



17th January 2023

8 Fodderty Way
Dingwall Business Park
Dingwall
IV15 9XB

T: 01997 420040
www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk

Dear Consultee,

Kilmartin – Long-term Forest Plan Consultation

A long-term forest plan is currently being written for Kilmartin Forest near Drumnadrochit. You have been identified as a consultee for the scoping process as you may have an interest in the forest. This means that your comments and concerns relating to the proposed forest plan need to be considered within the plans management objectives and proposed forest operations and activities. A summary of the proposed plan and its key objectives are included on the following pages, included with this is a concept map of the forest.

All proposed management objectives and forest operations in this plan adhere to and are compliant with the UK Forestry Standard and will be considered for UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) to produce Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and/or Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) certified wood.

The consultation period for scoping this long-term forest plan is 30-days. Please provide a response by 16/02/2023 to Isla Campbell using the below contact information:

isla.campbell@scottishwoodlands.co.uk or FAO Isla Campbell, Scottish Woodlands Ltd, 8 Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Isla Campbell

Assistant Forest Manager

E: isla.campbell@scottishwoodlands.co.uk

M: 07587 094 331 / Tel: 01997 420040



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Riccarton
Edinburgh EH14 4AP
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Location

Located six miles west of Drumnadrochit on Loch Ness-side, Kilmartin Forest Plan area extends to 665.42 hectares. The main access grid reference point is NH424 309 (please refer to location plan) the nearest post code is IV63 6TN.

Site Summary

The forest is a commercial conifer plantation, comprised of predominantly a 50/50 mix (at time of planting) of Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine, with areas of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Larch. The commercial conifer species extend to 378 ha and were planted between 1988-1990 making the crop 32-34 years old. There is native broadleaf woodland, which originates from around the 1900's, disbursed among the conifer compartments and along the watercourses. There is a large area of hill ground at the north of the property and to the east of the main watercourses which run through the middle of the forest. This hill ground provides a softer transition from the commercial areas of crop into moorland which has several older growth Scots pine and scattered birch. A good network of forest roads exists in the forest, extending to a distance of 6km. Sections of the road will require upgrading and remedial works to bring them up to standard for hauling timber. The forest and hill ground holds a strong deer population with good shelter in the trees and browsing on the hill. This population will require management to ensure establishment of replanted areas post felling. The proposal to achieve this is through the use of deer fencing to exclude deer and increased control efforts through shooting.

Since planting and establishment, the commercial conifers have not been actively managed under a formal forest plan. Now that the crop is reaching maturity it is proposed that phases of clear felling over the next 10 years will take place with a view to creating diversity within the woodland. Phased felling will increase age diversity within the woodland through restocking and species selection can contribute to species diversity.

There are known constraints and sensitivities in the forest, these have been identified on the concept map. In summary this includes archaeological sites, shared access roads and the possibility of protected species.

Long-Term Forest Plan Objectives

- Restructure plantations & retain woodland cover
- Generate a financial return
- Maintain and enhance the landscape
- Enhance biodiversity
- Manage responsible access

Key issues to be addressed

Feature/Impact	Mitigation
Protected species	There is potential for protected species to be present within the forest. This may include red squirrels are known to exist in the locality. Pre-operational wildlife walkovers and surveys will be undertaken before felling or other forest operations commence. Sensitive locations, i.e. nests, burrows etc, will be identified and operations planned to maintain adequate buffers as required. Where possible, habitats will be improved during restructuring through tree species selection, open ground planning, and habitat design.
Archaeology	There are unscheduled archaeological features within the forest. They will be provided UKFS recommended consideration including buffering during forest operations. Sites previously unknown that are discovered during operations will be notified to the local authority.
Responsibility for shared access	Shared access road will need to be maintained during timber haulage operations to ensure the road is kept in adequate condition. Damage to the road and disruption during timber haulage operations can be limited by speaking to neighbours, operational timings and use of appropriate signage.