

East Loch Ard Land Management Plan 2016-2026

Summary of Proposals

The East Loch Ard Land Management Plan was approved by Forestry Commission Scotland on 9th July 2016. The plan combines two previous plans, located to the south west of the village of Aberfoyle in the heart of the Trossachs. The total area is approximately 3500ha and incorporates a wide diversity of habitat and management types, delivering a number of important ecosystem services. There are several key objectives including maintenance of timber production through sustainable clearfelling and replanting of Sitka spruce; increased use of alternative management systems to clearfelling, where feasible; protection and expansion of native broadleaves for productive and non-productive purposes; maintenance and enhancement of recreational infrastructure. In addition the woodlands form part of the core area of the Queen Elizabeth Research Forest where our response to climate change, for example, will be trialled and tested.

Total Plan Area	3519ha
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Species breakdown	Current	End of the plan period
Oak and birch	8.4%	11.6%
Mixed broadleaves (including some oak, birch and non-native species)	3.6%	5.6%
Sitka spruce	44.3%	39.2%
Other conifer (including Norway spruce, larch and Lodgepole pine)	11.4%	11.1%
Scots pine	5.7%	6.4%
Open space	26.6%	26.1%

Planned operations	
Felling	331.4ha of mainly Sitka spruce
Thinning	1050ha
Restock	conifer: 254.6ha; broadleaf 221.9ha
New planting	none
Road construction	approximately 2100m of new road
Road upgrade	none

Significant environment/ Conservation features	
Designated sites	Two Sites of Special Scientific Interest noted for their woodland assemblage.
Vulnerable species populations	Several birds of prey; red squirrels are present and woodlands are part of a wider and very successful water vole re-introduction programme.
A listed buildings	none
Minimum intervention & natural reserve	In 315.1ha of the area only management for conservation purposes will take place.

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:

[Cowal and Trossachs Forest District.](#)

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