



Montreathmont Long Term Plan Review

**Initial Statutory and public Consultation
July 2026**

Key Features

Montreathmont Forest is in east Angus, the forest was established in the 1920s and planting peaked in the 1960s. The forest covers 998 hectares (ha) and is notable for its high-quality production of timber from Sitka spruce and Scots pine. There are high levels of natural regeneration from birch species as well as Sitka spruce. The block has good internal roads and has proximity to timber markets, making it ideal to serve as a productive woodland. Owing to the high-water table and shallow rooting depths windblow has been a recurring problem with significant damage being caused by Storm Arwen in 2021 resulting in a significant amount of clear felling and restocking in the forest in the last 5 years.

Location and Landscape

Montreathmont is viewed from the A933 running between Arbroath and Brechin but otherwise there are no significant viewpoints directly affecting the forest. The forest sits in relatively low ground and is adjacent to arable land and fragmented network of shelterbelts, apart from Montreathmont Moor which is a forest of notable scale adjacent to Montreathmont wood.

Geology and Soils

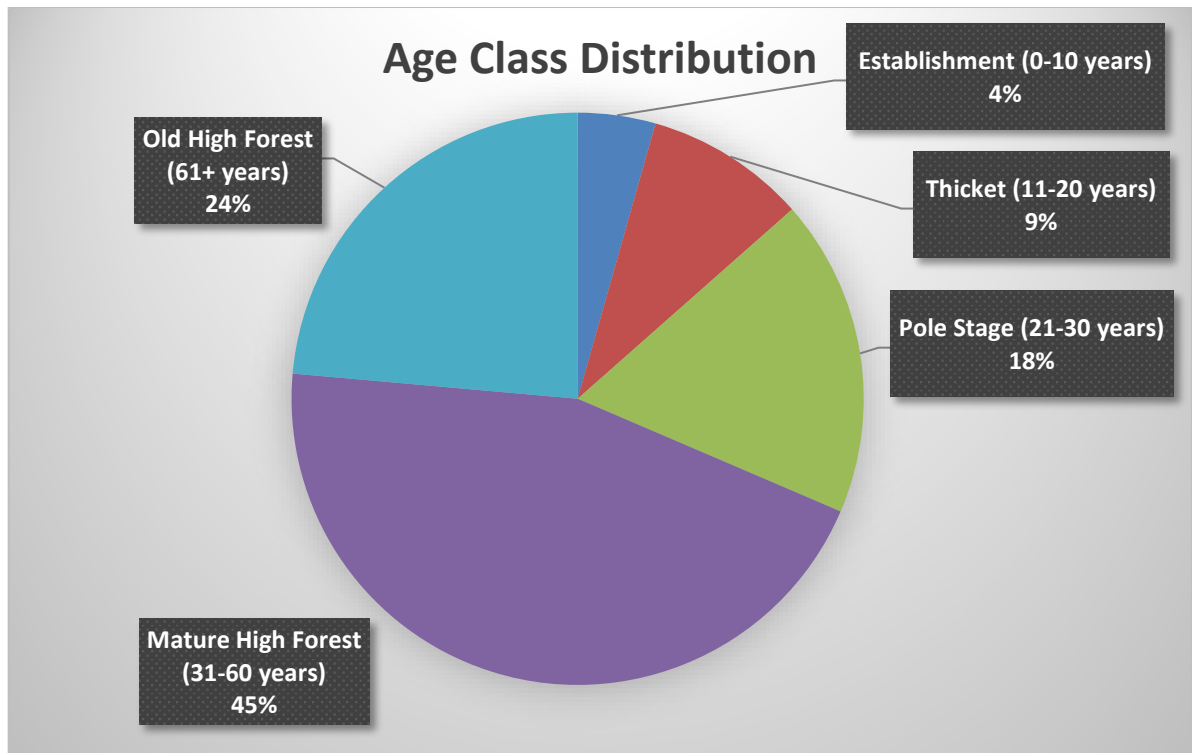
The solid geology of the area is Old Red Sandstone (Devonian), the rock being conglomerate. This is a rock type of high nitrogen which generally leads to freely draining soils, with occasionally discrete springs (rather than more extensive flushes). The dominant soil types are surface water gleys which are intermixed with podzolic surface water gleys. In the northern part of the forest patches of podzolic brown earths can be found.

Woodland Description

Age Class

The current age class distribution of the trees within the plan is shown below. Most plan areas are mature high forest (45%) or old high forest. This is due to the large areas of Continuous

Cover Forestry (CCF) within the planned area, where more mature trees are left to provide a seed source for the regeneration of trees.

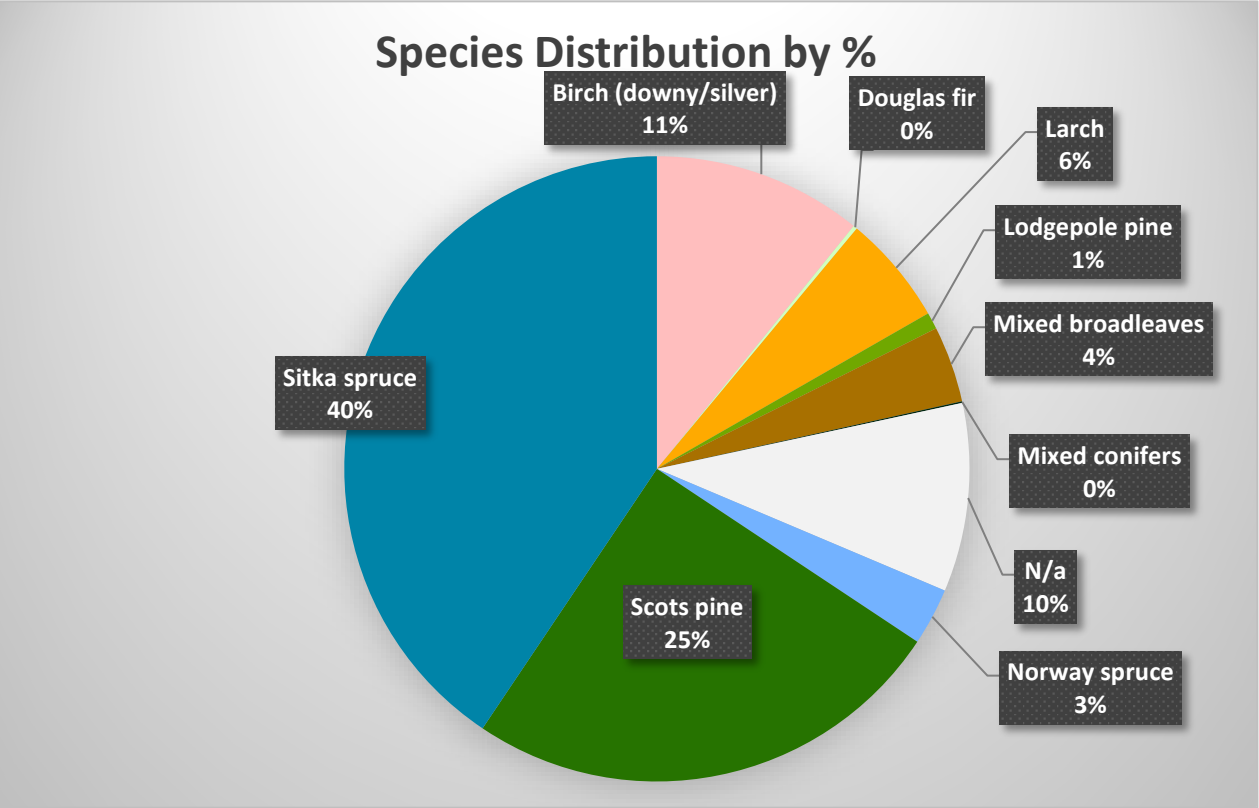


Age Profile	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
Establishment (0-10 years)	35.4	3.5
Thicket (11-20 years)	73.4	7.3
Pole Stage (21-30 years)	144.8	14.5
Mature High Forest (31-60 years)	362.6	36.3
Old High Forest (61+ years)	190.3	19.1
Non-Forested area (Roads, OG, Wayleaves etc)	192.3	19.3
Total	998.8	100

Species distribution

Sitka spruce is the most common tree species, followed by Scots pine and then birch species. We are currently meeting all UK Forestry Standard 5 (UKFS) targets for broadleaf coverage and species diversity.

When we choose new planting mixes, we will aim to keep diversifying the species, especially in wetland areas. We will use productive conifers where they suit the soil and site, and native broadleaves to help improve riparian habitats and buffer other important habitats.



Species	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
Sitka spruce	405.4	40.6
Scots pine	250.6	25.1
Birch (downy/silver)	108.3	10.8
Non-Forested area (roads, wayleaves, Open ground etc.)	97.4	9.8
Larch	56.7	5.7
Mixed broadleaves	39.5	4
Norway spruce	29.6	3
Lodgepole pine	8.6	0.9
Douglas fir	2	0.2
Mixed conifers	0.8	0.1
Total	998.9	100

Hydrology

A notable feature of Montreathmont is its linear drainage channels which were previously more natural water courses, and this will be considered when considering operational, conservation and neighbors’ interests. In addition, some of these channel’s feed into the South Esk which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and hence adds to the sensitivity of working

close to these areas and their periodic maintenance. All work undertaken in Montreathmont will be carried out in accordance with UKFS 5 Forests and Water Guidelines.

Private Water Supplies and Associated Pipelines

There are private water supplies (PWS) in the forest and on nearby land. PWS users are responsible for looking after their own supply. But where FLS manages the land, we also share the duty to protect water sources and supply networks like pipes, tanks, and channels. If your water is supplied from a private source within Montreathmont please let us know. Properties where PWS may be in the forest will be contacted separately to confirm the location of all PWS within Montreathmont.

UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) Practice Guides for Water Management (2025) will be followed throughout all operations in this plan period. This means a 50-meter non-operational buffer around water sources, and a 20-meter non-operational buffer (10 meters each side) for pipelines. These buffers will be kept open, though we may include up to 20% native broadleaves.

If a water source is shallow or surface-fed, we will map the catchment, avoid using heavy machinery nearby, and manage brash heaps with care.

Public Access and Recreation

The forest is used on a regular basis by members of the public for walking, exercising dogs and cycling. All access is currently informal with no designated parking or path facilities. This access will be maintained through Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), however there are currently no plans to add any paths or facilities. We're aware of some occurrences of anti social behaviour and fly tipping within the forest and are working with Police Scotland on ways to tackle this.

Historic Environment

There are no scheduled heritage features at Montreathmont, other undesignated heritage features have been identified, and the chapter in Forest and Historic Environment within UKFS 5th Edition will be followed if any operations occur in their vicinity.

Biodiversity and Statutory Designations

There are no environmental designations within the forest, however a neighbouring SAC (River South Esk) requires care in terms of working in or close to water courses. The forest is home to a resident population of red squirrel and has locally significant nesting raptors, while a population of nightjar have been identified in the east Angus area. Forest operations will be planned to avoid disturbance or damage to these priority species using buffers, operational constraints and habitat retention measures. Opportunities to enhance habitat quality and connectivity for these species will be incorporated where practicable.