



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

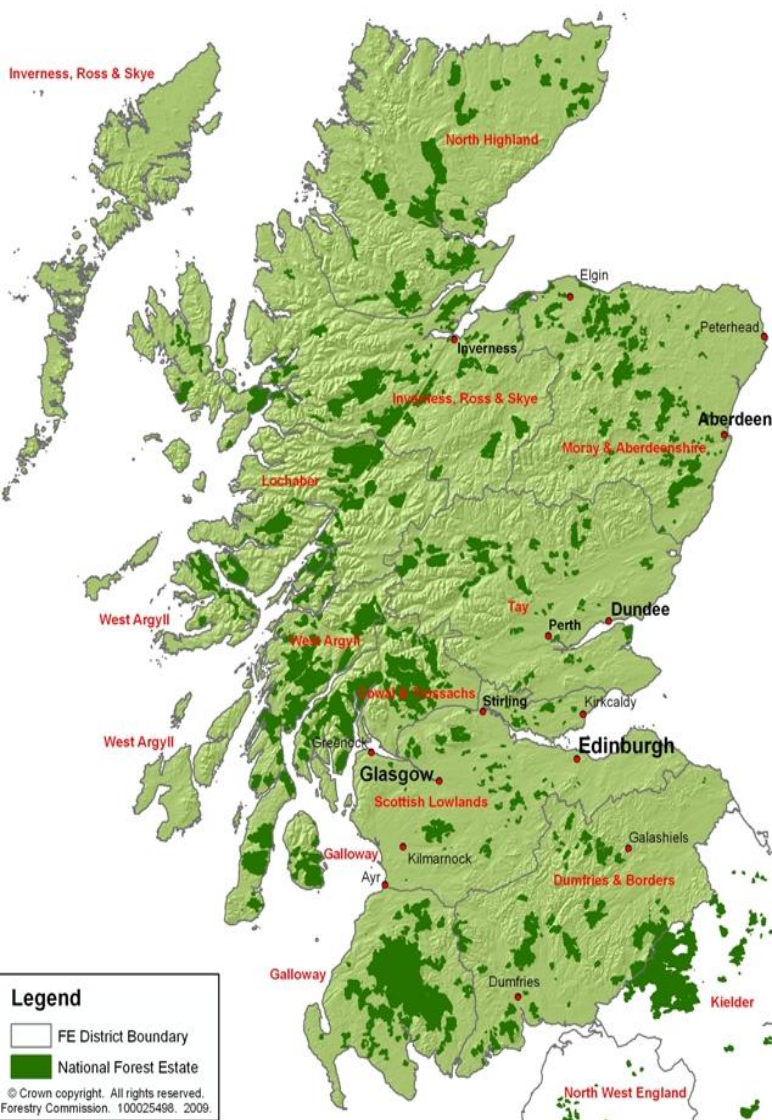
Forests for People

Access, Recreation & Tourism on the National Forest Estate

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- About Forestry Commission Scotland.
- The early years of forestry in Scotland.
- Recreation and tourism – enhancing the visitor experience.
- Engaging with communities.
- Forests for People in the future.



- Forestry covers a sixth of Scotland – Scottish Forestry Strategy provides FCS with policy steer.
- FCS manages one third of this sixth = largest land manager.
- Focus on sustainable forest management underpinned by independent certification (UKWAS).
- Sales of timber provides revenue generation opportunities for FCS.
- Recreation and tourism an increasingly important area for FCS.

Balblair Trails, North Highlands

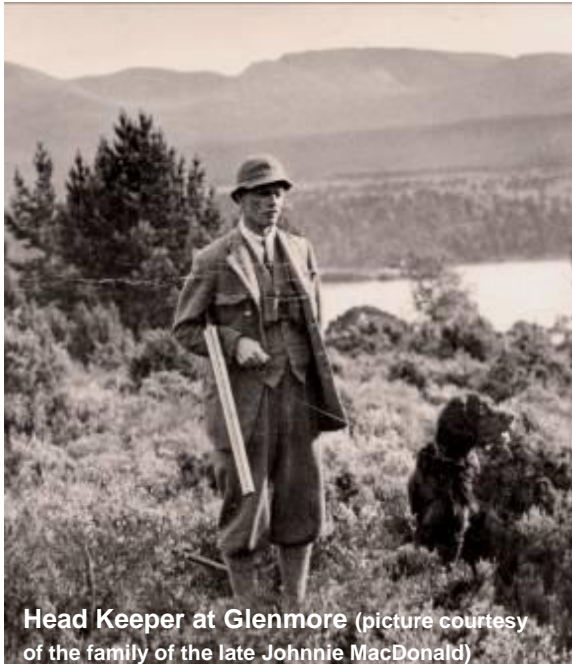


- FCS - largest provider of informal outdoor recreation in Scotland.
- 10 million visitors enjoy Scotland's forests each year.
- Multiple users - 48% dog walkers, 17% walkers, 17% bikers, 1% horse riding and 17% nature and other.
- Visitors contribute to a forest-tourism related spend of £165 million.
- Visitor research available via 'All Forests Survey' 2004-07.

Traction Engine (picture courtesy of Ian McInnes)



- People have interacted with forests through the centuries.
- FC originally set up between the Wars to improve dwindling timber stocks.
- Fundamental focus on planting and highly productive tree species.
- Forests managed to maximise productivity - based on colonial model.
- Little or no public access.
- **Emphasis on 'Forests for Trees'.**



Head Keeper at Glenmore (picture courtesy of the family of the late Johnnie MacDonald)

Felling at Loch Etive 1944
(picture courtesy of Heritage North)



Demonstrating sabotage, Glenmore

- Established new forests providing employment and establishing new and sustained existing communities.
- Forests were important in WWII - providing timber, employing POW's and training troops.
- Public access increased in 1930's with the advent of Forest Parks
- 1940/50's – post-war hill walkers, 1960/70's – increasing car-borne visits and new facilities.
- Last 30 years **emphasis on 'Forests for People'** – walking, adventure, wildlife.

Arichonan Township



- FCS hasn't missed the opportunity to tell the stories of these early years.
- Key activity includes Forest Heritage campaign and the Touchwood/Forest Memories project.
- Forest heritage covers over 50 sites.
- Pre-history, industrial revolution and various wars.
- Charts community interaction with forests over the centuries.
- Provides visitors with a fascinating and unexpected experience.
- **www.forestheritagescotland.com**

Vision

Access, recreation and tourism on the national forest estate and our management of it will have a strong and established reputation for deriving quality and value-for-money public benefits.

Priorities

Local health and well-being – provide informal outdoor recreation in well-managed countryside, particularly where other opportunities are lacking and for communities with high levels of social exclusion and low levels of physical activity.

Local economic development – provide facilities to enhance outdoor recreation and tourism that supports local economic development in economically fragile areas and that will enhance Scotland as a tourism destination.



- MTB trails on FCS land since late 1980's.
- FCS operates 17 of 26 centres in Scotland. 800kms of Trails.
- Helped to establish Scotland's reputation as a MTBing 'Global Superstar'.
- Initial focus on enthusiasts, now focusing on all abilities, equality and diversity.
- Trails - 15% green, 40% blue, 28% red, 15% black, 2% orange.
- Produced a trail grading system to help users assess which trails suit their ability.
- Helped set up the DMS project to develop the sector going forward.



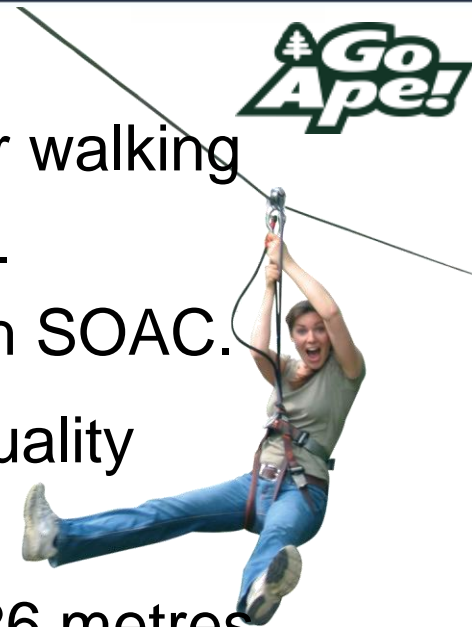
- Project developed as a result of Foot and Mouth in 2001 – 7 centres across south of Scotland.
- Welcomes over 600,000 visitors annually.
- Provides local business development opportunities through facilities leases.
- Project has catalysed local tourism development and helped with community sustainability.
- ‘Forests for People’ delivered through facilities provision and business opportunities.
- More at www.7stanes.gov.uk



Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin



- Numerous opportunities for walking
- Free public access for non-motorised activities through SOAC.
- Focus on delivering high quality experiences for visitors.
- UK's longest zip wires – 426 metres over the tree canopy.
- The UK's first Dark Sky stargazing park. Enjoy outdoor activities all day and then stargaze at night.





- Offer opportunities to see wildlife in their natural habitat.
- Operate a number of manned and unmanned centres and wildlife hides.
- Work closely with other organisations e.g. RSPB, SNH, SWT on projects such as Scottish Beaver Trial, Mull Sea Eagles.
- Developing facilities and broadening promotion of wildlife watching to complement a wider visitor experience in 2011-12.
- **‘Forests for People’** through tourism and education.



- Woodlands In and Around Towns.
- Initiative to bring the benefits of woodlands close to where people live and work.
- Aimed at inclusion at all levels of the community, equality and diversity.
- Includes incentives and direct action by Forest Enterprise Scotland.
- Facilitates regeneration of derelict land.
- Contributes to green space, habitat networks and the health agenda.
- Central Scotland Green Network – key planning framework priority.

Bruce's Stone, Glen Trool



- Public Sector Review 2010 – impact not known yet.
- Less budget = increase revenue generation – efficiencies – discontinue some activity.
- Re-positioning programmes and developing new forests will likely continue – climate change.
- Tourism remains a key economic priority.
- Activity/Health will continue to be an issue.
- Renewables projects will continue on the National Forest Estate.



- Portfolio analysis has identified economic, environmental and social contributions of each forest area on the National Forest Estate.
- Focus on selling areas which have low contributions operationally and to **‘Forests for People’**.
- Re-invest in new areas which can be developed to derive improved benefits.
- For example sale of remote plantations in Argyll and purchase of farmland in the Tweed Valley.

Glentress Peel

a new Forestry Commission Scotland visitor facility
based in the heart of the Tweed Valley Forest Park

Partly funded by Scottish Enterprise and SportsScotland, Glentress Peel
will consist of four new buildings spread across the 12 acre hill-side
site linked with a series of bridges, pathways and signage.



For further information about the project please visit our website:
www.forestry.gov.uk/glentress
Or contact us at: glentress.peel@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



- Glentress is only 45 minutes travel from Edinburgh.
- Visitor centre currently being built, opening Spring 2011.
- Aim to increase visitor numbers from 350k to 500k.
- Flagship visitor centre for the Scottish Borders & Scotland.
- Improved facilities for all, not just bikers.
- Part of 7stanes.



- Forests for People Strategy - [www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc114.pdf/\\$FILE/fcfc114.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcfc114.pdf/$FILE/fcfc114.pdf)
- UK Woodland Assurance Standard - www.ukwas.org.uk
- All Forests Survey - www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-5wcmr4
- Forest Heritage - www.forestheritagescotland.com
- Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland - www.scottishmountainbikeframework.org
- 7stanes project - www.7stanes.gov.uk
- Dark Sky Scotland project - www.darkskyscotland.org.uk
- WIAT - www.forestry.gov.uk/wiat
- CSGN - <http://centralscotlandgreennetwork.org>
- Glentress Peel – www.forestry.gov.uk/glentress