



Appendix 4 – Designated Site Plan

Morven and Mullochdubh SSSI/SAC
Green Hill of Strathdon SSSI/SAC

Start Date of Plan (xx/xx/xx)

End Date of Plan (xx/xx/xx)



Overall Management Aims and Objectives for each designated site.

The overall aim of the Strathdon Long Term Plan (LTP) is to ensure that the requirements of the designated sites are considered and that the management proposals are complimentary with the aims and objectives of the designated sites.

The objectives for Morven and Mullochdubh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) are to maintain and where necessary enhance its features of special interest, in particular:

- To maintain the overall assemblage of upland habitats and the flora and fauna that these support
- To ensure that the juniper heath is in favourable condition
- To ensure the integrity of the SAC is maintained by maintaining the extent and distribution of the juniper heath, to manage browsing pressure to ensure recruitment of new seedlings and prevent succession to woodland and restrict burning.

The objectives for the Green Hill of Strathdon SSSI and SAC are to maintain habitats associated with the serpentine rock outcrops and debris, to maintain the current extent of juniper scrub and heather moorland and to prevent erosion on steep slopes caused by muirburn and/or grazing. And in particular:

- To ensure that the integrity of the SAC is maintained by maintaining the extent of the European dry heath through careful management of browsing, trampling, INNS and muirburn, and to maintain the species associated with the habitat.
- To maintain the extent of the juniper scrub through the careful management of browsing pressure to ensure recruitment of new seedlings and prevent succession to woodland and restrict burning.
- To maintain the extent and distribution of calaminarian grasslands through appropriate levels of grazing.

Section 1 Designated Sites covered by this appendix.

Designated Site Name	Site code	Site Type	Total Area of designated site (ha)	Area within this FDP (ha)	% within this LTP	Annex containing SNH site documentation.
Morven and Mullochdubh	1194	SSSI	2,507.0	66.2	3%	Annex 2
Morven and Mullochdubh	8330	SAC	2,507.0	0	0%	N/A – site is adjacent
Greenhill of Strathdon	742	SSSI	640.8	0	0%	N/A – site is adjacent

Refer to the **Map 4 - Key Features and Issues** which highlights the location of the above designated sites in relation to the LTP boundary and the Scotland's National Forests and Land (SNFL) management area. Morven and Mullochdubh extends to a large area south of the national forest estate boundary and only 3% is under management by Forestry and Land Scotland.

For further detail on the designation refer to the NatureScot documentation in the above listed annexes, which refers to the entire designated site area. The remainder of this plan will refer in detail to the element of the above designated sites on the SNFL.

Section 2 Features on the SNFL and condition

Only features that exist on the SNFL within this LTP are listed in the table below.

Site Type	Site code	Feature description	SCM Condition (date assessed)	Condition on SNFL	Management Classification (if relevant)
SSSI	1194	Alpine Heath	Favourable maintained (16/08/2000)	Favourable maintained	
SSSI	1194	Blanket Bog	Favourable maintained (11/11/2012)	Favourable maintained	
SSSI	1194	Breeding Bird Assemblage	Favourable declining (13/06/2013)	Favourable declining	
SSSI	1194	Moorland Juniper	Favourable maintained (04/09/2008)	Favourable maintained	
SSSI	1194	Upland assemblage	Unfavourable No change (23/06/2017)	Unfavourable Recovering due to management	

The site is a small part of a much larger SSSI. The FLS managed area on the northern flank of Mullochdubh is dominated by:

- H12b: *Calluna vulgaris* – *vaccinium myrtillus* heath, *vaccinium vitis-idaea*-*Cladonia impexa* sub-community.

- H16 Calluna vulgaris-Arctostaphylos uva-ursi heath Upland Heath. Juniper scrub is abundant in areas of heath and grassland.
- There are two distinct areas of blanket bog, however there are flushes and patches of fen and bog across the open heath areas.
- Black and red grouse are recorded on SNFL and adjacent forestry to the designated site provide nesting for several raptors.

Section 3 Pressures and proposed actions

Site Type	Feature description	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work and other key limiting factors
SSSI	Alpine Heath	Game Fisheries management	FLS does not propose to undertake muirburn on the SNFL.	Ongoing	Across the plan area
SSSI	Blanket Bog	Burning Game management Under-grazing	FLS does not propose to undertake muirburn. Deer control will continue to maintain population between 2 and 5 per km ² .	Ongoing	Across the plan area
SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Burning Game management Wildlife crime	FLS will not undertake muirburn on the SNFL and does not undertake grouse shooting on the SNFL. Deer control is undertaken to maintain a population and protect tree crops. Liaison with deer management group.	Ongoing	Across the plan area

Site Type	Feature description	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work and other key limiting factors
			Routine monitoring in conjunction with the local raptor group and continued awareness of potential wildlife crime in the area.		
SSSI	Moorland juniper	Over-grazing Pests and diseases – Phytophthora austrocedrae Under-grazing	Juniper monitored and biosecurity measures in place following site visits or during forestry operations.	Ongoing	Across the plan area
SSSI	Upland Assemblage	Burning Game management Under-grazing	FLS will not undertake muirburn on the SNFL. Deer control will continue to maintain population between 2 and 5 per km ² .	Ongoing	Across the plan area

Section 4 Operations within the LTP that could impact on the designated features on the SNFL.

Operation Type	Detailed description of operation and method	Mitigation measures to be applied	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
Tree regeneration	Non-native tree and scrub will be removed	Operations will be undertaken out with bird breeding season to	As required throughout	N/A

Operation Type	Detailed description of operation and method	Mitigation measures to be applied	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
	using scrub saw/chainsaw. As part of the management of Newes Craig illicit still, junipers will be removed from the built structure as agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES).	avoid disturbance to ground nesting birds	the period of the plan.	
Deer control	Deer to be controlled to maintain population at between 2 and 5 per km ² .	Population is monitored in a number of ways, visual counts, drone surveys using the latest thermal technology . Population models which use the curate factual information are recorded on our Wildlife Management system.	As required throughout the period of the plan.	N/A

Section 5 Operations within the LTP or aspects of the national forest estate within the LTP that could impact on designated sites adjacent to national forest estate.

Operation Type /Aspect of forest	Detailed description of issue or operation	Proposed action &/or mitigation	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
Restock	Self-seeding of Sitka spruce onto designated site.	A buffer of Scots pine will be established between productive conifer plantation and open moorland to minimise the seed rain onto the open ground.	In line with felling and restock coupes.	See Map 12 - Future Species

Section 6 Appropriate Assessment/s undertaken on work contained within the LTP.

Not required.

Section 7 Approvals, agreements & signatures

I confirm that the above management plan which covers the SSSI “Morven and Mullochdubh SSSI” (Site code 1194) within long term plan “Strathdon” contains the necessary detail, content and mitigation measures to comply with the statutory requirements contained within the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and in particular in relation to Part 2, Chapter 1, Section 14 (d), which covers consents via an agreed management plan (i.e. “NatureScot’s consent under section 13 is not required in relation to carrying out an operation of the type described in subsection (1) of that section –(d) in accordance with the terms of a management agreement between NatureScot and the public body or office-holder carrying out the operation”).

NatureScot Signature:

Date:

NatureScot Name:

NatureScot Job Title:

Address:

Email:

Contact telephone number:

FLS has a corporate requirement under UKWAS (5th edition) and under the FLS Framework Document for FLS (2010) to manage **all** designated sites in accordance with plans approved by the statutory authority, I therefore sign below to approve the contents of this plan in relation to the designated site Morven and Mullochdubh that fall within its boundary on the SNFL.

NatureScot Signature:

Date:

NatureScot Name:

Annex 1

Map highlighting the location of the designated sites in relation to the LTP boundary and Scotland's National Forests and Land area.

See Map 2 – Key Features

Annex 2

NatureScot's Operation Requiring Consent, Site Management Statement and SSSI Citation.