

Appendix V: SSSI Management Plans

FAIRY KNOWE & DOON HILL SSSI

Start Date of Plan:- April 2024

End Date of Plan :- March 2029

Overall Management Aims & Objectives

The primary aim of the management of this SSSI is to conserve and improve the two neighbouring semi-natural woodlands which have communities rare throughout central Scotland and are therefore of National significance. Also to link the two woodlands by removing any remaining conifers, and to create one large stand of naturally regenerating broad-leaved woodland.

Section 1: Key information

Designated Site Name	Site code	Site Type	Total Area of designated site (ha)	Area within this LMP(ha)	% Within this LMP	% on SFL	Annex containing NatureScot site documentation
Fairy Knowe & Doon Hill	621	Broad-leaved and mixed yew woodland	42.84 ha	42.84 ha	100%	100%	Annex 2

Refer to the map in Annex 1, Figure 1 which highlights the location of the above designated sites in relation to this SSSI Management Plan (MP) boundary and Scotland's Forest and Land SFL management area.

For further detail on the designation refer to the NatureScot documentation in the above listed annex, which refers to the entire designated site area. The remainder of this plan will refer in detail to the element of the above designated site on FLS-managed ground.

All areas within the designation lie within SFL and so will be dealt with in Section 2.

Section 2: Features on SFL and condition

Only features that exist on SFL within this LMP are listed in the table below.

Site Code	Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	SCM Condition (Date assessed)	Condition on SFL	Management Classification (if relevant)
621	Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland	Upland oak woodland	758	29 th May 2008	Classed as unfavourable recovering.	N/A

Section 3: Pressures and proposed actions

Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work & other key limiting factors
Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland	Upland oak woodland	758	1. Conifers and non-native broad-leaves regenerating on the site. Since 2015 regular intervention has taken place but this is a continuing pressure. In 2019, a team covered the entire site and all non-native regeneration was removed.	Remove conifers and beech within the boundary and buffer of the SSSI.	Ongoing	Map in Annex 1, Figure 2
			2. In the previous plan, Stirling Council highlighted the compaction of the ground around the Scots pine on the summit of Doon Hill, high ground compaction and desire line pressure from high visitor numbers, and accumulation of unsightly 'fairy tokens' deemed to be littering. Since the last management plan, FLS have carried out actions to block off meandering desire lines, create brash barriers around the pine to alleviate compaction pressure, remove the	The FLS Aberfoyle Stewardship Team will continue in discussions with the Strathard community about dealing with the litter in a sensitive manner. Unofficial paths will continue to be blocked off.	Ongoing	N/A

Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work & other key limiting factors
			main proliferation of 'fairy tokens', and with NatureScot consent, erect interpretation and add 'fairy house' carvings throughout the wood to ease the pressure on the pine at the summit.			
			3. The SSSI continues to experience deer browsing pressure, and sheep have been observed on a number of occasions within the SSSI boundary. An updated HIA is required to re-evaluate the condition since the last assessment in 2020. This last assessment showed that regeneration of seedlings and saplings has been prevented from growing out of reach of herbivores in most locations. It also shows that there is a reduction in species richness of the site by herbivore impact as seen in the data for disturbance, preferential plants and other plants. Deer numbers are tackled through the Deer Management Plan in partnership with the FLS Wildlife team.	FLS will continue to implement the Deer Management Plan to ensure browsing is at a level that will allow further natural regeneration. Herbivore Impact Assessment toolbox to be used for condition monitoring every 2 years. Results from these HIAs will be forwarded to NatureScot and used to inform the cull effort as part of the Deer Management Plan. Steps will be taken to remove the sheep from the site. New stock fencing is needed, starting at the river at NN 52422 00440. This will help to ensure sheep are kept out of the site.	2024 and ongoing	N/A
			4. Proliferation of INNS along the bank of the river Forth on the northern boundary of the SSSI; Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> and American skunk	FLS will continue to manage INNS within the SSSI. Chemical eradication will be the necessary form of control for Knotweed and Skunk Cabbage. Himalayan	2024 - ongoing	Annex 1 – Figure 2

Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work & other key limiting factors
			cabbage <i>Lysichiton Americanus</i> are now recorded and under management by FLS Stewardship team.	balsam will be pulled up by hand.		

Section 4: Operations within this LMP that could negatively impact on the designated features on the SFL

Operation Type	Detailed description of operation and method	Mitigation measures to be applied	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
Conifer and exotic broad-leaved control.	Cutting	None	All Year	N/A
INNS vegetation control	Hand-pulling, cutting, chemical eradication	Chemical spraying will be undertaken by hand to ensure only INNS are targeted (avoiding notified features of the SSSI)	Seasonality dictates effectiveness of eradication method: May - September	N/A
Thinning and harvesting conifer crop	Felling of conifer crop near the south-western boundary of the SSSI area. Trees will be felled mechanically and transported from the site on the forest road	All operators to be made aware of the sensitivity of the site and this will be highlighted in any risk assessments. Site boundaries will be observed by all plant operators, with no vehicles entering the SSSI during these works; all lifting will be undertaken from outwith the SSSI boundary. Apply PPM.	Work will be timed to limit disturbance on site. Where protected species are thought to be present nearby, work will take place between Sept and March.	Map in Annex 1, Figure 3

Section 5: Operations or aspects of Scotland’s Forest and Land within this LMP that could impact on designated sites adjacent to FLS-managed land

Operation Type / Aspect of forest	Detailed description of issue or operation	Proposed action &/or mitigation	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
None				

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

N/A

Section 7 Approvals, agreements & signatures

I confirm that the above management plan which covers the Fairy Knowe and Doon Hill SSSI (Site code 621) within FLS Land Management Plan of East Loch Ard, 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.

NatureScot Signature

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NatureScot Name ...Peter Kelly.....April 2024...

NatureScot Job TitleOperations Officer.....

Address ...Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling.

Email peter.kelly@nature.scot.....

Contact telephone number ...01738 458527.....

FLS has a corporate requirement under UKWAS (2nd 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.

FLS Signature

Date

FLS Name

Annex 1

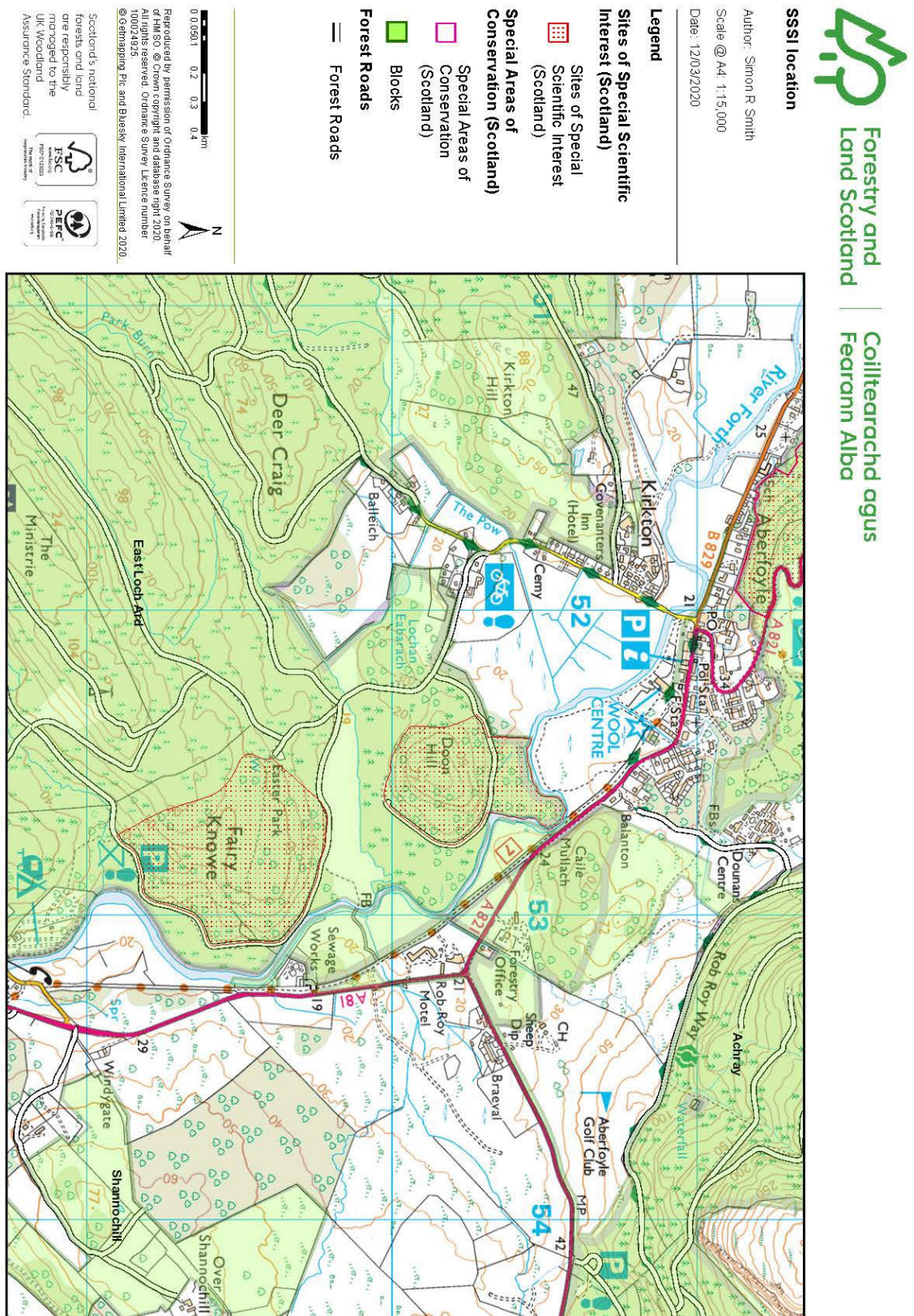


Figure 1: Map highlighting the location of the designated site in relation to this Management Plan boundary and the FLS management area

SSSI Ongoing management

Author: Simon R Smith

Scale @ A4: 1:15,000

Date: 10/12/2019

Legend

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Scotland)

 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Scotland)

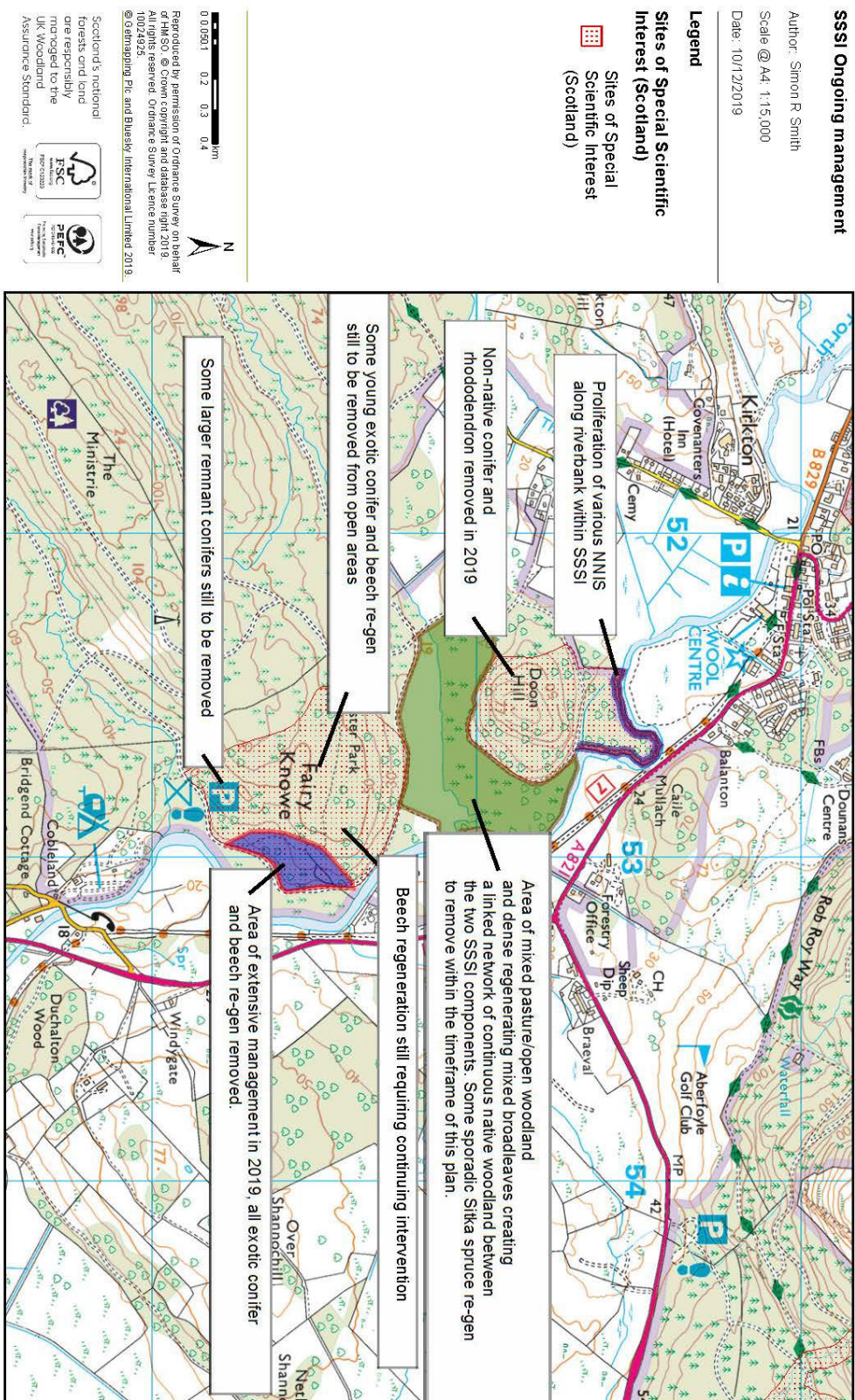
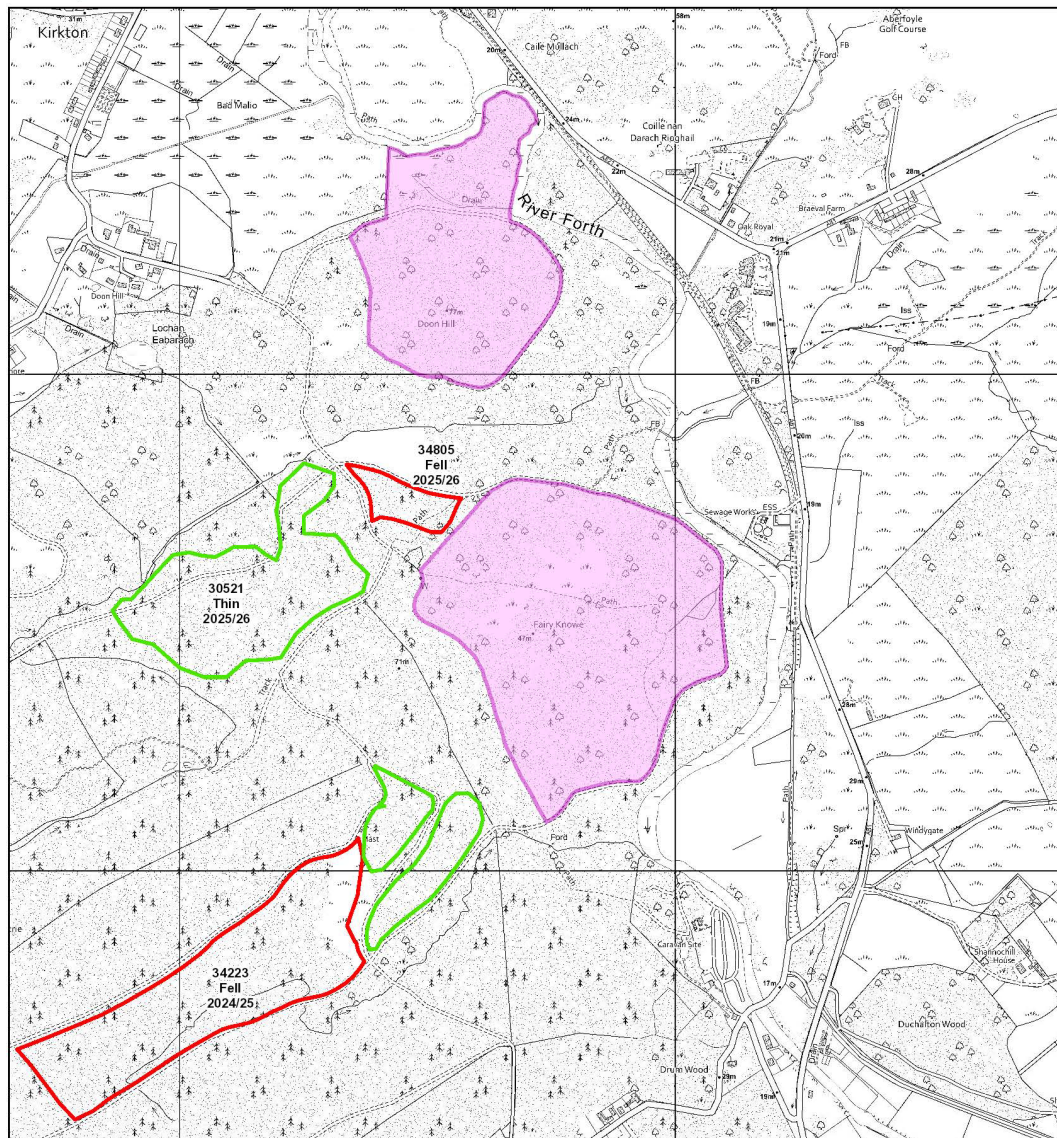


Figure 2: Map of areas of INNS control



Planned works near SSSI

Scale @ A3: 1:7,500

Date: 15/05/2024

Author: Jasmine Clark

Legend

 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Harvesting Programme (Editable)

 Clearfell

 Thin

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 km

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Scotland's national
forests and land
are responsibly
managed to the
UK Woodland
Assurance Standard.



Figure 3: Map of Operations Around SSSI Sites Financial Years 2024-2029

DRUMORE WOOD SSSI

Start Date of Plan:- April 2024

End Date of Plan :- March 2029

Overall Management Aims & Objectives

The management of the SSSI should through time, improve the age structure of the oak and Scot's Pine woodlands, increase the amount of native regeneration and improve the ground flora. Removal of the large number of young sitka spruce and western hemlock regenerating on the site, reducing deer numbers and areas covered by dense bracken, would help the overall habitat recover. The few Aspen on the site are not under threat from encroaching birch at present but the situation should continue to be monitored. Osprey, Redstart, Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler and many other bird species are recorded in the woods and any management should be carried out to avoid disturbance at the critical breeding times. There is a large population of wood ants *Formica aquilonia*. Capercaillie (Schedule II and Red Data Book species) was last reported in 2003 when one hen bird was seen, but the habitat these birds require and which is known they have used in the past, should be maintained. The small enclosures contains a few juniper bushes.

Section 1

Designated Site Name	Site code	Site Type	Total Area of designated site (ha)	Area within this LMP (ha)	% Within this LMP	% on NFE	Annex containing SNH site documentation
Drumore Wood SSSI	543	Upland Oak Wood	119.77ha	119.77ha	100%	100%	Annex 2

Refer to the map in Annex 1 which highlights the location of the above designated sites in relation to the LMP boundary and the NFE management area.

For further detail on the designation refer to the SNH documentation in the above listed annex, which refers to the entire designated site area. The remainder of this plan will refer in detail to the element of the above designated site on the NFE.

Description of how the area of each designation integrates with the NFE and with the other designations:

All designations lie within the NFE so will be dealt with in Section 2.

Section 2 Features on the NFE and condition

Only features that exist on the NFE within this LMP are listed in the table below.

Site Code	Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	SCM Condition (Date assessed)	Condition on NFE	Management Classification (if relevant)
543	Broad-leaved mixed & yew woodland	Upland Oak Woodland	758	Unfavourable Recovering (28 October 2008)	Classed as unfavourable, recovering.	N/A

Section 3 Pressures and proposed actions

Pressures & Proposed Actions:

Site Type	Feature description	Feature code	Pressures	Proposed action	Timescale	Location Map highlighting work & other key limiting factors
Broad-leaved mixed & yew woodland	Upland Oak Woodland	758	1. Deer pressure is high.	Between 2018-2023, nearly 2,500 deer were culled from the Loch Ard management plan area, in which the SSSI sits. There is now an estimated density of 3-7 deer/km ² , roughly equating to 550 individuals. Deer numbers should continue to be reduced. Culling will take place throughout this area in accordance with the Cowal & Trossachs Forest Districts Goat and Deer Management Plans. The target number of deer per km ² is 2-5. (See note below *)	Ongoing	Entire site – See Main SSSI Map in Annex 1
			2. Sitka Spruce / Western Hemlock regeneration	A widespread clearance programme of regen was carried out in 2022. Survey in 2023 showed non-native regen as less than 1% of site. Monitor the site for re-establishing regen every 5 years. If necessary, spray small	Ongoing	Entire site - See Main SSSI Map in Annex 1

				seedlings with glyphosate and/or cut larger trees. Trees will be cut below the lowest branches to ensure no regrowth. Cut trees will be cut up and dragged into piles and left on site to break down.		
			3. Rhododendron bushes have become established in some parts of the site.	Chemical injection with glyphosate, cutting and spraying of bushes. Spray any re-growth within 2 years of cutting.	A rolling programme of work over the next five years, 2024-2029.	See Map in Annex 1 showing main areas of rhododendron. However, bushes can be found scattered over the entire site.
			4. Monitor the aspen for birch encroachment.	Last monitored in 2024, no encroachment recorded. Monitor every five years. If encroachment is an issue, birch should be felled, cut and dragged into piles.	Ongoing	Location NS48649886

* A considerable effort has been made by the deer management team to control deer within the SSSI. Control is currently carried out by directly employed FLS Wildlife Ranger staff. All opportunities to reduce deer numbers are being taken through the use of Out of season and Night shooting, which conform with FLS policy.

Deer fencing has been used to protect native woodland establishment in small enclosures in parts of the site. The remnant juniper on site were included in one of the fenced areas. Additional juniper has been planted in the other enclosures. Out-with these fenced areas, protection of young trees and developing woodland will be through control of deer populations.

Once the areas are sufficiently established, a programme of fence removal will be instituted.

Section 4 Operations within the LMP that could impact on the designated features on the NFE

Operation Type	Detailed description of operation and method	Mitigation measures to be applied	Timing	Map reference & other relevant comments
Sitka Spruce / Western Hemlock/ Rhododendron removal	Chemical injection, cutting and spraying using glyphosate.	Monitor the site for re-establishing regen every 5 years. If necessary, spray small seedlings with glyphosate and/or cut larger trees. Trees will be cut below the lowest branches to ensure no regrowth. Cut trees will be cut up and dragged into piles and left on site to break down.	All Year	See Map in Annex 1 – Entire site

Section 5 Operations within the LMP or aspects of the national forest estate within the LMP 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
Harvesting	Programmed harvesting directly adjacent to the SSSI.	There will be no machine access within the SSSI, and all designated features will be protected and retained.	2024 - 2029	See map in Annex 1

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

Section 7 Approvals, agreements & signatures

I confirm that the above management plan which covers the Drumore SSSI (Site code 543) within Land Management Plan of Drumore, 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.

SNH Signature Natalie Ward Date 30 May 2024

SNH Name Natalie Ward

SNH Job Title NatureScot Operations Officer - South..

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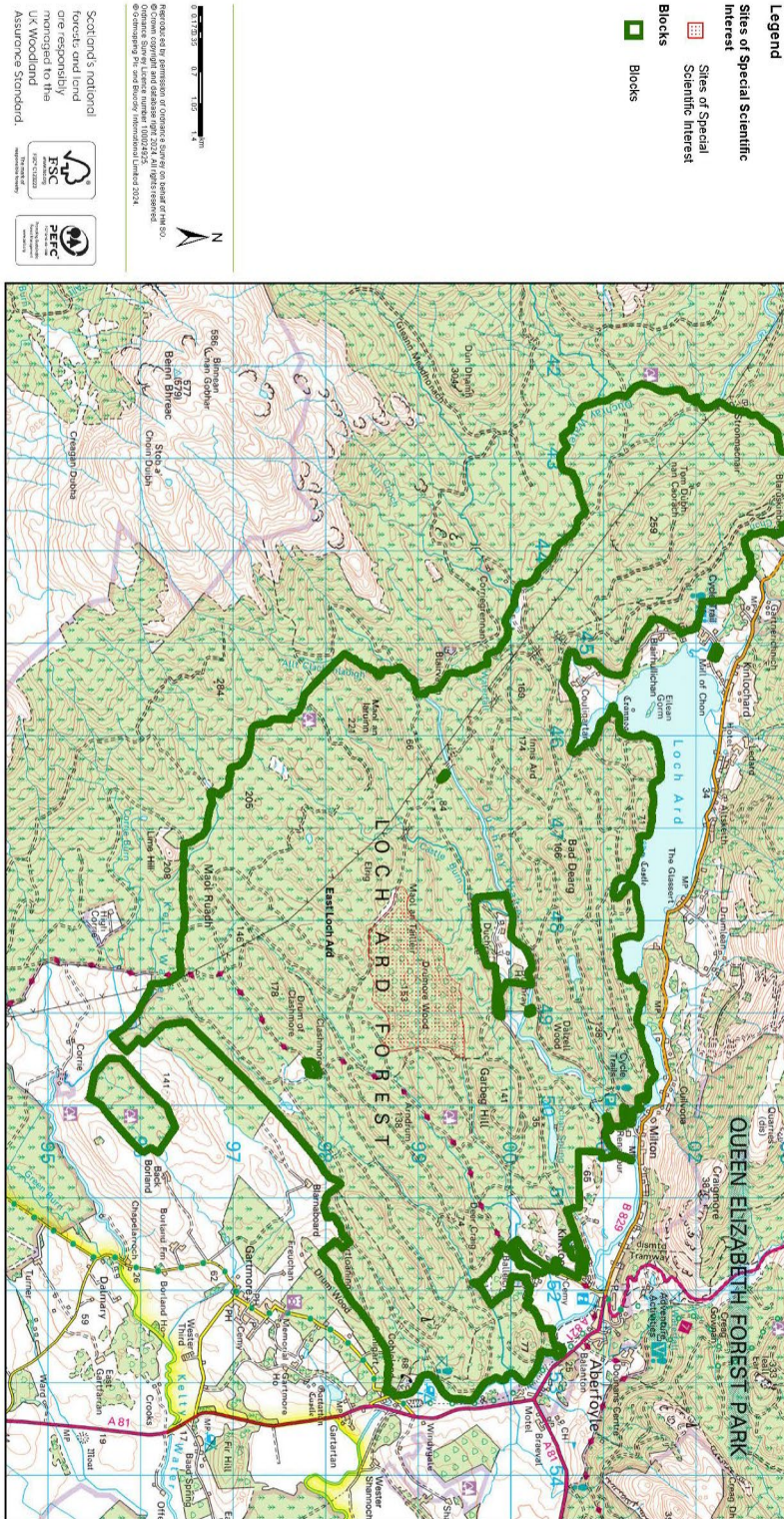
FLS has a corporate requirement under UKWAS (2nd edition) and under the FLS Framework Document for FES (2010) to manage all designated sites in accordance with plans approved by the statutory authority, I therefore sign below to approve the contents of this plan in relation to the designated site Drumore SSSI that fall within its boundary on the NFE.

FLS Signature Date

FLS Name

Drummore SSSI on the NFE

Author: Katy Anderson
Scale @ A3: 1:40,000
Date: 15/05/2024



Annex 1

Map highlighting the location of the designated site in relation to the LMP boundary and the NFE management area.