

Reelig Glen 2024 Revision

Land Management Plan Brief

Introduction

This brief gives an outline for the Land Management Plan (LMP) revision of the forest managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) in Reelig Glen. In this brief the proposed vision and background will be outlined and the project timeline provided. The purpose of this brief is to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the revision process, the potential changes to management and have the ability to feed in to the process at an early stage.

This document is accompanied by 5 maps;

Map 1 – Location

Map 2 – Key Features

Map 3 – Management Coupes (to be revised)

Map 4 – Future Habitats and Species (to be revised)

Map 5 – Issues and Opportunities - Scoping

1. Project scope

This LMP revision will result in the new plan that will run from 2024-2034. The new plan will realign with the any changes in strategy, policy and guidance implemented over the last decade. FLS will ensure the new plan is in line with [Scotland's Forestry Strategy](#) (2019-2029), [Forestry and Land Scotland's Corporate Plan](#) (2022-2025). It will be delivered in accordance with the [United Kingdom Forestry Standard](#) (UKFS) and the [United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard](#) (UKWAS).

The main outputs from the revision will be the felling and restocking proposals of which the old versions are demonstrated spatially in Maps 3 and 4. We will also be reviewing our approach to the management of designated and environmentally valuable sites, tree health, invasive non-native species, civil engineering work and engagement with local communities. This to be updated through both internal and external consultation as well as desk and site based research.

The LMP process can be split up in four stages; Scoping, Draft, Consultation, Final plan submission. Currently Reelig Glen is in the Scoping stage. At this stage FLS is looking for input from stakeholders regarding their ambitions and plans relating to the National Forests and Land and any issues or opportunities.

Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) applications, renewable agreements and leases will not be part of the LMP revision but FLS is welcoming comments or ideas. These will be processed alongside the LMP revision and where necessary might influence one another.

2. Background

The plan area is situated approximately 10 miles west of Inverness close to the villages of Kirkhill and Beaully. The plan consists of 53.7ha of long-established plantation and ancient semi-natural woodland on both sides of the Moniack Burn (see **Map 1 – Location** and **Map 2 – Key Features**). It is known that much of the site was planted in the early to mid 1800's but the original planting has been felled and re-planted. The recorded date for most of the older conifers is around 1880 but a second phase of planting in the early fifties took place after FCS (now FLS) acquired the land in 1949.

The forest is a unique example of an 18th century policy woodland and has a mild, sheltered and humid climate particularly suitable to tree growth. As such it contains some of Britain's biggest and highest trees with some of the Douglas firs measuring in at over 65 meters.

Due to its age, location and beauty the block is extremely well visited. It is a popular place for both locals and visitors to walk and enjoy and admire the impressive trees. FLS has two waymarked trails in the block as well as interpretation panels about the tree species and history of the glen. Furthermore there has been a long standing partnership with the Woodland Group of Aird Community Trust with which FLS jointly manages the Upper Reelig Community Wood. The group works on increasing biodiversity, recreational access and educational activities within the wood. Regular work parties carry out path maintenance, invasive non-native removal and small scale forest management. They've also previously built a community log cabin, a wooden xylophone and a balance trail in the wood.

The Reelig Glen LMP area furthermore contains (part of) the Moniack Gorge SAC/SSSI.

3. Draft Vision

Reelig Glen will remain an exceptional forest for recreation and conservation. Working with the local community FLS will maintain and look to improve both the recreational and environmental value.

The forest will be managed proactively to promote regeneration to retain age and species diversity and increase forest resilience.

Invasive non-native species will be removed with regular intervals and opportunities will be sought to remove them at landscape scale.

Herbivore pressure will be managed to allow for regeneration of palatable tree species such as oak, holly and ash to safeguard the designated features and to improve biodiversity.

4. Key Issues and Opportunities

During the internal scoping a variety of issues and objectives have been identified. These are shown spatially on **Map 5 – Issues and Opportunities – Scoping**.

5. Time Frame

What	When
Scoping	May 2024
Draft Plan Completion	June 2024
Consultation	Late June 2024
Review Draft	July 2024
Internal Review	July 2024
Submission	July 2024