

Scoping Report

Part 1 – General Details

Property Name:	Bin and Deveron Woods – LMP
FGS number:	N/a
Forest Plan area:	2,270.1 ha
Type of scoping:	Initial scoping and public event.

Assessment of local impacts and key issues

The key issues raised through scoping and early consultation centre on protecting sensitive environmental features, safeguarding water resources, and managing the high levels of public use across Bin and Deveron Woods.

Consultees highlighted the need to ensure designated sites, native and ancient woodland, and species such as the small blue butterfly are protected through appropriate buffers and sensitive operational planning.

Water-related concerns were prominent, including safeguarding private water supplies, mitigating risks to Drinking Water Protected Areas, and avoiding impacts on Scottish Water assets and groundwater source zones.

Public access and recreation emerged as significant themes, with expectations around maintaining core paths, managing access during operations, addressing windblow impacts, and supporting community involvement in minor works.

Additional issues included the need to manage windblow strategically, incorporate heritage features not captured in existing datasets, and ensure alignment with national and local planning policy.

Together, these issues shape the operational constraints and mitigation measures embedded throughout the Forest Plan to ensure sustainable, compliant, and community-responsive management of the woodland.

Bin and Deveron Woods Scoping Report

Stakeholders			
A copy of the pre-scoping map and a summary of the woodland were sent to the following stakeholders.			
	Name	Organisation	Address
			Response received
	Confor	Richard.hunter@confor.org.uk	No response
	Forest Research	alistair.macleod@forestresearch.gov.uk	Initial Scoping – Expired research area included within a planned felling, now removed from active experiment list.
	Aberdeenshire Council: Archaeology	caroline.palmer@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Initial Scoping – Reply stating some features from HER not showing on Heritage layer in concept map.
	Aberdeenshire Council: Roads	roads@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	No response
	Aberdeenshire Council: Planning	planning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Initial scoping – “The proposed works and supporting documents appear to consider the relevant constraints on the site. Planning Service therefore have no objections at this stage.”
	Aberdeenshire Council: Private water supplies	Water.admin@aberdeenshire.gov.uk	Initial Scoping – Request for shapefile for blocks with LMP to help provide additional data. All known private water supply data then provided.
	Nature Scot	Portal	Response to DSMP Appendix: “The proposed actions outlined in Appendix [3] are acknowledged and considered sufficient. An operational plan should be prepared at the appropriate stage to identify site-specific measures to prevent pollution entering wetlands. No consultation required on the operational plan.”
	RSPB	Karen.Cunningham@rspb.org.uk	No response
	Scottish Forestry	grampian.cons@forestry.gov.scot	Initial Scoping – Discussions around windblow, outstanding restock, plans for species choice and general objectives. No significant issues raised.
	Scottish Water	protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk	Initial Scoping – DWPA . Highlighted that several areas fall within DWPA, majority of the plan is low risk, but some higher risk due to proximity to abstraction zone. Yield . Low risk development in terms of yield but would welcome opportunity to comment on operations planned within DWPA areas and should be notified of any pollution incidents. Assets . There are many assets spread out over a very wide area covered by the plan. All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the

Bin and Deveron Woods Scoping Report

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		activity should be identified, with consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice.
SEPA	adminsupportwest@sepa.org.uk	No response
Historic Environment Scotland	hmconsultations@hes.scot	Initial Scoping – “there are no scheduled monuments, category A-listed buildings or Inventory gardens and designed landscapes within the boundary of the Bin and Deveron Woods and therefore we have no locus regarding this consultation.”
Strathbogie Community Council	strathbogiecc@gmail.com	No response
Huntly Community Council	huntlycommunitycouncil@googlemail.com	No response
Bognie Estate	rosanna@bmf-group.co.uk	No response
Huntly Development Trust	hdt@huntly.net	Initial Scoping – “We might have feedback from a paths/recreation perspective. If so, Paula or I will get back to you before the deadline.”
The Deveron, Bogie, and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust	office@deveron.org	No response.
Deveron Projects	info@deveron-projects.com	Initial Scoping – Request that White Wood management is mentioned in the LTP and any necessary permissions included.
Network Rail	assetprotectionsotland@networkrail.co.uk	No response.
All immediately adjacent landowners	Various via letter drop	Initial Scoping – Replies from several residents providing details about their PWS infrastructure.
Huntly's Rinnin Quines and Loons	Contact via website form	Responses provided at Public event: - Frustration that minor forest roads become overgrown when not used for operations. - Concern that windblow clearance was not completed ahead of a major planned event in 2025, causing cancellation. - Desire for greater community involvement in minor works such as path clearance.
Public event	Various members of public	- Maps provided showing Private Water Supply (PWS) infrastructure on adjacent land. - Rough location of PWS infrastructure on FLS land highlighted. - Concern about access restrictions during forestry operations. - Request for a new path linking Cairnie to Bin Forest to avoid walking/cycling along the A96.

Bin and Deveron Woods Scoping Report

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			- Discussion on improving wider connectivity between the forest and surrounding towns/villages. - Concern about the scale of windblow in Bin Forest and its impact on public access.
	Neighbour	Via email	- Concern about lack of firm commitment to expanding LISS and preference for smaller-scale clearfelling. - Notes negative impact of large recent clearfells on woodland amenity. - Query about whether Kinnoir Wood is included in the plan area. - Interest in historical features (double dyke, old track) and request for access to historic forest records.

Bin and Deveron Woods Scoping Report

Part 2 – Key Issues				
Key Issues	Raised by	Detail any likely impact	Action(s) to be taken to address key issues and identify location within Forest Plan	Notes
Population and Human Health	Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Environment	Potential disruption to core paths, CROWs and right of way at Corniehaugh during forestry operations.	Maintain and protect waymarked trails and forest roads. Ensure right of way remains accessible or appropriately managed during operations.	Bin Forest heavily used by public.
Population and Human Health	Adjacent Landowner	Access restrictions during forestry operations.	Restrict access only around active harvesting sites; provide advance notice and diversions where possible.	—
Population and Human Health	Huntly's Rinnin Quines and Loons	Vegetation growth on minor forest roads affecting recreational use.	Outside promoted trails, vegetation clearance undertaken periodically when required for operations.	—
Population and Human Health	Huntly's Rinnin Quines and Loons	Windblow not cleared ahead of planned event, causing cancellation.	FLS endeavours to support events but short-notice felling permissions and resource limits restrict responsiveness.	—
Population and Human Health	Huntly's Rinnin Quines and Loons	Desire for greater community involvement in minor works such as path clearance.	Provide guidance on permissions and prerequisites for community-led operations.	—
Population and Human Health	Cairnie Resident	Need for safe active-travel route to Bin Forest avoiding A96.	Resident encouraged to submit proposal; signposted to organisations supporting community path development.	—
Population and Human Health	Scottish Forestry	Interest in improving wider connectivity with surrounding towns and villages.	FLS open to community-led proposals where management agreements are in place.	—
Population and Human Health	Neighbour	Desire for more areas to be managed under LISS and smaller clearfells to reduce impact on amenity value of forest.	More areas brought into LISS management in LTP; planned clearfells smaller in scale than large unplanned windblow clearance operations conducted recently.	—
Biodiversity (Habitats & Species)	Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Environment	Risk of disturbance to Mortlach Moss SAC, associated SSSIs, GCR site,	Maintain appropriate buffers; apply sensitive management; protect butterfly habitat through careful forest road	Whole woodland identified as LNCS.

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		native/ancient woodland, and small blue butterfly habitat.	management. Measures included in Environmental Constraints and Biodiversity sections.	
Biodiversity (Habitats & Species)	NatureScot	Potential risk of pollution entering Mortlach SSSI and SAC wetlands (basin fen and base-rich fen) during forest operations.	Prepare an operational plan at the appropriate stage in line with UKFS requirements, identifying site-specific measures to prevent pollution. Apply Forests & Water Guidelines and SEPA advice where required.	“The proposed actions ... are considered sufficient.”
Biodiversity (Habitats & Species)	NatureScot	Potential disturbance to geological features within Bin Quarry SSSI.	Continue to follow measures already embedded in the LMP; no additional mitigation required.	“The plan addresses any issues we may have had.”
Biodiversity (Habitats & Species)	NatureScot	Potential impacts on fen meadow and lowland acid grassland within Whitehill SSSI (adjacent to plan area).	Apply relevant UKFS and Forests & Water Guidelines; ensure operational planning avoids pollution pathways and hydrological disruption.	Advice mirrors Mortlach SSSI guidance.
Biodiversity (Habitats & Species)	Deveron Projects	Need for active management of White Wood Art Installation to prevent conifer regeneration affecting oak trees.	Apply LISS prescription and thinning permissions to allow periodic removal of regeneration; include project details in LMP text.	—
Land	Scottish Forestry	Scale of windblow affecting access and forest structure; risk of future progressive blow.	All known windblow areas programmed for clearance in first LTP phase; windfirm edges identified to reduce future risk.	—
Soil / Geology / Geomorphology	—	No significant issues raised by consultees.	Standard UKFS soil and peat protection measures applied.	—
Water	Adjacent Landowners	PWS infrastructure requiring protection from forestry operations.	Ground-truth all PWS locations; add to constraints layers; apply 50 m open-ground buffers uphill of abstraction points; produce confidential PWS map.	—

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Water	Aberdeenshire Council – PWS Team	Request for LMP block shapefile to support provision of additional PWS data.	Shapefile provided with all known PWS sources and users; additional PWS information incorporated into constraints mapping.	—
Water	Scottish Water	Potential pollution risk to Craighead WTW abstraction point (<100 m). Need to protect water quality/quantity within River Deveron catchment.	Ensure compliance with UKFS and Forests & Water Guidelines; apply Scottish Water guidance; enhance buffers near high-risk areas; notify Scottish Water immediately of any incident.	Craighead catchment higher risk; Turriff WTW low risk.
Water	Scottish Water	Minor/very low risk to Shenwell and Clashmach springs.	Maintain good practice drainage management; avoid contaminant inputs; no additional mitigation required.	Impacts considered highly unlikely.
Water	Scottish Water	Risk of damage/conflict with underground/above-ground assets (pipes, access roads, crossings).	Identify all assets; maintain clearance distances; contact HAUC early; obtain written acceptance before works where conflicts occur.	Works must not proceed without written acceptance.
Water	Aberdeenshire Council – Flood Risk & Coastal Protection	Potential risk to burns and natural drainage patterns.	Maintain riparian buffers; adhere to Forest and Water Guidelines; measures included in Water and Soils section.	—
Cultural Heritage	Aberdeenshire Council – Archaeology	Some HER features not shown on FLS heritage layer.	Additional features to be identified at pre-operational survey using wider datasets.	—
Cultural Heritage	Neighbour	Known heritage features not shown on FLS heritage layer.	Additional features to be identified at pre-operational survey; neighbour's datasets to support operational planning.	—
Cultural Heritage	Neighbour	Interest in historical features (double dyke, old track) and request for access to historic forest records.	Sources for historical background of forest provided via email.	—

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Landscape	Aberdeenshire Council – Natural Environment	Sensitivity of landscape; woodland identified as LNCS.	Sensitive management embedded in plan; constraints identified to Council's satisfaction.	—