

Cowal & Trossachs Forest District

West Strathyre

Land Management Plan



Plan Reference No: ****

Plan Approval Date: *****

Plan Expiry Date: *****

Appendix 1: Glossary

ABC	Argyll & Bute Council
ASNW	Ancient Semi-natural Woodland
ATC	Alternative to clearfell management
BAP	Biodiversity action plan
BL	Broadleaved Trees
CFR	Caledonian Forest Reserve
DAMS	Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (measures exposure)
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
FD	Forest District
FDP	Forest design plan
FES	Forest Enterprise Scotland
GIS	Geographical Information System
HAP	Habitat action plan
HS	Historic Scotland
H&S	Health & Safety
LISS	Low Impact Silvicultural System
LLTNP	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park
MBL	Mixed Broadleaved Trees
MFST	Millennium Forest for Scotland Trust
NCCS	Nature Conservancy Council Scotland
NFE	National Forest Estate
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NSA	National Scenic Area
PAWS	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SDA	Stocking Density Assessment
SOAC	Scottish Outdoor Access Code
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSE	Scottish & Southern Energy
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
UKFS	UK Forestry Standard
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
WFD	Water Framework Directive
YC	Yield Class

Appendix 2: Supplementary Information

Available for inspection at:

Cowal & Trossachs Forest District
Aberfoyle, Stirling FK8 3UX
Tel: 0300 067 6600
email: cowaltrossachs@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Documentation includes:-

- Roadline surveys
- Production Forecast 2016
- Sub-compartment database
- Conservation plan
- Landscape Character Assessment by SNH
- Aerial photos
- Forestry Guidelines
- Recreation Plan
- District Strategic Plan
- Forestry Commission approval procedures
- Scheduled Ancient Monument Plans
- Inventory of Ancient, long-established and semi-natural woodland (NCCS)
- Economic felling ages
- Soil surveys
- Crop survey

Appendix 3: Landscape Character Assessment

West Strathyre Forest Plan - Landscape Character and Visibility

Introduction

The 2009 Loch Lomond and Trossachs Landscape Character Assessment is currently being reviewed by SNH. It is likely that the characterisation set out in the 2009 study will be simplified with three broad landscape character types, Highland Summits, Straths and Glens and Straths and Glens with Lochs, covering the West Strathyre study area.

A more detailed assessment of landscape character has been undertaken to inform the Forest Plan. This defines local landscape character areas fitting within the broader character types which will be defined in the revised SNH Loch Lomond and Trossachs Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape character types and areas are shown on Map M14. Descriptions of the broad character type and the more detailed local character areas which nest within them as set out below:

Highland Summits

This landscape character type comprises high mountains with a rugged and complex form and a massive scale. These mountains lie north of the Highland Boundary Fault and include the well-known 'Munro' peaks of Ben Lomond, Ben Lui, Beinn Ime, Ben More and Ben Vorlich within the National Park. The mountains form distinct summits and ranges separated by fault line lochs. The *Highland Summits* form pronounced and recognisable peaks. They tend to be craggier, marked by many rocky outcrops, in the core of the Trossachs and to the north-west of Loch Lomond and west of Loch Long. Elsewhere in the National Park, the mountains are often more solitary, forming distinctive individual and often conical peaks. The upper slopes of these mountains are covered with grass and heather, with areas of bog and dense bracken occurring in dips and valleys, while summits are often rocky and sparsely vegetated. Coniferous forestry occurs on lower slopes, extending up into the narrow valleys which cut between these mountains, although it is not extensive in relation to the amount of open ground. Small wisps of broadleaved woodland are confined to steep gullies and steeper slopes. This landscape is largely uninhabited with settlement restricted to loch fringes and narrow glens.

Many of the higher mountains, and particularly those lying close to the Highland Boundary Fault, form key landmark features extensively visible outside the boundaries of the National Park. Dramatic views of individual mountains are channelled through glens and along lochs where they enrich

the scenic composition of the diverse landscapes of the Park. Although these mountains generally lie close to roads and are popular with walkers, a sense of wildness can be experienced because of the naturalness of the open summits and ridges and their rugged character.

Straths and Glens

This landscape character type comprises the deep 'U' shaped glens and broad flat-bottomed straths which are a key characteristic of the Highland landscape within the Park. These straths and glens are the result of glaciers excavating former shallow drainage systems and glacial and post-glacial features, such as moraines and former river terraces, occur widely within these landscapes. The Straths and Glens are broader and more settled than the *Upland Glens* landscape character type. They occur extensively in the north of the Park at Glen Dochart and Strath Fillan but are also found in smaller areas between the *Straths and Glens with Lochs* landscape character type, for example between Loch Lubnaig and Loch Voil.

Rivers are a prominent feature on open glen/strath floors, their loosely winding course traced by riparian woodland. The floodplains of the straths and wider glens are farmed although areas of boggy ground and scrub also occur. Land use over glen sides is of a predominantly marginal upland type and typically comprises a mosaic of rough pasture, bracken and coniferous forest. However, remnants of native and semi-natural woodland persist where grazing pressures have allowed. There are also pockets of farmland, particularly on lower and south-facing slopes, where local conditions have supported soil improvements and enclosure.

Dispersed settlements are often located at bridging points or at the junction between straths and side glens. Farms are dotted along the edge of open farmed floodplains, set within elevated rolling lower side slopes. The *Straths and Glens* are highly visible as they accommodate major transport routes and views are often open and extensive, focusing on the dramatic mountains which contain and backdrop these landscapes.

Three local Landscape Character Areas have been defined within the Straths and Glens Landscape Character Type and these are described below:

Local Landscape Character Area A: The Pass of Leny

Steep and often craggy spurs and slopes constrict and twist the valley of the River Leny, forming the narrow and strongly contained Pass of Leny. The River Leny descends in a series of falls including the renowned Falls of Leny, broken by boulders and rocky faces and overhung by mature trees. The complex pattern of rocky outcrops and steep slopes is enriched by a cover of native oak woodland, which predominantly covers valley sides with occasional large Douglas Fir and pockets of Larch adding to the diversity of this area. Plantings

of Sitka spruce extend over upper slopes and are not readily visible from the floor of the pass. Some settlement occurs in the Kilmahog area close to the busy A84 and the ruinous chapel and burial ground of St Brides, sited on a small knoll and set within alluvial pastures, forms a focus close to the outlet of Loch Lubnaig on the northern boundary of this character area. This landscape has an intimate scale due to the narrowness of the valley and strong containment of steep, densely wooded slopes.

Local Landscape Character Area B: Strathyre

North of the inlet to Loch Lubnaig, the River Balvag gently winds through floodplain pastures and is traced intermittently by ash and alder trees. The pastures are enclosed by a mix of fences, degraded stone dykes and lined by occasional shrubby trees. Floodplain pastures in the north of this character area are regularly inundated and some are patterned with rush. Glen sides are evenly graded and lack the ruggedness and height of the more dramatic craggy slopes to the south, although some more complex rolling landform occurs on western lower slopes to the north of the village of Strathyre. The glen sides are largely forested with small stands of mature larch, oak and Douglas fir contributing to the diverse land cover particularly evident on lower slopes. Higher slopes support Sitka spruce. Strathyre is located at a bridging point and set either side of the busy A84. A caravan park is located on floodplain on the southern edge of this settlement.

Local Landscape Character Area C: Balquhidder

The River Balvag snakes across a broad and open floodplain to the east of Balquhidder. The course of the river is traced by riparian trees and floodplain pastures are fringed by patches of rougher wetter grassland and rush. These pastures are regularly inundated as the river floods. The smooth bright green floodplain pastures contrast with dark spruce forest on evenly-graded valley sides. Young plantings of Sitka spruce and larch have a fragmented pattern on the southern slopes of the strath as it curves into Glen Buckie. The A84 offers elevated views across the open strath floor and containing forested slopes with the eye being drawn westwards towards the deep trough containing Loch Voil. The Balquidder area features a strongly linear arrangement of dispersed houses and farms raised on lower slopes either side of the valley floor.

Straths and Glens with Lochs

Lochs are particularly common in the Trossachs and Breadalbane areas of the National Park, formed as glaciers scoured deep hollows out of narrow Highland valleys then melted. The *Straths and Glens with Lochs* Landscape Character Type is strongly contained by steep hill slopes. Lochs are generally long and narrow with some like Loch Voil and Loch Eck having an even straight form

while others, such as Loch Katrine and Loch Lubnaig, are more indented and irregular. The lochs tend to fill much of the glen or strath although settlement and farming occurs infrequently where lower side slopes are more gently sloping and wider loch margins or drier promontories are present. Wetlands often occur at the low-lying ground at the end of lochs and these merge gradually with floodplain pastures on higher areas.

Strings of lochs occur within single valleys in the Trossachs, the most spectacular of these being Lochs Venachar, Achray and Katrine which are separated by an intricate small-scale pattern of floodplain wetlands, scrubby rolling pastures and complex wooded knolls and rocky outcrops. The steep side slopes of the glens and straths are usually densely wooded with coniferous forest. Broadleaved woodlands are however particularly notable in the core of the Trossachs around Loch Achray and within upper Loch Lomond and narrow loch shores throughout the Park often feature mature oak, birch and some exotic plantings associated with the many estates characteristic of this Landscape Character Type.

Settlement is usually associated with alluvial fans and promontories where tributary water courses join the loch and accommodate small pastures. Larger settlements tend to occupy larger areas of flatter ground at the head of the loch where it joins the *Straths and Glens* Landscape Character Type. These often highly scenic landscapes are a key focus for recreation and tourism and hotels, chalets and other visitor facilities are a common feature.

Two local Landscape Character Areas have been defined within the Straths and Glens Landscape Character Type and these are described below:

Local Landscape Character Area D: Loch Lubnaig – South

This landscape has a Fjord-like character with steep rocky slopes plunging dramatically to the deep and sinuous dark Loch Lubnaig. The loch fills much of the space between steep slopes and glen floor, leaving only a very narrow margin against the loch shore. Ben Ledi and Ardnandave Hill tower above the western side of the loch and the contorted form of the water body, together with sheer craggy slopes, contribute to the rugged and diverse scenery and scenic views from the well-used A84. Steep slopes both sides of the loch are densely forested but on the western slopes the diverse mix of mature broadleaves, larch and Douglas fir has a naturalistic appearance due to trees weaving around crags, capping small knolls and filling dips. Broadleaves fringe the more gentle lower slopes against the western shores of the loch. There is a rhythm to views from the A84 with the rocky faces of the eastern slopes of Ardnandave Hill forming a focus and pivotal point as the loch swings westwards. Shoreline features include subtle promontories, which are particularly appreciated in views down the length of the lochs, and narrow pale shingle beaches. A small area of wetland fringes the southern outlet of

the loch. Timber holiday cabins nestle in broadleaved woodland on the western loch shore and small picnic areas and car parks are present on the eastern shore against the A84. The eastern loch margins are also popular for informal camping.

Local Landscape Character Area E: Loch Lubnaig – North

The western slopes of Ben Vane rise more gently from Loch Lubnaig in the north, creating a more open basin cut by numerous radial water courses on western slopes. The loch appears more rounded and less constrained by steep slopes with reeds and wetland scrub and some small areas of farmland fringing the loch shore. Wetlands are a particular feature in the north of this character area close to the inlet of the loch. The western slopes are forested with plantings of Sitka spruce extending into upper Glen Buckie. Mature Douglas fir and larch fringe the loch shore and broadleaves are largely confined to a few of the narrow valleys which cut these slopes. The A84 is aligned on the eastern shore of the loch although views are restricted by woodland. There are no formal picnic areas or car parks against the loch although informal camping and fishing takes place in this area.

Views and visibility

- Views within the Pass of Leny are intimate and strongly contained. The winding nature of the road and relatively slow travel speeds tends to focus views on the detail of mature trees on lower slopes.
- More open stretches of the strath allow views along and across farmed landscapes, to the Leny and Balvag rivers set in floodplain pastures. There are brief open views from the A84 around St Brides Chapel and to the north of Strathyre where this road is more elevated and less hemmed in by trees.
- Views from the A84 are generally fairly restricted because of the screening provided by loch shore woodland although brief views of the looming craggy southern face of Ardnandave Hill and Loch Lubnaig below are dramatic. This particularly scenic view is seen from the National Park picnic sites located on the eastern shores of the loch.
- The Creag an Tuirc viewpoint above Balquhiddier offers elevated views over the northern part of West Strathyre Forest into Glen Buckie.
- NCR 7 is aligned along the western shore of the loch and through the Pass of Leny although views are largely confined by mature woodland and rising slopes. The detailed treatment of woodland edges and long term retentions is important from this route.
- Sections of the forest are visible from the surrounding hills with the Ben Ledi path having the highest footfall. The forest is not visible from the summit of Ben Ledi but southern areas of the forest are visible from the

path leading up to the summit. Beinn Each is a popular destination for walkers and large parts of the forest (mainly the upper slopes) are visible from the path and summit. Similar views are also obtainable from the summits of Ben Vorlich & Stuc a Chroin.

Appendix 4: Scoping Invitation Letter, Drop in Session Poster & Scoping Map



Cowal & Trossachs Forest District
Aberfoyle
Stirling FK8 3UX

Tel (+44) 0300 067 6600

cowaltrossachs@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

01/07/2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Forest District Manager
Gordon Donaldson

Review of West Strathyre Land Management Plan

We are currently in the process of reviewing the land management plan for the FCS landholding detailed above. A map showing location and identifying some of the key issues is attached.

Prior to commencing work on the new plan I am very keen to gauge the views, issues and aspirations of our key stakeholders and any other party who may have an interest in this Land Management Plan.

The new forest design plan will attempt to achieve a balance between our obligations to promote health, access and wellbeing; an economically viable, sustainable, quality timber resource; coherent landscape design, and the environmental and ecological improvement of the land we manage.

If you wish to contribute to the process could you please send your submission within 28 days of the date of this letter. Obviously this does not preclude you from responding at any time within or out with the review if you would like to bring any issues to our attention.

We are also holding a drop in session at Strathyre Village Hall (Strathyre, FK18 8NA) on the 22nd July from 3pm to 7pm which would give you the opportunity to discuss any issues with Forestry Commission staff.

Please forward this information onto any other organisations or people that you feel may be interested in contributing to the process.

If you would like to discuss any of the above further, then please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or email.

Yours faithfully

Ian Thomas,
Chartered Forester.
(on behalf of the Forestry Commission)
01764 670001
ian@landmanager.eu

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland



Community Consultation Drop In Session

At Strathyre Village Hall

(Strathyre, FK18 8NA)

On the 22nd July 2016,
drop in any time 3pm to 7pm

Further Information is available from:

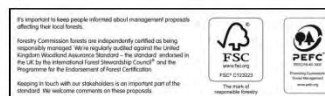
Ian Thomas

(on behalf of the Forestry Commission)

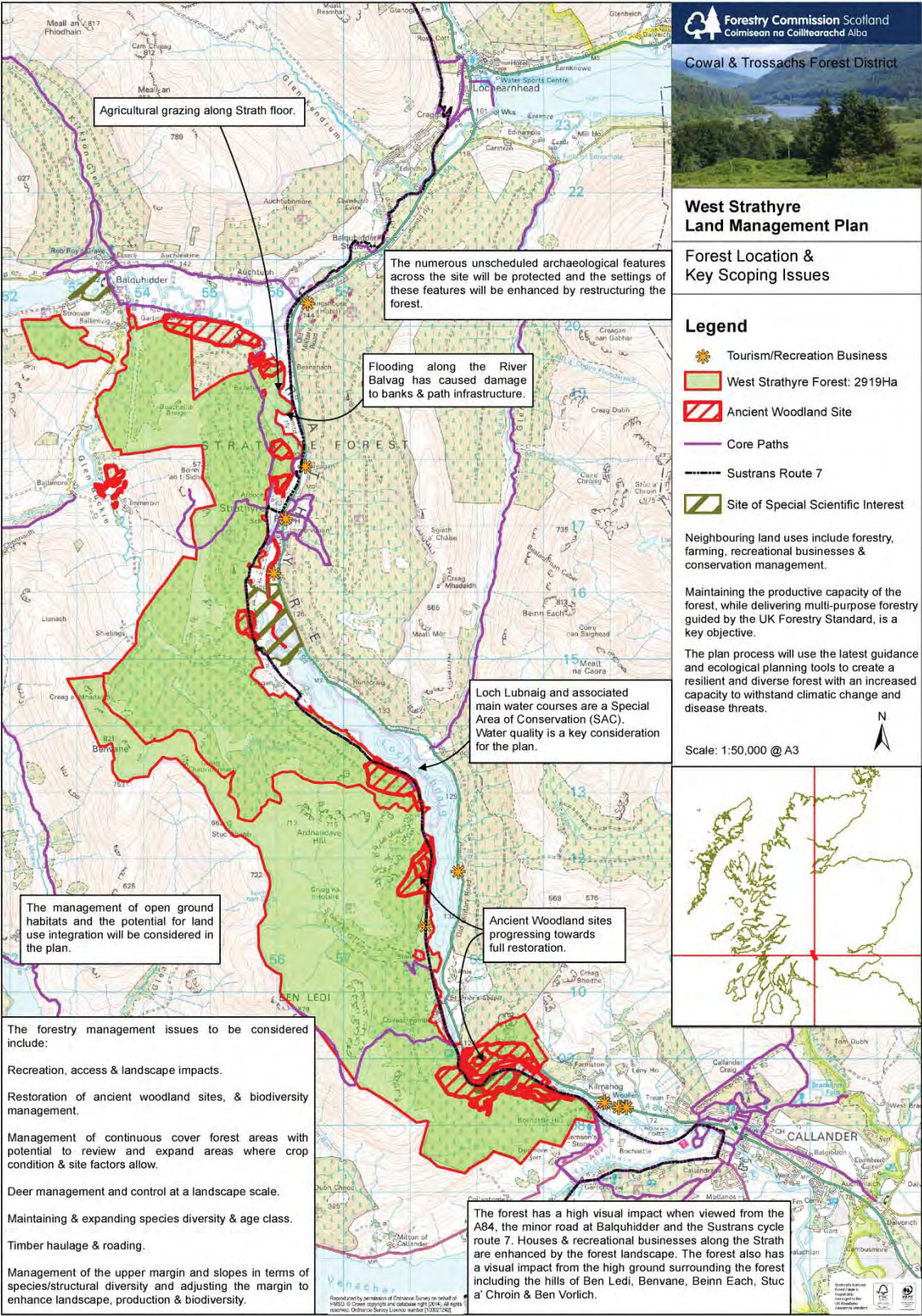
01764 670001

ian@landmanager.eu

Forestry Commission Scotland welcomes your views on the
development of this Land Management Plan



West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025



Appendix 5: Consultation Record

External Stakeholders.

Internal stakeholder meetings were also held with all departments involved, and internal consultation has been ongoing.

Statutory Consultee	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issue Raised	Forest District Response
Stirling District Council: Roads	01/07/2016	18/07/2016	Follow Balquhiddier Glen Timber Traffic Management Plan.	The district will follow the Timber Traffic Management plan.
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park.	15/06/2016, 01/07/2016 & meeting 08/07/2016	15/06/2016 & 08/07/2016	LMP area adjacent to a number of Black Grouse Priority areas. Deer fencing & edge management should consider this. Potential impact on DMG should be considered and communicated to DMG. Have regard to NPA Outdoor recreation plan action 65: Woodland management will seek to maintain and enhance recreational access and the visitor experience,	Black Grouse habitat enhancement will be taken forward at restructuring as appropriate by changes to structure and species diversity, particularly along the upper margin. A range of planting dates across the upper areas with dispersed young restocks can provide important transitory habitats for Black Grouse.

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			especially in and along popular destinations and routes. Where possible, we will use access management plans to maintain recreational access during forestry operations and seek to protect the surface quality throughout the forest track network'. Restructuring should improve the margin with the WT to the south. Restructuring should seek to improve landscape at Stronslaney and with Muirlaggan. Landscape appraisal should be carried out to inform proposals.	The FC has consulted and will continue to work with the DMG. Restructuring to enhance the recreational environment and maintenance of recreational infrastructure are important elements of the LMP. Partnership working with Community Organisations to enhance recreational infrastructure is ongoing.
SNH	01/07/2016	01/08/2016	SSSIs & SAC identified and interests noted. Deer management on a collaborative and landscape scale welcomed. Protected species surveys required pre-ops. Issues other than	SSSIs & SAC identified on map M4 and considered in map M7. Impacts on SAC and SSSIs are a priority consideration throughout the LMP. Deer management will

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

				designated sites & protected species fall within remit of LLTNP.	continue to be carried out collaboratively. Protected species surveys will be carried out pre-ops.
Neighbours	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issue Raised		Forest District Response
The Craigvinean Outdoor Centre Trust. Scottish Woodlands Cambusmore Estate Managed Estates Muirlaggan Estate Drumardoch Estate Immeroin Farm Corriechrombie Farm Forest Holidays Mhor 84 Creaggan House Immervoulin Caravan Park The Lade Inn Kilmahog Woolen Mill The Inn @ Strathyre The Village Shop Strathyre	01/07/2016				
The Woodland Trust (Glenfinglas)	01/07/2016 & Meeting 09/08/2016	WT: 09/08/2016	WT: Current conifer crop often falls on march fence. Early felling would reduce fence maintenance costs.		While sympathetic to fencing issues, felling phasing has to take into account a wide range

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			Boundary query. Greater NBL linkages at restocking would fit with WT woodland creation proposals and objectives of the Great Trossachs Forest.	of issues which guide the felling phasing. Restocking will complement new woodland creation in Glenfinglas and strengthen NBL habitat linkages.
Drummond Estate	01/07/2016	Drummond Estate: 25/07/2016	Drummond: Strategic deer fence along West Strathyre is important for Glenartney deer forest, as stags would otherwise move west.	Deer fence on West Strathyre will be maintained where budgets allow.
Creaggan House	01/07/2016	Creaggan House: 05/07/2016	Creaggan House: More waymarked paths would be good. A website or email alert about path closures would be helpful. Interest in adjacent land purchase.	Partnership working may release external funds to facilitate more recreational provision. Comment on website/path closures passed on.
Drumardoch Estate	01/07/2016	Drumardoch Estate	Query on Core Path GIS layer. The Cabin on Loch Lubnaig should be identified as a local tourist business.	GIS layer used updated, Cabin site identified as a tourist business.
Community Groups	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issue Raised	Forest District Response
Callander Landscape Partnership	01/07/2016	22/07/2016 (attended meeting)	General discussion on proposals and LMP development.	Discussions ongoing.
Callander Community Council	01/07/2016	None		
Callander Community Development Trust	01/07/2016	None		

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre CC	01/07/2016	None			
Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre CT	01/07/2016	None			
Others	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issue Raised	Forest District Response	
Balquhidder Deer Management Group	01/07/2016 & Meeting 08/07/2016	08/07/2016	Scoping note circulated to group via Chairman. No responses received. Area lies on eastern fringes of DMG, and no pressing issues had arisen in this locality. Population data probably only moderately accurate in this area due to dense cover.	Continue to work constructively with DMG and neighbours on deer management.	
Callander & District Heritage Society	01/07/2016	None			
Confor	01/07/2016	04/07/2016	Forest has phenomenal potential for quality conifer crops, hopes that FC will maximise softwood production on this site.	Maintaining timber production is a key plan objective.	
Killin Mountain Rescue Team	01/07/2016	None			
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	01/07/2016	06/07/2016	Scoping map covers landscape issues. A cleared route off the east side of Benvane would make a circular route taking in Ben Lui & Benvane and returning via the forest road a more attractive option.	Potential route down off Benvane indicated on Recreation map M6. Potential for creating open ground low key route at restructuring (area currently proposed for felling post 2016). Brashed route may provide a temporary more	

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

				immediate solution.
National Sheep Association	01/07/2016	None		
River Forth Fisheries Trust (RFFT)	01/07/2016	22/07/2016 (attended drop-in session)	Diversity of fish species in Loch Lubnaig including Arctic Char which breed in feeder streams, so water quality important even in small burns. Small feeder burns coming from LMP areas generally too steep and small to act as significant salmon/sea trout spawning burns, but all contribute to overall water quality. Areas of the Calair Burn are significant salmonid spawning areas. Constraints on salmon numbers in this area have not been identified, but not thought to be forestry related. FWPM & salmonids benefit from low silt levels on spawning redds. Adventitious feed from riparian trees and dappled shade advantageous for fish and riparian environment. Lampreys favour silty deposits so no siltation issues for this species. River & sea lampreys are vulnerable to obstructions during migration. Brook lampreys spending their lifecycle within the river are less vulnerable to obstructions. Riparian	Follow UKFS in relation to water both in terms of operations and forest planning. Enhance the riparian environment. Work with stakeholders (Agric. Tenants/RFFT) as appropriate to improve the riparian woodland margin on the River Balvag.

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			planting along River Balvag could improve the riparian environment.	
RSPB	01/07/2016	28/07/2016	Black Grouse recorded in area. Retain & improve Black Grouse habitat. Consider options for creating wet flush/bog habitats. Keep conifer regeneration in check on upper margin between NN548171 & NN546153. Increased NBL welcomed with low density on edges preferable. Increasing diversity & quantity of NBL would benefit a range of species. Black Grouse could benefit from increase open ground with better connections. Open ground should be managed to allow heather, bilberry & grasses to regenerate. Young conifer restocks and new plantings can create a good habitat for Black Grouse, a diverse age class helps to retain an element of these areas across the forest. Consider raptors in operational planning and consult with local raptor study group.	See comments above in relation to comments on Black Grouse from LLTNP. Management options for open ground limited to deer management, lower grazing pressures could lead to strengthening of heather & bilberry in appropriate areas, but would also increase the inevitable regeneration of a wide range of tree species. Matrix of scattered mixed regen with a diverse moorland flora provides an ideal habitat for Black Grouse. Budgets are very limited to control regeneration on an ongoing basis across the LMP, target any actions to precise areas of high conservation value where specific outcomes can be identified and achieved cost effectively.

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

					Peregrine nest site within LMP but no other issues noted.
Scottish Water	01/07/2016	21/07/2016 email & 22/07/2016 (attended meeting date)	Map showing catchments in area provided. Small part of southern margin of LMP area lies within Loch Venachar (Compensation) catchment. No Public Water supplies. Water supply infrastructure around Strathyre.	Information included on map M8. Locations of water supply infrastructure to be obtained/updated and included on operational maps in the proximity of village.	
SEPA	01/07/2016	20/07/2016	1:2,500 scale maps used to show a clear assessment of environmental risks associated with proposals and mitigation, and a map at the same scale showing water features. Potential flood risk in catchment. Assess all downstream receptors that may be affected by flooding and identify culverts. Create buffer zones so woody debris doesn't enter watercourses. Undertake regular removal of woody debris from watercourses. Management activities should be notified to the Stirling Flood Prevention Authority. Ploughing should follow contours. Bridges and roads should take flooding into consideration at the design stage.	Scale not appropriate for LMPs. Standard LMP format considers these factors. Removing woody debris from all burns conflicts with a range of other ecological considerations, may exacerbate erosion & flooding and isn't feasible. Woody debris around culverts is removed during routine maintenance operations where possible. Contour ploughing has been shown to be impracticable on steep slopes due to H&S issues. Ground prep would be most likely to be mounding. Culvert size will take flood risk fully into account during the design	

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			Afforestation & felling can lead to increased runoff. The status of waterbodies within the plan area: Loch Lubnaig is at poor status due to obstacles to fish passage not related to forestry. Nutrient status moderate so runoff control important. River Teith SAC & FWPM present. Steep slopes could increase risk or erosion and sediment. Improving riparian corridors would help. River Balvag & Leny are at good status. Identify any structures containing fish passage, reintroduce meanders into rivers & plant broadleaves. Identify any INNS issues and address in plan. Show how the environment has been considered in felling plans. Follow UKFS. Identify % of felling proposed in each catchment in 3 year period. All new infrastructure should be shown on 1:2,500 scale maps or more detailed. Hydro schemes may be affected by siltation. CAR authorisations may be	process. CCF reduces adverse impacts on flooding & water quality. Plan will seek to maintain & enhance water quality by strict adherence to the UKFS. Riparian woodland and CCF offer the best approach to increasing slope stability, maintaining good water quality & mitigating flood risk. INNS issues will be identified, and appropriate action taken. Environmental & biodiversity considerations are a key element of the plan process. Felling phasing is shown based on industry standard 5 year phasing. Map scale inappropriate for LMP, applicable to specific design drawings for culverts etc as appropriate. CAR authorisations will be applied for as required. Limited potential for wetland restoration, but detailed site appraisal for specific coupe restock plans will identify these areas. Wet woodland may also
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West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

				required. Consider potential for wetland restoration.	be appropriate.
SSE	01/07/2016	None			
Sustrans Scotland	01/07/2016	14/07/2016		Naming of network incorrect.	Plan amended.
Visit Scotland	01/07/2016				
Scoping Meetings	Date Contacted	Date Response Received	Issue Raised	Forest District Response	
Afternoon/evening drop-in scoping session at Strathyre Village Hall. 17 parties attended the meeting	22/07/2016 (meeting date)		Shading of houses along roadside in Strathyre from the school north to the "T" junction (compt 6059). Stability of trees in above area once buffer removed around school may be an issue. Potential for debris to block gullies.	The District welcomed the good turnout and engagement. The plan proposes to implement Phase 1 felling in the proximity of the school and along the road to the west of housing to address the stability/shading concerns. Debris arises from diverse sources many outwith the LMP area. FC Road gullies are cleared during routine road maintenance, but clearing all burns of woody debris is infeasible, may have adverse ecological impacts and may be counterproductive in terms of	

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

				flood control. Regeneration will be monitored. Scattered mixed regeneration can contribute positively to biodiversity and landscape. Footpaths will be maintained subject to budgets. Expansion recently undertaken, not aware of further expansion plans. Sites identified on GIS. Control proposed. NP controlling this infestation. Reduce shading in this area and promote Juniper in other plan areas as appropriate.
			SS regeneration on open ground. Footpath provision regarded as good. Were there any plans to expand the cabin site. Piri piri burr identified on site. Giant Hogweed present in new NP carpark (outwith LMP area). Juniper in and around compt 6054 is being shaded by Ash regeneration, thinning to favour Juniper suggested. Coral Root Orchid present in SSSI	

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			Were there going to be any radical changes in current management.	The plan proposals build on past management plans and seeks continuity with past activity.
			Juniper area on Kipp farm was suffering from SS regeneration (Compt 6000)	The PAWS area in the proximity of the SSSI is proposed to be clearfelled and restocked with NBL which could include elements of Juniper.
			Fence repair on west side of Kipp farm (Compt 6000) requested post completion of roading along margin.	Referred to Estates Dept.
			Water supply at Rusgachan on A84 (East Strathyre forest block) affected by timber in burn following harvest.	Referred to beat forester.
			Check culverts where these might impair upstream migration of salmonids.	Not aware of any issues, many of the burns are small and steep with navigation impaired by other factors.
			Japanese knot weed patches outwith the LMP area being	The FC welcomes collaborative control of invasive species.

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			controlled by Forth Fishery Board.	Consult with Community on options including night time locking of car park gate.
			Wild camping at FC car park/picnic site in Strathyre may become an issue for residents.	Scavenging licences are available.
			Any potential for firewood scavenging licences.	Issues covered in LMP, work in progress.
			Callander Landscape Partnership aspirations for the Leny pass area discussed.	Area of NBL buffer around SSSI is being extended under the LMP.
			Rare plants on boundary with SSSI	The CCF areas provide an ideal and resilient habitat for Red Squirrel.
			Mixed conifer were a good food source for Red Squirrel.	See above re school & road boundary.
			Mr McLusky (Ardoch Cottage) was concerned about the size of the trees on his boundary	
			Concern that cattle were	

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

			accessing river at Balafulil because of poor condition of fence	Referred to Estates Dept.
			"No overnight camping" sign at Strathyre car park required.	See above.
			Locking of car park gate in the evening.	See above.
			Is the area of Beech woodland above Balvaig House for sale.	Not currently.

Appendix 6: Tolerance Table

Tolerance Table for West Argyll Forest District

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

Area or Zone	Action required	Adjustment to coupe boundaries (to a limit of 20% of coupe area)	Timing of restocking (years after felling)	Changes to species (in excess of 25% change)	Windblow clearance (ha>40% blown)	Changes to roadlines (m from centre line)
Native woodland areas	Exchange of letters	1.5ha	5 yrs	No threshold	0.5ha native species. 5ha conifer	50m*
	Plan amendment	3.0ha	10yrs**	No threshold	10ha conifer	100m
Landscape sensitive areas***	Exchange of letters	0.5ha	3 yrs	Between evergreen and deciduous conifer species. No threshold for native species.	2ha conifer	50m
	Plan amendment	1.5ha	5 yrs	Between evergreen and deciduous conifer species. No threshold for native species.	5ha conifer	100m
Low sensitivity areas****	Exchange of letters	3.0ha	4 yrs	Between evergreen and deciduous conifer species. No threshold for native species.	5ha conifer	200m
	Plan amendment	5.0ha	7 yrs	Between evergreen and deciduous conifer species. No threshold for native species.	10ha conifer	400m

* Any impact on existing ancient woodland will be agreed with no threshold

** Due to preference for natural regeneration

*** Includes all landscape designation areas, e.g. NSA's, designed landscapes, plus WIAT, community woodlands and FD Strategic Planning Landscape Zone

**** All other areas not included in other zones. Localised environmental sensitivities within the zone will be covered under existing management plans. Consultation on these sites will be undertaken as part of the normal approval process and methods detailed in work plans.

Note: Any increase in open space will be subject to EIA thresholds for deforestation unless part of normal process of forest restructuring

Appendix 7: Balquhiddier Glen Timber Traffic Management Plan (Draft 5)

Timber Traffic Management Plan: Balquhiddier Glen

This timber traffic management plan has been prepared so that the structure of the roads named and associated verges are protected during timber haulage operations while preserving them for the use of local residents, agriculture and forestry. The purpose of this local agreement is specifically to ensure that reasonable access is maintained for the forestry owner/s and their neighbours, but in a sustainable fashion and in accordance with regional and national forest strategies.

Pre-conditions for the use of the C33, Stroneslaney Road, Glenbuckie Road & Keip Road: The following agreement relates to a number of sensitive roads within the Stirling Council area, namely the C33 (from the A84 Trunk road to Inverlochlarig), Stroneslaney Road, Glenbuckie Road and Keip Road, which are proposed to be used for the transporting of timber from Balquhiddier Glen. All the roads are single width rural roads with restricted geometry and alignment and limited opportunities to pass. There are currently no weight restrictions on any of the bridges on these roads although there are a number of narrow masonry arch bridges that will limit the haulage routes used. **As such early consultation with Stirling Council to determine the most appropriate route is encouraged** and should follow the guidance set out in the Stirling & Tayside Timber Transport Group's [Timber Transport Management Protocols](#).

Lorry Configuration: The roads have weak surfaces and have suffered edge damage through previous use. Lower impact vehicles, such as those highlighted in the Timber Transport Forum's [Tread Softly](#) publication, are therefore the preferred option. The lower impact system being used on these routes is subject to review if damage to the roads becomes evident.

Frequency: The public roads serving Balquhiddier Glen shall be split into six separate routes, these being as described in **Table 1. Timber Transport Routes** below and as shown on the attached map. As indicated in the table below, an average number of loads permitted per day have been considered for each route. In addition: -

Routes 1, 3, 4 & 6: All timber vehicles should operate in one direction only during the morning (08:15 – 08:50) and afternoon of (15:20 – 15:50) peak periods such that there should be no westbound traffic during the morning peak and no eastbound traffic during the afternoon peak.

Route 2: There should be no timber dispatches past Strathyre Primary School during the period from **08:45 to 09:15** and from **15:00 to 15:30** Monday to Friday during the school teaching term (see [Stirling Council Term, holiday and closure dates](#) website for details of school terms times).

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

All Routes: Lorry movements should be avoided on all routes between 19:00 and 07:00. There should be no conveying of lorries and adequate controls on daily movements are to be applied to minimise conflict and impact on local residents and traffic.

Route No.	Route description	British National Grid	Average loads/day	Comments
Route 1	Stronvar Bridge to A84 (via Balquhidder)	253514,720589 to 256443,720436 (via 253452,720814)	Unrestricted	Retains ARM Consultation Route status and advisory conditions pertaining thereto
Route 2	Stroneslaney & Kipp to A84 (via Strathyre)	254958,720117 & 255563,716216 to 256089,17190	8 loads per day	
Route 3	Ballimore to Stronvar Bridge	252934,717487 to 253514,720589	4 loads per day	
Route 4	Inverlochlarig to Kirkton (C33)	244589,718472 to 252578,720775	To be confirmed	No felling envisaged within next 5 years. Average number of loads to be discussed and agreed in advance of harvesting operations and will be dependent on prevailing road condition
Route 5	Calair to Stroneslaney	253660,720311 to 254958,720117	0	Not suitable for timber transport
Route 6	Kirkton to Balquhidder (C33)	252578,720775 to 253452,720814	4 loads per day	

Table 1. Timber Transport Routes

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

Seasonal Restrictions: These roads may be particularly susceptible to the impact of frost/thaw. As a result, haulage is generally restricted to the period 01 April – 31 October but may be permissible from November – March providing the Council have been notified. Haulage operations should also comply with any seasonal restrictions set out in the harvesting/haulage contract/s.

Driver Awareness: Drivers involved with timber haulage should be familiar with the nature of the road and should be in possession of this Timber Traffic Management Plan, prior to operating on these routes.

Speed Limit: The maximum speed (loaded or empty) should be **20mph** until reaching the A84 trunk road. This may be reduced to a speed limit appropriate to the condition of the road during excessively wet periods.

Access Points/Loading: All new accesses onto the public road shall be formed in accordance with Stirling Council's standard access specification and shall provide sufficient space to allow vehicles to turn clear of the public road. Arrangements must be made to ensure no flow of water onto public roads from the access roads. Timber stacking must not interfere with the structure of roadside verges, drainage ditches and pipe work or unduly restrict sightlines. No timber should be stacked closer than the 2m service strip adjacent to the running surface of a public road. Loading of timber onto vehicles on the live carriageway is not permitted.

Awareness: As far as is reasonably practicable and with reference to the [Timber Transport Management Protocol](#), the local Community Council, and where appropriate Strathyre Primary School, should be informed of the anticipated haulage commencement dates, exclusion times, frequency of movement, with appropriate liaison undertaken to address any access concerns. Liaison with the Forest Manager, Stirling Council and the regional Timber Transport Project Officer will be welcomed to resolve any possible conflicts with the local communities own normal weekly vehicle movements. Contact details are provided below.

Maintenance of Forest Road Entrances: Damage to the public road can occur very quickly when egress from the forest onto the public road is not maintained. Mud and debris should not be allowed to spill onto the public road. Operators must make provision for any debris to be removed immediately.

Monitoring: Road and bridge parapet conditions will be inspected, as appropriate, by Council staff during the period of operations. Parallel inspections by the S&TTTG Project Officer may be carried out when practicable or as required. The timber buyer and haulier have a responsibility to comply with the [Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice](#) and standard haulage practices. A duty of care and responsibility is expected from hauliers on the public road network. Any deterioration of the road surface observed by interested parties (hauliers, land owner, agents etc.) should be notified to Stirling Council Roads office as soon as practicable via the Stirling Council Contact Centre (0845 277 7000). Haulage should be suspended

West Strathyre Land Management Plan 2016 - 2025

immediately if significant damage is either evident or is considered likely to occur and only resumed after consultation with Stirling Council's Timber Transport Officer.

Partners to TTMP: This Timber Transport Management Plan has been developed in conjunction with the following forest land holdings: -

Auchtubhmore

Ballimore

Blaircreich

Forestry Commission Scotland

Ledcreich

Muirlaggan Forest Partnership

Stroneslaney

Stronslaney

Contact Information:

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