Scoping Information

Moine Odhar
Long Term Forest Plan

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This document contains important information from the proposed long-term forest management plan.

Consultees are asked to respond by the **04/07/2025** with any additional comments or currently unidentified key issues which should also be considered to:

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Email Title: FAO Robert Wallace **-** Moine Odhar Consultation

Contents

1. Description of Forest and Plan Outline.

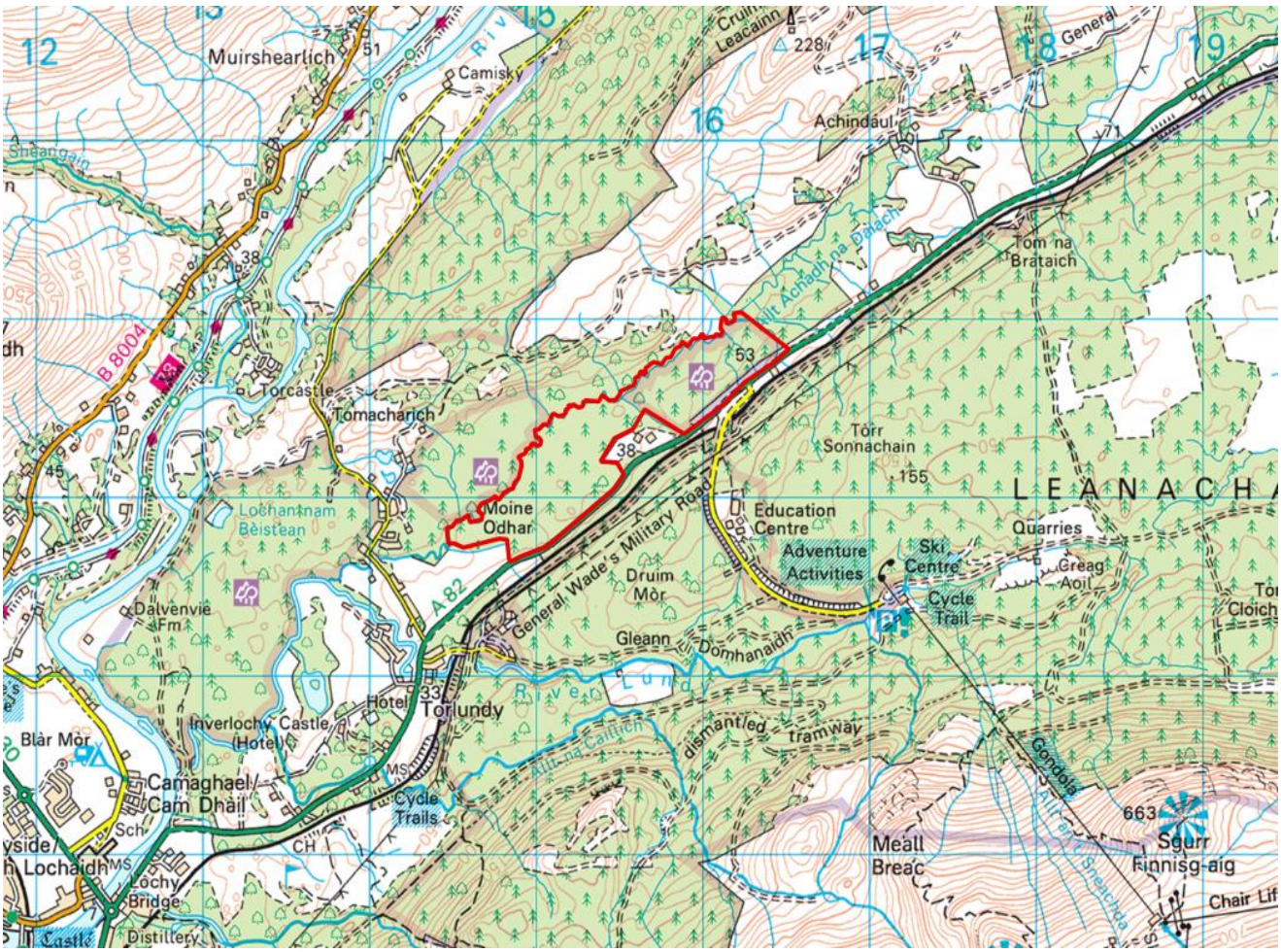


Figure 1: Moine Odhar Location

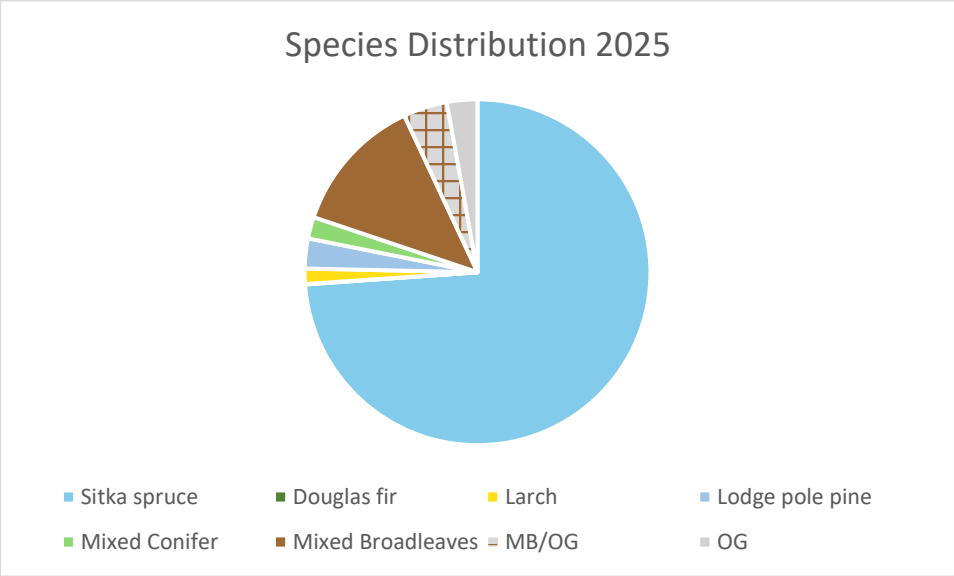
Moine Odhar extends to 78.88 ha and is 1 mile East of Torlundy nr Fort William along the A82. The entrance to the property can be found at grid reference **NN 153 779.**

Moine Odhar management has recently been taken over by Tilhill Forestry, a new Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP) is currently being written for this property. The LTFP sets out the planned operations, in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), that are required to continue to meet the owner's objectives of generating income from timber production and adding to and managing the biodiversity and other features within the forest. The Forest Plan will also link to the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) to allow the production of Certified, sustainably managed timber into the future.

Species by Area (2025)

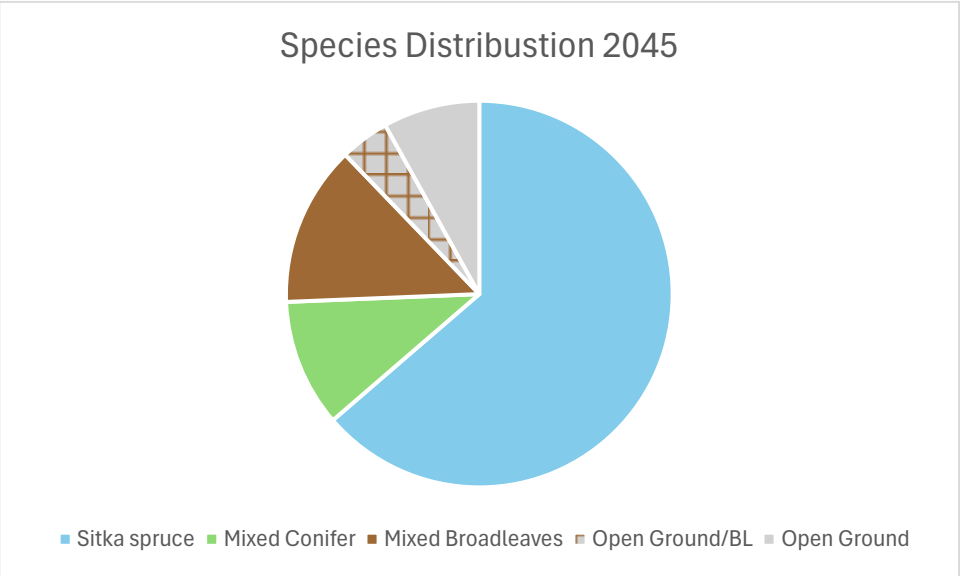
Species Code	Area (Ha)	% Area
SS	58.27	73.87%
DF	0.03	0.04%
LAR	1.13	1.43%
LP	2.21	2.80%
LP/SS	1.59	2.02%
NBL	10.16	12.88%
NBL/OG	3.24	4.11%
OG	2.25	2.85%
Total	78.88	100.00%

Graph 1 – Current Species Proportions



Species by Area (2045)

Species Code	Area (Ha)	% Area
SS	50.23	63.68%
MC	8.42	10.67%
NBL	10.61	13.45%
NBL/OG	3.24	4.11%
OG	6.38	8.09%
Total	78.88	100%



The LTFP will set out the planned operations for the next 20 years (from 2025) and the Owner's objectives are as follows:

1. Forest design & structure: Improve the visual amenity and aesthetics of the woodland by softening straight lines and creation of long-term retentions.
2. Biodiversity: Ensure the protection of badgers, red squirrels, and any other protected species in the woodland. Increase the area of native broadleaf tree cover to meet the UKFS minimum requirements. Create open ground for environmental benefit and to assist deer control.
3. Manage the woodland in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and UKWAS.
4. Timber production: Optimise the productive potential of the woodland by restocking with higher yield species, where possible.

The main operation that will be undertaken in the upcoming 10 years of the plan include:

- Initially felling of the 1st roatation crop across 3 phases.
- Restocking of felled crop, including associated maintenace activties.
- Manage the presence of deer within the forest, with stalking the primary method of control.

Geology and Soils

The underlying geology of Moine Odhar is part of the Fort William Formation – Micaceous psammite and semipelite. Superficial deposits are produmently Hummocky (moundy) Glacial Deposits with areas of Peat. The dominant soil formation is Strichen with Map Unit 504 (Soil Survey of Scotland). Towards the back of the site the Map Unit is 505. The main formation on the higher ground comprises of mostly peaty gleyed podzols with peaty gleys. Towards the back of the site on the lower ground the soil type changes to brown earths.

Hydrology

There are several watercourses flowing through Moine Odhar, with the main receptor being the Allt Achadh Dalach which then flows into the River Lundy before ending up in the River Lochy.

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) classifies main bodies of water in Scotland to identify areas to set objectives to improve the water quality. The classifications range from High (near natural, through Good, Moderate, Poor to Bad (severely damaged)). The 3 main bodies of water identified have been classified as follows. Allt Achadh Dalach (Good), River Lochy (Good ecologic potential) and the River Lundy (Bad ecologic potential).

Given the majority of water flows from Moine Odhar in the Allt Achadh Dalach then the River Lundy, and ultimately the River Lochy, the management of the forest must carry out its activities in a sensitive manner with the goal of maintaining the water quality classifications.

The two potential influences forest operations are likely to have on the water catchment are acidification e.g. through conifer needle deposits and siltation e.g. through heavy machinery movements. Mitigation measures will be fully detailed in the Long-Term Forest Plan following consultation. Risks from pesticide use will be managed through Tilhill Forestry's Integrated Pest Management system and following legal guidance on pesticide use

Adjacent Land Use

Adjacent land uses consist of mostly forestry, small built-up areas and elements of farming.

2. Consultees

The Forest Plan process will require consultation with the following Statutory consultees and interested parties:

- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Highland Council
- Historic Scotland
- Fort William Inverlochy & Torlundy Community Council
- NatureScot
- RSPB
- Scottish Forestry
- Scottish Raptor Study Group
- Scottish Water
- SEPA
- Transport Scotland
- Timber Transport Forum
- Lochaber Fisheries Trust
- Neighbouring Landowners/Householders/Business Properties

3 Designations

There are no Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) covering the property.

4 Ecological interests

Highland Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
Woodland Management Commitments:

- Highland Environment Forum (HEF) will establish a working group to identify additional biodiversity actions that Highland Nature partners can take forward.
- Protect, regenerate and restore native woodland, including the control of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), conservation of veteran trees and retention of deadwood
- Partnership working to work at a landscape scale to create woodland networks that improve forest diversity and biodiversity.
- Identify where woodland can be expanded without negative impact on other climate change and biodiversity resources and ensure that new woodlands follow these principles.
- Support incorporation of trees and woods into agricultural systems.
- Identify, conserve, and expand from isolated trees and tiny woodland fragments.
- Continue to run, and create new, native tree nurseries.
- Grants and planning.
- Education and Awareness.
- Support local market for timber and related businesses.

The threats to Planted Coniferous Woodland habitat include:

- Wind-throw and fire.
- Uniform age and species composition of forests.
- Damage by pests and disease.
- The impacts of these could include the loss of timber and the reduction of suitable habitat for key species.

To manage these risks:

- of existing woodland has been set aside as long-term retention to improve diversity.
- of the forest has been set aside as Nature Reserve to protect environmental and ecological features.
- Monitor progress with re-structuring.

The Long Term Forest Plan for Moine Odhar will identify and review the ecological threats as they apply to the woodland, and it will set out objectives and work proposals that will mitigate against the impacts resulting from the stated threats and help this woodland meet the biodiversity objectives.

Whilst further surveys may identify other key species that utilise the habitats provided by the woodlands at Moine Odhar, the following species are known to be present:

1. Red squirrel
2. Lichen
3. Otter
4. Pine marten

If any other species are found within the property, the relevant statutory body will be consulted, and Scottish Forestry Guidance notes (Wildlife and Forest Operations) will be followed for the relevant species. This includes species protected by the EU Habitats and Species Directive 1992.

Deer Management

A deer management plan to protect the restock of trees will be included within the Long-Term Forest Plan.

5 Historical and Cultural Interests

There are no known features of historical or cultural interest found with in Moine Odhar.

1 additional feature has been recorded as located close to the boundary of the forest

1. Great Glen Cattle Ranch – Farmhouse/Farmstead

All features of historical and cultural interest will be marked on the Hazards and Constraints map.

All further forestry work will be conducted in a manner that protects, and conserves features of historical and cultural interests, and due diligence undertaken before any forestry work to identify any new features that may still be unidentified.

6 Landscape Interests

Views of Moine Odhar are extremely limited due to the topography of the area. Neighbouring forests limit views of the property only to the forest edge along the A82. The most notable view of the forest can be seen from Ben Nevis and the surrounding Nevis Range including the Gondola Top. This would be limited to hillwalkers, mountain bikers, winter sports and other members accessing the top of the ski slope via the gondola. From here the forest boundary can be made out against the broadleaves to the north and the younger neighbouring conifer blocks to the south.

The Long-Term Forest Plan will allow the potential landscape impact of planned forestry operations to be considered and an appropriate level of landscape design to be carried out.

Landscape Character Assessment
Land Character Type 235 – Broad Forested Strath – this characteristic extends between Loch Linnhe and Loch Lochy, and along Glen Spean, and in the area around Strontian in Lochaber.
This is a gently undulating landscape with a broad mosaic of conifer and broadleaf woodland along with open pasture.

Key Characteristics

- Broad, low-lying straths with rolling relief and sculptural glacial landforms.
- Simple, large-scale mosaic of forested ridges, rolling pastures and heather moorland, but dominated by swathes of forestry.
- A comparatively densely settled landscape with villages, houses and sporadic commercial development.
- Quarries hidden amongst the woodland cover.
- Strong communication and service corridors.
- Long distance views from surrounding hills over the glens, which are framed by steep glen sides.
- Lochs, rivers or canals on glen floor have often been engineered or substantially altered by man.

7 Access

Access Points
There is one main vehicular access point into the forest:

1. A82 Access - NN 15317 77921

There are no other rights of access through any neighbouring land. There is historic access through an old gate out the back of Hill Farm as well as the historic access off the main road into the East Block opposite the Nevis Range junction at NN 16070 78483.

Public Access
There are no formal Public Rights of Way that run through the wood. The wood may still be accessed by members of the public for recreation through use of a style located at the entrance gate.

The review of the Forest Plan will identify current access and whether increased provision could or should be considered. Operations will also be planned in such a way to keep members of the public safe.

The outdoor access code will be applied to the forest throughout the duration of this plan.

Timber Haulage
The forest has direct access to the A82 public road. The A82 is an agreed route under the Highland Timber Transport Plan meaning there are no haulage restrictions affecting the forest.

8 Felling and restructuring

The forest was planted in 1970 and 1985 and given that some areas have Yield Classes in the high 20's and into the 30's in places, mean that areas of the forest are ready to be felled.

It is proposed to fell the commercial crop over a period of 3 phases.

The objective for all commercially viable forest blocks will primarily be to maximise on the financial value of the timber asset. This will be achieved in compliance with the UKFS and UKWAS standards, which require minimum areas of open ground, native broadleaves, and maximum proportions for single species.

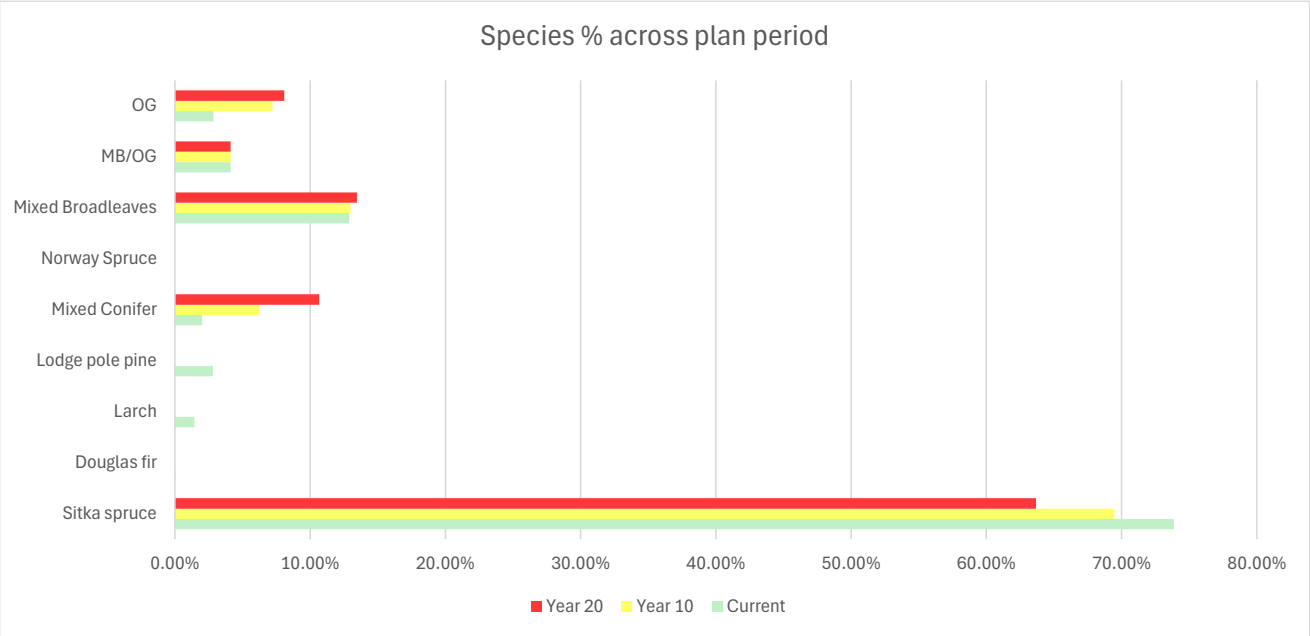
Draft Felling Proposals

Felling Phase	Area (ha)	%
Phase 1	21.41	27.14%
Phase 2	16.55	20.98%
Phase 3	19.55	24.78%
Phase 4	0	0.00%
Out With Plan	0	0.00%
LTR	1.11	1.41%
NR	1.57	1.99%
OG	7.15	9.06%
NBL	11.54	14.63%
Total	78.88	100.00%

It is proposed to restructure the crop over a 20-year period, in 3 distinct 5-year phases. These can be seen on Map 4.

Draft Restock Proposals

	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
Species	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Sitka spruce	58.27	73.87%	54.8	69.47%	50.23	63.68%
Douglas fir	0.03	0.04%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Larch	1.13	1.43%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Lodge pole pine	2.21	2.80%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mixed Conifer	1.59	2.02%	4.91	6.22%	8.42	10.67%
Norway Spruce	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mixed Broadleaves	10.16	12.88%	10.24	12.98%	10.61	13.45%
MB/OG	3.24	4.11%	3.24	4.11%	3.24	4.11%
OG	2.25	2.85%	5.69	7.21%	6.38	8.09%
Total	78.88	100.00%	78.88	100.00%	78.88	100.00%



9 Summary of Key Issues (Updated following consultation)

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Map 1: Moine Odhar Location Map

Appendix 2 – Moine Odhar - Concept Map

Appendix 3 – Map 4: Moine Odhar 2025 Species Mix

Appendix 4 – Map 5: Moine Odhar 2045 Species Mix

Appendix 5 – Map 8: Moine Odhar Felling Phases 2025

Appendix 6 – Consultation Responses (to be appended post-consultation)