Forestry and Land Scotland
Coilltearachd agus Fearann Alba

Pitmedden and Weddersby Land Management Plan

2024-2043

This plan sets out the strategic direction for management over the next 20 years and provides details of the operations proposed in the first 10 years.

Pitmedden and Weddersby
Land Management Plan

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.

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Pitmedden and Weddersby
Land Management Plan

Contents

Pitmedden and Weddersby
Land Management Plan

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1. Introduction and summary

1.1 Location

Pitmedden and Weddersby are two discrete blocks of forest located on the Ochil Hills with Auchtermuchty to the south and Abernethy to the North. See Map 1- location map. The overall area of the LMP is 671ha, Pitmedden is 545ha, and Weddersby 126ha.

1.2 The site

The forest is generally on rolling hills varying from 160m above sea level to Pitcarlie Hill at 281m above sea level. The site has generally fertile soils and is mostly sheltered with DAMS from 12 to 17 but generally below 16. It is well used for recreation, especially mountain biking and horse riding. There are a number of designated sites with the forest for details on this see Appendix 9 and 10- Designated Site Management Plans.

1.3 Certification

The forest is certified under FSC and PEFC. As such all operations and management of the forest will comply with UKWAS.

1.4 Key Issues

- Substantial CCF allocated but few CCF interventions
- Natural regeneration in CCF low density
- Over mature stands suffering windblow and reducing in value
- Fertile soil and mild climate result in high weed competition at restock
- High Recreation pressure
- SSSI and SAC for amphibians and lowland dry heath

1.5 Proposals in Brief

- Fell 91 ha
- Thin 643ha
- Restock 105ha

1.6 Timing

This plan covers the details of management for the next 10 years (2024-2033). The operations for the period of the plan will be approved by Scottish Forestry in consultation with other regulatory stakeholders. Longer term management in mentioned in the text but is to provide a direction of travel and demonstrate the longer term objectives.

1.7 Consultation and Further Information

The draft plan has been consulted with statutory stakeholders as detailed in Appendix 1 – Consultation Record. Neighbouring landowners, local stakeholder groups and the community council were also consulted. For further information on the plan please contact:

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2. Forestry Scotland Regulatory Requirements

2.1 Summary of Planned Operations

Proposed Operations	2023-2032
Felling	91 ha
Thinning	643ha
Restocking	105 ha
New Road Construction	75m
Road Upgrade	5410m

2.1.1 Proposed Felling in Years 2024-2033

Proposed Phase	Area to be Felled (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2024 - 2028	39.1	5.8
2029 - 2033	52.3	7.8

Details of Clearfell by Coupe for phase 1 and phase 2

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
58033	2024/25	SS	0.19	SP	0.14	0	0.33
58025	2025/26	SS	9.58	JL	0.58	0.49	10.65
58013	2025/26	NS	5.30	SP/SS	1.29	2.86	9.45
58082	2026/27	SP	4.77	SS	0.92	0.61	6.30
58086	2026/27	SP	6.96	NS	4.69	0.71	12.36
58090	2029/30	SS	3.80	NS	0.55	0	4.35
58046	2030/31	SS	13.57	SP	1.46	1.1	16.13
58101	2031/32	HL	6.40	SS/SP	3.84	0.61	10.85
58931	2031/32	SS	5.42	JL	0.30	0	5.72
58181	2031/32	SS	9.38	JL	5.92	0	15.30

Changes in Age Class over plan period

Age of Trees	Growth Stage	Percentage of Class at Given Year			
		2028	2033	2038	2043
0-10	Establishment	5%	10%	15%	16%
11 - 20	Thicket	4%	5%	5%	9%
21 – 40	Pole	25%	21%	23%	6%
41 - 60	Maturing High Forest	13%	9%	8%	21%
61+	Old High Forest	32%	28%	27%	23%
Open Ground	N/A	22%	27%	23%	25%

2.1.2 Proposed Thinning in Years 2024-2034

Proposed Phase	Area to be Thinned (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2024 - 2028	302.5	56%
2029 - 2033	340.9	63%

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	Area (ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Species 3	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
58004	2025	SS	81.6	SP	20.3	Others	27.1		129.0
58006	2026	SS	19.5	SP	3.0	Others	7.1		29.6
58001	2027	SS	28.2	SP	24.7	Others	13.0		65.9
58002	2028	SS	37.1	HL	15.7	Others	25.2		78.0
58005	2029	SP	22.3	JL	17.8	Others	11.1		51.2
54003	2030	SS	12.5	JL	12.1	Others	21.0		45.6
58004	2032	SS	76.3	SP	20.3	Others	26.7		123.3
58006	2033	SS	19.5	HL	2.5	Others	6.5		28.5
58001	2034	SS	28.2	SP	24.7	Others	12.5		65.4
58005	2034	SP	12.9	JL	11.4	Others	2.6		26.9

2.1.3 Proposed Restocking in Years 2024-2034

Proposed Phase	Area to be Restocked (ha)	Proportion of Woodland Area (%)
2024 - 2028	52.99	9.8%
2029 - 2033	51.46	9.5%

Proposed Restocking by Coupe

Coupe Reference	Programme Year	Species 1	(ha)	Species 2	Area (ha)	Open Area (ha)	Total Area (ha)
58014A	2025	SS	2.05	MC	2.05		4.10
58083A	2025	DF	1.64	NS	1.64		3.28
58083B	2025	SP	0.73	NS	0.21		0.94
58083C	2025	NS	0.34	SS	0.34		0.68
58083D	2025	SP	0.32	NS	0.09		0.41
58100A	2025	MB	1.79	SP	1.79		3.58
58100B	2025	MB	0.22				0.22
58642A	2025	NS	0.61	BE	0.61		1.22
58954A	2025	BI	1.93	MB	0.97		2.90
58954B	2025	MB	0.31				0.31
58013A	2026	NS	3.18	SP	0.45		3.63
58013B	2026	MB	1.07				1.07
58013C	2026	SP	1.56				1.56
58013E	2026	BE	0.44				0.44
58025A	2026	SS	2.93	MC	2.93		5.86
58025B	2026	MB	4.80				4.80
58082A	2027	MB	2.85	SP	2.85		5.70
58082B	2027	MB	0.28				0.28
58086A	2027	DF	4.62	NS	4.62		9.24
58086B	2027	SP	1.55	NS	0.44		1.99
58086C	2027	SP	0.61	NS	0.17		0.78
58090A	2031	SS	2.61	NS	1.31		3.92
58046A	2031	SS	12.22	NS	3.06		15.28
58046B	2031	MB	0.27				0.27
58046C	2031	SS	0.32				0.32
58101A	2032	SP	2.50	MB	1.07		3.57
58101B	2032	SS	2.06	MC	1.38		3.44
58101C	2032	SP	2.00				2.00
58101D	2032	MB	1.84				1.84
58181A	2032	DF	7.47	SS	7.47		14.94
58181B	2032	MB	0.17				0.17
58931A	2032	NS	3.65				3.65
58931B	2032	SP	2.06				2.06

Species Change Over Plan Period

	2024		2028		2033		2038		2043	
Species	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**
Sitka spruce	239	36%	219.1	33%	186.4	28%	193.9	29%	174.2	26%
Scots pine	89.8	13%	84.7	13%	82.4	12%	87.2	13%	80.9	12%
Norway spruce	67.3	10%	54.4	8%	59.8	9%	67.7	10%	73.4	11%
Larch	88.9	13%	94.7	14%	76.1	11%	75.7	11%	69	10%
Mixed broadleaves	21.8	3%	21.7	3%	27	4%	31.6	5%	39.3	6%
Beech	8.7	1%	9.3	1%	8.8	1%	9	1%	8.3	1%
Birch (downy/silver)	4.8	1%	8.8	1%	8.2	1%	8.2	1%	8.1	1%
Mixed conifers	0.5	0%	7.6	1%	9	1%	10.2	2%	12.2	2%
Douglas fir	3.2	0%	4.9	1%	9.5	1%	17	3%	16.8	3%
Oak (robur/petraea)	2.9	0%	3.8	1%	4.1	1%	3.9	1%	4	1%
Corsican pine	3.2	0%	3.2	0%	2.9	0%	2.9	0%	2.6	0%
Ash	3	0%	2.9	0%	2.8	0%	2.3	0%	2.2	0%
Sycamore	1.7	0%	1.9	0%	1.9	0%	2	0%	2	0%
Silver birch	1.8	0%	1.8	0%	1.8	0%	1.7	0%	1.7	0%
Rowan	1.3	0%	1.3	0%	1.2	0%	1	0%	1	0%
Common alder	1.2	0%	1.2	0%	1.2	0%	1.8	0%	1.8	0%
Aspen	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0.9	0%	0.9	0%
Grand Fir	0.9	0%	0.9	0%	0.8	0%	0.8	0%	0.7	0%
Wild cherry/gean	0.6	0%	0.6	0%	0.6	0%	0.6	0%	0.5	0%
Lodgepole pine	0.5	0%	0.5	0%	0.3	0%	0.3	0%	0.3	0%
Felled	27	4%	44.7	7%	83.2	12%	50.3	7%	69.1	10%
Open	102	15%	102	15%	102	15%	102	15%	102	15%
Total	**671.1**	**100%**	**671**	**100%**	**671**	**100%**	**671**	**100%**	**671**	**100%**

2.1.4 Access and Roading in Years 2024-2027

Period of Works	Proposed Length for Construction (m)	Proposed Length for Upgrade (m)
2024 - 2028	50	3230
2029 - 2033	25	2180

There will also be 3080m of road maintenance required in phase 1 and 1150m in phase 2.

2.2 Departure from UKFS Guidelines

The Land Management Plan will follow the UK Forest Standard (UKFS) and UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS).

2.3 Tolerance Tables

Please see Appendix 3 for the agreed tolerance table.

3. Determination

3.1 Deforestation

There is no deforestation planned in the plan period.

3.2 Forest Roading

Prior notification will be sought for new road construction. The harvesting programme will require additional turning points to be built. There will be 2 turning points built in the first phase and 1 in the second phase. Each turning point is 25m x 10m a total of 0.025ha per turning point. The overall area is 0.075ha. This is below the EIA determination threshold of 1.0 ha and therefore no EIA will be needed for road construction.

3.3 Quarries

It is planned to expand the quarry at grid reference at NO 207 154. The planned expansion is 0.38ha. This is below the EIA threshold and will therefore not require EIA determination.

3.4 Afforestation

There is no woodland creation planned within the plan period.

3.5 Additional Regulatory Requirements

3.5.1 Water Framework

Buffering of commercial crops from water courses and private water supplies will follow current Forestry and Water guidelines.

3.5.2 Prior Notification

As mentioned in section 3.2 there will be 3 new turning points to be built to allow timber lorries to turn round and collect timber. These will each be 25m long. Prior notification will be sought for these the year before the operation is planned.

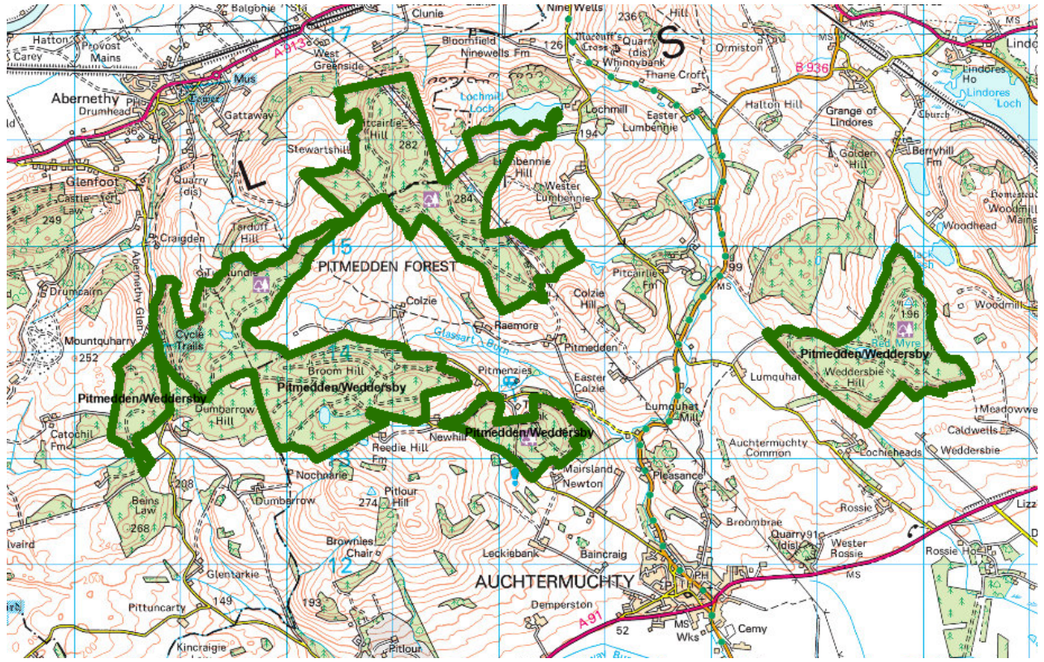
3.5.3 Planning Consent

No planning consent will be needed for operations to be undertaken in this plan.

4. Introduction

4.1 Existing Land Holding

Pitmedden and Weddersby are two discrete blocks of forest that occupy elevated ground between Abernethy to the north and Auchtermuchty to the south. They sit within the counties of Perth and Kinross and Fife. The forests are set within rolling hills and are hidden from view from most areas. They are well used for recreation, especially mountain biking and have core paths running through them. See location map below.



4.2 Setting and Context

The forest is situated on hill tops that are not very visible from most local viewpoints. More importantly are viewpoints within the forest from popular walking and cycling routes. The Nature Scot landscape character assessment states the forest to be within Landscape Character Type 182- Upland Hills. In summary this is characterised as:

Elevated, massive, open, large scale, rolling hills.

With the following forestry issues:

- Straight edged plantation are being restructured over time
- Broadleaf and mixed woodland virtually absent
- Often affected by Overhead Powerlines

5. Plan Objectives

5.1 Issues

- Substantial CCF allocated but few CCF interventions
- Natural regeneration in CCF low density and mostly Sitka spruce
- Considerable area of the forest is assessed as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO)
- Over mature stands suffering windblow and reducing in value
- Fertile soil and mild climate result in high weed competition at restock
- High Recreation pressure, specifically mountain bikers.
- SSSIs for amphibians and lowland dry heath
- Known habitat for red squirrel and pine marten
- Straight edges in landscape to be reduced
- Third party access required within the forest
- Overhead powerlines dissect the forest and are due for an upgrade

5.2 Key Challenges

- Assess best stands for CCF transformation and identify next operations to include seed tree thinnings, group selection, underplanting, scarification, strip felling.
- Identify stands at greatest risk of further windblow
- Target thinned conifer plantations for clearfell when at optimal tree size/ value
- Diversify species especially in LEPO areas
- Establish riparian woodland around wetland habitats and water courses
- Reduce fallow periods to reduce the weed problem

5.3 Management Objectives

5.3.1 Increase forest resilience to future climate change

CCF/LISS have been allocated across a large proportion of the forest. Some areas will not lend themselves well to CCF. The only CCF interventions have been to clear existing windblow which have created gaps and subsequent regeneration. Future interventions should open up these gaps and if windblow damage continues clearfelling the whole stand might be necessary.

In most stands where natural regeneration is establishing it is at a low density and mostly Sitka spruce. In order to establish other, more light demanding species wider gaps need to be created. In Scots pine stands it may be more suitable to undertake strip felling to create enough light for trees to establish but not too much that vigorous weeds establish such as gorse, broom and bracken.

The forest has a high species diversity however CCF management may reduce species diversity if we rely solely on natural regeneration to restock. Where CCF/LISS management is allocated natural regeneration is dominated by Sitka spruce. It may be suitable to underplant with shade tolerant species such as Norway spruce or beech once the canopy cover has been reduced.

Where there are mature stands of light demanding species such as larch and scots pine it may be necessary to undertake small clearfells such as strip felling no greater than 60m in width. This will need careful management of light levels to encourage pine regeneration without dense weed growth. Where weed growth is preventing regeneration it may be possible to scarify areas to increase the density of tree regeneration. It may make more sense in these areas to use strip or group felling and plant these areas with Scots pine. There will be no planting of larch, however regeneration of larch will be encouraged and managed.

At higher altitudes Sitka spruce plantations will generally be clearfelled and restocked using mixtures such as Sitka spruce/ Douglas fir or Sitka spruce/ Grand fir. These will be planted in row mixtures so both species are codominant and can be thinned separately at a later stage. In the lower lying sites broadleaf conifer mixtures could be used such as Scots pine/ Sycamore on drier, podzolic soils with Norway spruce/ beech on brown earth soils. Gley dominated sites could have Sitka spruce/ alder mixtures to further diversify species and increase the broadleaf component.

The forest is 18% larch, this is mostly in LISS management areas. There has been a previous infection of Phytophthora ramorum in the Glen Foot area of the forest. The forest is in the less vulnerable zone due to climatic conditions and therefore the FLS policy is to maintain access to all mature larch stands in case an infection occurs.

5.3.2 Maintain sustainable timber production

Due to the fertile soils and mild and damp climate the spruce plantations grow fast. This means that the stands can be thinned early and that trees are reaching an optimal marketing size at 35-40 years old. Some of these stands could be selected early as opportunities for CCF/LISS however many of these stands should be programmed for clearfell.

A number of stands have not been thinned and have since missed the thinning window. These should be identified for clearfell at a later date when mean tree size is more marketable. One of these stands (Coupe 58025) has started to blow down and unless clearfelled will continue to be damaged through windblow. This has been prioritised as a red coupe.

There are a number of existing sites that have been felled and are awaiting restocking. Many of these have been left a full 5 years fallow and are now often dominated by dense weed such as bramble, gorse, broom and bracken. As seen in the MacDuff trust areas, these have been restocked at considerable expense through mulching. Where a machine is not accessible they have not been restocked.

Reducing the fallow period for future restock sites should reduce restocking costs as long as weevil damage can be managed.

5.3.3 *Improving public wellbeing through recreational use of the forest*

The forest is well used for recreation, mostly by local visitors. This is an important asset to the local community and improves health and well-being. The Glen Foot area of the forest is well used by mountain bikers and both forest blocks are accessible to horse riders. FLS will continue liaison with the trail association to encourage responsible use of the forest. There are a number of core paths in the forest. These will be considered during operations and will have diversions where necessary.

5.3.4 *Water Quality and flood risk management*

There are a number of water supplies in the forest. These are shown on Map 4- water. They will be protected during operations. Riparian zones will be created at restock operations to create broadleaf corridors with 50% open space. This will improve water quality and habitats for fish and invertibrates.

Most of the forest drains to the south east in to the River Eden and Lady Burn catchment. This catchment has 13% forest cover, of which 3% is under FLS ownership. Agricultural land to the south east of Auchtermuchty has a 10% chance of flooding each year, there are however a small number of properties at risk in this area. Because FLS ownership is only 3% of the catchment the forest operations here will have a negligible effect on flooding downstream.

5.3.5 *Condition of heritage features*

There are no scheduled monuments in Pitmedden and Weddersby. There are however many undesigned remains. These will be considered during forest operations to protect them from damage where possible.

5.3.6 *Improve SAC habitats*

The Torflundie SAC is in favourable condition, however in order to maintain this the forest around the existing ponds should be heavily thinned to create 50% open space. The ponds should be fenced to reduce impact by dogs. To improve the overall riparian habitat and improve habitat connectivity all watercourses will be planted with native broadleaves and 50% open space as per UKFS guidance. See Designated Site Plan in Appendix 8.

5.3.7 *Improve SSSI habitats*

The Lochmill Loch SSSI is in unfavourable recovering condition and will continue to recover if cattle grazing is maintained within the designated site. This will remove scrub where it is encroaching on the lowland heath habitat. See Designated Site Plan in Appendix 9.

6. Analysis and Concept

6.1 Analysis

Objective	Opportunity	Constraint	Concept
Increase forest resilience to future climate change	• Focus resources where CCF will be more easily achieved • Restock sites with less expense • Improve riparian habitats where targeted • Improve response time to P ramorum infections • Use of CCF could increase species and age diversity with a variety of silvicultural systems	• Larger diameter trees less marketable • Dense weed growth may prevent regeneration • Regeneration dominated by Sitka spruce • Risk of opening up canopy too much and dense woody weed and bracken dominating the site preventing regeneration. • Natural regeneration may be dominated by Sitka spruce.	• Where CCF is not viable change to a clearfell system • Allocate prescriptions such as group selection, seed tree felling or strip clearfells where necessary. • Where regeneration is mostly sitka spruce enrich by underplanting with other species • Ensure all mature larch coupes have road access to allow felling if they become infected with P. ramorum. • Use of strip felling and/or scarification in CCF sites to establish light demanding species. • Underplanting of shade tolerant species where Sitka spruce natural regeneration is dominating • Planting resilient mixtures to allow future flexibility and increase species diversity
Sustainable Timber Production	• Optimise economic return on thinned stands and maintain local timber production • Reduce losses from windblow • Maintain productivity by reducing the landbank • Increase productivity by reducing fallow periods	• Shorter rotations will increase restocking programme in the short term • Initial cost to deal with a number of sites with dense weed growth • Reduced fallow periods will increase restocking programme in the short term • Increased risk of weevil damage	• Prioritise clearfell programme on thinned spruce stands before mean dbh becomes too high • Prioritise clearfell of coupes of unthinned stands that are suffering from active windblow • Prioritise reducing fallow periods on recent clearfelling, preferably hot planting to reduce weevil damage • Mulch sites with dense woody weeds and restock as a second priority. If the weeds are very dense and are to be mulched, it will not increase further costs if restock is delayed further.
Improve public wellbeing through recreational use of the forest	• Improve health and wellbeing of visitors	• High recreational users cause habitat damage and health and safety issues during opertaions	• Maintain liaison with local trail association and access forums.
Water Quality and flood risk management	• Reduce flood risk downstream • Improve riparian habitats	• Riparian habitats reduce productive forest area • FLS ownership is 3% of the catchment so there will be minimal impact on flooding	• Creating riparian corridors at restock stage will improve water quality and riparian habitats • Following UKFS water guideline will reduce the risk of flooding downstream of the forest.
Condition of heritage features	• Retain cultural heritage of the area	• Regular maintenance has a financial cost	• Protect unscheduled remains during operations where possible.
Improve SAC habitats	• Maintain favourable condition in the Turflundie SSSI/SAC	• Thinning around ponds may increase the risk of windblow • Broadleaf riparian zones may be difficult to establish with deer pressure • Grazing of Lochmill Loch will need to be of a level and intensity that controls scrub growth	• Thin around ponds in Turflundie • Plant riparian zones around ponds and watercourses when clearfelling opportunities arise • Fence ponds to reduce dog impact on nesting birds
Improve SSSI Habitats	• Improve condition of the Lochmill Loch SSSI	• Risk of over grazing if not managed well	• Manage grazing of Lochmill Loch SSSI to improve condition of lowland heath • Restock native broadleaves adjacent to the SSSI to reduce risk of non-native encroachment

7. Long Term Land Management Plan Proposals

7.1 Management

This LMP has been designed in accordance with the guiding principles set out in UKFS and UKWAS to ensure the forest is managed sustainably and considers economic, social, cultural and ecological aspects of the forest. All operations will be undertaken in accordance with UKFS

7.2 Silvicultural Systems

The area of CCF/LISS is 31% of the forest. Within this there will be a number of different types of silvicultural system and thinning prescription. This could include seed tree thinning, group selection and uniform shelterwood.

Where the stand does not lend itself to CCF transformation a clearfell system will be used (56% of the forest). This will allow light demanding species to be established more easily and increase species diversity in the forest. Strip clearfelling will be used to help establish Scots pine adjacent to existing Scots pine stands.

Areas regenerating well with native broadleaves have been allocated as minimum intervention (8% of the forest) and some areas of mature Scots pine have been retained as natural reserve (1% of the forest)

7.3 Operational Proposals

For details of harvesting, thinning and restocking see section 2.

7.4 Open Land management

The open area at Lochmill Loch SSSI is stock fenced and grazed with cattle to prevent scrub from encroaching on the lowland dry heath. The ponds and associated reed beds of Turflundy SSSI/SAC will be maintained as open and will have a buffer around them thinned to open them up. There is considerable open areas under the powerlines that cut through the north east of Pitmedden Forest these are maintained open by Scottish and Southern Electricity. These powerlines are due to be upgraded and the way leave width will be increased to 90m. As such the plan will include low growing broadleaves adjacent to the wayleave corridor and open ground to avoid the need for felling in the future.

8. Critical Success Factors

- Harvesting coupes should be felled according to the programme in order to reduce windblow damage and salvage as much value before further windblow occurs.
- Road upgrades will be necessary to harvest some of these coupes.
- Fallow periods must be minimised to reduce the risk of woody weed competition and maintain productivity, whilst considering weevil populations.
- CCF stands need intervention to reduce basal areas and open up existing gaps
- Riparian habitats need improving to maintain Turflundie SSSI in favourable condition

9. Management Prescriptions

9.1 Forest Management Types

9.1.1 Stewardship

Ground Preparation

Clearfelled stands to be restocked will have ground preparation undertaken. Where there is dense vegetation this will be mulched by excavator and hinge mounds made for planting positions. Where there is considerable brash or windblown stumps left on restock sites these will be trench mounded and brash raked. In CCF stands of Scots pine where the ground vegetation is dense and the tree spacing allows it the site will be scarified on a forwarder base and planted if necessary.

Beatup

Conifer restock sites will be beaten up to achieve 2700 stems per ha with the aim to reach 2500 stems per ha at year 5. Broadleaf sites will be beaten up at 1800 stems per ha in order to achieve 1600 stems per ha. Where there are mixtures of conifer and broadleaf planted these will be planted 3:3 row mixtures at 2700 stems per ha.

Weed control

Where restock sites are hot planted it is likely that weed control will be required. This will by hand cutting during the spring/summer although chemical may be required to be applied in the winter. FLS seeks to minimise chemical use and by hot planting the trees may be able to establish before weeds manage to grow too high.

Respacing

If natural regeneration is too dense this will be respaced at year 10. In CCF situations it is likely that some of these saplings will self thin and some will be removed during thinning operations. At the moment the forest does not have problems with dense natural regeneration.

9.1.2 Silvicultural System

31% of the forest will be managed with various CCF/LISS and 56% will be managed as clearfell systems. This may change over time depending upon success of CCF/LISS and if early transformation of young stands may be undertaken.

9.1.3 Restock / Regeneration

Given the fertile sites in the forest the aim is to reduce the fallow period for restock sites, ideally a site will be restocked the year after clearfelling. Commercial sites will be restocked at 2700 stems per ha and non-commercial at 1800 stems per ha.

In CCF stands the aim will be to achieve an understorey or groups established at 2500 stems per ha at year 10 which may mean that regeneration needs to establish at 10,000 stems per ha.

9.2 Future Habitats and Species

The restocking stated in this document will increase species diversity over the period of the plan. Riparian corridors will be established at clearfell stage. Pure spruce stands will be restocked with resilient mixtures where suitable. There will be no planting of larch although regeneration will be accepted. Mixtures of conifer/broadleaf will also be planted to increase the broadleaf proportion of the forest. Section 2.1 gives a prediction of species change over time.

9.3 Operational Access

The forest is generally well roaded. To access the programmed coupes there will need to be an upgrade of some existing roads/paths. The details of these are given in section 2.1. All major larch coupes in the forest are easily accessible if they were to be infected with Phytophthora ramorum.

9.4 Herbivore Management

There are red and roe deer that use the forest. The deer population is transient within the forest. The block is not externally deer fenced so there is deer movement in and out of the forest. The annual cull target is 70 in Pitmedden and 28 in Weddersby. Rides will be maintained open where necessary to maintain sightlines. Restocks of broadleaves and softer conifers will be targeted for deer control but an overall deer cull will aid regeneration in the CCF coupes as well. Deer culling is aiming to keep leader damage in restock sites to 10% or less. The target population for this would be 1-5 deer per 100ha however due to the migration of deer into the forest the population will fluctuate.

Due to the high levels of recreational access deer stalking will be undertaken during quiet periods at early morning or in the evening. Licences will be sought for night stalking as required.

9.5 Management of Open Ground

See section 7.4 about managed open ground in the plan.

9.6 Public Access

The forest is well used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Core paths and sustrans cycle routes run through the forest. See recreation map 6 for locations. Core paths will have diversions where operations obstruct the path. There are no published trails and the only formal car park is in the Clink, however cars often park alongside the forest road at the Glenfoot entrance. The forest is very popular for mountain bikers on unofficial trails through the forest. Where operations are undertaken these trails may be closed for safety reasons however they will not be obstructed following operations.

9.7 Heritage Features

There are a number of unscheduled monuments within the forest. The Thirl Stone is located in the middle of Pitmedden forest and was where the market was between Abernethy and Auchtermuchty. It is believed that the stone was used for holding the scales for selling items. This stone is fairly hidden off the forest road. There are a number of ruined buildings and cairns within the forest. There are no scheduled monuments in the forest. Identified heritage features in the plan area will be protected during operations with marked buffer zones to prevent accidental machine incursion. Unscheduled monuments such as the Thirl Stone (grid reference: NO 1968 1381) will have a five metre buffer placed around them during planting operations.

9.8 Landscape

The forest is situated on hill tops that are not very visible from most local viewpoints. More important are viewpoints within the forest from popular walking and cycling routes. The Nature Scot landscape character assessment states the forest to be within Landscape Character Type 182- Upland Hills. In summary this is characterised as:

Elevated, massive, open, large scale, rolling hills.

With the following forestry issues:

- Straight edged plantations are being restructured over time
- Broadleaf and mixed woodland virtually absent
- Often affected by Overhead Powerlines

Pitmedden and Weddersby are of low visual impact in the landscape. Map 3 – Landscape shows views of the forest. As shown these are generally distant and therefore of low visual impact. The felling operations will have minimal visual impact. The restocking proposals will further diversify the appearance of the forest. Use of broadleaves and scots pine for windfirm edges will remove obvious straight edges from the landscape and make them more diffuse. Broadleaf planting and open space along wayleaves will be variable in width to break up the linear appearance of these wayleaves as shown on Maps 12 and 13- future habitat and species.

See Appendix 7 and Map 3 for viewpoints of the forest.

Appendix I – Land Management Plan Consultation record

I/1.0 Record of statutory consultation

Stakeholder	Comments	FLS Response	Action
HES	• No SAMs so no further comments	• No response required	• No action required
Auchtermuchty Community Council	• I think you'll find that the whole of Turflundie Wood is an SSSI. https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8160 • I recall that a long time ago, 15 or 20 years ago, it was acknowledged that the area adjacent to the Clink car park was now a recreational area and that no commercial operations would be undertaken in that area. • Recreational use by mountain bikers, the Core path network and a number of Rights of Way are seen as issues and, while I can appreciate that these are a concern for forestry operations, it must be recognised that the forest is seen as a great leisure asset by all the communities around the forest. • From my experience of walking in the forest the biggest problem with mountain bikers is that where a path crosses a watercourse the bike tracks often divert the water along the path. On the other hand some of the mountain bikers are well organised and turn up after a storm armed with chain saws and remove fallen trees and branches and clear paths. • I have received complaints from local farmers that you can be very slow to repair fences where falling trees or branches have damaged them.	• Yes thank you we have the SSSI maps from Nature Scot. • The Clink has been allocated as Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS), although there has been very little operational activity in here in the past, retaining the trees indefinitely is not an option. LISS management will be small scale felling and thinning operations to create new gaps and expand existing gaps to encourage natural regeneration of an understorey. This will establish young trees and maintain the forest cover into the future. • Agreed, the terminology is not helpful. Mountain bikers are a welcomed user group of the forest and we are consulting directly with the trail association about the Land Management Plan and we will continue to work with the trail association. • I have already passed comments to our Stewardship forester regarding a specific fencing issue. We will also be sending letters	• The full extent of Turflundie Wood SSSI will be identified on context maps of the forest • Local trail association will be contacted ahead of planned operations around selected popular trails. Efforts will be made to protect or re-establish well used routes after operations are completed
SSE	• Consultation will be required when operations are near powerlines • When restocking next to wayleaves consider open ground and non commercial species		• SSE will be consulted before operations that impact powerlines • Restock plans will consider wayleaves and open areas
Perth and Kinross Council	• Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, the PKC Forest and Woodland Strategy, and the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2016-26 Woodland Action Plan aims to expand and improve the condition of native woodland cover, particularly oak and Scots pine. • The Strategy encourages planting a diverse tree species mix, including native broadleaves, that will deliver for biodiversity and timber objectives. Perth and Kinross is well suited for the growing of broadleaves for quality timber. • We recommend using both commercial conifers and productive broadleaf stands for future sustainable sources of timber. A high proportion of native species is welcomed in line with Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy priority to improve	• All issues are dealt with in the main LMP text	• Main text document will be sent to PKC once complete

	the condition and extent of native woodland. • We encourage native vegetation along watercourses to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality. • Restructuring the forest brings many opportunities including increasing its aesthetic value, improving habitat for wildlife, and creating a productive forest. • Consideration of paper and cardboard protective tubes is encouraged to reduce plastic in the environment. • We recommend consultation with NatureScot with regards to impacts on Lochmill Loch SSSI and Torflundy SAC. • This proposal provides opportunities to redesign the forest plantings to ensure woodland complements landscape character and enhances its quality. • It is important that buffer zones are put in place to protect any archaeological features of importance from operations. Consultation with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust regarding archaeology is recommended. If any new or suspected features of interest are uncovered during forest management operations they should be immediately protected by establishment of a buffer zone and findings reported to Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust. • We encourage creating a shelterbelt on the northwest-facing edge to help reduce the direct force of the wind and protect the existing forest from further damage. • The woodlands landscape impact and amenity value will need to be considered from different viewpoints, particularly as this is within Ochil Hills Local Landscape Area. The applicant needs to demonstrate that this proposal will not have a significant adverse effect on the special qualities of Ochil Hills Local Landscape Area. More information is available in the Landscape Supplementary Guidance. https://www.pkc.gov.uk/ldp2landscape		
Scottish Water	• No drinking water protected areas in plan area, no Scottish Water Assets in the plan area.	• No response required	• No action required
Perth and Kinross Council Climate Change and Land Restoration Officer	• Increase species diversity • Create riparian woodland along water courses • Maintain timber production • Restructure the forest • Adhere to prior notification regulations • Maintain sustainable deer management • Map all core paths and rights of way and minimise any interruption to access • Contact the PKC access forum and BHS • Consider using paper and cardboard tubes for tree planting	• All concerns are dealt with in the LMP text	

	• Contact NatureScot regarding Lochmill SSSI and Torflundy SAC • Consult with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust • Create a shelter belt on the NW facing edge to reduce future windblow damage • Demonstrate LMP will not adversely affect the special qualities of Ochil Hills Local Landscape Area • Undertake European Protected Species surveys before operations		
NatureScot	• Insufficient information to assess forestry activity effects on designated sites. • Lochmill Loch SSSI needs a 100m native woodland or open buffer within the restock of the Phase 1 coupe • Ensure operations above the Black Loch (Abdie) SSSI prevent runoff and sediment entering the Loch • There is a known population of Natterers Bat in Weddersby – contact Fife and Kinross Bat Group	• Environment Forester will provide the HRA as per the LMP process. • 100m buffer of Lochmill SSSI will be incorporated in to the restock of coupe 58025 • Perth and Kinross Bat Group will be contacted • All operations will adhere to UKFS forest and water guidelines.	
Fife Council Tree Officer	• Concern about larch restock	• Larch restock will only be in areas of LISS where larch may regenerate. There will be no planting of Larch as per FLS policy.	

I/1.1 Record of online public consultation

Stakeholder	Comments	FLS Response	Action
Tay Trail Association	• No comments	• No response required	• No action required
Easter Catochil	• Not enough detail provided for consultation • Poor map presentation • Extended rotation length of coupe 58016 • Consultation period too short • Coupe 58103 is windblown but in phase 4, suggest bring forward	• Comments passed to planning manager regarding LMP process	• 58016 will be split and the younger crop brought forward
Pitmenzie Farm	• Boundary fence issues	• Forwarded to stewardship forester	
Reediehill Farm	• Boundary Issues	• Forwarded to FM forester	
Newhill	• Concern about change from LISS to 2nd Phase felling • Concern about long fallow periods	• Explained the area was not suitable for LISS and was good timber production ground • Explained weevil populations and fallow periods	
Stewartshill Farm	• Water Supply • Access road	• Re-assured access will be maintained and protection of water supplies during operations • The access gate will be locked most times but may be left unlocked during timber haulage operations	
Ninewells Farm	• Boundary fence issues	• Forwarded to stewardship forester	

Appendix II - Supporting Information

II/1.0 The Existing Forestry and Land Holding

Pitmedden Forest lies on the ridge tops of the hills between Abernethy and Auchtermuchty. It straddles the boundary between Perth and Kinross and Fife Council areas and can be divided into four areas. The areas to the south west known as Torflundie, Clamieduff and the Clink are the most popular for recreation, as the older, well-thinned stands create attractive open forest. An extensive informal trail network has developed in many of these areas helped by good access and available space for parking along the un-gated forest road linking Auchtermuchty with Abernethy.

Stewartshill to the north-east is made up of much younger stands and attracts less visiting public. A key feature of this area is two transmission power lines bisecting the forest at the eastern side. Catochill Forest on the western side of Abernethy Glen is split from the main part of Pitmedden by a public road and its young plantations have few visitors.

Weddersby Forest lies in the hills between Auchtermuchty and Lindores in Fife and is remote from any centres of population and as such is infrequently used by the public. It has a mix of unthinned stands and well thinned mature areas, which were extensively damaged during storms in 2012.

II/1.1 History of the Land Holding

These forests of Pitmedden and Weddersby were purchased by the Forestry Commission in separate acquisitions from 1937 to 1979. Generally the most easterly blocks were bought earlier than those to the west. The area of Auchtermuchty Common was acquired in 1961 on a long term lease from the MacDuff Trust.

II/2.0 Analysis of the Previous Plan

II/2.0.1 Aims of Previous Plan and Objectives

Objective	Assessment of objective during plan period
Timber Production: • Scots pine of low quality- replace with alternatives • Well thinned stands to be converted to CCF where suitable • Clear windblow in Weddersby and restock with appropriate species and retain windfirm boundaries • Convert MacDuff trust area to broadleaves	• All red and orange coupes have been felled or part felled. • Only CCF interventions have been windblow clearance • Windblow in Weddersby mostly cleared and restocked • Macduff trust area has been felled and restocked with broadleaves
Landscape: • Improve appearance of the Pitmedden in the landscape from Abernethy to Newburgh road • Improve landscape appearance of Weddersby from A91	• Minimal landscape change from previous plan
Recreation: • Improve visual amenity along forest roads and main access points • Increase CCF areas to reduce recreation pressure in other areas.	• Forest roads have been kept clear • CCF areas have not been increased
Conservation: • CCF and riparian woodland will improve amphibian habitat as a qualifying feature of the SAC. • Pond and habitat management will improve habitats amphibians. • Open habitat will be managed where important- such as SSSI at Lochmill Loch • Improve red squirrel habitat planting favourable species such as small seeded broadleaves and increasing mixed confer CCF stands.	• Pond management has been minimal, condition is favourable and maintained • Lochmill Loch has been grazed where stock fenced. Open habitat is unfavourable and recovering. The loch is unfavourable and declining due to the invasive species Canadian pondweed. The loch is not within FLS ownership. • Planting of birch in Macduff trust area will improve squirrel habitat
Broadleaved Planting: • Improve and expand the unsuccessful broadleaf planting where possible. • Take opportunity in Weddersby to expand riparian and road/ride side broadleaf planting to improve habitat networks	• Broadleaf planting has been undertaken • Weddersby has had broadleaf planting to improve riparian habitats.
Heritage: • Manage any unscheduled monuments in line with UKFS and FCS Archaeological gudielines.	• No evidence of managed unscheduled monuments, suggest the Thirlstone could be opened up.

II/2.0.2 How previous plan relates to today's objectives

The previous plan objectives are relevant to the new plan however the priority of the objectives have changed. See section 5 for the new plan objectives and relative importance.

II/3.0 Background Information

II/3.0.1 Physical Site Factors

Geology, Soils and Landform

The landforms on which Pitmedden Forest is situated are part of the Devonian lava extrusions and subsequent faulting has resulted in the formation of an escarpment on the northern edge. The resulting soils in higher areas are primarily basic brown earths (1b) (occasionally podsolised) and ranging in depth - these are extremely thin in some areas, with brown rankers (13b) evident. In sloping valleys where water movement is prevalent, brown surface water gleys (7b) can be found. Moving south the landform slopes away gently and takes on the undulating character common to northern Fife. Weddersby Forest has similar geology to Pitmedden with more typical brown earths (1) varying in depth across the site as the topography changes.

Hydrology

With Pitmedden Forest being located on a hard ridge top there are no major watercourses within the forest. There are a small number of minor burns originating from springs, mires and bogs. The Ballo Burn and Stewarts Hill Burn flow north to the River Tay and the upper reaches of the Glassert Burn flow south east into the River Eden catchment. An unnamed burn flows into Lochmill Loch Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) from Lumbennie Hill plantation.

Weddersby's main export of water comes from Red Mire in the centre of the forest, which drains to the Weddersby Den along the south west boundary of the forest. Both these watercourses flow into the Eden towards St Andrews.

When felling and restocking are carried out the UKFS Forest and Water Guidelines (5th Edition) will be strictly adhered to

Climate

Due to its ridgeline situation the majority of Pitmedden is exposed to winds from all directions, but outwith this zone more protection is offered by neighbouring landforms. The higher areas of Weddersby have proved their vulnerability with the damaging winds of 1995 and 2012. This is due in part to exposed ridges protruding further into the Eden Valley and catching the full force of westerly winds. The average rainfall in these blocks is in excess of 741-807mm per annum.

ESC shows the climate to be varied from Cool, Moderately Exposed and Moist to Cool, Moderately Exposed and Wet.

DAM's scores range from 10-12 in the lower and more sheltered areas of the forest and up to 13-17 along the high ridges. At the top of the highest hills the score generally does not exceed 18.

Biodiversity

There are a number of designated sites within Pitmedden and Weddersby Forests and the largest of these is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the great crested newt. Within this there is a small area known as Torflundie Mire previously designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but now superseded by the SAC.

The Lochmill Loch and surrounding area is a SSSI; important for aquatic flora, otters and scrub heathland, the latter of which falls within FCS ownership.

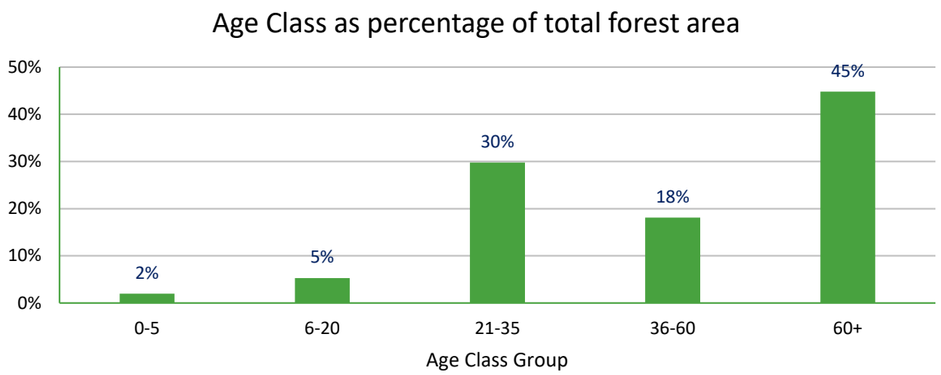
The mature areas of Norway spruce, larch and Scots pine are important for resident red squirrels. Pitmedden and Weddersby hold locally significant populations of red squirrels which are being monitored in partnership with Fife Red Squirrel Group.

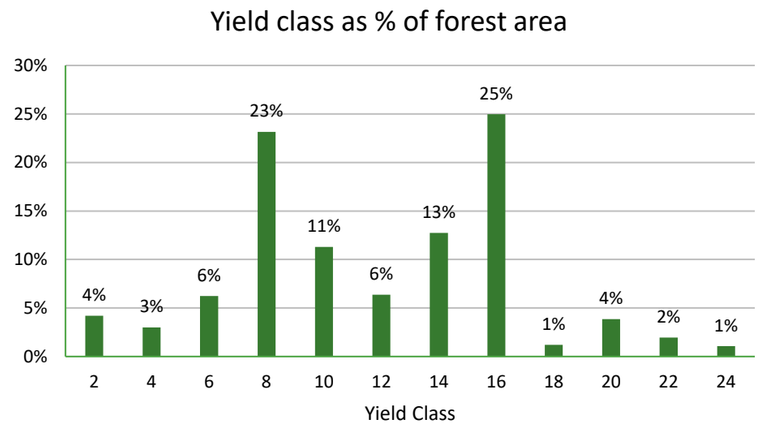
II/3.0.2 The Existing Forest

Age, Structure, Species and Potential Yield

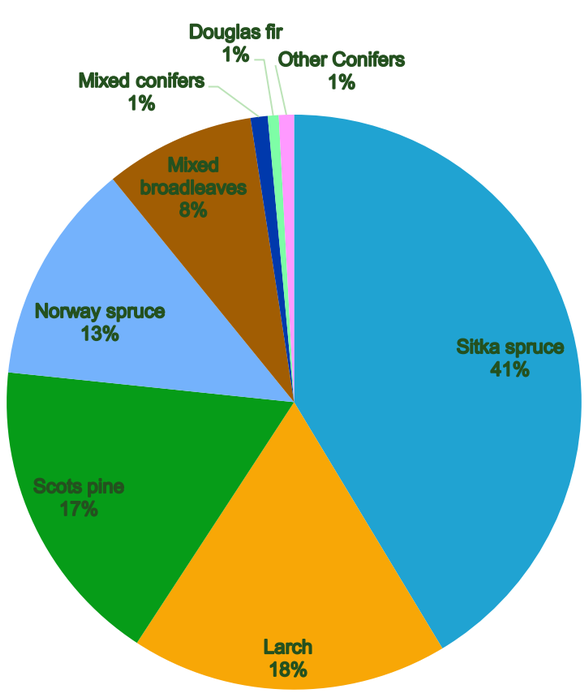
Please see table of current species proportions, age structure and yield class.

	2024	
Species	**Area**	**%**
Sitka spruce	239	36%
Scots pine	89.8	13%
Norway spruce	67.3	10%
Larch	88.9	13%
Mixed broadleaves	21.8	3%
Beech	8.7	1%
Birch (downy/silver)	4.8	1%
Mixed conifers	0.5	0%
Douglas fir	3.2	0%
Oak (robur/petraea)	2.9	0%
Corsican pine	3.2	0%
Ash	3	0%
Sycamore	1.7	0%
Silver birch	1.8	0%
Rowan	1.3	0%
Common alder	1.2	0%
Aspen	1	0%
Grand Fir	0.9	0%
Wild cherry/gean	0.6	0%
Lodgepole pine	0.5	0%
Felled	27	4%
Open	102	15%
Total	**671.1**	**100%**





Species by Area of Forest



Access

The forest has a good road network. Where roads have not been used for over 10 years they have been allowed to grow over in to footpaths. Some of these will need to be flailed and upgraded when access is required for harvesting. There are no new planned roads in the forest. The quarry located in the north of Pitmedden will supply enough roadstone for upgrades over the whole forest.

LISS Potential

Many stands in the forest have CCF/LISS potential. They are mature (60+) years old and have been well thinned. There has been a small amount of windblow but generally they are stable. Where windblow has been cleared, gaps have been created and regeneration is occurring. In stands with no clearance the basal area if generally too high to establish trees, especially light demanding species such as Scots pine and larch. In these stands the basal area needs to be reduced to approximately 15-20 m2/ha. This could be done by further thinning favouring final seed trees, group selection to expand existing groups or strip felling where necessary. Because the forest is very fertile and climate is mild it is important to control light levels to prevent woody weeds such as gorse and broom establishing. Where this has happened the sites could be scarified to create better seed beds for tree establishment and may even warrant underplanting.

Thinning Potential

The forest is not generally exposed to wind with DAMS mostly in the region 13-15, there has been minimal windblow in the past and almost all conifer stands have been thinned. It would seem that almost all stands in the forest could be thinned as long as the first thinning window is not missed.

II/3.0.3 Land Use

The forest is mostly productive high forest. With surrounding land use generally used for grazing. There is some forest adjacent to Pitmedden near the Glenfoot entrance. Within the forest there is open ground managed around the ponds in the Turflundy SSSI / SAC and open ground at the Lochmill Loch which is managed for lowland heath. The only other open ground are wayleaves that bisect the north east area of Pitmedden.

II/3.0.4 Biodiversity and Environmental Designations

There are a number of designated sites within Pitmedden and Weddersby Forests and the largest of these is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the great crested newt. Within this there is a small area known as Torflundie Mire previously designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but now superseded by the SAC.

The Lochmill Loch and surrounding area is a SSSI; important for aquatic flora, otters and scrub heathland, the latter of which falls within FCS ownership.

There is an SWT listed site at the Red Myre in Weddersby.

The mature areas of Norway spruce, larch and Scots pine are important for resident red squirrels. Pitmedden and Weddersby hold locally significant populations of red squirrels which are being monitored in partnership with Fife Red Squirrel Group.

II/3.0.5 Landscape

The forest is situated on hill tops that are not very visible from most local viewpoints. More important are viewpoints within the forest from popular walking and cycling route. The Nature Scot landscape character assessment states the forest to be within Landscape Character Type 182- Upland Hills. In summary this is characterised as:

Elevated, massive, open, large scale, rolling hills.

With the following forestry issues:

- Straight edged plantations are being restructured over time
- Broadleaf and mixed woodland virtually absent
- Often affected by Overhead Powerlines

See Appendix7 and Map 3 for viewpoints of the forest.

II/3.0.6 Statutory Requirements and Key External Policies

Appendix VI provides all legal and external policies that are relevant to the LMP. This plan seeks permission to fell, thin and restock the areas of forest indicated in the plan. This will be approved by Scottish Forestry to ensure that FLS are adhering to UKFS guidance and principles. The LMP is also assessed by UKWAS auditors in order to ensure that FLS is managing the forest sustainably according to FSC and PEFC certification schemes.

The LMP acts as a vehicle to gain approval for FLS to undertake afforestation, deforestation, new roads and quarries through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Scottish Forestry will assess the LMP to determine if a full EIA is necessary.

Appendix III - Tolerance Tables

	Adjustment to Felling Coupe Boundaries	Timing of Restocking	Change to Species	Windthrow Response
FC Approval Not Normally Required	0.5ha or 5% of coupe – whichever is less	Planting up to 5 seasons after felling (allowing for fallow periods for Hylobius). For natural regeneration up to 10 planting seasons after felling.	Change within species group, e.g. conifers: native broadleaves	
Approval by Exchange of Email and Map	0.5ha to 2.0ha or 10% of coupe – which ever is first		Greater than 15% species change	Up to 5.0ha – if mainly windblown trees between 5.0ha to 10ha in areas of low sensitivity.
Approval by Formal Plan Amendment	Greater than 2.0ha or 10% of coupe	Delay in excess of that described above.	Increased native woodland component. Increase in native broadleaves and open/bog restoration.	Greater than 5.0ha
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 separate felling permission due to the risks or impacts of delaying felling. Felling permission is therefore sought for the LMP approval period to cover the following circumstances: Individual, rows or small groups of trees that are impacting on important infrastructure (ie Forest roads, footpaths, access routes (vehicular, cycle, equestrian or pedestrian), Buildings, Utilities and services and drains) either because they are now encroaching on or have been destabilised or made unsafe by wind, physical damage or impede drainage. The maximum volume of felling in exceptional circumstances covered by this approval is 75 cubic metres per Land Management Plan per calendar year. A record of the volume felled in this manner will be maintained and will be considered during the five year LMP review.			

Appendix IV - Land Management Plan Brief

IV/1.0 Previous plan objectives

Timber Production:

- Scots pine of low quality- replace with alternatives
- Well thinned stands to be converted to CCF where suitable
- Clear windblow in Weddersby and restock with appropriate species and retain windfirm boundaries
- Convert MacDuff trust area to broadleaves

Landscape:

- Improve appearance of the Pitmedden in the landscape from Abernethy to Newburgh road
- Improve landscape appearance of Weddersby from A91

Recreation:

- Improve visual amenity along forest roads and main access points
- Increase CCF areas to reduce recreation pressure in other areas.

Conservation:

- CCF and riparian woodland will improve amphibian habitat as a qualifying feature of the SAC.
- Pond and habitat management will improve habitats amphibians.
- Open habitat will be managed where important- such as SSSI at Lochmill Loch
- Improve red squirrel habitat planting favourable species such as small seeded broadleaves and increasing mixed confer CCF stands.

Broadleaved Planting:

- Improve and expand the unsuccessful broadleaf planting where possible.
- Take opportunity in Weddersby to expand riparian and road/ride side broadleaf planting to improve habitat networks

Heritage:

- Manage any unscheduled monuments in line with UKFS and FCS Archaeological gudielines.

IV/1.1 Strategic Influence

This plan has been written to conform with the following strategies and policies

- UKWAS Certification Standard
- UKFS
- Scotlands Forestry Strategy 2019-2029
- FLS Corporate Strategies (https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/plans-and-strategies)

IV/1.2 Key Issues and Constraints

- Substantial CCF allocated but few CCF interventions
- Natural regeneration in CCF low density and mostly Sitka spruce
- Considerable area of the forest is assessed as Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO)
- Over mature stands suffering windblow and reducing in value
- Fertile soil and mild climate result in high weed competition at restock
- High Recreation pressure
- SSSIs for amphibians and lowland dry heath
- Straight edges in landscape to be reduced
- Third party access required within the forest

IV/1.3 Aims of new plan

see section 6.1 for Concept and Analysis Table

Appendix V – Links to Policy and Guidance Documents

UKWAS Certification Standard

- http://ukwas.org.uk/standard/background-and-purpose/
- http://ukwas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/UKWAS-4-Appendix-References-v1.0-FINAL.pdf

UKFS Standard

- https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland

Scotlands Forestry Strategy 2019-2029

- https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-forestry-strategy-20192029/

FLS Corporate Strategies

- https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/plans-and-strategies

Appendix VI – Landscape Visualisations

Viewpoint 1- A913 Abernethy, NO179159

Viewpoint 2- NO235144

Viewpoint 3- NO232149

Viewpoint 4 – Lochmill Loch NO224163