

Glen Urquhart Land Management Plan Summary

What's important in Glen Urquhart?

- Sustainable timber production
- Restoration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)
- Riparian management of the Rivers Enrick and Coiltie
- Recreational use of Craigmony, Polmailly and the extensive road network within the forest.
- 3rd rotation of non-native conifers using suitable alternative species.
- The forest in the landscape on either side of Glen Urquhart and as a back drop to Loch Meiklie.
- Renewable energy (hydro) schemes.

Vision

To create a more diverse forest with a greater range of species, progressively restoring native woodland while maintaining timber productivity. The forest designed and managed to contribute towards minimising flood risk to Drumnadrochit and to provide an attractive environment for walking, particularly along the Affric- Kintail Way. Greater opportunities provided for the local community to get involved in the forest and closer collaboration with neighbouring woodland owners.

Glen Urquhart Land Management Plan objectives:

- The Restoration of pinewood, broadleaf woodland and open habitat within Glen Urquhart.
- Provide opportunities for sustainable rural development through renewables projects and wood fuel production.
- Manage the forest sympathetically to the landscape and improve the visitor experience.
- Timber production, optimise the productive potential of the existing forest and develop native timber production over the long term.
- Reduce risk to people and the environment through sustainable forest management, whilst building resilience for a changing climate.

Total Plan Area	2,680 ha
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Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals

Species Breakdown	2016 (current)	2026 (end of plan period)
Sitka spruce	24%	23%
Scots pine	22%	21%
Larch and other conifers	21%	19%
Lodgepole pine	8%	2%
Broadleaves	5%	15%
Open space	20%	20%

Planned Operations	2016 – 2026 plan period
Felling	512 ha
Thinning	0 ha
Restocking	553 ha
New planting	0 ha
Road construction	1,900 m
Road upgrades	0 ha
PAWS restoration	120 ha

Significant Environment/Conservation Features	
Designated sites Minimum Intervention Natural Reserve	0 ha 5% of area 0% of area
Pearl bordered fritillary butterfly Juniper Black Grouse Great spotted woodpecker Pine marten	Present in Polmailly All present in forest.

Critical Success Factors:

- Sustainable softwood timber production.
- Restructure even aged forest through phased clearfelling.
- Reduce inoculum levels and the potential for DNB to spread within the Plan area by targeting badly infected stands for felling in the next two phases and remove the majority of Lodgepole pine stands over the next 20 years.
- Diversify species composition through restocking and natural regeneration following clearfell. Silvicultural mixtures will be favoured within the productive conifer forest and native woodland restoration will be matched to the site type.
- Reduce risk of extreme weather events, to people and property, associated with the forest through the work of the A82 Project.
- Invest in a phased programme of forest road extensions (Buntait) and necessary upgrade works in order to facilitate timber harvesting
- Restore some 400 ha to native woodland over the next 50 years
- Improve habitat linkage and preserve water quality through long-term Riparian woodland restoration along tributaries of the River Enrick.
- Use Low Impact Silvicultural Systems where appropriate in sensitive locations along the Enrick catchment.
- Continue monitoring of key species present in the area, black grouse, red squirrel, juniper, goshawk, osprey and wood ant.
- Undertake field surveys to quantify montane scrub species on the open hill ground and build future management prescriptions.
- Adapt & apply management techniques following, best practice, to improve habitat for vulnerable and protected species.

Consultation and Further Information:

The village of Drumnadrochit and the small communities of Milton, Balnain and Shenval are the main settlements in this area and they fall within the Aird and Loch Ness Ward 13 of Highland Council Region. This area is represented by Glen Urquhart Community Council.

IRS Forest District presented draft proposals to Glen Urquhart CC in October 2015.

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

Location Map

