



The Brief

On the 30th April 2019 the Senior Management team representing the Central region of Forestry and Land Scotland met to discuss the future direction for the plan areas of Corrie and Corriegrennan, located in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. The following is a summarised version of the outcomes of that meeting.

The forest areas of Corrie and Corriegrennan lay side by side as part of a larger contiguous management area, in the research prior to the meeting it became apparent that these areas shared much the same objectives and characteristics. A proposal was therefore put forward to amalgamate these 2 plan areas and passed with unanimous agreement.

The plan area (approx. 2400ha) contributes significantly to the local output of timber products to the market and has a bias toward Spruce species, with relatively little in the way of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Planted on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) it was agreed that the future of the plan area will remain biased toward the productivity of softwood species for the timber market. Those areas under environmental designation (ASNW/PAWS) will be subject to restoration when being restocked, as per FLS policy, working this way allows vital funding to be directed toward more sensitive and important habitats in other areas. As part of the desire to provide accessible quality timber to the market, thinning opportunities will be maximized to provide the best quality and greatest resilience reasonably possible.

Historically establishment of soft species has been challenging in this area due to a relatively high deer population across the wider Trossachs area, restock planting following harvesting will be predominated toward Sitka Spruce to achieve the greatest success first time. The team were conscious about the impact of forest operations on flood management, particularly in the sensitive Strathard catchment. With those sensitivities in mind opportunities are to be sought to improve flood resilience within the forest and improving the quality of riparian corridors.

It was recognized at the meeting that the plan area does not offer much in the way of recreation options, being relatively remote to parking facilities for visitors any routes would be part of longer distance trails. An ambition was identified to seek opportunities to establish longer distance trails through the plan area using the existing road infrastructure and facilities.

Overall these objectives do not change the direction dramatically from the previous plan but they do look to enhance opportunities for greater resilience and accessibility.