



Opportunities and constraints map text

Kintyre Goose Roosts SSSI/SPA

Opportunities

Opportunity to build in 100 m open buffer around Lussa Loch to help protect geese.

Constraints

Management of the open buffer around the loch will require funding. Existing mature groups of larch on the western shore would require felling. The former Gobagrennan grazing would require management to maintain a short grass sward and re-fencing.

Deep peat

Opportunities

Potential to restore a significant area of deep peat. Restoration would create strong open habitat linkages.

Constraints

Full restoration would result in the loss of most of the forest. The potential area for restoration is being increasingly impacted by windfarms. Areas with young or poorly grown conifers or no access are expensive to restore. Funding streams in the future are uncertain.

Plant health

Opportunities

Opportunity to build in further measures to remove infected larch and plan for its replacement.

Constraints

Most remaining larch will cost money to fell or is already dead.

Water

Opportunities

New policy guidance to identify and protect private water supplies. Improved buffers can be built into the plan.

Constraints

There are numerous water supplies and several hydro-schemes needing protection. It may not be possible to identify all the private water supplies.

Access

Opportunities

The forest road network is reasonably complete. The plan can seek approval for final additions whilst reviewing existing proposals. Collaborative opportunities may arise with windfarm companies. Shared use of windfarm access reduces costs and aids access.

Constraints

Roading is expensive. The value of timber to be felled may not justify road expenditure. Access to approved felling coupes may be restricted by windfarm developments. Many of the existing roads require upgrading. The Gobagrennan public road is severely restricted for timber haulage. The Lussa Water SSE bridge is unsafe for timber traffic. The public road to Corrylach is unclassified and also serves as part of the Kintyre Way. There is a shortage of good quality stone in the forest.

Species diversity and climate

Opportunities

Improved soil information has aided the selection of suitable species, which can also aid delivery of diversity. A rationalised list of minor conifer species choices to plant will help reduce costs and align more closely with markets.

Constraints

Soils and exposure severely limit the use of broadleaves and minor conifer species. Broadleaved regeneration is very limited and challenging across the western half of the forest. Disease has removed most of the larch, which added significant visual diversity to the forest in key landscape areas.

Consented windfarms

Opportunities

Opportunity to review management options in areas around leased areas, including peatland restoration and commercial restocking.

Constraints

Future windfarm repowering creates uncertainty surrounding viable projects

Timber production

Opportunities

Future timber productivity can be enhanced by not restocking poorer sites. Revised felling dates can help address adjacency issues and windblow risk. Biomass marketing opportunities may arise to help deal with low value crops and diseased larch.

Constraints

Some coupes are proving difficult to market due to cost and environmental constraints. Some planned felling has not taken place due to adjacency issues caused by delayed restocking. Windblow is an ongoing issue.