



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# FLS Angus Glens

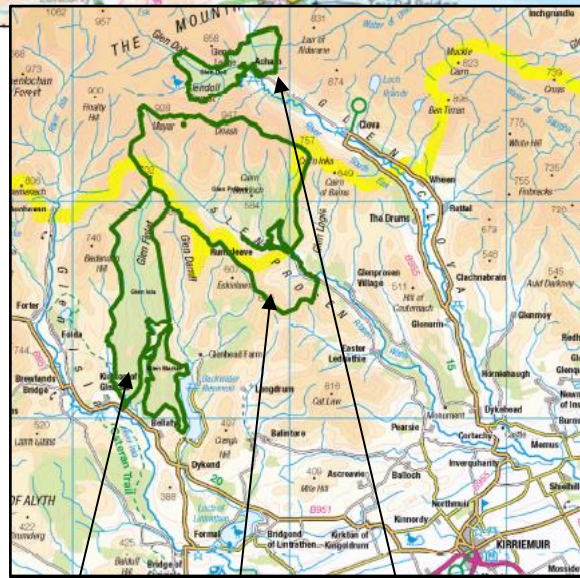
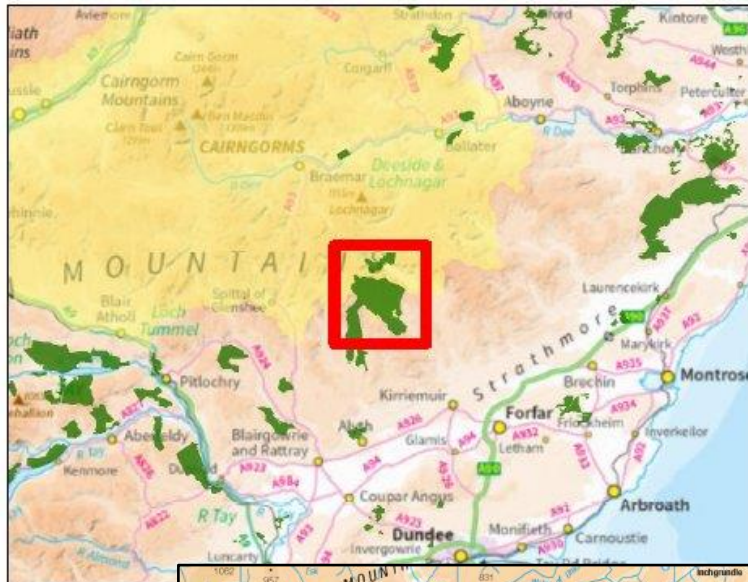
## Long Term Plan Summary



# Forestry and Land Scotland in the Angus Glens

These iconic glens are the southern gateway to the Cairngorms National Park and we're privileged to be looking after them for the future. Our acquisition in Glen Prosen is the missing piece of the jigsaw, linking our existing forests in Glen Isla and Glen Doll, as well as other areas of public land together. This is a long-term project for us and an important opportunity to work with our neighbours and partners, to achieve landscape scale habitat restoration in the Cairngorms National Park.

A new Long Term Plan for Glen Doll and Glen Prosen is coming into effect in 2025. The [Glen Isla & Glen Markie Land Management Plan](#) was renewed in 2024. Our plans set out the long term vision and objectives for the land and show what land management activities we will be doing to achieve that over the next 10 years. This document summarises our activities in the Angus Glens and acts as a guide to the supporting maps and information available on our webpage [www.forestryandland.gov.scot/angusglens](http://www.forestryandland.gov.scot/angusglens)



*Glen Isla, Glen Prosen and Glen Doll forests.*

# Managing the national forest and land



Forestry and Land Scotland's newly acquired land in Glen Prosen – 3,432 hectares of open glen and hill ground that holds huge potential for habitat restoration, native woodland creation. High in the crags of the glen you can find rare arctic alpine plants and remnants of endangered habitats like montane scrub that are scarce across Scotland. The land at FLS

Glen Prosen also includes our existing forest plantation (879 ha), which was badly damaged by Storm Arwen in 2022, and will become better integrated into the surrounding landscape. FLS Glen Prosen also includes development of estate buildings for commercial and public use, further information can be found here [Angus Glens - frequently asked questions | Forestry and Land Scotland](#)



Glen Doll is a plantation forest in the most spectacular setting of high mountains, crags and rivers, which will be gradually transformed from the trees planted for timber production in the 1960s, to more native woodland that fits into the special landscape. Here we are clearing up the windblow from Storm Arwen and planting new broadleaf trees like birch and

aspen, along with Scots pine to create a forest for the future that is a haven for biodiversity and a destination for outdoor access and recreation.



Glen Isla and Glen Markie forest is a centre for sustainable timber production, contributing towards economic growth through the forest industry. We are also restoring and protecting peatland higher up in Glen Isla and planting new native trees to create more woodland for biodiversity in the glen too.

We are committed to managing these glens for people, nature and climate resilience, contributing to the Scottish Government's Biodiversity Strategy to 2045, the Net Zero ambition and Scotland's Forestry Strategy. The Long Term Plan sets out the detail of what will happen over the next ten years, as well as looking ahead further and setting the direction for future management over the next 30-50 years. The main themes of work for us include:

## Landscape-scale nature restoration

**Landscape** - the spectacular landscape, recognized as a National Park, National Scenic Area and Wild Land Area in parts, has a wild and remote feel, with dramatic crags and rock formations, and open vistas across the southern cairngorms that draw people to this area from near and far. Woodland would once have been more common in the glens, with old maps from around 1750, showing native woodland in the valley at Glen Doll.



**Deer** - Large transitory populations of deer in and around the glens are a part of the landscape, and they pose a challenge for woodland establishment and other habitat restoration when they browse young trees and flora and trample sensitive habitats. We manage the number of deer on the national forest and land by a combination of culling, and fencing initially, so that new trees are able to grow.



**Designated sites** - the glens contain sites that have been designated for their importance: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), National Scenic Area (NSA), National Nature Reserve (NNR). These areas have a variety of exceptional plants, animals, birds, geology and landscape features that make them extra special. Some of these areas are in poor condition and need restoration, for example the River South Esk SAC would benefit from water course restoration to improve the habitat for spawning salmon.

**Restoration** - Managing the forest and land to benefit nature, improve biodiversity, conserve protected species. We will be doing specific jobs such as: planting native trees alongside rivers and burns, removing non-native species where they are causing harm, enabling natural regeneration of native trees and shrubs, monitoring and recording where certain species are so that we can protect them, and trialing new approaches such as conservation cattle grazing to improve grass and heath for breeding birds, flowers and insects.



## Community, visitors and recreation

**Access** - We know that the Angus Glens is a special place for people to come from near and far to enjoy time outdoors in nature and do a variety of activities. This is a popular area for long and short distance hiking, biking and horse riding trails in and around the glens. Trails such as the Kilbo Path, taking in the summits of Driesh and Mayar, and Jock's Road connecting through to Deeside, as well as short routes around the [forest in Glen Doll](#), offer something for everyone.



**Facilities** - Glen Doll offers facilities for visitors including the Ranger Centre, staffed by Angus Alive rangers year round to provide information and guidance, as well as way marked trails through the forest linking into long distance routes further afield. Glen Prosen, by contrast, is a much quieter glen with no visitor facilities but there is a good network of tracks and forest roads providing access out onto the open hills. FLS land at Glen Isla and Glen Markie is situated by the Backwater

Reservoir, with a car park and opportunities for walking and cycling using the forest roads, and this will connect to our plans in this LTP.

**Engagement** - We have been talking to local communities and also visitors and local groups that come to the glens about how we manage the forest and land for public benefit. Consultation has helped to shape our plans - you can view a summary of the consultation, considerations and how they are being addressed at the bottom of our [webpage here](#).

## Climate change



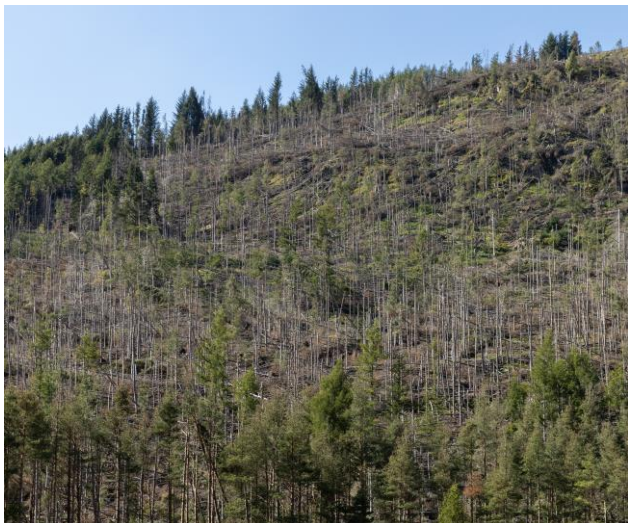
**Resilience** - The changing climate is creating new threats to nature in Scotland. Warmer temperatures and more intense weather can pose risks to trees, the wider landscape and people. Managing the forests so that they have trees of different ages and species, including dead and decaying wood and are free from disease, can help to make them more resilient to issues such as wind blow from storms, fire, pests and other threats. Taking care of peatland, open habitats and rivers so that the landscape holds more water and slows down the flow during periods of heavy rain, preventing flooding and soil erosion. We are working on ensuring there is a mosaic of different habitats, including wet boggy areas, tree cover, open grass and moorland to make the landscape more resilient in the future.

## Timber production

**Harvesting** - The next ten years will see timber harvest from all three forests in the glens, largely to clear windblow in Glen Doll and Glen Prosen but also to produce timber products and manage the forests sustainably.

**Diversity** - At Glen Prosen there is a core of good quality and accessible timber (approximately 40% or 360ha) within the existing plantation. This will be harvested, restocked, and managed to

create more diversity, achieving greater resilience to climate impacts and benefitting wildlife like red squirrel, wildcat, and woodland birds.



**Transition** - At Glen Doll, Storm Arwen led to large areas of windblow which gives us the opportunity to transition from a predominantly commercial forest to a more diverse, native forest that helps biodiversity. The terrain is much steeper and access for harvesting is far more challenging, making the economics of future timber production unviable. Change – Additionally, popularity of the glen as a visitor destination means our focus will be on recreational access, wildlife conservation and enhancing landscape character.

## Making it happen

Over the next ten years anyone visiting Glen Doll, Glen Prosen, Glen Isla and Glen Markie will see the forest and land changing over time as we undertake the land management described above.

This will include:

- Work on our Nature Restoration Fund project for river restoration
- new deer fences being installed to manage herbivore impacts within several large enclosures,
- planting new native trees to create more woodland,
- repairs and maintenance to forest roads and new access being created to harvest trees, harvesting operations in certain parts of the forests,
- peatland restoration by blocking up man-made drains and re-wetting dried out peat bogs and, monitoring and research activity taking place on site,
- working with local communities and public engagement activities.

## We would love to hear from you

If you have experience to share, ideas on things we could do differently, or if you want to know more, please contact us by email to [angusglens@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:angusglens@forestryandland.gov.scot)