

Summary of Drynachan Land Management Plan 2016 -2026 Proposals

Drynachan forest lies to the north of the village of Invergarry above Loch Oich. The Great Glen Way passes through the forest. The land covered by the plan is a mixture of commercial forest, predominantly pine, and mixed woodland with some old policy type woodland. Some of the first rotation conifer has been felled and restocked. Some of the felled areas are being returning to native broadleaf woodland.

The plan objective is to continue with a mixed woodland of conifer and broadleaf species that are suitable for the growing conditions. Phased felling will continue to create a more diverse age structure. Where access and stand stability will allow, it is the intention to increase the amount of thinning and manage some of the better stands under a form of continuous cover forestry. The role of the forest as a backdrop to the village and the near view of the A82 is also reflected in the plan.

The Drynachan Land Management Plan was approved on 9th September 2016 and covers the period 2016 to 2026.

Total Plan Area	785ha
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Species breakdown	Current	End of the plan period (2035)
Primary species: LP	42%	40%
Secondary species: SP	16%	16%
Native broadleaf	3%	5%
Open space	21%	22%

Planned operations	2016 - 2026
Felling	32.9ha
Thinning	50ha
Restock	32.9ha
New planting	0 ha
Road construction	1400 m
Road upgrade	0 m

Significant environment/ Conservation features	
Designated sites	None. Loch Lundie – 400m to west of the forest is a SPA
Vulnerable species populations	Black grouse lek to north of the Forest. Red squirrel and woodant within the forest
A listed buildings	None
Minimum intervention & natural reserve	10ha of conifer (SP) 14ha of native broadleaf

Critical Success Factors

- The successful implementation of LISS will depend on the stability of the current crop. Some of the mature crop may already be passed the window of opportunity.
- Access for timber extraction is also critical to being able to achieve the early thinning – the site is again marginal due to the roughness of the terrain and also the ability to attract funding for a cost operation.
- Co-operation of the highways authority and SSE for work on trees in the proximity of the A82 and the Great Glen Way is necessary for safe working.
- Ongoing effective deer population management will be required to allow the successful establishment of natural regeneration of native species in the restoration areas.
- The design and species selection for the future forest proves to be resilient against future changes in the climate and the nature of pest and disease

Consultation and Further Information

During the development of this plan we have consulted publically including meetings with the local community representatives and stakeholders known to have an interest in this plan area. For further information on the plan please contact the Forest Planning team at Forestry Commission Scotland on 0300 067 6870 or lochaber@forestry.gsi.gov.uk