Appin Land Management Plan - Appendices

Appendix I - Land Management Plan Brief

Land Management Plan Brief - Appin, West Region

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Description

The Land Management Plan (LMP) covers Appin forest, located NE of Oban and accessed from the public C class road, which joins the A828 at Lurignish. The forest and associated hill ground covers 700 ha, extending from sea level to 437 m and comprising a mosaic of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS); areas of mixed conifers and broadleaves; a component of commercial conifers and large tracts of open ground including some agricultural land. The 2020 -2030 LMP will be prepared in the context of the wider group of linked forests under FLS management in this part of North Argyll and the strategic plan that is being prepared to guide management across this wider area. Appin is a small forest but the associated open ground extends northwards to Bealach and there is potential for woodland expansion to create contiguous native woodland from Appin to Bealach. The intention therefore, is to join Bealach and Appin into one Land Management Plan in future.

The western boundary of Appin forest runs alongside the A828; to the North, the forest bounds with Bealach (also under FLS management) and to the East and South, with private land. The forested area covers 285 ha, currently comprising 186 ha with standing trees – the rest of this area has been felled (95 ha) or has failed or suffered windblow (4 ha). Much of the felled area is visible from surrounding settlements. Of the area currently under trees, 96 ha supports broadleaves and 90 ha conifers. Most of these conifers were planted in the 1960's, with a further area planted since 2000 and small areas of old, mature conifers. The open ground extends to 416 ha, which includes 49 ha agricultural land and 316 ha of ground that is identified as plantable.

This forested hill is an important feature in a historic landscape that is of national importance and future management will create a better fit with landform and enhance the landscape character, which is defined by the native woodland and open ground habitats.

Social Factors

Appin forest lies close to the wider settlement of Appin and is very visible from the A828 through Appin and from Port Appin and Lismore. The site does not have high visitor numbers and recreational use is largely limited to local walkers. However, the southern end of the forest provides an important backdrop to the Appin coastal landscape and the forest is easily accessible from the A828 via the minor road at Lurignish.

Environmental Factors

The Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area lies adjacent to the western boundary of Appin forest.

The southern half of the forest supports extensive areas of ASNW, PAWS and other long established woodland of plantation origin. Small areas of ancient semi-natural or long established woodland are scattered along the coastal fringe, with another larger area along the boundary with Bealach forest.

Appin forest lies in an area defined as lowland ridges and moss, with densely forested rocky ridges and a patchwork of marginal pastures in the glens. Specific landscape guidelines suggest that large-scale forestry would be out of scale, archaeology and its setting should be conserved, woodlands should be thinned and rhododendrons controlled.

The conifer forest extends part way along the ridge between Appin and Bealach and is a major feature in the landscape when viewed from the South and from Port Appin, Lismore and from Shuna Island.

Watercourses in Appin forest run into South Loch Linnhe, which achieved moderate status in 2014 due to water quality, although long term prediction is that it will achieve good status. The assessment indicated that condition of bottom living invertebrate animal populations was not good for reasons unknown because there were no obvious causes. Six private water supplies are taken from Appin, with a further supply just outwith the FLS boundary (*see map 11 for details*).

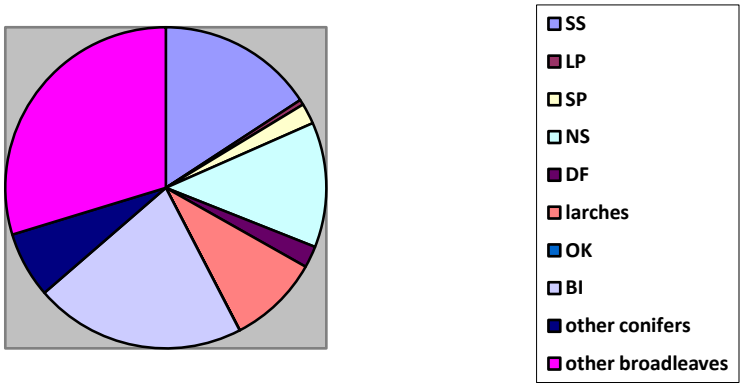
Priority species include Sea eagles, Wood ants, Red squirrels, butterflies, Black grouse (on adjacent ground); veteran Scots pine and Sessile oak.

There are 10 unscheduled ancient monuments in Appin forest.

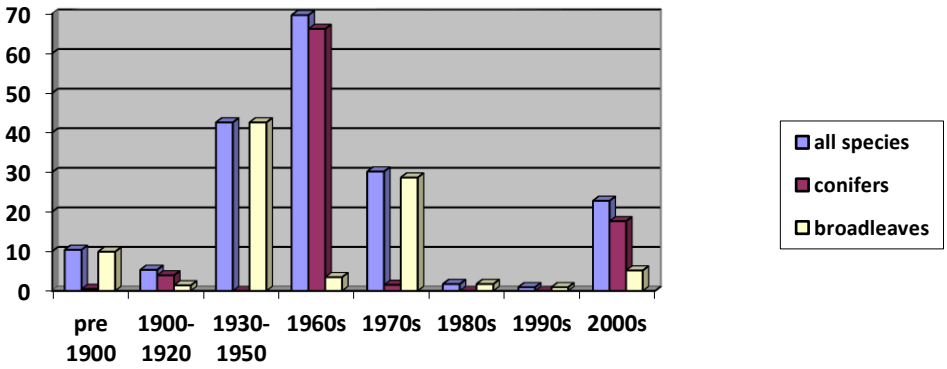
Almost 60% of the land holding is open ground, dominated by a series of mountain ridges running parallel to the coast. The open ground comprises part of an agricultural holding and includes areas of improved grassland as well as a mosaic of grassland, bracken, heathland and a complex of gullies and wet flushes. Watercourses run in short lengths straight into Loch Linnhe as well as in a NE-SW direction along gullies, extending to small lochans in the NE, where there is also an area of juniper bushes. Groups of scrubby birch run along the three mile stretch between the Appin forested area and Bealach.

Economic Factors

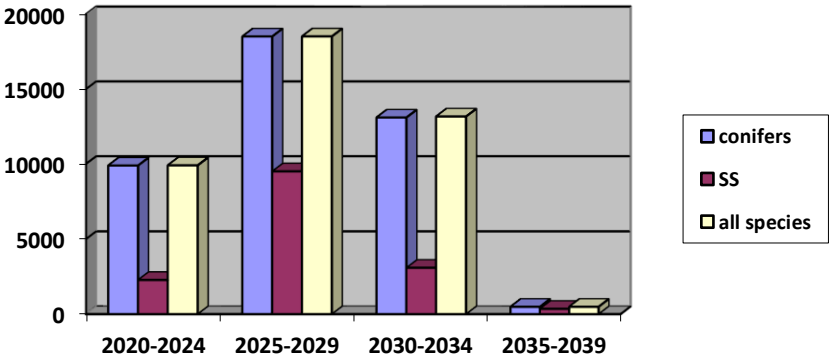
The forested area covers 186 ha including 91 ha conifers. Birch and other broadleaves cover the largest proportion of the forested area. Sitka spruce and Norway spruce are the most predominant conifers but there is also a significant area of larch (11.6 ha). The latter is at risk from P. ramorum which has already been found in the rhododendron. The plan will seek to fell the larch at the earliest suitable opportunity. The conifer mix is fairly diverse across a relatively small area.



The forest has an uneven age structure, with most of the area planted between 1930 and the 1970's. This reflects planting of both conifers (predominantly in the 1960's) and broadleaves (mainly established between 1930-1950 and in the 1970's). The major part of the forest area is open ground or under broadleaves and it will be a challenge to maintain diversity of productive conifers across a small area but species and structural diversity can be developed through establishment of continuous cover productive broadleaves and restoration of PAWS areas.

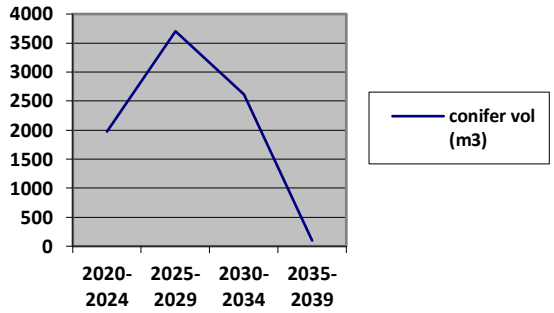


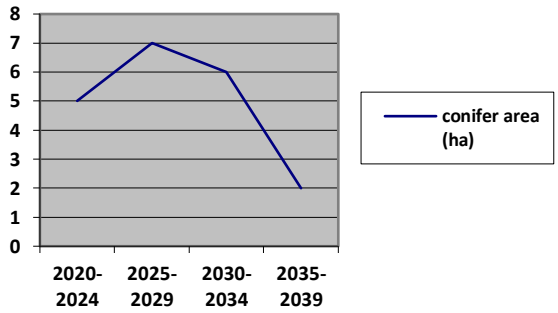
Volume (m^3) production for all conifers is predicted to spike during 2025-2029, based on the current LMP. Annual production will then drop and after 2034, it will fluctuate between 60 and 4,000 m^3.



Estimated volume production (m^3) per fell period for the next 20 years

Annual volume production (m^3) and area felled for all conifer species:





The existing plan is for large areas to be converted to broadleaves and while diversifying age and spatial structure, maintaining a steady volume production here may be difficult. The felling programme will be reviewed, in the context of the wider group of linked forests, so that stable volume production is maintained across the area as a whole. The balance between conifers and broadleaves will also be reviewed, to balance environmental, visual amenity and economic interests.

The forest's main recreational impact is on the visual amenity of the Appin area and this will be considered when reviewing fell and restock plans.

Achieving National Priorities Locally

The management of Scotland's National Forests and Land is guided by Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019 – 2029 and the organisation's Corporate Plan and is informed by strategies on a range of topics, including land use, economy, climate change, biodiversity and the historic environment.

Scotland's Forestry Strategy sets out a 50 year vision:

"In 2070, Scotland will have more forests and woodland, sustainably managed and better integrated with other land uses. These will provide a more resilient adaptable resource with greater natural capital value that supports a strong economy, a thriving environment and health and flourishing communities."

To support the 50 year vision, the Scottish Government has identified three objectives to deliver over the next 10 years:

- Increase the contribution of forests and woodland to Scotland's sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Improve the resilience of Scotland's forests and woodland and increase their contribution to a healthy and high quality environment
- Increase the use of Scotland's forest and woodland resources to enable more people to improve their health, wellbeing and life chances

This Land Management Plan will help deliver on these objectives, in line with FLS corporate outcomes, to ensure clear linkages through the planning framework and implementation of national and regional priorities.

The brief is also guided by the National Spatial Overview, which has identified the broad focus of effort and investment challenges for this area.

Key contributions that Appin forest makes to our Priorities, Aims and Objectives are:

- Ecosystem services and additional public benefits – scenic quality and visitor attractions contribute to tourism income; sustainable timber production
- Other national commitments – PAWS restoration; rhododendron control; habitat management for chequered skipper butterfly; dealing with the potential impact of *P ramorum* on larch
- Contribution to financial sustainability – producing a range of softwood

LMP Objectives

- Focus conifer production on the most suitable areas (in the context of the wider group of linked forests) and review options on steep and marginal ground, to optimise production and continue to contribute to regional timber production targets and maximise returns
- Continue to enhance and expand native woodland in ASNW/PAWS zones through removal of non-native conifers and encouraging natural regeneration of locally native species within a reasonable timeframe
- Work with neighbours to manage deer populations to minimise grazing / browsing pressure on planted and naturally regenerating trees
- Continue to remove Rhododendron and other invasive species
- Plan for timely pre-emptive removal of larch in response to the previous identification of P. ramorum on Rhododendron stands
- Review long term felling and restock plans in the South and West facing slopes in the southern section of the forest, to enhance visual amenity and reflect priorities for timber production, landscape and environment
- Develop options for woodland creation on some of the open ground in the northern section of the forest block, while protecting priority open ground habitats

Key Issues Identified for the LMP

(see map 10 a – Analysis and 10 b – Landform analysis)

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	**Key Corporate Actions**	**LMP priorities**
Outcome: "FLS supports sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments." Priority: Provide sustainable economic benefits from the national forests and land	➢ Ensure a sustainable balance between the resilience and productivity of the national forests and land ➢ Provide a sustainable supply of timber ➢ Implement the national restocking strategy ➢ Support Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through provision of visitor attractions ➢ Work to release value from rural development opportunities for reinvestment in the national forests and land ➢ Support commercial activity on the national forest estate which help to sustain rural communities	• Softwood timber production will be focused on areas where soil, topography, shelter and other environmental conditions will achieve the best growth and where cost effective infrastructure can support the necessary harvesting and forest management activities • Coupe size / shapes, felling sequences and restocking will be reviewed to better balance priorities of visual amenity; sustainable volume production; optimised costs/income; environmental benefits and resilience • Conifer species and the mix of broadleaves and conifers will be reviewed to balance visual amenity, environmental and economic interests. In particular, we will review restocking plans for the southern coupe, to maximise diversity and visual amenity as much as is possible, in a site where there is significant risk of encroachment of Rhododendron • Where possible, the existing natural regeneration will be retained and managed by weeding, cleaning and respacing to favour preferred species • Where conifers are grown, we will aim to maximise species diversity

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities

		• We will review areas of steep ground to identify optimal restocking in these areas that balances economic benefit with safety and environment / landscape issues
		
		• We will consider opportunities to create and manage productive broadleaved woodland for firewood and small roundwood, using low impact management, where access permits and where it is compatible with conservation priorities
		
		• Broadleaves may offer longer term opportunities to contribute to local economic activity, encouraging value adding and job creation by encouraging small scale local markets such as wood turning and furniture making. Continuing forest management will help to secure / support long term downstream jobs
		
		• Local economic diversity will be encouraged by:
		  ○ Maintaining productive relationships with neighbouring landowners and businesses;
		  ○ Giving consideration to requests / proposals from the community and local SMEs
		
		• We will support the Scottish Government's woodland expansion policy by encouraging natural regeneration of native woodland and by planting new conifer and broadleaved woodland in open ground where appropriate, linking the woodland between Appin and Bealach (avoiding priority open ground).

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities
Outcome: "Scotland's national forests and land are looked after; Biodiversity is protected and enhanced More environmental services are provided to people" Priority: Ensure forests and woodland are sustainably managed – by woodland expansion, increasing adaptability and resilience, and enhancing environmental benefits provided by forests and woodland	➢ Manage the forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity ➢ Collaborate with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration ➢ Protect and enhance priority species ➢ Contribute to renewable energy targets ➢ Supporting forest research ➢ Manage the historic environment assets ➢ Work with neighbouring landowners to control non-native invasive species, e.g. Rhododendron ➢ Improve the resilience of forests and land to impacts of climate change and tree health threats e.g. Phytophthora ramorum ➢ Contribute to Scotland's national woodland creation targets	• We will implement a programme to restore PAWS areas within a reasonable timeframe, by removing non-native conifers and invasive species and restocking by natural regeneration of native broadleaves, with enrichment planting if required • We will consider the potential for thinning 2nd rotation crops for production, as well as opportunities for growing productive broadleaves under continuous cover forestry • In future, we will maintain tree cover by restocking with optimum / minimum fallow, continuous cover of broadleaves and management of ASNW/PAWS. We will balance fallow length with the need to control weed growth • We will review areas for Long Term Retention to improve diversity and ensure that older age classes are represented in the forest. A proportion of trees will be maintained to provide dead wood habitat, where this will have environmental benefit • Ground preparation techniques will seek to protect the soil and soil carbon at the same time as achieving rapid re-establishment of woodland cover • Wherever possible, we will improve wind resistance by encouraging green edges on roads and breaks, reinforcing riparian broadleaves to create natural breaks and environmental benefits • We will control invasive species including Rhododendron and Western Hemlock and will monitor for encroachment of

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities
		Rhododendron from neighbouring ground and remove this as soon as possible • We will monitor the woodlands for significant tree pathogens such as Phytophthora ramorum, Hylobius spp. and Chalara fraxinea • We will strive to manage deer to fulfil our land management aspirations. We will work with Deer Management Groups and adjacent landowners to maintain good relations and ensure that views and objectives are taken into account • The forest management of Appin will contribute towards achieving the objectives of The River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) by:- o Designing new proposals so that they will not result in deterioration of any water body status, by creating open broadleaved habitat in riparian zones o By ensuring that forest activities are managed in such a way as to ensure they do not cause pollution • Priority open habitats will be maintained in good ecological condition. A clear rationale for planting open ground will be agreed • Archaeological remains will be protected
Outcome: "Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland's national forest and land to connect with nature,	➢ Maintain walking and biking trails, for everyone to enjoy and gain health and other benefits ➢ Engage communities in decisions on management of forest and land	• The forests are open to all, within the framework of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and we will continue to promote best practice in relation to access • Links with Appin Community Council will be maintained and any requests to engage local communities and organisations

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities
have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making Priority: Engage more people and communities in the use and management of forests and woodlands.	➢ Help facilitate local communities make use of the forest to benefit their communities	in using and managing the woodland will be given serious consideration • Opportunities for volunteering, or for encouraging a more diverse range of people to use the forest, will be considered, focusing most on the native woodland areas
Outcome: "FLS is a supportive, safe and inclusive organisation…." Priority: Sustain a safe working environment for people working in, and using our forests and promote healthier lifestyles	• Ensure health and safety of forestry workers and users underpin all forest planning and operations	• Safety considerations will inform decisions on restocking coupes on steep ground

Corporate plan outcomes and priorities	Key Corporate Actions	LMP priorities
Outcome: "FLS is recognised as a high performing, efficient and effective, financially sustainable organisation that continues to transform and adapt." Priority: Deliver best value in the effective and efficient delivery of public service	• Meet statutory duties as an executive agency • Maintain UKWAS certification • Align with Scottish Government targets on carbon emissions, waste, water and chemical use • Working collaboratively, openly and responsibly with partners and others to improve the management of forest estate • Enable and deliver continuous improvement	• The existing restocking programme will be reviewed, to increase diversity of conifer species where possible and to maximise establishment of broadleaved species through natural regeneration • Woodland creation will diversify habitats, avoiding priority open habitats, to create a mosaic of woodland, heathland and wetland • All forestry operations will meet Forestry and Water guidelines • Managing the grazing impact of deer will facilitate natural regeneration of broadleaves; protect planted broadleaves and soft conifers; improve biodiversity and promote restoration and maintenance of priority open habitats • Stakeholders will be consulted on key amendments to planned forest management • We will participate in partnership projects, such as the landscape control of invasive species • We will maintain productive dialogue with neighbours and key stakeholders

Stakeholders and Consultation

Scottish Forestry
SNH
SEPA
Argyll and Bute Council
Confor
Appin Community Council
Argyll and the Isles Coast Countryside Trust
Appin Historical Society
Appin Community Development Trust
VisitScotland
RSPB
Butterfly Conservation Trust
Neighbouring landowners / neighbours

Appendix II: Analysis of Previous Plan

The previous Forest Design Plan covering the LMP area ran from 05/01/2009 to 04/01/2019 (extended to 30/01/2022)

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
➢ Timber production ➢ PAWS restoration ➢ Build broadleaved habitat networks ➢ Increase diversity ➢ Match species to site conditions ➢ Create recreation opportunities ➢ Increase conservation value ➢ Protect archaeology ➢ Restock to maintain open viewpoints and increase	Roads and forwarder tracks have been constructed as per the Forest Design Plan (FDP), apart from a road at the South end, which has replaced the planned forwarder tracks. Coupes in the South end of the forest were restructured (amendment approved 28/03/2017) partly in response to an SPHN for P. ramorum on larch (suspected) and on Rhododendron and to create coupes that are more accessible from the new roadline. An additional 21 ha was felled during the life of the previous plan due to this restructuring and a further 2.7 ha was felled due to windblow (approved 06/01/2016). A number of small retentions were also removed as these would have created pockets of conifers on the sky line. Much of the southern end of the forest was due to be restocked with conifers, as per the FDP but following application of the PAWS policy, the plan was revised. Native broadleaves were to replace conifers over much of the visible face seen from the layby. This plan has since been revised again due to problems with ingress of Rhododendron into the coupes at the southern margin.	Few coupes are left to clear fell but two coupes at the S. end, planned for 2031/32 and 2024/25 will be merged and felled in 2030/31, to avoid "tufts" of conifers visible on the hillside from westerly perspectives. Restocking in coupes at the South end has been revised to increase the broadleaved component on the West side and include SS/ BI so that restock grades from SS in areas most at risk from Rhododendron competition, transitioning through a SS/BI mix, to broadleaves and mixed conifers / broadleaves further North. PAWS areas will be restored to native broadleaves over a much longer time period. Mixed conifer / broadleaved natural regeneration will be accepted and managed to remove INNS and thinned and managed over time, to benefit native broadleaves. A key focus will be to control Rhododendron and remove W. hemlock and beech.

Objectives	Achievements/Changes	Relevance to the plan revision
recreation potential ➢ Consider raptors, wood ants, butterflies and Red squirrels	Rhododendron control has been underway and is ongoing. Extensive advanced natural regeneration of a mixture of conifers and broadleaves has occurred in felled coupes but this includes invasive species (W. hemlock and beech) which must be removed. The development of native broadleaved woodland in the forest area will be difficult to achieve at this stage, due to the extent of conifer regeneration and invasive non-natives. Riparian areas need to be opened up and INNS cleaned / weeded from felled coupes and road / track sides. Clear felling has opened up stunning views across to Lismore, Morvern and Mull and the Lynn of Lorn to the Firth of Lorn and beyond. Felling operations appear to have protected heritage sites and priority species.	Conifers will be felled from riparian zones and broadleaves established to create habitat networks, connecting with the native woodland and the open hill. Various ATV tracks will be constructed to facilitate removal of Rhododendron from the hill side and control of deer.

Appendix III: Background Information

Physical site factors

Geology Soils and landform

The area is underlain by Dalradian rocks of mixed origin. The rocks are heavily faulted and across the area, the schists are subdivided by narrow bands of limestone. Across the LMP area, underlying geology is formed by alternating units of psammite to quartzite and semipelite to pelite in the Lochaber subgroup, with politic and calcareous rocks from the Ballachulish and Blair Atholl subgroups, overlain with diamicton, sand and gravels in places.

Soils across much of the higher ground are peaty surface water gleys / peaty gleys with upland brown earths and podzols closer to the coastal margin. The rocky knolls to the South and ridges stretching to the North have a complex of peaty surface water gleys, tussocky molinia / calluna bog, rankers, upland brown earths, iron pans and gleys, intersected with valley complexes.

Appin forest lies in an area defined as lowland ridges and moss, with densely forested rocky ridges that lie parallel to the cost and patchwork of marginal pastures in the glens. The coastal slopes are small scale and intimate compared with the expanses of hill that form the hinterland beyond the LMP area.

Water

Watercourses in Appin forest are short and fairly steep, most run into Loch Linnhe, which achieved moderate status in 2014 due to water quality, with a long term prediction that it will achieve Good status. The assessment indicated that condition of bottom living invertebrate populations was not good, for reasons unknown. Some watercourses run in a NE – SW direction along gullies, extending to small lochans in the NE part of the LMP area. Six private water supplies are taken from Appin forest, plus a further supply point at the boundary of the land holding, on ground that was disponed in 2020 *(see map 11)*. A very small lochan /reservoir lies to the East above the forested area and which, historically, provided power to a sawmill at Appin House.

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.

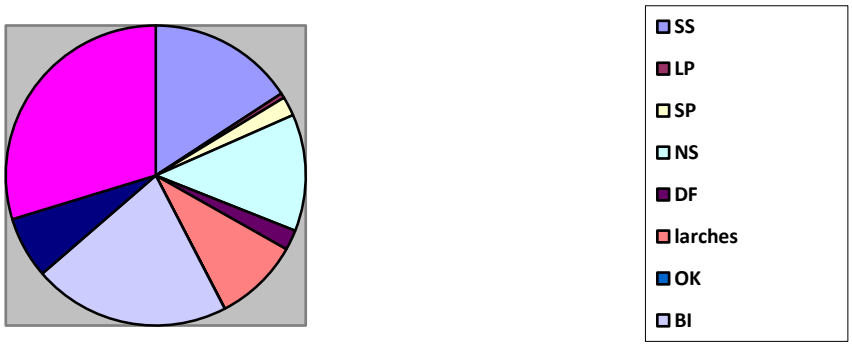
DAMS scores range from 12 – 15 on lower slopes and coastal fringe, to 17 – 20 on higher slopes and open ground. Scores are 14 – 15 on the top of Dallens hill, which is the most visible part of the forest from the settlements in Appin and Lismore. Most of the forested areas have sufficiently low scores to indicate that windblow will not be a significant problem but trees also need to cope with winds that are heavily salt laden, particularly on the southern and western margins of the forest.

Climate projections indicate a warmer climate with lower summer rainfall and higher winter rainfall in future, which will constrain the tree species that can be grown for productive forestry in future.

The existing forest

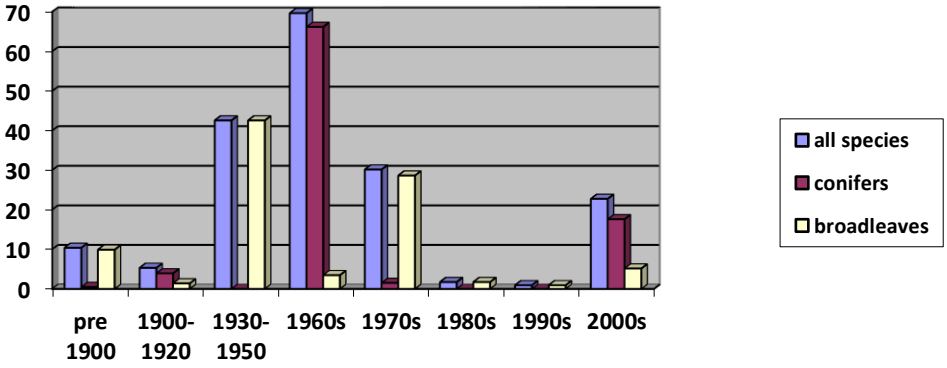
Age structure, species and yield class

The forested area covers 186 ha including 91 ha conifers. Birch and other broadleaves cover the largest proportion of the forested area. Sitka spruce and Norway spruce are the most predominant conifers but there is also a significant area of larch (11.6 ha). The latter is at risk from P. ramorum which has already been found in the rhododendron. The plan will seek to fell the larch at the earliest suitable opportunity. The conifer mix is fairly diverse across a relatively small area. Map 12 shows current species.

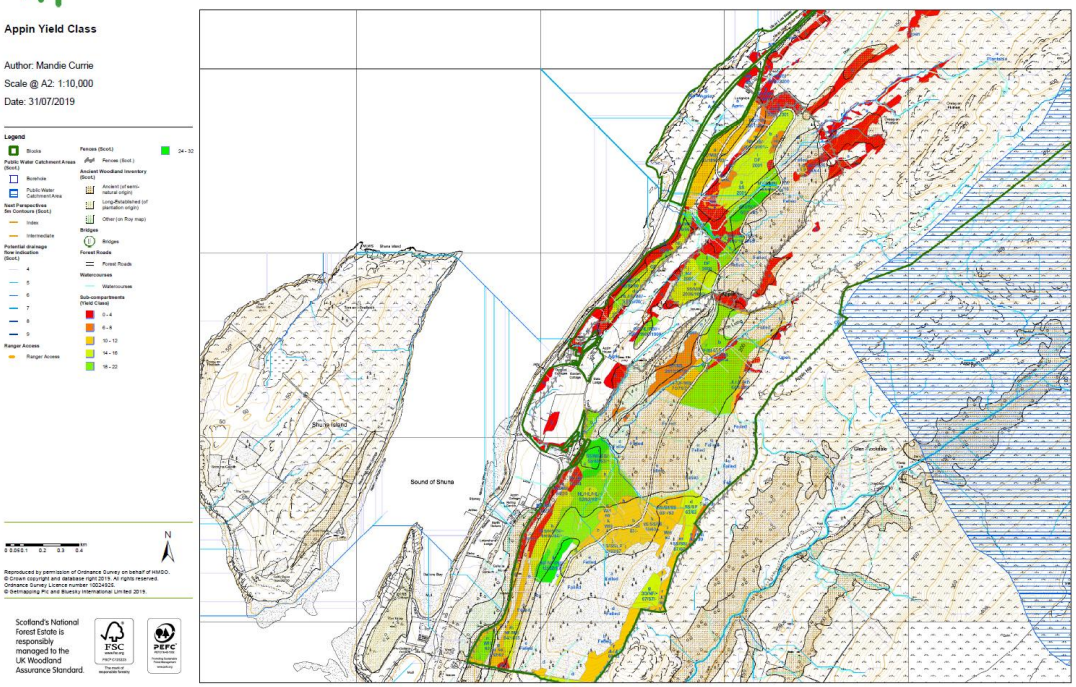


Most of the forested area was established between 1930 and the 1970s. This reflects planting of both conifers (predominantly in the 1960s) and broadleaves (mainly established 1930-1950 and in the 1970's). Map 13 shows planting years.

The major part of the forest area is open ground or under broadleaves and it will be a challenge to maintain diversity of productive conifers across a small area but species and structural diversity can be developed through establishment of Continuous Cover Forestry, productive broadleaves and restoration of PAWS areas.



Yield Class varies from 12 to 20 across most of the forested area, with significant areas on deeper free-draining soils in sheltered positions that achieve YC 16 – 22:



Neighbouring Land Use

Part of the LMP area was under agriculture, both in-bye and hill ground, which was subject to a tenancy agreement. The in-bye ground has recently been disponed but the open ground remains part of the FLS National Forests and Land estate and woodland expansion is planned for part of the ground on the coastal side. Outwith the FLS ground, the neighbouring land to the East is part of a livestock farm; the North is bounded by Bealach forest (FLS); to the West by the A828 and the Lynn of Lorn as well as Appin Home Farm and a number of domestic and commercial properties to the SW. There are a number of domestic properties along the southern boundary as well as open and forested land, which is infested with Rhododendron.

Landscape

Landscape character assessment

The distinct low parallel ridges of the coastal landscape that includes Appin forest are described by the Lowland Ridges and Moss Landscape Character Type, found in NW Argyll between Glen Etive and the Strath of Appin.

Key Characteristics

- Coastal lowland with low ridges separating narrow, linear glens or flat areas of moss
- Ridges form low, narrow peninsulas enclosing small, horseshoe-shaped bays
- Rocky ridges are densely wooded and linear glens are a patchwork of marginal pastures
- Shoreline and off-shore islands have a more undulating landform and a more open character
- Landform becomes lower and ridges less pronounced towards the south, where there are extensive areas of flat, peaty moss

- Some relatively large houses in sheltered coves, with scattered, more recent development elsewhere

The area has a distinct topography with a strong SW – NE alignment. A series of low, rocky ridges separate narrow, linear glens. The ridges form low, narrow coastal peninsulas, ending in rocky off-shore islands, which enclose small, horse-shoe shaped coves.

The landscape is small-scale, with a distinctive linear pattern and a diverse range of land uses within a small area. Low rocky ridges are heavily wooded with mixed woodland, often with an understorey of Rhododendron. The glens between ridges are a patchwork of pastures, with patches of poorly drained land on the lower flood plain. Rough grazing is a common current land use; these areas are subdivided by wire fences and in places the structured field pattern breaks down to form a patchy mosaic of reeds, tussocky grass and scattered birch trees.

There is evidence of a long standing human interaction with the landscape with diverse remains from prehistoric times to medieval across the whole area.

Landscape Zones

The LMP area comprises two distinct zones – the forested area to the South and open hill /rough grazing to the North. The forest area has been under mixed woodland for a long period of time and is characterised by many specimen trees, both conifer and broadleaved that are indicative of a policy-type woodland associated with a large house, farm and grounds. The conifer forest extends part way along the ridge between Appin and Bealach and is a major feature in the landscape when viewed from the South and from Port Appin, Lismore and from Shuna Island.

The open hill includes remnants of native woodland scattered along the coastal fringe, on ridges and more freely draining lower slopes, running North along a three mile stretch where it links with areas of native woodland in Bealach. The open ground is mainly upland heathland with a mosaic of grassland, bracken and a complex of gullies and wet flushes; areas of blanket bog have developed in the poorly draining areas between ridges. There are small lochans to the NE of the LMP area, with groups of juniper bushes growing in the vicinity.

Landscape Guidelines

Specific landscape guidelines suggest that large-scale forestry would be out of scale, archaeology and its setting should be conserved, woodlands should be thinned and rhododendrons controlled.

Forest design should be in-keeping with the small – scale landscape of the coastal margins and ridges in the South of the LMP area, with small management coupes and restocking shapes reflecting the landform. Large scale native woodland expansion would be appropriate on the ridges and hillside to the North, linking with Bealach.

Landscape designations

The western boundary of Appin forest lies adjacent to the Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area. The forest forms a distinctive backdrop to the coastal landscape in the immediate area.

Environmental designations

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

There are no formal environmental designations within the Appin LMP area, other than areas of ASNW and PAWS. Environmental features are presented in map 9.

Archaeology: Scheduled Monuments / Unscheduled

A number of unscheduled archaeological features from different periods are present across the forest, including stone dykes; remains / evidence of buildings; settlements; sheepfolds; charcoal burning platforms; cisterns; sheilings and lime kilns. There are also two "ringing stones" at the Southern end of the forest – large stones / rocks bearing many "cup marks" that sound like a natural gong when struck. A similar stone is located at Balephetrish on Tiree. A dam creating a small lochan to the East, above the forested area, is virtually all that remains of a hydro scheme that once powered a sawmill at Appin House.

Map 8 provides information on the heritage features.

Habitats

There are no designated habitats in the LMP area. Most of the land outwith the forested area is upland heath but this lies within a mosaic of habitat types. Key habitats to be taken into account when planning management operations are the native broadleaved woodland; riparian zones; small areas of deep peat / blanket bog; areas of calcareous grassland and base-rich flushes; the lochans and juniper bushes.

Species

There are a number of Wood ant nests in the forested area, which also support habitat for Red squirrels. Felling operations, design of restocking and choice of species are all informed by the requirements of these species. Sea eagles have nested previously in the vicinity but have moved further West.

Biodiversity

The open hill and native woodland support a fairly diverse mosaic of habitats and related biodiversity, also reflected in a diverse range of conifer and broadleaved tree species with the forested area, interspersed with open space, agricultural ground and riparian corridors.

Priorities to maintain and improve biodiversity will include:

- Control of Invasive Non-Native Species in the woodland and on the open hill
- Removal of conifers and development of open canopied broadleaved woodland in riparian corridors
- Management of natural regeneration to create mixed conifer – broadleaved woodland under CCF, managing species composition over time through thinning and restocking to eventually restore PAWS areas to native woodland and non -PAWS areas to mixed woodland
- Expanding the native broadleaved woodland along the seaward facing slopes between the forested areas and Bealach
- If appropriate, establishing an area of productive broadleaved / mixed woodland in the NW section of the LMP area

- Monitoring priority open habitats and where necessary, controlling tree regeneration or grazing to favour priority habitats
- Increasing age, species and structural diversity as early as possible

Social factors

Recreation & Community

Recreational use of Appin forest is largely restricted to local residents. There is no circular route within the forest, no waymarked trails and limited access back to the public road at the South end of the forest. However, excellent views are afforded from parts of the forest across to Appin, Lismore, Morvern and Mull and down through the Firth of Lorn to the southern Hebridean islands. In the longer term, consideration may be given to providing access from the large layby on the A828 near Linnhe Marina or perhaps close to Castle Stalker View but there are no plans for this at present. The in-bye agricultural land at the southern end of the forest has been disposed of and this may impact future options regarding improved visitor access.

Appin forest is a strong landscape feature that creates a backdrop to the settlement of Appin and the community have taken an interest in the plans for its future management. The diversity of conifer species and number of mature specimen trees that remain indicate a recent past history as a policy-type woodland.

A small dammed reservoir on the hill once provided water for a mill and surrounding buildings. The various archaeological features indicate a long, well established history of human settlement in the area, dating from prehistory to the present day. There is local interest in many of the heritage features, particularly the ringing stones, which also attract attention from elsewhere. The ATV tracks planned to facilitate management operations will help to improve access to these features.

Appendix IV: Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Consultation on the Brief was undertaken in December 2019 and January 2020. The Brief was made available for download from the FLS website with hard copies posted to anyone who requested it. A public notice was placed in the Oban Times (OT) w/c 16th December 2019 and statutory consultees contacted by email and letter. A drop – in consultation event for the Creran and Appin LMPs and the North Argyll Strategic Plan was held in Appin Village Hall on 10th January 2020, advertised locally, directly to statutory consultees and in the OT.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Scottish Forestry	05/12/19	WO present at LMP scoping meeting		
SEPA	09/12/19	27/12/2019	Note that there are no waterbodies downgraded due to forestry pressures within the proposed plan area and that the proposals relate to restocking and restructuring with no new roads or borrow pits. Support the proposed concept map and have no site specific concerns provided all works are carried in accordance with the UK Forest Standard and CAR.	All planned activities will meet UK Forest Standards and all operations will comply with Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, (as amended). Protecting watercourses, drainage, control of INNS, infrastructure, peat restoration, roading, impacts on wetlands including GDTE will be considered in the LMP.
Neighbour	05/12/19	16/12/19 (email)	Requiring whether a new deer fence will be erected at FLS boundary – existing fence is in a poor state of repair.	Boundary fencing will be repaired or replaced but deer fencing will only be considered if other deer

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			Interested in joint working to control Rhododendron and if machinery can access their ground through FLS land for Rhododendron control.	management does not successfully control browsing pressure. FLS is keen to work with neighbours and other partners to control Rhododendron and other Invasive Non Native Species and agree that a landscape scale project would be an effective way of tackling this problem.
Scottish Tenant Farmers' Association representative	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Concerns regarding potential for excessive vegetation growth due to reduced deer population after culling and resulting increased fire risk.	Deer control is an essential element in forest management and is a critical success factor in the successful establishment of restock and woodland expansion. Vegetation management will be factored in, if excessive growth occurs and becomes a fire risk.
Neighbour	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Enquiry about deer fence / higher stock fencing / top wire on insulators to keep horses in at Strathappin	No plans for deer fence in that part of the forest boundary
Neighbour	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Enquiring if fields will be planted and if woodland crofts would be considered	In-bye fields have been disponed. No plans for woodland crofts in Appin

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
				forest at this time although FLS remain supportive of this initiative.
Appin resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Enquiring about woodland crofts	As above
Appin resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Requesting Right of Way / core path maintained through Glen Stockdale to Salachan (Bealach) as this is blocked in places by windblow	Glen Stockdale is not FLS land and there is no ROW through Glen Stockdale noted on OS maps.
Neighbour	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Noted deer pressure coming from FLS land as well as into FLS land from elsewhere	Maps provided showed deer pressure moving into Appin forest as was presented from the perspective of the external pressures into the forest. But it is correct that deer will move both into and out of the forest.
Local resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Concerns about trees / cut trees above road – risk of trees coming down onto road Concerns about large boulder above road that is now visible following tree felling and which has fallen from the cliff above at some point	Tree cutting work above the A828 will continue – associated with an SPHN and to remove any problem / nuisance trees. The large boulder will be monitored by FLS civil engineering through regular monitoring programmes, supported by other specialists.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
				All works adjacent to the public road will be risk assessed and will comply with all forestry, roads and health and safety legislation.
Local resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Suggestion that forest roads / rides could be connected with the cycle track and / or to create a route into the forest from the Castle Stalker café site	Additional recreation infrastructure has been considered but there are no plans to develop this in the lifetime of the LMP. This could be revisited in future.
Local resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Request that tracks opened up and maintained to access the ringing stones	Planned ATV tracks will make it easier for forest users to access the ringing stones.
Neighbour	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Concerns about maintaining integrity of water supplies during / following forestry works	Water supplies will be protected during and after forestry works
Neighbour	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	Possible remains of Neolithic chambered cairn – down the hill close to road near the sharp bends.	This will be investigated but may be on land that has now been disponed
Local resident	10/01/2020	10/01/2020 (consultation event)	High visual amenity – request for broadleaves or mixed conifers on hillside facing Appin	Serious consideration has been given to restocking the S and SW facing slopes with broadleaves. But the threat of Rhododendron infestation from

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
				neighbouring land as well as the current presence within this part of the forest indicate that young broadleaved trees would not establish and would be outcompeted by Rhododendron. At this stage, restocking with SS transitioning to a SS/BI mix with MC and MB in coupes further N is the only feasible option until Rhododendron and other INNS can be controlled.
Scotways	05/12/2019	14/01/20	ScotWays is undergoing a period of transition whilst a new information system is put in place, so we have not had capacity to consider the Brief documents for which links were provided. I note that once prepared, the draft Land Management Plans will go out to consultation, so we will be interested to hear more in due course.	

Consultation on draft LMP

An online public consultation on the draft LMP commenced on 11th November and is ongoing. The draft LMP summary document, maps and a narrated presentation are available on the FLS website, with instructions on how to provide feedback. A link to the documents was sent to statutory stakeholders and individuals who had attended the public scoping event and had expressed an interest in being kept informed.

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
Near neighbour	11/11/20	24/11/20	Via phone call. Enquiring about planned restock at forest boundary to South, wanting to avoid anything potentially poisonous to horses grazing in neighbouring ground. Concerned about height of a new boundary fence – prefer a deer fence or stock fence with electric due to horses grazing. Also keen to participate in joint working to control Rhododendron.	Native broadleaves will be planted at the forest boundary, primarily birch, with Sitka spruce across most of the rest of the coupe, grading to a SS/BI mix further North. Plans were for a stock fence at the southern boundary but the FM Stewardship Forester will liaise with neighbours regarding options. FLS is keen to work with a range of partners, including neighbours, on a landscape scale programme to control Rhododendron in this part of Appin.
NatureScot	11/11/20 and 03/02/21	15/02/21	Operations Officer – central response: The proposal lies within the Lynn of Lorn National Scenic Area (NSA). The plan considers aspects of the landscape and visual impact, and over time management to increase native woodland cover will improve the appearance of the site. We welcome the ongoing removal of *Rhododendron ponticum*.	The forest lies adjacent to, but not within, the NSA, apart from perhaps a sliver of ground next to the A828. However, as you have noted, the LMP considers landscape and visual impacts, with management to increase the native woodland cover and a longer term aim of eventually restoring the PAWS. It is

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
			Area Officer response: There is one mention of veteran Scots Pine in the plan but no subsequent references in specific actions. If these are remnants then I think it would be worthwhile having specific measures in the plan re the cast/reseeding areas of these trees to encourage and support their propagation in addition to planting up other areas with different scots pine stock. Even maybe as far as fencing off specific areas around these trees so that saplings can get away re deer. I would be interested in your thoughts on this.	hoped that if successful, control of Rhododendron ponticum will enable further development of native woodland in future. Management prescriptions outlined in the Appendices note the need to protect veteran trees during harvesting and restock will be primarily natural regeneration with enhancement planting where necessary. Internal fencing is generally avoided but may be considered if necessary although to date, there has been successful advance regeneration of a variety of species in this site.
Confor	11/11/20	11/11/20	Without any local knowledge, it's impossible for me to make any detailed comments on the plans, other than admiring the substantial amount of work that has gone into your presentation of future proposals. Having said that these forests do contain large areas of productive conifer – witness your map of yield classes at Creran. The plans appear to predict a significant decrease in the area of spruce crop. Can we be assured that the loss of this ground of commercially attractive species is compensated by at least equal – preferably increased production potential of	The aim is to continue to produce a sustainable timber supply while protecting environmental, landscape and heritage features. The longer term aim for Appin will be to restore the PAWS areas back to native woodland but in the short term, mixed woodland will be grown with a gradual transition to native woodland over a longer timeframe. A conifer crop will therefore continue to be produced over the next rotation and where possible, productive broadleaves will be grown.

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
			the remaining area of future spruces? I would be interested in the reaction from local timber processors such as BSW to this. I also note the attention in the plans to the need for deer control in the area, and the qualified hesitancy to revert to deer fencing. But I trust that however expensive such fencing is, this will not become an obstacle to successful re-establishment of productive species in these forests.	The intention is to take an overview of the management of all the geographically linked FLS land in North Argyll where there are common issues and linkages – such as contiguous areas of open land and deer management across a common area. Production will be viewed across the suite of sites, maximising production where conditions are suitable and pulling back from areas where growing conditions are very poor, where commercial timber production is not cost effective or safe, or where environmental or landscape issues require a different approach. A Strategic Plan is in preparation for this entire area, which will be underpinned by an Open Habitat Management Plan and a Deer Management Plan. While not requiring formal approval, the Strategic Plan will go out to consultation once complete. In terms of deer fencing, this will be used where it is considered to be the best option in order to meet the objectives for the land in question and a Business Case will be prepared accordingly. It is therefore not possible to make an

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
				unqualified statement in any LMP about deer fencing until a Business Case has been prepared and considered.
Argyll and Bute Council Roads	11/11/20 and 04/02/21	10/02/21	The Land Management Plan for Glen Creran and Appin forests will be served by the U37 Salachail Public Road. A TTMP (Timber Transport Management Plan) is required for this public road. The C37 is a narrow, single track road with passing places, it serves numerous dwellings and is regularly used by farm and estate associated traffic serving Glen Creran Estate. There is no weight restriction on The U37 currently. The U37 is fragile in numerous locations along its length and any intensification of use may accelerate the deterioration of the road. Some commensurate improvements may be required to facilitate extra forest related activities using the U37. Any new connections to the public road will be subject to normal planning process and permissions.	In addition to the TTMP, FLS has an annual meeting with the Roads Dept. where the detail of planned volumes etc. are discussed. We would normally aim to present a rolling programme covering at least a couple of years, to enable forward planning
RSPB South Scotland regional Office	11/11/20	14/12/20	Due to time constraints, RSPB will respond when the LMP is placed on the Public register	

Appendix V: Deer Management Plan

Deer Management Plan: North Argyll Forests Strategic Plan Area

Introduction

This Deer Management Plan (DMP) outlines the deer management issues and priorities for Scotland's National Forests and Land in North Argyll, managed by Forestry and Land Scotland. The DMP underpins the Strategic Plan for the area and the individual Land Management Plans for each forest block: Glen Creran, Appin, Bealach, Duror, Lagnaha, Glenachulish and Brecklet.

The Blackmount Deer Management Group (DMG) covers all these forests apart from Appin. No specific issues are identified within the DMG at present.

Description

The FLS land holding in North Argyll comprises six forest blocks - Glen Creran, Appin, Bealach, Duror (with Lagnaha) Ballachulish and Brecklet covering 9,760 hectares. The land includes hills (two of them Munros), five glens draining into coastal waters of significant importance, many with international designations, and a range of habitats including sub-alpine plant communities; montane scrub; blanket bog; wet flushes, springs and lochs; rivers; calcareous grassland; conifer plantations and native broadleaved woodland.

The individual forests are linked by large extents of open land as well as the road (A828) which is the main arterial route through the area. The forested areas in Bealach and Duror are contiguous and projected woodland expansion may eventually lead to native woodland habitat linking directly through from Appin to Bealach. Duror and Glenachulish forests link through a strip of land in the coastal fringe as well as through the open ground at Lagnaha.

The area is covered by a large number of international and UK designations, associated with both large land expanses and with specific sites. The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA (important for Golden eagles) is common to all forests apart from Appin, as this covers virtually all of the open ground that links the forests, most of which is in the NFL estate. Deer browsing can potentially impact habitat management across this area. Other geographically large-scale designations are the Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Scenic Area (NSA), which includes Brecklet, Glenachulish and part of Creran forests; the Lynn of Lorn NSA, the NE boundary of which is adjacent to Appin forest and the Loch Etive Mountains Wild Land, which includes part of the hill ground above the Creran forest. Within these, various priority habitats and features may potentially affected by forestry operations.

Some designated sites may be particularly impacted by deer browsing and deer management. Glen Creran supports Ancient Semi- Natural Woodland (ASNW) – acidic oak woodland and mixed deciduous woodland on base rich soils associated with slopes – designated as SSSI / SAC (approx. 444.28 ha). The Glen Creran SSSI designated features are lichen assemblages (in unfavourable condition); bryophyte assemblages (favourable condition); Pearl bordered fritillary and Chequered skipper butterflies, and upland oak woodland (all in unfavourable condition but recovering). Features of the overlapping Natura site that are not notified as SSSI natural features are mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes (unfavourable condition) and otter (favourable condition). Deer

browsing is a main limiting factor affecting successful establishment of natural regeneration or supplementary planting of native trees. The SSSI Management Plan notes the need for deer culling and if necessary, deer fencing, to control browsing pressure.

The River Creran runs through Glen Creran forest and feeds into Loch Creran, which is designated as a marine SAC. The health of the river and its tributaries are dependent on development of open canopy riparian broadleaved woodland.

Glasdrum National Nature Reserve (NNR) is 168 ha of western acidic oak woodland adjacent to Glen Creran forest SSSI/SAC.

Glencoe NNR (5625 ha) and Carnach Wood biological SSSI (84 ha) lie adjacent to Brecklet in the North of the strategic plan area.

The FLS land supports significant areas of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) which FLS has a policy nationally to restore 85% to native woodland. Successful deer management is integral to this restoration activity. Glenachulish supports the largest area of PAWS (approximately 301 ha) and around 22 ha of semi-natural woodland, some of which is ASNW. Appin supports about 183 ha of PAWS, as well as more than 40 ha of native woodland, most of which is thought to be ancient in origin. There is around 100 ha of PAWS in Duror, as well as more than 34 ha of semi-natural woodland in the recently acquired agricultural ground at Lagnaha, which shows potential for woodland expansion as the grazing and browsing pressure is reduced.

Deer Populations

Red and Roe Deer are common, Sika Deer are present in low density. Population numbers have increased in recent years, caused by in-migration from neighbouring landholdings but this movement appears to have reduced and the population is now decreasing annually. However, currently Red Deer are still at a high density, while Roe deer are at lower density.

Annual Cull: 2016/17 = 230 Red, 42 Roe; 2017/18 = 543 Red, 75 Roe; 2018/19= 308 Red, 33 Roe Deer.

Deer density is generally high on neighbouring land; the 2015 SNH count shows 227 Red Deer on neighbouring land West of Glen Creran. The total Blackmount DMG count was 7,969 Red Deer.

Glen Creran, Appin, Bealach, Duror, Balachullish and Brecklet LMP areas are within the strategic Deer Fence that runs from Glen Coe to Glen Creran; deer migrate freely within this fence.

Deer Impacts

The last available (2016) Herbivore Impact Survey results for nearest neighbours show 78% soft conifer/broadleaves damage and 15% Sitka spruce damage. Challenges have been experienced in establishing natural regeneration and planted soft conifers and broadleaves on FLS ground, due to high browsing in year one.

Current Challenges

Migration of Red deer from neighbouring sporting estates can be problematic if the strategic fence is not deer proof.

Issues have arisen in recent years in Glen Creran, with a breach in the deer fence that allowed deer incursion into the forest and this led to high browsing pressure and failure of restocked coupes. A section of deer fence was rerouted due to disposal of coupes on the East side of the forest, where the original fence line no longer formed the march with the neighbouring ground. There was subsequent breach of the new fence during road construction on the neighbouring land. The fence has now been repaired and effort can focus on reducing deer numbers within Glen Creran forest.

There are concerns about potential movement of deer into the forest across the River Creran, South of the end of the deer fence, with potential impacts to the designated ASNW areas but movement is also possible in from the West. Successful reduction of deer impacts is dependent on deer management across the whole DMG area but within the FLS land holding, particular focus is required on areas where young trees are establishing. Culling effort will be informed by Herbivore Impact Assessments. Invernahyle and Lurignish farms have reduced sheep numbers (Lurignish in-bye has been disponed and the open hill taken back into FLS management) and Red deer are now hefting on to land that historically was grazed by sheep. Intense culling effort is reducing the current deer population but this will take time to reduce density overall.

Management Objectives and Targets

The aim is to maintain deer browsing pressure to levels that allow successful establishment of young trees (planted and natural regeneration) including soft conifers and broadleaved species.

Priorities currently, are to maintain existing stock and deer fencing and to use contract culling to support the deer control undertaken directly by the FLS Wildlife Ranger team.

Individual Business Cases will be made for additional deer fencing, to promote new woodland creation and to protect young restock in Creran, Appin and Duror. This will be done on an evidence based, case by case basis where culling alone proves insufficient.

Red, Roe and Sika deer will be targeted.

Objectives:

- Maintain deer numbers under 10 deer per square km across the whole strategic plan area
- Within each forest block, achieve establishment of young naturally regenerated or planted trees that are not being checked by deer or livestock browsing
- Maintain the strategic Glen Coe to Glen Creran fence in a deer proof condition
- Create and maintain open space and glades in the forests to aid deer control
- Retain, repair and improve existing ATV/ATC tracks on restock sites - retain and maintain approx. 6000 m of essential tracks to enable carcass extraction
- Complete Herbivore Impact Assessments to inform deer control and management
- Investigate and clarify the need for a deer fence around the three Coires in Glen Creran, to inform the development of a Business Case for deer fencing to help promote native woodland expansion in the area
- Monitor natural regeneration and young tree growth in Appin forest, to inform the development of a Business Case for deer fencing if this is required

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
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 VII: 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
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 XWL = Other Willows

Appendix VIII: **Unexpired EIA determinations / PNs**

(See map seven for details)

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Development and Infrastructure Services
Acting Executive Director: Kirsty Flanagan

Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW

Our Ref: 20/00166/PNFOR
Alternative Ref:100226659-001

24 February 2020

Forestry And Land Scotland
West Region
Millpark Road
Oban
Argyll And Bute
PA34 4NH

Dear Sir/ Madam

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (SCOTLAND) ORDER 1992 (AS AMENDED)
APPLICANT: Forestry And Land Scotland
PROPOSAL: Formation of ATV tracks
SITE ADDRESS: Appin Forest Appin Argyll And Bute

I acknowledge receipt of your Prior Notification FORESTRY. received on 28 January 2020 in respect of the above proposal.

I can now advise that the above proposal can be treated as permitted development subject to the terms and conditions laid down in Class 22 of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992 (As amended).

Work can now proceed in accordance with the particulars given in your prior notification application and associated plans, without the need to apply for express Planning Permission. A copy of the relative plan, duly doquetted and signed is enclosed.

It should however be noted that the above proposal may require Building Warrant approval and contact should be made with the local area office 01546 605518in order to ascertain if a Building Warrant is required.

Yours faithfully

Fergus Murray
Head of Development and Economic Growth

Appin - Land Management Plan 2021 - 2030

Appendix IX: Coupe prescriptions

Felling and Restocking:

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	Prescription
46351	19.95	2024/25	2026		Current stand is approx. 10.25 ha SS, 0.86 ha NS, 1.52 ha DF, 0.41 ha WH, 0.21 ha MC, 1.94 ha JL and 1 ha BL. Approx 3.76 ha in the N section of coupe was felled in 2018 or has failed. Ensure that all conifers are felled, especially all JL, WH and SS, apart from any SP, which should be retained. Retain BL wherever possible. Retain standing dead trees where possible/ non- hazardous and at least 10% fallen dead wood, particularly from BLs. Protect watercourses during harvesting. 10m buffer along larger burn (1m + channel width) and 5 m buffer on smaller burn (< 1 m wide) but ensure all conifers are removed from edges of burn. Ensure no forest drains enter burns directly. Weed any advance regeneration of WH, BE and Rhododendron from previously felled stands, accept and clean / respace existing natural regeneration of desired species. Favour BL species. Protect Wood ant nests during felling / restocking operations.
46502	3.52	2023/24	2025/26		Current mixed stand – 0.94 ha WH, 0.28 ha NF, 0.37 ha GF, 1.33 ha HL, 0.11 ha BE, 0.005 ha SY, 0.01 ha SOK, 0.49 ha SS. Planted conifers 1966 – 1980s with mature BLS dating from 1890 plus some more recent established. Fell conifers but retain native BLs. In particular, ensure all WH, HL and BE are felled. Protect watercourses during harvesting but ensure conifers and invasives are removed from burn margins. Leave up to 10% fallen dead wood, particularly BL. Plant with MC and native MB (40:40) with 20% open space - native BL (1.41 ha) and MC (1.41 ha). Accept and manage BL NR. Planted conifers minimum density 2500/ ha net plantable area. Broadleaves planted and NR to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha within 5-10 years.

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	Prescription
46083	4.66	2020/21	2022/23		3.23. ha to S. previously felled but 0.5 ha SS, 0.89 ha JL and 0.08 ha MB remain. Remove all SS and JL but retain MB. Restock with native BL (3.96 h). Planted to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha net plantable area. Avoid disturbance of identified resting sites.
46082	7.58	2021	2021		Current stand is 3.37 ha HL, 1.99 ha MC (WH & NF), 0.34 ha SS and 0.4 ha BL. Fell conifers and retain native BLs and mature specimen conifers but ensure all WH and HL trees are removed. Retain 10% of deadwood, particularly BL. Restock with MC (40%) & native MB (60%) – including OK, BI, ASP, ROW, HAZ, HAW, WCH. Planted conifers minimum density 2500/ ha net plantable area. Broadleaves minimum density 1600 stems/ha. Accept and manage NR of acceptable species.
46514	43.86	Felled	2021		Restock with SS (17.08 ha) native BL (18.18 ha) & other CON (4.95 ha). Broadleaves at coupe margins to W, S and E. Pure SS in 9.61 ha of southern section of coupe, E of forest road, grading to a 60:40 SS/BI mix to the N of the coupe (12.45 ha). BI should be planted in discrete groups (1,600 stems / ha), minimum 30 m diameter, within a matrix of SS. Plant MC/MB mix in 7.86 ha to W and NW of the coupe in a 50:50 intimate mixture to achieve net 2050 stems/ ha. Accept and manage NR but weeding out WE, BE, R. ponticum and other INNS. Plant native MB along watercourses at 1100 stems / ha, leaving 30% open ground. Planted conifers minimum density 2500 stems / ha net plantable area. Accept and manage NR of desired BL or conifer species. Protect identified breeding site during operations.
46506	6.92 ha		2026		Restock with native BL (3.39 ha) and mixed CON (2.77 ha). Natural regeneration of BL and MC to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha BLS and 2500 stems / ha conifers where there are pure stands and 2050 stems per ha where stands are heterogeneous. Achieve stocking levels within 5-10 years, supplemented by planting if necessary. NR surveys at 5 and 10 years. Weeded and cleaned to remove all INNS including WH, R ponticum and BE. Favour BL where possible, with the expectation of higher proportion of BL on upper slopes.

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	Prescription
46072	3.16		2030		Native BL (1.9 ha). Broadleaves - natural regeneration to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha within 5-10 years, supplemented by planting if necessary. NR surveys at 5 and 10 years.
46092	2.92	Felled	2027		Previously felled but some BLs and LP remaining. NR of native BL (0.35 ha) and cons (0.52 ha). Natural regeneration to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha BLS and 2500 stems / ha conifers if pure / discrete stands (2050 stems per ha where stands are mixed/ heterogeneous) within 5-10 years, supplemented by planting if necessary. NR surveys at 5 and 10 years. NR BL along watercourse with 50% open canopy. Retain BL deadwood but ensure no deadwood blocks watercourse. Previously used nesting site – Environment team to advise prior to operations commencing.
46507	9.84	Felled	2028		Native BL (4.72 ha) and MC (3.31 ha). Natural regeneration to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha BLS and 2500 stems / ha conifers (2050 stems per ha where stands are heterogeneous) within 5-10 years, supplemented by planting if necessary. NR surveys at 5 and 10 years. Weeded and cleaned to remove all INNS including WH, R ponticum and BE. Favour BL where possible, with the expectation of higher proportion of BL on upper slopes. Clean/ thin out SS where it occurs in high proportions.
46518	29.64	Felled	2028		Native BL (12.92 ha) and CON (12.92 ha). Some mature alder retained and advance NR occurring. Natural regeneration to achieve minimum density 1600 stems/ha BLS and 2500 stems / ha conifers (2050 stems per ha where stands are heterogeneous) within 5-10 years, supplemented by planting if necessary. NR surveys at 5 and 10 years. Remove any WH, BE, R. ponticum and other INNS trees or NR where they occur. Favour BL where possible, with the expectation of higher proportion BL on upper slopes. Clean/ thin out SS where it occurs in high proportions. Retain any remaining veteran pines and oaks and any standing deadwood. Protect Wood ant nests during operations.
46042	0.66	2021/22	2022/23		Fell to remove all WH, retaining BLs where possible. Remove all invasive tree and shrub species during felling. Restock to supplement any existing broadleaves, with a mixture of conifers (40%) and native broadleaves (60%) in discrete groups, planted

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	Prescription
					to achieve an average 2050 stems / ha. Avoid planting SS and other overly competitive conifers and invasive species.
46052	2.36	2021/22	2022/23		Fell to remove WH, retaining any BLs where possible. Remove all invasive tree and shrub species during felling but accept and respace any existing natural regeneration of desirable species. Restock with a mixture of native broadleaves and conifers (50:50) in discrete groups in the northern section, to achieve broadleaves at 1600 stems / ha and conifers at 2500 stems / ha. In the southern part of the coupe, restock with a mixture of SP (40%) and native MB (30%) in discrete groups at 1600 stems / ha, with small areas of NS and other alternative conifers, avoiding invasive species.
46062	1.11	2021/22	2022/23		Fell to remove WH but retaining any BLs. Restock with SP, BI and ASP in a 50: 40: 10 mixture, at 1600 stems / ha.
46802	2.76			2029/30	Natural regeneration established 2014 but > 40% of coupe supports more recent regeneration. Clean out undesirable species at earliest opportunity. Thin to favour broadleaves but select best stems. First thin 2029/30; intermediate thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at thin intensity 1; neutral thin at 40 and 50 years.

Thinning:

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	
46136	12.47			2026/27	Much of coupe planted 2011 but includes mature SS & MB from 1920s, to be retained. Remove all WH at earliest opportunity. Next thin 2026/27 when stands are 15 years old – intermediate thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	
					intermediate thin at 1 thin intensity; 40 years neutral thin and at 50 years, neutral thin.
46137	3.7			2025/26	Planted 2010, first thin 2025/26. When stands are 15 years old – intermediate thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at 1 thin intensity; 40 years neutral thin and at 50 years, neutral thin.
46154	1.09			2025/26	Planted 2010/2011, first thin 2025/26. Remove all larch and WH at first thinning or earlier if possible. When stands are 15 years old – intermediate thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at 1 thin intensity; 40 years neutral thin and at 50 years, neutral thin.
46504	6.38			2026/27	Mature trees, with MB dating from 1890's and 1950's and SP/larch from 1903. Review in 2026/207 with a view to removing larch.
46505	8.97			2021/22	Planted 2001; first thin 2021/22. Remove larch at first thin. From 20 years, line thin; 1 row removed : 6 rows; at 25 years intermediate thin on a 5 year cycle at thin intensity fraction 1; at 60 years intermediate thin on a 20 year cycle at 1.2 thin intensity fraction.
46508	6.06			2021/22	Mature trees ca 1964. Remove all WH in 2021/22 and review options for neutral thin of remaining stems at that stage.
46520	6.94			2021/22	Planted 2001; first thin 2021/22. Remove all WH at first thin. Intermediate first thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at 1 thin intensity; 40 years neutral thin and at 50 years, neutral thin.
46531	5.69			2021/22	Planted 2006; first thin 2021/22. Remove all WH and intermediate thin remaining stands on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at 1 thin intensity; 40 years neutral thin and at 50 years, neutral thin. Aim to retain MB in stand.

Coupe No.	Total Area (Ha)	Felling date	Restock date	Next thinning date	
46802	2.76			2029/30	Natural regeneration established 2014 but > 40% of coupe supports more recent regeneration. Clean out undesirable species at earliest opportunity. Thin to favour broadleaves but select best stems. First thin 2029/30; intermediate thin on 5 year cycle, 1.1 thin intensity; 20 years crown thin at 1.3 thin intensity; 25 years crown thin at 1.2 thin intensity; 32 years intermediate thin at thin intensity 1; neutral thin at 40 and 50 years.

Environmental:

Coupe	Period	Prescription
46802, 46092, 46505, 46508, 46520, 46531, 46507, 46351, 46137, 46518, 46136, 46513, 46514	2021-2030	Management of riparian areas during clear felling, restocking and thinning operations. Protect watercourses during felling / thinning; avoid drainage directly into watercourses / use silt traps and avoid work in extremely wet weather. Retain BL in riparian zones during clear fell. Remove all non-native conifers from watercourses and avoid restocking conifers in riparian zones, leaving 10 m unplanted buffer for watercourses 1- 2 m and 5 m for < 1 m. Riparian native BL woodland – planted at up to 1100 stems / ha where specified, otherwise natural regeneration – to achieve an overall canopy cover of 40-50%. Remove any regeneration of conifer species.
All – but particular ref to 46518, 46351 and 46092	2021-2030	Retain and protect all mature / veteran native BL and CON trees (ref SP and SOK) and standing dead trees during harvesting and thinning operations.
All – but particularly 46513, 46518, 46136, 46505, 46351, 46514		Protect breeding and resting sites during forestry operations. Wood ants nests found in 46351, 46518 and 46513.
All except 46514, 46520,	2021-2030	PAWs or ASNW present in some part of coupe. Manage existing regeneration / restock as mixed woodland under CCF (part from 46514) but favouring native species wherever possible, with conversion to native woodland in the longer term.

Coupe	Period	Prescription
46501 & 46083		
All	2021 - 2030	Remove WH, BE, larch and Rhododendron regeneration from all road and track sides – ongoing. Remove buddleia where regeneration is prolific or dense.
46083, 46513, 46154, 46351, 46502, 46531, 46504, 46505	2021-2030	Monitor larch trees regularly for signs of disease. Coupes 46083, 46351 and 46502 will be felled in first five years (phase 1) and 46513 in 2030/31. Coupes 46154, 46531 and 46504 to be managed as LISS – remove larch during thinning operations and weed out any larch natural regeneration that occurs.
46501	2021 - 2020	Strip of land between A828 road and sea shore. Regular monitoring to ensure safety for public access, removal of any rubbish and to ensure that public use is appropriate. Allow scrub regeneration but remove bushes / vegetation as required to maintain coastal views from the public road. Control any INNS that occurs.