

Ichrachan Long Term Forest Plan

2026 - 2046

A. Description of Woodlands

A.1 Property Details

Property Name:	Ichrachan		
Business Reference Number:	231115	Main Location Code:	68/171/0126
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NN 019 295	Nearest town or locality:	Taynuilt
Local Authority:	Argyll and Bute Council		
LTFP Plan area (hectares):	224		

Owner's Details

Title:		Forename:	Nicola
Surname:	Abbatt		
Organisation:	Gresham House	Position:	Associate Director – Forestry
Primary Contact Number:	07825387346	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	n.abbatt@greshamhouse.com		
Address:	Hestan House, Crichton Business Park, Bankend Road, Dumfries		
Postcode:	DG1 4TA	Country:	Scotland

Agent's Details

Title:	Mr	Forename:	Eoghan
Surname:	Anderson		
Organisation:	Scottish Woodlands Ltd	Position:	Senior Forest Manager
Primary Contact Number:	07776 421155	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	Eoghan.anderson@scottishwoodlands.co.uk		
Address:	Scottish Woodlands, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead, Argyll		
Postcode:	PA31 8TA	Country:	Scotland

Declaration

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at www.forestry.gov.scot;
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017;
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate;
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time, and
- I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at <https://forestry.gov.scot/privacy-complaints-freedom-of-information-and-requests-for-information>.

Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your land? Delete as appropriate.

YES

You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application.

This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable

Signed:	Eoghan Anderson	Print:	EOGHAN ANDERSON	Date:	15/10/2026
---------	-----------------	--------	-----------------	-------	------------

A.2 Location and Background

Ichrachan forest (grid reference: NN 022 306) is located approximately 2 miles south-east of Taynuilt village in Argyll, adjacent to the main A85 between Tyndrum and Oban.

Ichrachan has been established as a productive conifer plantation. The forests' structure is primarily composed of Sitka spruce, with some areas of other conifers including Norway spruce and Douglas fir, integrated broadleaves and open space and extensive areas of retained native ancient woodland making up a broad fringe to the south-west, bordering Glen Nant SSSI.

The forest was planted between 1981 to 1986 and is in the restructuring phase; the principle silvicultural management being clear-felling and restocking.

The forest has a good network of forest roads and ATV tracks to facilitate timber harvesting, general maintenance works and deer stalking. Access to the site is directly from the A85 which is an approved timber transport route providing good access to markets and coastal ports.

The property is managed by Scottish Woodlands on behalf of the owner.

See Map 1 Location

A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

Type (e.g. Felling Permission)	Ref. No.	Details
Forest Plan Renewal Preparation Grant	FGS085-02	Woodland Improvement Grant – Long Term Forest Plan Renewal
Long Term Forest Plan	16FGS11317	Original forest plan 2015-2025
FPA	FPA-13166	Phase 1 permission in compartments 8 and 10

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement	
Scoping – Main Points	LTFP Reference (section/page):
Scottish Water response indicates that there are SW assets in the area, but no specific sites are identified.	Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities, A.6.4, C.2.7
WOSAS response highlighted that several nationally important scheduled monuments are present in the wider landscape surrounding the estate, and several unscheduled archaeological features are present within the plan area. Advice was provided regarding the accuracy of recorded site locations due to rounding of grid references and the use of single symbols to represent multiple features.	Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities, A.6.8, C.2.10
Local resident response suggesting opportunity for circular walking route and provision of picnic benches	A.6.7, C.2.9
NatureScot response highlighted presence and importance of the adjacent designated sites and their qualifying features. Specific recommendations included 1) a 100m buffer between Sitka spruce and SAC, 2) all suitable otter habitat within 200m of proposed works to be surveyed 3) contacting RSPB and Argyll Raptor Study Group re: presence of Golden Eagle, 4) peatland survey to identify peat soils >50cm, 5) produce a Deer Management Plan	Map 5 Biodiversity, A.6.9, B.1, C.2.5, C.2.6, C.2.11, Appendix 1 Deer Management Plan
RSPB response highlighted 1) opportunity to build resilience in the SAC/SSSI by enhancing, expanding and connecting adjacent fragments of Scotland's Rainforest; particularly in the west of the LTFP area, preferably by the natural regeneration of native shrub and tree species from the ASNW seed source, 2) that all Ancient Woodland is buffered by $\geq 100\text{m}$ of open ground from any commercial planting activity; and that expansion through natural regeneration of native species (only) is facilitated within these buffers. Any planting of native shrub and tree species adjacent to Ancient Woodland should take place at low density (≤ 200 stems/ha, 3) that suitable habitat for Black Grouse exists within and close to the LTFP area, it is possible that this species utilises the site.	Map 5 Biodiversity, A.6.9, B.1, C.2.5, C.2.6, C.2.11

A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

Vision

Ichrachan is privately owned and managed principally as a financial investment. The long-term vision is to maximise return from timber sales and to increase capital value through effective and sustainable management. Alongside this the forest will be managed to meet the requirements of the United Kingdom Forest Standard (UKFS) and the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), and to enhance the natural capital value of the forest regarding biodiversity, cultural, amenity and landscape opportunities and by improving resilience to climate change.

Management Objectives

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
1	To maximise regular financial return from the commercial crops and to maintain a strong asset value.	<p>Felling operations take place as per proposed felling plan (Map 6 – Felling and the Production Forecast) and/or harvesting yields and schedules reasonably match the production forecast.</p> <p>Felled areas are restocked and established as per the proposed restocking plan and stocking rates (Map 8 – Future Species Year 20), Map 9 Future Species Phase 1+Phase 2 (Year 10), Section C.2.5</p>
2	Demonstrate sound silvicultural and forest management practice and comply with the requirements of the United Kingdom Forest Standard (UKFS) and the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).	<p>Forest planning and proposed operations are carried out in line with UKFS and UKWAS requirements.</p> <p>Compliance and satisfactory comments during and post external audits.</p>
3	Enhance and expand the biodiversity, cultural, landscape and environmental quality of the forest and its environs.	Species and age class diversification delivered through forest restructuring to develop a more structurally diverse and resilient forest achieving UKFS

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
		<p>species percentage compliance by year 20. Adherence to UKFS requirements with regards to Biodiversity, Historic Environment, Landscape, People and Water.</p> <p>Seek to expand the Rainforest zone in some areas through the removal of non-native species and natural regeneration of native woodland.</p> <p>Designated sites are afforded appropriate protection through buffering as agreed with NatureScot.</p> <p>Watercourses are enhanced through appropriate riparian planting and management of open ground, contributing to the enhancement of water quality.</p> <p>Wildlife, species and habitats are protected in line with current legislation and operational best practice.</p>
4	Actively support and contribute towards sustainable deer management in the local area.	Deer population is managed at an appropriate level to enable successful establishment of restocked trees and functionality of areas managed for biodiversity through natural regeneration.

A.6 General Site Description

A.6.1 Topography

Ichrachan is located along a broad north-south ridgeline, dissected at its mid-point by an east to west flowing minor watercourse. Ranging in height from 160m a.s.l at the southern end, to around 20m a.s.l in the north, the highest point within the forest is the tree covered Creag Bhainneach. The forest is bordered by ancient semi-natural woodland to the west, and conifer plantation, under different ownership, to the south and east. As such, apart from the main entrance, which is adjacent to the A85, the forest is not particularly dominant in the wider landscape. The topography of the forest is characterised by moderate

gradients within a gently undulating landscape, and all areas of the forest are accessible by standard mechanised harvesting equipment.

The site is within NatureScot's Landscape Character Type (LCT) 40, '*Craggy Upland – Argyll*'. Key characteristics of this LCT are: ☐ Upland moor with irregular, rather amorphous landform ☐ Rounded knolls, rock outcrops and numerous lochs in low-lying hollows and glens ☐ Open moorland predominates, but extensive conifer plantations camouflage the landscape pattern in some areas ☐ Oak-birch woodland on lower slopes ☐ Stone walls enclose an irregular patchwork of pastures within glens on margins of moorland ☐ Isolated farmsteads and small villages in sheltered sites within glens ☐ Numerous archaeological remains, often concentrated on rounded knolls on lower slopes ☐ Historic intricate, irregular landscape pattern in glens.

See Map 1 Location

A.6.2 Geology and Soils

The predominant underlying geology of Ichrachan consists of Lorn Plateau Volcanic Formation - Andesite and basalt. The predominant soil type is peaty gleys with shallow brown earth in the lower areas, and a small area of humus-iron podzol located to the northern end of the site. A desk-based exercise and subsequent walk-over survey, conducted in 2025 identified some localised areas of deeper peat greater than 50cm in depth. See Map 2 Post Scoping Concept.

A.6.3 Climate

Ichrachan is located less than 15km from the Lorn of Firth west coast, and as a result generally has a mild and wet climate, typical of the region.

Met Office records from 1991 – 2020 are as follows:

Annual Averages: Max temp: 12.69 °C, min temp: 6.54 °C, days of frost: 26.48, sunshine (hours): 1226.96, rainfall (mm): 1727.89, rainfall (days): 204.01, monthly mean wind speed (knots): 8.01.

Summer high averages of 17.71 °C and winter low averages of 8.52 °C. Wettest months run from Oct – Jan and the driest from Apr – Jun.

A.6.4 Hydrology

Ichrachan is located within the Loch Awe catchment, and the River Awe, which drains into Loch Etive at Airds Bay, passes close to the northern boundary. Two short, un-named watercourses feed from the forest into the River Awe, which is classed as a 'highly modified water body with good ecological potential' by SEPA.

Allt Mhic o' Haragain is the only named watercourse, which passes for just a short section within the forest, but mostly externally along the southern boundary. There is a small un-named water body outside the western forest boundary fed

by two small watercourses flowing from the forest. These watercourses are located within an existing area of native broadleaved woodland. There are no public or private water supplies within the forest, apart from a disconnected, disused supply between compartments 7 and 10.

Whilst there are no Scottish Water drinking water catchments or water abstraction sources, designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas under the Water Framework Directive there are Scottish Water assets in the area that could potentially be affected by activities. Where present, these assets should be identified as part of pre-operational planning, with advice sought from Scottish Water where needed.

See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities

A.6.5 Windthrow

Wind Hazard Classification (WHC) is rated as 5 with a critical tree height of 16m. DAMS exposure (sourced from ForestGALES 2.5) ranges from 10-15 across the site which is categorised as low-risk status, with a tree overturn critical wind speed of 158 km/h. However, despite the modelling, windthrow has been a significant issue in Ichrachan, mostly due to a lack of wind firm edges originating from the early afforestation of the site. A storm during late 2023 caused extensive windblow across the forest with the worse hit areas located to the north-east of the site. In response to the impact of windthrow, there have been adjustments to planned felling phases through amendments to the plan and significant felling was undertaken in April 2024. A continuation of the phased restructuring of the forest will help improve resistance to extreme weather events and the resulting diverse age structure will provide more wind firm edges and opportunity for smaller coupe felling in the future if desired.

See Map 6 Felling Operations

A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

Ichrachan is bordered on three sides by adjacent broadleaved woodland and forestry plantation. To the east and south is Fanans Forest, a commercial forest similar to Ichrachan. To the west is Loch Etive Special Area of Conservation/Glen Nant SSSI which is ancient woodland owned by Forestry and Land Scotland. In the north/north-west there is predominantly rough grazing land around Ichrachan Farm and patchy broadleaf woodland and rough fields.

See Map 1 Location

A.6.7 Access

The forest is accessed from the A85 at grid ref. NN 0229 3060. From here a single forest road extends the full length of the forest to a southern turning point and external access gate leading to the neighbouring forest. Operational access

utilises the internal forest road network which provides adequate access for timber harvesting and there are currently no plans for new roading. Forest roads will be maintained to facilitate timber haulage, and suitable stone may be sourced from existing on site borrow pits for maintenance purposes to the running surface. Forest roads are restricted to use only by authorised vehicles to mitigate against wildlife & habitat disturbance and public health and safety. 24-hour access is required for SSE.

The A85 is an approved timber transport route with no restrictions to the movement of timber from the forest. Timber transport will follow the 'Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice' and Timber Transport Forum best practice guidance.

Public non-motorised access is permitted under the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and its associated Scottish Outdoor Access Code. Public use of the forest is generally low, mostly by local residents and although there are no formal paths or tracks within the property the forest road and ATV tracks are sometimes used by local dog walkers and horse riders. During forest operations, where access to members of the public may be restricted for safety reasons, alternative routes are provided wherever possible and all relevant legislation, guidance and best practice followed.

Public access is not actively promoted, however, where there are no conflicts with other ecological, biodiversity or operational objectives, opportunities to enhance access will be considered. A pedestrian gate was installed in the north of the forest, replacing a previous stile, to improve access to the village of Taynuilt. This route currently links with a circular walking route within the forest that utilises the forest road and other ATV tracks.

See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities and Map 7 Timber Transport.

A.6.8 Historic environment

There are no scheduled historic features within the forest. However, the nearby scheduled iron smelting sites at Taynuilt and Bonawe, which opened in 1753, link to a rich history of nearby woodland working providing a source of charcoal to fuel the furnaces. In its heyday the operation employed up to 600 people with the bulk of them employed in the woods producing charcoal. As such, there are numerous unscheduled historic features within Ichrachan, including for example, charcoal platforms and evidence of habitation.

Scheduled features within the surrounding area:

Name	Description	Distance from boundary	Grid Reference
Dun Mhuirageul	Dun: Pre-historic domestic and defensive	200m	NN 01322 30080
Old Parish Church of Muckairn	Tombstones and burial ground	1200m	NN 00504 30984

Taynuilt Standing Stone	Standing stone: Pre-historic ritual and funerary	690m	NN 01210 31146
Bonawe	Iron Furnace	680m	NN 00943 31962

Unscheduled features within the forest boundary:

Name	Description	Grid Ref	Compartment
Platform	One platform, two possible platforms	NN022308	1
Platform	Twelve roughly circular platforms	NN023305	3
Platform	Two platforms	NN023303	2
Cairn	Possible	NN023302	2
Cairn		NN022303	2
Cairn	One small	NN022302	2
Cairn		NN017303	2
Platform	Multiple possible	NN017302	2
Charcoal Platform	Confirmed in 2017	NN016301	4
House	Approx. 8m by 4.5m	NN015291	6
Farmstead		NN015282	10
Enclosures	Three conjoined enclosures and two fields	NN015282	10

See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities

A.6.9 Biodiversity

Designated Sites

Ichrachan is bordered to the west by Glen Nant Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and part of the Loch Etive Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Glen Nant SSSI is an area of approximately 502 hectares extending from south of Taynuilt along the River Nant to its source, Loch Nant. Most of the site lies to the west of River Nant. The site encompasses a substantial area of native broad-leaved woodland. Upland oak woodland forms a considerable proportion of this woodland habitat mosaic. The woodland provides ideal conditions to support rich communities of lower plants (lichen and bryophyte assemblages). The woodland's bryophyte assemblage provides a suitable habitat for a nationally rare species of crane fly (*Tipula luridiorstris*). The site represents one of the largest extents of

upland oak woodland in the Lorn area. However, the underlying geology results in a variation of soils which in turn support a patchwork of woodland ranging from ash-hazel woodland on calcareous volcanic rocks to oak and birch woodland on the more acid soils. Other woody species include wych elm, gean and holly, with alder and sallows on less steep areas. This diversity of the woodland is reflected in the diverse ground vegetation with fern-dominated communities and heath on the higher slopes of acid oak-birch woodland and an abundance of herbs on the calcareous soils. The diverse mix of woodland types provides a suitable environment to support outstanding and varied assemblages of internationally important Atlantic bryophytes and lichens. The site has recently been estimated to support at least 240 species of bryophyte (155 mosses, 85 liverworts), more than 25% of the Scottish bryophyte flora. Of this total 11 are nationally scarce species and 35 are oceanic species. It is this exceptional assemblage of oceanic species that is the main bryophyte interest on the site, particularly the excellent epiphytic flora found on hazel. The base-rich nature of some areas gives an added interest both in the extent of communities that are base demanding and also in providing the basis for the large populations of both *Plagiochila bifaria* and *Plagiochila exigua*. Glen Nant is amongst the most important lichen sites in the Lorn area. The site supports many nationally and internationally significant lichen species, the majority of which are from three notable communities; *Lobarion pulmonariae*, *Graphidion scriptae* and *Parmelietum laevigatae*. Between 1976 and 2006 the sites rich oceanic lichen flora has been recorded to include no less than two vulnerable species, ten near-threatened species, nine nationally rare species and 53 nationally scarce species. The varied nature of the vegetation on the site supports rich and diverse communities of woodland invertebrates. A notified feature of the site is the rare crane fly *Tipula luridorostris*, the larvae of which lives in moss found on trees in western oak woods where rainfall is relatively high. Glen Nant is one of only three sites from which *Tipula luridorostris* has been recorded in Great Britain since 1970. Additionally, the site provides suitable conditions to support a wide range of fly species including 2 nationally scarce species, *Tetanocera phyllophora* and *Botanophila maculipes*, which were recorded at the site in 2003. Although not a notified feature of the site there is a strong population of the nationally scarce wood ant *Formica aquilonia*. [Source: NatureScot SSSI Citation]

Latest Assessment Conditions are:

Bryophyte assemblage - Favourable maintained - 23 Feb 2015 [pressures – under grazing]

Lichen assemblage - Unfavourable, no change - 20 Feb 2019 [pressures – overgrazing by deer, invasive species]

Crane fly (*Tipula luridorostris*) - Favourable maintained - 20 Mar 2017

Upland oak woodland - Unfavourable recovering - 15 Feb 2007 [pressures Forestry operations, invasive species]

Loch Etive SAC is a protected European Special Area of Conservation covering an area of 2642 hectares in Argyll and Bute. The SAC is noted for the following qualifying features; Alder woodland on active floodplains, Western acidic oak woodland on rocky, steep terrain, Mixed woodland on base-rich soils, and Otters (*Lutra lutra*), which use the riverbanks and coastal fringes. The SAC is managed and monitored by NatureScot under site code 8295 (EU code UK0012750) and

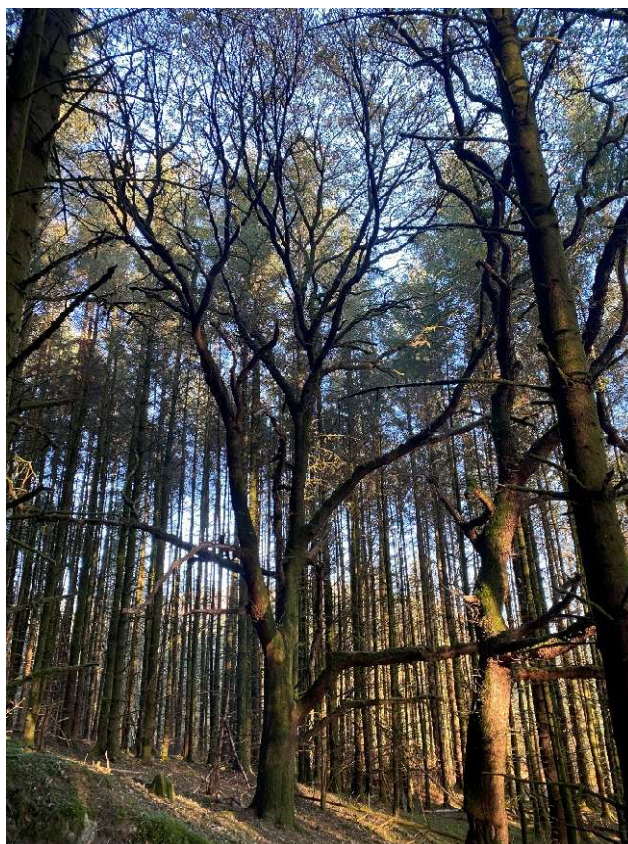
the designation overlaps with wider regional marine and golden eagle protection zones in the surrounding Etive and Fyne areas.

During scoping one of the main concerns raised by NatureScot related to the presence of, and potential for conifer seed to establish within the SAC/SSSI, Sitka spruce being the species of most concern. Their initial response recommended a 200m buffer from the designated site boundary to any Sitka spruce restocking following the felling of the Phase 1 coupe in compartments 8 and 10. Subsequently, in response to further 'on site' ASNW/PAWS assessment, drone assessment and discussion with NatureScot, a minimum buffer of 100m has been agreed, and this has been incorporated into the restructured design.

See Section C.2.5 Restocking Proposals, Section C.2.11 Biodiversity, Map 5 Biodiversity and Map 8 Future Species

Ancient Woodland

The ancient woodland inventory identifies several areas of both Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) within the forest. Most of the existing ASNW is located along the western boundary adjoining Glen Nant SSSI. This is long established woodland. Elsewhere, the quality of areas of PAWS is variable, some completely shaded out by plantation, whilst other areas have retained some remnant ASNW features such as veteran trees, ground flora and standing deadwood. A typical example of a remnant veteran native tree within the spruce plantation is shown below:



Enhancing existing ASNW and expanding its range into areas of PAWS is a key objective of the forest plan, and a PAWS assessment was undertaken in 2026 to identify priority areas for restoration. See Section C.2.5, C.2.11 and Map 5 Biodiversity.

Scotland's Atlantic Rainforest

The forest contains remnants of Atlantic Oakwoods, and parts of the forest fall within the FGS Native Woodland Habitat Network Core Area. These areas retain a few mature native species, mostly oak and birch, and there is opportunity for this to be enhanced by promoting natural regeneration or planting of other native species as part of the restructuring program. Expanding the Rainforest zone links with both the PAWS restoration and SAC/SSSI buffering objectives outlined above and further discussed in Sections C.2.5 and C.2.11.

Protected Species

There are several protected/ sensitive species that may periodically be present as they are known to be active in the local area. Where locations of nests/dens/setts, or other structures are known, these have been included on the Issues and Opportunities Map, but not all are mapped due to their sensitivity. Sensitive sites are kept on Scottish Woodlands GIS system so that they are available for operational planning.

Species that have the potential to be present include:

- Red Squirrel (sighted in 2024)
- Otter (sighted in 2013)
- Breeding Birds/Raptors
- Black Grouse

Red squirrels are known to be present within the forest. Currently the Sitka spruce dominated species composition does not favour red squirrels, however, through the restructuring process both in recent years and proposed over the period of this plan, an increase in species diversity including Scots pine, Norway spruce, Douglas fir and small seeded broadleaves will provide a source of food and habitat for the red squirrel population.

Otter have been recorded locally and are likely to be present within and/or adjacent to the forest. Otters are also a qualifying feature of the Loch Etive SAC and forest operations have the potential to cause disturbance.

Birds – there are no formal records, however, there is potential for nesting raptors including, for example, goshawk and buzzards. Schedule 1 birds of prey are present in the wider area, but no eyrie sites are known to be present close by, as confirmed by the RSPB. Scottish Crossbill may also be present with the potential to breed if there is sufficient food supply on an annual basis together with a variety of bird species associated with mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland.

Black grouse - Ichrachan is located c. 2.5km north of an area of Highest Regional Priority for Black Grouse, with several leks of 5 - 9 males recorded by RSPB Scotland during the 2025 season. Whilst not presently known to be within the forest, given that suitable habitat for Black Grouse exists within and close to the

LTFP area, it is possible that this species may utilise the site in the future. There is an opportunity to enhance forest edge habitat, particularly along the western boundary through the introduction of varied spaced species such as lower density Scots pine, birch, aspen and juniper which may provide suitable habitat capable of supporting black grouse in the future.

Pine Marten and badgers are also likely to be present.

Deadwood / Veteran Trees

Though variable in quality, deadwood is present on site, both standing and fallen, this is mainly found within areas of windblow and mature broadleaf trees.

Within the standing plantations there are limited amounts of deadwood. Most accumulation of deadwood has resulted from the retention of standing or fallen trees during previous harvesting operations. There are also limited areas of long-term retention where deadwood accumulation may occur.

Most deadwood accumulation occurs in areas of ASNW within compartments 6 and 10 and the 2026 PAWS assessment and observations following more recent clear-felling have identified the location of numerous remnant veteran trees in compartment 3. Where there is a good concentration of standing deadwood and veteran trees, these areas may be prioritised for ASNW restoration.

Wood ants

There is a healthy wood ant (*Formica aquilonia*), population within the forest, and there are numerous well-established nests, mostly in the west of the forest adjacent to ASNW and along the forest road. These have been individually mapped and are shown on Map 4 Issues and Opportunities.

Peat

Fragmented areas of deep peat which are greater than 50cm depth have been identified and are marked on the Issues and Opportunities map. These areas will be buffered by open ground, and post felling a more accurate assessment will be possible to establish if there are other areas to be buffered.

Riparian Zones

The watercourse between compartments 6 and 7 has the most potential to be improved as a riparian zone. Linking habitats and connectivity across the forest would be beneficial to wildlife in general.

See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities and Map 5 Biodiversity.

A.6.10 Invasive Species

Rhododendron has previously been managed on the site and patches of *Rhododendron ponticum* remain in isolated, but manageable areas such as along powerline rides, as indicated below:

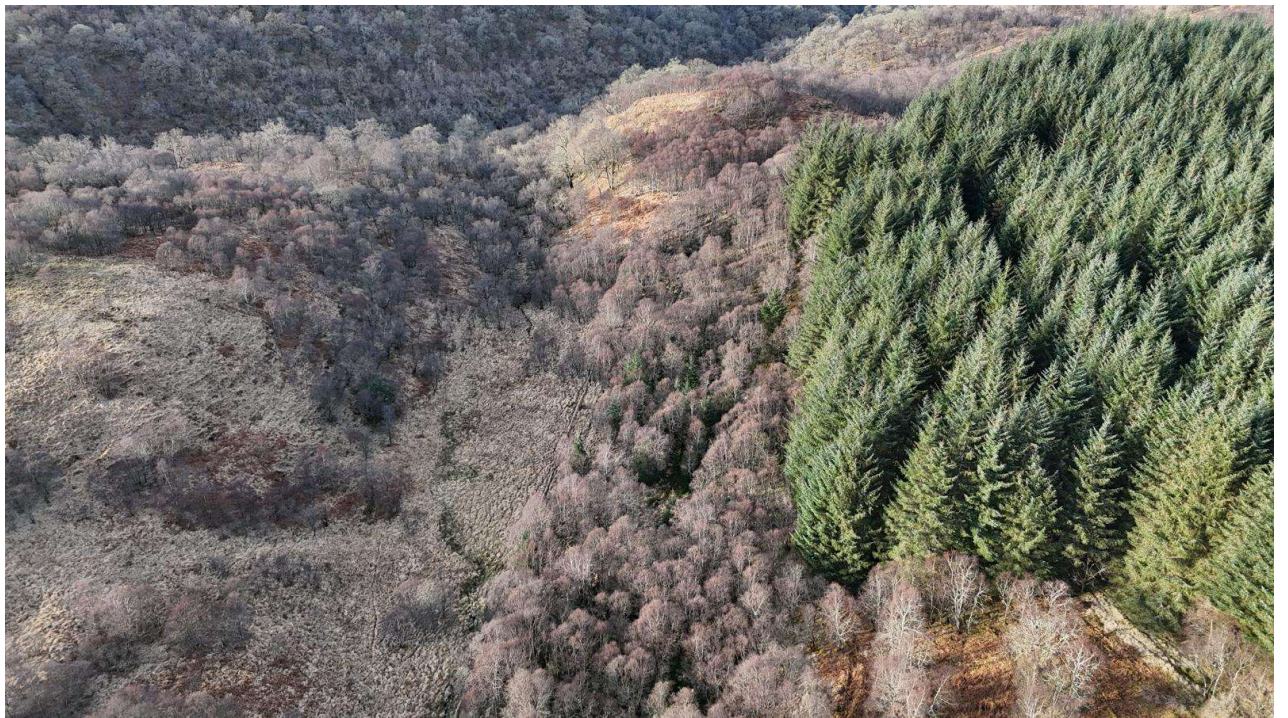


Monitoring is undertaken through regular site inspection, and control programs implemented as needed to keep it in check on both restock sites and within the wider forest area. There are no other invasive species known to be present within the estate.

In the context of designated site protection (ASNW, SAC, SSSI), Sitka spruce is considered an undesirable invasive species. Where Sitka spruce is seeding and regenerating within these areas it will be removed in consultation with NatureScot and neighbours. The aerial images below indicate that Sitka spruce regeneration is present, but at a manageable level.



View looking south showing compartment 8 along eastern boundary of SAC



View looking north showing compartment 8 along boundary of SAC.
(Source: Scottish Woodlands drone images February 2026)

A.7 Woodland Description

Ichrachan has been established as a productive conifer plantation. The forests' structure is primarily composed of Sitka spruce, with some minor areas of other conifers including Norway spruce and Douglas fir, integrated broadleaves and open space. The forest was originally planted between 1981-1986 and is in the restructuring phase; the principle silvicultural management being clear-felling and restocking. There has been significant felling in the north of the forest over the last 10 years, both through planned management felling and in response to windblow. A broad fringe of native woodland in the southwest of the forest provides connectivity to the adjacent extensive areas of designated ancient semi natural woodland.

The species composition is currently UKFS non-compliant with an over dominance of Sitka spruce as the primary species and lacking in secondary species. As such a priority of management will be to increase species diversity through the period of the forest plan. This objective will also contribute to habitat and landscape enhancement and improve resilience to present and emerging pests and diseases.

The phased restructuring of what was a predominantly even aged plantation began during the period of the previous forest plan and under various stand-alone felling permissions. The age class distribution (Table 1) indicates that approximately 23% of the afforested area is awaiting restructuring, and these mature areas will be included in the phased felling proposals through the period of this plan. Some coupes in compartments 1, 3 and 5 have been previously felled and are due to be restocked within the first phase of operations.

See Map 3 Current Species and Tables 1 and 2

A.8 Plant Health

Provide details on any known plant health issues within the LTFP area and their effect on the forest plan.

There are no known immediate plant health issues, however, monitoring tree health for signs of, for example, Dothistroma needle blight (*Dothistroma septosporum*) which may impact pine species in the future will be undertaken during routine forest inspections.

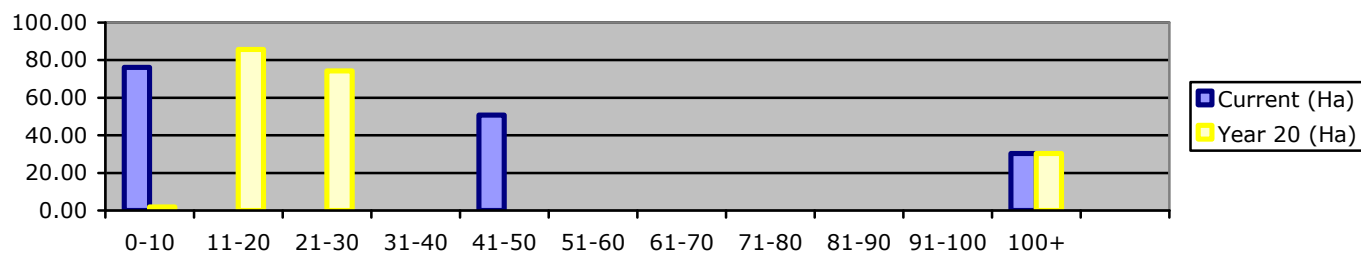
The presence of weevils will be closely monitored and routine treatment for weevil at restocking through a combination of spraying and planting with pre-treated stock will be considered. UKFS guidance and minimum buffers will be applied during these operations.

Table 1 - Area by species

Area by species						
Species	Current*		Year 10*		Year 20*	
(Add relevant species groups, or OG/OL)	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
SS & Un-planted (previously SS)	155.47	69.41	134.53	60.07	134.53	60.07
NBL	36.12	16.13	43.78	19.55	43.78	19.55
OG	30.22	13.49	31.81	14.2	31.81	14.2
NS	1.51	0.67	1.51	0.67	1.51	0.67
DF	0.65	0.29	0.65	0.29	0.65	0.29
SP			11.69	5.22	11.69	5.22
Total	223.96	100	223.96	100	223.96	100

Table 2 – Area by age

Age class (years)	Current	Year 20
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
0-10	76.14	1.86
11-20		85.71
21-30		74.29
31-40		
41-50	50.84	
51-60		
61-70		
71-80		
81-90		
91-100		
100+	30.29	30.29
*Non-tree species	66.69	31.81
Total	223.96	223.96



B. Analysis of Information

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Wind throw	Limited windfirm edges within the remaining mature crops influence the size of felling coupes and exposed forest edges are vulnerable to wind damage, including those of neighbouring land.	Restructuring provides the opportunity to diversify the structure and age class distribution of the forest. There may be opportunity for smaller coupe felling in the future as more wind firm boundaries, utilising features like rides, tracks and watercourses will be available.
Herbivores	The resident roe deer population and transient red deer population have the potential to cause browsing damage to planted trees and natural regeneration.	Continue with active deer culling. There is an opportunity for collaborative deer management with neighbouring forest owners with an aim to maintain deer numbers at a level that allows the establishment of planted and naturally regenerating trees and prevents damage to existing crops. Deer fencing may be needed to protect palatable tree species.
Wildlife, species and habitats	<p>Various species are either known to be or have the potential to be present in the forest. These include otter, raptors (including goshawk, buzzard and possibly Schedule 1 species), Red squirrel, Pine marten, Black grouse and other species associated with mixed conifer and broadleaf forest.</p> <p>Forest operations, including felling, cultivation, planting and maintenance have the potential to cause disturbance, particularly</p>	<p>Pre-operational walkover wildlife surveys are carried out by our Environment Forest Managers. The purpose of the wildlife surveys are to minimise the risk of disturbance to species and habitats and/or to identify whether any protection measures or licensing is required prior to the commencement of operations.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to identify areas of the forest that may be suitable for long term retention, or future management under lower impact silvicultural systems,</p>

	during sensitive breeding periods.	<p>which may enhance habitat in the future for nesting raptors and red squirrels.</p> <p>An increase in species diversity, including Scots pine, Norway spruce, firs and smaller seeded broadleaves, will provide food and habitat for the red squirrel population.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to enhance forest edge habitat, particularly along the western boundary through the introduction of varied spaced species such as lower density Scots pine, birch, aspen and juniper which may provide suitable habitat capable of supporting black grouse in the future.</p> <p>Expanding the extent and connectivity of riparian areas will provide opportunity for otter to expand their range.</p>
Protected Sites	The forest is adjacent to Glen Nant SSSI and Loch Etive SAC. Presence of, and potential for conifer seed to establish within the SAC/SSSI, Sitka spruce being the species of most concern.	Post phase 1 felling of adjacent coupes the restructured design should incorporate a minimum 100m buffer from Sitka spruce restocking to the SAC/SSSI boundary, as agreed with NatureScot. Continue to monitor for and remove any natural regeneration of non-native conifer within an agreed management zone. Continue active deer culling to reduce the impact of deer on features of interest within the designated site.
ASNW/PAWS	The ancient woodland inventory identifies several areas of both Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) and Plantations on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) within the forest.	Undertake an ASNW/PAWS assessment to identify priority areas for restoration following the phase 1 and phase 2 felling. Implement a restructured design that expands the range of the existing ASNW in areas of the

		forest that have retained most remnant features.
UKFS species compliance	The current species composition is UKFS 5th Edition non-compliant in terms of species percentages.	At year 20, the FMU will be UKFS compliant, maintaining a high productive conifer percentage whilst enhancing species diversity and improving resilience. Higher productivity crops will be focused on the best ground with good access for harvesting. Secondary species will focus on Scots pine, Norway spruce and Douglas fir. There will be an overall increase in native broadleaves across the forest through PAWS restoration expanding the Rainforest Zone together with enhanced riparian corridors and open ground buffers along waterways connecting to the River Awe.
Outline how you intend to incorporate the constraints and opportunities into the management objectives.		
<p>Design – Implement the felling and restructuring programme working toward a UKFS compliant forest, with increased species diversity and identify potential areas for Long Term Retention. Protect known cultural and biodiversity features of interest through appropriate species choice, inclusion of open ground and design.</p> <p>Establish a minimum 100m buffer from areas of Sitka spruce restocking to the SAC/SSSI boundary. Monitor for conifer regeneration within the buffer and remove as necessary.</p> <p>Identify priority areas for PAWS restoration as informed by the ASNW/PAWS Assessment 2026.</p> <p>Wildlife and biodiversity – Ensure that forest operations do not adversely impact on species or habitats within the forest. Enhance opportunities for wildlife through the expansion of tree species diversity, designed open ground and identify areas of retention to create wildlife rich areas.</p> <p>Produce a Deer Management Plan and continue active deer culling on the property.</p>		

C. Management Proposals

C.1 Silvicultural Practice

The principle silvicultural practice will continue to be clear fell and restocking. The LTFP identifies phased clear fell proposals for the next 10 years. There are no constraints, in terms of terrain and access, and where ground and site conditions allow felling will be carried out using purpose-built harvesting machines supplemented by motor manual felling where required i.e. edge trees. In future areas of Scots pine and mixed broadleaf, there may be opportunity for thinning with the potential to be managed as continuous cover under Lower Impact Silvicultural Systems where there are no tree stability issues. Areas of established native broadleaves will generally be retained as long term retention managed under minimal intervention as natural reserves.

See Map 6 Felling

C.2 Prescriptions

C.2.1 Felling

Apart from the established areas of Ancient semi-natural woodland, a large proportion of the forest consists of young crops, or areas that are awaiting restocking. This has mostly been a result of the impact of wind damage in recent years. Most of the remaining standing timber is in compartments 8, 9 and 10, all of which are in the southern part of the forest. These areas currently provide structural diversity to the forest and ideally would be retained longer to allow younger crops time to reach pre-thicket stage. However, having now reached economic maturity these crops are, unfortunately, being increasingly impacted by storm damage, as indicated below in compartment 8.



As such these compartments need to be felled early in the plan period and will be scheduled for felling over the next ten years, split between Phase 1 [2026-2030], and Phase 2 [2031-2035]. Consequently, there is no felling proposed in Phases 3 and 4. The design of these felling coupes has been influenced by the even-aged nature of these stands and limited opportunities available to fell to wind firm boundaries. At a landscape scale the size of the felling coupes is appropriate, and, in the future, there may be opportunity for smaller coupe sizes if desired. At individual coupe level, the visual impact of felling will be minimised through the adoption of good forest practice and timely restocking to ensure that sites are quickly established. The timing of felling in Phase 2 will take into consideration the impact of adjacency by ensuring that the coupe will not be felled before the neighbouring restock has reached a height of 2-3metres, which is anticipated to be within the first couple of growing seasons.

The future species design within the Phase 1 area includes areas of productive Scots pine and native Scots pine with broadleaves. In the future these areas will either be retained as long term retention or are likely to be managed with a longer rotation length, which will help in retaining age class and structural diversity through the next rotation. This is discussed further in C.2.5.

Felling and extraction will be carried out using purpose-built harvesting and forwarding machines. During processing, brash mats will be created for extraction routes to reduce ground compaction and brash management will follow SEPA guidance 'Management of Forestry Waste'. Appropriate and up to date warning signs will be erected on site prior to and during all timber harvesting activities.

Where powerlines (OHPL) are present within or on the route to an operational site, SSEN will be consulted well in advance to discuss the forthcoming operation and to provide input into management around their infrastructure. This will include ascertaining risk zones, safe working heights and requirements for power outages and agreement will be reached with SSEN for the de-energising of the OHPL to be made safe. SSEN are responsible for power outages, timing and regulatory notification to neighbours. Risk zones for harvesting operations will be identified by the Forestry Works Manager in consultation with SSEN.

See Map 6 – Felling and felling coupe areas in Table 3.

C.2.2 Thinning

No thinning is planned during the period of this plan. However, there may be opportunity for thinning in the future, for example in areas restocked with Scots pine, Norway spruce and Douglas fir, where appropriately timed thinning interventions could aid in developing stable areas suitable for longer term retention. See C.2.4

C.2.3 LISS

Within the main commercial areas of Sitka spruce, LISS is not likely to be a viable alternative to the present clear fell and restocking regime due to the historical impacts of windblow. However, elsewhere, for example in compartments 8a and 8b (Scots pine) and 2w (Norway spruce/Douglas fir), and

subject to their successful establishment and appropriate timely silvicultural intervention through young stand, thicket, pole and early thinning stages, there could be opportunity to manage these stands as continuous cover under LISS. Using Forest Research's 'Forest Development Types' as a framework these areas can be categorised as.

Compartment 8a and 8b FDT 2.1.2 Scots pine

Compartment 2w FDT 1.2.4 Norway spruce and shade tolerant conifers (DF)

Additionally, in existing and future areas of native woodland there may be potential to implement lower impact silvicultural systems, such as single tree or small group selection systems, with the objective of developing suitable conditions to allow natural regeneration and final stand trees to develop.

C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves

Currently there are limited areas suitable for management as long term retention within the coniferous parts of the forest due to the present age and structure of the crops. Aside from the majority of the existing mature ASNW which is managed as Natural Reserve with biodiversity as the main objective, there are just a few other areas managed as LTR. These include along the riparian corridor in compartments 6n and 7g, and native broadleaves in sub compartments of 9g, 9f, 9n.

There is potential for the mixed conifer, planted in 2017 in compartment 2w, and proposed future stands of Scots pine, and native Scots pine/native broadleaf mixtures in compartments 3 and 8 to be managed as LTR in the future. This will be subject to the impacts of wind and the success of early and timely ongoing thinning interventions in developing stand stability. See C.2.3

C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

Restocking will be implemented no later than two years after felling and any previously felled coupes awaiting restocking will be planted within Phase 1. Conditional restocking associated with FPA-13166 in these areas will be superseded by the LTFP restocking design.

The principle commercial tree species will be Sitka spruce, which will be focused in the most productive areas of the forest where there are no other conflicting priorities.

Species diversity will be achieved through the inclusion of Scots pine, Norway spruce, firs and native broadleaves, as pure crops and in mixtures, and targeted in areas that provide optimal benefit to the protection of designated sites, biodiversity, landscape, public access and the cultural environment.

Scots pine, Norway spruce and small seeded native broadleaves, in addition to providing species diversity and enhanced resilience will also provide habitat for a range of species such as red squirrels and a variety of bird species that favour mixed woodland habitat. Where native species are being planted, for example in areas where soft edges, species diversity, or riparian management is desired to improve biodiversity, or promote long term water quality improvement they will typically compose mixtures of birch, alder, rowan, oak, aspen and juniper. Seed

source for broadleaf native stock will originate from zone 106, where this is not available at the time of planting the next available seed source will be sought. In areas of PAWS restoration and within the buffer to the SAC the preferred approach will be establishment by natural regeneration, including supplementary planting of native Scots pine.

The PAWS assessment (2026) has been used to prioritise areas that offer the best opportunity for restoration, either because there are existing remnant features or they are adjacent to existing ASNW. These include within compartments 3, 8 and 10 where a combination of native Scots pine and/or native broadleaves are proposed. Compartment 8 includes a core area of productive Scots pine which will be established to achieve a minimum stocking density of 2500 stems per hectare. Adjacent to this, a mosaic of Scots pine and native broadleaves will buffer the SAC where the planted Scots pine will be enriched through natural regeneration of native mixed broadleaves to achieve a target stocking density of 1600 stems per hectare. In compartment 3, the proposed natural regeneration of native broadleaves will be enriched with Scots pine with the aim of achieving a broadly 70:30 percentage split between native broadleaves and pine. Should the natural regeneration of native broadleaves be unsuccessful in achieving the required stocking density, then enrichment planting will be implemented. See also Section C.2.6, C.2.7 and C.2.11.

The timely removal of non-native natural regeneration within areas of ASNW and PAWs restoration will be implemented.

By year 20 the forest will be UKFS (5th Edition) compliant in terms of species percentages, with primary conifer (SS) 60%, secondary conifers (NS, SP, DF) 7%, mixed native broadleaf 18% and open ground 14%.

Cultivation

Cultivation techniques will follow current best practice and will aim to utilise lower impact options. Cultivation practice will follow Scottish Forestry Guidance and comply with UK Forestry Standard and guidelines on water and soils. Cultivation will provide a suitable planting location for tree establishment and growth while minimising soil and hydrological impacts, along with providing a degree of weed suppression. Cultivation will also help to reduce weed competition for nutrients and moisture, mix soil to improve fertility during early establishment of trees, reduce or break a deep soil pan or induration, and create a drained planting position during the early establishment period. For planting of productive conifers, excavator invert mounding will be the preferred methodology. This is to achieve a minimum 2,500 trees per hectare. In line with best practice, cultivation will be limited to invert mounding and screefing within watercourse buffer areas. Invert mounding will also be utilised for native planting where practicable. This is to achieve a minimum 1,600 trees per hectare. On or near sensitive sites such as ASNW buffers, where excavator mounding cannot be utilised or is not practicable, screefing will be used to remove the vegetation layer.

Existing watercourses will be buffered by open ground in line with minimum UKFS requirements; 10 metres for permanent watercourses with a channel width less than 2 metres and 20 metres for any permanent watercourses with a channel width greater than 2 metres, as well as for any permanent ponds or wetlands.

Due to the generally even topography post-harvesting drainage works are likely, including the cleaning of existing drains. Drainage works will adhere to best practice guidance including UKFS Practice Guide – ‘Managing forest operations to protect the water environment’.

Restocking proposals are shown on Table 5 and are illustrated in Map 8 Future Species (Year 20) and Map 9 Future Species Phase 1+2 (Year 10).

Table 3 – Felling

This shows the scale of felling within the felling phases in the context of the whole Forest Plan. This includes any areas of 'LISS – Fell' (i.e. removal of final overstorey).

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total Forest Plan Area:			hectares									
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	24.94	11.13	25.9	11.56	0	0	0	0	2.73	1.2%	136.66	61.02

Note: Restocking carried forward = 36.47Ha (16.28%)

Table 4 – Thinning

This shows the area of thinning over the first 10 years of the Forest Plan.

Species	Thinning (ha)
	None
Total	

Table 5 – Restocking

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species to be planted	Area (ha) to be planted
Phase 1	1A, 1B, 3B, 3C, 5A, 8F, 10A	SS	41.86
Phase 1	3A, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D	SP	10.88
Phase 1	3A, 8A, 8B, 8E, 8G, 10D, 10E, 10F	NBL	7.31
Phase 1	3D, 8E, 8G, 10D, 10E, 10F	OG	1.36
Phase 2	9A, 9B, 10B, 10C	SS	24.51
Phase 2	9C	SP	0.81
Phase 2	9D, 9E, 9F, 9G	NBL	0.35
Phase 2	9E, 9F, 9H	OG	0.23
Total Restocking Area			87.30

C.2.6 Protection

Red and Roe deer are present, with densities fluctuating due to open-range dynamics and deer movements across porous boundary fences. Sika deer are also sometimes encountered at low numbers. Ongoing deer management is critical in achieving the proposed restructuring objectives, and the primary objective is to maintain deer numbers, through annual culling at a sustainable level that minimises damage to newly planted and regenerating trees. Deer control will be carried out by trained and certified individuals, utilising best practices and legal authorisations. The focus will be on maintaining deer numbers at a level that prevents excessive browsing while ensuring compliance with welfare and environmental regulations. Ongoing herbivore impact assessments will be conducted to monitor deer distribution and if excessive browsing damage occurs the cull will be increased accordingly. Taking a collaborative approach to deer management with neighbours could be beneficial and where feasible deer management and the exchange of cull data will be shared with adjacent forest owners.

To complement this, protection using deer fencing and tree guards may be required, particularly to ensure the successful establishment of palatable species such as Scots pine and broadleaves. Outside any deer fenced areas native broadleaf planting or regeneration may also be protected using tree shelters. Trico deer repellent may also be considered as an alternative to deer fencing, for example in compartments 3 and 10, which are proposed to be established with native species. Decisions on which protection measure, or combination of measures will be implemented will be taken by the Forest Manager during on site operational planning in response to the threats posed at the time.

See Appendix 1 Deer Management Plan

Maintenance

After the initial establishment operations, on-going maintenance operations will include replacing any failed trees (beating up), spot weeding with herbicide to control weeds (including noxious weeds as defined in the "Weeds Act 1959), tree shelter maintenance and fertilising.

Beating up requirements will be informed by surveys to assess current stocking densities and any inhibitors to tree establishment. Beating up will take place in the first few seasons after planting.

Effective weed control will be needed for the successful establishment of trees, and an integrated pest management approach will be adopted. Manual or mechanical weeding will be used if deemed appropriate to the nature of the weed problem (e.g. bracken whipping). The use of herbicides will be limited to a spot treatment around each tree to limit the quantity of herbicide used. If invasive species such as gorse and bracken become problematic, a broader area of treatment will be required. Given the current vegetation and fertility of the site, it is expected that weeding requirements will be localised, and a targeted approach will be used.

Remedial fertilising to address nutritional deficiency, will only be carried out where this is required to achieve successful establishment. Prior to any remedial fertiliser being applied, an assessment will be carried out. This will be to eliminate

any alternative causes of poor growth, such as climatic conditions or pests/diseases. Unless it is clear from site inspection, foliar analysis will also be carried out at a suitable laboratory to determine the nature of the deficiency, along with the correct product and rate of application.

C.2.7 Fence erection / removal

There is an existing perimeter deer fence around the property, and whilst this is generally in good condition, there are gaps and deer can move freely between Ichrachan and some of the neighbouring land. Maintaining a secure deer fenced perimeter is currently not a priority, as deer on the property are culled and the cost of maintaining a long perimeter fence is expensive.

Whilst the preferred approach in achieving successful tree growth and natural regeneration will be through active deer management, there may be some areas, for example the proposed Scots pine and native broadleaves in compartment 8, that may require deer fencing. This will be kept under review in response to deer pressures at the time and whether natural regeneration of native broadleaves is successful. NatureScot will be consulted should any new fencing be planned due to potential impacts on the nearby SAC/SSSI. The deer management plan further discusses the interaction between culling and fencing, including proposed cull levels.

Whilst not presently known to be within the forest, given that suitable habitat for Black Grouse exists within and close to the LTFP area, it is possible that this species may utilise the site in the future. Should lekking Black Grouse be confirmed near or within the boundary, then NatureScot will be consulted to advise whether marking of any new deer fences might be required to reduce the likelihood of bird strike.

See Appendix 1 Deer Management Plan.

C.2.8 Road Operations

The forest is serviced by a road network suitable for timber haulage and no extension of the road network is currently planned although this will be kept under review throughout the period of the plan in response to operational requirements. Forest roads will be maintained as necessary to facilitate access for timber harvesting and forest management.

Approximately 2.7km of ATV tracks have been installed using on-site material within the last 5 years within recently felled areas, including in compartments 1, 3 and 5 which are due to be restocked. These tracks, which are approximately 2m wide, provide operational access for planting and tree maintenance, deer management and offer opportunity for informal public access by local residents. Whilst the construction of ATV tracks within the last five years is within Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) thresholds, the cumulative impact of any further track construction or forest road extensions, should they be required, will be considered and should the threshold be exceeded consent will be sought from Scottish Forestry, under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

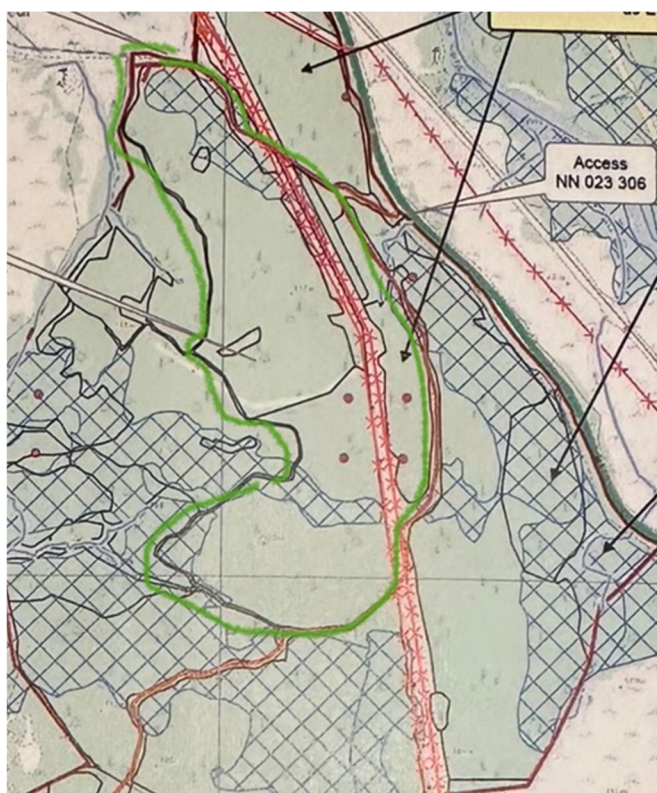
Existing ATV tracks are shown on Map 7 Timber Transport and Access

Timber haulage will adhere to the Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice and other best practice publications including the Timber Transport Forum's Transporting Timber on Public Roads.

The forest roads are also used recreationally by locals and visitors, and all forest operations will comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. See C.2.9

C.2.9 Public Access

Although present levels of access are low public access along the internal forest road network and other paths will be maintained in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and any current infrastructure will be maintained. Access for recreation will remain informal and no new footpaths or facilities are currently planned beyond what is currently available. The existing circular route shown below, which utilises the forest road and ATV tracks will be maintained to facilitate local usage.



Appropriate signage and procedures, as per industry best practice guidance, will be used during all felling operations. If any paths or tracks need to be closed for safety reasons, an alternative route will be offered. If this is not possible the closure will be kept as brief as possible.

C.2.10 Historic Environment

A degree of caution should be applied when using the recorded locations of historic features as there appears to have been a degree of rounding of grid references and use of single symbols to cover multiple records in a location. As such the positions of the individual features or group of features shall be confirmed on the ground during pre-operational planning and used as the basis

for any measures for their protection. However, as all known historical features are located outside of the planned felling and restocking areas, no impact from forestry operations is foreseen.

Should previously unknown archaeological features be identified during either pre-planning or execution of forest operations, activity on site will cease, the forest manager will be notified, and advice sought from Historic Environment Scotland and/or the local authority so that appropriate protection measures can be implemented.

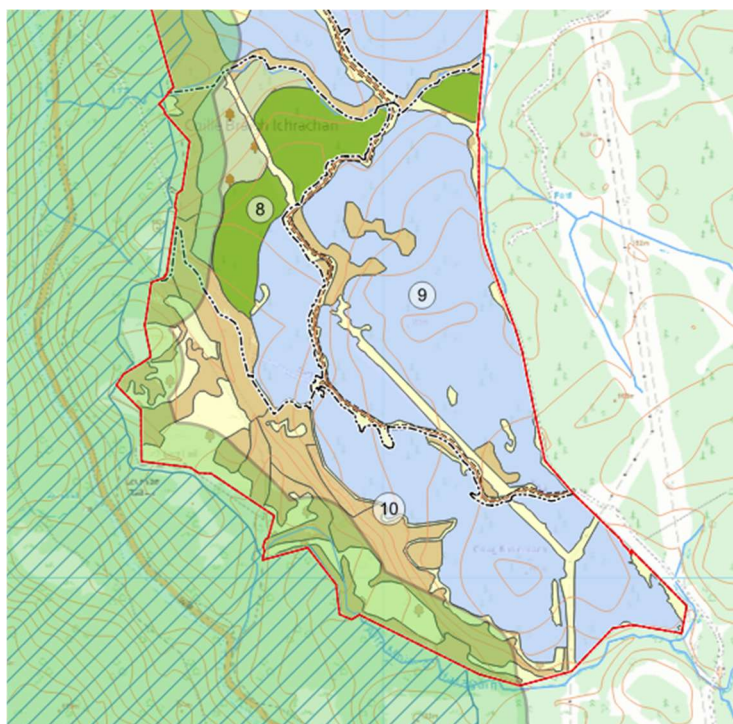
See Map 4 Constraints and Opportunities

C.2.11 Biodiversity

Designated Sites Protection

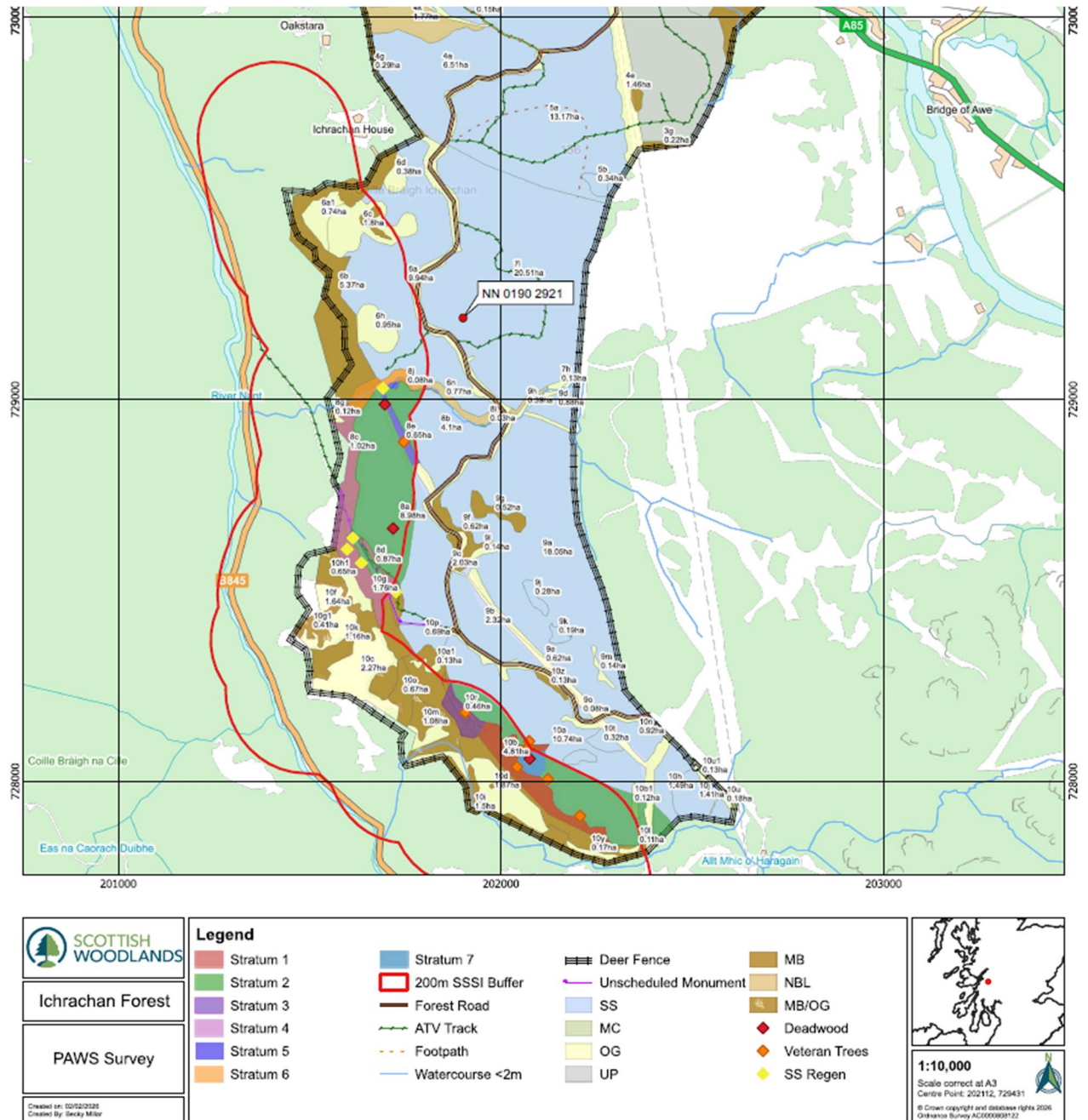
Loch Etive SAC and Glen Nant SSSI

The image below shows the restructured design for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 felling coupes. The blue hatching shows the SAC boundary, the red line the forest boundary and the green shaded area indicates the extent of the agreed 100m buffer from the designated site boundary. Within 100m of the designated site boundary there will be no planting of Sitka spruce (or productive conifer) in compartments 8 and 10. In compartment 8 native Scots pine and broadleaves will extend the ASNW zone together with an area of productive Scots pine, which presents a reduced risk of seed spread than the impact from Sitka spruce. In compartment 10 an open ground buffer has been incorporated between the Sitka spruce and existing native woodland, together with an extension of native broadleaves into an area containing a concentration of remnant ASNW features. These measures will help to reduce the likelihood of conifer seeding into the designated site. Where existing conifer regeneration is already present in areas of ASNW these will be removed and routine inspections carried out to check for new growth.



ASNW and PAWS Restoration

A site visit was carried out on the 27th of January 2026 to assess the current condition of the ASNW and PAWS within a 200m buffer of the Glen Nant SSSI and Loch Etive Woods SAC. The selected survey areas were in the southwest of Ichrachan in the closest areas to Felling Phase 1 and Felling Phase 2 of the LTFP. The image below, taken from the report, indicates the assessment area and identifies the subdivision into differing stratum.



The surveyed ASNW areas remain distinctly different from the adjacent PAWS. In the northern ASNW sections (strata 4 and 6), Sitka Spruce (SS) regen is expanding. In the same areas native regeneration is sparse, likely suppressed by deer browsing and dense bracken.

The two identified PAWS areas vary significantly. Stratum 2 is almost exclusively a SS plantation containing patches of dead native trees, whereas Stratum 7 in compartment 10 comprises a mix of SS, mature native species, and veteran broadleaves. While the ground flora in Stratum 7 is currently threatened by conifer shading, the identified veteran trees across both ASNW and PAWS remain largely unaffected by this threat. In compartment 8 remnant features of interest, including ground flora, veteran trees and standing deadwood were also identified associated with the adjacent ASNW areas in strata 4, 5 and 6. Proactive management is needed to enhance these features and both the stratum 7 area in compartment 10, and the northern part of compartment 8 have been identified as the best parts in which to focus on ASNW restoration. Additionally, in compartment 3, which was felled in 2025, there are numerous veteran trees within the Ancient Woodland Inventory area and a broad northeast facing slope is proposed to include native broadleaves and low-density native Scots pine. The preferred approach for establishment in this area will be through natural regeneration from seed sources in the adjacent ASNW, with supplementary planting of native Scots pine. Where natural regeneration does not achieve the required stocking density enrichment planting will be implemented.

The photographs below indicate the relative condition and surviving features within these areas;

Stratum 2 – consisting of planted Sitka spruce and a few standing deadwoods.



Stratum 4 - consists predominantly of mature birch trees on wet ground. The northeast margins connect to a PAWS area planted with Sitka spruce (SS). Sitka spruce regeneration is expanding.



Stratum 5 - this ride is an old powerline strip which contains some standing deadwood and a few veteran trees. In some areas the ground is wet, while elsewhere is covered with bracken. Some Sitka spruce windblow from adjacent compartments is present.



Stratum 6 - consists predominantly of willow trees, with some birch trees present on wet ground adjacent to a watercourse. It is located next to a Sitka spruce (SS) restock area to the northeast and a PAWS area planted with SS to the south, which may explain the SS regeneration observed. Some standing deadwood were present.



Stratum 7 - This PAWS consists of planted Sitka Spruce (SS) and areas of broadleaf trees like birch. Some ground flora, including wood sorrel and dog violet was observed, although flowers were not present at the time of the survey. This could suggest that the soil properties from an ASNW are still present in this area. A few veteran trees and standing deadwood were present.



Compartment 3 - Across the northeast facing slope there are numerous remnant native specimens which have survived within the previous Sitka spruce plantation.



Scotland's Atlantic Rainforest

Glen Nant SSSI and Loch Etive SAC form part of Scotland's Atlantic rainforest, predominantly formed of upland oak woodland that supports rich communities of lichen and bryophytes. The woodland supports 240 species of bryophyte (of which 11 are nationally scarce) and is an important lichen habitat (two vulnerable species, ten near-threatened species, nine nationally rare species and 53 nationally-scarce observed since 1976).

In some places areas of semi-natural ancient woodland are adjacent to commercial conifers, some areas of which, as discussed above, also contain remnants of semi-natural ancient woodland. Existing ASNW will be protected during felling operations through careful site planning including, for example, directional felling to avoid damage to native trees. Buffer and exclusion zones will also be implemented to avoid machinery entering important habitats. Routine monitoring will identify the location of any regeneration of invasive and non-native species which will then be removed from ancient woodland areas. Any veteran trees present within the current conifer crop will be clearly marked and protected during harvesting operations.

The areas identified for PAWS restoration will further assist in expanding and buffering these areas of Atlantic Rainforest in the future.

Protected Species

Black Grouse

An area of High Regional Priority for Black Grouse is located 2.5km from Ichrachan Forest, and so there is possibility that Black Grouse utilise the forest.

The PAWS assessment (2026) has identified which areas are best suited for ASNW expansion, preferably through natural regeneration and low-density planting to create a biodiverse transitional zone between native woodland and plantation edges, particularly along the western boundary. Further restructuring of the forest will provide a diverse age class which will maximise pre-thicket structure and incorporate a wider selection of species including Scots pine and native broadleaves. Pre-

operational survey will be conducted to determine if Black Grouse or their actively used habitats are present. If lekking Black Grouse are confirmed near or within the boundary, then any new deer fences will be marked, the leks will be buffered from planting activity, and operations timed to avoid disturbance during sensitive breeding periods.

Otters

There have been no specific surveys to establish the location of otter activity or holt sites. However, pre-operational surveys will be carried out to determine otter presence. Where signs of activity are found (spraints, footprints or tracks leading to the watercourse), the survey will cover suitable habitat within 50m of the watercourse to identify potential breeding sites. If an active holt is confirmed, a 200m operational exclusion zone will be established. In addition, a 30m exclusion zone will be applied around resting places, and no forest operations are to occur within this exclusion zone. Adherence with the following guidance 'FCS Guidance Note 35c: Forest operations and otters in Scotland' and 'NatureScot's: Loch Etive SAC Conservation Advice Package' will be maintained throughout all forestry operations (both harvesting, ground preparation and establishment operations). The proposed enhancement and expansion of native woodland in compartments 3, 8 and 10 will have positive habitat impacts close to the most likely areas of otter activity along the River Awe corridor to the north and the Allt Mhic o' Haragain to the south of the forest.

Red Squirrels, Pine Marten and Raptors

The overall increase in species diversity, including areas of Scots pine, native broadleaves and previously established Norway spruce and Douglas fir in compartment 2, will provide suitable habitat and food source for Red squirrels. Improved connectivity of habitats, including native woodland areas, riparian zones and open ground will also benefit the pine marten population, providing suitable nesting and hunting habitat. Opportunities for long term retention, such as the Scots pine in compartment 8 and the area of mixed conifer in compartment 2 may also provide suitable nesting habitat for raptors and other bird species.

Pre-Operational Survey

Prior to forest operations, including harvesting, cultivation, planting and maintenance, mandatory pre-operational walkover wildlife surveys will be undertaken by Forest Managers, or an Environmental Forest Manager. The purpose of these surveys are to establish whether protected species, including red squirrels, breeding birds, black grouse, and otters, are present within the area to minimise the risk of disturbance and/or to identify whether any protection measures or licensing is required prior to the commencement of operations. Additionally, Argyll Raptor Study Group will be contacted in advance of operations to ensure impacts on raptors, including Golden Eagle, are avoided. If present, further action in line with current legislation and best-practice will be taken before proceeding. Should protected species be identified whilst operations are underway then the activity will withdraw from the area or cease until the forest manager has been notified and advice sought from NatureScot to develop appropriate protection measures.

Deadwood

In line with current UKFS guidelines, both standing and fallen deadwood will be retained during harvesting operations. The main exception will be where monitoring

of roadside trees indicates a need to carry out removal of dangerous trees on safety grounds. Where there is limited amounts of natural standing deadwood in a felling coupe, appropriate areas for deadwood will be identified and operators will be instructed to leave deadwood on site.

C.2.12 Tree Health

Tree health will be monitored as part of general management inspections. Signs of *Phytophthora* strains will be monitored during management inspections.

Species selection during restocking will take into account future disease risk and species such as Larch and Ash will not be planted due to their susceptibility to *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Chalara* which may be present regionally.

C.2.13 Invasive species

With the exception of Rhododendron, which is already actively managed to prevent it spreading to restock sites and protected habitats there are no other known invasive species present within the plan area.

C.2.14 New Planting

No new planting is proposed.

C.2.15 Wildfire

Wildfire risk is presently considered to be at a medium level, although there are no previously known incidents of wildfire on the property. The current forest structure is composed a mix of closed canopy crops with low amounts of surface vegetation and deadwood, and younger crops that have higher amounts of fuel load. Recreational use is low, mainly by local visitors walking/cycling/riding along forest roads. Natural water sources within the forest are limited, however, there is good HGV grade access along the forest road with provision for passing and turning areas to facilitate access for emergency vehicles. There are natural firebreaks between stands of conifers including along rides, open ground and the forest road network.

Potential impacts of wildfire could include loss of access and crop/property damage with the potential for fire to spread to, or from, neighbouring forests.

Through the restructuring period of the plan the risk of wildfire is likely to increase as there will be younger stands of trees with increased levels of lying deadwood and fuel load post harvesting. The risk of wildfire in these areas will remain elevated until the canopy begins to close. During forest operations, including ground cultivation and timber harvesting, there is also a higher risk of ignition caused by machinery malfunction or inappropriate storage and/or transport of fuels.

Forest design and operational site planning incorporates several measures which may reduce the likelihood of fire including opening of rides and access routes between stands to enhance natural fire breaks, retention of some crops, a well maintained forest road providing access during operations, employing operational

best practice for example, contract supervision, machinery maintenance and safe storage of fuels, combined with timing of operations to avoid high risk periods of sustained dry weather.

A more diverse structure, delivered through the proposed programme of restructuring will provide opportunity in the future to develop more natural fire breaks between areas of different species, open ground and crops of varying age.

Additionally, whilst there is no permanent on-site staff presence, during high-risk periods the provision of signage and emergency contact information will be made available at entrances to the forest. There are no plans to provide additional recreational provision beyond the current level of use.

C.2.16 Other:	Waste and Redundant Materials
---------------	-------------------------------

The definition of waste is wide and includes redundant tree shelters, plant bags, pesticide containers, redundant fencing, redundant site signage and fly tipping/littering.

Waste generated from site activities (controlled waste), such as plant bags, fencing and pesticide containers, will be removed from site as part of normal operations. Waste will be removed via a licenced waste carrier to a licenced waste handling facility. Depending on the scale of the activity and waste produced, this may include the use of a skip on site. Pesticide containers must be triple rinsed before being classed as controlled waste. Waste Transfer Notes will be received and retained on file.

If any special Waste, such as tyres, oil filters, contaminated materials, is generated from the servicing of or repairs to machinery it will be transported in line with The Special Waste Regulations 1996, including the use of a special waste consignment note.

C.2.17 Other:	Scottish Water Assets
---------------	-----------------------

Scottish Water assets will be identified during pre-operational planning, and if necessary, local Scottish Water personnel will be contacted to offer advice. Operations will adhere to the Scottish Water Guide to the precaution measures for forestry activities to be undertaken in source water catchments and areas that contain SW infrastructure [Published February 2026] which is available here: <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk/help-and-resources/document-hub/key-publications/sustainable-land-management>

During operations care will be taken to protect the water environment and reduce the likelihood of diffuse pollution through good site planning and compliance with best practice guidance including UKFS, Forestry and Water Scotland 'Know the Rules' 2nd Edition and the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR).

C.3 Screening opinion request and Permitted Development Notifications

Please complete this form to find out if you need consent from Scottish Forestry, under the **Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, to carry out your proposed forestry project.

For more information on EIA Screening, refer to Scottish Forestry's 'Environmental Impact Assessments for Forestry Projects' (2021) guidance document and 'Schedule 2: Selection Criteria for Screening Forestry Projects' under the "Applying for an opinion" section for more detail on the information you should provide in this form. If you are not sure about what information to include on this form please contact your local Conservancy office.

Project Details

Provide details of the gross project area and composition i.e. the project boundary to include all unplantable ground and sensitive areas retained in open ground within the boundary. You must also provide a map which defines the gross area boundary.

Designed Open Ground (DOG) is plantable land left unplanted for design reasons or to avoid or prevent significant negative impacts. Other Land (OL) is unplantable land e.g. scree, extensive deep peat, lochs and other waterbodies, existing woodland.

The definition of 'native' and 'non native' refers to Scotland as a whole, not to specific areas of Scotland and irrespective of management objectives.

<u>Proposed*</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Gross</u> <u>Project</u> <u>Area</u> <u>(ha)</u>	<u>Non</u> <u>Nativ</u> <u>e</u> <u>CON</u> <u>(ha)</u>	<u>Nativ</u> <u>e</u> <u>CON</u> <u>(ha)</u>	<u>Non</u> <u>Native</u> <u>BL (ha)</u>	<u>NBL</u> <u>(ha)</u>	<u>DOG</u> <u>(ha)</u>	<u>OL</u> <u>(ha)</u>
<u>Afforestation</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Deforestation</u>		<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Forest Roads</u>							
<u>Forest Quarry</u>							

*SF Use Only:

For recording afforestation species figures in Casebook Pre-App casetype:

Conifer = Non Native CON + Native CON figures as shown in above table

Broadleaves = Non Native BL + NBL+ DOG + OL figures as shown in above table

Description of Forestry Project and Location

Provide details of the forestry project (size, design, use of natural resources such as soil, and the cumulative effect if relevant).

Please attach map(s) showing the boundary of the proposed work and other known details.

Provide details on the existing land use and the environmental sensitivity of the area that is likely to be affected by the forestry project.

Description of Likely Significant Effects

Provide details on any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment (resulting from the project itself or the use of natural resources) and the extent of the information available to assist you with this assessment.

Include details of any consultees or stakeholders that you have contacted in order to make this assessment. Please include any relevant correspondence you have received from them.

Avoidance and Prevention of Likely Significant Effects

If you believe there are likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment, provide information on the opportunities you have taken to avoid and prevent significant negative impacts.

Sensitive Areas

Please indicate if any of the proposed forestry project is within a sensitive area. Choose the sensitive area from the drop down below and give the area of the proposal within it.

Sensitive Area	Area (ha)
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	

C.4 Tolerance Table								
	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**	Timing of Restocking	Changes to Restocking species	Changes to road lines	Designed open ground ***	Windblow Clearance* ***
FC Approval normally not required	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	Up to 10% of coupe area	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
Approval by exchange of email and map	Y		Up to 15% of coupe area	Between 2 and 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised		Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan Departures of more than 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase by up to 10% Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
Approval by formal plan amendment may be required	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period Advance felling into current or 2 nd 5 year period	More than 15% of coupe area	More than 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised	Change from specified native species Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 10% of coupe area Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical	More than 5 ha

Note

*Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS in particular felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5 year review.

** No more than 1 ha, without consultation with Scottish Forestry, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

*** Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

****Where windblow occurs, Scottish Forestry must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees.

D. Production Forecast

A production forecast will be supplied following plan approval.

Appendices

Provide a list of appendices:

Item number	Title
Map 1	Location
Map 2	Post Scoping Concept
Map 3	Current Species
Map 4	Constraints and Opportunities
Map 5	Biodiversity
Map 6	Felling
Map 7	Timber Transport and Access
Map 8	Future Species Year 20
Map 9	Future Species Phase 1 and Phase 2
Appendix 1	Deer Management Plan
Appendix 2	Scoping Report