

Part 1 – Landowner’s Details

(If owned by a business, the details must be for that business)

Title: mr	Forename: Peter		
Surname: Watson			
Business: Forestry and Land Scotland		Position: Forest Planner	
Primary Contact Number: 03000676000		Alternative Contact Number: 07887307810	
Email: East.planning@forestryandland.gov.scot peter.watson@forestryandland.gov.scot			
Address: Forestry and Land Scotland, East Region, Kirkton of Durris,			
		Postcode: AB31 6BP	Country: Scotland

Please note: We do not accept applications ‘care of’.

Agent’s Details

(You must submit a mandate with the application. A template can be found on our [website](#))

Title:	Forename:		
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	Country:

Part 2a – Property Details

Name of Property: Bennachie		
Name of Wood: Bennachie Forest		
Grid Reference (of centre of principal felling area): NJ 6619 2236		
Nearest Town or Locality Name: Kemnay		
Local Authority: Aberdeenshire Council		
Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your land?	YES ☒	NO ☐
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.		

Part 2b – Felling Operations

Please provide detailed information about the proposed felling operations.

When do you wish to start felling? 01/01/27

When do you wish to finish felling? 01/01/29

Felling Operations Table

- The type of operation (Op) should be either *Clear Felling (CF)*, *Thinning (T)*, *Selective Felling (SLF)*, *Felling of Coppice (FC)*, or the *Felling of Individual Trees (FI)*.
- The species that can be felled can be expressed by name (e.g. *Oak* or *Sitka Spruce*) or by standard forestry abbreviation (e.g. *OK* or *SS*). You must give only one species choice per row.
- You can use Mixed Conifer (MC) or Mixed Broadleaves (MB) but these must make up no more than 20% of the total area of species to be felled. You must give individual species names if they occupy more than 20% of the felling area.
- If thinning, use the rightmost columns to insert the details based on your preferred method, chosen from the following (select one):**
 - Pre/Post stocking density (stems per hectare)** ☐
 - Pre/Post Basal Area (square metres per hectare)** ☐
 - Volume to be removed (cubic metres)** ☒

Felling Site/ Cpt	Ty pe of Op	Species to be felled (one per row)	Marking of Trees	Est Area (ha)	Approx Age (Years)	No of Trees	Est Vol m ³	Thinning Details (per ha)	
								Pre	Post
32330	CF	SS	n/a	3.4	60	2,530	1,344	n/a	n/a
32330	CF	SP	n/a	0.4	60	95	143	n/a	n/a
32330	CF	HL	n/a	1.5	60	521	353	n/a	n/a
32631	CF	JL	n/a	4.7	75	955	1,401	n/a	n/a
32631	CF	DF	n/a	1.4	75	400	527	n/a	n/a
32631	CF	SS	n/a	0.6	75	155	239	n/a	n/a
32083	CF	SS	n/a	4.17	65	2,594	1,683	n/a	n/a
32083	CF	DF	n/a	0.09	65	20	18	n/a	n/a

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32083	CF	NS	n/a	0.2	75	64	116	n/a	n/a
32083	CF	SP	n/a	0.3	75	108	85	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	SS	n/a	3.2	65	1,427	1,245	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	SS	n/a	3	26	7,042	315	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	SP	n/a	2.9	65	1,046	847	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	LP	n/a	3	65	3,279	639	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	HL	n/a	0.4	65	136	98	n/a	n/a
32998	CF	EL	n/a	4.2	65	1,884	1,916	n/a	n/a
32099	CF	SS	n/a	6.7	65	2,706	4,628	n/a	n/a
32099	CF	SP	n/a	0.6	65	285	168	n/a	n/a
32099	CF	JL	n/a	0.26	80	347	185	n/a	n/a
32680	CF	SS	n/a	0.3	65	100	107	n/a	n/a
32680	CF	SP	n/a	0.4	65	509	128	n/a	n/a
32680	CF	LP	n/a	0.8	65	1,582	278	n/a	n/a
32680	CF	HL	n/a	2.4	65	641	566	n/a	n/a
32010	T	SS/SP/ HL/EL/ JL/DF/ LP/BI	n/a	62		26,983	2,329		
32020	T	SS/SP/ HL/EL/ JL/DF/ LP/BI	n/a	79		31,728	3,107		
		Total Area (ha)			Total Volume m³ :				
		Clear-fell		44.9			17,029		
		Thinning		141			5,436		

You must give your reasons below for carrying out this work and any additional information that would help us consider your application, such as any constraints or sensitivities that you have planned for, particularly where you want the felling approval to

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go beyond 2 years. If you have selected thinning, you must provide us with the thinning prescription you intend to use.

All clearfell coupes identified within this application are Phase 3 felling coupes approved under the current Land Management Plan (LMP).

The current LMP is due to expire in 2027. Owing to resource constraints, the subsequent Long-Term Plan (LTP) will not be prepared and approved in sufficient time to support the planned 2027/28 harvesting programme. An interim felling permission is therefore being sought to ensure continuity of sustainable forest management and delivery of the approved harvesting programme.

The proposed Phase 3 coupes represent a reduced programme compared with that originally proposed under the current LMP. This was informed by the following:

- The sustainable harvest level across Phases 1 to 4 was assessed and approved through the previous LMP process.
- Significant windblow events necessitated additional harvesting activity during Phases 1 and 2, resulting in a proportion of the planned timber volume being brought forward.
- The proposed interim felling programme will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming LTP process to ensure that long-term sustainable forest management objectives continue to be met.

Coupe boundaries have been designed to reflect operational, environmental and stand adjacency constraints within each forest block. The shape and extent of each coupe have been determined following consideration of access requirements, extraction routes, stacking capacity, windfirm boundaries and operational efficiency.

Felling permission is required prior to the expiry of the current LMP to allow sufficient time for the marketing and procurement of harvesting contracts. Marketing of the proposed sites is anticipated to take place between February and March 2027, enabling harvesting operations to be undertaken between April and August 2027. Thereafter, environmental and climatic constraints are expected to significantly restrict harvesting opportunities, making early approval essential for programme delivery.

Coupe 32631

The boundary of Coupe 32631 has been revised from that shown within the current LMP to incorporate an area of existing windblow and establish a more windfirm and operationally practical forest edge. As a result of these amendments, the overall coupe area has been reduced compared with the originally approved design.

Thinning Proposals

Thinning coupes 32010 and 32020 were originally programmed for implementation during Phases 1 and 2 of the current LMP. However, these operations were deferred to allow available resources to be prioritised towards windblow clearance activities. The proposed thinning volumes have been calculated as a single intervention within each sub-compartment, as shown on the accompanying thinning maps.

The proposed thinning prescription is:

- First thinning: establishment of primary extraction racks through the removal of two rows in every ten, combined with a light matrix thinning.
- Subsequent thinning operations: intermediate thinning up to approximately 70% of Mean Annual Increment (MAI).

Environmental and Operational Constraints

The principal constraints associated with the proposed felling and thinning operations are as follows:

- Several of the proposed coupes are located within areas classified as Long-Established Plantation Origin (LEPO) woodland. Operations within these areas will be undertaken in accordance with UK Forestry Standard requirements, taking account of opportunities to enhance woodland structure, biodiversity and long-term site resilience.
- Protected and notable species, including breeding birds, badgers and red squirrels, are known to occur throughout several coupes and will be safeguarded through pre-operational surveys and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.
- Utilities and neighbouring receptors are present within the vicinity of Coupe 32631, including overhead powerlines, neighbouring properties and a public roadside boundary. Consultation and operational planning will be undertaken with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN), adjacent residents and other relevant stakeholders as required prior to commencement of harvesting operations.

Further information on identified constraints and associated measures is provided within the accompanying Constraints Table.

Please provide details on the stakeholder engagement you have undertaken, this must include contact with adjacent properties and potentially affected neighbours.

Individual / Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action
e.g. Mrs Mackenzie, Fearnan House, meeting	14/10/2019	20/10/2019	Private water supply in SE corner of area to be felled.	Ensure route of water supply is protected during operations and liaise with owner.

Please provide information on any features or issues that you have identified.

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Feature / Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Animal Species	Schedule 1 bird nest active recently within 32998.	Nest to be monitored prior to operations and undisturbed during breeding season if active.
Animal Species	Nests recorded within coupe 32083, 32330, 32680 in the past.	Nests to be monitored before operations. No work during breeding season if active.
Animal Species	Squirrel dreys recorded 32083, 32330, 32680 & 32631.	If possible, no operations in vicinity of squirrel dreys during breeding season, relevant license procured otherwise.
Animal Species	Unactive Badger setts.	Surveyed and if required - operational boundaries marked prior to operations, any felling to take place using approved methods. Any license necessary will be sought prior to operations.
Native Woodlands & PAWS	All coupes are within LEPO designated areas	Opportunities to retain any veteran trees, particularly native species. Other features of ecological or historical significance to be identified at pre-operational stage and retained if possible.
Utilities	Water mains located adjacent to 32631, potentially to be crossed for timber extraction.	Scottish Water to be consulted prior operations to discuss whether mitigations required.
Utilities	Underground powerline adjacent to coupe 32631.	SSEN to be consulted prior to operation and any mitigations such as shutdowns agreed during the operational planning stage.

Part 3 – Proposed Restocking

We expect the area to be restocked unless you are thinning. Under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018, we attach a continuing condition to the permission to secure restocking. You will be notified of these conditions before we issue the permission.

Restocking Proposal Table:

Use the table below to tell us how you intend to restock the areas felled. Please note that you can group felled areas together that are to be restocked in the same way. You must show a restock proposal for 100% of the felled area. If you intend to restock an alternative area, you must submit a map of the alternative area. You must give only one species choice per row.



Felling Site/Cpt(s)	Restocking proposal	Species (one per row)	% of site	Area (ha)	Density (stems per ha)	No of Trees	Alt Restock Site/Cpt (s)
32330	RF	BI	50	1.4	1600	2,240	
32330	RF	AR	50	1.4	1600	2,240	
32330	RF	BI/PBI	100	2.5	1600	4,000	
32631	RF	DF	50	2.7	2700	7,209	
32631	RF	BE	50	2.7	2700	7,209	
32631	RF	SP	80	2.9	2700	7,830	
32631	RF	BI/PBI	20	0.7	2700	1,890	
32083	RF	BI/PBI	80	2.53	2700	6,831	
32083	NR	SS	20	0.64	2700	1,728	
32083	RF	NMB	100	1.43	1600	2,288	
32998	RF	NS	80	11.36	2700	30,672	
32998	RF	ESF	20	2.84	2700	7,668	
32099	RF	SS	80	5.36	2700	14,472	
32099	RF	AR	20	1.34	1600	2,872	
32680	RF	SS	100	4.1	2700	10,935	
				Total Area:	44.9		

- The restocking proposal should be either to replant the felled area (RF), restock by natural regeneration (NR), plant an alternative area (AA), restock with coppice regrowth (CR), restock with individual trees (IT), plant an alternative area with individual trees (AAIT), or create designed open ground (OG).
- If you are intending to deforest the site, insert do not intend to restock (DIR) in the Restocking Proposal column. Note that your application is unlikely to be approved if the site

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is to be deforested and no alternative area of restocking is proposed (see the Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal).

Please give a detailed description of your restocking proposals here. Please provide an evidenced justification where you want the restocking approval to go beyond the standard 2 years, for example the submission of a *Hylobius* management plan. (Use a separate sheet if necessary)

Please note that as the current LMP expires shortly, the restock prescriptions may be changed in the future as part of the next LTP submission. The prescriptions listed will be carried out should the LMP fail to be renewed before restocking operations are due to be carried out.

Much of the restocking carried out will be conifer species at a minimum of 2,700 stems per ha.

Areas of broadleaved species in riparian zones and amenity woodland areas will incorporate an open space component and will be restocked at 1,600 stems per ha.

You must provide maps showing the felling and restocking areas of your application. The map must meet the standards we require. These are set out in the [mapping standards page](#) on our website.

1. Are there any Tree Preservation Orders on the trees to be felled?

No 07/09/26

If Yes, give details below:

The following Tree Preservation Order applies to the trees in this application

Order Made by:	
Nearest Town or locality name:	
Title of Order:	Date of Order:

2. Are any of the trees to be felled in a Conservation Area?

No 07/09/26

The following Conservation Area applies to the trees in this application

Details of Conservation Area: _____

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Part 5 – Declarations

I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have submitted a signed mandate form with this application;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I have read, understand and hereby acknowledge that Scottish Ministers may process any of my personal data contained in or relating to this application in accordance with the terms of [Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice](#);
- Where applicable and appropriate I have submitted an EIA screening opinion form for operations contained within this application under the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017;
- I have read and understand this application fully and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in this application is complete, true, and accurate; and
- I accept that any false or misleading information provided in this application constitutes an offence and may result in any felling permission based on this application being revoked at any time.

Signed _____ Print _____ Date ____/____/____

[This application may only be signed by the owner of the land or the occupier of that land where they have written permission to do so. For land owned by a business it must be signed by someone with the authority to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business. If you are an agent signing this on behalf of the aforementioned you must append a copy of your mandate.]

DO NOT START FELLING UNTIL YOU HAVE AN APPROVED FELLING PERMISSION