

Tay Forest District

Laggan

Forest Design Plan



Approval date:

Plan Reference No:

Plan Approval Date:

Plan Expiry Date:

FOREST ENTERPRISE - Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals in Scotland

Forest Enterprise - Property

Forest District:	TAY FOREST DISTRICT
Woodland or property name:	Laggan
Nearest town, village or locality:	Comrie
OS Grid reference:	NN770230
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Perth & Kinross Council

Areas for approval

	Conifer	Broadleaf
Clear felling	18.2	
Restocking	7.7	10.5

1. I apply for Forest Design Plan approval~~*/amendment approval*~~ for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.
2. * I apply for an opinion under the terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 for roads as detailed in my application.
3. I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FC staff on the 10th October 2013
4. I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
5. I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the FC agreed must be included.
6. I confirm that agreement has been reached with all of the stakeholders over the content of the design plan and that there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. Copies of consultee endorsements of the plan are attached.
7. I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed Signed
 Forest District Manager Conservator

District Conservancy.....

Date **Date of Approval**

Date approval ends:.....

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Summary of Proposals:

Timber production

Laggan forest has suffered from significant windblow since the last thinning operation in 2011 and there is still some clearance work to complete. It is anticipated that further windblow will occur in the short term which will influence a small steady harvesting programme. The limited availability of stacking space along with the restrictions on haulage only allow for approximately 1000 tonnes of production in any one operation.

The future plan is for a gradual move to increased broadleaved woodland with Scots Pine but still including a significant area of productive Norway Spruce. The conifer element will ensure continued timber production and provide a vital food source for the thriving red squirrel population. Management of Laggan will be CCF in the long term however due to crop instability this will be achieved by a programme of clearfell and restocking in the first phase of the plan. Restocking will be by a mixture of natural regeneration and planting.

The important native woodland, part of the Upper Strath Earn Oakwoods SAC, will be protected and encouraged to expand.

Heritage features will be maintained and protected following FC Practice Guide "Identifying the historic environment in Scotland's forests and woodlands" (2010) and again ensuring operator awareness during any forest works.

Recreation

The woods are heavily used by local walkers, notably as part of the Comrie Millennium Walks system which as well as passing through the wood, allows views into the wood from the opposite bank of the Lednock. Comrie Croft, a nearby independent hostel has developed a network of mountain bike routes in the area and is keen to engage with FCS regarding a designated area for mountain bikes within the forest.

Landscape

From the west Laggan is visible from the public road to Loch Lednock Reservoir and also from the popular Melville Monument. From the south it provides views in the wider landscape, notably from the wildlife centre at Auchingarrich.

1.0 Introduction:

1.1 Setting and context

Laggan Forest covers 62 ha of mixed conifer and broadleaved woodland. It lies on the eastern outskirts of the village of Comrie and on the north side of the busy A85.

The conifer woodland was established in the late 1950s and is predominantly Norway Spruce with other species that include Scots Pine, Larch, Douglas and Noble Fir. Although thinned recently Laggan has missed earlier thinning windows with windblow a consequence of the most recent harvesting operations.

The broadleaved area is predominately Sessile Oak with some Hazel, Birch and Wych Elm on the steeper slopes. It is an area of Long-established Woodland of Plantation Origin with a continuous history of woodland cover dating back to at least 1750. It was formerly managed for coppice wood and was last cut around 1920. The subsequent conifer under-planting was removed in 2004. The importance of this area of the forest is recognised with both SSSI and SAC designations.

The Highland Boundary Fault runs through the wood and is visible in a number of places.

1.2 History of plan

The previous plan for Laggan was approved in 2007 and showed a gradual conversion to CCF in the predominantly NS conifer area. Management within SSSI Oak woodland was limited to some coppice trials.

Until recently there have been no applications to Forestry Commission Scotland for design plan amendments however with the recent windblow significant changes will be required to the current plan.

2.0 Analysis of previous plan

2.1 Analysis from previous plan

Under the previous forest plan there was an emphasis on thinning within the conifer crop to continue a steady conversion to CCF. However, the most recent thinning operation carried out in 2010/11 has been followed by extensive windblow in the Norway Spruce and Douglas Fir areas. This has initiated a different approach to achieving CCF which will involve a clearfell and restock programme in the early phases of the plan.

Harvesting operations are challenging in Laggan Forest due to limitations with the access road and availability of stacking space for timber. This lends towards smaller and more frequent operations.

3.0 Background Description

3.1 Physical site factors

3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

The land here is gently rolling, with the highest points in the forest not exceeding 155m. The soils are predominantly surface water gleys, peaty gleys and some podzols.

Laggan is geologically divided by the Highland boundary fault which runs approximately east west through the lower parts of the forest. To the north the underlying rocks are predominantly of Dalradian (metamorphic) origin while to the south of the fault they are characterised by lower Devonian rocks (Old Red Sandstone).

3.1.2 Water

The River Lednock forms the western boundary of Laggan and feeds into the River Earn at Comrie. Migratory salmon and sea trout can be found in the river but are stopped at the Deils Cauldron. There is also a population of brown trout in the Lednock.

The Milton burn forms the eastern boundary of the forest and also feeds into the River Earn. A number of private residences take water from the Milton including Comrie Golf Club.

3.1.3 Climate

The average annual rainfall for Laggan is 825ml. The climate is cool and wet.

3.1.4 Services

Several overhead power-lines pass along the boundaries of Laggan. There is a private burial ground within the forest.

3.2 Biodiversity and environmental designations

The Upper Stathearn Oakwoods SAC (and underlying SSSI) form part of the western edge of this forest.

3.3 The existing forest

3.3.1 Age structure, species and yield class

There have been recorded plantings at Laggan since the late 1800's when the oak woodland was established. Conifer planting took place in 1957/58 creating an even aged softwood plantation.

In terms of vulnerability to wind damage, a DAMS score of 4 applies to all of Laggan.

Laggan age structure, species, yield class and wind throw hazard classification

Species	Planting Year	Yield Class	Wind hazard
DF	1957 to 1958	10 to 12	4
HL	1958	8	4
JL	1957	2 to 10	4
NF	1958	16	4
NS	1957 to 1958	2 to 16	4
SP	1957 to 1958	8	4
MB	1957 to 1958	2	4
BI	1957 to 1958	2	4
OK	1883	2	4

3.3.2 Access

The main access into Laggan is from the A82 on the eastern edge of Comrie. This is the only vehicle access into the block and is shared by a number of private residences.

There is popular pedestrian access via Comrie Millennium Walks system which link with a network of internal footpaths including the right of way to Broom Hill. Footpaths are generally in good condition and well maintained although there have been issues with blown trees blocking access in recent years.

3.3.3 LISS potential

The new plan provides more opportunities for LISS with an increased area of native broadleaved woodland. Areas of existing Scots Pine will be retained.

3.4 Landscape and land use

3.4.1 Landscape character and value

Although there is more phased felling proposed in the new plan, the landscape impact from the viewpoints is minimal. This is helped by a recently established native woodland scheme which joins the block at its northern boundary. The move towards increased broadleaved woodland will improve the long term landscape of Laggan.

The internal landscape will be improved by opening up of rocky features adjacent to footpaths. Some minor felling has been identified to open a popular viewpoint which boasts panoramic views over Comrie to the south and also to the west.

The western part of Laggan falls within the River Earn NSA.

3.4.2 Visibility

The lower slopes of Laggan can be seen from the A85 on the west side of Comrie and from the minor road to Loch Lednock Reservoir. It is also visible in the wider landscape from the wildlife centre at Auchingarroch.

3.4.3 Neighbouring land use

To the north, east and west Laggan is surrounded by privately owned conifer and broadleaved woodland. In the Strathearn valley to the south agricultural land predominates.

3.5 Social factors

3.5.1 Recreation

Laggan Wood stands prominently on slopes to the north of Comrie. Its close proximity to the town and good path links make it a popular destination for locals and tourists. A network of natural and improved paths and tracks provide access to fine view points, and form part of more extensive routes such as the Glen Lednock Circular walk and core path links east towards Gilmerton. Many of these routes are ancient Rights of Way and due to their continuing use some have been subsequently designated as core paths.

The most popular route into the forest is the Comrie Millennium Footpath which starts at the east end of the town by the recycling point car park and follows an attractive well surfaced easy access path alongside the Lednock Burn to connect with the south west corner of the woodland.

One of the key destinations is a rock out crop with seating which sports panoramic views of the Strathearn valley. It is worthy of note that views are becoming increasingly restricted due to trees growing up from below the cliffs. Further interest is added by the old graveyard which is a popular destination for passing walkers.

Mountain biking has become an increasingly popular activity in Laggan Wood especially since the development of purpose built trails at Comrie Croft which has stimulated interest in the sport. Laggan wood is a more accessible local venue for the younger generation of mountain bikers resident in Comrie, who use the existing trail network and smaller 'natural' routes throughout the forest. In order to minimise conflict between different user groups the mountain biking community has requested that an area of the forest be highlighted and recognised as a mountain bike preferred area.

3.5.2 Community

Comrie has a high number of retired residents who share an interest and energy in improving and developing facilities available to the local community. In conjunction with the Community Council two groups have taken a lead in improving Laggan Wood and developing proposals for its closer integration with the desires of its residents.

In 2000 the Comrie Millennium Footpath Association was set up with the aim of improving access into and through Laggan wood. Two projects were successfully funded and delivered which saw improvements to a popular desire line alongside the Lednock Burn upgrading this to 'accessible for all' standard, and the

construction of a new track connecting the western and eastern parts of the woodland. The Millennium Footpath Association has further aspirations to improve the quality of paths up to the view point.

Comrie Development Trust have registered an interest in Laggan wood for the supply of timber for a proposed wood fuel plant at Cultybragan which is a community owned ex military base. They are also interested in using the woods as a base for a forest based skills training programme.

3.5.3 Heritage

The SAC (SSSI), on the eastern side of the gorge of the River Lednock, is mostly acid-type sessile oak with some ash, hazel and Wych elm on the steeper slopes. It is an area of Long-established Woodland of Plantation Origin with a continuous history of woodland cover dating back to at least 1750. It was formerly managed for coppice wood and was last cut around 1920. The subsequent conifer under-planting was removed in 2004.

The Highland Boundary Fault runs through the wood and is visible in a number of places.

3.6 Statutory requirements and key external policies

Upper Strath Earn Oakwoods SAC EC Site Code UK0030125, Comrie Woods SSSI NN72/3.

River Earn National Scenic Area (western end overlooking River Lednock)

This woodland forms part of "the thin red line"; part of Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project. In this location efforts to stop the further spread north of grey squirrels are being made.

4.0 Analysis and Concept

4.1 Analysis

Factor	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept Development
Windthrow and future stability of conifer area.	Gradual change to increased area of broadleaved woodland. Next rotation of conifers managed as CCF.	Access for timber haulage is constrained by tight bends on the forest road. Lack of stacking space restricts size of harvesting operations.	Plan for frequent but small scale harvesting operations of approximately 1000m ³ .
Broadleaved Woodland	Extend the broadleaved woodland east from the SSSI. Link with riparian zone on the west side of the Milton Burn. Link to neighbouring native woodland scheme	Regeneration of exotic conifers in broadleaved area. Protection from deer and sheep trespass. Level of management required.	Achieve by both planting and natural regeneration. Planting stock will be from a suitable provenance and grown in the UK
Comrie Millennium Walks and extended network of footpaths	Improve visitor experience.	Existing standing conifer crop Sporadic windblow trees.	Opening up of natural features associated with Highland Boundary fault. Removal of conifers to open up old viewpoint.
Bio-diversity of woodland	Improve value for fauna and flora Eg red squirrels & raptors, plants associated with native woodland.	Limited harvesting opportunities.	Increased use of native broadleaves. Trial coppicing in SSSI. Restock matching SP & NS to appropriate soil types. Manage as CCF. Management of standing and fallen deadwood.

4.2 Concept Development

From the issues identified in analysis of Laggan, see enclosed maps. The following concepts for the plan review have been identified and summarised below;

Plan for frequent and small scale harvesting operations to support aspirations for CCF.

Improve internal landscape of the forest by opening up natural features and viewpoints.

Increase the area of native woodland in order to expand the biodiversity interest currently focused on the Upper Strath Earn Oakwoods.

Maintain areas of mature Norway Spruce and Scots Pine that will favour red squirrels.

5.0 Management Proposals

5.1 Forest stand management

5.1.1 Clear felling

The sequence for clearfelling is depicted in the enclosed Management Map which shows coupes scheduled for felling on account of their susceptibility to windthrow. This reflects a combination of late thinning, water logged soils, access restrictions and potential for windthrow in much of the forest.

Coupe	Fell Phase	Volume	Felling Ha	Restock area	Restock
50169	Phase 1		8.7	7.0	MB 70%, SP 10%, Open 20%
50007	Phase 1		3.2	3.2	NS 80%, SP 20%
50219	Phase 1		1.8	1.7	NS 60%, SP 20% MB 20%

5.1.2 Thinning

The remaining conifer crop which is predominately Norway Spruce and Douglas Fir must now be considered beyond beneficial thinning. Future thinning operations would most likely result in windblow on a large scale. However, there are still opportunities in the remaining pockets of Scots Pine and the area of broadleaves between the forest road and the Milton Burn.

5.1.3 LISS

Laggan is well suited to the practise of continuous cover forestry although in much of the remaining Norway Spruce and Douglas Fir this will be practised after felling of the current crop which is generally unsuitable for late conversion. The recent thinning and subsequent windblow has created a number of pockets of open ground where future regeneration of Norway Spruce and birch is anticipated. This will be monitored closely and consideration will be given to supplementary planting if required. The remaining areas of Scots Pine will be managed carefully to encourage natural regeneration.

In the Oak woodland some small scale operations will help to increase the structural diversity and conservation value of the site. This area will therefore be recorded as minimum intervention.

5.2 Future habitats and species

The significant shift towards native broadleaved species will increase the biodiversity value of this woodland and will greatly enhance our efforts to protect the SAC.

There has been an ongoing programme of monitoring and removal of non native species from the SSSI and this will be continued in the future.

The proposed planting of Norway spruce will provide foraging habitat that is suitable for red squirrels (and not grey squirrels).

5.3 Restructuring

The proposed forest will be much more “naturalistic”. There will be significantly improved internal views and visitor experience. An emphasis on native species and regeneration will improve the biodiversity value of the forest.

5.4 Future management

A programme of clearfelling will introduce the benefits of restructuring to the forest. There will be an increase in broadleaved woodland which will link between the existing oak woodland through to the riparian zone of the Milton Burn.

Thinning will be limited to where the crop allows, typically the areas of Scots Pine which have proved to be more resistant to recent windthrow.

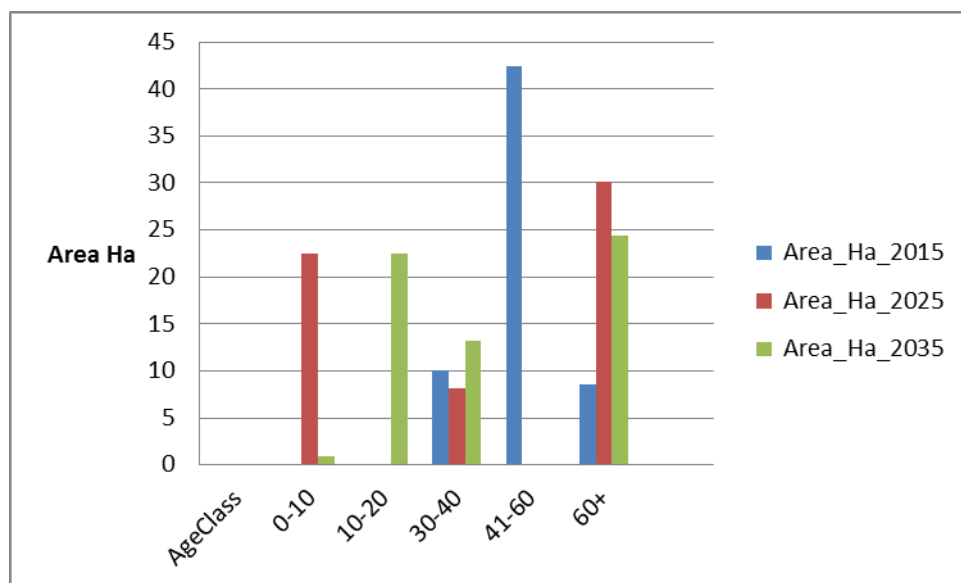
There will be a gradual move to CCF throughout the forest.

5.5 Species tables

	Ha_2015		Ha_2025		Ha_2035	
Open	10.1	17%	11.2	19%	13.1	22%
OK	12.5	21%	16.6	27%	17.5	29%
DF	4.4	7%	3.2	5%	2.3	4%
SP	6.0	10%	6.2	10%	6.3	10%
BI	6.0	10%	10.3	17%	11.2	18%
NF	2.1	2%	0	0%	0	0%
JL	0.6	1%	0	0%	0	0%
HL	1.4	2%	0	0%	0	0%
NS	17.8	30%	13.4	22%	10.5	17%
Total	60.9	100%	60.9	100%	60.9	100%
Minimum Intervention	14.7	24%	28.9	47%	29.9	49%
	0		0		0	

* In this plan revision the oak wood has been identified as minimum intervention rather than natural reserve as some small scale operations will enhance the conservation value of the site.

5.6 Age structure



5.7 Management of open land

There are small areas of open ground (notably, adjacent to the graveyard in the east), that will need continual management to maintain their open status. Apart from this there are no proposed significant areas of open space. Small open areas within the forest are not mapped.

5.8 PAWS restoration

There are no areas of PAWS on the site.

5.9 Deer management

The forest of Laggan extends to 61ha. The predominant species is roe with a minority of red. In addition to this sika deer are expanding their range on the periphery of the design plan area from the north and west. The forest is enclosed with a mix of stock fence on the lower margins and deer fence to the upper margins. Very high red open range densities exist on the western and northern boundary.

The district will focus their deer management effort to be as effective as possible in reducing negative biodiversity impacts from deer and will continue to utilise deer fencing as a carefully targeted option. The precise cull achieved each year will vary according to operational circumstances and decisions based on the results of ongoing deer impact monitoring. This in turn will determine the adjustments made to setting subsequent cull targets.

The Forest District maintains a Forest Deer Management Strategy for all its forest blocks as a mechanism for identifying deer management issues at both strategic and operational level. Feeding into the strategy is captured data from cull records, boundary fence condition, browsing impacts, and estimated deer population figures within forest blocks and on neighbouring land. This information is collected by local staff and external bodies to give a holistic view of deer dynamics effecting individual forest blocks.

If deer pressure is found to be impacting on restocking success or regeneration success the most likely initial response will be to increase deer control activity. If fencing is required perimeter fencing is strongly favoured over coupe fencing. Marking of new fences to reduce the risk of black grouse strikes will be assessed and if required this will be implemented as per FCS guidance.

5.10 Critical success factors

The most important critical factor will be the re-establishment of broadleaved species, relying at least in part on natural regeneration, effective management of deer and other grazing/browsing species will be crucial in achieving this. (However this may rely more on effective fencing than culling alone).

Appendix I: Forest Design Plan Scoping Record

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
SNH	27 th November 2014	4 th December 2014	<p>Protected Areas and Species</p> <p>Our interest in Laggan Wood is focussed on the section which forms part of Comrie Woods SSSI and also part of Upper Strathearn Oakwoods SAC. However a larger part of Laggan Wood also falls within River Earn (Comrie to St Fillans) National Scenic Area. This does not appear to have been acknowledged on the maps. We would expect to see reference to this designation made in the plan and due consideration taken of the landscape impacts of the plan within this area.</p> <p>The oak woodland feature of the designated site was last monitored in 2009, and is due to be monitored again before 2018. The issues identified in the 2009 monitoring included regeneration of non-native seedlings and saplings. One of the main problems was with abundant regeneration of western hemlock in the south east corner of the wood, which the Forestry Commission dealt with before the end of 2009. A commitment was made to continue to monitor non native</p>	<p>The SSSI and SAC are identified on the Key Features Map.</p> <p>Monitoring and removal of non native species continues through small scale operations.</p>

			<p>species on the SSSI and to continue to remove future seedlings and saplings. We would like to see this commitment included in the Forest Plan.</p> <p>The 2009 assessment concluded that browsing by deer and incursions of sheep pose a significant threat to successful regeneration across the whole of the SSSI. The surveyor noted that the only area which had successful regeneration in the Lednock section of the wood was within a small fenced regeneration coupe on the edge of a section of clearfell. Your Rob Coope indicated in 2009 that FC had some small grazing/browsing exclosures within the FC part of the designated site and were monitoring these and comparing them with the surrounding vegetation. It would be good to hear what information has been gained from this monitoring. This is of particular interest with regard to the proposal on your concept map to consider coppicing within the designated site. We would welcome discussion on this, although in the light of the potential browsing pressure issue it is likely that protection of coppice regrowth would be required.</p> <p>With respect to deer management we would hope to see the Deer Management plan included in the review. Deer</p>	<p>Monitoring of regeneration both in and out the enclosures continues. However the trial was set up with the understanding that it would take 10 years to obtain useful information.</p> <p>The district has a pro-active approach to deer management. Vulnerable crops are targeted for</p>
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			<p>have effective free access across the properties of several land owners and it is likely that some form of collaborative approach to their management would be more effective in the long term. We would be happy to be included in any discussions about a collaborative approach.</p>	<p>protection through culling with consideration given to fencing where appropriate.</p>
RSPB	27 th November 2014	30th December 2014	<p>RSPB Scotland does not hold any data for the site. However, black grouse use the wider area so we welcome increasing the amount of Scots pine as it is likely to benefit this species. There are also three red kite nests within a 1km of the wood. The Crieff/Comrie area is a stronghold for the species and it is possible that birds will nest here in future. If works are to be carried out during the breeding season, the wood should be surveyed for nesting birds or contact Duncan Orr-Ewing (duncan.orr-ewing@rspb.org.uk) who monitors red kites in this area for Tayside Raptor Study Group.</p>	<p>It is districts policy to survey all harvesting sites for nesting birds, red squirrels, badgers and other species berfore operations are given the go ahead to start. Comments regarding red kites will be conveyed to surveyors.</p>
SEPA	27 th November 2014	8th December 2014	<p>Thank you for your consultation letter of 27 November 2014.</p> <p>We do not have any site specific comments to make on this proposal. For all development of this type we ask that UK Forest Standard</p>	<p>Response noted by Forest District</p>

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			<p>and related Guidelines are adhered to. If you are seeking comment on a site specific issue, such as the impact the proposal may have on a specific water body, we would welcome the opportunity to be re-consulted.</p> <p>For further advice, please consult the Forestry section of our website.</p> <p>Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice and guidance can be found on our website at www.sepa.org.uk/planning.aspx. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the operations team in your local SEPA office at:</p> <p>SEPA, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth, PH1 1RX, tel 01738 627989</p>	
Perth and Kinross Council	27 th November 2014		No Response	
Comments from public meeting / woodland walk held 10th October 2013	10 th October 2013			
Colin Crabbie	10 th October 2013		Can the trees overhanging the access road be removed? There is a damaged culvert on the access road that requires replacement.	Trees have now been removed as part of a scheduled clearfell operation.
Moira and Gary Mathew	10th October 2013		Can we discuss and agree responsibilities for maintenance	FC civil engineers have recently completed maintenance works on

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			of the access road.	the access road.
Peter B Dundas	10th October 2013		Consider Landscape both in and out of the wood, importance of producing a landscape plan. Ensuring that clearfell areas in high landscape areas are restocked with mixed conifer/broadleaf species to maintain forest in context with landscape. Deer management within the SSSI is key fo the success of Oak regeneration.	Landscape perspectives have been used to design coupe shapes. The updated plan shows a increasing proportion of broadleaved woodland.
Norman Patullo	10th October 2013		There are drainage issues along the edge of the golf course which is related to drains within the wood. Can FCS have a look the the drains.	FCS beat forester has engaged with the golf course and working towards improving drainage as part of the operational programme of work.
Bill Gebbie	10th October 2013		Can we start planning the next phase of the millenium trail from the compound area to the top of the craggs?	The district is happy to engage with the community as a whole regarding further works on the millennium trail.
Digby Sim	10th October 2013		Can we have a zone set aside for moutain bikers to use more intensively so that they don't conflict with others?	FCS has agreed to consider an area for mountain bikes.
Andrew Thompson	10th October 2013		Copeing stones missing from wall on boundary with Fordie Estates. The ROW to Broomhill is churned up and has persistent windblow across it. Loss of paths due to untidy harvesting ops and wind blow at, a) Cutting corner to forest road from top of millennium footpath. b) From high up Briimhill path	The district is aware of the issues with the path network and has programmed repair work accordingly.

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			<p>to gate on forest road.</p> <p>c) Lack of clearing up after thinning as spoilt potential for orienteering. Fell conifers below view point and replant with native species, to be coppiced in future. Clear large woody debris from informal paths so volunteers could reinstate them. Future forestry operations should be more sensitive to the environment and recreational use of the wood (off and on path).</p> <p>Is there a possibility for the area adjacent to the SSSI to be put into continuous cover forestry? What is the Forestry Commission doing to control grey squirrels. Can Forestry Commission assure us that it won't put Laggan Wood on the market?</p>	<p>The area below the viewpoint is planned for felling in 2015.</p> <p>The forest is moving towards CCF but it will be a gradual process.</p> <p>There are no current plans to sell Laggan Wood.</p>
Vincent Brigode	10th October 2013		<p>Re: Damage to parapet on FC side of bridge over Milton burn, done as a result of felling on Fordie Estate. Parapet stone knocked into burn.</p>	<p>The district will take this up with Fordie Estate</p>
Felicity Martin	10th October 2013		<p>State of RoW to Broomhill: churned up and persistent windblow.</p> <p>Loss of informal paths due to untidy harvesting operations and windblow:</p> <p>Cutting corner to forest road</p>	<p>The district is aware of the issues with the path network and has programmed repair work accordingly.</p>

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			<p>from top of millennium footpath.</p> <p>From high up Broomhill path to gate on forest road.</p> <p>From cemetery down burn to Milton.</p> <p>Gradual erosion of paths to rocks and roots.</p> <p>Lack of clearing up after thinning has spoilt potential for orienteering.</p> <p>Fell conifers below viewpoint and replant with native species, to be coppiced in future.</p> <p>Clear large woody debris from informal paths so volunteers could reinstate them.</p> <p>Future forestry operations should be more sensitive to the environment and recreational use of the wood.</p> <p>Possibility for continuous cover forest adjacent to SSSI.</p> <p>What are the Forestry Commission doing to control Grey Squirrels.</p> <p>Can the Forestry Commission assure us that it won't put Laggan Wood on the market?</p>	<p>The area below the viewpoint is planned for felling in 2015.</p> <p>The forest is moving towards CCF but it will be a gradual process.</p> <p>FCS is working closely with Saving Scotlands Red Squirrels to monitor grey squirrel populations. This includes Laggan where there has been live trapping of Greys in recent years.</p> <p>There are no current plans to sell Laggan Wood.</p>

Laggan Forest Design Plan 2015 – 2025

Drop in Meeting held in Comrie on 22nd August 2014. Comments on Draft Plan			Comments (Like / Dislike)	
Judy McDowall	22 nd August 2014		<p>The fact that felling is being done over a long period so that local people can still have access to the paths.</p> <p>Keeping Scots Pine wherever possible.</p> <p>Replanting with deciduous trees.</p> <p>Planting of Norway Spruce for red Squirrels</p>	
David Scott	22 nd August 2014		Clarity of programme	
Andrew Thompson	22 nd August 2014		<p>Plans to phase felling with priority given the area below the Lednock circular footpath are welcome.</p> <p>Conversion to BL native woodland to act on a landscape & biodiversity buffer for the SSSI is welcome and will improve the amenity and recreation potential of the wood. Provision for NS and SP in restocking plan is excellent.</p> <p>No recognition of the need to clear the network of informal paths across some of the more interesting knolly areas which were linked prior to the last harvesting operation which devastated a lot of the routes. More discussion needed with community prior to future harvesting operations. The balance between priorities for</p>	Comments noted

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			various users demonstrated by pie charts does not give enough emphasis to recreation.	
Felicity Martin	22 nd August 2014		<p>Gradual conversion of the wood from commercial timber (which is impractical in a steep area with rock out crops and many paths with heavy rec use) to more natural deciduous woodland with some Scots Pine (which will help to re-store the native bio-diversity) This will link Comrie Woods SSSI with the new native woodland on Broomhill.</p> <p>The pie chart gives to small emphasis to recreation – this place is the green lungs of Comrie.</p>	Comments noted
Chris Palmer	22 nd August 2014		I like the approach to change the wood over the planned period towards native woodland. (Predominately broadleaved with Scots Pine) with some remaining timber production of Scots Pine and Norway Spruce to encourage red Squirrels. Also like the attention to detail on woodland edges, path and riparian areas and internal landscape featuring viewpoints.	
Martin Robb 7 Colin Crabbie	22 nd August 2014		<p>Concern for existing windblow felling programme.</p> <p>Sympathetic replanting programme is hardwood and conifers for red squirrels.</p> <p>Concern over repairs to access</p>	There district are happy to discuss future maintenance of the forest

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			track following last felling programme.	road with the other users.
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Appendix II: Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Windthrow response
FC Approval not normally required	0.5ha or 5% of coupe – which ever is less	Variation of less than 2 planting seasons from standard restock year, 4 years post-felling	Change within species group, e.g. conifers:native broadleaves	Up to 1.0ha
Approval by exchange of letters and map	0.5ha to 2.0ha or 10% of coupe – which ever is first		Greater than 15% species change	1.0ha to 5.0ha – if mainly windblown trees between 5.0ha to 10ha in areas of low sensitivity
Approval by formal plan amendment	Greater than 2.0ha or 10% of coupe	Variation of greater than 2 planting seasons from standard restock year, 4 years post-felling	Increased native woodland component. Increase native broadleaves and open/bog restoration	Greater than 5.0ha in areas of medium to high sensitivity

Appendix III. Design Plan Brief

FOREST PLAN BRIEF 2013

Laggan

The sustainable and efficient management of these forests will be driven by the identification of an appropriate balance between environmental issues, people's interests and economic productivity. The attached draft Strategic Plan identifies a zonation of management priorities for some of the key issues within these broad categories - conservation, landscape, recreation and timber production.

In comparison with other Forestry Commission forests in Scotland, the following classification gives a wider context to the value of these forests:

CATEGORY	RELATIVE VALUE
<p>Conservation and heritage</p>	<p>The SSSI on the eastern side of the gorge of the River Lednock is made up of long established oak woodland with other native species. It has a history of woodland management dating back to at least 1750. In recent years conifer under-planting was removed.</p> <p>The Highland Boundary Fault runs through the wood and is visible in a number of places.</p> <p>Red squirrels are present and feed in the woodland, particularly within the conifers.</p> <p>Red Kites have become more common in recent years although there are no known nest sites within the block.</p> <p>High Priority</p>
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Laggan is visible from the south and from the public road on the west bank of the River Lednock.</p> <p>High Priority</p>
<p>Recreation</p>	<p>Laggan takes in part of the Comrie Millennium Walks System and is well used by walkers.</p> <p>Comrie Croft which lies approx 2 miles east of Laggan is becoming increasingly more popular for its mountain bike trails. This may lead to increased usage of the forest.</p> <p>High Priority</p>
<p>Timber production</p>	<p>The majority of the woodland is currently designated as CCF and contains some high quality NS. The recent windblow has resulted in some natural re-structuring of the forest and is likely to increase production in the short term.</p> <p>Low Priority</p>

Key features

Water supply
Neighbour access on forest road.

Conservation and heritage issues

Active population of red squirrels.

The latest windblow tidy up has opened up the area around the old graveyard.

Landscape issues

Windblow is likely to affect the internal and external landscape.

Recreation issues

The Comrie Millennium Walks System

Timber production issues

Recent windblow in NS & GF requires a more intensive harvesting programme than previously planned.

Access for timber haulage is constrained by tight bends on the forest road.

Stacking space is limited.

DP 15/01/14