



West Region

Morvern Forest Land Management Plan Appendices



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Appendix I: Land Management Plan Brief

See separate document

Appendix II: Analysis of Previous Plan

The previous Forest Design Plan covering the LMP area ran from 2016 to 2024

Objective Summary	Outcome
Maintaining a productive forest core.	Achieved subject to wider UKFS restructuring requirements.
The restoration of native woodland on a landscape scale.	The PAWS restoration process has been implemented with areas of successful natural regeneration in Barr.
The development of the informal recreational potential of the area is limited to capitalising on the multi-purpose aspects of productivity and environmental benefit.	Extensions to the forest road network provide additional walking routes. But some routes overgrown. Ranger tracks on restock sites can provide additional routes and path linkages.
Provision for key species management (e.g. eagles, deer, etc.)	The management of key species and breeding sites has been implemented. Deer control has been ongoing and fence maintenance undertaken.
The enhancement of the external landscape values.	Coupe shapes were designed to avoid landscape conflicts where possible. The larger scale additional felling to comply with the SPHN requirements had to be undertaken without regard to the landscape. However, this felling has not caused significant adverse landscape impacts and the large landscape scale of much of the forest has absorbed the large scale SPHN felling in landscape terms.
To promote in partnership the heritage and history of the woodland	The Scheduled Monument Township visitor infrastructure has been maintained, but there are further opportunities to promote the history of the area, liaising with the Community.

The previous plan has largely achieved its objectives despite the impacts of accelerated SPHN felling. The objectives of the previous plan are still very relevant to the current review. Peatland restoration is now a higher priority than previously, and proactive management of Larch is more important.

Appendix III: Background Information

Context

History

Morvern forest was established as a largely commercial, timber producing forest. Planting commenced pre 1940, shortly after the Forestry Commission was established. The forest has been extensively restructured and has a wider range of age classes. In terms of planted species the forest is dominated by Sitka spruce, but areas of diverse conifers have been expanded as restructuring has progressed and natural regeneration of native broadleaves, particularly in Barr forest, has been very successful. The recent impact of *P.ramorum* has been to accelerate the felling schedule and to impose felling coupes that are not based on optimal design principles.

Physical site factors

Geology Soils and landform

The forest occupies a significant area of land at the western end of the Morvern Peninsula. The land rises as a gentle slope from the Sound of Mull to a plateau landscape before dropping down a steep cliff escarpment to the North. The concave cliffs and associated ridges are prominent from the North and are characteristic stepped basalt with deeply incised vertical gullies.

The geology is basalt with igneous intrusions and areas of schists, quartz, feldspar and granulite. The resulting soils range from brown earths to peaty gleys & podzols, with pockets of peat on the areas where drainage is impeded.

Map M16 shows the soils within the LMP area.

Water

There are several private water supplies within the forest (See Map M11). Details on action taken to identify and map these supplies is provided in Appendix VI.

Catchments for the Savary River & Abhainn Shalachain drain the forest to the Sound of Mull with smaller burns draining the eastern end of the forest. To the North, the Barr River flows into Loch Teacuis; various burns drain into Loch Doire nam Mart & Loch Arienas, and ultimately into the River Aline.

Given the extent of the forested catchment, forestry operations and management have a direct impact on water quality. The rivers affected by the LMP forest area are all at good ecological status, except for the Savary River, which is at moderate status. The pH status of the river is classed as good.

The Barr River, the Savary River and Abhainn Shalachain will hold stocks of brown trout and possibly small numbers of migratory salmonids. In contrast, the River Aline is a significant Salmon & Sea trout fishery and its associated habitats support Schedule 5 species. The feeder burns for the associated loch system are significant spawning areas for migratory salmonids and the resident Brown trout.

In addition to several smaller burns, the Barr River drains directly into Loch Teacuis, which is part of the Sunart SAC & SSSI. Silt from these river systems may have impacts on the marine ecosystem in the sea loch.

In terms of specific management, the actions carried out under the past LMP could be anticipated as having a beneficial impact on water quality. In particular, the landscape scale native woodland restoration in Barr and the creation of more open ground/broadleaves along spawning burns are particularly beneficial. Normal forest restructuring in line with UKFS guidelines would be expected to improve the condition of the Savary River.

Overall ecological status

The forest supports a wide range of important habitats and species including Pine marten, Wildcat, Otter, Golden eagle and Sea eagle. The wide areas of open hill and open ground through the forest create good eagle foraging habitat and abundant edge impacts, which enhance biodiversity.

There are many areas of mixed aged native broadleaves often associated with riparian zones and these provide valuable habitats that are often linked with adjacent woodlands of a similar type.

The ecological value of the site could be greatly enhanced by strengthening the riparian NBL linkages and increasing the areas of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF). There are many site and crop limitations on the potential extent of CCF and as a result, long term retentions of areas of mature Norway spruce on sheltered sites can fulfil a similar role to CCF.

Climate

Mean annual temperatures in this region are about 8 degrees centigrade, and while snow is less prevalent than in eastern central Scotland, this region is exposed to rain-bearing westerly winds. While the average annual rainfall is at least 1700mm, the highest annual rainfalls occurs nearby, North west of Fort William, where rainfall reaches over 4000mm a year. There can also be 'cloudbursts' of sudden, high rainfall.

This region is, on average, the windiest in the UK, with frequent areas of low pressure passing over this area, especially from December to February, when mean speeds and gusts of wind are at their strongest.

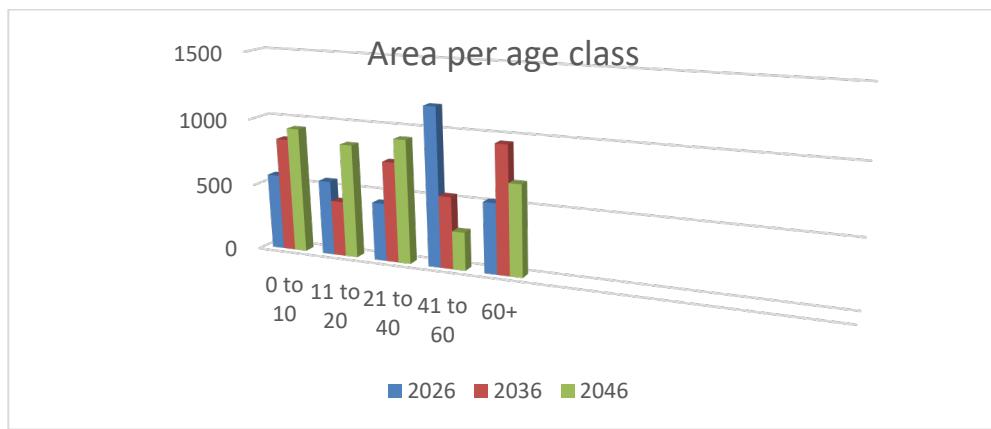
Therefore, while the Forest is generally accessible all year round, both thinning and felling programmes need to consider rainfall levels that may cause significant water run-off, and possibly landslips on unstable slopes. In addition, parts of the forest are exposed directly to westerly winds, which are likely to influence the stability of continuous cover and planning the timing and sequence of felling proposals. The complex land form to the North provides shelter from the prevailing winds, but in extreme wind speeds may lead to the creation of destructive vortices.

Climate types across the LMP area are varied although much of the forested area ranges between warm, wet, highly exposed, to cool, wet highly exposed and cool wet severely exposed. The NE part of the forest close to Loch Teacuis has a warm, moist sheltered climate however, and the lower margins close to the sea in Lochaline that are SW facing are warm, moist highly exposed. The hill tops are too exposed for forestry.

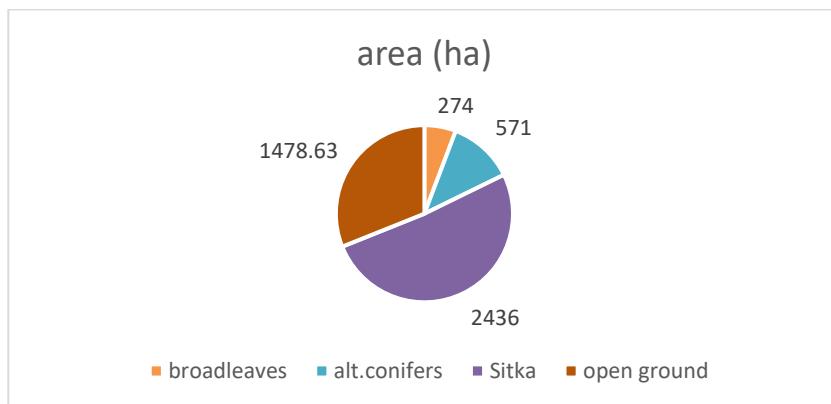
The existing forest

Age structure, species and yield class

Currently, there is a predominance of younger crop (<20 years old) and crop reaching, or at, maturity.

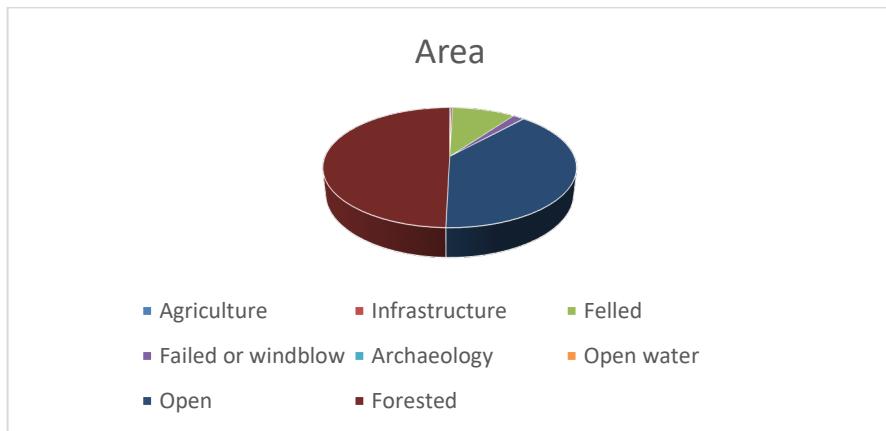


Current species composition is dominated by Sitka spruce:



Yield class (YC) is variable across the LMP area, reflecting different soil types, exposure levels and variations in other site conditions. The most common YC is 14 – 16, found across 36% of the forested area; 25% is covered by YC 0 to 8, which includes broadleaved species; 17% is YC 18 – 20. More than 70% of the forested area is above YC 12.

Land use is predominantly forested (mainly commercial conifers) and open ground, including unplantable areas and open riparian zones:



Neighbouring Land Use

Grazing lets are in place within the LMP area for the land around the Township at Loch Doire nan Mart and for the fields around Savary. There is limited scope for the establishment of woodland grazing or other open land grazing due to the poor quality and access to the open hill ground.

The main neighbouring land uses are forestry and deer stalking, although some farming takes place along the coast West of Lochaline. Past issues relating to deer management and conflicting land use objectives have been reduced by the construction of a strategic deer fence, which reduces deer pressure on the forest. Forestry & Land Scotland is a full member of the Morvern DMG and hopes to continue to work closely with neighbours via this forum. Due to the scale of the forest landholding, deer are continuously present within the forest and continued heavy culling is essential. The deer fence reduces population drift from more heavily stocked open hill areas, particularly during poor weather. A reduction in deer numbers to the North of the LMP area has reduced pressure on the deer fence here and has resulted in natural regeneration beginning to establish itself across the hill ground associated with fragments of native woodland. The creation of new woodlands on neighbouring properties offers scope for cooperation about deer fencing and control.

A development since the last plan has been a renewed focus on preserving and expanding the Atlantic Oakwoods along Loch Sunart with the RSPB playing a leading role. FLS is actively engaging with this process.

Landscape

Landscape character

The SNH National Landscape Character Assessment categorises Morvern as Landscape Character Type 246 Stepped Cliffs and Terraces. These have a characteristic stepped profile formed by the differential erosion of successive lava flows. Key characteristics include:

- Distinctive dark, basalt cliffs with a stepped slope profile, which may appear as low outcrops or massive looming walls of rock
- Exposed basalt rock faces separating wide terraces of grass or heather moor which supports extensive sheep grazing
- Extensive forestry, especially in more sheltered glens on the mainland and Eigg
- Fertile green coastal pastures on lower slopes
- Thick tracts of broadleaf wood on more inaccessible slopes
- Historical features such as forts and castles, churches and standing stones on transition with *Low-Lying Crofted Coast*
- Views across sounds and narrows, emphasising dramatic cliff profiles of eroded stacks and arches.

The characteristic stepped profile is caused by different erosion of successive larva flows. Successive cliffs are separated by gently sloping terraces; where weathering has been more intense, the steps have become indistinct and the hillsides appear riven with ridges. The terraces are covered by bracken, grass swards and heather. Base-rich soils support forestry plantations; broadleaf woodland line upper margins and riparian areas.

The landscape is an open, large scale landscape with strong contrasts between the gentle slopes to the South and the spectacular scarp/cliff landforms to the North and East. The bulk of the forest, when viewed from Mull, is characterised by three low ridges running NW to SE. From the North, the roadside views are dominated by the scarp in the NE corner before views are obscured by roadside plantings. From more distant northern views, the cliffs and associated ridges are the strongest landscape element.

The scale of the landscape changes from the upland large scale landscape to the more small-scale settled mixed landscape along the fringes of the forest. The original plantings and subsequent clear felling in this transition zone have, in places, failed to blend the two. Subsequent restocks offer more scope for a phased transition that is more sympathetic to the landscape (see visualisations).

The developing broadleaved elements in Barr make a very positive contribution to landscape, although views of this part of the forest are limited. The large areas of clearfell that run from the shore to the treeline (particularly along Loch Teacuis) have an adverse impact on the forest landscape as they create breaks in the forest continuity. Many of these breaks were the inevitable result of the practical limitations of harvesting on steep slopes.

In Lochaline North, the open ground, the mature broadleaved network and the sensitively located inland Lodgepole pine all contribute positively to the landscape. The abrupt wall of mature conifers along the roadside have negative landscape impacts, and the stocking along the "Little Bonnet of Lorn" ridge and its south east margin conflicts with landform. The past felling phases concentrated along the upper margin has tended to create a tiered effect, and some of the restocks have retained a straight upper margin through into the second rotation. The riparian buffers applied along minor linear water courses below the cliffs have created adverse landscape impacts by emphasising some linear features at odds with the general landform, and creating a series of forest blocks out of scale with the landscape. However, this effect will soften if broadleaves become established in the riparian zones. In

general, the restructuring will provide landscape enhancements as the crops mature. The large clearfelling associated with the SPHN are largely sympathetic to landform in terms of both scale and coupe shape.

In Lochaline South, the felling has been on a large scale that suits the landscape on the upper area but has created some dislocation along the transition zone, with the mixed landscape along the shore. Again, progressive fellings have tended to create a tiered effect, although the general pattern of felling does tend to emphasise the underlying landform of three broad ridges. The restructuring pattern should allow more sensitive smaller scale coupes to be worked along the lower transitional zone. Species diversity on the lower slopes has a role in improving the forest landscape in this transitional zone, whereas on the more distant plateau and upper slopes, the general shape of the forest margin has more impact.

Visibility

A small proportion of the total forest area is highly visible as you approach from the North along the A884. If you turn West along the minor public road to Kinloch & Rahoy, various sections of the forest are visible, while continuing on the A884 and along the B849 gives shortened views dominated by the heavily forested roadside margin.

Longer distant views are obtained from the Mull Ferry, ferries passing through the Sound of Mull, and the Isle of Mull itself. Views from ferries can be prolonged and are significant, while views from Mull tend to have lower impacts as distance increases. Although the fine detail is lost when viewed from Mull, coupe shapes and forest margins are plainly visible.

Landscape designations

The northern area of Barr is an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).

Environmental designations

See Maps M9 a & b.

There are a wide range of designated conservation sites mainly along the margins of the forest.

The designations include:

- Sunart SAC
- Sunart SSSI
- Morvern Woods SAC
- Drimnin to Killundine Woods SSSI

While the area of any designated sites within the LMP area are small, the impacts on the SAC in Loch Teacuis are potentially high. In addition, the surrounding woodland SSSIs may be impacted indirectly by operations within the LMP area, such as the ongoing Rhododendron control measures.

Archaeology: Scheduled Monuments / Unscheduled

The cleared township at Inniemore is a scheduled monument known as Loch Doire nan Mart on the designation. The site is managed to not only preserve the physical structures, but to enhance the setting, and cattle grazing management has played a key role in this. Interpretation boards are provided onsite to explain the history and current management of the site.

The standing stone at Beinn Bhan is also a scheduled monument, probably of prehistoric date relating to Neolithic or Bronze Age ritual activity, sitting with conifer plantation.

The wishing stone at Clach na Criche is the remains of an igneous dyke that has served as a boundary marker, wishing stone and resting place during funeral processions.

There are various scattered unscheduled monuments across the site and the scoping process has brought to light other features of interest that weren't on the current database.

Habitats & Species

The forest is home to a wide range of iconic and protected species including Schedule 1 raptors and Otter and Pine marten are particularly evident within the Barr forest.

There are butterfly transects at Aoinidhe Mhor and Savary.

The forest restructuring already under way via the current LMP has produced a range of biodiversity benefits that have a positive impact on the adjacent designated sites and will increase the resilience of these features by increasing both linkages and the critical mass of native woodland. While many species take time to adapt and colonise new opportunities, several significant bird and mammal species are highly mobile and would have already benefited from the restructuring work undertaken so far.

The control of INNS on a landscape scale in collaboration with neighbours has merit for biodiversity generally and designated sites specifically.

The impact of the forest on Sea eagle is generally positive as the forest provides nesting sites, roosts sites and potentially lower disturbance. Sea eagle can benefit from deer control by products but most of their hunting activity is unaffected by the forest setting. Golden eagle in contrast can be affected by a reduction in their upland hunting areas. However, with prey availability being a major constraint to West coast breeding success, then forests can make a positive contribution by increasing prey availability, particularly with year round deer control. Restructuring the upper forest margin to open up rides and ridgelines and sweep the woodland up gullies will further reduce conflicts. The provision of large scale felling coupes along the upper margins can expand Eagle and Hen harrier foraging areas.

Around the mouth of Savary Glen, various conservation features including traditional hay meadows of biodiversity value. There are also visually prominent areas of gorse that are of limited extent. While areas of gorse in this area would pose a problem to traditional productive forestry, the localised areas of gorse provide an important habitat for a range of species including passerines. Gorse habitats are

also rarely climax communities and are usually an intermediate habitat between open ground and forest. Ash is particularly good at colonising gorse sites, and there are a range of planted and regenerating broadleaved species beginning to appear. The gorse also reduces deer impacts in terms of Red deer browsing, but it can provide shelter for Roe deer.

The regeneration of mixed tree species across the open hill ground offers the prospect of softening the forest edge and improving the ecological value of the forest margin. Conversely excessive colonisation by non-native species would have a detrimental impact on the open hill ground. Deer control plays a key role in determining the species diversity and extent of any regeneration. High deer numbers will reduce regeneration, but will give an advantage to hardy Sitka spruce, while low deer numbers will increase species diversity significantly, but will also increase the extent and density of any colonisation. There are also impacts from the existing flora on regeneration success, and as a generality regeneration is more likely to occur in the higher value NVC types rather than the lower value Molinia monocultures. Currently, regeneration across the open hill is limited, but the complex dynamic of this ecosystem requires on-going monitoring and consideration at the next LMP review.

The flora on the north facing cliffs (U17 and H10d) is of interest primarily because these areas have been free from significant browsing. Regeneration of both native and non-native tree species are the only significant potential threat to these habitats.

Other open habitats to note include extensive areas of blanket bog; small areas of fen, marsh and swamp habitat; various oligotrophic or dystrophic lochs and extensive areas of upland heathland supporting various sub-communities.

See Map M9a Conservation.

Biodiversity

There is abundant deadwood in many areas of the forest and clear felling operational policy will create/retain deadwood within clear fell sites in line with the UKWAS requirements.

PAWS areas are limited on site with many areas identified as ASNW having a mixed aged native woodland cover. PAWS areas have been prioritised for restoration to native woodland across the site with natural regeneration being the preferred option. The glens in Barr are the most significant site for landscape scale restoration and this offers the opportunity of linkages with adjacent native woodland cover and new native woodland creation schemes on adjacent land.

Social factors

Recreation

The main Community and Cultural Issues are shown on Map M2c; Recreation and Visitor zones are shown on Map M8.

The woodland is used for informal recreation, largely by local people.

The local community woodland group manage an area of woodland adjacent to the Sound of Mull with recreation as a key objective.

Several car parks provide access points along the public road for recreational users. The forest road network linked to the car parking provides good walking and biking routes throughout the forest.

The FLS Car park at the Clach na Criche wishing stone is well used. The site is adjacent to deep water and a wreck and is a popular fishing and diving venue due to the proximity to deep water from the shore.

The car park, path network and interpretation at the Inniemore township provides both a recreational facility and a sensitively managed heritage site. The horse grazing the site provide both practical site management and a living connection with the site's history.

Access across the forest is generally low key and informal, managed mainly through SOAC.

The path network around the village of Lochaline is limited; a general improvement in the diversity of the forest around the village would improve the access environment. Some of the longer circular routes have been blocked by windblow and the reinstatement of these routes was considered desirable by the community. More circular routes linking the non-circular road network sections could be provided by ranger ATV tracks if these are also required for business reasons.

Gleananan – Bun A Mhuillin (traditional name Rathad na Phuist or The Post Track) has a section on FLS ground and is subject to windblow, which is cleared to keep the route passable on the section for which FLS is responsible. The PROW (Public Right of Way) running West to East shows little sign of current use but has cultural value as this is an old path with features such as the rock where the postman would leave the mail.

Core paths to Aoinidh Mhor (Inniemore Township - Lochaline North) the Savary circuit, Achabeg circuit and the Aline Park circuit (Lochaline South) will be kept open.

The Barr- Doire Linn route (Eilean na Eildean trail) is no longer officially promoted and is managed as informal / SOAC access. The route will be kept open as far as resources allow but visitor numbers along this route are low.

In terms of more long distance networks, the path leading towards Doirlinn currently ends at the Otter hide on Eilean nan Eildean, just short of completing a circular route onto the track from Doirlinn to Drimnin. This stretch of land is outside the National Forest Estate and is outside the scope of the LMP; development of this route, or otherwise, would have implications for the longer term future of the current path, which is in danger of becoming overgrown.

Also, there are various third party access routes through the forest:

- Road access to the Hydro scheme on the Barr River
- Road access to the Hydro scheme on the Abhainn Shalachain
- Timber Transport Access to Killundine (from forest road at coupe 75052)

There is a grazing lease covering the Aoinidh Mhor township and ground at Savary (Savary and Aoinidh Mhor grazing).

An agreement for a silica sand mine is in place in the SE part of Lochaline South, which presents only limited features above ground.

Community

The community at Lochaline has responded to community consultations and is engaged with the management of the woodland generally. FLS will attend Community Council meetings when possible, and have been responsive to issues raised by the community. Road transport of timber is an issue where working with neighbours and the community has reduced potential conflict, with the Lochaline West Pier potentially playing a crucial role in helping to remove timber from the local road network when it is functional again.

The Morvern Community Development Company have built one of the largest community owned hydro schemes on the Barr river within the National Forest Estate.

Historically, the forest supported a significant local workforce with strong linkages with the local community. Continuity of contact will be improved where resources and availability of FLS staff allow.



Appendix IV: Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Morvern LMP consultation – Key Stakeholder Comments and FLS Responses

Scoping stage:

The Scoping document and key maps were placed on the FLS website and key stakeholders were emailed, to advise them of the consultation with a link provided to the documentation. A public consultation event was held in Lochaline Community Hub on 14/02/2024. This was advertised through local media, social media and physical posters placed locally. Key stakeholders, including community groups and known interested individuals were notified by email.

Draft LMP stage:

Once the draft scenario was prepared and key objectives and priorities finalised, a summary and maps were placed on the FLS website and key stakeholders notified. A public consultation event on the draft LMP was held in Lochaline Village Hall on 24/09/2024. This was advertised as before.

The full draft text and maps were then placed on the FLS website and key stakeholders and interested parties notified by email.

The following table presents the consultation list and responses received during the public consultation exercises for scoping and draft phases and the public events held on 14/02/2024 and 24/09/2024.

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
NatureScot	18/03/2024 (scoping)	19/03/2024	NS will provide comment at the draft LMP stage	A further public consultation will be carried out on the draft LMP
Highland Council Access Officer	18/03/2024 (scoping)	19/03/2024	<p>It is pleasing to see that community consultation, recreational access, well-being and visual appeal are all considered in on-going forest management and design. The potential to create circular routes and the need to keep Core Paths open and accessible is of particular interest to the access team. I have no specific comments to add at this juncture, but please do get in touch with any specific issues, proposals or management plans which affect public access.</p>	<p>Maintaining public access is important and FLS will continue to facilitate this wherever possible, working with the community to find ways to fund upgrades and maintenance.</p> <p>New tracks for planting/harvesting access can be used by visitors and where feasible, these may be linked to create circular routes where this provides business benefits.</p> <p>We can consider ways in which the community can assist with access – as mentioned above.</p>
	30/08/2025 (Draft LMP)	04/11/2025	<p>I am pleased to see that public access and community involvement have been included as a strategic objective.</p> <p><i>‘Objective 9: Recognise the importance of public access and the involvement of the community in developing the future forest design and be open to exploring options that will realise community benefits.’</i></p>	<p>Path routes will be protected during harvesting and other operations as far as possible and will be reinstated if necessary when operations are complete. Appropriate signage will be provided during operations and should any routes need to be closed temporarily during operations. The HC Access Officer will be contacted prior to work commencing.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>It is good to see the use of 'Strava' heat maps as an additional tool when planning operations, and that popular recreational routes are being included in the planning assessment alongside Core Paths, Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Heritage Features.</p> <p>Public access along Core Paths, PROW and forest roads should be maintained throughout forest operations, and any disturbance to the Core Path and PROW surfaces reinstated.</p> <p>Where any new fences or gates are required that cross any of these public rights of way, popular access routes as recorded on 'Strava', or paths that are obvious on the ground, I recommend that pass gates be installed offering accessible access to the route. Those pass gates would ideally be self-closing and have an internal width of at least 1.5m to accommodate all access users</p> <p>The plan to restore the footpath link to the east of Creag Bhàn Ard during restocking is particularly welcome as is</p>	<p>FLS operates a work plan system, where all key upcoming operations are recorded; constraints and mitigations noted and discussed between multi-disciplinary teams prior to sign-off by senior managers. Access issues are considered during the work plan process.</p> <p>In terms of creating linkages and circular routes, we do not have sufficient resources to create new paths but where tracks are required for forest management purposes and where possible, we will be mindful of providing access benefits when identifying suitable routes for these tracks. It may not be possible to identify required tracks (either the need or the possible route) during the Land Management preparation; this is often done at a later stage.</p> <p>The routes mentioned are due an inspection as part of our informal / SOAC documentation which takes place in 1-5 year cycles dependent on use – which was due to be done in winter 24/25.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>the commitment to seek other path linkages and where possible create or retain circular links.</p> <p>The main recreational routes in the Barr area have been referenced, including the old Public Right of Way (PROW) that follows the Barr River to link with Bunavullin.</p> <p>Although the route is less well used, I'm pleased to see its historical significance has been taken into account. I note that there is felling planned at the western end of the route and would like to see the line of the path protected during the construction of forest roads, throughout felling operations and during replanting. Any path remnants should be protected and if possible enhanced: the route should be kept open and accessible, which would include ensuring that new forest roads margins do not create a barrier where the road diverges from the path.</p> <p>Further to my previous comments in the thread below, and following</p>	<p>Route Barr- Doire Linn is known as the Eilean na Eildean trail as was put in with EAGF / MCW funding around 2004 however is no longer officially promoted. We view this as informal / SOAC access and will do what we can when resources allow to keep the route open however visitor numbers are low as can be evidenced by the encroachment in places.</p> <p>Rathad na Phuist or The Post Track is the traditional name for the route Gleananan – Bun A Mhuillin. The section on FLS ground is suspect to windblow however our keeper in the area generally keeps the route passable on the section we are responsible for maintaining access.</p> <p>As part of a wider consultation and communication with Morvern Community bodies we are committed to seeking other path linkages and where possible create or retain circular links and will continue to undertake that assessment through our internal work plans for this area. These routes are not a priority given the very low visitor numbers who tend to be of the more robust type and used to rougher terrain. However we will consider the</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>conversations with residents, I'd like to ask if the LMP for Morvern might include some work on the wider network route (shown in red on the map below) from Barr in the south to Doirlinn in the north. This path initially follows a forest road but, I'm told, has become a little overgrown beyond this section.</p> <p>The 2nd map (below) shows the Core Path from Coirlinn to Bunavilin and the bottom map the 2 Rights of Way, which overlaps the Core Path and Wider network routes, to create a circuit, with the addition of the wider network route discussed above.</p> <p>The draft plan references <i>a commitment to seek other path linkages and where possible create or retain circular links</i> – and I feel that this circuit would be a great candidate in this context.</p> <p>I understand that this route may not be a priority, but would ask that the feasibility of some minor clearance work to open up the full circuit be considered as part of the plan.</p>	<p>feasibility of some minor clearance work here and in other parts of Morvern as we move forward with inspections of these routes.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
Scottish Water	18/03/2024 (scoping)	19/03/2024	<p>There are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, which are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive, in the area that may be affected by the proposed activity.</p> <p>A review of our records indicates that there are no Scottish Water assets (including water supply and sewer pipes, water and waste water treatment works, reservoirs, etc.) in the area. This should be confirmed however through obtaining plans from our Asset Plan Providers, listed in the SW list of precautions for assets, which can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.</p> <p>In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC) at Hauc.diversions@scottishwater.co.uk.</p>	<p>The SEPA registration document and maps show a drinking water catchment in the LMP area. Catchments will be protected as per UKFS Forests and Water guidelines, SEPA and Confor guidance.</p> <p>FLS will seek to identify, record and protect private water supplies and will follow industry best practice as outlined in the Confor Forest and Water Scotland Initiative.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.</p>	
Scotways	18/03/2024 (Scoping)	03/04/2024 & 17/04/2024	Will provide comments at the draft LMP stage.	A further public consultation will be carried out on the draft LMP
Butterfly Conservation Scotland	18/03/2024 (Scoping)	20/03/2024	Provided maps and information on Pearl Bordered Fritillary and Chequered Skipper Butterflies in Morvern.	<p>FLS Environment team advise on management for key species where known. We work elsewhere in the Region with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and will seek advice from them for Lochaline.</p>
	30/08/2024 (Draft LMP)	02/10/2024	<p>The main lepidoptera species of conservation interest that have been found within the management area are: Chequered Skipper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies. I have attached a map showing our records of them here, but there are some recent records of Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Grid-reference: NM 64083 46069 which are not on this map yet.</p>	<p>Management will include protection of habitat sites during operations and creation and maintenance of sunny glades.</p> <p>FLS operates a work plan process, where upcoming operations are assessed; relevant constraints and mitigations recorded and discussed by multi-disciplinary teams, prior to sign-off by senior managers. The FLS</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>We worked with Scottish Forestry on guidance for these two species, which is still available on the SF website - the same management principles still apply. In the context of this Management plan, these species will benefit from the creation or maintenance of sunny glades within woodland, particularly with rich ground flora.</p> <p>It would be important to avoid disturbing these areas during forestry operations. It seems from your plans that the forestry operations are unlikely to impact the areas of these records. But we'd be happy to provide further detail on how you can provide habitat for these priority species when you come to plant new areas.</p>	<p>Environment team will note any key points during this process.</p> <p>The FLS Environment team or a suitable Environmental Clerk of Works will undertake pre-commencement checks and will monitor potential impacts during operations.</p> <p>Butterfly transects are maintained at Aoinidh Mor and Savary.</p>
Local resident	14/02/2024 (public event)	19/02/2024	<p>Stressed importance of adherence to existing standards, guidelines and legislation, to protect biodiversity and environment.</p> <p>Concerned that lack FLS employees living locally and high degree of contracted operations means that guidelines may not always be adhered to.</p>	<p>The LMP outlines the regulations, guidelines and good practice that should be followed when managing the forest.</p> <p>If any issues are noted then these should be raised with FLS. Contact with our offices in Torlundy will ensure that communications are directed to the most appropriate staff member. Enquiries.west @forestryandland.gov.scot</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>Would like to see FLS staff living and working locally.</p> <p>Various trails that were previously maintained and kept open are now overgrown, with dead fallen trees and are impassable.</p> <p>Stone dykes and features have been planted disturbance and damage from tree roots.</p> <p>Keen to see woodland crofts established.</p> <p>Keen to see wide consultation on the draft LMP.</p>	<p>0300 6706650 The office number includes the duty officer number to be used in emergencies out of hours</p> <p>FLS teams cover large areas and FLS is unable to specify where employees live.</p> <p>See earlier comments about paths and trails.</p> <p>Restocking plans will create buffers around heritage features. Any specific issues can be raised with FLS as outlined earlier.</p> <p>FLS recognises the interest in woodland crofts amongst the local community and is liaising formally with community representatives on this</p> <p>The LMP scoping stage presents broad concepts and objectives, while the draft LMP will outline the forest design and proposed forestry operations over the next 10 years, taking consideration of the feedback from the scoping</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
				stage. A further consultation will be undertaken when the draft LMP and forest design is ready, which will include another public event.
Local resident	Ahead of public event	22/09/2024 By letter	<p>Concern about use of monoculture. Building resilience by improving diversity of tree species, but the maps really do not indicate this, the areas of NBL are minimal. I believe this is a huge responsibility for the Forest Service and us public, as these forests are indeed publicly owned.</p> <p>Future Forest - more NBL and open areas I believe are crucial to health and well being and encouraging more diversity in this monoculture of spruce.</p> <p>Asks if in operations on this scale, nutrient budgets are considered and repercussions such as cost to local infrastructure, energy, the lack of local employment, and the outsourcing of contracts.</p> <p>Barr is noted for the importance of its oaklands, but Lochaline North and South</p>	<p>A wider diversity of species, including alternative conifers and native broadleaved trees and shrubs have been included where possible. Site conditions including soil type, steep ground and exposure levels constrain the variety of species that are available for commercial forestry.</p> <p>The social and economic implications of operations planned over the next 10 years are considered, as far as is practical.</p> <p>Native woodland establishment and expansion is focused on the existing areas of ASNW and on</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>only have been allocated limited areas of NBL.</p> <p>PAWS – surely these are being maintained and given the opportunity to enlarge?</p> <p>Public access - mentions that circular routes have already been 'explored' and need to be put into plan, but they do not appear on any of the subsequent maps i.e. Map 6c Community and Culture.</p> <p>Concern about paths – maintain existing paths, reinstate ones that have been lost and facilitate new circular paths where applicable. The only route this plan has highlighted is the Old Postie Route. In Lochaline South the Savary path definitely needs attention all the way up the Savary glen ie beyond the bridge up to Coire Lunndaich as it was in the past. There are other paths that could be</p>	<p>the PAWS of high ecological potential; also, riparian zones and upper margins where feasible.</p> <p>Much of the PAWS areas were planted previously with commercial conifers and the plan is to fell these areas and restock with native broadleaves. The existing ASNW will be maintained and enhanced.</p> <p>The creation of circular routes will be considered where feasible and where this aligns with business benefits, e.g. when ATV tracks are created. It is not possible to record potential routes on a map as decisions will be made post-felling and will be operational.</p> <p>The LMP addresses access management. Vegetation management along paths will be undertaken as resources allow. Vegetation growth is indicative of low levels of path usage.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>identified and cleaned up as mentioned by our Community Council.</p> <p>Old coffin route / old Drimnin road which goes through the forest up behind Fuinary. This route was passable ten years ago, and now is totally overgrown. This is an historic route and I wonder why it does not have the designation of Public Right of Way?</p> <p>Conservation map indicates areas of floral interest, but no mention is made of lichen and fungal interest which I believe is now globally recognised in the Atlantic Rain Forest designation Morvern has. This is crucial and needs to be identified, documented, protected and enhanced.</p> <p>What assurances can the FS give that no chemical spraying is done?</p>	<p>Any lichen and fungi interest may be recorded during ASNW and PAWS surveys and during priority open habitat surveys. The conservation maps do not seek to record every location, only where points of interest have been noted.</p> <p>Our overall policy for pesticide use on Scotland's National Forest and Land is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comply with the regulations and safety requirements governing pesticide use in the UK;

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise pesticide use, and if practical and economic, adopt non-chemical methods wherever possible in the first instance; and • if, pesticides have to be used to protect our forests, or to ensure their successful regeneration, because other options are ineffective, impractical, or excessively costly, use the minimum amount of pesticide necessary, consistent with achieving effective control <p>OGB 15 and supporting documents will be followed.</p> <p>The revised FSC Pesticides Policy (implemented January 2021) requires all certified estates to carry out an Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) for every pesticide application as part of its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Strategy. This includes direct applications of pesticide as well as the planting of treated trees.</p> <p>An ERSA is used to identify the control option for a pest, disease or weed problem that has least potential for social and environmental damage</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>Is acid rain an issue, and are there currently measurements in place for this?</p> <p>What information does the FS have of the impact of their work on insect life? This year there is the continuing noticeable decline in butterwort, sundew (insect dependent plants) as well as beetles, dragonflies, moths (particularly noticeable the cinnebar moth) and other butterflies. Could wild flower seeds be scattered in the areas of felled trees</p>	<p>whilst still being economically viable and effective. The ESRA is used to inform the operational plan, to identify site-specific risks and adapt mitigation and monitoring measures you have identified.</p> <p>The Integrated Pest Management and Environmental and Social Risk Assessment Pesticide Policy is the Core Decision Chain, and following it fulfils the FSC requirement for an IPM approach. It should be carried out before every pesticide application.</p> <p>Acid rain is not considered to be an issue in Morvern.</p> <p>FLS runs two butterfly transects, at Aoinidh Mhor and Savary, working with Butterfly Conservation.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>where the ground is already disturbed to encourage more insects for example?</p> <p>Map 6b indicates a proposed quarry site. We need more information about this proposal, what is to be quarried, what size will it be, by what means will it be extracted, and quantities to be extracted. Presumably this is for road building, but where will the extraction of rock be transported to?</p> <p>Further this appears to be at the junction of an area of an 'historical feature' (see map 6c).</p> <p>In Map 6c there is only an indication of the FS interest in Community Woodland Crofts. My understanding is that this is already a commitment by the FS to the community, and therefore more detailed information and indication from the FS that this is the case and that this is one of the priorities towards the community under their 'Duty of Care' of what</p>	<p>The quarry site was being considered at the LMP scoping public consultation stage but progressed quickly and is now operational. The site is small (< 1 ha) and did not require planning permission. It was required due to the lack of suitable stone for road building within the forest. Its operation removes the need for imports of stone from elsewhere.</p> <p>There are no historical features near the quarry. There was previously a conservation breeding site but this has failed repeatedly and the record is now archived.</p> <p>FLS have been in discussion with community representative on community woodland crofts. Harvesting and restock is planned until such time as any agreement is finalised.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>currently appears abandoned land. This is a real opportunity of public engagement that will cost the FS little or nothing.</p> <p>Roads and Timber: I believe the road exit by Kiel Church needs a large road drain at the junction, the road comes down the hill and acts like a culvert and then the water and debris flood at the little bridge 50m to the west of the road. In times of high rain fall, this becomes impassable.</p> <p>I would like to see more permanent jobs for people living in Morvern.</p> <p>I wonder about Forest Service engagement at Community level. Are there representatives of the FS on our Community Council, or any other local voluntary organisations such as the Morvern Community Woodlands, Morvern Community Development Company? And do FS representatives</p>	<p>This is an operational matter, being looked at by relevant teams.</p> <p>FLS teams cover multiple forests over large areas. FLS is not able to instruct staff where to live.</p> <p>FLS does not have resources to attend regular community meetings but where possible, staff will attend meetings when invited.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>regularly attend our meetings? With the FS our biggest local landowner, this would mean monthly community engagement rather than a once in ten years opportunity to comment on the FS LMP.</p> <p>Concern about debris from log haulage on public roads.</p>	<p>This is an operational issue, addressed by delivery teams.</p>
Local resident		17/09/2024 By email	<p>Maintaining and improving access to all the forested areas (walking/bike trails as well as road access for other vehicles). These areas of local land are important for local recreation- with better access, further areas of forest could be opened up for us to enjoy. Could this maintenance be overseen and undertaken through local employment?</p> <p>Expanding and protecting the native Atlantic rainforest wherever possible.</p>	<p>See earlier response regarding access. Only access by walking, cycling or horse riding are permitted in FLS forests. These are working forests and access by unauthorised vehicles is not permitted.</p> <p>See earlier comments on ASNW /PAWS. ASNW will be protected and where possible, expanded. PAWS of high ecological potential will be restored to native woodland following felling.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>Enlarging areas of native broadleaf in preference to dense plantings of monocultures of non-native species.</p> <p>Ensuring that areas of high footfall/visible areas near settlements are considered aesthetically when harvesting.</p> <p>Leaving barrier areas of NBL between these and harvested pine etc. This is an area of significant beauty sympathetic management could make a great difference to locals and visitors alike.</p>	<p>Morvern is commercial forest, so commercial conifer species will comprise the majority of restock. But alternative conifer species will be planted where site conditions are suitable and native woodland will be expanded where possible, along riparian zones and upper margins, in addition to the existing native woodland and PAWS restoration.</p> <p>Coupes are designed to be as sensitive to the landform as possible, within the constraints imposed by previous felling required due to SPHNs and by the need to fell to windfirm edges. Native broadleaves are retained during felling where possible. Retentions are also used to screen infrastructure, houses, visitor zones etc. where possible.</p>
Local resident	Ahead of public event	16/09/2024	The plan I saw did not cover the whole of Morvern and I feel the whole plan across Morvern would have been of interest to us all.	FLS LMPs only cover FLS ground. FLS do not own the whole of Morvern.

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>The plan also did not make a references to Morvern crofts which is a very important topic for many residents at the moment.</p> <p>The local community would really appreciate greater connections on paths/ roads to make more circular routes or routes across to Loch Arienas. The pathways are used by walkers and cyclists, but there are not many options at the moment.</p> <p>With the current felling plans, any help improving the look of the land post felling, particularly around the village and along the Drimnin road would be hugely appreciated. I think this was commented on as part of your plan.</p> <p>I understand that RSPB and Woodland Trust, plus other interested bodies are trying to make native broadleaves</p>	<p>See earlier response about the woodland crofts. The LMP text refers to them but the areas won't be included in maps or FLS GIS until any agreements are finalised.</p> <p>See earlier comments about circular routes.</p> <p>The ground won't be aesthetically pleasing during the initial period post-harvesting. It will be left as tidy as is practical. Where feasible, trees will be retained to screen the felling from areas around the village, houses or where there is high footfall. Native broadleaves will be retained wherever possible. Restocking will be undertaken as soon as is practical.</p> <p>The intention is to develop native broadleaved woodland along riparian zones where feasible,</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>corridors to enable the movement of plant and species to help protect the current exceptional ecological diversity. I was not sure if supporting this measure was part of your plan too.</p> <p>Lastly, the rain forest designation and how that might influence your plans was not addressed.</p>	<p>linking existing native woodland and other priority habitats.</p> <p>FLS supports the work to protect and expand the rainforest areas. The protection of ASNW on FLS ground; the restoration of PAWS areas to native woodland; the development of riparian native broadleaved woodland where feasible, and the control of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) all contribute to this work.</p>
HES	18/03/2024 (Scoping) 30/08/2024 (Draft LMP)	05/09/2024	<p>The area covered by the land management plan includes the following designated assets:</p> <p>Loch Doire nan Mart, settlement 850m WSW of SE tip (Unimore) (SM7866)</p> <p>The Monument comprises the remains of a cleared settlement as a cluster of buildings, dykes and enclosures to either side of the Allt an Aoinidh Mhoir burn. It consists of a group of at least 22 houses and outbuildings, four substantial kale yards as well as smaller enclosures,</p>	<p>A 20 m open buffer will be maintained around each scheduled monument site and will be protected during operations.</p> <p>Encroaching vegetation will be removed as required, with scheduled monument consent applied for as necessary.</p> <p>FLS operates a work plan system, where all upcoming operations are noted; constraints and mitigations recorded; with discussion between multi-disciplinary teams. The FLS Environment</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>seven corn drying kilns and a possible mill. The buildings are arranged in groups of two or three on either side of the burn which carries the name of the settlement.</p> <p>We last inspected the monument in 2022 when its condition was generally satisfactory with minor localised problems. At the time we recommended that the current land management was continued.</p> <p>Beinn Bhan, standing stone 980m WNW of summit (SM7796).</p> <p>The monument is a standing stone, probably of prehistoric date relating to Neolithic or Bronze Age ritual activity.</p> <p>The standing stone is approximately 1.8m in height and 0.5x0.6m at the base, with a pointed top. It stands in a clearing in a conifer plantation.</p> <p>We last visited the monument in 2019 when its condition was optimal, as it had been in our previous visit in 2008. At that time the site was regularly monitored and cleared of regenerating vegetation.</p>	<p>team will record all key points for the designated assets during this process.</p> <p>FLS Environment team or a suitable Environmental Clerk of Works will monitor the sites during operations.</p> <p>Advice will be sought from HES, HC Archaeology and the FLS Archaeologist as required.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>We recommended that this management continued and that a buffer of 20m of open ground around the scheduled monument was maintained.</p> <p>Advice:</p> <p>Welcome the objective to enhance the setting of Loch Doire nan Mart, settlement and to safeguard archaeological features.</p> <p>Note plans to enhance the setting of the township include increasing tree species and structural diversity at restocking.</p> <p>While welcome plans to increase species diversity in the vicinity of the monument, no planting should take place within the scheduled area. Recommend that a buffer of 20m of open ground is maintained around the monument in line with UKFS guidance.</p> <p>Aerial photographs from 2022 show that trees may be encroaching into the scheduled area from the southeast. These should be removed.</p>	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>The area is currently lightly grazed by horses. The grazing will help control vegetation growth on the monument. However, we recommend that monitoring of the grazing regime is incorporated into the land management plan to ensure that animals are not causing any damage to upstanding archaeology.</p> <p>No mention of Beinn Bhan, standing stone in the land management plan and the monument is not marked on any of the accompanying maps. This should be corrected in subsequent documentation. We recommend that the scheduled monument is monitored for regenerating trees, bracken, and other woody growth, and any regenerating vegetation removed as quickly as possible thereafter, and that a buffer of 20m around the scheduled area is maintained as open ground in line with UKFS guidance. We would also welcome a provision in the land management plan for enhancement of public access and</p>	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>interpretation of this archaeological site, if feasible.</p> <p>Map 8 – Management shows that the coupes south and southeast of the township are marked for felling, while the plantation surrounding the standing stone is marked as being outside the planned period. Map 9 – Thinning suggests that thinning will occur along paths within the scheduled area of the township and along the forest road, approximately 70m southwest of the standing stone.</p> <p>Recommend that the importance of consultation with Historic Environment Scotland is highlighted in the management plan. An application for scheduled monument consent (SMC) will be needed for any works affecting the monuments, such as felling or thinning trees within the scheduled areas. We welcome pre-application discussion before submitting an</p>	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>application. Applicants should allow at least 8 weeks to obtain SMC after they submit their application.</p> <p>Recommend that the locations and extents of the monuments are shown on all forest maps to ensure that no accidental damage occurs within the scheduled areas in the course of forest operations. A link to online data you can download to accurately map the full extent of the scheduled area is provided in the Annex below.</p>	
Mountaineering Scotland	18/03/2024 (Scoping) 30/08/2024 (Draft LMP)	09/10/2024	<p>This area is not noted for landmark summits that attract walkers in numbers, but the open character of the interior may be attractive walking for visitors to the area and there may be opportunities for the local community to develop trails to higher land for viewpoints. It is likely that there will be extensive deer fencing around the plantations and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code advises that putting up a high fence over long stretches of open country without</p>	<p>See earlier comments about access.</p> <p>Provision of crossing points will be considered where necessary, when fences are replaced.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>providing gates, gaps or other access points might be considered unreasonable (section 4.9, bullet point 4).</p> <p>Mountaineering Scotland suggests the following guidance for crossings on extensive deer fences in open terrain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide self-closing pass gates where the fence crosses constructed paths or tracks, or informal routes used to walk or cycle to summits and tops. - Provide crossing points at places where people are likely to need to cross the fence, such as hilltops, ridgelines, side ridges where they meet the main ridge, and places where the fence changes direction. - Away from paths or tracks, stiles, with adjacent dog flap, would be adequate for crossing, especially where the terrain is rough or remote. - Provide crossings at regular intervals so that the public do not have to make unreasonable detours. Where use is relatively infrequent it would be 	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>reasonable to provide crossings every kilometre.</p> <p>- Crossing points should be clearly visible to the public, from a distance. Arrows on the fence, indicating the direction to the nearest crossing would make it easier for them to be located, and especially in poor visibility.</p>	
SEPA	18/03/2024 (Scoping) 30/08/2024 (Draft LMP)	02/09/2024	<p>General comments:</p> <p>Maximise opportunities to improve the riparian zone along main rivers, burns and small tributaries to encourage native broadleaf planting and follow the principles as outlined in the Riverwoods Initiative Home Riverwoods.</p> <p>Good site planning required to identify and implement good forestry practice measures to minimise the risk of environmental pollution, following Forestry and Water Scotland guidelines.</p> <p>Forest Works Manager must produce a Water Management Plan or Diffuse Pollution Plan identifying all site sensitive features, waterbodies, and high-risk areas on site. This Plan should be</p>	<p>Native broadleaved woodland will be developed in riparian zones where feasible. Elsewhere, watercourses will be protected with open buffers, which will be allowed to regenerate with native broadleaves. FLS follows the principles outlined in the Riverwoods Initiative.</p> <p>A Water Management Plan or Diffuse Pollution Plan will be prepared by an appropriate Environmental Clerk of Works and will be communicated as required at pre-commencement meetings.</p> <p>FLS operates a work plan process, where upcoming operations are noted and assessed; issues/ constraints and mitigations recorded and</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>communicated at pre-commencement meetings to all parties working on site and agreed in advance with the landowner.</p> <p>In accordance with the published Scottish Forestry "Cultivation of Upland Woodland Creation Sites -Applicants Guide, 2021", the Plan should incorporate low risk ground preparation techniques during new planting and/or restocking to minimise soil and carbon losses to air and water.</p> <p>SEPA does not hold information on private water supplies [PWS]. It is therefore imperative to contact the Local Authority Environmental Health Department to establish whether they hold any details on any private water supplies in or around your Plan area. All efforts must be made to glean information from homeowners/occupiers on private water supply catchment areas, header tanks and transfer pipework via direct communication and effective consultation. If any of these are</p>	<p>discussed by multi-disciplinary teams prior to sign-off by a senior manager.</p> <p>FLS policy is to adopt minimum ground preparation necessary to establish young trees successfully. The SF guide Cultivation of Upland Woodland Creation sites will be followed.</p> <p>FLS holds information on registered PWS and gathers information about all PWS, including supplies that haven't been registered and are not subject to an agreement on FLS ground. At the LMP stage, efforts are made to identify abstraction points within the forest as well as others in the vicinity that may draw from a catchment within the forest. This information is used to map catchments within the forest. PWS sources and catchments are recorded in the FLS GIS database.</p> <p>Abstraction points and related infrastructure will be protected with a minimum 50m buffer.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>identified adjacent to or within the proposed area, then great care MUST be taken to protect water quality. All operations must strive to go beyond compliance with best practice to fully protect the entire supply catchment area. All PWS catchment areas must be afforded maximum protection from machinery damage, compaction, and pollution from all forestry activities, including future operations. This also applies to water transfer pipework. The buffer distances highlighted in the Know the Rules Booklet are minimum distances and greater buffers must be allocated where catchment areas are extensive or boundaries unknown. Note that the given 50m buffer is a minimum buffer area and should be exceeded depending on how extensive the catchment area is or if there is any doubt as to the risk of an activity impacting a supply. In the absence of accurate data, catchment areas should be mapped by ground surveying, calculated via desktop assessment or both.</p>	<p>Watercourses will be protected with appropriate buffers and by developing open canopied native broadleaved woodland in riparian zones where this is feasible.</p> <p>Road and tracks avoid areas of deep peat where possible. Suitable mitigations will be identified where alternative routes are not feasible. Peat depths are surveyed and recorded where operations are planned or potential restoration projects are identified.</p> <p>Fish barriers and old fords are mapped when identified. Barriers will be identified for removal when possible.</p> <p>Fords will only be used intermittently for ATV access. Log bridges or culverts will be deployed for heavy machinery crossing watercourses, following survey by the FLS civil engineering team and appropriate approvals / registration.</p> <p>The comments on operational matters are noted. These are not normally covered in a LMP but will be raised during work planning and at the pre-commencement stage.</p>

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>Whilst the 50m minimum buffer is intended to afford protection to public and private water supplies, the forest planting design is crucial to protect these supplies from water quantity changes due to forest establishment. Whilst low density broadleaf trees are acceptable around the edges of the water supply catchment area boundary, dense conifers should be kept back from the source area due to the water scarcity pressures they may place upon the supply.</p> <p>Any access tracks should ideally avoid areas of shallow and deep peat to avoid disturbance of peatland ecosystem which may also cause pollution.</p> <p>Map fish barriers</p> <p>Map old fords</p> <p>Further comments also provided on operational matters, including:</p> <p>Washing vehicles prior to site departure</p> <p>For thinning operations, the right machine for the right job</p>	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			<p>Ability to move product around to address pollution mitigation in thinning compartments. Having a selection of pipes on site to separate clean water from dirty tracks.</p> <p>Any fish barriers should be identified and removed such as old impoundments; abandoned weir structures; old pipe bridges where multiple smooth lined pipes of small diameter covered with a concrete screed are used to cross watercourses.</p> <p>Only use fords for intermittent quad bike crossings. Use of log bridges or culverted water crossings for heavy machinery</p> <p>All drainage from quarries and/or borrow pits to be collected and treated via settlement sumps and natural soakaway areas; not draining directly from site to a watercourse.</p> <p>If tree guard tubes and/or vole guards are used, a tree guard removal plan is required for after the trees are established.</p>	

	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	FLS Response
			All waste materials MUST be removed from site for reuse, recycling, or disposal upon work completion.	
HC Roads HC Archaeology Morvern Community Council Morvern Community Dev Co. Ramblers' Assoc RSPB HC Forest Planning SSE VisitScotland Lochaber DSFB Lochaber Fisheries Trust Morvern Community Woodlands Neighbours	18/03/2024 (Scoping) 30/08/2024 (Draft LMP)			

Morvern LMP - Public Consultation Events - Comments and FLS Responses

A compilation of the comments received at the public consultation scoping event held in the Community Hub in Lochaline on 14/02/2024 and the draft LMP public consultation event held in Lochaline Village Hall on 24/09/2024.

Category	Comments	FLS Response
Public access/Visitor Services	<p>Track to the hide from Barr – it would be good to keep this clear.</p> <p>Maintenance of existing footpaths needs to be improved.</p> <p>Can we have more footpaths?</p> <p>Inniemore bench – it would be good if the solar powered taped could be mended/replaced.</p> <p>Join up planters and deer management tracks to make circular routes.</p> <p>How can we help maintain existing paths. These are overgrown. & help with new ones?</p> <p>At the draft LMP public consultation more comments were received about maintaining existing routes and creating new circular pathways.</p>	<p>Maintaining public access is important and FLS will continue to facilitate this wherever possible, working with the community to find ways to fund upgrades and maintenance.</p> <p>New tracks for planting/harvesting access can be used by visitors and where feasible, these may be linked to create circular routes where these provide business benefits.</p> <p>We can consider ways in which the community can assist with access – as mentioned above.</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
	<p>Keep open well-used paths at Savary River and Barr</p> <p>Car park at wishing stone is being used for overnight camping making it inaccessible.</p>	
PAWS/ASNW	<p>Barr- potential for holistic restoration of native woods.</p> <p>PAWS – All actual native woods extend beyond the mapped boundaries.</p> <p>Can there be more broadleaf native planting? See RSPB rainforest project.</p> <p>PAWS- restore all ancient woodland</p> <p>Would like to see much more planting of native trees. More opportunity for forest land for woodland crofts. – See morvern.org Live Life Morvern Plan</p> <p>I would like as much as possible to be restored to ancient woodland.</p> <p>Is there a possible link to the RSPB Atlantic rainforest plan i.e. more native planting in the areas cleared?</p>	<p>ASNW areas will be protected. Areas identified as PAWS of high ecological potential will be restored to native woodland although full restoration may take place over several phases. Natural regeneration of native broadleaves will be the preferred approach, which will take at least several years and must be monitored to ensure acceptable levels of regeneration.</p> <p>Enhancement planting will also be considered where natural regeneration alone is unlikely to be successful.</p> <p>Riparian zones will be protected with buffer zones and native broadleaves will be encouraged along the larger watercourses.</p> <p>The plan seeks a balance between the importance of the native woodland in the area and the continuation of soft wood sawlog production that is important to the local economy and for its role in reaching net zero.</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
Heritage	<p>Barr House and Barn – Since harvesting these have been filled with birch trees. Clearing these would prolong the life of these buildings.</p> <p>Please ensure that brick chimney of Displaced Persons' camp at Kiel is preserved in creation of tree nursery and log pile.</p> <p>Planting too close to historic stone walls and dykes, which become damaged as the trees grow.</p> <p>Interpretation panel at Aoinidh Mor is in disrepair. Important to have this maintained as it is the only first-hand account of the clearances.</p>	<p>Heritage sites will continue to be identified and recorded on FLS systems. Any new information on sites is welcome and will be checked and recorded. Protective buffers around heritage sites will be created and maintained. Given that Aoinidh Mor is a heritage site of national importance, repairing the interpretation sign will be a high priority job for the visitor services team.</p>
Woodland Crofts	<p>Inclusion of potential woodland crofts and community woodlots.</p> <p>What are the opportunities for community woodland ownership?</p> <p>Morvern Community Woodlands have identified an area above the village from adjacent to Doctors Wood to Achabeg that would be suitable for woodland crofts and community woodlots, this is still at very early stage but it would be great if this could be incorporated into the new plan.</p>	<p>FLS recognises the interest in woodland crofts amongst the local community and is liaising formally with community representatives on this</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
	<p>I understand there is a requirement for commercial forestry, however, it would be great for more community ownership as there is a real appetite locally for access to land for agriculture and for woodlots.</p> <p>Area under consideration for woodland crofts, woodlots + amenity – CCF -(this comment was written directly onto the map and points to the forest at Ardness and behind Lochaline)</p>	
Forest Operations	<p>Felling of larch to avoid breeding season of all birds</p> <p>Some healthy larch should be left to provide cones for red squirrel population</p> <p>Look at clear felling impacts on flooding/soil erosion on felled slopes through heavy rainfall. Impact of disease and key species and keen to learn about commercial alternatives.</p>	<p>Felling operations will be avoided during the breeding season where there are nest sites of scheduled species. The FLS Environment team undertake pre-commencement checks for operations at these sites and where there are other environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>FLS has an obligation to fell larch trees that are subject to a Statutory Plant Health Notice.</p> <p>All forestry operations will follow UKFS Forests and Water Guidelines to minimise risks of sedimentation or acid runoff, through introduction of riparian buffers; timing and phasing of operations; avoiding direct drainage into watercourses; protection of watercourses at crossing points and by use of silt traps or vegetation filtration to catch fine sediment.</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
	<p>Important to look at diversification of species, use of CCF where possible instead of clear felling.</p>	<p>To help increase resilience, where feasible, alternative conifer species such as Norway spruce, Scots pine and Douglas fir will be planted where soil and other growing conditions are suitable.</p> <p>Areas have been identified for CCF where alternative conifer species are considered but these are limited due to exposure, steep slopes and soil / ground conditions.</p>
Deer Management	<p>... the Atlantic Rainforest designation means that the FLS needs to work with community in care of helping to preserve diversity, sustainable grazing and deer management etc.</p>	<p>The LMP will include a Deer Management Plan that will outline targets for deer management and how these will be achieved. The objective is to maintain deer populations at sustainable levels that enable successful establishment of young planted and naturally regenerated trees. Deer management will aim to protect both commercial conifers and native broadleaved trees. FLS will work with neighbours and others through the Morvern DMG to reduce herbivore impacts and achieve sustainable deer populations.</p>
Other	<p>What is the impact assessment on flooding? Risk assessment for flooding following clearance.</p> <p>Communication is key. Who do we speak to if we have a problem? Please let us know.</p>	<p>SEPA lead on flood risk assessments. Measures including timing and phasing of operations; the creation of riparian buffers; avoiding direct drainage into watercourses and the use of silt traps and vegetation filtration will help reduce risks of flooding.</p> <p>Contact with our offices in Torlundy will ensure that communications are directed to the most appropriate staff member. Enquiries.west @forestryandland.gov.scot 0300 6706650</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
	<p>Is there scope for community to have larch firewood?</p> <p>Comments about lack of FLS presence in Morvern – there used to be at least one employee who lived locally. Can employment be reviewed so there are more local officers living close to the forest they manage. Post draft LMP public consultation there have been more comments about lack of FLS presence and employees not engaging with the general public.</p> <p>There is deep peat on Lag Mor at the confluence of the five burns that form in the basin at NM671476 at the head of Allt Achadh Forsa. We lost a ploughing tractor in it c.1968. This was later recovered.</p> <p>If the community were to buy FLS land, could they get this at a significant discount?</p> <p>FLS land with no trees - can this become agricultural crofts?</p>	<p>The office number includes the duty officer number to be used in emergencies out of hours</p> <p>The need for disease control and the conditions of the Statutory Plant Health Notices currently preclude the sale locally, of infected larch for firewood.</p> <p>FLS teams cover large areas and FLS is unable to specify where employees live.</p> <p>This area is not currently scheduled for peatland restoration. However, an open buffer will be maintained around riparian zones and much of any deep peat around the confluence of the five burns is likely to lie within this zone and therefore remain as open ground when the coupes are restocked.</p> <p>Any land sales are handled by our area land agent who can provide further clarification about purchasing FLS land.</p>

Category	Comments	FLS Response
	Can FLS land in village and land leased at Savary become community owned or released to the community?	
Butterflies	Butterfly Conservation Scotland provided maps of locations of key species and habitat management guidance.	FLS Environment team advise on management for key species where known. We work elsewhere in the Region with Butterfly Conservation Scotland and will seek advice from them for Lochaline
Water supplies	SW – no protected water supplies or SW assets in the LMP area. A number of private water supplies exist.	FLS will seek to identify, record and protect private water supplies and will follow industry best practice as outlined in the Confor Forest and Water Scotland Initiative.

Appendix V: Deer Management Plan

See separate document

Appendix VI: Private Water Supply Checks

FLS endeavours to identify all Private Water Supply (PWS) sources located on, or potentially affected by operations taking place on, FLS land, as far as is practical. Several PWS have been identified within Morvern – see Map M11.

The process to confirm relevant PWS was as follows:

- The existing information held on PWS points was reviewed, together with Highland Council information on registered supplies
- Properties in or close to the forest were door-knocked to gather information about potential supplies
- Supply points were ground-truthed if not done previously. Ground truthing is carried out during LMP preparation where feasible but pre-commencement checks are always carried out in coupes prior to operations taking place. FLS operates a spatially-based Work Plan system, where proposed works are identified, discussed and signed-off by senior managers prior to commencement
- Catchments associated with PWS abstracting from within the forest, or drawing to PWS abstraction points located outwith the forest, were mapped
- PWS occupiers will be contacted and any required mitigations discussed, prior to any operations commencing. Relevant information that results will be fed into the Work Plan system and used to update GIS databases where necessary

Several PWS also lie within a Scottish Water Drinking Water Catchment, which is also a Drinking Water Protected Area under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Any measures that are required to protect this catchment will also benefit the PWS and their catchments

Appendix VII: Provenance guidance chart

Species	Guidance
SS	Improved QSS standard throughout Alaska (ASS) provenance may be considered (if available) for its slower growing properties in specific locations. i.e Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) in Windfarm renewables developments.
VPSS	Limited use in best locations
SP	High rainfall type specified as standard. W20
NSP	From the nearest appropriate zone near CFR areas
LP	Only ALP being used in mixture with SS on poorer sites
DF	Seed stand or coastal origin
ESF	Czech or central European
NF	Registered seed stands
GF	Scottish registered seed stands
WH	Registered seed stands with low fluting
WRC	Scottish seed stands
NS	Seed stands, Eastern European or Harz
JCR	Northern Japanese range
NBL	Region of Provenance 10, Native Seed Zone 106
XC	PSSB will advise on any other minor species
Notes: PSSB can provide the most up to date guidance on provenance selection including advice on best suited seed stands. Virtually all seed supplied by PSSB comes from registered seed stands and is based on geographic area compatibility. Use of VPSS has declined as seed orchard QSS improves and this also has a wider genetic base for resilience purposes.	

Appendix VIII:

Abbreviations used in the plan

Abbreviation	Meaning
ASNW	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
CCF	Continuous Cover Forestry
DAMS	Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring (A modelled windiness score used to calculate the probability of damaging winds occurring)
ESC	Ecological site classification (based on soil and climate information, aids tree species choice)
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
Ha	Hectare
LISS	Low Impact Silvicultural System
LMP	Land Management Plan
MAI	Mean Annual Increment (Average annual growth a tree or stand of trees has experienced to a specific age)
MI	Minimum intervention (minimum level of management)
NR	Natural Reserve
NSA	National Scenic Area
PAWS	Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
PEFC	Programme for the endorsement of forest certification
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (habitats)
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area (birds)
SPHN	Statutory Plant Health Notice
UKBAP	UK Biodiversity Action Plan
UKFS	UK Forestry Standard
UKWAS	UK Woodland Assurance Standard
YC	Yield Class (Index of potential productivity of even-aged stands of trees. Measured in units of cubic metres per hectare per year)

Species abbreviations

Species	AR = Alder BI = Birch (downy/silver) CAR = Common Alder DF = Douglas Fir EL = European Larch HAW = Hawthorn GF = Grand Fir GWL = Goat Willow HAZ = Hazel HL = Hybrid Larch JL = Japanese Larch LP = Lodgepole Pine MB = Mixed Broadleaves SS = Sitka Spruce MC = Mixed Conifers MCP = Macedonian Pine NBL = native broadleaves (including SP where suitable for conservation) NF = Noble Fir NS = Norway Spruce OK = Oak (robur/petraeae) RC = Western Red Cedar ROW = Rowan SP = Scots Pine SS = Sitka spruce WCH = Wild Cherry / Gean WH = Western Hemlock XL = Larch XWL = Other Willows
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Appendix IX:

Unexpired EIA determinations / PNs

Appendix X: Woodland Types

Prescription	Description	Management Objective	Typical location	Species	Establishment	Density	Protection requirement	Management system	Other
Productive Conifer	Even aged, regular stands of single or mixed conifer species grown for sawlog production	Sawlog timber production.	Widespread on accessible areas capable of producing YC12 spruce and YC10 of other spp	Conifer species matched to site type #1 Sitka spruce, Norway spruce #2 Douglas fir, Western hemlock, Western red cedar, Noble fir, Scots pine Lodgepole pine may be used in mix with SS as a nurse spp	Planting. Supplemented by natural regeneration / beat up.	High Density 2500 per ha	Low for SS Mod to high	Clearfell at economic optimum* Coupe size dictated by access and landform. Thinned where access and stability permit.	Standard SS forests for supply of large quantities of spruce to large sawmills. Also includes other structural timber producing species for niche markets. Need to be planted in sufficient quantity and where can be thinned to improve quality. *Rotation length based on MMAI

Prescription	Description	Management Objective	Typical location	Species	Establishment	Density	Protection requirement	Management system	Other
									and windthrow predictions which may be further modified by restructuring and adjacency requirements
Productive conifers CCF	Mixed age and species stands grown for sawlog production	Sawlog production Amenity	Sheltered well drained sites with moderate to high public access or visibility	Conifer species matched to site type and spp compatibility Sitka spruce, Norway spruce, Douglas fir, Western hemlock, Western red cedar, Noble fir, Scots pine	Natural regeneration supplemented with planting	High Density 2500 per ha	Low for SS Mod to high for others	Shelterwood or selection system depending on site and spp	Limited scope with the current stands but looking to increase the area in the future. Limited suitable sites therefore need to focus effort on these Mixtures will be used to create diversity. Spp will be

Prescription	Description	Management Objective	Typical location	Species	Establishment	Density	Protection requirement	Management system	Other
									selected for the site type and their compatibility with each other.
Productive Broadleaves High value	Small but accessible areas planted specifically for sawlog production	Timber Production. Restoration to PAWS targets.	Better soils and close to access tracks for harvesting. Limited areas	Birch , Sessile Oak, sycamore, Beech Consider improved stock for sawlog potential Ash - acceptable as a component if arising from nat regen.	Planting. Supplemented by natural generation. High protection	High Density 3000-5000 per ha	High	Clearfell with interventions to respace/prune and thin Possible shelterwood	Untried in Lochaber – both for sites and also management experience Scope of some of the PAWS sites where ecological potential is low. Care in the use of sycamore due to invasive nature and avoid sycamore and beech on or adjacent

Prescription	Description	Management Objective	Typical location	Species	Establishment	Density	Protection requirement	Management system	Other
									to PAWS and ASNW sites.
Productive Broadleaves fuelwood	Natural regen or planted for fuel wood.	Fuelwood production Restoration to PAWS targets. Forest resilience and bio-diversity.	As above but could be on less fertile sites still need to be relatively dry for harvesting	Birch likely to be dominant but native woodlands W11 and W17 also potential	Natural regenerations supplemented by planting	High Density 3000-5000 per ha	Moderate	Clearfell Possible shelterwood	Could be widespread on PAWS sites in particular
Productive Pinewoods	Even aged regular stands of scots pine with proportion of other pinewood spp.	Timber Production. Restoration to PAWS. Bio –diversity	On suitable sites as an option for increasing diversity	Scots Pine Birch component	Planting. Supplemented by natural regeneration.	High density 2500 per ha	High	Clearfell at age MMAI or group selection system	Scope for increasing this type of woodland to add diversity to the productive conifer area in particular on or adjacent to suitable PAWS sites (low ecological value and the right site type)

