

Appendix I: Consultation record

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
Scottish Forestry	30/01/2020	None received		
Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park	30/01/2020	12/02/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Modification to the harsh transition between the forest and unforested upper land should be implemented, these opportunities should include creating an improved landscape fit of the productive conifer restocking, the establishment of low density native woodland which would both provide benefits for black grouse along with reducing the risk of non-native conifers seed establishment on the unforested upper land. * There are areas on the unforested upper land which have established spruce regeneration , some of which is on deep peat and as such should be removed as a priority, followed by spruce outwith productive area including open ground prior to it reaching coning age. * Notwithstanding the dominant objective of productive conifer production the LMP area should include a FHN which connects the unforested upper land to riparian areas and other habitats. This FHN should also link with adjacent LMP FHNs as well. * There should be sufficient deer management to enable appropriate species choice based soils and altitude as there should be establishment of diverse conifer and broadleaves along with the Sitka spruce. Any landscape scale issues with deer management could be raised at the East Loch Lomond land management forum to enable a collaborative approach to be agreed. * The restocking of any areas of poorly growing conifer due to deep peat should be considered against the guidance regarding restocking on deep peat https://forestry.gov.scot/publications/1-deciding-future-management-options-for-afforested-deep-peatland/download * The design of any felling and restocking should be assess from a number of viewpoints it is suggested that these include Craigmore above Aberfoyle. * It is understood that there are proposed waymarked "gravel bike" routes which may overlap with the plan area. 	<p>It is accepted that previous forestry practices have often left forestry borders that appear hard in transition, modern forestry practice seeks to redress this. Included in each of the edge coupes is a larger than normal proportion of open space, this is to allow the development of scalloped edges. This cannot always be shown on the restock map to allow for varying site conditions, better understood once the exiting trees have been removed, however it is inferred in the text and integral to modern practices. Additionally by utilising pioneering broadleaf species which produce fruiting bodies attractive to wildlife, it is intended that native species will be spread further through transition/migration.</p> <p>Many of the upland open habitats within the plan have been and are largely inaccessible to effective regen removal. The planning of ATV routes now extend up to open hill edge, giving greater accessibility to staff and contractors to effect regen removal where it is detrimental to the habitat.</p> <p>The FHN design established under the previous plan has remained in place for this plan, the only changes have come from species and propagation choices. Through discussion within FLS it was agreed that pioneering species delivered through planting was the most effective way to ensure suitable FHN establishment.</p> <p>Deer management in this area is shared between FLS staff and a contract resource, indications show that management over the last plan period has been effective and FLS intend to build on that success over the next plan period.</p> <p>Some areas of unproductive ground have been identified within development of this plan, including an area of peatland currently forested. These areas have been identified within the restock proposals for a non-timber productive future. Work will now begin on developing a restoration plan for the area of peatland, where timber removals plans can be advanced and an effective management plan enacted.</p> <p>The viewpoints of significance have been explored in development of the plan, the result is the identification of Craigmore and decent of the Ben Lomond tourist path, as can be seen on Map M8. Due to the current travel restrictions it has not been possible to obtain up to date imagery from Ben Lomond however historic imagery has been used to provide visualisations.</p> <p>FLS Visitor Services have confirmed that there are no plans to established waymarked routes through the plan area this time.</p>
CONFOR	30/01/2020	None received		

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
RSPB	30/01/2020	30/01/2020	None. A request was made to have a wider meeting with FLS to discuss more regional priorities.	A meeting has been set up to meet the request for a wider meeting at which it is hoped to receive some more plan specific feedback. (Postponed due to 2020/21 pandemic)
Scottish Water	30/01/2020	11/02/2020	There are important assets located within the proposed area and these assets will need to be protected accordingly. A site meeting is requested to discuss how we protect these assets and there is some work that needs to be undertaken by yourselves.	A site meeting with Scottish Water was held to discuss the access to coupe 36020, requiring new infrastructure for FLS to access timber safely. A concept was agreed in principle, with detail to be discussed closer to the felling date. The concept agreed upon is detailed within this plan.
SEPA	30/01/2020	31/01/2020	None. The email confirms SEPA no longer consult on non-specific issues and asks that LMP guidance follow UKFS and Forestry Commission best practice.	Following the original general scoping request, specific consultation with SEPA was made in regard to the Duchray Catchment and water acidity. The issue of water acidity was raised from FLS internal consultation, not by external parties. As directed by SEPA and Forest Research during specific consultation, FLS will follow best practice for "Managing Forests in Acid Sensitive Water Catchments" FCPG023.
SNH/Nature Scot	30/01/2020	11/02/2020	Original scoping response partially lost in FLS ERDM system error, replacement copy requested from Nature Scot 28/4/2021. Response originally received highlights the importance of the adjacent Ben Lomond SSSI and the requirement to control non-native coniferous spread.	The majority of the Ben Lomond SSSI borders the Beinn Bhan LMP, this plan therefore has limited effect on the SSSI itself, though more so on the adjacent land. As part of the previous plan the treeline adjacent to the SSSI was reduced from the boundary as part of a scalloping exercise and the adjacent Sitka Spruce removed. Under the previous plan allowance was made for ATV tracks that extend to the upper boundary, this improved access should allow for monitoring and periodic removal of non-native natural regeneration. Additionally the restocked tree line is slightly lowered from the previous one, allowing for increased separation from the SSSI, though tree species choice at this location and altitude is extremely limited and remains predominantly Sitka Spruce.
SSE	30/01/2020	None received		
Scottish Power	30/01/2020	None received		
Stirling District Council (Roads)	30/01/2020	None received		

Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forestry and Land Scotland Response
Mountaineering Scotland	30/01/2020	05/03/2020	<p>Although they are most likely accessed from the west side, public access may benefit from the creation of clear routes through the forest and through deer fencing to the two tops of Beinn Uird and Binnean nan Gobhar. Access may be promoted by forest paths being taken to the edge to allow access to the open hill and on either side, making the forest more permeable for informal recreation.</p> <p>Support for the potential to soften the forest edge facing Ben Lomond.</p> <p>It would be desirable to see the creating of a native broadleaf component alongside the main paths through the woodland for public enjoyment and for biodiversity benefits. This is now accepted practice for riparian habitats and we would wish to see it extended to recreational routes. The alternative is walking through a dense green corridor of commercial plantation until it is felled decades away.</p>	<p>At this time FLS have no plans to extend any existing waymarked routes in the West Loch Ard area, though access is granted under SOAC. Although not waymarked, members of the public are welcome to utilise ATV tracks created to assist in forest management, some of which do lead to the open hill. Due to regular illegal access into the Loch Ard forest area, FLS are not keen to establish clear signage which may encourage illegal users in to sensitive montane habitats. Over time the forest edge will be softened by the usage of modern forestry practice, scalloping of the conifer edge has already been undertaken in the area closest to Ben Lomond.</p> <p>In areas of high public usage, FLS is actively seeking to improve the visitor experience by varying woodland habitat and edge design. This is in line with modern forestry practice and an acceptance that "tunnelling" by conifers can be undesirable. Most FLS woodlands remain part of a portfolio of high production timber forests, due to the nature of forest management techniques there is always a requirement to bring sections of the productive woodland up to roadsides for operational access. As areas around footpaths are felled and restocked, softened edges will become more commonplace.</p>
National Trust for Scotland	30/01/2020	03/02/2020	Acknowledgment of the request was received but no further input was given.	
Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs	30/01/2020	03/02/2020	Acknowledgment of the request was received but no further input was given.	
Scottish Wild Land Group	30/01/2020	None received		
Forth District Salmon Fisheries Board	30/01/2020	None received		
Forth Rivers Trust	30/01/2020	None received		
CLEAR services Ltd. (Lepidoptera)	30/01/2020	None received		
BSBI Plant recorder	30/01/2020	16/02/2020	Confirmation of email was received and a request for further information on the area in question, including a shape file.	A shape file was supplied to the consultee but no further information was received.
Sustrans	30/01/2020	None received		
Strathard Community Council	30/01/2020	03/02/2020	Acknowledged and request to be kept informed.	Updates placed on FLS web pages; closer consultation confounded by Covid pandemic. Draft text provided to SCC and revisions made following a meeting in July 2021.
Gartmore Community Council	30/01/2020	None received		
Raptor Study Group	30/01/2020	None received		
Buchanan Castle Estate	30/01/2020	None received		