



Appendix I

Public Consultation record

24.06.2026	2nd Public Consultation event	Stage: draft final proposals
Area	Comment	FLS Response
Torinturk	Would like to be informed when felling is close by, to avoid distressing animals.	This is noted. FLS will take all steps to provide advance notice to local residents and immediate neighbours in order to minimise disturbance where possible.
Torinturk	Local people are proud of their environment, and this is a very special place. We want to keep it that way and don't want to make it 'sustainable' forestry but 'restorative' forestry. – improving the biodiversity and habitats, leaving it in a better condition for the next generation.	FLS recognise that the woodland of the Torinturk block and wider area is highly valued by the community and visitors. While sustainable timber production remains the primary objective of the LTP, the plan also includes measures to restore and enhance biodiversity, improve habitat connectivity, expand native woodland, and restore PAWS.

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	As a member of 2 local environmental groups, I know many locals will volunteer their time to help – such as removal of self-seeding hemlock and sitka from naturally regenerating areas.	FLS recognises and values the contribution of time, effort and knowledge that conservation groups and the community volunteer network bring to assisting with the invasive species control. Throughout the development and consultation of this LTP, strong relationships and communication channels have been established with local conservation groups, particularly Action West Loch. A current volunteer programme, led by ACT and Our Rainforest Futures (an Alliance for Scotland’s Rainforest project), supports PAWS restoration within the Torinturk forest block through regular invasive species removal and practical conservation activities. This work demonstrates the value of collaborative, community led coastal rainforest recovery.
Torinturk	As a group (Action West Loch) we hope to be able to work alongside the forestry commission (FLS) to mitigate the damage clearfelling policies will bring. It seems like clear felling is the last thing that should be carried out if we have the environment in mind. I am interested in West loch	FLS recognises the concerns associated with clearfelling and values the constructive role that Action West Loch and other local groups can play in helping to deliver positive environmental outcomes. Following the second public consultation event, FLS met with Action West Loch on site on 10th August for a ‘walk and talk’

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	Tarbert. I am a member of Action West Loch and I'm listening to the dedication and commitment the community who lives along its shores have to caring for the health of both the loch and surrounding area. Small pockets of rainforest still exist – huge areas of rainforest have been lost. Powerful bodies make decisions without listening to the voices of those that care, have lived and worked in the area and bring huge expertise. Concerns over the damage to the biodiversity of the area (Torinturk rainforest, loch area). Particularly the native oyster population (significant nationally), seagrass and the Argyll rainforests. Concern that the proposed clearfelling will cause a lot of damage and that a more sensitive approach is needed. Letting the seed bank regeneration happen as this maintains the genetic regeneration uniqueness of the area.	meeting. This was well attended with participants from the community (30) and four FLS staff. A range of concerns were discussed including: the impact of clearfelling, the size of proposed felling coupes within the coastal PAWS areas, impact on wood ants, sediment control and potential impact on the marine environment of West Loch Tarbert, Beech stands, invasive species control, deer pressure, knowledge sharing and timing of operations. This onsite meeting was highly constructive, with all participants considering different perspectives. FLS explained the rationale behind the proposed felling approach within the area, the constraints and objectives influencing forest management decisions, and the associated restocking proposals. The walkover provided a valuable opportunity to discuss concerns on the ground, share local knowledge, and explore the issues and opportunities to delivering both productive forestry and environmental enhancement objectives. At the conclusion of the meeting, FLS recognised the considerable expertise and local knowledge held by Action West Loch members, particularly in relation to the marine environment of West Loch Tarbert, the coastal rainforest corridor and PAWS restoration. FLS

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		subsequently invited Action West Loch to collate and share relevant information and evidence to help inform the development of the LTP. As a result of the concerns raised and discussed, the LTP proposals were reconsidered, two significant areas of PAWS restoration were redesigned: a linear coupe south of the core path and Scheduled Monuments; and the largest PAWS felling coupe within the coastal rainforest corridor (1 large coupe replaced by 3 separate coupes); harvesting phased through the first 10 years of the plan approval and not 5 years; and the primary restocking approach confirmed as natural regeneration to conserve the local seed sources. Clearfelling remains the preferred restoration approach, and FLS explained why gradual approaches including thinning, strip felling and continuous cover forestry would not be appropriate in this instance: maturity of crop, windthrow risk, terrain, access constraints, and the need to control Sitka spruce and Western hemlock regeneration.
Torinturk	Deer management would need to be active	FLS recognises the significant deer pressure in the area and the sensitivity of PAWS restoration areas to this. A Deer Management Plan has been produced and forms

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		part of this LTP. See Appendix II. In addition, FLS have had a positive initial meeting with NatureScot and Action West Loch, to discuss deer populations in the wider landscape and the potential formation of a South Knapdale Deer Management Group. Herbivore Impact Assessments were identified as an area where Action West Loch could make a meaningful contribution should the group wish to become involved in monitoring activity.
Torinturk	(agree with objectives) as long as native woodland is retained.	Existing native woodland will be retained wherever possible, and the LTP includes measures to protect and expand native woodland habitats.
Torinturk	Broadly (agree with objectives), although I'd like to see a slower approach. Clear felling large areas particularly near lochs can have disastrous effects. To a certain extent (agree with objectives). I would like to see more guaranteed protection for the water quality of the streams and loch. All felling around rivers, lochs and streams should be small and limited. Particular concerns about impact of increased sedimentation on priority marine features found in the West loch, namely native oyster populations, seagrass beds and maerl bed at entrance to Loch.	FLS recognises that the potential for sediment run-off from clearfelling to enter local burns and affect the marine environment of West Loch Tarbert is a significant concern for local communities and conservation groups. The LTP has been developed in line with the UK Forestry Standard and includes measures such as retention and enhancement of riparian buffers, phased felling where appropriate, and water protection measures designed to minimise sediment mobilisation and protect water quality.

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	Also concerned about impact of increased sedimentation on an innovative Serpulid Reef Restoration project with project sites close to Torinturk forest.	Operational planning will be undertaken on a coupe by coupe, site specific basis closer to the felling phase, to ensure risks to the marine environment are appropriately managed. Discussions on water quality; drainage and sediment management; and the development of a joint monitoring programme are ongoing with Action West Loch. Detailed operational method statements will be shared and discussed ahead of operations.
Torinturk	Yes, in general (with objectives) but you need to introduce more native planting. Especially along and near rivers/stream courses.	The LTP includes proposals to expand native woodland and strengthen riparian habitats through native planting and natural regeneration. In particular, opportunities to increase native woodland cover alongside rivers and streams have been identified where appropriate, helping to improve habitat connectivity, biodiversity and watercourse resilience.
Meall Mhor	Thank you for the update. Good to know there are no public plans to fell the woodland within the Erines House area.	This is noted however FLS do not manage the woodland directly behind or adjacent to the Erines House area. The FLS estate borders the private woodland in this location and there are no proposals to fell the closest part of the FLS estate within the plan period.
Whole area	Views on the consultation event: clearer visuals would be appreciated; the visibility and opportunity to discuss has been	All comments noted.

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	helpful; no; well informed; and the consultation process has been good.	
Whole area	I'm simply not qualified to make an informed comment on (the objectives) this. I've watched Argyll go under sitka spruce for 50 years. It has been hard.	We recognise that many people have seen significant changes in Argyll's forests over recent decades. The LTP seeks to balance sustainable timber production with the retention of existing native woodland where possible, alongside woodland restoration, biodiversity enhancement and improved habitat connectivity.
	Email responses immediately following the 2nd public event in response to draft proposals.	July 2026
Area	Comment	FLS response
Torinturk	Action West Loch Submitted two documents of lengthy comments and group aims. Focusing on PAWS restoration, clear felling, the marine environment and ecology of West Loch and working together with FLS in partnership.	FLS recognised the concerns and issues raised within this submission, delayed finalising LTP proposals and arranged an on-site meeting on 10th August to discuss these points in detail. The meeting provided an opportunity for open dialogue and constructive engagement between FLS, the local community and a respected conservation group. It also helped establish clear communication channels and explore opportunities for collaborative working on shared objectives.

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		Following this both parties agreed that continued engagement during operational planning would be beneficial. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drafted for agreement of both parties. This will provide a framework for future engagement and collaboration, enabling Action West Loch to contribute meaningfully to discussions on operational planning and environmental safeguards before forestry operations commence. It will also help maintain open communication channels and support collaborative working towards shared objectives, including coastal rainforest conservation, PAWS restoration and protection of the wider environment. The framework will also provide opportunities for joint working on environmental monitoring, including the development of a collaborative water monitoring programme to help inform and monitor forestry operations.
Torinturk	Adjacent landowner welcomed objectives of the new LMP, balancing timber production with PAWS expansion, deer and invasive species management is important.	FLS is pleased to see support for a balanced approach that includes timber production alongside PAWS restoration, deer management and invasive species control; and the recognition that the LTP is moving towards this goal.

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	Requests that FLS use ecologically sound alternatives to clearfell on PAWS; and introduction of clear communication routes with community interest groups and landowners affected by operations.	FLS supports and welcomes developing clear communication and effective engagement with stakeholders to help inform operational planning and environmental safeguards. Phased clearfelling and natural regeneration will remain the preferred approach for PAWS restoration. Selective felling will be used within existing broadleaf areas to remove invasive species and non-native regeneration, including Sitka spruce and western hemlock, to support the recovery and expansion of native woodland habitats.
Torinturk	South Knapdale Community Council: clarifications sought, ahead of their formal response, on timber and transport haulage routes; TTM, road condition and reinstatement; and public access.	FLS has engaged with South Knapdale Community Council during the consultation process and provided clarification on timber haulage routes, traffic management, road condition and reinstatement, and public access arrangements. The proposed haulage route is subject to a Timber Transport Management Plan and is designated as a Consultation Route. Detailed transport and traffic management proposals will be developed as part of operational planning and agreed with the relevant roads

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		authorities where required. FLS is committed to minimising disruption to local communities, maintaining safe public access where possible, and ensuring that any road repairs or reinstatement requirements resulting from forestry operations are addressed appropriately. Ongoing communication with the Community Council and other stakeholders will continue.
Torinturk	Requested a copy of the felling map for Torinturk that was displayed at the public event.	A digital copy of the draft felling map was provided to the resident, who was also directed to the South Knapdale LTP consultation webpage for further information.
03.12.2024	1st Public Consultation event	Stage: scoping
Area	Comment	FLS Response
Torinturk	In favour of the removal of invasive species such as knotweed and rhododendron, and the planting of native trees for temperate rainforest restoration.	The LTP includes ongoing removal of invasive species and PAWS restoration of the coastal rainforest.
Torinturk	Access remains available for cycling/walking routes. Areas at low altitude should be returned to natural broadleaf species, especially near coast.	Access for cycling and walking will remain throughout the LTP area. It is proposed to restore coastal PAWS sites to native mixed broadleaves.

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Torinturk	Would like to see a long-term plan to connect all fragmented areas of rainforest to create a corridor along West loch.	Torinturk forest block forms part of a wider coastal rainforest corridor. The LTP will seek to maintain, strengthen and connect existing rainforest habitats while restoring Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
Torinturk	It (the Plan) seems to strike a balance between commercial interests and conservation.	The LTP's primary objective is sustainable commercial timber production, supported by complementary objectives to enhance habitat resilience, biodiversity, and ecological connectivity.
Torinturk	Ok so long as impact on Torinturk village is minimised and ancient monuments etc are preserved.	The LTP includes proposals for felling close to Torinturk village; however, operations will be carefully planned to minimise impacts on local residents, including consideration, access, private water supplies infrastructure and operational disturbance.
Torinturk	Great opportunity to here to restore PAWS areas to rainforest and support efforts of local landowners who are also restoring their areas.	The LTP proposes to restore PAWS areas mainly of high and medium value. FLS welcomes collaborative working and sharing of knowledge in order to improve restoration projects within the wider area of this coastal rainforest corridor.
Torinturk	More signs with information about historical sites would be good.	This is noted however there are currently no proposals to develop historical site signage.
Torinturk	Importance of coastal hazel strips – being by the loch (Torinturk) means high humidity and light – particularly strip beside road as road	All existing coastal hazel woodland will be protected and managed under a Minimum Intervention approach,

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	follows coast slightly inland between village of Torinturk and Dunmore.	allowing it to develop naturally and supporting its longterm biodiversity value.
Torinturk	Clearing of some wood to create viewing areas along the B8024 for tourists and visitors to stop.	This is noted however the woodland along this section of the B8024 is native woodland which will be managed under a Minimum Intervention approach. It is not proposed to remove this woodland.
Torinturk	It is still a magical place with good intact areas of outstanding rainforest plant communities of oaks, alder, willow, birch, rowan and holly.	The LTP proposes to restore, maintain and protect areas of PAWS and coastal rainforest.
Torinturk	Internationally important ancient rainforest/woodland. Poor regeneration in certain areas due to high deer population. Wild seeding of sitka saplings in forests.	A Deer Management Plan has been developed for the plan area. We recognise that deer pose a browsing threat to the regeneration of native woodlands throughout the wider area and FLS are committed to working where possible with neighbouring landowners to support effective deer management. A current volunteer programme, led by ACT and Our Rainforest Futures (an Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest project), supports PAWS restoration within the Torinturk forest block through regular invasive species removal including Sitka spruce saplings.
Coulaghaitro	A small area could be cleared and some benches/picnic tables could be placed at southern end of Coulaghaitro near public road.	This is noted however FLS cannot commit to providing benches and picnic tables and there are currently no

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		proposals to install such facilities at the southern end of Coulaghailtro forest.
Coulaghailtro	More trails to hike and cycle.	Noted. FLS cannot commit to providing more trails and no specific hiking trails are proposed within the LTP area. However, to access the conifer crop in the middle and southern area of the Coulaghailtro forest it is proposed to extend the current forest road network, which will be accessible for cycling and walking.
Meall Mhor	Keen to see all PAWS sites restored along with existing SSSI areas to increase rainforest area	The LTP will help protect and improve the SSSI by expanding native woodland and creating natural transition areas around important habitats, making them more resilient and better connected.
Meall Mhor	No mention of the wildlife that currently lives in the woods in Meall Mhor.	Noted. Our Environment rangers will survey all areas through site specific walk overs to inform all future forestry operations. This will help ensure all species are identified.
Meall Mhor	Most worried about landslides (Erines area of Meall Mhor). It is very steep behind Erines House and it is also very wet – the trees stop it moving.	FLS do not manage the woodland directly behind the Erines House area. Bordering this there are no proposals to fell the closest part of the FLS estate within the plan period.
Meall Mhor	We live on the slopes of Meall Mhor at Erines and it is a place where we go walking with our children and dog every day. It is also packed	We recognise that the Meall Mhor forest is used and valued by the local community. Measures have been proposed to expand native woodland, maintain the SSSI,

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	with wildlife – deer, pine marten, red squirrels, wood ant, badger and birds.	control invasive species and improve habitat connectivity which will enhance the biodiversity of the whole forest. Before forestry operations are carried out, our Environment team will walk over the site on a coupe-by-coupe basis to identify and safeguard protect species.
Whole area	Great to see that zones will be returned to a native landscape. This area should be further extended.	All three forest blocks include proposals to improve habitat resilience, biodiversity and connectivity through native woodland expansion, PAWS restoration, expanded riparian habitats, and the planting and natural regeneration of native broadleaf trees.
Whole area	To protect the environment for the wildlife, pine martens, red squirrels, owls, birds of prey, capercaillie.	Proposals to increase habitat connectivity, restore PAWS and ancient woodland sites, and develop a more diverse forest structure will enhance the environment and in turn support a wide range of species.
Whole area	It (the Plan) seems to strike a balance between commercial interests and conservation.	The LTP's primary objective is sustainable commercial timber production, supported by complementary objectives to enhance habitat resilience, biodiversity, and ecological connectivity.
Whole area	Beavers could be a tremendous help in creating better water distribution.	Noted, however there are no proposals to introduce beavers into the plan area.

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Whole area	Preservation of riparian areas are very important. These are very delicately balanced. Concerned about increased waterflow after forests are felled.	Potential effects on water flow and runoff will be carefully considered during operational planning to minimise impacts on surrounding water environments. Forestry operations will be planned and carried out in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard and Forests and Water Guidelines, including the retention of appropriate buffer zones alongside watercourses.
Whole area	Would like to avoid clear cuts where possible.	Areas managed for riparian habitat, native woodland and minimum intervention will include selective felling and continuous cover approaches where suitable. Commercial conifer crops will be managed through clearfelling and restocking. However, the clearfell coupes have been phased, and all environmental impacts will be considered.
Whole area	User of tracks in the woodland for walks and cycling	Noted. The existing and any planned tracks will be accessible for informal recreation.
Whole area	More public access.	The forests in the plan area are open to the public for informal recreation and access.