



Forestry and
Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus
Fearann Alba

Bin and Deveron Woods

Long Term Plan (LTP) 2026 – 2036

We manage Scotland's national forests and land to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.



The mark of
responsible forestry

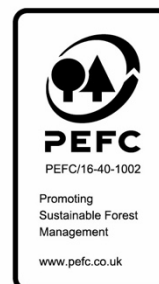


Table of Contents

A	Description of Woodlands	4
A.1	Property Details and Declaration	4
A.2	Location and Background	6
A.3	Existing Schemes & Permissions	7
A.4	Stakeholder Engagement	7
A.5	Long Term Vision and Management Objectives	9
A.6	General Site Description	10
A.7	Woodland Description	14
A.8	Plant Health	18
B.	Analysis of Information	18
B.1	Constraints and Opportunities	18
C.	Management Proposals	21
C.1	Silvicultural Practices	21
C.2	Prescriptions	21
C.3	Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications	46
D.	Management Proposals	48
	Maps	48
	Appendices	48

Version History

Version	Date	Comments



A Description of Woodlands

A.1 Property Details and Declaration

A.1 Property Details			
Property Name:	Bin and Deveron Woods		
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NJ 5052 4199	Nearest town or locality:	Huntly
Local Authority:	Aberdeenshire Council		
LTP plan area (hectares):	2270.1		
Applicant Details			
Regional Manager:	Doug Harvey		
Planner:	Euan Stewart		
Organisation:	Bidwells	Position:	Senior Forestry Consultant
Primary Contact Number:	07581 042793	Alternative Contact Number:	N/A
Email:	Euan.stewart2@forestryandland.gov.scot		
Address:	Laxford House, Cradlehall Park, Inverness		
Postcode:	IV2 5GH	Country:	Scotland
Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:			
LTP Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

Declaration

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

- I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of Forestry and Land Scotland.
- I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas.
- I confirm that the scoping, carried out and documented in the Consultation Record attached, incorporated those stakeholders which SF agreed must be included.
- 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.
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion request form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for road building /quarries /afforestation /deforestation.
- 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.
- I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice.

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:		Print:		Date:	

A.2 Location and Background

See Map 1 - Location.

Bin and Deveron Woods are located in western Aberdeenshire, centred around the River Deveron valley. The plan area comprises a dispersed group of approximately twelve woodland blocks:

- Bin Forest
- Ardonald
- Drumdelgie
- Dunbennan
- Inschtammack
- Garrowmuir Wood
- Brownhill
- Hillhead
- Cumrie
- Kinnoir
- Woodfold
- South Balnoon

The majority of the forests included within the plan area are clustered along the Deveron corridor, with one outlying block at South Balnoon. The plan area totals approximately 2,270 ha.

The woodland blocks lie within an agricultural landscape, surrounded by farmland and rough grazing. The forest is visible from a range of public roads and viewpoints, including transport corridors such as the A96 and the Aberdeen to Inverness railway line.

Historically the woodland blocks have been managed primarily for commercial timber production, with significant areas of productive conifer crops including Sitka spruce, Scots pine, Norway spruce, and larch. Over time, management has also increasingly reflected environmental and social objectives including designated site protection, riparian management, native woodland retention and enhancement, and recreational use.

The woodland resource contains a mixture of age classes, including substantial areas of young establishment, mature crops and open ground/felled areas awaiting restocking. The woodland also includes areas of mixed native broadleaves and important habitats associated with watercourses and designated conservation sites.

A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

The purpose of the Long Term Plan (LTP) is to outline felling and thinning proposals over 20 years with the first 10 years (2026-2036) in detail along with restocking proposals for the whole plan area. This first 10-year period is particularly important because it relates to the part of the LTP that requires specific approval from Scottish Forestry (SF), including operations which may require screening for a determination on whether Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Where plans include woodland creation, deforestation, roads and quarries, an accompanying Screen Opinion Request will be submitted to SF. Longer term management of the LTP area is included in the plan but to provide an indication of the direction of travel and to provide context.

The plan will be reviewed after five years to ensure the objectives set out in the LTP are still appropriate for the management of the forest in the current conditions. All operations, both planned and completed, will also be reviewed to ensure they are still necessary to achieve the stated objectives.

The management of the woodland is certified and will always adhere to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS).

This LTP has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs. A full list of these standards and guidance can be found on our website.

Table: Existing Schemes & Permissions		
Type	Ref. No.	Details
LTP	LTP 33	Expired September 2025
Felling Permission	FPA-12798	Permission for three previously approved coupes to be felled after LTP expiry. FPA expiry: 23/09/2027

A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

A full record of comments raised during public consultation is available in Appendix I.

Table: Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Scoping – Main Points	LTP Reference (section/page):
Protection of designated sites including Mortlach Moss SAC/SSSI, Bin Quarry SSSI, Whitehill SSSI and LNCS; need for sensitive management and avoidance of adverse effects.	A.6.9 Biodiversity; C.2.11 Biodiversity
Management of water environment within River Deveron catchment and Drinking Water Protected Areas; pollution prevention and protection of abstractions.	A.6.4 Hydrology; C.2.16 Hydrology
Identification and protection of private water supplies; requirement for buffers and confidential mapping.	A.6.4 Hydrology; Appendix 1 (Consultation Record); Confidential PWS Appendix
Protection of Scottish Water assets including pipes, crossings and access routes; early liaison where conflicts arise.	C.2.16 Utilities, Renewables and other developments
Public access management in high-use areas (Bin Forest); protection of adjacent core paths, rights of way and recreational routes during operations.	A.6.7 Access; C.2.9 Public Access
Landscape and visual impacts due to high visibility from roads, railway and viewpoints; need for careful coupe design and phasing.	A.6.1 Topography and Landscape; C.2.16 Landscape; Visualisations Appendix
Protection of native and ancient woodland and Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) areas; sensitive management and avoidance of inappropriate restocking.	A.6.9 Biodiversity; C.2.11 Biodiversity
Presence of notable species including the small blue butterfly near Mortlach Moss; requirement for sensitive road verge and operational management.	A.6.9 Biodiversity; C.2.11 Biodiversity
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> risk in larch within the Priority Action Zone; requirement for rapid response to Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHNs).	A.8 Plant Health; C.2.12 Tree Health
Ongoing engagement with community and stakeholders; no objections raised at scoping stage by Planning Authority	Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Consultation Record

A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

Vision

Bin and Deveron Woods will be managed as a resilient, productive, and well-integrated forest resource which delivers long-term economic, environmental, and social benefits. Timber production will remain the core management function, supporting the rural economy and timber supply chain, while forest restructuring will improve long-term stability, climate resilience, and species diversity.

The woodland will be managed to protect and enhance key natural assets including designated conservation sites, watercourses and riparian habitats, and areas of native woodland and PAWS. Habitat networks will be strengthened and woodland condition improved through appropriate restocking design and targeted restoration.

Bin and Deveron Woods will continue to provide valuable recreational opportunities for local communities and visitors, with access maintained under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) and forest operations planned sensitively to support public safety and enjoyment.

Management Objectives		
Number	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
1	Maintain sustainable timber production through planned felling, thinning and restocking.	Felling and restocking completed within approved tolerances; sustained timber output and restructuring achieved over plan period.
2	Improve forest resilience through diversification of species and structure.	Increase in proportion of mixed stands and climate-resilient species; reduced reliance on single-species crops.
3	Protect and enhance designated sites and key habitats.	Designated sites maintained in favourable condition; conifer encroachment prevented and habitat condition improved.

Management Objectives		
Number	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
4	Improve landscape integration.	Coupe design and restocking improves forest edge structure and reduces visual impacts.

Note: objectives are not prioritised and will be delivered in an integrated manner.

A.6 General Site Description

A.6.1 Topography and Landscape

The plan area comprises a dispersed set of woodland blocks, associated with the River Deveron valley. Topography varies across the plan area, with lower lying valley floors and riparian slopes as well as more elevated and exposed ground in places.

The surrounding landscape is predominantly agricultural, with the forest blocks forming notable features within the wider rural setting. The Bin Forest, Dunbennan, Kinnoir and Inschtammack blocks are particularly visible from public roads and settlements, meaning forest design and coupe phasing are important considerations.

Landscape considerations will influence coupe size, shape, and timing, particularly where felling areas may be prominent from key viewpoints.

A.6.2 Geology and Soils

The dispersed nature of the woodland blocks results in a range of soil types across the plan area.

Kinnoir and the Bin are underlain by soils of the Inch Association, including brown earths, peaty gleys, humus-iron podzols and gleys. South Balnoon is dominated by soils of the Foundland Association, primarily humus-iron podzols with brown earths, peaty gleys, peaty podzols and peat.

Peaty soils occur across the plan area and will require careful consideration in planning and operations. Areas of deeper peat will be assessed for restoration potential and where appropriate will be managed to protect soil carbon and hydrological function.

A.6.3 Climate

The climate data for Bin and Deveron Woods was obtained from the Ecological Site Classification system (ESC) using the Medium-high 2050 (A1b 3q0) model. The results of interrogating this system gave the following data.

AT5 (Accumulated Temperature) is the accumulated total of the day-degrees above the growth threshold temperature of 5°, which provides a convenient measure of summer warmth. The results for AT5 place the entire LTP area in the Warm zone.

MD is the Moisture Deficit for the area. Moisture deficit reflects the balance between potential evaporation and rainfall and therefore emphasises the dryness of the growing season (rather than the wetness of the winter or entire year). These results place the majority of the LTP area in the Moist zone, with only the highest areas of Bin hill being classified as Wet.

The wind throw risk is measured by the DAMS score for the forest area. DAMS is the Detailed Aspect Method of Scoring. This represents the amount of physically damaging wind that forest stands experience in the year. Windiness is the limiting factor to tree growth at higher elevations in Britain. The range of DAMS found within the Bin and Deveron Woods LTP area is between 10 and 15, classing most of the area as Moderately Exposed and some of the lower elevation areas as Sheltered.

Each tree species has tolerances for these, and other factors, and they can be used to identify species suitable for the site conditions. The results above will be used to help assist in the choice of tree species for restocking in this plan.

Further information on these criteria and the application of ESC can be found in [Forestry Commission Bulletin 124 - An Ecological Site Classification for Forestry in Great Britain.](#)

A.6.4 Hydrology

The plan area lies within the catchment of the River Deveron, with numerous burns and minor watercourses flowing through the woodland blocks. These watercourses provide important riparian habitats and are sensitive to sedimentation and water quality impacts.

Bin Forest, Drumdelgie, Inschtammack, Dunbennan, Cumrie, Kinnoir, Woodfold and South Balnoon are also located partly within the River Deveron Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA) which may mean additional mitigations are required when carrying out forestry operations.

The River Deveron supports significant salmonid populations and is of high ecological value. Forest operations will be planned to protect the water environment through appropriate riparian buffers, careful management of drainage, and adherence to UKFS water guidelines.

Where PWS are identified, additional mitigation measures will be applied as required.

A.6.5 Windthrow

Windthrow is a significant operational factor within the plan area, particularly where stands are exposed or where historic clearfelling has created unstable edges. Past storm events have resulted in windblow in several areas, and this risk will continue to influence coupe design, felling phasing and thinning decisions. Bin Forest, Kinnoir, Cumrie, Brownhill and Drumdelgie in particular have been badly affected by storm damage in the past five years.

DAMS scores will be confirmed using ESC outputs as detailed in section A.6.3. ForestGALES assessments will be used where required to support thinning and restructuring decisions.

Windthrow risk will be mitigated through appropriate coupe phasing, diversification of species and age structure, and careful selection of stands suitable for thinning or LISS conversion.

A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

Adjacent land use is primarily agricultural, including improved pasture, arable land, and rough grazing. All woodland blocks adjoin privately owned forestry and farm woodland to some extent.

The dispersed nature of the plan area means that operational planning must consider impacts on neighbours, including access routes, boundary stability, water management, and landscape integration.

A.6.7 Access

Public access is an important feature of the plan area, particularly at Bin Forest, which is a well-used recreational site.

Bin Forest contains waymarked trails these include:

- Queen Tree Trail
- Ferny Knowe Trail
- Gallon of Water Trail

There are also informal paths used by local communities for walking and dog walking. Visitor infrastructure includes car parking and forest entrances accessed by the A96 and other local roads.

The forest also includes a living artwork called The White Wood, consisting of a collection of native broadleaved trees and is a monument for peace. The felling permissions needed to clear encroaching conifers from the vicinity of the installation will be sought through this plan.

Access will continue to be supported under SOAC, with operational planning considering public safety, temporary closures, and provision of diversions where feasible.

A.6.8 Historic Environment

The plan area contains a range of historic environmental features typical of upland and lowland managed landscapes in Aberdeenshire, including evidence of historic settlement, agricultural land use, and former woodland management.

All known features recorded in the regional Historic Asset Management Plan and relevant Historic Environment Records (HER) datasets will be mapped and protected. Operational planning will comply with FLS guidance on Archaeology and the Historic Environment.

Where required, site-specific protection measures (including exclusion zones and marking of features on operational maps) will be applied.

A.6.9 Biodiversity

The plan area contains a range of habitats including commercial conifer crops, native broadleaved woodland, riparian woodland, open ground, wetlands, and designated conservation sites.

Key biodiversity features include:

- Mortlach Moss SSSI / SAC (base-rich fen habitat).
- Bin Quarry SSSI (geological designation).
- Whitehill SSSI (adjacent to plan area).
- Riparian habitats associated with the River Deveron and tributaries.
- Areas of mixed native broadleaves and woodland edge habitat.
- Potential PAWS restoration opportunities.

Biodiversity management will focus on protecting designated sites, strengthening riparian woodland networks, improving habitat connectivity, restoring PAWS where appropriate, and increasing deadwood habitat availability.

A.6.10 Invasive Species

Although none are currently recorded, invasive non-native species may be present within the plan area, particularly along riparian corridors and disturbed ground. Any invasive species found will be mapped and prioritised for control where resources allow, with management undertaken in accordance with FLS policy and best practice.

A.7 Woodland Description

See Maps 2.1-2.6 Current Species which show the existing tree species composition and pattern.

The Bin and Deveron Woods LTP area is dominated by productive conifer woodland managed historically under clearfell systems, with a significant broadleaf component and substantial areas of open ground. The woodland includes a broad spread of age classes, although a relatively large proportion of the plan area is currently open ground or awaiting restocking due to recent felling activity.

The main commercial species is Sitka spruce, supported by Norway spruce, Scots pine, Douglas fir, and larch. Mixed native broadleaves form a key component of the forest structure, particularly in riparian corridors and on less productive ground.

See Maps 2.1-2.6 Current Species which show the existing tree species composition and pattern.



Table 1 - Area by species

This shows the current and future species composition within the entire plan area.

Area by species						
Species	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Douglas Fir	59.5	2.6%	128	5.6%	167.7	7.4%
Larch	115.3	5.1%	96.5	4.2%	66.9	2.9%
Norway spruce	215.5	9.5%	209.3	9.2%	240.3	10.6%
Scots pine	208.3	9.1%	285	12.5%	286.3	12.6%
Sitka spruce	699.1	30.7%	619.5	27.2%	552.8	24.3%
Other Conifers	20.3	0.9%	15.2	0.7%	14.7	0.6%
Alder	34	1.5%	30.4	1.3%	26.9	1.2%
Beech	20.7	0.9%	18.7	0.8%	18	0.8%
Birch	82.5	3.6%	103.5	4.5%	112.8	5.0%
Oak	74.2	3.3%	106	4.7%	110.4	4.9%

Area by species						
Species	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Sycamore	29.7	1.3%	29.3	1.3%	29.5	1.3%
Mixed Broadleaves	113	5.0%	106.1	4.7%	95.6	4.2%
Mixed Native Broadleaves	53.5	2.3%	110.8	4.9%	140.8	6.2%
Felled Awaiting Restock	159.1	7.0%	23.6	1.0%	23.6	1.0%
Open Ground	392.4	17.2%	393.2	17.3%	389	17.1%
Total*	2,277.1	100	2,275.1	100	2,275.3	100

* Differences between report and LTP plan area are due to presence of multiple storeys in the sub-compartment database resulting in a correct double count of species. Difference between current and Year 10 and Year 20 areas are due to inability to account for multiple storeys in the future restock areas layer.

Table 2 – Area by age

This shows the woodland area broken down by age class and will show how well the woodland is distributed across the age classes.

Age class (years)	Current	Year 20
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
0-20	531.3	557.7
21-40	699.5	619.8
41-60	113.9	522.3
61-80	60.4	12.8
81-100	319.5	35.7
100+	1	114.2
Not Applicable	551.5	412.6
Total*	2,277.1	2,275.3

* Differences between report and LTP area are due to presence of multiple storeys in the sub-compartment database resulting in a correct double count of species. Difference between current and Year 20 areas are due to inability to account for multiple storeys in the future restock areas layer.



A.8 Plant Health

The plan area contains a range of conifer species which may be vulnerable to pests and disease, including spruce species and larch. Plant health risks will be considered in restocking proposals through increased species diversification and use of species suited to projected future climate conditions.

Where Statutory Plant Health Notices (SPHNs) or other plant health restrictions apply, management will comply with all relevant legislation and guidance.

Windblow events also present an ongoing risk of bark beetle build-up in storm damaged spruce, and this will be managed through timely harvesting and extraction where feasible.

B. Analysis of Information

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities		
Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Access / roading	Limited access in some blocks (e.g. South Balnoon) may restrict harvesting and timber extraction.	Potential opportunity for new roading proposals to enable sustainable management.
Climate change	Increased risk of drought, pests and storm intensity.	Opportunity to build resilience through mixed species and improved forest structure.
Deep peat / soils	Peaty soils may limit cultivation options and increase risk of carbon loss.	Opportunity for peatland restoration and improved soil protection through low-impact techniques.
Designated sites	Mortlach Moss SSSI/SAC and Bin Quarry SSSI require careful protection and operational restriction.	Improve condition of designated sites by reducing conifer influence and improving surrounding habitat management.

B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Landscape	Visibility from roads/rail increases risk of negative landscape impacts from clearfell.	Improve forest edge and coupe shapes to enhance landscape integration.
PAWS / native woodland	Existing PAWS areas require careful management to avoid further degradation.	Long-term PAWS restoration through restructuring and native broadleaf regeneration.
Recreation / access	High public use at Bin Forest requires careful planning, safe closures/diversions and clear communication.	Opportunity to maintain and enhance visitor experience through improved access management and sensitive felling design.
Timber production	Need to maintain commercial supply while meeting increasing environmental constraints.	Opportunity to develop resilient productive forest with improved long-term yield and stability.
Water environment	High density of burns and proximity to River Deveron catchment increases risk of sedimentation/pollution.	Strengthen riparian networks through native broadleaf buffers and improved habitat connectivity.
Windblow	Exposure and existing instability increase risk of storm damage and timber loss.	Opportunity to improve long-term stability through coupe design, diversification and restructuring.

Concept

Map 3 - Concept illustrates how the plan concept incorporates the important constraints and opportunities into the management objectives.

The management of Bin and Deveron Woods over the plan period will be guided by the long-term vision of maintaining the plan area as a key sustainable timber resource while strengthening delivery of environmental and social benefits.

Clearfell will remain the dominant silvicultural system across much of the plan area (approximately 60%) to allow continued restructuring of age classes and ensure timber production objectives are met. Restocking will prioritise diversification of species, climate

resilience, and improved long-term stability, while also delivering enhanced habitat value through increased broadleaf components where appropriate.

Areas identified as high ecological value long-established woodland of plantation origin (LEPO) will be managed to retain and enhance their long-term ecological value. Although originating as plantation woodland, these stands now support semi-natural characteristics that warrant protection. Management will therefore avoid intensive operations that could disrupt established soils, ground flora, or structural diversity. Where intervention is required, it will be low-impact and focused on gradually increasing native species presence, improving resilience, and supporting the development of more natural woodland conditions over time.

Constraints associated with the water environment and the River Deveron catchment will be addressed through strengthened riparian buffers and improved native woodland connectivity along burns and wetland areas. Designated sites, including Mortlach Moss SSSI/SAC and Bin Quarry SSSI, will be protected through appropriate buffers and sensitive management, including removal of encroaching conifers where required.

Recreation is a significant factor at Bin Forest, and coupe design and operational timing will reflect the need to maintain visitor access and safety. Landscape constraints will be incorporated through improved coupe shape and phasing to reduce visual impact from key viewpoints.

Windblow risk and increasing climate pressures will be addressed through improved forest design, reduced exposure where possible, and identification of areas suitable for LISS conversion through thinning and group selection.

C. Management Proposals

C.1 Silvicultural Practices

The primary silvicultural system employed during this plan period will be clearfell and restock. In part this is due to the high proportion of windblow clearance required, or felling of unthinned and unstable stands which are not suitable for conversion to low impact silviculture systems (LISS).

However, as part of the LTP review process, some additional areas suitable for LISS management have been identified and designated as such, more detail on these prescriptions can be found in section C.2.3.

C.2 Prescriptions

C.2.1 Felling

Sites proposed for clear felling in the plan period are identified as Phase 1 and Phase 2 management coupes on Maps 4.1-4.6. Refer to Table 5 for scale of felling. Any other planned tree felling (e.g. selective felling, felling of individual trees, or felling of coppice) are also shown on maps 4.1-4.6 and are identified with a relevant LISS prescription.

The below table details all coupes where an adjacency issue has been identified, and the mitigation measures involved; there are several coupes adjacent to recently felled areas which have been affected by large scale windblow events.

Table 3 – Adjacency Mitigations

Coupe Number	Adjacency Issue	Mitigation
33238	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Restock of coupe 33238 to be delayed until adjacent coupe 33232 reached 2m in height.
33101	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Small area of catastrophic blow to be felled and restocked at same time as adjacent felled area.
33795	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Restock of coupe 33795 to be delayed until adjacent coupe 33796 reaches 2m in height.



Coupe Number	Adjacency Issue	Mitigation
33829	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently restocked area.	33829 to be restocked with Scots pine and birch, quite different growth rate and future felling date to adjacent Norway spruce negates adjacency issues.
33001	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Windblow clearance is in area defined by multiple species and objectives, adjacency guidance does not apply.
33971	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Large area of 33971 to be restocked with Scots pine and birch, quite different growth rate and future felling date to adjacent Douglas fir negates adjacency issues. Area of 33971 to be restocked with Douglas fir to be delayed until 33568 reaches 2m in height.
33078	Phase 2 felling adjacent to phase 1 felling.	Restock of 33078 to be delayed until adjacent crop reaches 2m in height.
33005	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	Restock of 33005 to be delayed until adjacent crop reaches 2m in height.
33135	Phase 1 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	33135 to be restocked with Douglas fir, quite different growth rate and future management of adjacent broadleaf planting negates adjacency issue.
33079	Phase 2 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	33079 to be restocked with a variety of commercial conifers, including Scots pine, Douglas fir, and Norway spruce. Quite different growth rates and future management of adjacent broadleaf planting negates adjacency issue.
33731	Phase 2 felling adjacent to recently felled area.	33731 to be restocked with commercial conifers, including Douglas fir and Norway spruce. Quite different growth rates and future management of adjacent broadleaf planting negates adjacency issue.

Other tree felling in exceptional circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LTP process.

However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LTP approval period to cover the following circumstances:

- Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below*), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage, or impeded drainage.

**Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities and services, and drains.*

- The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances over the plan area covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per calendar year.

A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five year plan review.

[N.B. Trees may be felled without permission if they are of less than 10 cm diameter at breast height (1.3 m); pose immediate danger to persons or property; are completely dead; or are part of Authorised Planning Permission works or wayleave agreements].

C.2.2 Thinning and Respacing

Potential sites for thinning in the plan period are identified on Maps 5.1-5.6. Table 6 indicates the potential area.

Thinning will normally be carried out at, or below, the level of marginal thinning intensity (i.e. removing no more than 70% of the maximum MAI, or YC, per year). Higher intensities (no more than 140 % of maximum MAI, or YC, per year) may be applied where thinning has been delayed, larger tree sizes are being sought or as part of a LISS prescription. Where trees need to be removed to accommodate facilities to support approved thinning and CCF, including stacking areas, ramps and access racks within adjacent management coupes, this should ideally be identified in thinning maps and thinning plans as part of the LTP submission. Where this is not the case, additional felling necessary for reasonable infrastructure can be agreed by exchange of email. In all cases work plans will define the detailed thinning prescription before work is carried

out and operations will be monitored by checking pre and post thinning basal areas for the key crop components.

C.2.3 Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS)

Areas identified for LISS management are shown on Maps 4.1-4.6 Management (felling) and the four systems used within this plan are described below.

Single-Tree Selection

Single-tree selection is a continuous cover silvicultural system where individual trees are selectively removed at regular intervals across a stand. Felling is targeted to promote structural diversity, improve stand stability and encourage natural regeneration under a retained canopy. Over time this system develops an uneven-aged woodland structure with a mix of tree sizes and age classes, maintaining permanent woodland cover and reducing the visual and environmental impacts associated with clearfelling.

Within the Bin and Deveron Woods LTP area, this system has been applied to stable stands on sheltered sites where regeneration can be maintained and selective interventions conducted periodically to remove unwanted species. This system has been applied exclusively to areas where the long-term objective of the coupe is to develop into diverse native broadleaf woodland.

Uniform Shelterwood

Uniform shelterwood is a continuous cover system where the overstorey is progressively thinned across a stand to encourage regeneration under a more evenly distributed shelter canopy. Regeneration is established under the retained trees and the overstorey is removed gradually in phases once sufficient regeneration is present. This system allows a controlled transition from an even-aged crop to a new cohort, maintaining forest cover and reducing windthrow risk compared to clearfell, while also supporting improved forest structure and resilience.

This prescription has been applied to areas of mature conifers, such as Scots pine and Norway spruce, where there is already a uniform presence of a desired species establishing as an understory and retention of the mature overstorey is beneficial for biodiversity and stand stability reasons.

Irregular Shelterwood

Irregular shelterwood is a continuous cover silvicultural system used to gradually transform an even-aged stand into a more diverse, irregular structure. Management is achieved through

selective thinning to favour high-quality future crop trees, combined with the creation of small canopy gaps where appropriate to encourage regeneration. Interventions are repeated over time to improve stand stability, promote a wider range of tree sizes and age classes, and gradually develop a more resilient woodland while maintaining continuous forest cover.

This prescription has been applied to areas of oak which were planted during the previous plan period with the hope of eventually producing a commercial crop. The long-term objective is to retain and develop selected high-quality trees for future timber value, while progressively controlling undesirable regeneration and improving stand structure without the need for clearfell.

Group Shelterwood

Group shelterwood is a continuous cover system where small groups of trees are felled to create gaps in the canopy, allowing regeneration to establish under the shelter of surrounding retained trees. These gaps are typically expanded over time through successive interventions, gradually transforming the stand into a more diverse and uneven-aged structure.

This system has been applied to one stand of mature Norway spruce (coupe 33140) where gaps in the canopy are naturally occurring through patches of sporadic windblow. The objective is to retain some mature conifers cover in an area of mostly younger crops whilst also clearing windblown patches to allow areas of regeneration to mature and expand.

C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Natural Reserves (NR) / Minimum Intervention (MI)

Stands identified as LTR, MI and Natural Reserve are shown on Maps 4.1-4.6 with details for each coupe shown in below table 4. LTR coverage totals 4.3% of the plan area, MI covers 5.8% and the NR total is 0.7%.

Table 4 – LTR, MI, NR

Coupe Number	Management Type	Rationale
33204	Long Term Retention	Mature patch of conifer retained for biodiversity and age class diversity.
33019	Long Term Retention	Veteran Scots pine retained on boundary for buffer with open ground and biodiversity.



Coupe Number	Management Type	Rationale
33175	Long Term Retention	Veteran native species, retained for ecological benefits.
33034	Long Term Retention	Veteran conifers, retained for age diversity and biodiversity.
33895	Long Term Retention	Veteran conifers, retained for age structure and biodiversity.
33401	Long Term Retention	Veteran conifers with broadleaved components, retained to maintain age diversity in block.
33032	Long Term Retention	Mature native species retained around offices and car parks.
33064	Long Term Retention	Veteran and mature conifers adjacent to clearfells/windblow, retained for age diversity and ecology.
33240	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33045	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33233	Minimum intervention	Native species primarily planted for ecological benefits. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33088	Minimum intervention	Open area, regenerating with mixed native broadleaves.
33354	Minimum intervention	Roadside broadleaves providing structure and biodiversity.
33127	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33055	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33228	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit. Potential conversion to LISS in future.
33418	Minimum intervention	Planted broadleaves for ecological benefit.

Coupe Number	Management Type	Rationale
33026	Minimum intervention	Recently planted broadleaves for ecological benefit.
33803	Minimum intervention	Native broadleaves primarily for ecological benefit. Potential for LISS conversion in future.
33660	Minimum intervention	Native broadleaves forming part of SSSI, non-native regeneration removal only in future.
33138	Minimum intervention	Mature broadleaves adjacent to neighbouring properties, retained for biodiversity.
33505	Natural Reserve	Mature stand of native broadleaves with high biodiversity value.
33018	Natural Reserve	Veteran stand of native broadleaves and Scots pine of high biodiversity value.

C.2.5 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

Planned restocking of felled areas, and proposals for the future habitats and tree species over the whole plan area are shown on Maps 6.1-6.6. See Table 7 for areas, establishment, and mix proportions. Timing of restocking will comply with the plan tolerance table shown in section C.4.

Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Stocking densities will be at least 2,500 stems per ha (sph) for conifers and 1,600 sph for broadleaves unless justified elsewhere in this plan. If the restock or natural regeneration should fail to reach these levels the site will be beaten-up to the required planting density. This will be assessed at year 3 and year 5 after planting with beat-up by at least year 5.

There will be a preference for natural regeneration of native woodland areas. Any non-productive broadleaf planting will be native to the area and will complement existing naturally growing scrub and woodland to give the most ecological value.



Table 5 – Felling

This shows the scale of felling within the felling phases in the context of the whole LTP. This includes any areas of ‘LISS – Fell’ (i.e. removal of final overstorey). * (see Maps 4.1 – 4.6).

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total LTP Area:		2,270.1	hectares									
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	174.2	7.7	85.9	3.8	68.2	3	152.3	6.7	96.7	4.3	770.6	34.0

* As all areas of proposed LISS management will have some overstorey trees retained over the next 20 years, no areas of ‘LISS – Fell’ are listed.



Table 6 – Thinning

This shows the area of potential thinning over the first 10 years of the LTP (see Maps 5.1-5.6).

Species*	Thinning (ha)
Sitka spruce	569.3
Scots pine	154.1
Norway spruce	110.3
Larch	96.2
Mixed Broadleaves	85.2
Birch	76.5
Oak	53.1
Mixed Native Broadleaves	43.3
Douglas Fir	42.2
Alder	20.9
Beech	18.3
Sycamore	17
Other Conifers	9.3
Total	1,295.7

* Amounts are given for the respective sub-compartment areas and not representative of the proportion of each species being removed in thinning prescriptions.



Table 7 – Restocking

This table provides information on the restocking proposals for the first 10 years of the LTP listed on a coupe-by-coupe basis (see Maps 6.1-6.6).

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Previously Felled	33072	Scots pine 100%	8
Previously Felled	33090	Native mixed broadleaves 100%	1.3
		Scots pine 100%	1.1
Previously Felled	33096	Douglas fir 100%	9.6
		Scots pine 100%	8.3
Previously Felled	33103	Douglas fir (regen) 100%	1
Previously Felled	33105	Oak 50% / Native mixed broadleaves 30% / Mixed broadleaves 20%	34
Previously Felled	33107	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	5
Previously Felled	33108	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	6.2
Previously Felled	33111	Norway spruce 100%	3.1
Previously Felled	33113	Douglas fir 100%	2.9
		Douglas fir 50% / Norway spruce 50%	1.2

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
		Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	0.4
Previously Felled	33120	Scots pine 100%	0.8
Previously Felled	33121	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20% Native mixed broadleaves 100%	5.7 1.9
Previously Felled	33130	Oak 50% / Native mixed broadleaves 30% / Sycamore 20%	3.7
Previously Felled	33132	Oak 60% / Native mixed broadleaves 40%	5.2
Previously Felled	33134	Norway spruce 100% Native mixed broadleaves 100% Scots pine 100%	4.2 1.6 1.5
Previously Felled	33137	Scots pine 100%	6.9
Previously Felled	33219	Sitka spruce 100%	1.8
Previously Felled	33231	Native mixed broadleaves (regen) 100%	1.2
Previously Felled	33232	Sitka spruce 100%	2
Previously Felled	33242	Douglas fir (regen) 100%	0.8

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Previously Felled	33279	Norway spruce 100%	4.5
Previously Felled	33568	Douglas fir 100%	4.4
Previously Felled	33590	Douglas fir 80% / Sitka spruce (regen) 20%	6.2
Previously Felled	33674	Oak 50% / Native mixed broadleaves 30% / Mixed broadleaves 20%	6.2
Previously Felled	33796	Sitka spruce (regen) 100%	1.5
Previously Felled	33875	Oak 60% / Native mixed broadleaves 30% / Mixed broadleaves 10%	9.3
		Douglas fir 100%	2.3
		Beech 100%	1.1
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.4
Previously Felled	33992	Birch 80% / Native mixed broadleaves 20%	2.8
Phase 1	33051	Sitka spruce 100%	2.1
Phase 1	33022	Douglas fir 100%	9.9
		Oak 50% / Birch 50%	5.7
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.3

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Phase 1	33043	Sitka spruce 100%	7.2
Phase 1	33076	Scots pine 100%	4.5
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	2.5
Phase 1	33079	Douglas fir 100%	10.2
		Scots pine 70% / Birch 30%	11.3
		Norway spruce 100%	7.3
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	3.1
Phase 1	33135	Douglas fir 100%	4.7
Phase 1	33238	Douglas fir 100%	8.9
Phase 1	33971	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	7.6
		Douglas fir 100%	4
Phase 1	33001	Scots pine 100%	1.7
Phase 1	33005	Sitka spruce 100%	2
Phase 1	33061	Norway spruce 100%	13.1

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Phase 1	33070	Norway spruce 80% / Native mixed broadleaves 20%	10.8
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	1.6
Phase 1	33080	Native mixed broadleaves 100%	4.4
Phase 1	33094	Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.3
Phase 1	33101	Scots pine 100%	1
Phase 1	33200	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	3.8
Phase 1	33288	Scots pine 70% / Grand fir (regen) 30%	10.2
Phase 1	33432	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	6.8
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.3
Phase 1	33551	Native mixed broadleaves (regen) 100%	1.7
Phase 1	33795	Norway spruce 100%	2.6
Phase 1	33829	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	15.6
Phase 2	33035	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	10.8
Phase 2	33041	Douglas fir 100%	11.7

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species *	Area (ha) to be planted**
Phase 2	33124	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	3.3
Phase 2	33327	Norway spruce 100%	7.7
Phase 2	33880	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	18.4
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.1
Phase 2	33977	Sitka spruce 100%	12.7
Phase 2	33731	Douglas fir 60% / Sitka spruce 40%	9.4
		Norway spruce 100%	3.4
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.7
Phase 2	33078	Scots pine 80% / Birch 20%	7
		Native mixed broadleaves 100%	0.8
Total Restocking Area			409.3

*Establishment is expected to be by planting unless otherwise stated.

**net area to be planted excluding designed open ground.

C.2.6 Protection

Management of deer is an underpinning activity essential for the delivery of benefits from Scotland's National Forests and Land. The aim is to manage healthy wild deer populations and manage deer impacts across the estate consistent with the carrying capacity of the land and successful delivery of FLS land management objectives. The FLS Deer Management Strategy directs the priorities for management (copies are available upon request).

To support the management of deer for tree establishment we will actively manage open ground and allocated/designed ground for deer management for example deer lawns, within the plan period by removing trees (including over 10cm DHB) as and when appropriate where tree canopy cover is less than 20%.

See Appendix 2 – Deer Management Plan for further detail.

C.2.7 Fence Erection / Removal

Within the Bin and Deveron Woods LTP area it is expected that for all establishment during the plan period, deer will be managed via culling. However, for some coupes to be planted/regenerated with broadleaves, fencing may be required. This decision will be made jointly by the wildlife ranger manager and the delivery forester during operational planning. If deemed necessary, this will be maintained for the period required to achieve successful establishment and subsequently removed.

Any fence erection will not impinge on access, and gates will be installed to facilitate this if required.

C.2.8 Road Operations and Timber Haulage

Maps 7.1-7.6 show the existing forest road network and any associated quarries, timber haulage egress points, and any local 'Agreed Timber Transport Routes'. Any planned new roads or quarry expansions in the plan period are also indicated on these maps.

Within this plan period, there is one new road planned in the South Balnoon outlier block; the length of the road is given on map 7.6 and is reflected in the Environment Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Request (EIA SOR) submitted with the plan.

To support the on-going maintenance of the roads network during the plan period, road-side regeneration (naturally regenerated trees up to 4m back from the forest road or 6m from the centreline) will be removed. This will include the removal of all trees (including over 10cm DHB)

from the built road, immediate verge and the roadside drain. This maintenance of the road network will help protect the integrity of the road which is damaged by tree and vegetation roots and from the “drip” effect of overhanging branches.

C.2.9 Public Access

FLS welcome responsible public access in accordance with SOAC.

Where trails are affected by forestry operations, appropriate temporary closures will be implemented and, where possible, suitable diversions provided to maintain access while ensuring public and operator safety. Access to key routes such as core paths and rights of way will be maintained and restored as required after operations. Liaison with the Local Authority Access Officer will continue to be carried out as appropriate.

Visitor Zones have been identified in areas where FLS encourage and manage access or where the woodland managed by FLS interacts with popular visitor sites or access routes.

In these areas, single trees or small groups of trees will be removed when necessary to protect facilities, infrastructure and trails, or to enhance the setting of features, or to maintain existing views.

Woodland in these zones will also be thinned, or trees re-spaced, for safety reasons (including to increase visibility to ensure that sites are welcoming and feel safe) and where it is necessary to enhance the experience of the forest setting, through the development of large trees, or preferential removal of trees to favour a particular species.

C.2.10 Historic Environment

Our Land Management Planning Process is informed by desk-based assessment, stakeholder consultation and professional archaeological walkover surveys where required.

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring, and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver ‘Our Past, Our Future: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland and Scotland’s Archaeology Strategy’. Significant heritage features will be protected and managed following the UKFS and UKWAS.

Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken to ensure that upstanding heritage features can be marked out and avoided. At

establishment and restocking, work prescriptions remove relevant heritage features from ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant heritage features are recorded by archaeological measured survey, see active conservation management and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated historic asset).

The 'Regional Historic Asset Management Plan' includes conservation management intentions for those designated historic assets in Scotland's national forests. Details of all known heritage features are held within the Forester Web Heritage Data (built using national and regional historic environment records) and included within specific operational Work Plans to ensure damage is avoided. Designated historic assets, significant heritage features and relevant heritage features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps.

There are no heritage features of national or regional importance which will receive active management within the approval period of this plan, all other features will be managed as per the above referenced guidance.

C.2.11 Biodiversity

As per UKFS and the UKWAS there is a minimum requirement to manage 15% of the forest management unit (the LTP area) with conservation and the enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective.

The figure for this plan is currently 31.2%, the new LTP prescriptions will bring this to 35.3%. This has been assessed using the guidance in section 2.11 of UKWAS and consists of the total areas of:

- Statutory designated sites
- Plantations on ancient woodland sites
- Natural reserves and minimum intervention areas
- Long-term retentions
- Managed open space
- Single tree selection LISS areas (management outlined in section C.2.3)

Opportunities for retaining or creating deadwood will be identified during the planning of all felling, favouring areas with the highest deadwood ecological potential. Valuable deadwood and deadwood areas will be marked on contract maps. Areas of minimum intervention and riparian corridors will offer some of the best opportunities for the development of standing and fallen

deadwood. Where it is safe to do so, standing mature dead trees will be retained as these offer excellent potential for a range of species.

To support the management of the forest for biodiversity we will actively manage open ground within the plan period by removing trees (including over 10cm DHB) as and when appropriate where tree canopy cover is less than 20%.

The forest contains and adjoins nationally and locally designated sites including Mortlach Moss SAC, Whitehill, Mortlach Moss and Bin Quarry SSSIs, Geological Conservation Review (GCR) interests, and is identified as a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS). Forest management within and adjacent to these areas will prioritise protection of qualifying features. Operations will maintain open ground, peatland integrity, hydrological connectivity, and appropriate buffer zones. No felling, cultivation or restocking will take place within designated areas unless consistent with site objectives and agreed with the relevant statutory body. Species selection and coupe design will support habitat connectivity and the gradual restructuring of the forest toward a more diverse and climate-resilient woodland composition.

Areas of native and ancient woodland will be managed sensitively to protect and enhance their ecological value. These areas will not be subject to clearfelling except where required for restoration or safety reasons. Restocking will comprise site-appropriate native species and natural regeneration where feasible. Ground preparation will be minimised to protect soils, seedbanks and archaeological features, and long-term management will promote structural diversity, habitat continuity, and the ongoing retention of deadwood in accordance with UKFS Biodiversity Guidelines.

The forest supports a range of notable and protected species, including a recently identified small blue butterfly colony near Mortlach Moss. Operational planning will incorporate pre-work ecological checks where required and will avoid disturbance to known sensitive locations. In areas supporting the small blue butterfly, forest road verge management will maintain suitable habitat conditions through sensitive cutting regimes and the avoidance of herbicide use where practicable. The timing of operations will take account of breeding seasons and other sensitive periods to minimise disturbance.

These measures will ensure compliance with wildlife legislation and UK Forestry Standard biodiversity requirements.

C.2.12 Tree Health

***Phytophthora ramorum* – Larch Management**

Within the Forestry and Land Scotland Larch Strategy, Bin and Deveron Woods are located within the Priority Action Zone (PAZ) and are situated far away from the Risk Reduction Zone (RRZ) boundary. In accordance with the Scottish Forestry *Phytophthora ramorum* on Larch Action Plan (2022) and FLS guidance (December 2025), management in this part of the PAZ will focus on rapid response to infection and minimising the potential for disease spread, while maintaining wider sustainable forest management objectives.

In this context, the approach will be to:

- Respond promptly to any SPHNs, aiming to fell infected trees before the next sporulation period where practicable.
- Ensure adequate access is available to mature larch stands to facilitate swift operational response where disease is identified.

This approach reflects the need for clear prioritisation, agile planning, and delivery in PAZ areas further from the RRZ boundary, rather than pre-emptive landscape-scale removal. Safety considerations, timber value recovery, and environmental constraints will continue to be balanced within programming decisions.

Wider Tree Health

There are few specific concerns around tree health within Bin and Deveron Woods beyond those associated with larch. Tree health resilience will be strengthened through increasing species and age class diversification, continued thinning to maintain stand stability, and appropriate species selection that reflects soil type and projected climate change impacts. As set out in Section C.1, matching species to site conditions will improve resilience and reduce susceptibility to pests and pathogens.

Sporadic occurrences of *Peridermium pini* have been identified in individual pine trees, causing limited mortality. Current levels are not considered significant; however, infected trees will be targeted during routine thinning operations to maintain overall stand health.

C.2.13 Invasive Species

Forestry and Land Scotland will explore opportunities to work with local conservation organisations, adjacent landowners and stakeholders to achieve common objectives to protect and enhance priority species and habitats wherever possible.

There are currently no known issues with Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) within the plan area. If an issue arises within the plan period, control of INNS will be conducted as budgets and resource allocation allows with areas for control being identified and prioritized by FLS Planning and Environment staff on a regional basis.

C.2.14 New Planting

No new planting will be conducted within this plan period.

C.2.15 Wildfire

FLS work closely with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to ensure a safe and consistent approach to help tackle wildfires on Scotland's national forests and land. FLS support SFRS in their lead role for fire prevention and suppression through creating annual fire plans, maintaining a duty rota, and providing additional logistical support. FLS's primary objective is always to protect people's health, safety and wellbeing.

The general approach to managing fire risk will be to maintain suitable access to key areas of the woodland for fire control purposes and to avoid management actions which would further exacerbate fire risk, especially where the threat to key assets is particularly high. Fire risk has been assessed in accordance with 'Forestry Commission Practice Guide 22: Building Wildfire Resilience into Forest Management Planning'; including consideration of forest management and restocking proposals.

As part of the LTP review process a risk analysis has been conducted and some factors have been identified as increasing the likelihood of wildfire or the associated risk within the Bin and Deveron Woods blocks:

- The Bin forest is heavily used for recreation, although it is not seen as a destination for camping.
- Some of the plan area consists of mature Scots pine with heather dominated ground flora which is at a higher risk of ground level wildfire.
- The topography of the blocks means that wildfires could spread uphill with the prevailing wind if they became established.
- Some blocks such as Drumdelgie and Balnoon have been established relatively recently and as such have a largely even-aged structure.
- There are several properties adjacent to FLS forestry which would need to be protected in the event of a wildfire.

The design of the forest and future management proposals help mitigate these risks in several ways:

- Aside from Drumdelgie and Balnoon, the forests are well structured, with a range of tree species, age classes, and silvicultural systems present.
- Existing open areas around watercourses and plans to extend riparian zones will help increase their effectiveness as firebreaks.
- The extensive road network provides excellent access for firefighting equipment and provides regular opportunities for fire breaks to be established.

Some more general factors which reduce the likelihood of serious wildfire impact within the Bin and Deveron Woods LTP area include:

- Most of the surrounding land use is for agriculture and is a low fire risk.
- The River Deveron is an excellent water source for helicopter firefighting techniques.

Please see **Map 8 – Wildfire Risks and Mitigations** for an illustration of the risks and mitigations identified for the LTP area.

These risks and mitigations will be reviewed at the five-year LTP review to ensure the current approach is still suitable.

C.2.16 Other

Soils

Brash mats (or alternative measures) will be used to protect sensitive soils. There will be minimal soil disturbance and machine movement on sites with clayey soils to reduce the risk of compaction or damage to the soil structure. Felling residue will usually be left on site to allow nutrient recycling, with consideration for the practicalities of restocking. Where required, the choice of ground cultivation technique will consider the short-term benefits for establishment against any long-term side effects on tree stability, access for future forest operations and the environment. There will be a preference for the least intensive technique.

Landscape

Landscape considerations have been integral to the design of felling and restocking proposals to comply with the UKFS Landscape Guidelines. Exposed faces of Bin Forest, Dunbennan and Kinnoir are highly visible from surrounding settlements, transport routes and elevated viewpoints; therefore, coupe size, shape and sequencing have been carefully designed to reflect landform, avoid abrupt geometric edges and reduce cumulative visual impact. Restructuring will

promote a more irregular forest outline, improved age class diversity and increased use of native and broadleaf species along external margins and prominent ridgelines. Phased felling has been programmed to maintain visual continuity and avoid large-scale simultaneous openings within key views.

Appendix 4 includes visualisations from three representative viewpoints to demonstrate how the proposals respond to landscape character and visibility.

Hydrology

The plan area lies within the River Deveron catchment, which supplies public water abstractions, including Craighead and Turriff Water Treatment Works. All operations will be undertaken in accordance with the UKFS and the UKFS Forests and Water Guidelines to safeguard water quality and quantity.

Enhanced pollution prevention measures will be applied in areas hydrologically connected to abstraction points, including strict adherence to riparian buffer zones, exclusion of ground disturbance within water protection areas, and careful control of fuel storage and refuelling operations. Brash mats will be used to minimise sediment mobilisation, and drainage will be designed to disperse surface water and avoid direct discharge to watercourses.

Any incident with potential to affect water quality will be reported immediately to the relevant authorities, and works will cease until mitigation measures are implemented.

All watercourses, drains and wetlands will be protected through the retention and expansion of appropriately designed riparian buffers in line with UKFS requirements. Restocking adjacent to watercourses will favour native broadleaves and open space to enhance bank stability, biodiversity and natural flood management functions.

Operations will avoid modification of natural drainage patterns. Forest road design and maintenance will incorporate cross-drains and settlement features to prevent sediment delivery to burns. These measures will maintain downstream water quality and support catchment resilience.

Utilities, Renewables and other developments

Utility assets, including pipelines and other infrastructure within or adjacent to the forest, will be identified prior to works. Operations will maintain required stand-off distances and comply with asset owner requirements.

Where engineering works or harvesting operations are proposed near utilities, liaison will take place in advance and written agreement obtained where necessary. No work will proceed where there is risk of asset conflict until appropriate mitigation measures are approved.

Private Water Supplies

As part of the design process for this LTP, a concerted effort has been made to identify any PWS sources either within the plan area or within approximately 2km of the boundaries.

This was done by setting up an indicative “private water supply screening zone” around the LTP blocks and within this area checking against all relevant water supply data currently available including:

- FLS local private water supplies data
- Data provided by the local authority
- Using a database of addresses to identify all residents of rural properties within 2km which are not located near a water main

In line with the UKFS, the presence of private water supplies has been treated as a key design constraint within the LTP. All forestry operations will be planned and managed to ensure there is no adverse impact on the quality or quantity of water supplying these abstractions. In addition to the application of 50 metre open space buffers around abstraction points, wider catchment sensitivity has been considered to inform species selection, felling coupe design, access routes, and restocking proposals. Forestry activities such as cultivation, drainage, road construction, and harvesting will be avoided or appropriately modified within sensitive catchments where there is a risk of sediment mobilisation, pollution or altered hydrology affecting private supplies.

Operational controls will include adherence to UKFS guidance on soil and water protection, with particular emphasis on minimising ground disturbance, maintaining effective drainage away from watercourses, and preventing sediment or contaminants entering surface or groundwater systems. Fuel, oil and chemical storage will be located far away from abstraction points and watercourses, and all contractors will be made aware of the location of private water supply infrastructure, including buried pipes and storage tanks, prior to work commencing. Where infrastructure lies within operational areas, it will be clearly marked and protected from damage.

Ongoing communication with relevant stakeholders will be maintained, and monitoring will be undertaken during and after operations in areas identified as higher risk. Should any unforeseen issues arise, appropriate mitigation and remedial actions will be implemented promptly in accordance with UKFS principles and best practice guidance, ensuring the continued protection of private water supplies throughout the life of the plan.

All operations within PWS catchments will be conducted according to guidance outlined in 'Managing Forestry Operations to Protect Private Water Supplies' (Scottish Forestry, May 2025) and a confidential map and appendix have been supplied as part of this LTP submission.

C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications

Total area (hectares) for each project type and provide details as requested by sensitive or non-sensitive area.

Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
Afforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	0ha
Deforestation	%Con	%BL	%Con	%BL	0ha
Forest Roads	0ha		1.68ha		1.68ha
Quarries	0ha		0ha		0ha



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. Management Proposals

N/A – FLS provide this nationally to Forest Research as per agreement with Scottish Forestry.

Maps

Item number	Title
1	Location
2.1 – 2.6	Current tree species
3	Concept
4.1 – 4.6	Management (Felling)
5.1 – 5.6	Thinning
6.1 – 6.6	Future habitats and species (Restock)
7.1 – 7.6	Timber haulage
8	Wildfire Risk
9.1 – 9.2	Environmental Impact (New roads)
10.1 – 10.6	Private Water Supplies (Confidential)

Appendices

1. Stakeholder Consultation Record
2. Deer Management Plan
3. Designated Site Plans
4. Visualisations
5. Private Water Supplies (Confidential)