



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Appendix: Land Management Plan Brief

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1. Key background information

Introduction

Glencoe forest is 137 ha in size. This management plan will replace and renew the previous Forest Design Plan, 030/503/258 which expired 31/03/2024 (originally dated from 2012).

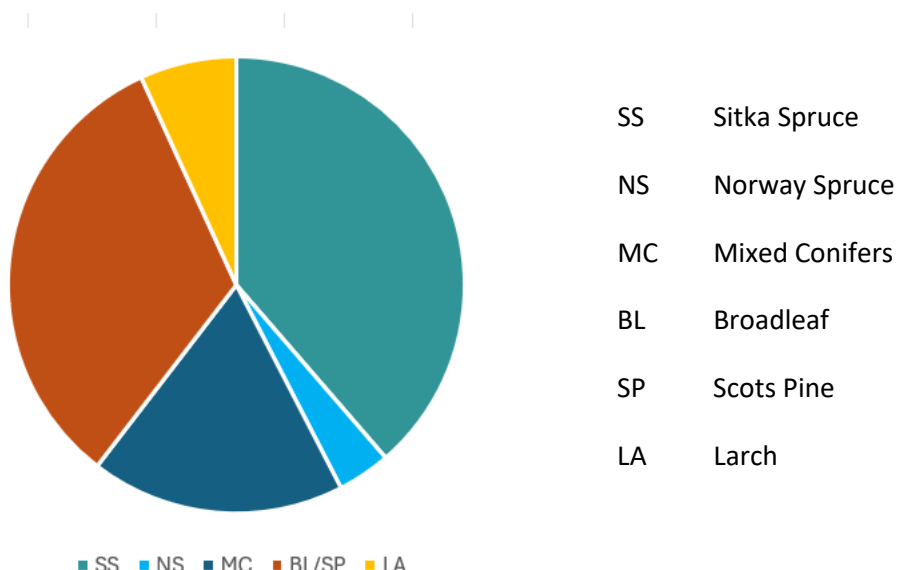
Silvicultural Potential

Elevation ranges from around 10 m above sea level closest to the loch, rising to 240 m on the slopes up to the Pap of Glencoe. The sites sit within the dramatic rugged landscape of Glencoe with often podzolic peaty gleys and iron-pans, as well as some areas of brown earths nearest the loch.

The prevailing cool & moist/wet climate is conducive to good conifer tree growth although the soils and exposed topography limits the choice of tree species suitable for continued productive conifer crops. Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer, with drier summers and wetter winters.

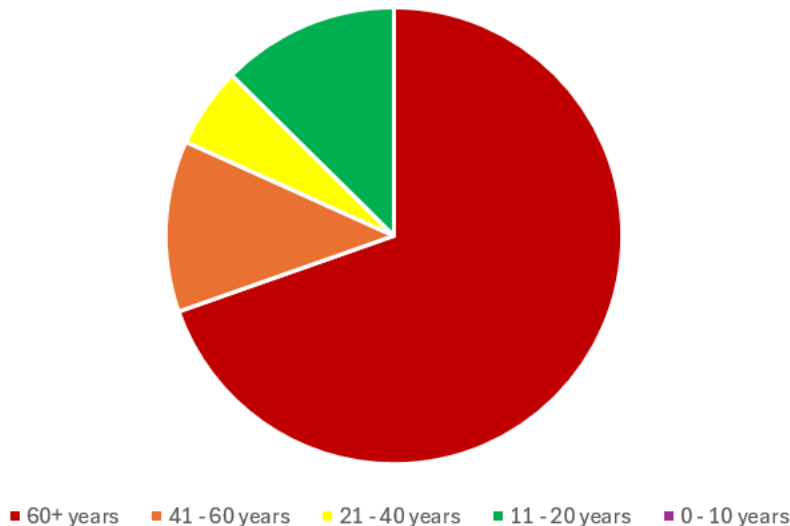
Existing crop

Approximately 65% of the site is under woodland cover, with a further 25% having been felled awaiting restocking and the remainder given over to open ground and water (Glencoe lochan). Sitka spruce accounts for 25% of the woodland. Broadleaves currently account for approximately 21% of the woodland area:



The current split in terms of age classes structure is approximately:

- 0% establishing crop (0-10 years)
- 9% thicket (11-20 years)
- 6% pole stage (21-40 years)
- 12% mature (41-60 years)
- 73% old forest (61+ years)



As Glencoe was initially established in the 1870s by Lord Strathcona around his estate house, and this Victorian heritage has remained a strong visitor attraction, the forest is predominantly mature especially around the central lochan.

There is a significant area under low impact silvicultural systems and this is unlikely to change going into the future. There is an element of larch within the forests which may present an issue for *Phytophthora ramorum* infections into the future.

Operational Access

The forest has a basic road network totaling almost 4 km, allowing economic operational access (i.e. 500 m or less) for most of the sites although some areas will need consideration for further roading for future LISS operations, for example removal of larch.

There is one access route for the main recreational site and two operational entrances to the north and south of the forest. One powerline runs through the plan area serving Kinlochleven.

Natural Environment

NatureScot has indicated the site supports European protected species, including bats and otters and that an otter survey will be required if any loch shore work is to be carried out.

There are three recorded woodland habitat types on the NWSS (native woodland survey of Scotland) – 8ha Upland Ashwoods, 1.5ha Upland Birchwoods, 14ha Native Pinewood.

There are no conservation designations across the site.

Landscape Designations include the Glencoe National Scenic Area and the landscape scale is quite large as the entry point to the dramatic backdrop of Glencoe itself.

The fringes of the forest are all within the Ancient Woodland Inventory and there are areas of Long Established woodland of Plantation Origin around the main entrance to the site.

There are currently no areas of Natural Reserve in the forest.

Invasive species are a big issue within the plan area, predominantly *R. ponticum* but also *Vaccinium* and *hypericum* centered around the lochan area.

There is no detailed soil survey for Glencoe to ascertain areas of peatland; most of the forest sits within the Coe River Drainage Area

Cultural Environment

There are no scheduled monuments within the plan area and there are a few recorded features along the southern boundary adjacent to the public road.

Community Use

A Right of Way runs close to the forest's boundary near the village and several of the formal recreation facilities are also designated as Core Paths. Glencoe is a very popular recreational area for both locals and visitors alike and provides an important facility including one of the Region's All Ability trails. An additional further two trails are provided and a large car parking area. Highland Council Local Development Plan identifies the forest as an area of National Importance.

Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries

Glencoe Lochan is a reservoir with dams that are regularly inspected by FLS; fishing has been undertaken under permit at various times over the years but is not current.

Wildlife

The primary herbivore species present are red and roe deer these and other damaging herbivore numbers are monitored and controlled by FLS Wildlife Ranger Staff.

2. Strategic drivers

To realise the vision as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, six priorities for action have been identified for implementation:

- Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed
- Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives
- Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets
- Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands
- Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands
- Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

To demonstrate how we will have regard to the Forestry Strategy in our work, we have identified the relevant Forestry Strategy 'Priorities for Action' in our Corporate Outcomes section of the FLS Corporate Plan 2019-2022. These, alongside key issues and site specific challenges, have informed our draft land management objectives, as illustrated in Table 12 below.

3. Draft land management plan objectives

- To continue to provide a positive and welcoming visitor experience
- To identify areas to focus controlling invasive species and avoiding their expansion: [target Gaultheria in particular for control and R.ponticum for containment](#)
- To positively manage policy woodlands around the lochan, acknowledging that shade tolerant mixtures can reduce the impact of invasive species in these areas
- To achieve a mixed conifer crop on higher productive land that fits into the landscape
- [To identify priority PAWS areas and establish a programme of enhancing and restoring priority areas eg targeted thinning around remnant areas as per UKWAS v5 recommendations](#)

4. Stakeholders

- Scottish Forestry
- NatureScot
- Highland Council
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Rural Payments and Inspection Division (SGRPID)
- Scottish Water (SW)
- Deer Management Group
- Historic Environment Scotland

- Visit Scotland
- Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council
- Glencoe and Glen Etive SCIO
- Scottish Southern Energy
- Forest Research
- Neighbours: Jahama Estates, National Trust Scotland
- Highland Raptor Study Group

Table 12 – Relationship between relevant corporate outcomes and the site specific draft LMP objectives

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
Outcome 1: Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments.	- Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource - Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland's timber processing sector Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy - Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions - Support the venison processing sector through our deer management	- Maintain Small Round Wood, pallet log and biomass production (maintained timber income, clearfell/restock) - Plan roads to access less accessible crops.

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland's national forests and land Scotland's national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.	- Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity - Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration - Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration - Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	- Continue to restore and maintain areas of bog habitat (reduce carbon release, diversify habitat) - Protect historical features - Mitigate against excessive water runoff in catchments. - Pre-emptively remove larch
Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland's national forests and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making.	- Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits - Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land - Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land - Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land	Provide for potential increased use by local community (proposed settlement expansion, fire risk)

Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP	Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP	Draft LMP Objectives
	Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities	