



Rest & Be Thankful Land Management Plan

M5: Design Concept

Legend

- Property Boundary
- General area of Unstable Ground
- Core Project Area

The primary project objective is to establish woodland and open ground vegetation that has the potential to reduce the incidence of water erosion and debris flows from the ground above the A83. This will be achieved by the removal of grazing pressure. Deer fencing is essential to achieve grazing control and successful tree establishment. Tree establishment will be by hand planting and natural regeneration. In relation to the woodland creation no mechanised access will occur above the A83. Rapid site capture of the site by tree species, while maintaining and enhancing the existing ground flora is essential. A diverse range of appropriate broadleaved species and planting densities will be used.

Native woodland can enhance the recreational experience and the aesthetic enjoyment of wild land. There is also a back story to the woodland development that is understandable and this can add interest to a walk. Deer fencing at high altitude, although essential for this project to succeed, is not a welcome feature for hill walkers in terms of aesthetics and practical access. High altitude fences are also constrained by practical considerations in terms of the path they can take. Well sited and designed gates can greatly reduce adverse impacts, and 4WD tracks for monitoring and establishment can provide additional high quality walking routes. The fence line will be adjusted to seek to minimise impacts where ever possible.



Scale: 1:10,000 @ A3

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In ecological terms the creation of a climax native woodland from the glen floor to the mountain top has the potential to greatly enhance biodiversity and landscape scale ecological linkages. Key bird species such as Golden Eagle and Black Grouse are likely to benefit from the proposals. By using appropriate species for the site and landscaping the upper margin ecological benefits are likely to accrue as the project matures by default. At high altitude wind clip often maintains the flora and the removal of grazing pressure in these areas is likely to increase floral diversity and resilience.

Landscape will be enhanced by matching species to the underlying vegetation pattern and varying densities will tend to highlight landform, for instance rock outcrops will tend to remain prominent in the landscape. Species such as Aspen and Birch can play a key landscape role. Natural regeneration will tend to follow sheltered gullies to create a diverse upper margin, and the planting pattern can replicate this natural effect. Open ground on wet flushes will be planted on unstable slopes as this is a key area for slope stabilisation. The use of native tree species appropriate to the site will facilitate the retention of the existing flora within a native woodland context. On stable areas outwith the core project area wet flushes and other open ground will be retained as per standard practice.

The proposal design and project implementation will be soundly based on research and there is considerable scope for the project to provide research opportunities and to contribute to the knowledge base in terms of slope stabilisation and the establishment of montane woodland.

Woodland establishment areas should seek to be of an appropriate landscape scale and well linked to the existing woodland where possible. Riparian corridors along the Croe Water are essential for both these landscape elements. Conversion of existing conifer woodland in Glen Croe to protection forest and stabilisation of slopes should link with the work proposed for the Rest & Be Thankful Project.

The planting design and deer fence layout will seek to retain ease of access for the maintenance and inspection of hard engineering structures. There is scope through natural regeneration or planting for the adverse landscape of these features to be mitigated.

Archaeological features tend to occur along the Croe Water and these features will be identified and protected with appropriate buffers left to enhance the setting. The native broadleaved nature of the woodland and the absence of mechanised ground preparation reduce the possibility of any detrimental impacts on archaeology.

