



Please complete this form to find out if you need consent from Forestry Commission Scotland, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	33.57		59	Forest roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Deforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>				Forest quarry	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Location of work		Bealach 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>Creation of 23 ha native woodland in coupe 45739 by natural regeneration (i.e. 23 ha of open canopy woodland with scattered trees providing net 9.2 ha tree cover in a complex mosaic) and 5.81 ha (natural regeneration) and 4.76 ha (new planting) in coupe 45719.</p> <p>Coupe 45739: The proposal is to encourage expansion, through natural regeneration, of the existing native broadleaved woodland in coupe 45739, which extends across the hill above conifer plantations in the South East section of the forest. The existing native woodland is well established in places, comprising mainly birch, and incorporates areas of ASNW. PAWS sites are also located in the adjacent conifer plantations, which will be restored to native woodland in the felling programme. There is already good growth of birch, particularly along gullies but there is potential to extend the woodland further up the hill above the existing tree line, closer to the natural tree line, as well as across the hill to join up the existing native woodland areas. Native woodland (open canopy and scattered trees) already extends across about 42.75 ha in coupe 45739 (total coupe size 65.75 ha) and of this, approximately 29 ha spreads across hill slopes. The plan is to extend native tree cover by a further 23 ha (gross). Deer control will reduce grazing and browsing pressure, with the aim of creating an open canopy structure with approximately 40% native tree cover and 60% open ground.</p>



Coupe 45719:

The proposal is to create a new area of woodland in the open field in coupe 45719, on South-West facing slopes at Achvlair in Bealach forest. The coupe (field) size is 14.88ha and forest will be created in 10.57ha of this, leaving 4.31 ha open ground. The new woodland area will be stocked in two parts: the upper part (4.76ha) of the field will be planted with mixed broadleaves (main species will be Birch - 60% BI, 20% OK, 20% MB) for productive forestry. Stands will be stocked at 2500 trees/ha and managed by light thinning every five years, starting when trees are 10m total height.

In the lower 5.81 ha of the field, natural regeneration of native species will be encouraged, expanding the existing riparian woodland northwards to create open canopied broadleaved woodland with at least 30% open ground. The existing riparian woodland comprises primarily Oak, Birch and Hazel and lies adjacent to, and is contiguous with, areas of ASNW. Supplementary planting of locally native species will be undertaken if natural regeneration is sparse.

4.31 ha of open ground will be retained, around the ruined buildings and archaeological remains that lie roughly in the centre of the field and to the East, and around the small watercourse and wet flush to the Eastern and South-Eastern part of the field. These areas will be managed as open ground.

The existing enclosure stock fence will be maintained and deer control will be undertaken to limit grazing and browsing damage.

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

45739:

Open hill with areas of established native birch woodland that extend across parts of the hill and along gullies.

The area adjoins the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA that is designated for raptors, particularly Golden eagle.

45719:

The land is currently an open field, used intermittently for grazing livestock, with evidence of previous improvements and cultivation, surrounded on three sides by commercial forestry and bounded on the southerly margin by the Salachan Burn and riparian woodland. Existing native woodland in the riparian areas will be protected and expanded and will benefit from the increased deer control effort that will result from this project. The ruined buildings; key archaeological remains; riparian / wet flush and related flora would be damaged by any direct planting but these areas will be protected and managed as open ground.

Bealach forest lies adjacent to an SPA designated for raptors, specifically Golden eagle but the site does not lie within the SPA.

The field is visible from within other parts of the forest and from the nearby B&B but the secluded nature of the glen means that the site is invisible from the A828 and the nearest settlement of Duror.

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.

45739:

The proposal is to expand the existing native woodland and it is anticipated that this will increase prey populations that would benefit raptors. The woodland will be created by natural regeneration and the open canopy structure and maintenance of open ground on the higher slopes and hill tops will retain habitat suitable for priority species.

45719:

The project will have a positive effect on the environment by enabling expansion of the native woodland, which is a priority habitat, into the field from the riparian zone. The open structure will provide good habitat for small mammals, which will benefit raptors. Planting in the northern section will increase biodiversity by introduction of a variety of broadleaved trees in an area that is rough grassland. Other key habitats and features will be protected and left unplanted, as described.

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.

Internal discussions with Environment, Planning and Delivery teams. General discussions with SNH.

### 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.

No significant impacts expected but in coupe 45719, ground preparation methods will limit ground disturbance and operations are well away from the burn and will be kept well back from the watercourse and wet flush, which are identified as open ground.

### 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
Special Protection Area (SPA)	23
Select...	
Select...	
Select...	
Select...	

### Property Details



Property Name:	Bealach		
Business Reference Number:	030/519/427	Main Location Code:	
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NN 0052 5119	Nearest town or locality:	Duror
Local Authority:	Highland		

Owner's Details			
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Andy
Surname:	Hunt		
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Acting Regional Manager
Primary Contact Number:	0300 067 6870	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	andy.hunt@forestryandland.gov.scot		
Address:	West Region, Torlundy, Fort William.		
Postcode:	PH33 6SW	Country:	Scotland
Is this the correspondence address?	Yes		

Agent's Details			
Title:	Dr	Forename:	Mandie
Surname:	Currie		
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Planning Forester
Primary Contact Number:	0131 370 5571	Alternative Contact Number:	0300 067 6870
Email:	mandie.currie@forestryandland.gov.scot		
Address:	West Region, Torlundy, Fort William.		
Postcode:	PH33 6SW	Country:	Scotland
Is this the correspondence address?	Yes		

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