

Recommended Approach and Emphasis

- Cowal-Argyll Forest Park will form a forest core within the National Park. Productive coniferous forestry will remain a principal land use in this area. There will be a continuing emphasis on multi-purpose forestry. Recreation, landscape, and nature conservation objectives will sit alongside the objective of timber production;
- The process of forest restructuring will continue to create greater age and species diversity within the productive conifer forests;
- The culture of 'big trees' will be reflected in forestry management. This will influence the choice of species, together with the rotation periods in key areas (generally at lower elevations and on well drained, more sheltered sites).
- The culture of 'big trees' will be reflected in the promotion and marketing of the area. This will include links to existing designed landscapes at Benmore, Puck's Glen and Kilmun Arboretum. The Forest Park will form an important 'gateway' into the National Park, and a distinctive area within it.
- There will be an increase in the area of native woodland as a result of forest restructuring. Priority will be placed on former Ancient or semi-natural woodland sites and on establishing or linking riparian woodlands.
- Existing broadleaf woodlands will be brought into positive management. Priority will be placed on Ancient or semi-natural woodland sites. Woodland management will improve habitat quality and availability for black grouse.
- The principles of Forest Habitat Networks should be applied to link woodland and other habitats along the principal glens. These include the shores of Loch Long, Loch Goil and Loch Eck together with Glen Massan, Glen Finart, Glen Branter, Gleann Mor and Glen Croe. These habitat links should connect with surrounding areas, such as the eastern side of Loch Fyne. The aim should be to establish native woodland links between the remaining areas of broadleaf woodland. Forest restructuring provides an opportunity to create such links in areas currently under conifers. PAWS sites should be evaluated and where appropriate prioritised for native woodland restoration to contribute to these habitat links. Detailed consideration of Forest Habitat Networks will reflect the importance of conserving the population of red squirrels and preventing the spread of grey squirrels into Cowal.
- Building on Cowal's forestry culture, local employment in forestry management, timber processing and export will be maximised. Support will be provided for local timber contracting, processing, and haulage businesses.
- There will be a significant increase in extent of waymarked paths within the Argyll Forest Park. New routes will be created for off road cycling and horse riding. These will include forestry tracks and new links as appropriate. Forest routes will contribute to local core path networks, longer distance routes and important hill paths.
- Other visitor infrastructure, parking provision and picnic sites will be upgraded and linked to key elements of the path network.
- Special events for rallying and mountain biking will be encouraged within the Argyll Forest.

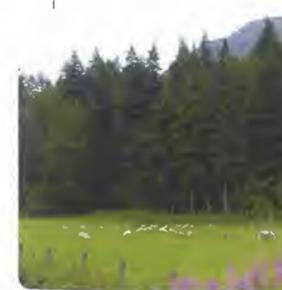


Forming part of Argyll Forest Park, this area is one of two productive forest cores within the National Park area. Multipurpose objectives means it provides a wide range of benefits, including accommodating a range of recreational activities.



Trees and forests are an essential part of the landscape of Cowal.

Cowal-Argyll Forest Park



The giant redwoods at Benmore symbolise the area's close connections with forestry.



Carrick Castle on the shores of Loch Goil has a dramatic setting with forested slopes forming a backdrop.

Cowal-Argyll Forest Park