Urban Woodland Management Plan (UWMP) Details			
UWMP Name:	Anagach Woods 2024 - 2033		
Business Reference Number:	163465	Main Location Code:	85/586/0009
Grid Reference: (e.g. NH 234 567)	NJ 043 274	Nearest town or locality:	Grantown-on-Spey
Local Authority:		Highland	
Management Plan area (hectares):		386.77 (SGRPID) 384.51(sub-cmpt map)	

Owner's Details			
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Andrew
Surname:	Robertson		
Organisation:	Anagach Woods Trust	Position:	Director
Primary Contact Number:	07989 989803	Alternative Contact Number:	
Email:	andyrobertson.27@tiscali.co.uk		
Address:	c/o The Court House, The Square, Grantown-on-Spey		
Postcode:	PH26 3HF	Country:	Scotland

Agent's Details				
Title:	Mr	Forename:	Piers	
Surname:	Voysey			
Organisation:	Community Woodlands Association	Position:	Senior Woodland Officer	
Primary Contact Number:	07842 115003	Alternative Contact Number:	01540 662812	
Email:	piers@communitywoods.org			
Address:	Soineann, East Terrace, Kingussie			
Postcode:	PH21 1JS	Country:	Scotland	

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	

Town and Country Planning – Complete if applying for thinning		
Are any of the trees to be felled subject to a Tree Preservation Order?		NO
If YES please provide details:		
Are any of the trees to be felled within a Conservation Area?		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, a copy of which is available at www.forestry.gov.scot ;
- 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: Andrew Robertson	Date: 17 January 2024

Approval - to be completed by Scottish Forestry staff:			
Management Plan Reference Number:	23FGS70314		
Plan Period: (ten years) (month/year)	From: 13.05.24	To: 12.05.34	
Operations Manager Signature:		Approval Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)	13.05.24

List the maps contained in the management plan		
Map Reference	Title	Location (page / appendix)
1	Location	Maps
2	Sub-compartments	Maps
3	Constraints and opportunities	Maps
4	Design concept	Maps
5	Felling / Thinning	Maps
n/a	Planting/ Restructuring	
6	Access improvements	Maps
	Other:	

Summary of key outputs at end of plan period	
Area of woodland accessible to the public (ha)	385
Length of footpaths: new or upgrade (km)	5.2
Area of Felling and restructuring (ha)	0
Area of thinning (ha)	105.27
Other (specify)	

1 Introduction

This ten-year management plan template is designed for woodlands that are being funded under the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Urban Woodland Management Plan Grant. The plan is subject to review after five years. This plan template should also be used for all sites where you will be applying for WIG – WIAT or Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) - WIAT grant options. However, for planned new woodlands or woodlands less than 10 years old some sections of this plan will not be applicable.

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 the thinning table in Appendix 2 and the submission of appropriate maps. If you intend to carry out other types of felling, you must apply for permission separately.

You should consult with your local Woodland Officer on the plan. When we are happy that the plan meets our requirements, we normally consult on the document more widely and place any linked Felling Permission applications, except thinning, on our Public Register for 28 days.

The plan detail will be approved for the first five years (along with a Felling Permission for thinning if appropriate). The second five years will be approved in outline with an expectation that full approval will be sought at the five-year review.

2 Woodland Description

This section is about collecting information relating to your woodland's location and character. This should include details about:

- current species and ages
- structure
- statutory and non-statutory constraints (e.g. designations, archaeological interest)
- existing or potential public access

The Scotland's Environment website can aid you in completing this section. For more detailed information on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland use the Scottish Forestry Map Viewer found on our website: Scottish Forestry - Home

Please provide a 1:50,000 location map and a 1:10,000 or 1:2,500 scale OS map that shows the boundary of the woodland and compartments and/or sub-compartments. You can include other maps to show the location of woodland attributes listed in the tables below. Please list all maps on page 2.

You may also wish to include a photo record as an appendix to illustrate the character of the woodland and its key features.

2.1 Provide details of any current or previous grants		
Grant Type	Contract Ref	Expiry Date
Forestry Commission/Scottish Forestry:		
WGS 2	30000203	1993 – restocking & management
WGS 3	300003021	2003 – Capercaillie Life Project
SFGS 3	30900653	2004 – forest plan
Forestry Challenge Fund		
SRDP-FGS	4259258	2012 – forest plan
SRDP-FGS-WIAT	23FGS70314	2023 – urban woodland plan
Other grant bodies		

2.2 Description of the woodland in the landscape

Briefly describe the woodland in the context of the local environment (eg settlements, communications routes, land use & industrial heritage, landscape character).

Outline the unique characteristics of the woodland and visitor experience that will be built upon as part of this plan.

Anagach Woods borders the southern/south-eastern edge of Grantown-on-Spey, providing a woodland backdrop to the golf course and occupying the landscape between the town and the River Spey. The woods form tree-lined edges to the two roads from the South (B9102 and A939) and the road from the East (B9102). The Anagach Woods (Station Wood, Kylintra Wood, Free Church Wood, Ladies Garden Wood and Anagach Wood) are dominated by mature Scots pine with a defining element of beech along the southern access roads. The Anagach Woods also form the backdrop to the small cluster of houses at Speybridge. The woodlands provide a wildwood character for public recreation along accessible, winding paths. The landforms within the wood are generally flat to hillocky, with bog woodland elements, and meandering eskers that add to the complexity of the terrain within the woodland.

The unique characteristics, in addition to the outstanding post-glacial landforms, are the age (originally planted 257 years ago), and the distinctive natural management system practiced by Seafield Estate (see 2.3) over such a long period, which has resulted in an 'old growth', uneven aged, mixed indigenous species, continuous cover, self-regenerating pinewood ecosystem which is rich in rare pinewood specialists including red squirrel, pine marten, capercaillie, crested tit, Scottish crossbill, wood ants, twinflower, creeping ladies tresses and intermediate wintergreen. The crop types are varied and distinctive, including coniferous high forest (60%), bog pine (17%), Birch/Juniper (6%) other indigenous broadleaves or wet woodland (3%) and naturally regenerated clearings (felled coupes) (9%). With a vast network of paths (some along former extraction routes) and a history

of minimum interference, this truly gives locals and visitors an outstanding group of woodlands regarding forest history and science, education, amenity, wildlife and recreation, worthy of continuing in the local and national interest.

Anagach Woods sit within a complex landscape of pastoral farms and forestry (largely Scots pine and other conifers).

Anagach Woods straddles three landscape character areas within The Cairngorms National Park Landscape character assessment. (Lower Strathspey, Grantown-on-Spey and Craggan to Grantown-on-Spey). The description for Grantown-on-Spey, which seems the most relevant for the management of the woods, reads:

"The settlement of Grantown-on-Spey occupies a hollow separated from the River Spey by a rock-cored ridge flanked by fluvioglacial terraces. At this point the Spey follows the Moine schists at the edge of the Ericht Laidon Fault. Grantown is ringed by woods. Plantations rich in Scots pine are prominent, including in the community-owned woods at Anagach. These plantations cover extensive gravel deposits and the winding esker ridges in the woodlands are the fills of former sub-glacial tunnels.

"Grantown is unusual in having a pinewood rich in typical Caledonian forest wildlife so close to the heart of town. Walkers can see blaeberry, red squirrels and crested tits, watch different species of crossbills and perhaps glimpse capercaillie or the rare twinflower."

The stated landscape priorities and opportunities include:

"The trees and woodland around Grantown are vital to its capacity to absorb development. The continued presence and health of these should be secured.

"The local woods should continue to be managed to meet the multiple objectives of both people and the local wildlife.

"The copses that punctuate the approaches to Grantown and the woodlands that frame the entry points to the settlement should be managed for their long-term landscape and visual significance."

Anagach woods are greatly valued locally. A community / stakeholder consultation organised by the Anagach Woods Trust in September 2023 elicited 152 responses and provided valuable insights into the way that the woods are viewed by the community. (See Appendices 3 & 4 for a full report.) The consultation revealed that the woods are valued for:

- General ambience, including views, generating a sense of well-being & feeling safe
- Accessibility, including the extent and diversity and quality of paths/trails
- Wildlife, both plants and animals
- Cycling opportunities, including the bike skills area
- Opportunities for dog walking
- Foraging possibilities

The consultation also identified areas for improvement which are addressed in this plan:

- The need to improve the quality of paths, signage, car parking capacity and the condition and lack of benches
- Management of the natural environment including the removal of non-native species
- Improving responsible public access behaviour to reduce the anti-social impact of dog fouling, dogs out of control, discourteous bike riding.

2.3 History of Management:

Provide a brief statement on ownership and recent management.

Originally planted in 1766 with Abernethy origin Scots pine, management for timber production has used thinning and, more recently, group felling with natural regeneration as a means of replacement, with small areas of additional planting, e.g. Port Wood (sub-cmpt 12c planted early 1960's). A slight exception was in Ladies Garden Wood that was established as amenity woodland for the sister of 'The Good Sir James' Grant in, or about, 1765 and it was here that there were some early introductions of European and North American tree species. Since before this time the Grant clan lands have been managed as part of Seafield & Strathspey Estates (referred to hereafter as Seafield Estate).

The Seafield Estate's system of management used regular thinning until only a few seed trees remained. Sometimes cattle were grazed in the woodland to reduce the ground vegetation of heather and moss; and trampling created niches for seed to fall into and germinate. Then the cattle were removed. This system was the subject of wide interest in forestry circles, with groups of students even from Europe, and many forestry society outings visiting Strathspey in the early 20th Century. In the late 1980s small coupes of about 1 hectare were clear felled to break up large, even-aged stands and provide income, instead of thinning to create regeneration conditions over a larger area. These coupes have now regenerated with seed from the surrounding Scots pine and birch. The rowan left at the time of felling have continued to grow. The soil remained largely undisturbed. Known as the 'group shelterwood system', this technique creates clearings that support the regeneration of light-demanding Scots pine and birch, without significantly impacting on the forest environment. It protects amenity, wildlife, and recreational interests.

Road-side strips of Grand fir, Western hemlock, Norway spruce and Douglas fir were planted to screen proposed clear-felling of the woods, however these were never really required as group/small coupe felling and thinning was carried out under WGS in the late 1980's and early 1990's, without clear-felling larger areas of woodland. Final WGS payments on these areas were paid in 2011. Since the community took ownership of the woods in 2002 and management has focused on improvements for public access while retaining their value for capercaillie. Much of the woodland was included in the Anagach SPA designation (2006). Minimum intervention has enabled the wildwood character to evolve, and some small-scale timber harvesting has removed some of the introduced tree species.

The former municipal landfill (sub-cmpt 7d) was capped with gravel and soil in the late 1980s, and planted with mixed broadleaves, but they were devoured immediately by rabbits and Roe. By the turn of the century the bare site had lost its fertility, and the grasses began to be replaced by heather and Reindeer moss, much more amenable to pine, birch and rowan seed germination. The rabbit population declined due to the severe winter snows of 2010, but Roe browsing has killed off most of the Birch and Rowan saplings. The pine, while slightly browsed, is thriving now that it has established.

The mountain bike skills area in Free Church Wood was established in 2011 utilising an old borrow pit that was excavated for the installation of the new Spey Bridge in 1930. The borrow pit/quarry in Station Wood may date from a similar period.

2.4 Physical site characteristics

Describe the soils, climate and terrain of the site referring to site or climatic constraints on the growth of tree species (e.g. wind, waterlogging).

Geology: Hillocky topography with fluvio-glacial sands and gravels of acid rock (quartzfeldspar-granulite) origin deposited over boulder clays in eskers and moraines.

Hollows, some of which are kettle holes, and drainage lines on shallow inclinations have lead to bogs developing in discrete and extensive areas.

Soils: Well-drained gravels derived from acid schists and granulites with a thin peaty or humus layer on slopes. Humic podzols and poorly drained deep peat in hollows.

Elevation: 190 to 210m a.m.s.l.

Climate: Cool boreal climate. Temperature range: -30ºC to +30ºC, mean 7.5ºC. Annual rainfall: 787mm – 890mm.

The low-lying aspect of the woods in the landscape and the generally free-draining soils means that the woodland is of low risk to wind damage.

The acid soils on free-draining gravels limits tree growth but makes the site ideal for Scots pine and other pinewood specialists.

Areas of water-logged peats allow the development of bog-pine woodland, a special component of native pinewoods. All stages in the evolution of bogs are present, from open water, through floating vegetation to forest bog (muskeg) and tree-covered raised peat.

2.5 Woodland Composition, Structure and Condition

Provide a summary of the woodland composition by grouping areas of similar stands or habitats that will be managed in the same way together. Grouping can be based on:

- Whether the area is composed of broadleaf, conifer or mixed species.
- The type of woodland or habitat in the area (e.g., open ground/scrub/plantation/coppice).
- The development stage or age of the area (e.g. establishment, thicket, pole-stage, mature, over-mature). Plantations with similar planting years can be grouped together.
- Location or natural boundaries.

The group should be given a number or a descriptive name (e.g. 'ancient woodland', 'new plantation', 'playground'). The table should also include some brief notes to describe the common features of the group.

Express the area of each group as a percentage of the total woodland area (including open space)

For larger or more diverse woodlands a full sub-compartment schedule may be required. This can be provided as an appendix and should include the following fields: 'compartment', 'sub-compartment', 'Area (ha)', 'Main species', 'Age', 'Stand structure', 'Stand condition' and 'management prescriptions'. This will be read in conjunction with the sub-compartment map that you will provide.

Section 2.5

Group (no. or name)	Conifer/ Broadleaf/ Mixed/	Habitat type	Development stage/Age	Description	% of woodland area
Beech	broadleaf	Woodland with little understorey	Mature with understorey trees	Originating from ornamental woodland, remnant planted trees with natural regeneration beech of mixed ages	0.2
Birch - mature	broadleaf	Woodland with juniper	Mature	Naturally regenerated, mixed ages but fairly uniform canopy, often quite scrubby. A small proportion of Scots pine present.	5
Birch - young	broadleaf	Woodland with open ground, grass or heath	Natural regeneration since 1994	Dominated by birch but with some Scots pine regeneration present, some open heath or acid grass	1
OG - grass	Open ground	Acid grass		Mappable areas of open ground, ex agricultural/grazing land	0.4
Pine bog	conifer	Scots pine bog woodland	Mature, still regenerating	Area of deep peat or mire with stunted Scots pine	16.8
Pine - mature	conifer	Native pine woodland	yr 1960-1975	Discrete areas of mature Scots pine, either natural regeneration or planted	9.7
Pine - old	conifer	Native pine woodland	yr 1870	Overstorey Scots pine, with increasing amounts of birch, rowan or juniper understorey	51

Pine - regen	conifer	Native pine woodland	yr 2000	Natural regeneration on previously open ground	0.7
Pine - young	conifer	Native pine woodland	yr 1994	Natural regeneration into felled coupes	8.6
Pine/MC	Conifer	Mature woodland	yr 1870/1950	Overstorey Scots pine with various amounts of introduced mixed conifers and beech	4
Woody mire	broadleaf	Wet woodland	Mature	Some overstorey Scots pine, but predominantly eared willow scrub	2.6
				Total	100
			yr – relates to approximate year of establishment/planting		

2.6 Greenspace and Green Network Context

Gather together strategic information on the woodland i.e. - looking beyond the site.

Strategy or policy	Document Title	Page or section
Forest & Woodland Strategy	Cairngorms National Park Forest Strategy 2018	17 (obj 2, 9, 10), 37.
Local Access Strategy	Active Cairngorms	all
Core Path Plan	Cairngorms Core Path Plan	Map 11, P24.
Other		

Provide information on any relevant developments planned within or in the vicinity of the woodland			
	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details
planned development	☐	☐	none
growth area	☐	☐	none
other (specify)	☐	☐	
Additional detail (if required)			

Provide information on the context of the site with regard to recreational and transport infrastructure in the local community				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
Core Path Network route	Yes	☐	Core Path Plan	11
National Cycle Route	No	No		

Long distance footpath	Yes	☐	Speyside Way	6
Public transport links (bus, train, tram)	No	1km	Local bus Grantown-Aviemore/Grantown-Inverness	
Public facilities (schools, leisure centres, community centres)	No	500m	Nursery, primary school, secondary school, leisure centre	
Additional detail (if required)				

2.7 Recreation Features

Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
Clearly defined and accessible entrance	Yes	☐	Forest Rd, Poorhouse Wood, Golf-Course Rd, Woodside Av, Kylintra Park, Old Military Rd (Speybridge)	6
Public footpath	Yes	☐	Old Military Rd	
All abilities trail	Yes	☐	Kylintra, Anagach Loch	6
Public cycle facility	Yes	☐	Mountain bike skills trails (Free Church Wood)	6
Other footpaths	Yes	☐	Informal trails and desire lines	6
Car park	Yes	Yes	Forest Rd & curling rink, Poorhouse Wood, Old Military Rd & Speybridge	6
Play/sport facilities	☐	Yes	Golf course, football pitch, leisure centre	
Site threshold signage	Yes	☐	Forest Rd, Old Military Rd, Golf course, Poorhouse Wood	6
Visitor information (on-site or other e.g. leaflet, website)	Yes	☐	Forest Rd, Old Military Road	6

Toilets	☐	Yes	1km. 2 options of public toilets, plus hotels, golf club if they are amenable.	
Provision of learning opportunities	Yes	☐	Local Forest Schools provider, Cairngorms Rangers & other volunteers	
Occurrence of Anti-social behaviour	Yes	☐	Minor littering, fire-lighting with associated wildfire risk, dog fouling, unauthorised motorbikes, removal of painted stones left by others.	
Occurrence of Fly-tipping	Yes	☐	Very occasional at car-parks, usually green waste.	
Occurrence of personal security issues	Yes	☐	Some instances of anxiety in relation to dogs not on leads	

Population within 2km of the woodland	Mid 2020 population estimate for Grantown-on-Spey is 2,510, but excludes Cromdale and Speybridge, these communities might add another 200 people to the estimate.
Estimate the population that lives within 2km of the woodland. Use the space below to comment on your estimate. Population statistics are available from the National Records of Scotland.	

2.8 Cultural Features				
Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
Scheduled monument	☐	☐	none	
Conservation Area	☐	☐	Grantown-on-Spey	
Listed Buildings	☐	☐	none	

Other archaeological site	Yes	☐	Old military road, lime kiln, poor house, 'feal dykes', sawmill site with lade.	3
Other cultural features of interest	Yes	☐	'Hangman's Tree', historic curling rink adjacent to neighbouring more recent, occasionally active, curling rink.	

Having grown together as part of the same vision there is a close cultural association between Anagach Woods and Grantown-on-Spey. Grantown Museum hosts several old maps, records and photographs.

The woods were planted in 1766, a year after the first homes were built in Grantown, on land that was previously rough heath. A mixture of Scots pine sourced from Abernethy and oak were planted and managed for timber production. Ladies Garden Wood however was established at an early stage as an area for the sister of 'The Good Sir James' to recreate and this is where some of the larger exotic conifers can now be found, having attracted more 'ornamental' planting in the 1800's.

On the ground, stone and turf dykes "Feal dykes" appear at a few locations. Evidence of peat cutting is also present. These would probably have predated the establishment of the plantation. The broad track running between compartments 4 and 5 is an old military road dating from 1754, and World War II home-guard barrier footings add an additional feature.

Nothing remains of the 19thC. poor house in Cmpt 10. There is the site of an old lime kiln and a 20thC. shed near Craigroy in Cmpt 9. All that remains of the "woodcutter's shed" is a stone and cement hearth standing about 1.1m high. Nearby is an undescribed stone mound, approximately 10m in diameter with 2 or three mature pine trees growing from it.

One large old tree in Cmpt 5 is known as 'The Hangman's Tree', but it is unlikely that it was ever used for this purpose.

2.9 Landscape Feature

Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
National Park	Yes	☐	Cairngorms	
National Scenic Area	☐	☐	none	

Special Landscape Area	☐	☐	none	
Registered Parks and Gardens	☐	☐	none	
Other designed landscape	☐	☐	none	
Attributes which contribute to sense of place	Yes	Yes	Majestic trees, extensive and diverse woodland, glacial features, flora & fauna, River Spey, proximity to settlements.	5
Additional detail (if required): See 2.2				

2.10 Biodiversity Features

Feature	Within wood	Adjacent to wood	Details	Map Ref
SSSI	☐	yes	River Spey	3
SPA	Yes	☐	Anagach Wood	3
SAC	Yes	☐	River Spey – includes Allt an Fhithich	3
Ancient Woodland (State which category applies: ASNW/PAWS/LEPO)	Yes	☐	Station & Kylintra Woods mapped as Ancient, semi-natural, from 1860. Most of the other woodland area is mapped as woods of long-established, plantation origin.	
Other (local) nature conservation site (LNCS/SINC/LBS)	☐	☐	none	

European Protected Species	Yes	Yes	Bats (feeding & roosting), wildcat, otter, beaver (due to be released into the Spey catchment in 2023, so may colonise Anagach in due course, although one site in Anagach is being considered as a release site for future releases).	
Badgers	☐	Yes	Not resident yet	
BAP species (state whether local or national)	Yes	Yes	Exc the species above; Cairngorm Nature Action Plan: Capercaillie, raptors (buzzard, sparrowhawk), butterflies (large heath, small heath, small pearl bordered fritillary, northern brown argus), northern damselfly, wood ants, aspen, twinflower, Scottish Biodiversity List: water vole, hedgehog, brown hare, pine marten, red squirrel, common lizard, tree pipit, siskin, cuckoo, Scottish crossbill, spotted flycatcher, bullfinch, woodcock, song thrush, juniper,	
BAP habitats (state whether local or national)	Yes	Yes	Native woodland (Scots pine, upland birch, wet woodland), wetland & fresh water, peatland	
Other species of note	Yes	☐	Crested tit (bird), Green hairstreak (butterfly), moths (Rannoch looper, Cousin German, sweet gale, Saxon, plain clay, angle-striped sallow, *Ancylis tiniana*)	
Veteran Trees	Yes	☐	E.g. 'Hangman's tree' and other 'granny pines', some statuesque grand fir and a Noble fir and characterful	5

			beech trees in Ladies Garden Wood.	
Deadwood	Yes	☐	A limited quantity of standing and fallen deadwood of all species. New 'recruits' include some windblow, snow-break, fungal disease, non-natives felled to waste or ring-barked and Scots pine felled for the pine hoverfly project.	
Roe deer, rabbits, brown hare are the principal grazers in the wood. Red deer might visit occasionally.				

2.11 Water Features				
Features	Within Wood	Adjacent to Wood	Details	Map Ref
Waterbodies	Yes	yes	Kylintra Loch, Loch nan Geadas, kettle hole ponds (x2).	3
Watercourses	Yes	Yes	Kylintra burn, Lag na Caorach, Allt an Fhithich.	3
Wetland & bogs	yes	yes	Anagach Wood includes good examples of pine bog woodland (muskeg) and more flushed areas of bog and marsh with phragmites and willow scrub. Bogs such as Anagach Loch (Cmpt 5) might still have substantial areas of quaking bog where the underlying water body has only just covered over with sphagnum, etc.	2

Standing water is also present in the form of some fire ponds between the tracks and bogs (when created these were deep, steep-sided and were ring-fenced for safety. Recent improvements have been to remove fencing and re-shape the pond banks to make them more suitable for a range of wildlife. This work is on-going).

2.12 Threats

Describe any threats facing your woodland(s) and where relevant, under the following headings, detail the likelihood of presence and the potential impact as high (H), medium (M) or low (L).

Threat	Description	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)
Invasive/Noxious species (e.g. Rhododendron, giant hogweed, Japanese knotweed)	Limited invasion of Rhododendron from the cemetery, but with the relatively dry climate of Strathspey it is not that invasive. Snowberry and Spiraea along some water courses and road verges close to town. Creeping sunflower, ground elder and a few other garden escapes close to town. Tree species such as western hemlock, Sitka spruce and beech are also invasive and can shade out important pinewood ground flora, including juniper, and out-compete pine and birch.	H	L
Tree Health	Dutch elm disease and chalara have killed, or are killing, the few specimens present in Anagach Woods. Red band needle blight might be present in the pine but it is not significant, other fungi in the pine are a natural part of the ecology. No specific evidence of Phytophthora in larch or juniper.	H	M
Mammal damage: deer, rabbits, hares, grey squirrels	Roe deer throughout the woodland, occasionally red deer in the eastern part of Anagach Wood, damage minor but needs to be contained as minor species such as rowan and aspen are held back.	H	L
Water & Soil (soil erosion, acidification	Some risk of leaching from the old municipal dump, waste-water from the	M	L

of water, pollution, contaminated land)	abattoir adjacent to Station Wood needs to be monitored.		
Environment (flooding, wind damage etc.)	Anagach Woods act like a bit of a sponge with well-developed bogs. Wind damage is occasional in extreme winds but generally the soils offer secure rooting for trees.		
Climate Change (e.g. unsuitable species/provenance, lack of diversity, uniform structure)	The risks of climate change impacts will increase into the future, Anagach Woods faces various present, imminent and potential threats, but there are also opportunities for climate mitigation and adaptation. Rising temperatures and disruptions to precipitation patterns increase the risk of drought, and the threat of wildfires. Although, the existing trees, especially Scots pine, are well adapted to the soils that are vulnerable to drought, a wildfire could have devastating effects (see 'Other', below) The increasing frequency and severity of storm events impacts wildlife (damaging nest and roost sites), windblown trees block paths and tracks, and creates safety concerns, and impacts on amenity value. An increased frequency of severe precipitation events creates flood risk, with the potential to affect access in the woods, and ecosystem health. Anagach Woods has some capacity to absorb flood waters and mitigate impacts downstream. The changing climate presents pathogenic risks from fungi (e.g. *Dothistroma, Phytophthora*), bacteria, viruses and beetles. The spread of non-native as well as harmful species, such as ticks, affect the health of the ecosystem, as well as presenting a possible public health risk to communities using the woods. Long-term, the cumulative effects of climate change can impact the local ecosystem affecting the health of native biota.	M	L
Anti-social behaviour (e.g. arson, fly-tipping,	This is always a small risk in a small town, although it has been known for people from some distance away to	M	L

unauthorised vehicle access, vandalism)	arrive with trial bikes in vans. Garden waste is occasionally left adjacent to carparks. Volunteers, The Highland Council and the police generally have some capacity to respond.		
Dangerous trees	Monitored and managed; developing a greater age-class diversity and holding onto over-mature specimens for aesthetic and biodiversity reasons increases the risk of problems developing.	H	M
Other (specify) Wildfire	Either caused deliberately or by accident, is a big threat to the woodland. Large areas of heather close to young pine regeneration that could 'ladder' into a crown fire. A peaty soil layer could allow a fire to spread by smouldering without being noticed. The woodland has varied topography, bogs and many paths that might check the spread of fire.	M	H
Genetic dilution of local genotypes	The origin of Scots pine transplants used in the 1960-1975 plantations (e.g. Port Wood Plantation) is not known. Now that these trees are flowering and seeding they may be reducing the local genetic identity of the Scots pine regeneration growing through the rest of the wood, which originate from trees grown from Abernethy seed stock. It is not known how significant this threat is, but it may result in pine trees that are poorly adapted to local conditions or that are poor hosts to locally adapted epiphytes, invertebrates, and fungi.	H	M
Additional Detail (if required):			

3 Vision and Objectives

To develop your long-term vision, you need to express as clearly as possible the overall direction of management for the woodland and how you envisage it will be in the future.

3.1 Vision

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

Our vision for Anagach Woods is of a thriving, wild pinewood that supports, and is supported by, a thriving local community. The woods will continue to provide a home for many native species, including pinewood rarities such as twinflower, aspen, and capercaillie, as part of a healthy forest ecosystem and wider nature networks. The local community will continue to benefit from the woods as a remarkable resource for leisure, nature connectedness and wellbeing, with further development of high-quality recreation infrastructure, education, and volunteering opportunities. Our vision is for the Anagach Woods and the local community to develop resilience in the face of risks from climate change and other factors.

3.2 Aims

The aims of woodland management in Anagach are:

- With minimal interference, to manage the Woods in such a way as to improve the habitats for especially rare plants and animals characteristic of a naturally evolving native Scots pine forest.
- To create and maintain to a high standard access routes and other facilities that allow people of all ability to enjoy the woods, that contribute to the value of Grantown as a whole and that balance with conservation objectives.
- To make the most of the wood as a resource for environmental education and skills training.
- To facilitate the engagement of a wide range of Grantown residents and other stakeholders in the management operations and preparation of woodland management plans.
- In line with conservation objectives, to ensure that Anagach Woods provides opportunities for small business development based on the products and activities of Anagach Woods.
- To maintain a positive flow of financial resources from timber and non-timber forest product revenues and from grants and donations that will sustain the management of the woods. Business and financial activity will only be developed in the woodland if they enhance wildlife outcomes and woodland management through natural regeneration.

3.3 Management objectives

State the objectives of management. Objectives are a set of specific statements that represent what needs to happen to achieve the long-term vision.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
1	In liaison with the Fire and Rescue Service and CNPA prepare, implement and maintain a wildfire response plan.
2	Employ a development officer to oversee development and delivery of objectives.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
3	Carry out a deer survey, create and implement a deer management plan to reduce deer numbers, as required, to stimulate the natural regeneration of a mid-canopy layer of pine, birch, rowan and aspen, especially in areas utilised by capercaillie and in association with pine hoverfly release sites.
4	Work with CNPA, RSPB & Nature Scot (Capercaillie Advisory Officer) to implement management actions to improve habitat for capercaillie, that might include woodland grazing by cattle, creation of artificial grit beds, simulating individual tree windblow and improved path-side tree regeneration for screening.
5	Remove gradually the population of Western hemlock, Sitka spruce and grand fir, and secure replacement regeneration of pinewood species, retaining beech along principal avenues and where it is already dominant.
6	Work with other organisations to enhance populations of rare pinewood species, such as pine hoverfly, twinflower, etc.
7	Remove populations of *Spiraea* and Snowberry in Station, Kylintra and Free Church Woods.
8	Upgrade the quality of the principal, promoted path network: green, blue and red trails.
9	Refresh all path signage, waymarking and improve the accessibility of orientation maps and interpretation.
10	Return the bike skills area to its original, installed quality.
11	Engage with organisations for the delivery of Forest School (and similar) activities, providing a 'base', as required that has minimal impact on other objectives.
12	Provide regular volunteer opportunities to undertake woodland maintenance and/or survey tasks.
13	Develop or facilitate a programme of community events in or related to the woods.

No.	Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations)
14	Apply for grant funding to support implementation of the above objectives.
15	Alongside non-native tree removal, consider bulking up a tree harvesting contract to generate a positive cash flow with the thinning of small areas of the pinewood, e.g. Port Wood plantation and parts of Craigroy Wood, if it is clear that these interventions will enhance age-class structure and species diversity.

4 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement, especially with the local community is a crucial part of WIAT woodland management. We will not approve a plan which does not provide evidence of adequate community engagement.

The Community Engagement Toolkit provides guidance on types of community engagement that may be appropriate. Identify people or organisations with an interest in your woodland and record any engagement in the table below.

Ensure constraints/opportunities and other issues raised by the stakeholders are also recorded on the constraints and opportunities map and table (see section 5.1).

Organisation or individual	Type of involvement (refer to Toolkit categories)	Date feedback /input received (DD/MM/YY)	Issue or Opportunity
See attached report and Issues Log – Appendices 3 and 4			

5 Analysis and Management Strategy

Analysing the Stakeholder Engagement in section 4 will allow you to identify how to make best use of the site and its resources to achieve your objectives.

The key tasks are:

- Take into account the expectations set out in the WIAT management standard (Main Title (ruralpayments.org)).
- Explore options for designing the woodland, its spaces, views, habitats and access points to create an attractive resource with a distinct character.

- Explore how the trees and woodland can be actively managed using good silvicultural practice to ensure that the woodland is sustained and enhanced for the long-term.
- Analyse the context of the site and identify options for increasing the use of the woodland
- Explore how the recreational facilities, access opportunities and activities of the site can best be developed to support and encourage greater use.
- Take into account community perceptions and expectations – this must be demonstrated by referring to the issues raised during community engagement recorded in section 4.1
- Consider the management responses to each threat given in section 4.8 (2.12?)

5.1 Constraints and Opportunities Analysis

Analyse the constraints and opportunities and record the results on an annotated map and in the table below. The key tasks in Section 5 above must be taken into account.

Feature/Issue	Constraint	Opportunity
Capercaillie SPA	Legal obligation (under SPA designation) to manage woodland to sustain habitat and presence of capercaillie. Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 as amended (the "Habitats Regulations") apply. Some operations may need consent under SPA designation. Timing of operations to avoid disturbance at critical times.	PR value if capercaillie population is sustained and visitors to the woodland appreciate their presence. Habitat improvements can be made in areas not heavily visited by people. The woodland is important for a range of other pinewood wildlife and most will also benefit from habitat improvements for capercaillie.
Visitor expectations and high numbers of visitors	AWT is exposed to criticism and won't be able to meet everyone's expectations.	Good communication options via various means, e.g. social media, word of mouth and signs to describe management vision, aims and planned operations. The woodland is big enough to meet most needs.
Non-native species	Shade tolerant species, without management they	To expand the existing area of blaeberry rich pinewood

	will take over from native species, reduce ground flora and make the wood 'gloomy'	habitat, create deadwood and a product for sale or use by the community.
Visual intrusion into the wildwood – change and change management.	Tracks are a visual intrusion into a wildwood, tree felling can be disruptive. Some of the stands still resemble plantation woodland in ecological and aesthetic characteristics.	There are sufficient desire lines and unpromoted routes to provide for all user groups. Wide, well-built paths will allow machine access for firefighting, and allow walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to pass safely. Using local contractors and local markets may allow for small-scale operations that are not too intrusive and 'heal' quickly. Retaining disease and storm damaged trees as standing and fallen deadwood, and enabling establishment of mixed species natural regeneration will gradually transform more of the woodland into 'wildwood' characteristics.
Littering	Litter is regularly blown in from roadways and the industrial area near Station Wood. The in formal fire site in Cmpt 7, near the old dump, is often a focus for broken glass, etc. Fly-tipping at the carparks is very occasional. AWT relies on volunteers to undertake day-to-day care of the wood.	Litter clearing is a regular activity for volunteers. Keeping the wood tidy maintains a good impression. It can be a means of engaging the businesses that are based in the industrial site.
Some paths and waymarking is in a poor state of repair	Funding for path improvements may only go part way to covering costs. Some residents prefer a minimal intervention approach and dislike the visual intrusion of new paths. What were forest roads are now so overgrown they are not suitable for timber haulage and not accessible for fire-fighting. They are also too narrow to	New path surfacing quickly blends in (1 year). A good path surface makes the woodland accessible for more people, including blind and partially sighted as well as those requiring mobility aids. More maps, waymarking etc help with orientation and confidence when exploring the woods and help keep more people on paths, thus leading to

	accommodate walkers, cyclists and horse riders comfortably.	less disturbance for wildlife. Wider primary paths accommodate both walkers and cyclists with fewer conflicts. More could be done to install benches and places to rest. Viewpoints over the river and out to the Cromdale hills could be assessed and optimised. The bike skills area is a valued asset and is worth investing in to keep it up to standard.
Deer	Difficult to safely shoot deer in woodland close to roads and houses and where people could be in the woods at any time, day or night. Deer are reducing to some extent the growth of a mid-storey birch and rowan layer and restricting the regeneration of aspen. In some parts of the wood rabbits are also a small problem to regeneration.	Implementing deer management will help develop greater species diversity in the wood and provide cover for wildlife. Potential to work with neighbouring estates.
Timber harvesting	Many residents don't want to see trees felled, do not like change or the visual impact of tree felling and value the woodland as a wild space for nature. The existing road network will need some improvement before it can take timber lorries again. Some species (Grand fir and western hemlock) are not in high demand from sawmills.	High quality mature Scots pine timber resource. Sensitive felling will open up areas for more natural regeneration to diversify the age structure of the wood. Capercaillie can benefit from sensitively carried out forest thinning, due to improvements in the dwarf shrub layer (especially blaeberry).
Wetlands	Natural drain blocking and the possible arrival of beavers into the woodland could flood some sections of path.	Bog woodland is a valuable habitat for wildlife and most access tracks are well above the risk of flooding.
Additional detail (if required)		

The Management Strategy (section 5.2) should address the key issues and objectives identified within the stakeholder engagement (section 4) and the Constraints & Opportunities Analysis (section 5.1)

The key management issues to be addressed, which have arisen from the constraints and opportunities analysis, should be recorded below and on a design concept map (refer to the WIAT management standard).

Each issue should relate to one or more of the management objectives stated in section 3.2.

Give a concise statement of the strategy to achieve the desired outcome e.g.:

- link paths to community centre
- create mountain bike facility for young people
- upgrade paths for all-abilities
- create a more open woodland

Prescriptions for the operations to be carried out should be given in section 7 (Management proposals)

Opportunities for silvicultural improvements should be taken over the short, medium and long- term.

Outline silvicultural policy and management objectives.

Describe the silvicultural improvement to be employed for each woodland type summarised in the woodland improvement.

5.2 Management strategy to address with key issues and objectives			
Key Issue or Opportunity (from section 5.1)	Associated Management Objective (from section 3.2)	Strategy to achieve desired outcome	Priority (H/M/L)
Fire Plan	1	Monitor and record wildfire or fire-lighting events. Take account of the 2023-2024 CNPA wildfire consultation. Develop a fire response plan with CNPA and the Fire & Rescue Service, which would include maintenance of key access routes for fire tenders.	H
Project development staff	2	Investigate budget & funding to hire project management staff who will design, set up and implement management projects (to include funding applications, & contract management).	H

Deer	3	Based on the results of a deer survey AWT have identified two options; either work with a local, contract stalker; or to work with Seafield Estate stalkers. Public safety is a priority so any implementation will be by suitably qualified controllers. Identify numbers controlled annually on the golf course.	M
Capercaillie	4	Work in partnership with CNPA, NatureScot & RSPB to secure funding to implement a variety of interventions. Short term might be heather swiping and pulling over a few individual trees to create additional gritting and dusting areas, working with volunteers to install artificial grit beds and using seasonal signage to highlight the quiet area for capercaillie. Longer term would be to introduce cattle grazing in association with neighbouring farm tenants and/or landowners. Forest work in the SPA area needs to be timed to avoid disturbance to capercaillie breeding, so using the months August-November, after poults have fledged and avoiding the depths of winter when capercaillie survival might be compromised by cold and energy reserves. Some operations may need NatureScot consent.	H
Non-native trees	5	Alongside the manual removal of young natural regeneration of non-native tree species, three approaches are being considered: 1. Two thinning interventions to fell and remove mature grand fir, western hemlock and Sitka spruce trees – depending on costs and availability of grants. 2. Contract fell to waste a few mature trees every year, including maturing beech	M

		trees where they are impinging negatively on the pinewood habitats. 3. Leave mature trees and develop a more robust programme of seedling/sapling tree removal.	
Rare species other than capercaillie	6	Maintain liaison with other organisations to enable them to implement projects to restore populations of, e.g., twinflower (Rare Plants of the Cairngorms/Plantlife), pine hoverfly (Royal Zoological Society). Creation of standing deadwood in suitable areas might benefit woodpeckers, redstart and lichens. Ongoing work to enhance ponds and wetlands for Northern Damselfly.	H
Non-native shrubs	7	Gradual non-chemical removal of snowberry and Rhododendron in currently restricted populations. Remove Spiraea along Kylintra Burn, in liaison with The Highland Council. Employ contractors if funding allows.	M
Paths	8	The focus of path maintenance and upgrades will be the core path network, green, blue and red waymarked trails. Other tracks will be patched to prevent braiding around wet or muddy sections. Other paths/trails/desire lines will be left unmanaged. Apart from culvert management there will be no re-opening or maintenance of drains.	H
Signs	9	Design a suite of refreshed path waymarking, orientation panels, threshold signs and interpretation signs. Liaise with potential partners, including the access	H

		team at CNPA to design and rationalise trail signs. Consider options to make trail maps available online.	
Bike trails	10	Focus effort on repairing the bike skills area in Free Church Wood. Other areas around Grantown are more suitable for mountain bike-specific trails. Use opportunities to communicate considerate cycling behaviour.	H
Forest Schools	11	Retain the focus of outdoor learning for groups on the Forest School site near the capped landfill in Cmpt 7. Respond favourably to requests to use the wood for outdoor learning – schools/nursery/play group, ranger services and, e.g. 'Roots and Shoots Highland' and 'Wild Things!'.	L
Volunteers	12	In addition to the voluntary input from the AWT Board of Directors, support volunteers to engage in a wide range of woodland activity such as, litter clearance, checking carparks and facilities, removing non-native species, monitoring wildlife, pond & wetland management. Provide appropriate training.	H
Community Events	13	Identify areas of the woodland that can be used as event space, organise events that will be compatible with other objectives: small woodland/walking theatre performances, woodland craft demonstrations.	
Grants/funding	14	Take all opportunities to secure grant funding from a variety of sources, including Scottish Forestry, in order to implement projects. Investigate means to generate income from timber sales.	H

Pinewood thinning	15	Explore cost-benefit of pinewood thinning that would generate income and deliver enhancement of tree regeneration and deadwood habitat.	L

Describe your strategy for silvicultural improvement below:

To develop more 'wildwood' characteristics in Anagach the focus will be on management to remove non-native species, retain and perhaps create more standing and fallen deadwood and stimulate more natural regeneration of mixed species to create lower and middle canopy layers that increase species and structural diversity.

The quality of the mature pine trees for timber production is very good. Silvicultural intervention may only be required to stimulate a new cohort of regeneration. Hence, thinning to open up the stands and deer control is all that is required in some places where the income from timber sales justifies the aesthetic impact and the cost of maintaining the infrastructure for timber transport.

The priority rating is determined by the need to do something and the capacity of volunteer directors to implement projects.

6 Management Proposals

Describe the operations that you will be undertaking in the woods in the relevant sections below. You may also wish to include a work programme as an appendix. You may use your own format or the suggested template given at Appendix 1. The approved plan may be made available to the public so any commercially sensitive financial information should be redacted from the document that you provide us.

6.1 Thinning and Felling

Where felling or thinning is proposed, you must provide a felling map indicating timing of felling, the areas to be thinned and areas to be managed under Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS). Describe the thinning prescriptions to be employed in the woods including thinning type and intensity.

Show any areas of permanent woodland removal (eg for landscape reasons or to create space for play areas or other facilities, annotated with their area in hectares). Woodland removal may require an EIA determination from us depending on the area and whether the site is considered sensitive.

If applying for thinning approval with this plan, please complete Appendix 2 fully in accordance with your thinning map. Other types of felling must be applied for separately.

It is proposed that western hemlock, grand fir, Norway spruce and Sitka spruce will be thinned out of Station Wood, Kylintra, Free Church and Ladies Garden Woods (Cmpts 1 to 4), if contractors can be found to do the felling and extraction, that this happens in two stages over the next 10 years, if the scale of the work is not deemed too aesthetically

intrusive. This will be accompanied by removing natural regeneration of these species. Identified specimen trees will be retained. Some of the work, e.g. felling smaller beech trees and removing regeneration will be carried out by volunteers. If this approach is not cost effective, consideration will be given to grant funded felling of a few mature trees every year, to be left on site as fallen deadwood. Or the retention of mature trees and for the removal of hemlock, spruce, beech and fir regeneration. Note that western hemlock seedlings have been found in Craigroy Wood, so the removal of this species as a seed source is a priority.

Similarly, removal of some of the Norway spruce and Douglas fir in Poorhouse Wood (10c and 13f) will be carried out at the same time, with 5% of the trees felled left as fallen deadwood to boost fungal and invertebrate habitat.

Port Wood plantation (12c) alongside thinning coupes in 9a, and 12a to stimulate groups of natural regeneration. Coupes in mature areas of pine will be approximately 2ha in size or less and total 5 ha in each of 9a and 12a with seed trees retained 20 to 25m apart. It is considered more important to retain the established woodland habitat of Port Wood plantation rather than remove it altogether even if the original seed origin is unknown. Opportunities will be taken to retain and create deadwood to be left onsite.

Timing of tree felling needs to take account of red squirrel and capercaillie, especially. Operational plans within the SPA will be agreed with the Capercaillie Advisory Officer (NatureScot) and/or the CNPA Capercaillie Project Officer.

6.2 Planting / Restocking

Provide a map that shows proposed replanting after felling and new woodland creation and complete the schedule below. Species to be planted should be differentiated using colour coding. Small scale, intricate or complicated landscape planting should be further described by annotating the map with notes or referring to landscape design drawings in an appendix.

You should provide general prescriptions for the planting including ground preparation, tree and shrub species to be used, stocking density, protection and maintenance.

All establishment of future trees will be secured by natural regeneration of native species.

Deer management will be implemented, either by using a local resident as stalker or working with Seafield & Strathspey Estates, aiming to cull between 5 and 10 roe deer each year, especially in the Eastern part of the wood. Browsing impacts on rowan seedlings in this area will be monitored and the roe cull will be reduced once rowan seedlings are better established.

6.3 Access Improvements

Map the location and provide a brief description and the proposed timescale for each individual project (e.g. path/track construction, car park construction,). Detailed plans and specifications for grant-aided capital works will be required in your WIG application but are not required here. Give an estimate of work quantities.

The green, blue and red trails will be up-graded as per the recently improved Speyside Way. The work will aim to be completed by 2026.

There will be a complete re-appraisal and replacement of threshold signs, way markers, orientation boards and interpretation. Some of this has already been initiated and essential repairs/replacements were made in 2023. Again, this will aim to be completed by 2026 and there will be liaison with Speyside Way to match styles and link to Speyside Way infrastructure to reduce clutter.

6.4 Other Recreational Facilities

Map the location and provide a brief description and the proposed timescale for each individual project (e.g. play/sport facilities installation, toilet construction). Give an estimate of work quantities.

The bike skills trails will receive an overhaul and essential maintenance by 2026, with fresh signs installed.

6.5 Community Perception

State how the overall impression of the site will be improved (e.g. threshold/access point improvements, signage and interpretation, provision of visitor information (on-site or other e.g. leaflet, website), provision of learning opportunities and provision of community involvement opportunities.

As per 6.3 above.

A Benches Plan will be developed in 2024/2025 that will involve a rolling programme of bench repair, replacement and installation. The current 'access plan' map is indicative only.

The option to host community events in the woodland will be considered and these are likely to be held at the Forest Road end of the woodland, or at the bike skills area (to ensure there is sufficient car-parking and proximity to the town for participants to walk to the event).

Volunteer opportunities will continue to be organised, sometimes in partnership with CNPA.

Negotiation will be taken up with the Curling Club to investigate the option of creating a volunteer base and tool store at the curling club building. Failing that a small tool store in the form of a steel container will be installed either at the back of Birchview or near the Wastewater Treatment plant. Investigations will also be made into hiring/buying an electric cargo bike or quad in order to move tools around the woodland.

6.6 Safety and Security

Describe measures that will be taken to improve personal safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Regular tree and route inspections; especially culverts and bridges. Any dead trees likely to collapse over promoted paths will be felled and left as fallen deadwood or used to make on-site benches. Record of tree inspections and actions to be maintained.

Old infrastructure (benches, bridges) will be repaired or removed and replaced.

The bike skills area will be checked regularly, and a record of inspections kept. Damaged sections of track will be closed off until repaired.

6.7 Maintenance

Provide details of how the site and infrastructure will be maintained, including removal of litter and fly-tipping for example.

Litter removal, site checks, etc will be carried out by volunteers. Each section of promoted trail will the checked at least annually and after significant storms.

Carparks will be checked monthly.

A small cash reserve is in hand to pay for some emergency tree works in case of a storm event.

7 Monitoring and Review

We advise that you carry out an interim review of progress against the plan annually. You may need this information when you make a claim for Forestry Grant Scheme payments e.g. Sustainable Management of Forests (WIAT). A full review of the plan will be expected at the end of year five.

Appendix 1 – Work Programme			
Sub-Compartment	Operation	Year(s)	Description
5	Threshold information panels	2023-2025	Replace with new (ongoing while this plan is being prepared)
11 & 13	March fence repair/replacement	2024	50% share, Rylock with top barbed wire, approx. 400m, Upper Port farm tenant W Campbell/Seafield Estate
3	Repair bike skills trails and replace all signage	2024-2028	Repair woodwork, regrade jump lines, provide new trail map panel, route markers and warning signs
4 to 13	Replace green, blue and red trail markers	2024-2026	Liaise with Speyside Way to locate some waymark symbols on Speyside Way infrastructure
2a	Fell beech trees	2024-2029	Remove understorey beech
1a	Remove non-native scrub	2024-2029	Cut and uproot snowberry, remove to recycling.
5/6 & 7/8	Green/Blue route upgrade	2025-2029	Cut back impeding trees and branches, scrape off accumulated vegetation to get tracks back to original width, apply new surfacing as required.

various	Install new benches	2024-2033	Repair, replace and add new
various	Install new threshold boards and panels and new & additional map/orientation panels	2026	In addition to making maps available online
9/12 & 12/11	Red trail upgrade	2027-2030	Cut back impeding trees and branches, scrape off accumulated vegetation to original track width, apply new surfacing as required.
1a, 1b, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4b	Thin non-native trees	2025-2031	Part removal of non-native trees
4a, 4c, 5a	Fell beech trees	2025-2030	Remove understorey beech
4d	Thin beech woodland	2025-2030	To maintain light levels to forest floor, favour any remaining native species.
9a, 10c, 12a, 12c, 13f	Thin SP stands	2025-2033	Thin discrete coupes in mature conifers to stimulate natural regeneration & simulate windblow, remove/reduce Norway spruce in Poorhouse Wood, thin Port Wood plantation
2a,2b,2c	Remove non-native shrubs	2026-2027	Cut and uproot snowberry, Rhododendron, clear Spiraea from Kylintra burn

Appendix 2 – Thinning										
Total Plan Area:		**386.77**	**hectares**							
Thinning Compartment	**Area (ha)**	**%**	**Species to be felled (one per row)**	**Age (Years)**	**Marking of Trees**	**No of Trees**	**Volume (m^3)**	**Thinning Details (per ha)**		
								Pre	**Post**	**Total**
1a	3.55		MC	70	Y	50	65			
1b	0.91		MC	70	Y	100	85			
2a	4.32		Be	40	Y	40	10			
2b	2.42		MC	70	Y	200	170			
3b	1.73		MC	70	Y	100	110			
3c	2.03		LP	100	Y	400	330			
4a	3.92		Be	40	Y	20	5			
4b	1.38		MC	70	Y	100	110			
4c	1.93		Be	40	Y	20	5			
4d	0.72		Be	60	Y	40	20			
5a	10.77		Be	40	Y	20	10			
9a	20.26	25	SP	100	Y	1000	750			

10c	1.01		NS	50	Y	80	50			
12a	39.16	15	SP	140	Y	1000	800			
12c	8.78	30	SP	50	Y	2000	300			
13f	2.38		NS	50	Y	50	35			
Total Area	105.27				**Total Volume m³**		2855	**Total to be removed:**		
☐Pre/Post stocking density					☐Pre/Post basal area			☐Volume to be removed		

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: