

Fort Augustus Forest Design Plan Summary

Summary of Forest Design Plan Proposals

Vision

To restore native woodland at a landscape scale, and in the long term, to restore natural processes throughout the native woodland and open habitat from Glen Moriston to Fort Augustus. This will be achieved by working in partnership with Trees for Life and other native woodland owners to deliver a common vision for native woodlands in the wider landscape.

Primary Objectives

- Restoration of native woodland at a landscape scale over the next 50 years
- To minimise risk posed to people and the A82 trunk road through good design and practice.
- To protect and enhance the water quality of the Ness catchment.
- To promote the resilience of the forest to the future challenges of climate change.
- To strengthen ties within the local community and enhance the landscape of the great Glen and Loch Ness.
- Sustainable timber production within Inchnacardoch and the productive native woodland zones.

Total Plan Area 10,639 ha

Species Breakdown	2016	2026
Sitka Spruce	1578	1171
Scots Pine	1085	865
Lodgepole Pine	1174	966
Larch and other conifers	2370	1055
Open space	4432	6582

Planned Operations	2015 – 2025 plan period
Felling	1131ha
Thinning	550ha
Restocking	859ha
New planting	22ha
Road construction	2407m
Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Designated sites	SAC 2.4ha
Minimum Intervention	293
Natural Reserve	266

Critical Success Factors:

- DNB surveys will be managed by the IRS Planning team. This will assess the spread of the infection and when measured against plant health felling, formally at the mid term review, can be used to assess the effectiveness of the LP removal programme.
- 75% felling site visits will be used to assess site and soil conditions and assign the appropriate restock species in alignment with FDP objectives.
- Sites managed for natural regeneration will be monitored through a regular programme of site assessment implemented by the environment team. Survey results will be recorded on a spatial database.
- Achievement of the felling and future habitat and species proposals will be monitored by the Planning Forester at year 5 and 10 reviews.

- Civil engineering will deliver the construction and upgrading of all roading within the district and monitor progress through work programming. Completed construction works will be routinely recorded on a GIS database.
- Timber production will be managed using the FD workplan system and coordinated by the FD programme manager to ensure programmes match forecast and market commitments.
- We aim to achieve all clearfell production, in line with the management coupe plan and the volumes detailed in the coupe summary of this plan, explaining any variances where they occur. To be reviewed at years five and ten by the Planning Forester.
- Site objectives will be agreed prior to operations and detailed using the work plan system. Operations will be delivered in collaboration between the Recreation and Tourism and Operations team and monitored continually through site visits.
- The Recreation and Tourism Forester will monitor the delivery of the all visitor zone works.
- Native Woodland Restoration will be delivered in collaboration between the Environment and Forest Management team. Progress will be audited by the Planning Forester against the Future Habitat and Species proposals detailed in the FDP at the year 5 & 10 review.
- An annual meeting will be held with Trees For Life to agree priorities for working, special projects and assess progress on native woodland restoration proposals of this plan. The Environment Forester will co-ordinate shared working on the NFE.
- The Environment Manager will monitor the management and restoration of PAWS using a routine programme of site surveying.
- The status of water bodies will be monitored at year five and ten reviews by the Planning Forester, using SEPA data.
- Progress will be audited by the Planning Forester against the Future Habitat and Species proposals detailed in the FDP at the year 5 & 10 review.
- The Environment Manager will co-ordinate and supervise the delivery of all species surveying and monitoring. The results will be incorporated into local systems and used through the work plan process to influence management proposals.

Consultation and Further Information:

The main communities that are local to the Forest Design Plan are Drumnadrochit, Fort Augustus, Invermoriston and Dalchreichart. The block is located in the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council in the Aird and Loch Ness Ward of the Highland Council Region. Community events were held in Glenmoriston on 8th January 2014 and Fort Augustus and Drumnadrochit Community Council on 31st March 2014.

Further consultees:

The Highland Council

SEPA

SNH

Historic Scotland

BEAR Scotland

RSPB

Woodland Trust

Ness and Beaully Fisheries Trust

Trees for Life

Glen Moriston Estate

Achlain Estate

For further information on the Plan, please contact Inverness, Ross and Skye Forest District on 0300 0676100 or invernessrossskye@forestry.gsi.gov