



Nether Lochaber LMP Draft Proposals

Draft land management plan objectives

- Glenrigh
 - Continue softwood sawlog production & potential for hardwood production
 - Establish diverse woodland above A82 and Corrychurrachan catchment to increase stability of the upper slopes and reduce the risk of flooding and landslips
 - Prioritise larch removal and windblow clearance over the next 10 years (Phases 1&2)
 - Restore and maintain the valuable fen habitat in Glenrigh
 - Restore high ecological potential Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to native woodland
 - Develop a mixed woodland around the communities of Inchree and Birchbrae to enhance recreation experience
 - Explore opportunities for woodland creation
- Callart
 - Restore high ecological potential PAWS areas to native woodland
 - Transition from non-native conifers to productive broadleaves, especially oak and sycamore, and Scots pine

Glenrigh Management Coupes

Glenrigh Forest will continue as a predominantly commercial conifer woodland and the proposed management coupes in the first ten years will deliver a significant volume of good-quality sawlog timber to the local mill at Kilmallie while also helping to fulfill some of the LMP objectives. The felling coupes in the Corrychurrachan catchment are smaller in size and phased over 15 years to help maintain slope stability and reduce the likelihood of debris flows and flooding affecting the A82. The nearby felling on the steep slopes above the A82 will remove large conifers that pose a threat to the public road and clear up a large area of windblow from a few years ago. There will also be felling near the cemetery to remove mature larch and begin the roadline felling for the proposed Inchree bypass.

Group selection will be used in the coupes near the main car park to remove infected larch trees as necessary but also to create a structurally diverse woodland with many different age classes and species. Minimum intervention will allow us to remove non-native conifers from the waterfall walk and encourage the natural regeneration of birch and other native species.

Further up the glen, larger clearfell coupes are proposed. Access is limited in some areas and will require a new road and numerous road upgrades. Much of the phase 1 and 2 felling around the fen habitat will target the Sitka spruce contributing to non-native regeneration in the fen. There are several proposed long-term retention coupes of large, old Scots pine and other mixed conifers which will provide good habitat for wildlife. Open land adjacent to the Onich and North Ballachullish Woods SSSI will be kept clear of non-native regeneration and left as successional open habitat to allow for native woodland regeneration.

Glenrigh Future Forest

Continuing its objectives as a predominantly commercial conifer forest, Glenrigh will see most areas restocked with productive conifers such as Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas fir, western red cedar, and noble fir. There is also scope for alternate productive conifer species in lesser quantities such as coast redwood, grand fir, and Pacific silver fir. Mixed conifers with limited seed rain will be restocked around the fen and the Onich to North Ballachullish Woods SSSI to prevent non-native seeding into these valuable habitats.

Despite the focus on commercial conifers, there are also large areas of native woodland proposed, especially in PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites), the steep slopes above the A82, and much of the lower slopes near the waterfall walk. Riparian zones around Abhainn Rìgh and other watercourses will also be restocked with mixed broadleaves or left to natural regeneration if enough seed trees are present. A swathe of Scots pine/birch upland forest across the middle and upper slopes of Ruinn Dubh is proposed but establishing this lower-density woodland may prove difficult with current deer and sheep pressure.

Callart Management Coupes

Callart Forest will continue its transition to native woodland with four felling coupes proposed for the first ten years. Like Glenrigh, these coupes will deliver a large volume of quality sawlog timber to the local mill in Kilmallie. Some areas that have already been felled in the last ten years have shown extraordinary levels of natural regeneration of birch and other native species and these will continue to be managed as areas of minimum intervention to allow for the future removal of any non-native species that may pop up.

Callart Future Forest

Callart Forest will see a gradual transition to native woodland over several decades of felling and targeted management of non-native regeneration. Reflecting the Gaelic placenames of the area much of the lower slopes will be transformed into an oak-dominated woodland, transitioning to

mixed native broadleaves on the mid-slopes and a lower-density Scots pine/birch mixture on the upper slopes. Long term landscape-scale deer management in collaboration with nearby landowners will allow the native woodland to quickly spread beyond the block boundaries and improve connectivity between the SSSI to the west and other patches of native woodland to the east.

Planned Roads

Glenrigh has several sections of planned road proposed within the lifetime of this plan. The first section of the Inchree Bypass will link the GR3 road near the cemetery with GR10 which comes up from Birchbrae. This first link in the bypass is proposed to be built in 2027/28 and will allow timber taken from coupes above the A82 and the Corrychurrachan catchment to be hauled out of the forest exclusively on forest roads rather than passing through Birchbrae. The second leg of the Inchree Bypass is proposed for 2028/29 and once completed will bring all timber haulage out via forest roads rather than passing through Inchree. Another planned road is proposed for 2027/28 and will access coupes above Gleann Seileach and to the east. Road upgrades to GR21 east of Sron an Uinnsinn will repair the surface to allow future access to nearby felling coupes.

Callart has no new planned roads but there may be areas of road upgrades (such as resurfacing, grading, etc.) where necessary to support felling operations.