

A considerable hectareage of wind damaged trees has been felled over the last five years. Sizeable areas of windblow remain to be cleared, potentially resulting in very large, sometimes adjacent coupes with possible impacts on age structure and future resilience.  
 Design coupe boundaries to take account of windblow. Landscape scale allows for relatively large coupe size, even in visually prominent areas. Address restructuring at restocking through use of buffers, coupe size and felling rotation length.

Timber production remains an important objective. Sitka spruce will continue to be the species of choice on many sites but alternative species will be considered where site conditions are suitable and timber objectives are met.

Sitka spruce makes up approximately 60% of the plan area and native broadleaves less than 5%  
 Proportions of spruce fall within acceptable guidelines but opportunities for planting alternative species will be taken where this fits in with objectives and site conditions are suitable. Seek opportunities to increase the area of native broadleaves, aiming to achieve a minimum of 5% of total woodland cover over the next 20 years.

Long eastern edge of plan area is visible from the Clyde and it's eastern shore. However landscape scale is large and the higher ground is largely hidden from the most important viewpoints.  
 Design felling coupes that are practical and appropriate to the landscape scale. Diversify visually prominent areas at restocking.

Large areas with relatively poor site conditions and soils, including deep peats.  
 Sitka spruce will remain the species of choice in many parts of the forest but environmental and visual diversity will be maintained by using open space and modifying planting boundaries. Follow up to date guidelines on restocking on deep peat and climate change.

Small areas of larch, often planted in prominent positions for landscape reasons. Larch is threatened by Ramorum disease and is currently not considered suitable for restocking.  
 Seek alternative species for use in areas where visual diversity is desirable.

Deer numbers impact on ability to establish "softer" species.  
 Implement appropriate control plan and consult with neighbours where applicable.

Red squirrels are common in certain parts of the plan area.  
 Where feasible, seek to retain and expand area of species favourable to red squirrels.

South western slopes overlook the Kyles of Bute and are visually prominent when viewed from Rothesay. Landscape broken by extensive farmland and policy woodlands associated with Castle Toward.  
 Diversify tree species to achieve integration with farmland and enhance policy woodlands where feasible.

Black grouse occur at woodland fringes.  
 Manage open ground and woodland fringes to improve habitat for this species.

Rhododendron occurs throughout the plan area, particularly in the south west.  
 Continue to monitor and control rhododendron in line with District strategy.

Heritage features include a scheduled ancient monument above Innellan.  
 Implement appropriate management plan to protect scheduled monument. Establish appropriate buffers around other known features, record and protect any newly identified features.

Several maintained trails in north east and south west. Waymarked cycle route follows forest road. Dominance of Sitka spruce can restrict visual diversity along these.  
 Maintain existing trails and seek opportunities to extend these and/or link to other routes if resources allow. Seek opportunities to enhance visual diversity.

It's important to keep people informed about management proposals affecting their local forests.

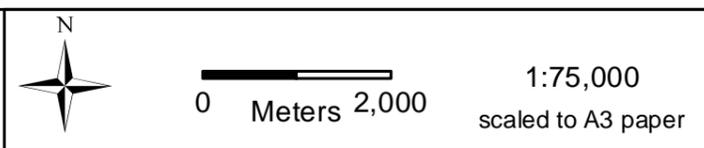
Forestry Commission forests are independently certified as being responsibly managed. We're regularly audited against the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard - the standard endorsed in the UK by the International Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

Keeping in touch with our stakeholders is an important part of the standard. We welcome comments on these proposals.



# Corlarach

## Analysis and Concept



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