors.
Protected Species	The LTFP provides an opportunity to manage forestry operations around the badger setts that are located within the forest, ensuring legal compliance while maintaining undisturbed habitat and undertaking protected species surveys prior to operations, thereby contributing to the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.
Core Paths	While there are no core paths within Barchain Forest, there is one located to the south-west of the forest. The connectivity of forest tracks and informal routes in proximity of Barchain presents an opportunity to improve public access and encourage wider use of the path network, consistent with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Forest Summary – Kirkennan

Kirkennan Forest is located approximately 2.85 km south-west of Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway, in the south-west of Scotland. It lies within the Coastal Uplands Landscape Character Area, where the landscape forms a transition between the low-lying coast and the higher Southern Upland Hills. The surrounding area is characterised by gently rolling hills with a mosaic of forestry, rough grazing, pasture, small farms and scattered woodland.

Kirkennan Forest extends to 108.98 hectares and comprises long-established woodland of both semi-natural and plantation origin. The earliest planting is believed to date back to the early 19th century. The forest has been actively managed over time, including under the previous Long Term Forest Plan. A substantial proportion of the woodland is broadleaf in character, with conifer species including Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and hybrid larch also present.

See Kirkennan Current Species Map & Kirkennan Forest Concept Map

Forest Management Objectives

1. Production of High-Quality Timber to Meet Market Demand
2. Achievement of Satisfactory Restocking
3. Control Deer to Allow Satisfactory Restocking
4. Restructure Woodlands to Diversify Woodland Composition and Structure and increase Forest Resilience

Key Issues

Feature	Opportunity
Ancient Woodland	A very large portion of the forest is made up of ancient woodland, of both seminatural origin and plantation origin. This provides a significant opportunity to restore and enhance ancient woodland characteristics through long-term restructuring, the gradual removal of non-native species, and the promotion of natural woodland processes.
Historic Features	The presence of the historic feature within the forest provides an opportunity for the Forest Plan to propose protection measures to ensure that the feature is not exposed to any damage during proposed operations and safeguard the features for the future.
Watercourses	The small watercourses and ponds located within the Forest Plan area provide an opportunity for restructuring to improve water quality through the introduction of open ground buffer zones and planting of native broadleaf riparian corridors.
Protected Species	The LTFP provides an opportunity to manage forestry operations around the badger setts that are located within the forest, ensuring legal compliance while maintaining undisturbed habitat and undertaking protected species surveys prior to operations, thereby contributing to the protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.
Core Paths	There are a number of core paths used by the public within the Forest Plan area. The LTFP provides an opportunity to enhance and improve core path connections throughout the forest, while ensuring that public access is maintained during forestry operations in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
National Scenic Area	A portion of the forest is located within the East Stowarty Coast National Scenic Area. This provides opportunity to enhance the landscape character and visual amenity through sensitive forest restructuring species diversification and the design of felling and restocking patterns that reflect the surrounding landscape.