

Long-Term Forest Plan

Planning Process and Scoping/Consultation



What is a Long-Term Forest Plan?

In Scotland, a Forest Plan is a strategic management plan approved by Scottish Forestry that sets out 20-year management goals and 10-year actionable proposals for a forest. It includes plans for felling, replanting, improving biodiversity, water quality, and landscape, and grants permission to carry out the specified activities in the first 10 years.

1) Initial Forest Plan Preparation

- Forest Plan Management Objectives are agreed by the client and Forest Manager
- Initial background research is completed. Looking specifically at sensitive features and site conditions.
- Forest Concept Map is created.

2) Due Diligence

Scoping / Consultation

- Any required surveys are completed
- Further background research and site walkover survey if required.

- Stakeholders are identified (e.g. NatureScot, SEPA, and adjacent residential neighbours) and a method of engagement is agreed with Scottish Forestry (also referred to as scoping or consultation).
- Engagement is commonly through email or letter but may also be a site visit or meeting.
- The concept is presented, and stakeholders can offer any relevant information (e.g. location of private water supplies and historic features) and raise any issues, concerns, or opportunities felt important to be considered.
- Generally, 30 days are allowed for responses. Responses are reviewed and compiled into a report, which is reviewed by Scottish Forestry.
- This stage is a review of concept information and not a final plan.

3) Development / Drafting

- The Forest Manager will begin writing up the forest plan and drafting proposals.
- Maps will be created to show felling and restocking proposals. Along with other relevant maps.
- The drafted LTFP will be submitted Scottish Forestry for approval. Further changes to the plan may be required following feedback from Scottish Forestry

4) Review

Statutory consultation (Scottish Forestry Public Register)

- Meeting all rules, regulations, and good practice guidelines

- The final proposal is posted onto Scottish Forestry's Public Register for 28 days to allow for comment.
- Public Register <https://forestry.gov.scot/publicregisterlegacy>
- Stakeholders may request access to the full plan for review
- At this stage, the plan is screened by Scottish Forestry as being compliant with UKFS, however additional comments from stakeholders can result in changes to the plan before approval.
- The applicant must tell scoping stakeholders that the application is now on the Public Register.

5) Approval

- The plan is approved by Scottish Forestry, giving legal authorisation to carry out the proposal