



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ref: EIR 2025-019
Date 17 July 2025

REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

We refer to your request for information, received by email on 19 June 2025. The information you have requested is environmental information, as defined in Regulation 2 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs). We have therefore applied the exemption in section 39(2) of FOISA and dealt with your request under the EIRs alone.

Your specific requests and the Park Authority's response are provided below.

Your Request

I am wanting to find out what the LLTNPA has said and done about FLS' proposed Larch Removal Plan in Strathyre - their consultation log on the proposal indicates the LLTNPA has been consulted. Please could you provide me with:

- a) All written communications and records of any meeting held with FLS about the Larch Removal Plan including arrangements for consultation with the public
- b) The LLTNPA's response or responses to the subsequent statutory consultation by Scottish Forestry
- c) Any notes of internal meeting, emails between staff or communications with board members about the Larch Removal Plan
- d) Any written communications or notes of meetings etc with SEPA about the pollution risks to the river system, a Special Area of Conservation

Our Response

All information held has been attached to this response. This includes:

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N

t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org

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- A copy of the consultee letter issued by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
- Email communications regarding consultation
- Internal email communications and email communications between National Park Authority staff and FLS
- A screenshot of a diary invite for a site visit meeting held between FLS and the NPA and the notes recorded of the site visit meeting.
- Attachments to the email communications included in this response

There are no communications with the National Park Authority Board regarding larch removal, nor any written communications with SEPA regarding pollution risks. Therefore, under exemption 12(4)(a) we must advise that this information is not held.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

Yours sincerely,

Due to the disclosure file's size, it has not been loaded to our website in its entirety. If you require access to the additional information, please email us at the below address: infomanagement@lochlomond-trossachs.org

**Information Management
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority**

Review Procedure

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, or the way in which the Authority has dealt with your request, you are entitled to require the Authority to review its decision. Please note that in order for a review to take place you are required to:

- Send your request for review in writing, setting out in full the reasons why you are requesting a review.
- Submit your review request within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the Authority or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.
- address your review request to:

Information Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
National Park Headquarters
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
E-mail: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org

The review will be handled by staff who were not involved in the original decision. You will receive notice of the result of your review within 20 working days.

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

2

National Park Headquarters, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch, G83 8EG Long: 4°34'24"W Lat: 56°00'12"N

t: 01389 722600 f: 01389 722633 e: info@lochlomond-trossachs.org w: lochlomond-trossachs.org

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If you are not satisfied with the response to your request for review, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, at:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Tel: 01334 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info



Scottish
Forestry
Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

Perth and Argyll Conservancy

Upper Battleby

Battleby

Redgorton

Perth

PH1 3EN

Tel 0300 067 6005

██████████@forestry.gov.scot

By email

Date: 17/04/25

Dear Consultee

**LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN: STRATHYRE FORESTS – WEST STRATHYRE,
STRATHYRE EAST & KIRKTON
REF: LMP-03-2025
NEAREST TOWN: STRATHYRE**

Details of this Land Management Plan application received by Scottish Forestry can be found at [Forestry & Land Scotland - Strathyre Larch Plan](#)

Before giving further consideration to the application, I would be grateful to know whether you have any comments to make on these proposals. Would you please let me have any comments or inform me of your intention not to comment to: panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot by **Sunday 18th May 2025**.

If we do not hear back from you within the specified timeframe, we will assume you have no comment to make on this proposal.

I am also sending copies to those listed below.

Yours sincerely

██████████

pp ██████████
For Scottish Forestry

Copies to: ██████████ Stirling TTG; Stirling Council Roads Dept; NatureScot; Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park; SEPA; RSPB; West of Scotland Archaeology Service; Scottish Water; Callander Community Council; Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels; Scottish Badgers; Central Scotland Raptor Study Group; Balquhitter, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Community Council; Trossachs Community Council

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

S e Coilltearachd na h-Alba a' bhuidheann-ghnìomha aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba a tha an urra ri poileasaidh, taic agus riaghladh do choilltearachd

Consultation Process

From: <O[REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot>
Sent on: Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:22:37 AM
To: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot
Subject: 486 - LMP-03-2025 Strathyre Forests Larch Plan Consultation Request
Attachments: Consultee Letter.pdf (169.78 KB)

Hello

Please see attached letter which includes a link to the documents for the above consultation request.

I would be grateful to know whether you have any comments to make. Would you please let me have any comments or inform me of your intention not to comment by **Sunday 18th May 2025** to panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot

If we do not hear back from you within the specified timeframe, we will assume you have no comment to make on this proposal.

The details will also be visible on our [Public Register](#) from Monday 21st April 2025.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

C [REDACTED]
Case Management Officer

Scottish Forestry
Perth & Argyll Conservancy | Upper Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EN
Telephone: 0300 067 6005

Direct: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Website: forestry.gov.scot



[@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED]@lochlomond-trossachs.org>

Sent on: Monday, May 12, 2025 11:20:21 AM

To: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: RE: 486 - LMP-03-2025 Strathyre Forests Larch Plan Consultation Request

Hello P and A,

Thank you for consulting with LLTNPA.

We had constructive dialogue with FLS over the SLaRP as it was being drafted and have no further comments to make.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org

www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs

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Internal

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 March 2025 14:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] shared the folder "471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE Site visit with LLNP feedbacks" with you

[REDACTED] invited you to edit a folder

Hi all. This is a Larch Removal Plan for the Strathyre forest management area - West Strathyre, Strathyre East, and Kirkton.

[REDACTED] - lot of public access here with potential for disruption.

[REDACTED] - I'm particularly concerned with Kirkton face felling above Balquhidder.

[REDACTED] - public consultation will be held in Strathyre on 28/3.

[REDACTED] - all the usual suspects here re designations.

Can I get any comments back please by 21 March.

Thanks.

[REDACTED]



[471 - \[Stathyre SLaRP\] RE Site visit with LLNP feedbacks](#)



This invite will only work for you and people with existing access.

Open

Share



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Thursday, March 27, 2025 11:48:16 AM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED] shared the folder "471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE Site visit with LLNP feedbacks" with you

Attachments: Kirkton Stile.jpg (106.49 KB)

Hi [REDACTED],

Sorry I'm a few days late with this but with the public consultation not until tomorrow, I'm assuming I haven't totally missed the boat. Comments listed below:

1. This is a large scale and complex plan covering a wide area over the next five years which will have widespread access implications, albeit at a smaller site based scale at different locations and different years. The overall impact for recreational users of FLS land in the Strathyre/ Balquhiddier area for the next five years will be one of regular path closures/ diversions and loss of amenity because of vehicle movements and potential damage to routes associated with felling and harvesting. There are 49 coupes in Strathyre West, 33 in Strathyre East and 14 in Kirkton and a range of core paths, rights of way and promoted routes such as NCN7 and the Rob Roy Way will be affected as well as less formal but equally important local walking routes and the mountain bike trails in Kirkton. It is not possible to comment on almost 100 individual coupes but as a rule of thumb, we would expect that all operations follow the managing forestry operations and access best practice guidance - <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/352-managing-woodland-access-and-forest-operations-in-scotland/viewdocument/352> In particular, as most felling work takes place during the week, closures and diversions should be lifted at weekends wherever possible and signs/ barriers taken down. Clear and advance communication with a range of stakeholders and local communities is going to be key to manage public access during this period. We note the development of Public Access Management Plans (PAMP) to manage and mitigate restrictions to public access as part of detailed work planning processes and we welcome further consultation on these at the appropriate time.
2. The Rob Roy Way (RRW) is most impacted by the SLaRP as it passes through the entirety of Strathyre East and West. NCN7 also passes through Strathyre West and we assume from the maps and information on haulage routes that parts of these

routes will be used for timber transport to the Keip Farm and Bochastle access points in Strathyre West. These are regionally and nationally important routes and are incredibly popular with all types of user. Closure of these routes should be an absolute last resort and any diversions should be comparable in terms of condition and function (widths, surfaces and gradients) for the range of users (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders) and their abilities (long distance walkers, dog walkers, family cycling etc.). The RRW in Strathyre East passes through 10 coupes that are either going to be clear or selective felled and thinned and these operations cover a four year period from 2026 to 2030. Thought needs to be given as to how this will be managed – either by individual and short duration closures/ diversions or a long term and agreed diversion route to cover the whole period. The obvious alternative route is along NCN7 from Strathyre to Kingshouse but we also think a route through the forest should be maintained as much as possible. To that effect, there is a high level route option, taking forest roads alongside the Allt Chreagain up to 350m and then rising and contouring north between 400 and 450m before dropping back down towards the Kingshouse. As above, we will welcome the opportunity to further comment on issues such as this through the PAMP process.

3. We also note the ash condition map and that many of the ash identified for felling lie on/ adjacent to the line of the RRW and NCN7. Some of this is owned and managed by the NPA, notably the section immediately west of Bochastle/ the A821. Our Estates/ Land Operations Teams should be informed and consulted with on any works in this area and, as with point 2 above, the route should remain open as much as possible during any felling.
4. The timings of works in affected coupes will need careful management to avoid 'double closures' to key attractions/ destinations such as popular hills. Ben Ledi is a potential example. Coupes 82707 and 82588 are earmarked for thinning in 2029-30. Both have access routes to the summit of Ben Ledi passing through them, one from the Ben Ledi car park next to Corriechrombie Bridge and one from Bochastle car park. This felling needs to be scheduled so while one coupe is worked and with potential access restrictions, the other remains open as an alternative/ diversion route. This principle applies to other routes such as Stank Glen and in Kirkton Glen.
5. There are a number of rights of way that cross hills into other glens that are affected by these proposals. These are the old coffin route from Strathyre to Immeroin across the southern flanks of Beinn an t-Sithein, from Laggan to Immeroin and most notably the route through Kirkton Glen over to Glen Dochart past Lochan an Eireannaich and Rob Roy's Putting Stone at an altitude of 600m/ 2,000 feet. These are all routes with historical and cultural associations and where they cross affected coupes, the condition of these should be recorded and restored as appropriate and if necessary post operations. Again, they should remain open wherever possible.
6. The dominant recreational use within Kirkton Glen is walking, hillwalking and mountain biking. There are two core paths, one from Balquhiddar Church and the other from Tullochmhor Farm, that converge further up the Glen and continue over the high bealach down to Glen Dochart. The right of way is associated with Rob Roy and the droving of livestock. There is also a network of mountain bike trails within the lower section of Kirkton Glen and these are maintained by a local mountain bike

7. Although obviously not an access team remit we agree with Claire's comments about the re-stocking of Kirkton Glen. There is an opportunity to increase mixed broadleaf planting at the southern face, alongside the core path and right of way and towards the head of the site so commercial crops give way to a more scattered and open upland woodland of Scots Pine, Birch and Rowan etc. This would be a much more attractive environment for recreational users but again we accept this is may be for the LMP renewal plan and not this plan.

Cheers

From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:57:17 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: LLTNP forestry

Hi [REDACTED]

Can we have quick word please before I respond to [REDACTED].

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Natural Heritage Programme Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 27 May 2025 10:59

To: Alan Bell [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Simon Jones [REDACTED]

Subject: LLTNP forestry

[REDACTED],

We hope all is well with you. Please can you confirm who the forestry lead is in LLTNP, is it

[REDACTED]

CSRSG has significant concerns regarding the proposed Strathyre FLS woodland plan which is currently out to consultation. This area has been managed as Continuous Cover Forestry and with mixed conifer stands for a very long time to the benefit of local raptor populations. the proposals seem to involve the removal of significant areas of mature trees. Plant Health Notices around larch removal are used by FLS as the normal excuse for intervention, however we note also However that larch is a relatively small proportion of the trees that are planned to be felled. We have made our views known to FLS however we are unclear as to how our representation will be properly considered. We also think that there is a strong case for large parts of this area to be transformed to native woodland over time, and therefore not re-planted predominantly with Sitka Spruce. In addition to raptors there are significant concerns we hear around red squirrels.

We look forward to hearing from you. We are very keen to hear also what LLTNP are saying about these FLS proposals?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Chair, CSRSG

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 28 May 2025 15:42

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Simon Jones

Subject: Re: LLTNP forestry

[REDACTED],

Thank you for these thoughts. You might need to explain the "SLARP approach"! This is new terminology to me.

The removal of larch under SPHNs is only a small part of this proposal, and whilst we understand this legal requirement on FLS, frankly it looks like it is being used as a bit of an excuse to remove other mature stands of conifer retentions at the same time (including areas which have been managed for decades as CCF)! These mature stands of timber of sufficient scale are critical for the retention of the local raptor populations. We monitor raptors both on and off the NFE and it would seem that FLS are generally the most assiduous landowner in wanting to get rid of larch. Larch is an important tree species for nesting raptors so alternative suitable mature trees (Scots Pine, Douglas Fir etc.) at scale - ideally CCF as at present in the Strathyre corridor- must be left if all the larch is all going to be removed. Sitka spruce is generally a least preferred nesting tree and related woodland structure for breeding raptors.

We have offered to speak to FLS as part of this consultation and advise them on the needs of local raptor populations. We thank you at LLTNP for making the same point to SF. We would welcome some further clarity around timescales as to when this engagement will take place.

I am happy to discuss further with [REDACTED] and yourself upon [REDACTED]'s return.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Chair, CSRSG

On Wednesday 28 May 2025 at 15:18:12 BST, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

All is good here thanks. And thanks for flagging this up. [REDACTED] is our Trees and Woodland Advisor dealing with this SLARP consultation. He has already flagged up raptors as a sensitivity with FLS, advising them to consult the Raptor Study Group. We have also flagged raptors with Scottish Forestry as the regulator. The SLARP approach is being used to get better outcomes than would arise from reactive compulsory felling due to multiple SPHNs. It allows more time to get the details right.

[REDACTED] is on leave now till 9 June and I'll ask him to pick this up with you when he gets back. If there are more details about the raptor species or locations in the plan area that are of particular concern that you can share with us, that would be helpful.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Natural Heritage Programme Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Direct: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

Sent on: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 3:23:10 PM

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]; Simon Jones [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: LLTNP forestry

Hi [REDACTED]

SLARP= Strategic Larch Removal Plan. Effectively a quick update to a normal FLS Land Management Plan, focussed on tackling the phytophthora problem before the multiple infections appear and multiple SPHNs compel rapid felling. SPHNs afford very little scope for careful planning.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Natural Heritage Programme Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2025 08:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Strathyre SLARP

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

[REDACTED],

FLS already has most if not all of the information regarding breeding raptors in the Strathyre area. They are partners in the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme so can access this information also via this route. Much of the data has been collected by FLS's own Conservation Rangers over many years so surely they should be engaged properly to give their advice as well. The problem is that FLS has moved to a standing sales contracting model so they are now handing over most of the harvesting to private contractors, which entails big risks from our point of view as many of these contractors do not have or employ

adequate ecological surveyors for pre-felling checks. What we need to see is FLS draw up a full mitigation plan including long term retentions of commercial timber blocks of sufficient scale and for these plans to be shared with CSRSG to agree. It is surely not up to us to do all of the work for them here? We are a voluntary body with no professional paid staff. It would help if LLTNP can reinforce this point.

I see that the Strathyre community is now objecting to these FLS proposals and has raised a public petition. The CSRSG agree with the community action and concerns. In our view LLTNP should be intervening to get a workable solution here.

Best wishes

██████████

On Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 15:41:18 BST, ██████████

██████████ > wrote:

Hello ██████████,

██████████ forwarded me your emails regarding the Strathyre Strategic Larch Removal Plan (SLaRP) and I am duly getting in touch as ██████████ promised.

The SLaRP has now been or is about to be approved but if necessary FLS can make changes; depending on the extent and timing of the change, this can be done by exchange of email or by formal amendment.

In order to protect the raptor population as effectively as possible, it would be helpful if you could explain your concerns – specifically for breeding raptors and specifically in relation to the SLaRP felling areas as shown on the attached Management map (which shows clear-fell, thinning and select felling for the larch removal). Once we understand these concerns and have adequate supporting information (eg. details of those nests impacted by the larch proposals), we can engage with FLS (and SF if appropriate) to ensure that suitable mitigation planning for these known breeding raptors (and indeed for any new finds) is incorporated into the SLaRP.

The Strathyre Land Management Plan (LMP) renewal has been simultaneously progressing, taking in the entire Strathyre holding. The LMP is a much more substantial piece of work, covering a 20 year period, with the first 10 years in detail, and widely consulting on all aspects of managing the forest environment. The SLaRP will feed into the LMP so the latter is fully informed. There will be an opportunity to feed into the consultation for the LMP.

Kind regards,

██████████

████████████████████

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

Sent on: Friday, June 13, 2025 12:14:59 PM

To: [REDACTED]

FW: Strathyre SLaRP

Attachments: Strathyre SLaRPLMP raptors.msg (88 KB)

Hi [REDACTED],

FYI I've emailed the relevant planners and [REDACTED] at FLS to seek clarification on how harvesting is/will be implemented [REDACTED] and also proposing a specific raptor mitigation plan. It's the beginning of a discussion. I'll drop [REDACTED] a holding email to say we're having a discussion with FLS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
Direct: 01389 727706
Mobile: 07734 127976

From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Friday, June 13, 2025 12:16:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Strathyre SLaRP

Hello [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. I have emailed the relevant planners at FLS to discuss this; I'll come back to you once I have something to report on.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 June 2025 13:08

To: [REDACTED] forestryandland.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] @forestryandland.gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED] @forestryandland.gov.scot>
Subject: Strathyre SLaRP/LMP / raptors

Hi all,

We've been receiving emails from [REDACTED] about concerns over protection of raptor nests at Strathyre as larch felling progresses, and in particular impacts on long-term retention (he was keen for us to respond to the SF consultation with his concerns, but his emails have come in after the deadline). I've already advised him that more comprehensive plans are being developed in the LMP.

He claims that *The problem is that FLS has moved to a standing sales contracting model so they are now handing over most of the harvesting to private contractors, which entails big risks from our point of view as many of these contractors do not have or employ adequate ecological surveyors for pre-felling checks.* Can you shed some light on this please? I know FLS use various methods for implementing harvesting, it would be helpful to understand what methods are being used /planned at Strathyre and to what extent.

To follow on from that, would it be possible to include a specific raptor nest mitigation plan in the SLaRP and LMP, including mapped mitigation? I understand there is a need to keep the nest sites of these birds out of the public arena, but such a document/addendum could be kept confidential (we often see this in EIAs for planning applications). Currently Section C.1.12 (Biodiversity) of the SLaRP refers generally to following guidelines and local Environment staff advice. It would be helpful if this could be made more detailed, identifying the raptor species present, their location and the appropriate mitigation. A map accompanied by a table would I think be sufficient.

I understand this is something that would normally be reserved for operational planning, but it does seem appropriate, given the sensitivity of these birds, to include it at the earlier more strategic planning stage.

If it would be helpful to discuss this, I'd be happy to.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED] lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Sent on: Friday, June 13, 2025 1:09:27 PM
To: [REDACTED] lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Subject: RE: Strathyre SLaRP

Thanks. All well expressed. And I think it is perfectly legitimate to ask about this in the same way that we would about any other environmental aspects of an LMP.

Alan

[REDACTED]
Natural Heritage Programme Manager
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

.
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2025 13:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Strathyre SLARP

Hi [REDACTED],
FYI I've emailed the relevant planners and [REDACTED] at FLS to seek clarification on how harvesting is/will be implemented [REDACTED] and also proposing a specific raptor mitigation plan. It's the beginning of a discussion. I'll drop [REDACTED] a holding email to say we're having a discussion with FLS.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 9:04:18 PM
To: Simon Jones ; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Strathyre Forest and Larch Removal Proposals

Simon,

I hope all is well with you.

[REDACTED], representing members of the Strathyre Community and their concerns, and myself representing Central Scotland Raptor Study Group, are seeking to get a meeting with FLS regarding their current forestry plans around Strathyre. We have also been in contact with Councillor Martin Earl who is helpfully assisting us with this case.

CSRSG has already written to FLS as part of the current Strathyre consultation exercise to indicate that we wish to have proper and detailed conversations about the protection of raptor breeding sites in the area. We have had no response back as of yet and are unclear whether Scottish Forestry are taking our views on board despite raptor protection being flagged as a consideration by the original consultation email. FLS hold all of the data for these breeding raptors through their membership and involvement in the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme. We suggest that they use this data and their in house conservation expertise to produce a thorough raptor breeding site mitigation plan which we can then scrutinise and indicate whether it is adequate. We are volunteers and we feel that it is really up to FLS to do this work rather than us. At the moment it looks like they will be removing

much of the mature stands of continuous cover forestry which have been in situ for decades and it is our firm view that this will be to the detriment of breeding raptors in the area. This will also almost certainly also impact red squirrels and badgers as well and expert advice should be obtained for the future conservation of these species as well.

Longer term we also think that there should be a transition to native woodland along this corridor linking up Leny and Balquhidder oak woodlands. We need some vision and imagination here from FLS rather than just more rotations of mainly Sitka spruce. Surely the LLTNP as part of its Future Nature Strategy should also be stepping in to make these kind of points in such an important and scenic road corridor through the Park?

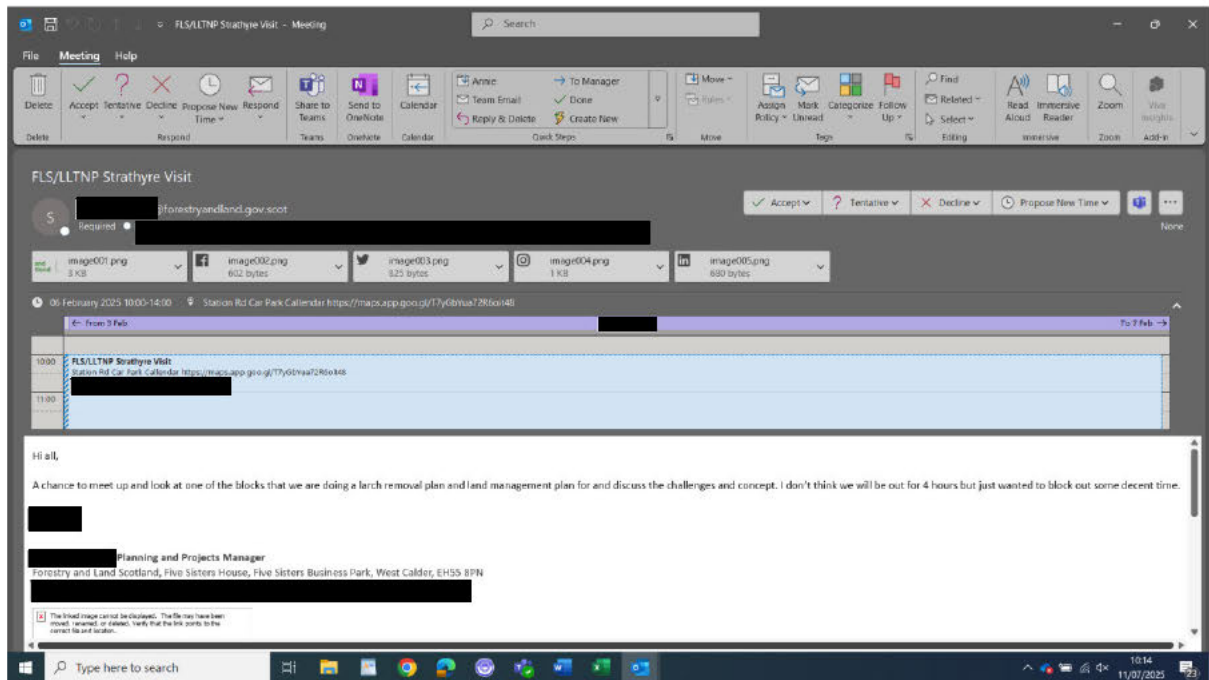
We would like LLTNP to attend the meeting with FLS when it happens. We would be grateful if you could confirm?

Please contact me if you wish to discuss further on [REDACTED]

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

FLS



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 February 2025 12:29
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@lochlomond-trossachs.org; [REDACTED]
([REDACTED]@lochlomond-trossachs.org); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Hi [REDACTED],

As per previous email, I am sending you the feedbacks from the site visit with the National Park regarding our Larch Plan proposal for Strathgry.

I think that the National Park was generally favourable with our approach to the pre-emptive larch felling plan.

1-We have explained the general approach that we took in order to create coupe shapes that would minimise landscaping impact. The visit was focused on the part of the plan where the impact of felling would be most visible for the community and visitors in the area. It was accepted that large areas of clearfell in specific areas visible from the tourist stopping points and from Balquhiddier would be less impactful in the landscape.

2- We have explained the approach for choosing clear-felling in some areas vs thinning where more appropriate.

3-We discussed our approach to finalise restocking at LMP stage and that the restocking proposal was at the moment just a reflection of the current approved plan, however it would

Apologies for not sending you a copy of the full larch plan earlier. I think we only provided few maps but not the full plan details.

Due to volume of the files, I will have to send a series of email to include all maps, indexes and the plan.

Please bear in mind that the proposed restocking is currently a copy of the previously approved LMP for all areas, which in the case of Kirkton and Strathyre is more than 10 years old and is due for more thorough review which will be done at the submission of the full LMP for all blocks in few years time.

Please do not hesitate to provide your further feedbacks on this plan.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@forestryandland.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@forestryandland.gov.scot)

Sent on: Thursday, February 27, 2025 1:42:15 PM

To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@lochlomond-trossach.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@lochlomond-trossach.org)

CC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: 471 - Strathyre Larch felling plan

Attachments: Strathyre Notification List.xlsx (12.62 KB)

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies for not getting you involved at an earlier stage.

We have just submitted a larch plan for FLS Strathyre Land management Plan area, which includes Kirkton block at Balquhiddy & West and East Strathyre blocks.

Although we are not going through a proper consultation process for this plan as the plan has been designed with p.Ramorum in mind and the strong likelihood of being issued Statutory Plant Health Notices for these blocks. We are seeking felling permission for the larch and associated species as a result and we have only been recommended to engage with local communities to inform them of the felling to come in the area.

We are looking to organise a drop in session in Balquhiddy hall on the 29th of March to discuss the plan with the community of Balquhiddy and Strathyre village. I have a list of stakeholders for this and would be grateful if you could let me know if important community members were omitted from the list.

Obviously you are more than welcome to attend the event may you wish to know a little more about this plan yourself. [REDACTED] have also been sent a copy for comments if you are interested.

Thank you for letting me know

[REDACTED]

SPHN Programme and Planning Forester | Central Region, Aberfoyle office

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2025 12:02
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for consulting with LLTNPA and sending through the various attachments.

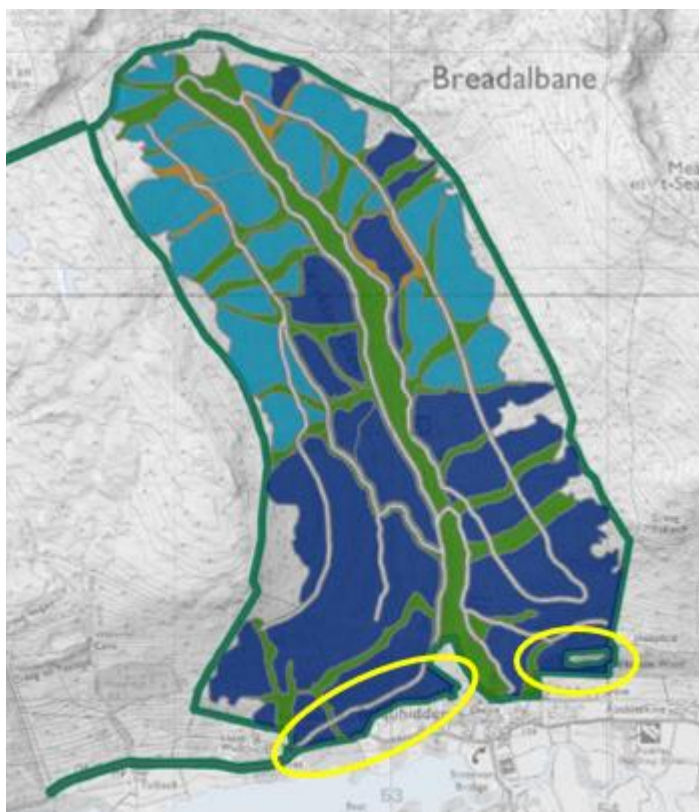
I found the format of the LRP incredibly helpful; it was very easy to follow. The Context of felling area (Appendix 4) is a useful addition.

In Section C.1.12 (Biodiversity) it would be prudent to include Scottish Raptor Study Group as a consultee for appropriate mitigation and advice.

We're pleased that there is an opportunity for the local community to view and discuss the LRP.

We understand the constraints in felling the Kirkton face and its impact on the landscape, and our landscape adviser is on board with the proposed felling sequence. At restocking however, we would encourage the inclusion of broadleaves along the southern edge to buffer Balquhiddel village (see below, yellow ellipses).

Although landscape has been discussed in the context of Landscape Character type, there is no mention of the NP's Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) in the plan, which is a key feature of the NP's designation. Reference to the SLQs should be made and to help inform restocking design. The plan area is within the Breadalbane landscape area and both the summary of Breadalbane's SLQs and the more specific sub-region SLQs should be assessed to inform the restocking design. You'll need the [SLQ report](#) for this.



If you would like to discuss any aspect of our comments, please do let me know.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs
National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent on: Thursday, March 20, 2025 12:52:03 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Hi [REDACTED],

I was slightly premature in hitting the send button. Further to my email below, just a couple more points:

?[Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects](#)? should be used to inform the plan. The Trees and Woodland Strategy [Landscape Capacity Study](#) and [Toolkit](#) may also serve as helpful proxies for landscape impact assessment.

With those in mind and the challenges at the Kirkton block, the restocking design of the front face ? from the south end to around the dyke which goes east-west, being the most visible part ? should consider a significant reduction in, or complete removal of, the productive element to avoid the same landscape challenges in the next rotation.

With the public consultation next week, it will probably be helpful if there are landscape visualisations. I know that the necessity of the felling is not up for discussion, but it's about providing appropriate means by which to inform the uninformed.

Overall, we're pleased to see the diversification of species in the Strathyre LMP, including greater proportions of mixed conifers and a significant increase in native broadleaves.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED] forestryandland.gov.scot>

Sent: 20 March 2025 16:28

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 471 - [Stathyre SLARP] RE: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your comments.

I shall make a mention of the Raptor group and SLQ's in the final draft of the larch plan .

I have forwarded your comments regarding future restocking proposal to [REDACTED] as he will be reviewing the LMP for the three forest blocks in a couple of years' time.

It is worth mentioning that this plan is essentially a felling permission, and that we have been asked to use the currently approved restocking proposal or in the case of Kirkton the last LMP restocking approval as a mean to essentially? tick boxes?.

We are however aware that the current restocking proposal, especially for Kirkton which was last approved in 2008, is clearly out of date and does not meet UKWAS requirements and other objectives in the NP. It will be unlikely that any restocking will take place in Kirkton and most of the forest blocks within the next few years. If it is the case, the restocking will be

reviewed and amended by [REDACTED] to ensure it will fit with the NP SLQ's plan and the objectives of the future LMP (ie PAWS restoration?etc?).

We have prepared landscape visualisations for the large coupe in Kirkton, which offers 3 scenarios (please see attached for info). However we have only sent the visualisation for the proposed shape to SF to avoid confusion (this will need refining with scale and grid reference). The three scenarios will be used during the engagement as a mean of comparing the various options if necessary. We are still in the process of refining the engagement format, but I think this will be a good idea to inform the uninformed as you mentioned.

However it has been agreed with SF that only a visualisation for the felling at Kirkton was necessary for the larch plan. However [REDACTED] may be able to answer you regarding providing further visualisation at LMP stage.

I hope I have covered most of your points, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have more questions regarding this Larch Plan.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

SPHN Programme and Planning Forester | Central Region, Aberfoyle office

[REDACTED]



Forestry and Land Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government

Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 March 2025 11:49

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Hi [REDACTED],

I just wanted to clarify a point I made yesterday, so it is not misconstrued.

It was agreed with SF to refer to the previous plan for the restocking proposal as a mean to accelerate the process of the felling permission. Since the three blocks were due for their full LMP review, it was agreed that the restocking was going to be fully revised at the full LMP stage in approximately 2 years' time. There should be no felling in Kirkton before 26/27 and the large coupe should be programmed later, by which point we should have the full LMP approved before it is time to restock.

As I mentioned for the larch plan we have agreed on a ?like for like? restocking proposal mirroring past plans, however we completely agree that most of the restocking in Kirkton especially is not fit matching today ?s requirements.

I just wanted to clarify that it was not just a tick box exercise but just a mean to ensure we have more time to think thoroughly about the restocking proposal and not rush to create a restocking proposal fit for purpose.

Have a nice week end

Kind regards

██████████

From: ██████████@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Sent on: Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:09:59 PM

To: Mar ██████████
██

CC: ██████████@forestryandland.gov.██
████████████████████@forestryandland.gov.scot

Subject: RE: 471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE: Site visit with LLNP feedbacks

Attachments: RE ██████████ shared the folder 471 - [Stathyre SLaRP] RE Site visit with LLNP feedbacks with you.msg (420 KB)

Hi ██████████

Attached is a (late) response from our access team. I?m sure there?s nothing in it that FLS don?t already know given that the access routes are long-established, but nonetheless worthy of making sure it?s on your radar.

Kind regards,

██████████

██

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

██

██

www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Sent On: Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:22:37 AM

To: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: 486 - LMP-03-2025 Strathyre Forests Larch Plan Consultation Request

Attachments: Consultee Letter.pdf (169.78 KB)

Hello

Please see attached letter which includes a link to the documents for the above consultation request.

I would be grateful to know whether you have any comments to make. Would you please let me have any comments or inform me of your intention not to comment by **Sunday 18th May 2025** to panda.cons@forestry.gov.scot

If we do not hear back from you within the specified timeframe, we will assume you have no comment to make on this proposal.

The details will also be visible on our [Public Register](#) from Monday 21st April 2025.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Case Management Officer

Scottish Forestry

Perth & Argyll Conservancy | Upper Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EN

Telephone: 0300 067 6005

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Website: forestry.gov.scot



[@scotforestry](https://twitter.com/scotforestry)



Scottish
Forestry / Coilltearachd
na h-Alba

From: [REDACTED]@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Sent on: Monday, May 12, 2025 11:20:21 AM

To: [REDACTED]@forestry.gov.scot

Subject: RE: 486 - LMP-03-2025 Strathyre Forests Larch Plan Consultation Request

Hello P and A,

Thank you for consulting with LLTNPA.

We had constructive dialogue with FLS over the SLaRP as it was being drafted and have no further comments to make.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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www.twitter.com/lomondtrossachs
www.facebook.com/lomondtrossachs

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 June 2025 13:08

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Strathyre SLaRP/LMP / raptors

Hi all,

We've been receiving emails from [REDACTED] about concerns over protection of raptor nests at Strathyre as larch felling progresses, and in particular impacts on long-term retention (he was keen for us to respond to the SF consultation with his concerns, but his emails have come in after the deadline). I've already advised him that more comprehensive plans are being developed in the LMP.

He claims that *'The problem is that FLS has moved to a standing sales contracting model so they are now handing over most of the harvesting to private contractors, which entails big risks from our point of view as many of these contractors do not have or employ adequate ecological surveyors for pre-felling checks.'* Can you shed some light on this please? I know FLS use various methods for implementing harvesting, it would be helpful to understand what methods are being used /planned at Strathyre and to what extent.

To follow on from that, would it be possible to include a specific raptor nest mitigation plan in the SLaRP and LMP, including mapped mitigation? I understand there is a need to keep the nest sites of these birds out of the public arena, but such a document/addendum could be kept confidential (we often see this in EIAs for planning applications). Currently Section C.1.12 (Biodiversity) of the SLaRP refers generally to following guidelines and local Environment staff advice. It would be helpful if this could be made more detailed, identifying

the raptor species present, their location and the appropriate mitigation. A map accompanied by a table would I think be sufficient.

I understand this is something that would normally be reserved for operational planning, but it does seem appropriate, given the sensitivity of these birds, to include it at the earlier more strategic planning stage.

If it would be helpful to discuss this, I'd be happy to.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Trees and Woodland Adviser
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Carrochan
Carrochan Road
Balloch
G83 8EG

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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