



Appendix 1 Glenbranter Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
Public drop-in, Strachur Memorial Hall	19/06/2025	19/06/2025	<p>The following is a summary of the comments received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Concept Map talks about “productive management” in the Native Woodland Zone; what does this mean?2. Why do you plant Sitka spruce everywhere?3. Concern raised by one resident of Glenbranter village about the safety of large trees by the access road across from the village, and the risk of them falling and damaging the house(s).4. Limited access throughout Glenbranter Forest at the moment due to road and path closures.5. Positive feedback received about the recreational offering in Glenbranter and there was a strong impression given that this is a very important resource for the local community. Comments were especially about the “core” recreational area between Glenbranter village and Allt Robuic, as well as south along Loch Eck.6. Wild boar have been sighted in the Succothmore area (north side of Beinn Lagan) within the last 6 months.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. This means that if a stand of trees of native species are growing well and could be managed to produce a timber product, we may want to take that opportunity; it doesn’t mean planting productive conifer species.2. Because it grows well, is resistant to mammal browsing and can cope in a wide variety of site conditions. We will be seeking opportunities to diversify the tree species in the future forest where opportunities allow, e.g. in the Multipurpose Forestry Zone shown in the Concept Map.3. Advised that these will be monitored for safety, and at least one tree was felled for this reason in the last few years; it was agreed that wholesale felling of these large feature



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
				<p>trees might be detrimental to the overall “feel” of the place.</p> <p>4. Much of this is due to the widespread damage caused by the October 2023 storm. Advised that the new bridge at Allt Robuic will be installed later this year, depending on planning approval, which will open up the forest road network and at least the Waterfall Trail.</p> <p>5. This feedback underlines the importance of maintaining this area as a recreational site, and this plan will have to be sensitive to this when planning forest operations.</p> <p>6. This advice will be passed on to FLS’ wildlife management team.</p>
Argyll Fisheries / Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board	18/06/2025	18/06/2025	We have recently received notification of the proposed update to the Glenbranter Land Management Plan and would like to make comment on behalf of Argyll Fisheries Trust and Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (copied here). Both organisations have a strong interest in the health of fish habitats on Loch Eck and the wider River Eachaig catchment. We are pleased to see that native woodland is being prioritised along watercourses within the management plan.	The plan is still at an early stage but when more detailed proposals are ready, these will be published on our website and there will be further opportunity to comment. In general terms, regarding broadleaf planting in riparian areas, this would be carried out as



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>Given the importance of shading river channels against the challenges of climate change we would very much like to know more about how this aspect of the plan will be developed and implemented.</p> <p>We also would like to be informed in regard to the plans for road construction throughout the forest so we can work with FLS to mitigate for any potential problems caused by construction or renewal of forest roads. We have recorded specific issues from clear-fell harvesting operations in the Glen Massan tributary in this catchment and therefore keen to avoid additional pressures on the water environment that may be potentially created by forestry operations.</p> <p>Please let us know as and when you have more details on these aspects of the plan. We can make ourselves available for any site meetings to discuss specific issues.</p>	<p>part of the restocking operation that follows tree felling where appropriate or operationally practicable.</p>
SEPA	18/06/2025	19/06/2025	<p>Thank you for consulting SEPA regarding the above plan. SEPA would raise the following general comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan should maximise opportunities to improve the riparian zone along main rivers, burns and small tributaries to encourage native broadleaf planting, shrubs and pollinating plants and follow the principles as outlined in the Riverwoods Initiative and newly published UK Forestry Standard Practice Guide Creating and managing riparian woodlands Practice Guide. • Good site planning is required to identify and implement good forestry practice measures required to minimise the risk of environmental pollution. For contractors and 	<p>Riparian planting is carried out during restocking operations as per UKFS and is indicated on a broad-brush scale in the Concept map. Restocking proposals will be shown in the plan's Future Habitats map.</p> <p>This is considered at the operational stage including the contract pre-commencement process. UKFS and</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>site managers, reference should be made to the Forestry & Water Scotland “Know the Rules Booklet”, version 2, and it is imperative that all contractors follow the guidance therein.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to work commencement, the Forest Works Manager must produce a Water Management Plan or Diffuse Pollution Plan identifying all site sensitive features, waterbodies and high-risk areas on site. This Plan should be communicated at pre-commencement meetings to all parties working on site and agreed in advance with the landowner. • In accordance with the published Scottish Forestry "Cultivation of Upland Woodland Creation Sites - Applicants Guide, 2021", the Plan should incorporate low risk ground preparation techniques during new planting and/or restocking to minimise soil and carbon losses to air and water. Such techniques are vital on steep slopes with loose soils, rocky outcrops and near designated areas and/or sensitive receptors such as private or public drinking water supplies. In such cases, winching is preferred. • SEPA does not hold information on private water supplies [PWS]. It is therefore imperative to contact the Local Authority Environmental Health Department to establish whether they hold any details on any private water supplies in or around your Plan area. All efforts must be made to glean information from 	<p>Forst & Water Guidelines will be followed throughout all operations. Staff and operatives are familiar with this booklet.</p> <p>This relates to the operational stage of site planning. Constraints are identified and mapped in advance of all operations, and constraints maps are included in the suite of maps provided to and by the site operators as appropriate.</p> <p>FLS is committed to undertaking ground preparation operations that minimise soil disturbance, as appropriate to soil and site conditions.</p> <p>Private and public water supplies have been identified and ground truthed as part of the development of this plan, and PWS owners contacted and given the opportunity to comment. Site ground truthing</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>homeowners/occupiers on private water supply catchment areas, header tanks and transfer pipework via direct communication and effective consultation. If any of these are identified adjacent to or within the proposed area, then great care MUST be taken to protect water quality. All operations must strive to go beyond compliance with best practice to fully protect the entire supply catchment area. All PWS catchment areas must be afforded maximum protection from machinery damage, compaction and pollution from all forestry activities, including future operations. This also applies to water transfer pipework. The buffer distances highlighted in the Know the Rules Booklet are minimum distances and greater buffers must be allocated where catchment areas are extensive or boundaries unknown. Note that the given 50m buffer is a minimum buffer area and should be exceeded depending on how extensive the catchment area is or if there is any doubt as to the risk of an activity impacting a supply. In the absence of accurate data, catchment areas should be mapped by ground surveying, calculated via desktop assessment or both.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whilst the 50m minimum buffer is intended to afford protection to public and private water supplies, the forest planting design is crucial to protect these supplies from water quantity changes due to forest establishment. Whilst low density broadleaf trees are	<p>and liaison with PWS owners will also take place in advance of operations starting. UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines will be followed throughout all operations.</p> <p>Noted; suitable riparian areas for restocking will be identified post-harvesting during the detailed site planning stage. UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines will be followed.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>acceptable around the edges of the water supply catchment area boundary, dense conifers should be kept back from the source area due to the water scarcity pressures they may place upon the supply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any access tracks should ideally avoid areas of shallow and deep peat to avoid disturbance of peatland ecosystem which may also cause pollution. Prior to site departure, all machinery working within the forest block should be power washed as per good forestry practice to avoid the accidental spread of invasive species. This practice also allows machines to be inspected and repairs identified e.g. oil leaks, tyre wear and metal fatigue. Photographic record of this wash down should be kept for UKWAS audit inspection purposes. For thinning operations, the right machine for the right job is important in order to complete operations without causing pollution issues on site from using oversized machines. For some thinning compartments, brash and/or product availability is limited, therefore the ability to move product around the whole site to address pollution mitigation will form a key part of work planning and 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This is normal procedure, especially when harvesting Larch / <i>P. ramorum</i> sites.</p> <p>Site operation and supervision is carried out throughout the lifetime of an operation and monitors site conditions and quality as part of this. FLS has an internal Red-Amber-Green system to monitor and manage Health & Safety and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Thinning operations will only be carried out where ground conditions allow. All operations will be carried out in accordance with best practice</p>




Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>execution. In addition, having a selection of pipes on site will provide good back up for water management to separate clean water from dirty tracks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any fish barriers should be identified such as old impoundments or abandoned weir structures. This would also include old pipe bridges where multiple smooth lined pipes of small diameter covered with a concrete screed are used to cross watercourses. Any identified features should be flagged for upgrade or removal. If there are any old 'fords' these should be mapped, but only used as follows: intermittent quad bike crossings are acceptable, but heavy forestry machinery traversing watercourses is likely to cause pollution. SEPA would therefore expect to see log bridges as per good forestry practice or culverted water crossings in full compliance with the CAR Regulations car_a_practical_guide.pdf (sepa.org.uk) All drainage from quarries and/or borrow pits must be collected and treated via settlement sumps and natural soakaway areas. This potentially highly polluting effluent must not be allowed to drain directly from site to a watercourse. If the plan is to use tree guard tubes and/or vole guards, then these must come with a tree guard removal plan after the trees are established. Leaving the plastic-based tree/vole guards lying on the landscape is not 	<p>including UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>There are no known fords on the forest road network in Glenbranter Forest. All operations will be run in accordance with best practice including UKFS and Forest and Water Guidelines.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Treeshelter use and management will be in line with FLS internal waste management procedures.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>acceptable and is likely to constitute unauthorised waste disposal. In addition, SEPA fully supports using biodegradable alternatives rather than polypropylene. Biodegradable tree guards should be used in drinking water catchments to reduce the risk from microplastics. If this is not viable, we expect the tree guards to be removed and disposed of in accordance with Waste Management Regulations. It is likely in the future the sector will be expected to only use biodegradable tree guards within a Public Drinking Water catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste materials MUST be removed from site for reuse, recycling or disposal upon work completion. • Upon work completion, all log bridges MUST be uplifted as these are temporary structures and will become unstable and rot over time posing hydraulic issues to watercourses by impeding flows and fish passage. • Any ATV or quad bike tracks should ideally be built on top of existing brash tracks for stability and reduce the volume of excavated side drains. Any side drains MUST be accompanied by intermittent sumps with flows diverted onto vegetated soakaway areas as per Forest & Water Guidelines and not directly connected to watercourses. • For small watercourses <1m wide, any new planting and/or restocking MUST keep back from the riparian zone as per the buffer zone distances specified in the 'Know the Rules Booklet' version 2. 	<p>Waste management will be in line with FLS waste management procedures.</p> <p>ATV track requirements are designed at the operational planning stage to fulfil operational requirements and kept to a minimum, including using existing brash mats. Forest and Water Guidelines are followed throughout all operations. Watercourses are identified in the site planning of restock sites, with buffers applied and marked out on</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber stacked at roadside MUST be uplifted in a timely fashion otherwise it is deemed to be waste. Standing Guidance links are attached for reference.  <p>20250618_Glenbranter LMP.pdf</p>	<p>site following Forest & Water Guidelines. Noted.</p>
SSEN	18/06/2025	18/06/2025	<p>Thank you for including SSEN in this consultation. I have attached a copy of our Forestry Works Notification form, which could be added to any future tender documents etc and should be used to notify us of works/felling within striking distance of the network (e.g. timber harvesting). Overhead electricity cable height assessment - SSEN will enable any future FWM's to request guidance working beneath the network (e.g. road repairs/construction).</p> <p>Glenbranter There is an 11kV circuit which broadly follows the A815 corridor, which will have very little impact on your operations due to the distance between the forest edge and network. Any site-specific queries can be sent to forestryoutages@sse.com and we'll respond, but I have no concerns with any part of this draft LMP.</p>	<p>Advice noted and as per FLS' normal working practices, SSEN will be consulted in advance for any planned felling works in proximity to their assets. As described in the comments received, the majority of SSE assets around Glenbranter are already separated by some distance from the forest and restock proposals will enhance this separation.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			Your Native Woodland Zones and Multi-Purpose Forestry Zones will maintain this distance and therefore avoid any future constraints or issues.	
Argyll & Bute Council	18/06/2025	19/06/2025	The Glenbranter site lies within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Planning Authority area and therefore this is disregarded.	Noted.
Historic Environment Scotland	18/06/2025	30/06/2025	<p>Thank you for your consultation of 18 June 2025 regarding the above.</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland’s remit is to comment where proposals might impact upon the fabric and/or setting of nationally important designated historic features, such as Scheduled Monuments, Category A-Listed Buildings, World Heritage Sites, sites on the Inventories of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Historic Battlefields, and Historic Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>From the information provided, there do not appear to be any of the above designated sites within the area covered by the land management plan, or any impacts on the setting of such sites. We therefore have no comments to make.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It should also be said that FLS holds information on heritage features on its landholding, which is kept up to date by FLS. This was cross referred with information from WoSAS’ website in the preparation of this plan. WoSAS were contacted but no response was received.</p>
Scottish Water	18/06/2025	17/07/2025	<p>Thanks for notifying Scottish Water.</p> <p>Glenbranter Forest LMP – Loch Eck drinking water catchment – SW Assets in area: Distribution main</p> <p>Please find our response below and list of precautions attached.</p>	It is recognised that the whole of Glenbranter Forest lies within the drinking water catchment (DWPA) of Loch Eck. This information is held in FLS’ geospatial database and will be highlighted in operational level planning documents.



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>Because the Glenbranter LMP lies within a drinking water catchment then we would have to be notified prior to any forestry operational activities and civil engineering works (new road construction, existing road upgrades etc) taking place within this area, including planned start and completion dates. The notification should be submitted 3 months in advance of any activities taking place on-site to protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk. Please contact the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC) Diversions Team at hauc.diversions@scottishwater.co.uk for information on SW assets and infrastructure and how these should be protected. If you have any further questions, then please get in touch.</p> <p>Drinking Water Protected Areas - Glenbranter Forest LMP A review of our records indicates that the site boundary falls partly within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Loch Eck supplies Loch Eck Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water we should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number 0800 0778 778.</p>	<p>The advice and precautions provided by Scottish Water are noted. Scottish Water will be advised in advance of operations in Glenbranter Forest and their advice will be followed, in addition to Forest & Water Guidelines.</p>





Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>The proposed Glenbranter Land Management Plan (LMP) lies partially within the Loch Eck catchment which supplies the Loch Eck WRZ. The proposal includes forestry activities across a large area. The impacted area represents 22.65% of the total catchment area however the area is already forested and any changes will have little impact on the yield for this WRZ. Therefore, this is a low-risk development with regards to water resources. We should be notified of any pollution incidents impacting the water course as a result of the works. Catchment boundaries derived at this map scale can be subject to uncertainty and ground-truthing may be required to confirm whether borderline activities are within or outside the catchment. Activity should not direct flow out of the catchment.</p> <p>It is crucial that robust environmental protection measures, which account for all seasonal weather variations are consistently implemented. Ground disturbance should be minimised, and appropriate mitigations must be in place to manage any site run off and to ensure there are no hydrocarbon leaks or spills that could enter water courses. In addition to meeting the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and Forests and Water Guidelines, we would request that the “Guidance on Forestry Activities Near SW Assets” is taken into account. Scottish Water have also produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please</p>	



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.</p> <p>The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation and anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions.</p> <p>Scottish Water Assets</p> <p>A review of our records indicates that there are Scottish Water assets in the area. There are distribution mains within both Glenbranter and Strathlachlan Forests Land Management Plans.</p> <p>All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice. All of Scottish Water's processes, standards and policies in relation to dealing with asset conflicts must be complied with.</p> <p>In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC) at Hauc.diversions@scottishwater.co.uk. All detailed design proposals relating to the protection of Scottish Water's assets should be submitted to the HAUC for review and</p>	



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>written acceptance. Works should not take place on site without prior written acceptance by Scottish Water. Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. The list of precautions for assets details protection measures to be taken if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. The document/s and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm. It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Annex 1.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Guidance.pdf </div> </div>	
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park	04/06/2025	18/07/2025	<p>Thank you for consulting with LLTNPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We broadly welcome the distillation of ideas and the concept presented for consultation. Our comments below are intended to assist in refining these ideas and concepts. Access along the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way should be maintained at all times, setting up suitable temporary diversions if necessary to facilitate harvesting and infrastructure work. Planned operations 	Please see next section below for comments relating to access. Forestry operations affecting access are managed by Public Access



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>close, adjacent to or on the recreational routes should be publicised well in advance and appropriate warning signage installed. Inclusion of diverse conifers, native broadleaves and open ground along the recreational corridors will enhance the visitor experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We strongly encourage there to be a written commitment and methodology in the LMP to engage with communities ahead of planned operations to make them aware of potential disruption, provide contact details and for FLS to constructively engage with legitimate concerns expressed ahead of or during operations. • The development of a core timber production area is accepted, however this designation should not preclude the inclusion of native woodland habitat corridors and/or the use of alternative conifers. The latter will be of particular importance to maintain a network for the red squirrels. The LLTNP Trees and Woodland Strategy (TWS) has a <i>'guiding principle, when productive conifer forests are restructured, a robust and sustainable woodland habitat network should be designed both within the individual holding and across the wider landscape'</i>. Restoration of PAWS and connection between them and with/between ancient woodland 	<p>Management Plans, which includes communications and diversions. The proposed restocking in this plan intends to diversify the species mix in the forest and over time this will be experienced by recreational users of the forest.</p> <p>FLS send updates to Community Councils with information of upcoming and ongoing operations, and when recreational routes are affected a Public Access Management Plan is drawn up, as above.</p> <p>The zones of the Concept Map used for the consultation is intentionally "broad-brush", and the annotations on the map have tried to express that there are no hard and fast boundaries between them. Once more detailed felling and restock plans are devised, our Environment team will be assessing this for potential impacts on Red Squirrel populations and providing advice accordingly.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>sites should be pursued, using riparian planting as one of the main means of connection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The restructuring of the forest should specifically address the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of the NP. The TWS Landscape Capacity Study and Landscape Toolkit are useful resources to guide the redesign of the forest. Whilst the study and the toolkit are designed for woodland creation, they do work as good proxies for restructuring. The SNH report on the SLQs of LLTNP should be referred to. Whether using the toolkit or not, an analysis of how the redesign contributes to and enhances the SLQ (and vice versa) should be included in the LMP. The restructuring of the woodland should address the upper edges of the forests, designing to achieve a graduation between forest and open hill. This may be achieved through feathered/fingered design and/or reduced planting density, and/or use of montane native broadleaf planting, as well as scalloping. 	<p>Noted; the felling and restocking plan will be assessed with advice from an FLS Landscape Architect who will provide expert advice on Landscape implications of the plan.</p> <p>Noted; in practice, this will be in restocking following clearfelling. See also comments from NatureScot, below. there has been some investigation of upland/ montane habitat expansion in FLS Central Region but this is still at an aspirational stage. Buffering upper margins is only likely on a coupe-by-coupe basis when restocking following clearfell, but can be considered. This will have to be balanced with the difficulties faced in achieving this successfully. Ongoing deer management should go some way to help.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="875 564 1503 655">• The LMP should include a non-public appendix raptor mitigation plan. This should set out the specific mitigation for specific locations for specific species. <li data-bbox="875 991 1503 1145">• Similarly, a red squirrel mitigation plan should be included in the LMP, as well as for other protected species. The inclusion of these plans at LMP stage instead of operational stage is critical and has been a significant topic of concern with the Strathyre SLaRP. <li data-bbox="875 1155 1503 1310">• The concept map refers to ‘management’ of INNS, however eradication should be pursued. A clear approach with time-frame to tackling Sitka regeneration on open ground habitats should be set out. 	<p data-bbox="1563 523 1968 1329">FLS Environment team hold detailed geospatial information on protected species in and around the forest, and this is kept up to date with monitoring activities throughout the year. They also liaise closely with the Raptor Study Group. A Biodiversity Action Plan is held for the forest which describes all of these features. Detailed mitigation plans are worked out at the operation planning (“work planning”) stage and our Environment team advises on these. As noted above, our Environment team will be assessing the felling and restock proposals for this plan in terms of red squirrel population carrying capacity, both numerically and geospatially, and the advice received from them will help shape the finalised version of this plan. Also as above, detailed mitigation plans are developed at the operational planning stage, including squirrel licences.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park (Access Team)	04/06/2025	21/07/2025	<p>Glenbranter FLS Land Management Plan 2025-2035 consultation</p> <p>Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority Access Team comments</p> <p>General</p> <p>The LLTNPA Access Team has commented on a number of forest land management plans in the last 24 months including Loch Katrine, Callander, Forth Mosses, Garadhban and East Loch Lomond. Through this process we are aware of the strategic focus for FLS on commercial timber production and the re-stocking of sites with native broadleaves. We recognise the pressures placed on the visitor management, recreation and public access arm of FLS and the more aspirational site-specific comments made here should be seen in that context.</p> <p>However, as with the other LMPs mentioned above, the absence of any strategy or detail for access and recreation other than maintain the status quo means that in 10 years time at the end of these Plans, public access will still be the same and the lack of ambition in the LMP for the Glenbranter area within the National Park is disappointing.</p> <p>As much as we fully support native broadleaf objectives, we think there are excellent opportunities being missed to embed public access alongside these land management practices. Otherwise, how, in the future when the native</p>	<p>Responsible access throughout the forest is possible and welcomed under SOAC. There are a number of promoted paths in the forest.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>broadleaved woodland has been significantly extended, will the public be able to access these areas and understand what has been achieved?</p> <p>We are aware that access and recreation is not a priority for the Land Management Plan process, but if not through LMPs, what other plans or strategies does FLS produce that would facilitate strategic consideration and development of public access across the forest estate?</p> <p>Glenbranter Recreation Facilities At a minimum, we would like to see a commitment to retain the recreation provision in Glenbranter for walking, mountain biking and equestrian access. Ideally, we would want to see commitment to recreational needs assessment and expanded or improved future provision.</p> <p>The LMP area includes a significant number of core paths.</p>	<p>Access and recreation is a key consideration in our plans, including how this interacts with the planned forestry operations outlined in the plan. It is correct to say that the LMP is not a recreation-specific strategic plan. FLS and LLTNP have regular meetings to discuss access on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>FLS will continue to maintain the existing visitor experience taking opportunities to improve it where possible. FLS welcome responsible public access in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Where trails are affected by forestry operations, appropriate closures will be implemented and, where possible, suitable diversions are provided to maintain access while ensuring public and operator safety. Access to key routes such as core paths and rights of way will be</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>The LMP includes FLS-promoted trails but does not show other designated core paths including the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way long distance route. As a landowner, FLS has a basic statutory responsibility under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to ensure that core paths and other routes by which the public exercise their access rights are not obstructed. As a national body, we would hope to see a positive approach towards protection and enhancement of access routes, and at the very least to see core paths included and considered within the LMP as an important public asset. <i>Can core paths be included in the GIS map overlay to ensure they are visible within the LMP?</i></p>	<p>maintained and restored as required after operations. Liaison with the Local Authority Access Officer will continue to be carried out as appropriate. FLS are open to discussions with stakeholders and communities to look at future opportunities to improve access where possible.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the “Glenbranter 2025-35 Features” map included in the consultation documents only highlighted the FLS promoted paths; the underlying OS map does show the Cowal Way, but this is obscured in places by other information. The maps accompanying the finalised plan will show all FLS and other Core Paths, including the Loch Lomond and Cowal Way. It should be noted that these are all mapped on FLS’ geodatabase and used in operational planning.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>The LMP notes significant storm damage to forest roads and other infrastructure. Climate change means an increased likelihood of more frequent and severe storm/rainfall events. <i>What consideration has been given to how to improve resilience of forest roads and recreational infrastructure (such as bridges) that the public rely on? Are you able to provide details on plans for re-opening currently closed/damaged trails?</i></p> <p>Deer Fencing and Maintaining Access</p>	<p>Following the October 2023 storm a lot of work has been undertaken in the area around Glenbranter to repair the damage done and improve future resilience. This includes significant road improvement works on west Loch Eck, and a new bridge to replace the old culvert crossing washed away at Allt Robuic (Ritual Grove). Since October 2023 the Waterfall Trail has been partially reopened, following the installation of a new footbridge. This route will be fully reopened once the Allt Robuic bridge has been installed. This will also allow the reopening of the west side of the Glenshellish Loop. Opportunities are being sought to reinstate other paths still damaged following the storm, including a cost effective replacement to the old concrete bridge at the south end of Glenshellish.</p> <p>Noted; all forestry operations, including fencing, harvesting and</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>General feedback to consider public access management where any deer fencing is being introduced or modified.</p> <p>Harvesting, restocking and other forest operations General feedback to consider public access management where any forest operations are being planned that may impact on core paths or any public access.</p>	<p>restocking, are planned and approved internally through our internal Work Planning process, into which our Visitor Services team contributes. This ensures that access remains a consideration for proposed fencing works, for example, and where diversions are required for reasons of health and safety, our Visitor Services team will draw up a Public Access Management Plan which includes public communications and diversions.</p>
NatureScot	18/06/2025	24/07/2025	<p>Thank you for consulting NatureScot on the Strathlachlan and Glenbranter Land Management Plans (LMPs). Our comments are as follows:</p> <p>Glenbranter Land Management Plan</p> <p>We are pleased to see planned connectivity of native woodland zones across the site, commitment to ongoing INNS management and the proposed conversion to native woodland after clear felling of conifers as noted on the concept map (native woodland zone). Retention of native woodland should take precedence over productive broadleaf</p>	<p>Comment about productive broadleaves noted. This refers to a comment on the concept map. This was intended to convey that while the principal objective of the Native Woodland Zone would be habitat, should there be particularly good stands of trees with good form that has a commercial value, we would not want rule this out. However, this would only be considered where other priorities e.g. PAWS restoration, habitat do not take</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>management; if applicable, design and harvesting of productive broadleaf stands should be undertaken in such a way as to avoid ongoing disruption of native habitat networks as continuity of canopy cover is particularly important for rainforest biodiversity, primarily woodland specialist species and those with slow dispersal rates (e.g. bryophytes and lichens). Any feasible opportunities to connect native woodland corridors with off-site native woodland should be explored to enhance temperate rainforest networks.</p> <p>The LMP area lies largely within the G/C1 golden eagle territory, although no nest sites have previously been recorded within disturbance distance of the LMP boundary. As noted for Strathlachlan LMP, measures should be in place to minimise disturbance and for sympathetic forest design enhancing prey communities and suitable foraging grounds where possible. It is understood that management will be further refined for the Open Habitat Zone but it is worth noting that there are records to the south of the LMP (towards Beinn Mhor) for the rare species ring ouzel (<i>Turdus torquatus</i>) which are likely to be vulnerable to encroachment of Sitka regeneration onto open habitat so this should be addressed over the lifetime of the commercial crop. A mixture of short turf (grassland sward height <10cm), flushes, bracken and heather mosaics provide optimal habitat for ouzel as well as berried trees and shrubs for late</p>	<p>precedence. Any such sites are likely to be small in size and would likely be restricted to thinning. All forestry operations are vetted internally through our Work Planning process, which includes consultation with our own Environment team.</p> <p>Re. connectivity with external landholding; there is limited native woodland on the boundary of the plan area at the moment, restricted mainly to the burn in Gleann Dubh (Balliemore) and the Leavanin Burn and River Cur around Beinn Lagan; our proposed Native Woodland Zone indicates our intention to maintain and expand the native woodland in these riparian zones on our landholding.</p> <p>Open habitats: the proposed restocking on the south Glenshellish area (on the northern slopes of Beinn Mhor) include a partially lowered treeline which should in some way help mitigate the</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			<p>summer feeding. We would encourage where possible having a longer margin of native broadleaves including summer berry producing species such as rowan particularly on the southern edges of the LMP to complement ring ouzel feeding opportunities and support prey communities for resident eagle/raptors. Where possible, interfaces between Sitka spruce and open ground throughout the wider LMP area should also be buffered by more diverse species mixtures/native broadleaves to provide higher quality transitional habitat; this could be of particular benefit where adjacent to high GET-scoring areas for enhanced eagle foraging opportunities (e.g. Beinn Lagan, Beinn Bheag).</p> <p>Operations within the LMP area, due to its hydrological connectivity to Loch Eck SSSI, should be conducted in such a way as to minimise siltation risk and runoff, as the area is known to be susceptible to significant runoff from heavy rains due to its topography. Both terrestrial (floodplain fen) and aquatic features are vulnerable to such inputs. We support the partial buffering of the SSSI at the Glenshellish section with the native broadleaf zone, although would prefer to see the whole buffer comprised of native woodland (non-productive) to avoid ongoing disturbance of soils near the SSSI during harvesting/restock operations and prevent seeding of any non-native conifer species. We would welcome any measures to improve the long-term resilience</p>	<p>encroachment of Sitka spruce regeneration on the upper slopes.</p> <p>Transitional habitats: there has been some investigation of upland/montane habitat expansion in FLS Central Region but to date this has been aspirational. Buffering upper margins is only likely on a coupe-by-coupe basis when restocking following clearfell, but can be considered. This will have to be balanced with the difficulties faced in achieving this successfully. Ongoing deer management should go some way to help.</p> <p>It is noted that the whole forest lies within the catchment of Loch Eck, which is a SSSI.</p>



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
			of this location in relation to extreme rainfall and landslip risk.	
West of Scotland Archaeological Service	18/06/2025		No response received	
CONFOR	18/06/2025		No response received	
Forest Research	18/06/2025		No response received	
Strachur Community Council	03/06/2025		No response received	
Kilmun Community Council	18/06/2025		No response received	
Local Councillors Gordon Blair, Yvonne McNeilly & William Sinclair	18/06/2025		No response received	
Glenmassan and Kilbridemore Estate	18/06/2025		No response received	
Invernoadan Hydro	18/06/2025		No response received	
Argyll & Bute Council – Traffic & Development	18/06/2025		No response received	
Argyll Timber Transport Group	18/06/2025		No response received	
Transport Scotland	18/06/2025		No response received	
The Loch Lomond and Cowal Way	18/06/2025		No response received	
Mountaineering Scotland	18/06/2025		No response received	
Argyll Raptor Study Group	18/06/2025		No response received	
RSPB	18/06/2025		No response received	



Consultee/Event	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Central Region Response
Scottish Rhododendron Society	18/06/2025		No response received	
Argyll Countryside Trust	18/06/2025		No response received	
Argyllshire Advertiser	03/06/2025		No response received	
Dunoon Observer and Argyllshire Standard	12/06/2025		No response received	