

Glen Urquhart 2026 Revision Land Management Plan Brief

Introduction

This brief gives an outline for the Land Management Plan (LMP) revision of the South Loch Ness forests and Land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS). In this brief the proposed vision and background will be outlined and the project timeline provided. The purpose of this brief is to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the revision process, the potential changes to management and have the ability to feed in to the process at an early stage.

This document is accompanied by 4 maps;

- Map 1 – Location
- Map 2 – Concept Map
- Map 3 – Draft Management Coupes (to be revised)
- Map 4 – Draft Future Habitats and Species (to be revised)
- Map 5- PAWS Map

1. Project scope

This LMP revision will result in the new plan that will run from 2026-2036. The new plan will realign with the any changes in strategy, policy and guidance implemented over the last decade. FLS will ensure the new plan is in line with [Scotland's Forestry Strategy](#) (2019-2029), [Forestry and Land Scotland's Corporate Plan](#) (2022-2025). It will be delivered in accordance with the [United Kingdom Forestry Standard](#) (UKFS) and the [United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard](#) (UKWAS).

The main outputs from the revision will be the felling and restocking proposals of which the old versions are shown in maps 3 and 4. We will also be reviewing our approach to the management of designated and environmentally valuable sites, tree health, invasive non-native species, civil engineering work and engagement with local communities. This to be updated through both internal and external consultation as well as desk and site based research.

The LMP process can be split up in four stages; Scoping, Draft, Consultation, Final plan submission. Currently the Glen Urquhart plan is in the Scoping stage. At this stage FLS is looking for input from stakeholders regarding their ambitions and plans relating to the National Forests and Land and any issues or opportunities.

Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) applications, community agreements, renewable agreements and leases will not be part of the LMP revision. These will be processed alongside the LMP revision and where necessary might influence one another.

2. Background

The Glen Urquhart Land Management Plan area is situated in Inverness-shire and covers a total of 2,680ha of largely mixed coniferous forest. The forests within the plan extend from Shenval in the West, along the A831 corridor, to near Drumnadrochit in the East. The forests are productive and their significance for bio-diversity can be improved. The plan area contains a significant element of woodlands designated as PAWS (Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites). Sitting within the catchments of the Rivers Enrick and Rivers Seanabhaile the forest plays a significant role in water management. The forests form a prominent feature of the local landscape, as a

backdrop to Loch Meiklie and the main tourist route to Glen Affric and Cannich the A831. There is a high recreation interest in localised areas around Drumnadrochit and the nationally recognised Great Glen Way and Affric Kintail Way pass through the plan area.

Glen Urquhart forest covers a total of 2,680 ha of which the details of which can be found below in Figure 1.

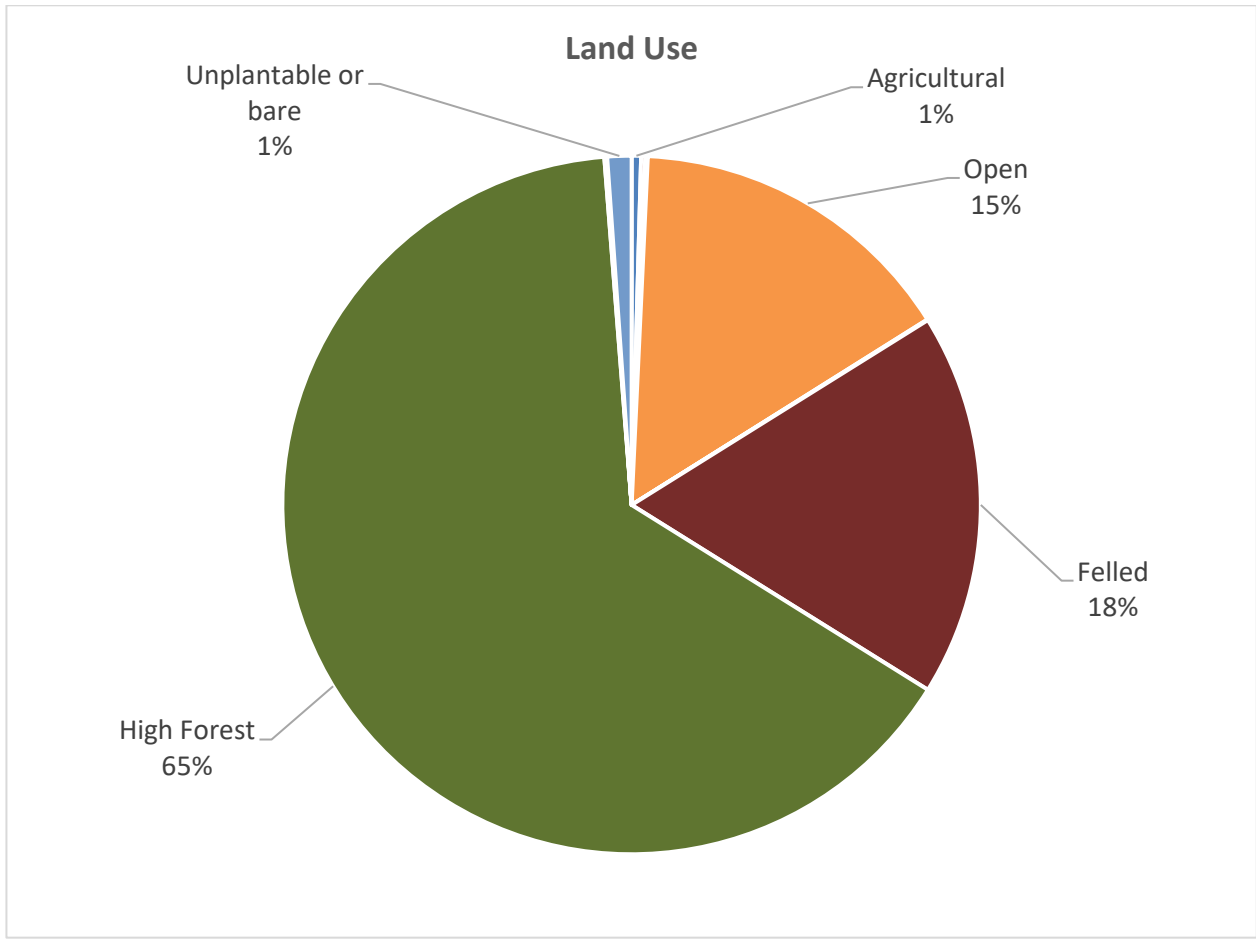


Figure 1: Current land use in the SLN LMP Area

This chart shows the current land uses within the Glen Urquhart LMP area. High forests makes up 1688.3 ha, open ground 372.5 Ha, 473.4 ha of felled ground, 97.7 ha of unplanted or bare ground, 13.4 ha of plantation intruded broadleaves and 11.7 Ha of Agricultural land. Any remaining land uses do not occupy any more than 10 ha.

There is a long history of forestry and tree cover at Glen Urquhart as can be seen on Map 2 – Key Features. The share of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and Long-Established woodlands of Plantation Origin (LEPO) on this map demonstrate areas of long established forest.

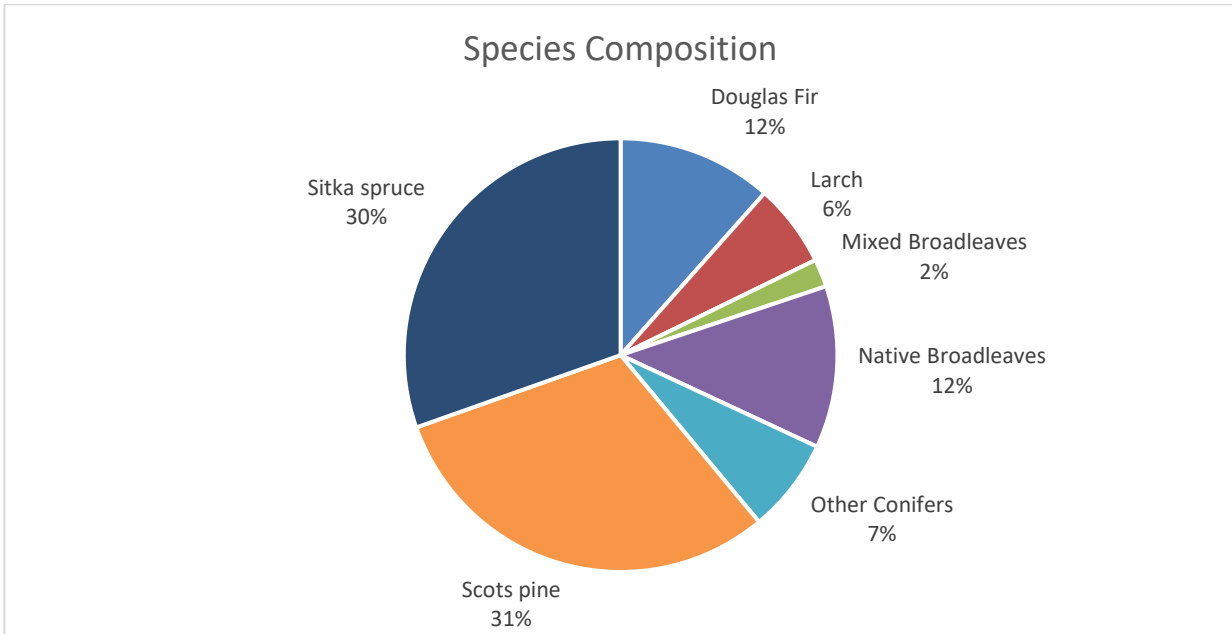


Figure 2: Current Species Composition in percentage of the forested land in the Glen Urquhart LMP Area

This chart shows the area of different tree species which are present across the LMP area by percentage. Sitka spruce at 30%, native broadleaves at 12% , Scots pine at 31%, other conifers 7%, larch 6%, Douglas fir 12%, mixed broadleaves 2% and other conifers 7%.

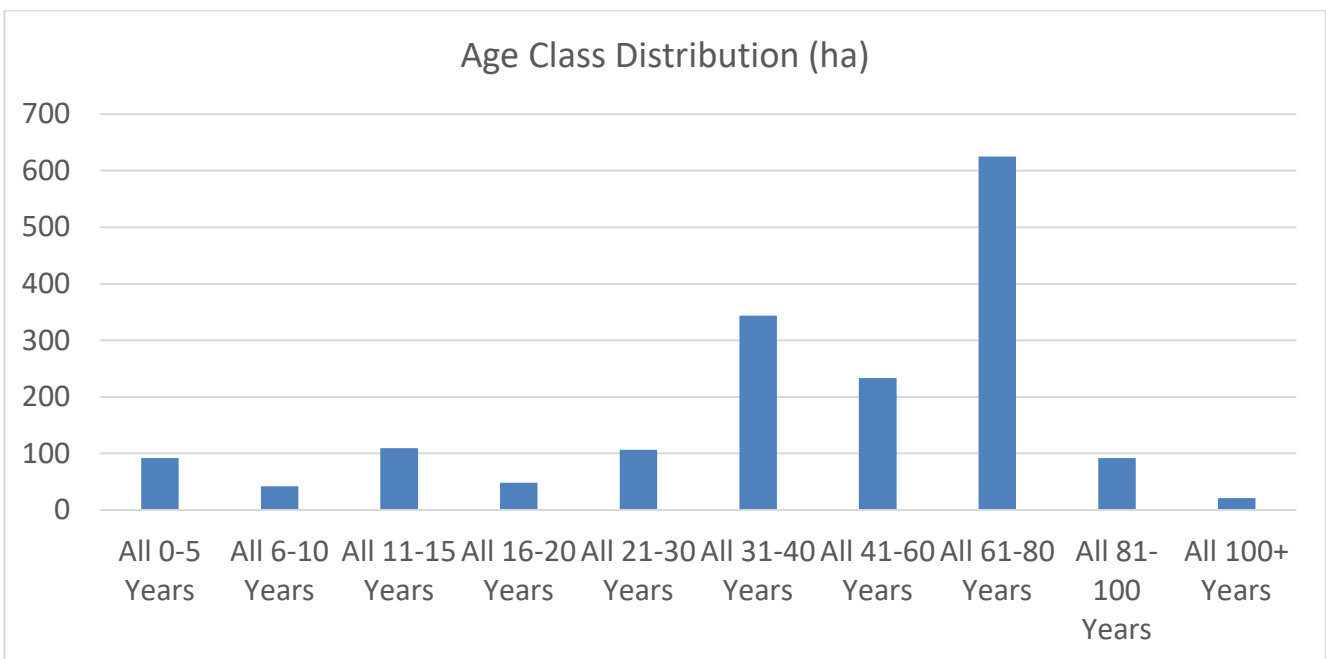


Figure 3: Age distribution per hectare for forested land in the South Loch Ness LMP area.

This chart shows the age class distribution across the LMP area in Ha. The largest group is 61-80 years with the 2nd largest 31- 40 years with the remainder of the categories remaining fairly similar.

The forests and lands managed by FLS within Glen Urquhart are actively used by a large variety of users. Most of the recreation is by local communities as the forests are accessible to villages. The local communities are engaged with the woodland through various community trusts and outdoor access groups.

There are no designated sites are in or in the sphere of influence of the Glen Urquhart LMP area:

In addition there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Glen Urquhart LMP area.

3. Draft Vision

10 Year vision

To create a more diverse forest with a greater range of species, progressively restoring native woodland while maintaining timber productivity. The forest designed and managed to contribute towards minimising flood risk to Drumnadrochit and to provide an attractive environment for walking, particularly along the Affric- Kintail Way. Greater opportunities provided for the local community to get involved in the forest and closer collaboration with neighbouring woodland owners.

50 Year vision

The biodiversity and quality of the native woodlands, open habitats and designated sites will have improved due to continuous effort of managing open space, removal of invasive non-native species and increased age and species diversity. The resilience of these ecologically valuable areas will have increased due to complementary management on adjacent ground. This will be balanced with the continued overall productivity of the woodland.

The forests within the Glen Urquhart LMP area will be actively used by the local communities for recreation; Walking, mountain biking, horse riding and other forms of recreation will be commonplace.

4. Key Issues and Opportunities

During the internal scoping a variety of issues and objectives have been identified. The most important ones are discussed in further detail below.

- Further diversify forest structure to limit impact of climate change and flooding.
- Extend native woodlands within the lower Glen to provide habitat connectivity with neighbours
- Work closely with local communities to minimise impact of timber operations and maintain local access for recreation.
- Work with neighbours to reduce deer numbers to allow regeneration and increased survival of restock species

5. Time Frame

What	When
Scoping	February 2026
Draft Plan Completion	April 2026
Consultation	May 2026
Review Draft	June 2026
Submission	June 2026