



Appendix V: Tentsmuir Land Management Plan Public Consultation Report 2024

We undertook a public consultation on our management plan proposals (final consultation) during Summer 2024. This followed a one-month initial scoping exercise carried out in Winter 2022/23 which highlighted the special qualities of Tentsmuir and identified key issues that respondents would like to see addressed, including improved access and paths (including windblow clearance); increase in native tree species; focus on managing for biodiversity; and dog-related issues. This report was made available through the consultation website. This short report presents the methods and analysis of the results of the second public consultation in the context of the responses from the initial scoping survey. Please note that following the sale of Reres Wood, this report now refers only to feedback on Tentsmuir.

Method

We held two drop in events and an online public survey accessed from the Forestry and Land Scotland website. The web survey was open for three months between May and August 2024, and two drop in events were held at the Larick Centre, Tayport, during May 2024. The consultation was advertised with posters around the forest and through the Larick Centre Facebook page. The drop in events were jointly held with NatureScot who were consulting on their management plan for the National Nature Reserve. Paper copies of the survey were also available at the drop in events.

The survey was composed of three questions:

1. What do you like about our proposals, and why?
2. Is there anything you would like to change?
3. Is there anything about these sites that you would like to see changed?

We received 20 responses in total (13 online, 6 paper copies, 1 via email).

Question 1: What do you like about our proposals, and why?

The responses were grouped into improved access (including equestrian access), management for biodiversity (including increasing broadleaved tree species component), the balance between managing for people, nature and commercial forestry, and the dune restoration proposal (Table 1).

Table 1. Responses to Question 1 grouped by theme.

Theme	Number of responses
Access/recreation	9
Balancing objectives	4
Managing for biodiversity/wildlife	3
Dune restoration	2

Question 2: Is there anything you would like to change?

The vast majority of responses were related to still further improvements to access, particularly to the surface condition of key access routes through the forest on the Fetterdale/Morton Lochs and Ash roads, and the demand for additional horse box parking to that shown in the proposals. One respondent would like to see an additional focus on managing for biodiversity.

Table 2. Responses to Question 2 grouped by theme.

Theme	Number of responses
Further improvements to access	13
No changes	3
Biodiversity	1

Question 3: Any other comments

We received seven positive responses to our proposals and to the drop in events. We also received feedback on suggestions for increasing the use of the forest for public education, teaching, volunteering, and for improving or adding to the information boards in the forest, for example more information on the World War II heritage features, or the different benefits that forests and forestry provide.

Table 3. Responses to Question 3 grouped by theme.

Theme	Number of responses
Positive feedback	7
Increased use for nursery/primary/outdoor education, volunteering	3
More information within the forest	3

Key themes

Discussions at the drop in events and feedback through the online consultation fell into three main themes: access, future species and management, and opportunities for other social benefits.

Access

The main discussions were around road surfaces and accessibility for different user types. There were several members of the public who raised concerns about the road surfaces on the recently repaired section of road between Fetterdale and Morton Lochs, which was not suitable for cyclists. This feedback was passed to the civil engineering team to review and ensure that future road surfacing is suitable for cyclists as well as other users.

A second issue raised was horse box parking. Alternative options for horse parking were considered during the design phase however the safest location remains away from the busy main car park. Additional space has been identified in the LMP to create additional spaces and the Visitor Services Team have been in contact with the British Horse Society to continue discussions.

Future species and management

Attendees expressed support for the LMP and the balance of people, nature and timber production. There was interest in the future species and levels of felling proposed. People were supportive of the balance between Attendees at the drop in event were satisfied with the

intention to continue management of the pine using continuous cover approaches and removal of the Sitka spruce. There was also support across all attendees of the increase in broadleaves to increase habitat connectivity between Morton Lochs and the wider Tentsmuir block, as well as through the forest along the Powie Burn. There were strong levels of support for and interest in the dune habitat restoration project, and no concerns were raised during the consultation as there was satisfaction with the alternative perimeter route proposed and people were happy to see the joint working with NatureScot.

Other public use opportunities

Topics related to public use and social benefits that were raised and discussed. These included volunteering opportunities, information boards and signage, and a forest nursery. As these are beyond the scope of the LMP they were passed to the visitor services team.

Next steps

The survey has reassured us that the public are supportive of our proposals and have highlighted where there are areas that could be further improved for access. Where relevant, information has been passed to the relevant teams in FLS so that they can be incorporated into future projects (subject to additional funding becoming available where relevant).

We would like to thank everybody who took the time to reply to our survey and attend our drop in events.