

Appendix V – Public Consultation Meeting Record

Inglismaldie and Denlethen Public Consultation Meeting

15th January 2025

You asked...	Our response...
<p>There have been concerns over the consultation process, particularly with immediate neighbour to the forest, for the LMP and current ongoing works</p>	<p>LMP's are reviewed every 10 years to obtain permission for the next decade of planned works. As part of the review process FLS routinely engages with a list of statutory stakeholders which includes the local authority and community councils. We also erect signage at entry points to the forests to inform local users that the process is occurring. Unforeseen events such as windblow must have further approval sought if it occurs in areas without felling permission. These additional requests are submitted to Scottish Forestry who carry out their own consultation process via the Public Register. They are required to notify the same statutory stakeholders when this process is underway.</p> <p>Works that are currently underway have already gone through this consultation process, either as part of the previous plan review or by an amendment. There is no scope to change these operations through this current plan process. I can only apologise if you were not aware of these consultations when they were happening. I acknowledge the points you have raised and will use the feedback to improve our process in the future.</p>
<p>Will there be areas of mature forest retained as habitat for priority species?</p>	<p>Yes, mature crops will be retained where possible and thinned to improve stand structure and stability. Several coupes have been identified for continuous cover forestry (CCF) management which aims to encourage understory growth so that canopy cover can be maintained in perpetuity.</p>

You asked...	Our response...
Will larch form a component of restocking operations?	Unfortunately, due to the devastating effects of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> there is currently a moratorium on planting larch on Scotland's National Forests and Land. In the northeast of Scotland we are away from the front line of the disease spread and may yet prove to be in a climatically unsuitable area for the fungus to successfully reproduce so can accept larch that is regenerating naturally but cannot plant new trees.
There is significant presence of oak regen emerging	This has been noted. Our FM forester will be made aware and can look to incorporate this into restocking plans in suitable areas.
Are the well and standing stones included in the Witches Hillock scheduled monument area?	Yes
The path through to Inglismaldie castle is not identified on the features map and is currently blocked	We can look to see if there is resource available to clear the fallen trees from the forest road and access.
There is a wider issue of paths and trails being lost under windblow and through harvesting operations	<p>Aside from the forest road network there are no formal trails within the plan area. Denlethen has a core path network following the forest roads but there are no such designations in the Inglismaldie blocks. Users have the right to responsible access under SOAC and new routes will become established through time and persistent use. Early and regular thinning will furthermore open the forest for recreation at a younger age.</p> <p>We are open to working with local user groups to improve access and facilities within the forests but unfortunately do not have the funding or resources to carry out these works ourselves at this time.</p>
How would a local community interest group/local user group be set up.	We can provide some guidance on this matter as we have experience working with these groups. For detail, please contact the e-mail address provided in the consultation page.
Will the new powerline route be identified in the plan? What impact is this likely to have on the forest?	We are currently working with SSE to determine the final route of the new line. Current draft proposals show it passing through the northwest edge of Inverury wood and then cutting across the northern tip of Capo. Until plans are confirmed we cannot reference them in the LMP in case any last-minute changes occur.

You asked...	Our response...
<p>The condition of forest roads has deteriorated following harvesting operations and are in many cases is no longer accessible to mobility vehicles.</p>	<p>The principle purpose of the forest road network is to facilitate access for harvesting operations and to allow timber to be taken away to market. It is not cost effective to maintain our entire road network is prime condition, particularly if there are no intended operations for a protracted period. We take on board your comments regarding the history of these routes and will see what capacity we have to carry out some resurfacing works to improve access.</p> <p>FLS is open to working together with local community interest groups to explore opportunities to improve access and recreation where external funding can be found.</p>
<p>What are the replanting plans along the Black burn?</p>	<p>Where the Black burn flows adjacent to FLS land we have designated areas of riparian planting to protect the water course and improve the setting for wildlife. The course of the burn moves away from the march boundary around Inglismaldie Castle, and we have no influence on the planting plans out with our ownership.</p>
<p>There have been sightings of grey squirrel in the locality. What measures are FLS taking to protect red squirrel populations in the forest?</p>	<p>Environment team to monitor squirrels in locality and take any recommended measures.</p>
<p>The area identified for felling adjacent to the railway in Denlethen has high biodiversity value. Can you reconsider plans to fell in this area?</p>	<p>We appreciate your comments but the felling works in this area have already been approved. We understand that felling will have a negative impact on species and biodiversity in the short term but plans for restocking as a native woodland will see diversity in this area flourish in the future as well as providing resilience for the rail and electricity infrastructure. Once the site has been restocked there will be no plans to fell again.</p>
<p>Can the presentation slides be made available on the website?</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>There are drainage issues between East Rosehill cottage and the gas main wayleave</p>	<p>Thank you for highlighting this. We can see what improvements can be made to the drainage in this area when we have machinery on site for ground prep prior to planting</p>

You asked...	Our response...
<p>Are the any plans to clear out drains across the forest area?</p>	<p>Managing the flow of water on a site presents many challenges. Former practice around drainage are no longer considered best practice and we are more mindful nowadays of the impacts of soil degradation and diffuse pollution entering water courses. Where there are issues affecting neighbours, as in the point above, we will look to resolve them but are generally more accepting of wetness on sites and tend to plan our planting around them rather than engineer areas to grow the trees we want.</p>
<p>What species will be used in areas that are marked as native mixed broadleaves?</p>	<p>This will depend on site conditions and the National Vegetation Classification type but will likely consist of a mix of birch, rowan, alder, willow, aspen, cherry and oak. Generally, species known to favour grey squirrel, such as beech and sycamore, will be avoided.</p>