

27/04/2026

Scottish Woodlands,
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www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk

Stakeholder Engagement Request – Carse Complex ~ Long-Term Forest Plans and UKWAS Certification

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are working on behalf of the landowners to prepare Long-Term Forest Plans (LTFP) for three separate properties that form part of the wider Carse complex of forests in Argyll. Forest Plans will be prepared for **South Carse, West Carse and Cuildrynoch/Racadal**. Although each of these forest areas are under different ownership, they share the same range of consultees and have broadly similar management objectives. Each individual Forest Plan will set out the management objectives for the forest and planned operations over the next 20 years.

The forests will be managed in line with United Kingdom Forestry Standard (UKFS), and the owners may also wish to align their management with the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) to produce certified timber. Alongside the new Forest Plan, the certification status of the Forest may also be updated.

In addition to the included site summary, key objectives and currently identified key issues relating to the proposed schemes, the following documents are available on Scottish Woodlands website <https://www.scottishwoodlands.co.uk/public-consultations>

- Carse Complex Overview and Timber Transport Map
- A combined properties Current Species Map
- Initial Concept Maps for each property
- LTFP Consultation Infographic (this explains the various stages of the LTFP planning process and scoping/consultation)
- Information for Forest Plan Consultees (this provides some common Q+A's relating to the LTFP process)

If you are unable to access these documents online, please let me know and we will arrange for copies to be posted to you.

We would please ask you to review the information provided and raise any other relevant interests and/or comments that may be useful in the preparation of these plans. Where you have specific comments or interests in a particular plan, please make this obvious in your response.

If you have a private water supply within close proximity to the forest, it is important that we are made aware of the water supply intake location and route to your property in advance, to ensure that the plan proposals can take due consideration of your water supply.



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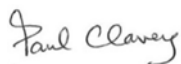


If you wish to comment, or have any other information that may assist us, please write, or email by 26th May 2026. If this date is not suitable, please advise in advance otherwise we will assume you are happy with the proposals and have no comment to make.

Feedback received during this stakeholder engagement process will assist with preparation of the plans and will be included within the final documentation that will be submitted to the regulator, Scottish Forestry, for approval.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Clavey
Forest Planner

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Site Summary

The Carse forest complex forms a large contiguous area of forest southwest of Tarbet and the combined area of forests included in this stakeholder engagement request amounts to approximately 1000 hectares. South Carse is roughly 63ha, West Carse 185ha, and Cuilrynoch/Racadal 755ha. The forests were all planted at broadly the same time during the mid-1980's, and the dominant species are composed of Sitka spruce, mixed conifers including larches and pines, mixed broadleaves and open ground. Access within the forests utilise the internal forest road network through third party agreement and on leaving the complex timber haulage travels north using the B8024 north of Torinturk. There has been limited timber harvesting within the forests to date, and as such they are all predominantly of an even aged mature structure. These crops are now approaching economic maturity, and the forest plans will focus on restructuring these forests over the next 20 years through a phased programme of felling and replanting. Felled areas will be restocked with species that meet current UK Forestry Standards (UKFS), these will include productive conifer trees that are suited to the site as well as an increase in the proportion of native broadleaf planting and open ground.

Key Objectives

1. Maintain a high asset value on the properties through commercial timber productivity.
2. Demonstrate sound silvicultural practice whilst satisfying the requirements of UKFS and UKWAS including increased species and age class diversity.
3. Seek to expand/buffer areas of ancient semi natural woodland and control of invasive species.
4. Protect and enhance all biodiversity, archaeology, cultural, amenity, natural heritage and landscape features as appropriate to their status and/or designation.
5. To actively support and contribute towards sustainable deer management in the local area.
6. To continue to provide public access in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Key Issues and Opportunities

Feature/Impact	Mitigation
Wildlife/Protected Species	There is potential for the following species to be on site though locations of nests/dens/leks are not known: badgers, raptors and red squirrel. Sensitive locations will be identified during wildlife walkover surveys, and operations planned to maintain adequate buffers as required. There is opportunity to improve connectivity and habitats for wildlife through connecting and linking riparian areas, planting native species, incorporating designed open ground and identifying areas for long term retention.
Timber Production and Haulage	Restocking will focus on maintaining productive conifer species where suitable, while bringing the forest management unit (FMU) into current UKFS compliance. Timber extracted from the forest will predominantly use the main internal timber haul route to access the B8024 north of Torinturk which is a timber transport consultation route. Use of the B8024 south of Torinturk may be considered to access some of the timber in the southern end of Cuildrynoch. South of Croc Chaltuinn the B8024 becomes a 'Severely restricted' route and consultation with Argyll Timber Transport Group and properties along this section will be undertaken to explore the viability of using the road to access the forest.
Watercourses	There are several lochs and watercourses present within the forest. UKFS Forest & Water Guidelines will be adhered at all times. During restructuring, there is an opportunity to enhance riparian features through appropriate buffering with open ground and native broadleaves.
Public Access	Access routes through the forest may become unsafe after natural events such as windblow/heavy rainfall. They will be maintained to ensure safe access for all recreation types and paths through active harvesting sites will be managed with appropriate signage to protect public safety according to relevant legislation, guidance and industry best practice.
Deer	Management of deer within the forest will be essential to ensure the establishment of restocked crops and expansion of native woodland due to the absence of a perimeter deer fence. Some deer fencing may be required to ensure the successful establishment of more palatable species.
Landscape	Phased felling and restructuring provides opportunity to enhance the landscape and visual impact of the forest through appropriate forest design and species choice, for example ameliorating straight forest edges and internal coupe design.