



Ardochy Land Management Plan Summary

Ardochy Forest is situated on the northern shore of Loch Garry and 9km north of the village of Invergarry. The land management plan (LMP) area is 260ha in size which includes open ground. The A87 road to Skye dissects the LMP area and the minor road to Kinlochhourn runs along the southern boundary beside Loch Garry. Elevation ranges from 90 metres near Loch Garry to 240 metres in the North eastern tip of the LMP area beside Allt Daingean.

There is almost 68ha of forested area which is classified as ancient woodland: Coill Daingean in the east and areas to the north and south of the A87. Long established woodland covers almost 83ha of the western section of the LMP area south of the A87.

Ardochy LMP was approved on 10th July 2017 and runs for 10 years. The summary of proposals are:

- Felling of 61ha of commercial conifer crop in the next 10 years. This requires major road infrastructure in the upper portion of the forest
- Emphasis on restocking the lower slopes and better soils with commercial conifer species including: Sitka spruce; Norway spruce and planting Scots pine on heathery knolls to link the species over wider forest.
- Restructure of the forest margins on the loch side and with sympathetic consideration to the A87 road corridor.
- An emphasis to increase and enhance the native woodland element throughout the forest.
- Retention of Scots pine to maintain seed source and protect Red Squirrel habitat.
- Maintenance and enhancement of the butterfly habitat.
- Explore potential to better utilize wayleave edges and corridors by considering low structure species to become established.
- No new planting over the next 10 years.

The primary objectives for the plan area are

- Retain a strong core of commercial conifers that will better fit into the overall landscape.
- There will be an emphasis to re-establish native woodland on areas identified as Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) and also further expansion of native species along riparian zones to a more naturalistic structure on a wider scale.
- A gradual increase in the establishment of productive broadleaf area within the LMP area to allow the area to link and reflect the values of



the SSSI/SAC/SPA & NSA within the surrounding landscape.

- The enhancement of the external landscape values and the main A87 tourist route corridor.
- The continuing consolidation and rationalization of the recreational potential of the area, capitalizing on the multi-purpose aspects of productivity and environmental benefit.
- Consult and work with local communities and stakeholders.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Plan Area | 260 hectares (ha) |
|------------------------|-------------------|

Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

| Species Breakdown | (current) ha | (end of plan period) ha |
|---|--------------|-------------------------|
| Sitka spruce | 34 (13%) | 71 (27%) |
| Birch and other broadleaves | 34 (13%) | 74 (28.5%) |
| Scots pine | 32 (12%) | 28 (11%) |
| Norway spruce | 13 (5%) | 17 (6.5%) |
| Larch | 2 (1%) | 2 (1%) |
| Mixed conifers | 2 (1%) | 0 (0%) |
| Open space (incl felled awaiting restock) | 143 (55%) | 68 (26%) |



| Planned Operations | 2017– 2027 plan period |
|---|---|
| Felling | 61 ha |
| Thinning | 13 ha gross - LISS |
| Restocking | 88 ha |
| New planting | None |
| Road construction | 1400 metres |
| Road upgrades | None |
| Significant Environment / Conservation Features | |
| Designated sites | West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA & SSSI adjacent to LMP (Black throated diver & Common scoter) |
| Minimum Intervention | 22 ha |
| Natural Reserve | None |
| Caledonian Pine Wood | None |
| Priority Species 1 | Otter |
| Priority Species 2 | Red Squirrel |
| Priority Species 3 | Pearl Bordered Fritillary |
| Priority Species 4 | Black Grouse core area - lek in neighbouring estate, potential to expand into LMP area |
| Priority Species 5 | Wood Ants |
| Priority Species 6 | Atlantic Oakwood remnant features: trees; lichens; bryophytes. |
| Heritage/ Cultural importance – Daingean township | Regional Importance (undesigned) |



Critical Success Factors:

- **Access/ Infrastructure** – the lack of roading in the upper section of Ardoch is the main challenge to a successful implementation of this LMP.
- **Restocking** – successful establishment of alternative conifers and an intimate species mix offers increased resilience to future potential disease.
- **PAWS** – the successful establishment of a commercial native crop on PAWS sites, with lower ecological potential, will be followed up with further restoration.
- **LISS** – the target of this LMP to improve species resilience, biodiversity, habitat and canopy structure through intervention in established semi-natural broadleaf stands is dependent on resources, management intervention and appropriate timings.
- **Deer/ Feral Pig Control** – it is vital that current control measures are maintained and implemented to prevent deer and feral pigs from damaging restock, natural regeneration and vegetation within the forest boundaries.
- **Wayleave Margins** – the considerable OHPL wayleave margins running through the forest create areas of unproductive and dead ground. A reassessment of these margins in collaboration with SSE should seek to identify potential to introduce through restock, low structure/ scrub species requiring no intervention as tree cover.
- **Disease/ Pest Resilience** – monitoring of disease in relation to pine species and Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB), infection is vital. A diverse species range and intimate crop mixtures can reduce the scale of future disease impacts.
- **Infrastructure Resilience** – close working with SSE, Highland Council and Transport Scotland in relation to powerline and roadside operations is essential.



Consultation and Further Information:

Highland Council area
Glengarry Community Council area

Consultation: events / consultees

Internal Consultation:

Renate Jephcott FES Planning – 26/04/2016

Lochaber Forest District staff – 27/04/2016

External Consultation:

Public - External discussion forum, Lochaber Life – April 2016

Public – 03/06/2016 – Daingean Historical site

Statutory Consultees:

SNH – 31/05/2016

SEPA – 31/05/2016

Historic Scotland – 31/05/2016

Highland Council (Planning) – 12/05/2016

Glengarry Community Council – 06/06/2016

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