

# Moine Odhar Scoping FAQ and Consultation Form – Website

Web address -

## Moine Odhar Long Term Forest Plan

Thank you for your interest in proposals for a long-term forest management plan at Moine Odhar which will set out the planned operations for the next 20 years in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (Published 2023), available to view here: [The UK Forestry Standard - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-forestry-standard)

Additionally, the proposed plan will be used to assess Moine Odhar for forest certification under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

The UKWAS (endorsed by the Forest Stewardship Council® [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org), and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification™ [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)) sets out the management standards which woodland and forest owners, managers and forest certification bodies can use to certify woodland and forest management in the United Kingdom. The Standard, which can be seen at [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk), is the product of an inclusive and transparent process which has involved a balanced representation from the UK forestry and environmental communities.

The Standard requires that local people and relevant organisations are made aware when a forest is being evaluated and are able to engage with the manager. Moine Odhar has applied to join the Tilhill Forestry Resource Manager Certification scheme which is certified by the 'Woodmark Programme'.

We want to hear from you. Please take part in the initial consultation survey at the bottom of this page or submit comments per the instructions in the scoping document available below.

Any comments regarding the certification of Raera can also be copied to:

1. Jullian Hollingdale MICFor. Forest Certification & Development Manager, Tilhill Forestry, 10 Lotland Street, Inverness, IV1 1PA
2. Soil Association Certification, Spear House, 51 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AD

## What's Happening?

Moine Odhar has recently changed ownership and the new owner has engaged Tilhill Forestry to provide forest management services and to prepare a Long-Term Forest Plan, integrating the owner's objectives in line with the UKFS and UKWAS.

## FAQ's

### 1. What is being proposed for the woodlands in Moine Odhar?

This Long-Term Forest Plan (LTFP) will cover the entirety of Moine Odhar, circa 78.88 hectares (ha), with 1 hectare equalling an area of 100m x 100m. The forest

was originally planted between 1970-1985 and within the 78.88ha there are around 63.23ha of commercial conifers, of which 37.96ha are due to be harvested in the next 10 years.

As such the plan will set out proposal for felling and replanting of these areas, along with works required to facilitate this and any works required to make the forest compliant with today's standards.

## **2. How many trees will be planted?**

Restocking will occur to achieve UKFS mandated stocking densities as prescribed through felling permission documentation issued by Scottish Forestry. These are 2,500 stems per ha for conifers after 5 years, and 1,100 stems per ha for broadleaves after 5 years.

## **3. What species mix? And why?**

The minimum species composition of a forest is mandated by the UKFS. This details the minimum proportions for different species and areas of open ground within a forest area.

As a commercial forest, the owner is seeking to maximise the productive extent of the forest within the proportions as listed in UKFS on ground that can support a productive crop. As such the main species will be Sitka spruce, with diversity maintained through the expansion of local native broadleaves (see Q5).

## **4. What is the tree provenance?**

There is a significant hardwood seed source in Moine Odhar and as such broadleaf expansion will hopefully occur from natural regeneration, making provenance hyper-local. Should any enrichment planting be required in these areas, then all native broadleaves will be planted from the same or neighbouring provenance as directed in the UKFS.

## **5. Will the timber haulage cause disruption?**

Timber haulage will be entering the public highway onto the A82 at the main forest entrance NN 15317 77921. The A82 is an approved timber haulage route.

## **6. Will there be public access?**

Whilst there are no formal routes for public access, access will be possible in accordance with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

## **7. Will there be habitat and species protection?**

Moine Odhar is covered by no specific national designations however there is a small area of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS), during the plan period it is expected all the remaining PAWS which is still planted with conifer will be felled. Through the plan period the ancient woodland areas will be monitored and a condition assessment carried out at a fixed interval.

The plan will also provide an opportunity to identify any other species and habitats of importance and consider how these can be managed directly to maintain or enhance, as well as within the context of the proposed works in the commercial areas.

All operations will also be preceded with the appropriate environmental checks to ensure that no work negatively impacts any previously unidentified habitats, species, archaeology, or watercourses.

Where possible, the biodiversity of the forest will be enhanced through the expansion of native broadleaf and the management of the existing native broadleaf woodlands.

## **8. Why manage forests?**

Woodlands improve the quality of our environment:

- Wooded catchments help protect the quality of our drinking water supplies and can reduce the impact of flood events.
- Trees capture harmful pollutants in our atmosphere and improve our air quality.
- Tree canopies provide shade, shelter, and absorb sound. Soils, animals, and humans can be protected from the extremes that our weather and climate can throw at us.
- Woodlands help to stabilise soils, reducing erosion and slips. They can protect against pollution by providing a buffer between source and receptor and help the recovery of any contaminated land. Woodlands offer a rich habitat for a range of species including critical pollinators, birdlife, animals, and plants.

By sustainably managing forests we can generate a sustainable timber supply while also ensuring that areas important for biodiversity and amenity are preserved. All forests and woodlands provide beneficial services including amenity, biodiversity, clean air, and clean water, and through management that is compliant to UKFS and UKWAS we will be able to maintain a balance between all these forest benefits.

## **Consultation Form**

1. Name or Organisation
2. Location
3. Are there aspects of the proposed Long Term Forest Plan that you like / support?
4. Are there aspects of the proposed Long Term Forest Plan that you dislike / object to?
5. Is there anything you would like to see amended?
6. Please add any other comments here
7. Email address (if you would like to be kept up to date)
8. First Name
9. Last Name