



Information for Forest Plan Scopees

1 What is a Forest Plan?

A Forest Plan is a document which draws together all the relevant management information for a forest and describes the management proposals. Normally the plan contains a vision for twenty years and more detailed information for the first ten.

Usually a Forest Plan will be prepared in advance of the first felling operations and the main purpose is to outline the proposed felling pattern and the replanting of the forest. Felling and replanting affords the Forest Manger an opportunity to redesign the forest to meet modern forest industry standards. This might include increasing the diversity for wildlife, improving streamside design for water quality or improving the landscape design.

The Forest Plan is normally put forward for 'Approval' by the Forestry Commission which is the body responsible for licencing any tree felling. The Forestry Commission will then issue a Felling Licence to the forest owner.

2 What is scoping?

Other people may hold relevant information about the forest such as the location of archaeological features, water supplies or rare or protected species which should be safeguarded during forest operations. Alternatively there may be concerns about potential impacts of forest operations on neighbouring properties and local people.

Scoping is intended to assist the Forest manger in the preparation of the Forest Plan by bringing these issues to the surface at an early stage so that they can be discussed with the relevant party. It may not always be possible to fully resolve every issue but usually some mitigation measures or agreement can be reached.

Scoping is also intended to establish a permanent channel of communication between the Forest Manager and those with a legitimate interest in the forest to ensure that any issues which may arise in the future can be resolved.

3 Why have I been asked to comment?

Although it may be difficult to identify everyone who may wish to comment, the Forest Manger will try to be as inclusive as possible in the scoping process. There is no requirement for scopees to respond if they do not wish to do so.

4 How will my comments be treated?

Comments received from scopees will normally be included in the Scoping Report which draws together and analyses all the comments and information received. A copy of the Scoping Report is made available to anyone who requests it. If you wish to receive a copy of the Scoping Report then please indicate this with your response.

Anonymous comments may be disregarded. However comments and information provided are usually attributed to the individual or organisation providing the information in the Scoping Report. You may request that your details are withheld from the publicly available documentation in which case your details will only be made known by Scottish Woodlands to



relevant statutory authorities. Your comments will appear in the publicly available documentation but as “Name and address withheld”.

5 How do I access the scoping information?

Scoping information is made available through the Scottish Woodlands website by following the web link and using the password in the scoping letter. The information is downloadable as a series of Adobe pdf files. If you prefer, or if you cannot or have difficulty in accessing the internet, the Forest Manager will send to you a copy of the scoping information through the post. If you wish to receive a paper copy of the scoping information then please contact the manager using the information provided in the scoping letter.

6 How do I comment?

We are happy to receive comments in any format you wish. Email and postal details are included in the scoping information. If there is a particular issue which is better to discuss on site then the Forest Manager may be able to meet you there.

7 When do I need to comment by?

The Forestry Commission and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard require a 30 day consultation period. This period is set to ensure that the Forest Plan can continue to make progress within a reasonable timescale. We would therefore appreciate if comments could be made within the requested period. The consultation dates are given in the scoping letter.

The end of the 30 day scoping period is not however the end of all consultation. Some issues may require ongoing investigation and discussion. Indeed it is often better for some discussions to take place just prior to operations commencing in a particular area, which may well be some years hence.

Equally, if some important and relevant information comes to light at any time in the future then the Forest Manager would be happy to receive it.

8 What about Forest Certification?

We prepare our Forest Plans to conform to the [UK Woodland Assurance Standard](#) which is the certification standard endorsed by both [FSC®](#) and [PEFC™](#) in the UK. On completion and approval of the Forest Plan the intention is for the forest to be assessed for membership of Scottish Woodlands Forest Certification Group Scheme. Membership provides assurance that the forest is being managed to meet FSC and PEFC requirements. These schemes offer assurance that the forest is being managed responsibly to the highest international standards. Our Group Scheme is independently audited each year to ensure compliance.



The mark of
responsible forestry

