

**WIND FARM**  
SS regeneration under wind farm is prolific and affecting upland habitats. It could be claimed as woodland, respaced, cleared for biomass or open land or planted with BLs.

**LARCH**  
Areas of difficult to fell or isolated Larch need to be identified and a plan as to how to fell them if there is a SPHN for *Phytophthora ramorum*, established

**WIND HAZARD CLASS**  
Most of Wind Hazard Class 5 (second highest risk) is along the boundary and is already open land. High wind hazard class negates the ability to thin.

**EDGE HABITATS**  
Upland edge of the forest has UKBAP priority habitats such as peatland, heaths and grasslands, requiring low deer numbers to flourish. Some peatland restoration is programmed in.

**DIFFICULT STEEP GROUND COUPES**  
A strategic plan is needed to fell and restock the difficult steep ground coupes

**POOR ACCESS**  
Currently there is poor access to the edge of the forest with a proposed road, but most of this area is open habitats. The proposed road needs reviewing

**POOR PERFORMING BROADLEAVES**  
Areas mapped as BLs are performing badly, out competed by unmaintained SS regeneration and grazed by deer

**WIND BLOW**  
The amount of wind blow, especially after Storm Arwen, has skewed the previous programme for roads, felling, restocking, thinning and other works.

**POOR SITKA SPRUCE GROWTH**  
Poor SS growth along western edge on peaty soils.

**EUROPEAN PROTECTED SPECIES**  
EPS need sensitively managed forestry

**NATURAL RESERVES**  
Natural reserves are retaining wildlife even though they are windblown

**FUTURE SPECIES**  
SS is currently growing well in some areas, but new planting is not fertilised or drained as previous crops were. Climate models show the East getting drier, less suitable for SS, potentially creating more opportunity for diverse species increasing the resilience to pests and diseases.

**STEEP GROUND WORKING/LARCH**  
Areas of steep ground cause felling to be particularly challenging. Some of the steep ground has Larch growing on it and whilst this area is not required to have an active programme of Larch removal, there will need to be consideration as to how to remove this if need be, in a timely manner.

**PAWS AND BIG TREE GLEN**  
The Drumtochty Glen is a priority for restoring PAWS but also has magnificent specimen conifers. These trees need retaining whilst ensuring regeneration from them is controlled within the PAWS area.

**WAYLEAVES**  
Wayleaves to be widened removing trees and potentially creating a vulnerable brown edge. However, widening of wayleave may give an opportunity to restore PAWS in the priority PAWS area

**BOUNDARY ISSUE**  
Very harsh edge to the forest runs along the top of the ridge of Strathfinella Hill and could be vulnerable to windblow

**WIND BLOW**  
Amount of wind blow especially after Storm Arwen has skewed the programme of works for roads, clearing the wind blow, felling programme, thinning, replanting and other works. This has particularly affected South Drumtochty.

**CONTINUOUS COVER FORESTRY/ LONG TERM RETENTION**  
Existing CCF and LTR areas need reviewing post Storm Arwen. Some areas have missed their thinning window or are now more exposed due to adjacent wind blow

**ACCESS AND HAULAGE ACCESS**  
All access points and haulage rights of access need to be reviewed

**RIPARIAN AREAS**  
Most riparian areas have filled with SS regeneration, and are now non compliant with UKWAS as the open area is too narrow

**THINNING/DO THISTROMA NEEDLE BLIGHT**  
Areas of Pine were successfully previously thinned to reduce the spread of DNB. However thinning programme has stalled due to pressures of clearing wind blow from Storm Arwen. Review of thinning programme is needed.

**WATER QUALITY STATUS**  
The Luther Water is a moderate water quality status

**FLOOD RISK AUCHENBLAE**  
See Overall Context Map

**OVERSIZED TIMBER**  
There is a high proportion of SS over YC24, which needs to be programmed for felling before it is too big for the sawmills, especially if it is in a high Wind Hazard class area

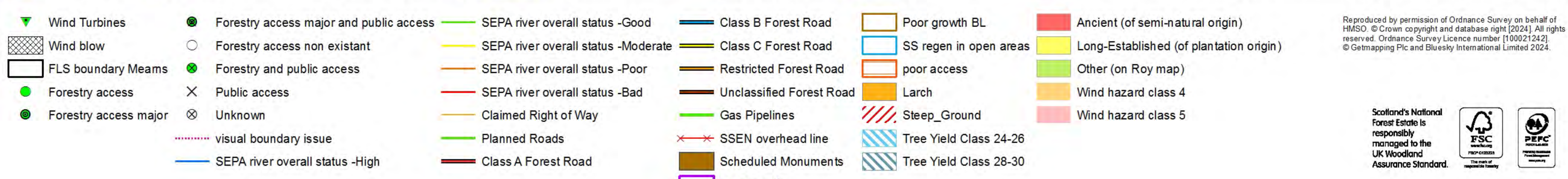
**RED SQUIRRELS**  
Red squirrel habitats may have been fragmented by the extent of wind blow

**DRUMTOCHTY ZONE**  
As well as its' south edge being highly visible, in the LLA and used by visitors, this area has more diverse species and priority PAWS. The current wind blow may offer opportunities to build on the diversity of species

**MEARNS LMP, EAST REGION**  
**ISSUES GLEN FARQUHAR AND DRUMTOCHTY**

Scale @ A0: 1:12,500  
Date: 17/07/2024  
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0 0.1 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Km



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