



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# East Loch Awe

## Land Management Plan

### 2026-2035

### West Region

**Plan Reference No:**

**Plan Approval Date:**

**Plan Expiry Date:**

We manage Scotland's national forests and land to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.



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## FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND Application for Land Management Plan Approvals in Scotland

Forestry and Land Scotland - Property

Region:	West
Woodland or property name:	East Loch Awe
Nearest town, village or locality:	Inveraray
OS Grid reference:	NM 998 058 (centre of plan area)
Local Authority district/unitary Authority:	Argyll & Bute

Areas for Approval	Conifer Ha	Broadleaf	Open Space	Other Land	Peatland Restoration
Clear felling	1951				
Restocking (including legacy RS)	1652	326			
Selective Fell (CCF)					
Natural Regeneration					
Thinning	194				

Note: restock includes areas felled under previous Plan

- I apply for **Land Management Plan** approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Plan.
- \* I apply for an opinion under the terms of the **“The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017”** for road building /quarries /afforestation /deforestation as detailed in my application.
- I confirm that the initial scoping of the plan was carried out with FLS and SF staff in 01-09-2025.
- I confirm that the proposals contained in this plan comply with the UK Forestry Standard.
- I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which the SF agreed must be included.
- I confirm that agreement has been reached with all of the stakeholders over the content of the forest plan and that there are no outstanding issues to be addressed. Copies of consultee endorsements of the plan are attached.
- I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed .....  
Regional Manager

Signed .....  
Conservator

Region: West

Conservancy:

Date :

**Date of Approval:** .....

**Date approval ends:** .....

# East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

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# 1 Regulatory Requirements

## 1.1 Summary and Introduction

East Loch Awe (ELA) Land Management Plan (LMP) covers an area of ~9691Ha and comprises of the three forest blocks;

- Ardchnnell ~ 524Ha
- Eredine ~ 4335Ha
- Brenchoillie ~ 4832Ha

Map 1 (Map 1- ELA Location and Viewpoints) shows the location of the LMP area with the three forest blocks. The LMP area is located to the south-west of Inveraray, and roughly stretches between the A83 and Loch Awe, in Mid Argyll. The viewpoint locations are the positions of the viewpoints used to show visualizations as to how the forest will change over the LMP.

The forest blocks are associated by geographic proximity to each other as well as similar attributes such as climate, topography, soils, age and infrastructure. The East Loch Awe Strategic Haul Route runs through the LMP area.

The area covers both forested (58%) woodland and open hill (42%), with over half of the woodland cover being 1<sup>st</sup> rotation mature conifer (41-60 years), with Sitka spruce currently making up ~81% of the conifer component.

The area is rich in heritage, including five Scheduled Monuments (SMs), old drove roads and lochans. Currently there are ten renewable schemes in the LMP area, along with core paths and visitor car parks.

## Objectives

1. Maintain sustainable quality timber production.
2. Develop a programme to remove most larch in phase 1 or phase 2 if phase 1 not feasible.
3. Ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped and roads sited to relate to landscape character and scenic quality. Scale, shape and plan coupes to maximise cost efficiencies for felling and access provision and re-establishment effectiveness.
4. Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights for third parties, B840 (east loch awe road), East Loch Awe strategic haul route, forest accesses, tracks, powerlines, core paths etc.

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5. Protect and identify opportunities for renewables and their associated infrastructure, ensuring that these are integrated with other land use objectives.
6. Add diversity in both terms of age and species across plan area, identifying continuous cover forestry (CCF) opportunities, Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) & priority habitats, improving the resilience of the plan against climate change, threats and diseases.
7. Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.
8. Provide scope and opportunity for potential increased recreational use by local communities and tourists, as well as enable/compliment the community action plans, and provide opportunity for appropriate and well managed integration with neighbouring land owners.

### Key Challenges

- Species diversity (max 65% single species)
- Age diversity
- Access to un-roaded areas
- Water sensitive catchments
- Suitable forest structure around renewable schemes
- Renewable schemes, including private water supplies (PWS)

### Consultation Summary

Main factors highlighted during consultation were:

- Species diversity (65% single species)
- Species mix not achieving UKFS 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (max. 65% single species)
- Protection of Scheduled Monuments
- Water catchments
- Riparian zone management and Loch Awe

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## Summaries of Management Proposals

The felling proposals in the first twenty years of the plan:

Felling	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Area in ha	1172	1282	825	810
% of area (not including other land)	12	13	9	8
Volume (m3)	481485	518806		

The species composition over the first twenty years:

Species Group	Current – 2026		Year 10 – 2036		Year 20 – 2046	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Sitka Spruce	4662	81	3664.7	65	3096.7	59
Norway Spruce	227.1	4	232.2	4	263.1	5
Larches	154.8	3	63.3	1	50	1
Native Scots Pine	65.4	1	118.60	2	154.1	3
Other Pines	123.9	2	285.9	5	433.2	8
Other Conifers	96.6	2	184.2	3	246.80	5
Mixed Broadleaves	294.1	5	543.8	10	646.9	12
Internal Open Space*	100.1	1	570.8	9	387	6
Restored Peatlands	95.2	1	95.2	1	95.2	1
<b>Forested Area Total**</b>	<b>5819.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5758.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5373</b>	<b>100</b>
Open Hill	3598.1	37	3661.90	38	4047.2	42
Agriculture	3.7	0	0.4	0	0.4	0
Open Water	270	3	270	3	270	3
<b>LMP area Total</b>	<b>9691</b>		<b>9691</b>		<b>9691</b>	

\* Included unplanted land & streamsidess, archaeology, deer glades, linear features, recreational areas & quarries

\*\* % is of Forested area, not Total area

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The age class composition over the first twenty years:

Age Class	Current – 2026		Year 10 – 2036		Year 20 – 2046	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
0 – 10 yrs	742	8	1717.1	18	1654.4	17
11 – 20yrs	596	6	616.1	6	1386.8	14
21 – 40 yrs	625.2	6	807.9	8	1191.7	12
40 – 60yrs	3299	34	1179.3	12	126	1
60+ yrs	257.1	3	772.3	8	533.5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>5519.3</b>		<b>5092.7</b>		<b>4892.4</b>	

### UKWAS Summary for year 50

Description	% of LMP Area <sup>1</sup>
Total current woodland area	64
Natural Reserves – Plantation	0.3
Natural Reserves – Semi Natural	
Long Term Retention, LISS, Minimum Intervention	6
Area of Conservation value: designations, AW	8
Planned Open/Other	38

#### Notes

1. The % will total more than 100% as the species and management categories overlap.

## Planned Roding Operations

Planned operations 10 year plan period
Road Construction Phase 1 5520m
Road Construction Phase 2 880m

The roads to be constructed, as detailed on map 11, Map 11- ELA Civils operations, will require local authority Prior Notification (PN) approval. This will be submitted prior to construction following EIA determination approval by Conservancy as included in this plan.

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The forwarder/ATV tracks to be constructed will also require local authority Prior Notification (PN) approval and will likewise be submitted to the local authority.

Any unexpired PN's and EIAs are listed in Appendix VIII.

## 1.2 Activity Summary

Felling (Phase 1)												
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Volume	Spp by Ha (SS)	Spp by Ha (SP)	Spp by Ha (LP)	Spp by Ha (NS)	Spp by Ha (Larch)	Spp by Ha	Spp by Ha (BLeaf)	Open Land by Ha	Restock Year	Monitoring Comments
		m3						(X con)				
09004	41.57	6397.22	18.9		15					7.6	2030	
09016	6.17	1599.62	1.4					1.4	3.2	0.1	2030	
09020	9.25	3037.3	4.4			0.5		0.3	1.3	2.7	2028	
09023	5.4	1242.46	0.7				4.3	0.1		0.3	2030	
09030	8.02	1359.38	0.4	0.1			4			3.5	2028	
09034	12.16	3030.01	5.9	0.5			0.7			5.1	2029	
10013	37.29	14085.61	23.7				1.2			12.3	2028	
10037	19.37	10427.71	16.5				0.6		1.35	0.9	2031	
10043	18.02	11027.14	15.6						0.2	2.2	2029	
10072	7.62	3010.88	5.9				0.6			1.1	2031	
10084	46.67	21786.01	37.5						0.1	9	2029	
10086	30.6	13445.59	26.7							3.9	2029	
10098	49.81	18070.48	40.1							9.7	2029	
10105	13.22	1466.45				2.4	9.5		0.3	1	2030	
10106	25.99	10801.16	22.7							3.2	2029	
10107	29.55	1994.01	19.8							9.7	2029	
10119	24.28	18414.16	21.2				0.3		0.8	2	2031	
10120	74.53	29875.18	60				0.9			13.6	2029	
10123	21.98	8960.84	4.1			1.5	5	7	2.4	1.9	2029	
10133	12.82	8756.52	11							1.8	2031	

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10143	5.43	2935.55	3.5			0.1	1.1		0.5	0.23	2030	
10153	23.88	10838.61	20.9				0.5			2.5	2032	
10160	12.21	2358.33	4.5				1.5		4.7	1.4	2031	
10166	3.8	344.64	0.6				2.6			0.6	2031	
10173	29.68	14015.9	5.1	1		8.6	2.5	3.1	5.2	4.2	2028	Already approved
10188	24.82	15408.75	17.9			4.7	1.1		0.1	1	2031	fell with 10072
14004	1.17	175.67	0.9							0.3	2029	
14012	59.48	24999.95	55.7						0.5	3.2	2029	
14019	46.91	17378.5	38.9						0.1	7.9	2030	
14025	41.46	17246.43	33	0.1		0.1	2.2	1.6	0.2	4.3	2029	
14026	29.4	20202.17	25.3			0.1		0.1	1	2.9	2031	
14031	1.37	220.99					0.9			0.4	2031	fell with 14026
14039	33.03	12980.29	28.6							4.4	2030	
14046	39	18435.25	30.8						0.8	7.4	2031	
14047	52.37	22560.91	45.3							7	2030	Already approved
14062	50.65	21234.9	39.2							11.4	2031	
14074	62.39	20256.37	45.4				1.6		0.4	15	2030	Already approved
14076	49.46	16774.06	38.2						1.4	9.9	2029	
14087	28.62	13910.07	20.8				1		0.1	6.7	2028	Already approved
14091	33.07	10994.01	21.9				4.3		0.5	6.4	2030	
14096	43.63	26602.4	35.4			0.1				8.1	2029	
14998	4.13	2016.56	3.5							0.6	2030	fell with 14019
14999	2.51	806.85	2.1							0.4	2029	fell with 10412
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1172.79</b>	<b>481484.9</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>25.15</b>	<b>197.83</b>		

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Felling (Phase 2)												
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Volume	Spp by Ha (SS)	Spp by Ha (SP)	Spp by Ha (LP)	Spp by Ha (NS)	Spp by Ha (Larch)	Spp by Ha	Spp by Ha (BLeaf)	Open Land by Ha	Restock Year	Monitoring Comments
		m3						(X con)				
09005	28.56	16547.81	24.8		2.4					1.3	2035	
09019	8.45	5570.6	6.6						1.1	0.7	2034	
10003	19.97	9656.78	14.1		0.4		0.8		4.1	0.6	2033	
10014	36.96	25449.74	29		0.4	1.6	0.8		0.4	4.8	2036	
10019	10.22	7221.83	5.1			5				0.1	2034	
10027	23.86	12756.85	20.8				0.2			2.9	2034	
10046	31.46	8732.05	19.4			0.7	1.9		2.7	6.7	2035	
10065	22.9	5749.43	18.9							4.1	2034	
10078	72.35	36780.53	66.2				0.7			5.4	2033	
10080	45	20260.24	34.8							10.2	2035	
10089	57.16	21910.78	40.7							16.4	2034	
10122	12.01	7669.97	4.2			4.9	0.6		0.6	1.7	2033	
10129	37.18	20198.59	31				0.1			6	2036	
10144	14.07	1826.02	2.7				5.8	3.8		1.8	2036	
10151	31.33	22595.69	24.7		0.3	1	3.3	0.1		1.9	2036	fell with 10144
10152	12.88	1348.61	0.6				8.9		0.2	3.1	2033	
10162	1.9	289.39				0.2	1.4			0.3	2036	
10168	18.68	8852.19	14.3				0.2	0.6	1	2.5	2034	
14007	25.39	10788.44	22.5							2.9	2035	
14013	30.74	18437.18	26.8						1	3	2035	
14014	30.95	13270.87	24.4							6.6	2036	
14017	23.99	12239.81	22.4							1.5	2035	
14032	41.13	14767.01	33.5						0.1	7.6	2033	
14040	32.44	14510.93	24.7							7.7	2033	

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14053	37.18	12663.58	31.6							5.6	2036	
14055	7.94	2219.91	3.5						1	3.5	2034	
14057	33.02	10384.42	25.7						0.2	7.1	2034	
14081	87.53	26562.06	72.3							15.2	2036	
14102	7.15	2215.57	4.1						0.3	2.7	2033	
14106	24.87	12784.02	20						1.5	3.4	2033	
14122	87.26	23625.18	68.4			0.1			0.3	18.6	2033	
14138	73.51	26195.32	60.4							13.1	2035	
14142	32.24	10369.25	24.9							7.4	2036	
14147	57.11	29135.36	52.7							4.4	2035	
14159	53.43	13561.7	42.7							10.7	2035	
14170	71.23	21670.25	56.2						1.2	13.8	2034	
14997	40.75	9988.47	32.1							8.7	2034	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1282.8</b>	<b>518806.4</b>	<b>708.3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>142.8</b>		

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Restocking (Phase 1)												
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	SS (Ha)	LP (Ha)	SP (Ha)	NS (Ha)	Other Con. (Ha)	Native Mixed B/Leaf	Other B/Leaf	Open (Ha)	Year	Restock Method & Density	Monitoring Comments
											(Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)	(Including any reason not to restock)
09004	41.57	24.03	10.3						7.24	2029	Planted	
09023	5.4	2.59		0.35	0.81		0.27		1.38	2027	Planted	
09034	12.16	7.88					0.61		3.67	2027	Mix	MB via nat regen
10013	37.29	24.4					3.34		9.55	2027	Planted	Low density woodland
10037	19.37	4.87	1.6	2.9	1.34	0.54	3.43		4.69	2029	Mix	MB via nat regen
10043	18.02	7.83		2.61		2.61	0.6		4.37	2027	Mix	MB via nat regen
10072	7.62	2.89	1.24						3.49	2028	Planted	
10084	46.67	25.27	1.55				3		16.85	2027	Planted	Low density woodland
10086	30.6	21.79	0.8						8.01	2027	Planted	
10098	49.81	22.09	1.62				10.9		15.2	2028	Planted	Low density woodland
10106	25.99	3.85	2.57				9.2		10.37	2028	Planted	Low density woodland
10119	24.28	21.91							2.37	2029	Planted	
10120	74.53	47.9	12						14.63	2028	Planted	Low density woodland
10133	12.82	8.61					1		3.21	2030	Planted	
10153	23.88	16.49					3.39		4	2030	Mix	MB via nat regen
14012	59.48	43.1	2.8	0.5	1.4		1.62		10.06	2028	Planted	1.62Ha priority habitat
14019	46.91	30	14.5						2.41	2028	Planted	

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14025	41.46	29.02		1.1	2.5		3.2		5.64	2028	Planted	Low density woodland
14039	33.03	25.87							7.16	2030	Planted	
14046	39	18.44				4.61	14.6		1.35	2030	Mix	MB via nat regen.
14047	52.37	37.65	3.1						13.85	2027	Planted	2Ha priority habitat.
14062	50.65	29.98	0.7	1.4	3	2.8			12.77	2030	Planted	Approved by amendment.
14074	62.39	21.39		1.5			14.5		25	2027	Planted	
14076	49.46	24.14	10.3						15.02	2028	Planted	
14087	28.62	10.36				10	1.7		6.56	2027	Planted	Approved by amendment.
14091	33.07	21.21							11.86	2029	Planted	
14998	4.13	2.57	1.4						0.16	2028	Planted	
09016	6.17					0.1	4.3		1.77	2030	Mix	MB via nat regen.
09020	9.25			0.35	1.6		1.7		5.6	2028	Planted	Powerline in coupe.
09030	8.02			1.4	4.6		0.8		1.22	2029	Planted	1.22Ha priority habitat
10105	13.22	1.2		4.3	4.7				3.02	2031	Planted	
10107	29.55						14.77		14.78	2029	Planted	
10123	21.98						18		3.98	2029	Mix	2.18Ha MB nat regen.
10143	5.43						3.7		1.73	2030	Natural regeneration	MB via nat regen.
10160	12.21			2.4			7		2.81	2031	Planted	
10166	3.8				2.2	1			0.6	2031	Planted	
10173	29.68			0.5	1.3	2	13.3		12.58	2028	Mix	1.7Ha MB nat regen. Powerline.
10188	24.82					16.3	5.5		3.02	2032	Mix	2.2Ha MB nat regen
14004	1.17			0.1			0.15		0.92	2029	Planted	
14026	29.4	7.7		4.1	3.4	2.6	3.6		8	2031	Planted	
14031	1.37			0.6			0.1		0.67	2030	Planted	Quarry/SSSI
14096	43.63					28	5		10.63	2029	Planted	1Ha priority habitat
14999	2.51			2.23					0.28	2029	Planted	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1172.79</b>	<b>545.03</b>	<b>64.48</b>	<b>24.11</b>	<b>26.85</b>	<b>70.56</b>	<b>149.28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>292.2</b>			

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Restocking (Phase 2)												
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	SS (Ha)	LP (Ha)	SP (Ha)	NS (Ha)	Other Con. (Ha)	Native Mixed B/Leaf	Other B/Leaf	Open (Ha)	Year	Restock Method & Density	Monitoring Comments
											(Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)	(Including any reason not to restock)
09005	28.56	18.4	3.1	0.5			1.1		5.46	2035	Planted	
09019	8.45			1.3	3.6		2.03		1.52	2034	Mix	2.03Ha MB nat regen
10003	19.97			3.9	1.2	1.2	12.13		1.54	2033	Mix	12.13Ha MB nat regen
10014	36.96	13.62		3		7.47	4.1		8.77	2036	Mix	4.1Ha MB nat regen.
10019	10.22			0.5		7.23	0.9		1.59	2034	Mix	0.9Ha MB nat regen
10027	23.86	16.9	3.5						3.46	2034	Planted	0.76Ha priority habitat
10046	31.46	3.5	2	2	6.27		10.38		7.31	2035	Mix	10.38Ha MB nat regen.
10065	22.9	7.93		1.5			6.24		7.23	2034	Planted	low density woodland.
10078	72.35	52.15	8.31	0.8			0.2		10.89	2033	Mix	MB nat regen
10080	45	30	0.3				1.92		12.78	2035	Planted	low density woodland
10089	57.16	29	13.45				2		12.71	2034	Planted	low density woodland
10122	12.01			1	1.4		5.81		3.8	2033	Mix	MB nat regen. Powerline corridor.
10129	37.18	18	4				4		11.18	2036	Planted	low density woodland.
10144	14.07	8.1				3.5			2.47	2036	Planted	
10151	31.33	26.61							4.72	2036	Planted	
10152	12.88			4			5.5		3.38	2033	Mix	1.5Ha MB nat regen.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

10162	1.9			0.72		0.72	0.3		0.16	2036	Mix	MB nat regen
10168	18.68			3		10	3		2.68	2034	Mix	MB nat regen
14007	25.39	18	6.12						1.27	2034	Planted	
14013	30.74	16.5	4.1		1	1	3		5.14	2035	Mix	MB nat regen
14014	30.95	20	4.3						6.65	2036	Planted	6Ha priority habitat
14017	23.99	11.85		4.1		2.31	0.2		5.53	2035	Planted	
14032	41.13	21.85	5.75						13.53	2033	Planted	12Ha priority habitat
14040	32.44	18	5.4						9	2033	Planted	
14053	37.18	27					3		7.18	2036	Planted	MB is Low density woodland
14055	7.94			1			4.4		2.54	2034	Planted	
14057	33.02	9.5	9.5	3.3	1	1.9	0.8		7	2034	Mix	MB nat regen
14081	87.53	51.6	6.5				6.35		23	2035	Planted	MB is low density woodland
14102	7.15					2.4	2		2.75	2033	Mix	MB nat regen
14106	24.87					17.1	4		3.77	2033	Mix	MB nat regen
14122	87.26	12.5	12.5				27.1		35.16	2033	Planted	MB is low density woodland
14138	73.51	31.4	31.4						10.7	2035	Planted	2Ha priority habitat
14142	32.24	18					5		9.24	2036	Planted	MB is low density woodland
14147	57.11	21.65	5.31	3.2	3.95		8		15	2035	Planted	2Ha priority habitat
14159	53.43	10.7	10.7				10.4		21.63	2035	Planted	MB is low density woodland
14170	71.23	44.23							27	2034	Planted	14Ha priority habitat
14997	40.75	7.2	7.15				10		16.4	2035	Planted	MB is low density woodland
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1282.8</b>	<b>564.19</b>	<b>143.39</b>	<b>33.82</b>	<b>18.42</b>	<b>54.83</b>	<b>143.86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>324.14</b>			

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Restocking (from current LMP)												
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	SS (Ha)	LP (Ha)	SP (Ha)	NS (Ha)	Other Con. (Ha)	Native Mixed B/Leaf	Other B/Leaf	Open (Ha)	Year	Restock Method & Density	Monitoring Comments
											(Restock/Nat Regen/Alt Area/Coppice/Open)	(Including any reason not to restock)
10007	22.65	16.3		2					4.35	2026	Planted	
10013	37.22	24.4					3.5		9.32	2026	Planted	MB is low density woodland
10023	39.4	25			2				12.4	2026	Mix	MB nat regen.
10034	6.17	0.4				3.4	1.12		1.25	2026	Mix	MB nat regen
10064	2.45	1.2	0.8						0.45	2026	Planted	2.61Ha priority habitat
10073	38.04	7.52	1.4						29.12	2026	Planted	21.6Ha priority habitat
10126	19.5			1.3		2.14	11		5	2026	Mix	MB by nat regen
10135	8.65			4			3.2		1.45	2027	Planted	
10146	29.09	18.5	6.5				2.7		1.39	2026	Mix	MB nat regen
10165	11.73											
14021	13.12	2				6			5.12	2026	Planted	
14024	19.29	13.19			2.4		0.4		3.3	2027	Planted	
14029	7.31	6							1.31	2027	Planted	
14030	26.75	18.5		1		0.3	0.2		6.75	2027	Planted	
14036	7.32	5		0.3			0.3		1.72	2027	Planted	
14044	9.66	4	2						3.66	2027	Planted	

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

14052	16.09	9	0.6				0.1		6.39	2027	Mix	MB nat regen. Powerline corridor.
14089	16.93	10.5			3		1.4		2.03	2027	Planted	Powerline corridor.
14120	3.63	3							0.36	2027	Planted	Powerline corridor.
14125	8.61	8							0.61	2027	Planted	Powerline corridor.
14141	4.72	4.07							0.65	2027	Planted	Powerline corridor.
<b>Total</b>	<b>348.33</b>	<b>176.58</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>11.84</b>	<b>23.92</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96.63</b>			

Table of Thinning (Phase 1 & 2)				
Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Species	Thin-able Area (ha)	Prescription for Thinning

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

<b>1.9 Table of Civil Engineering</b>			
<b>Proposed Activity (Road/Quarry)</b>	<b>OS Grid Reference</b>	<b>Forest/Coupe</b>	<b>Description (Length/Area/Construction)</b>
ER211 new road	NM 975 070	Eredine- 10098	500m
ER18 new road	NM 970 006	Brenchoillie 14019/14159	1430m
ER245 new road	NN 040 071	Brenchoillie 14062/14081	1000m
ER221 new road	NM 986 060	Eredine 10098/10078	1070m
ER24 continuation	NN 014 037	Brenchoillie- 14163	1520m
ER401 new road	NN 053 062	Brenchoillie- 14147/14148	880m

<b>1.10 Table of Other Projects</b>			
<b>Proposed Activity</b>	<b>OS Grid Reference</b>	<b>Forest/Coupe</b>	<b>Prescription / Description (Length/Area/Construction)</b>
ATV Tracks	As and when required	ELA LMP area restocking coupes	
Environment works	As and when required	ELA LMP area	
Forwarder tracks	As and when required	ELA LMP area felling coupes	

## 1.3 EIA Screening Determination



Please complete this form to find out if you need consent from Scottish Forestry, under the **Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, to carry out your proposed forestry project.

For more information on EIA Screening, refer to Scottish Forestry’s ‘Environmental Impact Assessments for Forestry Projects’ (2021) guidance document and ‘Schedule 2: Selection Criteria for Screening Forestry Projects’ under the “Applying for an opinion” section for more detail on the information you should provide in this form. If you are not sure about what information to include on this form, please contact your local Conservancy office.

### Project Details

Provide details of the gross project area and composition i.e. the project boundary to include all unplanted ground and sensitive areas retained in open ground within the boundary. You must also provide a map which defines the gross area boundary.

Designed Open Ground (DOG) is plantable land left unplanted for design reasons or to avoid or prevent significant negative impacts. Other Land (OL) is unplanted land e.g. scree, extensive deep peat, lochs and other waterbodies, existing woodland.

The definition of ‘native’ and ‘non native’ refers to Scotland as a whole, not to specific areas of Scotland and irrespective of management objectives.

Proposed* Work	Gross Project Area (ha)	Non Native CON (ha)	Native CON (ha)	Non Native BL (ha)	NBL (ha)	DOG (ha)	OL (ha)
Afforestation							
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Deforestation							
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Forest Roads	9.6						
Forest Quarry							

\*SF Use Only:

For recording afforestation species figures in Casebook Pre-App case type:

Conifer = Non Native CON + Native CON figures as shown in above table

Broadleaves = Non Native BL + NBL+ DOG + OL figures as shown in above table

### Description of Forestry Project and Location

Provide details of the forestry project (size, design, use of natural resources such as soil, and the cumulative effect if relevant).

Please attach map(s) showing the boundary of the proposed work and other known details.

This project is for a number of new roads in East Loch Awe (ELA), required to access harvesting coupes as part of the new ELA LMP. The locations of the proposed roads can be seen visually in "Map 11 East Loch Awe Civils Operations".

The table below shows the proposed roads;

Map reference	Block	Grid reference	Road	Length (m)	Area (Ha)
1	Eredine	NM 975 070	ER211	500	0.75
2	Brenchoillie	NN 014 037	ER24	1520	2.28
3	Brenchoillie	NM 970 006	ER18	1430	2.145
4	Brenchoillie	NN 040 071	ER245	1000	1.5
5	Eredine	NM 986 060	ER221	1070	1.605
6	Brenchoillie	NN 053 062	ER401	880	1.32
<b>Total</b>				<b>6400</b>	<b>9.6</b>

The construction of the roads will enable suitable access into proposed Phase 1 and Phase 2 felling coupes in the plan, see "Map 6 East loch Awe Management coupes" and maps 7.

The total footprint of the project is 9.6Ha, max. road width of 15m.

The proposed road lines include a 60m buffer, which will allow for movement of the exact line of the road depending on ground conditions after felling and during construction.

All road construction will be UK Forest Standard compliant and follow the Forest and Water Guidelines (5th Edition). The roads will be constructed in compliance with SEPA EASR regulations in advance of operational activity. the design of the roads will conform to both the Timber Transport Forum document "The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads 2014" and SNHs "Constructed tracks in the Scottish uplands - Revised Sept 2015". Soil will be excavated down to a base layer and stone used to construct the base and complete the road surface. Any water crossings will be of bottomless or arched culverts (or bridges) sized to accommodate the 1 in 200 year flood event.

The majority of rock for the new road lines will be sourced from Beinn Laoigh Quarry, NM 9640 0192, which is currently stripped and ready to be blasted – expected to be blasted mid-2026. Eredine ER22 Quarry can supply stone for ER221 though limited to breaking only due to nearby mast.

The civils report on specific information for each proposed road is included with this SOR, "EIA civils Road Proposals for LMP SOR".

Prior Notification approval through Argyll & Bute Council will be sought.

Provide details on the existing land use and the environmental sensitivity of the area that is likely to be affected by the forestry project.

The proposed road lines are all situated in East Loch Awe, Mid Argyll. The first 2 are Eredine Forest block on Loch Awe side and roads 3-6 are in Brenchoillie Forest block to the west of Loch Fyne.

The blocks contain commercial crop as well as areas of ancient woodland, open water lochs, priority habitats and open hill.

The proposed road lines cross through first rotation planted areas and small sections of open ground.

The new roads will enable access to fell first rotation conifers. This will then allow for restocking to add structure and biodiversity, as well as more suitable species for the soils.

The roads will all provide access on to the East Loch Awe Strategic Haul Route for appropriate access onto the public roads.

### Description of Likely Significant Effects

Provide details on any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment (resulting from the project itself or the use of natural resources) and the extent of the information available to assist you with this assessment.

#### Population:

There are no properties within the forest block where the new road lines are to be built. The proposed road lines will not be visible from any nearby villages or main public roads.

#### Human health:

There are local communities in the vicinity of the proposed roads.

#### Biodiversity:

The roads will cross through first rotation conifer crops and small sections of open ground. The small sections across the open ground could cross habitats of small mammals, birds, butterflies, dragonflies and badgers as well as native woodland.

Forest operations could potentially alter the habitats, resulting in less preferred conditions reducing biodiversity.

#### Land use:

The current land use is that of first rotation mature forest, open ground, watercourses/riparian corridors and broadleaves.

Forest operations could result in change of land use through vegetation type.

#### Soil:

The road lines cross a mixture of soil types; mainly surface-water gleys, peaty gleys and iron pans.

Any forest operations could cause soil disturbance in terms of erosion, degradation and structure damage.

#### Water:

Road 1- none

Road 2- will cross Leacann Water

Road 3- will cross 2 watercourses

Road 4- SW catchment

Road 5- will cross 2 watercourses

Road 6- SW catchment

Any operations could affect water quality and quantity and associated aquatic biodiversity.

**Air & Climate:**

Forest operations could have short term impacts during construction in terms of machine/vehicle use.

**Material assets:**

There are no material assets present.

**Cultural heritage:**

There is a heritage feature in proximity to road 4, however, it is south of the watercourse.

**Landscape:**

The area is mature forest with areas of open ground. the area will be replanted following harvesting operations.

The location of the road lines result in no visual impact.

Include details of any consultees or stakeholders that you have contacted in order to make this assessment. Please include any relevant correspondence you have received from them.

**Consultees;**

FLS Environmental team- site visit to check no environmental constraints of proposed roadline. No issues on location for construction.

FLS Civils team- site visits to mark location of proposed road lines and confirm quarry.

FLS Delivery team- confirmation of requirement for road access into coupes, with proposals deemed appropriate.

FLS Visitor Services team- no issues.

### Avoidance and Prevention of Likely Significant Effects

If you believe there are likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment, provide information on the opportunities you have taken to avoid and prevent significant negative impacts.

**Population:**

No significant impacts have been identified that require mitigation.

Signage will be put up as appropriate for forestry operations with physical barriers used is necessary.

**Human health:**

No significant impacts have been identified that require mitigation. Appropriate operational safety measures will be followed during operations.  
Signage will be put out in advance of operations with physical barriers is necessary.

#### Biodiversity:

The environmental team have walked the road lines. There are no significant impacts. The road lines are over conifer crops. The road lines will not require any broadleaf trees to be felled, sited to avoid them.

No other significant habitats found which require mitigation, no badger sets, or priority/protected species nor priority habitats/fauna/flora.

Works are being carried out out-with bird nesting season.

#### Land use:

The road lines will cross through mature conifer crops and provide access to first rotation conifers.

It will also provide operational access for establishment and woodland/priority habitat management.

#### Soil:

Soil surveys in the area have been undertaken.

The roadline doesn't cross any deep peat areas.

Diffuse Pollution: The Construction Phase Plan (CPP) will include a detailed emergency pollution prevention and response strategy, outlining specific measures to control potential pollution incidents. It will also designate trained personnel and provide protocols for immediate containment strategies and details of who to report the incident to.

#### Water:

All operations will comply with the UKWAS and the UKFS. The UKFS Forests & Water Guidelines 5<sup>th</sup> Edition will be followed in relation to both forest planning and operationally.

Diffuse Pollution: The Construction Phase Plan (CPP) will include a detailed emergency pollution prevention and response strategy, outlining specific measures to control potential pollution incidents. It will also designate trained personnel and provide protocols for immediate containment strategies and details of who to report the incident to.

Open ground and broadleaved buffers will be created during restructuring along all riparian zones to maintain water quality and provide enhanced ecological linkages.

Dialogue and consultation with the private water supply users at an operational level to identify and address concerns will be an operational necessity.

Water sampling will be undertaken prior to operations to gain baseline information on water quality.

#### Air & Climate

There could be small impact during road construction. All operations will comply with UKWAS and UKFS.

#### Material assets:

None present during site walkover, therefore no impact and mitigation.

#### Cultural heritage:

None present during site survey of proposed line, therefore no impact and mitigation.

#### Landscape

The new road lines will not be visible and future restocking proposals will help to limit any potential visual impact.

### Sensitive Areas

Please indicate if any of the proposed forestry project is within a sensitive area. Choose the sensitive area from the drop down below and give the area of the proposal within it.

Sensitive Area	Area (ha)
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

### Property Details

Property Name:	East Loch Awe		
Business Reference Number:		Main Location Code:	
		Nearest town or locality:	Inveraray
Local Authority:	Argyll & Bute		

### Owner's Details

Title:	Ms	Forename:	Jeni
Surname:	West		
Organisation:	FLS	Position:	Planning Forester
Primary Contact Number:	07770 368561	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	jeni.west@forestryandland.gov.scot		
Address:	West Region, FLS, Whitegates, Lochgilphead. Argyll		
Postcode:	PA31 8RS	Country:	Scotland
Is this the correspondence address?	Yes		

### Agent's Details

Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	
Is this the correspondence address?	Choose an item.		

SORF V3.5 April 2025



# ELA Road Proposals for LMP SOR

## ER211

Relatively simple proposal, mainly following an existing quad track with the exception of a number of bends to achieve appropriate gradient. A few sections that seemed wet – so could be sections that require floating, if so the price would increase accordingly. Potential to push road further North-East if required. Suitable stone available in area. Estimated cost £130-£150p/m.

## ER24

Extremely difficult road to build. Steep gradients to overcome and a lot of potential rock breaking/blasting along the edge of our land to get round. Large bridge required over watercourse that feeds hydro-scheme. Once height is achieved, the road becomes a simple process, but getting to NN 007 029 will be difficult and expensive. Estimated cost of bridge £400,000. Road £270 p/m.

## ER18

The start of the proposed road that leaves the forest road is the difficult section – may not land exactly where has currently been proposed but is doable in my opinion. Snakes either side of existing quad track. Current line is over a number of watercourse – the closest to forest road (NM 9695 0064) looks to be a large culvert so avoiding a bridge. Potential to push further East if required. Estimated cost £150-£175 p/m.

## ER245

Proposed line looks to be completely buildable. Follows existing quad track for majority. Could not walk the exact line due to windblow but there were no issues I could see. Walked around 1.3km. Main issue is stone source – no obvious sources on the roadline. Unless we get Auchindrain Quarry back from Balfour Beatty (which currently is not the plan – they are landscaping it back when they are finished with it) then the haul is around a 26km turnaround. Estimated cost difficult due to stone issue - £130-£150 p/m if sorted, would be above £200 if not.

## ER221

Completely buildable. Sections of deep peat which may require floating. Available stone source which can only be broken and not blasted (due to mast) – so not ideal but not terrible. Estimated cost £130-£150 p/m.

## ER401

The proposed roadline lies in the centre of a coupe along relatively flat terrain and crossing a number of small watercourses. The start however crosses a substantial watercourse which currently has a small quad track bridge crossing. From Forestry and Land Scotland's calculations we would not require a bridge – instead an 1800mm culvert would suffice. The slope becomes steep falling to the West which would involve cut and fill construction though this is a common construction method. The road may require extending 50m or so to accommodate a turning head – as the slope eases slightly allowing for less excavation.

## Road construction

Organic material will be excavated, removing topsoil and clays to reach minerals. A 8% camber would be preferable here which will reflect the finished road surface. Road to be constructed on a formation of base rock with around a 6m width – made up of as-blast material at around 400mm depth. Crushed stone at 150mm makes up the sub-base layer at a depth of around 300mm and a width of 5m, with a final layer of crushed surfacing stone at 70mm size around a depth of 150-200mm. The finished road surface will be 3.5-4m width with a camber of 8% and a gradient of between 4-12%.

The roadside ditches will be formed at least 150mm below the formation level, preventing run off from the surrounding area to penetrate the road make up and weaken the structure. The ditches will have a gradient of between 2-6% to ensure water flows although not quick enough to erode the ditches and road edge. Cut off culverts will be implemented 30m before watercourses with sumps dug to prevent direct run off.

## Floated road construction

Along sections of road which contain >500mm of peat, we would float the road. The aim is to limit disruption to the ground surface as much as possible to prevent CO2 from escaping. Stumps on the road line and within the reach of an excavator are flipped and packed in, as well as surrounding felled trees, forwarder tracks ect to form the “floated” section. In severely poor sections, there is an option to involve geogrid/terraim to further support the running surface and spread the weight along the ground surface. The road is then made up of as-blast material for the formation layer, sub-base material and then surface material. Depths of each vary depending on the behaviour of the peat below.

## Stone source

Where rock can be won in each area it will be – with the option of slightly amending the line of the road to catch sections of rock. Majority of rock will be sourced from Beinn Laoigh Quarry, NM 9640 0192 which is currently stripped and ready to be blasted – expected to be blasted mid-2026. Eredine ER22 Quarry can supply stone for ER221 though limited to breaking only due to nearby mast.

## 1.4 Other Regulations

### Standards and guidance

This land management plan has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs including those below:

“Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032” (Scottish Government)

“Protecting private water supplies during forestry activities” (Confor); this includes observing the UKFS 50m buffer around abstraction points.

“River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021 – 2027” (SEPA)

“Deadwood Management Guidance” (FLS) - supplement to Scottish Forestry Practice Guide: “Managing deadwood in forest and woodlands”.

“Managing forest operations to protect the water environment” (Forest Research Practice Guide)

“Building wildfire resilience into forest management planning” (FC Practice Guide).

“Strategic guide for the conservation management of open habitats on Scotland’s national forest estate.” (FLS)

“The state of Scotland’s rainforest – research report 2019.”

“Deciding Future Management Options for Afforested Deep Peatland” (FCS Practice Guide 2015)

“Planting and restocking on peat soils” (Standard Operating Procedure, FLS 2021)

“PAWS Guidance” (FLS)

“An approach to prioritising control of rhododendron” (FLS)

“Managing and controlling invasive rhododendron” (FC Practice Guide 017)

“Managing invasive and non-native forestry species” (FCS)

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

“Priorities for rhododendron control” (FLS)

“Deadwood Guidance” (FLS)

“Forest operations and wildlife in Scottish Forests” (FCS Guidance Notes 31)

“Forest operations and birds in Scottish Forests” (FCS Guidance Notes 32)

“Forest operations and European protected species in Scottish Forests” (FCS Guidance Note34)

“Forest operations and bats in Scotland” (FCS Guidance Notes 35a)

“Forest operations and otters in Scotland” (FCS Guidance Notes 35c)

“Managing forests for white-tailed eagles” (FCS Practice Notes 101)

“Forest operations and badger setts” (FCS Practice Guide 9)

UK Forestry Standard 5<sup>th</sup> edition: including Section 9 – Forests and Water and Section 4 – Forests and Climate Change (mitigation and adaptation to improve forest resilience, including risks from wildfire.)

“Agreed Protocol for provisions of Local Provenance” (FLS Guide 2025)

A full list of these standards and guidance can be found here:

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning>

## Other Tree Felling in Exceptional Circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LMP process. However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts in delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances.

Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below\*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage or impeded drainage.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

\* Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (Vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities, services and drains.

The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per Land Management Plan per calendar year. A record of the volume felled in this way is detailed below and will be considered during the five year Land Management Plan review.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Table of Other Felling				
Date	Coupe/Area	OS NGR	Volume (m3)	Comments

## 1.5 Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Changes to species	Changes to road lines	Designed Open Ground	Wind blow clearance
Scottish Forestry Approval not normally required (record and notify SF)	10% of coupe size	Up to 5 planting seasons after felling (allowing for fallow periods for Hylobius)	Change within species group e.g. Native broadleaves  Non-native conifers e.g Sitka spruce to Douglas fir  Non-native to native species (allowing for changes to facilitate Ancient Woodland policy)  For Caledonian pine woodland – SP to native BL to allow for disease issues	Departures of up to 60m from the centre of the roadline	Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of emails and maps	10-15% of coupe size	5 years +	Change of coupe objective likely to be consistent with current policy e.g. from productive to open, open to native species	Departures of greater than 60m from the centre of the roadline	Increase between 5-10% coupe area.  Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	> 15% of coupe size		Major change of objective likely to be contrary to policy e.g. native to non-native species, open to non-native	As above, depending on sensitivity	Increase >10% of coupe area	More than 5 ha

## 2 LMP ANALYSIS

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
<p>Maintain a sustainable quality timber production.</p>	<p>Sitka spruce is well suited to large areas of the site, and capable of producing a commercial crop on a short rotation. A wider range of species choice is available for lower slopes which have better soils and less exposure. Climate change may expand the range of some species and enhance site conditions. This could facilitate a wider range of potential species with higher growth rates. Carbon sequestration and the creation of wood products contribute to climate change mitigation.</p>	<p>Increased risk of climatic and disease impacts (Larch) which may affect trees in the ground and restocking species choices. ESC modelling indicates declining range of suitable species for the site under present climate models using generic soil data. Storm events of increasing intensity would limit the rotation length. Range of fast growing species is limited.</p>	<p>Utilise species best suited to the site while increasing species diversity on the better lower slopes. Areas of poor growth have been identified on the upper slopes and have been selected as areas where deep peat restoration is feasible or low density broadleaf woodlands. Build on the age class diversity already achieved as this is a key element in building a resilient forest where species choice is limited. Follow latest research guidance in relation to species choice and best practice. Aim for productive use of most of the forest area and select species with high growth rates. Broadleaves will be used on the Loch Awe shoresides and increasing riparian corridors.</p>
<p>Develop a programme to remove most of</p>	<p>Grading of larch by ease of access and method of removal is being considered.</p>	<p>It is almost certain that Phytophthora ramorum will</p>	<p>Prioritise mature larch removal in phase 1.</p>

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
the larch in phase 1 or 2.	There is opportunity to remove some mature larch with current access. There are opportunities to thin our younger larch.	continue to spread across the forest blocks. Large areas of inaccessible young larch. Areas of larch on sloped ground.	Create a plan for younger larch, including access. Replant larch areas with broadleaves for seasonal colour as appropriate.
Ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped and roads sited to relate to landscape character and scenic quality. Scale, shape and plan coupes to maximise cost efficiencies for felling and access provision and re-establishment effectiveness.	Forest views of Eredine and lower Ardchnonnell from West Loch Awe, large scale landscape.	Over-riding practical reasons have required coupes to be felled that are less related to landform. Some boundary edges are not in-keeping with the landscape. It might be difficult to diversify to mixed conifers and broadleaves due to deer populations. Large areas of 1 <sup>st</sup> rotation Sitka spruce.	Design management coupes to fit the landscape/landform. Ensure restocking helps mitigate speed of felling large areas of 1 <sup>st</sup> rotation Sitka spruce. Develop a long term design of outer margins to reflect landform. Mitigate the amount of felling by using broadleaf screening. Package smaller coupes together as required to make them more commercially viable.
Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights, B840, East	Identify all infrastructure in plan area. Confirm PWS with catchments in plan area. Provide opportunities for resilience for infrastructure.	Large number of infrastructure with associated cost of maintaining buffers.	Map all infrastructure and provide buffers for approved management. Include buffers in any new planting proposals.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
Loch Awe Strategic Haulage Route, forest roads, core paths, Private Water Supplies (PWS).			Ground-truth PWS and update GIS system to create catchments. Include mature timber along B840 to be felled in phase 1 or phase 2.
Protect, connect and enhance Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS).	Map areas of AWS for prioritisation. Establish native BL species.	Regeneration of non-natives species will be difficult to control. Establishment of BL due to herbivore impact.	Prioritise AWS areas, ensuring resources to remove conifers and future regeneration. Decide between planting broadleaves or natural regeneration if sufficient seed source. Ensure Deer Management Plan written for LMP area.
Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.	Ensure management plans for all SMs. Protect heritage features in the blocks. Identify and map any new heritage features found during forestry operations.	Safety of forestry operations can be a risk with some SMs and heritage features.	All SMs to have feasible management plans. Any SM work to be programmed. Planting and restock proposals to ensure appropriate buffers around SMs and heritage features. SM consent applied for and given as appropriate.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
Identify thinning where appropriate.	There is an opportunity to increase thinning in some areas, which could provide income and enhance the forest stand.	Limited areas for optimum achievable thinning due to slope, terrain and access. Limited availability of purpose built machinery.	Create a programmable thinning map following the guidelines of; high forest, 18- 25yrs old in next 10 yrs, yield class (YC) greater or equal to 12 in next 10 yrs, DAMS less or equal to 17, less than 200m from road, less than 33% slope. Identify both silvicultural and amenity thinning, clearly displayed visually on a map.

# 3 LMP Proposals

## 3.1 Management

Map 6 (Map 6- ELA Management coupes) shows the management proposals for East Loch Awe (ELA).

### Clear Felling

Maps 7 highlight the operational felling coupes for phase 1 and phase 2 in the LMP.

Clearfelling will be the dominant silvicultural system for felling productive conifer in all three blocks. Coupe design seeks to work with the landform and scale.

There is a need to work on the age structure and diversity, as well as removing conifer from ancient woodland sites (AWS), riparian corridors and areas around private water supplies (PWS).

The presumption is that no felling will take place until the neighbouring established restock area has reached 2m in height. Some areas may exist where adjacency is an issue, and another rotation will be required to solve this.

Clearfelling is also used as a management approach to remove larch where there is *Phytophthora ramorum* infection, or risk of infection.

The felling programme for the first twenty years of the plan are summarised in the activity tables in section 1.2.

### Thinning

There are thinning areas for ELA which include Silvicultural Thinning and Amenity Thinning. (See Map 8, Map 8- ELA Thinning)

Silvicultural Thinning areas are those of suitable crop age, yield class (YC), wind hazard class (WHC) and slope to remove volume to enhance the remaining stand. They also include areas of AWS to enable tree removal to protect remnants of ancient woodland and native trees.

Amenity Thinning areas are those of important infrastructure. They include forest roads for coupe access, fencing, car parks and trails. Visitor zones have been identified where Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) encourage and manage access, or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

popular visitor sites of access routes. In these areas single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views. Woodland in these areas will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe, and where necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum Mean Annual Increment (MAI) or YC per year. Higher intensities (no more than 140% of max. MAI or YC per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger trees are being sought, or as part of a Low Impact Silvicultural System (LISS) prescription.

In all thinning operations the work plan will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried out, and operations monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

### Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

LISS offers a range of ecological, diversity, amenity and landscape benefits. Site suitable for LISS need to be sheltered with reasonable soils, easily accessible via roads and gentle slopes. There is considerable variation within LISS approaches and systems often need to adapt to circumstances and crucially how regeneration is progressing.

Areas for LISS can be seen on the management coupe map, map 6.

LISS systems will be established in the AWS areas along the Loch Awe edge of the LMP area, riparian corridors and around the village of Eredine.

There are numerous proposed LISS coupes in the LMP proposals to establish Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) in East Loch Awe.

### Natural Reserves (NR)

In the LMP area there are 4 natural reserves (NR);

09032- Ardchnonell Forest block

10011- Eredine Forest block

10178- Eredine Forest block

14109- Brenchoillie Forest block

## Long Term Retentions (LTR)

There are LTR areas in the forest blocks (13 management coupes covering all 3 forest blocks). These are areas where site conditions enable the trees to remain standing to provide diversity, both age and structure.

## Resilience

### RESTRUCTURING:

The main purpose of restructuring is to create truly multi-purpose forests meeting a wide range of objectives including enhancing landscape, biodiversity, productivity, community/recreational opportunities whilst protecting and improving the setting of heritage features and restoring priority habitats. Increased species and age class diversity also increases the resilience of the forest.

Each forest has a different set of objectives but the guidance provided in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) offers a clear guide to multi-purpose forestry that can be applied to any forest.

Restructuring the forest can also create a more diverse structure in terms of both species and age classes will lead to an increase in bird and mammal habitats and niches; thus leading to an increase in both biodiversity and overall number.

In summary restructuring offers the opportunity to:

- Enhance landscape
- Enhance biodiversity
- Increase productivity
- Protect and improve the setting of heritage features
- Protect and restore priority habitats
- Increase species and age class diversity to increase resilience
- Enhance the recreational value of the forest and fine tune woodland layout and structure to address community needs

### CLIMATE CHANGE:

Climate change models suggest that the general trend will be towards a significantly warmer climate with higher winter rainfall and lower rainfall in the summer leading to a partial soil moisture deficit during the summer months.

In terms of the next rotation these figures have limited impact on species choice according to ESC models and the short rotation of Sitka Spruce (SS) across much of the site further reduces the risk of climatic impacts. However this level of climatic change is likely to interact in the longer term with soil

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

characteristics and this may have a positive impact on soil structure and widen the range of species potentially suitable for the site. There are also threats to the suitability of SS as a timber species if significant summer droughts become normal.

### TREE DISEASES AND PESTS

There is an increase in the type and scale of tree diseases and pests is increasingly impacting on species choice and forest management.

The most serious disease currently in the region is *Phytophthora ramorum* in Larch and the only one subject to statutory plant health notices (SPHN). Larch is no longer a viable tree species for forestry on the west coast. An accelerated programme to remove the existing stands of larch is underway and it is no longer being planted. East Loch Awe LMP lies within the RISK REDUCTION ZONE (RRZ).

Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) affects pine species. Pine stands are being monitored and the worse affected brought forward for harvesting. Only the Alaskan lodgepole pine (LP) has resistance and Scots pine (SP) can only be planted away from the Caledonian pinewood inventory sites.

Ash Dieback is working its way through the Region with the expectation that at least 90% of the ash will be lost. Pre-emptive felling of ash is not being undertaken in the hope of being able to identify some resistant trees

### FIRE RESILIENCE

Due to climate change there is an increasing risk of fires across the National Forest Estate (NFE). The proposals within this plan aim to limit the risk through species diversity and age diversity, as well as having open rides. The road network will also provide a barrier for fires and enable access to areas if a fire would occur.

### FLOOD RISK

There is a Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA), identified by SEPA, covering the north-eastern corner of Brenchoillie Forest block.

Loch Awe is also classified by SEPA as high risk of flooding.

To help reduce and limit flood risk felling coupes have been designed to not have large areas with no woodland cover, thus helping with run-off and water uptake.

## Operational Access

Timber Haulage within the forest area is set out in the following protocols: [The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads Revised 2020.pdf \(timbertransportforum.org.uk\)](https://timbertransportforum.org.uk/the-design-and-use-of-the-structural-pavement-of-unsealed-roads-Revised-2020.pdf)

The primary “in forest” route runs from the B840 East Loch Awe through Eredine Forest and Brenchoillie Forest coming out on the A83 at Auchindrain. This route is can also be used by adjacent commercial forest neighbours who have road network links onto the FLS estate and onto the public road network.

The B840 East Loch Awe road is a “severely restricted route” (Timber Transport Forum), with the A83 being an “agreed route” (Timber Transport Forum).

The design of the road will conform to both the Timber Transport Forum document “The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads 2014” [The design and use of the structural pavement of unsealed roads](#) and SNH’s “Constructed tracks in the Scottish uplands – revised Sept 2015” [Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands](#)

## 3.2 Establishment

The future habitats ad species for East Loch Awe can be seen on map 9 ( Map 9- ELA Future Species & Habitats).

## Restocking

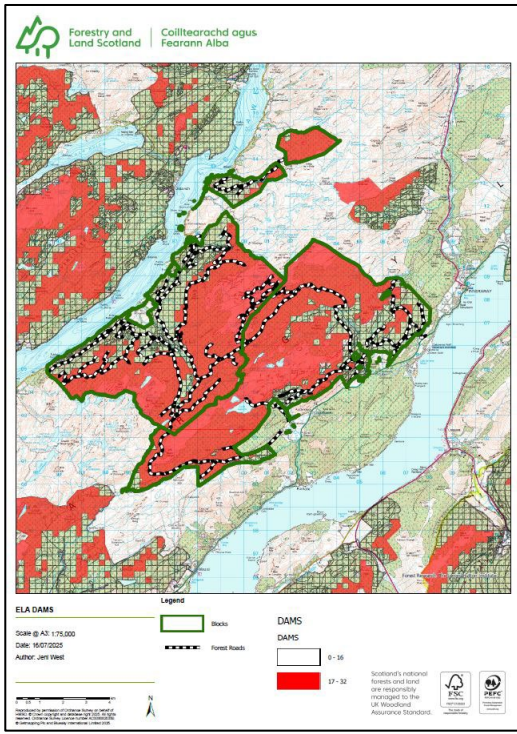
The restocking in the plan period, phase 1 and phase 2 can be seen on maps 10.

In the better soils the nutrient and moisture regimes become more favourable for a wider range of alternative conifer species which could include: Norway Spruce (NS), Grand Fir (GF), Douglas Fir (DF), Noble Fir (NF), Scots Pine (SP) and Western Red Cedar (WRC). Some of these species are already present on the site in areas that have been felled and restocked on the lower slopes, although the softer, diverse conifers are vulnerable to deer damage.

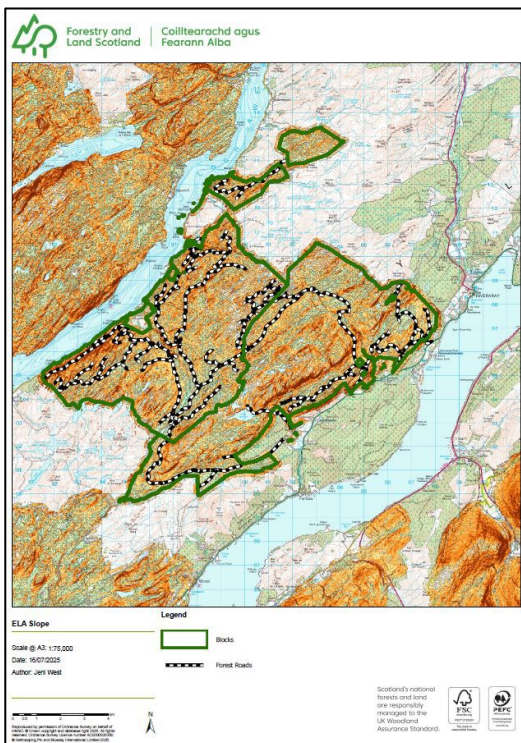
Exposure, poor nutrient status and impeded drainage are factors limiting the choice of productive species at higher elevations, with Sitka spruce (SS) being the only commercially viable species (See DAMS map below). On more challenging sites SS & Lodgepole Pine (Alaskan) mixtures can facilitate the establishment and growth of a productive SS crop. The slope map below shows the areas of steep slope where species choice needs to take into account any subsequent forestry operations in terms of access, establishment and slope stability/protection.

# East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

## Map- ELA DAMS



## Map- ELA Slope



Conifers will be restocked to a minimum density of 2500 stems/ha net plantable area at year five (or when considered to be established). Broadleaves will be established through natural regeneration to

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

achieve a minimum stocking density of 1600 stems/ha over a 5 to 10 year period. Planted broadleaves will be planted to achieve 1600 stems/ha if planted when established, reduced if low density woodland.

Most coupes will be restocked within 2 years unless specified (e.g. for pest control). Restocked compartments will be monitored and maintained throughout the establishment phase, with losses replaced to maintain stocking density. Surveys of natural regeneration areas in this plan will be made at year 5 to assess progress and again 10 years after felling. Full establishment will be achieved by year 10, planting when necessary to supplement natural regeneration.

The impact of tree diseases increasingly guides species choice. *Phytophthora ramorum* in larch, Dothistroma needle blight (DNB) in pines and Ash Dieback have all had an impact on species choice and crop management across the UK and were taken into consideration when selecting future species for East Loch Awe.

Cultivation methods in future rotations will be selected to aid the establishment of the trees which seek to balance minimising the amount of the soil disturbance and the need for herbicide treatment.

### Woodland Creation

There are no current proposals for woodland creation in the plan area.

### Natural Regeneration

Permanent native woodland habitats have been identified for expansion and/or establishment following felling operations, see map 9. Typically these areas will include open space as well as native broadleaved woodland. An assessment will be made post felling to confirm the viability of regeneration, but areas that tend to be within 75m of a viable seed source (usually of at least two different species) may be identified as suitable for Natural Regeneration. This is dependent on browsing pressure being reduced to ensure the successful regeneration of trees which is addressed in the Deer Management Plan (see Appendix V).

Natural Regeneration is a priority theme promoted in the Scottish Forestry Strategy and where feasible is seen as preferable to planting for several reasons: it offers greater biological and genetic diversity to planting; landscape scale natural regeneration provide less segregated landscapes; less Green House Gas (GHG) emissions without the requirement for ground preparation; and there is no plastic pollution compared to the use of tree guards with planting.

Areas being restocked through Natural Regeneration will be monitored and maintained throughout the establishment phase. Minimum stocking densities will be 2500 per ha for Conifer and 1600 per ha

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

for Broadleaves, with 750 stems per ha in low density woodland areas. Should these densities not be met by year 5, a beat-up operation will be carried out to achieve the required stocking density and species or, if a further period of regeneration monitoring is proposed beyond year 5 then Scottish Forestry will be notified.

The monitoring for regen will run concurrently with any stated Fallow periods to avoid an additional 3-5 years period in advance of monitoring.

On an annual basis Scottish Forestry will be notified of regen coupes at 5 year and the outcome or proposed future management (i.e. achieved objective/further monitoring regen due to evidence of extensive regen/insufficient regen present and plant).

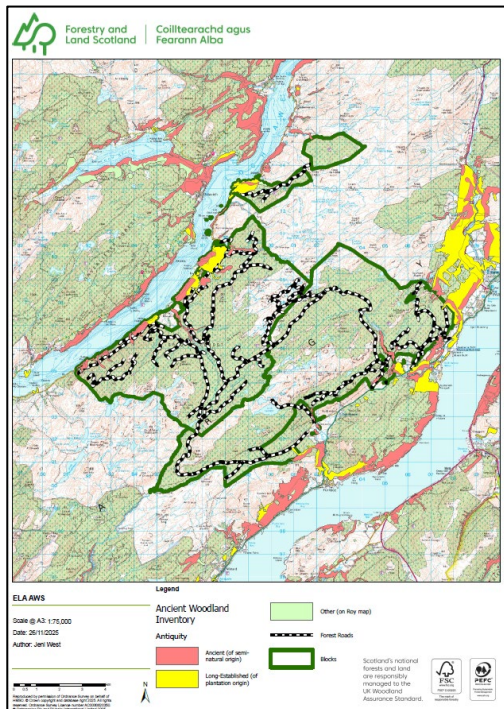
This report will utilise an extract of annual regen monitoring programme.

This process is being trialled through several current plans and maybe revised during the plan period.

### PAWS restoration

The map below shows the location of Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS), predominantly located to the west of Eredine forest block along Loch Awe shoreline and the eastern corner of Brenchoillie forest block near Loch Fyne, including the riparian zones.

#### Map- ELA AWS



Several of the felling coupes fall within a large area of PAWS which is undergoing restoration. In some instances, where unavoidable, further adjacent felling may take place before a full 2m height

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

difference has been achieved, to reduce conifer seed rain back into these areas of restoration, especially of Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock trees.

Conservation Area Networks (CANs) can be seen visually on map 13, Map 13- ELA Conservation Area Networks. These areas will be managed for conservation and provide linkage/corridors between habitats.

### Riparian Management

2021-2030 is the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and FLS is a partner in the Riverwoods Initiative led by the Scottish Wildlife Trust to support restoration of riparian ecosystems. Riparian management is crucial to the health of both individual species and the habitats they rely on; careful adherence to Forest and Water guidelines will be strictly adhered to for any sites.

Natural regeneration of native woodland along the riparian corridors will help to alleviate flood risk by reducing the speed of run-off. There is the potential for natural regeneration of conifer species within the riparian corridor. Ideally this would all be removed but practically up to 15% conifer regeneration will be accepted in the corridor before intervention to remove it.

All felling and restocking will adhere to UKFS as well as “Managing forest operations to protect the water environment” practice guide. Operations will comply with the Environmental Authorisation (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR). Site assessment prior to operations will identify any recommended actions to meet these requirements. Broadleaves will be strengthened along the larger watercourses and an open buffer will be protected along the smaller watercourses, 20m buffer for watercourses 2m width or larger and 10m buffer for smaller watercourses.

### Deadwood

The ecological potential for deadwood is generally found within the LMP forested area. A proportion of woodland will be managed to provide deadwood habitat where it provides the greatest environmental benefit. The highest ecological potential for deadwood is found in the established woodland within Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), PAWS and riparian areas, also within Long Term Retentions (LTR) and minimum intervention (MI) areas. Areas of lower potential for deadwood will be found in the higher, more exposed areas of conifer crop.

Where possible, deadwood will be left at the edge of clearfell coupes where it will get light and may link into the Conservation Area Network. The Deadwood Ecological potential was compared to the forest’s connectivity of network to highlight beneficial areas for higher amounts of deadwood.

### 3.3 Open Land

Open ground forms an important part of the forest plan with hill tops, open water, priority open habitats and a matrix of open ground delivering biodiversity and landscape benefits. These areas will be expanded and provide additional linkage with the lower slopes and riparian corridors. The open areas can be seen on map 6 as large open management coupes (Map 6- ELA Management coupes).

The main open hill areas are:

North;

- Beinn Bhreac
- An Suidhe
- Tom an-t-Seallaidh
- Creag Ghranda

Centre;

- Beinn Dearg

South-West;

- Beinn Dubh Airigh
- Garbh Chruach

South;

- Beinn Laoigh

There are the following opportunities for the open ground areas:

- Open hill tops- protect bird species and bog habitat restoration.
- Open grassland- protect and enhance priority habitats and birds species.
- Open corridors between lochs and around lochs and water courses- improve riparian habitats and create corridors for dragonfly and butterfly species.
- Open rides and deer glades- deer management.
- Open areas around historical features- protect and enhance heritage features.
- Open edges along infrastructure- improve resilience.

Peatland restoration

If any areas of priority habitat for peatland restoration are identified during the plan period the relevant will need an EIA screening for deforestation and a justification for the removal of trees and the potential for restoration.

### 3.4 Deer Management

The deer management team have produced a Deer Management Plan (DMP) following the national policy and government policy on the management of deer. It identifies issues and proposals within the East Loch Awe forest blocks. (see Appendix V- East Loch Awe Deer Management Plan).

The following will apply in relation to deer management:

- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 'Code of Practice on Deer Management'; Code of deer management - Scottish Natural Heritage
- Deer fencing will comply with the Joint Agency Fencing guidance; Deer fencing guidance - Scottish Natural Heritage.

### 3.5 Visitor Zones and Public Access

There is one formal FLS car park situated on the B840 along East Loch awe, Ardray, between Finchairn and Braevallich. A core path also runs right through the LMP area from East Loch Awe, just north of Braevallich, passing north of Loch Leacann, and out at Braleckan near Auchindrain, C119(b) Loch Awe to Furnace.

The forest road network provides cyclists and walkers with opportunities to enjoy and explore the wider area offering spectacular views as you climb the hillside. This informal access is managed under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC).

A number of viewpoints were chosen demonstrating a view of the forest from major publicly accessed routes; predominantly public roads but also from popular or well known vantage points. Visualisations were then created for these views comparing a current photograph to a 3D version of the forest in 10 and then 20 years time, both as felling coupes and as the proposed restocking (see visualisations).

### Woodland Management in Visitor Zones

Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes. Visitor Zones are mapped on map 5, Map 5- ELA Issues & Objectives.

In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views.

Woodland in these zones may also be thinned, or trees re-spaced for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe). See map 8, Map 8- ELA Thinning.

Also where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

### 3.6 Heritage Features

There are 5 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) listed under the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), see map 14, Map 14a- LEA Scheduled Monuments location;

- SM4146 Innis Chonnel, crannog 300m NE of Loch Awe
- SM4214 Innis Errich, chapel & burial ground
- SM291 Ardchonnel Castle & Island of Innis Chonnel, Loch Awe
- SM4159 Barr Mor, dun
- SM4173 Ardchonnel, long cairn 1200m ENE of Loch Awe

These sites will be managed in accordance with the Forests & the Historic Environment Guidelines and will be protected during operations in line with the UKFS. If new sites are found these will be mapped and recorded and protected from operations. Detailed operational workplans will be drafted nearer the period of felling and will include a full range of mitigation measures to safeguard archaeological features. Additionally the restocking proposals (open space) are sympathetic to both the features and its immediate environs. Further advice will be obtained from the FLS Archaeologist if required.

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver *Our Past, Our Future: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* and *Scotland's Archaeology Strategy*. Designated historic assets and significant heritage features will be protected and managed following the *UK Forestry Standard* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) and *UKWAS* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken in order to ensure that upstanding heritage features can be marked out and avoided. At establishment and restocking, work prescriptions remove relevant heritage features from ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant heritage features are recorded by archaeological measured survey, see active conservation management and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated historic asset).

The Regional Historic Asset Management Plan includes conservation management intentions for those designated historic assets on Scotland's national forests and land. Details of most known heritage features are held within the Forester Web Heritage Data (built using national and regional historic environment records) and included within operational planning to ensure damage is avoided.

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Designated historic assets and significant heritage features will be depicted on the supporting Heritage Map. Designated historic assets, significant heritage features and relevant heritage features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps. West Region’s Regional Historical Asset Management Plan works to ensure the historic assets’ stable condition or to slow their gradual decay and details the following:

“All scrub vegetation and regenerating trees within the relevant area will be cut off at ground level using appropriate hand or power tools and removed. Bracken encroachment shall be controlled within appropriate areas as necessary through strimming, bashing and / or chemical spraying, as appropriate. Any tree felling, harvesting or thinning work within the relevant area (and including a buffer zone of 20m around it) will be planned and organised to avoid any damage to the historic asset in the course of felling and timber extraction. Scheduled Monument Clearance will be necessary in advance of any forestry works, conservation management, consolidation or repair and development that may cause damage or disturbance within the scheduled area. No replanting will take place within the scheduled area (nor usually within a buffer zone of 20m around it).”

Map 14b highlights the future species/habitats around the SMs, see map 14b, Map 14b- ELA Scheduled Monuments Future species & Habitats.

### 3.7 Habitats & Species

Within the LMP area there are priority habitats and priority species. Eredine and Brenchoillie are also designated as Red Squirrel Strongholds.

Prior to any harvesting operations, FLS will undertake a pre commencement survey in the coupe to check for the presence of any protected species. The relevant FCS guidance notes: Wildlife and Forest. Operations 31- 35d will be adhered to if protected species are found to be present.

### 3.8 Invasive Species

The are areas of Ancient Woodland within the LMP area. These areas will be monitored for invasive non-native species, and if identified they will be controlled.

If any other invasive species are identified within the LMP area a plan for their initial removal will be drawn up. This should be followed up after removal to ensure there is no recurrence.

Any further areas identified will be mapped as reports are received by FLS.

### 3.9 Water Supplies

#### Public Water Supplies

There are 4 Scottish Water Catchments within the LMP area:

- Loch Righean- Inveraray
- Stellaire Ban Loch- Inveraray
- Douglas Water- Inveraray
- Allt Garbh- Eredine

These catchments have been mapped digitally, see map 4, Map 4- ELA Issues & Constraints, and careful considerations made in relation to felling and management prescriptions. Calculations have been undertaken to ensure no more than 20% of the catchment area is felled in any 3 year period.

Appendix X gives a breakdown of details of felling for the water catchments.

#### Private Water Supplies

Private water supplies can be abstracted from a stream, spring, well or borehole, and usually consist of a series of pipes and tanks feeding one or more properties.

All known supplies within FLS land are mapped and confidential (see map 15a, Map 15a- ELA Private Water Supply intake locations), and this information is fed into all worksite planning well in advance of any operations to ensure there is no detrimental impact on the water supply. In addition to the individual supplies, the water catchments feeding into these abstraction points have been identified and mapped for use at an operational level where best practice Forestry and Water Guidance will be rigorously followed.

Any changes to these supplies are discussed with the relevant properties and a plan drawn up to carefully manage the site. This may end up in operational delays but allows a full understanding especially of complex supplies such as those surface fed from a diffuse source.

FLS continually endeavor to identify all supplies and any further points found will be added in to the database to give a comprehensive coverage.

# Appendix I: Land Management Plan Brief



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# Appendix:

# Land Management Plan Scoping Brief

East Loch Awe Land Management Plan

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Key background information

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Stakeholders

# Key background information

## Introduction

The East Loch Awe (ELA) Land Management Plan (LMP) covers ~9692Ha and comprises of three forest blocks;

- Ardchnonnell ~ 524Ha
- Eredine ~ 4335Ha
- Brenchoillie ~4832Ha

The forest blocks are associated not only by their geographic proximity to each other but also by their similar attributes, such as their climate, topography, soils, age, infrastructure and strategic timber haul route.

It is located to the south-west of Inverary and roughly stretches between the A83 and Loch Awe. It is primarily a conifer timber productions forest, but with renewable energy generations making a significant contribution to the commercial aspect of the plan area. The forest was acquired in sections, the oldest parts in the 1930's. One section above Brenchoillie Farm is leased from Argyll Estates.

This LMP will replace the currently approved LMP, ref LMP-02-2017, expiring 26-6-2027. During the Mid-term review it became apparent that the LMP requires significant amendments to meet current Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) objectives, Scottish Government targets and other policies and guidelines.

## Silvicultural potential

The current climate is classed as Warm Moist on the lower slopes grading to Cool Wet on the upper slopes; continentality is low. The Soil Moisture Regime ranges from very wet to slightly dry with wet being the dominant type. The Soil Nutrient Regime ranges from Medium to Very Poor. Climate projections point to a warmer climate with lower summer rainfall and higher winter rainfall.

The underlying geology is typically aligned north-east south-west and this alignment is reflected in the grain of the landscape. The sequence of alternate ridges & dips creates alternate areas of thin soils and peaty rankers grading through deeper pits with lochans in the hollows.

The Douglas Water flowing south to Loch Fyne & the Abhainn a' Bhealaich and Kames river flowing north to Loch Awe largely cut across the grain of the landscape, although the headwaters and tributaries do follow the grain.

The dominant soils are ironpans with varying degrees of induration, peaty podzols, peaty surface water gleys & brown surface water gleys. There are pockets of upland brown earths on the lower slopes, with pockets of deep peat on the upper slopes alternating with peaty rankers across the undulating landform. There is no history of erosion. Fertility is typically moderate on the lower slopes, but low on unflushed peats and skeletal soils at higher elevations. With the current practices to reduce the use of fertilizers and the intensity of ground preparation/site drainage compared with first rotation establishment, site productivity might be increased in the second rotation through improved planting stock from the nursery.

Harvesting has cleared most of the original plantings on the lower slopes. First rotation crops on upper slopes are now being harvested. Restructuring of the lower parts of the forest has been ongoing for the last 20 years. Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHN) affecting larch and Western hemlock have been issued within the last six years. The forest currently lies within the Risk Reduction Zone for dealing with *Phytophthora ramorum*, with the boundary of the LMP adjoining the Priority Action Zone to the north.

There are numerous lochs and watercourses in the ELA LMP area, with the quality of the main ones shown in the table below:

**Table: East Loch Awe major watercourses and their status**

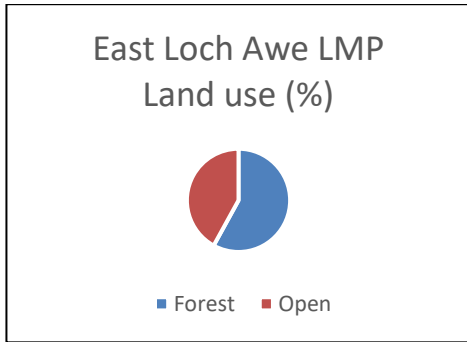
Watercourse	Status	Status justification
Abhainn a' Bhealaich	Moderate ecological potential	HEP; Riparian vegetation & forestry
River Add	Moderate ecological potential	HEP; Riparian vegetation & forestry
Leacann Water	Bad	Riparian vegetation & forestry
Douglas Water	Bad	HEP; Riparian vegetation & forestry
Allt Beochlich	Good	N/A
Allt Blarghour	Good	New HEP may alter current status
Kames Water	Good	New HEP may alter current status

There are public water catchments for Inveraray, Furnace and Eredine as well as numerous private water supplies (PWS).

## Existing crop

Approximately 58% of the LMP area is forest, and 42% open, with the pie chart below showing percentages and the table below showing the conifer/broadleaf cover in terms of area, and shown visually in the pie chart.

**Chart: Pie chart showing the land use as a percentage**



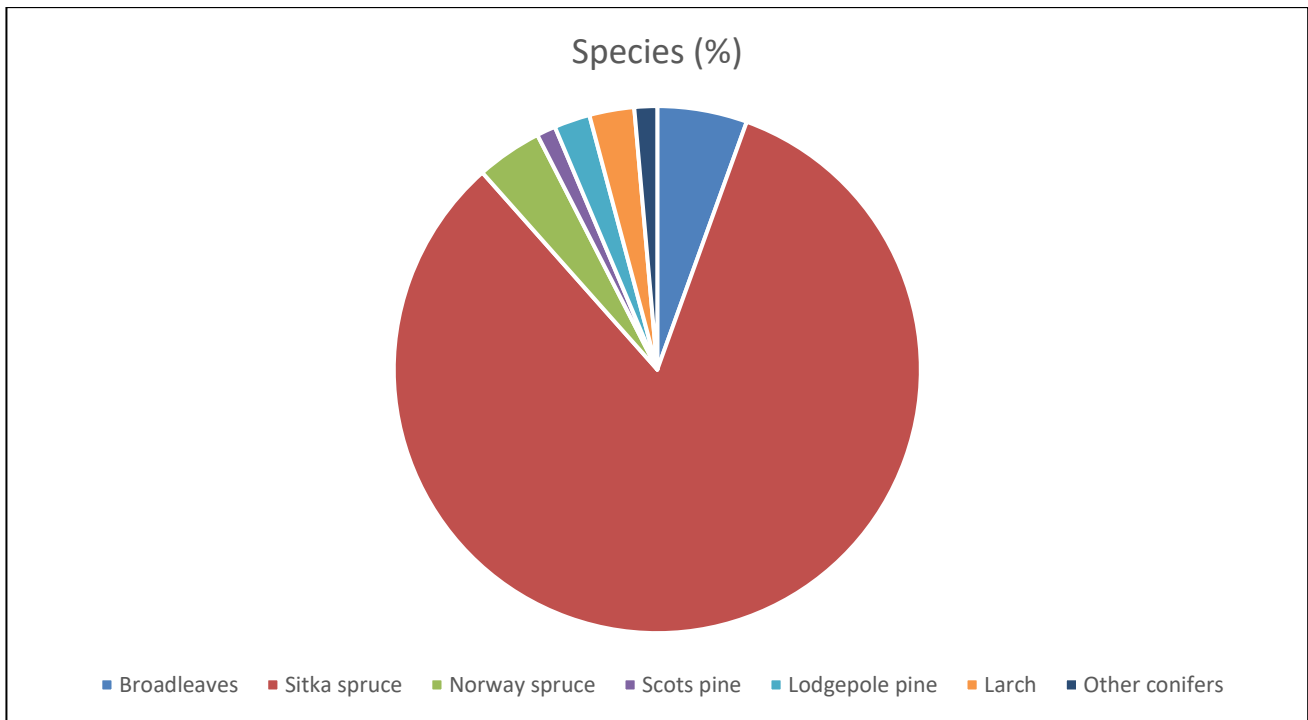
**Table: Conifer and broadleaf areas in the LMP**

	Area (Ha)	Percentage (%)
Conifer	5512	95
Broadleaves (BL)	310	5
Total	5822	100

Sitka spruce is the dominant tree species, making up 87% of the conifer component (82% of the planted species).

The species breakdown can be seen visually in the pie chart below as species percentage.

**Chart: Pie chart showing the species breakdown as a percentage**



The forested area of East Loch Awe is predominantly first rotation mature crop. There has been little age diversification, with the table below showing the age class distribution for the forests in the LMP.

**Table: Table showing the age class distribution**

Age	Area (Ha)	Area (%)
0-10 years Establishing crop	742.80	13
11-20 years Thicket Stage	595.70	11
21-40 years Pole Stage	686.30	12
41-60 years Mature crop	3365.5	60
61+ years Old Forest	231.20	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5621.5</b>	<b>100</b>

Yield classes (YC) across the LMP area vary from YC 2 for broadleaves to up to YC 24 for Sitka spruce, with the average for the productive crop as YC 12-14.

There is a reasonably element of larch within the LMP area, 2.75% of the forested area. Due to the risk of *Phytophthora ramorum* pre-emptive felling of young larch might be required, with mature larch being programmed in phase 1 (years 1-5 of the LMP).

## Operational Access

The forests have a current road network totaling approx. 120km, allowing economic operational access. There are access rights over a number of the roads for renewable schemes and neighbours. Road upgrades and maintenance will be essential to ensure the suitability of the roads for forest operations and access.

The East Loch Awe Timber Haul Route starts in Eredine Forest block off the B840 near Braevallich on the east of Loch Awe and runs east through the forest block, then through Brenchoillie Forest and joins the A83(T) at Brenchoillie near Auchindrain, north of Furnace.

## Natural Environment

The very north-eastern section of Brenchoillie Forest running along the A83 lies within Argyll & Bute Council local landscape designation of West Loch Fyne (Coast). The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has the blocks situated in “Craggy Upland”, with the Loch Fyne edge of Brenchoillie Forest as “Plateau Moor and Forest- Argyll”.

Much of the upper areas are open, with priority habitats, or under poorly performing conifers. Some of these areas were formerly allocated to timber volume storage and remain largely untouched and un-roaded. These areas also offer most potential for peatland restoration, which will undergo further assessment to identify suitability for habitat restoration, peatland edge woodland, or productive conifer restock, as well as soil surveys undertaken.

Upper areas are bordered by open hill estates including windfarm developments. Upper areas also contain numerous lochans and support a range of important wildlife species, including priority/protected species.

Lower areas are more diverse, including some Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS), and adjoining settlements and houses. Red squirrels are common in these areas, the forest being designated a Red squirrel stronghold.

Views across Loch Awe, particularly from settlements and recreation facilities, are important. More distant views are seen from the eastern shore of Loch Fyne and more limited views from the A83.

## Cultural Environment

There are five Scheduled Monuments (SM) within the plan area;

- SM4146 Innis Chonnell, crannog 300m NE of Loch Awe
- SM4214 Innis Errich, chapel & burial ground
- SM291 Ardchonnell Castle & Island of Innis Chonnell, Loch Awe
- SM4159 Barr Mor, dun
- SM4173 Ardchonnell, long cairn 1200m ENE of Loch Awe

There are several undesignated features across the plan area which are recorded in the heritage layer, such as heritage features, lochs, quarries, agricultural features, old drove roads, all of either local, regional and national significance.

## Community Use

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has a carpark situated on Loch Awe edge off the B840, Ardray. Although there are no formal trails in the forest blocks, the core path from Braevallich to Furnace (C119(c)) run through the middle of Eredine and Brenchoillie forests.

Due to the location Eredine and Brenchoillie forests, local villagers may access the forest.

## Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries/renewables

There are currently ten renewable schemes within the forests of the LMP, eight hydroelectric and two windfarms

The newly installed Inveraray-Crossaig powerline runs through Brenchoillie Forest block.

## Wildlife

The predominant deer species in ELA is Red, with smaller number of Roe deer present on the lower areas Eredine and Brenchoillie forests. Current deer assessment numbers are approx. 18.5 deer/km<sup>2</sup>.

The deer and other damaging herbivore numbers are monitored and controlled by FLS wildlife management teams.

External deer fencing exists along the southern side of Eredine forest and into the southern edge of Brenchoillie. From the River Add in Brenchoillie forest along the eastern edge is stock fencing. There is a short section of deer fencing from Auchnabreac along the northern edge where FLS forest is adjoining neighbouring forest. Stock fencing is then in place along the open hill boundary. A section of deer fencing exists along the boundary above Portinnisherrich. Deer fencing surrounds the Ardchonnell forest block.

To establish native woodland and species diversity, deer control will be a key management requirement.

# Strategic drivers

To realise the vision as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, six priorities for action have been identified for implementation:

- Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed
- Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives
- Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets
- Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands
- Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands
- Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

To demonstrate how we will have regard to the Forestry Strategy in our work, we have identified the relevant Forestry Strategy 'Priorities for Action' in our Corporate Outcomes section of the second FLS Corporate Plan 2022-2025. These, alongside key issues and site specific challenges, have informed our draft land management objectives, as illustrated in Table 12 below.

# Draft Land Management Plan Objectives

- Maintain sustainable quality timber production.
- Develop a programme to remove most larch in phase 1 or phase 2 if phase 1 not feasible.
- Ensure compliance with UKFS & UKWAS.
- Ensure that coupes are well scaled and shaped and roads sited to relate to landscape character and scenic quality. Scale, shape and plan coupes to maximise cost efficiencies for felling and access provision and re-establishment effectiveness.
- Protect current and new infrastructure in plan area- access rights for third parties, B840 (east loch awe road), East Loch Awe strategic haul route, forest accesses, tracks, powerlines, core paths etc.
- Protect and identify opportunities for renewables and their associated infrastructure, ensuring that these are integrated with other land use objectives.
- Add diversity in both terms of age and species across plan area, identifying continuous cover forestry (CCF) opportunities, Ancient Woodland Sites (AWS) & priority habitats, improving the resilience of the plan against climate change, threats and diseases.
- Protect and enhance the Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and heritage features.
- Provide scope and opportunity for potential increased recreational use by local communities and tourists, as well as enable/compliment the community action plans, and provide opportunity for appropriate and well managed integration with neighbouring land owners.

# Stakeholders

Scottish Forestry (SF)

Argyll & Bute Council- Planning/Access/Roads/Flooding

Nature Scot (NS)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Inveraray Community Council

Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council

Furnace Community Council

Dunadd Community Council

Argyll Fisheries Trust

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Royal Society of Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG)

Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID)

West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)

Scottish Wildlife Trust

British Conservation Society

British Dragonfly Society

Argyll Raptor Study Group

Neighbouring land owners/Internal properties

Scottish Water (SW)

Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE)

Loch Awe Improvement Association

Triodos Renewables plc

Innogy Renewables UK Limited

DHG Hydro

Gilkes Energy

Coriolis Energy

Hydroplan

# Appendix III: Background Information

## Context

### History

East Loch Awe is situated between Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, Mid Argyll.

The area has a long history of forest management, with areas of Long Established Plantation Origin along Loch awe, and a phased expansion of forest from the lower slopes to the higher ground. The forest area was acquired in sections by the now Forestry and Land Scotland.

In Eredine and Ardchnnell forest blocks planting commenced on site in 1935 on the lower slopes with the upper slopes planted between 1967 & 1973. The lower slopes have been extensively thinned and restructuring of the better grown parts of the upper forest has been extensive and successful.

Brenchoillie was established later with planting commencing in 1968 and being completed by 1989.

Restructuring of the forest has made progress under the current plan. Since 2005 a number of hydro schemes, a windfarm and a strategic timber transport linkage have been established within the forest.

Following consultation in 2009 the forest area was one of 19 areas in Scotland selected as a Red Squirrel Stronghold, and this designation emphasises management to benefit this species.

## Physical site factors

### Geology Soils and landform

The underlying geology is typically aligned north-east south-west and this alignment is reflected in the grain of the landscape. The sequence of alternate ridges & dips creates alternate areas of thin soils and peaty rankers grading through deeper pits with lochans in the hollows. The Douglas Water flowing south to Loch Fyne & the Abhainn a' Bhealaich and Kames river flowing north to Loch Awe largely cut across the grain of the landscape, although the headwaters and tributaries do follow the grain.

The dominant soils are ironpans with varying degrees of induration, peaty podzols, peaty surface water gleys & brown surface water gleys. There are pockets of upland brown earths on the lower slopes, with pockets of deep peat on the upper slopes alternating with peaty rankers across the undulating landform. There is no history of erosion. Fertility is typically moderate on the lower slopes, but low on unflushed peats and skeletal soils at higher elevations. The first rotation crop and associated establishment operations are likely to enhance site productivity in following crops

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

by improving soil structure and drainage. Site fertility would also be expected to be enhanced for second rotations crops, although there are more variables in relation to this impact.

### Water

Water is an important element in the forest with numerous lochans on the upper slopes and three major rivers draining the site. The water environment delivers public and private drinking water supplies, renewable energy & a fishery resource. In addition to their important economic contribution to the National Forest Estate, the hydro schemes located on site make a significant contribution to the sustainable low impact generation of renewable energy which is a key objective under the corporate plan.

There are also Private Water Supplies (PWS) with catchments covering the LMP area. (see map 15)

### Overall ecological status

#### Climate

Climate projections point to a warmer climate with lower summer rainfall and higher winter rainfall. The climate is mild, wet and windy, with average annual temperatures around 8 – 9 C and precipitation above 1800 mm per year. Although snow is less prevalent than eastern and central Scotland, the region is subject to rain bearing South Westerly winds. Humidity levels are high throughout the year, rarely sinking below 70% relative humidity. The wet conditions contribute to soil leaching and development of gleys and bogs where soils are insufficiently free- draining.

### The existing forest

#### Age structure, species and yield class

See Appendix 1- Land Management Plan Scoping Brief for details about the existing forest.

### Neighbouring Land Use

See Appendix 1- Land Management Plan Scoping Brief for details about the existing forest.

## Landscape

### Landscape character assessment

The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has the blocks situated in “Craggy Upland”, with the Loch Fyne edge of Brenchoillie Forest as “Plateau Moor and Forest- Argyll”. See Appendix IX.

### Landscape designations

Argyll & Bute Council local landscape designation of West Loch Fyne (Coast).

## Environmental designations

### Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), SAC, SPA

Craignure Mine is located in the south of Brenchoillie Forest block, and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. A SSSI management plan will over the management of Craignure Mine.

### Archaeology: Scheduled Monuments / Unscheduled

There are five Scheduled Monuments (SM) within the plan area;

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## Habitats

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## Species

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## **Biodiversity**

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## **Social factors**

### **Recreation & Community**

See Appendix 1- Land Management Plan Scoping Brief for details about the existing forest.



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## Appendix IV: Land Management Plan Consultation Record (including letters of correspondence)

## Appendix V: Deer Management Plan

# Appendix V

## Deer Management Plan (DMP)

East Loch Awe (ELA) Land Management Plan (LMP) covers ~9692Ha and comprises of three forest blocks;

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### Background

The forest blocks are associated not only by their geographic proximity to each other but also by their similar attributes, such as their climate, topography, soils, age, infrastructure and strategic timber haul route.

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## National & Local objectives

- Local and National objectives should be linked in here.
- National
  - Contributing to [Scottish Forestry - Forestry Strategy](#) (also includes Climate Change)

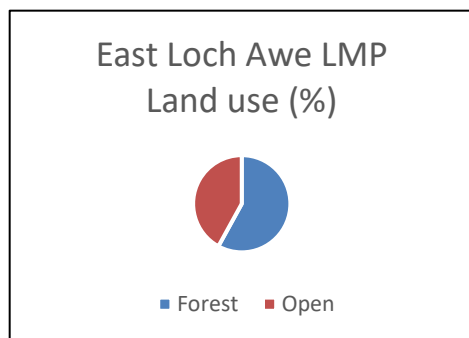
- Deer Management Strategy [Deer management strategy - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy [Biodiversity strategy: consultation - gov.scot](#)  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)
- Local
  - FLS are member of the Inveraray and Tyndrum Deer Management Group (ITDMG) comprises the land from the south shore of Loch Awe in the west, to Tarbet in the east along the A82 to Tyndrum in the North and Inveraray in The South. [Inveraray and Tyndrum DMG | \(deer-management.co.uk\)](#)

## What are we going to protect?

### Section 1 of the land management plan Existing crop

Approximately 58% of the LMP area is forest, and 42% open, with the pie chart below showing percentages and the table below showing the conifer/broadleaf cover in terms of area, and shown visually in the pie chart.

**Chart: Pie chart showing the land use as a percentage**



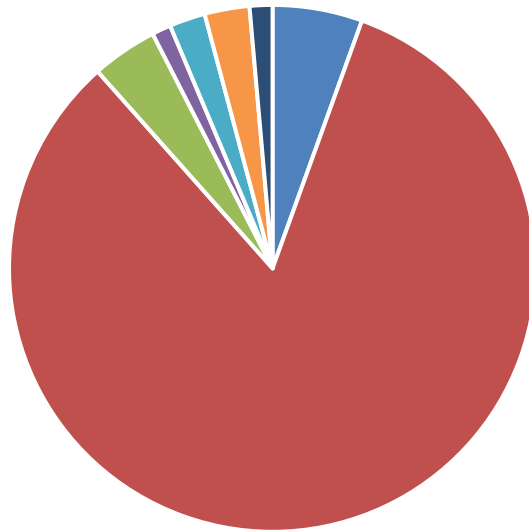
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Sitka spruce is the dominant tree species, making up 87% of the conifer component (82% of the planted species).

The species breakdown can be seen visually in the pie chart below as species percentage.

Species (%)



■ Broadleaves ■ Sitka spruce ■ Norway spruce ■ Scots pine ■ Lodgepole pine ■ Larch ■ Other conifers

The forested area of East Loch Awe is predominantly first rotation mature crop. There has been little age diversification, with the table below showing the age class distribution for the forests in the LMP.

**Table: Table showing the age class distribution**

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61+ years Old Forest	231.20	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5621.5</b>	<b>100</b>

## Deer Species (and other herbivores)

- Main deer species within the LMP are Red, Roe and Sika deer are present across the forest. Other herbivore found within the LMP area are sheep.

## What have we done to date?

Deer culling/protection activities to date are, culling operations are split between a joint up efforts of FLS contractors that cover Eredine & Ardchnonnel and a partnership with Argyll Estates that covers Brenchoillie forest.

## Have an evidence based approach

- Where possible use an evidence based approach to cull setting.
- Survey data independently obtained – latest NN report attached
- Drone Survey to be carried out
- Population model – See attached

## Deer Dashboard Cull Data

Most of data is used to create this DMP can be found in the Deer Dashboard

	Red		Sika		Roe		
Cull Year	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total deer culled
2018	133	111	4	0	58	52	398
2019	132	92	1	2	56	75	358
2020	81	104	4	1	34	54	279
2021	162	135	7	3	61	70	439
2022	167	123	5	2	50	50	397
2023	297	218	13	5	64	44	641
2024	301	238	8	1	91	64	703
2025	287	232	6	1	81	62	669

## Population Modeling and Future Culls

Year commencing 2026

- Red 500
- Sika 15
- Roe 150

# Protection Options

## Out of Season Shooting

Out of season shooting is an essential tool in the protection of vulnerable tree crops and natural habitats. This is granted by FLS Head Office on enclosed land and on application to NS for un-enclosed land. Decisions to shoot out of season will be made on an individual DMU basis, where it is believed that serious damage would occur if this step were not taken. While male deer of all species can be shot year round if permission granted, the shooting of females out of season will at present be limited to the periods 1<sup>st</sup> September and from the 16<sup>th</sup> February to the 31<sup>st</sup> March. When early out of season shooting of females is carried out any dependent young will be shot first.

## Night shooting

This is permitted by the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, under authorization from NS. Applications for night shooting will only be made where damage would occur or public safety is at risk, where the use of all other legal means of control, including out of season shooting have failed. In normal circumstances night shooting will only be used after 1<sup>st</sup> September in any season. All operations will conform to NS Best Practice Guidance and a copy of this will be held at the district office and issued to Wildlife Rangers as necessary.

## Fencing

The Region's policy on deer fencing will be as per OGB5 and as stated in Deer Management On the National Forest Estate policy document . Boundary fences bordering deer range will be maintained where necessary.

Neighbours will be expected to meet their legal obligations where applicable.

Internal fences may be used to protect sizeable areas of vulnerable species and where opportunities to shoot are limited by high public usage.

## Deer culling objectives will be met with a combination of FLS Staff, contractors & collaborative working together .

- The Eredine / Brenchoillie LMP is covered by FLS fulltime contract ranger in Eredine / Ardchnonnel and Brenchoille & Town Common is part of a collaborative working agreement with Argyll Estates. Deer cull's has not increased for last few years for AE but they have been issued maps of felling plans for 2025/26 as well and last two year planted sites and this year's planning program. Nearest neighbor and drone Survey to be carried out to make sure we have the culls set correctly.
- No areas within the LMP has a Recreational Deer Management Permissions.
- All controllers have full Deer Management related qualifications.

## Infrastructure Roads/ATV tracks/glades/larders/equipment

All existing forest roads and new proposal roads can be seen in the LMP

Natural deer glades are found throughout the LMP area. These sites will change over time

and will be recorded and updated using Forester Web and can be made available on request. The main Deer Larder for this Land Management Area is located in Ford (NM 8708 0424). The larder has a maximum capacity of 38 Red Deer.

All staff and contractors have access to 4x4 pick-ups for ease of access into the forest blocks. All staff and contractors have access to Quad bikes and an Argo for the more challenging areas to access.

## Collaborative working opportunities

FLS are open to working with neighbours at a Land Landscape scale to facilitate deer management in this area where possible.

FLS will seek out opportunities to take a collaborative approach to achieving Deer Management Objectives.

Culling – work with immediate neighbours/DMG to identify where there is a mutual benefit to cross boundary culling agreements.

Identify where sharing access between neighbours is beneficial in order to meet deer management objectives.

Larder sharing where appropriate to meet Deer Management Objectives.

Open to future partnership working

## DMG present

There is a Deer Management Groups operating in the area that covers Ardchnonnel = INVERARAY & TYNDRUM DMG which FLS subscribe to.

## Venison

FLS subscribe to the Scottish Quality Wild Venison (SQWV) scheme.

All venison is quality assured and sold to Highland Game

We have one deer larder at Corryghoil that is within the LMP of Glen Orchy (see above).

## Appendix VI: Provenance guidance chart

Species	Guidance
SS	Improved QSS standard throughout Alaska (ASS) provenance may be considered (if available) for its slower growing properties in specific locations. i.e Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) in Windfarm renewables developments.
VPSS	Limited use in best locations
SP	High rainfall type specified as standard. W20
NSP	From the nearest appropriate zone near CFR areas
LP	Only ALP being used in mixture with SS on poorer sites
DF	Seed stand or coastal origin
ESF	Czech or central European
NF	Registered seed stands
GF	Scottish registered seed stands
WH	Registered seed stands with low fluting
WRC	Scottish seed stands
NS	Seed stands, Eastern European or Harz
JCR	Northern Japanese range
NBL	Region of Provenance 10, Native Seed Zone 106
XC	PSSB will advise on any other minor species
<p>Notes: PSSB can provide the most up to date guidance on provenance selection including advice on best suited seed stands. Virtually all seed supplied by PSSB comes from registered seed stands and is based on geographic area compatibility. Use of VPSS has declined as seed orchard QSS improves and this also has a wider genetic base for resilience purposes.</p>	

## Appendix VII: Abbreviations used in the plan

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
ASNW	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
CCF	Continuous Cover Forestry
DAMS	Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (A modelled windiness score used to calculate the probability of damaging winds occurring)
ESC	Ecological site classification (based on soil and climate information, aids tree species choice)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
Ha	Hectare
LISS	Low Impact Silvicultural System
LMP	Land Management Plan
MAI	Mean Annual Increment (Average annual growth a tree of stand of trees has experienced to a specific age)
MI	Minimum intervention (minimum level of management)
NR	Natural Reserve
NSA	National Scenic Area
PAWS	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
PEFC	Programme for the endorsement of forest certification
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (habitats)
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area (birds)
SPHN	Statutory Plant Health Notice
UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
UKFS	UK Forestry Standard
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Standard
YC	Yield Class (Index of potential productivity of even-aged stands of trees. Measured in units of cubic metres per hectare per year)

<b>Species abbreviations</b>	
Species	AR = Alder BI = Birch (downy/silver) CAR = Common alder DF = Douglas fir EL = European larch HAW = Hawthorn GF= Grand fir GWL = Goat willow HAZ = Hazel HL = Hybrid larch JL = Japanese larch LP = Lodgepole pine MB = Mixed Broadleaves MC = Mixed Conifers MCP = Macedonian pine NBL = native broadleaves (including SP where suitable for conservation) NF = Noble fir NS = Norway spruce OK = Oak (robur/petreae) RC = Western Red Cedar ROW = Rowan SP = Scots pine SS = Sitka spruce WCH = Wild Cherry / Gean WH = Western Hemlock XL = Larch XLW = Other Willows

## Appendix VIII:

### Unexpired EIA determinations / PNs

09006 ATV tracks

14068 ATV tracks

10111 ATV tracks

10103 ATV tracks

10146 ATV tracks

10123 ATV tracks

14021 ATV tracks

10074 ATV tracks

# Appendix IX:

## Landscape Character Assessment



### Location and Context

The *Rocky Coastland* Landscape Character Type forms an irregular narrow coastal or loch edge, and is present in several locations in Argyll and Bute. It forms a narrow linear margin along the shores of Loch Fyne and the Kintyre coast; includes more inland areas on the Mull of Kintyre which essentially form smaller scale valleys set within adjacent upland areas; and occurs on the more settled and farmed shores of Loch Etive and Loch Awe.

The context of this Landscape Character Type varies greatly with some areas featuring an expansive seaward context (the Knapdale and Kintyre coasts), while other areas are more contained, being located either side of a narrow sea loch (upper Fyne and West Loch Tarbert).

### Key Characteristics

- Uneven, hummocky landform with rocky outcrops and narrow glens.
- Raised beaches, cliffs and distinctive rounded knolls.
- Rocky, indented coastline with offshore islands and small sandy bays.
- Relatively small-scale landscape with a diverse mix of colours and textures.
- Steep wooded cliffs and hummocky, gorse-covered slopes.
- Stone walls provide partial enclosure.
- Relatively well-settled, with scattered isolated farm buildings and small villages in sheltered sites.
- A wide variety of archaeological sites.
- Complex transitional landscape.

### Landscape Character Description

#### *Landform*

The *Rocky Coastland* Landscape Character Type is found on the lower margins of the upland forest moor mosaic on the west side of the Cowal peninsula and on the Mull of Kintyre, as well as the more settled and farmed shores of Loch Etive and Loch Awe. The

area is underlain by Dalradian rocks of both the Argyll Group and the Southern Highland Group and the landform varies slightly in accordance with the rock type. In areas underlain by rocks of the Argyll Group (West Cowal and the west side of the Mull of Kintyre) the landform is particularly undulating and uneven, with distinctive rounded rocky knolls. Elsewhere it is irregular and rocky, with a relatively small-scale.

Raised beaches are typical coastal features. In places, such as Muasdale on the west side of the Mull of Kintyre, they are steep, craggy cliffs, with jagged gullies, waterfalls and dramatic outlying boulders strewn across the beach at their foot. The coastline in these areas is typically rocky and indented, with small sandy bays.

#### *Landcover*

This is a very diverse, patchy landscape, with a rich mixture of colours and textures and intricate patterns. It is a transitional landscape, with a fairly small scale and an irregular, unpredictable character which often seems disorientating. The broad transition from rough moorland on the upper slopes to pasture and a rocky shoreline is complicated by the steep, crumbling cliff faces of the raised beaches, the undulating landform and the characteristic rounded knolls. Steep slopes and gullies are a mosaic of gorse and birch woodland, with scattered, stunted oak trees. The inland cliffs of the raised beaches along the southern and western shores of the Mull of Kintyre are cloaked in dense semi-natural ancient oak woodland. Many of the fields have patches of rough, tussocky moorland grass and the landscape as a whole has a wild, natural character. There are stands of windblown Scots pine and many small blocks of conifers, often with hard, geometric edges, form a sharp contrast to the natural, patchy mosaic.

#### *Settlement*

The isolated farmsteads, groups of cottages and small clustered settlements are linked by winding, narrow coastal roads, which are often major transport routes. Tracks leading to farms are usually dead ends, petering out on the upper moorland slopes. Small estates such as Ardlamont House and Kilmany Castle are characteristic, introducing a diverse range of plants, including invasive rhododendron species. This Landscape Character Type is a focus for recreation, providing highly scenic views across lochs, coasts and wider seascape. Managed woodland is a common landuse in this area.

Archaeological remains are highly varied and cover a long time-depth. There are prehistoric remains including standing stones, stone circles, burial cairns and stone alignments. Defensive prehistoric sites such as forts and duns are also located in this area. There are remnants of later prehistoric industry in the form of quern quarry and pit remains. The medieval period is evident with castles, some ruinous, being found on the coast. There are numerous chapels and churches across the area, some possibly of early Christian origin. Post-medieval remains of communication and travel are evident through the canal system at Lochgilphead and old military road remains. There is evidence for early industry in the form of gun-powder and iron works, including furnaces and quarries. The planned town of Inveraray is one of the finest examples of 18<sup>th</sup> Century estate town planning in the country.



This is one of 389 Landscape Character Types identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

The area covered by this Landscape Character Type was originally included in the Argyll and Firth of Clyde LCA (Environmental Resources Management), published 1996.

## Appendix X:

### Water Catchments

Block	Area (ha)	Name
Brenchoille	388.35	Loch Righeachan
Brenchoille	367.08	Stellaire Ban Loch
Brenchoille	4019.18	Douglas Water
Eredine	713.12	Allt Garbh

#### Loch Righeachan

Max area to fell 77.67Ha

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
14047	15.5	26/27
14091	14.4	28/29
14046	22.9	29/30
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.8</b>	

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
14147	24.62	33/34
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.62</b>	

#### Stellaire Ban Loch

Max area able to fell 73.4Ha

No issues with proposed coupes

#### Douglas Water

## East Loch Awe Land Management Plan 2026 – 2035

Max area to  
fell 803.8Ha

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
14087	28.6	26/27
14074	63	26/27
14047	52	26/27
14076	49.4	27/28
14096	1.7	27/28
14025	44.2	27/28
14091	33	28/29
14039	5.82	28/29
14046	32.34	29/30
14062	48.7	29/30
<b>Total</b>	<b>215.16</b>	

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
14170	71.2	32/33
14138	73.5	33/34
14142	32.2	34/35
14122	87.2	30/31
14147	57.1	33/34
14053	37.18	34/35
14057	33	32/33
14055	7.9	32/33
14040	32.4	31/32
14014	30.9	34/35
14106	24.8	30/31
14013	59.8	33/34
<b>Total</b>	<b>547.18</b>	

### Allt Garbh

Max area to  
fell 142.6Ha

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
10173	6.17	26/27
10120	41.2	27/28
10166	1.95	28/29
10133	12.8	29/30
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.12</b>	

Coupe ref	Area	fell yr
10168	13.67	32/33
10129	37.1	34/35
10078	16.07	30/31
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.84</b>	

# Appendix XI:

## Scheduled Monuments (SMs)

Maps 14 highlight the SM locations and the future species & habitats around each one. UKFS will be followed and each SM has a management plan for removing regeneration and protection.