



## Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

FAO: Chris Ryde

21 April 2023

By email only: [southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot](mailto:southscotland.cons@forestry.gov.scot)

Dear Mr Ryde,

### **Case Ref: LMP 268: Auchenrodden, Lockerbie House and Brownmoor**

Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage is grateful to be included in the above Forestry Grant Scheme consultation.

We have studied the Auchenroddan & Brownmoor Land Management Plan 2023 – 2033 V1.1 and accompanying map figures, and consider that of the three sites under consideration, the proposals at Auchenroddan and Brownmoor will not affect historic gardens or designed landscapes. We therefore have no comments on these two sites.

The third site, Lockerbie House, although not included in Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland, is identified as a Non-Inventory Designed Landscape by Dumfries and Galloway Council: site reference MDG25652. It is therefore considered to be of regional significance, although no statement of significance for site MDG25652 is available online.

On the basis of available information, the area under the LMP is Long-Established woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO, i.e. shown as plantation woodland on maps dating since 1860 or Ordnance Survey first edition), and is of mixed broadleaf and conifer with areas of Sitka spruce and larch. We welcome the commitment to manage the woodland in such a way that removes plantation conifers, maintains the mixed species composition, maintains tree canopy through low impact silviculture, and seeks to protect veteran trees (sections 4.1.3 and 4.2.3 of the LPM).

In order to access the Lockerbie House LMP area, we note that the proposed haul road is to run through the policy woodlands. The LMP notes "*One small section of new road is planned within Lockerbie House wood, continuing on from the shared access track on neighbouring*

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*land which will itself require significant upgrading to bring it up to standard for timber vehicles"* (section 4.1.9). No further information is provided in relation to this proposal. There is therefore no information in the application documentation relating to surveys of potential veteran or ancient trees that may be associated with early phases of the designed landscape around the B listed 18<sup>th</sup> century house, nor are there details regarding required felling to enable access along this route, including at the egress onto the B723.

Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage have undertaken a brief review of online available information. There are trees marked in this area on 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps, including Ordnance Survey First Six-inch edition Dumfriesshire, Sheet XLII surveyed 1856, published 1862 (accessible at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/228777301>) that may indicate avenues or designed plantings, with potential specimens surviving. In addition, this map indicates that there is a watercourse through the woodland that various paths or drives crossed, such that historic bridge structures may survive. It is noted that this watercourse meanders through the LMP area, but has been straightened through the policy woodlands closer to the walled garden and house, indicating intentional design. A number of buildings and boundaries are marked on historic and current maps in this area, suggesting that consideration of potential risk to historic structures should be considered.

The woodland edge along the B723 is mature, and the existing track exit is overgrown, though just visible on currently available online 'street view' imagery. There is no indication on maps or online aerial imagery of built structures such as gateways or gate piers, although they may be present. Vegetation removal and felling are likely to be required here to provide sufficient turning space and visibility splay for haulage vehicles.

We are therefore concerned that features of the designed landscape may be at risk from the proposed upgraded and new track sections through Lockerbie House policy woodlands and at the egress onto the B723 affecting: ancient, veteran or significant trees; built structures within the woodland areas and along the policy boundary; the watercourse; and potential historic watercourse crossing structures (bridges).

We would therefore recommend that further information is provided relating to a survey of the proposed access route between the Lockerbie House LMP area and the B723, and the potential implications as a result of forest road proposals.

Yours sincerely,

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