201000 202000 203000

731000 730000 729000 728000

The RSPB confirmed there were no Golden Eagle eyrie sites nearby (7May25). Other raptors, such as goshawk and buzzards could be present. A pre-operational survey will be conducted to determine if birds or their actively used habitats are present. If needed, mitigations will be developed, and timings of operations modified to avoid interference.

Indicative Area for likely Otter activity - Recorded in 2013

Compartment 6 was replanted in 2021. At the time there was no requirement to incorporate a buffer to the SAC/SSSI, but numerous veteran trees were buffered with open ground in the restocking design. Buffering of the designated site will be adressed in future iterations of the forest plan when compartment 6 is due for felling.

PAWS restoration

A PAWS survey in 2026 has informed the restructured design. The survey focused on a 200m zone from the SSSI in compartments 8 and 10, which are due to be felled in 2026. Most remnant features of interest, including ground flora, veteran trees and standing deadwood were identified in compartment 8, and one area in compartment 10, and these areas will be the focus for restoration. In compartment 3, which was felled in 2025, there are numerous veteran trees within Ancient Woodland Inventory area and a broad north east facing slope will include native pine and low density native broadleaves.
The preferred approach for establishment in these areas will be through natural regeneration from seed sources in adjacent ASNW, combined with supplementary planting as needed.

Restructured Design and SAC/SSSI Buffer

Within 100m of the designated site boundary there will be no planting of Sitka spruce following the Phase 1 felling in compartments 8 and 10. The existing area of ASNW in compartment 10 will be further extended with open ground and native mixed broadleaf. In compartment 8 native Scots pine and broadleaves will extend the ASNW zone together with an area of productive Scots pine. These measures have been agreed with NatureScot and will help to reduce the liklihood of conifer seeding into the designated site.

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.
A PAWS assessment will inform areas 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.

Conifer Regeneration

The establishment of a 100m buffer from Sitka spruce crops and the boundary of the SAC/SSSI will help in limiting the spread of conifer regeneration within the designated site. Where existing conifer reneration is already present this will be removed and routine inspections carried out to check for new growth. Scots pine within the 100m buffer presents a much reduced risk than the impact from Sitka spruce.

Indicative Area for likely Otter activity - Recorded in 1991

SCOTTISH WOODLANDS

Ichrachan Forest
Long Term Forest Plan

Biodiversity

BRN: 231115
MLC: 68/171/0126

Created on: 15/10/2026

Legend

- Estate Boundary
- SAC/SSSI
- 100m SAC buffer
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Wood Ant Nest
- Veteran/remnant trees
- Standing deadwood
- SS Regeneration

Future Species

- Sitka spruce
- Scots pine (SP)
- Native MB (NBL)
- Mixed conifer
- SP/NBL
- Open ground
- NBL/OG
- NBL/SP
- OG/NBL

1:10,000

Scale correct at A3
Centre Point: 202068, 729444

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