



# GLEN ROY Land Management Plan

## SUMMARY

Glen Roy forest is situated 12 miles North of Fort William, immediately to the North of the village of Roy Bridge and lies at the southern end of Glen Roy, between 100 m and 350 m on a tributary valley of Glen Spean. *See Map 1: Location.*

Glen Roy forest extends to 1,984 ha and covers open ground and forest, with 542 ha of tree cover. The open ground surrounding the woodland is owned by FLS but is crofted and grazed by two Crofting Associations (Inveroy Crofters' and Bohuntine Crofters'). The land was purchased in 1959 from two separate owners and the original planting took place between 1964 and 1977; some of the commercial planting is now second rotation. This LMP revises the previous Forest Design Plan (03/07/22 to 02/07/2022, extended to 31/03/2023).

The forest is primarily commercial conifers, with some extent of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and it lies within the Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI. A major amendment was approved in 2021 for the eastern part of the main forest block. This covered a planned road and the felling of coupes that have suffered windblow and are ready for harvest, with restocking that better protects, and allows interpretation of, the Parallel Road features in the landscape. These proposals have not been started and are being carried into the revised LMP.

Approximately 73% of the land holding is open ground and under crofting tenure. The remaining land is forested, dominated by Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine, with 5% internal open space. There is a relatively small component of broadleaved species, most of which is ASNW or PAWS.

Commercial conifer production remains the prime objective in this forest but protection of ASNW; restoration of PAWS; establishment of riparian broadleaved woodland; creation of woodland edge habitat; improvement of visual amenity where possible (through reprofiled upper margins); restoration and management of peatland and protection of the designated Parallel Roads features are also key objectives. Some of these objectives, such as the peatland restoration, won't be achieved during this 10 year Plan, but will be delivered longer term. Internal open space will increase from 5% to 18% during the Plan lifetime, primarily reflecting the felling in the eastern part of the forest, part of which will be restocked with open structured broadleaved woodland, to better protect and allow interpretation of the Parallel Road features. The proportion of native broadleaves in the species composition will increase from 11% to 17%



during the next 10 years. Effective deer management and the exclusion of livestock will be crucial for the establishment of broadleaves and alternative conifers.

## Objectives

- To maintain the productive timber potential of the forest, while improving diversity in species and age structure
- Protect the existing ASNW and minimise browsing pressure
- Restore high / medium ecological potential PAWS to native woodland; remove mature non-native conifers from the PAWS along the Roy River, through Fell to Recycle if necessary
- Where feasible, produce productive broadleaves from non-PAWS areas and PAWS of low ecological potential
- Encourage natural regeneration and successional development of native broadleaves in riparian zones
- Enhance habitat and landscape quality by diversifying the forest margin through restocking and allowing natural regeneration to develop softer margins
- Assess peat areas and undertake peatland restoration or development of peat edge broadleaved woodland where appropriate
- Construct an access road to the coupes in the NE of the forest, creating a road line that minimises gully crossings and protects landscape and environmental features