



Appendix: Land Management Plan Brief

Contents

1. Key Background Information
2. Strategic drivers
3. Draft Land Management Plan Objectives
4. Stakeholders

1. Key background information

Introduction

Glenmore land management plan (LMP) covers the Glenmore Farm land acquisition which was completed in 2012. It is 334 ha and lies just to the south of Kilmelford on the west coast, adjacent to the A816, in Argyll & Bute local authority.

There was a previously approved LMP, however, due to changing priorities and objectives within Scottish Government and Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), FLS wish to create a native forest and further protect priority habitats, removing the productive conifer aspect.

This management plan will replace and renew the previous Land Management Plan for Glenmore, approved 18-07-2018 (SF File Ref 033/901/849)

Silvicultural Potential

Elevation ranges from around 100m to 372m.

The geology of the site is dominated by schists typical of the area, Dalradian schists.

The landform can be divided between the steeper hill land and the lower area which forms part of a more extensive coastal ribbon of low rounded hills and knolls. The upper area is gullied, rising steadily with a hummocky appearance to the west and more steeply, with increasing heather-dominated vegetation to the east. The hill tops are typical of the undulating moorland with scattered lochans seen in the surrounding area. The very varied terrain has a strong influence on drainage and consequently soil type.

The soils comprise brown earths on the lower slopes, with areas of intergrade ironpan and peaty gleys on the upper slopes. Pockets of deeper peat occur on the very upper slopes which are proposed to be retained as open ground. Much of this peat has slumped down the slope, with some of the higher hill tops having thin peaty soils over rock outcrops.

Glenmore continentality is classed as low (4 to 5), since it is relatively close to the sea. The climatic region is described as 'warm, moist' on lower slopes and 'cool, wet' on upper slopes. Soils and exposure limit species choice on the upper and heathery areas. Native woodland habitat networks within and adjacent to the plan area are fragmentary, though important and present opportunities for improvement and connection through the plan. Native woodland growth suggests a variety of native species could be grown on the lower, more fertile, sheltered slopes. Species choice on the hill tops is much more restricted. Kames Forest is an adjoining commercial conifer plantation, primarily Sitka spruce of reasonable yield class, even to higher elevations. Some check is evident on flatter, peaty areas and more exposed hill tops. Larch has also been planted on lower drier banks.

Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer and wetter, with more extreme rainfall events and storms.

Existing crop

The area is currently only mainly open with 14 ha covered in mixed broadleaves (MBLs), 4% of the area.

The north-east corner contains a previous 20 hectare WGS3 (Woodland Grand Scheme) (Livestock exclusion annual premium) for native woodland and is fenced off. These wooded gullies are Atlantic bryophyte rich with oak and ash dominated woodland types and are recorded as Ancient Woodland sites. An SFGS (Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme) for native woodland covers the lower parts of Eas a Chapuill and Eas an t-Socaich gullies.

The northern boundary is marked by an ancient dyke/bank, planted with ash, which is a notable feature in the landscape. The eastern march is currently unfenced. The upper slopes are predominantly covered with heather on Blanket bog, with exposure increasing with altitude. The intermediate slopes have a mixture of Upland heathland and grassland. The lower slopes contain significant areas of bracken, plus some valuable wet flushes.

The lower area adjoining Kames Farm contains an area fenced off under an SFGS for native woodland regeneration in the north-west corner. The areas which is adjacent to Tullich Farm to the north and east, a private property overlooking Kames Bay and a short section to the south bordering Kames Forest is currently subject to an annual grazing let. Much of this area falls within the Land Capability for Agriculture classification code 4.2 'Mixed Agriculture' with grassland usage predominant. Much of the area is dominated by bracken.

Overhead powerlines run through both lots. Access is currently taken through two field gates off the A816 at the northern end of Lot 3, with rough grassy tracks receiving only occasional use. Horse-riding trails run through all three lots.

Operational Access

Glenmore is accessed off the A816 just north of Kames Bay. It currently has 310m of forest road built to provide access onto the site.

For establishing a native woodland and managing habitats/wildlife, a light vehicle track will be required across the site, as well as numerous ATV tracks.

Natural Environment

There are both priority habitats and ancient woodland sites (AWS) on the area. AWS are restricted to the gullies and coastal fringes, most retain remnant native woodland. Priority habitats present are Upland Heathland, Upland Birch, Acid Grassland, Blanket Bog and Oligotrophic Loch.

Glenmore is located within Argyll & Bute landscape designation of Knapdale/Melfort Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).

Glenmore doesn't form part of any national or local water supplies, but does have private water supply feeds from watercourses running through the area.

The top upper slopes (south eastern area) sits within the Knapdale Coastal SEPA Waterbody Catchment.

Cultural Environment

There are no scheduled monuments (SM) within the plan area and there are various undesignated features across the sites are recorded in the heritage layer such turf banks, cairns and stone structures, and the old ash tree bank.

Community Use

There are several routes across the area used by horse riders from the neighbouring farm. Occasional walkers access the site from the Dalavich road. There is also the "Ash Glen" running through the site, a local popular walk.

Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries

Loch a Chlachain, which has a short section bordering Glenmore, is used by Oban and Lorne Angling Club.

Kames fish farm also has a water intake feed via an underground pipeline from Eas an t-Socaich and Eas an Scriodain.

Wildlife

A variety of species use the area including ospreys, Golden eagles, Hen harriers, buzzards, Black and Red grouse, Tawny/Barn owls, Golden plover and otters. Red squirrels are present around Glenmore House (north of Glenmore). Ant hills occur in places associated with wild thyme, as

well as Wilson's filmy fern noted in some gullies. Marsh and Pearl-bordered fritillary are also present.

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

- Establish a native woodland.
- Restore and maintain priority habitat areas.
- Protect and enhance ancient woodland areas, providing linkages between.
- Protect historical features.
- Manage herbivore numbers to aid woodland establishment.

4. Stakeholders

Scottish Forestry (SF)

Argyll & Bute Council

Nature Scot (NS)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Kilmelford & Kilninver Community Council (KKCC)

Neighbours

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
<p>Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland’s national forests and land</p> <p>Scotland’s national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a native woodland ● Continue to restore and maintain areas of bog habitat (reduce carbon release, diversify habitat) ● Protect historical features ● Mitigate against excessive water runoff in catchments ● Effectively manage herbivore populations to aid woodland creation and establishment
<p>Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land ● Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide for potential increased use by local community

