Silviculture is the care and cultivation of woodlands (as opposed to arboriculture which is the care and cultivation of individual trees). There is a wide range of different silvicultural systems which are, broadly speaking, management prescriptions for particular types and areas of woodland. Forestry, at its most basic level, is the interaction between tree species, site characteristics and a silvicultural system. There are a number of different silvicultural systems that may be employed across the estate including clearfelling and restocking of even-aged high forest, and various continuous cover forestry systems that could include a range of single tree, group or shelterwood uniform and irregular felling patterns. Adaptability in silvicultural systems is the capacity of forest management techniques to evolve, ensuring that forests remain resilient, productive, and able to provide ecosystem services in the face of changing environmental, social, and economic conditions, particularly climate change. Forest Managers will therefore adopt an adaptive silvicultural approach in observing, anticipating and adapting the impacts of silvicultural interventions to foster long term forest sustainability.

Unplanted areas
These areas require replanting following the clearance of storm damage over recent years. Some areas already have conditional restocking from previous felling licences and in some cases the proposals in the Long Term Forest Plan will supercede these. There is an opportunity to diversify the range of species suited to individual sites across the estate, using Forest Research's 'Forest Development Types' to help classify stand structures and management requirements at individual stand level. This will in turn create a more attractive, resilient and diverse wooded landscape for future generations, and provide opportunity to produce a range of high quality timber products.

Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)
CCF is an approach to forest management in which a range of silvicultural systems are used to maintain the forest canopy at one or more levels without clear felling.
CCF management can be applied to mature or developing areas of woodland that are either currently or have the potential to be managed under a range of irregular and uniform felling patterns including the individual or group selection of trees.
Continuous Cover Forestry encourages structural and species diversity and evolutionary adaptation by promoting natural regeneration or under-planting using shade-tolerant species that establish well under existing canopy conditions.

Clearfelling and Restocking
These include mostly even aged stands of timber that are being managed on a rotational clearfelling and restocking regime.
Depending on their age and stability these areas will be felled once they reach economic maturity. Where crops are stable, or have previously been thinned, a cycle of thinning may also be implemented up until the point that the crop is felled.
Clearfelling – the cutting down of an area of forest (or typically felling an area greater than 0.25 hectares in a larger area of forest). Scattered or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.
Thinning - tree removal, which results in a temporary reduction in basal area, made after canopy closure to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.
Restocking - is the process of replacing trees after felling, typically involving planting saplings or relying on natural regeneration to create the next woodland rotation. It is usually a legal requirement attached to felling licences to ensure no net loss of tree cover, often requiring maintenance for up to 10 years

Long Term Retention
Areas managed as long term retention are typically existing wind firm stands of conifer and broadleaf. These areas may be retained indefinatly or could be felled and replanted in the future, but presently they are important in maintaining age class diversity across the estate as so much mature woodland was lost during Storm Arwen and subsequent storms.
Long term retention - individual, stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the woodland enterprise.

Natural Reserves
Where areas have high wildlife interest or potential they may be managed as Natural Reserves.
Natural Reserves - are predominantly wooded, usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value.

Proposed Clear-fell Phase 1 (2026-2030)
Compartments 67, 68, 69 Raxton Wood - previous windblow continues to advance and this area now needs to be felled.
Compartments 60, 61, 77, 83, 85, 88 - External plantations to the south of the main estate which are badly storm damaged and need to be felled so that restructuring can commence.
Compartment 20 - an area of wind damaged Scots pine that is adjacent to the public road. Needs to be felled for tree safety.
Compartment 5 - adjacent to the Scout Hut. Felling required for tree safety
Compartment 47 Ice House Wood - selective felling of conifers and clearing windblow, mature beech/broadleaves to be retained where there are no safety implications

Proposed Clear-fell Phase 2 (2031-2035)
These areas include stands that have been impacted by storm damage, and whilst not a priority will need to be felled and restructured. This provides the opportunity to integrate a wider range of species choice and develop a more un-even aged structure in the future.
Compartment 48 - adjacent to main estate approach road to Haddo House. This will form part of the Policy Woods in the future.
Compartments 51 and 76 - once restructured these compartments will be restocked with timber production as the primary objective
Compartment 57 - an overmature stand of unthinned Norway spruce. Once felled it will be planted with a more diverse species mix which will extend and enhance the riparian area along Keithfield Burn.

Proposed Clear-fell Phase 3 (2036-2040)
These represent outline proposals to fell these maturing areas.
Compartment 54 - this area was cleared following Storm Arwen, but the untidy sycamore understorey remains. This will be felled for firewood, and restructured to improve species diversity within this popular visitor area

Proposed Clear-fell Phase 4 (2041-2045)
These compartments, planted in the early 2000's will be maturing in 15 years time. Phases 3 and 4 are outwith the regulatory 10 year approval period and will be reviewed at the next forest plan review stage.

SCOTTISH WOODLANDS

Haddo Estate

Current Silviculture and Indicative Felling Phases

Created on: 08/06/2026

Legend

- Awaiting restocking
- Clearfell and restocking
- Continuous Cover Forestry
- Long Term Retention
- Natural Reserve
- Clearfell Phase 1 2026-2030
- Clearfell Phase 2 2031-2035
- Clearfell Phase 3 2036-2040
- Clearfell Phase 4 2041-2045
- HES Haddo Garden and Designed Landscape
- Areas not included in plan
- Compartment boundaries

1:14,000
Scale correct at A1
Centre Point: 387743, 834143
GR: NJ 8774 3414