# LT519 Fort Augustus 400 kV Substation Upgrade

## Woodland Management Plan

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

28th June 2024

PUBLIC

Delivering a better world

## Quality information

| Prepared by | Checked by | Verified by | Approved by |
|---|---|---|---|
| Euan Brierley MICFor<br>Associate Director | Greg Adamson<br>Senior Arboricultural Consultant | Andy Wakefield<br>Associate Director | Oliver Nofal<br>Senior Environmental Consultant |

## Revision History

| Revision | Revision date | Details | Authorized | Name | Position |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 28/06/2024 | Client comment updates | Oliver Nofal | Euan Brierley | Associate Director |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

## Prepared for:

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

## Prepared by:

Euan Brierley
Associate Director
M: +447818339448
E: Euan.Brierley@aecom.com

AECOM Limited
Unit 1 Wellbrook Court
Girton
Cambridge CB3 0NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 1223 488 000
aecom.com

© 28th June 2024 AECOM Limited. All Rights Reserved.

# Table of Contents

1. Introduction ..... 5
1.1 Purpose of Document ..... 5
1.2 Document Structure ..... 5
1.3 Source Data, Review and Update ..... 5
1.4 Location ..... 6
1.5 Management Strategy ..... 6
1.6 Summary of Changes ..... 7
1.7 Abbreviations ..... 7
1.8 References ..... 8
Appendix A – Woodland Management Plan ..... 9
Appendix B – Figures ..... 10
Appendix C Compensatory Planting Management Strategy ..... 11

# Figures

Figure 1 – Current operational site ..... 6

# Tables

Table 1: Effect of Proposed Development on Woodland Area ..... 7
Table 2: Abbreviations used within WMP: ..... 8

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of Document

This Woodland Management Plan (WMP) is an operational guide to the maintenance and management of the woodland estate at the Fort Augustus Substation. It has been prepared in response to proposals being developed for a 400kV Upgrade and to respond to existing woodland conditions, including extensive windthrow sustained in February 2024.

It sets out the details of woodland, maintenance and management actions required for the next ten years, including the re-establishment of previous, partially failed planting on restock sites within the woodland estate.

This document has been prepared by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant) who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands, to give a clear picture of their woodland estate and to be used by their appointed contractor and advisors as an operational manual for undertaking management and maintenance works.

## 1.2 Document Structure

The WMP has been prepared following the structure of the Scottish Forestry woodland management plan (WMP) template but has been converted to an AECOM document, this can be found in Appendix A with accompanying figures in Appendix B. The ‘Owner’s Details’ and ‘Agent’s Details’ sections of the WMP template have been omitted.

A key assumption of the WMP is that applications for felling permissions to clear areas of windthrow, sustained between December 2023 and January 2024, with further isolated damage in February 2024, will have been made in advance of this WMP.

The only other thinning proposed within the WMP is for the removal of a limited number of diseased ash trees (identified within the WMP) and very minor elements of understorey cleaning (the removal of unwanted woody regrowth, proposed principally to safeguard fencing). The latter are identified within the WMP as actions but will not reach a timber volume threshold requiring felling permission.

## 1.3 Source Data, Review and Update

The WMP is based on the following sources of information:

- Site survey and habitat assessment by AECOM in 2023;
- WMP revision, prepared in June 2021 by McKay Forestry and ASH design+assessment Ltd (to update a 2017 WMP, prepared by Savills Ltd) in response to previous development proposals for the site;
- Woodland condition report prepared by Scottish Woodlands Ltd, November 2023;
- Drone photography of windthrow damage, provided by SSEN Operations, taken February 2024; and
- Fort Augustus windblow report and associated shapefiles, prepared by SSEN operations team.

The WMP has been developed during the operational lifetime of the previous WMP, initiated in 2017 and revised in 2021. The preparation of this new version of the WMP is to account for material changes to the woodland condition and for further clarity about the proposed 400kV Upgrade. The proposals include restoration of areas identified for compounds and lay down areas.

Furthermore, it is a response to poor woodland establishment of previous planting proposals, and in response to extensive windthrow to areas where the canopy had been opened to create restock coupes and to incorporate a constructed watercourse. The new WMP concentrates on ground preparation for planting and enhanced protection from herbivore browsing during establishment. It adopts simplified planting mixtures.

A further review of the new ten-year plan should be made following completion of any development works but that will not necessarily lead to a revision. It is proposed that when the next WMP is prepared in 2034 there needs to be a simplification of compartment numbering. However, for continuity of this WMP the somewhat fragmented approach to sub-compartmentalisation of previous plans has been maintained.

## 1.4 Location

This WMP applies to the land located at Fort Augustus Substation, 1.70km west of Fort Augustus, Highland, Scotland (grid ref NH357083, entrance at NH357087).

The extent of the current site is shown below in Figure 1, with the solid red line denoting the operational area boundary.



**Figure 1 – Current operational site**

## 1.5 Management Strategy

The long-term vision for the woodlands surrounding the substation is to provide screening and enhance ecological provision within the site boundary and through enhanced connectivity to surrounding woodland. The management strategy is to develop long term resilience for these objectives by diversifying the within-compartment structure. There is to be an increased focus on native broadleaved trees and the use of species mixtures that provide different mature stature and longevity. In this way a move toward continuous cover forestry is envisaged that was not possible with the existing mainly conifer crops because of tree instability.

The instability of trees is partly a function of challenging growing media. There are some areas of wet pockets and others presenting compacted, nutrient poor earthworks. These site conditions challenge tree establishment and a greater management emphasis will be placed on site remediation prior to planting. There will similarly be a greater emphasis on protection from herbivore browsing, using deer fencing and individual tree shelters with heavy stakes.

For areas of new planting and restocking an increased emphasis is placed on securing favourable conditions before planting and incorporating deer protection measures with a combination of fencing and more robust

individual tree protection. Planting mixtures will be simplified relative to recent practices with a focus on native broadleaf woodland, native pinewood, and riparian mixtures.

The UK Forestry Standard (2023) will guide all woodland activity.

## 1.6 Summary of Changes

The WMP updates earlier plans to accommodate proposed development and respond to extensive windthrow within the site and locally. There has been recent planting on the site on new ground and in response to previous felling, principally to accommodate previous development. For the most part the new planting has performed poorly and the WMP proposes extensive remedial action, outlined by sub-compartment in Appendix A.

The site was subject to significant windthrow between December 2023 and January 2024 due to storm damage. SSEN Transmission has applied to Scottish Forestry for a licence in April 2024 to remove windthrow, including felling unsafe trees and replant affected compartments. Appendix A of this WMP captures those changes although clearance had not been delivered at the time of writing.

The WMP does not identify any additional felling requirement beyond the clearance of windthrown areas. That is the proposed development does not require the felling of trees. However, certain areas requiring remedial action, where the planting has mostly failed because of ground conditions.

In one of these areas (parts of compartment 10) alternative ecological mitigation through the creation of wet heathland is more appropriate land use and those areas will not receive remedial tree planting. This will result in 2.64 ha of recently planted woodland to the east of the site being changed from woodland to open habitat. This does not relate to the entirety of compartment 10 and woodland is being retained along the road edge to ensure screening at the boundary of the site is maintained. The creation of heathland will be made following temporary use of the area for construction compounds and to facilitate the installation of temporary access tracks. The ground will then be decompacted and the habitat restored, details of which are contained in a separate Landscape and Habitat Management Plan. Compensation for the removal of woodland compartments with tree planting occurring off-site.

At the south of the site, the Beauly Denny overhead line wayleave realignment will not result directly in changes to woodland compartments. The creation of a new track within a windthrown compartment (7b1) presents an opportunity to diversify the species at the wayleave edge and create a new windfirm, graduated edge with limited stature shrub species, providing increased separation to native Scots pine planting mixture.

The Coire Glas overhead line wayleave enters the southwest of the site. A small number of windthrown trees (0.02ha) adjacent to the wayleave will not be restocked following clearance. Remedial tree planting within compartment 8a is designed to avoid the wayleave.

The total woodland area on site pre-development is contrasted with the area post-development in Table 2. The deficit will be met from off-site woodland creation, not detailed within this WMP.

**Table 1: Effect of Proposed Development on Woodland Area**

| Time period | Area (ha) |
|---|---|
| Pre-development woodland area | 27.31 |
| Post-development woodland area | 24.65 |

A Compensatory Planting Management Strategy has been prepared and is included in Appendix C.

## 1.7 Abbreviations

A list of abbreviations used within the appended WMP is provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Abbreviations used within WMP:**

| Abbreviation | Meaning |
|---|---|
| Cpt | Compartment |
| DF | Douglas Fir |
| DNB | Dothistroma Needle Blight |
| ha | Hectare |
| km | Kilometre |
| LP | Lodgepole Pine |
| MB | Mixed Broadleaves |
| MC | Mixed Conifers |
| NS | Norway Spruce |
| OHL | Overhead Line |
| Pyr | Planting Year |
| SuDS | Sustainable Drainage System |
| SP | Scots Pine |
| SS | Sitka Spruce |
| THC | The Highland Council |
| WMP | Woodland Management Plan |

## 1.8 References

Forestry Commission (2023): The UK Forestry Standard, The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry. Forest Research

# Appendix A – Woodland Management Plan

# Appendix A Woodland Management Plan

# 1. Woodland Description

The baseline for this WMP is taken as February 2024 as detailed on the map at **Appendix 1.** The baseline woodland at this time was predominantly conifer to the south-east and south-west of the substation (including in areas 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8) with areas of mixed conifer/broadleaved woodland near the public road (including in areas 1d, 5 and 6). Areas 8 and parts of 7 are open land with a scattering of mixed broadleaves and Scots Pine. The detail of each area is detailed in the table below. Compartment 9 has been removed.

Baseline conditions are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Compartmental description of woodland**

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | (Estimated) planting year | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1a | 1.59 | Plantation<br>Conifer<br>(Former Forest Research plot) | SS | 1974 | Mainly pure Sitka spruce with some native broadleaves and Scots pine mixed in along the north and western edges.<br>Sheltered site with trees standing between 25m-30m tall.<br>No opportunity to thin as crop is at very high risk of wind damage given height.<br>Trees along southern boundary next to the tower line have been topped resulting in some standing deadwood. |
| 1b | 0.5 | New planting | MB | 2023 | Within a deer fence. Dense rushes and high mortality rates of new planting. |
| 1c | 0.13 | Native woodland | Ash/MB | 1950 | Row of ash trees along western boundary dyke with early signs of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*). Mixed broadleaf understorey. |
| 1d | 0.54 | Mixed woodland | MB/MC | 1974 | Mature mixed woodland predominantly SS and NS with MB understorey. Outside the deer fence. |
| 1e | 0.14 | Failed woodland planting | MB | 2022 | High mortality rates, largely failed planting scheme. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | (Estimated) planting year | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1f | 0.62 | Woodland planting | MB | 2023 | Planted MB with self-seeded birch and willow. Mortality rates currently low but little growth, largely checked by competing bracken and other vegetation. |
| 2a | 0.23 | Woodland planting | MB | 2022 | Heavy deer browsing and high mortality rates. Some areas of willow, birch, hazel performing better. Largely failed planting. |
| 2b | 1.07 | Plantation conifer<br>(Former Forest Research plot) | LP | 1974 | Extensively windblown (February 2024) lodgepole pine. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP.<br>Standing crop adjacent to 2a to be assessed for retention as screen. |
| 2c | 0.37 | Plantation conifer<br>(Former Forest Research plot) | LP | 1974 | Extensively windblown (February 2024) lodgepole pine. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP. |
| 2d | 0.12 | Small coupe underplanting | NS/Oak | Post-2021 | Small coupe underplanting extensively damaged by windthrow. Coupes to be reincorporated into an integrated replanting proposal. |
| 3a | 0.18 | Plantation conifer | SP | 1941 | Scots pine contiguous with similar neighbouring woodland. |
| 3b | 0.68 | Plantation conifer<br>(Former Forest Research plot) | LP | 1974 | Extensively windblown (February 2024) lodgepole pine. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP. |
| 3c | 0.50 | Plantation conifer<br>(Former Forest Research plot) | LP | 1974 | Extensively windblown (February 2024) lodgepole pine. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP.<br>Standing crop adjacent to 2a to be assessed for retention as screen |
| 3d | 0.12 | Small coupe underplanting | | | Small coupe underplanting extensively damaged by windthrow. Coupes to be reincorporated into an integrated replanting proposal. |
| 4a | 2.67 | Recent planting | MB | 2023 | MB planting to establish visual screen, including to earthworks bunding. |
| 4b | 1.37 | Recent planting | MB | 2023 | As above. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | (Estimated) planting year | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5a | 0.19 | Plantation conifer and native woodland | SS/MB | 1989 | Sitka spruce with component of self-seeded native broadleaves, mainly birch. Sitka spruce extensively windblown (February 2024). Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP. |
| (5b) | 0.15 | Clearfelled | | | Clearfelled 2021. Sub-compartment numbering retired from use. |
| 6a | 1.10 | Plantation conifer and native woodland | SS/MB | 1989 | High proportion of Sitka spruce extensively windblown (February 2024). Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP.<br><br>Some open ground and native broadleaves and pine remaining. |
| 6b | 1.09 | New planting | MB/Scrub | | Previously clearfelled for works to watercourse in 2021. Replanting of MB and scrub |
| 6c | 0.53 | New planting | | | Compensatory planting area. It incorporates a newly formed earthworks bund. |
| 6d | 0.11 | Low scrub | Scrub | 2017 | Scrub including broom and hazel on roadside bund (created before 2017), south of the public road. |
| 6e | 0.37 | Riparian scrub with MB | MB | 2000 | Mainly alder and willow along watercourse.<br><br>Mixed woodland by public road and next to 6a. |
| 7a | 2.77 | New planting | SP/birch | Post-2021 | New planting around watercourse realignment |
| 7b1 | 2.76 | Plantation conifer and native woodland | DF/NS/SP/MB | 1974 | Extensively windblown (February 2024) between drainage channel and substation. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP. |
| 7b2 | 0.89 | Plantation conifer and native woodland | SP/NS | 1941 | Extensively windblown (February 2024). Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP. For retention to overmature. |
| 7c | 1.64 | Open woodland on wet ground | Bare/SP | 1974 | Mainly open land with scatter of trees.<br><br>Ground is wet in places. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | (Estimated) planting year | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7f | 0.05 | Riparian planting | MB | 2022 | Bund planting of birch, willow and alder. |
| 8a | 0.14 | Sparse mature conifers within open ground | SS/SP/MB | 1974 | Open grown single mature trees affected by windthrow (February 2024) within open ground. Felling permission for clearance to be sought in advance of this WMP.<br><br>Ground is wet in places. |
| 8b | - | Clearfelled | | | Cleared for SUDS basin and flood barrier. |
| 8c | - | Clearfelled | | | As above. |
| 8d | 0.16 | Plantation conifer | SP | 1941 | A line of Scots pine adjacent to Auchteraw Burn. |
| (9) | - | Now hard standing | Formerly an area of willow scrub, now removed | | Self-seeded scrub willow was previously cleared, and the historical compartment number does not appear on the latest plans. To maintain consistency in numbering, former compartment 9 is hereby identified but discontinued. |
| 10a | 0.07 | Felled and restocked | MB | 2022 | Previous planting not well established.. |
| 10b | 0.30 | Recent planting | MC/MB | 2022 | Planting not well established. Roadside planting approximately one third SS, SP and two thirds MB with beech dominant broadleaf species. |
| 10c | 0.70 | Recent planting | MC/MB | 2022 | Planting not well established. Similar to above with greater element of MC and oak dominant broadleaf species. |
| 10d | 0.19 | Recent planting | MB | 2022 | Planting not well established. Riparian planting, principally willows, birch and alder. |
| 10e | 3.20 | Recent planting | MC/MB | 2022 | Planting not well established. Mixed woodland with NS/SP and broadleaf. Riparian planting mixtures excludes conifers and is willow, birch and alder dominated. |
| 10f | 0.22 | Recent planting | MB | 2022 | Planting not well established. Riparian woodland willow, birch and alder dominated. |
| **Total** | 27.31 | | | | |

# List of maps

Maps contained within Appendix B are as follows:

- Figure 1: Historical compartment numbering
- Figure 2: Felled and windblown areas
- Figure 3: Post 2021 planting and replanting

# History of management

SSEN operates a substation at Auchterawe, approximately two miles southwest of Fort Augustus. SSEN owns land beyond the substation boundary, which includes woodland areas. The total land boundary, including developed land and non-woodland habitats totals 53.6 ha.

A previous woodland management plan was agreed in 2017 and has not yet been fully realised. However, greater design clarity of the requirements of the proposals for development of the substation have developed and the site has been subject to significant windthrow between December 2023 and January 2024. A revision of the WMP is required.

Objectives for woodland compartments have been to provide screening of the substation and maintain continuity of woodland type to contiguous woodland habitat.

The previous WMP sought to tailor very precisely species mixes to individual compartments. The poor performance of recent planting schemes is less a function of these complex mixtures than a response to demanding site conditions but nonetheless the complexity is not being realised and a much simpler approach to planting and beat up mixtures will be applied under this WMP.

Similarly, the next iteration of the WMP (after this one) when areas are restocked and the site is in post-construction good order, a renumbering of compartments should follow. In ten years, the numbering should dispense with the many small-scale, sub-compartmentalisation of the woodland estate. To re-map the estate during the rectifying programme of this WMP may lead to errors and mismanagement.

# Species and age

Woodland to the south, south-west, east and north-east of the substation is predominantly coniferous. Broadleaf woodland is present adjacent to the public road. Sub-compartment ages range from newly planted to late rotation.

Some conifer compartments were originally research plots, established approximately 50 years ago but are no longer studied.

Extensive windthrow occurred in February 2024 around previous coupe felling and where a constructed drainage channel resulted in new woodland edges.

# Constraints and designations

A wayleave for an existing overhead line is maintained. Separation is maintained between trees and site fencing of the substation.

# Public access

There is no public access beyond the public road, in the vicinity of the substation. The land boundary is partly deer fenced. There is an opportunity for access from the neighbouring Forestry and Land Scotland property.

# Woodland protection

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

Problems of tree establishment are principally due to wet or compacted growing media but competition from plants is also a factor. Mounding will reduce competition from reeds on wet ground and physical control of broom will be followed in nutrient poor compartments.

## Deer, Livestock, and other mammals

Deer browsing will be controlled by a combination of deer fencing or individual tree protection with heavy staking.

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

Water and soil conditions are problematic to tree establishment. Mounding of wet ground will be undertaken. On nutrient-poor compacted grounds fertilisation will be used four weeks after a spring weeding.

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

Previous attempts to rejuvenate screening belts by small coupe creation and replanting has succumbed to windthrow. Similarly, the creation of new woodland edges around a constructed watercourse precipitated windthrow and experimentation to disturb uniform tree canopies will not be repeated. Creating structural diversity through plant/replanting mixtures of species of different mature statures offers a long-term solution to maintaining continuous cover.

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

Proposals for evolution of the woodland compartments place an increasing emphasis on native broadleaf mixtures with some conifer areas being developed as native pinewoods. This evolution and variation to the woodland composition will provide appropriate climate change resilience.

# 2. Vision and Objectives

## Vision

The long-term vision for the woodlands is twofold:

i. to provide screening of the substation for domestic properties; and,

ii. to enhance biodiversity with the establishment of native woodland and complementary open habitat.

## Management objectives

Management objectives for the ten-year period of this WMP, are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Management objectives**

| No. | Objectives (including environmental, economic and social considerations) |
|---|---|
| 1 | Establish and maintain woodland screening of the substation. |
| 2 | Establish native woodland mixtures within areas of woodland restocking. To be successful, greater emphasis will be placed on physically rehabilitating the site, by mulching, with equipment also capable of reducing stumps, and then mounding, to provide improved planting sites. |
| 3 | Create ecotones between woodland edge habitat and open/dwarf habitat using trees and shrubs of lesser stature. |
| 4 | Maintain measures for herbivore protection with new and reinforced deer fencing and/or the use of tall individual tree protection with heavy staking. |
| 5 | Regular monitoring (minimum annually) of ash trees in deteriorating condition due to ash dieback. Ultimately fell to release existing understorey and undertake supplementary planting. |

# 3. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Record of stakeholder engagement**

| Individual/ Organisation | Date contacted | Date feedback received | Response | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Highland Council – pre-application meeting in relation to substation developments | 3rd October 2023 | 31st October 2023 | Responses from THC in relation to the pre-application consultation for the Fort Augustus 400kv substation upgrade | Requested we provide an updated Woodland Management Plan. |
| Public consultation in relation to substation developments | 30th November 2023 | 11th January 2024 | Responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees to be made public as part of planning application submission. | Supporting documentation for pre-planning responses published by The Highland Council |
| Second consultation event | 22nd February 2024 | 29th February 2024 | Responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees to be made public as part of planning application submission. | |
| Residents of property ‘Ach-na-cloich’ | | | Discussion regarding tree crown reduction below the 132 kV overhead line and felling proposals. | |

# 4. Analysis and Management Strategy

## Constraints and Opportunities

Constraints and opportunities presented by the site are described in Table 4.

**Table 4: Site constraints and opportunities**

| Feature/Issue | Constraint | Opportunity |
|---|---|---|
| Screening maintenance | Windthrow hazard means sub-compartmentalisation is not an option. This was witnessed by extensive windthrow following attempts at small coupe clearance to diversify age structure. Similarly, new compartment edge exposure for infrastructure resulted in windthrow. | Windthrow has left a screening strip of trees to be assessed for retention. Restocking with broadleaves of mixed stature will provide a long-term solution of greater resilience. |
| Screening | Use of bunds of nutrient poor and compacted materials provides constraining growing conditions for tree growth | Mounding, weed control and fertilisation programme to be implemented. |
| Biodiversity enhancement | Whole compartment felling is needed rather than smaller felling coupes. Diversification of habitat is to be managed at site-scale not at compartment level, including the incorporation of open ground habitat, particularly upland heath. | Use of simplified planting mixtures of native species will provide long-term resilience.<br>Incorporation of deadwood to meet UK Forestry Standard target of $20m^3ha^{-1}$. |
| Re-use of planted area for development laydown and compound areas | Loss of initial tree growth. Off-site compensation planting to be identified and established separately from this management plan. | Poor establishment in the area. Post construction improvement to site conditions with use of excavator for compaction relief prior to heathland species establishment. |
| Ash dieback within roadside trees | Felling of partial screen. | Existing understorey development possible with additional planting to ensure establishment of larger stature species. |
| Dothistroma Needle Blight within lodgepole pine | Gradual decline of pine, particularly lodgepole pine, ultimately leading to tree mortality. | Most lodgepole pine windthrown and to be cleared. Remnant pine areas currently less affected. |
| Herbivore browsing | Costs of deer fencing or of heavy staking of tall tree shelters. Shelters will only be used for small areas, such as bunds, or outside a practical fence line (for example to allow for retention of existing screening trees). | Costs high from an operational forestry budget with no economic timber returns but modest in relation to the proposed infrastructure development project. |
| Integrate open/dwarf habitats | Loss of area from woodland cover. | Enhanced biodiversity, including development of ecotones. |

# Management Strategy

The long-term vision for the woodlands surrounding the substation is to provide screening and enhance ecological provision within the site boundary and through enhanced connectivity to surrounding woodland. The management strategy is to develop long term resilience for these objectives by diversifying the within-compartment structure. There is to be an increased focus on native broadleaved trees and the use of species mixtures that provide different mature stature and longevity. In this way a move toward continuous cover forestry is envisaged that is not possible with existing mainly conifer crops because of tree instability.

The instability of trees is partly a function of challenging growing media. There are some areas of wet pockets and others presenting compacted, nutrient poor earthworks. These site conditions challenge tree establishment and a greater management emphasis will be placed on site remediation prior to planting. There will similarly be a greater emphasis on protection from herbivore browsing, using deer fencing or individual tree shelters with heavy stakes.

Issues around tree health will be controlled with removal of ash trees, with evidence of ash dieback. The prevalence of Dothistroma Needle Blight (DNB) which is concentrated within areas of Lodgepole pine (LP) on site (and in the surrounding commercial woodland managed by Forestry and Land Scotland) will be corrected by clearance of most of the LP from site in management of windthrown trees.

# 5. Management Proposals

Management prescriptions for the period 2024-2034 are presented in Table 5.

**Table 5: Management proposals**

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1a | 1.59 | Plantation conifer (Former Forest Research plot) | SS | 2024-2034 | Retain for screen throughout 10-year plan. Review annually reasons for earlier intervention. At end of WMP term review options for continued retention into a successor WMP. |
| 1b | 0.5 | New planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Spring and summer annual weed control and beating up needed to 2028. |
| 1c | 0.13 | Native woodland | Ash/MB | 2024-2030 | Ash removal to pre-empt development of ash dieback needed by 2026. Release existing understorey. Fill gaps with new planting and maintain beat up and annual spring and summer weed control to 2030. |
| 1d | 0.54 | Mixed woodland | MB/MC | 2032-2034 | Retain as mature woodland throughout 10-year WMP. Reassess retention for successor WMP. |
| 1e | 0.14 | Failed woodland planting | MB | 2024-2030 | Re-establish planting with beating up and improved annual spring and summer weed control for 5-year period. |
| 1f | 0.62 | Woodland planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Beating up and improved annual spring and summer weed control for 5-year period. |
| 2a | 0.23 | Woodland planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Improved heavy staking and individual protection to 1.8m on beat up planting. Planting mixture of alder, grey willow, downy birch and hazel, using 90/120 whips. Annual spring and summer weed control and beat up losses for 5-year period. Remove shelters at year 10. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2b | 1.07 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP. Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch and alder dominant. Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. |
| 2c | 0.37 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP. Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch and alder dominant. Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. |
| 2d | 0.12 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP. Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch and alder dominant. Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. Sub-compartment numbering to be retired from use. |
| 3a | 0.18 | Plantation conifer | SP | 2034 | Retain as long-term screen of windblown areas throughout WMP. Review annually and at end of term. |
| 3b | 0.68 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP. Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch and alder dominant. Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3c | 0.50 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch and alder dominant.<br>Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. |
| 3d | 0.12 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch, and alder dominant.<br>Collectively deer fence windblown parts of sub-compartments 2b, 2c, 2d and 3b, 3c, 3d. Sub-compartment numbering to be retired from use. |
| 4a | 2.67 | Recent planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Annual spring and summer weed control and beating up for 5-years.<br>Improve soil nutrient status of impoverished bund soils with general purpose fertiliser application to trees 4-weeks after spring weeding, years 1-5 to accelerate tree growth. |
| 4b | 1.37 | Recent planting | MB | 2024-2029 | As sub-compartment 4a, above. Sub-compartment numbering to be retired from use. |
| 5a | 0.19 | Replanting and native woodland | SS/MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch, and alder dominant.<br>Clean existing birch (to log piles within compartment) to retain largest stems only. |
| (5b) | - | Clear felled | n/a | | Sub-compartment number no longer in use |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6a | 1.10 | Replanting and native woodland | SS/MB | 2024-2029 | Assumption that a separate felling permission will have been sought ahead of this WMP.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for MB restocking with grey willow, downy birch, and alder dominant.<br>Clean existing suppressed and leaning birch and spruce (to log piles within compartment) to retain best, stable stems. |
| 6b | 1.09 | New planting | MB | 2024-2029 | New planting into bund. Poor establishment. Annual spring and summer weed control and beating up for 5-years. Improve soil nutrient status of impoverished bund soils with general purpose fertiliser application to trees 4-weeks after spring weeding, years 1-5 to accelerate tree growth to create closed canopy. |
| 6c | 0.53 | New planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Replace old stock fence with deer fence. Replant with mixed broadleaf: grey willow, silver birch, hazel. |
| 6d | 0.11 | Low scrub | Scrub | n/a | No action. |
| 6e | 0.37 | Riparian scrub with MB | MB | n/a | Retain. Inspection visits when on-site to confirm burn remains clear of woody debris. Reactively clear as required. |
| 7a | 2.77 | New planting | MB | 2024-2029 | Deer-fenced new MB planting. Shelters heavily weed choked require annual spring and summer weeding and beat up for 5-years. Control dense broom regeneration with brush cutter. Review annually and repeat until new planting to minimum 2m. |
| 7b1 | 2.76 | Replanting | SP, birch | 2024-2029 | Understanding that a separate felling permission will have been agreed ahead of this WMP, to include felling of a standing line of trees beside existing OHL wayleave.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for Scots pine dominant restocking. |
| 7b2 | 0.89 | Replanting | SP, birch | 2024-2029 | Understanding that a separate felling permission will have been agreed ahead of this WMP.<br>Mulching (also capable of reducing stumps) and mounding of site to prepare for Scots pine dominant restocking. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7c | 1.64 | Open woodland on wet ground | Bare/SP | | Maintain as open ground habitat alongside 7b. |
| 7f | 0.05 | Riparian species | MB | 2024-2026 | Respace planting alongside watercourse for more naturalistic habitat and create variable light/shade to scalloped edge of constructed watercourse. |
| 8a | 0.14 | Replanting | MB | 2024-2026 | Understanding that a separate felling permission will have been agreed ahead of this WMP. Assume recent new planting to the area lost in windthrow and clearance. Replant occasional trees, within individual protection) within open upland heath habitat. |
| (8b) | - | Now SuDS basin | Formerly sparse tree cover | n/a | Compartment number no longer in use. |
| 8c | - | Now SuDS basin | Formerly sparse tree cover | n/a | Compartment number no longer in use. |
| 8d | 0.16 | Plantation conifer | SP | n/a | Retain line of Scots pine adjacent to Auchteraw Burn. |
| (9) | - | Now hard standing | Formerly an area of willow scrub, now removed | n/a | Compartment number no longer in use. |
| 10a | 0.07 | Felled | MB | 2026 | Previous planting not well established. Area to be supplementary planted with individual tree protection to enhance roadside screen. |
| 10b | 0.30 | Temporarily repurpose ground and then replant | MB | 2026 | Previous planting not well established. Area to be supplementary planted with individual tree protection to enhance roadside screen. |
| 10c | 0.70 | Temporarily repurpose ground and then replant | MB | 2026 | Previous planting not well established. Area to be supplementary planted with individual tree protection to enhance screening at the site boundary. |
| 10d | 0.19 | Temporarily repurpose ground and then replant | MB | 2026 | Previous planting not well established. Area to be temporarily repurposed as compound/laydown area before re-establishment as heathland, having de-compacted. |

| Compartment | Area (ha) | Type | Principal species | Years of intervention | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10e | 3.20 | Temporarily repurpose ground and then replant | MB | 2026 | Previous planting not well established. Area to be temporarily repurposed as compound/laydown area before re-establishment as heathland, having de-compacted. |
| 10f | 0.22 | Temporarily repurpose ground and then replant | MB | 2026 | Previous riparian planting not well established. Area to be supplementary planted with individual tree and shrub protection to enhance riparian habitat.. |
| **Total** | 27.31 | | | | |

# Silvicultural Practice

Areas of the site present challenging site establishment conditions and (were it not for historical compartmental numbering) some of sub-compartments would not be individually identified but rather would be incorporated into a simpler compartment numbering system, reflecting management objectives. In this way a more naturalistic, variable density of tree cover, and open ground would be more easily incorporated within the woodland matrix.

The need and desire to provide visual screening of the substation and an intensification of tree planting to meet compensatory planting requirements has resulted in attempts, in certain locations, to secure tree establishment under demanding site conditions. This WMP rationalises those requirements, providing for an intensification of early-years establishment measures.

For areas of new planting and restocking an increased emphasis is placed on securing favourable conditions before planting and incorporating deer protection measures with a combination of fencing and more robust individual tree protection. Such measures will be secured at relatively high unit costs in relation to many forestry projects, but such costs may be attributable to the budget associated from the site development programme and not a forestry operational management budget. The measures suggested are:

- Mulching of brash, with equipment capable of reducing stumps, and mounding of planting sites.
- Erection of deer fencing where compartment shapes (namely, ratio of area to perimeter) is favourable and heavy staking of tall individual tree shelters where deer fencing is not practicable.
- Beating up for up to 5 years with a simplified planting mixture to achieve at least 95% of initial planting density.
- Weed control, twice per season, for five years to ensure canopy closure.

Where the growing medium is nutrient poor, particularly on compacted earthworks or reinstatement of compound areas, the localised fertilisation of trees shortly after a spring weeding programme is advocated.

Mounding is important on wet, reed-dominated land, to overcome anaerobic rooting conditions. Recent planting on wet ground should be re-established following mounding (accepting total loss of previous planting efforts on reed dominating areas).

Heavy competition from grasses, other vegetation, particularly resulting in choking of tree shelters requires enhanced weed control. Commitment to bi-annual weed control and shelter maintenance is required for five years because of low growth rates.

Competition from regenerating broom, which outcompetes young transplants and presents heavy shade requires regular site cleaning by brush cutter. Herbicide control is not advocated as nitrogen fixation from broom, controlled within an understorey, may ultimately prove beneficial.

Deer browsing requires superior measures than have been in place. Control of deer browsing will be established with a combination of deer fencing and individual tree protection. Deer fencing will be employed for regular shaped sites with a low perimeter to area ration. Existing deer fencing has been damaged by individual tree falls. More regular inspection and remedial action is required.

Where individual protection is employed against deer, taller tree shelters to 1.2m and heavier staking with a 50mm diameter stake is identified. In these circumstances larger planting material of 90/120 whips will be employed.

# Planting mixtures

The following planting mixtures will simplify previous WMP proposals. Note that open ground will be incorporated to a minimum of 10% across the undeveloped part of the site, focussing particularly on establishing upland heath community.

The scrub woodland mix is distinct from the ecological descriptor of scrub. It contains largely true tree species, but the trees will maintain a low canopy and coalesce. Trees may grow with multiple stems and low branching.

There are elements of commonality between the proposed planting mixtures and beating up replacement planting may utilise that commonality by repeating the use of the more successful species on site. However, to preserve distinctiveness the proportions of oak, wild cherry and rowan should be secured in the native mixed broadleaf mixture. Similarly, the proportion of Scots pine should be preserved in the native pinewood mixture.

**Table 6 Native mixed broadleaf woodland**

| Common name | Scientific name | Proportion (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Grey willow | *Salix cinerea* | 20 |
| Alder | *Alnus glutinosa* | 20 |
| Downy birch | *Betula pubescens* | 20 |
| Sessile oak | *Quercus petraea* | 10 |
| Rowan | *Sorbus aucuparia* | 10 |
| Goat willow | *Salix caprea* | 10 |
| Wild cherry | *Prunus avium* | 10 |

| Table 7 Native PinewoodCommon name | Scientific name | Proportion (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Scots pine | *Pinus sylvestris* | 60 |
| Downy birch | *Betula pubescens* | 10 |
| Silver birch | *Betula pendula* | 10 |
| Rowan | *Sorbus aucuparia* | 10 |
| Bird cherry | *Prunus padus* | 5 |
| Hazel | *Corylus avellana* | 5 |

**Table 8 Riparian and wet woodland**

| Common name | Scientific name | Proportion (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Grey willow | *Salix cinerea* | 20 |
| Goat willow | *Salix caprea* | 20 |
| Alder | *Alnus glutinosa* | 20 |
| Downy birch | *Betula pubescens* | 20 |
| Aspen | *Populus tremula* | 20 |

**Table 9 Native scrub woodland**

| Common name | Scientific name | Proportion (%) |
|---|---|---|
| Hazel | *Corylus avellana* | 20 |
| Goat willow | *Salix caprea* | 20 |
| Alder | *Alnus glutinosa* | 20 |
| Downy birch | *Betula pubescens* | 20 |
| Bird cherry | *Prunus padus* | 20 |

# Thinning prescriptions

This WMP is for a ten-year period and thinning is not anticipated within this plan. Thinning will be undertaken at some future point, particularly to allow free growth of oak trees, before windthrow threatens their stability. Irregular thinning of the Scots pine mixture will similarly be required before the risk of windthrow. Heavy early thinning is likely to present opportunities for underplanting with lower canopy species.

Ash dieback is affecting trees in sub-compartment 1c along the dyke at the western boundary. It is proposed to remove the ash and release an existing understorey before the disease progresses. Screening is still provided by sub-compartment 1a.

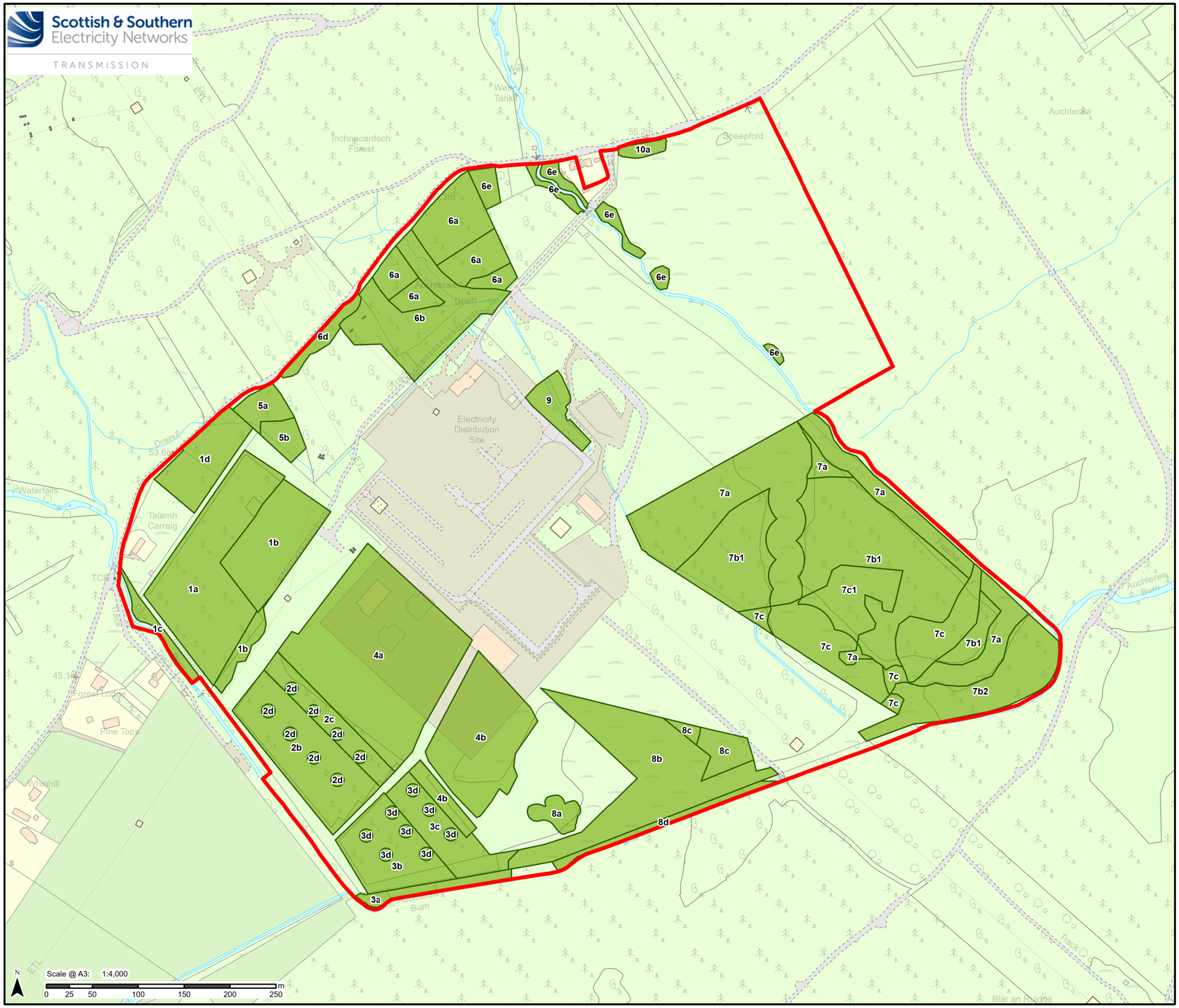
Elsewhere, previous attempts at selective group felling have been shown to be impractical because of the risk of windthrow and existing conifers will not be thinned. New planting will be subject to respacing or thinning in line with good silvicultural practice, particularly within mixed broadleaves. Very limited understorey cleaning of suppressed and leaning trees is proposed to protect fencing. The volumes from these operations will not exceed 5m$^3$ per quarter and all material will be used on site as deadwood habitat.

# Appendix B – Figures

36

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

08

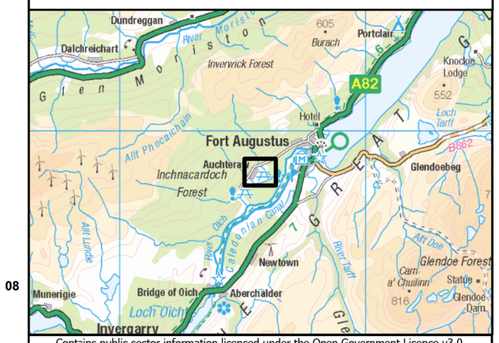



08

36

## Legend

- Substation Area Boundary
- Woodland




Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown copyright and database right 2024 all rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 0100022432.
**SSEN Transmission take no responsibility for the release or accuracy of latest version Basemaps from Ordnance Survey**

Project No: LT000519

Project: Fort Augustus Substation 400kV Upgrade

Title:
Historical/Previous Woodland

Drawn by: JBARR Date: 28/02/2024

Drawing: Figure 1

36

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

08

Inchnacardoch Forest
Sheepfold
Auchteraw
Electricity Distribution Site
Waterfalls
Talamh Carraig
Forest Lodge
Pine Tops
Whinhill
Auchteraw Burn
Blàr an Ruidhe

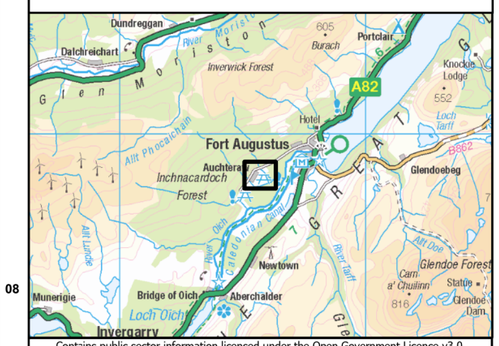
10a
6e
6a
6b
6d
9
5a
5b
1d
1a
1b
1c
4a
2c
2b
4b
3c
3b
3a
8a
8b
8c
8d
7a
7b1
7c1
7c
7b2

Scale @ A3: 1:4,000
N
0 25 50 100 150 200 250 m

36

## Legend

- Substation Area Boundary
- Woodland
- Previously Felled Woodland
- Post-Windthrown Felled Area




Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Reprocued by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown copyright and database right 2024 all rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 0100022432.
**SSEN Transmission take no responsibility for the release or accuracy of latest version Basemaps from Ordnance Survey**

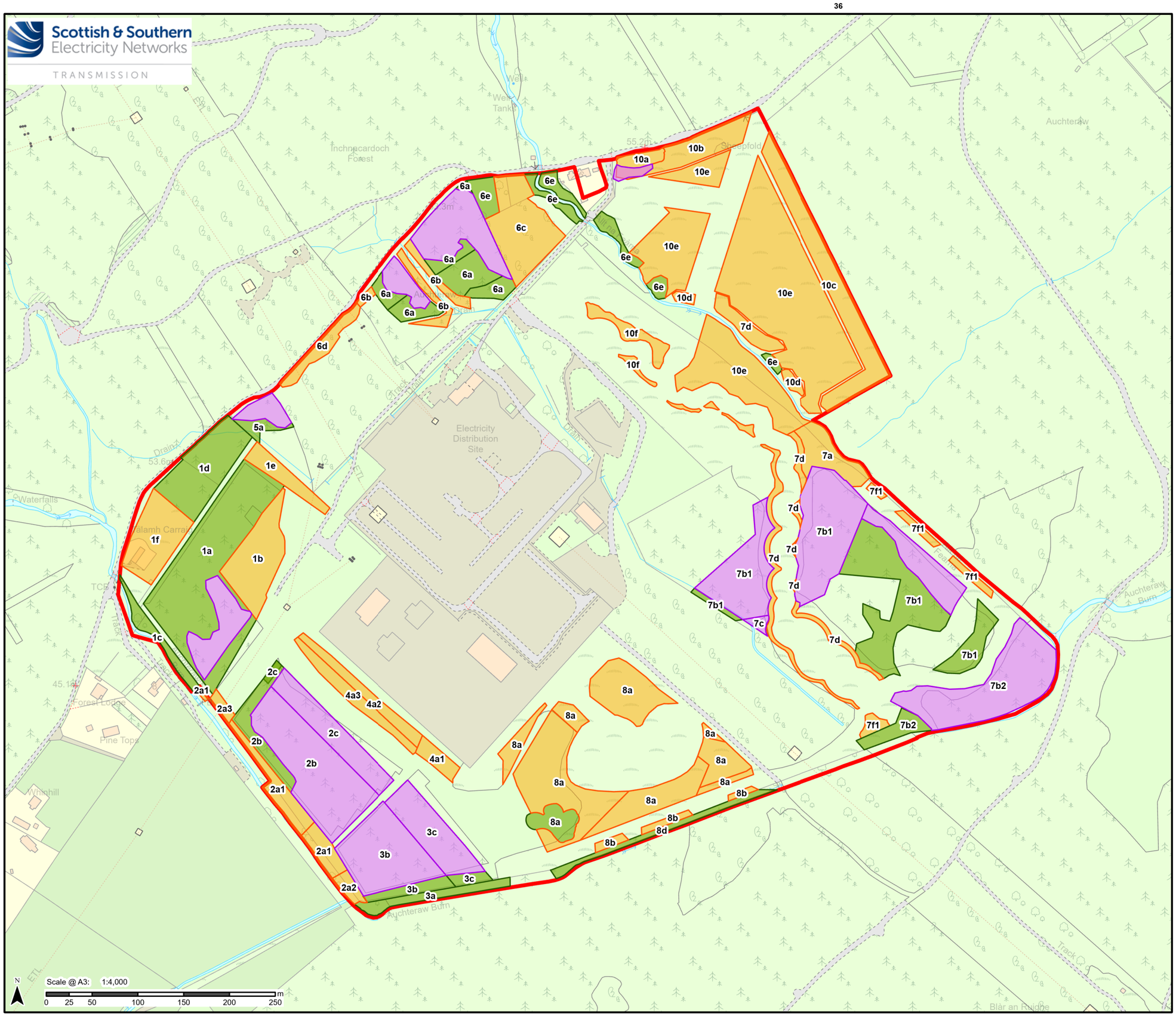
Project No: LT000519

Project: Fort Augustus Substation 400kV Upgrade

Title:
Historically Cleared and Windthrown Woodlands

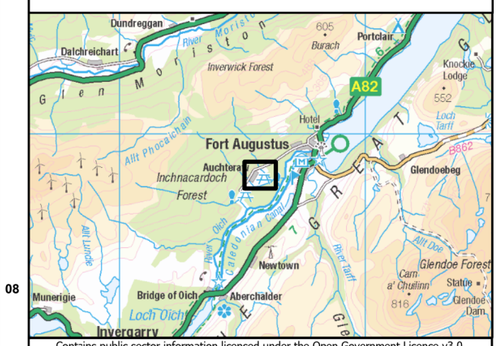
Drawn by: JBARR Date: 07/03/2024

Drawing: Figure 2




## Legend

- Substation Area Boundary
- Mature Woodland
- Recent Woodland Planting Requiring Remedial Activity
- Proposed Woodland Replanting




Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Reprocued by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown copyright and database right 2024 all rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 0100022432.
**SSEN Transmission take no responsibility for the release or accuracy of latest version Basemaps from Ordnance Survey**

Project No: LT000519

Project: Fort Augustus Substation 400kV Upgrade

Title:
Post-2021 Replanting

Drawn by: JBARR Date: 26/06/2024

Drawing: Figure 3

# Appendix C – Compensatory Planting Management Strategy

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

# SSEN Transmission

# Fort Augustus 400kV Substation Upgrade

# Compensatory Planting Management Strategy

# July 2024



Contents:

1 Introduction ..... 3
2 Purpose of the Strategy ..... 3
3 Woodland Planting Management Constraint ..... 3
4 Compensatory Planting Plan ..... 4
5 Reporting ..... 5

# 1 Introduction

This report presents information relevant to the Fort Augustus Substation 400kV Upgrade (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'). It should be read in conjunction with the Environmental Appraisal and Appendix G Woodland Management Plan.

As detailed in Appendix G Woodland Management Plan, the Proposed Development impacts a total area of 2.64 ha of recently planted woodland. This area has been identified as the maximum area for woodland removal for the Proposed Development. Opportunities to reduce impact on woodland will be explored through detailed design of the project and any change in woodland loss will be reflected by any compensatory planting area. Landscape design for the project will also look to incorporate tree planting and where this can be considered of scale to form woodland this will also impact the required are of offsite planting This in-turn would reduce the total area of woodland removal required for the Proposed Development.

In accordance with the Applicant's commitment to achieve no net loss of woodland for new Development Projects, the area of woodland removal for the Proposed Development will be replanted through the application of this Compensatory Planting Management Strategy.

# 2 Purpose of the Strategy

This report explains the management strategy that will be undertaken by the Applicant prior to and during the Development construction phase, to implement the replanting of the total area of woodland removed.

# 3 Woodland Planting Management Constraint

The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR, 2002)[1] specify safety standards to protect the general public and consumers from danger of overhead electricity powerlines. These standards outline minimum safety clearances and the Distribution Network Operator's (DNO's) duty to maintain these safety clearances.

The regulations also contain requirements on quality and continuity of electricity supply to ensure an efficient and economic service to customers and consumers.

Further legislation arrived in 2006 with the ESQCR, 2006; Amendment[2] , which extended the above duties of the DNO to make their overhead powerlines resilient to the effect of major storms. This includes reducing the risk of trees and branches hitting the electricity network.

The result of this legislation is that the DNOs in addition to maintaining the vegetation to minimum safety clearances, now must seek to achieve further clearances for trees which may be affected by storm weather conditions.

Due to the requirements of the ESQCR it is generally not feasible to replant woodland within the operational areas of the Development. Therefore, in order to replant the woodland removal area

[1] Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR, 2002) URL:www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2665/contents/made
[2] Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity (Amendment) Regulations 2006 (ESQCR, 2006) URL: www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1521/made

of the Development, 'off-site' [3] woodland planting must be achieved.

## 4 Compensatory Planting Plan

The Applicant will create 2.64 ha of new woodland planting through the management of a Compensatory Planting Scheme. This management process is based on liaising and securing agreements with landowners that are located within the same Local Authority area as the Proposed Development, or as agreed with respective stakeholders, for woodland planting of suitable bare land by the Applicant.

The Applicant is in discussion with and will continue to discuss opportunities and negotiate options with,

- 'Not for Profit' Organisations e.g. Community Trusts, who own or have rights to areas of land and wish to plant woodland.
- Glenmoriston Estate who own the land further along the Great Glen from where the development is to be located. Here compensatory planting would be delivered as part of a larger woodland creation that will also deliver compensatory planting requirements for other SSEN projects.
- Landowners within the Local Authority area of the proposed Development, who wish to plant woodland.

Through liaison with these landowners, areas of bare land suitable for woodland planting will be identified and whereby they would enter into a Compensatory Planting Scheme agreement with the Applicant. The total area of bare land secured for woodland planting would as a minimum meet the total area of woodland removal of the Proposed Development.

On agreement with the landowner a formal woodland planting scheme design will be produced and submitted to Scottish Forestry[4] and the Planning Authority for consultation and approval.

(1) The Compensatory Planting shall comply with the requirements set out in the UK Forestry Standard and the guidelines to which it refers, or such other replacement standard agreed by the Planning Authority. A detailed compensatory planting plan to be submitted to Scottish Forestry and the Planning Authority shall include:

a) details of the location of the area to be planted;
b) the nature, design and specification of the proposed woodland to be planted with a preference for "like for like" replacement of woodland type lost.
c) the phasing and associated timescales for implementing the Replanting Scheme;
d) proposals for the maintenance of the Replanting Scheme, including annual checks, replacement planting, fencing, ground preparation and drainage; and
e) proposals for reporting to the Planning Authority on compliance with timescales for obtaining the Necessary Consents and implementation of the Replanting Scheme.

(2) The approved Replanting Scheme (or, as the case may be, an approved amended Replanting Scheme) shall be implemented in full, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.

[3] 'off-site' meaning alternative bare land areas suitable for woodland planting out-with the Development's operational area.

[4] Scottish Forestry - the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, support and regulations. URL: www.forestry.gov.scot

Following completion of the approval process, the Applicant will undertake the woodland planting as per the Approved Compensatory Planting Plan with all initial establishment planting to be completed before completion & operation of the Development. The Applicant will maintain the newly planted area for a minimum the 20 years line to ensure successful woodland establishment is achieved.

## 5 Reporting

After the planting scheme approval is received from Scottish Forestry, the Applicant will formally report to the Planning Authority that the required woodland planting area has been achieved to meet the total woodland removal area of the Proposed Development and has secured no net loss of woodland.

aecom.com