Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

East Schiehallion Woodland Management Plan 2022 to 2032

Scottish Forestry is the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulation

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Management Plan

Please refer to the Management Plan Guidance note for advice on how to complete your management plan. This template includes a section for thinning permission.

You must have an approved Management Plan before you can apply for Forestry Grant Scheme funding.

1. Details

Management Plan Details			
Management Plan Name:	East Schiehallion Woodland Management Plan		
Business Reference Number:	140229	Main Location Code:	79/464/0007
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NN 730540	Nearest town or locality:	Tummel Bridge
Local Authority:		Perth & Kinross Council	
Management Plan area (hectares):		850ha	

Owner's Details **If owned by a business, the details must be for that business. Please note: We do not accept applications 'care of'.**			
Title:	Dr	Forename:	Liz
Surname:	Auty		
Organisation:	John Muir Trust	Position:	East Schiehallion Property Manager
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:			
Address:	Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry		
Postcode:	PH16 5AN	Country:	Scotland

Agent's Details **You must submit a mandate with the application if it includes thinning. A template can be found on our website**			
Title:		Forename:	
Surname:			
Organisation:		Position:	
Primary Contact Number:		Alternative Contact Number:	

Email:			
Address:			
Postcode:		Country:	

Access Consent – Complete if applying for thinning		
You are not obliged to give us consent to enter your land, however if we are denied access to your land, and cannot carry out an assessment because of this, we may reject your application. This consent is for access to assess this application as well as monitor compliance with any subsequent approval, where applicable.		
Do you give consent for Scottish Forestry to access your property?	☐ YES	☐ NO

Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning		
Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?	☐ YES	☐ NO
If YES please provide details:		
Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?	☐ YES	☐ NO
If YES please provide details:		

Declarations – Complete if applying for thinning

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

- I am the landowner or an occupier of the land with written permission of the landowner;
- Where the landowner is a business, I am authorised to sign legal contracts on behalf of that business;
- If I am an acting on behalf of the landowner or occupier, I have been mandated to do so;
- Any necessary consents from any other person(s) if required, have been obtained;
- I have made the necessary checks with the local planning authorities regarding Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas;
- I have notified all stakeholders that may be affected by the felling in this application and sought their views prior to submitting this application;
- I 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;
- 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;
- 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.

[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.]

Signed:	Print:	Date:

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:		
Management Plan Reference Number:		
Plan Period: (ten years) (day/month/year)	From:	To:

Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	

2. Woodland Description

Give information about the following:

- past management of the woodland
- current species and ages
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interests)
- existing or potential public access
- woodland protection

Use the Land Information Search to help you complete this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: forestry.gov.scot

2.1 Maps required

Provide maps to support your plan, as outlined in the guidance note. Please list all of the maps that you are including with your management plan.

List of maps:
Map 1: location of woodland in wider landscape
Map 2: property boundary
Map 3: existing woodland types
Map 4: archaeological features and designations
Map 5: proposed management activities
Map 6: NVC habitats
Map 7: public access to the site
Map 8: proposed planting plan
Map 9: proposed fencing with crossing points
Map 10: detailed replanting plan for Strathfionan felling

2.2 History of management

Compartment 1: Braes of Foss

A 2.0ha Sitka spruce, Scots pine, lodgepole pine plantation, of which 1.4ha was felled (leaving a small stand of Scots pine) in 2017. A previously felled area of 0.3ha on the southern edge of the old plantation was planted with ash in c. 1996 (WGS 033/000875), most were unsuccessful and only a handful of ash trees remain.

After felling in 2017, this area was deer fenced and replanted with 3ha of restocking and an additional 4.2ha woodland creation through a FGS in 2018-19 (17FGS21817-001).

Compartment 2: North Wood

2.8ha of native broadleaves and Scots pine, planted c. 1996 (established under WGS 033/000875). No WGS obligations remain, there is good access from the road. This area has not been thinned since planting and a small amount of thinning by hand is planned to create an irregular-structured, uneven-aged native woodland. All thinning will total less than $5m^3$ per quarter.

Compartment 3: Strath Fionan

4.5ha Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine, Scots pine and larch (of which 1.6ha was felled in 2017 and an additional 2.6ha is due to be felled in 2022, felling permission is being applied for. Felling largely due to concerns about the spread of Phytophthora in the area.

Compartment 4: Quarry

0.9ha of native, unfenced woodland. Mainly eared/goat willows, rowan, downy birch – not regenerating, likely reducing due to overgrazing.

Compartment 5: Allt Mor

1.0ha of native, unfenced woodland in inaccessible gorge. Mix of downy birch, rowan, aspen, eared/goat willows. Regenerating in nearby fenced area.

Compartment 6: Fenced regeneration area

72ha offset-electric fenced area that has largely been left to naturally regenerate, with small areas of supplementary planting of rarer species. Small stands of willow across area. 40ha of this area is covered by a Woodland Improvement Grant 18FGS33259 (claim year 2022).

2.3 Species and age

Compartment 1: Braes of Foss

Planted c. 1975 0.4ha Scots pine, one lodgepole pine. Remaining restocking and woodland creation planted 2018-19 (native broadleaves and Scots pine). Birch, rowan and willow regeneration throughout the area.

Compartment 2: North Wood

Planted c. 1996, predominantly native broadleaves and Scots pine, with a handful of Sitka spruce and larch. Limited regeneration due to overgrazing.

Compartment 3: Strath Fionan

Planted c. 1970, after felling of larch planned for 2022, the remaining species will be Scots pine only, with a handful of mature birch and rowan in plantation.

Compartment 4: Quarry

Ancient woodland, mainly W11, with some W4 and W7.

Compartment 5: Allt Mor

Native woodland, mainly W11 and W17c.

Compartment 6: Fenced regeneration area

Areas of native woodland, mainly W4b and W7b. Small areas of alder, aspen, dwarf birch and sessile oak have been planted in 2020, with good amounts of birch, rowan, hawthorn and willow regenerating throughout the area.

Replanting from felled area in compartment 3 will be planted in this area (see attached map 10).

2.4 Constraints and designations

See Map 4 for designations.

Schiehallion Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Botanical: limestone pavement, montane assemblage

Geological: Dalradian geology

Permission to reduce grazing in the SSSI was approved by NatureScot in January 2022. The construction of an offset electric fence was approved so long as ongoing monitoring of sensitive habitats continues.

Schiehallion to Strath Fionan Geological Conservation Review (GCR) Site

Glen Lyon and Rannoch National Scenic Area (NSA)

We hope that by joining up existing woodland with new planted areas will enhance the 'great diversity of woodland' noted in the special qualities of the NSA. Existing pockets of birch-dominated woodland along the Schiehallion road will be allowed to naturally expand, whilst new planting will use locally-sourced seed from the surrounding area.

Although fencing will need to be installed to ensure successful woodland creation, we aim to upgrade existing fence lines where possible and planting will be done with a buffer around the fence to ensure 'hard lines' are minimised. Fencing will only be slightly higher than stock-height and we will not use deer-height fencing to reduce the landscape impact.

Archaeology:

Features from RHCAMs and the Perth Historic Environment Record are shown on Map 4. The Trust commissioned Clare Thomas to survey the area in advance of

the realignment of the Schiehallion path (2003) and received advice before fencing compartment 6 and FGS planting in compartment 1 (2017). A buffer area was left around areas of archaeological interest which were not planted, although it is possible that natural regeneration may occur on these sites.

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 3. There is a large black grouse lek near compartment 6, as a result a stock height fence was used and marked to increase its visibility to grouse and reduce the likelihood of fence strikes.

A variety of raptors breed or hunt at East Schiehallion or in the surrounding area. Fencing and planting will be done at times that avoid the breeding bird season to limit disturbance to all bird species.

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 outwith the bird breeding season.

2.5 Public access

There is public access to the whole estate. It is not anticipated that public access will be affected by our management of woodlands on the site, as only minimal thinning by hand will be taking place.

All other planned management is afforestation, and any new fencing will be installed with ample stiles, gates and signage to direct walkers to the nearest crossing point. Crucially, fencing will end before the main walker's route up Schiehallion to lessen the impact on hill walkers.

See map 7 for details of public access to the site. The main access point to East Schiehallion is from Forestry and Land Scotland's Braes of Foss car park where the path to the summit ridge starts (NN 753 556).

There is also a track leading from the road at (NN 751 558) towards Glen Mor, which roughly follows the fence surrounding compartment 6. There are gates/stiles in this fence at NN 750 557, NN 748 548, NN 748 542 and NN 747 536.

The site's eastern boundary with Dun Coillich is deer fenced. There are three access points in the fence at NN 754 552, NN 752 549 and NN 751 534.

2.6 Woodland Protection

Plant Health (including tree health and invasive or noxious plants)

There are no known invasive plants on the site.

Phytophthora ramorum has been found in the surrounding area, but there are no known outbreaks of it within larch populations on the site.

A small area of planted ash trees have been infected with what is assumed to be ash dieback. The affected trees are around 25 years old and not close enough to paths/roads to warrant felling.

Any planting of juniper will use trusted growers and we will endeavour to ensure that plants are not infected with Phytophthora austrocedri before planting. Young juniper plants will be left to 'harden up' for a year in raised beds on site, which will allow us to plant out saplings showing no sign of disease. We have only one remnant juniper bush on the site, so feel it is important that this population is boosted as a viable population is unlikely to return via natural regeneration alone.

Deer, Livestock and other mammals

Compartments 1 and 6 are protected from herbivores by deer fencing and offset electric stock fencing respectively. Planting within compartment 1 has been additionally protected with plastic hare tubes.

There are presently no other fences on the site to protect woodland, although there is a porous stock fence along the site's northern boundary with the Schiehallion road.

Deer are currently controlled by contract stalkers on the site, with cull targets informed by ongoing habitat monitoring. In 2021-2, deer cull targets increased in line with targets to increase natural regeneration. Trust staff undertake yearly habitat monitoring, in the form of heath plots and marked tree seedlings. Alongside trials to count deer via drone thermal imagery, we plan to closely monitor deer movements and impacts on the site.

The John Muir Trust does not own any livestock, however, around 200 neighbouring sheep often encroach onto East Schiehallion as the boundary with the neighbouring estate is not fully fenced. Future management will involve active shepherding to minimise their impacts on woodland.

There are good numbers of brown hare at lower altitudes, and small numbers of mountain hare at higher altitudes. Brown hares have had minimal impact on unprotected trees and the impacts of mountain hares are unknown. Field voles are present on the site, but have not been seen to damage young unprotected regenerating trees.

Grey Squirrels

There are no sightings of grey squirrels on the site.

Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification of water, pollution etc.)

Aside from a couple of landslips on the highest slopes of Schiehallion and small areas of peat erosion at ~ 800m elevation, there is minimal soil erosion on the site. It is hoped that reducing grazing and increasing tree cover on the site will minimise damage and carbon loss from soil erosion in the future.

There are no known sources of water pollution from the site.

See public consultation appendices for soil study of East Schiehallion, conducted in 2021. This study will be used as a baseline to inform areas where planting is suitable and where it should be avoided.

Environment (flooding, wind damage, fire, invasive species etc.)

There are only small burns on the site, one of which (Allt an t-Socaich) unexpectedly burst its banks during Storm Ciara in early 2020. Damage was very limited and there are no other incidents of flooding known. We anticipate reducing grazing pressures across the site, allowing for natural regeneration and tree planting will enable more water storage across the landscape and reducing likelihood of flooding in the future.

Possible impacts from fire would likely be those accidentally started by campers using the area. However, there is currently little antisocial behaviour on the site to suggest that this is an issue we should be concerned about.

Climate Change Resilience (provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)

We plan to plant a diverse range of native tree species on the site, with a particular focus on those species we have lost and which would take hundreds of years to naturally return to the site. These include: sessile oak, wych elm, Scots pine, juniper and dwarf birch. The provenance of planted trees will ideally come from the local area where possible and grown by trusted growers to ensure biosecurity risks are minimised.

Planting will take place over a minimum period of 10 years, although we anticipate this could go on for much longer given the size of the site. This long-term timescale will reduce uniformity of the woodland and reduce risks from

adverse weather, vole impacts etc. that could affect planting within a shorter timescale.

In the long-term, we aim to restore woodland to a natural treeline, and to restore a treeline/montane scrub zone on Schiehallion. Montane scrub is a habitat perhaps most at risk from climate change, with montane willows reliant on snow lie to protect from frost heave and winter grazing. With only a remnant montane willow population on the site, we aim to restore this depleted habitat into a functional and diverse habitat for walkers to experience when climbing the hill, but also for a variety of birds and mammals to benefit from.

3. Vision and Objectives

Tell us how you intend to manage the woodland in the long term and your goals for its development.

3.1 Vision

Describe your long term vision for the woodland(s).

Our long-term aims are to create a diverse, self-sustaining woodland on Schiehallion that can be enjoyed by the local community and visitors to the area, provide local employment and be beneficial to a host of wildlife including upland bird species, deer and small mammals. We would like Schiehallion to be a case study to show other land managers what is possible when the land is managed for the benefit of wildlife, carbon, biodiversity and people alike.

Our vision is that leaving the Braes of Foss car park, walkers climbing the hill will begin in a mixed broadleaf and Scots pine woodland. Gaining altitude, this woodland will give way to more open woodland dominated by downy birch and juniper, providing good views around of Schiehallion and the surrounding landscape. As walkers reach altitudes above 600m elevation they will reach the treeline zone and trees will be growing in stunted form, giving way to a mosaic habitat of montane willows, juniper and dwarf birch.

3.2 Management objectives

Give your objectives of management and also how you will manage the woodland sustainably. Your objectives should be specific and you should also be able to measure their outcomes.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	By the end of this woodland management plan in 2032, we aim to have planted over 100,000 trees which will allow a biodiverse mountain woodland to be taking shape on the mountain, from the car park right up to the rocky ridge of Schiehallion.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
	This woodland will create a seed source for the future, allowing natural regeneration to occur on neighbouring land more easily. In the long-term, we anticipate this woodland will have positive impacts on carbon sequestration, increased water storage and reduced soil/peat erosion.
2	We will have successfully controlled herbivore impacts through a variety of management tools, including strategic fencing, increased deer culls and active shepherding of encroaching sheep. Grazing impacts will continue to be monitored by a variety of habitat surveys and will be compared to baseline data. Managing this grazing will allow the mountain woodland to be self-sustaining in the future, when planted trees can naturally regenerate.
3	To restore mountain woodland on Schiehallion we will provide employment for contractors to build and fix fences, cull deer and shepherd sheep. By the end of our woodland management plan, we hope to have increased John Muir Trust staff based on the site, thanks to increased engagement projects and woodland management required on the site.
4	We will provide opportunities for the local community to enjoy and learn about their mountain woodland on Schiehallion. Engagement opportunities will include volunteering opportunities to plant trees, school visits, John Muir Award activity, hosting an apprenticeship scheme and increasing community access to Schiehallion venison. We hope a lot of this work will be done in partnership with our neighbours through the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership.
5	Throughout the planting project, we will update visitor interpretation on the site to explain what we are doing and why. We hope Schiehallion will be a flagship project for environmental restoration and aim to provide a visitor experience to showcase this.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Please provide details on the stakeholder engagement you have undertaken, this must include contact with adjacent properties and potentially affected neighbours depending on the work you intend on carrying out in the woodland (e.g. thinning) and the constraints or designations that have been identified.

Individual/ Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Response	Action

NatureScot	2020 – 2022 (see attached spreadsheet for individual correspondence)	January 2022	Permission granted to reduce grazing in the Schiehallion SSSI by construction of an offset electric boundary fence.	JMT will set up new monitoring plots within the SSSI to ensure sensitive habitats are not negatively affected.
Dunalastair Estate and Crossmount Farms	2020 - 2022	January 2022	Concerns about landscape and visual impacts of fencing, especially in Glen Mor.	Fence design has been chosen to minimise its visual impact and existing fencelines will be used where possible.
Breadalbane Deer Management Group	2020 - 2022	January 2022	Concerns about visual impact of fencing, especially in changes to vegetation inside fenced area. Inadequate consultation with BDMG.	Changes to vegetation are inevitable in the long-term and hard to mitigate for. We would argue the benefits of the project to biodiversity outweigh the visual impacts. BDMG have been consulted on the project from 2020 onwards, even after JMT left the group in 2021.
Glenlyon Estate and Garth Estate	2020 – 2022	February 2022	Concerns about impacts on SSSI and visual impact of fencing on NSA. Inadequate consultation with neighbours and BDMG.	See above for fencing concerns. Neighbours have been consulted on the project since conception in 2020, alongside BDMG.

			Inadequate consideration of fence's impact on deer welfare. Supportive of plans to improve habitat and reduce grazing.	As there is currently very poor habitat for deer on East Schiehallion, we hope the welfare impact by excluding deer will be minimal. The habitat created, will in the long-term be a good woodland habitat for them once fencing can be removed.
Chair of Mountain Woodland Action Group	2020 – 2022	February 2022	Supportive about the project aims, suggested an open fence was a good compromise between hillwalker access and reducing grazing. Offered advice on increasing monitoring once the fence is installed, so changes in vegetation can be accurately measured.	The advice and expertise of the Mountain Woodland Action Group will continue to be drawn on during the project. JMT continue to be active members of the group.
Kynachan and Dalchosnie Estate	2020 – 2022	February 2022	Concerns about the visual impact of fencing, in particular when efficacy of the fence has not been proven. Supportive of overall aims to establish	See above for fencing concerns.

			mountain woodland.	
Wider public consultation (emailed to neighbours, key organisations and posted on JMT social media channels)	2022	January – February 2022	Various	See attached document outlining stakeholder engagement and proposed mitigations.

5. Analysis and Management Strategy

Analyse the information from the previous sections and identify how to make best use of your woodland and its resources to achieve your objectives.

5.1 Constraints and Opportunities

Using the table below analyse any issues raised or relevant features within your woodland and record the constraints and opportunities.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Schiehallion SSSI	Designation for montane assemblage and Dalradian geology, requires ongoing monitoring to ensure lower grazing does not mean natural regeneration encroaches on sensitive habitats. Also ensure no damage to SSSI features from fencing work. Access for fencing contractors and any machinery will need to take account of sensitive areas of the site.	Opportunities in the future for sensitive hand planting of montane willows in SSSI, to bolster remnant and declining population in SSSI. Opportunities for existing ancient woodland in SSSI to regenerate. Future possibilities for small-scale planting of sessile oak, Scots pine etc. in areas of heath which are not near to sensitive calcareous habitats but which are

		still within SSSI-designated area. Machine access onto the SSSI for fencing will be subject to discussions with NatureScot.
Loch Rannoch and Glen Lyon National Scenic Area	Noted in the special qualities are: 'the long, symmetric mass of Schiehallion', 'the epitome of the mountain grandeur of Highland Perthshire', 'secluded side glens and ancient shielings' and 'the great diversity of woodland'.	Creating mountain woodland habitat within the NSA has the potential to greatly increase the diversity of woodland on Schiehallion, with the potential for greater regeneration on neighbouring estates in the future. We believe mountain woodland will add to, not detract from this iconic mountain and Glen Mor.
Black Grouse	Possibility of bird strikes to new fences, use existing data and specific surveys in 2022 to check there are no new leks close to the areas to be fenced.	Black grouse will seek to benefit as the young woodland develops, providing shelter and a more diverse understorey for chicks to feed on. The proposed woodland creation will be low density with open areas, so it is likely to be a beneficial habitat for black grouse in the long-term.
Access issues from electric fencing	Electric fencing could impede walker/cyclist access to the site.	Thanks to ongoing discussions with Mountaineering Scotland, we will incorporate appropriate crossing points along the fence. Strava heatmaps provide good data on popular routes used by walkers, runners and cyclists

		which will inform locations for stiles/gates. Appropriate signage will also be installed to guide people to the next crossing points.
Visual impacts of fencing	An issue raised by some members of the Breadalbane Deer Management Group. We have opted for an offset electric stock fence to reduce visual impacts. This issue will be taken into account when planning the route of the fencing, including following land forms and avoiding straight lines where practicable. We will leave a buffer zone near to the fence, to avoid a 'harsh' boundary line of trees.	Potential for increased visitor interpretation, to explain the need for a fence and issues of overgrazing.
Popular Munro for hill walkers, especially families	Mountain path is well-used by locals and visitors alike. Strategic fencing will end before the main mountain path, so hill walkers using this route should not be impacted by the proposed new fencing.	Huge opportunities to engage visitors in what we are doing and why. Possibilities for walkers to carry trees up the hill with them, perhaps even plant a few!
Archaeological areas of interest on site	Several areas of shielings in Glen Mor and Ruighe nan Coireachan. Two hut circles and one cup-marked stone.	Currently very little visitor interpretation about these features, so opportunities to expand on this to share the history of the site.

	These areas will be avoided when planting and a suitable buffer zone maintained.	
Additional detail:		

5.2 Management Strategy

Following your analysis, provide a broad statement describing your management strategy. Consider all aspects (economics, access, biodiversity, landscape) and pay particular attention to your silvicultural strategy for meeting your management objectives.

We aim to manage East Schiehallion to restore a mountain woodland on the hill. Reducing grazing (deer and sheep) across the site will be crucial to this being successful. Once achieved, low density planting of native broadleaves and Scots pine will be able to happen, providing a seed source for the future. It is hoped that over time, the site will be able to naturally regenerate, reducing the need for intensive management.

All planting will be done by hand, by a mixture of JMT staff, volunteers and contractors. Planting will avoid any areas of peat thanks to detailed soil surveys of the site and we do not presently anticipate the need for thinning in the near future, due to initial planting being at densities less than 500 stems/hectare.

We hope wildlife and people alike will be able to enjoy and benefit from this habitat in the future.

6. Management Proposals

Tell us the management operations you intend to carry out over the next 10 years to help meet your management objectives for the woodland. The submission of this plan will be considered as an application for permission to thin the woodland over the 10 year plan period, subject to the completion of Table 1 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling (e.g. clearfelling) you must apply for that permission separately.

6.1 Silvicultural Practice

Outline silvicultural practice and management prescriptions. Include any past management practice that is relevant and the strategies to address the issues identified in section 5.

Site boundary fencing:

Installing an offset-electric fence around the site will help to exclude the majority of herbivores. As this fence design is only stock height, its landscape impact should be less than a full-height deer fence.

The fence will end before the summit ridge of Schiehallion, at approximately 700m elevation, to reduce impacts on hill walkers. Map 9 shows the rough route of proposed fencing and where crossing points will be incorporated. The exact line will be defined with the expertise of contractors.

Deer cull:

We have implemented a higher deer cull at East Schiehallion beginning during the 2021/2 hind season, as ongoing habitat monitoring shows that overgrazing is limiting natural regeneration on the site.

One the boundary fence is installed, an initial reduction cull of deer within the fence will be undertaken and future deer management will continue to be informed by ongoing habitat monitoring.

Sheep removal:

There are approximately 150-200 sheep encroaching on the north side of the site and 25-50 on the south side. This is playing a role in causing significant grazing damage to the site and is stifling natural regeneration.

We will use a programme of active shepherding to remove any sheep that encroach after fencing. This will involve regularly gathering any encroaching sheep to a pen and informing the owners to collect them.

Tree Planting:

Once the above three management interventions have taken place, we will begin tree planting across the site, with the main focus around the path up Schiehallion and on the southern side of the hill (both areas outwith the SSSI).

All planting will be done by hand, using JMT staff, volunteers or contractors. We have a detailed soil survey of the site, which will inform areas to plant specific species and areas to avoid planting, where soils are peaty. Volunteers will be supervised by JMT staff to ensure areas of peat are not planted.

We anticipate species to be planted will be those which would struggle to return naturally across the site. These are: Scots pine, wych elm, aspen, downy birch, juniper, dwarf birch, hazel, alder and bird cherry.

We are not looking to pursue any Scottish Forestry grant funding in the short-term, as planting densities will be low, likely 500 stems/hectare. This will create an open woodland, and we will be careful to leave large areas open where natural

regeneration can happen in the future. Map 8 shows the proposed areas for planting and species composition of each zone.

Restocking compartment 3:

After felling the remaining larch in this plantation in 2022, we will replant the 2.6ha in 0.25ha clumps within the existing electric fenced area, compartment 6. Planting will be at the required density of 1600 stems / hectare. (See felling permission application submitted and map 10 for details of proposed replanting).

6.1 Thinning Prescription

If you are applying for thinning, you must provide a map as per Appendix 2 of the Forest Plan Applicant's Guidance. The map must show all areas proposed for thinning. Provide any further details required here in reference to your map(s).

N/A – only hand thinning is proposed in compartment 2. Thinning will be less than $5m^3$ per quarter so no licence is necessary.

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Management Plan

Table 1 – Thinning

This table shows the total management plan area as well as the thinning compartments proposed for management. The felling site/compartment in this table must be shown as the same on the thinning map(s). Please select method of displaying thinning regime:

☐Pre/Post stocking density ☐Pre/Post basal area ☐Volume to be removed

Total Plan Area:			**hectares**							
Thinning Compartment	**Area (ha)**	**%**	**Species to be felled (one per row)**	**Age (Years)**	**Marking of Trees**	**No of Trees**	**Volume (m^3)**	**Thinning Density (per ha) Pre**	**Post**	**Total**
Total Area					**Total Volume m^3**			**Total to be removed:**		