

1.0 Summary

1.1 Introduction

The Glen Finart Land Management Plan area lies on the western shore of Long Long centred on Ardentinny, the largest settlement. It extends from Loch Goil in the north to Gairletter Point, in the south, occupying much of the hill ground between Lochs Long and Eck. The area is connected to the main road network by narrow minor roads which head northwest to the A815 and south to the A880 and, again, on to the A815. Ardentinny is a popular tourist destination and the whole plan area is within the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Non-native and native woodland cover extends from the loch shore up to an elevation of around 350m, including much of Glen Finart and Gairletter Glen. At higher elevations there is open hill ground which is treated as permanent open space, small areas of agricultural land and wayleaves bring the total area of permanent open space to about 790ha making up about 30% of the 2603ha total area. An additional 405ha (15.5% of the plan area) of open ground is considered to be integral with the woodland, and is not treated as being permanent. The remaining 1405ha or so of ground is actual woodland making about 54% of the plan area. These figures, with projections to 2031 and 2041 are summarised in Table 1.1. Of the actual woodland area (excluding integral open space) 68% is Sitka spruce, 12% other conifers (including Scots pine) and the remainder is broadleaved woodland (the majority of which is native woodland). These figures are summarised in Section 1.4. About 20% of the woodland is under 20 years of age, about 40% between 20 and 40 years of age and just over 20% is greater than 60 years.

	2021	2031	2041
woodland	54.1	52.0	51.8
intimate open space	15.5	17.6	17.8
permanent open space	30.3	30.3	30.3
total plan area	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 1.1 Distribution of woodland and open space

The revised plan seeks to continue the restructuring process, started in the previous submission, aiming to increase both species and age diversity. Timber production will remain a significant objective but efforts will be made to lessen the impact of monoculture spruce plantation on habitats and landscape. In particular protection will continue to be afforded to the Craighoyle SSSI and restoration of ancient woodland sites will see considerable increase in native species in the coming decades. Given the ongoing concern with Ramorum disease in larch a programme of progressive removal of this species will be implemented. Significant recreation interest will be maintained. An effective deer management programme will be necessary to protect sensitive species.

1.2 Objectives

- Progress the restructuring process started in the previous plan aiming to diversify both species and age diversity. Include coupes already incorporated into the Regional felling programme.
- Incorporate stands with significant proportions of larch into first and second phase felling coupes in line with FLS policy to remove at least 50% of larch from this area by 2023.
- At restocking seek an appropriate balance between maximising production and diversification of species. Use alternative species to Sitka spruce where objectives warrant and site conditions are favourable.
- Review status of stands designated as Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), and incorporate these into the clearfell fell programme if CCF management is no longer considered feasible or does not meet site objectives.
- Fell the majority of mature stands in Knap. Restock with an appropriate balance of commercially viable species (including Sitka spruce) and native woodland.
- Protect and enhance existing native woodland, including Craighoyle SSSI; restore ancient woodland sites when non-native species are clearfelled.
- Manage the area around Ardentinny in a manner that protects nearby housing and facilities during all operations. Consider retention of some mature stands, where feasible, and, at restocking, take into account opportunities to improve landscape and recreation interest.
- Continue to manage, and where necessary improve, the existing recreation facilities centred on Ardentinny Beach.
- Maintain, and establish where appropriate, the forest habitat network; outline management approaches to be adopted within it.
- Where feasible seek to improve habitats for a range of bird and mammal species including golden eagle, black grouse and red squirrel.
- Establish and maintain a deer control programme that allows successful establishment of vulnerable species.

1.3 Key proposals

Total Plan Area	2603 (ha)
Planned operations	Detail
Felling	448ha.; 164425m ³
Thinning	905ha; 12670m ³
Restock	260ha of conifer; 163ha of broadleaf.
New planting	0ha
Roads and tracks	26303m track; 47000m road upgrade/maintenance
Public access	

1.4 Species diversity

Species group	2021	2031	2041
Sitka spruce	52.8%	44.2%	38.6%
Other conifers	8.4%	8.1%	9.1%
Scots pine	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
Broadleaves	15.4%	21.3%	25.6%
Open space	22.2%	25.3%	25.6%

NB figures exclude open hill ground

1.5 Major issues

Issue	Description/mitigation
Issue 1	Threat from Ramorum disease impacting management of non-larch trees. Incorporate larch into a felling programme that meets FLS objective of removing 50% of that species before the end of 2023.
Issue 2	Extensive areas of plantation on ancient woodland sites. Establish extent of priority ancient woodland and outline a sustainable restoration plan that can be sustained into the future.
Issue 3	Poor road access, particularly in the north. Find cost effective, long lasting, solutions to improve road system and provide access into isolated coupes.

1.6 Critical success factors

The following are critical to the success of the plan:

1. Timely construction of new, or upgrading of, existing roads, and roads/tracks to access approved felling coupes.
2. Availability of contractor base capable of working in challenging situations.
3. Adequate deer control measures for protection of broadleaved species and soft conifers.

1.7 Standards and guidelines

This plan takes account of Scottish Government and Forestry and Land Scotland policy and strategy. It has been developed in accord with the latest UKFS Guidelines and is audited under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Forest and Land Scotland Woodlands are certified as being sustainable by both FSC and PEFC. Proposals for removing larch are based on Forestry and Land Scotland's 'Strategy for Managing Larch', July 2019.

1.8 Consultation

During the development of this plan we have consulted with stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. A list of stakeholders and their response can be found in Appendix I.

1.9 Contacts and further information

For further information on this or any other land management plan please contact:
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