

1st August 2024

Consultation Letter: Leckuary Forest, Kilmichael Glen, Argyll

Forest Location (refer to Map 1)

Leckuary Forest is situated at the top end of Kilmichael Glen, approx. 5 miles North of Lochgilhead. Access into the property comes from the C38 Public Road, turning East onto a private shared access track which runs for approx. 1 mile to reach our client's forest boundary.

Map 1 appended shows the location of the property, the ownership boundary outlined in red, and the main access point and existing track.

Long Term Forest Plan

Tilhill have been involved with the management of the property since the mid-1980's when the bare land was purchased by our client and the conifer plantation established.

Some of the conifer crops have now reached full maturity and are ready for harvesting. The landowner has instructed us to prepare a Long-Term Forest Plan, which will grant permissions for key operations to take place in the forest over the next few years: including road construction and upgrades, timber harvesting and subsequent replanting works.

As part of the forest plan approval process, we encourage input from neighbours and statutory consultees to help us to identify any constraints or opportunities that we may have missed, and to address any questions you may have with future works planned in the forest.

Concept (refer to Map 2)

Map 2 appended shows all hazards and constraints that we are aware of, based on desktop checks, historical records, and observations. We appreciate this may not be 100% accurate, so please do get in touch if we have omitted anything or have shown them incorrectly.

Private Drinking Water Supplies

We are particularly interested in identifying any Private Drinking Water Supplies that supply residential dwellings, so that we can protect these during forest works. If you do take a supply from land or water adjacent to the forest we manage, can you please get in touch so we can accurately record and map the source of the supply and any associated equipment/pipework. We would be happy to meet with you to do this.

Road Works/Timber Haulage

The intention is to remove timber from the forest on wagon and drag lorries, exiting over the private shared access track shown by the green line on Map 2, and then heading South along the C38 Kilmichael Glen Road back to the A816 junction at Bridgend.

An existing Traffic Management Plan has previously been agreed with the Council to protect this section of C38 public road, limiting timber haulage to only 1st May to 30th September.

Other conditions of use are detailed on the Map 2 label, and can be found on the following link:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/TTMP%20C38%20Kilmichael%20Glen%20Road.pdf>

Map 2 gives a bit more detail on future road works, which will be subject to planning consents being applied for and issued:

- A new bell-mouth entrance to be formed South of the existing entrance, to get lorries turned onto the C38 road.
- The green line shows the existing track, which would be widened, strengthened, and capped with fresh crushed stone.
- The white-purple lines within Leckuary Forest, are proposed new roads.

Timber Harvesting

The colours shaded on Map 2 set out our initial thoughts for harvesting the mature conifer areas. The intention would be to harvest the first rotation crops in 3 stages, over a 15-year period.

- Phase 1 (Red): to be cut between 2025 to 2029
- Phase 2 (Orange): to be cut between 2030 to 2034
- Phase 3 (Yellow): to be cut between 2035 to 2039

Note: Native broadleaves will not be harvested, to remain in situ for amenity/wildlife benefits

Replanting

Once the mature conifer crops are harvested, the ground will be prepared and replanted, and usually within 1-2 years.

Replanting species will be selected to comply with the new UK Forestry Standard v5, which will limit the Sitka spruce area to a maximum 65% of the total property.

This will result in an increase in species diversity and forest design. Improvements will be focussed mainly along outer woodland edges, adjacent to residential dwellings, along riparian corridors, and adjacent to existing ancient native woodland.

Once consultation comments are received from all parties, we will use this information to put together an appropriate replanting design for Scottish Forestry to consider.

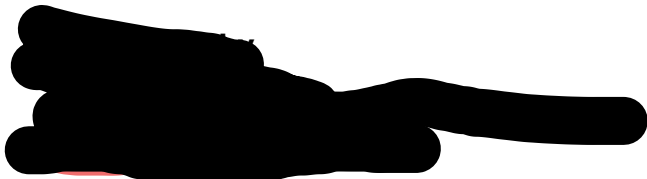
How to Respond

Please respond with any comments or questions by e-mail to Kevin and myself by **31st August 2024**.

Look forward to hearing from you, and possibly meeting up with some of you in the coming weeks.

Kind Regards

K. Murphy



F. Talbot

