



# Forestry and Land Scotland

## Angus Glens Concept Consultation Report

A final consultation for the new Angus Glens Land Management Plan (LMP), covering Glen Prosen and Glen Doll was held in Spring 2025 and comprised: a short public survey and public engagement events; emails to stakeholders and newsletter mailing list containing links to plan maps/documents and online feedback form on our web page; and site meetings with stakeholders. This short report describes the stakeholder and community engagement methods used and a summary of the feedback received.

### Public engagement events

3 public consultation events – 62 attendees

Online survey and email responses – 38

Stakeholder meetings – neighbouring landowners, deer management group, Cairngorms National Park and NatureScot, RSPB primarily, plus community event for developing community benefit and Angus Glens Forum with CNPA and SLC.

An information display was situated in Glen Doll Ranger Centre from 9<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April, which contained information on the LMP consultation and planning process, concept map, map of planned deer fencing, maps of planned felling, restock and woodland creation, maps showing planned civil engineering works and visitor access, plus an overview of the main themes ‘people, nature and climate.’

Two drop-in days were held at Glen Doll Ranger Centre and Kirriemuir Town Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March respectively. A community meeting in Glen Prosen village hall was held on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> March. In total, 62 people attended the public engagement events.

Attendees had the opportunity to write their ideas/issues/views onto sticky-notes and stick them onto a large table concept map – this activity generated discussion, and we were able to take down notes and useful contacts. Some people also completed a paper survey form and posted it into the feedback box.

## Summary of issues/ideas received through the sticky-notes and discussion at the events

### Woodland creation and habitat restoration

- Broad support for native woodland creation
- Deer fencing should be a last resort/minimized where possible and include access for recreation
- Good opportunity for peatland restoration to store carbon
- Lots of important open habitats for flora in the glen, need to be conserved and managed
- Opportunity to use locally grown trees from local seed sources
- Involve children and local schools in tree planting
- Establishment/cultivation methods – how can we be low impact when considering options for planting trees?

### Biodiversity

- Improve biodiversity is key goal, create habitats that are home to more wildlife
- Baseline data and monitoring – is important, how can we share/publish survey data?
- Montane and alpine flora – Corrie Fee, Corrie Sharroch, crags in Glen Prosen all contain rare species.
- Concerns around some protect species declining due to change in land management i.e. wading birds
- Predator control – concerns about the impact in the wider landscape now that predator control no longer being undertaken in Glen Prosen
- Conservation grazing – would like to see farming integrated into land management

### People, communities and economy

- More people employed and living in the glens – can they be linked to jobs in holistic land management?
- Link in with other local groups e.g Sustainable Kirriemuir, Angus Rural Partnership, Angus Glens Forum – work together to help bring about community benefit from landscape scale restoration
- Affordable housing in the glens – don't sell houses, rent them to local people

### Recreation and tourism

- Create more low level, inclusive trails
- Access for foraging, geocaching, fell running, mountain biking, hiking, horse riding
- Guided walks, volunteer opportunities and online visitor information
- Provide information up front about new fencing and gates to allow people to plan their access
- Need to provide suitable gated access through electric fences for horse riders – make these wide enough, bury electric wire, to be safe.

## Summary of feedback

The table below shows what action we are taking to consider and address feedback received from stakeholders and communities over the last 18 months, for the Land Management Plan and the wider Angus Glen Programme:

Feedback from stakeholders and communities	What we are doing about it
Woodland creation and establishment plans	Our woodland creation plans on our web page explain where we will be planting trees and what species – it is important to also take into consideration the role of natural regeneration and that we will be leaving lots of space for trees to grow into the site over time. The detailed plans for woodland creation are being submitted to Scottish Forestry in Sept 2025 and will be on their EIA screening public register in autumn 2025.
Deer management and fencing – there needs to be a balance between amount of fencing and culling of deer	We have revised our fencing plans to make optimum use of the existing fencing on site, using <i>electric offset stock fences</i> where possible, and upgrading existing stock fences to <i>upland deer fences</i> where needed. All fences will be marked with wooden canes to reduce the risk of bird-strike. A reduction deer cull will still be required on 906ha of open ground at the northern end of the site.
Wildfire – concerns about risk of wildfire increasing with change in land management due to increased fuel load and visitor access.	We are developing a fire-plan that sets out how we will reduce the risk of wildfire starting and spreading as vegetation develops and changes across the site. We are putting an emergency incident plan in place and will be consulting on this with stakeholders in 2025.
Baseline data sharing – FLS should be transparent and enable public and stakeholders to see the baseline and monitoring information and share data where available.	Ecological surveys have helped us to understand the newly acquired land in Glen Prosen, and to shape our land management plan. We are setting up a monitoring strategy to measure change over time. We will publish a summary of all our surveys in 2025.
Glens community, jobs, housing, economy – desire to see positive impact from change in land management, more activity and more people living and working in the glens.	Business/community leases are being finalized on several buildings in the glen, which will bring jobs and people into the glen. There are two residential tenancies in place. We are working with Scottish Land Commission and Cairngorms National Park to explore ways in which community benefit can be created through the project.
Predators and changing species – the FLS policy is not to undertake predator control, concerns raised that this may impact some protected species	As a more natural ecosystem is restored there will be a significant period of adjustment and change. We will use an evidence-based approach to identify and

	protect important species and monitor changes as the site and the project develops.
Access and recreation – need to maintain open access in Glen Prosen through deer fenced enclosures. Maintain and re-open trails in Glen Doll.	We are including access gates and stiles throughout our deer fencing plans. We are looking to create low level informal access in the woodland creation areas so that visitors can experience and be informed about the project. A new car park will be created by 2030. Visitor information and interpretation will be installed in the next year.
Flood mitigation – change in land use and woodland creation could contribute towards downstream flood mitigation. Also need to be aware of potential negative impacts of timber felling in the catchment and protect sensitive areas such as the River South Esk SAC.	We are liaising with SEPA to better understand the potential impacts for downstream flood points and planning our land management to slow the flow of water and hold more water in the upper catchment by blocking drains and restoring peatland and upland fen/bog habitats.
Community engagement – strong need to keep local community involved and communication open, not only about future plans but also current activities.	We are keeping in touch with community and stakeholder contacts via an email newsletter, attending and providing updates to the Kirriemuir Landward East Community Council, as well as meeting with local residents in Glen Prosen village hall and posting updates on the Glen Prosen village notice board and updating our web pages.

## Next steps

This final phase of consultation has provided valuable feedback from stakeholders, communities and visitors in and around Glen Prosen and Glen Doll. The information we have received will be used to fine tune our plans before submitting to the regulator Scottish Forestry later in 2025.