

1-Summary of proposed plan amendments

1-1 Proposed clearfell coupes:

Coupe:	Grid reference:	Maps:	Description:	Felling:		Restocking:	
08004	NS 1285 9787	Loch Eck North (East)	This coupe has app.15% larch and in previously unthinned stand on exposed slope. The larch is in intimate mixture mostly throughout. Shape allows for felling of all larch in area without leaving isolated spruces. Permission is to clearfell revised coupe shape in phase 2.	Hybrid larch Sitka spruce BL	1.28 ha 6.61 ha 0.45 ha	Sitka spruces BL	7.89 ha 0.45 ha
				Total	8.34 ha	Total	8.34 ha
08114	NS 1242 9761	Loch Eck North (East)	This revised coupe targets blocky larch in Long Term Retention coupe. Permission requested to change management type and clearfell larch and associated species in this area in Phase 2. BL will be retained.	Hybrid larch Sitka spruce Douglas firs BL and open ground	1.07 ha 0.70 ha 0.67 ha 0.67 ha	Mixed BL BL and open	2.44 ha 0.67ha
				Total	3.11 ha	Total	3.11 ha
08013	NS 1334 9668	Loch Eck North (East)	Currently approved for Ph.3 felling; to be split in half to include area with high larch percentage in ph2 and delay area with non-larch to ph 5 (08113). Part of coupe 08009 above has also been merged to area to be felled in ph2 for management purpose. Permission is to forward 4.04 ha to ph2	Japanese larch Sitka spruce Western hemlock	1.29 ha 2.53 ha 0.22 ha	Mixed conifers Mixed BL	2.34 ha 1.7 ha
				Total	4.04 ha	Total	4.04 ha

08115	NS 1409 9727	LochEck (Donoch Point)	This coupe is designed to incorporate larch from long term retention and allow extraction through existing forwarder track south east of the coupe avoiding crossing a steep burn. Permission is to change this coupe to a clearfell ph2 coupe.	Japanese larch Douglas Fir BL Open ground Total	1.3 ha 0.4 ha 0.9 ha 0.04 ha 2.64 ha	Norway spruce Mixed BL <i>Open ground</i> Total	0.9 ha 1.7 ha 0.04 ha 2.64 ha
08027	NS 1421 9523	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	Coupe shape has been redesigned to include the south part of original coupe 08025 to incorporate intimate mixture containing larch. Note that North of the coupe 08025 has been merged with 08022 for management purposes and is now in ph5 (08025 was a ph7 coupe). Seeking permission to forward new designed coupe 08027 to ph2 to as it contains larch in intimate mixture in unthinned stand	Mixed conifers no larch data estimated at 10% Total	13.6 ha 1.51 ha 15.11 ha	Sitka spruce Open ground	14.25 ha 0.86 ha 15.11 ha

08030	NS 1460 9485	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	Coupe has been reshaped to include adjacent long term retention coupe 08101 to 08030 which contains high percentage of larch and has been issued an SPHN . The larch is in an intimate mixture in unthinned stand. The new coupe shape is also designed to create a windfirm edge on the East side by excluding area on the other side of forest road which is included in coupe 08028 . Permission is sought to fell non larch species and change land management type of this section of 08101 and to move redesigned coupe to ph2	Sitka spruce Japanese larch Hybrid larch Birch Open ground Total	4.25 ha 0.19 ha 0.78 ha 0.14 ha 2.11ha 7.47 ha	Sitka spruce <i>Mixed BL</i> Open ground Total	4.78 ha 1.94 ha 0.75 ha 7.47 ha
08042	NS 1501 9313	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	New coupe shape designed to incorporate block of larch from adjacent coupe 08039 . Permission is to forward new designed coupe to ph2	Sitka spruce Hybrid Larch Japanese larch Open ground Total	10.61ha 1.5 ha 0.36 ha 0.87 ha 13.34 ha	Sitka spruce Mixed conifer Mixed BL Open ground Total	10.28a 2.32 ha 0.19 ha 0.55 ha 13.34 ha
08145	NS 1429 9186	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais)	08045 has been split into two coupes. New coupe 08145 contains larch planted in mosaic amongst DF and SS. New coupe shape is designed to facilitate winch operation and work around numerous watercourse. Stand was previously unthinned making targeting larch difficult. Permission is sought to fell non larch species and thus forward to ph2	Douglas firs Japanese larch Western Hemlock Total	8.99 ha 2.35 ha 1.56 ha 12.9 ha	Mixed BL Open ground Total	11.61 ha 1.29 ha 12.9 ha

08048 (part)	NS 1450 9146	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais)	New coupe shape incorporates east of coupe 08047 due to its large larch percentage with 08048 (already in ph2)for management purposes. It also incorporate 0.61 ha from adjacent Long-Term retention coupe 08101. Permission is sought to fell include this 2.34 ha to approved phase 2 coupe 08048 to fell non larch associated with SPHN	Norway spruce European larch Japanese larch (no sphn) Total	1.14 ha 1.12 ha 0.08 ha 2.34 ha	Mixed conifers Total	2.34 ha 2.34 ha
08055	NS 1443 9091	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais)	Coupe 08050 has been split into two section. 08055 contains large amount of larch in blocks. Coupe shape is designed for winch work to east section. Percentage of larch is estimated from aerial to be at app. 50%. Permission is sought to bring this new shape to ph2 to fell non larch associated with SPHN.	Norway spruce Japanese larch Total	4.23 ha 4.23 ha 8.46 ha	Sitka spruce Mixed conifers open ground Total	3.94 ha 3.61 ha 0.91 ha 8.46 ha
08122	NS 1235 9635	Loch Eck (North) West	New coupe shape including part of approved ph2 08062 (1.09 ha) and part of adjacent Long Term Retention 08102 (1.43 ha) due to its high larch content . The rest of 08062 will be delayed. Permission is sought to change land management type for this added 1.2 ha and forward to ph2	European larch Hybrid larch Norway spruce Open Ground and BL Total	0.61 ha 0.97 ha 0.74 ha 0.2 ha 2.52 ha	Mixed conifers Open ground and BL Total	2.32 ha 0.2 ha 2.52 ha
08068	NS 1344 9482	Loch Eck (North) West	Permission is sought to forward this coupe to phase 2 from phase 4 and fell non -larch associated with SPHN	Hybrid larch Sitka spruce Norway spruce Mixed BL	1.02 ha 2.42 ha 0.33 ha 0.26 ha	Mixed conifers Sitka spruce Mixed BL	1.49 ha 2.42 ha 0.26 ha

				Western Hemlock	0.14 ha	Total	4.23h
				Total	4.23 ha		
08112	NS 1338 9518	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	New coupe shapes have been designed to incorporate high larch percentage area and area of windblown larch. Permission to change land management type to clearfell and forward to ph2 to fell non larch associated with SPHN	Grand firs Japanese larch Open ground	0.36 ha 0.65 ha 0.03 ha	Mixed BL	1.04 ha
				Total	1.04 ha	Total	1.04 ha
08103	NS 1338 9518	Loch Eck (Donoch point)	New coupe shapes have been designed to fell larch under SPHN and area of windblown larch. Permission to change land management type to clearfell and forward to ph2 to fell non larch associated with SPHN	Grand firs Japanese larch Open ground	0.18 ha 0.4 ha 0.03 ha	Mixed BL	0.61 ha
				Total	0.61 ha	Total	0.61 ha

08072	NS 1353 9419	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	Permission is sought to bring ph 5 coupe to ph2 due to sphn and fell non larch in intimate mixture and blocks.	Sitka spruce Japanese larch	2.83 ha 2.31 ha	Sitka spruce Mixed conifers	1.2 ha 3.94 ha
				Total	5.14 ha	Total	5.14 ha
08099	NS 1374 9387	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	New coupe shape to include an area of coupe 08100 containing larch. Permission	Japanese larch Douglas firs	0.55 ha 0.37 ha	Mixed BL	
				Total		Total	0.92 ha

			is sought to bring this new coupe forward to ph2	Total	0.92 ha		0.92 ha
08110	NS 1352 9312	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	New coupe shape drawn from splitting original coupe 08100 and including 0.26 ha from coupe 08078 to focus on area with high larch percentage. Permission is sought to change land management type from irregular shelterwood to Clearfell and bring this new 3.79 ha coupe to ph2 to fell non-larch species associated with SPHN	Japanese larch Grand Firs Norway spruce Total	2.6 ha 0.64 ha 0.64 ha 3.79 ha	Mixed BL Total	3.79 ha 3.79 ha
08079	NS1343 9219	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais) West	New designed coupe shape comprises approved phase 1 08079 with an additional 0.75 ha of larch from adjacent coupe 08082. Permission is sought to move this additional 0.75 ha from phase 6 to phase 2.	Douglas firs Japanese larch Total	0.4 ha 0.35 ha 0.75 ha	Mixed Broadleaves Total	0.75 ha 0.75 ha
080182	NS 1328 9198	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais) West	New designed Clearfell coupe split from original LTR coupe 08162. Permission is sought to fell spruces associated with larch under SPHN to allow for winch "key holding" from road.	Larch Sitka spruce Total	0.2 ha 0.18 ha 0.38 ha	Mixed conifers Total	0.38 ha 0.38 ha
08187	NS 1309 9002	Loch Eck (Rubha Ban Frionais) West	New designed coupe shape comprising approved coupe 08086 and Long term retention (08102) designed to include areas of high larch percentage and facilitate restocking and management of BL. Permission is sought to change management type of 2.59 ha of long term retention, to forward to ph2 for felling of non-larch associated with SPHN	Sitka spruce Hybrid larch Mixed BL Total	1.85 ha 0.2 ha 0.54ha 2.59 ha	Mixed BL Total	2.59 ha 2.59 ha
Overall Total					99.72 ha	Includes 32.1 ha of larch under SPHN	

1-2 Proposed delay coupes:

Coupe:	Grid reference:	Maps:	Description:	Felling:	Area(ha)
08001	NS 1557 9339	Loch Eck North (East)	Currently approved for Ph.2 coupe. Permission to delay to phase 4 as coupe contain no larch	Sitka spruce total	10.68 10.68 ha
08113	NS 1346 9657	Loch Eck North (East)	Currently approved as ph 3 coupe. The coupe was reshaped to take out larch in North part that has been forwarded to ph2. The remaining 5.73 ha is to be delayed to phase 4	Sitka spruce Norway Spruce Noble firs Total	2.75 2.41 0.57 5.73 ha
08015	NS 1350 9642	Loch Eck North (East)	Currently approved phase 2 to be moved to phase 4 felling as contain no larch	Sitka spruce Birch Total	4.05 0.10 4.15 ha
08016	NS 1374 9617	Loch Eck North (East)	Permission to move ph2 coupe to a ph4 coupe as contain no larch	Birch Sitka spruce Total Total	2.44 10.01 12.45 ha

08034	NS 1470 9416	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	Permission is sought to delay this coupe to ph3 (from ph2) due to non-larch content	Sitka spruce Birch Open ground Total	12.9 0.9 0.04 13.84
08036	NS 1448 9366	Loch Eck (Donoch Point)	Permission is sought to delay this coupe to ph4 (from ph2) due to non-larch content	Sitka spruce Birch Total	12.2 0.36 12.56
08056	NS 1462 8896	Loch Eck (South)	New coupe shape has been created from splitting part of 08054 (ph2). This area does not contain larch. Permission to delay to ph 4	Norway spruce Sitka spruce Total	2.84 0.46 3.31
08160	NS 1452 8784	Loch Eck (South)	New coupe shape which split 08060 (ph2) and create non-larch coupe to be delayed to ph4. The coupe contained a small element of larch that can be keyholed from the forest road	Norway Spruce Sitka spruce Japanes larch Open ground Total	1.5 2.5 0.4 0.06 4.46
08062	NS 1249 9628	Loch Eck (North) West	Redesigned coupe shape. 08062 has been split into two. North of coupe has been added to new coupe 08122. Permission is sought to delay remaining area of non-larch to ph 4 instead of ph2.	Sitka spruce Birch Total	2.37 0.1 2.47
08063	NS 1251 9607	Loch Eck (North) West	Permission is sought to delay ph 3 coupe to ph4 due to no larch content .	Sitka spruce Total	9.58 9.58

08085	NS 1285 9145	Loch Eck (South) West	Original coupe in ph1. Permission to delay to ph4. Some larch present but will be ecoplug or FTW	Sitka spruce Mixed conifers Open ground Total	13.4 1.2 0.23 14.83
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Overall total=	94.06 ha
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2- Uncompleted phase 1 coupe to phase 2:

The following table shows the coupes that were approved in phase 1 in the original plan that have not yet been felled due to various constraints. Permission is sought to move these coupes to phase 2.

08019	NS 1412 9616	Loch Eck North East	Coupe contains some larch and windblow	Sitka spruce Windblow (inc larch) Total	1.9 ha 1 ha 2.9 ha	Sitka spruce Total	2.9 ha 2.9 ha
08092	NS 1359 8839	Loch Eck South (West)	Half of coupe felled but stopped due to operational and environmental constraints	Felled Japanese larch Douglas firs Sitka spruces	25.56 ha 9.48 ha 2.45 ha 15.05 ha	BL	53.9 ha

				BL Open ground	1.09 ha 0.27 ha		53.9 ha
				Total	28.34 ha(53.9 ha)	Total	
08083	NS 1319 9165	Loch Eck (Rhuba ban Frionais)	Coupe has been programmed for 23/24 and sold, but start delayed due to Environmental Constraints	Sitka spruces Norway spruces	3.59 ha 1.66 ha	Sitka spruces BL	1.04 ha 4.21 ha
				Total	5.25 ha	Total	5.25 ha
08079	NS 1356 9256	Loch Eck (Rhuba Ban Frionais)	Coupe has been programmed for 23/24 and awaiting major road resurfacing. However been delayed due to various constraints.	Douglas Fir Sitka Spruce Western Hemlock	2.87 ha 7.86 ha 1.37 ha	BL	12.1 ha
				Overall total	48.59 ha		

3- Areas of felling by phases

3-1 Current felling phases table:

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total Forest Plan Area:		1911.5		hectares								
Felling	Phase 1 (Jul 2020-25)	%	Phase 2 (Jul 2025-30)	%	Phase 3 (Jul 2030-2035)	%	Phase 4 (Jul 2035-40)	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	270	14	120	6	163	8.5	179	9	197.21	10.5	982.29	51

3-2 Proposed felling phases table

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total Forest Plan Area:		1911.5		hectares								
Felling	Phase 1 (Jul 2020-2025)	%	Phase 2 (Jul 2025-2030)	%	Phase 3 (Jul 2030-2035)	%	Phase 4 (Jul 2035-40)	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	120	6	251	13	148	8	166	9	179	9	1048	55

4- Long Term Retention and Irregular Shelterwood

The tables below show the difference in area of LTR and Irregular shelterwood.

4-1 Current LMP table

Current LMP	Area (ha)	Percentage of total area (%)
Long Term Retention	197.21	10.32
Irregular Shelterwood	45.04	2.36

4-2 Proposed Amendment table

Proposed amendment	Area (ha)	Percentage of total area (%)
Long Term Retention	178.96	9.36
Irregular Shelterwood	40.58	2.12

We are seeking to change 18.25 ha of LTR and 4.46 of irregular shelterwood to clearfell phase 2 with this amendment.

Note: Areas of Long -term retention will be reviewed during the LMP renewal period in 2030 and will likely be increased to offset the loss of LTR where applicable. The percentage on this table does not take into consideration clear fell areas previously under Long Term Retention or Minimal Intervention Management type, which falls under PAWS and will automatically designated as LTR or equivalent on renewed LMP(approximately 3.38 ha). Areas replanted with broadleaves and not currently under Paws will also falls within this management types.

5- Species composition per phases

Species composition	Area_ha_2024	Area_ha_2025 (end of phase 1)	Area_ha_2030 (end of phase 2)
Larch	89.5	56.3	7.5
Mixed conifers	924.6	943.3	923.5
Mixed broadleaves	166.9	181.4	250
Total	1181	1181	1181

Please note that the 7.5 ha of larch remaining in the species composition table correspond to areas of larch that are present near roadside or scattered in mixture we do not consider asking an amendment for, due to their low larch content. In this area, only larch under SPHN will be either felled by chainsaw or ecoplugs where appropriate if/when issued a SPHN.

6- Constraints table

All coupes have the following common sensitivities:

6-1 Landscape:

The Forest block is within National Park and therefore has landscape sensitivity attached to it. Most of the coupes on the East side of the block are visible from Ben Mhor, a fairly popular hill for visitors and local residents alike. There will be limited visibility from that view point on the West side of the block. However several parking and view points on the A815 offer views onto the West side of the block and more likely seen by most visitors in the area. From there the view into the East side of the block are however limited from the public road network.

Felling could however offers the opportunity to create transient new viewpoints to users travelling the forest roads.

6-2 SSSI, Drinking Water Reservoir and soil protection:

Most coupes have watercourses leading directly or indirectly to Loch Eck SSSI and Dunoon Drinking Water Reservoir. When felling and restocking is taking place, the UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines and SW List of Precautions for Drinking Water and Asset will be strictly adhered to.

Timber extraction will normally avoid crossing burns or main drains, but where necessary, each crossing will be piped and bridges. As agreed during consultation, site meetings with SEPA, Scottish Water, Forest work manager and FLS will be organised to discuss operational aspects of specific coupes to ensure that good practices have been followed particularly on steep ground and to the satisfaction of all parties.

All felling and restocking will comply with the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) 2011 General Binding Rules with respect to appropriate buffer strips between any new planting and the watercourses and water bodies. Site assessment prior to forest operations will identify recommended actions to meet these requirements. Particular care will be exercised in the vicinity of private water supplies. The locations of these will be shown in constraints maps at the operational planning stage.

FLS has currently adopted a new guidance, "FLS precautionary approach to protecting water supply", which is aimed at taking appropriate steps at planning and pre-operational stage to detect and protect PWS as well as identifying water catchment pre-operation. Appendix 1 below describes the location of these water supplies and process undertaken to identify their location.

As well as following recommended guidance detailed above, tracks will be built where required to minimise erosion and impact on soils. These tracks will be subject to SOR which will detail any particular impacts of the designed tracks and mitigations that will be put in place to reduce these.

6-3 Heritage Features:

Unknown features have been flagged by West of Scotland Archaeological Service during the consultation stage. These features have been added to our data based for future reference where we have no record.

Prior to each operation, desk based analysis using data from official and internal sources are undertaken as a first step. This is followed by a primary site assessment with our trained Environmental Ranger to identify any potential features. These are then flagged to the operational team to ensure that appropriate mitigations based on the FLS practice guidance around archaeology are in place (ie : use of appropriate buffer around the features during felling and restocking).

New discovered features will be recorded onto our data based and reported to West of Scotland Archaeological Service or Heritage Scotland depending on their importance.

6-4 Wildlife constraints:

Loch Eck Forest Block is known to be a favourable place for several species including raptors, squirrels and pine martin. Wildlife constraints will be assessed during site visit assessment to ensure that appropriate mitigations are considered at pre-operational stage.

Constraints on the amended coupes are detailed below:

Coupe:	Grid reference	Constraints	Mitigations/ Opportunity
08004	NS 1285 9787	Squirrel strongholds/steep ground	Timing of operation outside breeding season, FWM to apply for license to disturbed any known dreys/ nests/ sets if required.
08114	NS 1242 9761	PAWS, partially in ASNW /Squirrels, bird of preys/steep ground in places/Core path	Opportunity to restock with Native species/ As above/ Consultation with council and core path managed with banksman or redirected path
08013	NS 1334 9668	Undesignated Heritage features/Squirrels/Bird of preys	FLS practice guidance around archeology will be followed/ As above
08115	NS 1409 9727	OHPL/ Partially in PAWS/ Squirrels strongholds	Consultation with SSEN required pre-ops As above
08027	NS 1421 9523	OHPL/ UGPL/ squirrels/ Bird of preys	Consultation with SSEN/ as above
08030	NS 1460 9485	Partially in PAWS	Opportunity for restocking with BL
08042	NS 1501 9319	Squirrels strongholds/ Bird of preys	As above
08145	NS 1429 9186	Steep ground/ Squirrels/ Bird of preys/ houses below/water supply/ OHPL/ Undesignated Heritage feature	Winch work/ as above/ Consultation with neighbours pre-ops/ follow guidance Forestry near PWS and redirect water pipeline if required/ consultation with SSEN pre-ops/ FLS practice guidance around archaeology to be practiced

08048	NS 1450 9146	Squirrels/ bird of prey/ steepground	As above/ winch work
08055	NS 1443 9091	Squirrels/ bird of prey/ steepground	As above/ winch work
08122	NS 1235 9635	Undesignated heritage features/steepground/ Core path/ bird of preys/ squirrel strongholds	FLS practice guidance around archaeology/winch work/ Core path to be redirected or managed with banksman where appropriate- Consultation with Council where required/ as above
08068	NS 1344 9482	Steep ground/ ASNW/ core path/ squirrels strongholds	Winch/ Opportunity to restore with native BL/ Consultation with council and manage with banksman/ as above
08112	NS 1338 9518	Core path/ steepground / squirrels strongholds	Consultation with Council/ winch/ as above
08103	NS 1338 9518	As above	As above
08072	NS 1353 9419	Undesignated archeology/ squirrels strongholds	FLS guidance on work around archeology to be followed/ as above
08099	NS 1374 9387	Core path/ squirrels strongholds	Consultation with council and manage with banksman/ as above
08110	NS 1352 9312	Undesignated archeology/ bird of preys/ squirrels strongholds	As above/as above
08079	NS 1343 9219	Core path/ squirrels strongholds	As above
08182	NS 13279200	Partially in Paws/ squirrels strongholds	Opportunity to restore with Native BL/ as above
08187	NS 1307 8999	Steep ground/Bird of prey/ squirrel/badger	Winch work/as above

08019	NS 1412 9616	OHPL/ PAWS	Consultation with SSEN pre-ops/ Opportunity to restore with native broadleaves
08092	NS 1359 8839	ANSW/ Bird of preys	Opportunity to restore with BL/ as above
08083	NS 1319 9165	Bird of preys	As above
08079	NS 1356 9256	Bird of preys / squirrels strongholds	As above

7- Restocking amendment of Bernice coupes

Coupe	Current restock proposal		Proposed restock	
08092 (Ph2 felling amendment)	Sitka spruce	33 ha	Native Broadleaves	54 ha
	Broadleaves	21 ha		
	Total	54 ha		
08088	Sitka spruce	6.95 ha	Native broadleaves	6.95 ha
	Total	6.95 ha		
08091	Sitka spruce	4.87 ha	Native broadleaves	7 ha
	Broadleaves	2.13 ha		
	Total	7 ha		
08089	Sitka spruce	12.6 ha	Native broadleaves	16.49 ha
	Broadleaves	3.89 ha		
	Total	16.49 ha		