



LMP Amendment Request

Submission Date: XXXXX

Part 1 – Contact Details

Title: Ms	Forename: Meriem
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Position: Forest Planner	
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Part 2a – Property Details

FLS Region: East
LMP Name and plan reference number: LMP 37
Grid Reference (of centre of principal felling area): NJ 4268 2703
Nearest Town or Locality Name: Rhynie
Local Authority: Aberdeenshire Council

Part 2b – Felling Operations

Please provide detailed information about the proposed felling operations.

Felling Operations Table

- The type of operation (Op) should be either *Clear Felling (CF)*, *Thinning (T)*, *Selective Felling (SLF)*, *LIS*, *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)

Coupe Ref	Type of Op	Species to be felled	Approx Age	Est Area (ha)	Est Vol m ³	No. of Trees	Thinning Details (per ha)	Pre	Approved Phase	Amended Phase
37217	CF	SS	22	15.9	1,046	36,598			Group Shelterwood	2
37217	CF	MC	9	0.6	0*	1,456			Managed Open	2
37217	CF	SS	9	0.6	0*	1,456			Managed Open	2
Total:				17.1	1,046	39,510				

*crop too young and marginal to calculate volume.

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. If you have selected thinning or LISS, you must provide us with the prescription you intend to use.

- Clearfell for forest-to-bog peatland restoration with native broadleaf restock.
- Restock of felled areas for forest-to-bog peatland restoration with native planting.
- The purpose of the restoration of 10b (Upland Sphagnum Bog), Blanket Bog habitat (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat) is to protect carbon storage potential, improve the quality of the water in the Burn of Little Blackmiddens, a tributary of Kirkney Water, within the River Deveron catchment, and improve the biodiversity within the restoration area.
- The proposed peatland restoration is adjacent to a network of Blanket Bog (Priority Habitat), also on 10b soils. The peatland restoration will

also provide habitat connectivity with the Hill of Towanreef [SAC](#) and [SSSI](#).

See Peatland Restoration Plan for greater detail.

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
Aberdeenshire Council				
Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus & Aberdeen City Councils				
Cabrach Trust				
Deveron Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust				
Dufftown and District Community Council				
Huntly Development Trust				
Huntly Nordic Ski Club				
Huntly's Rinnin Quines and Loons				
NatureScot				
RSPB				
Saving Wildcats				
Scottish Water				
SEPA				
Tap O Noth Community Council				
The Raptor Study Group				

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

Feature / Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
The Nordic Ski Trail, Tom’s Lair begins at NJ 4265 2688 and runs through the centre of the proposed peatland restoration for approximately 300m, before crossing the Burn of Little Blackmiddens.		If the Tom’s Lair ski trail is damaged during harvesting, restoration or restock, it will be reinstated to ensure access post-restoration works. Water will still be able to pass underneath the trail, meaning both sides of the trail will be hydrologically connected.

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.

Current Approved Restock Table:

Use the table below to tell us how the coupe was planned to be restocked as per the approved LMP.

Coupe Reference	Restocking proposal	Species (one per row)	% of site	Area (ha)	Density (stems per ha)	No of Trees	Alt Restock Site/Cp t (s)
37371A	RF	SS	100	15.9	2700	42,795	
37346A	OG	NA	100	1.3	0	0	
Total Area:				17.1			

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.

Coupe Reference	Restocking proposal	Species (one per row)	% of site	Area (ha)	Density (stems per ha)	No of Trees	Alt Restock Site/Cpt (s)
37217A	DIR	NA	100	11.9	NA	0	
37217B	RF	NMB	100	5.2	800*	4,160	
				Total Area:	17.1		

*50/50 mix of OG and NMB @ 1,600 stems per ha

- 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 (see the Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal).

Area by Species Table

For large scale restock changes please use the table below to indicate the impact on species diversity and open space across the whole LMP area.

Species	Current		Year 10		Year 20	
	Area (Ha)	%	Area (Ha)	%	Area (Ha)	%
Totals:						

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)

Walkover surveys and peat probing of Ski Trails has resulted in the proposed restock prescription. Deep peat (more than 50 cm) is to be re-wetted via drain blocking, stump flipping and ground smoothing as per the [Peatland Action Technical Compendium](#). Please read the Peatland Restoration Plan for more detail.

The above change in restock is proposed as an alternative to the approved Land Management Plan (LMP) where the management prescription was Group Shelterwood, maintaining the crop of Sitka Spruce via targeted thinning. However. The current crop of Sitka Spruce is showing extensive evidence of poor growth, including:

- Variable tree sizes.
- Deficiencies evidenced by yellowing and absence needles beyond two years growth.
- Negative growth ratio of leader to lateral suggesting poor increment.

The management prescription for the area to the south of the proposed restoration area (37346A) is managed open in the approved LMP, however it now has a scattering of non-native conifer re-generation of variable tree size. Trees will be restocked in clumps at a minimum of 800 stems/ha to provide a native broadleaf buffer to the area restored.

The Nordic Ski Trail, Tom's Lair begins at NJ 4265 2688 and runs through the centre of the proposed peatland restoration for approximately 300m, before crossing the Burn of Little Blackmiddens. If the Tom's Lair ski trail is damaged during harvesting, restoration or restock, it will be reinstated to ensure access post-restoration works. Water will still be able to pass underneath the trail, meaning both sides of the trail will be hydrologically connected.

This is all in keeping with the future direction of the LMP, which is principally guided by the production of a sustainable timber crop taking into consideration biodiversity and landscape.

Please see Peatland Restoration Plan for greater detail.

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.

Part 5 – Declarations

I hereby apply for a permission to amend the LMP as described in this application:

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 ANY WORK UNTIL YOUR AMENDMENT REQUEST HAS BEEN APPROVED