Glen Loy (including Gairlochy and Mucomir) Land Management Plan Appendices

Appendix I: Scoping Brief

See separate document

Appendix II: Analysis of Previous Plan

This LMP is comprised of three woodland blocks that previously existed as individual forest management units.

The previous Forest Design Plan covering the LMP area ran for the following periods (including approved extensions):

Glen Loy Approval period: 03/03/2008 – 01/05/2022
Mucomir Approval period: 02/05/2012- 02/05/2022
Gairlochy Approval period: 28/1/2009- 01/05/2022

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
Mucomir	Plan area: 253 Ha	
Sustainable timber production	Coupe 33496 Felled and restocked Coupe 33955 Felled and partially restocked.	Continued restructuring of even-aged crops.
Improving the landscape value of the forest	Felling and restocking has continued to diversify what was previously a very even aged structure.	Greater level of crop diversification.
Improving the open habitat values	Coupe 33955 felled and 3.9 Ha of deep peat left to remain open habitat.	First area of bog restoration in Mucomir. Further work to be scheduled in next iteration of the plan.
Gairlochy	Plan area: 125 Ha	
Concentrate timber production on the lower more accessible areas where conditions are most suited	Challenging to deliver. There is a power line running along the lower slopes. The area was badly hit by windthrow around 2012 resulting in	Limited opportunities for timber production in this block due to a combination of steep ground, AW, powerlines and roads.

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
	significant disruption to local communities.	
Expand and enhance open ground habitat, creating new transitional habitat between forest and open ground.	Partially achieved. All the felling has been completed but there has been very little regeneration, so lots of fallow and open ground but little transitional open ground.	The whole of this approach at Giarlochy required reconsideration. Regeneration has not been as reliable as might have been anticipated. There are various reasons for this, deer pressure among them.
Restore PAWS areas through a mix of natural regeneration and supplementary planting following clear felling.	Most felled areas have limited natural regeneration and have not been restocked.	A more focussed approach to monitoring of natural regeneration is needed, with timely response where required. Enhancement planting now required.
Establish new areas of native woodland habitat, linking existing areas of good habitat.	Areas of commercial conifer that may have formed a barrier to ecological migration may have been removed. However, restocking with site native broadleaves has been inadequate due to lack of natural regeneration.	As above, more focus required for the monitoring of natural regeneration and positive planting responses.
Diversify the species and age-class of the conifer crop	Achieved to a degree. Some areas of the previous plan period had been felled and restocked but little recent felling.	As above.
Establish a Natural Reserve, managed by minimal intervention	Achieved. Identified on map. No interventions required over the period.	Review validity and appropriateness of NRs.
The experience of users of the Great Glen Way which passes through the lower part of the forest, will be maintained and enhanced.	Apart from the unfortunate windblow incident in 2012 this has largely been achieved.	Little felling now to be carried out along the boundary with the GGW. Unlikely to be an issue going forward.
The landscape value of the forest, particularly as a backdrop to the Caledonian Canal, will be maintained.	Mixed. The felling coupes were designed to manage the transition from an even-aged conifer bock with straight perpendicular edges into something more naturalistic, but the reality is a slightly moth eaten- landscape. This has been slightly mitigated by the presence of a new woodland creation scheme to	The fallow areas within this woodland require some positive action in terms of monitoring and restocking.

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
	the west which is now becoming a more prominent feature in the landscape.	
Glen Loy	Area:1039 Ha	
To produce timber with felling to be aimed at improving the age-structure of the forest	**Phase 1 coupes** Cpt 501 Felled and restocked 2012 as per plan. Planned CF in Cpt 5008 Felled but not restocked. Catastrophic WB from 2012 on the eastern edge of Cpt 5512 felled in 2013 and restocked as per amendment in 2015. Cpt 5408 Felled as planned but not restocked. **Phase 2 Coupes** Cpt 5301 Felled but not restocked. Cpt 5501,2,5,6 Felled but not restocked.	Several areas felled and restocked but other areas not restocked. Some of these have been awaiting natural regeneration which has not appeared and now need to be redressed. These coupes are identified for restocking in the Activity Tables.
To future-proof timber production by establishing felled areas with Sitka spruce with secondary species providing diversity and landscape enhancement where site conditions suit.	To a degree this has been achieved where restocking has taken place. Cpt 5501 restock has been undertaken with EL/DF and native broadleaves inc. oak. Cpt 5512 restocked with SS and some DF in sheltered areas.	Re-assessment required of where SS production might be carried out. The thinking around Ancient Woodlands has developed somewhat since the approval of this plan and requires a more refined approach to PAWS areas.
To provide expansion areas for ASNW and accept regeneration of native species into non-restocked area secured through enhanced monitoring	Partially fulfilled. The areas identified in the approval period have been felled. Natural regeneration has been inadequate.	Failed coupes will be planted, as identified in the Activity Tables. Monitoring will indicate any further requirements (see section on Natural Regeneration).
To review and improve access to, and interpretation of these ASNW areas.	Access has been facilitated by improved roading and track work throughout the forest. No on-site interpretation has been undertaken. However, there has been an increasing	Access will continue under SOAC, making use of forest roads and tracks. Where possible, new ATV tracks may be designed to also benefit public access through creation of circular routes. Liaison

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
	presence online regarding the oakwoods and ASNW in general.	with Lochaber Trail Association on appropriate bike routes.
To further improve forest margins and internal landscapes	The catastrophic windblow event of 2012 effectively drove forward the modification of the western margins of the forest.	The overall shape of the forest sits well in the landscape overall. However, the margins remain visually rigid. This will remain a feature of future objectives, but will take some decades to fully implement.

Appendix III: Background

Physical site factors

Geology and Soils

Soils in Glen Loy and Gairlochy are primarily peaty gleyed podzols with dystrophic semi-confined peat and peaty gleys derived from schists, gneisses, granulites and quartzites, principally of the Moine Series. The soils are similar at Mucomir but with peaty gleys with dystrophic semi-confined peat. Better soils occur around the Erracht oakwoods, comprising brown earths with brown rankers deriving from gabbros and allied igneous rocks.

Landform comprises hill and valley sides with strong to very steep slopes: moderately rocky, typical of the Great Glen. Mucomir sits on a slightly elevated plateau to the east of the River Lochy. Further into Glen Loy and at Gairlochy, the landform comprises hummocky valley and slope moraines: often bouldery.

Water

Most of the forests sit within the River Lochy Drainage Area / SEPA Waterbody Catchment. The River Loy is the central hydrographic feature and runs through the centre of the Glen Loy Forest, ultimately draining into the Rover Lochy. The River Loy is classified as Poor due to presence of barriers to fish movement; all other characteristics score as Good. The River Lochy has an overall classification of Good.

Overall ecological status

The woods comprising this LMP are diverse, ranging from the oak and pine woods at Glen Loy, largely established on old woodland sites, to those established on open land and often on deep peats (Mucomir). The overall ecological status is fair and improving but could be enhanced further.

Coille Phuiteachain SSSI in Glen Loy is designated for the pinewood habitat (one of the most structurally intact in Lochaber) and invertebrate communities, which include nationally rare beetle species.

Climate

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.

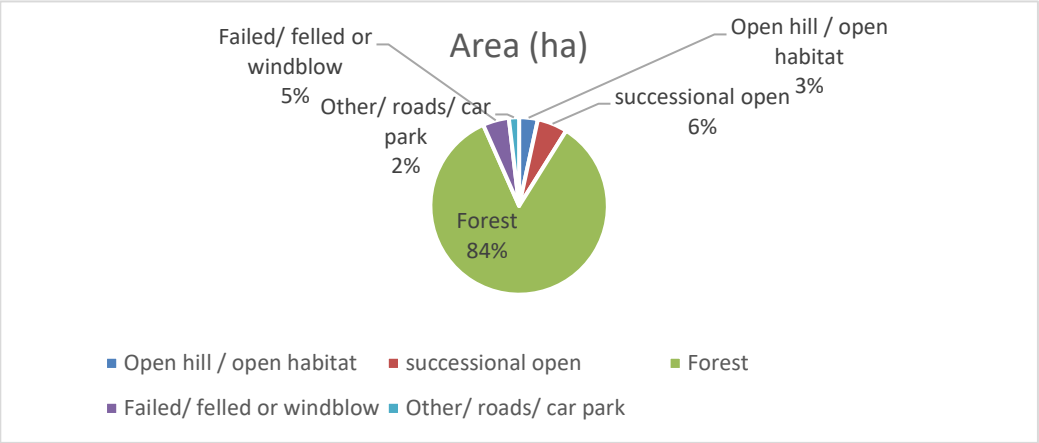
In Glen Loy, DAMS scores range from 11 – 12 on lower slopes and the river riparian area to a maximum of 17 on the upper slopes in the northern part of the forest. Climate type ranges from warm, moist sheltered in the glen floor to cool wet sheltered and cool wet moderately exposed on upper slopes. DAMS scores are 12 – 14 through Gairlochy and climate type is cool, wet moderately exposed in most

of the forest. Mucomir climate type varies between warm, moist sheltered and warm, moist moderately exposed, with DAMS scores 13 – 14.

Existing forest

Age structure, species and yield class

Approximately 69% of the site is under woodland cover, with a further 9% having been felled awaiting restocking. The remainder (22%) is given over to internal open ground including some agricultural land and wetlands.

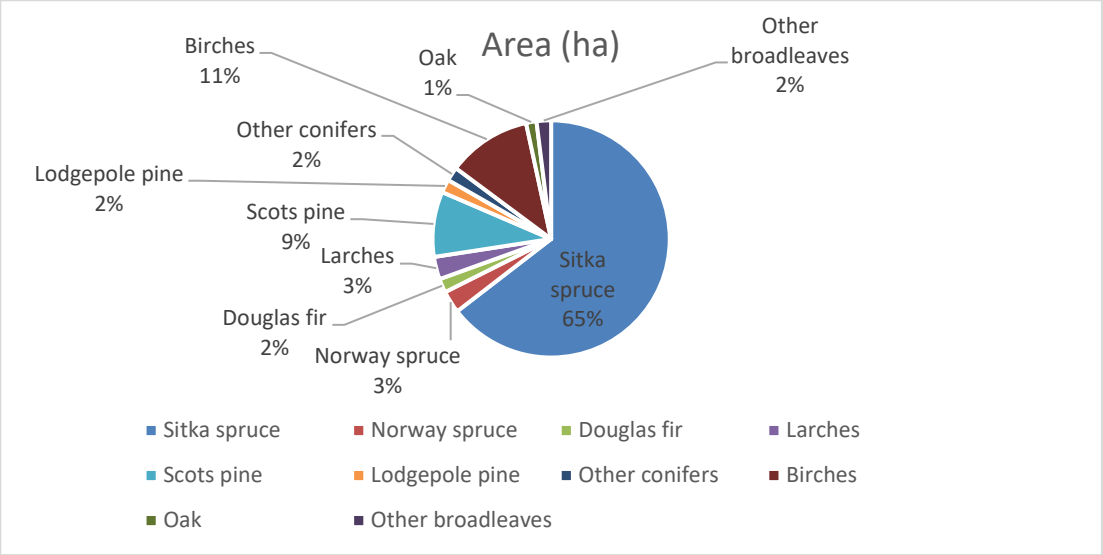


Sitka spruce accounts for 49% of the woodland with other conifers accounting for 10%. Broadleaves currently account for approximately 10% of the woodland area.

There is a small element of larch within the forests. There have been no instances of Phytophthora in this location but this is something to be aware of in the event of an outbreak. Removal of larch will be prioritised where possible in the felling programme, in response to the Phytophthora ramorum risk, as per the FLS larch strategy (2022) and in compliance with the Scottish Forestry Action Plan (June 2021). Duror lies within the more vulnerable Priority Action Zone, where the targets are to:

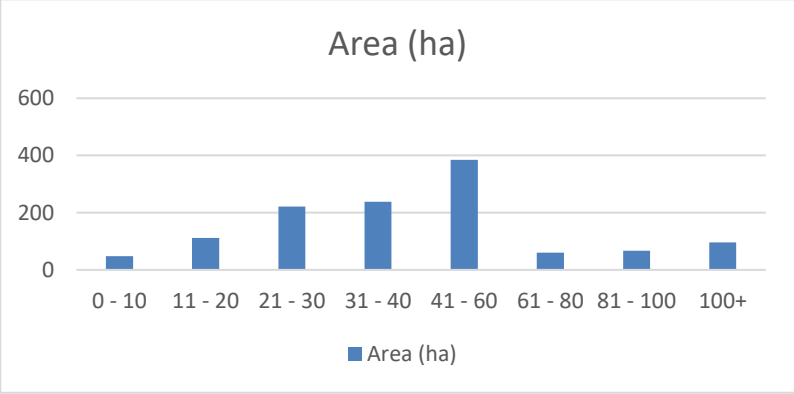
- remove at least 20% of the larch by April 2027 (against an April 2021 baseline and focusing on areas closest to the boundary of the Risk Reduction Zone);
- fell the difficult and complex larch coupes by April 2032 (starting with those at most risk of disease and maintaining a balanced annual programme) and
- construct access to at least 80% of all mature larch by April 2027.
- Restock will not include larch and alternative species will be selected to create diversity and colour.

Where possible, species composition will be diversified by introducing more alternative conifer species as well as broadleaves, to improve resilience - for example to climate change and the threats of pests and diseases. A priority will be to increase the proportion of native broadleaves along riparian zones and in the PAWS areas of high ecological potential, as well as protecting the ASNW.



The current split in terms of age classes structure is approximately:

- 3% establishing crop (0-10 years)
- 6% thicket (11-20 years)
- 47% pole stage (21-40 years)
- 30% mature (41-60 years)
- 14% old forest (61+ years)



Given that most of the woodland area was established in the middle of the twentieth century, the overall age class structure is relatively diverse. There is still a proportion in the pole and thicket stages but these will diminish as the next set of fellings is scheduled.

Much of the remaining pole stage and mature trees are first rotation forest with a small but increasing area establishing as second rotation forest. Both the first and subsequent rotations of productive forest were managed as clearfell. Thinning is not suitable across much of the area due to the relatively exposed nature of the site and predominantly peat soil.

Neighbouring Land Use

The forests are surrounded by a mixture of agricultural land, commercial forestry and sporting estates, with some native woodland expansion in the wider landscape.

At Gairlochy several residential properties between the public road and the loch, most of whom draw their water from catchments covering part of the forest. The forest is bisected by the Fort to Fort 132kv pylon line. Various Private Water Supplies are also drawn from Glen Loy and Mucomir forests.

Landscape

Overall Description

Most of the LMP area is of the Broad Forested Strath Landscape Character Type, which extends between Loch Linnhe and Loch Lochy, and along Glen Spean. Human infrastructure is clustered along the bottom of the glen where the scale of the landscape is intimate. Further up the slopes, the scale increases. Thus, forests such as Mucomir are generally observed in the nears distance and edge-on. In contrast the upper margins of Glen Loy and Gairlochy are best seen in the distance.

The woods form the backdrop to much recreational activity that occurs in the area. They are significant features in the landscape regarding passing traffic. Mucomir is highly visible from the A82 and is one of the woodlands closest to the Commando Memorial.

Glen Loy is highly visible from the Caledonian Canal and the upper margins form a part of the viewshed from the Snow Goose Restaurant and Sgurr Finniosgaig at the top of the gondolas at Aonach Mhor. Likewise, the lower edge of Gairlochy forms the context of part of the Great Glen Way, but the upper margins are only visible in the distance. Thus, scale decreases at the lower levels and increases at the upper margins.

Landscape Character Assessment

The whole LMP area lies within the Lochaber Landscape Character area.

Lochaber encompasses some of Scotland's most spectacular and awe-inspiring scenery. It includes the huge summits and steep, rocky glens around Ben Nevis and Glen Coe; the vast expanse of Rannoch Moor, ringed by distant hills; and the central rocky and rugged Western Highlands which is permeated by deep, meandering ribbon shaped lochs.

ZONE 1 - Broad Forested Straths: Mucomir, Gairlochy and the interface of Glen Loy with the Great Glen:

The Broad Forested Strath Landscape Character Type extends between Loch Linnhe and Loch Lochy, and along Glen Spean, and in the area around Strontian in Lochaber. This is a gently undulating landscape with a broad mosaic of coniferous and deciduous woodland and open pasture

Key Characteristics

- Broad, low-lying straths with rolling relief and sculptural glacial landforms
- Simple, large-scale mosaic of forested ridges, rolling pastures and heather moorland, but dominated by swathes of forestry
- A comparatively densely settled landscape with villages, houses and sporadic commercial development
- Quarries hidden amongst the woodland cover
- Strong communication and service corridors
- Long distance views from surrounding hills over the glens, which are framed by steep glen sides
- Lochs, rivers or canals on glen floor have often been engineered or substantially altered by man.

Landscape Character Description

The landform comprises hill and valley sides with strong to very steep slopes: moderately rocky, typical of the Great Glen. Mucomir sits on a slightly elevated plateau to the east of the River Lochy. Gairlochy and Glen Loy site on the west.

Landform

The Broad Forested Strath Landscape Character Type was influenced by the vast ice sheet of the Spean Glacier and other northward flowing glaciers from Rannoch Moor. Further areas at the mouth of Glengarry were also scoured by ice flows which created more subdued terrain compared to the surrounding relief, creating low smooth ridges and broad drumlins within a rolling landform between the high sides. In the Great Glen, sediments from a subsequent ice-dammed lake left fertile soils that now support a densely afforested and farmed landscape.

ZONE 2- Smooth Moorland Ridges: The majority of Glen Loy:

The Smooth Moorland Ridges Landscape Character Type comprises gently sloping hills which are mostly found alongside the wide glaciated valleys flanking much of the Great Glen in Lochaber.

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating hills with smooth elongated ridge profiles, developing a more undulating landform in transitional areas with Rugged Massif - Lochaber

- Simple, large scale landscape pattern dictated by uniform landcover and uncomplicated landform
- Plateau summits generally draped in a mixture of grasses, heather and sedges, with exposed peat hags
- Large blocks of conifer forests along the hill sides and lower foothills
- Broadleaf woods on lower slopes and along loch edges, often framing crofts
- Scattered croft settlements with stone dykes concentrated on lower slopes, particularly along roads and south-facing slopes
- Roads and transmission lines following the base of the hills
- Smooth open slopes highly visible

The character of the Smooth Moorland Ridges Landscape Character Type derives less from geology than from glacial action which has hewn a distinctive profile from the original, higher hills. The ridges, which are quite low-lying at 600-700 metres, may be recognised by their smooth undulating topography. They often occur as a transition into Rugged Massif - Lochaber, when the typically smooth edge begins to adopt a more rugged profile, and the boundary between Landscape Character Types may often be indistinct. A good example of such a transition occurs to the north of Loch Eil between Druim Fada and Beinn an t Sneachda.

Landscape Guidelines

When these plantation were initially established it was with linear boundaries, typical of the period. As the forest has matured this has resulted in a high visual contrast along a linear boundary creating an unnatural structure in the landscape. Over a twenty years period, attempts have been made to soften this boundary by withdrawing trees from the upper margins and redesigning coupe edges. This has worked to a degree and will continue as a design features throughout the coming decades.

Improve landscape quality and visual amenity through ongoing forest-scale design of coupes and forest margins.

Opportunity to work on a large scale consistent with that at which the landscape is perceived by most people. This will be working at a larger scale at the outer margins and on hill sides, drawing this in smaller toward the valley bottoms where internal landscape quality is likely to be more important.

Working on larger coupes brings the issue of sub-optimal timing of fellings. Some will be earlier and some stands over-mature. As a general principle, sub-optimal fellings will be pushed to be later rather than earlier. This may result in over-sized material but has the advantage of higher biodiversity values and marketable material.

Landscape Designations

There are currently no landscape designations affecting any of the sites

Environmental designations - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), SAC, SPA

Phuiteachain pine wood SSSI covers 31.74 ha and is designated as it is one of the most structurally intact pinewoods known in Lochaber and supports a nationally important beetle fauna. The SSSI is currently in declining condition, largely due to previous browsing by deer. Relevant operations that require consent include tree felling or removal of any plant or plant remains; construction or removal of fences and walls; and changes in game management and hunting practices. Maintenance of the existing fences will be a priority and construction of additional fences outwith the SSSI, to encourage expansion of the pinewood, will be considered.

Mucomir partially lies within the Parallel Roads of Lochaber Geological SSSI.

Habitats

There are approximately 340 Ha of Ancient Woodland (AW). Of this, approximately 194 Ha is classed as ancient and semi natural in origin. Fragments of this can be found in Gairlochy but the majority is centred around the Erracht area of Glen Loy and at Puiteachean further into Glen Loy.

There are various other fragments of pine wood in Gairlochy.

The principal biodiversity feature at Mucomir is the presence of deep peats and unflushed bogs. Some of these have been cleared of trees in recent years but there are other areas of commercial conifers still present on deep peat sites.

The eastern portion of Mucomir sits within the Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI. This is a very large geological SSSI and at this point is at its easternmost edge. There are several citable features that need to considered during certain operations.

Archaeology; scheduled / unscheduled monuments

Heritage identified so far in Glen Loy are mainly dykes, sheepfolds and agricultural buildings associated with long established rural life, the most significant being the remains of a township at Barre in the south side of the glen. There are several other typical features in Gairlochy and Mucomir. Wade's Military Road runs through the middle of the forest and structures relating to the railway that once went from Spean Bridge to Fort Augustus lie within and around the edge of Mucomir.
There are no scheduled monuments within the plan area and all undesignated features across the sites are recorded in the heritage layer of GIS. Refer to map M10: Heritage features

Species

Species noted in the Glen Loy include pine marten, badger, goosander, black grouse, chequered skipper butterfly, pearl bordered fritillary, and a variety of nationally-scarce beetle species.

Biodiversity

The areas of Ancient Woodland, including the pinewoods at Coillie Phuitcheacain and the Oakwoods at Erracht, form the core of the biodiversity importance at Glen Loy. Coille Phuitcheacain is also registered as part of the Caledonian pinewood Inventory. Some work has been carried out at both sites in the past to improve connectivity and remove Invasive and non-native species. The riparian areas along the river and smaller watercourses also provide important habitat and the aim will be to strengthen the broadleaves in these areas, to create networks and improve connections between existing native woodland and other priority habitats. Open canopied riparian broadleaved woodland will improve freshwater habitat and broadleaves on upper slopes will improve woodland edge habitat, resulting in more prey species for priority raptors.

The ecological potential for deadwood is generally found within the LMP forested area. A proportion of woodland may 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 PAWS and riparian areas and within Long Term Retentions and minimum intervention areas. Areas of lower potential for deadwood will be found in the higher, more exposed areas of conifer crop.

Social factors

Recreation and community

Visitor access in the forests is popular but fairly low – key, by walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders and for informal hill access. There is limited parking at Erracht and other small car parking areas on the edges of Glen Loy.

There are several popular recreational routes through the three forests. The Great Glen Way runs through the edge of Gairlochy. There is a circular hill route from Glen Loy up to Beinn Bhan; access is provided through the forest to Druim Fada and there is a through-route from Glen Loy to Fassfern, which is a recorded Right of Way (HL53). General Wade's Road runs through part of Mucomir. There are also some candidate core paths.

FLS will work with Lochaber Trail Association and West Highland Wheelers, to facilitate the development of safe off- road mountain bike routes.

There are several residential and farming properties around the edge of the forest. Private water supplies draw water from catchments partially within the forest bounds. Achnacarry Estate surrounds much of Glen Loy Forest and FLS is working with the Estate as part of the wider Beo Airceig partnership.

Appendix IV: Private Water Supply Checks

FLS endeavours to identify all Private Water Supply (PWS) sources located on, or potentially affected by operations taking place on, FLS land, as far as is practical. Several PWS have been identified within the Glen Loy LMP area (Glen Loy, Gairlochy and Mucomir forests).

The process to confirm relevant PWS was as follows:

- Addresses within the vicinity of the three forests were identified. It was assumed that properties within 50 m of the SW pipeline are served by the mains supply and were not contacted. All other addresses were contacted, except for addresses that when checked, were clearly not a building or place of habitation, or where due to geography, the property's supply would not be impacted by forest management and operations
- A letter and questionnaire, together with an SAE, were posted to 68 addresses. Occupiers were encouraged to respond, even if it was to confirm that the property is on the mains. Questions relating to water abstraction location, type and quality were included
- 16 responses were received and of these, six confirmed that their property is served by a PWS
- A check revealed that only five of these properties have PWS within the LMP area or are potentially impacted by management / operations in the area (one PWS draws direct from the loch)
- Of the five PWS that are potentially affected by LMP management, two were already identified on FLS GIS, with correct locations; two were known but the location had been identified as the holding tank, rather than the abstraction point. One PWS was previously unknown to FLS
- There are a further two registered supply points within the LMP area (Gairlochy and Mucomir) and one where the registered supply is well beyond the LMP area but part of the catchment lies within the LMP area (Gairlochy) - where occupiers did not respond to the FLS letter and questionnaire
- Ground truthing is carried out during LMP preparation where feasible but pre-commencement checks are always carried out in coupes prior to operations taking place. FLS operates a spatially-based Work Plan system, where proposed works are identified, discussed and signed-off prior to commencement
- PWS occupiers will be contacted and any required mitigations discussed, prior to any operations commencing. Relevant information that results will be fed into the Work Plan system and used to update GIS databases where necessary

The PWS located in Gairlochy and Mucomir forests lie within the designated Scottish Water Drinking Water Catchment, which is also a Drinking Water Protected Area under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Any measures that are required to protect this catchment will also benefit the PWS and their catchments

Appendix V: LMP Consultation Record

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Scottish Water	06/08/2024	29/08/2024	The river Lochy supplies raw water via a series of boreholes to Camisky Wellfield Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. The management plan for the Glen Loy Forest does not pose a particular risk to our boreholes at Camisky, as surface runoff from this forest ends into the River Loy, which meets the River Lochy downstream of our boreholes. However, the Gairlochy and Mucomir forests are located as close as 3 km upstream of the Camisky boreholes. In addition to meeting the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and Forests and Water Guidelines, we would request that the "Guidance on Forestry Activities Near SW Assets" is taken into account.	All low risk sites. However, UKFS Soil and Water Guidelines and"Guidance on Forestry Activities Near SW Assets" will be taken into account.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
NatureScot	06/08/2024	21/08/2024	**Coillie Puiteachain SSSI** The Native pinewood feature is in unfavourable declining condition due to herbivore impacts. We welcome that FLS seeks to improve feature condition through a combination of deer management fencing and collaboration with neighbours. We also note the proposal to provide a generous expansion zone for the pinewood at Coille Phuiteachain, joining the oak woods at Errocht to promote ecological connectivity. We welcome this strategy and advise that opportunities are taken at the design stage to ensure open space is built into the plan (and maintained in the future) to ensure deer can be managed effectively to the required densities to improve feature condition. **Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI** From the documentation we understand that thinning of current forestry is proposed, leaving open areas for peatland for restoration. Thinning of trees will help to improve the visibility of landforms, as long as density of trees	Agreed Incorrectly identified. No thinning proposed.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			is not to increase on the mounds, which will be beneficial to the site. Regarding proposed peatland restoration, no information about the extent or type of restoration to be carried out is provided at this stage, but we can advise that we would not be supportive of methods which disturbs (by earthworks) deep peat in hollows in Mucomir coup. Any such features may be a paleoenvironmental resource and therefore our aim is to conserve the stratigraphy within deep pockets and leave them undisturbed. We also advise avoiding the use of invasive restoration techniques for forest to bog peat such as stump flipping or ground smoothing, which could harm the landforms and change the drainage axes of the area. We would be happy to advise further on proposed peatland restoration within Mucomir, once further information regarding proposed methods and locations becomes available.	Built note into plan regarding restoration techniques and how sites might be left following harvesting.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Mountaineering Scotland	06/08/2024	21/08/2024	Access through the Glen Loy forest block to reach the Fiona, Stob a' Ghrianain on Druim Fada. The walking access route is mentioned in the Draft LMP objectives in the Scoping brief document as a feature to be maintained or enhanced, but the Design Concept Map text doesn't specifically mention this. We trust that the draft LMP will recognise as a Design Concept the route from Inverskilavulin Bridge, following the track to Allt Coire an Lightuinn and up alongside the burn to cross the forest boundary to the open hill. The maintenance of self-closing pedestrian gates in deer fences at the top and bottom edge of the plantation block would be desirable, and that the route through the forest is kept clear of obstruction. In addition, the parking at this location immediately east of the bridge is on the verge of the splayed area where the forest track meets the single track road, and we ask if FLS would consider the provision of a more defined pull-off area for a couple or so	Included in the text. Comments are noted for consideration. Maintaining public access is important and FLS will continue to facilitate this wherever possible. Keeping long distance and core paths, and other key routes open and maintain access generally, under SOAC.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			cars, so that both the forest access track and the single track road are kept free from possible obstruction by parked vehicles.	
Highland Council Access Officer	06/08/2024	06/08/2024	Should any new fencing be proposed on the site, the impact on recreational routes highlighted above, and on any visible paths on the ground should be considered and pass gates included. This is particularly important at the forest boundary where access is currently taken out onto open land. Where vehicle gates might be installed, pass gates should be installed immediately next to them. These pass gates, not kissing gates, would ideally be self-closing and have an internal width of at least 1.5m to accommodate horse riders and mountain bikers as well as pedestrians. While hatch gates have been popular in the past gates such as Self-Closing Pedestrian Gate | Ritchie (ritchie-d.co.uk) are more accessible and durable alternatives. Wild boar are now present in the Arkaig catchment and may also be present in Glen Loy. Any management	Comments are noted for consideration. Maintaining public access is important and FLS will continue to facilitate this wherever possible. Keeping long distance and core paths, and other key routes open and maintain access generally, under SOAC. This is now recognised and included in the text.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			of the forests will need to consider this change.	
Historic Environment Scotland	06/08/2024	07/08/2024	We note that there are no scheduled monuments, category A-listed buildings or Inventory gardens and designed landscapes within the boundary of the Glen Loy, Mucomir and Gairlochy Land Management Plan revision and therefore we have no locus regarding this consultation.	No response required. Non-scheduled features noted and marked on maps.
Other consultees				
MoP- Details witheld	06/08/2024	various	1. Overall objectives do not overtly include biodiversity. These woodlands are of high ecological value in part and therefore this should be a key objective going forward. 2. Gairlochy – the Allt Coire Rais on the N boundary is particularly rich botanically, and there is scope for allowing expansion of native broad-leaf into the FLS block. 3. Gairlochy – the native pinewood above the NW corner of the block is relatively extensive, and should be allowed to expand naturally to the SE,	These are in the text which was not circulated for comment. Area in Gairlochy has been fallow for several years to allow for colonisation and natural regeneration. This was in the proposals anyway.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			possibly with a co-operative programme with Achnacarry Estate. Black grouse seen here. Pine woods here probably need surveying botanically.	
			4. Gairlochy – the clear-felled area at the NE corner of the block adjacent to and easily accessible from the public road has been flagged by Arkaig Community Forest as a potential site for acquisition and development for woodland croft / community housing.	This should be brought up directly with FLS estates team.
			5. Glen Loy – Fenced area to west of Puiteachan should be allowed to develop pine woodland, in the absence of cattle grazing. May need planting on drier knolls to achieve this. Fences on N boundary of Puiteachan not currently deer proof.	This was already in the plan.
			6. Glen Loy – Lot of natural regen of pine in area to E of SSSI. Further native regen should be encouraged and sitka should be removed (or ring-barked / fell to waste) rather than left as a seed source.	As highlighted in the plan, there will be an ongoing trend toward removing SS and other non-native conifers in these areas and seeking to consolidate an ecological native woodland core in this area.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			7. Glen Loy - Wet areas S of Glen Loy road adjacent to fence should be allowed to develop as peat bog, with remnant sitka removed / ring-barked. Barn owl boxes on fringe here are productive. Note clonal aspen on verge.	Where wet areas and deep peats have been identified these are generally incorporated into the mosaic of open space.
			8. Glen Loy – areas previously thinned have been subject to much wind-throw, particularly around are cleared for archaeological interest and where breaks have been created. Despite sheltered aspect, may not be suitable for continuous forestry.	There was an objective in the plan to try and maintain some CCF areas. However, many of these were on the PAWS sites and it made more sense to remove them entirely in favour of native species. What we have proposed as CCF lies on the non-PAWS sites. We are currently reviewing this strategy to establish whether maintaining CCF is viable at all in this area.
			9. Glen Loy – areas around water courses should be buffered with native woodland, via regen, not exclusive to PAWS sites. In particular, Allt Coire Lightuinn should be encouraged to regen naturally. This could be linked to remnant ancient woodland further up the Coire in conjunction with Achnacarry Estate. This would also	Agreed

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			improve the visual amenity of the hill track. Repair of this track would prevent local erosion.	
			10. Glen Loy. The upper rides along the Erracht section are particularly notable for pearl-bordered fritillary (and other) butterflies on the south facing slopes, and these should be maintained in favourable condition. The lower rides are similarly important for chequered skipper and a variety of other lepidoptera. These rides need to kept open from alder regen and wide margins kept to allow sun (this would also be useful for maintaining fire breaks).	Noted. Passed to Environment team who are already aware.
			11. Glen Loy The woods in Erracht particularly, but also to the S of the public road sport a proliferation of mountain bike tracks. Whilst not wishing to prohibit bike access, these tracks should be discouraged in AW / PAWS restoration areas where possible to prevent ecological damage.	This isn't an easy one to solve. We are working with access and mountain bike groups to encourage responsible and sustainable access across Glen Loy and to steer people away from the most vulnerable areas.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			12. Glen Loy. Restoration of former circular trail through the oakwoods could be considered, particularly now that the PAWS area has been thinned / restored. This was, and could be again, a popular trail for the local and wider community, and could be kept separate from cycle trails in the conifer sections. Development of more walking routes on both sides of the glen should be considered.	We shall pass this to the recreation team for consideration but need to be measured against other priorities for public access and recreational infrastructure.

Appendix VI: Deer Management Plan

See separate document

Appendix VII: Designated Sites Management Plans

See separate document

Appendix VIII: 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
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.	

Appendix IX:

Abbreviations used in the plan

Abbreviation	Meaning
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)

Species abbreviations	
Species	AR = Alder BI = Birch (downy/silver) CAR = Common Alder DF = Douglas Fir EL = European Larch HAW = Hawthorn GF= Grand Fir GWL = Goat Willow

Species abbreviations	
	HAZ = Hazel HL = Hybrid Larch JL = Japanese Larch LP = Lodgepole Pine MB = Mixed Broadleaves SS = Sitka Spruce 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 XWL = Other Willows