

Pitgaveny Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP) Scoping

Site Summary

Pitgaveny Farm (GR: NJ 2387 6640) is located in the Moray council area close to the town of Lossiemouth which borders the North-east of the property. The LTFP area will cover 384.56 Ha of woodland, though the estate itself is far larger, encompassing much of the surrounding farmland. Around two thirds of the forest is commercial, comprising of mainly Scots Pine, with smaller areas of Sitka Spruce, Larch and Corsican Pine. These commercial sections are mainly focussed to the North of the plan area. The remaining third of the forest contains broadleaf species such as Oak and birch as well as sections of open ground. These are mainly smaller more isolated areas of shelter-belts and amenity woodland.

Pitgaveny is in proximity to various features of interest. There is one scheduled monument located in the plan area which has a reference number of NJ26NW001. It is listed as the remains of a camp and rampart of unknown time-period. Additionally, there are various unscheduled monuments within and around the plan area, the locations of which are all shown on the enclosed map. These include Loch Spynie (RN: NJ26NW0184) which is also classed as an SSSI, SPA & RAMSAR site. Protected species such as red squirrel have also been sighted at Pitgaveny, though no wildlife structures which require protection are currently known of. Finally, the River Lossie runs along the North-East boundary of the plan area and the Spynie Canal intersects the commercial block of forestry to the north.

Proposed forestry operations within the forest plan time-frame will include multiple clear fells split into 5-year phases. As shown on the attached concept map, much of the Phase 1 clear fell operations will be concentrated to Compartment 18, aside from a small windblown area needing cleared in compartment 92. Additionally compartments 4,5,6,8,9 & 11 are all to be considered for thinning within the first 10 years of the plan.

LTFP Objectives

- Maintain & improve productive areas of forest
 - Continue to monitor conifer areas to the North of the forest for thinning opportunities
 - Delivery of proposed phased felling and restructuring to ensure maintenance of a diverse age and species structure
 - Systematic removal of windblow
- Maintain biodiversity through:
 - Ensuring protection of LTR/NR/LISS areas
 - Ensuring protection of designated habitats e.g. Loch Spynie
- Guarantee best practice & compliance with rules, regulations & directives
 - Maintain appropriate buffers from watercourses/water supplies, incorporate riparian zones into restructuring
 - Comply with appropriate operational buffers for utilities, archaeology & protected species
- Encourage public use of forest
 - Maintain tracks & footpaths within forest

Key Features/constraints to be addressed

Feature/Constraint	
Public access/engagement	The forested area of Pitgaveny is regularly frequented by locals through use of informal footpath networks. The plan area also borders multiple residential & commercial properties. Ensuring appropriate consultation with the local community prior to formulation of the LTFP is essential.
Archaeology	There are multiple scheduled and unscheduled monuments within, and in proximity to the plan area. Consultation with Historic Environment Scotland & the regional archaeologist will be required to ensure adequate protection measures are taken during any planned operations
Protected Species	There is the potential for protected mammals such as Red Squirrels, Badgers and Otters to be present in the plan area. Also, protected bird species including Long-eared owl, Short-eared owl and Kestrel may be present. Consultation with NatureScot will be undertaken during scoping and additional pre-operational wildlife surveys will be carried out to ensure any protected wildlife structures are identified
Protected habitats	As mentioned previously, Loch Spynie which borders the plan area is an SSSI, SPA & RAMSAR site. This, along with the River Lossie & Spynie canal will need to be protected in adherence with Forest & Water Guidelines for Scotland. In addition, consultation with SEPA & Scottish Water will be undertaken.
Cpt. 18 Felling & Timber Haulage	Roading and access works would be required to facilitate the CF operations planned in Cpt. 18. Therefore, Moray Council roads department will be consulted prior to submitting any planning applications to gauge the requirements for the application