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By email to [i.stirling@highfieldforestry.com](mailto:i.stirling@highfieldforestry.com)

Iain Stirling  
Forest Manager  
Highfield Forestry Ltd

21 September 2017

Dear Mr Stirling

**Glen Loyne and Ardoch  
Long term forest plan  
Scoping process**

Thank you for your correspondence and the opportunity to comment on the LTFP. Our main concern with the proposal is that access to the hills north and east of the site should be provided continuously during and after clear felling and planting, with the main mountaineering interest being the Corbett Meall Dubh.

Other routes of interest include the "road to the Isles" and although there may be little evidence of their use we feel it is important that they are maintained through signposting and sympathetic planting.

In terms of more general comments, The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 provides for a right of responsible access on users and the associated Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) details how land and water should be managed responsibly for access. Access rights should be respected when managing land or water by "taking access rights into account when planning and implementing any major land use change or development" (SOAC, 2005). While it is helpful to acknowledge the potential impact on public access, we ask forest managers to consider the following points:

- Visitors to the forest have a statutory right of access so long as they are acting responsibly and in compliance with the SOAC, and this right of access is not restricted to built roads and paths.
- The intention to maintain existing public access routes open should be stated in the final proposals.
- Where deer and other fencing is included in proposals, consideration should be given to appropriate siting of gates and stiles to enable access.
- During forestry operations, clear signage should be used, including at access points where there is the need for people to be directed to use a particular or alternative route. Signage should be removed promptly after the conclusion of operations.
- Staff undertaking forestry operations should be briefed regarding any diversions that may need to be put in place. It is assumed that all measures put in place will adhere to industry-approved good practice guidelines with respect to managing work sites where people are exercising their access rights, in particular the "Managing woodland access and forest operations in Scotland" leaflet.

Mountaineering Scotland will be happy to publicise revised access arrangements, assuming the alternatives fulfil all relevant guidelines and comply with the SOAC.

My thanks again for the opportunity to comment and I hope that you will take the above points into account, and please do contact me if any of the above requires clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gibson', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**David Gibson**  
**CEO**  
**Mountaineering Scotland**