

Objective 1:
 Manage the forest to provide the framework for a wide range of recreational activities and enhanced landscape experience, with an emphasis on The Cobbler path and associated routes & views from the A83. This has a significant impact on the Local and National economy due to the high visitor numbers. Create areas of stable woodland around key recreational routes where frequency of interventions is minimised. Enhance the environment around bouldering sites (mainly in North Glen Croe).

Opportunity:
 Past restructuring in along Loch Long has created a generally high quality and diverse landscape. Future restructuring offers the opportunity to address remaining landscape issues on the upper margin & on the main mountain spur dropping to Ardgarten, with potential for CCF to be developed over the plan period & subsequent rotations. The economic contribution the forest could deliver to the potential development of the Torpedo Base as a recreational facility could be accommodated with external funding. Integrate the LMP proposals with detailed recreational microsite planning. Longer term objective of creating a recreational environment where management interventions are minimised is possible.

Constraints:
 Large areas of mature unthinned crop have limited management options and the boundaries conflict with landform. Much of the key Cobbler path route is bounded by young SS with potential access difficulties for harvesting and intervention. While small scale interventions can address most of the issues, a longer term restructuring of this area to maximise the recreational/landscape value and minimise the frequency of interventions will need to be considered in the longer term. Larch is a strong landscape element in this area and may be affected by disease impacts.



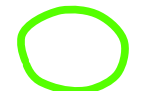
Cowal & Trossachs Forest District

Glen Croe Land Management Plan

M18: Loch Long & Key Summits. Opportunities & Constraints

- Legend**
- Loch Long & Key Summits Management Zone
 - LMP area outwith Management Zone
 - Planned Forest Roads
 - Existing Forest Roads

Objective 2:
 Enhance the recreational, ecological & landscape value of the open hill & the fit of the existing woodland by a landscape scale expansion of mixed woodland above the treeline by natural processes.



Opportunity:
 A reduction in deer pressure offers the scope to deliver an expansion in mixed woodland area including liberating suppressed montane shrubs. Natural processes have the potential to create woodland at low cost and sympathetically to landform. The foreshortening of the middle hill and the prominence of the steep upper slopes reduces the potential for woodland expansion to radically alter the landscape balance. An expansion of mixed open woodland has the potential to increase prey availability for Golden Eagles. Roe deer in particular are ideally suited to the forest margin, and could deliver a new live prey resource to Golden Eagles during the crucial nesting period.

Constraints:
 While an element of SS within the expanded woodland would not be detrimental, the balance of native, SS and open space may be suboptimal, hard to predict and difficult to manage. The increased deer control required to create the opportunity for woodland expansion would create a short term glut of carrion for eagles, but in the longer term may reduce carrion feed availability. While the condition of breeding pairs (and hence breeding success) is a function of carrion/live prey available across the winter, a key determinant of chicks reared is the availability of live prey during the breeding season. The proposed expansion of open mixed woodland, could increase both prey availability at a critical time (Roe deer, Fox, Woodcock, Black Grouse & nesting birds) and the potential for surprise capture.

