

4th September 2026

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Stakeholder Engagement Request – Laggan Woods Deer Park Long-Term Forest Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowner to prepare a Long-Term Forest Plan for Laggan Woods 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 accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and aims to balance environmental, economic, and social objectives while ensuring sustainable forest management.

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 **Friday 9th October 2026**. 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.

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
Forest Planner

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Laggan Woods - Information

Location

Laggan Woods is located approximately 8 km south-east of Dalbeattie in Dumfries and Galloway and lies within the Coastal Uplands Landscape Character Area (LCA). The woodland forms part of the wider landscape pattern of commercial forestry, farmland, and open upland habitats characteristic of the area.

Forest Species

Laggan Woods is predominantly stocked with commercial conifer species, with Sitka spruce forming the principal crop. Smaller areas of alternative conifers, including hybrid larch, and native broadleaves are also present. Broadleaved woodland is primarily located at lower elevations, particularly in the vicinity of the deer park entrance, where it enhances both biodiversity and landscape character.

Further detail on the current species composition of the forest can be viewed on the attached maps.

Forest Plan

Laggan Woods has previously been managed under an approved Long-Term Forest Plan that will expire on the 16th September 2026. The preparation of this new Forest Plan will enable the continued active management of the woodland. The plan provides an opportunity to further restructure the forests to create more sympathetic and resilient forest shapes, establish appropriate tree species for future rotations, and set out an outline of forestry operations over the plan period. These proposals will support the delivery of the forest owner's management objectives.

Forest Vision

The vision for Laggan Woods is to sustainably manage the forest and deer park as an integrated landholding, balancing productive timber management with the provision of an attractive and suitable landscape for the deer park. Through sustainable forest management, the woodland will continue to support commercial timber production, deer welfare, biodiversity enhancement and wider environmental benefits, creating a diverse and resilient landscape.

The purpose of this Long-Term Forest Plan is to set out management proposals for the next 20 years. Through phased forest restructuring and increased species diversity, the woodland will become more resilient to future challenges, enhance biodiversity, and provide a sustainable timber resource for the future, while complementing the management objectives of the deer park and the wider landscape. The species composition and forest design will be developed in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), ensuring the forest remains both commercially productive and environmentally sustainable.

Forest Management Objectives

	Objectives	Indicator of objective being met
1	COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION Production of Sustainable, High-Quality Timber to Meet Market Demand	Actual harvested volumes and breakout relate reasonably to production forecast.
2	DEER PARK Maintain a healthy and sustainable deer population that is compatible with successful woodland establishment	Deer populations remain at agreed levels and browsing impacts are maintained within acceptable thresholds to ensure successful restocking and habitat condition.

	Objectives	Indicator of objective being met
3	LOCAL HABITATS AND WILDLIFE Protect and enhance habitats for local wildlife and biodiversity.	Habitat features are retained and enhanced where possible, improving ecological diversity and connectivity.
4	FOREST DIVERSITY Restructure Woodlands to Diversify Woodland Composition and Structure and increase Forest Resilience	Species by planting year distribution changes as per Forest Plan proposals to spread age class across the forest.

Watercourses - There are a number of small watercourses that are located within the boundary of the forest. The forest plan provides opportunities for restructuring to enhance water quality through the creation of open-ground buffer zones and the expansion of native broadleaf riparian corridors.

Environmental Designations – The forest is located in proximity to the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SSSI and Ramsar Site, and the Solway Firth SAC and SPA. These internationally important sites support a range of coastal habitats, migratory fish and significant bird populations. Forest management operations will be undertaken in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard, with measures to protect water quality and prevent adverse impacts on the qualifying features and conservation objectives of these designated sites.

Native Woodland – The presence of native woodland within and adjacent to the forest, provides an opportunity to strengthen habitat connectivity and enhance ecological networks through sympathetic restructuring and the expansion of native species.

Historic Features – There a small number of historic features located within the Forest Plan area. The LTFP provides an opportunity to assess and safeguard the feature through appropriate restructuring, reducing the risk of damage during future forestry operations. In addition, clear-felling operations may present opportunities to identify and record any currently unrecorded historic features.