

Please complete this form to find out if you need consent from Scottish Forestry, under the **Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017**, to carry out your proposed forestry project. Please refer to Schedule 2 Selection Criteria for Screening Forestry Projects under [Applying for an opinion](#). If you are not sure about what information to include on this form please contact your [local Conservancy office](#).

Proposed Work							
Please put a cross in the box to indicate the type of work you are proposing to carry out. Give the area in hectares and where appropriate the percentage of conifers and broadleaves							
Proposed Work	select	Area in hectares	% Conifer	% Broad-leaves	Proposed work	select	Area in hectares
Afforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>				Forest roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Deforestation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	83.3	79.8	0.5	Forest quarry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Location of work		Durris Forest					

Description of Forestry Project and Location
<p>Provide details of the forestry project (size, design, use of natural resources such as soil, and the cumulative effect if relevant). Please attach map(s) showing the boundary of the proposed work and other known details.</p> <p>See Current Species, Peatland and Habitats, Presumption to Restore, Assessed Restore and Restock Maps.</p> <p>EIA screening is sought for peatland restoration in Durris (see attached maps). This will involve the deforestation of 83.3ha. Deforestation is to support the restoration of 11b [Calluna, Eriophorum vaginatum Blanket Bog], 11c [Trichophorum, Calluna Blanket Bog], 8c [Juncus effusus Bog] and 10b [Upland Sphagnum Bog]. The purpose of the restoration of Blanket Bog habitat (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat) is to protect carbon storage potential, improve the quality of the water within the forest and surrounding area, and improve the biodiversity within the restoration area.</p> <p>Previous Crop In an attempt to establish a productive crop of Lodgepole Pine and Sitka Spruce, on a Blanket Bog, the sites for restoration were cultivated by means of deeply ploughed ridges and furrows and ploughed drains, and will likely have been heavily fertilised. Taking into account this historical input, as well as the ground conditions of a consistently high water table, it would be difficult to achieve sufficient crop performance over the second rotation in line with UK Forestry Standard without causing significant soil disturbance, negative impacts on water quality (see 'Soils and Water' and the subsequent release of greenhouse gasses).</p> <p>Current Crop (Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine) Yield Class (YC) predictions in ESC are overly optimistic for peat soils, based on a number of assumptions that appear to be inaccurate. The variable tree sizes means that normal mensuration methods will over-state the actual volume of timber produced, and therefore</p>

the actual amount of carbon sequestered over the length of the rotation. In addition, the soil compaction from the first rotation is not taken into account in the ESC prediction.

For the majority of surveyed sites, the crop was not performing as per the predicted YC. Some restock sites appear to grow slowly soon after planting as a result of nitrogen deficiencies exacerbated by heather check. Other stands appear to have grown quite well in the first 15 years, and then experienced a dramatic slowing of growth rate.

The slowdown in growth rate mid-rotation (15-20 years after replanting) probably results from nitrogen and phosphorus deficiency. The recycling of available nitrogen and phosphorus is enough to support a small-medium sized tree but is not enough to support the development of a larger tree. Equally, it could also be as a result of the height of the water table limiting the root depth potential and soil volume available for roots to utilise and draw minerals from. The volume of cultivated and drier peat is sufficient for a relatively small tree, but not a large tree.

Clearfell

The area to be deforested for forest-to-bog restoration is a combination of:

- 41.6% Sitka spruce
- 2.5% Lodgepole pine
- 1.4% Scots pine
- 1.4% Norway spruce
- 0.1% Larch
- 53% Previously Felled Crop

The regenerated Sitka spruce (second rotation) on deep peat is poorly performing and has:

- Variable tree sizes.
- Deficiencies evidenced by yellowing and absence needles beyond two years growth.
- Negative growth ratio of leader to lateral suggesting poor increment.
- Soils and climatic conditions limit the potential for growing Sitka Spruce of YC 8 or more on a large proportion of the deep peatlands.

Scots Pine, Larch, and Norway Spruce, when left standing on deep peat, will negatively impact the hydrology of the peat restoration due to historic plough patterns (exposed peat), and transpiration consequently having a drying effect.

Restoration

Felling and re-wetting of the proposed restoration areas will be undertaken using low ground pressure machines and standard forest-to-bog techniques. The areas are currently retaining water despite forestry drainage with key bog indicator vegetation present across the sites surveyed. Rewetting will allow the hydrology, and eventually the vegetation, to be restored to Blanket Bog habitat (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat) which corresponds to National Vegetation Classification M19/M20. There is sufficient existing seed source for Sphagnum and other bog species to make this successful.

A combination of standard restoration methods will be used (as per the Peatland Action Technical Compendium):

- Block all drains and, where necessary, plough furrows using peat dams or composite dams to disperse water across the peatland.

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- Undertake stump flipping and ground smoothing across the previously afforested area to un-modify the pattern of ploughed ridges and furrows. If left in situ, the plough/furrow pattern will suppress the water table and development of peatland vegetation, and will promote regeneration of negative indicators such as native or non-native tree species. Where there is suspected peat cracking, install backfill trenches to retain water on site.
- Backfill trenches counteract the excessive lateral flow of water within the peat, which can result from the ploughing and draining carried out during afforestation, and the subsequent drying and suppressing effect of the mature trees on the peat and water table.
- Monitor and remove any tree regeneration as this is a negative indicator and undesirable vegetation on a bog.

The delivery of re-wetting operations will be undertaken as soon as practically possible in line with UKFS and UKWAS. Monitoring of the site will take place at year 5 following re-wetting to inform any subsequent interventions.

Provide details on the existing land use and the environmental sensitivity of the area that is likely to be affected by the forestry project.

Existing Land Use (see 'Current Species Map')

The areas to be deforested are a combination of commercial conifer plantation of Sitka spruce and other minor components of commercial conifers planted on deep peat soils or the associated hydrological unit and some areas where a mix of checked conifers has self-seeded onto deep peat soils.

Environmental Sensitivity (see 'Peatland and Habitats', 'Presumption to Restore' and 'Assessed Restore and Assessed Restock')

Deep peat soils (over 50 cm), are classified as either Scenario A 'presumption to restore' or Scenario B/ or C 'assessed' as per Forestry Commission Scotland (2015). Deciding future management operations for afforested deep peatland.

FLS carried out extensive desk and field based surveys to identify the hydrological catchments of the various peaty soils and identify the presence of bog forming species e.g. sphagnum mosses in old plough furrows. In Durris there are:

- 34.1ha of 'presumption to restore' peatlands, where forest-to-bog restoration of afforested peatlands includes the hydrological catchment. This only includes afforested peatlands which lie next to open existing peatlands, or Scenario A peatland types, as per the document above. See Presumption to Restore Map.
- 49.2ha of afforested 'Assessed' peatlands, where forest-to-bog restoration to secures the carbon store and sequestration, and maximizes ecosystem services. This only includes Scenario B and C peatland types, as per the document above and constitutes the total area of afforested 'Assessed' peatlands that will be restored following an assessment of predicted growth (YC). This is where no evidence found to support the conclusion that the next rotation stand would grow Sitka spruce YC8 or more with minimal disturbance and low level of peatland modifications. See Assessed Restock and Assessed Restore Map.

The proposed works will restore the deep peat areas to a functioning peatland system which will act as a long term carbon store and increase its value for biodiversity and water quality within the forest and wider catchment.

Afforested peatlands have the potential to emit more GHG emissions than can be absorbed by a growing woodland. Restoration of afforested peatlands, especially will prevent the significant net release of greenhouse gases, ultimately benefitting the local climate. Assessment using 'Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland' shows that wet sites which have yielded very poor tree growth have the greatest potential for successful restoration of peatland into a net carbon sink.

FLS is a Peatland Action delivery partner on behalf of Scottish Ministers to reduce greenhouse gases across Scotland National Forests and Land. A Scottish Government objective is to have all afforested peatland restored by 2035. Afforested peatlands are a sensitive environmental topic receiving even more scrutiny since the Climate Emergency was announced by the First Minister in April 2019 and COP26.

Description of Likely Significant Effects

Provide details on any likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment (resulting from the project itself or the use of natural resources) and the extent of the information available to assist you with this assessment.

Population and Human Health: No long term impact

There are no core paths within the restoration area and any areas which are on boundaries with neighbouring landowners are in areas where the landowner has expressed a desire for fewer trees near the boundary to reduce the impact of cross boundary regeneration. There may be short term impacts on people using the forest for recreational use in terms of path and road closures, these impacts will be no more than those of standard forestry operations. The long term impact on people visiting the forest will be positive by creating a more biodiverse, open and visually varied setting in the areas to be restored

Biodiversity (habitats, species): Positive impact

Restoration of a degraded peatland will restore a priority open habitat, benefitting both habitat and its associated species. Pre-operational surveys will identify any protected or breeding species to ensure suitable mitigation is in place to avoid any disturbance.

Land: No impact

Where the restoration area is adjacent to agricultural land, boundary drains will not be blocked to ensure neighbouring land is not compromised by re-wetting and increased potential to flooding.

Soil: Positive impact

The proposed peatland restoration operation will restore a more natural hydrology and limit erosion/further modification of the habitat.

Poorly managed forestry operations on peaty and gleyed soils are likely to cause soil disturbance and, in the damp conditions here, there is the potential for sediment to enter watercourses. Protecting the soil structure and avoiding diffuse pollution will be key concerns during these operations. Mitigations listed below.

The impacts on soils and knock on effects of ground disturbance will be short term as the areas earmarked for deforestation will be subject to a variety of peatland restoration techniques immediately after felling.

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The Peatland Condition Category of the proposed area is 'Modified; Previously forested'. The drainage modifications to the soils here will continue to have a negative impact unless intervention to restore a more natural peatland hydrology occurs. Using criteria set out in 'Deciding future management options for afforested deep peatland' it is evident that the most appropriate future option for this site is to restore it to an open ground peatland habitat.

Water: Positive impact on catchment hydrology; reducing peak flow in associated watercourses.

All forestry operations will be managed as per UK Forestry Standard, Managing Forest Operations to Protect the Water Environment, Know the Rules 2nd Ed, and Forestry and Land Scotland's Regional Pollution Control Plan.

Forest Research has demonstrated that phased felling and low impact harvesting can effectively control negative impacts of forest clearance for peatland restoration www.forestresearch.gov.uk/publications/forest-clearance-for-peatland-restoration/. 10 m exclusion buffers will be maintained along all water courses as per PeatlandACTION guidelines.

Re-wetting techniques have shown to have no significant adverse effect on water quality. Peatland restoration will have a positive impact on the catchments the Stan, Stran and Black Burns, as water quality will be improved by reducing run-off from the exposed peat and degraded peatland.

Cultural Heritage: No impact

Pre-operational surveys will identify any cultural heritage features to ensure suitable mitigation is in place to avoid any disturbance as per UK Forestry Standard.

Landscape: Positive impact

Although the deforestation is a significant alteration to the habitat present on the sites currently, the scale of the block means that these changes are reasonable and are more akin to restoring natural habitats of the sites before plantation forestry was added using drainage, ground cultivation and fertilisation in the past.

Include details of any consultees or stakeholders that you have contacted in order to make this assessment. Please include any relevant correspondence you have received from them.

See attached stakeholder engagement that formed part of the Durris Land Management 10 year review process.

Mitigation of Likely Significant Effects

If you believe there are likely significant effects that the project will have on the environment, provide information on the opportunities you have taken to mitigate these effects.

The long term significant effects of the project are expected to be positive so no mitigation

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Request Form

measures are required. However, environmental protection measures will be undertaken during works on site to ensure there are no short-term detrimental impacts on the environment while the habitat restoration and deforestation operations occur.

The key mitigations required relate to protecting soils and water habitats during operations:

- UKFS forestry and water guidelines will be adhered to at all times with enhanced measures taken where needed including the use of silt traps, enlarged buffer zones and any other mitigations required.
- Regular monitoring of all watercourses in vicinity of operations will take place to ensure water quality is not being adversely affected.
- Appropriate harvesting techniques will be applied to minimise the ground impacts and protect carbon storage potential of soils. This may include utilising low ground pressure machines for harvesting and forwarding operations and completing operations at a suitable time of year.
- We will apply current best practice and expertise in peatland restoration operations and use suitably experienced contractors with the appropriate machinery.
- We will removing as much scrub and waste materials from peat restoration sites as possible to maintain nutrient balance on peaty soils and help facilitate restoration activities.

Short term impacts on the general public during operations will be minimised by signposting operations well in advance and providing alternative recreation routes where possible.

Sensitive Areas

Please indicate if any of the proposed forestry project is within a sensitive area. Choose the sensitive area from the drop down below and give the area of the proposal within it.

Sensitive Area	Area
Deep peat soil	83.3 ha
Select...	
Select...	
Select...	
Select...	

Property Details

Property Name:	Durriss Forest		
Business Reference Number:		Main Location Code:	
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NO 7916 9292	Nearest town or locality:	Kirkton of Durriss
Local Authority:	Aberdeenshire Council		

Owner's Details

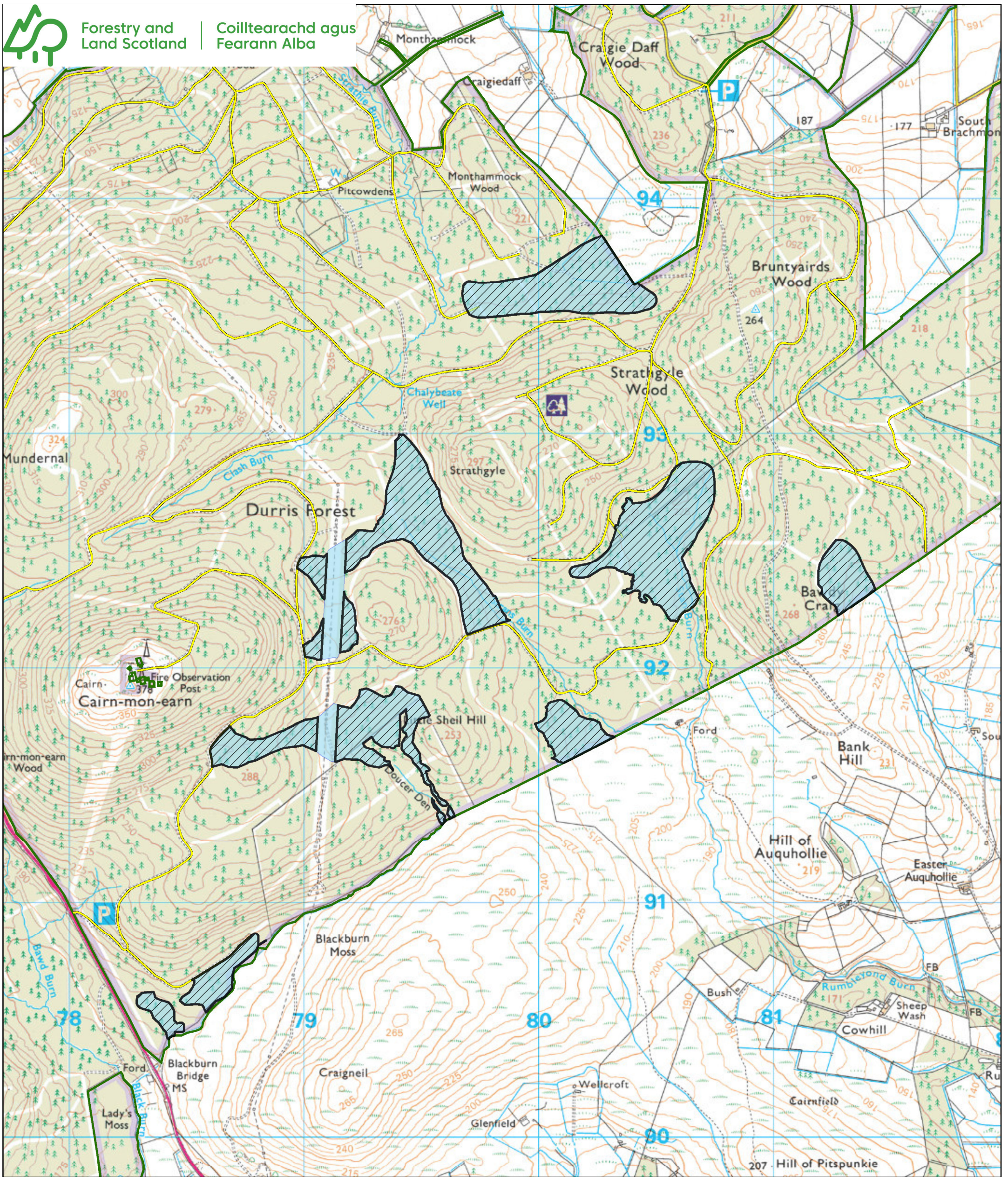
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Euan
Surname:	Stewart		

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Request Form

Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Forest Planner
Primary Contact Number:	0300 067 6200	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	enquiries.east@forestryandland.gov.scot		
Address:	Huntly Office, Portsoy Road, Huntly		
Postcode:	AB54 4SH	Country:	Scotland
Is this the correspondence address?	Yes		

Agent's Details			
Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	
Is this the correspondence address?	Select...		

Office Use Only	
GLS Ref number:	




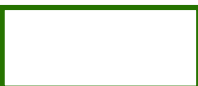


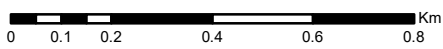
Durris Deforestation Areas

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

Date: April 2024

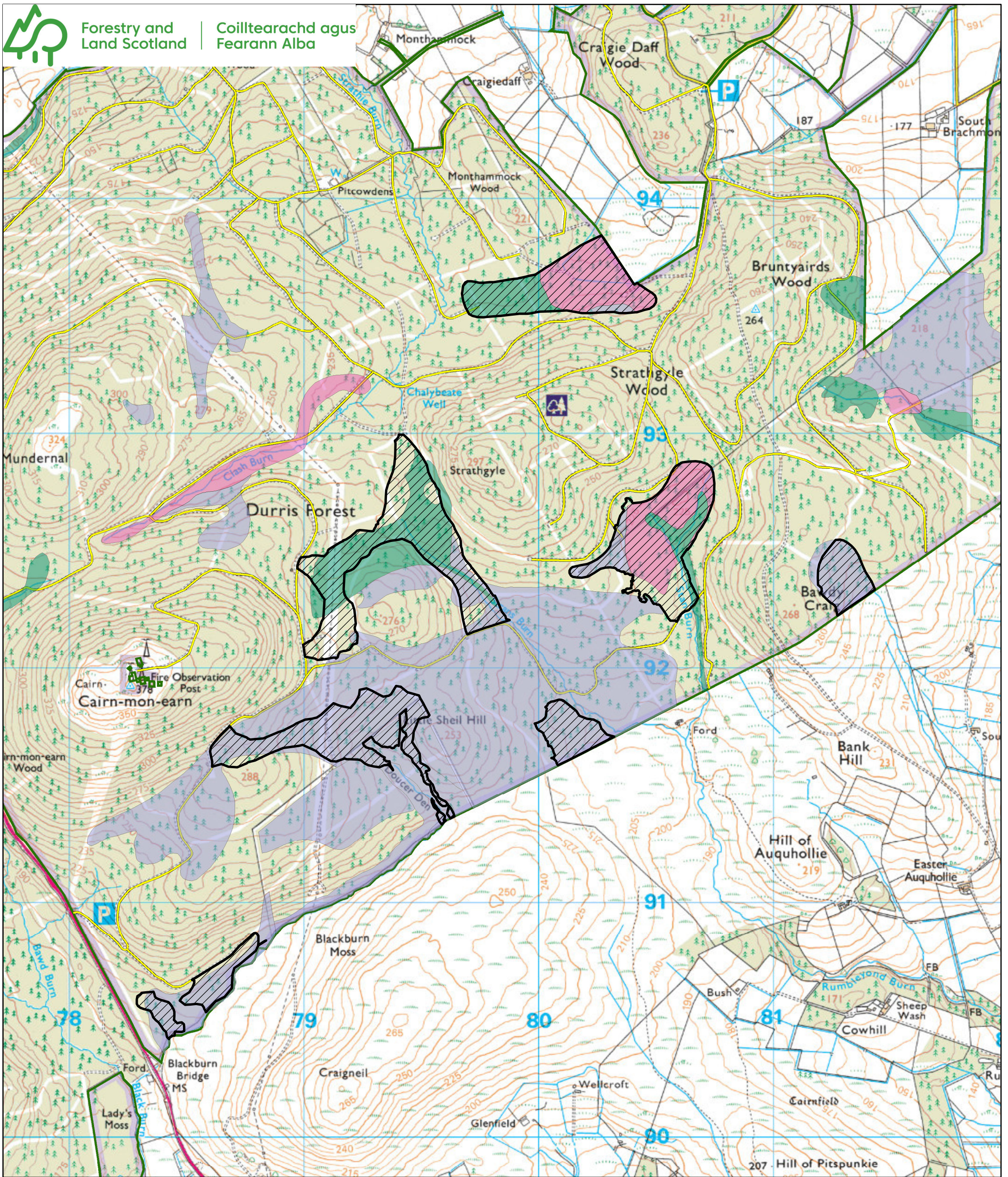
Legend

-  Peat Restoration Areas
-  Deforestation Areas
-  Forest Roads
-  Blocks



Scotland's National Forest Estate is responsibly managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard.



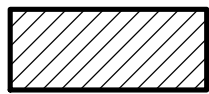


Durris Peatland and Habitat

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

Date: April 2024

Legend



Peat Restoration Areas

Presumption to Restore Soils



10b [Upland Sphagnum Bog]



11a [Calluna Blanket Bog]



11b [Calluna, Eriophorum vaginatum Blanket Bog]

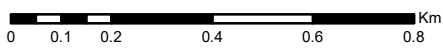


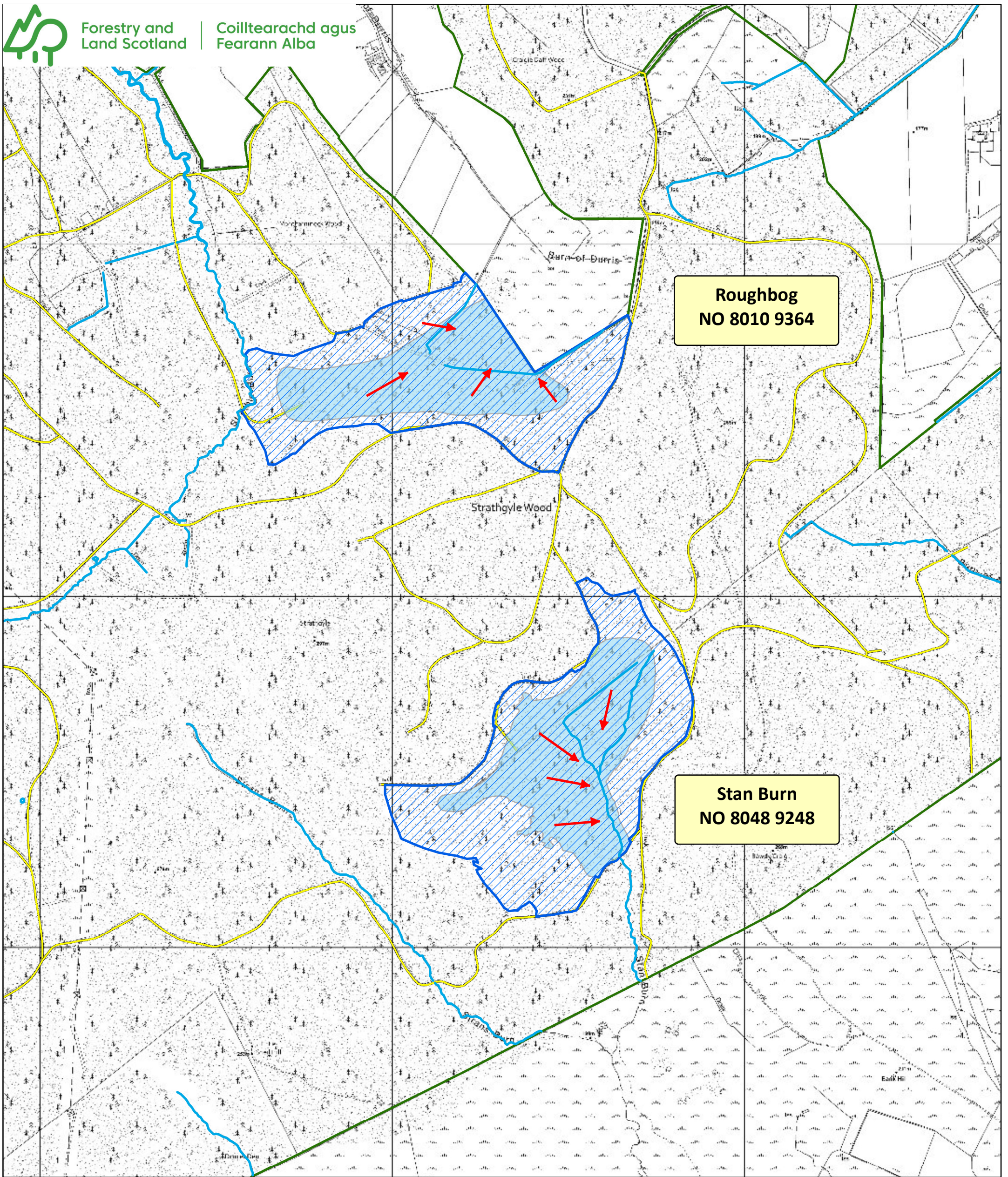
11d [Eriophorum Blanket Bog]

Assessed Peatland Soils



8c [Juncus effusus Bog]





**Roughbog
NO 8010 9364**


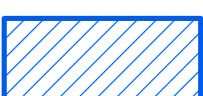




**Stan Burn
NO 8048 9248**

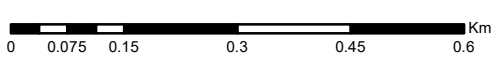
Durris: Presumption to Restore

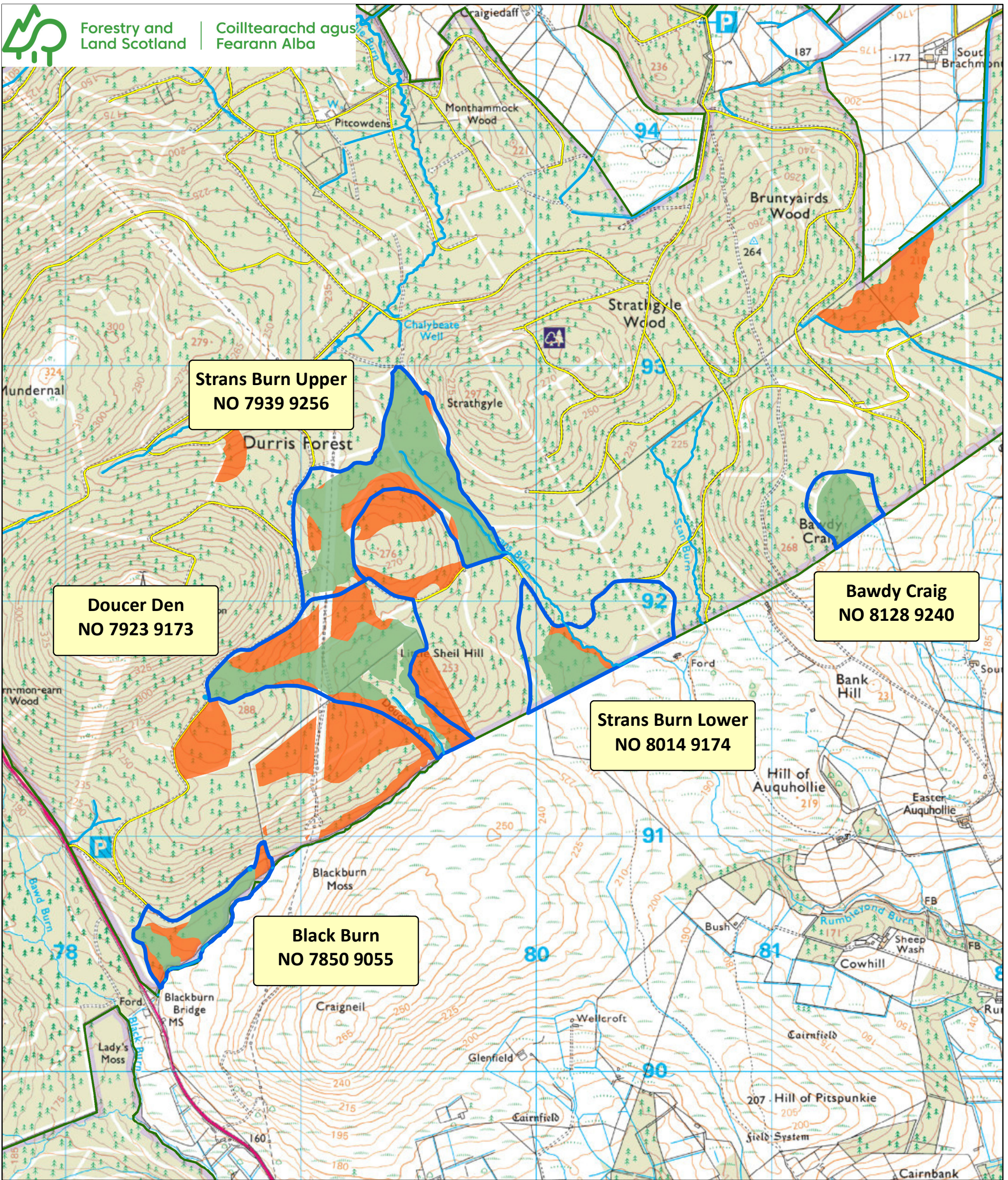
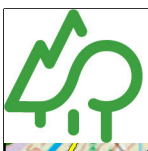
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Date: April 2024

Legend

-  Presumption to Restore: restoration area
-  Presumption to Restore: Hydrological Units
-  Drainage direction
-  Watercourses
-  Forest Roads
-  Blocks











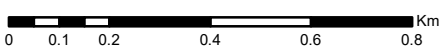
Durris: Assessed Restore and Restock

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

Date: April 2024

Legend

-  Assessed Hydrological Units
-  Assessed Peatland Restoration Areas
-  Assessed Peatland Restock Areas
-  Watercourses
-  Forest Roads
-  Durris LMP Boundary



Appendix A: Land Management Plan Consultation Record

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
NatureScot	July 2023, January 2024	August 2023	<p>Our advice is that this proposal is likely to have a significant effect on freshwater pearl mussels and salmon. Consequently, FLS, as competent authority, is required to carry out an appropriate assessment in view of the site's conservation objectives for its qualifying interests. To help you do this we advise that based on the information given in the LMP, our conclusion is that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.</p> <p>The appraisal we carried out considered the following factors:</p> <p>Forest operations such as felling have the potential to generate silt which may be washed into the SAC. Both freshwater pearl mussels and salmon are susceptible to the effects of siltation; fine material can smother mussel beds and salmon redds, and freshwater pearl mussels and juvenile salmon/salmon eggs may be killed by sediment deposition.</p> <p>However, adhering to the 'Forests and Water' elements of the UK Forestry Standard will protect water quality and ensure the proposal does not have an adverse effect on any of the interests of the SAC. We therefore advise that, in accordance with the forest and water guidelines, at an appropriate stage, an operational plan is prepared, which includes the site specific measures necessary to adequately reduce the risk of sediment entering watercourses during forest operations.</p> <p>In relation to otter, we advise that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant effect on this species as a feature of the SAC. However, checks for signs and holts should be carried out prior to work commencing and standard Scottish Forestry guidance in relation to otter should be followed.</p>	All points covered by following UKFS Forests and Water guidelines and carrying out standard environmental surveys.
Aberdeenshire Council	July 2023, January 2024	August 2023, March 2024	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land within Durris block identified as reserved site as preferred location for regional mountain bike center - LEPO and PAWS areas identified, would support restoration - Suggested lee.watson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk as contact for flood works - Highlighted areas in Funach wood of high environmental value - Noted area of species rich pasture adjacent to forestry in center of Durris block - Noted Sitka spruce encroachment in open habitat areas which would benefit from removal - Noted record of some invasive species present within woods and adjacent - Noted proposed core path with strong public support linking Kirkton of Durris with entrance of Woodlands Wood <p>Final Consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area found covering much of Mundernal Hill and Cairn-mon-earn. No major operations planned within zone aside from windblow removal. council to be contacted as part of planning process if more operations are added. - LEPO and PAWS areas already identified and are already being considered as part of design. - Contact added to consultee list. - Noted that areas highlighted had been identified for retention or conversion from conifer to broadleaf - Pasture highlighted is adjacent to potential peat restoration zone pending further investigation.

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			"Many thanks for the opportunity to comment on this Plan. I am pleased to see that our earlier comments have largely been incorporated into the plan and have no further comments to make."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - much of Area identified already included in non-native clearance program, other Area flagged to Env team. - flagged invasive species with environment team to check they are in-hand. - Proposed core path to be discussed more with relevant teams and community council as part of planning process.
Regional Archaeologist	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023, March 2024	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <p>"There are numerous historic environment features recorded on the Historic Environment Record within the LMP area which, if not already, should be incorporated into the plan. I note that the constraints table does not refer to undesignated historic environment features, although they are referenced in Secondary Objectives. Probably already in hand - Historic Environment Scotland will need to be consulted regarding Scheduled Monuments within/abutting the LMP areas."</p> <p>Final Consultation</p> <p>"Noted that the Secondary objectives includes 'Protect all scheduled monuments and other archaeological features from damage and improve setting where possible' – but does explicitly state the need to identify and manage non-designated historic environment features (just SMs), which should include check/incorporation of features recorded on the Historic Environment Record."</p>	No resolution required, all unscheduled monuments will be picked up at work planning stage and scheduled monument permissions requested prior to any relevant operations.
Local Authority Roads	July 2023, February 2024	No response	N/A	N/A
SEPA	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023, March 2024	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <p>No issue - Standard guidance attached with response.</p> <p>Final Consultation</p> <p>No issue - Standard guidance attached with response.</p>	No response needed
Scottish Forestry	July 2023, February 2024	No response	N/A	N/A
RSPB	July 2023, February 2024	No response	N/A	N/A
Historic Environment Scotland	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023, March 2024	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <p>Noted 5 Scheduled Ancient Monuments with plan area and added comment: "From the information provided, the Land Management Plan does not involve any specific works to scheduled monuments at this stage and therefore our consent is not required. However, it will be important when planning future works to avoid any damage to the monuments</p>	<p>Final Consultation</p> <p>- Additional open space added to long term restock map, this will not be achieved within this plan period but is noted for future reference.</p>

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			<p>from vehicles, fences, or by the planting of felling of trees in the scheduled area. Further information on protecting scheduled monuments from accidental damage is provided in the Addendum.</p> <p>We would also draw your attention to the UK Forestry Standard which outlines best practice for good management of the historic environment to ensure that it is preserved for future generations and fully integrated into the forest planning process. This includes having the appropriate procedures in place to ensure that they protected from inadvertent damage during forestry works, active management of the physical condition of monuments and the protection or enhancement of their settings.</p> <p>I hope this is of assistance to you. Please contact us if you have any questions about this response. The officer managing this case is Luke Dale who can be contacted by phone on (07500) 585978 or by email at luke.dale@hes.scot "</p> <p>Final Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for some additional future open space around Nine-Stanes scheduled monument and Clune Wood cairn. - Request that the LMP makes provision for a regular monitoring and control of other regenerating trees program - Advised that Scheduled Monument consent may be required prior to operations adjacent to Cairnshee wood cairn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section added in text to add details of program of monitoring and removal of vegetation around scheduled monuments - Works should not encroach into scheduled area but advised that this will be looked at in detail during the work planning process to see if SMC is needed.
Scottish Water	July 2023, February 2024	No response	N/A	N/A
SSEN	July 2023, February 2024	March 2024	<p>Final Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard letter received detailing safe working distances from powerlines and FISA guides for reference 	No response required
Neighbouring landowner	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <p>No issue - Thanked for involvement and noted that he was happy that boundary issues were being looked at, asked to be kept in contact with in future</p>	Thanked for reply and advised I would include the estate in plans going forward.
Neighbouring landowner	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023	<p>Initial Scoping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlighted high public use of Funach wood, including from those with mobility problems. - Highlighted that they have a private water supply which may originate within Funach woods 	<p>Email sent requesting further details on private water supply and request to add details to consultee list. 29/08/23</p> <p>Water supply located, to be investigated on ground and watercourse highlighted as supply. 29/08/23</p> <p>Visited property to investigate water supply and discuss plans for Funach wood. 13/12/23</p> <p>Water supply point added to local layers.</p>

Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Neighbouring Landowner	July 2023, February 2024	September 2023	Initial Scoping - Would like to see storm arwen damage cleared in Northbrae and Balbridie - Would like to see area on North boundary felled and more suitable riparian planting established	- Advised that Northbrae roads are being cleared imminently, with Balbridie to follow once the plan is approved - Advised that it is likely the area along the northern boundary associated with the watercourse will be cleared early in the next plan period but that design was still underway
Neighbouring Landowner	February 2024	February 2024	Final Consultation Advised would like to see Balbridie and Northbrae windblow coupes cleared ASAP Confirmed mains water supply	- Advised of timescales for felling of Northbrae and surrounding Arwen coupes.
Neighbouring Landowner	February 2024	February 2024	Final Consultation Advised of private water supply location and asked for further details of felling in vicinity of her property.	- Advised no clearfelling planned nearby for at least 15 years and that I would record location of her water supply for future reference.
Neighbouring Landowner	February 2024	February 2024	Final Consultation - Provided map showing location of private water supply point and pipeline - Expressed concern over increased HGV traffic related to quarry expansion	- Private water supply details added to internal layers to be highlighted at work planning stage - Advised that quarry expansion shouldn't result in significant increase of HGV traffic in area
Neighbouring Landowner	February 2024	February 2024	Final Consultation - Advised that they are on mains water supply and highlighted comms cable running along boundary	No resolution required, comms cable already in records

Table A. 1: Statutory consultee responses

Non-Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
Forest Research	July 2023	August 2023	Initial Scoping "Thanks for the heads up. Our only interest is the PZ billet site which will not impact any of your future plans."	No response needed
CONFOR	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Saving Wildcats	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023	Initial Scoping "We have been working in the background for a number of months / years on creating a plan / community to improve the path networks and connect the communities within our area and as such would be absolutely delighted to arrange a meeting with you to discuss the plan further and see how the two could potentially link together and provide input to your plan where possible."	Meeting held 11th September 2023. Discussed provision of core path and what FLS's responsibilities would be along with several smaller issues/ideas. Not much to be added to LMP permissions wise but agreed to keep in contact with how plan develops.
Stonehaven and District Community Council	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Gravitate North-East	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
The Mearns Leader and Kincardineshire Observer	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Durris Schools (forest school areas)	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Grampian Forest Rally	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Midsummer Cycle Sportive	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Independent ecological survey	July 2023, February 2024	August 2023, February 2024	Initial Scoping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested a reduction or elimination of pesticide use within the block - Recommended occasional dead or small trees left as songposts/perches - Would like to see increased diversity in habitats and tree species, including open woodland and standing water - Identified Stan Burn area as potential for re-wetting as well increasing coverage of bogs and pools throughout woodland Final Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the peat restoration areas are very welcome, with the implied creation of standing water which would come with that; I would urge that the areas of restoration and standing water be as generous as possible and not hemmed in by trees; and that more ponds of any size, even very small and filled with sphagnum, be created elsewhere within the forest as opportunity exists, surrounded by small open areas; public access to the wet areas should not be too easy, to reduce disturbance to wildlife and the inadvertent contamination of the water by neonics used as anti-flea/tick medication on dogs - the use of Scots Pine and native broadleaf trees is also welcome, but I noticed that in only a few of areas did you explicitly indicate a % of open areas; open woodlands, especially as the trees mature, are particularly important habitat for a variety of wildlife and this would bring species into the area which do not like closed woods 	Replied advising that I would take his comments on board during the design process, mentioned our policy of retaining deadwood, both standing and on the ground, and advised that we have already identified 40-50ha of potential peat restoration within the block.

Non-Statutory Consultee	Date contacted	Date response received	Issue raised	Forest District Response
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the retention of old, standing, large trees of various species should be encouraged, as nest sites for raptors and other species, and feeding for woodpeckers and other wildlife; fallen dead wood should also be retained for its biodiversity/carbon value - the retention of song posts in areas being clear felled will similarly benefit biodiversity - explicitly stating your non-use of pesticides and herbicides would do FLS no harm 	
Brook Forestry	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Scottish Woodlands	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A
Fountains Forestry	July 2023	No response	N/A	N/A

Table A.2: Non-Statutory Consultee Responses