

East Schiehallion Management Plan

2015 - 2025

1. Introduction

This management plan follows previous plans (most recent 2010 – 2014). It contains minor updates and revisions to previous plans rather than significant changes in direction. It has been slimmed down to make it more accessible and a list of actions provided in Appendix.

2. Vision

The John Muir Trust's vision is that wild land is protected and enhanced throughout the UK and wild places are valued by all sectors of society. This vision will be achieved when:

- Wild land is protected
- Wild land is enhanced
- People engage with wild places
- Communities thrive alongside wild land

Schiehallion is a popular Munro with a wealth of interest for geology, history and wildlife. Our vision is that its wild landscape is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy, and for the benefit of the rich diversity of wildlife it supports. The Trust will seek to work in close co-operation with neighbours and partners to engage in collaborative projects that enhance the biodiversity and encourage people to enjoy wild places.

3. Aims and objectives

The Trust owns wild land to protect it from inappropriate development, to improve habitats, and to encourage a more natural landscape and ecosystem. A prime aim of management is to retain, and where possible restore, natural processes and indigenous populations of plants and animals. The Trust will therefore promote sustainable management practices, and the repair, where necessary, of physical damage that has resulted in declines in biodiversity and deterioration of soils and landscape. Objectives are defined within the Trust's Wild Land Management Standards at:

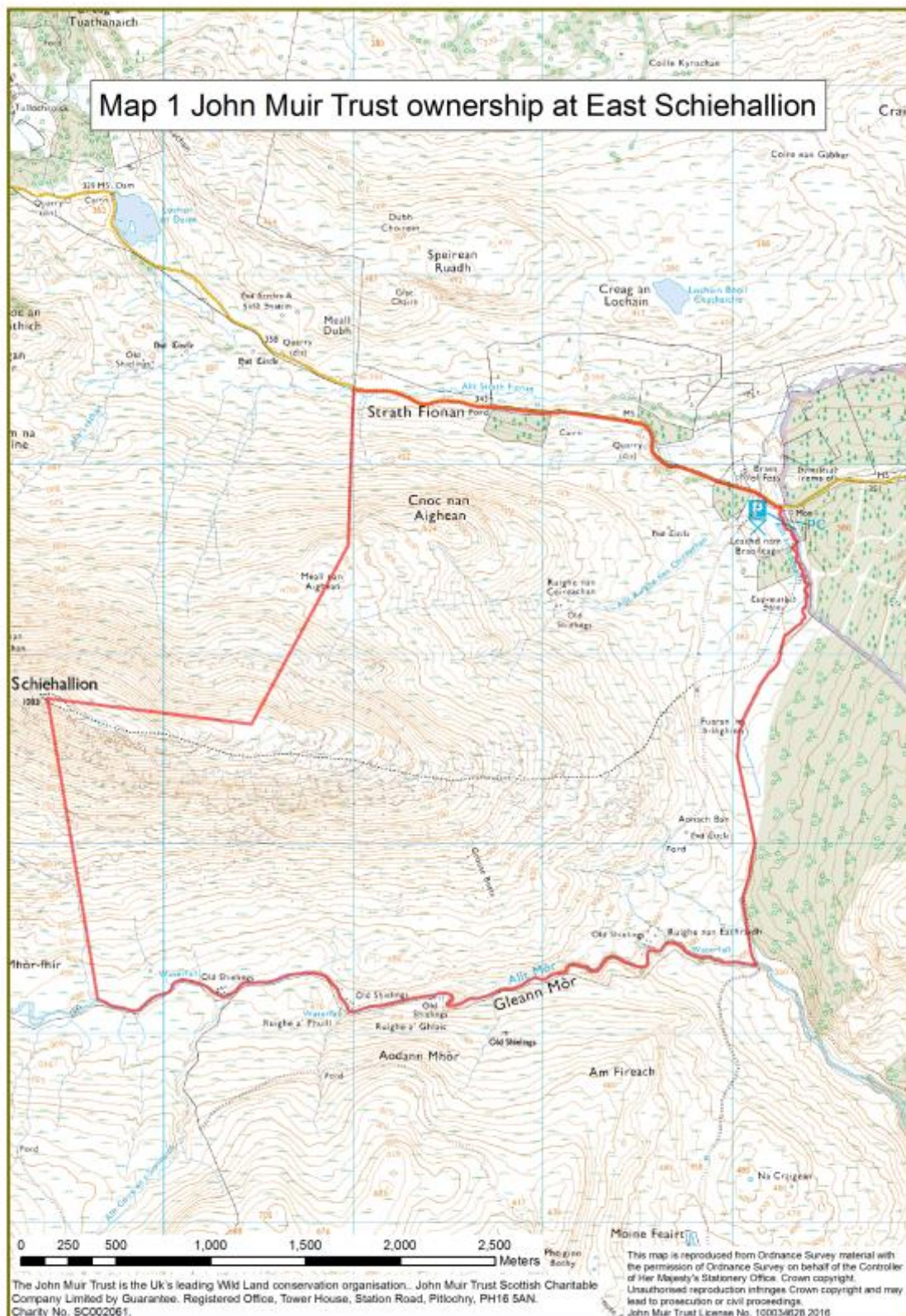
www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk

4. Actions

Actions are based on Wild Land Management Standards – Appendix i

5. Additional information

Map 1. Ownership at East Schiehallion



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Map 2. Statutory designations

The property lies entirely within the Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area. Part of the site is a Geological Conservation Review site and is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The notified features are for botanical (a montane assemblage of habitats - calcareous flushes, springs, grassland and base rich heath due to the limestone) and geological interest, namely Dalradian geology. The SSSI is currently in favourable condition.

6. Tenure

East Schiehallion covers 871 hectares of the eastern part of Schiehallion, and was purchased by the Trust in 1999.

Captain I C de Sales La Terriere and his heirs have the right to shoot ptarmigan on the summit of Schiehallion as long as they remain proprietors of the adjoining Crossmount estate.

The John Muir Trust has the deer stalking rights for the estate

7. Management

The Trust has a Memorandum of Understanding with Kynachan estate. The purpose of this partnership is to allow the John Muir Trust to support Kynachan Estate in its conservation management and for Kynachan Estate to support the John Muir Trust by helping it in developing policy and management practices through sharing experiences gained; and the continual development of best practice. This agreement does not constitute a legal partnership between the parties.

Access

The main access point is via the Forestry Commission Braes of Foss car park.

Captain I C de Sales La Terriere has a right of vehicle access leading from Braes of Foss farm into Glen Mor in perpetuity. Locally there is an informal agreement that he will only use ATV vehicles along this access from the old sheep fank (grid ref. NN 748 554).

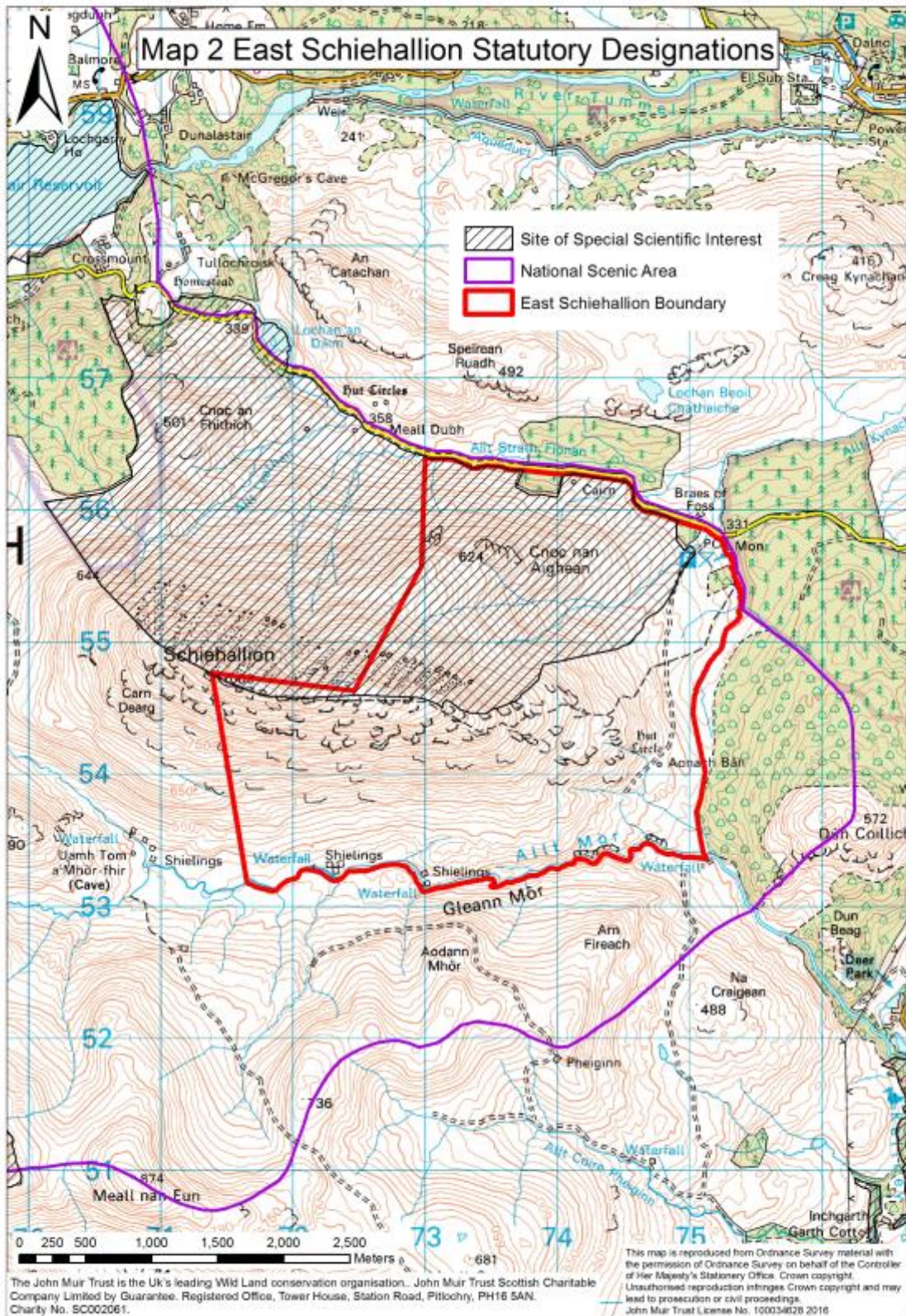
The John Muir Trust has an open pedestrian access policy to all its sites. With implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Part 1 in 2005, there is a statutory right of access while taking part in activities covered by the Act. These access rights only apply if they are exercised responsibly.

Perth and Kinross Council Core Path RANN 108 runs from the Forestry Commission car park to the summit ridge.

Deer

A deer management plan for the estate is in place and is reviewed annually see Appendix ii. The Trust attends the Breadalbane deer management group and was part of a Section 7 agreement from 2010 to 2015.

Map 2 East Schiehallion Statutory Designations



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Woodland

The Trust has recently submitted a woodland plan to the Forestry commission and this is included as Appendix iii

Archaeology

There are no scheduled ancient monuments on the site, but there is a wealth of historical and archaeological interest, dating from approximately 3000BC until the early 20th Century. Including a cup marked stone, hut circles and medieval settlements. Schiehallion was also the location for Maskelynes 1774 experiment to calculate the mean density of the earth.

Appendix i Wild Land Management Standards and actions

Appendix ii DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN East Schiehallion 2013-17

Appendix iii Woodland plan

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Wild Land Management - STANDARDS	Action Name	Description	Annual action or year
1. Audit existing state and condition	Map all man made structures	Map on file	
	Digitise woodland	Map on file	
	Conduct archaeological survey	Surveys on file	
	Collate all relevant data	Collect and Collate new data at Pitlochry	
2. Establish survey and monitoring programme	Conduct habitat monitoring programme	Circular tree seedling plots	5 yearly next in 2020
		Setup/Record dwarf shrub heath plots	record annually
		Setup/Record Marked Seedling plots	record biennially
		Record tree transects	5 yearly
		Record flush plots	record annually
	Conduct species monitoring programme	Record breeding bird survey transects	record annually
		Record Mountain Ringlet Transects annually	record annually
		Monitor core water vole areas	record annually
		Bat surveys	record annually
		Raptor surveys	local raptor study group annual surveys
	Monitor deer and livestock exclosure plots	Fixed point photos	5 yearly
	Maintain species records	Record species and collate data	record annually
	Take fixed point photographs	Photo monitoring on ATV tracks	5 yearly
		Woodland edge photographs	5 yearly
		Set up fixed point photos	5 yearly
	Monitor people counters / car park usage	Monitor People Counters	record annually
3. Develop SMART actions	Develop SMART actions	Ten Year Management Plan	
		Annually review management plan actions	
4. Consult stakeholders	Consult on plan with stakeholders	Consult local community re management issues	
5. Maximise water tables on peatlands	Drain Blocking	n/a	
6. Minimise exposure, burning and grazing	Minimise Burning	no burning on site	
7. Minimise pollution	Remove litter	Remove Litter as seen on all visits	all visits
8. Maintain protected sites in favourable condition	Implement SNH advice	annual meeting with area staff	

Wild Land Management - STANDARDS	Action Name	Description	Annual action or year
	Inform / work with other groups / users		
	Advance Agri -Environment scheme applications to deliver management		
9. Maximise native habitats	Maximise native habitats	Habitat enhancement projects	
10. Biodiversity species management	Map and remove non-native invasives (plants)	Map Invasive Non Natives Species (INNS) on Trust properties	Sitka Spruce seedlings
		Implement control programme for INNS	
	Develop and implement a control strategy (animals)	Report any mink sightings and monitor rafts with partners	check mink raft fortnightly
		Develop mink survey and control programme	implement control if necessary
11. Re-structure woodlands	Develop / implement a forest plan	Implement Forest/ woodland Plan	
	Additional native woodland planting projects		
12. Re-introductions	Consider reintroductions	n/a	
13. Minimise deer impacts	Collect / analyse relevant deer / habitat data	Collate relevant deer and habitat data	record annually
	Produce deer management plan	Review existing deer management plan	annually
	Deliver cull targets	Deliver annual cull	annually
	Engage with DMG / Section 7 / Joint working group	Attend relevant meetings	annually
14. Leave deer carcasses for eagles	Leave carcasses	Leave small number of deer carcasses for eagles	n/a
	Camera trap monitor carcasses	Install camera traps on deer carcasses	n/a
15. Minimise livestock impacts	Control numbers	Sheep incursions	work with neighbours on a regular basis
	Monitor incursions and liaise with owner		
16. Staff training	Staff training	Implement training plan (staff)	part of annual staff appraisal system
		Implement training plan (volunteers)	provide training as needed
17. Infrastructure & heritage maintenance	Monitor and maintain paths	Maintain existing paths on property	annual work party program
	Monitor and maintain buildings, fences etc.	Maintain boundary fences	implement regular checks
		Maintain buildings	n/a

Wild Land Management - STANDARDS	Action Name	Description	Annual action or year
	Run conservation work parties	Run conservation work parties	annual work party program
		Publicise work parties of local groups and partners	Working with HPCLT and SWT
18. Reduce, re-use, recycle	Minimise resource use and waste		annually
19. Minimise carbon footprint	Maximise energy efficiency		annually
20. Explore local renewable energy	Explore local renewable options	n/a	
21. Remove redundant structures	Remove redundant structures	Remove any new cairns that appear on the property	annually
22. Sensitive new build techniques	Remove, reduce or narrow roads where this is possible	n/a	
	Apply sensitive techniques to any new build	n/a	
23. Sensitive footpath techniques	Apply sensitive techniques to any footpath work		
24. Provide responsible access	Provide guidance on large scale events	Encourage use of code of conduct for larger scale events	
	Provide guidance on fishing policy	n/a	
	Advise on responsible campfires and clean up		
25. Meet responsibilities towards local people	Liaise with neighbours	Continue and develop relationships with neighbours, relevant local bodies and communities of interest	
	Engage with local groups	Attend relevant local community and partnership meetings	
	Hold Open meetings		
	Use local contractors / volunteers / produce	Prioritise where possible in procuring goods and services	
26. Joint project work	Liaise locally with SNH/ Natural resources Wales	Liaise locally with SNH	
	Contribute to relevant wider projects		
27. Maximise interpretation	Review and update leaflets, ensure leaflet dispensers filled	Refill Leaflet dispenser on every visit	
	Review and maintain website information	Ensure info on website is kept up to date	
	Review and maintain interpretation panels	New Interpretation panel	Planned for 2016

Wild Land Management - STANDARDS	Action Name	Description	Annual action or year
28. Maximise education opportunities	Carry out guided walks / talks / events / land days / wild land awareness / open days programme	Input into relevant local Festivals/ events	
		Deliver guided walks programme, summer events and school visits	
		Visit for University / college groups/ placements	
	Produce articles for local media		
	Encourage local John Muir Award activity		

**DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN
EAST SCHIEHALLION
2013-17**

1. Rationale

The John Muir Trust recognises that:

- Native deer species are an integral part of the natural heritage,
- Deer management can bring environmental, social and economic benefits,
- At inappropriate population levels, deer impacts can damage habitat condition and suppress natural processes.

Deer populations will be manipulated through culling:

- To achieve the Trust's charitable objective to "conserve and protect wild land encouraging natural processes",
- In line with industry Best Practice Guidance,
- Not impeding public access at any time.

2. Audit

2.1 Geology, soils, habitats and species

See Management Plan

2.2 Designations, biodiversity priorities, habitat conditions

See Management plan

2.3 Livestock

The property has regular incursions of sheep stock from land adjacent to the west and south of the estate as the Trust's boundary is not fully stock fenced.

2.4 Employment and income

Deer management is currently carried out by the stalker employed full time by Kynachan estate on behalf of the John Muir Trust. Under this arrangement sport stalking is combined with management culling, most stags being shot by guests and most hinds being shot by the stalker.

2.5 Red deer population estimates and cull figures

The following count data is available for the property.

Year	Count estimate				Cull			
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
2010/11	22	205	57	285	22	53	11	86
2011/12					10	74	34	128
2012/13					10	52	23	85
2013/14					11	62	32	105
2014/15	16	84	29	129	10	37	28	75
2015/16					5	29	16	50

The most recent count estimate gives a broad density figure of 16-20 red deer per km².

3. Objectives, targets and constraints

3.1 Habitat

To manipulate the deer population through culling to enable:

- All habitats (designated and non-designated features) to be in or move towards favourable condition,
- Natural habitat processes (such as woodland regeneration) to continue or to start,
- Populations of priority species to be maintained or enhanced.

3.2 Deer population and cull

A specific target deer density has **not** been set. Instead culls will be adjusted in line with monitoring information to achieve the above objectives. Culling will tend to be focussed on target areas to achieve local scale habitat objectives. Cull targets are currently were determined by the section 7 steering group until 2015. The Deer Management Plan for the Breadalbane Deer Management Group is currently being revised and we are inputting into this process which will also set future cull targets for the group area.

3.3 Employment and income

Current annual levels of employment and income are expected to be maintained.

3.4 Constraints and mitigation

It is recognised that the habitat, natural processes and priority species population objectives set out above may be constrained by external uncontrollable factors such as weather, fire etc. Livestock grazing outwith the control of the property may also impact on objectives and where possible the Trust will seek to reduce impacts through negotiation with livestock managers. Wider deer management by neighbours may also impact on both the habitat objectives and the cull required. Where possible The Trust will seek to negotiate or influence neighbours sharing deer range to meet objectives.

4. Monitoring

4.1 Habitats and species

A programme of habitat and species monitoring is in place on the property. Annual habitat impact monitoring in May and June and approximately six yearly site condition monitoring will be used to inform cull targets for the year.

4.2 Deer and livestock numbers

While the key measures are habitat impact and condition, information on deer numbers will be used to adjust cull targets. Where possible, The Trust will participate in good quality annual range wide counts. In addition The Trust will regularly monitor and record deer and livestock numbers on the property. Deer cull data will also be recorded.

5. Review

Habitat, count and cull data will be reviewed annually with the plan adjusted accordingly. A review of the whole plan will take place in 2017 .

Appendix iii Woodland Management Plan

Owner name	John Muir Trust
Agent name	n/a
Management Plan Name	Schiehallion Woodland Management Plan
Business Reference Number	140229
Main Location Code	464/0007
Management Plan area (hectares)	11.2 Hectares existing woodland
Grid Reference (e.g. NH 550 022)	NN 730540
Agreed by: (e.g. FCS, SNH)	
Date of Plan	30/07/15

Section 1 – Description of woodlands

1.1 Maps required

Please provide a 1:50,000 that shows the boundary of all woodland areas

Map 1 enclosed

1.2 History of management

There are three woodland plantations on East Schiehallion. See Map 1 for locations. The provenance of planted stock is unknown. Planting was at a density of around 2,500 trees/ha. In compartment 1 and 2 trees were planted on ploughed ground.

Compartment 1 (Braes of Foss)

2 ha of Sitka spruce, Scots pine and a few lodgepole pine. The area is unfenced. Wind blow is present. A previously felled area of 0.3 ha on the southern edge was planted with Ash in approx. 1996 (planted under WGS 033/000875 – Braes of Foss) and largely failed. A handful of Ash trees are now present. No remaining WGS obligations apply.

Compartment 2 (North wood)

2.8 ha of p1996 (estimated) Native broadleaves and Scots pine, both planted and regenerating naturally (established under WGS 033/000875 – Braes of Foss). Good access, deer fence removed in 2011. No WGS obligations remaining.

Compartment 3 (Strath Fionan).

4.5 ha Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine, scots pine and larch. Access good, unfenced. No WGS obligations remaining. Wind blow throughout is present.

Compartment 4 (Quarry) 0.9 Ha of native woodland unfenced

Compartment 5 (Allt mor) 1.0 Ha of native woodland in gorge, unfenced

1.3 Site species and age

Compartment 1 (Braes of Foss)

p1975 (estimated) Sitka spruce 1.6Ha, scots pine 0.4Ha and a few lodgepole pine

Compartment 2 (North wood)

p1996 (estimated) Native broadleaves and Scots pine

Compartment Area 3 (Strath Fionan)

p1970 (estimated) Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine 0.9Ha scots pine 1.9 Ha and larch 0.7Ha, scots pine and larch 1.0Ha.

Compartment 4 (Quarry) ancient woodland mainly W11 some W4 and W7

Compartment 5 (Allt mor) native woodland mainly W11 and W17c

1.4 Constraints and designations

See Map 2 for designations

Schiehallion Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Botanical: Limestone Pavement, Montane assemblage; Geological: Dalradian geology

Schiehallion to Strath Fionan Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Site**Glen Lyon and Rannoch National Scenic Area (NSA)**

Archaeology – features from RHCAMs and the Perth Historic Environment Record are shown on Map 2. The Trust commissioned Clare Thomas to survey the area in advance of the realignment of the Schiehallion path (2003).

Wildlife - red squirrels are known to use compartments 1 and 3. Long eared owls have been reported breeding in the past in compartment 1 and a male was heard calling in March 2015.

Impact Consideration:

The routes of machinery and location of fencing and planting will take account of archaeological features and the Trust will seek expert advice where necessary. Buffer areas with no planting or fencing close to key features will be used. The UK guidelines on Forest and Historic environment will be followed.

Forestry operations will be timed to be outside the bird breeding season.

1.5 public access

There is public access to the whole estate. The main access point is from the Forestry Commission Braes of Foss car park where the path to the summit ridge starts (NN753556). There is also a track leading from the road at (NN751558) towards Glen Mor, and three access points in the fence which marks the Eastern boundary with Dun Coillich At NN 754552, NN752549 and NN751534.

Section 2 – Management Strategy and Objectives**2.1 Maps required**

Please provide an indicative map at 1:10,000 scale or larger eg 1:5,000 that shows the location of operations over next 5-10 years

See map 3 and 4

2.2 Management objectives (provide 3 to 4 main objectives for your woodlands)

Compartment 1 (Braes of Foss)

Conversion/restoration to native broadleaves and Scots Pine, with expansion; creation of outdoor classroom.

Compartment 2 (North wood)

Native woodland expansion/protection

Compartment 3 (Strath Fionan)

Conversion/restoration to native broadleaves and Scots Pine.

Compartment 4 (Quarry)

Native woodland expansion/protection.

Compartment 5 (Allt mor)

Native woodland expansion/protection.

In addition we will explore the possibility of a montane scrub restoration project on the southern slopes outside the SSSI area.

2.3 Main management operations envisaged over the next 5-10 years

Compartment 1 (Braes of Foss)

Fell Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine and establish woodland of native broadleaves and scots pine through new planting and natural regeneration. There will be 5.3Ha of new planting. Trees will be planted with variable spacing to emulate natural regeneration and over wider area than the existing plantation. Species for planting will include Scots Pine, Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Rowan, Alder, Goat Willow, Eared Willow. Within the new woodland area an outdoor classroom area and a low level informal route linking the Schiehallion path with the track that connects to the road at NN 751558.

Restructure to remove Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine. Felling of 2 Ha. New planting will replace 2Ha felled in Area 1 and 1.2 Ha felled in Area 3, and will be protected by an electric double strand fence at 1.2m height.

Timber will be removed from site using the access to the Schiehallion road at NN 751558 and the existing track.

Compartment 2 (North wood)

Protect native woodland to allow opportunities for regeneration of young trees, but not in conflict with interest features of the SSSI.

Compartment 3 (Strath Fionan)

Fell Sitka Spruce, and Lodgepole Pine close to the road and Scots Pine to the east of this block. Restructure remaining woodland through selective thinning 10% every five years and ring barking for gradual conversion to native species through natural regeneration and planting. Reshape the woodland for landscape enhancement by allowing natural regen in surrounding heath to develop. This will involve stock fencing and protecting new tree regeneration with brash shelters. Aim to soften the shape of the woodland for landscape reasons. Area where Sitka Spruce are to be

felled and not replanted due to proximity to SSSI and wet flushes through the area will be compensated for by the planting in Area 1.

Felling of 0.8 Ha Sitka Spruce and Lodgepole Pine, thinning and ring barking of remaining larch and scots pine. Fell 0.4 Ha Scots Pine to eastern end of the Sitka Spruce block. Fencing to allow some regeneration on heathland outside existing plantation, subject to SNH approval. Create brash fences within remaining woodland to encourage regeneration.

Timber will be removed from site using the access to the Schiehallion road at NN 738563.

Compartment 4 (Quarry)

Protect native woodland to allow opportunities for regeneration of young trees, but not in conflict with interest features of the SSSI.

Compartment 5 (Allt mor) Fence an area of approximately 6Ha with double strand electric fencing at 1.2 m height, joined to existing 2m deer fence along march with Dun Coilich. Allow native woodland to spread north from the Allt mor ravine through existing naturally regenerating tree seedlings. Existing mature trees are downy birch, silver birch, rowan, aspen, eared willow and goat willow. Mature trees are located along the southern edge of the proposed area, 15 0.01 ha seedling sampling plots have been established in this area and were recorded in June 2015. Results are shown on Map 8.

Montane Scrub restoration project – identify suitable areas and feasibility.