



Forestry and  
Land Scotland  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba

# Ochertyre Moss Wood Land Management Plan

## 2025 - 2035

We manage Scotland's National Forest Estate to the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard – the standard endorsed in the UK by the international Forest Stewardship Council® and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification. We are independently audited.

Our land management plans bring together key information, enable us to evaluate options and plan responsibly for the future. We welcome comments on these plans at any time.



The mark of  
responsible forestry





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## A. Description of Woodlands

### A.1 Property Details

Property Name:	Ochertyre Moss Wood		
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NS 74338 97303	Nearest town or locality:	Stirling
Local Authority:	Stirling		
LMP Plan area (hectares):	96.45 ha		
<b>Owner's Details</b>			
Title:	Mrs.	Forename:	Carol
Surname:	McGinnes		
Organisation:	Forestry and Land Scotland	Position:	Regional Manager
Primary Contact Number:	0131 370 5622	Alternative Contact Number:	07917271577
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Postcode:	FK8 3UX	Country:	Scotland
<b>Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:</b>			
LMP Reference Number:			
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

### Version History

Version	Date	Comments
0.1	02/07/2024	RT - Initial draft
0.2	16/07/2024	
0.3	24/07/2024	
0.4	23/08/2024	
0.5	06/09/2024	RT – formatting changes



Declaration			
<p><b>I hereby apply for a permission to fell the trees described in this application and I certify that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;</li> <li>• Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;</li> <li>• If I am an acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;</li> <li>• Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;</li> <li>• I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;</li> <li>• I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;</li> <li>• I 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, a copy of which is available at <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.scot">www.forestry.gov.scot</a>;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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, and</li> <li>• I have read and understand Scottish Forestry's Privacy Notice, a copy of which is available at <a href="https://forestry.gov.scot/privacy-complaints-freedom-of-information-and-requests-for-information">https://forestry.gov.scot/privacy-complaints-freedom-of-information-and-requests-for-information</a>.</li> </ul>			
Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your land? Delete as appropriate.	YES	NO	
<p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable</b></p>			
Signed:		Print:	
		Date:	



## A.2 Location and Background

Ochertyre Moss Wood is 96.45 ha, 35.13 hectares of which form the main body of the Ochertyre Moss SSSI. The wood lies 7 kilometres to the north-west of Stirling and is close to the hamlet of Blair Drummond. It is visible from the A84 and minor roads to the west and south. It is a remnant of the extensive lowland raised mire system, which formerly covered the Carse of Stirling and was systematically cleared by the Moss Lairds during the agricultural improvements of the 18th & 19th centuries. The surrounding landscape is characterised by flat open floodplains and agricultural land, which dramatically contrasts with the adjacent escarpments of the Ochils and Fintry, Gargunnock and Touch Hills. The main entrance to the site is off the A84. See **map titled Location**.

## A.3 Existing Schemes & Permissions

Type (e.g. Felling Permission)	Ref. No.	Details
N/A	N/A	N/A

## A.4 Stakeholder Engagement

Scoping – Main Points	LMP Reference (section/page):
Biodiversity – High value site due to Ochertyre Moss SSSI lowland raised bog habitat and the spider, <i>Heliophanus dampfi</i> . Site also contains valuable native birch woodland habitat.	<a href="#">A.6.9 Biodiversity</a> page 9 <a href="#">C.2.14 Biodiversity</a> page 21
INNS – <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> spreading throughout the site	<a href="#">A.6.10 Invasive Species</a> page 9 <a href="#">C.2.16 Invasive species</a> page 22
Hydrology – Concerns from surrounding neighbours of flooding associated with woodland removal.	<a href="#">A.6.4 Hydrology</a> page 7 <a href="#">C.2.8 Hydrology</a> page 21



## A.5 Long Term Vision and Management Objectives

### Vision

Describe your long term vision for the LMP area.

Woodlands and peatlands providing benefits for biodiversity, climate, landscape and community.

### Management Objectives

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)	Indicator of objective being met
1	Manage sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) in accordance with a plan agreed by Nature Scot and, where appropriate, seek opportunities to expand the area of lowland raised bog habitat throughout the LMP area.	Scrub removal from area of active raised lowland bog within the SSSI and monitoring and maintenance of water table levels throughout the LMP area.
2	Protect water quality in relation to both private and public water supplies and reduce flood risk through restoration of bog habitat.	Maintenance and expansion of typical peat forming species and that of a of a high-water table will show improvement to the overall hydrology and function of the bog.
3	Remove invasive species to protect and enhance cultural assets and key wildlife species/protected habitats.	Reduction of INNS and continued monitoring of species and habitats.

## A.6 General Site Description

### A.6.1 Topography

Ochertyre Moss Wood is situated north-west of Stirling within the broad, flat floodplain of the River Forth. It falls within the Carselands Landscape Character Type as described by Nature Scot. The woodland is visible from the A84 and minor roads to the west and south. Agricultural land accounts for substantial parts of the surrounding landscape and supports a network of large, rectilinear mostly arable fields of barley, oats and Timothy grass as well as grazing land, divided by post and wire fences or occasional sparse, broken hedgerow lines, hedgerow trees and drainage ditches. The Carse of Forth valley floor is notable for its lack of woodland, which is limited to a few dispersed copses and



#### A.6.1 Topography

shelterbelts, and one conifer forest which edges the dark bogland and birch woodland of Ochertyre Moss.

#### A.6.2 Geology and Soils

The Land Management Plan area is located south of the Highland Boundary Fault and falls within the Central Lowlands. The geology of this area is dominated by younger volcanic and sedimentary rock assemblages. The bedrock of most of the site (including the entirety of the SSSI) is formed from Cromlix Mudstone while the remainder of the land (the south-eastern most corner) is comprised of Dunblane Sandstone. The superficial geology of the site is classified as peat. The only exceptions to this are the area on which Sitka and Norway spruce planted in 1987 and that of the triangular area of Scots Pine at the entrance to the site. Here, the superficial geology is classified as raised tidal flat deposits and consists of silt, clay and fine-grained sand with lenses of gravel. See **map titled Soils**.

#### A.6.3 Climate

The climate is warm and moist with low exposure.

#### A.6.4 Hydrology

Ochertyre Moss Wood falls within the River Forth catchment. The River Teith is situated to the north of the site while the River Forth is located to the south. Most of the site is bordered by artificial drains and there is also one within the site that borders the area planted with Sitka and Norway spruce. An extensive network of artificial drains runs through all the agricultural fields immediately adjacent to the site.

In response to the previous scoping exercise carried out by Tilhill in 2018, SEPA has stated that they are aware of two authorised private sewage discharges into field drains that are linked to the woodland. Rosecroft on Robertson's Lane has a CAR registration for a septic tanks discharge into a woodland boundary drain just inside the site area (NS 74107 96566). Robertson's Lane farmhouse has an old COPA consent for a sewage discharge to a field drain outwith the site area (NS 736 968). They stress that any blocking or realignment of drains should ensure there is adequate water retained in these drains to dilute existing sewage discharges. SEPA has also noted that there is an abandoned trial borehole at Nyadd Farm (approx. 200 m from site boundary at NS 74380 97460) and a private water supply source on Sommer's Lane.

##### **Flood Risk**

The site is within the ~125,527 Ha Stirling Drainage area and is in relatively close proximity to the downstream Objective Target Areas of Stirling & Bridge of Allan. Within the Stirling Drainage area there is ~ 35,287 Ha of woodland (~28% of the area) according to the National Forest Inventory. As part of that FLS ownership makes up ~17,389 Ha (~14%) of the drainage area. Of that, Ochertyre





#### A.6.4 Hydrology

Moss Wood makes up ~ 0.07% of the drainage area and therefore any individual operations on site would have a minimal impact on downstream flood risk.

#### A.6.5 Windthrow

Whilst there are small isolated fallen trees within the spruce crop the overall picture is of limited windthrow across the woodland. Using Forest Research's ForestGALES tool indicates a Wind Damage Risk Status of 1 (low).

#### A.6.6 Adjacent Land Use

The adjacent land use is primarily agricultural with large, mostly arable fields of barley, oats, and Timothy grass. These are divided by post-and-wire fences, or occasional sparse broken hedgerow lines or drainage ditches.

#### A.6.7 Access

##### **Recreational**

Responsible access in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 can be enjoyed throughout the wood. There are no core paths in the woodland and with limited access points and few residential properties nearby there is no significant public use.

##### **Operational**

Planning permission has been granted (Stirling Council Ref. 16/00834/FUL) for a new access point to facilitate future timber haulage. This construction has now been completed. Access to certain parts of the woodland will be periodically restricted for short periods during tree harvesting operations and sporting/deer control operations to manage public safety hazards and risks.

#### A.6.8 Historic environment

Historic Environment Scotland has stated that there are no scheduled monuments, category A-listed buildings or inventory gardens and designated landscapes within the boundary of the site. However, HES recommended seeking information and advice on matters including impacts on unscheduled archaeology and category B and C listed buildings from the local authority's archaeology and conservation services.

Stirling Council (correspondence with Richard Callendar; Senior Planning Officer) notes that with reference to the council's GIS, the presence of several unscheduled archaeological features are noted. However, they also say that any planting and ploughing undertaken to



#### A.6.8 Historic environment

create the current plantation along with earlier moss clearance would have likely destroyed other potential features of archaeological interest.

A gravestone (HER 2130) was noted by Tilhill during a desktop survey using PASTMAP. It appears to be located close to the A84 side of the property along the old access road that used to bisect the property.

#### A.6.9 Biodiversity

35.13 ha of the property is comprised of the Ochertyre Moss SSSI. The site was first notified under the 1981 Act: 31 January 1989 and reviewed under the 2004 Act: 18 September 2009. The natural features it was and is currently notified for include lowland raised bog habitat and the Bog Sun-jumping spider, *Heliophanus dampfi*.

The citation states that the SSSI is a remnant of the extensive lowland raised mire system which formerly covered the Carse of Stirling. This mire system was the most extensive of its type in Great Britain and has now been reduced to isolate remnants. Habitats of this type are nationally rare and declining.

The mire supports open *Sphagnum* lawns and peat pools, with the former being amongst the most extensive of their type in the Stirling Council area. A variety of bog mosses are found on the site, including *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum recurvum* and *Sphagnum magellanicum*, along with heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*. Other plant species characteristic of raised bogs are present, including cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, common sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, and bog rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*, the latter occurring here at the northern limits of its UK range. Mixed woodland with predominantly Scots pine and birch surrounds the active raised bog area.

The invertebrate fauna is nationally important for the population of the jumping spider *Heliophanus dampfi*, which is known from only two other sites in GB. This salticid is confined to raised bogs in northern and eastern Europe.

A Heronry is also present on site.

#### A.6.10 Invasive Species

In 2017 and 2018 NatureScot carried out some scrub control to clear birch and pine regrowth from the open area of bog and to treat Rhododendron in the adjacent woodland. Works undertaken were in line with the Management Plan for the South of Scotland Bog Scheme Agreement and included: Felling or pulling of scrub and sapling regrowth from the full SSSI area, immediate chemical treatment of stumps following felling as appropriate, weed-wiping birch regrowth and treatment of



#### A.6.10 Invasive Species

*Rhododendron ponticum*. It is anticipated that NatureScot will continue with this work in future years. Grants will be sought to carry out this work on a wider scale on the SSSI as bog restoration commences.

### A.7 Woodland Description

Ochertyre Moss Wood was purchased by FLS in early 2023. It was previously under private ownership and Tilhill Forestry had been hired to develop a Long-Term Forest Plan on their behalf in recent years. This plan was written but not executed. The property extends over an area of 96.45 hectares, 35.13 hectares of which form the main body of the Ochertyre Moss SSSI.

The site lies 7 kilometres to the north-west of Stirling and close to the hamlet of Blair Drummond. It is a remnant of the extensive lowland raised mire system which formerly covered the Carse of Stirling. It was systematically cleared by the Moss Lairds during the agricultural improvements of the 18th & 19th centuries.

There are large ponds in the middle of the SSSI, which are thought to have been created in the late 1700's as part of a complex system of reservoirs and channels constructed across the Carse of Stirling to facilitate peatland clearance by flushing moss and peat away from the Carse once it had been stripped off the surface of the land.

The forest is comprised mainly of Scots pine and birch which were planted between 1920 and 1965. Smaller areas of Sitka and Norway spruce were planted in 1987 on an area cleared of peat. During the winter of 1988-89, mature pine trees were removed as part of normal forestry operations. **See maps titled Current Species and Planting Year.**

#### A.7.1 Community and Recreation

There are no core paths in the woodland and with limited access points and few residential properties nearby there is no significant public use.



**Table 1 - Area by species**

This shows the current and future species composition within the entire Land Management Plan area.

Area by species						
Species (Add relevant species groups, or OG/OL)	Current*		Year 10*		Year 20*	
	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%	Area (ha)	%
Scots Pine	50.46	52.04	50.46	52.04	50.46	52.04
Birch	30.06	31.00	30.06	31.00	30.06	31.00
Open Ground	10.68	11.01	10.68	11.01	10.68	11.01
Sitka Spruce	3.72	3.84	0	0	0	0
Mixed Broadleaves / Sycamore	1.32	0.84	5.77	5.95	5.77	5.95
Norway Spruce	0.73	0.75	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96.97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96.97</b>	<b>100</b>

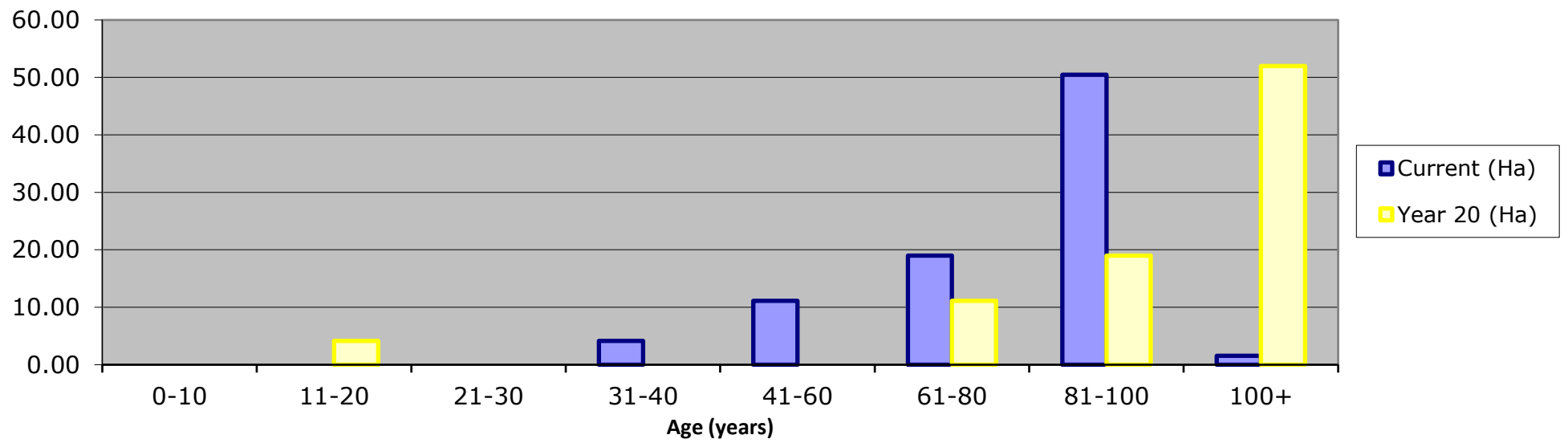
\* Of whole LMP area (including open ground (OG)). Any mixtures such as Mixed Conifer (MC) should be broken down and included as an individual species component where a species occupies more than 10%.



**Table 2 – Area by age**

This shows the woodland area broken down by age class and will show how well the woodland is distributed across the age classes.

Age class (years)	Current	Year 20
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)
0-10	0	0
11-20	0	4.15
21-30	0	0
31-40	4.15	0
41-60	11.14	0
61-80	19	11.14
81-100	50.45	19
100+	1.55	52
<b>Total</b>	86.29	86.29





### A.8 Plant Health

Hylobius, D. Micans and Dothistroma needle blight have previously been detected in the LMP area, however, effects of these on the LMP area are currently minimal.



## B. Analysis of Information

### B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

**See Map: Key Features**

Factor	Constraint	Opportunity
Ochertyre Moss Wood SSSI	Currently in unfavourable condition as a layer of Birch and Scots pine saplings are present on the open area.	Maintain and where appropriate, expand area of active raised bog
Local Nature Conservation Site / Non SSSI lowland raised bog	Area is forested and surrounded by drains. This is causing compaction, subsidence, and cracking of the peat.	Maintain and enhance the habitat through rhododendron removal and close monitoring of water table levels.
Ancient / Native Woodland Sites	Rhododendron and Sitka regeneration present.	Maintain and enhance where appropriate.
Landscape Character	Highly visible site with a lot of frontage. Any change will be very noticeable.	Assess how site currently sits in the landscape and how its character can be maintained and improved.
Invasive Species	Extensive patches of Rhododendron occur throughout the site. Removal is expensive, so additional sources of funding will likely need to be identified.	Eradicate Rhododendron on site to encourage growth of naturally growing vegetation communities.
Neighbouring Landowners	Concerns around the potential increase in waterlogging of their properties resulting from any deforestation and bog restoration activity.	Monitor hydrology of the site to reassure residents
Access	No clear access route to open area to perform scrub removal and other operations that may be required for restoration of the habitat.	Identify areas for access within the LMP area and/or work with neighbours to agree and arrange access from out with the site.





## B.1 Constraints and Opportunities

### Concept

#### See Map: Concept

**Ancient / Native Woodland Management:** Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce, and Sycamore to be felled and replaced with mixed broadleaves (primarily Birch) to maintain and enhance the character of the existing ancient / native woodland onsite, which consists mainly of Birch and Scots Pine.

Interventions within existing areas of ancient / native woodland to be limited to other maintenance measures and enhancement measures (such as rhododendron removal) and the installation of dip wells to determine hydrological connectivity to rest of the site.

**Ochertyre Moss Wood SSSI:** Encourage the retention of active raised bog through scrub (mainly Scots Pine and Birch) and rhododendron removal. Install dip wells to monitor water table levels to determine the current condition of the lowland raised bog and to identify opportunities to expand the open area (through the selective felling of individual SP trees), especially to create a more natural edge.

**Local Nature Conservation Site / Non SSSI Lowland Raised Bog:** Areas where the deepest peat exists. Monitoring and investigation are required here to determine the condition of the lowland raised bog habitat and if restoration would be necessary and/or feasible in the future. Management within the plan period to include the removal of rhododendron, the installation of dip wells to monitor the water table to determine the condition of the habitat and the selective felling of individual SP trees to promote the growth and expansion of bog vegetation where appropriate.

**Note:** *Rhododendron control and scrub clearance will be dependent on availability of resources.*



## C. Management Proposals

### C.1 Silvicultural Practice

All proposals have been designed in accordance with sound silvicultural and environmental principles, falling within the framework outlined by the UK Forestry Standard, the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme, FC Bulletin 112 Creating New Native Woodlands, FC Bulletin 115 Alternative Silvicultural Systems, FC Bulletin 124 Ecological Site Classification for Forestry and the current SF edition of Forest & Water Guidelines. This plan has considered the natural and historic environment as well as green network opportunities.

The LMP seeks to follow the UKFS in all aspects. Prior to FLS ownership, recent management at Ochertyre was minimal consisting of mainly brush and scrub removal on the open area of the SSSI. This plan aims to continue to manage and enhance the open area of the SSSI and to also replace small areas of spruce and sycamore with broadleaves more suited to the character of the existing ancient woodland habitat.

The plan has been produced in accordance with a range of government and industry standards and guidance as well as recent research outputs. A full list of these standards and guidance can be found here: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/planning>.

### C.2 Prescriptions

#### C.2.1 Felling

The map titled **Management** shows the coupe for which approval is being sought for clearfelling during the plan period. This coupe is 5.29 ha and accounts for 6.13% of the plan area (**Table 3**). The coupe consists of Spruce and Sycamore planted along the A84 facing side of the block and stands out in sharp contrast to the rest of the LMP area, which is comprised of primarily Scots Pine and Birch woodland. To maintain the character of this woodland, we are proposing to fell the area of Spruce and Sycamore, which is nearing the end of its rotation, and plan to restock this area with broadleaves, primarily through natural regeneration. The felling will help to minimise Spruce regeneration.

#### C.2.2 Thinning

No thinning is proposed during the plan period. However, within coupes 23005 and 23002, we seek permission for some selective felling of individual SP trees to promote the growth and expansion of bog vegetation where appropriate.



#### C.2.3 LISS

No alternative to clearfell silvicultural systems is suggested within the LMP.

#### C.2.4 Long Term Retentions (LTR) / Minimum Intervention (MI) / Natural Reserves (NR)

##### **See Map: Management**

For most of the block, biodiversity will be the primary objective and we are prepared to commit such areas of land to Long Term Retention (LTR) or Minimum Intervention (MI).

This plan contains three long term retention coupes and one minimum intervention coupe. Areas marked as minimum intervention are areas of broadleaves and Scots pine located on the periphery of the LMP area on areas of no peat or shallower peat. Coupes marked as Long-Term Retention have been done so due to potential they have as future forest to bog restoration or wet woodland areas or because of the possible need to create an access route in that area to facilitate management of the open ground area.

#### C.2.5 Other Tree Felling in Exceptional Circumstances

FLS will normally seek to map and identify all planned tree felling in advance through the LMP process. However, there are some circumstances requiring small scale tree felling where this may not be possible and where it may be impractical to apply for a separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying the felling.

Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances:

- Individual trees, rows of trees or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (as defined below), either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage, or impeded drainage.
  - Infrastructure includes forest roads, footpaths, access (vehicle, cycle, horse walking) routes, buildings, utilities and services, and drains.

The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per LMP per calendar year.

A record of the volume felled in this way will be maintained and will be considered during the five-year LMP review.



#### C.2.6 Woodland Management of Visitor Zones

As this is currently a little visited site with limited access taken there are no proposals for specific management of visitor zones.

#### C.2.7 Restocking Proposals / Natural Regeneration

The **map titled Future Habitats and Species** details the proposed future distribution of species for the LMP area. The aim is to work towards eliminating Sitka spruce, Norway spruce and Sycamore from the site and to populate the felled areas with a Birch / mixed broadleaves mix through natural regeneration where possible (**Table 5**).



**Table 3 – Felling**

This shows the scale of felling within the felling phases in the context of the whole LMP. This includes any areas of ‘LISS – Fell’ (i.e. removal of final overstorey).

SCALE OF PROPOSED FELLING AREAS (including LISS final fell areas)												
Total LMP Area:		96.97		hectares								
Felling	Phase 1	%	Phase 2	%	Phase 3	%	Phase 4	%	Long Term Retention	%	Area out-with 20yr plan period	%
Area (Ha)	5.29	6.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 4 – Thinning**

This shows the area of thinning over the first 10 years of the LMP.

Species	Thinning (ha)
N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 5 – Restocking**

This table provides information on the restocking proposals for the first 10 years of your LMP. Restocking should be listed on a coupe by coupe basis.

Felling Phase	Map Identifier(s)	Species to be planted	Area (ha) to be planted
1	23003	Native Mixed Broadleaves	5.29
<b>Total Restocking Area</b>			5.29



#### C.2.8 Hydrology

Forest operations will be conducted in compliance with the UKFS Guidelines on forests and water. Operational and contingency plans will be finalised prior to commencement of works and will identify measures to be taken to prevent / reduce pollution risk.

#### C.2.9 Protection

Natural regeneration to be protected through wildlife management / regional deer management plan.

#### C.2.10 Fence erection / removal

No fencing erection / removal is proposed for the plan period.

#### C.2.11 Road Operations

##### **See Map: Timber Haulage**

While there is good access from the A84 to the coupe being proposed for clearfelling, there may be a need to install a minor spur to facilitate the harvesting of the spruce crop. However, since the block is out with the national park, the area of such a structure is below the threshold for which an EIA SOR would be required, or a PR applied for. There also may be a need to install temporary access to the open area for scrub management.

#### C.2.12 Public Access

Ochertyre Moss Wood has very little foot traffic from the public, however, there is some evidence of use as remnants of camping gear and some bottles were found at the northwestern end of the site, within the SSSI. In general, the LMP area has the potential to become popular over time due to its location. Ways of promoting its use in a way that would minimise adverse impacts to the valuable habitats present within the site may want to be considered in the future.

#### C.2.13 Historic Environment

Our key priorities for archaeology and the historic environment are to undertake conservation management, condition monitoring and archaeological recording at our significant historic assets; and to seek opportunities to work in partnership to help to deliver *Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* and *Scotland's Archaeology Strategy*. Significant historic environment features will be protected and managed following the UK Forestry Standard. Harvesting coupes, access roads and fence lines will be surveyed prior to any work being undertaken to ensure



C.2.13 Historic Environment

that upstanding historic environment features can be marked and avoided. At establishment and restocking, work prescriptions remove relevant historic environment features from ground disturbing operations and replanting. Where appropriate, significant historic assets are recorded by archaeological measured survey (see active conservation management) and may be presented to the public with interpretation panels and access paths. Opportunities to enhance the setting of important sites and landscapes will be considered on a case-by-case basis (such as the views to and from a significant designated site).

The *Regional Historic Asset Management Plan* includes conservation management intentions for those designated historic assets in Scotland’s national forests. Details of all known historic environment features are held within the *Forester Web Heritage Data* (built using national and regional historic environment records) and included within specific operational *Work Plans* to ensure damage is avoided. Significant historic environment features will be depicted on all relevant operational maps.

Objective	Opportunities	Constraints	Concept
<b>Caring for the Historic Environment</b>	We will ensure positive conservation management at significant historic assets, undertaking scrub control, condition monitoring and archaeological recording where necessary.	We will undertake suitable work practices on operational sites with known historic assets (and those discovered during operations).	We will ensure that historic assets (both designated and un-designated) are included within our land management and operational plans and are managed in line with <i>UK Forestry Standard</i> .

C.2.14 Biodiversity

**SSSI – Open Land Management**

Scrub and Rhododendron removal on the open area of the SSSI will be continued to encourage the retention of the active raised bog free from woodland. Water table levels will be monitored here to ensure a high-water table is being maintained and to identify possible areas for expansion, where appropriate.

**Ancient / PAWS Woodland Management (within and without the SSSI)**

Currently, the biggest threats to these areas are from rhododendron and spruce regeneration. These issues will be managed through the removal of rhododendron and the clearfelling of all spruce on site, replacing the spruce with Birch and other broadleaves.





#### C.2.14 Biodiversity

##### **Wet woodland / Forested Lowland Raised Bog Habitat Management**

Areas where the deepest peat exists. Monitoring and investigation are required here to determine the condition of the lowland raised bog habitat and if restoration would be necessary and/or feasible in the future. Management within the plan period to include the removal of rhododendron, the installation of dip wells to monitor the water table to determine the condition of the habitat and the selective felling of individual SP trees to promote the growth and expansion of bog vegetation where appropriate.

**Note: Rhododendron control and scrub clearance will be dependent on availability of resources.**

#### C.2.15 Tree Health

Low densities of Hylobius, D. Micans and Dothistroma needle blight have been documented in the LMP area. Infestation/infection will continue to be monitored to ensure early detection of any future spread.

#### C.2.16 Invasive species

Invasive species will continue to be monitored and removed. However, this will be dependent on availability of resources.

#### C.2.17 New Planting

No new woodland creation is proposed.

#### C.2.18 Wildfire

FLS's approach to wildfire management can be viewed here - <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/health-safety-wellbeing/wildfire-prevention>

At these particular sites there is not a history of wildfires however the design of the forest has been informed by the following guidance

- Forestry Commission (2014) Practice Guide 22: Building Wildfire Resilience into Forest Management Planning - <https://forestry.gov.scot/component/edocman/99-building-wildfire-resilience-into-forest-management-planning/download?Itemid=0>
- Information Note: Forest Planning to minimise wildfire risk in Scotland - <https://forestry.gov.scot/component/edocman/1427-forest-planning-to-minimise-wildfire-risk-in-scotland/download?Itemid=0>



### C.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and Permitted Development Notifications

Please indicate the total area (hectares) for each project type and provide details as requested by sensitive or non-sensitive area.

Type of Project	Sensitive Area		Non-sensitive Area		Total
Afforestation	0 %Con	0 %BL	0 %Con	0 %BL	0 ha
Deforestation	0 %Con	0 %BL	0 %Con	0 %BL	0 ha
Forest Roads	0 ha		0 ha		0 ha
Quarries	0 ha		0 ha		0 ha
Provide further details on your project if required.					
None of the above is being proposed during the plan period					



### C.4 Tolerance Table

	Map Required (Y/N)	Adjustment to felling period*	Adjustment to felling coupe boundaries**	Timing of Restocking	Changes to Restocking species	Changes to road lines	Designed open ground ***	Windblow Clearance****
<b>FC Approval normally not required</b>	N	Fell date can be moved within 5 year period where separation or other constraints are met	Up to 10% of coupe area	Up to 2 planting seasons after felling	Change within species group e.g. evergreen conifers or broadleaves		Increase by up to 5% of coupe area	
<b>Approval by exchange of email and map</b>	Y		Up to 15% of coupe area	Between 2 and 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised		Additional felling of trees not agreed in plan  Departures of more than 60m in either direction from centre line of road	Increase by up to 10%  Any reduction in open ground within coupe area	Up to 5 ha
<b>Approval by formal plan amendment may be required</b>	Y	Felling delayed into second or later 5 year period  Advance felling into current or 2 <sup>nd</sup> 5 year period	More than 15% of coupe area	More than 5 planting seasons after felling subject to the wider forest and habitat structure not being significantly compromised	Change from specified native species  Change between species group	As above, depending on sensitivity	More than 10% of coupe area  Colonisation of open areas agreed as critical	More than 5 ha

**Note**

\*Felling sequence must not compromise UKFS in particular felling coupe adjacency. Felling progress and impact will be reviewed against UKFS at 5 year review.

\*\* No more than 1 ha, without consultation with Scottish Forestry, where the location is defined as 'sensitive' within the Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

\*\*\* Tolerance subject to an overriding maximum of 20% designed open ground.

\*\*\*\*Where windblow occurs, Scottish Forestry must be informed of extent prior to clearance and consulted on clearance of any standing trees.



## D. Production Forecast

N/A – FLS provide this nationally to Forest Research as per agreement with Scottish Forestry.

## Appendices

Provide a list of appendices:

Item number	Title
I	Land Management Plan Consultation Record
II	Visualisations
III	Regional Deer Management Plan (available upon request)

## Maps

Title
M.01 - Location
M.02 - Soils
M.03 - Current species
M.04 - Planting Year
M.05 - Key Features
M.06 - Concept
M.07 - Management
M.08 - Future Species and Habitats
M.09 - Infrastructure and Utilities
M.10 - Timber Haulage