

West Argyll Forest District

South Knapdale Forest Design Plan
Concept Map

Scale: 1:30,000

Date: January 2012

Legend

proposed roads

DESCRIPTION

- Unapproved
- For approval
- Approved

Forest roads

<all other values>

CLASSIFICATION

- Class A
- Class B
- Class C
- Restricted
- Transfer Point
- Unclassified
- Unassigned
- Blocks

New haul route link with Knapdale will be built in Phase 2, to provide outlet from Knapdale in case there are problems hauling over the canal bridge at Cairnbaan. The route may also offer long distance walking and cycling opportunities.

Black grouse habitat will be enhanced by the planting of groups of larch around upper edges, heather management and thinning of unproductive checked conifers, subject to funding and in accordance with district strategy. Inverneil will take priority.

SSSI's will be buffered with additional open space or native woodland. Agreed management plans with SNH will continue to be implemented, with rhododendron eradication a priority.

Forests will be restructured, with felling dates determined firstly by terminal height and secondly to comply with adjacency rules. A suitable access infrastructure will be developed to facilitate timber extraction and haulage. Where practical, windblow will be targeted for removal in Phase 1.

Landscape enhancements through species diversification will be made where soils permit to areas of the forest in the public view or bordering primary haul routes. Coupes will be matched to landform and will otherwise respect UKWAS guidance on size.

Sitka spruce will continue as the primary commercial species planted throughout most of the forest areas.

Habitat networks will be developed, linking open riparian corridors and other areas of internal open space with external open habitats. Native woodland networks will be developed through PAWS restoration, linking up existing native woodland fragments and connecting with existing networks on adjoining private estates.

Rhododendron will be eliminated from the forest area, in line with current national policy. Western hemlock spread will be contained and removed from native woodland areas.

The plan does not take into consideration potential windfarm developments by EON and Scottish Power in Inverneil and Torinturk as their plans are not sufficiently progressed as yet. FC policy will be in accordance with Scottish government policy and subject to the usual planning processes.

Forest practice will comply with UKWAS guidance, to maintain certificated status of FC woodlands.

Legend - Species by largest component

- Sitka spruce (SS)
- Scots pine (SP)
- Larch sp (EL/HL/JL)
- Norway spruce (NS)
- Mixed/ other conifers (MC/XC)
- Oak (OK)
- Beech (BE)
- Mixed/ other broadleaves (MB/XB)
- Open land

Policy is for full PAWS restoration, which will be reflected in the plan. Natural regeneration will be the preferred method of establishment, but commercial broadleaves may be planted where seed sources are lacking and sites are suitable.

Scheduled monuments in Torinturk will be managed in accordance with agreed management plans with Historic Scotland. All other archaeological sites will be managed in accordance with FD policy and UKWAS guidance.