

Tay Forest District

**Springhall**

Land Management Plan

Approval date:

Plan Reference No:

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## Summary of Proposals:

### Woodland creation

The main focus for this plan is to establish new woodland where timber production from both conifer and broadleaf woodland is the primary objective but set within a design where landscape detail and conservation benefit are important components.

The core element will be conifer planting in discrete blocks of Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and western redcedar. A productive broadleaved component will also be established and include oak, birch and aspen where soil types are suitable.

There are a number of riparian areas at Springhall which occur on the periphery of the proposed woodland and will be planted at varied densities with native species punctuated by open space.

### Open space

With an overhead towerline passing through the woodland, open space will form a component to avoid future issues. The forest design also utilises open space to create future coupe boundaries, preserve view points, provide conservation benefit, keep sightlines open along public roads open and provide a network of informal recreation routes.

On the eastern side of the woodland, a wide ride is proposed with the future intention of using this route as metalled forest road to facilitate forest thinnings and clearfells. Note: approval is not being sought for the road itself at this time as there will be no track construction within this plan period.

## Public access

Public access into Springhall will be made at two established access points (NO116081 and NO109089) and which in 2014 were upgraded (with planning consent) into tarmac bellmouths which are compliant with Forest Civil Engineering standards.

Within the forest design, there are a number of open rides which will serve as internal access routes, there will be no constructed paths but periodic mowing may be done to keep vegetation in check. The highest point of Springhall at 282 meters offers good views of the surrounding landscape and will be kept open and linked by rides to make a circular route.

As the area has been actively farmed, most recently grazed with cattle, public access to the site is not well established. When the planting takes place the standard FE signage will be erected and awareness is also being raised by the consultation process for this plan. We expect these changes to increase usage of the site.

## Biodiversity

The establishment of native tree species along riparian corridors and steeper slopes will serve as a benefit to local wildlife in a local landscape which is generally open agricultural field or small coniferous plantations. The site will have limited connectivity to other woodlands in the surrounding area.

Open habitats survey has identified an area of lowland acid grassland which will be separately fenced and maintained by grazing with sheep. We have potential graziers to both the north and south of the forest and access to water on site.

## Renewable Energy

There is a proposal being put forward by the Glenfarg Renewable Energy Association (GREA) to construct a single wind turbine on part of this site. That would be progressed under the provisions of the National Forest Land Scheme

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/communities/national-forest-land-scheme-nfls>

GREA would also need to secure planning permission in the normal way. The woodland design put forward in this Land Management Plan does not show the location of the proposed turbine as this is still to be agreed. Should the proposals go ahead this plan would be amended to accommodate the turbine while seeking to minimise impact on the woodland. It is anticipated that this will be resolved before planting takes place.

## 1.0 Introduction:

### 1.1 Setting and context

This is the first forest plan covering former farmland at Springhall near Glenfarg in lowland Perthshire. The Land Management Plans focus is on the creation of a new woodland where focus is primarily timber production with a strong biodiversity component planting native broadleaves, retaining open land and protecting existing habitat to increase diversity.

The management of the Forestry Commission Scotland's national forest estate is guided by Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) 2006.

**Table 1. Relevant issues under the SFS and Tay Forest District Key Themes**

<b>SFS Key Themes</b>	<b>Relevant issues identified for Springhall FDP</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>	Opportunities for contributing towards for carbon sequestration through woodland establishment and low impact silvicultural systems (continuous cover forestry) and extending rotations in more stable stands.
<b>Timber</b>	Grow quality timber sustainably and increase the future quality broadleaved resource through management.
<b>Business Development</b>	Through woodland establishment and maintenance. Continue to consider the landscape value of woodlands to tourism.
<b>Community Development</b>	Encourage communities who wish to become more involved in the management of, or outputs from, their local forest.
<b>Access and Health</b>	Establish informal access routes.
<b>Environmental Quality</b>	Maintain landscape integrity through robust landscape design.
<b>Bio-diversity</b>	Continue to expand the area of native woodland in riparian areas.

**Table 2. Initial brief and objectives for developing management proposals**

<b>Brief</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Minimise impact of forestry on the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>strengthen visibility of broadleaves in the landscape by planting additional protected groups</li></ul>
Maintain production of quality timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>manage conifers and broadleaves for future timber sales</li></ul>
Maintain and enhance existing natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>extend locally important habitats (particularly open space for butterflies etc) as opportunity arises through other forest operations</li></ul>
Preserve historic features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>protect all known features</li></ul>

## 1.2 History of plan

Springhall Farm was purchased by the Forestry Commission (FC) in 2012 as a hill farm located 2 miles south of Glenfarg in Perthshire. The rationale behind the farms acquisition was to help the FC meet national targets for the establishment of new woodland.

In 2013, the farm house and buildings along with a proportion of land where sold to a private purchaser, this included the original main access. This property keeps the name “Springhall Farm” with the Forestry Commission land holding now being referred to as “Springhall”.

Current access to the remaining 90 hectare site is via two existing entrances which in 2014 where upgraded to meet FC engineering specifications. Between purchase by the FC and planting (intended for spring 2016) the land has been maintained in agricultural production with an annual grazing lease. Following issues with porous fences allowing sheep to escape cattle have been preferred. The perimeter stock fences were upgraded in 2014.

## 2.0 Analysis of previous plan

There was no previous forest plan.



## 3.0 Background Description

### 3.1 Physical site factors

#### 3.1.1 Geology Soils and landform

Springhall is located within the Ochil Hills which were formed when volcanic lava emerged through a fault line some 300 million years ago. The igneous rocks (primarily andesitic and basaltic lavas and tuffs) have been worn down over the years to form this rather distinctive range with more gradual gradients to the north, but dropping often vertically on the southern edge, giving a more dramatic view when approached from the south. Overlying the solid geology there are deposits of glacial till left by the receding glaciers of the last ice age.

The soils on site are predominantly basic brown earth. Some brown surface gleys, brown rankers, upland brown earth and valley complexes are also found. The area has previously received fertiliser applications to boost grazing productivity.

#### 3.1.2 Water

The forest block is flanked by water courses on all four borders, there are two named watercourses, the Newhill Burn and the Strawean Burn which run into the river Farg and a number of natural springs. West of Newhill farm is a small reservoir which formed part of a public water supply system that is no longer in use, a section of this system runs under Newhill farm.-\*-

On the northwestern side of Springhall, there is a reeded area which floods during the winter and is represented on Ordnance Survey maps as a wetland area.

#### 3.1.3 Climate

At its highest point, Springhall reaches 282 meters above sea level and is notably exposed to westerly/northerly winds. DAM's scores range from 10-12 for the lower and more sheltered areas of the forest to 12-16 for the more exposed upper slopes though the score does exceed 20 near the top of Whitewisp Hill.

The average rainfall is 1063mm per annum.

Winter has prolonged freezing periods, with the coldest month most often being January. May is on average the month with most sunshine and least rain. Rainfall and other precipitation peaks around January.

Based on accumulated temperature and moisture deficit maps produced by *Pyatt et al.*, climatic conditions are described as cool wet.

## 3.2 Biodiversity and environmental designations

### 3.2.1 Habitats and Species

The majority of the site is improved grassland habitat, which has predominantly been grazed by sheep and cattle to create a low sward that is relatively species poor. The exceptions to this are a significant area of lowland dry acid grassland, some discrete areas of fen, thick patches of gorse and a seasonal lochan that reverts to a wetland during dry periods. The dominance of improved grassland continues in the wider landscape and it could be said that the current composition of Springhall is representative of the local area.

Lowland dry acid grassland is a relatively uncommon habitat within Scotland which covers approximately 5000ha, primarily on the upper margin between improved grassland and hill grazing. This plan aims to improve the quality of the habitat through the removal of gorse and appropriate levels of seasonal grazing to maintain this unique sward that is associated with nutrient poor, free draining soils. Within the grazing area marked on map ... there are also patches of non-priority open habitat where individual trees will be planted and protected from grazing animals to allow expansion of riparian woodland and create an open wood pasture and or parkland structure. A small area of lowland dry acid grassland will be left outwith the grazing area to act as a control for long-term monitoring of management activities. This will not be planted and could be incorporated into the grazing area in the future once the forest has been established.

The discrete areas of lowland fen to the south of the site will be left unplanted and incorporated into the mosaic of open ground within the widely spaced native broadleaves. Grazing this area was considered as an alternative management regime, however given the size of it (a 50mx20m patch and a small strip alongside the watercourse) and the benefits of native broadleaf woodland expansion this was considered to be impractical.

The creation of diverse conifer plantation and significant areas of broadleaf woodland, productive sycamore and oak, lower density native woodland, open grown parkland trees and riparian woodland, and appropriate grazing of the lowland dry acid grassland habitat will ensure that this plan significantly increases the biodiversity of Springhall Farm as it develops into Springhall (Wood/Forest?).

At present there is little significant species interest on the site, with some signs of geese grazing, common wildfowl on the seasonal lochan and breeding passerines in the areas of gorse. There are no species issues that would preclude current plans, indeed the development of the site into mixed structure and species woodland and pasture will significantly improve the biodiversity interest on site.

### 3.2.2 Water

Water from the burns on the periphery of Springhall flows north into the river Farg and subsequently into the river Earn before entering the Tay (SAC) estuary just to the west of Newburgh.

The water habitats downstream of Springhall are designated as part of the River Tay SAC and therefore careful consideration must be given to protection of the water environment. The most significant risk is from sediment release caused by poor control of ground preparation activities. To guard against this risk all activities will be guided by Forests and Water Guidelines 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 2011 or any subsequent update.

Specifically:

- The woodland design allows for native woodland adjacent to water courses where planting density will be graded as per the guidance contained in FWG p24, Water quality and buffer areas.
- A significant proportion of broadleaf woodland in the design providing buffering between commercial conifer planting and watercourses.
- No fertilizer application is anticipated.
- Cultivation within buffer zones (10m for all watercourses on Springhall) will be limited to hand screef or hinge mounding.
- Cultivation outwith buffer zones may include a range of options including rotary moulder and shallow plough. Specification including maximum gradient and frequency of lifting will be agreed with the contractor appointed to carry out the planting. We have access to specialist input from Forest Research (currently Bill Raynor) to ensure that cultivation techniques follow best practice and achieve tree establishment objectives.

## 3.3 The existing forest

### 3.3.1 Age structure, species and yield class

Current tree cover is limited to a small mixed copse titled Jubilee Wood and sporadic hawthorn and other broadleaf species which have survived grazing by livestock.

### 3.3.2 Access

There are two access points into Springhall which are both located on the minor class public road running between Glenfarg and Path of Condie at grid reference points NO109089 and NO116081. The bellmouths provide for a couple of cars to park off the road at each entrance.

### 3.3.3 LISS potential

The incorporation of continuous cover at Springhall is a future aspiration for the more sheltered conifer and broadleaf coupes. Subsequent Land Management Plans will expand on this theme as crops begin to develop beyond establishment.

It is our intention to thin crops across the site as they reach a suitable size (1<sup>st</sup> thin around 12m top height for the conifer crops) to maximise future timber returns and management options. No thinning operations are expected within the 10 year approval period of this plan.

## 3.4 Landscape and land use

### 3.4.1 Landscape character and value

The recommendations for woodland in the area are described in Scottish Natural Heritage's No122 Tayside Landscape Character Assessment 1999 as:

- New planting should conform to the Forest Authority's design guidelines. In particular, it should respond to the small to medium scale of nature of the landscape, the importance of views within and out of the hills, and historic and ecological values.
- Use a new planting framework to absorb earlier development into the open countryside and other visually intrusive features
- Ideally link new woodlands to lowland shelterbelts, glen woods, and farm woodlands, providing broad-leaf lower margins.
- Use new woodland planting to enhance the landscape and nature conservation value of the hills. New woodland could link existing plantations and semi-natural woodlands.

- New planting should respect historic features, routes and viewlines between them.
- The scale and nature of planting should be varied to reflect local differences in topography. In areas of subdued relief, new planting could be used to highlight more subtle variations.

We believe the design at Springhall is sympathetic to these recommendations. The design has been tested using 3D modelling from a variety of viewpoints to ensure it sits sympathetically within the landscape.

### 3.4.2 Visibility

From the highest point of Springhall, there are clear views of East Lomond to the south as well as the M90 motorway and Loch Leven. To the north there are distant views of the Sidlaw hills.

### 3.4.3 Neighbouring land use

The majority of land use surrounding Springhall is agricultural grazing and harvesting of silage. At neighbouring Newhill Farm, part of the farm business is in equestrian use while to the north near Kandy, there is a fishing loch and offroad driving centre.

## 3.5 Social factors

### 3.5.1 Recreation

Currently there is no significant recreational use of Springhall but it is anticipated that once Forestry Commission ownership became more obvious, there will be interest from walkers and horse riders in the area.

### 3.5.2 Community

The nearest community center is 2 miles away at Glenfarg where an active community is present.

### 3.5.2 Heritage

There are no known heritage features. Existing stone dykes will be retained while the current network of internal stock fences will be removed.

## 3.6 Statutory requirements and key external policies

There are no designated sites at Springhall.

## 4.0 Analysis and Concept

### 4.1 Analysis of constraints and opportunities

Factor	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept Development
New woodland creation	Increase level of tree cover within a landscape dominated by agricultural ground	Resistance to woodland establishment brought through the perception of monoculture plantations and loss of agricultural grazing	Produce an establishment design where a broad range of tree species are present with retained open areas. Consideration will be made for future opportunities to incorporate agriculture as a component of the woodland.
Electrical towerline running through proportion of area	Retain open area for access, landscape continuity and possible future agricultural use	Sufficient distance must be maintained to avoid future conflict with towerline vicinity zones.	Within the woodland design, tree cover will be kept sufficiently away from the towerline. An effective wayleave will be maintained as open area.
Potential to include productive broadleaves within woodland design	Combination of good soils and sheltered areas lend themselves to growing a range of broadleaved species with commercial application. Soil types are suitable to oak, beach, sycamore, birch and a range of other species.	Owing to restrictions for planting ash, using sycamore as an alternative species will entail an increased risk of damage from grey squirrel.	A wide range of broadleaved species will be planted and will include sycamore. To counter any future squirrel issues, monitoring will be undertaken to determine to necessity of control.

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There are riparian areas on three of Springhalls boundaries	Maintain a matrix of open space and native broadleaves to enhance biodiversity levels.	Loss of productive ground.	Riparian areas are managed primarily for environmental benefit although do have potential for small scale production eg firewood. The benefits from enhanced bio-diversity outweigh loss of productive ground.
The highest point of Springhall holds impressive views of the surrounding landscape	Retain highest point as a future view point which can be accessed by a number of informal open routes starting from the woodlands main access points.	In order to have continued views for the future, a sufficient amount of open space will have to be maintained.	Within the forest design, most of the open space required to maintain a view point falls within the wayleave which will have to be kept open on a permanent basis.
There are two immediate neighbours to Forestry Commission ground	Retain open areas around neighbours to avoid future issues relating to tree establishment.	Retained areas of open ground on agricultural ground can quickly become dominated by woody weeds and require maintenance to retain open status	Use lower growing tree and shrub speices to create graded edges for example round Springhall Farm. These areas will provide valuable habitat to increase biodiversity.
Access into Springhall is currently via agricultural gates	Improve existing points of access through the creation of bellmouths and short sections of metalled road with turning points.	Planning permission is required prior to the start of construction work.	This work has been carried out to better support agricultural activity while the Land Management Plan was being developed.
Current boundary stock fencing is in a poor condition.	Replace boundary fence to improve effectiveness against stock escape.	Planning permission would be required from PKC for roadside deer fencing.	To be taken forward with PKC should deer fencing be the preferred method of protection.

## 5.0 Land Management Plan Proposals

### 5.1 Planting Design

The proposed planting design is as shown on the **woodland design map**. The design responds to the constraints and opportunities offered by the site and also to the site objectives. The main elements of internal open space are dictated by the landform and presence of the major powerline. To avoid a linea effect the open space around the powerline has been varied up and down slope.

### 5.2 Future management

During the period of this forest plan management will be focused on protecting, establishing and maintaining tree cover at sufficient stocking density to provide good quality future timber crops and a variety of options for future managers.

### 5.3 Species tables

Species	2016		2026		2036	
	ha	%	ha	%	ha	%
SS - Sitka Spruce	21.5	23	21.5	23	21.5	23
WRC - Western redcedar	7.9	9	7.9	9	7.9	9
NS - Norway spruce	7.1	8	7.1	8	7.1	8
SP - Scots pine	1.4	2	1.4	2	1.4	2
HL - Hybrid Larch	1.2	1	1.2	1	1.2	1
OK - Oak	7.7	8	7.7	8	7.7	8
ASP - Aspen	6.6	7	6.6	7	6.6	7
BI - Birch	5.5	6	5.5	6	5.5	6
AR - Alder	4.6	5	4.6	5	4.6	5
SY - Sycamore	1.7	2	1.7	2	1.7	2
HBM - Hornbeam	1.1	1	1.1	1	1.1	1
HAW - Hawthorne	0.4	0	0.4	0	0.4	0
Open	16.8	18	16.8	18	16.8	18
Grazing area	8.3	9	8.3	9	8.3	9
<b>Total area</b>	91.8		91.8		91.8	
<b>Native broadleaf</b>	24.8	27	24.8	27	24.8	27



Notes on species choice:

- Commercial conifer production areas focus on Sitka with Western Red Cedar and Norway spruce providing diversity and allowing for a future spread of felling dates. A small Larch component is proposed primarily for landscape interest, this will be sited in such a way that premature removal for disease would be both easy to do and would not create a restocking problem. Note the larch element will only be included if planting stock is available.
- Broadleaf areas fall into two types, those planted primarily for environmental reasons where native broadleaves will be used and those areas primarily for timber production where a broader range of site suitable broadleaves will be used including sycamore.
- The total quantity of Sycamore used has been reduced to avoid planting adjacent to neighbouring equestrian interests.
- Projected over the next 30 years no changes are expected in the overall species composition.

### 5.4 Age structure

Subject to the approval of this woodland creation plan, establishment is anticipated to take place in 2016 and will entail planting the entire area highlighted for tree cover. The design allows for phased future felling by creating discrete coupes right from establishment. Early thinning will build stand stability and combined with variation in growth rates (SS vs NS vs WRC) will give a reasonable spread in the future phasing of felling.

### 5.5 Management of open land

Open ground will be retained for the purpose of maintaining habitat, retaining key viewpoints, creating coupe boundaries, delineating a future road line, providing future areas for deer control and serving as informal paths for the visiting public. Responding to vegetation growth and recreation desire lines some areas may be cut using a quad mounted flail mower.

The Lowland dry acid grassland area will be stock fenced and a tenant sought to graze the area using sheep. The **Grazing area map** shows the proposed stock fenced area. This is slightly larger than the actual priority open habitat to simplify fencing and allow for a viable grazing unit.

There is no peat present on the site.

The district environment team have visited the site on a number of occasions and across the whole range of seasons to check for priority species. Nothing of note has been found to date, outwith the previously identified priority open habitat, although further checks will be carried out prior to operations. The past history of intensive agricultural management means there are limited wildlife opportunities within the existing landuse pattern.

### 5.6 Crop protection

There is a locally resident population of roe deer which currently are more transient rather than a feature of Springhall and generally tend to frequent areas where established woodland is present. The current boundary fence has been upgraded to be fully stock proof and deer strainers have been installed anticipating the addition of a top net. Actual upgrade to deer fence will require a planning application where the fence runs adjacent to the public road and will be taken forward in consultation with the contractors appointed to establish the woodland. Redundant internal stock fences will be removed during establishment works.

Deer control will also be carried out within the forest to ensure damage levels do not impact unacceptably on either stocking density or tree form, a particular concern in the more palatable productive broadleaf areas.

In terms of other threats to crop establishment both rabbits and hare are present and will need to be controlled or excluded to avoid significant crop damage.

Once grazing pressure is removed a thick grassy sward will be ideal habitat for voles so a large population increase is expected and vole guards are likely to be required.

### 5.7 Critical success factors

At the end of this plan period we should have established young woodland with good future productive potential and a wide range of options available for future managers. The biodiversity value of the site will be enhanced by developing native woodland habitats and by continued management of the Lowland Acid Grassland area to maximise its environmental value. Recreational use of the woodland will have become well established.

### 5.8 Establishment Methodology

The site preparation, planting and maintenance for the first 5 years will be carried out by a forest management company appointed via the FES

establishment framework contract. This plan and the commitments within it form the basis for that contract.

During that initial 5 year period the site will carry FES signage and be open for recreational use. The lowland acid grassland grazing area is likely to be managed directly by FE staff.

Stocking density at establishment for all of the productive areas will be guided by OGB 4.

Ground preparation techniques will be agreed with the appointed contractor with the objective of providing weed free and slightly elevated planting positions. These will vary across the site with minimal disturbance eg hand plant on steep slopes and adjacent to watercourses through to shallow ploughing potentially being used on less sensitive parts of the site. Other options such as rotary moulder and excavator mounding may also be used where appropriate.

All ground preparation operations on site will comply with UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines currently 5<sup>th</sup> edition 2011.

### 5.9 Carbon sequestration

The carbon sequestration for this site has been estimated, based on Woodland Carbon Code tables, at an average of 6.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/ha/year over a total 66.7 stocked hectares giving a total 450 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year over the whole site.

## Appendix I: Forest Design Plan Scoping Record

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Historic Scotland	29 <sup>th</sup> October	5 <sup>th</sup> November	No record of historic assets	
SNH	29 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> October	No issues raised	
SEPA	29 <sup>th</sup> October	11 <sup>th</sup> November	No issues raised	
PKC	29 <sup>th</sup> October	29 <sup>th</sup> October	Raised intention to attend scoping meeting	
RSPB	29 <sup>th</sup> October	10 <sup>th</sup> November	I have checked our records and this is not an area where RSPB has specifically surveyed. The breeding bird survey was carried out here in 2009 and 2010, we do not own this data but I have summarised the interest in an email to Graeme. The area contains the suite of farmland species (passerines & finches in low numbers) that you would expect with single pairs of curlew/oystercatcher. No records of black grouse in the area.	District environment team have surveyed the site on a number of occasions and times of year and are satisfied that there are no significant bird interests currently on site. The proposed planting should lead to significantly enriched habitat for a range of species although these will be different from those currently using the site.
J Curtis		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Request for maps to be sent prior to making comment	Maps sent 22/12/14 no further comments received.

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L Spence		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Local water supplies need to be to located and protected.</p> <p>Would like assurance that existing walls with be retained.</p> <p>There should be some non-conifer species within the main commercial zone planted with sitka &amp; larch</p>	The planting design has been diversified to provide as varied an experience as possible while maintaining the productive capacity of the site. Note the plans presented here are significantly more species diverse than those used at scoping.
R Duncan		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Very happy to see the creation of some additional "wild" public access areas.</p> <p>Very keen to investigate possibility of establishing informal paths which could link with Glenfarg path network.</p>	The desire to link with other access networks in the area via informal paths is welcomed. Circular routes within the forest have been allowed for within the planting design. Further access points will be considered if links can be secured over neighbouring private ground.
J Muirison		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Would like to see amount of sitka increased and less consideration made to access</p>	We have designed the woodland with productivity as a primary objective but limiting public access would be against FES objectives for the site.

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T Cocoran		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>The Glenfarg Paths Group would like you to consider;</p> <p>A path to cut across the Newhill corner along the northern edge of your plot from Langside to north of disused quarry near Grilloche Hill</p> <p>Develop cycle tracks through and round the area.</p>	<p>As the area is taken out of agriculture and made more available for access we will be interested and keen to see where desire lines develop. Access is welcomed in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC).</p>
D Arnold		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Good proposal no objections.</p> <p>It would be nice to include a small car park and informal paths scheme.</p>	<p>Further consideration for car parking will be given as demand becomes clear. Recently constructed bellmouths provide space for a couple of cars each.</p>
J Watson		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Interested in opportunities for the community to enjoy the area- would need some form of carparking.</p> <p>Please keep us informed.</p>	<p>As above comment.</p>
J MacMillan		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Could we have the proposed maps emailed please?</p> <p>Would prefer no sycamore</p>	<p>We have substantially replaced sycamore with Aspen and moved sycamore away from the boundaries.</p>

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			trees on fenceline as seeds are poisonous to horses	
R Stewart		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Early stages with no concerns to express at this stage in the development process	
A Johnston		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	I am quite happy about the proposals. In particular, I like the idea of fencing the whole site and opening up the wayleave. I am also please at the proposals for mixed planting.	
S Steel		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Powerline between X north of Newhill to quarry	We would not allow further overhead powerlines across the site at this time because of the impact on planting and future management.
G Vaughan		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Would like to see small car parking area (2 -3 cars) and circular path linking with any existing path network	Parking opportunities an newly constructed bellmouths and a number of informal circular walks allowed for in the design.
R Prescott		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	No comment	
Other comments received:		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	Water supplies north of Jubilee Plantation	Noted, broadleaf planting to surround water supplies.

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			<p>Carparking near Newhill farm.</p> <p>Internal and external access between Springhall and neighbouring properties</p> <p>Requirement for carparking in vicinity of old quarry</p> <p>Water supply for Shuttlefauld believed to originate from area near Jubilee Plantation</p> <p>Broadleaf/open habitat or low impact silviculture to fit within boundary with shuttlefauld</p> <p>Proposed new wayleave to serve housing development at old quarry.</p>	
Macmillan		4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014	<p>Could we have the proposed maps emailed.</p> <p>Would prefer no sycamore trees on fenceline as seeds poisons horses.</p>	<p>Maps sent 22/12/14</p> <p>SY reduced in the planting design and moved away from fenceline.</p>



## Appendix II: Forest Design Plan Final consultancy feedback

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Eastern ride. It runs very close to the Springhall Farm	Ride now set to end further from the property boundary.
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Property name is confusing. The planted area should be called Springhall forest, Springhall woods or Jubilee plantation.	To stay consistent with the FC property names the name will stay as "Springhall".
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Forest access point coordinates should be included in the plan.	Coordinates were added to the final document version.
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Poor grazing access. Improvement needed.	See J. Curtis comment (response received Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> ) about the ride
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Soil information missing from the plan.	Information was added to the final version of the document.
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Water supply of the Springhall farm. Where does the water originate? Are there water quality issues in the future because of the changed land use?	Water supply originates from the area to be planted. J.Curtis contacted for further consultation. Investigation will take place to acquire more accurate information prior the planting operation.

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PKC	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	No issues	
A.Steel	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Windturbine location in terms of the housing development. Impact should be minimalized.	Due to government cuts in subsidies for renewable energy developments it is vey unlikely that this project will go ahead.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	There are two versions of design map (windturbine and business as usual).	Due to government cuts in subsidies for renewable energy developments it is vey unlikely that windturbine project will go ahead. The final version of the land management plan accounts the business as usual scenario.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Presence of redundant internal fences, their removal.	Where practical these obstacles will be removed as we come across them.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Sycamore and oak (poisonous to horses) as a component on the area adjacent to the Shuttlefauld farm.	Sycamore and oak are kept 20m back from the boundary with non-toxic species in between.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Presence of sycamore and possible increase in the grey squirrel numbers.	Grey squirrel population monitored. Connected conifer areas set to favour the native red squirrel.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Removal of grazing pressure. May lead into increase in numbers of voles, owls, kestrels and/or foxes.	Control measures are considered if problems occur.

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J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2015	Negative impact on the water supply because of the tree planting.	Water supply originates from the area to be planted. The stakeholder contacted for further consultation. Investigation will take place to acquire more accurate information prior the planting operation.
J. & A. Burlison	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Eastern ride. It runs very close to the Springhall Farm	Ride now set to end further from the property boundary.
J. Curtis	Oct 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2015	Nov 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Ride between grazing area and Springhall farm.	Ride width will be minimalized although stone dike will result in a natural ride which runs between the management coupes.
RSPB	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Nov 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2015	Planting at the north of the site. This is likely to make area unsuitable for waders.	The combined grazing and widespaced planting are likely to benefit other aspects of biodiversity on this area. This results in greater gains despite the wader issue.
SEPA	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2015		No issues	

### Appendix III: Tolerance Table

	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries	Timing of restocking	Change to species	Windthrow response
FC Approval not normally required	NA	NA	Change within species group eg evergreen conifers / broadleaves	NA
Approval by exchange of letters and map	NA	NA		NA
Approval by formal plan amendment	NA	NA	Reduction in overall percentage of native species. Change between species groups.	NA

