

Summary of South Laggan Land Management Plan 2016 -2026 Proposals

South Laggan forest lies to the north of Spean Bridge above Loch Lochy. The forest covers the steep slopes above the loch and extends into the upper glen of Glen Buck.

The plan objective is to gradually fell the current 2nd rotation conifer crop to create a more diverse age structure in Glen Buck. On the steeper slopes it is proposed to undertake a sequential felling against the prevailing wind. A central core of productive conifers will be re-established with species suitable for the site conditions within and below Glen Buck. On the steep slopes where the terrain presents challenging harvesting conditions, the long term plan is to establish native woodland which will be managed with slope stabilisation as the primary objective. In the medium term the opportunity to create a more natural tree line and montane woodland will be explored on the upper margin of the forest

The South Laggan Land Management Plan was approved on 29th November 2016 and covers the period 2016 to 2026.

Total Plan Area	1,740 ha
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Species breakdown	Current	End of the plan period (50 years)
Primary species: SS	42%	10%
Secondary species: MC	8%	13%
Native broadleaf	10%	48%
Open space	40%	27%

Planned operations	2016 - 2026
Felling	149 ha
Thinning	0 ha
Restock	131 ha
New planting	0 ha
Road construction	350 m
Road upgrade	0 m

Significant environment/ Conservation features	
Designated sites	Adjacent to the South Laggan Fen site
Vulnerable species populations	Water voles present
A listed buildings	Scheduled battlefield site of Blar na Leine is partly within the forest. The line of the former Fort William to Fort Augustus railway runs along the lower edge of the forest and is partially incorporated into the forest road.
Minimum intervention & natural reserve	27ha of natural reserve of native woodland with a high proportion of hazel

Critical Success Factors

- The availability of resources for the demanding harvesting conditions will be a key factor in the successful implementation of the plan.
- The ability to work the steep face over an extended period will depend on the stability of the current crop.
- Ongoing effective deer population management will be required to allow the successful establishment of native species in the restoration areas and slopes.
- Co-operation of SSE for work on stands of trees on the steep ground above the pylon line is necessary for safe working.
- The design and species selection for the future forest proves to be resilient against future changes in the climate and the nature of pest and disease

Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted publically including meetings with the local community representatives and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. For further information on the plan please contact the Forest Planning team at Forestry Commission Scotland on 0300 067 6870 or lochaber@forestry.gsi.gov.uk