Appendix:

Land Management Plan Brief

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1. Key background information

Introduction

Torran land management plan (LMP) covers the Torran Farm land acquisition which was completed in April 2019. It is 575Ha and lies to the west of Loch Awe in Argyll & Bute local authority, north of Ford village next to Torran Bay.

This land is an acquisition to Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) which was formerly farm land. This will be the first land management plan produced by FLS for Torran, identifying objectives and planting proposals.

The land lies within a prominent area of landscape next to Loch Awe and adjoining Inverliever Forest. The West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) runs through the area providing a strategic link for timber lorries. A minor road runs along the southern boundary from Ford to Kilchrenan (C30) providing local access to villages as well as tourist route for visitors to the area.

Silvicultural Potential

Elevation ranges from around 33m near to the shores of Loch Awe to 348m at the top of Cruach an Eachlaich. The geography ranges from flat plateaus, rocky outcrops/peaks and rolling moorland and grassland. The solid geology comprises Dalradian schists, with rock outcrops. The soils consist of brown earths on the lower elevations with gleys and iron pans on the upper and deep peat in the plateau areas.

The climate for Torran can be described as “cool, wet”, with continentality low (4 to 5). The annual mean temperature for the region is in the range 9.5 °C to 9.9 °C , with the prevailing wind direction being south west off the Atlantic. Climate change predictions suggest that the climate will become generally warmer and wetter, with more extreme rainfall events and storms.

Existing crop

The area has been used for farmland in the past and has occasional natural regen conifer spread across. There are areas of broadleaves established along the southern road side edge as well as following some of the riparian corridors.

Operational Access

The West Loch Awe Timber Haul Route (WLATHR) runs through the area connecting Torran with Salachry and Inverliever. There is also a light vehicle track at Inverliever running through the lower area back towards Torran Bay, as well as a small track running north along the eastern boundary.

Natural Environment

The site ranges from craggy tops to lowland ancient woodland. There are the following rock peaks;

* Cruach an Eachlaich 348m
* Sron na Saobhaidhe 316m
* Dun Dubh 301m
* Cruach nan Dearc 270m
* Cnocan a’ Chaorainn 209m

The site has numerous habitats including open rushy pasture, bracken and peat bogs to upland heath, willow scrub and ancient woodland.

Important species present Black grouse….. enviro surveys proposed spring/summer 2021

An area in the middle of the site is the public water catchment for Torran/Ford. Various water courses run down from the area into Loch Awe, including Allt Garbh and Allt na Cill

Cultural Environment

There are various heritage features from Cairns and Duns to sheepfolds and one Scheduled Monument (SM), Dun Toiseach.

Enviro surveys proposed spring/summer 2021 to identify heritage features.

Community Use

One core path (C30) runs along the southern boundary of the site. The minor road is a vital link for local villages as well as tourists to the area. Local communities use the lower track which runs through the site from Torran to Inverliever.

Neighbouring reservoirs/fisheries

There are a small number of water supply points serving neighbouring properties as well as the public water catchment for Ford.

Loch Awe is a popular fishing destination for local people and tourists who travel the area to fish. The watercourses on Torran all run into Loch Awe.

Wildlife

There are low numbers of Roe deer currently grazing and passing over the land. Occasionally Red deer are seen crossing in from the neighbouring Ford wood and Inverliever Forest. Sika deer have been present in Ford wood and are present in Inverliever forest, so it would be inevitable they would appear on Torran also. FLS wildlife management teams monitor and control the herbivore.

As Torran is an acquisition there is limited suitable fencing around the boundary of the site. There is established forest in Inverliever forest, along the north eastern boundary, as well as a mix of standing conifer and recently planted conifer in Ford Wood.

Boundary fencing survey due by aug 2021

2. Strategic drivers

To realise the vision as set out in the Scottish Forestry Strategy 2019-2029, six priorities for action have been identified for implementation:

* Ensuring forests and woodlands are sustainably managed
* Expanding the area of forests and woodlands, recognising wider land-use objectives
* Improving efficiency and productivity, and developing markets
* Increasing the adaptability and resilience of forests and woodlands
* Enhancing the environmental benefits provided by forests and woodlands
* Engaging more people, communities and businesses in the creation, management and use of forests and woodlands

To demonstrate how we will have regard to the Forestry Strategy in our work, we have identified the relevant Forestry Strategy ‘Priorities for Action’ in our Corporate Outcomes section of the FLS Corporate Plan 2019-2022. These, alongside key issues and site specific challenges, have informed our draft land management objectives, as illustrated in Table 12 below.

3. Draft land management plan objectives

* Identify and plant productive crop areas, with suitable species for soil/climate/diversity.
* Establish a suitable road access for establishment and management.
* Restore and maintain priority habitat areas.
* Protect and enhance ancient woodland areas, providing linkages between.
* Protect historical features.
* Provide scope and opportunity for potential increase recreational use by local communities.

Table 12 – Relationship between relevant corporate outcomes and the site specific draft LMP objectives

| Corporate Outcomes Relevant to LMP | Operational Actions To Deliver Outcome Relevant to LMP | Draft LMP Objectives |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Outcome 1: Supporting a Sustainable Rural Economy   FLS supports a sustainable rural economy by managing the national forests and land in a way that encourages sustainable business growth, development opportunities, jobs and investments. | * Managing the national forests and land in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to ensure that timber and other products produced by FLS are guaranteed to be from a sustainably managed resource * Developing our forest planning processes to ensure long-term sustainable productivity of the national forests and land  Providing a sustainable supply of timber to Scotland’s timber processing sector  Implementing the Restocking Strategy for the national forests and land and develop a new plant and seed supply strategy * Supporting Scottish tourism and the visitor economy through the provision of visitor attractions * Support the venison processing sector through our deer management | * Identify and plant productive crop areas. * Plan road access to establish and manage the trees/land. |
| Outcome 2: Looking after Scotland’s national forests and land   Scotland’s national forests and land are looked after; biodiversity is protected and enhanced; and more environmental services are provided to people. | * Managing the national forests and land to further the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity * Maintaining and enhancing our work on peatland restoration * Collaborating with partners on integrated landscape-scale approaches to habitat management and restoration * Continuing to implement the Larch Strategy in order to reduce the rate of expansion of Phytophthora ramorum | * Identify, restore and maintain priority habitats. * Restore and maintain areas of bog habitat (reduce carbon release, diversify habitat). * Protect historical features. * Protect and enhance native woodland areas. |
| Outcome 3: National forests and land for visitors and communities  Everyone can visit and enjoy Scotland’s national forests and land to connect with nature, have fun, benefit their health and wellbeing and have the opportunity to engage in our community decision making. | * Maintaining walking and biking trails to promote fun in the outdoors, focussing on improving entry level experiences for everyone to enjoy and gain health benefits * Continuing to remove barriers to ensure that people from all backgrounds can and do access the full range of benefits of the national forests and land * Enabling outdoor learning and encouraging schools and community groups to make use of the national forests and land * Continuing to engage communities in decisions relating to the management of the national forests and land * Continuing to support community empowerment by enabling communities to make use of the national forests and land to benefit their communities | * Provide for potential increased use by local community and tourists. |

4. Stakeholders

Argyll & Bute Council- Planning/Access/Roads

Scottish Forestry (SF)

Nature Scot

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

Scottish Water (SW)

Dunadd Community Council

Loch Awe Improvement Association (LAIA)

Argyll Fisheries Trust

Historic Environment Scotland (HES)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Argyll Timber Transport Group (ATTG)

Confederation of forest industries (Confor)

Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate (SGRPID)

West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)

Scottish Wildlife Trust

British Dragonfly Society

Butterfly Conservation Society

Neighbours