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Suite 2, Gardrum House,  
Fenwick, East Ayrshire,  
KA3 6AS  
Scotland  
[www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk](http://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk)

## Stakeholder Engagement Request – Glenshimmeroch Long Term Forest Plan and UKWAS Certification

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowner to prepare a Forest Plan for Glenshimmeroch Forest in Dumfries and Galloway. This Forest Plan will set out the management objectives for the forest and outline proposed forestry operations, including felling and restocking, over the next 20 years. The forests will be managed in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).

As part of the plan preparation process, we are undertaking stakeholder engagement. We have previously completed an engagement exercise, but as it has been 2 years since this was completed, we are required to recomplete the exercise. 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 **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 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

Post: Rowan Cunningham, Suite 2, Gardrum House, Fenwick, East Ayrshire, KA3 6AS.  
Email: [rowan.cunningham@scottishwoodlands.co.uk](mailto:rowan.cunningham@scottishwoodlands.co.uk)



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Research Park,  
Riccarton  
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## Forest Summary – Glenshimmeroch

Glenshimmeroch Forest is located approximately 5.5km north-east of St John’s Town of Daily in Dumfries and Galloway in the south-west of Scotland. The forest is located on and surrounding Glenshimmeroch Hill within the ‘Foothills with Forest’ Landscape Character Area. The surrounding landscape is characterised by undulating foothills with extensive medium to large scale conifer plantations, interspersed with areas of open moorland and rough grazing. The landscape is that of a changing landscape, reflecting ongoing forest restructuring and the presence of wind farm development within the wider setting. The scale and pattern of commercial forestry form a dominant feature within the landscape context.

The forest plan area includes 355.63 hectares of forest. Original planting dates back to 1981. The forest has since been restructured under the previous Long Term Forest Plan to improve its layout and resilience. The forest comprises a mixture of conifer and broadleaf species. The dominant conifers are Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas Fir and Hybrid Larch, with areas of native broadleaf planting spread throughout the forest.

### Forest Management Objectives

- Manage the forest sustainably for timber production and carbon sequestration.
- To continue to develop and maintain the biodiversity of the forest with the objective of creating a sustainable, balanced, and dynamic ecosystem.
- To restructure the remaining existing even-aged plantation and create a range of diverse habitats through species and age structures.
- Control deer populations to ensure successful establishment of quality restock sites
- To protect sites of archaeological value

### Proposed Operations

The principal operations proposed within the Long Term Forest Plan period comprise the clear felling of existing standing timber, followed by restocking in areas subject to harvesting activities. These operations are intended to ensure the sustainable management and continuity of forest cover over the plan period. While the final application will include detailed specifications of these operations, it would be helpful at this stage to identify any constraints that may influence or impact the proposals.

### Key Issues

Feature	Opportunity
Historic Features	There are several recorded historic features located within the LTFP Area, including areas of Rig and Furrow. The LTFP provides an opportunity to assess and safeguard the features through appropriate restructuring, reducing the risk of damage during future forestry operations. In addition, clearfelling operations may present opportunities to identify and record any currently unrecorded historic features.
Timber Transport	The C51S public road is categorised as a ‘Severely Restricted 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 Black Water forms the main watercourse along the northern boundary of the forest. Along with tributaries of this burn and smaller streams draining into Lochinver Reservoir, this network of watercourses provides key opportunities for forest restructuring aimed at improving water quality and enhancing habitat connectivity. This can be achieved through the creation of open-ground buffer zones along riverbanks and streams, helping to reduce runoff and protect aquatic environments, alongside the establishment of native broadleaf riparian corridors.
Protected Species	The LTFP provides an opportunity to manage forestry operations around any protected species 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 Glenshimmeroch Forest, there is one located to the west of the forest – Southern Upland Way. The disconnection between the path and the Forest provides opportunity for improved public access and encourage wider use of the path network, consistent with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
Deadwood	The presence of existing deadwood within the forest, together with proposed clearfelling operations, provides an opportunity to further increase deadwood levels and enhance the forest’s overall biodiversity value by continuing to support a wider range of species and habitats.
Utilities	The presence of a private water supply and overhead powerlines provides an opportunity within the Long-Term Forest Plan to protect the water source serving the residential dwelling while also creating a network of open-ground buffer zones within the forest. These open areas can help safeguard infrastructure and water quality, while also forming corridors that facilitate wildlife movement throughout the forest.
Consented Development	Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm is a consented development proposed within the Forest Plan Area. Once the windfarm has been installed, this will reduce the net area available for productive conifer planting, however, it will extend the internal habitat network, improving biodiversity and connectivity within the forest block while diversifying the estate's long-term utility.